

THE VOICE

*of Upper Lachlan Shire.
the Shire of villages*

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Please note the Council's
phone number is (02) 4830 1000

FREE
Take one

Clr. Dean Garry Cosgrove September 15, 1947 - November 23, 2007

KNOWN as Garry, 'Cossy', or 'Cowboy'; Councillor Dean Garry Cosgrove died on Friday November 23, of liver failure at Liverpool Hospital NSW.

Clr Cosgrove was one of nine initial Councillors elected in July 2004 to the first Upper Lachlan Shire Council.

He first served in Local Government on the Gunning Shire Council from 1987 until 1991, and again from 1995 until 1999. Garry held the position of Deputy Mayor for two terms, 1995/96 and again 1996/97.

Due to his knowledge in the area of concert reinforcement and the operation of heavy machinery, Garry was selected to the position of Chairman of the Upper Lachlan Shire's Works and Plant Committee. In that capacity he took an active role relating to road and bridge construction and maintenance.

Garry was considered by Mayor John Shaw to be of the old school, "He believed in the three Rs of Local Government; roads, rates and rubbish, with weeds thrown in for good measure. You always knew where you stood with Garry. He would never get splinters in his backside from sitting on the fence." Mayor Shaw said.

Armed Forces

Garry served with 'ANZUK' (Australian - New Zealand - United Kingdom) Armed Forces with the rank of 'Sapper' in the Core of Engineers, from December 5 1966 until August 27 1973. He served two tours in Vietnam and one in Singapore.

In Vietnam he was responsible for the dangerous work of clearing land mines. It was within that role that 'Sapper' Cosgrove was wounded and later received a Total and Permanent Incapacity Pension.

His time in Singapore was less dangerous. While serving in Singapore he enjoyed instructing people in the art of water skiing. Garry remained an active member of both the Vietnam Veterans Federation and the Crookwell branch of the Return Services League, the same as his father Angus.

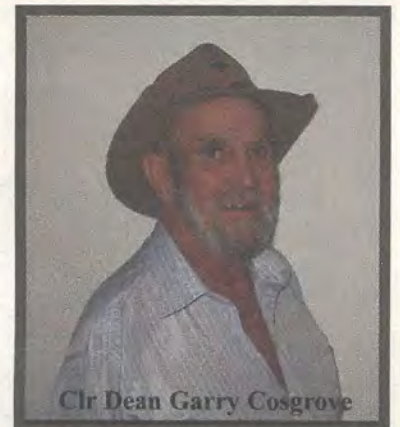
Sportsman

'Cowboy' Cosgrove was also a highly regarded sportsman. Competing for 10 years in the rodeo circles, Garry was well known for his ability to 'bulldog' steers off a motorbike, perform as a rodeo clown as well as a bareback, wild-bronc and bull rider. He especially enjoyed bull riding, claiming that once the gate was open and the ride began you were in another very exhilarating world.

Playing in the position of 'hooker' with the Gunning Rugby League Club, Garry was known as a fierce competitor able to instil fear in opposition teams and his half-time refreshment (bottles of port) was appreciated by his fellow team mates.

A community minded person, Gary held the position of Chairman of the NSW Farmers, Gunning Branch; Deputy Chairman of the Southern Tablelands and Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee and Committee member of the Goulburn and District Community Transport.

Born in Crookwell, Garry's family first moved to the Gunning area then later to Sydney. Garry and his brother Rodney, went for a brief time to Queensland



Clr Dean Garry Cosgrove

where he learned to operate heavy machiner. From there Gary joined the army and went on to Vietnam.

After his military service, Garry revisited the Gunning area for a short visit and realised it was time to return and settle down. He began work in the area with his father Angus, both in the employment of Garry's future father-in-law, Kevin Tully, as well as in private works. He was involved with the construction of the Dalton Bridge.

It was through this work that he met Kevin's daughter, Kathy. By 1975 Kathy and Garry had become serious and remained together ever since. Garry was a very understanding partner, a great father and a great listener.

Garry is survived by his wife Kathy, children Wesley, Clayton and Chad; Mother Margaret (nee Medway), sister Gale and brother-in-law Ian Johnston, as well as daughter-in-law Belinda.

Cossy, lived a full life and will be sorely missed by all that knew him.

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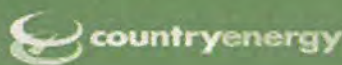
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MR 52 is sealed! With only minor road work to be completed before its grand opening, scheduled for early in the new year, this vital road link between Gunning and Crookwell is now open for traffic

Country Energy
investing in the Upper Lachlan



Country Energy brings concert to kids

Recently, children from schools across the Upper Lachlan local government area were entertained and inspired by Big G and the Sydney Opera House Orchestra, who are touring the region thanks to the support of Country Energy.

Country Energy Proms on Tour is on the road for the second time in 2007, bringing popular classical music into the backyards of children across the

South Eastern region, including the Bigga, Binda, Five Mile Tree and Crookwell Public Schools.

Country Energy's regional general manager south eastern, David Bellew, said in the past three years the road show had helped more than 20,000 kids across 57 towns in regional NSW experience the magic of Country Energy Proms on Tour.

Presenting *Strings & Things*, the show includes a remarkable repertoire that

introduces children to popular classics from Rossini's *William Tell Overture* and Bach's *Air on a G String* to Mozart's *Divertimento for Strings* and Debussy's *Nocturnes*.

The *Strings & Things* shows feature conductor George Ellis (aka Big G). "Without doubt, performing for kids is a magical experience," said George. "You can see their faces light up when they hear the live music - for many of the country kids they're hearing and seeing the instruments for the first time."



SYDNEY Opera House Conductor George Ellis getting involved with Crookwell Primary Schoolchildren.

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Library Biz

SUPERIORHEROS Read! 50,000 children across Australia will be flying in to their local library to be part of the national Summer Reading Club over the summer holidays. Crookwell and Gunning Libraries will join public libraries from Broome to Hobart participating in the club this year and expects to see this year's theme of 'superheroes' really take off when the Program begins on Monday 10th December 2007.

The Superhero's Reading Club extends across the whole summer to promote reading and reading-related activities to children aged five and up.

All children need to do is pop into either Crookwell or Gunning Library, register at the loans desk, collect a Superheroes Reading Club Kit and start reading!

The Summer 2007/08 program, coordinated by the Australian Library and Information Association, is the first time the program has been national.

This year the Summer Reading Club prizes at Crookwell Library will be sponsored by the 'Crookwell Library Friends' and at Gunning Library by the Upper Lachlan Shire Council.

Public libraries are essential to the national effort to improve literacy skills in the community and this program is a great example of a program that improves skills through fun activities.

More School Holiday Fun. Following on from the very successful 2007 Wizard Workshop, Certificate II in 'Wizard Wonkery' will take place at Crookwell Library at 10.30am on 22nd January, and depending on demand - 24th January.

Tizzy Wizz the Wonky Wizard will again entertain children aged 6 to 12 years with 1 1/2 hours of wonky spells and crafty capers.

There is a small charge of \$5 to cover the cost of the workshop. Bookings are essential and can be made at the Crookwell Library or by telephone on 4832-1048.

Be on Santa's 'Good List'. We all know Santa makes a list of all the good boys and girls each year, but did you realise he also knows who has library fines, and those people go on his naughty list?

We have the perfect way to get back onto Santa's good list before Christmas. Donate a non-perishable item of food and Crookwell and Gunning Libraries will waive \$5 (or part thereof) of any accrued overdue fines.

So, you can clear your fines whilst helping others and it's a sure-fire way of getting back onto that 'good' list!

Of course, if you don't have overdue fines, but would like to donate a non-perishable item of food, it would be greatly appreciated.

Continues... You can donate items at any of the Southern Tablelands Regional Library branches including Crookwell, Gunning, Goulburn, Murrumbateman and Yass.

All items received from this promotion will be given to those in need through selected charities across the region including, St Vincent De Paul Society, Anglicare, Salvation Army and the Combined Churches of Yass.

Donations are welcome from 1st December to 31st January. Don't miss this opportunity to pay your fines and help others.

Holiday Hours. Over the Christmas break the Crookwell Library will close at 5.30pm on Friday 21st December 2007 and re-open at 2pm on Wednesday 2nd January 2008.

Gunning library will close at 5pm on Thursday 20th December 2007 and re-open at 2pm on Wednesday 2nd January 2008.

So make sure you stock up on books, magazines, DVDs and music CDs for those long hot summer afternoons before your libraries close for the Christmas period.

The staff of Crookwell and Gunning Libraries would like to wish all their patrons a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2008.

Calling 70's and Over

THE Taralga Historical Society has been in existence for over 35 years. Every five years since its inception the Society has celebrated the art of aging and invited residents and former residents, now age 70 or older, and with a connection to Taralga, to a cuppa and a group '70s' photo shoot. This year it is on again.

This year's event will commence at 2pm for a 2:30pm photo, on Friday December 16 at the

Taralga Historical Society's Complex, located at 83 Orchard Street Taralga. Over '70's' and their family members are then invited to attend the Society's Christmas Party free of charge; or if they wish, to pop down to the Taralga 'Returned Services Club' to take part in the RSL's Christmas festivities.

For more information please contact the Society's President, Mary Chalker on 4840 2084.

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Mayor's Column



Mayor John Shaw

I HAVE known Councillor Cosgrove for 35 years. We first served together on the Gunning Shire Council from 1987 through 1991, again from 1995 to 1999 and then after the amalgamation on the Upper Lachlan Shire Council from 2004 until his death. Councillor Cosgrove was a hard working Councillor who was passionate about rural land management, the best use of Council plant equipment and the improvement of the Shire's road network. I know he was very pleased to finally see the sealing of MR 52, the Gunning to Crookwell road, a project that we have both worked very hard

for over the past many years. On behalf of the Councillors, Council and the Shire I send our heart felt condolences to his wife Kathy, his children Wesley, Clayton and Chad and extended family. He will be sadly missed.

Roads
The Upper Lachlan Shire Council has 642kms of sealed roads, 1,263kms of unsealed roads. As a large rural Shire, a Shire of Villages, the road maintenance and upgrading of these assets require considerable resources, but the importance of that work can not be underestimated. Over the past few years several important road projects have been started and a very important one as mentioned, MR52, just completed. This, now totally sealed, road connects Crookwell, through the village of Grabben Gullen into Gunning and from there into the greater ACT and Canberra Sydney corridor.

Both the previous Gunning and Crookwell Shire Councils worked for years towards the sealing of this road, but it wasn't until the formation of Upper Lachlan Shire Council that the remaining 6.5kms section of road was completed. I firmly believe that the upgrading of this road will bring considerable benefits to the Shire's residents both commercially and personally. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who, over the years, helped make the project such a success.

Other road works
The largest project, in brief history of the Upper Lachlan Shire, is the sealing of the 19.6kms of road known as MR248 West. This road will connect Crookwell with Boorowa, to all points southwest. The project has a budget of \$4.7 Million and I am happy to report, is presently on budget and on schedule to be completed within the two years time frame required by the Federal Government.

Also presently being undertaken is the MR256 or Tablelands Way project. Including 5kms of road in the Upper Lachlan Shire and at a projected cost of \$1.41 million this road will connect Taralga with Goulburn, and westward to Oberon into Lithgow and beyond. These road projects as well as the development of other Shire assets will keep the Upper Lachlan Shire moving towards a bright future.

Financially sound
It is especially pleasing to note that the Upper Lachlan Shire Council has recently been assessed as 'financially sound'. The assessment was performed by the independent body 'Fiscal Star Services', which rated Councils on their 'financial sustainability and long term outlook'. This positive rating was achieved by only 23 of the 96 Councils rated. I would like to commend Council staff on this considerable achievement.

Councillor's Talk Clr. Charlie Prell

I HAVE lived in the Upper Lachlan Shire area for all of my adult life and fully appreciate the passion and commitment members of the community have to their towns and localities.

Because I am a part of this community, I am able to understand and empathise with people as they struggle through a time of immense challenge and change.

During my time as a Councillor, over three years, I have been an active member of the Tourist Association. I feel very strongly that the development of tourism is essential to the future of this area.

An essential part of this strategy is to improve local roads as fast as is possible, and to continue to pressure all levels of government to improve communication infrastructure across the entire Shire.

It is essential that the entire community has access to high-speed Internet connections and good telephone systems. Once such systems are in place then the Shire can attract all manner of new businesses.

The challenge for the Shire during this period of change is to retain our own unique character as we encourage and welcome new residents into our shire. So far, I believe, the current council, both councillors and staff, have done an excellent job in this area.

The other challenge that faced this Council, the amalgamation, has also of been dealt with understanding and skill.

The next step in this process will be for this council to establish a legacy for others to follow. To do this we must establish systems and procedures that will outlast our own personal presence on the council.

I have had extensive experience in corporate governance and the establishment of systems, principally through my long involvement with the Rural Lands Protection Board in Goulburn. I am looking forward to having the opportunity to contribute to the next stage of development of the Upper Lachlan Shire Council.

GM's report

THE Upper Lachlan Shire Council mourns the passing of Councillor Garry Cosgrove.

Councillor Cosgrove was a well respected member of his local community as well as the Upper Lachlan Shire Council. On behalf of the Council I wish to express to his family and his friends our deepest condolences. Councillor Cosgrove will be sorely missed.

Regional Leaders Forum

On November 23, Mayor John Shaw and I attended the latest Regional Leaders of the Australian Capital Region meeting that was held in Queanbeyan, NSW. The meeting was chaired by the Hon Tony Kelly MP, NSW Minister for Regional Development. The Regional Leaders Forum is co-chaired by the Hon Tony Kelly, Minister for Regional Development and ACT Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope. The Australian Capital Region Leaders

Forum (RLF) was formed in 1995 to allow the Mayors of the Local Governments surrounding the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) to speak directly to the leaders of the ACT Government about issues of regional importance.

Cancer Council funding

Upper Lachlan Shire Council may be eligible to receive funding from the Cancer Council NSW to assist with smoke-free outdoor environments signage. The Cancer Council NSW has recently launched a competitive grants scheme with up to \$2,500.00 for Council Community Partners for local cancer control needs. The Cancer Council NSW wants to help councils educate the public about smoke-free outdoor environments, especially children's playgrounds and sporting fields. The scheme is to provide community partners with assistance for approved signage exclusively at children's playgrounds and/or sporting fields acknowledging the

areas are smoke-free. The next funding round will close early in 2008.

Council queries Department of Local Government

Councillor Cosgrove's passing leaves Upper Lachlan Shire Council with a vacancy in the office of Councillor. On November 26, 2007 Council sought advice from the Department of Local Government as to whether the Minister for Local Government would allow Council to continue with eight Councillors until the end of the Council's term. At the time of writing this newsletter, that advice had not yet been received. Council's recent advice from the Electoral Commission NSW is that the cost of holding an election in September 2008 will be approximately \$38,800.00. Should a by-election be deemed necessary then Council would need to budget a similar amount as the Upper Lachlan Shire Council does not have a ward system and as such the same polling booths would need to be utilised and staffed. Obviously the preferred option is not to hold a by-election if possible.

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Australia Day Nominees supported by Australia Post



Nominee Citizens of the Year, L-R, (back row) Garry Kadwell, Bob Spiller, Neil Skelly, Andrew Palmer (Young Citizen of the Year), Mayor John Shaw, Doreen Wheelwright, (front row) Pat Williamson-Newman, Beatrice Williams, Julienne Belford, Colin Brown, Jenny Price. Not pictured, Frank Willis, June Clancy, Megan O'Brien (Young Citizen), Craig Southwell, John Dymock and June Clancy (deceased),

THE Upper Lachlan Shire Council, at the November 8 meeting of Council, announced the nominees for the Australia Day awards of Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Event of the Year.

The awards winners will be declared on Australia Day, 26 January 2008, at ceremonies in Crookwell, Gunning and Taralga.

Announcing the nominees, the Mayor of Upper Lachlan Shire, Councillor John Shaw, said, "Council strongly regards nomination as being an honour in itself; the fact that people have made the effort to organise a nomination shows the extent to which the nominees and the events are valued in the community".

The nominees for Citizen of the Year

are Neil Skelly, Pat Williamson Newman, Frank Willis, Garry Kadwell, Beatrice Williams, Jenny Price, John Dymock, Doreen Wheelwright, Bob Spiller, Colin Brown, the late June Clancy, Craig Southwell, Julienne Belford.

For Young Citizen of the Year nominees are Andrew Palmer and Megan O'Brien. In the Event of the Year nominees include; the Opening of the 'Taralga Heritage Display Shed', 'Upper Lachlan Water Summit', Gunning, Focus on 'Taralga Art Show', the 'Prayer Service for Rain and Drought Breaker Breakfast', Crookwell and 'Looking After Our Mate Night', Crookwell.

This year's Australia Day Awards are generously sponsored by Australia Post.

LIFELINE TELEPHONE COUNSELLING COURSE.

LIFELINE Macarthur holds two telephone counselling training courses every year. The first one for 2008 will commence in early February and will last for 16 weeks.

The Courses are held at the Paul Dooner Lifeline Centre in Smeaton Grange, and are held every Wednesday night and over 2 Saturdays.

The second course usually starts in mid July. During the course people learn listening skills and empowering the person on the phone to deal with their situation and to always give dignity to each and every caller. Prospective counsellors also receive training on how to handle different issues that the caller may have to deal with, including domestic violence, mental health, suicidal thoughts, grief, loss and sexual abuse.

Before having your first telephone counselling session graduates are required to complete four supervised telephone counselling shifts, these comprise three day

shifts and one overnight shift.

The last graduation group of almost 40 people, included people from varied backgrounds including psychology students, a deputy school principal, a manager of a service business, people who had recently retired and a lady who gave birth to her fourth child two weeks before the course commenced. (yes, she graduated).

Once enrolment forms are returned to the Lifeline office, interviews are held to make sure applicants are fully aware of all details relating to the course.

People interested are asked, not to leave it till over the Christmas period to enquire but to do it now.

Applicants must be over the age of 18 to undertake the course, to find out more, visit the Lifeline Macarthur website on www.lifelinemacarthur.org.au or phone Lifeline on 46457200 and ask to speak to Margaret or Sarah.



'Pizza for Prostate', organisers of the fund raising event L-R, Carolyn Luthwaite, Scott Stephenson, Ann Warren and Ward Melick

ORGANISERS of the 'Pizza for Prostate' fund raising event were all smiles after raising \$3156 to go towards research into prostate cancer.

The ladies, Carolyn and Ann have been promoting awareness of prostate cancer for over a year, hoping to encourage the men of the community to become involved.

Their next endeavour will be the organisation of a Prostate Cancer Awareness March to occur during this coming year's, March 1, 2008, Crookwell Country Festival Parade.

The ladies were too polite to say it, but it seems like it's time the men of the community roll up their sleeves and get involved.

Santa's Hideaway

It's magic in the mists of the country

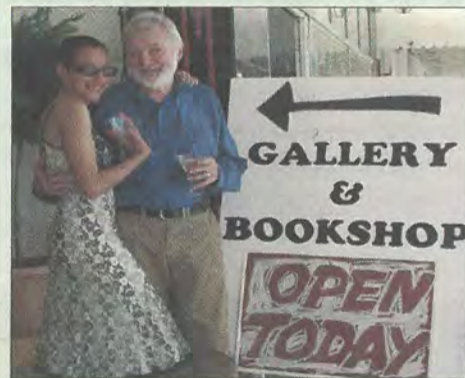


Santa's Hideaway is open from April 1 to Christmas Eve.
Thursday to Monday Inclusive 10AM - 4:pm
Other times by appointment

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Picture House opens in Gunning



Margarita Georgiadis and Max Cullen opening their new Picture House Gallery Bookshop

'Here's Looking At You Kid' ACTOR/ARTIST Max Cullen and his artist wife Margarita Georgiadis, moved to Gunning five years ago and converted the Coronation Theatre, a picture theatre built in 1937, into an artists' studio, residence and now into the 'Picture House Gallery and Bookshop'.

The inaugural exhibition, which opened on Saturday November 17 and will run through December 22, features the work of artist/actor Gary Day.

Gary Day, one of Australia's best known actors (and an old mate of Max's) decided after a career spanning 40 years, to retire to NZ to pursue a new aspect of the arts. In a

move similar to Max, Gary converted an old double garage into a studio into which he disappeared with some paintbrushes and some old tools to see what they had to say for themselves. After six years he emerged and the results were brought to the attention of the renowned Coca Centre of Contemporary Art in Christchurch where he held his first exhibition in August 2007 was a great success and lead him to Max, who offered him his first Australian showing.

Gary's inaugural exhibition is titled 'Here's Looking At You Kid'. As a kid growing up in New Zealand, Gary became obsessed with the movies, particularly old cowboy flicks. He has spent the last twenty years on location, during film and TV shoots, fossicking through flea markets and collecting old classic movie posters.

In conjunction with the gallery, Max Cullen and Margarita have also opened 'The Picture House Bookshop', which will sell new and pre-loved books specialising in the performing arts - theatre, film and television. Many are scripts and books from Max's personal collection.

The Picture House Gallery and Bookshop is located at 80-82 Yass Street, Gunning. Trading hours for this new venture will be Saturday, Sunday and Public holidays between 11am and 5pm or by appointment, phone (02) 4845 1889 or visit the web site; thepicturehouse@bigpond.com

The following opening and closing times will apply to Council facilities over the Christmas-New Year break:

Facility	Close	Re-Open
Crookwell Admin Offices & Depot	12.00 pm Thursday 20 December 2007	9.00 am Wednesday 2 January 2008
Gunning Admin Offices & Depot	12.00 pm Thursday 20 December 2007	8.00 am Wednesday 2 January 2008
Taralga Community Service Centre	5.00 pm Monday 24 December 2007, Closed for 25 & 26 December 2007, Closed for Monday 31 January 2007 & Tuesday 1 January, 2008	9.00 am Thursday 27 December 2008 9.00 am Wednesday 2 January, 2008
Crookwell Library	5.30 pm Friday 21 December 2007	2.00pm Wednesday 2 January 2008
Gunning Library	5.00pm Thursday 20 December 2007	2.00 pm Wednesday 2 January 2008
Upper Lachlan Information Centre	Closed for 25 & 26 December 2007, Closed for Tuesday 1 January 2008	9.00am Thursday 27 December 2007 9.00am Wednesday 2 January 2008
Crookwell Tip	Closed Christmas Day Only	
Gunning & Collector Tips	Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day	Open on week days as normal
Taralga Tip	Closed 12.00 pm Thursday 20 December 2007 and open as normal	Open on week days as normal
Garbage Services – all areas	Operations as per normal	
Emergencies:	Gunning/Collector Area 0427 454206	Crookwell/Taralga Area 0429 786659

Gardener's responsibilities

Gardening is a popular past time. Only three percent of people never garden at all and one in four households visit garden nurseries once a month. However when it comes to gardening, there are certain responsibilities that a gardener must consider. Some garden plants are typically invasive and escape from gardens to invade surrounding bushland and farms.

While invasive garden plants may look beautiful and harmless, be assured they could soon be competing with other plants, including natives. Once these invasive garden plants have 'jumped the fence', they are regarded as weeds, because they continue to spread and choke out native ecosystems. This in turn means that native plants and animals are excluded from their habitats.

Once an invasive species has been planted in gardens in sufficient numbers over a sufficient range, its spread outside is inevitable. Many of these plants have been identified in weed lists, however different regions of Australia often have different weed lists because they may be more of a problem in that area. A major concern with weed lists is

that people assume that any plant not on a list is fine to cultivate. This may not be the case.

Invasive garden plants should be replaced with safer alternatives, such as local native plants or species with a low likelihood of spreading.

Seek information

If you need to know more about native plants, ask your local nursery or retail garden centre as they are usually staffed by experts who will offer very good advice for free.

If you need to know more about invasive garden plants, ask your local government council or state government.

Become a Weebuster

Visit www.weebusters.info and find out about this weed awareness program

Register your local activity on the Weebusters website. See the Weebusters fact sheet on *Event Ideas*.

Spread the word about weeds to your local garden club or community.

Contact your local retail garden centre (www.ngia.com.au)

Contact your local government weeds officer or your state/territory government's environment or primary industries department

Upper Lachlan Shire financially sound

THE Director of Finance and Administration, Mr Andrew Croke, presented the 2006/2007 Financial Reports to the Upper Lachlan Shire Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on October 25, 2007.

On November 22, Ms. Leanne Smith of the Morse Group, the Council's external auditors, presented Councillors with their latest audit report. Councillors were pleased to see, as relayed by Ms. Smith that the Shire was in a sound financial position as indicated by the council's 2006/07 Financial Reports. Ms. Smith emphasised the Council's positive cash result, with impressive ratios and healthy liquidity.

Ms Smith continued, that as good as the Council's present financial position was, a further improvement in Council's cash reserves was desirable.

Mr Croke agreed stating, "that Council had an operating surplus from all activities of \$884,000 and the total cash and investments were \$8.676 million which was an increase of \$808,000. However, the net operating deficit before capital grants were taken into consideration totaled -\$896,000 which needed to be addressed going forward.

Mr Croke stated "the importance of maintaining a

healthy unrestricted current ratio of assets to liabilities and positive working funds balance can not be overstated. These indicators indicate the financial health of the Council. Upper Lachlan Shire Council is in a sound financial position to meet all provisions and liabilities into the future."

Performance measures

In the statement of performance measures the Council has an 'Unrestricted Current Ratio' of assets to liabilities of 2.62:1. This compares favourably with other NSW Councils and shows that the Council has adequate working funds to be able to meet all liabilities.

Mr Croke continued, "The council's Debt Service Ratio is very low at 2.90% as well as a Rates and Charges Outstanding percentage which is now only 3.44%. This is an excellent result and shows the character of the Shire's ratepayers in the midst of the drought."

In summary the Director said, "The Upper Lachlan Shire Council, as in fact all NSW Councils, have infrastructure challenges ahead as seen from the water and sewerage asset revaluations. Cash reserves and external borrowings will be needed to be utilised to fund the asset replacement programs into the future."

Upper Lachlan Shire Council Australia Day Celebrations supported by Australia Post, 2008

The Ambassador will visit each location and assist with all the Australia Day Award Presentations.

Gunning: Breakfast at Barbour Park at 8.00am followed by presentation of Gunning Australia Day Awards

Crookwell Breakfast at Memorial Oval at 8.00am with presentation of Crookwell and Upper Lachlan Shire Council Australia Day Awards at approximately 10.00am

Taralga Australia Day events will start at 8:30am with lunch from 1.00pm followed by presentation of the Taralga Australia Day Awards.



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www.hotondo.com.au



Safe Motoring the Key to a Great Holiday

THE Upper Lachlan Shire Council urges motorists to take extra care on the roads this Christmas. Holidays are for fun but it's no fun if your holiday is ruined by a road crash. Planning your trip before you set off allows you a better chance of enjoying your holiday to the fullest.

"If you're planning a long drive over the Christmas and New Year holiday season think ahead and plan your trip as this may assist you in avoiding long traffic queues," Council's Road Safety Officer Mark Foran said.

During holidays, it is also important to take extra care when driving past parks and to look out for kids playing on the streets, riding bikes, or walking as there will be more pedestrians about.

Listed below are some safe holiday motoring tips.

Avoid the traffic: Remember that major delays may occur particularly on coastal routes

If you come across delays please be patient. If you're heading north to Queensland consider taking the New England Highway and avoid peak periods.

Stay tuned: Tune in to local radio stations for traffic reports. Along the way, call 132 701 for traffic updates.

Watch out for electronic message signs - they'll provide up to date road safety information.

Slow down: Don't speed. Don't take risks - use overtaking lanes. Slow down in the wet. Remember that speed zones and limits are enforced by police and double demerit points apply. Be alert to directions from traffic controllers or emergency crews - they're for your safety.

Arrive safely: Avoid fatigue. Start your drive well rested - after 7am is best. Don't drive long distances at night and leave enough time to reach your destination safely. Share the driving. Stop. Revive. Survive. Don't ignore the early warning signs of driver fatigue. Call into rest areas, driver reviver stops, service centres or nearby towns. There are over 80 Driver Reviver stations manned by hard-working volunteers providing coffee, tea and snacks for drivers and their companions during holiday periods.

Safety check: Its important to make sure your vehicle is in good condition. Before going on a long trip, it is advisable to book your vehicle in for a thorough safety check by a reputable mechanic. Make sure all lights are in working order. Check that wipers, washers and horn operate correctly. Check the fan belt condition and tension. Check the brake and clutch fluid levels and battery water level. Check the cooling system and hoses. Check the oil levels and check for leaks. Make sure your tyres are inflated to the pressure specified for your vehicle.

Now you're ready to go. Have an enjoyable holiday and please remember to drive safely on your way home as well. (road safety tips - source RTA).

Doctor's vision finds Federal support

CROOKWELL has been very fortunate over the years to have had quality medical professionals, but with ever increasing demands, good fortune will not be enough to cope with future community demands.

Rural health care is no longer a matter of having general practitioners willing to work 24/7, attending to acute problems. Demands now require a range of medical expertise to foresee patients' long term needs, which assists patients avoid illness rather than wait until illnesses occur. To help meet these requirements communities will require Medical Centres where medical, nursing and allied health professionals are available to meet the public's requirements.

This makes the press release, via the Federal Member for Hume, the Hon Alby Schultz MP, of the Federal Government Rural Medical Infrastructure Fund, of the awarding of a \$440,000 grant to the Upper Lachlan Shire Council towards the purchase of the Banfield House facility such great news. The Council's purchase of this facility clears the way for its rebirth as a Medical Centre, able to house a range of medical, nursing and allied health professionals that could well see Crookwell not only maintain its present facilities but increase its services.

The idea that a Medical Centre would benefit the Crookwell area was first promoted at a meeting with the previous Crookwell Shire Council in August 2001. Preliminary investigations at that time were halted for the lack of a suitable site and motivation.

On hearing of the possible amalgamation of Banfield House and Harley Nursing Home into a frail aged centre and the subsequent vacancy of Banfield House, Doctor Kovats of Crookwell's

Women's Health Cottage, in November 2005, initially offered to purchase Banfield House with the purpose of creating a Medical Centre. This plan was modified after it was learned of the Federal Government's Rural Medical Infrastructure Fund initiative.

Doctor Kovats was assisted in the submission process by both Ian McCausland, a Crookwell citizen and Ian Coillet a Project Officer for the area's Consultative Committee. She first presented her plan to the Upper Lachlan Shire Council in February 2006. Doctor Kovats envisioned the Council's purchase and refurbishment of the building and then leasing of the premises out as a Medical and Allied Health Care Centre.

"I am extremely pleased to see that the Council has been successful in its purchase of Banfield House," Doctor Kovats said. "Councillors and Council staff, including the General Manager John Bell, have done a great job in negotiating this proposal through to its present situation. Their wisdom and foresight in supporting this project will have long term benefits for health care in the Upper Lachlan Shire community.

"I would also like to thank Ian McCausland and Ian Coillet for their advice, focus and patience in this matter.

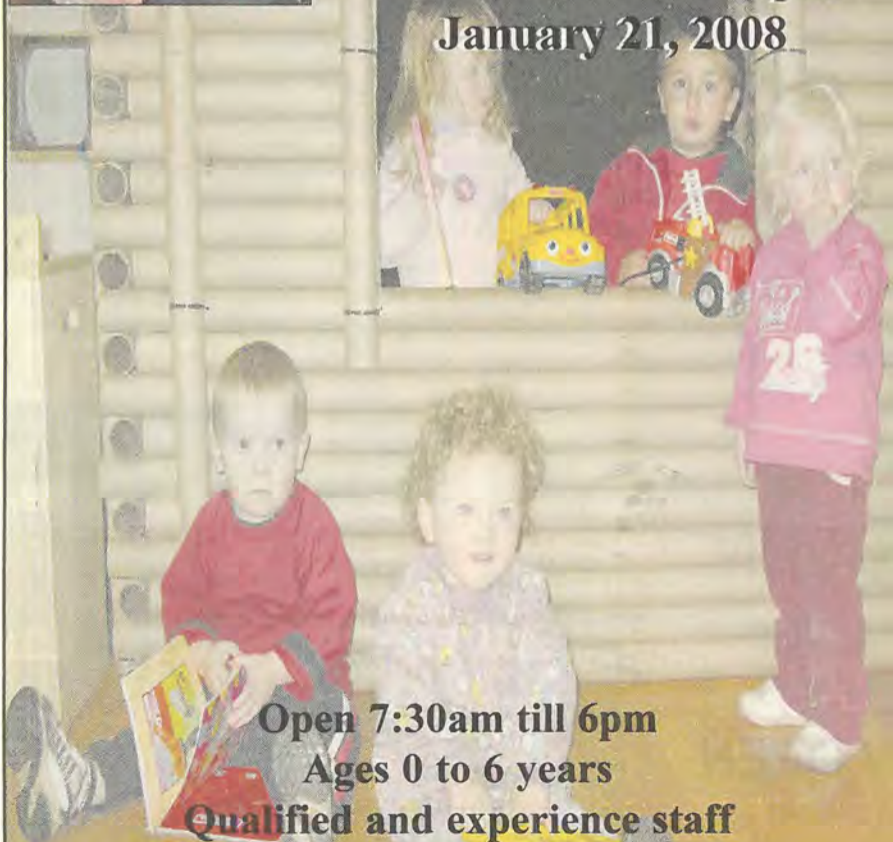
"I would also like to thank Brenda Proudman, Council's Project Development Officer and Kath Stonestreet of the Southeast Division of General Practice. When it looked like the project would fail, they took up the challenge and from June this year adjusted Council's original proposal into one that met Federal Government requirements. I can safely say that without their help the submission would not have succeeded."

Work on the refurbishment of Banfield House into a Medical Centre will begin early in the new year once the Frail Aged Facility is finished and it is hoped that the new Centre will be operational early in the 2008/09 financial year.



Country Kids Children's Centre

Will be closed over the holiday period from December 21 to reopen January 21, 2008



Open 7:30am till 6pm
Ages 0 to 6 years

Qualified and experience staff

Child care benefit available

Pay as little as \$3 per day

Preschool, toddler and infant programs

Po Box 219 Crookwell NSW 2583
Phone: 02 48322591 Fax: 02 4832 2666
Email: countrykids1@optusnet.com.au
ABN 18235412495

Banfield Funding agreement signed

IN accordance with Resolution No. 337/07 adopted at the Council Meeting held on October 25, 2007, the Upper Lachlan Shire Council formally entered into the Funding Agreement with the Commonwealth Government on November 14, for the purchase and fit out of Banfield House, in Crookwell, as an Integrated Medical Centre.

On November 22, Upper Lachlan Shire Council received its signed copy of the executed Funding Agreement relating to the Integrated Medical Centre project from Ms Pauline Hefko, the Regional Manager of the Department of Transport and Regional Services.

Agreement Milestones

Milestone one - required completion date of 30/11/2007, includes: the confirmation of approval of internal loan, the confirmation of all co-funding and the supply of a Development Consent for the project by letter from the Consent Authority as well as the

provision of information regarding the arrangements made with the Australian National University to house medical students.

Milestone two - required completion date of 31/03/2008, includes: the purchase of Banfield House, 17 Kialla Road, Crookwell, from Crookwell Frail Aged Association Incorporated, including legal settlement and the erection of temporary signage acknowledging the contribution of the Regional Partnerships programme.

Milestone three - required completion date of 30/06/2008, includes: the Completion of construction and refurbishment, renovation and fit-out as well as the purchase and installation of equipment and furniture.

Milestone four - required completion date of 31/08/2008, includes: the building and fit-out work completed, Doctors and other allied health professionals commence operation from the new Centre to the local community, the erection of permanent signage acknowledging the contribution of the Regional Partnerships programme followed by the launch of new Centre held.

As of November 30, 2007 the Council has completed milestone one.

NSW Government Planning reforms

IT is easy to agree with the need to simplify Council's planning systems, however it is the opinion of the Local Government and Shires Association, LGSA, that the NSW Government's planning reforms recently released for discussion, are not about simplification, but about the removal of local planning control.

The LGSA believes that it is the goal of

Minister Sartor to reduce the amount of developments dealt with by councils, as well as having regional planning panels determine developments. This will, in the opinion of the LGSA effectively shut out councils and communities from the development process.

LGSA planning principles can be viewed at www.lgsa.org.au and follow the links. Minister's Sartor's discussion paper can be viewed at www.planning.nsw.gov.au

The LGSA encourages those concerned to view the information and voice their opinions.

Director moves on



Retiring Director of Works, Ken Reedy receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Mayor John Shaw (far left) and the new Director of Works Alan Lawrence (far right)

He began his career in Local government as an Engineering Assistant at Warren Shire 45 years ago. "I had several mates who had commenced training as engineers several years earlier and they spoke highly of their experiences and of the profession, so I decided to give it a try," Ken said. "And I am glad I did as I have found the field of Local Government engineering very rewarding and challenging, particularly in the latter years."

Some of the highlights of Ken's time as the Director of Works first for the Crookwell Shire and then Upper Lachlan Shire Councils include the building of the Tuena Creek and Mulgowrie Creek bridges, the drought proofing of Crookwell with the Harley Road production bores and the Upper Lachlan Shire through the Emergency Community Water Bore project, as well as the completion of the reconstruction and bitumen sealing MR 52, linking Gunning and Crookwell. It was also very pleasing for Ken to have secured the funding from the Federal Government and see works commence on the AusLink Regional Program for the Boorowa Road (MR248W) and to have seen through the successful amalgamation of the Crookwell Shire Council with Gunning and part of the Mulwaree Shire Councils.

"One of the rewards for my position with Council is the opportunity to improve services for the community within its financial restraints, and through those improvements to help make life that little bit better for the Shire's residents."

AFTER 39 years in local government and eight and one half years in Crookwell, Ken Reedy, the Director of Works has decided to spend more time in the garden and smelling the results of this effort.

Ken started with the previous Crookwell Shire Council on May 26 1999 and has fond memories of his first visit to Crookwell. "The first time I saw Crookwell was on the day I came to be interviewed for the position of Director of Works and I was very impressed by the town and the friendly people. I then knew that if I was offered the position I would accept, luckily the offer was made. I feel very fortunate having worked for the Crookwell Shire Council and later the Upper Lachlan Shire Council and having lived in Crookwell during that time. Crookwell is a wonderful town and my wife and I have made many good friends throughout the town and district and have no hesitation in retiring here."

UPPER LACHLAN ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT GROUP AGM MEETING

ON February 4 2008, the ULEAD Committee's Annual General Meeting will be held in the Upper Lachlan Council Chambers, Crookwell at 5.30pm. (Applications are invited to serve on this committee)

This presents a great opportunity for residents from Upper Lachlan Shire to stimulate and initiate economic development strategies for the benefit of the whole Shire.

Meetings are held bi-monthly on the first Monday of the month at 5.30pm in the Upper Lachlan Shire Chambers, Crookwell.

Applications for the vacant positions on the ULEAD committee are to be in writing and received prior to 21st January, 2008 and directed to:

**The General Manager
Upper Lachlan Shire Council
PO Box 10
Crookwell, NSW 2583**

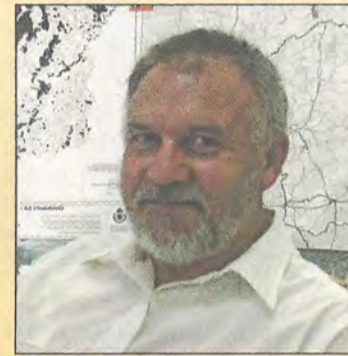
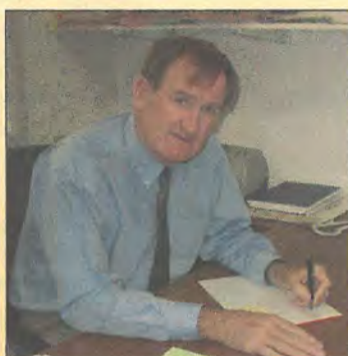


Staff shown appreciation

AT the September 27, 2007 the Upper Lachlan Shire Council took time to recognise the contributions of Council personnel who had recently retired, or after extended service to the Shire, gained other employment.

L-R John Bell - General Manager, Robert Allport - retired after 42 years of service, Errol Dowling - retired after 33 years service, and Helen Phelps - retired after 30 years of service, John Shaw - Mayor, Ron Larkham - retired after 34 years service, John Smith - after 43 years service and Gary Anable receiving a certificate of Appreciation.

Bright faces and new skills



New faces of Council

WHILE numerous familiar faces have retired or moved on to other positions the Upper Lachlan Shire Council has been fortunate to obtain the skills to replace those that were lost.

(Top from L - R) Mr Alan Lawrence Director of Works and Operations (started November 2007), Mr Jack Harrison Manager of Assets and Risks (started May 2007), Mr Robert Mowle Director of Environment and Planning (started May 2007), Mr Justin Wakefield Project Engineer (started May 2007), Mr Peter Mowle Manager of Works (started November 2007), and Mr Tony Trounce Works Superintendent for the Crookwell Depot (started November 2007).

Not pictured are Trevor Gay - Truck Driver Recycling (started November 2007) and Karen Broderick - Gunning Pool Attendant (started September 2007).

Road works completed during the month of November

WHILST major road works are under way on MR 248 West (Crookwell to Boorowa), Upper Lachlan Shire Council maintenance crews have been busy over the month of November.

With the completion of the main construction work on MR52 (Gunning to Crookwell road), further guide post maintenance, road sealing at the Biala and Gurrundah cross roads, and the removal of fallen trees was also undertaken.

Crews working on MR54 have laid sections of gravel with subsequent grading, road side weed control has been done, as well as bitumen patching and SIMC surveillance being undertaken. Guide post maintenance, bitumen patching and tree maintenance has occurred on MR 256 while crews working on MR258 have also removed fallen trees and carried out bitumen patching.

Recent flood damage on Bevendale Road area has been repaired and fallen trees have been removed and routine maintenance work has been carried out on Peelwood and Dalton Roads.

Grading has taken place on the Towrang, Wheeo, Glenerin, Range, Pejar, Third Creek, Blue Hills and Jerrong roads. While gravel patching has occurred on the Cuddyong and Peelwood Roads and bitumen patching has taken place on Cullerin Road.

In the town areas, grass cutting has happened at Dalton, Gunning Binda and Breadalbane while at Crookwell mowing and bitumen patching has been completed. The village of Taralga has seen footpath repairs and mowing completed.

Miscellaneous work completed through November includes: Towrang Road at Greenwich Park sealed, storm damage repair on Cuddyong, Peelwood, Holloways and Rhyanna Roads.



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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.



Major Sponsors of the 'Back-a-bushie' Sports Night: Back row L-R: Tom Horton, Artie Beetson, Damon and Sallyann Allport, Barry Jamieson, Allan Jones, Don Southwell and Tom Raudonikis. Front row L-R Gerald Spackman, Noela Cornell and Diane Gordon, Ellen Seaman, Rhonda Fisher and Chrys Topalidis.

\$17,990.45

THE latest 'Back-a-Bushie Appeal' effort, 'The Sports Night' featuring Arthur Beetson and Tom Raudonikis held Saturday October 13, saw the appeal creep ever closer towards the goal of drought proofing the Upper Lachlan Shire's villages and major localities.

Supported by Shire business houses and individuals, through both cash and service related donations, the Sports Night event attracted over 260 people who vied for a large range of items and services, with the community's effort raising \$14,567.

Of special mention was the effort of the Crookwell Services Club, in particular. Greg Seaman. Greg and his team have long been a tremendous plus for Crookwell and now Upper Lachlan Shire, the entire community is better off for the club's efforts.

Other major sponsors included Spackman Motors of Crookwell, The Greek Orthodox Church of Goulburn, W M Samuel, Martin and Rogerson Accountants, R. J. McCarthy and Co Attorneys, Top Cart Water Carters, Crookwell Rotary Club, Charlie and Kristyne Prell, Madeleine Richard, as well as Jeff Gambin of the Sydney Organisation

New office premises for the Capital Region ACC

THE Capital Region ACC Secretariat will be located at new office premises - Unit 4, 30-36 Woolley Street, Dickson (phone numbers etc remain the same) when we re-open after the Christmas break at 8.30 am on Wednesday, 2 January 2008.

Regional Partnerships Information Sessions

Regional Partnerships Information Sessions have been held recently in towns throughout our region including - Tarago, Marulan, Yass and Captains Flat, attracting

community members who came to find out how the *Regional Partnerships* programme can help to fund community projects.

If you have a *Regional Partnerships* project idea or just want to know more about the programme, come along to one of our Information Sessions being organised for 2008. Funding accessed through the programme can be used to support projects that will provide new or expanded community facilities, improve community access to services, support planning and explore opportunities, or to enhance the economic growth and social participation of your community.

'Just Enough Faith', Watermin Drillers, Telstra Country Wide and Fosters. Other major contributors included both the Illawarra Quilters Inc, who not only created a marvellous variety of quilts for raffle, but sold \$2,502.45 worth of raffle tickets across the Wollongong and Sydney area. Adding to these ladies' efforts were members of the Crookwell CWA, Lions and Rotary Clubs, from Gunning Anne Darbyshire and the Southern Highlands Business Chamber Inc. Through their combined efforts a further \$3,423.45 was added to the evenings contributions.

The winners of the quilt raffle were: 1st prize, JA Stephen of Sydney, 2nd prize M Bell of Figtree, 3rd prize G Kennedy from Lake Illawarra, 4th prize R Henry of Dapto and 5th prize B Ainsworth Gunning.

Also showing support for the Appeal was Alan Spence of the Southern Highlands Business Chamber Inc. Alan, donated some wonderful 'Bradman Bears' for the evening and has been of considerable assistance over this past year, helping the appeal source the technical expertise needed to find and drill the bores in question. Though not at the Sports Night but directly involved through out the entire appeal

process, was Chamber's President, Terry Oakes-Ash. Terry has contributed untold hours, money and most importantly his ideas towards making the Appeal a success. The Upper Lachlan Shire owes a considerable debt to these all these individuals, businesses and charity organisations.

The following is a lists of those that donated items for auction: Watermin Drillers, Alan Spence, Betty Croker, Mark Owen, Top Water Carters Pty Ltd, Cummcus Wines, Michael Doyle of 'Doyles of Watson Bay, Jeff Gambin, Charlie and Chris Prell, Uplands Pasture Motel, White Horse Inn, Doug Waters, Virbac, Aristocrat Leisure Industries, Brian Gray of the Sydney Roosters, Simon Poideven, Paul Anderson, Spackman Motors, John and Susie Shaw, the National Museum of Australia in Canberra, Canberra Glassworks, Greg Bayliss and ABC Sports Radio, Canberra.

Bores in production

November has seen the first of the community bores come into production with those in Tuena and Bigga being the first. It is anticipated that before the beginning of the new year nine bores will be in operation.

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

CAPITAL REGION Area Consultative Committee



The Capital Region ACC's latest publication - *Project Snapshot* - provides a précis of each of the projects funded through the *Regional Partnerships* programme in the Capital Region between 2004-2007.

Copies are available from the Capital Region ACC, telephone: 6162 4400.

The Capital Region ACC and Secretariat wish our friends, colleagues and partners a relaxing break over the Christmas period, ready for a dynamic and productive 2008.



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For more information, please contact District Banking Manager Marita Fleming on 0428 957 637 or the Elders Crookwell branch on 02 4832 1224 or visit www.eldersruralbank.com.au

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⁽¹⁾Interest only repayments required. Some principal must be paid by 24th month, and loan must be paid in full by end of 36th month. All applications for loans or credit are subject to lending criteria. Terms, conditions, fees and charges may apply. Full details are available on application or by phoning our Customer Service Centre on 1300 690 115, online at www.eldersruralbank.com.au, or by visiting your local branch. All information is subject to change. Products are issued by Elders Rural Bank Limited and distributed by Elders Limited. Elders Rural Bank Limited ABN 74 083 938 416 AFSL 239042. Registered office: 27 Currie Street, Adelaide SA 5000.