

NSW Local Land Services Central Tablelands Region

2017 Local Board Member Election (3 to be Elected)

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SINCLAIR, Howard R

Qualification:

Associate Diploma in Farm Management

I have lived near Newbridge on a family farm for the last 42 years and in the Bathurst area all my life. I have operated a prime lamb and beef cattle enterprise on 740ha for 30 years.

I was a Director of the Central Tablelands Rural Lands Protection Board, holding this position from 2007 until December 2008 and thence a director of the Tablelands Livestock Health and Pest Authority.

In the early 1980's I worked for the Brucellosis Eradication Scheme and as part of this role have visited a lot of properties in the area. I know the district and its landholders well.

I have had involvement with the Grassland Society of NSW at both district and state level. I was the inaugural chair of the Central Tablelands Sustainable Grazing Systems program run by MLA.

From 1994 to 2008, I managed a long-term grazing trial for the Department of Primary Industry. A final large report was formulated by the Department collating results of the trial over the thirteen year period.

I was a member of Bathurst Apex Club for over ten years. I was on the Executive of Bathurst Region Eats& Drinks (Bre&d).

In conjunction with my wife I managed the Bathurst Region Farmers' Market for several years.

I read widely and have an extensive knowledge of agriculture; its problems, challenges and successes.

I wish to draw upon my expertise as a professional primary producer to represent the needs of all landholders in the Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

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GAY, Barry

A third generation farmer in the Boorowa/Cowra/Woodstock area, I have been married to Penelope for more than 40 years and have three children who all live in the area: Sarah, a doctor in Cowra; Annabel who has two young sons; and Nicholas who moved home a few years ago to take over the family farm after working in agricultural business for several years.

I have survived and been involved in agriculture all my life, particularly in wool, lambs and cattle.

I have served with the Rural Fire Service for 51 years, the last 12 as Captain of our local brigade and my wife and I belong to the local Landcare Group as founding members – it is one of the few still in existence in our area.

At present I own and run property at Woodstock and a small place west of Cowra.

For the last three years I served on the South East LLS Board for a full term as an elected Director so I have firsthand experience working on a new board and dealing with some of the complications that can arise.

I am standing for the Central Tablelands LLS because I have moved out of the South East region and my farming efforts are now more closely aligned with the Central Tablelands region.

I strongly believe that the Central Tablelands has both weeds and feral pests problems and, should I be elected to the LLS, these are areas I am determined to focus on. People controlling their own weeds are fed up with those who refuse to take action, finding themselves in a vicious cycle of re-infestation and if we are to reasonably care for our environment we need to address the problem of the region's huge population of kangaroos, as well as other feral pests.

The government hasn't yet decided which direction it's taking in regards to weeds and feral pests – but we can't afford to wait as it's our livelihoods that are affected.

More power should be given to our weeds and feral pest officers to either assist those who seek help or prosecute those who don't address these problems.

As part of the LLS I would continually fight to keep the costs to ratepayers as low as possible – after running a farm all my life, I understand the importance of this.

I believe landholders need less bureaucratic involvement, as farming families are being restricted by excessive red tape. Rather, I'd like to see more hands-on help to landholders.

Family farms mean a lot to me. They remain the most economical producers so we must try to help them wherever possible and encourage more young people back to the bush to ensure the sustainability of local communities.

I would like the opportunity to give something back to agriculture and direct my efforts into the LLS to help our primary producers – they are so precious to Australia.

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LOWE, John Frederic

Current Positions:

Board Member Central Tablelands Local Land Services.
Member LLS Cross Regional Team for Response to Pest Animals.
Grazier and Managing Partner "Lowther Park".

STATEMENT

Key issues:

John has already helped LLS find practical answers to some of the big issues confronting our region. He seeks to continue as a clear voice for local landholders on the Central Tablelands Local Land Services Board, which he joined in 2014.

Potential biosecurity threats to agricultural properties, eradication and mitigation strategies are John's highest priority for LLS. At the same time, he is promoting a whole-of-community approach for effective, long term results.

Sharing local knowledge and community networks, John has urged a level-headed strategic planning approach and transparent financial accountability to build trust in the corporate governance of LLS.

John has the experience and passion to voice and protect farmers' interests. For example, he helped create a strategic Foxes, Wild Dogs and Wild Pigs control program and now sits on cross regional teams addressing the issue of feral animals and other complex issues at a state level.

Industry Service:

Serving the rural land sector over the last two decades, John has worked regional bodies to improve knowledge and provide support to the farming community, including the Sustainable Grazing Systems Programme (MLA), Coxs River Catchment Management Committee and Water Management Committee; the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority and has had the role of Chairman' for NSW Farmers at the branch, district and regional level.

John has hosted numerous field days run by LHPA, DPI and HNCMA to build expertise in land-user communities. He analyses social and economic impacts of key policies and drives change across issues such as improving soils and pasture management, management of agricultural land and native vegetation, feral animal and weed control, water supply sustainability and biosecurity.

Using his strong working relationships with Regional LLS, NPWS and Forestry Corporation staff, John has also instigated a number of community-based meetings with landholders, NPWS and State Forests to address feral animal control, using the principles of nil tenure in a co-operative atmosphere without recrimination.

Professional Career:

As managing partner of “Lowther Park”; a prime lamb and beef cattle enterprise located between Lithgow and Oberon, John put the family business onto a significant growth path. The business focusses on maximising the longevity of the land by best practice pasture and animal management.

Sharing extensive knowledge and training in biosecurity management, John completed training with Animal Health Australia as an Industry Liaison Officer in the Event of Biosecurity Emergencies. He is also in regular contact with the district Veterinarian in regard to potential herd disease issues.

John has a number of management qualifications including an Advanced Diploma in Farm Management (University of Sydney) and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

John empathises with fellow farmers on the many daily challenges. He passionately believes that sharing knowledge and resources is absolutely crucial to protecting the agricultural business enterprise; on the farm, in the markets and as part of our complex communities.

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STUART, John

Occupation:

Self-employed accountant

Qualifications:

Associate Diploma in Local Government Administration, Mitchell College now CSU Bathurst

Employment Experience:

Blayney Abattoir County Council: Accounts Clerk 1974-1980

Orange City Council: Expenditure Accountant 1980-1983

Wollondilly Shire Council: Assistant Accountant 1983-1985

Wollondilly Shire Council: Deputy Shire Clerk 1985-1993

Moss Vale Rural Lands Protection: Chief Administration Officer 1994-1999

Self Employed Accountant: Financial and Administrative Services to Local Government and Aboriginal Corporations & Communities (NT) 1999-present

Memberships/positions held:

Treasurer Cudgegong Cruisers Inc – Motoring Enthusiasts Club Mudgee

Expertise, knowledge/skills:

Audit, financial control and reporting:

Have prepared in excess of 150 sets of financial statements (General Purpose and Special Purpose Financial Statements) for local councils, aboriginal corporations and communities in New South Wales and the Northern Territory. Preparation of annual budgets for various councils in NSW.

Leadership, Strategic Planning and management:

Held a number of senior positions in local government including deputy shire clerk Wollondilly Shire Council (now generally known as director of corporate services), chief administrative officer Moss Vale Rural Lands Protection Board. In these roles required to prepare strategic plans and annual budgets and management of 30 plus staff. Appointed Public Officer and responsible for corporate governance in the positions.

Community Participation:

Through local council rating subcommittee, Community Strategic Planning forums and Cudgegong Cruisers fund raising for Can Assist and other charities.

Working with Aboriginal groups and communities and local government:

Worked for Pitjantjatjara Council and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Services at Alice Springs over a nine year period from 2001-2009, providing financial services to in excess of 40 aboriginal communities in the NT and South Australia including Daguragu (Kalkarindji) Community Government Council. This community is the location where the Wave Hill walk-off took place. Considerable experience and involvement with local government working in this field for the majority of my working life.

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BLORE, Peter William

Peter Blore is offering himself as a candidate for election to the Board of the Local Land Services Central Tablelands region.

Peter meets the requirements of the relevant regulations having experience most areas required including, leadership, strategic planning and management, audit, financial control reporting and risk management, primary industries or providing services to support this sector, contemporary biosecurity programs in animal and plant health, pest and weed management, and emergency management, especially biosecurity and natural disaster emergencies.

Peter is experienced and qualified to help the LSS Board lead the LLS staff team in the continued development of this essential service for the farming and rural community

Peter is a retired public servant whose formal qualifications include Bachelor of Business (Human Resources and Industrial Relations) CSU, and he has post graduate certificate in Management. Peter is an experienced manager of an extensive portfolio of rural enterprises working cooperatively with research and other internal clients providing facilities whilst ensuring the viability of the various farming operations.

Peter is an experienced public administrator having worked general administration, and in positions with The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Primary Industries as the Employee Relations Manager, working in Executive Support, as he Manager Occupations Health and Safety and latterly for over 10 years as the Manager Asset Support Services.

As Manager Asset Support Services, he was responsible for the commercial management of the 25 DPI research stations across NSW covering industries including Horticulture, Dairy, Cropping, Sheep and Beef enterprises. He was responsible for over 210 employees managed by 19 Managers as direct reports. The gross budget was over \$32m, including \$7m trading account for livestock and fodder businesses, including all costs of production and all sales income. He was responsible for the strategic planning, finance, staff, capital works, OHS and resource management. Peter was part of the DPI Emergency Response Team working on disease out breaks in both logistics and with the Executive during the Avian Influenza Outbreak.

He has a vision and belief in the success of an organisation being empowered by the management and staff. He believes the Board should lead and direct the staff to build and establish confidence in ratepayers, investors and the community to deliver the best services possible.

Peter will bring to the board a range of skills and experience including a strong commitment to advancing agricultural enterprises in the region while considering the careful management of natural resources. He has a background management, staff management and industrial relations along with experience in and a commitment to OH&S.

He has a significant understanding governance, audit, safety, budgeting, staff management including performance management and relevant procedural requirements of process and fairness.

Peter grew up in the far west of the state, hailing from a sheep property at Tibooburra he now lives on a small acreage on the outskirts of Orange.

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BENNETT, Fiona Louise

Qualifications:

Australian Institute of Company Directors Course, 2015

Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Verto, 2012

GST and Payroll units, DeakinPrime 2012

Public Practice Certificate, ASCPA 1996

Company Secretarial Practice Certificate,
Chartered Institute of Company Secretaries, 1996

Australian Society of CPAs, 1993

Bachelor of Business

Major in Finance & Economics

Major in Accounting

University of Technology, Sydney, 1990

Current Positions:

Deputy Chair, Select Encompass Credit Union Ltd

Board member, Western NSW Local Health District

Teacher Assistant, Assumption Primary School

Statement:

My background and areas of expertise are in finance, accounting, and risk management, all areas with a strong focus on governance and compliance. I am very interested in the health of my region and its environment.

In 2011 we moved from Sydney to a farm between Bathurst and Orange. I work part time in Bathurst and have the time, energy and commitment to act as a director.

My key qualifications and experiences which make me well placed to contribute strongly to the Central Tablelands LLS Board are:

- a. Over 20 years experience in accounting, financial control and board reporting, mostly with CSR Limited in Sydney
- b. Current Deputy Chair of Select Encompass Credit Union, a public unlisted financial institution with over \$600 million in assets and 30,000 members. Credit Unions have a strong community focus, being member owned, for the benefit of members, not external shareholders, and usually linked to the communities in which they operate.

My responsibilities as a director of Select Encompass Credit Union cover many of the same responsibilities that would be needed by the Central Tablelands LLS board including reporting to the stakeholders/landholders the strategic and financial progress of the organisation; balancing costs, benefits and equity of various programmes; analysing current performance of the organisation; and ensuring compliance with policies and regulations.

- c. Graduate Member of Australian Institute of Company Directors
- d. Bachelor of Business degree and CPA
- e. Resident of and primary producer in the Bathurst/Orange area with various connections to the community.
- f. Member Western NSW Local Health District board

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CLAPHAM, Mitchell

My wife and I are currently run a mixed grazing operation covering 1840 hectares, south east of Mudgee on the Central Tablelands of NSW.

Comprising fine wool, beef production and dairy heifer backgrounding. The property borders the Windamere Dam foreshores to our north which is managed by State Water and to our east we have the Clandulla State Forest with weed and wild dog incursions a major problem.

I have previously served on Local Government and Central West Catchment Management Board and have maintained an active interest in noxious weed management serving as a farmer representative on Mid-Western Regional Council Weeds Advisory Committee and NSW/ACT Serrated Tussock Working Party.

Since 1990 I have also maintained and active interest in rural issues serving NSW Farmers Association at a Branch and District level. Elected to NSW Farmers Association Executive Council in 2013 and Board of Management in 2014. Currently serve on the NSW Farmers Biosecurity Committee and the Conservation & Resource Management Committee as Chairman.

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BOWMAN, Wendy

The Central Tablelands has always been home to Wendy Bowman and for the last 20 years a place of work and business. After an earlier career in Sales and Marketing, Wendy returned to run her family's beef cattle property at Canowindra. Wendy sees farming, as not only within the boundary fence, but beyond to a whole community enterprise.

She now lives with her husband Rob at Cargo, Rob, predominately runs their farm at Cargo, where the focus is on prime lambs and cropping. Wendy commutes to her family's Canowindra beef cattle property on a daily basis.

Wendy runs her grazing operation using a mix of principals learned from achieving an Advanced Diploma in Farm Management from The University of Sydney's Orange Campus, Holistic Resource Management, Farming for Profit and Pro-Graze courses.

Today's agriculture is not just about production and profit but also managing the natural resources while being jointly responsible for the integrity of the industry and the product you produce. Wendy believes the focus should be on regenerative style agriculture with soil health at the centre. To manage our grasslands to enable carbon sequestration and maximise it's water holding capacity while reducing the reliance on costly inputs. It is also important to maintain the LLS's traditional roles of weeds, bio-security and emergency management.

Wendy brings with her a practical, commercial approach and a passion for agriculture, the environment and the Central Tablelands. She is keen to work as part of the CTLLS team to create a positive future direction for this important organization.

Positions Held:

Current member of the Central Tablelands LLS Agricultural Advisory Group

Current committee member for the Canowindra Showground Trust

Current Secretary/Treasurer of the Walli Bushfire Brigade

Current board member of the Mid-Lachlan Landcare's *Growing the Grazing Revolution* project.

Immediate past president and current committee member and player of the Canowindra Squash Club

A past president and committee member of the Cowra Picnic Race Club

A past president and committee member of the Midwest Angus Association

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BRUCE, Donald Sage

Occupation:

Retired Farm owner now Farm Hand

Qualifications:

Diploma of Conservation and Land Management RTD50102
Certificate of Completion Rural Mental Health
Advanced First Aid
Wool Classer
NSW Firearm Safety Officer No.490

Employment Experience:

46 years in farming and grazing
Have been a part time Landcare Coordinator.
Have been Salt officer with Little River Landcare

Membership or positions held in any organisation:

Cumnock show President
Life time member Cumnock Progress: Secretary; President
NSW Farmers Molong Branch: Secretary / Treasurer
Member of organizing committee National PUR\$L conference
Little River Landcare Group. Vice Chairman and acting chair at this time
NSW Landcare councillor National Resource Management Advisory Group CT LLS
Cumnock Rural Fire Service President
Molong Baptist Church Deacon

Other information:

As a resident of the far North West end of the Central Tablelands region my aim would be to represent the whole of the region.

Because of my long envelopment in Farming and Grazing and Natural Resource Management I feel I can offer some skills that would be valuable to the whole of the community.

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BEATH, Geoffrey

“Killarney West” Canowindra

Managing Partner Bryton Wools group (5 stores)

4 generation Wool grower

Rep for NSW/QLD Board of PTWMA

Board Member Health council Canowindra / Eugowra

Past President of Canowindra Show Society

Patron Canowindra Rugby Club & Canowindra Show Society

RFS member 34 years

4 generation Wool grower

President Canowindra Showground – Racecourse trust

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