



# Out & About

Volume 1

Issue 1

August 2009

Welcome to the first issue of **Out & About**. Out & About is my way of keeping you up to date with my activities as one of your elected representatives on Gundagai Shire Council and to give you my personal view on some of the issues facing our community.

## ANZAC GROVE

Congratulations to the RSL Gundagai Sub-Branch for the outstanding job done on enhancing the memorial. It was terrific to see so many turn up to the dedication services for the Walk of Honour and the Vietnam Memorial on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

## Tim Fischer Farewell



*Nationals Member for Riverina Kay Hull MP and Councillor William Maslin*

On the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008 I had the opportunity to farewell the Hon. Tim Fischer at a luncheon put on by the Friends of Togo at Lanigan Abbey Estate. Mr Fischer leaves Australia to take up his new post as the first resident Australian Ambassador to the Holy See.

Mr Fischer's appointment will see a focus on food security and inter-faith dialogue, which are very important in today's modern society as food demand increases and ever increasing instances of terrorism.

Mr Fischer also pointed out the importance of rail infrastructure in regional Australia as a cost effective means of moving freight across Australia and taking the burden off our regional roads.

## Visit to Beckom Public School

On the 11<sup>th</sup> November I visited Beckom Public School to brief students standing for the SRC, on how to run a successful election campaign. I provided examples of posters, flyers and advertising material which was used in my election campaign for the September 2008 Local Government Elections.

I was also quizzed by students on aspects of the Gundagai Shire Council such as Parks and Gardens, Recycling, Swimming Pools and the Library. This was a great opportunity for the students to gain an understanding as to how every Shire is different.

Earlier in the year the students spoke with Ms Armstrong, the Finance Manager for the Coolamon Shire Council. I got the impression that this is why the questions about the Gundagai Shire were very clever and sometimes difficult for a new Councillor to answer!



*Councillor William Maslin with the students from Beckom Public School*

## Meeting with Business People

On Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, I met with a small group of business owners from within the Shire.

The major topic of the meeting was the future of Gundagai and the direction in which we should be heading.

The meeting highlighted the need for the Main Street upgrade to be completed as soon as possible.

In the next few months we will see the completion of the Hume Highway duplication, with a fantastic highway going right past our door.

We need to tap into that by providing a pleasant visiting experience, an attractive Main Street for starters. This will lead to other projects such as business investment in the CBD and eventually to longer trading periods.

## Netball Courts

With regards to the development of Netball Courts at the old tennis court site in Gundagai, I have raised the concerns of the community with the Hon Kevin Greene MP, NSW Minister for Sport and Recreation.

I highlighted the economic benefits to the Gundagai community if the project was successful in gaining funding.

The NSW Department of Sport and Recreation did not provide a funding round for the Regional Sports Facility Program for the 2008-09 year.

At this point in time, the local netball club has received a number of generous pledges from local businesses and organisations.

I believe that the Gundagai Netball group has a lot of work to do and must come up with a plan that looks at the pros and cons of possible venues, funding options, level of community support and a written commitment from surrounding netball associations that they will support the proposed development.

## Youth BBQ

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2008 the Gundagai Regional Enhancement Group (GREG) held a BBQ to gauge the interest in a local youth project.

Some seven hundred invitations were sent out, with only some forty to fifty people turning up.

The general consensus was that the project be the development of a Skate Park.

## TV Reception

I have been receiving many reports of poor television reception or no digital reception at all from constituents in Gundagai.

If you are experiencing any difficulties, your first action should be to contact your local antenna installer and have your equipment checked. Your local antenna installer will be able to advise you as to whether your television problems are a result of your equipment, signal strength or environmental factors such as hills or interference from powerlines or your neighbour's equipment.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has publications, such as Better Television and Radio Reception, Identifying your interference problem and For better TV reception... consider digital which may assist you to diagnose your reception difficulties.

These publications are available from the ACMA website [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) or alternatively by contacting ACMA on 1300 850 115.

I have made representations to the broadcasters about the situation. This is part of the response I received from Prime Television:

*Unfortunately, Digital Television is not available in the Gundagai Township at present. If a viewer has the advantage of position and a sufficient antenna they can pick up the signal from Mount Ulandra.*

*At this stage we do not have the infrastructure in place to broadcast digital into Gundagai. We are addressing this as fast as we can with the imposing deadline of analogue closure. We have limited resources to be able to achieve this deadline but I can assure you that we are doing everything possible to deliver. Our team of engineers and outsourced technicians are covering as much of regional Australia as they possibly can.*

*Unfortunately, I cannot provide you with a firm date as to the availability of the digital signal in Gundagai. There are too many variables that could compromise that date. You will be suitably notified as we get nearer to the date, as by law, we have to advertise locally of our intention to transmit via a new frequency.*

## Supermarket Development

On the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009, Council approved the development application for the Supermarket and three specialty shops.

After much thought and research, I voted against the development application. It was not an easy decision to make but I had doubts about the quality of the reports after finding incorrect representations and statements that didn't have the facts or evidence to back them up and therefore their credibility was seriously in question.

Some extracts from my speech to the Chamber

*"Who fills the gaps in the main street if other businesses decide to move? - This is my greatest fear. The potential damage this development could create to the aesthetics of the current retail precinct. It is not a matter of competition. If the development was for over at South Gundagai – fine go for it, or, if the supermarket was proposed within the bounds of the current precinct – again, go for it."*

*"Mr Mayor, I believe that the proposed development will do some good for the community in the short term such as the creation of jobs with the construction and increased employment when the retail outlets are opened, but will it be sustainable in the longer term?"*

*"Sadly, I believe that the information that has been provided to me as a decision-maker is inadequate for the nature of the proposed development. Many of the claims by both parties have been made on assumptions or incorrect data and therefore the recommendations are a matter of personal pecuniary opinion rather than evidence based."*

If you would like to view the full version of my speech, it can be downloaded from the internet at [www.william.maslin.com.au](http://www.william.maslin.com.au).

**Help Cr Maslin deliver to the electorate by donating today! Visit [www.william.maslin.com.au/donate](http://www.william.maslin.com.au/donate) for details.**

## Trip to Bingara

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2009 I travelled to Bingara in northern NSW to check out the facilities at the venue where the 2008 National Motorhomes Rally was held.

While I was there, I was given a tour by the Gwydir Shire's General Manager, Max Eastcott. He said that the CMCA are a great group to work with. The CMCA sends down a professional team a week before the Rally that just gets on with the business of getting the site fit for the Rally. Mr Eastcott said at the end of the day; they were a great pleasure to have.

According to Mr Eastcott, the tourist dollars are still flowing into Bingara with many of the chapters of the CMCA returning to Bingara.

My report was presented to all of the Councillors in July 2009 and is available on my website at [www.william.maslin.com.au](http://www.william.maslin.com.au).

## Youth Council

The Gundagai Youth Council is up and running with two meetings under its belt. The Youth Council is made up of eleven youth members and five adult advisers.



Back L-R Meagan Ireland, Jess Reakes, Shannen Blundell, Brandon Dunlop, Jacob Warren and Nathan Maddern.

Front L-R Kimberly Bye, Daniel Stellyes, Krystal Dunlop, Alex Paton and Andrew Pigram.

At its July meeting, the Youth Council decided to take on the Skate Park as a project of the Youth Council and get the planning underway to establish how much the project will cost.

The Youth Council meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Council Chambers.

## Entrance Signage and Landscaping

Unfortunately due to the Global Financial Crisis having an impact on the finances of the Council, some big ticket spending items had to be cut from the 2009-10 budget.

One of the big ticket items was \$20,000 for entrance signage. Hopefully it can be reconsidered for 2010-11.

## Italian Connection Touring Assembly

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009 I gave the Civic Welcome address to the Italian Connection Touring Assembly.

The Assembly travels from Norton Street, Leichhardt to Lygon Street, Carlton with overnight stops at Gundagai and Myrtleford.

Using exciting and challenging roads, driving the Alpine passes, picturesque valleys, lush farmland and historic towns – the Italian Connection Rally encompasses them all.

The Assembly raises money along the way for charities, including Duchenne Foundation - raising money for research into Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

The Assembly was flagged away on Saturday morning which was followed with some laps around the Gundagai Business District.



1955 Fiat participates in the Motorkhana at Myrtleford, Victoria.

## Website Update



On the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2009, my electoral website underwent an update. For up-to-date information on my activities visit [www.william.maslin.com.au](http://www.william.maslin.com.au).

If you would like to get in contact with me, please use the form available on the Contact page. These details are sent directly to me.

A Polling feature will be added in the coming weeks allowing you to place a vote on issues that affect you!

## Become a Volunteer

Are you looking for work experience? Do you have a bit of spare time on your hands and would like to contribute to the electorate? Volunteers are always welcome to help Cr Maslin in the work of the Gundagai electorate.

Volunteer work is a great way to learn about your local community and government activities and issues.

The work can include helping with mail, letter drops, sorting files, photos or media clips, conducting surveys, and answering phones. There are many ways you can help Cr Maslin and his Electoral Office achieve for the community.

Contact Cr Maslin NOW and become an Electorate Volunteer!

*Disclaimer: The views expressed in Out & About are the personal views of William Maslin and do not purport to represent Gundagai Shire Council  
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