

NSW Local Land Services

Riverina Region

2017 Local Board Member Election (3 to be Elected)

Candidate List and Profile Statements

FUNNELL, Paul	2
CARNEGIE, Mal	3
EGGE, Benjamin.....	4
DAVEY, John.....	5
DALTON, Helen Jennifer	6
SPEIRS, Peter M	7
MURDOCH, Tom	8
BARRETT, Alanna	9
HARVEY, Boo Adrienne.....	10
APPLEBY, Allison	11
ANDERSON, Lisa	12
BONAVENTURA, Peter	13
THOMSON, Vivien	14

FUNNELL, Paul

My name is Paul Funnell, I own and operate an irrigation, mixed farming property at Collingullie. I am seeking your support in the upcoming Local Land Services board elections for Riverina. With LLS Riverina stretching from Hay in the west to Harden in the east and extending to the hills, being at Collingullie, places me central within the electorate.

With recent amalgamations of multiple rural services and change in board structure, we have reached the point where it is critical we have elected members on the board that will represent landholders in the manner that they deserve, hold the state accountable, understand and fight for the issues that directly affect LLS ratepayers, and not be a token voice for the board.

There are many issues to be addressed, bio-security, noxious weeds, TSR management and animal welfare. Assessment of success of programmes such as wild dogs, insidious noxious weeds etc., this is not questioning the efforts, but is about measuring the effectiveness of the methodology. My reason for wanting to represent ratepayers on this board is to give landholders a voice that has been lost in ever increasing state government takeover of local land services. The structure of this organisation does not give a message of confidence to the very people that have to pay our compulsory levies. Over the years, state government has progressively merged CMA's with PP boards and sold off assets built up after years of successful management by locals. Proceeds of these sales have been "pooled", and access to these funds have been lost at a local level.

With inclusion of CMA responsibilities, riparian landholders have similar issues, but needs someone that understands the challenges unique to them in this ever changing political/bureaucratic arena.

In a climate of shrinking services, increasing costs to the landholder across the sector, it is critical we have a representative that understands the threat, that reduced services pose to individuals and the sector as a whole. With organisational asset sell offs, the push for user pay services, rate hikes are only around the corner. This is why you need my voice as a conduit to push back against government institutionalisation, and see to it that finances are managed efficiently, resources allocated correctly, and receive more funding from the state.

A board member needs to show strong leadership and be capable of strategic planning and policy development. Have the ability to work with each level of government and industry, take the message of our industry to these sectors, demonstrate an understanding of our needs, and how this can be delivered. Experience in financial management, business enterprise and corporate governance is essential.

As a current Wagga councillor and deputy chair of Riverina Water, former Chairman of the flood risk advisory board, member of the executive of region 9 murray darling assoc., committee member of the rural ratepayers assoc., written policy on biosecurity issues, and an MBA, I have the knowledge, training and experience to successfully represent you, the ratepayers of the Riverina LLS.

[Back to Candidate List](#)

CARNEGIE, Mal

Mal Carnegie has been involved in agriculture and natural resource management for 30 years, living in the Lake Cowal district to the north of West Wyalong. In addition to the family's cropping and grazing enterprises, Mal operated an extensive livestock contracting business in the area for 20 years, along with a native tree nursery and revegetation services.

Mal is currently the Projects Manager for the Lake Cowal Foundation, a not-for-profit environmental trust which works with farmers and the community to initiate and implement strategies and projects which will deliver increasing economic, environmental and social sustainability. In this role, Mal has extensive experience in working with farmers, community groups, Federal, State and Local Government organisations.

Mal is a current member of the LachLandcare Executive Committee and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Mal understands the important role Local Land Services plays in a sustainable future for agriculture, regional communities and landscapes in the context of physical and market-based challenges, biosecurity, government regulation and support.

[Back to Candidate List](#)

EGGE, Benjamin

I have extensive experience in leadership, management emergency management, especially biosecurity and natural disaster emergencies.

I am fully aware of the issues of farming in the Riverina and the assistance land owners need to stay on top.

I share the concerns of farm manager and will seek to be a proactive voice of the farmer on the board. As a farm owner myself I see the need for infrastructure and feral species assistance as a higher priority for government to address.

I will be a vocal board member who highlights the farmers and landowners needs.

[Back to Candidate List](#)

DAVEY, John

I am a farmer and private veterinarian at Aria Park. I am a current Board member of the Riverina Local Land Services and am seeking re-election for another term. I have previously been a Director on the Wagga Wagga Rural Lands Protection Board and the Hume Livestock Health and Protection Authority. In the period from 1986 to 1988 I was the District Veterinarian at Hay, and have since been particularly interested in how the State Government provides animal health services to producers.

A strong Biosecurity capability in both surveillance and response to emergencies is required by Local Land Services in both animal and plant health. At the local level, I have worked to keep this function at the forefront. Our ability to prevent and respond to a serious biosecurity outbreak is our most critical function.

Other areas of concern to me as a Board Director include:

- The need to be ever vigilant in controlling footrot in sheep. As footrot becomes less prevalent the sheep industry must not relax awareness and control of this disease.
- Wise and appropriate use of rate payer funds within Local Land Services, as rates provide approximately one third of Local Lands Services funds. Also, to be aware of any attempts to shift costs to the ratepayer which are unfair and should be Government funded.
- Ensure Local Lands Services governance roles and responsibilities are enacted and achieved. I have been a member of the Audit and Risk Committee of the Riverina Local Lands Services this last term and have attended the AICD Foundations of Directorship for the Public Sector.
- Promoting widespread and equal access to State and Australian Government Environment Grants to landholders.
- The need for the State Government to provide direct funding for Travelling Stock Reserves as it is unfair that rates have funded this in the past.
- The need for Local Land Services to develop capability to provide plant health biosecurity services to the landholder.
- The need to improve the flow of information between Department of Primary Industry research and the extension capability within Local Land Services.

The new State Government Biodiversity Reforms pose a new challenge to Local Land Services. Sensible balancing of priorities between productive agriculture and conservation will be necessary.

Local Land Services in the past three years has faced the enormous challenge of bringing three major Government functions together into the one organisation. With good leadership at the staff and Board level, and a committed staff, the Riverina Local Land Services has made excellent progress in providing a service oriented organisation which fulfils these functions. With my experience as a hands-on farmer and veterinarian, and my previous experience as a Director on the Riverina Local Land Services Board and predecessor organisations, I believe I can contribute and represent the ratepayers of the Riverina on the new Board of Riverina Local Land Services.

[Back to Candidate List](#)

DALTON, Helen Jennifer

I wish to re-apply for the position on the board of Riverina LLS as advertised. In support of my application I offer this letter and the following information:

Along with my husband Nayce we own and manage dry land and irrigation properties. The properties consist of 1200ha of irrigation and 2900ha of dry land farming. Farming activities include rice, cotton and corn production, cattle and sheep breeding, and winter cereals.

I am very conscience of the synergies between the environment, productivity and healthy resilient communities. This was highlighted when I was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship and studied "The Economic and Ecological Benefit of Biodiversity and Native Vegetation in Farming Systems particularly Rice".

In the last five years I have been a member of NSW Farmers Executive Council and sit on the Conservation and Natural Resource Management Committee (CRM) and the Presidential Water Taskforce. This has given me experience in both water and native vegetation portfolios.

I also represent NSW Farmers Association on the NFF Water Taskforce. This knowledge has highlighted the importance of genuine community engagement especially with such organisations such as the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA).

In 2012, I was appointed as a director of NSW Farmers. As a board member, I am responsible for good governance and leadership. I have a positive, constructive, transparent working relationship with other board members of the Association.

My involvement in business administration has predominately been with our farming company Wumbulgal Agriculture Pty Ltd. My responsibilities include health and safety, budgeting, human resources and bank reconciliations. Alongside this I also own a small business, Garson Pastoral, where I am involved in wool and fat lamb production.

I hold the position of President and Trustee of the Binya Hall. I have had to liaise with government Departments such as Narrandera Shire Council. The Binya Hall has been challenging but has given me enormous experience in leadership, communication, strategic thinking, meeting protocol, planning, budgeting, community networking, relationship building, reporting and negotiating as we continue to upgrade this building. Recently we received a grant for \$216,000 for further works. It is ongoing and very rewarding and I have enjoyed working with others to achieve a common goal.

In 2006 I participated in RGAs' Environmental Champions Development and Leadership Program, Australian Rural Leadership. This gave me valuable experience in communicating effectively, media work, facilitation skills, and how to engage communities. I also learnt that communication and sound judgement is very important key for good leadership.

I wish to remain in the role as director of RLLS where I can continue to work with other directors in setting the direction of RLLS. The integration of environmental objectives with high production outcomes should be mutually inclusive goals. I have the proven capacity to work with others and to form relationships with a wide range of people based on respect and trust. It is because I have these skills combined with my knowledge of both business and the environment that I have reapplied for this position.

[Back to Candidate List](#)

SPEIRS, Peter M

Born in Wagga Wagga, and have lived my working life on the family farm “Langi”. I married Helen Schafer of Temora, and together we have raised our four children on our sheep, cropping and cattle farm at Reefton.

It is my belief that my unique skill set, character traits and experience, in both local government and farming, stand me in good stead to effectively serve the Riverina LLS Region as a board member

It is based on a combination of a lifetime of experience in dryland mixed farming and 40 years as an elected representative in Local Government.

As the Principal of a farming family partnership, our enterprise mix included oil seeds, cereal grains and pulses, as well as a self-replacing merino sheep flock and a self-replacing Wagyu/Angus cattle venture. Our involvement in the merino industry included conducting the Kal Kal merino stud for 25 years until 1995. We also commenced breeding Wagyu cattle in 1988, initially exclusively for the Japanese market until 2006 and expanding into the wider market until 2012.

Like farming, Local Government has seen many changes, yet throughout all of these challenges and progressions, my strong sense of fairness and integrity, ability to lobby and negotiate effectively, strong communication skills – together with a fierce determination to implement positive change with respect and dignity for all concerned – has never wavered.

LLS

Riverina Local Land Services Elected Board Member 2014 – 2017

Local Government History:

Councillor	Narraburra Shire Council	1977 – 1980
Deputy President	Narraburra Shire Council	1978 – 1980
Councillor	Temora Shire Council	1980 – 2016
Deputy President	Temora Shire Council	1980 – 1985
President	Temora Shire Council	1985 – 1990
Mayor	Temora Shire Council	1991 – 2000 2006 – 2012
Councillor	NRCC Electricity & Water	1983 – 1995
Chairman	NRCC Electricity & Water	1991 – 1995
Councillor	Goldenfields Water CC	1997 – 2016
Chairman	Goldenfields Water CC	1997 – 2003 2006 – 2016
1/7/02 – 2005	Chairman, NSW Southern Special Economic Zone, Temora	
20/9/00 – 2016	Delegate, Riverina Eastern Regional Organization of Councils	

Awards:

Presented with OAM in 2008, for service to the community through Local Government
Presented with Local Government Medal 5/7/2012 marking 35 years service.
Presented with Rural Fire Service 35 Year Service Medal

[Back to Candidate List](#)

MURDOCH, Tom

I am a farmer at West Wyalong with a self replacing Merino flock and a mixed cropping enterprise. I have been active in the community for the past 30 years holding various positions on the following:

- Mandamaha RFS Secretary past 15 yrs
- Member West Wyalong Breeders Assoc.
- Trustee of the Ariaah Park Showground
- Past President Ariaah Park Show
- Board member of Condobolin RLPB
- Board member of Lachlan LHPA

I am passionate about farming and offer my nomination to the Riverina region in the hope of providing practical experience. Modern organisations have to have relevance to the people they service and in the case of the LLS it's the ratepayers.

[Back to Candidate List](#)

BARRETT, Alanna

Alanna Barrett, aged 31, resides with her husband and 2 young children on their property near Mangoplah, south east of Wagga Wagga. Alanna's interest in agriculture began as a child, with family properties in the central west of NSW. Alanna went on to study Agricultural Science at university, and gained a broad and practical knowledge of cropping and livestock production systems throughout both university and the employment that has followed.

Alanna's industry experience includes working with Meat and Livestock Australia on their Sheep Genetics Program (LAMBPLAN/MERINOSELECT) where she gained a passion for the Australian sheep industry, particularly Merinos. From MLA, Alanna went on to work in a private Ag consultancy practice in Wagga Wagga, broadening her skills in livestock to include the management of both broadacre and irrigated cropping programs.

Whilst working in consultancy, Alanna gained a strong agribusiness and farm financial expertise, through the completion of viability assessments and investment decision making models for various farming business throughout the Riverina. It was this introduction to the relationship between farm management practices and farm financial performance that made the step to Agricultural finance a natural progression, and at present, Alanna is on maternity leave from her position as the State Manager of Agribusiness (NSW) with one of our largest agricultural financiers. Alanna will return to this position on a part time basis later this year, in addition to assisting with the running of the family sheep and wool business at Mangoplah, and raising her young family.

Outside of her employment and family business, Alanna is the current Chair of the recently re-established Eastern Riverina Landcare Network, and for the past 4 years, held a committee position for the 'Wagga Wagga Young Professionals in Agriculture' network (YPIA). YPIA is a network for likeminded young agricultural people to share knowledge, ideas, educational and social events. In addition, Alanna is a graduate of the 'Committee 4 Wagga Wagga' Emerging Leaders program, a program which identifies and upskills young leaders from a range of industries across Wagga Wagga.

If elected to the board of the Riverina LLS, Alanna brings a strong understanding of the farm business and its complexities across a range of different enterprises. Through her senior role in agribusiness finance, Alanna would also contribute an understanding of the corporate decision making process and the importance of well-established communication with industry stakeholders in order to achieve desired goals. With a large and established network of farmers and industry experts, and a desire to see our farmers progress to their potential, Alanna welcomes the opportunity to represent her industry on the board of the Riverina LLS and thanks you for your time in considering her nomination.

[Back to Candidate List](#)

HARVEY, Boo Adrienne

Boo Harvey

South Bri-Bri

40 year old, female.

I run a beef cattle breeding and trading operation based at the above address, where I run an irrigation block and feedlot. The majority of my breeding stock are run on agistment properties in various locations throughout NSW. I have also utilised the traveling stock routes (TSRs). Prior to this I have been employed with various agricultural companies such as JBS Australia, National Australia Bank Agribusiness Department and NSW Agriculture.

I have a Degree in Agricultural Science and a Diploma in Agribusiness Administration where I received the Award for Excellence in Accounting. I also hold a certificate in Stock and Station, ALFA Animal Welfare Officer Certificate, MSA Producer Accreditation, Livestock Producer Assurance Scheme, Aus-meat Non-Packer Exporters Accreditation, Aus-meat National Feedlot Accreditation and a Cattle Preg-Testing Certificate. I also recently graduated from the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program in 2016.

Strong strategic planning and risk management skills are pivotal to my business. I also have strong financial management skills and am well rehearsed at completing financial budgets.

Having my own agricultural enterprise in the region, as well as being involved in the local community through a number of roles as Secretary on the Carrathool Jockey Club Committee, Member of the Gunbar Rural Fire Brigade and a Member of the Hay Working Dogs Committee, I know a considerable number of producers in the area, on both personal and business levels. I would hope that I am well placed to hopefully assist with building stronger relationships between producers and the Local Land Services (LLS). A key goal of mine would be to see the LLS offering services that continue to increase the productivity and profitability in our region.

[Back to Candidate List](#)

APPLEBY, Allison

Occupation:

Science Teacher

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Applied Science (Equine Studies); Graduate Certificate in Agriculture; Graduate Diploma of Education (Science); Graduate Certificate in Science

Relative Employment Experience:

Small Property Manager (Horse agistment/ horse breeding/ cattle grazing) on different properties for nearly 10 years. Education Officer with Catchment Management Authority.

Other organisational roles:

Current President Wagga Volleyball Association

Expertise/Knowledge/Skills:

I have expertise and experience in managing small (<40Ha) grazing properties running a range of stock and pleasure animals, including cattle and horse breeding. My university qualifications give me expertise in animal management as well as grazing techniques and land conservation systems.

Additional information:

I am interested in representing small property owners who face unique property management situations and systems.

[Back to Candidate List](#)

ANDERSON, Lisa

Occupation:

Primary Producer – Elwood Pastoral Co, Wagga Wagga

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Economics 1991; Bachelor of Laws 1993. (Sydney University)

I am a partner in a family farming business based at The Gap between Coolamon and Wagga Wagga. We are a mixed farming enterprise producing prime lambs, wheat, canola, barley and legumes. I firmly believe that sustainable farming is created by profitable farming. Farmers are often best placed to manage natural resources. We actively manage our landscapes to produce quality products and we manage all the issues that fall within our farm boundaries – foxes, rabbits, locusts and weeds. We also have to be on top of livestock and plant diseases to protect our profitability. We manage our soil and water resources for long term sustainability in the industry.

As ratepayers we must promote and support research and knowledge to deal with emerging issues if we are to remain competitive in a changing environment.

I am a director of FarmLink Research. FarmLink is an agricultural research, development and extension farming systems group. Members are based across Southern NSW. FarmLink is all about the future of farming – productive, profitable and sustainable farms and farmers. I am a member of the Audit and Risk subcommittee.

In addition to this experience, I worked as a solicitor in the Riverina region for 18 years in a rurally focussed local practice.

I am active in a number of community and industry groups and have networks across agriculture.

LLS has a unique opportunity to set the priority direction for the local region. We need to add value to our landscape, our industry and to rural communities. It is the challenge of the Board to create an environment of excellence with a commitment to scientifically based and sustainable outcomes. I would like to be actively involved in shaping the strategy that significantly and positively impacts on our local region.

[Back to Candidate List](#)

BONAVENTURA, Peter

Thank you for giving allowing me the opportunity to apply for Membership to the Riverina LLS Board.

I am self employed, co-owner and Managing Director of a Venture Access Pty Limited T/AS RSC Griffith. We are a Sound and Communications Company based in Griffith NSW.

In previous roles, I have gained valuable experience and knowledge of farming operations across all spectrums including Horticulture, Rice, Cotton and Dry Area. Additionally, with our business we are in constant contact with Farmers providing Automotive Sound and Communications equipment.

I also have an IT and Accounting background and through my interactions with the Farming Community I have gained an understanding of their challenges, in particular with the current MDBA water allocations.

Memberships and Positions held:

- Deputy President of the Griffith Business Chamber
- Acting President of the Griffith Business Chamber
- Previous Member of the Griffith City Council's Tourism Committee
- Member of the Griffith City Council's Business Development & Major Projects Committee
- Fellow Member of the Institute of Public Accountants
- Justice of the Peace (JP NSW No. 206567)

I believe I can make a valuable contribution to our local LLS Board and I look forward to hearing from you due course.

[Back to Candidate List](#)

THOMSON, Vivien

As a farmer, I am very aware of the challenges we face such as changing climatic conditions and ensuring our clean green image and biosecurity is a priority for our region. I have been involved in agriculture for many years and have represented our interests at a national and state level. I firmly believe I would be a valuable representative on the Local Land Service Board on behalf of our industries in the Riverina.

I currently work on our family farm and run the business side and I am a published author my qualifications include:

- Company Directors Course, Australian Institute Company Directors
- Graduate Certificate Australian Rural Leadership, James Cook University
- Executive Coach Level 2, Institute Executive Coaching
- Diploma Agriculture
- Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training
- Associate Degree Applied Science, Charles Sturt University
- Diploma Horticulture (Trade)

My partner and I run a mixed farming operation at Muttama which included 4 commodities which are Prime Lambs, Beef Cattle, Fine Merino Wool and a substantial Hay production enterprise.

Board positions include:

- Local Land Service Riverina Highland's Advisory Committee
- Southern Ranges NP&WS Board
- Former President Australian Women in Agriculture
- National Rural Women's Coalition

Awards:

- Safer Communities Award
- Emergency Medal
- Australian Fire Service Medal
- National Medal
- International Women's Day Award
- Named in the Top 100 Women in Australian Agribusiness
- NSW RIRDC Rural Women's Award Runner up

Work Experience:

- Mixed farmer and Business Manager
- Project Officer EverGraze, Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority.
- Team Manager ACT Emergency Services Authority.
- Captain Parks Brigade, President ACT Fire Controllers Group, Ranger in Charge, Project Officer, Fire Management Officer, Planning Officer, Horticulturalist.

I am involved with the farm business fulltime, I have provided a much more strategic focus on where the business is going and introducing new initiatives, and researching new enterprises to value add to the business. I was involved in several community groups where I was at the forefront of change within our industry after a major disaster had occurred, my latest community project is working on the Jugiong Writers Festival.

I have managed projects in the past where I demonstrated a very strong commitment to the focus of the project and could engage farmers to participate in the project I was implementing.

I am a team player. I can have all personnel whether they were frontline or support staff feel that they were part of a team and working towards the objectives that I had set as the incident controller on the fireground. At the same time, I promoted vigorous debates in meetings away from operations to ensure that we were getting the best we could.

I want to ensure that the ratepayers in the Riverina LLS have a strong voice and are listened to when it comes to our industries.

[Back to Candidate List](#)