

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



December 2021 - January 2022

Mayor's Message

As I complete my term as Mayor, I would like to express my appreciation to the people of Uralla Shire for the privilege it has been to serve as the Council's first popularly elected Mayor.

With 13 years on Uralla Shire Council and 30 years with the NSW Police Service, I have been fortunate to have served my community for a total of 43 years.

There have been many, many highlights during my time as a councillor and in particular during the last nine years as Mayor.

First and foremost is the successful fighting of mergers and amalgamations proposed by the State Government. At one stage, there were around 1000 residents at the Uralla Bowling Club telling the Government representative 'loud and clear' that the Uralla Shire community did not wish to merge with any other council but to retain its own identity and independence.

Then, following this, the former Armidale Dumaresq Council wanted us to merge with them, so we – Council and community – recommenced the entire process again.

Today, we are still here as an independent, standalone council.

Along with Council, I was involved in the initial talks with Adam Marshall and the then Deputy Premier, Troy Grant, to obtain funding for the Bundarra Sewer project. Following this, we received funding for the Emu Crossing Bridge through Adam Marshall and the then Road Minister, Duncan Gay.

There have been numerous funding grants for road infrastructure as



General Manager Kate Jessep presents retiring Mayor Michael Pearce his nameplate at a staff farewell morning tea.

well as funding for improvements to parks and other infrastructure right across the Shire as well. Big thanks must go to our State and Federal members.

Through an increasing emphasis on communications and community engagement over recent years, Council seeks to provide more information to the community about projects and services, as well as to invite input and ideas from members of the community to feed into planning and decision-making processes.

This has resulted in a strengthening of the connection between community and Council, and I trust that this will continue.

I have totally enjoyed my time as Mayor and Councillor with Uralla Shire Council. I would like to thank and acknowledge the work of Councillors setting the strategic direction of Council and advocating on behalf of the community during the past three terms. On behalf of the Councillors, I also extend my appreciation to the Council's hard-working staff who implement Council's strategic decisions and run

the day-to-day operations.

In closing, I wish the future Councillors and Mayor all the very best for their term of Council, and I wish all the people of Uralla Shire a safe and festive Christmas and New Year,

Mayor Michael Pearce



**Uralla Shire Council
wishes all its residents a safe and
happy festive season.**

Please note: All Council facilities except McMaugh Gardens will be closed on Christmas Day, including the swimming pool, Visitor Information Centre, and Bundarra, Kingstown and Uralla Landfills.

In addition, Council's Customer Service Centre, Administration Office, and the Uralla Library will closed at 1pm Friday, 24 December 2021 and will reopen on Tuesday, 4th January 2022.



ZNET LET'S TALK ABOUT WATER PROJECT UPDATE

During 2019, Uralla Shire experienced the driest period since rainfall records commenced in the late 1800s, putting pressure on our water supplies - both in terms of security of supply and quality of drinking water.

Working in partnership with Uralla Shire Council and UNSW, ZNET has been communicating with Uralla

Shire residents over the last 12 months seeking the community's thoughts and opinions on options for water security.

ZNET has summarised the outcomes to date, and these were presented to Council at the November workshop, for information and consideration in the development of any future water supply strategies.

Many thanks to those who have already contributed. Now it's time for wider community feedback! Anyone yet to have their say can still complete the water survey – either online at zneturalla.org.au/water or by picking up a hard copy at Burnet's Books. The feedback will be included in the final report anticipated to be published in March 2022.

URALLA GROUNDWATER PROJECT

One of the options for water security currently being investigated is the drilling of bores to supplement the Kentucky Creek Dam supply in times of low rainfall.

Uralla Shire Council was successful in receiving \$1.5 million dollars of funding from the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment - Water for this project.

Phase 1 included a comprehensive desktop assessment of possible groundwater sources preferentially near the Kentucky Dam site. This has been carried out by hydro geologists Harwood Environmental Consultants (HEC), who have also conducted site visits to check that the locations of the potential bore sites are viable options.

This project is scheduled to be completed by June 2022. More information about the project, including a link to the report, can be viewed at uralla.nsw.gov.au/Council-Services/Major-Projects/Uralla-Groundwater-Project

TECH-SAVVY SENIORS

This popular 8-week digital literacy program returns in 2022, running on Wednesday mornings from 9 February between 10am - 11.30am at the Uralla Library. Call the Library to secure your spot: 6778 6470.

BUNDARA SEWERAGE SCHEME UPDATE

Completion status:

- Overall project 88%
- Sewerage Treatment Plant and Irrigation area 97%
- Sewerage Pump Station and rising main 86%
- On-property works 80%
- On-property connections 4%
- Anticipated completion date 17 February 2022



Pictured: Work continues on connecting a house in Bowline Street, Bundarra despite the Gwydir River running to the top of the bank.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

As Council reviews the Community Strategic Plan, it is seeking input on what residents think are the best things about Uralla Shire, and how Council and the community can make the Shire even better.

Throughout 2021, Council has been gathering feedback through over 450 conversations at Listening Posts and Drop-in Sessions, plus from over 1,200 public submissions to identify some of the key priorities for residents of Uralla Shire.

But for those of you who haven't had a chance to contribute, or for anyone who has more they would like to say, you're invited to fill out a postcard and drop it in to the box at your local general store, library or at Council's Customer Service Centre at 32 Salisbury St, Uralla.



Consultation for the Community Strategic Plan Review will run from 1 December 2021 to 15 January 2022. Keep your eye out for the posters and postcards (pictured) at your local general store, library or at Council's Customer Service Centre.

ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Streets as Shared Spaces Program EOI

At its October Ordinary meeting Council resolved to submit an Expression of Interest for the NSW Government's *Streets as Shared Spaces Program* to support a trial of increased outdoor dining and facilitate street activities by business on Council owned roads in the Uralla and Bundarra CBDs.

Should Council's EOI be shortlisted, Council will have the opportunity to submit a full application for funding.

Feedback on the EOI is invited. **Submissions close at 5pm, 14 January 2022.**

Draft Loan Borrowing Policy 2021

At its November Ordinary meeting Council resolved to publicly exhibit the draft Loan Borrowing Policy 2021 for 28 Days.

The objectives of Council's Loan

Borrowing Policy are to:

- detail Council's planned financial management strategy for existing and future debt; and
- provide guidance for the prudent borrowing of funds.

Submissions close at 5pm, 23 December 2021.

Draft Open Space Strategy

At its November Ordinary meeting Council resolved to place the Uralla Shire Council draft Open Space Strategy on public exhibition for 56 days.

The Strategy provides the overarching framework and strategic direction for public open space planning in Uralla Shire for the next 20 years. It recommends a wide range of activities in parks and open spaces to provide a variety of enjoyable and healthy places to visit.

Submissions close at 5pm on 20 January 2022.

Submissions for all documents on public exhibition can be made:

- **in writing**, addressed to: Office of the General Manager, PO Box 106, Uralla NSW 2358
- **by email** to council@uralla.nsw.gov.au

For documents links and more information visit uralla.nsw.gov.au/community/consultation.

Copies are also available to view at Uralla and Bundarra Libraries, at Council's Customer Service Centre, and at general stores across the Shire.

Street Store Schedule

29 November - 5 December
Lions Club of Uralla

6-12 December
Rotary Club of Uralla

13-19 December
Uralla Red Cross

Development Application & Complying Development Certificate Approvals October 2021

Approvals:

Application No.	Applicant	Property	Development
DA-47-2018-2	Croft Surveying & Mapping	49 Marble Hill Road, Invergowrie	Modification – Subdivision of 1 Rural Lot into 3 Rural Lots
DA-55-2021	Mr S Davis & Miss S Maxwell	151 Kalinda Road, Invergowrie	Dwelling with attached Two Bay Carport, Earthworks & Shed
DA-56-2021	Mr K Dixon	6 Marble Hill Road, Saumarez Ponds	Demolish Existing Shed & Construct New Shed
DA-57-2021	Mr W Sellings	9541 New England Highway, Arding	Dual Occupancy
DA-58-2021	Mr W Sellings	39 Maitland Street, Uralla	Shed including Shower, Toilet & Wash Basin
DA-59-2021	Tekton Building Group	38 Barleyfields Road, Uralla	Dwelling
DA-60-2021	Mr C M Abel	218 Rifle Range Road, Rocky River	Dwelling
CDC-16-2021	Mr M & Mrs S McPhee	124 Munday Lane, Saumarez Ponds	Studio
CDC-17-2021-2	Mr M Rooprai & Ms J Urquhart	343 Rocky River Road, Rocky River	Internal Alterations for Ensuite

Withdrawals: Nil

Refusals: Nil

The Notices of Determination for the above Development Applications and Complying Development Certificates are available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at Uralla Shire Council pursuant to Section 4.59 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No. 203*.

CIVIL WORKS

In November

- Completed stabilising (heavy patches) on Thunderbolts Way between Uralla and Walcha
- Reopened northern segment of Barleyfields Road to traffic

Upcoming in December

- Commencement of Hawthorne Drive Stage 2 construction
- Completion of Bergen Road safety rehabilitation and upgrade works

Ongoing

- Stabilising (heavy patches) on Thunderbolts Way between Uralla and Bundarra
- Construction works on the approaches to the new Tolleys Gully Bridge



Constructing approaches to Tolleys Gully Bridge

Catch up on your Council Meetings

At the November Ordinary Meeting, Council:

- Adopted the Uralla 7.11 and 7.12 Developer Contributions Plan
- Adopted the Uralla Shire Council Annual Report 2021-2021, the End of Term Report 2016 – 2021 and the State of the Environment Report 2016 – 2021
- Adopted the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021 incorporating the General Purpose Financial Statements, Special Purpose Financial Statements and Special Schedules with a further recommendation that Council exhibit the Financial Statements along with Auditor's Report once received
- Resolved to place the Loan Borrowing Policy on public exhibition for 28 days
- Resolved to place the Open Space Strategy on public exhibition for 56 days
- Received a delegate report on the Winterbourne Community Consultative Committee
- Received a delegate report on the Central Northern Regional Library
- Noted the Uralla Groundwater Project Update
- Noted the Bundarra Sewerage Scheme Project Update
- Moved a motion of thanks and appreciation to Mayor Michael Pearce for his leadership and service to Council and the Community

Meeting Dates

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Friday, 24 December 2021, 9:00am Council Chambers (subject to results of election being declared within the required timeframe).

The December meeting will commence with Councillors making an oath or affirmation of service.

Council meetings, along with and General Managers sessions (the workshop component) are

open to the public, subject to current COVID-19 requirements.

Agendas, business papers, minutes, and meeting webcasts are published on Council's website at uralla.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Meetings

General Managers Sessions for Councillors

Refer to Public Notices on uralla.nsw.gov.au for details.



Emergency Contacts

After-Hours and Public Holidays

Council Overseer: 0427 784 982
Water / Sewer: 0427 784 304
Report all Fires: 000
SES (Flood/Storm): 132 500

General Manager

Ms Kate Jessep

Council Administration

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Council Website: www.uralla.nsw.gov.au
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