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Upper Lachlan looks after mates



Manager of the Crookwell Services Club Greg Seaman Congratulates organizer of 'Mates Night' Garry Kadwell

Smiles all around: L-R Anne Muir, DPI Director, Denny Anderson Baptist Services, Dick Kearins Drought Services Worker and event organizer Paul Anderson of DPI.

Hold your head high

Occasionally, and usually in times of considerable stress, a few people take actions beyond their self-interest and act to the benefit of the society as a whole. The result is an opportunity for the society to understand their considerable need for each other and to stand as one. Just such an event occurred at the Crookwell Services Club on Friday, November 3, 2006 when nearly 600 local, Upper Lachlan and Southern Highlands responded to the efforts of Garry Kadwell and Paul Anderson to hold a 'Mates Night' in response to the worsening impact of the drought declared 'worst in Australian history'.

"Crookwell you can hold your head high," Garry Kadwell said. While the effort to organise the night was not always easy Garry said, "not one person turned down my request for assistance, not the Council, not Greg Seaman here at the Services Club, not businesses, not individuals, not the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), not the Police nor the Emergency Services.

"This was an evening the people of Crookwell acknowledged the problems of the farmers and are

willing to show their support for what they are going through," Garry said.

Endangered species- the community stands up

According to that evening's keynote speaker, Mal Crowe, of Lifecare Counselling and Family Services, the people of Crookwell and the surrounding area were showing their strong sense of what was needed to deal with this terrible drought, the community.

"I am humbled by the palpable sense of community that is on show this evening" Mr Crowe said.

"What you are doing here tonight is conserving an endangered species - the community and it is a sense of community that has been disappearing across Australia. "The individual in the Bush is good at dealing with problems, but these times are bigger than any one person. These are times that only a community can deal with and you have told that to the Government.

"You have said that we'll tell you what we need and not accept just what you want to give and what we need are the resources to hold your town together.

"I believe the rest of the nation will applaud Crookwell and surrounding regions for their willingness to stand

up for their community," Mr Crow said.

Contact numbers for those needing assistance are Dick Kearins, Drought Support Worker, (02) 4828-6614; Bill Bladwell Southern Tablelands Rural Counselling Service, (02) 4832-000, Liz Veitch Centrelink's Rural Services Officer 0418-687-836, Salvation Army Rural Chaplain, rural Mental Health 1800-201-123, Lifeline 131-114, Relationships Australia (02) 6122-7100 and Uniting Church Rural Chaplain (02) 6344-2920.

Further Contacts: Wheeo - Glenda McCue 4836-7284, Fullerton - Nerrida Croker 4834-2133, Bannister-Helen Price 4844-3157, Bigga-Roslyn Joseph 4835-2021 and Megan Picker 4835-2220, Narrawa-Andrea Rodger 4836-5276, Grabben Gullen-Terri Montgomery 4836-7366, Binda - Janet Cramp 4835-6072, Peelwood/Tuena Lesley Hall 4834-6021, Laggan-Graeme and Pat Murray 4837-3289, Cotta-Walla-Barb Carter 4832-1495, Mulgowrie - Chris Brennan 4835-3141, Sylvia Vale - Helen Badgery 4835-3140.

Other events:

Communities wishes to hold similar events should contact NSW DPI on 4828-6600.

Country Energy
investing in the Upper Lachlan



Regional General Manager
South Eastern, David Bellew

Prepare for Mother Nature's stormy presence

As Mother Nature prepares to exercise her force through spring and summer storms, Country Energy is reminding people of possible power outages and dangers associated with fallen power-lines.

Outages are out of the utility's control, what is controllable is the actions of the community during and after a storm and the preparations they can make.

Country Energy's regional general manager, south eastern David Bellew said, "It'd be great to think that

we could control the impact of storms on the electricity network so that people were not affected by outages, but the reality is that Mother Nature is her own master. and we can only recommend safety tips to help our customers be prepared".

See page 5 for safety tips.

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Local Gunning resident NSW Fire Brigade Officer Paul Hennessy and Gunning Swimming Pool Manager Matthew Den's concern for the safety of swimmers at the Gunning Swimming Pool has led to the donation of an 'Oxy Viva 3 Resuscitator' by the NSW Fire Brigade.

This device will go a long way to relieving the safety concerns both Paul and Matthew had for Gunning swimmers. With the nearest ambulance service operating from Goulburn, 30 minutes away, the pair worked with NSW Fire Brigade to locate the resuscitator presented at the Upper Lachlan Shire Council's October 26, 2006 meeting.

Deputy Mayor John Shaw thanked Paul and Matthew for their efforts and the NSW Fire Brigade for their generosity. "The Council appreciates the efforts of these gentlemen. Where as we hope this de-



L-R Deputy Mayor John Shaw, NSW Fire Brigade Superintendent Stephen Davis, Matthew Den and NSW Fire Brigade Officer Paul Hennessy

vice will never have to be used it is recognised as a considerable asset for Gunning and is a further step in the provision of the Council's duty of care." The Council also took the opportunity to thank Matthew Den for his good work as Gunning

Swimming Pool Manager. Matthew is about to start his second year as Manager. In his first year Matthew organised pool parties as well as providing young swimmers with safety devices to assist in their learning to swim.

Library biz

'Books for Bubes' continues

Crookwell and Gunning Libraries are now set to continue to encourage the love of reading in a new generation. The continuation of a program commenced in 2005, will assist local parents to develop their children's literacy skills.

The 'Books for Babies' Program provides a free kit to the mothers of newborn babies. The kit contains a book appropriate to babies, a baby's bib, information about collections and activities provided for young children and parents at the local library, a pamphlet instructing parents on the benefits of reading to young babies and a number of other items.

The 'Books for Babies' Program was previously sponsored in Crookwell by Davies Newsagency, The Crookwell Country Weekend Committee, The Crookwell Country Women's Association and the Crookwell Library Friends.

In recognition of the importance of the program the Upper Lachlan Shire Council and the Southern Tablelands Regional Library have

taken up its sponsorship for a further 12 months.

The 'Books for Babies' program has been very well received throughout the community and is making a valuable contribution to promoting literacy and library use amongst families in the area.

There is no greater gift a parent can give their child than a love of books and reading.

Parents sharing the journey and characters in a story with their young child enjoy a wonderful bonding experience ... and it's never too early to start!

It is no surprise that children who are read aloud to on a regular basis when they are young are more readily able to learn to read once they start school.

The kits will once again be distributed in Crookwell on behalf of the library by Marie Eldridge from the Crookwell Hospital's Baby Health Clinic, and in Gunning and Taralga by the nurses from Goulburn Community Health.

If you would like to know more about this exciting program, please contact Kerri-ann at the Crookwell Library on 48321048.

The Crookwell Library is open

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

Gunning Library is open 2pm - 5pm Tuesday and Wednesday, 1.30pm - 5pm on Thursday and on Fridays from 10.30am - 5pm.

Pirate Parade

School holidays may never be the same again!

On Thursday 6 October, 2006, for over two hours Crookwell Library was overrun by the 'pirate crew' of seventeen 5 to 9 year old children, under the watchful eye of Cap'n Purple, Queen of the Pirates and First Mate, librarian Kerri-ann Pratley. There were stories of treasure and treachery, Treasure Hunts and pirate games. Of course, no self respecting pirate would be seen without their pirate hat, hand made by each child ... ooh sorry ... pirate. The day was so successful that regrettably, children who had not pre booked their place had to be turned away.

Watch out for the Christmas Holiday!

a great variety of wonderful prizes to be won. All proceeds from these raffles will be going towards a much needed defibrillator heart start machine for the Park.

On Sunday Morning a Recovery breakfast will be held just below the Park kiosk. Entertainment will be provided by Country Western crooner Peter Pratt. Peter comes from Illabo in NSW's Central West. A bus will be running from the foreshore to the Park Kiosk and the concert arena at selected times over the three days for the people who wish to make the journey by boat from Wyangala Waters State Park.

Cost for this exciting event, which includes camping and entry for the entire weekend is only \$25 per adult and \$7.50 per child (12 - 16 years) if purchased before November first 2006. Tickets purchased after this date are still only \$30 per adult and \$10 per child (12 - 16 years). Children under 12 years of age are absolutely free. Buy early and save!!!

For any information contact either JASON KIRK, Event Coordinator and Park Manager on (02) 48 352 345, email grabinestate-park@bigpond.com. Alternatively, you can call DAVE PAGE, Production Manager on 0419 137761 or email jackemmy@aapt.net.au.

Mayor welcomes new citizen

Never too young to take a big step Mrs Barbara Apps of Gurrundah at the September 28, 2006 Ordinary meeting was conducted through the Australian citizenship ceremony by Mayor Brian McCormack.



Mrs Barbara Apps and Mayor Brian McCormack are all smiles after Mrs Apps citizenship ceremony.

Celebrate 100 years of Local Government

The Upper Lachlan Shire Council invites you to celebrate 100 years of Local Government in the former Crookwell, Gunning and Mulwaree Shire Council Areas. On Saturday December 9, 2006 at the Crookwell Memorial Hall, starting at 7.00pm. Cost \$35 per person, tickets available at Crookwell Visitors Centre 48321988. Please purchase by November 27, 2006. Limited Tickets Available Dinner and entertainment provided.

Binda Festival of Flowers.

November 17, 18 and 19 the Binda Anglican Parish Flower Festival and Quiltarama. November 17 Folk, Country, Bush music will feature Jason and Chloe at Binda Mill Gardens from 8pm till 10pm (gates open at 6pm). BBQ available or bring your own food, drink, chair or rug \$10 entry.

November 18 events include the St James Church Floral decorations display, free entry, open gardens at The Mill, Binda and Markdale Gardens (Radford College music groups at the Binda Gardens), Quiltarama, Dolls and Teddy display at Binda Memorial Hall, cut flowers, fruit and vegetable display in the Parish Hall, Jarvis St as well as barbeque, morning and afternoon teas at various sites. All these events, November 18, begin at 10am till 4pm. A \$10 ticket will admit to all day events.

The evening of November 18 will see the Wayne Kelly Jazz Trio at the Binda Mill Gardens. Gates open at 6pm with music from 8pm until 10pm, barbeque available or bring your own food, drink, chair or rug, \$10 entry.

November 19, the Harvest Festival Service will be held at 11am at St. James Church with a repeat of all other activities as per the Saturday programme, \$10 will admit one to all day activities.

Art on the Range, Friday November 17 until November 26. The Crookwell Arts Society is holding its 2006 'Little to Large' art exhibition at the Crookwell Memorial Hall. Opening night is Friday November 17 from 6:30pm with dinner (opening and two course buffet selection, created by Catherine's CBD) at 8pm. RSVP November 10 at the Crookwell Visitor's Centre, phone (02) 48321-988. Open November 18 and 19 from 10am until 3pm, weekdays 10am to 3pm and Wednesday 6pm to 8pm.

Heritage Rally - Taralga - November 18 and 19.

This Southern Tablelands Vintage Farm Machinery Club will hold their second Heritage Rally on the 18 19 November at Taralga Showgrounds, Bannaby Rd, Taralga. Last year there were over 80 exhibitors with the likes of steam engines, oil engines, tractors, vintage cars and bikes. This year there will be more, including heritage games for the kids and a Tractor Trek on Sunday morning. For more information, call 0428 214 653.

Cool Climate Garden Lecture November 25 and 26.

Welcome from Nancy Martin on November 25, 9:20am with morning tea, and lunch. Lectures by Genevieve Jacobs, Rodney Falconer, Michael Bligh, John McKenzie, Joyce Wilkie and Jennie Churchill. Dinner at 6:30pm. Field trips will be held November 26 to the Tangle, Rosslyn and Fendale gardens and end with a lunch to be held at Roslyn Hall. Bookings are essential and can be arranged through the Crookwell Visitors Centre, (02) 4832-1988.

Richlands Homestead Open Day in Taralga, November 26.

'Richlands' is an historic tablelands homestead located nine and a half kilometers from Taralga on the Wombeyan Caves/Oberon Road. The Homestead has experienced 160 years of continuous occupation. The property will be open from 10:25am (entry \$5) with morning tea and lunch (\$10) to be served from 12:12pm. For details phone Stephen (02) 6258-5045 or Mary (02) 4840-2084.

Off Road Racing, Crookwell, on December 3.

To be held at Storriers Gravel Pit, five kilometers from Crookwell on the Grabben Gullen Road from 8:20am.

Laggan Village Market - 16 December 10am till 3pm

Take a trip to beautiful Laggan Village and enjoy a variety of local arts, crafts and produce. Future Laggan Markets will be held on February 17 and April 21.

Grabine Lakeside State Park set to explode

November 24, 25, and 26, 2006 will see the inaugural running of the annual Grabine Country Music Festival. This three day event will include a Friday Night Talent Quest, a major concert on the Saturday Evening and a Sunday Morning Recovery.

The weekend will kick off on Friday Night with a live band and a Talent Quest.

The winner of the Talent Quest will also be given the opportunity to perform two songs during the main concert on Saturday Night. Headlining Saturday's concert, which begins at 4pm, will be Steve Forde And The Flange. Steve will be performing hits from his latest album "ROWDY".

Steve Forde is originally from Cowra has had big hits not only in Australia, but has also taken US's country music capital, Nashville, by storm.

Also on Saturday evening will be Lee Forster. Lee has been described as one of Australia's greatest emerging country talents.

Hailing from Victoria, Lee has toured all over Australia and has many awards and accolades to his name including his most recent

award, the coveted Tamworth Songwriters Associations "Best New Songwriter of the Year 2006" award, for the title track off his new album 'The Way He Rolls His Swag'. His current single 'A Fire In The Bar' is now sitting at No 5 on the Country Tracks Top Thirty and is still climbing.

Victoria's hottest new comer is Paul Costa. Paul's debut album 'Walkin' In These Shoes' has received masses of radio airplay, a string of chart hits and a load of awards, including a nomination for 'Best New Talent' at the 2006 CMAA Golden Guitar Awards. Paul has just released a brand new album called "Restoration".

Supporting these great acts will be well known and loved local band 'Brittle Jack' as well as the duet Shea Fisher and Brianna Lee. This will be a massive concert that should not be missed.

Full bar facilities along with other food and beverage stalls will be available on the night. Strictly No BYOG rules will apply. A jumping castle will be available for the kids during the evening.

During the Saturday night a series of raffles will be going around with



Mayor's 'Minute' presented to Council on September 28,



Mayor Brian McCormack

Mayor Brian McCormack's Mayoral Minute

I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of Council to clarify a misapprehension that some members of the community have in regard to Council's position in regard to wind farms. I am not specifically suggesting that any person or community is deliberately misrepresenting the views and policies of Council. However, there have been occasions in the recent past where there has been an attempt by parties to attribute a position to Council and then to challenge Council on the basis of this position. At times the arguments have been falsely presented in the simplistic terms of - if you do not support us then you must support the other side. In other words you are either for us or against us. On behalf of Council I wish to

place on the record that Council has not adopted a specific position on wind farms. Any party that wishes to attribute to Council a particular position, either in support or in opposition to wind farms, is misrepresenting the Council and is engaging in misleading conduct. While Council has not adopted a position on wind farms under legislation it is required to deal with development applications which propose to establish them. Members of the community, including persons seeking to oppose the spread of wind farms, should bear in mind that Council as a consent authority, does not have the legal authority to refuse to deal with a development application. Subject to the development application complying with the law it must be considered in accordance with the appropriate legislation. Council has no discretion in regard to this, but Council has adopted a Development Control Plan - Wind Power Generation on 22 September 2005 to use in Council's own assessment of wind farm development applications. There is provision for the Minister of Planning to make a declaration that a particular development application is a State Significant matter (now termed a Major Project matter). If this occurs then Council is no longer the consent authority and the decision is left to the Minister. It is important for members of the community to appreciate that once

the Minister calls in a development application as a Major Project then Council has no authority or capacity to make decisions in regard to that development application - the Minister becomes the consent authority. In this situation Council can make a submission but has no capacity to influence the determination - it is in the hands of the Minister. Council appreciates that some residents and members of community groups will have strong views on wind farm development applications. It is also acknowledged by Council that they may wish to express those views in a vigorous manner. However, it is important to keep in mind that Council does not make the determination if it is a State Significant (Major Project) matter and that any representations should be made to the consent authority. The proposed development of wind farms is a contentious issue for our community. There are undoubtedly many members of the community with strong views on the issue. There will be members of the community who wish to put forward their views. Robust debate is an important part of our local government democratic tradition. In putting forward their views, individual members of the community will undoubtedly believe their view is not only the correct one but also that they are acting in the best interests of the community. It is the belief of Council that open

and fair debate promotes good public policy decision making, therefore Council encourages debate on the issue of wind farms. At the same time Council would request that those persons and groups participating in the public debate acknowledge and respect the views of other parties who may hold a differing position on the issue. A major concern of Council is that the failure to conduct the public debate over wind farms in an appropriate manner could lead to long term division within the community. These fractures could persist long after the decisions on the wind farms have been made. If not resolved properly they could be detrimental to the long term interests of our community. It is important for all people to remember that we have to continue living together long after the Minister of Planning makes the decision. In participating in the debate over development applications for wind farms Council urges members of the community to ensure that their behaviour and comments are appropriate. In particular that they do not deny to other persons the very rights which they seek to exercise. I would also request on behalf of my fellow Councillors that the debate is conducted in a fair manner. Please - do not seek to attribute to Council a position which Council has not and will not be adopting. **Passed** The Upper Lachlan Shire moved and passed the Mayoral Minute eight votes to one.

Councillor's talk

The following article begins a feature offering the present Upper Lachlan Shire Councillors the opportunity to outline their personal history for the residents of the Shire. The first Councillor is Sandra Bill who served four years with the former Crookwell Shire before running and winning a position on the Upper Lachlan Shire Council. **Why be a Councillor?** In the first instance several people commented or asked me to run because of my involvement in the community and especially with the youth. I must admit the first 18 months I felt like a fish out of water and was thankful to have had another woman Councillor with me - Roslyn Joseph of Bigga. But gradually I grew more comfortable in the position and realised why I was there. One of the most telling moments for me was when there was some distress over the compacting of the graves in Crookwell Cemetery. The community was up in arms - misinformation was being spread around and I was getting lots of phone calls. I had decided it was a lot of hot air about nothing and I had no issue with the way things were being done, when the night before the council meeting to decide on the issue I realised that while I had no issue with the process - others did and I was not sitting in my Councillor chair to represent MY thoughts and feelings, but rather the community's at large. At the meeting a compromise was found that suited everyone and did not impact on our operation - so a lesson was learned. This has been the basis for all my decisions since then. It is sometimes easy to think we know it all - so I TRY and listen to both sides of an issue. **Goals as a Councillor** My goals are to achieve as much for our shire as possible and be a fair, accessible and open minded Councillor. I very much believe in trying to work with our communities and that often means getting a FULL picture, which is often hard as most people are a 'silent' majority. But it is my job to talk to as many people as possible, from all areas of the community and do my best to make a 'right' decision or at least one I can live with knowing I have done my best. If I can walk away knowing I have done my best and achieved all I can then I am a winner and so is the community. The hardest aspect is the realization that Council is about more than the issue you may have stood for or been involved in - no such thing as a single issue Councillor. Learning as much as possible about a wide and diverse range of issues. My message is : Upper Lachlan Shire is a great place to live and the people make it so. As a long term resident I have come to realize that life as we knew it is changing - sometimes welcomed, sometimes not - but we are still who we are and we can make a difference.

General Manager, reports




General Manager John Bell

Like the rest of Australia the Upper Lachlan Shire is feeling the devastating impact of the declared "worst drought in the history of Australia". However, in true Upper Lachlan Shire fashion the community is joining together to look after our mates.

Thanks to the efforts of Garry Kadwell, Paul Anderson, a host of local businesses, service organisations and State and Federal Government bodies a hand of mateship was held out on Friday November 4, 2006 with the "Looking After Our Mates" evening held at the Crookwell RSL. The Council strongly supports this effort and is looking into ways that it can assist the community. **Candidates address council** For every State Election the Council invites the local candidates to address Council on an informal basis during a Council meeting. Candidates from the major and minor parties have welcomed this opportunity to address Council and have found such meetings to be a positive experience. In area, around one quarter of the new seat of Goulburn lies in the Upper Lachlan with the remainder within the seat of Burrinjuck.


The following candidates have scheduled to address the Council at the Council's January 25, 2007 meeting to be held in Crookwell. For the seat of Goulburn, representing the Green Party, Bill Dorman and representing the Liberal Party, Pru Goward. At the same Council meeting for the seat of Burrinjuck, representing the Green Party will be Iain Fyfe. During the Council Meeting of February 22, 2007, to be held in Gunning for the seat of Burrinjuck the sitting member the Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson and for the seat of Goulburn representing the Labour Party Robert Parker. Mr Paul Stephenson, an Independent candidate for Goulburn, has yet to confirm the date but has agreed to address Council. The public, as always, is welcomed to attend. **Farewell** The Upper Lachlan Shire Council wishes to take this opportunity to

farewell its long term Administration Co-Coordinator Chris Cavanagh. Chris worked first with the former Crookwell Shire Council and was part of the amalgamation into the Upper Lachlan Shire Council. Chris continued work in an expanded capacity. From all of us of the Upper Lachlan Shire Council we wish Chris the very best. She will be sorely missed. **Retraction** The Upper Lachlan Shire Council wishes to correct comments made in the Crookwell Gazette and other media outlets in respect to the Gunning Service Centre court case. After listening to a CD transcript of the proceedings Council concedes that Justice Talbot did not pass comment with respect to Council's integrity. Council regrets any misunderstanding and did not intend to mislead the public.




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Medical Centre proposed for Crookwell



Making plans: Mayor McCormack and Dr Kovats discuss the proposal for a Medical Centre in Crookwell.

hospital for medical registrars.

Dr Kovats expressed the opinion that the layout of the Banfield building would be very suitable to meet these needs plus others such as providing rooms for visiting medical practitioners such as pathologists, psychologists, podiatrists and dieticians.

Ian MacCausland, who addressed Council, noted that both Federal (Regional Partnerships) and NSW (Integrated Primary Health and Community Care Services) grants are available for establish-

Whereas many rural communities struggle to find sufficient medical personnel to fulfill their community's needs, Crookwell has two medical practices. These two practices, both of which are operating from private premises, provide five doctors, four of who work part-time with the 'Women's Health Cottage' supported by two practice nurses.

With the Crookwell Frail Aged Association's (CFAA) plan to build a new Frail Aged care facility at the site of the old Saleyards site within the next 12 months there is now an opportunity to purchase Banfield House, located next to the Crookwell Hospital.

Dr Hanna Kovats and Mr Ian McCausland gave a presentation to Council, at its September 14 meeting, seeking support for the purchase of the Banfield House building as a Medical Centre.

Dr Kovats noted that at present, within Crookwell, there is little provision for allied health services, with no room for medical students, fulltime practice nurses or accommodation near the

ing facilities such as Medical Centres. He continued saying that the chance of winning these funds is considerably increased when the application comes from the local Council, which would demonstrate community support.

A positive step

Dr Kovats indicated that, given reasonable rental and operating costs, she would be willing to move her practice into the building, and will encourage other medical practitioners and allied health services to do the same.

This would provide the necessary assurances to the funding bodies that the Medical Centre would be viable. Dr Thangavelu has also given support. Dr Thangavelu believes the Centre would be a positive step for the medical future of Crookwell.

The Council congratulated Dr Kovats and Ian McCausland on their efforts and voted to seek a consultant to develop a business plan for the venture as well as seeking grant funding from both the State and Federal Governments. It is hoped that this process will be completed before the New Year.

Mayor and Deputy Mayor, again



Mayor Brian McCormack and Deputy Mayor John Shaw shake hands after Council elections

votes to 4, Councillor Brian McCormack as Mayor for Council for 2006/2007.

Mr Bell also announced that the position of Deputy Mayor has gone to Councillor John Shaw, who ran unopposed after the withdrawal from the race of Councillors James Wheelwright and Gary Cosgrove. Councillor McCormack thanked Council for its support and promised to continue working towards the unification of the Upper Lachlan Shire.

"I've always tried to make the Upper Lachlan Shire one of the best Councils in the State. I believe we have gone a long way towards that goal, if indeed we are not already there."

Councillor McCormack was opposed for the position of Mayor by Councillor John Shaw. Councillor Shaw congratulated Mayor McCormack and vowed to continue working with the Mayor for the best interests of the Shire. "Mayor McCormack has my total support. He has done a good job in the past and I hope to work closely with him in the future," Councillor Shaw said.

General Manager John Bell announced at the Ordinary Council Meeting of September 28 that the Upper Lachlan Shire Councillors have re-elected, 5

Social Plan—on view

The Upper Lachlan Shire is a vibrant area with much to offer and the Council is doing its part through local consultations concerning road projects, the development of the Local Environment Plan (LEP) and Social and Community Plan which is being developed at the same time as the LEP.

Social and Community Plan

The draft of the Council's Social and Community Plan for the years 2007-2012 has gone on public exhibition from Tuesday October 17, 2006 to Friday November 17, 2006. Written submissions on the draft plan are invited with the closing date for submissions being Friday November 17. Copies of the Plan are on display at Upper Lachlan Shire Offices in Crookwell on 44 Spring Street, Gunning at 123 Yass Street and Taralga at 29 Orchard Street, the Crookwell Library in Denison Street and the Council's web site at www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au

the aged, men and women, people with disabilities, those from culturally/linguistically diverse backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

This Social Plan is to be an important component of the Council's strategic framework and will guide Council and other key agencies in the provision of appropriate and accessible services and facilities that meet the health, economic, environment and social needs of people within the Upper Lachlan Shire in an equitable manner.

The draft plan was developed with the significant contribution from a range of community groups, members of the public that participated in consultations, government and non-government representatives, and Council staff. However a special thanks goes to the Greater Southern Area Health Service who were the driving force behind the development of this plan.

The significant effort of Southern Area Health in helping to develop this new Social Plan will enable both the Greater Southern Area Health and the Council to share and analyse statistical data that will go a long way towards both the Council and Greater Southern Area Health in the understanding what the public is telling us and our ability to undertake appropriate actions and develop strategies that address service gaps and helps us to better respond to community needs.

The Council's social planning framework will consist of the Social Plan, which contains demographic and other data about our Shire. It is anticipated that in the future, a Cultural Plan and Crime Prevention Plan will also be included in the social planning framework.

In 1998, the NSW Government introduced legislation requiring local councils to develop an updated Social and Community Plan every five years. These Plans are to incorporate issues that have an impact on the community's well being; provide an overview of the community; identifies the key issues and recommend strategies that can be used to implement solutions to these issues. Accessing how well these priority areas have been addressed is a critical part of the process.

It is the aim of Council that this Social and Community Plan will assist in enhancing the lifestyle of children and families, youth, as well as

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS FIBRE TESTING



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100 years

Crookwell Progress Association Committee circa 1906

Back row: J Connellan (Hon Secretary), J T Naughton JP, W Spiers. Centre row: L Boughtwood (Hon treasurer), W J Smith, J Tozer JP, D Carey, J Keith, W J Sleep, and C T Clifton. Front row: P M Frost, P T White, R A Howland (Pres), E V Coleman, Wm Bensley, Dr E A Fitzpatrick JP (Vice Pres.), G Frost JP (Vice Pres.)

**Celebrating 100 years of Local Government
in the former Crookwell Gunning and Mulwaree Shire Council Areas
Saturday December 9, 2006**

At Crookwell Memorial Hall, 7.00pm

Cost \$35 per person

Tickets available at the Crookwell Visitors Centre 48321988

Please purchase by November 27 2006

Limited Tickets Available

Entertainment provided

Storm safety tips

How you can prepare for, and protect your home during unpredictable weather:

Remove loose debris, which could become airborne in strong winds

Trim trees around the house (do not attempt to prune trees in or near power lines – call Country Energy on 13 23 56 if you are concerned)

Check the roof for leaks when cleaning leaves out of the gutters

Unplug your television, computer and other sensitive electrical equipment during a storm

or bushfire and minimise the use of electrical appliances

Keep a torch in an easily accessible place in case of a power interruption

Turn off the main switches in the meter box if ordered to evacuate or rising water threatens your home, to reduce the risk of electrical wires short-circuiting or sparking

Never replacing a fuse or touch a circuit breaker with wet hands or while standing on a wet surface

Install an Uninterruptible Power Supply - or UPS unit – an affordable way to protect computer equipment and data.

McCormack Contracting

"Latest Equipment & Knowledge"

Specialising in:

- ✓ Hay Making
- ✓ Paddock Preparation, Farming & Sowing
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Quotes Available

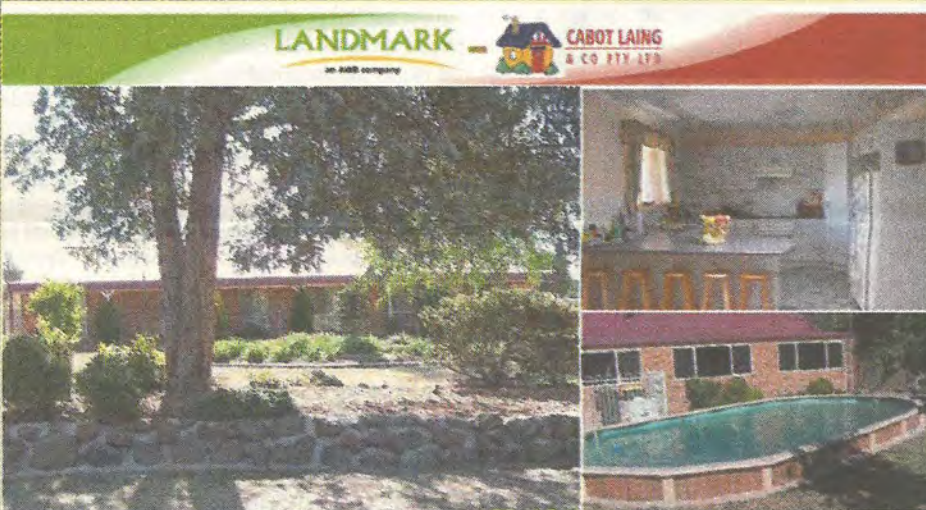
Phone Michael 0429373258
or A/H 48322112



Landmark ram sales for the remainder of the season.

DATE	SALE	LOCATION
NOVEMBER		
Fri 17	Stillbrook Merino Ram Sale	Crookwell
Sat 18	Rocdell White Suffolk Sale	Bigga
Fri 24	Hillden Poll Dorset Sale	Bannister
DECEMBER		
Fri 1	Hillcreston, Hillcreston Heights and Hillcreston Park Merino Flock Sale	Bigga
Thurs 14	Crown Hill Poll Dorset Sale	Bigga
Thurs 14	Binda/Bigga Circuit Sale	Binda/Bigga
Fri 15	Frogmore Circuit Sale	Frogmore

Please Note that Crown Hill Poll Dorset sale will be held with the Binda/Bigga Circuit Sale. Pejar Park and Rogara will have rams available for private sale throughout the season.



MAKE THIS YOUR OASIS!

Well built & established home set on a 3000sqm Block, 4 bedroom, ensuite home comprising an open living modern kitchen, bathrooms, sunny enclosed back verandah to the basalt rock gardens that form part of this well landscaped property, ample shedding, swimming pool, the list goes on. All that's missing is your inspection!!! And offer!!!

\$410,000

In conjunction with Duncombe & Co

Justin Gay 0429795 507

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**Top of the Range Boarding for Dogs and Cats
Soon to Open!**

Modern City Comforts in a Tranquil Rural Setting

Offering your four legged family members the latest US Kennel and Cattery Design System for their extreme pleasure and contentment

Now taking advanced bookings for Christmas Holidays – see our website shortly for more details

Enquiries: Tony and Chris Cavanagh 48373027

Website: www.pawtailsboarding.com.au

Location : Laggan via Crookwell in the picturesque Southern Tablelands



Upper Lachlan Shire financially sound

The Director of Finance and Administration, Mr Andrew Croke, presented to the Upper Lachlan Shire Council, at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on September 28, the 2005/2006 Financial Report.

Councillors were pleased to see that the Shire was in a strong financial position. Councillor Bill Martin, the Chairman of the Council's Financial Committee, reported that the 'Financial Data Acceptable Measures Statistics' showed that the Council improved from 8 out of 10 to 10 out of 10. Some of the determining factors needed to achieve a 10 out of 10 rating are the on time delivery of quarterly financial reviews, the establishment of an Audit Committee and an unqualified audit report. This good work assists Council in its ability to make timely and informed financial decisions.

Mr Croke agreed stating, "The

hard work of Councillors, senior management and employees lowered the Council's operational deficit before capital amounts by over \$1.5 million in one year. This is an impressive achievement."

Mr Croke informed Council that it had a net operating surplus of \$2.02 million and that there was a further increase of \$909,000 in the operating result, with a net operating deficit of \$64,000 before capital grants were taken into consideration.

"As Councillors are aware, NSW Local Government issued a final report in May 2006 that recommended Councils have a budget surplus. All Councils are to make a concerted effort to achieve within three to five years an operating surplus and to fully cash fund its asset depreciation," Mr Croke said.

Performance measures

In the statement of performance

measures the Council has an Unrestricted Current Ratio of assets to liabilities of 4.13:1. This compares very favourably with other NSW Councils and shows that the Council has adequate working funds and is able to meet all liabilities and restrictions.

Mr Croke continued, "The council's Debt Service Ratio is very low at 3.42 percent as well as a Rates and Charges outstanding percentage which is now only 4.25 percent. This is an excellent result."

The Upper Lachlan Shire had as of June 30, 2006 a cash reserve of \$7.868 million up from the \$7.094 million on June 30 2005, an increase of \$774,000. This trend is continuing with the present cash surplus being \$8.910 million.

Other good news shows a net increase in cash flows of 324,000 for the reporting period. Mr Croke said, "It is imperative that Council continues to generate cash surpluses to meet future obligations/restrictions for asset

acquisitions and renewal. Further loan borrowings can be utilised in the future for asset acquisition/replacement."

In summary the Director said, "The Upper Lachlan Shire Council, as in fact all NSW Councils, have cash and infrastructure challenges to meet. However as witnessed in this 2005/2006 Financial Report, this Council is tackling these challenges head on and is in a sound financial position as stated by a majority of the financial indicators."

The Council's annual report from the independent auditor "Alan Morse and Co" supported Mr Croke's presentation stating that the special information report of Upper Lachlan Shire Council was presented fairly in accordance with the requirements of the applicable Local Government Codes and Act. A representative of Alan Morse and Co was unable to attend this Ordinary Meeting of Council but is scheduled to meet with Council at their November Finance and Administration Meeting.

Bush fire season

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) Bush Fire Danger Period in the Southern Tablelands Zone started on October first.

The statutory Bush Fire Danger Period is from October first to March 31 and requires people wishing to light fires to get a Fire Permit. This can be varied locally depending on expected weather and fire conditions.

"Dry conditions in many parts of NSW contribute to the need to require fire permits now, and fire-fighters have experienced fires in some areas due to these conditions," said RFS Community Education Officer Peter Dyce Southern Tablelands Zone.

Meteorological experts have made some predictions about an increased chance of more extreme fire danger days this year, which the RFS and people of the Upper Lachlan must prepare for.

Fire Permits help communities deal with these dry conditions as they enable fire authorities to regulate use of fire. Fire Permits are free and are available through RFS district offices and NSW Fire Brigades Stations.

The start of the Bush Fire Danger Period does not prohibit burning completely, and landholders are encouraged to do hazard reduction safely by applying for a Fire Permit.

Hazard reduction burning

If you want to do hazard reduction burning and think you might need an environmental approval for the work, the RFS provides a free hazard reduction environmental assessment service. Ask about a Bushfire Hazard Reduction Certificate.

If you do wish to burn ask the RFS for advice, fire

- permits and approvals:
- give fire authorities and neighbours 24 hours notice
 - check weather conditions/Total Fire Bans
 - delay the burn if concerning winds are forecast
 - create proper fire breaks
 - have adequate water resources on hand
 - supervise the fire at all times
 - call triple zero (000) immediately if fire escapes.

Penalties of up to \$5,500 and/or 12 months imprisonment apply for:

- not getting a fire permit during the Bush Fire Danger Period
- not observing all the conditions on a fire permit
- failing to notify the RFS and neighbours 24 hours in advance of lighting a fire all year round
- failing to supervise the fire at all times
- lighting a fire that is likely to be dangerous to any building without a fire permit or given notice.

Penalties of up to \$110,000 and/or 5 years imprisonment apply for:

- a person without lawful authority who sets a fire to land or property of another person
- the owner or occupier of land who permits a fire to escape from that land in circumstances likely to cause injury or damage

For more information check the RFS website www.rfs.nsw.gov.au, or call Southern Tablelands Zone 62263100

Drought affects Works Department



The drought has affected numerous levels of the community including the Upper Lachlan Shire Council Works Department. The major work that looks like coming to a halt is the Range Road project. This project has completed its earth works and has had a coat of gravel applied and is

ready to begin the sealing process. However this process requires a substantial quantity of water and work that was scheduled to be completed by Christmas 2006 will be delayed until suitable rainfalls occur.

Work on Junction Point Road is beginning soon. However this project requires water to be carted for long distances, which will complicate the work schedule.

Gravel roads uncomfortable

Maintenance work will be affected with crews responsible for the grading of unsealed roads battling to find the necessary water to do their work to the required standard.

The Works Department understands its obligation of care and is limiting itself to patch grading to deliver a reasonable level of service. Grading without water would result in a lack of compaction and mean dangerous dust holes forming and loose gravel material

lying on the road.

Three grading crews are working at the moment doing emergency grading only. Though crews are assessing gravel road conditions on a regular basis if a resident believes their road surface is at a dangerous stage please contact the Works Department (02) 4830-1000 during business hours.

Other projects

While crews are waiting for rain to complete projects, or do the required maintenance, they are not idle. Other projects that require attention such as tree maintenance and shoulder work on sealed roads are being done.

For maintenance grading work to resume will require rainfalls of 10ml, with the major projects (such as Range Road) requiring 25ml plus good run offs into dams.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council assures residents that they are doing their best in the difficult circumstances.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council an official Cancer Council Community Partner



Regional Manager Merewyn Partland and Mayor Brian McCormack, partners in the fight against cancer

Upper Lachlan Shire Council has announced a new partnership with The Cancer Council of NSW with the aim to reduce the impact of cancer on its local residents.

"Congratulations to the Upper Lachlan Shire Council for taking this proactive step to help make its community Cancersmart," said Merewyn Partland, Regional Manager of the Southern Regional Office of the Cancer Council.

The Cancer Council Community Partnerships program uses council outlets, networks and values to get cancer prevention and support programs through to

people and organisations in local communities.

With estimates of 140 Upper Lachlan Shire residents reported to be diagnosed with cancer and 46 dying from the disease every year, Mayor Brian McCormack welcomed the partnership and its potential to assist residents of the Shire. "I and other Councillors believe that by working in this partnership with The Cancer Council of NSW we can lower the impact of cancer in the Upper Lachlan Shire," the Mayor said.

For more information contact The Cancer Council Helpline on 13-11-20.

For Sale \$950,000



"KILLARNEY" CROOKWELL

254 highly productive mainly basalt acres in the renowned Crookwell area. Improvements include 2 storey 5 bedroom brick home, 2 bedroom cottage, shearing shed, workshop, large new stud breeding shed 24 x 18 and new cattle yards. Excellent water, 3 spring fed dams, 7 other dams, bore, water troughs to several paddocks, large water supply to home. Currently running as an Angora stud property, would be ideal for cattle breeding or fattening.



GOULBURN

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John 0427 215 419

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Upper Lachlan Swimming pools open for 2006/2007



Crookwell swimming pool located on Goulburn Street,

Opening times

Crookwell: Saturday - Thursday 7am-5pm.
Friday 7am-5pm. (Closed from 5pm for swimming club).
Gunning: Monday - Friday, 11am - 6pm.
Saturday - Sunday, 12 noon - 6pm.

The Upper Lachlan Shire Council's 2006/2007 Management Plan calls for the introduction of admission charges to be introduced at the Gunning Swimming Pool this coming swimming season.

Based on the user pay system the admission charges will assist in the long-term sustainability of the Gunning Swimming Pool.

Casual admission charges for an adult will be \$2, children \$1 and those under 2 years free when accompanied by an adult. Season passes are available at \$124 for a family, \$75 for adults and \$43 for school children.



Draft Pesticides Use Notification Plan

Pursuant to the Pesticide Regulation 1995 council has developed a draft Pesticide Use Notification Plan.

This draft Pesticides Use Notification Plan provides procedures for notifying the community when Council uses pesticides in public places owned or controlled by Council.

This draft plan will be on exhibition at Council's offices located at Crookwell, Gunning and Taralga.

You are invited to provide comment; comments should be received no later than 27 November 2006.

If you would like more information on the draft policy, please contact Council's OHS Coordinator, Ben Churchill on 48301030 or Council's Noxious Weeds Manager, Paul Brown on 48402099 or 0428 644 160.

JK Bell
General Manager

PO Box 10, Crookwell 2583

The Crookwell & District Arts Council's Exhibition for 2006

'LITTLE to LARGE' Painting and Sculpture

17 - 26 November 2006

Memorial Hall, Denison St, Crookwell
Sat Sun - 10am to 3pm, Weekdays - 1pm to 3pm

Wednesday - 6pm to 8pm

Sponsors:

ACTEWAGL, Catherine's Café,
Upper Lachlan Council
and The LAND newspaper

Phone: (02) 4832-1988

Www.upperlachlantourism.com

Taralga sewerage scheme-sewer reticulation draft layout

Taralga residents and interested members of the community are invited to inspect the draft Taralga Sewer Layout that is currently on display at the Taralga Service Centre.

The reticulation layout indicates the proposed route of the sewer pipe work throughout the village, and indicates the likely locations for domestic connections. The reticulation display is a prelude to the final scheme Environmental Impact Statement which is expected to be on public exhibition in early 2007. Comment forms are also available at the Taralga Service Centre with comments and feedback welcomed. Specific enquiries can be directed to Council's Manager of Water and Sewer, Mr Luke Moloney on 48301000.

JK BELL
General Manager



An Important Public Announcement

Each year motor vehicle crashes cost our community dearly at every level. It is only through a co-ordinated commitment between Council, the community and other road safety agencies that real outcomes can be achieved. Accordingly, The Upper Lachlan Shire Council is developing a new Road Safety Strategic Plan. The Plan will set the framework for road safety action, identify who is responsible for the action and when the action will be undertaken.

As part of the project, Community Development Initiatives Pty Ltd (CDI) have been engaged to co-ordinate the community consultation process of the project.

Members of the public are invited to attend a meeting at the Council Chambers in Crookwell to discuss local road safety issues on Tuesday 28 November 2006. The meeting will commence at 6.30 pm.

If you have any enquiries regarding the consultation meeting please contact Upper Lachlan Shire Council Road Safety Officer, Mark Foran on 0429043642.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council Road Safety Strategic Plan

Community Meeting



Tuesday 28 November 2006
Council Chambers (Crookwell)
6.30 pm



nura retirement village

Now selling

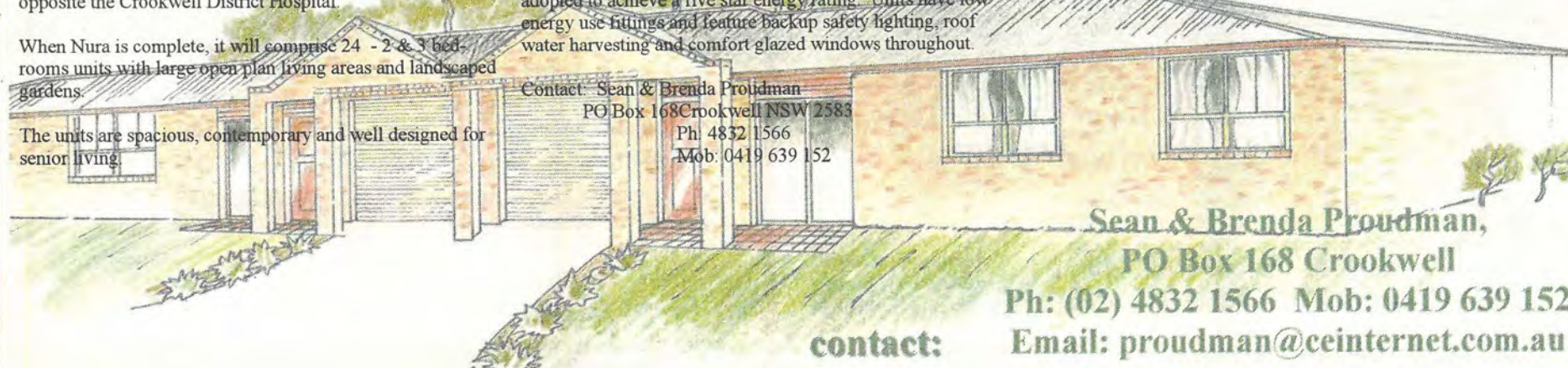
Nura Retirement Village is situated on 3.5 acres of land, 800m from Crookwell's CBD. The development is positioned opposite the Crookwell District Hospital.

When Nura is complete, it will comprise 24 - 2 & 3 bedroom units with large open plan living areas and landscaped gardens.

The units are spacious, contemporary and well designed for senior living.

The orientation of the units has a particular focus. The units all have a northerly aspect - one of the many strategies adopted to achieve a five star energy rating. Units have low energy use fittings and feature backup safety lighting, roof water harvesting and comfort glazed windows throughout.

Contact: Sean & Brenda Proudman
PO Box 168 Crookwell NSW 2583
Ph 4832 1566
Mob: 0419 639 152



Sean & Brenda Proudman,
PO Box 168 Crookwell

Ph: (02) 4832 1566 Mob: 0419 639 152
Email: proudman@ceinternet.com.au

contact:



Emergency after hours contact numbers:

Crookwell/Bigga/Binda/Tuena/Grabben Gullen/Laggan/Taralga/Big Hill areas: Roads, bridges and tips (0429)786-659 and water and sewer (0407)496-358.
Gunning/Dalton/Breadalbane/Collector/Jerrawa areas: Roads, bridges, tips, water and sewer (0427)454-206.
Police and Fire All Areas any time 000

WATER

Water restrictions

The ongoing dry conditions have wide ranging impacts, with potentially severe consequences for both rural and village water supply systems.

Crookwell

With below average rainfall predicted and large evaporation losses expected, Level 2 water restrictions will be imposed in Crookwell from November 8. Residents are reminded that water meter readings will also be undertaken during November.

Taralga

As a result of flow ceasing in Woolshed Creek water restrictions prohibiting outdoor water use were imposed on the Taralga Water Supply on November 1.

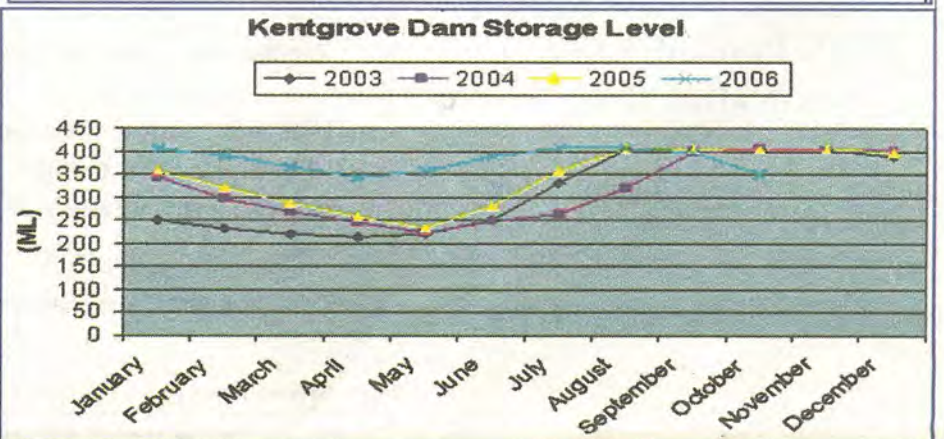
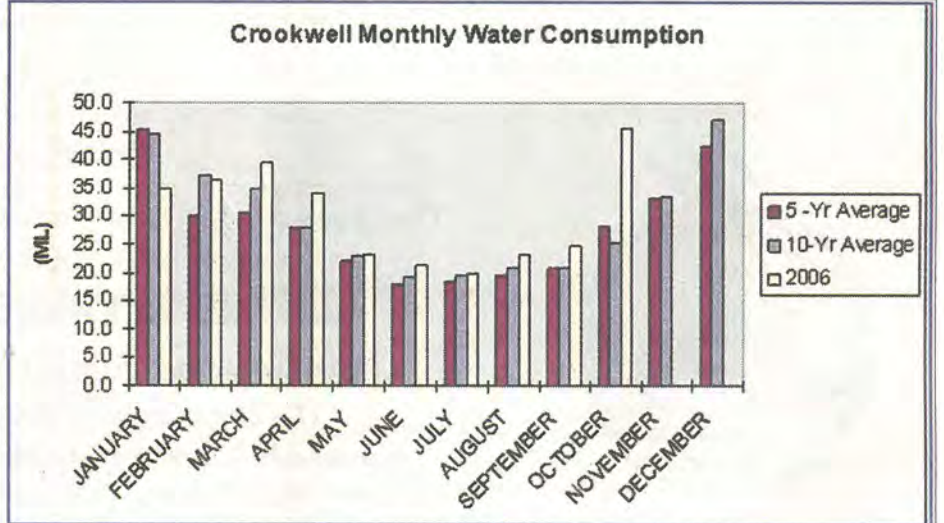
Gunning/Dalton

A decline in flow of the Lachlan River, coupled with high consumption and low predicted rainfall will see water restrictions introduced at both Gunning and Dalton from November 8. Consumers will be advised of the water restrictions applicable to their individual town water supplies. Further details of water restrictions, possible exemptions and a guide to good garden watering are available from the Crookwell, Gunning and Taralga offices and Councils website.

Meter readings

Residents are reminded that water meter readings will also be undertaken during November.

The bad news for many drought affected rural areas is the latest forecasts from the Bureau of Meteorology, which is predicting a hot dry summer. The latest seasonal rainfall outlook issued by the Bureau last week shows a mixed pattern of odds for exceeding the median rainfall over the late spring to mid summer period (November-January). In the Upper Lachlan Shire Council area, the chances of exceeding the median rainfall over the November to January period are only 30% to 40%. Meaning, in years with ocean patterns like those at present, six or seven November to January periods out of ten are expected to be drier than average, with about three or four out of ten being wetter than average. The corresponding temperature outlook shows a moderate to strong shift in the odds towards above normal daytime and night-time temperatures for the same period. Averaged over the coming three months, the chances are between 60 and 75% for higher than normal maximum temperatures across the Upper Lachlan Shire Council area.



Potable Water Carting

A State Government Subsidy is currently available for the carting of water to Upper Lachlan Shire Villages who lack a water supply due to the failure of their onsite systems. Potable water is carted from the Crookwell Supply, with quantity supplied restricted to essential domestic uses only. Water is currently being carted to the villages of Bigga, Binda, Tuena, Laggan and Grabben Gullen. Residents of any designated villages who are suffering hardship with water supply are encouraged to apply to Council for assistance.

Rural Residence Water Carting

The Village water carting scheme does not extend to rural residences located in the rural zone. The Government may also choose to assist drought affected primary producers, who should contact the Department of Agriculture for advice.

No water is permitted to be carted from Council potable water supplies without prior Council approval. Following application, any Water Carters wishing to transport water must be able to demonstrate compliance with the Department of Health-Guidelines for Water Carters 2005.

Non Potable Water Carting

The Kennedy Street bore located off

Carrington Street Crookwell is available to carting from Crookwell for essential Upper Lachlan Shire Residents for domestic requirements. In order to reduce non-potable requirements. Council encourages the use of the water for applications that do not require potable water, but would otherwise place demand on the potable supply. Carting of water outside of the Upper Lachlan Shire area without Council consent is strictly prohibited.

Residents carting water for any purpose are encouraged to be particularly diligent in ensuring tanks/containers used for carting are fit for the purpose, and free of contamination.

Strategic Water Bore Investigations

Residents of the Villages of Bigga, Binda, and Tuena are particularly impacted by lack of water supply and frequently rely on water

As part of an overall emergency water supply strategy, Council is also applying to the State Government for funding assistance to undertake further bore investigations at Taralga, Gunning, Collector and Breadalbane. The aim of the strategic water bore investigations is to provide water sources that are economically accessible to all reaches of the Upper Lachlan Shire, particularly in times of emergency.



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Every hour, every day 24 hours a day
 Help is as close as the phone.

13 11 14



We are the contact for *Regional Partnerships* funding in your area. Projects can be small to large and depending on what your community needs. Examples of projects include community halls, recreation facilities, at www.cr-acc.asn.au

Capital Region Area Consultative Committee helps communities

Weather proof?



Want proof what the weather is doing?
 Don't rely on old technology, go to eldersweather.com.au
 Where you get local weather with updated forecasts as they happen, and it's free.

There's no waiting for delays so you can run your business profitability with the best information at hand, covering 550+ locations, satellite and radar, synoptic charts, warnings and breaking weather.

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