



## News

# Guides turn to MP for repairs funding

By Murray Trembath

DOZENS of community groups in St George and Sutherland Shire are sweating on the announcement of grants to help with maintenance, repairs and improvements to their facilities.

A total of \$2.4 million is available under the community building partnership program, which allocates \$300,000 to each of the eight electorates.

The elation for successful applicants, and disappointment for those who miss out, is expected before Christmas.

Loftus Girl Guides, who hope to replace the leaking roof on their hall, put their case to Heathcote MP Lee Evans. Like all MPs, Mr Evans was able to recommend projects for funding, but there was also an independent assessment.

Dora Evans, of the Loftus Girl Guides' support group, said the hall was a great facility which was used not only for their activities, but also by local families for birthday parties.

Volunteer leader Sharon Pointon said if they received a grant for the roof, they would be able to carry out other improvements soon.

"We can work towards creating more storage space and then installing a shower, which will mean we can have sleepovers," she said.

Mr Evans said Girl Guides provided an important community service and should not have to rely entirely on fund-raising to make ends meet.



**Hall hope:** Heathcote MP Lee Evans with (from left) Dora Evans, Emma Jackson, Samantha Pointon and Sharon Pointon.

### GRANTS CONDITIONS

- Applicants had to demonstrate how their project would benefit their local community through the building or improvement of facilities to deliver positive social, recreational or environmental outcome.
- Councils could apply for grants for community projects as long as they were prepared to match the funding.
- Projects had to be ready to start by early next year and be completed before the end of March 2013.