

Keeping the Southern Highlands in touch with Council

Mount Alexandra Reserve Bushcare needs you!

If you have a few hours to spare on the morning of Thursday 28 March, the Mount Alexandra Reserve Bushcare Group would love to hear from you.

The team will be helping to restore and rehabilitate the Reserve by planting 1,200 native grasses and shrubs propagated by volunteers from the Moss Vale Community Nursery.

The Mount Alexandra Reserve Bushcare Group holds working bees on the fourth Thursday of every month. The group is just one of many that help look after our Shire's natural bush reserves, wetlands and watercourses. If you'd like to learn

more or volunteer with your local Bushcare or Rivercare Group, visit www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/bushcare or contact Council's Environment Officer - Bushcare and Citizen Science, on phone **4868 0888**.

Volunteers for the Mount Alexandra mass planting are needed between 9am and 12 noon, Thursday 28 March 2019. Induction and training will be provided on site.



James and Kylie lend a hand for Bushcare

To access the site follow the signs via White Waratah Place in Welby.

The Bushcare program is primarily supported via Council's *Environment Levy*.

Mittagong Pool - back in action



Thank you to all our pool goers for the patience shown as we went about repairing historic Mittagong Swimming Pool.

The pool sustained serious damage following the 2016 East Coast Low Storm with the resulting refurbishments presenting some major engineering challenges.

We're happy to report that since re-opening in January this crowning jewel of the Southern Highlands is looking better than ever.

For opening hours of all Council pools visit www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/swimming-pools.

Australia Day Citizens



Hans Radowitz and Darcy Howard

Hats off to Hans Radowitz and Darcy Howard on being named the Shire's 2019 Australia Day Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year.

Hans was nominated for his work in restoring and donating thousands of bicycles to developing communities. Young Darcy was chosen after

helping raise awareness about the plight of drought-affected farmers.

Australia Day also saw 31 residents from across the

globe take the pledge of Citizenship at the Berrima celebrations. Congratulations and welcome to the Southern Highlands!

Checking your water meter for leaks

Checking your water meter for leaks is a great way to save water and avoid unnecessary water usage charges. However, some leaks can be difficult to detect.

Before you report a leak, you can try and identify where it's coming from.

We maintain the entire network up to and including your water meter. Home owners are responsible for the pipe that comes out of the meter and for internal pipes to their property.

To check for leaks:

1. Turn off all taps and water-using devices in your house;

2. Check your meter reading before bed and record all the numbers;
3. Wait overnight and make sure not to use any water – don't even flush the loo;
4. Check your meter reading again – have the black or red numbers changed?

If the numbers have changed, you may have an internal leak and should contact a licenced plumber to investigate.

If water is leaking from the meter, or anywhere up to where internal pipes and fittings connect to the meter, then it's our responsibility to attend to and repair the leak.

To report a Council water leak contact our 24/7 Contact Centre on phone **4868 0888**.

Council wages war on Elm Leaf Beetle

One of the great things about the Highlands is the diversity of wildlife found in our Shire - but there's one insect we're not particularly fond of.

The Elm Leaf Beetle (*Xanthogaleruca luteola*) has been slowly marching its way north from Victoria and we've recently found evidence that they've infiltrated our Shire too.

The introduced beetle loves nothing more than cool climate elm trees and

if left untreated they can strip a tree of all its leaves.

To help combat the invasive pest we've been treating street trees infected with the bug with a special insecticide.

The adult beetle is typically 6mm long, yellow to olive green in colour with a

black stripe along each side of the back. Signs of their handiwork include 'shot-hole' or 'scatter gun' damage to leaves.

If you suspect your Elm trees may be under attack have a chat with your local nursery.



Off leash parks

Did you know that Council provides three dog-friendly parks where owners can exercise their pets off

leash? Off leash dog parks are located at:

- Centennial Park in Bowral
- Alexandra Square in Mittagong, and
- Seymour Park in Moss Vale

Remember to check the on-site signs prior to exercising your dog and always pick up after your pooch.

For more information visit www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/leash-free-areas-in-the-wingecarribee-shire.

Community Grants now open

Our annual *Community Assistance Scheme* is now open with up to \$120,000 available to assist not-for-profit organisations and community groups across the Shire.

Applications can be made to fund programs, equipment or works which aim to establish, improve or enhance cultural, sporting, welfare, health promotion, community development or leisure services.

Returning for 2019 is the allocation

of \$10,000 for environmental and sustainable specific programs funded via Council's Environment Levy.

Learn more at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/wingecarribee-community-assistance-scheme.

Applications close 29 March 2019.

Household Chemical CleanOut

Council's annual *Household Chemical CleanOut day* is returning on 25 May 2019.

Hosted in conjunction with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the day enables residents to dispose of any unwanted household chemicals free of charge.

The CleanOut will take place from 9.00am to 3.30pm at our Works Depot accessed via Parkes Road in Moss Vale.

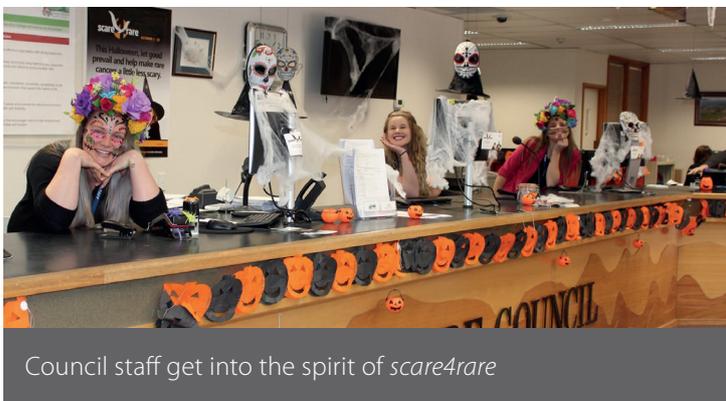
Not sure what items can be accepted? Visit www.cleanout.com.au or call 131 555.

If you're unable to attend the CleanOut event, remember that problem wastes



such as paint, gas bottles, smoke detectors, oils, batteries and fluorescent lights can be dropped off at any time of the year, free of charge, at Council's Community Recycling Centre located within the grounds of the Resource Recovery Centre.

Raising awareness for rare cancers



Council staff get into the spirit of *scare4rare*

Staff of Council recently participated in a number of public events to help raise much needed funds for *Rare Cancers Australia*.

Rare Cancers Australia is a national charity whose purpose is to improve awareness, support and treatment of the 52,000 Australians diagnosed with rare cancers each year.

For more information visit: www.rarecancers.org.au or contact the team in person at their Springett's Arcade Head Office in Bowral.

Upcoming Works

Kirkham Road, Bowral
Road rehabilitation, widening and drainage works

Narellan Road, Moss Vale
Road, kerb and gutter construction

Queen Street, Bowral
Drainage upgrades

Church Street, Bundanoon
Footpath renewal

Belmore Street, Mittagong
New stormwater and drainage construction

Wilson Drive, Hill Top
Road improvements and asphalt sealing

Donkin Street, Moss Vale
Car park improvements

Wombeyan Caves Road, Bullio

Tunnel sealing

Eridge Park, Burradoo
Velodrome re-surfacing

Wingello Hall
Access upgrades

Burrawang Oval
Public toilet upgrade

Mittagong Library
Roof replacement

Find out more about Council's current and future works including water and sewerage improvements at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/road-closures.



Koalarama

About 3,000 koalas call the Southern Highlands home but they need our help.

It's estimated that 36,000 hectares, or 27 per cent of our Shire's koala habitat, lies on private land.

To help conserve this precious environment, the *Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project* is inviting 1,000 prime koala habitat landholders from across the Shire to our series of 'Koalarama' events, to be held throughout April 2019.

Participants joining us for this free event will hear from experts and locals about the challenges facing this threatened iconic Australian species. They'll also participate in spotlight searches and hear of funding

opportunities available to conserve koala habitat on private land.

If you don't receive an invitation in the mail but would like to learn more about our koala population, you too can register for Koalarama at www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/koalas

or phone **4868 0888**.

The Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project is proudly supported by Council's *Environment Levy* and the NSW Government's *Saving Our Species* program.



Celebrating Earth Hour

Join us at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens on Saturday 30 March as we celebrate Earth Hour and attempt to set a solar-powered world record!

When the sun sets we'll be lighting up the gardens in the shape of a giant footprint.

The fun starts at 5.15pm with children's lantern making workshops, live music and guest speakers.

For more information visit www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/earthhour.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

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Connecting with Council

- ▶ **Online 24 hours/7 days:** www.wsc.nsw.gov.au
- Email:** mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au
- Phone:** 4868 0888 Fax: 4869 1203
- Post:** PO Box 141 Moss Vale, NSW 2577
- In person:** (8:30am to 4:30pm Mon – Fri) Civic Centre, 68 Elizabeth Street Moss Vale
- Emergency after hours:** 4868 0888 (24 hour Contact Centre)