

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



March 2023

## Mayor's Message

Council was delighted to host a meeting at the Bundarra School of Arts Hall on 28 February 2023. Residents had an opportunity to address Council at this meeting and highlighted ongoing concern about 3G mobile telecommunications network issues, road repair issues, drought proofing needs and proposed air-conditioning for the Hall.

Council continues to advocate to the Federal Member, the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP regarding telecommunications and the General Manager and I discussed this with him in our recent meeting. Bundarra is included in the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy (IWCM) that is being prepared and this work is key to understanding our future water infrastructure needs to manage through droughts. The IWCM is 90% funded by the State Government.

Our staff have adapted well over the last six months to undertake a massive road repair program in response to the extensive damage caused by above average rainfall. We have capitalised on significant extra grant funding and staff have worked many additional hours to get the network temporarily repaired to keep it operational. Works are now focussed on permanent reinstatement. You can look up the current and planned road works which are posted to the website each week:



Council meeting at Bundarra School of Arts Hall, February 28th 2023

[www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Council-Services/Roads-and-Civil-Infrastructure/Weekly-Works-Reports](http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Council-Services/Roads-and-Civil-Infrastructure/Weekly-Works-Reports).

The Mayor, Interim Director Infrastructure, Executive Director Corporate & Community and Councillors recently met with Essential Energy and were assured that there is excellent power supply for Uralla township; however, the resourcing of additional transformers to enable growth currently relies on developers. Council will consider how this can be enabled to encourage new housing and businesses.

We are also keen to support the introduction of electric vehicle (EV) chargers, however, Essential Energy confirmed the significant infrastructure costs to support fast charging are currently well out of Council's reach. NRMA is currently reviewing the EV Map for rural locations for public charging stations.

Council has advised NRMA we wish to be considered for a public charging station in our Shire where funding is available to the Council for implementation. Ongoing costs would need to be addressed prior to any agreement.

Recent meetings with New England Joint Organisation (NEJO) have identified the immense value of working collaboratively across our region. For example, last month the Local Member, the Hon Adam Marshall MP, announced an additional \$4 million in funding for four sections of Thunderbolts Way between Uralla and Bundarra. This funding was secured following the NEJO project to prepare a Regional Road Strategy and subsequent NEJO funding to engage Regional Development Australia Northern Inland to prepare a business case with input from Council staff. Despite these types of successes there are ongoing concerns about the governance costs of operating as a formal group with new impositions required such as the expense of an Audit Committee on top of existing auditing costs. Consequently, it has been agreed to place NEJO into hibernation. Council will not have to pay the annual membership fees and can instead channel the time and energy into relevant collaborations on a case by case basis, such as Regional Energy Zone community contribution expectations of developers.

**Mayor, Robert Bell**

## 44th Annual Uralla Rotary Art Exhibition 2023

Uralla Shire Council is once again pleased to support the Annual Uralla Art Exhibition to be held at the RSL Memorial Hall, Salisbury Street Uralla. The exhibition will be officially opened by Mayor Robert Bell at 6.30 pm Friday 17th March 2023.

We are expecting over 200 artworks to be exhibited. The feature artist this year is Lizzie Horn whose talents include painting, sculpture and printmaking.

The show will open daily from 10 am to 4 pm from Saturday 18th March to Saturday 25th March, and on Sunday 26th March from 10 am to 2 pm.

Come along and see the entries on display. All artworks are for sale.

## Illegal Dumping at Kentucky Recycling Station

Cases of illegally dumped material have recently increased at Kentucky Recycling Station, particularly the dumping of non-recyclable wastes. This facility is available for use as a transfer station for the following materials only:

- Paper, magazines and cardboard
- Hard plastic bottles and containers from the kitchen, bathroom, and laundry
- Glass bottles and jars
- Steel, tin and aerosol cans (clean/empty, plastic lid removed)
- Aluminium cans, foil, and trays (clean)

Council wishes to notify the residents that dumping any material that is **not recyclable** at the Kentucky Recycling station is **prohibited**.

Dumping creates a number of problems for our local area:

- It pollutes our environment
- It creates an eyesore
- It lowers community pride
- It can be a fire hazard
- It can increase the spread of weeds and pests
- It costs Council and the community money

## ZNET

It's been a great growing season for backyard fruits and vegetables, even if it was a slow start. Preserving some of the summer surplus is a great way to keep food prices down, while reducing the amount of food that may end up wasted.

ZNET's food preserving workshop returns on 1 April 2023 for anyone who missed out on the session held in January. Come along to this free event where you will make pasta sauce, pickles and preserved fruit.

All are welcome to bring any extra produce they may have to swap or sell at the ZNET stall at the High Country Markets. The new upcycling category at the Uralla Show attracted some stellar entries! Keep those ideas flowing for 2024.

## Upcoming ZNET Events

For bookings or information contact 0420 514 653 or

[coordinator@zneturalla.org.au](mailto:coordinator@zneturalla.org.au).

20 March: A Community Energy Conversation

18 March: Sewing and upcycling – veggie bags

22 March: Practical Seed Saving

1 April: Pickling & Preserving

2 April: Swap & Sell at High Country Markets (no bookings required)

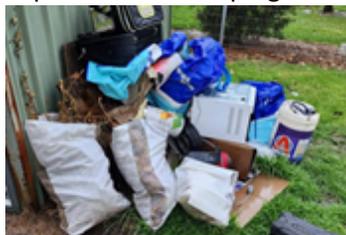


Participants work as a group to prepare tomatoes for bottling

You can help prevent illegal dumping by:

- Disposing of materials in your kerbside bins
- Taking larger loads to Council's waste management facility
- Taking pride in your community by not dumping or littering
- Notifying Council if you see someone dumping illegally

If dumped material is found in the future, investigations will be undertaken to identify the person/s responsible. Significant penalties apply to any person dumping illegally.



Illegally Dumped Rubbish

## STREET STORE SCHEDULE

Located at 60 Bridge St, Uralla

6-12 March  
Aboriginal Elders

13-19 March  
Rocky River Public School

20-26 March  
Friends of McMaugh Gardens

27 March-2 April  
Uralla Branch of CWA

3-9 April  
Anglican Parish of Uralla

## Uralla Shire Council Aged and Community Care Services

**McMaugh Gardens** - Residential Aged Care - Permanent & Respite  
Call 6778 6380

**Tablelands Community Support (TCS)** - Home Care Packages (HCP), Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) | Call 6778 6350

**Tablelands Community Transport (TCT)** - Provision of community transport services | Call 6778 6451



## Success for Koala Vehicle Sign Strategy in Uralla

Between the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022, three koalas were found dead on the side of the highway near the Uralla Golf Club. Five koalas were hit by vehicles along this stretch of road from 2020-21. These incidences sparked WIRES volunteers and concerned community members to reach out to Southern New England Landcare for assistance to reduce the koala vehicle strikes in the area.

Southern New England Landcare supports the Northern Tablelands Koala Partnership Project (NTKPP), funded under the NSW Koala Strategy. This project will run until 2026, working with the community to protect and safeguard the survival of our local koala population. Increasing driver and community awareness of koala vehicle strike is a key focus area of the project.

Breeding season for koalas starts in spring when males move across the landscape to seek out a mate. This is also the time when juvenile koalas leave their mother to find home ranges of their own. The New England Highway adjacent to Uralla Golf Course is a known koala movement corridor, increasing the likelihood of koala vehicle strike.

Koala vehicle strike is most likely at dawn and dusk and throughout the night when driver visibility is reduced. This is also the time when koalas are most active. Higher speeds give drivers less time to react and avoid collision and increase the severity of the injuries. Research has shown that vehicle strikes at speeds exceeding 80km/hour are almost always fatal for koalas.

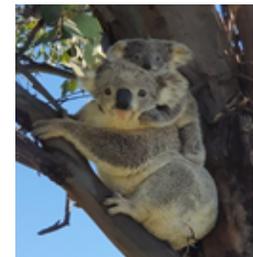
The NTKPP has teamed up with Uralla Shire Council and Uralla Golf Club to deliver actions and information to the community to help reduce koala vehicle strike, including;

- Placing two variable message signs at each end of the koala vehicle strike hotspot area from September 2022 to February 2023 to alert drivers of the koala strike zone and urge them to slow down.
- Working with Uralla Golf Club to slash grass along the highway edge to give drivers better visibility and more chance of sighting koalas crossing the road.
- Working with the members and visitors of Uralla Golf Club to report and record koala sightings (6 reports this year, a big thank you!)

- Working with Uralla Shire Council to increase community awareness of koalas and the vehicle strike hotspot zone.

Fortunately, over this breeding season no koala vehicle strikes have been reported, indicating the signs have helped encourage drivers to slow down and watch out for koalas. Council and the NTKPP extends its thanks and gratitude to drivers and the community for helping achieve this goal in 2022-23. The program will be repeated commencing in September 2023.

For more information and to report a koala sighting, please follow the links from Council's website <https://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Community/Community-Information/Koalas-in-the-Northern-Tablelands>



## Development Application and Complying Development Certificate Approvals January 2023

Withdrawals and Refusals: Nil

Application No.	Applicant	Property	Development
DA-41-2022	Mr P Strelitz	863 Kingstown Road, Balala	Gravel Pit
DA-52-2022	Mr C Mortell	23 East Street, Uralla	2 Lot Subdivision with Clause 4.6 Variation
DA-61-2022	More Than Garages	50 Hill Street, Uralla	Garage
DA-72-2022	Ambrose Building Development Solutions	189 Everton Vale Road, Rocky River	Dwelling
DA-74-2022	Mr J George	691 Bundarra Road, Saumarez Ponds	Installation of Relocated Manufactured Home as Dual Occupancy
DA-75-2022	New England Surveying & Engineering	296 Noalimba Avenue, Kentucky South	Subdivision of 4 Lots into 2 Lots
DA-1-2023	Mr D Weiley	28 Rifle Range Road, Rocky River	Shed
DA-3-2023	Mr N Waters	183 Linfield Road, Mihi	Shed
DA-5-2023	Buildcert Planning	6 Wilkens Street, Uralla	Dwelling
CDC-1-2023	Mr W & Mrs A O'Halloran	30 Kalinda Road, Invergowrie	Swimming Pool
CDC-2-2023	Mr N & Mrs M McDonald	29 Macleay Way, Saumarez Ponds	Shed

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

## February

- Construction of the Hawthorne Drive base course.
- Culvert extension and footbridge renewal; Bendemeer Street, Bundarra.
- Roman Street, Uralla; new kerb and gutter works resuming
- Tar patching on Gwydir River Road
- Gravel resheeting on Bindawalla Road
- Roadside Slashing at Race Course Lagoon and Barleyfields Road

## Upcoming in March

- Trimming and sealing of the Hawthorne Drive base course.
- Commencement of Gostwyck Road rehabilitation – Dog Trap Road to the Grid
- Roman Street, Uralla; new kerb and gutter works completion and road renewal and backfill of kerb
- Grading of Lindon Road, Colomendy Road
- Erection of Bus Shelters at Fuller Park

## Ongoing

- Ongoing weed spraying and mowing in Uralla and Bundarra
- Pothole patching on local and regional sealed roads



Hawthorne Drive, base course construction

## Catch up on your Council Meetings

At the February Ordinary Meeting held at Bundarra, Council resolved to:

- receive a new format monthly financial report which provided excellent information to support decision making.
- approve DA-70-2022 as an eight lot strata division with residual common property.
- accept the tender for two (2) new John Deere 770GP Graders.
- not proceed with the “Boat pond” section of The Glen precinct Public Spaces Legacy Program project despite the best efforts of staff, due to the failure of mechanical methods and lack of support for aquatic herbicide method of reed removal.
- place on public exhibition the following:
  - Draft Water Supply Network Asset Management Plan
  - Draft Sewer Asset Management Plan
  - Draft Roadside Vegetation Plan 2023
  - Prudential Compliance Policy – attachment A

- Draft Tree Management Policy (added to title- for Council Managed Land)
- adopt the following:
  - Draft Stormwater Drainage Asset Management Plan;
  - Draft Buildings Asset Management Plan;
  - Draft Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities Asset Management Plan

## Meeting Dates

Meetings are open to the public subject to current COVID guidelines. Agendas, business papers, minutes, and meeting webcasts are published on Council’s website at [uralla.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Meetings](http://uralla.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Meetings)

**Ordinary Meeting of Council**  
Tuesday, 28 March 2023,  
4:00pm, Council Chambers.

**Council Workshops and Public Forums** Refer to Public Notices on the Council website for details.

## THE GLEN PROJECT UPDATE

The first stage of the **Constellations of the South** project is proceeding at pace at The Glen. The installation of obelisks is underway and should be open to public viewing within 2 weeks. We're thrilled to offer visitors the chance to witness the intricate and captivating constellations brought to life in this exceptional project.

## Your Councillors



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

### 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