

COUNTRY LABOR DIALOGUE

CONNECTING COUNTRY COMMUNITIES - OCTOBER 2016

Big swing to Country Labor in council elections

Country Labor candidates across the state have been elected to councils that have been National and Liberal strongholds for decades, as part of a statewide local government swing towards Labor.

The Baird-Grant plan to amalgamate councils and underfund local services has alienated voters across the state, leading to many people voting Labor for the first time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SUCCESSFUL LABOR CANDIDATES:



Jay Suvaal writes...



Thanks to all the candidates, successful and unsuccessful, for the effort they have put into winning council seats for Country Labor. Your hard work and effort is much appreciated.

It was great to join Bathurst Branch at the Light on the Hill Dinner, which has again packed the room in Bathurst's Panthers Club with true believers. Don Watson, speechwriter for Paul Keating, gave a great oration. It was a wonderful event, and congratulations to the branch members who made it possible.

Currently, Country Labor is focused on winning the Orange By-election. It's a seat we haven't held in decades, but the Nationals have made themselves very difficult to vote for, and we're putting everything we've got into giving them a wake-up call.

Work is well underway for this December's Country Conference. We're building on the successes of conferences in previous years, like the workshops and training sessions, to make this year's conference as engaging and worthwhile as we can.

Jay Suvaal
NSW COUNTRY ORGANISER

COUNCIL	SUCCESSFUL COUNCILLORS
Albury	Darren Cameron
Broken Hill	Darriea Turley (Mayor) + Councillors Marion Browne, Jim Nolan, Branko Licul and Maureen Clark
Byron Shire	Paul Spooner, Jan Hackett
Cessnock	Bob Pynsent (Mayor) + Councillors Mark Lyons, Jay Suvaal, Di Fitzgibbon, Melanie Dagg, Anne Sander, Darrin Gray and Anthony Burke
Lismore	Isaac Smith (Mayor) + Councillors Darlene Cook and Edwina Lloyd
Nambucca	Susan Jenvey
Port-Macquarie Hastings	Peter Alley
Shoalhaven	Annette Alldrick
Singleton	Tony Jarrett
Upper Hunter	Josh Brown
Wagga Wagga	Dan Hayes and Vanessa Keenan
Wingecarribee	Graham McLaughlin

Coming Events

- ▶ **7 OCTOBER 2016**
Policy and Country Conference Agenda items due Party Office
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- ▶ **12 NOVEMBER 2016**
Orange By-Election. Volunteer on the campaign here: www.countrylabor.com.au/orange_volunteer
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- ▶ **2-4 DECEMBER 2016**
Country Conference Dubbo, Dubbo RSL Club. Register as an observer here: www.countrylabor.com.au/conference_2016
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- ▶ **3 DECEMBER 2016**
Country Conference Dinner. Book here: www.countrylabor.com.au/conference_2016_dinner
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- ▶ **7 DECEMBER 2016**
Country Labor Christmas Trivia. 6pm, Trades Hall Atrium, 377 Sussex St, Haymarket, Sydney. RSVP: www.countrylabor.com.au/cpb_christmas_trivia

To see all upcoming Country Labor events visit countrylabor.com.au/events

If you have an event you would like to promote to other Country Labor members please email it to jay@nswlabor.org.au

Orange By-Election Report

BERNARD FITZSIMON

COUNTRY LABOR CANDIDATE

Country Labor has been gifted an opportunity by the National Party in the electorate of Orange. There has never been such a perfect storm for us.



It is not only recent developments that have the electors in this area looking for change. It's the sense that the Nationals have given up on fighting for what this area needs.

When I talk to people in Orange, they tell me they're furious at the Nationals for closing down the greyhound industry and amalgamating Cabonne Shire Council with Orange City Council. When I'm talking to people with experience of Orange Hospital, they tell me that the Nationals have underfunded the hospital for decades.

Young people in Orange tell me there are no jobs in the area, with the closure of the Electrolux whitegoods factory and the downsizing of the Cadia Ridgeway mine. This area has one of the worst rates of youth unemployment in the state, and local residents have no hope that the National Party will make it better.

Worse, National Party cuts to TAFE mean they can't afford to reskill for new opportunities.

The big myth of the National Party is that while they're in Coalition with the Liberals, they claim stand up for country people and rural communities, but we all know it's false and that they just roll over and vote with the Liberals every time. The last few months have shown what's really been happening for years: the Nationals are nothing more than a puppet for the Liberals, with no opportunities to stand up to them on policies that matter.

But while the polls show that the Nationals are down to a primary vote as low as 34.6%, Country Labor has an enormous challenge in front of us.

We have only a matter of weeks to demonstrate to the people of Orange not only that they need to vote out the Nationals, but that they need to vote Labor in. We need to get our message out there that what Orange needs isn't just a protest vote for the Shooters or an Independent, but a completely new, progressive voice that will fight for the issues that the Nationals have neglected: hospitals, TAFE, and good local jobs.

And that's why I need your help.

I'll be honest here. The Country Labor Party in Orange is the same size it is in many other country towns. We need to all pull together to do the impossible and win this seat.

If you have any money or time that you want to put to a very good use, I can use it. Visit www.countrylabor.com.au/orange_donate and donate today. Your \$5, or \$10, or even \$50 donation will go a long way to helping us defeat the Nationals.

Together, we can make a real difference.



Barnaby Joyce caught out pork-barrelling his electorate

Federal Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce has been slammed by three different agriculture bodies this month after greenlighting the unnecessary relocation of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) to Armidale in his own electorate.



The National Farmers Federation, CropLife, and Animal Medicines Australia have all condemned the move as a waste of money and

a massive disruption to the industry.

While the move will have some positive effects inside the safe National electorate of New England, only 7 of the agency's 85 expert regulatory scientists are willing to relocate to Armidale from its current location in Canberra, leading to a massive gap in the agency's experience and skills.

Croplife Australia, the peak organisation for plant science, says this outflow of personnel will have a "significant negative impact on

national agricultural productivity."

Mr Joyce had commissioned a \$272,000 cost-benefit analysis of the move, but is going ahead with the relocation regardless of the damning results.

He has even admitted on Sky News that "If you're going to premise it on the cost-benefit analysis, we wouldn't do it."

Regional hospitals

The Baird-Grant government has responded to the crisis-laden NSW hospital system by a shock plan to privatise five hospitals outside of Sydney, including three in rural NSW.

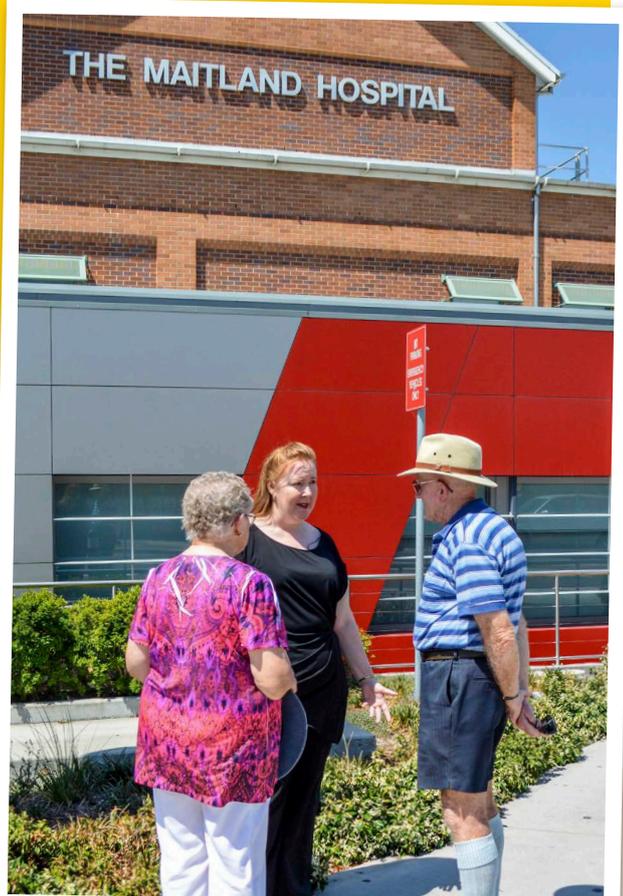
The Maitland, Wyong, Goulburn and Shellharbour hospitals will be partnered with non-government operators for building upgrades, while the Bowral hospital will have its services outsourced to the lowest bidder.

With this plan, the Liberals and Nationals are forgetting history. When the Port Macquarie Hospital was privatised, the independent auditor-general reported that there was a huge misuse of taxpayers money. The hospital was bought back by the state's taxpayers at a bill of \$80 million.

We can't let Mike Baird, Troy Grant, and Jillian Skinner go down this path.

Please sign our petition at www.nswlabor.org.au/hospitals to lend your voice to our fight.

UNDER THREAT



Country Conference – December in Dubbo

Join Country Labor at its annual Country Conference in December. The Conference will feature hundreds of delegates from across New South Wales discussing issues directly relevant to country people.



Bill Shorten speaking at the last Country Conference.

The format includes an afternoon of Campaign Insight training, a day of workshops and policy development, and policy debate at conference, with guest speeches from key figures in the State and Federal Labor Party.



Country Conference is always a great place to catch up with old friends.

More information is available at www.countrylabor.org.au/conference_2016 or contact NSW Country Organiser Jay Suvaal on (02) 9207 2000 or email Jay@nswlabor.org.au



Bluey Rodwell Award nominations open

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE BLUEY RODWELL AWARD FOR 2016.

The Bluey Rodwell Award is presented at Country Conference each year to a Country Labor Member who has performed meritorious service to Country Labor.

Nominees must be nominated by a Party Unit or an Affiliated Union and have at least three years continuous Party membership. Public Office Holders (except Local Government Councillors) and Life Members are not eligible to receive the Award.

For more information, or to receive a complete nomination form, please email Jay@nswlabor.org.au

Do you have a story or a photo for Country Labor Dialogue?

Email your story and photos to jay@nswlabor.org.au