

APRIL/MAY 2024



COUNCIL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED THUNDERBOLT WIND FARM PROJECT

Thunderbolt Wind Farm, proposed by NEOEN Energy, would straddle the boundary between Tamworth and Uralla Shire. Like most large-scale renewable developments in the New England Renewable Energy Zone, the proposal constitutes State Significant Development, to be assessed by the NSW Government.

The proposal has been referred to the Independent Planning Commission for assessment. The Assessment Report prepared by the NSW Government and their recommended conditions of consent can be found on the Independent Planning Commission website.

Visit ipcn.nsw.gov.au/cases and search under Uralla Shire Council to read the full report.

To ensure our community receives legacy outcomes from this development, Tamworth and Uralla Shire Councils have been negotiating with NEOEN on community benefit payments. Payments would be valued at 1.5% of total capital investment value (\$160,000 per year), and then adjusted for inflation annually over the expected 30-year life of the project.

Initially, it was proposed that these payments would be shared 50/50 between Tamworth and Uralla Shire Councils, based on an understanding that similar impacts would be experienced by communities in both local government areas. However, given only 2 – 3 of the total 32 wind turbines will now be located in our shire, it is proposed that contributions to Uralla Shire would equal 40% of the overall funding pool, payable to us in annual instalments.

Uralla Shire Council has proposed our payments are made into a newly established Renewable Energy Community Benefit Restricted Fund. The restricted funds will be administered by Uralla Shire Council but remain separated from other council finances. Funds could only be released for projects that benefit our community in consultation with our community.

To facilitate this, a community advisory body will be established to advise Council on projects seeking investment from within the fund. Further consideration will be given to this advisory body, including Terms of Reference, at a future Council meeting.

Mayer Robert Bell



PIONEER PARK FIBONACCI INSTALLATION

You may have noticed fences are down around Pioneer Park, as we near the completion of Stage 1 of the installation of our Fibonacci design.

Did you know Uralla is the only town in Australia whose postcode – 2358 – follows the Fibonacci sequence?

Named after a 13th Century Italian mathematician, a Fibonacci sequence of numbers is created when each number is the sum of the two numbers before it, for example $1+1=2$, $1+2=3$, $2+3=5$, $3+5=8$.

Over coming weeks, the four brick pillars standing on the corner of Bridge and Salisbury Streets will start to be covered in colourful mosaic tile artwork.

Council is continuing to seek funding for Stage 2 of the design, which will bring mosaic art to the pathway wall and the tiered seating features.



ANZAC DAY 2024

This year's Dawn Service will commence at 5:40am at the Alma Park Memorial Gates. Please bring a torch or candle to Light up the Dawn, followed by Rotary breakfast in the park from 6:15am (a small donation is appreciated).

ANZAC DAY MARCH & SERVICE

The March will form up at 9:30am at Pioneer Park for a 10am start.

The March will proceed along Bridge Street, then left into Hill Street and right into Queen Street to finish at the memorial gates.

The Commemorative Service will be held at the Memorial Gates from 10:30am.

If you wish to lay a wreath, please contact the Uralla RSL Sub-Branch on 6778 3325 or urallasc@rslnsw.org.au by Tuesday 23 April.



**FREE PAPER QUILLING
WORKSHOP @ URALLA LIBRARY**
Saturday 20 April, 10am - 12pm
 Suitable for all ages

Bookings essential
Call Uralla Library on 6778 6470



ROAD PROJECT UPDATE: THUNDERBOLTS WAY

Late last year, Council received a \$3.9 million grant from the NSW Government through the Restart NSW program to help improve road safety between Uralla and Inverell along Thunderbolts Way.

Throughout April, Council's road team will be focused on a 3.8km stretch of road approximately 11km north of Uralla.

In recent weeks, the team have upgraded this section with added pavement material and stabilised the base course to both widen and strengthen the road, resulting in an overall safer surface that will last longer and reduce ongoing maintenance costs.

Weather permitting, the crew will soon begin sealing this section, and at the end of April will continue their work further north of Uralla, commencing another 1.6km of road that will complete the Scrubby Gully component of this major undertaking for Council.

CIVIL WORKS UPDATE MARCH 2024

- Maintenance grading completed in western area along Bendemeer Rd, Warrabah Rd, Box Forest Rd, Carlowrie Rd, Woodlands Rd, and Gwydir Park Rd.
- Maintenance grading completed in central area along Mt Butler Lane, Rosehill Rd, Saumarez War Service Rd, Holloways Lane, Wilkinsons Rd, Nelsons Rd, Goodes Rd, Williams Rd, Bullens Rd, and Munsies Rd.
- Road sealed surface patching in various areas including edge repairs along Gwydir River Rd, Thunderbolts Way North, Kingstown Rd and Gostwyck Rd.
- Roadside grass slashing along sections of Thunderbolts Way, Bundarra Rd and rural roads.
- Guidepost maintenance along Kingstown Rd.
- Parks and recreational area maintenance along footpaths and kerbs, spraying overgrown vegetation along kerb & gutters, and garden maintenance in Alma Park.
- Preparation work around the park areas for Seasons and Lantern Parade Events



FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

BIG DAY OUT

WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL, 8:30AM - 4:30PM
AGES 12+

BOOK VIA URALLA LIBRARY ON 6778 6470





AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

As part of the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea initiative, McMaugh Gardens is running a fundraising campaign to support people impacted by cancer. They have set a fundraising goal of \$500.

Joy Hine who has worked for McMaugh Gardens for 18 years and is a highly valued member of our team has volunteered to shave her head and donate her hair to Wigs for Cancer. Mayor Bell has accepted the challenge to hold the clippers at our morning tea event.

If you would like to make a donation to the McMaugh Gardens fundraising campaign, you can do so online by visiting:

biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/mcmaughgardens

Your donation will help fund world-class cancer research, which has already increased survival rates from 49% in the 1980s to 69% today, as well as support services for the 150,000 Australians who are diagnosed with cancer every year.

Together we can help Australia take big steps towards a cancer free future.



MAYOR'S YOUTH FORUM

This year, we were invited to include our Mayor's Youth Forum as part of Youth Week (11 – 21 April). Youth Week events enable young people to lead and participate in their communities.

Mayor Bell, Councillors and staff visited every school across Uralla Shire, meeting 200 students from K-12, asking what's important to them, their concerns and ideas for the future.

We were grateful for the enthusiasm of our students, their willingness to contribute, and feedback about what we could do together to make living in our Shire even better.

Sessions started by asking what students loved about our Shire. We heard young people feel safe and part of a friendly, welcoming community.

The challenges of living in remote communities was also mentioned, that it can feel isolating – especially in villages and on rural properties – and availability of transport limits ability to connect with friends, get jobs or join social activities.

The week culminated in our Youth Forum, with representatives nominated by schools to attend a full-day workshop in our council chambers. We discussed youth crime, water quality and careers. Young people helped us co-design future school holiday activities and had input to future activation of our library.

Our sincere thanks to all our school communities for making this such a successful week.





The Uralla Community Street Store is located at 60 Bridge Street.

Council rents and maintains the street stall providing it free of charge to community groups to support their fundraising efforts.

SCHEDULE

APRIL

15 - 21	Uralla RSL Sub-Branch
22 - 28	Lions Club of Uralla
29 - 05 May	Uralla Historical Society

MAY

06 - 12	New England Lapidary & Fossicking Club
13 - 19	Kentucky Memorial Hall
20 - 26	Uralla Anglican Church
27 - 02 June	Armidale MS Branch

JUNE

03 - 09	Uralla Neighbourhood Centre Inc
10 - 16	Uralla Red Cross
17 - 23	Uralla District Show Society
24 - 30	Thunderbolt Fishing Club



Residents are reminded to clear the way for water meter readers, with readings taking place across Uralla and Bundarra throughout May. Water bills will then be sent out in June.

You can assist by ensuring clear access to your water meter so readers can record water use and repair or replace your water meter if required.

We may not be able to read your meter if:

- It is behind a locked gate
- It is unsafe to enter the property
- An aggressive dog is present
- It is buried in concrete or dirt
- It is inaccessible due to overgrown grass, garden or vegetation



2024 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

On Saturday, 14 September 2024 the NSW Electoral Commission will conduct local government elections across all councils in NSW. Voters in every local government area will elect councillors to their local council. It is compulsory to vote in an election if you are eligible to do so.

Uralla Shire is divided into two electoral wards, Ward A and Ward B. Voters will elect eight councillors in total – four to each of our electoral wards on a four-year term.

Additionally, Uralla Shire Council holds a mayoral election, and on this occasion, will also hold a constitutional referendum.

MAYORAL ELECTION

In Uralla Shire, a mayor who is in addition to the eight elected councillors, also serving a four-year term, is directly elected by voters. In 2024, our referendum will ask voters if they would like this process to change in future.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM

At a meeting held on 7 February 2024, Councillors resolved to hold a constitutional referendum at the upcoming election, seeking voter direction on the following two questions through a yes or no response:

1. Are you in favour of the Mayor being elected by the Councillors?

If supported, this would mean that in future, voters would no longer directly elect their mayor. Instead, a mayor would be selected from within the nine elected councillors. If supported, the change would come into effect at the next local government election, scheduled for 2028. It does not change the 2024 election process.

2. Are you in favour of removing the current ward system so that all electors vote for all Councillors that represent the Uralla Shire Council area?

If supported, this would abolish our current system of wards from 2028, and voters would instead elect councillors in an undivided council area. The change, would also come into effect at the next local government election scheduled for 2028. It does not change the 2024 election process.

We will be providing further information regarding the 2024 local government election and our constitutional referendum closer to the September election.

COUNCIL UPDATE

- DA-76-2023 Boundary realignment & DA-56-2022 approved with conditions
- Renewable Energy Community Benefit Framework is being developed and will be placed on exhibition for 28 days when completed
- Local Housing Strategy request for quotation being prepared
- Next Council Meetings Tuesday 23 April & Tuesday 21 May 2024

YOUR COUNCILLORS

WARD A



Cr Lone Petrov
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0427 784 760



Cr Tom O'Connor
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Cr Bruce McMullen
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Cr Tara Toomey
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MAYOR



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0434 244 774

WARD B



Deputy Mayor Cr Bob Crouch
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Cr Tim Bower
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0421 704 598



Cr Leanne Doran
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Cr Sarah Burrows
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General Manager
Ms Toni Averay

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02 6778 6300
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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