**MEDIA RELEASE

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**HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD ICONIC UKI POST OFFICE GETS MAJOR FACE LIFT
AND LAUNCHES INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT LOCAL TALENT**

Coffee, art and stamp lovers rejoice! A historic, 109-year-old heritage-listed Post Office in Uki has received a major face lift this month and will launch a roving art exhibition, espresso bar and soon-to-be coffee roaster within its space.

The Uki Post Office has undergone a $100,000 facelift since it was acquired by Perth born, Uki resident, Gary Wall last September and has seen a host of initiatives be launched to continue to support home-grown talent and foster job opportunities within the local community.

The restoration will see a range of functional and external renovations be made to the space, and will also feature a dedicated, roving art exhibition (Art Post Uki) and an espresso bar for all art and coffee lovers to enjoy.

Located in the heart of Northern Rivers’ historic village Uki, the space will continue to operate as a full-service and functional Post Office, committing itself to supporting the local community and creating an interactive experience for visitors.

Post Master Gary Wall said he was looking forward to bringing an element of art and culture to the historic, and improved building.

“We are thrilled to be able to give this much-loved space a face lift and create a place which offers visitors the opportunity to explore the rich history of the town, the local arts and cultural scene, enjoy a cup of coffee and send mail to their loved ones,” Mr Wall said.

“We are passionate about cultivating and fostering local home-grown talent, bringing employment opportunities and sharing a love for this historic, vibrant town, so what better way than launch a series of roving art exhibitions to support local artists.

“Our first Art Post Uki exhibition will feature artist Matt Ottley whose exhibition will be launched at our Opening Night on February 22; we encourage the entire community to join us for a night celebrating local artwork and a new and improved postal office.”

The community is invited to join Art Post Uki as they officially launch their monthly exhibition at their Launch Night on Thursday, February 22 from 6pm.

Guests will be treated to an evening of live entertainment, complimentary canapes, bubbles and a first-look at one of Australia’s most highly regarded children’s book creators, Matt Ottley’s work.

Born in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, Uki resident, Matt Ottley has illustrated over 35 children’s books including *Luke’s Way of Looking*, *Home and Away*, *Parachute, Tree*, *Requiem for a Beast* and international award-winning book *Teacup* written by Rebecca Young. Matt is also an endorsed composer for Yamaha and is currently working on projects with the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra.

Matt Ottley said he was looking forward to the launch event and showcasing his work to locals later this month.

“It’s so exciting to be involved at the very beginning of this community arts initiative at Uki. It feels great to be bringing my work home.”

Located in the heart of the Northern Rivers’ historic village, Art Post Uki provides a vibrant space that integrates a passion for art and coffee within a Post Office.

Built in 1909, and recently restored, the heritage-listed Uki Post Office provides a unique platform to showcase and support local artwork which reflects Uki and Northern NSW.

The history of Uki Post Office dates back to 1910, where it was previously used for election night dances in 1911, stopping the music to announce the news and election bulletins from its telephone.

The Post Office received its first telephone service at the time, which led to news announcements by the Post Master including news of the sinking of the Bismark, a German Boat that sunk in WW2 by the Post Master in 1945.

The Post Office has seen three generations of the Milson family as Post Masters in Uki since 1919 and has continued to evolve over the years making its iconic mark on the community and playing an integral role within Uki.

For more information, please visit [www.artpostuki.com](http://www.artpostuki.com)

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