

SE popular
HD THE "YEAR" AHEAD
WC 1,407 words
PD 5 January 2014
SN Young Witness
SC FYOWIT
LA English
CY Copyright 2014 Fairfax Media Publications Pty Limited. . Not available for re-distribution.
LP

What does this year hold for Young? The "Young Witness asked locals to peer into their crystal balls and give their hopes and predictions for the year ahead.

Council

TD

STUART FREUDENSTEIN, MAYOR OF YOUNG SHIRE: In this calendar year, there's a good list of works I'm looking forward to see go ahead in the town and shire.

Elizabeth Street is being resurfaced, for example. There's the continuation of the resheeting of the gravel roads in the rural part of our shire.

I'm also looking forward to the sports and arts studies being completed, then deciding on what infrastructure needs to move ahead from there.

Another example is the often-mentioned railway from Blayney to Demondrille. I'm certainly optimistic about its progress. It will be a very significant step for the region.

The abattoir is opening, along with a number of other opportunities. We're expecting about 80 jobs for the initial start-up, and I'm looking forward to that boost to local economic activity.

I'm hoping for a nice autumn break with a profitable season for our farming community and the rest of the town.

DAVID NEWBERRY, TOURISM MANAGER YOUNG SHIRE COUNCIL: Young is in a great position to capitalise on the Asian Century.

Given that China is really rising, not only have we got the Chinese heritage - which we will be celebrating at the new Lambing Flat Chinese festival - but we've also got the cherry and other fruit picking, which they love.

So we'll be working with our neighbouring areas on food, wine and heritage campaigns.

Business

"JIM CUSACK, PRESIDENT YOUNG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: The chamber would like all local businesses to become members, to have one voice. If they have any concerns about business or marketing, they can approach the chamber for advice and help.

We're pushing locals to embrace change in their businesses, such as online dealings and other avenues that can increase their turnover.

We're also looking at the insurance and public liability for the businesses in towns' stalls on the street. Again, it's about increasing turnover.

WENDY SILK, DONGES IGA: Our hope for 2014 is for the town to prosper and grow. In order to achieve this, we need to support locally-owned businesses, and welcome new locally owned business to the town.

These businesses are the ones who support our town, investing in youth and community, on an ongoing basis.

We would encourage all locals to think about shopping locally in the new year with independently owned businesses.

ANNIE BASSINGTHWAITE, ANNIE B'S FULL HOUSE: I wish everybody well, with health and prosperity.

I hope the abbatoir can open sooner rather than later. I also think the Chamber and Council should be working with businesses to do a very strong shop local campaign.

If people are going to shop online or go out of town, then I don't see how local business can meet the costs of doing business and employing locals.

Like many local businesses, I have very loyal customers and fantastic staff and I'm very grateful for that.

I think it's going to be a tough year and I think we've all got to work together.

Health

DAVID KAYE, YOUNG DISTRICT MEDICAL CENTRE: "The Young District Medical Centre is hoping to increase the number of GPs in the practice by attracting two additional fulltime registrars to help with patient workload.

We hope to maintain all current services currently offered by the practice, including diabetic foot-care and specialist visits.

The practice is looking forward to participating in the medical precinct workshop being conducted by the Shire Council in February 2014 with a view to maintaining the medical workforce in Young into the future.

Education

DR PETER WEBSTER, PRINCIPAL HENNESSY CATHOLIC COLLEGE: As one of the education leaders in town it's our responsibility to communicate to the community the range of options available to young people in this town and those options include pathways to university, traineeships and apprenticeships.

Right now we have two high schools, a TAFE college and Hennessy - in addition to offering university courses - is now developing a trade training - all on one block.

Sure there are regional centres that offer these facilities but there are very few towns the size of Young that can offer that to young people " this town is quite unique in that.

With \$15 million being spend in Young over the next 12 to 18 months including the refurbishment of Young's TAFE campus (\$10 million) and Hennessy's Trade Training Centre Trade Training Centre (\$5 million) - the need now is to use education as our vehicle for success.

It's all here on our doorstep " there's no need for any student to leave town.

Students who study in Young are 10-15 per cent better off than their peers in Sydney - I mean we have kids from Young who, because they are living in rural areas, are getting into courses that students from Sydney cannot get into " we're not just a viable option " we're the best option.

It was hard for any manufacturing industry to compete on an international basis and what we need to take from this is that jobs are currently being created through education development and by investing in that we are investing in the future of our children.

Education is the bright spot in Young's future.

"KEL SMERDON, PRINCIPAL YOUNG NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL: "With greater principal and school-based autonomy along with strong equity-based funding to Young's public schools " it is important all of our schools work together to continue to foster high quality opportunities for our student to develop as empowered 21st century learners.

Principals need also to consider how they are going to dynamically lead their schools to best service the town's individual needs and ensure we offer staff continued high quality professional learning as research shows the teacher makes a difference.

2013 saw Young Public School take out the state primary schools rugby league, Young High School was recognized for its welfare programs as a Mind Matters focus school and, finally, Young North received the minister's cohesive school community award.

Education that is high quality by any measure is the backbone of our town and builds opportunity for our young people.

At the end of the day, regardless of what school we attend, we all grow as a community of people and I look forward to Young growing and strengthening its educational and, more broadly, youth services in 2014.

Agriculture

"BRIAN MULLANEY, LOCAL VITICULTURIST: The **wine** industry had a positive 2013. Most grapes were **sold** profitably, and those in Hilltops region did well.

The 2014 crop looks good. There's a small amount of hail and frost damage that should have no dramatic consequences on the yield or quality.

The Grove Estate continued to grow in the year and looks forward to growing during the year and looks forward to 2014. We sought new sales into **China** and believe further sales are forthcoming.

I believe Moppity Vineyards are looking at building a winery in 2014 to process grapes onsite with a cellar door and hopefully a restaurant to follow at some stage. This will be great for the region, getting more people into the area.

In general, I believe the big growth industry we look forward to in Young is tourism. The potential for expanding our cultural and historical experiences that have occurred in Young are unique and worth building on.

"PAUL PARKER, LOCAL AGRONOMIST: "My hopes are that farmers will have a successful season and build on the disappointments that came from last year.

Last year on the farms started reasonably well, but we ended with frost and dry conditions. Hopefully that won't happen again - we'll have good rain and all the farmers will have a successful and good season.

The other hope I have is that our elected political representatives get out of their recliner chairs and promote the farmers and rural communities to the wider population and recognise that farmers in rural communities are the backbone of our state.

The state doesn't just revolve around and isn't just confined east of the sandstone barrier and the 85 or 90 percent of the population that live on the coastal fringe.

RE nswals : New South Wales | apacz : Asia Pacific | ausnz : Australia/Oceania | austr : Australia

PUB Fairfax Media Management Pty Limited

AN Document FYOWIT0020140106ea1500004