



# Bang for our buck

## Winners and losers in \$63m council budget

By **LOUISE THROWER**

**G**OULBURN'S biggest birthday bash appears as just a line item in next year's council budget.

But Mayor Geoff Kettle says part of the \$30,000 allocation will create a "very big party."

On March 14, 2013 Goulburn will mark 150 years since the granting of Royal Letters Patent, leading to its city status.

There'll be a morning tea with the Goulburn community and a host of dignitaries, an evening function and the crowning moment, fireworks let off from the centrepiece of celebrations, St Saviour's Cathedral.

"I'm meeting with Foti Fireworks in the next few weeks and we have an indicative yes that we can use the cathedral to launch the fireworks," Cr Kettle said.

"It will be a big party."

Some of the money will also pay for a police freedom of the city parade, also to mark the 150th birthday, in November.

Cr Kettle has been working with the Police Academy for some time on the event, which would make up for the aborted parade in 2009 due to a bureaucratic bungle.

It's small beer in the context of the \$63 million 2012/13 draft budget, put to councillors at Tuesday's meeting.

The plan produces a modest \$58,893 surplus in the general fund and includes \$14.5m in capital works.

The big ticket item, while not as colourful as the city's birthday party, is a \$10m allocation toward Goulburn's wastewater treatment plant upgrade.

On Tuesday, councillors signed off on purchase of heavy plant equipment, mainly for roadworks, totalling \$798,000.

Much awaited river gauges, at a

cost of \$70,000, also get a guernsey.

Solar panels on council buildings are not forgotten with a \$90,000 allocation annually over the next three years.

There'll be greater emphasis on strategic marketing at councillors' behest and more funding for Oallen Ford Bridge.

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