

Uralla Wordsworth

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New Life Members to Landcare NSW Honour Roll

Landcare NSW welcomed four new Honorary Life Members recently when their AGM was held in Sydney. Praising their dedication to the movement, role in the development of Landcare NSW and the NSW Landcare movement and guiding the direction of all levels of Landcare, Landcare NSW Chair Steph Cameron said she was pleased to be able to honour their achievements.

"These four individuals have ensured that Landcare NSW and Landcare in NSW have flourished and grown in capacity and strength. Where we are would not have occurred without their passion and dedication to the cause."

"I would like to thank Sonia Williams for her extraordinary contribution to Landcare in New England region and her pivotal role to development of Landcare NSW.

"Keith Hyde, our tireless Landcarer whose advocacy on a local, regional, state and national level has had major contributions across many areas in Landcare and the environment, especially policy, including representing NSW on the National Landcare Network (NLN) Members Council.

"Stuart Mosely, who has stood on the committee since 2011 and was very active in its early stages and major figure in development of Landcare in Western NSW who also stood as a State Representative on the NLN. And finally, Chris Scott, one of the founders of Landcare NSW, who stood as Chairman of the NSW Landcare Committee and has been involved with Landcare for the past 20 years, contributing to the development of the movement at all levels. Landcare NSW couldn't have made it through

the last ten years without them. "Sonia, Keith, Stuart and Chris are reflections of why Landcare NSW is such a strong movement of change and something all Landcarers across the state should be proud of. "I can't thank them enough for all that they have done," Steph said. Representative of Lachlandcare and Landcare NSW Executive Committee Member, Keith Hyde, commended Steph and the Landcare NSW Council and staff, saying it had been a pleasure to be involved in the growth of the state body and movement. "It's been a really terrific journey in Landcare. The faces may have changed, but the atmosphere has not changed, and we have all worked really well together. "It's been a really great experience and I thank everyone involved in making my time with Landcare NSW so enjoyable," Keith said.

Landcare NSW



Sonia Williams (left) with Stephanie Cameron, the Chair of Landcare NSW at the AGM

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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.

I have written this column very quietly as I am aware many of you may be a bit seedy after your Christmas celebrations. As we look forward to seeing in the New Year, we can take a positive view of 2021 with green grass, our water supply at 100%, and a vibrant local economy.

At our last Council meeting, we took some positive action with the passing of Councillor Crouch's motion to include a 5% preference for local suppliers if they are registered in Uralla Shire, and 2% for neighbouring shires, as part of our procurement policy. This will be placed on public display to allow public comment. Councillor Crouch's motion to open Councillor workshops to the public and give public notice of agenda items was also supported. This may help avoid one of the complaints that Armidale Regional Council faced with decisions being made away from the public eye. There will still be some items that need to be closed to the public. Councillor Toomey's motion to see Councillors table a statement of all their travel claims at each Council meeting as part of their delegate report was also supported by most councillors. Tara has always been an advocate for open and transparent local government. Council's Expenses and Facilities Policy is to ensure all councillors are entitled to be reimbursed for reasonable costs. The last thing we want to see is residents in Bundarra, Kingstown, Invergowrie or Kentucky discouraged from being councillors. Councillor O'Connor's motion seeking a report on Capital Expenditure that was not included in the 2020-2021 Operational Plan was defeated on the Mayor's casting vote.

Covid struck again with the announcement from NSW Health on December 21 that all residential aged care facilities in NSW must exclude visitors, except for those performing essential caring functions. This was to be reviewed on December 24. Hopefully when you read this, the restrictions will have been lifted, and residents of McMaugh Gardens Aged Care Facility can once again have visitors or leave the facility to spend time with family. I have also been advised that the Australia Day parade has been cancelled as it is not possible to control numbers in Alma Park at the end of the parade. The celebrations will now take place in the Uralla RSL Memorial Hall. I can't help feeling that I would be safer in the park. However, I must temper my view that some of these measures are over the top, with the reality of what my eldest son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren are experiencing

in England at the moment.

Our latest advice on the upgrade to the Visitor Information Centre is that it will commence mid January. This will be over seven years since Bruce and Bev Stubberfield were advised it would be completed within twelve months.

While the Christmas celebrations held on December 19 in Bridge and Hill Streets were a bit quieter than hoped, it is already in the planning stages for 2021. The thunderstorm didn't help.

Next year, I hope that we will all work with the Uralla Business Chamber to decorate our shops and the CBD, and make Christmas celebrations a time to remember, as well as shining a light on Uralla! Funding opportunities are already being considered. I must say that it was wonderful to (finally) see the cross on Mt Mutton lit up.

Further frustration with the National Bank now being closed for a couple of weeks over the Christmas/New Year period. I can't help feeling it is on borrowed time in Uralla.

Transport for NSW has completed a review of railway level crossings and speed zones on Thunderbolts Way. They have recommended a maximum speed limit over the railway crossing on the Walcha Road of 80km/hr, as well as relocating the 50km/hr and 50km/hr Ahead signs about 120 metres further south. The recommendation also includes having the section from Uralla to the railway line as 80km/hr as it would be less than one kilometre of 100km/hr. While I support these changes, I am keen to hear any thoughts. The recent accident on the approach to Shanahan's Bridge, near Phoenix Foundry, highlights the need for a safety upgrade.

Special thanks to Gary and his team at Australia Post for going above and beyond (including weekends) to ensure we all received our Christmas cards and presents! Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

This marks the second year of articles for Uralla Wordsworth, and as well as congratulating the editors, contributors and supporting businesses, I wish all the readers and their families a healthy, happy and brighter 2021. If you are travelling, please drive safely.

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Robert Bell,
Uralla Shire Resident



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A message from Uralla Letter to the Editor

CanAssist

Thank you to all of the Uralla community who have supported our organization this year. We are very humbled that so many have continued their support despite the unprecedented events that have occurred.

Due to the events that occurred throughout the year, our normal fundraising events were unable to happen, but we were lucky to have held our annual fishing day in February at Wayne Poss's house. Every year we are so grateful for the support given by many members of the community to ensure that this event can happen. We would like to take the opportunity to formally thank Kath Miles for the recent raffle she ran for Uralla Can Assist during her time at the pop-up shop 'Rest A While Gallery' in Uralla.

Kath and Tony are wonderful supporters of Uralla Can Assist and a beautiful painting done by Kath was raffled. The prize was drawn last Saturday at the Christmas shopping night and the winner of this beautiful painting was Bill Andrews.

We wish all of the community a safe and Merry Christmas. We look forward to continuing our work within the community throughout 2021 and beyond.

Uralla Can Assist is a not for profit organization helping those in need of support following cancer diagnosis.

For more information, please contact:

MaryAnn Munsie- 6778 4651

Vicki McLean- 6778 4353

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To the Editor,

The standard you walk past is the standard you accept, and I am not prepared to walk past this disgraceful behaviour, and no one should.

There was an incident at the last Uralla Shire Council meeting that has been allowed to go without being publicly addressed. The thought of a councillor being ridiculed or at least felt like they are being ridiculed by a senior staff member for doing his job, is beyond the pale. The behaviour is a symptom of dysfunction.

The Uralla Mayor has failed to direct and maintain the respect deserving of elected representatives at a council meeting. The Mayor should immediately publicly apologise to the councillor involved.

The Mayor has additional responsibility and should be reminded that without good leadership and good governance, the fish will always rot from the head.

Kind regards, David Mailler



Kathy Miles and MaryAnn Munsie with the prize



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Australia Day in Uralla

Unfortunately, because of Covid restrictions, our celebrations will not be held in Alma Park, nor will there be a procession. This is because numbers cannot be controlled in an area with no fencing or gate to restrict numbers. However, celebrations will be held in the Memorial Hall, with numbers restricted to requirements at the time. The ceremony will commence at 11.30 a.m., and will consist of flag raising and National Anthem, address by the Australia Day Ambassador, and presentation of awards. We would suggest that any persons who wish to attend should advise the Secretary on 67784328 beforehand, so that attendance can be secured.

Our Ambassador will be NSW Young Australian of the Year 2013 and former NRL player, Corey Payne, and four persons will receive Australian Citizenship. There will be no jumping castle, merry-go-round, face painting or thong/gumboot throwing competitions, however the usual foods stalls will be available.

Covid requirements at the time, such as registering attendance, sanitising and social distancing will be in place. As a lead-up to the day, local shops and businesses will be invited to decorate their windows with displays depicting the National Australia Day Council 2020 theme "The Story of Australia", with a trophy and prize-money for those judged first, second and third.

Corey Payne

Corey is the Founder of the Future Direction Network. He is a passionate advocate of further education and has been recognised for his work in this field on multiple occasions. Currently, Corey works in retail operations where he is responsible for teams of people across multiple geographies. In 2013, Corey was awarded the NSW Young Australian of the Year for his work in helping young people from disadvantaged backgrounds continue their education at university.

In 2012, Corey was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship to conduct global research into how sport is used as a platform to engage disadvantaged youth into further education.

Prior to this Corey spent over a decade as a professional sportsman in the National Rugby League (NRL) representing the Canterbury Bulldogs, Wests Tigers and the St George Illawarra Dragons in over 130 matches. Corey holds a Bachelor of Commerce and a Master of Commerce with Merit from the University of Sydney, an MBA from the Macquarie Graduate School of Management and is a graduate of the HPI School of Design Thinking (dSchool) and the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Corey has also studied abroad in China at Tsinghua University where he completed a summer exchange.

Bev Niland, Australia Day Committee

Councils and Community Organisations called on to apply for Federal Grants

Federal Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, has welcomed the release of guidelines for the \$200 million Round Five of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) and encouraged communities in the region to apply. Throughout rural and regional Australia, \$100 million will be allocated for tourism-related infrastructure to get regional tourism back on its feet following drought, bushfire and COVID-19 setbacks, while \$100 million will target broader community infrastructure and investment. "Our region has already benefited from previous rounds of the BBRF with investments in crucial projects such as the Tenterfield Water Treatment Plant Replacement, Tamworth Intermodal Activation Plan, Gwydir Oval Lighting Replacement and a new centre for Armajun Aboriginal Health Service in Inverell to name but a few," Mr Joyce said. "These projects are already driving economic growth in the New England, delivering lasting benefits to our local communities and I'm eager to roll out more developments across the region." BBRF's tourism-related infrastructure grants complement Mr Joyce's announcement of more than \$500,000 in funding for 12 projects and events across the New England to boost domestic visitors in the region following bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said the launch of the BBRF Round 5 program guidelines meant prospective applicants could now begin planning their project applications for assessment. "The Australian Government is supporting regional communities across the nation with a particular focus in this round on regional tourism," the Deputy Prime Minister said. "This funding will create jobs and drive economic growth in our rural and remote communities at a time it is needed most." The guidelines have now been released and can be found at business.gov.au/bbrf meaning local proponents can now start developing their applications. Applications open on 12 January 2021 and close on 5 March 2021. Successful applicants are expected to be announced in mid-2021.

Barnaby Joyce, Member for New England



Running Wild - Run Girl Run

Continued from previous issue ...

Many times he had taken Molly and her Ma to visit the Thompson lady and her man Bill, traveling down the steep rutted track in the old buggy.

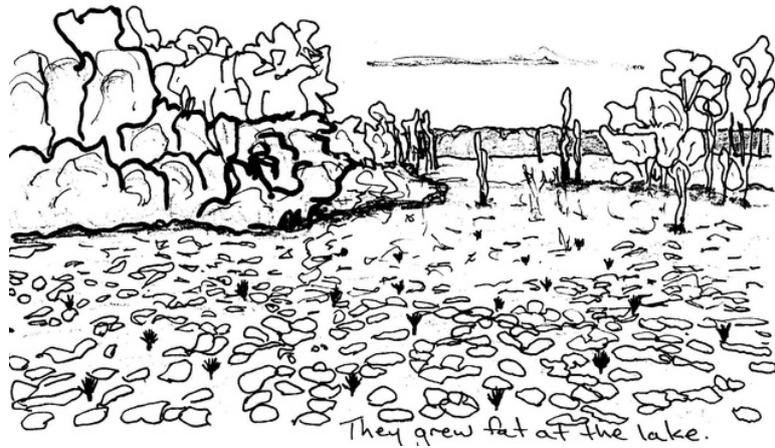
Molly barely remembers the night when her mother was dragged, screaming to a wagon in bonds. Nell had briefly been with a white man, who lost her in a card game to a traveling circus owner. He was moving his troupe north the following morning and Molly was then about three. She was snatched up as she slept and groggy, stuffed in a sugar bag and tossed into her mothers' lap for the long journey north. After two days and nights in the back of the wagon, Nell was able to free herself from her ropes. Just before daybreak on the third day they hit out, Nell carrying her child in a sling made from the sugar bag and keeping to the shadows until they were well away from settlement.

A few weeks passed and they found themselves at a large freshwater lake where small fish and eels were abundant and easy to catch. With the healthy diet they grew fat, feeling happier than they had since that fateful night. Occasionally they saw groups of dark shapes carrying long spears on the other side of the lake and saw plumes from cooking fires. But Nell quickly hid them both away whenever strangers were at the lake. Early one morning, two white men on horseback quickly came up on them, while they were waking from the bushes. Startled, the two ran in both directions, but the men's' horses were quicker, blocking their exits. The child was swept up screaming into the lap of one of the saddled riders. Nell froze in her tracks, fearful that the rider would ride away with her daughter or worse. All looked at each other for a moment, the child still screaming at the top of her lungs. With one hand the rider reached inside his saddlebag, retrieving a lump wrapped in paper. He unwrapped and broke off a chunk of bright yellow honeycomb, cramming it into the mouth of the screaming child. Instantly it was quiet, as little Molly slopped on a mouthful of bush honey. She soon was smiling and they all laughed at this immediate change in their circumstances. Nellie snoke first in her best

language, 'Please Sir, back my girl' she said. The rider walked his horse over and handed down the child into her outstretched arms. The riders both dismounted, one offering the magical raw honey to Nell. She accepted, popping it into her mouth, tasting the sweet goodness immediately and smiling at this first act of kindness.

To be continued ...

Daryl Albertson, Kellys Plains



**Gloria McMillan, making sure Xmas comes to Uralla!
Sent in by our faithful deliverer of the Wordsworth to
an Armidale Newsagency, Barry Blair. Well done
Gloria and thank you on all counts Barry. Ed**



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Council Xmas and New Year Closure

Residents are reminded that Uralla Shire Council's Customer Service, Administration Office, the Uralla Library and other non-essential services will be closed from 2:30pm on the afternoon of Thursday, 24th December 2020 for the holiday period. Normal Council operations will resume at 8:30am on Monday, 4 January 2021. Council's Customer Service and the Administration Office will close at 2:30pm on Thursday, 24 December 2020 and will reopen at 8:30am on Monday, 4 January 2021. The Uralla Library will close at 2:30pm on Thursday, 24 December 2020 and will reopen at 2:00pm on Monday, 4 January 2021. The after-hours library return chute will be available for returning library items during this period. All Council facilities will be closed on Christmas Day, including the Uralla Swimming Pool, Uralla Visitor Information Centre, Bundarra and Uralla Landfills, and Kingstown Transfer Station. Kerbside waste and recycling collection dates during the closure will be unaffected. Uralla Shire Council General Manager Kate Jessep said Council would be available during the closure to respond to emergency requests. "Council will have limited staff operating throughout the holiday shutdown period to respond to emergency events only." "For non-urgent requests, please email Council or submit a request through the Council website." "Alternately, you can telephone Council and leave a message with your contact information. The Customer Service team will return your enquiry on return from the holiday break." "Council will resume normal operations on Monday, 4th January 2020." In the event of an emergency, please contact the Uralla Shire Council Overseer on 0427 784 982. For emergency Water and Sewer Utility Services, please call 0427 784 304. If the matter is life threatening please call 000 for police, fire or ambulance. Council facilities reopening hours and kerbside collection dates during the holiday shutdown have been published to the Council website here.

Kate Jessep, Uralla Shire Council General Manager



Joanna Dolan

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Uralla RSL Sub Branch Update

The year is nearly at an end and it has been a rather trying year at that with all that has happened. However, we have muddled through it and managed to get a lot done.

Over the past year we have increased our membership as well and gained a lot of the old membership along to our meetings and social events.

The Sub-branch has also gained a very experienced Well being officer who has been able to use his skills in helping local veterans in getting the assistance they need. We have completed the refurbishment of our RSL meeting rooms and now have it open most Thursday mornings as a drop in centre for veterans and their families.

We've had some great events in the past month or so to get local veterans out and spending some time together and everyone has had a great time. We will continue this next year, COVID restrictions willing. Meetings will continue starting in January. Christmas and New Year can be a difficult time for Veterans and their families, especially this year with the added restrictions on travel. We hope that everyone has a chance to catch up with family and friends wherever you are. If not and you or a Veteran you know, find yourself struggling with the isolation or need some form of help please get in touch with us. Our numbers are on the front window of the RSL Rooms in the Memorial Institute and we can put you in touch with organisations that can help.

Lastly, we wish all our members, Auxiliary and Veterans a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I thank you all and the wonderful Uralla community for the help and support we have received over the past year in getting everything up and running and at the various events throughout the year. I'm looking forward to the year ahead and the challenges it may bring.

Lest We Forget

Russ French, President Uralla Sub-Branch, RSL NSW

Uralla Men's Shed

We will be taking a break over Christmas from December 17th till January 5th, so from all the members at the SHED, we wish you all a safe Christmas and a happy New Year.

GIVIT co-ordinates support for the region

Two years after launching their appeal to support NSW communities gripped by Australia's most severe drought in living memory, online charity GIVIT has reflected on coordinating more than \$650,000 in donations. Since September 2018 GIVIT's drought appeal has spent 100 per cent of donated funds with businesses and suppliers in drought-affected areas. More than 800 items have been provided for charities across the state and the online charity has directly supported at least 12,000 regional families and individuals. Drought Relief Officer, Melissa Bowman, visited Uralla recently to meet with community organisations and to purchase items from local stores that were needed by the community. In the past 6 months, GIVIT has helped with purchasing over \$40,000 worth of items needed within the Armidale community including Uralla. All purchases have been made locally, which is important to GIVIT as it likes to support the regional businesses and keep the money within the local economy. Vouchers were purchased from Uralla Pharmacy, Uralla Foodworks, Michael's Café, Dale's Downtown Meats and Moons Bakery. GIVIT has the following organisations registered in the Armidale community and encourages more to register to get a wider spread on those in need: Armidale Family Support Services, Armidale Neighbourhood Centre, RAMPH, Rural Financial Counselling Service, Centacare, Can Assist, Armidale Regional Council, Pathfinders and Southern New England Landcare. GIVIT has been able to assist with the donations of washing machines, generators, tanks, pumps, dog kennels, lounge suites, printers, a water bubbler & vouchers for fuel, groceries, pharmacy, butcher, newsagent, clothing, rural supplies & hair cuts, all purchased locally in Uralla, Armidale or Walcha. GIVIT makes sure people get what they need when they need it most - whether recovering from a disaster event, or experiencing hardship due to circumstances such as drought, domestic and family violence, homelessness, disability and mental health. The online charity coordinates all offers of goods, funds, volunteering and services online,

removing the burden on organisations to collect, sort, store and dispose of donations they don't need. All donated funds GIVIT receives are used to purchase items for people in need. To donate or more information about GIVIT's Drought Relief Appeal, visit GIVIT.org.au/drought-relief

Melissa Bowman, GIVIT



Susan Manttan of Uralla, also of Armidale Family Support Services, with Melissa Bowman, GIVIT

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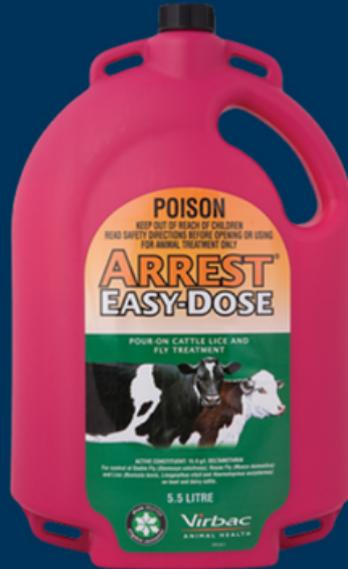
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Community Calendar

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

Tennis Senior Social tennis, Wednesday 6.30pm at the Uralla Sporting Complex, everyone welcome

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 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 Food Pantry, Mondays 11am - 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

Closed until Monday 11th January

Uralla Shire Council Budget Review & Financy Committee Meeting 12.30pm 9th February 2021, Uralla Shire Council Chamber

Uralla Shire Council Ordinary Meeting 12.30pm Tuesday 23rd February 2021, Uralla Shire Council Chambers



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Community Grants

Awarded

At its October and November Ordinary meetings, Council awarded community grants to Aniwana Elders Pamela Meehan, Trevor Watkins, and Robyn Wheeler to attend the 2021 Elders Olympics. The successful applicants will benefit with Council's contribution of \$300 each to help cover the costs to attend the annual event, which brings together teams of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders for a day of friendly competition and celebration of healthy living through sporting activities and traditional indigenous games. Uralla Shire Mayor, Cr Michael Pearce said Council will continue to support opportunities for athletic achievements and cultural and creative expression through its Community Grants Program. "Council is proud to help fund our Elders' attendance at the annual Elders Olympics and support them as they represent the Uralla Shire community at the event." "The Community Grants Program for individuals provides financial assistance to help Uralla Shire residents pursue their athletic, cultural or academic endeavours." "We congratulate the Elders on their successful award of the grants and wish them great success." The annual Elders Olympics event promotes healthy lifestyles and wellbeing, and provides an opportunity for social engagement and developing ongoing networks. The 2021 Elders Olympics is scheduled to be held in Nambucca Heads in April 2021 and is hosted by the Ngambaga Bindary Girraa Community Services Aboriginal Corporation. Council's Community Grants Program is open to individuals year round, provided that applications meet the funding criteria and are submitted at least four weeks prior to the commencement of the planned project or activity. Grants of up to \$300 are available to Uralla Shire residents to pursue achievements in their chosen area of expertise, such as sports and recreation, arts and culture, and academic endeavours. Council's Community Grants Program runs two funding rounds for groups and organisations. Groups and organisations can apply for funding up to \$3000 to benefit the wider Uralla Shire community through community development, arts and cultural development, social services, environmental initiatives, sport and recreational activities, and educational support. Applications under Council's Community Grants Program Round 2 will open to groups and organisations on 1 February 2021.

Kate Jessep, Uralla Shire Council General Manager

Advertising Schedule

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

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|--------------------------------|----------|
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| Banner Bottom Front Page | \$100 |
| Classifieds..... | \$2/line |

Advertising can be emailed in jpg format to 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.

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McMaugh Gardens Visitor Restrictions

Following the announcement from NSW Health, visitor access to McMaugh Gardens Aged Care Facility was restricted effective immediately until at least 11.59pm on Wednesday, 23 December 2020, pending further advice from NSW Ministry of Health.

NSW Health has announced that as of 21 December 2020, all residential aged care facilities in NSW must exclude visitors, except for those performing essential caring functions. NSW Health has stated the advice will be reviewed on the morning of Wednesday, 23 December 2020 as the pattern of the current outbreak is further understood. The current advice from NSW Health states that all staff must wear a surgical mask in residential aged care facilities until further notice. Further, residents should not leave the facility to attend family gatherings and group excursions unless the visit is essential, such as a necessary medical appointment. Uralla Shire Council General Manager Kate Jessep said Council acknowledges the emotional strain the new restrictions places on McMaugh Gardens residents, their families and friends, as well as staff members and their families. "We understand visitor restrictions are difficult, especially this time of year. After what has been a challenging year for everyone, it's normal to want to spend the festive season with our loved ones." "State mandated visitor restrictions may feel severe, however these precautions are necessary to keep our residents, their families, and the community safe," Ms Jessep said. "Although we cannot currently allow visitors at McMaugh Gardens, staff are working to keep residents connected with their families digitally, with video chats and Zoom calls."

"Council is monitoring the situation closely and will continue to follow NSW Health's advice and guidelines for the emotional and physical wellbeing of residents, staff, and the community. "Exempt visitors, such as visitors performing essential caring functions and where there are exceptional circumstances may be allowed entry but must wear a mask, be escorted to and from the resident's room by a staff member, and remain within the room during the visit. The current advice from NSW Health has provisions for exceptional circumstances to allow exempt visitors access on compassionate grounds. Similar provisions exist for staff members if their exclusion will result in significant compromise to patient care.

Families are asked to contact McMaugh Gardens on 6778 6380 should they have any queries regarding the NSW Health restrictions and guidelines.

Kate Jessep, Uralla Shire Council General Manager

Uralla Women's Bowling Club Awards

The Uralla Women's Bowling Club's pair of Pamela Westbury and Judith Bray won the New England District Women's Association's Senior Pairs Championship earlier this year. On Sunday this effort was rewarded when NEDWBA Secretary, Pauline Crouch, on behalf of the District President Nanette Jemmeson, presented the winners badges to Judy Bray and Phyllis Dade. Phyllis, President of the UWBC, accepted Pam's badge on behalf of her family. Pam having passed away in early November. Pam and Judy successfully paired up over a number of years. They took out District events in both the Open and Senior Pairs. The Open Pairs in 2014 and 2015, and the Senior Pairs in 2016 and 2020. The 2016 Senior Pairs saw them progress to the play-offs at State level. This year's win in the District Senior Pairs saw the two bowlers gearing up for the Regional Play-offs. However, Covid-19 brought things to a halt and all Regional competitions were postponed.

Pam and Judy were also part of the very successful Uralla Ladies Senior Fours team which has won the New England District Women's Bowls Association Senior Fours Championship for the last three years in a row.

Pauline Crouch, Publicity Officer, Uralla Women's Bowling Club



L-R Judy Bray, Pauline Crouch and Phyllis Dade

*Deadline for the next edition is 5pm on
Thursday 7th January 2021.
Please email all contributions including
advertising, letters to the editor
and articles to
urallawordsworth@gmail.com*

What makes our "Sunny Jim" Mackay of Uralla worthy of having a park named after him?

His run scoring for Burwood in the Sydney competition and for NSW was phenomenal, "without parallel in Australian cricket". (The magazine Cricket in London.)

In the 1905-06 season his average for Burwood was 108.0 and for NSW 112.8. Then to move to South Africa, be labelled "best batsman in the world", only to be knocked down by a motorcycle and his meteoric career shattered.

Back in Australia, at 27 years of age, it must have been hard to accept he had lost his wonderful powers for ever.

There was a futility about Mackay's attempts to regain his old mastery that summer which now seems almost pitiable. He batted eight times for Burwood for a total of 50 runs and an average of 7.14. His scores were 0, 1, 11, 6, 14, 17 not out, 0 and 1. Three years before, Mackay was reckoned to have failed if he did not score a century. George Garnsey saw one of Mackay's sad innings including a delivery which in his halcyon days would have been despatched past mid-on with a power and force not

even to be surpassed by the inimitable Victor Trumper. The ball bowled him! For a second his body seemed to droop in sorrow – then up came his head and with it the sunny smile we all loved. Proudly he walked out as if to say, "Well, I may have lost my skill, but never my courage".

In 1911 Mackay wrote to a journalist at the Sydney Morning Herald to announce his retirement from competitive cricket. "I find that my eyes are not yet well enough (although much better) for me to think of taking up the game again, so I have given up all idea of ever playing again".

It is interesting that Mackay should have been compared so often with Trumper, for Mackay himself revered him. For as long as he lived, Mackay had a big action picture of Trumper hanging on the wall of his home at Kentucky.

When Trumper died in 1915 the Referee said there was only one Australian batsman who ever approached him in brilliance, Sunny Jim Mackay. Mackay saw the item and wrote to the Referee from Cunnamulla: You quite flatter me when you put my abilities in the same street as his. The comparison, I should say, was as the electric light to the tallow candle."

So not only did our "Sunny Jim" bear stoically the cruel blow fate had dealt him, but he remained humble as well. A true champion!

Kent Mayo, Uralla Resident



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Sunny Jim Mackay