

THE VOICE

*of Upper Lachlan Shire,
the Shire of villages*

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phone number is (02) 4830 1000

FREE
Take one

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GREAT RESULT FOR TARALGA

UPPER Lachlan Shire Council was recently notified of additional NSW State Government funding for the Taralga Sewerage Scheme.

Councillors and Council staff recently met with the Minister for Water Utilities, the Hon. Nathan Rees, and as a result of that meeting, the Minister agreed to commit to funding 50 percent of total capital costs of the Taralga project.

In addition to this 50 percent capital subsidy, by the Minister for Water Utilities, the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) has also recently undertaken to increase its capital contribution by \$1.0M. This takes the total SCA contribution to \$2.5M. These combined contributions potentially place the project in the rare position of being fully NSW Government capital funded.

The increased funding achieved is testament to the hard work of Council staff to keep the project affordable for the Taralga village residents. This additional funding will reduce the amount of loan funds required by Council with the

cost savings to be directly reflected in sewerage rates levied on the village residents.

Council Manager of Water and Sewer, Mr. Luke Moloney, said he was particularly pleased with the result of the additional funding negotiations. "The State Departments have recognised the difficulty that a small community faces in funding a project of this magnitude. Given that the project is largely driven by State requirements, it is only reasonable that the State has a substantial financial contribution to the project".

Despite the increased funding obtained, Mr. Moloney was quick to point out that the project still requires a substantial financial contribution from the village residents in the form of sewerage rates, to fund the operational costs of the project.

"Council's Management Plan 2008/09 envisions a sewerage rate of \$750 per household, per annum. While still a substantial cost, the levy is almost half of what was pre-



dicted prior to the additional funding commitment. Council is continuing to look at opportunities to reduce this cost further," Mr. Moloney said.

With all design work now complete, tender documentation is currently being completed. The work is to be undertaken by private contract

based on two separate tenders; the Sewerage Treatment Plant, and the civil contract including an excavation, pipe works and restoration. Tenders are expected to be advertised in the coming months with construction to commence within the calendar year.

Waste minimisation

Over 12 months ago the Upper Lachlan Shire Council introduced new kerbside recycling and garbage collections across specified locations of the Shire, for detailed information regarding these service areas, phone 1800 137 181.

Over this period a few teething prob-

lems with the service, mainly contamination rates in both the recycling and garbage collections, have occurred.

Council wishes to remind residents of the items that cannot be placed in recycling and garbage bins. By insuring that the service is used correctly residents will help reduce the volumes of waste sent to landfill, maximise landfill life span and help to keep access fees down.

Recycling

Items that are **not meant** for recycling bins include plastic bags, paint tins, scrap metal and wire, nappies, garden organics, food scraps, bottle lids, plastic straws and wrap.

There have also been occasions when residents using the system have incorrectly placed broken glass, windows, mirrors, Pyrex, light globes, crockery

and ceramics, and cigarette butts into Council bins meant for recycling. All of the above items should be placed in the Council's garbage bin.

As well; oils, syringes and sharps have been incorrectly placed into recycling bins. These items should be brought, in person, to the residents nearest landfill.

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Country Energy
Investing in the Upper Lachlan



COUNTRY ENERGY INVESTING \$6 MILLION IN THE UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE

Country Energy is investing \$6 million to upgrade rural lines surrounding Crookwell, significantly improving the reliability of the electricity supply and allowing for future growth.

The project will see crews upgrade more than 105 kilometres of rural distribution lines around Biala, Binda, Bigga, Bevendale, Roslyn and

Woodhouselee to ensure that the electricity network is delivering a reliable power supply to meet the growing needs of the area.

David Bellew, Regional General Manager for South Eastern Region, said that this considerable investment by the essential service provider will mean a more reliable and secure electricity supply for

residents in the area.

"The work involves overhauling every major power line that feeds the Crookwell area, so while we will work as quickly as we can, it will take over five years to complete," said David.

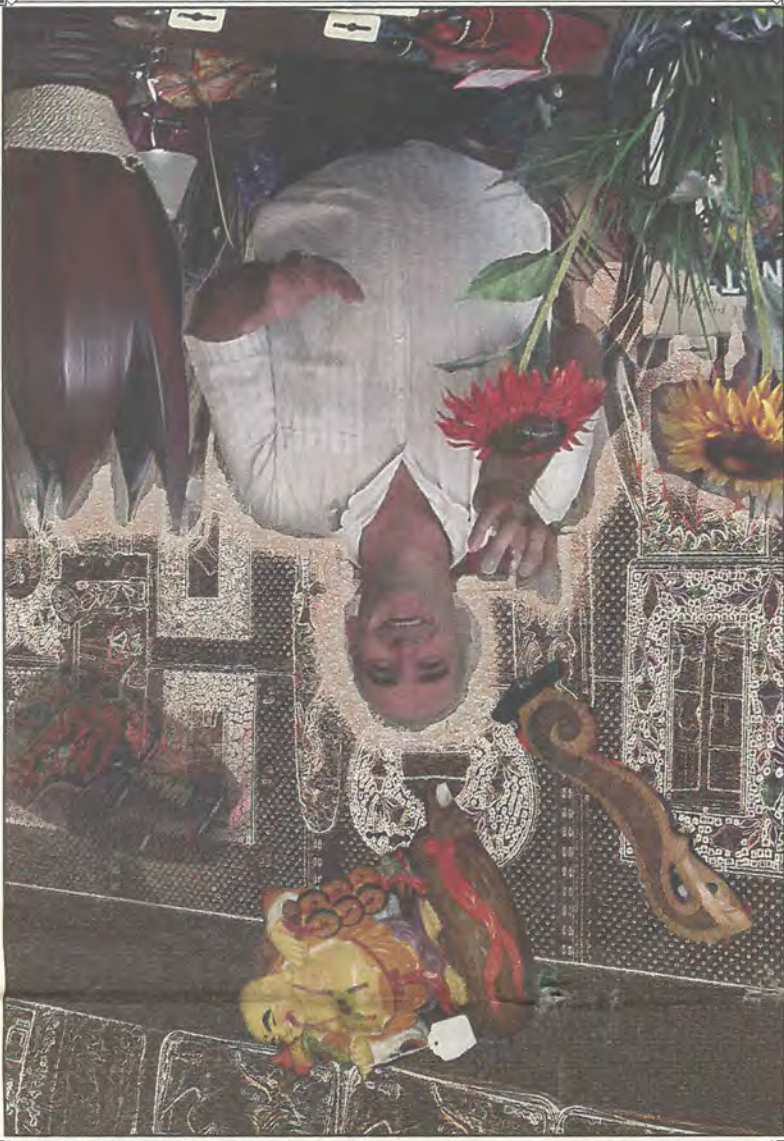
"Country Energy crews have already commenced work on the first nine kilometres of power line at Roslyn, and have changed over 60 poles, upgraded four transformers and will now go on to changing the powerlines themselves.

Extra Country Energy crews will be brought in from Braidwood, Goulburn, Queanbeyan and Yass in order to complete the job as quickly as possible and minimise disturbance to customers.

"The refurbishment of the powerlines around Crookwell is a concrete example of our commitment to regional NSW, and is one of a number of projects that Country Energy is undertaking, to improve the quality and reliability of supply."



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Library Biz

At Your Service

The Upper Lachlan Shire Libraries, in partnership with the Southern Tablelands Regional Library, endeavour to provide very high levels of library and information services to the residents of our Shire.

Gunning and Crookwell Libraries are modern community facilities which offer a multitude of services and resources suitable for all ages and levels of interest.

Membership to the library is free and open to all Shire residents. Members have access to over 100,000 items from all branches of the Southern Tablelands Regional Library.

Our collections hold a vast selection of fiction and non-fiction items including books, talking books, music CDs, magazines, videos and a growing number of DVDs.

For the convenience of members with Internet access, the library's collection may be browsed and reservations placed via the library's on-line catalogue at www.strl.nsw.gov.au Library members may also renew their loans via the website as well as view a list of the items they have borrowed in the past.

New computers have recently been installed at both

Crookwell and Gunning libraries to provide members with free Internet access. Word-processing and application software such as Publisher and printing facilities are available for a small fee. Your libraries also have photocopying and laminating facilities.

StoryTime is a free service designed for pre-school aged children and their carers and is held at Crookwell Library every Monday at 11.15am during school term and 10.30am on the first and third Friday of each month at Gunning Library.

The Home Library Service is a fortnightly, free home delivery service to people living in the Crookwell and Gunning town areas who, due to age, disability or illness, are unable to visit the library. Deliveries may also be arranged to other areas on demand.

With ever increasing services, resources and facilities available at your local libraries and via our library homepage, please take the opportunity to utilise these exciting community facilities.

For further information regarding any of these services please contact Crookwell Library on 4832 1048 or Gunning Library on 4845 1231.

Crookwell Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 11am – 5.30pm, Wednesday 2pm – 5.30pm and Saturday mornings 10am – 12 noon.

Gunning Library is open Tuesday and Wednesday 2pm – 5pm, Thursday 1.30pm – 5pm, Friday 10am – 5.30pm.

Breadalbane – a Brief History

BREADALBANE, an Upper Lachlan Shire village, (named by James Chisholm after his home in Scotland) owes its existence to the railway line linking Sydney and Melbourne. The Breadalbane station, was first opened by James Chisholm on November 9, 1875, operated as such for almost 100 years with the last train stopping in 1974.

During the construction and later maintenance of the track, hundreds of people were employed, (many with families) and so the village was born. The need for a school was soon realized and what is now known as the Old School House (presently a private residence) was built about 2kms from the present village, on Old South Road, in 1868. The insignia of its school origins remains, along with its distinctively typical 'government building' design being very obvious.

Further down the road from the school, on a prop-

erty named "Sweetwoodlea", is the former "Breadalbane Inn". The Inn once welcomed the likes of Tom Byrne and Ben Hall along with less well known visitors and members of the areas pioneering families, Tom Byrne is buried further on at St Brigid's Catholic Church.

At the entrance to the village itself is the oldest building, another former pub, known variously as the "Red House" Inn, "Coach and Horses" Inn and the "Brisbane Arms". Like the Breadalbane Hotel, the post office and service station, are all now private residences.

A new park is presently taking shape beside the church on land donated by the Chisholm family descendants. This park will offer a shady spot for visitors as well as provide some of the history of the village.

(Thanks to Jenny Bell, Monica Croke and Peter Try).

Cultural Plan developing

A Cultural Plan is a strategic tool that is used for defining, managing and promoting culture. It is a shared vision for the community. It profiles an area, cultural assets and activities; defines its demographics; and provides a set of priorities, actions and timelines for implementation by a wide range of stakeholders.

Planning is critical to success in every facet of our lives. Cultural planning offers an opportunity for

communities to create a roadmap unique to their needs, aspirations and strengths. By planning strategically, local governments and communities can work together to integrate arts and culture more fully into their community.

During 2008, Scott Pollock from the Upper Lachlan Tourist Association and Elizabeth Brown from Southern Tablelands Arts will be facilitating the development of the Upper Lachlan Shire Council's Cultural Plan.

Council endorses the efforts of Scott Pollock and Elizabeth Brown.

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A Cosy Cottage

Situated on the edge of town is this cosy 2 bedroom fibro cottage, on 7 hectares, with panoramic views back across town!

2 x 5000g poly water tanks, double carport with the standout feature of this property for the horse enthusiasts is the 60 x 20 meter sand dressage arena. Value buying at \$325,000

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This well located cosy 3 bedroom home offers very easy living, tidy kitchen and meals area, good size lounge room with wood heating, fabulous new bathroom, good storage

throughout, single garage, carport for 3 vehicles doubling as an ideal undercover entertaining area, private and secure rear yard, garden sheds and water tank.

Mayor's Column

I AM very pleased to report that Council has recently received a letter from Minister Nathan Rees MP, Minister for Water and Minister for Emergency Services, regarding a further contribution from the NSW Government of \$50,000 towards the Council's 'Back-a-Bushie' emergency water bore appeal. This grant means the State Government has contributed a total of \$380,000 towards the project. When combined with the money raised through the community's efforts and Council's financial contribution, it will allow the Council to upgrade the size of several storage tanks, as well as investigate the possibility of drilling an emergency bore for the Grabben Gullen Community, overall a very pleasing result.

Thanks

One of the more enjoyable duties of the Mayor is the opportunity to meet a variety of people. On April 4, I had the chance of sharing lunch with 15 Japanese students who were visiting Australia from Koshigaya, Japan. Koshigaya is the Sister City of Campbelltown NSW, and as part of that program these young people were being given a tour of rural Australia, which included the Upper Lachlan Shire. Thanks to Michael and Judy Basile, of

Crystal Brook Lavender Farm, our visitors were served a wonderful meal in a beautiful setting.

Oberon Road completed

Another positive outcome for the Shire is the completion of the \$1.41 million 'Tablelands Way' (MR256). The sealing of this road places the village of Taralga on the Tablelands Way tourist route, which should prove beneficial for Taralga businesses and residents. An official opening of this road is being planned for October, 2008. As part of that event investigations are being made on the possibility of setting a world record for the largest parade of motorbikes.

Management Plan

Council is presently planning its finances for the 2008/09 financial year, as well as formulating a budget forecast for the following four years. The draft Management Plan is due for approval at the May 22 Council meeting after which ratepayers will have 28 days to comment. Council wishes to take this opportunity to thank all of the residents who made submissions regarding projects they view as being of potential benefit to the Shire. Unfortunately with limited funds the Council will not be able to meet every request. Rate increases this year have been capped by the State Government at 3.2 percent. This is a decrease from last year's 3.4 per-



Planning for the future: L-R Front; General Manager John Bell, Mayor John Shaw, Director of Finance and Administration Andrew Croke, Clr. Brian Moloney. L-R Back; Clr Charlie Prell, Deputy Mayor James Wheelwright, Manager for Water and Sewer Luke Moloney, Director of Works Alan Lawrance, Clrs Sandra Bill, Brian McCormack and Bill Martin and Manager of Finance Bruce Johnston.

cent cap. Also relating to funding the Council has decided to keep current tip and other levies at their current levels. Over the past three and a half years, Councillors have been working together to spread needed improvements across the entire Shire. Council's main emphasis over this period of time has been on road works with over 50 percent of the budget being allocated to this vital area. Major work recently completed besides the Tablelands Way and MR52, includes 248West, which is, at this point, ahead of schedule and due for completion before the end of this calendar year. Recognising the importance of the link between Taralga and Crookwell,

Councillors have, at the Management Planning meeting, committed themselves to the sealing of MR248East over the next three years. Every effort is being placed to lobby both the State and Federal Governments for grant money for this project, which once completed will connect every major village in the Shire via sealed roads. The Management Plan will be available on the Council's web site www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au as well as at every Council office and libraries. Please take the time to look through the document and forward you comments to the Upper Lachlan Shire Council, re: Management Plan, PO Box 10, Crookwell NSW 2583.

GM's report



General Manager John Bell

THE NSW Government has changed the

date for the next ordinary elections of local councils, which will now be held on September 13, 2008.

The amending legislation will prevent the elections clashing with the public school holidays. It will also ensure that the registration of political parties which occurred last year, in anticipation of the elections being held on September 27, 2008, will not be invalidated by the change to the new election date.

Grant application update

Mrs Leanne Leihn, Grants Officer shared between the Councils of the Upper Lachlan, Boorowa, Cootamundra and Yass Valley. She has updated Council regarding grant applications that were applied for since August 2007 on behalf of Council. At this point in time, grant applications to the Lachlan Catchment Management Authority for the removal of willow trees and an application to the Office for Women

for the International Women's Day Celebration have both been successful. The grant application for the restoration of the Old Gunning Courthouse complex is still outstanding but has been submitted to the NSW Heritage Office for their consideration. Leanne has also assisted several community groups to complete and submit their applications for numerous community projects.

CENTROC

On several occasions Council has discussed creating an opportunity to enter into a Regional Organisation of Councils (ROC), where a range of professional support, advocacy, service provision and cost saving measures could be achieved. Such a body is the organisation called CENTROC. CENTROC is a voluntary body comprising 16 local government areas and two county councils. It provides a forum for member Councils to work together cooperatively

and deal with common issues that affect the region. CENTROC covers 70,000 km² with 236,000 residents. The Board of CENTROC recently requested their Executive Officer, Ms Jennifer Bennett, to investigate the expansion of CENTROC's membership. This will allow other councils in close proximity to share in the benefits and cost savings that CENTROC has been able to achieve. Recently CENTROC achieved a return to member Council's of five times their investment. This return has been derived from a variety of sources including income from the CENTROC training service, rebates, grant income and fees from non CENTROC councils. Savings and benefits generated in the past 12 month period include a \$200,000 diesel tax rebate audit and \$395,000 in training costs, as well as information sharing benefits. At their March 27 meeting Councillors agreed to apply for entry into CENTROC.

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Briefing from Origin Energy as they begin the preliminary construction stage of Cullerin Range wind farm



Origin's Cullerin Range Wind Farm Project Manager Paul Bultitude, Communications Advisor Alanna Miles, and Development & Environmental Planner Katrina Neagle checking preliminary map gradients for the access roads.

Origin in the Community

Origin cares about the communities in which it operates. The company believes in maintaining open dialogue and a consultative approach to continue building effective partnerships. Origin is extremely pleased to be working with the people of the Upper Lachlan Shire Community to build this important wind farm project. During construction, up to 100 people will be engaged

in project activities in and around the site and the sourcing of some local labour, equipment, concrete and supplies will contribute to the district economy.

Origin will base a team in the area to manage and coordinate the project. Specialist erection and commissioning teams will also be based locally during certain phases of the construction works.

How can you find out more? Origin cares about the community and is keen to incorporate comments and feedback in developing the Cullerin Range Wind Farm. Over the coming months,

Origin will visit the area to learn more about the local community and hear what is important to you. Following this consultation, Origin will identify opportunities to work together.

Email us:

cullerinrangewindfarm@originenergy.com.au

Write to us: Cullerin Range Wind Farm Project
GPO Box 5376
Sydney NSW 2001

Phone us: Origin Energy
Alanna Miles
1800 677 315

Origin Energy

Origin Energy is Australia's leading integrated energy company, with interests in oil and gas exploration and production, power generation and energy retailing. Origin is also Australia's leading green energy retailer, with over 360,000 customers signed to its Green energy products.

Origin is committed to building a sustainable energy future for

Australia. In 2007, it was recognised for its sustainability initiatives and leadership on climate change and named Ethical Investor's Sustainable Company of the Year for 2007.

For many years, Origin has been involved in the development of wind farms by purchasing the electricity generated. The Cullerin Range Wind Farm is an important project for Origin as it will be the company's first fully owned and operated wind farm.



Contractors from the turbine supplier checking Turbine sites for crane and hardstand sitings.

Project details

IN January 2008, Origin acquired the development rights from Epuron to build the 30 MW Cullerin Range Wind Farm located about 12 km east of Gunning on the Cullerin Range north of the Hume Highway.

The Cullerin Range Wind Farm will play an important role towards increasing the supply of renewable electricity generation in New South Wales and will help lower the state's greenhouse gas emissions. Cullerin Range is one of only a handful of locations which have all the right conditions for a wind farm:

- * Excellent wind resource – resulting in high green energy output
- * Low environmental impact
- * Direct access to NSW electricity grid
- * Safe road access
- * Environmentally aware community.

When completed, the wind farm will be able to produce enough clean, renewable electricity for almost 15,000 homes.

Project Status

When development approval was received from the NSW Government in February 2007, the project received the green light to move into the construction design phase. This then involved the selection of a suitable wind turbine and then computer mod-

elling of its capabilities against Cullerin Range's geography and wind data.

With this information confirmed, the 15 wind turbine sites were inspected and logged into a grid of GPS co-ordinates for use in establishing other requirements such as aviation lighting, telecommunication clearances and TV and radio assessments. Following the acquisition of the project in late January 2008, and the completion of the turbine purchase agreement, Origin representatives met with the Upper Lachlan Shire Council in February to introduce themselves and provide details on the project.

The project is now in the preliminary construction phase. This includes ground surveys to detail access points and routes, site amenity locations, and geotechnical works to determine ground conditions for construction.

Armed with this information, the detailed planning and design has commenced and contractors are in the process of determining detailed work requirements, including working out the logistics of preparing and installing the equipment.

The target for all of these activities will be finalised in May.

Time line

June 2008 Initial site preparation
- Site access road construction
- Construction commences
Jan 2009 Turbines arrive
July 2009 Project commissioning



In February 2008, core samples were taken to establish geotechnical conditions for turbine foundations.

ADVERTORIAL

Councillors set road priorities



Upper Lachlan Shire Councillors inspecting Shire Roads, L-R Clrs B. Moloney, B. McCormack, J. Coombs, B. Martin (in the rear), Mayor J. Shaw, General Manager J. Bell, Director of Works A. Lawrance and Deputy Mayor J. Wheelwright.

MARCH 31, 2008 saw Upper Lachlan Shire Councillors, the General Manager and the Director of Works, as part of the Council's Management Plan budgeting process, inspecting the current condition of the Shire's roads. As a result of this particular 'Roads Tour', Councillors and senior Council staff agreed that 248East, the Taralga to Crookwell Road, should be the Council's highest road funding/construction priority.

Council concurred that there would be significant benefit for the business communities of Crookwell and Taralga if the two unsealed sections of this road, which total approximately 15 kilometres, were sealed as soon as possible.

Mayor John Shaw said, "Every Councillor understands residents demand to improve the

Shire's roads. What we are doing on this tour is determining, which areas of our road network are in greatest need, in order to direct our very limited funds to those sections.

"Councillors are also aware that 248East is an important road link. We have all agreed that this road deserves the Council's highest priority and will be seeking both the State and Federal Government's funding, as well as allocating what Council funds, for this project," Mayor Shaw said.

During the tour Councillors travelled over most of the Shire's unsealed roads to assist them in their determination of road funding allocations for the Council's 2008/09 Management Plan. This plan will shortly be released for community comment.

Upper Lachlan Biodiversity Planning Framework

UPPER Lachlan Shire Council is developing a Biodiversity Planning Framework to help with the preparation of the new comprehensive local environmental plan for the Shire, to help Council staff when considering development applications and to protect the biodiversity values of the Shire, while still accommodating sustainable development.

The project is being funded by the Lachlan and Hawkesbury - Nepean Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and guided by a Steering Committee. This Committee consists of two Councillors, Council staff and representatives from the Lachlan and Hawkesbury - Nepean CMAs, Department of Environment and Climate Change and the Department of Planning.

Preparation of the Biodiversity Planning Framework involves identifying the best available information on natural resources that covers all or part of Upper Lachlan Shire, such

as native vegetation, wetlands and rivers, wildlife corridors, threatened plants and animals, endangered plant communities, and so on. This information will then be analysed to determine the location and conservation values of all areas of native vegetation that have been mapped within the Shire. Some field checking of the information may also be undertaken to improve the accuracy of the final product.

Council has engaged the services of Bushfire and Environmental Services (B+ES) to undertake work related to this project.

The project includes field work throughout the Upper Lachlan Shire to verify previous mapping of flora and fauna. This field work will occur between Tuesday March 25, 2008 and Friday May 1, 2008.

The project started in July 2007 and is expected to be completed by June 2008.

Enquiries regarding this project should be directed to Mrs Jacqueline Impey in Council's Environment and Planning Department on 48 301 000.

Serrated Tussock Number One Priority

SERRATED tussock is the number one noxious weed in Upper Lachlan Shire Council and is also a *Weed of National Significance*. It is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spreading and economic and environmental impacts. It mainly causes problems in grazing lands with poor soil fertility and low rainfall where the benefits of control are marginal. Serrated tussock has no grazing value because of its high fibre and low protein content. Infestations result in a significant loss in livestock production, and dense infestations may completely dominate pasture, making large areas incapable of supporting livestock. Trials on heavily infested areas of New South Wales have shown a loss of production of up to 95 per cent.

The drought conditions that have been experienced within Upper Lachlan Shire over recent years have contributed to a dramatic increase in the number and distribution of serrated tussock infestations. Serrated tussock has the potential to spread extensively throughout our Shire, mainly due to its wind-borne seed, and all landholders have a legal responsibility to control infestations on their properties.

To be successful with control programs

within our shire the following issues are imperative:

All landholders within our shire have the ability to identify and conduct effective serrated tussock control programs on their properties.

Every effort must be made to prevent the introduction and establishment of infestations in clean areas.

Control programs are aimed at preventing seed production (control before December).

Landholders work together or in groups to control infestations within local regions.

Serrated Tussock Managers Fact Pacts and Identification Guides are available from Councils Officers or can be obtained by contacting Councils Noxious Weeds Manager, Paul Brown, on 0248 402 099.



Serrated Tussock

Crookwell Trust, A community asset

THERE are numerous community minded organisations in the Upper Lachlan Shire. Among the least well known, but behind the scenes, highly active, is the Crookwell Community Trust.

The Crookwell Community Trust is a voluntary organisation formed to assist the residents of the community and district of Crookwell, who find themselves in dire straights due to a personal emergency or natural disaster.

The Trust was first formed in November 1997 by the Manager of the Crookwell Services Club, Greg Seaman.

Greg's initial idea evolved from his hard work with several individual fundraising activities that assisted local residents, who due to serious illness, needed help. Greg's idea was to standardise fundraising efforts and the means of the distribution of those funds through a permanent trust fund, administered by the community.

In the past the Trust relied on private donations with an occasional fund rais-

ing event. However, members of the Trust Committee now wish to expand their efforts.

Chairperson of the Trust, Tim McCarthy said, "Greg's labours have been appreciated by the Trust Committee and the community, but the Committee believes it is now time to raise its profile."

"The Trust's ability to assist those in need will always be limited by the funds it has available. In response to this, the Trust is presently planning several fund raising events with the obvious desired end result being an increase in its ability to help people of the Crookwell District," Tim said.

The Crookwell Community Trust is a Deductible Gift Recipient and all donations to the Community Trust are tax deductible donations.

Enquiries regarding application for assistance or donations for the Trust can be posted to Community Trust Committee, PO Box 26, Crookwell, NSW 2583. Assistance is issued with no obligation from the recipient.



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Bucks for Business

IF you are a small business owner and you: owe money; have net outside business assets less than \$750,000; operated the business for at least 2 years; have less than 100 employees; are located in a town with a population under 10,000; and have sales reduced by at least 20% due to drought; you could be missing out on having 80% of your interest bill paid for this year. Contact our Rural Financial Counselling office on 4832 0070. This drought assistance will finish September 30, 2008, so get in now to apply. In addition, small businesses can also apply for an income support payment through Centrelink on 132316.

What Can a Rural Financial Counsellor Do For You?

Catherine Carter and Bill Bladwell work as a team providing a service that covers one of the largest areas in the Rural Counselling Program. This area covers from Camden to Braidwood, Boorowa across to Yass and over to Batemans Bay. Catherine and Bill deliver a high quality, free service to your door, whilst maintaining your confidentiality. The service provides up-to-date information on all

relevant benefits, rebates and government support. It can assess your circumstance and prepare reports on your current cash flow and financial viability. Furthermore it can help you identify financial and business options for the future of your enterprise, including adjustment out of agriculture.

Bill and Catherine are able to help clients review contracts and loan applications with lending institutions and provide information to help you prepare new loan applications. The Rural Counsellor is able to facilitate meetings with lenders and financial institutions and assist you in non-legal appeals processes. Information on educational services is provided and they can refer you to a range of professional service providers, including accountants, lawyers, agricultural advisers, farm succession planners, social counselors and personal or family mediators. Counselors cannot provide direct referrals but can give you a list of suitable professionals.

Contact details are: Catherine Carter, 0400 452 434 or Bill Bladwell 0428 659 261 and the Crookwell Office phone number is 48320 070

Bores to source \$850,000 for Taralga water supply upgrade

TWO high flow groundwater bores producing quality water will be the source of a \$850,000 upgrade for Taralga water supply.

The upgrade will include a new service reservoir and chlorine disinfection.

The proposal was put forward to the March 13, 2008 meeting of Council in Crookwell, by Water and Sewer Manager, Luke Moloney.

Mr. Moloney told Council that all parameters of the bore water complied with 'Australian Drinking Water Guidelines', with chlorine addition the only treatment necessary to provide a quality, safe community water supply. Mr. Moloney said, "As the bores are located within the village area, so there is some risk of ground contamination from failing existing septic systems. However, to date water quality analysis indicates that no contamination has occurred and none is expected. The quality of the water is aided by the depth of the area's aquifers and the low permeability of the soil. "As well the construction of the Taralga Sewerage Scheme will further reduce the risk of any future contamination," Mr. Moloney added.

These benefits included a more consistent and reliable water supply; more reliable quantity to meet supply demands; a reduction in the

frequency and severity of water restrictions; improved pumping and treatment; more consistent and regulated water pressure; sustainable yields, with capacity to expand if population growth is larger than expected.

The proposed system allows for a high level of automation and remote supervision and control facilities thus reducing operation and maintenance cost.

Mr. Moloney informed Council that the scheme is eligible for funding under the Department of Water and Energy's Country Town Water Supply and Sewerage Program.

"The Minister for Water Utilities has indicated his approval of the project, with the possibility of funding in addition to the typical 50 per cent subsidy being considered," he said.

Mr. Moloney said that the amount of the loan and the impact on Taralga water rates would not be clear until the Minister's offer is made. "However, the basis of Council's application is to maintain rates at current levels," Mr. Moloney said.

Community consultation would be undertaken once funds have been secured.

The bulk of the construction work will be undertaken by Council staff with contractors carrying out some specialist work, which is expected to reduce total costs.

Council will raise a loan of \$425,000 to fund its share of the scheme.

Fluoridation

Further to the NSW Department of Health (NSW DoH) presentation to Council regarding fluoridation, investigations have been undertaken into the feasibility of installing fluoride dosing plants in Council's water supplies in Crookwell, Gunning, Taralga and Dalton.

Fluoridation imparts a significant operational cost to smaller water supply facilities which do not have permanent operators. Although up to 100 percent of funding is available for the capital cost of dosing facilities, this subsidy is typically only available to supplies serving populations greater than 1,000 people. The NSW DoH recognises the constraints of providing fluoride to smaller communities by water supply, and offers alternative programs to support these

populations. In consideration of these factors, Crookwell is the only feasible option for the installation of water supply fluoride dosing. It is understood 100 percent capital subsidy is likely to be available for the Crookwell installation. Operation of the facility could be absorbed in current treatment plant operations, with a minor cost increase for chemical purchases.

The overwhelming majority of dental practitioners, dental academics and other health professionals in Australia support the addition of fluoride to public water supplies. The proven protective benefits of water fluoridation have been instrumental in the decline of dental decay in Australia over the past 50 years.

Council referred the matter to the Minister for NSW Department of Health for a decision.

Road goes to trial

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At the March 13, 2008 meeting of the Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Director Lawrance proposed the recycling of this old pavement for use on a section of Lade Vale Road, Southwest of Gunning.

Mr Lawrance advised Council that his department had received complaints regarding the dusty condition of Lade Vale Road and the use of this recycled material would provide an

inexpensive solution to the problem. The Director estimated that the cost of removing the existing road pavement could be as little as \$5 per tonne.

Director Lawrance also advised Councillors that beyond providing an inexpensive material for the upgrading of Lade Vale Road, the removal of the pavement from the former Hume Highway would reduce the cost of resealing the highway, improve driveway access grades at adjacent properties, reduce vegetation clearing cost, eliminate unused rest stops and rubbish dumping, as well as allowing for the recycling of some of the old guardrails on this old section of highway.

The trial is planned to start in late March with a report regarding the success of the project, to be presented to Council after the work is completed.

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION

AS prescribed in Council's Pesticide Notification Plan, Notice is hereby given that between January 2008 and May 2008, Council will be carrying out vegetation, weed and pest control works using various herbicides and pesticides.

These works will consist of all public land under the responsibility of Council where control work is necessary including: Parks, Gardens, Sporting Facilities, Urban Street Verges, Public Reserves, Rural Roadsides and

Cemeteries.

Withholding periods for grazing livestock will apply in selected areas. Residents can obtain further information on proposed control works by contacting Council's Noxious Weeds Manager Paul Brown on 4840 2099 or Council's OH&S Coordinator Ben Churchill on 4830 1000.

J K Bell
General Manager



Country Kids Children's Centre

NOW ACCEPTING ENROLLMENTS FOR 2008

Open 7:30am till 6pm

Ages 0 to 6 years

Qualified and experienced staff

Child care benefit available

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Preschool, toddler and infant programs

Po Box 219 Crookwell NSW 2583
Phone: 02 4832 2591 Fax: 02 4832 2666
Email: countrykids1@optusnet.com.au
ABN 18 235 412 495

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Waste minisation

Fuels, chemicals and unidentified liquids are not recyclable. These items should be stored and brought to advertised chemical cleanout collections; collection dates and times are available on www.chemclear.com.au

When loads of what are meant to be recyclable material contain such items, the entire load must be redirected into the landfill: resulting in the loss of material that was recyclable as well as increasing to the disposal costs that the Council, and therefore the ratepayer incur.

Garbage bins

Items not appropriate for garbage bins include; bricks, concrete, tiles, batteries, ash (from the fire), soil, automotive parts. These items should be taken to the residents

nearest landfill.

Asbestos syringes and other sharps should also be taken to Council's Taralga, Crookwell, Collector or Gunning landfills and must be declared to the attendant.

Mobile phones should be taken to a mobile phone outlet.

Smoke detectors and fire extinguishers, chemicals, poisons, pesticides, liquid waste, gas bottles should be taken to chemical cleanout collections, note information above.

Expired medicines should be

returned to your nearest chemist.

The contamination of garbage collections increases the risk to driver safety, the environment and those using the landfills, all of which increase the cost and impact of disposing of the Council's waste.

For more information on what can and cannot be placed in your bins, or to find out if you are eligible for a collection service call Council's collection enquiry line on 1800 137 181 or visit Council's website at www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au



Upper Lachlan Shire's Waste Disposal Vehicle

'Farm-Link' to create links

"WHEN times are tough, it's normal to become stressed and anxious, but it's also important to seek help to prevent symptoms escalating,"

Adelle Kennedy said, the Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS) Project Officer for a new mental health program, Farm-Link. Farm-Link is an initiative which aims to provide better links between mental health services and people living and working on the land.

Ms Kennedy said the 12 month project is a partnership between the NSW Farmers Association, NSW Health and The Centre for Rural and

Remote Mental Health.

"Farm-Link aims to create new networks and enhance existing networks between mental health services and service providers who regularly come in contact with farmers and farming families," Ms Kennedy said.

The GSAHS will offer mental health promotion activities and events such as Mental Health First Aid courses through Farm-Link, focusing on the districts surrounding Griffith, West Wyalong and Yass.

"These courses will teach people how to recognise symptoms of depression, anxiety or another mental illnesses and how to access assistance and intervention.

"This is vital information for front-line agricultural workers who interact with farmers everyday. While

providing this information, it is hoped the courses will also assist in reducing the stigma associated with mental illness," Ms Kennedy said. Ms Kennedy said one in five Australians is affected by a mental illness.

"Depression is extremely common and yet is still regarded as a taboo subject in many circles.

"Symptoms of depression can include difficulty sleeping or sleeping all the time, loss of appetite or eating more than usual, feeling tired all the time, drinking more alcohol than usual and loss of interest in things you used to enjoy," she said.

For further information, contact Farm-Link Project Officer Adelle Kennedy on 0429 365 413 or (02) 6023 7130.

Rains come, but farm labour drying up

DENITA Wawn says people are needed on farms and in regional areas to assist farmers in their day to day business.

Rain has eased the drought in some parts of the country but a new problem is emerging for struggling families on the land - a lack of farm workers.

The National Farmers Federation (NFF) says new research suggests around 100,000 farm workers are needed across the rural sector. The shortfall has doubled since the NFF last compiled figures three years ago.

NFF's General Manager of Workplace Relations, Denita Wawn said, "The NFF has undertaken research in the last six months that show that the shortages that we've been predicting have increased significantly. If weather conditions improve over the next six to 12 months we are predicting that we will need just

under 100,000 workers in the short to medium term.

Denita continued, "The NFF believes we need to continue our push for industry to make changes to itself to be employers of choice. But we are also asking government to remove some policy barriers to assist us in resolving these shortages.

"There is no doubt that in some areas they have tried everything they can to attract Australians to undertake seasonal work and it simply has not been satisfactory. We believe that there is an opportunity to take Pacific Island workers train them up in order to provide economic assistance to them.

Denita concluded, "If drought breaks across the country then we could consider it as a crisis. It is not only a crisis for agriculture but it is a crisis for regional development across this country if we don't have viable agriculture in regional Australia, then there is significant concerns about the long term viability of regional communities."

Nerida Croker has recently been appointed the Upper Lachlan Catchment Landcare Officer. Nerida will work with Landcare volunteers to finalise existing projects and reporting obligations where appropriate and promote group based activities such as large scale on ground works, property planning, field days, seminars and newsletters.

Landcare Officers will help to maintain the vital local communication links between groups in their area as well as the wider Lachlan Landcare network.

For more information contact Nerida on 4834 2133 or e-mail rosevale@wirefree.net.au.

Landcare, working with members

Lachlan CMA is working with Landcare members across the catchment on a project improving local Landcare support levels.

The Lachlan CMA have trialed different options with the Lachlan Landcare Network to support Landcare activities in the catchment - the latest approach will see 11 part-time staff placed right across the catchment, to provide a vital local level service to the individual Landcare networks.

Campaign Targeting Speed in Upper Lachlan

The Upper Lachlan Shire Council, in conjunction with the RTA and the NSW Police are currently undertaking a road safety awareness and Police enforcement campaign.

The campaign involves a coordinated inter agency approach to address the issue of road trauma on the roads throughout the Upper Lachlan after a disturbing trend in speed related crash statistics and loss of life.

The Works Department of Council has been instrumental in the development of the project with assistance in resources for traffic data collection whilst the RTA, through the Local Government Road Safety Program, has supported the campaign through the provision of funding for the production and airing of radio commercials and substantial funding for enhanced enforcement by the Police.

The campaign targets drivers on roads in the Upper Lachlan Shire area and will aim to highlight the dangers and consequences of speeding.

"Each year motor vehicle crashes cost our community dearly at every level - financially, and emotionally. Through co-ordinated campaigns such as this real outcomes can be achieved to reduce the occurrence of motor vehicle crashes in this area," Road Safety Officer Mark Foran said.

Mr Foran continued, "All partners have demonstrated their commitment not only financially but also by sharing information, knowledge and resources for an effective approach to the reduction of road trauma in the Upper Lachlan."



FERTSPREAD

"Independent Fertiliser Dealers and Spreading Contractors" Hume Hwy, GUNNING, NSW

Super, Lime, Dolomite, Gypsum, Agri-Ash, Organic Fert, Clover Seed

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- Delivery
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- GPS Mapping
- Soil Testing



Ph: 1800 500 184

paulwyer@fertspread.com



SLOW DOWN

Speeding kills around 200 people each year in NSW.

Police are now targeting speeding in the Upper Lachlan Shire



An initiative of your local council as part of the Local Government Road Safety Program.

THE VOICE

Emergency after hours contact numbers:

Crookwell / Bigga / Binda / Tuena / Grabben Gullen / Laggan / Taralga / Big Hill areas:

Roads, bridges and tips 0429 786 659, water and sewer 0407 496 358.

Gunning / Dalton / Breadalbane / Collector / Jerrawa areas: Roads, bridges and tips, water and sewer 0427 454 206.

Police and Fire all areas anytime 000.

CROOKWELL AUTUMN LOVERS' MARKET

ART IN THE PARK (3 MAY, MEMORIAL PARK, CROOKWELL) OPEN GARDENS (3, 4 MAY)

Market and Maps

Memorial Park

Spring St, Crookwell

9am to 3pm

Or

Information Centre, Crookwell

4832 1988

www.upperlachlantourism.com

AUTUMN LOVERS' MARKET, ART IN THE PARK & OPEN GARDENS

ON May 3, Crookwell will be the host of three 'Open Gardens', the 'Autumn Lovers' market and an Art Exhibition. This event is run in conjunction with the Open Garden Scheme. As a result the weekend attracts many garden lovers to the shire. This year there will be a couple of changes which we feel will attract more visitors for the weekend. On Saturday May 3 (9am to 3pm), an art and sculpture exhibition by Margaret Shepherd and Josslyn Pfitzner will be held at the market. This year the market will be located in the Memorial Park, Spring St, Crookwell. This venue offers visitors and stallholders a beautiful backdrop for an autumn frolic.

The gardens, Loghren, Kiloren and Birchwood will be open from 10am to 3pm on Saturday May 3 and Sunday May 4. Maps will be available to direct you to the three open gardens at the market and the Information Centre:

Loghren - Exceptional collection of unusual

cold-climate plants assembled in generous borders. Beds are packed with bulbs, perennials, groundcovers as well as a large collection of irises, viburnum, camellias, rhododendrons and hydrangeas thriving beneath maples, beeches, birches and oaks.

Birchwood - Autumn can be a blaze of colour with the reds and golds of maples, birches and spindles. These colours are set off by the various shades of green of the many conifers both large and small. The weeping mulberries, nyssa and elm, with the horizontal elm, which will still be attractive, as will be the unusual weeping cypresses *nookatensis* and the weeping sequoia.

Kiloren - A classic Edna Walling garden designed in 1951. Edna Walling was closely involved in the original planting and provided some trees from her own garden at Sonning. Kiloren is composed of a series of natural terraces, contained by stone retaining walls and steps. Copses of mature trees now form a framework for seasonal plantings and create a gentler micro-climate in the harsh Crookwell environs. New, sinuously curving stone walls blend impeccably with the original stonework and a rustic wooden gate signals the original boundary of Walling's design.

For more information please call (02) 4832 1988

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**THE Capital Region Area Consultative Committee
combined with the Small Business Field Officer
invites you to attend ...
April program - featuring ...**

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

- **Tips and Tools** for developing project ideas and successful grant applications for community project funding; plus
- practical advice and information that can help you to start a small business or expand an existing one.

From 7.00 pm-9.00 pm:

Wednesday 23 April - Gundaroo - Colonial Inn (Wine Bar)

Wednesday 30 April - Bungendore - Community Centre

also

May program - featuring ...

SMALL BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

hosted by the Small Business Field Officer

- **How to Grow your Business without Going Crazy**
Presenter: **Kim Houghton** (lunch provided)
Tuesday 6 May 12.00 noon - 2.30 pm - **Goulburn Soldiers Club**
- **Practical Marketing**
Presenter: **Todd Wright**
Tuesday 27 May 9.00 am-12 noon - **Moss Vale Golf Club**
2.00 pm-5.00 pm - **Goulburn Soldiers Club**
Thursday 29 May 9.00 am-12 noon - **Yass Soldiers Club**
2.00 pm-5.00 pm - **Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club**

Registration for these Community Information Sessions and Workshops is essential - RSVP to the Capital Region ACC on 6162 4400, 6162 4455 or email sbfo@cr-acc.asn.au

This is an Australian Government funded service under the Small Business Field Officer Program and the Home-Based Business Seminar and Networking Arrangements Initiative.

Elders Crookwell



ELDERS WELCOMES
NANETTE PHILLIPS

Elders has added a new Real Estate Sales Consultant to their Crookwell office.

Nanette Phillips brings 20 years of experience in the realty business.

She has been living and working in the Crookwell area for over two years and has been associated with the district for seven years.

Nanette believes that having

a strong, trustworthy and honest relationship with clients is the most important step in helping them achieve their goals.

Nanette currently has buyers looking to move into the Crookwell district and is eager to speak with people interested in selling their property.

Elders Crookwell

68 Goulburn Street, Crookwell NSW 2583

Phone 02 4832 1224 or 0402 253 864

www.elderscrookwell.com.au



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