

# Uralla Wordsworth

Published by Uralla Wordsworth Incorporated

Uralla's **FREE** Fortnightly Newspaper

Established 2018 Issue **138**, 1 April 2024 Estimated circulation: 1,000

Edited by Luise Scherer, Louis van Ekert and Malcolm Airs

urallawordsworth@gmail.com

www.urallawordsworth.com.au

  urallawordsworth

## Seasons' Huge Success

What a day! The Seasons of New England event at Hampden Park on Saturday 23 March was a huge success in terms of stallholders, visitor numbers, fine weather, great musical entertainment, cheerful atmosphere and all other aspects.

Final counts of attendance are not in yet, but more than 7,000 paying visitors went through the gates, not including children, for whom admission was free. During the day, Wordsworth heard unconfirmed estimates of between 8,000 and 10,000 people, which might explain the large number of cars parked in the area around Hampden Park and in Woodville. The traffic at the Maitland and King Streets intersection would have done Sydney proud!

The number of stalls with handmade and locally grown products from the New England region was larger than ever, and every stallholder the Wordsworth spoke to reported extremely good results. And the businesses in Uralla itself were, well, even more busy than usual.

**Louis van Ekert, Uralla Wordsworth**



Not to mention the food!  
(photos Courtesy Seasons of New England and Uralla Wordsworth)



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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.**

Great news with the completion of the \$1.6 million upgrade to the Uralla Fire and Rescue Station. This project has included a major upgrade to facilities, especially for our valued female officers, as well as two new pumper storage areas. Preliminary advice is that the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon. Jihad Dib, MP, will be in Uralla on Tuesday April 2 to open this upgraded facility. The Uralla members do an outstanding job, not only fighting fires but also as triple zero first responders to medical emergencies. I should also acknowledge the positive interaction with the Kentucky and Diggings Fire Service brigades.

The latest advice from NBN is that upgrade work has commenced on the Fixed Wireless Tower in Bundarra. Additional information is available on their website which is <https://nbn.tn/FWupgrades>. No word yet on the proposed work in Uralla.

A big thank you to Kel Hughes, President, Kentucky Progress Association, for the invitation to attend their Sunday BBQ. Their get together is a chance for residents to meet their neighbours and also for them to discuss the vision for Kentucky Store. The Kentucky NSW Co-op has set up a working group and has an email address ([kentuckynswcoop@gmail.com](mailto:kentuckynswcoop@gmail.com)) should anyone wish to provide feedback, ask questions, or leave comments. Their 2024 Kentucky calendar includes magnificent photos by Michael Taylor, Kait Manchip, Elizabeth Ellis and Steve Dobson. We are truly blessed in this region with such talented photographers. It must be the light!!

Work on the "Constellations of the South" is making remarkable progress. One more sculpture is due in early April. Professor Fred Watson has stated that he would be honoured to attend the official opening. We need to ensure the Minister of Planning or his representative will be available, as they were the funding partner. Current dates are around mid-June. Professor Watson has also indicated he would be available for a "Science in the Pub" event. Stay tuned for more information. I would strongly suggest you take the opportunity to visit The Glen and view the works to date.

Council has received its Renewable Energy Community Benefit Framework. Recommended charges include the payment of \$850/MW/annum for solar power, and \$1,050/MW/annum for wind energy development. These changes will bring Uralla into line with the Department of Planning and the Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors.

We will also be seeking public input into a restricted benefit fund to provide agreed community legacy projects for the whole shire.

We are fortunate to obtain the services of a Strategic Planner commencing soon, who will lead the public consultation. Be assured that these funds cannot be used for day to day operations. The amended policy will be on public display for 28 days, inviting comments and submissions. Have no doubt that all renewable energy proponents are having Council's expectations articulated. Overall the industry is supportive of certainty in funding.

Following Council's failure to have the Department of Planning fund our Shire Housing Strategy, we have agreed with EnergyCo for their funds to be made available to prepare our strategy. It seems the Department based their decision on our historic population growth, rather than acknowledge the pressure that will come with the new transmission line construction and the cumulative impact of the solar and wind farm projects. This strategy is required to provide an evidence base for us to progress a review of the Local Environment Plan. At the moment we are playing catch up.

This Sunday will see a Veterans Cricket Match between Uralla and Walcha being played as part of the launch of the renaming of Hampden Park to the "Sunny Jim Mackay Park." Sunny Jim is reported to be the best batsman never to play for Australia. McCrossin's Mill Museum has a full display dedicated to Uralla's famous cricketer. The game will commence at 10am at the renamed park.

**Robert Bell**  
**Uralla Shire Resident**  
M: 0434 244 774  
[robertbell1055@hotmail.com](mailto:robertbell1055@hotmail.com)



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# 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.*

Dear Editor,

## **Wind farm developer contribution change.**

NEOEN, in its 2023 letters to Ms K Jessep and Mr M Clarkson (ex-employees of Uralla Shire Council) and Mr P Bennett (General Manager, Tamworth Regional Council), repeatedly proposed a 50/50 split between both councils of the 1.5% Capital Investment Value (CIV) arising from the Thunderbolt Wind Farm developer contribution. Also, its preferred mode of delivering the funds is via a Community Benefit Fund (CBF) administered by a third-party.

Mr Bennett's 15 December 2023 reply to NEOEN stated that TRC and USC will agree to a split then advise NEOEN of their agreed position. Further, TRC funds will be administered "with a degree of transparency". Ms Jessop's reply proposed the monies go into USC's General Fund.

At USC's 19 December 2023, it voted 9/0 for the Mayor and General Manager to continue negotiations to finalise a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with Thunderbolt Wind Farm. The VPA will be administered by the Council not a CBF. No third-party oversight. At that meeting the Councillors deemed discussing the details of the Thunderbolt Wind Farm Planning Agreement in an open forum to be "contrary to the public interest".

On 12 January 2024, NEOEN wrote to both GMs proposing a 60/40 split giving TRC more money. Nothing in writing is available to account for NEOEN departure from its months' long proposal of a 50/50 split. Its preferred model for distributing the funds remains a CBF. In the same time frame, the emails between the General Managers refer to an unidentified agreed position between the councils.

It appears the negotiations conducted by our Mayor and General Manager have led to a 10% reduction of income to the Uralla community.

Our Council must comply with the current Draft VPA Practice Note under the relevant legislation. The expenditure of funds is required to be on a separate register available to the community. The Council must "deliver innovative infrastructure" and "public benefit outcomes" which are additional to existing plans. I look forward to transparent and accountable decisions when our reduced share of funds is distributed.

**Susan Armstead, Kentucky**

Dear Editor,

## **Support your local community (kindly)**

It is unfortunate that one local resident has used vitriolic language and wild assertion to mount a personal attack on the volunteer compiler of information on behalf of the Uralla Business Chamber. This is completely unjustified, and verges on intimidation. So let's just calm down, and look at some real and quantifiable facts.

Uralla Business Chamber was responding to local concern about crime in our CBD. This is absolutely "in its remit". Citizens generally are encouraged to interact with police authorities if they have concerns about individual crimes, or patterns of crime. Remember Neighbourhood Watch? Putting together both information and anecdotes to present to police is encouraged. There is an excellent on-line resource centre maintained by the police to encourage informed engagement – it is called BOCSAR and is well worth a look, including for overall rural crime trends and also records of age groupings represented in those trends.

Yes, it is true that Uralla Shire is currently statistically "stable" in terms of reported crime. However, statistics do not reflect the present on-ground personal experience of many CBD business owners who have had actual break ins, actual thefts, actual damage such as windows smashed. Any compilation of these by USBC is intended for a) encouragement of business owners to be mindful about locking up and possibly installing cameras or other devices and b) for submission to police authorities in order to get them to understand our on-ground needs. It is certainly not for any sort of vigilantism.

But here's the rub: where are our on-ground police supports? When you need them, you need them – now! As I did, when I was broken into behind my CBD shop last year. My urgent phone call was eventually answered by police in Sydney who had no idea where Uralla is. Then I walked up to the local police station, and discovered it was empty. About 6 hours later, a constable from Armidale turned up to receive the same information I'd logged with Sydney that morning.

None of this is the fault of the hardworking police themselves, there just are not enough of them to support local communities at present. A few years ago police lived at the Uralla police station and could be quickly on-hand when called. Patrol cars were seen regularly in Bridge Street at night, keeping an eye on things. But there have been funding cuts and other political changes. Depending on on-line services doesn't cut the mustard when the need is for real human boots on the ground.

I'm fairly confident that most of us who live and/or work in Uralla will not have experienced any "moral panic" as a result of having a few of our local issues and current concerns brought to their attention. They will realise that the poor maligned USBC compiler was actually working for the overall good of our wonderful little town, and there is no need for gratuitous personal ridicule and attack on her compilation of local business owner stories and opinions. *Cont. on next page*

# Letters to the Editors

It was never intended as a thesis on rural crime.

So if we are indeed to have constructive discussion about what does seem to be a fluctuating crime problem, please let it be not only calm and fact based, but also kind!

Jill Moore-Kashima, Uralla

## Uralla's Dustin Hone Shoots For the Stars



Dustin Hone with one of the trophies he won at the Australian Trap Shooting Championships in Wagga Wagga.

Local seventeen-year-old Dustin Hone won selection to represent Australia at the World Championships in England in July as a result of his remarkable effort at the recent Australian High Gun Trap Shooting Championships in Wagga Wagga. Of the 450 shooters competing, Dustin qualified third for the five-man Australian National team, also known as the McIntosh Team or World Down the Line Team. And most impressive, he is the first junior shooter to ever make it into the Open Australian World Cup team.

The first three events of the Australian Championships were the *double barrel*, *single barrel* and *point score*. Of a possible maximum score of 450, Dustin shot 444 which put him in the top 25 of the field.

Those 25 shooters then competed in the *McIntosh Team Shoot Off* to determine which five would be selected for national duties. In this event, points are awarded based on

the number of shots required to hit the target – three points for the first barrel, two points for the second or no points at all for a miss. Dustin came first with 300 out of a possible 300 – all his 100 targets were hit with the first shot. This score, added to his previous score of 444, gave him a final tally of 744 which resulted in him coming third overall and going straight into the National Open Team.

Dustin said he was “over the moon” with his performance and selection, saying it was the best he’s ever shot.

Making this achievement so remarkable was the fact he was a junior shooter competing against the most experienced and capable trap shooters in the country, including ex-Olympians, World Championship representatives and previous world champions.

Trap shooting is very much a mental game and to perform so well demonstrates Dustin’s extraordinary focus, self-control maturity and perspicacity.

Initially motivated by his father’s (Adam’s) involvement in the sport, Dustin started shooting when he was twelve – the earliest permissible age. He shot at various local gun clubs at Guyra, Walcha, Tamworth, Glen Innes and others. He has competed around NSW and interstate with most notable successes in Tamworth and Cunnamulla – where he won \$1000 at each – and at the Tasmanian State Junior Championships where he won the overall points score.

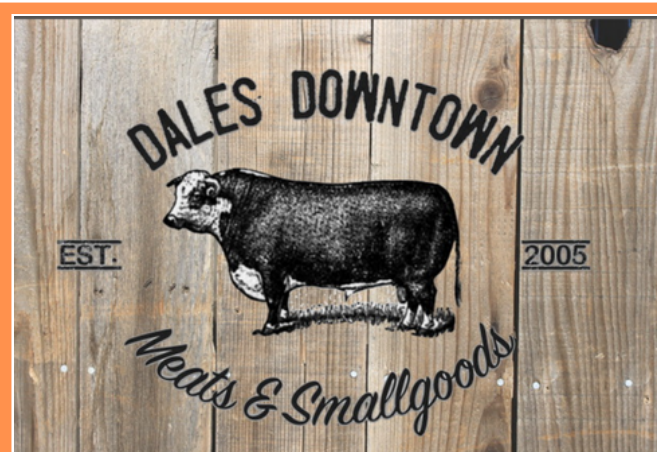
To say he’s excited about travelling to London seems to be an understatement. Travelling with his father, it will be his first time out of the country. He says his strategy for handling the huge occasion of the World Championships is to try his absolute best, and if things don’t go as planned, “go back to the basics to refocus”. **Editor**

## Opening of New \$1.6 Million Uralla Fire & Rescue Station

Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall will be joined by Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib, Uralla Shire Mayor Robert Bell and local retained firefighters next Tuesday to officially open the \$1.6 million refurbishment and extension of the Uralla Fire & Rescue Station.

**When:** Tuesday (2 April 2024) at 10.30am

**Where:** Uralla Fire & Rescue Station, 28 Salisbury Street



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# Family Nature Night

## Frogs & Turtles



### GUYRA



Scavenger Hunt from 4pm



Emily Hotham from the Australian Museum



Marty Dillon from the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services



Games, trivia, prizes and more



Catering provided

### TIME & LOCATION

- 16th April 2024
- 4-8pm
- Mother of Ducks Lagoon/Guyra Bowls Club
- RSVP Essential  
Email:  
[elizabeth.rosser@snelandcare.org.au](mailto:elizabeth.rosser@snelandcare.org.au)



### URALLA



Frog Hunt



Matt Elsley from Southern New England Landcare



Razzaq Sarker from the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services



Games, trivia, prizes and more



Catering provided

### TIME & LOCATION

- 18th April 2024
- 4-6pm
- Racecourse Lagoon, Racecourse Road, Uralla
- RSVP Essential  
Email:  
[struan.ferguson@snelandcare.org.au](mailto:struan.ferguson@snelandcare.org.au)



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# Science and Discovery at Uralla Central School

Students in Years 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 attended the Science and Engineering Challenge Discovery Days presented by the University of Newcastle at UNE's Lazenby Hall. The event encourages students to consider a career in science or engineering and to study the enabling sciences in senior high school. Students from Uralla Central School and Rocky River Public School joined together on the Primary day in a team to compete against nine other teams of students from the Armidale area.

A range of STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) activities were on offer including: Electropolis where the power was in the student's hands. The task was to provide the lowest-cost electricity to the city's infrastructure. Students needed to work out the most efficient pathways while weighing up the cost of cables and their resistance, and the cost of leaving some buildings without power!

Gust Busters where students constructed fan blades using basic materials to catch wind provided by an electric fan. They made their fan blades from cardboard, wooden skewers, masking tape and other materials.

During Launch It! students were asked to build a model glider to be launched using the Y.E.E.T. (YOLO Electronic Ejection Technique). The glider was scored based on distance travelled, precision of landing, and accuracy hitting a target.

Below are some recounts of the experience from students in Year 10.

Rian, David and Johnathan: *We did the bridge building and it was a great educational experience, we were grateful to attend.*

Eloise: *Our group built and tested planes, we found this experience very entertaining. Our school took part in many other activities such as building an efficient windmill to harvest wind energy.*

**Katie Hunt, USC Middle School Teacher**



USC students in action at UNE Lazenby Hall

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## Uralla Central School Key Dates Term 1

- School Photos 4th April
- School Assembly 9th April 12:25pm
- Vaccination for Years 7 and 10, 11th April

# Top Award for Local Favourite



Jody and Jannala proudly showing off their prizes

Creamed honey on toast with a cup of tea ... does that sound good, these crisp New England mornings? Even better if your creamed honey is not only local, but has just been judged best of all at the 2024 Sydney Royal Easter show!

We country folk know that simply being accepted into Sydney Royal is a big deal, let alone getting through to the final cut. But a ribbon! And a lovely blue First In Category – plus Overall Show Champion in the Creamed Honey section – that is a Very Big Deal indeed!

The McNally family hails from Balala, just outside Uralla township, and have been blown away by such success. The judges score for their Melibee Creamed honey put them well ahead of all other contenders in a very exacting field. Those who visited their stand at the recent Seasons of New England event may have seen the little blue rosette – which actually didn't surprise customers at all, most of whom are return fans of their remarkable product, and know how special it is.

Melibee has only been up-and-running as a family business for a short time. Geoff handles the bees and Jody is the perfectionist who creams the resultant raw honey, infusing it with a range of tantalising flavours such as Lemon Myrtle and Cinnamon Twist. Daughter Jannala is also involved, responsible both for branding and a truly delicious and professional website, [www.melibee.com.au](http://www.melibee.com.au).

Commitment to environmental values, serious research and plenty of experimentation is part of the hard work behind this blue ribbon. State-of-the art equipment in a purpose built on-farm work kitchen (constructed by Geoff) is measure of the family's dedication to the quality of each batch of honey Jody creams and infuses with an ever-increasing range of possible flavours – many of which it's possible to sample at the Uralla USBC monthly market in the showground. But if you can't wait, drop in for a jar to the Season's shop in Bridge Street! Aren't we lucky that all this is happening on our patch!

**Jill Moore-Kashima, Uralla**

# C.W.A PIANO Reloved

The Memorial Institute Building (1927), the home of the Uralla C.W.A, needed renovation recently and the room occupied by them had to be cleaned out – including its piano. It was manufactured by Ronisch, a German company, and is thought to be over 100 years old. It is a fine example of the engineering and cabinet making of that era.

The piano had to be moved and the C.W.A needed to make a decision about whether to keep it or not. So in the meantime, it was moved up to the Heritage and Hardware (H&H) building. Young Harry Clarke and I donned our notional Superman capes and moved the piano to its temporary home. If you have the skills, physical capacity and equipment to move heavy objects, it is not as difficult as you would imagine. The cost of the move was \$30 compared to a removal company that would have charged \$400. Sharing the resources and skills of the H&H volunteers made the low cost possible.

Nobody seemed to want it in the end, so instead of ending up as "tip fodder" the volunteers and I decided to remodel it and make it into a "different" piece of furniture that was a little more appealing to the modern era. Parts of the piano were dismantled to accommodate a desktop and shelf, a coat of clear lacquer was applied to these, a set of sturdy casters were fitted for ease of moving and – completing the task – a coat of Black Japan over the rest of the body was applied to cover the scratches that it received over its long life.

The first couple that saw the piano wanted it, so it was delivered to their home at *Rocklea* where it has been turned into a feature to display items of family interest. The addition of strip lighting by the new owners enhances its appearance and it creates a lot of discussion with visitors.

This is an example of remodeling, repurposing and rejuvenating a fine musical instrument into an attractive and functional piece of furniture that has a new and extended life. From the looks of the photos, there is a certain amount of rejoicing apparent as well!

**Peter Barkley, Invergowrie**



A new life for the old piano celebrated by new owners Dirk and Mel

# Results of the Rotary Club of Uralla 45th Annual Art Exhibition & Sale 2024

The Art Show was held Sat 16 to Sat 23 March in the RSL Memorial Hall / Uralla Neighbourhood Centre.

There were more than 270 artworks exhibited in the open section and 31 pieces were sold with prices ranging from \$2,300 to \$55.

The People's Choice Award \$500 went to Phillip Thornton's 'Iluka Fleet' and the winner of the yoter pool draw, Lois Hoare from the Rotary Club of Walcha, donated the \$50 prize back to our Club, thanks Lois.

In the Schools Section, over 250 pieces were submitted and the following prizes awarded:

**Years K-2:** 1st Michael Vedet, Uralla Central School (UCS), 2nd Elsa Townsend, St Joseph's, 3rd Ivy Wood, Rocky River (RR).

**Years 3-6:** 1st Phoebe Farthing RR, 2nd Mackenzie Willis RR, 3rd Cooper Farthing UCS.

**Years 7-9:** 1st Sage Knott O'Connor College, 2nd Annie Hunt UCS, 3rd Emily Hunt UCS.

**Years 10-12:** 1st Tayla Clarke UCS, 2nd Alan Cochrane UCS.

**Photography:** 1st Archie Sharp RR, 2nd Shaun Gorrey, Kentucky Primary School (KPS), 3rd Edith Doodson KPS.

**Digital Media:** 1st Lola Schiffman RR.

The Helen Phillips Memorial Trophy was awarded to Tayla Clarke for her dramatic and captivating painting, congratulations Tayla!

Thank you to our guest artist Peter Champion from Inverell, who judged the schools' section and provided interesting talks for the students who participated in the schools visits.

## Winners of the raffles:

The painting donated by Peter Champion, won by Galma and the Kookaburra lino print donated by Sophie Sorella, won by Teresa. The hamper donated by Seasons of New England won by J Kennedy, Burnets Bookstore voucher \$85 won by A Carson and the Michael's Café vouchers 2 x \$20 won by S Fisher.

The Hospitality Students at Uralla Central School catered for the opening night function, providing delicious finger food both savoury and sweet. They were also the wait staff on the night, as well as supporting Michael's Café with the Dinner in the Art event. Thanks so much to Jodie and the students for the wonderful food and your professionalism! Thanks to local musician Pete Stanley for the lovely background music at these events as well.

The Uralla Neighbourhood Centre provided Devonshire

teas on the first weekend of the Art Show and it was a terrific accompaniment to the event. Thanks to the UNC Team for your wonderful baking, sandwiches, tea and coffee. Huge thank-you to major sponsors; John & Helen Kennedy, Uralla Shire Council, Phoenix Foundry, minor sponsors; Uralla Bowlo, Meralli Solar, ACEN Australia, Seasons of New England, Imacka Properties and Dales Meats. The Youth Art competition is sponsored by Uralla Red Cross and Uralla CWA with students winning small cash prizes to encourage and enable them to keep doing art.

Last but not least - our thanks to the Uralla Tigers Rugby League who helped with setting up and taking down the display boards, as an ageing Rotary Club we really appreciate your youth, strength and speed! Just wonderful and thank you!

Thank you to the artists, volunteers, the Uralla community and beyond, who support the Uralla Art Show. We wouldn't have a show without your support.

**Leanne Doran, Publicity Officer, Rotary Club of Uralla**



Guest artist Peter Champion



Tayla Clarke with the Helen Phillips' Memorial Trophy, with Peter Phillips and with Tayla's artwork 'Your Eyes' above them.



# Cutting Horse Event in Uralla



Brooke Cvetkovic on Tonka

Brooke and Bobby Cvetkovic and Sharon Baker.

Horse cutting is competitive and a team effort. The riders enjoy it, safety for the riders and cattle is paramount. Watching the sport is thrilling as we watch those sitting on their horses communicate through touch and sound while moving the cattle across the yards.

Uralla held the Australian Cutting Horse Company event at our showground on Saturday 16 March and they will return at the end of October this year. The Company began under the leadership of Mark Watt from Ebor about ten years ago.

Brooke Cvetkovic from Maitland competed and won two events, firstly the 2500 non-professional rider, on Rays Reflect (Tonka), a quarter horse, the first round of the non-professional round and Brooke said her "success was due to cutting out without stirring the herd up. The cattle were settled at one point on the fence. I managed to bring one cow away from the herd. I then worked the cow across the pen and showed the skills of my horse who is now ten years old."

Brooke praised her horse as athletic and "originally very difficult to get to sit down on and stop but now he will relax, stopping quickly without me becoming unseated. It was my best show, he is listening to me. I was more relaxed, and we are gelling as a team".

Sharon Baker from Armidale won second place in the novice one handed round. "The cattle were fresh, fast and difficult to work" Ms Baker explained "You ride one handed, I was cutting angus cross wagyu cattle, they were weaners, you hold onto the saddle with the other hand!"

Sharon rode Sophisticated Q T, a beautiful quarter horse, a five year who had never competed before. Brooke said her inexperienced mount did "awesome", but she felt she learnt a few things such as how to demand a quicker stop from him by sitting down firmly.

A cutting horse is a light saddle horse trained to cut (isolate) livestock, especially cattle, from herds. Most are quarter horses, with the intelligence, speed, and ability to make quick starts, stops, and turns. There is an imposed time limit to complete the task and prize money can be awarded. A non-professional rider is not paid to train horses for people.

**Jann Karp, Uralla**

# The Old Fuel Stove

When I was ten my grandparents moved to Sydney. Whereupon we moved into their aged old house. It seemed to rock on its haunches when it was windy And each room had a tiny opening for a mouse.

The kitchen sweltered under the iron roof, Especially on long hot summer days. But Mum loved to cater to our sweet tooth, Often flushed and covered in a floury haze.

Dad kept busy replacing the old stumps And patching up all the mouse holes. But as crawling under the floor gave him the grumps, He'd soon be off to the Club with his bag of old bowls.

In the kitchen at one end of the back verandah, The old wood fuel stove kept doing its job. Based on my mother's exacting agenda, The pots would be simmering and dancing on the hob.

The recalcitrant firebox spat out lots of fiery sparks, Before settling down to gently warm up the oven. Eventually delivering delicious Valentine Day hearts, And butterfly cakes by the dozen.

The stove would gleam in its black-lead polish, But I'd end up covered with sooty black smuts. After applying the polish with appropriate relish, My hands would be black; my ringlets all waxy tufts.

Many stories have been told about that old fuel stove. Once, home alone, my cousins wanted to light the fire. Looking for paper, through the house they did rove. Finding a pound note, they merrily lit it up on the bier.

At Christmas the old fuel stove never slept. In the oven, Gingerbread Men and Christmas Cake. On the top swaddled puddings bobbed and necked. And we carefully washed bottles so none would break.

Christmas dinner back then was a hot roast meal, Taken at midday with lots of Christmas cheer. Forty-degree heat outside was often the deal, With the adults all twitchy for some icy Toohey's beer.

Our bottled beer had a refreshingly gingery taste, With Mum feeding that ginger plant for many a week. Not one of the empty beer bottles ever went to waste. Searching in the grass was a game of hide and seek!

**Pauline Crouch, Rocky River**

## ALERT! Sticky Nightshade



Sticky nightshade was found in the Uralla LGA, the area of Torryburn at the start of January 2024. The five plants which were all found on the same area have been destroyed. Follow up inspections will be occurring. If you think you have seen this plant please contact NEWA ASAP.

Phone: 02 5775 9700 Email: [newa@newa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:newa@newa.nsw.gov.au)

# Sunny Jim Mackay Park

– Est. 2024 –

(Formerly Hampden Park)



Sunny Jim

from an original photograph, courtesy of Rosemary Lehmann



**Melibee**  
Geoff & Jody McNally

- 0457 249 811
- [melibee.honey@outlook.com](mailto:melibee.honey@outlook.com)
- Balala, Uralla NSW
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Uralla's James Rainey Munro Mackay, (1881-1953), became known throughout the whole cricketing world as "Sunny Jim" because of his always cheerful nature.

As a teenager in the 1897/8 season, he began scoring centuries, then compiled many more each summer until his final season for Uralla at the end of 1902, when he batted five times for: 102 n.o., 128 n.o., 108 n.o., 200 n.o., and 65 n.o. That's an aggregate of 603 without losing his wicket!

Lured to Sydney's Burwood Cricket Club, (now Western Suburbs C.C.), he quickly adapted to the turf wickets and began notching up centuries, both for Burwood and the NSW team.

In 1905/6 his batting averages were sensational, 108 for Burwood, and 112.8 for NSW. Unfortunately, due to a brief lapse in form, he was not chosen for the Australian team to tour England.

Sunny Jim was offered a managerial position in a diamond mine in South Africa, so he emigrated there in 1906. Soon he was scoring centuries again, and in some newspapers was labelled "the best batsman in the world".

Tragically, victim of a road accident, Mackay was near death in hospital in Johannesburg for two weeks. He recovered, but his eyesight was permanently impaired. Mackay's sensational career was over. But, despite his personal tragedy, he always retained his cheerful nature.

"Sunny Jim, undoubtedly the best player Australia produced who never reached a Test Match" (Clem Hill).

"He achieved a dominance which has not been equalled by any other Australian batsman apart from Bradman". (Philip Derriman).

**Provided by Uralla Historical Society, 2024**

## EMALENE GEMMELL FAMILY LAW

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60a Bridge Street **URALLA**

**02 5733 5885**  
[office@egfamilylaw.com.au](mailto:office@egfamilylaw.com.au)

### Sunny Jim Mackay

#### \$3000 CHARITY CRICKET MATCH (Veterans)

All proceeds to FRIENDS OF MCMAUGH GARDENS

#### ARMIDALE ALIENS v URALLA/WALCHA WARRIORS

**SUNDAY APRIL 7, 2024 10am – 4.30pm Hampden Park**

Rocky River P&C Barbecue, Friends of McMaugh's Sandwiches and Cakes, Tea, Coffee. RAFFLE!

Free Entry. (Donations welcome)

Sponsored by McCrossin's Mill Museum

Kindly auspiced by Uralla Rotary Club

# RECORD THE PAST PREDICT THE FUTURE



Join Southern New England  
Landcare for a half day  
workshop



9 April 2024  
9.30AM to 1PM



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Lu Hogan will help you set up your free  
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## WHERE

UNE SMART Region Incubator  
122 Faulkner Street, Armidale

## REGISTER

Please visit  
<https://snelandcare.org.au/group-events.html>  
RSVPs are essential



## MORE INFORMATION

Sustainable Agriculture - Project Officer  
Elizabeth Rosser  
02 6772 9123  
[elizabeth.rosser@snelandcare.org.au](mailto:elizabeth.rosser@snelandcare.org.au)

Please bring your laptop &  
livestock numbers on the day



The Drought Resilient Pasture Landscapes project and the Armidale Node of the SQNNSW Innovation Hub receive funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

# Running Wild – Episode 9

## Leave This Place (Fiction)

1. Recap: Freds bark hut went up like a roman candle, with the dead Trooper Haggart inside. Nellie fetched Freds black velvet purse and her Murnong plants. Meanwhile Sarah Ward had come into the Uralla watchhouse looking for her husband Harry.

As the hut burned, Bill returned riding Haggart's horse. On the track the gals watched the inferno, with the old plough horse fully packed. Bill said, 'I'll not take this horse to the farm, too risky. You gals tell The Lady that the hut burnt down, a candle fire, and I went to see a man about a horse. I'll be back in a few days. Tell her nothin about Haggart, the less the better.' Both gals nodded. He added, 'And I told you to set up in the hayshed, earn your keep until I return. Remember nothin about Haggart!' They watched as he rode off through the tall timber.

Bill rode the track north, cutting towards the eastern fall gorge country making sure he kept well out of sight. His mount would be easily recognised, its type and brand, a dead give-away for a Trap's horse. It would only take one and the jig would be up.

At the close of the next day, Bill was standing at the edge of a deep gorge. He heaved Haggart's saddle, belts, buckles and boots over the cliff into the deep rocky ravine below. The uniform buttons he sprinkled down a large crack that ran deep into the rocky outcrop. He then found a mob of wild horses roaming the steep country, and with a slap on the rump the horse went willingly. Bill murmured, 'Now that devil's gone, no matter how hard they look.' By shanks's pony, Bill then headed over to the township of Eleanora.

The old plough horse trod heavy, burdened by its fully packed load. On the way down the mountain, fear from recent events was still in the gals' heads, so talk was little. On the valley floor the Thompson farmhouse was insight. The Lady was cutting roses in the front yard and met them at the front gate. Nellie told her of the hut 'candle fire' and that they had only saved a few things before their home went up in flames. While the story was told, Nellie heeded Bill's warning, 'nothing about Haggart and the less the better' rang in her ears. The Lady was irritated when she heard that Bill was off to see a man about a horse and back in a few days. But accepted the news regardless with a huff and a shrug, saying abruptly, 'Now let me get back to my roses, you two settle your things in the hayshed and return for your chores with haste'.

After a week, Bill returned to the farm riding a small donkey bought cheap from a miner at Eleanora. The miner said, 'It's useless, can't do a thing with it'. The little donkey's head was way down, muzzle almost on the ground and overlong ears dragging the ground. Moving at a short quick trot, it was a somewhat comical sight. But Bill was good with

animals and found that the little donkey could be managed, especially with kind words, sugar treats and a scratch at the base of its overlong ears.

Daryl Albertson - Kellys Plains

**Shalimar White Suffolk Stud Uralla**

Registered White Suffolk

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## Photo of the Week



Hats off to Tara Toomey for once again organising a fantastic Seasons of New England

Deadline for the next edition of the Wordsworth is

**5pm Thursday 11 April 2024**

Please email all contributions including advertising, letters to the editor and articles to  
[urallawordsworth@gmail.com](mailto:urallawordsworth@gmail.com)

# Damsels at the Dam



Damsels at the Dam (Lake Keepit March 2024)

Early in this mad month of March where, along with Saint Patrick checking up on cranky snakes getting ready to hibernate, cheeky leprechauns out looking for the legendary pot of gold under every bush and briar, Mad Hatters and March hares tearing up and down our streets and alleys, the damsels of the Uralla Seniors and Pensioners brought a higher tone to proceedings when we graced the shores of Lake Keepit with our presence.

Arriving in our coaches, ably driven by our crusader knights Sir Colin and Dame Robyn (we believe in equal opportunity), we enjoyed a delightful repast of dainty sandwiches and chocolate cake, washed down with thirst-quenching cups of hot tea or coffee, put together for us by the helpful staff of the Lake Keepit Office. We damsels made quite a sight, all attired in our best ensembles for the day, especially Dame Lily in her regal purple.

Continuing on from the lake, we headed north-east towards Manilla, driving through a countryside just beginning to be painted with all the beautiful reds and golds of autumn. Looking closely, I saw many different varieties of birds peeking out at me from their cosy nests, nooks and crannies among the leaves.

Lunchtime found us at Molly May's in Manilla where there was an abundance of dishes on the menu to whet all our different taste buds. And a necessary trip out to Molly May's backyard following lunch showed us all another wonderful alfresco dining option. Maybe to be sampled on another occasion.

Leaving Manilla, we travelled through the little village of Attunga to our last stop before home: West Tamworth, for a much-needed shopping experience!

**Pauline Crouch, Secretary,  
Uralla Seniors & Pensioners Association**

# High Country Markets

Uralla Showgrounds  
1st Sunday of the month  
8am to 12.30pm



## Uralla Community Street Store

**1 - 7 Apr** - Uralla Branch CWA

**8 - 14 Apr** - ZNET Uralla

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>

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### at Uralla Shire Council

UIN/22/11373

Information about vacant positions and access to Council's interactive application is available on Council's website: [Working at Uralla Shire Council](https://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Working-at-Uralla-Shire-Council) [Uralla Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/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



## Events For Your Diary

**Daylight Saving** - ends Sun 7 April

**Sunny Jim Mackay Veterans' Charity Cricket Match** -

Armidale v Uralla/Walcha, Sun 7 April, 10am-4:30pm,

Hampden Park, Uralla, Proceeds to Friends of McMaugh's

**Kentucky Hall Dance**, Sat 13 April, 7:30pm. Tickets at the door \$15, supper incl. Music by Country Dance Revival.

**ArtsNational Armidale Lecture**, Thurs 18 April –

Elizabeth Taylor's Greatest Love Affair – with Jewels!

TAS Hoskins Centre, 6pm Guest ticket \$25, students in school uniform free.

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/CNNYC> or

[www.artsnational.au/societies/armidale](https://www.artsnational.au/societies/armidale)

**Next Uralla Council Meeting** - Tues 23 April 2024

**Bundarra Mothers' Day Markets** - Sat 27 April 8am-1pm, Anglican Church Grounds

# Uralla Arts Lantern Parade

The Lantern Parade grew from a workshop by Uralla Arts Inc. on Australia Day 2007. It soon aligned with Earth Hour in 2009 and has been a part of Seasons of New England for a number of years. The parade has changed its course a few times since its inception, and this year saw it return to a familiar route, from Uralla Showground down King Street and Maitland Street on to Hampden Park before finishing after a final lap of the park. Virtually all lanterns have been made by volunteers, with involvement of the local schools. They recently found a new permanent home in the Poultry Shed at the Showground, after having spent some years at the back of the Brewery. Uralla Arts is very grateful to both the Brewery and the Showground for the hospitality extended to their lanterns. The photos on this page were taken during the most recent Seasons Lantern Parade on Saturday evening 23 March. **Louis van Ekert, Uralla Wordsworth**



Three unsuspecting Showground campers were 'volunteered' to carry some of the lanterns. Thank you Linda, Lynn and John!



The parade crosses the railway bridge en route to Hampden Park  
All photos courtesy Uralla Wordsworth



The magical Phoenix



The Possum and the Rooster resting under the full moon in Hampden Park



Wendy getting the Rooster ready

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

# The Wisdom of Uncle Dorothy and Aunty Bob

*Sound advice when you need it from people you can trust*

Dear Aunty Bob, I believe that you have been trying to contact me for some time. I am a devoted fan of 2ARM. I am tuned to this wonderful community radio 24/7. My favourite session is on Tuesday when the fabulous Margaret O'Connor broadcasts community information from 9-12am. This is where I first became aware of you and your brilliant advice. Please keep up your good community work and make sure you tune into 2ARM.

Yours faithfully,

**Solitary Sam**

Dear Solitary Sam, Thank you so much for contacting me. I have been keen to talk to 2ARM's listener for some time. What is it like to be a part of such an exclusive audience? What apart from Margaret's sessions, sets your blood pumping? Is it "Dads on Air" or perhaps "The Atomic Hour"? Who could resist "Law Matters" or "Life with Mike". And what music is your favorite? Could it be "Pop Heads" or "A Jazz Hour"? What about "Music from the Vault?". I am so glad that you have reached out to me. I look forward to giving you help with your addiction in the coming months.

Stay tuned,

**Aunty Bob**, 1 April, 2024

Dear Aunty Bob, I wish to register a complaint about the recent "Seasons of New England" foody event. It's totally unreasonable of the organisers to attract seemingly dozens of food outlets when there's only three meal times in the day, five if you count morning and afternoon tea. The maths just doesn't work. Do you have any advice to help me?

Regards,

**Gutso Bogges**

Dear Gutso, What you need, my friend, is a little bit of self control. I suggest you take your time and stroll around the various stalls, most of which do not sell food or drink. Take in the various talented people that make up Seasons of New England and listen to the great music. If you do eat too much you can work some of that excess tucker off by carrying a lantern in the fabulous Uralla Arts Lantern Parade. But most of all, have a great day.

Yours in advice,

**Aunty Bob.**

Dear Uncle Dorothy, I know Adam once said to Eve "What's wrong with kids these days?", but seriously, what is wrong with them – especially teenagers? They seem afraid to go outside; it's dangerous out there apparently. They socialise by hiding away with a phone. They never seem to do anything adventurous – also too scary. And they are obsessed with being the same as all their friends. They don't seem happy. What is to happen to them when they turn 18 and head out into the big scary world? Please assure me I've got this all wrong. Your admirer,

**Di Estrates**

Dear Di... I have to ask.. are you a 'Baby Boomer'?... do you look like one? Have you looked around at other Boomers? I do wonder if they have looked at us and thought better of it. They may believe that by hiding they can avoid ageing and ever 'booming'! If they communicate by phone only and there aren't any visuals, they feel safe. We need to give them some grace I think. They are using self-protective behaviours. I ask you to consider why grey nomads have tinted windows? Maybe it's so they don't terrify young people on the roads!

**Uncle Dorothy**

**Dear Aunty Bob**, Anyone who knows you would agree with me when I say you are the most wonderful person in the world – a person who has never done a bad thing. But on reflection, I know that this can't be entirely true. Surely there have been times when you have been naughty. Just so I don't feel entirely inadequate, would you please tell me of an occasion when you weren't your usual perfect self. It would give me hope.

Yours,

**Dee Fectiff**

**Dear Dee**, I think we all get wiser as we mature, so I have to go back to my misspent youth to talk about my imperfections. When I was 17 I thought it was a good idea to learn to drink, so I went to the pub with some friends and proceeded to consume many, many beers. Then I decided it was a good idea to drive home. I was lucky there was no RBT in those days, so I made it home. I decided to have a shower to freshen up. The room started to spin and I deposited the previously drunk beer in the toilet and lay down in the shower with shower the on. My father came to see what was happening and asked, "What have you been drinking?"

"Reschs", was my one word reply. The next morning I had a hangover that would have killed a horse. A good lesson but a hard one. At 18 I thought my father knew nothing. At 21 I was surprised how much he had learnt in those 3 years.

Yours in advice

**Aunty Bob**

## Uralla events shine with New England Solar support



*More than 7,000 visitors passed through the gates at the Seasons of New England Event. The visitors were kept well hydrated with the help of around 450 litres of water supplied at the New England Solar water stand.*

Uralla's best foodies and artisans, local golfing talent and home grown artists have all been put up in lights at local events supported by the New England Solar Social Investment program.

The local events have all received funding through Stream 2 of the program, which is designed to foster long term regional investment and thriving and resilient communities.

Last weekend's successful Seasons of New England event was one program to receive support, along with the recent showing at the 45th Annual Uralla Art Exhibition & Sale.

The support continues this month with the Uralla Week of Golf, run in conjunction with the NSW Veteran Golfers Association.

To find out more about the New England Solar Social Investment Program go to [newenglandsolar.com.au](http://newenglandsolar.com.au)

## New England Solar Stage 1 powering on

Two landmark agreements have been struck to supply clean renewable energy to Australian businesses from Stage 1 of the New England Solar project.

Around one quarter of the renewable energy generated from the project will be supplied to commercial and industrial business via an offtake Power Purchase Agreement with Australian energy retailer SmartestEnergy.

It comes hot on the heels of a cooperation agreement with Zen Energy, Australia's first electricity retailer to set science based emissions reduction targets to help limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

The deal paves the way for the stage 1 project to supply up to 220 megawatts of solar power to ZEN's business customers via another PPA.



*Almost 300 entries from more than 60 artists across Uralla were on display at the 45th annual Art Exhibition & Sale.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

☎ 1800 844 889  
✉ [info@newenglandsolar.com.au](mailto:info@newenglandsolar.com.au)

📌 @newenglandsolarfarm  
🌐 [newenglandsolar.com.au](http://newenglandsolar.com.au)  
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