



A production of Uki Village and Districts Residents Association Inc
UKIRA - PO Box 3141, Uki NSW 2484

Issue 115 / December 2020 / January 2021

Edith Streiner

Safety First: Tree Removal at Uki Public School



Rachel Watkins - Principal

Recently, I have been communicating with our school community about the two large hoop pines on the Rowlands Creek Road fence-line. Each year, the Department of Education does an audit of trees on school sites to make sure that any risks from falling branches or unstable trees are detected and minimised. Earlier this year, both the large hoop pines were identified as being potential safety risks - one due to a lightning strike directly on the tree, and the other because of a fungal infection. Both trees were assessed by an arborist and the Assets Manager from the Department of Education. At that time, both experts recommended a period of monitoring.

During this monitoring phase, both trees have deteriorated markedly and rapidly - in fact so much so that several members of the local community have stopped by to raise concerns about the trees. Further investigations and assessments have occurred, with the result that we have reluctantly decided to remove the trees. This will take place over two Saturdays: Saturday 5 December and Saturday 12 December. Road restrictions will be in place.

These are beautiful and significant trees, and decisions such as this are not taken lightly. However, we have to prioritise the safety of students, staff and all members of the community. In line with best practice, suitable replacement trees will be planted.

If you would like to discuss this with me, please contact the school on 6679 5128 and I'll be happy to have a chat with you.



Mt Warning Track Notice

Courtesy - National Parks & Wildlife Service NSW

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has announced an extension of the current closure of Wollumbin National Park to at least May 2021, following the identification of significant safety issues with the Wollumbin Summit track.



NPWS will now consider the future of the Summit track, in consultation with key community and tourism stakeholders including the Wollumbin Consultative Group, which represents Aboriginal Elders and knowledge holders.



From the Editors

Welcome to Uki News Issue 115.

This is the last Issue of your Uki News for this year 2020 but the year is not yet finished. I'm sure you will agree that it has been a year like no other.

Regardless of all that has happened we are still here telling the Uki Story

and recording the events for future Uki residents. And those events, though somewhat diminished from previous years are still the things that make for a resilient community.

With continued reports and articles from regular contributors to the community businesses still providing

their services it speaks volumes for how a small community functions.

Well Christmas is just around the corner so from UKIRA and the Uki News team, all the best for the remainder of 2020.

The Editors



Contact Uki News: theukinews@hotmail.com

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Disclaimer: The opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Uki News nor of UKIRA.

Uki News is printed by Uki CTC. Current and past issues are available from the Uki Village and District Website.

Letters To The Editor



We'd love to hear from you... Send your letters to theukinews@hotmail.com.

Care for Table Tennis?

I would like to suggest a more stringent parental guidance regime by the Friday afternoon crew. This could minimise the trashing of the communal table tennis facility and its accessories.

Howard Dickie - Uki



Does Uki have a Bat Problem?

Phil Carr on behalf of the Uki Residents Association

We are not talking about the Flying Foxes roosting in the forests.

This is a different type of bat - table tennis bats. Did you know that Uki has an outdoor table tennis table? It is located behind the Hall Park and is enjoyed by many locals and visitors.

There is an increasing problem with these bats. In recent months, several have been smashed and replacing them is becoming rather expensive - the special outdoor bats cost \$20 each. Balls get stomped too but at least they are cheap to replace.

If anyone would like to join in with a social table tennis group, please call or text Phil Carr on 0403 314134.

We want to spread the message that this table is a community asset for everyone's enjoyment and for everyone to look after.

While it is wonderful to see so many children using the table, we know that some kids can play rough so we also urge parents to remind their children about the need to be kind to the equipment. And for those so inclined, donated gear is always welcome.



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Uki Refugee Project

With Warmest Wishes from the URP Team.

THANK YOU HEATHER, JOHN AND PENNY

It is with a considerable degree of sadness that we write to let you all know that three of our founding members- Heather McClelland, John Tyman, and Penny Watsford, have in recent months made the decision to step back from the Uki Refugee Project organising committee. We are sure that these three incredible people are well known to most of you as major contributors to our community.

We take comfort in the fact that they retain their strong commitment to the project, and will continue to be very active members of the group, and an integral part of all of our future activities. We want to express here our deep appreciation of their leadership of, and contribution to, the Uki Refugee Project since its inception in 2013.

We cannot let this milestone pass without recognising their wonderful contribution to refugees and asylum seekers and to the Tweed community as a whole.

As foundation members of Uki Refugee Project, Heather, John, and Penny, along with Heather's husband Bryan, gathered together a group of people who were committed to the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers, and set up and guided the work of the group for more than seven years. Their qualities of compassion, kindness and generosity have infused Uki Refugee Project and the work that it does. Their commitment to the principles of social justice, human rights and fairness are obvious for all to see.

We want to acknowledge their hard work, their enormous contribution of time and their enthusiasm in doing the myriad of jobs needed to successfully run our friendship visits; in raising funds; in undertaking advocacy work; in offering their wisdom, common sense advice and good humour.

Since 2013, the activities they have organised have included:

- 11 friendship weekends- major undertakings with up to 40 guests at times with accommodation, meals and activities to organise for our guests and also members of our local community who have loved and learned so much from these experiences



“What a small village can do”

- 6 wonderful concert events
- 9 film events promoting community awareness
- Palm Sunday protest walk
- "Dolls in Cages" campaign against children in detention
- Raised more than \$15,000 in funds
- 2016 Tweed Shire Council was declared a Refugee Welcome Zone
- Letter-writing and making personal representations to our Federal Representative
- Crisis assistance for individuals and families



On behalf of the many refugees and asylum seekers with whom URP has been privileged to develop a connection we say a hearty Thank You. And on our own behalf we say Bravo.



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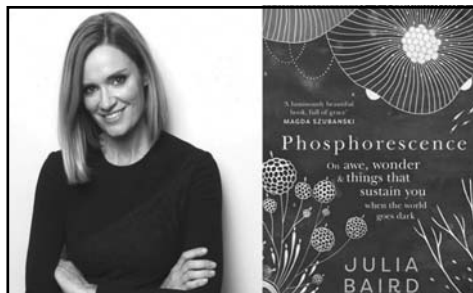
Relationship Health: Transforming our negative self talk

Heather McClelland

In her book, 'Phosphorescence', Julia Baird points towards the transformative power of experiencing awe. In the midst of her uplifting book, she says however: "If [my nose] was made of playdoh I admit I'd try to push it in a little" p.114. Negative self-criticism can even affect those who are obviously clever and attractive. People like James Collins (a pseudonym) tell me of insecurity felt in the midst of friendly conversations because a little voice reminds them they are losers, fakes, lesser!

Many of us track our negative self-talk back to our childhoods, but what if it goes even deeper? What if it is part of our inherited human condition? Contemporary neuroscience suggests that over millennia our brains have been structured by default mindsets governed by fear and survival. Even following a stable and loving childhood the science points out there is a bias in the way our brain structures move us into 'alarming' rather than 'calming' reactivity. If we have suffered trauma, especially if it was early in our lives, this state of affairs is definitely exacerbated.

Dr Rick Hanson encourages people to develop a 'Growth Mindset'. He emphasises the grounding of helpful experience in our bodies so we develop traits like optimism, tolerance and patience, warm-heartedness and wisdom and counter the negativity bias that causes us so



much suffering. Change is possible because the brain is plastic but it takes repetition.

Replacing a tendency to complain with a settled character trait of gratefulness for example might be achieved if we set ourselves the task of writing a daily gratitude list reflecting on the day's events and sucking out the joy, the benefits, the goodness. Hanson says we must marinate in the pleasure this brings in our bodies, noticing for example how our chests expand, our faces relax with a smile, our feet feel more strongly attached to the ground, our bottoms to our chair. By setting out to grow the character traits that we recognise we prefer we can gradually eliminate much self-inflicted suffering.

Julia Baird, Phosphorescence, 2019 Harper Collins

Dr Rick Hanson Ph.D is a psychologist and New York Times best-selling author who recently presented in the American heart, Mind Institutes Resilience series leading up to the USA election.





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Uki Church Saved from Sale Plans

Hold The Space Uki

Our Church at Uki is NOT for sale

In late 2019 the Anglican Diocese of Grafton presented plans for a major restructure which included a list of potentially saleable church buildings. Holy Trinity Anglican Church was on the list.



Uki's beautiful heritage listed WW1 memorial Church which because of community consensus has been saved from sale

Almost 1000 people signed a petition opposing the sale of what has been referred to as 'Uki's Sacred Space'. Support letters were written by church attenders, members of the Uki community and wider and by representatives of UKIRA and the historical society. All were submitted within the two months allowed.

A variety of reasons the church is cherished were given:

- It was built by and for the village as a WW1 memorial and is Heritage Listed.
- It has served generations up into the present celebrating their family milestones including births, deaths and marriages.
- It continues as a place of worship particularly known for its gender and interfaith inclusion and its spiritual and emotional connectivity and support.
- It has become famous for its crowded concerts, its fostering of the arts and of justice initiatives particularly around the plight of refugees and it is available for small group gatherings and art exhibitions.
- Its labyrinth and spiritual garden is a meditation resource available and used 24/7.

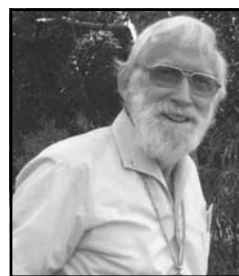
We are immensely grateful to all those who worked to save this Sacred Space and to those who reversed the decision, particularly to Rev Lyndon Mulholland of the Murwillumbah Parish who spoke up for us and recognised both the church's ethos and the building's value to the wider Uki Community.



This shows some of the extensiveness of the Spiritual Garden with the Village Labyrinth as a central walking meditation space which Uki people are using regularly



Before Covid this atmospheric building has echoed to the strains of beautiful music and given opportunities to upcoming musicians



Rev John Tyman is an endearing communicator who has a clear view of an inclusive spirituality and hospitality that embraces everyone in the community



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Report on 'Images of Uki' 2020

Heather McClelland

Our thanks go to the ARTISTS of 2484 for the high quality of your entries and to the wonderful VOLUNTEER TEAM who installed the exhibition. Together you made it a great success in this less than normal year.

Sponsorship: We are so grateful to UKIRA for paying for the use of hall and Village Green and for all the other Sponsors: The Uki Supermarket, The Mt Warning Pub, The Post Office, The Uki Cafe and the Fair Trade Shop, Geoffrey Colwill, Vibrant Imaging and CTC. Thanks also to the Take-away shop for extending their opening hours.

Number of people through the door- 857

The People's Choice Award this year went to Lyn Wade who is pictured here with her artwork. It was great to see community members and visitors of all ages taking their voting so seriously.

1. Lyn Wade 'Conversations'
2. Brenda Bryant 'Blue Quondong'
3. Marcos Castro 'Untitled 3'
4. Pascal Masset 'Birds- eye View'
5. Tina Wilson 'Midnight Calls'
6. Cameron Pitcher 'Scribbly Gum Study'
7. Christine Mellor 'Dynastine and other things'
8. Brenda Bryant 'Pumpenbill Dam at Dawn'
9. Katherine Castle 'Heart of Uki'
10. Heather McClelland 'Backyard Jewell'

Covid Safe Exhibition-Extending the hours into the evenings on Friday and Saturday staggered the numbers in the hall. There's been good feedback about how smoothly the sign-in and internal flow using arrows worked. Covid Marshalls at the door and on the Village Green did a heroic job but as it turned out the latter were not really needed! Opening Night had had to be cancelled because of the limitation on numbers and food service.

The Musicians who played on Village Green and in the hall were really appreciated but unfortunately in the evenings they played to very meagre audiences. At least 'Images' was able to support 5 musicians financially in these less than remunerative times for the arts.

Financially: this year more art was sold than in 2019 and a small profit was made despite the extra costs of

making the exhibition Covid Safe. Interestingly most sales took place on the Saturday - hardly any on the Buttery Bazaar Day.



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Uki Rural Fire Brigade

Brett Ryan (Captain Uki Rural Fire Brigade)

On Monday 2nd November 15 members of the Uki Rural Fire Brigade was presented with their Premiers bushfire emergency citation. This was for recognition of the work completed through the unprecedented 2019/2020 bushfire season. Congratulations for your efforts and to those across the state for a great effort undertaken.

Drought, fire, flash flooding, lockdowns, loss of business, border restrictions and the threat of a pandemic – it's been a tough year for everyone. The context of these bad times highlights the importance of community and its resilience.

Especially we appreciate the valiant efforts and achievements of the volunteer members of the local rural fire brigade who now, more than ever, are to face increasingly more dangerous fires and other climatic events.



Uki Calendar 2021

Uki CTC

Showing the People of Uki and surrounds who come together to support, share and network. This is the strength of our community, grounded in mutual respect and a deeper appreciation of where we live.

The Uki Calendar 2021 is now on sale at the Uki Shop and the A3 version/format is available at the CTC.



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Water Bubbler Installed

UKIRA

Uki recently gained a new water bubbler and drink bottle refilling facility just in time for the thirsty summer heat. The welcome addition includes a built-in bowl design so your four-legged friends can refresh as well

A big thank you to local residents Trevor White, Bruce Ray, the Tweed Water Alliance and the Uki Residents Association for their forethought and Community initiative.



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Online Learning: A Future Perspective & History

Louise Bally

Distance education or correspondence learning started in Victoria for high school level in 1909 and five years later for primary schools, quickly spreading to other states and growing in popularity especially for isolated families on large stations and people living in remote rural areas. The innovative use of technology as it developed was an integral part of distance education, beginning with radio, cassette tapes and a reliable postal service and culminating in more recent digital technologies, computers, tablets and smart phones Internet availability, the introduction of email, and the integration of online learning resources.

Recent mention in the local media of a grand plan to amalgamate four schools in Murwillumbah has resulted in outrage from locals, including teachers, students and parents. It appears that the NSW Education department signed off on a 100 million dollar plan to build a super school campus, taking in students from kindergarten to high school by 2024. The smaller schools in outlying country areas could possibly also be under the threat of closure in the future, although there is no mention of this currently. Alternatives for parents preferring to avoid large school scenarios for their children need to be considered in preparation for the uncertain future facing the world today. Months of lockdown and school closures in Australia this year forced many families to participate in home schooling and the discovery of abundant online resources became apparent. Remote learning worldwide, according to UNESCO, reached one and a half billion this year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and this has resulted in some rapid advances and increased access to online and technology-enabled learning for both students and teachers. These include:

- Innovative assessment expansion with use of online activity tracing, peer assessment amongst students and feedback tracking aimed at early assessment of areas of weakness needing extra work.
- Emerging digital delivery establishments so communities can access teachers remotely for groups and individuals using Zoom for alternative to face to face learning and offering recording options for lesson



review.

- Social media integration encouraging students to discuss and share theories and learn from each other. New social media educational groups are on the rise.
- The integration of multimedia and OER (Open educational resources) such as Ted talks, YouTube videos, and webinars, now included in many textbooks.
- Innovative teaching methods such as construct knowledge through questioning and discussion with teachers and amongst students.
- Increased student choice and control of instructional resources best suited to personal skills, abilities and disabilities of individuals.
- Anywhere, anytime learning using smart phones for on the go knowledge gathering encouraged by educators.
- Virtual reality and AI instructional methods have proved to provide sound introduction to new subjects prior to starting coursework

These are just some of the emerging technologies available to students, teachers and parents looking into online learning as an alternative to traditional schooling. More information can be found online on all of the above dot points, this article is only a brief introduction to the subject.



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DECEMBER Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 20th DECEMBER

Raku One O'Gaia

Market favorite Raku One O'Gaia's soul, blues and gospel infused music is a super-charged concoction of sure fire hits and bullet proof originals

Raku's an artist who has developed a well earned positive reputation with the high energy performances that are his trademark. He brings a wealth of influences to the bear in a genre hopping and diverse blend of music... always delivered with unique style and singing voice that has real subtlety ,range, and power.Expect to be moved from story-telling acoustic-soul to toe tapping delta blues, to road-ready funk and R&B, all in the service of some of the most inspiring songs played back to back...anywhere.

Raku will be joined by special guest Jerome

Singer songwriter Jerome is a rising new talent hailing from Northern NSW who is gaining attention and recognition at a rapid rate.

"Funky...because it's true" - Tommy Emmanuel

Jerome describes his own music as "melodic, percussive, funky, rock based roots". He has a unique guitar playing and vocal style, as he seamlessly fuses elements of classic roots with contemporary and progressive genres, bridging the generation gap as a true pioneering young spirit.



JANUARY Buttery Bazaar

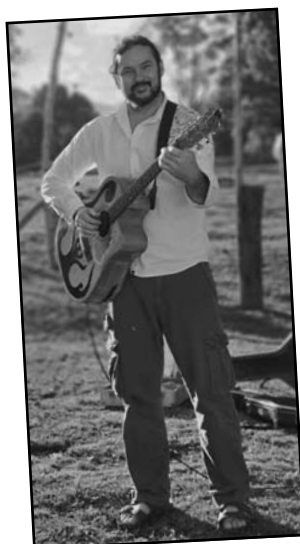
Sunday 17th JANUARY

Loren

It's been a few years since local singer/songwriter Loren has graced the Uki Market stage. For 20 years Loren's music has taken him around the country many times and onto festival stages all over, but home is where the heart is and there's no place like home.

Loren's music meanders through valleys and stories of the personal journey, floats over plains of the human experience and gazes up at the stars of universal themes. There is an inquisitiveness that is heartfelt and relatable, wrapped up in a melodic bouquet.

For the January Uki Market, Loren will be joined by many guests including fellow band member Beck (longtime percussionist and soul sister) Sanne (local singing legend) and his daughter Wahla.



Phoebe Jacobs

Known for her deep, expressive vocals and vibrant melisma, Phoebe Jacobs fuses together an eclectic mix of psychedelic folk and intoxicating soul. From solo roots to the soaring funk and soul of her 6 piece outfit Stellafauna, Phoebe is dynamic and captivating in performance.

Singer, guitarist and front woman, Phoebe weaves a succession of symbols into stories, engaging audiences with her unique style. Her dynamic presence fills the room, etches hearts, stomps feet and swings hips.

Her independently released debut album 'Eye Of The Storm' is an emotive soul/blues romp recorded with Damien Charles (the Red Eyes/Goyte) which she released to a sold out Workers Club. She toured the album solo around Europe playing an array of shows, from intimate concerts in bars such as The Troubadour to the wild wonder of Glastonbury Festival.



Astrology

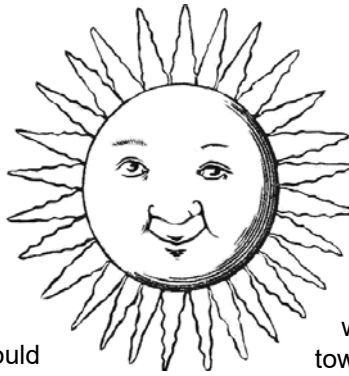
Paola Emma

Breakthroughs in December 2020 and January 2021

Just as it began, this fateful year ends with two eclipses, major planetary shifts and a historical conjunction. As different planetary patterns take hold things around the world should start to improve. Earlier this year all the major alignments involved Pluto, symbol of difficult personal/collective transformations, now instead the focus is onto Aquarius and Uranus, when we are asked to embrace new and unique, even radical solutions.

With all the attention on Capricorn 'til now, no much thought has been given to the transit of Uranus in Taurus. This is one of the most significant transits in recent years, coming to the fore again in 2021, when major shocks to our sense of security are also driving changes of great magnitude in the financial/business world, and hopefully the birth of new economic models.

Moving away from Pluto, Saturn and Jupiter have a date to keep: becoming conjunct on the threshold of Aquarius on December 22 (just past the Capricorn Solstice), marking the beginning of a brand new twenty years cycle. These recurring conjunctions show the direction the world is going in the areas of government, law, religion, ethical



issues etc, for the whole of two decades. The current event begins an even greater cycle, lasting roughly two hundred years. Becoming conjunct, from now on, in Air Signs (also known as the 'humane Signs') will tend to move the world's political needle toward progressive trends, strengthening a collective spirit of reform and innovation. Aquarius and Uranus are symbols of individualism, of searching for new untried ways, re-inventing ourselves if necessary. Progress seems certain then, if slower than we may wish in 2021. We could experience an excess of enthusiasm in January, driving us to take risks and make changes before we are truly ready for them (January 18 Jupiter square Uranus). But from February onward (continuing in June and December) Saturn will undoubtedly slow down the process of reform (square Uranus), the planetary theme of 2021. During a period when the drive for change is so compelling this slowing down will be a frustrating trend, but it could also prove necessary to obtain more ground braking results in the long run. Personal responsibility and greater grassroots involvement in social issues will be a must.

For more astrological insight please visit my site: livingmoonastrology.com



Uki and South Arm Historical Society Inc Terragon School 1916-1942

Esma Thompson

The school building was completed by September 1915 by builder Walter Bray at a cost of £185/6/-. The school consisted of one classroom with a porch room where school bags and hats were put and a four acre school paddock was provided for the horses which other than "Shanks Pony" (walking) were the main means of transport for the children. It was estimated that there would be 30 pupils and the teacher could board at Mr J. Priest's, the saw-mill owner, just half a mile from the school.

The original cost of the school ground which had been resumed by the Government was £10 an acre. Mr Cahill the owner of the land tried to claim £15 an acre as he said it was the best land he had. The inspector wrote to various people to try to ascertain the correct value. Mr Priest from the saw-mill, the Bank and the Estate Agents all agreed that £10 was a very fair price. Mr Cahill decided to accept £20 for his land "to save further trouble" but he also sent his solicitor's account of £3/3/- to the Department to be paid.

White ants were a problem and in 1918 the ants had eaten the seats on the toilets, the W.C.'s were almost falling down and the ants had eaten the lining in the hat room. This is the first record of many concerning the white ants destruction at Terragon. In 1920 painting and repairs were carried out. The repairs were extensive because of white ant damage. The teacher wrote that the white ants

were 'attacking every board in the building and the lining boards are being rapidly eaten. The hat pegs are falling off the wall.'



Continued in Issue 116

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