

Uralla Wordsworth

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  urallawordsworth

Uralla Dives Into Swimming Season

NORTHERN Tablelands MP Adam Marshall and Uralla Shire Mayor Michael Pearce fired the starting gun on the 2021-22 swim season last weekend, using the town pool's first day of operation to officially open its new amenities and public address system.

The project was funded using an \$115,000 State Government Stronger Country Communities Grant and \$22,500 Drought Stimulus Package.

Mr Marshall said the latest improvements had made the pool more accessible and enhanced its ability to cater for competition swim events.

"Nothing feels better in the heat of summer than pulling on the togs and being able to dive into a refreshing pool," Mr Marshall said. "With the new accessible amenities and change room complete residents with a disability and the elderly will be able to enjoy that experience with confidence and comfort."

The Uralla Swimming Pool accessibility improvements are to ensure the community amenities and the pool are accessible to residents and visitors of all abilities, including those with disabilities, short and long-term injuries affecting their mobility, the young and elderly, and parents with prams.

Secondly, the improvements will meet current design requirements outlined in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1992 and Australian Standards. Thirdly, the modification or replacement of the Community Amenities Building with accessible bathrooms, change rooms and a canteen.

For many small children the local pool is the first place they learn to swim and the adjustments to the change

rooms will make it easier for parents with prams to get their kids prepared for swim and survive lessons," Mr Marshall said. While last year was a bit quieter due to COVID-19, the pool usually sees more than 10,000 people through the gate each season, which is incredible for a Shire of just over 6,000 people. "I anticipate the season ahead will be huge and look forward to hearing how the community has embraced these new amenities."

In 2019 Uralla Shire Council received a \$274,471 Stronger Country Communities Grant to repair the lining of the pool and enhance the grounds. Mayor Michael Pearce said the swimming pool is a very popular place to be in the warmer months, especially for families and youth.

"With the new accessible toilet and family change room, Uralla Swimming Pool can now be enjoyed by a wider cross section of our community," Cr Pearce said. "The project has been informed by a community survey which placed upgrades to the toilet block and canteen at the top of the list.

"In addition we have also installed two PA systems and a new timer for competition swimming. "One PA will be used to communicate information with users of the pool – no running, that kind of thing! It's important for safety. The other will really come into its own for events, such as school swimming carnivals. It will be portable so can be used for events on other sites as well.

"I am very proud of the Uralla swimming pool and all the work council staff have put in to making it a friendly, safe and accessible facility for all to enjoy."

Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall at Uralla Pool with Becky, left, and Fletcher Williams.



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.

Just over four weeks until the Council elections!! The extra time has encouraged a number of candidates to put their hat in the ring. All candidates will need to familiarise themselves with the rules around the handing out of "how to vote" information.

Further to my discussion raised in my previous column in Wordsworth relating to Council staff turnover, the annual "Register of Disclosures" by Councillors and designated administration staff shows 6 out of 17 no longer work for Council. I will continue to argue that this turnover rate is unsatisfactory.

The Code of Conduct Annual Statistical Report highlights that there were two complaints involving Councillors, costing \$6558 for an external investigator. My thanks to Bronwyn Wilson who showed me an article in the Sunday Telegraph (dated October 3, 2021) which highlighted that NSW Local Governments had paid \$1.5 million in 2019-20 for all local council complaints to be reviewed. Good work if you can get it! The report included that this is often used "to settle scores, stifle debate and deflect blame." I am sure that Kevin and Leanne would agree. One of my friends suggested that Council staff selecting and paying an "Independent Reviewer" was like the local football team selecting and paying the referee!!

Further evidence that the State Government is hell bent on reducing the role of elected Councillors is shown in the new "Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit." The guidelines recommend that the current arrangement of two voting Councillors on an Audit, Risk and Improvement committee of five be removed. Council can appoint one non-voting Councillor. The committee answer to the General Manager and the Internal Auditor answers to the Finance Officer. Surely they are the very people that the committee should review, and the information is then provided to the governing body, i.e. the Council. In a discussion with one resident who was an internal auditor for Boral, advised that he reported directly to the Chairman of the Board. It was the board that indicated what it was they wanted him to audit. Council resolved to make a submission to the Office of Local Government on this matter. I cannot help wondering why Local Government NSW has been silent on this issue. Following a very positive meeting that included Mrs Gwen Fuller, members of the Uralla Historical Society, and members of the Uralla Town and Environs Committee (UTEC), staff have drawn up a list of proposed upgrades and improvements for Fuller Park. Council has resolved to place this at the top of any possible grant application deemed suitable

Council received a request for supporting an application to upgrade Thunderbolts Way from Gloucester to Inverell, from being a Regional Road to being a State Road. This would lead to an upgrade in the road construction and maintenance. I voiced my concerns that it highlights the lack of suitably qualified Council staff to manage the increased documentation and quality standards. I also raised concerns that there is no long term guarantee remaining under the current "Single Invitation Contract" process. If this is the case, our operational staff will be significantly affected. Thunderbolts Way is currently over 100 kilometres in our shire.

A late report was presented to Council on the recommended Capital Works projects. Once again this report highlighted the likely use of contractors rather than specialist equipment working with Council staff on each job. The recent work on Gostwyck Road was poorly supervised and is already under stress. The tendering via Local Government Procurement seems to offer no guarantee of a satisfactory result. The issue of Councillors not approving large tenders for road maintenance was also raised. Positive news on the production of the updated Transport Asset Management Plan, with a recently departed staff member advising me that the full review of all road inspections carried out under the Shepherd Report has been analysed and is with the Infrastructure & Regulation Department.

This plan is a key part of Council's Strategic Planning. No word yet on the "Gravel Road Upgrades Prioritisation" results, following a request for submissions from the community for candidate projects.

M: 0434 244 774
E: robertbell1055@hotmail.com

**Robert Bell,
Uralla Shire Resident**



**Uralla Shire Council
Local Government Elections
Important Dates**

**Lodgement of nominations open:
25 October**

**Close of nominations and registrations:
3 November**

Wordsworth Election Edition: 8 November

Pre-polling: 22 November

Candidates Forum:

18 November

Local Council Elections are on Saturday 4th December

- Cast an informed vote by registering to receive the Special Election Edition of the Uralla Wordsworth which will be published on Monday 8th November
- Attend the Candidates Forum on Thursday 18th November at 6pm at the Uralla Bowling Club, a forum that will provide local community members with an opportunity to hear from each candidate

Special Election Edition - 8th Nov

The Special Election Edition is dedicated to providing a one stop guide for the community in considering their vote for Mayor and for Councillors. This has been made possible by the generous donations of individuals and businesses who want to see our community make an informed decision at this election. For this reason, the front page is reserved for the names of those who have made this edition possible. The internal pages will be filled with 2 candidates per page in alphabetical order by surname. Each candidate will have half a page each, which will allow around 200-250 words plus a small passport sized photo.

Each candidate will be listed in alphabetical order by surname and will be identified as follows :

- First name, Surname
- Standing in Ward A or B
- Standing for Councillor and or Mayor (the Mayoral election is not related to a Ward)

All candidates should send their contributions, including the small passport sized photo, in to the Uralla Wordsworth by **5pm on Thursday 4th November**. Please email : urallawordsworth@gmail.com.

All candidates will be listed in the paper, even if they choose not to send in a contribution. They will simply appear as they appear on the nominations listed by the NSW Electoral Commission.

Candidates Forum - 18th Nov

On Thursday 18th November from 6pm at the Uralla Bowling Club the Uralla Wordsworth Inc. is co-ordinating a forum to allow you to hear from each of the candidates who are standing in the Council elections.

The forum will provide a 3 minute time slot for each Mayoral and Councillor candidate to present a prepared statement. The Mayoral candidates will also be asked 2 set questions that will be shared with them on the night.

There will be an MC for the forum, which will of course operate in accordance with the NSW Public Health Orders. The Uralla Wordsworth Inc. fully supports the Uralla Bowling Club in enforcing these requirements. It will be a requirement for everyone to check in at the door and only those who are double vaccinated will be permitted to enter the Bowling Club.

Prepared by the Uralla Wordsworth Inc.

Remembrance Day

At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, Australia, Commonwealth nations and many other nations around the world stop and pause to remember those fallen during conflict. In the United States it is known as Veteran's Day.

This day was known as Armistice Day on which the German forces signed the Treaty of Versailles which ended World War One, the war to end all wars at 11am on the 11th of November 1918. The document was signed in a Railway Carriage at 5.12am in a forest in France, stating that hostilities would end at 11am that day.

King George V inaugurated the day in 1919 as a day to remember the fallen during the Great War. It was also known as Poppy Day, which is why the bright red poppy is the symbol of remembrance. The first Remembrance Day services were held on the 11th of November 1919 and most cities and towns in Australia picked up on this tradition.

Remembrance day services have been held in Uralla in some form since this day, and is held, rain, hail or shine. The Uralla Remembrance Day services officially commence at 10.30 am when the flag at the Memorial Gates is lowered to half mast. The traditional part of the service will commence at 10.45. At 11am the Last Post is sounded followed by a minutes silence. The silence is broken by the Reveille at 11.03 when the flag is raised back to the mast head.

Everyone is most welcome to attend the service. So please put it in your diary and if you can't attend our service at the Memorial Gates, please pause to remember all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and laid down their lives for their friends and their country. If you wish to lay a wreath or floral tribute, can you please advise us by the 10th of November on 6778 3325.

Following the service, we will open up the foyer area of the Memorial Institute for everyone to view the St. David's Presbyterian Church Honour Roll which has been beautifully mounted on the wall. Uralla would have read about the purchase of the Honour Roll back in February this year. Mr. Adam Marshall, the State member for new England obtained a special Premiers Grant for us to purchase this from an Auction house in Toowoomba and

contains names of Uralla men from that Parish who served in World War 1, many of whose relatives still call Uralla home.

The Memorial Institute Building is gradually being restored back to its former glory and the plaque will take pride of place here with the Uralla RSL as the custodians on this important part of Uralla history.

Please come down and have a look at any time if you can't make it for the unveiling.

We look forward to seeing you.

Lest we forget.

Russ French

President, Uralla RSL Sub-Branch.



Part time Diploma qualified

12 month contract

We are seeking a professional and enthusiastic early childhood educator to join our team from the commencement of Term 1, 2022 until the end of Term 4, 2022 for a part time position (2 days per week).

You will require a Diploma of Early Childhood and Care or equivalent. Experience is desirable.

Applicants must address the selection criteria, available by contacting the Director, Anne Percy on 67784510 or by email at urallapreschool@bigpond.com

The successful applicant will be required to undergo a Working with Children Check.

Applications close at 3.30pm on Thursday 11th November

Bill Andrews

ACCOUNTANT & TAXATION
CONSULTANT

ABN 61 560 191 978

P.O BOX 49 / 51 LEECE RD
URALLA NSW 2358

0417280634 / FAX : 0267783958

bill@billandrews.com.au

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As suggested in the latest Wordsworth I have just completed the Council community consultation survey. As with all the council surveys it does appear to restrict the answers to favour the position the council wants to adopt. Also there was no provision to give additional feedback. In all a very narrow consultation and I doubt that many people would have bothered to read the explanation given of the reasons for the increases, which was very detailed, but again slanted to what the council want to achieve i.e. large rate increases.

Whilst I am in a financial position to handle the suggested rate increases there are many in the community (I would suggest a majority) that would be unable to cope with the suggested increases.

What I think is the most important question that has not been addressed by the Council is how did we get to the position that we require such large increases in rates and charges to balance the budget and who is responsible for this ??? It was only a couple of years ago that we were told by our Mayor that we were in a strong financial position when the question of amalgamation with other councils was being considered. How quickly things have changed.

Bob Anderson

Dear Editor

I remember when....

Uralla council and the community were supportive of each other.

The council staff and their families were an integral part of this community.

This staff stayed for a number of years.

The Senior Staff made themselves accessible to rate payers.

We had on staff a qualified Works Engineer, Plant Superintendent, a Manager at McMaugh's.

The councillors and council staff were encouraged to mix rather than the present atmosphere of paranoia.

The councillors enjoyed participating with the outdoor staff for their Christmas gathering not forbidden by Senior Staff from attending.

I remember my Dad, Vic Wright, relating during his time as Shire President, of visiting worksites and roadworks to encourage the outdoor staff. He commented once that after being on site at roadworks that he thought the lollypop men were exceptionally brave as "there are some bloody idiots on the road." He believed his position was leadership not by bullying but treating all as equals.

If you can remember these times as I do and wish to see a return to unity within our council then consider carefully your vote on the 4th December.

Lone Petrov

Dear Editor

A Salutory Tale

The NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption is currently investigating the entrails of a capital project, which I assume started with a Local Government which then accepted an offer of financial assistance from an MP who was eager to win the hearts and minds of electors. Does this sound familiar?

Had the Local Government asked all the relevant questions before approving the project, they could have avoided the embarrassment of ICAC eliciting opinions from professional public servants that the project "was a poor business case" and "did not stack up" and "was a dud".

This highlights the importance of Councillors asking all the relevant questions about proposals they are asked to vote on. With the focus being on the scalp of the much loved Premier, we will probably never learn whether someone in Local Government had a conflict of interest when they put up the proposal, although ICAC has been known to ask the Department of Local Government to investigate a Council.

John Sutherland

Please note:

The editors acknowledge and value the contribution made by David Bracken with his paper, published through his previous printery business. This paper was originally called The Wordsworth.

However the paper we are publishing today came about after the Uralla Wordsworth Incorporated was formed in December 2018. As a result, the date of our incorporation is the correct and only date we can use in reference to the start of the current Uralla Wordsworth.

Deadline for the next edition is

5pm Thursday 11th Nov 2021.

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



Cold Country
Property Services
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Now offering lawn mowing
0478 238 836

Laverty Pathology Relocation

Laverty Uralla is in the process of moving rooms from 33 Bridge Street to the new premises 40b Bridge Street Uralla (behind Properties Uralla). Blood tests will be available from the 1st of November and services should be fully operational soon.

Urgent house calls are available, please call 0401 998 967 and leave your phone number, name and address.

Staff will make contact to confirm appointments.

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Summer Skills For School Leavers - Free Training

New England Community College

Summer Skills for students between the age of 16 - 24. Book in for the whole skillset, fully funded by The NSW Government.

Limited Numbers Available. Bookings taken by New England Community College on (02)67792132.

You must complete the whole skillset you are enrolled in. Skillsets include:

Skillset 1: Construction

White Card (CPCCWHS1001), Glen Innes, 29th November 2021 - Combined Traffic Controller (RIISS00044 & RIISS00041), Glen Innes, 30th November 2021 - 1st December 2021 - First Aid (HLTAID011), Glen Innes, 2nd December 2021

Skillset 2: Hospitality

Responsible Service of Alcohol, RSA (SITHFAB002) Guyra, 7th December 2021 - Responsible Conduct of Gambling RCG (SITHGAM001) Guyra, 8th December 2021 - Food Safety Supervisor level 1 & 2 (SITXFSA001 & SITXFSA002) Guyra, 9th December 2021

Construction skillset for Guyra - Date to be advised.

Hospitality Skillset for Glen Innes - Date to be advised.



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Uralla Co-operative - Community donations

Uralla Community Co-operative

The Co-operative board met on Wednesday 20th October and resolved to provide funding to all the nominations received. This is what we will be donating:

- The Uralla Future Fund \$500
- Friends of McMaugh Gardens \$500
- CanAssist Uralla \$500
- Breakfast Club \$400
- Greening Uralla \$200
- Uralla Pantry \$200
- Uralla Fairy Festival \$200
- Kentucky School P&C \$200
- Wires \$200
- Uralla Tigers Rugby League \$200
- Uralla United Football Club \$200
- ZNet \$200
- Barry Munday Reserve \$200
- Kentucky Rural Fire Brigade \$100
- The Diggings Rural Fire Brigade \$100
- Peter Barkley's oral history project \$100

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 11 December at 3pm in the Co-operative yard in Hill Street.

Australia Day Award Nominations - Uralla



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Nominations are invited for Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year and Sports Awards, to be presented on Australia Day, 2022. Nominees must be Australian citizens and live in Uralla Shire. Young Citizen of the Year nominees must be under twenty seven years of age on 26th. January, 2022, and Senior Citizen nominees must be aged seventy years or over.

Nomination forms are available from the Uralla Shire Council office, Uralla Library, Uralla Post Office, Regional Australia Bank or:

The Secretary,
Uralla Australia Day Committee
14 Dumaresq Street,
Uralla Phone 67784328.

Nominations will close on Friday, 17th December, 2021. Nominations received after this date will not be considered.

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Fuel Watch 31st October 2021

	ULP	Diesel
Invergowrie	164.00	160.0
Mobil	155.9	157.9
Puma	161.7	163.7
BP	164.9	172.9P

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Community Calendar

Please email urallawordsworth@gmail.com if you have an event or meeting for the Uralla Shire

Please check with Event Organisers about the Status of Listed Events

Uralla Rotary Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6.15pm at the Uralla Bowling Club, dinner optional after the meeting

Uralla Lions Club meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 5/5.30 in the CWA Rooms

Uralla Fire & Rescue meet on Tuesday nights at the Uralla Fire Station from 6-7.30pm

Uralla CWA meets on the 4th Friday of each month at 10am at CWA Rooms in the Literary Institute

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

Uralla Anglican Church meets at 10am each Sunday for worship, prayer, fellowship and Johnno's (kid's programme) in Park Street

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

Uralla Show Society meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm at the Uralla Showgrounds

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

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

Uralla Tennis No organised tennis planned during winter. Uralla courts can be booked at play.tennis.com.au/court-hire

Uralla Men's Shed is open each Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am - 1pm in the Old Scout Hall, Uralla North Rd (just off the Bundarra Road).

Uralla Auto Club Inc. meets at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at The Bowling Club.

Uralla Red Cross meets on the first Friday of each month at 2pm in the CWA rooms in the Literary Institute opposite Foodworks

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

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

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

Uralla RSL Sub-Branch Veterans and Families Drop in Centre. Open to all Veterans and their families, each Thursday 10am until 12pm at the RSL Rooms, The Uralla Memorial Institute, 55 Bridge Street.

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

Uralla Food Pantry, Mondays 11am - 2pm, Uralla Neighbourhood Centre. Good range dry goods, and fruit/veg. Fill a supermarket coloured bag \$15. New members welcome. Further information from the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre, donations welcome. Ph : 6778 3277 or email : urallaneighbourhood@bigpond.com

Freemasons (Masonic Lodge of Peace #120, Uralla) meet the 3rd Tuesday each month, interested persons, contact Dennis 0448 576 465 or John 0411 374 334

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

Uralla Tigers Supported Playgroup FREE, every Wednesday during school terms, 10am - 12pm, St Joseph's Primary School, contact Sue on 0419149244 or Geneva on 0430440171

Events for November - December

Uralla Red Cross Melbourne Cup Garden Party

McCrossins Mill on Melbourne Cup day, 2 November 2021.

Uralla Shire Business Chamber Awards Night

5 November 2021, Uralla Showground

Uralla Historical Society AGM

Sunday 7 November 3pm, McCrossin's Mill

Uralla Shire Council Budget Review and Finance

Committee Meeting 12:30pm Tuesday 9th November, Uralla Shire Council Chambers - To Be Confirmed

Uralla Shire Council Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 23 November 2021, 12.30pm, Council Chambers

Co-op AGM Saturday 11 December 3pm, Co-op Yard, Hill Street

Uralla Fairy Festival Saturday 4th December 2021



Kentucky Public School
Kindergarten 2022 ENROLLING NOW!
Kindergarten Orientation and Transition begins Term 4

Please contact
Fiona Uren or Georgia Patterson
at Kentucky Public School

6778 7227

The poster features a blue background with yellow and white text. It includes a circular logo with the letters 'A', 'P', 'S', 'K', 'G' and the words 'GOOD', 'KENTUCKY', 'GROWS'. Below the text are two photographs of children in a classroom setting.

Open Letter from Uralla Shire Business Chamber

22nd October 2021

General Manager
Ms. Kate Jessep
Uralla Shire Council
Salisbury St
Uralla NSW 2358



Dear Ms. Jessep,

At the October Uralla Business Chamber Meeting, the members raised concerns with the draft of Uralla Shire Council's Long Term Financial Plan and resolved that the Uralla Shire Business Chamber write an open letter to the council.

Business Chamber Members as members of the Uralla community are concerned that the proposed rate variations are neither reasonable nor affordable. It is worth noting that the challenging financial environment is not exclusively contained to the Uralla Shire Council. In fact, the residents and ratepayers are more deeply affected by externalities they have no control over than is the Council.

Over the past few years, this community has been hammered by drought, water contamination, bush fires, and Covid-19. Many businesses have not had a chance to recover. Unlike Local Government, government grant funding available to regional businesses has been very limited and usually tied to a direct reduction in income.

Member feedback makes it clear that Uralla Business Chamber members do not support the current draft of Uralla Shire Council's Long Term Financial Plan including plans to increase rates and charges.

To highlight some points that stand out in the draft Uralla Shire Council's Long Term Financial Plan the Uralla Shire Council;

1. Uralla Shire Council should substantially, and demonstrably, reduce overheads, as local businesses have had to do in the last 12 to 36 months to remain viable
2. The proposed rate increases of more than 50% over three years is neither reasonable nor affordable and would undermine local economic recovery
3. The reasoning that the only way to balance the budget is to increase revenue or substantially cut services is flawed
4. Effective management should be capitalising on the extensive grant money council has received over the last two years, rather than engaging consultants and remote contractors.
5. Object to the setting of a target of \$39,000 annually for "fines" seems like an absurd key performance indicator and counterintuitive to encouraging local regional development.
6. The assertion that the draft Uralla Shire Council's Long Term Financial Plan is fair, reasonable, and transparent is misleading.

Within the Plan, there is no reference to best management practice and the associated savings that can be achieved. For the plan to be accepted by the business community, there is a need to demonstrate that the council is sharing our pain brought about by the economic circumstances of the last three years, rather than adding to it. For acceptance by our business community, Council must demonstrate evidence of efficiency gains and improved services. If our businesses can see these improvements and gains and understand how the council supports businesses within the Shire, then, and only then, there might be some community support for parts of the draft Uralla Shire Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

The Uralla Shire Business Chamber cannot support the central premise of a special rate variation without addressing how the; • Uralla Shire Council has, and will continue to, reduce overheads without reducing service • Council justify the significant increases to annual charges and how services will improve • Outline a plan to capitalise on the extensive grant funding the council receives • Demonstrate improvement to business and community engagement • Have a plan to diversify and expand the rate base from which the council draws revenue • Deliver a transparent account of financial activities including an account of project budget overruns • And deliver a set of robust key performance indicators for the General Manager to report on regularly to Councillors and the Uralla Community.

Yours sincerely,

David Mailler

On behalf of the Uralla Shire Business Chamber

Uralla Wordsworth Monday 1st November 2021 P9



McCrossin's Mill

URALLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
MUSEUM AND FUNCTION CENTRE

URALLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The forty-first UHS
Annual General Meeting
McCrossin's Mill Museum
SUNDAY, 7 NOVEMBER, 2021
3pm sharp.

Guest Speaker

Ms VICKI TAYLOR

"Spaces make Lace"

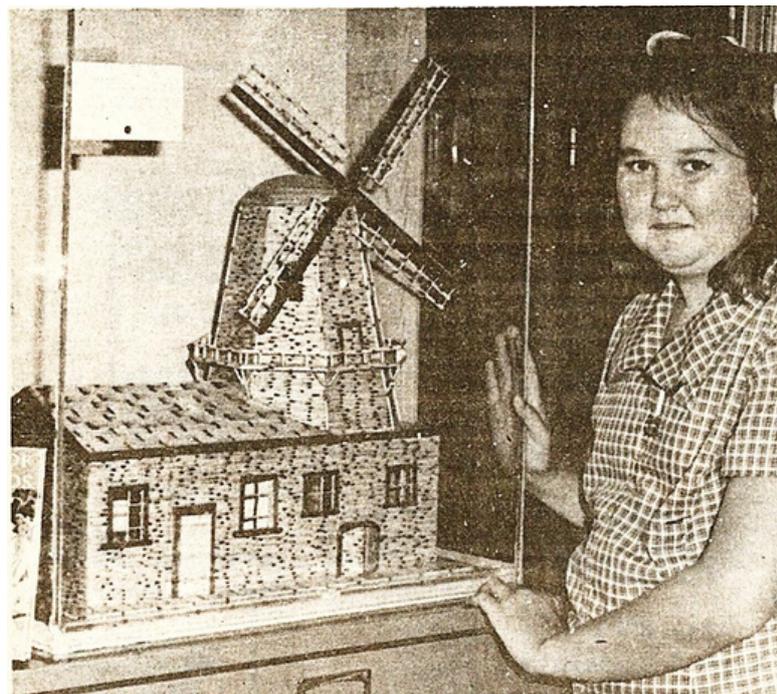
(Exhibition of national significance opening soon!)

Refreshments served at 4pm.

Membership subscriptions payable from 2pm.

**New members welcome to join our great team
to help conserve and promote Uralla's unique heritage.**

MATCHSTICK MODEL WINDMILL



Pictured with the model is Margaret Groen, who is a pupil at the Uralla Intermediate High School

An article taken from the Tablelands Times in 1975.

This superb matchstick model of a Dutch windmill, has been presented to the Uralla Swimming Club, by its maker, Mr Bernie Groen, of Gostwyck, Uralla. The windmill will be the prize in a competition to be conducted by the club, between now and Christmas.

Pictured with the model, is Margaret Groen, who is a pupil at the Uralla Intermediate High School, where the model is currently on display.

Mr and Mrs Groen came to Australia about 15 years ago from Amsterdam, Holland, and the family has been living at Gostwyck since they moved there from Inverell a year ago.

At Inverell, Mr Groen gave a similar model to the Inverell Hospital, and it raised approximately \$600 for the local hospital funds.

Matchstick models has been Mr Groen's hobby for some years, and he is already planning his next model – of the historic Deeargee woolshed.



Joanna Dolan
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Kay Adams, Uralla History Hub

Uralla Community Street Store

Uralla RSL Sub Branch

1st - 7th November

Uralla Senior Citizens and Pensioners Association

8th - 15th November

The Attack of the Killer Tomato Farm Robots

Crime fiction in multiple parts by Daryl Albertson - Pt 4

There was blood all over both robots and a trail of blood all the way along the central rail track, from the far end.

Michael removed Brindle from the hook, handing it respectfully to Kharl. Michael then checked both robots for damage, thankfully finding none. A rush of panic coursed through his body. 'Did the robots do this?' was all he could think.

'Is there any proof of who did this Michael?' Kharl asked.

'Why would they do this to me, they know I love my puss cat?' Kharl's tone then became grave, 'I think some of the workers don't like me, even though I try to help them'.

'Yes, that must be it' Michael said, 'perhaps someone has it in for you, we all know how much you loved your cat'. He didn't mention that the batteries on both robots had fallen to 50%, nor the blood trail on the central rail track.

Kharl then said, 'we not tell anyone about this Michael, best we keep it ourselves, 'hush hush'. This could look badly on me, the company would not like these types of goings on at Roma.'

Michael was relieved that this incident would be kept 'hush hush'. It suited him fine for he wasn't convinced that the cat had been killed by human hand and if not, how would he explain these circumstances to the company tech guys.

They would really think he had lost it.

Monday morning rolled around all too quickly as Michael made his way to Roma Farm. He kept asking himself, 'could the robots have done the cat in?' As he swung the Bluebird into the farm entrance he had almost convinced himself, surely not.

Flashing lights, a large van and two white cars caught his attention. It became clearer that they were Police cars and a Coroner's Van. Michael thought, 'what's going on', did Kharl call them about his cat? 'They're taking it really seriously if he did'.

He parked and walked over to the group, the obvious head then asked him to explain his role at the farm and last time he had seen Kharl. The rest took notes on flip type pads, the type seen in movies. When it came to the question about the last time he had seen Kharl, Michael faulted.

What should he say, should he admit his fears of robot involvement in the cats death? Instead he asked, 'what's happened and why the questions?' The lead investigator snapped back, 'It's like this mate and it's not pretty. Kharl was found early this morning by the first crew supervisor, strung up on top of one of those robot things'. A large metal hook has entered through his lower jaw and then been pushed up through the brain. The hook has then exited the skull at its top dead centre, death appears to have been instant'.

Michael gasped. He added, 'there's also a blood trail along the rail tracks, the full length of the central row'

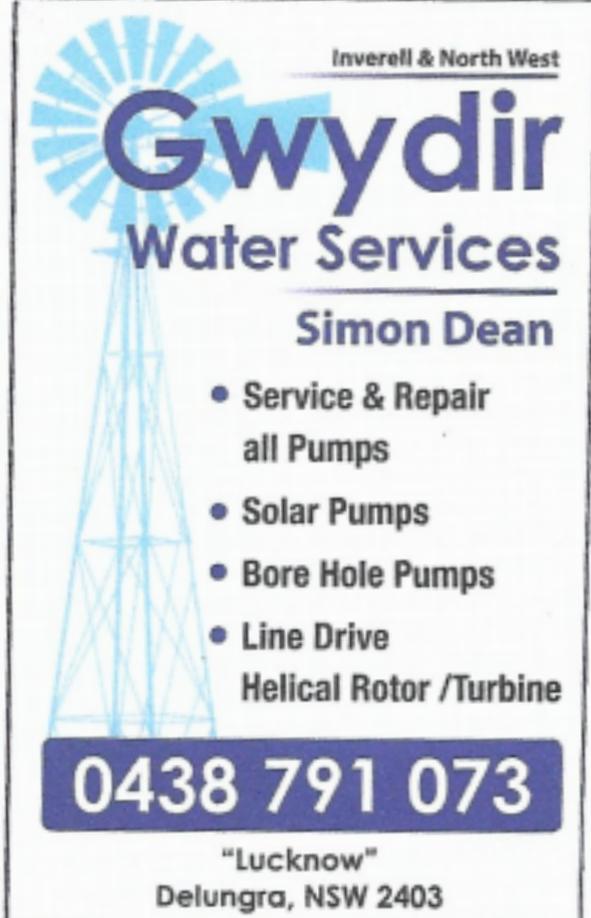
In shock, Michael was jolted back to the present by 'So sir, please answer my question, when did you last see Kharl'. Michael told them of the chain of events that Saturday morning, starting with the call from Kharl. How he found Kharl's cat strung up in similar circumstances and of Kharl's fear that someone was out to get him. When asked did he know who might have a grudge, all he could reply was that he had been told that Kharl was friendly with the islander girls, maybe too friendly. Apart from that Kharl pretty well kept to himself. Michael explained that he had only been contracted to the farm for tech issues and to get the robots working.

Life returned to relative normality for Michael. The news was that Kharl's death was being treated as a murder, a 'grudge killing' and the police investigation was ongoing. The company instigated greater background checks on all future islander crews. Little Tamah did not return to Romo Farm and the local talk was that Kharl somehow had it coming.

Both robots successfully completed their first pollination trial, with an expected production increase of up to 15%.

They worked as required, methodically and with robotic precision. However, it was always in the back of Michael's mind, were Bill and Ben murderers? If they were, he wouldn't be telling anyone about his suspicions. They would think that the crazy tech guy somehow made them do it. Better to keep it quiet, on the 'hush hush', was best for all.

The End.



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Q & A Event Homelessness & Disadvantage

**You are invited to the next New England
Visions 2030.**

Do we have a homelessness problem in Armidale region?

Is there a shortage of low rent housing for the disabled and disadvantaged?

What about crisis accommodation for victims of abuse? You are invited to the next New England Visions 2030.

Wednesday 17th November 2021

Armidale Bowling Club 5.30 – 7.00 pm. Donation at the door \$5.00. Only fully vaccinated people will be permitted to enter the Bowlo.

To answer your questions: Phil Donnan - St Vincent de Paul Regional Director, Northwest Region Suzy Gillis - Freeman House Homelessness Services Case Worker/Freeman House Site Coordinator Kate Hedges Senior Housing (access) Manager from HomesNorth.

Everyone interested is invited. Your RSVP by email only is essential. A donation of \$5.00 at the door is requested to cover speaker gift and other expenses.

Please email your RSVP by 5.00 pm Monday 15th November to: newenglandvisions2030@gmail.com

Please email your question by Sunday 14th November Those wishing to stay for dinner in the Bistro from 7.00 pm should make a booking.

Organisers: The Team, New England Visions 2030 Institute W. www.newenglandvisions2030.weebly.com E. newenglandvisions2030@gmail.com

Applications for Uralla Community Street Store

2022 applications are open for the Uralla Community Street Stall, located at 60 Bridge Street.

Local, non-profit organisations can lease the Stall for a week, free of charge, to raise funds for their activities. Applications should be submitted to Council by 15th November 2021.

For more information and to apply, please call Uralla Council - 6778 6300.



Kentucky General Store & Licensed Cafe



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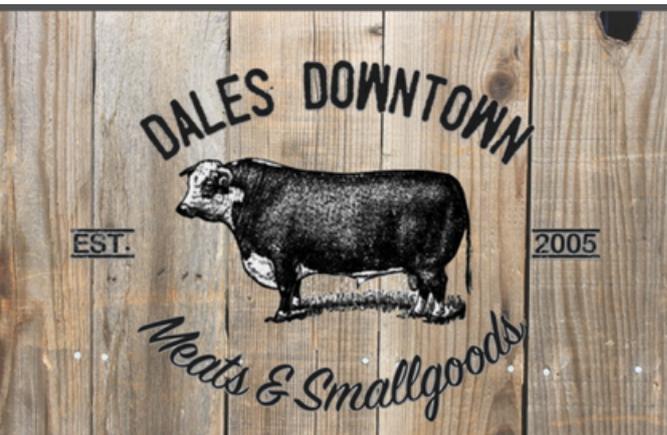
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