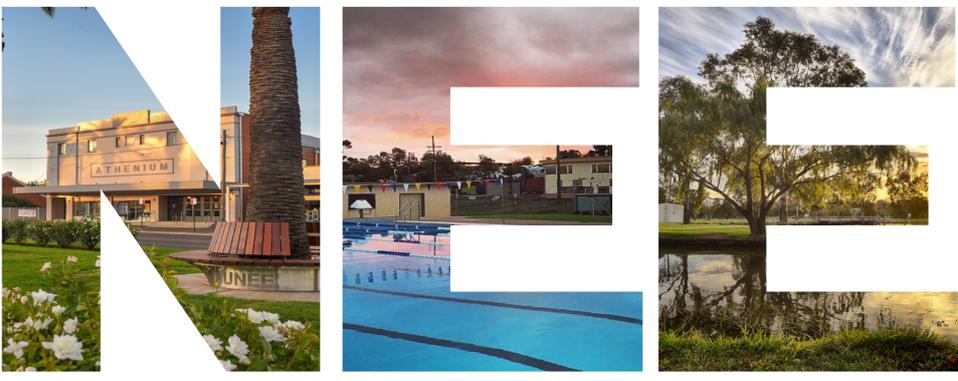


NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2020/21

FROM THE MAYOR

Hello once again and welcome to our Summer Newsletter.

With the weather warming up and a bumper season it's a timely reminder to be bushfire aware and cautious. Our staff have had great difficulty keeping up with slashing public areas and roadsides this year with Council spending quite a bit more in an effort to keep on top of things. Your patience with regard to the slashing work is appreciated.



November 2020 finished with a big bang including the opening of the newly refurbished skate park by our energetic local member Steph Cooke MP. In a nod to the original construction of the skate park some 18 years ago, tradespersons, old school skaters and artists involved in the original construction were invited back to Junee for the opening. Our younger residents were then treated to "Learn to Skate" workshops hosted by TOTEM Skateboarding, which despite the heat, were very well attended.

James Bowen. We were fortunate indeed to have in attendance some very special guests. They included The Hon. Michael McCormack MP and his wife Catherine, Steph Cooke MP and John Begg whose family were owners of the building up until 1950. The new air conditioning, commercial kitchen and outdoor space performed admirably and will ensure Junee Shire and regional residents will be treated to more and more cultural activities for decades to come. A big thanks to our hard working staff who pulled out all stops to have the building ready for this landmark event and to the Junee Youth Council for their fantastic efforts assisting on the night.



Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon. Michael McCormack MP, Fanny Lumsden & Timothy James Bowen with Junee Shire Council staff & members of the Junee Youth Council.



L-R: Deputy Mayor Cr Matt Austin, Mayor Cr Neil Smith, Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke MP, Communication Coordinator Alana Lesslie & Cr Robin Asmus.

The finishing touches were also put to the newly installed Junee Regional Adventure Park adjoining Park Dam (more affectionately known as Lake Laurie Daley). This very inclusive and extensive playground includes a swing that is specifically designed for use by those in a wheelchair, a zip line, a bridge over the creek and a path constructed by Junee High School students in consultation with Wiradjuri Elders - all nestled amongst existing trees enhancing the "adventure" feel.

On the very same day, our newly refurbished Athenium Theatre was host to renowned Australian singer/songwriters, Fanny Lumsden and Timothy

Finally, with the holiday season approaching, take care on the roads; be COVID safe. The development of a vaccine is looking very positive so let's all look forward to 2021 and in the meantime, Merry Christmas one and all.

Mayor, Cr Neil Smith



LOCAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM SURGING AHEAD

In 2021 Council is again spearheading its local employment program towards employing young people with:

- A further three school based trainees.
- Two fulltime trainees.
- Support for a cadet Engineer through Charles Sturt University Bachelor of Engineering.

It's a delight to have a mix of staff working at the Junee Shire Council with nearly half of our workforce in the 30 to 35 age bracket. Our strategy to is to promote local employment opportunities that focus on:

- Wherever feasible, nurture our own talent by way of student placement, traineeships in the fields of engineering, accounting, building surveying, IT, and Library services.
- Provide structured and specialist training programs for staff to participate in.
- Promote employment within a small rural council as an opportunity to be in a more hands on environment.
- Keep abreast with modern technology to ensure high standards of efficiency and productivity are retained.

The Council also support in excess of 20 casual staff members at the Recreation Centre throughout the year and is very proud to continue supporting career development through that facility.



The school based traineeships have featured strongly over the last five years with over 15 young people having a two year work placement with the Council. Some have continued working for the Council while others have used that experience to gain employment elsewhere.

In other employment training news the Stronger Country Communities Round Three funded project, *Junee Youth Employment Partnership Program*, will start in 2021 which aims to provide students in Years 9 and 10 with practical training and mentorship in hospitality operations, complemented by the completion of a Statement of Attainment in Café Skills.

ABOVE PHOTO: School based trainee Bella Willis assisting at the Bulk Freight Futures Rail Symposium held in Junee.

RECIPIENTS OF THE LOCAL AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

With the local Australia Day nominations open at the moment its timely to reflect on the achievements of two of our Local Citizen of the Year recipients and what they have achieved after receiving the award.

In 2014 Adrian Eisenhauer's Australia Day acceptance speech identified a need for selfcare accommodation (55's and over) in Junee that encourages seniors to remain living locally rather than leaving the district to acquire suitable accommodation. This big idea took shape through a community meeting at the Athenium with over 120 interested people in attendance. A local working party was formed and a community enterprise model established with the financial support from local people seeding the purchase of land. The *Junee Lifestyle Village* has capacity for 50 selfcare units and is located next to the Junee Soccer fields. To have such a project complete from paddock and open ready to build new houses on within a five year period is testament to Adrian's drive and the working party members interest to support such a wonderful outcome.

In 2020 Maria Turner aimed at the other end of the aged spectrum promoting the need for a major accessibility adventure playground for children. Maria successfully advocated for \$200,000 of funding from the State Government and \$136,000 from the Council toward this project. The Junee Regional Adventure Park is now open and located between Laurie Daley and Loftus Ovals.



Junee Citizen of the Year recipients Maria Turner and Adrian Eisenhauer.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE ATHENIUM?

Over the past 18 months our iconic Athenium Theatre has undergone some major renovations. These upgrades, while keeping with the buildings heritage, have transformed this beautiful building into an even greater asset for our community, allowing it to be more versatile and user friendly all year round (yay for heating and cooling).

So what has happened:

- Installation of a new state of the art audio visual system and projector.
- Construction of a new commercial kitchen and storage area which includes a bi-fold window opening up to a landscaped outdoor function space.
- Installation of HVAC system (heating and cooling)
- Installation of new facade lighting.
- Upgrades to dressing rooms and stage including compliant above stage structural support, lighting trusses and stage curtain rigging.
- Purchase of new function equipment including chairs and large tables (available to hire with venue).



EXCESSIVE ROADSIDE VEGETATION

A big thank you to those farmers who have helped out by slashing the roadside in front of their properties this year; it is appreciated given the wet year we have had and the excessive roadside growth we have experienced.

While it's been a terrific growing season for the agriculture sector the flipside is that roadside vegetation has taken over and as quickly as crews have slashed in one area, it's back growing in another. With over 840km across the shire, it has been an

extremely busy time either shoulder grading, slashing and/or spraying to try and keep on top of the aggressive growth.

This year has seen consistent rainfall which has resulted in some roadsides being slashed two to three times over the last few months. The rural community's patience while this is being attended to is very much appreciated.

To provide some context there has been over:

- 176km of shoulder grading
- Slashing - 938 linear kilometres
- Spraying - 410 linear kilometres

We were very pleased to receive a favourable report from the Riverina Zone Rural Fire Service congratulating the Shire on the amount of work completed in reducing the fire risk across the road network. Well done to everyone involved; it's been a team effort this year.

INLAND RAIL

WHAT INLAND RAIL ARE DOING

From late January 2021, Inland Rail will be consulting with stakeholders on the early reference design prepared, as well as discussing the sites undergoing a Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA) for the Albury to Illabo project.

The MCA will help determine suitable options at major project sites along the alignment. The feedback provided will be considered as Inland Rail progress the project's reference design.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Inland Rail will be holding community information sessions in February 2021 and will share details once dates and locations are finalised.

REGISTER YOUR PREFERENCE

As Inland Rail plan for these sessions, please visit their website and answer a poll about your preferences for getting updates and providing feedback:

www.inlandrail.artc.com.au/where-we-go/projects/albury-to-illabo/consultation/



SHIRE WIDE SNAPSHOT IMPROVED COMMUNITY FACILITIES BUILT IN 2020

The largest community investment build year ever with over \$3 million of community improvements. Well done to all involved.



JUNEE SKATE PARK



JUNEE REGIONAL ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND



ATHENIUM THEATRE COMMERCIAL
KITCHEN & OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE



VILLAGE SIGNS



BETHUNGRA SPIRAL VIEWING PLATFORM



JUNEE DOG PARK



ATHENIUM THEATRE HVAC SYSTEM



BETHUNGRA DAM WALKWAY



BETHUNGRA
MEMORIAL PARK
IMPROVEMENTS



REC CENTRE FLOOR RE-SURFACING



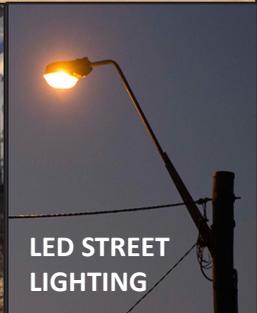
ANIMAL SHELTER



JUNEE GOLF CLUB SHED



JUNEE SHOWGROUND
REFURBISHMENTS



LED STREET
LIGHTING



REC CENTRE NEW FILTERS



LAURIE DALEY OVAL AMENITIES



VILLAGES - RETIREMENT HOME FOR ABANDONED VEHICLES. NOT!

Old Junee, Wantabadgery, Illabo and Bethungra residents have a keen sense of pride in the appearance of their villages and now with the resurgence of new and refurbished community infrastructure and demand for new homes in these very locations, residents are calling for action on blocks that are being used as retirement homes for abandoned vehicles or just overwhelmingly unsightly.



So it's no surprise that Council is receiving more complaints regarding unsightly properties within the villages. Residents quite rightly are getting annoyed at the lack of attention to yard maintenance and/or the accumulation of multiple abandoned vehicles on properties.

Councillors have also received numerous calls from residences calling for more action on this matter.

There's been several attempts to encourage residents to do the right thing in previous newsletters as well as letters and compliance notices issued to some property owners however there's been little improvement.

So what's next? - 2021 will see:

- An audit identifying properties storing excessive abandoned vehicles and other material in a way that give rise to fire hazard, storage of dangerous waste materials, pollution or the harbouring of vermin or pests.
- Identified property owners will be notified.
- A once off opportunity for the free collection of car bodies and other metal in each of the villages will be available in support of a cooperative solution.
- The final resort will see Orders issued involving clean up notices. Note: outstanding Orders are also listed on property searches that can impact

seeking bank finance for property improvement or even the sale of a property.

- Where there is non-compliance of the Order fines range from \$330 to \$1,500 and in extreme cases, the Council will seek Court Orders to clean-up properties.

Council encourages residents who remain aggrieved by the condition of unsightly properties in their village to contact the Council ahead of the planned audit in 2021.

ONLINE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS THROUGH PLANNING PORTAL

Following the adoption of new requirements of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the State Government in November 2019, Council has begun to implement the adoption of the NSW Planning Portal to be ready to accept the online lodgement of Development Applications, Complying Development Certificates, Construction Certificates, Occupation Certificates and Section 68 Activity Approvals by January 2021.

This new system will drastically change the way that Council can accept applications.

The Planning Portal has sections of mandatory information to be provided by each applicant prior to enabling the lodgement of any application. To utilise the Planning Portal for online lodgement, it will be required to log in using a Service NSW account.

For further information regarding the Planning Portal and the online lodgement of planning applications, please see the Planning Portal website, where the Department has published a number of helpful guides and FAQ's to assist applicants. The website can be found at the following link:

www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au

Council staff will be happy to advise applicants in documentation preparation for lodgement, with pre-lodgement meetings with Council continuing to be strongly recommended.

We look forward to receiving your online applications from January 2021!

KEEPING OUR ROADS SAFE THIS HARVEST SEASON

Junee Shire Council is asking residents to respect each other on our roads during what is going to be a very busy harvest season.

Farmers are moving their large agricultural vehicles on our local roads and there are more trucks transporting grain. When loaded, grain trucks carry a lot of weight and are slow travelling uphill, but can pick-up speed quite fast when travelling downhill, so before overtaking these trucks and large agricultural vehicles consider:

- The length of the vehicle
- The drivers' blind spots
- Do you have enough room?
- And most of all, is it safe?

During harvest, worker fatigue can be a dangerous issue and we are asking all who are involved in this year's grain harvest to learn about and recognise the symptoms of worker fatigue. These symptoms include:

- Forgetfulness
- Reduced vigilance
- Poor communication
- Poor decision-making
- Slower reaction times and irritability



Think about how you can schedule breaks to stay safe this harvest season. Taking responsibility, using common sense and driving to the conditions will help to keep our communities safe and help ensure a safe and incident free harvest period.

RIVERINA HIGHWAY PATROL STATEMENT

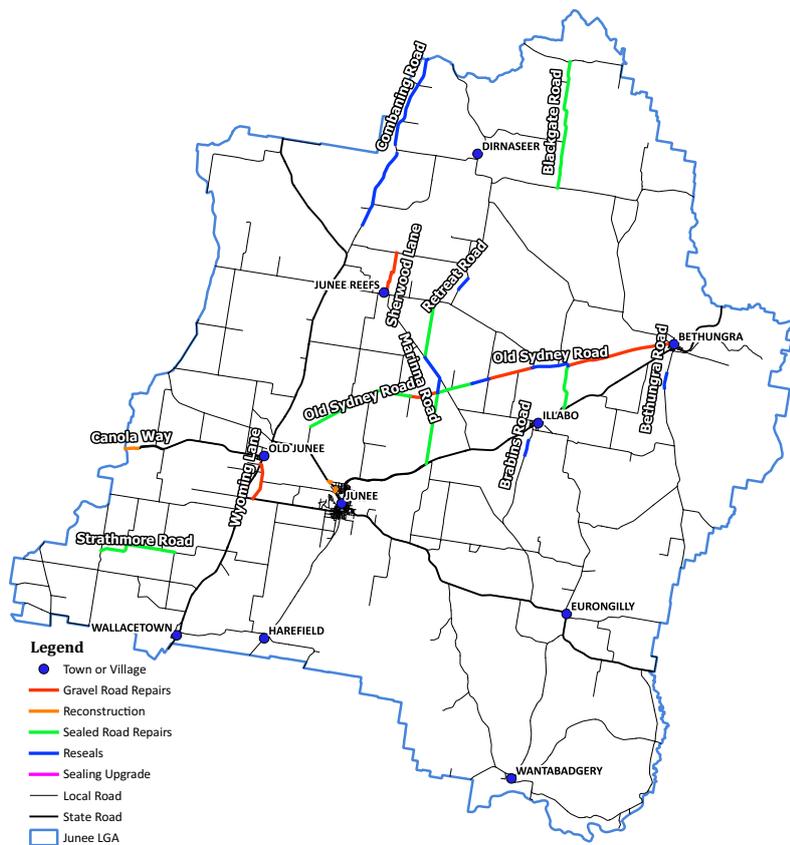
Riverina Highway Patrol is committed to improving road safety in the Junee area via increased detection of drink driving and drug driving. Every Highway Patrol vehicle is a random breath testing and random drug testing unit.

Riverina Highway Patrol are also committed to pedestrian safety in the Junee area. Junee drivers are reminded that Highway Patrol conduct enforcement in School Zones. Drivers need to be aware that during child drop off and pick up in school zones, they need to park or stop in accordance with the road rules in the appropriate areas. Fines apply for unsafe driver behaviour in school zones.

As the festive season approaches and COVID-19 restrictions ease, it is a timely reminder that people have a Plan B after consuming alcohol. Drivers also need to consider their blood alcohol level the next day.

If you are travelling this festive season; please plan your trip, drive to the speed limit, take rest breaks and arrive alive.

COMPLETED WORKS PROGRAM 2020 / 2021



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Neil Smith (Mayor)
 Matt Austin (Deputy Mayor)
 Robin Asmus
 Bob Callow
 David Carter
 Mark Cook
 Pam Halliburton
 Martin Holmes
 Kerri Walker

STAFF

James Davis
 General Manager
Cole Davis
 Director Engineering Services
Luke Taberner
 Chief Financial Officer