

# Uralla Wordsworth

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Uralla's FREE Fortnightly Newspaper

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## The beauty of Uralla Shire is everyone's business

Most residents of Uralla will agree that our town is quite special. We have an historic town centre, with State and local heritage listed buildings, a thriving retail business community, beautiful parks, an award-winning brewery, a cafe scene that is the envy of neighbouring towns, a very special museum, a lovely swimming pool, the list goes on. That does not mean that Uralla is perfect of course, nor that, as a community, we should not strive to make it better. Luckily for Uralla Shire and its residents, the NSW State Government has provided \$2M to Uralla Shire under the NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program, a funding stimulus as part of the State's Covid-19 measures to boost the economy. This program was announced on 5 August 2020. Its purpose is to "deliver a legacy of safe, quality public and open space". Funding is made available to councils across NSW. Eligible public space projects include "new or upgraded open and public space including regional and district public and open spaces and linear parklands, trails and strategic public and open space linkages, foreshore and riverfront precincts. This includes improvements for water-based recreation such as launching small watercraft, access to waterways for swimming, trails and picnic areas. Funding will also be made available for urban amenity improvements including civic plazas, town squares and main street precincts that improve connections between public space, promoting walkability and greater accessibility."

A veritable grab-bag of opportunities is presented, and the community as a whole must have a chance to provide input into the prioritisation of deserving projects. However, upon reading the late report to the business paper for the most recent Council meeting of 23 March, one encounters the following passage in Section 9.1.2: "*It is recommended that only projects that have already been identified by the community and Council as desirable be progressed for detailed design in anticipation of the 1 August 2021 construction commencement. Should Council proceed with any of the projects, further community consultation will be undertaken during the **detailed design phase**.*" (my emphasis). Council then lists upgrades to the main street, Fuller Park, Pioneer Park and The Glen as candidate projects, as well as partial implementation of the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Program (PAMP). The main street

upgrades are based on a consultant's report dated February 2018, which was rejected by the community. The Fuller Park and Pioneer Park upgrades are based on a draft report, "Uralla Open Space Strategy" by Moir Landscape Architecture (no date). This draft report has not yet been presented, debated or accepted by our elected Councillors. It has been shown to members of Uralla Town and Environs Committee, but not discussed nor agreed by UTEC. There has been no community consultation beyond this. The PAMP is about management and maintenance of pedestrian facilities, and is actually business-as-usual for a Council, and therefore doubtful as a qualifying project under the Program guidelines.

That leaves The Glen as the only project on the list that has unequivocal community support – it was put forward by Uralla Arts for a grant under the Stronger Country Communities Program in 2019, and it is wonderful that Council has this time proposed it as worthy of funding. Fibonacci Park (Pioneer Park) is curious because UTEC has a proposal based on Guy Crossley's imaginative design (see Uralla Wordsworth issues 46 & 59 for details) to be located in what is now known as Pioneer Park, but Council for some reason has glossed over that aspect of the project and proposes a Fuller Park location instead. Council cannot leave community input until the detailed design phase, because the \$2M is for the benefit of the community, and that is why we as a community should decide on the principles for funding allocation - what, where and how, and that means before any Council decisions are made. There are other deserving projects, for example: free camping for RVs near The Glen; a walkway along Uralla and Rocky Creeks; an amphitheatre in Alma Park; and Uralla's One Hundred Sons Memorial Avenue project, adopted by Council in 1997. All these have been proposed before. If you wish to provide input, or just want to know more about how Uralla could be made even more liveable, there will be a workshop at the Uralla Bowlo this Thursday 22 April from 5pm until 6:30pm, where some of the projects will be put on display. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and put forward your ideas. The workshop has been organised by Cr Toomey. Hope to see you there! **Louis van Ekert, Uralla Resident**

**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.**

I had the privilege last week of sitting on the Northern Regional Planning Panel as it considered the application from Meralli Solar for their \$11million 5MW Solar Farm on what the locals used to call the "Pole Plant." The site will be accessed from Staces Road. Should this project proceed, it will be another great indication of Uralla's role as a Renewable Energy Hub. As part of this process, Uralla will host a Joint Forum on the New England Regional Energy Zone in May. Armidale, Glen Innes Severn, Inverell, Tamworth and Walcha Councils have been invited to attend.

Council held a second round of its Budget Review and Finance meeting last Tuesday. Many of us were left confused that our suggestions on how staff could reduce the predicted overdraft were ignored. One recommendation that will be considered at the next full Council meeting is that Councillors will be advised of all Contracts and Consultants. It is difficult to defend employing an Asset Engineer and then engaging a consultant company to come up with the same information. Councillors reserved the right to ensure all future arrangements will require Council approval.

On the issue of water charges, the compromise was to increase current access charges and usage charges by 10%. The option to pay \$6.80 per kilolitre for usage over 250 kilolitres per annum was deleted. In my last column I missed this figure. This will see the access charge increase from \$359 per annum to \$395 per annum, and the usage charge increase from \$2.60 per kilolitre to \$2.86 per kilolitre. These are significantly less than the increases recommended by staff.

The Budget and Finance Committee also recommended that staff investigate the option of hiring and training its own Health and Building Inspector, or resource sharing, rather than pay another \$65,000 per annum for one extra day. The suggestion that these costs should be passed on to builders and developers was not well received.

Great news with Adam Marshall MP announcing the funding of Stage 2 of the upgrading of Hawthorne Drive under the Fixing Local Roads Program. The \$875,000 will allow another 3.5 kilometres of existing narrow bitumen sealed road to be upgraded and ties in with the current 2 kilometres already under construction.

It was interesting to hear how the Council's Total Equity and Unrestricted cash assets had grown over the last four years, yet we continue to be told we are in financial

difficulty. It is worth noting that the Water and Sewer Funds have no outstanding loans. Councillors strongly rejected any reduction in services. The community need to be aware that there are still those who would support a Special Rate Variation of nearly 50%. When you receive your next general rates bill, do a quick calculation of what this would cost you with no improvement in service. I will not support any suggestion that we reduce our outdoor staff, while increasing our administration staff. Some other suggestions included not asphaltting streets that only require resealing.

Like me, many residents will be confused to see a survey released the day before the Budget and Finance Review asking residents to list their top 10 services. All of these are core Council items. It next asks to indicate discretionary items without any indication of the cost/benefit of each item. I am more than happy to discuss this survey with any residents, but be warned on how this information will be utilised to justify huge cost increases or removal of services.

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

# ANZAC Day 2021

The Dawn Service on ANZAC Day will commence at 05.45am at the Alma Park Soldiers Memorial Gates, with the main ANZAC Day March commencing at 10:00am.

Marchers are requested to form up at 9:45am starting at Thunderbolt's Statue, flowing up the hill towards the Anglican Church. All in the Uralla Shire are welcome to attend.

The route for the main march will be along Bridge Street, and then left into Hill Street and turning right into Queen St to march to the new Korean Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial then back to the Memorial Gates. The ANZAC Day commemoration service will be conducted at the Memorial Gates on completion of the march at approximately 1015am.

Wreaths will be laid at the Korean Memorial and the Vietnam Commemoration Plaque. All serving personnel, ex-servicemen and women in the Uralla shire are most welcome to attend, as is the general public. Please advise name of person intending to lay wreath and at which memorial to the RSL Secretary (details below) by Monday 19th April.

Bruce McMullen and his wonderful band of volunteers have graciously offered their services for any ex-Serviceman or ex-Servicewoman who require transport (Golf Carts) to participate in the Anzac Day March in Uralla on Sunday 25th April 2021.

There will be a luncheon at 1200pm and cold refreshments at the Thunderbolt Inn (Bottom Pub) on completion of the service for all serving personnel, ex-servicemen and women and families of members of the Armed Forces that are currently serving, at nominal cost.

For further information contact Teresa French, Hon. Secretary Uralla RSL Sub-Branch on 6778 3325 during business hours or email [urallasb@rslnsw.org.au](mailto:urallasb@rslnsw.org.au).

People with animals should be aware that a loud aircraft will fly low overhead at 10.30am, travelling north to south.

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

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# Voting on 4 September

The Local Government Act 1993 says that voting in local elections is compulsory. If you are on the electoral roll (which includes the residential roll, non-residential roll, and roll of occupiers and rate-paying lessees) you must vote. Pre-poll voting will be available, absentee voting will not.

There will be two elections. The whole shire will vote for the mayor, and each ward will vote for four councillors. If you are enrolled in Ward A, you will vote for councillors in Ward A. The mayor may also stand for election as councillor; if elected as mayor, any votes for that person as a councillor are distributed as prescribed. The elected mayor is one of the councillors, but does not represent a ward.

The voting system in the mayoral election is optional preferential. This requires a voter to register a first preference, with the option to register further preferences for one or more candidates. If no candidate secures more than 50% of first preferences, the least popular is eliminated and any second preferences distributed. The ballot papers of voters who indicated only a first preference are 'exhausted' and deducted from the total number of votes. The process continues until one candidate is elected.

The system for the election of councillors is proportional voting. To win, a candidate needs to secure a quota, in this case 21%, of the number of formal ballots. Once elected, a successful candidate's ballot papers are distributed to their second preferences at a reduced value. This may give other candidates a quota. If positions still remain to be filled, normal distribution of preferences occurs at full value, starting with the lowest placed candidate.

To have the greatest effect, in both elections you should number all candidates in your order of preference.

**Ross Burnet, Uralla Resident**

*"The Act makes it clear that councillors are individually accountable to the local community for the performance of the council. In the case of councils divided by wards, councillors have an obligation to make decisions that are in the best interests of the community as a whole, not just the ward that elected them."*

page 14 of the Office of Local Government Councillor Handbook 2017



**Uralla Shire Council Ward Map, from the Uralla Shire Council website**

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**• [tony@prwattsandco.com.au](mailto:tony@prwattsandco.com.au)**



# Uralla's First Anzac Day

Uralla celebrated the first anniversary of Anzac Day on Tuesday the 25th April, 1916.

Uralla Times 1916: The twenty-fifth day of April 1915 is a date that needs no calling to mind. It is a date that is graven on the memory of not alone Australians, but probably the British peoples the world over. It marked the real entry of Australians into the gigantic struggle being waged in Europe, and it proved to the world that the men of these Southern skies only wanted the occasion to make of themselves heroes. They proved themselves worthy sons of worthy sires. It is doubtful whether the true history of that fateful day will ever be told, but we have gained scraps of information here and there about it that are sufficient to stamp it indelibly in Australian history. The charge of the boys up precipitous mountains running right down to the water's edge and lined with a wily foe, was something truly awful, we are told, and it has been written as one of the most magnificent advances in the history of the British race. The gallant lads, once freed from restraint, faced this veritable hell with cheers and raced ahead like a pack of children just given their recess at school.

It has been called Anzac Day, and the first anniversary falls within a few weeks. Uralla should not let the occasion pass without a fitting celebration. Many of our boys took part in landing operations on that gallant day, and even had none of our sons been there, there is still a call on us to celebrate the Day with all that it merits. In the short year intervening, several thousands of our gallant lads have given their lives for the great cause, and thousands of others bear the marks of battle. Anzac Day and the fearful welter of the succeeding months spent by Australians on Gallipoli Peninsula is consecrated in our memory, and we ought to make this first anniversary one for the whole-hearted celebration of the people.

Uralla Times 1916: A large crowd gathered at the bridge on Tuesday for the one-minute silence at 12 o'clock. Some of the members of the rifle club under the charge of Captain Crapp fired a volley at noon, and all present bared their heads and stood still. There was some delay before the procession, consisting of members of the Manchester Unity Lodge of Oddfellows and members of the Rifle Club,

headed by the band, moved off up Armidale-street. Very few of the public took part in the procession, nearly all walking on the footpath. A service was held at St. John's Church by the vicar, and mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father McGrath at St. Joseph's. At the Methodist Church a united service was held, the Rev. P. L. Black, Mr J. M. McDonald, and Adjutant Teece taking part in the service. A splendid address was delivered by Mr. McDonald. During the service Ensign Minnett rendered a sacred solo, "He Wipes a Tear from Every Eye," very nicely. The collection accounted to a little over 4 pounds. At night a big public meeting was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, a programme being arranged by the Rev. E. H. Stammer.

Lest We Forget.

**Kay Adams, Uralla History Hub**



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Where: Uralla Neighbourhood Centre

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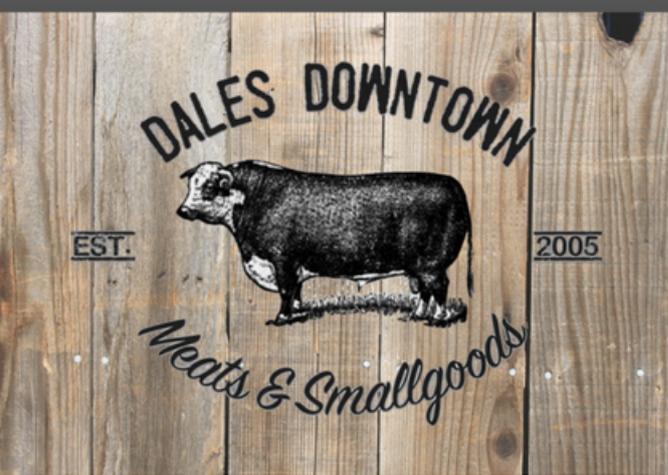


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## COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Nominations are open for appointment of community members to the Thunderbolt Energy Hub Community Consultative Committee

### Project Overview

Thunderbolt Energy Hub is a hybrid renewable energy project and is classified as a State Significant Development (SSD). The project proposes to combine around:



380MW wind



120MW solar

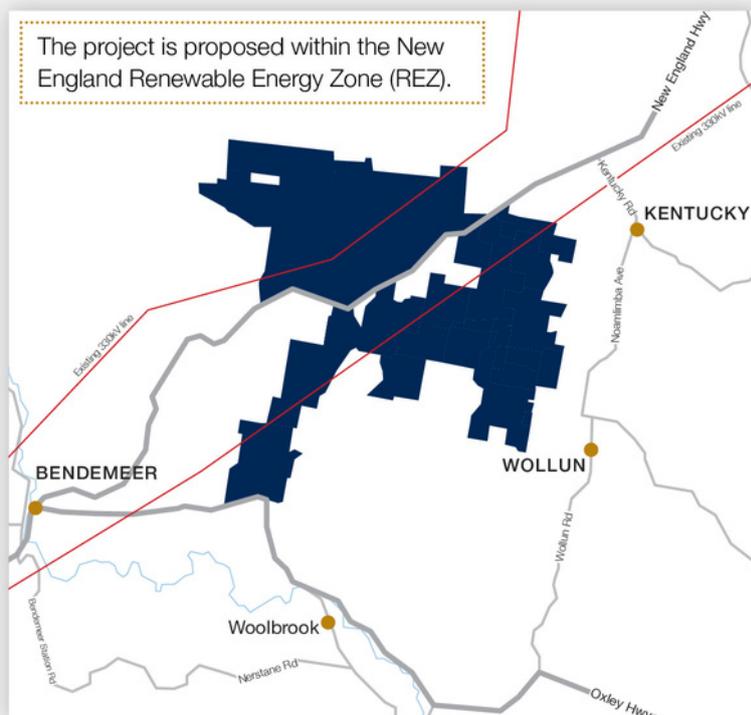


400MW battery

### Selection criteria:

- Be a current resident or landowner within the Tamworth, Uralla or Walcha Local Government Areas;
- demonstrate involvement in local community groups and/or activities;
- have some knowledge and awareness of the proposal and related issues of concern to the local community;
- and adhere to the committee's code of conduct.

Please refer to the Community Consultative Committee Guideline for further information.



### Want to contribute to your community?

This Community Consultative Committee (CCC) will be formed under the direction of the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for State Significant Projects. A CCC provides a forum for open discussion between the proponent and representatives of the community, stakeholder groups and local councils on issues directly relating to the project.

We are looking for a mix of people who live locally or are members of a stakeholder group (community, environment, Aboriginal or industry) to join our new Thunderbolt Energy Hub Community Consultative Committee.

Your role as a committee member is voluntary.

### Key roles:

- Contribute constructively to committee discussions;
- attend around four (4) meetings a year; and
- communicate information about the project between the committee and the broader community.

### For more information



[www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/Development-Assessment/Community-Consultative-Committees](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/Development-Assessment/Community-Consultative-Committees)

Or, contact Dr W.E.J. Paradise AM  
(Independent Committee Chair):

[w.paradice@icloud.com](mailto:w.paradice@icloud.com)

### To apply



Please download a copy of the relevant nomination form at:

[thunderboltenergyhub.com.au/community-consultative-committee-2/](http://thunderboltenergyhub.com.au/community-consultative-committee-2/)

### Submit application

Applications must be addressed to:  
Thunderbolt Energy Hub Wind Farm  
CCC Independent Chairperson  
PO BOX 1950  
Canberra ACT 260

or by email to Dr W.E.J. Paradise AM:

[w.paradice@icloud.com](mailto:w.paradice@icloud.com)

**Apply now!** Applications must be lodged by **5 May 2021**.

# The Gift of the Gab

Have you ever wondered about how you interact with people, how sometimes your minds just seem to gel? Especially if you have a favoured pastime that you share. Over the last couple of weeks, I have been going up to Armidale to watch bowls being played by people in various stages of their bowls development, some achieving high accolades for their achievements, some still at the beginning of their bowls journey. But the one thing they all seem to share is enthusiasm for their preferred game. They simply love it. And they are interested to know about another fellow bowler. They want to know how I became interested in bowls and which club I belong to.

And so, I've taken the opportunity to talk about my adventure with bowls, and about our little club here in Uralla. Although I don't go around Armidale dressed in my Uralla bowls uniform, I point out to them our colours and that usually there is some aspect of the burgundy and gold about the clothes that I am wearing if I am attending a bowling event, even if it's only as a spectator!

I try to give them an idea of how the members of our Uralla ladies interact with each other to form a cohesive close-knit group, where we respect each other, lean on each other, and how we work together to keep our little club going. I tell them that we are going through a lean time at the moment where our numbers are low. But we won't let that get us down. We work to come up with ideas to entice new people to give us a try. And we are certain that we hold the record in staging brilliant social bowling events. We have set the bar high. And I tell them that our next event in May will push all the boundaries when we see all our mighty queens strutting their stuff on our greens!

One of the groups that I have been engaging with are some social bowlers at City who, along with Jayne and Debbie and me, are receiving some coaching and mentoring from Nanette. I have mentioned to them that we at Uralla are discussing the possibility of adding some Saturday afternoon bowls into our bowling schedule. They were very interested, especially one lady who already comes quite regularly to Uralla to do Tai Chi in the park and to play golf. You all know how I love to talk. So, maybe, my gift of the gab will bear some fruit.

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

# High Tea

A delicious high tea was enjoyed by a group of lucky ladies and two gentlemen. Many thanks to Ross Scott for the delightful harp music played throughout the morning.

Trish Rasmussen's scones and jam were superb. A big thank you to Trish and all the others who brought food and helped in preparing and serving the high tea. Special thanks to Malikiah for making lots of tea and coffee, which everyone enjoyed, and to hardworking kitchen helpers.

For those unable to come, there are still lots of great activities planned for this week. Monday's Pantry on 19 April, will have many different varieties of new season apples. Tuesday morning, from 11am - 2.30 pm is "Cooking for One" with Sue Dyer; cooking simple, nutritious food, that tastes amazing, but doesn't cost the earth. Wednesday is the popular "Sour Dough for Seniors" with Scott. A \$20 kit fee is payable with this workshop. For all other activities, there is no cost. Thursday, 22 April, will be Walcha's Gentle Exercise and Fall Prevention session with Gillian Traise, from 12.30 to 2.00pm. Exercising, whilst sitting in a chair! My kind of workout. Especially when listening to "We all live in a yellow submarine" and other hits from the 60's.

For bookings and further information, please ring the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre, on 6778 3277, or email [urallaneighbourhood@bigpond.com](mailto:urallaneighbourhood@bigpond.com).

**Sue Dyer, Volunteer Uralla Neighbourhood Centre**



**Jaz Taylor and Catherine Gallaher enjoy the High Tea**

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# Volunteer Grants

Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, said grants of between \$1000 and \$5000 were up for grabs for eligible volunteers in New England.

"Volunteers donate countless hours of their time and often pay for their own petrol and vehicle costs travelling to help out in bushfires, deliver Meals on Wheels, provide a cup of tea at Driver Reviver stops, and assist injured wildlife - just to name a few.

"Up to \$132,450 is available in New England as part of the 2021 Volunteer Grants round," Mr Joyce said.

Eligible not-for-profit community organisations in New England must submit their Expressions of Interest Form to Mr Joyce's Office before 5pm Wednesday, 28 April, 2021.

"The grants will help volunteers and volunteer groups to buy small equipment for volunteers, by reimbursing volunteer fuel, transport or training costs, or support promotional activities," Mr Joyce said.

Organisations must meet the eligibility criteria and successful applicants will be announced in November.

Visit [barnabyjoyce.com.au](http://barnabyjoyce.com.au) to download an expression of interest form, or for more information visit the Australian Government's Community Grants Hub at [communitygrants.gov.au](http://communitygrants.gov.au)

**Barnaby Joyce, Member for New England**

## 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.



**Joanna Dolan**

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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

**Public Meeting on Open Spaces Legacy Funding**, 5pm - 6.30pm at the Uralla Bowlo (more details page 11)

**Uralla Shire Council Ordinary Meeting** 12.30pm Tuesday 27th April, Uralla Shire Council Chambers

## Candidates Forum

Come and listen to the candidates ahead of the Uralla Shire Council elections. The forum is scheduled for 18th August 2020 at the Uralla Bowlo, more details to come



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Deadline for the next edition is 5pm on Thursday 29th April 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

To the editor

The upcoming Uralla local government election will be a key touchstone moment in this community's future like few others.

Uralla Shire while unique in many ways, is not much different from many other regional communities in NSW, vying for the precious opportunities. We should be constantly looking for opportunities to stimulate and build our social capacity and economic prosperity.

The essential and necessary work of any local government is to be strategically ahead of the curve. To this end, it is the community that can provide the clearest direction to Council. Consultation starts with a commitment to understand and listen to this community.

Local Government is important because the state and federal political focus remain mostly on the centralisation of resources where the population is greatest.

Successful regional communities have out of necessity learned to solve their problems, and success is driven from within the local community. This independent local thinking is the key to arresting the relentless centralisation of the economy and subsequently the population.

One of the pillars of independence and resilience lies in diversification. The reality is that Uralla Shire has historically been an agricultural community, both benefiting

from and challenged by exposure to climate and agricultural market performance. Even local tourism is adversely affected when the landscape and economics are unpleasant.

As a regional community this means we need to embrace new ideas to provide social and economic resilience. The Uralla Council, and by extension this community, in the next few months needs to come to grips with its longer-term future. The local government (Uralla Council) election in September should be focused on electing councillors who have a concern and vision to carrying our community forward.

It is clear to me a cleanout of the Council is increasingly necessary. The fact is the Mayor and some senior staff at the Council have lost the confidence of a large part of the community. The Uralla community deserves a council that can work alongside the community that is keen to stimulate and build sound social and economic resilience. We need to vote for candidates who possess financial skills and are ethically and socially responsible. The kind of candidates that can be equally respected by the staff and the community as partners.

**Kind regards, David Mailler**

## New England Hampers

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### NEW ENGLAND WINES

#### FROM \$20

Wine from Merilba Estate, WhyWorry Wines, Zappa Wines and 2 Wild Souls (honey mead from Tenterfield)

# Solar power for Showground

# Public Meeting - Public Spaces Legacy Funding

THE land managers of Uralla Showground have this week realised a long-held dream of installing solar panels on the main pavilion roof, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall announcing an \$11,550 State Government stimulus grant to power up stage one of the Uralla Showground solar project.

In the last 12 months, the State Government has provided \$327,603 in stimulus and grant funding for projects to improve Uralla Showground.

Mr Marshall said COVID-19 stimulus funding had allowed land managers to tackle costly but worthwhile projects, like installing solar panels, which they would normally not have the money for.

“From a financial point-of-view, installing solar on public facilities like Uralla Showground just makes sense,” Mr Marshall said.

“By reducing their power bill the land managers will find themselves freeing up funds which can be spent elsewhere on upkeep and facility improvements.

“In the case of Uralla Showground it is hoped this grant will cover the installation of a 7.9 kilowatt, 24-panel system along with the three-phase sub circuit cabling.

“Even a modest saving of \$5,000 a year will make a huge difference to the ongoing financial viability of the Uralla Showground.”

Uralla Showground Trust Chair Bev Stubberfield said she never thought the board would be in a financial position to install a roof-top solar system.

“When the new Uralla Showground board was formed we set out our priorities for the future, and while solar was on the list we all thought it would be just a dream,” Mrs Stubberfield said.

“The State Government’s generous showground stimulus funding has allowed us to tick off a number of the priority projects and now we are in a position where we can seriously pursue the showground solar project.

“This is only stage one, over time we will work towards installing panels on all the showground’s major buildings.

“Any savings will be put back into facility maintenance and improvements for the benefit of our many user groups.”

**Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands**

Uralla Shire Council has been advised that they are eligible for \$2million in funding under a NSW government fund called the Public Spaces Legacy Program. The program guidelines are available here : <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Planning-reforms/NSW-Public-Spaces-Legacy-Program>

To ensure that the community is involved in determining the projects that are put forward, I have organised a public meeting for Thursday 22nd April at the Uralla Bowling Club from 5pm - 6.30pm. Members of the community who already have well developed project ideas that meet the program guidelines above are invited to get in touch with me on the details below so that I can include them in the meeting format.

Those who have already nominated are Carl Merten, who will be there to discuss the Constellations of the South project for The Glen, and Trish McCrossin & Louis van Ekert who will discuss the Fibonacci Park project, for Pioneer Park.

The aim of the meeting is to develop a prioritised project list that can be provided to Council. There will be an opportunity to vote for your preferred projects and I will collate and share the outcome.

For anyone who can not make the meeting, please email me directly and I will share the information about each project with you and then you can reply with your preferences that way.

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

Mobile : 0434 408 163

**Tara Toomey, Uralla Shire Councillor**



**FREE TREES**

available for Uralla Shire residents  
**Friday April 23rd & Saturday 24th**  
**9am-2pm**  
Where- **Hill St Uralla**  
in the Uralla Co-op yard next to Pulse Gym  
**2 plants per household**

There is a choice of 4 species;  
Eucalyptus gregsoniana, Hakea salicifolia,  
Leptospermum brevipes, Melaleuca ericifolia  
These plants have been selected for household planting as  
good shade specimens for the western sun.

Enquiries: [znetplus@zneturalla.org.au](mailto:znetplus@zneturalla.org.au) MB: 0408 080 455

Funding for this project is through a UPC Australia &  
New England Solar Farm community grant.



**L-R Bob Crouch, Darron Phillips, Adam Marshall, Bev Stubberfield**

# Hawthorne Dr Funding

EFFORTS to improve safety and entice tourists to picturesque Hawthorne Drive in the Uralla Shire are 'trucking along', with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall today announcing \$875,000 in joint State and Commonwealth funding, through round two of the Fixing Local Roads program.

Work has now started on improvements to a two-kilometre section of Hawthorne Drive, funded by \$516,000, through round one of Fixing Local Roads. This takes the total financial contribution to \$1.3 million.

Mr Marshall said the program had given Uralla Shire Council the resources to improve the condition of almost the entire length of Hawthorne Drive.

"Hawthorne Drive in its current state is prone to closure due to motor vehicle accidents and flooding during heavy rain," Mr Marshall said.

"The closure of this road is inconvenient for the many farming operations in the Rocky River area, with residents forced to take a nearly 14-kilometre detour, via Arding Road, to reach the New England Highway.

"This latest tranche of funding will be spent removing the existing seal on a 3.15 kilometre stretch of roadway and strengthening the pavement by adding additional quality road base

"The surface will then be widened, reshaped and resealed.

"Following completion, reliability and resilience of the road network will be improved due to a stronger, smoother and more robust pavement for this section of road," Mr Marshall said.

Uralla Shire Deputy Mayor Isabel Strutt said the project would provide a boost for the local economy through tourism and employment.

"By upgrading an additional five kilometres of Hawthorn Drive, council will improve accessibility for residents and safety for the large number of visitors who travel the scenic drive," Cr Strutt said.

"Hawthorne Drive is a popular tourist route, with the road snaking its way through the orchards and stunning country side of Arding," Cr Strutt said.

"With the road widened we hope more people will be enticed to drive between Arding and Rocky River, and experience all the Uralla Shire has to offer.

"Also as a result of this latest funding, seven full time equivalent jobs have been created during the construction phase, which is expected to last for 14 weeks."

Uralla Shire Council General Manager Kate Jessup said the funding for Stage 2 would enable council to improve the remaining narrow, poorly shaped and failing sections for the full length of Hawthorne Drive.

"While Hawthorne Drive is visually spectacular currently it is very windy and narrow," Ms Jessup said.

"This has implications for heavy vehicles, in particular livestock trucks, which prefer to use the longer detour which consequently costs farmers more in transport costs.

"By reducing the potential for road closures, emergency service vehicles will have better access to the area while school students won't have lengthy bus trips, as the bus is forced to divert."

Round 1 of the Fixing Local Roads Program saw \$16,498,778 of joint funding allocated to 18 projects in the Northern Tablelands electorate, and Round 2 will see \$16,354,311 allocated to 14 road projects.

All successful projects will be completed within two years to ensure local communities see the benefits as quickly as possible.

**Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands**



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# 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>

**Tara Toomey, Uralla Resident**

## "Triple time on Sundays" at McCrossin's Mill?

"Double-time Saturdays" is another joke the volunteers make at McCrossin's Mill Museum and Function Centre.

The pay is the same every day for the volunteers. Nil. Nothing. Zilch!

There are no perks, either. And no, the Museum does not provide cars. Some members adorn their own cars with magnetic signs to promote the Mill.

The whole place is owned and operated by a society of volunteers.

Fortunately, in the membership is expertise, wisdom, flair and, most importantly, unwavering commitment to achieve high standards . . . exhibition design, archival duties, building maintenance, a classy newsletter, "The Millers' Tales", gardening, and so on.

It's obvious from the comments in the Visitors' Book, that visitors are surprised, "astounded by the stunning exhibitions in the best regional museum, anywhere!"

Perhaps most demanding is the huge job of catering for functions, where the Special Activities Committee always receives heartfelt congratulations from the clients, grateful for all the love and dedication that goes into making their event so personalised, so special. ( Perhaps there are a few perks there, if you're bold enough to steal a canape or two despite the withering verbal you'll cop from the volunteer cooks!)

It's remarkable that a group that formed in 1979 with a bold vision, but absolutely no money, now owns three superbly restored buildings with beautiful gardens, artefacts of National Significance, a Museum open every day of the year, and an enviable reputation across the nation.

Because it's all volunteers, the commitment is there 24/7.

And it's "no pay, every day!"

**Ann Hacker, (Publicity Officer, UHS)**

# Billy

**McCrossin's Mill Museum's youngest volunteer.**

In January, our six-year old granddaughter from Newtown in Sydney, came by plane ("all by myself") to Uralla, to visit us for a week.

During that time, she accompanied us to the Mill at least five times, especially captivated by the silent movie about Thunderbolt. (And the Arrowroot biscuits in the kitchen.) Billy was most impressed and delighted when Erica Barwell kindly produced a Mill name tag for her which she wore whenever she went to the Mill.

After Billy left to go back home, we regretted not having taken a picture of "Volunteer Billy" wearing her badge. A day later we phoned her Dad to find out if she still had the name tag. "Yes of course", he laughed. "Straight out of the bag and onto the fridge!" And then Billy announced proudly, "That's my very first Job!"

**Annie & Kent Mayo, Uralla**



**This photo was taken back at home only after Billy insisted on wearing a black shirt!**

# Hot Jazz

Hot Jazz comes to Uralla The evening of Tuesday 25th Feb saw Uralla Arts welcome four fabulous Jazz Musicians to the mill for an unforgettable evening of sublime jazz. An excellent crowd were captivated by the performance of the group's latest album "This World". The Quartet of Mick Nock, Julien Wilson, Hamish Stuart and Jonathon Zwartz have individually worked with some of the greatest jazz musicians in the world including Coleman Hawkins, Pharoah Sanders, Hugh Masekala, Yusef Lateef, Hermeto Pascoal and Charlie Haden. What a thrill it was to have them play in Uralla. Mick Nock on piano, Julien Wilson on saxophone, Jonathon Zwartz on bass and Hamish Stuart on drums.

Hailed by Rhythms Magazine as "sublime", "This World's" sound is quintessentially Australian, showcasing the quartet's exceptional musicianship. "This World" masterfully articulates the struggle, strength and sense of hope faced in life each day. Each member has contributed compositions for the album.

After the 3 hour gig the group mixed with the audience and signed copies of their CD's and posters. The good news is that Julien will be touring with his Melbourne band later this year and we have advised him we are keen for him to again visit Uralla. Watch out for that one.

**Bob Anderson, Uralla Arts**

# What's in a name?

Each of Uralla's parks has a name that tells a story, personifies it, makes it distinctly Uralla's, makes us feel like it's "ours".

All except Hampden Park, named by some anonymous Scottish pioneer after a monstrous football (soccer, that is) stadium in what way back then was grimy old Glasgow in Scotland.

Alma Park? Designated a public place in the 1880s, it became Alma Park in 1893, when schoolchildren planted trees, the first planting by Alma, daughter of the then Mayor, Alderman O'Connor, a blatant case of arboreal nepotism! Imagine Mayor Pearce getting away with that today!

Alma Park won awards in the 1970s.

Fuller Park? Named for Arthur G. Fuller, council employee and avid gardener, who did so much, voluntarily, to beautify Uralla. The Park also won awards in the 1970s.

The Glen? Known as "Adam's Land" until the 1980s, when thanks to visionary locals, the land was set aside by Council for public recreation, the bricks from the demolished old cottage relocated for the McCrossin's Mill restoration project.

Porter Park? Once a swamp and the site of "Ozzie Miller's Cow Paddock". Much-loved citizen, Ozzie, tethered his jersey cow down behind the Council Chambers. When the restoration of the derelict McCrossin's Mill began in 1980, Julie and Noel Porter showed remarkable prescience. "We can't have that soon-to-be elegant Mill looking across the road at a wasteland!" they announced.

So single-handedly (OK pedants, there were two people!) they slaved almost every Sunday, dawn till dusk, throughout 1980 and 1981, to create a beautiful space.

In 1982, centenary of local government and the arrival of the railway, Council voted to call it "Centenary Park", but reconsidered in honour of Julie and Noel Porter.

Sunny Jim Mackay Park? Our very own James Rainey Munro Mackay nicknamed "Sunny Jim" for his courteous manner and cheerfulness, set the cricket world alight with his phenomenal run-scoring for Uralla, Burwood, NSW and Transvaal. His average of 112.75 for NSW is just incredible.

Had it not been for a motorcycle which ran him down and which damaged his eyesight, he would have played for Australia and would probably be talked about today in the same breath as the great Don Bradman!

Uralla Council has published a survey, on-line and available at the Council front desk, to seek locals' opinions. Let's name the park in honour of our very own famous identity, so that Sunny Jim Mackay Park is OURS, not Glasgow's! Please respond to the survey with a "YES".

**Kent Mayo, Uralla Resident**

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## NEW ENGLAND SOLAR FARM

# APRIL 2021

## Road upgrade construction continues

Good progress is being made on the upgrade works to the access roads to the New England Solar Farm, after the period of heavy rain last month.

Earthworks and drainage construction is being completed on segment 4 and 5, while survey work and site clearing is taking place across segment 3.

Work on these segments is expected to be completed in June. Preliminary work on segment 1 and Barleyfields Rd is expected to begin over the next two weeks.



## Working on the solar farm

Local businesses or suppliers interested in working on the solar farm project are encouraged to register their interest via the dedicated portal on the Industry Capability Network website.

The ICN is working closely with the Uralla Shire Business Chamber to assist businesses in the application process.

Representatives from more than 70 local businesses recently attended an information evening about the ICN portal and work on the solar farm.

## Uralla Grants

It's has been pleasing to see so many projects awarded funding under the first round of our Uralla Grants program completed or beginning to take shape.

Fourteen local projects shared in \$50,000 in funding under the first round of the program with the grants supporting health and sporting services, local indigenous and non-indigenous historical awareness, environmental education, and community events.

Planning is now underway to open up the application process for the second round of funding under the program.

Keep an eye on our Facebook Page and local publications for dates and details.



KEEPING  
YOU  
INFORMED

Laura Russell,  
Community Liaison Officer at Green Light Contractors

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