

Upper Lachlan Shire Council

NEWSLETTER

Rural living at its best

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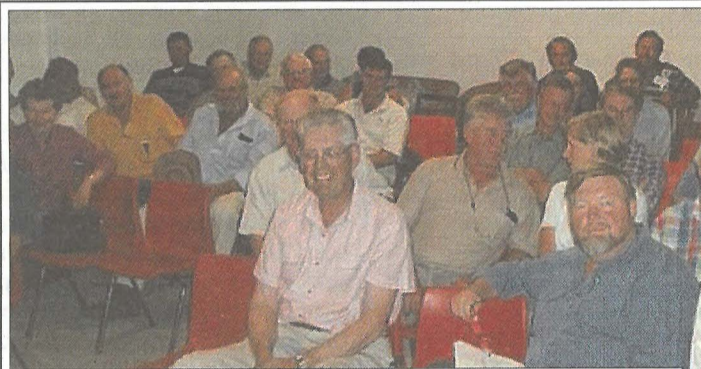
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Lavender Farm meeting show strong resolve



Keen to pave MR248E in their lifetime

The evening of July 16, 2006 saw over 70 concerned residents meet at the Crystal Brook Lavender Farm of Judy and Michael Basille to express their commitment to the paving of Taralga Rd MR248 East, the meeting was co-chaired by Mrs Penny Pittard and Mayor McCormack. Mrs Pittard has been a driving force behind the push to seal this road, which connects the village of Taralga to Crookwell. Residents of the area have been pushing for the past 18 years to seal this road and by the conclusion of the evening it was well understood that their patience was at an end.

Other Upper Lachlan Shire Councillors attending included; Deputy Mayor John Shaw, Brian Moloney, Garry Cosgrove, John Coombs and James Wheelwright, Councillors were supported by the General Manager John Bell and Director of Works Ken Reedy.

Director of Works Ken Reedy informed the meeting that Regional Road 248E is 37.01 Kms in length with 16.57 Kms of it unsealed and that data gathered in 2003 showed that average annual daily traffic was 68 vehicles. Mr Reedy continued, that from the year 2000 through 2005 there had been 16 reported accidents. It

was agreed that not all accidents, for a variety of reasons had been reported. Mr Reedy also informed the meeting of the methods the Council has of gaining funds for the maintenance and reconstruction of roads.

A powerful presentation to the meeting was delivered by Sergeant of Police, Catherine Croatto spoke about the trauma family members of accident victims faced, as well as her own anguish at having to attend such accidents.

"I am sick of attending fatal accidents, of trying to assist victims and later of having to inform family members of the death of their loved ones. If by the sealing of this road we save one life it would be worth the effort", Sergeant Croatto said.

Crookwell Station Ambulance Officer, Mr Lloyd Willis, supported Sergeant Croatto. Also expressing his opinion that many accidents were caused by new travellers to the area who were not familiar with the need for caution when driving on an unsealed road.

The meeting resolved that those attending the meeting would send letters stating their own experiences of driving on MR248E to their local State Representative Ms Katrina Hodgkinson MP. Mr David White, Ms Hodgkinson's representative, promised that his office would pass on each letter to the new Minister for Roads Mr. Eric Roozendaal.

The night concluded with the formation of a committee to seek ways of advancing the sealing of 248E. This committee will consist of Penny Pittard, Cr Brian Moloney, Max Keith, Henry Thompson and Tony McGaw. Mayor Brian McCormack made the commitment to attend such meetings when ever possible.

With 82.6 Kms of unsealed regional roads, the Upper Lachlan Shire Council realises that if these roads are to be sealed in the lifetime of those attending, that some innovative approaches to the sourcing of funding must be found.

Councillors meet Planners

The Upper Lachlan Shire Council met with representatives of the NSW Department of Planning on February 7, 2006 to discuss the progress of the Shire's Local Environment Plan, LEP.

The representatives of the NSW Department of Planning gave Councillors an insight into the planning requirements expected by the State Government as well as taking the time to answer detailed questions from Councillors on how the best outcome could be achieved.

Council was informed that the Department of Planning

would soon be providing a template, which would provide all Councils with clear planning guidelines on most issues. It was stated that the minimum lot size component of the plan would be of considerable importance to the State Planning Minister as well as to Council.

Councillors and Council staff were advised that minimum lot size allocations would need to be backed up with scientific data that supported the economic viability of any proposal.

Councillors thanked the States Representatives for this opportunity to speak freely concerning the Council's task of formulating their new LEP.

'2020' update

Parsons Brinckerhoff are working steadily on the Upper Lachlan Strategy with Module 3 due for completion in March and Module 4 in April.

Module 3 involves the preparation of the local environmental study (LES) which is the background planning study which has gathered information about issues that affect land use and development. The LES will include spatial analysis and mapping, identification of emerging themes, opportunities and constraints and identification of land capability. The LES will be used to prepare the local environmental plan.

Module 4 relates to development of

the strategy. It includes the preliminary strategy framework (social, environmental and economic factors) being identified, review of existing zoning, identifying planning principles and objectives, finalisation of the LES and preparation of the draft local environmental plan.

The LES will include details of technical investigations which will influence the strategy outcomes. These technical investigations include population, water supply, infrastructure and services, heritage, bushfire, flora and fauna, soils and slopes, flooding, transport and residential land supply and demand. These will provide the scientific basis required to determine, amongst other things, zone boundaries and minimum lot sizes for

subdivision. Council would like to plan for growth for the Shire and Parsons Brinckerhoff is developing population projections to address this.

The local environmental plan (LEP) is required to be prepared in a standard template format being developed by the Department of Planning. This template is due in March and will be used to prepare the LEP for the Shire. The template addresses clauses that are standard to the whole state and allows for locally relevant clauses to be added by Council.

For more information contact Mrs Jacqueline Impey on 48 301 000 or go to Council's website - www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au/planning

Australia Day 2006

Australia Day, Thursday January 26, fulfilled its promise, a fun day, celebrating the best of Australia and the Upper Lachlan community.

Excellent crowds attended the celebrations held first in Gunning, then Crookwell and finally in Taralga. Mayor Brian McCormack congratulated all of the volunteers who helped make

the day such a success. He noted especially the turn out at the Crookwell Memorial Oval, which saw the largest crowd to attend a Crookwell Australia Day event in many years.

“Across the Upper Lachlan Shire we are very fortunate to have such strong community spirited residents. “They are the people that help make this such a wonderful place to live”, Mayor McCormack said.

Mr Leon Willis of Crookwell was awarded Shire Citizen of the Year. Gunning’s citizen of the year was awarded to Mr Michael Coley and in Taralga to Mrs. Mary Mooney. Young citizen of year went to Edward Atfield of Crookwell

Events of the year went to the Taralga RSL for the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, in Gunning to the Dalton Cricket Club and in Crookwell to The Crookwell Picnic Races.

Around the Shire

ULEAD formed: Citizens of the Upper Lachlan Shire have formed a new group of civically minded people with the aim of fostering development across the entire Upper Lachlan Shire. The group will be called the ‘Upper Lachlan Economic Advancement and Development’ group, (ULEAD). ULEAD sprang from the ‘Crookwell Region Advancement Group’, (CRAG), which had been operating for the past four years.

Projects for the year ahead include involvement in the LEP process, recycling waste, front end parking for Crookwell’s main street and ways of encouraging tourism. The group’s AGM was held on February 6, 2006 in the Upper Lachlan Shire Chambers in Crookwell, included Gil Skidmore, David Montgomery, David Rees, Sally Bramley, Mike Coley, Roslyn Joseph and new members Paul Anderson and Hank Spirek.

Councillors were represented by Bill Martin, John Coombs and Council by John Bell, the Council’s General Manager and Brenda Proudman. Direct any queries to the General Manager, Mr John

Bell, Upper Lachlan Shire, PO Box 10 Crookwell, NSW 2583 or by phone on 4830-1000. ULEAD is a S.355 Committee of Council. Such Committees are community volunteers who actively participate in improving the Shire.

Crookwell AP&H



Crookwell AP&H Show girl for 2005/06 Ms Felicity Wheelwright and outgoing President Mrs. Katrina Nixon welcome Grace Marshall, Alex Craig and Bianca Picardi to the 2006 show. This year’s AP&H show was one of the best in recent history, with record crowds enjoying the work of a large number of exhibitors. Council congratulates the volunteer work of all involved.

Golspie Celebrates

The Centenary of Golspie was celebrated November 26, 2005 at Golspie Hall Golspie. The event began with the launch of a new publication ‘The History of Golspie’. This is a historical publication in two volumes. Volume one deals with the founding of the area and volume two covers events up to the present day. Both volumes are available through the Tourist Promotional Centre in Crookwell or by contact either Ken Bell on 4829-2166 or Chris Croker on 48433-1441.

Scouts looking for more

The Scouts have recently reformed in Crookwell and look to keep expanding. Interested parents should contact Mr David Johnston on 4832-0425 for more information.

Grants received



Taralga Rugby Union team, Upper Lachlan Shire Champions. Back L-R; Chris Gayle, Joel Cordingly-Gary Corby, Mitch Croker, Dean Cupitt, Trent Sherwin, and Mitch Wilson. Middle row L-R; Tom Hank, Jason McPherson, Adam Wilson, Nathan Craig, William Hedley, Justin Smith, Adam Moloney, Mathew Stephenson and Dave Buggie-Trainer. Front row L-R; Craig Croker, Brad Croker, Wayne Francis, Rick Buckley, Coach-Evan Rees, Captain-Davey Croker, Charlie Bell and Ben Croker.

Taralga Rodeo, AP&H show and other local sporting clubs. Resulting in a playing field that was deemed to be a health risk for the players.

Mr David Rees, President of the Taralga club, believes the success in acquiring this grant was a community plus council effort that will be good for the club as well as the town. “The process started some time ago with a request by the club to the Taralga Showground Coop and the Council to develop an unused area near the present show grounds for our matches.

The Upper Lachlan Shire has recently been notified that four out of the five Capital Assistance Grants applied for in September 2005 were successful.

The grants included ‘Kids off the Streets’ for Fossil Park in Dalton, Bigga Welcome Park, Stage II, the Crookwell swimming pool diving board replacement and an all purpose sports field for Taralga applied for by the Taralga Rugby Union. Grant money for these four projects totalled \$36,357.

Taralga’s all purpose field: The Taralga Rugby Club received the largest single grant totalling \$13808. This money will go towards the total cost of the \$29728 for a new playing field.

The Taralga team has been playing on the existing public field, which is also used for such events as the

“The Council, with the support of local Councillor Brian Moloney, agreed to help us by surveying the area and in the preparation of the grant application. Without this assistance we would have found it hard going,” Mr Rees said.

Such grants require the receiving group to match ‘in kind’ any funds gained. The Taralga Club after sourcing quotes from private contractors will match the grant through their members labour.

“We are eager to begin and will start the project as soon as we have an idea when we will receive the money. We want to make sure that we have a quality field when we defend the Upper Lachlan Shire Cup we won last year,” Mr Rees said.

Crookwell Country Weekend



The Blinders to wail in Crookwell

The Crookwell Country Weekend is just days away, (March 11 and 12). For those who are new settlers to the area Crookwell Country Weekend is one of the highlights of this community’s calendar.

Thousands of locals and visitors mingle with one aim in mind – to relax, have fun and savour this unique ‘Top of the Range’ event. The Crookwell will open the main street on Saturday March 11 to a variety of street stalls, marching bands, antique automobiles,

as well as the art and craft of the area.

Country Weekend festivities would not be complete without the strum of guitars and wail of a saxophone. This year visitors will be able to listen to popular performers ‘The Blinders’.

The Blinders are a unique band that is not content on being pigeonholed. The band plays a mix of swing, jump’n’jive, blues, rockabilly and country sounds of the 40’s and 50’s. Featuring both keyboard and saxophone, which provide driving rhythms and inventive lead lines that blend with a rock solid rhythm section to provide entertainment that is rated with the best.

Sunday activities will be taken over by Laggan Primary School. The day will be called ‘Set the Record’ and will be specifically designed for children and their families. The day will be full of fun events, such

as car ramming, loudest scream, wet tracksuit relay and a ten-legged race. Times will be recorded so that each following year they can be contested.

The Crookwell Country Weekend begins Saturday morning March 11 from 9 am and runs through Sunday March 12. Come and join in the fun everyone is welcomed.

Another note: On a more serious note, The Upper Lachlan Tourist Association is about to commence working on a shire wide tourism plan. This is expected to take a good part of the year.

The Tourist Association welcomes resident’s suggestions and ideas. Please forward them to Mr Scott Pollock at the Upper Lachlan Tourist Centre, 106 Goulburn Street, Crookwell 2583 or phone 4832-1988.

Your 24 / 7 Library



Henry Wilson at the key board

Did you know you can access your library’s catalogue and on-line services in the comfort of your home, any time you like?

All you need to do is go the library’s website at

www.strl.nsw.gov.au

The website provides user friendly access to the Southern Tablelands Regional Library’s collection and information services which include:

The ability to search the library’s catalogue which holds over 100,000 items, reserve books and renew loans.

The Kids Online and Teens web sections which provide links to a host of fun activities and great homework support.

The ‘Ask Now!’ live reference service which combines the speed of the Internet with the

information skills of librarians.

A regional Community Information database

Access to a number of premium databases such as Encyclopaedia Britannica, Health and Wellness Resource Centre, as well as business, literature and family history information resources.

Readers’ advisory information to assist you in choosing a ‘good read’ or joining a reading group.

Information about library membership, policies, services and opening hours.

All this and more can be accessed free of charge. All you need is your library membership card and PIN. Some sites require the use of passwords so just ask library staff about these.

So, why not join the many library members already utilising the great services provided by your 24 hour, 7 day a week library?

For further information please contact Crookwell Library on 4832-1048 or Gunning Library on 4845-1232.

Notice Board

Taralga markets happen the second Sunday of each month at the Taralga Memorial hall, for further details please phone 4840-2244.

Gunning markets are held in on the last Sunday of each month. Please contact Michael Coley on 4845-1566 for more information.

Bigga’s biggest market will be held on March 25 and interested parties should phone Maureen Bale on 4835-2080.

Off Road Racing draws a crowds: For off-road racing enthusiasts the Crookwell Club will hold a club meet on March 5 at Storrier’s Gravel Pit off Grabben Gullen Road. Admission is free and catering is available. For more details phone 4832-1321

Country Welcomes visitors: Crookwell hold’s it’s annual ‘Country Weekend’ on the streets of Crookwell on March 11-12. Plenty of food, entertainment and local country wares. An important part of the weekend’s events include an art exhibition being held at the Gallery in the Memorial Hall. The exhibition will be opened on Friday night March 10 by Ms Brenda Proudman. The show will be also be open on Saturday from 10am until 3pm and on Sunday from 10am until 12 noon.

Taralga’s AP&H show takes place at the Taralga show grounds on the March 10-11 weekend.

Crookwell Picnic Races: This much anticipated event will be held on March 25 at the Binda race track. So put on your best frock and most outrageous hat and make a day of it, that goes for the ladies as well.

Mayor's column



Welcome back: As Mayor of the Shire I am pleased to note that Sergeant Catherine Croatto is back dealing with the policing problems of Crookwell. Sergeant Croatto is an asset to the community and has Council's full support.

Sergeant Croatto commented that progress was being made to deal with the anti social behaviour that has taken place lately.

"It is vital in a small community like Crookwell that the police and the community work together. The police will not

tolerate anti-social behaviour and I assure you that steps are being taken to deal with those few that are causing problems.

"Those that were responsible for the skid marks in Crookwell have either been ticketed or warned. The police are committed to making Crookwell safe, as well as a beautiful place to live", Sergeant Croatto said.

LEP: A meeting has recently been held between Councillors, Council staff and Parson's Brinkerhoff. This meeting helped clarify a number of issues and went a long way towards the development of this Shire's next Local Environment Plan.

I want to assure all residents of the Upper Lachlan that we will continue to work closely with Parson's Brinkerhoff and make sure the public has a document ready for their comment as soon as possible. It is our intention to do the best we can to pro-

tect our ratepayers.

Roads: The state of the Shire's roads are a major concern to all residents.

Many will know that the State Government has cut \$750,000 of grant money to our shire, this will undoubtedly have a considerable impact on what we as a Council can achieve. Councillors recently met with staff to plan on how this shortfall and other road related issues can be dealt with. Council recognises that only by working together can we make the best use of the resources available.

Meeting: On the issue of roads, a meeting with the group "The Concerned Users of 248 East" convened by Mrs Penny Pittard was held on February 16 with Upper Lachlan Shire Councillors.

The Council have met with various groups interested in making the Shire a better place to live, Big Hill and Collector being

examples. We intend on continuing this practice and welcome citizens who have special needs to contact either myself, other Councillors or the General Manager Mr John Bell.

Events: The efforts of volunteers across the Shire should be congratulated; the Taralga Rodeo committee, the Australia Day committees of Gunning, Taralga and Crookwell should be congratulated. Crookwell's Australia Day celebration had their best ever attendance.

AP&H Societies mean a lot to this Shire. An excellent show was held in Crookwell on the weekend of February 11 and 12 with large crowds and more exhibitors than ever. As this paper is going to the printers on Friday February 17, I want to wish the AP&H Committee of Gunning the best of luck on their show February 18-19. I feel confident they will show the country face of Gunning to its best advantage.

Name Me Contest

In the first newsletter distributed in December 2005 a contest started to help name the Upper Lachlan Shire's newsletter. Nearly 50 names entered the contest and Council has decided to close entries and will now start to seek opinions of Councillors and Council staff before choosing the paper's name. The winner will be announced in the next newsletter

scheduled for mid April.

The Council wishes to thank all those that took the time to put forward their suggestions. This newsletter is your contact with the Council you are encouraged to continue sending your ideas.

Future directions

From April only those who make a written request will receive their newsletter by

post. Send such requests to the Upper Lachlan Shire, PO Box 10, Crookwell, 2583.

The next two newsletters will be published in April and June and will be available through your community's newsagent, food store and council offices.

Publications after the June edition will be decided during the formation of 2006/07 financial plans.

Water and sewer report

The Crookwell water supply catchment received 138 mm of rainfall for the month of January. The Crookwell Dam had dropped to 93% of capacity in mid January. Runoff following the rainfall rapidly restored the Dam to 100% capacity. The dam is now 20 mm below the overflow, which is an equivalent capacity of 98% or 400ML. The Harley Road bores have been used to supplement consumption during peak demands. There are currently no water restrictions in place for the Town of Crookwell.

The Crookwell Water Supply Master Plan is progressing well. Options to improve water quality and pressure have been completed. Initial alterations to the water reticulation network within Crookwell have allowed for considerable improvement in water quality and pressure, particularly in the Kialla Road area.

Dalton water: The village received substantial rainfall during the month of January. The water levels in the two village water supply bores cannot be monitored and therefore the impact of antecedent rainfall on bore levels is

unknown. The village bores continue to recharge at a suitable rate to meet community water supply demands.

There are currently no water restrictions in place. The data indicates an irregular seasonal trend in water consumption. Given the relatively small volume of water consumed in the village, isolated extractions can have a significant impact on overall consumption figures. It is anticipated however, that improved metering techniques will allow for an improvement in data accuracy and thereby establishment of consumption trends.

A report seeking State Government funding for improvement to the village water supply is under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program has recently been submitted to the Department of Energy Utilities and Sustainability. The application will be considered at an inter-departmental committee meeting to be held on 21 February.

A water Supply Options Report has recently been completed. Council has adopted a rain-water tank installation strategy as the preferred augmentation.

Gunning water: The

area's water supply catchment received substantial rainfall during the month of January. The water level in the intake well recovered from 3.37m to 4.27m and thereby negated the need for water restrictions. High flows in the Lachlan River have increased the amount of turbidity in the water supply and elevated colour levels have been experienced. The Gunning intake well provides for only a limited ability to control colour levels in the water. The water remains safe for all domestic uses. The colour and turbidity of the water has now returned to normal levels. There are currently no water restrictions in place.

The second stage of the Gunning Water Master Plan is 70% complete. Concept development and options for improvements in the reliability of the supply in terms of quantity and quality of supply have been undertaken. Options to optimise the sewerage system to allow for future expansion are currently underway. It is currently anticipated that the findings of the report will be presented to Council in March or April.

Improvements to the river intake pipe work have also been recently completed. Investiga-

tions have been made to replace the raw water meter and allow for more accurate bulk water usage and consumption, and thereby the establishment of trends in consumption.

Taralga water: The Taralga water supply catchment received substantial rainfall during the month of January. Woolshed creek has flowed at a suitable rate to allow Council staff to pump an adequate volume of water to maintain the 27 ML off stream storage at capacity while meeting the community daily water demand. Despite the above average rainfall during January, as of February 13 the Woolshed Creek upstream of the weir has ceased running. Council Staff are currently pumping from a spring downstream to maintain the village water supply.

There are currently no water restrictions in place for the village.

A report seeking State Government funding for improvement of the village water supply under that recently been submitted to the Department of Energy Utilities and Sustainability. The application will be considered at an inter-departmental committee meeting to be held on 21 February.

Upper Lachlan Shire 1.5 mil surplus on track

The Upper Lachlan Shire Council's Director of Finance and Administration Mr Andrew Croke, presented the second Quarterly Budget Review to Council on February 9, illustrating the health of the Shire's finances.

The Director's year-to-date financial overview illustrated that the Shire was ahead of budget estimates in the collection of rates, investment revenues and operating budgeted income.

The Directors report noted that year-to-date operating expenditure was at 53.87% due to mitigating circumstances such as private works expenditure that had not been invoiced totalling an estimated income of \$500,000 remained to be paid to Council. Council has also paid annual invoices in the area of various insurances, and vehicle and plant registrations.

Mr Croke stated that the actual year-to-date budget is in line with budget estimates and in his opinion that overall the Upper Lachlan Shire has a financial health that many Council's would envy.

Depression does not discriminate

Around 80,000 Australians suffer depression each year with a cost of treating estimated to be \$600 million a year.

To help raise awareness of depression and educate the community of the Upper Lachlan Shire and surrounding districts the Upper Lachlan Shire Council, the Gunning District Community, The Lions Club of Gunning and Beyond Blue have organised a free public meeting to discuss this health issue to be held Monday night March 20, 2006. The meeting will be at the Gunning Shire Hall, at 7pm for 7:30. All members of the public are welcomed. Speakers will include a clinician; a carer and former mental illness sufferers.

Deputy Mayor John Shaw said: "The primary objective of this community forum is to create an environment of open discussion where people can share their stories, experiences and thoughts about depression. Providing the community with accurate information is the first step forward towards reducing the stigma suffered by people with depression."

"Depression does not discriminate. It impacts not only on the lives of those who have the illness but also their families, friends and work colleagues", Deputy Mayor said.

BINDA PICNIC RACES BUS

Saturday March 25

\$5 PER PASSENGER

Courtesy buses will travel from Crookwell, Taralga and Gunning to the Binda Picnic Races, returning immediately after the last race

Limited tickets are available and must be purchased before 17 March



DRINKING KILLS DRIVING SKILLS

An initiative of Upper Lachlan Council as part of the State Government Road Safety Program

Emergency after hours contact numbers:

Crookwell/Bigga/Binda/Tuena/Grabben Gullen/Laggan/Taralga/Big Hill areas: Roads, bridges and tips (0429)788-665 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

Road Works



The Works Manager Mr Garry Anable presented Council, at the February 9 Works Plant Committee Meeting, the planned near term road works scheduled.

Mr Anable noted that due to the heavy storms of the past few weeks some roadwork had been delayed. There are also several projects that demand considerable resources of the Works Department.

The Works Manager informed Council that Construction Gang 1 was attending to the recent storm damage, heavy patching on MR54 between Crookwell and Goulburn as well as the reconstruction of Gordon Street.

Construction Gang 2 is continuing with the Gunning to Crookwell Road reconstruction. This

project is due to be finished by April. The gang is also working on the reconstruction of Range Road near Bannister.

The Bridge Gang has finished with the storm water damage in the Peelwood area, undertaken repairs on the Collector Road Bridge and the timber footbridge at Kiama Creek, Crookwell.

Their next project is the regular maintenance of the Abercrombie Bridge on the Taralga to Oberon Road.

Drainage Gang 1 is working to repair the storm damage on Wangalo, Peelwood, and Millsvale Roads as well as attending to the normal drainage maintenance on selected roads.

Drainage Gang 2 is programmed to complete heavy patching on Biala Road and to start kerb and guttering construction at Breadalbane in front of the old pub.

The third Drainage Gang is scheduled to complete drainage maintenance on Pudman Creek Road as well as the table drain maintenance on Crookwell to Gunning Road at selected

locations.

General maintenance gangs 1-2 will be working on selected roads undertaking routine activities including pothole patching, rubbish removal and guidepost maintenance.

Maintenance Gang 3 is working to repair the intake pipe at the Gunning water supply and MR54 vegetation and guidepost maintenance.

This gang is continuing their work on the disable ramp at the Taralga Post Office.

Mr Anable noted that water has been difficult to source for the Grading Gang and this has impacted on the amount of work that could be undertaken.

Maintenance teams have been working in the Bigga area (Greenmantle), Reids Flat, and Fogs Crossing.

Work was also being undertaken on MR248E and the Golspie, Dalton, Bevendale, Rhyanna and Middle Arm areas.

Rural Sheds Council receives many enquiries about rural sheds. Council approval in rural zones is not required for rural sheds under the following circumstances.

If the shed is at least 10m from any boundary or more than 40m from a water course, as well it can not be greater than 300 square metres. Council regulations also require that the floor level is not greater than 1 metre above the

ground; and does not exceed 10m in height. Any chemicals or fuels are to be stored to contain spills within the building. Eg. a bund.

Council approval is required for any intensive agriculture use, drainage such as hand basins, toilets, showers and the like as well as for using the shed for habitation.

Council will not support sheds

being used as weekenders, or used for human habitation without the shed being fully constructed to residential standards of the Building Code of Australia. Dwelling entitlement issues may impact on Council's assessment process.

For further enquiries please contact Council's Environment and Planning division on 4830-1000.



Free chemical collection

Want to get old pesticides and herbicides off your farm?

Take them to a free chemical collection organised by the Sydney Catchment Authority, the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) and Upper Lachlan Shire Council. The collection will take place between 9:00am and 3.30pm on Sunday 5 March at Crookwell Saleyards, Laggan Road, Crookwell.

Chemicals that can be dropped off include pesticides and herbicides (fungicides, baits/poisons, wood preservatives), paint and paint-related products, solvents and household cleaners, motor oils and fuels, batteries, gas bottles, fire extinguishers, pool and hobby chemicals (photography chemicals etc), acids and alkalis. Only household quantities are accepted and once collected, chemicals are made safe, recycled or destroyed.

"By supporting chemical collection programs landowners in the catchment areas are working to protect their local environment and waterways," the SCA's General Manager of Catchment Operations & Major Projects, George Dodds said.

Unwanted chemicals should be packed in secure containers and carefully transported to collection points to ensure that chemicals do not leak or spill.

For more information on substances and materials that will be accepted, information on how to transport chemicals safely, other collection sites in your region or if you intend to drop off large amounts of chemicals please call the Clean Out Hotline on 1300 787 870 or go to www.cleanout.com.au

Emergencies

The Upper Lachlan Shire has been experiencing numerous violent storms this summer season.

The resulting damage has included the flooding of roads, down trees and damage to personal property. These emergency situations demand immediate attention.

The Upper Lachlan Shire has a duty-officer available 24 hours per day to take details and arrange assistance. Residents should be aware that storms can impact on the entire community so if your phone call is not answered immediately please leave a message, which includes your name and contact phone number. The Council Officer on duty will attend to your problem as soon as possible. The Coun-

cil's areas of responsibility include; fallen trees on road-ways, flood water and straying livestock. The Council is not responsible for damage to private property. Residents are encouraged to phone council if unsure whether an emergency situation requires Council's or the SES attention.

During normal business hours phone the council office which is the nearest the incident. For Taralga phone 4840-2099, near Gunning 4845-4100 and in Crookwell 4830-1000. After hours phone numbers are for the Gunning, Dalton, Collector and Breadalbane areas 0427454206 and for Crookwell, Taralga, Binda, Bigga, Tuena, Laggan and related areas phone 04297-86659. Please respect Council workers privacy and do not phone them at their home phone numbers, use the emergency numbers first.

Wait a minute

Photographic competition: The Lachlan Catchment Management Authority is holding a "Land and Life in the Lachlan Catchment" Photographic Competition, which is open to all interested people.

The subject matter will be restricted to the locality of the Lachlan Catchment. Entries are invited as either colour or black and white prints, digital images must be submitted as prints. Photographs should have been taken no earlier than 2002, must be unpublished, not have won any other competition and prints must be at least 7 X 5 inches and not exceed 8 X 10 inches. Entries are unlimited, entries at 4 pm Friday March 31, 2006.

Entries can be dropped into any Lachlan Catchment Management Authority Office or posted to Photographic Competition Lachlan Catchment Management Authority PO Box 726, Forbes NSW 2871.

Counting residents in the Upper Lachlan: The Upper Lachlan Shire with the rest of Australia is about to be counted.

Mayor McCormack is urging residents of the shire to put their hand up and become involved.

"This census is vital for the planning of services to the Upper Lachlan Shire. Evidence indicates that the shire's population is increasing yet past census numbers had predicted a gradual decline in population.

"For this census to be a success it is important that civic-minded people join the undertaking the Mayor said.

On August 8, 2006 the Bureau of statistics will be conducting the Census of Population. If you are over 18, and have access to a car and home telephone, you may wish to apply for the positions. This is an opportunity to earn some extra cash as well as doing something worthwhile for the Upper Lachlan Shire community.

Those interested can get further details by logging on to www.abs.gov.au/recruitment or by phoning 1-300-236-787. Information will be available from February 11 2006 for Area Supervisors, and from April 8, 2006 for Collector positions, and applications can be lodged at that time.

Invitation to health: The Australian Health Care Directory is a social enterprise to promote health and aged care services free of charge.

healthdirectory.com.au is an internet-based vertical market directory/portal, a social enterprise. Designed to assist people to navigate the health and aged care industry. Public sector, not-for-profit health services and aged care providers can have a presence on the directory as a free community service.

Such groups are welcomed to feature their health and aged care services. For more information contact Richard O'Hagan, Online Srohagan@healthdirectory.com.au

Weeds control

The Upper Lachlan Shire is a rural based Council. Many ratepayers rely heavily on their ability to maximise their agricultural production. Council understands that to help these ratepayers the control of weeds needs to be given a high priority.

Council stresses that all landowners have both a legal and moral obligation to control noxious weeds to protect own property as well as neighbouring properties from weed invasion.

As part of that responsibility the Council, through its weeds Manager, Mr Paul

Brown, reminds property owners that 2006 has seen the introduction of the Noxious Weeds Amendment Bill. This Bill will revise the way Council enforces the control of noxious weeds.

Mr Brown said, "Landholders are reminded that harsh penalties exist under the Act for landowners who fail to control noxious weeds."

Mr Brown suggested that all landowners survey their properties for the presence of any noxious weeds. If assistance is required with the identification or implementing control programs assistance can be obtained by contacting a Weed Officer at one of Council's offices

This is the time of year to

survey your property for woody weeds such as blackberry, briars, broom and Gorse.

Leaflets that help in the identification and eradication of these weeds are available at Shire offices in Taralga, Gunning and Crookwell. After years of hand feeding it is likely that weeds from other areas may have been imported. Be aware of any unusual vegetation growth and should you such growth be located seek information from the Council's Weed's Officers.

In Taralga contact the Manager Paul Brown on 4840-2099, in Gunning phone Mr Dennis Hillier on 4845-4123 and in Crookwell phone Mr Geoff Nicholson on 4830-1023.