

Southern Cross

JUNEE'S OWN NEWSPAPER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2010

PRICE:\$1.30

Broadway Museum to host special day



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Your 2010 Junee calendar of events

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Kindergarten pupils start out at school

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'We will survive the retail slump'

By MICHELLE WEBSTER and KREE NASH

DESPITE the closure or impending closure of a number of Junee businesses, mayor Lola Cummins believes the town's retail sector remains steady.

While Hook's Mensland closed its doors for the final time last month, and Kacey's Ladies and Children's Wear and Junee Travel are set to shut up shop in mid-February, Councillor Cummins said the situation was not quite as dire as it appeared.

"We've had some new businesses open in the last 12 months, including a new business on Broadway and also the The Wild Pear," she said.

"It's not necessarily that there is going to be more vacant shops, those are two shops who were vacant that are now filled.

"In the case of Kacey's, I believe there is another business going in there which will be run by the same family."

Cr Cummins said it was always sad to see a local business close its doors, particularly those with such a long history.

She said being so close to a significant major centre was a major challenge for Junee businesses, but they also held some distinct advantages over their competitors in Wagga.

"It's very difficult for the businesses of Junee to compete when Wagga is so close," she said.

"The big advantage Junee businesses have is they can give a level of service that the larger stores can't, I guess it's

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Mayor Lola Cummins

going the extra mile."

While ultimately it was up to Junee residents to support their local businesses, Cr Cummins said those businesses also had to do their bit for the customer.

Junee Business and Trades group president Tony Butt said with the number of challenges facing country businesses, owners needed to remain proactive.

"If we keep losing businesses we will end up dying," he said. "We have got to be proactive."

In agreement with Cr Cummins, Mr Butt said owners had the ability to provide service, information and support for their customers which larger regional centres may not be able to, and therefore encourage more people to shop locally and support the business sector.

"When we can't beat them on price, we need to beat them on service," he said

Rev up for big poker run and blues night



STRAIGHT TO CAN ASSIST: The annual Junee Poker Run and Blues Night to be held this Saturday is set to draw more than 200 riders to town. The group will travel through Junee and surrounding towns, raising money for Junee Can Assist along the way before finishing with an evening of entertainment at the Locomotive Hotel. Picture: Kree Nash

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WEATHER

Today: 32C



Friday: 28C



Saturday: 31C



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Note: Forecast is as of Wednesday morning