

# BOOST FOR BUSINESS ADVICE PROGRAM

*Murray Shire business operators now have greater access to help and advice, thanks to a funding boost for the Murray Hume Business Enterprise Centre Inc (BEC).*

The group, which has provided a business advisory service through the Central Murray Region for some time, has recently been awarded an increase in funding through the Small Biz Connect Program.

The greatest benefit from the funding has been the ability to employ a full-time mobile advisor who can deliver the program's objectives of high quality face-to-face and personalised business advice. BEC has appointed a

man with many years experience, John Vincent, to the position. John has had extensive experience in small business and is looking forward to assisting business operators within the Murray Shire area.

The funding allocation is now able to further assist local business by enabling the BEC to provide the first three visits free of charge. The visits will be fully subsidised by the state government, resulting in no cost to clients.

The Small Biz Connect Program offers a significant upgrade for Shire businesses by providing far more resources to business advisors than were previously available. These

include a comprehensive business diagnostic or health check, a facility to benchmark your business against best practice in your particular industry, and specialist retail programs run in partnership with the Australian Retailers Association and others.

In addition to delivering quality business advice through the Small Biz Connect Program, the NSW Small Business Commissioner helps small business by providing dispute resolution services and lobbying government on small business issues. The Commissioner is also keen to reduce red tape adversely affecting small business operations and wants to hear of specific cases where 'red tape'

is creating difficulties for local business operators.

Murray Shire business operators wishing to take advantage of the service, or to report incidents of red tape affecting their businesses, should contact John Vincent on 1300 554 338.



## AMBITIOUS ARTS PROJECT PLANNED FOR BRIDGE SITE

*Murray Shire Council has provided in principle support for an ambitious arts project planned for the site of the new bridge over the Murray River and has agreed to help the project in any way.*

The decision followed a presentation to Council by members of the Bridge Art Project Committee. According to the Committee, the new Echuca/Moama bridge will not be just a river crossing – but the site of an ambitious arts project, a post-modern artscape bridging history on the Murray River. The location will be home to not just a bridge, not just a river, but the sprawling, sinuous host of a visual story – an historical revelation, a tour of events which shaped a culture – represented in art. The Bridge Art Project Committee aims to provide a contemporary visual art-based record of the nation's cultural development. It is a collaborative concept being developed by indigenous and non indigenous Australians who seek to facilitate the creation of a compelling historical narrative on the impending bridge infrastructure.

The project aims to boost local, national and international tourism as visitors from all over

the world come to experience history as they walk through the outdoor gallery and under the bridge structure. It will be complimented by the Port of Echuca as living evidence of post-colonial settlement while the Bridge Arts Project will go back in time through Indigenous habitation and then in to the future as the story of Australia continues to unfold.

In addition to the outdoor structure, the Committee will aim to oversee construction of an indoor contemporary art gallery, outdoor sculpture space and history interpretive centre on the NSW landing of the bridge, also envisaging the later inclusion of an educational/conference centre for international study groups. Inspired by the runaway success of M.O.N.A. in Tasmania, the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Melbourne, the sprawling public art galleries of the Berlin Wall and Stockholm Metro, the group is seeking to mount Australia's most extensive landmark outdoor arts project. Involving the most accomplished visual story-tellers of our time, along with emerging designers, sculptors and artists, the collaborative project aims to strengthen social partnerships,

revitalise folklore and attract international attention to a courageous acknowledgement of untold historical truths.

The Committee believes Echuca/Moama, located on the Murray near a river junction is the logical geographical location for its 'Bridging History on the Murray' project. It claims an 'outdoor artscape across the Murray River, opposite a thriving colonial port in Echuca with subject matter dealing with local Indigenous history and national cultural development will be well placed on Yorta Yorta land. As

a tourist mecca Echuca/Moama has the infrastructure to support this project and its potential popularity to visitors with impending bridge construction, the time is ripe to design a narrative in harmony with the environment and the bridge. The local Aboriginal heritage hosting Australia's largest Indigenous nation along with the post colonial preservation in the wharf precinct, add unique credence to the project's location. The vast bushland surrounding the Murray River is also the perfect bedland for this long-term vision.

## SHIRE SUPPORTS HOSPITAL APPEAL

*As a border community, Murray Shire Council is conscious of the value of having a first class hospital facility just across the river.*

The Shire Council has provided support for the appeal to fund the hospital project. The appeal is a joint effort between the Shire Council and the local community. The appeal is a joint effort between the Shire Council and the local community.

Council has resolved to make an initial donation of \$50,000 for redevelopment of the hospital complex and will consider further funding in its 2018-19 Community Strategic Plan.

In recognition of this contribution an interlock pavement will be acknowledged as being funded by Murray Shire Council on behalf of its residents.