



**HISTORICAL SOCIETY GRANT:** Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton (holding the cheque) with Wee Waa and District Historical Society members John Smith, Brian and Margaret Warren and Julie Dowleams and Wee Waa High School captains Lilly Cruckshank and Nicholas McPherson.

# Society gets funds

By **ROBBIE BARCLAY**

When the Wee Waa and District Historical Society received an email last year about the Stronger Communities Program, it promptly began the task of applying for a grant to build a pergola.

After months of emails, phone calls and paperwork the society received a call on May 10 to say it had been successful with its grant application.

Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton called in to the Namoi Echo Museum on Monday, May 23, to present a cheque for \$6651.

On behalf of the Historical Society, Julie Dowleams thanked Mr Coulton for taking the time out of a busy schedule to visit the museum.

The grant is the third to be awarded in Narrabri Shire in recent weeks.

Boggabri Home and Community Care (\$20,000 for new kitchen) and Narrabri and District Historical Society (\$5622 for electrical work) have also been recipients.

The funding announcement is a result of round one of the federal government's Stronger Communities Program.

Mr Coulton said the purpose of the program was to improve local community participation and cohesion while contributing to vibrant and viable communities.

"The project will provide a covered area on the grounds of the Namoi Echo Museum," Mr Coulton said.

"The covered area will be used to hold functions for both local organi-

sations as well as tour groups which will enhance community engagement in the Wee Waa area.

"The infrastructure will be managed and maintained by volunteers of the historical society."

He said he was a passionate advocate of the program and was overwhelmed by the community response he received for round one from right across the federal electorate of Parkes.

"The fact that my office received over 90 expressions of interests for projects under round one of this program certainly confirms my belief that there is a need and I am extremely pleased to be able to help do something about it."

"Our local volunteer organisations such as the Wee Waa and District Historical Society are pivotal to our community's identities."