

THE VOICE

OF UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE, THE SHIRE OF VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 2016

Our new Mayor and Councillors

Upper Lachlan Shire Council has a new-look Council team, with five Councillors re-elected and four newly-elected at the Council Elections, held on 10 September 2016.

The incoming councillors included:

- Brian McCormack (re-elected)
- Pam Kensit (newly elected)
- John Searl (re-elected)
- Ron Cummins (newly elected)
- Richard Opie (newly elected)
- James Wheelwright (re-elected)
- Darren O'Brien (re-elected)
- John Stafford (newly elected)
- Paul Culhane (re-elected)

Their first order of business was an induction session held on 19 September 2016, where Council's General Manager John Bell discussed the role and expectations of Councillors, including the Code of Conduct and pecuniary interest requirements.

Council's Director of Environment and Planning Tina Dodson, Director of Works Phillip Newham and Director of Finance and Administration Andrew Croke also outlined the functions of their respective Departments.

The Councillors were officially sworn in at the ordinary Council meeting held in Crookwell on 22 September 2016, where the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor also took place.

Cr Brian McCormack OAM was elected as Mayor and Cr John Stafford was elected Deputy by their fellow Councillors.

Cr McCormack was first elected to Crookwell Shire Council in 1987, and was elected Mayor



Front Row (L-R): Upper Lachlan Shire Mayor Cr Brian McCormack OAM and Deputy Mayor Cr John Stafford. Back Row (L-R): Cr Richard Opie, Cr Paul Culhane, Cr Pam Kensit, Cr John Searl, Cr Darren O'Brien, Cr James Wheelwright and Cr Ron Cummins.

in 1999, a role he held until the 2004 local government amalgamations. He was appointed Administrator of the newly formed Upper Lachlan Shire Council in 2004 and served as Mayor from 2004 to 2007.

Cr Stafford was newly elected to Council on 10 September 2016.

Under recent amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993*, the term of office for Mayors elected by Councillors was increased from one to two years.

Councillors voted unanimously for the position of Deputy Mayor to be held for one year.

Mr Bell welcomed the new councillors to the role.

"On behalf of Council, I would like to congratulate the nine incoming councillors on their election and look forward to working collaboratively with them over the next four years," Mr Bell said.


"I would also like to extend my thanks to outgoing councillor Malcolm Barlow for his contribution to Council and the community during his time as a Councillor."

For more information about your new Councillors, please see page 4.

FINDING YOUR NEW HOME JUST GOT EASIER

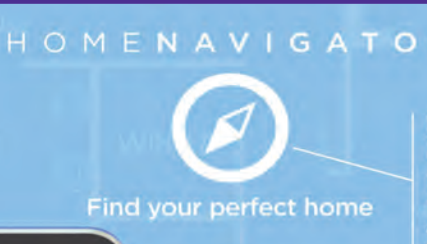
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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Welcome to the November 2016 edition of The Voice. This edition is my first as the new Mayor of Upper Lachlan Shire Council.

I was fortunate to be elected as Mayor on 22 September 2016, along with Cr John Stafford, who was elected Deputy Mayor.

Having previously served as Mayor, I know what a great honour and privilege it is to represent this wonderful Shire and its people.

The previous Council delivered significant improvements across the Shire, such as the construction of the Gunning Water Treatment Plant, which services Gunning and Dalton, the construction of the Taralga Water Treatment Plant, sealing of the road from Crookwell to Taralga and the reconstruction of the road from Goulburn to Taralga – just to name a few.

As Mayor I look forward to building on those achievements and working with my fellow Councillors and Council staff, in consultation with the community, as we continue to maintain and improve local infrastructure and assets, while ensuring Council retains its strong financial position.

*Cr Brian McCormack OAM
Mayor
Upper Lachlan Shire Council*

FROM THE GM'S DESK



Fortunately, the Upper Lachlan has recently seen some reprieve in the persistent inclement weather that battered our Shire over the past few months.

Council recently welcomed a declaration by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments which formally recognises the July storms and flooding as a natural disaster.

It means Council, as well as impacted residents, small businesses and primary producers can apply for assistance under the joint Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. You can read more about the declaration on page 8.

The reprieve in the wet weather also means that work can resume on upgrading our road network, including the upgrade of Crookwell's Main Street, as well as repairing damage. On behalf of Council, I'd ask rate payers to be patient as work is carried out.

I also encourage anyone who notices damage to report it to Council on 4830 1000 so we can address it.

*John Bell
General Manager
Upper Lachlan Shire Council*

Upper Lachlan Tourist Association

What's On in the Shire of Villages

<p>Razzle Dazzle Music Hall Revue Crookwell Memorial Hall Fri 4th - Sat 12th Nov www.cads.org.au</p>	<p>Southern NSW Team Sorting Crookwell Showground Sat 19th & Sun 20th Nov Ph: 4844 7016</p>
<p>Remembrance Day Crookwell Memorial Park Fri 11th Nov</p>	<p>Clawfield Cup Laggan Hotel Sat 19th Nov Ph: 4837 3208</p>
<p>Flower Show & Fete Gunning Uniting Church Sat 12th Nov</p>	<p>Art on the Range Crookwell & District Art Gallery Fri 18th - Sun 20th Nov Ph: 4848 1295</p>
<p>Richlands Homestead Open Day Richlands via Taralga Sun 13th Nov</p>	<p>Crookwell Lions Christmas Market Crookwell Pool Park Sat 26th Nov Ph: 4832 0047</p>
<p>Taralga Pet Show St Lukes Anglican Church Sun 13th Nov</p>	<p>Willowtree Artisan Workshops Willowtree Sculpture Garden Sat 26th - Sun 27th Nov www.willowtreesculpturegarden.com</p>
<p>Tablelands Tractor Trek Taralga & surrounds Fri 18th Nov www.facebook.com/taralgavintagefarm</p>	<p>Art in the Garden Collector Sun 27th Nov www.artinthegarden.com.au</p>
<p>Taralga Vintage Farm Field Days Taralga Showground Sat 19th & Sun 20th Nov www.facebook.com/taralgavintagefarm</p>	

www.visitupperlachlan.com.au

Find us on Facebook
 Visit Upper Lachlan - The Shire of Villages*

Crookwell Visitor Information Centre
36 Goulburn St Crookwell - 4832 1988
info@visitupperlachlan.com.au

Have your say - Regional Community Strategic Plan

The Councils of Upper Lachlan, Goulburn Mulwaree and Yass Valley are working together to prepare a combined Regional Community Strategic Plan (CSP) to ensure the Region has a stronger voice in State Government decisions on regional planning and funding.

The aim of the draft Regional CSP is to provide clear strategic directions for the long term, and identify the main priorities and aspirations of the communities of the Region. It is envisaged that the draft Regional CSP will be based on the following five pillars of life in the Southern Tablelands, which includes:

- Community (Life and Welfare in the Community)
- Environment (Conditions and Influences in the Area and Sustainability)
- Economy (Generation, Distribution, Use of Income and Business Development)
- Infrastructure (Facilities, Transport and Systems Serving the Area)
- Civic Leadership (System of Government or Management)

Upper Lachlan Shire residents are invited to provide input into the draft Regional CSP at the following workshops:

- **Gunning** - Council Chambers, 123 Yass Street, Gunning – Monday, 21 November from 5.30pm-7:00pm
- **Taralga** - Masonic Hall, Orchard Street, Taralga – Tuesday, 22 November from 5.30pm-7.00pm
- **Crookwell** - Council Chambers, 44 Spring Street, Crookwell – Tuesday, 22 November from 7.30pm-9.00pm

A community survey will also available via Council's website (www.upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au), to ensure those unable to attend scheduled workshops can provide input into the draft Regional CSP.

For more information, please contact Council's Director of Finance and Administration Andrew Croke on 4830 1000.

Council services

Emergency after hours contact numbers:

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

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

Gunning / Dalton / Breadalbane / Collector / Jerrawa areas:

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

Postal address: (For all offices)

PO Box 42, Gunning NSW 2581

Council Offices:

Crookwell office: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm

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

Gunning office: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm (cashier closes at 4pm)

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

Taralga office: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm

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

Council email address:

council@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au

Website

www.upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au

Facebook

www.facebook.com and search Upper Lachlan Shire Council

Justice of the Peace

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

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

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

THE VOICE

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LIBRARY BIZ with Michaela Olde



What's new?

Digital magazines

The Southern Tablelands Libraries have joined with other public libraries in the South East Zone of NSW to bring our library members free digital magazines that can be downloaded from Zinio.



Available 24/7 you can download full-colour magazines and read them on any device. Members can view new and back issues from range of magazines including:

- Australian Home Beautiful
- Australian Ironman Magazine
- Australian Model Railway Magazine
- Australian Photography + Digital
- BBC Top Gear Magazine
- Blitz Martial Arts Magazine
- Earth Garden
- Girlfriend Australia
- Inside Cricket
- PC Gamer
- Rugby League Week
- Sporting Shooter
- Yoga Journal

There are no holds, no checkout periods, and no limits to the number of magazines checked out and downloaded.

To access the digital magazines visit the STLC website at: www.stlc.nsw.gov.au and click on the tab 'eBooks & more', then follow the link to Zinio Digital Magazines.

There are over 350 magazine titles for you to download and enjoy.

Did you Know?

Joining the Library is free and available to all residents of the Upper Lachlan Shire. To become a member, visit your nearest Library and please bring proof of your current residential address.

Events at the Library

Knitting at Gunning Library

The Gunning Library Knitting Circle is held on the first and third Friday of each month from 1.30pm. All are welcome and no bookings are required. Further information is available from Gunning Library on 4845 1231.

Scrabble at Crookwell Library

Scrabble is held in the Crookwell Library on the first Tuesday of the month from 1.00pm, followed by afternoon tea. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

Please bring a gold coin donation for afternoon tea. No bookings are required. For further information, please contact Crookwell Library on 4832 1048.

Storytime

Storytime is held at the Crookwell Library every Thursday at 11.30am during the school term and at Gunning Library at 10.45am every second Friday during the school term for children aged 0-5 years.

The themed sessions are free, run for approximately 45 minutes and consist of stories and an age relevant craft activity or creative play. No bookings are required.

For further information please contact Crookwell Library on 4832 1048 or Gunning Library on 4845 1231.

Coming soon

Christmas craft and card making session

Enjoy an afternoon of arts and crafts, learn new skills and get ready for Christmas by creating Christmas craft or a Christmas card.

Where: Crookwell Library

When: Monday, 12 December 3.30pm-4.30pm

Who: All ages welcome

Cost: \$6.00

No bookings required.

Summer Reading Club

Get ready to unleash your imagination as you read about heroes, villains, sidekicks and more in this year's Summer Reading Club program - Heroes and Villains.



Previous card creations

The Reading Club, to be held from Monday, 5 December 2016 to Tuesday, 31 January 2017, allows children and young people to develop a sense of community with other children across the country over the summer holidays, and discover great authors and illustrators.

As part of the program participants will receive kits with goodies including an age appropriate activity book.

Pop into Crookwell Library to sign up and pick up your activity kit anytime from Monday, 5 December 2016.

Where: Crookwell Library

When: Monday, 5 December 2016 to Tuesday, 31 January 2017

Who: Ages 3-14 years

Cost: Free to participate

Library Opening Hours

Crookwell Library, Denison Street, Crookwell

Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10.30am – 5.00pm

Wednesday 1.30pm – 5.00pm

Saturday mornings from 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Gunning Library, Yass Street, Gunning

Open Tuesday and Wednesday 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Thursday 1.00pm – 5.00pm

Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm

Please note Christmas/New Year Closures below

Crookwell Pool repairs underway



Main picture: Sandblasting was completed last month.

Inset: Cracks in the pool surface, before work commenced.

The refurbishment of Crookwell Swimming Pool is underway, with work to be completed in time for summer (weather permitting).

Constructed in 1958, the 33m pool had started to crack and show signs of leaking.

Work will include resurfacing and repainting the pool's walls, to extend the life of the pool and reduce water use.

The upgrade has been jointly funded with \$30,000 from Council and \$15,000 under the Federal Government's Stronger Communities Program.

Council Christmas/New Year Closures

Facility	Closing Date(s)
Crookwell Administration Office and Depot	Closes 12 noon Tuesday, 20 December 2016 and reopens 9am Tuesday, 3 January 2017
Gunning Administration Office and Depot	Closes 12 noon Tuesday, 20 December 2016 and reopens 9am Tuesday, 3 January 2017
Taralga Administration Office	Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day
Crookwell Swimming Pool	Closed Christmas Day
Gunning Swimming Pool	Closed Christmas Day
Crookwell Library	Closes 5.00pm Wednesday, 21 December 2016 and reopens 10.30am Tuesday, 3 January 2017
Gunning Library	Closes 5.00pm Wednesday, 21 December 2016 and reopens 2.00pm Tuesday, 3 January 2017
Crookwell Visitor Information Centre	Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day
Crookwell Tip	Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day
Gunning Tip	Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day
Taralga Transfer Station	Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day
Collector Tip	Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day Open Saturday, 24 December 2016 and Saturday, 31 December 2016

Christmas/New Year Waste and Recycling Collections

There will be no alterations to the kerbside waste and recycling services.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OUT OF HOURS

Gunning/Collector Area: 0427 454 206 Crookwell/Taralga Area: 0429 786 659

In Profile: Upper Lachlan Shire's new Mayor and Councillors

The Upper Lachlan Shire welcomed a new team of Councillors on 10 September 2016. The Voice caught up with them to discuss their priorities over the next four years.

Mayor Cr Brian McCormack OAM



Cr McCormack has been active in Local Government for over 29 years.

He was first elected to Crookwell Shire Council in 1987 and held the position of Mayor from 1999-2004.

Upon the local government amalgamations in 2004 Cr McCormack was appointed as the Administrator of the newly formed Upper Lachlan Shire Council before being elected as Mayor that same year. He served as Mayor from 2004-2007 and was again elected Mayor on 22 September 2016.

Deputy Mayor Cr John Stafford



Cr Stafford was newly elected to Council on 10 September 2016.

He stood for election to contribute to an improved vision for the future development of the Shire.

His priorities over the next four years are to provide strategic vision for economic development, increase

tourism and increase residential development.

Cr Stafford was elected to the position of Deputy Mayor on 22 September 2016.

Cr Pam Kensit



Cr Kensit has been a resident of the Upper Lachlan Shire for 26 years.

She was newly elected to Council on 10 September 2016.

Her top three priorities on Council over the next four years is to deliver better consultation and

communication with the community and better care of our communities.

Cr John Searl JP



Cr Searl was first elected to Upper Lachlan Shire Council in 2012.

Over the next four years Cr Searl intends to continue to strive to improve the customer focus of Council and sharpen the focus on economic development and sustainability of the Upper Lachlan Shire into the future.

Cr Searl would like to see the continued promotion of the Upper Lachlan Shire as a tourist destination and the safety road users to remain a priority concern.

Cr Ron Cummins



Cr Cummins stood for election for the first time on 10 September 2016 because he believed Council needed to be more transparent and inclusive with its decision-making.

During his time on Council, Cr Cummins would like to introduce greater incentives to attract small business and developers.

He would also like to see an increase in the population across the Shire as well as a revitalisation of Crookwell and the Shire's other villages.

Cr Richard Opie



Cr Opie was newly elected to Council on 10 September 2016.

He decided to stand for election because he saw a great opportunity to represent the community and take our great Shire forward.

Over the next four years, Cr Opie looks forward to working to protect the Shire's natural environment and assisting in the growth of the Shire's economic environment through careful and structured planning.

Cr James Wheelwright



Cr Wheelwright has been a Councillor for 17 years, which included nine years as Deputy Mayor.

Over the next four years Cr Wheelwright would like to see Council continue to look at every development without prejudice and to keep an open mind.

He would also like to see community shows, festivities and market places continue to be supported to showcase our local communities. His main priority is to continue to improve the road network.

Cr Darren O'Brien



Born and bred in the Upper Lachlan Shire, Cr O'Brien was first elected to Council in 2012.

During this term on Council Cr O'Brien hopes to maintain his effective working relationships with both councillors and Council staff.

He would also like to see Council's strong financial base continue to be managed properly, to ensure the Council remains "fit for the future".

Cr Paul Culhane



A lifelong resident of the Upper Lachlan Shire, Cr Paul Culhane was first elected to Council in 2008.

Over the next four years, Cr Culhane's top priorities are to support the continued upgrade of infrastructure across the Shire and support the Goulburn to Crookwell Rail Trail and other tourism initiatives.

He will also continue to push for a natural gas connection to the Shire.

Update: Crookwell Water Supply Upgrade

The tap has been turned on Crookwell's Water Supply Upgrade Project with construction going from a trickle to a flood last month.

The \$7 million Project, jointly funded by Upper Lachlan Shire Council and the NSW Government's Restart NSW Water Security for Regions Program, will provide Crookwell with a first class water supply system, ensuring superior drinking water quality, improved reliability in times of drought and increased capacity to support Crookwell's future growth.

The Project involves the construction of a new Water Treatment Plant adjacent to the Crookwell Dam on Waterworks Road.

Scheduled for completion in July 2017, the Plant will have the capacity to supply a minimum 4 million litres of drinking water to Crookwell each day – Crookwell's current highest usage is just 1 million litres per day.

The Plant will be based on the Dissolved Air Flotation and Filtration process and include chlorination and fluoridation. Design and construction of the Plant is being undertaken by Laurie Curran Water Pty Ltd, which also completed the Gunning Water Treatment Plant for Council in 2014.

The Project also includes extensive water main renewals throughout the town and the installation of improved watering systems for Council's sporting fields, with work to be undertaken by Council and interruptions to water to be kept to a minimum.

For more information about the Project, please contact Council's Manager of Operations Luke Moloney on 4830 1000.



(L-R) Council's Director of Works Phillip Newham, Cr Pam Kensit, Mayor Brian McCormack OAM and General Manager John Bell inspect the site where Crookwell's new Water Treatment Plant will be constructed.

Devil's Elbow Realignment



(L-R) Upper Lachlan Shire Council Deputy Mayor John Stafford, Federal Member for Hume Angus Taylor, Council General Manager John Bell and Cr John Searl at 'Devil's Elbow'.

Council has secured funding to straighten the notorious 'Devil's Elbow' corner on Grabben Gullen Road between Crookwell and Gunning.

Federal Member for Hume Angus Taylor announced last month that Council will receive a total of \$460,046 under the Australian Government's *Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity and Black Spot Project Programmes*.

Total cost of the project will be \$1,079,908, with \$540,000 funded under the NSW Government's Fixing Country Roads Programme and \$79,862 from Council. Construction will start in March 2017.

Healthy funding boost



(L-R) Hannah Wanless from the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, Councillors Ron Cummins and Pam Kensit, Crookwell Neighbourhood Centre Manager Suzie Panne and Community Hub Coordinator Linda Stephenson, Council General Manager John Bell, Member for Goulburn Pru Goward MP and Mayor Brian McCormack OAM.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council recently welcomed an announcement by the State Government that the Crookwell Neighbourhood Centre will receive \$50,000 under the Social Housing Community Improvement Fund for the purchase and maintenance of the Shire's first community outdoor gym.

Crookwell Neighbourhood Centre Community Hub Co-ordinator Linda Stephenson said the outdoor gym would give the social housing community access to a free recreation facility in Crookwell, which will encourage healthy lifestyles and allow for greater social interaction with the broader community.

"We are very thankful to the State Government for this funding and to Upper Lachlan Shire Council for their support, input and guidance in submitting our funding application – it was very much a joint effort," Mrs Stephenson said.

"When completed, the outdoor gym will accommodate all levels of fitness, including people with disability, and will be available to all members of the community."

Council's General Manager John Bell said the Council was very pleased to assist the Neighbourhood Centre with their funding application and looked forward to project managing the installation of the outdoor gym.

Main Street Upgrade Back on Track

Crookwell's main street upgrade is back on track, after persistent wet weather delayed the \$1 million project.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council General Manager John Bell said, weather permitting, asphalt work would take place from Sunday, 6 November 2016 until Saturday, 12 November 2016 between the hours of 7.00pm to 6.00am.

"Fortunately, the stage one work completed in April between Roberts Street and Laggan Road to address underlying failures in the road surface has remained intact, despite the wet weather," Mr Bell said.

"Council looks forward to seeing work start on stage two of the project. While we will aim to complete most of the work at night, there may be some inconvenience to motorists.

"On behalf of Council, I would ask for patience as our crews undertake this important work, which will not only improve safety by repairing defects, but also enhance the visual appeal of Goulburn Street."

The project is being undertaken by Upper Lachlan Shire Council on behalf of the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and is part of their State Pavement Rehabilitation Program.

The work is part of the contract that Council has with the RMS to undertake maintenance and reconstruction works on 110km of Main Road 54, stretching between Auburn St in Goulburn through to the Abercrombie Bridge.

For further information about the roadworks, please contact Council's Works Department on 4830 1000.

Council budget in surplus

Council's 2015/16 Financial Statements were presented to the Council meeting held on Thursday, 20 October 2016.

These included the annual General Purpose Financial Statements, Special Purchase Financial Statements and Permissible General Income Statements.

Council's Director of Finance and Administration Andrew Croke said the net operating result from all Council activities in 2015/16 totalled a \$3.8 million surplus.

"All performance measures used by the Office of Local Government and the Fit for the Future Program indicate the Council is in a sound financial position to meet all provisions and liabilities," Mr Croke said.

The 2015/16 Financial Statements were audited by Intentus Chartered Accountants.

All Financial Statements are available on Council's website: www.upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au/council/other-public-documents/financial-statements.



Crookwell Taralga
Aged Care



YOUR Care
YOUR Way
LOCALLY

Crookwell/Taralga Aged Care's service **Upper Lachlan Community Care** is dedicated to providing quality aged and disability services across the region.

We can provide you with the type of care YOU want in YOUR own home.

Please call us if you would like to discuss your care needs. We can even arrange a talk for your local group or club.

Upper Lachlan Community Care
Ph: 4832 2399 or Email: ctac@ctac.org.au

Wildlife and Weather Events

By Kay Muddiman, WIRES Southern Tablelands Branch

Wild, windy weather can bring down trees and nests and separate young and vulnerable chicks and joeys from their parents. Parent birds have very strong instincts to protect and feed their young. Wherever possible the best outcome for most birds is to reunite them. Often young birds will be found on the ground after falling from nests. It is normal for fledgling magpies to fall out of the nest and spend a couple of days on the ground, with parents feeding them whilst they master the tricky art of flying. However, wind and storms may bring many to the ground far too early, and they may need another couple of weeks to develop to full fledgling stage before they can fly.

If you find a chick on the ground, put it back in the nest if possible. If the nest is too high up to reach, you can put a post in the ground, and attach a basket to it as a "pretend nest", or secure a basket in the tree the chick came from. If you then move well away from the "nest", the parents may come back and start to feed their little one. This is always the best option as being raised by their parents gives chicks the best start to being wild birds. As carers, no matter how hard we try, we cannot raise them as well as their natural parents. It may take some time for the parents to return but if the chick is very young and there is no sign of the parents after a reasonable length of time, it will need to come into care.



(L-R) A magpie chick in a 'basket nest' and a magpie chick in care being fed a tasty grub from the carer's garden.
Photos by Kay Muddiman

As the weather warms up we receive many calls from people concerned because they see a snake on their property. Generally snakes are shy, reclusive animals and will avoid confrontation with humans at all costs,

preferring to flee if given the opportunity. WIRES' priority is to respond to situations where reptiles are injured. We are unable to respond to all the calls we receive where the snake is not injured or posing an immediate risk to human safety. Our advice if someone calls because they have seen a snake outside their home is that usually it will move on before very long. Snakes have no vested interest in attacking humans, and any bites are almost always a defensive response to a perceived threat. Given this fact, it is reasonable to assume that, if left alone, the risk posed by any Australian snake would be negligible.

While most native animals are well adapted to changes in climatic conditions they can still suffer during heatwaves. Animals can cope with extremes in temperatures they are used to, but if these extremes are unusual for a particular area the animals there will struggle. So, with summer approaching please put fresh, cool water out for wildlife. Make sure you have a few sticks or stones in bowls or containers so that if small creatures fall in they can make it back out. Refresh the water daily, and more often during periods of extreme heat. If you are on a rural property and are concerned about water bowls attracting snakes to the house, then place shallow bowls around the perimeter fences. This can also assist in providing a water source to deter reptiles from seeking water from sources closer to the house. Flying-foxes are particularly susceptible to several days with low humidity and very high temperatures. If you see flying-foxes, young or old, on the ground, or moving to lower branches or to the ground below their roost trees please call WIRES. It is important that only trained and vaccinated carers rescue distressed and injured flying-foxes or bats. Animals with health issues, or the very young or old, will find it harder to cope. The increasing loss of suitable habitat, including the loss of leafy vegetation and older growth trees with hollows for shelter, means more animals are at risk in the heat. Tree hollows are particularly essential for our native parrots and many of our marsupials. As less and less hollows are available for shelter it means more creatures

Weeds Update: Control Serrated Tussock Now

Serrated tussock remains the number one noxious weed issue affecting communities within Upper Lachlan Shire and Council's Noxious Weeds Manager, Paul Brown stresses that all landholders have a responsibility to control serrated tussock infestations on land that they are responsible for.

To be successful with control programs in our area all landowners need to survey their properties now for the presence of serrated tussock plants and take appropriate control action before the plants produce seed during November.

Mr Brown advises that on a high percentage of properties within Upper Lachlan controlling serrated tussock can be achieved by simply regularly patrolling paddocks and digging out or spot spraying invading scattered plants.

One of the major restraints in controlling serrated tussock remains to be the accurate identification of plants. It is particularly important that all landholders in our area have the ability and skills to identify plants and carry out effective control programs. Landholders requiring assistance in identification or implementing control programs can obtain information by contacting Council's Weed Officers.

If you need assistance with serrated tussock identification Council's Noxious Weeds Manager, Paul Brown, is available to help residents with control advice and can be contacted on 4840 2099 for weed control information.



Serrated Tussock



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

may suffer from exposure and more animals may seek refuge in unusual places such as garages, sheds or houses.

Please keep an eye out for animals exposed to the elements, but remember for your own safety do not approach snakes, monitors, flying-foxes, microbats, large macropods or raptors. These animals require specialist handling by trained wildlife rescuers.

It's important to note that WIRES is a volunteer organisation, which relies solely on donations from the general public, along with fundraising by individual branches. Our free services are only available because of the dedication of our volunteers.

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

Joseph Flood Memorial Unveiled



Joseph Flood's Great Grandchildren (L-R) Julie Hourigan and Lesley Theuma and Great, Great, Great Grandchildren (L-R) Jack, Amelia and Elliot Keily attended the memorial plaque unveiling on Diamond Road.

Former Upper Lachlan Shire Mayor John Shaw OAM, former Deputy Mayor James Wheelwright, General Manager John Bell, members of the Crookwell and District Historical Society and family members of the late Joseph Flood gathered at Diamond Road, Crookwell in August for the unveiling of a memorial plaque in his honour.

Mr Flood was working for Crookwell Council as a ganger in 1907 when he was tragically killed by a falling tree while felling trees on Diamond Road. He was just 50 years old and was survived by his wife Sarah Jane and their five children.

His obituary, published in the *Crookwell Gazette*, described Mr Flood as a "universal favourite...[without] an enemy in the world. He was an excellent citizen, a devoted husband, and an indulgent father."

Cr Shaw said Mr Flood's untimely death was a tragic moment in Crookwell's history.

"Mr Flood's death in 1907 had such an impact on the small, tight-knit Crookwell community at that time, that it is remembered to this day. It is only fitting that we have now have a memorial to honour Mr Flood and his legacy," Cr Shaw said.

The plaque was installed by Council at the request of the Crookwell and District Historical Society.

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Community groups ring in funding grants



Three Upper Lachlan Shire community groups have recently completed projects thanks to a funding boost from Southern Phone.

Members of the Collector and District Historical Association (pictured left) received \$4740, which assisted in the publication of the Collector History Walk Book. The Book provides a fascinating insight into Collector's history and contains a timeline which dates from 1820 when Governor Macquarie named the "Great Lake".

Crookwell Amateur Dramatic Society received a further \$6960 toward the installation of hot water and power in their men's dressing room

and shelving for the storage of costumes and props. Flooring was also replaced in the backstage dressing rooms which has made the dressing rooms warmer and cleaner.

The Bigga Hall Committee received \$13,300 to assist in the upgrade to the Bigga Recreation Ground septic. The new Dump-Ezy station allows for easy unloading of wastes straight from RV's and caravans to the septic system.

Information on grants available to the Upper Lachlan Shire community can be found on Council's website: www.upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au/community/grants

Funding for Shire Playgrounds

Several Upper Lachlan Shire playgrounds will receive new equipment thanks to a \$19,000 grant under the Australian Government's Stronger Communities Programme.

The grant was awarded to Council for its 'Play and Stay' project, which will involve:

- The installation of new infant and children swings and a soft fall area at Gunning Showground
- A new playground border and soft fall area at Dalton River Park
- A new playground border and soft fall area at Apex Park, Crookwell
- The replacement of broken playground equipment, including an infant swing, a barrel roller and a 'shop front' at Coleman Park, Crookwell
- The replacement of unsafe fencing at Goodhew Park, Taralga

Total cost of the 'Play and Stay' project will be about \$38,000, with Council funding the difference.

Our newest citizen



(L-R) Lebogang Freddie Mkhiza and Upper Lachlan Shire Mayor Brian McCormack OAM.

South African born Lebogang Freddie Mkhiza is the Upper Lachlan Shire's newest citizen.

Mr Mkhiza took the Australian Citizenship Pledge at a ceremony held at the Upper Lachlan Shire Council Chambers in Crookwell on Thursday, 20 October 2016.

Mr Mkhiza moved to Gunning in 2009 to be with his wife Nicki, who he met while she was working as a volunteer in South Africa.

Mrs Mkhiza, their son Lerato and Mr Mkhiza's in-laws Rhonda and Colin Ogilvie joined Mr Mkhiza at the ceremony.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council Mayor Brian McCormack OAM congratulated Mr Mkhiza on becoming an Australian citizen.

"It is wonderful that Mr Mkhiza has chosen to become a citizen of our great country and that he and his family have made the Upper Lachlan Shire their home," Cr McCormack said.

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Council welcomes Disaster Relief Declaration

Upper Lachlan Shire Council recently welcomed a declaration by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments which formally recognises the July storms and flooding as a natural disaster.

It followed an application from Council requesting the declaration for the weather event which caused approximately \$1 million damage to Council roads and infrastructure.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council General Manager John Bell said the declaration would allow Council, as well as impacted residents, small businesses and primary producers to apply for assistance under the joint Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

If approved, Council intends to use the funding to repair crossings washed out by flooded creeks and damaged roads, in consultation with NSW Roads and Maritime Services.

More information on assistance available can be found on the following websites: www.disasterassist.gov.au and www.emergency.nsw.gov.au.

For information on personal hardship and distress assistance, including advice on eligibility, please contact the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

To apply for a concessional loan, grant or freight subsidy, please contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593 or visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au.