

Time to recognise some local heroes



Federal politics

John Cobb

IN light of Anzac Day's approach and as part of the Commonwealth Government's Saluting Their Service Program, we are calling on the people of Calare to nominate local heroes for a certificate of appreciation from the Prime Minister, the Minister for Veterans Affairs and myself.

These certificates are a means of expressing the gratitude of the nation, and of Calare, to those who served in the defence forces or on the home front in the Second World War, or in wars, conflicts or peacekeeping operations since 1945.

Individuals can nominate themselves, friends or family who have served in eligible wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Deceased eligible persons can also be nominated by family members.

Application forms are available from http://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/dva_forms/D0755.pdf.

Guidelines for applicants are also available at <http://www.dva.gov.au/commemorations-memorials-and-war-graves/honours-medals-and-awards>.

Nominations will close at 5pm on April 1, 2016.

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LOCAL organisations that need support to preserve and conserve our Australian heritage are invited to apply for a Community Heritage Grant.

The program provides grants of up to \$15,000

each to help organisations preserve and maintain nationally significant cultural heritage collections.

In Calare we are home to some of the oldest towns in regional Australia. We have a vibrant history that forms an important part of our national story.

Local libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, indigenous groups and migrant community groups with a significant historical collection may be eligible for funding.

All those not-for-profit organisations with heritage responsibilities at a local level in Calare should apply for a grant.

These grants provide both funding for conservation projects and access to expertise from highly experienced professionals in our national collecting institutions.

The 2016 Community Heritage Grants Program is managed by the National Library, in conjunction with the National Archives of Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive and the National Museum of Australia.

Applications close May 9, 2016 and can be submitted online at www.nla.gov.au/chg.

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A LONG week in Canberra paid off with the Government's Senate voting reform bill finally passing through the parliament.

The reforms are about ensuring that every individual's vote goes where they intend it to and that your vote cannot be hijacked through deals done between groups.

The reforms include the introduction of optional preferential above-the-line voting, with advice to the voter on the ballot paper to vote above the line by numbering at least six of the boxes in the order of the voter's choice (with the number one as the voter's first choice).



END: The bushfire season will soon come to an end. The district has seen some nasty blazes in recent years, including this one in early 2014.

Vigilance urged even as the bushfire season ends

THE bushfire danger period within the Chifley/Lithgow Team area will come to an end on April 1.

The NSW Rural Fire Service said that from Friday, April 1, fire permits will no longer be required for the Oberon, Bathurst and Lithgow local government areas for standard pile burns and agricultural burns.

NSW RFS Superintendent Greg Wardle said all members of the public must still abide by the law when conducting hazard reduction burns.

"Penalties still apply for failing to notify neighbours that you are lighting a fire and for allowing fires to escape," he said.

"Even though the weather is cooling down, there is still the

potential for fires to threaten life, property and the environment.

"We encourage people to seek advice from their local NSW RFS Fire Control Centre on how to safely conduct hazard reduction activities such as slashing, trittering and burning, and how to prepare their homes for the next bushfire season."

To notify an intention to burn or arrange a Bushfire Hazard Reduction Certificate, contact Oberon Fire Control Centre on 6336 0493.

Although fire permits are no longer required, property owners in Bathurst Regional Council and Lithgow City Council areas must still ensure they abide by the open burning policy issued by their council.

Borg Panels Expansion Project

Community Consultation Forum

Oberon Community Centre - 31 March 2016, 1:30 - 5:30pm

The Oberon Panels Particle Board project represents a significant investment in the region, enabling the expansion of the existing facility and the size of the workforce. Since the December 2015 announcement Borg Panels has continued to progress the planning stages of its expansion.

Attending the community forum will be Borg CEO Jim Snelson, Plant Manager Greg Muir and Regulatory Manager Victor Bendevski to outline the proposed expansion and answer questions in relation to plan.

We look forward to your attendance.

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P A N E L S

