



Uki News

An initiative of the Uki and Districts Residents Association (UKIRA)

Issue 105 / April 2019 / May 2019

Edith Steiner

Building Bridges

Jai Morrison

Tweed Shire Council upgrade to the Byrrell Creek Road bridge over the Tweed River is advancing at a commendable pace with the installation of two spans of pre-stressed concrete beams and associated precast panelling. Council expects construction to be complete by the end of June.

The new bridge replaces the low level timber structure that has served as a temporary crossing since the original timber bridge was swept away in the 1954 flood. The low level bridge was also swept away in the same 1989 floods that saw the Oxley River Bridge collapse at Eungella. Residents had to drive to town via Tyalgum and Chillingham for two months while the bridge parts were retrieved from the riverbed and repositioned.



Original Byrrell Creek Road bridge over the Tweed River 1945
- This bridge was washed away in the 1954 floods with the remnants of a concrete support still standing in the riverbed today.
... Photo by Edna Gorton OAM (nee Gleave) who was a resident of Terragon at the time.



Riverbed Remnant



Edna Gorton OAM

The remains of Cyclone Debbie dumped almost a years worth of rain in one day which again swept away the low timber bridge in 2017.

The South Arm catchment from Midginbil, Kungur, Mt Burrell, Mebbin National Park, Byrrell Creek and Cedar Creek all flow past this bridge,

As the new bridge is over 2 metres higher than the old temporary bridge, the frequency of being cut off by floodwaters will be greatly reduced. Causeways that flood further upstream tend to fall rapidly once rain stops but the Tweed River takes many hours to drop due to the larger catchment.

INTERSECTION SAFETY CONCERNS

While most residents and regular users recognise the great improvement the new bridge will make, there is widespread concern regarding the safety of the intersection of Byrrell Creek Road and Kyogle Road where no turning lanes are available in either direction in an 80kph zone with blind approaches and frequent large trucks.

Tweed Shire Council advised residents who raised concerns during bridge consultations that it would need to be dealt with in a separate project to the bridge replacement. Hopefully funding can be found for a suitable upgrade to the intersection and it can be prioritized and manifested speedily. In the meantime, the speed zone should be reduced to a maximum of 60kph for Terragon from the old quarry to the 'Reduce Speed Now' sign on Uki side.



From the Editors

Welcome to Issue 105 of your Uki News. This Issue focuses on a variety of Community issues including the new Byrill Creek road bridge over the Tweed River. Local history from Esma and the Uki and South Arm Historical Society includes

a fascinating history of the Kunghur Flying Fox. Esma is also retelling the history of the local schools of this region and her second installment features on page 12. UKIRA is calling for new members so if you have a desire to volunteer please do so.

Helpful information on upgrading your laptop appears on page 4, preparing for pregnancy on page 6 and if you follow the stars, Paola has her usual Astrology feature on page 15. We are sure there is plenty of variety for everyone.

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.

UKIRA - Call Out for New Members

Michele Bevis

Not for profit, UKIRA are the active residents association working with community and local government on issues big and small such as the Nightcap Walking Mountain Bike trail, the developing Community Garden project and discussions for a water bubbler in Uki.

We actively support local arts through The Images of Uki and other Uki-topia events, as well as the local school, OOSH, Uki Soccer Club, and other community groups & sporting clubs. UKIRA provides the Uki newsletter, owns the Uki Butter Factory and runs the monthly Uki Buttery Bazaar – we have a stand at the market each 3rd Sunday of the month. These are some of our activities.

We are currently seeking community membership for our voluntary not-for profit association. **Is this you?**

Make your inquiries directly to: ukiresidentsassociation@gmail.com or come to the Sunday market stall.



Uki Buttery Bazaar Market



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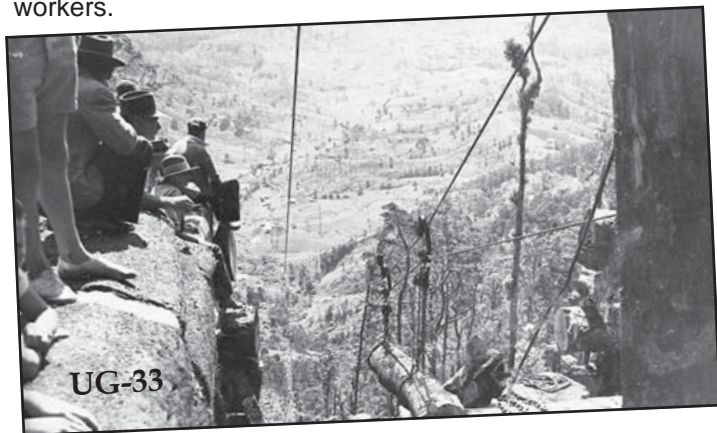
Uki and South Arm Historical Society Inc

Kunghur Flying Fox

Esma Thompson

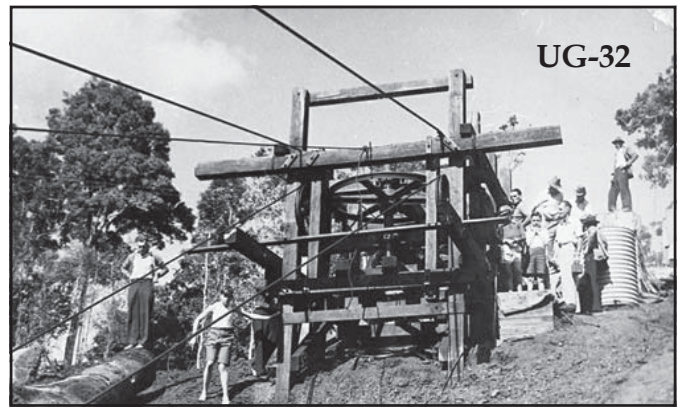
The Kunghur Creek saw-mill was owned by Doug Cook and operated from 1946. It was situated at the bottom of Blue Knob and at the top end of Kunghur Creek. It was a commercial saw-mill cutting rose wood for furniture and coffins, bolly wood for boat building, hardwood timber for house construction and banana cases. The logs were sourced from the Nightcap Border Ranges, the Blue Knob Range and private property. Two bullock teams owned by Allan and Ron Burger supplied the logs to the mill.

The mill owner came up with an innovative idea of how to expedite the logs to the mill by erecting a large flying fox (at the time, believed to be the largest and steepest flying fox in the Southern Hemisphere) to lower the logs weighing up to two tons, 518 metres (1,700 feet) down a mountain side to the milling site. It operated from 1949 to 1955 and enabled the mill workers to lower logs to the mill quicker than tractors could haul them. It used to take about six hours to haul a log down the mountain by tractor but using the flying fox which was fitted with a large brake it took only five to seven minutes. The standing timber situated along the pathway of the flying fox were clear felled by mill workers.



The wooden frame-work for the launching platform at the top of the mountain was carried up the steep rocky slope by a tractor over a zig-zag course and was then positioned at the edge of a cliff. The wire rope (which came from the Port Kembla cement works) was one and a quarter inch thick and a mile long. When the rope was first being attached, it was two and a half chains from the top when the clamp on the end of the rope gave way and it ended up in the valley in a tangled mass. It took four days to get it back up the mountain and attach it.

After many months of preparation the flying fox was ready for a trial run, tractors were used to haul the logs to the flying fox where they would be hitched to the wire to start their journey. The first log started off and successfully braked to a slow stop at the mill. The second log hurtled down in only two minutes as the brake wouldn't hold the log. An ex-army telephone had been rigged up from the flying fox to the mill below and when the log seemed to be unstoppable the mill was warned of impending disaster and was quickly evacuated. The braking system was running hot and sections of the ramp were set on fire from the friction and it looked as if it would be the end



of the flying fox after only one successful trip. A worker desperately tried to slow the log by putting a lump of timber in the mechanics. The friction burnt the timber but slowed it enough to pull the log up at the mill. The brake system was then modified.

At one time during the operation of the flying fox it was thought that the main wire rope may be unravelling and that the flying fox would have to be dismantled and put the mill out of action for about a week. However one of the mill workers, Bob French volunteered to save all the trouble of dismantling the flying fox by riding a log down and inspect the wire as he went. Bob was fitted into a rope harness and Jimmy Goward was given the responsibility of operating the brake. Bob was handed a white flag to signal to Jimmy where and when he wanted to stop to inspect the wire. With a wink to his mates Bob was off. Part way down he signalled to stop, the brakes were applied, but he was not prepared for the yo-yo effect of the two ton log going up and down and neither was his stomach. However Bob arrived at the bottom safe and sound and reported that the main wire was in good condition and that he never wanted to travel that way again. Doug Cook later sold the mill and the mill eventually ceased operation in 1963.

(Photos Courtesy Tweed Regional Museum)



Upgrades for Smaller Laptops

Louise Bally

Buying a new computer is a big outlay and many people find themselves in a predicament when their finances are low and they have to rush out and purchase a new laptop without having time to research their options. Most outlets have a range of laptops available ranging from approximately \$500 - \$3000. The cheaper end of the scale offers smaller devices with the bare minimum of RAM and a small hard drive. As many people now store their files in the cloud or on a portable hard drive, this should not be a big issue. However, how small is small?

There are several models of Lenovo, Asus, HP and other brands of smaller laptops that have hard drives as small as 30 Gb. Well this really is too small; in fact Windows 10 cannot run on a 30 Gb hard drive and usually even the first updates fail when Windows 10 is installed on a 30 Gb drive. Once the drive gets to over 75% full, the computer starts to run slow, will not connect to Wi-Fi and a host of other problems arise.

All is not Lost

What many people are unaware of is that these cheaper machines are designed to be upgraded with either a

circuit board style solid state drive (SSD), or some have a bay for a regular SSD. The upgrade will require some IT knowledge to determine which type of drive to buy, to fit the new drive and to clone the operating system and clear off the original drive so that it can be used as extra storage.

In recent months I have come across several people ready to throw their laptop in the bin, even though it was under 1 year old. That was until they spoke to me and discovered that their device could be upgraded for between \$50 - \$200 depending on the capacity they require. Some machines can have the RAM upgraded whilst others cannot.

After I upgrade these devices, they are transformed into a usable, stable device with plenty of storage space and enough room for many programs to be installed.

If you are in the above-mentioned predicament, please call me on 0406 217 804 with the make and model of your laptop and I can give you an idea of the cost to perform an upgrade. Or drop into the CTC in Uki on a Friday. Many of the larger models of laptop can also accommodate this type of upgrade.

Don't let a slow computer waste your precious time. ✱

Uki Village & District Website

UKI CTC

CTC@Uki

Have you considered a promotional presence for your business and/or regular community activities in the Uki Village & District Website? As an online site your message can be accessed by all who search for local businesses and all things Uki.

For an annual charge of only \$35 your business will enjoy:

- Priority listing
- Edits to information and graphics on request
- Links to associated websites and social media
- Plus active links in your listing on the Business Directory Page.

Your financial contribution also supports the continued maintenance of our community website by the Uki Community Technology Centre Inc.

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WEBSITE OVERVIEW:

Community Directory - a listing of all the local groups, clubs, organisations and societies in the district with contact details.

Community Page - serves as a noticeboard for posting details of current projects with links to the Uki Social and Community Facebook page.

Emergency Services - has contact details and links to a variety of essential services including the Uki flood website with the list of local coordinators.

The Uki News Page - an archive where digital copies of the Uki News past and present can be downloaded (in pdf).

Events Page - current events are posted and updated every week.

Markets Page - has a timetable for local markets - both farmers markets and monthly bazaars.

Tourism - with visitor information on our beautiful area and links to local businesses that cater to visitors.

Arts - with links to art galleries in the area as well as postings on art events such as Ukiopia.

Uki Artists Gallery Page - a newly created page showcasing the amazing wealth of talent living amongst us.

Musicians Page - to promote our local performers (under construction).

Business Directory - attempts to cover all local local businesses. Pages include: Trades and Services, Accommodation and Retreats, Cafes and Restaurants, Arts and Crafts, Health and Wellbeing, Organics Produce and Creative Design and Services.

For inquiries please contact Uki CTC ✱

Uki Refugee Project - Thank You

Bryan McClelland

Thank you to everyone who braved the wet weather to attend "An Evening of Song" on Friday night at the Uki Church. It was a fantastic evening (complete with spectacular lighting effects courtesy of the storm). Our sincere thanks go to all of the performers who donated their time: The Northern Rivers Folk Choir (under the direction of Peter Lehner), Nick Hanlon, Ben Reynolds and Beth Brooks.

Thank you to all those who donated funds, purchased raffle tickets, signed petitions for the Government for the Family Reunification Project, and provided quiches for the evening.

For those of you who missed the show, there are a few snippets of the fabulous performers on our facebook page.

Comedy Film Night

Join us for an hilarious movie in the tradition of The Castle and Ali's Wedding. One of Australia's most popular comedians, Damian Callinan adapts his entertaining stage play, The Merger, for the big screen!

What can one small village do?



FUNDRAISING EVENT
Comedy Movie Night - The Merger
Friday 5th April at 7:00 pm

The Regent Cinema, Murwillumbah

"A Full Monty for the football field ..."

The Merger is a heart-felt comedy from the team who brought you Backyard Ashes. To watch the preview please use the following URL: <https://youtu.be/hwxhEp-Ctnl>

Tickets are \$15. Please book online to reserve your seat. ✱

NSW Election Update - Uki Votes

Jai Morrison

NSW State Elections 2019 - Initial Counting of First Preferences at Uki Polling Booth.

Legislative Assembly

CURTIN - Nationals 182
WATERS - Animal Justice Party 31
BENNIT - Independent 22
SAFFIN - Country Labor Party 174
TAYLOR - Sustainable Australia 19
HIGGINSON - Greens Party 445
COLLITS - Conservatives Party 14
Formal 887 Informal 52 **Total 939**

Legislative Council

Shooters Farmers and Fishers 29, Greens 385, Animal Justice Party 24, Country Labor 160, Liberal/National 147, Christian Democrat 4, One Nation 41, Independents 41, Other includes Informal 113. **Total 944** ... Mmm! 5 more votes. Someone can't count maybe??



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Pre-Conception Care

Judith Magee

Recognising the importance and benefits of preparing well for both conception and pregnancy is one of the best decisions prospective parents can make. This is an individual process, as each person will have different health histories, health issues and requirements. It is very important to note, that preconception care is just as important for the male as the female.

Some generally important points include:

- Avoidance of alcohol, cigarettes, caffeine and other recreational drugs. Infertility, increased miscarriage, birth defects, and low birth weight have been documented in women and men exposed to these common recreational substances.
- Avoid exposure to toxins – household cleaners, petrol fumes, paints, glues and solvents, chlorine, insecticides, etc.
- Men must avoid damage from heat and pressure in the testicular region. This may come from wetsuits, tight fitting work clothes, a sedentary lifestyle or excessive exercise – especially cycling. Even if the testes heat up a little, the sperm can be adversely affected.
- Depending on occupations, it may be worth considering testing to show the presence of toxic metals - any clearance procedures (in males and females) should be completed at least 4-6 months prior to conception, to ensure healthy sperm and egg production. Very accurate assessment of any toxic load is possible through hair or urine analysis.
- In general, a diet high in fresh fruit, vegetables, essential fatty acids and lean protein sources provides essential phytonutrients, antioxidants and micronutrients is essential. In particular, during the four months prior to conception, both spouses should eat a diet high in vegetables and fruits. The diet should include good quality protein (25-30%) derived from varied sources. This is important to provide the appropriate levels of essential amino acids. Deficiencies in essential fatty acids, in particular the omega 3 class derived from fish and flax seed, are relatively common in Australia and should be corrected, together with a reduction in consumption of



saturated fats and sugars.

- Avoid foods that are heavily refined and processed. Limit or avoid non-organic meats & poultry.
- If you are on town water, consider getting a good filter. The chlorinated by products in water can reduce the menstrual cycle length, and have a corresponding reduction in follicular phase length. A filter may also be a good thing if your tank is old or roof dirty, etc.
- Minimise and manage stress. Reducing stress levels increases chances of fertility and health & well being during the pregnancy.
- Regular exercise, which you enjoy and is appropriate in impact and nature. This will reduce stress, normalise weight and increase pelvic circulation, thereby providing sperm and eggs with nourishment.
- Consider some key nutrient supplementation – with particular attention to folate and zinc.
- Eliminate foods that increase oestrogen levels in the body and the liver's ability to metabolise it. These include non-organic poultry, dairy, red meat, sugar, white flour and refined foods, and methylxanthines (coffee, tea, chocolate, colas).
- Include detoxifying foods such as beets, carrots, yams, garlic, dark leafy greens, lemons, and apples.

With some thought and effort in the pre-conception phase, you can absolutely give your child the best start in life. If you have any particular pre-conception or fertility concerns, feel free to contact me to give your family the best start in life.





Naturopath
Homeopath
Herbalist
Nutritionist
Counsellor
Educator

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Off-the-Grid Power Solutions

Syd Welling

Uki News recently caught up with Sunbeam Solar owner Syd Welling who has overseen the installation of roughly 1000 solar systems throughout Northern NSW since 1998 and virtually all of them are still 100 per cent operational to this day.

Sunbeam Solar Systems, based in Kunghur northern NSW, continue to lead the way in the design and installation of off-the-grid power solutions for Northern NSW properties, with the advantage of breakthrough battery and solar technologies that will change the way we use and store power.

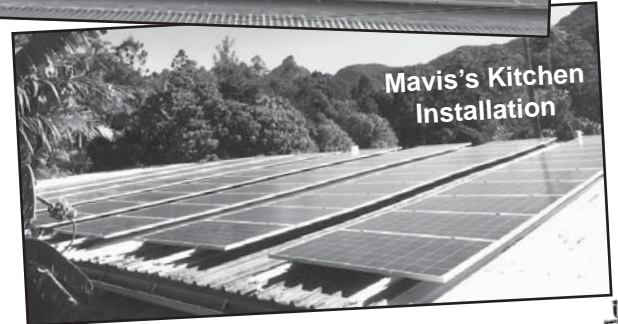
Mr Welling is hoping greater education about the latest technological advances for off-the-grid solutions will help electricity customers identify the benefits of making the switch.

"We're ready to custom design a system to suit your budget and power requirements for your business or home so you can take advantage of the latest technologies to help you take control of your power consumption and costs. Our focus is on quality, integrity, and reliability, We want people to know that they are dealing with actual electricians and installers who provide comprehensive customer service and support, plus a 12-month warranty on installation workmanship. We employ qualified electricians and train apprentices which we see as essential for the future of the industry."

Sunbeam Solar are founding members of the Clean

Energy Council and members of SEIA (Solar Energy Installers Association) and are accredited for all levels of renewable energy.

To find out more about Sunbeam Solar's off-the-grid solutions phone (02) 6679 7228 or 0428 320 262.





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A Spiritual Garden for Uki

Carole Powell

For many years concerts have been held in the Anglican Church just past the primary school. Its beautiful architecture and great acoustics have made it a wonderful venue for music. It has come to be referred to fondly as a Sacred Space in Uki.

Now a meditative **LABYRINTH** which can be walked, is being constructed at the heart of a spiritual garden to be situated behind the church.

Meditative labyrinths are pre-Christian in origin. They provide an inclusive focus for meditation, for stillness, for quiet conversation, for connecting and for healing. Individuals can find solitude. Couples can pause for a quiet chat. Groups of one kind or another can use the space for celebrations or book it for meditative workshops. This area has always been an overflow space when there is a large Uki funeral. How appropriate to be able to stand or sit at such a time within the atmosphere of a beautiful garden.

The garden is taking shape as a **collaborative effort**. Two people have organised the design, the Anglican parish has donated the bricks. A local farming family are contributing rocks from their property and the use of their machinery. Others are making benches and new plantings



possible. Quite a few are bending their backs to lay a thousand bricks and stones in such a way that the grass can be mown straight over the top. It is expected that the garden will grow and develop over time.

In Uki we celebrate many spiritual pathways, as we are drawn mystically, metaphorically and in our day-to-day living to an ever greater connectedness to ourselves, to each other, to the earth and to something that transcends all that we can understand with our reason or our senses. While we may celebrate our spirituality differently, we all do it with a sense of great awe and wonder. It is hoped that this garden becomes expressive of what that means for us all.

Please come to the OPENING of the garden to take place after the Easter School Holidays on a day yet to be announced. ✨



A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust. *Gertrude Jekyll*

Gardens and flowers have a way of bringing people together, drawing them from their homes. *Clare Ansberry*



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Getting along with each other in a small village

Heather McClelland

Writer and thinker, Byron Katy promotes what she calls 'Turn around work'. She believes that much of our suffering is linked to our thought life. Our thoughts harm us when they are out of touch with reality. Personally she has turned her life around by her willingness to dive inward, to meditate, listen, wait and take a stand against painful self-harming thoughts.

She gives an example. War exists in the world. This is reality. If the thought that 'war shouldn't exist' gets a hold on me, I suffer. The thought is not reality. I can turn the thought around by getting personal: challenging the way I wage war on myself. If I can take a stand against this kind of harmfulness, I actually make a start on ending war in the world.

Could 'turn around work' like this help us, not only as individuals but as a community? Katy says our minds act like a projector. Blaming thoughts magnify the flaw in 'the other' because we unconsciously always want to disregard similar flaws in ourselves. I'm often horrified personally at

how quickly my mind can jump to judgment and criticism. It's a mirror of the harm I do to myself.

Katy's questions are a guide.

1. Is the thought true?
2. Can I know it is absolutely true?
3. How do I react and what happens when I believe the painful or blaming thought?
4. Does the thought and the subsequent behaviours bring me peace or more stress? Do they harm or help others?
5. Who would I be without the thought?
6. What would it be like to stand in the presence of the person I see as 'the enemy' without the blaming thought?

With courage we can look inward and/or talk 'face to face' so that understanding and peacefulness are not merely a pretty illusion in our life together in Uki.



After The Flood

Community Recovery in the Northern Rivers



A Community Resilience Project

University Centre for Rural Health

In 2017, you were one of 2,500 people who took part in the 'Community Recovery After Flood' survey. THANK YOU – the findings from that survey have been incredibly useful in helping us understand the needs of the community. In that survey, you told us you might be willing to take part in future studies.

It has been two years since the flood. This follow-up questionnaire asks about

- How you are doing now?
- What flood-related issues are you still dealing with?
- What it's like living in the community now?

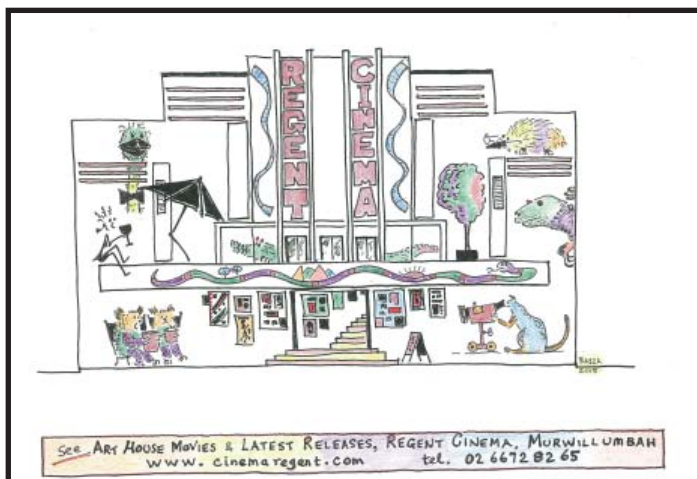
Your answers will help our understanding about longer-term impacts of the flood and will help plan future responses to disasters. If you know of others who

completed the first questionnaire and didn't receive this follow-up survey, please contact us at the email/phone number phone 02 6620 7570 or email: northern-rivers.flood@sydney.edu.au.

This questionnaire is completely voluntary and your information is completely confidential. You will not be identified and none of your personal information will be reported. All returned questionnaires will go into the prize draw to win a \$100 gift voucher (unless you don't want to).

Post your questionnaire in the reply paid envelope by Monday 15th April.

This questionnaire is part of a research project being conducted by the University Centre for Rural Health which is a collaboration between the University of Sydney, Western Sydney University, Wollongong University (www.ucrh.edu.au) and Southern Cross University.



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Bottlemart

Hotel: (02) 6679 5111

Uki Buttery Bazaar Entertainment

Sanna Grace Kenna

 Uki Buttery Bazaar Market

To book a stall at the monthly Uki Buttery Bazaar please contact Lisa on **0487 329 150**.

APRIL Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 21st APRIL

Alisha Todd

Alisha Todd sings the songs of a curious traveler, bringing focus to the beauty of humans and nature alike. Being no stranger to change, her wandering melodies and old soul delivery are accompanied by a variety of her favorite musical friends and often she will stand it alone, with her guitar and loop pedal as her trusty steeds. Her profound affection for fusing jazz and pop with an earthy roots flavour creates a brew that warms you from the inside and embraces your physical being in a musical mumma squeeze.

2013 of her debut EP 'Of All Time', a 5-track collection of country-pop inspired songs. The EP was warmly received in shows supporting fellow Australian independent artists Marshall Okell and Claude Hay. 'Without Us' earned Alisha three Dolphin Awards Finalist Nominations in the categories of Vocalist of the Year, Pop Song of the Year and New Emerging Talent of the Year and 'Charlie' making finalist in Pop song of the year for both Dolphin Awards and The Music Oz awards.

Following the release of her debut EP, Alisha set off on a 3.5-year journey of self, social and musical discovery through Europe. While living in Ibiza, Spain, Alisha released her latest EP 'Live At Sonic Vista Studios', a collection of live solo acoustic performances recorded at the luscious Sonic Vista Studios, located in the secluded

hills of Ibiza inside a 400 year old finca. This EP is available on Spotify.

On her return to Australian soil, Alisha graced the stages of music festivals like Falls Festival Byron Bay, Island Elements Festival, Gympie's Rush Festival as well as sharing the stage with local and internationally acclaimed artists The Band of Frequencies, and Wild Marmalade.



2019 will see the release of her forth-coming EP 'Make Believe', a rebirth of sound and an exploration of the voice and it's layers. The first single release from 'Make Believe', titled 'Icelandia', quickly made it's way onto the airways, being added to Triple J's 'Roots N All', Gold Coast ABC Radio and Sunshine Coast's commercial radio Sea FM.

From her humble beginnings being raised on country and 90's pop in small town Gympie, to opening the lid of Pandora's box of worldly delights, Alisha has sung her way through it all with a fiery passion that only grows with time. You'll want to hear it.



MAY Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 19th MAY (Full Moon Market)

Murray Kyle and Special Guests

Renowned local troubadour Murray Kyle returns to Uki Markets with his signature lyrical love bombs.

From a life rich in musical pilgrimage, comes the auditory download of Murray Kyle.

Hailing from the visionary Byron Bay region of Australia, this mystic troubadour has built a dedicated international fan base from 15 years of grass roots touring all over the world. His live performances of heart medicine and Earth honouring songs, successfully blend conscious lyrics and authentic intention with a well produced sound. The inner world of this profound artist comes alive on stage spanning Shamanic Soul, Conscious Roots, World, and Sacred Music genres.

A prolific songwriter, multi instrumentalist, and sound engineer, Murray has released multiple self produced studio albums over the last decade, grounded in unity consciousness, and dedicated to the re-awakening of the

beauty way.

His journey in the worldwide heart music network, has led to studio and live collaborations with artists such as Tina Malia, Shimshai, Peia, Trevor Hall, Kevin James, Elijah Ray and many more.

This is contagious soul restoring music that will sweep you off your feet, out of your head, and into your heart. Expect Live looping, earth honouring grooving tune.



Confessions of a Boat Person

Rev'd John Tyman, Holy Trinity Church

Sadly, one thing rarely remarked upon in NSW has been the award to the Kurdish journalist and poet Behrouz Boochani for his book "No Friend But the Mountains: Writings from Manus Prison".

It was transmitted by mobile phone, one text message at a time, to a translator in Europe and was 5 years in the making. It is a beautiful but harrowing story of how the hopes of an asylum seeker were progressively stifled in a system that has driven many refugees mad ... and done so in our name!

It won Australia's richest literary prize, the Victorian Prize for Literature, as well as the Victorian Premier's Prize for Non-fiction in January this year. Inevitably, questions were asked about Boochani's eligibility for prizes which had previously been given to Australian citizens or permanent residents: but the judges were unanimous in recognizing the book's literary excellence.

Boochani explains why he left his home in Iran: "Truth be told, I am a child of war. Yes, I was born during the war. Under the thunder of warplanes. Alongside tanks. In the face of bombs. Breathing gunpowder. Among dead bodies. Inside silent cemeteries. These were the days when war was a part of our everyday lives and ran like blood through our identity. A meaningless war; a pointless war. Absurd. A war with ridiculous objectives. Like all wars throughout history. A war that devastated our families and sizzled and incinerated all of our vivid, green and bounteous homeland."

Of his years on Manus he writes:

*Days without any plans /
Lost and disoriented /
Minds still caught up in the waves of the ocean /
Searching for peace of mind on new plains /
But the prison's plains are like a corridor leading to a fighters' gym /
And the smell of warm sweat everywhere is driving everyone insane.*

"I am a piece of meat thrown into an unknown land; a prison of filth and heat. I dwell among a sea of people with faces stained and shaped by anger, faces scarred with hostility."

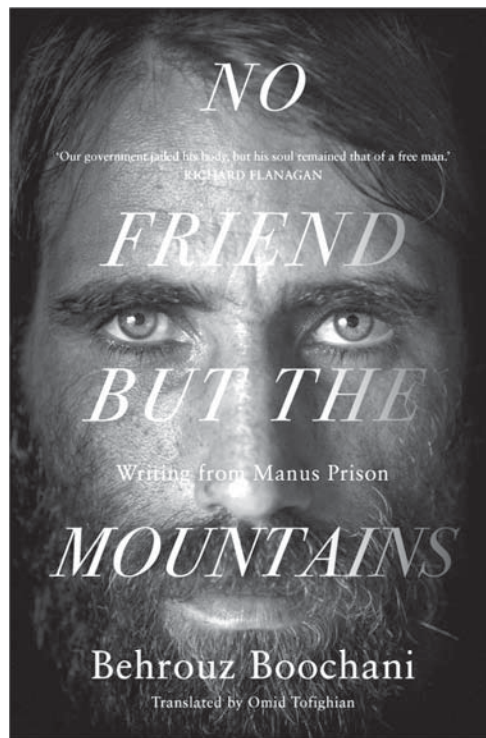
One thing that is not widely known is that I was a "boat person" too, but with a difference. Behrouz Boochani and his family sacrificed everything they had to pay "people smugglers". In my case the Queensland government (50 years ago!) paid \$15,000 to bring me to Australia on a luxury liner. Someone must have thought that I had something to contribute to this country: I hope I have done so: but it pales into insignificance alongside the giftedness of Behrouz Boochani. And if he is not embraced by the nation to which I now belong, we shall be much the poorer!

In another poignant anthology entitled "Stories from Detention: They Cannot take the Sky", a former detainee now in community detention explains why he risks being punished as a "troublemaker" for speaking out in support of asylum seekers threatened with deportation to Nauru. He says: "I believe if I am silent I am a dead person, I am

gone. What I believe is: we are all human beings. If they abuse you, one day, they will come and abuse me. So we have to stop them."

Many of you will recognize in these words the spirit of the poem written by the German pastor Martin Niemöller, highlighting the cowardice of German intellectuals; following the Nazis' rise to power and Hitler's purging of his chosen targets, group after group ... first socialists, next trade unionists, then Jews. The imagined author of his poem failed to speak out in opposition to any of Hitler's purges, and the poem ends: "Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me."

Niemöller, himself, was an outspoken critic of Hitler and spent the last seven years of Nazi rule in concentration camps. In this country we are spared such punishment, but we have every reason still to demand justice for those who have fled here seeking freedom from persecution in their own lands and are imprisoned here instead. A hymn we often sing in Church here begins "Who will speak if we don't?"



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Byangum School 1885 - 1918

Esma Thompson

Just after 1879 the approval for building a school at Byangum was underway. The Under-Secretary of the Department of Public Instruction stopped the approval in 1881 saying that he was not convinced there were enough children to maintain the school. The inspectors report on this stoppage indicated that there were eleven families numbering 42 children of school age, all of whom excepting Mr Hatton (who had six children) lived within two miles of the proposed site.



Byangum School Circa 1909, Teacher Isobel Neal
Photo Courtesy Tweed Regional Museum

Eventually the school was built by George Murray and John Sharp (farmers) at a cost of £95.

This first school site was badly situated with the children having to cross both the Middle & South Arms of the Tweed River.

In 1891 the school was closed for about six months. Mr Hatton wrote to explain that the small number of children attending the school was due to the extreme wet weather for the last two years and the need for a boat in crossing the river.

The school was again officially closed in 1893.

The reason is thought to be because of the schools inaccessibility. Mr White the hotel keeper at Byangum offered the use of a hall near his hotel on the South Arm of the Tweed River. Byangum School was reopened in 1894 in the hall as a Provisional school. It was proposed 20 children would attend the school. Mr Campbell was the teacher appointed and remained so when Byangum became a Half-Time school with Rowlands Creek in 1895. Time was equally shared between both schools approximately 5 miles apart. Mr Campbell rode his horse between schools with a forage allowance for his horse of £10 per annum.

By 1897 Mr White's hall was in disrepair and the need for a new school building on the same side of the river became evident. In 1902 a new school was built by William Sanstram of Murwillumbah for £119/10/- situated at the top of a hill (Bakers Road) with children having to climb a steep incline from Byangum. From 1900 to the 1st July 1904 the school was classified as a Provisional school. The average attendance for the first quarter of 1904 was 20.1 and the school was converted back to a Public School, the same status as when it first began in 1885. The attendance fell in 1916 to 9 which put the continuity of the school in jeopardy.

On the 2nd January 1917 against local protest the school was set to close with the government offering a conveyance subsidy to fund the children's travel to Dum Dum School.

The Byangum School closed in 1918.

For more information or enquiries, the Historical Society is open Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am to 3pm. Visitors are welcome.

Contact: Esma Thompson (secretary)

Ph: 02 66795890

Ph. AH: 02 66799121

Email: trmuki@tweed.nsw.gov.au <<mailto:trmuki@tweed.nsw.gov.au>>

Plastic Water Bottle Free UKI?

Bruce Ray

Two Uki traders have agreed to stop selling plastic bottled water. Louise Gallard from **UKI PIES** and the owners of the **UKI CAFÉ** have removed plastic water bottles and are now selling refillable glass bottles of chilled Uki tap water.

At present approximately 68 billion plastic bottles are produced world-wide every year. In 2006 it was estimated that in America alone the production of plastic water bottles consumed 17 000 000 barrels of oil.

The impact of plastic bottle waste on our community as landfill or dangerous pollution in waterways and oceans also needs to be considered if we support this industry. Water in plastic bottles has been reported to contain



double the level of micro-plastics than standard tap water. Traces of the chemical antimony (Pb) can be found in plastic water bottles after 6 month's storage at room temperature.

The small NSW town of Bundanoon is already plastic water bottle free. Is it Uki's turn now? If you have an opinion on making Uki plastic water bottle free please express it through the Uki News.

If you are motivated to ban them in Uki, perhaps a friendly word with those still selling plastic water bottles may bring the desired outcome.

Bruce Ray- bruceray52@yahoo.com.au
(Major source of information: ProCon.org)



Uki and the NBN

UKI CTC

As most Uki Residents are probably aware the NBN rollout has well and truly reached UKI and is *Live*. The 'rollout type' is listed as Fixed Wireless. The following information, sourced from Telstra and NBN Co websites may be of interest.

From Telstra

Do I have to switch to the nbn™ network?

The nbn™ network is replacing the old phone and broadband network, and services will be progressively disconnected from the old network after the nbn network is rolled out across Australia. To continue having a fixed home phone and broadband service, you'll need to switch to phone and broadband services on the nbn network. In most cases, you have 18 months to switch, from the date when nbn co declares your area is 'ready for service'. <https://www.nbnco.com.au/residential/learn/rollout-map>

From NBN Co.

Moving to the nbn™ access network is not automatic - the following services will be permanently disconnected if you do not arrange to switch before the advised disconnection date.

Services that will be affected:

- Telstra Home/landline phone services (except some Telstra Velocity lines).
- Home and landline phone services from all other phone companies, where the service is provided over Telstra's copper phone lines.
- All ADSL, ADSL2 and ADSL2+ internet services from

all providers.

- Telstra BigPond cable internet services.
- Optus cable internet and cable phone services.

Special Services

As the nbn™ broadband access network is rolled out, some Special Services will be disconnected. Special Services are a set of business telecommunication products delivered on copper, other than your standard landline phone or internet services. To find out if your services will be affected, and applicable disconnection dates, visit the Special Services page at: <https://www.nbnco.com.au/business/special-services>.

Services that will not be switched off

Some existing phone lines

The copper network within nbn™ Fixed Wireless and Sky Muster™ Satellite areas will not be switched off. Premises within these areas will have the choice to keep their existing landline phone service over the copper network active, or switch over to a VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) service on the nbn™ network.

Will my existing phone and internet service be disconnected?

Premises connected to the nbn™ broadband access network via Fixed Wireless or Sky Muster™ satellite technologies won't be disconnected from their existing phone and internet services by nbn. When ordering an nbn™ powered plan in Sky Muster™ or Fixed Wireless areas, have a discussion with your phone and internet provider about your existing landline.

If you do decide to keep your existing service active, avoid bill shock and talk to your provider at reducing your existing service to voice only.



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Crocodile seen in River at Uki

Jai Morrison

Recent reports have surfaced of a suspected crocodile sighting in the Tweed River near the old convent at Uki.

Two Uki residents swimming in the river in the February heatwave reported seeing what looked like a crocodile that was 'bigger than a bathtub' swimming towards them. It had a long snout and they could see its eyes set further back ... it was swimming against the flow so it wasn't a log. They both got out of the water and observed the creature swimming under low branches near the bank.

The reported sighting sparked some intensive interest with numerous anecdotal tales of sightings including a report of 4 - 5 foot crocs at the weir at Bray Park, a long time ago. There were other claims of crocodiles in the Tweed River in the 1800's.

Some suggest their natural range has been extended further south due to the progressively warming ocean temperatures. Once considered limited to north of the Boyne River near Gladstone, a confirmed sighting of a large salt water crocodile on the Hervey Bay side of Fraser Island in March 2018 by rangers from the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, prompted crocodile expert Dr Adam Britton to advise that crocodiles can swim long distances and the warming oceans was making it more attractive for them to move southward. They are also known to travel long distances over land in the wet season. Water temperature will be the only limitation on their range.



Crocodile captured on Logan River in 1905
Photo courtesy of Queensland State Library

The warmer waters have also been linked to the southward migration of the deadly Irikandji jellyfish which have been recorded in the same area near Fraser Island, several hundred miles further south than their previous recorded range.

Over the past few years several other sightings have been reported including at Coolum Creek on the Sunshine Coast, Pine River just north of Brisbane and in the canal at Hope Island on the Gold Coast.

A five metre crocodile was shot and photographed at the Logan River in 1905 while reports of an escaped Johnson River crocodile surviving in the Richmond River at Lismore for nearly a decade. 'Hector' was on tour with a travelling show when he escaped in to the river in 1966. There were numerous sightings over the years and several attempts to capture 'Hector' and return him to Queensland failed. It is thought that he was washed away in the 1974 floods as he was not seen after then.



'Hector' the escaped Johnson River crocodile on the banks of the Richmond River at Lismore 1972
Photo from Trove from article in the Canberra Times



TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL

Tweed Shire Council Advice Notices

Uki: Blackspot Programme upgrade Kyogle Road (12 April - 26 April)

The water level of Clarrie Hall Dam has fallen below 90% capacity, putting the shire on notice that if significant rain is not received in the next eight weeks water restrictions will be put in place.



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Astrology

Paola Emma

The Lunar Node, Pluto and Saturn

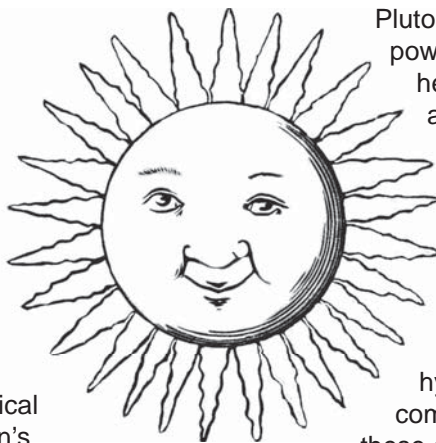
The highlights of the April/May period will be two alignments of the Lunar Nodes to Pluto (April 5) and Saturn (May 1). The conjunction South Node-Pluto (and opposition North Node-Pluto) will be exact on the same day as the Aries New Moon (first New Moon in the astrological yearly calendar). Both the Pluto and Saturn's alignments will also significantly happen on the Sun's southernmost and northernmost degrees of declination, corresponding with the Winter/Summer Solstices (23 degrees Capricorn and Cancer). Pluto will also turn Stationary-Retrograde on April 25 while sitting on this critical degree, just about on the exact declination of the Tropic of Capricorn. The alignments of the Nodes to Saturn will go beyond May, returning on July 4 and September 28.

These are all huge events in Mundane Astrology, that branch of the art that deals with the worldly effects of planetary motions.



The North and South Nodes of the Moon (also known, more picturesquely, as the Head and Tail of the Dragon) are the ascending and descending points of interception of the Moon and Earth's orbits. Due to the Moon and Earth's constant motion, these points naturally move too, completing 360 degrees in about nineteen years. The Nodes are closely connected to the phenomenon of Eclipses because it is only when the Sun is close to one of the Nodes, near a New or Full Moon time, that Lunar and Solar Eclipses can occur. This means that the Nodes are linked with the deep experiences associated with Eclipses, new beginning and climaxes on a grand scale. They represent in astrology an axis of collective and individual destiny, showing the direction we are going, the trajectory between past and future enacted in the present moment.

The conjunction to the South Node (and opposition to the North Node) with Pluto occur only once every sixteen or seventeen years; with Saturn every twelve years or so. The South Node has to do with the past; in this instance the world's past. It has to do with letting go of what of the past is dragging us back (coal, bigotry and greed come to mind). The two Nodes are an axis and never work separately; if one is affected the other is too. So what we do with these mighty transits will have enormous effect on the future (the North Node), how things will eventually turn out.



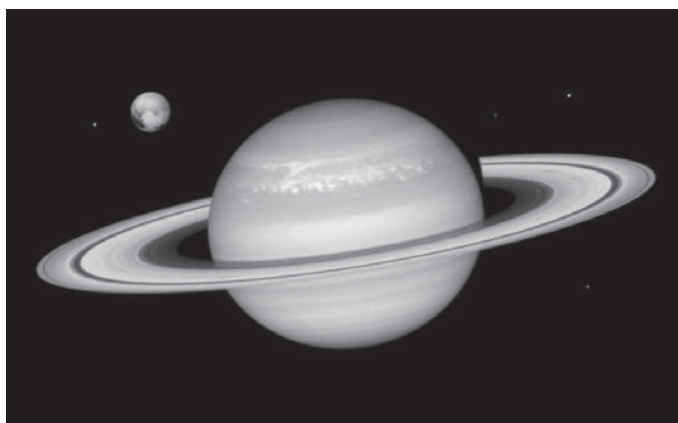
Pluto is the planet of crisis, transformation, power struggles and all experiences in life that help to change us in radical ways. Saturn and Capricorn, on the other hand, are symbols of structure, security, ambition, the established order, authority, governments etc. These alignments certainly indicate a serious shake up of the established order of things, the sort of things we take for granted.

Much corruption, injustice and hypocrisy of our past and present are coming to the surface now. Confronting these could help remove our gaze from the scapegoats we have chosen to bear the burden of our collective guilt. Confronting stuff within ourselves (Pluto), taking responsibility and doing something about it (Capricorn and Saturn) are key necessities here.

Uranus in Taurus

We cannot forget that we are also still adjusting to the recent ingress of Uranus in Taurus (March 6), transit that will continue to 2025. A passage over the very first degrees of any Sign is always a harbinger of significant adjustments in the planet's psyche, especially when a game changer like Uranus is involved. The Moon on April 5-7, the Sun on April 23, Mercury on May 9, Venus on May 19 will in turn align to Uranus, bringing its exciting and/or disruptive energy to the fore around these dates. Times for things to perhaps unexpectedly change in our lives, our destiny taking a u-turn of sorts, new unforeseen opportunities arising, especially if the first four degrees of the Fixed Signs happen to be highlighted in your Birth Horoscope (from the first to the fourth degrees Taurus, Scorpio, Leo, Aquarius).

All these cosmic events are actually foreshadowing the big one on the horizon, the actual conjunction of Saturn and Pluto on January 13 2020, ending a mutual cycle that had its climax at opposition, around 9/11 (covering the period from August 2001 to June 2002).



An aside: there is an interesting connection to Donald Trump's Birth Horoscope: the current Cancer-Capricorn Nodal axis and Pluto-Saturn in Capricorn are aligned to his Birth Horoscope's Venus Saturn in Cancer, in the sector that has to do with his public outreach and allies. All the above could then prove even more relevant and personal for his presidency.

For more astrological news and insights please visit: livinmoonastrology.com





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