

# MARCH 2020



## URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

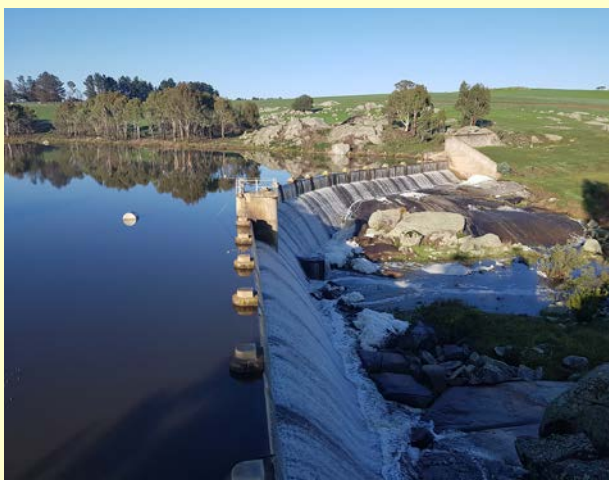
### BUNDARRA BOIL WATER ALERT LIFTED

Council is pleased to advise that in consultation with NSW Health, the Bundarra water supply has been declared safe to drink and the Boil Water Alert has been lifted as of 20 February 2020.

Water treatment changes made to the water treatment system mean that drinking water quality in the Bundarra Water Supply is safe to drink.

### URALLA TOWN WATER UPDATE

Council is pleased to confirm the welcome rains in February have filled the Kentucky Creek Dam to 100% capacity.



While Uralla will remain on Level 5 water restrictions, car washing is permitted using a hose with a trigger nozzle and/or bucket. Water restrictions will remain in place until the treatment capacity of the process modifications at the Uralla Water Treatment Plant are proven.

In conjunction with treatment specialists from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Water, Council has finalised the preferred process and applied for the funding to make the improvements to the Uralla Treatment Plant. The upgrade plan involves replacing the sand in the water treatment plant's filtration system with Granular Activated Carbon to remove the inorganic arsenic compounds and pre-dosing the raw water entering the plant with ferric chloride to remove the organic arsenic compounds. This approach uses the existing sand filters at the water treatment plant.

### COUNCIL RECEIVES DROUGHT RELIEF GRANT FUNDING

Uralla Shire Council will receive two allocations of funding from the State Government to recover from effects of the unprecedented drought and bushfires which have affected the region.

Council will receive \$900,000 through the Government's *Emergency Drought Relief Package* and an additional \$100,000 grant through *Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund* in order to promote tourism in the Shire. The Government's new recovery programs will be directed toward local activities in communities to boost the social and economic recovery.

The State funding closely follows Council's decision to seek funding from the State and Federal Governments to promote tourism across the Shire, including the development of a local business map, to coordinate a visit by a travel writer, and to establish a long-term social media campaign including a promotional video.

### 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 Scott Phillips

#### 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, 24 March.

**Budget Review & Finance Committee:** Tuesday, 14 April at 12:30pm, Council Chambers.

**Uralla Township & Environs Committee (UTE):** Tuesday, 10 March 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 MARCH/APRIL 2020

- 1 Mar Uralla Poultry Auction
- 2 Mar Friends of McMaugh Gardens Meeting
- 4 Mar *What a Relief!* Damien Callinan Comic Relief Drought Tour
- 5 Mar Movie Night @ Uralla Library
- 10 Mar Official Opening of the Aniwan Cultural Collection
- 10 Mar Friends of McMaugh Gardens Charity Bowls Day
- 14 Mar McCrossin's Mill International Women's Day Dinner
- 15 Mar *What a Relief!* Rob Carlton Comic Relief Drought Tour
- 21 Mar Valinor Sound Spa
- 21 Mar McCrossin's Mill Sunny Jim Mackay Exhibition Opening
- 27 Mar The New England Rail Experience
- 27 Mar 43rd Rotary Art Exhibition
- 28 Mar Seasons of New England Expo
- 28 Mar Uralla Lantern Parade
- 3-4 Apr Strength for Life Instructor Training Program

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 March – April 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

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – URALLA VIC

The Uralla Visitor Information Centre is looking for new volunteers to join our team during weekdays for two hours a day. The Visitor Information Centre is a lovely space to work for outgoing people who enjoy promoting the area and talking with visitors. If you are interested, please contact us on 6778 6420 or email [visit@uralla.com](mailto:visit@uralla.com) for more information.

### GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR BUSHFIRE AFFECTED PRIMARY PRODUCERS AND BUSINESSES

The State Government is offering support for primary producers, small businesses and non-for-profit organisations who have been affected by bushfires through the *Bushfire Working Capital Loan* program. Recovery loans up to \$50,000 will have terms up to five years with a two year repayment and interest-free period to ensure businesses can recover fully.

Primary producers and local businesses wishing to apply can check their eligibility on the Rural Assistance Authority website at [www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/special-disaster-loan-bushfires](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/special-disaster-loan-bushfires). Applications for *Bushfire Working Capital Loans* must be submitted by 4 August 2020.

### STRENGTH FOR LIFE TRAINING

At its October 2019 Ordinary Meeting, Council granted the Council on the Ageing NSW (COTA NSW) with a community grant in order for COTA NSW to hold a Strength for Life instructor training program in Uralla.

Strength for Life is an evidence-based exercise program to help older people improve their physical strength and fitness. It is a progressive training program designed to improve strength, balance, coordination and endurance.

The program seeks to maximise opportunities for people to engage in affordable, high-quality, result-oriented strength training programs over the long term. Strength for Life is industry best training for implementing progressive strength training for older people.

COTA NSW is providing training for qualified exercise professionals to deliver the program, introducing trainers to the principles and research on which the program was founded. The two-day training course will be held Friday, 3rd April and Saturday, 4th April 2020 at the Uralla Community Centre, 9 Hill Street Uralla, from 9:00am to 4:30pm.

Further details on the program and a link to the Training Registration form is available on the Council website at [www.uralla.nsw.gov.au](http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au).

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

#### URALLA TOWNSHIP AND ENVIRONS COMMITTEE

The Uralla Township and Environs Section 355 Committee was established by Council to provide advice on the future of public spaces in Uralla. Council is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from members of the community to serve on the committee. There is currently one (1) available position.

As set out in the Uralla Township and Environs Committee Constitution, the Committee meets a minimum of twice a year with further meetings conducted as needed. Since commencement the Committee has been meeting on the evening of the second Tuesday of the month.

EOIs should be addressed to the General Manager and include a statement detailing why the applicant is interested in serving on the Committee. Expressions of Interest must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, **3 April 2020** and can be submitted electronically to [council@uralla.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@uralla.nsw.gov.au) or by post to PO Box 106, Uralla NSW 2358.

For further information about the Uralla Township and Environs Committee, contact Council on 6778 6300 or via email at [council@uralla.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@uralla.nsw.gov.au).

### SERVICE NSW IS BRINGING SERVICES TO THE URALLA SHIRE AREA

Service NSW is increasing access to NSW Government transactions and services in the Uralla Shire community with a planned visit by the Mobile Service Centre.

Mobile Service Centres visit rural and regional communities to personally deliver access to essential NSW Government services, including:

- Driver licence and Photo Card applications and renewals
- Driver Knowledge Tests
- Working With Children Check applications
- Applying for birth, death and marriage certificates
- Cost of Living\* service to access more than 40 NSW Government rebates and savings.

The Mobile Service Centre is scheduled to visit Uralla on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, 9am – 3pm at the Corner of Bridge and Salisbury Streets, Uralla in front of Pioneer Park.

Service NSW Mobile Service Centres are fitted with a ramp for easier access for all members of the community.

*\*Please note Mobile Service Centres cannot take appointments for the Cost of Living service. Service NSW will be happy to help you out on the day.*



### COUNCIL WEEKLY WORKS REPORTS

Did you know that Council publishes its Weekly Works Reports online? These updates are published weekly on the Council facebook page at [facebook.com/UrallaShireCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/UrallaShireCouncil) and on the Council website at: [www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Council-Services/Weekly-Works-Reports](http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Council-Services/Weekly-Works-Reports) or by searching our website for "Weekly works".

Past Works Reports are available on the website back to the end of August 2019, when Council resolved to provide this additional service to the community.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Council aims to provide a diverse range of opportunities for volunteers and is appreciative of the varied skills, experiences, talents, ideas and energies that volunteers bring to Council.

Our generous volunteers assist Council within the Shire to help provide community, library, tourism and environmental services across our region.

Volunteering can be a very rewarding experience. Benefits of this fun activity include:

- Meeting new people
- Learning and developing new skills
- Gaining work experience
- Making a contribution to the community
- A sense of achievement and fulfilment
- Boost self-esteem
- Improved physical and mental health

Volunteer opportunities in the Uralla Shire include:

**Bundarra Library** – 6723 2133 – Help out at the Bundarra Library, based at the CWA Rooms in Court Street.

**McMaugh Gardens Aged Care** – 6778 5145 – Provide an important support group, and establish a good rapport with and care for our elderly residents.

**Tablelands Community Transport (TCT)** – 6778 6450 – Volunteer drivers assist people in the community to attend essential services such as shopping, medical or social appointments.

**Uralla Library** – 6778 6470 – Help out the Librarian at the busy community hub that is the Uralla Library.

**Uralla Visitor Information Centre** – 6778 6420 – Welcome visitors and locals alike and provide information about the many attractions in our Shire.

**Water Distribution** – 6778 6300 – Volunteers are still welcome to assist with water distribution at FoodWorks until the Uralla bottled water alert is lifted.

Are you considering becoming a volunteer and helping our local community? Please contact us on 6778 6300 or email [council@uralla.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@uralla.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

### URALLA STREET STORE – MARCH/APRIL

March 9-15	Rocky River Public School
March 16-22	Elders Olympics
March 23-29	Friends of McMaugh Gardens
Mar 30 - Apr 5	Uralla CWA
April 6-12	New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club



### DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE APPROVALS / REFUSALS JANUARY 2020

#### Approvals:

Application No.	Applicant	Property	Development
DA-66-2019	Mr D & Mrs T Williams	94 Quartz Gully Road, Uralla	Dual Occupancy & Garage
DA-79-2019	Uralla Bowling & Recreation Club	52 Hill Street, Uralla	Solar Installation
DA-88-2019	Dr R & Mrs K Hughes	3 Fitzroy Street, Uralla	Water Tank
CDC-21-2017-2	Mr C & Mrs E Schaeffer	19 King Street, Uralla	Dwelling Alterations
CDC-1-2020	Mr L Lasker	25 Wattle Drive, Saumarez	Dwelling Additions
CDC-2-2020	Mr D & Mrs P Dempsey	151 Dumaresq Road, Saumarez Ponds	Pergola

Refusals: Nil

Cancellations:

Application No.	Applicant	Property	Development
DA-40-2018	Mr L & Mrs C Seccombe	22 Baker Road, Invergowrie	2 Lot Subdivision

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*.

### Z-NET URALLA NEWS

Here we are thinking about firewood again! Having come through the driest period since local rainfall records began and now some welcome rain, you can see the benefits of leaving some dead wood on the ground. Trunks and large branches provide a spot where plants can escape overgrazing, and then provide a bank of seed for nearby bare ground. So much topsoil has been lost from wind erosion and then in runoff. Small branches and leaf litter slow this down, protecting the soil and acting as a mulch blanket to preserve moisture. Just scratch the surface to find all sorts of fungus, insects and creatures bringing our soils back to life. So this autumn as you collect your wood – keep in mind that dead wood has a greater role to play than just heating our homes and remember to leave some behind to protect our soils and landscape. In the next few months ZNET will run more of the very popular firewood collection workshops. Contact Trish to find out more at [projects@zneturalla.org.au](mailto:projects@zneturalla.org.au) or 0411 804 627.



### KEY COUNCIL ACTIONS FEBRUARY 2020

#### February Extraordinary Meeting of Council

- To receive a report at the February Ordinary Meeting on actions addressing elevated levels of arsenic in the Uralla town water supply.
- That Council contact the food and beverage businesses reliant on Uralla water and take steps to understand the costs associated with the bottled water alert and provide a report to the March Ordinary Council Meeting to seek funding from the State and Federal Governments in relation to same.
- That Council seek funding to promote tourism in the Uralla Shire.
- That Council appoint an Acting General Manager from outside the organisation until the permanent General Manager position has been filled.
- To give consideration to financial assistance to the successful applicant of the permanent General Manager position to provide a financial incentive to reside in the Uralla Shire.

#### February Ordinary Meeting of Council

- To set a strategic objective for both Water and Sewer Funds to operate during the next ten years at a balanced operating position including full funding of depreciation, amortisation and impairment of intangible assets and infrastructure, property, plant, equipment and modelling of tiered water pricing.
- To participate in the Bush Bursary/Country Women's Association 2020 Scholarship program.
- Placed the following documents on public exhibition for a period of 28 days:
  - Agency Information Guide 2020
  - Draft amendment No. 5 of the Uralla Development Control Plan 2011
- Classified the land purchased for the Bundarra Sewerage Treatment Plant as operational.
- To fund capital expenditure of \$74,994.21 for the bulk replacement of existing streetlight lamps with LED lamps in Uralla Shire.
- Approve the estimated expenditure for the sprayed seal and safety barriers at \$108,000 for the upgrade works at Mt Mitchell Road.
- Received a report on the actions and implications of the elevated levels of arsenic in the Uralla town water supply and requested further information be provided by the Acting General Manager.
- Increased funding limits on the Bundarra Sewer Scheme, to advertise for tender, and the performance of the Project Management Consultant be reported at the March Ordinary Meeting.
- Endorsed a proposal for the provision of treatment and collection of treated sewerage effluent, subject to conditions.