



## **Media Release**

**Bathurst Regional Council; Blayney Shire Council; Lithgow City Council and Oberon Council discuss the Fit for the Future Local Government Reform Proposals**

**For Immediate Release – Friday 20 February 2015**

Representatives of the Bathurst, Blayney, Lithgow and Oberon Council's met on Wednesday 18 February to discuss the Fit for the Future Local Government Reform Proposal's.

The meeting was held in the Oberon Council Chambers where Oberon Mayor John McMahon welcomed Mayor's, Deputy Mayors and General Managers from the Councils present.

The reform program is the State Government's response to the final reports from the Independent Local Government Review Panel and the Local Government Acts Taskforce announced in September last year.

One of the recommendations was for a potential merger of Bathurst Regional Council with Oberon Council. Bathurst Mayor Gary Rush said at this time Bathurst Council has not made a decision about this proposal, however would only consider a merger if there was a neighbouring Council interested in entering into discussions.

Mayor of Blayney, Scott Ferguson said that Blayney Council has been approached by Orange Council about developing a Merger Business Case Proposal involving Cabonne and Blayney Shire Council's. Blayney Council has not reached a decision about this proposal, however all options will need to be considered for the best possible outcome for the Blayney Region.

Lithgow City Council Mayor, Maree Statham advised that the Lithgow City Council are opposed to forced amalgamations and are not in favour of any boundary adjustments. Lithgow Council aim to increase its population to 25,000 residents in order to attract new business and provide an economic stimulus for the Lithgow area.

Oberon Mayor, John McMahon reaffirmed Oberon Council's position that they are opposed to forced amalgamations but would have liked to consider boundary adjustments with the two neighbouring Councils in order to deliver more effective services to adjacent rural communities. Mayor Maree Statham has rejected the request by Oberon Council for boundary changes.

Bathurst, Blayney, Lithgow and Oberon are all members of the current Central West Regional Organisation of Councils (Centroc) and have confirmed their participation in the Central West Joint Organisation Pilot. This regional collaboration has for many years delivered cost savings and regional initiatives which member Councils have benefited from. The group are looking forward to increased opportunities available through the Pilot Joint Organisation Program.

In a discussion led by Bathurst Regional Council it was agreed to make approaches to the Upper Macquarie County Council about the lack of response to a previous request for an effective Strategic Plan to address weed control in the four Local Government Areas. The Upper Macquarie County Council is the statutory weeds authority for the four member Councils. With increased subdivision of rural land across the region the proliferation of weeds has become a huge problem. It is felt that a more robust plan is needed to address this problem.

ENDS



## OBERON COUNCIL

172750



## MAYOR'S COLUMN

Councillors and Management Staff met for their final workshop to review the Fit for the Future submission on Tuesday evening. This evening an Extraordinary Meeting will be held, commencing at 5.30pm to consider the final report which will be submitted for the Government's consideration.

Council will also adopt the Oberon Community Strategic Plan 2015 at tonight's meeting. Council has received very little response from the community consultation it has undertaken regarding the documents.

Last Thursday there was a serious dog attack on sheep at the Oberon High School. Two dogs were involved in the attack and seven sheep were injured, two may have to be put down and all are under the care of our local vet. Animal Control Officers have impounded both dogs and they will remain in custody until an investigation into the incident has been completed.

It is a timely reminder to all dog owners to keep their dogs restrained when unattended. Heavy fines apply for any dog caught behaving in a menacing way or injuring livestock.

For the first time in many years district producers are enjoying high prices for their livestock and wool. The wool prices are the best I have seen since the collapse of the wool market and reserve price scheme over 10 years ago. However the high returns for farm produce over one season will not be enough to return landholders to a sound financial position. We need a number of consecutive years of running at a considerable profit to ensure rural operations are financially secure.

This week many of our local Schools held end of term assemblies to recognise the efforts of students. The Oberon Library has a number of activities planned for the School holidays. Please check the Council website [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au) or call the Library on 6329 8220 to book your place.

Mayor John McMahon

172751

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

30 June to 2 July and 7 to 9 July 2015

Session 1 (6 - 11 Years)			Session 2 (12 - 18 Years)		
Date	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Location	3.30 - 5.00pm	Location	
Tuesday, 30	Cooking Echinacea overides	Community Centre	Cooking Picklets	Community Centre	
Wednesday, 1	Wreath 2 Art Craft	Community Centre	Internet BookKings: Hunt	Library	
Thursday, 2	Mystery Movie & Popcorn 5 - 11	Community Centre	Mystery Movie & Popcorn 12 - 18	Community Centre	
Session 1 (6 - 11 Years)			Session 2 (12 - 18 Years)		
Date	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Location	3.30 - 5.00pm	Location	
Tuesday, 7	Cooking Pizza	Community Centre	Cooking Pizza	Community Centre	
Wednesday, 8	Craft - Rock Painting	Library	Web design with Weebly	Library	
Thursday, 9	Gum leaf & Personal photo Book Marks	Library	Mystery Movie & Popcorn 12 - 18 years 3pm - 6pm	Community Centre	

Bookings are essential. Please contact the Oberon Council Library on 6329 8220.

## POSITION VACANT

We are currently seeking applications for a Finance Coordinator. This is a full-time position and application closes at 9.00am Monday, 6 July 2015.

Full details including position description's are available on Council's website, [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au). For further information on the position, please see advertisement in classified section or contact Jeanne Burton on 02 3329 8150.



Oberon Council Administration Centre  
137-139 Oberon Street  
PO Box 84, OBERON NSW 2787  
[council@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@oberon.nsw.gov.au) [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au)  
Monday to Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm (2 6329 8100)

Oberon Library Corner of Dart Street and Fleming Street, Oberon 6329 8220  
Monday to Friday 9.30am - 5.30pm, Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm, Sunday - Closed

Oberon Waste Facility Lower Mount Road, Oberon  
Monday to Friday 8.00am - 10.00am and 3.00pm - 5.00pm.  
Saturday & Sunday - 9.00am - 5.00pm



## OBERON

172753

## DETERMINATIONS - MAY 2015

DEVELOPMENT TYPE	STREET ADDRESS
Dwelling and On-Site Waste Water System	105 Sheppard's Forest Road, GINGKIN
Demolition of existing Dwelling and a Dual Occupancy and Spa	850 Jarrett's Road, ISABELLA
Dwelling and On-Site Waste Water System	1829 O'Connell Road, O'CONNELL
Subdivision Certificate - 2 Lots	340 Keith Armstrong Road, GINGKIN
Carport	27-29 Queen Street, OBERON
On-Going use of existing Septic System	45 Shakespears Close, OBERON
Fence	1 Spiker Place, OBERON
Stormwater and Drainage works	31 Endeavour Street, OBERON
Additions	1900 O'Connell Road, O'CONNELL
Additions	18 Lower Mount Road, OBERON
Access Construction	1205 Lower Mount Road, TARANA

Copies of determinations are available for inspection at Council's Administration Centre.

172755

## JULY COUNCIL MEETINGS

MEETING	Date	Time
Works Committee Meeting Administration Centre Council Chambers	Tue 14	5.30pm
Ordinary Council Meeting Administration Centre Council Chambers	Tue 21	5.30pm

172756

## QUOTATIONS - HIRE OF PLANT 2015 - 2016

Oberon Council is seeking quotations for the comprehensive Hire of Plant on a contract basis for works in the Council area for a period of twelve (12) months from 1 July 2015.

An information package containing application forms, details and conditions can be downloaded from Council's website [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au) collected from the Council chambers or mailed upon request.

Quotations must be in writing, addressed exactly as below, and submitted by 9.30am Monday 29 June 2015.

Sent to: Confidential - Hire of Plant, Tender Box  
The General Manager, Oberon Council, PO Box 84, OBERON NSW 2787

172759

## NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Application: 10.2015.21.1 - 254 Allotment Subdivision  
Applicant: Jetbar Pty Ltd of Aithon, Dainton Planning  
Address: Lot 61 DP 1103098 - 32 Broken Glen Lane, Oberon  
Consent Authority: Oberon Council  
Development: Subdivision

Council has received a Development Application for a 254 allotment subdivision on the property described above. The development proposal, Statement of Environmental Effects and plans can be viewed at Council's Administration Centre during business hours, or on Council's website at [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au). Submissions regarding the application will be received until 4.00pm on Friday, 10 July, 2015.

Council Administration Centre Chambers  
137-139 Oberon Street, OBERON 2787

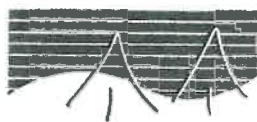
Alan Cairney  
General Manager



Oberon Visitor Information Centre  
Corner Post Road and Edith Road,  
OBERON NSW 2787  
Monday-Saturday 9.30am - 4pm Sundays 10am - 2pm  
(2 6329 8210 [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au))

Black Springs Waste Facility: Dog Rocks Road, Black Springs  
Every second Sunday 12.30pm - 2.30pm.  
Burrage Waste Facility: Ark: Iona Road, Burrage  
Every second Sunday 10.00am - 12.00pm.  
Please refer to Council website for opening dates





## OBERON COUNCIL

## OBERON



## MAYOR'S COLUMN

Last Thursday evening the Chifley Zone Rural Fire Service held an Awards Presentations at the Oberon RSL Club. Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons presented 18 long service awards and clasps to Rural Fire Service volunteers from the Oberon area. From the 18 service awards the total years of service was 711 years.

Ken Maloney from the Paling Yards Brigade was presented with a Long Service Medal and Clasp for 71 years of service. This is an outstanding commitment, not only to his local brigade but to his local community for almost three quarters of a Century.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding commitment of the volunteers and extend our appreciation to each and every one for their years of hard work and dedication to the Rural Fire Service. We recognise that without the commitment of the volunteers the burden of dealing with fires and other incidents in rural localities would be next to impossible.

Deputy Mayor Kerry Gibbons and Councils Works and Engineering Director attended the National Timber Council Meeting, held in Canberra on Monday 15 June.

The meeting received an overview of the Strategic Plan for the National Timber Council. High on the agenda is continued lobbying for funding for regional and rural roads affected by the haulage of Forestry products. It is hoped that a joint approach can be formulated between the State and Federal Governments to find a more equitable way for funding road maintenance for the roads which are significantly affected by heavy vehicle haulage.

Over the next two weeks the Council will be busy finalising our response to be Fit for the Future. I am quiet confident that the Oberon Council will make the grade as we are in a sound financial position and we will be stating our case to demonstrate we have the scale and capacity to remain as a viable standalone Council. This process has been quite stressful for both Staff and Councillors and I am sure we are looking forward to completing this phase of the Fit for the Future process.

Mayor John McMahon

## WORKS UPDATE

## ROAD GRADING ACTIVITY

Our grading program for rural roads is in progress with conditions at the moment being ideal for this type of work.

For the next month Grader 1 will work on grading the following roads - Jerong, Glen Chee, Mt Wrong, Jaunter, Fell Timber, Brass Walls, Claytons, Wrens Nest, Nupier's, Gorman's Lane, Chapman's Lane, Loch Erin, Isabella and Swallows Nest.

Grader 2 is currently working on: Ivers Rd and will then move onto Jerula, Murrays Lane, Chatham Valley, Springmount, Bastard Point, Glingkin, Tuglow, Sheep Station Forest, Arkstone, Ernden Vale, Hintons, Knapsack, Jeremy, Burruga Dam, Bald Ridge, Moss Grove, Forest Lodge & Schumachers Rds.

Grader 3 continues to gravel re-sheet Nunan's Hill Rd, Glingkin Valley Rd then onto McKean's Creek Rd, Todd's Rd and Beaconsfield Rd.



Gravel resheeting on Nunan's Hill Road

## MAYFIELD ROAD - WISEMANS CREEK CROSSING

This week construction started on the wing walls for the crossing. Minor delays were experienced as a result of ground water. Next week we will start the placement and lock-in of the pre-constructed concrete box culverts onto the new concrete platform in readiness for the final leg of road construction. Guardrail and protective approach terminals for the new culvert have been ordered and will be installed in the near future.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



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Monday to Friday: 8.50am - 4.30pm 02 6329 8160

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Alan Cairney  
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Please refer to Council website for opening dates



## OBERON COUNCIL

# OBERON

## MAYOR'S COLUMN



I would like to pass on my thanks to Deputy Mayor Kerry Gibbons for filling in for me over past couple weeks while I underwent surgery for a hip replacement. Kerry has attended to all the Mayoral duties during this time and it is quite reassuring to know that I have a Deputy Mayor that is capable and willing to step in and continue on with the good work of the Council.

I will definitely be back in the office from Monday next week and I am looking forward to stepping back into my Mayoral duties.

I am sure Black Springs residents will be pleased to see the reconstruction of a short 100m section of Abercrombie Rd at Black Springs commence this week. This section was not done when the previous reconstruction was undertaken in the village area. Council's new Works and Engineering Director, Chris Schumacher has managed to include this in the schedule of works following on from completion of the Campbells River Road reconstruction to maximise the benefit of having plant in the area.

Two landmark trees in Oberon have been removed during the past couple of weeks due to declining health. Although it is a difficult decision to remove trees of this age it should improve safety aspects in both areas. Now that the tree has been removed on the corner of Apex Park at some time in the future Council will be able to rearrange the intersection at the corner of Rupert Street and Carrington Avenue to make this intersection safer.

The new Water Filling Station on North Street has been installed and we are in the final stages of having a Smart Card system installed. Residents will be able to make use of this Filling Station at their convenience to fill their water containers. This will be of great benefit for people out of town who need stock water or water for domestic purposes.

The NSW Government has advised that the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) as been appointed to the Expert Advisory Panel to assess Local Government Fit for the Future proposals. They will consider proposals submitted by Local Governments independently and ensure a consistent, fair and impartial assessment.

All Councils are required to provide IPART with their proposals by 30 June 2015. The proposals will demonstrate how Councils meet the Fit for the Future criteria of scale and capacity, sustainability, effective infrastructure and service management, and efficiency.

Mayor John McMahon

## PLANNING PROPOSAL - 175 TITANIA ROAD, OBERON

Oberon Council has Delegated Authority from the Minister for Planning and Environment to finalise a Planning Proposal to vary the current Land Zone Map on land described as Lot 1 DP 1069826, known as 175 Titania Road, Oberon.

The Proposal seeks to amend the Minimum Lot Size (MLS) from 2ha with an average of 2ha to 1ha with an average of 2ha. The purpose of the Planning Proposal is to amend the current Lot Size Map.

The Planning Proposal can be viewed at Council's Administration Centre, or on Council's website at [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au) until close of business Friday 29 May 2015. Submissions relating to the Planning Proposal should be made to the General Manager, Oberon Council, 137-139 Oberon St, Oberon, 2767 within the time.

Oberon Council Administration Centre

137-139 Oberon Street

PO Box 34, OBERON NSW 2767

[council@oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://council@oberon.nsw.gov.au) [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au)

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Monday to Friday 3.00pm - 10.00am and 3.00pm - 5.00pm  
Saturday & Sunday - 1.00pm - 5.00pm

## POSITIONS VACANT

We are currently seeking applications for the following permanent full-time positions:

- Concrete/Construction Assistant - applications close 9.00am Monday 25 May 2015
- Finance Coordinator - applications close 9.00am Monday 1 June 2015

Full details including position descriptions are available on Council's website, [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au). For further information on the position, please contact Joanne Barton on 02 6329 6150.

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS

## PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT OBERON COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2015

Oberon Council is holding a series of community meetings to present the Draft Oberon Community Strategic Plan 2015. The Draft Oberon Community Strategic Plan 2015 and associated documents will be on public exhibition from 25 May until 22 June 2015.

Community Meetings will be held at the following locations and dates:

Tue 26 May	8.00pm	Oberon RSL Club Auditorium Note Change of Venue
Wed 3 June	2.00pm	Robert Hooper Community Centre, Fleming Street, Oberon
Thur 4 June	8.00pm	O'Connell Public School Hall, Black Mills Lane, O'Connell
Mon 8 June	8.00pm	Black Springs Community Hall, Dog Rocks Road, Black Springs
Thur 11 June	7.00pm	Burrage Sport and Recreation Club, Lloyd Street, Burrage

Council representatives will be happy to address Community Groups and Organisations in relation to the Plan and interested groups should contact Council's Executive Coordinator, Sharon Sewell on 6329 8161.

The Draft Oberon Community Strategic Plan 2015 and associated documents will be available for viewing at the following locations:

Council's Administration Centre  
137-139 Oberon Street, Oberon or phone 6329 6100 for further information

Oberon Library  
Cnr Dart & Fleming Streets, Oberon

Oberon Visitor Information Centre  
46 Ross Street, Oberon

Council's Website  
[oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://oberon.nsw.gov.au) or QR Code

Written submissions are invited in relation to the Draft Oberon Community Strategic Plan 2015 up until 4.30pm on Monday 22 June 2015. These should be addressed to the General Manager, Oberon Council, PO Box 34, Oberon NSW 2767.

## WORKS UPDATE

## HAZELGROVE ROAD

Bitumen primer sealing works were completed on Thursday, sealing 600m of pavement through the bushy area. Advisory signage and guideposts, and further erosion control measures, will be completed next week.

## CAMPBELL'S RIVER ROAD

Minor grading repairs to the pavement were carried out on Campbell's River Road last week and the bitumen primer seal was laid on Thursday. Advisory signage and guideposts will be installed in the next 2 weeks. A final seal will be applied late this year around November when the air temperature warms up again.

## MUNAHILL ROAD

Roadside maintenance works are continuing this week with further clearing out of culvert inlets and outlets, removal of soil where it has built up along verges, cleaning and deepening of table drains, and removal of vegetation where it was too close to the road. Work is expected to continue for at least another week along with general resurfacing works on Munahill Road.

## MAINTENANCE GRADING

Work continued last week on Swainfield Rd, Tibbety Lane, Bloom Hill Rd and Brittle Jack Rd. Most roads in this part of the Local Government Area are now getting too dry for grading. Next week we move to Jamong Rd and Mt Waring Rd.

## ABERCROMBIE ROAD

Forward planning works for the reconstruction of a short 100m at Black Springs will commence this week. This will involve standing and installing new piped out-lets to improve the drainage. This is necessary prior to commencing work on widening of shoulders and table drains. This will be followed in June by an asphalt overlay to improve the pavement of the intersection and the approaching road into this intersection.

## LINE MARKING OF ROADS

Remarking of faded centrelines and edge lines on Regional Roads as well as the recently constructed section of Mt Field Road will be carried out this week.



Oberon Visitor Information Centre  
Corner Ross Street and Edith Road,

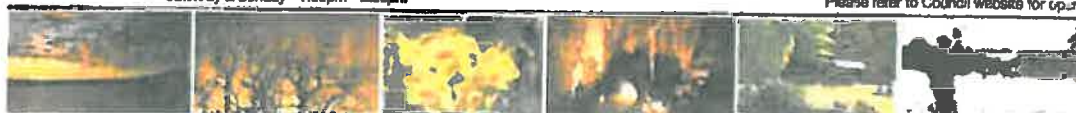
OBERON NSW 2767

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## OBERON COUNCIL

# OBERON

### DEPUTY MAYOR'S COLUMN



I am filling in for Mayor John McMahon for a short period while he recovers from a hip operation. John is recovering well and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Last weekend, I was pleased to be able to attend the majority of ANZAC commemorations held across the Shire. As was the case across the whole country, people turned out in record numbers for the Oberon, O'Connell, Burruga and Black Springs services. The 100 year commemorations were a great tribute to those who have served our country across all conflicts since the ANZAC landings in Gallipoli 100 years ago.

At the Dawn Service in Oberon a very quiet and reverent gathering were told of the origin of the Dawn Service and how troops would be woken to be alert prior to dawn as this was a time that they were considered to be most vulnerable to attack. During the day there was a special commemoration for the 34 Oberon Soldiers who lost their lives in World War 1 and in particular the four soldiers who lost their lives at Gallipoli. Descendants from these soldiers families were among those who gathered to mark the very special 100 year commemorations.

I was very pleased to see the involvement from our local Schools, who spent a great deal of time putting together power point presentations, researching local history, rehearsing in the choir and band and turning out to march with the Returned Servicemen and Woman on the day. Through our youth the tradition of ANZAC will continue and we will remember them.

Last Thursday evening the Councillors and Staff made a presentation to a small group of interested members of the community regarding the State Government's Fit for the Future Program. The presentation outlined the Council's current position and the submission which will be prepared and submitted by 30 June this year.

I was very sad to hear of the passing of Father Adrian Horgan last Monday. Father Adrian spent many years in Oberon and will be remembered for his dedication and commitment to his parish.

Oberon Council is currently in the process of applying to become the new Trustees of the Black Springs Community Hall. We will be developing a management plan for the Hall and hope to make it more accessible to the community in the future. I hope the whole community will be able to make use of this fantastic community asset.

I am very concerned for the future of the High School Department at St Joseph's School. The number of students attending the High School has declined in recent years and concerned parents and citizens have recently attended meetings at the School in an attempt to address these issues. I hope the community can get behind the School and we can do everything possible to ensure it can remain open into the future.

The outdoor staff did a great job last week of clearing a number of trees and fixing up issues from the strong winds and rough weather we have experienced.

Deputy Mayor Kerry Gibbons

### MAY 2015 COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting	Date	Time
Community Services Committee Meeting Administration Centre Council Chambers	Thu 7	2.00pm
Ordinary Council Meeting Administration Centre Council Chambers	Tue 19	5.30pm
Heritage Committee Meeting Administration Centre Committee Room	Mon 25	5.00pm
Oberon Sports Facilities Committee Meeting Administration Centre Committee Room	Thur 29	5.30pm

### PLANNING PROPOSAL - 175 TITANIA ROAD, OBERON

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### NORTH STREET WATER MAIN

#### Water Interruption

- near the corner of the Albion St and North St intersection

To the Resident and Business Owner

Monday 4 May 2015 between 7:30am and 12:30pm.

Oberon Council will be undertaking water main maintenance work near the corner of the Albion St and North St intersection on Monday 4 May 2015 from 7:30am to 12:30pm.

There is a possibility that some homes and businesses in the vicinity of the work may experience a loss in water pressure.

When the works are complete Council will flush the main hydrant outlets to rid of dirty water. It is also recommended that taps are run for at least ten minutes after which they can be used normally.

The works will not disrupt traffic along North St.

Council staff will make every effort to minimise inconvenience. Should you require further information please contact our Works and Engineering Department on 6329 8141.

Alan Cairney, General Manager 28 April 2015

### WORKS UPDATE

#### CAMBELLS RIVER ROAD

Minor finishing touches to drainage and some road surface areas are all that is left to fix as a result of the recent rain. Bitumen sealing was scheduled for last week however this was cancelled due to wet weather. We now expect the work to be done within the next 2 weeks subject to the availability of contractors Fulton Hogan.

#### NUNAN'S HILL ROAD

Work commenced last week from the Hazelgrove Road end with cleaning out of culvert inlets and outlets, removal of soil where it has built up along verges, cleaning and deepening of table drains, and the removal of vegetation where it was too close to the road. Further work to replace and extend culverts will take place over the next few weeks.

#### HAZELGROVE ROAD

The installation of 2 x additional sets of concrete piped drainage culverts and the application of some more base gravel on Hazelgrove Rd is to commence this week. This is in preparation for the constructions and sealing of a further 600m of Hazelgrove Rd, extending further north from the end of the existing seal.

#### RFS FIRE SHED TOILET INSTALLATION PROGRAM

Site preparation works for the pouring of concrete slabs will start this week and we will then install the cubicle style toilets at Ginkin, Native Dog and Jerong Paving Yards Fire Sheds.

#### MAINTENANCE GRADING ACTIVITY

Grading has been carried out on Bosworth Falls Rd, and is currently in progress on Dog Rocks Rd, Doves Rd and Sewells Creek Rd. Some minor gravel re-sheeting works will be done in conjunction with the grading on the hill at Dog Rocks Road to improve the current pavement conditions. Grading, drainage maintenance and gravel sheeting work will also have also been completed along Black Bullock Road.

#### PARKS & GARDENS ACTIVITY

Mowing work was suspended this week due to the rain, with staff engaged in cleaning gutters and picking up tree limbs from the recent high winds. Staff also prepared the Recreation Ground, League Oval and Hockey Fields for the Oberon High School Rural Cup competition held last Thursday.

#### REMOVAL OF TREE'S

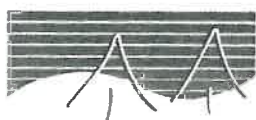
Contractors Agile Arbor have been engaged to remove the large pine tree in front of the Oberon Swimming Pool and also cut down the large pine tree at Apex Park. In addition they have removed the split willow tree on the Recreation Oval and trimmed the limbs on the adjacent tree. This work has been carried out following an arborist report indicating the trees were in declining health and advising that they be removed.



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Please refer to Council website for opening dates





## OBERON COUNCIL

## OBERON

## PLANT TENDERS

Written tenders are invited and will be received until 12:00noon on 23 April 2015 for the Supply and/or Disposal of the following Plant:

• **T2015/2 One Bogle Drive Tipper and Three Axle Tipping Trailer (Truck and Dog)**

Plant specifications can be obtained by contacting Council's Engineering Administrative Assistant on 02 6329 8141; or from Council's website <http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au>; or from the Tenderlink website <https://www.tenderlink.com>.

Further enquiries should be directed to Council's Plant Foreman, Mr Paul Robinson on 0428 214 537.

Alan Cairney  
General Manager

### PLANNING PROPOSAL - 280 BURROUGHS CROSSING ROAD, OBERON

Oberon Council has been provided with Delegated Authority from the Minister for Planning and Environment to finalise a Planning Proposal to allow development for a 'Function Centre' as an 'Additional Permitted Use' on land described as Lot 4 DP 264193, being known as 280 Burroughs Crossing Road, Oberon.

Currently the use of a 'Function Centre' as defined by the Oberon Local Environmental Plan 2013 is prohibited in the RU1 - Primary Production Zone. The purpose of the Planning Proposal seeks to allow the use to occur on the land.

The Planning Proposal can be viewed at Council's Administration Centre, or on Council's website at [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au) until close of business Friday 17 April 2015. Submissions relating to the Planning Proposal should be made to the General Manager, Oberon Council, 137-139 Oberon St, Oberon, 2737.

## WORKS UPDATE

## Mayfield Road

The construction and sealing of most of the road component of this project has now been completed. Sealing took place during the last week of March and sweeping of the seal, and installation of guide posts and signs, is commencing this week. The construction of the creek crossing at Wisemans Creek will also commence this week with required approvals now having been received.

## Campbells River Road

The reconstruction of a further 1km of Campbells River Rd is well advanced. Earthworks and drainage have been completed, and the construction of the gravel pavement is nearing completion. Compaction, shaping and trimming are currently in progress. Bitumen sealing is tentatively scheduled for early next week if weather conditions permit.

## Abercrombie Road

The reconstruction of a short section of Abercrombie Rd at Black Springs in front of the shop, and the repair of a failed section of pavement near Beaconsfield Rd, are expected to commence next week.

## State Roads Heavy Patching

Heavy patching works in various locations on Duckmaki Road have been completed. Similar heavy patching works are being carried out on O'Connell Rd this week.

## Black Bullock Rd

Maintenance grading, and the addition of some gravel, is currently taking place on Black Bullock Rd.

## LIBRARY NEWS

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The holiday activities held over the April School Holidays have been a great success, with lots of children enjoying the afternoon sessions. Big and little trout were created in waste to art craft sessions. Library Crafty kids drew fish with very individual personalities and transformed Council Minutes, CDs, cheese pads and bubble wrap into the Oberon Dan, for an entry for Oberon's Waste to Art Competition. Other children made themselves necklaces and earrings, created ANZAC biscuits and worked on computer tips.

## WW1 COMMEMORATION DISPLAY

The Library has a WW1 commemorative display that is worth a visit to view. The display will be at the Library until ANZAC Day. Please note that the Library will be closed on ANZAC Day, Saturday 25 April.

## NEW TITLES

## SEARCHING FOR GRACE KELLY by M.G. Callahan

The focus of this book is not the famed Princess of Monaco but it is a captivating novel presenting a glamorous picture of New York in the 1950s. A trio of friends Laura, Dolly and Vivian live at New York's Barbizon Hotel and make the storyline engaging and believable. This book captures the glamour of a nostalgic age with intriguing lifestyles, settings and social standards of the era.

## THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN by Paula Hawkins

To everyone else in this train carriage I must look normal; I'm doing exactly what they do: commuting to work, making appointments, ticking things off lists. Just goes to show..... This is a gripping, unsettling and enthralling thriller. The book is full of secrets - who can you trust; the alcoholic, the liar or the cheat? This is a gripping psychological thriller soon to be a movie.

## LONE STAR by Pauline Simons

Pauline Simons is one of the most endearing writers. Her newest novel transverse the European continent, speckled with romantic cities. This is an unforgettable love story between a college-bound young woman and a traveling troubadour on his way to war - a moving, compelling novel of love lost and found. Great reading for an autumn weekend.



## MAYOR'S COLUMN

Last Saturday on a beautiful autumn morning a large crowd gathered at the Oberon RSL Sub-Branch Museum to witness the unveiling of "The Light Horse" sculpture which was designed and created by local artist Harrie Fasher. The morning commenced with a Street Parade which included Returned Servicemen and Women and representatives from the Turkish Community marching from our Community Centre to the RSL Memorial. The march was followed by the St Joseph's School Band, three Track Personnel Carriers, a 1939 Matilda tank, other vintage vehicles, RFS and community groups.

Peter Stevenson, the Acting Vice President of the NSW RSL Sub-Branch and Sam Faraway, representing both the Minister for Veteran Affairs and our local Member for Calare John Cobb assisted with the official unveiling. Local Member for Bathurst Paul Toole addressed those gathered along with RSL Sub-Branch president Bill Wilcox.

I would also like to thank Lithgow Mayor, Maree Statham and General Manager Roger Bailey for attending the ceremony. A special performance from the Macquarie Male Choir was absolutely wonderful and the Lithgow Living History demonstration was also a crowd pleaser.

The next event for the 100 years of ANZAC Commemorations will be held this Sunday, 18 April. The "Around the Piano" musical afternoon will be held at the Robert (Bob) Hooper Community Centre from 2.00pm. Bookings are essential and can be made by contacting Anne Russell on 6337 0363 or from the Cobweb Craft Shop.

The period of commemoration will then culminate with the ANZAC Commemorative services being held around the Shire on 25 April.

Last Tuesday 7 April saw the first snow for the winter season with the temperature dropping to around 4°C. The snow fell for around an hour with snow laying on vehicles but not laying on the ground. Perhaps this is an indication of a long cold winter ahead.

Last Friday certainly proved there is never a dull moment! Following a pursuit around the roundabout in Albion Street the Police finally got their man, pulling over one of the Bren-Gun carriers and apprehending its driver. Following successful negotiations and viewing of all the necessary permits the Bren-Gun Carrier and Driver was allowed to continue on their way ready for the Street Parade on Saturday morning.

Mayor John McMahon



### COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Oberon Council would you like to invite all the community to attend a

### Community Information Session FIT FOR THE FUTURE

OBERON COUNCIL

Robert (Bob) Hooper Community Centre  
Thursday 23 April 2015, 5.30pm

The Fit for the Future process is the NSW Government's response to the final reports by the Independent Local Government Review Panel and the Local Government Acts Taskforce. Each Council in NSW is required to review its situation, and prepare a Fit for the Future submission by 30 June 2015 which demonstrates Council's scale and capacity to meet the challenges ahead.

Fit for the Future

[www.fitforthe future.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fitforthe future.nsw.gov.au)



Oberon Council Administration Centre  
137-139 Oberon Street  
PO Box 84, OBERON NSW 2737  
[council@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@oberon.nsw.gov.au) [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au)  
Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm 02 6329 8100



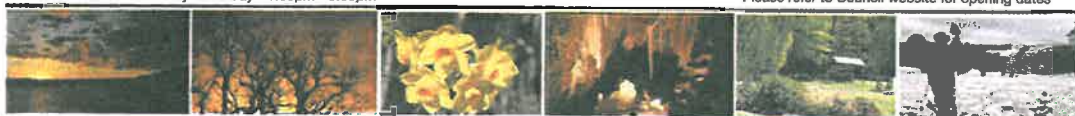
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## OBERON COUNCIL

# OBERON

### POSITION VACANT

**Position Vacant - Information Technology/GIS Coordinator**  
We are currently seeking applications for the full-time permanent position of Information Technology/GIS Coordinator. Full details, including a position description, are available on Council's website [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au). For further information contact Joanne Berton, Human Resources Coordinator 02 6329 8160.

### FREE TIP DAY



**Sunday 15 March 2015**  
**Free of charge for all private and domestic rubbish.**  
**Oberon Council Garbage Depot**  
From 8am - 5pm  
**Burrage Transfer Station**  
From 10am - 12pm  
**Black Springs Transfer Station**  
From 12.30pm - 2.30pm

All commercial/business waste and commercial vehicles will incur the standard tipping charges.

For further information please contact Councils Planning and Development Department on 6329 8100 or 6329 8129.

### OBERON SWIMMING POOL NEWS

The end of the Swimming Pool season is quickly approaching and to celebrate a great year this year the Swimming Pool will be again hosting an end of season swimming carnival. It will commence at 11.30am this Sunday, March 15. There will be competitive races, novelty events for all ages, including seniors. Nominations: a relay team and join in the fun. If you're not swimming be part of the cheer squad for the competitors!

A disco will be complete the afternoon with presentations for our Swimmers of the Season; Brianna Kirby, Eliza Cook, Tanasha Fenton, Kobi Hotham, Melaya Taggart, Abbie Burns, Rahni Thompson, Sherique Kennedy, Mia Nunan, Patrick Bird and Ben Stanton.

Our H2Oercise classes are continuing on Monday, Wednesday & Fridays 7.15am, whilst our very successful GentleKercise sessions will run Friday's 8.15am for the seniors.

During March the operating hours for general admission is from 2pm - 7pm Monday to Friday, and 10am to 7pm on the weekends.

Dolphin Swim School Squad sessions continue on Monday, Wednesday & Fridays at 6pm.

Please ensure you have enrolled to any of our classes prior to the pool complex. Our number is 6329 8200.

Shark Belt kiosk has a range of swim wear available for purchase, such as goggles, swimming caps, diving games and much more. Efforts welcome.

### COUNCIL INVITES EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR FUNDING

Oberon Council is proud to support various community organisations, groups and sporting clubs throughout the year. This support contributes towards its impacts on the lives and events for the Oberon area and the people of Oberon.

Are you a community organisation, sporting body or individual who wishes to apply for funding from Council?

Have you or your community organisation or sporting body received funding from Council in the past?

We are currently inviting applications for funding under Section 258 Donations for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

Application forms are available from the Oberon Council Administration Office, 137 Oberon Street, Oberon or can be downloaded from Council's website [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au).

Please submit your application by 4pm Friday 10 April 2015.

Alan Cairney  
General Manager



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### MAYOR'S COLUMN



General Manager, Alan Cairney, and I attended a Regional Workshop arranged by the Office of Local Government to advise about the Rural Council Proposal as part of the NSW Government "Fit for the Future" reform program.

The session was attended by smaller rural based Councils similar to Oberon and a few also have large areas of non-rateable land managed by the State Government including State Forests.

We were advised that when a review of the rating structure occurs that the issue with non-rateable land will be considered.

At this time Oberon Council will be considering our options to become "Fit for the Future" and will arrange some Community Briefing Sessions during April.

Transport NSW has asked the Community Transport Providers across NSW to come together as they will not be issuing as many contracts from July. To ensure Oberon residents are able to access this vital service we have agreed to amalgamate with Lithgow Community Transport.

The new service will continue to provide the highest level of transport services to ensure our clients are able to live independently for as long as possible. This includes things such as transport to medical appointments, shopping trips and social outings.

Anyone wishing to use the service will still contact Oberon Council staff to organize your bookings. The Oberon drivers and clients will not notice any change in the service. Lithgow Community Transport will be responsible for the Financial and Reporting responsibilities of the partnership.

This opportunity to form a partnership will allow both organisations to best use their resources to offer a broader and more diverse range of activities for our communities.

A morning tea will be held this Friday 13 March at the Hampton Halfway House to mark the merger between the Oberon and Lithgow Community Transport Services.

Last Sunday, the Friends of the Oberon Library held an event to mark International Women's Day at the Robert Hooper Community Centre. The afternoon was very well attended and guests enjoyed a beautiful afternoon tea and memorabilia displays. There were three guest speakers from Oberon Writers Group as well as guest memories and recollections. Friends of the Oberon Library launched the Poppy Project which was extremely well received. The Poppy Project is now on display in the Library. The afternoon raised almost \$200 which will be sent to UNIFEM in the name of the women of Oberon. I would like to pass on my thanks to Deputy Mayor Kerry Gibbons for attending on my behalf and closing the event.

### WORKS UPDATE

#### Exercise Equipment

Static exercise equipment is currently being installed at various points adjacent to pathways in the Oberon Common. Five separate pieces of equipment are being installed and this project has been funded via a grant from the NSW Sport and Recreation Facilities Program.

#### Bitumen Reseals

Bitumen resealing has been carried out on Burrage Rd, Campbells River Rd and O'Connell Plains Rd. A resal on a length of Beesonsfield Rd has commenced but is not yet completed, as a result of the contractor having some bitumen left over from another job. This will be completed in the near future, subject to scheduling by the contractor. Final seals on the heavy patching works previously carried out on Campbells River Rd, Burrage Rd, and Arkstone Rd, will also be carried out in the near future.

#### Water Mains

Preparations have commenced to replace the water main in Horace Street. Service locations are being investigated, and materials ordered. Construction is expected to commence in approximately two weeks.



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**NEW RECRUIT:** Amanda O'Brien has been appointed to the board of the Western NSW Local Health District.

## Amanda O'Brien joins Western NSW Local Health District Board

THE Western NSW Local Health District is delighted to welcome Amanda O'Brien as the newest community representative on its board.

Ms O'Brien brings a wealth of experience in community and health organisations to the position. She has been an active member of the Oberon Health Council since 2011 and has strong existing relationships within the LHD.

"We really welcome Amanda to the board and look forward to calling upon her rich experience and knowledge of rural communities to further enhance the health outcomes of our communities" chief executive Scott McLachlan said.

Through her past employments and community involvement Amanda has developed strong community networks and will be able to bring this experience to the discussion table.

Amanda has resigned from Oberon Health Council to enable her to take up the position on the Local Health District Board without the concern of a conflict of interest.

"I am honoured to be appointed by the minister to the board," Ms O'Brien said.

"I look forward to working with the chief executive and board members on improving the health of people living within the district and in delivering services closer to home" she said.

# Budget presentation is fit for the future

AT Oberon Council's ordinary meeting last week the Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBR) was presented in the ordinary business papers.

The QBR shows variations for income and expenditure for the period from October 1 to 31 December 31 2014.

The QBR has been converted into a format that meets the new requirements of the Office of Local Governments for the 'Fit for the Future' reform process.

### INCOME & EXPENSES BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT

Recommended changes are made up of the following:

1. \$12,000 LIRS income for 2014/15.

The first progress report is due in May 2015 with project payment due in June 2015.

2. \$4,500 a successful grant application for the purchase of a printer for the Community Newsletter.

3. \$7,000 a successful grant application for the ANZAC Centenary Local Grant program.

4. \$17,825 an interest expense on LIRS loan for Mayfield Road.

### CAPITAL BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT

Recommended changes are made up of the following:

1. \$27,000 for Ealfour Street self care unit's expenditure for new roof.
2. \$1.6m for the successful Local

Infrastructure Renewal Scheme funding for Mayfield Road project.

3. \$4,500 for purchase of printer for the Community Newsletter

4. \$7,000 ANZAC Centenary Local Grant Program funding for the purchase of a WWI commemorative sculpture.

5. \$60,000 allocation for O'Connell Recreation Ground.

Council's original budget for 2014/15 was a deficit of \$981,000, the actual year to date net capital \$756,000.

The projected year end result will see Oberon Council in deficit of \$1,355,000 - that's \$374,000 more than originally predicted.

## New water junction for North Street

SUBJECT to recent drought conditions experienced over the last few years in the Local Government Area (LGA), Oberon Council previously requested that investigations be undertaken to construct a Potable Water Station for use by ratepayers of the Oberon community.

Council currently has only one manual potable water supply filler location within its Works Depot - however this is only accessible to the public during business hours, Monday to Friday.

In order to provide 24 hour access-

bility of potable water to the public a new water junction will be inserted into the water main along North Street to facilitate a new potable water filling point.

The land is owned by council and the location is desirable as the water main runs through it, allowing suitable access for the water station.

The water filling station will have the standard 63mm Storz Fitting (RFS Standard), and will be installed with a smart card access that council can utilise to charge users at the applicable

rate for the amount of the water taken (KL) from the water station.

The water filling station can also be utilised by water trucking businesses, farmers and be an additional point for firefighting filling purposes, should it be required.

In order for this to occur, a new pipe will be inserted into the water main along the western side of North Street (between Albion Street and Cunyngame Street) with funding from the Water Mains Renewal Program.

**BEAT THE WINTER CHILL  
WITH JINDARA WOOD HEATERS  
AND FIRE BRICKS.**



**Mawhoods  
MITRE 10**  
69 Dart St, Oberon Ph. 6336 1507

The Oberon Dental Surgery at 72 Dart Street will be open every Friday from 8.30am.

**BDC**  
Bathurst Dental Care

For enquiries or appointments please phone

**6336 0902 or 6331 7877**

We offer health fund members gap free check ups and on the spot claiming. Children eligible for the Child Dental Benefit Scheme are bulk billed (Medicare conditions apply)

**Our NEW LOOK CLUB**

- MEMBERS JACK POT DRAW FRIDAYS BETWEEN 6 - 8pm
- HAPPY HOUR 4PM - 6PM MONDAYS
- FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR 5pm - 7pm
- FREE POOL AND PIZZA FOR 2 HOURS

**VISITORS  
Welcome**

TAB facilities - best in town!  
Is gambling a problem for you? Call G-Line (NSW) 1800 633 635

**OBERON LEAGUES**  
SPORTING & RECREATION CLUB

Check us out on Facebook "Oberon Leagues Club"  
Lowes Mount Rd. Ph: 6336 1150



**KENNYSRING**  
SOLICITORS

My priority is to ensure each transaction runs smoothly, minimising stress for clients and ensuring their interests are adequately protected.

Rachael Burgess

PROPERTY | FAMILY | CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC | COMMERCIAL | COMPENSATION | WILLS & ESTATES  
Call 6336 1485 • 95 Oberon St • Oberon • Oberon Office Open: 2.00pm - 5.00pm • Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
Level 1 • The Reliance Centre • 203-209 Russell Street • Bathurst • 6331 2911

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## OBERON COUNCIL

# OBERON

## MARCH 2015 COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting	Date	Time
Ordinary Council Meeting Administration Centre Council Chambers	Tue 17	5.30pm
Traffic Advisory Local Committee Administration Centre Committee Room	Thur 19	10.00am
Oberon Youth Council Meeting Administration Centre Council Chambers	Tue 31	5.30pm

## WORKS UPDATE

**MAYFIELD ROAD** - Council is currently working on the last remaining 4 kilometre section of unsealed road on the northern end of Mayfield Road, crossing Wisemans Creek. This work is being funded by Council as part of the recent \$1.6M Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme.

Council's primary objectives are to make the necessary upgrades and improvements to Mayfield Road, which will see the entire length of this road fully bitumen sealed on completion.

Works crews are currently installing box culvert extensions to the road formation, including the compaction of sub base materials around these stormwater drains and reshaping of the entire road pavement in preparation for the final base layer of 150-200mm of compacted gravel.

This project is expected to be completed during April.

**REEF RESERVE** - minor road widening and drainage improvements are nearing completion. Work has been done to achieve a much improved road surface into the reserve and boat ramp area. Removal of dead trees and dangerous leaning limbs, plus the construction of the new picnic shelter will commence next week. Further investigation into a suitable compliant toilet facility is being done as well as seeking the necessary approvals prior to installation adjacent to the picnic amenities area.

**COMMUNITY PRECINCT PARKING** - Work started last week on the indented parking bays in Fleming Street. This project is expected to be completed within the next two weeks.



## MAYOR'S COLUMN



Last Wednesday, the Mayors and General Managers from the Bathurst, Blayney and Lithgow Councils visited Oberon to hold a joint meeting regarding the Local Government Fit for the Future reforms.

Each Council was able to present their position and it was very pleasing to hear the spirit of cooperation from each of the Council's. Mayor Gary Rush outline the position of Bathurst Regional Council and stressed that at this time he believes Bathurst would only consider a merger if there was a neighbouring Council interested in entering into discussions.

Bathurst and Lithgow Councils both expressed their opposition to pursuing minor boundary changes. All four

Council's are looking forward to additional opportunities for regional collaboration through the new Pilot Joint Organisation for which Centroc has been selected.

Council's works crew have been busy with additional improvements at the Reef Reserve. There has been some roadworks done and staff have taken the opportunity of the lower water levels in the dam to extend the boat ramp. A concrete pad has been installed for a BBQ area and minor tree clearing has also been carried out in the past week. Staff are investigating a suitable toilet facility and will seek the necessary approvals prior to installing a toilet at the Reef Reserve.

Local residents and Council staff will attend a meeting at the Oberon Correctional Centre this week to discuss the recent escape of a number of inmates from the facility. Landholders are concerned at the frequency of escapes, which have resulted in at least one break and enter and stealing and misuse of two motor vehicles. A further report will be provided in next week's paper about the outcome of the meeting.

General Manager Alan Cairney and I will be attending a Fit for the Future Workshop at Mascot during the week. I expect we should have a better understanding of the State Government's plans after the workshop.

I was extremely pleased to hear the announcement by Deputy Premier Troy Grant and Minister for Roads and Freight, Duncan Gay that Oberon was one of the Council's that had been allocated funding for our application under the Fixing Country Roads program. Oberon Council will receive \$990,000 for the upgrade to Sewall's Creek Road and Beaconsfield Road. It is also pleasing to hear our neighbours, Upper Lachlan Shire Council were also successful with an allocation of \$1,525,000 for the replacement of the Abercrombie River Bridge which joins our boundary in the southern part of our Shire.

Mayor John McMahon

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - REMOVAL OF TREES

Two large mature pine trees are proposed to be removed due to their declining health. The locations of these pine trees are at the eastern end of APEX PARK, near the Carrington Avenue and Rupert Street intersection and in JOHN MAWHOOD PARK in front of the entrance to the Swimming Pool.

We are seeking consultation with our Community about the proposed removal of these trees.



APEX PARK  
corner of Carrington Ave and Rupert St



John Mawhood Park, Cunningham St  
at the front of the Oberon Swimming Pool

We would appreciate your comment by 21 March 2015.

Please send your comments by POST to Oberon Council, PO Box 84, Oberon NSW 2787. OR by email to [council@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@oberon.nsw.gov.au)

## DETERMINATIONS FOR JANUARY 2015

Development Type	Street Address
Shed	54 Duckmaloi Road, Oberon
Dwelling	394 O'Connell Road, Oberon
Dwelling and On-Site Waste Water System	2034 Beaconsfield Road, Wisemans Creek
Shed	54 Duckmaloi Road, Oberon



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Please refer to Council website for opening dates





## Government boost for Calare

CALARE councils received more than \$8.5 million in payments under the Australian Government's Financial Assistance Grant Program.

Federal Member for Calare John Cobb said the government provided \$575 million in the third quarterly payments nationwide, including \$8,775,225 in Calare.

"The great thing about the

funding is there are no strings attached for councils – they are free to spend this untied grant money according to local priorities, including infrastructure, health, recreation, environment, employment and roads projects," Mr Cobb said.

Oberon Council received \$589,248.

The Oberon Dental Surgery at 72 Dart Street will be open every Friday from 8.30am.

For enquiries or appointments please phone

6336 0902 or 6331 7877

We offer health fund members gap free check ups and on the spot claiming. Children eligible for the Child Dental Benefit Scheme are bulk billed (Medicare conditions apply)

**BDC**  
Bathurst Dental Care

### "WINDSPRAY" - 8.5 ACRES



- There are three bedrooms two with large built-ins, beautifully renovated ensuite plus studio bedroom for guests
- Larger living space sectioned into two sitting areas
- Heating is provided by a large combustion wood heater and L.P.G. central heating and ceiling fans throughout the home
- Quality white kitchen with black granite bench tops, walk in pantry
- Paved pergola area with outdoor spa and mud room leading off to workshop and office
- Enclosed insulated 7m x 10.5 shed with two roller doors along with air conditioned gym area, double carport at rear of home

Price: \$860,000

Mary David 0429 360 222

Glenys Newstead 0437 600 365

raywhiteemc.com

**Ray White Rural**

Erms Mooney

# Councils discuss being fit for future

REPRESENTATIVES of the Bathurst, Blayney, Lithgow and Oberon council's met on Wednesday, February 18 to discuss the Fit for the Future Local Government Reform Proposals.

The meeting was held in the Oberon Council Chambers where Oberon mayor John McMahon welcomed mayors, deputy mayors and general managers from the council's present.

The reform program is the State Government's response to the final reports from the Independent Local Government Review Panel and the Local Government Acts Taskforce announced last September.

One of the recommendations was for a potential merger of Bathurst Regional Council with Oberon Council.

Bathurst mayor Gary Rush said at this time Bathurst Regional Council has not made a decision about this proposal, however would only consider a merger if there was a neighbouring council interested in entering into discussions.

Blayney mayor Scott Ferguson said that Blayney Council has been approached by Orange Council about developing a merger business case proposal involving Cabonne and Blayney Shire Councils.

Blayney Council has not reached a decision about this proposal, however representatives said all options need to be considered for the best possible outcome for the Blayney region.

Lithgow mayor Maree Statham advised that the Lithgow City Council are opposed to forced amalgamations and are not in favour of any boundary adjustments. Lithgow City Council aims to increase its population to 25,000 residents in order to attract new business and provide an economic stimulus for the Lithgow area.

Oberon mayor John McMahon reaffirmed Oberon Council's position that it is opposed to forced amalgamations but would have liked to consider boundary adjustments with the two neighbouring

councils in order to deliver more effective services to adjacent rural communities. Mayor Maree Statham rejected the request by Oberon Council for boundary changes.

Bathurst, Blayney, Lithgow and Oberon are all members of the current Central West Regional Organisation of Councils (Centroc) and have confirmed their participation in the Central West Joint Organisation Pilot.

This regional collaboration has for many years delivered cost savings and regional initiatives which member councils have benefited from. The group is looking forward to increased opportunities available through the Pilot Joint Organisation Program.

It was agreed to make approaches to the Upper Macquarie County Council about the lack of response to a previous request for an effective Strategic Plan to address weed control in the four Local Government Areas.

## Faster internet for residents

CALARE'S faster than anticipated roll-out of the NBN is set to continue, with a fixed wireless service area in Oberon set to provide super-fast internet speeds for approximately 150 premises.

Federal Member for Calare John Cobb said he was thrilled that more homes in the Calare electorate have been identified as needing and getting access to NBN.

"The roll-out in our electorate has been a lot faster than originally planned, and with more than 20 towers already connected in Calare, plus the announcement of Cabonne, the roll-out is building real momentum," Mr Cobb said.

"The geographic location of

endured years of poor internet services. It's fantastic they've been identified as needing NBN services, which will ensure poor internet services will soon be a thing of the past."

Mr Cobb said work on building the fixed wireless network in Oberon has commenced and it's expected that broadband and phone services will be able to be connected in Oberon within 12 months.

NBN Co provides monthly updates on its website showing areas that have reached build preparation, build commencement and that are ready for service.

Residents can check their location at [www.nbnco.com.au/rolloutplan](http://www.nbnco.com.au/rolloutplan).



GOING UP: The National Broadband Tower under construction at Titania Estate east of Oberon.

### A WELL SET UP WORKING PROPERTY

#### "Ben-Ledl"

- Approximately 440 acres of productive grazing country
- Main homestead built in 1991
- Second 2 bedroom guest cottage
- Subdivided into six main paddocks
- Good water supply, 10 dams and two spring fed creeks
- Steel cattle yards with loading ramp and crush
- "Ben-Ledl" offers an idyllic rural lifestyle with income potential

#### AUCTION

Friday 20 March 2015 10.30am  
Venue Level 17, 135 King Street, Sydney

- Patrick Bird 0438 361 109
- Stewart Murphy 0427 363 118
- Mary David 0429 360 222

raywhiteemc.com



Ray White Rural

106 Oberon Street, OBERON | 02 6336 1109 | [www.raywhiteemc.com](http://www.raywhiteemc.com)

Erms Mooney





OBERON COUNCIL

OBERON

Celebrating  
150 Years  
1863-2013

## CLOSURES OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

**ADMINISTRATION CENTRE** - Closed from 3pm Wednesday 24 December and will reopen at 8.30am Monday 5 January 2015

**OBERON LIBRARY** - Closed from 3pm Wednesday 24 December and will reopen at 9.30am Monday 29 December. Closed from 3pm on Wed 31 Dec and will reopen on at 9.30am Monday 5 January 2015

**OBERON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE** - Closed on Christmas Day 25 December, Boxing Day 26 December and New Years Day 1 January

**OBERON SWIMMING POOL** - Closed on Christmas Day 25 December

**OBERON WASTE FACILITY** - Closed on Christmas Day 25 December, Boxing Day 26 December and New Years Day 1 January. A temporary bin will be available for general household rubbish at the front gates of the Waste Facility on Boxing Day.

**WORKS DEPOT** - Closed from 12 noon Thursday 18 December and will re-open at 7am Monday 5 January

## OFFICIAL OPENING OF HASSALL PARK



On Friday 28 November, local residents gathered in O'Connell for the official opening of Hassall Park and the unveiling of the O'Connell Heritage Sign.

The park was named after "Thomas Hassall" who was a prominent landholder in the O'Connell area and a number of his descendants were in attendance at the opening.

Mayor John McMahon unveiled the O'Connell Heritage Sign, which has been made from second hand timber and corrugated iron roofing, depicting the unique history of the region.

The O'Connell Heritage Sign was developed with assistance from many community members and groups including: Council's Heritage Committee, the O'Connell Amateur Dramatic Society, Oberon Council, Laura Banning, Lyle Fitzpatrick, Gloria Rogers, Marg Hogan, Brenda Doney and Meryl Hope.

## WORKS UPDATE

Final trimming is taking place on the reconstruction of Abercrombie Road south of Murays Lane. During this stage there will be short delays for motorists. Bitumen sealing is tentatively scheduled for 11 December.

Replacement of the timber decking with concrete slabs on the Bald Ridge Road Bridge will be carried out over the next fortnight.

With the rain which has fallen over the past week we are able to resume our Maintenance Grading Program. Crews will commence grading on Dog Rocks Rd, Sewall's Creek Rd, Macle Rd and Wren's Nest Rd this week and work will continue while moisture conditions permit.

Staff will also be working on removing dangerous trees on Old Shooters Hill Road and removal of trees and rubbish from along Abercrombie Road.



Oberon Council Administration Centre  
137-139 O'Connell Street  
PO Box 84, OBERON NSW 2787  
council@oberon.nsw.gov.au oberon.nsw.gov.au  
Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm 02 6329 4160

Oberon Library Corner of Dart Street and Fleming Street, Oberon 6329 8220  
Monday to Friday 9.30am - 5.30pm, Saturday: 9.00am - 1.00pm, Sunday - Closed

Oberon Waste Facility Lower: Mount Road, Oberon  
Monday to Friday 8.00am - 10.00am and 3.00pm - 5.00pm.  
Saturday & Sunday - 1.00pm - 5.00pm



## MAYOR'S COLUMN

The local economy suffered a major loss last week with the Oberon Abattoir suffering considerable damage in a fire. The Abattoir caught fire during a fierce storm and the Oberon Fire Brigade battled for around three hours before the fire was brought under control. Initial reports were that the building had been hit by lightning, however fire investigators are treating the fire as suspicious and investigations are ongoing. This is a blow to the local community as it had been expected that the Abattoir would ramp up to employing around 30 people over time.

One of the six Mosaic Bullocks recently installed on the wall of the Common Toilet Block has been damaged in a disturbing act of mindless vandalism. The mosaic tiles have been smashed on one of the bullocks only three weeks after their installation. The eye catching feature has been developed as a Community Art Project by the Oberon Arts Council with assistance from Oberon Council. Every effort will be made to find and prosecute the offenders.

Council held a Special Meeting on Tuesday 9 December to consider the proposal to move forward with an application to raise the rates in the Shire above the rate pegging limit.

Council received to submit an Expression of Interest to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for a Special Rate Variation of General Rates for 5 years commencing from the 2015/16 financial year at a 7.5% increase per year which includes the rate pegging increase.

Council has received support from the Community for the proposed increases via community surveys and consultation and will now commence extensive community consultation prior to submitting the final application in February. The rate increase will assist with addressing our shortfall in our infrastructure funding and ensure we are financially secure into the future.

Preparations are well under way for the 2015 Australia Day Celebrations which will be held at the Oberon Showground Hall on 28 January.

The celebrations will begin with morning tea, followed by the Official Ceremony where all award winners will be presented with an Australia Day medalion or certificate. There will also be children's activities and entertainment throughout the day.

Australia Day is a time for us all to celebrate what's great about Australia and being Australian. It's the day to reflect on what we have achieved and what we can be proud of in our great nation.

Mayor John McMahon

## ROAD NAMING SUBMISSIONS INVITED

Submissions are invited for naming of an existing section of road that runs south off Nunan's Hill Road. The un-named section of gravel road is located approximately 2.8kms from the beginning of Nunan's Hill Road and is approximately 1.8kms in length.

Submission for the naming of this road will be accepted up until 4:00pm 12 January 2015, during which time any person may lodge with Council written submissions on the proposed road naming.

All submissions should be addressed to the General Manager, Oberon Council, PO Box 84, Oberon NSW 2787.



Oberon Visitor Information Centre  
Corner Pine Street and Edith Road,  
OBERON NSW 2787

Monday-Saturday 8.30am - 6pm Sundays 10am - 3pm  
02 6329 8210 oberonaustralia.com.au

Black Springs Waste Facility Dog Rocks Road, Black Springs  
Every second Sunday 12.30pm - 2.30pm.  
Burrage Waste Facility Arkstone Road, Burrage  
Every second Sunday 10.00am - 12.00pm.  
Please refer to Council website for opening dates





OBERON COUNCIL

# OBERON

*Celebrating  
150 Years  
1863-2013*

## DECEMBER 2014 COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting	Date	Time
Special Meeting re IPART Expression of Interest Administration Centre Council Chambers	Tue 9	5.00pm
Ordinary Council Meeting Administration Centre Council Chambers	Tue 16	5.30pm

## OBERON LOCAL GOVERNMENT GOLF DAY A SUCCESS

Oberon Council's Local Government Golf Day was held last Friday with a great turnout from local residents, along with regional and interstate visitors. Participants started off the spring day with breakfast at the Club followed by a 10.00am shot gun start.

Mayor John McMahon acknowledged the hard work by Council staff in coordinating the 9th Annual Local Government Golf Day.

"With around 150 golfers and non-golfers participating this was another great event showcasing the volunteer-maintained Oberon Golf Course.

This event generated income for the Golf Club and also the Oberon Leagues Club where the sponsors draw was held", said Mayor McMahon.

Over \$25,000 in funding was generated through green fees and sponsorship for the event, which will be injected back into the Oberon community.



## LIBRARY NEWS

The Oberon Library is supporting the Public Libraries Association's 'Day of Action' on Friday 5 December. There will be posters and information at the Oberon Library about the next phase of the campaign for improved funding from the NSW State Government. The campaign has gathered huge momentum over previous months with over 70,000 signatures gathered for the petition. There will be a morning tea and reading session at the Library from 10am for community members to come along and support the campaign.

During December, the Library Community Display area will be exhibiting USA activities conducted throughout 2014. Take a few minutes to come to the Oberon Library to look at the different activities local community members have had an opportunity to participate in, and the results of some of those activities. We certainly have some talented locals!

The Summer Reading Club will be taking place at Oberon Council Library throughout the coming school summer holidays. The theme for this year is Adventure. Registration is FREE and is open to participants aged 5 to 18 years. The program is being launched on Friday 19 December at the Library. Registration is open from 19 December and each participant will receive a Summer Reading Club pack. The pack contains lots of goodies, a reading log and instructions on how to qualify for tickets in the prize draw on Friday 23 January 2015. The FOOLs have kindly sponsored this Summer's program enabling some great prizes including gift vouchers, electronic devices and a parents prize.



Oberon Council Administration Centre  
167-168 Oberon Street  
PO Box 66, OBERON NSW 2787  
council@oberon.nsw.gov.au oberon.nsw.gov.au  
Monday: Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm 02 6529 8100

Oberon Library Corner of Dart Street and Fleming Street, Oberon 6328 8220  
Monday to Friday 9.30am - 5.30pm. Saturday: 9.00am - 1.00pm. Sunday - Closed

Oberon Waste Facility Lowes Mount Road, Oberon  
Monday to Friday 8.00am - 10.00am and 3.00pm - 5.00pm.  
Saturday & Sunday - 1.00pm - 5.00pm



## MAYOR'S COLUMN

150 golfers enjoyed the Oberon Local Government Golf Day last Friday, and although it was quite hot and windy, the weather definitely didn't dampen the spirits of the players. Mayor of Bathurst Gary Rush and Member for Bathurst, Paul Toole both had a great day and were great company on the course. I was impressed by the excellent condition of the greens, they are a terrific credit to the volunteers who must spend countless hours maintaining the fairways and greens at the Club.

General Manager, Alan Cairney and I will be attending the Centroc Board Meeting in Blayney this week. Major discussion will be the formation of a trial Joint Organisation, with Centroc being selected as one of five trial Joint Organisations across the State. I believe this is a very promising step in the right direction for the new Joint Organisation structure.

Council's auditor, Graham Bradley from Crowe Horwath Auswid reported that the Council's finances are in surplus to the Ordinary Council Meeting last Tuesday. Mr Bradley outlined Council's financial position at the end of June 2014. Oberon Council finished the year in the black and with loans and borrowings of only \$75,000 our financial viability is good. Mr Bradley agreed that to apply for a rate increase through IPART over and above the rate pegging limit of 2.5% "as necessary" as the Council does not have sufficient funds to address their infrastructure backlog in the long term.

Staff from the NSW Department of Fisheries released 20,000 fingerlings into Lake Oberon and the upper reaches of the Fish River last week. We are now in the third year of a major restocking program and anglers are reaping the benefits of the restocked Lake Oberon and Fish River. Oberon Council is doing their bit as well by improving their facilities at the Reef Reserve with a boat ramp currently under construction. Toilet and BBQ facilities will be installed over the summer months. This will be a great enhancement for the facilities at the Reef Reserve.

On 5 November the Oberon Business Association held their last meeting after 20 years. The next meeting will be with the newly formed Oberon Business and Tourism Association which will commence early in the New Year.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of the members of both the Oberon Business Association and Oberon Plateau Tourism Association and their hard work as individual organisations for many years. Their members have greatly benefited from their activities and the promotion of Tourism and Businesses in Oberon. I believe the newly formed Oberon Business and Tourism Association will flourish as a joint organisation.

Mayor  
John McMahon

## POSITION VACANT

### ADMINISTRATION TEAM LEADER

We are seeking an Administration Team Leader to coordinate our Document Management System, oversee Media Releases and manage the Website content. For a full position description including salary and other employment conditions, visit our website [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au). Applications close Monday 15 December 2014



Oberon Visitor Information Centre  
Corner Rines Street and Edith Road.

OBERON 02 6737  
Monday: Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm. Sunday: 9.00am - 3.00pm  
02 6329 9210 [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au)

Black Springs Waste Facility: Dog Rocks Road, Black Springs  
Every second Sunday: 12.30pm - 2.30pm.  
Burrumbidgee Waste Facility: Ararat Road, Burrumbidgee  
Every second Sunday 10.00am - 12.00pm.  
Please refer to Council website for opening dates.





**QUESTIONS:** Amid continuing uncertainty for the state's councils, Oberon mayor John McMahon has confirmed Oberon is not considering any amalgamation. The NSW Government is becoming more forceful in its appeal to the local government sector to reform and find more efficient ways to use ratepayers' money.

## Review Weather Watch

### Oberon

#### Central Tablelands Local weather

For the week ending October 28, 2014. The figures for Oberon are from the official Bureau of Meteorology source. Those from outlying areas are from Oberon Review's unofficial weather watches.

#### Oberon "Springbank" - 1100 metres

Date	Min	Max	Wind Direction	Wind Speed 09.00am (knots)	Wind direction 15.00pm	Wind speed 15.00pm (knots)	Rainfall to 09.00am	Comments
21.10.14	5.7	25.1	E	11	NW	8	0	warm
22.10.14	6.0	23.3	W	3	S	6	10.0	Storm day
23.10.14	11.5	24.4	N	11	WNW	10	2.2	Variable night
24.10.14	10.0	20.9	S	0	SW	14	0	hot
25.10.14	9.6	24.9	NW	8	NW	2	0.8	
26.10.14	4.5	25.2	W	1	NW	22	0.2	dew
28.10.14	0.5	16.0	WNW	10	NW	22	0.2	Frost/Windy

**DAM LEVEL**  
**65.38%**  
**FALLING**

**Weekly & Daily water consumption for the past 7 days**  
**1.87mL DAILY**  
**13.12mL WEEKLY**

#### Forecast

Thursday 30 October  
Partly cloudy with light rain becoming drizzle 15 to 20 km/h in the middle of the day then breaking light in the evening. Overnight long cold rain falling 10 to 15 km/h with 10 to 15 mm of rain expected reaching 21 to 25.

Friday 31 October  
Partly cloudy light rain becoming drizzle 15 to 20 km/h in the middle of the day then breaking light in the evening. Overnight long cold rain falling 10 to 15 km/h with 10 to 15 mm of rain expected reaching 21 to 25.

Saturday 1 November  
Partly cloudy, drizzle 15 to 20 km/h in the middle of the day then breaking light in the evening. Overnight long cold rain falling 10 to 15 km/h with 10 to 15 mm of rain expected reaching 21 to 25.

#### Jenolan Caves - 730 metres

Day	Min	Max	Rain	Comment
22/10	-	-	-	-
23/10	-	-	-	-
24/10	-	-	-	-
25/10	-	-	-	-
26/10	-	-	-	-
27/10	-	-	-	-
28/10	-	-	-	-

Oberon Council continues to promote the following water wise rules to its water supply customers at all times:

- Residential Gardens - sprinklers and irrigation systems before 10am and after 4pm only.
- Hand held hoses - must have a trigger nozzle.
- Hard Surfaces - no hosing of hard surfaces such as paths and driveways.
- Vehicles - washing vehicles on lawns is preferred.
- Fire Hoses - fire hoses may be used for fire fighting purposes only.
- New Lawns - new lawns may be watered at any time of the day, for the first 14 days after they are installed.

For extended weather forecast go to [www.oberonreview.com.au](http://www.oberonreview.com.au)



# No change of plan

OBERON mayor John McMahon says his council's position has not changed and it is not considering any amalgamation.

It comes after Member for Bathurst and Minister for Local Government Paul Toole called on NSW councils to consider how they plan to be "fit for the future". Mr Toole addressed more than 700 delegates from 150 councils at the Local Government NSW annual conference in Coffs Harbour last week.

Mr Toole said the NSW Government is committed to rebuilding NSW and to achieve this it needs a strong local government sector.

"However, this is not possible when more than one-third of the state's councils are facing financial problems - losing more than \$1 million a day," he said.

Last month the NSW

Government announced record funding for up to \$1 billion to entice councils to merge.

Cr McMahon said there was no new information forthcoming at the conference.

"The funding is only made available to the take-over council," he said. "Our position has not changed and we are not considering to amalgamate with any council. We are presently in a good position to be a stand-alone council."

"Oberon Council must have the residents' support as this will be considered in our submission to the Independent Local Government Review Panel."

"Over the coming months council will be addressing various organisations to gauge their support."

"We are also considering holding Fit for the Future public

meetings."

Of the \$1 billion funding, \$5.3 million is available to set up Joint Organisations (JO), including the creation of Pilot JOs, with \$4 million to help small councils (under 10,000 population) to develop innovative ways of working. This would benefit Oberon Council as its local government area population is around 5400-5600.

Interested councils will be invited to work with the Office of Local Government (OLG) to develop a new Rural Council model.

At council's ordinary meeting last week, a recommendation was carried that Oberon Council advise the OLG of its endorsement to be part of the Central West Joint Organisation and that council support Centroc as a Pilot Joint Organisation.

## Community diary

**■ Oberon Meals on Wheels roster:** Thursday, October 30 Car 1 and Car 2 Oberon Council.

**Friday, October 31** Car 1 P Dwyer and L Robinson Car 2 M and B O'Brien.

**Saturday, November 1** Car 1 J Lang and G Fahey Car 2 M Packer.

**Sunday, November 2** Car 1 I Tucker Car 2 D and K McMurray.

**Monday, November 3** Car 1 D and J Munro Car 2 Tarana Red Cross.

**Tuesday, November 4** Car 1 K and B Harvey Car 2 B Dale.

**Wednesday, November 5** Car 1 R Toedter Car 2 E Brothie and E Cmoec.

Could volunteers let Marie know how many times a month and what days they can help as two cars are required every day.

**■ WINNER:** Oberon and District Museum wood raffle winner was Odin Whittaker. Odin insisted that his mum buy the last three tickets and was excited to get a phone call telling him he was the winner.

**■ MEETING:** The next Oberon Can Assist meeting is on Thursday, November 13 at 7pm at the Oberon RSL Club.

**■ PIZZA AND PASTA:** Oberon Inner Wheel is having a pizza, pasta, pavlova and plonk night at the St Joseph's School Hall on Saturday, November 15 at 7pm, \$30 per person. Bookings at Melita's Clippers. This is an over 18s event, with a bit of trivia, socialising and good fun. Tickets must be paid in full by November 1.

**■ AUTHOR! AUTHOR!:** Come along and meet author Nicole Alexander at Oberon Council Library's next literary supper on Friday, November 14. Cost is \$10, including supper.

**■ ON SHOW:** Oberon Show Society meeting dates are November 19, December 17 and January 21 at 7.30pm at Oberon RSL Club.

**■ ENTRANTS:** Calling all entrants for 2015 Oberon Showgirl competition. Entrants must be aged between 18

and 25 years. Contact Cheryl on 6336 0100 or Glenys 6336 1849. This is a great experience for local girls and includes lots of fun.

**■ A DREAM:** William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will play at the Oberon RSL Club for one night only on Saturday, November 22.

Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.trybooking.com/FVWU> or via local agents at 133 On Main, Country Belle and Rosedale Gifts.

**■ BUSY BEES:** Oberon Show Society Working Bee dates are November 23 and January 31, 2015 at the Oberon showground. Lunch will be provided for those who will come and give us a hand.

**■ ENROLMENTS:** Oberon Children's Centre is now taking enrolments for 2015. The centre caters for three to five-year-olds. Contact the centre for more information on 6336 1310.

**■ HISTORY:** Oberon and District Museum, entry via Scotia Avenue, is open every Saturday and Sunday 10.30am to 5pm, or by appointment. Enquiries 6336 1016.

**■ LOCAL DERBY:** Oberon Roller Derby (ORD) training is now on Monday night's from 6pm to 9pm at the Oberon High School.

**■ ON A ROLL:** Oberon Indoor Bowling Club would like to invite members of the community to learn the skill of indoor bowling. Indoor bowls is on Tuesday evenings. Names in by 7pm to start bowling at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club auditorium. Families and children over 12 years of age are welcome. Junior players between the ages of 12 to 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

**■ GET-TOGETHER:** The Oberon Uniting Church would like to invite any members of the community to an informal get-together for morning tea at 10.30am. Activities followed by lunch at the Uniting Church Hall on the fourth Monday of each month. Cost \$10 which covers morning tea activities and lunch.

## TOURIST HOTEL

**PUCK'S RESTAURANT**

**OPEN 7 DAY'S A WEEK FOR LUNCH AND DINNER**  
12PM - 2.30PM AND 6PM - 8.30PM

- A-La Carte Menu with Spring Specials
- Take Aways Available
- Private Functions or Intimate Occassions

**ENQUIRIES PHONE OUR CHEF FOR DETAILS 6336 1378**

**140 OBERON ST, OBERON • PH: 6336 1378**





OBERON COUNCIL

# OBERON

*Celebrating*  
**150 Years**  
1863-2013

## FREE TIP DAY

Sunday 28 September 2014

Free of charge for all private and domestic rubbish.

Oberon Council Garbage Depot from 8am - 5pm

Burruga Transfer Station from 10am - 12pm

Black Springs Transfer Station from 12.30pm - 2.30pm

All commercial/business waste and commercial vehicles will incur the standard tipping charges.

For further information please refer to Council's website [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au).

## SENIORS WELFARE COMMITTEE

Call for new members of Seniors Welfare Committee

Interested in being involved in a community group? Concerned about issues affecting the elderly within our community? Keen to have your say and be involved in decision-making and positive change?

Oberon Council's Seniors Welfare Committee is currently looking for 2 new members to join the Committee.

The Committee meets bi-monthly to discuss topics of an important nature to the senior population of the Oberon community.

If you are interested in being a part of the Committee or would like further information, please contact Kathy Beasley on 6329 8158.

## 2014 OBERON COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT GOLF DAY

Registrations are now open for the 9th installment of the Oberon Council Local Government Golf Day, to be held on Friday 21 November 2014, commencing at 9.00 am for a 10.00am shot gun start. Cost \$50 per player and players must be over 18 years of age. For all enquiries and registration please contact Oberon Council on 6329 8100 by Friday 7 November 2014.

## DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS JULY 2014 (S.101 F.12 & A. ACT)

Development Type	Street Address
Modification to DA 10.2014.44.1, boundary alignment variation	Albion Street, OBERON
Subdivision Certificate	Albion Street, OBERON
Subdivision Certificate	269 Todd's Road, WISEMANS CREEK
Dwelling	112 Gingkin, Road, EDITH
Additions to Dwelling	21 Fox Lane, OBERON
Modification to DA 132/07 - boundary variation	53 O'Connell Plains Road, O'CONNELL
On Site Waste Water	983 Abercrombie Road, OBERON
Alterations to existing Commercial premises	133 Oberon Street, OBERON
New Shed	1707 Mutton Falls Road, O'CONNELL
New Garage	18 Brennan Crescent, OBERON
Agricultural Subdivision - 3 Lots	385 Foleys Creek Road, ESSINGTON
Additions to Dwelling	1936 Edith Road, OBERON
Dwelling	375 Horse Shoe Bend Road, EDITH
Agricultural Subdivision - 3 Lots	388 Foleys Creek Road, ESSINGTON
Dwelling	482 Sewells Creek Road, ESSINGTON
Agricultural Subdivision - 4 Lots	482 Sewells Creek Road, ESSINGTON



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council@oberon.nsw.gov.au oberon.nsw.gov.au  
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Oberon Waste Facility Lower Mount Road, Oberon  
Monday to Friday 8.00am - 10.00am and 3.00pm - 5.00pm.  
Saturday & Sunday - 1.00pm - 5.00pm



## MAYOR'S COLUMN

Last week the NSW State Government announced a "Fit for the Future" reform package, as a response to final reports by the Independent Local Government Review Panel and the Local Government Acts Taskforce.

The new reform package is aimed at strengthening our communities and is asking for each Council in NSW to look at how strong they are, the services they provide the community, and to consider the future needs and sustainability of their community.

Over the next few months Oberon Council will be reviewing our current situation, and prepare a proposal by 30 June 2015 on how we intend to become Fit for the Future in line with the new requirements of the NSW Government.

Oberon Council has already been in discussions with our neighbouring Councils at Blayney, Bathurst, and Lithgow regarding the final reports from the Review Panel and the Acts Taskforce, and with the new Fit for the Future reform package, we will seek to take advantage of the opportunity to enable improved services and community facilities for our ratepayers.

During September each year most Councils in NSW hold Elections for Mayor and Deputy Mayors and also to make appointments of Councillors to our Committees and as Delegates to other External Organisations.

Your Councillors have worked very hard these last 12 months and will continue to do so for the next 12 months. Councillors spend considerable time attending formal meetings, as well as very productive inspections of our roads and also informal briefing sessions where the General Manager and staff give up to date information on activities being done by Council staff and other topical items of interest.

There are some great Spring events happening in the Oberon area over the coming weeks. This weekend the Oberon Rotary Club are holding the Daffodil Dawdle, inviting everyone on a tour of local gardens. On Saturday 27 September the Friends of the Oberon Library and Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway are having a fundraising night at Oberon High School. 'History in Motion' will be an evening of travel tales, railway yams and folk singing. Contact our Visitor Information Centre for more information. Mayor John McMahon

## ROADWORKS UPDATE



**OBERON WEST ROAD WORKS** - We have recommenced work on the O'Connell Road just out of Oberon heading toward Bathurst. The 1km project follows from the first 1.4km completed earlier this year and involves shoulder widening, stabilisation of the pavement and bitumen sealing planned for mid to late November. This work is being done on behalf of the Roads & Maritime Services at a cost of \$1.3m, with the total work of 2.4km costing \$2.24m funded by the RMS. From early October there will be some traffic delays.

**ABERCROMBIE ROAD** - Work has started on drainage and shoulder widening of the road south of Murrays Lane. The road pavement will be strengthened and we also plan to bitumen seal during November.

## OBERON LIBRARY NEWS

School Holiday Activities: 23 September - 3 October 2014

If you could travel through the Universe what could you see and how would you do it? What does an alien from outer space look like? 'Outer space' starts about 100km above the surface of our Earth and is anything but empty. Space is populated by stars and planets, and astronauts travel through the dark sky - just watch out in case your astronaut goes too close to a black hole and disappears! These holidays use your imagination to create your own stars, planets, aliens and black holes at the Library.

"The Library is a popular spot during school holidays with free activities designed for children aged 5-12. A visit to the Library offers a relaxed place to hang out. We have a great collection of books, DVDs, audio CDs and free internet access for all ages" said Lynette Safrenek, Council's Finance & Community Services Director.

FREE craft activities will run from 2.00pm - 3.30pm each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the school holidays. Places are limited so come into the Library to reserve a spot.



Oberon Visitor Information Centre  
Corner Ross Street and Edith Road,

OBERON NSW 2787  
Monday-Saturday 9.30am - 5pm Sundays 10am - 3pm  
02 6329 8210 [oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://oberon.nsw.gov.au)

Black Springs Waste Facility Dog Rocks Road, Black Springs  
Every second Sunday 12.30pm - 2.30pm.

Burruga Waste Facility Arkstone Road, Burruga  
Every second Sunday 10.00am - 12.00pm.

Please refer to Council website for opening dates





To book this space for your business contact Cheryl on 6336 1340

# oberon Review

Thursday, March 27, 2014

Published every Thursday - \$1.60 (includes GST)

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Issue No. 1961



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## Oberon Council fights to protect its borders

By LOUISE EDDY

BOTH Oberon and Blayney councils were taking a very strong stand against amalgamation on Monday, as councils from across the Central West gathered for a Local Government NSW forum in Bathurst.

The forum is the eighth of 15 being held across the state. They are designed to obtain feedback from member councils on the 65 recommendations made in the independent report into the review of local government.

Following the release of the report, Local Government Minister Don Page stressed there will be no forced amalgamations, but some councils are not convinced.

Oberon mayor John McMahon said the reality is politicians want to deal with fewer councils because less councils mean less work.

However, he said amalgamation would definitely be detrimental to the development of Oberon.

"Oberon's financial position is better than Bathurst, so why in hell would Oberon want to amalgamate with Bathurst," he said.

Cr McMahon, however, was not adverse to forming a partnership with Bathurst for the sharing of resources.

He said there is always room for co-operation between local bodies, particularly when it comes to sharing plant equipment.

"Our position is quite clear, Oberon Council is determined to be a stand-alone council," he said. "We believe we have the financial stability to stand alone and progress into the future. Our area is going through a boom at the moment."

The Oberon mayor said employment opportunities were increasing with the opening of the abattoir and an aged care complex.

"I am very positive about Oberon's future," Cr McMahon said. "The only thing that would scuttle Oberon is if it amalgamates with a big centre like



PROVIDING FEEDBACK: Bathurst mayor Gary Rush, Oberon mayor John McMahon and Blayney's Tony Perry, general manager of Central Tablelands Water, were among delegates from across the Central West who met in Bathurst on Monday for a forum hosted by Local Government NSW. Photo: ZENIO LAPINA

Bathurst."

Cr McMahon said some of the recommendations in the report do little for Local Government.

He hopes Monday's forum will give councils a clearer picture and show them the way forward.

Blayney Mayor Scott Ferguson said while there is no doubt that Blayney council is against any forced amalgamation, councillors are very keen to explore every option available to them, in particular an alliance between Blayney, Wellington and Cabonne councils.

He said they have already held a number of discussions about sharing services. Cr Ferguson said Blayney is a very proactive small council and it is comfortable sharing resources with other local councils.

"We are very open minded," he said. "It's early days yet, but we have been having talks with Bathurst, Orange and Cowra councils about forming alliances."

"We are sure something positive will

come from it."

Tony Perry, general manager of the Central Tablelands Water Authority County Council, also based in Blayney, said there are five county councils in the state and all are opposed to one recommendation in the report.

Mr Perry said the report recommends county councils become a subsidiary of any joint organisations.

However, he also feels it is deserving of equal membership because they are completely autonomous councils.

"There is no logical reason county councils shouldn't be an equal member like any other council," Mr Perry said.

"We hope Local Government NSW will formulate our views within their submission to the state government."

Bathurst mayor Gary Rush said the forum gives everyone the opportunity to reflect on the future in terms of financial stability. He added it would also allow councils to seek out gains in productivity and efficiency.



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### POPULAR LOCATION



Positioned in a very popular street within walking distance to local schools, parks and shops. This home is set on a large block with well-established trees and gardens. Offering a flexible layout for a family, this is one not to be missed. Four bedrooms main with walk-in robe and ensuite. Two living areas, main with electric combustion heating. R/C air conditioning in 2nd living area. Near new kitchen. Internal laundry leading to deck area. Large shed at rear of house.



This home offers a great opportunity to secure a well-placed property in a great location. A good solid home presenting everything for the family needs.

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OBERON COUNCIL

# OBERON

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## OBERON POOL COMPLEX

The Oberon Swimming Pool Complex will be open this Saturday 29 March and Sunday 30 March from 9.00am – 5.00pm and the ever popular inflatable island will be up on Sunday between 12pm – 3pm. Drop by, cool off, have a BBQ lunch and make the most of the extended season before the cooler weather creeps up on us.

Well done to all Dolphin Swim School participants who have made outstanding achievements throughout the swimming season. We'd specifically like to recognise our exceptional Swimmers of the Season; Bailey Hotham, Beau Ryan and Kobi Hotham. Please drop by the pool over the weekend between 9am – 5pm to collect your prizes!

H2oXercise classes will continue Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7.00am, dependent on numbers. Please contact the pool for details.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS MARCH/APRIL 2014

Meeting	Date	Time
Community Services Committee Meeting Robert Hooper Community Centre	Thur 27 March	2.00pm
Extraordinary Council Meeting Administration Council Chambers	Thur 27 March	6.00pm
Ordinary Council Meeting Administration Council Chambers	Tue 15 April	5.30pm
Heritage Committee Meeting Administration Committee Room	Mon 28 April	5.00pm
Oberon Sports Facilities Committee Meeting Administration Committee Room	Wed 30 April	4.30pm

## APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING 2014

Are you a community organisation, sporting body or individual who wishes to apply for funding from Council?

Applications for funding are invited (Section 356 Donations) for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

Completed application forms must be received by Council no later than **4.00pm Thursday 17 April 2014** and are available from Council's Administration Centre at 137-139 Oberon Street, Oberon or can be downloaded from Council's website [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au).

## LIBRARY NEWS

The Oberon Council Library is now open from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays as part of a 3 month trial which commenced 3 March 2014. From Monday 31 March the Library will adjust its hours Monday to Friday, closing at 5.30pm instead of 6.00pm as part of a 3 month trial. Please forward your comments and feedback to [council@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@oberon.nsw.gov.au).

Would You Like To Join A Book Group? A book group is a great way to network and talk about something in common. Our evening book group meets at 5.30pm at the Library. The next meeting will be on Wednesday April 16. Two books have been chosen to talk about – *The Boy in The Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyle and *The Lieutenant* by Kate Granville. Everyone is welcome!

The Lie by Helen Dunmore has been described as a spellbinding tale of love, remembrance, and deception, set against the backdrop of World War I. It is 1920; Daniel Branwell has survived the First World War and returned to Cornwall and he suffers vivid flashbacks of his time in the trenches. This book discusses the trauma of war; guilt, suffering and the world that war left behind. It is also a novel about hope and re-growth, with powerful descriptions and interesting characters.

Fear Nothing by Lisa Gardner. Lisa Gardner writes enthralling mysteries and this top-ten bestseller is one of her finest – a fast-paced crime thriller designed to keep the reader on the edge of their seat. Crime investigator D.D. Warren is on the hunt for the Rose Killer who is no longer targeting lone women but is now targeting D.D. Unravelling the connections and following the twists makes this a terrific read!

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Oberon Council hosted several events across the shire last week to celebrate Seniors Week. On Saturday 15 March a Seniors Expo was held at the Oberon High School. Those in attendance enjoyed morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea which was provided by the Oberon Rotary Club. I was very happy to see the members of the Oberon Youth Council who also helped out throughout the day.

Guest Speaker Ron McCumstie from the Morse Group spoke about 'Alternative Income Options in a Low Interest Rate Environment' and Eric Hiam from Balance Financial Solutions gave a presentation about 'Maximising Your Pension Entitlement'.

There was a great variety of stalls including, Oberon Health Council, Oberon USA, Oberon Neighbourhood Centre, Oberon Community Transport, Columbia Homes, Evans Community Options, Hammond Care, Friends of the Oberon Library, Oberon Men's Shed, Oberon Golf Club, Oberon Arts Council and Meals on Wheels. The Oberon Needleworkers also displayed 40 quilts which they have made for the victims of the October bushfires.

The two mystery bus trips were driven by Councillor Gibbons were very popular. Seniors were taken for a trip around the southern side of the Oberon Dam which included some magnificent scenery, particularly after the recent rain. They then stopped off at the Columbia Homes construction site where the Overseer hopped on the bus and gave a talk about the progress of the Aged Care Facility before returning to the Robert Hooper Community Centre for morning tea.

A Seniors Week Luncheon was held at Oberon High School on Thursday 20 March, with lunch prepared and served by Hospitality students from Oberon High and St Joseph's. Schools. A variety of performances were given by the schools across the shire including Black Springs Public, Hampton Public, O'Connell Public, St Josephs, Oberon Public and the Oberon High School. The Burruga School also performed at the Seniors Week function held in Burruga on the same day. It is pleasing to see so much involvement from the young people across our schools in Seniors Week.

On Monday, Councillors and Management Staff attended a Leaders Forum in Bathurst hosted by Local Government NSW. The forum was very well attended by Councils from across the Central West with presentations regarding the outcomes of the Local Government Independent Review Panels final recommendations for reform of Local Government.

Local Government NSW are very much on the ball when it comes to the Panel's final report. The meeting in Bathurst was the 8th meeting which they have hosted across the state and it appears that the same theme is coming through from the delegates in each area. They do not support Community Boards or Rural Councils, they are opposed to mandatory amalgamations and mandatory membership of Joint Organisations. I found it very uplifting and reassuring that the management of Local Government NSW is so well informed about the issue. Their recommendations were met with general approval.

A reminder, the Oberon Hospital Auxiliary is celebrating their 70th Birthday this Friday 28 March at the Oberon RSL Club, commencing at 12 noon. I would like to congratulate the Hospital Auxiliary on this remarkable milestone. There have been many who have been members over the years and have contributed to the outstanding facilities that we have at the Oberon Hospital.

**Councillor John McMahon**  
Mayor



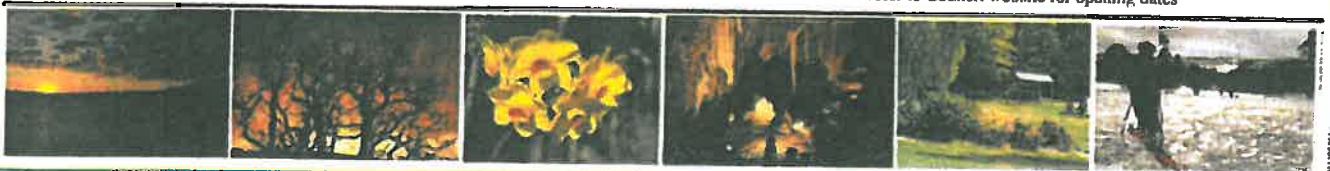
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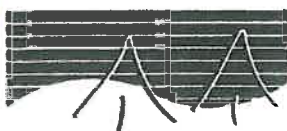
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Saturday & Sunday - 1.00pm - 5.00pm

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Every second Sunday 12.30pm - 2.30pm.  
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Please refer to Council website for opening dates







## OBERON COUNCIL



On Monday, General Manager Alan Cairney and I attended the NSW Community Cabinet Meeting held in Lithgow. Prior to the meeting we had the opportunity to meet with the Minister for Local Government, Don Page MP and the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, the Hon Brad Hazard MP.

The Mayor's of Bathurst,

Lithgow and Blayney were also in attendance and we discussed the proposed Joint Organisations outlined in the Local Government Independent Review Panel's final report.

We were able to pass on comments from the discussion held at the last Centroc Board Meeting where the member Council's all favoured the Hunter Region model and were not in favour of the proposal outlined in the review panel's report. I was very pleased at the positive response from the Minister in relation to this matter.

We also had an opportunity to speak with the Minister for Roads, the Hon Duncan Gay MLC in relation to B-Double access over the Blue Mountains. The Minister has agreed to meet

a delegation from Oberon to progress this matter.

We are currently conducting community consultation regarding the proposal to Fluoridate the Oberon Town Water Supply. A Fluoridation Information Session was held during the week and the purpose of this was to get the information to all residents in relation to fluoridation.

Two Community Forums will be held over the next two weeks. The first will be held on Thursday 20 March, commencing at 6pm at the Oberon Showground Hall. On Wednesday 26 March a second forum will be held at the Oberon RSL Club. I urge all residents to come along to and have your say.

Last Thursday I attended a Climate Change, Risk and Resilience Seminar held in Blayney. Councillor Gibbons, General Manager, Alan Cairney and Works Manager, Ian Tucker also attended the workshop.

One of the areas which relates to this area is the possibility of an increase in the intensity and frequency of bushfires due to a changing climate. Thinking back to the bushfires in the Blue Mountains last October and the severity of this event it is certainly something that requires better planning in the future. In many cases there are tree preservation orders in place which prevent landholders from clearing their land and this is something I believe will need better planning

in the future if we are to prevent these type of disasters from occurring.

Last Friday I attended a breakfast held to celebrate International Women's Day. Although the attendance was a little disappointing, those who were there were very impressed with the address given by guest speaker Jenny Precians. Jenny is the co-owner of the Oberon Pharmacy and the Oberon Wellness Centre and is married with a young baby as well. Her address was very entertaining and illustrated the challenges of juggling the different roles of business owner, wife and mother.

Councillor John McMahon  
Mayor

### ROADWORKS

The Oberon West Project involves the reconstruction of 2.3km of O'Connell Rd starting from the Albion Street roundabout. The large pine trees along the eastern side of O'Connell Road will be removed to help reduce shading of the road surface in the mornings during the winter months. This will therefore reduce the risk of hazards caused by black ice.

Works on Abercrombie Road involves the reconstruction of 700m north of Mt Norway Road. Clearing of road verges commenced this week and road shoulders will be widened before additional pavement material is added to the full width of the road.

### Fluoridation - Community Forums

Two COMMUNITY FORUMS will be held to allow members of our community to have their say about the proposal to Fluoridate the Oberon town water supply.

Community Forums will be held on

**Thursday 20 March 2014 from 6pm to 9pm**  
- Oberon Showground Hall

and

**Wednesday 26 March 2014 from 6pm to 9pm**  
- Oberon RSL Club.

All members of the Oberon Community are invited to come along and have a say.

### OBERON COUNCIL LIBRARY

The Oberon Council Library is now open from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays as part of a three month trial which commenced 3 March 2014. Please forward your comments and feedback to [council@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@oberon.nsw.gov.au).

We have some wonderful new titles this week, from health and wellbeing books to exciting fiction. Drop by to browse our extensive collection.

**BELLAGRANT** by Paullina Simons - Following the lives of Italian immigrant Gina and Boston blue-blood Harry through four decades and two continents, this is a passionate love story in true Simons' style.

**DIARY OF A WIMPY KID** by Jeff Kinney - This successful children's series is loved by kids and adults everywhere. **HARD LUCK** is the latest in the series. Greg Heffley is having a hard time finding new friends in middle school. Greg decides to turn his decisions over to chance, hoping

a roll of the dice will turn things around for him... Or will he continue to endure another hard-luck story?

**THE LITTLE OLD LADY WHO BROKE ALL THE RULES** by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg - If you enjoy a quirky, humorous read - then this is the book for you! 79-year-old Martha dreams of escaping her care-home and robbing a bank. Creating a daring group, The League of Pensioners, plans are made to move to a more attractive establishment with no early bedtimes or plastic meals. This is the perfect guide book for all of us who intend to grow old disgracefully.

Are you after something in particular? Do you need assistance with research, a school project or just a general topic of interest? The Library staff are always happy to assist.

We will have another story for you next week.



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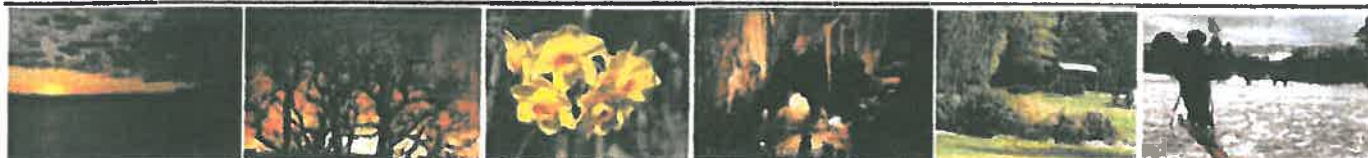
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Please refer to Council website for opening dates







## OBERON COUNCIL

## OBERON

*Celebrating  
150 Years  
1863-2013*



It is pleasing to see that the Oberon Abattoir is now back in operation. It is particularly pleasing to see an industry resuming in Oberon which has not been operating for some time. I wish the new owners every success in the future.

Last weekend the General Manager and I attended the Official Opening of the Oberon Tarana Heritage Rail-

way (OTHR) Rolling Stock Shed. Our State Member Paul Toole performed the Official Opening and I also participated in the official proceedings.

The shed was originally two sheds which the volunteers from OTHR have joined to make one large shed. It will be utilised for storage of equipment including two heritage carriages and two diesel locomotives as well as other rolling stock. It will also be used for maintenance and restoration of the heritage railway equipment.

During the opening Paul Toole acknowledged and congratulated the dedicated track enthusiasts who

have volunteered countless hours over the past 8 years. In addition to the construction of the Rolling Stock Shed they have completed the restoration of 5km of track works and made major improvements at the Railway Station.

Ken Ungabala from the John Holland Rail Group was also in attendance at the opening and addressed the gathering and reiterated the John Holland Group's offer of assistance wherever needed to ensure the project is seen through to fruition.

Once completed the Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway will be a great benefit to the lo-

cal tourism industry.

General Manager Alan Cairney and I attended the Centroc Board Meeting held in Bathurst last Thursday. The meeting was attended by Mayors and General Managers from across the region and discussion took place in relation to the Independent Local Government Review Panel's proposed Joint Organisations structure.

A number of speakers expressed strong opposition to the Panel's model which they viewed as a take over of Local Government.

Under the Panel's proposal, membership to a Joint Organisation is compulsory;

however, membership can be made up of special interest delegates and members who are not from Local Government. The Hunter Model, which is favoured by the Centroc group draws all membership from Local Government and member Council's can choose to participate in projects which benefit their own Council.

Local Government NSW will be holding a Leaders Forum to discuss the outcomes of the Panels Final Report in Bathurst on 24 March and Councillors and Staff will attend this forum.

**Councillor  
John McMahon  
Mayor**

## POOL NEWS

During the autumn months the Oberon Swimming Pool Complex will be open from 2pm - 7pm Weekdays and 10am - 7pm Weekends. The Tropical Island will be inflated from 1pm - 4pm on Sunday's - great fun for all the family!

**Squad sessions** are continuing on Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's at 5pm. H2oXercise classes are held Tuesday's and Thursday's at 7am and Friday's at 6pm. Make the most of the swimming season before it soon comes to an end! Well done to all swimmers who participated at their recent District and Western Area Carnivals.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Ref No	Determinations January 2014 (S.101 E.P. & A. Act.)	Development Type	Street Address	Locality
10.2013.39.1	Transmitter Mast		15 Harris Road	OBERON
10.2013.56.1	New Subdivision		1837 & 1845 Burruga Rd	JUDDS CREEK
10.2004.34.3	Modifications		54 Hazelgrove Road	OBERON
10.2013.51.1	Dwelling and OSWW		161 O'Connell Road	OBERON
11.2013.51.1				
19.2013.14.1				
11.2013.95.1	New Dwelling		99 Nunans Hill Road	DUCKMALOI
15.2004.327.1	Subdivision Certificate - Stage 2 - Release 1 lot		3253 Beaconsfield Road	WISEMANS CREEK
15.2005.16.1	Subdivision Certificate - 4 lot subdivision		519 Nunans Hill Road	HAZELGROVE
15.2013.15.1	Subdivision Certificate - Boundary Adjustment		20-21 Blenheim Avenue	OBERON

Copies of determinations are available from Inspection at Council's Administration Centre.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## Fluoridation - Public Information Session

Oberon Council invites members of the community to attend a PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION on Wednesday 12 March 2014 from 6pm to 9pm at the Oberon RSL Club - Corner Oberon St and Dudley St. This Session includes presentations from NSW Govt Health Representatives, and a facilitated Question and Answer Session.

Two separate COMMUNITY FORUMS will be held to allow members of our community to have their say about the proposal to Fluoridate. Community Forums will be held on Thursday 20 March 2014 from 6pm to 9pm - Oberon Showground Hall and Wednesday 26 March from 6pm to 9pm - Oberon RSL Club.



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council@oberon.nsw.gov.au oberon.nsw.gov.au  
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Every second Sunday 10.00am - 12.00pm.  
Please refer to Council website for opening dates



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT

To celebrate International Women's Day for 2014, a free breakfast will be held at the Community Centre Function Room at 7.30am Friday March 7, 2014. Oberon Council are inviting women in the community to come and indulge in a delicious breakfast, listen to some entertaining guest speakers and enjoy great company.

For enquiries please contact Council's Community Services on 6329 8162 or 6329 8156.

## LIBRARY NEWS

**Library Hours** - The Oberon Library will be opening from 9am to 1pm commencing this Saturday, for a three month trial. Please forward your comments and feedback to Council at [council@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@oberon.nsw.gov.au).

Don't forget we have **Baby Read & Rhyme** each Monday at 10.30am and Story time each Tuesday at 11.00am.

**ONE MORE SLIP** by Marion Von Adlerstein  
Set in the swingingly stylish sixties in Sydney, this is a tale of three young women, Desi, Bea and Isabel who work in the glamorous industry of advertising. Jingles and catchphrases come easily but having a life outside the office is more difficult. This is a funny, occasionally feminist read with firsthand knowledge of 1960s Sydney enhancing the storyline. Nice reading for the weekend.

**LION HEART** by Justin Cartwright  
This novel is a true original with the suggestion that myth and history may be inseparable. Full of insight into the life and times of Richard the Lionheart it is also moving and funny. The two central characters are Richard and his recently deceased father Alaric. Richard sets out to find the truth behind his father's life, as a sometime hippie, intellectual and historian. Combining mystery, history, romance and adventure this book explores all the possibilities of life. An intensely vivid novel that readers may not like to see come to an end!





## OBERON COUNCIL

# OBERON

*Celebrating  
150 Years  
1863-2013*



The 2014 Highland Steam and Vintage Fair will take place this coming weekend and this year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever. The Vintage Car run and popular Tractor Trek will be held on Friday 7 February. During the 8 and 9 February there will be a large number of

displays including beautifully restored steam engines, trucks, vintage cars, machinery and tractors. It promises to be a great weekend to visit Oberon.

Work has now commenced on the reconstruction of the first 2km of O'Connell Road north from the Albion Street roundabout towards Bathurst known as the "Oberon West Project". The work will include widening of the shoulders and reconstruction of the pavement and is expected to be completed by the end of April. There is a 40km/hr speed restriction in place and there will

be short traffic delays during construction.

Last Friday General Manager Alan Cairney and I, along with a number of representatives from Council's across the Centroc region visited Maitland to attend a meeting with the Hunter Valley Regional Organisation of Councils.

The visit provided an opportunity to examine the organisational structure of Hunter Councils as well as a tour of the facilities including a state of the art records management storage facility and training institute.

I was very impressed by the Hunter Council's model and believe their structure is an ideal model for the proposed Joint Organisations which have been recommended as part of the Final Report handed down by the Independent Local Government Review Panel. Under the Hunter Council's model the Board is made up of Mayor's across the region and decisions are reached by consensus of the Board. Like the Centroc model, Councils have the option of participating in programs which will benefit their region.

I believe that this would be an avenue for Council's to maintain their independence whilst achieving the benefits of belonging to a Regional Organisation.

During the next two months we will be undertaking information sessions and community forums to inform and receive feedback from the community regarding the proposal to fluoridate the Oberon town water supply. Meeting dates and venues will be advised on Council's website and in the Oberon Review.

Councillor John McMahon

Mayor

## TENDER

## EXTERNAL AUDITING SERVICES

Oberon Council invites tenders from suitably qualified persons or firms for the provision of audit services for a period of six (6) years from the 1 April 2014 to 30 June 2020.

Tender specifications or further information can be obtained by contacting David Mead, Finance Coordinator, Oberon Council, on (02) 6329 8100 or email [council@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@oberon.nsw.gov.au).

A copy of the tender specifications can also be downloaded from the oberon Council website: [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au).

Tenders will be received until 4.00 pm on Monday 24 February 2014.

PO Box 84

OBERON NSW 2787

Alan Cairney

GENERAL MANAGER

## UPCOMING WORKS

Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Works commencing Monday 10 February

On Monday 10 February 2014 work will commence at the Oberon Water Treatment Plant to replace the water purifying membranes.

It is expected that the work will be completed within 2 days.

Most of this work is expected to occur without any disruptions to the water treatment process, however should the unforeseen happen, raw water will need to be utilised for town use.

To minimise the possibility of raw water having to be being utilised for town use, all residents are requested to be especially water-wise and vigilant during the upgrade period so as to increase the time-frame of treated water reserves for town consumption. Any questions or concerns, please contact Oberon Council Works and Engineering on 02 6329 8131 or 6329 8104.

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

## International Women's Day 2014 - INSPIRING CHANGE

Oberon Council is calling for Expressions of Interest from Community Groups to host an International Women's Day event on Saturday 8 March 2014.

International Women's Day celebrates the social, political and economic achievements of women.

For further enquiries please contact our Community Services area on 6329 8162 or visit our website [oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://oberon.nsw.gov.au)

Expressions of Interest should be submitted by Friday 14 February at the Council

Administration Centre or by email: [council@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@oberon.nsw.gov.au).



Oberon Council Administration Centre

137-139 Oberon Street

PO Box 84, OBERON NSW 2787

[council@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@oberon.nsw.gov.au) [oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://oberon.nsw.gov.au)

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm 02 6329 8100



Oberon Visitor Information Centre

Corner Ross Street and Edith Road,

OBERON NSW 2787

Monday-Saturday 9.30am - 5pm Sundays 10am - 3pm

02 6329 8210 [oberonaustralia.com.au](http://oberonaustralia.com.au)

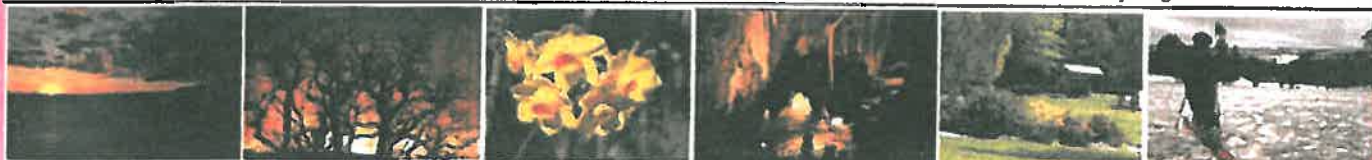
Oberon Library Corner of Dart Street and Fleming Street, Oberon 6329 8220  
Monday to Friday 10.00am - 6.00pm. Saturday 10.00am - 2.00pm. Sunday - Closed

Oberon Waste Facility Lowes Mount Road, Oberon  
Monday to Friday 8.00am - 10.00am and 3.00pm - 5.00pm.  
Saturday & Sunday - 1.00pm - 5.00pm

Black Springs Waste Facility Dog Rocks Road, Black Springs  
Every second Sunday 12.30pm - 2.30pm.

Burruga Waste Facility Arkstone Road, Burruga  
Every second Sunday 10.00am - 12.00pm.

Please refer to Council website for opening dates





## Reduced limit for highway upgrade

ROADS and Maritime Services will soon begin work on an upgrade of part of the Great Western Highway near Lithgow.

Sections of the highway will be resurfaced between River Lett Bridge and the bottom of River Lett Hill from Monday, February 3 to Saturday, February 8.

The work will be carried out between 7am and 6pm, according to Roads and Maritime Services.

The plan is to keep one lane in each direction open wherever possible.

Roads and Maritime Services says short delays may still be experienced and speed limits will be reduced to 40 kilometres an hour through the worksites.



**STRENGTH IN NUMBERS:** Lithgow City Council general manager Roger Bailey, Blayney Shire Council general manager Glenn Wilcox, Lithgow mayor Maree Statham, Blayney mayor Scott Ferguson, Oberon Council general manager Alan Cairney, Bathurst mayor Gary Rush, Oberon mayor John McMahon and Bathurst Regional Council general manager David Shirley met in Bathurst Council Chambers last Friday to discuss a joint partnership as the state's councils face new scrutiny. Photo: ZEIRO LAPKA

## Oberon considers alliance

OBERON Council will consider forming an "alliance" with its neighbour councils following a meeting last Friday.

The mayors and general managers of Bathurst, Oberon, Lithgow and Blayney councils met as they consider a response to the Independent Local Government Review Panel's final report into the state's councils.

The report, released this month, says Oberon could continue as a council for some years, but amalgamation with Bathurst would give Oberon a higher capacity base.

The review says Blayney could also be sustainable for

several decades, but would benefit from an amalgamation with Orange and Cabonne.

Bathurst mayor Gary Rush said doing nothing was not an option.

"There was good co-operation and a strong level of openness and trust," he said of the meeting.

"If we can work together, this would be the preferred option."

"Amalgamation was not favoured in the discussion."

"The establishment of some sort of advantageous alliance seems to be the direction each of the councils would favour."

"Of course, whatever steps are to be taken must be first ratified by the whole council in each local government area."

He said the resolution at Friday's meeting was of a more general nature because a decision on whether the councils will enter into a joint partnership cannot be made until each of the full councils meet to discuss the possibility.

Cr Rush said for this reason none of the councils has taken a position yet.

Oberon mayor John McMahon said there is a lot of work to be done before any thing is finalised.

"The alliance will be similar to the CENTROC (Central NSW Councils) alliance but on a smaller scale," Cr McMahon said.

"Oberon, Bathurst, Blayney and Lithgow have similar topography. This alliance will improve our purchasing and tendering powers. It will create a bigger base power."

In the meantime, representatives of each of the four councils will visit the Hunter group of councils on January 30 and 31 to look at their model and determine if it will work in this area.

The councils will meet again a short time later.

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## UWSCollge Lithgow Campus Welcome Day 4 February 12.00 pm – 6.00 pm

UWSCollge is delighted to invite you to drop in and tour our new Lithgow campus.

We would like to share with you our 2014 course offerings and our innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

Come along and learn how you can access world-class flexible learning technologies to enable you to study at a time to suit you.

Our academic and professional staff will be present to show you how we can enhance your student experience with expert teaching, support services and interactive learning strategies.

- Take a campus tour every hour from 1.00 pm – 6.00 pm
- View our new collaborative learning spaces — ideal for small project work and informal study with friends
- Experience our new science and technology laboratories
- Enjoy a free BBQ between 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm and much, much more in the refurbished Charles Hoskins Building on the corner of Bridge and Mort Streets, Lithgow

Get connected. Experience what UWSCollge has to offer you in 2014.

TIME	ACTIVITY
12:00-12:30	Welcome by Debra and BBQ
12:30-1:00	Campus tour
1:00-1:30	Presentation: Collaborative Learning and Resources
1:30-2:00	Lab showcase and demonstration
2:00-2:30	Campus tour
2:30-3:00	Presentation: Collaborative Learning and Resources
3:00-3:30	Lab showcase and demonstration
3:30-4:00	Presentation: 2014 Overview of Course Offerings
4:00-4:30	Campus tour
4:30-5:00	Presentation: Collaborative Learning and Resources

TIME	ACTIVITY
2:00-2:30	Lab showcase and demonstration
2:30-3:00	Presentation: Student Support Services
3:00-3:30	Presentation: Arts Education, Engineering, Opportunities and Careers
3:30-4:00	Campus tour
4:00-4:30	Presentation: Collaborative Learning and Resources
4:30-5:00	Lab showcase and demonstration
5:00-5:30	Presentation: Welcome and 2014 Overview of Course Offerings
5:30-6:00	Campus tour
6:00-6:30	Presentation: Support Services, Student Experience and HECs
6:30-7:00	Campus tour and enquiries

## Centennial Coal denies station supply shortage

By LOUISE EDDY

CENTENNIAL Coal has hit back at claims by EnergyAustralia that a shortage of affordable local coal supplies contributed to the need to cut back operations at the Wallerawang Power Station.

EnergyAustralia announced last week it had begun consulting with its employees, and their representatives, on a reduction in generation from the Wallerawang Power Station.

The company not only blamed a lack of affordable coal, but a declining trend in energy demand across the state.

Mining company Centennial Coal's chief operating officer Steve Bracken said last week that Centennial is not experiencing a shortage of coal and can satisfy all current domestic demand on equitable market terms.

He added that Centennial is the most reliable local coal supplier and, by geographic proximity and its existing supporting infrastructure, remains the natural coal supplier for both Wallerawang and Mt Piper power stations.

"It is well documented there is a declining trend in energy demand across NSW and that Wallerawang is an old and costly power station to operate. Accordingly, outdated technology, coupled with decreasing market demand for coal-fired energy, are fundamental to Wallerawang's current position," Mr Bracken said.

"When a mine is owned by a power station, the generator only needs to cover its cost of investment in the mine and its cost of production. Its return on that investment is captured as a reduced cost of supply — i.e. that supply can be bought at cost."

"This is not the case for Centennial, which needs to ensure a return on its investment to secure both the long-term future of its workforce and local operations."

EnergyAustralia has announced that it will remove Wallerawang's Unit 7 from service, while Unit 8 will only remain available until the end of March.

Mt Piper and Wallerawang general manager Luke Welfare said despite the reduction of output, no changes to workplace arrangements will be made until the full impact of operational changes on employees and work practices has been evaluated.

Member for Bathurst Paul Toole said EnergyAustralia is an important employee in the region and it is disappointing that last year it denied rumours that it was considering scaling down operations at the Wallerawang plant.

Mr Toole said it was a condition of sale of the Wallerawang and Mt Piper plants that workers' rights and entitlements be protected by a four-year guarantee. He said there are existing contracts to this effect.

"I have been told they will continue to talk with staff about various options, with relocation or voluntary redundancy an option for those who wish to take it," he said.

"However, the sale process has ensured their rights are protected by a four-year guarantee of employment."

Country Labor candidate for Bathurst Cassandra Coleman said Barry O'Farrell's privatisation of power stations was in breach of his sworn election commitment, and now looks set to cost dozens of jobs.

"Barry flogged off Wallerawang knowing full well that privatised entities put profits before people," she said.







## OBERON COUNCIL



General Manager Alan Cairney and I met with the Mayor's and General Manager's of Bathurst, Lithgow and Blayney Council's last Friday in Bathurst. Lengthy discussion was held in relation to the final report by the Independent Local Government Review Panel and there was a spirit of cooperation and open and frank discussion at the meeting.

Consideration will be given to forming an alliance between the four Council's which could result in greater efficiencies across the LGA's. We are all in agreement that working together is the preferred position. Each of the Council's present are already members of the Upper Macquarie County Council which is responsible for weed management across the four Local Government Areas and it is envisaged that a similar structure could operate on a broader basis under an alliance arrangement.

Oberon Council will consider the findings of the report at the next Council Meeting which will be held on 18 February 2014 and establish a formal response.

I would like to acknowledge

the enormous effort made by RFS volunteers, forestry staff and local land holders to control bushfires in our region during the past couple of days. They have done an extraordinary job to contain the fires as well as they have under the conditions that have been encountered, particularly given the limited amount of resources available on the ground to fight the fires.

The bushfire burning in the Dog Rocks area was particularly difficult given the rugged terrain and large amount of highly volatile combustible material contained in the forest. It is believed there have been a number of harvesting machines lost in the fires and quite a bit of grazing pasture

has also been consumed in the fire, which is devastating, however there have been no reported losses of buildings or livestock.

I encourage all residents to ensure that they have a bushfire management plan in place and are well prepared for events of this nature.

I would like to encourage members of the community to join us for the Australia Day celebrations which will be held at The Common from 9.00am on Sunday 26 January. The celebrations will commence with morning tea followed by the Official Ceremony and presentation of Australia Day Awards. There will also be a sausage sizzle, along with children's activities and en-

tertainment throughout the day.

This year's Australia Day Ambassador, Mr Andy Paschalidis will present the Australia Day Citizens Awards at the Official Ceremony. Mr Paschalidis is renowned for his great charity and community work and has had extensive experience working within the area of Sports Media. Mr Paschalidis currently works with Special Olympics NSW as Fundraising and Partnerships Manager, along with being a presenter, commentator and producer with the media company Off The Cuff Media.

I hope you will join us for a great day out in The Common.

Councillor John McElishon  
Mayor

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Oberon Council Administration Centre, Library and Garbage Tip will be closed on Monday 27 January 2014 due to the Australia Day Public Holiday. We apologise for any inconvenience.

### SWIMMING POOL PRICE DROPS

Half season passes are now available for the remainder of the swimming season.

The reduced passes are a great value at \$30 for a single and \$90 for a family.

The Oberon Pool Complex will be open on Australia Day from 10am - 7pm with FREE entry. The inflatable island will also be up from 1 - 4pm for children to enjoy.

During the school holidays all squad sessions are being held at 9.30am Monday, Wednesday and Friday's. January is the time for serious training as carnivals are only a month away!

February swimming lessons are booking out fast, avoid disappointment and enroll now.

H2oXercise classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday at 7am.

Expressions of interest are being taken for the Bronze Medallion course. If you are interested in completing this training

please contact the Pool Complex.

Child drowning is preventable, particularly for those under the age of five. Risks can be reduced by parents and carers by providing their children with valuable skills for life by following the keep watch actions: close, constant and focused supervision; restricting the child's access to water; water awareness (water familiarization lessons, setting rules and water education); and ensuring you have up to date resuscitation skills.

The Shark Bait Kiosk has swim gear available for purchase, such as goggles, swimming caps, diving flippers and much more.

The pool hours of operation during school holidays are Monday - Friday's 7am - 9am and 10am - 7pm, Weekends 10am - 7pm.

For further information about enrolments or programs running at the pool please phone 6329 8250.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Notice of Development Application

Application: 10.2013.16.1 - New Tourist Facility  
Applicant: Ms J Alevis  
Address: Part Lot: 401 DP: 1105551, 167 Harveys Road OBERON  
Consent Authority: Oberon Council  
Development: Tourist Development  
Integrated Development: For purposes under Section 100B of the Rural Fires Act, 1997. Council has received a Development Application for a Tourist Development on the property described above. The development proposal, Statement of Environmental Effects and plans can be viewed at Council's office during business hours. Any submissions regarding the application must be made by 4.00pm on 26 February, 2014.  
Council Chambers, OBERON. 2787.  
Alan Cairney  
GENERAL MANAGER

### OBERON COUNCIL LIBRARY

The Summer Reading Club has been a great success this year. The prize draw will be held at the Library next Tuesday 28 January at 3.30pm. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third in each category and there will also be extra prizes for second chance winners.

Good luck to everyone who has entered! Library Lovers' Day falls on Friday February 14 and to celebrate the Library is running a competition. Pick up an entry form and tell us what you love about the Library.

During the next few weeks the entries will be on display at the Library and prizes will be awarded on February

14. Here are some of our new titles to the Library this week -  
**An Available Man** by Hilma Wolitzer is a charming and satisfying story of love lost and found. When Edward Schuyler is widowed he becomes a desirable object for female attention. Friends try to set him up at dinner parties but Edward does not feel available and prefers his familiar routines. Eventually Edward is torn between his loyalty to his wife's memory and his need for connection. A chance meeting proves to Edward that love arrives when least expected.



**Oberon Council Administration Centre**  
137-139 Oberon Street.  
PO Box 84, OBERON NSW 2787  
council@oberon.nsw.gov.au oberon.nsw.gov.au  
Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm. 02 6329 8100



**Oberon Visitor Information Centre**  
Corner Ross Street and Edith Road,  
OBERON NSW 2787  
Monday-Saturday 9.30am - 5pm Sundays 10am - 3pm  
02 6329 8210 oberonaustralia.com.au

**Oberon Library** Corner of Dart Street and Fleming Street, Oberon 6329 8220  
Monday to Friday 10.00am - 6.00pm.

Saturday 10.00am - 2.00pm. Sunday Closed

**Oberon Waste Facility** Lowes Mount Road, Oberon  
Monday to Friday 8.00am - 10.00am and 3.00pm - 5.00pm.

**Black Springs Waste Facility** Dog Rocks Road, Black Springs  
Every second Sunday 12.30pm - 2.30pm.

**Burrumbidgee Waste Facility** Arkstone Road, Burrumbidgee  
Every second Sunday 10.00am - 12.00pm.  
Please refer to Council website for opening dates





To book this space for your business contact Cheryl on 6336 1340

# o**beron** Review

Toe

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Published every Thursday - \$1.60 (includes GST) Thursday, January 16, 2014 Issue No.  
Phone: (02) 6336 1340 :: Fax (02) 6336 1811 :: email: mail.oberonreview@ruralpress.com :: website: oberon.yourguide.com.au

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## When the heat is on, it's time to dive in



THE Oberon Swimming Pool Complex was a popular place to be this week as temperatures reached the mid-30s.

Brenda Lyons and her grandsons Blake, 5, and Nicholas, 7, were cooling down on Tuesday.

The pool is open, during the school holidays, Monday to Friday from 7am to 9am and 10am to 7pm.

On weekends, the pool is open from 10am-7pm.

January swimming lessons are filling up fast, so book in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

The Tropical Island will be up and running each Sunday from 1pm and is also available for party bookings.

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## More merger talk

AN amalgamation of Oberon and Bathurst councils is off the table—for now. The release of a final report into the health and future of NSW councils has again thrown the spotlight on possible amalgamations.

The final report is the work of the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

The handing down of the report comes three months after the panel handed it to the Local Government Minister Don Page.

Mergers of Bathurst and Oberon, and Orange with Cabonne and Bland, were recommended in the panel's *Future Directions* report released in April last year.

All the councils are safe for the moment, however, because NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell has a policy of no forced amalgamations.

The overwhelming finding of the inquiry, which is estimated to cost \$1.8 million, is that changes are needed for the state's councils.

With predictions that Bathurst and Oberon's combined population will be about 57,900 by 2031, the report notes that Oberon's long-term sustainability is questionable.

"It could continue as a council for some years, but amalgamation would provide a higher capacity base," the report says, as well as recommending that a community board should be established in the former shire if amalgamation was to take place.

As far as Orange, Cabonne and Bland are concerned, the report says they could have a population of 73,100 by 2031.

"Cabonne may well be sustainable into the long term, but its recent and projected

growth is overspill from Orange," the report says.

"Some areas on the northern and western fringes of Cabonne are seeking to move to adjoining councils.

"Bland could also be added and would increase the projected population to 73,100.

"It could remain sustainable as a separate council for several decades, but amalgamation would provide a much higher capacity base.

"Community boards should be established as required in the former LGAs."

Bathurst MP Paul Toole said that in the short term there is more to be gained by amalgamations in the Sydney metropolitan areas where there are a lot of little councils which could gain greater efficiencies of scale.

■ To page 3

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Kurt Booth

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Move On In & Enjoy  
On one and a half acres is this unique four bedroom split level home with many enticing features.

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- All four bedrooms are a generous size and have built-in wardrobes
- Master bedroom is queen size with an suite and walk in robe

- Carpet in living area and wide floors in bedrooms area
- Slow combustion wood fire and electric heating
- Slow combustion wood fire and electric heating
- Established gardens plus the bonus of town water
- Situated on approx 1.5 acres, and having its own block truck. Rarely do we see a listing such as this in our area, being conveniently located across from a state reserve ideal for horse riding, motor bike riding & bushwalking & the like, so GO QUICK as this will have wide market appeal.

**Price: \$375,000**  
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Gloria Newstead  
Kurt Booth

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0489 975 049

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Patrick Bird 0436 361 109

Enquiries





AFTERMATH: The State Emergency Service attended a single vehicle accident on the O'Connell Road on Saturday night.

## Man had to be cut from crashed car

STATE Emergency Service personnel, police, paramedics and the fire service were called to a single motor vehicle accident on Saturday at 9.15pm.

SES controller Craig Gibbons said a young man was heading west on the O'Connell Road when the driver lost control of his vehicle, hitting traffic signs and a tree.

The young man had to be cut from the vehicle and was transferred to Bathurst Base Hospital for treatment.

In a separate incident, SES members were called to Lowes Mount Road on Sunday at 7pm after a call from a concerned owner of a cat that was caught up a tree.

Mr Gibbons said the cat had been up the 25-metre tree since Thursday afternoon and the cat's owners were concerned for its welfare.

Mr Gibbons said it took over an hour to reach the cat, as the pine tree was fairly dense and he had to cut his way through.

"It may seem funny that we were on a cat rescue, but the cat obviously was not coming down on its own. I only received a few scratches, but all was good at the end of the day," he said.

Mr Gibbons said the SES had been very quiet over the Christmas/new year holiday break.

"That's the way we want it. This means everyone has been careful on local roads."

Oberon SES members meet every Tuesday at 7.30pm at their headquarters on Lowes Mount Road.

"We currently have two new members but are always looking for more," Mr Gibbons said.



HIGH STAKES: The SES had to help a cat stuck up a pine tree on Sunday night.

## Dental agreement

OBERON Council has a current licence agreement in place with the Greater Western Area Health Service (GWAHS) for a non-exclusive use of the dental clinic premises at 72 Durr Street, Oberon.

These premises consist of a reception area, waiting rooms, kitchen/store, toilet facilities and a treatment room plus dental equipment.

GWAHS uses the premises for a dental clinic for students and younger children.

Council approved to enter into a licence agreement with the Bathurst Dental Clinic on the basis of a minimum of one day's use each week.

A lease had also been entered into with Waratah Dental, also for non-exclusive use of these premises on the basis of a two day per week use for an amount of \$80 per day rental.

This lease has been terminated and Waratah Dental no longer provides a dental service to Oberon.

Bathurst Dental Clinic has agreed with negotiations to operate a dental service, on the same terms and conditions which applied to Waratah Dental.

Bathurst Dental Clinic has a number of clients who reside in Oberon and it proposes an initial one day per week service and would seek to also use the premises for emergencies as needed.

Council has agreed that a licence agreement (instead of a lease) be entered into for a period of up to five years for use of the premises on a non-exclusive basis to enable GWAHS to continue to provide a dental clinic for students.

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Tina Alexander  
Phone: 1800 065 065  
Email: info@quickstart.com.au

## Merger talk re-emerges

From page 1

"At a local level for Bathurst and Oberon, I think there needs to be much more discussion with the councils and communities before any changes could even be considered," he said.

"Talk of mergers and amalgamations have been around ever since I entered council some 21 years ago, and few people can't say the joining of Bathurst and the former Evans Shire into one hasn't been successful.

"People are loathe to accept change, but although Bathurst and Oberon coming together is probably still a long way off, it may be considered in time.

Oberon mayor John McMahon said there is no immediate threat to Oberon.

"We are taking a positive approach and not panicking at this stage," he said.

"We have until 2018-2020 to try and strengthen Oberon's Local Government Area. We will put in an application to the boundaries commission to take in extra areas such as Tarzua, Rockley south and Hampton to the Millmott Acre.

"Oberon currently effectively services 75 kilometres south to the Abercrombie. Being a rural council it makes sense for these areas to be included in Oberon's LGA."

Bathurst mayor Gary Rush said he is not a full supporter of forced amalgamations, particularly where Oberon is concerned.

"The report says Oberon can continue operating the way it is for some considerable time," he said.

"And we have a strong message from the people of Oberon it's not something they want to do. We have to take that on board."

Cr Rush said what he is keen to explore is how Bathurst may be able to work together with Oberon or even Blayney for greater efficiencies of scale.

Cr McMahon said the mayors and general managers from Oberon, Bathurst, Lithgow and Blayney councils are having a meeting tomorrow to discuss their positions and the shortcomings in the report.

## Recognising service

EIGHT Oberon Council staff members with in excess of 10 years of service were recognised for their service to council in a special ceremony in December.

Special mention was made of Terrence Bell (40 years) and Gregory Booth (35 years).

The list below includes all staff with in excess of 10 years of service with council.

■ 10 years: Richard Robinson, Lance Sulley and Megan Booth.

■ 15 years: Hamish Gunning and Neville Woolbank.

■ 25 years: Kenneth Robinson.

■ 35 years: Gregory Booth.

■ 40 years: Terrence Bell.

During December 2012, the previous practice of making a financial contribution to staff on their termination of employment (after five years), and for 25 years service, was changed to formally recognise individual staff on reaching 10 years of service and each additional five years of service.

The eight staff each received a Long Service Award Certificate, plus a monetary contribution or gift in accordance with the council's current policy.

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# Let's stand firm on a merger



**John McMahon**  
Council news

**T**HE Minister for Local Government Don Page has released the final report developed by the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

In the press release accompanying the release of the report, the minister has reiterated his previous statement that there will be no forced amalgamations of councils, which is pleasing for Oberon residents who have clearly expressed their opposition to any form of amalgamation.

Oberon Council is fully supportive of the community wishes and will continue to oppose any moves to amalgamate or merge with larger centres such as Bathurst.

The report has recommended a merger of Oberon Council with Bathurst Regional Council.

The report states that Oberon could continue as a council for some years, but amalgamation would provide a higher capacity base.

In the timeline released as part of the report, it suggests Oberon is a category F Council and should be reviewed in 2018-2020. This review would be based on ongoing investigations into the sustainability of Oberon Council and its ability to continue to maintain its assets and remain financially viable into the future.

The report also recommends that a community board should be established if amalgamation was to occur.

The community board would be made up of four to five elected representatives as well as a number of non-elected representatives drawn from the community. The board would be able to levy its own special rate to carry out projects and maintain existing facilities.

One of the key recommendations of the report is that legally binding "joint organisations" be established across identified regions throughout the state.

Oberon would form part of a Central West Joint Organisation made up of 11 shires. The role of the joint organisation would be to look at resource-sharing, strategic planning and delivery of services.

In reviewing the report findings, I am concerned by the additional cost this could impose on member councils.

The joint organisation would replace the current voluntary membership of the Central NSW Regional Organisation of Councils (Centroc), which has 18 member councils and operates for a minimal annual contribution by those member councils.

I was pleased to see comments made by Bathurst mayor Gary Rush in last Friday's *Western Advocate* recognising that the Oberon community is opposed to amalgamation.

General manager Alan Cairney and I will be meeting with the mayors and general managers of Bathurst, Lithgow and Blayney late this week to discuss the report findings.

The report is publicly available on the Division of Local Government website and has been released for a period of comment until March 7.

I WOULD like to invite all members of the community to attend the Australia Day celebrations being held at The Common.

The celebrations will begin on Sunday, January 26 at 9am. Morning tea will be followed by the official ceremony, where all award winners will be presented with an Australia Day medallion or certificate.

There will also be a sausage sizzle, along with children's activities and entertainment throughout the day.

Australia Day ambassador Andy Paschalidis will present the Australia Day Citizens Awards at the official ceremony.

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AUCTION: AUSTRALIAN WALLABIES SIGNED JERSEY

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# Business as usual



**John McMahon**  
Council news

**W**ITH the devastating bush fires in the Blue Mountains and Lithgow area now under control it is time to start the recovery process after such enormous loss.

There have been a number of local groups quick to take up fundraising efforts to help those who have been affected by the fires and I commend them for their quick action. It is pleasing to see a community come together to assist one another in times of need.

The tourism sector has also been hard hit with sudden and significant losses as many visitors were forced to cancel their accommodation bookings due to the fires.

It is important that we take steps to recover from this loss as quickly as possible. The Great Western Highway and railway are open and major attractions such as Jenolan Caves and Mayfield Garden remain open.

The areas around Oberon were fortunate enough to be largely unaffected by the fires and the National Parks are open to the public. Accommodation providers in the area have reported in excess of 50 per cent cancellations due to the fires and it is important to get the message out that we can return to business as usual.

■ ■ ■  
THERE are a number of activities planned in Oberon next weekend as Oberon's 150 Anniversary celebrations continue.

The Oberon Arts Council are holding their Art Shaping Life Exhibition at the Oberon RSL Club on Friday 1 and Saturday 2, November.

The show will be presenting a large number of works from prominent artists such as Greg Hyde, Dawn Daly, steel sculptures by Stephen Hogan, pastels by Kerry Klemens and other local artists.

The opening of the exhibition will be held from 6pm - 9pm on Friday and entry is \$15.00 per person, which includes a lucky door prize, finger food and one free drink.

The exhibition will also be open on Saturday, 2 November from 10am to 4pm, entry by gold coin donation.

■ ■ ■  
THE Oberon Golf Club will host the Oberon Sesquicentenary Challenge on Sunday, 3 November. Entry is \$25.00 per person and includes a barbecue lunch. Please contact Barry Lang by phone on 6336 1352 or by email on [barry@swpc.com.au](mailto:barry@swpc.com.au) or at the Oberon Golf Club

on Saturdays on 6336 0262 for more details.

■ ■ ■  
THE Oberon Garden Club will host their annual Open Garden weekend on November 2-3 from 10am to 4pm. There are six beautiful local gardens open and country-style teas are available at one of the gardens. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased at the Oberon Visitor Information Centre and the open gardens.

Mayfield Garden and Gairlock Garden are also open to visitors between 9am and 4.30pm on November 2-3.

For more information regarding any upcoming events please visit the website [oberonaustralia.com.au](http://oberonaustralia.com.au) or contact the Oberon Visitor Information Centre on 6329 8210.

■ ■ ■  
LOCAL Council's are anxiously awaiting the final report from the Independent Local Government Review Panel, which was due to have been handed down last Friday.

It is important to have a clear understanding of where Professor Samson and the panel sees Local Government heading into the future, so councils can get on with the job of planning and delivering Local Government services to their communities.

It is hoped that the final findings of the panel will address the original purpose of the review, that is to ensure the ongoing viability of Local Government.

There is also a review of the Rating System underway and this is vital for the future financial security of councils. The current system is completely out of date and still includes rate exemptions and concessions for State-owned corporations such as the Forestry Corporation and land used for commercial purposes in National Parks.

This has a major impact as there are 67,000 ha of pine plantations in the Oberon Local Government Area which is not currently rateable.

■ ■ ■  
I WAS pleased to hear earlier this week that Borg Panels are entering a recruitment phase at the Oberon MDF plant.

They will be recruiting new personnel to work in their production process and will be converting a number of casual positions to full-time employment. They have advised that although the market is still tight they are confident in the future of the panels industry.

■ ■ ■  
GENERAL Manager Alan Cairney, Works and Engineering Director Aruna Wickramasinghe and members of council's engineering staff met with the Roads and Maritime Services earlier this week to discuss the final design plans for the O'Connell Road, Oberon West Project.

It is expected that the final road design and will be available in the very near future.



**BEAUTIFUL:** David and Hilda Sharp from Capertee Valley on their first visit to the garden.

## Shakespeare, sonnets and songs in the garden

MAYFIELD Garden near Oberon opened its gates on October 19 and 20, with hundreds of visitors making the journey to experience the grand garden hidden in the Oberon valley.

The haze of smoke from distant fires cleared to show blue skies throughout the weekend.

Entertainment in the garden has been expanded this spring to include a Shakespearian troupe performing

sonnets, songs and scenes each Saturday from 11am - 1pm, with Aaron Hopper and Avril Bryan returning each weekend with their incredible musical talents.

Visitors keen to see the flush of spring colours across the garden came from Bathurst, Dubbo, Orange, Sydney, Canberra and beyond.

Mayfield Garden will be open for the next weekend November 2 and 3.



**ON SONG:** Keeley Armstrong, above, and Shannon Foley, right, won the Environmental Song Competition.

## Win is music to their ears

OBERON High School offers a number of opportunities for students interested in developing and enhancing their musical gifts.

Shannon Foley and Keeley Armstrong, two talented Year 10 students from the school recently entered the "Environmental Song Competition".

This is a contest in which school students from across the state were

required to compose and perform an original song relating to the environment.

Shannon and Keeley co-wrote their song "2050" which says that if we don't make a change in our treatment of the environment, the world in 2050 will be a terrible place.

Shannon and Keeley won the contest allowing them to professionally record their song and a music video.

Issued under authority of Alan Cairney, General Manager. If Council limited public information, any publication made containing personal information, may be publicly available and may be included in Council's business paper. A written explanation is required should you wish your identity to be suppressed. Councils will not consider anonymous submissions.

### YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO COUNCIL PLANNING INFORMATION & PUBLIC NOTICES

Oberon Council, PO Box 84, OBERON NSW 2787  
General Enquiries: 6329 8100 Fax: 6329 8142  
Rates: 6329 8138 Accounts Receivable: 6329 8133 Accounts Payable: 6329 8154  
Email: [council@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@oberon.nsw.gov.au) Website: [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au)

### Position Vacant



### Information Technology and GIS Assistant (2058) Permanent Fulltime position

Oberon Council is currently seeking a fulltime Information Technology and GIS Assistant.

The position attracts a weekly salary of \$911.55 gross plus 9.25% superannuation contributions in addition to an iPhone, iPad and laptop and other generous employment benefits including a nine (9) day fortnight.

The successful applicant will be responsible for providing IT support across all areas of Council including

- End user support and troubleshooting
- Liaising with Civica, Council's Managed Service Provider
- Establish and maintain policies and procedures relevant to IT and GIS
- Maintain computer hardware
- Provide end user training on computer software and hardware as required
- Be proactive in exploring continuous improvement and best practice options

A detailed position description is available at [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au). For further information contact Joanne Barton, Human Resources Coordinator on 02 6329 8150.

Applications, addressing the key selection criteria, are to be emailed to [hrc@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hrc@oberon.nsw.gov.au) and addressed to the General Manager, Alan Cairney. Applications close Monday 11 November 2013 at 4.00pm.

### YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO COUNCIL PLANNING INFORMATION AND PUBLIC NOTICES

#### Administration Office

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm

Visitor Information Centre - 02 6329 8210

Open from 9.30am to 5.00pm 7 Days Per Week

Library - 02 6329 8230

Monday to Friday 10.00am - 6.00pm

Saturday 10.00am - 2.00pm

Sunday Closed

Oberon Council  
OBERON NSW 2787

Alan Cairney  
General Manager

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Oberon - Waste Depot & Waste Management Facility  
Saturday, 2 November, 2013, 8am - 11am

Only household waste will be accepted.  
Contact your local council for details, or visit:  
[www.netwaste.org.au](http://www.netwaste.org.au)

EPA NetWaste



# Time to unshackle our councils



John McNamara

I HAD the privilege last Saturday of officially opening Lake Obcron to the public for kayaking, canoeing and the use of electric motor boats. It was pleasing to see such a large crowd at the opening. It was great to see such good weather over the long weekend for locals and visitors to be able to use the lake. All indications are that it will be a success and a fantastic attraction for visitors and locals.

By John McNamara

THE general manager Alan Cairney and I attended the Local Government NSW Annual Conference held in Sydney last week.

Councillor Keith Rhodes from Coff's Harbour was voted president of the newly formed association following the merger of the former Shire Association of NSW and Local Government Association of NSW. The keynote address was delivered by

the Minister for Local Government Don Page and during his address he reiterated the NSW Government's position that there will be "no forced amalgamations".

I took heart from this, as it means that regardless of the recommendations contained in the final report from the Independent Local Government Review Panel there will be no forced amalgamations in the foreseeable future.

The conference passed a motion to remove the current rate pegging system and supported a new taxation revenue sharing framework which will ensure that local government has a revenue base that allows for a reduction in the infrastructure backlog faced by many councils.

Local government is using a system that is 100 years old and completely out of date.

Some glaring examples are the rate exemptions and concessions that are still in place for state-owned corporations such as the Forestry Corporation and land used for commercial purposes in national parks.

There are 67,000 hectares of pine plantations in the Oberon Local Government Area which are currently not

rateable, while private operators have to compete with the state-owned corporation.

This places an additional burden on council to provide infrastructure such as roads to service the forestry industry.

Council has, in the past, had a maintenance agreement in place with Forests NSW, however, this no longer applies.

One of the most disappointing aspects of the conference was the large number of delegates who missed the Thursday afternoon session, which meant the conference had to close two hours early due to the lack of a quorum.

By John McNamara

A REMINDER that nominations are now open for the Australia Day Citizens Awards for 2013 and I encourage members of the community to nominate an outstanding Australian from the Oberon community in one of the Citizens Awards categories.

The Australia Day Citizens Awards are an ideal opportunity for you to recognise the efforts of those residents of Oberon who contribute time and time again to the community.

Any individual or organisation can make a nomination.

Nomination forms are available from Oberon Council, Oberon Visitor Information Centre or Oberon Library, or can be downloaded from council's website, [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au).

All nominations must be received by Oberon Council by 4pm on Wednesday, November 6, 2013.

By John McNamara

THE general manager and I met recently with Member for Bathurst Paul Toole in relation to the works council is undertaking on O'Connell Road on behalf of Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).

Mr Toole will arrange for RMS to meet with council on a regular basis to have input into planning future road programs in our shire.

Discussion was also held during the meeting in relation to water security and Mr Toole will be seeking to ensure better use is made of the water from the Duckmaloi Weir. There is some work required at the weir to clear willow trees and ensure the water quality in the future.

## Steam displays will feature at Spring Fair

SPRING is in the air at Oberon Station.

With the completion of the new rolling stock shed and the moving of the two heritage carriages under cover in the shed, Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway (OTHR) is set to make further progress in the coming months.

The first major event for the summer season will be the Spring Fair, to be held on November 2 at Oberon Station on Lowes Mount Road.

This fun day will feature live steam displays, including an operating Ruston Proctor traction engine and a small scale (7 1/4 inch) steam locomotive running on a special set of tracks.

Railway memorabilia and historical photos will be featured in the museum room and first-class coffee will be served at the station by Tay's Epicurean.

A sausage sizzle will be available with cakes and slices for sale.

The fair will open at 10am and run until 3pm.

"A gold coin donation will let you gain entry to the Oberon station precinct, where you can inspect the two locos, carriages, rolling stock and the huge new shed," a spokesperson said.

"Relax with coffee and cake while talking to OTHR members and learn how we are progressing with plans for the future of this exciting heritage rail project."



ON SHOW: Many old trains will be on display at the upcoming Spring Fair.



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Auction - Thursday the 10th October 2013  
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John McNamara 0411 0411 • Kelly MacEwan 0411 094819 • John McNamara 0411 0411

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Please phone: 6332 4866 for appointments

Clients booked in to the service will receive a phone call  
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between the hours listed above.

Clients may receive the phone call at home or at  
the Oberon Neighbourhood Centre (ONC),  
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connecting  
our community

The phone clinic service is available with cooperation of the Bathurst Information and  
Neighbourhood Centre (BINC) and the Oberon Neighbourhood Centre (ONC)



# Council will pursue forests paying rates



**John McMahon**  
Council news

THE general manager and I will be attending the Local Government NSW Annual Conference in Sydney this week. This is the first conference held since the former Local Government Association and Shires Association merged earlier this year into one entity.

One of the main topics listed for discussion is the review of local government and the issues raised in relation to the report handed down by the Independent Local Government Review Panel. Professor Samson will be addressing the conference ahead of handing down his final report this month.

The issue of local government financial sustainability has been raised by many councils and in particular lobbying for a fairer share of the national taxation revenue through the Federal Government Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs).

The issue of rate pegging may also be a hotly contested issue with many councils' strongly opposed to its continuation.

Discussion regarding rate exemptions and concessions will be of particular interest to Oberon Council, as the panel is calling for a review of rate exemptions with the objective of removing exemptions from state-owned corporations, land used for commercial purposes in national parks and land used for substantially business or private purposes by benevolent institutions and private schools. There are 67,000 hectares of pine plantations in the Oberon Local Government Area which are currently not rate-

able and this is something that council is very interested in pursuing.

OBERON Dam is now officially open to the public for kayaking, canoeing and the use of electric motor boats. The community opening will be held at the Reef Road Reserve this Saturday, October 5, commencing at 11am and I hope to see a lot of locals in attendance.

This project has generated a lot of interest and there have been a number of volunteers who have contributed to getting the dam ready for use. Last Friday 65 mature breeding rainbow trout were released into the Oberon Dam by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. Member for Bathurst Paul Toole also attended. It would be great if fisherman return these breeding stock to the water to assist with boosting the long-term fishing in the dam.

I AM pleased that there seems to be a new spirit of cooperation following a meeting held between the mayors and general managers of Lithgow, Bathurst and Oberon councils last week. This has come about with the election of the new Bathurst mayor Gary Rush, who was a former Oberon resident.

I have reiterated Oberon Council's position as being opposed to forced amalgamations and the three councils will meet again next month following the release of the final report by the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

LAST Friday I attended the NSW Police Chifley Local Area Command Police Remembrance Day Ceremony held at St Michael and St John's Cathedral in Bathurst. The moving ceremony was well attended by members of the police force and the community.



**ACHIEVERS:** The team from Arrow's Newsagency including Pat Robinson, Donna Gilmore, Joan Arrow, Beryl White, Chris Culley and Roger Arrow.

## Arrow's miss out on award

JOAN and Roger Arrow from Arrow's Newsagency attended an awards dinner in Sydney last week for the Annual NSW Newsagents Association Awards.

Arrows Newsagency was one of

three finalists in the retail section. Despite not winning the award, which went to a Wollongong agency, the Arrows felt it was very rewarding to have their achievements acknowledged.



**GET INVOLVED:** Volunteer Cheryl Burt, musician Kurt Booth and Glenys Newstead invite everyone to their fundraiser for the Oberon Show Society.

## Fundraiser to help show

THE Oberon Show Society's volunteers are having a fundraiser to improve facilities at the Oberon Showground to ensure the annual Oberon Show continues for many years to come.

Oberon Show Society volunteer Cheryl Burt said the cattle and holding yards have to be replaced so the safety of stock and the public can be maintained.

"That's why we need everyone to

come along to 'A Touch of Motown'," Cheryl said.

"It's going to be lots of fun with local band Strictly Business providing the music along with local singing talents in Chloe Swannell, Shannon Foley and Carmel Hogan."

A Touch of Motown will be held at the Oberon RSL Club on Friday, November 29 and tickets are \$20 each. Contact Cheryl Burt or Glenys Newstead for further enquiries.

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## WHAT'S ON

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**THAI FISH** - \$9.90  
Grilled fish with curry sauce and rice

**SCOTCH FILLET** - \$18.00  
Grilled scotch fillet with asparagus and mushroom sauce and chips

**POT PIE** - \$14.50  
Slow cooked beef in rich gravy sauce with puff pastry lid and chips

Members Price

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\*Fundraising  
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\*Bare Foot Bowls  
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(Bring the Works to enter your team!)

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# Council will pursue forests paying rates



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Council Mayor

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**GET INVOLVED:** Volunteer Cheryl Burt, musician Kurt Booth and Glenda Newstead invite everyone to their fundraiser for the Oberon Show Society.

## Fundraiser to help show

THE Oberon Show Society's volunteers are having a fundraiser to improve facilities at the Oberon Showground to ensure the annual Oberon Show continues for many years to come.

Oberon Show Society volunteer Cheryl Burt said the cattle and holding yards have to be replaced so the safety of stock and the public can be maintained.

"That's why we need everyone to

come along to 'A Touch of Motown'," Cheryl said.

"It's going to be lots of fun with local band Strictly Business providing the music along with local singing talents in Chloe Swannell, Shannon Foley and Carmel Hogan."

A Touch of Motown will be held at the Oberon RSL Club on Friday, November 29 and tickets are \$20 each. Contact Cheryl Burt or Glenys Newstead for further enquiries.

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# Money makes no difference: mayor

By LOUISE EDDY

OBERON Mayor John McMahon has turned his back on the state government's offer of large incentives to councils that wish to voluntarily amalgamate.

Last week NSW Premier Mike Baird and Minister for Local Government Paul Toole announced an offer of up to \$1 billion in sweeteners for councils that go willingly.

However, Cr McMahon said the money being offered will not make the slightest bit of difference as far as he is concerned.

"We are totally opposed to any amalgamation or merger with any other local government area," he said.

General Manager of Oberon Council Alan Cairney said the NSW Government is asking all councils to submit a proposal by June 30, 2015 on how they intend to become "Fit for the Future".

He said each council needs to address the question of financial sustainability and their capacity to continue providing services.

"This includes how our finances are managed and how well we can maintain community assets such as our roads, swimming pool, our library and our buildings," he said.

"We will need to demonstrate how we

can best provide value for money for our current and future ratepayers."

Mr Cairney said the Fit for the Future reform package will provide incentives for councils to merge or amalgamate, however significant potential savings are available through cheaper finance arrangements for councils to invest in local infrastructure.

"For Oberon Council this could lead to better roads and improved community services," he said.

Cr McMahon said another thing he would like to see council consider is the possibility of tidying up some of Oberon's boundaries with Lithgow and Bathurst.

People who live in Tarana and in between Duckmaloi and the Millionth Acre are currently governed by Lithgow Council, even though they consider themselves part of Oberon. On the other hand Oberon controls the eastern side of Ben Chifley Dam, which Cr McMahon feels should be part of the Bathurst region.

He also believes Rockley and all lands south should come to Oberon, and Trunkay Creek should be a part of Blayney.

Cr McMahon said he is not convinced the funding being offered by the state government will benefit smaller councils like Oberon.

Instead, he suspects the big winners in the \$1 billion funding grab will be the councils that survive.

"Past experience shows that those on the fringe will receive less," Cr McMahon said. "If we amalgamated we'd end up the poor cousin on the backburner."

Cr McMahon said a meeting is planned between the mayors and general managers of Bathurst, Oberon, Lithgow and Blayney councils to further discuss their options in relation to resource sharing.

Local Government Minister and Member for Bathurst Paul Toole said the NSW government recognises that without significant financial and other incentives and support, change-resistant councils may be hesitant to take up the reforms proposed by the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

"This generous package of incentives and support assists local councils to remove the obstacles that may have prevented reform and innovation in the past," he said.

"Our state cannot continue to be constrained by local government boundaries that were set more than 100 years ago."

"That's why we have created the \$1 billion Fit for the Future package - to help councils take the next steps towards change."

## Re-elected and ready to get on with the job

By LOUISE EDDY

OBERON Mayor John McMahon and Deputy Mayor Kerry Gibbons have been returned to their leadership roles for another term following Tuesday night's mayoral election.

They were both re-elected unopposed.

Cr McMahon said it is very satisfying that councillors have that much confidence in what he has been doing, and that they have given him their support.

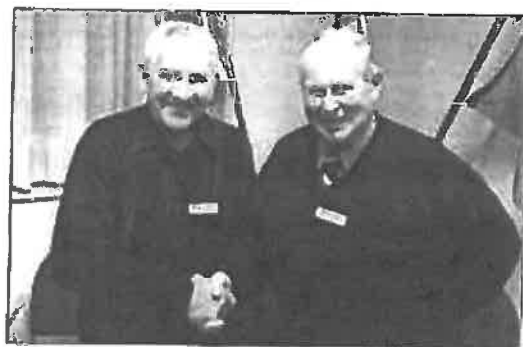
"I feel quite buoyed by their trust," he said.

He said the challenge in the months ahead will be the pressure on him in the role of mayor to fulfil the wishes of the local community by ensuring Oberon Council remains a single entity and does not amalgamate with another council.

"The community has made it very clear they do not wish to amalgamate. They fear for the economy of Oberon if we are forced to merge with one of the other councils," he said.

Cr McMahon has served as deputy mayor in the past, and has played a role in local government since 1983.

He said becoming mayor was not something he had aspired to - he was quite happy being the



deputy - but he is thoroughly enjoying the experience.

"It's in my make-up to serve the people," he said.

Cr McMahon said he has a deep interest in local government, and because he is self-employed, he has the time to put into the role.

He added that he understands the requirements of being mayor and he understands the local residents, having lived in the Oberon community for well over half a century.

"It has been a challenge - more of a challenge than I had anticipated," he said of his role.

"The amount of work a mayor

has to do is quite surprising.

"It's a seven-day-a-week job because a mayor must be accessible at all times."

"I have no grand plans to build a monument to myself, I just wish to see council continue on as it has in the past."

"I want to maintain services for the ratepayers, listen to them, and fulfil their needs."

Cr McMahon has welcomed Cr Gibbons' re-election as deputy mayor.

"He is a good man to have standing at your back," he said.

"He has been a great support to me and I am exceptionally glad that he has been re-elected."

**CONTINUING LEADERSHIP:** Oberon Deputy Mayor Kerry Gibbons and Mayor John McMahon were both re-elected unopposed at Tuesday night's council meeting.

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## GM faces the ice bucket

THE Oberon Rotary Club has challenged general manager of the Oberon Council Alan Cairney and Councillor Clive McCarthy to take on the Ice Bucket challenge to raise funds for Motor Neurone Disease.

It will take place at 63 Sloggett Road Oberon at 2pm on Sunday, September 21. How much are you willing to pay to come and participate?

Come along and challenge others. If they don't participate they have to pay \$100. Be prepared and bring along a dry set of clothes.

The Daffodil Dawdle is also being held this weekend where you can meander around five beautiful large Oberon gardens featuring many daffodils as well as many other spring flowering bulbs and shrubs.

The famous Rotary catering is available at garden three. Tickets cost \$15 and are available at the tourist information centre, Cumumbra Nursery and the Oberon post office.

This debilitating disease has affected many families here in Oberon and the funds being raised will go to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

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# Could Rockley be part of our shire?



**John McMahon**  
Council member

'Discussions were lively at times and both Bathurst and Lithgow now have a much better appreciation of our position on a potential 'merger' with Bathurst.'

THE general manager Alan Cairney and I met last Wednesday with mayor Monica Morse and Bob Roach from Bathurst Regional Council and mayor Maree Statbam and Roger Bailey from Lithgow City Council. Discussions were lively at times and both Bathurst and Lithgow now have a much better appreciation of our position on a potential 'merger' with Bathurst.

It was agreed that we will request a joint meeting with the Minister for Local Government to discuss the council's position and we have decided to meet again in early September.

I advised Bathurst Regional Council at the meeting that Oberon would like to talk to the residents of Rockley with a view to ascertaining their willingness to be part of the Oberon Shire and that we would like to hold a public meeting to enable this discussion to occur.

Oberon considers that as we are a rural shire we are in a great position to provide local government services to the rural localities at a higher level than the services currently being received from Bathurst.

COUNCILLOR Phil Evans and the general manager attended a function at the Oberon Correctional Centre last Friday as part of NAIDOC Week activities.

Braving the cold weather, four young men performed ceremonial dances, and the raising of the Aboriginal flag followed to officially acknowledge the NAIDOC celebrations.

FOLLOWING more than 10 years of community consultation, Oberon Council has allocated funds in its 2013/14 budget to install a roof structure over the existing Oberon Pool Complex to extend the current swim season for the Oberon community.

A design has been prepared to provide a roof over the main pool area, the 'toddler beach' and junior pool.

The design has been engineered

## Book a spot on the bus for Millthorpe Markets

OBERON Council is organising a community bus trip to the Millthorpe Markets on Sunday, December 1.

The bus trip has been made possible as part of the funding support received from Transport NSW to assist with transport for disadvantaged community members and groups in Oberon.

The bus will leave directly from behind the council building at 8.30am on the Sunday morning and will return to council in the afternoon.

The markets, which have been running since 2005, are hosted by the Millthorpe Public School P and C Committee.

All funds raised assist with purchasing educational tools for the school.

The markets are well-established and are very popular throughout the region.

Everything from clothing, jew-

ellery, toys, arts and crafts, woodwork and second-hand goods to gourmet and fresh produce, cake stalls, plants and Christmas decorations are available.

There is also plenty to keep the children amused. The bus trip to the Millthorpe Markets is \$10 per person and everyone is welcome to attend.

You will need to book and pay for your spot at council by Friday, November 1.

Entry to the markets is by gold coin donation, with all proceeds going to the Millthorpe Public School P and C.

Council will require a minimum of 30 people for the trip to go ahead, so be sure to organise your friends and family for this superb day out in Millthorpe.

Contact community services coordinator Kathy Beesley on 6329 8156, or community services assistant Hanna Bates on 6329 8162.

## Getting a taste of the working life

OBERON High School student Aacina Howarth was at the Oberon Review last week on work experience. One of Aacina's challenges was to

interview herself as well as fellow Year 10 students on work experience.

Photo: AACINA HOWARTH



VET: Izzy, right, is pictured with Odette and Pyl.

Angela Massey at Oberon Child Care Centre

Why did you choose the child care centre for your work placement? Because I used to go here, the staff are lovely and I know the kids are too.

Do you see yourself coming back here or starting a career in this industry? Yes, I'd love to. I just think it's great working with little kids. Also, thank you to Miss Bev and the staff for having me and making this a great experience.



CHILD CARE: Bek McCutcher with Will and Emily.

Sophie Conling at Parkview Kindy

Why did you choose Parkview? Mainly because I want to work with children. They are just so easy to work with. That and for work placement.

Do you see yourself coming back to a place similar to this in the future? Yes, of course. As long as it's somewhere like this. I want to do something like this for a career.



JOURNAL: Aacina Howarth at the Oberon Review.

Izzy Ross at Oberon Veterinary Clinic

Why did you choose the vet clinic for your work placement? I live on a farm and I'm almost always around animals and I love it! It's an interesting profession that combines cute animals with an educational side as well.

Do you see yourself coming back here or starting a career as a vet? Yes, without a doubt. Everyone loves their pets and I love being able to help people. What better way to do that than through giving medical attention to their beloved animals?



CHILD CARE: Angela Massey with the kids.

Bek McCutcher at Parkview Kindy

Why did you choose Parkview? I like working with kids. Obviously.

Do you see yourself coming back to a place similar to this in the future? Yes, I would love to. I mean, little kids are so much easier than school kids. It would have to be with preschool kids. Like Parkview I would absolutely come back.



CHILD CARE: Sophie is pictured with Ashlee and Kayleigh.

Aacina Howarth at the Oberon Review

Why did you choose the Oberon Review? I met Maureen (journalist) through a mentoring program at school and I have always really wanted to get into journalism. I figured that if I had the opportunity, what was stopping me from taking it?

Would you ever come back to the Review or somewhere similar?

Oh, absolutely. I actually love the work I got and I can see myself following through in the future. The people are super nice and I enjoy feeling like a part of the tight-knit community that is Oberon.



OBERON COUNCIL

## YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO COUNCIL PLANNING INFORMATION & PUBLIC NOTICES

Oberon Council, PO Box 84, OBERON NSW 2787

General Enquiries: 6329 8100 Fax: 6329 8142

Rates: 6329 8138

Accounts Receivable: 6329 8135

Accounts Payable: 6329 8154

Email: council@oberon.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.oberon.nsw.gov.au

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Library - 02 6329 8220  
Monday to Friday 10.00am - 6.00pm  
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Sunday Closed

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OBERON NSW 2787

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and 2.00pm - 5.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm  
Black Ridge Waste Disposal Depot  
Every second Sunday 12.00pm - 2.30pm  
Brown Waste Disposal Depot  
Every second Sunday 10.00am - 12.00pm

Alan Cairney  
General Manager



# Mayor awards medallions to students



**John McMahon**  
Mayor of Oberon

I WAS pleased to be able to attend assemblies held at each of the local schools over the past couple of weeks to present the Oberon Sesquicentenary Bronze Medallions to students and teachers.

A number of the assemblies coincided with Education Week and all of the visits were very interesting.

I am always impressed by the activities taking place in our local schools, and awards days are an opportunity to see the hard work and dedication of students and teachers rewarded.

Congratulations to those students who received awards, and I would like to pass on my thanks to all students for their courtesy and enthusiasm during these visits.

A special mention must go to the Burrage School who provided on a barbecue lunch to celebrate Education Week which was appreciated by the students, parents and visitors to the school.

■■■

THE general manager and I will be meeting with the general managers and mayors of Bathurst Regional Council and Lithgow City Council in the coming week to discuss the question of amalgamations and boundary changes.

I will be reaffirming council's position that it is opposed to forced amalgamations. Further information regarding the outcome of the meeting will be provided in next week's column.

■■■

FOLLOWING the recent spate of thefts occurring from rural properties across the region, the Chifley Local Area Command Rural Crime Unit will be holding a meeting with the NSW Farmers Association and interested landholders on Monday, August 12 commencing at 7pm at the Bathurst RSL Club to discuss these issues.

Police are urging owners of weekend properties that are left vacant during the week to take extra care with security of their farm and equipment.

It's also important that everyone is aware of their neighbours and to keep an eye out for anything suspicious. If you do see anything out of the ordinary, I encourage

you to report it immediately to local police to help them quell these rising offences.

■■■

COUNCIL works staff have carried out maintenance grading on Arkstone Road, Jerong Road, Tuglow Road and Gingkin Valley Road last week. Gravel resheeting has also been carried out on Connection Road.

Drainage maintenance works have been undertaken in Jerong Road and Baldridge Road along with cleaning of gutters within the township and cleaning of gutters, grates and general drainage maintenance on Kananga Walls Road, Jerong Road, town inlet grates and Baldridge Road, whilst culvert works have been undertaken on Dudley Street.

■■■

OBERON residents will receive their quarterly rates notice this week, and residents who are on the town water supply will also receive a water account for the period between April and June 2013.

Since the meter readings were taken, council staff have contacted residents who have had high water consumption during

this period to ensure that there are no leaks present within the system.

I would like to encourage all Oberon residents who are on the town water supply to check their water pipes to ensure there are no leaks in their system. A number of consumers have only been made aware that they have a leak in their plumbing system after they have received an excessive water consumption bill.

When checking your meter, please note that the black numbers tell you how many kilolitres (1000 litres) you have used and the red numbers tell you how many litres you have used.

To check if there is a leak in your system, take a meter reading (including the small numbers at the end of the meter) after the last person has used any water in the evening, and then take a further reading on the following morning before any water is used.

If no one has used any water overnight, the readings should not have changed. If there is a difference you know there is a leak.

You will then need to contact a plumber to locate and repair any leaks.

## FOOLs learn to record oral history Take a trip to Millthorpe

OFTEN the only way to find out about the past is to ask someone who knows about it. Oral history is the recording of memories of people's unique life experiences, and every one is different. Through oral history the past comes alive.

Four Friends of Oberon Library spent an inspiring weekend at the Orange Library in a workshop arranged by the Oral History Association NSW.

They learned from Irish Levido, who has been an interviewer for the Mosman Library and conducted thousands of interviews in her time, how to approach and record the stories of senior members of the community who have life experience to share.

Essential advice was given on how to master recording equipment, editing and preserving histories for the future.

Sandra Blamey, who has inter-



**HISTORY:** Members of the FOOLs at Oral History Workshop at Orange Library recently.

viewed a whole community to learn its history, shared tips which could be used in the Oberon Library Oral History project, now in the planning stage.

Those who wish to learn more can contact the library or Friends of the Library's Kathy Sajowitz on 6336 0742.

■■■

FRIENDS of the Library annual general meeting will be held on

Tuesday, August 13 at 1.30pm at the community centre.

If you have not yet ventured into a FOOLs' meeting, or been to a FOOLs' event, you will hear about the many and varied activities we have held throughout the year.

FOOLs raise funds for extras for Oberon Library activities with their second-hand book stalls, and provide a social network for readers, writers, and new arrivals to the community. Nominations will be received for committee positions.

After the short meeting, Marce Arrow and Lynn Prowse will be joining us to chat about their recent trekking holiday in India, and you can sample interesting regional food for afternoon tea.

All are very welcome to come along.

Contact Kathy Sajowitz on 6336 0742 or at dietmar.sajowitz@bigpond.com.

OBERON Council are organising a community bus trip to the Millthorpe Markets on Sunday, December 1.

The bus trip has been made possible as part of the funding support received from Transport NSW to assist with transport for disadvantaged community members and groups in Oberon.

The bus will leave directly from behind the council building at 8.30am on the Sunday morning and will return to council in the afternoon.

The markets, which have been running since 2005, are hosted by the Millthorpe Public School P&C Committee.

All funds raised assist with purchasing ongoing educational tools for the school.

The markets are well established and are very popular throughout the region.

Everything from clothing, jewellery, toys, arts and crafts,

woodwork, second hand goods, gourmet and fresh produce, cake stalls, plants and Christmas decorations are available.

There is also plenty to keep the children amused.

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You will need to book and pay for your spot at council by Friday, November 1.

Entry to the markets is by gold coin donation with all proceeds going to the Millthorpe Public School P & C.

Council will require a minimum of 30 people for trip to go ahead, so be sure to organise your friends and family for this superb day out in Millthorpe.

Please contact community services coordinator Kathy Beesley on 6329 8156, or community services assistant Hanna Bates on 6329 8162.



Issued under authority of Alan Oakley, General Manager. If Council invited public submissions, any submission made including personal information, may be publicly available and may be included in Council's business paper. A written explanation is required should you wish your identity to be suppressed. Council will not consider anonymous submissions.

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#### Development Control Administrative Assistant Temporary placement - Maternity relief

A temporary position currently exists for a suitably skilled and experienced person to provide administrative support to the Planning and Development Department of Oberon Council.

The successful applicant will require excellent word processing skills and exceptional customer service skills, be able to work unsupervised and meet deadlines.

A position description detailing key selection criteria which must be addressed by the applicant is available at [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au/jobs/1096](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au/jobs/1096).

The position is generally 8.00am - 4.30pm Tuesdays to Fridays. Additional hours by mutual agreement may be required outside of these hours. It is expected the placement will be for approximately 15 months commencing September 2013. The successful applicant will be provided with four weeks notice prior to the placement being terminated.

The position attracts an hourly remuneration rate of \$28.49 per hour inclusive of a 25% loading for casual employment in lieu of leave entitlements.

Applications, addressed to Mr Alan Oakley, General Manager Oberon Council, are to be submitted to [hr@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hr@oberon.nsw.gov.au) and close Friday 16 August 2013 at 4pm.

For additional information, please contact Joanne Barton, Human Resources Coordinator on 02 6329 8150.

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Sunday Closed

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and 3.00pm - 5.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm  
**Black Binches Waste Disposal Depot**  
Every second Sunday 12.30pm - 2.30pm  
**Burrumbidgee Waste Disposal Depot**  
Every second Sunday 10.00am - 12.00pm

## All welcome to Book Week event

BOOK Week 2013 runs from Saturday, August 17 to Friday, August 23, and is the longest running children's festival in Australia.

A Book Week Fun Day is being held in the grounds of the Robert Hooper Community Centre and the Oberon Council Library on August 22

from 11am-1pm.

Children are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite book character and enjoy a day of activities, early literacy games, a sausage sizzle and lucky door prizes. Contact Jackie at Communities and Kids Central West on 0407 908 800.

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# Message clear on amalgamation



**John McMahon**  
Council member

COUNCIL held the first of its scheduled community information sessions at the Black Springs Community Hall last Thursday evening to review the Draft Community Strategic Plan, Draft Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Resourcing Strategy, which are now on public exhibition.

It was disappointing to note that the meeting was not well attended. Council also held an information session in Burruga on Wednesday evening.

Further community information sessions will be held at the St Thomas Anglican Church Hall in O'Connell today, (Thursday) and at the Robert Hooper Community Centre in Oberon on Wednesday, June 19.

Members of the public are invited to attend each session, which will start at 5.30pm.

The period of public exhibition is from Monday, May 27 to Monday, June 24.

Written submissions will close on June 24.

A special meeting will be held on Thursday, June 27 to consider submissions received and to adopt the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plans.

THE Independent Local Government Review Panel conducted consultation with Oberon, Bathurst, Lithgow and Mid-Western Regional councils last Wednesday.

Panel member Glenn Inglis first met with the general managers and directors from the four local government areas.

During this session the general managers of Mid-Western, Lithgow and Oberon all expressed the view that they were not in favour of the proposed county council model and, in the case of Lithgow and Oberon, had a strong and effective relationship with the existing Central West Region of Councils (CENTROC).

A councillor session followed which was attended by several councillors for Bathurst, Lithgow and Mid-Western and a greater number from Oberon.

It was pleasing to hear that not all councillors from Bathurst agree with the position put forward by their mayor and general manager.

Lithgow also don't favour the county

council model with Bathurst as a regional centre.

There were positive comments and strong opinions from councillors at Lithgow and Bathurst supporting the view that a "merger" of Oberon and Bathurst would not be beneficial for Oberon or Bathurst.

Mid-Western again stated their opposition to being included in a county council with Bathurst as the regional centre.

The community session was then held, attended by around 50 people.

At the start of the meeting, Bathurst mayor Monica Morse asked for a show of hands for representatives from each local government area and the overwhelming majority were from Oberon, with only a few attendees from Lithgow, Bathurst and Mid-Western LGAs.

It was great to see such a large number of rugby league fans turn up to a public meeting held in Bathurst when NSW had such a great win over Queensland.

The mayors of Bathurst and Lithgow were both there to hear the overwhelming opinion that Oberon Council is in a sound position, provides effective local government services, and that the community is fiercely opposed to proposals to merge with Bathurst.

I was profoundly disappointed that

Bathurst seems to be pushing down the path of pursuing amalgamations, particularly given that there seemed to be a consensus at the briefing that amalgamation was of no benefit to the communities.

■ ■ ■

TICKETS are now on sale for the Official Sesquicentenary Dinner which will be held at the Oberon RSL Auditorium on Saturday, July 8.

All Oberon residents are invited to come along to the dinner with special guest of honour, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW.

The celebration will include a three course meal and great entertainment from the Bay Rum Band.

Tickets can be purchased for \$50 per person from Oberon Council.

I hope you can join us to help celebrate this milestone in Oberon's history.

For further information, please contact council on 6329 8100.

■ ■ ■

WORKS on the replacement of a major culvert at the Oberon Mount on O'Connell Road are almost complete.

It is expected that the road will be opened to traffic by the end of the week and the side track will be demolished, and reinstated to pre-construction conditions.



## YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO COUNCIL PLANNING INFORMATION & PUBLIC NOTICES

Oberon Council, PO Box 84, OBERON NSW 2787  
General Enquiries: 6329 8100 Fax: 6329 8142  
Rates: 6329 8138 Accounts Receivable: 6329 8133 Accounts Payable: 6329 8144  
Email: council@oberon.nsw.gov.au Website: www.oberon.nsw.gov.au

### COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2013

Council DRAFT Community Strategic Plan 2013 will be on Public Exhibition from Monday 27 May until Monday 24 June 2013.

The Draft Plan, along a 4 Year Draft Delivery Program and a Draft Operational Plan for 2013/2014 will be available for viewing at the following locations:

- > Oberon Council Website [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au)
- > Oberon Library - corner Dart and Fleming Street
- > Oberon Visitor Information Centre - corner Ross Street and Edith Road, Oberon
- > Oberon Council Administration Centre - 137-139 Oberon Street, Oberon

Submission on these documents should be made in writing during the Public Exhibition period.

Alan Calmeijer  
General Manager



### JUNE 2013 COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Oberon Council 2014 Community Strategic Plan - Burruga	Wednesday 12 June 2013	5.30pm	Burruga Sports and Recreation Club, Lloyd Street, Burruga
Oberon Council 2014 Community Strategic Plan - O'Connell	Thursday 13 June 2013	5.30pm	St Thomas Anglican Church Hall, Besconfield Road, O'Connell
Oberon 150th Anniversary Working Party Meeting	Monday 17 June 2013	4.00pm	Council Committee Room, Administration Centre
Ordinary Council Meeting: Note: Business Papers available on the Council website or from our Administration Centre the Friday before the Meeting.	Tuesday 18 June 2013	2.00pm	Burruga Sport and Recreation Club, Lloyd Street, Burruga
Oberon Council 2014 Community Strategic Plan - Oberon	Wednesday 19 June 2013	5.30pm	Robert Hooper Community Centre
Community Services Meeting	Thursday 27 June 2013	2.00pm	Community Technology Centre Conference Room
Special Council Meeting	Thursday 27 June 2013	5.30pm	Council Chambers, Administration Centre

Council Administration Centre / Chambers  
137-139 Oberon Street, OBERON 2787

Alan Calmeijer  
GENERAL MANAGER

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Monday to Friday 9.00am - 4.30pm  
Visitor Information Centre - 02 6329 8210  
Monday to Saturday 9.30am - 5.00pm  
Sunday 10.00am - 3.00pm  
Library - 02 6329 8220  
Monday to Friday 10.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturday 10.00am - 2.00pm  
Sunday Closed

Oberon Waste Disposal Depot  
Monday to Friday 8.00am - 10.00am  
and 3.00pm - 4.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm  
Black Springs Waste Disposal Depot  
Every second Sunday 12.00pm - 2.00pm  
Burruga Waste Disposal Depot  
Every second Sunday 10.00am - 12.00pm

## Make some noise for a better Bells Line of Road

THERE is a two-week window for Bells Line Expressway supporters to nominate this stretch of road as one of the state's worst in the annual online NRMA Red Flag Survey.

Bells Line Expressway Group chairman Ian Armstrong is urging everyone to respond to the survey, which takes one minute at [myrma.com.au](http://myrma.com.au).

"We are committed to keeping the pressure on the state government until we get some traction and not another round of consultation and feasibility studies," Mr Armstrong said.

"You can appreciate a man of my maturity doesn't spend a lot of time on the computer, but I've certainly flagged the Bells Line and done the survey."

"Looking at last year's results from this survey, the Pacific Highway was

the number one road flagged and it has continued to attract significant state and federal funding.

"Since these surveys started, the amount of traffic on the Bells Line and Great Western Highway has increased significantly. Inland NSW is relied on as the foodbowl for Sydney - and this simply needs to be a better route."

"We need to generate some noise west of the Blue Mountains and here is a great opportunity that costs nothing except a few moments of your time. NRMA is even offering iPads as an incentive to enter."

"Go to [myrma.com.au](http://myrma.com.au) and click on the Seeing Red survey icon, enter Bells Line of Road in the box when prompted and confirm this as your choice of worst stretch of road and submit."

The survey closes tomorrow.

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- 3 nights in Rome, including a transfer to the Rome Hotel & Airport



# Oberon presents united front



**John McMahon**  
COUNCIL MEMBER

A GROUP of local residents met at the Oberon RSL Club on Monday night to discuss the community's concerns about a possible merger between Oberon Council and Bathurst, as outlined by the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

The latest progress report handed down by the panel suggested Oberon Local Government Area (LGA) be merged

with Bathurst Regional Council to "create a stronger regional centre".

This council's position regarding the suggestion is to reaffirm our opposition to forced amalgamations, and to suggest boundary adjustment to include parts of Bathurst Regional Council and Lithgow City Council in the Oberon LGA.

We feel these areas may be better serviced by Oberon Council and provide further economies of scale to improve the sustainability of all three LGAs.

Those present at the meeting expressed a strong desire for Oberon to remain an independent LGA and supported council's position.

A community committee, led by Brian

Dellow, was nominated at the meeting. It will assist with lobbying against the proposals outlined in the report.

DELLLOW

TICKETS are now on sale for the Official Sesquicentenary Dinner which will be held in the auditorium at the Oberon RSL Club on Saturday, July 6.

All Oberon residents are invited to come along to the dinner.

Our special guest of honour will be NSW Governor, Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO.

The celebration will include a three-course meal and great entertainment from the Bay Rum Band.

Tickets may be purchased for \$50 per

person from Oberon Council.

I hope you can join us to help celebrate this special milestone in Oberon's history.

For further information, please contact council on 6329 8100.

DELLLOW

LAST Thursday, I was invited to officially open the Central West Technology Forum in Oberon.

The event was sponsored by Westrac, Caterpillar, Sitech and Oberon Council.

Those in attendance were able to operate the machinery on show at the event.

The field day was attended by around 150 people across the two days, including council operators and local contractors.

DELLLOW

NOMINATIONS are now open for the 2013 NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards in the following categories:

- The Crown Lands Crown Reserve Trust Community Managers Award
- The Crown Lands Crown Reserve Corporate Managers Award
- The Prime Super Community of the Year Award (population over 15,000)
- The Prime Super Community of the Year Award (population under 15,000)
- The Fantastic Furniture Youth Leadership Award (new category)
- The Fantastic Furniture Indigenous Achievement Award (new category)
- The Peabody Environmental and Landcare Award
- The Essential Energy Regional Service Award
- The University of Newcastle Business Achievement Award (new category)
- The Specialty Press Events and Tourism Award

I am sure we have many worthy contenders in the Oberon area.

If you would like more information on how to nominate an individual, business or community project - or be nominated yourself - pick up an inquiry form from your local Commonwealth Bank branch or from Oberon Council.

Entrants will have the chance to win an advertising package from Prime 7 or share in \$40,000 from the Commonwealth Bank.

Nominations close on Friday, August 2.

DELLLOW

A REMINDER that council will be holding community information sessions to review the Draft Community Strategic Plan, Draft Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Resourcing Strategy, which are now on public exhibition.

The period of public exhibition runs until Monday, June 24, with written submissions closing on that day.

The community information sessions will be held at the Black Springs Community Hall today; Burruga Sport and Recreation Club next Wednesday; St Thomas Anglican Church Hall, O'Connell, next Thursday; and the Robert Hooper Community Centre, Oberon, on Wednesday, June 13.

Each session will commence at 5.30pm.

A special meeting is expected to be held on Thursday, June 27, to consider submissions received and to finalise the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

**"Better schools mean better opportunities for my children."**

"Education is important to my children's future. I want my kids to have the best opportunities possible. The National Plan for School Improvement will help make this happen."

**Paula - Mother**

The National Plan for School Improvement aims to take Australian schools into the top five countries in the world by 2025. The plan responds to the last comprehensive review of how schools are funded in almost 40 years.

#### Why?

- Australia's international results have dropped from 2nd to 7th in reading and 5th to 13th in maths over the last decade
- By Year 9, disadvantaged students are over two years behind their peers
- The number of high performing students has dropped by 3% in reading literacy over the last decade

#### How?

- Ongoing teacher training
- A national curriculum
- Fairer funding for Australian school students

#### When?

- The National Plan for School Improvement is scheduled to begin in 2014

For more information visit [australia.gov.au/betterschools](http://australia.gov.au/betterschools) or call 13 17 64

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Issued under authority of Alan Cairney, General Manager. If Council in 3rd public submission, any submission made including personal information, may be publicly available and may be included in Council's business papers. A written explanation is required should you wish your identity to be suppressed. Council will not consider anonymous submissions.

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- > Oberon Council Administration Centre - 137-139 Oberon Street, Oberon

Submission on these documents should be made in writing during the Public Exhibition period.

Alan Cairney

General Manager



### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Notice of Development Application

Application: 10.2013.22.1 - Tourist Facility  
Applicant: Mr A C Purcell - Tourist Facility  
Address: Lot 1 in DP 1042077, 1604 Mutton Falls Road, O'Connell

Consent Authority: Oberon Council

Development: Self Contained Tourist Accommodation

Integrated Development: For purposes under Section 100B of the Rural Fires Act 1997  
Council has received a Development Application for a Self Contained Tourist Accommodation on the property described above. The development proposal, Statement of Environmental Effects and plans can be viewed at Council's office during business hours. Any submissions regarding the application must be made by 4.00pm on Friday 14 June 2013.

Council Chambers,  
OBERON 2787

Alan Cairney  
GENERAL MANAGER

### QUOTATIONS - HIRE OF PLANT 2013 - 2014

Oberon Council is seeking quotations for the comprehensive hire of plant on a contract basis for works in the Council area for a period of twelve (12) months from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2013.

An information package containing application forms, details and conditions can be found on the tender link website [www.tenderlink.com](http://www.tenderlink.com), collected from the council chambers or mailed upon request.

Quotations must be in writing, addressed exactly as below and submitted by 4.00 PM, on Friday June 21<sup>st</sup> 2013.

Send to:  
Confidential - Hire of plant tender  
The General Manager  
Oberon Council  
PO Box 84  
OBERON NSW 2787

Alan Cairney  
GENERAL MANAGER  
Oberon Council  
137-139 Oberon Street  
Ph (02) 6329 8100

### JUNE 2013 COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Oberon 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Working Party Meeting	Monday 3 June 2013	4.00pm	Council Committee Room, Administration Centre
Oberon Council 2014 Community Strategic Plan - Black Springs	Thursday 6 June 2013	5.30pm	Black Springs Community Hall, Black Springs
Oberon Council 2014 Community Strategic Plan - Burruga	Wednesday 12 June 2013	5.30pm	Burruga Sports and Recreation Club, Lloyd Street, Burruga
Oberon Council 2014 Community Strategic Plan - O'Connell	Thursday 13 June 2013	5.30pm	St Thomas Anglican Church Hall, Goswami Road, O'Connell
Oberon 160 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Working Party Meeting	Monday 17 June 2013	4.00pm	Council Committee Room, Administration Centre
Oberon Council 2014 Community Strategic Plan - Oberon	Wednesday 19 June 2013	5.30pm	Robert Hooper Community Centre
Community Services Committee Meeting	Thursday 20 June 2013	2.00pm	Community Technology Centre, Ross Street, Oberon
Ordinary Council Meeting Note: Business Papers available on the Council website or from our Administration Centre the Friday before the Meeting.	Tuesday 18 June 2013	5.30pm	Burruga Sports and Recreation Club, Lloyd Street, Burruga
Special Council Meeting	Thursday 27 June 2013	5.30pm	Council Chambers, Administration Centre

Council Administration Centre / Chambers  
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Alan Cairney  
General Manager

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Sundays 10.00am - 3.00pm  
Library - 02 6329 8280  
Monday to Friday 10.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturday 10.00am - 2.00pm  
Sunday Closed

Oberon Waste Disposal Depot  
Monday to Friday 8.00am - 10.00pm  
and 3.00pm - 5.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm  
Black Springs Waste Disposal Depot  
Every second Sunday 12.30pm - 2.30pm  
Burruga Waste Disposal Depot  
Every second Sunday 10.00am - 12.00pm

# Slow progress on expressway Bells Line project in doubt



John  
McMahon

LAST Thursday, the general manager and I attended the Central NSW Councils (Centroc) board meeting at Parliament House in Sydney.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the mayors and general managers of the Centroc group to meet with several ministers and address concerns over the report handed down by the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

Centroc is resolute that it does not support any proposal to form county councils.

The group is also opposed to the proposal to form local boards in smaller localities which report to larger regional centres.

Minister for Roads Duncan Gay addressed the meeting and was asked about future plans for the Bells Line Expressway.

He advised there would be no progress for at least the next two years.

Orange mayor John Davis was highly critical of the lack of progress and planning.

The project looks more doubtful as time goes.

There are significant issues with acquiring the land for the corridor due to the number of small holdings, the vast expense and the issue of protecting the pristine natural wilderness areas.

LAST Saturday evening, I attended the St Barnabas Anglican Church 145th anniversary celebrations.

The evening was enjoyable, with a lovely dinner prepared by the Anglican Women's Association.

Reverend Howard Smith, accompanied by his wife Reverend Joan Smith, acted as the master of ceremonies for the evening.

Former Bishop of Bathurst, The Right Reverend Bruce Wilson, entertained guests with stories of incidents that have happened during his years in the clergy.

THE draft Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Resourcing Strategy are

now on public exhibition.

The period of public exhibition is from May 27 to June 24, with written submissions closing on June 24.

Community Information sessions will be held at Black Springs next Thursday, June 6; Burruga on Wednesday, June 12; O'Connell on Thursday, June 13; and Oberon on Wednesday, June 19.

Refer to the latest edition of the *Oberon Review* or council's website for the times and location of each information session.

A SPECIAL meeting is expected to be held on Thursday, June 27, to consider submissions received and to finalise the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plans.

WORK is continuing on the replacement of a major culvert on the bottom curve of the Oberon Mount on O'Connell Road.

Council staff have completed construction of the side track and traffic will be diverted via this side track from late this week.

The major part of this job will take approximately one week to complete, depending on the weather conditions during this period.

A REMINDER that the Independent Local Government Review Panel will host a community forum at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre, William Street, from 6pm-8pm next Wednesday, June 5.

The forum provides an opportunity for members of the community to come along and have a say on the future of local government in our area.

If you are interested in attending this session and require transport, please contact Sharon Swannell at Oberon Council on 6329 8100 to make arrangements.

THE O'Connell community was buzzing on Saturday with a large number of people turning out to watch the Bicentenary Flyover.

Around 70 aircraft took part in the celebrations to mark 200 years since the first recognised European crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth in 1813.

## "Peggyvale" - 5 acres Impeccably presented four bedroom home with sunny outlook!



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# Community forum on amalgamation



**John McMahon**  
Council news

**T**HE Independent Local Government Review Panel recently handed down its report outlining recommendations for the future directions for local government. One of the recommendations contained within the document is that Oberon be amalgamated with Bathurst Regional Council.

The panel is now in the process of conducting further consultation and will hold a workshop in Bathurst on Wednesday, June 5. The General Manager and I will attend this session to reaffirm council's strenuous opposition to forced amalgamations.

Members of the community have also been given an opportunity to come along and attend a community forum on the same day, from 6pm-8pm at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre, William Street.

I urge all members of the community to come along to this session and have your say on the future of local government in our area.

Council will provide a detailed submission to the panel, outlining opportunities for boundary adjustments to include parts of Bathurst Regional Council and Lithgow City Council in the Oberon local government area, which may be better serviced by Oberon Council and improve the long term sustainability of all three councils.

■■■

**SUBMISSIONS** regarding council's draft Land Use Strategy (LUS) and draft Local Environmental Plan (LEP) close this Friday, May

24, at 4pm.

The documents are still available for viewing at the Oberon Council Administration Centre, the Oberon Council Library or at council's website [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au).

Council should have the new LEP in place by the end of the year and this will be a significant milestone for the community.

There has been a freeze in place on sub-division in the Oberon local government area since the introduction of the Rural Land SRPP in 2008.

■■■

**THE Central West Technology Forum** will be held in Oberon on May 30 and 31.

The field day – hosted by Westrac, Sitech and Oberon Council – will showcase modern earthmoving and compaction equipment. Council will be making an area of land available for demonstrations of machinery.

Anyone wishing to find out more or wanting to attend the field day should email [michael.korac@westrac.com.au](mailto:michael.korac@westrac.com.au).

■■■

**ALONG** with the General Manager and Councillors Evans and Sejowicz, I attended a Local Government Acts Taskforce public workshop in Orange last week.

The Local Government Acts Taskforce has been appointed by the Minister for Local Government to re-write the Local Government Act 1993.

The taskforce is seeking feedback on the different aspects of the Local Government Act.

During the workshop, one of the items raised was a proposal to abolish wards.

I spoke against this proposal as I believe the current system of having wards – which allows representation from different localities within a local government area, particularly one which covers a vast geographical area – provides a fair representation of the whole community.

## Increase safety around your pool

**ROYAL Life Saving** is asking all backyard pool owners in NSW to "Be Pool Safe" and to sign the new NSW Swimming Pool Register which went live on April 29.

"Be Pool Safe" is a collaboration between Royal Life Saving NSW and the State Government.

It's all about taking steps to get information into the hands of pool owners and identifying where they are.

More than 150 councils across NSW have been gathering information and support.

To get your hands on a fact sheet, just go to [www.bepoolsafe.com.au](http://www.bepoolsafe.com.au)

To register your pool, log on to [www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au](http://www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au) – it only takes a few minutes!

The Oberon Review is giving you the chance to win some prizes, including a prize pack which includes a great Royal Life Saving first aid kit, a community lifesaver in a box, a special Keep Watch bucket hat and other items, worth \$150!

The prize pack also includes a DVD about

CPR and why it's a critical skill.

Minister for Local Government Don Page, said, "everyone can do more to reduce tragic drownings."

He highlighted that pools are there for fun and enjoyment, but can be dangerous to children.

Royal Life Saving's David Macallister said there have been 67

drownings in backyards and pools in the 0-4 years age group in the past decade.

Mr Page reminded people that pools could be a potential death trap for kids.

To win a Royal Life Saving prize pack, simply fill in the coupon below and drop into the Oberon Review office at 83 Oberon Street, by next Friday.



**Royal Life Saving**

THE AUSTRALIAN LIFESAVING ORGANISATION

**Win a "Be Pool Safe" pack as part of the Royal Life Saving Campaign**

Fill in the coupon & return to Oberon Review, 83 Oberon Street by 3pm Friday 31st May 2013. (No photocopies)

Name .....

Address .....

Phone .....

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**11.30am** Hartley Saddlery Fashion Parade

**12pm** Mary Moody's Kids' Garden Workshop

**1pm** Martin Doherty & Leigh Birkett Band

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**WARRIOR**

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# oberon Review

Thursday, May 2, 2013

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## No amalgamation for Oberon: mayor

AN Independent Local Government Review Panel has recommended that Oberon and Bathurst councils should merge to provide a higher capacity ratepaying base for the Oberon region.

Oberon mayor John McMahon said he is disappointed with the report, as Oberon Council has been taking steps to shore-up its position in Oberon.

The NSW government report has recommended several smaller councils across the Central West be amalgamated into larger councils by 2036.

The report indicates the main reason for amalgamation is to strengthen regional centres.

Councillor McMahon said.

"In my time, Oberon Council has always planned for the future. We are a financially sustainable council and this is a credit to council and all senior staff.

"If Oberon amalgamated with Bathurst, Oberon ratepayers would be facing substantial rate increases with a reduction in services provided. Any planning decisions from Oberon Council involve looking after local people. An amalgamated council would not have the same level of concern for locals.

"Eventually jobs and businesses would gravitate to Bathurst."

Cr McMahon has told Bathurst mayor Monica Morse that Oberon strongly opposes any amalgamation. He said he was insulted by



DISAPPOINTED: Oberon Council's mayor John McMahon strongly opposes any amalgamation.

**'If Oberon amalgamated ... ratepayers would be facing substantial rate increases with a reduction in services provided.'**

a statement from Bathurst's Councillor Greg Westman in the *Western Advocate* last Friday: "When Bathurst and Evans councils amalgamated it was to bring that standard of Evans Shire up."

"No doubt Bathurst Regional Council can carry that pride through and bring Oberon up to the standard that we have here."

Cr McMahon said this comment shows a lot of inexperience.

"Oberon Council is extremely proud of what we deliver, and what we will continue to deliver to ratepayers of Oberon into the future," he said.

"Oberon will stand on its original decision for no amalgamation."

See Page 2



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# Oberon Council plans to oppose amalgamation

From page 1

"We will put in a submission to the review panel to broaden our Local Government Area to take in Hampton, Sodwalls to Tarana as well as Rockley back through to Triangle Flat."

Or McMahon said the report states that smaller councils with less than 5000 people will be converted into local boards.

"Oberon sits just above this number with stable growth predicted."

Or McMahon said there is a Regional Council Workshop in Bathurst on June 5. This will include Lithgow, Mid Western Regional, Bathurst Regional and Oberon.

"Oberon Council's general manager Alan Cairney and I will attend. From 6pm-8pm there will be a regional hearing for the community."

Or McMahon said Oberon has until 2020 before Oberon goes back to the review panel.

"This gives us ample time to put Oberon into a

better financial position."

Oberon Council's general manager Alan Cairney said Oberon's position is to oppose forced amalgamations, and the NSW Government has said there will be no forced amalgamations.

Mr Cairney said another option is that Oberon remain as a council as part of a new Mid-West County Council. The county council would take in Bathurst, Lithgow, Mid Western (Rudgee) and Oberon, with Bathurst proposed as the regional centre for the county council.

Across the Central West other councils most at risk of amalgamation are Wellington, Narramine, Warren, Lachlan, Cobar, Bogan, Forbes, Weddin and Blayney.

Bathurst Council mayor Monica Morse said if councils agree willingly to amalgamate, there are financial benefits. However, she said she understands that towns often fear loss of identity when talks of mergers and amalgamations arise.

## Community diary

**At Oberon Meals on Wheels roster:**

Thursday, May 2

Cars 1 and 2 Oberon Council

Friday May 3

Car 1 I and D Davis

Car 2 E Mentzen

Saturday May 4 and Sunday May 5

Car 1 and Car 2 Catholic Church

Monday May 6

Car 1 Tarana Red Cross

Car 2 S Jackson and T Harvey

Tuesday May 7

Car 1 B Dale

Car 2 R Brown

Wednesday May 8

Car 1 Oberon First National

Car 2 P Dwyer and L Robinson.

**Yetholme Red Cross** invites you and your

friends to a Mother's Day Luncheon on

Thursday, May 9, starting at 11.30am at

Yetholme Hall. Contact: Linda Robinson 6332

5527, or Mary Warren 6332 9094.

**Oberon Farmers' Market** stallholders who

intend to be present at the market on May 4 and

have any special or new items they plan to display are reminded to call Bob on 6335 8447 or email for publicity purposes by Sunday evening.

**Oberon branch of Sam Aslett's** next meeting will be May 9 at 7pm at the Oberon RSL Club. All welcome. Raffle winners are first Rohan Hemerson and second Helen Swan from Wellington.

**Free Sock Knitting Workshop** will be held on Saturday May 18 from 9am at the Robert Hooper Community Centre. Bring wool, needles and lunch. Come for an hour or the day. Call Ross 6336 1683 or Robin 6336 2019.

**Cowra Gem and Collectors Club** fair is on May 18 and 19 at the Cowra Showground. Entry Saturday from 10am and 9am Sunday. Enquiries Ian Amos 0342 2386.

**Oberon Show Society** meeting will be held at the Oberon RSL Club on Wednesday May 15 starting at 7.30pm. All welcome.

**Free legal clinic:** The next monthly visit of the Elizabeth Exatt Community Legal Centre is Wednesday, May 8. It provides free legal advice. To book an interview phone Oberon Neighbourhood Centre on 6336 0909.

## Art and craft to celebrate 150 years

The Oberon Arts Council are excited to announce they will be holding an Arts and Craft Expo at the Oberon RSL Club in November as part of Oberon's 150 year anniversary celebrations.

The opening night of the expo will be held on Friday, November 8, with cocktails, beverages and finger food. On Saturday, November 9 and Sunday, November 10 the Arts and Crafts Expo will be open for the community to enjoy. The expo will showcase paintings,

## OBERON celebrating 150 years

pottery, quilting embroidery, along with photographs from the Oberon Council Photography Competition. Entry fees into the expo will contribute towards the completion of the artwork and mosaics on the amenities block at the Common.

On Saturday, June 15 the Friends of the Oberon Library are presenting Transported To

Oberon - In Story And Song at the Robert Hooper Community Centre.

The FOOLs have prepared a fascinating evening of story and song about how and why people arrived and settled in the original Bullock Flats. Local poet Brian Beeley along with a team of local readers and musicians will entertain throughout the night. Tickets are now available for purchase from Cobweb Craft Shop and are \$12 per person. Phone Kathy Sajowitz on 6336 0742 for information.

## Get prepared for winter at the Farmers' Markets

THREE self-admitted "big knitters", Denise Curry, daughter Lauren and friend Helen Souklos, will be back at the Oberon Farmers' Market on Saturday, after being one of a number of new stallholders at the April market.

"We had a good time at our first market," Denise said. "It was worthwhile, and Helen got a couple of orders into the bargain."

The trio will be displaying a selection of colourful knitted items, as well as handicrafts, including handmade bags, and knitted items in a variety of designs and wools.

"There will also be scarves, lots of scarves, seeing as winter is coming on," Denise said.

Other stalls will be featuring bread and pastries, jams and marmalades, a variety of pastries, hand-crafted items, trees and shrubs, soaps, woodcraft and stone items, a variety of potatoes and other vegetables, local wines, and alpaca wool items.

Martha's Kitchen will be providing breakfasts of bacon rolls and juice, and later in the morning, hamburgers. Fish River Roasters will have a selection of hot drinks.

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raywhite@ro.com.au

**Review Weather Watch**

**Oberon**

**Central Tablelands Local weather**

For the week ending April 28, 2013. The figures for Oberon are from the official Bureau of Meteorology source. Those from outlying areas are from Oberon Review's official weather stations.

**Oberon "Springbank" - 1100 metres**

Day	Min	Max	Rain	Comment
24/4	-1.0	15.5	Trace	Frost
25/4	-1.3	15.1	Trace	Frost
26/4	5.2	17.8	Trace	Pleasant
27/4	2.4	21.2	Trace	Beautiful
28/4	6.4	20.3	-	Sunny
29/4	4.8	22.1	-	Warm
30/4	9.5	21.6	-	Cloudy

**Jenolan Caves - 730 metres**

Day	Min	Max	Rain	Comment
24/4	-	-	-	-
25/4	-	-	-	-
26/4	2	16	0.8	calm
27/4	-	-	-	-
28/4	-	-	-	-
29/4	5	19	0	calm
30/4	7	21.5	0	calm

**DAM LEVEL**

**86.24%**

**FALLING**

**Weekly & Daily water consumption for the past 7 days**

**1.72ML DAILY**

**12.03ML WEEKLY**

**Forecast**

Thursday 3 May  
Breezy, with mainly 10 to 20 South facing activity in the morning. Overnight temperature falling to below zero before 1 and 10 with daytime temperatures reaching between 10 and 21.

Friday 4 May  
Breezy, with mainly 10 to 20 South facing activity in the morning. Overnight temperature falling to below zero before 1 and 10 with daytime temperatures reaching between 10 and 21.

Saturday 5 May  
Breezy, with mainly 10 to 20 South facing activity in the morning. Overnight temperature falling to below zero before 1 and 10 with daytime temperatures reaching between 10 and 21.

Sunday 6 May  
Breezy, with mainly 10 to 20 South facing activity in the morning. Overnight temperature falling to below zero before 1 and 10 with daytime temperatures reaching between 10 and 21.

For extended weather forecast go to [www.oberonreview.com.au](http://www.oberonreview.com.au)

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**Mobile: 04172 55639**



# We've got no urge to merge



**John McMahon**  
COUNCIL NEWS

**C**OUNCIL has received the latest paper from the Local Government Independent Review Panel titled *Future Directions For Local Government*. One of the recommendations contained within the document is that Oberon be amalgamated with Bathurst Regional Council.

Oberon Council will vigorously oppose any attempts to see it merge with Bathurst. The report details the financial sustainability of all NSW councils and has stated that Oberon is in a sound financial position at this time.

The report has also identified that Bathurst Regional Council is currently in a moderate financial position.

The suggestion that Oberon merge with Bathurst is ludicrous when at this time it appears that Bathurst's financial position is certainly weaker than that of the Oberon Council.

I believe that this recommendation makes a mockery out of the independent review of local government.

In Oberon's case it is clearly not about financial sustainability, but rather about strengthening the Bathurst Regional Centre at the expense of the Oberon community. This is clearly stated on page 37 of the *Future Directions* report.

We at Oberon Council firmly believe we have the financial capacity to continue as an independent local government area into the future.

In my 24 years' experience as an elected representative on the Oberon Council I

have always found Oberon to be an independent, financially sound local government area and I believe this will continue well into the future.

**FINAL** plans are now in place for the construction of Oberon's new 66-bed aged care facility and a ceremony to turn the first sod will be held at the site of the new home on the corner of Albion Street and Titania Road on Friday, May 10 at 11am. All members of the public are invited to attend.

**FRIENDS** of the Oberon Library are again co-ordinating this year's Oberon Waste to Art Competition and Exhibition.

The awards night for the exhibition will be held on Friday, May 10 from 5.30pm at the Robert Hooper Community Centre. For further information, please contact Kathy Sajowitz on 6336 0742 or Cella Raveai on 6359 3109.

The Waste to Art entries will be on display in the Robert Hooper Community Centre from Wednesday, May 8 to Friday, May 10 from noon to 4pm and Saturday, May 11 from 10am to 2pm.

Prizes for the 2013 Essential Energy Photographic Competition will also be awarded during the evening.

**A MEETING** will be held on Wednesday, May 8 from 2pm to form a formal University of the Third Age (U3A) Committee in Oberon.

If you are interested in supporting the U3A concept, please come along to the meeting. Once a committee has been established, a program will be developed and then courses offered will be advertised.

If you would like further information, please contact Marnie Arrow on 6336 3003 or Dietmar Sajowitz on 6336 0742.

## Budget black hole is growing



**Federal politics**  
John Cobble

**LABOR** can't be trusted to deliver a responsible budget on May 14. This is a Labor government making all sorts of promises ahead of the election that it has no intention whatsoever of honouring.

This financial year Labor is careening towards a headline cash deficit of \$11.6 billion - widening even more to \$14.3 billion by 2016. That's coming from the same government that promised more than 600 times that without fall the budget would be back in surplus in 2012-13.

Labor's last budget surplus was in 1989. This government has delivered the four biggest deficits on record and there are now deficits under Labor as far as the eye can see. Rating agency Standard & Poor's has warned that Australia's AAA credit rating will come under threat if the government does not show a commitment to eliminating the budget deficit.

What Australia needs, urgently, is a government which gets expenditure under control. An immediate action to ease the Labor budget black hole - \$120 billion and getting worse - should be to abolish the carbon tax, which is plunging the budget further into trouble as European prices tumble to less than \$4 while the Australian price of \$23 a tonne is legislated to keep going up and up.

■■■■

It was fantastic to be part of the overwhelming response to the Anzac Day commemorations around Calare.

A huge crowd attended the dawn service in Orange at the Cenotaph in spite of the chilly -1 temperature! I think it is a sign of our maturity as a nation that young and old now fully embrace

the sentiment behind the occasion. We now all accept what the people who represented our country on the ground, in the air or the sea have done and still do for their country.

We remember Gallipoli as the engagement that most defines how our soldiers fight for their country and one another.

However, 39 deaths in Afghanistan confront us with the fact that the world and our lives have changed immeasurably in the last 96 years.

Afghanistan will be a stark reminder that Australia can depend upon its men and women in the defence forces whatever the situation.

As we prepare to mark 100 years since World War I, there's an opportunity for the community to apply for up to \$100,000 of funding to support the Centenary of Anzac projects in Calare.

This could be traditional dawn services and marches of veterans, through to re-enactments of recruiting marches, school-based education programs, refurbishing memorials and honour boards and establishing new places of commemoration and reflection.

I will soon be announcing a local Anzac Centenary Community Grants Committee which will provide advice and recommendations on applications made by the local community.

Further details on the process will also be released shortly but, in the meantime, I encourage people to get thinking about local projects.

■■■■

**CANCER** Council NSW has organised a free program this Saturday for people who have finished cancer treatment. The program, Living Well After Cancer, is facilitated by trained cancer survivors who offer advice and ideas about life after cancer.

The program is open to people who have finished cancer treatment, along with their carers, family members and close friends. It's a free program, but registration is essential for catering purposes. Call 1300 200 558 (local rate) or email [livingwellaftercancer@nswcc.org.au](mailto:livingwellaftercancer@nswcc.org.au)

## Tips and techniques

**WORKING** dog enthusiasts will gather at Burrage on Saturday, May 18 when the Ag Bureau will once again host the popular Yard Dog Training Day with international trainer and judge Chris Stapleton.

Mr Stapleton - who, with his dog Chance, has featured on *Better Homes And Gardens* - will give an insight into training champion working dogs.

This will be a rare opportunity to see and learn from a true master of dog training techniques.

Handlers will learn to refine their dog-handling skills with one-on-one instruction.

Working dogs and handlers of all ages are welcome. Mr Stapleton will help improve the technique of

mature dogs and show how to introduce pups to the working environment.

He will also set aside time for handlers experiencing problems.

It will be a great day out for anyone who enjoys watching working dogs, according to organisers.

The event will start at 9.30am in the Francis Pavilion (behind Burrage Village Store), Lloyd Street, Burrage.

Prices are \$15 per person (includes a steak sandwich and drink) or \$20 one adult (free steak sandwich) and one child (free sausage sandwich). To book, call Anne (6337 0963) or Charles (6337 0325) by Thursday, May 16, to assist in catering.



**OBERON HIGH:** Each Wednesday afternoon a number of students are training as Rural Fire Service cadets under the guidance of local RFS instructors.

## 'Misunderstanding' may lead man to jail

A MAN who claimed he had a "misunderstanding" with his girlfriend, smashing a lounge-room window before grabbing her around the throat, has been convicted and ordered to undertake a course in managing domestic violence.

John Frank Glover, 20 of Nurse Fox Place in Oberon, appeared before Magistrate Bruce Williams in Bathurst Local Court.

His solicitor Rayna Pettit said her client had a limited record and had "never been to court for something like this".

She said Glover had a four-month-old daughter and had prospects of reconciliation with his partner. She asked the court to consider a bond with supervision, requesting Glover complete the domestic violence program.

She said Glover didn't agree with the facts, but said this behaviour should not have taken place. However, Mr Williams said he did not share Glover's view that it was a "misunderstanding" between him and his girlfriend.

"If you had any other matters of violence on your record you would be looking at jail today," Magistrate Williams said. "She asks for help you fly into a rage throw things about, argue, demean, threaten and then attack her."

"If that's your view of a misunderstanding you need a major readjustment and if it has to be jail then that's what will happen, are we clear on that?" he said.

Police facts tendered to the court told how on January 6 this year Glover went to a

friends house to have a couple of drinks. The victim asked if he could be home by 5pm to assist with their child.

When Glover failed to return, the victim tried to phone but he wouldn't answer, she then saw Glover tagged on Facebook with friends and she asked him to come home in a post.

Later Glover returned home with his friends and after seeing the victim's post on Facebook said "Shut up [expletive] or I will smash this bottle over your head".

The accused continued drinking until leaving at 7.30pm with his dog. At 9pm Glover was at a party down the road, yelling out "I'm on speed and I'm loving it".

He then returned to the victim's house and began kicking

the door yelling "let me in or you're all dead".

The victim opened the door and demanded Glover leave, but he grabbed the victim by the throat forcing her to fall backward onto the ground. She stood up and he grabbed her again.

The victim was able to get back inside the house and rang triple zero and while on the phone Glover punched the lounge room window.

Mr Williams convicted Glover on both common assault and maliciously destroy property. For the assault matter he was fined \$400 and \$83 in court costs, given a Section 9 Bond for 12 months and placed under the supervision of probation and parole. He must attend a domestic violence course.

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# Dangers of amalgamation



**John McMahon**  
Council member

**T**HERE have been a number of reports in the media recently concerning the possibility of Local Government Amalgamations occurring. Last Wednesday evening councillors were invited to attend the Oberon Business Association Meeting and during this meeting I took the opportunity to speak to the members regarding council's position against forced amalgamations.

I believe the impact of being amalgamated with a larger regional centre would be disastrous for the Oberon Local Government Area.

Groups and organisations such as the Oberon Business Association, Oberon Plateau Tourism Association and other community groups currently work collaboratively, with council to produce great outcomes for the local area and I am fearful that this would not continue if we were part of a larger regional centre.

Council has strived for many years to have stronger relationships with the com-

munity and in particular with the village and rural areas in the shire. I believe we have made excellent progress in recent times, with a greater focus on consultation and far less confrontation.

In last week's *Oberon Review* I referred to an informal meeting that the general manager and I attended with the mayors and general managers of Bathurst and Lithgow councils. Council will continue to have discussions with our neighbouring councils to seek a suitable governance model for the future.

ON Friday, March 22, the Oberon Public School will host a special event. The Distance for a Difference Tour 2013 will come through Oberon as part of the 615km ride they are undertaking to raise funds for the Day of Difference Foundation.

The Day of Difference Foundation was established in 2004 by Ron and Carolyn Delezo after their daughter Sophie was critically injured in a tragic and highly publicised accident. The Foundation is the only charity in Australia working in the field of children's critical injury.

There will be opportunities for children from Oberon Public School's bike group to ride with the tour, which will stop at the school to give a short talk to students. I am

extremely pleased that the tour will visit Oberon and I looking forward to seeing the riders come into the school. For further information about the Day of Difference Foundation and the tour please visit [www.dayofdifference.org.au](http://www.dayofdifference.org.au).

**T**HERE has been some very pleasing news in regard to council's investments during the past two weeks. Council was very pleased when, with little forewarning, the sum of \$494,877 was deposited in council's bank account. This represented the redemption of the Lehman Brothers Zircon/Coolongatta CDO which had been valued at \$0 in council's investments portfolio for over two years.

The initial sum invested was \$500,000 and coupon payments (interest), although suspended in 2011, have totalled \$125,358. In summary, council invested \$500,000 with a net return of \$120,235.

Unfortunately, this doesn't mean that council now has an addition \$494,877 to spend, as the money will be allocated proportionately to the reserves from which funds were deducted when the investment was written off.

The crux does, however, confirm that council's previous decision to retain the CDOs until maturity or redemption in lieu

of the option to sell at a substantially discounted rate has, to date, resulted in a positive result for the community.

This news was shortly followed by the delivery of the judgment by the Federal Court of Australia on 1 March in relation to damages awarded subsequent to the proceedings against Local Government Financial Services Pty Ltd (LGFS) for losses incurred as a result of the Rembrandt CPDO investment.

The Court has found that:  
■ Council is entitled to \$933,225.83 damages for the loss in the principal amount invested.

■ Council is entitled to pre-judgment interest at the rate of 4 per cent above the Reserve Bank cash rate from the date of the cash out of the Rembrandt Notes, 24 October 2007, to the date of the final order.

■ Post-judgment interest will accrue from 21 February, 2013 until the date on which payment is received, and

■ Council is entitled to costs on an ordinary basis.

No determination has yet been made by the court in relation to the sum to be awarded in respect of costs, however this is again a very pleasing result for the council and the Oberon community.

## Life members, Spencer and magical Mt Wilson

**L**AST month's Garden Club 30th anniversary luncheon was a great success – there was a large roll-up and delicious food.

Three foundation members, Ros Brown, Bev O'Brien and Denise Brien were awarded life membership.

Guest speaker Spencer Harvey was his usual engaging self. We are all now much more knowledgeable about peastemones and salvia.

This month was again off to the magical Mt Wilson area. How lucky we are to have such a wonderful place on our doorstep. For any newcomers who have not yet been there – you are really in for a treat.

Our first stop at 10.30am will be at Windyridge.

Here we will have morning tea at a cost \$8 per head.

This lovely garden includes stone walls, 3000 azaleas and many water features including a waterfall, a chain of ponds, a lake and fountains.

This is a very technologically advanced garden, having seven kilometres of computer cabling which services security, lighting, a fog machine (for the planted rainforest), which detects visitors entering and switches on and off accordingly.

Lunch will be at noon in Mt Wilson Park. Bring everything you



need plus a chair. At 1pm we visit Bebeah, cost \$8 per person.

Some trees here survive from 1880s and are truly magnificent. The garden has evolved through the years with successive owners adding horticultural features – a

large lake, thousands of cold climate trees and shrubs, hedges and rock walls over a five hectare site.

Finally at 2.30pm we go to Merry Garth. Here there are very tall tree ferns over 200 years old.

This is an informal garden including ground covers and alpine, maples, wisteria, trees, peonies, conifers, magnolias, camellias, rhododendrons and thousands more.

Merry Garth also incorporates a plant nursery where unusual and rare plants can be brought. Entry here is \$5 per head.

This promises to be a wonderful day out. Please be at the

Community Centre by 8.15am for an 8.30am start. Total cost for the day, morning tea and garden entries, will be \$22. Bring your own lunch and a chair – and comfortable shoes. See you all on Monday, March 18. Any enquiries to Nancy 6336 1225.

■ A REMINDER that the April activity will be on Sunday, April 14 (not the usual Monday).

The GCA 200th anniversary seminars will be held in the Union Theatre, Bridge Street, Lithgow from 2.30pm to 6pm.

More details next month.



**ANNIVERSARY:** Ros Brown, Oberon Garden Club president Rosalie Pollock and Bev O'Brien.



**ENTERTAINING:** Mr and Mrs Harvey with Rosalie Pollock.



### YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO COUNCIL PLANNING INFORMATION & PUBLIC NOTICES

Oberon Council, PO Box 50, OBERON NSW 2787  
General Enquiries: 6329 8100 Fax: 6329 8142  
Rates: 6329 8130 Accounts Receivable: 6329 8130 Accounts Payable: 6329 8154  
Email: [council@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@oberon.nsw.gov.au) Website: [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au)

#### YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO COUNCIL PLANNING INFORMATION AND PUBLIC NOTICES

**Administration Office**  
Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm  
**Visitor Information Centre** – 02 6329 8210  
Monday to Saturday 9.30am – 5.00pm  
Sundays 10.00am – 3.00pm  
**Library** – 02 6329 8220  
Monday to Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm  
Saturday 10.00am – 2.00pm  
Sunday Closed

**Oberon Waste Disposal Depot**  
Monday to Friday 8.00am – 10.00am  
and 3.00pm – 5.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 1.00pm – 5.00pm  
**Black Bin Run Waste Recycling Depot**  
Every second Tuesday 12.30pm – 2.30pm  
**Burnt Waste Disposal Depot**  
Every second Sunday 10.00am – 12.00pm

Or see Council  
OBERON NSW 2787

Alan Calvey  
General Manager

Weekend Promotions

## What's On

### Members Enormous Easter Egg Giveaway

To enter simply swipe your membership card in the entrance terminal between 3.00pm and 7.30pm on Wednesday 20th & 27th March 2013 placing your entry ticket into the barrel provided.

30 draws will take place from 8.00pm each Wednesday night.

Members must be present at time of draw in situ and have max 14 minutes to claim their prize before prize is redrawn.

Karl Yarns and confetti at club reception: 17PS/13/03/13

### Australian Psychic of the Year

**Ezio & Michelle De Angelis**  
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**MEDIUMS**  
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Thursday 21st March @ 7.30pm

Tickets \$30.00 available from club

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Facebook icon



# Council opposes forced mergers



**John McMahon**  
COUNCIL MEMBER

**T**HE general manager and I attended an informal meeting with the mayors and general managers of Bathurst and Lithgow councils this week.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss each council's position regarding the current local government review which is looking at options for new governance models, including boundary changes.

This followed a presentation by the Chair of the Independent Panel, Professor Graham Sansom, at the CEN-TROC meeting held in Wellington the previous week.

Oberon Council's position is that we favour the formalisation of strategic relationships, including being a member of CEN-TROC, which has 17 member councils in the Central West area.

'We oppose forced amalgamations of councils and believe that local representation is important.'

We will continue our discussions with Bathurst and Lithgow councils in the coming months.

The Local Policing Community Consultative Committee meeting was held in Bathurst on Monday and it was pleasing to hear Superintendent Robinson advise that additional staffing will be provided to the area, including Oberon, where appointments will be made soon.

Crime statistics for the last three years shows a decrease in the region and also in Oberon, with similar results for the last three months.

COUNCIL will be hosting an event to celebrate Seniors Week

at the Oberon RSL Club on Friday, March 22, starting at noon.

A barber shop quartet and a professional storyteller will provide entertainment on the day and lunch will be served by hospitality students from Oberon High School and St Joseph's Catholic School.

Entry is free and all seniors from the Oberon Shire are welcome to come along and enjoy the day.

The Community Technology Centre will run a series of workshops tailored for seniors on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 18-20.

The workshops include Getting into Family History, What is an iPad, Buying a Computer, Using Facebook and Using Skype.

For further information or to make a booking please contact council's community development officer, Kathy Beesley on 6329 8100 or call into the Visitor Information Centre.

COUNCIL works staff are currently reconstructing a section of Abercrombie Road, north of Sloggett Road.

The old bitumen surface has been removed and the addition of gravel pavement is under way.

Works are currently on hold for a time pending the electricity stays being moved.

The contractor has met council personnel on site and the earthwork required for contractor's equipment will be carried out this week.

The poles for the new cable stays will be installed by mid March and the grid shut down to connect to the new poles is scheduled for March 25.

Affected residents will receive notification of any service disruption in the area.

# End of pool season

THE pool season is once again coming to a close and the staff at the pool would like to thank everyone who visited us this season.

A pool party will be held on Sunday, March 10 to see out the season and there will be lots of games, activities and competitions run in the morning, with the inflatable Tropical Island going up for the afternoon.

The last day to get your fins wet is Sunday, March 17.

Congratulations to all our school swimmers who competed in their school carnivals

and to those going on to represent the region in the next level. It is exciting to see so many great swimmers from our community!

Swim Squad will be held at 5.30pm on March 4, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 15. Swim Fit is on at 10am on March 9 and 16.

Just a reminder to the community that if you think you may have lost anything at the pool this season, please come and check our lost and found basket. If items are not claimed before the end of the season, all will be donated to charity.

# Building a world class economy



**Federal politics**

**S**TRENGTHENING Australia's higher education and research sectors is an essential part of the Coalition's plan to build a more diverse, world class, 5-Pillar economy.

International education is Australia's fourth biggest export and our largest services export industry, making it a crucial part of our economy and society.

The growth of online learning presents both an opportunity and challenge for higher education institutions and the economy more broadly. At the same time, we must be vigilant to protect our universities' strong higher education record, international rankings and reputation.

The Coalition is establishing an Online Higher Education Working Group to examine how Australian higher education institutions can capitalise on the potential of online learning without placing this major export earner at risk.

The Working Group will examine the key issues and

challenges related to the development of online higher education in Australia.

While universities will continue to offer traditional higher education models, we need to be willing to embrace the opportunities of online learning.

Submissions to the Working Group are invited from universities and other higher learning providers, academics, students, relevant organisations and the public, with submissions closing on March 30 2013.

I WAS unable to attend the official opening of the FoodCare store in Glenroli recently, so I popped in for a visit last week.

The store is located at the Glenroli Community Centre and is now open every Tuesday from 9.30am to 1.30pm.

To access the service a Centrelink card/Pension Card/Veterans card is required.

I ALSO had the pleasure of visiting the Bathurst Meals on Wheels. The Bathurst facility is one of the major Meals on Wheels operations in NSW, providing frozen meals for one third of the State, as well

as meals for locals.

In 2012 they produced 180,000 meals, and in the week leading up to Christmas they produced a massive 8375 meals, which is certainly impressive.

These community services are vital for many people, especially at a time when the cost of living has increased significantly.

IT'S not every day that tractors are chosen as the form of transport to get around the Central West, however that's what the 2013 Camp Quality Tractor trek is all about.

This important fundraiser will see 30-odd tractors trek through the towns of Orange, Millthorpe, Blayney, Newbridge, Rockley, Oberon, Meadow Flat, Portland, Yetholme, Bathurst, and then returning to Orange.

The event takes place from September 19 to 21 and the call for tractor drivers is happening now.

So if you're interested in having a bit of fun while raising funds for this wonderful charity contact Graeme Eggleston on 0428 270 447 or visit [www.mycampquality.org.au/tractortrek](http://www.mycampquality.org.au/tractortrek).



**OBERON COUNCIL**

## YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO COUNCIL PLANNING INFORMATION & PUBLIC NOTICES

Oberon Council, PO Box 84, OBERON NSW 2780

General Enquiries: 6329 8100 Fax: 6329 8142

Rates: 6329 8138 Accounts Receivable: 6329 8198 Accounts Payable: 6329 8164

Email: [council@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@oberon.nsw.gov.au) Website: [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au)

Application for Funding under Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993

Council invites expressions of interest from community organisations, sporting bodies and individuals who wish to apply for funding from Council for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

Groups or organizations who have received funding in past years must re-apply if they wish to be considered for further funding.

An application/proposal form is available:

1. from Council offices at 137-139 Oberon Street, Oberon; or
2. via email request to [council@oberon.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@oberon.nsw.gov.au); or
3. from Council's website [www.oberon.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au).

Completed forms must be received by Council no later than 4pm on 22nd March 2013.

For further information regarding this matter please contact Council's Finance Officer Samara Pringle on 6329 8126.

### YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO COUNCIL PLANNING INFORMATION AND PUBLIC NOTICES

**Administration Office**  
Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm

**Visitor Information Centre** - 02 6329 8210

Monday to Saturday 9.30am - 5.00pm

Sunday 10.00am - 3.00pm

**Library** - 02 6329 8280

Monday to Friday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday 10.00am - 2.00pm

Sunday Closed

**Oberon Waste Disposal Depot**

Monday to Friday 8.00am - 10.00am

and 3.00pm - 5.00pm

Saturday and Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

**Blank Springs Waste Disposal Depot**

Every second Sunday 12.30pm - 2.30pm

**Murrumbidgee Waste Disposal Depot**

Every second Sunday 10.00am - 12.00pm

## Property of the week Fantastic Location



### Take the next step

- Three bedroom brick home close to sporting field & library
- Large well fenced back yard, 1085m<sup>2</sup> block in total
- 3 bedrooms, built-in in 2, wood & gas heating
- Electric cooking in kitchen w/ adjacent laundry & backyard access
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This home would suit first home buyers or an investor as it has the potential to return \$260 per week.

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# oberon Review

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## Bigger not always better

THE Independent Local Government Review panel has released a second paper "Better, Stronger Local Government - The Case for Sustainable Change".

The Review Panel was appointed by Local Government Minister Don Page in March 2012.

Over the last 11 months, the Independent Review has been looking at ways to strengthen the effectiveness of local government in NSW.

In the past, one single solution or model has been applied to every council in NSW.

The Independent Review will consider the possibility that different models may be applied to different councils within the State, depending on their circumstances and the needs of their communities.

The findings of the review so far have confirmed that the future of NSW Local

Government is indeed challenging, but also full of potential.

The panel's goal is to design a stronger and more sustainable system of Local Government, in which councils can play an expanded role in future planning and service delivery; and enjoy more productive relationships with State and federal agencies.

A regional workshop with members of CENTROC councils was held on February 15 and was attended by Oberon mayor John McMahon and Oberon Council general manager Alan Calmey.

A CENTROC board meeting is scheduled to be held at Wallington on February 28.

Cr John McMahon will call a special meeting of council after these meetings.

Oberon Council is opposed to the forced amalgamation of councils.

In representing its community,

Oberon Council considers that local representation is important and believes that bigger is not necessarily better.

It is proud to be recognised as a small and efficient rural council.

Council does recognise that some boundary adjustments could facilitate better local representation and may enable council to provide improved service delivery.

It welcomes discussion with Bathurst Regional Council and Lithgow Regional Council regarding boundary changes and, in particular, wishes to consult with the communities of Rockley, Thana and Hampton about those communities receiving local government services through Oberon Council.

On April 26 the Local Government Review Panels will release a report dealing with amalgamations and boundary changes.

## Sarah named Miss Showgirl

MISS Oberon Showgirl 2013 is Sarah Whalan. Runner-up is Madeline Robinson.

There was a different format for the competition this year, with judging on the Saturday of the Oberon Show after a luncheon at the grounds.

More than 60 supporters of the event attended the luncheon, which was catered for by event organisers Cheryl Burt and Glenys Newstead.

The judges, Kevin Hillsdon, Sue Fisher-Smith and Kate Bird, congratulated the girls and said it was a very difficult job to choose between the four entrants - Sarah Whalan, Madeline Robinson, Shaye Dwyer and Emma Swannell.

"They should all be proud of themselves for participating," Ms Burt said.

Sponsorship from Oberon Council, Oberon Pharmacy, Lynne Butterfield and Amanda Casey enabled the girls to receive prizes and beautiful cosmetic baskets and flowers.

The four entrants were treated to a helicopter ride donated by Orange Helicopters.



SHOWGIRLS: 2013 Oberon Miss Showgirl Sarah Whalan and runner-up Madeline Robinson.

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This home must be inspected, great location close to family and recreational oval. The perfect home to entertain nothing to do but move in and enjoy the comforts that this home has to offer.

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3 bedroom unit 2 with built-in, gas heating/cooking, single garage **\$220pw**  
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# Councils discuss review



**John McMahon**  
Council news

**L**AST Friday the general manager and I attended a workshop held in Blayney with representatives of the Centroc councils to discuss the regional position in relation to the current review of Local Government being undertaken by an Independent Local Government Review Panel.

The Centroc member councils support the position of no forced amalgamations.

The Panel has issued a paper 'Better, Stronger Local Government - The Case for Sustainable Change'. The Panel is currently undertaking consultations and is scheduled to release its findings in April 2013. I am sure there will be suggestions for major changes in Local Government as a result of the review.

**■ ■ ■**  
ALONG with Councillor Gibbons, Councillor Evans and the general manager, I attended the Gurnang Life Challenge Graduation held at the Oberon Correctional Centre last Thursday.

There were eight graduates who all gave a short presentation outlining where they had come from and their goals for the future.

The ceremony was extremely moving and I was very impressed by the way the inmates shared their life experiences.

I wish them well for the future.

**■ ■ ■**  
I WAS pleased to attend the 113th Annual

Oberon Show held last weekend.

The Show was extremely successful, with a large number of displays and variety of entries in the different categories.

I would like to congratulate the volunteers who prepared the Showground, the grounds look a picture at the moment. Well done to all involved.

I also attended the luncheon held to meet the Miss Showgirl 2013 entrants. My congratulations go to Sarah Whelan who was crowned Miss Showgirl for 2013 and runner up Madeline Robinson. The entrants were all very well presented and certainly did themselves proud.

**■ ■ ■**  
THE Friends of the Oberon Library will host an event to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) on Friday, March 8 at the Robert Hooper Community Centre, starting at 6pm.

The event is sponsored by Oberon Council and all women in the Oberon LGA are invited to attend.

IWD is a global day held annually to celebrate the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future.

There will be keynote speakers, a photo display depicting 150 years of Oberon women, mementos of days past, and a quiz on historical women.

Guests are invited to bring along their own photos of their mother, grandmother, great grandmother or aunts.

A free supper will also be provided at the event. For further information please contact Kathy Sajowitz on 6336 0742 or email dietmar.sajowitz@bigpond.com or Bev Evans 6336 1119.

## CSG regulations strengthened



**Paul Tooie MP**  
Queensland Government

**I**HAVE consistently made representations in regards to the need for strengthening the regulations in relation to CSG operations and I welcome the announcement that the NSW Government has now taken into consideration the need to better protect our farmlands and waterways.

The establishment of exclusion zones will mean there is a greater level of adherence to protect the environment, including the protection of more than two million hectares of strategic agricultural land, an Aquifer Interference Policy to protect water resources and surface and

subsurface exclusion zones of two kilometres around residential zones and future residential growth areas.

**■ ■ ■**  
THE impact of drought in country areas is a subject that I can readily relate to. Over the years I have witnessed firsthand the cost to people's livelihoods and the far-reaching economic impacts.

I am pleased that there are now new measures to assist farmers prepare for and manage the impacts of drought. Despite previous drought policies, farm businesses and rural communities are constantly exposed to and threatened by the effects of seasonal conditions and previous policies have not helped farmers prepare for the risks they face.

This new policy will now provide support and assistance prior to and during drought periods.

**■ ■ ■**  
THE most recent survey of 24,403 secondary students aged 12-17 years shows that, by the age of 14 years, 90 per cent of Australian adolescents have tried alcohol.

A new online resource has been developed by the NSW Government to help students improve their awareness about alcohol, the law and potential risks and dangers. 'Out Tonight' Party Right utilises a range of teaching resources to teach young people about the impacts drinking can have on themselves, their friends, and on the community. Access the resource at [www.partyright.nsw.edu.au](http://www.partyright.nsw.edu.au)

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**EVERYDAY LUNCHEON** Special \$10

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**CASEY'S KARAOKE!**  
7PM TILL CLOSE

SATURDAY 23RD FEBRUARY...  
**AUDIO RIOT**  
NEW & OLD COVERS  
7:30PM TILL CLOSE

SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY...  
**STONEY BROKE** 2-5PM  
PLAYING ALL YOUR FAVOURITES

SATURDAY 23rd FEBRUARY...  
**DARTS SOCIAL CLUB**  
Register from 1pm

**NIGHTLY SPECIALS**

- Mon - Spare Ribs \$12.00
- Tue - Battered Fish \$10.00
- Wed - Silverside \$10.00
- Thu - T-Bone Steak \$12.00
- Fri - Lambs Fry \$10.00
- Sun Traditional Roast \$12.00

**THE REWARD REGULARS**

MON - WED 4-6pm

WED 6.30pm  
DRAW CHANCE TO WIN A CARTON OF BEER

**HAPPY HOUR!**  
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Jackpots from Sunday

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**WIN WIN WIN**

**KIA RIO - 3 DOOR**

**DETAILS IN CLUB**

**MUST BE A MEMBER TO ENTER**

**Weekly Draw**

**SUNDAY**

Members Badge Draw

**Raffles**

Jackpots from Friday

Tickets on sale from 5pm to be drawn at 6pm

**Country Rock Superhits Show**

**Saturday 2nd March**

Doors Open: 7.30pm for a 8pm start

Members \$20 Non-members \$30

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Fax: 6336 0082

For members & invited Guests

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