

## **QUEANBEYAN AGE COLUMN 27 JUNE 2008**

**Queanbeyan's Business Support Hub** – Number One Farrer Place has been an icon at the entrance to the CBD ever since the present building was completed in 1925. Back then it was the hub of local government, being both Council Chambers and offices for Council administrative staff.

Now, it is a one-stop-shop for business support in the City, being the home not only of the Visitor Information Centre and Queanbeyan Business Council, but also Capital Region BEC. Each entity works seamlessly with the other though reporting to different community boards.

**Student innovation on display** – One of a range of government programs being operated by the BEC is the 'Adopt a School' program, under the Local Community Partnerships (LCP) program, an initiative of the Australian Government.

In this its second year, students from seven schools across the Queanbeyan Capital Region and the ACT will participate in a robotic competition partnered by the 'Adopt a Schools Program' and Codarra Advanced Systems (Queanbeyan).

The competition is to develop a robot that could undertake a number of challenges. The robots are made from Lego kits supplied to the participating schools by Codarra, who also established a website for tutorial mentoring and support.

Warren Williams, Managing Director of Codarra Advanced Systems, believes the competition provides "an opportunity to introduce young people in the Region to the exciting range of careers in this emerging industry ..... including engineering or information technology".

The schools involved are Queanbeyan High School, Karabar High School, Goulburn High, Mulwarree High, St. Edmunds College, Dickson College and Lake Ginninderra College.

The final day of competition is to be run at Queanbeyan High School on Thursday, 3 July at 9.00am. Parents, friends and interested business people are welcome to attend and experience the successes of tomorrow's innovators. Contact Geoff Gwynne at the BEC on 0422 420 607 for more details.

**Preliminary CBD Masterplan** – It is getting close, and no one will be more interested in the final recommendations than QBC.

Queanbeyan City Council has asked us to publicise a breakfast presentation on preliminary Masterplan concepts and design principles. This will be held on Tuesday, 8th July 2008 at Queanbeyan Conference Centre, 255 Crawford Street, Queanbeyan. Start time is 6.45 am.

Numbers are limited for this free breakfast event, which should be of interest to all business people and not only those operating in the CBD.

RSVP is essential by 4th July 2008 to either Beate Jansen ph: 6298 0276 (email: [beate.jansen@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:beate.jansen@qcc.nsw.gov.au)) or Margaret Nicholls ph: 6298 0212 (email: [margaret.nicholls@qcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:margaret.nicholls@qcc.nsw.gov.au)).