

# Winter News

Dungog Shire Council Newsletter | June 2023



## NEW AGE OF DUNGOG LIBRARY

After months of renovation and hard work, we are finally ready to unveil all the changes we've been making to Dungog Library.

This is the most significant refurbishment of the town's library in 40 years, which has seen the existing building almost double in size.

The library has undergone a major transformation, with a focus on creating a more comfortable and inviting space to better meet the needs of all.

Our community now has access to dedicated student study zones and cosy book nooks, new amenities, online resources hub, and a state-of-the-art meeting room with conference capabilities – there's even more shelf space to house our extensive book collection.

The upgrades to the Dungog Library were long overdue and the new facility will provide a contemporary library hub with ample space for students that need access to hi-tech educational resources and online learning forums, plus community event spaces for our popular story time.



The landscaped grounds include a reflection space with one of the prize-winning artworks from Sculpture on the Farm that was gifted to the Council for public display. Titled Theatre of the Shadow, the thought-provoking piece infers an ambiguity between shadow and reflection and is made by artist Peter Tilley.

We understand the importance of providing a safe and accessible space for all members of our community, that's why we have made sure that the library is fully accessible.

The community has been crying out for these facilities for some time and we are so pleased to be able to deliver a library the shire deserves.

The library upgrade project is being funded by a \$500,000 NSW State Library Public Library Infrastructure grant, a \$330,000 Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program grant and a \$250,000 Council contribution.

**Take a sneak peak inside the library!**



**To celebrate the \$1.08 million project coming to fruition there will be a month-long series of library warming events catered to all the different Library users.**

Kids, students, businesses, avid readers – there's something for everyone. There will be story time sessions for the kids, a youth pizza picnic and official opening celebration. Keep an eye on our socials and website for dates. Want to check out if the facility can house your group event or meeting? Book a tour with our librarians today.



# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

## Making sense of roads, grants, priorities.

What a summer we have had with heat waves and above average rainfall, through it all Council has been working as best we can to continue our vital roads rejuvenation program. This is despite being plagued with high labour costs, material and personnel shortages and schedule delays.

Since 2017 there's been approximately \$122 million in government funding spent on capital works throughout the shire's roads, bridges, and other infrastructure. This enormous amount of money handed out to all councils over the recent years has resulted in high demand for pre-cast stormwater culvert infrastructure, road base materials, sealing aggregates and other road making materials.

Good roads are good for us all: for business, for our agricultural sector, and for everyday drivers, mum and dad taxis who just want to get to where they need to be safely and without damage to their vehicles.

The \$25 million Special Purpose Grant funding announced last year is provided over five years, with \$1 million being allocated in late 2021, and \$6 million allocated every year after that towards repairing the Shire's road network.

This coming quarter works will continue to focus on restoring the integrity of our road surfaces with heavy patching, stabilising and drainage with the sole aim of improving the journey for the people driving on our roads.

So far, we have been very fortunate to be able to do these vital works to our roads that were made even more impassable due to the weather events of 2021 and 2022, but this kind of rapid pace infrastructure spending is just not sustainable without continued government support.

We heavily rely on government grants and funding allocations, and we welcome partnering with all levels of government to build resilience for our road network and ensure our ability to maintain our road network once the grant money dries up.

## KEY WINTER DATES



### Peek into the Past

**July 30:** From 10am – 3pm  
Total Homestead comes alive with the sights smells and sounds of yesteryear.



### Local Growers Stall

Dungog, held at the CWA Courtyard **every Saturday** brings you fresh produce grown by local farmers, market gardeners and backyard growers.



### Run Dungog

**Aug 6:** Test your stamina at the 2023 Run Dungog trail running festival. With trails ranging from 500m to 20km, there is something for every pace.



### Sculpture on the Farm

**Sept 29 – Oct 2:** Australian sculptors display 150 works in the galleries, gardens and paddocks of a picturesque rural cattle property at Fosterton.

**Council Meeting** held the **third Wednesday** of the month.



## ROADS UPDATE

**33km**  
ROAD REPAIRS

**7%**  
SEALED ROAD NETWORK

**17,108**  
POTHoles

**4000<sup>sqm</sup>**  
HEAVY PATCHING

This includes the completion of projects: Bingleburra Road bank stabilisation, replacement of Banfield, Chesworth, Dowlings and Gams Bridges, Hooke Street (western end) drainage and flood proofing, Bennett Park resurfacing(stage 1), Clarence Town Sporting Fields Car Park, Dungog Library extension, new amenities block for Clarence Town Village.

*Follow the [Dungog Shire Council Facebook page](#) for weekly updates on how we are tracking.*



## BRIDGES UPDATE

**23 bridges in program**

**7 completed**

**6 under construction**

**5 contracts awarded/works scheduled to begin in June**



We are transforming the shire through the delivery of stronger, safer bridges built with modern materials and continue to work hard to keep Dungog connected following the destructive floods earlier this year. There's never been a more important time to invest in the resilience of Dungog's transport connections.

Since 2017 there have been 30 bridges throughout the Shire replaced, either fully funded by the State Government or partially contributed to by Council. This includes the current program of works – \$22.26 million Fixing Country Bridges – that is replacing 23 of the Shires timber bridges with more resilient concrete structures.

That's a very significant effort for a council this size. And a milestone worth celebrating.

Council initially received \$16.44 million funding under the NSW Government Fixing Country Bridges Round 1 Program for 23 timber bridge replacements in 2021 which was increased to \$22.26 million in January. Of the 23 bridges, 18 have either been constructed, are under construction, or have had contracts awarded.

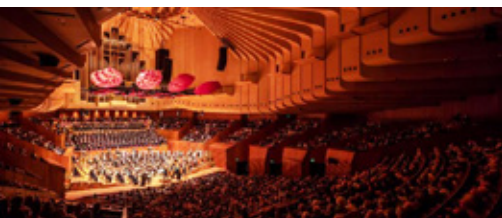
All of the Shire's timber bridges – except for the uniquely classified Pound's Crossing Bridge – have now either been replaced, under construction, or under contract for replacement, which is a major achievement. The program will ensure better and more resilient road access for farmers, freight, local residents and tourists.



## FROM THE VISIT DUNGOG DESK...

### Taking a Breath of Fresh Air in Dungog

There was lots of fresh air breathing this summer, with people exploring our great outdoors camping, walking, and biking. The milder weather at the start of the summer season was perfect for exploring the Barringtons – sometimes a bit wet, but the leeches certainly enjoyed the company. More and more overseas visitors are discovering Dungog primarily from France and the UK.



## FUN FACT!

**Did you know a little piece of Dungog shines in the Sydney Opera House. The brushbox hardwood timber floor and walls of the Sydney Opera House is made from trees grown in Dungog, supplied by Crolls Mill.**

## HISTORY REPEATS

We were lucky enough to witness a heart-warming moment of history repeating recently, when 89-year-old Ruby Archinal returned to the bridge she opened as a child. But this time it was to cut the ribbon on the newly completed \$1.07 million upgrade to Archinals Bridge.

The second timber bridge to be completed under the \$22 million Fixing Country Bridges program, the new concrete structure on Allyn Creek Road near Eccleston replaces a rickety timber bridge which was named after nearby land holders the Archinal family.

It was originally built in 1940 for £2000 and declared open by a then 4-year-old Ruby, whose family was one of the first settlers to the Allynbrook Valley.

**Watch a video of the Archinals Bridge opening**



## HAVE YOUR SAY

Is something you really care about on the agenda for the upcoming Council meeting? Do you want to voice your opinion on a Council matter?

You can have your say at our monthly Council meeting during the Public Forum. Each Council meeting includes an opportunity for anyone across the shire to speak for five minutes on a particular agenda item. You can attend the meeting in person, via Zoom, or dial in from your location.

If you are interested in speaking at the Public Forum, you can find the application form on our Meetings, Agendas and Minutes website page. This form must be submitted before 4pm on the Monday preceding the meeting.

Council's Ordinary Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6pm.

The meeting agenda is available for download from Council's website on the Friday prior.



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All information is correct at the time of publication (date).



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