

Uralla Wordsworth

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Uralla Shire Council Long Term Finances

Each year Council must review service costs, prepare a budget, determine fees and charges and develop an annual operational plan.

This is linked to Council's community strategic plan, as defined in its long term delivery programs.

"Council looks to find that right balance, guided by community feedback, on how to secure the revenue needed to run essential Council services – like water, waste, roads – as well as those additional services that the community values; library, transport, aged care and sporting facilities," said General Manager Kate Jessep.

A fair approach lies also in determining which services ought to be subsidised by the broader community, and which services should users be expected to pay the full cost." Uralla Shire Council's 2021-2022 Operational Plan, including Budget and Fees and Charges, has been adopted by Council, and all documents are now available on Council's website for residents to view.

Council is now focusing on securing financial sustainability over the next decade through the Long Term Financial Plan. The combination of increased costs for labour and materials, increasing demand for services, the shifting of costs from other levels of government, a legislative cap on revenue generated from rates, all contribute to a challenging financial environment within which to operate.
cont p.3

Congratulations Cr Crouch

Congratulations to Cr Bob Crouch who has been voted in as the Uralla Shire Council Deputy Mayor at the Ordinary meeting of Council on Tuesday 28th September. His commitment to the community has often been recognised, not least when he was recently awarded Senior Citizen of the year on Australia Day 2021. Cr Crouch is also the President of Diggings Rural Fire Service and serves on the Uralla Bowling Club Board.

Cr Crouch brings a wealth of experience in government roles at various levels to the position of Deputy Mayor, as well as 9 years at the coal face as a Councillor at Uralla Shire and previous terms as Deputy Mayor. His return to the role has already been welcomed by many in the community who have heard on the grapevine about his appointment.

Crs Strutt and Ledger had also put their hand up for the position. Cr Ledger was supported by Cr Sampson, and Cr Strutt was supported by Crs Dusting and Pearce. Cr Crouch was supported by Crs O'Connor, Toomey and Bell. Thanks go to Cr Strutt for her service in the role of Deputy Mayor over the previous term.

When the recommendation to then appoint Cr Crouch to the position of Deputy Mayor was put, only Cr Dusting voted against it.

This is a personal account and perspective.

Tara Toomey, Uralla Shire Resident

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Robert Bell was elected to Uralla Shire Council in September 2016 and has served one term as Deputy Mayor. He was previously Director of Engineering for Uralla Shire, lives in town, and has a grazing block at Kentucky. In his regular column, Cr Bell gives a personal view of some of the more important matters concerning Council and ratepayers in recent weeks.

Congratulations to Councillor Bob Crouch on being elected Deputy Mayor. The position may be short lived if the Local Government election goes ahead on December 4 this year, as is currently planned. This is a great reward for Bob's significant contribution to the Local Strategic Planning Document, the Budget Review & Finance Committee, and the Renewable Energy Sector.

Mixed news with the Covid disruptions. The Fleece to Fashion Awards Gala Event which was to be held in the Deeargee Woolshed has been cancelled, and the Uralla Fairy Festival has been put back until December 4. There is no suggestion that I will be at the Polling Booth in a fairy costume! While the Thunderbolt Festival will continue, it will be held at the Uralla Showground on Saturday October 30. This will allow the organisers to utilise the QR code and control numbers. The parade will be in the showground arena.

We should all acknowledge the huge contribution Dr Ricardo Alkhouri and now the Uralla Pharmacy have made in helping our community stay safe. The latest advice as of September 26 from Adam Marshall MP, is 84% first vaccination and 57% fully vaccinated for the Uralla Shire. Unfortunately a fire bug is active again on the New England Highway and at Dangars Lagoon. Anyone who sees suspicious behaviour should contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. It is only a matter of time before one of these spot fires escapes into the surrounding countryside. The latest update on the Bundarra Sewerage Scheme included that the projected completion date is now early March 2022. The disappointing aspect is that an additional \$57,000 is needed for a toilet and washbasin for the Sewerage Treatment Plant.

While Councillors did not receive a Works Planning & Progress written report, we were advised that work will commence soon on the next stage of the upgrade of Hawthorne Drive. Hopefully Kliendienst Road will be repaired at the completion of the works. David Carlon has engaged consultants to prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement for the extension of his pit on the Kingstown Road. It is unlikely that this will be finalised and approved by Council within the 12 weeks as directed. This gravel is the most significant source in Uralla Shire.

In the previous Wordsworth edition, I advised the date for the removal of the uncontaminated green waste charges would be September 25. This was incorrect as I was advised that staff had to check if any objections were received. The good news is the charges have been removed altogether from September 29.

My apologies to anyone who got caught. The positive to come out of this is that a motion will be prepared for the next Council meeting to ensure all waste, including green waste, from out of the Shire, will be charged at the maximum rate to discourage out of area usage of our limited space.

Exciting news with a proposal from a developer to carry out a major development at the Uralla Golf Club. I would recommend that everyone who is interested in this proposed project should take up the offer of the Golf Club Committee to inspect the preliminary plans at the Club. The Club has advised that there will be a public meeting once Covid restrictions ease and the plans are further refined. Please note that this has not been considered by Council; however I am keen to have a discussion with any resident. With a number of significant projects being considered in Uralla, I am keen to see the formation of a combined staff/Councillor working group, to meet with these developers in a positive forum, while still ensuring the necessary issues are addressed. This should not be an adversarial approach.

With the Public Exhibition of Uralla Shire Council's Long Term Financial Plan, my colleagues Clrs Toomey, Crouch, O'Connor and I have included an outline of what has been recommended by staff in this edition of Wordsworth. Residents and Ratepayers have until October 25 to comment. Any increase in General Funds needs approval by the Independent Planning Commission. One of the critical steps is this public consultation. If you are happy to see your rates increase by up to 50% over the next four years, then you can support this proposal. This will not see any increase in your current services. My colleagues and I look forward to detailing our blueprint to balance the budget with a much smaller increase.

M: 0434 244 774

E: robertbell1055@hotmail.com

**Robert Bell,
Uralla Shire Resident**



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USC Finances

(continued from p.1)

Extreme weather events and natural disasters are also increasingly impacting the bottom line.

Therefore, at the core of Uralla Shire's future financial sustainability will be the ability to adapt and respond to the challenges we face in delivering services more efficiently, providing increased operational productivity and developing opportunities to generate additional revenue sources.

The financial plan is based on the following key strategies:

- Provide spending on infrastructure renewal so that Council's physical assets are maintained to standards that provide functionality and serviceability
- Rate increases that are equitable and not excessive and that the increase can be explained in a positive and transparent manner
- A pricing strategy for services based on a combination of subsidisation and user-pays principles.
- New community assets to be funded via property developer contributions or special one-off government grants.

Uralla Shire Council is now seeking submissions from our residents and ratepayers to start a conversation on the Shire's financial sustainability.

A summary explainer document and survey have also been created to assist with this stage of the consultation process.

Please visit uralla.nsw.gov.au/Community/Consultation
Community input will help Council to make decisions that work towards a balanced budget for long-term sustainability and to secure the continuing independence of the Shire.

Submissions can be made to Council until 5pm, 25 October 2021.

Residents and ratepayers without internet access are invited to contact Council Customer Service on (02) 6778 6300 to request a pack of consultation materials to be mailed to them.

Kate Jessep, General Manager, Uralla Shire Council



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**Uralla Shire Council
Local Government Elections
Important Dates**

**Lodgement of nominations open:
25 October**

**Close of nominations and registrations:
3 November**

Wordsworth Election Edition: 8 November

Pre-polling: 22 November

**Candidates Forum TBA
(on a date between 8 and 21 November)**

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Dear Uralla Shire Ratepayer,

The Uralla Shire Council Long Term Financial Plan (The 10 year projected budget) has been placed on display for public comment. Public Exhibition of Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2022 - 2031 Uralla Shire Council (nsw.gov.au). If you don't have internet access ring Council on 6778 6300 and request a LTFP consultation pack. We have asked that copies be available at the Bundarra, Kentucky, Invergowrie and Kingstown stores.

Your comments must be in by 25 October. They can be submitted by letter addressed to the Office of the General Manager, PO Box 106, Uralla NSW 2358 or by email to council@uralla.nsw.gov.au. Don't forget 25th October 2021.

Some key areas of interest -

1. General Fund Rates increases:

- a. 25% in 2022/2023
- b. A further 10% in 2023/2024
- c. Then a further 10% in 2024/2025
- d. Then a further 2.5% for each year from 2025/2026 – 2030/2031

2. Water fund rates increases:

- a. On the annual (access) charge, 10% increase each year up to and including 2027/2028

3. Sewer fund rate increases:

- a. On the annual (access) charge, 10% increase for the 2022/2023 financial year, followed by 2.5% cumulative increase per year for each year up to and including 2030/2031

4. Savings by (these are just a few examples):

- a. Contracting out general waste collection services (\$70,000). Historically, it has always been more economical to have this service undertaken in house, and Council has not seen the budgeted figures to show this saving.
- b. Employment of project management staff (\$48,000)
- c. Setting a target for fines each and every year (\$39,000).
- d. Reducing the customer service hours at the counter (\$12,000)
- e. Reducing road maintenance (\$12,000)
- f. Reducing hours at the pool (\$48,000)
- g. Discontinue our community grants and sponsorship programs (\$60,000):

Councillors have not seen any details as to how these savings will be implemented.

The Mayor, Michael Pearce, voted with Councillors Dusting, Strutt, Ledger and Sampson to adopt the current budget and endorsed the Long Term Financial Plan for public comment. It is now critical that you consider this plan and provide comment to Council. It is also more important than ever that you cast an informed vote on 4th December.

NOW is the time to comment. **NOT** when you get your rate notice, your road is not being maintained, you are fined, or find the pool closed when it used to be open.

We believe Council could balance the budget by further improving efficiencies within council operations and will be working to have that discussion when this returns to Council. Your input will be critical.

Sincerely

Bob Crouch Tara Toomey Robert Bell Tom Oconnor
0428616885 0434408163 0434244774 67783684

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have wondered if the proponents of the Fibonacci Park project have considered what the consequences of their actions could be if the project comes to fruition. Most of them will tell you that the reason they live in Uralla, or came to live in Uralla is because of the village atmosphere, the peace and serenity, the heritage listed buildings and the clean, crisp mountain air. However this will all change when the thousands of visitors, maybe hundreds of thousands of visitors that are predicted to come to view this magnificent construction start to arrive. We will suddenly need more parking spaces, more motels to accommodate the hordes, more service stations, more food outlets, more hotels and the list just goes on and on. Some people may want to buy property here and then we will see the developers move in and next thing we will have 10 story apartment blocks. We may even need an international airport on Salisbury Plains, with diesel belching shuttle buses running to and from the airport, or maybe a light rail, to cater for the overseas visitors. The number crunchers from Aldi, Woolworths, Bunnings and all the other multi-nationals will see that because of this huge increase in population Uralla will be a good place to set up one of their retail outlets. They will come here and buy up our beautiful heritage listed buildings and put the bulldozers through them and be prepared to pay a paltry \$20,000 fine for doing so. The clean crisp mountain air will be replaced with diesel and petrol fumes from the dozens of tourist buses that will arrive daily. The peace and serenity will be shattered by the constant honking of car horns and people engaging in road rage battles trying to get to the best viewing point to this construction that will be the equal of some of the worlds greatest tourist attractions. Our village atmosphere will be lost under a blanket of smog and other undesirable aspects associated with city living all because of one postage stamp sized park.

If the proponents of the park want it so much, let them raise the money and construct the damn thing and let poor old Fibonacci rest in peace and give the rest of us a break. I, for one, am growing sick of hearing the very mention of the name Fibonacci.

Jeff Lutton, Uralla resident

Dear Editor,

The use of satire is a long tradition in the press and the arts. But depictions of so-called 'naysayers' as uneducated hayseeds who lack artistic vision is a tired trope. It is not satire but a strategy to publicly humiliate individuals and silence discussion. The naysayer is the 'other', therefore the 'enemy'. Be silent. Those who know better must be unobstructed in their vision. This is authoritarianism.

It is shabby behaviour to demonise dissenting views so as to block the transparent use of community property and potential expenditure of ratepayers' money. Naysayers emphasise the need for clarity and inclusive decision making. Perhaps even for an improved 'vision'. Collaboration through respectful discourse is always the better path.

Susan Armstead, Kentucky resident

Dear Editor,

I congratulate you on the production of the Wordsworth as a welcome addition to our community and its part in informing us of events in these Covid challenging times. I have noticed recently that contributors have submitted their stories for publication on topics that are entertaining and although fictional it provides another dimension that adds enjoyment to your discerning readers. My story (p.6 ed.) is partly based on fact but there is an element of creativity involved and I submit it for your consideration. I look forward to more stories appearing in the Wordsworth.

Mary Davis, Uralla Shire resident

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An Allegory

In the early 1990s there was a business group formed in Armidale made up of local identities who believed that they could contribute by encouraging businesses to start up or relocate to the area. With the best of intentions they set about their tasks and things went well for a couple of years as everyone was satisfied with their performance. The manager gave notice of moving on to better things and the position was advertised. There were not many applicants so the board of directors appointed a manager who came from the coastal fringe of NSW to take up the position.

After the settling in period the amicable nature of the board members who discussed decisions based on merit seemed to become more problematic. Information regarding the financial position of the group was harder to pin down as the manager played his cards close to his chest on this point. The buoyant expectations of the board were deflated when the manager announced that the group were in financial trouble. This led to a re-evaluation of activities for the present with no real analysis of how they managed to be in this dire predicament. The board members were part time professional people who had limited resources to put into solving the crisis.

As time went on the board divided along financial lines with those convinced that financial considerations were the overriding reason for the decision making process rivalling those who had a broader perspective. Many decisions made required a deciding vote from the chairman who was a good friend of the manager. The administrative staff were in fear of the manager as, privately, it was made clear that any disloyalty meant that their jobs were on the line. A staff member who had made allegations of bullying and harassment against the manager finished up leaving in disgust. The staff eventually had enough of the lack of respect and being told to complete tasks that challenged their ethics. When this information came to light it was already too late though as the organisation was absorbed into another business group. It was felt that they had lost their way and become dysfunctional. All the good intentions, ideas and good will evaporated.

It took about four years for this drama to unfold. The business group that absorbed them had a pleasant surprise being recipients of \$150k that was tucked away in an account that was not known to the board. The case for financial problems seemed overstated. Analysis of the drama raised stories about the manager, suggesting he had "small man syndrome" (he was short and stocky). To make up for his lack of stature he compensated by using his authority to engender a feeling of power. A more likely explanation is he was suffering from Antisocial Personality Disorder (ASPD).

Those with ASPD have no regard for others' rights or feelings, lack empathy and remorse for wrongdoings, and have the need to exploit and manipulate others for personal gain. Perhaps mental illness plays a larger part in life than we realise?

Mary Davis, Uralla Shire resident

The Rotary Club of Uralla Antiques and Collectables Fair

The Fair will be held Saturday 9th October (9am - 5pm) and Sunday 10th October (9am - 2:30pm) in the RSL Memorial Hall, Salisbury St, Uralla.

The 8th annual Antiques and Collectables Fair is a community themed weekend of stall holders showcasing and offering their treasures. We have a good mix of exhibitors including Japanese antiques, furniture, statues, clocks & timepieces, books, vinyl records & players, military collectables, bric a brac, glassware, crockery and more.

An experienced appraiser can advise people about their special items, it will cost \$5 for one item and \$10 for three items, limited to six items per person so everyone gets a turn.

The entry fee is kept to a minimum by only asking for a gold coin donation and there is a Guess the Mystery Item Competition.

Local musician Pete Stanley will provide live entertainment over both days.

There will be restrictions on visitor numbers at any one time, and the committee will monitor & implement NSW Dept of Health COVID19 safety guidelines. Please note the event could be cancelled at short notice.

For further information contact

**Leanne Doran, Antiques Fair Convenor,
Rotary Club of Uralla
0488 559 928**

Northern Tablelands COVID-19 vaccination rates Week ending 26 September 2021

LGA	15 years & over % vaccinated		% increase on previous week	
	1 st dose	2 nd dose	1 st dose	2 nd dose
Armidale Regional	78.2	51.9	4.0	4.2
Glen Innes Severn	82.3	56.7	2.4	7.1
Gwydir	76.7	47.4	4.6	4.2
Inverell	76.1	42.0	4.7	4.4
Moree Plains	74.4	49.0	3.5	5.0
Uralla	84.0	57.0	4.4	5.3
Average	78.6	50.7	3.9	5.0

Tree Removal in Uralla

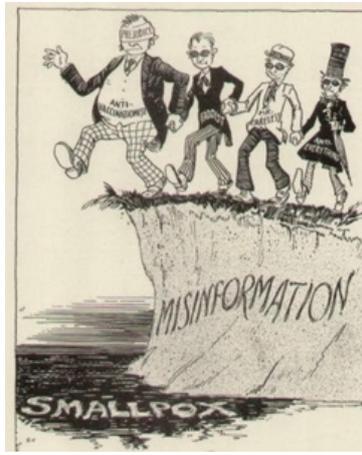
For reasons unknown, Uralla Shire Council does not have development controls that regulate tree pruning or removal in non-rural areas, leading some to believe that trees may be pruned or cut down at will.

However, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has recently been asked by the NSW Minister for Energy and Environment, Matt Kean, to explain the regulatory requirements for threatened species to Uralla Shire Council. A threatened species licence may be required if a threatened species tree is intended to be pruned or removed.

Louis van Ekert, Uralla Wordsworth

Remember, Remember, the 5th of November

The Uralla Shire Business Chamber Awards Night is back on! It will be held on Friday the 5th of November, 6pm for 6.30pm at the Uralla Memorial Hall, Salisbury St. Please see our ad for further details. Tickets are still available from our website urallbusineschamber.org.au or from IMACKA Property or Thunder Graphics in Uralla. We are so looking forward to seeing you all at the Awards Night!



A smallpox vaccination cartoon from the Depression era. We need to remember the lessons learnt from history, and few now argue against smallpox vaccination. To everyone's credit, Covid-19 vaccination acceptance is extremely high in Australia, and certainly in Uralla. Source: Twitter



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Community Calendar

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

Please check with Event Organisers about the Status of Listed Events

Uralla Rotary Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6.15pm at 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

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

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 6pm at the Uralla Bowling Club

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

Uralla Tennis No organised tennis planned during winter. Uralla courts can be booked at play.tennis.com.au/court-hire

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 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 10.30am at the RSL Rooms, The Uralla Memorial Institute, 55 Bridge Street, all veterans welcome

Uralla RSL Sub-Branch Veterans and Families Drop in Centre. Open to all Veterans and their families, each Thursday 10am until 12pm at the RSL Rooms, The Uralla Memorial Institute, 55 Bridge Street.

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

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, donations welcome. Ph : 6778 3277 or email : urallaneighbourhood@bigpond.com

Freemasons (Masonic Lodge of Peace #120, Uralla) meet the 3rd Tuesday each month, interested persons, contact Dennis 0448 576 465 or John 0411 374 334

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

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

Events for September - November

Uralla Shire Council Ordinary Council Meeting 12:30pm Tuesday 26th October, Uralla Shire Council Chambers - **To Be Confirmed**

Uralla Fairy Festival, Weekend 9-10 October 2021

Rotary Club of Uralla, Antiques & Collectables Fair, Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 October, RSL Memorial Hall, Salisbury Street

Friends of McMaugh's AGM, 2pm, Monday 11th October, Uralla Bowling Club, all welcome

Rotary Club of Uralla, Thunderbolts Festival, Saturday 30 Oct 2021

Uralla Red Cross Melbourne Cup Garden Party McCrossins Mill on Melbourne Cup day, 2 November 2021. Details to follow.

Uralla Shire Business Chamber Awards Night, 5 November 2021, RSL Memorial Hall, Salisbury Street

Deadline for the next edition is

5pm Thursday 14 Oct 2021.

Please email all contributions including advertising, letters to the editor and articles to urallawordsworth@gmail.com



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Frank Low's Walk

The following is the third and last instalment of the story of Uralla photographer Frank Low's first walk in the Macleay area. Frank continued to explore the area for the next 60 odd years. It is accompanied by just one of his many photos. There are many more.

Submitted by **Colin Wood, Uralla resident**

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The conditions were still overcast which probably helped me to survive but were not the best for slow film and no exposure meter. The ridge came to a point where beyond, it became a spur and descended to Reedy Ck., 750m below. I took a couple of pics before the descent, one of Henry and Doug and one from a vantage point overlooking our goal. I was thrilled to recognize the same spot 30 years later when climbing the spur from Reedy Ck with a TAFE Guiding class. There was a difference though when compared, the spur in the early pic was clear of trees, 30 odd years later it was covered. It was sheer bliss when we reached the creek and collapsed for a long breather. I didn't dare think about the tomorrows.

The advantages of traveling light were no tent to erect and no trouble preparing a meal of beef sandwiches, and blackberry jam sandwiches for sweets washed down with mug after mug of tea. Chipped enamel mugs of course. It must have been the long weekend in October as I don't remember being cold sleeping wrapped in the ground sheet with a pull over on. Maybe exhaustion ensured a good nights sleep. The morning of the second day dawned with mists rising. Following a breakfast of our standard menu we had a quick look at the Apsley.

Photographed the creek landscape and faced the inevitable climb up the spur to what I now know as the Oven Camp

Ridge. It was also about 700 m in elevation above us. As we reached the ridge the clouds descended on us and in the murk Henry accidentally followed an offshoot of the main ridge which thankfully was noticed when the clouds lifted momentarily to show the lay of the land. I was silently devastated at having struggled with rubbery legs 1½ k's out of our way. The experience held me in good stead though for I was to pass that way 3 more times, once being in worse conditions and leading another TAFE guiding class, I was able to pass by the danger spot with complete confidence.

The rest of the trek has mostly faded from my memory for by this time I felt like a zombie as I stumbled along on the heels of Doug and Henry. I do recall though, experiencing the mother of all storms on the evening of the 2nd day when the three of us crouched under my ground sheet and Henry having the presence of mind to fill our billy with the run off from the sheet. The following morning we came across a large tree not far from us that had been blown to smithereens by lightning and firmly fixed in my mind was a furrow, metres long, where a root of the tree had exploded.

The third day was virtually a bush bash all the way with few good vantage points except for a glimpse of an abyss which again I later learned to be Poland's Gorge. Late on the third day we reached the Dog Fence near Paradale and one of the most vivid recollections of the epic journey, with the car within site in the distance, was how I could drag myself over that last hurdle. On reaching the car we had covered 40 odd kilometers over what was then wilderness and is now decreed wilderness. Well, the call of the Falls Country had been awakened and thence commenced a fitness routine for the rest of my able days to be ready to answer the call.

Cheers,

Frank Low, formerly of Uralla

photo courtesy Frank Low



Celebrate Uralla's Stars!

Annual Awards for Excellence 2021

Friday 5th November, 6pm for 6.30pm
at Uralla Memorial Hall

Purchase your tickets for this gala event at
Thunder Graphics, IMACKA or online via our
website urallabusinesschamber.org.au
by Monday 1st Nov - Dress: Glam!
(due to COVID, numbers are strictly limited)

\$40 pp incl sit-down meal and a
complementary drink (bubbles or oj) on arrival.

Purchase drinks at bar - live music until 10pm
Welcoming our guests

The Hon Adam Marshall MP and

Lou Conway, Director, UNE SMART Region Incubator

Platinum Partners:



Ideas Sought on Reuse of Court House

Uralla Shire Council has secured a grant of \$925,000 from the state and federal governments to restore and revive the historic Uralla Old Court House.

Council has started its community consultation process with a survey seeking input to assist Council to determine how the restored Uralla Court House can be most appropriately 'reused' into the future. Restoration works will include asbestos removal, roof repairs, flooring, electrical and kitchen renewals, as well as the installation of solar, fencing, and more to meet health and safety standards and enable the building to be repurposed for future use.

"This is an exciting project with many potential social, economic, and environmental benefits for the Uralla Shire community," said Mayor Michael Pearce.

"Ideally we want the building re-use to include capacity to be self-supporting, so that council, and the rate-payer, will not need to pitch in to cover its operating or maintenance costs. Community connection is important, too. Access to the main part of the building – the Court House itself – could be arranged in a manner as determined through the community consultation process, such as tours or open days," said Uralla Shire Council General Manager Kate Jessep.

Completed in 1885, the historic Court House is built with Uralla red bricks in Flemish bond and Uralla granite for the steps. Internally it has well-crafted 19th century cedar joinery. It has a rendered façade with classical features including a pediment portico, a rail and circular entrance leading to central large timber doors, and high windows on either side with semi-circular upper sashes. The roof is high pitch gable, clad in corrugated galvanised iron. The Court House has high brick chimneys (complete with pots) on the ridge, east and north sides, all with external flues.

"It will be wonderful to breathe new life back into this iconic building. We have a very creative and enterprising community here in Uralla, so I'm excited to hear what ideas are out there," Mayor Pearce said.

Visit uralla.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/court-house to complete the online survey or to find out more.

Paper copies of the survey can be collected from the Council Administration Centre at 32 Salisbury Street, Uralla. Written submission can also be made via email to council@uralla.nsw.gov.au, handed into the customer service team at the Administration building on Salisbury St, or addressed to the Office of the General Manager, PO Box 106 Uralla 2358.

The submission period for this first stage of community consultation will close at 5:00pm on Friday, 29 October 2021. **Kate Jessep, Uralla Shire Council**

ZNETPlus Greening Uralla 'Adopt-A-Tree' program is happening on OCT 23rd

If you haven't registered yet but would like to contribute to the beautification, liveability and biodiversity of Uralla by planting and caring for a tree planted on your verge then email:
znetplus@zneturalla.org.au or MB 0408 080 455
for further information

Fuel Watch 27 September 2021

	ULP	Diesel
Mobil	145.9	144.9
Invergowrie	146.0	145.0
Kingstown	146.9	144.9
Puma	149.7	149.7
BP	155.9	160.9

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The Attack of the Killer Tomato Farm Robots

Crime fiction in multiple parts by Daryl Albertson - Pt 2

At last the robots, affectionately named 'Bill and Ben the flower men', were assembled and made ready for target acquisition. They were confronting machines, standing some four metres tall, armed with a myriad of cameras that used artificial intelligence to detect each flower for pollination.

The system employed an equal number of air wands, slaved to the ID cameras that delivered an air pulse, vibrating the flowers in a specific manner to imitate natural Bumblebee 400 Hertz 'buzz' pollination.

Both robots sat just inside No 1 Grow House, in a docking station against the wall. Programmed to find their own way back to recharge their powerpacks. The manual said 120 minutes operating time, with a 45 minute recharge period. They were designed to work for maximum efficiency; 24/7 during the short period of plant flowering, with one robot in operation at all times.

Bill and Ben ran along rail tracks between each row of the huge grow house, connected by a large central metal hook that extended skyward to the overhead cables running the full length of each row. Michael thought they resembled a Dalek crossed with a steam-punk giraffe. When pollination was completed in each row, the robot would disengage its central hook and either reconnect to the next row or retract its hook and return to the docking station. It had taken two months of long hours for Bill and Ben to be fully functional. It was just in time, as the start of plant flowering was only two weeks away. Both robots had passed their initial trials with few hiccups, moving successfully through the more complex aspects of their operations.

One evening, as two islander girls were making their final rounds, Kharl came upon them at the far end of Grow House 1. It wasn't the first time Kharl had pressured the girls. He sneered, 'You girls should give me what I want if you want to keep your visas'. Startled, the girls bolted, running hard darting along the rows, anywhere to get away. His threats continued as he searched the numerous rows of tall dense growth. The girls worked their way back along the side rows to the front only to find the hatchway locked. Frantically looking for somewhere to hide they were thankfully small enough to fit behind the robot docking station. They clutched each other in a terror embrace.

Kharl was furious, yelling his threats and obscenities. As he approached the docking station, both robots mysteriously powered up, lights blinking. A high-pitched note came from both robots, the sound was penetrating. Kharl was startled, stumbling away to the exit hatch, cursing the robots for the intrusion and the girls for eluding him this time.

After a few minutes, both robots powered down. A single flashing dash light was all that remainedto be continued

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An Invitation from ZNET Uralla

At our AGM on Sept 11th 2021 Sandra Eady stepped down from the position of President of ZNET Uralla after serving for five years.

Sandra did a tremendous job in supporting the community towards lowering emissions through increased use of solar, providing energy audits to both home and businesses, bio-diversity education and skills training on sustainable harvesting of firewood and leading the recent community engagement program in conjunction with UNSW on Let's Talk Water.

So, a huge thank you to Sandra for her contribution. She will however remain engaged with ZNET in the position of treasurer, a post vacated by Tom O'Connor whose depth of experience and knowledge was greatly valued.

As the newly elected President of ZNET I bring a working background in the areas of health, small business, manufacturing and farming but importantly, 20 years of community engagement across diverse aspects relating to mitigation of Climate Change and building adaptive community resilience.

With all that we have experienced in the last three years, not only here in our own beautiful community of Uralla, but across the country and indeed across the globe it is clear to increasing numbers of people that there is much we need to do differently.

Drought, fire, floods, devastating storms at unprecedented levels, food crops decimated, people left homeless are hammering home that it is imperative that we act now.

Much research has been done, and continues, asking the question of how can communities maximise their sustainably and resilience?

Differing scenarios are being explored ranging from cities, to small towns, to intentional communities for innovative ways to provide for people's needs as we face these increasing challenges.

People will continue to live in cities, but the consensus to date is that small towns provide the best option with the opportunities for local skills building, innovation, energy management, local water and land management, tree plantings, waste and resource management, local food production, creativity, health and well-being initiatives.

These strengths offer a level of self-reliance and provide for strong community networks while, at the same time, supporting the community to move towards a zero emissions future.

Uralla is well placed with many excellent community groups that together could provide the structure and cohesiveness on which to build a zero emissions future for the shire.

While Covid is limiting our ability to gather in larger groups we would like to use this opportunity to offer everyone an invitation to join the conversation on what you think are the priorities for Uralla to progress the move to a zero emissions town.

Making our own decisions on how we want to move ahead is much more empowering than being dragged along according to someone else's decision.

It's our town, how do we want to do it?

If we had the umbrella of 'Uralla, our future is Zero Emissions' what difference do you think that would make to decisions being made in our families, businesses or local council?

We would love to hear your views and ideas both from individuals and groups.

To participate, simply put your thoughts together and email to: znetplus@zneturalla.org.au

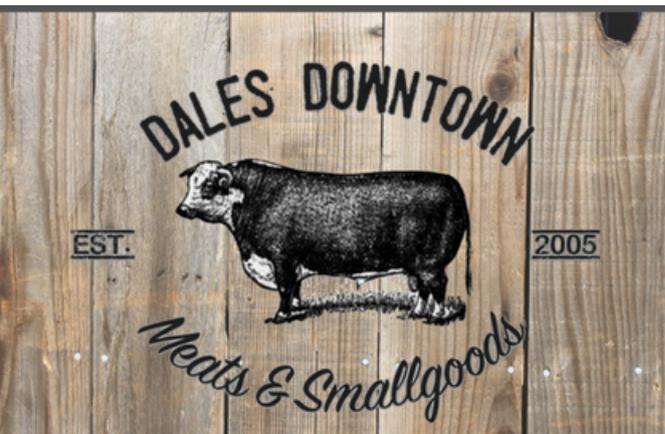
We will collate these ideas then share them with you so together we can prioritise our next steps forward.

I look forward to all we can achieve together!

Carol Shantal, President, ZNET Uralla

0408 080 455

**Groups or projects that would like finance should contact Uralla Community Co-operative.
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