

Uralla Wordsworth

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  urallawordsworth

ANZAC Day Commemorations 2023



It's that time of year again and we are coming up to the busiest day of the year for the RSL and our Veteran community with ANZAC Day just over a week away. Much planning has been going into the organising of the day and taking on the lessons learnt from previous years to make it a more memorable day for everyone.

Our Dawn Service will commence at 5.45am with the last post sounding at 6.00am as the sun comes up at the end of Queen Street. This will be followed by a gunfire breakfast in the park prepared by the Rotary Club of Uralla. A small donation would be greatly appreciated to cover the costs of

breakfast. We will also have candle holders with a small battery powered candle inside to hold during the service.

These are also available for a gold coin donation.


Our ANZAC Day march will form up from the corner of Bridge and Salisbury Streets from 9.30am with the parade marching off at 10.00am sharp as we want to make sure we are at the gates and ready to start for a fast jet fly-past at 10.30. This year we will have an increased presence from the Army Cadets from the Armidale Cadet Unit 251 and the cadets will have a bigger role with them also carrying our service flags.

The service will be concluded by 11.15am and then all RSL members, auxiliary members, veterans and their families will be welcome to join us for lunch at the Top Pub from 11.30am.

The major problem we have had in previous years is everyone being able to hear the service, so this should be remedied this year as the Sub-Branch has purchased a new Bluetooth cordless PA system. This should improve the quality of the sound greatly.



...Continued on page 3

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Robert Bell was elected Mayor of Uralla Shire Council in December 2021, after serving five years as a Councillor. He was previously Director of Engineering for Uralla Shire Council, lives in town, and has a grazing block at Kentucky. Cr Bell gives a personal view of some of the more important matters concerning Council and ratepayers in recent weeks.

Another sign that things are returning to normal, is when Victorians are once again heading north for the winter. It was wonderful to see so many Uralla businesses open for the Easter long weekend.

It was excellent to meet with the Department of Planning and EnergyCo representatives and the Mayors of the Councils in the New England Renewable Energy Zone. It was a wonderful opportunity to work with these government departments on how to address a number of ongoing concerns. I would like to acknowledge the very positive discussions that occurred at this meeting.

Congratulations to Jacinta and all the team at McMaugh Gardens Aged Care on a successful (and unannounced) Re-accreditation Site Audit which was completed over three days. To score top marks is a credit to all involved. This follows on from the Grace Munro Centre in Bundarra being listed amongst the top rated NSW Aged Care Home Staff. (Sunday Telegraph, March 19, 2023).

At its last meeting, Council approved an allocation of \$12,000 for investment in the master plan for a staged expansion of McMaugh Gardens. Council will engage Coverite Projects to prepare the plan in accordance with their proposal. This is the first step in obtaining the necessary funds for the project. Regional NSW has advised that Stage 1 of the McMaugh Gardens expansion is very likely to be eligible for the 'Growing Regional Economies Fund', for which applications close next month.

Thursday April 27 will see me host the annual Youth Week Forum in the Council Chambers. It gives Councillors and staff a unique opportunity to hear what is important to our future leaders. Critical areas such as how we communicate with the students will help us adjust our methods of sharing information. I am keen to understand what the students think of the renewable energy construction in the region, and our response to climate change. We need to understand what the challenges are for our youth in Uralla Shire.

Great work by Council's operational staff with the completion of Hawthorne Drive between Rocky River Road and Northeys Road. This narrow section of road linking Invergowrie and Uralla was in much need of upgrading. The focus will now return to heavy patching on Gostwyck Road. At the March Council meeting, staff identified all the current road construction and maintenance grants, totalling \$6,806,176 and a further \$885,223 applied for, or endorsed, however awaiting confirmation. There is also funding of \$867,680 to support upgrades and enhancements to sporting, recreational and public spaces. Funding has also been obtained to further extend the footpath in Plane Avenue towards the Sporting Complex.

2022 saw thirty-one new dwellings being approved for construction, which is a record year since 2008. I am concerned however, that interest rates, shortage of tradesmen and building material as well as suitable land, will slow this down over the next year or so.

Uralla Shire Council will welcome its new Executive Director, Infrastructure and Development this week. One of the Director's first tasks will be to revamp the Uralla Local Traffic Committee in partnership with our Councillor delegate, Cllr Bruce McMullen. It is of concern that a review of a number of serious accidents in the shire over the past six months have not been reviewed by this committee. Barbato's Corner at the intersection of Bundarra Road and Pinegrove Road is one such intersection.

I would personally like to thank Mick Raby, who has filled in as Relieving Director, Infrastructure and Development, while we went through the recruitment process. Mick has brought a wealth of knowledge and a broad technical experience to the position, and we wish him well as he sails around the Mediterranean.

This year's ANZAC Day Dawn Service bar-be-que of bacon and egg rolls, tea and coffee will again be supplied by the Rotary Club of Uralla. No doubt the times will be published in Wordsworth.

M: 0434 244 774
robertbell1055@hotmail.com

Robert Bell
Uralla Shire Resident



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ANZAC DAY 2023

DAWN SERVICE

The Dawn Service will commence at 05:45am at the Alma Park Soldiers Memorial Gates. Please feel free to bring a candle to Light up the Dawn. If you are unable to attend the Gates, you may instead choose to carry a candle at the end of your driveway as has been done in previous years to Light up the Dawn.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Begin forming up at 09:30am at Thunderbolt's Statue on the corner of Bridge and Salisbury Streets, flowing back up the hill towards the Anglican Church for a 10:00am start. The March will proceed along Bridge Street, then left into Hill Street then right into Queen Street and on to the **new** Korean Memorial (next to the Vietnam one), the Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Plaque and thence to the Alma Park Soldiers Memorial Gates where the ANZAC Day Commemoration Service will be conducted.

Those wishing to lay Wreaths – please advise Teresa French on 6778 3325 or urallasb@rslnsw.org.au or Russ on 0401 932 107 of your intention to do so and the memorial you wish to lay it at by the 19th of April to avoid missing out laying your wreath at the ceremony. Please also name your wreath on the back if you wish it back after ANZAC Day.



Listen every second Tuesday morning for a live to air interview about the latest edition of the Wordsworth, on FM 92.1 or on the internet: <https://2arm.net.au/listen/>

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....Continued from front page

There has been a big push from RSL National this year to ask for retail outlets to be closed on the morning of ANZAC Day as a mark of respect to the veteran community. This used to be the case with all shops closed until 1pm on ANZAC Day, however in recent years this hasn't been the case and we do ask that retail outlets remain closed during the march and service.

During the week prior to ANZAC Day we will be having our street stall. This will be from Monday 17th until Saturday 22nd. This is our major fund raising event of the year and we have a great assortment of badges, poppies and flags for sale as well as raffles, baking and books for sale. We will also be visiting the pubs and clubs on the night of Friday 21st to sell poppies and badges.

We look forward to seeing a great big crowd at the services and march on ANZAC Day to show our veteran community how much they are respected for what they have done during their lives and to honour those that did not make it home to their families.

Lest we forget,

Russ French

President, Uralla Sub-Branch RSL NSW

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From the Uralla Council Website

Council is seeking expressions of interest from members of the community to serve on the Uralla Township and Environs Committee. Council established the Uralla Township and Environs Committee for the purpose of providing strategic advice to Council on the future development and redevelopment of public spaces in and near the township of Uralla. Applications close 28 April 2023 at 5pm

(For more information go to the Council Website)



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Letters to the Editor

Dear editor

My name is Reggie Quiver, I'm an Australian water dragon (Intellagama lesueurii) recently arrived in Uralla. I moved into the creek near the council chambers (the big house) with my friend Watkin who says Uralla is a great place for those who are arty and crafty, like him. Watkin is a bilge rat (Rattus rattus), you may have heard of him. He wrote a book called 'The Journal of Watkin Stench', I think he is famous but you wouldn't know it to look at him. Anyway, he was a little sheepish when I arrived, perhaps he was trying to make a good impression on me about our new home. I loved the colour palette immediately, the autumn hues of red, orange, and yellow are straight out of a Dulux Paints' colour chart and our neighbours in the trees opposite wake me up each morning with song that could only be for us as it seems so personal. Watkin has found a nice boulder for me to lounge on during the morning when the sun strikes the sides, it is just perfect, and I know the right choice was made. Watkin says the place is delicious whatever that means.. is he talking about the frogs? I must ask Watkin about the maintenance arrangements for our swimming hole and play area though as there does seem to be quite an abundance of tangled undergrowth vegetation, weeds that could feature on a waterways weed alert poster, and warm stagnant water that even Watkin would be loathe to dip into. He is on the ball I will give Watkin that. Yesterday he was talking about the NSW Biodiversity Act of 2015, yikes! I hope he has not been charged with something (he is a rat after all). But, I suppose if we reside in such a great place as the Uralla Creek then we should make an effort to care for the home in which we live with our loved one. I will have a word to Watkin and enquire of his thoughts.

As I am new to Uralla Creek, can I write to you again and paint a picture in words of how we are getting along with our new found piece of paradise in Uralla?

Reggie Quiver, Uralla



Dear Wordsworth,

My comments below are on the financial report listed in the latest Uralla Shire Committee meeting dated 21 March 2023 (Service area Benchmarking report 2022-2023).

1. I was hoping that with a change of council we would no longer have decisions that required rate payers to provide payment for an "independent consultant, to commence and assessment and community engagement process for a possible special rate variation". An application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal is required to seek approval to increase rates. Uralla Shire councillors need to seek other avenues to raise funding such as

community partners in the alternate energy sector.

2. Uralla Shire Council Income Statement and Capex by Fund, (page 90) has a category that predicts an increase described as: Employee benefits and on costs. A description of what that category consists of would be useful. I am wondering if it is a result of the high turnover of staff within our shire council. I have previously requested an audit that clearly shows ongoing costs of human resourcing. Over the last three years: how many staff have left, why, and what have been the expenses involved in such transitions? Why is this category of expenses rising if it is due to staff pay increases then this could be stated.

3. Our audit fees which are paid to the state government are compulsory. This service means that the audit group at state department level looks over the reports that council provided. This cost has now increased from 30 to 115 thousand dollars. The council could self-nominate for a government an audit of one section our human resources expenses.

4. Back to rates, if we are as a community gaining from the introduction of alternative energy producers, then a pro rata system would be useful if payments from those companies' future or established put amounts per household, directly into our Uralla Shire rate payer budget.

5. The Black Tower Program suggested for Kentucky will provide options for people who cannot afford other companies' services. However, if the tower being suggested is not correctly situated which can happen (Balala/Kingstown) then communications will fail again. The experience there was, an overseas company used google maps to locate the position of the tower with no local input.

Please note I am not a financial expert, so these comments are made just as a rate payer.

-Jann Karp, Uralla

To the Editor,

As I have never written before, I would firstly like to congratulate The Wordsworth on its continued excellent community service. I particularly like the PRINTED version!

My main aim, however, is to congratulate you on including the wonderful articles by Peter Phillips, talking of his walk down Uralla streets. What a fabulous history to have down on paper. So interesting and so well-written. We think Uralla is a great, progressive little town, but it's got a way to go to catch up to what it once was!

Thirdly, I do hope someone with authority WILL enlighten John Sutherland about the life of solar panels and wind turbines. How on earth can they be compared to the Sydney Harbour Bridge?!!

-Christine Duncan, Arding

What Do You Know About Meralli Solar?



Meralli's David Mailler and Ed Campbell on the Thunderbolt Solar Farm site - previously the old pole treatment plant

You have seen the Meralli Solar vehicles around Uralla. You may be familiar with their their colourful blue, green and orange logo, and you may have even wondered about their advertisements in Wordsworth. But what is Meralli Solar and what are they doing in Uralla?

The short answer is: Formed in 2017, Meralli is a solar company that builds small solar farms for a variety purposes in NSW, Queensland and South Australia. It has been, or is involved with, projects worth about \$85m. It's national headquarters is in Uralla.

Meralli arrived in Uralla in 2016 and has plans to establish a 10MW solar farm on the former pole impregnation site between the eastern end of Staces Road and Thunderbolts Way near the railway crossing. The array will consist of 5.5 hectares (13.6 acres) of solar panels on the 21 hectare (50 acre) site. This will involve the installation of 18,000 panels which will eventually feed into the middle voltage network to power between two and three thousand homes. Batteries capable of storing 11 to 12MW of power are included in the plans - to be housed in 4 nine metre containers.

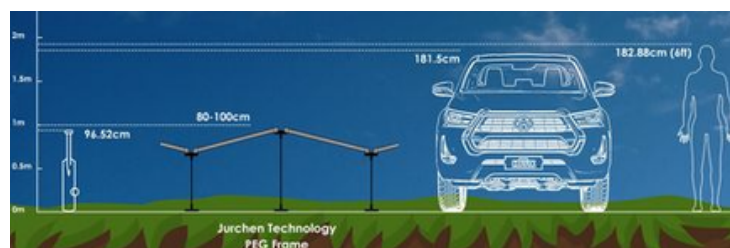
To get to this point in time the project has had its challenges but Business Development Manager, Ed Campbell says he hopes panels (preferably Australian made ones) will begin to be installed towards the end of this year, and the commissioning of the project by about this time next year.

The two founders and executive directors of Meralli, David Mailler and Methuen Morgan, are both long-term residents of our region, both graduates of UNE Armidale and have both had extensive experience in farming in our part of the world. David explains that their entry into renewable energy production was motivated by the looming and alarming crisis caused by our historic reliance on fossil fuels for power.

Anyone talking to David and Methuen will soon get the impression they are strongly focused on the ethical aspects of the business. They talk about the "triple bottom line": taking action to help deal with the economic, social and environmental impacts of global warming.

Meralli consider themselves to be innovators in solar energy generation. They use a system they claim makes

them Australia's most cost-effective solar farm installers. Their installations are quite different from what we see at the larger New England Solar Farm to the east of Uralla. Instead of rows of solar panels, Meralli employs a PEG Frame system. This involves driving 16 millimetre rods into the ground to a depth of between 600mm and one metre depending on the soil type. Panels are fitted to these rods in a shallow inverted "v" configuration. There are no rows between the panels and the panels don't track the sun. The overall height of the structure is very low - about one metre in height. According to the Meralli website, this reduces steel use by 75 per cent compared to a normal type of installation. Little or no concrete is used, saving expense and the carbon impact on the environment. The substructure was developed by Meralli's partner Jurchen Technology.



The Jurchen Technology PEG Frame height compared to that of a cricket bat, vehicle and a person. (Source: Meralli website)

Today Meralli typically employs around twenty people to carry out necessary site preparation work and to restore native plants to the perimeter of the site. Fortunately, the site was cleared by EPA as having no significant contamination issues as a result of its past use as a pole treatment plant.

During a recent tour of the site, it became apparent David and Ed were quite excited about potential other uses for the 75 per cent of the solar farm that wouldn't be covered with panels. They have imagined a number of interesting possibilities.

They explained they would like to see a large part of the north-east of the site become a dedicated community space. How this would be developed would be the result of community consultations.

The possibility of a light industrial area at the plant is appealing. The availability of cheaper power would be a powerful incentive to attract light industries to the outskirts of Uralla, and create more local jobs in the process.

David and Ed envision part of the site being used for repairing and utilising broken solar panels, thereby saving panels that would otherwise go into landfill somewhere.

Perhaps more ambitiously, they imagine a solar farm where employees could drive their electrical vehicles to work, plug them into charging points during the day and after work, use the car battery to help power their homes.

The future looks exciting for Meralli in Uralla. Wordsworth plans to keep its readers up to speed on its solar farm developments.

-Editor

Uralla Heritage and Hardware Centre

Last year the Co-op decide to open a heritage and hardware centre to provide hardware to the Uralla community as there were no supplies available locally, and to buy hardware, necessitated a drive to Armidale. Many customers of the yard in Hill Street suggested this as something that would be of benefit to the community.

We also had many older style building materials that were available to renovators plus older style furniture and tools that many customers were interested in.

This developed after the building at 119 Bridge Street came up for lease for a modest rental. The owner saw the advantage of a long-term lease over market value rental price and gave us a very reasonable rent. The 1x2x3 lease gave us certainty over six years which is not available at Hill Street as there is no lease on the site. The fact that it was dry and weatherproof and had highway frontage were other factors in its favour. As the Co-op is entirely run by volunteers we are able to bring back services into Uralla that are otherwise not commercially viable. The volunteers have instigate a "wanted list" that collectors and customers can use to alert us to what to look out for on their behalf, and a hardware suggestion list to assist us in determining what lines we should keep on the shelves. Please call in and add your name and suggestion to those lists.

We source the hardware from Richardson's in Armidale and the small amount of profit we make keeps the prices

compatible to their shelf price. This initiative is more about community benefit and as such, is a modest profit making enterprise.

Call in and find a bargain or perhaps have a chat and see what we have available.

Peter Barkley, Invergowrie



Uralla Showgrounds
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8am to 12.30pm



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

at Uralla Shire Council.

Information about vacant positions and access to Council's interactive application is available on Council's website:

<https://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Council/Working-at-Uralla-Shire-Council>

Council is regularly employing across a wide range of service areas such as: general hand, truck drivers, plant operations, landfill operators, aged care, direct support workers, administrative and professional roles. Ask us about our casual, term and permanent positions.

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Serious Heron Addiction!?



At the beginning of this year there was a storm that hit Armidale and in that storm, a giant eucalypt was blown down. Unfortunately, in that tree was a nest containing six white-faced heron chicks. Three died in the fall and through our partners in WIRES, the surviving three chicks came to me.

The three babies varied in weight from 92 to 230 grams in weight. As herons lay an egg every two days, a clutch of six will mean the first hatched will be twelve days older than the last hatched and so the oldest may eat the smallest. In fact, I discovered the middle bird with the youngest sibling, halfway down its throat and I had to separate them!

Inland dwelling herons eat a variety of terrestrial animals, from worms, crickets and grasshoppers to small fish and even mice.

Fed on a nutritious diet, the herons grew rapidly and before long were fully fledged. They were placed into an aviary where they could flap, learn to perch and wade in the pool that I supplied. I would place small *Gambusia affinis* or mosquito fish in the pool - an introduced fish that commonly infests our creeks and dams. *Gambusia* are an environmental nuisance due to their predation of frog eggs

and tadpoles, further exacerbating the decline of our native frog species. The fish were introduced into the wading pool where the heron babies could learn to feed themselves. The three siblings were soon joined by a fourth heron from Tamworth. This new bird was more advanced than the others and it was soon catching up the fish and in the process, teaching the younger birds how to catch their prey.

When they could fly, I started to take them to my dam for "adventures" and on the second visit, two flew up into trees and remained there until near dark when they returned to the aviary to be fed. Now, each morning, they are let out to explore the area, wade and feed in the five nearby dams and each evening they return to be fed, winging in from across the paddocks and waiting for me to feed and secure them for the night. This process, known as a "SOFT release", will continue until, one day, they will return to their natural environment, the dams, streams and fields around us. **-Chris Baker**



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Introducing ...

White Ivy Boutique and Gifts



Deb Elliot is the owner of White Ivy Boutique and Gifts at 49c Bridge St, Uralla - a beautiful store with beautiful displays of quality goods.

Deb's first encounter with retailing was in Sydney working for Grace Bros. After moving to Invergowrie in 1991, she operated Lil 'n Lotus in The Mall in Armidale for eight years before moving her business to Uralla on the eastern side of Bridge Street.

Deb now lives in Uralla, which she loves because of its friendliness, the easy-going lifestyle and the wonderful support retailers give each other.

Walking into White Ivy Boutique creates a striking first impression. Inside you will find it stocked with a refined range of clothes and other merchandise from as far away as Turkey (Cabello shoes) and as close to home as Uralla (beard grooming products).

Deb says Saturday and Sunday are the busiest days as people descend in groups into Uralla from Armidale, Tamworth, Inverell and all locations between. Deb says people often make an outing of visiting the shops on the "wrong" side of the street where her boutique is located, the reason being, she suspects, is because the number of steps to enter these establishments is minimal or non-existent.

The retail strip bookended by the Memorial Institute and the old Salvation Army Citadel with its eateries, antiques and White Ivy, is becoming quite an active retail area with an apparent synergy developing nicely between the various retailers. - Editor



The Beez are Buzzing



Back to Uralla



The very popular and highly entertaining couple, The Beez, are returning to Uralla after last time creating the best of impressions. The Beez do music with a German theme while often breaking down the usual assumptions about what is German - their "Germafied" Oz classics alone are worth the entry price. There's all the usual yodelling, lederhosen, thigh slapping you would expect and humour - yes, who would have thought - humour.

The duo consists of Deta C Rayner (accordion and vocals) and Rob Rayner (guitar and vocals). This promises to be another great night at McCrossins Mill on Saturday 22 April starting at 7pm. (\$25) -Editor

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The Wisdom of Uncle Dorothy and Aunty Bob

Sound advice when you need it from people you can trust

Dear Aunty Bob,

Once again I seek your wise advice. I want to go green but I can't afford to buy solar panels or one of those fantastically big wind turbines. However, I did buy a really long extension cord, one end of which I took down the street to Meralli Solar. They said they couldn't help me because I'd taken them the wrong end, and for other reasons I don't understand. You are such a clever person, I am certain you can think up some amazingly creative suggestions to help me. Thank you. Love your work.

-Eddie Eager

Dear Eddie,

I know that you love to ride bicycles as I have witnessed your Adonis-like body pedalling all over Uralla. A sure fire way to reduce your power bills is to hook one of your bikes up to a generator and start pedalling. This will have a multiple effect on your power bills. Firstly, you will spend more time pedalling than watching TV or listening to the radio. Secondly, you won't need to have the lights on as much as you will be pedalling when its dark. Thirdly, you will sleep soundly and won't need to use electricity while sleeping. And finally if you do this correctly you will be off the grid completely and green as my grass, (which by the way needs cutting and I could use your help, pushing a mower which will get you fit for all that pedalling.)

If this solution doesn't appeal to you, you could move into a semi-detached cave. Going back to nature is good for the soul. Always a pleasure to help.

-Regards Aunty Bob

Community Messages

Play Patch is a ministry of Uralla Anglican on Wednesdays from 10-12am for children from 0 - school age and their carers. We explore the bible through sensory play weekly during the school term. It costs \$20 a term, per family. Please bring morning tea for your child, a hat and a change of clothes (sensory play can get messy).
www.urallaanglican.com

The **Farmgate Support** program provides peer support, counselling, information and advocacy for rural people living in farming communities or on farm. Our team includes Peer support workers and social workers. We travel to farms or meet people in their local area across the Hunter New England Local Health District. People can self refer or be referred, with their consent, by calling 0477 322 851 or email: HNELHD-FarmgateSupport@health.nsw.gov.au

Notice: If you find a sick or injured native animal please call Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers on **1800 008 290**.

Running Wild 4 - 'Shots Fired !'

5. Recap. *Ollie Brooks had buried her mining buddy Tull in the soft loam of the Peel riverside. She now held court in the butcher's shop, telling the story of how 'The Captain' had visited her one night while she was roasting her evening meal.*

Out from the darkness rode a man mounted on a large chestnut horse. He said to me 'I smelt your meal miles off, so I'm here now to ask if you have any spare?' I saw that he carried a pistol in his belt but I also had the ache of hunger in my belly. So, I told him of my woes of losing my mining partner and finding little gold to keep me going. From his pocket he produced a coin and flipped it to me. As it flashed through the air I caught it easily. He said 'get yourself a good meal and food to last, until you find that gold bearing seam'. 'Remember, it was 'The Captain' that kept you going'. 'To my surprise it was a gold sovereign, so I cut off half of my meal, wrapped it in a piece of calico and handed it up to him' Ollie said. 'He touched his hat brim, said thank you marm and was gone just as quickly as he had appeared'.

On finishing her story, Ollie held up the gold sovereign for all to see, pronouncing 'now I'm off to get me a fine meal, courtesy of 'The Captain''. She left the shop with a bright swirl of her tattered floral dress and the lingering murmurs of the crowd.

Will leant on his broom listening intently to the story, in wonder and dreaming of what he would say if he ever met 'The Captain'. Howarth on the other hand said 'well that rogue must be about these parts then, won't be long before the traps are onto him now be dammed'. 'Unless he moves on real quick me thinks' he said.

One of Will errands was the meat delivery run, along the track from Nundle following the Peel, south to Bowling Alley Point and again upstream to the junction of Back Creek. Along the way he would be met by mostly miners and sell from his cart his meat wares.

He kept a ledger and gave out chits for all his sale. Miners then came into the shop and settled their bills against their chits. If payment wasn't received by the end of the month, then Howarth and Webster collected their debts. They both used the services of a man named Jackson, a boxer, a big man, quick and would fight any comer. Jackson was returning to Sydney from Queensland, picking up work where he could. He had spent time as a boxing pupil of "The Black Diamond" Jack Dowridge. When Jackson called for payment, your debt was collected, one way or another.

-Daryl Albertson, Kellys Plains

Community Calendar

Please email urallawordsworth@gmail.com if you have an event or regular meeting date for your organisation.

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 Uralla Bowlo, dinner optional after 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, 10am at RSL Memorial Hall, 27 Salisbury St, Uralla

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

Uralla Anglican Church meets at 10am each Sunday for worship, prayer, fellowship & Johnno's Kid Club in Park St

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

Uralla Show Society meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm at the Uralla Showground

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

Uralla Town & Environs Committee meets on the first Monday of each quarter from 6-7pm in the USC Chambers

Uralla Tennis Social tennis 6:30pm Thursdays. Hot shots Jnr Tennis, Uralla Sporting Complex Sat. 9am – 10am.

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

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

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

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

Uralla Men's Shed open Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:30am - 12:30pm, 18 Uralla St North, (old Scout Hall site) Phone 0419151253, Hours usually extended in Daylight saving. Email: urallamensshedcommittee@gmail.com

Uralla Community Neighbourhood Centre. Monday by appointment, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30 to 3pm, 67711457 0419149244, Urallacnc@familysupport.org.au

Uralla Tigers' Supported Playgroup FREE, every Wednesday during school terms, 10am - 12pm, St Joseph's Primary School, contact Nenneh on 0450437068 or Momena on 0481983442

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

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

Uralla Food Pantry, Mondays 10am - 2pm, Uralla Neighbourhood Centre. Good range dry goods, & fruit/veg. Fill a supermarket coloured bag \$15. New members welcome. Uralla Neighbourhood Centre, Ph: 6778 3277 or email : 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 3341

High Country Markets are held on the 1st Sunday of the month from 8am until 12.30pm at the Uralla Showground

Uralla Combined Pensioners and Seniors Association meets at Uralla Bowlo on the first & third Tuesdays of the month, 10am. New members welcomed, Ph. 0438433735

Uralla and District Uniting Church meets Sundays at 9.30am for worship. Our Church is undergoing renovations and we meet in the adjoining Church Hall 29 Maitland St, Uralla. The 1st Sunday of each month is a communion service.

Uralla Garden Club meets every third Saturday of the month at 1.30pm. We have no set permanent venue, but meet at a different member's garden or we visit other open gardens. New members are very welcome. Contact: urallagardenclub@gmail.com or Jenny 0435 593 850

Events For April and May

***The Beez** - Saturday 22 April, at McCrossins Mill, 7pm

***ANZAC Day** - Dawn Service, Alma Park, 5.45am

- ANZAC Day March, 10:00am

- Jet fly-past, 10:30am

***New England Solar Grants** - applications must be submitted by 5pm on Monday May 8, 2023

***Uralla Council**, Council Meeting Wednesday 26 April 2023, 4 pm, Council Chambers, Salisbury Street

Uralla Community Street Store

17 - 23 April - Uralla Sub-Branch of RSL NSW

24 - 30 April - Lions Club of Uralla

Call Uralla Shire Council to book - 6778 6300

To download the 2023 street stall schedule go to:

<https://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Community/Community-Information/Uralla-Community-Street-Store>

Deadline for the next edition of the Wordsworth is

5pm Thursday 27 April 2023.

Please email all contributions including advertising, letters to the editor, 100 Words, and articles to urallawordsworth@gmail.com

....continued from back page.

The Dirranbandi Dandy

The man from Dirranbandi first crossed my path
When I was hunting dragons at St George.
He nearly sent us hurtling into a ditch-like gorge,
As he arrogantly flew by with a wave and a laugh.

His silver utility came flying out of the blazing sun,
Speeding straight down the road towards us
As we took the caravan through the urban crush.
The new Dirranbandi Dandy's out for a run.

In case I didn't know he was the famous Dandy,
He had it emblazoned all across his sparkling ute.
As the Dirranbandi Dandy gave a tootling hoot,
I really wished I'd had my camera charged and handy.

We drove out to the artesian baths at Mitchell,
To soak my aching hip in its super-hot hot water.
Then sat on the deck with our lovely grand-daughter,
Watching others swim all among the swirl and ripple.

The next day we started on our way back home.
Down a road that looked a little bit forsaken.
The road that yesterday I saw the Dandy had taken.
The sign to Dirranbandi shone out through the gloam.

As we drove through the town I looked all around.
And lo and behold, as we passed by the pub,
Among the vehicles surrounding this rural hub,
a sparkling silver ute was parked up on a mound.

The Dirranbandi Dandy is ensconced once more
At this iconic watering hole together with his mates.
We drove down the road past the rusty open gates,
Staring at his pretentious ute in jaw-dropping awe.

I wonder what the Cunnamulla Fellow thinks
As he hears this new Dandy taking up the name
Of what has been his long-held claim to fame,
Of the Dirranbandi Dandy who shouted all the drinks.

We left my Dirranbandi Dandy behind us in our dust.
Though he lodged in my mind along the scrubby miles,
He and his silver ute and his daring audacious wiles.
Making Lightning Ridge by dark was an absolute must.

I gave up all thoughts of this man from Dirranbandi
On seeing the statue of Stanley towering high above.
An emu of the outback that we have come to love.
A symbol of the Ridge set deep in soil, red and sandy.

-Pauline Crouch, Rocky River

This is not just a tribute to these four young men, but a memorial to all our local veterans who laid their lives on the line since the Boer War of 1899-1902 and heard the call to arms.



Memorial Institute tributes to (L to R) Frank Bower, Ross McMillan and Michael Fussell

Over the coming months we will be carrying out restoration work to the CWA Meeting rooms on the south-western side of the building. What will be involved with this is yet to be fully determined but will involve a lot of work to bring it back to its glory days. It has been many years since it was last fixed up and is long overdue. Not only do the CWA meet here, but also many other local charitable organisations meet on a regular basis at this room including Lions, Hospital Auxiliary and the Red Cross. They are currently using the RSL Meeting room until completed. It is appropriate to give them all a bright and functional meeting space. The CWA was instrumental in the rebuilding of the Institute when it burnt down in 1925. They were there when it was reopened on the 4th of December 1927 and we look forward to seeing the room once again reverberating to the voices of our local CWA Ladies.

Outside works continue also on the building with guttering and downpipes and roofing of the toilet block at the rear along with some landscaping around the old BOFORS gun memorial to be done.

Many thousands of volunteer hours have been put into this project by Max Schultz, Pete McCarthy, Daniel Westbury and Jimmy Simmonds without whom this project could not have happened. I am very grateful for all the hard work they have put in.

If you wish to see what has been done over the past few years and you haven't popped your head in to have a look, please take some time to do so especially with ANZAC Day just around the corner. I think you will be suitably impressed. It is well worth the look.

Russ French, President, Uralla Memorial Institute Trust



Memorial Institute tribute to Trevor Attwood

Uralla Memorial Institute



Over the past couple of years locals may have noticed the old Uralla Memorial Institute opposite Foodworks has been getting a new lease of life to it. Currently it is the home to several local businesses as well as the home of the Uralla RSL Sub-branch.

Through some amazing efforts of the board of trustees, but in particular a couple of volunteers from the board, this building has been returned to its glory days. A number of years ago the crumbling front veranda was repaired with new posts and deck and a complete repaint refurbishing the front façade of the building.

The RSL meeting room had much of the floor and sub-structure replaced and is now a lovely inviting room for RSL meetings with new paint work, furniture and lots of historical memorabilia to view.



This was followed by a brand new kitchen installed with all new appliances. This space is used not only by the tenants of the building of morning teas and lunches but also by groups teaching food preparation and cooking to our young people.

The main hallway and cedar staircase had the old mouldy carpets removed to find beautiful timber floor boards beneath which have been sanded and polished making it bright and airy. New lighting was installed and a beautiful heritage paint scheme completed.

Most of the rooms in the building have now been rewired with state of the art electronics, switches and lighting and then repainted keeping with the heritage of the 1920's building.

As you enter the building you will see a large marble plaque which many of you would know the story of when our sub-

branch of the RSL managed to gain its return to Uralla after being sold off many years ago. There are many familiar family names engraved into the beautiful white marble and it is wonderful to have this in our possession.



There are also four TV screens showing photos and video of some of our locals in the theatre of action as well as the equipment, ships and aircraft they flew, sailed or drove.

In keeping with the building being a memorial to our veteran community, in just the last week a tribute to four of our local men has been completed and now hangs on the walls of the main hallway downstairs. These names should be familiar to many locals and each contains a large printed and framed canvas, a plaque with their service details, a replica set of their medals, a small TV screen scrolling through photos of their life here in Uralla and in their service and lastly a short audio tribute.

The first is Flying Officer Frank Bower who flew Kittyhawk and Mustang fighter aircraft during World War II. He returned from the war and lived his remaining years here in Uralla until his passing in 2009.

The second is Lance Corporal Ross McMillan whose family still live here in the area. Ross was schooled at Uralla Central School and worked at Tricketts. He was killed in action on the 2nd of February 1968.

The third is Private Trevor Attwood, a local young man who served his electrical apprenticeship at Neil Howard's Electrical. He was called up for National Service during the Vietnam War and was killed in action on the 12th of June 1971.

Lastly is Lieutenant Michael Fussell. Michael was born in Coffs Harbour, however his family lived in Arding for many years and involved with the Uralla Pony Club and football clubs here in Uralla. Michael was killed in action on the 27th of November 2008 in Afghanistan.

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