

NEWSLETTER



FROM THE MAYOR

Winter is here again, a time for those sparkling crisp mornings and those cosy evenings curled up in front of the fire. At the risk of repeating myself, I love the change of seasons. I look forward to the



definite change that we experience in this part of our country. No Darwin like move from 36 degrees to 34 degrees. A real seasonal change to be looked forward to and positively embraced.

Since our shift into COVID mode, to exercise, I have been getting out on my push bike in the mornings. Yes it's been fresh but also invigorating. Cool early mornings with the sun's rays slanting across the green gardens and sports fields of Junee, exchanging "G'days" with the regular users of our extensive all access network of paths. It makes me smile and appreciate how fortunate we are to be part of this beautiful town with it's safe and friendly community.

Although somewhat old news, I think it's worth mentioning how impressed I have been with how Junee and our villages handled ANZAC Day this year. With our usual gatherings prohibited, we found alternate, respectful and creative ways to commemorate the day. Like many others, my wife Bronnie and I stood in our driveway at dawn, radio tuned to the ABC service, home-made wreath of rosemary in hand and candles



lit. The camaraderie we felt with our neighbours up and down the street, the peaceful and personal nature of this means of commemorating the day was really quite special.

Driving around town it made me smile to see how many yards, front fences, even utes had been decorated to show support for our fallen and to remind us of the folly of war.



Looking forward, we are seeing COVID based restrictions being relaxed. Only if we all continue to behave sensibly will this continue. It is not a time for complacency, indeed it is a time to continue to manage our personal hygiene and distancing scrupulously. If you haven't already, I strongly encourage you to download the Government's COVIDSafe app. Once you have downloaded it - don't forget to turn it on and leave it running, something I wasn't aware of initially.

Until next time, stay safe one and all.

Mayor, Cr Neil Smith

Keep you and your family safe

Download now

Download on the App Store | ANDROID APP ON Google play

For further information or to download the COVIDSafe app visit the Department of Health website: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app>



NEW SIGNS FOR SHIRE VILLAGES

Production is underway on the construction of new signage for our Shire’s villages with installation planned for June 2020. Standing approximately 2600mm in height, these signs will be a stand out feature in welcoming visitors to our wonderful villages.



JUNEE LIBRARY

There has never been a better time to use your library!

Since the library’s’ closure at the end of March dedicated library staff have loaned on average each week 417 items by means of home deliveries or collections at the door. The Junee Library staff are experts at picking books for you or your family and will go to every effort to make sure you get items that you haven’t already read, watched or listened to. If you wish for library staff to put together a selection of items simply contact us by phone on 69242111, email library@junee.nsw.gov.au or send a message via our Facebook page.



Did we mention we have new front doors?

The original library doors have now been fitted to swing open and out as you approach the library entrance and as you leave. Not only will it be easier for you to visit the library but borrowing just got a lot more stress-free with the end of overdue fees. Any items currently on loan while our doors are closed are being managed with an automatic renewal process which means that no overdue fines will accrue. And you can join the library for free. See one of our friendly staff or go to www.rrl.nsw.gov.au and fill in the online membership form.

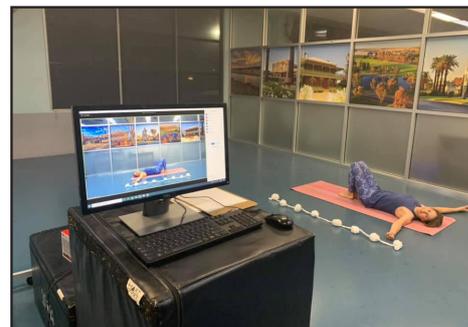


REC CENTRE UPDATE

The resurfacing of the JJRAC stadium began on Monday, 11 May. A new surface was laid to replace the old one that was damaged during the centre flood in 2019. As part of the resurfacing, the basketball line markings have been updated to comply with the new competition standards.



Outdoor Bootcamps commenced on May 20 at Laurie Daley Oval. These bootcamps are running three times a week at 6:15am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



During the COVID - 19 closures we have been running Online Workouts for our members which have proved very popular, receiving over 1500 views during the month of April.

KIDS CLASSES - fun, entertaining 30 minute classes for 3 - 5 year olds. Running every Wednesday morning at 11am (via ZOOM).

STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CONGRATULATIONS

Richard "Coogie" Thomas on 40 years service to Junee Shire Council.



Thank you for your years of dedication and hard work. We look forward to many more.

What may not be widely known is that in Junee Shire the burning, in the open, of anything including vegetation is also prohibited and it is an offence under the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulations 2010*. Council can issue on the spot penalties of \$500 to individuals or \$1000 to corporations who are found to be lighting prohibited fires without first obtaining Council approval.

There are some exemptions to the above legislation and it is not considered an offence to:

- Burn for the purpose of cooking or barbeque in the open.
- Light, maintain and use a fire for recreational purposes such as camping, picnicing, scouting or other similar outdoor activities so long as only dry seasoned wood is used.
- Burn vegetation on agricultural premises.
- Burn anything (by authorised persons) for the purposes of giving instruction in methods of fire fighting.
- To burn anything under the authority of, and in accordance with, a bush fire hazard reduction certificate issued under the Rural Fire Act 1997.

In summary, having a small manageable and contained backyard fire involving dry seasoned wood is considered acceptable for recreational uses so long as the emission of nuisance smoke is managed. Any other form of burning that is not exempted above would require a specific approval of Council.

DON'T BURN YOUR CASH WITH BACKYARD BONFIRES

Backyard burning is permissible under some circumstances but there are many where it is prohibited within the Junee Shire Council local government area and on-the-spot fines of \$500 have been issued to individuals.

With winter upon us and the evenings getting cooler, the urge to get out and light backyard fires is high, whether it's to clean up the yard of fallen timber and leaves or as a social gathering point as we move out of COVID-19 restrictions.

Most people would be aware they are not allowed to burn household rubbish and prohibited articles such as tyres and coated wire in their backyards.



YES



NO



FARM BUILDINGS, GARDEN SHEDS & SHIPPING CONTAINERS

These days we all seem to be searching for more storage space, whether at home, at work or on the farm and there are numerous storage options available, but be aware, most storage buildings may require planning approval before they are constructed or installed onsite.



Purchasing a prefab garden shed from a local hardware dealer or simply dropping a shipping container in the back yard may seem like easy and inexpensive storage options for home or work. Even the erection of a larger farm building to store

fodder or machinery may seem like an insignificant, out of the way type project. However, as simple as these buildings may seem, many people forget to check if they may need planning approval, or just ignore the NSW planning laws on “Development”, thinking it’s too hard to navigate or that there will be no ramifications for doing the wrong thing.

Regardless of what many people may think it is important to get this right – the legislation is there to ensure new development will have minimal impact on the surrounding environment eg. visual, vegetation, flora and fauna, natural hazards, land use conflicts, noise and structural adequacy. Put simply, anything you want to do on your land is “development” under the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act. This is the place to start and then what needs to be determined is whether the development is exempt and doesn’t need a formal approval or requires consent or permission before proceeding.

Determining whether development is exempt and does not need approval requires some research and/or a conversation with Council’s planning and development staff. The main document that helps the research is called the *NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* or Code SEPP for short. Within Part 2 of the Code SEPP you will find what you need and Subdivisions 9 and 16 specifically deal with garden sheds and farm buildings respectively.



Shipping containers cannot be installed on a property as exempt development under Subdivision 9 which is mainly concerned with residential land. Their placement and use requires development approval. This subdivision does help with sheds and for example, in Junee and land zoned RU5 Village, a shed smaller than 20m² floor area is exempt and does not

require approval if it is no more than 3m high; is set back at least 900mm from the side and rear boundaries and fits behind the building line.



Farm land is covered in Subdivision 16 which relates to farm buildings and the floor area for an exempt farm shed is larger than for a residential land shed as you would expect. It also allows shipping containers (no more than one on land less than 400 hectares) without approval as long as the land is zoned as rural. Most of the village areas of Old Junee, Illabo, Bethungra and Wantabadgery are NOT rural zones and shipping containers are not permitted without consent.

For further information on the development standards that may apply to your project you will need to refer to the Code SEPP. The easiest way to access the Code SEPP is by simply typing “NSW Exempt Development” into your internet search engine and select the NSW Legislation link.

It can be complex at times to navigate planning legislation to ensure you get it right but it is important to note that development cannot be undertaken as “Exempt Development” and will need some kind of formal approval before the works commence. Failure to obtain the appropriate approval may result in legal or enforcement action being taken and the cancellation of any insurance claims made against the loss or damage of that development.

Council is here to help where we can, however the onus of responsibility will always rely on the property owner to conduct their own research and satisfy themselves, that any new storage building or container they are planning will satisfy all appropriate planning approval laws.

FOOD & GREEN WASTE COLLECTION

Did You Know! Food and green waste makes up about 60% of household waste. Councils must pay to dispose of waste so if we can stop taking this type of waste to landfills then we can save money. Separating waste into three different categories (organics, recyclables and residual) will reduce waste going to landfill and increase recycling.

In addition organic waste, when placed in landfill, produces methane gas which has over 20 times the global warming potential than carbon dioxide. So removing organic waste helps the environment and is an essential step in building a sustainable future.

What is organic/food waste?

Organic waste is any waste that was originally from a plant or animal. This includes all food waste including fish, meat and bones, tea bags and coffee grounds and leftover foods (cooked or raw). It also includes greenwaste which is the waste produced in your garden including grass clippings, twigs, weeds, leaves and flowers.

What is the bright green lid bin and small benchtop bin for?

The bin with the bright green lid is for food and green waste and the benchtop bin and liners are to help you to collect your household's food waste. The liners are biodegradable and will break down in the composting process.

What can I put in my bright green lid organics bin that is emptied FORTNIGHTLY?

All organic and green waste. This includes all food and garden vegetation, including fish, meat and bones, tea bags and coffee grounds, leftover foods (cooked or raw) as well as green waste which includes grass clippings, twigs, weeds and flowers. Tissues and paper towel are also acceptable. Do not put any plastic bags, recyclable materials or household garbage into the organics bin.

What if I put the wrong things in my organics bin?

To combat contaminated organic and recycling bins, Council will be introducing random bin checks and those found to be contaminated will not be collected.

food



meat scraps



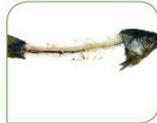
fruit scraps



tea bags/coffee grinds



egg shells



fish & bones



leftovers



green waste



leaves



prunings & flowers



grass clippings



twigs & sticks



nappies



plastic bags



building materials



recyclables



rubbish

for more information:

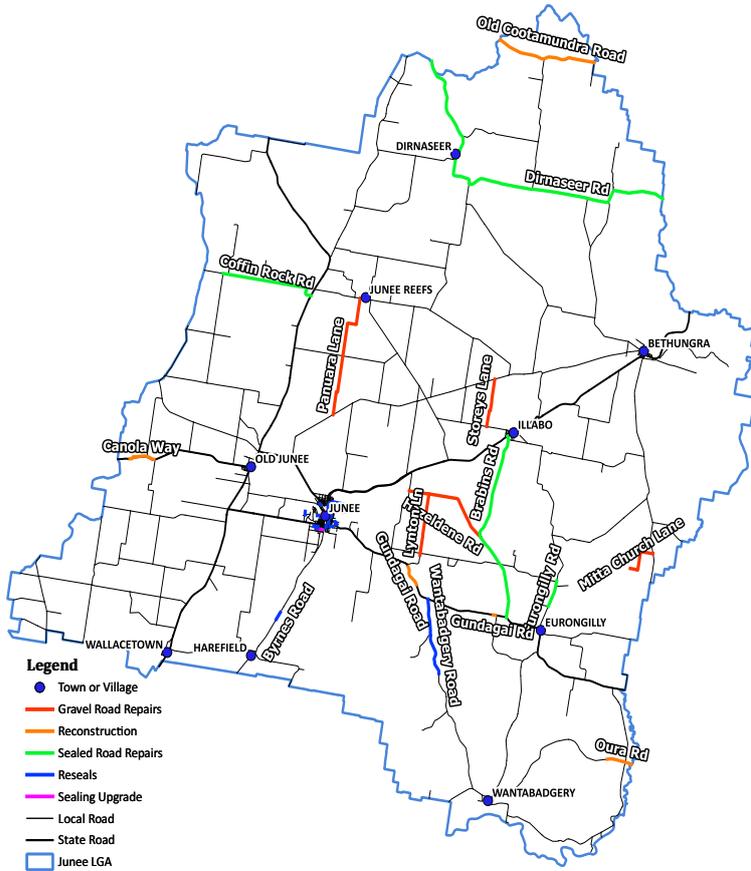
www.waste.reroc.com.au

RECYCLE MATE APP

Recycle Mate, is now available to help take the confusion out of recycling.

www.recyclemate.com.au

COMPLETED WORKS PROGRAM 2019 / 2020



ILLABO RAIL CROSSING CURVE IMPROVEMENT



Council has now completed this project which involved batter flattening, new signage, rock mattresses and hydro-mulching works.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP)

The Junee STP is a great asset to the Junee community. The Plant will accommodate any future growth within the town for years to come.



PROJECT UPDATES

BETHUNGRA HILL STAGE 3C WORKS

Council's crew and a contractor are carrying out rock revetment mattress works on the Olympic Highway. The stage 3C works for Transport for NSW are nearing completion.



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EMERGENCIES

Sewerage Blockages:
6924 1040
Dogs/Animals:
0427 694 272
Works Depot:
6924 1702

COUNCILLORS

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
Grant Johnson
Director Community & Business
Cole Davis
Director Engineering Services
Luke Taberner
Chief Financial Officer