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Note: the Crookwell Council office  
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## Australia Day Awards



White family shine: L-R Mayor Brian McCormack, Young Citizen of the Upper Lachlan Shire Kelly White, Australia Day Ambassador David O'Hana, Citizen of the Year for Crookwell and Grandmother to Kelly, Maxine White and Representative of Woolworth sponsor of the Australia Day Ambassador program Craig Downs. (inset) Nurse Manager of the Crookwell Hospital Mona Timo accepting the award for the Crookwell Event of the Year for the Crookwell Hospital Centenary Celebrations.



Gunning proudly waves the flag: L-R Deputy Mayor John Shaw, newly appointed AM John Weatherstone, Australia Day Ambassador David O'Hana, Upper Lachlan Shire Citizen of the Year James McKay, Young Citizen of the Year for Gunning Andrew Johnson, General Manager of the Upper Lachlan Shire John Bell and Mike Coley receiving the award for the Gunning Event of the Year, the Gunning Fire Works Display.

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### Australia Day Awards

The sun shone brightly on the Upper Lachlan as this year's Australia Day was celebrated across the Shire. Large crowds were seen at the three main venues with the village of Gunning starting the celebrations with a breakfast served by the local Lions Club with the Ambassador for the Upper Lachlan Shire the film producer David O'Hana in attendance.

David's latest film 'In Memoriam', a tribute to the head of the East Timor Mission and the more than 2000 UN staff who lost their lives in the course of their duty in East Timor, was recently launched at UN Headquarters and distributed to air in 66 countries.

### Gunning

For the residents of Gunning there were several reasons to applaud as the Member of the Order of Australia was given to Gunning resident John Weatherstone of Lynnfield Park.

The medal was awarded to John because of his service to conservation and the environment through research, implementation of ecologically sustainable farming practices and the sharing of knowledge with the community to improve land care.

Other members of the community to be recognised were James McKay, the main organiser of the local Collector Pumpkin Festival received the Citizen of the Year for the Upper Lachlan Shire, Andrew

Johnson as the Gunning Young Citizen of the Year and the Gunning Fireworks Display as the Gunning Event of Year.

Deputy Mayor John Shaw was very happy with the day: "The crowd was exceptionally large and jovial. It was good to see the residents of Gunning turn out despite this drought, able to celebrate what is great about this country, a great display of mateship."

### Crookwell

Mayor Brian McCormack, was pleased to see the record crowd of over 700 people showing such a strong sense of community. "This is the largest crowd I have ever seen for an Australia Day event in Crookwell and with so many satisfied smiles. A big reason this day has been so

successful is because of the good work of the Crookwell Australia Day Committee who received fantastic support from the local business houses who provided the food, drinks and entertainment," Mayor McCormack said.

Showing that the fruit doesn't drop far from the tree, Crookwell Citizen of the Year winner, Maxine White's grand daughter, Miss Kellie White, was awarded the Young Citizen of the Year for the Upper Lachlan Shire. The Crookwell Event of Year went to the Hospital Centenary Celebrations. It was noted that this event was successful because of the efforts of Mrs Beryl Croker and Nurse Manager Mona Timo.

(continued on p.7)

Country Energy  
investing in the Upper Lachlan



Regional General Manager  
South Eastern, David Bellew

Zane Hall, Mick Secomb, and Simon Croker from Country Energy's Crookwell Field Service Centre displayed their commitment to the community by donating their time to install power to a bore at Crookwell Golf Course last month to replenish dwindling water supplies. Team leader at Crookwell, Zane Hall said "We all enjoy the benefits of the golf course, and wanted to do so thing to help ease the burden of

the drought.

"The golf course is a recreational asset that Crookwell couldn't afford to be without." The bore will help to lighten the load of the golf course maintenance team, made up of members who volunteer 24 hours per week to transport the 110,000 litres needed to hand water the greens. If the greens at the golf course were lost the cost of replacement would be close to

\$200,000. According to Country Energy's regional general manager south eastern, David Bellew "Crookwell is a very close knit community, and it's wonderful to see Country Energy employees donating their time to help the Crookwell Golf Club.

"Country Energy is committed to regional NSW, and our local employees are a shining example of our values in action."

Proud to sponsor the Voice of the Upper Lachlan Shire

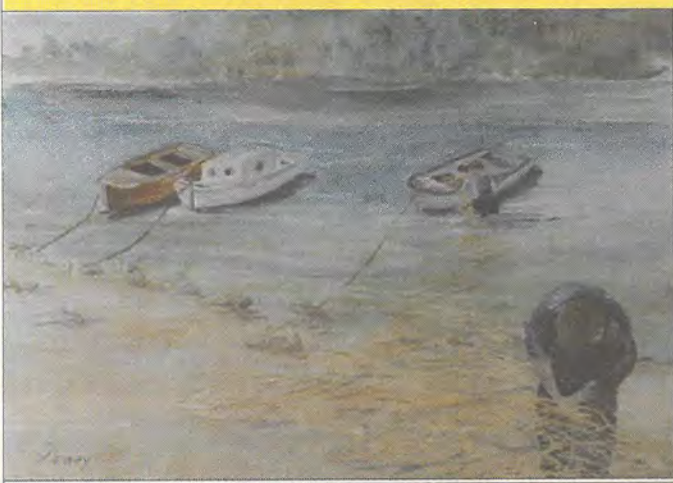
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"Broadband for the Bush"

**Local artist exhibit - Frail Aged benefit**



Greek Fishermen by Di Every, Gouache on Board

Once again the visual artists will stage an art exhibition in conjunction with the Crookwell Festival in March. The exhibition will be held at the Memorial Hall Art Gallery with the official opening at 5:30pm on Friday March 2, 2007. The exhibition will also be open on Saturday March 3 from 9:00am until 5:30pm. Proceeds from the exhibition will aid the Frail Aged Association, specifically the purchase of a special bed. The exhibition will feature local artist's work in the field of painting, photography, sculpture and needlework.

**Library Biz**

**It's Time for StoryTime**

With the commencement of the new school year, all preschoolers are once again invited to come along to your local Library for an hour of stories and activities and all the fun that is StoryTime.

In an endeavour to provide an improved service to young children and their parents, and to greater encourage the love of reading, StoryTime at Crookwell Library has undergone a makeover.

So as not to clash with other scheduled activities such as Play Group, for the first school term, StoryTime will remain on Mondays. (This is a change to the advertised day in the Rotary Calendar)

StoryTime will now be held EVERY Monday morning during school term at the new time of 11am.

The first Crookwell Library StoryTime for the year will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February.

StoryTime is also proving very popular at Gunning Library,

with the first StoryTime for the year to be held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February from 10.30am.

A brochure and calendar of dates for 2007 is now available at Crookwell and Gunning Libraries.

Parents and children are requested to be at the library five minutes before the commencement of Storytime, and we also ask that parents stay with their child during the session to assist them with the craft activities.

Storytime is designed to introduce young children to the delights of the library and the joys of reading. Children 3 to 5 years of age will particularly enjoy Storytime, however all young children are invited to come along.

Storytime comprises a picture book read aloud to the group, followed by a related craft activity.

Coming to StoryTime is a great opportunity for parents or carers to meet up with others, and have the opportunity to borrow from the vast array of library materials suitable for every member of the family.

Most importantly, parents will be able to assist their child to develop the skill necessary for when they start school.

For children, StoryTime is a chance to socialise with other children and practise the skills of sitting and listening to a story, colouring-in, pasting and using scissors.

However, the most exciting thing about StoryTime is that it is loads of fun for everyone.

No bookings are required to participate in this free library service.

If you would like further information about StoryTime or any of the services offered by your library please ask library staff or call Crookwell Library on 48321048 or Gunning Library on 48451231.

Crookwell Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 11:00am - 5:30pm, Wednesday 2pm - 5.30pm and Saturday mornings from 10:00am - 12:00 noon.

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

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Saturday 3 March 2007  
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- \* Reptile display
- \* Julie's Grand Parade
- \* Antique 'Farm Machinery' display
- \* Vietnam Vets ride through
- \* Art & Quilt Shows
- \* Bus Shuttle Service

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- Dog Show • Patchwork quilt display
- Horse events • Show bags • Amusement rides
- Games for Kids & Adults • The Gecko Gang with free face painting & ent • Competitions - Miss Show Girl (under 17), Beaut Utes, Kids bike decorating • Devonshire teas • Bar
- Food • Live country music starring Lianne Rose at 7pm

*Lots more entertainment as well as great prizes to be won!*

Entry can be pre purchased or at the gate which entitles you to unlimited entry for the whole weekend.

- Adults \$10 (18 years & over) • Pensioners \$5
- Children (Under 17 years) \$3

**Town and Country, visitors and locals - all are welcome to join this celebration of rural living**

For more information including a schedule, categories & entry forms visit:  
**www.gunningshow.org.au**

*Lianne Rose*

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Mayor's Column



Mayor welcomes new citizens: L—R Andre Chevalier and Hiltje de Wilde are all smiles after the Citizenship Ceremony conducted by Mayor Brian McCormack at the Upper Lachlan Shire Chambers in Crookwell before the January 25 meeting of Council. The couple moved to Australia from Holland 38 years ago and to the Upper Lachlan just recently.

Wasn't it a great Australia Day across the Upper Lachlan Shire! With large happy crowds and plenty of Australian flags waving, it was obvious that people were enjoying the efforts of the Taralga, Gunning and Crookwell Australia Day Committees, a job well done by all those who made the day such a success.

Our Australia Day Ambassador, Writer/Director/Producer and 2002 Young Australian of the Year for Community Services, David O'Hana proved very popular with the crowds speaking to the issue of Global Warming and his many adventures.

Of special note was the awarding of the Order of Australia to John Weatherstone of 'Lyndfield Park'

Gunning. John was recognised "For service to conservation and the environment through research, implementing and promoting ecologically sustainable farming practices and sharing knowledge with the community to improve landcare."

It was also a pleasure to announce those receiving awards for their service to the Shire. Congratulations to James McKay, the Upper Lachlan Shire Council and Gunning Citizen of the Year, Miss Kellie White the Upper Lachlan Shire Council and Crookwell Young Citizen of the Year and the Vintage Farm Machinery Day voted as the Upper Lachlan Shire Council and Taralga Event of the Year.

Also receiving recognition for a

commitment to the community were Andrew Johnson as the Young Citizen of the Year for Gunning, The Gunning Fireworks Display as the Gunning Event of the Year. From Crookwell Maxine White, Grandmother to Miss Kelly White, as the Citizen of the Year for Crookwell and the Crookwell Hospital Centenary Celebrations as that town's Event of the Year.

Taralga celebrated with Colin Chalker as the Citizen of the Year and Miss Shannon Bennett the Young Citizen of the Year, and on a further note concerning Taralga, congratulations go to the many hands that made that weekend such a success. There were great crowds and plenty of competitors enjoying themselves despite the hardships that the area is facing.

Council out and about

Continuing to fulfil its commitment to the greater community of the Upper Lachlan Shire, the Council is making arrangements to hold a variety of Council meetings across the Shire.

Though this newsletter might not reach everyone in time, the next meeting of Council is being held in Bigga on February 8, 2007 from 1pm; everyone is welcome. Councillors will continue on from the Council meeting to hold talks with residents of the area from 5pm. Both gatherings will take place at the Bigga Golf Club. On February 22, 2007 Council will meet in Gunning starting at 9am and then in Taralga on March 22, 2007 when the meeting

will also begin at 9am. Everyone is welcome.

NSW Elections

With the NSW State elections being held on March 24 the Council has started to ask questions of those running for the Goulburn and Berrinjuck seats. Council has requested the candidates to commit themselves to helping fund the Shire's needs as far as roads, water and its waste management. Also of importance to the Councillors was a commitment to consult this Council when divisive development applications are being considered. Councillors also pointed out the condition of the present Crookwell Council Chambers and Offices and sought a commitment for funding towards their improvement.

Of course the most pressing need is the hardship being faced by all residents and business in relation to the drought. This Council is presently searching for money to drill community water bores in all our villages. The Council is doing its part supporting Services Groups in their fund raising efforts and also in the process of seeking appropriate funding from the Federal Government, but a major source of funding will most likely have to come from the State. To date the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability has committed themselves to \$160,000 but this effort is going to require closer to \$650,000. The Council's sleeves are rolled up and all Councillors have committed themselves to the task of getting the best deal for the Shire's community.

At this point in time should funding be made available, it is proposed that road works would commence in 2007 and be completed in the 2008/2009 financial year.

Draft Management Plan

Council staff are currently formulating the Council's 2007/2008 Draft Management Plan. The Draft Management Plan determines spending priorities for capital works and improvements for the Shire. Community Groups and individuals that wish to make a submission towards this plan have until March 12 to make their submissions.

For more information and submission forms please contact Upper Lachlan Shire Council offices in Gunning, Crookwell or the Taralga Community Service Centre during business hours. Submission forms are also available on the Council's website at [www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au](http://www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au)

Councillor's talk

The following article carries on from the November issue of the Voice giving each Councillor and opportunity to outline their personal history and answer the questions of why they became a Councillor and what are their goals.

The second Councillor to be featured in this column is first time Councillor John Coombs.

The question asked is 'Why be a Councillor and what are my goals as a Councillor. For me both questions presented a challenge, to hopefully make a difference on behalf of an individual or the community generally.'

The initial challenge is generally identified in your campaign material and in my case involved the following: Crookwell Hospital and the future of associated health services, the improvement of waste management and kerbside collection of recyclable waste, and the continuation of the main street (Goulburn St) refurbishment. These have all been enthusiastically pursued by all Councillors toward positive outcomes. Achieving funding for infrastructure, roads, water and sewerage are obviously common goals, very frustrating by past standards but considered a plus in the current term.

A more personal goal also revealed in the campaign material was to strive to achieve unity by applying the following definition - express opinions, manifest strengths and exert influence as one. Difficult enough to maintain, all too easy to abandon when confronted with government intervention in areas involving potentially controversial development applications likely to create significant division within the community.

The creation of division is of course politics in action and once exposed has to be effectively responded to or you are permanently sidelined. A very welcome goal is the opportunity, as a Council Representative on the Board of the Frail Aged to participate in the development of new premises for the aged care.

Perhaps in the longer term the provision of new Council offices worthy of our employee requirements and a building the community can be proud of will encourage a more diverse group of Councillors willing to pursue their goals for the overall benefit of the community.

General Manager reporting



General Manager John Bell

The end of 2006 has proven to be a good one for the Upper Lachlan Shire. On Wednesday December 13 the Federal Minister for Local Government, Territory and Roads, the Hon Jim Lloyd MP announced that this Shire would receive \$3.316

million from the Auslink Strategic Regional Programme towards a total project cost of \$4.737 million to seal and reconstruct the remaining unsealed 18.6kms of MR248 between Boorowa and Crookwell.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Director of Works Ken Reedy, the Manager of Works Gary Anable and their staff for their considerable effort in achieving such a terrific result. The submission to Auslink, the coordination of efforts with Boorowa Shire Council and the designing and costing for a 'B Double' route standard required skill and patience and the Shire Community will be the beneficiary.

MR 248 West will provide direct access between the Central West/Riverina, Port Kembla and Sydney, an important route for stocking purposes, with significant benefit to the Upper Lachlan Shire.

MR 256

Whilst on the subject of roads the Mayor, myself, Director of Works and the Tourism Manager recently attended a meeting at the Oberon Council as part of the MR 256 strategic alliance between Upper Lachlan Shire, Oberon Council and Goulburn/Mulwaree Council.

Following from the recently successful AusIndustry Federal Government funding of \$409,000, which will assist in the further research, project management and signage of Tablelands Way, the Upper Lachlan Shire has written to the NSW Minister for Roads respectfully requesting that the Minister agrees to a special purpose grant through the RTA for \$605,000 with the Upper Lachlan Shire providing a matching amount to go towards the reconstruction and sealing of the remaining 5.37km length of Regional Main Road 256.



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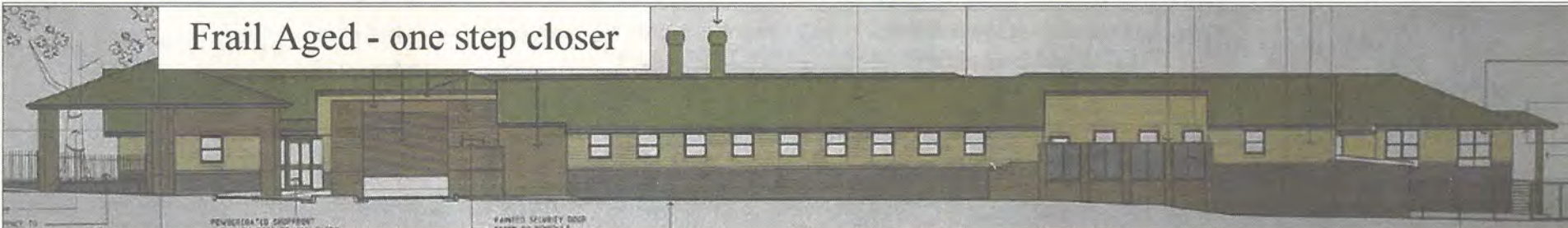
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### Frail Aged - one step closer



The Upper Lachlan Shire Chamber's walls were covered, during their January 25 Council meeting, with the architectural drawings for DA 149/06 and lit by the smile of the Director of Environment and Planning.

The proposed 44 bed Aged Care Facility due to replace the existing Banfield House and Harley Nursing Home took one more step toward reality as the Upper Lachlan Shire Council were

presented with and unanimously approved the facility's development application.

The Director of Environment and Planning Richard Davies expressed his considerable joy in seeing the project come to this point. "This facility has been a long time in the planning and development and I am especially pleased to be able to present this development application for Council's approval. This is a facility that we will

be proud of - that indeed everyone will be proud of," Mr Davies said.

The largely single story facility will cater for a range of occupant conditions with self contained service provision for the residents that include food preparation and laundry. Complementing the purpose of the facility will be provision for the community service organisation 'Meals on

Wheels' with space to conduct their activities.

The approval of this development application, with its 13 pages of conditions, was seen by Council as a major step forward, not only for Crookwell but also for the Shire, as it is envisioned that its construction would complement the frail aged facility located in Taralga.

### MR 248 West gains \$3.16 million



Hand shakes all around: L-R, Councillor James Wheelwright, Director of Works Ken Reedy and Mayor Brian McCormack are all smiles with the notification of the Auslink Strategic Regional Program funding approval.

The Mayor Brian McCormack, Councillor James Wheelwright and Director of Works Ken Reedy greeted the news of \$3.316 million for the funding of MR 248 West with a smile of pleasant surprise after the last Council Meeting for 2006 held in Gunning on December 21.

"Receiving this grant is a great Christmas present for the

residents of the Upper Lachlan Shire. With over 495 applications for funding under the 'Auslink Strategic Regional Program' the competition for funding was considerable and I want to take this opportunity to thank the member for Hume, Alby Schultz MP for all his assistance in securing this grant," Mayor McCormack said.

"The sealing of this road will

have significant impact on the Upper Lachlan. Of particular pleasure will be the improved element of road safety that the sealing of this road will give our residents as well as those that visit our Shire. It will also make it considerably easier for access of primary product both coming into and out of our Shire as well as helping with the tourism side of our economy," he said.

### Weeds Threaten drought recovery

Every property owner in the Upper Lachlan Shire area has been suffering under the effects of the drought, and regardless of when substantial rain fall occurs, the recuperation period will be a long and arduous one.

Local pastures have been bared over an extended period, and their recovery from the drought will be threatened by an expected increase in the variety and concentration of weed species.

Weed species generally show a greater competitiveness than desirable grasses, and will readily invade bare areas of ground affected by drought conditions. These weeds will compete for light, nutrient, moisture and space and have the ability to maintain a seed bank in the soil, which allows for rapid establishment when more favourable conditions arrive. This means that we can expect an increase in weed infestations in the short term, and with some landholders facing a lack of

resources to combat this, the result could lead to significant loss of good grazing land.

Over recent years there has also been a high level of fodder used for supplementary feeding, which may lead to the introduction of new and different weed species into our area.

Council's Noxious Weeds Manager, Paul Brown, is encouraging all landholders to remain vigilant with their weed control programs, which will minimise the effects of these conditions and help to maintain the value of the productive grazing land within our area. Landowners can benefit from working with their neighbours in their local regions to plan and implement effective control programs. Council's Weed Officers are available to assist landholders and groups with their control programs and can be contacted at your local Council Office.

Contact Noxious Weeds Manager, Paul Brown, (02) 4840-2099 or 0428644160.

### UPPER LACHLAN ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (ULEAD) IS SEEKING REPRESENTATION FROM THE TARALGA AREA

We currently have a position vacant on our committee and would like to invite applications from the Taralga area. It presents a great opportunity for residents from Upper Lachlan Shire to stimulate and initiate economic development strategies for the benefit of the whole Shire.

At this point in time it is proposed that Meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month at 5.30pm however discussion is scheduled with respect to holding bi-monthly or quarterly meetings at the Upper Lachlan Council Chambers in Crookwell.

Applications for the vacant position on the ULEAD committee are to be in writing and received before 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 and directed to: The General Manager, Upper Lachlan Shire Council, PO Box 10 Crookwell, NSW 2583

### UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL

#### Pesticide Regulations 1995 - Changes to the Regulations

#### Upper Lachlan Shire Council's Pesticide Notification Plan

IN accordance with the Department of Environment and Conservation guidelines, Upper Lachlan Shire Council has developed a pesticide use notification plan which has completed its period of public exhibition and has been adopted by Council on 14 December 2006. The plan is applicable to areas of

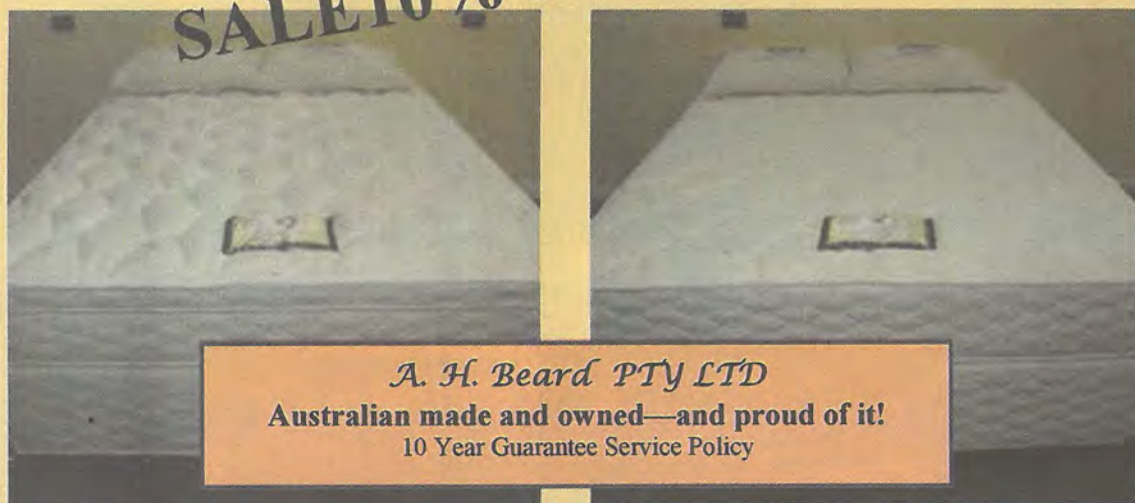
public open space under the care and control of Upper Lachlan Shire Council.

The Pesticide Use Notification Plan can be viewed during business hours, free of charge, at Council's main office located at 44 Spring Street, Crookwell. The plan may also be viewed at Council's other offices located at Gunning and Taralga. The plan is available for viewing on Council's website ([www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au](http://www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au)).

Should further information be required, please contact Council's OHS Coordinator, Ben Churchill, on 48301030 or Council's Noxious Weeds Manager, Paul Brown, on 48402099 or 0428 644 160

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## Local Government 100 years young

Over 100 past Councilors, Council employees and guest attended a gala evening complete with a wonderful buffet (provided by local chef Chrys Topalidis), cake cutting, an informative historical speech by past Councillor Richard Kennedy and an enchanting nights entertainment provided by a Chinese troupe thrilled the gathering.

In a night that will long be remembered guest enjoyed the rekindling of past friendships and left well satisfied and looking forward to what the next 100 years might bring.



**Let's eat cake:** L -R, Upper Lachlan Shire Deputy Mayor John Shaw and Mayor Brian McCormack as well as the Mayor of Goulburn Mulwaree Paul Stephenson cut the cake in celebration of 100 years of local government in Southern Tablelands.

## Art goes to auction for community water

Art lovers will have their chance at the Drought Appeal Art Auction to acquire some quality work for a great cause. Over 30 Artists have agreed to contribute work for the auction, which will be held March 17, at the Memorial Hall, Crookwell. The doors will open at 10am with the auction to begin at 2:30pm.

This art exhibition will bring the like of Archibald winner Cherry Hood, artist/actor Max Cullen and his partner Margarita Georgiadis, and others. Local artists Holly Barton, Susie Recsei, Megan Cleland, Marg Shepherd, Hank Spirek, Don Taylor and Jan Green will also take part.

The exhibition will continue on March 18, from 10am until 3pm with works for general sale available. This exhibition promises to bring a variety of exciting artists to Crookwell. For more information contact Hank Spirek on (02) 48301-000 or visit the Council web site [www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au](http://www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au)



'Happy Drunk' by Archibald finalist and Gunning artist Margarita Georgiadis, oil on canvas.



'Stone Cottage' by Taralga artist Don Taylor. Water colour on paper.



'Amelie' by Archibald winner Cherry Hood. Framed limited edition giclee print, 1/6.

## Santa comes to Dalton



Santa came to the Children of Dalton Primary School on December 19 in the form of Joy (far-left) and Terry (far right) Oakes-Ash members of the Southern Highlands Business Committee's 'Back-a-bushie' group. Joining in the festivities were Kindy Year 1/2 Teacher Chris Bradley and Principal Janet Odea.

## Opening soon

The Crookwell district is the envy of many regional centres, even more so now that it boasts the latest in animal care with the newly completed Crookwell Veterinary Hospital and the new pet boarding complex, Pawtails, recently opened at Laggan. As companion animals become more and more part of the family, people are demanding a higher standard of care, a larger

range of services and a higher standard of accommodation for their pets. The owner of Pawtails, Chris Cavanagh, says that the USA and Australia lead the world as far as setting standards for boarding kennels and catteries. "At Pawtails we understand that many people feel a little guilty about leaving their pets while they are having a great time in five star luxury, that is why I visited the latest boarding complexes in the USA 12 months ago, to be sure that Paw-

tails adopted the latest kennel and cattery design systems to ensure the highest level of care, cleanliness and comfort for our guests. Often price is not the determining factor in choosing where to board your pet, it is value for money and the offer of a variety of services and having the reassurance that the "other" family member is in the best of care," owner Chris Cavanagh said. Pawtails offers modern city comforts in a rural setting.

## Upper Lachlan Shire Drought Appeal begins

Upper Lachlan Shire Service Organisations, Upper Lachlan Shire Councillors and Council staff have formed an Upper Lachlan Drought Assistance Committee to address the most immediate needs of the Shire's residents, community water bores. This appeal has its origins in the 'Back-a-Bushie' drought assistance appeal organised by Anglicare Canberra/Goulburn and the Southern Highlands Business Committee. It is expected that the two groups will continue to coordinate their efforts to reach the best result for the Upper Lachlan Shire.

The Committee agreed that the major source of funding for this appeal should be through the State and Federal Governments and that efforts should focus on finding avenues of funding that do not put pressure on the local community. As of January 26, 2007 \$184,500

has been raised to drill bores at Tuena, Bigga, Binda and test water holes in Taralga, Gunning, Breadalbane and Collector. This money is a combination of funds appropriated by the ULSC with matching grants from the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS) as well as a variety of community donations. Over the Christmas period raffles held by the local Lions and Rotary Club gathered \$2,100, and more recently the Crookwell CWA donated \$500. From Gunning, Wendy and Michael Coley generously gave \$1000 towards the appeal. The community water bores are seen as a benefit to village communities as well as local property holders but maybe even more importantly as a necessary supply of water for the Shire's Rural Fire Service. Committee members have begun arranging meetings with community groups across the Shire to inform, consult and

organise further fund raising events. Those interested in planning a fund raising event are encourage to contact either Hank Spirek or Ken Reedy at the Upper Lachlan Shire Council (02) 4830-1000. Up coming fund raising events include drought appeal collection buckets at the Gunning AP&I on February 16-17, a 'Fill Pejar Dam' gold coin event during the Crookwell Festival on March 3, appeal collection buckets during the Taralga AP&H show on March 10-11, the above mention Art Auction on March 17 and 18, a special Golf Day at the Crookwell Golf Club on April 15 and on April 28 the Crookwell Services Club is organising a sporting memorabilia and entertainment evening. Contributions can be made to the Anglicare Canberra/Goulburn 'Back-a-Bushie' Drought Appeal, GPO Box 1981, Canberra, ACT 2601 or by phone (02) 7203-5113. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

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### Upper Lachlan Shire chair's Mayoral Round table



L-R, The Minister for Primary Industry Hon Ian McDonald, the Minister for Commerce, Finance, Ageing, Disability Services and Vice President of Council the Hon John Della Bosca, The Mayor of the Upper Lachlan Shire Brian McCormack, General Manager for the Upper Lachlan John Bell and Cr Robert Gledell.

#### Southwest Mayors break bread in Crookwell

Mayors and General Managers from the Southwest region of NSW met with the Minister of Primary Industries Hon Ian McDonald and the Minister for Commerce, Finance, Ageing, Disability Services and Vice President of the Executive Council the Hon John Della Bosca as well as the Leader for the Government in the Legislative Council in a round table discussion at the Kelly's restaurant in Crookwell on Friday December 8, 2006.

These Southwest Mayoral Round Table discussions have been occurring on a regular basis for the past 11 years. The first meeting took place in the town of Harden with the then Minister for Local Government Ian McDonald as well as three Mayors talking over relevant issues.

Now happening three to four times a year, these meetings have seen NSW Premiers and State Treasurers as well as a majority of the Government's Ministers sit down and answer questions at a variety of Shires across the south-western section of NSW. This particular event was the first one was held in Crookwell.

An important topic of conversation was the ongoing drought and the impact upon Shires across the State. Minister McDonald reminded those present that though this particular drought was having a consider-

able impact on the livelihoods of rural communities we need to remember that drought is not uncommon to Australia. The Minister mentioned the 'Federation Drought' of 1902 through 1906. One of the outcomes of that drought was the building of the Hume Dam.

Minister McDonald expressed concern that more needs to be done to help keep as many farmers as possible on the land and that farmers would be faced with some considerable cost of picking up the pieces after the drought broke.

Minister Della Bosca called the area west of the divide the real Australia. Sydney is a global city that is a major Australian trading post but it is the rural communities that are the key to the country's prosperity, culture and character. Whereas urban society are the cause of most of the environmental damage, it is the rural communities that are paying the price.

The Minister emphasised the need to realign the social structure of society so that rural communities are given more real opportunities for prosperity, culture advancement as well as social support.

Mayor McCormack was pleased with the outcome of the meeting. "We had the opportunity to ask some hard questions and have our say. We can only trust that the State Government will heed our expressions of concern and help us deal with the problems that this Shire in particular faces," he said.

### Woolworths efforts to benefit Upper Lachlan Shire

The Southern Tablelands Group of the Country Women's Association of New South Wales much appreciated Woolworth initiative of a National Drought Action Day on January 23 to raise money for drought relief.

This money will be distributed nationally by the Country Women's Association of Australia according to "Exceptional Circumstances" areas in each State.

Mrs Judy Richardson, President of the Country Women's Association of New South Wales is currently meeting with the National President and other State Presidents to arrange distribution of the funds.

Application forms for assistance with

household expenses such as electricity or phone accounts, school fees, vehicle registration etc will be available from February 1st, from CWA Branch Secretaries, at [www.cwaofnsw.org.au](http://www.cwaofnsw.org.au) or by phoning 1800 237 876.

In late November 2006 the Association received more than \$1 million for distribution from the Commonwealth Government. However with the demand being so great these funds were exhausted within four weeks. The people of Goulburn and surrounding districts have been generous with donations and support of a raffle in aid of the Southern Tablelands Group Drought Relief appeal at the information stand outside Woolworths Goulburn during the National Drought Action Day, which will further enable the local CWA branches to provide assistance across the Upper Lachlan Shire.

### Public art - a policy

The Upper Lachlan Shire Council in partnership with Local artists, business people, the Arts Council and Southern Tablelands Arts (STARTS) are involved in the development of a Public Art Policy for the Shire.

The goal of this policy is the identification of public areas that would be suitable for public art, the impact such works would have on the communities, the significance

of the siting of such art (environmental, social, cultural or historical) as well as the relevance of public art to the values of the community.

The nexus for this concept was the recently completed mural attached to the wall on the corner of Goulburn and Roberts Street in Crookwell. The work featuring an old man in his workshop has drawn considerable public praise.

The policy will give community groups, interested in the creation of their own public art, clear guidelines for their projects. It would also help in the identifying of funding and sponsorship opportunities, create a management/maintenance plan and become an opportunity to involve the youth of the community.

For more information regarding the ULSC Art Policy Contact Council offices during business hours, (02) 4830-1000.



Karen and Darren Swift, of Crookwell Furnishings, are delighted with the mural outside their store. "We've had nothing but positive comments about this mural. We believe that more businesses should think about doing something similar," Karen said.

### What's Happening At Access



Peter Blowes and mate Tiny gaining easy access to the new Crookwell Veterinary Hospital.

The Crookwell Access Committee has recently presented an Appreciation Certificate to the Crookwell Veterinary Hospital in recognition of their disability friendly access entrance.

The Committee is pleased that businesses are adopting disabled access to their premises when the opportunity arises. Recognition of the need for people with mobility problems helps the disabled become part of the wider community.

The Access Committee is also working closely with the RTA Roads Officer, Mark Foran.

Matching funding under the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan, (PAMP'S), between the RTA and Council means that \$10,000 will be spent to install 12 pedestrian ramps around Crookwell.

Further improvements in and around Gunning and Taralga, under this RTA plan, are also being developed.

#### Peter and mate Tiny happy with ramps

Peter Blowes loves Crookwell and would not live anywhere else especially since he acquired his electric cart.

"With this cart I can easily get out of the house. Remaining mobile really increases my quality of life. Businesses that don't have access ramps, unlike the Veterinary Hospital, make it very difficult for people like me," Peter said.

The Director of Environment and Planning Richard Davies believes the Veterinary Hospital

did an especially good job in the design and construction of their disabled access ramp.

"Where as all class two to nine businesses are required to meet the requirements of the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act of 1992 the disabled access to the Veterinary Hospital is well within the desirable standard for disabled access despite certain constraints and deserves to be commended for their effort," Richard Davies said.

Businesses desired more information concerning their obligations under this act can contact the Council's Health and Building Officers at Gunning on 4845-4100 or at Crookwell on 4830-1000.

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## Road safety being planned

The Upper Lachlan Shire council has proceeded through stage three of the Road Safety Strategy Plan with the goal of developing a strategy that will become part of the Council's overall Management Plan.

Stage three, a consultative process, was held November 29, 2006 and included members of the community, Council Management as well as related Divisional Group leaders. Those attending the meeting were provided with traffic profile information from 2001 through 2005. With this information plus the insight of those attending the meeting a development plan will be produced, endorsed and implemented into the Council's Management Plan and annual road safety action plan.

A disappointing aspect of these meetings was the extremely poor turn out from the public. Organisers of the strategy meeting noted that this lack of interest, in asking questions of planners or being briefed on the reasons behind the elements of the plan, means the public's view of what constitutes road safety will be limited in the final plan.

### The Upper Lachlan a rural community

The Upper Lachlan Shire is predominately a rural community with many residents required to travel significant distances to reach work and school destinations. With limited public transport options available there is considerable dependency placed on cars for travel around the community.

Other pressures across the Upper Lachlan Shire are the rate of population growth, which increases pressures on the road network including road maintenance costs, repair intervals and the public's demand for the upgrading of the Shire's road network. This picture is complicated by the unique topography and varied climate, which produces an ever-changing road environment.

### Contributing factors

The Upper Lachlan Shire total road network covers over 1979.8 kilometres of which 690.1 are sealed and 1289.7 unsealed. The vastness of this network and the considerable funding needed for the maintenance and improvement to such a system was identified as of considerable concern. However, it was noted that the Upper Lachlan Shire Council, in response to their concern for road safety, had developed a 'Road Hierarchy' program for the purpose of ranking the priority of the Shire's road maintenance, thus

using the Council's limited resources to best advantage.

It was acknowledged that although the conditions of the Shire's roads does play an important role in the number and severity of accidents, driver related causes also played a significant role in the frequency and severity of accidents.

Statistics indicated that excessive speed increased not only the risk of accidents but also the severity of the crash's outcome. Crashes involving speed across the Upper Lachlan stood at 40.9 percent as apposed to 24.8 percent across the Southwest Region as a whole. The management of this problem was seen as a major road safety issue for both the Council and Police.

Other identified significant causes of accidents included substance abuse and animal impact. The statistics found that the Upper Lachlan Shire recorded the highest percentage of alcohol related crashes for the 2005 throughout the entire study area, 7.1 percent as opposed to 3.7 percent in the Mulwaree LGA. The management of this problem goes to the very heart of community and will require significant input from various segments of the society.

The next step in the development of the Shire's Road Safety Strategy Plan is the analysis of the information gathered and the compiling of a draft plan for Council's comment and approval.

### Australia Day Awards (from page 1)



#### Taralga

On the other side of the Shire the good people of Taralga were really celebrating the day in style with the start of the town's famous Taralga Rodeo. Councilor Brian Moloney breathed a sigh of relief as good crowds turned out for the day in spite of the drought conditions.

Cr Moloney said, "There are a number of annual events in Ta-

ralga that because of their success the community is able to continue its improvements to the local sporting grounds, which is good for our young people and good for the town."

An example of this was the success of The Vintage Farm Machinery Day, which was voted as the Event of the Year for Upper Lachlan Shire. Joining in the Taralga awards were Colin Chalker as the Citizen of the Year for Taralga and Miss Shannon Bennet as the Young Citizen of the Year for Taralga.

Taralga did not stop their celebration on Australia Day as the Rodeo continued very successfully through Saturday and Sunday with excellent crowds and exciting events.

### Nominations Wanted



The Upper Lachlan Shire Council is seeking community minded residents who wish to assist in the selection process of potential Australia Day Award candidates as well as the organisation of the Day's Activities.

Likely candidates should be in touch with their community and able to be unbiased and willing to join the Council Australia Day Committee, applicant should contact Helen Peterson at (02) 4830-1007 in the first instance.

### Catch The Picnic Bus

How are you going to get to and from the Binda Picnic Races? Road Safety Officer, Mark Foran suggests that you leave your car at home and catch the Picnic Bus instead!

A community based venture hosted by The Upper Lachlan Shire Council Road Safety Program, the Picnic Bus is designed to remove the temptation to drink and drive by providing an affordable community transport service to the annual picnic races.

Departing at 11.00 am the buses will service the townships of Crookwell, Lag-

gan, Grabben Gullen, Gunning and Bigga. All buses will return from the track 30 minutes after the last race.

The Council Road Safety Officer will also be out about at the races and invites race goers to be breathalysed to gauge their blood alcohol levels. "The project is intended to provide race day patrons with a gentle reminder of drink drive issues," said Road Safety Officer Mark Foran.

"There is no excuse for drink driving, if you plan to party then you should consider catching the picnic bus, it is the only guaranteed winner on the day," said Mark.

#### Contact:

Road Safety Officer- Mark Foran Phone 0429 043 642 - 48301000

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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 and water and sewer (0407)496-358.  
**Gunning/Dalton/Breadalbane/Collector/Jerrawa areas:** Roads, bridges, tips, water and sewer (0427)454-206.  
**Police and Fire All Areas any time 000**

## WATER

### Water, Sewerage Projects need commitment

The Mayor of the Upper Lachlan Shire, Cr Brian McCormack recently called on the Government and the Opposition to clearly spell out their funding priorities for water and sewerage projects.

Under the current funding arrangements major projects in the Shire such as upgrading of the Taralga, Gunning, Crookwell and Dalton supplies are unlikely to receive the Government funding support they require. Projects to provide water and sewerage services to a number of currently un-serviced villages are also unlikely to proceed.

Cr McCormack said the Auditor-General's 2006 report pointed out that only 10 percent of projects State-wide could be funded under existing arrangements.

"In fact, there are 202 projects state-wide, which consist of work still to be done under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program," Cr McCormack said.

"My Council believes it is vital that not only the Government and Opposition respond directly through their candidates in the Goulburn and Burrinjuck electorates, but we also want to know the views of the minor parties and independents.

"More people owe their lives to clean water and basic sanitary services than the introduction of penicillin," Cr McCormack said.

#### Odds show more heat less water

The Upper Lachlan Shire continues to suffer below average rainfalls and higher than average temperatures.

Manager of Upper Lachlan Shire Water and Sewer Luke Moloney reported to Council that the latest seasonal rainfall outlook issued by the Bureau of Meteorology showed a moderate shift in the odds towards below-normal March quarter (January to March) rainfall for the Upper Lachlan Shire Council area, and that the chances of exceeding median rainfall are between 45 and 50%.

Compounding the problem is the corresponding temperature outlook, which is showing a moderate to strong shift in the odds towards above normal daytime temperatures for the March quarter (January to March) over much of eastern and northern

Australia. In the Upper Lachlan Shire Council area, the chances of exceeding median maximum temperature are rated as between 50 and 55%.

#### Storage levels

The introduction of level 2 water restrictions in November resulted in significant reduction in monthly water consumption. Although emergency water supply bores are currently providing up to 50 percent of Crookwell's water demand, the level of the Crookwell Dam continues to rapidly decline. Capacity at the reservoir is, as of January 30, 2007, 60 percent of capacity.

Luke Moloney reported to Council that as of the January 15 the dam was at 65 percent (265ML) of capacity. The dam is at its lowest January level since 2003 and is currently declining at a rate of approximately 3 percent per week. Evaporation losses are currently as high as 1.7ML/day.

At least average monthly rainfall will be required to increase storage levels. In 2005 average winter rainfall resulted in the dam rising from 60% in late May to 100% in late August. Historic results indicate that the winter/spring period is critical to replenish the storage.

A total of 359.5 ML of water was treated at Crookwell Water Treatment Plant during 2006. This is equal to an average daily

consumption of 985kL/day. 2006 consumption levels exceeded both the 5 and 10 year average consumption levels. The increased is being attributed to an increased outdoor water usage as a result of the extremely dry conditions experienced during 2006.

#### Gunning, Taralga and Dalton

Recent storms have resulted in improved flow in the Lachlan River at the Gunning water supply extraction well. Currently, supply remains adequate to meet the consumption levels of the village.

Springs are maintaining some flow in Woolshed Creek, however no water is flowing at the Taralga water supply weir. Staff are undertaking emergency pumping from a small spring downstream to maintain off-stream storage levels at capacity (30ML). The news from Dalton reports that the village's water bores are continuing to meet the consumption requirements of that village.

It is important for all residents of the Shire to continue to inform themselves of their area's water restrictions and what those restrictions mean. Council is currently standardising the Shire's Water Restriction to ensure that the entire Shire is working under the same formula.



**A whole lot of splashing in Gunning:** L—R Andrew Holmes (Eagle FM Engineer), Adam McDonald (Sales), Audrey (Youth Worker), Michael Vaughan (Lions Club) Matilda Wainwright, Alex Denne, Matthew Denne and Rosco of Eagle FM enjoying the Gunning swimming pool.

### Gunning children have a splashing good time

Over 100 Gunning toddlers to teens enjoyed a mid summer pool party at the Gunning swimming pool on Wednesday, January 17.

Summer time usually provides little more than hot dry weather for Gunning children so this well supported non-profit event was a blessing for the children and their parents.

#### Sponsors pleased to help

Besides being a great day out this annual event brought a large segment of the local community together with help on offer from Eagle FM, the Lions Club, Shell Garage, The Telegraph Hotel, Gunning

Rural Supplies, Goulburn Youth Council, Gunning Newsagency, Upper Lachlan Shire Council and Paul and Michelle Hennessy.

Life Guard and Manager of the pool, Mathew Denne was pleased with the turnout and the smiles on the young faces.

"This is my second summer in Gunning and I am very impressed by the sense of community, which is shown by the support on offer from the local businesses and the number of people who came to enjoy the day.

"With water restrictions in place I am very conscientious of the impact of the drought and do everything I can to ensure that all staff and children do not take the pool for granted. This pool is an asset for Gunning and is one of the few places the children can go for something to do," Mathew said.

The Gunning pool is open weekdays from 11am until 6pm and on weekends from 12 noon until 6pm, weather permitting. The cost to enter is \$2 for adults and \$1 per children with children under 2 and spectators free.



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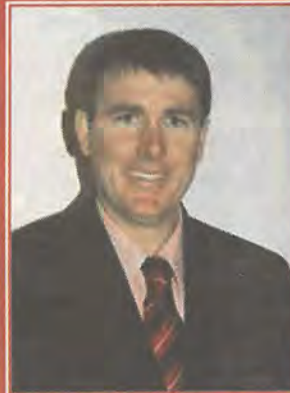


The Capital Region ACC assists groups to apply for funding for community projects. We can help you develop your project ideas in the early stages, identify partners and possible funding sources.

We are the key contact for groups wishing to apply for funds for projects through the Australia

Government's *Regional Partnerships* programme. Projects can address inadequacies in local community infrastructure and services, create jobs and develop job skills, assist industry and business to expand, support youth leadership and address the needs of youth, and the needs of indigenous communities.

If your community group has a project idea, is aware of an important community need or you just want to know more please call Ian Coillet or Mandy Gyles at the Capital Region Area Consultative Committee on 6162 4400 or visit our website [www.cr-acc.asn.au](http://www.cr-acc.asn.au)



### Les Hannan - a new face in Crookwell



Les Hannan has been part seven years with a prominent rural client Team for the past five base. Les is enthusiastic, rural and residential motivated and dedicated to providing the ultimate in customer service for all his clients Real Estate needs. If you are wanting to sell the rural industry, or purchase a rural or residential property, speak to Les Hannan at Elders.

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