

Uralla Wordsworth

Published by Uralla Wordsworth Incorporated


Uralla's FREE Fortnightly Newspaper

Established 2018 Issue **121**, 7 August 2023 Estimated circulation: 1,000

Edited by Luise Scherer, Louis van Ekert and Malcolm Airs

urallawordsworth@gmail.com

www.urallawordsworth.com.au

  urallawordsworth

Local Councils Have Their Say on Undergrounding Transmission Lines

Last Thursday week at the Armidale Bowling Club, local council representatives attended a NSW Government inquiry into the feasibility of undergrounding power transmission lines associated with the new renewable energy projects in our region. Uralla, Armidale and Walcha councils were represented - by their mayors in the case of Armidale and Walcha - and by General Manager Ms Kate Jessep and Executive Director Infrastructure and Development Ms Toni Averay for Uralla.

The mayors and Uralla's General Manager were invited to address the inquiry to offer their Council's views on the relative merits of undergrounding power lines as opposed to building overhead transmission lines. They were then questioned individually to clarify their positions on the issues raised.

The general view was that overhead power lines would cause problems that would be avoided if they were placed underground. This would:

- reduce the long-term impact on vegetation in the corridors and the flow-on effects for local fauna.
- reduce the possibility of fires being ignited by electrical arcing.
- reduce the need for a wider corridor and therefore lessening the effect on the daily operations of rural properties.
- avoid line and tower hazards for agricultural or fire-fighting aircraft.
- avoid dangers for rural firefighters working near transmission lines.

- avoid undesirable visual impacts on the landscape.
- avoid social issues in shires where the interests of host landholders and non-host landholders are in conflict.

Armidale Mayor Sam Coupland, on ABC New England North West, said it is not realistic to underground all transmission lines but suggested it could be done where it is appropriate - for example, on non-host land, but could run above ground in other situations such as along existing transmission corridors.

Walcha Mayor, Eric Noakes made the point that while powerlines were designed to send electricity to the Sydney area, it is the rural areas that are bearing the brunt of the impacts.

Given that transmission line issues are an integral part of REZ developments, it is not surprising broader concerns were also aired at the inquiry. A commonly expressed view was that councils were left in the dark about REZ developments, were not consulted and have not been listened to.

Mr Jayson McKellar, Director Area Operations Rural Fire Service (Northern) also appeared before the inquiry. He explained that underground lines are safer in bushfires as opposed to above ground transmission lines which, among other things, can be a danger for aircraft especially in low visibility situations. He said, while power lines can cause fires as a result of arcing, most fires start as a result of lightning strikes.

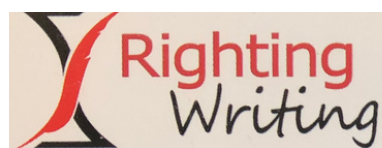
-Editor

EMALENE GEMMELL
FAMILY LAW

9/108 Dangar Street **ARMIDALE**
60a Bridge Street **URALLA**

02 5733 5885

office@egfamilylaw.com.au



Joanna Dolan

Proofreading, Editing, Writing

"Righting your writing"

+61 (0)2 6778 3444

www.rightingwriting.com.au

joanna@rightingwriting.com.au

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. Cr Bell gives a personal view of some of the more important matters concerning Council and ratepayers in recent weeks.

It is with regret that I announce Council's General Manager, Kate Jessep, has resigned to take up a position closer to the sea. I wish Kate well in her new career. Christine Valencius has also tendered her resignation, so she and Gary can move to the Gold Coast to be closer to grandchildren. A tip for them both: It is easier to round up sheep than grandchildren!

Last weekend I had the honour, along with Todd Greenwood (Deputy Mayor, Armidale Regional Council), of addressing a room full of Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers; with thousands of hours of volunteering between them. The RFS presented National Emergency Medals and Long Service Medals. Orange helmets were also issued to new Group Captains, including our own Mardi Cook and David Barnden. It is refreshing to see senior management roles given to people who will always put the safety and wellbeing of their crews first. David Garrahy, Ted Williams and Phil Roberts were also promoted.

It is timely to advise that the Bush Fire Danger Period commenced last week. If you are unsure of the requirements, please contact your local captain of the Armidale Regional Fire Control Centre.

Last week the Mayors and senior officers from the New England and Orana Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) met with senior officers from EnergyCo and the Department of Planning in Sydney. This group also had a number of other impacted Councils attend the meeting, including Tamworth, Singleton and Muswellbrook, as well as Narromine on the edge of Orana. We had an informative discussion on the Planning Policy and Assessment, including the process for the transmission lines. Plenty of discussion was held around how the Benefit Sharing Framework should look like. One big item for those in the room was when the updated Wind Turbine Guidelines will be released to the public. We are assured this document will include draft landowner agreements. Due to time restrictions, detailed discussion on biodiversity offsets has been deferred to the next meeting.

One positive move is that Alexandra Hall, a Bundarra lady, has been appointed as Director of EnergyCo, New England REZ. Alex has been invited to be the guest speaker for an update on EnergyCo for the NSW Farmers' meeting in Tamworth on Tuesday August 8.

Last Friday morning a meeting held in Sydney by the Country Mayors' Association was addressed by Hon. Penny Sharpe, MLC, who includes in her portfolio Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy and Minister for the Environment. I found her to be clear in her role and the challenges it will create. Obviously questions around the

transport stresses on the New England Highway and the Oxley Highway are front and centre for a number of the country mayors at the meeting. Try and visualise an 80 metre-long wind turbine vane travelling from south of Muswellbrook, through Singleton and then up the Oxley Highway. The Hills of Gold Wind Farm near Hanging Rock in Tamworth Regional Council has progressed to the assessment stage.

At this meeting there were lots of questions regarding the regional funding announced by the previous government while we seek assurance that these programs will continue. Our best advice is to read the State Government budget document which will be released next month. It is hard to take any comfort from this, however, I will wait and see!

While in Sydney, Bronwyn Petrie (Mayor of Tenterfield Shire), and I took the opportunity to update the Advisor, Policy – Local Government, on what we both agree are the difficulties on the Emergency Service Levee and the control of the RFS vehicles and buildings. I have assured the Advisor to the Minister that I will send him an appropriate timeline.

This week Kate Blackwood, Council's Interim Planner, and I will be attending a workshop organised by Community Power Agency on engaging with large scale renewables. We need to consider all the options. Warrumbungle Council has prepared a document on having Council and the community work together on the setting up of these Benefit Sharing Schemes.

Council will hold an Extraordinary Meeting this Thursday to appoint an Interim General Manager (as required by the Local Government Act) and resolve the recruitment process for a new General Manager.

M: 0434 244 774
robertbell1055@hotmail.com

Robert Bell
Uralla Shire Resident



TOOMEY & CO.

YOUR PARTNER IN BUSINESS & TAX

ANDREW TOOMEY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

andrew@toomeyandco.com.au / 0402 848 691
www.toomeyandco.com.au / facebook : toomeycoc
ABN 18 635 652 612

Tax agent
25999057

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIAN TAX ASSOCIATION

Kevin Ward Remembered



Sandra Ward

Uralla/Walcha Senior District Rugby League Club played their last game for this season on 29 July. In celebration of Kevin Ward's life, the renovations to the sporting club were named in Kevin's honour. If you were new to town, Kevin would be one of the first locals to welcome you. His community service was well beyond what most of us have to offer. He passed away on 8 February 2019.

Sandra Ward his wife, and Andrew Ward, his eldest son, were presented with a plaque on the walls of the new bar. They also had an opportunity with members of the club to remember Kevin as one of the club's busiest supporters.

Kevin, with Abbie Smith, and the support of Adam Marshall, obtained a grant to update the football facilities. The grant was welcomed but COVID came and slowed the development process. Before work started Kevin passed away and his life was celebrated.

Today memories of Kevin were shared by many people and those who missed the opportunity of knowing the great and humble man, now indirectly know of "Wardy" or "Tippin".

-Jann Karp, Uralla

Letters to the Editor

The Editor,

The answer is known before the report is written.

The cynic in me Mr Bell suggests that, rather than face the outcomes of the flawed relocation process of the APVMA pushed by our Federal member, you have adopted the lazy strategy of casting slurs upon the authors of the reports. The Brennan Review February 2023 reported on serious allegations of misconduct concerning the APVMA which have been referred to the AFP for potential criminal breaches. It and the Strategic Review Report – June 2023 (Clayton Utz) make no recommendation for the department to be returned to Canberra. If you have the inside information confirming a predetermined outcome, present it. Better yet, don't engage in the conspiracy tactics beloved of the tin hat brigade. You are our elected mayor, not an irrational, inflammatory social media warrior.

Susan Armstead, Kentucky

Dear Editor,

As a dedicated viewer of Landline on ABC TV, I was delighted to learn that there is a trailblazing farmer in our midst, who is quietly challenging other landowners to copy his methods. In the same issue of Wordsworth, Znet quietly challenged us to replace our wood (i.e. koala habitat) burning heaters with solar energised heaters. If anyone in our shire is employing solar energy, without grid assist to warm their house before they get out of bed on a sub zero morning, I implore them to share their experience with us.

John Sutherland, Uralla

To the Editor,

Solar Freaks

Reading about the proposed REZ I believe many people on the land are being ripped off with high electricity prices and some wish to disconnect as we have.

My wife Debbie and I were one of the first to have solar panels and a wind turbine installed when we lived at Narara (Gosford area) at a very expensive cost of \$25,000 at the time. We also had some difficulty with council at the time. I did however put it up and heard no further about it.

When we moved to Ourimbah (Wyong Shire) we took the wind turbine with us and installed solar panels again, this

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES at Uralla Shire Council

UINT/22/11373

Information about vacant positions and access to Council's interactive application is available on Council's website:

[Working at Uralla Shire Council Uralla Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au)

Council is regularly employing across a wide range of service areas such as: general hand, truck drivers, plant operations, landfill operators, aged care, direct support workers, administrative and professional roles. Ask us about our casual, term and permanent positions.

Tel: 6778 6300



time with battery backup. This time no problems with council.

We sold the house at Ourimbah and purchased our current 2 acre property in Rocky River, and have now 9.5 kW of solar installed and again had more problems with Uralla Council regarding placing of the new 2 kW wind turbine. This was resolved by moving it 50 metres further into our property but not the best place for one.

We now have installed 3 x 15 kWh lithium ion batteries and a 6.5 kW backup diesel generator.

Recapping FIT (feed in tariffs) in kWh (kilowatt hours):
Narara 48 cents, Ourimbah 22 cents, Rocky River 21 cents
2017 to 2020, 12 cents 2020 to 2021, 9 cents 2021 to 2022.

February 2023 we were offered only 5 cents FIT and found out that we had to pay \$1.51 per day just to be connected to the grid, so we would have ended up having a bill even though we exported power to the grid. This was an insult to my intelligence so we had the local electrician completely disconnect us from the grid.

We now enjoy as much power as we need without a bill, even air conditioning in summer should we need it. We hear from neighbours about black outs and just giggle. We are happy to show anyone our system who is interested in removing the grid and living stand alone without worries.

Kind regards,

Antonius Vanden Hoogen Ph 0417456634

Editor,

I quote from the objections received by Salisbury Solar to their proposed development in the New England Renewable Energy Zone; "The general inequity of effects, with rural areas bearing the impact of energy production when they will not be the main consumers requiring energy." After I read this in Uralla Wordsworth, I saw on Tamworth TV a group of familiar Mayors pushing the same line. Since 1788, cities have provided infrastructure to the country and the country has provided food, fibre and minerals to the cities. Academics call this specialisation of labour. Now it seems that some people want to welch on this agreement by refusing to provide energy to the cities, even though cities have provided energy to us since the Grid was commissioned sixty years ago. Will the country

use the same flawed logic to refuse to provide food to the cities, then cart their produce to export ships by horse and wagon after the cities have pulled the plug on the railways? Is this ridiculous argument just a lightning rod for a conspiracy to cede the North from Newcastle Sydney Wollongong? Does Uralla Shire have the funds to build and operate GP clinics, ambulance stations, hospitals, let alone an adequate water supply, once disconnected from the grid? Just saying.

-John Sutherland, Uralla

Bundarra Food Bank Launch

Thursday 29th June was the first Food Bank conducted in Bundarra and judging by the response of the community will be the first of many more. It was set up in the beautiful garden containing many plants and an eclectic mix of memorabilia at the rear of the Commercial Hotel created by Ruth.

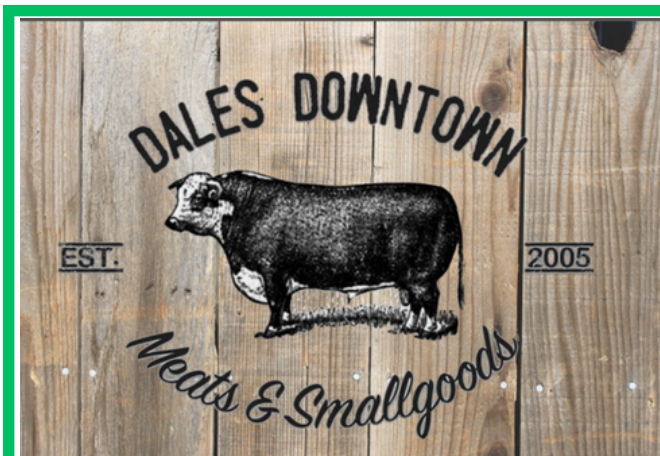
Upwards of 30 people/families were happy with the chance to stock their pantries with groceries that were reasonably priced in the current uncertain times of large price increases over a range of basic services provided to families.

The BBQ was fired up and sausage sangers and steak and onions were enjoyed by all, expertly cooked by Andy from RAMHP, Liam from Farmgate Program and Nigel from Mazda Recovery.

The Food Bank is part of an initiative by the Uralla Community Neighbourhood Centre (New England Family Support) staffed by Jaz, Nichola & Rose which also brings information on a range of services available that the Bundarra community can contact for assistance if needed. The Food Bank will be running once a month to begin with.

Thanks go to Shannon, Jackie and Lindsay for reaching out to make this possible.

Peter Barkley, Invergowrie



**Specialising in old
fashioned service & quality**
76 Bridge St, Uralla
Ph 6778 3960

50 year Commemoration of the Withdrawal from Vietnam



Lance Corporal Ross
McMillan



Private Trevor Attwood

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the withdrawal of Australian forces from Vietnam.

Australian forces were committed to the conflict in Vietnam in 1962 and served in the air, on land and at sea. Five hundred and twenty-three Australian soldiers, airmen and sailors were killed in action during the 10 years of conflict. American forces finally withdrew from Vietnam when the capital city of Saigon fell to North Vietnamese forces on the 29th March 1973. Many people will remember seeing the chaos of helicopters flying from the roof of the US Embassy overloaded with civilians who had served with the US trying to escape incoming tanks and troops.

Uralla sadly lost two of its own sons in the conflict. Lance Corporal Ross McMillan and Private Trevor Attwood, were both schooled and raised in Uralla and also worked here before being called up for military service. Ross worked at Tricket's General Store, where the Alternate Root is now situated and Trevor completed his electrical apprenticeship at Neil Howard's Electrical before serving.

Trevor's call up was delayed, at the insistence of Neil, to allow him to complete his training as an electrician.

Ross was called up for National Service in 1966 and was setting up a Claymore mine outside the patrol perimeter on the 2nd February 1968. The soldiers on piquet duty hadn't

been passed on the correct information that he was out there and when he approached the perimeter he was killed by friendly fire.

Trevor was called up in 1969 and was serving in Vietnam as part of HQ 1st Task Force and was riding on the top of an armoured personnel carrier on patrol. They were ambushed and fired upon with rocket propelled grenades which detonated a box of Claymore mines inside the vehicle. He was killed on the 12th June 1971. Both men were only a matter of weeks from returning home after their respective tours of duty.

So, on Friday 18th August, Long Tan Day or Vietnam Veterans' Day as it is now known, we will be holding a commemorative service at the Vietnam Memorial at Alma Park commencing at 5.00pm. There will also be a service for National Servicemen commencing at 10.45am at the Nasho's Memorial in Central Park, Armidale followed by the Vietnam Veterans' Service at 11.00am. After the services, veterans, family members and guests are invited back to the Gaza Barracks, Mann Street for a BBQ lunch provided by the 12/16 Hunter River Lancers. We will then have our service at sunset (5.00pm) at Alma Park and all are welcome. You can see more of Ross and Trevor's stories at the Uralla Memorial Institute from 8.30am each day.

The RSL hopes to see many locals come along to pay their respects to these two local men. Lest we forget.

Russ French, President, Uralla RSL Sub-branch, RSL NSW.

ATTENTION VETERANS
If you are in need of assistance
of any type
financial, physical, emotional etc
or you just need a chat with someone who knows ...
contact us on 0401 932 107
or email urallasb@rslnsw.org.au
your privacy is guaranteed, we are with you
Uralla Sub-Branch of RSL NSW

**Reenergising
Regional
Australia**

www.merallisolar.com.au

**PROUDLY HEADQUARTERED
IN URALLA**



**meralli
solar**

Youth Exchange In

Mexico

Ingrid Grace of Guyra is currently on a Rotary International Exchange in Mexico. She is co-sponsored by the Uralla Rotary Club. The following are extracts from her July report of her adventures and life in Mexico.

My July Report

Well, I have officially completed 6 months in Mexico. While not as busy as other months, July has still been draining.

This month's activities began with my Rotary Club's official handover dinner on July 5th, again held at Radissons. The company Rogelio and I had at the table, made for an enjoyable night and it wasn't an all night affair like other dinners as we had to go home to Axel.

I spent the next 4 days at Indra's house as Maritza had to go out of the city. Friday night we all ate together. Irving taught me to play a board game called Azul in which you must strategically use game pieces to create a mosaic tile wall while collecting as many points as possible.

Saturday Ugo had to work so Indra, Irving and I had breakfast then went to the volcano Nevado de Toluca. It had been raining a lot and showered on and off through the morning so didn't hike to the summit, instead walking a few trails around the base. The mountain looked gorgeous nestled among the clouds and all the flowers were covered in little dew drops.

We spent Sunday in Mexico City, starting off at the Asian markets. We ate grilled seafood, pork buns, chicken skewers, rice cakes, and really good ramen with prawns and tempura vegetables. We bought some candies, stuffed breads and nori sheets to take home then headed across town to Chapultepec Castle. We got to do an open walk through over a few hours so got a really good look at everything and learnt quite a bit.

The next Friday Maritza, Rogelio and I went to dinner as it was our last full day together. We ate at what they call 'The Bodega' and all just chatted about our time together and what we enjoyed.

After breakfast the next day I took everything downstairs as I was scheduled to be picked up by Karin and Roberto at 9AM but they didn't arrive until 5PM. We all talked in the house for a little, then they drove me around the corner to my new house/family. My new mum is Gaby and I have 2 older sisters, Heidi (22) and Giselle (19). Heidi lives and studies in Guadalajara so only Gaby, Giselle and I live in the house. They both call me Grace instead of Ingrid as, well, so we are the 3 Gs.

I have returned to the gym and started swimming, taught Giselle to make MarsBar slice, learnt to cook Mexican stuffed peppers and pulled pork with Gaby and Maree (Gaby's help), went to coffee with my friend and then to coffee with Giselle and her friend Vivi and got my nails done with Giselle.

Last Sunday we attended Giselle's Disney themed end of year ballet recital at the theatre in Toluca. Everyone was super proud she got a solo and it was great to see her dance for the first time after only ever dropping her to classes.

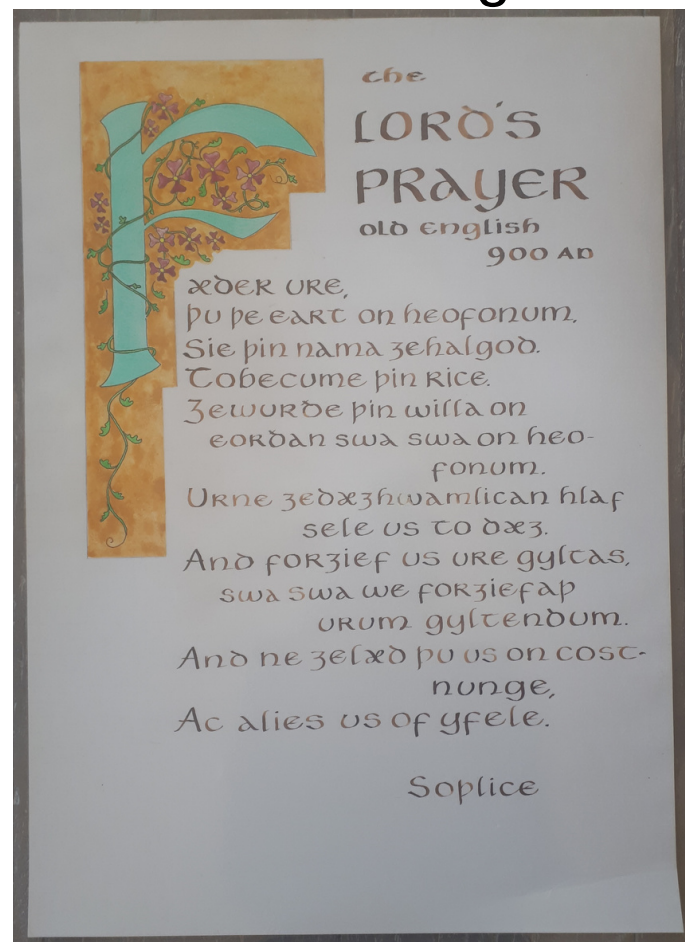
We also went on a day trip/road trip with Giselle and her boyfriend Santiago to Guadalajara so he could adopt Heidi's pitbull, Camillo. It was an extremely long trip but Santis parents hired someone to drive so none of us had to worry about that, not that I would have had to anyway. On the way up we just stopped for breakfast and I slept on and off afterwards before finally arriving, getting the dog and pizza for lunch then turning around. Giselle and Santi sat in the back on the way home with Camillo and I sat in the front and practised my Spanish with the driver while just making sure he was up.

I think that sums up the month pretty well and hopefully I will have more good times to report on next month.

Regards from Mexico,

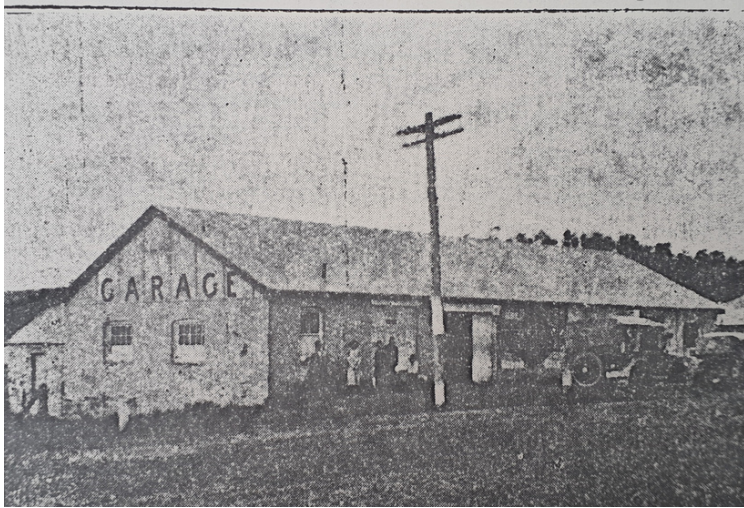
Ingrid CG

How's Your English?



There are lots of hidden treasures in Uralla including this version of the Lord's Prayer as it was written 1100 years ago. This work, produced by Dr David Evans, a former lecturer in English at UNE, can be found at *Chaucer on Bridge Street Gallery*. If you talk to Michael Evans at the gallery he may be able to play an audio of the prayer as it was said at the time. Clearly, English has evolved enormously since 900 AD.

The Blue Trail Garage



The Blue Trail Garage as it once was. (Photo from Back To Uralla Souvenir 1925) Also see a more recent photo of the Blue Trail Garage on page 12.

I went to North Haven recently to visit my cousin Nancy and her husband Paul. Paul and I sat down and talked about Uralla's history and I thought the story of the Blue Trail Garage (BTG) was great. Many of us remember the years of that wonderful garage.

Before the days of the BTG the building was a corner store and bakery. Norman (Navie) Low and Ivan Fearby joined forces and opened the BTG. They ran a very successful business with their workshop and petrol service station. They were also agents for Buick cars, Henderson and J.A.P. Motor cycles.

Around 1939 Jack Donoghue purchased Ivan Fearby's half share thus creating the business name of Low and Donoghue. In 1956 the business was sold to the Ford Dealership in Armidale, but it still traded as the BTG. Paul remembers starting his apprenticeship there in 1958 when it was run by Frank Rowe. He remained there for two years before moving to Newcastle to operate a service station with his dad at Charlestown.

He moved back to Uralla and worked for a time at John Canon's in Armidale. Jack Donoghue purchased the garage in 1964 and with the help of Paul, ran a very successful business until 1975 and then sold it to Garry and Warren Glock.

Paul has fond memories of his time there. He said it was tough work, but because he enjoyed it, it was more of a hobby for him.

Many Uralla people worked there through the years. During his time Paul remembers working with Marlene Matthews and Edna Woolridge (office), Mick Tibbs (lube operator), Roy Townsend and Robert Westbury (bowser and tyres). He and his dad worked in the workshop but his dad was often doing all sorts of other things around the shop.

In winter the workshop was cold but the office potbelly stove, which often remained burning all night, was an attraction that on occasions discouraged Paul from work in the workshop.

The BTG opened around 8am each morning and usually didn't shut until 8:30pm and sometimes later.

Paul recalls the day a Ford ute fell sideways off the hoist becoming wedged. To this day the cause of the incident isn't known, but thanks to their insurance, the BTG was able to offer the somewhat upset customer the use of a vehicle to keep him going.

The BTG was named after the blue rings that were painted around the power poles that ran next to the road to identify the main route heading north and south. In the early 1920s it must have been easy to lose your way with most roads still made of gravel.

Peter Phillips, Uralla

Soup for the Soul Wrap



Top: Malcolm Airs and Leanne Doran collecting their soup orders.

Left: Some of the raffle prizes awaiting the draw

We are just blown away by the generosity of this community! Thanks to you, we have raised \$2025 for the great work of Head and Neck Cancer Australia to provide support for people with these cancers, their families and their clinicians, and raise awareness of the symptoms. Thank you especially: Fiona for donating an amazing 2 hour massage for our raffle (plus chopping up kilos of kumara); New England Brewing for allowing the use of their fantastic venue; Beca Bakes for supplying delicious bread rolls & bagel crisps; Wendy 1-souper soup maker; Uralla Wordsworth for your assistance and support; and Angus, you fabulous man- couldn't have done it without you!

Laura McLean, Uralla

Introducing ...

Scents for Senses and Mumma D Designs



It's not often you get two for the price of one but at 49A Bridge Street that's exactly what you get. Doreen (pictured) is the owner of *Scents for Senses* which shares the shop with *Mumma D Designs* owned by friend Di. The two businesses beautifully complement each other - both offering fascinating crafty items, all expertly handmade by the store owners themselves.

On Doreen's side of the shop you'll find a delightful focus on dogs with dog coats, onesies, hoodies, leads and harnesses, candles, reed diffusers, car diffusers and melts to mention a few - and of course, that essential doggy item of attire - doggy tutus. On Di's side of the shop is a beautiful range of hair accessories: bows with colourfully detailed clay characters, headbands, scrunchies as well as baby blankets, quilts, dog beds and items incorporating resin design artwork.

Doreen's passion for dogs comes from her time as an RSPCA foster carer in Armidale. All foster dogs that left Doreen's care did so with their own handmade fashion wardrobe. Two lucky dogs, Molly and Baxter, were adopted by Doreen and were reputed to be the best-dressed dogs in the district.

Di's passion evolved from the persistent requests from her grandchildren for their favourite craft items.

Both owners were part of Crafty Friends in the old bank across the street and later where Thunderbolt's Cafe was situated. Unfortunately, both locations were closed due to Covid lockdowns.

Doreen, who usually runs the store, was originally from England and moved to Australia about 35 years ago after marrying an Australian military man. They discovered Uralla two years after arriving, fell in love with the town because it reminded them of England, but didn't move here until about 12 years ago. **-Editor**

And ...

Topper Harley's - The Pie Kings



Stephen and barista Kal caught on the run in Toppers Cafe

It's bright, toasty warm and welcoming, and comes with the enticing aroma of craft pies. It's Toppers Cafe, the new cafe recently opened by Stephen Welbourn and his crew in what was the old Sushi Shop opposite the Top Pub.

Stephen's goal in setting up the cafe was to keep it simple, and offer quality takeaway food in a timely manner. The pies are hard to walk past but if you do, you'll find breakfast combos, tempting toasted paninis, a range of slices, smashed burgers, steak sandwiches, sourdough bread and barista made Antilles coffee. But the pies are the show stoppers of this business. They are special, crammed with meat in seven varieties with their own toppers - if you so desire. Being special, they have their own special names, for example: *The Little Master*, *The Hornswaggle*, and *Obi Hen-Kenobi* to mention three.

Stephen, born and bred in Uralla, left town as a 16-year-old to develop a career in the food retail industry. He completed his apprenticeship in Tamworth working at the Powerhouse Motel under the direction of Michelin Star chef Ben Davies. After eight years he moved to Canberra to work in the new Parliament House as sous-chef - a position he held for about three years. Then moving down the hill to the National Gallery Restaurant, he took on the role of head chef. He returned to Armidale as head chef of the Railway Hotel, before heading to South West Rocks to run the Trial Bay Kiosk for five years.

Although only launched a few weeks ago, Stephen says he is pleased with how business is going.

-Editor



A Hill-Billy Whisperer

I'm a hill-billy whisperer from the back of beyond.
I've got lots of memories of which I'm fond.
Of living high up among the rolling green hills
Where Pop was busy with his potent stills.
Of dirt roads tracing the ridges round.
Of the Vanguard clinging tight as it crested the mound.
And Ma fighting the wheel as she ironed out a curve,
At the same time trying to calm her fluttering nerve!
We're climbing up spectacular Buckrabendinni.
My Grandma and me and great grandmother Winnie.
The road was narrow, gum trees close and thick.
Deer, with sure hooves and skins mottled slick,
Scrambled haphazardly down the hill side,
Erupting onto the road in a wild swishing glide.
The stag stood guard on the bank in a watchful pose.
And a mum calmed her baby by rubbing its nose!
Ma pulled the car to a squealing stop.
The deer gave a mighty leap and a hop.
He danced a while on the roof of our vehicle,
Then twitching his tail, his eyes all a twinkle.
He launched himself up and over the edge,
Down the hillside through the grass and the sedge.
He followed his herd down, to drink at the river
And sooth from his hide a little trembling quiver!
We've now left Buckrabendinni behind.
Its hidden waterfalls always a dazzling find.
We're off again, there's still miles to go yet.
People are patiently waiting to be met
At the hall that nestles in the centre of Argent's Hill,
surrounded by aged silver poplars growing there still.
We're readying the hall for a true Hillbilly Shebang
Just as years ago music played and the roof-top sang!
Built by farmers it is the centre to which we all come.
On the odd Sunday it acts as a church for some,
While Saturday night it's a gay dance hall,
Where we heed the violin, and the accordion's call.
We gather from all the surrounding hills
Decked out in bright colours, showing our dance skills.
Togetherness allowing us to learn to care and nourish.
And in this way our hall has continued to flourish!
We've had our working bee to spruce up the building.
It's got back its newly painted stateliness and gilding.
We answered the call heard rolling 'round the hills,
Dealt with some tribulations and annoying ills.
And together we got it completed, the work all done.
The grannies, the parents, the daughters and sons.
All stubborn and determined, we had our thrills.
It's time to return to our peaceful homes in the hills.

Pauline Crouch, Rocky River

Running Wild – Episode 6

– Off Crawney (Fiction)

6. Recap. *On Mountain Black, Fred was waiting for his Uncle Harry to resupply them, before heading to the cave. Will told Molly his life story and Fred had bought the women a few bits, a dress, fabric and a mirror. The horses were left saddled if needed for a quick escape down over the Devils Pinch.*

After the meal Will was sent out into the night to keep watch on the mountain track, The Captain would take over later, giving Will a few hours sleep before his next watch. Will slept against the cabin wall rolled in his blanket, Molly slept in her cot on the other side. As they lay, they talked for hours, eventually both drifting off to sleep.

In the days to follow Will spent his time keeping watch of the mountain track, busying himself by playing with his Buck knife. Fred and Nell spent most of their time with the grog and behind the thin curtain in the corner of the hut, getting better acquainted. Molly was sent outside to do chores. She had become comfortable with Will, they sat on a log and chatted while on track watch. Will showed her how to handle Buck, how to sharpen, and how to throw it straight and true. A dry leaf was tucked into the bark at the centre of a nearby large tree. Then ten paces away before turning, aiming and releasing the knife on its path to its target. Will was surprised that Molly's aim and technique quickly became that with his own. 'You sure have a knack with knife throwing Molly, a real deadeye.'

Around midday a lone rider made his way up the mountain track, riding a large grey gelding. Will had spotted the rider way off, raising the alarm to 'The Captain', who in turn gave the all clear when it was surely his Harry. Fred met him as he cleared the tall timber, he dismounted and led his horse while he and Fred spoke. Fred said, 'Me and the boy are ready to head out to Bullet Cave, I fear the traps will bushwack us all here'. Harry replied, 'I'll just spell me horse awhile and then I'll be ready. I've bought enough lead and resupplies to see you right.' It wasn't long before Harry's grey had spelled, remounted and all were eager to move on.

Fred mounted the black colt, turned in his saddle and spoke quietly to Nellie, 'Take my big chestnut down to Bill, as thanks for looking after you women while I've been aways. He'll know what to do with it and its not stolen, I won it fair and square at the Tenterfield Races. Will mounted the grey mare, learnt down to Molly, handing her his Buck in its leather sheath. He said, Here you go Molly, look after Buck for me, might come in handy. I'll come get him back sometime'.

The trio of horses rode away, two greys led by the rider on the jet-black. Nellie said softly, only Molly could hear, 'Be careful my dears'. They were soon over the mountain's edge and out of sight. Molly felt a pang in her heart as she lost sight of her Will.

End. Until the next episode of 'Running Wild' a short fiction story.

-Daryl Albertson, Kellys Plains

The Wisdom of Uncle Dorothy and Aunt Bob

Sound advice when you need it from people you can trust

Dear Aunt Bob,

With the recent cancellation of the Commonwealth Games, I am seized with a terrible dread and hope you can relieve my distress.

Can you assure me adequate funding is in place for the Fairy Festival? Yours in trepidation,

Anne Guish

Dear Anne Guish,

I can assure you that the fine people running the Fairy Festival are far more switched on than the Victorian Govt. The Fairy Festival will be bigger and better than ever. Despite the increased cost of housing, there will be adequate houses for the fairies. In addition, I have it on good authority that Uralla Arts will be holding a talent quest, as part of the Fairy Festival, called "Uralla's got Talent" with big cash prizes and open to all ages. Watch this space for more details. Yours in advice,

Aunt Bob

Dear Aunt Bob,

I was somewhat surprised - and yes, I have to say - just the tiniest bit disappointed that you dismissed so quickly the idea that Uralla Shire should take on the Commonwealth Games recently ditched by Victoria. Surely, if you gave this some serious thought, you would see this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to bring the Games down to earth - bring them into the real world. We need a mover and shaker like you to come up with lots of ideas to make this happen. I know you can do it. Your greatest admirer,

Les Doowitt, Uralla

Dear Les,

You are nothing if not persistent. After long discussions with the Mayor, he has agreed to the Games going ahead provided rates can be increased to 1.5 million dollars per quarter for residents. Not sure my pension will cover this. Face facts, the Commonwealth is no more and the Games are no longer needed to provide junkets for the Royal Family. My advice to you is to start a campaign for a republic.

Aunt Bob

Uralla Community Street Store

7 - 13 August - Lodge of Peace - Masonic Lodge

14 - 20 August - St Joseph's School PT&F Association

Call Uralla Shire Council to book - 6778 6300

To download the 2023 street stall schedule go to:

<https://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Community/Community-Information/Uralla-Community-Street-Store>

Come Play Croquet!

Uralla Croquet Club

cordially invites you to play at our next tournament
at

The Queen Street Fair

25th of November

Olde Memories and Treasures

Antique Shop

Will be closed until

Sunday 1st October

Be sure to get in early to check out the
newly stocked store with its treasures
from around the world

49d Bridge Street, Uralla

Open Thurs & Fri 10-4, Sat & Sun 10-2

Community Messages

Play Patch is a ministry of Uralla Anglican on Fridays from 10-12am for children from 0 - school age and their carers. We explore the bible through sensory play weekly during the school term. It costs \$20 a term, per family. Please bring morning tea for your child, a hat and a change of clothes (sensory play can get messy)." www.urallaanglican.com

The **Farmgate Support** program provides peer support, counselling, information and advocacy for rural people living in farming communities or on farm. Our team includes Peer support workers and social workers. We travel to farms or meet people in their local area across the Hunter New England Local Health District. People can self refer or be referred, with their consent, by calling 0477 322 851 or email: HNELHD-FarmgateSupport@health.nsw.gov.au

Deadline for the next edition of the Wordsworth is

5pm Thursday 17 August 2023

Please email all contributions including advertising, letters to the editor, 100 Words, and articles to urallawordsworth@gmail.com

Community Calendar

Please email urallawordsworth@gmail.com if you have an event or regular meeting date for your organisation.

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 Bowlo, 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, 10am at the Uniting Church Hall, Maitland St, Uralla

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

Uralla Anglican Church meets at 10am each Sunday for worship, prayer, fellowship & Johnno's Kid Club in Park St

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 Showground

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

Uralla Town & Environs Committee meets on the first Monday of each quarter from 6-7pm in the USC Chambers

Uralla Tennis Social tennis 6:30pm Thursdays. Hot shots Jnr Tennis, Uralla Sporting Complex Sat. 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 on the last Sunday of the month at 10.30am in 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 open Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:30am - 12:30pm, 18 Uralla St North, (old Scout Hall site) Phone 0419151253, Hours usually extended in Daylight saving. Email: urallamensshedcommittee@gmail.com

Uralla Community Neighbourhood Centre. Monday by appointment, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30 to 3pm, 67711457 0419149244, Urallacnc@familysupport.org.au

Uralla Tigers' Supported Playgroup FREE, every Wednesday during school terms, 10am - 12pm, St Joseph's Primary School, contact Nenneh on 0450437068 or Momena on 0481983442

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

Uralla Book Club meets on the first Saturday of each month, 10am at the Alternate Root

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

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

Uralla Combined Pensioners and Seniors Association meets at Uralla Bowlo on the first & third Tuesdays of the month, 10am. New members welcomed, Ph. 0438433735

Uralla and District Uniting Church meets Sundays at 9.30am for worship. Our Church is undergoing renovations and we meet in the adjoining Church Hall 29 Maitland St, Uralla. The 1st Sunday of each month is a communion service.

Uralla Garden Club meets every third Saturday of the month at 1.30pm. We have no set permanent venue, but meet at a different member's garden or we visit other open gardens. New members are very welcome. Contact: urallagardenclub@gmail.com or Jenny 0435 593 850

The Armidale District MS Branch meetings (including AGM) will be held at Armidale City Bowling Club on the first Monday of the month at 10:30am except for the December when it will be on the second Wednesday at 11am.

Armidale District MS Branch Support Group Meetings are held second Wednesday of the month, at Armidale City Bowling Club at 10:30am

Events For Your Diary

***Armidale District MS Branch Support meetings** - Wed 9 Aug and Wed 11 Oct, 10:30am, 13 Dec 11am (Joint meeting - Xmas Luncheon) Armidale City Bowling Club

***ADFAS Armidale lecture: Fiesta! - Festivals in Modern Mexico** - Thur. 10 August, Lecture by UK guest lecturer Chloe Sayer, expert on Mexican culture. TAS Hoskins Centre, 6pm, Guests \$25, students in uniform free.

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CDGOG or www.adfas.org.au/societies/armidale

***Kentucky Old Time Nouveau Dance** - Sat. 12 August, Kentucky Memorial Hall, 7:30pm - 11:30pm

***Next Uralla Council Meeting** - Tues 22 August, 4pm

***Armidale District MS Branch Meeting**, Mon 4 Sept, at 10:30am, 13 Dec 11am (Joint meeting - Xmas Luncheon) Armidale City Bowling Club

***Thunderbolt Festival** - Sat. 28 Oct 10am -7pm, Alma Park, Parade at 10:30am, Theme: Dungeons and Dragons

***Rotary Antique Fair** - Sat. and Sun. 18 and 19 November, 9am - 5pm each day.

***Queen Street Fair** - Sat. and Sun. 25 and 26 November, 10am to 2pm

Old Macdonald Had A Farm

Old Macdonald had a farm,
In the family from years ago,
And on that farm he had some sheep,
Super-fine Merino.

With a baa-baa- here,
And a baa-baa there,
Here a baa, there a baa,
Everywhere a baa-baa,
Old Macdonald had a farm,
Super-fine Merino.

Old Macdonald had a farm
With gum trees all on show,
“Sheep don’t eat gum leaves,
Them trees have gotta go!”
With a chop-chop here, and a chop-chop there
Here a chop, there a chop,
Everywhere a chop-chop,
Old Macdonald had a farm,
And the trees just had to go!

Now this arboreal “re-arrange”
Resulted in some Climate change,
The grim pattern world-wide forming,
We now know as Global Warming.

Now old Macdonald has a farm
With boundless plains to share
With solar panels, oh so many,
In neat lines everywhere!

With an array here, an array there,
Here an array, there an array,
Arrays of sunshine in paddocks bare,
Old Macdonald has a farm
With solar panels everywhere!

Now old Macdonald has a farm,
Proudly known as “Solar”
But something we never knew ...
Solar has become Bi-polar!

Those big REZ power poles
Need the forests chopping down,
To get all the power from Macdonald’s farm
To the folks in Sydney Town!

With a chop-chop here, and a chop-chop there
Here a chop, there a chop, everywhere a chop-chop
Old Macdonald had a farm,
What a way to go!

Kent Mayo

Photos of the Week



The Blue Trail Garage probably in the 1930s. Readers who can more accurately date this photo by identifying the vintage of the vehicle behind the second bowser are encouraged to contact the editor at: urallawordsworth@gmail.com

This photo was contributed by Paul Donoghue who worked at the Blue Trail Garage for many years. Unfortunately, the names of the people in the picture are not known.



11 July - How quickly we forget the really cold days. Strange weather was reported on this day including exceptionally cold temperatures, frost to the top of trees and even an inversion layer reported from Plane Avenue. (Picture taken in Woodville by Brad Hunt)



Uralla Railway Station, all spruced up with a new coat of paint and looking stunning under a remarkable late afternoon sky.