

Uke'n Nights 2013

October Uke'n Night Wrap

Our October 2013 Uke'n night theme was "One More Please".

This was referring to drinks seeing that the month of October celebrates Oktoberfest or is it Oksober???

Anyway we all remained reasonably sober and sang our hearts out to the drinking songs from the iconic Aussie song, The Pub with No Beer all the way through to a traditional Irish song, The Parting Glass.

There was some enthusiastic singing from the floor in Summer Wine, and Melissa belted out a great version of that bar-room song, The Piano Man.

Thanks to David on double bass purring along and to Melissa for her beautiful voice and uke skills.

A huge thank you to our patrons, The Block Bar & Cafe at Yamba Backpackers.

Swingin Sixties ... uke'n night

The Swinging Sixties Uke'n night was a hoot.

The audience participation was the best ever with Dave & Helen leading the way in Blowin' in the Wind. This song had to be Dave's because he can lay claim to actually having met Bob Dylan. Debbie jumped up and helped Dave out with Four Strong Winds and Melissa lead a saucy version of My Guy. The Wooloweyah Ukulele Women helped out with Eight Days a Week, and the lovely Lisa & Liz were awesome with California Dreaming. Mazza helped out with Comes a Time and Paul helped us end the night with Teach Your Children.

Jackie didn't disappoint with her poem on the swinging sixties while Julie slammed us with a original protest song

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We also had a few guests from other uke groups and Melissa & Bettina harmonised beautifully together as only sisters can.

Thanks go to Dave on double bass and Anthony on IT. And as always we are immensely grateful to the staff at The Block Bar & Cafe for keeping our voice boxes lubricated and our tummies satisfied.

July Uke'n Night

A different venue, some new ukaholics, a pair of wonderful generous hosts fine voices and great strumming..... this all added to a wonderful spontaneous and exciting event in King Studios Maclean.

The night went well, we had a jolly old time.

We had some people from out of town as well - the Shoalhaven, coincidence !

So we played a few of the usual and there was a bit of solo stuff as well, a nice mix. Julie

Yes what an interesting night. A few new ukaholics which is always a welcome thing. The venue was great, the hosts charming and inviting, and the range of songs was varied. We really played well and sounded good on the old favourites e.g. Handle with care. The Wooloweyah girls played one of the songs from Chucks workshop, they are quite good too. Julie did a few dittys - always entertaining. Maz was interesting, she brought her 'electric' Uke! Gai

Yeah I made it to Malcolm and Julies. It was great, we had about 12 people turn up. We took turns requesting songs and some people did duets or solos.

Fun was had by all including Ziggy their dog. Melissa

“Relax and nurturing environment”

“Very focused space for both conversation and the music “

“Everyone bought something to share in the way of food and drink”

Personally I felt it was a most welcoming way to meet with others. We also had a lot more opportunities for solo duo “show and tells”. Carolyn and I even did “ Far Away Places” as a duo. Perhaps the time is ripe to revisit the Old Kirk? Jane

June Uke'n Wrap

On a freezing cold night in Yamba, lots of ukaholics left

their warm fires and came along to our Jumping June Uke'n night. It was a great crowd with a good vibe, ukescame out early with lots of tuning up and uke'n envy for some of the fabulous

ukes that our ukaholics are collecting. It's great to see the excitement and anticipation at the beginning of the night with people stealing themselves for the next few hours.

It's always great to have our Hot Spot regulars with Julie, Jackie & Sam in fine form. Lovely to see people stepping up and we know in the future there will be many more of you who will feel comfortable about performing.

With our professional musicians up the front keeping the beat and keeping us on track we had warm & fuzzy things going on all night. David on the double bass stepped up with

some great riffs whilst Sam on drums kept up the rhythm. As always, the delightful Melissa carried some great vocals with some awesome versions of Hey Diddle Diddle. Some of our songs didn't jump that high but the more input from all ukaholics will help develop our song choices.

As always our thanks go to our great hosts, The Block Bar & Cafe for their generous hospitality

May Uke'n Wrap

Moody May Uke'n night kicked off with the optimistic "I'm Yours", then moved on to the melancholy "Everybody's Talkin'", followed up by the dismal "Here Comes the Rain Again", the rejuvenated "Y Y H A" (aka Y M C A), the bittersweet "I Will Survive", the sad "Somebody's Crying", the lonely "Ain't No Sunshine", the chipper "Don't Worry Be Happy", the mournful "Killing Me Softly" and ended the night with the joyful "You Are My Sunshine". After all those see-sawing mood swings who could get to sleep?

Our hosts, The Block Bar & Cafe at the Yamba Backpackers did themselves proud by providing the dance moves in Y Y H A (Yamba Youth Hostel Association). Hope the Village People didn't mind us adding a local flavour to their original Y M C A.

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Thanks go to our guest vocalists, Lisa, Warwick and Paul. Also to Melissa, Dave and Sam for their contribution to the Yambaukes Band. And to Hajar on projector, Gillian on photos, Caz on the door, Paul on sound and to all of you fully blown ukaholics who turn up every month for your dose of fun!!

April Uke'n Wrap All the AAAAAAAAAA's

Oh what a night! Inspirational with an international flavour with Nottingham Sam, Virginia Mike, Kent Ryan, just random backpackers who couldn't resist our great sound and had to join us, sharing their exceptional musical talents on the violin, guitar and of course, the ukulele. The excitement level rose and brought the crowds from off the streets, upstairs and everywhere in between.

Outstanding performances from our Hot Spots, with Julie telling us how she likes the bed to herself, Jackie's pussy tale encouraged much audience participation, and the Wooloweyah Ukulele Orchestra with their debut performance proved that practice makes perfect and their love of the uke was infectious.

The blokes songs added much testosterone to the uke'n night, with Warwick doing a great ACDC , and Paul' pizzazz with his version of Sister Golden Hair.

In fact it was such a great night, comments heard were they didn't want to go home, an extra hour please, camaraderie was inspiring, being with uke minded people, and just great fun.