

**OFFICIAL REOPENING OF NAYLOR STREET BRIDGE, CARCOAR**

The Official Reopening of the Naylor Street bridge in Carcoar will be held on Friday 11 October 2013 commencing at 10.30am. This event will be followed by a sausage sizzle in Kurt Fernley Park.

**WOMEN'S FORUM – SHIFTING THE FOCUS**

A Women's Forum titled Shifting the Focus will be held at the Blayney Shire Community Centre on Tuesday 5 November 2013 at a cost of \$25.00 per person. Registration details can be found on Council's webpage [www.blayney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.blayney.nsw.gov.au).

**2014 BLAYNEY SHIRE MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP (DEADLINE EXTENDED)**

Blayney Shire Council in conjunction with Mitchell Conservatorium, Bathurst and Orange Regional Conservatorium, Orange are offering music tuition scholarships and encouragement awards for students aged between 7 and 18 years who live in the Blayney Shire and wish to further their music studies.

Application forms are available from Blayney Shire Council or can be downloaded from Council's website: [www.blayney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.blayney.nsw.gov.au)

The form must be returned fully completed by 18 October 2013. Applications attract a non-refundable entry fee of \$11.00. Late applications will NOT be accepted.

**2014 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS**

Members of the Blayney Shire community are invited to nominate persons whom they consider worthy of a 2014 Australia Day Award. There will be five categories which include:

- Citizen of the Year Award
- Young Citizen of the Year Award
- Community Event of the Year Award
- Volunteer of the Year Award
- Appreciation Award

Nominations must be submitted on the prescribed nomination form, which are available from Council's website: [www.blayney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.blayney.nsw.gov.au) or can be collected from Council's Office. Nominations must be received by Council no later than 4.30pm on Friday 29 November 2013.

**COUNCIL OFFICE REFURBISHMENT**

It is proposed that work will commence on the refurbishment on Friday 11 October 2013 and is expected to continue until mid December 2013. Access to Council services will be available throughout the refurbishment with some minor distribution to Council's customer service area and alternative arrangements will be made and signposted at Council's administration building. Council appreciates the community's understanding during this time and looks forward to the improved foyer area and service area of Council.

**KEEP UP | GET AHEAD | BACK OURSELVES**

Have your say on the future delivery of services in Blayney Shire.

As a community we need to decide how our future services will be funded.

Council is proposing permanent rate increases for six (6) years of 15% per annum (cumulative) to sustain funding of future services and to improve the asset backlog. Council will also consider two (2) lesser options with reduced levels of service.

Village meetings to discuss future services and funding will be held as follows:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	VENUE
Tuesday 15 October 2013	1.00pm	Blayney	Blayney Shire Community Centre
Tuesday 15 October 2013	5.30pm	Carcoar	Carcoar School of Arts
Wednesday 16 October 2013	3.30pm	Mandurama	Mandurama Public Hall
Wednesday 16 October 2013	6.30pm	Lyndhurst	Lyndhurst Soldiers Memorial Hall
Monday 21 October 2013	5.30pm	Barry	Barry Community Hall
Tuesday 22 October 201	6.30pm	Millthorpe	Millthorpe School of Arts
Wednesday 23 October 2013	3.30pm	Newbridge	Newbridge Village Hall
Wednesday 23 October 2013	5.30pm	Neville	Neville Public Hall
Thursday 24 October 2013	5.30pm	Blayney	Blayney Shire Community Centre

At each forum we will look at the results of the recent Blayney Shire Services Survey, discuss the township improvement plans; and the state of the Shire's infrastructure. You will then have the opportunity to tell us what you want.

Please come along to one of the forums, bring your family and friends.

RSVP advising which workshop and number in attendance to:  
email: [ourfuture@blayney.nsw.gov.nsw.au](mailto:ourfuture@blayney.nsw.gov.nsw.au) or telephone: 02 6368 2104

# Bush fire danger period is looming

The State member for Bathurst, Paul Toole, has urged Blayney shire residents to prepare for the bush fire season.

"I encourage all residents to look at ways in which they can prepare their homes and property for the bush fire danger period.

"With warm and dry conditions forecast to continue, it's important everyone understands and prepares for the increased risk this season. Those who don't live close to the bush are being reminded embers

from fires are able to travel great distances, putting them at risk."

Mr Toole said hazard reduction is also a vital tool in helping protect lives and homes, and this year alone over 140,000 properties across the State have been provided with protection from bush fires by hazard reduction work.

He advised residents to take the time this weekend to look around and prepare as a worthwhile investment in protecting you and your family.

# Anglican parish OK

It is business as usual for the Blayney Anglican parish despite the announcement this week that the Bathurst diocese accounts had been frozen by the Commonwealth Bank in an attempt to claw back a \$36M debt.

The general manager, diocesan administrative services, Graham Higham, who also lives in the Blayney district, said the bank accounts frozen were diocesan not parish accounts.

"Although the direct impact has been on the diocese's central operations, there have been ripple effects on parishes.

"For example ... no purchases can be placed on credit cards."

He said the diocese had made short-term

arrangements to ensure parish payments to the diocese were available - such as where a parish pays money to the diocese to pay their priest."

There are seven Anglican churches in the Blayney parish. Blayney parish reverend Ana Webster-Hawes said: "The parish accounts are not frozen - our parish is in good shape due to the hard work of many of our wonderful parishioners.

"We have been able to pay our bills and keep our noses about the water level.

"We are not on the Island of Blayney, however. We are part of the unity of the whole Anglican Diocese of Bathurst, and this is hurtful and threatening to us all," she said.

# New chair for Land Services body

By Clare Colley

The inaugural chair of the central tablelands Local Land Services (LLS), Ian Armstrong, says climate is the key challenge farmers face.

The former deputy premier, agriculture minister, and Cowra-based chair of the Lachlan Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has been involved with the land for the past 60 years.

He will now oversee an area spanning the Blayney shire as well as the council areas of Orange, Cabonne, Bathurst, Cowra, Oberon, Lithgow and Mid-Western Regional as the LLS chair.

Although the region takes in the catchments of three major rivers and has diverse agricultural production, he believes it is the right fit climatically and socially.

"There's always challenges for farmers because of the climate, it dictates 90 per cent of what a farmer does and the other thing is the economy," he said.

"That's where the LLS can help the farming community by having sustainability of the environment and of farming."

The decision to merge the 14 Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPA), 13 Catchment Management Authorities (CMA), and the Department of Primary Industries' advisory services into 11 Local Land Services

(LLS) area was met with concern by some.

But Mr Armstrong is confident the new "holistic" model will work.

"Otherwise I wouldn't have taken the position as chairman," he said.

He believes farmers will have more access to independent advice from agronomists and veterinarians without commercial interests.

"Control of pests and animal diseases is another important thing and that's where the department's involvement with the LLS is critical," he said.

He hopes to get more involvement from the Aboriginal community, building on their input into the Lachlan CMA, but his immediate priority will be to look at the outcome of this year's harvest.

"The tablelands area from Bathurst to Oberon is pretty dry for this time of year," he said.

"My first priority will be how we handle a better season, an average season and a poor season."

The CMA's system of giving each town a chance at hosting a meeting was another thing he hopes to replicate for the LLS.

Mr Armstrong said plans were yet to be drawn up about how the state government's \$35 million fund for the 11 LLS regions will be spent, but a reporting system will be in place to ensure it is managed to the best interests.

"There will still very much be a number of offices throughout the LLS area and the staff allocations will come out shortly," he said.

He and his fellow LLS chairs will officially takeover from January.

\* The Shadow Minister for Resources & Primary Industry, Steve Wan, has called on the community to send their comments on a new draft report from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) on the funding framework for Local Land Services NSW.

He said one of the "worrying" aspects of the draft was a suggestion of a transfer of funding responsibility from government to rural ratepayers.

"The draft report suggests a cost recovery framework which would bill the beneficiary of the service or the recipient followed by ratepayers and then as a last resort, the government.

"My concern is that this could see the default position being charges to ratepayers because of the difficulty in charging back to government," he said.

The draft also seeks to reduce the minimum block size for ratepayers from 10ha to 2ha; narrow the base for the pest insect levy which means inland NSW farmers could "bear the full cost of local plague response in future".

To view the report, visit [www.ipart.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au).

# Lots on at Lyndhurst

Lyndhurst will host two key events this month - a Country Women's Association afternoon tea and the market day and official opening of its multi-purpose court.

This Sunday, the Lyndhurst CWA and Memorial Hall Committee will host an afternoon tea in the hall from 2pm.

It will cost \$5 to enter and there will be homeware items on sale by Country Heartstrings.

Meanwhile, on 20 October, the Lyndhurst Soldiers' Memorial Hall and Village Committee Inc will run a massive event comprising annual market day,

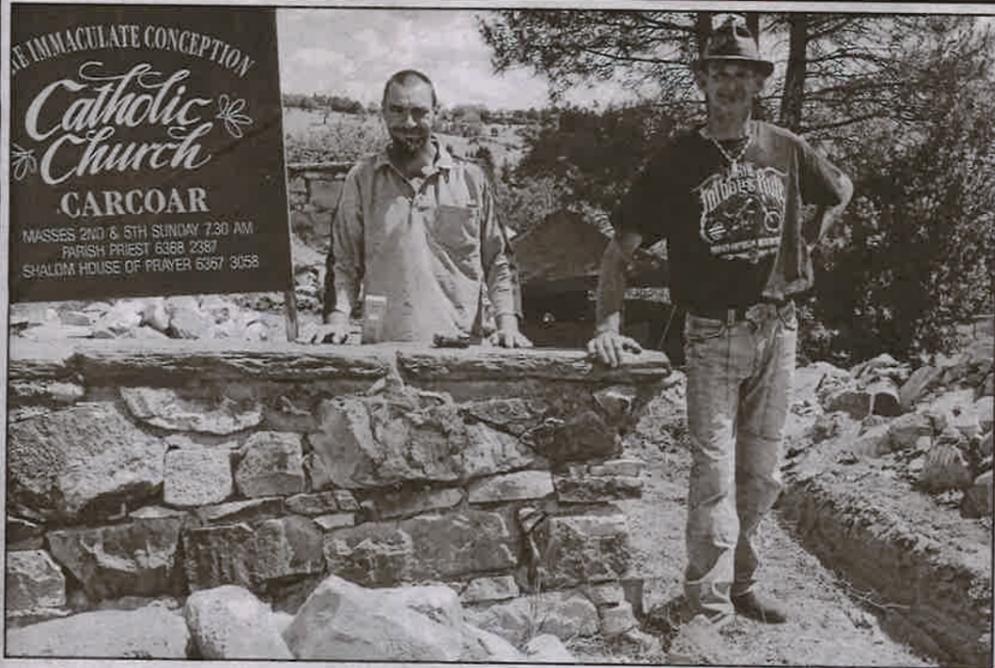
opening of the multi-purpose court and Rural Fire Service Open Day at the Lyndhurst Recreation ground from 8:30am.

Blayney mayor Scott Ferguson will open the court at 11am and the 35-piece Bathurst Carillon Showband will perform.

A BBQ lunch and refreshments will be available all day.

Other drawcards include a fire truck display, free giveaways, vintage and classic car as well as bike and engines display, local produce, trash and treasure on sale plus morning tea.

# Stone revival at Carcoar



Master stone masons, Craig Parker and Roni Van Damme of the Central Coast have undertaken the daunting task of rebuilding the stone wall at the Catholic church in Carcoar. Photo: Wayne Cock.

# Residents urged to do the right thing

As Blayney Shire gets set to spend up to \$100 on average per household on extra food and drink this Christmas, the National Packaging Covenant Industry Association (NPCIA) is warning residents not to let their good recycling habits slip over the festive period.

Australians spent around \$913 million on extra food at Christmas last year and with consumer confidence now at a three year high, it is expected that Blayney Shire residents will be buying, eating and drinking more than ever this year.

Australian residents have set an example to countries around the world when it came to recycling in 2013. In the last 12 months 64% of all packaging waste was recycled, including more than 2.9 million tonnes of bottles, cans, plastics and paper.

Stan Moore, CEO of NPCIA, the peak industry body for packaging, is encouraging Blayney Shire residents to spare a thought for what they are throwing in the bin after the festivities end.

Mr Moore said: "Christmas is a great time for celebrating with friends and family but all the indulging we do can leave quite a lot of food, drinks and paper around the house which if they aren't careful will end up in landfill.

"Many people aren't aware that the level of emissions generated by household food waste in landfill is similar to total emissions involved in the manufacture and supply of iron and steel in Australia.

"There are lots of little things Blayney Shire residents could do that will not only reduce their impact on the environment but also save a few pennies!"

Here are the NPCIA's five top tips for Blayney Shire residents for a "do the right thing" Christmas this year:

■ **Recycle Right** - It may sound simple but make sure

you put the right things in your home recycling bin. For example, plastic bags are the number one source of contamination in recycling and should be kept out of recycling bins.

■ **Reuse Wrapping Paper** - Look for recycled paper options or consider using old maps, newspapers or comics when wrapping up gifts. Maybe use a bow rather than paper for oversized gifts like bicycles. If the paper is damaged and can't be reused, make sure you put it in your household recycling bin. Over 90% of Australian households have access to kerbside recycling bins.

■ **Don't waste food scraps** - Save food scraps for Boxing Day sandwiches, just as good re-heated. And through all your leftovers scraps in a compost bin or work back feeding your garden as you know it.

■ **Dispose of your Christmas trees** - Christmas trees can be taken to a waste transfer station where they are separated into mulch which will reduce the soil and protects living Shire. You can also cut your own Christmas trees.

■ **Show your support for kerbside recycling** - Back this Christmas by signing to keep kerbside collections. Federal and State environment ministers are considering a proposal to introduce a national Container Deposit Levy (CDL) in Australia that could put pressure on councils to reduce or stop kerbside collections altogether. Have your say by completing a petition to be sent to your local state environment minister, Robyn Parker. [www.dotherightthing.com.au](http://www.dotherightthing.com.au)

# Neville history book underway

A descendant of the O'Brien clan from Neville is working on a history book about the village that "all the people of Neville, past and present will be proud of".

Phillip O'Brien has already written and published a book about the O'Briens, so his new book will expand well beyond just his relatives.

He's looking to write

and possibly self publish a 200-word history book by the end of next year.

Mr O'Brien has put out a call for "collections of historical information, photos and also family, sport, school and post office tales and more to include in the final release".

"I want to take my time and speak to as many people as I can," he said.

The first generation of

his family to live in the village was great great grandfather James Joseph O'Brien - he was there from most of his life 1863 to 1926 owning Mares Flat, and raising his own family of 13 children.

James O'Brien was also a magistrate at Carcoar.

His descendant Mr O'Brien said: "I'm told he was well known in Neville and he also used to carry the collection tin at the old Neville Catholic Church that was closed in the early 1970s.

"James was an infant when bushrangers used to frequent the Mares Flat property.

"The story is told that James' mother Ann left a pot of stew on the stove at all times for when bushrangers stopped in and a horse was never stolen," he said.

By day Phillip O'Brien is a journalist for Racing NSW, lives in Sydney and plans to move to Bathurst soon.

To contact him, email [pobracing@hotmail.com](mailto:pobracing@hotmail.com) or call 0416 202 977.



The author's great great grandfather, James Joseph O'Brien. Contributed photo

## Blayney Shire Council

### PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DOCUMENTS

IP&R documents including Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program including Asset, Workforce and Long Term Financial Plans are currently on Public Exhibition.

Residents can view the draft IP&R documents below and have their say online at [www.blayney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.blayney.nsw.gov.au) or can post their submission, addressed to the General Manager, to PO Box 62, Blayney, NSW, 2799.

Public submissions on the IP&R documents close on Wednesday 8 February 2014.

### CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The Blayney Shire Council Office and Depot will be closing at 12 noon on Friday 20 December, and re-opening on Monday 6 January 2014.

If there are any emergencies during this time please contact:

Engineering/Roads	0409 307 041
Ranger	0407 295 604
Sewerage	0428 287 509
Bush Fire	000
SES	132 500

Garbage Collection: No change to usual pickup.

Blayney Tip: Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day only.

GA Wilcox  
GENERAL MANAGER

PO Box 62  
BLAYNEY NSW 2799

FM2024110

# Be careful when sharing images online

A Charles Sturt University (CSU) researcher is urging parents and teenagers to make use of new resources to help young people make smart decisions about what they share online.

Dr Emma Rush said a series of guides released by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) provided useful information about cyber-bullying, social networking and sexting.

"Sexting describes the use of technology such as mobile phones and social media to share sexual photos or videos," Dr Rush said.

ACMA's Like, post, share report found that 13 per cent of 16-17 year olds reported that, within their group of friends, either they or someone else had sent sexually suggestive images.

Dr Rush said while this represents a small minority of young people, it's a practice that can have devastating and long-lasting consequences.

"Once an image is out of your control, things can very quickly become unsafe and distressing in a range of ways," she said. "As young people who have had images forwarded without their consent have quickly found out."

Dr Rush said research from the United Kingdom and the United States has found that the most common form of sexting amongst teens was between people who were not in a relationship, but where one of the parties hoped to be in a relationship with the person they were sharing the images with.

"Typically it is young women who are pressured to send a sexually explicit photograph, but it's a double edged sword. If they comply, they're branded as a slut; and if they don't, they're considered frigid," she said.

She said it was encouraging to see ACMA creating resources to help families deal with the challenges confronting young people in the digital environment.