

Uralla Wordsworth

Published by Uralla Wordsworth Incorporated

Uralla's FREE Fortnightly Newspaper

Established 2018 Issue 44, 7th September 2020 Est. circulation: 900 Edited by Ross Burnet

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New Scheme Helps Small Businesses in New England Get Paid on Time

The Coalition Government is supporting tens of thousands of small businesses in the New England by helping to ensure they get paid on time. Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, welcomed the passing of legislation to implement the Payment Times Reporting Scheme, which will put every big business on notice. Under the scheme, large businesses and applicable government enterprises with a total annual income of more than \$100 million will have to report publicly on how and when they pay their small business suppliers. This scheme will provide unprecedented transparency and will show Australians how big businesses pay their suppliers. Mr Joyce said this transparency will help small businesses make more informed decisions about who they do business with and the general public can make better decisions about the large businesses they purchase from. "Bad payers are on notice they won't be able to hide, as this Scheme will expose their poor practices," Mr Joyce said. "Small businesses work hard for their income - I should know, I ran one of them once - the least we can do is make sure they are paid on time. "Our Government is committed to clamping down on unfair practices to ensure faster payment terms to local small and family businesses across the New England. "We have already seen large companies change their practices following adverse media coverage. Recently, businesses such as Rio Tinto and Telstra rapidly abandoned payment practices which negatively impacted on small businesses once they were subject to public exposure.



Pictured: Mr Joyce chatting with a local business operator

As a result, their payment policies were shortened to ensure suppliers were paid within 20 days. Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash said the measure would support small businesses, especially through COVID-19 challenges. "Late payments have a significant impact on small business cash flow and inhibit the ability of a firm to invest, grow and employ," Minister Cash said. The Government developed the legislation following extensive consultations with industry associations and representatives of small and large business since early 2019. Their feedback has directly informed the design and operation of the scheme. The scheme will begin on 1 January

Barnaby Joyce, Member for New England.

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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.

The Development Application for Foodworks has now been approved. There are a number of positive items including that any excavation must protect and support any adjoining premises from damage during construction. A precondition report of the Stables Building must be provided to Council. The developer has agreed to insert bollards and reinforce the carpark in key areas to prevent accidental collisions by vehicles (especially trucks) into the building and minimise pressure impacts on the foundations. The developer must submit an "Application to Conduct Work on Land to which Council is the Regulatory Authority." This application must be approved prior to the issue of a Construction Certificate. A drainage management plan, pedestrian management plan, traffic management plan and a dedicated pedestrian access are all still to be provided. All but the drainage plan require the concurrence of the Uralla Local Traffic Committee. This committee includes a Police representative, a Transport for NSW representative, a representative appointed by the Local Member (Mr Bob Barwell), and myself. Councillors were reassured by the General Manager, that despite two separate legal opinions on behalf of objectors, this development was lawful.

Congratulations to Councillor Crouch and Councillor O'Connor for their work in preparing the draft Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020, to allow it to be placed on public exhibition for 25 days. Council was advised that if the Council did not meet the September 30 deadline, the Minister for Planning and Open Spaces will formally consult with the Minister for Local Government to issue a "Performance Improvement Order." I am confident that I will be able to provide a link in my next report to allow the community to review, and hopefully comment, on this important document. This work is closely linked to Adam Marshall MP's announcement contained in the August 10 edition of "Wordsworth", advising of the "Public Spaces Legacy Program."

Council has been assured that the tender for the Bundarra Sewerage Project will be reviewed and a recommendation made for the successful contractor to be appointed at our September meeting. Tenders closed on June 30.

Retreat Road residents will be pleased to hear work on the upgrade of the next two kilometres of gravel road is programmed to commence at the end of September. The Progress Association would like to see heavy vehicle numbers and whether a road is a bus route or not included

in the assessment process for determining road upgrade priorities.

The Armidale Regional Council General Manager's position has now been advertised. Applications close on September 21. This will be a huge challenge for any candidate in their "ability to balance competing demands in a highly diverse, complex and politically challenging environment."

Sounds like coaching the Brisbane Broncos.

It was wonderful to see all the junior soccer players and their families get a second weekend of beautiful weather. I was starting to think they were going to face a season of rain, sleet and hail.

The latest sign of the times is a recommendation to be considered by Tamworth Regional Council to call off the 2021 Country Music Festival. At its peak, travellers staying in Uralla or caravans travelling through town provided a great boost to our local economy.

At the recent opening of the new Harnham Rural Fire Service double bay shed, the new General Manager promised the brigade four loads of gravel for the driveway and the local member, Adam Marshall MP, promised a new toilet and wash facilities. It will be named "Dar Dah" after the "WhyWorry Wines" owner, and Deputy Brigade Captain, Daryl Carter.



M: 0434 244 774

E: robertbell1055@hotmail.com

**Robert Bell,
Uralla Shire Resident**

**Can Assist Uralla Annual Branch Meeting
Saturday 26th September 2020 2.00 pm
at the Uralla Bowling Club
Further information
Mary Ann Munsie PH: 6778 4651
Vicki McLean PH: 6778 4353**



Fight to Protect Uralla Heritage Not Over

The Uralla Historical Society (UHS) is extremely disappointed with Uralla Shire Council's approval of DA 85/2019 - the Foodworks DA - at the most recent Council meeting on 25 August.

President Louis van Ekert said "This decision casts a shadow over the ongoing viability of McCrossin's Mill Museum and Function Centre, which is owned and operated by the Uralla Historical Society, a not-for-profit, entirely volunteer run organisation. McCrossin's Mill and its associated Stables Building are situated in the Uralla Heritage Precinct, next door to the Foodworks neighbourhood supermarket."

The Society provided the Council with a copy of its legal advice which stated that Uralla Shire Council did not have the power to approve the development proposed by Foodworks because it lacked key documentation and failed to consider key issues. That advice was dismissed by Council staff.

After the Council meeting, Mr van Ekert was contacted by some councillors who indicated they also had doubts about the validity of any approval. The Society is now considering potential legal options in order to protect the heritage values of Uralla.

Mr van Ekert stated "The Society regrets that this development has divided the community to the extent that it has. The Society has never been, and is not now, opposed to new development at the Foodworks site. It has asked for consultation between itself, Council and Foodworks on numerous occasions in order to achieve a design that is sympathetic to Uralla's heritage, to no avail."

The Stables Building is listed as a heritage item in the Uralla Local Environment Plan. McCrossin's Mill is of state significance having been listed for many years on the State Heritage Register.

Mr van Ekert further stated "We have consistently stated in our respectful submissions that the UHS is not opposed to an improvement of the Foodworks store. However, the current design needs to be modified significantly to protect the significant heritage values of Uralla and our buildings situated right next door to this supermarket. The fight to protect those values is not over by any means."

At a meeting on 27 August, the Society's Committee unanimously endorsed a decision to accept in full the advice from its legal counsel regarding further legal action.

Louis van Ekert, Uralla Historical Society President

Samaritans Purse

Readers may recall a recent article which outlined the work of Samaritans Purse, and specifically, their special children's project, Operation Christmas Child. May I share a little more with you? Operation Christmas Child started in 1993 as a project of Samaritan's Purse from humble beginnings; a phone call from England, a request for help, and a church keen to help. That year, 11,000 gift filled shoe boxes were sent to the children of war-ravaged Bosnia. Now, 26 years later, having delivered shoe box gifts to over 178 million children in over 130 countries around the globe, this simple idea is still making smiles out of tears and changing lives forever.

You are invited to participate in this life-changing project. All you need is a "how-to" brochure and an empty shoebox. Local volunteers Mariea Stannard and Bec Blake invite you to drop in at the Uralla Anglican Church Hall on Sunday afternoon, 13th September, from 1-3, or Monday and Tuesday the 14th and 15th of September, from 11:30-1:30, to pick up resources and join in the fun! We look forward to seeing you there!

Mariea Stannard & Bec Blake



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New England Solar Farm Uralla Grants - Now the Fun Part!

All is now in place for the Uralla Grants to start receiving your great ideas for funding of up to \$5,000, that will support projects which benefit our community socially and economically!

The focus will be on projects that deliver the maximum benefit for people in the defined community area of Uralla Shire and neighbouring Kellys Plains and Dangarsleigh.

Some great suggestions so far that might trigger your thinking:

- Feasibility study for major projects – e.g. world class mountain bike track.
- Grant writing workshop for local organisations to boost success rates in applying for all sources of funding.
- Equipment and platform fees for community groups to undertake online activities during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Zoom bootcamp to build skills to communicate during the pandemic.
- Solar PV/LED lighting/insulation for key community buildings.
- Tree planting in public spaces.
- Community rainwater tank subsidy.
- Start-up business recycling café and food waste for garden mulch.
- Seed funding for setting up costs for sustainable food markets, growers co-operative or “makers space”.
- Volunteer phone tree to check on wellbeing/safety of seniors and resourcing volunteers to help vulnerable young families.
- Social engagements activities with returning or settling 18 to 35-year-olds to assist in assimilation into community and to understand their needs.
- Subsidy for children from low income families to attend summer swimming camp.

For more information on the guidelines and how to apply go to www.newenglandsolarfarm.com.au/community or call in at New England Solar Farm Office in the old Bank of NSW at 96B Bridge Street.



Have you a got a good idea that a community group, business or individual could undertake with a bit of funding support? For example, a small amount of donated funds set up the famous Uralla Curtain Making Workshops, helping to make many local homes cosier in winter, as well as providing a fun social afternoon.

The Uralla Wordsworth advertising schedule has been updated and the full schedule can be viewed on our website (www.urallawordsworth.com.au). The key price points are listed below :

Business Card Sized Ad	\$18
1/8 Page Sized Ad	\$30
Quarter Page Ad	\$60
Half Page Ad	\$100
Full Back Page Ad	\$160
Full Page Internal Ad.....	\$140
Banner Bottom Front Page	\$100
Classifieds.....	\$2/line

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

If you enjoy reading the paper and are in a position to make a donation, the Uralla Wordsworth bank details are below :

Regional Australia Bank, BSB 932 000
Account 762598 S3, Account Name Uralla Wordsworth Incorporated, Reference Please use your name and 'Donation', sending in an email to request your receipt where required.

Thank you.

EMALENE GEMMELL FAMILY LAW

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Wednesday is Bowling Day

Some of us walk, some of us drive.
Some are close, some are far.
For some, the roads are nice and smooth.
For some, the ute goes bump, bump, bump all across the grooves.

But the end of the road is the same for all.
The destination we all aim for,
Is the club beside the two little creeks,
With a lovely park across the street.

Have you guessed it yet? Of course, you have.
Everyone knows the Uralla Bowlo.
And everyone knows it's the hub
For our very own Uralla Women's Bowling Club.

We play every Wednesday, foggy morn or shiney day.
Our morning starts with a cosy hot cuppa,
While we ready ourselves for the fray.
Then its out to the green to begin our day!

Pam will tell us what's in store.
She's the match controller. She tells us what to do.
And if, like Jayne, you're new-come to this game,
Then she will set you on your way. Your edges she will tame.

And when you're ready to join our club,
Secretary Judy will look after that for you.
Lynnette will take your money, you have to pay, you know.
And,
President Phyllis will so encourage you your game will quickly grow.

And when we do amazing things, why, i'll tell you all about it.
For I'm the publicity officer. I have to get the word out there.
There's always something more to write about,
To tell you all the things we love to do. About that there is no doubt!

Pauline Crouch

Vice-president and Publicity Officer, UWBC

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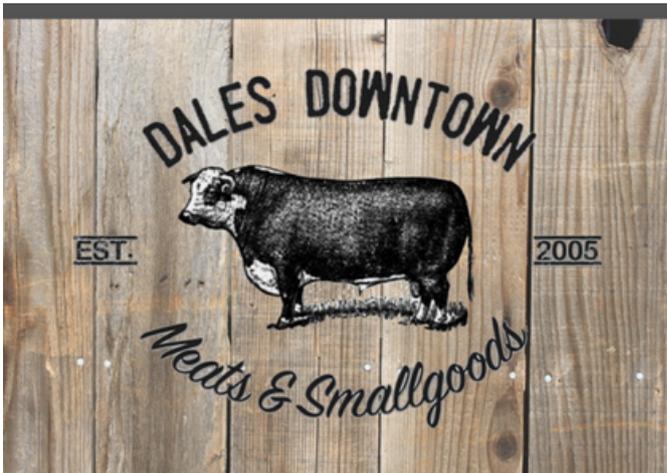


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UWBC'S AGM 2020-2021

The Annual General Meeting of the Uralla Women's Bowling was held last month with just a few changes to the Executive.

President: Phyllis Dade
Vice Presidents: Pauline Crouch & Roz Rhodes
Secretary: Judy Bray
Treasurer: Lynnette Dwyer
Match Committee:
Chair: Pam Westbury
Committee: June Gregory, April Fulton, Pauline Crouch
Publicity Officer: Pauline Crouch

Phyllis Dade, President, thanked everyone for their hard work and resilience during the last twelve months. Everyone is looking forward to things getting back to normal. We hope the coming year will see our Competition games back on track. After our ladies being successful in the Senior Pairs and the Senior Fours in the District Comp, it is disappointing that the Region 3 play-offs have been postponed for the time-being, hopefully to be played early in the new year.

Pauline Crouch, Publicity Officer UWBC



THUNDERBOLT
ENERGY HUB

COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSION

WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER
3pm - 7pm

The Alternate Root
48 Bridge St., Uralla NSW 2358

Drinks and Light Refreshments Provided



Keeping the community informed

The developer, Neoen, will be holding a Community Drop-In Session to share project information and hear your thoughts on the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub. The project comprises of a 380MW wind farm, 120 MW solar farm and 400MW battery located on private properties in Kentucky and Bendemeer.

Meet members of our project team in person, view maps, learn more about the project and submit your views to us via a feedback survey. The Thunderbolt Energy Hub is expected to bring significant community benefits, jobs and investment to the local and regional economy.

For more information:

✉ contact@thunderboltenergyhub.com.au | 1800 966 207 | thunderboltenergyhub.com.au

When the Fairies came to Town

The streets were silent, all through the town
There was no school and no playing around.
The humans were forced to stay inside
A virus was lurking, they all had to hide

From logs and crevices atop of Mount Mutton
The fairies they noticed the people were gotten
They came from their heights to learn what was amiss.
Let us make it our own! They said dancing about in a blitz

The cries of delight with thoughts of a new home.
A butcher and a grocer first came along
Followed by the bookseller singing a song
They built a house near the library and at the school, and
I think I spotted one by the pool.

The fairies they partied all through the streets
They met at cafes and bars to drink latte and beers
They made mischief with Thunderbolt, riding about the Glen
Chasing one another, and watching for the local children.

The people they came back out from their homes
With such a surprise they saw the town was no longer
their hold.

Wonder and delight were bought to the town
People from near and far came to look around

Together now, they all live in harmony
And share in the charms of the town cheerfully
Uralla they say is where they will stay
Content and happy for the rest of their days.

Teresa Duggan, Uralla resident



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Monday's Pantry

Uralla Neighbourhood Centre

Eligibility requirements are being a student or a Centrelink card holder.

For more information contact the Neighbourhood Centre on 6778 3277. Monday to Thursday 10am - 3 pm.



Pantry is open every Monday (except public holidays) from 11am to 2 pm.

We have a great selection of groceries, including breakfast cereals, tinned goods and pantry staples such as rice, pasta, sugar, flour and tea.

We usually have washing powder and fabric softener. Available also are toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, hand cream and women's hygiene items.

Cook up a great curry with tinned tomatoes, onions, potatoes, carrots and other seasonal vegetables.

We do like treats! Biscuits, Museli bars and other snacks usually in cupboard.

Pick what you need. Pack a standard grocery bag for \$15.00. Multiple bags for large families or infrequent shoppers.

Our friendly volunteers led by Catherine, look forward to meeting new families and welcoming back old friends.

Covid-19 social distancing rules apply. Please use hand sanitizer on entry.

Entrance to Pantry is via double gates at rear of Neighbourhood Centre.

To find us, from Salisbury Street, walk or drive down lane between McCrossin's Mill and Neighbourhood Centre. Ample car parking is available behind main street. We have trolleys to help get your groceries to car.

Uralla Historical Society AGM
3pm sharp Sunday 20th September at
McCrossin's Mill Museum.
Guest Speaker Ms Kate Jessep, Uralla
Shire Council General Manager
2pm for membership renewals



If I say I will be there, I will be there.

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Ralph Luo

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Andrew Murray's Diary

Thursday May 17, 1860:

Had a good start.

Following up the creek, we passed through the gorge I had seen. The country was poorer as we went on and we camped on a small gully. Water was abundant here. To the west was a large reeding lagoon. There were small fish in water-holes. A razor-back hill came down on the opposite side of the lagoon. McCrossin, McKay and climbed the razor-back; it was high and steep and of slatey formation. The country all round seemed to be broken and hilly. In coming down, I shot a duck. Extensive forests of grass-trees grew here, proof of the poor nature of the country. Made up our minds to steer N.N.West tomorrow, towards the coast.

Friday May 18, 1860:

Set out early, travelling through the grass-tree forest and got into a series of broken stale ridges. Crossing over the main top, we ran a spur down to a gully and camped. In the deep gully tall palm-like plants grew to a height of 25 feet, the stem resembling a pole with a bunch of serrated leaves or fronds on top with a pretty tassel suspended. We went on and came to a fine strong clear stream in a wide deep channel and gravel bed. Camped. In the afternoon, because of having noticed mussel shells in blacks' camps, I stripped and went into a large water hole, to about waist deep, where the tracks of these shell fish could easily be seen and got a number of the shell fish, which, when roasted, were only fit for bait. Fish about 8 inches long with beaks half as long as the bodies are numerous here.

(Saturday May 19, 1860: - missing from Murray's diary)

Sunday May 20, 1860:

Noticing that the river we were on turned round the back of a razor-back ridge, very steep on the side we were, we tried, in the hope of shortening the journey, to get over it but found it too steep for the horses and were obliged to turn back. Going to the river, we cleared a track through the scrub and crossed to the east side. The garden convolvulus was blooming in this scrub, also a bottle-shaped gourd which would hold about 3 pints of water. Going a short distance we were stopped again by a large creek. Camped on a high bank and on going down for water, I saw, for the first time, the trail of a crocodile on the sand.

Monday May 21, 1860:

Had a late start this morning, crossing the river to S.E. side. A fine large bluster fig tree grew on the bank with large fruit in bunches like small red-cheeked apples. They are infested with small ants and useless for food. There was also a large bean pod over a foot long, with beans as large as a watch, and their vines ran to the tops of the trees. White cockatoos are numerous here.

Tuesday May 22, 1860:

Continued our course down the river. The junction of a river of considerable size was on the opposite side. The country is opening up and grass is very thick up to the stirrup irons.

Wednesday May 23, 1860:

Our course today was eastward, as the river ran in that direction. Camped near a lagoon with ti-trees growing near.

Thursday May 24, 1860:

Queen's Birthday, and the grass being green we camped and spelled the horses and mended our pack-bags, straps and clothes.

Friday May 25, 1860:

Followed the course of the river, keeping to the south of it. The country is openly timbered with ti-tree, red gum and an occasional Moreton Bay fig. The general contour of the river is higher than the land back from it, caused, probably, by overflow of high floods, high grass holding soil carried down. The soil formation is alluvial, fertile, with a dense high growth of coastal kangaroo grass up the stirrup irons. We noticed a young hill kangaroo, known as a flyer, trying to get away by jumping over the grass in which its feet kept getting entangled. The coastal kangaroo travels by tracks under the grass, only showing up at intervals. Thinking there might be a chance of catching it, McKay and I gave chase and soon captured it. Kangaroo soup, what a luxury in store! The ana-branch again entered the river and we went a distance down. There the tide waters rose in the river, making it unfit for the horses or for camp use and we went to the edge of a mangrove scrub. It was necessary then to return to a pool of fresh water above the junction. Much overgrown with a bean-like runner. Timber is scarce, only ti-tree growing. After hobbling the horses out and fixing up the tent, the kangaroo was dressed ready for the pot which, in this instance, was a large billy-can, the understanding being that those on the morning watch were to cook it. My watch with Hamilton Robison being the first, and Jovana Barbra and Duke the second, no one of us was to share in the honours of preparing the stewed kangaroo feast. This great distinction fell to the lot of our worthy leader Mr. John McCrossin and his night companion Mr. John McKay. Usage to shifts on night watch inclined one, after a time, to sleep lightly so as to be up at the least alarm of danger. The ground, let the reader understand, is so uneven that it is hard to find a place to stand a billy on. The wood was ti-tree limbs. On this, our apprentices of the culinary art placed the feast to boil.....

To be continued

Noel Marshall, Uralla Historical Society

Community Calendar

Please email urallawordsworth@gmail.com if you have an event or meeting for Uralla, Kentucky or Invergowrie.

Please check with Event Organisers about the Status of Listed Events

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

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

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

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

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

Computer Bank New England Computer Classes are each Friday from 9am - 12noon at the Uralla Community Centre

Uralla Hospital Auxillary meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 2pm, CWA Rooms in the Literary Institute

Uralla Show Society meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm at the Uralla Showgrounds

Uralla Shire Business Chamber meets 1st Thursday of each month at 5.30pm at the Uralla Bowling Club

Uralla Progressive Cinema meets on the last Tuesday of each month, 6pm at McCrossin's Mill, all welcome, entry is free and donations welcome

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

Tennis is on Wednesday from 6.30pm at the Uralla Sporting Complex

Knattering Knitters meet at Uralla Library on Tuesdays at 10am and Sundays at 2pm

Uralla Men's Shed is open each Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am - 1pm in the Old Scout Hall, Uralla North Rd (just off the Bundarra Road).

Uralla Auto Club Inc. meets at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at The Bowling Club.

Uralla Red Cross meets on the first Friday of each month at 2pm in the CWA rooms in the Literary Institute opposite Foodworks

Uralla Historical Society meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5pm at McCrossin's Mill

Uralla Driver Reviver meets on the first Sunday of each month at 2pm at 117 Bridge Street, Uralla.

Uralla Brewery Book Club meets on the third Thursday of each month at 5pm at the Brewery.

Ascent Community Care

Senior Social Group 9.30am – 2.00pm, Mondays at Uralla Community Centre Ph: 6778 3503

Seniors Exercise Class – 2.00pm -3.00pm, Wednesdays at the Uralla Community Centre Ph: 6778 3503

Uralla Food Pantry, Mondays 11am - 2pm, Uralla Neighbourhood Centre. Good range dry goods, and fruit/veges. Fill a supermarket coloured bag \$15. New members welcome. Further information from the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre, donations welcome. Ph : 6778 3277 or email : urallaneighbourhood@bigpond.com

Uralla Shire Council Ordinary Meeting 12.30pm Tuesday 24th September 2020 at the Uralla Shire Council Chambers

Uralla Historical Society AGM 3pm sharp Sunday 20th September 2020, McCrossin's Mill Museum. Guest Speaker Ms Kate Jessep, Uralla Shire Council General Manager.

Relay For Life Golf Day 4 person ambrose, Uralla Golf Club, Sunday 18th October from 9am. RSVP to Theo Groen 0403 683 314 by 15th October

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Leadership in Troubled Times.

In troubled times the true leaders of our communities stand up, or do they? I was shocked by Andrew Toomey's letter to editor in the last issue of Wordsworth pointing out the advice his client received from Uralla Shire's Director of Infrastructure and Regulation regarding a retailing business. This is not the first time I have heard of this and other petty bureaucrats in our community wielding their power, because, well, because they can. These people are public sector workers, public servants as they used to be called. They are there to serve the communities that pay them handsomely. This is an example of the misuse of power to stymie enterprise. So where is the leadership in our community to curb these misguided uses of power. Well, the leadership we need to see should be coming from our Mayor Michael Pearce. I ask the mayor to stand up and make a statement about the issue raised by Mr Toomey. Is this behavior from one of our public servants acceptable and is this really the policy of Uralla Shire Council? The Mayor loves to quote Uralla Shire's Strategic Plan when it suit him. So perhaps you can also let us know how this officer's actions support our strategic goal 2.1 of developing 'an attractive environment for business, tourism and industry' or 2.2.2 'support and encourage existing business and industry to develop and grow'?

PS

You know there is something wrong in the system when you can't trust to put your name to a letter for fear of victimisation in business dealings with public entities. It's not paranoia, it's an every day small town reality.

Yours sincerely

KTB Honest



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Dear Editor,

"We are committed to creating a unique environment which offers an excellent quality of life and economic opportunities for the community." "On behalf of all the Councillors, I'd like to reaffirm our commitment to the Uralla Shire community and reiterate that interests of the Shire are our first priority." This is a quote from the Mayor in the last Uralla Shire Monthly Newsletter. I am not sure on what he bases his perceptions of the relationship the council presently has with this community but as a long term member of this community it is not the perception I have. I experience a council that chooses to be unapproachable, with letters not acknowledged, repeated calls and emails not returned and refusal by some senior staff to meet with community members.

The experience of many of our tradies is one of frustration and lack of support. These people are the heart of our community. I am saddened that those in positions of power respond with making life difficult for those who may oppose a position they take. The most recent example of bullying was addressed in a letter in the last edition of the Wordsworth. The council deemed it appropriate to change the definition of "Retail" so that it allowed them the right to close down one of our growing small businesses.

This was done with no consideration to the emotional and financial impact on this family. May I enquire if any other businesses that now fall under this umbrella, of which there are numerous, have been targeted in the same way? This is at a time when the majority of governing bodies are doing all in their power to support small business and communities that have suffered through drought, bushfires and COVID 19. Not Uralla Council. Sadly the majority of senior staff have chosen not to reside in and make the connections that go with that commitment and support of our beautiful town. I believe this lack of attachment colours the moral behaviour toward others. This seems to have only occurred in the last few years. I believe the atmosphere presently at the council to be toxic and without strong and ethical leadership from our elected Mayor this will continue to fester and grow, as has been allowed for a number of years. I refuse to throw my hands in the air and not do all I can to re-establish the inclusive and supportive council we once had. I just ask that you support me by writing, emailing or phoning Uralla Councillors, this paper and Adam Marshall with negative experiences you may have had in your dealings with this council over the last few years.

Christine Wright

Deadline for the next edition is 5pm on Thursday 17th September 2020.
Please email all contributions including advertising, letters to the editor and
articles to urallawordsworth@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Since my last letter, not much has changed. I addressed Council at their meeting on 25th August, and they resolved to take the matter to a workshop sometime during September (I hope). Goodness knows when and in-what-form it comes back to a Council meeting to be voted on.

I firmly believe that for Council planning staff to take this view without reference to Council's governing body is wrong. It is a fundamental change in the strategic direction of the Council and should have come from Councillors, not from staff.

Despite being the only council we know of that has this narrow destructive interpretation of retail, staff maintain in response to the Notice of Motion that Cr Tom O'Connor put in the 25th August business papers (from p382) that: *"Any policy introduced by Council cannot introduce a lesser standard of regulation (otherwise it would be inconsistent with the current statutory framework and therefore ultra vires)"* i.e. illegal.

Council staff maintain that only "services" can be offered from a residential or rural address without consent so according to staff a "mechanic or massage therapist" can set up next door without consent with the consequent increase in traffic and people. Products cannot be sold without consent, by any method, because of the new definition of "retail" now being applied.

So, someone making face masks from home cannot sell their wares online (where no-one visits the property), but a massage therapist or mechanic can have clients coming and going every 30 minutes all day long.... just don't sell any products!

That makes sense, right?

It is possible to get consent to sell products made at the home address, but staff advise that there is no way to get consent to sell products made elsewhere. (What do Tupperware consultants and the like do at a home address?) To get "consent" though, means lodging a Development Application (DA), paying a fee and then waiting for the assessment of the application by Council staff. This imposes significant cost in time and money with no real idea of the outcome. *Beware - DA's don't always go the way you are told they will.*

And there is another challenge. To sell products made at your home address, you then fall in to a category that permits the employment of staff. Not long ago, council's advice was that these options would trigger requirements for disabled toilets and the sealing of driveways, presumably to accommodate staff? For most small home-based operations here in Uralla, it simply isn't realistic. Nor necessary! I have asked for clarification around these requirements, to see if there has been some change. Perhaps if that is not required it would help those who make products at home for sale.

It does nothing however, for those who sell products made by others, those poor souls are completely left out in the cold as far as I can see.

I thought there was an appetite for government to reduce red tape?

I don't understand why Council staff would take this view around restricting online sales from home at any time, but particularly not now in the middle of a pandemic and recession.

As a community we desperately need facilitators not regulators, and for our Council to help, not hinder. I implore the Council to come up with a sensible policy, and quickly. Your community needs leadership, and this current position is nonsensical.

Home-based activities that do not have retail customers present at the home, create little or no disruption to the local 'amenity', i.e. they do not disrupt neighbours any more than everyday domestic activities. Council's policy should simply read something like: *"retail sales are permitted where the goods are not collected from the home"*.

If you or someone you know is caught up in this mess, I urge you to contact all our Uralla Shire Councillors and the Mayor to express your feelings on the matter.

If like me you think this matter needs more airtime, you can sign the petition at:

www.change.org/letthemtrade

Sincerely,

Andrew Toomey, Uralla resident



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Random Acts of Kindness

I had been collecting pine cones beside the creek, on what used to be a quiet path. I reached too far for an extra cone, the earth gave way and I went head-over-heels, slid down the slope and landed feet first in the creek, the water up to my waist. I remember thinking 'how am I going to get out of here?'

The slope I slid down was too steep to climb. Straight away I heard voices. I looked up towards the path where a woman with children leaned over, asking me if I was all right. (!) I was able to say no. She scurried down the bank and called for her young son Matt to join her. She could see that crossing to the other side was the best way out. It got deeper, but with them on either side of me, we waded to the other side, which was the caravan park ground.

I'm saying 'bugger, bugger, bugger' and 'silly woman' to myself but out loud. It was the last day of school holidays and she & the children had come from Guyra and were walking in the park. They drove me home. I also kept saying 'my sister is going to be cross with me'. She (Sarah) made sure she came to the door in case she had to tell Ruth 'I fell in the creek and Kaye got me out'.

The water had been freezing cold. I got out of my clothes (coat and all), had a shower, and then found the children at the door again. They had a bag full of pine cones which they had gone back & collected for me! Sarah & Matt (Schaeffer, I'm told, although Matt had trouble spelling it for me) got very wet too. She told me she was a country girl. Certainly her observation of the creek was excellent.

I regret that I didn't offer for them to have a shower, but I knew she had towels in the car which she initially offered to me. I have been unable to trace them in Guyra. There is a Schaeffer in Uralla who I thought I should contact.

But how do you show your gratitude for such assistance? I would not have been able to get out without their help. There was nobody else around, especially in the great expanse of the caravan park. The cones were for me to take to the Mill where I had to light the fire on a cold Sunday morning. (We don't have a fire at home anymore). I don't want to see another pine cone, ever!

Kaye Sutton, Uralla resident

Dear Editor,

Andrew Toomey (Letter to the Editor, Wordsworth 43) highlights an astonishing and disappointing decision.

I'm at a loss to understand, after discovering on the internet the number of regions/regional towns that are promoting "Buy from the Bush", why Uralla Shire Council public servants have decided to stop a local business doing just that.

This particular business is also helping many other regional small businesses and families survive, as well as doing one hell of a job promoting the New England region as a whole.

Many of us within the shire were excited, after such a lengthy process, to have a permanent general manager appointed. It now appears that her first major contribution to the shire is to close down a small, successful local business. Who is next on her hit list? There are many of us making a few dollars over the internet, selling jams, craft, bric-a-brac, Tupperware and much more.

I have sold two 'fairy doors' which were made in my shed. Have I broken the law, G.M.? Also, I plan to hold a 'garage sale' in a few weeks, selling goods manufactured by others. Do I have to register my premises as a commercial property, G.M.?

Perhaps the General Manager would do us all the honour of setting out in the next edition of Wordsworth, exactly how this new ruling will affect so many people in the shire trying hard to make ends meet. As well, would she explain why she is happy to preside over the forced closure of businesses before her seat is even warm, rather than trying to promote the region which has put so much (misplaced) faith in her?

Alex Sherrin, Uralla resident



is delighted to support an amazing morning for those of us that aspire to grow abundant food.

Jane Pickard, a scientist and Permaculture teacher, along with her business partner and fellow Permie, Ray South and handy, creative husband Peter Berkley are together working to transform a barren, windswept 40 acres into a multifaceted agroforestry system using permaculture design and regenerative agriculture approaches.

Come and see different varieties of vegetables that they have proven to grow well here, as well as tree varieties progressing well.



Banded Bee Farm Tour

Sunday Sept 27th
10.30am-12.30pm
192 Dumaresq Rd
Saumarez Ponds

Entry by Gold Coin Donation
bandedbeefarm.org FB: Banded Bee farm
Due to Covid19 please register your interest at
znetplus@zneturalla.org.au
We encourage you to carpool with friends