

Uralla Wordsworth

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urallawordsworth@gmail.com www.urallawordsworth.com.au   urallawordsworth

Detection of COVID-19 in Uralla's sewage system

Uralla Shire Council received confirmation on Friday 17 September from NSW Health of detection of SARS-CoV-2 fragments in Uralla's sewage system. This is the first time that virus fragments have been detected in the town's system, which services approximately 2,700 people. As a precaution, NSW Health has also requested a second sample, and may direct further sampling.

No positive cases of COVID-19 have been identified.

"It's a timely reminder that we cannot afford to be complacent while COVID-19 remains a risk in our community," said Mayor Michael Pearce.

"We need to ensure that we all follow the measures NSW Health has put in place, regarding face masks, social distancing, sanitising, and checking in wherever we go." NSW Health has requested that even those with the mildest of symptoms come forward to have a COVID-19 test.

"And please, please, if you haven't yet booked in for your COVID vaccination – make a point to do it today. The Uralla Shire Community has shown great initiative in arranging their vaccinations, with 73.9% of residents aged 15 and over having had their first dose of a COVID vaccine and 45.5% having had their second dose," said Mayor Pearce.

"Our local medical and pharmacy staff are working overtime to get jabs in arms. Please come forward and get yours," said Mayor Pearce.

For more information visit health.nsw.gov.au

**Heidi McElnea, Communications Officer,
Uralla Shire Council**

As of Sunday 20 September 2021, results of any further sewage tests in Uralla have not been published.

Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall reported on Friday that after a positive detection of COVID-19 fragments in the Inverell sewerage system earlier this week, the test sample taken on Thursday (16 September) has returned a negative reading.

"This is a huge relief, but does not mean that we can afford to relax at all.

We've had a number of near misses lately with COVID and we must remain vigilant.

Please continue to be vigilant and get vaccinated to protect you, your loved ones and everyone else in the community."

We're here for you.

Pursehouse Rural will remain open as an essential business for agriculture through the current lockdowns affecting New South Wales.

176 Bridge St Uralla
6778 6500
Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
Sat 8am - 12noon



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.

A wonderful vote of confidence in Uralla with the following quote from the agent for the sale of the Bottom Pub: Mr Plunkett said *"Uralla appealed to investors because it is a thriving satellite town supporting a strong rural economy. It has a combination of high value agricultural enterprises and a strong tourism appeal"* he said. *"Uralla has outperformed many of the other towns in the region in the past ten years."* Reference: The Land.

Unfortunately, this positive view is not shared by the Department of Planning who have predicted the Uralla Shire's population will drop from 6,150 in 2016 down to 5,450 by 2041. Every forecast for the last twenty years has been incorrect. Should recent Census results confirm this error again, we must strongly fight this misinformation. The reason it matters is that these numbers are used to make long term decisions in relation to schools, transport and community services. It also influences the support, or otherwise, from State government departments.

Uralla Shire Council currently has seven vacancies listed. These include a Manager, Civil Infrastructure and a Project Manager – Term. However the most interesting is the Manager, McMaugh Gardens Aged Care/Director of Nursing, which closes on October 5. This position has been filled on a part time basis for nearly twelve months. I would like to acknowledge the two staff members who have stepped up and managed McMaughs through a very challenging period of time.

Congratulations to TOBCO for being one of the first private construction companies to arrange onsite Covid-19 vaccinations for their staff. TOBCO are carrying out a number of projects in the region, including the road upgrade work for the New England Solar Farm.

Uralla Shire Council's Budget Review & Finance Committee held last week was extremely disappointing and lasted about 10 minutes. The one page provided to Councillors showed an estimated loss for 2020/21 of over \$1.5 million, which we were told at the meeting may well now be over \$2 million. We were then advised that the losses were mainly due to depreciation and asset revaluations. The Financial Statements, in first draft, were not presented to the meeting; however we were assured that they will be ready in a couple of weeks. Previous experience has shown they will be given to us at the meeting, allowing no time for detailed examination. We then had the Auditor tell us if we had any questions we should have raised them when we were given the draft documents. The management of Plant and Equipment and Waste will continue to be a major focus for me.

Congratulations to our road construction crews who continue to receive praise for their work on Hawthorne Drive and at Kelly's Plains. Council will need to pursue further road construction funding.

Good news with the decision to continue with the Uralla Fairy Festival, Uralla Antiques and Collectables and Thunderbolt Festival in October. All will need to comply with whatever the current Covid restrictions are at the time. We all realise these plans can change at a moment's notice; however I applaud the organisers for taking a positive view. I am confident all events will be well supported and something positive to look forward to. Keep an eye out for the ads setting out the program and location information.

The conclusion to the "Let's Talk Water" identified that the executive committee need to finalise the report, and that the results should be provided in the next 2-3 months (depending on Covid restrictions) to allow further feedback. A more intense engagement can occur in 2022 and they are looking for community champions to help get the message out.

I was impressed to see the shearers, shed hands and the owner of Gostwyck Station, Mr Phillip Attard, on TV donating a day's wages and equivalent to Motor Neurone Disease.

M: 0434 244 774

E: robertbell1055@hotmail.com

**Robert Bell,
Uralla Shire Resident**



**EMALENE GEMMELL
FAMILY LAW**

9/108 Dangar Street **ARMIDALE**
60a Bridge Street **URALLA**

02 5733 5885
office@egfamilylaw.com.au



Bridge Street Observer

The old TAB building (25 Bridge Street) currently occupied by Laverty Pathology has been sold and will soon be home to another hairdresser. Laverty will move to the rear of Angus McLean's new premises (40 Bridge Street) behind Properties Uralla.

Next door at The Wool Room (38 Bridge Street) Nicola has plans for a revamp of the building, removing a lean-to at the back and stretching the length to about 14 metres, with a disabled access ramp at the rear.

NAB will vacate their premises (35 Bridge Street) at 4pm on 7 October, the last of the big banks to leave town. The building they vacate was previously occupied by Westpac (who were originally, as Bank of NSW, at 98 Bridge Street). NAB, as National Australia Bank, previously occupied the building now known as Geall and home to Tom O'Connor. Until 1982 the building was occupied by Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, which merged with National Bank of Australasia to form the National Australia Bank. The building was built for the Australian Joint Stock Bank.

Warren Moore (or more correctly his private company) has sold the Bottom Pub (31 Bridge Street) for over three million dollars to Roche Group, who will leave the existing management in place until the lease expires.

A reliable source tells me that Foodworks (100 Bridge Street) has plans to relocate to the site of what used to be Cooper's Hardware. Drawings for a new supermarket have been seen.

There was a small lockdown protest in Uralla (and other towns in the New England area) on Tuesday 31 August. Protesters gathered near the Thunderbolt statue, police attended, arrests were made and eight penalty infringement notices issued. I am reminded of the social contract whereby individuals sacrifice some freedoms for the benefit of society.

I have been remiss in not reporting change of ownership at Country Road Caravan Park (170 Bridge Street). Tony and Anne retired last year after nearly 20 years at Country Road, and new owner Dan Etteridge, from Wollomombi, took over in November 2020, continuing the tradition of a small family-owned business. There is a new laundromat and a new dogwash, both open to the public, and work is continuing on renovation of the ten cabins and the powered sites.

Ross Burnet, Bridge Street observer

ZNETPlus Greening Uralla 'Adopt-A-Tree' program is happening on OCT 23rd

If you haven't registered yet but would like to contribute to the beautification, liveability and biodiversity of Uralla by planting and caring for a tree planted on your verge then email:
znetplus@zneturalla.org.au or MB 0408 080 455
for further information

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

Uralla Community Street Store

Friends of McMaugh's Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd, then opening again on Saturday 25th September

Bill Andrews

ACCOUNTANT & TAXATION
CONSULTANT

ABN 61 560 191 978

bill@billandrews.com.au

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What The Heck?

Ten weeks in isolation, lock-down, restricted or anything else that you want to call it!!!

I was so very sure that I needed a new winter coat. The new line of boots seemed so tempting. Those jumpers from last year that seemed so gorgeous and would be terrific for Winter 2020 lay idle.

When I decided to check them, the drawer was stuck shut....it was a sign. You don't need them, leave it shut. It seems to me that there are two choices or maybe more. COVID 19 has given us a plethora of decisions that we might make.

Do I start wearing my 'going-out' clothes, around the house, vacuuming, reading, getting the wood and other various mundane tasks, or do I leave them sitting behind closed doors and stuck drawers? I can continue the sloppy pants, big jumpers (aka tracksuit tops) leg warmers, neck scarves and dodgy underwear and socks because I won't see anyone and it really doesn't matter.

All of a sudden I am confronted by the thought that we've run out of milk and I might need to go to the shop. Don't they deliver? I'm happy to pay the extra. Then I have options....go as I am; spend good sitting down and reading time, getting changed to be presentable enough to pop up in the street. Today was particularly challenging – chose the 'go as I am' option, then there's no parking because the bloody tourists are back? Had forgotten that everything opened up this week, because I certainly haven't. There they all were in all their glory. Puffer jackets, tan boots, smart creased stretch pants, open-necked sweaters with matching tartan scarf and then there's me, track pants, uggies, old favourite jumper, crappy hair – no hairdresser for weeks and cracked fingers from all that wood. Hair on face is a whole other issue. Standing with back to the sun or in the shade, the risk is that an inch-long chin or lip hair might have sprung loose and be on view, with the sun behind it. The head and face hair have miraculously joined forces – might be a market for that? I'll start a Blog.....or a future as an 'influencer'?

Back to the wardrobe – socks are all ok except that I might never have to buy another pair- by the time I've worn them all and get back to the start, I'll be in my dotage and probably in bed all day, so won't need socks! Less washing, less ironing so I've started ironing tea towels and dearly beloved is now using hankies so they keep me busy. 'Control' underwear has given way (literally) to cottontails. What a great marketing strategy, is that name? Problem is that the 'tail' in some is almost threadbare... more tail than cotton! And I can't shop for new underwear in this new 'hardly any distance' world. Too risky to be sure.

The days tick over, the frost and snow have started. Yet another book is nearly done. Dearly beloved's sourdough is almost perfected and three more letters have been written. Is it so bad really, if all those clothes sit in the cupboards, till some new decade turns up and they are moth-eaten, don't fit or are not appropriate for an old lady? Someone will them if the second-hand shops ever open again.

I'll stay sitting with my back soaking up the glorious few hours of warmth as I devour another book. Maybe I'll walk somewhere, if I don't have to get changed first. Another cup of coffee, with dearly beloved's scones and then another page of very intense and deeply satisfying colouring in – with almost worn down pencils and fading eyesight fill my day.

The spirits are at peace. This is life. No more madness, just being.

Someone else can do the restriction-lifted life – I am content and the world looks very different. Even Aldi – so cold that having an oversized poncho and uggies on, doesn't look strange. It is always so darned cold in there, that anything is allowable. Maybe the layers are a protection as yet another crazy person reaches in front of my face for yes, you guessed it, brussel sprouts.

Learning to ration toilet paper is a recently acquired skill. No doubt this will be very helpful next summer when all the trees are burned and the arsenic and restrictions have us back to focusing on how to use the bucket to flush the toilet. Getting the gush instead of the flush has taken a few months to perfect, without causing very suspicious spillage around the bowl.....what the heck?

One of the world's great mysteries is people's need for 'beauty clinics'. They call it therapy. Having nails 'done', waxing 'done', eyebrows, facials, massage, masks, fillers and other mysterious activities, apparently are all meant to improve one's life. When life in lockdown was at its peak authorities were inundated with calls to reopen these 'therapeutic' services – I can't even find a razor and the facial hair has taken over where I had eyebrows.

The days of only having the usual well-known takeaway food options have long since vanished. One local coffee shop now offers, Indian, Greek, Italian or Malaysian, week about and will deliver! Some of the ingredients seem to be interchangeable. The pub has a complete menu, at the end of the phone, deliverable to your door in a 'hot box'. You can even have entrees and dessert. Gourmet food that we would not have dreamt of having before is a mere phone call away. The most difficult thing is deciding what to have.

As I write this I wonder whether this time next year will look the same.....?

Kathrine Arnold, Uralla resident

6 June 2020

The Attack of the Killer Tomato Farm Robots

Crime fiction in multiple parts by Daryl Albertson

The old car rocked and rolled, dodging the potholes as it motored along the mountain road to 'Romo' farm. Tall timber soon gave way to cleared tablelands country, as he left the mountain.

The Bluebird had just ticked over 300,000 miles, 'not bad for an old girl', Michael mumbled to himself, 'I'll give you an oil change, you're probably due'.

The Bluebird was always undercover, parked in the old shed behind the dusty Holden HQ. Michael now mostly worked from home, like others he was connected to the outside world via a Cat6 Ethernet cable. Since the virus, his trips were rare, with some trepidation and always with precautions.

He had made the ten mile trip many times, from Little Mount, to 'Roma Farm' on the edge of the nearby village of Illgoel.

The 'Romo' Tomato Farm was corporate, head office in the city of Cadi, a one hour flight from Alperwan. Intensive hydroponic farms were dotted across the state; others grew cucumbers, lettuce or strawberries. Roma employed work crews on rotation, mostly Pacific Islanders on temporary work visas. Michael had only ever met the farm manager Kharl, who was in his late fifties, of German extract, and kept to himself. Kharl worked from the farm office, with living quarters attached. He would often leave for head office meetings but didn't say much about his bosses; he didn't really say much at all.

Michael and his partner Caz had invited Kharl to dinner several times, but always the same short reply, 'Nien!, I have much to do and my boss are skype me later'. Whether Kharl was skyping his boss, his wife or mistress, Michael never asked. However, it was said Kharl had an eye for the islander girls, always taking a great interest in the new arrivals.

Michael had established himself as a mobile tech expert in the area, after coming in from 'Wortumurtie', on the banks of Callewatta River. He had built his IT business over the past seven years, doing all sorts of tech. Meeting people and fixing their problems was the most fulfilling part. If not lucrative, it filled in the day and he didn't need much. Living simple suited him and Caz, with their two little dogs on their lichen covered mountain. Winters were cold and wet, but their weatherboard farmhouse was warm and mostly dry, if not a little mouldy by winters end.

Michael had worked off and on at 'Romo' for the past two years, first tending to their office and security systems. Chatting to the islander crews was the bonus for they always seemed so happy. He would often stop to stroke 'Brindle' the large cat that had made No 1 Grow House its home, as it seems to need it.

Whilst the twelve huge grow houses were only a short distance from home, it was the pair of pollination robots that were about to take much of Michael's time. The crates marked "fragile", had arrived at the dawn of the new year.

Peter was one of Michael better clients, running his seed trading company in nearby Alperwan. During a pre-Christmas visit, Peter had stated; 'Michael I may have a job for you'. Peter elaborated, 'you know that Honeybees can't pollinate tomatoes and Bumblebees are banned in Australia, so pollination at Romo is done manually'. It's tedious and the crews miss a hell of a lot. Being sticklers for efficiency, the Dutch are sending over two trial pollination robots, of the type recently developed in the Middle East. But due to the virus and international travel bans, it turns out their technicians can't come over for the robot install.

'But what has that to do with me?' Michael interrupted.

Peter replied, I'd like to propose that you do it instead. Of course their tech guys would be available on email and skype, the manuals will be sent with their first robots.

Michael was elated, getting a crack at robots was every tech nerd's dream, a no brainer. He kept his cool and said, 'of course I'll help where I can Peter'. Great, I knew we could count on you, Peter said.

It wasn't long before Michael, with the help of Tamah, one of the more tech savvy islanders, were unpacking the crates. Tamah was a Pacific Islander woman in her mid-thirties, two kids at home. She had proven herself strong beyond her petite islander looks. One day, she divulged to Michael of her experience with Kharl, merely saying she had bit his hand for touching her where he shouldn't'.

Michael and Tamah built the robots as per the manuals with remote help from the technicians locked down in Amsterdam. Their abrupt manner and language left much out in translation, but it also didn't help with their opinion of Michael, 'the Aussie building their robot tech'.

...to be continued in the next edition



If I say I will be there, I will be there.

Licence No. 346186C

Ralph Luo

☎ : 0431 277 450

✉ : wolfunec@yahoo.com.au

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 September - November

Uralla Shire Council Ordinary Council Meeting 12:30pm Tuesday 28th September, Uralla Shire Council Chambers

Uralla Fairy Festival, Weekend 9-10 October 2021

Friends of McMaugh's AGM, 2pm, Monday 11th October, Uralla Bowling Club, all welcome

Rotary Club of Uralla, Thunderbolts Festival, Saturday 30 Oct 2021

Uralla Red Cross Melbourne Cup Garden Party McCrossins Mill on Melbourne Cup day, 2 November 2021. Details to follow.

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Deadline for the next edition is
5pm Thursday 16 Sept 2021.

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Play the ball, not the man.

I appreciate Kent Mayo's highly entertaining wit but I do wish it was not directed at Council. An alternative needs to be found to articles such as Word for Word (Wombat Words) published in the 6 September 2021 edition of Uralla Wordsworth.

It is toxic and counter-productive when clients adopt a "hate the bureaucracy" mentality and, for that matter, when a bureaucracy adopts a "hate the client" mentality.

I would like to see Uralla Wordsworth publish matters of interest to the community without deriding the target of any criticisms.

Let's aim to have our community act as a model critic.

B Vincent, Rocky River resident

Editors' note: Uralla Wordsworth aims to present the diverse views of our whole community. Contributors present their own opinions, not those of Uralla Wordsworth. We strive to maintain legality and decorum, and consider that satire has a long tradition in the press and the arts.

Dear Editor,

Shout out to Bob Bayliss, long term resident in Duke Street. He single handedly has turned the area of ground at the back of the Station Master's house and down into the gully, into almost a parkland.

It is green, mowed and a sight to behold. Bob seeks nothing in return, but appears on his ride-on mower and next thing it's done.

Thank you Bob. Those of us who live close are grateful for your generosity and energy. Only in Uralla.

Kath Arnold, Uralla resident

Dear Editor,

Are there links between the Sydney Opera House and Uralla ... and Fibonacci?

What an intriguing question, eh? Unbelievable? Yeah, nah.

Jorn Utzon's design for the Opera House aroused a storm of scorn ... "impossible", "crazy", "waste of money" ...

But there were some who glimpsed the promise of it, and sought to grasp the brilliance. The believers.

The cost? Alleviated by a different stroke of pure Australian genius, an Opera House Lottery. But as the arched concrete bones of "The Sails" (Utzon's "clouds" actually) began to soar skywards, the rumblings receded.

The cynics, hushed and crushed by the "crazy" vision becoming reality, rushed off to buy more lottery tickets.

Although ten years late, it was finished, and the Queen turned up on time – never late.

Finished? No, not at all. The know-bugger-all bureaucrats had bludgeoned a compromise! "Impossible!" They bleated at Utzon's drawings for the interiors, so never installed.

Utzon went home to Denmark, his masterpiece incomplete ... to this very day. Even so, the Opera House is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the likes of the Taj Mahal, Great Pyramid, Eiffel Tower ...and all having a design relationship with the Golden Rectangle derived from the Fibonacci Numbers ...2,3,5,8... Uralla's Post Code in the sequence. (1st link)

The Opera House, a universally recognised symbol of Australia, now attracts some ten million visitors per annum, twice the population of Sydney, thanks to the believers.

A young Australian architect, Peter Myers, worked with Jorn Utzon throughout that saga. A visionary in his own right, it was Peter Myers who provided the inspiration for the restoration (1979-82) of the then derelict McCrossin's Mill in Uralla. (2nd link)

His team of "blow-ins" to Uralla never faltered despite the relentless barrage from the armchair and bar stool experts ... "crazy", "impossible", "waste of money".

Myers stated, "No compromise. None. We get this right, boys, and they'll be holding wedding receptions in this place before long!" We shook our heads in wonder, but not disbelief, and got back into the work.

And so it came to be, the old cynics "turning up in their Sunday best for the daughter's wedding" in the "fantastic, you should see what they done" rustic elegance of the place. The Museum now attracts some 7000 visitors a year (three times Uralla's population) and hundreds more to functions, booking out the town, splashing their money about, and going home to rave about Uralla. (cf. Sydney Opera House.)

Some non-trivial trivia? The front elevation of McCrossin's Mill precisely fits the Fibonacci Golden Rectangle, as do each of the no-compromise cedar sash windows, exact replicas of the originals. (3rd link)

The drivers of the Mill project were also the "crazy" creators of Uralla's infamous one-and-only "Mrs O'Malley's Magnificent Music Hall" (1976-1988) ("Impossible in a little town like this", "It'll never work!").

The naysayers went all quiet when 2500 eager patrons made each annual pilgrimage to Uralla for "Mrs O'Malley's", that's some 30,000 over those years, pouring money into Uralla. No compromise in the "O'Malley's" team either, all "make-believers".

continued on p. 8

"Our Uralla kids aren't in that League!" "Not worth the expense!" brayed the doubters as Uralla Central School's "Orphans and Urchins" choir went off to perform at the Sydney Opera House in 1987, thanks to enthusiastic support from those who believed Uralla could indeed punch above its weight.

A full house of 2500 (more than Uralla's then population) gave our kids a thunderous standing ovation, concert organisers labelling them "the finest children's choir in the nation" (their words.) (4th link)

That choir (1987-1998), composed of a new set of children each year, returned by demand to the Opera House on two other occasions, again "bringing the house down". (Except for the interiors because they never went up!) By the by, that choir were also winners at the Sydney Eisteddfod, and scooped the pool at the National Eisteddfod, Canberra. Unbelievable? Yeah, nah.

And so now we have the exciting draft concept for Uralla's very own Fibonacci Park, already attracting the attention of the naysayers.

It is an analogy for the Sydney Opera House project. Those who don't appreciate (yet), and can't grasp the unique brilliance (yet) should take some deep breaths, stay calm, and let the believers make this wonderful thing happen, uncompromised, as it deserves.

Kent Mayo, Uralla resident

(One of the believers)



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**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 TBA
(on a date between 8 and 21 November)**



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Frank Low's Walk

The following is the second instalment of the story of Uralla photographer Frank Low's first walk in the Macleay area. Frank continued to explore the area for the next 60 odd years. It is accompanied by just two of his many photos. There are many more.

Submitted by **Colin Wood, Uralla resident**

www.greenaissancegalleries.photos

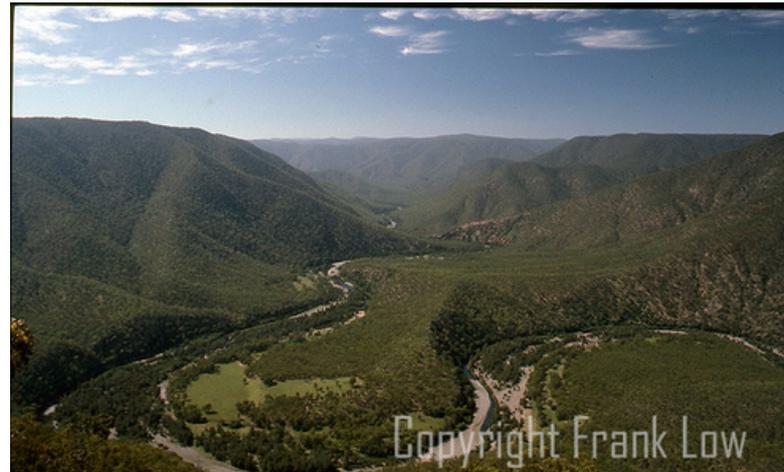
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We walked 1-1/2 Ks through cleared country till we came to a well maintained dingo fence and had to scale it. We entered a then trackless forest area; it is now crisscrossed with redundant forestry trails. Henry carried in addition to the basic needs, a rifle to obtain further sustenance if needed, a parish map void of contours, a simple compass on his wrist and a canvas water bag, thankfully. Doug carried a billy and I carried my Voigtlander camera loaded with a roll of 10 ASA Kodachrome. The map did have the main streams marked, the Macleay, the Apsley and Reedy Ck which I learned was the destination for the first long days walk. I have since checked the distance on a topo map and found it to be about 17 Ks. Five minutes into the forest and I was lost. The conditions were overcast but very dry and on the first indication of a creek that we came to, Henry decided to follow it down hoping for a water hole to fill the billy for a brew. For the only time on the trek I was fresh enough to get ahead and pushed through some low bushes to find myself on the brink of a sheer drop of humongous proportions. Henry wasn't surprised, he referred to it as the "Hole Gulf" and pointed out to us a spot in the distance where C.G.Cooper and Sons had logged for cedar in the 40,s. By the way, there was no water. He knew where we were, but calling it the Hole Gulf bamboozled me years later when I tried to locate it on Hole Ck. Again, incidentally, I was on an outing years later with a group from Walcha who were going to a place called steep drop falls and enroute I related the story of my first walk in the area. When we arrived at the falls I was astounded, there before me was my sheer drop, 176 metres to be exact. "Eureka" I had found it.

We continued on our way around the rim of the tremendous valley which I now know as Rowley's Ck. We came to a depression dotted with tree ferns and Henry called a halt for the first boil of the billy. It goes without saying that there were 3 ahhs as the first sips were taken. I haven't come across that spot since then. Eventually we came to a long ridge between Rowley's and Reedy Cks. Henry referred to it as Narrow Neck. As we negotiated the narrowest section of the neck we weren't to know that 100 metres below in the dry rainforest were cedar trees and stinging trees of gigantic proportions which I have only recently been shown.

The clouds lifted briefly as we neared the end of the ridge and to what I now know as the north, a flat topped mountain came into view. There, I took my second photo, the first being at the sheer drop. Henry called it Table Top and a projection on the eastern end of it was the Cocks Comb. It is interesting to note that, Narrow Neck Ridge, Table Top and especially the Cock's Comb were names used in the later topo maps. The Cock's Comb was the destination of my second walk but that's another story.

...to be continued.



Sparrow Warrior

A tiny frame,
Sparrow wings small movements
Matching, tiny striding legs,
Moving so quickly with purpose.

Shopping, family visits,
Loving her, mum, dad, family,
Feeling, talking, more and more family.
Connecting her medical treatments
Facing, a never changing, diagnosis.

Tiny, but not lost, directing life.
Painting the house,
Obsession with living.
No time off, for illness...
Her covered head with grace.

Meeting life, with peace,
Does life end....
Do those who remember,
Stop remembering, never.
Forever loved, by family
knowing past tragedies
Meeting together, another passing.

We group, we witness,
A large family, grieving and
knowing at the same time,
That Tracie with courage,
Was a celebration of a woman
Who lived with cancer, to succumb,
Only on her own terms.

Jann Karp

In memory of Tracie
17th September 2021.

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Snow-Balling at Uralla

It was a bitterly cold Saturday in Uralla in August 1905 when the snow began to fall at around midnight. The snow continued to fall until daylight on Sunday and fell quite heavily throughout the day. Owing to the plentiful supply of snow all gathered to indulge in a spot of snowballing. While most of the snowballers had pretty well exhausted themselves and retired home to recuperate, one of the party, a groom from Murray's Hotel, decided to stay on and targeted the Chinese fruit shop opposite the hotel, smashing the windows. This little adventure earned the young fellow a cold night in the local lock-up.

The local papers reported that "On Sunday morning the temptation for an indulgence in snow-balling was irresistible, and was kept up briskly for some time, but, like many sports which are of themselves beneficial, snowballing is likely to be abused. For carrying the warfare into Yow Sing's fruit shop, and otherwise injuring him, an individual was brought before the bench on Monday and fined 5s."

Kay Adams, Uralla History Hub



Snow-Balling, Uralla.

'Photo courtesy Robert Schofield



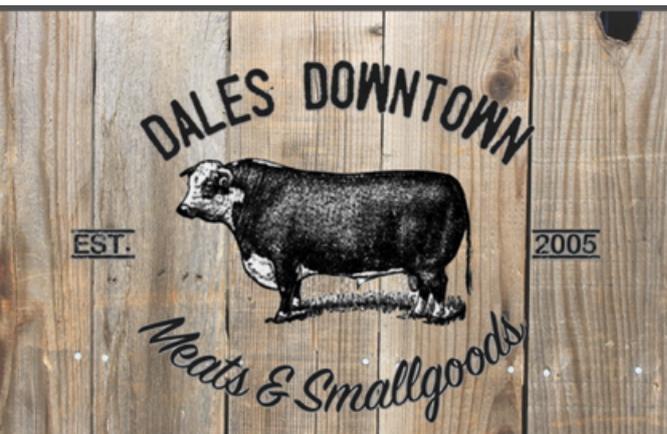
**Happy 55th
Wedding Anniversary &
Happy 80th Birthday to the
young man on the right**

Here's to many more x
Love Tara, Andrew, Jacob & Helena,
Trent, Nicole, Evie & Zoe

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Death and Funeral Notices

MARCELLA THERESE HEINZ O'CONNOR 6 JUNE 1941 – 18 AUGUST 2021

Marcella's O'Connor/Heinz families; husband Tom, Sister Cathy and George Sheridan, Sister in Law Irene Cullen, Daughters Sue and Charles (Chuck) Gower, Lisa and Lenard Thomas, Carolyn and Ivan Kwasha, Son Rodney and Jodine O'Connor, Grandchildren Tyler and Jessica White, Morgan and Brian Cranfill, Forrest Hunt, Zachary O'Connor, Sasha O'Connor, Adam Kwasha, Great Grandchildren Eli White, Luke White, John White, Sophia Brantley, Nova Cranfill, Barrett Hunt, Nieces René and Scott Baldwin, Elizabeth and Larry Reynolds, Tiffany Sheridan, Danielle and Adam Sipe, Charmaine and Ben Willoughby, Shanna Cullen, Melanie and Ian Hamilton, Nephews, Michael Sheridan, Peter Sheridan, David and Shiralea Cullen, Grand Nieces Megan Baldwin, Rylee Doran, Nicholena Doran, Evangeline (Evie) Hamilton, Grand Nephews Sam Reynolds, Jacob Rothacher, Cayden Lirley, Nicholas Sipe, Lachlan Botting, Angus Hamilton, Isaac Hamilton and the extended families; wish to extend our appreciation for the outpouring of prayers, best wishes and condolences from our friends, colleagues and neighbours.

We would especially like to thank the wonderful community of Uralla who made Marcella so welcome and who now grieves with us, Drs Eric Baker and Astrid Knirsch for their excellent care of Marcella these past 24 years, The Doctors and Nurses of the Armidale Hospital for their professional care and attention, particularly Dr Henry Bryant, the skilled Armidale Stroke Recovery Unit so ably lead by Sean Hails and Kate Moffatt for assisting Marcella to recover her mobility, the Executive and Board of the International Institute of Municipal Clerk (IIMC) through whom Marcella was able to grow and flourish in her chosen career of local government – her great passion, the Committee and members of the Armidale branches of the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (ADFAS), Australian Garden History Society (AGHS) and Uralla Garden Club who shared Marcella's other great passions of architecture, interior design, the arts and gardening.

To you, one and all, our most heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

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Breakfast Club

St Johns Anglican Church are running a breakfast club in their hall, Park Street, starting on Wednesdays, from 8am to 8:45am. Any school age kids are welcome. Please direct any enquiries to the Anglican vicarage on 6778 4906.

Fuel Watch 18 September 2021

	ULP	Diesel
Mobil	145.9	144.9
Invergowrie	146.0	145.0
Kingstown	146.9	144.9
Puma	149.7	149.7
BP	154.9	157.9