

# Uralla Wordsworth

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## \$5.77m funding boost for Northern Tablelands

COMMUNITIES across the Northern Tablelands are set to benefit from a \$5.77 million funding shot-in-the-arm for infrastructure projects that benefit the community and encourage women's participation in sport, with the announcement of round four of the NSW Stronger Country Communities Fund.

Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall today encouraged local councils and community groups to identify and apply for projects that will make a real difference to their community.

"The Stronger Country Communities Fund has already delivered much-needed projects across our region and I'm absolutely delighted the government has provided a record level of funding for this great initiative," Mr Marshall said.

"By improving and building purpose-fit female facilities and developing programs, girls and women will feel more welcome, safe, included and encouraged to regularly participate in sports and recreational activities.

"As with the previous three rounds, funding allocations are made to each local government area, to ensure as many groups and communities as possible benefit.

"Half the funding allocation will be set aside for projects that focus on women while the other half will go towards infrastructure, street beautification and community programs and events.

"This is a great opportunity for people to get together with their local council to identify projects that are going to make a real difference to their local community."

Mr Marshall said the first three rounds of the SCCF had seen almost \$20 million invested in new and upgraded

public facilities across the region, with around 100 projects underway or completed across the six Northern Tablelands' local government areas."

It has provided a much-needed cash injection into many drought, bushfire and COVID-19 affected communities," Mr Marshall said.

"The flow-on financial benefits of projects and programs like the \$600,000 upgrade of Armidale's Lynches Road netball courts, \$68,000 amenities upgrade at Glen Innes Showground, \$414,807 installation of new lights at Warialda's Nicholson Oval, \$280,000 youth centre at Inverell and \$284,000 young entrepreneurs initiative at Moree are endless and far-reaching.

"I will support our councils and other eligible organisations to prepare applications for round four funding and talk about what the community wants and needs, to ensure we make the most of this fantastic funding opportunity."

Applications are open and close on 25 June 2021. For more information, including program guidelines and eligibility criteria, visit [www.nsw.gov.au/SCCF](http://www.nsw.gov.au/SCCF)

Stronger Country Communities Fund round 4 allocations:

Local Government Area Round 4 funding allocation

Armidale Regional \$1,688,744

Glen Innes Severn \$807,405

Gwydir Shire \$785,201

Inverell Shire \$868,112

Moree Plains Shire \$839,136

Uralla Shire \$787,769

Total \$5,776,378

**Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands**

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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.**

The inaugural New England Regional Energy Zone Forum was held on Friday May 7 at the Uralla Memorial Hall. Over 40 participants were in attendance for this very productive meeting, which included presentations from Dr Sandra Eady from ZNet, and Dr Lou Conway, UNE Smart Region Incubator. Dr Conway spoke of the business opportunities that the region hopes will come from this renewal energy zone. Representatives from Glen Innes Severn Council spoke of the positive and negative impacts of the wind farm on their western boundary with Inverell. On balance, they spoke of the overall beneficial impacts for the Glen Innes community. Representatives from Walcha, Armidale and Tamworth also attended. It is hoped that links to the Department of Planning items will be provided in the near future. Figures provided show 8,000 MW/annum Renewable Energy, \$12.7 billion in investment and 2,000 jobs during construction for this zone. We need to maximise the ongoing benefit for Uralla Shire.

On Saturday May 8, approximately 100 Bundarra residents, along with myself and two other councillors, attended a public meeting at the Bundarra School of Arts. The meeting was held to express the community's strong concerns over the latest advice from Council on the cost of connecting their electricity and sewer to the new pump out pods. I have since emailed a "Notice of Motion" to Council with the aim of finding a positive and affordable solution for the residents. With a significant number of residents on fixed incomes, even an interest free loan does not solve their problem. The Bundarra community's submission to Council included "How does this system improve our lifestyle especially if it is no longer financially possible for us to remain in our homes?"

The Budget discussions are ongoing. Councillors' request for major Consultant and Contracts information was responded to with ten pages listing all our suppliers, which was useless. Maybe in the future we could receive the information on Contracts and Consultants over \$20,000, and include the cost, identify the project/work, and also identify the income source (e.g. grant, general fund etc.) We still have not identified the costs of collecting and managing waste in Walcha and Uralla. Hopefully the final Operational Plan will include the full operational and capital income and expenditure, as well as depreciation and administrative overheads for all budget areas. This would allow the community to see exactly how Council intends to spend its money. One of the great mysteries of

the current budget may be about to be solved with the information that Water Infrastructure depreciation increased from \$193,000 in 2017 to \$484,000 in 2018. Such gems as the Summer Hill Reservoir, off Barleyfields Road, which was built in 1985 has had its residual life dropped from 99 years to 39 years. Even our financial statement gives reservoirs 100 years' life. With the current use of two part epoxy, it may last another 100 years. The Mt Mutton reservoirs built in the 1960s are shown with a residual life of 3 years more than the Summer Hill Reservoir. The 10% increase should more than cover the wages increases, additional material costs and administration costs.

Councillors have been advised that Statewide Insurance will give them a presentation this week. I look forward to receiving some indication as to why our Workers' Compensation costs are soaring. Hopefully they can identify areas of high claims, and explain what a huge impact a large claim has for years to come on Council's finances. Executive staff should be able to highlight high risk areas and implement appropriate mitigation strategies. For all those who wondered why Uralla Street and Maitland Street needed to be asphalted, the answer was provided last week. The "Shepherd Report" identified the streets as "unserviceable"! Seems that the Bridge Street shoulders in the CBD and Bligh Avenue are better. No wonder I have little confidence in external consultants.

Great to see junior soccer alive and well at the Uralla Sporting Complex. The Council's Town Gang had the fields in tip top shape and the families had a fine weather morning. No doubt there will be a few less pleasant days throughout the rest of the season. Disappointing to hear that there is no senior soccer and this, combined with the lack of local rugby leagues sides, leaves a hole in our local community.

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

# Funding Opportunities

New grant opportunities have been announced by the State government, and I would like to hear from you about how the Uralla Shire could put these to best use.

The one with the most detail available at the time of printing is the NSW Government **Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 4**. The terms of this grant can be found here : [www.nsw.gov.au/SCCF](http://www.nsw.gov.au/SCCF). Uralla Shire Council Local Government Area will have access to \$787,769 so there is room for plenty of great ideas, or maybe 1 or 2 really significant projects. This information below is from the website link above :

*"Eligible applicants include:*

- regional councils and Joint Organisations
- non-government organisations
- community organisations registered as incorporated associations
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils

*Councils are encouraged to work with community groups to identify priority projects and should consider project partnerships where council is the landowner. The public entity will be solely responsible for the project's delivery and reporting through a funding deed. Applicants are encouraged to work with their local Members of Parliament to identify priority projects in their electorate to ensure projects with high community support are submitted.*

### **What types of projects are eligible?**

*Each Local Government Area is strongly encouraged to dedicate up to 50 percent of their allocated funding to projects relating to female sport either through enhanced infrastructure or relevant programs. The focus on female sports applies to both adult and youth sporting activities."*

If I can help support the development of ideas please get in touch.

**Tara Toomey, Uralla Shire Councillor**

[taratoomeyuralla@gmail.com](mailto:taratoomeyuralla@gmail.com)

**0434 408 163**

## Apology

I must apologise to everyone for a gentleman that spoke after the Dawn Service. His intentions to me were misleading and some of the comments he made were out of order and not in line with RSL interests or our veteran community.

**Russ French, President, Uralla RSL Sub Branch**

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## Uralla Community Street Store

17 - 23 May

New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club Inc

24 - 30 May

Armidale & District MS Group

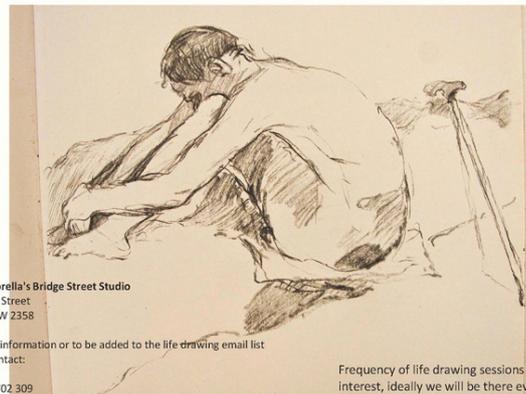
## Life Drawing Sessions at Sophie Sorella's Bridge Street Studio.

### Next Event

1pm to 4pm Sunday 23rd May 2021

Some free guidance is on offer to people new to this art form. Please BYO own drawing gear, a snack for the tea break and \$20.

These sessions are operated by The Uralla Drawing Group under Uralla Arts.



Location  
Sophie Sorella's Bridge Street Studio  
99 Bridge Street  
Uralla NSW 2358

For more information or to be added to the life drawing email list  
please contact:  
Sophie  
Ph 0405 702 309  
E [sophiesorella@hotmail.com](mailto:sophiesorella@hotmail.com)

Peter Low  
Ph 0447277717  
E [peterlow\\_554@hotmail.com](mailto:peterlow_554@hotmail.com)

Frequency of life drawing sessions is dependent on interest, ideally we will be there every two weeks on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, otherwise as notified by email.

Instagram @urallalifedrawing

# ZNETPlus Greening

## Uralla

Over the weekend of 24-25th April, the ZNETPlus Greening Uralla team dispersed 1200 free native tree seedlings to residents of Uralla Shire.

This project was funded by UPC's New England Solar Farm and is the first step in what we hope might be an ongoing project to increase the number of trees and shrubs across Uralla Shire, while also providing education and awareness about the value of trees in our landscape. A wide range of keen treeplanting residents from Uralla, Bundarra, Invergowrie, Kentucky and Kingstown, came along to collect their allocation of free trees. Many of these commented on what a wonderful idea this was to help see more trees planted around Uralla Shire. Trees were dispersed to residents inside the town boundary, but also to many who own larger blocks outside the town.

It was rewarding to see some of the excitement amongst the very young participants who clasped their tiny trees and happily set off to oversee their planting. One small boy jumped up and down, saying "Wow! So I can just put this little fella into the ground and it'll grow into a TREE!" He returned later dragging his grandpa along to get his share of trees as well.

The second part of this project will be the Adopt-a-Tree proposal whereby residents can opt to look after a new street tree for its first year or two. Those trees will also be provided free of charge to interested residents in October this year. If you would like to be one of those who adopt a new street tree, please contact Carol Shantal at [cshantal@gmail.com](mailto:cshantal@gmail.com)

Many thanks to Chris and Maria Everleigh from Kentucky Tree Nursery who grew these trees for the ZNETPlus Greening Uralla project. We're lucky to have such dedicated and reliable producers of native tree seedlings here in our shire.

We hope to be in a position to continue expanding the Greening Uralla project beyond this year. Watch this space for updates.

Many thanks to the ZNETPlus Greening Uralla team – Carol Shantal, Pat Laher, Liz and Bruce Gardiner, Megan Robinson.

**Liz Gardiner, Kentucky Resident**



**Bruce & Liz  
Gardiner**



We would like to invite you to our Open Day, at our office in Uralla, to find out more about the New England Solar Farm.

This open day is for you and other members of the community to come and meet the team, find out more about Green Light Contractors, its work on the New England Solar Farm project and to provide the team with any feedback you may have.

Joining us for the open day will be:



Education

Jocelyn Ullman, Training Services NSW, will assist with any queries that you have regarding upskilling and training.



ZNET will feature current sustainability projects supporting the Uralla community.

### OPEN DAY INFORMATION

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May from 10:00am – 3:00pm

Venue: Green Light Contractors Office, 84 Bridge Street, Uralla

Refreshments will be provided.

If you are unable to attend the open day but would like to speak to a member of our team, please contact:

Laura Russell - Community Liaison Officer

[info.australia@elecnor.com](mailto:info.australia@elecnor.com)

0417 261 453

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Full details in next edition of

Uralla Wordsworth.

Annie Mayo,

Uralla Historical Society

# The Boer War

South Africa. 11.10.1899-31.05.1902.

The Boer War was the first time that all Australian colonies deployed troops in a foreign conflict. It was also our first military contribution as the Commonwealth of Australia following Federation in 1901. There were 16,000 Australian men and women who served in South Africa.

On the 115th anniversary of the official end of the Boer War a dedication of the new Memorial on Anzac Parade to honour the memory of all those affected by the Boer War took place.

Next year, the 31st May will mark 120 years since the end of the Boer War. The Uralla RSL Sub-Branch have applied for a grant to erect a plaque at Alma Park to honour those Uralla men who volunteered and served.

The Uralla area had a good number of soldiers who served in the Boer War. A list of those men is currently being compiled, but due to the official records being incomplete, undigitized and some missing it is proving difficult to ensure all are included.

The names currently being researched are: Charles Bullen, Richard William Peard Burrow, W Clare, George Gilbert Cory, William Alfred Crapp, J J Daley, George Cuthbert Francis, H Francis, Charles Ernest Harper, M Harrison, M Heffernan, Allan James Herbert, Sydney Herbert, Arthur W Herbert, T Lonsdale, William Lonsdale, Lionel George Macarthur, John Alexander McCrossin, William McHugh, Alick Walter McMillan, Robert Baker McMillan, W McMillan, Albert Edward Nolan/Nowland, J P Ryan, Unknown Walker, C/J Walking, G Whitehead, Leslie Cecil Williamson, Percival Claude Williamson.

If anyone would like to contribute names or information it would be greatly appreciated. Information can be left with Russ French at Thunder Graphics or myself at the Uralla History Hub (Uralla Library).

Kay (Uralla History Hub).

This photo was taken by D T Pearson of Uralla and supplied courtesy of Robert Schofield. Seated at front left is W Crapp however the rest of the names are yet to be confirmed.

**Kay Adams, Uralla History Hub**



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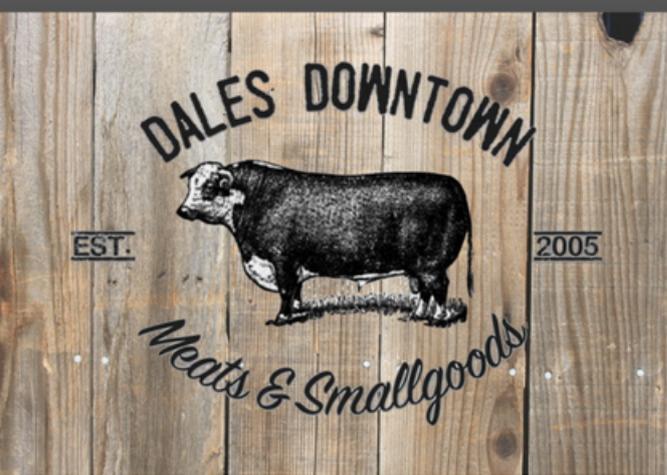
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# \$287,000 Ignites New Ideas to Increase Local Bushfire Resilience

A NEW initiative from the University of New England's Smart Regional Incubator (UNE SRI) will 'ignite' the ideas of the local young people and support them to develop programs to improve natural disaster resilience, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall today announcing a \$287,000 State Government grant for the Scorched project.

Mr Marshall said Scorched was a business resilience program for young entrepreneurs, which brought ideas, business and technology together to problem-solve the challenges restricting bushfire-resilience.

"As we all experienced during the devastation of the 2019-20 bushfires, no section of society goes untouched when a disaster of that magnitude sweeps through," Mr Marshall said.

"Scorched offers a new insight into potential ways to increase community and business resilience by harnessing the ideas of a so far untapped part of the community, young entrepreneurs.

"Using its experience supporting new startup businesses, the UNE SRI will engage with young people to develop concepts on how to mitigate, recover and reform bushfire and natural disaster management.

"From next month a co-ordinator will be employed who, over the next two years, will run problem solving hackathon style events and workshops to discuss the challenges facing communities when it comes to natural disaster management.

"The participants will then be given an opportunity to work with the UNE SRI to build their ideas into a business start-up, before pitching it to existing businesses or government agencies for consideration.

"We owe it to those places hardest hit by the 'Black Summer' fires, villages like Ebor and Wyaliba, to leave no stone unturned when it comes to investigating new ways to address fire management.

"No idea is a silly one and I look forward to hearing the concepts which result from Scorched, and more importantly hope to see some of them implemented as practical solutions to protecting livelihoods and lives."

Director of the UNE SMART Region Incubator Dr Lou Conway said when the energy, drive and passion of young people were brought to the challenges of climate reality, we have the fuel to generate new solutions and enterprises that can make a difference in our communities.

"Scorched will bring young people in our Armidale region together with technologists, land managers, business and community to help prototype solutions," Dr Conway said.

"Scorched is looking to work with up to 200 young people,

aged 12 to 35 years in the Armidale region. Key supporters of the UNE SRI application are BackTrack Armidale Secondary College, Renew Armidale and Armidale Regional Council.

"Members of all these organisations can make strong contributions towards developing more effective ways to tackle persistent challenges caused by climate variability.

"Who better to think about the future than the people who will own it – our young people?"

**Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands**



**L-R Member for Northern Tablelands Mr Adam Marshall, Director of the Smart Region Incubator Dr Lou Conway and Vice Chancellor of UNE Professor Brigid Heywood**



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MAY 2021

## New England Highway upgrade set to begin

Our project team has been working closely with Transport for NSW to finalise our plans to build a new right-hand turn travelling north from the New England Highway into Barleyfields Road.

The upgrade is required to help provide safe access for vehicles involved in the construction of the solar farm over the next two years. It will also provide permanent safe access for local traffic well into the future.

The upgrade will also involve a slight widening on the western side of the New England Highway.

We hope to start work next month, pending final approval from Transport for NSW.

## Road Upgrade Update

The upgrades to Big Ridge Road are progressing well. The works include surveying, tree inspections, clearing and grubbing, pavement construction, construction of new drainage infrastructure and installation of new road furniture



## Meet the construction team at green light open day

Everyone is invited to drop by the green light contractors open day this Thursday to meet the construction project team, ask any questions and find out more about the construction works.

A Training NSW representative will be present on the day to help provide information about skill development and training requirements to work on the solar farm. A member of the Znet team will also be present to provide more information about the latest sustainability initiatives in Uralla.

You're invited to drop by any time between 10am-3pm at the green light office at 84 Bridge Street.



KEEPING  
YOU  
INFORMED

Laura Russell,  
Community Liaison Officer at Green Light Contractors

☎ 0417 261 453  
✉ lrussell@elecnor.com

📷 @newenglandsolarfarm  
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# Queens on the Green

It was a sight to behold on Wednesday, 12th May, when one of our bowling greens was bedecked with a multitude of Queens when we celebrated Phyllis Dade's President's Day. Phyllis, suitably attired as the QUEEN BEE, welcomed ladies from all the different clubs in our District, including a team representing the District itself lead by the regally crowned Nanette Jemmeson.

Among the queens represented, we had Mary Queen of Scots put in an appearance, while Cleopatra came all the way from the Nile River in Egypt. There were several Queens of the Heart slipping out from their decks of cards, including one who lost all her tarts to the Knave of Hearts. There was also a Queen of Diamonds showing off her sparkly gems.

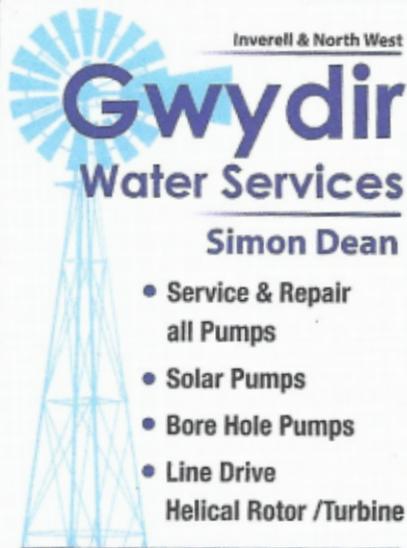
We had the Queen of the Rose Garden and, of course, our very own Drama Queen, who arrived swathed in bandages. She tried to tell us that her bandages were quite authentic as she had really slipped on some wet moss while surveying her garden realm just that morn. I had to believe her when I accidentally bumped her leg with my bowls bag!

And last, but not to be forgotten, were some amazingly dressed Drag Queens, come from all over the District, who hitched a ride with the indomitable Priscilla Queen of the Desert. That's a bus, you know, which famously travelled the outback, and decided to visit us for the day!

So, there we were out on the bowling green. There were a few toots, hoots and whistles from passing traffic as we attempted to play bowls while attired in clothing not usually worn for bowls. This caused some funny incidents on the green!

We thank everyone who joined with us on our special day. It was wonderful to see so many in costume. We had a thoroughly enjoyable day with all our bowling friends, and look forward to doing it again in 2022.

**Pauline Crouch, Publicity Officer Uralla Women's Bowling Club**



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# Community Calendar

Please email [urallawordsworth@gmail.com](mailto: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

**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), Family Fun Night starts again from Friday 12th Feb 2021

**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](mailto: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 May -

**Budgies of Paradise** until 31st May, Uralla Library

**Sophie Sorella Life Art Drawing Sessions** 1-4pm, 23rd May, Sophie Sorella Bridge St Studio, 99 Bridge St

**Uralla Shire Council General Manager's Workshop** 2pm Tuesday 18th May, Council Chambers

**Uralla Shire Council Ordinary Council Meeting** 12.30pm Tuesday 27th May, 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>

## 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

Deadline for the next edition is 5pm on Thursday 27th May 2021. Please email all contributions including advertising, letters to the editor and articles to [urallawordsworth@gmail.com](mailto:urallawordsworth@gmail.com)

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

## Bundarra Sewerage Scheme – UPDATE

I am speaking on behalf of the Bundarra Community, further to our previous public meeting we held another public meeting last Saturday 8th May with approximately 80 residents, we had invited the General Manager, Kate Jessep, Director of Infrastructure Terry Seymour, all staff involved with the Bundarra Sewerage Scheme, Mayor, Michael Pearce, Deputy Mayor, Isabelle Strutt and all councillors and MP's Adam Marshall & Barnaby Joyce. We received apologies from both MPs, some of the councillors, 2 couldn't be bothered to reply! The reply from the GM was "council staff will not be attending this forum" this shows a total lack of interest in our community and disregard for our concerns. The 3 councillors who came to our meeting could really only take questions on notice as the GM & Director of Infrastructure had not provided the documentation necessary to be able to answer questions, we would like to thank them for taking the time and showing their concern for us. We are angry about the lack of disclosure and honesty by council from the very beginning of this sewerage project in 2016 and especially about the extent of costs residents would be responsible for; had these costs be disclosed we would have voted against it. The GM did not bother to respond to our request for answers to a list of questions we forwarded to her, we did however receive a response from Will Barr, Project Manager who stated that 'Council is investigating a mechanism for short term financial assistance, subject to repayment, to assist a timely connection'. This is not any help and not acceptable when we are already struggling to survive. Council are not listening or caring about the hardship, anxiety and stress they are inflicting on residents, many of us pensioners who simply cannot pay for this sewerage system that has not fully costed and costs to residents were never disclosed, there is nothing left from pensions after we pay for our essential living expenses, life is a struggle from week to week. These figures are from the 2016 Census for Bundarra 80% of residents are on fixed incomes the average wage in Bundarra is \$424 per week which is \$240 below the NSW average total household income is less than \$650 gross the average age is over 55+

□ We voted unanimously for council to apply for either a state or federal grant to pay all of the electrical & plumbing costs

□ Was the \$223,000 raised in revenue from our rates in 2018-2019 gazetted under LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 - SECT 553 and is it even legal? If not how will council repay us! We want proof that council gazetted the increases after they formed their resolution on 28th March 2017 to proceed with the sewerage scheme, if not the rate increases are illegal

□ We want council to permanently freeze increases on our water rates – there is a planned 10% increase for this year

□ We would like Adam Marshall MP to assist us to try to come to a satisfactory arrangement where council are compelled to make arrangements i.e. NSW or Federal grants to cover all these costs both electrical/plumbing without any further burden on our small community. Enough is enough.

**Denise Goodall, Bundarra Resident**

To the Editor

Recycling a bad idea does not improve it. Last time, a Fibonacci Park was mooted, common sense prevailed, and the money was reallocated to Alma Park, to provide the fabulous children's playground.

Pioneer Park is currently a pretty Park, much used by travellers, who eat at the picnic tables, often consuming food purchases in Uralla, walk their dogs and use the toilets.

A simple Roof on shelters, seats on toilets, soap dispensers and paper towels in amenities block are the only improvements necessary. Postcodes are randomly allocated. Uralla's postcode of 2358 is just chance. A Fibonacci number is merely the two previous numbers added together equal a Fibonacci number.

1, 2 added together make 3. A Fibonacci number.

In the 60's and 70's mosaic installations were common in Sydney. They became shabby fairly quickly. A Mecca for graffiti, vandals and dirt. Most were removed within 20 years.

The local dogs were displeased.

A modern mosaic installation in Pioneer Park is not in keeping with Uralla's Heritage streetscape.

**Sue Dyer, concerned rate payer**

### Breakfast Club Breakfast

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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# Letters to the Editor

## To the Editor & Residents of the Uralla Shire

Do you live between Uralla, Kingstown, and Bundarra?

Would you like your rubbish and recycling picked up weekly?

Every Tuesday the Uralla Council's refuse truck makes its way to Kingstown and Bundarra, to collect rubbish from businesses and schools in these towns. When I learned this, I contacted the Uralla Council to confirm and asked if they could collect rubbish from other locations along this route. This seemed like a reasonable idea, given that they are already passing by and there are many spots where bins could be placed, and safely collected by Council staff. I was advised that this was not possible, but for an additional, annual fee of more than \$360, I could have my rubbish collected! As it costs about \$4 to drop your rubbish off at the Uralla dump, this seemed rather expensive. It also demonstrated that while some residents get their rubbish collected as a part of their rates, my neighbours and I are expected pay. This seemed both unfair and unreasonable. So, I called my neighbours and friends who live along this route, to see what they thought. Some of their responses cannot be reproduce here, but the consensus was this: folk living outside of Uralla see little or no investment in these areas for the rates they pay - which for some properties amounts to thousands of dollars annually. Some get their dirt road graded; others do not even get that. It was also pointed out, that this situation leads some residents to burn and or bury refuse on their properties: food waste, chemical waste, oil etc. all of which is currently leaching into the soils and water ways.

So, if you live between Uralla, Balala, Kingstown and Bundarra (or elsewhere in the Shire) and would like your rubbish and recycling collected weekly, as a part of your rates,

Please email me at the following secure email address [McNaughtonwhanau@protonmail.com](mailto:McNaughtonwhanau@protonmail.com) let me know what area you live in and we can discuss what might come next.

**D. McNaughton, Balala**

## Building Better Regions Fund Round 6

Federal Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, has welcomed the announcement that, in the new financial year, the Coalition Government will deliver an additional \$250 million into a sixth round of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF).

"I will always fight for and do my best to deliver for our New England. The Electorate is playing an integral role in our nation's economic recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Investing in local communities is at the heart of the Government's plan for Regional Australia.

"Our region has already benefited from previous rounds of

the BBRF with investments in projects such as the upgrade of Tenterfield's water treatment plant, new infrastructure at Tamworth's Intermodal Rail Hub, a lighting upgrade at Gwydir Oval in Bingara, and a Future Jobs program at Glen Innes.

This is driving economic growth in New England and delivering lasting benefits to our local communities," Mr Joyce said.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Michael McCormack, said the Coalition Government is committed to creating jobs and building stronger regional communities.

"Since 2016 we have funded just on 1,000 projects through the Building Better Regions Fund and it is making a difference everywhere. Last year's Budget committed \$200 million for a Fifth BBRF Round. To address prolonged impact of bushfires, drought, flood and COVID, Round Five incorporated \$100 million dedicated to tourism-related infrastructure," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

The BBRF supports shovel-ready infrastructure projects, but more than this, it funds events, strategic regional plans, leadership and capacity-building – all delivering new economic and social benefits to our people, Australia-wide."

**Barnaby Joyce, Member for New England**

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