

Uralla Wordsworth

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A Difficult Decision

The majority of our community would no doubt be aware by now of the controversy surrounding the development application (DA) by the owner of Foodworks to redevelop Curtis Arcade (McCrae's Building) into a major modern supermarket complex. I'm not opposed to development in Uralla but this proposal is fraught with problems that will not only compromise the character of Uralla but the safety of our community.

The location of the development is in the middle of a heritage conservation area as defined in the Uralla Local Environment Plan 2012 (LEP). It will necessitate the demolition of all but the Bridge St façade of the Curtis Arcade (McCrae's Building) and three historic sheds and adversely impact both its neighbours. It will adversely affect the streetscape both on Bridge St and Salisbury St. There are significant safety issues involved in separating the frequent movement of large delivery vehicles from pedestrians moving from the proposed carpark to the supermarket. The development will also create considerable extra traffic that will have an impact on the intersection of Bridge and Salisbury Streets.

Despite reasoned and considerable community opposition and the strident opposition from both neighbours who will be adversely impacted by the development, it was approved by Council at its meeting last week. It would appear, though, that the DA is at odds with a large part of Council's own planning documents.

I won't go into the blow-by-blow history of this proposal other than to note with interest that the applicant/developer agreed in April to defer the application to allow for

community consultation and, on being privy to community concerns, chose to resubmit the application without addressing any of the community's concerns. At last Tuesday's meeting (23 June) he appeared surprised and hurt that there was so much opposition to the development, as though the verbal submissions were the first he'd heard of the objections. There will always be added expense and complexity in dealing with heritage buildings in sensitive areas and to think otherwise shows a great deal of naivety. To ignore community concerns the developer shows a complete lack of good will towards the people he hopes to serve.

So let's get down to it. After Council voted to pass the DA without conditions, a rescission motion is now to be put to Council at a special meeting on Tuesday 30 June. Should this motion be passed (and the numbers appear to be there), a deferral motion will be put and the reasons for a deferral of this application are many.

The Council's staff report on the proposal is inconsistent with the Uralla Development Control Plan (DCP) on many points, in spite of stating "the proposed development is consistent with the Uralla Development Control Plan":

- Car park ratios are not consistent with the DCP
- Permitting a ramp on to council land (on Salisbury St) is not consistent with the DCP
- Treatment of heritage elements, including the heritage roof line, is not consistent with the DCP
- The Heritage Advisor should have been required to assess each of the heritage objections.

.... continued page 8

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Authorised by Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands. Funded using parliamentary entitlements. June 2020.



Adam Marshall MP
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

Congratulations to the Uralla Wordsworth

Good local journalism is vital for maintaining a healthy democratic society.
Thank you for continuing to keep our communities up to date and informed.

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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.

With the current Coronavirus issues, the sad news is that this year's Thunderbolt Festival has been cancelled. The Rotary Club of Uralla sub-committee advised that they could not guarantee what visitor numbers would be allowed to attend, even though it was not scheduled until November. However, the Antiques and Collectables Fair will still go ahead in October, as numbers and social distancing can be maintained in the Memorial Hall, provided we don't see Council once again forced to close access to their buildings.

The other great news in town is that the "Alternate Root" is planning to reopen on July 1 under new management. We all hope this is a wonderful success. While it might be a while before we see Victorian caravans heading up the highway on their way to Queensland, we are seeing lots of regional and Sydney tourists in Uralla each weekend.

The draft Delivery Program 2017-2022 and draft Operational Plan 2020-2021 have been placed on public display. Comments can be forwarded to Council prior to the likely adoption at Council's July meeting. Councillors outlined specific matters that they would like to see addressed prior to these documents coming back to Council. These included a full split up of proposed Road upgrades and Plant/Equipment Capital purchases. Please note that the Uralla and Bundarra Water access charges and water usage charges have only been increased by approximately 5%. Council also agreed not to charge sewer rates for Bundarra residents for the next twelve months. We are really hopeful that the new scheme will be in operation by June 2021. Council is also limiting septic tank inspections and upgrades for Bundarra systems that may be redundant in twelve months. No one wants to pay for systems that may be redundant within twelve months. While the general rate increase approved under rate pegging is 2.6% residents will see some variations due to the latest revaluations of rural and residential properties in the shire. Council has slightly increased the base amount to flatten the overall effect on rural properties.

A detailed report was presented on the Mt Mitchell road construction. Councillors have also requested a copy of the external consultant's report that recommended this be the number one priority, as well as the traffic count data for Mt Mitchell Road and Retreat Road, including the location of the counter.

Methuen Morgan from Meralli Solar, addressed Council on their proposal for a 10 MW/DC solar farm, approximately

4kms from Uralla. With an anticipated output of 1.4MW/ha they only require 6 hectares. Standing only 80cm above the ground, it is easily screened. Adam Blakester from Starfish Initiatives also attended, as this project is hoped to include a community investment structure.

The NSW Government's Electricity Strategy sets out a plan to deliver three Renewable Energy Zones in the Central West, New England and South West regions. (Declaration: I am employed on a part-time basis by New England Solar as a Project Coordinator.) With a recent report showing a net migration from the city to the regions, we should emerge from the recent testing times with a very positive outlook.

2020-2021 will see the final gravel section of the Bingara Road upgraded and bitumen sealed. This will give a fully sealed road from Uralla and Armidale to Copeton Dam. While the dam is currently sitting at 13% capacity, it is still a very popular tourist venue. I would imagine that the September school holidays will see all the camping areas packed.

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**Robert Bell,
Uralla Shire Resident**



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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor can be emailed to: urallawordsworth@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

At the most recent public Council meeting, Mayor Pearce, Crs Bell, Dusting, Ledger and Strutt voted in favour of approving DA 85-2019, the Foodworks DA. This DA was presented unaltered, despite having been deferred at the previous Council meeting in order to give the developer time to address community concerns.

Jobs and growth are what matters for Uralla, said Mayor Pearce on ABC Radio Regional North West the other day. Although this is a well-worn cliché that is no longer used even by the PM, it still works in Uralla.

Everybody knows that jobs are important for a healthy community, and nobody disagrees. And absolutely nobody has ever argued that Foodworks should not be allowed to expand.

That is why it is so very disappointing that some councillors based their decision to vote in favour of DA 85-2019 on the progress, jobs and growth argument without even asking what sort of growth, and how many new jobs we can expect in Uralla - and what progress actually means. According to the DA, the economic and social benefits to Uralla are simple: “Expansion of the town’s only supermarket should contribute to greater amenity for residents” and “Expansion of the supermarket is anticipated to reduce economic bleed to Armidale”. That is all. More amenity, and less bleed. That is what we are guaranteed for jobs, growth and progress. It is unbelievable that some of our elected representatives are forced to base their decisions on such shallow arguments. Decisions that impact our whole community. But that is democracy at work, alleges Mayor Pearce.

Democracy was at work on Tuesday, and that is a good thing. It includes hearing Cr Dusting lamenting that the DA process is way too complicated. It includes listening to Mayor Pearce firing off “Dorothy Dixier” questions to Scott Phillips, Acting General Manager. And accepting that promises made about public consultation prior to a decision about the DA are ... well... hot air. Apparently, Councillors need to take into account that we have only limited funds to defend legal action. So what? There is no legal action, and to try and influence our Councillors in such a manner is a cheap trick. Democracy also includes listening to the Acting General Manager bluffing his way through Cr Toomey’s serious questions about Transport for New South Wales’s approval of the traffic plan in the DA. Cr O’Connor, after being told by the Acting General Manager that the choice was between accepting or rejecting the DA, and that deferral was not allowed, opted to move for rejection, but that motion did not make it to a vote. Cr Bell said that he would have preferred to vote for deferral also. Cr Sampson was torn between approval and rejection. Cr Strutt quoted lots of Uralla strategies and policies, and in the end supported the DA.

Cr Ledger’s deliberations were less clear, but she voted in favour as well. Uralla is open for business! The Uralla Development Control Plan has been thrown out of the window, said Cr Crouch in desperation. If you have had compliance problems with a DA recently, maybe you should consider threatening to sue Council. You will probably have the backing of the Mayor, the Acting General Manager and the Development and Planning Department.

The decision by Council was ill-advised. In the process, Council officers have managed to insult the National Trust, and to seriously damage Uralla’s reputation as a community that cares for its heritage. And if the DA as it stands is actually implemented, they will have seriously damaged Uralla’s heritage itself.

Council has called an urgent public Council meeting for next Tuesday 30 June to discuss a deferral motion following a rescission motion put by Crs Bell, Crouch, O’Connor, Sampson and Toomey. The public has until 4:00 pm Monday to apply to speak, papers are on the Council website.

According to the Acting General Manager, “the developer respectfully declines to participate in any further community consultations or negotiations”. There never were any to begin with, so not much surprise there. There are now two options for our Councillors: rejection of the DA, or approval subject to conditions. It is to be hoped that Councillors at the meeting add new approval conditions, particularly traffic safety, heritage preservation, arborist reports, and compliance with the DCP; or failing that, reject the DA. The latter is something that absolutely, absolutely nobody wants. Least of all Uralla Shire Council Development and Planning staff, who could lose their jobs, if the Acting General Manager is to be believed.

We wish Mr Phillips all the best at his new job as CEO of the advocacy organisation, Local Government NSW.

Uralla really deserves better.

Remember that at the next Council elections.

Louis van Ekert, Uralla Resident

(And president of Uralla Historical Society, and as such an interested party in the decision)

Further COVID-19 Restrictions Eased

As the Northern Tablelands electorate continues its COVID-19 free run, I think the increase in cases in Victoria is a timely reminder that we can't get complacent when it comes to preventing the spread of this illness.

From next Wednesday, 1 July NSW will move ahead with the considerable easing of restrictions for social gatherings. The changes coming into effect include the recommencement of junior and adult community sport, with strict social distancing guidelines. The number of people allowed inside indoor venues that can open will be determined by the one person per 4 square metre rule, with no upper limit. All activity must be seated only. And Cultural and sporting events at outdoor venues with a maximum capacity of 40,000 will be allowed up to 25 per cent of their normal capacity. To avoid our own coronavirus flare-up during this time it falls on all of us to follow the below advice from our medical experts. Follow the rules about gatherings, self-isolation and quarantine, maintain a physical distance of at least 1.5 metres from others, practise good hand hygiene, stay active and healthy, take extra care if you're around vulnerable people, get tested if you have any symptoms, even if they are only mild, follow NSW Health advice about staying home while you are waiting for test results.

With winter well underway people should not disregard their flu like symptoms as the common cold, but should immediately be screened for COVID-19. The list of potential symptoms the virus presents continues to grow and now includes fever, cough, sore or scratchy throat, shortness of breath the loss of smell and taste, runny nose, muscle and joint pain, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting and loss of appetite. If you or anyone of your family or friends are exhibiting these symptoms they must contact their GP or local hospital for testing. Finally, the NSW Government's COVID-19 \$10,000 Small Business Support grant closes on July 1 and I urge anyone operator who is yet to apply or has an application underway to lodge it immediately through Service NSW.

Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands

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Opportunities at Council

- Care Co-ordinator, closes 10/7/2020
- Plant Mechanic, closes 8/7/2020
- Request for Quote - Supply and Installation of R4 Insulation - apply by 6/7/2020
- Request for Quote - Solar Energy System at Uralla Sporting Complex - apply by 30/6/2020
- Request for Quotes - Installation of Energy Efficient Lighting - apply by 30/6/2020

This information has been taken from the USC website by the Uralla Wordsworth in good faith, in the interests of ensuring Uralla Shire residents are aware of these opportunities.

The Editors of the Uralla Wordsworth have now approached 3 successive General Manager's to invite them to advertise local employment and work opportunities in the paper. We will continue to have these conversations in the interests of our community.

As we have always done, we will also continue to publish USC press releases free of charge, as we do for all levels of government.

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 :

Business Card Sized Ad	\$18
1/8 Page Sized Ad	\$30
Quarter Page Ad	\$60
Half Page Ad	\$100
Full Back Page Ad	\$160
Full Page Internal Ad.....	\$140
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.

Uralla Showground to Undergo \$214,512

Facilities Redevelopment

MODERN kitchen facilities, new horse stables and upgraded cattle yards will all be included in a new-look Uralla Showground, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall today announcing a \$214,512 grant, funded through the State Government's COVID-19 Showgrounds Stimulus Package.

Mr Marshall said facilities at the showground had served the community well over several decades, but many areas were in need of work to make them safer and more functional. "Once this project is complete, horse sport organisations and cattle clubs will be jumping over themselves to host their next event at the venue," Mr Marshall said. "The first big change will be the demolition of two, more than 50-year-old, dilapidated wooden horse stables, which have developed a dangerous lean and leaking roof. "The structures will be replaced by a single steel set of stables, with each of the 12 bays having the capacity to allow horses indoors and outdoors. "The new stables will be slightly repositioned to make them more level and improve drainage. "The kitchen in Pavilion A will also undergo a full refurbishment, with stainless steel bench tops replacing the existing galvanised iron benches and new appliances including a deep fryer, 6 burner oven and barbecue grill plate to be added. "Broken tiles in the building will also be replaced to make the facility compliant with health standards.

"I congratulate the Uralla Showground Trust on working very hard in recent years to secure funding and dramatically improve the amenity and functionality of the showground." Uralla Showground Trust Chair Bev Stubberfield said the works were part of an effort to make the site more accessible and secure. "The cattle yards on site are largely made up of panels borrowed from Uralla Pony Club," Ms Stubberfield said. "This grant will allow the land managers to purchase its own set of panels for the ground, which can be put up and pulled down, to accommodate various cattle events held throughout the year. "Also, a new fence will be erected around the Dam Paddock, improving security and lessening the risk of animals getting out on the busy Gostwyck Road. "This is one of the biggest upgrade programs our committee has undertaken, and we are hopeful all works will be complete by September. "The drought and Uralla's water contamination issues have strained the local economy and, as a committee, we are glad to be able to support its recovery by providing work for local tradespeople and a venue which encourages community events."

Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands



Uralla Showground Trust Members (L-R Darron Phillips, Bev Stubberfield, Bob Crouch, Erica Barwell, Leanne Doran with Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall MP

Uralla Postal History

These stamps show Uralla Post Office was in operation on March 4, 1901, just a few months after the proclamation of the Commonwealth of Australia. Postage stamps were still issued by the states, in this case two twopenny blue Queen Victoria, and a penny red NSW shield. They have been cancelled with the Uralla circular date stamp, and the numerical cancel 216, a sort of early postcode used on parcels to identify the post office of origin.

Ross Burnet, Philatelist



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Business Opportunity!

Interested in Setting Up a Sustainable Firewood Business?

ZNET has been investigating the suitability of sawmill offcuts as a sustainable source of firewood, looking at wood quality, logistics and price. The goal was to determine the viability of establishing a local firewood business to deliver this wood to Uralla homes. Waste wood from sawmills is classed as sustainable as it is harvested under a forestry management permit.

Last year ZNET tested a load of mill offcuts from Bendemeer sawmill. We had approximately 40 cubic meters delivered by commercial transport in May 2019, and four households used the wood to evaluate its performance.

These were the findings:

1. The offcuts were well seasoned testing at 12% moisture with a density of 0.32 per cubic metre. They burnt well. The offcuts of mixed hardwood had been built up over the previous 12 months of mill operation.
2. There was a reasonable distribution of sizes ranging from small off-cuts, good to use as kindling through to larger pieces about 6 x 10 x 30 cm long. There were few large pieces that would help see a fire burn right through the night.
3. The wood was easy to handle for people who are frail or elderly, or people who find it difficult to carry heavy pieces of wood.
4. The price of the wood (now \$50+GST ex-mill) gives the opportunity for a reasonable margin for a firewood business to operate. ZNET paid about \$40/tonne for transport from Bendemeer but this price could be substantially reduced with some astute negotiation.

Some of the people who used the wood said:

"The pieces vary in size and the small bits were really good for kindling when you are regularly lighting a fire (May and Sept when a fire is not needed all the time). We mixed them with our normal supply so had good rapid burning pieces along with large blocks to keep the fire going overnight."

"Best wood I have ever had since moving here in 15 years

for my purpose. I have a small firebox and small door and it is already chopped up to the right size. There are three different sizes, one for starting, one to get it hot and larger pieces to maintain over a longer period. Very dry and easy to light and burns well. Easy to stack and carry as not too heavy and even sizes. Easy for storage inside as doesn't drop a lot of mess."

"I have an Aga in the kitchen with a small door and box. I have arthritis in my shoulders and husband unable to cut wood due to ill health so finds easy to carry, store and variety of sizes for different needs. No need for extra cutting and stacks well. Burns nice and hot and doesn't take long to heat up. Good for cooking."

Trish Rasmussen, ZNET Uralla



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You Can Help

If you can help us improve the information in the paper by sending in, or prompting others to send in, information about Uralla Shire businesses or community organisations that may be helpful for the community to know about, please do - email is urallawordsworth@gmail.com.

Please register to receive the paper by email at : www.urallawordsworth.com.au, our printable PDF for each edition will be found there as well.



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Mr Carter's Hill St Shop

My thanks to John Wilson and Peter Croft for information relating to the Hill Street building shown in a postcard that we included in the last issue of Wordsworth.

The building was, until recently, Coopers Hardware. The building was owned by Obadiah Carter, who was mayor of Uralla 1905-6, trading as fruiterer, seedsman and fancy goodsman. The picture appears to have been taken in the late 1890s. We have no explanation for the bold inscription on the front of the awning: "Pearson's" (or something very similar). The shop was subsequently subdivided, Obadiah Carter occupying the eastern half and J. Lightfoot, Tailor, the western half. It later became a skating rink, then a fruit shop operated by Harold Faulkner, and subsequently, we think, by Frank Somerlad. It then became the Red Cross Opportunity shop. In the early 1950s Les Poulsen had a billiard room at the back of the building. John Wilson remembers playing "Big Ring" marbles in the dirt in front of the shop.

Next door, where the Anglican op shop is now, was C.G. Cooper's. Steve Wilson, John's father, was apprenticed to C.G. Cooper about 100 years ago as a coffin-maker, using cedar from the gorge country. A little further towards Maitland Street, Mrs Egan operated as a seamstress. On the other side of the Carter building in the picture, towards Bridge Street, was Toby Bullen, bootmaker, then J.T. Swilks, skin and rabbit buyer. We don't have dates for these two, but Swilks was there in about 1955.

Additional information, refinements or corrections gladly received.

Ross Burnet



Public Notice

Budget Review & Finance Committee Meeting Schedule 2020-21. At its Ordinary Meeting held 23 June 2020, Uralla Shire Council resolved to adopt a bi-monthly meeting schedule for its Budget Review and Finance Committee for 2020-21.

The following schedule details the dates of each Committee meeting scheduled for the 2020-21 period:

- Tuesday, 11 August 2020
- Tuesday, 13 October 2020
- Tuesday, 8 December 2020
- Tuesday, 9 February 2021
- Tuesday, 13 April 2021
- Tuesday, 8 June 2021

All meetings are to be held in the Uralla Shire Council Chambers, 32 Salisbury Street, Uralla commencing at 12:30pm. All meetings are open to the public.

Acting General Manager, Mr Scott Phillips

Community Notice

At its Ordinary Meeting held Tuesday, 23 June 2020, Uralla Shire Council resolved to place the draft Delivery Program 2017-2022 and Operational Plan 2020-2021 on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. The draft Delivery Program 2017-2022 and Operational Plan 2020-2021 lists the actions, programs and activities Council will undertake during the financial year July 2020 to June 2021 inclusive. This plan is one of the documents required by the NSW Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting framework. The draft Delivery Program 2017-21 and Operational Plan 2019-20 and associated Statement of Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges are on public exhibition from Wednesday, 24 June to Tuesday, 21 July 2020. The document can be viewed at Council's Customer Service Centre, or by following the link below:

[Uralla Shire Council Draft Delivery Program 2017-2022 and Draft Operational Plan 2020-2021](#)

Written submissions can be made to Council until 5:00pm on Tuesday, 21 July 2020. Submissions may be made by email to council@uralla.nsw.gov.au or by letter to: The General Manager Uralla Shire Council PO Box 106 Uralla NSW 2358.

This information has been taken from the Uralla Shire Council website by the Uralla Wordsworth in good faith in order to keep the community informed.

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A Difficult Decision cont'd

The report permits the application to disregard the heritage elements of the DCP, setting a dangerous precedent for future applications. Previous development has protected the character of Uralla and this is where the report's deviation from the DCP is so at odds with our community's sentiments. As the former General Manager, Andrew Hopkins puts it in his introduction to Uralla's Community Strategic Plan, [Uralla has] "an unmistakably unique built environment". Our Mayor Councillor Pearce speaks of "pride in our heritage" in the same introduction. We need to respect these elements as they are part of who we are. The DCP is there to protect these sensitive and very tangible elements of our community's make-up. Permitted is a ramp on Council land, another dangerous precedent. No such consent has been granted to other applicants and if Council is consistent, it will not be granted here.

Traffic control is a serious concern. We see pedestrians mixing it with semi trailers between the proposed car park and the front door. There is no separation between the two. If you make it from the car to the front door, I don't fancy your chances of making it back, especially if you're in a wheel chair or have a couple of kids to contend with, as well as a full shopping trolley with those wheels that have a mind of their own. Take a look at the separation of pedestrians and delivery vehicles at any other supermarket. What is proposed and being accepted here is dangerous. Take a look at the Traffic Impact and Car Parking Assessment report prepared by Kelley Covey in June 2019.

The protection of neighbouring buildings and trees is not addressed and certainly no peace of mind is given to the neighbours. The compatibility of this proposal with neighbours and the surrounding village precinct is lacking. Both the Uralla Historical Society (owners of the McCrossin's Mill Museum) and the owners of the old Bank of NSW sites have invested heavily in the village heritage of Uralla. The lack of willingness of the developer to negotiate and to provide detail in this proposal is astounding.

The Uralla Local Environment Plan (LEP) of 2012

characterises this site as a "neighbourhood supermarket" with a floor area of 1,000 square metres. This development is proposing a scale that is incompatible with the site. It has been until now a "neighbourhood supermarket" but this proposal exceeds that scale. Simply, by the terms of our LEP, the supermarket proposed here no longer suits the site. Under the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, Council is required to take into consideration the suitability of the site for development. On so many levels this proposal has outgrown the site.

I have no doubt Uralla would love a super duper new supermarket if it was appropriately sited and enhanced our village. We would love more jobs.

In its current form this development is asking us to accept a cheap bland generic supermarket building in an area that is currently rich in heritage, in fact a 'heritage conservation area'. It asks us to accept the demolition of a significant heritage building and to boot it offers a dangerous mix of heavy vehicle movement with pedestrian traffic.

The development compromises and damages so much that we in Uralla hold dear. To ignore the weight of well-reasoned professional expertise that has been provided in opposing this development is one thing, to ignore the wishes of a community whose patronage one hopes to rely on would appear to be self-defeating.

New supermarket – for sure! Just not on this site.

Andrew Parker, Uralla Resident

The Uralla Club will be meeting in the usual place at the usual time.

The nominated member must remember to bring the lamingtons this time ...



Bill Andrews

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Andrew Murray's Diary

...continued

Saturday March 31, 1860:

Grass being abundant, little time was lost bringing the horses up. We went on and reached Rockhampton early in the afternoon. Camped at a small gully about half a mile from the town, the galvanised roofs of which looked in the distance like a collection of tents. It was formed only about two years. Mr Archer of "Gracemere" shifting his wool from it, and a rush for gold in 1858 known as the Canoona Rush and a disappointment to diggers, gave Rockhampton its start.

Sunday April 1, 1860:

Camped all day, as usual on Sunday. Remained here, getting all kinds of necessities for our journey. We fell in with a Mr. Dalrymple who had been out to Mt. McConnel in search of country for a syndicate. He also pointed out the approximate pencil lines on a map of Leichhardt's where the boundaries of the country were, he claimed, in order that we would not clash with his application.

Monday April 16, 1860: (*)

On leaving Rockhampton, or rather trying to do so, today, our supplies consisted of 800 lbs. of flour, 300 lbs. of beef, 20 lbs. of tea, 10 lbs. of coffee, 140 lbs. of sugar, 1 dozen tins of groats, with a bottle or two of brandy. Each man carried 200 bullets, 8 lbs. of shot and 3 boxes of caps, 2 pocket compasses and a chart of Leichhardt's as stated before. Had my bags made to carry 50 lbs. of flour, each with a thin strip of bark under the straps to prevent the bags from chafing through; gunpowders in ½ lb. flasks – flat bottle-necked tins which I sewed in a piece of double bagging as in this way the tins did not chafe and could not slip out. Meat was as hard as wood—more difficult to put in nice form for safe, neat, packing. As to groats and brandy, I had none of these to carry. Packing up and putting full weight on the horses for the first time was a hard trial on many of them. We were not out of sight of camp until Mr. McCrossin's black horse began a performance that resulted in his receiving a bad cut on the knee from an American axe which struck him in falling from the pack. After collecting the scattered odds and ends and packing up again we went on a short distance and camped near Jardean's on the bank of the Fitzroy. Jovana Barbra, alias Chips, also got a spill, injuring his wrist and arm. Poor chap, the workshop was more in his line than riding, of which he was nervous.

Tuesday April 17, 1860:

Mr. McCrossin and McKay went back into town to get an additional pack-saddle and a(illegible)..... which I do not know, previous to our reaching Rockhampton, between Mr. McKay and Mr. Cameron, Muldoon and I had partly arranged to go out on a trip by ourselves and, with that end in view, we had a tent

made. After thinking the matter over, Cameron and Muldoon thought we would be too weak to meet wild blacks, but I did not: with a good supply of rations and with a natural idea of the lay of the country, we had little to fear. However, to end the matter, Donald Cameron, who would not join the old party again, left us on Thursday and went in the direction of Presto, so my most reliable old mate was gone, for which I was sorry. I could not, however, persuade him to join the party again.

Wednesday April 18, 1860:

Got a good start and all went well. We had no trouble today. We camped near a lagoon on the roadside. The country is fairly level here, evidently very wet during heavy rainfalls. Timber mostly red gum.

Thursday April 19, 1860:

Started early, hoping to reach Yaamba in good time. We got along all right for a short distance, coming onto a small plain. By some means, Mr. McCrossin's bay cob pack pony got loose part of a tent strapped on his pack, at which he took fright and away he went. The further he galloped, and the more he kicked, the further the tent came out, until it was flying full length, hooked to the pack-saddle. The difficulty is to prevent these frightened animals from racing through and starting the rest of the pack horses. After going around on the plain, he came back and started another; Muldoon's piebald O'Shanessy went off. His pack was flour; a hole was torn in the bag and quite a cloud of flour followed that animal meteorite in his swift course until tired of the game. The truants were caught, their packs fixed up again. After that bit of diversion and loss of time, tracking round for straps, etc., we went on to a small creek where we camped. Our stages so far have been very short since leaving Rockhampton. (*) Murray does not explain the reason for the loss of 15 days. John Mackay kept a similar account which was, in part, published in the Armidale Express on Saturday, 22 September, 1860, page 4. Mackay claimed that the delay was due "to having to get everything in readiness for the long journey". Mackay mentioned, briefly, "Cameron returned home on Thursday" (12th April), and gave good account of the 300 lbs. of beef which he claimed "was cut into thin strips and dried in the sun."

Sunday March 18, 1860:

We Got togged out in a new suit of clothes, and off J.S. Bell and I went to Gladstone. Met McCrossin, Cameron, Robison and McKay, who turned back with us to town.

To be continued.....

Noel Marshall, Uralla Historical Society

Uralla Heritage Website

About ten years ago I started a website entitled www.livinginuralla.org where I tried to show the best of Uralla with lots of photos including Mt Mutton and the many native flowers and fungi that are a feature of that diverse area. All these photographs were taken by Frank Low a well known person around Uralla.

After a couple of years I saw the need to establish a forum for our heritage sites here in Uralla. I spoke to the owner of the drawings in the Uralla Heritage booklet and the author of the descriptions of the many heritage buildings in this book to get their permission to use them, they agreed. I came up with the idea of putting images of these heritage buildings online so anybody could appreciate them.

The extra site www.urallaheritage.livinginuralla.org came into being. I took hundreds of photographs around Uralla, scanned the drawings in the book and morphed them in the site to see what the buildings were depicted in the drawings and what they look like now.

Colin Wood, (much missed) former Uralla Resident, Volunteer at the Uralla VIC and Lollypop Man



Phoenix Foundry - then and now

New Facilities for Uralla

Aged Care

Residents at McMaugh Gardens Aged Care in Uralla are now enjoying upgraded bathroom facilities following completion of recent refurbishments. Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, said \$500,000 in works were funded under the Australian Government's Aged Care Regional, Rural and Remote Infrastructure Grant (ACRRRIG) Program.

A further \$160,000 was drawn from the Drought Communities Extension Program, which is delivering \$2 million to each and every council in the New England. The upgrade included refurbishment of 23 ensuite bathrooms to offer residents access to more modern and private facilities and amenities.

"Senior Australians deserve the best quality aged care services we can provide," Mr Joyce said. "Investing in new and improved infrastructure ensures the aged care system meets the needs of people in Uralla through increased care, support and protection." Uralla Shire Council Mayor Michael Peace welcomed the addition of new facilities.

"On behalf of Council I'd like to thank the Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce for his support to the Uralla Shire community under the Australian Government's Aged Care Regional Rural & Remote Infrastructure Grant and Drought Communities Programme," Mayor Pearce said. "It has been a challenging few months for our residents and staff at McMaugh Gardens and I am pleased to hear the residents are happy with their new ensuites and the project was completed ahead of schedule with minimal disruption."

The ACRRRIG program supported 117 services in regional, rural and remote regions to improve access and quality of aged care services. The funding has assisted services where they have been constrained by their location, higher costs and inability to invest in infrastructure.

Barnaby Joyce, Member for New England



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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 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 at 2pm at the 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

Uralla Shire Council Extraordinary Meeting 12.30pm Tuesday 30th June 2020 at the Uralla Shire Council Chambers

TUFF Board Meeting Tuesday 7th July at 5pm, for TUFF Board Members at Burnet's Bookshop

The Root Shoots

The Alternate Root (48 Bridge Street) will be back in action from Wednesday 1 July when Berdine takes over the lease. She plans to be open seven days a week for breakfast and lunch, 7am to 2.30pm, with chef Levi Rudge in the kitchen.

The liquor licence is pending, and later on there are plans to be open on Friday and Saturday evenings for tapas, cheese platters, etc. All liquor and cocktail ingredients will be locally sourced. Berdene brings experience with her, having had a café/gift shop in Bourke where evening tapas and music was a staple.

The Little Birdy business will continue in the Hill Street hanger, currently owned by Wayne Howard, originally moved from Brisbane and installed by Jack Munro. It became Munro Bros Garage and Engineering Works, said to have been the largest Holden/Chevrolet dealership outside Sydney. It was subsequently used as Jimmy Bloor's Uralla Tyres, taken over about a decade ago by Andy Ryan.

Ross Burnet, Bridge Street Observer

If you would like to help defray the costs of producing this map, you could leave a cash donation at Burnet's Bookshop, or make an online transfer to Uralla Fairies account at Regional Australia Bank (BSB 932 000, account 959146, \$1 for RAB customers), or search for Uralla Fairies on GoFundMe.

New Houses Springing Up Around Uralla



Multi Story Townhouse



Rustic Charm

With thanks to Gail & Matt Pennycuick for the images

Deadline for the next edition is
5pm on Thursday 9th July 2020.
Please email all contributions including
advertising, letters to the editor and
stories to urallawordsworth@gmail.com

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