



Junee Rhythm and Rail Festival Incorporated

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President's Report 2018

The 2018 Junee Rhythm and Festival was the Tenth Anniversary since the inaugural Festival of 2008 and it was a huge success!

However it must be noted that it was not all smooth sailing:

- After initial delays with the planning and execution of various aspects of the Festival – and then some concerns in November about the Festival actually having enough active volunteers to successfully conduct the 2018 Festival: which lead to discussions about the feasibility of the Festival occurring.
- The President resigned early December 2017 and the Vice Presidency had been effectively vacant since the previous AGM. A new President, along with a Vice President, were not appointed until the middle of January, just eight weeks before the Festival.
- Having inherited the Presidency only eight weeks before the actual Festival, has highlighted the urgent need for a comprehensive set of written documentation explaining the processes involved in organising and running of the Festival. Too much information is stored in individual's heads, and not on paper. Likewise too many critical arrangements have been handled by a “gentleman's agreement” and again with no documentation.

Fortunately the Festival did proceed and the feedback received from our Event Partners, various stakeholders and the general public were overwhelmingly positive.

Highlights of 2018 Festival

Festival Patron Returns

The Hon. Tim Fischer AC, the Festival's Patron, returned to Junee to support the Festival's Tenth Anniversary by conducting the Official Festival Opening at a special Media Event, attending various functions and events and giving a presentation on the Railway Gauges of Australia.

New Media Relationships

The Festival developed working relationships with different media organisations, including;

- Your Local Wagga Weekly
- 2AAA FM
- Prime 7

Our ongoing relationship with the Junee Southern Cross newspaper was also strengthened.

Expanding beyond Junee Township

GasWorks Motorsports Inc, which administers Illabo Motorsports Park, approached Rhythm n Rail to become a Festival Event Partner. This resulted in increased media coverage, and visitor numbers, for both the Festival and the Speedway Event held at Illabo Motorsports Park.

Wagga Wagga Rail Heritage Station Museum, were initially invited to participate in the new “Rail Precinct” in Railway Square. They ultimately opted to offer Festival attendees who held tickets for the LVR Heritage Train services a 50% discount off the admission fee to their Museum within the Wagga Wagga Station Precinct. If RnR had a “Festival Ticket” or some other means of identifying a person as a Festival Attendee: WWRHSM would have offered the discount to them as well.

Both groups are prepared to continue to work with Rhythm n Rail in 2019.

New Website and improved Facebook presence

A new website, **www.RhythmNRail.com** was launched. It now has over 170 separate pages and posts, with sections for:

- Events
- Press Releases
- Media Coverage
- Polls
- Highlights of Past Festivals
- Sponsorship
- Getting Involved

Regaining ownership of previous Festival related domains (www.JuneeRhythmNRail.com and www.RhythmNRail.com.au) in to the Association’s name, was undertaken and an additional domain of www.RnR.org.au was also registered for potential marketing opportunities.

The website became the central distribution point for the majority of our announcements and publicity. Most website posts were shared directly to Facebook and Twitter and then often shared to other relevant Social Media pages and groups.

Next Festival:

The Committee is already hard at work planning for the the next Junee Rhythm n Rail Festival, to again be held on the Second Weekend of March

Friday March 8 – Sunday March 10, 2019

Thank You's

The Festival could not have occurred without the support and efforts of a large number of individuals and organisations.

Sponsors: QUBE Logistics, our Major Sponsor and Australian Rail Track Corporation, our Volunteer Sponsor, along with our Community Sponsor and Partners; AG & Vet Junee, Belmore Manor, Hotondo Homes Junee, Junee Buses, Junee Business & Trades, Junee Ex-Services Memorial Club, Junee Tourist Park, Maurice R. Moroney & Co, Rail Tram and Bus Union, RE/Max, Riverina Regional Library – Junee Branch, So Dance Junee, Transport for NSW, and all the Friends of the Festival.

Event Partners: Betty's on Broadway, Broadway Museum, Commerical Hotel, Gasworks Motorsports Inc & Illabo Motorsports Park, Junee Ex-Services Memorial Club, Junee Hotel, Junee Licorice and Chocolate Factory, Junee Roundhouse Museum, Junee Youth Council, Lachlan Valley Railway, Locomotive Hotel, Pete's Hobby Railway, Railway Station Café, Red Cow Hotel, Rotary Junee, The Combined Churches of Junee, Wagga Wagga Rail Heritage Station Museum, and Volunteer Rescue Association Junee Rescue Branch (who were also our Charity Partner)

Volunteers and Assistance: Many individuals have also worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the Festival occurred this year, including; Brian Higginson, Bridy Kemp, Bronte Harrison, Erin Callaghan, George Harrison, Jeff Guymer, John McLaren, Judy-Ann Emberson, Leasa Stephens, Matt Waters, Molly McLennan, Nicole Hamilton, Noni McLennan, Peter & Harry Guymer, Raymond, Jacob, Andrew & Coby, Rita Broad, Robin Asmus, Rose K, Russell Hargrave, Sunny Zhao, Stuart Wallace, Brian Thompson, Trinity Johns, Trish Davies, and Tristan Levy. Plus the many 'hidden' assistants – the spouses and partners, the children or even parents, the housemates and friends who are roped in to assist the “primary volunteer” with minor, yet essential, tasks that Committee never hear about.

A very special and personal heartfelt thanks must go to **Junee Shire Council!**

Without their incredible support the Festival would not have gone ahead. As a person who is relatively new to town and who inherited the Presidency of the Festival only a couple of months prior to the Festival Weekend, the team at Council provided myself and the Festival with amazing amounts of information and support in the last few weeks leading up to the Festival Weekend to help us bring it all together.

And of course a thank you to my fellow Committee members: Al Smith (VP), Linda Calis (Sec), Judy Webb (Treas), Liz Guymer (OM), Bob Callow (OM), Megan Callow (OM) and former President, Jeanne Kennedy.

Nicholas Pyers

President, Junee Rhythm and Rail Festival Inc