

MAY 2022

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Justin
CLANCY MP
MEMBER FOR ALBURY

Newsletter

ELECTORATE OF ALBURY INCORPORATING ALBURY CITY, SHIRE OF GREATER HUME, FEDERATION, MURRUMBIDGEE AND SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCILS.

Health & Jobs

This is a great community and by working together we are able to take on ambitious projects.

On 7 April the NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole came to Albury to advance a number of these.

First up there was the announcement of \$15 million to help fund a substantial redevelopment of the Albury Entertainment Centre. Much of this work will enhance the city's ability to attract major conventions.

"Today's announcement will help activate the cultural precinct, boost the local economy, create jobs and future proof investment appeal for the Albury region," Mr Toole said.

Flow-on benefits from the upgrades will support economic stimulation and jobs growth across a range of sectors.

Working in harmony, the Albury Entertainment Centre Redevelopment is jointly funded by the NSW Government, the Australian Government (\$10 million), and Albury City Council (\$5 million).

Mr Toole made clear that the investment complements the government's long-term commitment to the Albury Wodonga region, "helping to improve the lives of the communities on both sides of the Murray River, making both cities better places to visit, live and do business".

During his visit I also presented the Deputy Premier with matters relating to Albury Wodonga Health.

NSW has already committed \$120 million for infrastructure projects at Albury Hospital including the emergency department and NSW-funded Nolan House and intensive care facilities. This is for the benefit of residents of both states who rely on this hospital for critical services.

This is a particularly important matter for our community and one that I am continuing to prosecute.

Justin Clancy, Member for Albury



With Deputy Premier Paul Toole
and Albury Mayor Kylie King



"Today's announcement will help activate the cultural precinct, boost the local economy, create jobs and future proof investment appeal for the Albury region".



Plastics Recycling Plant Opens.

In NSW we produce the bottles, collect the empties, process this plastic, shape it into ways that can be used in manufacturing of new bottles, then refill the bottles for a repeat journey. This is the idea of a 'circular economy' in action.

NSW Environment Minister James Griffin said the Circular Plastics Australia joint venture between Pact Group Holdings Ltd, Cleanaway Waste Management Ltd, Asahi Beverages and Coca Cola Euro Pacific Partners will provide ongoing benefits to the local economy. Momentum is building between government, industry and the community working together to find better ways to deal with waste and conserve our resources while reducing landfill and litter.

"It is great to see NSW's highly successful Return and Earn scheme providing the raw ingredients for this game-changing circular economy project, backed by a successful partnership between federal and state governments and private industry," said Minister Griffin.

On 11 March I was at Ettamogah for the official opening of the nation's largest PET (polyethylene terephthalate) recycling plant, capable of processing one billion plastic bottles annually.

Federal Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management Trevor Evans said that the Australian and NSW governments are proud to have invested about \$5.3 million in this facility.

The project has provided more than 200 local jobs during construction and will continue to boost employment with more than 40 local jobs during operation.

This has been an exciting journey for the partners who together make up Circular Plastics Australia. Already well-established in Albury, by working together and utilising the statewide resources of the Return and Earn program we are seeing an evolution towards a true, nation leading circular economy in action.



Riverbank Erosion

I was able to take NSW Environment Minister James Griffin to Byron & Vicki Gray's property in South Albury on 11 March to examine issues with bank stabilisation and erosion on the Murray River.

I want to thank Curl Jeffries at Talmalmo for first bringing this issue to my attention. We live on what is perhaps the most important waterway in our nation – culturally, socially and economically.

It concerns me, and no doubt others, that we run the risk of treating our river as just a channel to push water down. Yes, delivery of water is important, but so also is respecting and treating the Murray as a precious natural asset. Part of that is listening to local stakeholders – our local indigenous communities and generational farmers like Byron.

This is one of several conversations that I have had recently here in Albury and in Sydney as a way of drawing attention to our Murray.

Minister for Skills and Training Alister Henskens was in Albury on 9 March to hear about local innovation and to visit a state-of-the-art upgrade to the beauty rooms at TAFE NSW Albury.

This upgrade – funded with \$500,000 from the NSW Government – will enhance the campus' capacity to deliver quality training aligned with industry demand.

"The new beauty space has been fitted with industry-leading make-up stations, mirrors, manicure and pedicure stations, beauty beds and a new reception area which will play a critical role in training the next generation of beauty therapists," Mr Henskens said.

The upgrade forms part of the NSW Government's recent \$2 million investment in TAFE NSW Albury, which includes the purchase of new teaching equipment and facilities, classroom computers and new Connected Learning Points.

\$500,000 Albury TAFE Upgrade for Beauty Rooms



Help with the cost of living.

1 Parents Vouchers

Families can now enjoy \$250 worth of vouchers, under the NSW Government's Parents NSW program.

Eligible families will receive five \$50 vouchers which can be redeemed at Discover NSW and Stay NSW registered businesses.

Applying is easy and can be done quickly via your Service NSW app, the Service NSW website or by calling 13 77 88 for assistance.

For more information, visit
<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/parents-nsw-vouchers>

2 Learn to Swim Voucher

The NSW Government's new \$100 First Lap learn to swim voucher for pre-school children and kindergarten kids are available until 30 June 2022.

For more details or to download a voucher, visit
<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/cost-living>

**Claim your First Lap voucher in three easy steps**



1
Claim your voucher via [service.nsw.gov.au](https://www.service.nsw.gov.au) or the Service NSW app



2
Find your preferred Approved First Lap Provider



3
Use your voucher at time of payment for swimming lessons

\$199,801 for Henty Library

Our libraries are so much more than just a place to read or borrow a book. They contribute to community resilience by being a safe space, a place for information, to connect with one another and a place for all ages.

And they have amazing staff – such as Susan & Sarah at Henty who are passionate about their community as being great places to live.



Greater Hume Council has just received \$199,801 to improve the amenity of Henty Library with new shelving and circulation desk, upgrades to the meeting room and the creation of a pleasant outdoor space. This follows a similar investment in Holbrook where upgrades are nearing completion.

The funding is part of the additional \$60M over four years the NSW Government is providing to enhance library services and facilities across the state.

3 Regional Seniors Travel Card

The very popular Regional Seniors Travel Card has made its return in 2022 with applications opened through Service NSW.

The card is designed to assist with travel costs for eligible seniors living in regional NSW and can be used for:

- ✓ Trains
- ✓ Fuel
- ✓ Taxi services

Eligibility requirements apply. Go to
<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/regionalseiniortravel>

Or alternatively contact ServiceNSW on 13 77 88 or visit your local ServiceNSW Centre.





Community Building Partnerships

It's great to see NSW funding going to support better community facilities and activities – such as improvements at the Henty Show-ground for Billabong Little Athletics including a much needed new long jump and storage shed; and improvements at the Holbrook Community Gym.

At the heart of it though is the efforts of people within our communities – people such as Beck, Courtney, Rachael and Amanda at Billabong Little Athletics in Henty, and Pam, Liz and Carly at the Holbrook Community Gym.

These amazing people in our communities give so generously of their time to ensure that our towns have the recreational and sporting activities that are so important for good health, well-being and connection.



CEO Jenny O'Hara

New Roof for Murray Conservatorium

Thanks to Murray Conservatorium CEO Jenny O'Hara for the catch-up to review the restoration works currently underway at the Murray Con.

This iconic Albury building was built in 1886 originally as a Telegraph Office, and \$1.3 million funded by NSW government is going to much needed restoration so that it continues to be a jewel in the heart of our CBD and a beautiful home for our Murray Con for many more years!

A second grant has gone to the Conservatorium, providing \$44,440 to undertake the *Disability Enrichment Through Music* project in 2022.



On 11 February I joined Federation Council Staff and councillors on inspections of flood affected properties in Corowa.

It is important that residents let Council know as much information as possible about this rain event leading into the Flood Study Federation Council are about to undertake. Feedback sessions were held in February.

The summer floods were a challenging time for a number of people in our community. A standout is the amazing work that is done by our rescue agencies and I was proud to have the opportunity to say thank you to the Border Rescue Squad (VRA), SES, NSW RFS & NSW Fire Rescue for the all that they do in times of need.



\$750,000 for Monash Park in Jerilderie

The old weatherboard building on the left? That is the only existing facility for a women's change room at Monash Park in Jerilderie.

The space in the background? That's the site for a new women's change room with \$750k funding from the NSW government *Stronger Country Communities Program*.

And whilst it is exciting to be able to announce this, the best part is to catch up with people such as Megan Mauger and Keshia Marshall from Jerilderie FNC who, like so many committee volunteers, give so much to their community. It will be so good to see their hard work result in new change rooms for our women footballers and netballers at Jerilderie.



Clubgrants

Three projects in our local community are recipients of funding from the November 2021 round of the NSW Government's Infrastructure Grants Program.

- \$154,521 to Jindera Country Golf Club Inc. for the upgrade of the irrigation system
- \$12,527 to NSW RFS Mt Wagra Station for the upgrade of the operations trailer and station generator
- \$12,640 to Walla Walla Rural Fire Brigade for the refurbishment of the station kitchen.

These grants are made possible by the Clubgrants Category 3 Fund, which reinvests a contribution from the state's registered clubs gaming machine profits back into community projects.

Mercy Connect CEO Trent Dean,
Albury Mayor Kylie King



Basil House @ Mercy Connect

It was a fantastic day on 7 February to officially turn the sod of Mercy Connect's new 'Basil House' development, due for completion in 12 months.

Basil House will offer safe and secure interim housing for people with disability who need additional support, and will be the first of its kind to be built by Mercy Connect.

At any given time Basil House will be able to support up to two residents and one support staff member, with full amenities, providing ample space for both privacy and shared social spaces as needed.

I commend Mercy Connect's ongoing significant efforts to support our community and look forward to the opening of Basil House.

Help For Small Business #1

In March the NSW Small Business Fees and Charges Rebate increased from \$2000 to \$3000, with eligible employing businesses and not-for-profit organisations also able to claim a rebate of 50 per cent on the cost of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs).

Once approved, businesses will be provided with a \$3000 digital voucher in their Business Profile which applicants can claim against. Eligible businesses can simply lodge their proof of payment and 50 per cent of their expenditure on RATs will be reimbursed back into bank accounts.

Minister for Small Business Eleni Petinos said the rebate had tripled in value since it was first introduced in 2021 with more than 88,000 businesses collectively saving approximately \$119 million.

Help For Small Business #2

Small businesses that experienced a downturn over summer can now apply for a NSW Government support payment of up to \$5,000 per week through Service NSW.

The program will provide targeted support to businesses with an annual turnover of between \$75,000 and \$50 million that experienced a decline in turnover of at least 40 per cent in January 2022 and the start of February 2022.

For more information on the support program, please visit: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au>



1 Firefighter Memorial



2 Albury Woman of the Year, Desiree Georgiou was presented with her award by Bonnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Regional Health and Mental Health.



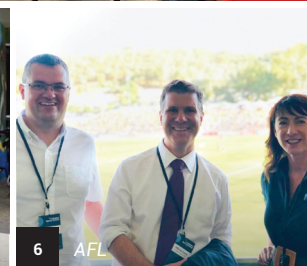
3 Nashos Day 2022



4 Indigenous Culture



5 Natasha Maclaren-Jones at Westside



6 AFL

1. The Rural Fire Service family and the Jingellic community gathered on Saturday 12 March around the family of Sam McPaul to dedicate a memorial to the young volunteer who gave his life in the Green Valley fire on December 30, 2019. This memorial just west of Jingellic, and a statue at Jingellic mark a special place – and will long stand as a heartfelt tribute by a grateful community for the sacrifice made by Sam and his family.
2. Chair of Business Women Albury-Wodonga Desiree Georgiou has been officially recognised as Albury Electorate's NSW Local Woman of the Year. Desiree is Chair of Business Women Albury Wodonga and owns and operates a nail and beauty salon in Albury, which has now expanded into her own line of cosmetics. Thank you Desiree for your work and support for women in business in our community.
3. On February 13, people gathered to recognise the servicemen who were compulsorily called to serve the country between 1951-1972 - the Nashos. It is an important day to thank those who have served, and also an opportunity to witness the impressive young men and women of our Albury & Wodonga cadet units - air, naval & army. For more information on joining our very own local cadet unit visit <https://m.facebook.com/37acu/>
4. With (L to R) Uncle Tunny, Ruth Davys and Uncle Sam discussing local indigenous community issues and opportunities down at beautiful Mungabareena on 15 March. A place of special cultural significance and meaning. Later we caught up again at the Indigenous Men's Shed in Glenroy and heard about the cultural program for medical students and all the good things happening at the Shed.
5. In addition to school holiday programs and playgroups, Westside Community Centre takes their role in the community a step further, providing food relief, case management services and clothing and hygiene products. I dropped in at Westside to introduce the now Minister for Families & Communities and Minister for Disability Services, Minister Natasha Maclaren-Jones.
6. A top turn-out by the Albury-Wodonga community including our two mayors Kylie and Kevin to see the Swannies and Giants up against each other at the Lavington Sports Ground on 25 February. What a beautiful night to have footy back on the border!



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