

# Uralla Wordsworth

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## Uralla Courthouse Refurbishment and Adaptive Re-use.

Council's September 2022 Newsletter advised us all that at their August Ordinary Meeting they rejected the former Courthouse refurbishment progress regarding the cream colorbond roof repairs and weather flashings (completed) and want the roof re-sheeted with corrugated zincalume natural finish (not painted) material and to relocate the Solar panels (completed) to an alternate roof on the same site.

This is so that the finishes, architectural design and colour will comply with heritage conditions, the building being listed by Council for its significant place in Uralla's history.

The former Courthouse and its associated outbuildings at 9a Hill Street are all covered by a State Heritage Inventory Number 2540021. The building was completed in 1885, designed by James Johnstone Barnett (Colonial Architect) albeit in a somewhat forced and heavy Italianate style for its size. All exposed Uralla red brickwork was laid in Flemish bond, with a rendered facade to the street elevations. A Uralla granite base, entry steps and a naturally finished corrugated galvanised iron roof completed the design. A detailed picket fence and gates were erected to both Maitland and Hill Streets.

As a heritage consultant for over 50 years I am surprised that the initial refurbishment work was allowed to proceed for so long before non-compliance with heritage principles was realised, particularly with the solar panels already erected on the roof. It would seem that the grant of \$925,000.00 only covered repairs to the roof.

With the money already spent and the new cost of removing and relocating the solar panels, together with the removal of the roofs and their replacement, I hope the responsibility for extra funds does not mean that work on the interior cedar panelling and fittings is curtailed.

Kent Mayo has written in depth quite passionately about the projected use of the interior layout of the building and a need to preserve and store some of the fine joinery and I am sure there are many others who would want to see this heritage building restored in an appropriate manner consistent with its "dormant" past significance in the Uralla precinct. Our present councillors should make sure that there is no reduction in the quality and content of the work still to be undertaken, especially as the Council appear to be the owner, and responsible for this "oversight".

**C. Gordon Fuller, Heritage Consultant and Uralla resident.**



Uralla Court House under refurbishment

**New England Solar**  
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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. Clr Bell gives a personal view of some of the more important matters concerning Council and ratepayers in recent weeks.**

The Uralla community is entering a very busy period with the Rotary Antiques and Collectables Fair being held in the Uralla Memorial Hall on October 8 and 9, followed by the very popular Thunderbolts Festival with a parade, markets and entertainment on October 29. The Fairy Festival is on December 3. The festival includes many of last year's events, plus a host of new ones. Pamphlets, flyers and social media will include more information on each of these events.

Linda and I were honoured to be invited to attend the Masonic Lodge – Lodge of Peace (Uralla) No. 120, for its recent 140 year Anniversary of Consecration banquet dinner and celebration at the Uralla Golf Club. One hundred and forty years of service to our community is a huge achievement, especially when you think how much things have changed over this time. The Lodge continues to support aged care, and arrange youth and family support programs.

Councillors and staff had a "Covid safe" inspection of McMaugh Gardens Aged Care Facility, following a recommendation by Council that it submit an application under the Stronger Communities Fund for the \$895,592 allocated. Congratulations to Jacinta and her staff on their excellent work. Council previously received a consultant's report that recommended trying to increase the residence's capacity from 36 to 50 beds. Council is also awaiting a report, following the Royal Commission, into staff numbers and appropriate rates of pay. The positive news is that the Federal Government has vowed to meet the increased operational costs. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful facility in Uralla, and the waiting list suggests accommodation is still keenly sought after.

Last Tuesday, Council had two workshops. The first was for Councillors and staff to meet with Karen Zirkler, CEO of Southern New England Landcare, as well as the Board members, to discuss areas that we can work on together. Council has already agreed to work with Des Anderson, Koala Conservation Officer, on protecting our nation's icon. Other areas could include the Kentucky Creek Dam catchment, Racecourse Lagoon, Arding Reserve, Barry Munday Reserve, Uralla Creek, Mt Mutton and the Goldfields Trust Land. The diversity of skills and areas of interest highlighted by the Board members is outstanding. We agreed that we should, at least, meet annually to strengthen the ties. Karen is also a Board member of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, which is continuing to explore the positive side of the renewable energy development. It is worth noting that individuals can join for

free. Visit <https://snelandcare.org.au/membership/become-a-member.html>.

The second workshop was presented by David Crough, NBN Local Manager – Hunter New England. While the forum following the workshop was not well advertised due to the late notice, David did make some very interesting observations, and provided some useful information. Remembering that NBN is a wholesaler rather than a retailer of internet services, he advised that the internet is available right across the Uralla Shire. The more difficult question is whether it's provided by fibre, wireless or satellite, and how much it costs. David provided us with a brochure prepared by the Australian Government and the National Farmers Federation. The brochure is titled "Connectivity Report – Looking for the best regional phone or internet connection." The report is free on: [regionaltechhub.org.au/connectivity-report](https://regionaltechhub.org.au/connectivity-report), or by phoning 1300 081 029. The computers are available at the library if you do not have access at home. David did suggest that there are a number of problems such as out of date modems and poor internal wires. One consideration for Council was to try and organise an industry forum on internet and mobile phone access in the shire. This is one forum that may work well with the Uralla Business Chamber. Councillors did request David further investigate the breakdown of NBN and Telstra services in Uralla, which crippled local businesses, and report back to Council.

It would be remiss of me not to join the thousands who have congratulated Michael Taylor, from Kentucky, on being named "ABC Farmer of the Year." It is worth noting that Michael is a second generation Harnham Landcare Group member, and a past Kentucky Public School student.

M: 0434 244 774  
robertbell1055@hotmail.com  
**Robert Bell**  
**Uralla Shire Resident**



**Appeal for Information**

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding an incident involving two dogs, on Saturday 10/09/2022 at 1:15pm, outside TJ's Foodworks Uralla, may contact Rory McCann on 0417694517.



# 140 Years of Freemasonry in Uralla

On 1 January 1884 the corner stone was laid for the building of the Masonic Hall in Maitland Street, and three months later, on 15 April, the first meeting was held in the newly built Lodge of Peace Number 120. Previously the Masons had met at Brother Roman's Uralla Hotel.

William Low, the first Worshipful Master, conducted 39 meetings from 10 March 1882 to 27 December 1884, when he installed his successor, Brother A.H. Richardson. It was all a slow process. After five months of meetings at the Uralla Hotel, permission was granted to establish a Lodge of Masons in Uralla, and building a Lodge was a necessary step before installing a Master. The United Grand Lodge in England then granted a warrant on 4 November 1884, which was received on 10 March 1885.

To celebrate 140 years of Freemasonry in Uralla, Grand Master Leslie Hicks and a team from Grand Lodge Sydney were in Uralla for a ceremony at the Lodge of Peace on Maitland Street attended by district brethren, followed by a banquet at Uralla Golf Club.

Lodge of Peace No 120 has an honour board of past Masters which reads like a rollcall of Uralla's prominent citizens, starting with W. Low (whose name can still be seen in the concrete doorstep of 80 Bridge Street), including at least six Coopers (C.G. in 1900, R.T. in 1913, J.G. in 1922, R.G. in 1932, R.C. in 1948, W.J. in 1951, Reg C. in 1953, and another in 1989) and names we still use and recognise like McCrossin of the eponymous mill (1891), C.A. Young of the East Street Phoenix Foundry (1887, 1892, 1897), and H. Trickett (1944) and A.F.C. McRae, proprietors of Uralla's two universal providers. The McFarlane family are prominent (1981, 1885, 1991, 2001, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2016, 2021), and many of the names are still here: Heagney, Froome, Wood, Barnden, Andrews, Howard, Taylor, ... What an enormous contribution to the life and prosperity of Uralla the Masonic Brethren have made.

## Bill Andrews

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Puma	174.9	211.9
BP	181.9	219.9
Kingstown	215.9	-
Kentucky	219.9	245.9

### **Uralla Community Street Store**

19 - 25 September  
St Mark's Anglican Church Kentucky  
26 September - 2 October  
RSL Uralla Sub Branch  
Call Uralla Shire Council  
to book - 6778 6300

Deadline for the next edition is  
**5pm Thursday**

**29 September 2022.**

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

## A Night at Deeargee

Gostwyck Road, Uralla

Saturday 22nd October

Tickets on sale at [www.seasonsofnewengland.com.au](http://www.seasonsofnewengland.com.au)

# Seniors & Pensioners go on a Bus Trip

Last Tuesday the Uralla members of the Seniors and Pensioners group went for a bus trip to Bendemeer. Big Mama Bus led the way with eleven ladies onboard, while a small "busling" followed along behind. And Norma really had to hustle to keep Big Mama in sight. There were just four of us in the busling and we stretched out in comfort, even though we weren't getting the views that those in the bigger vehicle could obtain from their higher perches. Along the way we observed all the different wattles out in bloom, while willows along the creek banks, having garbed themselves in fresh green robes, put on quite a show! And the creeks themselves, not to be out done, danced and whirled between their banks. In some places the frothy water just couldn't bear to be constrained any longer and leapt forth to embrace the ground, already waterlogged from the previous day's rain. Gullies sang as they quickly filled and took their load into already over full dams.

But we were lucky that day. There was no rain to be seen, and by the time we arrived at the Bendemeer Hotel there was a blue sky overhead.

Mama Bus unloaded her ladies through the back entrance, while the four with Norma collected our bags and prepared to alight. I was too busy looking at the beautiful façade of the Hotel, that I failed to watch what I was doing and almost tripped over my own feet.

We were warmly welcomed by our lovely host for the day, and very capably looked after by all the staff. They went out of their way to see that we got just what we wanted. The meals were superb, and June just couldn't wait to have her tea served in one of the dainty, fine-china cup and saucer sets displayed around the dining room.

We returned replete to the vehicles, and the four for the busling watched enviously as those for the Mama bus put on a show as they were lifted up into it. They might have been a little tired, but their spirits were high!

**Pauline Crouch**

**Secretary, Uralla Seniors & Pensioners**



Seniors and Pensioners in front of the Bendemeer Hotel

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# Remembering Julie Hayes

On the 18th of August 2021 Julie passed away due to complications of a lung disease that she had for several years.

Due to restrictions at the time Julie's funeral mass was limited to only 10 people being able to attend. Julie with her husband Trevor and 3 children at that time moved to Uralla in 1985 from Cooma.

Trevor was transferred in his job with the Commonwealth Bank and for the next couple of years Uralla was to be their home. By 1987 Julie and Trevor had settled into Uralla so much so that Trevor resigned from the bank, and they purchased the local supermarket McRae's which quickly became known as TJ's. Together with their loyal staff they happily served the people of Uralla for the next 19 years until selling the business in 2006 to the current owners. After selling the supermarket both Julie and Trevor continued to work doing bookkeeping roles in Armidale until both retiring in 2019.

Julie was a loving wife to Trevor and her children Claire, Adam, Mark, Lauren and Sarah, to their spouses and her adorable grandchildren, 9 in all at the time of her passing.

Julie was not only committed to her family and many friends, but she was also a woman of great faith. Julie outworked her faith in God throughout her life.

A Commemorative Mass of thanksgiving for Julie will be held at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Wood Street Uralla on Friday the 30th of September 2022 at 10.30am. This is an open invitation to attend this mass as well as a light lunch that will be held afterwards at the Parish/School Hall which is a short distance from the Church.

# Jhana Allan EP Launch



Uralla-based singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Jhana Allan launches her brand new EP, *Passing Shadow*, in late September-early October. This suite of haunting songs digs deep into her experience; leaving Melbourne for her hometown in Northern NSW in the wake of deep personal loss, reflected by the surrounding drought. Running through her songs is a deep reverence for nature and an almost elemental quality of melancholy. Her new songs range from impressionistic folk artistry to up-beat slacker-rock. Jhana is supported by Aotearoa-born alt folk singer Rachel Greene

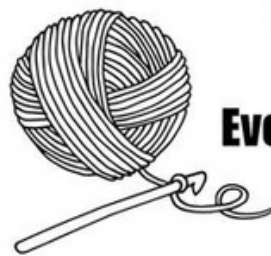
**2 October McCrossin's Mill**

**7pm doors - 7.30pm start - tickets \$25/\$20 at the door**

\$5 of each ticket sold goes towards the Armidale Women's Homelessness Support Service.

<https://events.humanitix.com/jhana-allan-ep-launch-at-mccrossins-mill-w-rachel-greene>

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# CWA Bundarra

## Awareness Week

### Celebrations A Success

On Saturday 10 September Bundarra CWA Branch held an open day at The School of Arts Hall Bundarra for CWA Awareness Week. The goal of Awareness Week is to bring awareness in the community to the work of the ladies in the Country Women's Association.

There were craft demonstrations throughout the day including embroidery, spinning, weaving, knitting, crochet, macrame, and beading.

Margaret and Bill Bottom loaned us their collection of CWA Cook books from over the years for display.

Morning and Afternoon teas were served made up of cakes and sandwiches made by the ladies. These were very popular as well as the cake stall and trading tables. Many of the locals came to have a look as well as many from throughout the region. This included people from Glen Innes, Armidale, Uralla, Bingara, Inverell, Gilgai and 14 from Barraba/Manilla who made a bus trip of it.

In conjunction with the display it was arranged that both the Court House and Bottle Museums were open on the day. This proved to be a resounding success with the town bustling on the day as many made a day trip of it.

The CWA members were thrilled with the day and are enthusiastic to do it again next year.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the day. Those who set up, demonstrated, worked on the day and who assisted with the packing up.

**Andrea Robinson, Bundarra CWA**



Some of the craft items on display

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Last week Diggings Rural Fire Brigade had the street stall in Bridge Street. We sold a range of home-made jams, marmalades, cakes and slices along with bric-a-bac, books and plants most generously donated by our members. We also ran the hundred club and had a wood raffle. In addition to the sales, we also received a number of direct donations that are most appreciated.

I am writing to express our sincere appreciation at the generosity and support we experienced from our local community and from the visitors to our town. Thank you very, very much.

As a Rural Fire Brigade, we run fun raising to assist us in delivering a better service to you. In this case the funds raised will be used to purchase two backpack blowers. Blowers are a new way of suppressing grass fires where we use the stream of air to blow the fire back on itself so it goes out. This season, when the ground is too wet to take the trucks off-road, we are finding the blowers we have to be an invaluable resource.

Thank you again to our community and visitors for your support, we are overwhelmed by your generosity.

**Bob Crouch, President, Diggings Rural Fire Brigade.**

### CWA Centenary Celebration

A unique opportunity to visit and explore the terraced gardens at Gostwyck Station.

**Gostwyck  
Station  
Open  
Garden**

A fundraising event for  
**Uralla CWA**  
e: [urallacwa@proton.me](mailto:urallacwa@proton.me)

**Save The Date:  
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# Community Calendar

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

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

**Uralla Rotary Club** meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6.15pm at 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 & 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 Showgrounds

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

**Uralla Town & Environs Committee** meets on the 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 & Wednesdays 9:30am - 12:30pm, 18 Uralla St North, (old Scout Hall site) Ph 0419151253, Hours usually extended in Daylight saving. E [urallamensshedcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:urallamensshedcommittee@gmail.com)

**Uralla Community Neighbourhood Centre** Monday by appointment, Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30 to 3pm 67711457 0419149244 E: [Urallacnc@familysupport.org.au](mailto: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 - 12noon 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](mailto:office@unc.org.au) Donations welcomed.

**Freemasons (Masonic Lodge of Peace #120, Uralla)** meet the 3rd Tuesday each month, interested persons, contact Dennis 0448 576 465 or John 0411 374 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 and third Tuesdays of the month, 10am. New members are warmly welcomed to join us. Phone 0438433735

**Uralla and District Uniting Church** meets Sundays at 9.30am for worship. Our Church is at present undergoing renovations and we are meeting in the adjoining Church Hall at 29 Maitland St, Uralla. The 1st Sunday of each month is a communion service and we welcome all people to join us. For enquiries, please contact Bronwyn Wilson 0403699464

## **Events for September - October**

**NSW Government Mobile Service Centre Visit** Monday 19 September 2022. located in APEX Memorial Park, 55 Bridge Street, 12:00pm to 3:00pm.

**Uralla Shire Council**, Ordinary Council Meeting, Tuesday 27 September, 4pm Council Chambers

**Jhana Allan EP Launch**, Sunday 2 October 7pm, McCrossin's Mill. Fundraiser for Armidale Women's Shelter. Tickets \$25/\$20 door.

**Bundarra Lions Club, Billy Goat Races** - Saturday 8 October 11am start, Bundarra Showgrounds

**Uralla Shire Councillors'** Community engagement session

Rocky River Tennis Courts, Sunday 16 October 2-4pm

### **Rotary Club of Uralla**

\* **Antiques and Collectables Fair** 8-9 October at Uralla Neighbourhood Centre/ RSL Memorial Hall.

\* **Thunderbolts Festival** 29 October, street parade at 10:30am, with markets, music and activities in Alma Park.

**ATTENTION VETERANS**  
If you are in need of assistance  
of any type  
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contact us on 0401 932 107  
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**Uralla Sub-Branch of RSL NSW**

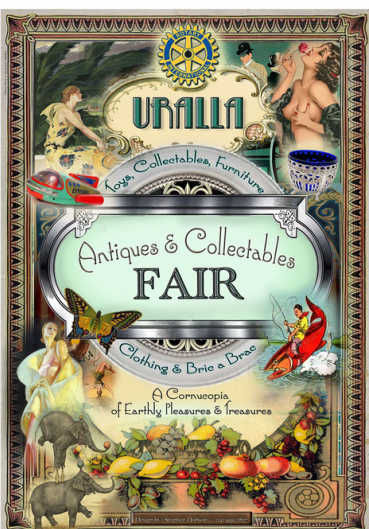


## ANW Grants

**Open now, closing 30 October:** Skills Development Grants provide funding to volunteer museums and museum networks for regional or state focused skill development training and networking events. There are no set categories for funding, and applications for a broad range of projects will be considered. Skills Development Grants are open to museums and Aboriginal Cultural Centres (with artefact collections and displays) with up to two full time paid staff members (no more than 70 hours of paid staffing per week) as well as museum networks such as Museums Australia Chapters. More info here: <https://bit.ly/3Lp8wVn>

**Ongoing** - Quick Response Grants offer funding for regional artists, arts organisations and communities to respond to unique arts opportunities that present themselves at very short notice. The Quick Response Grants will continue to support immediate need that arises where the activity is unable to be planned for or supported in other funding rounds, for example taking up professional development, skills development or small project opportunities at short notice. Maximum funding \$5000. <https://bit.ly/3pamCjl>

**Ongoing** - SMALL PROJECT GRANTS (QUICK RESPONSE): Funding of between \$500 and \$5000 is available to support NSW-based professional artists and arts/cultural workers (including museum workers) to build their capability, portfolio of work, audience and/or market. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3KdPBfl>



## Uralla Historical Society New England Volunteer Team of the Year

The 2022 NSW Volunteer of the Year Award recipients for the New England & Northern Inland region include the team of volunteers at McCrossin's Mill.

The 40 volunteer members at the Uralla Historical Society are instrumental in the preservation, adaptation and re-use of the McCrossin's Mill historic building.

The group was formed in 1979 to save the historic building from demolition and two of those original volunteers are still found helping to run the museum located in the building as well as other events and programs.

### The Centre for Volunteering

### EMALENE GEMMELL FAMILY LAW



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## Big Rains - Episode 3

**3. Recap:** It had been Big Rains, flooding rain that threatened their very survival, in the hut on Mountain Black and caused concern for the Thompson Farm in the valley below.

When they finally reached the Thompson's, both were ecstatic, 'what a fine surprise you've bought Nell, I'd thought she was done for', said Bill. Bill had let them onto the track and taken the wagon of bagged potatoes, pumpkins and the horses onto the higher ground, when the first of the swollen floodwaters came down the creek. The spot where the dry store shed once stood was empty, its bits were strewn across the flat and roof lodged up in the branches of one of large river gum trees that lined the creek downstream. The level of the flood could be clearly seen by the mud stain about two feet up on the cottage stumps. The cottage had been built with floor level, stairs front and rear, at the one-yard mark. A gift of forethought from the lady's dead husband Charles, for which they were all now thankful. After washing at the laundry copper, Ma, Molly and Bill sat on a log that the flood had brought down, amongst the mud, branches and debris. The Lady sat on the laundry step nearby. They drank from tin mugs of tea and ate oat cakes. Bill said 'We have saved a wagon of bagged spuds and pumpkin, but much of the produce we had in dry store is gone, somewhere on the coast by now I would think'. But we'll be able to plant again for I think we have enough seed spuds and pumpkin seed to get a small late crop. At least we won't all starve over winter and there's plenty of wallaby about after this rain', he said looking at Ma and Molly. Soon it was time to begin work again, clearing the flood debris from around the cottage. Then replanting the creek flats with potato and seed pumpkin. Molly felt happy that they had all survived, life felt normal and that the sun was finally out.

Nellies early life was one with family, living peacefully across the bay on Gweagal Country. As a younger woman, like many others, she visited the park and grounds at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, Botany Bay. The splendour of the Pleasure Gardens, its foreignness and allure drew her and many, like moth to flame. The grounds were planted with many strange and exotic plants, all terraced and fronting the hotel.

A private zoo consisted of a series of cages and enclosures housed numerous animals; tiger, bear, giraffe, elephant even a gorilla. A great din exploded when the viewers came close, offering them morsels of food. Large colourful Macaw parrots flew throughout the garden, coming to the feed trays that were placed around the grounds. There was an Emu Park, where emu and kangaroo wandered free-range, taking bread and any other thing they desired from the spellbound visitors.

...to be continued

By Daryl Albertson

Uralla families with child(ren) five or younger are welcome to self-refer to **Helping Children and Families Association** for the support of a volunteer who can visit for 2 hours per week. Please contact Susan on 0467 580 016 for more information or to request volunteer support.

**Uralla Shire Councillors** will be having a series of community engagement sessions throughout the Shire. Initially we will hold them at the following venues:

(Free sausage-sizzle compliments of Councillors.)

Rocky River Tennis Courts, Sunday 16 October 2-4pm

Bundarra at the Pub, Thursday 17 November, 6-8pm

Come along meet your Councillors, talk to us about what concerns you.

**Uralla Social Dance Group** is an exciting new group featuring a wide variety of genres including Old Time, New Vogue, line dances & bush dances. The dances start at 7pm & conclude at 8.30pm, walk-throughs & basic instruction will be provided for each dance. There will be an additional half hour of free dance tuition for beginners from 8.30-9pm. Dances will be held on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. Free activity! For more information 6778 4192

### Bursary - The Uralla Future Fund

**\$\$ STUDENT \$\$**

The Uralla Future Fund offers

\$1,000

to a student leaving Uralla Central for university, apprenticeship, or other education.

Contact Ross 0412 701 402

**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.uallaanglican.com](http://www.uallaanglican.com)



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# Wildlife Tails

## Owl Be Back

Thanks to Chris, one of our wildlife carers, for this article. Barbed wire is an effective and cheap way to control cattle but it takes a terrible toll on the wellbeing of wildlife. A case in point is a baby Barn Owl that came into my care, more than a year ago.

The little fellow was just fledged and still had some wispy down on his head when, one night, he flew and hit a barbed wire fence. So entangled was he that all the primary flight feathers on one wing were torn out and the wrist suffered severe tearing to the point where bones were exposed. One thigh had a tear the size of a 50 cent piece. The vet check, however, showed no broken bones so we decided to give him a chance to recover.

He was reluctant to eat at first so when I had to catch him from the hospital box to apply ointment to his wounds, 3 times a day, I also fed him chopped up mice and chicken hearts, pushed down his throat.

The call of a Barn Owl is far from the archetypal call attributed to owls. It is a harsh, rasping and high pitched growl and he made good use of his voice to scold me as I wrapped him in a towel so I could administer his daily treatment and feed.

It is this uncompromising and defiant attitude that endears the raptors to me so much. Within a week or two, he was eating for himself and life became more relaxed for us both. Barn owls have good appetites and in the wild they consume a large number of mice, rats, small birds, bats and insects. With their perfect hearing, they can detect prey in total darkness when they are rendered effectively blind due to no light being present. The disc shaped face channels sound waves to their sensitive ears so they do not have to rely on their keen sight.

As he progressed but was still wrapped each day in a towel, for treatment, a friend endowed him with the name BURRITO! The wounds finally healed and he was placed in an aviary with sloping branches so he could climb about, they are very agile little owls.

Time passed and the flight feathers grew. My fear was that torn skin may heal awkwardly, therefore causing feathers to grow out of position and render him unable to



fly and therefore survive. To my relief, all was well and finally, after a year, his wings were even and operating. I had to ensure that he could catch his natural prey before I released him and he thrived on a diet of trapped rats and mice.

Finally, last week, after the weather had cleared, he was released here in Uralla where, hopefully, he can wreak havoc on a thriving rat population.

The major risk to owls is the use of rodent poisons (owls prefer to take sick and weakened prey) as well as sticky traps, left out in the open. So, a cautious approach to their use is the only way to ensure that these wonderful birds remain in our environment, to keep our pest numbers down and to bring such joy to our lives.

If you find an animal in distress or injured please ring 1800 008 290.

Last night at around 5 am I heard him calling near the house (3 weeks after release?) so he must be finding food. I have been worrying with all this cold weather and have unsuccessfully searched for him at night.

I will leave food out for him tonight....

**Megan Robinson,**  
**Northern Tablelands**  
**Wildlife Carers**



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## Applications open again for Uralla Grants program

Uralla Grants is on again with local community groups, businesses, or individuals able to apply for funding of up to \$5,000 for their local project or event.

The first two rounds of the program have already helped 26 projects and events get off the ground, with schools, sporting groups, environment and greening projects, cultural and historical programs and popular local events receiving support.

A total of \$50,000 in funding is available under this latest round of grants.

The Uralla Grants program is part of the Community Benefit Sharing Initiative, which was set up during the planning process for the New England Solar project.

Members of a local Community Reference Group helped design the grants program and will oversee the final selection of successful applications.

New England Solar Project Director Tim Greenaway said it was exciting to see the number and variety of projects supported via the first two rounds of funding under the program.

"The program was designed to share the benefits from the solar farm across the community," Mr Greenaway said.

"We've been extremely happy with the range and number of community focused projects that received our



*The Pulse Fitness over 65s fitness program was supported by Uralla Grants*

help. We're looking forward to seeing even more projects or events put forward."

Individuals or organisations located in Uralla Shire and parts of Dangarsleigh and Kellys Plains are eligible to apply for funding. Applications for funding are open until October 21.

Uralla Grants is funded by ACEN Renewables Australia, the developers of the New England Solar project.

*Uralla Preschool installed new harmony bells, funded by the grants program*



**Apply now at [www.newenglandsolar.com.au/urallagrants](http://www.newenglandsolar.com.au/urallagrants)**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Laura Abbott  
Community Liason Officer at Green Light Contractors

☎ 0417 261 453

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



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