

Friday 29 July 2016

# Bland Shire Council Notices

## A challenging and rewarding role

**Bland Shire Council General Manager, Ray Smith, is encouraging more people, including women and young people, to stand for their community at this year's September Local Government elections.**

Mr Smith said a greater representation of candidates from all walks of life would not only strengthen Bland Shire Council but also ensure it has a greater voice for all ratepayers.

"Councillors have an important role to play in making decisions that respond to the changing needs of the community," Mr Smith said.

"Serving the local community as an elected Councillor is a challenging but rewarding role.

"It doesn't matter if you think you have experience in local government – if you are passionate about your local community and want to make a real difference then I encourage you to consider this opportunity and stand for your community".

A 2012 Office of Local Government report found women comprise only 27 per cent of Councillors and five Councils did not have any elected female representatives.

Sixty per cent of Councillors last elected in NSW were aged between 50 and 69 years of age, which is twice the proportion of people in that age range in the state's population.

"Our Councils should be a reflection of the people and communities they serve. However, across the state more than 70 per cent of Councillors are men and fewer than 20 per cent of Mayors are women," Mr Smith said.

"Bringing diverse views and experiences to decision making will ensure our local communities get the best solutions and outcomes."

The Office of Local Government has prepared a range of materials to assist prospective candidates in making an informed decision about standing for local government elections, which can be accessed at [www.olg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au)

There will also be an information session for prospective candidates being facilitated by Mr Smith at the Bland Shire Council Chambers this coming Monday 1 August commencing at 6pm.

Nominations to become a Councillor open on Monday 1 August 2016 and close at noon on Wednesday 10 August.

### Backyard Fruit Tree Care & Pruning Workshops

Winter is the time to get your fruit trees into shape for the coming growing season. Whether your fruit trees are a little wayward and in need of some TLC but you have no idea where to start, or you'd simply like to improve your pruning techniques then head along to one of these workshops. If you're someone considering establishing a backyard orchard of your own, then this would be a great introduction into taking care of it.

Presented by Nicholas Gerhard from Soil by Design

(Nicholas' qualifications include permaculture design, market gardening & holistic management amongst many others)

The workshop will cover:

- Overview of soil biology and how it affects the tree's viability
- Preparing the ground for new tree planting
- Hard and light fruit tree pruning
- Introduction to fruit tree grafting
- Fruit fly awareness and management strategies

West Wyalong – Sunday 14th August (rsvp Thurs 11th August)

Workshops run from 10am until 1pm Cost is \$10 per person

Light lunch/refreshments provided

Places are limited so reserve your spot by contacting Megan Harris at

[blandtemora@lachlandcare.org.au](mailto:blandtemora@lachlandcare.org.au) or phone 0499 199 076



Lake Cowal Foundation



### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTION

SATURDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER 2016



#### Thinking of nominating as a candidate for your local Council?

If you are considering nominating you should read this notice. As a candidate you have certain obligations and responsibilities under law. Check the website [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) for further details.

#### How to nominate for election as a Councillor

To nominate as a Councillor, you must lodge a nomination form and \$125 nomination deposit with the Returning Officer from Monday, 1st August to 12 noon Wednesday, 10th August 2016.

#### Where do I get a nomination form?

Nomination forms and other important nomination and electoral information are available from the Returning Officer or from the New South Wales Electoral Commission website: [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info)

**Candidate Information sheets:** Every candidate is required to lodge a candidate information sheet with their nomination.

**Grouping of candidates and group voting squares:** Two or more candidates may form a group. A group may, in certain circumstances, request a group voting square on the ballot paper. A request to form a group and have a group voting square on the ballot paper must be lodged with the Returning Officer by 12 noon Wednesday, 10th August 2016. See [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) for the publication 'Handbook for Parties, Groups, Candidates and Scrutineers - Local Government Elections' for more details.

#### Where and when to nominate

Your nomination form and deposit must be lodged with the Returning Officer at Cowra Region Returning Officer's Office, 137 Kendal Street, Cowra NSW 2794. Nominations for councils that do not have the Returning Office located within the council area will be received at the relevant council office. Visit the website [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) for further details. Nominations will be accepted during business hours from 8:30am Monday, 1st August 2016 to 12 noon Wednesday, 10th August 2016.

Nomination enquiries should be directed to the **Candidate Helpdesk: 1300 088 942**

#### Returning Officer details

ROSS BAKER

Cowra Region Returning Officer's Office, 137 Kendal Street, Cowra NSW 2794

Information: [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) or 1300 135 736

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service 13 14 50

For hearing and speech impaired enquiries, call us via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77



### Bland Shire Council - Prospective Councillor Candidates Forum Monday 1 August

#### Bland Shire Council Chambers at 6pm

A forum specifically aimed at candidates for Bland Shire Council to be conducted by Bland Shire Council General Manager, Ray Smith.

Topics to be covered include -

- Council Meetings
- Council Workshops
- Council Business Papers
- The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IP & R)
- Council's Community Strategic Plan
- Council's Organisation Structure
- Council's Advisory Committees
- Council delegates to external bodies
- Facilities and expenses policy for councillors

For further information please phone Executive Assistant Julie Sharpe on 6972 2266.

Office Hours: 8.30am - 5pm Monday to Friday

Library Hours: 10am-5pm Monday to Friday & 8.30am - 12noon Saturday

Phone: 026972 2266 Email: [council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au)

EMERGENCY NUMBERS - Council 0418 402 350,

Goldenfields Water 1800 800 917, Fire 000

