

Uralla Wordsworth

Published by Uralla Wordsworth Incorporated

Uralla's FREE Fortnightly Newspaper

Established 2018 Issue **133**, 22 January 2024 Estimated circulation: 1,000

Edited by Luise Scherer, Louis van Ekert and Malcolm Airs

urallawordsworth@gmail.com

www.urallawordsworth.com.au

  urallawordsworth

New England Merino Field Days Attract Top Producers to Uralla Showground

Eighteen producers from as far afield as Delungra came to exhibit their merino breeding stock at the Uralla Showground Sunday before last. The day was a success with a large crowd attending and good interest shown in the livestock on display. The day was a new format with 18 studs coming together in the one location. It is hoped this format will provide exhibitors and guests a more time-effective way to check out the diversity and quality on display and share their knowledge, experiences and enthusiasm.

The day was followed by Day Two, when graziers could attend seven on-property displays for a more in-depth look.

All members have organised their sales to occur within the few weeks after the Field Days.

Also included in the program for Day One were sheep dog demonstrations and a chance to hear from Laurie Armstrong representing *Australian Wool Innovation* (AWI) who spoke about the future of marketing wool in a rapidly changing world. The fact that wool is a natural fibre, as opposed to the many "fossil fibres" available, is one obvious aspect that may benefit the promotion of wool worldwide.

Properties represented on the day were Airlie, Alfoxtton, Arakoon, Clovernook, Cressbrook, Glenburnie, Karori, Kurrajong Park, Lorelmo, Maister's Swamp, Mirani, Nerstane, Queenlee, Shalimar Park, Stanley Vale, Waverley Downs, Westvale, and Yalgoo.

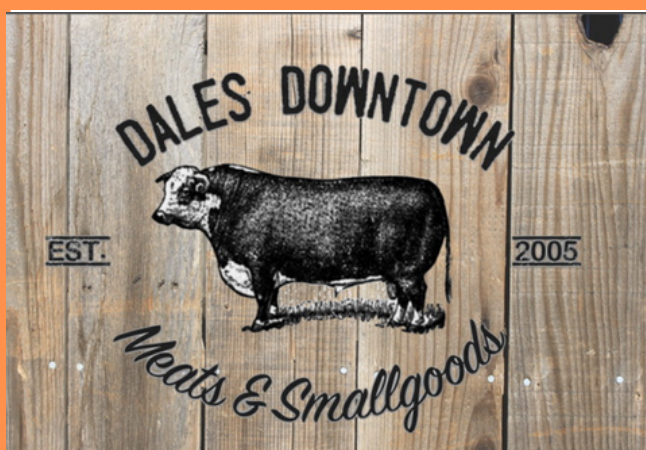
-Editor



Tim Bower of Stanley Vale proudly displaying the super fine wool of his merinos.



Leo Blanch (stud co-principal) and Will Church (Overseer), both of Westvale, Wollun.



Specialising in old fashioned service & quality

76 Bridge St, Uralla

Ph 6778 3960

Robert Bell was elected Mayor of Uralla Shire Council in December 2021, after serving five years as a Councillor. He was previously Director of Engineering for Uralla Shire Council, lives in town, and has a grazing block at Kentucky. Cr Bell gives a personal view of some of the more important matters concerning Council and ratepayers in recent weeks.

The hot topic for this week is the cost of water. The access charge was increase by CPI, however Council took the difficult step to increase the consumption charge to \$4.35/KL. It is essential that the Water Fund breaks even or better. The dramatic increase in electricity costs and the additional materials needed to convert our filters from sand to powder activated carbon has necessitated these increases. Councillors have worked hard with staff to ensure we do not have a repeat of the arsenic situation. Council is also progressing its long term reliability options. Of the bores drilled, two have been chosen to do further testing. Council and staff will then review the other opportunities such as cleaning out the silt in Kentucky Creek Dam, raising the dam wall, utilising retreated sewerage effluent and stormwater reuse. Be assured that we are acutely aware of the pressures on the cost of living. One positive is that staff are now also able to replace failing sections of mains and water meters that are not reading properly. Both these actions will increase the income from treated water. In the longer term, Council will consider smart meters that are easy to read and will quickly identify failures in individual properties.

The second topic is the dramatic increase in feral cats. Owners are obligated to microchip and de-sex their cats. All cats must be kept indoors at night. While Council does not have the capacity to catch stray cats, private individuals can apply for a cat trap (and pay a fully refundable bond), and then agree to bring the cat to the Armidale/Uralla Pound near the airport. The latest data shows cats kill over one million birds in Australia each year. I have even heard of a cat chasing a koala at the golf course. If you have any concerns, contact Council's Ranger or check out Council's website.

Uralla has recently seen an unwelcome increase in car thefts and vandalism. Council has agreed to contact the local police to get an accurate number on the crime rate and strongly push for an increased police presence in Uralla. Please ensure all crime is reported and if you have any information, contact Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

Plans for Australia Day are well in hand, starting with a Big

Breakfast at the Uralla Rural Fire Shed, commencing at 7am. The full program is contained in this edition of Wordsworth. We are very fortunate to have Ms Susie Elelman AM as our Australia Day Ambassador. Her bio has also been included. Hopefully the tradies will once again be part of the parade in our community's "Hats off to Tradies" celebration.

This week marks a special week at the Uralla Swimming Pool, with free entry for all under 18s for the week, and on Saturday January 27, there will be free entry for all. Councillors and staff will provide a barbeque, drinks, etc on the day. We have been assured the weather will be warm. Congratulations to Janet Carter and her team for putting on the bi-annual New England Merino Field Day at the Uralla Showground. It is impressive when you consider these are some of the best rams in the world, and some of the best producers. The things that most impressed me were the size, and hence, productivity of the modern ram, the statistical information available to any prospective purchasers, and the number of next generation young men and women interested in a future in the wool industry. The fibre remains the most environmentally friendly on the planet.

It is wonderful to see the Apprentice Plant Mechanic's position with Uralla Shire Council being advertised. This is a unique opportunity to work on everything from small engines to diesel equipment. The TAFE training will set the successful applicant up for life. Applications close on January 25, 2024.

This Tuesday sees the screening of *Back Roads* with Heather Ewart. While the team were mainly in Uralla for *Seasons for New England*, I have no doubt her love of the quirky will also be highlighted. For those tech savvy people, it will also be available later on ABC iview after Tuesday January 23.

Please put Twilight Bowls Fundraiser for Uralla Can Assist on Saturday February 10 in your diary. There will be a sausage sizzle at 6:30pm, followed by bowls at 7:30pm.

Congratulations to Kathryn Grills on her retirement after 42 years with the Uralla Preschool. I am assuming a huge number of you reading this will have attended, and/or sent your children to this wonderful facility, as were mine.

Robert Bell
Uralla Shire Resident



**Reenergising
Regional
Australia**

www.merallisolar.com.au

**PROUDLY HEADQUARTERED
IN URALLA**



meralli
solar

Ms Susie Elelman AM -

Our Australia Day

Ambassador



Susie Elelman is truly the epitome of a multi-media broadcaster and has been deservedly described by TV icon Bert Newton as the most versatile, informed and professional person in Australian media today. Author, TV presenter, radio broadcaster, reporter and producer are just some of the many hats she has worn throughout an impressive media

career spanning over four decades.

Susie Elelman is a name synonymous with daytime television, and is currently voicing her opinions as a weekly panellist on Channel 9's *Today Extra* with David Campbell and Sylvia Jeffreys. An established presence on national radio, Susie regularly formed part of the 2GB talkback team and on various stations on the Macquarie Network. She was host and executive producer of her own national daily variety and lifestyle TV show *Susie* and then co-hosted and produced the national live news and current affairs show *Daily with Susie and Bianca*.

She spent almost nine years alongside Bert Newton as a presenter and reporter on *Good Morning Australia* and seven years with Larry Emdur and Kylie Gillies on *The Morning Show*. She also went head to head with Stan Zemanek as a long-standing panellist on Network 10 and Foxtel's *Beauty and the Beast*.

Some of Susie's many other TV roles have included working as a researcher and reporter on *Hinch*, and as a reporter on the national travel show *Postcards Australia*. She is also a newspaper and magazine columnist, as well as an award-winning, best-selling author.

For her services to charity, the not-for-profit sector and the media, Susie was awarded an AM (Member of the Order of

Australia Medal) in the Queen's Birthday honours list in June 2015. Susie is very proud, as a First Generation Australian of refugee parents, to be chosen as an Australia Day Ambassador for the 25th year in a row.

Susie will be delivering the Australia Day address during the official ceremony on Australia Day, when two local people will receive their Australian Citizenship, and the Australia Day awards will be presented. This will be followed by entertainment by Marlene and Brendan Jacobs, and thong and gumboot throwing competitions with trophies and cash prizes for the winners. There will be face painting, a small jumping castle and a lolly scramble for the children, and the usual food stalls.

- Australia Day Committee



Calling All Tradies and Traders

As in previous years, an invitation is extended to all tradies and traders to enter their vehicles in the Australia Day Parade. The parade will be held on Australia Day, Friday 26th January, at 11.00 a.m., and will commence on the corner of Bridge and Park Streets. It will proceed to Alma Park via Hill Street.

Requirements are: Entrants must reside within Uralla Shire. Vehicles should display some form of signage that will promote their business and all vehicles must be registered. Further enquiries may be made to Cheryl Nolan, 0411771026 or Bev Niland 0407784328.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES at Uralla Shire Council

UIN/22/11373

Information about vacant positions and access to Council's interactive application is available on Council's website: [Working at Uralla Shire Council Uralla Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://Working at Uralla Shire Council Uralla Shire Council (nsw.gov.au))

Council is regularly employing across a wide range of service areas such as: general hand, truck drivers, plant operations, landfill operators, aged care, direct support workers, administrative and professional roles. Ask us about our casual, term and permanent positions.

Tel: 6778 6300



A home's biggest asset is its agent.

Your sales and property management experts



Scan to get
in touch

Ronelle Gersbach | 0414 755 557
belleproperty.com/armidale

belle
PROPERTY



SUMMER POOL PARTY

Saturday 27 January 12 – 6PM

FREE ENTRY | BBQ | LIVE DJ | GAMES

**URALLA SWIMMING POOL
3 Wood Street, Uralla**

**Free bus from Invergowrie, Kentucky & Rocky River
Call 6778 6470 to book pickup**

PRESENTED BY





CAN ASSIST URALLA

POSS FAMILY FUN DAY

24th February 2024

at Uralla Golf Club
2pm start
\$20 entry per adult,
Free entry for children

Entertainment
All activities are FREE for children

- 3 person ambrose, 9 holes - 11.30am start
- Face painting
- Pass the ball
- Treasure hunt
- Miniature putt-putt
- Wind up pig races
- Giant raffle - 40 prizes
- Monster auction
- Dunking machine
- Yabbie races
- Guess the secret weight
- Cyclone of Cash money machine
- Truck & car show
- Live music by MR T
- BBQ & bar

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO CAN ASSIST URALLA

High Country Markets

Uralla Showgrounds
1st Sunday of the month
8am to 12.30pm



ATTENTION VETERANS

If you are in need of assistance
of any type

financial, physical, emotional etc

or you just need a chat with someone who knows ...

contact us on 0401 932 107

or email urallasb@rslnsw.org.au

your privacy is guaranteed, we are with you
Uralla Sub-Branch of RSL NSW

Events For Your Diary

ABC Back Roads program featuring Uralla airs 23 Jan
Australia Day celebrations - 26 Jan, Bridge Street parade and activities in Alma Park, See program page 16
Summer Pool Party - Sat 27 Jan, Uralla Pool, see page 4
Uralla Show - 3 February, 2024, Uralla Showground
New England Wedding Showcase - Sun 4 Feb, 10am-2pm, Main Pavillion, Armidale Showground
High Country Markets - Sun 4 Feb, Uralla Showground
Uralla Can Assist Bowls Twilight Fundraiser - Sat 10 Feb, Sausage Sizzle 6:30pm, Bowls 7:30
Kentucky Old Time Dance - Sat 10 Feb, 7.30 pm start
Poss Family Fun Day - Sat 24 Feb 2pm Uralla Golf Club
Next Council Meeting - Tuesday 27 February 2024, Council Chambers
Seasons of New England - Sat 23 March, Showground

EMALENE GEMMELL FAMILY LAW

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

02 5733 5885

office@egfamilylaw.com.au



Application for Appointment of Board Members

Uralla Showground Land Manager

Ever wondered who is responsible for keeping Crown reserves operating?

Countless facilities like showgrounds, local halls and parks are run by Statutory Land Manager Boards, made up of people just like you. People who understand the need and have a desire to manage public land and assets for the benefit of the entire community.

Your role as a Board Member is voluntary, but the rewards of giving something back to the community are priceless.

We are looking for a good mix of people with a variety of skills, however, sound business and financial management skills and objective decision-making expertise would be a distinct advantage.

Don't let this opportunity to do something for yourself and your community pass you by - contact us today.

The Uralla Showground Land Manager manages the Reserve No. 510041 at Uralla notified on 21-Dec-1910 for Showground, Addition, Reserve No. 510040 at Uralla notified on 26-Aug-1884 for Showground. The term of appointment will be for a period not exceeding 5 years.

Application for membership can be made via portal.crownland.nsw.gov.au

All applications are required to be lodged by **22 February 2024**.

For further information contact: **Angie Wetzler** on
(02) 6770 3110 or go to reservemanager.crownland.nsw.gov.au

In Memoriam



**Copas, Kathleen
Mary**

9/6/1925 – 2/1/2024
Late of Tuncurry

Cherished wife to Noel
Beloved sister to Maureen, Marie, Aileen, Ted, Leo and John
Loved Aunty, Great Aunty and Great Great Aunty to all nieces and nephews

Forever in our hearts

Kathleen's funeral service was held Thursday 11th January at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Forster.

A burial service was conducted at the Tuncurry Lawn Cemetery

Allan Pearse Funerals, 6554 5433

Letters to the Editors

The opinions expressed in letters to the editors are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of Uralla Wordsworth. Uralla Wordsworth is not able to fact check letters. Where authors make claims without referencing their sources, it is for the reader to assess the veracity of these claims.

The editor,

I was disconcerted to read of the break-in at Subway, and I remembered walking home alone past Subway one night and being surprised by the presence of three young people sitting in the dark on the steps of the adjoining shop. Perhaps street lighting under the shop awnings would give more security to both the homeless and the shopkeepers.

John Sutherland, Uralla

Dear Editor,

One of the joys of living in Uralla is the cheerful disposition of the people I meet on the street, particularly the shopkeepers who greet me with "Hello John". I don't get that in Armidale. On the thankfully rare occasions when I drive the main street in Uralla, Tamworth or Inverell when shoppers are about, I remember why city slickers give derogatory names like hayseed, bumpkin and yokel to their country cousins. For 30 years I angle parked in Tahmoor on the outskirts of Sydney, driving forward into the angled parking space without impeding any vehicle behind me on the Hume Highway, then reversing out after waiting for a break in the traffic. By comparison, country councils expect all the vehicles on the highway to halt, while one motorist reverses into an angled parking space, and if multiple motorists want a parking space the column of vehicles will halt multiple times before they clear town. I am sure some one will want to criticise my logic and I will look forward to reading their letter in the next issue.

John Sutherland, Uralla

Community Messages



Artist of the Month

Are you an emerging or established artist or photographer in the Uralla area? The Uralla Library invites you to exhibit your artworks in our exhibition space. We are now taking bookings for 2024

To register or for more information email library@uralla.nsw.gov.au

Kentucky Old Time Dance

Kentucky Hall is holding an Old Time Dance on Saturday 10th February starting at 7.30 pm. Tickets are available at the door (\$15) and supper is provided. The band is *Country Dance Revival*. For further information please contact Dan Ward on 67787219. **-Beatrice Bashford**

ArtsNational Armidale

ArtsNational Armidale's (formerly ADFAS) program for 2024 is wonderfully diverse from sculpture to literature, architecture to art with a bit of historic fashion and the Huguenots thrown in! There will be professional presentations delivered monthly by six lecturers from the UK and four from Australia. Membership includes all 10 one-hour lectures with refreshments afterwards. They start in February and are held on Thursdays commencing at 6pm at TAS Hoskins Centre.

Adult membership \$150. Youth (25 and under) \$100

For more program information and to access a membership form with payment details:

www.adfas.org.au/societies/armidale/

Enquiries: artsnationalarmidale@gmail.com or Tom 0460 649 700


New England Wedding Showcase

Sunday 4th February 2024, 10am-2pm, The Main Pavilion Armidale Showground, Armidale, for anyone getting married or planning a wedding/event in the New England area. We are excited to invite you to the inaugural New England Wedding Showcase. We have gathered some of the best wedding vendors throughout the New England in one place. With over 20 vendors, from Celebrant to Venue, Make Up to DJ, and everything in between, and all servicing the entire New England area. You'll be able to find everything you need to bring your dream day to life! On the day there will be exclusive Showcase discounts, giveaway and a massive raffle with prize pool over \$1000! And all the proceeds from the day will be donated to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. Tickets available at the door on the day or through trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CMTRG>

For enquiries or further information, please contact: Sam, Showcase Organiser, 0407 218 212

Uralla Show

Saturday Feb 3rd 2024



Sideshows, Rides,
Free entertainment
Pavilion, Ring Events
Vintage and Classic
Cars
Grand Parade, Prizes
Motorcycle Barrel
Races
Live Music

*** Demo Derby ***

All the fun of a country show

Urallashow.org.au

Running Wild – Episode 8

– Fiery Farewell (Fiction)

This episode is the 8th in the 'Running Wild' series. The seventh, 'Fred's Done!', was printed in Uralla Wordsworth October – December 2023

2. Recap: Blackman, the Coroner's Assistant and Constable Walker were gobsmacked when Nellie told them of Fred's angry scar along his side, the shape of the crescent moon. They took notes and asked many questions, before riding off hard. As they left, Trooper Haggart threatened to return for Nellie and her girl Molly.

After the visit from the traps, the gals had a day off from working down at the Thompson Farm. Time to do chores. One was the clothes washing, although the gals only had a few simple pieces, some singlets, bloomers and skirts, all thread bare and heavily patched.

An old kerosene drum with the top cut off, served as their copper placed on a small fire behind the hut. It was a laborious task with clothes soaked overnight, and the next day, soaped, boiled, and rinsed, then wrung out and dried on a long line between two trees.

While hanging the washing out on the line at the side of the hut, Nellie saw a shadow move across on the mountain edge, just off to the track. It was only for a moment but gave her such a start. She whistled to Molly, who poked her head up from the Murnong garden. The hand signal and Molly was off, bolting into the scrub and out of harm's way.

Nellie ran to the hut and armed herself with long spear and waddy club. Normally used to hunt it was now her only means of protection from an unknown threat. All that day Nellie kept watch from the hut doorway while Molly hid in the scrub. At sundown Nellie called for her girl to return, they hugged briefly and went inside, latching and blocking the hut door with a large log.

After a silent lukewarm meal, they went to their cots, neither wishing to talk much about what may have been seen that day. Nellie stayed awake, listening as night passed, with weapons bedside her cot. Every hour or so she rose and peered out through the cracks in the bark wall, into the moonlight night as it cast its slow-moving shadows. She lamented, how was a mother able to protect her child when an unknown danger lurks across her doorway? Finally, an hour or two before first light, Nellie drifted off to an unsettled sleep, convinced that she would fight to her last breath if needed.

Molly was woken by her mother's scream and a deep vicious voice. Not understanding what was happening, she sat up and tried to adjust her eyes in the dimness before first morning light. The commotion was coming from the opposite corner of the hut.

She could make out two figures standing, her mother's nightdress and dark shape against it, the cot curtain in a pile on the earthen floor. Molly saw bright buckles and

immediately thought 'The Traps', then the deep guttural male voice made that clear. She could now see that the man had her Ma by the throat and was tearing at her nightdress. Ma was fighting back fiercely, beating him around the head with both fists. He then landed a heavy blow to Nellie's head, she went limp, and he threw her onto the cot.

Daryl Albertson, Kellys Plains

\$1.6m Uralla Fire Station Nearing Completion



Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall, left, with Fire and Rescue NSW Zone Commander Tom Cooper AFSM and Duty Commander Inspector Wayne Zikan outside the Uralla Fire and Rescue Station

Uralla Fire and Rescue Station's \$1.6 million upgrade and expansion is now only months away from completion, Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall announced today. Mr Marshall inspected progress on construction works today, along with Fire and Rescue NSW staff, which will deliver improved female amenities, a new pumper storage, decontamination as well as new clean and dirty areas.

"Uralla is now only a couple of months away from what will be a brand new and expanded station," Mr Marshall said.

"This is great news for the community and especially our 16-strong Uralla Fire and Rescue retained firefighting contingent. This is the first major improvement to the station in more than 30 years, when the second engine bay was added in the early 1990s."

"The work will roughly double the size of the current station, constructing new double bay storage shed for the two firefighting appliances and converting existing bays into new showers, toilets and changerooms for male and female firefighters."

Mr Marshall said Uralla was unique, being the only Fire and Rescue Station across the Northern Tablelands which performed first response duties for ambulance services, attending scenes of critical incidents to administer first aid and paramedic treatment before NSW Ambulance paramedics arrive.

Press Release, Adam Marshall's Office

The Silent Snow

That night, the snow had fallen so quickly, as the silent act of God it was, so that when the boy woke up in the morning it was still dark, and his mother with a warning finger to her lips, placed the bowl of porridge in front of him and passed the honey. She bent down and whispered in his ear, "It's snowed,... lots and lots of snow... so eat your porridge, don't bother your father, and when it's light, you can go out into the garden and make snow angels".

And into the room came his father, instantly recognised, by a surrounding miasma of stale sweat, old alcohol, cigarette smoke, and a weariness, though not able to be expressed by the child, would be recognised by most of the women in the village,... since most of their men wore a similar cloud of vicissitude.....

His mother, sat, poured what passed for coffee in this late year of the Vichy..... drank silently, and listened to the inner workings of her head, all the time watching this, her last child, the twins having been killed in a bombing raid last year, and also, effectively killing her marriage. Now she only lived for this nature boy, this changeling, who roamed the lower alps and pastures and knew all the alleys of the town so well, that she was not so much afraid for his safety, should a patrol come.... In his bedroom, the shelves were covered with bones, stones, flint, and prehistoric cherts from the Neolithic tribes who had once lived in the caves up in the hills. He had a way with animals, this, her six year old child, and was always, setting off the laid traps, or bringing home injured birds, rabbits and fox cubs, though if his father found them, a quick strangling death would be visited, and the tiny corpse, flung over the side of the valley.

Later, she would find another addition in what he called his holy place, ... a grave dug, and a crucifix placed, ... because, he said, every living thing mattered. His fae hazel eyes bright, with their arched eyebrows, and thick lashes, in his over thin face, that all the children had, in this, the late years of the war that seemed to have gone on forever. He regarded his father carefully, before turning to his mother. She said softly, "Into the hall then". And began to wrap him from head to toe in a variety of coverings, finishing with his favourite double red knitted scarf. Double, because she had sewed the twins scarves together, making it fantastically long, so that she wound it round his head, then his neck and chest and tied it round his waist for good measure. She had sewn it together, the tears flowing silently down her face, as Gaspard could get violent if she cried. Then she opened the back cabin door and said, "Two snow angels...don't forget!" "Non Maman". said her nature boy, already entranced by the silent white world before him, and he stepped carefully down the rock garden steps laid years ago. And a brilliant cascade of song met him from Mr Robin spruiking his song valiantly from the bottom step. Gravely he regarded this winter

traveller..."BonJour...Monsieur Robin, I am going to make snow angels for soeur Angelina and soeur Christina. Je m'appelle Nicolas." And he flung himself into the deep drifts by the hollyhocks, startling the bird into flight. And made good his word, staring into brilliant Dordogne winter sunshine.

- Wgaia Hadfield

Australia Day 2024

The community of Balala and surrounds
are invited to the
Australia Day Big Breakfast
put on by your local Balala Furies
at Balala RFB Fire Shed, Retreat Road.
From 7am till 9am on January 26th
\$10 each, kids under 12 free
Cash and Eftpos accepted
Everyone welcome!



PUBLIC HOLIDAY NOTICE



Australia Day
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

URALLA MEDICAL CENTRE

WILL BE CLOSED FROM

12.30pm THURSDAY 25th JANUARY 2024

and

ALL DAY - FRIDAY 26th JANUARY 2024

THE SURGERY WILL RE-OPEN **MONDAY 29th JANUARY 2024** @ 8.00am

For any emergency, please call 000

TOOMEY & CO.

YOUR PARTNER IN BUSINESS & TAX

ANDREW TOOMEY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

andrew@toomeyandco.com.au / 0402 848 691
www.toomeyandco.com.au / facebook : toomeyc
ABN 18 635 652 612



Tax agent
25999057



JANUARY 2024

Invitations open to join New England Solar Community Reference Group

People from across the local Uralla community are being urged to put their name forward to join the New England Solar Community Reference Group (CRG) and help support the project's refreshed Social Investment Program.

The program will replace the successful Uralla Grants Program, which has supported more than 50 local projects and events across the region during the Stage 1 construction of the solar farm.

The CRG will be made up of five members who represent the geographical and social diversity of the Uralla region including young people from the area and the Anaiwan community. The representatives will be drawn from the Uralla LGA as well the Kelly's Plains and Dangarsleigh regions.

Expressions of Interest to join the CRG will close on Friday February 16.

For more information and application guidelines go to www.newenglandsolar.com.au

APPLY NOW! newenglandsolar.com.au

New England Solar Stage 2

It will be a big year for the construction of the 320 megawatt Stage 2 project and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The immediate focus will be on site access roads as well as the design and procurement phases of the BESS and substation works.

We use an EPC contracting model to construct our projects. Go to our website to register your interest to work on stage 2 or to supply goods and services for the project.

Happy ewe year

New England Solar Health and Safety Adviser Robyn Doyle is working closely with our project landholders and solar farm staff on Australia's largest solar grazing program.

More than 3,000 Merinos and Border Leicester crosses are now grazing across fenced paddocks throughout the project site.

Robyn grew up on a large sheep farm in Western NSW, learning shearing as a teenager. She is now happy to be blending her new career on the solar farm with her old love.

The sheep do not generally require much management, with ample grass, water and shade on site to provide everything they need to thrive.

Our project landholders are rotating sheep across the site every six weeks.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:



1800 844 889



info@newenglandsolar.com.au



[@newenglandsolarfarm](https://www.facebook.com/newenglandsolarfarm)



newenglandsolar.com.au



[@newenglandsolarfarm](https://www.instagram.com/newenglandsolarfarm)



ACEN | Australia



The Northern Tablelands 2024 agricultural show circuit is starting at the end of the month. Staff from NEWA will be on hand at Uralla on February 3, to talk about all things weeds. Fact sheets and information on weeds of concern will be available. Also, if you have a plant that you think might be a weed and need it identified, bring in a specimen in a sealed bag or take some good photos.

Biosecurity Officers areas of inspection:

Uralla – Biosecurity Officer Brent Klohk 0472 662 139
bklohk@newa.nsw.gov.au

North of Torryburn, West of Thunderbolts Way, and East of the Gwydir River.

Weed of the Month: Green Cestrum



How does Green Cestrum affect you?

- is poisonous to people, pets, livestock and native animals.
- may reduce livestock productivity when infested pastures cannot be grazed due to poisoning risks
- outcompetes other vegetation.
- reduces food and shelter for native animals.
- Green cestrum contains a poison called carboxyparquin that causes liver and brain damage. Bushes are still poisonous after they have been cut down or sprayed.

What does it look like?

Green Cestrum is a shrub that grows 2–3 m high. It usually has many light-green, brittle stems. It sometimes grows into thickets. Established plants lose most of their leaves during winter and produce new growth in spring.

- Leaves have a foul-smell when crushed.
- Flowers are trumpet-shaped with 5–7 small, triangular petals, normally yellow but can be greenish and are in clusters at the end of branches, and are present from late spring to autumn.

How does it spread?

By seed – Birds eat the berries and spread the seed.

By plant parts – Green cestrum will sucker if stumps are not treated after cutting. The plant will also grow from root sections which remain after a plant has been partly dug or pulled out.

For more information.

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/GreenCestrum>

Camping Thrills and Spills

We take the caravan with us
To avoid the household crush
When we spend Christmas with our daughter.
We don't have to worry about using their hot water,
Or queuing up for a turn in their shower.
However, we do plug into their electric power!

I can sleep as long as I want to
While I dream of a lovely hot brew.
But the call of nature beckons early.
The feeling insistent and rather curly.
In the misty morning light, I hesitantly emerge,
Then dash down to the house across the dewy verge!

We set up our caravan on land behind their house,
Amid rainforest flora and fauna, and a native mouse.
The area is inclined; we are parked on a slope.
To reach the door we have to climb up and grope.
To exit we descend backwards nice and slow,
Feeling with our foot for the tread far below!

One early morning, while still half asleep,
I rise from my bed and to the door I creep.
I'm in the half dark; I'm answering the call.
I step straight out through the door; and alas I fall.
For Christmas I receive a new set of caravan steps.
With two extra risers, they're quite complex!

Two days after Christmas we set out on a drive.
It takes us longer than we thought to arrive.
We travel in tandem, keeping the directions in mind,
As we try not to get left too far behind.
We're going to Wiseman's Ferry,
Where we'll hike and have fun and be merry!

On the way we all stop for a coffee break
Along the river where we can buy some cake.
We put our ute into 4-wheel drive mode
And park on a muddy slope on the side of the road.
I open my door and slide my legs out over the side.
But the door closes and takes a bite out of my hide!

Home to Rocky River to wash and recharge.
Then off to the National Park to see how waterfalls arch.
We camp at the Apsley Falls for a few nights.
Hiking trails, interesting travellers, relaxing campsites.
However, someone steals the new roll of toilet paper.
I'm most disappointed by such a wicked caper!

Pauline Crouch, Rocky River

New England Renewable Energy Projects - the Essential Facts - Part 2

With an increasing number of renewable energy projects in our region it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep up to speed with what's actually happening. With this in mind, Wordsworth has decided to do some stocktaking by listing the most important facts related to each project. Most of the following information comes from project newsletters, and project and NSW Department of Planning websites. More "Essential Facts" of projects in and around Uralla Shire, will follow in upcoming editions.

-Editor

4. New England Solar

- Plans for the creation of a solar farm were initiated by a shared interest of the developer (UPC at the time) and landholders.
- New England Solar (NES), one of the two largest solar projects operating in Australia, is being developed by ACEN Australia which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ACEN based in the Philippines.
- ACEN Aust P/L has eleven solar, wind, battery storage and/or pumped hydro projects operating, being constructed or in development across NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia.
- The project has two stages. All up, around one million solar panels will be installed with a capacity to generate 720MW. Stage 1 (400MW) is complete and reached full generation capacity in December 2023. It was officially opened March 2023.
- Grazing was re-established in December 2023 when sheep were again given access to the solar array fields.
- Trials in Australia and overseas that assessed the benefit or otherwise of sheep grazing among solar panels, concluded sheep benefit from the availability of shade in hot weather and protection from wind in cold weather. Panels also help foster pasture growth.
- Stage 2 is expected to begin this year. It consists of 320MW of solar panels and a large 1400MW / 2hrs battery. *Renew Energy* in May last year reported that the battery would be the biggest in Australia.
- ACEN's community benefit scheme, has already contributed \$200,000 in funding over the past three years to community groups and projects.
- ACEN has allocated \$7m to its Social Investment Program (SIP) to fund social programs over the next 25 years.
- SIP funds will be disbursed through two programs called Streams 1 and 2. Stream 1 looks identical to the old grants program, Stream 2, a future fund, targets strategic long term investment with a focus on co-funding

projects with other investors. This fund will be managed by ACEN. Both funds will have \$150,000 each available for 2024.

- ACEN aims to establish a Community Reference Group (CRG) in Uralla this year, to help administer the Stream 1 community grants program.
- 1.5% of project expenditure targets First Nations participation delivered through contracting, employment, training and business innovation.
- Twenty per cent commitment of project working hours to go towards Learning Worker participation via traineeships and apprenticeships
- Up to 400 workers are employed at the busiest times of construction – 80% of this work force is from the local region.
- Acen has committed to responsibly decommission all project infrastructure at the end of project life.
- Website: <https://newenglandsolar.com.au/>

5. Thunderbolt Energy Hub

- Thunderbolt Energy Hub (TEH) project investor is Neoen Australia P/L, a French based company. It operates in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Australia. It has renewable wind, solar and battery projects in about 14 locations throughout Australia.
- The planned project is located between Kentucky and Bendemeer, straddling the boundary between Tamworth Regional Council and Uralla Shire. It is northwest of, and adjacent to, the New England Highway and extends roughly 8km to the northwest.
- Stage One aims to have 32 wind turbines producing 198 MW on two freehold properties of about 6000 hectares in total.
- Wind turbines will be 170m in height to the hub and 260m to the blade tip in the vertical position. Each turbine will have a capacity 6MW.
- A proposed stage 2 solar project was cancelled in December 2022 citing decreasing solar prices in NSW largely caused by the uptake of rooftop solar.
- Cost of the wind farm will be about \$373 million.
- In the Government approval process the project is at the Assessment stage. TEH's September 2023 newsletter reported it expected a final determination to be made in early 2024.
- The project is expected to generate about 490 full-time jobs during construction (directly and indirectly), and once operating, about 20.
- A community benefit-sharing program has recently been increased to \$160,000 a year – \$80,000 to both Tamworth Regional and Uralla Shire Councils – for the operational phase of the project. This is estimated to total \$4.8 million. It will be indexed to CPI.
- Tamworth Regional Council has agreed to its portion being administered as a 'Community Benefit Fund', while Uralla Shire Council has opted for a VPA (Voluntary Planning Agreement).

- There will be a Neighbour Benefit Sharing Program: Between \$1000 and \$5,000 per turbine per year within 3.5km of neighbours' dwellings for the life of the project.
- Typical operational life is 25 to 30 years after which it will be re-energised or decommissioned.
- Lease agreements with landholders state NEOEN's decommissioning obligations. Decommissioning by NEOEN is also a condition of development application approval by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.
- Website: thunderboltenergyhub.com.au



6. Booralong Wind Farm

- The developer, Squadron Energy, acquired CWP Renewables in late 2022 and is now Australia's leading renewable energy company.
- Squadron is a 100 per cent Australian owned company headed by prominent businessman Andrew Forrest and his wife Nicola.
- Squadron has projects in Qld, Vic and NSW including the Sapphire Wind and Solar Farms west of Glen Innes.
- The project plans include wind turbines, battery storage and related infrastructure.
- The proposed site is 20km NW of Armidale. The southern portion of the site extends about 3km into Uralla Shire, just north of Invergowrie. From south to north the site is about 19km in length.
- Specific locations for each turbine have not yet been determined.
- Squadron is looking at the feasibility of installing 300m tall wind turbines. Various constraints may not make this possible.
- Turbines planned within four kilometres of a dwelling will require a detailed assessment and justification in its EIS. All dwellings within 8km will also be assessed.
- Plans are still at an early stage - currently at the *Project Feasibility and Community Engagement* stage which is stage 2 of 13 of Squadron's development plan.
- A community sponsorship program provides funding to local community-based activities, events, and initiatives.
- Squadron supports the Armidale Women's Shelter with food project funding, and cultural camps for Anaiwan men and boys to educate about culture, lore and traditions.
- Operational life is expected to be at least 30 years.
- Eventually the project will be replaced or decommissioned at the Project's expense and the site returned to its original condition.
- Squadron Energy will establish a fund to finance the decommissioning.
- Website: <https://www.squadronenergy.com/our-projects/boorolong-wind-farm>

Defibs Can Save Lives

How well do you think you would react if someone near you had a cardiac arrest? Would you know what to do to help? The following important advice comes from NSW Health.

If you believe someone has suffered a cardiac arrest, take immediate action:

- call Triple Zero (000) for an ambulance
- push hard and fast in the centre of the chest to start CPR
- shock using a defibrillator as soon as possible to restart the heart, if one is available.

Anyone can use a defibrillator – they have verbal and visual instructions to guide you.

What is cardiac arrest?

Cardiac arrest is the term given to the sudden loss of heart function. The heart is no longer pumping blood and oxygen around to the vital organs of the body.

A cardiac arrest is different from a heart attack where a person is awake and has symptoms such as pain in the chest, difficulty breathing, nausea or feeling light-headed.

If a person is experiencing a heart attack or a more serious cardiac arrest, call **Triple Zero (000)** immediately for an ambulance.

Signs of a cardiac arrest are present when a person is:

- unconscious
- unresponsive
- has no pulse
- has absent or abnormal breathing.

What actions can be taken to survive an out of hospital cardiac arrest?

Anyone can try to save the life of someone who has experienced a cardiac arrest by acting quickly to restore the heart beat with CPR and defibrillation.

What is cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)?

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is the technique of chest compressions combined with rescue breathing. Early CPR saves lives. Authorities recommend that bystander CPR be actively encouraged. (Information is available on the Australian Government's *Healthdirect* website.)

What is a defibrillator?

A defibrillator (known as an automated external defibrillator or AED) is a small, portable device designed to deliver a controlled electrical shock to a person experiencing certain cardiac rhythms. Defibrillators must be used in conjunction with CPR.

Remember:

- Anyone can use a defibrillator – they have verbal and visual instructions to guide you.
- You cannot hurt someone by using a defibrillator.
- A defibrillator only shocks a person who is in cardiac arrest. (Acknowledgements: Michael Hughes Foundation and NSW Ambulance.)

See page 14 for defibrillator locations around Uralla.

Community Calendar

Please email urallawordsworth@gmail.com if you have an event or regular meeting date for your organisation.

Please check with event organisers about the status of listed events

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

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

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

Uralla CWA meets on the 4th Friday of each month, 10am at the Uniting Church Hall, Maitland St, Uralla

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

Uralla Anglican Church meets at 10am each Sunday for worship, prayer, fellowship & Johnno's Kid Club in Park St

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

Uralla Show Society meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm at the Uralla Showground

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

Uralla Town & Environs Committee meets on the first Monday of each quarter from 6-7pm in the USC Chambers

Uralla Tennis Social tennis 6:30pm Thursdays. Hot shots Jnr Tennis, Uralla Sporting Complex Sat. 9am – 10am.

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

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

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

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

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

Uralla Men's Shed open Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:30am - 12:30pm, 18 Uralla St North, (old Scout Hall site) Phone 0419151253, Hours usually extended in Daylight saving. Email: urallamensshedcommittee@gmail.com

Uralla Community Neighbourhood Centre. Monday by appointment, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30 to 3pm, 67711457 0419149244, Urallacnc@familysupport.org.au

Uralla Tigers' Supported Playgroup FREE, every Wednesday during school terms, 10am - 12pm, St Joseph's Primary School, contact Nenneh on 0450437068 or Momena on 0481983442

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

Uralla Book Club meets on the first Saturday of each month, 8:30am at the Alternate Root

Uralla Food Pantry, Mondays 10am - 2pm, Uralla Neighbourhood Centre. Good range dry goods, & fruit/veg. Fill a supermarket coloured bag \$15. New members welcome. Uralla Neighbourhood Centre, Ph: 6778 3277 or email : office@unc.org.au Donations welcomed.

Freemasons (Masonic Lodge of Peace #120, Uralla) meet the 3rd Tuesday each month, interested persons contact Dennis 0435 727 162 or John 0411 374 334

High Country Markets are held on the 1st Sunday of the month from 8am until 12.30pm at the Uralla Showground

Uralla Combined Pensioners and Seniors Association meets at Uralla Bowlo on the first & third Tuesdays of the month, 10am. New members welcomed, Ph. 0438433735

Uralla and District Uniting Church meets Sundays at 9.30am for worship. We are now able to meet in our beautiful church conveniently located at the corner of Hill and Maitland streets. First Sunday of each month is a communion service. All are welcome to attend. The first Sunday of each month is a communion service.

Uralla Garden Club meets every third Saturday of the month at 1.30pm. We have no set permanent venue, but meet at a different member's garden or we visit other open gardens. New members are very welcome. Contact: urallagardenclub@gmail.com or Jenny 0435 593 850

The Armidale District MS Branch meetings (including AGM) will be held at Armidale City Bowling Club on the first Monday of the month at 10:30am except for the December when it will be on the second Wednesday at 11am.

Armidale District MS Branch Support Group Meetings are held second Wednesday of the month, at Armidale City Bowling Club at 10:30am

Defibrillator Locations Around Uralla

- Uralla Fire and Rescue (Ring 000)
- McMaugh Gardens Aged Care
- Foodworks
- Top Pub
- Bowling Club
- Golf Club
- Uralla Medical Centre
- Uralla Clinic
- Men's Shed (X2)
- Acen Office, 96 Bridge Street
- Rotary BBQ Trailer at events
- RFS fire trucks in Uralla Shire carry defibrillators.



Defibrillator at McMaugh Gardens.

Identify defibrillators closest to your home or work and make a note of the hours in which they are accessible.

The Wisdom of Uncle Dorothy and Aunty Bob

Sound advice when you need it from people you can trust

Dear Aunty Bob,

With the new year already upon us, and last year having been a shocker for the world, how do you think this year will go. And what are your exciting plans for yourself. I can't wait to hear them.

Pezzym Istyck

Dear Pezzym,

Well, 2023 certainly was very testing for everyone, what with higher interest rates and inflation, a number of countries in mortal combat, and democracy under threat. I am very happy in live in Uralla. I don't have New Year resolutions anymore as I realise they don't last past January. I have decide to be happy and not worry about the things I can't change. Let's hope 2024 is a good one.

Yours in optimism

Aunty Bob

Dear Aunty Bob,

Word has it around town that you are hopeless at Trivia after your team recently got the wooden spoon at the Alternate Route's Trivia night. How can you seriously be giving advice to people in Wordsworth?

Gary Baldie

Dear Gary,

My readers will be pleased to hear that our team had a much improved performance in the most recent Trivia night, with a very credible 8th place out of 14. It did help having a full team of intellects, and far be it for me to take credit for our improvement, as this a team sport. Trivia questions are vastly different to the complex problems I have to solve in my column. My advice to you is not to listen to idle gossip but thank you for your query.

Aunty Bob

Dear Aunty Bob, I've been known to get a little teary at this time of the year when I reflect on my gratitude for Australia. I consider myself unbelievably fortunate to live here. I love the fresh drinkable water that comes out of the tap. I love people's relaxed attitude. I especially love being able to get rid of our various governments without shooting anyone. What do you love about Australia Aunty Bob, and is there anything we could do better. Sincerely,

Pete Triottic

Dear Pete, Hope those are tears of joy. As my father used to say when I asked him where else in the world he had been, he would answer in a very definite voice "Nowhere! Stuff Em!" followed by "Australia is the best country in the

world." I also believe he was correct. As you said, we get a chance every three years to throw out whatever political party has stuffed things up (and they all do). We are also doubly lucky to live in Uralla, where people smile and say hello, even if they don't know you or can't remember your name. We also have the benefit of the New England Brewery and that glorious pale ale. Life is good and I really don't think it can get much better. Yours in bliss,

Aunty Bob

Photos of the Week



This particular development is creating a good deal of interest in one corner of Uralla Shire, but where is it and why is everyone so happy about it? Wordsworth hopes to get more details for a future edition. - **Photo Jann Karp**



Shanaya Droder, representing Uralla on her mount Jasper, competed at the Zone 13 Jamboree at Armidale recently.

In this picture Shanaya was about to participate in her dressage event. She won two ribbons on the weekend. Uralla generally did well at the Jamboree with Ethan Woolridge becoming champion across all events in the 13-15 year age group. Ellen

Adams won the campdraft in the 11 to 13 age group and Georgia White won the Association Age group 17-25 years for campdraft. - **Photo and story by Jann Karp**

Deadline for the next edition of the Wordsworth is
5pm Thursday 1 February 2024

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



AUSTRALIA DAY 2024

Friday 26 January

7AM

BIG BREAKFAST

At Balala Fire Shed \$10 per person (under 12 free)

1045AM

PARADE SETUP IN PARK STREET

11AM

PARADE COMMENCES

Starting on Park Street

Along Bridge Street (walkers can join at Salisbury Street)

Left into Hill Street on to Alma Park

12PM

OFFICIAL CEREMONY – ALMA PARK

Armidale Pipe Band

Welcome to Country – Aunty Pam Meehan

National Anthem

Official Welcome

Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony

Address by Australia Day Ambassador – Susie Elelman AM

ACTIVITIES & ENTERTAINMENT

To commence following the official ceremony:

- Singing
- Thong & Gum Boot Throwing Competition
- Lolly Scramble
- Uralla Rotary Club – BBQ & Drinks
- CWA Uralla – Tea, Coffee & Damper
- Friends of McMaugh's – Sandwiches