

Uralla Wordsworth

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  urallawordsworth

NSW Education Department must replace unflued gas heaters in our schools

Teachers Federation members at Uralla Central School in the chilly New England region have called for the replacement of dangerous unflued gas heaters in their school. "It is absurd and unacceptable that in one of the coldest areas of NSW, the Education Department's advice to schools in winter is to open a window."

NSW Teachers Federation Senior Vice President Amber Flohm said staff donned blankets on one of the coldest days of the year, in protest at the failure of the Education Department to install safe gas heaters with flues at the school. "The NSW Government has promised to replace unflued gas heaters in our classrooms but acknowledges that they are still used in the majority of public schools."

"When the maximum temperature in Uralla is five degrees as it is today, how does the NSW Education Department expect students to learn when the expectation is that they will need to open windows in the room to allow for the operation of these unflued heaters," Ms Flohm said. "The health and safety of our teachers and their students must become a priority for this government."

"NSW Health and others continue to warn of the harmful effects of unflued gas heaters, particularly on children and susceptible adults, whereby air pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide are pumped straight into a classroom." "It's time they stepped up and committed to our kids' learning environments."

"Such a continuing health hazard for students and teachers is unacceptable." "It's time they stepped up and committed to our kids' learning environments."

"The winter climate in Uralla is famously harsh and instead of pushing this school down the list for replacement heaters, it should be a priority." families back home.

"Our members say they want students in Uralla to be able to learn in winter with the windows shut when it is raining or snowing, like many other schools in the New England region." **NSW Teachers Federation**



Teachers at Uralla Central School making a stand for improved conditions



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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.

If you happen to be visiting the Uralla Golf Club, have a look at the wonderful chair and the concrete art work which have been constructed in honour of the club's past member and voluntary Secretary/Manager Kevin "Tippin" Ward. The Men's Shed built the wooden seat, and Kirin Walters Concreting did the concrete base. I must admire the great local talent.

Round 4 of the "Stronger Country Communities Fund" is now open. Local sporting groups can apply for funding directly; however applications close on June 25, 2021. This round has a significant focus on female sport in regional NSW. It also includes encouraging upgraded social and sporting infrastructure or community program that have strong local support. Additional information can be obtained by googling "Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 4."

Andrew Parker from Uralla Arts Council, organised Guy Crossley to make a presentation to the Uralla Historical Society and Uralla Shire Council, regarding the proposed upgrade of Pioneer Park. I would encourage everyone to have a look at the very preliminary plans of what may be possible in the park. These plans are based on a passive park for tourists and locals to enjoy.

A meeting to discuss upgrade options for Fuller Park is set down for Tuesday June 15 at 2pm in the Council Chambers. This meeting will be open to the public. This park has been under-developed for years. Even the steam engine had to be removed when it was deemed unsafe.

Another great coup for Uralla is the 2021 "Fleece to Fashion Gala Awards" which will be held this September in the iconic Deeargee Station Woolshed. I did hear that high heeled shoes are not recommended. Wishing Liz Foster and her team the very best for this nationally significant event.

It is wonderful to see Dan Brown's 8 Unit residential development commencing in Plane Avenue. The recent weather has not been very helpful. Hopefully with a new Manager, Water and Sewer at Council, this will assist the project to proceed. A couple of other developments have been hampered by recent changes in staff. I am sad to hear that Council's Environmental Officer, Kate Boyd, has resigned. She will be remembered for all her work with volunteers on Mt Mutton, as well as the roadside conservation areas and the Bundarra Nature Reserve. I wish Kate all the best in the future.

At the recent Budget Review and Finance Committee

meeting held on June 8, 2021, the committee voted to recommend to Council that the Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2022-2031 be placed on public exhibition. Due to serious concerns that still need to be addressed in regard to this Plan, Councillor Toomey, Councillor Crouch and I voted against this motion. (Councillor O'Connor was absent.) Once this document is place on public display, I will have more to say on some of the assumptions included in the Plan. I look forward to the new Council reviewing it once the Final Audited Statement for 2020/21 is presented to Council.

The Local Government elections are set down for September 4 this year. There will be a briefing by the General Manager in the Council Chambers on June 16 for anyone who is interested in becoming a Councillor. The information session will run from 5pm until 6pm. This is your chance to find out what Councillors do, who can become a Councillor, what is the likely time commitment, as well as steps to being a candidate and how you can make a difference. Please remember that if you will not be in Uralla Shire for the two weeks prior to election day, or on the election day itself, you should request a Postal Vote. There are no absentee votes (except at the Sydney Town Hall) in other Council areas. You can register online to obtain a Postal Vote from Tuesday July 27 up until Monday August 30.

M: 0434 244 774

E: robertbell1055@hotmail.com

**Robert Bell,
Uralla Shire Resident**



If I say I will be there, I will be there.

Licence No. 346186C

Ralph Luo

☎ : 0431 277 450

✉ : wolfunec@yahoo.com.au

Uralla's Ghost!

The old St John's Cottage in Queen Street which was occupied by Mrs Teresa Bourke at the time, was totally destroyed by fire on New Year's Day in 1923. The scene of the fire appears to have caused quite a bit of excitement around Uralla with the sighting of a ghost. A jolly joker at a Council meeting even thought that perhaps if the matter was advertised it might give a little "boom to the town."

The Uralla Times reported: Uralla is making a bold bid for fame – if it isn't really too late. We've got a GHOST! Nobody has taken a photo of it - or him - but somebody retains a vivid mental vision of the gauzy substance. And IT IS A GHOST! Somebody actually saw it. The visitation is keeping within the limits of the site of the recent fire, and there was quite a number of residents there Sunday, after sundown, to see it. One young man saw it and with a wild Indian whoop, he raced for home and, having duly arrived on time, "went out to it," and had to be revived by a copious application of good old Australian rum. And at latest advices, he has not quite got over the shock.

Well, where one man has seen a ghost, there's always a hope for more views of a thing or a sprite or a mist or whatever it is that ghosts are like; and for a couple of nights subsequent to the young man in question of getting his 100 amperes look at the affair, the site of the fire has been frequented by a few of the braver townsmen in the hope of getting a glimpse of the intruder. So far without success.

Ted Ferris lives next door but hasn't run across his neighbour yet. He has promised us a first-hand interview if he does.

Kay Adams, Ur



Letter to the Editor

To the Editor

Curiouser and Curiouser

Council resolved on 23rd February at point 2 of resolution 17.02/21 to provide a letter outlining Council's expectations for issues to be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Thunderbolt Energy Hub be sent to the Developer, the Department of Planning and the Hon. Adan Marshall.

Councillor Ledger had absented herself from the meeting at the time of voting but otherwise it was supported by all Councillors present.

Then on 25th May 2021 Council resolved as recommended by Council staff to, effectively, NOT send a letter that includes any of the feedback from the Councillors. Instead, resolution 25.05/20 stated that the SEARS was adequate. Crs Crouch, Toomey, Bell and O'Connor voted against this May recommendation.

There appears to be a direct conflict between the February and the May resolutions. Is the latter even lawful? Either way, the community has been left without a voice by the determination of 5 of their elected representatives, 4 of whom are from the Ward B where this development is proposed. Crs Strutt, Pearce, Ledger, Sampson and Dusting have to go.

Sincerely,

Cath Woof and Steve Johnston

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter on behalf of a group of concerned community members, concerned about the apparent direction of Management of McMaugh Gardens Aged Care Centre. We have sent a letter to the GM of Uralla Shire Council listing the issues that are briefly discussed below. A full account of that letter unfortunately is too large to print in the Wordsworth.

These issues do not in any way reflect on the past management of McMaugh Gardens Aged Care Centre by the Manager, or the fantastic staff at the Centre. The staff are excellent, we emphasize through all of this that the staff at McMaughs are amazing and dedicated to the residents and their care. We believe, though, that they are under increasing time pressure to complete more and more tasks, often filling in on a multitude of roles.

The issues we are concerned about.

Transparency: – We are particularly concerned about the part-time reassignment of the Manager's position to another area of council and the division of management at McMaughs into two areas; Care Manager and a Facilities Administrator. This has concerned us greatly since first hearing about it. Every time any of us has approached the Manager or the GM of Council, and some councillors re the issue of this division of responsibility, we have been told it is to assist in restructuring and all is well.

One impact of this reassignment and the division of responsibility, combined with the response to our concerns has been the lack of someone (a single contact point) to talk to about care and administrative matters, both by the residents and their close family.

There can be no doubt that McMaugh Gardens Aged Care Centre requires a permanent FULL-TIME manager. The residents, families and community would expect nothing less. We are particularly concerned about the care manager taking on extra duties. The CareManagers is doing an excellent job under the circumstances, however she appears to have been taken away from her major focus of clinical care. The issues that arise on a day-to-day basis must be seen and dealt with in a timely manner and that can only be achieved by a full time

manager on site. We were told that this part time position initially was for 3 months as of the 21st September 2020, then extended to 6 months and it is now 8 months. The community need to be informed, what are the intentions for the management of McMaugh Gardens? Uralla Wordsworth Monday 14th June 2021 P4 Too many people over too many years have focused on making McMaughs an exceptional community-based facility, both with time and financial input. The facility cares for residents with high care needs, this can lead to more stressed staff. How has Council assessed that? Is McMaughs adequately staffed to be able to cope in 21/22.

Budget: McMaugh Gardens rates highly compared to others within the region on both a tangible and intangible basis and this cannot be allowed to slip. The council should view what we have and strive for exceptional, not accept average or minimum. We cannot support any reduction in employment costs & benefits for McMaughs, there should be a CPI increase on the 2021 cost. The employment benefits and costs are reducing lower than the 2019 level. The Aged Care Act will increase training and hours per resident, has this provision been acknowledged in the budget? This will impact significantly on employee benefits and oncosts, a projected budget should be provided. The employee costs and benefits are actually being reduced in the budget. Does this relate to putting the Manager of McMaugh Gardens to a part time position? Remember the origins of this facility.... Built for the Community by the Community.

Rosemary Reading, representative of this concerned community group



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When Peter Stanley

came to town

When Peter Stanley came to town
We ladies with our silver hair,
And our men all dressed with special care,
Greeted him with loud acclaim,
As he set himself to entertain.

When Peter Stanley came to town,
He strummed his guitar to wake us all,
To lift us from our lunchtime sprawl.
He launched himself into his song.
Our spirits lifting, we sang along.

When Peter Stanley came to town,
Our toes were tapping, our fingers flicking.
Why we could even hear our knees a 'clicking.
We bounced and jiggled on our chairs.
His wondrous music we did share.

When Peter Stanley came to town,
It wasn't long before we quit the chairs,
And in front of some incredulous stares
We danced as once we did before
Round and round that "ballroom" floor.

When Peter Stanley came to town,
June and Trevor went tripping on their "light fantastic" toes.
While others of us sang and danced, and chased away our
woes.

April traded quips with Peter that had us all in stitches,
And when I sang along with him, I almost wet my britches.

When Peter Stanley came to town,
He sang and sang the songs we knew,
From our childhood and as we grew.
The songs that we remember well.
Songs that put us under his mesmerizing spell.

Pauline Crouch, A Seniors Social Group Participant



Candidates Forum

Come and listen to the candidates ahead of the Uralla Shire Council elections. The forum is scheduled for 18th August 2021 at the Uralla Bowlo, more details to come

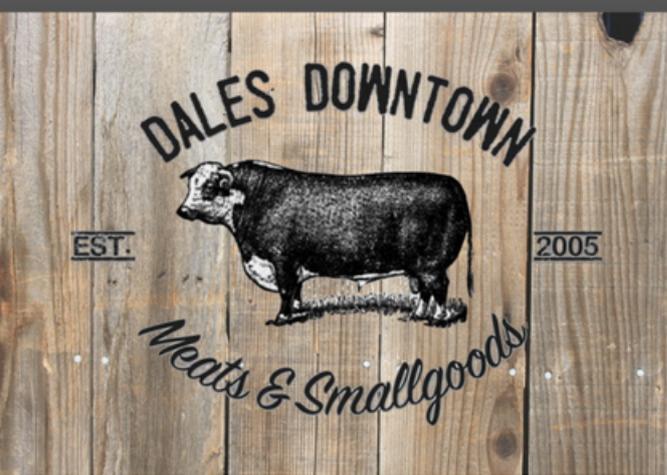
Sometimes it's all about perspective?



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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have followed with great interest, the proposal for the Fibonacci Park in Uralla, and the subsequent public comment. I too acknowledge and marvel at the wonders of nature's Fibonacci sequence and attempts by mere mortals to use/replicate it for various purposes. I also acknowledge that Uralla, by mere fluke, happens to be the only location in Australia to have the sequence for its postcode.

However, I have serious concerns regarding the proposal to locate a Fibonacci park at Pioneer Park. The park is located at the busiest intersection in Uralla – the junction of Thunderbolt's Way, a main east-west thoroughfare, and the New England Highway, an interstate route. The park is located opposite the Information Centre and entrance to the town library, and diagonally opposite the busiest retail outlet, and only supermarket, in town. It is also a very popular place for caravaners to pull up to utilize the public facilities and hopefully wander up the main street to spend a dollar or two.

The proposed park, as illustrated in the last Wordsworth, is no doubt eye-catching, and as such would present a significant visual distraction to motorists – in short, a traffic hazard and a real safety issue, especially if the popularity of the park, as proposed by its supporters, is realised. Put simply, Pioneer Park is not a safe location.

Furthermore, such an antagonistic visual distraction, stuck in a prominent position in the main street that prides itself on its heritage, would detract significantly from the historical character of not only the main street, but indeed, the township of Uralla.

There are a number of other locations that would be more suitable – I suggest a more appropriate location would be as an educational hub in Porter Park, adjacent to the library, and opposite McCrossin's Mill, where parking is aplenty and off the highway.

Susan Smith, Uralla resident

Dear Editor

I wish to report back on two public presentations held during the week regarding the Fibonacci Park concept for Pioneer Park. Guy Crosley, master mosaic artist and I presented to a public meeting at McCrossin's Mill and at a workshop meeting facilitated by the GM. The McCrossin's presentation was attended by around 40 people who were able to talk with Guy about his approach to designing the park. Concerns were raised and we were able to reiterate that the brightly coloured sketch that has appeared in the Wordsworth is just a concept design, a starting point, rendered by a community member and not a professional designer. It is not Guy Crosley's design as, at this point, no one has been engaged to develop the concept. It is recommended that the final design be developed and detailed as part of public consultation workshops with the

community. We also saw at both presentations, images of Guy's work from the last 25-30 years and that his use of colour is both sensitive and in keeping with the environment in which the work is placed. The final design of the park will tie the Fibonacci theme into the street scape and the environment of Uralla. I can assure you that the park features will not detract from the historical character of our wonderful historic street scape but enhance it.

Some valid concerns have also been raised since the meetings about the safety of people using the park, traffic congestion at the intersection and parking in Salisbury Street. It is my belief that a suitably designed fence will ensure the safety of park users. The majority of visitors using the facilities of Pioneer Park approach from the south with a simple left turn into Salisbury St. Some kerb realignment may be necessary to better facilitate parking at the park.

This project will be an exciting opportunity to engage and unite the imaginative spirit of the whole of our community.

Andrew Parker, Uralla resident

Uralla Community Street Store

14-20 June

Uralla District Show Society

21-27 June

Thunderbolt Fishing Club



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OZHarvest Needs to hear from you

Dear Friends,
Over the last year, it has been an absolute privilege to get to know your local community through the delivery of emergency food relief with the OzHarvest Mobile Market. This service was quickly activated to help meet the increased demand for food, especially fresh produce, following the impact of the drought, bushfires, floods, and the pandemic. The Mobile Market was made possible thanks to emergency funding from the NSW Government and the precious time donated by many local heroes like you. With your support, OzHarvest has provided fresh fruit and vegetables to 33 towns doing it tough across NSW, providing over 28,000 bags of food – enough for half a million meals. As our NSW Government funding concludes in June 2021, sadly we no longer have the resources to continue this service and our final visits will be on:
Wednesday 16 June: Gravesend & Warialda
Thursday 17 June: Barraba & Uralla
Friday 18 June: Bendemeer
To help us better understand the impact of this food relief, and to support requests for future funding, we would love to hear from you about the how the Mobile Market has made a difference to your community. Please email a testimonial and share your thoughts with us omm@ozharvest.org In the meantime, we are working hard to look for long term financial partners and growers to keep the OzHarvest Mobile Market on the road and will be in touch again as soon as we can. We would like to thank you for your wonderful support and for the work you are doing to help feed and care for hard-hit regional communities.

With gratitude, OzHarvest Mobile Market Team
Susan Manttan, New England Family Support Services

Extraordinary Council Meeting Called

An extraordinary meeting of Council has been called by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 15th June at 1pm, to discuss the following agenda items, as proposed by Council staff :

- 1 - 2021-22 Crown Reserves Improvement Program
- 2 - Project Nominations for Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 4
- 3 - Central Northern Regional Libraries (CNRL) Agreement

For full details of the reports proposed by Council staff for consideration at this meeting please head to :

<https://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/hptrim/governance-meetings-council-and-committees-meetings-of-council-committees-of-council-business-paper-agendas-and-meeting-minutes-2020/extraordinary-meeting-of-council-15-june-2021.pdf>

Tara Toomey, Uralla Shire Councillor

An observation by @masericha via Twitter about the heating issues at Uralla Central School



Masericha TM
@masericha

Uralla Central School doesn't have heating but The Kings School Parramatta has a helicopter in its lobby and still gets \$19m in public funding.



07:48 · 11/6/21 · [Twitter for Android](#)

Uralla Fuel Watch

12/6/2021

	ULP	Diesel
Invergowrie	136.0	135.0
Mobil Uralla	139.9	135.9
Puma	144.7	139.7
BP Uralla	146.9	148.9

Just add water

Residents of the Upper Gwydir and surrounding areas will come together at a free community event on Saturday 19 June, to foster a more resilient and connected community. Kingstown Hall will host the community day, entitled Just Add Water, which will include a live band and dance, a High Tea, barbecue and games for kids and grown-ups. It will also offer candid opportunities for participants to discuss the pressures they are experiencing, including the impacts of the recent drought and bushfires.

The initiative, to be held from 2pm until late, has been funded by a grant from the NSW Department of Primary Industries Drought Resilience Program, auspiced by Southern New England Landcare and supported by the Uralla branch of Pursehouse Rural.

"Everyone from the communities of Balala, Brushgrove, Bundarra, Kingstown, Retreat, Torryburn, Watsons Creek and Yarrowyck is invited to join us for a free afternoon and evening of family fun," one of the organisers, Suzanne Wright, said.

"Like many parts of NSW, residents in the Upper Gwydir and surrounding areas have dealt with some huge challenges in recent times, putting great pressure on individuals, families, farms and other businesses.

"Just Add Water is a chance to blow off steam, strengthen community ties and express some of the things residents have been feeling. Art activities and a listening tent with a qualified counsellor will give residents a chance to anonymously discuss and share the pressures they have been shouldering."

Suzanne said Just Add Water had already brought greater

connectivity, with many local groups and individuals from throughout the district donating their time to stage the community-driven event.

Popular New England outfit Crooked Tree has been confirmed as the band and will play from 5.30pm until late. "While the whole event is free, to encourage all local residents to get involved, a gold coin donation would be greatly appreciated," Suzanne said.

Further information about Just Add Water is available on a new Upper Gwydir Community Noticeboard created on Facebook in conjunction with the event. Enquiries can also be directed to Suzanne on 0432 936745.

The event is BYO alcohol and participants should bring a torch and chair or rug.

Scott Green, Just Add Water organising committee member



Crooked Tree

Caterers Wanted

The Uralla Shire Business chamber is seeking prices from Uralla Shire Businesses to provide a sit down two course meal, for up to 120 people at the Uralla Show Ground on Friday 13 August. We suggest alternate main and dessert dishes, but are open to suggestions. We will require vegetarian and gluten free options.

Prices to secretary@urallabusinesschamber.org.au by 22 June.

Contact **Bob Crouch, Secretary, Uralla Shire Business Chamber**, 0428616885

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Community Calendar

Please email 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 5.30pm at the Top Pub

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

Uralla Tennis Senior Social tennis, Wednesday 6.30pm at the Uralla Sporting Complex, everyone welcome (\$7 members, \$10 non members)

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, donations welcome. Ph : 6778 3277 or email : urallaneighbourhood@bigpond.com

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 Tuesday, 10am - 12pm, Uralla Neighbourhood Centre, contact Sue on 0419149244 or Geneva on 0430440171

Events for June -

Can Assist Uralla Meeting Saturday 19th June 2021 2.00pm at Uralla Bowling Club

Annual Can Assist Branch Meeting Saturday 21st August 2021 2.00pm at Uralla Bowling Club

Uralla Shire Council Extraordinary Council Meeting Tuesday 1pm, 15th June, Council Chambers

Uralla Shire Council Ordinary Council Meeting 12.30pm Tuesday 29th June, Uralla Shire Council Chambers

Dine & Discover Venues

The following Uralla Shire venues are listed as accepting the Dine Vouchers :

The Alternate Root Cafe, 48 Bridge St, Uralla

Michael's Cafe, 98 Bridge St, Uralla

Subway, Shop 1, 50 Bridget St, Uralla

The Top Pub, 23-27 Bridge St, Uralla

Kentucky General Store, Noalimba Ave, Kentucky

Source : <https://mybusiness.service.nsw.gov.au/dine-and-discover/business-finder#dine>

Deadline for the next edition is
5pm on Thursday 24th June
2021. Please email all
contributions including
advertising, letters to the editor
and articles to
urallawordsworth@gmail.com

\$14,546 Secured for amenities upgrade at Kingstown Hall

AMENITIES at the popular community venue Kingstown Hall will be modernised to improve access for users, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall today announcing a \$14,546 State Government grant to undertake the much-needed improvements.

Mr Marshall said the project would benefit community members of all ages, from preschoolers to the elderly.

“Kingstown Hall is well utilised all-year-round, providing a place for locals to get together and space for local children to learn through preschool and school events,” Mr Marshall said.

“Without clean, functioning facilities the hall cannot support programs which have become such an important part of life in the town.

“This funding will allow for the existing men’s toilet to be converted to provide a unisex, ambulant disabled facility.

“This project ensures the hall continues to cater for the evolving needs of the Kingstown community.”

Kingstown Public Hall Trust President John Mitchell said the hall was a valuable community amenity and the upgrade to the kitchen had been high on their list of priorities.

“At the completion of this upgrade our hall will have amenities that are functional and meet all the accessibility requirements expected by the community,” Mr Mitchell said.

“We have hired a local contractor to do the renovations and we are now on the wait list.

“We hire the hall out for private functions and there are a few groups that use the hall for various activities.

“To have the opportunity to enhance the Kingstown Halls amenity block is very important for our community, enabling us to have a facility out in the bush that is comparable to our larger towns.”

Mr Marshall also inspected plans for the next upgrade of the hall and vowed to assist the community undertake another important project.

“The hall committee are keen to construct a skillion on the side of the hall, over a new concrete slab, to create another function space for the community,” he said.

“This space would also provide another undercover outdoor area for the preschool, which uses the hall two days each week.

“I look forward to working with the hall committee to secure further funds to undertake this project too.”

Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands

Royal Flying Doctor Car Rally visits Kentucky

Kentucky P&C catered successfully for over 140 participants in around 100 cars, travelling from Inverell to the coast on Saturday 12th June.



Kentucky P&C in action plating up lunches

Breakfast Club

St Johns Anglican Church will be running a breakfast club in their hall, Park Street, starting on Wednesday 21 April. It will start at 8am and finish 8:45. Initially this will be held once a week on a Wednesday, but may increase according to need, and any school age kids are welcome. Please direct any enquiries to the Anglican vicarage on 6778 4906.

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New-look Uralla Visitor Information Centre open

A NEW-LOOK gateway to Uralla is set to encourage travelers to stop, stay and spend in the historic town, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall joining Uralla Shire Mayor Michael Pearce last Friday to officially open the \$500,000 redevelopment of the Visitor Information Centre.

Last year, Mr Marshall announced \$370,000 in State Government funding for the improvements, with the remaining \$130,000 funded by the Federal Government's Drought Communities Extension Program.

Mr Marshall said the redevelopment had delivered a welcoming space for travelers to park-up and explore local businesses and sites.

"Located strategically just off the intersection of the New England Highway and Thunderbolts Way, the Uralla Visitor Information Centre is the symbolic gateway to the shire's rich heritage," Mr Marshall said.

"The refurbishment has been done in a way that showcases the region's local history, Aboriginal culture and vibrant business community.

"Inside the building walls have been removed to create an open space where tourism displays and business promotions can be prominently established.

"A new garden area has been added at the building's rear, in the existing grassed area in front of the library. This space includes a small waterfall, native ground covers, shrubs and small trees.

"The garden also has a 'bush tucker' component in recognition of traditional food sources utilised by the local Aboriginal community.

"Access to the centre has also been improved, with upgraded disabled car parking and additional footpaths.

"This is an exciting development, which I think will greatly increase the number of people pulling into the visitor centre and making the most of Uralla's hospitality."

Uralla Shire Mayor Michael Pearce said the 'VIC' had long been a popular place for travellers to stop.

"Thanks to Federal and State Government funding, the Improvement Project has really taken the Visitor Information Centre to the next level," Cr Pearce said.

"It's attractive, it's roomy, it offers visitors a comfortable and well-equipped space to soak up all the information they need to embark on a holiday in our wonderful Shire."

General Manager Kate Jessep said the drought put a lot of pressure on local businesses.

"We hope that the warm welcome the improved VIC offers will encourage people to stay a little longer, spend more time exploring our network of villages and towns and support our local businesses with their custom," Ms Jessep said.

"From the new audio-visual equipment to display our

videos and interactive map, to the pergola and gardens, we offer a memorable experience that our visitors can share with their friends and family so they want to visit again and encourage others to come and enjoy what's on offer in the Uralla Shire."

"We're really looking forward to the re-opening and invite our local community to come for the launch and tour."

Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands

Men's Shed News

MP Adam Marshall (below) snipping the ribbon to our new concrete steps to the Uralla Men's Shed. These replace the old rotten sleeper steps. This was achievable through Crown Reserves Improvement Fund grant.

Bruce Stubberfield, Uralla Mens Shed



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National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

Federal Member for New England Barnaby Joyce has welcomed opening of the online consultation process to support the development of the first five-year implementation plan under the successor plan to the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 (the National Framework).

The 10-year successor plan will support Australia's most vulnerable and disadvantaged children, ensuring increased involvement and accountability across all levels of government as well as the children and families sectors. This includes at-risk Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children and young people who have experienced abuse or neglect, children and families with complex needs, and children and families living with disability.

Mr Joyce said it was important that families of children, young people, foster and kinship carers, government and non-government organisations, were part of the discussion on the future direction of the national framework.

"We want to hear your ideas on what will support children and families to be safe and free from harm and neglect, so make a submission and be part of the solution," Mr Joyce said.

Assistant Minister for Children and Families, Michelle Landry, said under the previous National Framework, the Government secured the National Standards for Out-Of-Home Care, created the role of the National Children's Commissioner, and also delivered Connect for Safety - a new software platform that will improve child protection information sharing between the states and territories.

"This is a strong foundation to work from, but we need a collective effort and commitment to make significant and sustained progress in improving outcomes for children and families in need," Assistant Minister Landry said.

In addition to the public consultations the Government, in partnership with SNAICC, is facilitating an Indigenous co-design process.

The National Children's Commissioner, Anne Hollonds, is also leading targeted consultations with children, young people and families across Australia to ensure their experiences and voices are reflected in the first five-year implementation plan.

To have your say visit the engage.dss.gov.au website

The online consultation will close on Monday 26 July 2021.

Barnaby Joyce, Member for New England

Uralla's 100th Son

As reported in the last edition of the Wordsworth, my wife Susan, her brother Ian Smith, his wife Sue and myself were honoured to attend the commemorative 50th Anniversary of Operation Overlord and the Battle of Long Khan which occurred between June 7th and 14th, 1971 during the Vietnam war. It was during this operation that 7 Australians lost their lives in one encounter, including Private Trevor, "Atty" Attwood – he was aged 23. Trevor grew up in Uralla and was apprenticed to Neal Howard at the time of his call-up for national service. He was regarded by all who knew him as a "lovely bloke".

Last Monday morning, in a rather cool and foggy Canberra, a large gathering of Vietnam Veterans, their families and friends from across Australia (except Victoria which was in lockdown) and dignitaries, assembled at the Vietnam Memorial. With all the appropriate pomp and ceremony, at 10.30 sharp, the tribute to those who served, and those especially to those who lost their lives, began. Spick and span members of the armed forces formally manned the compass points of the Memorial, and Regimental Colours and Corps Banners of the units involved in Operation Overlord were mounted with military precision. What followed was a very moving and personal series of addresses, recollections, readings and prayers, interspersed with musical items that reflected the early 70s. The commemorative address was given by His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. He reflected on his military service and the teamwork and camaraderie that still hold true among our servicemen and women, thanking those who served on behalf of all Australians. His Excellency emphasised the exemplary role that Australians who served in Vietnam played in building upon the ANZAC tradition, set in 1915, and proudly maintained by those who have since served in overseas combat.

Many wreaths were laid by dignitaries representing branches of the armed forces from Australia, the United States and New Zealand. Wreaths specifically dedicated to those who lost their lives were laid by members of their family. Susan and Ian laid a floral tribute on behalf of Uralla made from stems of wattle in bud, and gum leaves, gathered from around the base of Mount Mutton near, where Trevor lived and played as a child. The note attached read: "In fond memory of Private Trevor James Attwood. K.I.A. 12/6/1971. Only child of Bob and Betty Attwood of Uralla, NSW. Uralla's 100th son....."

A book detailing the operation has been given to the President of the Uralla sub-Branch of the RSL (Russ French – Thundergraphics) for anyone who would like to learn more about the battle, and the gallant efforts of our diggers. Lest We Forget.

Bruce McMullen, Uralla Resident

Kentucky Public School Vietnam Memorial wins!

Congratulations Kentucky Public School for winning the Small Schools Trophy at the Armidale Eisteddfod! Students participated in the choir, Marimba and recorder sections.

Fiona Uren, Relieving Principal, Kentucky Public School



Kentucky Public School travelled to NECOM in Armidale to participate in the Armidale Eisteddfod

Service in Uralla

A great little service at the Vietnam Memorial in Alma Park this morning [12th June] to honour the service and sacrifice of Trevor Attwood. Trevor was the 100th Uralla service man to be killed in action overseas. A great turnout of friends, National Servicemen who served along side him, RSL members and old workmates from Neal Howards Electrical. Good to remember a good man taken too early in the service of his country.

Lest we forget.

Russ French, President, Uralla RSL Sub-Branch



Vietnam Memorial Service at Alma Park



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Uralla Grants helped run
bike repair classes

Let's Talk About Water

Uralla residents' input to a valuable conversation about water security in the shire will be stepped up by a community think tank at the Uralla Bowling Club on Wednesday 30 June.

The workshop, starting at 6pm, will give residents the chance to help plan the final phase of community engagement for ZNET Uralla's Let's Talk About Water project.

ZNET has conducted considerable community engagement for Let's Talk About Water during 2020 and 2021, including focus groups, resident and business interviews, a community survey and town hall meeting.

While all that input is being collated by ZNET members and University of NSW academics assisting with consultation for the project, the public think tank will help identify how that feedback is shared with the community and further contributions are encouraged.

"It's celebrating the considerable and highly valuable community input received so far, while opening the doors for fresh ideas and skills for the concluding phase of consultation," ZNET President Sandra Eady said.

"In addition, this opportunity for wider public input is checking that we're still using the best methods to get information out to the community and to enable their input in return.

"It's all part of ZNET encouraging more residents to get involved in our activities in general, to help achieve a more sustainable and robust Uralla Shire."

Visit ZNET Uralla's website for more information about the organisation and the Let's Talk About Water project.

People interested in participating in the community think tank can contact Scott Green on 0457 001226 to express an interest or for further details.

The Let's Talk About Water project is funded by the NSW Government in association with ZNET Uralla and the University of NSW.

Scott Green, ZNET Uralla

Food for thought ...



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Irish Backpacker In Bondi Wonders Why
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The Chooks Can Stay

Uralla Showground Land Manager (USLM) has resolved to look into building a storage shed for the poultry pens that have until now been kept in what is known as Pavilion B (recognised by most visitors to the showground as the poultry pavilion).

Pavilion B is a fairly new multipurpose shed, originally built by New England Exhibition Poultry Association (NEEPA) with loan money since repaid, with a concrete floor installed by NEEPA after a previous manager had the shed floored with particle board. USLM has recently upgraded the interior of the shed.

NEEPA have been long-term tenants of Pavilion B and often talked with the showground manager about having a storage shed so the pens could be conveniently removed and Pavilion B put to other uses. The matter became urgent when USLM rented out Pavilion B on the basis that it would be empty, before discussing with NEEPA how that might be achieved.

Although USLM have in recent years spent about half a million dollars on improvements, a storage shed for poultry pens was not on their agenda. Now there are signs of co-operation between the two organisations, with a joint investigation of funding for a storage shed, and the pens to be consolidated along one wall of Pavilion B for the duration of the rental.

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NEW ENGLAND SOLAR FARM

JUNE 2021

Uralla Grants help school plug into solar power

An unlucky lightning strike early last year caused irreparable damage to the inverter connected to the solar PV system at St Joseph's Primary School.

The system helped significantly cut the school's energy costs, but it also reduced its carbon footprint by sourcing clean renewable energy from the natural power of the sun.

Students at the school also monitored the energy generated from the system, providing valuable lessons on how electricity is generated and distributed.

Unfortunately, the costly inverter replacement was not factored into the school budget.

So the school applied for funding from the first round of the Uralla Grants program.

Uralla Grants was set up to share the benefits of the New England Solar Farm with the Uralla Shire, Dangarsleigh and Kellys Plains communities. It provides grants of up to \$5,000 for local community projects or initiatives, allocated via two rounds of funding.



Upgrades to Barleyfields Rd have commenced

Construction works upgrading Barleyfields Rd (north of Big Ridge Rd) have commenced. Traffic control is in place, and this may cause delays on Barleyfields Rd. If possible, please use New England Hwy as an alternate route.

Work is expected to start this month on a new right hand turn lane travelling north on the New England Highway into Barleyfields Rd, as part of road upgrade works for the New England Solar Farm. A temporary speed reduction to 80km/h on the New England Hwy will be applied near this intersection.

The St Joseph's Primary School project was last year selected for funding by the Community Reference Group set up to help oversee the program.

Not only did it get enough funding to replace the broken inverter, but it also was able to purchase four new smart tablets for students.

The second round of Uralla Grants is now open for new applications for grants of up to \$5,000.

The grants could support a range of projects from facility upgrades, local sporting or education programs or energy efficiency or beautification projects.

APPLY NOW FOR URALLA GRANTS ROUND 2

www.newenglandsolarfarm.com.au/urallagrants

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Laura Russell,
Community Liaison Officer at Green Light Contractors

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