

# Uralla Wordsworth

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urallawordsworth@gmail.com

[www.urallawordsworth.com.au](http://www.urallawordsworth.com.au)

 urallawordsworth

## Friends of McMaugh's Bowls Day a Success

I wish to thank everybody involved in making the 2021 Bowls Day at the Uralla Bowling and Recreation Club such a great success. A great day was had by all.

A big thanks to all our sponsors. Also thanks to the many people that assisted us in some way, by donation of cash, services, raffle prizes, goods for the trading table, prizes etc., that contributed to this great day.

A big thanks to members of Friends of McMaugh Gardens for their great cooking and supply of meals and all the assistance given on the day.

Without this great community of Uralla we live in, and the guests, players and observers, it would not be such an enjoyable and financial success. The money raised all goes to assist in enhancing the residents of McMaugh Gardens and assist to make the care given appropriate and helpful for the staff. \$8,534.45 gross and after expenses the net raised for the day, including sponsorship money was \$8,192.47. What a fantastic day.

Rosemary Reading, Friends of McMaugh's



Right - Winners L-R : Nick Kelly, Peter Dade, Daniel Westbury

Top - Hawaiian themed Bowls Day

Bottom - L - R Gary Mackaway, Trevor Wilson, Barry Cameron



## Bill Andrews

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ABN 61 560 191 978

P.O BOX 49 / 51 LEECE RD

URALLA NSW 2358

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[bill@billandrews.com.au](mailto:bill@billandrews.com.au)

**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.**

As we move closer to the September 4 Council election, it is great to see the Uralla Shire Business Chamber asking people who are thinking about running for council to answer questions that the business community, and the public, want to ask. The Chamber are asking for questions to be sent to them so a template can be created. All prospective candidates will then be invited to answer those questions, and their answers will be placed on the website. Please refer to the Uralla Shire Business Chamber Facebook site for further details, or email your questions to: president@urallabusinesschamber.org.au

The next Tradies breakfast organised by the Business Chamber is set down for March 30 at 6am at Michael's Café. The inaugural meeting was a great chance for the local tradies to air their concerns and discuss the challenges that they are currently experiencing.

My Notice of Motion seeking an increase in the provision of building certification services from half a day a week to two days a week has been recommended by staff; however the report to Council claims this will cost an additional \$65,000 per annum. This means that our current consultant costs 4-5 times more than if we employed a full time staff member. Any suggestion of full cost recovery to meet this cost will be strongly challenged. Councillors have been advised that a quote for the Uralla Pool Disabled amenities and family change room has been awarded. No indication of who the successful company/person is, how much the successful quote was, how many companies/people provided quotations, or when the work will commence has been provided.

At a recent NSW Farmers meeting, the issue of Council's Local Environment Plan (LEP) was raised. Our current plan was gazetted in 2012. While minor changes to the plan have been made since that date, there has been no major review of the LEP since then. At this month's meeting, Council will consider a draft amendment to the Uralla Development Control Plan which will then go on public exhibition. This document does not deal with rural land use or minimum size zoning matters.

In May 2020, the Proterra Group provided reports to Council on the Uralla Landfill, Bundarra Landfill, Kerbside Waste Collection and an Investigation into Green Waste. Councillors were given a briefing on these reports last December, and have now been asked to adopt the recommendations of the report. The briefing report contained a significant number of errors. Following the

briefing I submitted a detailed review of the Kerbside Collection Report, to which I have not received acknowledgement nor a reply; however, a number of corrections have now been made. I have also reviewed the other three reports. Given that the Manager; Water, Sewer and Waste who prepared the report has now resigned from Council, it raises further concerns in relation to the cost implications and the management of the recommendations. With significant machinery purchases involved, these reports should be considered in the overall 2021/22 Plant budget. Other recommendations include tendering the waste collection, and closing the Bundarra Landfill and replacing it with a transfer station. A number of the recommendations also involve Walcha Council and will need to be discussed with them in detail.

More positive news on the lead up to the election was an excellent forum organised by Carol Shantal, Clare Campbell and Trish Rasmussen on "What does it take to be a Councillor?" More than twenty people attended to listen to former Walcha Council Mayor Janelle Archdale and current Inverell Councillor Di Baker.

It is interesting to note that while over 50% of the Council rate revenue comes from the farming community, their representation on Council is very limited. If the Farmers Federation want to have input into relevant matters such as rate increases, land use changes, as well as maintenance and improvement of rural roads and bridges, then they need to encourage their members to either run for Council or to support candidates who understand and appreciate their concerns, and are willing to strongly represent them. While a significant increase by way of a Special Rate Variation will have a minor impact on the town and rural residential areas, it will have a huge impact on our rural community.

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



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# Aboriginal Bike Safety Course

Just Ride Cycles has been awarded the funding to conduct a number of Indigenous Bicycle Safety Programs for aboriginal children aged 5-12 years (however we have had participants younger and older than this).

Participants in our program receive:

- 3 hours of cycling skills tuition
- a new bicycle helmet with an indigenous design (we have a maximum of 30 helmets per course)
- bicycle safety check
- bicycle repaired if required to a safe standard at no cost
- water bottle
- healthy refreshments

Participants need:

- a bicycle if they have one
- enclosed shoes (runners are ideal)
- appropriate clothing (shorts and a t-shirt)
- a parent/guardian to give signed authority to participate in the course

Scope of program (3 hours)

- Helmet Demonstration using a rockmelon.
  - Correct fitting of supplied helmets.
  - Clothing and footwear check of all participants.
- Participants to check each other's clothing and footwear.
- Sequential Demonstration of ABCD check of all bicycles. Including throughout the check a discussion on what bicycles must have to be legal to ride in public places in NSW (working bell, 1 working brake and rear red reflector at night). Participants encouraged to check and find any maintenance issues on their own bicycles and explain these to the mechanic. These will then be addressed by the mechanic.
  - Bicycle skill test
  - Progressive development of bicycle riding skills introducing skills pertinent to safe riding-braking, one handed riding, signalling, negotiating intersections, riding on shared paths. Skills introduced to be age specific to participants so may vary slightly at venues.
  - Finish with a recap of skills learnt.
  - All participants' bicycles will be assessed for roadworthiness/safety by the mechanic and repaired to

roadworthy/safe standard (must have 1 working brake, bell and a red rear reflector) if required during the session.

Supplied by Just Ride Cycles :

Up to 20 bicycles of various sizes

1 First Aid Kit on site at every venue

Training Equipment (chalk, witches hats etc.)

Pre and post course survey

Bicycle repair tools and experienced bicycle mechanics

Bicycle Parts

2 x Qualified / Insured Experienced bicycle coaches.

1 x Qualified Bike Mechanic

All staff have up to date working with children check

Supplied or organized healthy refreshments for participants.

**Jason Sipple, Just Ride Cycles (Lismore)**

## Come along to our free Aboriginal bicycle safety workshop

Register your interest to participate in a bicycle safety workshop that includes bicycle checking by qualified staff.

**Afternoon tea will be provided.**

Where: Uralla

Uralla BMX Track (Corner of Gostwyck street and Gostwyck Road Uralla)

Date: Thursday 8th April 2021

Time: 11am - 2pm

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For more information please contact:

Jason Sipple 0418 150 217 or 0266 225 775



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# Uralla shines (again) in Saluting the Service the week ahead

The 43rd Uralla Rotary Art Show celebrated with a great opening night on 19th March. The Art show is now open daily from 10am - 4pm in the Uralla RSL Memorial Hall in Salisbury St, entry is just \$5 (\$4 for pensioners) and the range of art on display is extraordinary as always.

Resident artist Kathy Miles has a wonderful range of her work on display too, so if you have been missing her in the main street you can now find her at the Hall. The Art show closes on Sunday 28th March at 2pm.

On Saturday 27th March all those who have ordered online via Seasons of New England will have their orders ready to collect from 9am - 4pm at the Uralla Showground. Orders for some goods have already closed but there is still a great range on line at [www.seasonsofnewengland.com.au](http://www.seasonsofnewengland.com.au), including a growing New England bottleshop and range of gourmet food and artisan retail products from across the New England.

From 5pm on Saturday 27th March there is an opportunity to get out and enjoy an evening of live music, great local meals from regional food vendors, a local coffee cart and a New England bar. The showground offers plenty of space and there will be COVID safe systems in place to ensure everyone is safe. People are asked to register to attend by emailing [info@seasonsofnewengland.com.au](mailto:info@seasonsofnewengland.com.au) or by calling Tara on 0434 408 163.

**Tara Toomey**  
Seasons of New England



QR Code to take you to the  
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website

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## Grants

Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, has welcomed news that the 2021-22 Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program is now open for applications.

"New England has a rich military history and each year this community does what it can to ensure we remember those who served in war and at home and the efforts they made in defending our nation and its allies," Mr Joyce said.

The program is now entering its 25th year and has already supported thousands of projects nationally, including in New England.

Mr Joyce said the last round of grants saw \$9,308 provided to Uralla Historical Society Inc to establish a museum display incorporating information and memorabilia of local service personnel who served during the First World War.

"Commemoration is at the heart of our community, something we see on display each Anzac Day and Remembrance Day and I encourage organisations to apply for funding through the Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program.

"2020 had an unexpected impact on our community due to the coronavirus, so as we enter into the 2021-22 grant funding year, let's make sure that we use the support provided by the Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program to carry on the commemorations legacy," Mr Joyce said.

The Grant Opportunity Guidelines have also been revised for 2021-22 which includes more information around coronavirus support and new opening and closing dates.

For more information visit:

<https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/saluting-service>

**Barnaby Joyce, Member for New England**



# The Flu Pandemic of 1919

The ongoing COVID-19 has been the latest pandemic to hit the world with the death toll to date being almost 3 million. While there is still a long way to go, Uralla has been extremely lucky to have come through the ordeal with no major issues. The case was not so 100 years ago in 1919 when Uralla was hit with a milder form of the Spanish Flu, the pneumonic influenza.

The Spanish Flu pandemic emerged at the end of the First World War, killing more than 50 million people worldwide. Cases of the Spanish flu appeared in Australia in early 1919 with about 40% of the population falling ill and around 15,000 dying as the virus spread throughout Australia.

Nearly every household in Uralla was affected with half the residents falling ill and several succumbing to the 'Flumonia.' Among those souls who Uralla lost were Mr John Burlinson, Mrs Isabella Phelp and Mr W A Brown from the Tattersall's Hotel.

The Health Department issued a pamphlet: - If attacked with sudden shivering, headache, pains in the back and limbs, together with, perhaps, inflamed eyes and nose, a person so affected should go to bed at once and remain there until at least four days have elapsed from the time of the disappearance of all such symptoms.

In Uralla, public events and entertainment were postponed or cancelled, community gatherings discouraged and travel to and from Sydney strongly discouraged. The welcoming home celebrations for our local soldiers arriving home to Uralla from the War were postponed in fear the virus may have been carried from Sydney, and the peace celebrations were also postponed due to the large number of cases of influenza in the town and district.

The Uralla Show fixed to take place in 1919 was also cancelled following advice from the Premier's Under Secretary; "Cabinet decided in the interest of public safety, owing to the risk of influenza, that your Show must be abandoned."

The Armidale Hospital was nearing full capacity and announced they would only take in local cases. The Uralla Council secured McAlister's old store premises on the corner of Salisbury and Duke streets to be used as a

temporary hospital for the pneumonic influenza cases if deemed necessary and local volunteers were called to register for aid work. The Public School was also considered to be used as a hospital if necessary.

It was decided to make available one of the waiting rooms at the local railway station for use as an inhalation chamber, and that an inspector be employed for all trains from Sydney and request passengers to go through the chamber. It was also decided to establish an inhalation chamber at the Council Chambers.

"Old Hand" submitted a preventative for the influenza to the Uralla News: - "Dissolve 2 packets of salts and a dessert spoonful of cream of tartar in a whisky bottle. Take about half an egg cup of this in warm water every morning before breakfast." There was no follow-up on the success of the tonic, however the Flu wave in Uralla was reported to have gone in August 1919: - "Uralla is now clear of the 'flu', and views its passing with much thankfulness. Amongst the deaths reported during the epidemic, and mainly due to its effects, were seven residents over the age of 70 years."

**Kay Adams, Uralla History Hub**

## Special Election Edition update

To promote an informed vote in the Uralla Shire Council election on 4th September, Uralla Wordsworth will publish a special election edition on 16th August.

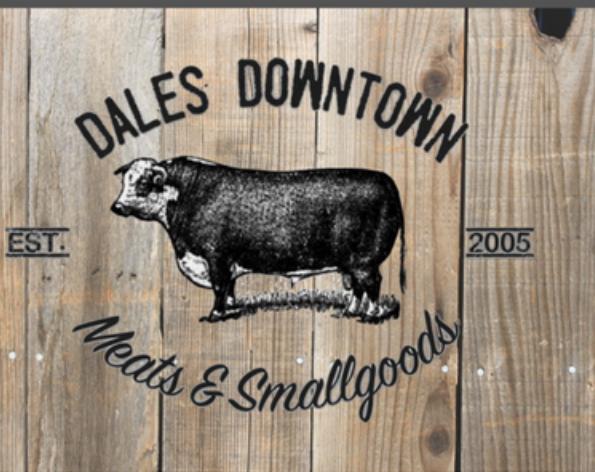
This extra edition will provide details of all candidates in the Council election, and will, as always, be free in hard copy and online.

Each candidate will be offered a half-page column, about 400 words, or less if a small photo is included.

This extra edition requires funding though, and we need to print more copies than usual so that we can be sure to get the paper in hard copy right across the Shire. To that end, we believe we need to print 1,000 copies and so we need to raise \$1,100.

In the interests of providing a neutral space, the front and back pages have been reserved as space to list those in  
*cont'd p7*

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# Free Storytime

Young children in Uralla Shire can enjoy a morning of free activities when The Trader Store hosts a water-themed storytime event on Wednesday 24 March from 10am. Children aged three to five and their parents or carers are invited to the event, which is part of ZNet Uralla's Let's Talk About Water initiative to encourage community discussion about water security for the shire.

"Parents and carers can enjoy a complimentary coffee from The Traders Store while their kids listen to stories and participate in free crafts and other activities about water," ZNet Uralla President Sandra Eady said.

The Let's Talk About Water project has included a series of community events to enable Uralla Shire residents and business people to share their opinions about possible options for improved water security.

"Many people have participated in workshops and hundreds have completed the community survey, to help identify community values about these options and help produce a 'water blueprint' for greater water security," Ms Eady said.

"The storytime event is a fun opportunity for more people to share their thoughts. It can be difficult for parents to find time to participate in community conversations, so here's a chance while the kids are being entertained."

Parents and carers can register for the event by emailing [water@zneturalla.org.au](mailto:water@zneturalla.org.au) or phoning 0474 297790.

To give even more opportunity for people to participate in the conversation on water, the community survey can now be completed online. Visit [zneturalla.org.au](http://zneturalla.org.au) to find a link to the survey, which will be open for input until 31st August.

Further details about the water security options being discussed and the Let's Talk About Water project are available on the ZNet Uralla website.

**Scott Green, ZNET Uralla**



**Nathan Whitton of the Trader Store**

# Seeking Volunteers

Armidale Helping Children and Families Association is a volunteer home visiting service supporting local families with babies and young children under six. This service has been operating in the Armidale and Uralla area since 2005.

Our network of trained volunteers provide support, assistance, friendship and neighbourly care to mothers and young families in our community who might benefit from personal or clinical support, or recreational or learning opportunities.

An independent organisation, we focus on nurturing the wellbeing of children and families in our community, building supportive relationships that enhance community connection, opportunity for care and inclusion.

Volunteers provide practical and social supports in a family's home for approximately 2 hours per week. Our volunteers are people who are interested in spending time with a family with young children, to be of support to the parents and who enjoy taking an interest in the well being and development of the children. Training is available through a short induction course. Following are some comments from families we have helped.

"With a toddler and a baby we really appreciate our weekly volunteer visits. It gives us some valuable free time, and our toddler really looks forward to having some one-on-one time. We have noticed a big improvement in our toddlers speaking, which we think is partially due to our volunteer who reads to him and encourages him to finish sentences in books and songs. It has also been nice to have someone to chat to who is understanding and available." - Mum and Dad of two

"In a world today that seems to build bigger fences between themselves and their neighbour, it has been so heart warming to open up my home to our volunteer. My 2 ½ year old warmed to her so quickly calling her grandma after the first visit. It is an honour to spend time with a woman of greater age and wisdom who also appreciates spending time with my little people at the other end of the age spectrum. Thank you HCFA for keeping this service active."

If you feel you would be interested in finding out more about Helping Children and Families as a volunteer, please contact:

Lone Petrov: 0427 784 760

Susan McPhee (Co-ordinator): 0467 580 016

**Lone Petrov, Uralla Resident**

# Sunny Jim Celebrations at The Mill

"I am surprised and very impressed by McCrossin's Mill's refreshingly unusual and empathic approach to Museology, unlike any other I've seen ..." was how Malcolm Knox, prolific novelist and award winning journalist from Sydney, began his spiel at the official opening of "SUNNY JIM MACKAY of URALLA ... Best Batsman in the World", the new permanent exhibition.

Donors of Sunny Jim artefacts had travelled from South Australia and Caloundra for the big night!

Designer and Curator of "the show", Mill stalwart Kent Mayo thanked the donors, then his "very patient" assistants ... Ann Hacker, Melissah Norris, Greg McLenahan and Jim Walkinshaw who were awarded a generous round of applause.

As were the Exhibition sponsors ... Western Suburbs Cricket Club (Sydney); Rosemary Leitch, Armidale; and The Top Pub, Uralla.

At the sold-out dinner event, the audience warmed to an address by Cameron Wood, Uralla Cricket Club's Captain, who detailed our Sunny Jim's brief but extraordinary batting achievements for Uralla, Burwood, NSW, and Transvaal, before an accident ended his stellar career.

Cameron proposed the toast to "Sunny Jim Mackay of Uralla ... Best Batsman in the World."

Midst the tinkling of wine glasses there were a few tears!

A response was offered by Hugh Donaldson, (great-nephew of Sunny Jim), who'd donated significant objects long held by his family but now in Uralla forever.

The keynote address was delivered by Malcolm Knox, who hit the audience for six, as he emphasised Jim Mackay's popularity because of his ever-cheerful disposition which earned him the nickname "Sunny Jim", recognised worldwide.

Malcolm Knox cleverly projected Sunny Jim into today's cricket scene, where he'd be a huge success in Test, One-Day and T20 games because of his powerful hitting.

Such a gifted wordsmith and orator, Malcolm had the audience imagining Sunny Jim striding out to bat in these modern times, the roar of the crowd bringing that huge

smile to his face.

His speech ended thus ... "One tantalising wish remains. Whether it was for Burwood, for NSW, for Transvaal, or for his club in this district, I would love very, very much to have seen Sunny Jim play"

Ann Hacker, McCrossin's Mill



Malcolm Knox with Kent Mayo at the Sunny Jim Exhibition at McCrossin's Mill Museum

## ***Cont'd from p5***

our community who are able to provide the financial support needed for the publication of this free and information focused edition of the paper.

If you are able to make a personal donation, or if your business or organisation would like to support this edition, here's what you need to do :

- Deposit an amount in to the Uralla Wordsworth Regional Australia bank account. You can do this either in the branch, or by funds transfer to BSB : 932 000, Account : 762598, Account Name : Uralla Wordsworth
- Email [urallawordsworth@gmail.com](mailto:urallawordsworth@gmail.com) with the name, business or organisation name you are happy for us to add to the front/back pages. For example - "Mary Brown, Uralla", or "John's Dog Grooming Service, Kentucky" and be sure to let us know if you require a receipt

Ross Burnet & Louis van Ekert, Uralla Wordsworth

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# Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Uralla Shire Business Chamber** meets 1st Thursday of each month at 5.30pm at the Top Pub

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

**Uralla Tennis** Senior Social tennis, Wednesday 6.30pm at the Uralla Sporting Complex, everyone welcome (\$7 members, \$10 non members), Family Fun Night starts again from Friday 12th Feb 2021

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

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

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

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

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

**Uralla RSL Sub-Branch** meets the last Sunday of the month at 11am at the RSL Rooms, The Uralla Memorial Institute, 55 Bridge Street, All Veterans welcome

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

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

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

**Uralla Shire Council Ordinary Meeting** 12.30pm Tuesday 23rd March, Uralla Shire Council Chambers

**Greener Grazing Event** 9am - 4.30pm Wednesday 24th March, "Lana" (see p12 for full details)

**ZNET Water Storytime** 10am Wednesday 24th March, Trader Store (see p6 for full details)

**Seasons of New England** Click and Collect Orders on Saturday 27th March, 9am - 4pm at the Uralla Showground, followed by live music, meals, coffee cart, and New England bar from 5pm, free entry

**Uralla Rotary Art Show** daily until Sunday 28th March from 10am - 4pm (2pm close on Sunday) \$5 entry (\$4 pensioners), RSL Memorial Hall, Salisbury St Uralla

**Uralla Co-Op Formation Meeting** 6pm Tuesday 30th March, Coopers yard in Hill St (see p14 for full details)

**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



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Deadline for the next edition is 5pm on Thursday 1st April 2021. Please email all contributions including advertising, letters to the editor and articles to [urallawordsworth@gmail.com](mailto:urallawordsworth@gmail.com)

# Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

In May or June 2019, Uralla Council proposed to sell off the Barry Munday Reserve (BMR) on Munday's Lane. The BMR and lagoon were notified in 1880 as a Water Reserve. In 1896 the 6 acres in question was notified as an area for Public Recreation. However, as early as 1860/5 the focus of the community was centered on the lagoon and in later years the local school annual picnic drew the whole community to the reserve. Since then the usage of BMR, according to Barry's brother Howard, has evolved in cycles of high usage when the community is largely families with children and low usage when the children have grown and flown. The present community petitioned Council to preserve the reserve. The request was granted with advice to 'have some skin in the game'.

Nearly two years have passed since that time. The Friends of Barry Munday Reserve, now a sub-group of Southern New England Landcare has contributed close to 200 hours of work on the reserve to restore the tennis courts, bench seating and barbecue. In a survey of local residents, with the help of SNELC, community appreciation of this area as a recreational reserve was confirmed. A number of people have donated money and materials for the completed works. Grant applications are awaiting decision to allow further maintenance to be undertaken. An official opening is planned for spring 2021. The group is thankful to the Uralla Councilors and Shire staff for their support in various ways. While an official opening is planned for the spring, local residents would like to invite everyone to enjoy the reserve facilities which overlook the lagoon (now on private land) with a variety of waterfowl.

Susan McPhee and Peter Barkley



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To the Editor,

I remember when...

Radio and TV personality, Steve Liebmann could not believe his ears when I asked him, "When is Old Smokey coming around the Bunyan Bend?"

Old Smoky was the nickname of the Cooma Mail, an overnight train that ran from Sydney to Cooma.

So far away in both time and distance, how could anyone remember as if it were yesterday. Yesterday just happened to be 1959, and the location radio station 2XL Cooma.

Born in Cooma in 1944, Steve attended Monaro High School. He became a presenter on local radio station 2XL while still in high school. He hosted "Teen Scene" from 5:30 pm to 6:00pm on week days, playing the latest records.

His sign-off at the end of the show was "Yip yip yehodie, you're a little beauty".

At about age 18, Steve moved to Canberra, to work for radio station 2CA.

The railway line from Queanbeyan to Cooma closed in 1989.

**Barry Blair, Uralla Resident**

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# Major Boost for Region's Arts Visibility

A COMPREHENSIVE reboot of the essential connections that drive a healthy and visible creative arts industry recently escalated with a huge recruitment drive for the New England North West's best Arts communicators.

Arts North West is now pleased to announce its Creative Champions and In The Museum residency artists, who will spearhead this outreach program across the region in 2021.

Arts North West Creative Champions will seek out artists in all disciplines, artsworkers, and creative venues within the local government areas where they live. Once in place, they will assist creatives to deliver their information to the Arts North West Connect ([www.artsnwconnect.com.au](http://www.artsnwconnect.com.au)) regional registry of creative people, industries and venues in the New England North West.

These positions will be vital in establishing links between the creative population of our region and council Visitor Information Centres, giving our local artists and arts-related industries acknowledgment, recognition and employment opportunities, growing sustainability for the Arts within our communities.

Executive director of Arts North West Caroline Downer thanked the large number of applicants who put themselves forward for the positions.

"The Arts North West Creative Champions will allow us to build stronger and wider networks throughout the New England North West region," she said in a statement.

"This is something we are constantly working on, but with such a large geographical area and 12 contributing councils, it is not always easy to do with a small staff.

"The Arts North West Connect website will be the most current and comprehensive database of all things creative in the New England North West."

Arts North West's inaugural Creative Champions are as follows:

Armidale Regional: Lynette Aspey

Glen Innes Severn: Ruth Brummell

Gunnedah Shire: Marie Low

Gwydir Shire: Laura Cush

Inverell Shire: Mel Arnott

Liverpool Plains: Tania Hartigan

Moree Plains Shire: Kerrie Matchett

Narrabri Shire: Sarah Leete

Tamworth Regional: Kate Hofman

Tenterfield Shire: Danielle Wholohan

Uralla Shire: In negotiation

Walcha Council: Maryanne Piper

Ms Downer said that applications for Arts North West's In the Museum Artist residency were equally as impressive.

"We are so lucky to have fabulous museums run by dedicated volunteers scattered throughout our region and

I am sure the artists will find a treasure trove of inspiration during their residency," she said.

"I hope the In the Museum Residency project will inspire other local creatives to engage and explore their local historical societies and museums for inspiration and to create new connections within their communities."

The In the Museum Artist residency is an opportunity for an artist to develop new work, and collaborate with a museum to promote creative practice and support the role of museums and their collections in their communities by facilitating a community workshop or presentation of the residency outcomes.

The following New England North West artists were successful in being linked to these venues:

Dorothea Mackellar Centre and the Water Tower Museum: Writer, Alex Wharton

Echo Museum Wee Waa: Singer/Songwriter/Musician, Sarah Leete

Emmaville Mining Museum: Visual Artist, Jeff Manning

Hillgrove Museum: Photographer/Visual Artist, Mike Terry

Tenterfield Railway Museum: Visual Artist, Liz Powell

The successful Arts North West Snapshot applicants will be announced later this week.

This project is proudly funded by the NSW Government through Arts Restart.

**Stephanie McIntosh, Arts Northwest**



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# The Language of Cats

Hi, My name is rosie and I am a cat that lives with my staff, Bob & Wendy Anderson, (they think they are my owners but they are sadly mistaken). I want to tell you about the language that cats use to communicate with humans so as to improve your understanding of our needs. We pretty much have one word which is meow, but there are different connotations depending on the volume and inflection of the meow. A soft low meow means, hello how are you. This is usually used as we run to the door to greet staff when they get home from work or the brewery. A medium meow means its time for my dinner and is sometime followed by a friendly rub of our body on your leg. I have found that many times this friendly approach does not bring the desired result, so a louder meeeooow is required and sometimes needs to be followed by a nip on the ankles of the staff member to get their full attention. You have to be careful with this method as it can sometimes backfire and the subject staff member reacts in a very unprofessional way by giving said cat a clout or a kick. If this happens it is usually followed by a very loud meeeeeooooow (meaning what the ###). If the message still does not register with the staff member a number of short sharp meows in quick succession will usually do the trick, however my owners are sometime too dumb to catch on. Staff sometimes fall asleep on the couch and I find this

is a good time to bond with them by perching on their chest and purring loudly in their ear, this means I love you and thanks for dinner, but next time make it a little quicker.

I hope this information will help all staff of cats wherever they are to be more helpful in their duties.

**Yours faithfully, Rosie Anderson**

## Uralla wins Walcha News Cup

Yesterday afternoon Uralla went up against Round Swamp in the Walcha News Cup grand final. Uralla winning the toss and electing to bat on a great looking wicket, however we lost 2 quick wickets. Thankfully Cameron Wood (97 runs) and Shannon Rafferty (68 runs) steadied the ship and put us in a position to have a defendable total of 185 runs.

Round Swamp came out to bat and started solidly chasing down our total, but a very good team effort of bowling and fielding slowed down the runs and gradually took wickets.

It was a very close game, Round Swamp only needing 28 runs from the final 5 overs of the match. Our bowlers and fielders gave absolutely everything, taking the match to a final ball thriller. Round Swamp come up just short, losing by 3 runs. Finishing their innings on 8/182.

Cameron Wood was named man of the match for his outstanding knock of 97 runs.

Uralla United Cricket Club would like to thank Round Swamp, Kentucky, Colts and all people involved with Walcha District Cricket Association for a great season and the continued great competition that gets run every year.

Looking forward to next season.

**Cameron Wood, Uralla Cricket Club**



**The winning team**

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# Bundarra Showground

## Upgrades

BY next year Bundarra Showground will have one of the best multi-use pavilions in the region ‘bar none’, according to Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall, who joined Minister for Lands Melinda Pavey last week in announcing a \$516,364 State Government stimulus grant to build a new entertaining shed, equipped with kitchen, dining and bar facilities.

In the last 12 months, the State Government has provided \$906,742 in stimulus and grant funding for projects to improve Bundarra Showground.

Mr Marshall said the new pavilion would allow the grounds to serve up the very best country hospitality, no matter the occasion or event.

“The quality of events and facilities at Bundarra Showground is a real testament to the passion and hard work of the local user groups and volunteers,” Mr Marshall said.

“This grant will allow the demolition of the existing pavilion, with initial plans to replace it with a steel framed colorbond structure which is lined internally.

“Parts of the existing kitchen will be transferred across to the new pavilion, however adjustments will be made to improve functionality and make it compliant with health safety standards

“Designs for the dining room will be done so the building can comfortably seat 70 people.

“It’s been two years since the Bundarra Show last went ahead and the land managers are hopeful this build will be delivered in time for the show’s return in January next year.”

Bundarra Showground Land Managers Board Chair Max Fitzgerald said the old pavilion was the number one problem restricting growth at the grounds.

“In recent years there has been a real effort made by all Bundarra Showground user groups to update our power, camping facilities and amenities to ensure the venue is comfortable and accessible,” Mr Fitzgerald said.

“The old pavilion is really limiting that effort as it is now heavily impacted by white ant damage.

“We want as much of this money as possible to be spent locally and so are working with a local builder on designs, which are being developed with input from the facility’s various user groups.

“By rebuilding the pavilion the showground will become the perfect venue for community functions and private parties, with the land managers able to generate additional income from the site’s hire.

“We would like to thank both Adam and Minister Pavey for their ongoing support in upgrading our facilities.”

Mr Marshall said a \$155,213 electrical infrastructure upgrade at Bundarra Showground had just been

completed, funded by a previous round of State Government stimulus funding.

“If there’s three things that can put a stop to events at the Bundarra Showground it’s the drought, COVID-19 pandemic and a power outage,” he said.

“In an effort to offset one of these, money has been spent overhauling electrical infrastructure across the venue, replacing old wooden power poles with steel and overhanging lines with underground cabling.

“The benefits of underground cabling include decreased transmission losses, reduced risk of damage from storms and most importantly lower ongoing maintenance costs.

“Additional outdoor power outlets across the grounds have also been installed to allow increased camping.

“A separate \$30,000 grant is also being spent making improvements to the campdraft yards. Come this year’s draft there will be a shade structure over the cut-out yard to improve the welfare of cattle and riders.”

**Adam Marshall, Member Northern Tablelands**



**Steve Groth, left, Bundarra Campdraft Association**

**President Mark McLachlan, Bundarra Pony Club**

**President Bruce Scott, Northern Tablelands MP**

**Adam Marshall, Lands Minister Melinda Pavey, Bundarra Showground Land Managers Board Chair**

**Max Fitzgerald, Bundarra Show Society President**

**Dave King and land managers board members**

**Marina Eckert and Geoffrey Beard.**

## EMALENE GEMMELL FAMILY LAW



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# Uralla Co-Op Formation Meeting

Uralla Community Co-operative is ready to launch. Please come to our Formation Meeting on Tuesday 30 March. We will need to elect a board of up to 8 members – please nominate yourself if you can help run the business. No formalities for this meeting, just turn up and throw your hat in the ring. Absentee nominations accepted. If we have more than 8 nominees we will need an election (by show of hands at the meeting).

We will also need groups to help and advise on aspects of the co-op: building materials, Op Shop, recycling, newsletter, accounting, management ... The Co-op can use the skills you have.

Please come to the FORMATION MEETING  
Tuesday 30 March, 6pm at Cooper's yard in Hill Street  
**Ross Burnet, on behalf of the interim board**

## The Co-op is coming

Uralla Community Co-operative Ltd will soon be trading in SECONDHAND BUILDING MATERIALS  
We want any useful building materials, all trades

Call Alex 0429 844 390 or Ross 0412 701 402  
to access Cooper's yard for deliveries.  
All surplus funds donated to the community.

**THINK BEFORE YOU TIP**

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# Uralla Arts Gig Guide

The German duo of Rob and Deta Rayner (AKA The Beez) play an amazing concert at The Mill last Saturday (6/3/21). They were watched by a small but very appreciative audience. Rob & Deta have now settled in Australia after being trapped here by Covid last year while on tour. They have modified their act which was originally a four piece band, but they have included new material and their quirky comedy is ingrained into each performance. If you were one of the lucky ones to be there, tell your friends what they missed and make sure that you are at the next gig as Uralla Arts brings live music back to town.

Here are some of the upcoming live music and entertainment in coming weeks

Saturday 27th March In conjunction with Seasons of New England, Uralla Arts will present two local bands from 5-9 pm at The Showground – Featuring The Gravy.

Saturday 24th April – Local Musos Paul Longley and Tim Goodwin with Jhana Allan

Saturday 1st May – Play – Shootin Sadie – written and performed by Natasha Proudfchild at Uralla Central School hall

15th May Saturday Evening – Mic Conway of Captain Matchbox fame with Rob Long.

Put these in your diary. Further info to follow.

Remember to become a member of Uralla Arts just send your email address to Bob Anderson 0412424718 or [randerson84@bigpond.com](mailto:randerson84@bigpond.com)

**Bob Anderson, President Uralla Arts Council**

Inverell & North West

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NEW ENGLAND  
SOLAR FARM

MARCH 2021

## Celebration to mark the start of solar farm construction

Construction has now started on our 720-megawatt New England Solar Farm, an exciting milestone for the project and Uralla's role at the centre of the clean energy transition across the country.

The occasion was formally celebrated last week at a sod turning ceremony at the entry to the solar farm site, near Mt Lydia. NSW Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall, Uralla Shire Deputy Mayor Councillor Isabel Strutt and our CEO Anton Rohner came together to mark the occasion.



More than three dozen workers are now on-site undertaking earthworks and road and drainage construction across nine kilometres of local roads before work can begin on the solar farm site.

The solar farm construction and road upgrades are being led by Green Light Contractors with the road design, survey and construction being undertaken by locally based businesses that have expanded their local workforce to support the project.

UPC\AC CEO Anton Rohner said the project would continue to drive opportunities for local businesses, employment and help grow the local economy.

*"The local community, our project landowners and civic leaders have been very supportive of the project over the past three years," Mr Rohner said.*

"We're extremely excited to see construction start and the opportunities that are being returned and created for local business and workers.

The New England Solar Farm and battery project will be built in two stages.

The first 400MW (AC) stage and the 33/330 kilovolt (kV) substation will be installed on the northern section of the site.

## Roadworks Update

Work has started on upgrades to the eastern end of Big Ridge Rd and are expected to take 3 months to complete.

Work on the remaining segments including Barleyfields Rd is expected to commence in April.

KEEPING  
YOU  
INFORMED

Look out for the announcements of our community meetings.

@newenglandsolarfarm  
 newenglandsolarfarm.com.au

Laura Russell,  
Community Liaison Officer at Green Light Contractors

0417 261 453  
 lrussell@elecnor.com

# Landcare Event

To mark a 30-year milestone, Southern New England Landcare Ltd will host an event for up to 70 participants on 24th March, at 'Lana', to look at the results of 30 years of managing regeneratively. Tim Wright was a founding member of Balala-Brushgrove Landcare Group west of Uralla in 1989. Participants will hear presentations from Tim Wright and Dr Judi Earl about the principles and practices of regenerative agriculture that have been implemented on the property for more than 30 years.

The day will also be attended by special guests Prof Wal Whalley and Dr Christine Jones, who conducted research on Lana many years ago. Paddock walks with presenters will provide an opportunity to see first-hand the results of 30+ years of managing in this way.

Program and timings for the day :

- 9.00 am Registrations and morning tea, Lana woolshed
- 9.30 Opening addresses, Lana woolshed
- 10.00 Presentation by Tim Wright, Lana woolshed
- 11.15 Presentation by Dr Judi Earl, Lana woolshed
- 12.30 pm Lunch, Lana woolshed
- 1.30 Paddock walk and talk, Molong site
- 3.00 Afternoon tea and presentation by Lorraine Gordon
- 3.15 Workshop reflecting on learnings and take home messages
- 4:30 Close of day and return to woolshed

This event is made possible through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program for

Southern New England Landcare's Mustering Members 4 Climate Change Challenges project. More information and tickets can be found by phoning 02 6772 9123 or at <https://snelandcare.org.au/group-events.html>.

A resource table will be set up on the day providing background information for participants and media personnel. Lana is located 20 km west of Uralla. Take the Kingstown Rd, then Retreat Road and Lana Road. Field day signs will be located en route.

**Karen Zirkler, Southern New England Landcare**

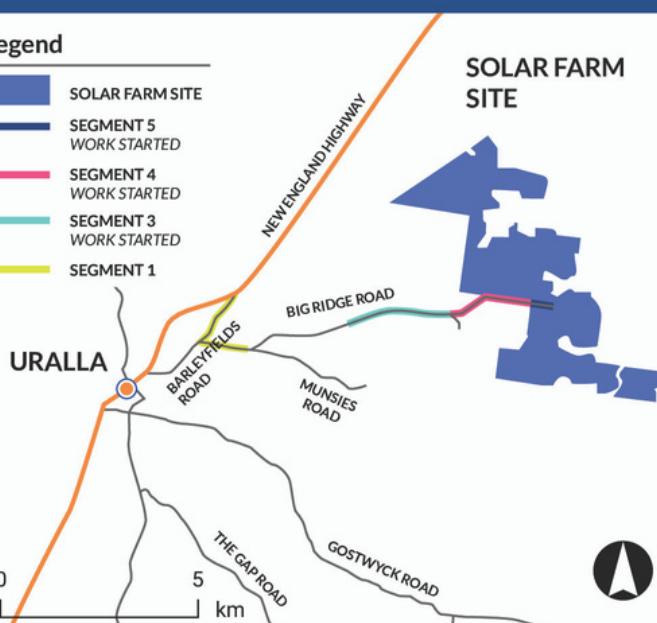


**Tim Wright inspects the diversity of pasture species at 'Lana'.**



## Legend

- █ SOLAR FARM SITE
- █ SEGMENT 5 WORK STARTED
- █ SEGMENT 4 WORK STARTED
- █ SEGMENT 3 WORK STARTED
- █ SEGMENT 1



## ROAD UPGRADE UPDATE

Work is expected to start on segment 3 of the road upgrades this week and will continue until May.

The upgrade to segments 4 and 5 is continuing at the eastern end of Big Ridge Rd and should also be completed by the end of May.

Work on the remaining segments including Barleyfields Rd is expected to commence in early April.

You can ask questions or provide feedback via our Facebook page, project website or by calling Green Light Contractor's Community Liaison Officer on 0417 261 453.