Extreme temperatures and electrical safety

Essential Energy is reminding residents in the Upper Lachlan Shire to stay alert for fallen powerlines or vegetation contacting wires as temperatures continue to soar across the South Eastern region. Regional general manager South Eastern, Phillip Green, said Essential Energy’s electricity network was designed and built to meet the peak energy demands and rigours of extreme temperatures experienced during summer and winter.

“The Essential Energy crews regularly inspect the electricity network to ensure it is in sound working order and that powerline fire safety clearances are maintained,” Phillip said. “With the heatwave conditions expected to continue across the region, we remind the public that powerlines can sag in extreme heat, sway in strong winds and can be difficult to see.

“If overhead powerlines appear damaged, are sagging or have fallen to the ground, keep eight metres clear – don’t touch or move them under any circumstances – and contact Essential Energy immediately on 13 20 80.”

On Total Fire Ban days, Essential Energy initiates a specific safety procedure designed to minimise the risk of electricity network faults causing bushfires.

“If a network fault occurs, the power supply will be shut off until our network technicians have located and addressed the cause, then patrolled the powerline and deemed it safe to manually restore the electricity,” Phillip said. “On long powerlines – which are typical in the more remote parts of Essential Energy’s network – this may take some time and customers in the fault area could experience extended power supply interruptions.

“We recognise that this process may cause some customers inconvenience, however detailed powerline patrols are necessary for public safety and to minimise the fire risk to the public, the environment and our network assets.”

In regions declared a catastrophic bushfire risk by the NSW Rural Fire Service, Essential Energy takes the extra precaution of cancelling all planned network maintenance and upgrade works – with the exception of emergency repairs – while closely monitoring all non-declared areas within its distribution footprint. For further electrical safety information, visit www.essentialenergy.com.au/safety or call 13 23 91. For tips on staying cool during the summer months, visit our energy efficiency brochure at www.essentialenergy.com.au/energyanswers.
LOVE YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Not already a member of the Upper Lachlan Shire Library Service?
Not sure how to join, or what Crookwell or Gunning Library may have to interest you?
Here are the answers to some common questions about your local Library:

How much does it cost to join my local Library?
Absolutely NOTHING!
Residents of the Upper Lachlan Shire can join their local Library absolutely free of charge.

How do I join the Library?
People 18 years and over need to bring along identification such as a driver’s licence showing their current residential address and fill out a simple application form.

Applications by children and young adults under the age of 18 must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. However, if a person under the age of 18 produces evidence to satisfy Library staff that they are living independently, then they will be treated as an adult.

Who can join the Library?
Age is no barrier to library membership. The Library encourages all members of the community from newborn babies to people of any age to take the plunge and become a library member.

What can I borrow from the Library?
Your Library has a range of items for people of all ages available for a three week loan.

These include:
- Adult, large print, young adult and junior – fiction, factual and information books.
- For young children there is a fantastic selection of board books, picture books and first readers.
- A large collection of talking books, DVDs and music CDs suitable for every age group.
- An impressive selection of online resources and downloadable e-resources including eBooks and eAudiobooks are available from our website.
- A wide selection of magazines covering a vast array of interests.

Does the Library have Internet access?
Your local library has a number of free public access Internet computers. All computers have word-processing and desktop publishing software with colour printing facilities. Bookings are for one hour per day.

Children under 16 years must have written parental permission, through the membership application form, to access the Internet at the Library.

What else happens at my local Library?
You will find the current local and Sydney newspapers; Council’s meeting agendas and minutes, reports and public documents.

This month’s events and ‘Friends’ activities will be held as follows:
- Gunning Library on Tuesday 10th March 2012 at 10:30am
- Crookwell Library on Tuesday 17th March 2012 at 10:30am

The ‘Friends’ pay for the library’s subscription to Good Reading and Choice magazines, sponsor prizes for the Summer Reading Club and subsidise the many school holiday activities held in the library.

We welcome new members and the membership fee is only five dollars per year.

From more information contact Kerri-ann at Crookwell Library or on 4833-1048.

THE LOWER LACHLAN SHIRE

MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE

CROOKWELL

Crookwell Hospital: 13 - 15 Killia Rd
Crookwell, Ph: 02 4833 1300

Crookwell Health Centre: 17 Killia Rd.
Crookwell, Ph: 024833 2500. Medical, Pathology, Orthopaedic Surgeon, Physiotherapist, Audiologist, and massage therapist also available.

Open Monday to Friday 9am till 5pm.

DR. R THANGAVELU M.B.B.S, M.S.
110 Goulburn St. Crookwell, Phone - 4832 1006
Open Monday - Friday 9am till 6pm
Saturday 9am till 12pm
* Practice Nurse
* Audiologist
* Mental Health Nurse

GOULBURN

Goulburn Hospital: 101 Yass Street, Gunning, Ph: 02 4845 1166

Goulburn Health Services are open Monday to Friday 9am till 4pm.

Services provided include:
* Community Nursing Service, *GP Clinic,
* Senior Day Program, *Respite Care,
* Equipment Loan, *Pathology Clinic,
* Early Childhood Clinic, *Women’s Health Clinic,
* Physiotherapy, *Podiatry,
* Short-term ‘after hospital’ assistance,
* Social Support, *Frozen Meal Service, and Occupational Therapy.

TARALGA

Tara Medical Centre
* Bunnaby Street, Tara

Clinic Hours - Thursday 9.30 am – 11.00 am
* Phone (Goulburn) 4832 0200 (Tara) 4840-2011

GOULBURN OUTREACH SERVICES TO TARALGA

* Tara Medical Centre, Bunnaby Street
* Services available by appointment Phone: 4827 391
  - General Nursing
  - Child & Family Clinic
  - Women’s Health/Breast Care Nurse
  - Diabetes Education
  - Podiatry

On a regular basis the Library offers StoryTime for pre-schoolers, school holiday workshops, reading clubs, local history events and a variety of one off events such as ‘Lunch in the Library’.

Crookwell Library also offers a Home Library delivery service to patrons living in the town area, who find it difficult to visit the library.

What hours is my Library open?
Crookwell Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:30am – 5pm, Wednesday 1:30pm – 5pm and Saturday mornings from 10:00am – 12:00 noon.

Gunning Library is open Tuesday and Wednesday 2pm – 5pm, Thursday 1pm – 5pm and Friday 10am – 5pm.

So come along and join the thousands of other happy library users and make Crookwell or Gunning Library Your Library… we look forward to seeing you and answering any other questions you may have about the services and resources available to you at Your Library.

The Voice

Email: hspirek@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au
Phone: 024830 1000
Published by the Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Editor: Hank Spirek, Media Officer

CROOKWELL LIBRARIES LOVES ITS FRIENDS!!
If you love your library or are a new library member, have you thought about becoming a ‘Library Friend’?

The Crookwell Library Friends group assists the library in many ways including the running of library events, the re-shelving of returned items and the covering of donated resources.

The Friends’ sponsor ‘StoryTime’ by supplying the consumables used for the craft activities and ‘Friends’ Volunteer, Mandy McDonald conducts weekly Story Time sessions.

Another member of the ‘Friends’, Bill Martin carries out the fortnightly deliveries for the Home Library Service to the elderly or unwell, who cannot make the trip to the library.

Several people also volunteer their time to cover new books, either at home or in the library.

The ‘Friends’ pay for the library’s subscription to Good Reading and Choice magazines, sponsor prizes for the Summer Reading Club and subsidise the many school holiday activities held in the library, reducing the cost to local children.

The major annual fund raiser for the Library is the Annual Book Fair, which this year will be held in the Library foyer during the week starting Friday March 1, 2013.

If you have any pre-loved books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, videos or cassettes in good condition that you would like to donate, please drop them in to the library or contact the library to discuss pickup.

Here is your chance to clear those shelves...and make way for more books! The Crookwell Library Friends always welcome new members and the membership is only five dollars per year. So why not join now?

For more information contact Kerri-ann at the Crookwell Library or on 4832-1048.

IMPORTANT COUNCIL SERVICES DETAILS

CROOKWELL

- Taralga / Bigga / Bindia / Tuena / Grabben Gullen / Laggan / Taralga and Big Hill areas: Roads, bridges and tips 0429 786 659, water and sewer 0407 496 358.

Gunning NSW 2581

CROOKWELL OFFICE

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

GUNNING OFFICE

Ph: (02) 4845 4100, Fax: (02) 4845 1426, 29

TARALGA OFFICE

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

Police and Fire all areas anytime dial 000

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Published by the Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Editor: Hank Spirek, Media Officer

The Voice

Email: hspirek@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au
Phone: 024830 1000

Published by the Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Editor: Hank Spirek, Media Officer
GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Council’s ratepayers and residents a very happy and prosperous New Year.

The bush has an iconic status in Australian life and features strongly in the nation’s identity. However, the severe weather conditions that the Shire and much of the nation have recently experienced has changed that icon into a life and property threatening danger. Thankfully the nation, and this area in particular, has the services of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) to provide protection against these dangers.

Readers of The Voice would be aware of the numerous horrific fires that have happened across different areas of the nation. So far this year this Shire has experienced three dangerous fires around Gunning, Bannister and Crookwell. (Grabben Gullen?) and Fullerton.

The RFS with the assistance of Council staff and contractors has been directly involved with the containment of these emergencies.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the RFS, contractors and our Council employees for the fine work they did during these emergencies. Residents can be confident that the RFS and Council will continue to work together to minimise the impact of any such emergency incidents.

This issue of The Voice has two articles regarding available state Natural Disaster Assistance that is available and advice on how to Prepare, Act and Survive during this dangerous period.

Shire Portrait

I would also like to draw attention to information in The Voice outlining the Shire’s Economic Health. These Performance Indicators compares this Shire’s management of its resources with those of other Shires. Of special note readers should be aware that this Shire compares very favourably with other in the area of rates assessment.

Readers will also find the community portrait, which has been extracted from data of the recent census, of interest. Information outlines the challenges the Council faces in trying to provide the services our residents have come to expect. Of special concern is the aging of our population. It is necessary that when a Council is planning for communities and the provision of its services, they understand the changes in the numbers of people in key life stages. Of particular note the portrait is the fact that from 2006 to 2011, the oldest (70+ years) life stage grew the most, as a proportion of the Shire’s residences, gaining another 2.0 percent of the population. As well the census noted that the retiring (55-69 years) group also grew by up to 1.4 percent. These changes will put strain on the community’s infrastructure while also providing people with life experiences that may well be of service to the community in other areas. It is Council task to understand and develop strategies that will deliver the best outcomes for the Shire as a whole.

Advice

I strongly encourage residents to continue monitoring conditions in their area, to check and follow your Bush Fire Survival Plan and if you do not have a plan to decide what you will do if the situation changes. Leaving early is your safest option. And if your life or property is in immediate danger call ‘000’.

Everyone’s responsibility

Council’s weed management staff works very effectively in reducing the spread and effect of environmental weeds in the Shire. But they can not do it all themselves. Every landholder and resident has a responsibility to play their part. That is why Council has been supporting the excellent Tussock Tamer project which is continuing in 2013.

I recommend that landholders and residents get involved in this very worthwhile project.

MAYOR’S REPORT

WORKING TOGETHER

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. Australia Day and the presentation of awards has come and gone for another year starting with breakfast in Gunning, morning tea in Crookwell and finishing with lunch in Taralga. Congratulations to all the award winners and nominees. This year’s Australia Day Award winners were:

Event of the Year

Dame Mary Gilmore Weekend

90 Anniversary of CWA National and NSW Masters Cycling Championship Catering Focus on Taralga Art Show

Citizen of the Year

Gunning: Doreen Hanson and Kelly Dowling
Crookwell: Norman Fountain, Reta Beattie and Beatrice Williams
Taralga: Robyn Cummins, Richard Kelly, Bob Blay, Rhonda Flack,
Gunning: Pamela Lees, Joan and Keith Smith

Young Citizen of the Year

Gunning: Brent Hickey
Crookwell: Izach Clements

and a big thank you to Alan Whelpton AO our Australia Day Ambassador.

Fires

We have had a number of bushfires already this summer in the Shire and I believe that if it wasn’t for the fast and dedicated service of our RFS staff and volunteers we wouldn’t have had the success we had.

I would like to thank this opportunity to personally thank our volunteers on behalf of the residents and ratepayers of the Shire for the fantastic job they have done in controlling the outbreaks in very difficult circumstances and hope we can get through to autumn without too many more incidents.

Community Plan

This time of the year we start the process of developing the 2013-2014 the Community Strategic plan for the shire which incorporates a Social and Community plan, a 10 year Community Strategic Plan, a Workforce Plan, an Infrastructure Plan, a Long Term Financial Plan, a 3 year Delivery Program, and an Operational Plan that incorporates the budget for 2013 - 2014.

I urge anyone who may be interested to read some or all the documents and have some input into the final decision of Council whether you attend one of council’s workshops, direct contact with council or on facebook.

Changes

Local government in NSW is in the process of a major review, with amalgamations and/or boundary changes imminent.

I have stated that we as a new Council should be left to get on with the job and that further amalgamation of the UL is not what is best for us. I believe resource sharing and shared services, whether they be front or back office, are the way to go.

Serrated Tussock

Around three years ago I was one of some 120 locals at a big community consulta-
tion meeting in Gunning to find out what people thought were the priority issues for the environment and agriculture in our district. There was clear agreement that weed control, particularly of Serrated Tussock, was by far the major issue we faced.

Council and many in the community have been working on this with some success, particularly in our partnership with local landcare in the Tussock Tamer project. Yet there is still a great deal more we must do.

I am pleased that the Tussock Tamer partners have secured funding to continue this project in 2013. There is more information about Tussock Tamers in this edition The Voice. Please get involved in a Tussock Tamers activity.

It can help you save time and money in weed control as well as making your place and our Shire an even better place to be.

Choose a house you like.
Create a home you love.

Choose a house you like.
Create a home you love.

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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**
**UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL**
**WASTE & RECYCLE COLLECTION SERVICES**

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<tr>
<th>WEEKLY GARBAGE COLLECTION</th>
<th>TUESDAY - CROOKWELL</th>
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<tr>
<td>MONDAY - GUNNING, BREADALBANE, COLLECTOR &amp; DALTON</td>
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<td>THURSDAY - BINGARA, GRABBEN GULLEN, TARALGA &amp; GOLSPIE</td>
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<tr>
<th>FORTNIGHTLY RECYCLING COLLECTION</th>
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A calendar with all waste and recycle collections days can be located on Council’s website www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au or at any Council office.

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**DOMESTIC WASTE**

**How much is the domestic waste management charge?**
The Domestic Waste Management Charge for 2012-2013 is $356.00 per annum for occupied land and $138.00 per annum for unoccupied land.

**Who pays the domestic waste management charge?**
The Domestic Waste Management Charge is applied to all properties, occupied and unoccupied, within the serviced towns and villages (Bingara, Laggan, Grabbenn Gullen, Crookwell, Taralga, Gunning, Collector, Dalton & Breadalbane).

**Why do we pay an unoccupied domestic waste management charge?**
The Local Government Act requires councils to levy domestic waste management charges to all parcels of rateable land. It is considered that all property owners should contribute to the current and future provisions of waste services.

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**NSW NATURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR DECLARED BUSHFIRE AREAS**

The following schemes are available under the NSW Disaster Assistance Arrangements. More information on these schemes can be found in the NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines, available through the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services.

**Website:** www.emergency.nsw.gov.au

**NSW Rural Assistance Authority**

**Website:** www.raa.nsw.gov.au

**Personal hardship and distress assistance**
The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services can provide disaster relief grants to eligible individuals and families whose homes and essential household items have been destroyed or damaged by a natural disaster.

People with limited financial resources and no insurance may be eligible for assistance for essential household items and structural repairs to the home.

**Telephone:** 1800 018 444

**Website:** www.community.nsw.gov.au

**Primary producers – loans**

Loans of up to $130,000 are available (subject to certain eligibility criteria), at a concessional interest rate for those in urgent need. These loans may be used to meet carry-on requirements and the replacement and repair of damage not covered by insurance. The NSW Rural Assistance Authority administers this scheme.

**Telephone:** 1800 678 593

**Website:** www.raa.nsw.gov.au

**Assistance for councils**

Grants are available to meet the additional costs of emergency work to restore essential services, including the provision of emergency levee banks, which are in excess of normal operations. Grants are available to meet 100 per cent of eligible emergency works and 75 per cent of eligible restoration works up to $116,000 with 100 per cent cost recovery beyond that level. The Department of Finance and Services (NSW Public Works) administers this scheme.

**Telephone:** (02) 9372 8871

**Website:** http://publicworks.nsw.gov.au

**Sporting clubs**

A special scheme is available to assist sporting clubs in meeting the costs of restoration of essential club facilities that have been damaged or destroyed. The assistance is made available to those clubs which do not have the financial capacity to meet restoration costs from their own resources. Department of Primary Industries - Catchments and Lands Division, administers this scheme.

**Telephone:** Helen Muldoon on (02) 8258 7424

**Website:** http://www.crownland.nsw.gov.au

**Trustees of parks and reserves**

Provided the facilities concerned constitute "public assets", grants may be made available to those parties (e.g. trustees) responsible for managing Crown Land, parks, and reserves, who do not have the financial capacity to meet restoration costs from their own resources. Department of Primary Industries - Catchments and Lands Division, administers this scheme.

**Telephone:** (02) 9228 5181

**Motor vehicle stamp duty relief**

Motorists whose cars have been written off as a result of a natural disaster may be eligible for a stamp duty refund on their replacement vehicle. Refunds are made where the written off vehicle was comprehensively insured and the insurance does not cover duty for a replacement vehicle. The Office of State Revenue administers these first refunds.

**Telephone:** 1300 139 814

**Website:** www.osr.nsw.gov.au

**Commonwealth/State natural disaster arrangements**

The above schemes are eligible for Australian Government financial assistance, usually by way of a partial or full match of the Australian Government then matches NSW contributions. Assistance is only available to those organisations which do not have the financial capacity to meet restoration costs from their own resources. Advances are subject to a maximum of $25,000 at a concessional interest rate per annum. NSW Treasury administers this scheme.

**Telephone:** (02) 9228 5181

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Plastic is a material that is commonly found in everyday objects. It is made from petrochemicals and is not biodegradable. This means that it will not break down into smaller pieces or disappear over time. Instead, it will remain in the environment for hundreds of years. This has a negative impact on the environment, as plastic waste can harm wildlife and ecosystems.

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The difference between occupied and unoccupied land is that unoccupied land has not been used for a long time and is no longer being actively managed. Occupied land, on the other hand, is land that is being used for some purpose, whether it be for agriculture, residential or commercial purposes.

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Insurance

If you have a query relating to insurance call the Insurance Council. This service is available to all. **Telephone:** 1300 444 557
Bitumen Re-Sealing work has begun on Main Road 54 (MR54), the main State Road passing through Crookwell, linking Bathurst (Ilford) and Goulburn.

Whilst the primary management of State Roads rests with the NSW State Government, Upper Lachlan Shire Council (ULSC) provides an essential role in conducting ‘on-ground’ incident response, surveillance, maintenance and improvement work on this important transport link. The Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), will, this financial year, be engaging ULSC to complete almost $1,000,000 dollars worth of Bitumen Re-Sealing that will see select road segments on MR54 rehabilitated. The work on MR 54 is expected to take place in three ‘block’ periods of two weeks each starting on or about December 10, 2012 and continuing through the months of February and March 2013. The timing of the work is largely dependent on when road surface temperatures are best suited for the work as it must exceed 14 degrees for Bitumen Re-sealing to be effective. This means work must be scheduled in the warmer months of the year and minor delays may be expected by motorists during this period.

As always ULSC urges motorists to take particular care around road work sites, comply with advisory signage and allow additional time on their planned journeys. Whilst some inconvenience may be expected, Upper Lachlan Shire Council shall endeavour to keep these to a minimum and will continue to work, with the community, in providing a safer driving environment.

GUNNING-DALTON WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The $10.8M Gunning and Dalton water security improvement projects are objective is to provide the townships of Gunning and Dalton with secure and reliable water supplies that provide around road work sites, comply with advisory signage and allow additional time on their planned journeys. Whilst some inconvenience may be expected, Upper Lachlan Shire Council shall endeavour to keep these to a minimum and will continue to work, with the community, in providing a safer driving environment.

The $10.8M Gunning and Dalton water security improvement projects objective is to provide the townships of Gunning and Dalton with secure and reliable water supplies that comply with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011). The project also results in more efficient use of water within those communities.

Background

The existing town water supplies in Gunning and Dalton have significant limitations in terms of water security and water quality.

The Gunning system relies on pumping directly from the Lachlan River with chlorination the only form of treatment. When water quality in the river is poor this translates directly to the water provided at the consumer tap. With very limited water storage available, dry periods and flood events have a significant impact on water available to the township.

The Dalton town water supply is sourced from two groundwater bores located within the village. The bore water is of poor quality with elevated salts, hardness and iron levels. Treatment is currently limited to chlorination only. The existing bores are relatively low flow with dry periods impacting upon the quantity of water available to the township.

The Dalton town water supply is sourced from two groundwater bores located within the village. The bore water is of poor quality with elevated salts, hardness and iron levels. Treatment is currently limited to chlorination only. The existing bores are relatively low flow with dry periods impacting upon the quantity of water available to the township.

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Infrastructure

The project components include:

1. A 1.0ML/day Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at Gunning.
2. A 100ML Storage reservoir at Gunning.
3. A new Pumping station and pipeline linking the Lachlan River supply to the new storage reservoir and Water Treatment Plant.
4. Replacement of aged reticulation in Gunning together with a water efficiency program.
5. A new water supply for Dalton that provides a secure supply that provides drinking water meeting the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. Options being considered for Dalton include a Local Water Treatment Plant at Dalton or connection to the upgraded Gunning Water Supply System by a 12km pipeline.

Funding

Gunning and Dalton are both small communities with limited capacity to fund the substantial infrastructure necessary to address the shortcomings of the town water supplies. In recognising this limitation Upper Lachlan Council has been active and successful in obtaining funding support from both the Australian and NSW Government to allow the infrastructure to proceed. Council has also prioritised its water fund reserve to this project.

The Australian Government contribution of $5.4M is under the Australian Governments Water for the Future Initiative through the Strengthening Basin Communities Program. The NSW Government contribution of $4.3M is under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program. The Upper Lachlan Shire Council contribution of $1.1M is from Council’s Water Fund reserve which is being supported by funding contributions from the Gunning, Dalton, Crookwell and Taralga water supply rates and charges.

Further Information

Council will continue to provide further information as the project progresses.

Requests for information in relation to this project can be directed to Council’s Works and Operations Department on 48301033 or council@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au

MAJOR UPCOMING ROAD PROJECTS

Tara Road reconstruction and Bitumen Sealing – Continuation of earthworks West of Mt Rae Intersection. Sealing between Scabben Flat and Mt Rae intersection is programmed late February 2013.

Rehabilitation and drainage improvements – on Peelwood Road between Laggan Village and Golspie Road. Started and scheduled to be completed by mid-February 2013. Only select- ed sections to be treated to improve ride quality and drainage.

Heavy patching on main Road 54 - between Pejar and Goulburn. Begun mid-January and expected to be completed in early February.

Rehabilitation MR54 Wades Hill – An RMS funded project. Works will involve rehabilitation of a 420m section of Wades Hill.

Bitumen resurfacing program - will continue late January into February. Works will be on State Road 54, Regional and local roads throughout the ULSC area.

Pavement rehabilitation – on the Gurranwood Road west of Bannister Lane will commence early February. Works will involve pavement widening and strengthening and removal of crest to improve sight distance for motorists.

Replacement of McDonald St bridge - This will commence late January and take four weeks to complete weather permitting. The works will involve the replacement of the timber bridge with concrete culverts.

Kangaroo Creek bridge deck replacement - Scheduled to commence late February 2013 and works will involve replacement of the timber deck and installation of timber running planks to improve the ride quality and durability of the deck.
This Portrait uses data from the 2011 Census to examine the social and economic characteristics of the residents of Upper Lachlan Shire, looking at how this community differs from NSW, and how it has changed since 2006.

Demography
Population and growth
In the August 2011 Census, 7,193 residents were counted in Upper Lachlan Shire – 3,589 females and 3,604 males. The counted population had increased by 139 or 2.0 percent since the 2006 Census. Of the residents, 6,719 (93.4 percent) were at home on Census night, while 22 were staying elsewhere within the same locality and 453 were staying somewhere else in Australia. There were 242 visitors from elsewhere in Australia staying in Upper Lachlan Shire on Census night; these people are not included in this profile.

Of the residents away from the local area on Census night, there were 1.21 males per female. This is consistent with the general pattern that more men are away from home than women, usually due to more work trips. A high 93 percent of Upper Lachlan Shire residents were Australian citizens, compared with 85 percent for NSW.

The median age is the age where half are younger and half older. It was 8 years older than NSW and 2.5 years older than in 2006. Upper Lachlan Shire had an average of 2.4 residents per occupied dwelling, and 1.1 residents per bedroom. By comparison, NSW averaged 2.6 residents per dwelling and 1.1 per bedroom.

The median personal income in mid-2011 was 12 percent less than the NSW median income of $561. The median mortgage repayment in Upper Lachlan Shire in 2011 was 27 percent or $533 less than the NSW median. The median rent was $160 less than NSW, or 53 percent less.

Key Performance Indicators

This Age Tree illustrates the population's age profile, with each branch representing an age group; older age groups being higher up the tree. The length of each branch is proportional to the number of people in that age group – the shorter branches near the top of the tree show there are fewer older people. Right-hand branches show males in blue; left branches show females in purple.

Population age details
The Shire’s population is much older than found in NSW with a different age structure. The average age in Upper Lachlan Shire was 44 years, which was seven years three months older than NSW.

• Half of the Shire’s population were younger than 46 years, called the median age. A median age that is older than the average age indicates a population short of young people.
• The largest age groups in Upper Lachlan Shire in 2011 were people 60–64, 65–69 and 70–74 years, but fewer people aged 25–29, 20–24 and 30–34 years.

Offsetting this were declines in the relative size of other life stages, such as the birthing age (25–39 years) group, down by 1.5 percent, and the primary school (5–11 years) group down by 1.0 percent. Compared with NSW, the Shire’s life stages that were proportionally larger were the retiring (55–69 years) group, which grew, up by 1.4 percent.

Population

Over 2006 to 2011, the oldest (70+ years) life stage grew most, as a proportion of the Shire’s residents, gaining another 2.0 percent of the population, with the retiring (55–69 years) group also growing, up by 1.4 percent.

This Portrait includes further information helping to define the Upper Lachlan Shire’s Portrait. The VOICE
**CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY THROUGH APRIL 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crookwell AP&amp;H Show</td>
<td>Crookwell</td>
<td>February 9 and 10, 2013</td>
<td>Paul Anderson 0417 985 686</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laggan Bush dance</td>
<td>Laggan</td>
<td>February 16, 2013</td>
<td>Mike Delaney 4837 3397</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gunning PA&amp;I Show</td>
<td>Gunning</td>
<td>February 17, 2013</td>
<td>Kelly Dowling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crookwell Squash Open</td>
<td>Crookwell</td>
<td>February 23 and 24, 2013</td>
<td>Matthew Benjamin 4832 1355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crookwell Potato Festival</td>
<td>Crookwell</td>
<td>March 1, 2 and 3, 2013</td>
<td>Andrew Warren 4832 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunning Wool, Dine &amp; Dance</td>
<td>Gunning</td>
<td>March 2, 2013</td>
<td>Kelly Dowling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Rover Festival</td>
<td>Grabine</td>
<td>March 8, 9 and 10, 2013</td>
<td>Peter Mercer 0403 468 503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taralga AP&amp;I show</td>
<td>Taralga</td>
<td>March 9 and 10, 2013</td>
<td>Kevin Thompson 0425 270 763</td>
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<tr>
<td>Binda Picnic Races</td>
<td>Binda</td>
<td>March 16, 2013</td>
<td>Dianne Layden 4832 1376</td>
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<td>Artists Trail</td>
<td>Crookwell</td>
<td>March 23 and 24, 2013</td>
<td>Lesley Gartrell</td>
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<td>Bigga’s Biggest Market</td>
<td>Bigga</td>
<td>March 30, 2013</td>
<td>Helen Ferris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variety Brats Bash</td>
<td>Crookwell</td>
<td>April 4, 2013</td>
<td>Johnny Paydon 0429 417 993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Youth Week</td>
<td>Shire wide</td>
<td>April 5 and 14, 2013</td>
<td>Brenda Proudman 4830 1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Road Racing</td>
<td>Crookwell</td>
<td>April 20 and 21, 2013</td>
<td>Paul Allport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Garden Scheme</td>
<td>Gunning</td>
<td>April 20 and 21, 2013</td>
<td>Open Garden Scheme ACT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haulin the Hume</td>
<td>Gunning</td>
<td>April 27, 2013</td>
<td>Bernie Boyce 0414 714 993</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AUSTRALIAN POETRY**

This CD comprises a collection of Australian poetry by 16 people which was recorded live at Crookwell, November 17, 2012. It features national and local poets with an introduction by Christopher Lee, local author and screen writer. Upper Lachlan Shire performers are Kim (Boot) Hall, Joyce Edwards, Penny Bartholomew, Elizabeth Egan, Beatrice Williams, Barry Murphy, Sheree Rice, Trevene Mattox and Mike Delaney. Stephen Lindsay of Oceanic Records, Crookwell, recorded and produced the CDs. The content is great entertainment with a standard of excellence that makes this small town very proud of this achievement.

The organisers hope that the community will rally with purchases. The CD is available for $15 at Crookwell Visitor Information Centre, at the Murrumbateman Pub by Canberra performance poet Laurie McDonald is now available at the Crookwell Visitor Information Centre. The CD is a result of a meeting of Laurie with Crookwell’s Stephen Lindsay of Oceanic Records at a recent poetry event in Crookwell. The one hour show, recorded before an audience of about 50 people, features poetry written in the traditional bush poetry style and looks at some of life’s great puzzles in *The Mysteries of Life*, storytelling pieces relating how Merkyl Crud wins the Sydney-Hobart Race, and how Jimbo and his mate fall hopelessly in love with a cabaret singer.

**THE CD LAURIE MCDONALD LIVE...**

The CD is a result of a meeting of Laurie with Crookwell’s Stephen Lindsay of Oceanic Records at a recent poetry event in Crookwell. The one hour show, recorded before an audience of about 50 people, features poetry written in the traditional bush poetry style and looks at some of life’s great puzzles in *The Mysteries of Life*, storytelling pieces relating how Merkyl Crud wins the Sydney-Hobart Race, and how Jimbo and his mate fall hopelessly in love with a cabaret singer.

**CROOKWELL POTATO FESTIVAL**

1st - 3rd March 2013

Spudlympics - Live Music Book Sale - Geoff the Chef - Kidsfest Huge markets - Cooking Demonstrations - Art Show Vintage & Classic Cars - Paddock Tours - Bush Poetry Last Night of the Proms - Quilt Show and much, much more...

**THE CD LAURIE MCDONALD LIVE...**

Poetry competition

**Potato Festival introduces Spud Wagon Junior Australian Poetry competition**

There are two divisions, Primary and High School. Poems can be original or published (Australian only) and can be recited or read, with no mark loss for reading.

**Prizes for each division are:**

1st: Ron Evans hand crafted horse drawn Spud Wagon and $50 cash.

2nd: Australian Poetry Magazine one year’s subscription, 6 issues

Each entrant will receive a Certificate, Highly Commended or Encouragement signed by ULS

For more information go to the website, email info@visitupperlachlan.com.au or call Upper Lachlan Tourism on (02) 4832 1986

Mayor John Shaw and Mr. Alby Schultz MP. As well, renowned poet, Laurie McDonald will introduce the entrants.

Three experienced judges will be using Australian Poetry judging rules, with two others correlating the results. Prize giving will conclude the segment.
RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ALCOHOL FREE ZONE

Council has resolved to re-establish an alcohol free zone over the following public areas in the township of Crookwell:

- Goulburn Street between Laggan Road and East Street
- Denison Street between Roberts Street and Colyer Street
- Spring Street between Cowper Street and Marsden Street
- Roberts Street between Denison and Robertson Street
- Goulburn Lane between Roberts Street and Colyer Street
- Robertson Lane between Laggan Road and Park Street
- Public vehicle parking areas in Spring Street and Roberts Street.

It is proposed that the Alcohol Free Zone will commence on February 24, 2013 for a period of four years unless otherwise revoked or amended by Council resolution.

In accordance with provisions s644A (1) and (2) of the Local Government Act 1993 interested persons are invited to make representation or objection to the proposal. Such representation or objection should be addressed to the General Manager, P O Box 42, GUNNING 2581 and be received by Council within 30 days from the publication of this notice.

Further enquiry concerning the proposal may be made by contacting Council on 4830 1000.

PUBLIC VEHICLE PARKING AREAS

Tuesday night Squash Competition players:
- Back - Brett Shipton, Penny Shipton, Graham Reeves, Brad Storrier, Darren Swift, Eddie Packham, Ben Small. Middle - Anne Reeves, Stephen Fry, Yarran Cady, Henry Osborne. Front - Libbie Storrier, Vicki Kitchen, Del Salter

20 Year Anniversary

‘Aerobic, Resistance & Flexibility Training at your Own Pace’

In January 1993 Matthew and Karen Benjamin came to Crookwell to start a new career and lifestyle at Crookwell Squash and Fitness Centre. Casual and competition squash numbers were low and needed to be regenerated, and existing facilities needed to be upgraded.

Since then new activities have been added to the Centre’s program with the objective of offering aerobic, resistance & flexibility training at clients’ own pace.

Some people may not be aware of the activities available at the Centre. Think about having a casual session of gym, exercise class, squash or racquetball.

Maybe join the Rebound Volleyball, Table Tennis or Squash Club. Personal Training is also available.

If your hockey or footy is rained out think about training in the studio gym.

If you play tennis, the squash court is a great place to practise your racquet skills out of the weather or in between seasons. Finish up with a relaxing Sauna - so perfect for those cold winter days. If you’d like something different for your child’s (or your own) birthday, a Volleyball party might be the answer.

Time for fresh new year of fun & fitness. Join us at the Centre. Open all hours – just make an appointment with Matt or Karen. 4832 1355 – 0419 141 053 – vitalityrealty@gmail.com

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FIRST FUNDING ROUND NOW OPEN

Veolia Mulwaree Trust

Is your community group or organisation planning an exciting project in 2013?

The Veolia Mulwaree Trust may be able to assist with its grant or donation program providing eligible organisations and projects with vital financial assistance, and the first funding round for 2013 is now open.

Charities, schools, preschools, health services, emergency services and many sporting and recreation clubs are among the hundreds of organisations in our local area which have received Veolia Mulwaree Trust funding over the past eight years.

Applications close on February 13 with further rounds to be held throughout 2013. Eligible organisations should visit the Trust’s website at www.mulwareetrust.org.au for further information on how to apply and the application forms required, or call the Veolia Mulwaree Trust office in Goulburn on (02) 48222786.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For media interviews please contact Veolia Mulwaree Trust Chairman Paul Stephenson on 0439272422 or the Veolia Mulwaree Trust office in Goulburn on (02) 48222786.

LOWER POWER BILLS REDUCE CARBON POLLUTION

Visit savemower.nsw.gov.au to find out about NSW Government programs to help households, businesses and public facilities lower power bills and reduce your impact on our environment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For media interviews please contact Veolia Mulwaree Trust Chairman Paul Stephenson on 0439272422 or the Veolia Mulwaree Trust office in Goulburn on (02) 48222786.
Construction of the Gullen Range Wind Farm (the Project) is now underway and on 21 November 2012 the Project team officially broke ground. Construction of the onsite roads, wind turbine foundations and hard stands is underway. The next phase of the Project’s construction requires the transportation of over dimensional loads such as towers, blades, nacelles, transformers and heavy construction equipment e.g. installation cranes.

What to expect
In early 2013 work will commence to prepare the vehicle haulage route to facilitate the transportation of turbines and associated infrastructure to site. This process will include the following stages:
Upgrade to local roads, as required.
Temporary removal of street furniture.
Temporary relocation of services, as required.
Transportation of Project infrastructure.
Reinstatement of pre-existing conditions after temporary modifications.

Keeping the community informed
The Project team will continue to consult with the community as construction progresses. Advance notifications will be provided on the Project website www.gullenrangewindfarm.com. In addition, residents and businesses will be notified prior to works commencing. We will continue to work closely with the community, Councils, local police and the Roads and Maritime Services to ensure planned works have the least amount of impact possible.

For further information, please contact us on:
Freecall: 1800 509 711
Email: info@gullenrangewindfarm.com
Mail: Level 23, 201 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000
www.gullenrangewindfarm.com

Citizen Winners
Crookwell Citizen of the Year – Norman Fountain.
Gunning Citizen of the Year – Joan and Keith Smith.
Taracla Citizen of the Year – Bob Blay.

Upper Lachlan Shire Event of the Year – Dame Mary Gilmore Weekend
The Dame Mary Gilmore event was a weekend of celebration in music, poetry and local history of the life and works of Dame Mary Gilmore.

Whilst the event acknowledged the efforts of Ms. Gilmore in a creative and exciting manner it also successfully promoted the town of Crookwell.

Event Winners
Crookwell – 90th Anniversary of the CWA
Gunning – National and NSW Masters Cycling Championship Catering
Taracla – Focus on Taracla Art Show

Young Citizens of the Year were:
Crookwell Young Citizen of the Year – Izach Clements.
Izach was recognized as a talented, outstanding sportsman and role model at the Crookwell High School.

Gunning Young Citizen of the Year– Brent Hickey.
Brent was acknowledged for his work at the Gunning Show in 2012; his volunteer work 2010 – 2012 ‘Mountain Trails Adventure School as well as his work at Yass High School.
In an emergency call
Triple Zero (000)
Floods and Storms call SES 132500
www.ses.nsw.gov.au
Bushfire Information Line call the NSW Rural Fire Service: 1800 679 737
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

**WIR**es
Southern Tablelands Branch

‘PIXIE’
Pixie is a joey Bare-nosed wombat orphaned last October, when her Mum was killed in a vehicle collision one evening near Bigga. It was fortunate that the young lady driving the car stopped and, despite being distraught, checked the pouch to find it occupied! She carefully removed Pixie and wrapped her up, keeping her warm all night with the help of a hot water bottle, before delivering her to us first thing in the morning. With such a good start Pixie has thrived, as expected, after all she weighed in at 758gm when she arrived, but at the date of writing this (December 12) she weighed in at 1776gm. She was just starting to get her fur when she came into care (feeling a bit like the fuzz on a peach!) but now has a full covering of fine fur which, as she grows, will gradually develop into the thick fur of an adult.

As every wombat carer knows, joey wombats are like miniature bulldozers with the escape powers of Houdini – which makes for some frustrating times when you are first trying to keep a ‘strange and artificial’ teat in their mouth, as opposed to on-demand feeding on Mum’s teat, feed times are a joy rather than a struggle!

She is also starting to venture out of her pouch and play, as only wombats can – energetic rough and tumble, with much play-biting! This play with her ‘foster mum’ simulates the interaction she would normally have with her mother in the burrow, and is vital for her total development and ability to survive when she is eventually released back into the wild.

Wombats are delightful creatures to raise – a truly unique example of our amazing native wildlife.

For help with injured wildlife please ring our Rescue number – 4822 3888. Our volunteers will be only too happy to assist.

Pixie shows the two things baby wombats do best – sleep and play!

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**TOWNSHIP** Engineering and Project Management
Flora and Fauna
On-site Waste Water
Bushfire Risk Assessments

If you're thinking of building, subdividing or any form of property improvement or development that requires the consent of Council or other government departments then we can help.

Please feel free to call us for an obligation free assessment of your situation and advice on how we might be able to help you achieve your objectives.

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**CTT** Certified Practising Planner