

Junee Mayor 2016 Australia Day Address

Our Australia Day celebrations are held on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people and I wish to acknowledge them as Traditional Owners.

I would also like to pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today.

What does Australia Day mean to you? What do you think of?

Is it barbeques and backyard cricket? Is it summer holidays and time spent with family? It's probably all these things, but scratch the surface and perhaps it's more. So much more. Perhaps it's the gift that is this land we inhabit. And make no mistake – it is a gift and one to be valued.

Let's pause and think about this great island continent and it's distance away from so many more troubled and turbulent parts of the globe. It's vast agricultural opportunities with rich soils, unrivalled sunshine, and pristine reserves of underground water. These things are most precious and I ask you all to reflect on how very precious and sustainable our water and our land are.

The opportunity to learn and understand about cultures, people, places from the far flung corners of this planet. There are few other countries where such cultural diversity exists in relative harmony.

As we race towards a global economy and communication, the very practical advantages of understanding other cultures will become essential.

The opportunity to learn, to achieve, to live and raise a family in a safe place. A place where our aged and infirm – indeed where everyone – has the comfort of knowing they'll be cared for. Where health systems and social justice systems exist and prevail.

Where, in this vast melting pot we maintain a culture of dry humour mixed with a healthy dose of cynicism. Far be it from us Aussie's to miss an opportunity to, in a very good way, take the mickey out of someone and to be disappointed if they didn't serve it straight back at us.

This is a country where volunteering and helping your fellow man & woman is common place. Where without our volunteers and our willing support networks, our country would grind to a halt.

Australia really is a very special and wonderful place to live, grow, achieve and help others.

So as we get together as a community, as we get together with our families, as we're turning that snag on the barby – please just pause for a moment and think about how fantastic Australia really is!



Mayor Cr Neil Smith, Junee Town Band & Australia Day Ambassador Viv Kartsounis at the Australia Day 2016 Ceremony

Future Secured

On the 18 December 2015 the Premier of NSW announced that Junee Shire Council would remain as a stand-alone council within the context of the local Government reform known as Fit for the Future.

The Junee Community maintained a consistent and strong position throughout the course of the Fit for the Future process, asserting that their Council have full political and managerial independence over the Junee Shire Local Government Area. Community stakeholders and individuals deserve enormous

credit in achieving what can only be described as a great outcome for their community. Many wrote letters, some made repeated phone calls to members of parliament and others were just tonneaus advocates in their support of retaining their local council.

The Council would like to publicly thank the Junee Community for its courageous and inspiring advocacy and support in securing the future of its local council.

Junee's Australia Day Awards

The Junee Australia Day 2016 ceremony was attended by some 200 residents to support and congratulate those nominated for Australia Day awards. The Junee Town Band and the newly formed Junee Community Choir were well received and entertained the crowd throughout the ceremony.

The 2016 Australia Day Ambassador Viv Kartsounis not only attended the ceremony, she also ran the new 7.2km Jail Break Fun Run and said she thoroughly enjoyed the course.

A Big congratulations to all those community members nominated for awards. The winners of each category are as follows:

- Citizen of the Year: Harry Thompson
- Young Citizen of the Year: Jackson Bennett
- Sportsperson of the Year: Tristan Ross
- Young Sportsperson of the Year: Abbey Field
- Volunteer Team of the Year: Junee Roundhouse Museum



Tristan Ross, Jackson Bennett, Abbey Field and Harry Thompson

Junee Recreation Centre

It is anticipated that the Centre, which is currently operating under its 'Shoulder' period, will move to its Winter operating hours on the first weekend in April. This will see the Centre operating from 6.00am to 8.00pm on Monday to Fridays, from 9.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays and 11.00 to 3.00pm on Sundays. The last three months has been a busy time for the Recreation Centre:

- The Centre's Waterslide commenced operation in December 2015 and continued on until the end of February. As usual, it has been very popular with over 700 individual slide tickets sold and 20 exclusive 1 hour bookings made for the slide.
- February was school carnival time at the Centre. 13 individual schools made bookings for the pool areas with numbers up to 200 for some of the carnivals. Southern Sports Academy also held two netball squad training sessions in February mainly utilizing the stadium.

Attendance at the Centre is up from 2014/2015. More people are coming to the Centre to enjoy the services on offer. As at the end of January over 32,000 attendances have been recorded.

You, Me & Junee

Upcoming Events

- Float In Movie Night-Sat 5 March
- Clean Up Australia Day- Sun 6 March
- Junee Rotary Farmers Market- Sun 6 March
- Junee Rhythm n Rail Festival- Fri 11 to Sun 13 March.
- Illabo Melodrama- Fri & Sat 11 & 12, 18 & 19 March
- Broadway Museum Easter Party- Sun 20 March
- Seniors Week- Sun 3- Sat 9 April
- Youth Week- Fri 8 - Sun 17 April
- Illabo Country Music Stampede-Thurs 14 April

For more information about upcoming events please visit our website www.youmeandjunee.com.au



Illabo Melodrama, Rhythm n Rail Festival & Float In Movie Night

Junee Youth Council

The Junee Youth Council (JYC) has been back in operation since August 2015. Their main goal is to liaise with Junee Shire Council in planning activities for the youth of Junee Shire. JYC currently has 11 members from 3 schools around the shire. JYC is open to members aged 12-25 and always welcome new members to come on board. JYC are currently helping with the planning of the Youth Week events and hope to be able to bring some new and exciting activities to the calendar.

The Youth Council is also holding a fundraiser raffle. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5 and includes some fantastic prizes thanks to GEO group Junee. For more information please visit the You, Me and Junee website or follow them on facebook: JuneeShireYouth.



Junee Youth Council Members on their Christmas Outing

Clean Up Australia Day-6 March

Have you registered your site for Clean Up Australia Day 2016?

Site registration is still open for Clean Up Australia Day 2016! Take a look around your local community for areas in need of a Clean Up and join us for a day of fun and excitement as we pitch in to improve the environment. Clean Up Australia Day is your chance to make a difference to your community and environment. Anyone and everyone can get involved - It's quick, free and easy to volunteer!



All Junee Shire community members who register and attend Clean Up Australia Day will be invited to a free "Thank You" BBQ as well as free entry to the Junee Pool from 12:00pm on the day.

You are welcome to have a look online at sites already created in your area to join as a volunteer!

- Go to www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au
- Select "Join A Clean Up Site" at the bottom of the page
- Search for a site in the area by postcode, suburb or site name
- Select a site and register as a volunteer!

Then it's easy as getting out on the day to give the local environment a hand.

If you have any questions or are in need of help to register as a volunteer, please contact David Koren or Nicole Barton on (02) 6924 4680.

South West Regional Family Day Care

Excellent Childcare at Home

South West Regional Family Day is an accredited and registered home based child care service where families are able to receive child care benefit and child care rebate to assist with their fees. Imagine your child in a small group setting being inspired, nurtured, educated and challenged by one trusted qualified Educator. If you require care or are interested in becoming an Educator please ring our office staff.



If you would like to find out more please ring 026924 1017 Approved Provider Junee Shire Council fdc@juneen.nsw.gov.au

Junee Library

Tech Savvy Seniors - training.

Over the course of 2016 the Junee Library and the State Library of NSW will be providing computer and Internet training for seniors. There will be three sessions throughout the year.



Session 1: Introduction to computers,
Session 2 & 3: Introduction to the Internet (part I).
This year is the National Year of Digital Inclusion.

It is estimated that some 3.7 million Australians are not connected to the Internet with older Australians and those living in rural and regional areas most affected. As our world becomes increasingly digital these Australian are left further and further behind.

If you are one of the 3.7 million Australians who need help to become computer literate, contact the library and register your interest. Dates are yet to be announced but there will be a limited number of places so get in quick.

Phone the library on 692421111 or drop in and talk to a staff members. Not interested in this training but need help with other Internet problems? The library staff can give you free guidance each Wednesday at 11am until 12 noon. You don't need to make an appointment, just drop in at this time for some one-on-one help.

Athenium Theatre

The Friends of Athenium Theatre are working towards the upgrade to the Dress Circle to bring that part of the theatre back into use. It is a very involved process with approval needed from the NSW Heritage Council, but it is progressing.

Good news regarding the donation of a roll down screen (Valued at \$19,500) which will be erected inside the proscenium curtain. This will allow the showing of movies at more regular intervals.

Previously to show a movie members of the committee had to remove the back stage curtains to bring the original screen forward for use and this involved an estimated 15 man hours!

The Athenium is now available for public hire and bookings can be made by contacting Nicole Barton on 0422 767 667 or by downloading a function package from: www.youmeandjuneecom.au/live/hire-venues/athenium-theatre

Junee Business and Trades

2016 will be a busy year for JBT kicking off with assisting the Rhythm n Rail festival committee in March. Junee Business & Trades is hosting a business after hours session being held at Qube Logistics plant at Harefield late March followed by an information session on the 20th April at the Athenium with A.J Gallagher insurance brokers.

JBT will be starting the organising of the annual gala ball which is held at the start of September.

JBT would like to welcome new and existing businesses to become part of Junee Business and Trades to attend our next meeting on 24th February 2016 at Commins Hendricks Office Junee.



Rhythm n Rail Festival Update

The Rhythm n Rail Festival has evolved yet again and looks like being one of the best years yet. Broadway will be home to markets stall and kids zone with the Athenium housing the main stage for all performances on Saturday.

Sunday will see a return to the ever popular Memorial Park for a family and community day, with Peel St closed for a Junee Motor Club show and shine. Entry in the general market area's on both Saturday and Sunday are free. The organising team have put together an excellent ticket offer which includes free and discounted events and venues, as well as some great local meal deals.



Leeton Lions Train, Markets & "Tugs" Ukelele Gang Performance

A new addition to the 2016 program is the introduction of the 'Search For a Star' talent quest. Auditions have been held during February with the Grand final set to rock out at the Commercial Hotel on Saturday night 12th of March. The winner then performs on the main stage in Memorial Park on Sunday.

There will also be a premiere street and custom motor bike display on Saturday with \$2000 in prizes up for grabs. The Double Decker bus and Leeton Lions Train will be running. Locomotive 3237 steams into town for shuttles between Wagga, Junee and Cootamundra, courtesy of The Railway café. For more information visit their website: www.rhythmnrail.com.au

Broadway Museum

The Broadway Museum is an important resource for local residents, former residents, and especially school children, on the history and geography of the area in which they live. And it is right on your 'doorstep', as the cliché goes. Don't wait until you have guests to show around Junee, come now and see what there is on display; teachers, arrange a class trip to the Museum, we are an easy walking distance from all the schools in Junee - use the Museum's extensive resources and information to your class's benefit!

The Museum is open every day, except Tuesday, from 10:00am to 4:00pm. We have a great courtyard where you can bring your lunch or snack and eat in a beautiful, historical surrounding! By the way, the Broadway Museum is wheelchair friendly with an automatic stair-lift chair to the upstairs area, and a wheelchair accessible toilet.

Dates to remember- Mark in your calendar:

- Music at the Museum - First Friday of each month – bring an instrument, your singing voice, or just come and enjoy this 'jam session' with musicians from all around the Riverina!
- The Easter Party! – 2-4pm Sunday, 20 March at the Museum – Easter egg hunt, colouring competition, giant Easter Basket raffle, and more!
- Junee & District Historical Society monthly meeting – held on the third Monday of each month at Ex-Services Memorial Club at 2:00pm. New members are always welcome!!

Community News

Old Junee Hall Re-roofing

The re-roofing of the Old Junee Hall has recently been completed thanks to the Community Building Program grants and the assistance of the Junee Shire Staff. The Old Junee Hall Committee were the lucky recipients of two grants totalling \$13,715.00 which enabled them to complete a project that would have otherwise not been possible.

The hall is available to the public and the committee is happy to facilitate it's use. They have bingo quite regularly and are in the early stages of planning a song and dance afternoon to be advertised soon.



Old Junee Hall

Council Rolling Through Record Capital Works Program

The 2015/16 financial year has been a busy year so far for the Junee Shire Council field staff. On top of the regular budgets for grading unsealed roads, resealing sealed roads and rebuilding a kilometre or two of the network, the Council has been fortunate to have received:

- over \$1 million from Restart NSW's Fixing Country Roads program to fund the upgrade of Combaning Road
- just under \$700,000 in additional Roads to Recovery funding
- the awarding of almost \$1 million to undertake road safety improvements at Old Junee through the Road Maintenance Council Contract the Council holds with the Roads and Maritime Service.

This record capital works program will see about 14km or nearly 16% of the Council's local road network either renewed or upgraded this year (not including reseals or resheeting). This puts the Council well and truly on the front foot in addressing the infrastructure backlog that plagues councils across the state.

Projects are progressing well with all scheduled works to be completed by the end of the year. We understand that road works do lead to some delays and disruption and we ask, for the safety of our field staff and other motorists, that you slow down at work sites and obey all directions given.



**New work on
Combaning Rd**

Illegal Dumping – The Costs Are Adding Up

When you hear the term illegal dumping, thoughts immediately leap to a dark, moonless night and a shadowy figure tipping rubbish on the side of the road.

But did you also know that the term – and the penalties – also refer to dumping waste that is either of the wrong type or not located in the appropriate bins at rural transfer stations?

Unfortunately this situation has become more and more frequent over the last few months across all of Junee Shire Council's rural transfer stations. And the costs from dealing with it are adding up.

So far this financial year, more than \$15,000 in additional, unbudgeted expenditure has been incurred following the dumping of all manner of rubbish – from old prams to 44 gal. drums to balls of old fencing wire – at Transfer Stations and the clean-up that must follow.

To address this, additional patrols of the Transfer Stations have been approved and in the worst hit locations, electronic surveillance may be undertaken to detect those doing the wrong thing.

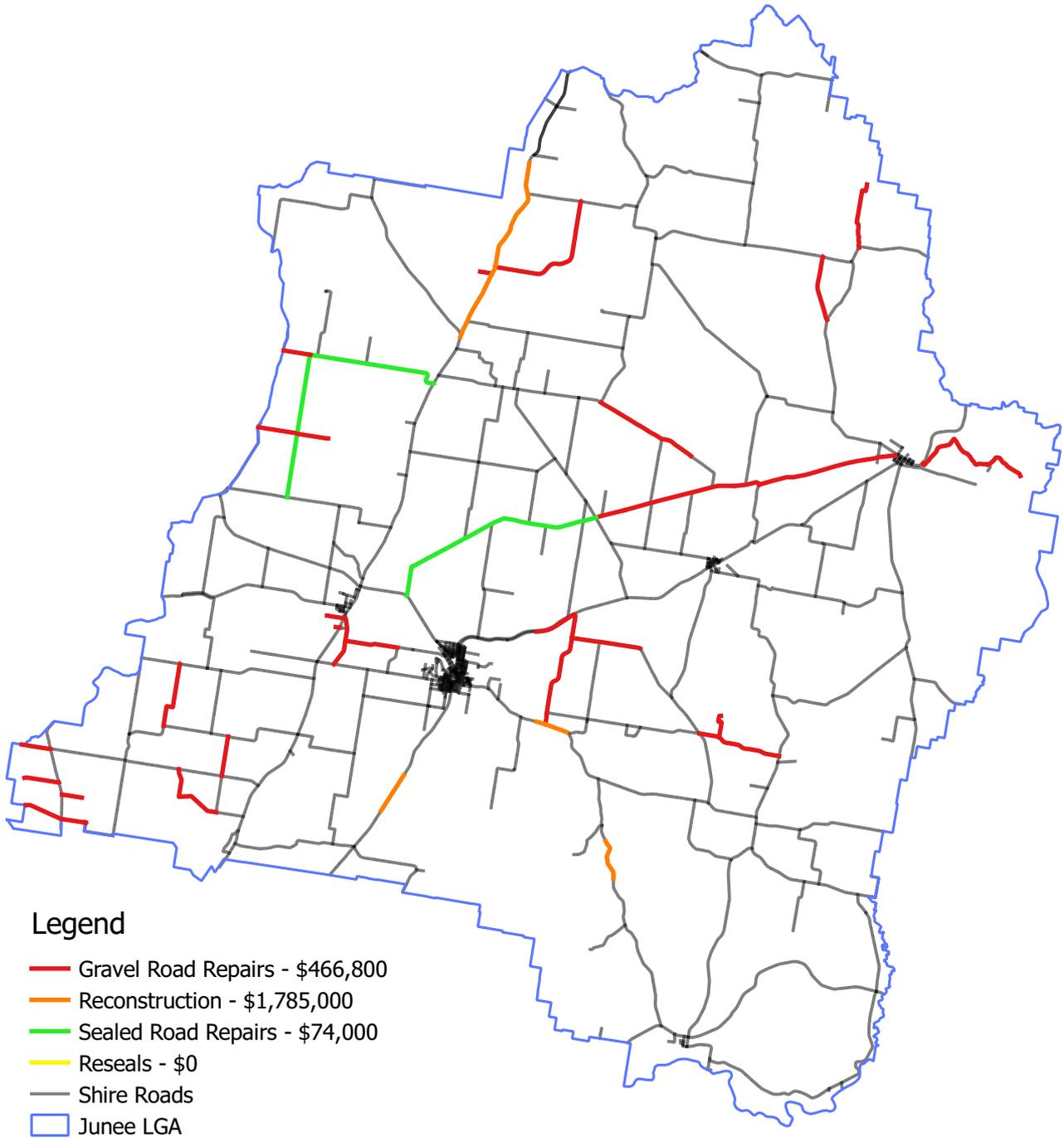
All users of transfer stations are reminded that only household waste – food packaging, scraps, nappies, etc – and dry, co-mingled recyclables – such as glass bottles, plastic bottles, newspapers, tin cans etc – are permitted to be disposed of in the appropriate bins at Transfer Stations. All other types of waste must be disposed of at the Junee Landfill Facility, Kahmoo Lane, Junee.

Finally, if you see someone doing the wrong thing, either say something or contact the Council – don't let the actions of a few ruin it for all.



**Illegal Dumping at one
of Junee Shire's rural
transfer stations**

Junee Shire Works Program from July 2015 to January 2016



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