



## MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2021



home. Temora Shire is a truly wonderful place to live and I remind us all – we get out of Temora Shire what we put into it.

We are thinking of our farmers and graziers at this time of the year. We hope your yields are fruitful and prosperous. It has been a wet winter but hopefully that rain has worked in your favour.

We must also take a moment to acknowledge our business community who have been hard hit by extended lockdowns and restrictions. These businesses ensure our lives are much more comfortable by their presence and we continue to urge our community to support local businesses where they can. Local businesses provide employment opportunities and continue to support local sporting and community groups where they are able. Let's continue to return that love and support.

We're extremely grateful to the Federal and NSW Governments for their financial support to get a

number of large projects off the ground in 2021. These projects include the Aria Park skate park upgrade, Nixon Park amenities building upgrades, replacement of lighting in Airport Street, Tigermoth Avenue and Spitfire Drive, and the assisted living house. Underway and nearing completion in 2022 are the Temora Library outdoor reading room, Temora Arts Centre extension, Temora Airport upgrade and Temora Splash Park. Campbells Road, Research Station Road, Collins Road and Sinclairs Lane have also received significant work. In particular we thank our Member for Riverina, Mr Michael McCormack MP and Member for Cootamundra, Steph Cooke MP for their ongoing support and friendship with the Temora Shire.

I feel most humbled by the honour of being your Mayor, and I continue to remind myself how blessed I am to carry out the role. I thoroughly enjoy my interactions with our shire community. Covid restrictions have made it

difficult to come together to celebrate our students, our residents in aged care, and indeed our wider shire community but, as always, each and every one is at the forefront of my thoughts and prayers.

Even though we are continuing to act responsibly within government guidelines for social distancing, we must remember to always put our best foot forward as citizens of Temora Shire. We are, after all, the friendly shire and helping our family, friends, neighbours – and even those we may not know yet, is what makes us a special community. If we continue to show respect for one another, regardless of our personal faith and beliefs, then we continue to honour what is great about our shire.

I take a moment to pause and reflect on those we've lost from our shire this year. It certainly has been a tough one and we think of those families who have had to say goodbye to their loved ones. May those individuals remain in our thoughts, and those who have passed never be forgotten.

I would also like to encourage us all to reflect on the wonderful volunteers in our community, for without them much of what we enjoy about our town and villages would not be possible. To each and every one who gives of their time freely to help strengthen our Shire community, Council says "thank you".

On behalf of us all, I thank all of our Council staff for their service over the past 12 months. After all, what sort of a shire would we have if no-one took care of our road network, looked after our parks and gardens, took our rubbish away, maintained our buildings and other infrastructure? Whatever work they do, our staff are crucial to the effective operation of Temora Shire Council – and our entire shire community. To our General Manager, our directors and all our staff, please know your efforts are appreciated.

This year as we celebrate Christmas, may we remember the reason for the season, the birth of Jesus Christ. It is also

a time to think of our many blessings and be thankful. It has been another challenging year, but I am extremely proud of the way our community has tackled adversity. Our vaccination rates have steadily grown and our residents have been compliant with government guidelines. For this, I say, 'thank you' and encourage us all to continue to do all we can to protect our loved ones and each other.

In conclusion, and on behalf of my family (Bruce, Beth and Jaime), our Deputy Mayor (Cr Graham Sinclair), my fellow Councillors and all our dedicated staff – I wish you a very Merry Christmas. I do wish for each and every one of you the many blessings of Christmas and the new year. May your days be filled with fun, love and hope. Let us always remember just how blessed we are to live in the most wonderful shire in Australia.

*Cr Rick Firman  
O.A.M. - Mayor*

2021 has been another challenging year, but the Temora Shire community has continued to demonstrate strength, resilience, unity, and dedication.

Our Council, together with our shire community, has achieved a great deal during the year and I invite you to pause and reflect on these

many accomplishments.

The Councillors, the General Manager, our directors, managers, and staff of Temora Shire Council have again dedicated themselves to your service, and are proud to do so.

We welcome those new residents who have chosen to make Temora Shire their

### GROW Local Facilitator



Roy Soliman

Embrace Temora program will be invigorated which Mr Soliman will support with his research and findings. The Embrace Temora project began in 2018 and consists of a working group who actively encourage the relocation of migrant and refugee workers to fill job vacancies in the Temora Shire.

In his role, Mr Soliman will aim to:

- Understand community and business motivations for attracting newcomers from refugee and migrant backgrounds
- Capture critical issues and concerns within the community around newcomer attraction
- Identify available resources, supporters or 'champions' to assist newcomers to establish in Temora Shire
- Capture unique individual and group perspectives of those with lived experience in relocating as a newcomer or employing a newcomer.

Mr Soliman joins Temora Shire Council's Economic and Community Development team in a contract running until the end of March 2022. He has a strong background in data analysis and holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Telecoms) – Hons 1, a Diploma in Engineering Practice and a Masters in Engineering (Research). Roy is looking forward to extending his experience in this unique role and helping Temora Shire become a more diverse and multicultural community.

NSW GROW, in conjunction with the Welcoming Cities Project, is coordinating a project that will support regional communities to better understand how ready they are to welcome people from refugee, asylum seeking and migrant backgrounds, and support them to stay for the long-term.

One of Temora's newest residents, Roy Soliman (pictured), has been appointed in the role of the GROW Local Facilitator for the shire. He will carry out research and community consultation to better understand how ready Temora Shire is as a Welcoming City.

- The research will explore:
- community preparedness and receptiveness to welcoming newcomers
  - service accessibility and connectedness
  - employment opportunities and priorities

As part of this project, the

To participate in the research, please complete the survey at <https://tinyurl.com/GrowTemora> and/or email [rsoliman@temora.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rsoliman@temora.nsw.gov.au). To keep updated with the NSW Grow program, please join the Embrace Temora Facebook group [www.facebook.com/groups/embracetemora](https://www.facebook.com/groups/embracetemora)

### Help us reach 100

THE Regional Wellbeing Survey is a University of Canberra project that focuses on regional issues.

This year the focus is on how the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are affecting people and communities across Australia, on the "shift to the regions" occurring in many parts of Australia, and on resilience to the cumulative effects of experiencing multiple events such as drought, flood, storm, fire and pandemic within a short space of time.

We request for you to participate in the survey. By participating, you help make a difference to our community.

A range of community, farming and health organisations use the data and findings.

**We need to get 100 respondents for Temora Shire data to be reported separately to our neighbours.**

All survey participants aged 18 or older who complete the survey either online, or by returning a completed paper survey,

will be eligible to enter the draw to win one of 18 prizes worth a total of \$8000.

Winners will have their choice of a Flight Centre, Coles-Myer, WISH, Bunnings, iTunes or Google Play Store gift card, with the winner to choose which gift card they prefer, or to donate their winnings to a registered charity of their choice.

The survey is voluntary, confidential and anonymous, and closes on 14th January 2022, at midnight.

To take the survey online go to [www.regionalwellbeing.org.au](http://www.regionalwellbeing.org.au) or to request a paper copy phone 1800 981 499.

### Get on the Map

**Are you planning on decorating your house for Christmas?**

Temora Shire Council will be running our online Christmas Light Map again this year and we are urging residents to register their address as a place where locals and visitors can find a decorated home.

"This is something we started several years ago and has proven very popular," said Council's Communication Officer, Kate Slapp.

"We have the two maps,

one for Temora and one for Aria Park. Quite a few people make the drive from Temora to Aria Park to see the lights," she said.

The maps are used to find the decorated houses for judging in each town for the Mayor's Christmas Light Competition which is judged by an independent panel.

"We just love to see our local residents getting into the spirit of Christmas by decorating their homes, and this year I think it's more important than ever,"

said Mayor Rick Firman.

"We select a winner in the Temora area and another in Aria Park," he said.

"We encourage anyone who has the resources and is able to decorate their home this festive season to share their location so the community can enjoy their efforts."

**If you plan on decorating your home email or phone Council on 6980 1100 to register your address.**

The Christmas Light Maps can be found at: [www.temora.nsw.gov.au/Community-Light-Maps](http://www.temora.nsw.gov.au/Community-Light-Maps)

### Celebrate Safely with Family & Friends

TEMORA Shire Council's Road Safety Officer, Karen Trethowan, is reminding the community to take care on the roads.

"We want our community to be safe over the festive season and we are asking people NOT to drink and drive. In spite of the dangers of drink driving, statistics reveal 7.4 per cent of all road crashes within the Temora Shire involve alcohol," she said.

"Because of the crash risk drink driving poses to the driver, their passengers and others within the community, we are reminding everyone there are alternative choices to arrive home safely after consuming alcohol rather than getting behind the wheel: Designated driver, taxi, courtesy bus or walking home" she said.

Let's support and empower our family and friends to make the choice to NOT drink and drive and arrive home safely.

For more information visit: [roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/plan-b](https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/plan-b) and follow Temora Shire Council's Road Safety Officer on Facebook@4shiresroadsafety



### Parking Limit Reminder

AS WE head full-throttle into the busy Christmas season, relieving TBEG Executive Officer, Ms Shontayne Ward, reminds residents to be mindful of parking time limits in the CBD.

"We urge residents to be considerate. If you are parking for an extended length of time try to park off the main street to free up space in the shorter limited parking spaces", she said.

The two centre blocks of Hoskins Street generally have 1 hour parking spaces with the exception of a few shorter-time spots outside Capital Chemist and the post office.