

State job purge continues

By TOM SEBO

Goulburn Crown Land staff told of redundancies by webcast

SIX more full time public service positions have been scrapped in Goulburn as the State Government's cost cutting begins to hit home.

At 2.30pm on Thursday, local Crown Lands employees were called into a boardroom and told via webcast that five positions within the office would be made redundant all-together and that another would become a part time role.

A spokesman for NSW Crown

Lands told the *Post* that the job cuts were part of a "change management program" and contributed to rebuilding the state's finances.

"Crown Lands is expanding its Newcastle and Dubbo business centres by transferring administrative positions to these locations, largely from the Sydney offices," he said.

"Overall, there will be a slight increase in regional positions

with regional offices retaining specialist property management functions such as bushfire and natural resource management, surveying and land use planning.

"Five and a half administrative positions at the Goulburn office will be transferred, leaving four positions with direct customer contact in stakeholder relationship management, and inspection and compliance.

"It has been planned to ensure

customer service is not disrupted at Goulburn or any other office during the change and for administrative services to be more efficiently delivered through the business centres at Newcastle and Dubbo."

The spokesperson also said the job cuts were part of "the (state) government's commitment to decentralising government from Sydney to regional NSW".

However, the latest job cuts

come hot on the heels of the closure of the local Trade and Investment Office, which saw four employees made redundant, and the laying off of 75 prison officers from within the region, including 25 at Goulburn Jail.

Some people are questioning just how much the O'Farrell Government really cares about decentralisation.

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THE SHOW CAN'T GO ON: Goulburn Argyle Society founder Len Robinson along with his daughter/current president Kate Bell and her son Lenard standing in front a 40 foot storage container full of equipment, which is all that remains of the once great local theatre company.

No plans for an encore

By TOM SEBO

AFTER 33 years of rich local history and more than 60 productions, all that remains of the Argyle Society is a 40 foot storage container full of equipment and a dedicated committee that refuses to let go of its last hope.

The Society has been inactive since it was kicked out of the Kenmore Theatre, following the finalisation of its sale in 2010, and with nowhere else to go, it will remain that way until Goulburn has a suitable space for the performing arts.

Founder Len Robinson told the *Post* that Council's proposed multipurpose centre was not suited for large scale musical productions. He said theatres and indoor sports centres were not interchangeable.

"In my view, multipurpose centres make great basketball courts but terrible theatres," he said.

"People seem to think that just because you have a performance hall you can stage a production but that's not the truth... (multipurpose centres) usually don't have rehearsal rooms and there are no scenery workshops."

Mr Robinson also said that having sports take place when the theatre wasn't in use would lead to serious damage of both lighting and sound equipment.

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