

# Uralla Wordsworth

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  urallawordsworth

## NAIDOC Celebration for Uralla

A traditional smoking ceremony and flag raising was held outside Uralla Shire Council Chambers last Wednesday in honour of NAIDOC Day, after COVID lockdown delayed original celebrations planned for July.

Aniwan Elders Aunty Pam Meehan and Uncle Les Townsend joined retiring Mayor Michael Pearce in opening the proceedings, with a smoking ceremony and didgeridoo playing by Kristian Sternbeck.

At the end of the ceremony, Mr Sternbeck generously gifted a boomerang to the people of the Uralla Shire.

"This boomerang, which my son and I made together – we call it number 7 boomerang according to the shape – is to bring the people of Uralla Shire together," Mr Sternbeck said. Mayor Pearce and Uncle Les Townsend accepted the gift on behalf of the community. Arrangements are being made for a plaque to be prepared to accompany the boomerang, before it will be placed on display. A morning tea was enjoyed afterwards at the Community Centre.



"I'm honoured to be here today to celebrate NAIDOC week with you, as we have together, over the past 9 years," Mayor Pearce told the gathering. "I believe this will be one of the final events I will attend as Mayor – and it is a fitting place to end, given the significance of NAIDOC," he said. "Assuming COVID restrictions continue to ease, Council is really excited to have a return to a full NAIDOC celebration next year and working with the Elders Social Group."

The theme of NAIDOC Week for 2021 is Healing Country. Healing Country calls for Australians to move forward together by addressing historical injustices, to celebrate and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and to recognise cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage.

**Uralla Shire Council**



Kristian Sternbeck and Uncle Les Townsend

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**Robert Bell was elected to Uralla Shire Council in September 2016 and has served one term as Deputy Mayor. He was previously Director of Engineering for Uralla Shire, lives in town, and has a grazing block at Kentucky. In his regular column, Cr Bell gives a personal view of some of the more important matters concerning Council and ratepayers in recent weeks.**

Wow! What a wonderful couple of weeks. A huge thank you to all who supported our new team with me at the helm. My understanding is that the final result may still be a week away, waiting for the official closing of postal votes. While I am humbled by the result, I am well aware of the huge responsibility that comes with this outcome. Once the results are declared by the NSW Electoral Commission (not the ABC), I will look to arrange a regular meeting time for anyone who wishes to raise specific concerns or simply have a chat. I have promised Linda that I will not answer the telephone during dinner time; but my mobile number will remain the same as shown at the end of this column.

Judging by the reactions of five of my grandchildren, the Uralla Fairy Festival was an enormous success. "Grant all your wishes Fairy" made a huge impact, and the word is the selectors are already discussing his contract for 2022. With Fairy Floss, Auntie Jack, and Thin Arthur in terrific supporting roles, the organising committee should take a bow. Luckily our Fairy Princess was not stolen by the big man in the big red fire truck this year. I am still not sure what was in the wizard's potions (aka dinosaur snot) that our grandsons brought home, but it looked gooey and revolting!

Discussions will be held with the new Councillors regarding time and dates of future Council meetings. One hope is that at least one meeting a year can be held in Bundarra. It was obvious during the Candidates' Forum that the locals are under financial pressure. Their issues included footpath upgrades, ensuring the sewer system provides all the benefits that have been promised, and also road upgrades including the Barraba Road and Bakers Creek Crossing (a regional road).

Council has been advised that it has received a grant for Australia Day celebrations and the Australia Day Committee has decided to hold a talent quest. Good news with the procession to again include the very popular "Tribute to Tradies" (last held in 2020). No word yet as to who will be our Australia Day Ambassador.

A meeting will be organised early in the New Year with the Department of Planning, regarding recent applications for Rural Small Holdings blocks and the issuing of Building Entitlement on minimum rural blocks that are unsuitable for agriculture, or that a house would not reduce the productivity of the land. These should be supported by Council.

I am also keen for the General Manager and me to meet with the Director of CSIRO, the New England Rural Fire Service, and Dr Lou Conway, Director, UNE Smart Region Incubator.

Council arranged a Developer Forum last Wednesday. The information provided to the dozen or so in attendance, highlights that we need to do more to work with the building and construction industry to minimize the continually increasing regulations. Initiatives such as providing a list of suitably qualified experts and appropriate associations would help the newcomers to town in this space. Council also has a role in advocating that city regulations do not strangle development in rural areas. The cost of insurance is increasing expediently, due mainly to shoddy practices in Sydney, and should not be reflected in the bush. The group agreed that Council should work hard to once again become a positive shire to do work in.

Congratulations to the editors of Wordsworth, for putting together the (Election) Special Edition, with information provided by the candidates; and also for arranging the Candidates' Forum at the Uralla Bowling Club. So often the encouraging of the regional media to provide detailed information is difficult; although the Armidale Express and Northern Daily Leader did provide information on the Mayoral candidates. I continue to be a strong supporter of our "Local Paper." (Many thanks Robert! - ed.)

I would like to borrow a thought from James Treloar, ex Mayor of Tamworth Regional Council. When considering an issue, the overriding thought is "Is it good for Uralla Shire?"



M: 0434 244 774

E: robertbell1055@hotmail.com

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Uralla Shire Resident**

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# Uralla Delivers the New England to Sydney

For the 3rd year in a row, a wonderful group of locals have gathered to pack hundreds of hampers filled with products made from across the New England. These hampers have then been loaded and delivered in person to corporate customers in Sydney. Some customers have been ordering for each of the 3 years and every year they send an email of congratulations on the extraordinary range of quality products, and the beautiful packing.

Although Seasons of New England sells hampers year round, it is only once a year that such a high number are packed for the trip to Sydney and each time we need help to fold boxes, cut ribbon, wrap products and pack the hampers. This year was extra special - and took a bit more to finish! - with one order for 100 hampers in timber crates made by the Uralla Men's Shed. The timber the crates were made from was recycled, having originally been the pallet timber the Uralla branch of URAL bikes, all the way from Russia. The crates looked so good that more orders have already been received.

There were 20 small New England businesses involved in just those 400 hampers, and another 35 (and growing all the time) are involved in the retail store and the hampers that are drawn together year round.

The hamper packing team nominate each year the organisations that we donate to on their behalf for their time in helping with the packing, and this year we will donate to Uralla CanAssist, Friends of McMaugh's, McCrossin's Mill Museum & Function Centre and ZNET (although I still have to catch up with one or two people about what they would like me to do, according to my list!).

Thank you Uralla, your willingness to get involved makes a huge difference to so many small businesses, to their families and their communities right across the region. And it makes something that would be impossible on our own, very possible indeed.

**Tara Toomey, Seasons of New England**



**The packing team hard at work**



**Those beautiful timber crates being delivered**



**The first drop off in Sydney**



## Seasons of New England

A new retail space, filled with products

Made in the New England

**opening on Wednesday**

**15th Dec, 12noon - 5pm**

58 Bridge St, (the old Laundromat)

Then Thurs 16th 12noon - 5pm

Fri 17th 12noon - 5pm

Sat 18th 9am - 2pm

Sun 19th 10am - 2pm

Tues 21st 12noon - 5pm

Wed 22nd 12noon - 5pm

Thur 23rd 12noon - 5pm

Fri 24th 12noon - 5pm



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# Postcard Project Captures Uralla Shire's Views

Residents encouraged to 'write a postcard' to contribute to the new Uralla Shire Community Strategic Plan. From Bundarra to Kentucky, from Kingstown to Invergowrie, postcards have popped up across the region, inviting residents to share their priorities and aspirations to feed into a new Uralla Shire Community Strategic Plan.

"The postcards are a quick and easy way for residents, wherever they are, to share their unique perspective on what is important to them," said Uralla Shire's retiring Mayor Michael Pearce.

"The goal is to reach as many people as we can to build a combined community vision based on individual and shared experiences of living in this beautiful part of NSW," said Mayor Pearce.

With a new Council soon to be elected, the process of reviewing the existing Community Strategic Plan has begun.

The Community Strategic Plan is a high-level plan that identifies the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future, along with strategies for achieving these objectives. From this, Council's key operational documents and resourcing strategies are developed.

While a council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing and maintaining the Community Strategic Plan on behalf of the local government area, its implementation is a collaborative, community, effort. Other partners, such as state agencies, non-government organisations, business and industry, joint organisations and community groups also contribute to delivering the strategies of the Plan.

Stage 1 of the consultation for the Community Strategic Plan has included collating the themes and ideas contributed by residents at listening posts and drop-in sessions co-ordinated by Council over 2021. It also includes feedback received through over 1200 submissions received in response to other related consultations, such as the Local Strategic Planning Statement.

"Council is fortunate to have engaged community members who are passionate about their part of the world, along with the incredibly valuable hubs that are our general stores," said General Manager Ms Jessep.

"Even if a person is time-poor, and living in one of the far reaches of the Shire, they will be able to have their say."

Residents can find the postcards at:

- Bundarra Store
- Bundarra Library
- Invergowrie Store
- Kingstown Store
- Uralla Library
- Uralla Customer Service Centre

Submissions can also be sent via email to [council@uralla.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@uralla.nsw.gov.au) or handed to the Customer Service Centre.

The consultation is open until 14 January 2022.

**Uralla Shire Council**



Natalie Swan and Barney Knight from the Invergowrie General Store collect postcards from retiring Mayor Michael Pearce and General Manager Kate Jessep.



Postcards are located at general stores around the Shire, along with Bundarra Library, Uralla Library and Customer Service Centre.

## Uralla Community Street Store

Rotary Club of Uralla 6 - 12 December  
Uralla Red cross 13 - 19 December

# Fovndlings On Fire

Local band Fovndlings launched their new single "Her Son The Arsonist" on Wednesday 1 December in the intimate atmosphere of Armidale's Charlie's Last Stand. You can (and no doubt will!) enjoy it on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLVce0IPsQA>

This is a beautiful, haunting and mesmerising song, accompanied by an equally haunting and eerily mysterious video, locally shot and produced, in the idiosyncratic musical end-of-days style that defines Fovndlings. Prior to the video screening of "The Arsonist", the band performed a number of their hits live, among which "Quiet Room", "Tanami" and their classic lost boys hit "Brother Fiscalini's Bones".

## Louis van Ekert, Uralla resident



The Fovndlings at Charlie's Last Stand in Armidale  
L-R: Hugh Cook, Brendan Passey, Steve Tafra, Adrian Walsh



A scene from "Her Son The Arsonist"

Deadline for the next edition is  
**5pm Thursday 23 Dec 2021.**

Please email all contributions including advertising, letters to the editor and articles to [urallawordsworth@gmail.com](mailto:urallawordsworth@gmail.com)

## EMALENE GEMMELL FAMILY LAW



9/108 Dangar Street **ARMIDALE**  
60a Bridge Street **URALLA**

**02 5733 5885**  
[office@egfamilylaw.com.au](mailto:office@egfamilylaw.com.au)

## TUFF AGM

The Uralla Future Fund will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 14 December.

All members and interested parties are encouraged to attend to hear a report of the year's activities and financial reports.

Several directors will be retiring. Anyone with management or financial skills, or ideas on encouraging the educational, social and economic wellbeing of Uralla should attend and offer themselves for election to the Board, or if unable to attend please contact me before the meeting.

The Future Fund does not make itself conspicuous, but works towards a better and more prosperous community. The Fund would like to hear from anyone who has a need or project that fits the guidelines of social, economic or educational benefit to the community.

The AGM will be held at 5.30pm on Tuesday 14 December at the bookshop, 46 Bridge Street.

I can be contacted on 0412 701 402.

**Ross Burnet, Chairman, TUFF**

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# House of Jazz - Uralla

## Arts

Friday evening 26th November was the return of live music to Uralla when the fabulous House of Jazz gave a wonderful concert at McCrossin's Mill. A very appreciative crowd were excited to have the House of Jazz team playing after the disappointment of their cancelled concert in June when we went into lockdown.

Featuring the wonderful musicianship of Anthony Walmsley on guitar, Garry Steel on keyboards, Bruce Stephens on bass, Cary Bennett on drums and Hester Fraser (alias Goldheim) and Katy Wren Hazelwood on vocals. We were treated to some Jazz classics from Duke Ellington, Sinatra, Nina Simone and many more.

This is the first of what we hope will be many concerts at the Mill now that Covid restrictions have eased. Looking forward to seeing you at the next gig which at this stage is Chopper Morton on Saturday January 22nd commencing at 7.30 pm.

Remember, if you want to be a member of Uralla Arts simply send your email address to [randerson84@bigpond.com](mailto:randerson84@bigpond.com)

**Bob Anderson, President, Uralla Arts Council**



House Of Jazz jazzing it up at McCrossin's Mill

# The Uralla Wordsworth

## on 2ARM FM 92.1

2ARM FM 92.1 is a community radio station broadcasting since 1976 to Armidale and neighbouring towns such as Uralla. 2ARM's live broadcast of the Candidates' Forum from the Uralla Bowling Club recently is a good example of its involvement in community. Uralla resident Ineke Kraan is a long-standing presenter with 2ARM. Uralla Wordsworth has a (hopefully to be regular) fortnightly slot at 9.30 am on the Friday morning before our paper's publication, discussing the goings on in Uralla and what can be expected to be covered in the paper. So if you want a quick preview, tune in!

**Louis van Ekert, Uralla Wordsworth**

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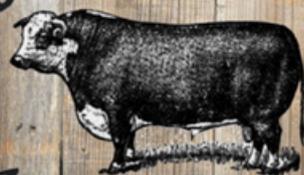
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# Community Calendar

Please email [urallawordsworth@gmail.com](mailto:urallawordsworth@gmail.com) if you have an event or meeting for the Uralla Shire

## Please check with Event Organisers about the Status of Listed Events

**Uralla Rotary Club** meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6.15pm at the Uralla Bowling Club, dinner optional after the meeting

**Uralla Lions Club** meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 5/5.30 in the CWA Rooms

**Uralla Fire & Rescue** meet on Tuesday nights at the Uralla Fire Station from 6-7.30pm

**Uralla CWA** meets on the 4th Friday of each month at 10am at CWA Rooms in the Literary Institute

**Uralla Computer Bank** is open Mon, Tues & Thurs from 9.30am – 3.30pm at Uralla Shire Waste Depot

**Uralla Anglican Church** meets at 10am each Sunday for worship, prayer, fellowship and Johnno's (kid's programme) in Park Street

**Uralla Hospital Auxillary** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 2pm, CWA Rooms in the Literary Institute

**Uralla Show Society** meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm at the Uralla Showgrounds

**Uralla Shire Business Chamber** meets 1st Thursday of each month at 6pm at the Uralla Bowling Club

**Uralla Town & Environs Committee** meets on the second Monday of each quarter from 6-7pm in the Uralla Shire Council Chambers

**Uralla Tennis** Term 4 Social tennis 6:30pm Tuesdays. Free court hire. Go to [www.play.tennis.com/court-hire/](http://www.play.tennis.com/court-hire/) to book a court.

**Uralla Men's Shed** is open each Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am - 1pm in the Old Scout Hall, Uralla North Rd (just off the Bundarra Road).

**Uralla Auto Club Inc.** meets at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at The Bowling Club.

**Uralla Red Cross** meets on the first Friday of each month at 2pm in the CWA rooms in the Literary Institute opposite Foodworks

**Uralla Historical Society** meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5pm at McCrossin's Mill

**Uralla Brewery Book Club** meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 5pm at the Brewery

**Uralla RSL Sub-Branch** meets the last Sunday of the month at 10.30am at the RSL Rooms, The Uralla Memorial Institute, 55 Bridge Street, all veterans welcome.

**Uralla RSL Sub-Branch Veterans and Families Drop in Centre.** Open to all Veterans and their families, each Thursday 10am until 12pm at the RSL Rooms, The Uralla Memorial Institute, 55 Bridge Street.

**Uralla Women's Bowling Club** 10am Wednesday for Club bowls. Mixed Social Bowls on Sunday mornings, all welcome, Bistro lunch available.

**Uralla Food Pantry**, Mondays 11am - 2pm, Uralla Neighbourhood Centre. Good range dry goods, and fruit/veg. Fill a supermarket coloured bag \$15. New members welcome. Further information from the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre, Ph: 6778 3277 or email : [office@unc.org.au](mailto:office@unc.org.au)

Donations welcomed.

**Freemasons (Masonic Lodge of Peace #120, Uralla)** meet the 3rd Tuesday each month, interested persons, contact Dennis 0448 576 465 or John 0411 374 334

**Computer Bank New England** Computer Classes are each Friday from 9am - 12noon at the Uralla Community Centre. \$5.00 this includes morning tea

**Uralla Tigers Supported Playgroup** FREE, every Wednesday during school terms, 10am - 12pm, St Joseph's Primary School, contact Sue on 0419149244 or Geneva on 0430440171

## Events for December - January

**Uralla Future Fund** Annual General Meeting Tuesday 14 December 5.30pm 46 Bridge Street

**Northern Tablelands Local Land Services** Pasture Walk and Talk, Kentucky, Wednesday 15 December, 1.30-3.30pm

**Uralla Shire Council Ordinary Council Meeting** Friday 24 December 2021, 9.00am, Council Chambers

**Uralla Arts** Chopper Morton performs at McCrossin's Mill Saturday 22 January 2022 7.30pm

## New contact details for UNC



Uralla Neighbourhood Centre Inc

(02) 6778 3277

[office@unc.org.au](mailto:office@unc.org.au)

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# Best Wishes for the Festive Season!

to all our supporters, contributors, advertisers and readers

from the Uralla Wordsworth team:  
Luise, Tara, Ross & Louis



## 2AD Armidale Rewards Phyllis Dade

On the 11th November 2021 Phyllis was among about 40 people who gathered at the Armidale City Bowling Club to receive awards from Armidale's 2AD Radio Station.

Back in June, Phyllis was chosen as one of the 2AD Sports Stars of the Week for winning the Uralla Women's Bowling Club's Singles Championship for 2021.

She has now been named as 2AD's "Senior Sport Star for 2021".

The Uralla Women's Bowling Club acknowledged her achievement with a bouquet of flowers.

Congratulations Phyllis!

**Pauline Crouch**  
UWBC Publicity Officer



A proud Phyllis showing off her award and flowers

### FREE EVENT

## Workshop

Join Northern Tablelands Local Land Services for a practical pasture walk and talk with a focus on grass identification, including invasive and native grasses.

### Kentucky

Wednesday 15 December 2021 1:30pm – 3:30pm

#### Topics:

- Weeds trailer will be available with samples to ensure you can identify relevant weeds
- In field discussions with Local Land Services agronomist about management and treatment options local invasive and undesirable grasses

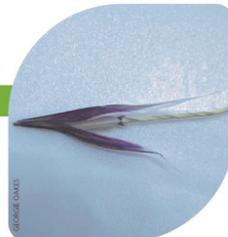
#### Afternoon tea provided

Please RSVP by Monday 13 December:

Pamela Perkins  
Agricultural Support Officer  
Northern Tablelands Local Land Services  
M: 0498 497 533  
E: pamela.perkins@lls.nsw.gov.au



RSVP please visit:  
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Local Land Services



National Landcare Program  
This project is jointly funded through Northern Tablelands Local Land Services and the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



LLS regulations require participants to be fully vaccinated and all NSW Health regulations will be strictly adhered to.



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### Fuel Watch 12th December 2021

	ULP	Diesel
Mobil	161.9	161.9
Invergowrie	164.0	160.0
Puma	165.7	163.7
BP	168.9	172.9
Kingstown	169.9	165.9

# Kentucky Public School Students Create New Native Planting

Students and teachers at Kentucky Public School donned gum boots and gloves on Wednesday 24th November to plant stage one of a large native planting adjacent to the school grounds.

Planting has begun in the old pine forest area which was originally planted by members of Harnham Landcare group many years ago as a potential income source for the school.

Having come of age, and because some of them had begun to fall over, the pines were recently felled.

The planting day was coordinated by members of the school P&C, who are also seasoned, second-generation members of Harnham Landcare Group.

Hamish Caddy, member of both the Kentucky Public School P&C and Harnham Landcare Group, said the area will be planted in a number of stages over the coming few years.

"We'd like to keep the area accessible by the kids for learning and play activities, and we intend to recreate the bike track the kids have used for many years among the new plantings," he said.

Kath Caddy said, "All the teachers at the school are one hundred per cent behind the project and it wouldn't be happening without their enthusiasm."

Mrs Kahla Chaffey, a teacher at the school, submitted a successful grant which paid for the trees.

One thousand seedlings were sourced from Chris and Maria Eveleigh at Kentucky Tree Nursery, and support was provided on the day by Southern New England Landcare team members, Struan Ferguson and Karen Zirkler.

"There is so much scope for learning activities in an area like this," said Struan.

"We'll help the school ensure there are koala food trees and species suitable for the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater among the new plantings, and there's also scope for including some bush tucker species," she said.

A big vote of thanks is made to local community member Faye Lullham for providing a delicious morning tea on the day, to Janeen Robb from Armidale for volunteering her assistance, and to all the kids who got involved in creating a second Landcare legacy on the school grounds!

**Alex Hunter, Landcare Coordinator (Admin & Comms)  
Southern New England Landcare Ltd**



Above L-R: Matthew Fittler testing his gum boot suction skills while Bailey Whitton and Charlie Zirkler figure out how to get him out.



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[bill@billandrews.com.au](mailto:bill@billandrews.com.au)

# Uralla Local Election

## Results To Date

The New South Wales Electoral Commission (<https://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/>) will not begin declaring any candidates elected until 20 December.

However, the ABC's Chief Election Analyst, Anthony Green, reports on the ABC News site about the progress of the vote count (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/elections/nswlg/2021/uralla>). The results as at the date of publication of this edition of the Uralla Wordsworth are as follows:

### Mayoral Election

#### Enrolment 4,541

3,593 formal votes, 130 informal (3.5%), total votes at 82.0% of enrolment

Candidate	Votes	%
Robert Bell	2,705	75.3
Natasha Ledger	426	11.9
Isabel Strutt	462	12.9

Robert Bell, having received more than 50% of votes, is considered **Elected**

### Council Election

#### Ward A

#### Enrolment 2,203 - 4 Councillors

1,773 formal votes, 96 informal (5.1%), total votes at 84.8% of enrolment

Progressive quota=355 (this is the minimum number of votes required to be elected)

Candidate	Votes	%
Robert Bell	862	48.6
Bruce McMullen	118	6.7
Tom O'Connor	210	11.8
Leonie Petrov	93	5.2
John Sutherland	20	1.1
Isabell Strutt	115	6.5
Tara Toomey	291	16.4
Stephanie van Eyk	64	3.6

#### Ward B

#### Enrolment 2,323 - 4 Councillors

1,726 formal votes, 127 informal (6.9%), total votes at 79.8% of enrolment

Progressive quota=346

#### Back Issues Wanted - Wordsworth

Wanted for a reference set, the original Wordsworth from 1989-1991, issues 9, 10, 11, 13, 16 to 23, 25 to 27.

Please contact Ross at the bookshop 0412 701 402.

Candidate	Votes	%
Tim Bower	350	20.3 <b>Elected</b>
Saran Burrows	200	11.6
Bob Crouch	406	23.5 <b>Elected</b>
Leanne Doran	153	8.9
Jann Karp	101	5.9
Natasha Ledger	167	9.7
David Mailler	142	8.2
Tracey Nagle	179	10.4
Stephen Powley	28	1.6

Councillors are elected following an optional preferential vote counting system called the weighted inclusive Gregory method (WIGM), adopted in NSW in 2018. The exact procedure to be followed in order to distribute preferences, which has a number of counting cycles, is described in the following document:

<https://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/NSWEC/media/NSWEC/Policies/Functional-requirements-for-LG-PR-Vote-Count-v1-4.pdf>

Congratulations to all candidates for their dedication to the democratic process, and their efforts in working on representing the community and voters of Uralla Shire.

**Louis van Ekert, Uralla Wordsworth**

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Call me today on 0431 224 412 or email [kyle@proarmidale.com.au](mailto:kyle@proarmidale.com.au) for an obligation-free chat over a cup of coffee.

I look forward to talking to you, Kyle



# Memorial Service for Matt Campbell

On Monday the 6th of December a memorial service was held at Uralla's Alma Park for our much-loved friend (and publican) Matt Campbell, who passed away suddenly in early November. Matt who, with his wife Leigh (and latterly with his children Ruby and Jack) had run the Top Pub for more than twenty years, transformed the hotel into the heart and soul of the town. His premature passing was a shock to everyone in the tightknit township of Uralla.

More than 600 people attended the service, a marker surely of the esteem with which he has been held in the community. At the family's request, attendees wore white and the sea of white on the hill was something to behold. The service began with the Beatles' tune "All you need is Love", and then various talks were given by his brothers and by friends (a number of whom had been friends since kindergarten), as well as by sporting mates, friends from across the bar and business colleagues. All spoke of his warmth, loyalty, generosity and love for his friends and his family, particularly his family. The service ended with the song "Always Look on the Bright side of Life", and one could not help but imagine Matt singing along in approval of the sentiment.

Matt has been a remarkable contributor to the life of Uralla - and to the region more generally. His loss will be felt deeply by our community. Our sincere condolences are extended to Leigh and to all of his family.

Vale Matthew Roy Campbell (1965-2021). Rest in Peace.

**Uralla Wordsworth**

Congratulations to Greg McClenahan and  
Margaret Wilkinson  
on being awarded a Life Membership of  
the Uralla Men's Shed

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# A Bowls Tournament

Six ladies set off from Uralla,  
All clad in their burgundy and yellow.  
We'll play Ladies Triples.  
Lawn bowls, not skittles.  
Uralla! Uralla! Uralla!

We're taking the Uralla Club bus.  
We'll travel there without any fuss.  
East, west, south and north,  
More bowlers set forth.  
All leaving their homes in a rush.

We've all arrived in teams of three,  
Thoughts of victory flying free.  
First things first.  
Amid all the mirth  
We gather together for morning tea.

The sun is covering behind the cloud.  
He isn't looking one bit proud.  
He tries his best.  
Puffs out his chest.

The grey sky wraps round him like a shroud.  
We barely get out to the green  
When the day turns all wet and mean.  
Still, we all play.  
The bowls send up spray.

The rain washes everything clean.  
That rain falls down and soaks our clothes  
But we don't care, we have no woes.  
Drops fall on our heads.  
Across the rinks water spreads.

The sound of sloshing quickly grows.  
The coordinator ventures out.  
Putting his hand on the water spout,  
He calls a stop.  
The greens need a mop.

The ladies' day is over he says in a shout.  
We gather up our sodden belongings.  
Wipe off our bowls and other bindings.  
Back inside we analyse,  
While the cards are finalised.

The President announces his findings.  
Congratulations to the winners,  
Announced as we finish off our dinners.  
Results of raffles follow.  
Winners gulp, and quickly swallow.  
Outside, the rain's chased off all the pesky stingers.

**Pauline Crouch, UWBC Publicity Officer**



## NEW ENGLAND SOLAR FARM

# DECEMBER 2021

## Uralla Grants round two delivers holiday cheers

The second round of Uralla Grants funding has been awarded to a dozen local projects and events, adding some extra good news before the festive holiday season.

Projects targeting tree planting, community events and upgrades to local pre-school, sporting and aged care facilities were selected for funding by the Community Reference Group overseeing the program.

In total up to \$50,000 was awarded under the New England Solar Farm's Community Benefit Sharing Initiative.

The community funding was immediately put to good use, via a \$5,000 Uralla Grant to the Uralla Fairy Festival held earlier in the month.

New England Solar Farm Construction Director Tim Greenaway thanked everyone who applied for funding under the program.

For a full list of the Uralla Grants recipients go to:  
[www.newenglandsolarfarm.com.au](http://www.newenglandsolarfarm.com.au)



## Construction update

Road upgrade work is expected to be underway again this week, after wet weather continued to affect progress along Barleyfields Rd and the intersection with the New England Highway. With dry conditions forecast this week, it is expected that current road closures and speed reductions will conclude early in the new year.

Early site works are progressing for the substation and switchyard projects on the solar farm site as well as site fencing works.



The New England Solar Farm extended team would like to wish our local community all the very best for the festive season. Have a safe and happy holiday.



**KEEPING  
YOU  
INFORMED**

Laura Abbott  
Community Liaison Officer at Green Light Contractors

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