

Facility: Junee Correctional Centre  
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## Inmates set the stage for event

THE long-running City of Wagga Eisteddfod's May event has called in extra assistance to erect a massive stage at Kyeamba Smith Hall at the showgrounds.

Hard-working Junee jail inmates spent Monday putting up the 17 by 14 metre stage which will see hundreds of dancers, musicians and speech performers grace the platform over the next four days.

The eisteddfod, which has been going for 74 years, started yesterday and dance convener and treasurer Di Jacobson admits its future remains uncertain.

Without the assistance of Junee jail prisoners - and the support of Wagga rotary clubs - the event may have already folded.

More volunteers were also needed, Mrs Jacobson said.

"We'll have about 1500 people in attendance - dance groups and solos, primary schools from Canberra and Queanbeyan, all parts of the Riverina as well as Wangaratta and Albury," she said.

"We are a very successful eisteddfod, that's why we are still going, but we need some young people to take over the organising of it, and that's proving difficult.

"It's a very friendly eisteddfod, so people love coming and participating."

Mrs Jacobson praised the prisoners for their willingness to help and their work ethic. It is the fourth year Junee jail has supported the set up of the eisteddfod stage for four years.

"The inmates have been very, very good and extremely polite," she said.

"The fact is, we couldn't do it without them. I'm sure they get something out of it, too, but their work ethic is excellent.

"They don't stop working."

The eisteddfod runs daily from 9am to about 10.30pm until Saturday.

People are encouraged to attend and see some talented young performers on stage.



Junee jail inmates put together the stage for the eisteddfod at Kyeamba Smith Hall.

Picture: Les Smith