

# FEBRUARY 2020



## URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

### DO NOT DRINK ALERT REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR URALLA TOWN WATER SUPPLY

Arsenic has been detected in the Uralla drinking water supply above the Australian Drinking Water Guideline value of 0.01 milligrams per litre. The bottled water alert issued on 18 December 2019 will remain in effect until Council is satisfied the town water supply meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Bottled water should be used for drinking, food preparation, making ice, cleaning teeth, and gargling. Bottled water is available free of charge to residents at Foodworks Uralla and the Invergowrie Store during normal business hours.

Uralla town water is safe to use for hand washing, showering, bathing, and dish washing, and washing clothes. It is also safe to give to pets and stock. Boiling water will not make it safe to drink.

Council is ensuring the elderly and those with additional support needs have an adequate supply of bottled water and is working with local organisations and businesses so that bottled water is provided to those who cannot access the bottled water collection points.

Council encourages all residents to check on their neighbours, especially the elderly and those with additional support needs, to ensure they have access to adequate bottled water supply for drinking and food preparation. If you have any concerns for friends, family or neighbours who may not be able to access the bottled water available please contact Council on 6778 6300.

Council is working with the NSW State Government to rectify the issue as quickly as possible and thanks residents for their continued patience. Regular updates are provided on Council's website [www.uralla.nsw.gov.au](http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au) and via Council's facebook page.

### BUNDARRA WATER RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

Bundarra's Level 5 water restrictions were lifted on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 due to welcome rains in January. Sufficient rainfall in the Gwydir River catchment has replenished Taylors Pond, the raw water source for Bundarra.

Although no water restrictions are currently in place, residents are asked to remain mindful of their water consumption, as water shortages and drought conditions continue across the region.



*The Gwydir River on Bingara Road,  
5 January 2020*



*The Gwydir River on Bingara Road,  
11 January 2020*

### COUNCIL CONTACTS

**Mayor** Cr Michael Pearce  
0488 752 520

**Deputy Mayor** Cr Bob Crouch  
0428 616 885

#### Councillors

Cr Robert Bell                      Cr Mark Dusting  
Cr Natasha Ledger                Cr Tom O'Connor  
Cr Levi Sampson                 Cr Isabel Strutt  
Cr Tara Toomey

#### Acting General Manager

Mr David Aber

#### Council Administration

PO Box 106 Uralla NSW 2358  
Ph. 02 **6778 6300** Fax. 02 6778 6349

**Email:** [council@uralla.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@uralla.nsw.gov.au)

#### Council Website:

[www.uralla.nsw.gov.au](http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au)

**Tourism Website:** [www.uralla.com](http://www.uralla.com)

#### Emergency Contacts

##### After-Hours and Public Holidays

Overseer:                                0427 784 982  
Water / Sewer:                        0427 784 304  
Report all Fires:                      000  
Fallen Trees and SES: 132 500

### MEETING DATES 2020

**Council meeting:** Ordinary meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 12:30pm, Council Chambers. This month: Tuesday, 25 February 2020.

**Budget Review & Finance Committee:** Tuesday, 11 February at 12:30pm, Council Chambers.

**Uralla Township & Environs Committee (UTEK):** Tuesday, 11 February at 6pm, Council Chambers.

These meetings are open to the public. Council meeting agendas and reports can be viewed and downloaded from the website: [www.uralla.nsw.gov.au](http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au)

### WHAT'S ON IN URALLA SHIRE FEB/MARCH 2020

2 February	Uralla Poultry Auction
6 February	Movie Night at the Library
8 February	Uralla Show
8 February	Kentucky Old Time Dance
10 February	Friends of McMaugh Gardens Meeting
11 February	New England Solar Farm Public Meeting
22 February	Uralla Indoor Markets
2 March	Friends of McMaugh Gardens Meeting
10 March	Aniwan Cultural Collection Official Opening
10 March	Friends of McMaugh's Charity Fun Day
14 March	McCrossin's Mill International Women's Day Exhibition and Dinner
21 March	McCrossin's Mill Sunny Jim Mackay Exhibition Opening
27 March	43 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Rotary Art Exhibition
27 March	The New Englander Rail Experience
28 March	Seasons of New England Expo
28 March	Uralla Arts Lantern Parade

Check [www.uralla.com](http://www.uralla.com) for more information on the local calendar of events and call us to add your event on **6778 6420**.

### Uralla Library Activities February – March 2020

- Movie Night** – 6:15pm, First Thursday of the month
- Storytime** – 10.30am Tuesdays
- Knattering Knitters** – 10am Tuesdays & 2pm Sundays
- Colouring Group** – 2pm Wednesdays
- Craft Catch Up** – 10am Saturdays
- Book Discussion Group** – 4pm, Third Tuesday of the month
- Lego Club** – 4pm-5:30pm, Third Thursday of the month
- Chess & Checkers Club** – 4pm Mondays during school term

### FRIENDS OF MCMAUGH GARDENS ANNUAL CHARITY FUN DAY

The Friends of McMaugh Gardens will hold its annual Charity Fun Day Fundraiser on Tuesday, 10 March 2020 at the Uralla Bowlo at 12.00 noon lunch for 1.00pm start.

The Fun Day will feature an Open Triples Event. Nominate your team or single entries welcome. Dress up to win the Best Dressed Team prize!

Cost of entry is \$20 and includes sausage sizzle lunch, afternoon tea and dinner. There will be a raffle, silent auction, a trading table and prizes.

Funds raised go toward equipment and services to enhance to lives of McMaugh Garden's Aged Care Centre residents and to assist staff to continue delivering the highest quality of care to all residents.

To play, contact Rosemary Reading by phone: 0412 163 444 or email [rosemary.reading@bigpond.com](mailto:rosemary.reading@bigpond.com), or the Uralla Bowlo on 6778 4192. Please register by 6 March 2020.

### URALLA AT LEVEL 5 WATER RESTRICTIONS

Due to continued dry conditions, Uralla commenced Level 5 water restrictions on Monday, 6 January 2020. Implications of Level 5 water restrictions for residents are:

- Watering of lawns and gardens using a hand held hose with buckets, cans or trigger nozzles is prohibited.
- The use of sprinklers and fixed hoses, and watering new turf, is prohibited.
- Vehicle washing is prohibited. Cleaning of vehicle windows is permitted.
- Water carting for domestic, hospital, aged care and school use only – no stock watering.
- Irrigation of sports fields is prohibited.

If you have any concerns or queries please contact council on 6778 6300 or email us at [council@uralla.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@uralla.nsw.gov.au).

### WATER USAGE CONSERVATION

Despite welcome rainfall in January, water storages remain low and dry conditions continue across the region.

We can all take steps to make our water consumption more efficient in our daily lives at home, at school or in business.

Daily water usage targets are **150 litres per person per day**.

- Take a shorter shower and use a shower timer to aim for **3 minutes**. Make sure you turn off the tap when you lather up. You can save up to eight litres for each minute you shave off your daily scrub.
- Use a container to collect water when washing fruit and veg in the sink and use this to water your garden.
- Fix leaky taps. A slowly dripping tap can waste thousands of litres of water per year.
- Only run full loads in the dishwasher and the washing machine to maximise efficiency.
- Replace tap washers and seals annually.
- Use mulch in the garden to retain moisture in the soil.
- Install rainwater tanks and collect roof run-off.
- Collect water from your shower and use to run the washing machine or to flush the toilet. Clean 'warm up' water can be used to water your garden as well.
- Start a conversation! Share your own water-wise tips with your family, friends, co-workers and peers to make water conservation a part of our everyday lives and practice.

### RESOLVE TO RECYCLE WITH 'RECYCLE MATE'

The NSW Government and the Australian Council of Recycling have launched a comprehensive recycling app to help local communities across NSW improve recycling.

The **Recycle Mate** app is a photo recognition app designed to reduce contamination, helping ensure the valuable contents of kerbside recycling bins can be easily recovered and reused in the economy. This will improve the rates of recycling recovery and assist industry, councils and the community respond to the global changes in the recycling market.

The Recycle Mate app uses AI image detection to identify and classify your rubbish. Simply point your mobile device camera at an object to determine which bin it goes into – no matter where you are in NSW.

The app is currently available for iOS and Android.

### DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

The drought has impacted communities across our region, with individuals and businesses feeling the strain. The NSW Government is providing Drought Assistance for farmers and primary producers through loans, subsidies, waivers, and other initiatives.

Visit the NSW DroughtHub at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub) for more information and to find out what support options are available to you.

The NSW DroughtHub also has numerous resources including information sheets on how to manage the drought as well as support for mental health and wellbeing.

### DROUGHT COMMUNITIES EXTENSION PROGRAMME

At its December 2019 Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to participate in the Drought Communities Extension Programme to undertake community infrastructure and facility improvements, community events, public land improvement, tourism and economic diversification, infrastructure and amenity upgrading and improvement.

Projects prioritised under the Programme include: McMaugh Gardens Aged Care facility upgrades, sponsorship of the Bundarra Show, Uralla Visitor Information Centre (VIC) refurbishments, sponsorship of the Uralla Show, camp kitchen at the Uralla Queen Street Caravan Park, new cricket pitch surface for the Bundarra Cricket Club, Bundarra park and public spaces upgrades, works at the Uralla BMX Park, refurbishment to the Uralla Memorial Hall, and more.

The full list of priority projects is available on Council's website at [www.uralla.nsw.gov.au](http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au).

### FLEXIBLE PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR RATEPAYERS EXPERIENCING HARDSHIP

Council is aware of the impact the drought continues to have on the Uralla Shire community which may be making it difficult for some ratepayers to meet their financial commitments.

We recognise that there are cases of genuine financial hardship which require respect and compassion in special circumstances. We have policies and procedures in place which may help alleviate the immediate burden for those who are experiencing hardship. If you are, please make contact with Council if you need assistance with paying your rates and charges.

We can work with ratepayers on a case-by-case basis to make flexible payment arrangements that will meet your needs.

Any ratepayer having difficulties paying their rates or charges is welcome to contact our Revenue Officer on 6778 6307 for a confidential discussion about how we can help.

### COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND 2

Round 2 of Uralla Shire Council's Community Grants 2019-20 Program opened on 1 February 2020. Community groups and organisations are welcome to apply for up to \$3000 for a project, activity or event.

Council encourages groups or organisations to apply for a Community Grant to help build community capacity or provide supplementary funding to assist with social, cultural, recreational, and environmental outcomes.

Applications under Round 2 will close on 29 February 2020. Applications will be assessed and determined at Council's March 2020 Ordinary Meeting.

Individuals can apply for a Community Grant for up to \$300 any time of year, provided that the application is submitted at least four weeks prior to the commencement of the project or activity.

Guidelines and application forms are available on Council's website: at [www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Community/Community-Information/Community-grants](http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Community/Community-Information/Community-grants)

### URALLA STREET STORE – FEBRUARY/MARCH

February 17-23 – WIRES New England

February 24-March 1 – ZNET Plus

March 2-8 – St Joseph's Catholic Parish

March 9-15 – Rocky River Public School

### DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE APPROVALS / REFUSALS NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2019

#### November 2019 Approvals:

Application	Applicant	Property	Development
DA-8-2016-5	New England Surveying & Engineering	13 Stringybark Ridge Road, Invergowrie	4 Lot Staged Subdivision Modification
DA-21-2017	Mr V Hudson	19 Karava Place, Uralla	Dual Occupancy & Conversion of Shed to Dwelling
DA-26-2018-3	Mr G & Mrs A Ward	56 Salisbury Street & 26 Uralla Street, Uralla	Subdivision of Two Urban Lots to Create Three Urban Lots
DA-59-2019	Mr M & Mrs R Neuer	39 Baker Road, Invergowrie	Conversion of Shed to Dwelling
DA-63-2019	Mr K & Mrs S Grant	296 Noalimba Avenue, Kentucky South	Warehouse
DA-64-2019	Mr M & Mrs C Bynes	4 Park Street, Uralla	Shed
DA-67-2019	Mr C Lute	5 Hill Street, Uralla	Replace Existing Retaining Wall
DA-68-2019	Mrs S Egan	33 McCrossin St, Uralla	Glass Enclosure
DA-69-2019	Mr R & Mrs D Nies	14 Souter St, Bundarra	Verandah
DA-72-2019	Mr J Birnie & Ms J Lewis	127 Dumaresq Road, Saumarez Ponds	Verandah
DA-73-2019	Mr S & Mrs L Byrnes	19 East Street, Uralla	Bathroom Alterations, Relocate Laundry to Garage, Convert Garage to Family Room & Deck Extension
DA-75-2019	Mr T & Mrs M O'Connor	29 Bridge Street, Uralla	Restoration of Retaining Wall & Add Picket Fence
DA-76-2019	Mr C & Mrs J Shanahan	26A McCrossin St, Uralla	Shed
DA-77-2019	Mrs W Nillesen	65 Maitland St, Uralla	Tank Installation
DA-78-2019	Mr H & Mrs J Webb	391 Reids Road, Yarrowyck	Dwelling Alternations & Additions
CDC-15-2019	Mr R & Mrs A Hazlewood	68A Hill St, Uralla	Extension to Existing Shed
CDC-16-2019	Ms H Schultz	32 Marble Hill Road, Saumarez Ponds	Dwelling Additions & Alterations
CDC-17-2019	Mrs K Wallace	18 Elizabeth Ave, Uralla	Pergola & Portico

#### December 2019 Approvals:

Application	Applicant	Property	Development
DA-74-2019	Mr C Clarey & Ms R Latimer	25 Hill Street, Uralla	Covered Deck, Studio & Toilet
DA-82-2019	Mr S Phelps & Ms S Croker	152 Mount Mitchell Road, Invergowrie	Dwelling Additions & Alterations
DA-83-2019	Mr A & Mrs H Jones-Harris	39 Lentara Road, Invergowrie	Dwelling
DA-84-2019	Mr S & Mrs J Field	25 Rowan Ave, Uralla	Verandah Over Existing Deck
DA-86-2019	Mr M & Mrs B Baker	11 Marsh Street, Uralla	Earthworks
CDC-18-2019	Mr S Johnson & Ms E Parnell	9 Tobruk Road, Invergowrie	Dwelling

#### November 2019 & December 2019 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 101 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

### KEY COUNCIL ACTIONS – DEC 2019

#### December 2019 Ordinary Meeting

- Received a presentation from Hamish Sewell, founder of Soundtrails and The Story Project.
- Received and presented its Audited Financial Reports and the Auditor's Reports to the public.
- Determined its favoured contribution to the New England Joint Organisation.
- That the rotunda in Alma Park be renamed the "Arnold Goode Memorial Rotunda" to recognise the contributions made by Mr Goode to the community as a citizen and historian of Uralla.
- Discussed recommendations from the Drought Management Workshop:
  - To review the top 10-20 water users in Uralla and work to reduce use.
  - To investigate State and Federal funding for increasing weir storage at Bundarra and other alternative water sources for Uralla.
  - Place water usage information online in an easily accessible location.
  - Include contingency planning triggers in the Drought Management Plan for emergency firefighting.
  - Review alternative supply options.
  - Investigate the use of smart meters.
- To approve funding from the Water Fund reserves of \$50,000 to fund a study to investigate effluent reuse and determine optimal options for reuse of the Uralla Sewage Treatment Plant effluent.
- To participate in the Drought Communities Extension Programme to undertake community infrastructure and community facility improvements, community events (focused on drought preparedness and resilience), public land improvement, tourism and economic diversification, infrastructure and amenity upgrading and improvement. Priority projects include McMaugh Gardens facility upgrades, sponsorship of the Bundarra and Uralla Shows, Uralla Visitor Information Centre upgrades, and more. See more details on page 3.
- Appointed two new members to the Uralla Township and Environs Committee to fill committee vacancies.