

Community hub Uranquinty Hotel in search of new licensee after 4 month closure and \$100,000 renovations

By [Tim Piccione](#)

June 4 2022 - 6:00pm



Uranquinty residents Susan Colley and father Michael Godfrey-Roberts, AM, normally join the village every Wednesday night for dinner and a raffle. Picture: Les Smith

Uranquinty can look forward to the return of its local pub, and with it, the small Riverina village's most important community hub.

When the Uranquinty Hotel temporarily closed its doors in early February, signs on the pub's windows informed residents it would be shut a few weeks for renovations.

Those renovations have now amounted over \$100,000, with the final step before re-opening being the search for a new licensee.

Local Susan Colley, who worked at the hotel when she first moved to Uranquinty seven years ago to be with her family, said the local watering hole acts as a meeting place between the village's ageing and younger populations.

"It's a really nice community connection," she said.

"The fellow that lives two doors down from me, who I saw every Wednesday night for seven years, I haven't seen for four months.

"It's a little village that's grown so tremendously - and everybody looks out for everybody."



Golden Crown Hotels general manager Hannah Middleton said the pub's ownership wants to lock in a licensee with a long term vision for the newly refurbished pub. Picture: Contributed

Mrs Colley hopes to see the pub's new management do what it can to welcome back locals and entice those beyond Uranquinty when doors are open again.

"If we can get publicans that run it and make it exciting and make people want to come out, then people will make the drive to be here," she said.

With just a pub, an award-winning bakery and a service station that also operates as the general store and post office on offer, a closed Uranquinty Hotel has left a tight-knit town anxiously awaiting its return.

More than just a social hub, the Uranquinty Hotel provides the local Men's Shed's main source of income through its popularly attended Wednesday night raffles.

President and founding member Lyle Salmon said the Uranquinty Men's Shed needs to raise funds for its operations again as soon as possible or risk running out of money for bills, rates and projects.

"We go for dinner there every Wednesday night with our wives and we've got a really good, close knit, little community," he said.

"We actually have a good night with not just ourselves, but everyone else that attends the pub.

"That's probably the only opportunity you get to meet some of the people in the village."