

When Paterson's curse flowers it is unattractive to grazing stock and after dying provides little useful fodder, resulting in lower stocking rates.

*What does it look like?*

Paterson's curse is an erect herb commonly 60 cm high, but it can grow up to 150 cm.

Rosettes have green to light-green hairy, egg-shaped leaves that may grow to 30 cm long. The rosettes are stalked and have distinct, branched veins.

Stem leaves are also hairy, but are smaller and narrower than rosette leaves and are almost stem-clasping. Stems are branched, with multiple stems often arising from the plant base. All stems are covered with stiff hairs.

Flowers are mostly purple, but white, blue and pink flowering plants are sometimes found. The 2-3 cm long flowers are shaped like curved trumpets. Each flower has five stamens, two of which protrude past the end of the flower tube. Flowers generally appear from September to December.

Seeds are dark-brown to grey and have a roughened seed coat. Up to four seeds develop from each flower. The plant has a stout taproot with numerous lateral roots.

**EFTPOS ALTERNATIVE FOR TENTERFIELD TRANSFER STATION PAYMENTS**



In early April Council commenced cashless payments at the Tenterfield Transfer Station due to COVID-19.

Some residents who don't own Credit Cards were worried they wouldn't be able to access the service, prompting Council to investigate

alternative pay-as-you-go card options.

Council has found a great alternative available to residents which is an Everyday MasterCard that can be purchased from Australia Post.

The card can be used for contactless payments at the Transfer Station as well as other businesses in and around Tenterfield and online purchases. The card can be topped up manually at Australia Post and is able to be used as a paywave or with a pin number.

**UPGRADE TO TOOLOOM ROAD**

Urbenville, Legume and the northern areas of the Shire are set to receive a huge boost with the announcement last week of \$4 million to upgrade Tooloom Road.

"Provided through the first round of the NSW Government's

new \$500 million Fixing Local Roads Program, Council is very excited at the tourism potential this will create for this area", said Mayor Peter Petty,

"An upgrade for Tooloom Road was one of those really big ticket items that we never thought we could achieve. Mt Lindesay Road upgrade from Legume to Woodenbong was another one and with the \$24 million received through the Federal and State Governments for that project, we now have that one in the bag as well," Mayor Petty added.

The contractor commenced work on the next section for the upgrade of Mt Lindesay Road, 0 to 6.2 km east of Legume, earlier this week. Once this work is completed, the upgrade of Mt Lindesay Road right through from Tenterfield to Woodenbong is almost complete and will provide a beautiful drive for tourists and locals seeking an alternative route through to Brisbane, or just wanting to enjoy this unique area and visit the villages along the way.

Sealing of a further 3.5 km of Mt Lindesay has been recently completed, being the Wylie Creek section, and the section between Overcliffe and Cullendore Roads.

"As well as providing local jobs, these works will ensure safer road travel for community members who use this road every day to transport their produce, get their children to school, commute to work, and travel to and from the major centres."

"Council thanks our NSW Government representatives, Janelle Saffin MP, Member for Lismore and the Hon Adam Marshall MP, Member for Northern Tablelands, Minister for Agriculture & Western NSW for this very important funding", Mayor Petty concluded.

**RIP – NEIL ROSSINGTON**



Neil Rossington at work in 2004

Council is saddened by the recent passing of long time staff member, Neil Rossington. Neil retired in September 2015 after 35 years service, most of these as Weeds Officer.

Neil is remembered for his helpful and cheerful disposition and for his many weeds removal works and projects in all corners of the Shire, often going beyond the call of duty.



**YOUR LOCAL NEWS**

Issue 116 | 13 July 2020

*Contact us*

**02 6736 6000**  
**FREE CALL 1300 762 400 (Landline only)**

**COVID 19 statement**

Council has implemented strict protocols to ensure we comply with directions issued by government in relation to managing the COVID 19 risk.

These protocols apply to our staff, our customers and visitors to our premises, and councillors alike.

Some non-essential services have ceased altogether, others are still in operation but due to social distancing have added levels of complexity.

Please be understanding that we will do our best to maintain services and help in what are unique and challenging circumstances.

[www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au)



Photo: Newly completed seals on Mt Lindesay Road between Overcliffe Road and Cullendore Road.

## COUNCIL MEETING – COVID-19 REGULATIONS APPLY

The Ordinary Meeting of Council for July 2020 will be held:

· Wednesday, 22 July 2020 at the RSL Pavilion (rear of the Memorial Hall), Molesworth Street, Tenterfield, commencing at 9.30 am.

Business Papers will be available on Council's website ([www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au)) on Thursday, 16 July 2020 from 3.00 pm.

Community members wishing to speak on any of the Agenda items should contact the Executive Assistant & Media on (02) 6736 6000 before 5.00 pm on Monday, 20 July 2020 and provide the request to speak in writing, setting out the details of the matter to be raised.

Unfortunately Council does not have capacity to live stream the meeting, however the recording will be placed on the website on Thursday, 23 July 2020.

Should COVID-19 regulations still apply, there is no capacity for members of the public to attend. Due to social distancing requirements, some Councillors and staff members will attend the meeting via audio/visual.

Please contact the Executive Assistant & Media [n.hyde@tenterfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:n.hyde@tenterfield.nsw.gov.au) should you require any further information relating to the Council Meeting.

## UPDATED OPENING TIMES FOR COUNCIL FACILITIES

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions and the increasing numbers of visitors in town, Council's facilities are re-opening with strict social distancing and other measures in place to ensure the ongoing safety of our community and Council staff.

### Tenterfield Library

Library opening hours remain as follows:

- 10.00 am to 12 noon then 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm – Monday to Friday
- 9.30 am to 11.30 – Saturday

### Visitor Information Centre

From Monday, 29 June 2020, the opening hours for the VIC are as follows:

- 9.00 am to 4.30 pm – Monday to Friday
- 9.00 am to 4.00 pm – Saturday

The Centre will be open on Sundays for the school holidays (July 2020):

- 10.00 am to 2.00 pm – 5, 12 and 19 July.
- Closed – 26 July.

### Sir Henry Parkes Memorial School of Arts Museum (from 1 July 2020)

- 10.00 am to 4.00 pm – Monday to Friday
- 10.00 am to 3.00 pm – Saturday and Sunday

*Cinema (scheduled to open Friday, 31 July 2020)*

Further details for movie programs to be provided closer to the date.

### Council Depot

Registration inspections still unavailable due to building works at the Depot.

Situation to be reassessed end of July 2020.

### Customer Service

The Customer Service Desk will continue to operate from the Visitor Information Centre:

- 9.00 am to 4.30 pm – Monday to Friday

Should you have an enquiry or wish to speak to members of the Planning or any other section of Council, please call 6736 6000.

**Please note that the Administration Building remains closed to the public due to building works in progress.**

"With the re-opening of the Queensland border on Friday, 10 July 2020, we can expect a further influx of visitors into our region", Mayor Peter Petty said.

"Our businesses should recognise this opportunity (particularly on the weekends) to ensure that people remember Tenterfield as a vibrant and busy town with cafes, shops and restaurants open. Council's advertising campaigns have brought visitors from all areas of NSW and soon from Queensland too. We need to be welcoming and encouraging a return visit or longer stay", Mayor Petty added.

In closing, Mayor Petty stressed that everyone should ensure social distancing requirements and stay safe.

## COUNCILLOR SUPERANNUATION DISCUSSION PAPER

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 24 June 2020 Council resolved to place the Councillor Superannuation Discussion Paper on public exhibition for 14 days to seek feedback from the community.

At the completion of the public exhibition period, a further report will be brought back to Council outlining a proposed response from Tenterfield Shire Council to the Office of Local Government, incorporating both public feedback and Councillor and Council staff comments. <https://www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au/your-council/council-documents/public-exhibition-documents/councillor-superannuation-discussion-paper>

If you wish to provide feedback on the Discussion Paper please email [council@tenterfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@tenterfield.nsw.gov.au) by 5pm 15 July 2020.

## POSITION VACANT

Council currently has several positions vacant including:

Closing 4pm, 16 July 2020

- Records Administration Officer
- Records Coordinator

- Casual—Administration & Customer Service Assistant
- Closing date to be advised:
- Property Specialist
  - Plant Mechanic
  - Technical Projects Engineer (Graduate)

Position Information Packages for these vacancies can be found at [www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au/your-council/positions-vacant](http://www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au/your-council/positions-vacant)

## WEED OF THE MONTH

Paterson's curse (Echium plantagineum)

*How does this weed affect you?*

Paterson's curse is a winter annual herb that often becomes the dominant species in pastures. It is a prolific seeder that can produce more than 5000 seeds per plant per year. Large quantities of seeds may accumulate in the soil over several years. For example, a seedbank of up to 30 000 seeds per square metre has been reported. Seeds may remain dormant in the soil for up to five years.

Paterson's curse is considered a weed because:

- It reduces pasture productivity and is toxic to livestock.
- It can degrade the natural environment, compromising habitat values by crowding out and suppressing native vegetation.
- Hay and grain infested with it fetch lower prices.
- It affects human health. Some people are allergic to the pollen and the rough hairy texture of the leaves and stems causes skin irritation in people having close contact with the plant.

### Pasture productivity

Paterson's curse reduces pasture value as it out-competes the more nutritious and palatable pasture plants. The quick early growth of seedling roots allows it to out-compete pasture seedlings and better equips it to survive moisture stress, particularly after a false break. In autumn, seedlings may be so dense that they completely dominate other species. In winter, the large, broad rosette leaves shade and smother most other species. Where Paterson's curse replaces legumes in a pasture, nitrogen fixation is reduced and soil fertility declines unless fertiliser is applied.

