

# Uralla Wordsworth

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## There is good beer in Uralla!

The New England Brewing Company is deservedly celebrating after receiving Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in the annual Independent Brewers Association beer award ceremony held on 20 November 2020.

A Gold medal was awarded for their New England Pale Ale in the Pale Ale class. The Pale Ale has been brewed (with a few improvements along the way) by the brewery since it opened its doors 9 years ago, and is a very popular beer.

In the class Amber-Dark Ale, their Grandad Brown Ale won Silver. This beer, an English-style brown ale, is according to connoisseurs the closest thing you can get to the fabled Hunter Brown of yore. Like the Pale Ale, the Brown Ale also has been brewed here in Uralla since brewing began. The Bronze medal was awarded for the Hop Cannon IPA, an American-style India pale ale, in the class India Pale Ale. It was created some time ago by ex-brewer Reid Stratton, who hails from the United States, and is named after the cannon-like device deployed to drive hop flower flavours into the brew.

Owner Ben Rylands says that the brewery is not resting on its laurels, and he wants to maintain a high quality local brewery in Uralla. These awards are a recognition of their efforts to continually improve their production, and a few more tanks arriving next year will ensure a safe and steady supply of beer. There is nothing Ben and his team enjoy more than seeing new and old customers enjoy a beer at the brewery door on Uralla's main street.

**Louis van Ekert, Uralla beer drinker**



From left to right: Ben (brewer), Ryan (assistant brewer), Jack and Ben (owner) proudly displaying their IBA Gold award, with Lucy busy in the background.

Contributions and Advertising Welcome!  
The deadline for the next edition is 5pm on  
Thursday 10th December 2020.  
Please email all contributions including  
advertising, letters to the editor  
and articles to  
urallawordsworth@gmail.com

## Uralla Tiger's Supported Playgroup

**Where:** Uralla Neighbourhood Centre **When:** Tuesday's between 10am and 12pm  
Early literacy, numeracy, craft, games, stories, social connections & networking

**Contact: Kylie 0419 271 656 or Geneva 0430 440 171**



**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.**

It was wonderful to see over 40 developers and tradespeople attend the Developer Forum last Wednesday, which was held at the RSL Memorial Hall and was organised by the Council. While the time was limited to get through a full agenda, many developers took the opportunity to voice their concerns and some of their frustrations to Council staff. A number of issues were raised around lengthy delays in approval, inconsistent requirements with other Councils, and difficulties with the NSW Planning Portal.

The Manager of Planning advised the meeting that anyone planning a development was encouraged to attend a pre-development meeting and that at the end of the meeting, they would be given a sheet setting out what was agreed to, which would be signed by both parties. This is a very positive step. These meetings can include your surveyor/project manager or a Councillor to help with the jargon. Council also has a staff member to assist with access to the portal. Hopefully, staff noted the comments that applications can spend months lost in the portal, and that Uralla Shire Council asks for information which is not found on other Council sites. One speaker raised serious concerns regarding the inconsistent requirements on various applications.

A number of builders highlighted a problem that I raised with the new General Manager at my first meeting. This was in relation to only having a Building Certifier to do Council work for one half day per week. This makes programming works or requesting advice on minor changes very challenging. One option for Uralla Shire Council would be to approach Armidale Regional Council to assess their capacity to carry out Council inspections on a fee for service basis. It was also stated that we didn't have any other options. While one long term Certifier is retiring, we have one based in Invergowrie, as well as a company based at Nemingha who would be pleased to provide private certifications in Uralla Shire. Both Armidale and Tamworth Councils have developed a strong team with traineeships and ex-tradespeople being encouraged to work for them.

I am aware that a number of NSW Farmers took exception to the Contract Certifier suggesting that the confusion of Koala Protection was somehow the result of misinformation by the NSW Farmers and the Deputy Premier. This is clearly not the case, and it is also inappropriate for these views to be raised by a Contract staff person at a public forum, whatever her personal

views are.

A number of challenges were identified for Council to take up through the various associations it is a member of, to sort out insurance concerns for building certifiers (set to rise by 300%), difficulties with the NSW Planning Portal (some Councils are not using it, however it will become mandatory from next June), and the additional qualifications needed for draughtspersons, designers and project managers.

One disappointment after the Developer Forum, was to be told, after the meeting, that at least one person had tried to register for the Forum, but was advised that she could not attend, due to Covid Restrictions. It then left me wondering why 11 staff members were in attendance. The other frustration was that Councillors were told that they could attend the forum, but only as observers. I hope in future forums that those in attendance can ask their elected representatives what they intend to do to assist them.

All of those who attended the forum last Wednesday, look forward to another forum early next year, to discuss the progress made and the roadmap to resolve any outstanding matters.

Progress has already been made on the issue of firefighting pressure being required by developers, with a hydrant being replaced in Plane Avenue and the inspection of the other one mentioned in Hunter Place. Council has now purchased a standpipe that can test hydrant pressure and flow rate. Hopefully Council will see a program of main upgrades and hydrant inspections in the near future. Fire and Rescue NSW also advised me that their tender unit carries over 2000 litres of water, and rather than connecting their hoses from the hydrant directly to the fire, it is connected into the truck for the pressure and flow rate to be boosted.

It appears that a likely location has been found for the local bus operator to set up a full sized depot. Watch this space.

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**Robert Bell,**  
**Uralla Shire Resident**



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# An Ambulance Station for Uralla

Many thanks to all the people who signed the petition for "An Ambulance Station for Uralla". I collected the petitions, left at many popular businesses in Uralla & put them with the ones received, when I door-knocked as many houses as possible, before the pandemic developed. These were all sent, with a letter of reasons, to our active, supportive & extremely busy M.P. Adam Marshall. On 12 November, I received this supportive & encouraging reply.

**Trish McCrossin, Uralla resident**



Ms Patricia McCrossin Stewart  
By email: [invernesspk@yahoo.com.au](mailto:invernesspk@yahoo.com.au)

Dear Ms McCrossin Stewart *Patricia,*

I write in response to your email dated 13 September and the petition letter delivered to the office regarding the community's call for a staffed ambulance station in Uralla. Thank you for taking the time to write to me about this important issue.

I understand that Uralla would benefit greatly from the establishment of an ambulance station in the town. It would offer peace of mind to elderly residents and their families, alleviate pressure on Armidale's ambulances and Uralla's Rural Fire Service and allow for more quick responses to calls from Uralla and surrounding properties.

I have taken the liberty of making direct representations to the Minister for Health and Medical Research, the Hon Brad Hazzard MP seeking his advice and direction on the matter.

Please be assured that once I receive a response from the Minister, I will contact you again.

In the meantime, should I be able to provide you with any further assistance, in this or any matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

**ADAM MARSHALL MP**  
Member for Northern Tablelands  
Enc:

# Record \$102.8 million roads budget keeps the region rolling

The State Government will invest a record \$102.84 to upgrade roads across the Northern Tablelands this financial year, Member for Northern Tablelands announced today.

Mr Marshall said the 2020-21 NSW Budget targeted improvements to key freight routes as a way to speed-up the recovery of agricultural-based economies in the region. He said the funding was a whopping \$16.87 million increase in roads funding from last year's Budget. "With the biggest harvest underway in more than five years and prime livestock back in paddocks, we need to ensure our road network is safe and able to get that product to market quickly and efficiently," Mr Marshall said.

"I'm pleased the upgrade between Mungle Back Creek and Boggabilla has received an additional \$47.1 million from this budget, allowing for new road pavement with 3.5 metre wide lanes in each direction, wider road shoulders and two new overtaking lanes.

"\$22.4 million will be spent on general Newell Highway maintenance, including planning for heavy duty pavement at North Moree and the significant flood-proofing.

"Already we can see how beneficial projects like the Newell Highway upgrade are in boosting economies in the west, with 582 jobs already provided since it started, with a focus on Aboriginal participation.

"The Newell Highway will play an important role in connecting primary producers with the nation building Inland Rail and the Moree Special Activation Precinct. "As planning and construction of both these projects ramps up in 2021 we must ensure the Newell is in a condition which facilitates the smooth flow of heavy vehicle freight and maximises the full benefit these projects will bring."

Mr Marshall said the Budget has also included funding for two significant tourist routes.

"With work underway on flood-proofing the Washpool section of the Gwydir Highway, east of Moree, the full \$7.1 million has been made available to Moree Plains Shire Council, fulfilling this key election commitment," he said.

"On the eastern edge of the electorate, those who regularly travel from Armidale to the coast on the Waterfall Way will be pleased \$12 million will be spent on safety and pavement improvements on that stretch of road.

"Alongside the \$16.5 million provided to local councils for road projects through Round 1 of the Fixing Local Roads program, a further \$29,398,000 is being provided to shires for maintenance and repair works. "These are all projects which will work to encourage tourists to travel west of the Great Dividing Range and stay and spend in local communities."

**Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands**

## Community Street Stall

Nov 30th - Dec 6th Uralla Rotary Club  
Wood Raffle, Xmas Stocking Hamper

Dec 7th - 13th Uralla Red Cross

Dec 14th - 20th Uralla Arts

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# Running Wild - Run Girl Run

She Ran!, she ran and she ran. Loose stones and slate dislodged from under her bare feet, as she ran and often slid down the mountainside. The steep slope was covered with prickly undergrowth where a horse would never pass and tentacles pulled sharply at her heavy coat, worn against the winter cold on the mountain. She dropped through the spiked fortress, finding herself beside the small stream. Here it was more open, fringed with taller bush where kangaroo and wombat had created a maze of paths. Soft bushes were covered in small red flowers, attracting clouds of bright birds that flitted in and out of foliage. Molly had spent many hours at this stream, following its course and played imaginary games amongst the reeds and under a canopy of dappled light and raucous birdlife. It was her childhood playground.

The Constable and two troopers had turned up at the hut that morning, just after daybreak, looking for 'Him'. While they were on horseback, Ma greeted and answered their questions. The troopers looked at Molly, like she was meat on the bone and she knew what that meant. Retreating out the back door, she then watched from the edge of the tall forest timber surrounding the hut clearing.

Her mother Nell had always told her to be careful, it is dangerous and trust no one – especially the traps, "they will hurt you bad". For anyone, let alone an eight year-old aboriginal girl, surviving in remote country in these early times was a tough life.

He was seldom home, bringing only a meagre supply of flour, sugar, treacle, maybe a hairbrush or dress. He would stay long enough to show off some trinkets, tell stories and acquaint himself with Ma, behind the thin curtain in one corner of their sparse hut. They would spend nights drinking grog from earthen jugs and sleeping the days after. Sometimes he had a man with him. She remembers young John and later it was Jemmy, then a few others. But Molly made herself scarce whenever men were about, heeding her Ma's grim advice.

As the troopers got down from their horses, Ma gave her subtle hand gesture, the signal to Go ! Molly was off, bolting like a shot down the steep mountain path, to her stream and relative safety.

To be continued ...

**Daryl Albertson, Kellys Plains**



## EMALENE GEMMELL FAMILY LAW

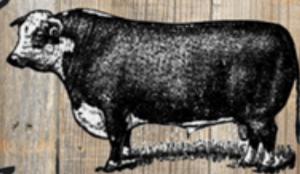


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# McMaugh Gardens Celebrates 30 Years

A gathering of residents, staff, Mayor Michael Pearce, Deputy Mayor Isabel Strutt, GM Kate Jessop and members and Friends of McMaugh Gardens, took place on Thursday 12th October to celebrate 40 years of service to the community. A time capsule was placed at the bottom of the flagpole, marked with a plaque to be opened in 2050. A great afternoon was had by all and enjoyed a beautiful cake, made as a staff uniform, made by some talented staff members.

**Rosemary Reading, Secretary Friends of McMaugh Gardens Inc.**



**Residents and staff of McMaugh Gardens gather for the celebrations**



# Uralla Shire Business Chamber Report Released

The report on the Uralla Shire Business Chamber public meeting, released on 13th November, listed 12 key points along with suggested solutions to improve the relationship between our community and our council.

On 29th October, 140+ people turned out in wet conditions to hear presentations from our community on trading from home and how we could improve the relationship between council and our community. You can find the report on the Uralla Shire Business Chamber's website

at <https://urallabusinesschamber.org.au/2020/11/13/report-on-public-meeting-held-on-the-29th-of-october-2020/>

The trading from home issue has largely been resolved by the intervention of the State Government changing legislation to provide certainty to many local home businesses. To quote Mr Marshall "The changes have come into effect and require Uralla Shire Council to drop its 'unique and controversial' interpretation of the LEP and fall into line with the rest of the State". Constraints within our water infrastructure are being addressed with council's recent purchase of a hydrant standpipe that will measure pressure and flow rate. Testing has found at least one hydrant to be deficient and we understand it has now been replaced. The new hydrant increased the flow rate overcoming the associated constraints to development. We have been told that further testing within the system will be undertaken to determine the available fire fighting capacity within the council network.

**Bob Crouch, Secretary, Uralla Shire Business Chamber**



**Joanna Dolan**

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# Andrew Murray's Diary

**Sunday July 8, 1860:** Made an early start and reached Rockhampton in the afternoon. Camped on the outskirts of the town. Hamilton Robison put up at the Fitzroy Hotel. I went to a Mr. Rutherford, chemist, and he gave me a lotion for my eyes. 2 grains of lunar caustic to 1 oz. of water and my eyes soon got right again.

**Monday July 9, 1860:** We got a supply of baker's bread and as much milk as we could, so lived well, but were far from being the active men we were when going out. A steamer called the "Tamar" was to leave on 16th July so we remained at our camp till the evening before and sold all we did not require and went down to the Fitzroy Hotel to be ready to go on board in the morning. I had been so long camping out that close brick walls were not conducive to my health and I caught a bad cold. We found it rather hard to persuade Robison to go with us but after much entreaty he promised he would go. When ready to start, however, he refused to go. He seemed erratic in his manner. No persuasion from either McCrossin or myself would induce him to go. I could advise him on all other occasions till now. I did not know his people and McCrossin did, and it was he who got him to join the party.

**Sunday July 15, 1860:** The steamer (?) was ... to start ... we had no alternative but to leave Robison behind, for which we were sorry. Muldoon had quite recovered and was butchering when we returned and making money at it.

**Monday July 16, 1860:** Went on board the steamer "Tamar", my first footing on a steamer. We travelled as steerage passengers and were not much taken with the accommodation. Going down the river there was something to be seen. In several places we saw blackfellows on the bank of the river. If sailors pointed a handspike at them, they thought it was a gun and ran fast to shelter. When nearing Keppel Bay we had to lay to for the night. A barque called the "Jenny Lind" passed us after we anchored. After being stationary for some time we saw some blacks swimming over to us, keeping a light log under them which, I suppose was on account of crocodiles or, perhaps, sharks. After a time several gins

came over and had a corroboree on the deck. The cook had some nice roasts of beef hung under the bridge and some of the blackfellows had plunged into the river, and, on looking, the cook discovered that some of his beef had gone. The Captain lowered a boat and the gins were sent ashore. Meal time came round again. There were three old oval tin dishes as old as the steamer: one contained knives, forks and spoons, another unpeeled potatoes, and the third sun-dried salt meat similar to that we had on our trip out, and biscuits that seemed to be made of bone-dust flour.

There was a one-gallon teapot with tea (so-called) which seemed to have been infused from cockroaches. For this fare and bare-board bunk we were paying 20/- a day!

**Tuesday July 17, 1860:** The tide being sufficiently high, we went on, keeping to the north of Curtis Island and got alongside the wharf at Gladstone in the afternoon. There was nothing much to take in so only stayed a short time. I had expected to see some of the East Stowe people but saw no one I knew. I had a carbine to return to Robert Bell and some money to pay John Bell for his horse. There was no time to land so could not get to see Mr. Hetherington, the only man I knew.

**Wednesday July 18, 1860:** Travelled all night along the coast. The sea not rough.

**Thursday July 19, 1860:** Reached the mouth of the Mary River in the afternoon. Suddenly, the steamer bumped on a rock or bank and this necessitated our waiting till the tide rose. We then went on up to Maryborough where we arrived late and stayed till morning. Walked about the town a short distance and back to our ship.

**Friday July 20, 1860:** Started about 9 a.m. and reached the mouth of the river about 4 p.m. Some blacks came over to the steamer in their canoes but did not get on board. The passengers sometimes throw small pieces of tobacco to them. Passed some islands before dark. Sea rather rough.

**Saturday July 21, 1860:** Gave the mate of the steamer Bell's carbine and asked him to leave it at Gladstone on his return trip, which he promised to do. Entered the Brisbane River, saw many banana plantations as we went up the river and many homesteads. Reached Brisbane in the afternoon. To be continued.

**Noel Marshall, Uralla Historical Society**

## Bill Andrews

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# Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

## 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 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](mailto:urallaneighbourhood@bigpond.com)

**Uralla Shire Council Budget Review and Finance Committee Meeting** 12.30pm Tuesday 8th December, Uralla Shire Council Chambers

**Uralla Shire Council Ordinary Meeting** 12.30pm Tuesday 15th December, Uralla Shire Council Chambers



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# AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS NOMINATIONS - URALLA

Nominations are invited for Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year and Sports Awards, to be presented on Australia Day, 2021.

Nominees must be Australian citizens and live in Uralla Shire. Young Citizen of the Year nominees must be under twenty seven years of age on 26th. January, 2021, and Senior Citizen nominees must be aged seventy years or over.

Nomination forms are available from the Uralla Shire office, Uralla Library, Uralla Post Office, Regional Australia Bank and National Bank, or the Secretary, Uralla Australia Day Committee, 14 Dumaresq Street, Uralla, phone 67784328. Nominations will close on Friday, 18th. December, 2020. Nominations received after this date will not be considered.

## Uralla District Show Society

Due to COVID restrictions and compliance issues, it is regretted that the Committee has decided that there will be NO Show in February, 2021. However, the Committee is dedicated to organising a bigger and better Show in 2022.

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# Apprenticeship Program

Apprenticeship program promotes staff career pathways. Council provides staff members a solid path to progress their careers with Certificate level courses and apprenticeships through a regional provider. Council has signed up seven staff members to undertake professional development through various apprenticeships and Certificate level courses.

Uralla Shire Council General Manager Kate Jessep said she was pleased to see a number of staff members taking advantage of the opportunity to advance their careers. "The program demonstrates Council's commitment to advancing staff's professional development," Ms Jessep said. "By investing in our employees for the long term, programs such as apprenticeships benefit not only the individual staff members, but the organisation as a whole and in turn the community."

"As the largest employer in the Shire, it's important to us that Council provide professional opportunities to our workforce. Professional development opportunities for staff across the organisation shows Council's commitment to be an employer of choice in the Uralla Shire." Council's participation in a State Government program enables a significant reduction in fees to kick this year's program off to a strong start, with three of the seven apprenticeships completely externally funded.

Council staff participating in the apprenticeship program are working toward higher roles in line with Council's identified succession planning to create a strong, robust workforce. Areas of study in the apprenticeship program include horticulture, civil construction (plant operations) and civil construction (supervision).

Kate Jessep, General Manager, Uralla Shire Council

*Deadline for the next edition is 5pm on  
Thursday 10th December 2020.*

*Please email all contributions including  
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and articles to  
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# Uralla Women's Bowling Club turns 70!

When the Uralla Women's Bowling Club turned 70 on 4th November 2020, more than 70 bowlers and friends celebrated with a wonderful luncheon and an exciting game of bowls. The day saw 54 bowlers on the greens from every club in the New England District, as well as friends from Kootingal and Moree.

We were honoured on the day to introduce our newest Life Member Norma Faint who officiated in the cutting of our birthday cake. Norma has been a member for 40 years, and is still involved in many of our activities, such as Games Manager for our Club during District events. She has held the position of President, and involves herself selflessly in many other areas. Norma is the kind of person who is always there when needed.

We also recognised our current President Phyllis Dade's 20 years of membership of our Club. Well done Phyllis!

Phyllis is in her 2nd term as President of our Club and is an admirable leader, who has the knowledge of our club at her fingertips, and always puts the welfare of the members at the forefront of her endeavours.

During the birthday celebrations, we held a minute's silence in memory of our esteemed member Pam Westbury who passed away on the 1st November. She will be sadly missed by all of us in our club as well as throughout the New England District.

A bit of history: The Uralla Women's Bowling Club is the oldest women's club in the New England District, and we still have some of the original members of the Club with us today.



Norma Faint cutting the cake

Marie Rixon played the very first game of ladies' bowls, in 1950, against her mother Irene Goode. Her mother won. There was only one green at that time, the bottom green, and of course, the Bowling Club itself was much smaller.

The Ladies Club, as they were called, started with 29 members. Another member from 1950 is Helen Ward, who was secretary for the Club for 22 years. Helen celebrated her 92nd birthday this Wednesday 25th November. We hope she had a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Helen is also a holder of a Life Membership of our club, along with Sybil Bower-Spoehr, a former President of the Club. We thank these ladies for all that they have done for women's bowls in Uralla, as well as many others, whose efforts have not gone unnoticed. We honour them for their dedication.

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

## Uralla Men's Shed

The open day Saturday 14th Nov, at the Uralla Men's Shed drew many interested locals and a couple of out of towners who are in their local Men's Shed. Some remarks were " what a fantastic shed " and " you've got some great machinery " and yes we do! Both. While we are still shuffling some machinery around to settle on the best position, for the most part things are pretty much in place and being used. Greg and Jim have been busy making shelving for the new shed out of art crates we got some time ago from NERAM from their basement clean out. Thanks to the talents of David with his Men's Shed Mannequin which drew much attention and some imaginative comments on our opening day. Thanks to all involved in making the new shed happen.

**Bruce Stubberfield, Secretary Uralla Men's Shed**



The new Men's Shed opening with from left, Max Maughan, Men's Shed coordinator, Zone 16 New England North West and Roland Bennett of the Uralla Men's Shed

# Sunny Jim Mackay

WILL ANYONE IN AUSTRALIA EVER MATCH OUR SUNNY JIM'S BIG HIT?

Sunny Jim Mackay of Uralla never had children. In the year 2000, Western Suburbs Cricket Club in Sydney announced their "Team of the Millennium", their best twelve players from the club's inception through to the year 1999.

Our Sunny Mackay was chosen in that team of stars. I was invited to represent McCrossin's Mill Museum at a gala function and to accept Sunny Jim Mackay's Medal.

There were about five hundred guests including many famous Test and Sheffield Shield cricketers at the event at Wests Ashfield Club, with the ABC's Jim Maxwell as MC.

As I collected the medal I told the audience this Mackay story, in the words of author Phillip Derriman. "His most spectacular innings in grade cricket was against Middle Harbour at Manly Oval. Mackay and Austin Diamond opened Burwood's innings at 4.13pm, and 87 minutes later, when Diamond successfully appealed against the light, the score stood at 0 for 309. Mackay's share of the partnership totalled 156 and included three broken bats and eight hits over the fence, G.P. Barbour reckoned one of them, an on-drive, to be the biggest hit he had ever seen. He wrote that the ball seemed to be only half-way through its flight when it hit the balcony of a nearby Presbyterian Manse, which he estimated to be 50 yards beyond the boundary. The manse with its upper-floor balcony is still there today. Standing on a sharp rise above the oval, it is as high above the playing field as, say, the old scoreboard is at the Sydney Cricket Ground." I explained to the astonished audience that "I went out to Manly Oval this morning to measure the six, by pacing out the distance from where Sunny Jim would have taken strike. A young groundsman driving a roller to prepare the wicket for the day's game said "What the hell do you think you're doing?" which is obviously how people in Manly say "hullo". I told him about Sunny Jim's remarkable innings back in 1905, and how he'd hit one ball as far as the balcony of the Manse on the hill. "No way, mate!" he said. "I've seen a few of 'em put 'em through the windows of the Rugby Club, but nobody could hit a ball that far!"

"Well mate", I told him "Sunny Jim Mackay of Uralla did!"

He went back to driving his roller along the turf, but looking up at the balcony, shaking his head and wondering. Sunny Jim Mackay's "Team of the Millennium medal" is one of many treasured artefacts in the permanent exhibition at McCrossin's Mill Museum ... "Sunny Jim Mackay of Uralla ... Best Batsman in the World".

PS I measured Sunny Jim's big hit at 120 metres, plus another ten metres before the ball would have hit the ground! Compare that with the sixes measured by computer in today's 20/20 and One Day cricket!!

**Kent Mayo. President and Head Coach Uralla Junior Cricket 1987-1991 ("Sunny Jim Cricket Club").**

## OzHarvest

Tuesday 1st December 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Cattle pavillion, Showground. Cnr King & Dangar St

**What can I expect when I arrive?**

You will be given a reusable shopping bag and invited to select your items from the tables. To keep things fair, we have a limit of one bag of groceries per household. We love meeting new people so if you have the time, we would also love to stop and chat to learn more about your town!

**What food should I expect?**

Our focus is on fresh fruit and vegetables, with some pantry items also available. As yet there is no fresh meat or dairy, however, this may be added soon. Refrigeration of some fresh fruit and vegetable produce is recommended but not essential.

**How are you ensuring COVID19 safety?**

We are asking that a maximum of two people per household come to collect the groceries. Only one person will be allowed to shop at a time and they will need to sanitise their hands before doing so. Our team will be wearing masks and gloves, and will handle the fresh produce items on behalf of the customers. If there is a queue, our team will be enforcing the 1.5m social distance rule.

See : <https://events.ozharvest.org/mobile-market-nsw>

# NEW ENGLAND

# HAMPERS

## PURELY HANDMADE

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**Sunny Jim's massive hit at Manly Oval.**

# Future Drought Fund Grants to improve resilience in New England

A Future Drought Fund - Natural Resource Management (NRM) project in New England has been awarded a share of \$5 million funding. The project will help local farmers plan for and manage future droughts. New England-based Northern Tablelands Local Land Services has received \$190,000 in Australian Government funding for a project supporting local farmers to develop innovative land management methods and improve drought resilience. The project is one of 12 to share in \$5 million under the NRM Drought Resilience Program – Landscapes. Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, said the program was part of the Government's Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan.

"I am proud to be working with Barnaby to be delivering the support farmers and communities need to be sustainable and productive," Minister Littleproud said. Mr Joyce welcomed the Federal Government funding for Northern Tablelands Local Land Services saying it will result in positive outcomes for farmers, the local communities and the lands and waters that sustain our region's farming. "This project will provide landholders with improved skills and knowledge to improve management of groundcover, water and soil, to support drought resilience here in the New England," he said. Project activities will include farm dam demonstrations that showcase best practices of water quality and quantity management, information packages, field days with local landholders to champion the projects and peer-to-peer learning to build capacity of local farmers to manage groundcover levels, minimising erosion and maximising pasture recovery.

The project will also support the establishment of a network of moisture probes and weather stations on a minimum of 20 properties to provide real time data that landholders can use to adjust stocking rates, inform future management and maintain groundcover. "This is very exciting work to be undertaken in the New England to help local producers and landholders with innovative ways to buffer their businesses and properties against future droughts," Mr Joyce said.

**Barnaby Joyce, Federal Member for New England**



**Mr Joyce with Local Land Services Members**

# \$32,230 Helps return a playground to Kellys Plains Public School

For the first time in almost two years, students at Kellys Plains Public School will soon have playground equipment to climb on and enjoy, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall today announcing a \$32,230 State Government grant to install a new nature-based play space and garden. Mr Marshall said the new equipment will fill the gap at the school left by the playground items removed by the Department of Education for safety reasons. "Despite the all the old playground equipment being removed from the school the Department of Education refused to replace it, instead, leaving that job to the school community," Mr Marshall said. "Kellys Plains is a small school with limited funds and despite some outstanding fundraising efforts, there was still a huge amount of money required. "I was approached by P&C Association President Stella Single to help out the school community and am delighted with this result, which will ensure all 24 students at Kellys Plains will next year have an exciting, modern playground to keep active and have lots of fun. "I want to recognise Stella and all the members of the Kellys Plains Public School P&C Association for the work they have done fundraising the additional money needed to pull this build off. "With the playground set to be prominently located right at the front of the school I think it will bring a real sense of pride and joy to the entire community." Ms Single said acquiring a new playground had been the major focus of the school community and everyone was extremely excited to finally see it come to fruition. "We have received the most amazing community support for this project, from nature play educators to our local CWA," Ms Single said. "The P&C has been working closely with a Sydney-based company that specialises in nature based play spaces and gardens and we are hoping to have the playground constructed early in the New Year. "Where we can, we will source the building materials and plants locally. "We are so thankful that so many people believe in the vision for this space, and for a wonderful future for our school, and we can't wait to be able to share this playground with them."

**Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands**

## Council hosts forum to promote development

Uralla Shire Council's breakfast forum held Wednesday, 25 November 2020 brought together local businesses and developers to provide information on the development application and assessment process and to encourage commercial, industrial, and residential development in the Shire. Presentations were made by Council's Manager of Development and Planning, Building Certifier consultant, and the Manager of Waste, Water and Sewerage. The forum covered a wide range of topics, including the value of pre-development meetings, digital submission of development applications, the quality of documentation, role of consultants, Council's role in the process, project management, and the execution of subdivisions. The forum was planned to run from 7:30am to 8:30am so as not to conflict with the attendees' daily schedules, however due to the amount of questions and discussions raised, the forum did not close until approximately 10:00am. Due to the interest generated by the event, Council plans to conduct developer forums on a regular basis as a way to continually engage with developers and businesses. Following on from the forum Council will circulate a survey which will seek feedback from participants on what information should be covered in future forums. The survey will also request feedback on what information should be available on Council's website to inform Council's ongoing website improvement project. Uralla Shire Mayor, Cr Michael Pearce said he was delighted by the number of attendees who registered for the forum and the amount of questions raised during the forum. "Today's forum is just the first of what will be an ongoing initiative," Mayor Pearce said. "Council is committed to keeping an open, ongoing dialogue with the local business and developer community." "Both Council and developers benefit from these opportunities for increased communication, and working together will benefit the future development of the Shire."

**Kate Jessep, Uralla Shire Council General Manager**



**Developer Forum, held at the RSL Memorial Hall**

## UHS very grateful for solar power grant

The Uralla Historical Society (UHS) is immensely grateful to the NSW State Government for the allocation of a \$14K grant under the NSW Government's 2020 Community Building Partnership, and for the assistance of Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands, in obtaining it. The grant will be spent on a 10kW 30-panel micro-inverter based solar power system and associated cabling, to be installed on roofs in the McCrossin's Mill garden. This means that there will be an immediate and probably total reduction of electricity usage costs, which means that the Society can allocate more of its budget to museum exhibition development and upkeep, building maintenance, publicity, etc. UHS is also very appreciative of the cooperation of Howard's Electrical Service in the design and installation of the system.

**Louis van Ekert, President, Uralla Historical Society**

## Rainfall Snapshot

	2018	2019	2020
Jan	No Record	30.2	127.8
Feb	54	8	189.2
March	21.4	42.6	86.4
April	25.4	0.4	28
May	0	16	28.2
June	13.2	0.6	53
July	51.8	7	46.4
Aug	18.2	6	43.8
Sep	32.8	6.4	35.6
Oct	44.6	23.2	95.6
Nov	84.6	15.6	
Dec	53.8	36.2	
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>399.8*</b>	<b>192.2</b>	

\*Unofficial total due to no record at the Dumaresq St Weather Station in January 2018.

Source : Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology, Uralla Dumaresq St Station No. 056034, Total Monthly Rainfall.

The Uralla Club are gathering for the annual Xmas Function, COVID safe, meeting at the eastern point at the usual time, then travelling in convoy for a celebration at The Playground.

# 45 new mobile base stations and counting for New England

Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, has welcomed the Australian Government's continuing commitment to expanding mobile coverage in regional and remote Australia, with Round 5A of the \$380 million Mobile Black Spot Program now open for applications. "This new round couldn't have come sooner as it will have a specific focus on improving mobile coverage along major transport corridors and in disaster-prone regions," Mr Joyce said. "Just recently under this program we've had new mobile coverage at Copeton Dam and Weabonga switched on – two among 45 new mobile base stations that I have secured so far for the New England. "Under the last Labor Government, we didn't get one, that's how much it cared about the regions. "But I am continuing to fight for more base stations in all corners of our electorate, placing specific emphasis with service providers to deliver this Australian Government-funded infrastructure in our areas of need. "I am also in regular contact with Ministers and community groups to press the point how crucial this communication infrastructure is, not only from a safety standpoint but also a wellbeing perspective for family and friends given recent travel restrictions and increasing reliance on phone communications."

Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government, the Hon Mark Coulton MP, said the first five rounds of the program have funded more than 1,200 new base stations in regional Australia, with more than 880 of these already switched on. "Round 5A will support new ways of delivering mobile services to locations that have traditionally been less economic for mobile network operators," Minister Coulton said." Mr Joyce encouraged local communities and councils in the New England Electorate to identify their priorities for improved coverage and to work with the mobile network operators and infrastructure providers in support of applications for funding for those areas.

Applications for Round 5A will close on 10 February 2020. For more information about the Mobile Black Spot Program and the Round 5A process, visit: [www.communications.gov.au/MBSP](http://www.communications.gov.au/MBSP)

**Barnaby Joyce, Federal Member for New England**

**Uralla Brewhaha**  
you know the score...

# Further payroll tax relief in budget for local businesses

NORTHERN Tablelands MP Adam Marshall has welcomed two significant changes to the State's Payroll Tax system announced in today's 2020-21 NSW Budget, with the tax threshold set to be lifted to \$1.2 million dollars and the rate cut to 4.85 per cent, the lowest in the nation. Mr Marshall said no matter the size of the business, today's changes would put much needed cash back into the pockets of the region's hard-working business operators. "Payroll Tax is by far one of the biggest inhibitors preventing businesses in the Northern Tablelands putting on new staff or expanding their operations," Mr Marshall said. "Today's Budget announcement changes that, with the threshold to be lifted to \$1.2 million "This increase comes off the back of last year's Budget announcement which saw the threshold rise from \$850,000 to \$1million over a three-year period. "With an increase of just \$200,000, an extra 3,500 NSW businesses will be released from the burden of Payroll Tax, injecting thousands of dollars back into their bottom lines and allowing them to reinvest in new plant and machinery, new stuff and new opportunities."The good news doesn't stop there with the current Payroll Tax rate of 5.45 per cent to slashed by more than half-a-percent, freeing up capital for the region's biggest employers, like Bindaree Beef, to explore future market opportunities and expand their enterprises. "As we continue along the path of economic recovery from COVID-19 the Government must continue to make these bold tax reforms creating an environment where businesses are encouraged to dream big and prosper." Mr Marshall said when it came to Payroll Tax the fight was not over. "While year-on-year we are continuing to see shifts to the Payroll Tax threshold, I will continue to advocate for regional businesses to be exempt from this growth-stifling tax," he said. "The last thing we need in the current climate is a successful, innovative business holding-off from expanding its operation out of fear of hitting the payroll tax threshold. "Furthermore, I would like to see further breaks offered to entice businesses to relocate from city to country, creating new opportunities for regional communities. "Today's announcement is fantastic news for local business owners – our region is growing with towns such as Inverell showing strong growth, tourism dollars starting to pour in, services industries taking off and the strong commodities sector supporting new agricultural endeavours over the past few years."

**Adam Marshall, Member for the Northern Tablelands**

# Mayor's Youth Week forum delivers future ideas for the Shire

Council's annual Youth Week forum with local students raised current youth issues and ideas in a discussion and workshop with Uralla Shire Mayor, Cr Michael Pearce and Deputy Mayor, Cr Isabel Strutt. The forum started with the Mayor's report to the students on issues raised at last year's forum, including Council's representation to the Uralla Show Society to increase the Show dates to a two-day event, illegal dumping on Walcha Road, and upgrades to the Uralla Swimming Pool, squash court, and Alma Park skate and BMX track which students agreed was a resounding success. Mayor Pearce, Deputy Mayor Strutt, General Manager Kate Jessep, and Council senior staff members then participated in a discussion with the students to gain input on youth activities and ideas for future projects to improve the liveability of the Uralla Shire community. Ideas raised in the discussion included WiFi access for the Uralla CBD, mobile and internet towers across the Shire, and an on-duty/call police service for Bundurra. These topics will be forwarded to the relevant areas seeking support to review and progress possible actions. Following discussion with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the students participated in a workshop in which they developed a list of service and business opportunities in the Shire which are currently provided outside the Shire. The results of this workshop will inform Council's business gap analysis for future economic development planning. Mayor Pearce said the forum was a great opportunity for Council to engage the Shire's youth in an ongoing dialogue to listen to their issues, concerns, and ideas for the future. "The annual Youth Week forum gives Council a chance to hear what's important to young people, as well as explore opportunities for what Council can do to support their future. It's important the youth of the Uralla Shire know their voices are being heard, and that their ideas and issues concerning them are just as important as the rest of the community's. I'm pleased to be a part of this forum every year and to see first-hand young people's involvement in the community and how they will drive the future of the Uralla Shire," Mayor Pearce said. Youth Week is a NSW Government initiative which aims to provide young people the opportunity to express their ideas and views, act on issues that affect their lives at a local level, and create and enjoy activities and events. This year's theme is 'Speak Up, Be Involved, Get Connected, and Have Fun. 'Youth Week activities are funded by Council with funding matched by a grant provided by the NSW Government Department of Communities & Justice. Council works in partnership with the Uralla

Neighbourhood Centre to plan and deliver Youth Week activities. Mayor Pearce thanked Council staff for the successful funding bid to sponsor Youth Week and commended the collaboration between Council and the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre for organising the annual Youth Week Forum. Following the forum, participants enjoyed morning tea organised by the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre. NSW Youth Week 2020, originally scheduled for 1-9 April 2020, was rescheduled for November following the implementation of COVID-19 restrictions. Due to the number of activities scheduled for this year, Youth Week 2020 in the Uralla Shire has transitioned into a month long program of activities. Other events to be held as part of the Uralla Shire Youth Month include a month-long scavenger hunt, movie nights at the Uralla Library and Uralla Neighbourhood Centre, chocolate bingo, and a sausage sizzle.

**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](http://www.urallawordsworth.com.au)). The key price points are listed below :

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Full Page Internal Ad.....	\$140
Banner Bottom Front Page .....	\$100
Classifieds.....	\$2/line

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

If you enjoy reading the paper and are in a position to make a donation, the Uralla Wordsworth bank details are below : Regional Australia Bank, BSB 932 000 Account 762598 S3, Account Name Uralla Wordsworth Incorporated, Reference Please use your name and 'Donation', sending in an email to request your receipt where required. Thank you.