

Uralla Wordsworth

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  urallawordsworth

\$15K for Uralla Goldfields Weed Management

Visitors to Uralla will soon have greater access to the town's historic goldfields, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall announcing a \$15,000 State Government grant to tackle invasive weeds in the Uralla Goldfields Reserve.

Mr Marshall said the grant would continue a 20-year effort by the reserve's land managers to open the historic gold mining area around Mount Mutton up to tourists.

"Just as scrub once made it tough for miners to get to the prime gold panning sites along Rocky River, today noxious weeds are blocking tourists from accessing the area which made Uralla famous," Mr Marshall said.

"Over time the invasive blackberry, cotoneaster, pyracantha and pine tree have taken over the two blocks which make up the Uralla Goldfields Reserve. The density of the pine tree infestation has significantly impacted the growth of native plant species and increased the risk of bushfire within the reserve, which backs on to houses.

"Working with Uralla Shire Council, the land managers will use this grant to clear the weeds and oversee revegetation of Mount Mutton Gully. They will also undertake a significant weed eradication program on the north eastern side of Arnold Goode Reserve (Francis Hill). This is more than just about clearing weeds, it's about re-connecting Uralla with its pioneering past.

"I thank Uralla Goldfields Reserve land managers for the work they have done caring for this important hidden gem." Uralla Goldfield Reserve Manager and Weeds Officer Bob Crouch said clearing invasive species would open up access to the stunning Francis Hill.



Bruce McMullen, left, Adam Marshall and Bob Crouch.

"The success of clearing nearby Mount Mutton Gully facilitated a joint council and land manager project to construct a walking track through the unique geology of the former goldfield," Mr Crouch said.

"Our goal is ultimately to provide walking trails around Francis Hill, but before this can happen the invasive species need to be removed from this block, and revegetation plans implemented. The project will continue to involve council, however we would also like to enlist professional support to remove the dense infestation of pine wildlings.

"The densely vegetated reserve is right on the edge of Uralla, close to homes, and so long-term we also want to construct fire trails to make it easier for fire fighters to do their job. Our volunteers have done such great work over the years managing the weeds, and this funding will allow us to eradicate many of the worst varieties and thereby increase access to these reserve blocks to the public."

Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands

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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.

In a big coup for the Uralla Bowling Club and the Australia Day Committee, our Australia Day Ambassador, Keith Potger of Seekers fame, is returning to Uralla on Wednesday March 16. Doors open at 6:30pm. Please contact the Bowling Club for more details.

Following a request from a group calling themselves 'Responsible Energy Development for New England (RED4NE)' Council has agreed to host a forum for all interested citizens to attend at the Uralla Community Centre. The forum will commence at 4:30pm Tuesday March 15, 2022. The forum is on Renewable Energy Projects in the Uralla Shire. While this is mostly to hear the concerns of residents, it will also discuss the potential advantages of us being declared a Renewable Energy Zone. Council has been having very positive meetings with our neighbours.

I was fortunate last week to meet with the Singleton Mayor to discuss how her Council looked to maximise the benefit of the coal mining.

An update on the sale of the Bottom Pub. Cayne Moar from Ray White Real Estate has advised the pub is back on the market. I understand it will be expression of interest for approximately six weeks. We all hope for a positive outcome.

Congratulations to the Uralla Business Chamber on facilitating the Developer Forum. A number of speakers were very clear in voicing their concerns, and all included ways to improve the outcomes for businesses and new home builders. One other issue for review is the recently approved Section 7.12 Developer Charges which appear to contain a doubling up for new home builders. The Business Chamber has agreed to host another forum in about 6 months to review the progress. Councillors will also be carrying out their own review so that we return to be an excellent place to do business.

One of the major issues raised in our rural areas prior to the last election was in regard to internet and mobile phone services. My recent discussions with David Crough, NBN Local Manager, based in Tamworth, has confirmed he would be pleased to attend a forum in Uralla. I would also be keen to include our Councillors and interested staff members, some of whom have an excellent background in this area. I will keep readers up to date once I have been able to make the suitable arrangements. This will also be a hot topic in the Federal Election, due to be held in the next couple of months. The Australian Local Government Association has included in its key demands for the coming election additional funds to improve digital connectivity in regional, rural and remote areas.

Recent discussions with the Business Chamber and with ZNet has highlighted that Council should be lobbying for Electric Vehicle charging stations within walking distance of the CBD. The NRMA recently published a location map for current charging stations which showed Tamworth and Armidale but no Uralla. With an approximate recharge time of forty minutes, it would give the traveller time to find a coffee or food. We will also need to determine if there is likely to be a local demand or whether people will set up their own private charging points.

While it seems poor timing to talk about fires at the moment, please note that an arsonist is once again active in our region. The fires are being lit on the road shoulders. Given that no one has witnessed this occurring, it is likely that the person is using a delay mechanism. While these incidents have been reported to the Police, I am asking people to check their car Dash Cameras, looking for a parked car located near the site of any recent burnt area. Ring Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 if you have any information.

M: 0434 244 774

E: robertbell1055@hotmail.com

**Robert Bell,
Uralla Shire Resident**



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And Now for Something Completely Different.



Doug Walters live at Uralla Golf Club Saturday 19th March. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Doug speak about players past and present with his own unique style and humour. Tickets \$20 (includes a light meal) For bookings contact Uralla Golf Club on 67784059 or Bob Anderson on 0412424718 or randerson84@bigpond.com



The legendary larrikin of Aussie sport, Doug Walters is admired not only for his great batting and bowling, but for the sense of humour he brought to a very serious sport. Whether riding a bike from third man at the change of over, or being the last to leave the bar after making a hundred only to go out the next day and make 250, or belting Bob Willis for 6 on the last ball of the day to reach a century, Doug Walters typifies what it is to be an Aussie. He has even been described by Dennis Lillee as the coolest man in Cricket!

The man who made the game of test cricket look easy, with graceful and quick footwork Dougie made it look effortless as he dispatched fast and slow bowlers to all parts of the ground.

A love of 'the punt', a few beers and a packet or two of cigs (not anymore!), Dougie became one of the most identifiable and loved cricketing heroes in Australia throughout the 70's. A true gentleman on and off the field, there has never been a bad word said about Dougie, let alone he himself utter anything of a negative nature.

Doug is full of stories and keeps his audiences giggling about everything from stories of cricketing folklore to the trip to the function!

Founding member **the Seekers®**
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Songs that make you smile, stories that make you laugh

Uralla Bowling & Recreation Club
52 Hill Street, Uralla

Wednesday,
16th March
Doors - 6.30PM
Show - 7.00PM

\$40

**Tickets at the Bowling Club reception
or call 6778 4192**

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Bushwalking Club

Open to All

The Armidale Bushwalking Club was formed in late 2004. We are a diverse group of walkers, from family groups to individuals of all age groups who share in a love of being in the bush, and our members come from all over the Northern Tablelands. Walks run about once a fortnight and usually there's one or two day trips, and a more challenging backpack. Walks vary between on-track adventures in National Parks and Nature Reserves, to the off-track experience in our many local gorges and river systems.

The club also brings people together to organise their own trips, from an afternoon stroll to extended overseas backpacking adventures. Many are the lifelong friendships that have been forged on a bushwalk.

The Armidale Bushwalking Club is a great place to get started in exploring the bush and test out what kind of walking suits you. You can borrow gear from the club's store, find out about great places to walk, share costs and ideas, and especially walk safely with some very experienced people. Membership gives you access to walks with all of the Bushwalking New South Wales associated Bushwalking Clubs, and excellent Public Liability and Personal Accident insurance.

Get in contact with us if you are interested in joining us for a walk. You can check out our website at www.armidalebushwalkers.club and see the latest Walks Programme under the Walks Programme Tab and contact the walks leader listed on a walk that interests you. Alternatively, you can email us via our email address under the Contacts Tab.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you on the track.

Peter Laffan, President



HELLO URALLA ,YOUR NEW

URALLA COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE NEEDS A NEW LOGO!

WOULD YOU DESIGN ONE FOR US?

DROP IT IN THE BOX AT THE COMMUNITY N.C. AT 66B BRIDGE ST WITH YOUR NAME & CONTACT DETAILS OR POST TO PO BOX 330 URALLA OR EMAIL TO : Urallacnc@familysupport.org.au

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ALL ARTISTS , BUDDING ARTISTS AND ARTISTS FROM ABORIGINAL AND CALD BACKGROUNDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ENTER.

A PANEL OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS WILL CHOOSE THE WINNER AT THE COMMUNITY N.C. ON [TUESDAY 28/03/2022 @ 11 am].

COME IN AND SEE US AT THE NC AND HAVE A CUPPA - ALL WELCOME

WE ALSO OPERATE WALCHA NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
COME INTO OUR WALCHA OR URALLA CENTRES & TALK TO OUR FRIENDLY STAFF
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The Lantern Parade is Back



The magical Phoenix in full flight



Some of the lanterners in action

After a two year break because of CoVid-19 restrictions the Lantern Parade will again be back on earth day Saturday 26th March at the conclusion of Seasons of New England.

To enable us to make this a memorable parade we need as many volunteers to assist in the making of lanterns and to assist with the school workshops in the leadup to the parade. Contact Bob Anderson on 0412424718 or randerson84@bigpond.com

We will be working at the back of the brewery every weekend between now and 26th March. There are many ways you are able to assist and you don't have to be artistic just a willing worker. School workshops will be held daily from 21st to 25th March. If you can spare a couple of hours this will be a great assistance.

*But if you are artistic, even better and you may want to make the next **BIG** lantern. We will provide all materials and assist where we can but it will be your lantern.*

Please contact Bob Anderson on 0412424718 or randerson84@bigpond.com to make arrangements.



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Uralla Neighbourhood

Centre Update

For almost 30 years the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre has been providing facilities and essential services to the Uralla community.

Located in the Uralla Memorial Hall on Salisbury Street, the neighbourhood centre's main goal has always been to make sure no-one is left behind.

The centre offers a support and a referral service, a weekly food pantry, wellness and hygiene facilities, emergency food relief, Escabags (free tote bags filled with necessities that a victim of abuse may need when initially escaping a dangerous or abusive situation) and funds the Uralla Garden Project located beside the pool.

The Uralla Neighbourhood has been running community markets for many years which provide locals the opportunities to sell their products for a low cost and in an indoor area which is perfect for those cold or rainy weekends as well as being a great community event and gathering. The next markets will be held on Saturday 12th March between 9am and 1pm.

The centre also offers the hire of the hall and other areas within the hall to anyone in the community with kitchen facilities, disabled access and many other offerings. There are many great spaces for parties, meetings, forums, workshops and even weddings!

In great news, Councillors recently moved a motion to continue the lease of the Uralla Memorial Hall to the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre for a further 2 years allowing the centre to continue the important services and work they do for the community.

If you would like any further information or to be a part of the markets or hire the facility, please contact the centre on 02 6778 3277.

Jess Fitzsimmons, Uralla Neighbourhood Centre

Deadline for the next edition is
5pm Thursday 17th March 2022.

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

Council's planning staff are to be congratulated on the case they have presented for the restoration of the 1885 Uralla Court House, "The Taj Mahal" as it was known, by some, way back then.

It's obvious that submissions from the public have been sensitively considered.

We must remember that the grant funding is for restoration and conservation of the structure, not for adaptive re-use at this stage.

The good news is that The Court Room is labelled "Hall", inferring future use by the public, and that there is a provision for a "Green Room", Foyer Bar, Kitchen, Toilets, and a roof over the capacious courtyard.

It appears that the planners have in mind a dramatic new role for "The Taj Mahal" in the future.

The jury's still out. Further public comment is invited until April 15, 2022. Visit the Council website for details, and submit your own evidence for the Judge to consider before the court is adjourned!

Kent Mayo, Uralla resident

Dear Editors,

Thank you for removing the information about the RSL being open Thursdays as the calls have now reduced and I don't need to apologise to people. Could you please place this information in your newsletter for local veterans and their families.

The Veteran Community

It may not be common knowledge and veterans need to be aware if they or family are struggling with recent events please see below. To my knowledge the New England has at least 5 local RSLs with no trained wellbeing advocates left to look after the veteran community as a result of my resignation. If you believe these positions are of value to the rural communities I suggest you let RSL NSW know at support@rslnsw.org.au so they receive appropriate support. As my last newsletter was not sent out by Uralla RSL some may not be aware of my resignation based on the calls I have received. Below is for general information only and hope it helps fill the void a little.

If you need assistance don't forget Open Arms is available 24/7 Phone 1800 011 046

Defence Care Ph 02 8088 0388 for Military Claims and some Financial Assistance

Legacy Armidale for Military Claims or Wellbeing for partners and children Local Ph 02 6772 4427

or (02) 8333 0600 enquiries@legacy.com.au

Jigme Dorje, Uralla resident



Joanna Dolan

Proofreading, Editing, Writing

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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 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 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 Social tennis 6:30pm Thursdays. (NOTE CHANGE FROM WEDNESDAY NIGHTS). Free court hire. Go to www.play.tennis.com/court-hire/ to book a court. Hot shots Junior Tennis Ages 3-5 years, 5-8 years, 8-10 years, 9+ years Uralla Sporting Complex Saturday mornings 9am – 10am.

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

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 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 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 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 March - April

Uralla Shire Council Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday 22 March 2022 9:30am, Council Chambers

Uralla Shire Council Forum on Renewable Energy Projects, Uralla Community Centre, 4.30 pm Tuesday 15 March

Uralla Bowlo, Keith Potger in Concert, Wednesday 16 March, 6.30pm

Seasons Of New England Expo Saturday 26th March
Kentucky Progress Association, short play: **Favourite Shorts**, Friday 1st April, Kentucky Memorial Hall, 7.30pm.

Local rock line up: Fovndlings, NASCENT and Josh St Ledger in concert, Uralla Bowling Club, 8.30pm, Saturday 30 April. Bookings:

<https://www.moshtix.com.au/v2/event/fovndlings-nascent-josh-st-ledger/135700>

Fuel Watch	6 March 2022	
	ULP	Diesel
Mobil	181.9	179.9
Invergowrie	181.0	183.0
Puma	179.7	189.9
BP	187.9	188.9
Bundarra	189.9	189.9
Kentucky	182.9	182.9

Locals Put the Lace into the Space

The wonderful new "Spaces Make Lace" exhibition at McCrossin's Mill Museum is entirely the work of Uralla residents ... oh, apart from the fact that the stunning collection of hand-made lace, (some examples five hundred years old!), was donated by Dr Janice Jones of Newcastle.

Although it was originally destined for the Sydney Powerhouse Museum, Janice opted instead for McCrossin's Mill when the State Government "made an unfortunate decision" to relocate the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta!

The Uralla exhibition was curated by Rosemary Shepherd OAM, with energetic input by Vicki Taylor and her very willing Lace Group.

The "Behind the Scenes" team included Greg McClenahan and Jim Walkinshaw who sealed the floorboards, Ann Hacker's exhibition design experience, and Aynie Houlahan's photography. Now-retired cabinet maker Neil Cordery constructed the elegant chests-of-drawers showcases, supported by Brendon Beaton's stainless steel frames, Melissa Norris adroitly managing the glass covers for the precious artefacts.

Nick Wallace installed the lighting, and carpenter Steve Hicks came cheerfully to the rescue when summoned. Thunder Graphics provided all the text panels to the usual high standard.

Hon. Museum Director Kent Mayo designed the layout, and kept a vigilant, experienced eye on the curatorial process and the installation.

"This collection is of National Significance. It could have graced any of the capital city museums, but because of fortuitous circumstances it now belongs to Uralla" Kent said. "And how blessed are we that within our local community, little old Uralla, we have people with all the dedication and expertise to create such a brilliant exhibition!"

Kaye Sutton

Hon. Asst. Secretary

Uralla Historical Society



Armidale's Festival of Short Plays as moved rehearsed readings

Presented by the Armidale Drama & Musical Society in conjunction with the Kentucky Progress Association

7:30pm Friday 1st April 2022
Kentucky Memorial Hall
Noalimba Avenue, Kentucky NSW 2354

Tickets \$20 and \$10

www.trybooking.com/BXHIP

At Kentucky Store & at the door

All proceeds to the Kentucky Progress Association

Armidale Drama and Music Society (ADMS) stage a series of short plays each year, Favourite Shorts, which will be performed during the next month at the Armidale Playhouse, and will perform a shortened one night performance at Kentucky and Ben Lomond Community Halls.

Kentucky Progress Association will host Favourite Shorts on Friday 1st of April at Kentucky Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available through www.trybooking.com?BXHIP or Kentucky General Store and at the door.

Free Tea and Coffee with Cakes at Intermission and a Lucky Door prize. Also a draw for a load of firewood, courtesy of generous locals. So get your tickets for a fun night.

Ben Lomond will host Sat 2nd April.

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The Memorial Clock Mystery



The Memorial Clock, which hung from the outside of the Memorial Institute premises, was a landmark in the town of Uralla. The clock was donated by the Uralla Women's Radio Club as a memorial to those who made the supreme sacrifice in the Second World War.

The clock was dedicated by Councillor W. J. King and unveiled by the president of the Women's Radio Club, Mrs Byrne at a fitting ceremony on Anzac Day, 1948.

The clock, which was two-faced with a 36" dial, was mounted on a piece of polished granite donated by Vic Melvaine from the Uralla Granite Quarries and weighed two and a half hundredweight (about 127kg). The illuminated clock was electronically controlled from inside the Institute and was visible throughout Bridge Street. Mr A. V. Rutherford was the electrical engineer who was responsible for the erection of the clock.

It is unknown at this stage when the Memorial Clock was removed from its position at the Memorial Institute (possibly the 1980's), and mystery surrounds the whereabouts of the Clock and its polished granite mount.

Enquiries have been made, and an appeal to the public for information on the Clock's whereabouts has all been to no avail so far. Any information regarding the removal or the whereabouts of the Clock would be greatly appreciated.

It would be wonderful to have the Memorial Clock returned to the Memorial Institute premises for display. Any information will be gladly received by Russ French, president Uralla RSL sub-branch, at Thunder Graphics in Bridge Street.

Kay Adams, Uralla History Hub

He's Coming Back! Keith Potger!

People who attended Australia Day celebrations in Alma Park in January, will be excited to learn that KEITH POTGER, foundation member of The Seekers and our Australia Day Ambassador for 2022, is returning to Uralla to give a solo concert.

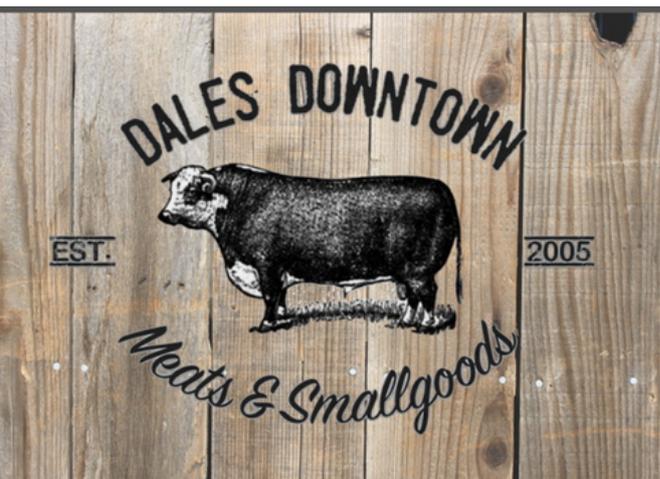
Keith and his partner/manager, Elizabeth Hawkes, were so delighted with our little town and the warm welcome they received, they decided a solo concert was a great way to enjoy our company once again.

Elizabeth had a narrow window of opportunity to include Uralla in Keith's busy current road tour. The Uralla Bowlo was quick to confirm that it could accommodate the show on Wednesday 16th March. Tickets are available from the Club.

Whilst in Uralla for Australia Day celebrations, Keith and Elizabeth 'did the High Street' making numerous purchases along the way. They also ordered one of Michael Hull's magnificent sky photos and are looking forward to collecting it on their return.

Cheryl Nolan, Uralla Bowlo

Kentucky Public School
2022/2023 ENROLLING NOW!
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Come and see what's happening at Kentucky!
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Sparking Career Spans over 60 Years



Neal started dance band 'The Four Aces' in 1952

The person on the left above, on drums, is an exceptional local character. Apart from drums, he plays the mandolin, the bugle, electric organ, ukulele, and taught himself guitar at the age of 79. He is Neal Howard, of the eponymous electrical firm, and Uralla Wordsworth spent a morning with him talking about his busy life. "Never a dull moment" applies to Neal more than to just about anyone we know.

Neal married Colleen in 1959, and they had four sons, all of whom are qualified electricians, all educated at St Joseph's Uralla and O'Connor Armidale.

Neal was born in 1936 in Walcha, where he went to primary school. High school was De La Salle (now O'Connor) College in Armidale, after which his professional career started, not at the Walcha branch of the Rural Bank as he himself intended, but as an apprentice at New England County Council, where his father 'Bub' (Ernest) Howard had enrolled him. That was the start of a long and successful career in the electrical business, both as an electrician, and as an electrical retailer.

Neal was called up for national service in 1955, too late for Korea, and too early for Vietnam.

Early in his career, Neal spent a few years in Sydney as an electrical subcontractor, but he came back to Walcha in 1962 when his father's shop was flooded and help was needed. He subsequently got a job with NE County Council, where his first assignment was at Juliane and Noel Porter's house in Gostwyck Street Uralla.

On 2 February 1962, Neal started Neal Howard's Electrical Service and opened an electrical store in Bridge St Uralla, in the premises which now house the chemist's shop. Neal's business was very successful, and he met and exceeded sales targets for many of the brands he sold, and was awarded with many trips to national and international conferences. At one stage, he was the biggest Philips retailer in northern NSW. In 1970, he bought the building which housed his store, and continued to expand the business. Ultimately, the business moved to



That drum is still around, and so is Neal!

the corner of the New England Highway and Rowan Avenue, where it still is to this day. Neal's son Wayne took over the business in 2003.

Neal reckons he has visited just about every house in Uralla during his career, which incidentally has not finished yet: Wayne still calls on him in need.

As to the future: that is electrical. He considers that the developments around renewable energy are fantastic news, and cites as an example that son Wayne now has a dozen or so people working with him because there is so much work.

Luise Scherer & Louis van Ekert, Uralla Wordsworth



The Bridge St store

Uralla Community Street Store

St Joseph's Parish Uralla 7 - 13 March
Aboriginal Elders 14 - 20 March
Call Uralla Shire Council to book - 6778 6300

Nodding Thistle is Having a Long Growing Season

Nodding Thistle is a serious pasture weed in the Northern Tablelands and is a declared 'priority weed'.

Nodding Thistle occurs in dense patches and is not readily grazed by most stock because of its spiny foliage. It was introduced to Australia in the late 1940s as a seed contaminant and is native to Europe, Asia Minor and North Africa. Nodding Thistle requires a period of chilling (vernalisation), is confined to cool temperate areas in Australia and is usually found on moderate to high fertile soils with an annual rainfall 500-900mm.

Nodding thistles are erect annual or biennial herbs growing to 1.6m tall with rosettes commonly over 1 meter in diameter. Stems are slightly downy, spiny and winged except below the flower head. Stem leaves are deeply lobed, spiny, light green or yellowish in young plants and grey green with a prominent white central vein in older plants. The flowers are usually pink/purple in the Northern Tablelands, though can be mauve, red or occasionally white. The flower heads are usually 1.2 to 4cm in diameter at the end of main stem or branches and are surrounded by purple bracts that end in a spine. The head droops at right angles to the stem, hence the name 'nodding thistle'. Most seeds fall close to the parent plant.

The main flowering season occurs early November to late April, depending on the time of emergence relative to winter. The plant exists as a biennial, winter annual or summer annual so populations contain plants of mixed ages. Some plants may occasionally flower all year round, but once frosted they generally don't set viable seed. Germinations can occur throughout the whole year, especially after rain events with the highest germination following autumn.

Nodding thistle seeds can survive in the soil for several years, and along with their varying life cycle in the population, needs an integrated management plan over several years. A plan should include all available methods of control such as physical removal, cropping, perennial pasture management, grazing management, herbicide application, biological control, farm hygiene and regular surveillance.

This is a big year for Nodding thistle. A pasture with at least 90% ground cover is far less susceptible to invasion by Nodding Thistle.

For help with weed identification and management please contact any of our Biosecurity Officers (Weeds) on 67703602, call into our office at 2/129 Rusden St Armidale and at 144 Otho St Inverell, follow our facebook site or visit www.newa.com.au.



Nodding Thistle flower (Les Tanner photo)

UWBC: a Snippet from the Minutes

September 2005: "Our Gala Day this year will be called "Galah Day" and everyone is to come clad in pink or grey" The few words I read in the old minutes set my imagination soaring as I contemplated a flock of galahs invading the bowling greens, and in the way of May Gibbs, sending their bowls rolling down the rinks.

The day began with the lady galahs arriving at the Clubhouse in flocks of pink and grey, eager for the fun to start. They settled down inside to chortle and cackle to all their friends around the room. As they sipped their morning dew the gossip and the stories flew.

The time then came for these birds to disperse to the outside. There were high-jinks going on as they scattered across the rinks in colourful clusters of pinks, reds, mauves, purples and of course all different shades of grey.

It was a sight to see as these would-be galahs sent their bowls rolling down the greens, making a fashion statement as their black bowls contrasted with the beautiful plumage of the surrounding attentive flock. This carried on for a couple of hours as each brace of birds attempted to outplay the other; becoming more garrulous as their game became more audacious.

Eventually though it was time to leave the greens and retire to the Clubhouse to enjoy a nutritious picnic lunch. It was amazing to watch that flock of lady-birds all pecking away at cereals, seeds, nuts, fruits and other tidbits; all especially prepared to titillate their fancies.

After lunch some settled back on their roost to enjoy a quiet time while they caught up with friends, others took the chance of a little snooze after their energetic morning; while still others took to the floor eager to strut their stuff and show just how you do the "Galah Dance"!

But eventually the old matriarch galah sent out a soft muted hum to alert everyone that it was time to leave. She then flew off for home followed by all the rest of the visitor flocks, leaving behind the local galahs to put the Clubhouse back to its former condition.

And I'm sure a good time was had by every bird there!

Pauline Crouch, Publicity Officer UWBC

Walking for Veterans

During the month of March a great fund raising event is taking place around Australia and even here in little Uralla. Katie Williams, daughter of the Uralla RSL Sub-branch members Sonia and Ted Williams; along with Sub-branch President, Russ French will be walking 96km, the length of the Kokoda Track over the month of March.

The "March On Challenge" is the initiative of Solider On, a Veterans support organisation for the prevention of veteran suicide and mental health support. So far approximately 7000 people have signed on to do the walk and by the time you read this they will have exceeded One Million Dollars and it has only been a week into the campaign. The money will be used for therapy and support sessions for veterans and their families by specialist support councillors, and other great causes.

Katie and Russ will be helped along the way each day by their four legged fur buddies. Katie's dog "Scout" will do his bit and Russ' young Border Collie "Kirby" will be setting the pace for his walks around town.

So far, Katie has well exceeded her donation target whilst Russ, a late comer to register for the walk has now also exceeded his initial target donation.

If you would like to support Katie or Russ in their endeavours, you can donate to their campaigns through the website www.marchonchallenge.org.au and go to "Find a friend" and put in their names and hit the donate button. Alternatively, you can also find them on Facebook with the link to donate on their pages, just search their names and read their stories. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated to help them on their way.

Thank you from a very thankful veteran community. Both have very different reasons for taking part in this challenge. Here is what Katie and Russ had to say:

Katie: "After a serious car accident, I have realised just how much we can take the simple things in life for granted, walking is something I certainly something I won't be taking for granted again, participating in March On is helping me in my physical and mental recovery and if I can help others in the process, so much the better."

Russ: "I am a 20 year Navy Veteran and have lost a couple of service friends and also see others struggle with PTSD. I read about the "March On" Campaign and thought "I can't do that". Then I found out about young Katie doing it and knew a little of what she has been going through. I thought if this young woman who has been through so much, not unlike some of our veterans, I should be able to pull on the walking shoes and get out there too. Being President of the RSL Sub-branch here also made me think about what I could do to further help veterans in their battles against PTSD and hopefully prevent another family from going through another suicide."

Russ French, Uralla RSL Sub-branch



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