



## Gunning skate park rolls on

It began as a vision from local teenagers five years ago, and now, the Gunning skate park has become a reality.

The skate park includes a professionally designed and constructed 300m<sup>2</sup> skate park, ramp access from Copeland St, seating, renewed fencing and safety signs. It is the perfect spot for skateboarding, BMX riding, scootering and rollerblading.

Upper Lachlan Shire Mayor John Shaw said that the Gunning skate park was a community-driven initiative, and one that Council was very happy to get behind.

"Five years ago, local boys Guy Southwell, Leigh Hickey, Harry Morris and Marty Smith approached Council with the idea of a skate park for Gunning. They came to us with a petition, which reinforced the community's enthusiasm for this facility," Cr Shaw said.

"Because of these boys' efforts and vision, along with the very generous support and fundraising of the Gunning community, this skate park has become a reality.

"It's always pleasing when community-initiated projects such as these are successful, but this would not have been possible without the significant funding assistance from the Veolia Mulwaree Trust and the

• Gunning's Ryan Eather, Will Luck and Ben Luck on site at the new Gunning Skate Park.



Community Building Partnership program."

The Gunning community, along with the Gunning Lions Club and the Gunning Showground Committee, managed to raise \$5,871.85 towards the project. This, combined with \$90,004 from the Veolia Mulwaree Trust and a Community Building Partnership grant of \$15,000, and Council's own funding contribution, has helped make the skate park a reality.

"Both council and the Gunning

community are indebted to the Veolia Mulwaree Trust for their matching grant, and to the NSW Government for their Community Building Partnerships grant," Cr Shaw said.

"I know there are a lot of local kids in the Gunning area who are very excited about this skate park opening, and I look forward to seeing some of them in action in coming years."

The Gunning skate park was constructed by Oasis Skate Parks, with the official opening on June 4.

Meantime, a public meeting is planned for the proposed Crookwell skate park on Monday 20 June at 6pm at the Crookwell Memorial Hall.

All members of the community are invited to attend the meeting to discuss possible locations, including Apex Park, Clifton St Park, and other areas, along with other items related to the development of the proposed Crookwell skate park.

For more information, please contact Council's Brenda Proudman on 4830 1000.

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## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK



As we near the end of another financial year, I'd like to thank those residents across the Upper Lachlan Shire who have provided their feedback on the draft operational plan.

Our capital works program for the next four years has been scheduled to spend \$40 million in asset renewal and rehabilitation projects. This represents a serious commitment to our Shire's infrastructure.

The proposed Operational Plan will see Council allocate \$5 million to the Crookwell water supply treatment plant in 2016/17, with a total of \$7 million to be spent on the project over the next two years.

The treatment plant is a crucial piece of infrastructure for the people of Crookwell, which will greatly improve the water savings and efficiency in the town. Council will receive assistance with this project, as we have successfully secured external grants from the Federal Government and NSW Government to help bring it to fruition.

Some other notable proposed projects in 2016/17 include:

- Gunning water supply mains replacements - \$60,000
- MR52 Devils Elbow section road rehabilitation (contingent on grant funds) - \$1,080,000
- Bitumen resealing on roads across the Shire - \$2,497,300
- Gravel re-sheeting on roads across the Shire - \$860,000
- Crookwell Skate Park construction (contingent on 50%

grant funds) - \$160,000

- Crookwell Waste Centre landfill remediation - \$300,000

Public submissions will be tabled and considered at the Council Meeting on 16 June 2016.

### Fit for the Future

The NSW Government Fit for the Future merger proposals were announced in December 2015, and Upper Lachlan Shire Council will not be the subject of a merger proposal.

The NSW Government considers that Council has sufficient scale and capacity, demonstrating sustainability, infrastructure and service efficiency benchmarks as assessed by IPART. The Upper Lachlan has been deemed Fit for the Future, and will implement an Improvement Action Plan.

I would like to thank those residents across the Shire who supported Council's decision to say 'no' to a forced merger with neighbouring councils. Your support expressed through five community meetings, letters and submissions to IPART, and the 2015 community survey is greatly appreciated.

### Australia Day Honours

Finally, it was a tremendous honour to receive my Order of Australia Medal in April this year.

It is very humbling to be nominated for an OAM, and a genuine privilege to be granted one.

However, this would not have been possible without the support of my wonderful wife Suzie, and our children Sally and Geoff.

The Upper Lachlan Shire is a truly tremendous region of NSW, and I am very proud to have played a part in shaping its future.

My sincerest congratulations go to



• Upper Lachlan Shire Mayor John Shaw OAM at his Order of Australia investiture at Government House, Canberra. Cr Shaw is pictured with Her Excellency Lady Lynne Cosgrove, Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), wife Suzie Shaw and daughter Sally Curry.

my fellow Councillor and former Mayor Brian McCormack, whose tireless work for the Shire was also recognised with an OAM. It is a very fitting recognition for a man who has given his all for this region. Well done, Brian.

## FROM THE GM'S DESK



I'd like to begin by extending my congratulations, on behalf of both Council and the Upper Lachlan Shire, to Mayor John Shaw and Cr Brian McCormack on receiving their OAMs earlier this year. It is deserved recognition for both men.

### Local Government election

Upper Lachlan Shire Council will be subject to an election on Saturday 10 September.

If you are interested in nominating

for Upper Lachlan Shire Council and would like more information, I encourage you to go to [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info), call the NSW Electoral Commission on 1300 022 011 or email [fdc@elections.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fdc@elections.nsw.gov.au) to find out more.

Candidates must nominate by Wednesday 10 August 2016.

In the coming months, you will see advertisements in Council's information page in the Crookwell Gazette, and on our website, which will provide additional important dates in the electoral process.

### Census

Australia will hold a Census on 9 August 2016. There are vacancies in the Upper Lachlan Shire for Field Officers (Census collectors). You can apply online now at [www.abs.gov.au/careers](http://www.abs.gov.au/careers).

The positions pay some \$21 per hour, and applications close on 30 May 2016.

## Council services

### Emergency after hours contact numbers:

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

Roads, bridges and tips, water and sewer: **0429 786 659.**

**Gunning / Dalton / Breadalbane / Collector / Jerrawa areas:**

Roads, bridges and tips, water and sewer: **0427 454 206.**

**Postal address:** (For all offices)

PO Box 42, Gunning NSW 2581

### Council Offices:

**Crookwell office:** Monday to Friday 9am to 4:30pm

Ph: (02) 4830 1000, Fax: (02) 4832 2066

**Gunning office:** Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm (cashier closes at 4pm)

Ph: (02) 4845 4100, Fax: (02) 4845 1426

**Taralga office:** Monday to Friday 9am to 4:30pm

Ph: (02) 4840 2099, Fax: (02) 4840 2296.

### Council email address:

[council@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au)

### Website

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

### Facebook

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search Upper Lachlan Shire Council

### Justice of the Peace

Justices of the Peace in NSW serve the community primarily by administering oaths or affidavits and taking statutory declarations and affirmations; witnessing signatures; and attesting and certifying documents.

The Upper Lachlan Shire Council have people serving the community in this capacity at our Council offices in Gunning and Crookwell.

If you are in need of such services please contact the Council office nearest to you to arrange an appointment.

## THE VOICE

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## LIBRARY BIZ with Michaela Olde



Library and Information Week will be held from 23 to 29 May 2016. This year's theme centres on discovering more through your Library and Information Service. The library is no longer a place of just books. The library has morphed into a community hub where people can use computers, download e-books and magazines onto portable devices, conduct Family History searches using the library's online databases, attend a community talk/event, obtain some 'tech help', and borrow DVDs. What's more it's free to join the library! This May pop into the Crookwell or Gunning library and discover the range of products and services that we offer.

**It's story TIME**  
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Crookwell and Gunning Libraries hold Storytime sessions for children aged 0-5 years during the school term.

Storytime is held at the Crookwell Library every Thursday at 11:30am and Gunning Library at 10:45am every second Friday. Storytime is FREE. Everyone is welcome and no bookings are required. The themed sessions run for approximately 45 minutes and consist of a story and an age relevant craft activity or creative play. Storytime

- encourages a love of reading;
- stimulates the imagination;
- enables social interaction with other children outside the home;
- provides an environment for discovering the pleasures of reading and learning; and
- provides an opportunity for parents to meet other parents in the community.



Upper Lachlan Shire residents and visitors browsing the many books for sale

### Crookwell Library Friends Annual Book Fair

The Crookwell Friends of the Library held their annual book sale in March. The sale was very successful, raising \$3400. Proceeds from the sale will go towards funding extra services at the Crookwell library, including Storytime, school holiday activities, magazine subscriptions, and events. Thank you for your generosity in donating items for the sale. The Library accepts donations all year round. The Library accepts books, magazines, CDs and DVDs.

#### Coming soon

Crookwell Friends of the Library visit to the Miss Fisher Costume Exhibition

The Crookwell Friends of the Library invites you on an exciting bus trip to Parramatta to visit the Miss Fisher Costume Exhibition. This exhibition showcases costumes and props from series 3 of the Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries.

**When:** Wednesday 8 June 2016

**Where:** Old Government House,

Parramatta  
**Cost:** \$40 (includes bus fare and entry to the exhibition)  
**Time:** Leaving outside the Crookwell Library 8am (Goulburn Visitor Information Centre 8:30am), Returning to Crookwell approximately 6pm (Goulburn 5:30pm)



• The Crookwell Friends of the Library will head to the Miss Fisher Costume Exhibition on 8 June.

Book and pay for your seat by Friday, 20 May at the Crookwell Library on 4832 1048 or Gunning Library on 4845 1231.

#### Opening hours

**Crookwell Library**  
Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:30am – 5pm, Wednesday 1.30pm – 5pm  
Saturday mornings from 10am – 12pm.  
**Gunning Library**  
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**Our Vision: To provide quality services and support to people in our community.**

# Shire residents recognised

Hundreds of people gathered across the district on Australia Day to celebrate what's great about living in the Upper Lachlan Shire.

Upper Lachlan's Australia Day ambassador was renowned horticulturalist and TV presenter Graham Ross, who spoke passionately about the contribution rural Australia makes to the rest of the country.

Mr Ross also handed out Upper Lachlan's Citizen of the Year awards, which were presented to:

- **Shire Citizen of the Year:** Gordon (Michael) Chalker
- **Shire Young Citizen of the Year:** Emma Picker
- **Crookwell Citizen:** (Joint winners) Paul Anderson and Keven Clarke
- **Gunning Citizen:** Genevieve Starr
- **Taralga Citizen:** Cheryl Chalker
- **Crookwell Young Citizen:** Sam Skelly
- **Gunning Young Citizen:** Brittany and Emily Lewis
- **Crookwell Event:** Crookwell Garden Festival
- **Gunning Event:** Kangaroo March Re-enactment
- **Taralga Event:** A Memorial to Taralga Men and Women that fought in World War I.

Locals gathered at events hosted at Gunning, Crookwell and Taralga, taking advantage of a wonderfully sunny day.



• The Upper Lachlan Shire Citizen of the Year is Gordon (Michael) Chalker. He's pictured here being congratulated by Australia Day Ambassador Graham Ross.



• Gunning Young Citizen of the Year winners Brittany and Emily Lewis (Emily absent due to work), Gunning Citizen of the Year Genevieve Starr, Graham Ross, Lucy Knight representing the Kangaroo March, which was awarded Gunning Event of the Year, and Mayor John Shaw.



• (ABOVE) Upper Lachlan Shire Young Citizen of the Year Emma Picker, Crookwell Young Citizen Sam Skelly, Lorna Vallely from the Crookwell Garden Club, Crookwell's joint Citizens of the Year Keven Clarke and Paul Anderson, and Graham Ross cut the Australia Day cake.



• (RIGHT) Mr Ross addresses the Australia Day breakfast in Gunning.

## COUNCIL NEWS IN BRIEF

### Local Government Elections

The NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) has advised that Upper Lachlan Shire Council will conduct an election this year.

General Manager John Bell said that as the Council wasn't subject to an amalgamation, an election would be held as part of the normal four-year local government electoral cycle.

"At this stage, Upper Lachlan Shire Council's residents will go to the polls on Saturday 10 September 2016," Mr Bell said.

"We have been instructed that Upper Lachlan Shire Council will share a returning officer with Yass Valley Council for the election."

The NSWEC has proposed that the following venues across Upper

Lachlan Shire will be used as polling stations:

- Bigga Memorial Hall
- Binda Public School
- Collector Memorial Hall
- Crookwell Public School
- Dalton Public School
- Grabben Gullen Public Hall
- Gunning Public School
- Laggan Public School
- Taralga Memorial Hall

Mr Bell said it was important to note that the NSWEC will not be holding face-to-face information sessions for prospective councillors.

For more information about nominating as a Councillor, visit [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info),

email [fdc@elections.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fdc@elections.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300 022 011.

### Road works in the Shire

Upper Lachlan Shire Council is asking residents that live on gravel roads to be patient while waiting for road conditions to improve. Unfortunately, the prevailing dry conditions are damaging Council's gravel network and also limiting the amount of water that is available for grading works to be carried out.

Upper Lachlan Shire's Manager of Works Garry Anable said that maintenance grading in particular is a challenge, because of the prevailing dry conditions across the Shire.

"The road grading process consumes a considerable amount of water, and there simply isn't enough water available for Council to sufficiently undertake grading works in some parts of the Shire," Mr Anable said.

"Currently, Council is grading the roads where we have water readily

available. While we understand that residents may have concerns about some roads in the Shire, we need to ensure that these roads are graded correctly the first time, and that requires a significant amount of water.

"Due to the dry conditions, Council is unable to withdraw large amounts of water from local water-courses that are normally running (but are almost dry at present).

"Farmers are understandably reluctant to allow Council to have access to farm dams for roadworks at present, due to their own reliance on them for stock and domestic water.

"Residents can be assured that roads identified and on Council's maintenance schedule will be graded as soon as practical."

## Community groups benefit from \$25,000 grant

Three community groups in the Upper Lachlan Shire have been selected to share in a \$25,000 grant provided by telecommunications provider, Southern Phone.

Southern Phone Chairman Bill Hilzinger presented the community grant cheque to Upper Lachlan Shire Mayor John Shaw earlier this year.

The community groups and projects to benefit include;

- Bigga Hall Committee - upgrade to Bigga recreation ground septic (which has already been installed);
- Collector & District Historical Association Inc, update to Collector History Walk Book;
- Crookwell Amateur Dramatic Society Inc, upgrade to storage and dressing areas.

"Many local residents will enjoy the improvements that these groups can make to our community thanks to this grant from Southern Phone,"

Cr Shaw said. "This grant has enabled some important projects to get off the ground in our local area. Some of which had been well planned and partially funded by the community, but just needed some extra financial support to bring the plans to life."

More than \$1 million has been distributed between 41 mostly regional Council areas in NSW as part of a new Southern Phone community grant initiative. The program will see the telecommunications provider support community projects in each of its shareholder council areas to the value of \$25,000 this year.



• Cr Jo Marshall (Bigga Recreation Ground Septic), Madeleine McDonald (Collector History Walk Book), Tina Dodson (Director of Environment and Planning ULSC), Ann Hegyi (Collector History Walk Book), Frank Ross (Collector History Walk Book), Robert Bill (Crookwell Amateur Dramatic Society Storage), John Simpson (Crookwell Amateur Dramatic Society Storage), Bill Hilzinger (Southern Phone Chairman) and Cr John Shaw (ULSC Mayor) at the Southern Phone cheque presentation

"We are very pleased to be able to provide this funding boost and glad to be able to make a difference in these regional areas," Southern Phone Managing Director Mark Warren said.

The funding provided through the

Southern Phone Grants is in addition to the dividends Southern Phone already pays each year to shareholder Councils.

The Southern Phone Grants are distributed to community groups via the Mayor of their local Council.



• Upper Lachlan Shire Mayor John Shaw and Federal Member for Hume Angus Taylor check out the Crookwell Pool earlier this year.

## Splashing out at Crookwell Pool

The Crookwell Swimming Pool will undergo an important refurbishment later this year, aimed at extending the life of the facility and reducing water usage.

The upgrade, comprising a resurfacing and repainting of the pool's walls, will be jointly funded between Upper Lachlan Shire Council and the Federal Government's Stronger Communities Program.

The Stronger Communities Program will provide \$15,000 towards the \$40,000 project, with Upper Lachlan Shire Council to fund the balance. The 33m long pool, which was constructed in 1958, will receive an overhaul to address leaking, along with a cosmetic touch up.

Upper Lachlan Shire Mayor John Shaw said the Pool was a very popular attraction for locals.

"Over recent years, we've averaged in excess of 11,000 visitors during a season, so we recognise that the pool is an important community facility," Cr Shaw said.

"However, as the structure has neared 60 years old, the pool has started leaking. The concrete in the internal part of the pool has cracked and in some places begun to lift. The repair work will include resurfacing the pool walls, and giving them a lick of paint as well.

"We will aim to begin the work in September/October this year, and have the pool reopen in time for the 2016/17 season, which begins in November."

Federal Member for Hume Angus Taylor congratulated Upper Lachlan Shire Council on successfully applying for the Stronger Communities Programme funding.

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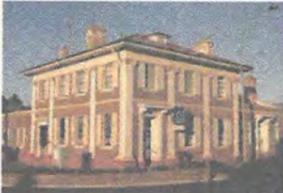
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• Upper Lachlan Shire Council General Manager John Bell, Rotarian Bill Martin, Rotary Club of Crookwell President Mike Walsh, Mayor John Shaw and Rotarian Gordon Schliebs at the Crookwell clock.

## Clocking on in Crookwell

Prior to the March council meeting, Upper Lachlan Shire Mayor John Shaw and General Manager John Bell accepted a cheque from the Rotary Club of Crookwell to go towards the restoration of the Crookwell town clock.

The clock, which was donated by Rotary in 2004, was taken down last July and sent to Melbourne for extensive renovation work.

The clock itself now includes three clocks – one for each dial face and a third in a switchbox which controls the other two.

The clock will also now automatically change for daylight savings, and is illuminated at night with LED lighting.

The \$1,500 cheque from Rotary will go towards reimbursing Council for the clock's repair work.

## Fossicking for gold in the Shire

The Upper Lachlan Shire could soon be the newest hotspot for fossicking in NSW. Council will write to the NSW Department of Industry, Resources and Energy to request that the Shire be formally recognised as a "fossicking district".

Upper Lachlan Shire Mayor John Shaw said that fossicking was already a popular activity in the area.

"A number of people travel to our Shire to fossick for gold across the Abercrombie

River, or for sapphires at Grabben Gullen," Cr Shaw said.

"By declaring the Shire a fossicking district, we're encouraging more tourists to come to our area, which has the potential to make a significant boost to the local economy.

"However, fossickers will still have to respect private property and follow the guidelines and requirements set out by the NSW Government."

## Taralga War Memorial Hall's new roof

Taralga's hub for social and community events, the War Memorial Hall, now has a new roof.

Work on the Hall, involving removal of the 50-year-old roof sheeting and asbestos, and installation of new Colorbond sheeting and lining, along with replacement downpipes and sections of guttering, was completed earlier this year.

The work has been partially funded by the NSW Government's Community Building Partnerships scheme, with Upper Lachlan Shire Council contributing the balance for the project.

Upper Lachlan Shire Mayor John Shaw said the roof replacement was critical to maintain the integrity of this important community facility.

"Over the past couple of years, Council has gradually replaced sections of the existing roof, as funding has become available," Cr Shaw said.

"The War Memorial Hall really is a crucial part of Taralga's social fabric.

"It houses community events and public meetings; allows locals to take part in indoor



sports, and hosts concerts and art exhibitions.

"Upper Lachlan Shire Council is very grateful to the NSW Government for their Community Building Partnerships grants in 2013 and 2015, which have allowed us to complete this work."

The War Memorial Hall is home to a variety of events, including the monthly Lions Village Markets, the annual Focus on Taralga Art Show, which attracts visitors and artists from surrounding districts, local sport club meetings, and martial arts groups.

The Taralga Public School uses the venue for its concerts and presentations.

# Caring for our native wildlife

By Kay Muddiman  
– Media Officer

Wherever we may live, we share our environment with other creatures - native animals which have had to adapt to our cities, towns, roads and farms. Unfortunately, some animals are injured or orphaned when they come into contact with our way of life. The increasing pressures of land clearance, domestic and feral animals, pesticides and motor vehi-

cles all take their toll. WIRES (NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service) was the first fulltime co-ordinated network established to assist our native animals. It is an independent, non-profit organisation operating under licence from the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. It was established in 1986 and now has 27 branches spread throughout NSW with over 2,000 volunteer carers rescuing sick and

injured native animals. WIRES Southern Tablelands Branch has a long history too, established three years later in 1989 and now consisting of 78 members. Our volunteers man a 24 hour phone rescue service, 365 days a year, along with rescuing and caring for injured and/or orphaned wildlife, rehabilitating them for release back into the wild. We respond to a large number of calls - during just one

month this past summer we attended and rescued a total of 73 animals. The breakdown of these rescues was: one insectivorous bat, 19 macropods; three possums and gliders, two other mammals, 16 parrots, one waterbird, nine other birds, two unknown birds, 13 snakes, four lizards, one turtle and two unclassified. Being a WIRES volunteer involves an immense amount of unpaid time, effort and dedication on the

describe the joy of seeing an animal you have saved and/or raised reclaim its place in the wild.

## Would you like to help?

The WIRES Rescue and Immediate Care Course can provide you with the basic skills to do that. Training is undertaken online, at your own pace – with one face-to-face workshop.

The next Rescue and Immediate Care Workshop will be held in Goulburn on Sunday, 31 July 2016. To find out please phone 0458 720 470. For help with injured wildlife please ring our Rescue number – 4822 3888, our volunteers will be only too happy to assist.

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## Lobbying Councillors

The Independent Commission Against Corruption has produced a brochure to inform Councillors and the community about what ICAC considers to be best practice in the area of lobbying Councillors. For more information visit: [www.icac.nsw.gov.au](http://www.icac.nsw.gov.au) or call 1800 463 909



NSW Wildlife Information,  
Rescue & Education Service Inc.  
**SOUTHERN TABLELANDS  
BRANCH**



• Just a tiny sample of the animals cared for by our branch. Top – L to R: Joey Eastern Grey Kangaroo with broken leg; Sulphur-crested Cockatoo with broken wing; orphaned joey Wombat. Bottom – L to R: Tawny Frogmouth with damaged wing from barbed wire entanglement; orphaned Flying Fox pup; orphaned joey Ringtail Possum.

## Gutter Cleaning Services - Rural, Residential, Commercial, Industrial

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