

Uralla Wordsworth

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Uralla's FREE Fortnightly Newspaper

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Armidale Regional LGA In 7-Day Lockdown

The following press release by Adam Marshall is very relevant to all Uralla residents - Ed. www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/greater-sydney#stay-at-home-rules

It's the news we all hoped never to hear, but it's happened, we officially now have two active COVID-19 cases in Armidale.

The cases are directly linked to the Newcastle case cluster with a young person returning to Armidale from Newcastle and infecting another person in their household. Both cases are in isolation.

As a result, communities within the entire Armidale Regional Local Government Area will enter a seven-day lockdown from 5pm Saturday 7 August until 12.01am Sunday, 15 August, in order to stop the virus spreading any further.

Like the Orange community before us recently, if we stick together and do this right – following the stay-at-home orders – we'll get through this in the next seven days.

It's just another challenge we must, and will, overcome.

Everyone should stay at home, unless they absolutely need to leave for one of the prescribed reasons, such as shopping for essentials, medical appointments, getting a COVID test or a COVID vaccine or for essential work.

You **cannot have visitors** to your home, including family and friends.

Schools within the Armidale Regional LGA will also be closed next week. More details about this will be provided to parents as soon as possible.

The stay-at-home orders, are the same as those which apply in Greater Sydney. They can be found here:

These rules apply to anyone residing within the Armidale Regional LGA and **anyone who has been there on or after 31 July 2021.**

Local COVID testing clinic hours have also been extended:

- Armidale Hospital testing clinic will operate from 9am to 5pm, seven days. Appointments are can be made by phoning 0427 923 080.
- Lavery Pathology drive-through clinic at Armidale Airport will operate from 8am to 2.30pm this weekend. Appointments are NOT required.

Anyone with even the mildest of symptoms, such as a runny nose or scratchy throat, must come forward for testing and self-isolate until they get their result.

This is now as serious as it gets for us. We do not want to see those two cases grow, so the message is clear: **Stay at home, follow the rules and together we'll get this done!**

I'll provide another update to the community this afternoon with some more detailed information about the next seven days and other measures.

Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands



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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.

Now that the NSW Local Government elections are set back until December 4, it will give those thinking of running more time to make themselves known to the electorate. It is a little frustrating that even the December date is not set in concrete. At least two additional residents are now considering running.

Clr O'Connor's efforts to have the Fees and Charges for 2021/22 considered as an urgent item at the last Council meeting was defeated 5 votes to 4. Tom's motion to remove the charge for green waste, reduce the Aquatic Centre charges and reduce the Construction Certificate charges will now be on the Council business paper agenda for the August meeting. All increases above the CPI should include a full report justifying them.

More frustration with the Uralla Waste Facility once again having leachate water carted from the onsite dam to be discharged into our sewer system on the corner of Rowan Avenue and the highway. While we do not want another fine, the option of an additional dam constructed in the south eastern corner would be a much cheaper and a longer term solution.

With the imminent closure of the NAB Uralla branch, and confirmation from the property owner that NAB are terminating their lease, Council has now resolved to proceed to tender for our banking services. We have a local preference purchasing policy that will be considered in this tender.

The draft Media Policy has been placed on public display with important changes to Item 4 and 6.2. My concerns were outlined in my last article in Wordsworth. There remain those in the community who question the need for this policy at all. These residents can email Council with their concerns. All submissions will be considered before the policy can be adopted.

Bundarra residents are feeling frustrated with the latest advice showing a May 2022 completion for the Bundarra Sewer Scheme. This date continues to move in the wrong direction.

Linda and I are looking forward to attending the Uralla Shire Business Chamber Awards next Friday night. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Uralla Shire businesses and community organisations in what has been another difficult year. The biggest frustration seems to be the uncertainty. We do need to also celebrate (touch wood) that we have not had to endure a lockdown. New regions seem to be added to the lock down list on a daily basis. The reduction in travelling public is having a profound impact on our business community.

The Visitor Information Centre now has a new stove/oven and a microwave. I have asked one of our Aniwani Elders to check the current status of the Aniwani Cultural Collection.

A special thank you goes to Gwen Fuller for providing me with details of the naming of Fuller Park after her father-in-law, Mr Arthur Fuller. Mr Fuller worked all his adult life on the Council. Arthur's chief interest was horticulture, and he specialised in propagating and growing dahlias which were planted all around Uralla. The opening ceremony for Fuller Park was in February 1967 and was performed by the then Shire President, Clr R Croft (Richard Croft's father).

For the last twelve months, we have had our spirits lifted by seeing magnificent photos on Facebook posted by Michael Hull, Jenny Brown and Jaz Taylor. Jaz has an exhibition at the Uralla Library during August. I would recommend you go and see it.

Thought for the week: I still can't get my head around wearing a mask when entering a bank. Just doesn't seem right somehow!!

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**Robert Bell,
Uralla Shire Resident**



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“They Wanna Name The Park After Some Ancient Dead Italian. . .”

That’s what I heard Rosa say in Foodworks, loading some packets of spaghetti into her basket.

“You mean like Julius Caesar Park?” asked her friend, Tina.

“No, some bloke called ‘Fibbin’ Archy”.

“A fibber, eh? A crook?” chuckled Tina. “Prob’ly Mafia, like in them movies . . . ‘The Godfairy.’”

“Ever wanted to go to Italy, Tina”, asked Rosa

“Nah. Don’t speak English there, do they? And I couldn’t come at that Italian food, neither.”

“Actually, ladies”, I interrupted. “It’s Fibonacci, F-i-b-o-n-a-c-c-i. In about the year 1500, he showed Europe a fascinating number pattern . . . 0,1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34,55 . . . and so on. And he was from Pisa.” I watched Tina and Rosa have a think about that.

“We had Pizza from The Tuck-In Takeaway last night”, chirped Tina. “Bloody beautiful it was, too!”

“No, no”, I started to explain. “Pisa . . . with an s.”

“See, I told ya”, Tina was triumphant. “They can’t spell English. Everyone knows it’s Pizza. American, invented by Pizza Hut.” She plonked a can of tomatoes in her basket.

“What’s cooking tonight, Tina?” Rosa asked, to block me out of the conversation.

“Spag Bol. Kids love it.”

“Spag Bol? That’s Hungarian, ain’t it?”

“Yeah! My kids are always Hungarian by six o’clock. Starvin’!”

“No, I meant from Hungary.”

“Course they’re hungary, just told yer.”

I couldn’t resist. “It’s Spaghetti Bolognaise, ladies. Italian. Named after the city, Bologna.”

“Is that near Rome, where the Pope’s got his palace?”, asked Rosa, who was a regular attendee at Mass, once a year, faithfully.

“No, up north”, I said. “You ladies ever tried Lasagne?”

“Oh, yes”, Rosa jumped in. “That’s gotta be French. La Sagne, The Sandwich, right?”

“Parli-vou, Frans, eh?” asked Tina.

“Wee”, boasted Rosa. “‘A la carte’ means on the wagon, where you can’t buy alcohol.”

“Really”, I chuckled. “You ever tried Focaccia?”

Tina blushed and giggled shyly. “Yeah, only once. With a bloke from Bingara after a B & S Ball. Never again!”

Other shoppers began to point and whisper, the way they do.

“Have you tried Risotto?”, I ventured cautiously.

“Natch . . . that’s Rice”, trumpeted Tina. “See, they can’t spell English!”

“Then what about Tiramisu?” I asked, fingers crossed.

“Nah, never tried Japanese.

Anyhow, what else are the Italians famous for, apart from Fib-on-acci?

“Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati”, rumbled the V8 voice from the owner of the Ford Mustang parked outside.

“And Portia”, Rosa offered over-confidently.

“No, no, the stranger smiled. “Portia was in ‘The Merchant of Venice’, a play by William Shakespeare. He was English, y’know . You’re thinking of Porsche . . . the German luxury car, not Italian.”

The girls at the checkout chimed in . . . “And there’s Prada, Versace, Armani, Gucci, Valentino . . . !!”

“Mafioso”, rumbled the stranger, giving Rosa and Tina a wink on his way out.

Tina and Rosa spent quite a while browsing in the bottle shop, so I took the opportunity to ever so politely to tell them about the magic of Fibonacci numbers.

Surprisingly, they both selected Verdello from the range, but I didn’t mention ‘Italian’.

I bid them both “arrivederci”.

Outside I shared the seat with the Mustang man. Emerging from Foodworks, Tina and Rosa gave us a cheeky wave and headed straight into Michael’s Café, to a raucous welcome from a chatty band of their pals from the morning’s session at Pulse.

Over the hubbub, I heard Tina order. “Hey Michael, Cappuccino please, that’s Italian for coffee, and then we’ll have gelato after that, eh girls?”

It was Rosa’s turn . . . “Now girls, settle down and I’ll tell you about this amazing Fibonacci, from Pisa in Italy . . . that’s Pisa, not Pizza, Karen . . . you see he found this number pattern . . . and . . . then the Golden Rectangle, see?” And away she went for ten minutes while they sipped their cappuccini.

“Fibonacci, eh?” said the Mustang man quietly. “Tell me about it.”

Kent Mayo, Uralla resident

Breakfast Club

St Johns Anglican Church are running a breakfast club in their hall, Park Street, starting on Wednesdays, from 8am to 8:45am. Any school age kids are welcome. Please direct any enquiries to the Anglican vicarage on 6778 4906.



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

Licence No. 346186C

Ralph Luo

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✉ : wolfunec@yahoo.com.au

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In comparison to the apparent chaos in some other areas regarding the vaccination roll-out, I would like to congratulate and thank Dr Ricardo for the efficient, stress-free and methodical manner he and his staff have conducted and organised the vaccination program for the residents of Uralla.

Ann Hacker, Uralla Resident

Dear Editor,

Mixed messaging

Today, when I went for a walk, to enjoy the all too brief sunshine, I couldn't help noticing the mixed messaging given by the Fuller Park sign and the promotional message on the adjoining bin.

Sue Dyer, Uralla Resident

Fuller Park sign



Dear Editor,

Federal, state and local government election pork barrelling is corruption and bribery. There is no community good when financial taps suddenly turn on in election years. The message is clear – vote for me, my ticket, my party or be punished. No public services and infrastructure for you my dissenting citizen.

False promises of community consultation see the decision maker setting the agenda, time limited processes, and actual responses hidden in generalised summaries. A box-ticking KPI for a faceless government employee or well-paid consultant neither of whom live with the consequences of their decisions.

Demand collaboration which happens when solutions are not decided behind closed doors and target groups work together to define the issue as well as how to resolve it.

Demand high standards of transparent decision making and accountability from those elected to public office. They are not a special breed. Demand the same from government employees. Hamstringing public discourse and information through legislation or policy is despicable. It is the act of those who fear the people and wish to keep power in the hands of the favoured few. They undermine democracy.

Business as usual? Reject corruption, bribery and false consultation. Expect more. Demand more. Champion democracy at every election. Vote for change.

Susan Armstead, Kentucky resident



Adjoining bin

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Having recently observed the NSW health system (read NSW Government) in action, I can now fully understand why that same health system (NSW Government) has lost control of this latest outbreak of the Covid Delta strain.

I took a person aged in their 70s to the Armidale hospital emergency department, with a non life threatening ailment, arriving at 1pm. After they had seen Triage and the registrar, I left this person, drip now in place, seated in the emergency waiting room, at 5pm. On returning at 8pm, still in the same seat, drip still in place, I was informed by this person they would be remaining overnight.

I returned at 11.30am next day to find the patient, indeed in bed, drip still attached, but **still fully clothed in the street clothes** they had arrived in nearly 24 hours beforehand! If the hospital can't supply a gown for an inpatient, let alone anything for their morning wash, have they actually got any PPE, at least for their own staff in an emergency?

I was also unlucky to still be there at lunchtime! An unappetising meal was delivered, everything, including one slice of bread, in plastic. The plastic waste the hospital must generate in any 24 hour period must be horrendous. It makes our State Government's legislation to force supermarkets to reduce their use of plastic seem hollow indeed

Some other observations made during my visits. A lady in her 80s, arriving at emergency at approx 4pm, was still sitting quietly in the same position at 11pm. She had been spoken to during this time and I witnessed her blood pressure being taken. The registrar who came to take her blood pressure had to first get a towel to mop up water from the floor of the waiting area that had lain there for a few hours. Lastly the rubbish bin in the emergency waiting area was, by 8pm, well and truly overflowing.

Alex Sherrin, Uralla resident

Uralla Community Street Store

9 - 15 August

CWA Uralla - Cancelled due to lockdown

16 - 22 August

Rocky River P&C

Dear Editor,

I read Wordsworth no. 67 and saw a great addition on page 5. I saw a death notice which I would not see anywhere and thought "What a brilliant idea" It was a death notice for Mr. Wilton and thought death notices would be a great addition for a great newspaper. The information is available in the "Armidale Express" and should include Uralla people.

Thank you for a great read and congrats on a great publication.

Neil Cooper, Uralla resident

Dear Editor,

I would like to congratulate my friend Willa Street, her entry into the NERAM competition was awarded runner up. (Please see the picture attached) We are both students at Kentucky Public School and I am very proud of my friend,

Helena Toomey, Uralla resident



Bill Andrews

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Community Calendar

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

Please check with Event Organisers about the Status of Listed Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Uralla Shire Business Chamber meets 1st Thursday of each month at 5.30pm at the Top Pub

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Uralla RSL Sub-Branch meets the last Sunday of the month at 10.30am at the RSL Rooms, The Uralla Memorial Institute, 55 Bridge Street, all veterans welcome

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

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

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

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

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

Uralla Tigers Supported Playgroup FREE, every Wednesday during school terms, 10am - 12pm, St Joseph's Primary School, contact Sue on 0419149244 or Geneva on 0430440171

Events for August/November -

Uralla Shire Council Ordinary Council Meeting 12:30pm Tuesday 24th August, Uralla Shire Council Chambers

Annual Can Assist Branch Meeting Saturday 21st August 2021 2.00pm at Uralla Bowling Club

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

Dine & Discover Vouchers Extended to 31 August

The following Uralla Shire venues are listed as accepting the Dine Vouchers :

The Alternate Root Cafe, 48 Bridge St, Uralla

Michael's Cafe, 98 Bridge St, Uralla

Subway, Shop 1, 50 Bridget St, Uralla

The Top Pub, 23-27 Bridge St, Uralla

Kentucky General Store, Noalimba Ave, Kentucky

Source : <https://mybusiness.service.nsw.gov.au/dine-and-discover/business-finder#dine>

Deadline for the next edition is
5pm Thursday 20 Aug 2021.

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



NEW ENGLAND SOLAR FARM

AUGUST 2021

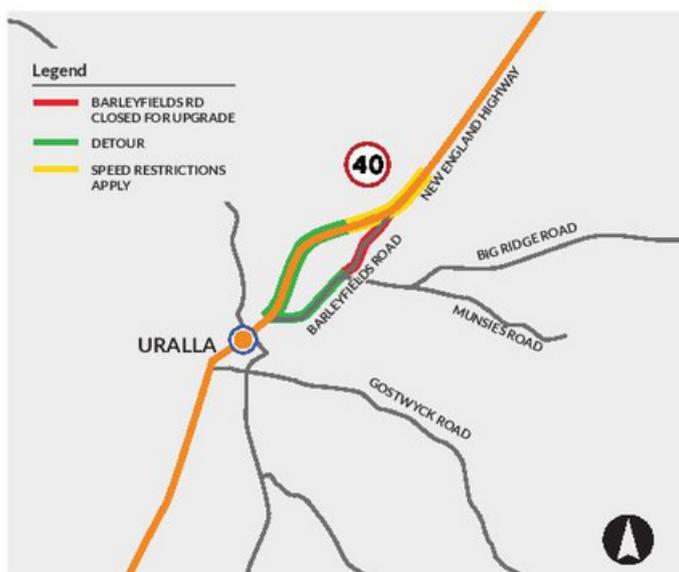
Speed reductions on New England Highway near Barleyfields Rd

New England Highway works

The road upgrade works to the New England Highway at the intersection with Barleyfields Road have now begun and are expected to be completed by early September.

The works include road widening and a new right hand turn bay to allow safe access into Barleyfields Rd for construction and maintenance traffic accessing the New England Solar Farm site.

To help us complete this work safely, 40 km speed restrictions will be in place on a small section of the New England Highway.



Great response to Uralla Grants

We've been overwhelmed by the positive response we received to the second funding round for the Uralla Grants program.

Applications have now closed for the program and our Community Reference Group is looking forward to closely reviewing each application before announcing the final recipients.

The grant program was designed with the help of the local community to help share some of the benefits of the New England Solar Farm. Based on the first round of projects supported and the interest generated in this second funding round, we are very confident it is delivering those outcomes.

We look forward to announcing the second round recipients over the coming months.

Barleyfields Road closure

Upgrade works to Barleyfields Rd are also continuing which have required the temporary closure of the northern section of the road (see map). Motorists wanting to access Barleyfields Rd, or Big Ridge Rd from the New England Highway while the work takes place can do so via the southern intersection of Barleyfields Rd.

We do understand that these works will cause a slight delay to motorists' travel time and so we would like to thank you for your patience.

We will be working as quickly and safely as possible to complete the work.

**KEEPING
YOU
INFORMED**

Laura Russell,
Community Liaison Officer at Green Light Contractors

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✉ l Russell@elecnor.com

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📘 @newenglandsolarfarm
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**Uralla Shire Council
Local Government Elections
Important Dates**

**Lodgement of nominations open:
25 October**

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

**Wordsworth Election Edition: 8 November
Pre-polling: 22 November
Candidates Forum TBA
(on a date between 8 and 21 November)**

Fuel Watch 1 August 2021

	ULP	Diesel
Mobil	145.9	139.9
Invergowrie	146.0	145.0
Kingstown	146.9	144.9
Puma	149.7	143.7
BP	153.9	155.9

Inverell & North West
Gwydir
Water Services
Simon Dean

- Service & Repair all Pumps
- Solar Pumps
- Bore Hole Pumps
- Line Drive
- Helical Rotor /Turbine

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Council 57 Projects List

You may be aware from previous mentions in the Wordsworth that the majority of Councillors adopted a list of 57 capital projects that have gone out for public consultation. This consultation has involved a press release on Council's website and facebook pages, as well as mention in the Council Newsletter.

The full list can be found in the Minutes for the 25th May 2021 meeting, page 15, and on the Council website:

<https://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Community/Community-Consultation/Proposed-Project-List>

We, the community are being asked to prioritise the projects based on the information contained in the report which, unfortunately, is minimal. It is hard to understand what is actually being proposed for almost all of the projects on the list. They range from \$1.5million for unspecified Bridge St Upgrades to a Telehealth Centre with no estimate. Councillors asked at the May meeting, in email and again at the July meeting for some detail around the project proposals. Unfortunately they have not received any response.

Community feedback is required by **5pm on 20th August** and the link to the public consultation is here: <https://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-News-and-Media/Public-Notices/Public-Exhibition-Proposed-Project-List-for-Capital-Grant-Funding>.

The survey uses Survey Monkey, which has limited options for feedback. If you wish to express yourself in more detail, please send your feedback to general Council email, with a copy to every Councillor.

General email : council@uralla.nsw.gov.au

Councillor email addresses are as follows:

Mayor: mayor@uralla.nsw.gov.au

Cr Strutt: istrutt@uralla.nsw.gov.au

Cr Bell: rbell@uralla.nsw.gov.au

Cr Crouch: rcrouch@uralla.nsw.gov.au

Cr Dusting: mdusting@uralla.nsw.gov.au

Cr Ledger: nledger@uralla.nsw.gov.au

Cr O'Connor: tpoconnor@uralla.nsw.gov.au

Cr Sampson: lsampson@uralla.nsw.gov.au

Cr Toomey: ttoomey@uralla.nsw.gov.au

Louis van Ekert, Uralla Wordsworth

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No Bowls Today

No bowls today,
The weather isn't great.
For days the rains have come in spates,
Strong winds have been at play.

The clouds peer out and frown,
The cold chill is hard to take,
Our bones seem liable to break,
Our spirits wither and turn brown.

Our game we cannot play.
The greens are wet and slow.
The wind again begins to blow.
There'll be no bowls today!

We sit inside and mourn
The loss of what we love.
We pray to him above.
We are lost and so forlorn!

We sit all lined up in a row
At the window looking out
At the raindrops all about
Swirling as they go.

We sit and sip our drinks
While we ponder what to do.
We are a sorry looking crew
As our hope, it slowly sinks.

But then someone gives a smile.
As she feels an idea bloom.
She looks around the room,
"We can play carpet bowls meanwhile!"

Pauline Crouch

A Little Bit of Bowling

News

Our Women's Club has been playing competition bowls. We have completed both the Club Pairs and the Singles. Phyllis Dade is the new Club Singles Champion for 2021. Roz Rhodes and Pauline Crouch successfully took out the Club Pairs. Congratulations to these ladies. At the moment we have just completed the first round of the Mixed Pairs Competition.

Pauline Crouch, Publicity Officer Uralla Women's Bowling Club



Phyllis Dade and Judy Bray contended for Club Champion

SEPTIC TANK CLEANING



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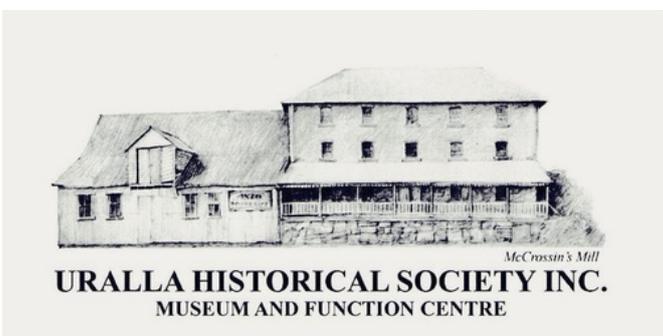
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McCrossin's Mill
URALLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
MUSEUM AND FUNCTION CENTRE

Important notice

Due to the current Armidale LGA Covid-19 lockdown decision, McCrossin's Mill museum will be closed to the public until the end of the lockdown period, which at this stage is Sunday 15 August. For the same reason, the Uralla Historical Society AGM has been moved from Sunday 15 August 3pm to Sunday 29 August 3pm.

Louis van Ekert, president UHS



Unfortunately we have made the decision to postpone the Business Awards until further notice due to the lockdown of Armidale, and people who have been to Armidale in the past week or so, for this coming week.

We will give you a fortnight's notice of when the awards will be held.

Nominations have closed, and Judging has been partially done, so we will park the outcome and hold the presentation until when we are in the clear.

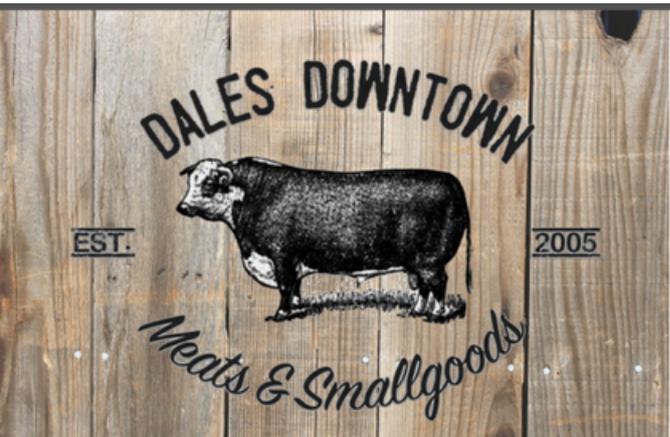
Covid permitting, the Annual General Meeting of Uralla Shire Business Chamber will be held at the Uralla Bowling Club at 5.30pm on 2nd September 2021. All positions will be declared vacant and we will be calling for nominations for: President; Vice President; Treasurer; Secretary; Four committee members; and Public officer.

Bob Crouch, Secretary, Uralla Shire Business Chamber



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Early Start to the Bushfire Season



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



MEDIA RELEASE

Six areas begin Bush Fire Danger Period early in NSW

27 July 2021

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) today announced six Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the New England and Northern Tablelands areas will commence the Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) early, due to prevailing local conditions.

NSW RFS Superintendent Chris Wallbridge said the six LGAs that will enter the BFDP on 1 August 2021 are Armidale Regional, Walcha, Uralla, Glen Innes Severn, Inverell and Tenterfield.

"During the Bush Fire Danger Period, landowners and managers are required to obtain a Fire Permit from their local Fire Control Centre before lighting any fires, including hazard reduction burns," Supt Wallbridge said.

"I strongly urge people to exercise extreme caution when carrying out these activities as we have all seen the devastation that bush fires can inflict on a community.

"Never leave a fire unattended and if a fire does escape, it is essential to call Triple Zero (000) immediately so that emergency services can respond and minimise the damage."

Fire Permit holders are required to let fire authorities and their neighbours know at least 24 hours before lighting up. You can notify your intention to burn by visiting www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify or for Northern Tablelands residents phoning 1300 141 119.

"Bush and grass fires can strike at any time and it is vitally important for residents and land managers to be prepared.

"This means doing simple things like cleaning your gutters, removing combustibles from your yard, ensuring hoses can reach all corners of your property and updating and discussing your bush fire survival plan, so you and your family know what you will do in the event of a bush fire.

"Helpful information about preparing and what to do in the event of a fire are contained in the Bush Fire Survival Plan and Farm Fire Plan guides available on the NSW RFS website.

Information about hazard reduction burning, required notifications and obtaining fire permits is available on the NSW RFS website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/BFDP.



For more information, contact the Northern Tablelands Fire Control Centre on 6739 6900 or New England Fire Control Centre on 6771 2400.
For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au