

Uralla Wordsworth

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ANZAC Day in Uralla - Impressions



The marching band of Uralla residents heading the parade
Photo courtesy Uralla Wordsworth



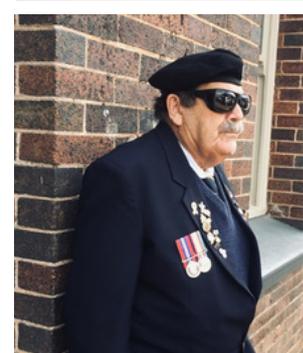
The Lone Charger at the end of the parade
Photo courtesy Uralla Wordsworth



Gracie Nova admiring the wreaths
Photo courtesy Wendy van Ekert-Porter



The parade. Photo courtesy Uralla Wordsworth



Alfred Bender
Photo courtesy Jann Karp



Local dignitaries in the parade. Photo courtesy Jann Karp

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While Robert Bell is away for a few weeks this column will be filed by Bob Crouch, Deputy Mayor. Bob became a Shire resident in 2002 when he and Pauline bought "Sentry Box" Bundarra. Five years ago, they moved to Rocky River. Bob was first elected to Council in 2012 and has served 7 years as Deputy Mayor. While Robert is away, Bob will give you a different perspective on Council and life by providing his personal views on matters concerning Council and ratepayers.

Anzac Day, WOW! What a turnout. Every year it gets bigger and better. To see the numbers in the crowd and to see the War Memorial Gates in Alma Park covered with wreaths like the memorials were when I marched with the school cadets 60 years ago is something Uralla and all Australia can truly be proud of. We appreciate and value their sacrifice more as the years go on. At the local level we also appreciate the efforts Russ, his team at the RSL and our community put into to making it happen. Thank you.

I can't help but comment here on how the world has changed. As 12-17 year-olds, we drilled, paraded and carried, in war games, WW2 Lee Enfield .303s, including taking them home on the school bus and carrying them in the Anzac March. Not anymore!

Last Tuesday I had the pleasure of chairing the Council meeting. Filling in is always interesting. Trying to get one's brain around the background and the collective ideas coming forward from around the table, to contribute to and drive effective decisions is always a rewarding challenge. In the longer term our council has to move with the times, capitalising on the benefits of being declared part of the Renewable Energy Zone. Working with our State and Federal Politicians (more commonly known as Adam and Barnaby) to develop the Shire while maintaining our quality of life.

Meanwhile, we need to focus on the important issues, when will my road get graded? When will the potholes on >>>> Road get filled? This has not been a good year for roads. The wet conditions and the number of heavy vehicles have presented a challenge. I want to publicly thank you for your tolerance in these conditions and to give a big thank you to our Council staff for the efforts they have made to maintain the roads as well as they have. At a council level we have approved additional funding for roads and at Tuesday's meeting approved a \$3.7m application to the NSW Fixing Country Roads Program to repair and upgrade Thunderbolts Way. Safety is our priority and we are making representation to the State and Commonwealth Authorities to focus on and address the safety issues raised by our residents.

Council is also applying to the Department of Communities and Justice for a \$60,000 grant for signage that will acknowledge the original inhabitants of our Shire and mark the Shire as a locality. Council has been shortlisted by the Department and has been asked for a full application. The significance of identifying as a Shire was discussed at length in council and we see this as a first stage, with more

bespoke signage being developed subject to time and funds. Councillors also stressed the importance of community engagement in this process. Our community must be involved and listened to.

You may have heard that the rate increase next year will be limited by the NSW Government to 0.7%, the IPART determination. With a 0.7% increase, councils (not just us) will not be able to maintain the current levels of services. As a result of a collective campaign to allow us to increase rates in-line with costs and inflation, the Government decided that councils could put in an application for a special variation to increase rates by up to 2.5%. About the rate of inflation. At the meeting on Tuesday, we approved the submission of the application. None of us like our rates to increase, however we need the services.

I will also take this opportunity to wish all the mothers out there a happy Mother's Day for May 8.



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Bob Crouch

Uralla Shire Resident

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2022 Federal Election

Early Voting Details

The 2022 federal election has been announced for Saturday 21 May 2022.

Enrol to vote:

If you are an Australian citizen aged 18 years or older you are required to vote in the federal election. To enrol for the first time or get back on the roll, you can enrol online <https://www.aec.gov.au/enrol/update-my-details.htm>

You must be correctly enrolled by 8pm local time Monday 18 April 2022.

Voting before election day

• In person at an early voting centre

If you can't get to a polling place on election day you can vote at an early voting centre in Australia. A list of early voting centres will be available after candidates have been declared.

• Postal voting

You are eligible to apply for a postal vote if you are unable to get to a polling place on election day. We encourage you to apply as soon as you know you are eligible.

The AEC cannot send your voting pack until the ballot papers have been printed. The earliest the AEC can send out your pack is 26 April 2022. If you do not apply as soon as possible, you may have to choose an alternative way to vote

<https://forms.aec.gov.au/PostalVoteApplication/Form/Apply/d2e0ebe6-cbc1-4d4b-98b3-ae6600ac6760?mode=SingleForm>

• AEC mobile voting

AEC mobile polling teams visit many voters who are not able to get to a polling place. Mobile polling teams will visit some residential care facilities and remote areas of Australia. Mobile polling is carried out around Australia during the election period.

• Telephone voting

Note: Legislation was passed in early 2022 to allow for COVID-affected voters to cast a telephone vote. Up until

the Wednesday before election day, COVID-affected Australians can apply for a postal vote. Telephone voting for people with COVID-19 will be an emergency measure for the final three voting days only. Further information will be provided prior to the voting period.

If you are blind or have low vision, you can cast your vote through the AEC's telephone voting service. More information on this service will be made available in the weeks after a federal election is announced. Voters living with a disability may also be eligible to cast their vote by post, or can vote with assistance at a polling place.

General enquiries at the AEC - phone **13 23 26**

Extra assistance contacting the AEC:

I'm deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment:

- National Relay Service (NRS)
- TTY users phone 133 677 then ask for 13 23 26
- Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 13 23 26
- Internet relay users connect to the NRS then ask for 13 23 26.

Languages other than English

- Translated information on enrolling and voting in your language
- A telephone interpreter service is available to assist electors who wish to contact the AEC in a language other than English.

Information sourced from the Australian Electoral Commission website 15/04/2022 www.aec.gov.au

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- Contour Banks and Erosion Control
- River/Creek Crossing Renewal and Culvert Pipe Replacement

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- Fence line Removal
- Stick Raking
- Small Scale Trenching and Pipe Laying
- General Earthworks



Wildlife Tails



Release day has arrived for these two Tawny Frogmouths. After rescue in November and nearly 3 months 'in care' they are ready. These birds are an absolute favourite of mine and so beautiful to look after. The last month has been interesting work with flight exercise and finding enough insects, grubs, meal worms and beetles to attract them each night in an escape proof metal tray. I have been hiding them under lots of dry leaf litter so they make noises and it encourages them down to look and feed themselves. That's the big worry after release, they have to find their own food full time and won't return to you for handouts again. These birds never beg to be fed although they open beaks up and are so easy to feed. One evening soon with moonlight and calm weather, the door will be propped open with a perch. Being orphaned they have had to mature enough to 'prop up like a branch and stay very still' which is their only daytime secret to remain out of sight. What a pleasure it has been

Julia Rose, Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
February 2022.



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Email: northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.adammarshall.com.au

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



Fuel Watch	30 April 2022	
	ULP	Diesel
Invergowrie	172.0	195.0
Mobil	182.9	195.9
Puma	185.9	199.9
BP	189.9	212.9
Kingstown	195.9	210.9
Kentucky	201.9	206.9

Uralla Community Street Store

Uralla Historical Society
2 - 8 May
Kentucky Memorial Hall
9 - 15 May
Call Uralla Shire Council
to book - 6778 6300

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,
Good ancestors?

When I approach the ballot box to cast my vote in this election, I carry not only a burden of grief but also a serious sense of responsibility. My grief is for both the past and the future, for the losses that we have seen and for those yet to come. As much as I would like to wrap myself in the false comfort of the opposite, monumental change is upon us. It is a change that overshadows squabbles about cash rates, pork barrels, photo ops, twitter, submarines, the price of bread. Such concerns are rendered absurd and petty, when we acknowledge that the entire planet is at a tipping point ... right now*. We are living through the most critical moment in human history and that fact is both intensely exciting and terrifying. There is a massive iceberg ahead. We know it is there, we can clearly see it and we have heard the warnings for decades, and we now have an opportunity to slow the Titanic down. If we are brave, imaginative and resolute, we might even be able to turn it around. But we must act decisively ... and quickly. Within a decade, the window of opportunity will slam shut and we will have consigned our children and grandchildren to suffer a barely liveable environment which we, in fact, had the power to save. Dubious promises are not enough, especially when greed and conflicts of interest are blatantly exposed. What we collectively do right now will determine the wellbeing of future generations. As much as we might deny it, we know what needs to be done and we also know how urgently we need to act**. One question will direct where I place my vote in this crucial election and it is one which I truly hope that everyone takes a moment to consider, because at the ballot box we have the chance to answer it in the affirmative. Am I being a good ancestor?

* As part of my post-graduate studies, I have read the 2022 IPCC report. As much as my viewpoint is based on the empirical data and peer-reviewed scientific rigour which underpin its findings, it is also informed by the lived experience of my family and friends who are now suffering the consequences, close to home.

** In August 2019, a group gathered at the site of the Icelandic glacier Okjökull (known as Ok) to mourn its disappearance and install a bronze plaque engraved with a letter to the future. It reads: "Ok is the first Icelandic glacier to lose its status as a glacier. In the next 200 years, all our glaciers are expected to follow the same path. This monument is to acknowledge that we know what is happening and what needs to be done. Only you know if we did it".

Coralie Sanderson, Uralla resident.

Dear Editors,
Heritage Consultant? Unconsulted.

"Uralla" and "Heritage" are now synonymous, with visitors flocking to our lively township, cultural tourism which benefits everyone.

In the Visitors' Book at McCrossin's Mill, tourists from Warwick wrote last week: "The best thing about Armidale is Uralla!"

Yet it is astonishing that Uralla Council has not sought the advice of the Heritage Consultant on significant projects currently underway ... the 1885 Court House (\$900,000), Open Spaces (\$2m), and poor little long-neglected Fuller Memorial Park, now a victim of "a misunderstanding".

Had the Heritage Consultant been engaged, the "restoration" of Fuller Park, as agreed by UTEC, Gwen Fuller and Council, might have blossomed. Sadly no. The original c1960's Picnic Shelter, to be retained in situ and as a model for two more locally made replicas to keep it and visitors company, was promptly demolished. The unapologetic explanation from a Council Officer was that this was due to a "misunderstanding". (See the ballad in this edition ... "So Sorry, Arthur Fuller".)

I'm not alone in bewilderment about how decisions involving Uralla's precious heritage items can be left to Council Officers who are certainly qualified and experienced in their specialist field, Local Government Regulations, but have no qualifications nor demonstrated interest in heritage matters. That's the role of the Heritage Consultant surely? Unconsulted. Why? A misunderstanding?

I've heard of places where decisions are made by people who think you go to a barbershop for "heritage", and that creative good taste is putting barbecue sauce on your cheezels.

Surely we can't allow that to happen here, can we?!

Kent "Dismayoed", Uralla resident

Dear Editors,

The BBC broadcast recently how brilliant Elon Musk's satellite StarLink is revolutionising our communication services.

"After a volcanic eruption severed Tonga's communication cable Elon Musk donated 50 Starlink terminals, allowing the government and residents to connect to the network of satellites orbiting above earth. The company have also sent the technology to Ukraine after Russia's invasion, and we hear from Stepan Veselovskyi of Lviv IT Cluster using it to keep vital services online and Kyiv resident Oleg Kutkov, who bought a dish online before the war and now hopes to use it as a back-up in case conventional communication networks fail. It's proved extremely useful, but is this the future for bringing internet to remote corners of the globe?"

Letters to the Editor

We also hear from expert on space law Professor Melissa De Zwart about the race among SpaceX and other companies to put more of these satellites in low earth orbit, and how too many of them could impede dreams of further space exploration” 20th April 2022.

In the Uralla Shire we have families who have adopted the StarLink service to great success. My platform when running for council was about improving communications in our town and after our latest service disruptions the council needs to address this issue. Go Starlink! We need to do a corporate service deal with the company where at several points through the shire we can access satellite service. Currently a household set up is less than \$500 with monthly fees after that which are slightly higher in some cases, but the service is excellent. Could those who are using Starlink let the community know of their experiences?

Jann Karp, Uralla Shire resident.

Dear Editors,

The Easter weekend weather was brilliant. I was proudly standing in Uralla looking at the main street, busy with visitors. Autumn providing its season for the best tourist photographs and as people were snapping away, I noticed our “white elephant”.

It looked sad, deserted, abandoned, not cared for, no upkeep, old signs about lunch and beer. The bottom pub is not living anymore its culture, gatherings, fun times, sad time, the wakes, and generations of family members, one after the other gone, absent.

The focus was on the poker machines introduced into hotels and sounding the death knoll as licenses for those machines became very valuable just under half a million dollars each if I have my facts right and I may not. If the hotel had been cared for, catering for us would the hotel have survived without the machines well I guess that is for the future to determine.

The building and its land have created wealth given its best but what is lost is what those who went there, have lost, a community meeting place. I lived in a hotel in Redfern for twelve months. I have drunk and not drunk in inner city Sydney hotels for long periods of time. I have listened to music in them, met friends, work colleagues and I released a book recently where I interviewed people who had drunk together in two inner Sydney hotels for over thirty years.

We are left with a deserted hotel.

I have protested through the media. I have made inquiries through the liquor and licensing board asking where the poker machines have been moved to and the process concerning their acceptance into another New England area. Unfortunately, none of my business, because these are all business transactions so for those who use to socialise in the bottom pub,

I am sorry that those times have passed. But I am more than sorry for those in our community who are elderly who over generations have an historical connection to the building which has now ended by inactivity. Those poker machine licenses, or entitlements are very power entities.

Jann Karp, Uralla Shire resident.

Deadline for the next edition is
5pm Thursday 12th May 2022.

Please email all contributions including advertising,
letters to the editor and articles to
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Community Calendar

Please email urallawordsworth@gmail.com if you have an event or meeting for the Uralla Shire

Please check with Event Organisers about the Status of Listed Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Uralla Tennis Social tennis 6:30pm Thursdays. Free court hire, Go to www.play.tennis.com/court-hire/ Hot shots Jnr Tennis, Uralla Sporting Complex Saturday 9am – 10am.

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

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

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

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

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

Uralla Men's Shed is open each Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am - 1pm in the Old Scout Hall, 18 Uralla Street North, (just off Thunderbolts Way, top of Alma Park) Ph 0419 151 253, e urallamensshedcommittee@gmail.com

Uralla Tigers Supported Playgroup FREE, every Wednesday during school terms, 10am - 12pm, St Joseph's Primary School, contact Sue on 0419149244 or Geneva on 0430440171

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

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

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

Freemasons (Masonic Lodge of Peace #120, Uralla) meet the 3rd Tuesday each month, interested persons, contact Dennis 0448 576 465 or John 0411 374 3341

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

Events for May - June

Uralla Shire Council, Ordinary Council Meeting, 9:30 am, Tuesday 24 May, Uralla Council Chambers

NSW Government Services, Apex Memorial Park, Tuesday 3 May

ADFAS Armidale lecture, The Michael Hoskins Centre, The Armidale School, Thursday 12 May, 5pm. Supper provided. Guest bookings of \$25 per lecture through Trybooking. A *Painter in Revolutionary Times: John Singleton Copley and the American Revolution, 1760-1780*. Lecturer: Peter McPhee.

Cars n Coffee, Piccadilly, Hill Street, Uralla, Sunday, 5 June

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What Matters? Pre-election Report

New England Candidates Invited to Respond.

Over the last year, the organisation What Matters? New England Electorate has been holding Kitchen Table Conversations to gather community concerns and ideas and place these at the centre of the political process.

With the election now called, they have prepared a Pre-Election Report setting out 'What Matters?' to the 156 people who took part, including people from Uralla. The Report is being sent to all eight candidates for New England, asking for their responses, which will then be published.

The most-frequently mentioned issues that people wanted addressed in the next term of the Federal Parliament were: climate change; a federal integrity commission; First Nations; education, media, refugees and tax. In addition, a great variety of issues were raised from many different perspectives.

The online report highlights the many topics raised in the conversations, and illustrates the answers with a summary account, a series of conceptual diagrams showing the top issues raised, their frequencies and a selection of quotes from participants.

The same eight questions were asked in each KTC and the provided answers in full (de-identified) are available on our website <https://wmnee.org.au/>.

A spokesperson for What Matters said "We feel we have provided spaces for people across the electorate to state the issues they see as important to them, in a calm and non-political atmosphere. Most people attending were appreciative of the opportunity to take time to think about the issues, and listen to others' views".

The Pre-Election Report is available on the What Matters website - <https://wmnee.org.au/>

Barbara Finch, What Matters

Uralla Tennis Club - Women's Tennis Fit

As part of their goal to increase female participation in sport, Uralla Tennis Club is running a 6 week fitness program for women and girls 11 years and over.

The first session will be Monday 2nd May at 5:45pm at the tennis courts at the Uralla Sporting Complex. No tennis experience required. Racquets supplied.

The cost for the 6 week program is: Girls (15 and under) \$30; Adults (16 and over) \$55.

Enquiries to Genevieve: vieveg@pm.me

Genevieve Noone
Uralla Tennis Club



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ITS ON AGAIN! CARS-N-COFFEE

At Piccadilly, Hill Street, Uralla on Sunday 5th June 2022
Discount coffee for 3 hours while the public votes for their favourite car or bike.

(club card must be shown to get the discount)

Cost of registration \$5.00 per car entered. Registration money divided into 4 equal sums as prizes for best of the 4 categories.

Looking for a bite to eat: Piccadilly has a range of snacks at realistic prices and Alternate Root has great lunch time specials as well.

All clubs welcome to attend so join in the fun and conversations.
Please Note: Non club members wishing to show their cars are also most welcome to join in.

Members: Please, some of our members don't have email addresses so give them a ring to let them know.

NSW Government services will be available in Uralla on the 3rd May 2022 from 10:00am – 3:00pm.

This includes:

- driver licences, proof of identity documents, and Photo Card applications
- Driver Knowledge Tests
- Working With Children Checks
- NDIS Worker Check
- birth, death and marriage certificates
- up to 70 government rebates and savings
- Dine & Discover NSW voucher applications.

Find us at:
Apex Memorial Park
55 Bridge Street

Visit service.nsw.gov.au or call 13 77 88 to check our schedule. Unfortunately, sometimes our routes change at short notice.



To help keep NSW safe, we've ensured our Mobile Service Centres follow COVID safe practices.



Food Pantry At The Uralla Neighbourhood Centre

Doing it a bit tough? If so, we may be able to help with our food pantry at the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre.

Our Food Pantry provides access to low cost pantry food, bread, vegetables and fruit.

The food pantry is open Mondays from 10:00am to 2:00pm (excluding public holidays).

Members can purchase one bag of groceries for \$15, two bags for \$30 and four bags for \$50. We recommend bringing your reusable supermarket bags.

To utilise the food pantry, you will need to have a membership which is an easy process we can help you with at the centre. Our wonderful volunteers will be there to help those who need help.

Due to shortages from our usual suppliers any donations of any staple items including sugar, long life milk and canned food like soup and meals would be gratefully received. All donations are welcomed - contact Uralla Neighbourhood Centre on (02) 6778 3277.

Special Offer This Week: New food pantry members who sign up will receive a free food hamper with their purchase and any existing members who introduce a new member will also receive a free food hamper (conditions and limits may apply).

To find out more information about the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre visit our website www.urallaneighbourhoodcentre.org.au or visit our Facebook page. We can also be contacted at the centre on 02 6778 3277 or email office@unc.org.au

Carol Barnden, Uralla Neighbourhood Centre



A Roll Up From UWBC at ANZAC Day

This year Uralla Women's Bowling Club was represented at the ANZAC DAY March and the following ceremonies held at Alma Park by a select group of our members. It was unfortunate that not all the members could attend as several were away at the Jean McKinnon Games in Glen Innes. However, we were ably represented by April Fulton, Pauline Crouch, Norma Faint, Debbie Vanden Hoogen and June Gregory. Our ANZAC DAY wreath was laid by Norma Faint.

The personal stories of some of the men who experienced harrowing and gruelling events as relayed to us from their letters and diaries, presented to us by descendants present on this April 25th, make us more vividly aware of just what our courageous diggers had to go through.

Against a background of war that is happening even now in Ukraine, we fervently pray that we will not have to face another world war!

Lest We Forget

Pauline Crouch

Publicity Officer, Uralla Women's Bowling Club



Left to right: April Fulton, Pauline Crouch, Norma Faint, Debbie Vanden Hoogen, June Gregory

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"So Sorry, Arthur Fuller..."

We're really very sorry, Arthur,
To have to tell you what they done
To what's called Fuller Memorial Park,
Where you planted trees and flowers in the sun,

And in the drizzling rain as well,
With other Council blokes, that's where
At smoko, shared your thermos of tea
In that lovely little picnic shelter there.

Did you gaze across your blooming realm
With quiet pride's private glow?
Cos you'd made a very special park,
Where there's always beauty, as you well know.

Not just because of all the cheery flowers
And the hum of the buzzing bees,
But the knowledge, that in future years,
Of all the visitors your park'll please.

Then dear Arthur, back in 1962,
You downed tools and homeward trod,
Where working on your own flower beds,
You died, and your soul flit off to God.

Then some years later, yep in 1971.
Not just your Fuller Park top rated,
In the SMH Garden Awards, a winner,
But your Alma Park gardens celebrated!

Anyrate, where was we now ...?
Oh yeah, about our lovely Fuller Park,
Won awards, that's how good it was,
But the Council soon lowered the mark,

By plonking pots there, ugly concrete things,
Not wanted where they was, down at the shops,
Announced the Mayor, with artificial smile,
"Amongst them Awards they'll be tops!"

And Arthur, then there's Greg McClenahan,
Fair-dinkum Council worker, same as you,
Greg's a gifted carpenter,
And dedicated, dead-set true blue.

He built this splendid Street Stall, see,
Pride of our main street, Arthur mate,
Till Council changed its mind again,
And Greg's Street Stall met its fate.

Shoulda been offered to a private garden
Where it'd serve as a pretty "folly",
Like wot they've got in fancy rich folks' estates
Wiv gin and tonics and sammitches, by golly!

"Dunno what we'll do with it!"

Said Council, as usual, in the bloody dark,
The Mayor, with a stroke of pure genius,
Said "Let's plonk it in Fuller Park!"

So, Arthur, that's exactly what they done,
With the typical lack of taste,
A dopy Consultant said: "A Heritage Shade Shelter",
While your flower beds were left to waste.

Then some of us, after pleading, got the news,
That raised hurrahs and cheery greetings,
Council said "We're gunna 'restore' Fuller Park",
After we'd had several agreeable meetings.

"The one original piece that must be saved",
With the meeting it was unanimous,
"Is the 1960's picnic shelter"
But was there skulduggery anonymous?

See, Arthur, big machinery came
And smashed everything to bits,
The Street Stall and your picnic seats ...
Fair give anyone the "tommy tits"!

Why was the picnic shelter destroyed?
"A misunderstanding" said a Council boss,
That mob's proved on several occasions ...
Heritage? They don't give a tinker's toss!

So, sorry Arthur, your Award Winning Park,
Will have its very soul stripped bare,
Homogenised, a park like in every other town,
Yep, same thing every-bloody-where!

And visitors who loved stopping here,
To enjoy Uralla's heritage, all on show,
Will say "Who's responsible for this?!"
And off along the highway they will go!

Now, Arthur, what are you trying to tell me?
Are they your tears in that shower of rain?
"Come, good people, don't stand idly by!
"Crikey, can't you use your brain ...?"

"Stand up to those responsible!
"No more nonsense, be demanding ...
"Your corporate card and keys, you're fired!
"And, nope, there is no misunderstanding!"

Can't swear blind that's wot Arthur whispered,
But we're dead-set sure about wot followed on, His
haunting warning as the night closed in ...
"Yez dunno wot yer've got till it's gone."

Kent Mayo, 26 April 2022

Running Wild – Dam Him All To Hell!

3. Recap. The company coach had been stopped on route to Inverell. 'Bail up' called the Captain and the short-barrelled coach gun was handed over. The strongbox would be left alone for 'you get hung for taking the strongbox, but its only back to 'The Cockatoo' for thieving', and so it went.

The other bandits remained seated with rifles loosely across their laps. The passengers disembarked, and the bandits made conversation while going through the luggage at the rear. The schoolteacher had little of interest in her luggage and wore simple paste jewellery, a small ring, a fine chain with cross. The Captain left her jewellery, tipped his hat and apologised for the interruption to her journey. She flushed bright red feeling a little coy at his attention. The single gentleman was obviously annoyed, his small bag merely held clothing, a razor, and pills. The Captain quickly relieved him of his pocket watch and wallet. He did leave him his walking stick and sent him back to the coach cabin. He went off in a huff.

The inn keepers didn't escape the search. Their young boy seemed to find the robbery great fun, asking 'boyish' questions of all the mounted bandits in turn. The husband's small bag of coins was quickly located in his luggage. The bandit then turned his attention to his person. He protested strongly saying he had nothing but the clothes on his body and hadn't enough been taken from the hard working. The bandit pushed his pistol up into the innkeeper's nose, demanding 'hand it over!'

The innkeeper reluctantly gave up his bank fold, gold watch, chain, and twin gold coins. He was sullen for the loss of his possessions.

Lastly the innkeeper's wife attempted to cover her fine jewellery, clamping here hands under her shawl and to her breast. All she achieved was to draw the Captain's attention. After a wave of his pistol, she removed her baubles and rings and handed them over with obvious disdain. 'And the rest!' he demanded. 'But I have no more to give sir' she replied, looking at her husband for assistance. The husband voiced his disgust at the injustice. The Captain merely pointed the pistol in his direction and said, 'try me will you!' then shouted, 'and I'll have what you've got hiding next to your bosom my lady, or I'll come take it from you!'

Out from the trail of her shawl and clothing came a little black velvet draw string bag. Handing it over, she snarled 'Dam You to Hell!' The Captain briefly tossed the small bag in the air, caught it and stuffed it in his jacket pocket. With a wry smile he said, 'now that wasn't too hard was it, I thank you all for your time and good day'.

The Captain gestured to his riders and handed over an empty coach gun. He mounted his horse and they all rode off in different directions, quickly swallowed by the heavy timber. Bates and his offside got to work clearing the fallen log with axe, while the two other men and boy helped drag the pieces off the track. They were soon on their way, with a grand story to tell when they arrived at their destination come nightfall.

... to be continued

By Daryl Albertson

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Monday GENERAL Yoga 5.30pm to 6.30pm (9 May - 4 July, no class 13 June Queen's Birthday PH)

Saturday GENTLE Yoga 2.00pm to 3.00pm (14 May - 2 July)

Cost is \$96 for term bookings (\$12 per class), \$15 for casual attendance or \$10 for concessions.

Please contact Tess on 0448 433 746 or email walchayoga@gmail.com if you would like to attend, or if you have any questions.

My Mum

Gardener Extraordinaire

My mother was an avid gardener, as her colourful blooms and beautifully scented plants attested to. Her garden brought her much joy and she loved entering it into various competitions, where she received many accolades. She truly had a wonderful green thumb.

My youngest sister was sixteen years old at the time this story happened. She would spend any spare time she had at the beach. I don't really remember how she got from our little village in the hinterland behind the coastal fringe over to Scotts Head. But she never had any trouble getting home. Her long blond hair, blue eyes, tanned, five foot nothing, bikini-clad body brought out chivalrous instincts in the bronzed surf-board riding boys she encountered at the beach and there would be a rush to offer her a lift home. But she had a favourite one, and his surfing van was often to be seen in Mum's driveway back home. While parked there in the driveway, he would sometimes take the opportunity to clean out his van, before heading off back to his own abode.

One day Mum was outside in her garden as usual. She was watering a prize specimen growing in the bed alongside the driveway, when our neighbour poked his head over the fence and asked "Hey Mil, do you know the name of the plant you're watering?" She replied "No, but isn't it a marvellous looking thing? Our neighbour then informed her what the plant was. The next morning, the neighbour, clad in his police uniform, came into Mum's yard and dug up her much-prized plant, put it in a large pot and took it off to the police station. The pot and its contents sat in the police foyer for quite some time. It was much cared for, watered and mulched, while the police used it to educate the local populace just what a *marijuana plant* looked like, so no-one else would mistake it for a garden plant.

Mum was mortified, but was promised that no one would know where it came from. But in a small village it wasn't long before she became the talk of the town – a real gardener extraordinaire. Luckily it was only a nine-day wonder! In her later years Mum loved to relate this story, as she was by then no longer embarrassed by what had occurred.

Pauline Crouch, Rocky River resident

Bert Evans Apprentice

Scholarships Now Open

Local first year apprentices facing financial or personal hardship will be supported with a \$15,000 scholarship to undertake their trade and study, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall announcing the opening of the annual Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarship.

Since 2020, eight apprentices from across the region have shared in \$120,000 from the program.

Mr Marshall said scholarship applications were now open to assist 120 people start, change, or further their career.

"With current cost of living pressures there's not much left over from a first year apprentice wage to meet other expenses which come with doing an apprenticeship," Mr Marshall said.

"Whether you need to purchase new tools, cover fuel or car maintenance, or pay for additional study, these scholarships have helped people overcome personal barriers to finish their apprenticeships and follow their trade calling.

"The variety of apprenticeships which have been supported across our region are diverse, with bakers, hairdressers, fencing contractors and security installers just some of the occupations to receive funding.

"The scholarship provides \$5,000 over three years to support apprentices who demonstrate a high aptitude for vocational education and training and are committed to their on-the-job and formal training.

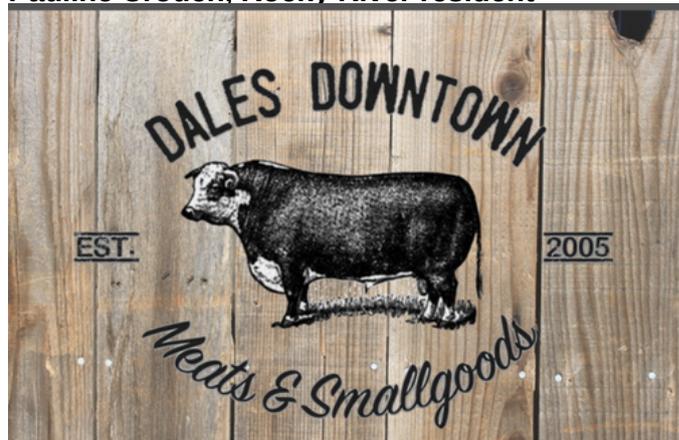
"Apprenticeships are a critical part of ensuring our region has a pipeline of skilled workers, and I urge everyone entering their first year of a trade to investigate their eligibility."

The Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships are in addition to the 100,000 fee-free apprenticeships and 70,000 fee-free traineeships and other low-fee courses funded by the NSW Government.

Applications are now open and will close Friday, 27 May 2022.

For more information, and to apply, visit www.education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/bert-evans-scholarships or phone 13 28 11.

Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands



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