



Justin
CLANCY MP
MEMBER FOR ALBURY

Newsletter

ELECTORATE OF ALBURY INCORPORATING ALBURYCITY, FEDERATION, GREATER HUME AND SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCILS

A great place to live



Corowa Pony Club

For many 2023 has been a difficult year. In the midst of the challenges there have been many improvements that are a credit to this community and highlight why this is a great place to live.

First comes our environment. This has been a year when we saw Albury's riverside precinct project come to life, opening up the Murray foreshore for all to enjoy.

Then there is the extension of the Wagirra Trail to more than 20 kilometres of shared walking and cycling pathways, and the beautiful Yamba View-Wambaranga Lookout completed in Woomargama National Park.

It has also been a year of progress on a number of campaigns dear to me.

These include efforts to develop better pathways for early intervention and treatment for those with an eating disorder; improved bus stop safety for school children in a number of locations; the passing of laws in NSW Parliament to improve the fairness and equity across the state for children providing their evidence in child sexual assault cases before the courts;

progress developing a new refuge for women and children escaping domestic violence and in building more social housing.

Next year we will see the opening of the new emergency department (ED) at Albury Hospital, offering increased facilities and space for patients and the dedicated staff, with double the number of points of care, four times the number of short stay bays, four bays and a waiting room dedicated to paediatric patients, in a facility over three times the size of the current ED.

At the same time work is progressing for the redevelopment of the Albury Wodonga Health Albury Campus, with funding of \$558 million secured last year through the NSW Coalition in partnership with the Victorian Government.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and holiday season.

Justin Clancy, Member for Albury

ENJOYING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Riverside Precinct

On 7 October I was down at Noreuil Park for the opening of the Murray River foreshore Riverside Precinct with Cr Jessica Kellahan and Cr Steve Bowen for AlburyCity.

It's not that long ago this area was flooded and heavily damaged.

We are truly fortunate to live along the Murray River and through the efforts of the AlburyCity team with \$3 million in funding support from NSW Government this space is a magnificent showcase of the Murray and Albury.

Council has done a great job here to connect around 2.6 hectares for community activity and open space made accessible for everyone to enjoy.

The precinct runs from behind the Albury Swim Centre at Hovell Tree Park opening up the way our community and visitors will experience the Murray River and its surrounds.

The most striking aspect of the development is the new boardwalk which follows the river bank, carrying on to improve the links with the Wagirra Trail at one end and with Hovell Tree Park at the other.

There are BBQs and tables, shade structures, a jetty with mooring point and improved car parking.

Funding for this project was secured by the coalition through the Regional Growth Environment and Tourism Fund (RGETF) and the Public Space Legacy Program, and it is pleasing to see such a great recreation space being enjoyed by so many. ■

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Wagirra Trail

On 9 September a 12-kilometre sealed extension to the Wagirra Trail was opened to visitors.

Everyone loves Wonga Wetlands.

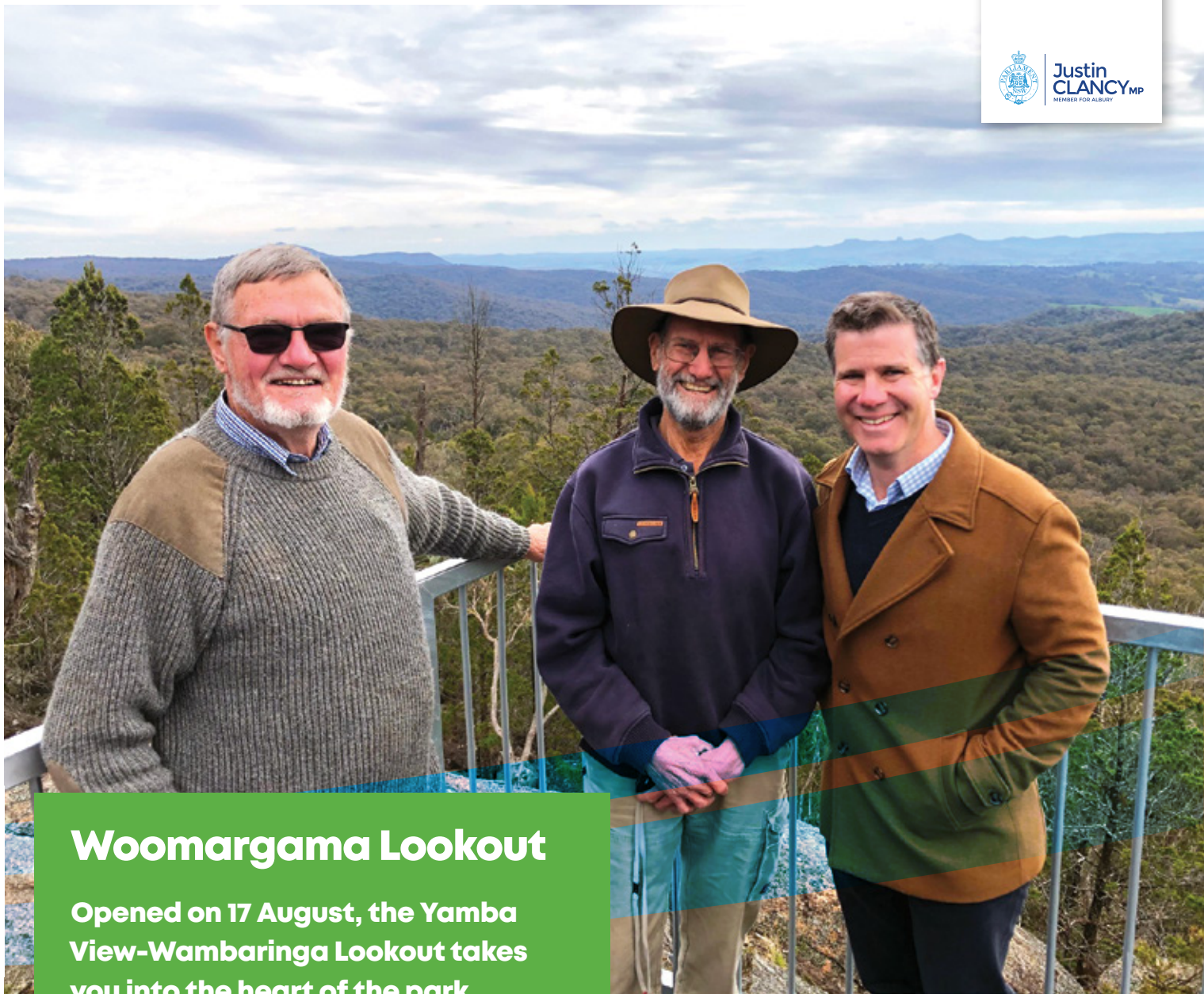
As part of a \$2.4 million project there are four new bridges over creeks, interpretive signage, seats and tables and revegetation.

This project increases the Trail to more than 20 kilometres of shared walking and cycling pathways, from the Noreuil Park foreshore to a new loop beside the Murray River on the way to Wonga Wetlands.

Funding for this project was provided jointly by AlburyCity and the NSW Government.



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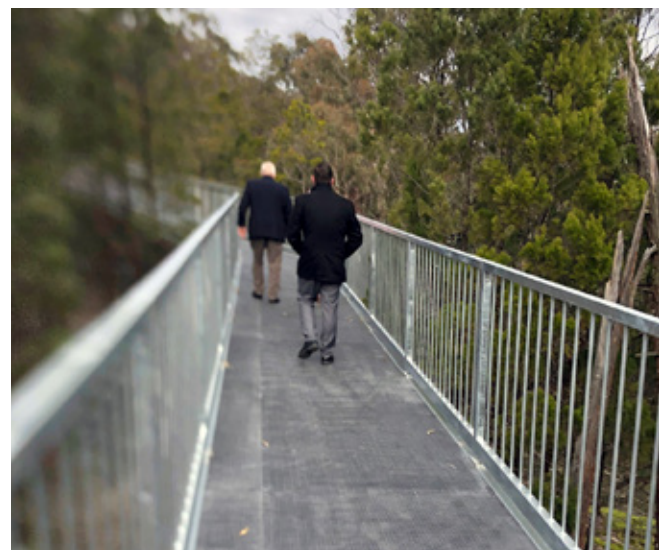
Woomargama Lookout

Opened on 17 August, the Yamba View-Wambaringa Lookout takes you into the heart of the park.

All who enjoy bushwalking should get out to Woomargama to take in the views from a new lookout perched over the Woomargama National Park.

There are picnic tables, toilets and parking – a beautiful spot for families and nature lovers.

Appreciation and thanks go to the efforts of the Greater Hume Council team in collaboration with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service who have created this attraction with support through bushfire recovery funding. ■



“Appreciation and thanks go to the efforts of the Greater Hume Council team in collaboration with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service ...”



■ Child evidence campaign

On 10 October a Bill passed the Legislative Assembly to improve the equity for children giving evidence to a court on child sexual offence matters.

I was able to speak to Parliament on this Bill, which has a significant Albury connection through the work of the Milthorpe family to end the pain inflicted on children by the justice system.

Child complainants and prosecution witnesses under the age of 18 (or who were

under 18 when the accused was committed for trial) will now be able to provide their evidence by means of pre-recorded hearing, unless an order to the contrary is made by the court.

When in court they are to have the assistance of a witness intermediary to communicate with the Court whether the witness can understand questions put to the witness, and to explain to the court and the person asking questions the best way a witness can be asked questions so they understand.



■ Eating disorders

Do you know someone facing a real struggle over their feelings about body image, weight, food choices ... to the point where even these thoughts have become a problem, an anxiety?

In October I met with the NSW Health Minister to raise community concerns over the lack of a regional eating disorders coordinator.

I have been advocating to government for the appointment of a locally based coordinator to remove barriers to early intervention and diagnosis as well as to inform our community and health professionals about pathways to help.

Clinical and health psychologist Professor Leah Brennan and senior psychologist Kim Haebich at La Trobe University Albury-Wodonga are working on a pilot study to find the best therapies for eating disorders.

Living in a regional area myself I can see how critical this research will be for regional and rural residents so they can access appropriate treatment and support through our own coordinator.

School bus stop and crossing safety

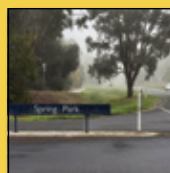
As our communities grow it is important to evaluate the safety of school bus stops and traffic control near schools. This has been a focus for a number of parents and by working with Transport for NSW and councils I am pleased to report a number of successful campaigns.



Urana/ Hueske Roads Jindera

Following a Transport inspection of the bus stop – foggy in winter with poor visibility, close to high speed vehicles, Hume Council's staff and Local Traffic Committee met with police and Transport representatives.

The outcome is that Council and Martins Buses will determine a site for a new bus stop in the Glenholm Estate, as the majority of the children currently being picked up come from the estate.



Spring Park Estate

I arranged for a Transport inspector to look at the Table Top Road Spring Park Estate bus stop.

Parents were invited and

came along to give their perspective on the safety of this bus stop for their children.

After some consideration, the outcome is that buses will now pick up and drop off children in a safer location, off Table Top Road. A good result for the community.

Border Christian College Alma Street crossing

The College reported safety concerns over the pedestrian crossing in Alma Street Thurgoona. Transport for NSW inspected the location and agreed to fund a crossing guard – another great outcome for this school community.

■ Domestic Violence Refuge

Construction work is expected to start on a new and expanded refuge in Albury for women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

YES Unlimited in partnership with Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service, Linking Communities Network Ltd, Albury Wodonga Health and Women's Centre for Health and Wellbeing (Albury Wodonga) Inc with funding secured and announced by the Coalition last year.



Meeting with Indian Minister of Food Processing Industries, The Hon. Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras and Harshita Joshi from Invest India.

Promoting closer cultural ties

Our border community benefits from the strong participation of families who have moved here from India and Nepal.

I have recently travelled to these countries for meetings with state legislature, manufacturers, skills and training organisations, business leaders, as well as grassroots organisations working in vulnerable communities to promote access to quality education and dealing with educational disparities.

Highlights include participating in the World Food Conference which is focusing on global food security and sustainable development and attending the home of well-known border charity Meg's Children in Nepal.



1. An absolute joy to be at the official opening on Friday 1 September of the Urana Aquatic Centre – a beautiful new centre nestled in what has got to be one of the prettiest spots in the Riverina.
2. A beautiful afternoon on 17 September for the opening of the Blacksmith precinct at Jindera Pioneer Museum, along with Margie Wehner, Greater Hume Council and the passionate local volunteers who have helped accomplish this project.
3. Always amazing volunteers behind the scenes at our Country Shows. The efforts of the Culcairn Show Society, Culcairn Garden Club in the Produce Pavilion and the Culcairn Lions Club on the gate – just some of the good people that made for a great community day at the Culcairn Agricultural Show.
4. For two decades River of Stories has promoted the creative energies of local school students as a writing competition - poetry and prose. Fitting that this year the competition was officially renamed the Barry Young River of Stories to recognise Barry's efforts as the driving force behind it all.
5. Albury Public School has celebrated a remarkable 173 years of providing education, with events held during NSW Education Week in August. From humble beginnings the school has built an outstanding reputation while standing witness to the evolution of changes throughout the years and especially in public education, in curriculum and inclusiveness. A wonderful legacy of its principals, staff and students.
6. A cuppa with Jonathon, Sally, Liz and Kathy of Thurgoona Community Action is a good way to catch up on all things Thurgoona - transport and roads, education, planning, environment - in the heart of Albury's future growth.
7. Happy 45th birthday Albury Men's Shed! Good to share the history, some banter and some cake with you. The best bit – the connection and real sense of purpose for those involved in the Shed.



Justin CLANCY MP
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www.justinclancy.com.au

Telephone: (02) 6021 3042
Electorate Office: 491 Olive St, Albury NSW 2640
Email: albury@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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