

# Uralla Wordsworth

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## Bulagaranda Returned to Anaiwan Owners

Almost 600 hectares of land north west of Uralla has been returned to Aboriginal owners, under a joint management agreement with the State Government announced on 31 March by Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall, Environment Minister James Griffin and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Ben Franklin.

Mr Marshall said the site, formerly known as Mount Yarrowyck Nature Reserve, had been returned to the Anaiwan traditional owners to manage in partnership with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

"The Anaiwan and local people have been waiting a long time for this transfer, and it's with great pride and satisfaction that I announce it today." Mr Marshall said.

"As part of the transfer, the name of the site has been changed to Bulagaranda Aboriginal Area, in recognition of its heritage and importance to the Anaiwan and local people.

"Bulagaranda has immense cultural significance for the traditional owners, and this process prioritises both the protection of cultural heritage and forges partnerships between traditional owners and the NSW Government."

Bulagaranda Aboriginal Area is a 586 hectare site located about 25 kilometres north west of Uralla, featuring important rock art.

Through this agreement, the Anaiwan and Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Councils hold the land on behalf of the registered Aboriginal owners. Minister Franklin said this was another historic agreement between Traditional Owners and the NSW Government. "Today is a momentous day for the Anaiwan and Armidale people who have been custodians of the land for generations," Mr Franklin said.



Bulagaranda (formerly Mt Yarrowyck). Photo: visitnsw.com

Handing back ownership of Bulagaranda gives Traditional Owners the control of local decision-making and importantly ensures their physical and spiritual connection to Country remains."

Mr Marshall said public access to the reserve remained the same, with the local community encouraged to enjoy both the natural and cultural values of the site.

"The government is recognising the cultural significance of the area, while ensuring the local community gets to enjoy everything this beautiful landscape has to offer." Mr Marshall said.

**Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands**

A celebration of the formal hand back of Bulagaranda Aboriginal Area (Mount Yarrowyck Nature Reserve) to its traditional Aboriginal owners will be held on Saturday 30 April 10am-3pm at Bulagaranda. All are welcome.

For details, see:

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/events/bulagaranda-aboriginal-area-hand-back-ceremony>

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**Robert Bell was elected Mayor of Uralla Shire Council in December 2021, after serving five years as a Councillor. He was previously Director of Engineering for Uralla Shire Council, lives in town, and has a grazing block at Kentucky. Clr Bell gives a personal view of some of the more important matters concerning Council and ratepayers in recent weeks.**

Following strong lobbying by the Uralla Business Chamber, Uralla Shire Council and local impacted residents, as well as the support of our State and Federal members of Parliament, Telstra have agreed to consider claims for all affected customers from their recent extended outage, and to visit local businesses. More and more we are being told we live in a cashless society.

Very sad news with the passing of Thelma McCarthy AM. It was wonderful that Thelma was the guest speaker at Uralla's recent International Women's Day dinner at McCrossin's Mill. She was always a great supporter of Uralla. My across-the-road neighbours (many years ago) Keith and Clarice Dawson, were close friends and political supporters of Thelma and her husband Bill. While they were staunch Labor supporters, they represented all that can be good in politics. It was in Thelma's role as Deputy Chairperson of the NSW Bicentennial Council and Clarice's role as Chairperson of the Uralla Bicentennial Committee that smoothed the way for the erection of the Thunderbolt Statue. Unfortunately Bill did not live to see its unveiling.

Last week I attended a forum organised by NSW Farmers in an effort to update the latest timeline in renewable energy in the New England. It was also a platform for the farming community to understand the development pressures and ongoing needs of our agricultural sector. NSW Farmers have put together a Position Paper titled "The Energy Transition" which I would recommend to all interested parties. There is growing concern that the tight timeframe between the shutting down of coal fired power stations and the bringing on line of renewable energy producers and the necessary transmission lines will lead to shortcuts in the process.

This week sees the Mayor's Youth Week Forum, which will allow for a number of Councillors and me to hear from our student leaders on their interests, ideas and suggestions to support the youth of Uralla Shire. I am certain this Forum will challenge me on what my generation thought was important, compared with what the students of today think is important.

On Wednesday, I have an appointment with Dr Mark Apthorpe, who is the newly appointed Electricity Infrastructure Jobs Advocate. I have invited all the Councillors to also attend. Mark's role is to provide advice to the Minister for Energy on workforce development. This is critical in our Shire to maximise skills development and training in the renewable energy sector. We are acutely aware of the boom and bust cycle of major infrastructure development.

Amongst all the doom and gloom of the current economic picture, Council has agreed to increase the Unsealed Rural Roads budget by \$190,000 to ensure this critical maintenance work is not restricted with rising diesel costs and the need for gravel re-sheeting to be part of the programmed works. The unrestricted cash position has improved by \$206,000 and Council was advised that our projected financial position at 30 June 2022 is likely to be satisfactory. Be assured that the financial viability of the Shire remains front and centre of all the Councillors' minds. Council accepted a tender from Stabilcorp for rehabilitation on Kingstown Road and reconstruction of Bundarra Road near Barbato's Corner. Councillors were assured that our own workforce would be fully engaged in construction on Stage 2 of Hawthorne Drive, and our ongoing maintenance backlog.

Congratulations to "Friends of McMaugh's" for their Award for Outstanding Community Service. Their Local Achievement Award was presented by Adam Marshall MP as part of the NSW Seniors Festival last Monday at the Armidale Ex Services Club. Tablelands Community Support Volunteers were also presented with awards recognising their efforts. I was thrilled to be able to present Joyce (a resident at McMaugh's) with flowers, for being the oldest person at the morning tea.

Huge congratulations go to Tara, Andrew and their team for another hugely successful Seasons of New England event (despite the weather and pressures of Covid).

My sincere condolences go out to the family of Dale Harris, who was a Storeman for Council until his retirement, and also to the family of Phil McElroy, who was a Direct Support Worker with Tablelands Community Support.

M: 0434 244 774  
E: robertbell1055@hotmail.com

**Robert Bell,  
Uralla Shire Resident**



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# Pure Gold at The Mill

That's what the sixty attendees at the annual International Women's Day Event said: "Pure Gold!", the enthusiastic response.

The new exhibition, officially opened by "iconic regional livewire" Thelma McCarthy AM, is entitled "Golden Girls" because it features four outstanding volunteers who have given "Decades of Dedication" (chalking up an incredible one-hundred and six years of service in total!) from the very foundation and fledgling development of the Museum and Function Centre into what is now regarded by authorities and visitors as "an absolute exemplar for the nation."

Uralla's four Golden Girls are:

Ann Hacker – Member for 12 years. Exhibition Designer & Curator; Publicity Officer, Editor of our newsletter "The Millers' Tales – "A True Creative".

Kaye Sutton – Member for 12 years. Secretarial Duties; Street Store Organiser; Typist; Regular Museum Attendant – "Mischievous, Loyal".

Ann Edwards – Foundation Member, active for 41 years. Catering for hundreds of Coach Groups and Formal Functions; Seamstress; Regular Museum Attendant – "Tireless, Totally Dedicated".

Annie Mayo – Foundation Member, active for 41 years. Co-ordinator of the Special Activities Committee (our Fund-raising team); Regular Museum Attendant – "Inspiring, Very Patient".

Sporting their golden sashes, the women were presented to the audience by Exhibition Curators, Zoe Carter and Kat di Rocco, both new residents of Uralla. "Although this is our first attempt at an exhibition", Zoe said, "we had great support from the Mill team all the way."

Kat di Rocco, praising the chosen Golden Girls said, "These women were just so obliging, and so humble about their achievements, it was a real pleasure and such fun working with them."

Guest Speaker Thelma McCarthy AM, received a standing ovation. Now a sprightly ninety-seven years old, Thelma told of her work as a telegraphist for the WRAAF in the Second World War, having to prove that her women could do the job as well as, and in fact better, than the RAAF men. Thelma and her pals had the unexpected thrill of being invited personally, by Prime Minister John Curtin, to the Lodge for dinner . . . "a simple meal it was, too, just like every other family in wartime", Thelma said.

"It was indeed "Pure Gold", the atmosphere that evening", agreed Museum Director Kent Mayo, "Everyone loved the dinner. served by Michael Welbourne and his slick young team, and the entertainment by "The Bright Lights Trio", Carol Elder, Kate Frazier and Emily Waldron, courtesy of Armidale Drama and Musical Society, was absolutely sparkling!"

**Kent Mayo, Museum Director, McCrossin's Mill Museum**

Kent has asked us to add the following sad news, received after he had submitted his article:

"On Monday morning, March 28, her daughter Annette McCarthy rang me to tell me that Thelma McCarthy had suffered a stroke and passed away on the previous evening, Sunday.

Annette asked me to let everyone know that 'Thelma and husband Bill, former Member for Northern Tablelands, really loved Uralla.....a beautiful place and a very special community.' Kent Mayo."



Exhibition curators  
Zoe Carter (left) &  
Kat di Rocco



Guest speaker Thelma McCarthy, AM



Left to right: Golden Girls Ann Hacker, Kaye Sutton, Ann Edwards, Annie Mayo



# Grants a Boon for New England Young Arts

Young people in the New England Northwest region have the chance to access up to \$8000 to foster their participation and potential careers in the arts, thanks to an Armidale initiative.

The grants usually in the range of \$300 to \$3000 are available through the New England Young Arts Partnership Program, which supports a wide range of arts-related projects for young people in the region, including a tertiary scholarship of \$1,500. This year the program welcomes individuals, as well as group applications.

The program was created by the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society in Armidale (ADFAS) in 2015 and formed a partnership with the Rotary Club of Central Armidale in 2017.

Since 2015 the partnership has contributed nearly \$60,000 to support Young Arts in the region.

Applicants must be up to and including 25 years of age at the time of application and educated or living in our area to engage in art-related activities.

Applications are now welcome but will only be accepted using the form available on request by contacting Graeme Fordham by email: [youngartsnewengland@gmail.com](mailto:youngartsnewengland@gmail.com) or by phone 0402 598 107.

Applications close on April 8th, 2022.

**Penelope Moyes,**  
**On behalf of Young Arts New England**

The Uralla Shire Business Chamber (USBC) on behalf of the Uralla Shire Business community sent out a press release on the 21st March outlining the devastating extended outage of mobile services. This was followed by strong media interest and a quick although initially confused reaction from Telstra. Michael Marom, the Northern NSW Regional General Manager Telstra Retail & Regional Australia made assurances that Telstra is concerned about those businesses that can demonstrate losses as a result of the extended Telstra outage. The Uralla Shire Business Chamber is encouraging any business owners who feel they have suffered material loss contact [telstracentralnsw@team.telstra.com](mailto:telstracentralnsw@team.telstra.com) outlining the issues that occurred from the extended Uralla Telstra mobile outage during March.

A quick look in on Seasons of New England turned into a few hours and an abused wallet. This is why Seasons continues to be a premier event on the Uralla event calendar. Forecast rain failed to dampen enthusiasm on the day. On a trip down the main street of Uralla on Saturday it was hard to find a parking spot despite vehicles coming and going.

At the March meeting, the members agreed that an electric charging station in Uralla was essential to ensure Uralla remained a stopping point for travelers.

The USBC will hold another Developers Forum in a few months as a way of accessing the improvements to development pathways within the Uralla Shire. This will be an important opportunity for the business community to share their experience and gauge positive areas where Uralla Businesses and Uralla Shire Council have made inroads in best practice.

The USBC's High Country weekend markets coincided with the monthly chook auction and Rotary BBQ on the 3rd of April.

The USBC aims to support economic and social business development to ensure the Uralla Shire is the best place in New England to live and do business.

The next meeting of the USBC is at 5.30 pm on the 7th April 2022 at the Uralla Bowling Club.

**David Mailler, President,**  
**On behalf of the Uralla Shire Business Chamber**

## Uralla Community,

## Time to Get Fair Dinkum!

Do you need support from your local Neighbourhood Centre?

Do you want to support your local Neighbourhood Centre?

So these questions can be answered, you are invited by the committee of the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre to attend a Community Meeting.

On Wednesday 6th April 2022 at 6.30pm at the RSL Memorial Hall on Salisbury Street.

Big decisions need to be made about the future of the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre. If we are not needed or supported, we may need to reassess the future of the centre that has served the community for 35 years

Please attend so you can find out more about what we already do for the community and give us your ideas what else is needed and also to show your support.

If you cannot attend, please email or phone us with your needs and or how you can support us.

Email: [office@unc.org.au](mailto:office@unc.org.au) Phone: 02 6778 3277

**Jessica Fitzsimmons, Uralla Neighbourhood Centre**

# ANZAC Day Uralla 2022

The Dawn Service on ANZAC Day will commence at 05.45am at the Alma Park Soldiers Memorial Gates with the main ANZAC Day March commencing at 10:00am.

Marchers are requested to begin forming up at 09.30am starting at Thunderbolt's Statue on the corner of Bridge and Salisbury Streets, and flowing up the hill towards the Anglican Church. All in the Uralla Shire are welcome to attend.

The route for the main march will be along Bridge Street, and then left into Hill Street and turning right into Queen St to march to the new Korean Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial then back to the Memorial Gates.

The ANZAC Day commemoration service will be conducted at the Memorial Gates on completion of the march at approximately 10.30am.

Wreaths will be laid at the Korean Memorial and the Vietnam Commemoration Plaque. All serving personnel, ex-servicemen and women in the Uralla Shire are most welcome to attend, as is the general public. Please advise name of person intending to lay wreath and at which memorial to the RSL Secretary (details below) by 19th April.

Bruce McMullen and his wonderful band of volunteers have graciously offered their services for any ex-Serviceman or ex-Servicewoman who require transport (Golf Carts) to participate in the Anzac Day March in Uralla on 25th April. These individuals are requested to advise the Secretary of their requirements no later than 16th April in order that the appropriate arrangements be made.

There will be a fingerfood and sandwiches lunch and cold refreshments at McCrossins Mill at 12.00 noon on completion of the service for all serving personnel, ex-servicemen and women and families of members of the Armed Forces that are currently serving for a donation.

It is requested that the RSVP for lunch attendees be received (to the Secretary, details below) by 16th April for catering purposes. If any further information is required or for the Luncheon RSVP, please contact Teresa French, Hon. Secretary Uralla RSL Sub-Branch on 6778 3325 during business hours, email [UrallaSB@rslnsw.org.au](mailto:UrallaSB@rslnsw.org.au) or contact President Russ on 0401 932 107.

We are attempting to shorten the service and will be providing seating thanks to the firies and hopefully a marquee if we can source one so people do not succumb to heat stroke this year.

**Russ French, RSL Uralla Sub-branch**



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# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

The Uralla Shire Community has been asked to respond to the draft Strategic Plan Uralla Shire Community Strategic Plan 2022-2031.

This is a summary of my response to the shire council.

The economic directions of the council are listed in generic ambitions which is an initial statement of intention but included in this strategy should be a clear inclusion of 'risks' to our financial development. There needs to be a designated 'risk' officer in the shire council This would be part of the audit functions at local and state level. This review work needs to be included in a job description within the councillors financial committee. For example, the future decommissioning of advanced projects.

There needs to be a specific inclusion for our indigenous community. A specific councillor could have in their job description, liaison with our indigenous community members. This person could discuss with our community their concerns concerning the future direction of Uralla Shire.

Our culturally diverse community members need to be included. A specific councillor could have in their job description, liaison with our community members who are not originally from Australia and would like to be included in the future development of this shire.

Our disabled community members need to be consulted. A specific councillor could have in their job description, liaison with our disabled community members who would like to be included in the future development of this shire.

The shire has a commitment to emergency management protocols. The strategy needs to include an emergency committee, that not only meets biannually but at least once a year conducts a "mock" disaster so that we as locals who go to help in these matters are experienced. For example, a stock carrier accident.

Climate change implications must be included in this report. Perhaps people could be asked to speak to this issue at future council meetings. Listening posts in areas would support the development of key stages of the consultation process and the opportunity for the public to speak to their written submission at local council shire meetings.

**Jann Karp, Uralla Shire resident**

Dear Editors,

One of the reasons I love Uralla is the quality of the people in the community. Since moving here some six years ago I have met more people that I feel confident to call a friend than I ever did in Sydney. Perhaps it is because I spend too much time at The New England Brewery, but I truly believe it is because people are much more friendly and relaxed in this environment. However I want to pay tribute to my mate Angus McLean.

Angus is always ready to help a person in need, whether it is driving someone to hospital (with a suspected heart attack that wasn't), moving furniture for the Co-op, helping preparation for the lantern parade then moving all the big lanterns in his ancient truck, or having a cup of coffee and a chat or a beer and a chat or recommending a book (that I may or may not read). He is always there for you. Thank you, Angus, for being a friend.

**Bob Anderson, Uralla resident**

## Friends of McMaugh Gardens Report

It was Seniors Week last week and the Manager of McMaugh Gardens, Jacinta Sutherland, nominated "Friends of McMaugh Gardens " for an award. Guess what? We did win an award. Thank you so much Jacinta for recognising the work "Friends" do. We are a small group of men and women who enjoy the fund raising and social events we organise. We work well together, knowing we are enhancing the lives of the residents. We enjoy and get so much pleasure in buying equipment and items that assist the staff to give quality care to the residents of McMaugh Gardens Aged Care Centre.

The members of "Friends" would also like to thank our community for their contribution to our street stall last week. It was a great success and the money raised will go directly to purchasing another necessary piece of equipment for McMaugh Gardens to assist in resident care.

We welcome new members.

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



Photo: Friends of McMaugh Gardens



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# Community Calendar

Please email [urallawordsworth@gmail.com](mailto: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 Bowliing 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/](http://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](mailto: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

**Uralla Food Pantry**, Mondays 11am - 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](mailto:office@unc.org.au) Donations welcomed.

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

**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 April - May

**ADFAS Armidale**, lecture at The Michael Hoskins Centre, The Armidale School, Wednesday 6th April, 6pm. Supper provided. Guest bookings of \$25 per lecture must be made through Trybooking. Acquired Taste: The Invention of the Restaurant in 19th Century Paris. Lecturer: Sylvia Sagona.

**Uralla Neighbourhood Centre**, Community Meeting, RSL Memorial Hall, Salisbury Street, Wednesday 6 April, 6.30pm

**USBC Meeting**, 5.30pm, Thursday 7 April, Uralla Bowlo

**Uralla Shire Council**, Ordinary Council Meeting, 9:30 am, Tuesday 26 April, Uralla Council Chambers

**Hand back ceremony of Bulagaranda Aboriginal Area (Mount Yarrowyck Nature Reserve)**, Bulagaranda Aboriginal Area, Saturday 30 April, 10am-3pm. Details:

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/events/bulagaranda-aboriginal-area-hand-back-ceremony>

**Local rock line up: Fovndlings, NASCENT and Josh St Ledger in concert**, Uralla Bowlo, 8.30pm Saturday 30 April. Bookings: <https://www.moshtix.com.au/v2/event/fovndlings-nascent-josh-st-ledger/135700>



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Deadline for the next edition is  
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Please email all contributions including advertising,  
letters to the editor and articles to  
[urallawordsworth@gmail.com](mailto:urallawordsworth@gmail.com)

# Uralla Tennis Club Girls Twilight Games Night

An extraordinary showing of girls turned out for the first Girls Twilight Games at the Uralla Sporting Complex on Wednesday 23rd March.

The girls were amazing, participating with such enthusiasm. It was wonderful to hear so much laughter amid their concerted efforts to master the fun drills the volunteers had organised. The feedback from the girls has been overwhelmingly positive and we are hopeful that similar events can be run in the near future.

Uralla Tennis Club would like to thank all the volunteers who made the evening possible, especially those who ran the activities: Melissa Hanson & Christine K Rafferty (Uralla United Football Club), Jodie Shanahan (Uralla Netball Club), Matt Myhill (Armidale Basketball) and Debra Weiley-Lloyd (Uralla Tennis Club).

This night was one of several events Uralla Tennis Club will be running to promote female participation in sports. It is part of the recent Stronger Country Communities funding agreement which will see upgrades to court lighting and the clubhouse at the Uralla Sporting Complex.

The Uralla Tennis Club is grateful to Adam Marshall MP and Uralla Shire Council for their ongoing support of the Club which enables us to pass on the benefits by promoting and supporting tennis play in the wider community.

**Genevieve Noone, Uralla Tennis Club**



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Fuel Watch	2 April 2022	
	ULP	Diesel
Invergowrie	171	186
Puma	198.9	223.9
BP	199.9	223.9
Mobil	204.9	220.9
Kingstown	215.9	228.9
Kentucky	Not available	

## Uralla Community Street Store

CWA Uralla  
4 - 10 April  
Lodge of Peace No 120 Uralla  
11 - 17 April  
Call Uralla Shire Council to book - 6778 6300

## Kentucky General Store & Licensed Cafe



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# Seasons Solid Success

It was a huge buzz to finally be able to stage the full Seasons of New England Expo on Saturday 26th March at the Uralla Showground. Around 5,000 people came through the gates and the feedback from stallholders and Uralla businesses was that it was one of the best trading weekends they have had for some years. In fact for some it was THE best weekend's trade they have ever had. While there are always areas to improve, this feedback made all the hard work over the year leading up to the Expo day worthwhile.

Many people commented on the extraordinary range of creative talent, on the delicious produce and of course the wonderful personalities they met on the day. With so many of the stallholders coming from the tiny villages and hamlets, right through to the larger towns and cities across the New England, the estimated \$1.5million economic impact of the Expo has a deep reach.

One of the aims of the Expo is to entice people to return after discovering the products and the wonderful people, and we are already hearing of confirmed bookings for week long visits to various areas of the region.

The quote of the day has to be from a Sydney visitor I had the opportunity to talk with. She had booked a 3 night stay in a Uralla B&B especially for the Seasons weekend and was delighted with what she found, with the warm Uralla welcome, the delicious fare and shopping at the Expo that she described as "beyond her wildest expectations".

Unfortunately for the Expo, we found out a few days ago that we were unsuccessful in securing a grant from Destination NSW that would have helped us sustain the future of the event. The planning for our 10th year in 2023 is well underway and we will keep working on ideas but it is looking challenging at the moment.

**Tara Toomey, Seasons of New England**



Dannii Goodwin of Dale's Downtown Meats



Live music sets the scene at the Expo





## Volunteer to help rebuild YOUDALES HUT

*Starting on Tuesday 19th April for four weeks, weather permitting*

Located deep in the Kunderang Brook Valley of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, Youdales Hut represents an important part of the regions' pastoral and cultural history. Built by grazier Alan Youdale and Patrick Hongo in 1941, it was restored by NPWS in 1992 and then unfortunately burnt down during the 2019-20 bushfires.

The Youdales Hut Rebuild Project will use locally sourced materials and traditional methods to rebuild the hut to its original design, giving volunteers the opportunity to experience bush carpentry while helping rebuild this historic hut.

**Volunteer requirements:**

- Must be 18 years or over with a moderate level of fitness
- Must have suitable vehicle – track is accessible by low-range 4WD only
- Camp on site for a minimum 2-night stay
- Steel-capped boots, long pants & long-sleeved shirt
- NSW Construction White Card
- Evidence of COVID-19 vaccination or declaration of exemption

Register as a volunteer using the QR code below, drop into the NPWS Walcha office, or call 02 6777 4700 for more information.



#NSWParks

Photo: Youdales Hut prior to destruction from the 2019-2020 bushfires. (DPIE) EES2022/2006 March 2022

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# Running Wild – Dam Him all to Hell!

This episode is the next in the Running Wild fiction series. The first, Run Girl Run was printed Uralla Wordsworth 30th November 2020 – 22 February 2021. By Daryl Albertson.

1. *Recap. Then we had left a young Molly tending to her battered Ma, after a visit by mean-spirited troopers. They had come to their bark hut on Mountain Black in search of Fred, something about a hold up of the Cobb & Co Coach, up Inverell way and so it goes.*

Delicate white flowers burst across the mountain slope, which seemed a contradiction for their parents were the prickly underbrush. Golden wattle bloomed, rising above, announcing that the depths of winter had passed, and warmer months would soon arrive.

The Thompson Farm was a flurry of activity in preparation for the early spring potato planting. Molly and Nell, her Ma, had been down off the mountain helping all morning.

Bill, the farms indentured convict had been cutting firewood around the back of the cottage when riders came up the house path. He and 'The Lady' had heard them higher up on the mountain pass, their hooves clattering on the loose slate.

Coming into sharper view they made them out to be the Begot brothers. The pair had come down from their Ben Lomond Run, making their way further south for supplies.

The farm was a good point to rest and water their horses for they knew 'The Lady' and Bill well. It was also an opportunity to pass on the latest district news. As visitors were few in the valley a flurry of activity and excitement rose as the riders came closer.

The greeting party met at the cottage gate where bright pink roses bloomed over the arbour. After greetings and loosely tying their horses, all went inside gathering around the kitchen table to hear the latest news. A pot of tea and a large plate of oat cakes with treacle was soon on the table.

The Begot brothers told their story, each providing critical details that the other missed or was too slow to reveal. This was the way of the brothers, always talking 'hand in glove'.

So, the news went:

After leaving the Armidale depot in the early hours, the Cobb & Co Coach stopped briefly at the little coach house before the steeper climb up Mountain Black. It was then a flatter route north for mail pickup, onto Wandsworth for fresh horses, final stop Inverell.

The coach was drawn by a twin horse team, seating up to eight passengers. Under the rear canvas cover were the mail bags and passengers' luggage limited to 14 pounds each. Chained on top, sat the strong box holding a bundle of notes and silver coin for the bank at Inverell. Seated up-front, the driver and his offside armed with a short-barrelled coach gun.

The coach was scheduled to arrive in Inverell by sunset and barring a breakdown they were making good time. The fresh horses had found their steady rhythm and gait. The party was between Wandsworth and Inverell finally making the top of a long low hill climb. Rounding the last bend to the grassy flat, a large log lay across the track. All seemed natural enough in these timbered parts and the driver Bates carried a pair of axes for these situations.

...to be continued

**Editors' note:** this episode is an amended version of the one in edition 85 of Uralla Wordsworth.

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# Mrs Ogilvie's Cherry Tree

*This story is adapted from the Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser, November 1951, by Pauline Crouch, and my thanks go to Luise Scherer, Noel Marshall and the Uralla Library History Hub for their help when I was doing research for our Uralla Women's Bowling Club's 70th Anniversary in 2020, when this story came to light.*

Back in 1951 the Uralla Bowling Club, just six years old, was the proud owner of a magnificent cherry tree which flourished in the middle of the then carpark. This cherry tree was the sole survivor of an orchard that occupied the site of the bowling greens as we know them today. The original land belonged to the McCrossins and dated back to the 1840s. James McCrossin, a bootmaker, was a cousin of John McCrossin, whose father Samuel in 1853 built a fine inn, the first in Uralla, on the corner of Hill and Queen Streets, and laid down an orchard in its surrounds. Gold had just been discovered in Rocky River and he hoped to benefit from his proximity to the diggings.

We take up the story about 1890, where James McCrossin, now well up in years, and his daughter Mrs Ogilvie are living in the former inn. The orchard gradually became known as "Mrs Ogilvie's" and was of significant interest to the youth of that time, especially in the fruit season.

It was fairly well guarded on three-sides by a thicket of acacia, prickly Osage orange trees and a thorny bush (from South Africa) that would almost stop an elephant, and all intertwined with blackberry bushes, not forgetting a paling fence within the thicket.

This meant that the only entry was through the front gate, which was overlooked by the house itself. With the old man, carrying a buckthorn walking stick, ever on the watch, it acted as a strong deterrent to the boys.

However as soon as the first flush appeared on the cherries, the boys started looking for a way in. And eventually the more enterprising of these hunters after the forbidden fruit wormed their way through the thicket at two or three strategic points. There was an old cattle dog that proved troublesome for a while, and he often caused a hasty retreat – that is, if the way back out was clear.

On one occasion, two or three hungry urchins had precipitately followed the leader into one of the tunnels.

Just as the leader had advanced sufficiently to cast his eyes around anxiously for the old man, the dog, with bared fangs, rushed him. He had to 'take it', because when he tried to withdraw, his backside bumped the head of the lad second-in-line. It was a fearfully exciting few moments with Bluey, snapping and growling, just a few feet away.....

It took quite a while for the three boys to carefully extricate themselves from the thorny tunnel.

And in the meantime, the old man, armed with his buckthorn had come round the back of the house wondering why Bluey was barking so noisily, and the leader of the would-be marauders had a further unpleasant prospect of being severely caned with the notchy stick.

Fortunately, the old man's eyesight was not very good and he was unable to assess the trouble before the tunnel behind was clear, thus enabling the lad to withdraw discreetly.

This put a damper on any further excursions for a few days. But it wasn't long before they decided to have another go, which proved more successful.

Eventually the old man died, and his daughter, Mrs Ogilvie, became the sole occupant of the premises. She ran a dairy, and it was a simple matter for the lads of the village to make their clandestine visits to the orchard while she was engaged in milking the cows of an afternoon.

There was quite a varied selection of fruit-bearing trees, vines and bushes within the orchard that kept the attention of the boys concentrated on the place for four or five months every year.

And so, the years went by and we came to this present time, November 1951, where the sight of this single cherry tree, all that remained from that famous orchard, reminded us of those bygone days. The latest gaggle of boys had obviously been keeping an eye on the lone tree. It had a fairly good crop on.... and one day last week the fruit began colouring faintly, just the change the boys had been anxiously waiting for. Several of them shinned up the tree and started taking the fruit like hungry flying foxes.

Suddenly there was a stentorian yell from the bowling green: "GET DOWN OUT OF THERE!!" Somewhat reluctantly, the boys jumped down and sped off.

But they were not deterred; the next afternoon they rushed down after school, and uninterrupted, fed on the cherries and then filled their pockets for the journey home. Like the lads before them, the boys hadn't waited until the fruit ripened properly, which resulted in severe tummy-aches for some; but the age-old favourite remedy, castor oil, soon brought them round to a sense of well-being once more, just as it had for those other lads through the years.

The cherry tree stayed there in the middle of the car park for just a few more years until, to the disappointment of the boys, the Bowling Club decided to put in a second green.

**Pauline Crouch,**

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

# Uralla Lantern Parade

A big thank you to all those who helped make the Lantern parade a success this year. Special thanks to Louis & Wendy Van Ekert, Angus & Laura McLean, Imogen, Kath & Sylvana, Annie Mayo and Diane and finally to my beautiful wife, Wendy, the mistress of lighting.

There is a lot of work that goes into the preparation of this event and we need more volunteers if the parade is to continue at the high standard that we have set. We would welcome anyone wanting to hone their artistic ability or wanting to assist build a big lantern.

Thank you also to our sponsors, Uralla Shire Council, Phoenix Foundry and our hosts The New England Brewery. Thank you Dave Robinson for the fabulous photos.

We will have a rest for a month or so and then get into prep for the next parade.

**Bob Anderson, President Uralla Arts Inc**

# The Big Blaze in the Main Street

The 'Strand Arcade,' as it was known back then, was completely destroyed by fire in November 1934. The flames spread so quickly throughout the old weatherboard building that nothing could be saved. The adjoining Bank of N.S.W. premises also came under threat, escaping with minor damage to the exterior of the building and major water damage to the inside.

The bucket brigade who fought the fire and saved the Bank consisted of local men Les Munro, Ray Crapp, Ernie Elks, Bill Wallace, Syd Walden, Fred Trickett Snr, Fred Trickett Jnr, Ernie Copas, Albie Brown, H. G. Armstrong, Dick Cooper, Charlie Prince, J. C. M. Curran, Alex McRae, Gordon Mallam, George Edwards, Bill Challis, Victor Ainsworth, Allan Neil, Tommy O'Keefe, Jack Boston, Ivan Fearby, L. J. Smith, Jim Fuller, Stan Hopely, D. Evans, Gordon Nelson, Jack Harry and Don Wallace. At the time of the fire there were five small shops in the Arcade which were occupied by Miss Warwick, who carried confectionery and baby clothing; B. C. Carter & Co., who carried a stock of fancy goods, periodicals, etc.; Reg Bullen, the boot repairer; W. D. Cox & Co., stock and station agents, and Clive Walsh & Co., grocery and produce business.

New premises with three shop-fronts was built on the old 'Strand Arcade' site in 1935. The building now has two shop-fronts and houses the Antiques and Real Estate businesses at 88-90 Bridge Street.

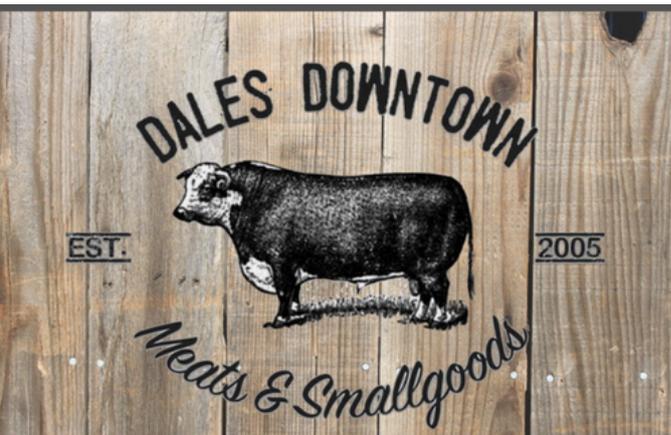
**Kay Adams, Uralla History Hub**



Photos courtesy of Dave Robinson



Big blaze before and after



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