

# Uralla Wordsworth

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Uralla's FREE Fortnightly Newspaper

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www.urallawordsworth.com.au

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## Progress for Meralli Solar's Hometown Project

Meralli Solar's consultation process with its neighbours, key stakeholders, and the broader community on the potential to build a community-based solar farm on an industrial property located on Thunderbolt's Way, Uralla, NSW commenced in June 2020.

In keeping with their commitment to engage with the local community and stakeholders throughout the development and life of the project Meralli Solar is shortly holding a series of community information sessions in August. In the light of COVID-19, sessions will be held via videoconference, however if you are unable to attend virtually but have questions you would like to ask, please email [admin@meralliprojects.com.au](mailto:admin@meralliprojects.com.au)

Meralli Solar will provide an update on consultation and progress to date on the proposed Thunderbolt Community Solar Farm. At these sessions Meralli will show attendees what the potential solar farm will look like, how it will be built, the build time frame, address potential benefits and opportunities for the New England community, and provide attendees with an opportunity to ask any questions of its principals, David Mailler and Methuen Morgan that you may have.

Community Information Sessions are planned for: Wednesday 26 August at 7pm; Friday 28 August at 12 pm; Tuesday 1 September at 12pm; and Friday 4 September at 12pm

To register visit [www.meralliprojects.com.au/Thunderbolt](http://www.meralliprojects.com.au/Thunderbolt)  
**David Mailler, Executive Director, Meralli Solar, 0487 765 229 & Methuen Morgan, Executive Director, Meralli Solar, 0429 192 087.**

For Community enquiries contact: Adam Blakester, Executive Director, Starfish Initiatives,



Thunderbolt Project Site Plan

### Congratulations Gary Bashford!

New England Zone Rural Fire Service celebrated the opening of a new two-bay shed for Kentucky brigade at WhyWorry on Saturday 22nd August in cold and snowy conditions. Group Officer Gary Bashford received the National Medal for 46 years dedicated service to Kentucky Brigade and our Zone. The Event was attended by Adam Marshall MP, NSW RFS Commissioner Rob Rogers AFMSM, and local council representatives.

Adapted from the New England Zone Rural Fire Service facebook page

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**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.**

For all who have been waiting for your rates notice, the good news is they will be sent out soon. Due to the late posting, residents will have until the end of September to pay the first instalment. Any property owner who has recently purchased unused crown roads adjacent to their property should advise Council if these new parcels of land have not been amalgamated with your other holdings. You may receive a rates notice that will include the environmental levee and base rate for often very small parcels of land.

Adam Marshall MP has announced that there is \$250 million in the NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program. To be eligible, all we have to do is show the Department of Planning how we will accelerate local projects, improve assessment timeframes and then deliver them. The industrial area would meet this criteria perfectly. One great suggestion was for Uralla to fabricate solar panels on the site.

\$1.5 million has been announced for investigating alternative sources for our town's water supply. Councillors and the community were very vocal about needing a backup plan when we dropped below 100 days left of water. Previously, water would have been available from Armidale; however they were in the same position as we were. They had also already added Guyra to Malpas Dam. Adam Marshall MP has already flagged the possibility of raising Malpas Dam wall to improve reliability for Armidale, Guyra and possibly Uralla. The current funding allows for a number of bores to be dug to determine flow and quality issues. If you see a man walking the streets with a piece of fencing wire, it is probably our resident water diviner. To many this is still a dark art. On the ABC's Landline July 19 edition, it included a segment on new drilling technology in Queensland's Granite Belt used by Sustainable Water Pty Ltd. They use a combination of remote sensing data and aerial mapping to find deep underground fractured water coming up under pressure. Anyone interested can watch it free on iview. This may be a bit more scientific. Let's hope the investigation into our water supply includes upstream of Kentucky Dam for possible weir locations to treat arsenic before it flows into the main dam. Some work also to determine if the current wall can be economically and structurally lifted would be welcomed.

The last Budget Review and Finance Committee meeting recommended that Council:-

1.set a strategic objective for the General Fund to achieve a balanced operating result before capital grants by 2022/23 including the full funding of depreciation, amortisation and impairment of tangible assets and infrastructure, plant, equipment and to build reserves of \$4 million over the remaining seven years of the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP).

2.to inform the implementation of the strategic objective Council:

- a. workshop shire continuity and financial sustainability including a review of financial performance measures;
- b. workshop a review of service standards and Council's operating costs;
- c. undertake community engagement on the above and financial strategies;
- d. prepare and endorse policy/plans to inform the construction of the LTFP; and
- e. undertake community consultation in the LTFP.

(These minutes are unconfirmed.) The sledgehammer approach would be to apply for a Special Rate Variation of up to 40%. Community engagement is essential!!! While this may look like a foreign language to most of us, it highlights that some major changes have to occur in how much Council raises income and how it is spent. Farmers and business people who have voiced their concerns to me believe that Council should be able to live within its means without raising rates.

The Kentucky Fire Shed (on the Kingstown Road near "WhyWorry Wines"), has had an upgrade, which includes an extra double bay shed. The recent official opening was held on what can only be described as the coldest day of the year!

M: 0434 244 774

E: robertbell1055@hotmail.com

**Robert Bell,  
Uralla Shire Resident**



**Can Assist Uralla Annual Branch Meeting  
Saturday 26th September 2020 2.00 pm  
at the Uralla Bowling Club  
Further information  
Mary Ann Munsie PH: 6778 4651  
Vicki McLean PH: 6778 4353**



# RSL Sub-branch News

The Uralla Sub-Branch of the RSL has been busy over the past couple of weeks. On Saturday the 18th of August we had a great little turn out for the commemoration of "VP" Day which was the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. With about 30 in attendance which included our local state member, Mr. Adam Marshall and our current RSL NSW state board member, Mrs. Sandra Lambkin who both laid wreaths. These were joined by floral tributes from our own mayor, Mr. Michael Pearce, our new general manager and army veteran, Ms. Kate Jessep, our sub-branch, Uralla CWA and Army Cadet Unit 251 from Armidale.

We had a very special guest for the ceremony in Mr. Paul Kennedy and his lovely wife Helen from Gostwyck. It wasn't until a few days before that we found out from Paul's daughter-in-law, Lisa, that Paul had served in the Australian Army for the last six months or so of WW2 and then stayed on in the occupation forces in Japan until 1947 when he returned home. Until then we had thought that our recently departed Eric "Dicky" Bird, a WW2 Naval Veteran, had been our last surviving World War 2 serviceman. Paul seemed too young to have served until he told us that he had changed the date on his birth certificate and was only 16 years old when he headed off to war. We won't tell anybody that though!! Paul and Helen had a great time and enjoyed the camaraderie following the service.

Then on Tuesday the 18th we laid a wreath at the Vietnam Memorial in remembrance of "Long Tan" day. It had been 54 years since a small number of Australian Troops faced an overwhelming force of North Vietnamese soldiers. This day is remembered now as the day to reflect and remember those that didn't comeback. This includes two sons of Uralla. Private Trevor Attwood was Killed in Action on the 12th of June 1971 and Lance Corporal Ross McMillan was Killed in Action on the 2nd of February 1968. On Wednesday the 19th we held an information session from the organisation Open Arms. This is a DVA funded Veteran Group who specialise in the mental well being of Veterans. It was a very interesting. The presenters, both Army Veterans, Kieren and Sam had both overcome their own battles with PTSD and gone on to study the treatment

of mental illness. Their presentation was both entertaining and very informative. The sub-branch now has a range of information available to veterans who may need help. For information veterans can contact the sub-branch through our Well Being Officer Scott on 0487 824 410, President, Russ French on 0418 460 564 or Open Arms directly on 1800 011 046 or [www.OpenArms.gov.au](http://www.OpenArms.gov.au).

Our next sub-branch meeting will be held on Sunday the 30th of August commencing at 11am. This will be held at the Memorial Institute, 55 Bridge Street.

All veterans are welcome to attend.

Lest we forget.

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



**Alma Park Memorial Gates on 18th August for 75th Anniversary of VP Day**



**TO ALL OUR LEGACY SUPPORTERS**

**Legacy Week 30<sup>th</sup> August – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Due to COVID concerns, the Uralla Legacy group have your safety at the forefront.

**This year fundraising will be as follows:**

Order your **\$200 BIG LANDCRUISER LOAD OF FIREWOOD** for delivery within 50km of Uralla  
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Other donations are welcome  
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*Legacy thank you for your understanding and great support for our veterans families*



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# \$12.5 Million Powers Up New England Solar Farm Battery

AUSTRALIA'S largest hybrid solar and battery energy storage facility will soon call Uralla home, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall today announcing a \$12.5 million State Government grant to support the construction of a 50 megawatt/hour (MW/h) battery at the New England Solar Farm.

Mr Marshall said the 50MW/h battery will be co-located with stage 1 of the UPC/AC Renewables' 720MW New England Solar Farm. "This is another huge coup for our region and demonstrating the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) is already delivering innovation, infrastructure and industry at a rapid fire rate," Mr Marshall said.

"The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be included in the project's first stage and will be built alongside the 400MW solar farm. "The BESS will be capable of dispatching energy to the grid at times of high demand, further progressing the region's goal of becoming a net exporter of renewable energy. "Construction on the battery is expected to start early next year and will take about 12 months. During peak construction 40 jobs will be created with three ongoing roles once the technology is commissioned. "Combined with the recently announced Sapphire Battery Farm, these two projects will provide enough dispatchable energy to power 118,000 homes for an hour, equivalent to a city roughly ten times the size of Armidale.

"It's astounding to think in just two months since the REZ was announced, our electorate has seen \$22 million invested by the State Government in flagship renewable energy projects, helping to create 84 construction and operational jobs and grow the local economy. "When this project is completed, we will proudly hold the mantle as the capital of renewables for NSW and, perhaps in the not too distant future, all of Australia." The New England Solar Farm will be built across two solar fields about six kilometers east of Uralla. Based on the 720MW target capacity of both stages, the solar farm will produce around 1,800,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of clean electricity each year – enough to power about 250,000 NSW homes. UPC/AC Renewables Head of Solar Development Killian Wentrup said the BESS would ensure the solar farm can provide dispatchable power when it is most needed by households. "Solar energy combined with battery storage is a clean, reliable, cost effective way of supplying NSW homes with their energy needs into the future," Mr Wentrup said.

"Should the cost of batteries continue to fall and the need for firming energy increase the company also has

planning approval to expand the battery capacity up to 400 MWh, creating up to 200 jobs at peak construction. "Planning for the overall project is charging ahead, with a connection agreement finalized with Transgrid, which will allow the 720 MW solar farm to connect and supply power into the NSW electricity grid, and be traded in the National Electricity Market. "Design work on the transmission substation to be constructed as part of the approved development will begin soon, allowing the project to connect to the existing 330kV line that crosses the solar farm site. "Work is also underway on the design of the access road upgrades, with the upgrades being needed prior to commencement of construction of the solar farm. "I want to thank Adam and the NSW Government for providing this support through the Emerging Energy Program."

**Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands**

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The Uralla Wordsworth advertising schedule has been updated and the full schedule can be viewed on our website ([www.urallawordsworth.com.au](http://www.urallawordsworth.com.au)). The key price points are listed below :

Business Card Sized Ad .....	\$18
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Banner Bottom Front Page .....	\$100
Classifieds.....	\$2/line

Advertising can be emailed in jpg format to [urallawordsworth@gmail.com](mailto:urallawordsworth@gmail.com). The deadline for each edition is 5pm on the Thursday before the publication date.

If you enjoy reading the paper and are in a position to make a donation, the Uralla Wordsworth bank details are below :

Regional Australia Bank, BSB 932 000  
Account 762598 S3, Account Name Uralla Wordsworth Incorporated, Reference Please use your name and 'Donation', sending in an email to request your receipt where required.

Thank you.



# Rumbling Around Town

Hearing noises in the night, rumblings from afar?

Don't panic, we're hearing them too!

A couple of weeks ago, several residents heard distant rumbling noises and some even saw lights or flashes in the distant sky. This all came to light on the Uralla Facebook sites and were regularly occurring between 8 and 9 in the evening, sometimes lasting for several minutes or even longer.

Then last Tuesday, we even heard these "rumblings" in the distance. Putting my detectives hat on, I did a little military investigating.

I discovered that the Royal Australian Air Force has an established restricted flying zone out to the west of Uralla which covers an area from north of Inverell, out past Moree and down south, out to the west of Tamworth and Muswellbrook. It is used for air to air combat training for our elite RAAF military pilots and especially the pilots of our new multi-million dollar F-35A Lightning II fighter aircraft.

These jets are far louder than the older aircraft we are used to such as the F/A-18 Hornets with their older less powerful engines producing around 22,000 pounds of thrust. The new F-35 has a single larger engine producing 43,000 pounds of thrust and of course much more noise. In cold, damp and cloudy conditions this noise travels long distances. The flashing lights, looking a little like shooting stars, probably just the jets hitting their afterburners, for extra power during tight manoeuvres at high altitude.

So, don't be alarmed at any "rumblings" in the distance, it is just your tax payers dollars hard at work and the "sound of freedom".

**Russ French, military aviation nut**



**F-35A Lightning II Fighter Aircraft**

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing to share with you another regional first for Uralla Shire Council.

Council's planning staff have decided to stand out from the crowd and take an entirely new slant on the definition of "retail" as it applies under the Uralla Local Environmental Plan 2012 (the LEP). "Retail" - a definition of which is absent from the LEP Dictionary - is now being re-defined to include ALL sales where the product is sold directly to a customer. This means that all of our Uralla Shire innovators, reinventors and home based entrepreneurs who have turned to online, social media and other platforms to survive during the drought and now the pandemic, are unwittingly falling foul of the legislation. Here is the advice my client received from the Director of Infrastructure & Regulation at Uralla Shire Council on 5th August:

*A retail sale occurs when a business sells a product to an individual customer for his or her own use. The transaction itself can occur through a number of different sales channels, such as online, in a brick-and-mortar storefront, through direct sales, or direct mail. The aspect of the sale that qualifies it as a retail transaction is that the end user is the buyer.*

But wait, there's more! Do you sell Tupperware, or goods that you buy to resell, rather than make yourself, as part of your home based enterprise? Here is the advice from the same Director to my client on 5th August:

*Retail sales of goods not manufactured at your business address makes the correct categorisation of the activities being undertaken as Commercial premises according to the provisions of the Uralla Local Environmental Plan 2012.*

Prior to this notice from Council's Director, my client had operated a modest home business. The business operates without staff, with no signage, no goods on display, no customer visits, no extra traffic and no disruption of the local amenity. But what it does supports many others in our community and it provided invaluable income to the family that was spent right here in Uralla. The business has now been shut down under threat of fines. It seems to me that the source of the goods is irrelevant and it defies belief that online sales should not be permitted. How on earth are people going to make a living?

Stay safe, lie low and good luck.

**Andrew Toomey, Uralla Resident and Chartered Accountant**

Deadline for the next edition is 5pm on Thursday 3rd September 2020.  
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,

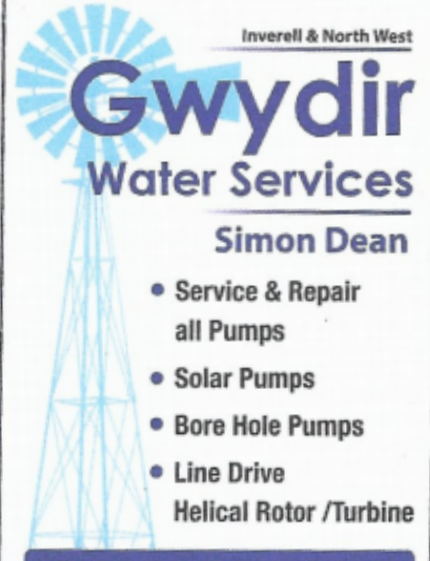
I am very concerned once again about the proposed extension to the supermarket and large carpark accompanying it. Once again the DA application is coming before council and my concern is that no significant changes have been made to the DA. We at the Museum and Function Centre are very concerned at how this will affect our operation. Imagine what will happen if DA 85-2019 goes ahead "as is" with the proposed carpark, well I don't think I have to say it, "who wants to be married and have a reception next to a carpark?"

The noise and the fumes of cars and trucks alone is enough to put you off. The ambience will be completely gone. We also, under normal circumstances, cater for numerous bus groups. These lovely older people come back more than once and even have their favourite shops they visit. Imagine having your lovely lunch next to a carpark, just horrible. Needless to say we will lose a lot of patronage. This loss will affect other businesses as those interstate guests will no longer feel the need to come to Uralla.

The Museum attracts up to 7000 visitors per year and hundreds more for functions. This year has been different due to Covid-19 and we have felt it financially. Like everyone else we still have to pay our bills, no income for four months and we had to use our savings which were earmarked for other improvements to the Museum.

I am sure all the other business owners in Uralla have felt the same pinch The Uralla Historical Society has asked the developer repeatedly to sit down with us and discuss better options more in keeping with what we already have. In this way we can all benefit and Uralla will continue to thrive. If DA 85-2019 is approved without significant changes I think people will no longer find Uralla an attractive destination. Tourists come to look at our Heritage and stay because of our efforts to keep it quaint. This is a wonderful charming town with a real village atmosphere, and I for one would like to see it stay that way.


**Veronica Porter, Treasurer and Concerned Citizen  
Uralla Historical Society**



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# Uralla CWA urges our community to take a stand against domestic violence

During CWA of NSW Awareness Week, Uralla Branch puts a spotlight on domestic violence and the confronting statistics that show a need for urgent action for more rural and regional NSW support services, perpetrator rehabilitation and prevention programs. This year, the CWA of NSW is partnering with White Ribbon and Domestic Violence NSW on a campaign, supporting the lobbying efforts of both groups and the assistance they offer to victims and their families.

Statistics show:

- 1 woman is killed every nine days and one man is killed every 29 days in a domestic violence-related situation.
- 1 in six women and one in 16 men in Australia have experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or previous cohabiting partner.
- Indigenous women are 32 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence than non-indigenous women.
- Domestic and family violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and their children.
- Women in regional, rural and remote areas are more likely than women in urban areas to experience domestic and family violence, and those who do seek help can find difficulty in accessing services due to geographical isolation (services/emergency accommodation may be hundreds of kilometres away) and lack of transportation options.

President of the Uralla Branch of the CWA of NSW, Ms Ann Denyer, said increasing awareness of the problem and looking at ways to stem domestic violence is even more significant because of the burden of stress caused by COVID-19. "Domestic violence support organisation White Ribbon says the pandemic has impacted on the rates of domestic violence. There is an increase in people asking for help for the first time. Restriction put victims in closer

proximity to their abusers, often for longer periods of time, and that proximity can make it harder for victims to reach out for help," Ann said.

Delia Donovan, Interim CEO of Domestic Violence NSW, said people in rural, regional and outer metropolitan areas experiencing domestic violence faced unique challenges and had specific needs, with the organisation calling for the NSW Government to hold a regional forum to meet with local domestic violence services to gauge their immediate needs. The CWA of NSW as part of its Awareness Week, supports these recommendations and lobbying efforts. We are behind White Ribbon's call for more behavioural change and support programs for perpetrators, and for those who feel like they are a risk to their partner/families and need immediate support.

CWA members endorsed policy motions earlier in the year that urged governments to consider domestic violence as a "national emergency", calling for the utilisation of existing research and implementation of relevant recommendations and best practice relating to protecting survivors of domestic violence. This includes recommendations from the Australian Law Reform Commission's family law review and the National Research Organisation for Women's Safety. "This is something our members are passionate about raising awareness around and we're determined to get the message out that more needs to be done to increase support services – particularly in rural and regional areas – and implement strategies and programs focused on prevention and rehabilitation of abusive behaviour," Ann said. "We can all help make a difference by standing together, and saying we're no longer going to accept this level of violence in our own towns and suburbs." For those in need of assistance, 1800RESPECT is the national sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling service, which can be contacted on 1800 737 732. For more information on White Ribbon go to <https://www.whiteribbon.org.au/>, and for Domestic Violence NSW visit <https://www.dvnsw.org.au/> As part of CWA of NSW Awareness Week, the CWA of Uralla will distribute DV Support Contact Cards at our street stall from 7-14 September, and at drop-in points in the town such as the Library, Neighbourhood Centre and Café's.

**Suzanne Wright, Uralla CWA**



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Uralla Wordsworth Monday 24th August 2020 P7

# Become a Family Day Care Educator!

As Family Day Care Educators, we provide quality care for children within our own homes, with structured play, activities, and opportunities for play-based and child focused experiences.

Donna Lynch "I first discovered Family Day Care when my oldest daughter was born. I chose Family Day Care so that I could stay at home and have the pleasure of raising my children whilst earning an income. A career in Family Day Care is not without its challenges, however if the children can leave happily at the end of each day, having had fun learning experiences, then it has been a worthwhile day. I have the flexibility to be able to venture out into the community and explore what is to offer, it gives the children a sense of belonging whilst we attend play sessions and contribute to our local community.

My service has a strong focus on environmental issues and sustainability to help reduce our carbon footprint. The bonds I have developed with my families still forge ahead to this day. I also cherish the relationships I have formed with other educators. At the moment I can't think of a better way to spend my time, than what I am doing right now."

Armidale Family Day Care provides educators with ongoing training opportunities in a range of areas.

Please Contact Armidale & District Family Day Care for information about becoming a family day care educator.

**Melinda Clark, Armidale & District Family Day Care**



**Armidale & District Family Day Care in action**



**Armidale & District  
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95 Faulkner Street  
Armidale NSW 2350  
Ph 02 6772 5300

**Melinda Clark**

Nominated Supervisor

0413433545

melinda@afdc.org.au

**Uralla Historical Society AGM**  
**3pm sharp Sunday 20th September at**  
**McCrossin's Mill Museum.**  
**Guest Speaker Ms Kate Jessep, Uralla**  
**Shire Council General Manager**  
**2pm for membership renewals**



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

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## Bill Andrews

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# Andrew Murray's Diary

(At this point the party are travelling, by horseback, between modern-day Rockhampton and Mackay.)

## **Saturday May 12, 1860:**

Got away early from camp. I made a northerly course so as to strike the river again without losing time or distance. Travelled through open scrub, a kind of bastard myall or gidgee. Fine sound sheep country. After travelling a few miles we came out on an extensive undulating plain. A tall plant was in seed, the pods of seed resembling cabbage seed, making a continuous rattle in our boots and gun buckets. In the distance across the plain I saw the tall ti-trees and pointing them out to Mr. McCrossin I told him he might appoint a fresh leader as my horses were getting too much cut up in opening a track. On looking about, I was some blacks; the country was open and being the first of the 'Myalls' we have seen, we must have a look at them. Some of the horses were hitched to a tree, others were held. Our guns were capped. Away we went, McCrossin, McKay and myself leading as usual. The blacks did not hear us coming on account of the rattling of the ripe seed pods but when about 150 yards distant one black noticed us, threw up his arms and shouted "Wah!" put his piccaninny straddle legs over his shoulders and off. I galloped after him. As he made for a clump of scrub, McKay shouted to me "Look out, Murray, he has a spear". I saw no spear or other weapon when close to him, and just as he reached the scrub the piccaninny let fall from his head a roll of kangaroo net. The black disappeared in the scrub. McCrossin threaded a needle and left it on the net, also a piece of calico, and we returned to the remainder of our party and horses. What became of the other blacks I do not know. They vanished as soon as the alarm was given. On going to the fire, we found they had had their midday meal close to a small lagoon. Many water-lily tuber peels lay about. We went on and camped in an open scrub. Soil: Chocolate, much pigweed and fine grass growing over the ridges and along the creek bank.

## **Sunday May 13, 1860:**

Going after the horses this morning and passing near a lagoon I thought to try for a duck. Going towards it, I saw through the grass tops what appeared to be the heads of geese. Crouching down and getting closer, I found it was the white flowers of the water-lily moving in the wind. Got the horses, and had breakfast and packed up. After going some distance I noticed I had left my saddle-bags, so hurried back for fear the blacks might have them. However, they were hanging over a fallen sapling where they were left to throw over the saddle. Soon overtook the party. We saw a number of kangaroos but could not get near them. Ranges ahead and we camped on an ironbark ridge.

## **Monday May 14, 1860:**

Went on east of north and camped near where a sandy

creek empties into the one we were running up. Some deep creeks come in from the ranges and some had such steep banks and beds so over grown with long coarse grass that we had at times to cross the main creek which was now a broad bed of sand with a few inches of running water. I suspect that in crossing and re-crossing we got off the main creek or Isaacs on to a tributary. The description corresponds so well with Leichhardt's map that we still thought we must be running the Isaacs up, as a large creek came in opposite our camp corresponding with Leichhardt's Skull Creek.

## **Tuesday May 15, 1860:**

Continuing up the creek, in a north-easterly direction. More troublesome creeks coming in from the eastern side. Camped on an iron-bark ridge. As there were no ridges near, I climbed to the top of the tallest iron-bark tree but, beyond mountains to the north-east and west, there was little to guide us. A gorge in the hills ahead is plainly visible, through which, probably, the creek we are on passes.

## **Wednesday May 16, 1860:**

Packed up and on our way, crossing the creek. Travelled over iron-bark ridges. The rock formation is now granite on the hills; the kangaroo grass green and seeding was about 18 inches high, fine cattle feed. We had not gone far when I noticed where the blacks had been quite recently digging yams. On looking ahead smoke from a small fire was visible. We hitched our horses up and went on. There being no scrub for the blacks to hide in and the country very open we thought to round them up easily. A little ahead a gin and three piccaninnies started to run. We spread out and soon go ahead. The poor gin sat down and her children crouched down around her. We got off and tried to get some information from her as to the course of the creek. She did not understand and uttered a few words only, sounding like "Beyana yana. Beyounda wony." We showed her a compass and a watch and the children soon got curious and wanted to handle them. Mr. McCrossin took a regatta shirt from his valise and put it on her as she sat on the ground – put her arms in the sleeves – and the piccaninnies seemed afraid of her. We got our pack-horses and went on. Some of the party heard cooes from other blacks. We crossed the creek again. On the top of a granite range near where we camped, a high rock showed above the tree tops. McKay said there was a fine view from the top. After dinner I got Hamilton Robison to come with me and we would try to get a rock-wallaby. I saw one some distance away. Robison jibbed a little over half-way up the hill as the hill was steep and stony. I reached the top and saw surrounding hills as high, and also the smoke from our camp fire. Had a mind to fire my gun but thought my mates might fear I was surrounded by blacks if they looked up and saw me alone on the top of the rock. On my returning to camp they discredited by statement and I regretted that I had not given the alarm. To be continued .....

## **Noel Marshall, Uralla Historical Society**

# 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

**Computer Bank New England** Computer Classes are each Friday from 9am - 12noon at the Uralla Community Centre

**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 Uralla Bowling Club

**Uralla Progressive Cinema** meets on the last Tuesday of each month, 6pm at McCrossin's Mill, all welcome, entry is free and donations welcome

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

**Tennis** is on Wednesday from 6.30pm at the Uralla Sporting Complex

**Knattering Knitters** meet at Uralla Library on Tuesdays at 10am and Sundays at 2pm

**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 Driver Reviver** meets on the first Sunday of each month at 2pm at 117 Bridge Street, Uralla.

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

## Ascent Community Care

Senior Social Group 9.30am – 2.00pm, Mondays at Uralla Community Centre Ph: 6778 3503

Seniors Exercise Class – 2.00pm -3.00pm, Wednesdays at the Uralla Community Centre Ph: 6778 3503

**Uralla Food Pantry**, Mondays 12 noon-2pm, Uralla Neighbourhood Centre. Good range dry goods, and fruit/veges. 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 25th August 2020 at the Uralla Shire Council Chambers

**Uralla Historical Society AGM** 3pm sharp Sunday 20th September 2020, McCrossin's Mill Museum. Guest Speaker Ms Kate Jessep, Uralla Shire Council General Manager.

**Uralla RSL Sub-Branch** meeting, Sunday the 30th of August, 11am, at the Memorial Institute, 55 Bridge Street. All Veterans are welcome to attend.

**Relay For Life Golf Day** 4 person ambrose, Uralla Golf Club, Sunday 18th October from 9am. RSVP to Theo Groen 0403 683 314 by 15th October

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# The Flying Rider Races

All the fairies in town were excited. Today was a big day.

The famous Flying Rider Races were about to start!

The Fairy Council of Australia had decided the Races would be held in Uralla that year. While everything was quiet as the humans stayed home, the local fairy families had been busy getting ready.

Riders had been chosen and the very best dragonflies and butterflies selected for training. This year, because the rain had come at last and turned everything so green and flowery, there were lots and lots of fabulous butterflies and dragonflies to choose from! And of course there were lots of riders keen to take part.

Fairy doors were decorated, fairy doorsteps swept, fairy tailors had made wonderful outfits for the Riders, fairy saddlers had made splendid saddles for the butterfly and dragonfly teams, and fairy children had made lots of colourful bunting to welcome the visitors from far away. Everyone knew it was going to be the best Flying Rider Races ever!

The races were about to start. It was the turn of the Junior Butterfly Riders first. They all lined up, looking amazing in their shimmering outfits and cobweb lace Invisibility Cloaks, while their butterflies flapped delicate wings. Dandelion's sister Fernseed was one of the Riders, and Thistledown's uncle had trained the butterfly she rode on, so all their friends were cheering like mad as the race started. And guess what--Fernseed came first in her age group! Didn't everyone yell and throw their fairy caps in the air! It was almost loud enough to be heard by the humans who looked puzzled and said, 'Wow, aren't there a lot of butterflies around today!'

Next came the turn of the Junior Dragonfly Riders. Pinch and Patch's mum owned the biggest dragonfly stable in the region. How they and all their friends cheered when one of their favourite dragonflies broke the record for speed! And the humans looked even more puzzled and said, 'I don't think I've ever spotted so many dragonflies in one place!'

But of course they couldn't spot the Riders—because of the Invisibility Cloaks!

The Open Butterfly and Open Dragonfly Races were about to start when suddenly out of the sky came a flock of hungry crows! They had heard about the crowds of butterflies and dragonflies gathered for the races and rather fancied a tasty snack or two of dragonfly steak with butterfly sauce.

But they didn't know about the Riders—or about fairy children, and those pesky crows soon got much more than they bargained for as all the fairy children of Uralla, led by Fernseed, rose up into the air to chase them off, yelling and shouting so the birds were almost deafened. Birds have much better hearing than humans, you see.

Hurrah! shouted everyone as the crows, missing a few tail feathers, flew away as fast and as far as they could. Hurrah for the fearless fairy children of Uralla, who saved the big day!

## Sophie Masson

*With thanks to Karin Jackson and Sophie Sorella who drew the map, thanks also to Sophie Masson who donated the story, and to Alex Sherrin who made the fairy doors and started the fairy door project. Also to Uralla Wordsworth for publishing the map and to the Visitor Information Centre for printing. And all the generous people who donated money to help the project prosper. Donations via GoFund Me 'Uralla Fairies' or at Burnet's Bookshop.*

## Personal Care Worker – Uralla

Join Australia's leading Aged Care Service provider as a **Personal Care Worker – Home Care**. This role will offer a permanent part time contract of 20 hours per fortnight, based at Uralla..

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