

## **QUEANBEYAN AGE COLUMN 22AUGUST 2008**

**Capital Country Tourism to get increased funding** – Queanbeyan, along with Yass, Young, Goulburn, Moss Vale and Bowral districts forms Capital Country Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO).

Each RTO in New South Wales receives funding from NSW Tourism and raises further funds from individual Members including Visitor Information Centres such as Queanbeyan VIC and other industry partners. This funding is designed to market and promote each individual RTO region.

Following the O'Neill Review into NSW Tourism (previously reported in this Column), the RTOs have combined as a support group for regional tourism and agreed to form an incorporated association – *Forum of Regional Tourism Organisations* (FORTO).

FORTO will now become the representative body of the 13 RTOs and a network to develop and grow regional tourism. The inaugural meeting of FORTO will be held in September, where the Executive and Office Bearers will be appointed.

It is good news indeed that, following the O'Neill Review, additional funding will be provided by NSW Government for regional tourism, however this must be matched with industry dollars.

Sarah Dawson, Executive Officer of Capital Country Tourism tells us that, in funding for Capital Country could increase from the current level of \$111,000 to \$220,000. It is proposed that base funding will increase to \$170,000, with the opportunity to capitalise on an additional \$50,000 in extra funding if matched dollar for dollar by industry. Over to you, tourism industry! Sarah can be contacted on phone 02 4823 4807

### **Queanbeyan Business Council seeks a new Executive Officer –**

Advertised elsewhere in this Newspaper is an advertisement for a full time Executive Officer to manage daily operations of the QBC as well as to supervise the operations of the Visitor Information Centre.

This is an exciting and challenging position. The person will work with a highly supportive 20 strong QBC Executive Committee and will play a major role in shaping Queanbeyan's business future. If you think you have the necessary aptitude and skills, you can download an Application Kit from our website [www.queanbeyanbusinesscouncil.com.au](http://www.queanbeyanbusinesscouncil.com.au) or phone Simon Mitchell-Taverner on 6299 7152 to find out more.

**And now - Butt Out!** - We are not trying to be rude to Smokers, in fact we have something for you at Queanbeyan Visitor Information Centre – your own personal pocket ashtray!

Also available at Queanbeyan City Council, this free giveaway is part of a campaign supported by South East Region Organisation of Councils and NSW Department of Environment & Climate Change.

Every discarded cigarette butt causes damage to the environment which is why you could be fined between \$60 and \$375 for tossing butts out.

Call into the VIC at 1 Farrer Place for your free “Don’t be a Tossler’ personal ashtray.