

Council election: 14 and counting

By GERARD WALSH

ONLY 14 people have so far nominated as a candidate for Goulburn Mulwaree Council at the September 8 local government elections.

Six of them are current councillors, and 10 are listed as 'independent'.

By 4pm yesterday, the Electoral Commission of NSW website showed that there were 14 councillor candidates for Goulburn Mulwaree, seven for Upper Lachlan Shire, a whopping 32 for Wingecarribee Shire and seven for Yass Valley.

Nominations close at noon today.

The Goulburn Mulwaree candidates (so far) are:

- Robin Saville (independent)
- Jason Shepherd (independent)
- Roger Lucas (independent)
- Laszlo Strasser (independent)
- Andrew Thistleton (independent)
- Andrew Banfield (independent)
- Carol James
- Geoff Kettle
- Bob Kirk (independent)
- Richard Orchard (independent)
- Geoff Peterson
- Sam Rowland (independent)
- Denzil Sturgiss (independent)
- Alfie Walker



TRAGIC: NSW Fire and Rescue crews discovered the body of a 57-year-old Goulburn man after this Goldsmith St cottage caught fire late Monday afternoon. Photo: Lloyd Scroope

Cottage fire tragedy

By **DARRYL FERNANCE** and **LOUISE THROWER**

A BLACKENED bed base and charred items on the front veranda were the only sign yesterday of a house fire that claimed a Goulburn man's life on Monday night.

Garry Miller, 57, died in the front bedroom of the historic Goldsmith Street cottage after it caught alight at about 5.30pm, police confirmed.

The local Fire and Rescue NSW brigade took only 20 minutes to extinguish the blaze after receiving

the call at 5.42pm.

A neighbour alerted them to the outbreak in the house adjoining Rapid Auto and opposite the Centro Mall.

Fire fighters arrived to thick smoke billowing from the brick and iron dwelling, zone commander Dave Lewis said.

Wearing breathing apparatus, they gained entry through the front of the house.

"They were confronted with a fire in the front bedroom of the home," Mr Lewis said.

"The firefighters quickly knocked it down before checking the rest of the home to see if the

fire had spread beyond the front bedroom and conducting a search and rescue for anyone still inside the building."

Mr Lewis said when they returned to the front room they found the body of a man among the ruins.

There was a working smoke alarm in the hallway of the home.

Fire and Rescue investigators, local detectives and the NSW Police Forensic Services investigated until the early hours of yesterday morning. While a cause has not been established, Detective Sergeant Brett Darnell

said yesterday the fire was not suspicious.

"We are looking at the house's electrics and heating but the cause has yet to be determined," he said.

They are awaiting results from forensics testing.

Mr Miller was the sole occupant and police said to their knowledge, he was not a smoker.

Det Sgt Darnell said the blaze was contained in the front bedroom, which sustained extensive damage. The rest of the house was smoke-damaged.

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The Returning Officer will conduct the ballot draw today at 2pm.

There were 25 candidates at the 2008 election.

There are nine councillor seats on Goulburn Mulwaree up for grabs.

The *Goulburn Post's* meet the candidates night at the Workers Club on August 29 will be the last major chance for councillor hopefuls to woo the public.

More than 600 people turned up to the corresponding evening four years ago.

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