

Uralla Wordsworth

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Solar Power for McCrossin's Mill

URALLA'S historic McCrossin's Mill is the latest community facility to plug into the benefits of solar power, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall today announcing the State Government will provide \$14,000 to install a 30-panel system on the prominent building. Mr Marshall said the 10 kilowatt unit would make one of Uralla's oldest buildings also one of the town's most environmentally sustainable.

"Where McCrossin's Mill utilised the latest steam technology to power its flourmill in the 1860's, it seems fitting in 2021 it will be using solar power to operate," Mr Marshall said. "Through this grant, Uralla Historical Society will install a 30-panel micro-inverter based solar power system and associated cabling on the roof tops around the McCrossin's Mill garden.

"The replacement of the original mill roof using funds raised by UHS, has meant the structure is now strong enough to support a system of this kind. "I'm pleased this project will also be charging the local economy, providing work for Uralla based Howard's Electrical Service in the New Year." Uralla Historical Society President Louis Van Ekert said the dollars saved on the annual power bill would be reinvested into the upkeep of the important landmark. "Ultimately, the public will be the main beneficiary of this project, with the solar allowing for improved lighting in the museum, and possibly improved heating in winter," Mr Van Ekert said.

"In addition to the reduction in electricity usage costs we estimate that we will achieve \$1,000 per annum direct surplus out of this project.

This money will really help us get ahead financially, address maintenance issues as they arise and improve the general amenity of McCrossin's Mill Museum.

"UHS is also very appreciative of the cooperation of Howard's Electrical Service in the design and installation of this solar power system, and Adam for his support with this grant."

Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands



Celebrating an electric funding win, Uralla Historical Society Sylvana ter Meulin, left, Kent Mayo, Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall, Veronica Porter, Annie Mayo and President Louis Van Ekert.

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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.

With Christmas fast approaching, it is appropriate to celebrate some of the wonderful community achievements. Top of the list are all those great Uralla businesses that have survived, and thrived, through one of the most challenging times we could imagine. Twelve months ago we were in drought and our water was about to be declared undrinkable. No one could foresee the Coronavirus and its effect worldwide. It was mid March when difficult discussions were being held on whether Seasons of New England and the Uralla Rotary Club Art Exhibition would proceed. Ever since, we have seen that businesses have had to adjust to the almost weekly changes in rules. That our community, including McMaugh Gardens, has remained Covid-free is something we all should be extremely proud of.

My next gong goes to the organisers of the Uralla Spring Fairy Dance. It was great to see so many smiling faces throughout the town, and I look forward to a repeat performance next year. Please note however, that the organising committee are looking for a new fairy!

Next in line is Grant Clark, who continues to be the outstanding link between Council and the community. My many years working with Grant highlighted how his empathy with disgruntled ratepayers/residents was often able to calm the situation. He really does care.

The next gong goes to Tony and all the Uralla Shire outside staff. I hope you enjoy your end of year break up party. Hopefully in future years Councillors will once again be able to celebrate the year's positive achievements with you all. James Treloar (past Mayor of Tamworth Regional Council) commented to me at the Community meeting held at the Showground, that he was surprised to hear that Uralla Councillors and staff are not permitted to communicate with each other. Councillors are aware that we can't direct staff or seek to influence development approvals for ourselves, our friends, or our family.

My final gong goes to our local member, Adam Marshall MP, who has continued to provide excellent and accurate information on Covid-19 management as well as the ever changing rules. He and his staff have been huge supporters of the whole of Uralla shire. It is almost on a weekly basis that some community group is receiving grant funding. Adam's support during the retail sales debate was unwavering.

At the recently held Budget Review and Finance Committee Meeting, Council resolved "That the Committee recommend to Council that it undertake

Community Consultation regarding the sustainability of the Shire's water supply with consideration of pricing options." The recommendation in the report included \$6.80 per kilolitre for all usage over 250 kilolitres per annum. A number of Councillors were very concerned that this targeted large families, those with large gardens, as well as all our Motels, Hotels, Clubs, the Brewery, Schools and Pre-schools. Council is one of the biggest water users, with the swimming pool, sporting complex, and Parks and Gardens. The proposed charge would simply shift these costs to the General Fund. Hopefully the information provided to the community will explain the areas of large increases over the last three years.

We can all join in the Uralla Christmas Celebrations on Saturday December 19 from 4pm to 8pm in Bridge and Hill Streets, where many businesses will stay open. It is excellent to see the Uralla Shire Business Chamber continuing to expand its role.

The Ascent Community Care Group in Uralla is soon to be amalgamated with Uralla Shire Council, under the Tablelands Community Support. Volunteer drivers and helpers remain committed to ensuring all the Uralla clients receive the same, or better, levels of care and support.

I would like to thank Jaz Taylor from the NSW Fire and Rescue for cutting off Linda's wedding ring. (It was due to the alloy in the ring infecting her finger, not because she is getting rid of me!) Next time the Fire and Rescue have an open day, I recommend you go and check out the equipment and the skills that our local Firies have. During this festive season, it is important that we take time to reflect on the many families and friends who have lost loved ones this year. I am inclined to support the Facebook post that showed Doc Brown in "Back to the Future" suggesting they make certain that 2020 is not programmed in the time clock.

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Robert Bell,
Uralla Shire Resident



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Bridge St Observer

The top block of the CBD has become an accommodation mecca, with Christine Ball's B&B (36 Bridge Street) taking guests since August, and Angus McLean's four detached units (at the rear of 40 Bridge Street) nearing completion, with bathrooms, electrical and painting under way. Builder Dan "Piglet" Broadbent hopes to be finished by Xmas and says they should be ready to occupy early in the new year.

After 17 years at Thunderbolt Country Kitchen (44 Bridge Street), Brett and Lee Ennever are moving on into the glorious unknown (via Glen Innes). Wednesday 9 December was their last day of trading, with new owners due to take possession in mid January.

Also on the move are Chris Jones and Lisa Faulkner, with their house on the corner of King Street (13 Bridge Street) under offer. Chris has frequently been seen weeding his extensive lawn and extended his territory this week by weeding the council gutter. Diagonally opposite (24 Bridge Street) remains for sale, but not without interest, and Neville Moore's house at 140 Bridge Street is under offer.

Rest Awhile Gallery (56 Bridge Street) has popped up again, this time where most recently we had a laundromat, previously the newsagency. The building has had a makeover with new asbestos-free ceiling, new floor, air con, paint. Katherine Miles's gallery has previously been seen at the Institute Building (55 Bridge Street) and where Highland Living is now (68 Bridge Street). This iteration will be open until mid February. Jo Wauch, photographer, has work displayed, and there is a guest artist each month: December Kim Kliendienst, January Mariah Hone.

The Pie Mechanic (66 Bridge Street) is now owned by Jamie Schulz and Alex Pordage (ex Fe Fi Fo Patisserie, Inverell), with Phil Tutt still on staff. They have extended opening hours, now 7 – 4 every day except Monday, and participate in many Sunday markets around New England. Their product focuses on local, sustainable, organic, Australian.

A water main burst adjacent to the pedestrian crossing outside Melrose (82 Bridge Street) on Wednesday 2 December. Emergency repair saw the loss of four parking spaces, now reduced to two, with more permanent repair

work slated for Tuesday or Thursday of this week.

Green Light is the builder for the UPC solar farm on Big Ridge. Project Manager Volodymyr Koziy (a Spaniard with a Ukrainian name) and his team have opened office at 84 Bridge Street (ex Hunting Haven, ex Peter Phillips Sports and Toys). The shop has new floor, carpet and paint and a revised floor plan at the back with a kitchenette. Before installation of the solar farm starts there will be an upgrade to Barleyfields Road from the railway crossing to Big Ridge Road.

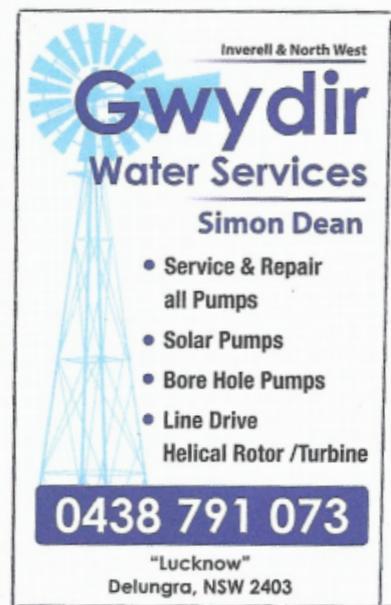
Michael's Café (98 Bridge Street) is booked out for Christmas lunch. He will be open right through the holiday period.

Barber on Bridge (49 Bridge Street) has been open since September, and owner Jenny Bird is well pleased with business so far.

Next door at 51 Bridge Street, the Fung Wah function room is for lease.

It is not a recent change, but I have had questions about the NAB (35 Bridge Street) opening hours, so here they are: Monday, Thursday, Friday 9.30 – 12.30. At other times you can deposit and withdraw at the Post Office.

Ross Burnet



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Supporting our younger veterans

The 2020-21 round of the Australian Government's Supporting Younger Veterans (SYV) grants program is now open to ex-service organisations (ESOs) and their partner community groups and organisations in the New England. Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, said the program provides \$1 million in funding to support the mental health and wellbeing of younger veterans. "This program allows ESOs and other community groups to boost targeted support and services for younger veterans at the local level," Mr Joyce said. "Local communities know best what will benefit younger veterans and their families in their communities and this funding will enable them to expand and improve existing services and support programs for younger veterans, build the capacity for future services, and raise awareness of the important issues our younger veterans face. "This may include social inclusion and connectedness activities for younger veterans and their families, mentoring or other support for veterans to assist with their transition to civilian life and employment, or online activities that address stigma and raise awareness of mental health issues faced by younger veterans."

Mr Joyce said veteran mental health is a key priority for the Australian Government, with more than \$11 billion invested in the delivery of essential services and programs, including access to free mental health care for veterans. "We know that social connection is an important part of maintaining good mental health, so this round of grants will enable our local ESOs and community groups to improve existing programs or introduce new ones to support our younger veterans' social wellbeing," he said. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for local, community-based projects and activities, and a small number of large grants of up to \$150,000 are also available for projects that deliver wellbeing support services and activities for the younger veteran community. Applications for the SYV grants close 5 February 2021. These grants build on additional funding such as the Veteran and Community Grants (V&CG) program which is also open for applications and other measures to assist the veteran community such as the continuation of the Veterans' Affairs Gold Card. For more information or to submit an application, visit communitygrants.gov.au or call 1800 020 283 or email support@communitygrants.gov.au.

Barnaby Joyce, Member for New England

Detecting, tracing & blocking scam calls

The Federal Government is taking action to detect, trace and block the increasing prevalence of scam calls, unveiling a new industry code that will help put a stop to the calls. The Reducing Scam Calls Code, which has been developed by the telco industry and has been registered by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), sets out the processes for telcos to identify, trace and block scam calls. Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, said scam calls were a serious problem and could have damaging financial consequences for victims. "Just this year alone, fellow Australians had lost nearly \$36 million to scam calls," Mr Joyce said. "It's a scourge all too prevalent here in the New England with many of our vulnerable and isolated local residents often the target of these phoning fraudsters. But scammers are on notice, we're shutting down your operations." Over the course of 2020, the Scam Telecommunications Action Taskforce, comprising representatives from the telecommunications industry, government and the communications regulator, has been focused on tackling three scams – the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) scam, 'Wangiri' scam calls and international scam calls:

1. ATO scam: In this scam, Australians were receiving calls which appeared to come from a legitimate phone number used by the ATO – this is calling "overstamping" or "spoofing". In the 12 months to October 2019, the ATO received over 160,000 reports of scams involving spoofed numbers – an average of more than 10,000 per month. Telcos used software to identify calls using ATO numbers and block them.
2. Wangiri scam calls: 'Wangiri' is Japanese for "one ring and drop" Victims receive a missed call, often from an international number. When they call back, the call is charged at a premium rate. The 'Reducing Scam Calls Code requires the telco industry to monitor, trace and block Wangiri call scams.
3. International scam calls: Evidence suggests that the majority of scam traffic originates from overseas. The Reducing Scam Calls Code requires the telco industry to monitor, trace and work with international carriers to block international call scams. Telcos are already taking action to stop scammers and have blocked more than 30 million scam calls in the past year. The Reducing Scam Calls Code will work alongside the other measures also announced to tackle scams, including the new industry standard to stamp out fraudulent mobile number porting. For more information about what the Government is doing to prevent scams, go to <https://www.acma.gov.au/scams-and-online-misinformation>.

Barnaby Joyce, Member for New England

Running Wild -

Run Girl Run

Continued from previous issue ...

Moving downstream, she left her childhood playground, soon finding the wider creek as the valley opened. It was five miles or so to the cottage of the Thompson lady & her man Bill and a further five to the little Cobb & Co coach house. Molly knew the way well and it was quicker to follow the animal paths to the cottage. Crossing and recrossing the creek, until its width presented a watery obstacle. He had taken them many times to visit the Thompson lady and Bill, travelling down in the old buggy, along the steep rutted track and spur-line to the creeks' valley floor. Sometimes Molly would find her own way back to the mountain hut, crisscrossing the creek and up the track, arriving to stoke the cooking fire and stir the pot of surprise stew for their dinner. Ma gathered from the bush, bringing home her surprises in a dish of bark. Her stew and spuds was a welcome meal, for Molly was always hungry. He and Ma would often let the horse find its own way home from the Thompsons', both too drunk to care. They seemed happiest when drinking together. At other times, usually when the grog ran out, they quarrelled and he promptly packed his horses, guns and left. Whenever they would visit, the Thompson lady would exclaim 'my poor Molly doesn't your Ma ever wash you properly?', then promptly place her in the laundry copper tub, scrubbing her skin as if to remove the dark. Whilst the others ate and drank, the lady would feed her up on hot oats cakes with lashings of treacle, propped up at the table in the good room. She sat on an old pillow and no elbows on the table. They were both a long way from their own country, having spent five long years on this lonely mountain top. However, Molly did adore the quiet nights with her Ma, sitting together in the dim glow of the oil lamp and singing stories of their 'Gwea' home. She remembers little from those early times, apart from the sun, big water and the comfort of being held by many.

To be continued ...

Daryl Albertson, Kellys Plains



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To the Editor

Over the past few months I have taken more of an interest in the business of council. What I have discovered is that some councillors are ill informed and blindly follow the directions of senior staff. We only have to look at the retail from home debacle to understand how out of touch senior council staff and some councillors are with this community. The title of councillor comes with weighty responsibility; councillors are directors and as such have serious obligations to the Uralla Shire. It is the responsibility of councillors to be informed on both council business and community issues and aspirations. If the past few months are evidence, only a few take the time to widely consult and certainly only a few want to engage with the difficult issues.

There seems to be too much self delusion and spin coming out of council at the moment for the community to trust. I thought it was important to attend the first developer's forum on Wednesday 25th November. The tenor of the forum was set by the fact that 45 minute was allocated by council staff to a topic that could not possibly be covered in 4hrs. The forum was short notice, not widely promoted and oversubscribed and the Mayor left after 15 minute. After 45mins I had to leave at 8.30am, I am told continued on until 10.00am. I am told that the end the forum gave as little satisfaction as the beginning. My experience with council shows little in common with council stated objectives.

There is a dissonance in the Uralla Shire Council objective to develop 'a unique environment which offers an excellent
continued on page 5



Bundarra Sport &

Recreation Club Upgrade

The Bundarra Sport and Recreation Club has chalked up a major milestone over the weekend, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall joining the community to officially open the new \$197,300 amenities block. The State Government provided the funding to the club in 2018, through Round 2 of the Stronger Country Communities fund. Mr Marshall said for the first time the club's sports field has its own outdoor toilets, showers and change room. "Even on a 30-plus degree day, the golf green and cricket pitch at Bundarra Sport and Recreation Club are packed with locals enjoying their favourite sport," Mr Marshall said. "On the weekend we saw a great example of just how well loved the facility is, with a game of cricket taking place outside and a Christmas Party inside. "Thanks to the installation of this new amenities block, with accessible toilets and change room, more people than ever before will be able to pursue their love of sport. "Bundarra Central School will have the amenities it needs to host inter town sports days. The new building will also service players and spectators of the mighty Bundarra Bears Rugby League Club. "It took a while to get the project to building stage but I commend the committee for its perseverance and co-operation with Uralla Shire Council to see this project delivered." Uralla Shire Mayor Michael Pearce said council was proud to work together with the Bundarra Sport and Recreation Club to deliver the project to the Bundarra community. "The construction of the new Bundarra Sport and Recreation Club amenities block provides inclusive amenities to encourage active participation from all members of the community," Cr Pearce said. "This project was achieved with the cooperation and collaboration between Council and the community. The amenities block project was initiated by the Bundarra community with project management undertaken by council staff. "Council is pleased that all work was locally sourced with all project construction and painting works completed by local contractors." Bundarra Sport and Recreation Club committee member John Layton said the facility would now be accessible to a wider section of the community. "Our club has over two hundred members, but this project was more about providing a sports ground for everyone to use and enjoy," Mr Layton said. "The social interaction through sport, has helped get Bundarra locals through a tough couple of years of drought. "Having these amenities will create new opportunities for athletics events, golf tournaments and community sport. "The committee would like to thank Adam for obtaining the funding to undertake this project, the Uralla Shire Council for its input and the local contractors who got the job done."

Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands

Letter to the Editor ...

continued from page 4

quality of life and economic opportunities for its people.'

The actions of council over the past few months or years have hardly been on mission.

Councillors Bell, Crouch, O'Connor and Toomey for me walk the talk and epitomise a respect for the responsibility they carry. While I might not always agree with the decisions they might make on my behalf at least I can see the evidence of their diligence. I have respect for what is true democratic representation.

The pulse of this community can only be measured if councillors and senior staff take the time to listen. Council is there to serve this community not itself. It is there to guide this community through regulation and not be the regulator.

By the regional definition my family and I are not local and moved to Uralla at the end of 2008. The attraction of Uralla was the whole; the community, social, history, environment, climate (four seasons) and importantly it was wetter than anywhere else we visited in regional NSW in 2008, we have not regretted the move and have developed a fondness for this place we call home.

It is my hope this council becomes what this community can respect, trust and deserves.

Yours sincerely

David Mailler



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Andrew Murray's Diary

Saturday July 21, 1860:

.....Left the old "Tamar" and lodged at the hotel in Queen Street where we were comfortable for a few days whilst waiting for the steamer "Yarra Yarra" (Captain Bell) to us to Sydney. When that steamer arrived, we went on board and asked about the fare, requesting the Captain to give us good victuals. He replied "What's the use of giving people good tucker? It only goes overboard." Thank you for nothing Captain Bell! We returned to our hotel and went in the evening to hear a lecture by Dr. Lang, one of the greatest patriots and statesmen who ever landed in Australia. His subject was "The Mission of Queensland" – a young colony just starting on its first year of Government. Evidently he was not favourably impressed with Sydney Government and said that if he had control of its legislation he would have a placard taked on the door "House to Let". Next day I saw him going on a small river steamer up to Ipswich, probably to lecture there.

Thursday July 26 to Monday July 30, 1860:

Off by the "Yarra Yarra" for Sydney, where we arrived on 29th July. The voyage was a rough one from Smoky Cape. We stayed at McLennan's Ship Inn Hotel. The weather was cold here, which did not improve my health. Stayed in Sydney over Monday, 30th. From thence we went on by steamer to Newcastle and took the train to Maitland where we bought horses to ride home. We had our saddles. I reached Bendemeer on Tuesday, August 7th. There was a stir as we went through on account of the opening of a hotel and a flour mill by a Mr. Mulligan, a relative of Mr. James McLean at Armidale. It was many weeks before I go over my illness. My sister Mary Ann, who was the first to welcome me home, ran in the dark when she heard me speaking to Alex Higgins. Mary Ann died shortly afterwards of bronchitis. Thus some of us returned, after hardships, dangers and high hopes. How happy and thankful we felt to be home with our people, now with a new perspective and appreciation." (Reference is made to "The McCrossins – An Account" by Allan Rainbird, in which he states "There are differing accounts of how this expedition was financed and who

was the leader. John Mackay's diary, of which there are said to be two or three different versions, gives one account (or several). Andrew Murray's diary gives a different account. John McCrossin's diary is believed now lost. Whatever the truth of the matter, the party found its way north to where Mackay now stands.....The various members of the party selected land that they intended to claim, and they then made their way back to Rockhampton, arriving there in August. Their land claims were not allowed by the Queensland Government, and with the exception of John Mackay who eventually received some reward, the explorers appear to have gained nothing for their efforts and the hardships endured." It is interesting to note that John McCrossin's obituary, published in the Uralla Times in November, 1881, mentions the 1860 expedition and the fact that only in the week preceding his death, John had had a visit from Captain John Mackay, after an absence from Uralla of some eight years. The article speculated as to the conversation shared by the two friends from early youth and companions from their many adventures.)

Noel Marshall, Uralla Historical Society

Thank you Noel for all the work that has gone in to providing this wonderful series! Ed.

Uralla Men's Shed

We will be taking a break over Christmas from December 17th till January 5th, so from all the members at the SHED, we wish you all a safe Christmas and a happy New Year.

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Uralla Wordsworth Monday 14th December 2020 P8

Community Calendar

Please email urallawordsworth@gmail.com if you have an event or meeting for Uralla, Kentucky or Invergowrie.

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

Computer Bank New England Computer Classes are each Friday from 9am - 12noon at the Uralla Community Centre

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 5.30pm at the Uralla Bowling Club

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

Tennis Senior Social tennis, Wednesday 6.30pm at the Uralla Sporting Complex, everyone welcome

Knattering Knitters meet at Uralla Library on Tuesdays at 10am and Sundays at 2pm

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 Driver Reviver meets on the first Sunday of each month at 2pm at 117 Bridge Street, Uralla.

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 11am 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.

Ascent Community Care

Senior Social Group 9.30am – 2.00pm, Mondays at Uralla Community Centre Ph: 6778 3503

Seniors Exercise Class – 2.00pm -3.00pm, Wednesdays at the Uralla Community Centre Ph: 6778 3503

Uralla Food Pantry, Mondays 11am - 2pm, Uralla Neighbourhood Centre. Good range dry goods, and fruit/veges. Fill a supermarket coloured bag \$15. New members welcome. Further information from the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre, donations welcome. Ph : 6778 3277 or email : urallaneighbourhood@bigpond.com

Services NSW Bus - visiting Apex Memorial Park in Salisbury St Uralla, 10am - 3pm Tuesday 15th December

Uralla Shire Council Ordinary Meeting 12.30pm Tuesday 15th December, Uralla Shire Council Chambers

SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER
4pm to 8pm

Join businesses in the Main Street and Hill Street in Uralla for an extraordinary afternoon and evening of shopping, music and celebrations. Meet Santa, socialise, have a bite to eat and do some Christmas shopping.



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Banner Bottom Front Page	\$100
Classifieds.....	\$2/line

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Hardening mobile towers

Mobile phone towers in the New England will be able to keep operating longer if the power goes out during or after natural disasters, thanks to a major new investment by the Australian Government. The Government is funding Telstra and TPG to extend the battery back up at 31 mobile phone towers in the New England, to provide a minimum of 12 hours of back-up power. Federal Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, said extending the battery life of the mobile phone towers would increase telecommunications resilience during times of natural disasters. "Recent bushfires exploited the vulnerabilities of our mobile network not by damage to infrastructure but through a loss in power," Mr Joyce said. "This \$18 million Mobile Network Hardening Program will upgrade battery backup power from between 3 to 8 hours up to at least 12 hours at base stations. Funding also includes a grants program to support a range of hardening measures at high priority locations to prevent telecommunications outages during disaster events. "I have worked incredibly hard to secure new and improved mobile coverage across great areas of our New England Electorate so I am pleased to see added protection for these vital communication assets." Sites in the New England to benefit from the upgrade include Mount Hourigan, Baldersleigh, Koreelah, Pinkett, Doughboy Mountain, Attunga, Balala, Barraba, Bonshaw, Tabulam, Drake, Dungowan, Duri, Elsmore, Fossickers Way, Hallsville, Invergowrie, Kings Plains, Manilla, Moonbi, Oxley Vale, Piallamore, Rocky Creek, Spring Mountain Road, Warral, Urbenville, Walcha, Walcha Road, Westdale, Woolomin and Girard Hill Top (replacement site for Mount Carrington). The Government is providing a total of \$13.2 million to Telstra, Optus and TPG to extend the battery back up at 467 mobile phone towers across Australia, under stage one of the program. More information is available on the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications website. This program is supported by the Australian Government's continuing commitment to expanding mobile coverage in regional and remote Australia, with Round 5A of the \$380 million Mobile Black Spot Program now open for applications.

Barnaby Joyce, Member for New England

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Uralla Women's Bowling Club awards

Uralla RSL Sub Branch

Wednesday last saw the Uralla Bowling ladies and their friends celebrate the end of the Club's bowling season for 2020 with a Christmas luncheon. Among those who participated were invited guests Uralla Bowlo's Patron Bob Halloran and his friend Maggie Taggart, Secretary/Manager Helen Avery, Life Members Sybil Bower-Spohr and Norma Faint, Lynne Watts and June Hayes from the Walcha Lady Bowlers, and Colin Dade and Bob Crouch. Following a Chinese banquet, we proceeded to our awards ceremony, bestowing honours on those members of our Club who shone out above the rest in this year of 2020.

Club competition awards:

Singles winner: Judy Bray, Runner-up: April Fulton

Pairs winners: Roz Rhodes and Gael Masonwells,
Runners-Up: Judy Bray and Elsie Clarke,

Grace Glock Pairs winners: Lynne Dwyer & Kay Sullivan,
Runners-Up: Phyllis Dade, Debbie Vanden Hoogen

Congratulations ladies!

We also awarded Norma Faint with her 40 years' service badge and certificate, and Kay Sullivan for her 10 years of service also received a badge and certificate. Congratulation to these two ladies. President Phyllis Dade then gave tokens of thanks to Helen Avery and Judy Bray for all the effort they have gone to throughout this very different year.

All the Uralla bowling ladies deserve a big thank you for putting together two wonderful events as we have had lately, namely our 70th birthday celebrations and now our end of year grand finale. I congratulate you all.

One last act I have to perform on behalf of all the UWBC members is to thank all our sponsors whose donations to our 70th birthday celebrations made a big impact on what we were able to achieve. Sponsors: The Wool Shop, Bling N Things, Advantage Pharmacy, Crafty Friends, Reflections Hair Studio, Phyllis Dade, Judy Bray, Lynnette Dwyer, Uralla Bowling Club, Helen Avery, and Uralla Women's Bowling Club.

Social bowls will still be available on Sundays, so why not join us for a game sometime. UWBC will resume mid-January, 2021.

Pauline Crouch, Publicity Officer, UWBC

*Deadline for the next edition is 5pm on
Thursday 24th December 2020.
Please email all contributions including
advertising, letters to the editor
and articles to
urallawordsworth@gmail.com*

The month of November was a very busy time for the Uralla RSL Sub-branch. Early in the month we had a very successful street stall which raised funds for the sub-branch activities. With a great choice of baked goodies, books and bric-a-brack to purchase, our band of volunteers chatted and sold their hearts out, not only raising funds but also raising the profile of the RSL and what we do for the veterans community. Part of this week also included the RSL Poppy Appeal and much of the Uralla community purchased either a Poppy, which is the symbol for remembrance, or a badge to help fund raise for Veterans charities at local and state level. We also went around the pubs, club and other hospitality venues on the Friday prior to Remembrance Day and we did a rip roaring trade, so a big thank you to everyone that supported the appeal. The following Wednesday saw us at the Memorial Gates at Alma Part with a crowd of around 50 Veterans, Councillors, council staff, School teachers and students and members of the public who wanted to pay their respects on this special day in the Veterans calendar. Wreaths and floral tributes were laid by the RSL, service clubs of Uralla, the local schools and a couple of private bouquets to remember family members lost. Remembrance Day started out as a day to remember the fallen of World War 1 and was known as Armistice Day however over the years it became a day to reflect on all those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice and is now known as Remembrance Day. Thank you to everyone that participated in the ceremony and those that also paid their respects at home or at work with a minutes silence to remember. Then on Friday the 13th, we held our Veterans Remembrance Day dinner. This was partially funded by a grant kindly presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs for Veterans Health week. All up, we had 50 Veterans and partners come along for a beautiful dinner at the Alternate Root. It was a fantastic meal and the atmosphere was great with lots of new friendships made and plenty of laughter. A big "Thank You" to Berdine and her staff at the Alternate Root for a lovely night. We will definitely be doing this again. Now as we approach Christmas the RSL hasn't time to sit back and rest. Christmas time can be a very trying time for some Veterans and we will be around offering help if needed. Our Well Being Officer is having a short holiday at the moment so our drop in centre is closed, however help is always available. If you are or know of a veteran that may need assistance over the Christmas break then please let us know so we can assist or point them in the right direction for assistance. Lastly we will be holding our RSL Sub-Branch Christmas dinner on Thursday the 17th at the Thunderbolt Inn. Lest We Forget.

Russ French, President Uralla Sub-Branch, RSL NSW



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