# KYOGLE & villages

### **Community Newsletter**

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021



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## KOALA SURVEY planned for Kyogle LGA

Koala activity in the Kyogle Local Government Area (LGA) will be assessed as part of a wider Northern Rivers survey.

The Northern Rivers Koala Activity Assessment will provide an insight into the extent of the local koala population and their habitat within the Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Tweed Shire, Lismore City, Ballina Shire and Byron Shire council areas.

It is the first time that the Kyogle LGA has been included in the survey, which collates important information on koala distribution and activity levels, habitat use and tree species preferences.

The Far North Coast supports a significant koala population, which is recognised as one of the largest in NSW. Ensuring this population is appropriately managed and supported is crucial to the survival of the species, particularly in light of the devastating impacts of the 2019-2020 bushfire season.

Information collected in the first Koala

Continued page 2



The Kyogle Local Government Area will be included in this year's Northern Rivers Koala Activity Assessment. The survey will provide information on the extent of the local koala population.



# **SURVEY WILL** track population trends

#### From page 1

Activity Assessment in 2018 has been directly applied to koala preservation through the provision of State Government funded voluntary conservation agreements, as well as implementing priority recovery actions throughout the region.

The assessment is funded by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and will be carried out by ecologists from Biolink Ecological Consultants, using a technique called SAT survey.

The SAT survey involves searching the bases of 30 trees for the presence of diagnostic koala scats (koala poo).

Supervising Ecologist with Biolink Dr Amanda Lane said there were many benefits to a SAT survey.

"Not least of which is that it is possible to determine koala activity levels - from low, to medium and high - and differentiate between habitat with resident animals and areas that just have transitory movement of koalas," Dr Lane said.

"The aim is that these surveys will be conducted on a three-yearly cycle to allow tracking of regional population trends over



time and raising the alarm if populations are seen to be diminishing.

"In order to gain an accurate understanding of koalas in the region the survey design is tenure-blind, meaning that survey locations are likely to fall on all land types – National Parks, State Forest, Council Reserves and private lots.

"If you are contacted by Kyogle Council / Biolink / WWF, please consider allowing an ecologist to conduct a quick (one hour) survey for koala scats under 30 trees on your property.

"The results will be used to inform on broad-scale koala population trends, not to comment on koalas being present or absent on any specific property."

Surveys are due to start in November and will run until early 2022, with a publicly available report on the Northern Rivers' koala population to be released in March next year.

# RULES FOR burning waste

## By FIRE and RESCUE NSW and KYOGLE COUNCIL

Did you know that residents within the areas of Kyogle, Geneva and New Park area required to obtain a fire permit from Fire and Rescue NSW if they are burning off green waste at any time throughout the year?

If you are issued with a permit, you are also required to give at least 24 hours' notice of intention to burn to all your adjoining neighbours and to burn only dry green waste.

This is not required for small recreational fires used to cook or a barbecue as long as only gas or dry seasoned wood is used as fuel, the fireplace is

permanently constructed with a 2m clear area, and does not present any threat to life or property.

During the Declared Bush Fire Danger Period, which Kyogle local government area (LGA) is now in, a fire permit from Fire and Rescue NSW only lasts for seven days. Outside of this period, permits last for a maximum of 21 days.

Fire permits are available from Fire and Rescue NSW Kyogle by phoning between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday on (02) 6632 1874. Further information about these permits can be found at Fire and Rescue NSW website https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au

It's also important to note that residents in the Kyogle LGA cannot burn domestic waste, apart from dead and dry



vegetation, without approval from Council, if a domestic waste service is provided to them.

If burning dead and dry vegetation in the open or in an incinerator, you also have an obligation to prevent or minimise air pollution so that you are not affecting the health of other people in the community or the environment. Any person who burns anything that causes excessive air pollution, can be fined up to 50

penalty units, which is currently \$5.500.

Council accepts clean green waste at its waste facilities for just \$9 a load for utes and small trainers, and just \$17 for a tandem trailer load. So, if you were considering burning off green waste to "save money", you might want to take that into consideration.

The green waste is processed into mulch, which is used on Council's public gardens and, when available, can be sold back to the community.

By properly disposing of your green waste with Council, you are helping reuse a valuable resource and returning the benefits to the community, as well as avoiding upsetting your neighbours or copping a big fine!



## Kyogle Shooting Range **REDESIGNED**

Kyogle's Shooting Range has been redesigned and upgraded thanks to a \$75,000 grant and community donations of in-kind support valued at a staggering \$200,000.

The grant, through the State Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund, helped fund the upgrade of the shooting range's access road, the redesign of the shooting range, and the construction of an amenities building and an undercover firing shelter.

The shooting range, which has operated in Kyogle for more than a century, is run by the Kyogle branch of the Sports Shooters Association of Australia.

As a testament to the organisation's community support, local members, businesses and the wider community donated more than 600 people-hours, 12,000L of diesel and several pieces of earthmoving equipment to complete stage one of the project.

This totalled more than \$200,000 of inkind support.

Kyogle Council, which managed the project in partnership with the shooters' club, was overwhelmed at the community support it generated.

Council has now applied for a further \$250,000 grant under the State



Government's Regional Sport Facility Fund to complete stage two of the redesign and rebuild.

If approved, the grant funds will be used to upgrade the range to become a multi-sport facility that can be used for pistol events, shotguns events, rifle events and archery.

Stage two would also provide for people with disability with the installation of accessible pathways and solid earth platforms at the various event locations.

Council's Assets and Design Coordinator Matt Sorenson said the extra funding would equip the shooting range to host local, regional state, national and international events including the service pistol world titles and the WA1500 world titles.

"If we can win the funding to complete stage two, the facility could also be used as a training venue for the ISSF shooting teams for the upcoming Olympic Games in Brisbane," he said.

## Voting at Council elections **COMPULSORY**

Nominations for candidates standing for Kyogle Council at the 4 December Local Government elections close at noon on Wednesday, 3 November.

The NSW Electoral Commission, which will conduct the election, is urging candidates to nominate on-line using its online nomination system.

To find out more, go to <a href="https://elections.nsw.gov.au/Elections/Local-government-elections/Local-Government-Elections-2021">https://elections.nsw.gov.au/Elections/Local-Government-elections/Local-Government-Elections-2021</a>

Meanwhile, residents are reminded that voting in the election is compulsory.

For the Kyogle Council election, candidates will be vying for three Councillor positions in A, B and C Wards.

A pre-poll polling booth for all three

wards will operate in the Kyogle Memorial Institute in Stratheden Street, Kyogle, from Monday 22 November to Friday 3 December.

It will be open from 9am-5pm Monday to Saturday and is fully wheelchair accessible.

On the day of the election, people can lodge their vote at the following locations:

#### A Ward

Cawongla Pre-School; Kyogle Memorial Institute Hall

#### **B** Ward

Wiangaree Hall, Kyogle Memorial Institute Hall

#### C Ward

Bonalbo District Community Hall; Mallanganee Memorial Hall; Tabulam Public School; Wiangaree Hall; Woodenbong Public Hall; and Kyogle Memorial Institute Hall.

Polling booths will open from 8am-6pm.

€ NSW Electoral

### Save the date

## 2021 NSW Local Government elections





### **COUNCIL TO TAKE PART**

#### in Keeping Cats Safe At Home project

Kyogle Council will partner with RSPCA NSW for the next four years to deliver the Keeping Cats Safe at Home project.

Kyogle is one of 11 councils across NSW selected to participate in the innovative partnership as part of a project to better protect native wildlife and improve care for pet cats through responsible cat ownership.

The State-wide project will explore community attitudes and behaviours towards caring for cats as companion animals.

The first part of the project involves a research study about cat ownership and is seeking input from the community via a short survey.

The survey aims to gain a better understanding of the challenges of looking after cats and keeping them safe and healthy while also protecting wildlife.

The survey information will be used to offer better support programs within the Kyogle local government area.

Community members are encouraged to submit their views about cats and how they are managed by filling out the survey. It only takes about 10 minutes to complete.

You can undertake the short online survey here: <a href="https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=3MR4LAEYPR">https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=3MR4LAEYPR</a>

The survey is open until 15 November 2021.



For more information about this project, visit RSPCA's website at: <a href="https://www.rspcansw.org.au/safecats/">https://www.rspcansw.org.au/safecats/</a>

The NSW-wide project is funded by a \$2.5 million grant from the NSW Environmental Trust.

## **APPLY NOW FOR**Regional Youth Taskforce

Do you know someone aged 12-24 years old living in regional NSW who may be interested in joining the NSW Regional Youth Taskforce?

The NSW Government is offering regional young people the opportunity to share their opinion on local issues, to represent their peers, and to help make decisions to drive change in their own communities.

Applications are open now and close on Sunday 21 November 2021.

The Regional NSW Youth Taskforce is a Ministerial advisory group that advises the Minister for Regional Youth on issues that affect young people living in regional NSW.

The Taskforce provides young people from all corners of rural and regional NSW with a unique opportunity to meet with government and inform decision making that will have flow-on benefits for their peers, communities and hometowns.

The Taskforce is comprised of 18 diverse members, aged 12-24, with two members representing each of NSW's nine regions. The Taskforce will meet four times throughout the year either online or in person. Travel costs and accommodation



will be covered for Regional Youth Taskforce members travelling across NSW for meetings.

The Taskforce is an initiative of the Deputy Premier and Office for Regional Youth, headed by the State's first-ever Minister for Regional Youth, Bronnie Taylor.

The Office for Regional Youth is responsible for delivering a broad range of strategic programs to address regional youth

issues and ensure young people have every opportunity to live, work and thrive in regional NSW.

If you want to make a difference to your community, you are encouraged to apply. The third Taskforce will be appointed from January 2022 until 31 December 2022.

To find out more or apply, visit <a href="nsw.gov.au/RegionalYouthTaskforce">nsw.gov.au/RegionalYouthTaskforce</a>.



### **BUSY TIME**

#### for work crews

At the end of October, Council started work to rehabilitate a section of Bruxner Highway on Mallanganee Range for Transport for NSW.

The road and drainage improvements are similar to the work recently completed on Bruxner Highway near Rogers Road and should be completed in March 2022.

Work on the Clarence Way upgrade at Sandilands is progressing on schedule.

Fifty per cent funded through the State's *Regional Roads Repair Program*, the work targets road and drainage improvements to improve road safety and longevity.

It should be completed in November.

Also due to finish in November is the Afterlee Road rehabilitation project. Once it is complete, the work crew will start a road widening and rehabilitation project at Sextonville Road largely funded by the State Government's Fixing Local Roads program.

The bridge to pipe replacement on Ironpot Creek Road should be completed and a new one commenced by the time this newsletter reaches mailboxes.

Work continues on bridge replacements at Wyndham Road, Ghinni Ghi Road, Bolan Road, and two new bridges on Babyl Creek Road.

The new bridge at Sheddens Road was completed in October, and work started on a second bridge on Wyndham Road (near the Eden Creek Road intersection).

Council's contractor has completed the abutments of the bridge on Edenville Road at Cedar Point.

The new toilet facilities at the Bonalbo Memorial Hall were completed in October with funding granted through the NSW State Government's Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund. The male and female single toilets were replaced with properly accessible facilities including two toilets, basins and a shower



in both the male and female facilities.

Also completed in October was the upgrade of the tennis courts and carpark at the Old Bonalbo Recreation Reserve, *pictured above*.

This project was funded by the Federal Government's *Local* 

Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Work included improvements to the carpark, resurfacing of the tennis courts, fencing and drainage as well as line-marking to create a multi-purpose court and a multi-sport court as well as a tennis court.

## **GET READY FOR**

#### storm, bushfire season

Kyogle Council is committed to supporting the community, individuals and businesses prepare for the upcoming storm and bushfire season.

Council has developed an online Disaster Dashboard to help you create your own preparedness plans.

This could save you money, save your house, business or farm or even save your life.

Predicted impacts of climate change in the Kyogle Local Government Area (LGA) indicate we may experience more frequent and intense natural disasters, including storms, floods and bushfires. This impacts communities and households and increases demands on emergency services.

What can you do to plan and prepare your

family, business and household for the upcoming storm and bushfire season?

You can GET READY!

Create your home Emergency Plan and share the plan with your family;



**1. Know your risk.** Think about the area you live in and the types of disasters that could affect you.



2. Plan now for what you will do. Sit down and talk with your family and plan for what you will do if a disaster affects your area.



#### 3. Get your home ready

Prepare your home by doing general home maintenance, clean up your yard and check your insurances.



Find out how to prepare and what to do if there is a disaster in your area. Connect with NSW emergency services to stay informed. You can find out further information at NSW Government's



emergency services webpage https:// www.nsw.gov.au/living-nsw/emergencyservices



#### 5. Look out for each other

Share information with your family, friends, neighbours and those who may need assistance.

For information about how to develop a plan and GET READY, visit the Kyogle Council webpage <a href="https://www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au">www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au</a> and click on the Disaster Dashboard.

You will see the GET READY tab at the top of the page.



# ROXY SHOW extended by a month

The current exhibition at Council's Roxy Gallery, Life on the Edge, has been extended and will now run until the end of November.

The exhibition explores two endangered species, the Orangutan and the Koala, and their edge ecology.

It looks at the two species on the edge of potential extinction, plus a host of species and ecological communities living life on the edge.

Paul Daley from a Lush Forest Media has engaged a number of creative partners, Izwoz (Katie Evans and Brad Fettke) and Avena Osborn to tell a story through multi -media works about the significance of biodiversity. The extension will give people the chance to immerse themselves in the exhibition which has been interrupted due to COVID restrictions.

Meanwhile, the Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare Network, Arcoora Arts and Ecology Training Ground and A Lush Forest are using the exhibition to draw attention to the proposed

'Boodahbee - Festival of the Koala'.

They hope to generate interest and gain community support for the event proposed for 2022.

Due to the current COVID-19 Public Health Orders, the Roxy Gallery's opening hours have been changed slightly.

The gallery will open Wednesday to Saturday from 10am to 3pm.



Cockatoo Dreaming by Katie Evans.

# Think twice about **ASBESTOS**

Think twice about asbestos!

That's what the community is being asked to do as part of National Asbestos Awareness Week which runs from 22-28 November

It is also an opportunity for Kyogle Local Government Area residents learn more about the serious health risks of asbestos.

Asbestos was a widely used building material before 1990 and still shows up in one in three Australian homes.

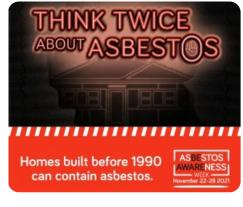
Kyogle Council is one of hundreds of organisations working towards an Australia free of asbestos-related diseases and has free Asbestos Testing Kits available on request at the Council Administration building.

Council encourages anyone who may be renovating or clearing old building materials to take up the offer.

Asbestos can be disposed of safely at the Kyogle Waste Facility.

If you are renovating or in a trade, follow these simple steps to stay safe and avoid the very real health risks associated with exposure to asbestos fibres:

**1.Get in the know** - Find out whether your home was built or renovated before 1990. Asbestos was used in thousands of



building materials at the time.

**2.Take it slow -** Don't damage or disturb asbestos materials. This can release dangerous asbestos fibres into the air.

**3.Get a pro -** Know your limits. Contact a licensed asbestos professional for advice on where it's located, and on how to manage or remove it.

If you do become aware of asbestos in your home, make sure you follow the three steps outlined above, to safely dispose of the material.

Whatever you do, make sure that you do not turn to illegal dumping, it is dangerous to you, Council staff, our community and environment.

If you do see an individual dumping asbestos make sure to call Council right away on (02) 6632 1611.

Seek professional help no matter if you

are considering DIY renovations and maintenance or are a professional tradie. Asbestos handling requires appropriate equipment, skills, training and licencing. Remember, "Get in the know, take it slow and get a pro".

#### Tip of the month

You cannot see asbestos fibres, so when in doubt, use a free Asbestos Test Kit available at Council's Administration Building, 1 Stratheden Street, Kyogle, NSW, 2474.

#### Resources to get you started

For more information visit the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency website at <a href="https://www.asbestossafety.gov.au/naaw">www.asbestossafety.gov.au/naaw</a> or North East Waste for local information at <a href="https://www.newaste.org.au/asbestos.">www.newaste.org.au/asbestos.</a>

#### **National Recycling Week**

National Recycling Week (8-14 November) is fast approaching.

The week focuses on recycling to help the community value resources, reduce waste and recycle right. The theme is 'Recovery- A Future Beyond the Bin'.

Council encourages everyone to take part in the fun activities available, online and off

Get involved at school, work or at home. There are great opportunities to get involved, just visit Planet Ark's Resource Hub: <a href="https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/nationalrecyclingweek/resources">https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/nationalrecyclingweek/resources</a>

### **LIBRARY**

#### news

#### **Library re-opens**

The Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library, including the Kyogle branch, has re-opened.

However, in line with NSW Public Health Orders only people with two vaccinations are allowed into library buildings.

The library is still able to offer services to those with either no or just one vaccination, including click and collect. For further information on these services, call the library on 6632 1134.

#### **eLibrary**

Now is the perfect time to explore the eLibrary resources. The eLibrary has thou-

sands of books, audiobooks, magazines and films free online for members to download and enjoy.

You can find the eLibrary at <a href="https://bit.ly/rucrl">https://bit.ly/rucrl</a>.

#### **Book Discussion Group**

Share your love of reading with other likeminded people at the Kyogle library's Book Discussion Group.

The group meets on the third Tuesday of every month from 10.30am.

#### **Tech Savvy**

Want to learn more about QR codes, Pay Pal, WiFi, email, Zoom, Bluetooth, the Clouds or how to create a MyGov account?

Make an appointment with Kyogle library staff for a free 30 minute Tech Savy lesson. Phone 6632 1134.

Or you can access the Computer Schoolnet from home via the eLibrary at <a href="https://bit.ly/rucrl">https://bit.ly/rucrl</a>.



#### Lego Club

Kyogle library hosts a Lego Club for school -aged children on the fourth Thursday of every month during school term. Lego Club runs from 3.30-4.30pm.

#### **EFTPOS** available

EFTPOS is now available at the Kyogle library to pay for printing, scanning, photocopying, and inter-library loan fees.

# **FESTIVAL** countdown begins



The countdown to the Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon Festival on 15 January 2022 has begun.

The pumpkin and watermelon seedlings have germinated and the first runners have been thrown out.

It is now time for the home gardeners to busy themselves planting tomato, butternut pumpkin, round watermelon, zucchini and cucumber seeds for the heaviest or longest fruit competition.

Artists and crafters should be working on their painting or soft furnishing entries. It is important that entries are submitted by 1 December.

The theme for this year's work is *On The Vine*.

Sculptors should also be practicing their carving skills to create a piece carved from a melon or pumpkin, while cooks can be trying their hand at recipes featuring pumpkin or watermelon. There will be encouragement awards in all categories.

# **BONALBO TO**host portrait exhibition

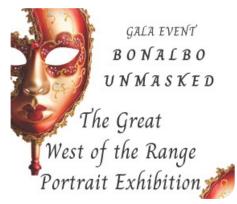
Bonalbo Artists 'Alliance has invited artists from Tabulam and Woodenbong to take part in Bonalbo Unmasked – The Great West of the Range Portrait Exhibition.

The exhibition at the Bonalbo District Memorial Hall will run from 4 December until 31 January 2022.

All artworks, including photography, should be at Bonalbo Hall by Monday 29 November ready to hang.

The gala opening will be held on Saturday portraits. 4 December from 6-10pm. Powick's Pantry All well will cater and refreshments will be served. wonderfu

The Ukulele group and Bronze Dogs Choir



may perform on the night, and there will be a prize for the guest who identifies the most portraits.

All welcome to come along, enjoy a wonderful evening and support local creatives.

# Calendar

#### **Kyogle Bazaar**

Rotary Kyogle Bazaar is a monthly community event run by the community for the community on the fourth Saturday of every month at the Kyogle Amphitheatre Park.

Operating hours are from 9am-2pm.

Details of upcoming events can be followed via the Bazaar's social media ac-

### counts including <a href="mailto:Kyoglebazaar@face">Kyoglebazaar@face</a> book.com.

New stallholders are welcome. Applications can be made through the website – www.kyoqlebazaar.com.au

#### **Farmers Market**

The Kyogle Farmers Market is held on Saturday mornings in Stratheden Street, Kyogle (between the Summerland Way and the library).

To book a stall phone Robert on 0407 506 548 or Anne on 6632 1851.

## Seeded bananas are a highly **INVASIVE WEED**

Not to be confused with the variety in your fruit bowl, Seeded banana are inedible and highly invasive.

At present there are four known locations of this weed in our region, one in the Tweed shire and three more in the Lismore area.

The Seeded banana weed has the potential to out-compete native vegetation, alter soil nutrient levels and threaten the commercial banana industry, acting as a vector for pests and diseases.

Seeded bananas have similar foliage to edible banana plants.

The Musa ornata and Musa velutina varieties of Seeded banana have been produced as ornamentals due to their palm-like foliage and eyecatching bright pink fruit on upright stalks.

The *Musa acuminata* variety produces fruit that can contain up to 200 seeds which may be spread by birds and wild-



life into our environment.

Additionally, plants may propagate when parent plants shoot out suckers from their roots.

This weed is classified as High Priority for our region with the goal of complete eradication.

If you suspect you have seen this weed, please report your sighting im-

mediately to Rous County Council on 66 233 800.

For more information scan the QR code which will direct you to a full description of the plant via the Weedwise app.



#### **Council MEETINGS**

The next Ordinary Council meeting will be held on Monday 8 November 2021 at 5pm. Ordinary meetings are held on the second Monday of every month except January and June. Meetings start at 5pm and are held at the Kyogle Council Chambers, 1 Stratheden Street, Kyogle. The first item of general business is Public Forum, which provides an opportunity for the public to speak to Council on items of business to be considered at the meeting. To request to speak at Public Forum, you should email council@kyogle.nsw.gov.au or phone 6632 1611 by midday on the Friday preceding the meeting.

#### **REGIONAL ROADS INFORMATION**

www.myroadinfo.com.au

## Council contact and info

#### **RECYCLING FACILITIES**

All Council waste facilities have recycling capabilities (if separated) and can recover oil, paper, cardboard, steel, aluminium, glass, and plastic at no charge.

The waste facility hours of operation are: Kyogle: 7.30am-12pm Monday to Friday

9am-4pm Saturday & Sunday

Woodenbong: Tuesday & Saturday 9am-4pm Bonalbo: Wednesday & Saturday 9am-4pm Mallanganee: Thursday & Sunday 9am-4pm \* All Council waste facilities are closed on public holidays



#### A WARD

Cr Kylie Thomas 0428 919 496 crkylie.thomas@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

Cr Hayden Doolan 0402 097 185 crhayden.doolan@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

Cr Janet Wilson
0419 600 848

crjanet.wilson@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

#### **B WARD**

Cr John Burley (Deputy Mayor) 6632 1436 or 0437 252 376 crjohn.burley@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

Cr Maggie May 0499 551 714 crmaggie.may@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

Cr Robert Dwyer 6632 3352 crbob.dwyer@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

#### C WARD

Cr Danielle Mulholland (Mayor) 0438 931 425 crdanielle.mulholland@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

Cr Lindsay Passfield

6635 1429

crlindsay.passfield@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

Cr Earle Grundy 6665 3290

crearle.grundy@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

PO BOX 11, 1 Stratheden Street, Kyogle, NSW, 2474
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Facsimile: 02 6632 2228, Email: council@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au Facebook: www.facebook.com/KyogleCouncil

KYOGLE COUNCIL HOURS 8.30AM-4PM
MONDAY TO FRIDAY