

Uralla Wordsworth

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  urallawordsworth

Upgrade to **Return and Earn** Machine at Uralla Bowlo



The upgraded Return and Earn machine positioned in the car park of the Uralla Bowling Club

The Uralla Return and Earn machine located at Uralla Bowlo, 19 Queen Street, Uralla has been upgraded to double its capacity, with two additional chutes added for returning eligible bottles, cans and cartons.

Uralla Shire residents are already enthusiastic recyclers, having returned over 1.5 million eligible bottles, cartons and cans through local return points since the scheme began six years ago.

This upgrade recognises the community's enthusiastic participation in Return and Earn, making it easier than ever to Return and Earn by reducing queuing.

Local recyclers can also check the live status of the Uralla machine by visiting the Return and Earn website or downloading the Return and Earn app.

Evonne McCabe, Return and Earn spokesperson

Sad Farewells at Kingstown School



It was a sad occasion at the end of the school year at Kingstown as Principal, Sharyn Ryan and School Office Manager, Cherie Patch retired after many years of committed service. Sharyn leaves after 17 years and Cherie after 14.

-From Jann Karp

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

Happy New Year!

Good news that Energy Co has finalised their agreement with Council for the provision of up to \$250,000 per annum for 3 years, to fund the additional range of services and support that will be required. Energy Co have acknowledged that this will increase the utilisation of existing resources and/or increase demand for new resources, particularly with respect to engineering, planning and senior executive staff. No mention of the hundreds of hours spent by councillors. The list of eligible activities include reviewing, providing information and data for cumulative impact statements and analysis, preparing project documentation for infrastructure upgrades (for example roads), participating and/or hosting community meetings, renewable energy project and NSW Government consultation sessions and workshops, participating in forums, workshops, or making submissions or applications for funding in relation to community and employment benefit programs.

The General Manager and I have been invited to attend a Temporary Worker Accommodation Think Tank. This will be hosted by Business NSW, and the hope is to build a New England/North West advocacy narrative and voice platform which will be used to support the region in meeting the demands over the short, medium, and long term. It is frustrating that Council's application for funding for an update of our housing policy has still not been confirmed.

Hopefully this year we will see a shire-wide review of Council's Strategic Plan, to provide guidance for what the community sees as the appropriate legacy items for the future of the shire. While I accept that renewable energy companies want their advertising recognised on funds provided under the Planning Agreement, we would be failing as a community if, at the end of all this development, we have nothing to show for it, except the fractured debate we are currently witnessing between those who directly benefit and those who oppose.

Council has another zoom meeting next week with the Department of Planning to discuss the proposed Wind Turbines Guidelines that are currently on public display. The issue of decommissioning and who bares the costs remains an area of disagreement within the community. The fundamental problem that developers carry out their negotiations with landowners, then Energy Co, and can then apply for the requirements for the Environmental Impact Statement, prior to the Council and the general public being informed, remains. This makes meaningful community engagement very difficult. Significant issues also exist around biodiversity and loss of productive agricultural land. The consultation period for the draft document ends on January 29, 2024.

Council hopes to receive a Waste Strategy Report in the next month or so. Councillors and staff have had the opportunity to visit the Armidale Waste Centre to understand the positive aspects of the collection and handling of recycled material. Their system is very different from Uralla's yellow bins. Armidale has significantly less contamination, due to their collection method, which increases the value of the final product. Needless to say, there will be the need for significant public consultation in Uralla and Bundarra. Council expects delivery of one new garbage collection truck in April. Shame we appear to have lost our main driver.

A huge bouquet to our bitumen patching crews, as they battle to make our sealed bitumen roads safer. It must seem like a never ending job.

At last year's Rocky River Public School Speech Day, I was concerned to see that the long term repairs needed to the school buildings had not been carried out. I will be contacting Hon. Adam Marshall's office to find out if there is a time programmed for these repairs. I acknowledge that the rapid response with demountable classrooms was excellent. The school continues to attract strong enrolments.

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Uralla Shire Resident



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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/Working-at-Uralla-Shire-Council)

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



Letters to the Editors

The opinions expressed in letters to the editors are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of Uralla Wordsworth. Uralla Wordsworth is not able to fact check letters. Where authors make claims without referencing their sources, it is for the reader to assess the veracity of these claims.

To the editors,

Blistering New Year's Resolution

"Blister" – an Aussie nickname for someone who turns up after all the work is done.

"Blisters" – the islands of gardens and lights installed in Uralla's main street.

How'd they get there then? Most of us can recall when Uralla was a mere blip, not even a speed bump, on the highway, "speedway" more like.

Some will remember the "crazy" Creative Village Project, (1995 - c2005), which set about "traffic calming": and "street beautification".

Our Council and Officers were adamant: "It's our way or we'll still suffer the highway!"

The Off-Street Car Park was ruthlessly negotiated, the undergrounding of the ugly power lines and the provision of overhead lighting was literally, dare I say it, brilliant. Despite the braying of the naysayers, the Council, the Clipboard Cartel, and the Creatives got the job done.

Lured by the now visible heritage streetscape, the blister gardens and the busyness, the traffic abruptly slowed, tentatively reverse-parked, and went a-walking. And a-shopping.

Where there had only been "The White Rose" with its burgers or fish and chips bathed in mystic oils, there emerged a cajolery of classy cafés. Halcyon days, eh? And now?

Happy New Year, 2024, but our blisters don't look too happy at all, apart from the fortunate few with devoted caretakers. The others? Feckless, forgotten and, one other f-word, forlorn. New residents and recently appointed Council Officers likely don't register the neglect, because it's the status quo to them.

So how do we fix it? Not just for the sake of Bridge St businesses, but for all of us. The whole community benefits when there's an obvious pride in the place.

Council's parks and garden crew are already overloaded, and wouldn't relish the idea of minding the main street as

well.

How about this, then? Council establishes a permanent, part-time position to maintain only the blister gardens, say ten hours per week at \$30 per hour, plus a few bob for plants, mulch, etc.

"Sorry, not in the budget at the moment."

Gardens don't thrive on missed moments, delay is a death sentence. So what say we ask the whole community to chip in to get the show on the road, literally?

Service organisations, business houses, families, solar farms, etc. etc. commit to contributing \$300 each in the first six months, say, to get the wheelbarrow rolling.

"Not my responsibility!" may be the predictable response.

Well, whose responsibility then?

We'd have a worker (or two) who beautifies the gardens because they want to, not because it's merely another job on the roster. And Council might just be roused to adjust its budget to cater for this crucial work. And restore our lost pride.

Does it really matter if they turn up late, the way blisters do?

Kent Mayo, Uralla, Jan 2024



Uralla Community Street Store

8 - 14 Jan - Uralla District Show Society

15 - 21 Jan - Uralla Australia Day Committee

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>

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New England Renewable Energy Projects - the Essential Facts - Part 1

With an increasing number of renewable energy projects in our region it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep up to speed with what's actually happening. With this in mind, Wordsworth has decided to do some stocktaking by gathering together in one place, the most important facts related to each project. Most of the following information comes from project newsletters, and project and NSW Department of Planning websites. More "Essential Facts" of projects in and around Uralla Shire, will follow in upcoming editions.

-Editor

1. Meralli Solar

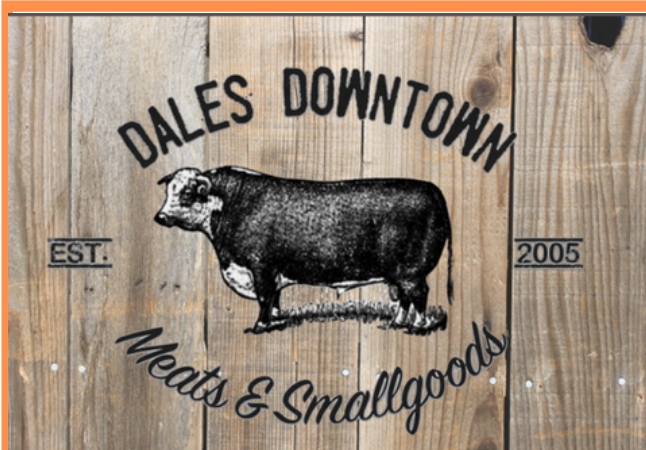
- Meralli Solar is an Australian company based in Uralla.
- It has projects across NSW, Tasmania and South Australia.
- Meralli specialises in the construction of small and utility-scale solar power stations.
- The proposed Uralla solar farm, called Thunderbolt Community Solar Farm (TCSF), will be located between the end of Traces Road and Thunderbolts Way on the site of the old impregnation site. Because of its estimated establishment cost of \$14m, TCSF is not considered a State Significant Project. Planning approval occurs through the Joint Regional Planning Panel.
- The project is relatively small with about 18,000 panels situated on the 21 hectare site, potentially generating 4.4MW – enough to power Uralla twice over.
- The project incorporates a 11MW battery storage.
- The array – about one metre in height – will use a PEG frame system to support panels. The panels are arranged in a shallow inverted "v" configuration.
- Meralli is proposing to develop a dedicated community space on the site.
- The project has approval to start construction and to connect to the grid.
- Meralli is assessing local public interest in creating a

community ownership group which would invest in the solar farm.

- The project is expected to have a life of 25 years, after which, technological developments will determine what happens.
- Website: meralliprojects.com.au/

2. Salisbury Solar Farm and Uralla Renewable Energy Hub Projects

- The Salisbury Solar Farm (SSF) and the Uralla Renewable Energy Hub (UREH) are two of Walcha Energy's projects which also include the Ruby Hills Wind Farm and Dungowan Pumped Hydro Scheme.
- The Walcha Energy Project is a joint venture between developers Mirus Wind and Energy Estate.
- The solar farm site is about 10km SSE of Uralla straddling both sides of Thunderbolts Way.
- The planned generating capacity of about 450MW, is enough to power 150,000 homes.
- The project has been delayed owing to the recent drought and Covid pandemic.
- The delay resulted in new Department of Planning and Environment guidelines becoming applicable to the project. This required additional issues to be addressed in the solar farm's Environmental Impact Statement.
- The project is currently at an early Development Application and Environment Assessment stage.
- The size of the project has been reduced from the originally planned 700MW to avoid identified environmental constraints.
- The energy hub will be about 5km from Uralla on Thunderbolts Way. It will consist of a storage battery substations and switchyards.
- The Uralla Hub will connect the first stage of the Walcha Energy Project to the existing grid but will also be available as a connection point for other projects in the area such as the Winterbourne Wind Farm.
- Website – <https://www.salisburysolar.com.au/>



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3. Winterbourne Wind Farm

- The project arose in 2001 from local landholders' interest in wind generation.
- Winterbourne Wind Farm (WWF) is being developed by Vestas and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) - both Danish based companies.
- Vestas makes and installs wind turbines. Their turbines have been installed in over 80 countries.
- The project is expected to be approved by the end of 2024 with construction beginning in 2025.
- The wind farm site is mainly in Walcha Shire but extends slightly into Uralla Shire as well.
- There will be 119 turbines on the site producing up to 700MW. Maximum height of turbines will be 230 metres.
- The project site is located in an arc to the east and north of Walcha bounded by Thunderbolts Way to the west, the Oxley Highway to the south, Oxley Wild Rivers NP to the east and Salisbury Plains to the north.
- It is expected to cost over \$1 billion.
- The project will connect to the existing TransGrid line near Uralla via a new energy hub and 45km 330kV transmission line.
- WWF plans to introduce one of the largest community benefit funds (CBF) in Australia. About \$1,000,000 will be contributed to the CBF at the commencement of construction, and \$750,000 per annum for the life of the project.
- Walcha will receive 90 per cent of the CBF and Uralla 10 per cent based on the portion of the wind farm in each.
- At the end of the Project's life - expected to be around 30 years - it will be refurbished, replaced or decommissioned.
- Decommissioning of wind farm will be a legal condition of the development consent. The wind farm owner will be fully responsible for decommissioning.
- Website: winterbournewindfarm.com.au

Events For Your Diary

Tom Curtain - *Why We Live Out Here* Tour, Sat 20 Jan, Uralla Showground 6pm, gates open at 5pm

ABC Back Roads program featuring Uralla airs 23 Jan

Uralla Show - 3 February, 2024, Uralla Showground

Next Council Meeting - Tuesday 27 February 2024, Council Chambers

Seasons of New England - Sat 23 March, Uralla Showground

Unique Show Coming to Uralla

You may have noticed advertisements adorning the town about a show coming to the Uralla Showground on Saturday 20th of this month. You might have wondered what it's all about. Wordsworth has learnt it's an "out of the ordinary" two and a half hours of family entertainment involving clever dogs and horses, and live music. The show, *Tom Curtain - Why We Live Out Here*, toured Armidale last year, but this year organisers have decided to bring it to Uralla.

It promises to be a fascinating evening, perfect for the summer holiday season. Food and drinks are available from 5pm when the gates are opened. It's suggested you take your own chair. Show starts at 6pm.

Tickets: www.tomcurtain.com.au

-Editor



PUBLIC HOLIDAY NOTICE



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

URALLA MEDICAL CENTRE

WILL BE CLOSED FROM

12.30pm THURSDAY 25th JANUARY 2024

and

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Running Wild – Episode 8

– Fiery Farewell (Fiction)

This episode is the 8th in the 'Running Wild' series. The seventh, 'Freds Done!', was printed in Uralla Wordsworth October – December 2023

1. Recap: Angus Blackman the Coroner's Assistant, along with Constable Walker and his Trooper Haggart, had come to the Thompson Farm. They were conducting their investigation into the capture and subsequent death of Fred known as 'The Captain'. Bill, the Lady and Nellie were questioned.

After finishing off 'The Captain', Constable Walker caught his horse. Even though it had a bullet wound, it was only a graze, besides might get a few bob for it he thought. The body was slung over and bought to Uralla with the grey then handed to the station's stable hand. Walker said, 'Give that horse food, water, and tend to his wound. I'll see about selling him when he's lookin better. By the way, 'The Captain' wasn't famous in my eyes, just another petty crook wanting to make his fortune off the backs of others. They say he must have looted more than 20,000 pounds, but I'm no believer in that'.

Back at the Thompson Farm, Walker and Blackman continued their investigation. Walker asked, 'Nellie, the last time you saw Fred, what horse was he riding'? Nellie replied, 'That jet black colt'. Her answer raised both Walker's and Blackman's eyebrows, 'Are you sure bout that he insisted?' Nellie responded, 'Yea dead sure, he loved that colt, said he looked real handsome on him, like a proper Captain, so he did'. They both scribbled in their notebooks. Blackman continued, 'We have a body on the slab at the Uralla watchhouse, now tell me Nellie, for we know you were close to Fred, did the man you knew as Fred 'The Captain' have any markings of a distinguishing nature that would tell him apart from any other man? Walker interpreted the question for Nellie.

Nell thought for a minute then answered quietly, 'Well when we first met, I dug a bullet out from behind his left knee, so a scar there'. 'Anything else?' Blackman prompted. 'Yes, he also has a long ugly scar on his left side, about two full hand spans, the shape of the crescent moon. It wasn't good stitched, a real red welt and I used my salve to heal it some. He said it was while escaping the traps, riding through the scrub but it looked to me like from a cut-throat razer. Probably that Mary done it, I knows he hung around with her when he was down south', Nellie added.

Walker and Blackman were gobsmacked and could hardly move for a moment. Blackman asked Nellie to repeat every bit about the half crescent moon scar. This time Walker also scribbled in his note pad, and they both fired further questions. Finally, they were done and with little more than a goodbye they were all back on their horses and rode off hard. Trooper Haggart was last to ride off and pointed at Nellie and shouted, 'I'll be back for you and your girl, see if I don't'. As they all rode away Nellie muttered. 'Damn you all to hell! Bill and The Lady nodded in agreement.

Daryl Albertson, Kelly's Plains

What's on at Uralla Library



Thursday 11 January 3.30 pm – information session with local Pokemon expert, Matt. Free weekly after school tournaments will begin in the library during first term and this is an opportunity to learn how to fine tune your deck, and strategies for playing. There will be giveaways for all who register.

Wednesday 17 January 10.30 am - the Science of Magic. Numbers are limited and bookings are essential for this event.

Uralla Shire Library 106 Bridge Street Uralla ph: 6778 6470 e: library@uralla.nsw.gov.au



Deadline for the next edition of the Wordsworth is

5pm Thursday 18 January 2024

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

The Wisdom of Uncle Dorothy and Aunt Bob

Sound advice when you need it from people you can trust

Dear Aunt Bob

Now that Christmas is safely behind us, it might be a good time to tell about the time you accidentally came across Santa and the unusual events that followed. Everyone should hear this story. Would you please put it on public record so everyone can learn from your experience?

Thanking you,

Goan Doowitt

Dear Goan,

I believe you refer to the time I saw mummy kissing Santa Clause. I was 13 years old and was very excited because I figured that I would get a really good present - a bike or a new cricket bat. I was so terribly disappointed. Not only did Santa kiss mummy but he escorted her to the bedroom and to my surprise Santa turned out to be Daddy. So not only did I discover Santa was a myth but I didn't get a bike or new cricket bat. Instead I got a lesson on where babies come from. Christmas has never been the same. Yours scarred,

Aunt Bob

Dear Uncle Dorothy,

I'm just writing to wish you a wonderful and fulfilling new year, and to ask if you have made any new year resolutions. I'm looking for a little inspiration myself. Yours,

Lee Ning-Onya

Well now Lee... here's the 'publishable' response.....

"Resolution" indicates that something will be solved....at this time I have little hope for any resolution to my ageing visage and aching bones. Solutions to world peace, hunger and homelessness are also not close I fear. We can however be gentle, kind and respectful, at least at the Brewery.... I'm resolved to being part of that.... my NY resolution is to be positive at least till 10am and smile more at selected people.

Uncle Dorothy

Dear Aunt Bob, I have a common problem with Xmas shopping. I am never satisfied that I've made the best choice for the people I buy for. I think there are too many choices. Can you help my dilemma. Regards.

Coastal Climb It

Dear Coastal Climb It,

It appears you are not yet suffering from rising interest rates and the cost of living, otherwise this would not be a problem for you. I.e. no presents. However if you are determined to give presents to all and sundry, I suggest you do your Christmas shopping in Uralla. It will only take you ten

minutes. Go straight to the Co-op where you can find bargain after bargain at a very reasonable price. Second hand clothes are in this year. We look forward to your visit. Yours in retail,

Aunt Bob

ATTENTION VETERANS

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of any type

financial, physical, emotional etc

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or email urallasb@rslnsw.org.au

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Uralla Sub-Branch of RSL NSW

Community Messages



Are you an emerging or established artist or photographer in the Uralla area? The Uralla Library invites you to exhibit your artworks in our exhibition space. We are now taking bookings for 2024. To register or for more information, email library@uralla.nsw.gov.au

Photo of the Week



A disturbing sight greeted passers-by on Thursday morning with Subway being broken into for the second time in about a week, adding to a number of break-ins over the past few months. It's a timely reminder for Urallans to review their current security arrangements. Perhaps it's also time for increased police presence in Uralla at night. **-Editor**

New England Solar

Renewable Energy from ACEN

Social Investment Program

Community Reference Group expressions of interest

ACEN Australia is continuing its support of the New England region, investing \$150,000 through its New England Solar grants in 2024.

To help administer those grants, we're inviting expressions of interest to become members of the Community Reference Group (CRG) for our New England Social Investment Program (SIP).

As ACEN Australia prepares to begin construction of Stage 2 of New England Solar, our community funding contributions also enter a new phase, with a refreshed Social Investment Program supported by the CRG.

The New England SIP provides funding for initiatives that contribute to building thriving and resilient communities and economies.

The CRG is valuable in providing transparency and local insight to how SIP grants, sponsorships and donations can make the most effective contributions to the Uralla district and surrounds.

The updated CRG will comprise five community members and will be facilitated by ACEN Australia's Community Engagement & Communication Specialist - New England. It will consider applications for two rounds of funding in 2024.

Expressions of interest to be a member of the CRG in 2024 are open until 16 February.

Emphasis on Diversity

The CRG will benefit from a diverse range of community knowledge and experiences. Panel members should represent the community as broadly as possible, from various parts of the Uralla district and surrounds, and including a variety of ages, cultural and business backgrounds and interests.

Young members of the community, aged 15 and over, are particularly encouraged to apply.

Everyone living or working within the Uralla Shire Council region is eligible to apply to join the Community Reference Group, as well as Kelly's Plains and Dangarsleigh residents within 5km of New England Solar Farm. Applications to join are also encouraged from members of the Anaiwan community.

Visit www.newenglandsolar.com.au to submit an expression of interest to be a member of the Community Reference Group

Fostering Strong Connections with Community



Since its inception in 2020, the New England Solar SIP has been a key tool in fostering the partnership between New England Solar and the Uralla community. The New England Solar SIP has contributed \$200,000 to groups in Uralla Shire, including Uralla Netball Club (above) and Kingstown Pony Club (pictured below).

