



Five residents of the Kyogle Local Government Area (LGA) officially became Australian citizens at a ceremony conducted by Mayor Cr Danielle Mulholland before the November Council meeting. Cr Danielle Mulholland is pictured, centre, congratulating the area's newest citizens, from left, Mr Rhys Thomas, Mrs Sim Khai, Ms Donna McInnes, Mr Michael Toner and Mr Christof Ell.

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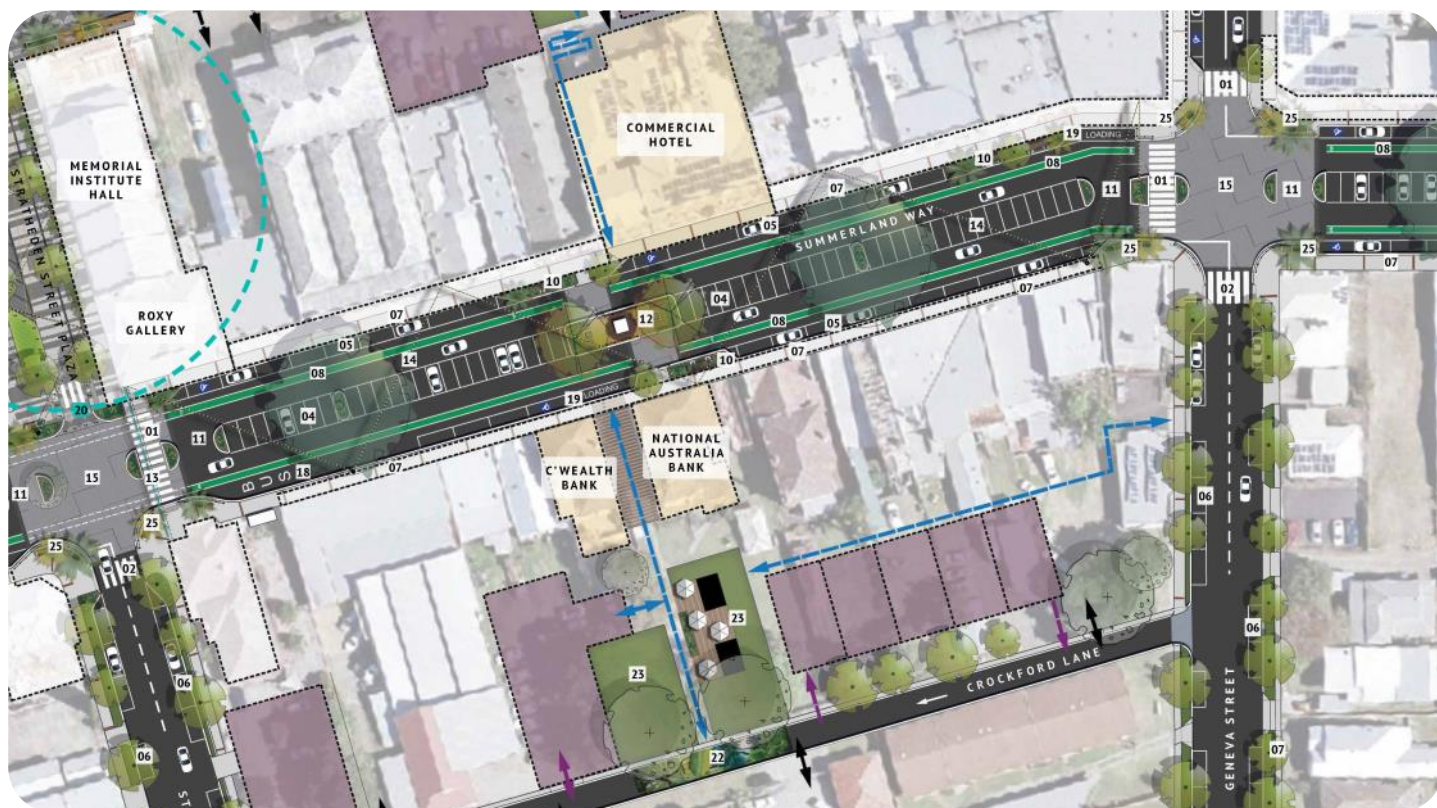
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COMMENTS SOUGHT ON REVISED CBD PLAN



Council has listened to community feedback and has revised its Kyogle CBD Revitalisation Master Plan to retain the existing clock tower and centre parking (see above). For the full story, turn to page 3.



GRANTS BOOST community resilience

Kyogle Council will distribute almost \$184,000 to community organisations and sporting and service clubs to build resilience and help the community get back on even ground following the Black Summer Bushfires.

The grants will be used for a variety of projects ranging from an outdoor Christmas carnival at Bonalbo and a community choir at Tabulam to installing solar panels on the Woodenbong RSL Hall, and conducting two one-day practical solar power training workshops through the Shed of Hope at Tabulam.

Of the \$183,110 to be disbursed, \$100,000

was funded through the NSW Government's Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery fund and \$61,366 was from previously allocated Federal Bushfire Recovery Funding for Kyogle Council area projects that either came in under budget or did not proceed and had to be redistributed.

Council also dissolved its Emergency Disaster Relief Fund, set up after the Norpaly fire, and distributed the remaining \$21,744 to support the wider community.

Council at its 8 November meeting also voted to distribute \$33,271 in Community Assistance Grants to local organisations and individuals.

Grants valued at \$500 for individuals and up to \$5,000 for organisations able to provide matching funding were awarded to

five individuals and 14 community and sporting organisations.

Kyogle Council General Manager Graham Kennett said it was hoped the funding would boost community resilience and capacity, and help return a sense of 'normalcy' to communities battling the combined impacts of drought, bushfires, floods and a world-wide pandemic.

"It is always great to see Council reward the efforts of local community groups by the allocation of funding through our annual one-off Community Assistance Grants," Mr Kennett said.

"But it is particularly gratifying on this occasion to provide additional funds through the State and Federal governments to help these community groups."

Councillors Passfield, Grundy STAND DOWN

Two sitting Kyogle Councillors will stand down at the 4 December Local Government elections.

C Ward councillors Lindsay Passfield and Earle Grundy will not contest the election which has been delayed for more than a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cr Passfield, of Woodenbong, decided the time was right to call it quits having served as a Kyogle Councillor for 22 years.

Cr Grundy, of Old Bonalbo, has sold his farm and he and wife Marilyn are moving across the border to Queensland to be closer to family.

Both men described their time on Council as an honour and a privilege.

Cr Passfield was elected in 1999 during a difficult time for Council and worked closely with former Mayor Ross Brown.

"My time with Council began when the initial hard work had already been done, and I have had the good fortune to be part of five successive Councils which have been able to improve all areas of Council operations," Cr Passfield said.

"Sealing the last 9.6 kilometres of gravel on the road to Murwillumbah, on the Kyogle road, realigning Bentley Road at Sweeney's ridge crossing, and replacement of major bridges on the Clarence Way were some of the early achievements of the revitalised council.

"Since then all of our water, sewerage and waste facilities and public amenities



Councillors Earle Grundy and Lindsay Passfield at their last official Kyogle Council meeting.

have had major upgrades.

"The massive job of upgrading our road and bridge network continues with Clarence way and timber bridge replacements being the main focus. Much has been achieved but a lot remains to be done, particularly on the Clarence Way around Bonalbo."

Cr Grundy said the highlight of his five years on Council was the development of strong partnerships with the State and Federal Governments which had seen many large projects started or completed.

"Some of these include 28km of the Clarence Way being completely upgraded and the recently started Bridge Building Program which will see Council replace 95 ageing timber bridges in the next two years in a once in a lifetime project.

"There's also been improvements to the villages' infrastructure driven by the Visions of the Villages project and the start of the Kyogle Precinct planning.

"Still to come is the Mallanganee Look-out upgrade with the construction of an astronomical/astrological Henge."

Both men agreed that Council's achievements were made possible by Councillors and staff working together for the benefit of the whole LGA.

"None of this could have happened without a harmonious council and council staff dedicated to the LGA in which we live and represent," Cr Grundy said.

Cr Passfield said Kyogle Council was recognised for its proactive approach to securing grants by having business cases and projects shovel-ready when grants became available and being able to spend the money quickly and to good effect.

"I wish to thank the people of our Council area for the privilege of being their Councillor and to acknowledge the contributions of my fellow Councillors, management and staff," Cr Passfield said.

Revised CBD plan retains CAR PARKING

Council is calling for community comment on the revised Kyogle CBD master plan which retains the centre parking and the town clock.

Following the exhibition of the first draft master plan earlier this year, and in line with its earlier commitment, Council has made changes to the plan to address key issues raised by the community.

The revised plans can be viewed on Council's website, with hard copies available at Council's administration centre.

A 'drop in' event allowing community members to discuss the plans with Council officers will also be held from noon until 6pm on Wednesday, 15 December 2021, in the vacant shop front at 129 Summerland Way.

The revised master plan retains the median parking in Summerland Way and proposes the creation of a new, landscaped area around the town clock.

The plans include the introduction of trees within the median strip and the creation of landscaped areas outside commercial and retail premises where visitors and residents can sit, relax and enjoy food and beverages provided by town centre cafes.

In order to accommodate the tree planting and landscape improvements, a total of 24 parking spaces will be lost across the town centre – a significant saving on the original proposals.

"Council has listened to the views of the community following the exhibition of the draft plans earlier this year, and significant changes are now reflected in the revised proposals," Council's Director of Planning and Environment, Chris White, said.

"Maintaining an adequate level of town centre parking is clearly a priority, however, we also need to create a more attractive town centre environment to encourage visitors and shoppers to Kyogle in larger numbers, and to support businesses and events.

"The introduction of shade trees and other landscaped areas is an important component in ensuring that Kyogle remains



The revised concept plan for Kyogle's Civic Heart Precinct.

an attractive and competitive business centre, and provides respite and relief during our hot summer months."

Public submissions on the revised plans are invited by Friday, 21 January 2021, and may be made via email to council@kyogle.nsw.gov.au or in writing to PO Box 11, Kyogle, NSW 2474.

RIGHT: An artists impression of how the intersection of Summerland Way and Stratheden Street would look under the revised master plan.



NOMINATIONS

sought for Aust Day Awards

Nominations are now being taken for the 2022 Kyogle, Woodenbong and West of the Range Australia Day Awards.

All three nomination forms can be found on Council's website at

www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au/kyogle-australia-day-nominations-now-open/

In Kyogle, awards will be presented in seven categories, with the Kyogle Lions Club once again running the Australia Day awards and celebrations.

Nominations close on 15 January 2022. Award categories are:

- Citizen of the Year
- Junior Citizen of the Year
- Senior Sportsperson of the Year
- Junior Sportsperson of the Year (under 18)
- Senior Student of the Year (High School)
- Junior Student of the Year (Primary)

- Senior Citizen of the Year

Please note that nominees are required to be notified and to sign the nomination form.

The Woodenbong Australia Day Committee will present awards in six categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Sportsperson of the Year
- Community Organisation/Event
- Business/Service
- Environmental Citizen/Organisation

Nominations close on 31 December 2021. Note: Nominees are to be notified of nomination.

The West of the Range Australia Day Committee will present awards in five categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Sportsperson of the Year



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

- Community Organisation/Event
- Business/Service

Nominations close at 4pm on 8 December 2021. Hard copy West of the Range nomination forms are also available from the post office at Bonalbo and Tabulam and from Greg Baker in Mallangane.

Soft plastic can now be RECYCLED

Plastic is everywhere.

While it has existed for only the last 70 years, it has transformed everything in that time.

One single plastic bag will take up to 20 years to degrade in landfill. Unfortunately, the bags don't break down completely but instead photo-degrade, becoming microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment.

Soft plastic cannot be accepted for recycling in Council's kerb-side bin collection or at any of the waste facilities.

If Council does receive it through any of these streams, this plastic will go into landfill.

However, we now have an alternative to soft plastic going into landfill.

REDcycle collects soft plastics and collaborates with Replas, Close the Loop and Plastic Forests, who utilise recovered materials to produce a range of

recycled plastic products.

Kyogle is lucky to have established our first REDcycle bin at Kyogle Post Office.

However, all Coles or Woolworths supermarkets also offer these bins, which are generally located at the front of these stores.

Kyogle Council encourages all residents to take advantage of this amazing service for free. Just give the soft plastic a rinse before you take it to a drop off bin. They must be clean.

You also need to check the packaging for any sign of the new Australian Recycling Label (ARL) symbols or the REDcycle logo.

These symbols are gradually being rolled out to all types of packaging to identify that they can be recycled through this stream.

However, if the symbol is not there, you can always confirm if they are accepted by doing the scrunch test or checking the list of accepted items at <https://redcycle.net.au/what-to-recycle/>



While reducing your waste is always the ideal scenario, any soft plastic you have can go in the REDcycle bin and live another life again.

It is important that we all make little changes in our daily lives to minimise the waste that is landfilled and help boost the ever-expanding recycling industry in Australia.

Fact of the month

RED Group recovers/recycles more than 3 million pieces of soft plastic (bags and packaging) every week.

Tip of the month

DO THE SCRUNCH TEST: If the item can be scrunched and it pops back into the same shape, it is a rigid plastic that can be recycled. If it stays scrunched up,



it is a soft plastic, and if it breaks up, it is likely to be expanded polystyrene foam.

Resources to get you started

Check out the REDcycle website for a full list of items that can and can't be recycled - <https://redcycle.net.au/what-to-recycle/>

Find your closet drop off location here: <https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/arl/>



GET READY for storm season

October marked the start of storm season and Kyogle Council is urging communities to get ready.

Storm season runs to the end of March and with the area already having experienced strong winds, heavy rain, and hail, residents are advised to be prepared.

Communities and villages also need to be ready for the very real possibility of floods.

SES volunteers are ready and willing to respond when called upon, but just as the SES is ready and prepared, Council is strongly encouraging Kyogle communities and villages to be prepared.

Being prepared includes cleaning up around your property, having an emergency kit ready, knowing what your evacuation plan is, having a plan for your kids and your animals – big or small.

An emergency kit can help save precious time in an emergency.

It includes items you might need if you lose power or have to leave your home in a hurry.

Items to include in your emergency kit include:

- Portable radio with spare batteries
- Torch with spare batteries
- First aid kit (with supplies necessary for your household)
- Candles and waterproof matches
- Important papers including emergency contact numbers
- Copy of any Home Emergency Plans (refer to SES website)
- Waterproof bag for valuables

When leaving your property, place in your emergency kit:

- A good five to seven day's supply of required medications
- Any special supplies for babies, the

GET READY Kyogle

disabled, infirm and/or elderly

- Appropriate clothing and footwear
- Fresh food and drinking water

It's also wise to keep your emergency kit in a waterproof storage container and to check your emergency kit on a regular basis (remember to check use-by dates on batteries) and restock items if you need to.

Also, keep a list of emergency numbers near your phone or on your fridge.

For more information check out the SES website www.ses.nsw.gov.au

For SES Emergency Help in Flood or Storm call 132 500.

Wet weather delays work on ROAD PROJECTS

Wet weather has delayed completion of the Afterlee Road rehabilitation project.

However, sealing of the last section will still be completed before Christmas along with a last section of Clarence Way between Urbenville and Woodenbong.

The community may have noticed that grading has not been following the usual patterns, with the crews moving quickly from catchment to catchment and roads that are normally graded seeming to be missed.

Council is currently focusing on roads identified as damaged due to the March 2021 flood event and the grading crews are prioritising completion of the last of the flood repair on rural roads before funding deadlines run out.

Council has already completed 19 bridge replacements since 1 July.

In November, bridges were completed on Babyl Creek Road, Wyndham Road, Bolan Road, and Ghinni Ghi Road along with a bridge-to-pipes replacement on Ironpot Creek Road.

Another bridge-to-pipe replacement on Ironpot Creek Road will be completed in early December.

Work continues on the replacement of bridges on Babyl Creek and Wyndham Road which are expected to be completed before Christmas.

In December, work will start on new bridges on



Work on the Dunns Road Bridge replacement at Doubtful Creek is expected to start in December. The new bridge is being built under the State Government's Fixing Country Bridges Program.

Tunglebung Creek Road, Dunns Road, and Green Pigeon Road. They are all scheduled for completion early in the new year.

Staff have submitted applications through round two of the Transport for New South Wales *Fixing Country Bridges Program* to replace a further 34 timber bridges.

AEDs located in KYOGLE

Did you know that there are automated lifesaving devices located all around Kyogle?

Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are a medical device designed to analyse the heart rhythm and deliver an electric shock to victims to restore the heart rhythm to normal in the event of a heart attack.

Currently there are AED's located at;

- Dave's Bakehouse
- IGA
- Kyogle library
- Kyogle Community Centre (previously known as the Kyogle Seniors Centre)
- CRT
- the Golf Club
- Kyogle Gym; and
- all Council-operated pools.

End of year exhibition to run TO 30 JANUARY

As the year draws to a close, Council's Roxy Gallery has herded up creative people to take part in the annual end of year / beginning of new year exhibition, *FAST CALVES*.

What do calves that move with great speed have to do with art?

FAST CALVES is the acronym that reflects the key principles to art.

F-orm

A-rt

S-hape

T-exture

C-olour

A-rt

L-ine

V-alue

E-lements

S-pace.



Wendy McGain's Falling Light will feature in the FAST CALVES exhibition at Council's Roxy Gallery.

FAST CALVES is a non-thematic exhibition incorporating a variety of people from the

community who have been creating art pieces throughout the year and are keen to offer their talents up for the public to enjoy, and possibly purchase for a gift.

FAST CALVES will open to the public on 9 December and run through until 30 January, 2022.

This exhibition has a diverse array of art styles, techniques and forms that highlight people's engagement in art making.

The Roxy Gallery will be closed for the first week of December in preparation for the opening of *FAST CALVES*.

It should also be noted that the

gallery will not open on public holidays throughout the festive season.

Pre-schoolers' art ON SHOW

The Steppin up Gallery, located in the foyer entrance to Council's Roxy Gallery, currently has a fantastic display of artworks by local pre-school-aged children.

Kyogle early learning pre-schoolers have been involved with an ongoing project this year centred around the book called *Recipe for a Perfect Planet Pie* by talented local artist and writer Kim Michelle Toft.

The book explores concepts of sustainability, environmental awareness and caring for the land.

Multifaceted learning has taken place during this project, with children witnessing animal life cycles, establishing gardens and practicing plant care, bringing into the curriculum a beautiful vertical garden, vegetable garden and a flower patch.

The children have enjoyed cooking with the fresh herbs and



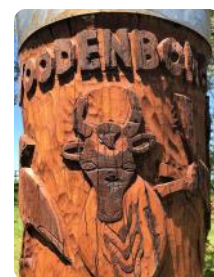
Preschool teacher Sarah Bordin reads the book Perfect Planet Pie to students.

vegetables and enjoyed using their newfound knowledge to inspire artistic creations.

The children's artworks are centred around the book *Perfect Planet Pie*.

Thirty children took part in this project over several months, adding to their artworks as the weeks passed and counting down the weeks until the exhibition opening.

This exhibition will be on show until the end of January.



UNITY PARK refurbished

Two newly carved poles have been placed amongst the refurbished West of the Range Unity Arch Sculptures.

Earlier this year Kyogle Council, with funding through Arts Northern Rivers and the support of the Kyogle Arts Council, commissioned local artists to undertake work on refurbishing the existing sculptures.

Unity Park is located at the intersection of Bruxner Highway and Clarence Way at Sandilands. A circle of carvings that were produced as a bicentennial community project directed by Tryphena McShane where erected in the park in 1985.

These carvings came from designs created by people living in Drake, Woodenbong, Urbenville, Tabulam, Bonalbo, Old Bonalbo, Tunglebung and Mallanganee to symbolise peace and unity of the villages west of the range.

Kyogle and District Arts Council received some financial support from the Bush Fire Recovery Grants to refurbish the sculptures and in the process of doing this it was found a number of the carved poles were not salvageable.

Arts Northern Rivers through Create NSW funding have supported Kyogle Council to engage local artists Eli Pieters and Gwanji Monks to work on carving new poles with compositions of designs from those poles that were not salvageable.

LIBRARY

news

Christmas closure

Kyogle library will close for a week over the Christmas-New Year holiday period.

The library will shut its doors at the close of business on Friday, 24 December 2021 and will reopen on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

Mobile library

Did you know the Mobile Library, *pictured right*, has two computers and free WiFi available as well as access to more than 3,000 library items?

The mobile library regularly visits Bonalbo, Old Bonalbo, Mummulgum, Cawongla, Stratheden, Mallanganee, Tabulam, Woodenbong, The Risk, and Rukenvale.

Book discussion group

Kyogle library's Book Discussion Group meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

The group meets at 10.30am at the outdoor public patio behind the library. The group's next scheduled gathering is on Tuesday 21 December.

All readers welcome to come along and discuss their latest book.



eLibrary

Now is the perfect time to explore the eLibrary resources. The eLibrary has thousands of books, audiobooks, magazines and films free online for members to download and enjoy.

You can find the eLibrary at <https://bit.ly/rucrl>.

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 Savvy lesson. Phone 6632 1134.

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

Book Club

There are now several online options for anyone wanting to be part of a Book Club.

Using the apps available in the eLibrary you can take part in the following clubs:

Talking Books is uLIBRARY's (<https://rucrl.ulverscroftulibrary.com/>) dedicated audiobook club for adults;

Bookworms is uLIBRARY's (<https://rucrl.ulverscroftulibrary.com/>) dedicated audiobook club for younger listeners;

Together We Read is Libby's (<https://www.overdrive.com/apps/libby/>) digital book club. The Together We Read title for September is Scrublands by Chris Hammer

Please email the library at rucrl@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au if you would like some help with the apps.

PUMPKIN Festival is on again

Summerland Giant Pumpkin and Watermelon Festival kicks off on 1 January 2022 with an arts and crafts display in the old IGA building in Kyogle's main street.

The creative works will be on show throughout January.

On Monday, 10 January the guess the weight pumpkin will arrive and will slowly make its way to Harley & Co (CRT) where it will be installed until Festival Day (15 January) when it will be relocated into Stratheden Street.

Throughout the week you can try to guess the weight of this giant as well as enjoy gastronomic offerings at local eateries as part of "the taste of Watermelon and Pumpkin Week".

On Festival Day everyone will be

anxiously waiting to see if there will be a local giant that will topple the record for the heaviest pumpkin in the Southern Hemisphere set in South Africa earlier this year.

Can Kyogle regain the title and produce a pumpkin weighing more than 867.5kgs?

Local Service Clubs will be serving a variety of refreshments on the day, and Kyogle Country Music Club will be providing the entertainment.

Entries in the cooking, sculpting and home gardener competition will also be judged and a new competition in 2022 will be who can eat the most watermelon in 30 seconds and be crowned the melon king or queen.

Prizes in all categories will be presented from 11am.

All entrants in each of the competitions must reflect the festival theme for 2022, On The Vine, in their entry.

Fundraising at BAZAAR

There are opportunities for community organisations to fundraise at the monthly Rotary Kyogle Bazaar.

Bazaar organisers are calling for expressions of interest from community groups to run the barbecue once a month. A safe food handling certificate is required.

There are 10 spots available from February to December 2022.

Groups and organisations who would like to take up this opportunity as the Charity of the Day can contact the

Rotary Kyogle Bazaar on 0459 512 249.

Meanwhile, Bazaar organisers are also appealing for volunteers to support the activities of the Bazaar as a safe public space for our community and visitors.

Volunteers are provided with lunch and drinks and would be asked to provide pack up and clean up support.

If you can help out this wonderful community event, please contact the Bazaar on 0459 512 249.



Chinese violet a threat to BIODIVERSITY

Chinese violet is a fast-growing perennial creeper which forms dense, smothering mats of foliage up to 1m high, or up to 3m when supported by other vegetation.

Chinese violet (*Asystasia gangetica*) is identified as a 'National Environmental Alert' weed, meaning it has the potential to become a significant threat to biodiversity if it is not managed in its early stages.

Its dense foliage can block light to understory vegetation and inhibit germination and growth of native plants, gardens, and lawns.

Overseas, Chinese violet has caused major devastation to agricultural crops and poses the same risk here.

Currently there is only one known infestation on the Far North Coast which is being actively managed- but Rous County Council is always on the lookout for others.

Chinese violet has an attractive white bell-shaped flower, 20-25mm long, with distinctive purple blotches inside, *pictured*.

Leaves vary greatly in size and can be between 2.5cm - 16.5cm long. They are bright green with a paler underside, can be oval or triangular in shape and are covered in scattered hairs.

This weed spreads both by seed and vegetatively.

Small fragments of stems can take root at each node when they come into contact with moist soil. Most infestations in Australia originated from dumped garden waste or garden escapees.

What should you do if you find this plant?

Report it immediately to Rous County Council, on 02 6623 3800.

For more information, please scan the QR code, *above*, which will direct you to a full description of the plant via the NSW Department of Primary Industries Weedwise app.



Council contact and info

Council MEETINGS

The next meeting of Council will be an Extraordinary Meeting on Wednesday, 5 January 2022 at 5pm. Ordinary meetings are held on the second Monday of every month except January. 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 contact Council—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

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

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KYOGLE COUNCIL HOURS 8.30AM-4PM
MONDAY TO FRIDAY