

Bright Ideas for Main Street



TWO Junee women are on a mission to spruce up the towns sparse looking windows.

With numerous empty stores across town with the closure of businesses, Jeanne Kennedy of Belmore Manor and Judy-Ann Emberson put their heads together to come up with a concept to fill the windows in celebration of the shire's hidden gems.

It all began when the ladies got hold of metal sculptures created by Junee High School students last year.

Realising the works had been left locked-up and not on display, Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Emberson took it on themselves to locate a vacant shop front to display the works for sale.

In a store on Main Street the sculptures got a great reception from those who saw them, prompting the women to continue to carry out displays in the lead up to the Rhythm'n'Rail Festival.

"My visitors were always saying it is sad to see so many vacant stores in town," Mrs Kennedy said.

"It's really about trying to showcase what we have in the shire, but also to improve the look along the streets.

"It also works to give the stores a brighter look for people interested in leasing."

Their initial idea has since expanded to include a display of artworks created by inmates at the Junee Correctional Centre, a pottery display by the Junee Mudlarks and two displays promoting local hidden gems including Houlaghan's Wines and the Bethungra Tea House.

"We want people who own empty shops or have a good idea for a display to share it with us," Mrs Emberson said.

"We know there are some great artists out there, interesting inventions and we welcome ideas on how to celebrate (Junee) lamb. We also want to hear about ideas, artworks, craft, historical pieces, primary school talents or local health issues."