

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



November 2023

Mayor's Message

I am very pleased to announce that Ms Toni Averay has been appointed as our new General Manager following a recruitment process which included a large field of high quality candidates. Toni brings many years of local government experience to the role with strong leadership and planning credentials. As the Director Infrastructure and Development Toni's energetic and outcome focussed approach quickly served to produce improvements in our Planning and Development Services.

More recently as the interim General Manager Toni has demonstrated a positive and inclusive focus and has been a stabilising influence during the transition to a new General Manager. Many locals will already have met Toni and her husband Michael either on the main street or at community events. If not, keep an eye out, you will find her friendly and engaging and ever keen to serve our community. We wish Toni every success in her new role.

Our community once again celebrated the Thunderbolts Festival on the 28 October.



With so many local events to enjoy throughout the year it is no wonder our small community is increasingly becoming the destination of choice for visitors from within and to our region. While Council is a significant sponsor of the Thunderbolts Festival full kudos and many thanks must go to the festival committee who work tirelessly to provide our community with such a wonderful event.

We continue to strive to manage the challenges of increasing service and legislative expectations from State and Federal Governments. Last month, I wrote to the Minister of Health and Aged Care highlighting the increasing pressures in the delivery of aged care services to our community and calling on his government to address the critical shortage of registered nurses and aged care service providers in regional areas.

In the meantime, Council has recognised the invaluable work of our nurses and aged care service providers by pre-empting the expected wage increase currently before the Commission. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff for their commitment and hardwork in meeting the needs of our aging residents.

Our spring weather has been glorious, but everyone will have noticed that it is very dry. Considering this I ask us to consider water usage. Our dam water levels are currently healthy enough to avoid the need for the introduction of water restriction however with dry conditions forecasted for the foreseeable future, it would be prudent for all of us to be mindful of our water usage and to seek to minimise it where possible.

URALLA Bundarra Community Markets



18
November
2023

Explore an eclectic mix of stalls featuring local produce, crafts, plants, pets, livestock, and secondhand goods on the third Saturday of each month.

CARING FOR WATER

In the last drought we learnt what it was like to almost run out of water and that the water we had left to use was contaminated by arsenic! This was quite a wake-up call for our community to understand that our water resource is an essential, precious yet fragile resource.

From the ZNET 'Let's Talk Water' project where the community was asked to explore different ideas for increasing our supply, the issue of silt flowing into the dam and resulting in the decrease of the dams capacity came up as one of the issues to be addressed.

On 23 September 2023 at the Kentucky Hall, landholders and Uralla Shire Council members came together for a forum on the issue of future silting from the Kentucky creek dam catchment.

It was encouraging to see the landholders come together to work on solutions towards safeguarding our water supply.

UPCOMING The Rotary Club of Uralla, Antiques and Collectables Fair



18
November
2023

The 10th annual Antiques and Collectables Fair features a diverse range of treasures from clocks to dolls to military collectables, presented by passionate vendors.

The town community can also contribute by remaining mindful of how we can prolong our supply by using our water wisely.

The simple steps of only watering gardens early or late in the day, shorter showers, etc, will help to conserve what we have for longer. We have been reminded how precious our water supply is, so let's treasure it together.

DID YOU KNOW?



Free Council Pre-DA Meeting

Council's pre-DA meetings assist customers with navigating the system, including the types of professional advice they might need to prepare their Development Application. There is no fee for this service. Meetings can be booked online at:

www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Council-Services/Building-Development/Book-a-Pre-DA-Meeting

EVENTS Uralla Fairy Festival



02
December
2023

Dust off your wings and shake out your cloaks to celebrate this day of magic - lots to see and do on this magical day in Uralla. Everyone is encouraged to dress up and come join the festivities!

NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK 2023 (NAAW 2023)

NAAW 2023 provides an opportunity to mark 20 years since asbestos was banned in Australia and highlights the progress that has occurred since the ban. It will also highlight that a significant amount of ageing asbestos-containing material remains in our built environment. This means there is an ongoing need for vigilance to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres and a need to focus on safe, proactive removal.

The National Asbestos Awareness Campaign will also be running throughout November to remind homeowners and tradies across Australia to Think Twice about Asbestos. Find out more at Asbestos NSW: www.asbestos.nsw.gov.au/



**National Asbestos
Awareness Week**

Street Store Schedule

Located at 60 Bridge St, Uralla

- 13-19 November Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
- 20-26 November United Hospital Auxiliaries NSW Uralla Branch
- 27 Nov - 3 Dec Uralla Garden Club

A FOCUS ON RECYCLING

Recycling extends beyond the items typically collected through councils kerbside collections.

Council also has collection points for a range of recyclables. For example council has drop off points at the Community Recycling Centre (CRC) for large and small batteries and council administration building for small batteries.

Council supports Mobile Muster by providing phone recycling drop off points at the administration building in Salisbury Street and at the CRC.

You can also deposit a range of recyclable materials free of charge at the CRC including:

- Water-based and oil-based paints.
- Used motor and cooking oils.
- Lead-acid and hand-held batteries.
- Gas cylinders & fire extinguishers.
- Conventional tube & compact fluorescent lamps.

- House hold chemicals and pesticides.
- Smoke detectors.
- X-Rays.



Please keep these items out of the household garbage collection and dispose of them through the above collection points. These services provide the community with simple ways of preventing harmful and toxic waste from entering our natural environment. For more information on Council recycling services, you can visit Council's website at: <https://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/Council-Services/Waste-Recycling>.

SNAKE SEASON AWARENESS

With the weather warming up, this is a timely reminder to watch out for snakes! The NSW Northern Tablelands is home to several species of venomous snakes including the red bellied black, eastern brown and common death adder.

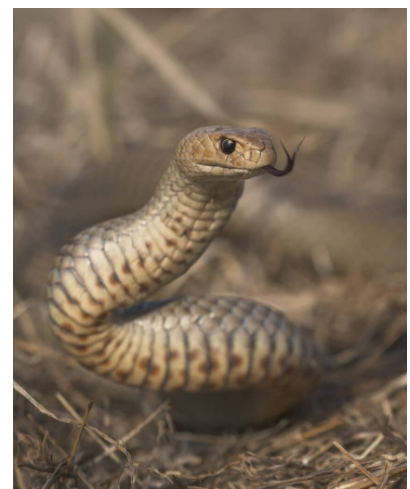
If you find a snake on your property, please contact a local snake catcher to have it relocated.

Council cannot respond to requests to remove snakes from private land or areas of natural habitat on public land such as areas of bushland, wetlands etc.

If you keep chooks, mice, rats, guinea pigs, and birds, their enclosures can attract snakes. Ensure they are secure and there are no openings large enough through which snakes can enter. Sometimes you may even see snakes taking up residence near your chook house. They have been known to eat eggs and catch mice and rats that are attracted to spilled grain. As a precaution, keep animal enclosures clean and maintain your backyard to discourage snakes from taking up residence!

Follow these steps if you see a snake on your property, to ensure your family and pets are kept safe:

1. Stay calm and remove all family members and pets from the area immediately.
2. Do not approach or attempt to move or kill the snake. This is when you are most likely to be bitten.
3. Keep watch from a safe distance to see if the snake moves on from your property.
4. If the snake is aggressive or poses a risk to your family's safety, contact an authorised snake handler to remove the snake.



Eastern Brown Snake

CIVIL WORKS

Upcoming & Ongoing over the next quarter

- Commence rehabilitation of 1.8km of Bergen Road, at Wollun east of the railway line.
- Maintenance grading; Athol Road, Mihi Road, Lindfield and Hillview Road.
- Heavy patch Thunderbolts Way at Laura Creek and Box Hill, Torryburn Road and Gwydir River Road.
- The Glen Project, footpaths and carpark continuing.
- Tar crew – pothole repairs, MR124 Bundarra Road, Thunderbolts Way and other sealed rural arterial roads.
- Cemeteries, parks and reserves and verges ongoing maintenance of the lawns and trees.



Barleyfields Road intersection with Warwick Street, Uralla – pavement rehabilitated and resealed throughout.

CATCH UP ON YOUR COUNCIL MEETINGS

At the October Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to:

- Extend its thanks to Hon Adam Marshall for his work on the NSW Rural Fires Amendment (Red Fleet) Bill 2023
- Invite Minister Hoenig to visit the Northern New England region to meet the local Mayors to discuss this Red Fleet issues issue further.
- Defer a decision on a referendum to change the way we elect the Mayor and our Ward set up to allow further discussion and consultation.
- Exhibit the Draft Policy on Council-related Development Applications – Managing Conflict of Interests.
- Defer a decision the Draft Guidelines for Tree Management to enable Councillors to workshop the document.
- Adopt the model Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Prudential Compliance Policy.
- Pre-empt the Annual Wage Review determination of 5.75% for employees engaged under the State Awards for its aged care nurse and disability and home care staff to acknowledge the invaluable service they provide the community.

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

NEXT ORDINARY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, 28 November 2023,
4:00pm Council Chambers
Tuesday 19 December 2023,
4:00pm Council Chambers

Your Councillors

Mayor

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Deputy Mayor

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General Manager

Ms Toni Averay

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Tourism Website: 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