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THE VOICE

of Upper Lachlan Shire,
the Shire of Villages

July 2009

2009 - 2010 Council Management Plan

AS MAYOR of the Upper Lachlan Shire, I am pleased to provide the community an outline of the 2009/2010 - 2011/2012 Management Plan.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council's operating budget is \$18.8 million with a projected operating budget deficit for 2009/2010 of \$224,169. The budget deficit is a result of the global economic crisis and its direct impacts are being spread widely throughout the Australian economy. This will adversely impact on investment income, with an estimated reduction of income by \$280,000, which is due to lower interest rates on Council's cash and investment portfolio.

Another significant contributing factor to the operating budget deficit is the notice received from the Local Government Superannuation Scheme advising that employer contribution rates to the "defined benefit scheme" will increase by 100 percent commencing on July 1, 2009. This increased contribution payable by Council will amount to an estimated additional \$375,000 annually for possible the next ten years if investment markets do not improve. This is the first year that Upper Lachlan Shire Council has projected a deficit budget. Senior management are working hard to identify efficiencies and operational cost savings wherever appropriate.

Major achievements

There have been major achievements in the past three years including the reconstruction and sealing of MR52, the sealing of the Oberon Road MR256, progressive sealing work on the State Road MR54 as well as reconstruction and sealing of the Boorowa Road (MR248W). Council believes that the sealing of these roads will present benefits to the Upper Lachlan Shire both in terms of tourism and assisting primary producers. Recognising the importance of the Taralga Road, MR248E, Council has committed \$541,000 towards the significant reconstruction and sealing capital works in the



Beautiful Upper Lachlan

next twelve months.

A major challenge for Council is the fact that there are 2,044 kilometres of roads to maintain in the shire, of which 1,287 kilometres are unsealed. Council has elected to increase the local road gravel re-sheeting program to \$600,000.

Council will also be undertaking our largest bridge replacement program in a single year. The total cost of bridge replacement works is \$2.01 million for Burwood Creek bridge, Woolshed Creek bridge, Commissioners Creek bridge and Wowagin Creek bridge. This bridge replacement program will be financed from borrowings of \$1.43 million and \$580,000 in RTA grant funding. A further \$220,000 will be spent on urgent repairs to the Collector bridge.

Council has been successful in obtaining 100 percent grant funding from the Nation Building Program for the upgrading of a dangerous section of the Gundaroo Road MR52 at a cost of \$500,000.

Sewerage and Water Supplies

The management of water supply and sewer services are major responsibilities of Council. In 2009/2010 the single largest capital project will be the construction and

implementation of the Taralga sewerage scheme. Construction has already commenced and the estimated project cost is \$6.61 million. Upper Lachlan Shire Council has been successful in guaranteeing grant funding from the NSW Department of Water and Energy and Sydney Catchment Authority. The success of the project to date owes a lot to the efforts of the Manager of Water and Sewer, Luke Moloney and his team who deserve to be congratulated.

Taralga water supply augmentation works are scheduled with \$820,000 estimated cost of the project. This will be jointly funded by NSW Department of Water and Energy and Upper Lachlan Shire Council through borrowings.

Gunning and Dalton water supplies will see upgrading works of the replacement of the reservoir roof for both schemes which will be completed by end of 2009 and these works should assist in the upgrade of water quality for these towns. Dalton water supply augmentation works will also be commenced.

Preparations for the beautification of Taralga and Gunning's main streets are underway, with a five year program being prepared with \$40,000 allocated for

2009/2010.

The Upper Lachlan Shire Council is a leader in the provision of community support and has allocated donations of \$44,712 towards local charities, as well as sporting and community groups.

There are numerous other areas of spending within the extensive capital infrastructure expenditure program totalling \$15.76 million during 2009/2010.

Rates and Charges Levies

General Ordinary Rates will increase by 3.50 percent, however this does not mean rates will increase by the same percentage, there will be varying rates increases for each individual rating category.

Water Supply access charges will decrease by \$110 this year for Crookwell, Taralga and Dalton bringing each town's yearly levy to \$320. Gunning will experience a \$40 increase in their water access charge, which standardises the annual water charge to \$320.

There will be a new Taralga sewerage charge of \$390 to offset costs for the new scheme. Crookwell sewerage charge will increase by \$30 and Gunning sewerage charge will not increase. The sewer charges are now standardised to \$600 for Crookwell and Gunning towns.

Water consumption prices are uniform for all the towns. NSW Department of Water and Energy regulations now require 50 percent income from user pay charges. This means that there will be an estimated 30 percent increase in average water use bills to offset the 26 percent reduction in water supply access charges. Also, the Domestic Waste Management / Recycling annual charge will increase by \$20 to \$305 per property and Rural Waste Charge will increase by \$4 to \$110 per property.

Council believes this is a budget addresses many of the community's concerns under the present economic circumstances.

Country Energy
investing in the Upper Lachlan



Sensational!

COUNTRY Energy's Crookwell Field Service Centre (FSC) has again been named the best performing medium sized field crew in the Country Energy's internal competition, which encourages depots to improve productivity and maintain consistently excellent levels of customer service.

Country Energy's regional general manager south eastern, Phillip Green said, "This is a sensational achievement - no other team across Country Energy has won the award consecutively.

"Crookwell FSC is constantly outperforming itself, finishing major upgrades early through sheer dedication and determination, maintaining excellent safety records and continually exceeding customer expectations," Phillip said.

Thanks to their hard work, the local team have won another \$3,000 to give to a worthy local cause. This time they have chosen to donate money to Viewhaven lodge who have purchased a large Plasma/LCD television plus other luxuries to make the residents more comfortable.



Country Energy Crookwell Field Team. Back L-R; Mick Secomb, Shane Price, Sam Hall and Simon Crocker. Front L-R; Zane Hall, Ray Jackson, Kim George, Phil Barr and Darren Basterfield.

Proud to sponsor the Voice of the Upper Lachlan Shire



Library Biz by Kerri-ann Pratley

Money a little tight?

Then why not visit your local library....

WHEN was the last time you stepped into your local library?

Yesterday? Last week? A month ago? The thing is, libraries are surprisingly good places to visit when money is a little tight and that's because most of the services and resources they have available are absolutely free - including becoming a member.

Here is how your local library can save you money:

1) Books - It won't come as a big surprise, but the most obvious benefit of a library is its vast collection of books - all of which you can borrow for free. From novels to

any and every area of interest you can think of. If you're about to go on a holiday, why not borrow a travel guide instead of buying one? You can also borrow magazines - so you can save on that magazine subscription you pay out for each month!

2) DVDs, Videos and CDs - If you're a film lover, it's also easy to borrow DVDs from your library. This service is free and cheaper than buying DVDs. For avid music fans who don't want to spend lots of money on new CDs, the Library comes in handy as we provide a varied range of CDs—everything from the classics to pop!

3) Surf the Net - If you don't have the Internet at home, or the kids always seem to be using the computer, you can surf the net absolutely free at your local library. You can also print from the Library's com-

puters for a very small charge.

4) Try new activities - Believe it or not, your local Library can be a great place to socialise. If you have young children, both Crookwell and Gunning Libraries hold story time.

We also hold special events during the school holidays to help you keep the kids entertained without hurting your wallet. There are also plenty of activities for adults.

Search one of our databases such as the Sydney Morning Herald Archives or research your family history on Ancestry.com. And it's absolutely free! So whether you're an avid reader, film buff, music lover, or just fancy meeting new people, a visit to your local Library could be the perfect way to provide free entertainment for all the family and make some serious savings!

Opening Hours

Crookwell Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 11am - 5:30pm, Wednesday 2pm - 5:30pm and Saturday mornings from 10am - 12noon. Gunning Library is open Tuesday and Wednesday 2pm - 5pm, Thursday 1.30pm - 5pm and Friday 10am - 5.30pm

WHAT'S NEW @ YOUR LIBRARY?

Online Archives

Southern Tablelands Regional Library recently purchased a subscription to the Sydney Morning Herald's Online Archives. From any branch library you can now search every edition of the Sydney Morning Herald and The Sun-Herald between 1955-1990 in this unique online archive.

All articles, captions and advertisements are fully keyword searchable and full-text results are returned in an exact digital reproduction of the printed pages as they were originally published.

Birth, death and marriage notices can also be searched for family history purposes or you can explore Australia's history through the big stories of the day. All results may be printed for a small charge.

The SMH archives contain 820,000 pages over almost 13,000 issues.

NB: Access is only available from within your branch library at Crookwell, Gunning, Goulburn or Yass.

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Important contact details for the Upper Lachlan Shire Council

EMERGENCY after hours contact numbers:

Police and Fire all areas anytime 000.

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

Gunning / Dalton / Breadalbane / Collector /

Jerrawa areas:

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

Contact details for Council's Crookwell, Gunning and Taralga offices

PO BOX 10 Crookwell NSW 2583, Ph: (02) 4830 1000, Fax: (02) 4832 2066, Email: council@crookwell.nsw.gov.au

PO BOX 42 Gunning NSW 2581 Ph: (02) 4845 4100,

Fax: (02) 4845 1426, Email: council@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au

29 Orchard Street, Taralga NSW 2580 Ph: (02) 4840 2099,

REGULAR MARKETS

CROOKWELL Uniting Church markets
1st Saturday of the month. 9am-12ish
Goulburn St, Crookwell
tel: 4832 1026

Taralga markets
2nd Sunday of month, from 9-2, Memorial Hall,
Orchard St, Taralga
tel: 4840 2244

Gunning markets
Last Sunday of month, from 8.30-12ish, the Old Court House, Gunning
tel: 4845 1332

Gunning Monster Car Boot Sale 9am-1pm 2nd Saturday of Month
tel: 4845 1288

Laggan Village Market
3rd Saturday of every month
9am to 1pm,
Laggan Memorial Hall

Medical services available in the Upper Lachlan Shire

CROOKWELL
Crookwell Hospital: 13 - 15 Kialla Rd Crookwell,
Ph: 02 4832 1300

Crookwell Health Care Centre: 17 Kialla Rd.
Crookwell, Ph: 02 4843 2500. Medical,
Pathology, Orthopaedic Surgeon, Physiotherapist,

Audiologist, fitness trainer Gillian Gilbert, and massage therapist also available.
Open Monday to Friday 9am till 5pm and Saturday 9am till 12 noon

Gunning
Gunning District and Community Health Services:
101 Yass Street, Gunning, Ph: 02 4845 1166.
Open Monday to Friday 9am till 4pm.



The Voice

Email: hspirek@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au
Phone: 024830 1000
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Mayor's Report

NSW Government Grants available to the community

I AM very pleased to see the announcement in the NSW State budget regarding direct funding, of \$300,000, for community based projects. There has been a gap in the funding framework for the country for some years and it is good to see the State Government redressing this problem.

Examples of projects that can be funded are upgrades to community halls, playgroup centres and senior citizens centres, charity facilities, art spaces and playgrounds, local environment initiatives like community gardens, cycle ways and walkways, skate parks, community barbecue facilities and dog parks, improvements to sporting fields like lighting, drainage and fencing.

This program is clearly designed for projects that are underway or shovel ready and aimed at stimulating job creation. Applications opened on June 22 and close on August 10. This is a very short time frame and I encourage community groups to get into this as soon as possible.

It is also good to see the bipartisan approach to this funding where application forms will be available from all NSW Members of Parliament and can also be downloaded online at www.nsw.gov.au.

It is great to see money going directly to community groups. Councils can apply too and I would like to hear what the community would be interested in applying for. For Councils we will have to put up 50 percent while for community groups the program encourages groups to contribute in cash or in kind.

Other Community Grants available

Besides the NSW Grants individuals, organisations and business networks in our community have the chance to be recognised with the NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards.

The Awards having been running for many years in NSW and the ACT and we have seen many fine achievers recognised.

The Council wants to see many more hard-working individuals and organisations in our community that are making an invaluable contribution, to nominate this year.

Nominations are now open in six categories:

The Department of Lands Crown Reserve Trust Award.

The Department of Lands Community of the Year Award.

The Department of State & Regional Development Business Enterprise Award

The Department of State & Regional Development Events and Tourism Award

The Kleenheat Gas Environment and Landcare Award.

The Integral Energy Regional Service Award

Win a share in a huge \$30,000 Commonwealth Bank AwardSaver accounts or Television Air Time Prize Packages on Prime Television.. All category winners will also receive a magnificent hand crafted glass trophy.

As an inspiring and innovative community, I am positive that we have many worthy contenders in our area. If you would like to nominate an individual, business or community project; or be nominated yourself; nomination forms are available from all sponsors and from the Upper Lachlan Shire Council offices in Crookwell located on the corner of Spring and Roberts Streets."

The NSW and ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards are proudly presented by PRIME Television and the Commonwealth Bank and supported by The Land Newspaper and The Local Government Shires Association of NSW.

For more information please contact the Awards Office on 1300 735 445 or visit the website at www.awardsaustralia.com Nominations close August 21, 2009.

Staff Community Fund

I have been informed that applications for the Commonwealth Bank Staff Community Fund Community Grants program are now being accepted.

To be eligible your organisation needs to support the health and wellbeing of Australian children, identify realistic, measurable and achievable project goals and outcomes be endorsed by the Australian Tax Office with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status

I encourage all interested groups to visit www.commbank.com.au/communitygrants for more information.

Applications close at 5.00pm (EST) on Friday 31 July, 2009.

Largest Morning Tea

Last but certainly not least I would like to pay recognition to Upper Lachlan Shire Council Staff who once again took part in Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.

Every year Council staff, especially the ladies, make an effort for this wonderful cause. This year Council staff raised \$479.50 at the Crookwell Council Offices and over \$430 at the Crookwell Library. The money was donated to the Cancer Council.

Well done and thank you.



General Manager's Report

Management Plan overview

IT IS A requirement under Section 402 – 406, of the Local Government Act 1993, for all Councils to prepare and adopt a Management Plan covering a period of three years. The Plan is, in fact, a 'Vision Statement', which provides the community with an outline of how the Council has prioritised its resources to meet its understanding of the community's concerns. This is to be seen as a working document and will be referred to as the financial year progresses.

The Council's 'Principal Activities' are the 'core activities' for which Council receives income through rates, grants and other revenue raising activities, and includes the

activities upon which these funds are expended.

These core activities include: administration; public order and safety; health services; community services and education; housing and community amenities; recreation and cultural activities; mining, manufacturing and construction; transport and communications; economic affairs; waste management; water supplies and sewerage services.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council is employing a long term strategic focus with respect to all of Council's core activities. Council has developed a five year capital budget of income and expenditure to establish a pathway for the future direction of the Council's major capital works, infrastruc-

ture renewals and operations projects

This year's Management Plan underlines the ongoing financial constraints being faced within the current economic climate. The 2009/2010 projected operational budget is a financially responsible budget with a budget deficit of -\$287,169 proposed. Council projects a cash flow surplus of \$317,195.

Council has an operating budget of \$18.7 million and the responsibility to produce an equitable Management Plan is considerable. This year's budget draws \$7.7 million from rates and annual charges; another \$5.3 million from user charges and fees; and the remainder coming from grants, interest revenues and other revenues.

All NSW Councils have been limited to a maximum 3.50 per cent increase in total rates income this year, which means, an estimated increase of \$182,000 for this Shire.

The following items will have a significant impact on the operating budget for 2009/2010:-

Council estimates the forthcoming finan-

cial year will see a CPI increase of 3.70 per cent for materials and contracts, as well as an expected increase of salaries and wages for Council staff of an estimated 4 per cent; this includes salary increases, on-costs and salary step progressions.

The local roads gravel resheeting budgeted allocation has increased by 200 per cent above the allocation of 2008/2009. Total amount budgeted is now \$600,000.

Section 356 Donations – an estimated expenditure of \$44,712 is budgeted, which is comparable to the previous year.

Depreciation Expense - to comply with the Department of Local Government directives all buildings, plant and equipment, water supply and sewer infrastructure were revalued to reflect the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives. This has resulted in an annual increase of \$550,000 to budget expense. The total depreciation totals over \$4.1 million or 22 percent of total operating expenditure.

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Director of Finance and Administration Andrew Croke

2009 - 2010 Council Rates How are my rates calculated?

UPPER Lachlan Shire Council uses the 'rate in the dollar' and 'base amount' method to calculate your general ordinary rates. The NSW Valuer General's Office assesses the value of your land every three to five years. The 'land value' dated the 01/07/07 has been issued by the NSW Valuer General's Office which will be used to calculate your 2009/10 rates. Council uses this land value to calculate your rates. The land value is multiplied by the 'rate in the dollar' as set by Council and this calculates the first component of your general rates. All properties within a rating category are then charged a uniform 'base amount'. The 'rate in the dollar' amount plus the 'base amount' equals your total general ordinary rate.

Example of how to calculate your rates!

Rating-Category	Farmland
Land Value (as set by the NSW Valuer General's Office)	\$200,000
Rate in the Dollar (as set by Council)	\$0.0026520
Rate in the Dollar Amount (\$0.0026520 x \$200,000)	= \$530.40
Base Amount	\$298.00
Total Farmland rate levy	\$828.40
Rural waste charge	\$110.0
Total Rates and charges	\$938.40

How much will my rates increase in 2009/10?

The NSW State Government sets a limit on the total amount of income that a Council can raise from certain rates and charges. This is called the rate-peg percentage and it is specified by the NSW Minister for Local Government each year. The increase for 2009/10 is 3.5 percent. Because of rate pegging, Council's overall rates revenue cannot increase by more than the percentage increase approved by the

Minister. This does not mean that each rates assessment will increase by 3.5 percent but the Council's total rate income will increase by this amount.

General Ordinary average rate increases per rating category for 2009/10

Farmland will increase from \$990.51 to \$1,021.33 to \$30.82. Residential property from \$392.42 to \$408.88 or by \$16.46. While average Residential non-urban will increase from \$531.81 to \$559.19 an increase of \$27.38. Average Crookwell business will increase from \$553.47 to \$580.72 to \$27.25. Gunning businesses on average will increase from \$299.77 to \$349.25 to \$49.48 while businesses in Taralga will rise from \$450.34 to \$507.85 or by \$57.51 and Mining will increase from \$1747 to \$2018.44 an increase of \$271.44.

Residential Non-Urban

Council commenced a review of its current rating structure in February 2009. This review resulted in a change in category name from Rural Residential to Residential Non-Urban. This change in name was not a revenue raising project and does not affect the zoning of the property. It was strictly a change in name to allow Council to comply with the Local Government Act.

Rural Waste

Ratepayers who pay a Rural Waste Charge

are permitted free access to all rubbish tips for the disposal of 120L bin of domestic waste (garbage) per week provided they present their current card for inspection at the entry to the rubbish tip depots. Waste may be stored and delivered to the tips on a fortnightly or monthly basis. All ratepayers charged for rural waste will receive a card in their rates notice to verify their right to free entry to the rubbish tip. All ratepayers must present their current card to receive free entry to the rubbish tip. All 08/09 rural waste cards will be accepted up until the 31st July 2009. New cards should be received by the 1st August 2009 and these cards must be used thereafter.

This charge is levied so that all properties contribute a proportional amount for the maintenance of the waste depot sites, resource recovery, and future remediation and restoration of all the rubbish tip sites throughout the Shire.

Are you eligible for a pensioner rebate?

You may be eligible for a rebate on your rates if you have a pensioner concession card, own a rateable property and live in a residence on that property. To be an eligible pensioner you must receive a pension from either Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and be entitled to a pensioner concession card issued by the Commonwealth Government. You can only claim a concession on the property if it is the sole or principal place where you live. If you think you may be eligible for a pensioner rebate and it is not shown on your rate notice, please contact Council on 4830 1000, you may be required to complete a pensioner concession application form.

How can I pay my rates?

Your rates can be paid in four instalments due by the 31st August 09, 30th November 09, 28th February 10, and 31st May 10, or you can pay the whole year's rates in one sum by 31st August 2009. Methods of payment are described on your rates notice. Interest charges of 9% p/a will apply on all amounts outstanding.

What if I am having difficulty paying my rates?

Council has set policies to assist rate payers who may not be able to pay their rates by the normal method. Any ratepayer who is having genuine difficulty in meeting their rate payment obligations is encouraged to contact Council's Rates Department on 4830 1000 to discuss alternative payment methods.

Stormwater Charge

The State Government allows Council's to charge a fee on developed urban properties for providing new or improved stormwater infrastructure and improvements to stormwater quality. Upper Lachlan Shire Council will charge the same fee as last year of \$25 per residential property and \$50 per commercial property.

Water Charges

The majority of water charges have been standardised across all towns and villages in the Shire, with an access charge of \$320 for Crookwell, Taralga, Gunning & Dalton. This reflects the value of this precious resource and the need to conserve water. The current water charges consist of an access charge for those properties currently connected to the water scheme plus a usage charge for all water used.

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Details of the 2009/10 rates

Rating Category	Assess No	Land Value	Rate in \$	Base Amount	Base %	Base Yield (\$)	Ad Valorem Yield (\$)	Total Levy (\$)
Farmland	2,747	1,158,087,380	0.0026520	298.00	21	818,606	3,071,247	3,889,853
Residential	2,005	143,070,900	0.0042000	151.00	34	302,755	600,897	903,652
Residential Non-Urban	709	90,418,920	0.0031890	151.00	27	107,059	288,345	395,404
Business - Crookwell	162	10,530,290	0.0089900	151.00	21	24,462	94,667	119,129
Business - Gunning	62	3,325,000	0.0061000	151.00	32	9,362	20,282	29,644
Business - Taralga	30	1,937,130	0.0061000	151.00	28	4,530	11,816	16,346
Business - General	3	1,585,000	0.0198000	151.00	1	453	31,383	31,836
Mining	1	248,000	0.0075300	151.00	7	151	1,867	2,018
Total Rateable Land Value	5,719	1,409,202,620				1,267,378	4,120,504	5,387,882

Laterals

Planning
Engineering & Management
Environmental

240 Cowper Street (PO Box 1326)
Goulburn, NSW 2580
Phone 02 4821 0973
Fax 02 4821 0954
laterals.com.au
enquiries@laterals.com.au



What we do

Laterals is a team of experienced Town Planners, Engineers and Environmental Consultants. We have undertaken many projects of various scale in the Upper Lachlan, Yass and Goulburn/Mulwaree regions. One of our primary areas is assisting anyone who wishes to deal with Local or State Governments in developing their land. Our Environmental arm's primary focus is to assist with land and farm management issues

The new Local Environmental Plan (LEP)

Laterals is available to assist anyone in interpreting the new LEP and determining how it might affect them. We are available to assist with the lodgement of correctly formatted and supported submissions during the public exhibition period for those who wish to provide Council with their feedback. We are also available to answer questions and provide advice regarding specific changes such as those to Dwelling House approvals and permissibility.





Director of Environment and Planning

Development Status Report

The following table outlines the development activity by type.

Statistics by Development Type									
DA Type	Current Year				Last year				
	May 2009		Year to Date 1/7/2008-31/5/2009		May 2008		Year to date 1/7/2007-31/5/2008		
	Count	\$Value	Count	\$Value	Count	\$Value	Count	\$Value	
Commercial	0	0	8	\$177,600	2	\$150,000	4	\$535,000	
Residential	12	\$1,862,586	116	\$16,498,928	5	\$452,500	70	\$8,948,698	
Industrial	0	0	2	\$336,000	0	0	1	0	
Other	5	\$115,500	41	\$668,987	9	273,441	46	\$1,948,240	
Totals	17	\$1,977,586	167	\$17,681,515	16	\$875,941	121	\$11,431,938	
Subdivision									
Type	Count	Lots	Count	Lots	Count	Lots	Count	Lots	
Residential	0	0	3	14	0	0	3	4	
Rural Residential	0	0	13	72	2	13	54	201	
Commercial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Industrial	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	
Boundary Adjustment	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	
Strata	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Modification	0	0	7	47	0	0	0	0	
Agricultural	0	0	4	13	0	0	0	0	
Total	0	0	32	150	3	13	60	205	

Fireweed Warning

COUNCIL is asking landholders to be on alert for any Fireweed plants that may be encountered on properties over the winter months. Fireweed is a hazardous noxious weed that is poisonous to stock particularly horses and cattle and the numbers of plants located by weed officers has been increasing over recent years.

Council's Weeds Manager, Paul Brown, said that this dangerous weed generally grows and flowers in the winter months and is a low upright herb about 40 cm high with small, yellow, daisy-like flowers approximately the size of a 5 cent coin, each flower having 13 petals, a single fire-

weed plant can produce up to 30,000 seeds.

At this stage all infestations that have been encountered in our shire can be controlled by pulling the plants out by hand as soon as the plants become visible by beginning to flower. Care should be taken to prevent seed dispersal and the plants should be placed in a secure bag and disposed of in a safe manner on your property.

Fireweed seeds are very fine and can be wind-blown long distances and can also be moved around in soil and on vehicles so practising good farm hygiene is critical to preventing establishment and spread of infestations.

Fireweed has become established in many

Pre-Lodgement meetings

What is a pre-lodgement meeting?

Upper Lachlan Shire Council's pre-lodgement meeting service enables applicants of medium and major development application types to meet with the relevant Council officers to discuss their development prior to lodging a development application.

The purpose of these meetings is to assist the proponent/applicant to prepare a full detailed development application.

While there is no guarantee the outcome of your development application will be a favourable determination, a pre-lodgement meeting is beneficial as Council officers can provide early comments on your proposal and specific investigations, and highlight any major concerns/issues that you need to address prior to lodging an application.

This will assist you to complete a comprehensive application, resulting in quicker processing of your development application.

Documentation required

To allow Council to structure the meeting to ensure the appropriate technical staff are present, documentation is required to be lodged with Council a minimum of seven working days prior to the meeting.

Listed below are the documents required. The greater level of detail and clarity of informa-

tion you provide, the better the level of service: Site Analysis Plan, location of proposed buildings showing setback distances from boundaries and adjoining buildings, driveways, carparking, loading areas and vehicle manoeuvring areas, waste bin storage and collection facilities/areas, Surface treatments and landscaped areas, conceptual method of stormwater management and reuse and effluent disposal.

As well, you will need to bring preliminary floor plans, preliminary elevation plans, location and dimensions of easements, reserves, or rights-of-way existing and proposed, location and direction of flow of any drainage easement or natural watercourse affecting the land. Asset protection zones relating to bushfire prone land (if applicable) the position of any existing and proposed roads and the treatment of road intersections, all existing measurements of the land and measurements of each proposed allotment with proposed allotment numbers clearly shown. and a Compliance Statement.

How to organise a pre-lodgement meeting

To organise a pre-lodgement meeting, contact Council's Department of Environment and Planning on 02 4830 1018 between 9.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday.

You must book your re-lodgement meeting a minimum of 10 working days in advance.



The small flower of fireweed usually has 13 petals.

ACT Health offers Crookwell women free screening

BREASTSCREEN ACT & SE NSW is offering a free breast cancer screening service to eligible women in the Crookwell area from August 11 to 26, 2009.

Women aged 50-69 years who have no new changes in their breasts are encouraged to attend. Research has shown that breast screening using mammograms (low-dose x-rays) in women in this target age, coupled with advances in treatment can cut the number of deaths from breast cancer by up to one-third.

Appointments are essential and can be made by phoning 13 20 50.



Are you a woman aged 50 years or over living in the Crookwell area?

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Kiama Creek restoration well on its way



KIAMMA Creek, which runs between Laggan Road and Saleyards Road., was once a beautiful area with a portion of it used, long before the current Coleman Park swimming pool came into existence, as the town swimming pool. This beauty was altered with the planting of the Basket Willows.

In recognition of the significant value to the town for its environmental and tourist potential Council in conjunction with the Kiama Creek Landcare Group (KCLG) formed, in February 2009, a partnership with a view to restoring the Creek to its original form.

With this in mind Council sought a grant from the Lachlan Catchment Management Authority of \$37,000 for removal of the offending willows. Under the Environmental Trust Program Council were able to remove, in March, a majority of the trees.

The group is presently in the process of seeking a further grant of \$37,000, again from the Lachlan Catchment Authority, to push forward with a plan that would see the planting of a variety of grasses, plants and trees, natives and deciduous, that will assist with the development of ecological sustainability for the creek.

Future plans also include the extending of the walkways including the boardwalk to link up with the shared pathways being constructed between the town and Viewhaven Lodge offering easier access to the parkland for the community's senior citizens.

In addition plans are being made to include an educational site where school students can gain some valuable experience in tree planting and monitoring water quality.

The Kiama Landcare Group for efforts have been recognised by Planet Ark who have placed an advertisement on their web site promoting the KCLG's participation, on Sunday August 2 and on Schools Tree Day on Friday July 31 in this year's National Tree.

For more information please contact Norm Fountain at 4832 0047 or Barry Murphy at 4832 1004.

Taralga scheme ahead of schedule

THE Taralga Sewerage Scheme continues to run ahead of schedule and to budget. Approximately 8km of sewer pipes and maintenance shafts, ranging in depth from 1-4metres, have now been constructed in the village. This accounts for just over 70 per cent of the pipelines to be constructed under the project. With the majority of pipelines constructed in the north section of the village, Council's contractor Josa Pty Ltd is now progressing to pipeline sections on the southern end of the village. The construction crew has recently been bolstered with an additional three machines and eight men. The increase in resources will fast track pipeline construction and weather permitting will allow for commencement of construction on the sewerage treatment plant site in July 2009. The sewerage project has resulted in substantial road network improvements with the forming of Hillas Street from Macarthur to Hill Street, the widening of Hill Street between Hillas Street and Halls Road, and the reforming of Halls road. These sections of road have received a temporary seal, with a final seal at the completion of the project. The Taralga showground continues to benefit with excess material used as fill to form and improve drainage of the northern section of the grounds adjacent to Court and Pound Streets.

Wet weather experienced in the past month has made it difficult to tidy up excavations and undertake final restoration on sections of the work. Restoration of these sections will be undertaken as soon as access and moisture conditions permit. The construction of the sewer is a massive undertaking for Council and the largest single construc-

tion project to ever be undertaken in Taralga. While some disruption to the village is unavoidable, Council and Josa Pty Ltd continue to work together to keep disruption to a minimum. Both Council and Josa Pty Ltd appreciate resident's co-operation and patience during the construction process. Despite the short term disruption, residents can be confident that not only will the amenity of the village be returned to its pre-existing condition, but improved for the long term.

Taralga Water Supply Upgrade

Council has been successful in obtaining \$400,000 from the NSW Government for improvements to the Taralga water supply. The funding will allow the connection of recently constructed water bores at the Showground and Goodhew Park to the town water storage reservoir. The work will substantially improve the reliability of the town supply, providing additional capacity for growth, while also reducing the frequency of water restrictions. The 100% funding for this project comes on the back of 100% funding received for the Taralga Sewerage Scheme and is another major boost to the village.

Crookwell Water Supply Upgrade

Council has been successful in obtaining \$150,000 from the NSW Government to complete a pipeline linking the Harley road emergency water supply bores with the Crookwell dam. The pipeline will further secure the reliability of the Crookwell water supply and will allow for an improvement in the level of treatment of water obtained from the bores. The work also compliments work currently being undertaken to fluoridate the Crookwell water supply.



248 East getting a makeover

JANUARY saw Council Works Department begin work on MR 248E, Redbank to Tyrl Tyrl Road. Work included tree clearing, earthworks, gravelling with the goal of reconstructing four kilometres. Funding for this work was part of a Federal and State Grant at a cost of \$923,000.

A further \$541,000 has been allocated by Council for this financial year to reconstruct another two kilometres of this road. Also, Council has received funding under the RTA Timber Bridges Replacement Program for the replacement of timber bridges over Wowagin Creek and Commissioners Creek on Marin Road 148East.

Recently completed Works

While work is on going in a number of areas recently completed works include:

cemetery beam at Crookwell Lawn Cemetery, heavy patching as part of the Regional Roads Program's Gunning Road, Boorowa Road, Goulburn/Taralga Road and on Yass Street in Gunning. While a prime seal program took place on Range and Lade Vale roads.

Forthcoming Works

Works to begin shortly include Collector Village storm water channel works - (RLIC Program costing \$50,000), there will be a lowering of crest at a new driveway on Elms Road, at John Street Crookwell storm water drainage pipeline work will take place and soft fall playground maintenance of various playgrounds is planned.

Finally work on gravelling of pads for recycling bays at Crookwell, Gunning and Taralga Waste and Recycling Centres is due to begin shortly.



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Council supports Men's Shed

THE OFFICIAL opening of the Crookwell community's Men's Shed was conducted by Mayor John Shaw on July 3. Official guest included representatives of local businesses and organisations that have provided financial support to enable the shed to become a reality for the community.

The Upper Lachlan Shire Council at its May 21 meeting heard Don Southwell, of the newly formed Crookwell Men's Shed Committee, outline the history and intentions of the group.

The concept of Men's Sheds has been growing for some years and is seen as a place for males from the age of 18 and upwards to meet and both learn and demonstrate a variety of skills. It is envisioned that these skills might then be used within the community to help others.

Another more serious side of the group is to help with the mental well being of men. Males represent 80 percent of all suicides in Australia. Reducing the incidence of male suicide is an important public health goal. And while considerable effort has gone into raising men's awareness research has shown that social factors, not mental illness, is to blame for high male suicide rate.

Research suggests that Australian men may be benefiting from the introduction of national suicide prevention strategies put in place in the mid to late 1990s.

Draft constitution

The inaugural Committee is currently preparing the draft constitution and management procedures for adoption at the first Annual General Meeting to be held on July 16. The community response to this project has been encouraging and support for fund raising projects appreciated. The donation of \$1,000 from the Upper Lachlan Shire council is seen as a stamp of approval for a community benefit.

While there will be an array of wood and metal working tools available it will be a requirement that members be trained and certified before using them. All members will be inducted in safety procedures to ensure risks are minimised while acquiring new skills.

Membership applications are available at the Shed, formerly known as Tim's Trims, at an annual cost of \$15. Those interested are invited to come down and see what goes on.



L_R Mr Geoff Herridge with Mr Tim O'Keefe. Mr Geoff Herridge

2009 - 2010 Council Rates

-continued from page 4

THE standardised water consumption user-pays charges for the town of Crookwell, Gunning, Taralga, and Dalton will be increased considerably to meet Department of Water & Energy Guidelines from last years charges of \$1.50 per kilolitre for consumption less than 200 kilolitres and \$2.00 for every kilolitre above 200. The water usage charges for 2009/10 will increase to \$1.95 per kilolitre for consumption less than 200 kilolitres and \$2.60 for every kilolitre above 200.

Sewer Charges

All properties connected to the sewerage scheme are currently charged an access

charge. Properties where the service is available but not connected are charged at a lower availability fee. Non-residential properties are charged on a best practice pricing method as per previous years. Crookwell sewer charges will increase from \$570 to \$600 and Gunning will remain at \$600.

A sewerage charge for Taralga will apply from the 1 July 2009 to allow for sufficient funds to be raised to meet the cost of works, services, facilities provided and / or to be undertaken by the Council. Council has undertaken borrowings and commenced project works related to the sewerage scheme. All properties within the Taralga Village able to be connected to the proposed sewerage scheme will be charged an access / availability charge of \$390.

Picnic Race club planning something special



CROOKWELL and District Picnic Race Club committee members are busy planning a family fun day for Sunday, October 25th.

Events will include a street parade, sausage sizzle in the Memorial Oval, activities and prizes for children including jumble and find-a-word puzzles and colouring-in competitions.

Win a trip to the Melbourne Cup

A dinner and auction of a trip for two to this year's Melbourne Cup will be held at Crookwell Services Club on the Sunday evening with a well-known racing identity as guest speaker. There will be prizes and giveaways on offer all day. Full details will be available early in August, so watch this space!

GM's Report, Continued from page 3

FINANCIAL sustainability and good governance of the Council requires the implementation of cost saving initiatives, fiscal restraint and fee structures that reflect the current cost of the service provision. Council has, for the past few years, been addressing the balance of costs against services provided and is working constructively towards a sustainable position that can be maintained into the future. Infrastructure maintenance is the Council's main focus and that may mean that some programs and services may not be provided at the level that meets all residents' and ratepayers' expectations. Having said that, Council will continue to lobby the State and Federal Government for the provision of additional grant funding to ensure that infrastructure maintenance levels continue at better than the current rate of progress. Upper Lachlan Shire Council resolved to make application to the Federal Government

Community Infrastructure Program to assist in the funding of the construction of the Civic and Community Centre. The project involves designing and constructing a new Civic and Community Centre facility in Crookwell to accommodate the Shire Administration and Civic Centre and a Community Meeting Centre; including an Art Gallery and Historical Society premises. This project is not included in the draft Management Plan but is seen as a priority by Council, however the project will only be undertaken if sufficient grant funding can be sourced and after an appropriate public consultation period. Like all NSW Councils, the Upper Lachlan Shire Council is placed under considerable financial constraint by the NSW State Government through rate pegging and cost shifting. Council has tried to address the needs expressed through the submission process from all the Shire's localities but unfortunately, does not have the ability to fund every proposal put forward.

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Crookwell Hospital rated among best in NSW

With an Expo to Come

CROOKWELL Hospital is one of the highest performing NSW health service providers in the "peer group per patient" category in a recent patient survey, scoring over 80 percent.

As a result of this high score, a request was made to Crookwell Hospital asking to share its "secrets of success" and outline what this small rural health service provides to the community.

Key services mentioned in the survey included:

Community Health – the model of care practised offers a comprehensive package of care including Social Support, which is a program of assistance for community clients either in the home or to help individuals access local services.

Community Health nursing supports clients at home maintaining independence and promoting Child and family health and immunisation are also provided as well as school based programs.

Reaching Out is a package that integrates and coordinates services in the community, including respite, home help, personal care and occupational therapy. A pool of funds is shared between Crookwell, Gunning and Yass which enables out-reach services to be provided to residents of outlying areas such as Bigga and Tuena through a day care service providing group activities designed to develop, maintain or support the capacity for independent living and social interaction. Ambulatory Care, an after acute care program for patients returning to the community following a stay in hospital, is included in this package.

The Wound Care service assesses and manages treatment of wounds in consultation with medical/specialist services.

Vitality Plus program is available to those requiring cardiac rehabilitation, anyone with chronic respiratory conditions as well as diabetics who need to develop exercise tolerance in a safe environment.

The unique features of all these services provide a holistic package of care options for Crookwell and district residents.

Crookwell staff members have offered to

share their ideas and policies with any other interested centres across the state.

Health and Well Being Expo

These services and much more will be covered in detail at the Health and Well-Being Expo to be held in Crookwell on Friday, September 25, in the Memorial Hall, Denison Street, Crookwell, from 3 to 7pm. Invitations have been sent to health professionals, aged care centres, government agencies such as Centrelink and DoCS, Goulburn and Crookwell Community Health, Palliative Care, services providing support in the home such as Home Care, Anglicare and Baptist Care. Local groups supporting Parkinson's, breast cancer, prostate cancer and widowed spouses have been included. Local fitness providers will conduct exercise classes for children and adults and give demonstrations of various ways to get and stay fit. A number of local businesses will take part in the Expo. The Rural Coordinators have been supportive of the idea behind the Expo and will help with promotion and setting up on the day. Complementary therapies including Tai Chi, Shiatsu, yoga and massage will also be featured.

Barbecue and giveaways

A free healthy barbecue will be provided and there will be plenty of activities and giveaways. Activities for children will include word puzzles, colouring-in competition, lego building competition where participants will be asked to build an item at home (such as an ambulance, helicopter, hospital or other health-related model) and bring it to the Expo where prizes will be awarded for the best and most interesting entries.

Information

More information about any aspect of the Health and Well-Being Expo may be obtained from Mona Timo or Joy Howell at Crookwell Hospital (4832 1300), Barbara Carter (48 32 1495) or Dianne Layden (4832 1376). Any individual or business who would like to take part in the Expo and hasn't yet received an invitation should contact any of the organisers before the end of July.

Community exercise program in Crookwell

GREATER Southern Area Health Service provides a Community Exercise program in Crookwell on Wednesdays from 4.30 to 5.30pm. The sessions are held at the Health Care Centre, 17 Kialla Road and the cost is a gold coin donation.

The Community Exercise program offers a gentle exercise routine for older or less active adults. Even though the routine is not strenuous, the pace gets the blood flow

ing, increases muscle strength, flexibility and balance and helps participants to relax and reduce stress.

This is an opportunity to get fit and healthy at your own pace. Wear comfortable clothes and well fitting flat shoes and take along a bottle of water.

Contact Karen on 4823 7867 or 4823 7879 for more information or to book in for next week's session.

Rural living guide available

THE Environment and Planning Department of Upper Lachlan Shire Council with the assistance of the Sydney Catchment Authority the Council is making available through Council offices in Crookwell, Gunning and Taralga a guide for rural residential landholders, titled "The Rural Living Handbook 2009".

The Rural Living Handbook 2009 has received a long list of honours including the Rural and Regional Planning Achievement Award at the Planning Institute of Australia

National Congress, the NSW Planning Institute of Australia President's Award and the RH Doherty Award for Excellence in Communication. Please drop in to pick up your free copy of this handy reference resource or read a copy on Council's web site www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au

Rural living

Getting away from it all is an Australian dream. In the Upper Lachlan getting away from it all can involve the purchase of either a town block or a rural property of productive or bush farmland. For many this is a way of finding a healthy environment to

New Financial Year tip charges

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Car / Station Sedan – Non-Resident	\$13.00	\$14.00
Utility / Trailer (single axle)	\$12.00	\$12.00
Large Trailer	\$23.00	\$24.00
Station Wagons/ Panel Vans / Dual Cab Utility	\$10.00	\$10.00
Single axle truck	\$28.00	\$29.00
Dual axle truck	\$56.00	\$58.00
Builders Waste		
Bulk Demolition per cubic metre	\$33.00	\$34.00
Bricks & concrete per cubic metre	\$28.00	\$29.00
Timber per cubic metre	\$12.00	\$12.00
Asbestos per cubic metre (by arrangement only)	\$185.00 plus burial costs	\$192.00 plus burial costs
Green Waste		
Utility/Trailer (single axle)	\$10.00	\$10.00
Truck per cubic metre	\$21.00	\$22.00
Motor Vehicles		
Large	\$60.00	\$62.00
Small	\$24.00	\$25.00
Tyres (each)		
Car	\$8.00	\$8.00
Truck	\$17.00	\$18.00
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Cats & dogs	\$14.00	\$15.00
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Cows & horses	\$67.00	\$70.00
Contractor Garbage Compactor per load	\$50.00	\$78.00
Other wastes per cubic metre	\$50.00	\$52.00

Landfills opening hours

CROOKWELL: Monday—Friday 10.00 am—4.00 pm

Saturday & Sunday 10.00 am—4.00 pm

Gunning: Tues, Wed, Thursday 8.00am – 12.00pm

Saturday & Sunday 9.00 am—5.00 pm

Taralga: Thursday 9.00 am—4.00 pm

Saturday & Sunday 9.00 am—4.00 pm

Collector: Sunday 9.00 am—4.00 pm

Bigga: Saturday & Sunday 9.00 am—4.00 pm

Tuena: Open seven days

Locations of Council landfills

Crookwell: Council's largest waste and recycling centre located on *Grabben Gullen Road* Crookwell. The Crookwell centre is able to take all domestic waste, builders wastes, recyclables, clean chemical drums (drum muster) and garden organics. Crookwell is not able to accept gas bottles, paints, chemicals, cooking oils or fire extinguishers.

Gunning:

Located off *Dalton Road* Gunning. The Gunning centre is able to take all domestic waste, recyclables, builders waste (except asbestos), clean chemical drums (drum muster) and garden organics. Gunning is

not able to take dead animals, asbestos, gas bottles, paints, chemicals, cooking oils or fire extinguishers.

Collector:

Location on *Currawang Road* Collector. Collector is able to take the same materials as the Gunning centre.

Taralga:

Located on the *Old Showground Road* Taralga. Taralga is actually a transfer station and no landfilling occurs at the site. The transfer station is able to take the same materials as Gunning, however all materials are transported out to other facilities.

Bigga:

Located on *Cemetery Road Bigga*. Bigga centre is only able to take domestic waste, scrap metals, whitegoods, glass, vehicle batteries, whitegoods, garden organics and tyres. All other materials need to be disposed of at another Council centre.

Tuena:

Located off *Cemetery Road Tuena*. Tuena centre is able to take only domestic waste, glass, vehicle batteries, scrap metals and white goods. All other materials need to be disposed of at another Council centre.

raise children, or a safe place to retire away from the stress of the city, and there are those who only wish to commune with nature during a weekend escape. For the Upper Lachlan Shire these relatively new lifestyles demands place pressure on this overwhelmingly rural community. All levels of government are presently perusing ways to make sure that future developments are sustainable while protecting the environment for the future. Local activities have a significant impact on the rural amenity. While we need to get along with our neighbour's government has to also allow for individual goals without

placing undo pressure on the lifestyle of others. However, the rural landscape is a productive resource where some legitimate farming and resource activities are carried out and have unavoidable impacts. Remember different people want to manage their land in different ways. Some will want to keep and enhance the existing bush. While others will want to run stock, cultivate crops, or access the natural resources that are part of their property. Whatever your goals as a landowner or manager, you need to be aware of your rights and responsibilities.

Origin Energy Cullerin Wind Farm's Story

About CRWF - the Cullerin Range Wind Farm

By Stuart Atkinson, Wind Farm Operations Leader, Origin *

YOU'VE seen it grow before your eyes but we thought you might like to know a little more about what's involved. As you may have noticed Origin Energy has now installed its 15, 2 MW REpower wind turbines on site.

In addition to the wind farm itself, building involved various additional engineering activities such as the site roads to access the turbine sites, and the hardstand areas for the turbine construction.

What makes up a wind turbine?

At a glance each turbine chiefly consists of:

- * A foundation and steel embedded section, which accepts the first tower section.
 - * Each assembled tower comprises three sections standing around 78 metres above ground level.
 - * The 'Nacelle' which houses all main components (Gearbox, main shaft & bearings, and Generator) sits on top of the top tower section, giving a final hub height of around 80 metres.
 - * The turbine nose cone and three blades were pre-assembled at ground level, lifted up to the Nacelle and secured in place.
- The turbines have systems fitted to protect them from lightning strikes and a detailed earthing design within the tower and foundation. The Nacelles were all factory tested in Germany before being shipped to site. Detailed onsite testing on each unit verified the in-factory tests. This included a rigorous assessment related to the systems overall safety and its capability to shut itself down should onsite conditions require that. Each Nacelle has duplicate sensors on top of it to detect wind speed and direction.



Further facts and figures:

- * The turbine rotor assembly has three blades each weighing 6 tonnes and 41 metres long, a hub assembly and a main shaft.
- * The gearbox is housed within the Nacelle and transfers the rotational energy from the wind and rotating blades through three stages of step up gearbox producing a step up ratio of around 105 to 1 to drive the Generator.
- * Site Generators are rated at 2000KW and generate at 690VAC.
- * All turbines are self sufficient in terms of turbine protection and additionally a site SCADA system (which stands for Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) enables external control of the turbines and data collection. Amazingly this enables a three way monitoring and control of the turbines - from Germany, by REpower Australia as well as by Origin Energy.
- * the turbine towers, which were manufactured in Portland Victoria, were assembled in three sections, with a hub height of 80 metres.

Areva -T&D Australia Ltd was responsible for the Balance of Plant (BOP) electrical installation and commissioning works onsite. This included the installation and commissioning of site electrical equipment:

Cabling to transformer and other wind turbines

Cabling between the wind turbine and the transformer runs between the base of the turbine and the transformer kiosk (around 20metres) at 690VAC. The kiosk transformer steps up this voltage to 22KV and site cabling between kiosk transformers are at 22KV. Generation on site is collected in two sub-circuits turbine 1 to 8 and turbine 9 to 15. Underground 22KV conductors used onsite amounted to around 7km of cable. This generation is then collected at the site switchyard and stepped up to 132KV for export to the Yass to Goulburn distribution line.

Site Power Supplies and Facilities

A site control building is located adjacent to the site switchyard. The control building

houses the 22KV switchboard, site small power and lighting distribution boards, site telemetry and control systems and energy metering. The site revenue metering measures the net energy export onto the 132KV system and enabling internal consumption and within farm losses to be taken into account.

What happens next?

The wind farm will become fully operational in July exporting power to Country Energy's 132kV Goulburn to Yass distribution line, which passes through the northern section of the Site.

With the construction buildings gone we have been able to focus on site remediation, with the results of the regeneration seeding likely to start showing closer to Spring. Several contractors including REpower will continue, along with Origin, to be involved in the maintenance and supervision of the site..



* Stuart Atkinson, Origin's Wind Farm Operations Leader, has five years of wind farm experience in association with various Australian wind farms and has 12 years of power industry experience. While this is Origin's first purpose built wind farm the company has gained significant experience within the industry as a significant purchaser of wind derived power. Stuart has spent a significant amount of time on site and says that he has appreciated the way people within the community have welcomed the team involved in developing Cullerin Range Wind Farm.

Local schools sign up for wind farm education

SCHOOLS in proximity to Cullerin and in the surrounding districts including Goulburn, Gunning, Yass and Binalong, will be investigating wind as a renewable source of energy, and the Cullerin Range Wind Farm in particular, when Origin staff visit more than 10 schools during Term 3. Students from Kindergarten to year 12 will be able to learn first hand from Origin senior project managers and a wind farm site manager about Australia's renewable energy industry, wind power and how a wind farm is constructed.

The presentations will provide more than 700 primary and secondary students with the opportunity to talk about wind farms and direct questions to the Origin team, who will be volunteering to share their knowledge and experience.

There are two themed presentations available:

1) Story of a wind farm (for K-12 students) provides information on the history of wind power, current use and future plans. The presenter will describe how a wind farm site is chosen, what the components of a wind



farm are and how wind power helps the environment.

2) Building a wind farm (for mid-primary to upper-secondary students) addresses key technical questions about how a wind farm is built. The presenter will discuss where wind turbines come from and who builds them, the kinds of tests that are carried out, who does the testing and how it all becomes operational.

As part of the presentation, students will also learn about the presenters' role(s) and responsibilities at Origin, providing an insight into employment opportunities within the energy industry.

Teachers and students will be invited to share what they learn by undertaking investigations into the pros and cons of wind power, renewable energy and the future of Australian energy. Students will be encour-

aged to present their findings to their classmates, school and/or local communities in creative ways.

Students' creative work will be displayed on Origin's education website (originenergy.com.au/education) to be shared with other Australian students, together with the latest news on the Cullerin Range wind farm.

For more information about booking a free school presentation, please contact Anna Hindson on 1800 659 511 (free call) or email anna@ei.com.au.



THE VOICE

New Planning documents for Council on Public Exhibition

WHEN Upper Lachlan Shire Council was formed in 2004 the new Council resolved to prepare new planning instruments that were relevant to the new Council area. Following the development of the Upper Lachlan Strategy Plan – 2020 Vision, a Biodiversity Planning Framework and Community Heritage Study, draft Upper Lachlan Local Environmental Plan 2008 and Upper Lachlan Development Control Plan 2009 have now been prepared. Documents on public exhibition until 20 August, 2009 include: the Upper Lachlan Strategy Plan – 2020 Vision, the Upper Lachlan Shire Council Biodiversity

Planning Framework, the Draft Upper Lachlan Local Environmental Plan 2008, the Draft Upper Lachlan Development Control Plan 2009 and the Draft Upper Lachlan Community Heritage Study.

Why Public Exhibition?

Public exhibition of the draft planning documents gives residents and other interested people an opportunity to comment on these documents. Once the exhibition period has closed (20 August, 2009), Council will consider all submissions and make individual recommendations regarding each submission.

What the State Government requires

In 2004 the NSW Department of Planning introduced reforms to create uniform planning provisions across the State. A 'standard instrument' was introduced which specified the format and clauses required for future local environmental plans. This included an opportunity for 'local provisions' to retain some flexibility for local communities.

Draft Upper Lachlan Local Environmental Plan 2008, now on public exhibition, is in the required 'standard instrument' format. The Department of Planning has endorsed the draft plan for public exhibition through the issue of a Section 65 certificate (the certificate which allows public exhibition to proceed).

Community Information Sessions – July 2009

To provide more information about the planning documents, Community Information Sessions will be held between 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm at the following locations:

Crookwell: Upper Lachlan Council Chambers, Spring Street on Tuesday July 7
Taralga Sports Club on Wednesday July 8
Gunning, Upper Lachlan former Fire Control Centre, Yass Street on Thursday July 9.

Collector Community Hall (Annex) on Tuesday July 28.

Big Hill Fire Shed on Thursday July 30.

WIRES

A Sticky Story

RECENTLY one of our carers rescued two microbats which had become stuck on adhesive fly catching papers hanging in a shed. Both bats were covered in a sticky goo, dead flies, fluff and unidentifiable bits and pieces. One bat had his ear bent back and stuck to the fur on his neck and neither bat could unfurl their wings. The carer removed most of the debris with the help of warmed-up olive oil, a magnifying lamp and tweezers. The sticky goo was removed using pure soap suds, then washed thoroughly to remove any soap residue and the wings were massaged with warmed olive oil to offset the drying effects of the soap (the clean up job took about three days as the bats could only tolerate short bursts of handling).

Luckily, neither bat had punctures, breaks or swelling and they were drinking and eating. At the end of the third day they were given a test run indoors, where they flew around the ceiling dodging the light fixture with ease! So, with permission from the property owner, (who had removed the offending fly papers and vowed never to use them again) they were taken back and released on dusk. A happy ending to our sticky story!

Manmade Hazards

Our tiny native animals, such as antechinus

and marsupial mice, can also get stuck to "sticky" mice and rat papers – a slow, cruel death for both native and feral. This, and the above story show the potential for wildlife to come to harm "at our hands" without any intent on our part. We all know of the casualties caused by vehicle collision and entanglement on fences, but there are many other ways in which our wildlife can come to grief. However, with a bit of forethought and care this can be minimised.

The main way we can do this is to "pick up after ourselves", take our rubbish home and dispose of it responsibly.

Also, before putting rubbish in the garbage bin or taking it to the tip, flatten aluminium drink cans (snakes get their heads caught in the ring pull holes); cut plastic rings from bottle and jar tops into at least two pieces; cut plastic six pack holders into pieces; tie plastic bags into a knot (including packaging bags, not only shopping bags) - it's horrific to see an animal suffocating with a plastic bag over its head; fishermen – don't leave tangled lines, hooks etc. behind when you go home.

Example

An example of plastic entanglement is this dead quoll that was caught in a plastic six pack holder. The quoll weighed about half the normal weight, so had been suffering for some time with the plastic tightly wrapped around its body behind the front legs, with another loop of plastic twisted around one of the front legs as well, making it impossible for it to free itself. A slow and agonizing death that could have been avoided.



(Photo source: E-news - Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia – Feb. '09)

Becoming A WIRES Volunteer

Southern Tablelands WIRES recently held a Rescue and Immediate Care Course, which resulted in 18 new members for the branch – a great result! It will be some months before the next training weekend, but if you feel you might like to join us, please give our Training Officer, Vanessa Taylor a call on 4844 7074 and give her your contact details. She will then let you know when dates have been set both for the course, and the information evening held a couple of weeks beforehand.

For assistance with wildlife in distress, please call our rescue number 4822 3888.

Memorial Hall Committee committed

ACROSS Australia community halls, once the life blood of the rural villages and towns, are closing, but not in the Upper Lachlan Shire and especially not in Crookwell.

Built when times were good communities have, due to drought and lower commodity prices struggled to maintain their halls. Crookwell's Memorial Hall would quite possibly have also gone down the road of disrepair if it was not for the work of the Crookwell Memorial Hall Committee, CMHC.

The Hall Committee is a section 355 committee of Council and was formed before the amalgamation of the Crookwell Council into the ULSC. The story goes that Councillors from the Crookwell Council approached the Crookwell Amateur Dramatic Society,

CADS, with the news that Council was considering closing sections of the hall because it was considered too expensive to keep open. The news sparked this group into action.

Working closely with Council, CADS members formed the Memorial Hall Management Committee, which took over the oversight and maintenance of the building approximately ten years ago. The goal of the Committee was to once again make the hall a community asset that everyone would be proud of.

Thanks for the painting

Recently the Committee has organised over \$85,000 of work on the hall, which has seen improvements to the men's toilet area, a garden area and undercover area on the eastern side of the building and, most recently, something that the entire community thanks them for, the painting of the front of the building. The inside area will be painted mid year.

Other work completed by CADS Members, over the years include construction of a mezzanine for lighting and sound, improvements to the wardrobe areas, the refurbishment of the stage and kitchen, building of refreshment service area at the western side of the building, construction of a storage shed and concreting the surrounding areas, also the cleaning up of years or rubbish placed under the stage and outside new curtains as well as a long list of minor adjustments unseen to the public.

President has plans

Current President of the Hall Committee, Robert Bill says, "It is with thanks to the hard work and dedication of all CADS and Management Committee members that all of this work has taken place. We are trying to give our community a Hall that can be used for all types of activities and one that they can be proud of and an ongoing asset to this town. This is not just a commitment it is a labour of love, and we take great pride

in what we do there, as we see a great future for the hall.

"We have lots of plans that we hope to carry out to the hall in the years to come, as funds become available we will be doing more & more improvements."

The original CADS was formed in the early 1900s and has grown into an institution known throughout NSW for its presentations of high quality entertainment.

Cr. John Shaw, Mayor of the Upper Lachlan says the committee has provided a great service to the community.

"Community halls are a centre point of rural life, providing a venue for a wide range of activities. In the case of Crookwell's Memorial Hall it has been used as a meeting place to discuss community concerns, a venue for charity art exhibitions, community market sales, as well as entertainment. Because of the good work of the CMHC the Hall has become an valuable asset to not only Crookwell but the Shire," Cr. Shaw said.

Upper Lachlan Shire Australia Day Committee

COUNCIL is seeking nominations from people interested in joining its Australia Day Committee for 2009-10.

The Committee's role is to:

Promote the celebration of Australia Day, provide promotional assistance to community events on Australia Day, to seek nominations and to make recommendations to Council on Australia Day awards to citizens, young citizens and events, as well as to seek an Australia Day ambassador from among those made available by the NSW Australia Day Committee

Appointed by

The Committee is appointed by Council and consists of community and Council representatives from across the Shire. The Committee meets two or three times a year.

Nominations

At a more general level, Council encourages people and community groups to think about nominations for Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, and Event of the Year. Nominations will close at the end of September 2009.

Expressions of interest in joining the Australia Day Committee should be sent to the General Manager, Upper Lachlan Shire Council, PO Box 10, Crookwell, NSW 2583 and marked "Australia Day Committee – in confidence".