







Executive Summary

The quarterly report provides information for stakeholders with an interest in economic development, tourism, events, culture, recreation and sport in Griffith and the greater region.

The information within this document serves to act as a snapshot of the activities being conducted by Griffith City Council's Tourism and Economic Development departments with an emphasis on presenting visual data such as graphs to allow for the measurement of team progress and performance.

It includes an overview of the operations, major activities, and achievements of the department. This report is prepared on a quarterly basis and will over time allow for monitoring of trends.

Highlights July to Sep 2018

- New REX Community Fare Griffith to Sydney flights plus additional flights
- Affordable Housing Strategy Grant Funding approved.
- Kidman Way Touring Guide launched
- New VisitGriffith.com.au launched
- Inaugural Murrumbidgee Country Music Festival
- Events planned for Small Business Month
- Appointment of new Tourism Manager

Shireen Donaldson
Director Economic and Organisational
Development







Economic Development

Affordable Housing Strategy

 Notified grant successful. Preparation of scope of works and quotation document. Reviewed grant agreement. Quotation advertised on Tenderlink. Quotations close 27 September 2018.

Business & Industry Support

- Attended Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade meeting re Free Trade Agreements 31 July 2018.
- Met with Deakin Uni/RDA and AusIndustry 27 July to discuss local issues.
- Griffith Women in Business meetings held
 4 July 2018, 13 August. GWIB and Deakin
 partnered hosted Daizy Maan event 13
 September 2018.
- Met with RDA Riverina re Grow Our Own, Skilled Migration and provision of Economic Statistics 23 August.
- Attended Business Chamber Q&A with Austin Evans and networking event 19 September.
- Riverina Murray Regional Tourism Business Accelerator Breakfast Clinic to be held in Griffith 7 November. Promoted to local tourism businesses. Council sponsoring event.
- SME Export Hub Grant investigations and discussions into possible projects and funding arrangements for EOI.

Land Availability & Housing

- Housing/land forum held with local stakeholders 3 July to discuss current issues and future planning. Overview of current land stock provided as outlined in Land Use Strategy.
- Meeting with Beyond Bank representatives, Dept Premier & Cabinet, Murrumbidgee Council and Leeton Shire Council re Land Rent initiative 4 July.
- Council resolved to prepared advanced planning stage of Council owned land at Lake Wyangan 28 August 2018.
- **Fit For Purpose Housing** initiative being progressed.

New Residents Reception

 Meetings held with Council staff. To be held in Theatre Foyer 7 November. Distribution list prepared. To be advertised – radio, paper, Facebook. Email sent to local businesses inviting new employees to attend. Ticketing to be set up on Eventbrite. Children's activities. Facilities invited to provide vouchers and promote facility at event.

Renewable Energy

Attended Biomass for Bioenergy Forum –
emailed information to local businesses.
Studies have identified that Griffith region
has a good supply of biomass and there are
many opportunities for businesses to
investigate in terms of energy cost
reduction through use of biofuels.

Small Business Month - October

- Organised the following workshops:
- Community & Economic Data id the population experts 4 October 1-2 pm.
- **7 Key Marketing Strategies** presented by Emma Giammarco 23 October.
- **5 Tips in 5 Minutes** in conjunction with Griffith Women in Business 29 October.



Transport Links

 REX announced additional flights to Sydney and the introduction of a Community Fare 13 September 2018 following discussions with Council representatives.



Workforce Development

Griffith Now Hiring

- Preparation of marketing plan, research, Facebook posts, Newsletter sent out fortnightly, info packs sent to enquiries coming through from Webpage, web updates, new partners added.
- Filmed video clip with Griffith Real Estate for their Green Screen TV and Facebook.
- Google Adwords and Facebook campaign commenced.



Grow our Own

 Meeting attended 28 August. On the Couch sessions at local high schools.

Country Change

- Followed up contacts.
- Provided material for promotion.



Skilled Migration and Refugees

- Meeting held with Council staff regarding refugee/migrant services and facilities 2 August 2018.
- Discussion with RDA Riverina 23 August 2018.

Grants

- Griffith Affordable Housing Strategy -Building Better Regions Round 2
 - Grant application submitted 19
 December 2017 through Building
 Better Regions Fund. Total cost of
 project is \$35,000 with 50:50
 funding required.
 - Advised successful July 2018.
 Quotation prepared and closes 27
 Sep 2018.

Small Business Month Grant

 Received funding to host workshop(s) during small business month in October 2018.

ED Communication, Media & Promotion

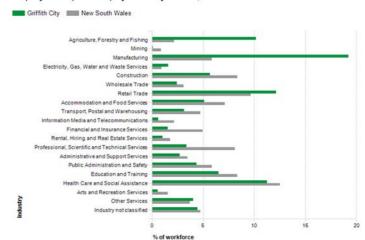
- Updated Business Prospectus researched new statistics. Prepared draft document, sent for design.
- Media Release Housing Forum July 2018.
- Media Release Census data, Business Audit and Statistics July 2018.
- Emails sent to database of business contacts regarding events, workshops, grant opportunities, business resources.
- Small Business Month uploaded events to Small Business Month website, promoted through newspaper, radio, Facebook, posters, email, media release.

Workshops and Conferences

- Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee held 5 July 2018. Review to consider how regional communities can maximise the economic benefits of digital technologies, how regional customers use broadband services, outcomes achieved through Mobile Black Spot Program, extent of existing gaps in mobile coverage in regional Australia. Report to be provided to Minister for Regional Communications.
- Attended Grants Workshop 19 July.
- Biomass in the Riverina Current and Potential Bioenergy Opportunities – 28 August 2018
 - O Hosted by DPI Fabiano Ximenes
 - ABBA Project, AREMI platform and biomass data – Catherine Carney DPI
 - Biotechnology overview Klaus Baumgartel, ICN
 - Bioenergy Australia Shahana McKenzie
 - o Riverlea Austrialia Ian Longfield
 - o Voyager Craft Malt Brad Woolner
 - MacAnzac Project AgriWaste Energy, Brannan Tempest
 - o Norske Skog Michael Machin
 - MSM Milling Bob Mac Smith
 - o UTS Nick Florin



Employment (Census) by industry sector, 2016

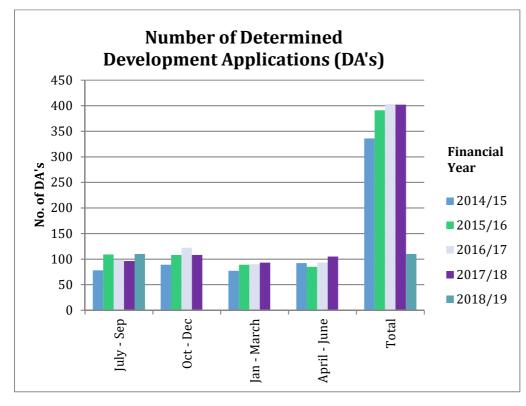


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 Compiled and presented in economy id by. id, the population experts.

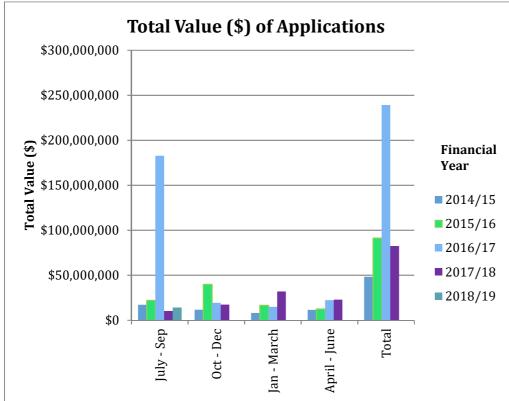




Development Applications



 Number of applications for 2018/19 increased by 14.6% compared to the same quarter last year.



- Figures for Jul

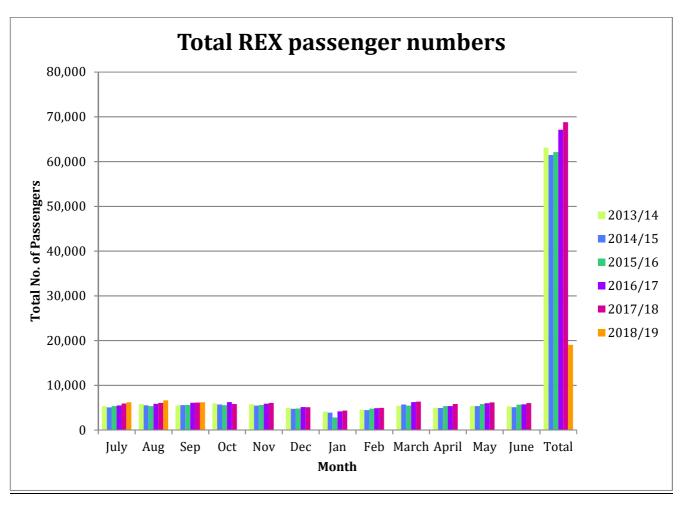
 Sep 2018/19
 are 30% higher
 compared to
 the same
 period last
 year.
- Note: The spike in Jul-Sep 2016/17 was due to the large

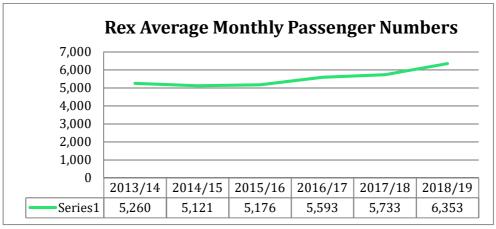
Air, Rail & Road Update

- REX Air passenger numbers for the July to September quarter have increased by 5% since the same period last year.
- New Community Fare introduced and additional flights to/from Sydney including Broken Hill service.
- The construction of Stage 2b a roundabout at intersection of MR321 Kidman Way (Hanwood Road) and Thorne Road is underway.
- The upgrade, realignment and construction of Stage 5b, 6a & 6b (Thorne -west, Bromley, Browne Roads and MR80 Kidman Way) is progressing with final designs and land acquisition negotiations currently taking place. Commencement of these stages is expected to be around October 2018.
- Council is proposing to seal Boorga and Dickie Roads, Nericon. A survey is being conducted of road
 users to help ensure the road sealing will provide the infrastructure needed now and into the
 future.
- Griffith City Council is set to construct new footpaths in Griffith and the villages of Yenda, Yoogali and Hanwood after receiving a funding boost from the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities. Council is in the process of finalising the designs for these projects.
- Council has also received a funding grant from the NSW Active Transport Program to construct a cycleway from Bunnings to Murphy Road (Baiada).
- Council has held a series of forums to discuss the areas identified for construction with an
 opportunity for the residents of the villages to highlight any issues they may have with the
 proposals.



Bagtown Roundabout





Timetable Effective 29 October 2018

GRIFFITH - SYDNEY						+				
FLIGHT NO.	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	M	T	W	T	F	5	s	STOPS
21.456	6:20 am	8:25 am								1
71.454	6:50 am	8:10 am			•					0
JL464	10:20 am	12:25 pm								- 1
21.468	12:30 pm	1:50 pm								0
21,917	12:35 pm	1:55 pm	•				•			0
21.470	2:35 pm	3:55 pm								0
21.472	4:40 pm	6:00 pm								0

Griffith- Sydney - Griffith

SYDNEY - GRIFFITH						+				
FLIGHT NO.	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	M	T	w	T	F	5	5	STOPS
ZL463	8:30 am	10:00 am	•	•	٠	٠	•	•		0
71.467	10:30 am	12:00 pm	•	٠	٠	٠	•	•	•	0
21936	12:30 pm	2:00 pm	•	•	•	•	•			0
ZL469	2:10 pm	4:20 pm	•	•	•	•	•		•	1
21.473	5:00 pm	7:05 pm	•	•	•	•	•		•	1
21.477	6:55 pm	8:25 pm						•		0

TOURISM

Events in Griffith

Council Supported Events

Saturday 8th - Sunday 9th September -Golf NSW Regional Qualifier at Griffith Golf Club

Saturday 15th September - MYSKATE - MYFEST youth festival at the skate park (BBRF \$20,000 grant received). Council hosted a fantastic free youth event suitable for all ages. There were food vans, music, skate demonstrations and entertainment all afternoon. From 1pm there local musicians performed (Lara Camm & Anastasia Comarin, Aduny Takele, Ben Ceccato, Chad McLean, The Lolohea Brothers).

2pm performance called **Snake Sessions** by Sydney team Branch Nebula, featuring professional skaters, BMX rides, dancers

hord store?

and parkour artists - with some help from local skaters. 5pm Melbourne band Joelistics

Saturday 29th September - Griffith's Biggest Lap - the biggest turn out yet, over 600 cars joined the lap this year and it was unbelievable. The street was buzzing, community and visitors were enjoying every moment. With Council's support the hardworking committee raised \$18,400 at the event. Biggest Lap Entrants entered their show cars from outside our region from Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Wagga and Albury. Griffith Cup.

Upcoming 2018 Events



- 2 November Riverina Wine & Food Twilight Markets
- 7 November Griffith New Residents Welcome Reception
- 17 November Shakespeare Under the Stars
- 23 November Griffith Boat Club Twilight Markets
- 30 November Rotary Christmas Hams Carnival

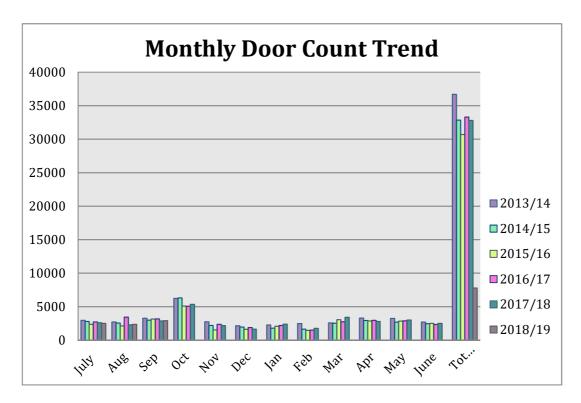
2019 Major Events

- 23 March 2019 Rewind in the Vines (sponsored by Council)
- 29 31 March 2019 Rotary 9700 District Conference
- 1-2 April 2019 National Scooter Rally
- 13-14 April 2019 Griffith Youth Cup & Soccer Expo (sponsored by Council)
- 19-22 April 2019 Griffith Easter Party (sponsored by Council)
- 5 May 2019 A day in the Orchard @Piccolo Family Farm
- 10-11 May 2019 Riverina Field Days
- 8-9 June 2019 Griffith Shaheedi Tournament (sponsored by Council),
- 8-9 June 2019 MIA Tennis Tournament
- 25 August 2019 Griffith Festa Del Salsicce e Salami (Salami Festival)
- 5 October 2019 Griffith's Biggest Lap
- 13-26 October 2019 Griffith Spring Fest
- 21-25 October 2019 Griffith Veteran's golf week

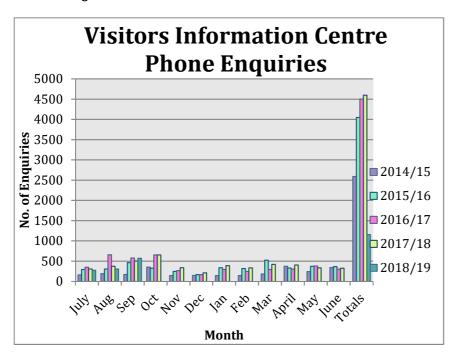


Griffith Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

Summary of Enquiries for July - September quarter



• as you can see, Griffith Visitor Information Centre is more than doubling the average for walk ins through the centre!



Phone enquiries	Griffith VIC	The Average number of phone calls to VIC's throughout the Riverina Murrary Region
July 2018	276	172
Aug 2018	308	92
September 2018	570	134

Walk-ins through the VIC	Griffith Visitor Information Centre	The Average number of phone calls to VIC's throughout the Riverina Murrary Region **these includes 19 other centres throughout the Riverina Murray region which (Albury and Wagga VIC's are included in this average)
July 2018	2514	1284
Aug 2018	2359	894
September 2018	2907	1299

Most of our enquiries for this period were in regards to:

- lots of Solar Farm workers (July)
- Soroptimist Conference (July)
- State Junior Rugby Championship (July)
- Salami Festival (August) Over the Salami Festival weekend we had 185 people through our door on the Saturday (25th August) all enquiring about the Salami Festival and what else there was to see and do!
- The Fire Brigade Championship (August)
- Eacom Cup Race Day (September)
- The Clydesdales in Barellan (Oct long weekend) we had a lot of visitors staying in our local motels and caravan parks as a result of this event in our region
- Spring Fest (October)
- Lachlan Valley Dinner Train bookings (October long weekend)
- Lots of enquiries this quarter in regards to hiking and visiting Cocoparra National Park
- Most of our Visitors were from NSW, VIC, SA and Overseas.
 - o 55% from NSW, 22% from VIC, 17% from SA and 6% from overseas
 - o our overseas visitors were from South Africa, Estonia, Canada, Italy, Ireland, Taiwan, Malaysia, NZ, UK, France, USA, Germany, Denmark, China, Switzerland, India, Sth Korea, Japan, Slovakia, Holland & Belarus Lithuania.
 - o our visitors stayed for an average of 4.6 nights
 - September saw a big increase in business travellers.

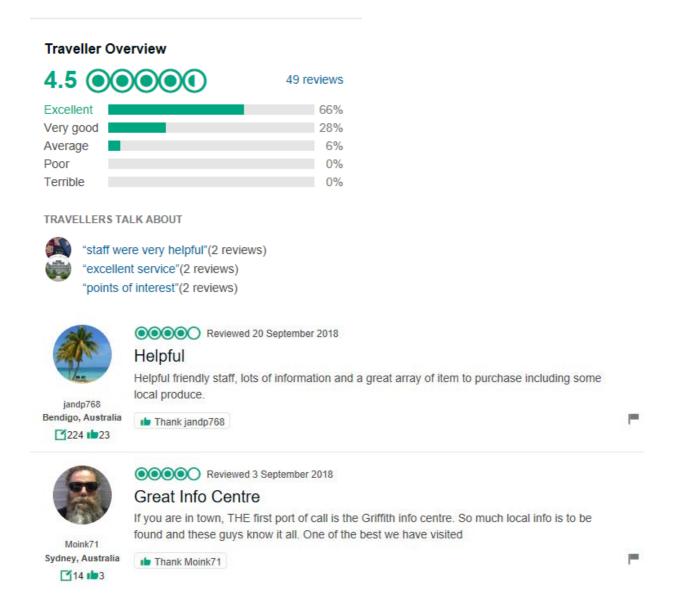
Coach/ Group Bookings & Itineraries

- In this quarter we arranged 26 group itineraries:
 - o Jacobson's Couch Tours from Longwood Seniors in Victoria, 39 pax stayed 3 nights
 - o Shellharbour City Tours from Shellharbour region, 51 pax stayed 2 nights
 - o Heritage Train Group from Sydney & surrounds, 85 pax stayed 3 nights
 - o Renault Car Club from through ACT & NSW, 55 pax stayed 3 nights
 - Griffith Central Ladies Probus, 20 pax came into the VIC to watch DVD and learn about what we
 do
 - Griffith Post School Options, 15 pax came into the VIC to watch our DVD and learn about what we do
 - o continued the coordination of itineraries for 20 visiting coach groups for Spring Fest as well as 3 coaches for garden tours organised by the VIC
 - These itineraries all involved dealing with 18 tourism operators from all over Griffith, Leeton & Narrandera.

General Activities

- Held a very successful Tourism Social Night at Baratto Wines (Thank you to Karen & Peter Baratto for being our hosts). Belinda Morandin from Morandin Family Wines was our guest speaker. We also launched our new Visit Griffith website on the night. We had 45 local operators in attendance which was great!
- 30 New Resident Kits compiled and distributed to new and prospective residents (9 of these were through Griffith Now Hiring Campaign)
- 5 Tour Operator Folders were distributed within NSW, Victoria & ACT
- Accommodation, Eatery & Winery operator visits continued
- Distributed 3,990 Griffith Visitor Guides locally, inter and intra state. This was broken down into other Visitor Centres through NSW, Victoria & ACT, local operators such as motels, caravan parks, airport, wineries, newsagencies, licensed clubs, Council facilities, as well as singular general walk in, email or phone enquiries through the VIC
- Attended the Murrumbidgee Local Health District Nurses forum in Wagga, promoting Griffith to over
 120 potential new residents from all over Australia
- Distributed 6,000 Spring Fest Programs throughout the region, ACT and locally
- Hosted a work experience student from Wade High School in September, was a great help in the lead up to Spring Fest!
- Ceased operation of Book Easy in August (Finalisation of final reports and returns completed)
- Attended Rose Garden Working Group Meeting
- Attended Grants Workshop
- Attended organisational meeting for the New Residents Civic Reception to be held in November
- Collated 200 information and give away packs for the Riverina Ladies Golf Association Championship which was held 10-12 September with 155 ladies in attendance from 10 clubs
 - a huge boost to our local economy, the manager at Black Pepper Griffith received record sales for the state of NSW on the Sunday that these ladies were in town shopping!

Websites - Maintaining the following websites on a weekly basis, particularly the online Calendar of Events; Visitgriffith.com.au & VisitNSW.com.au, Australian Tourism Data Warehouse and the online Events Calendar



Google Reviews

Griffith Visitor Information Centre

1 Jondaryan Ave, Griffith NSW



Marketing & Promotion

Projects

- O Good Chef Bad Chef TV developed a partnership proposal and pitched to industry and local foodie businesses to secure the opportunity to showcase Griffith region on the popular network cooking show. Seven partners signed up: Bella Vita Tours, Acuna Murray Cod, AusPrunes, Dee Vine Estate, Calabria Family Wines, Fresh Technique and Zecca. In region filming is scheduled for October with Bad Chef Adrian Richardson. The new episodes will go to air early in 2019...stay tuned!
- o **Griffith Now Hiring**: produce a fortnightly E-news capturing partner jobs, a lifestyle event and house for sale usually 40+ jobs promoted 25% open rate/ 6.30% click through Database 330. Developed marketing Campaigns Google AdWords and Facebook to increase awareness of the project and increase database of interested parties looking to move to Griffith.



- Video campaign on Facebook reached 47K people with 1.2K clicks.
- Sport Events: Final year in supporting Golf NSW Regional Qualifier event. Stronger entries this year
 and have established good working relationship with Golf NSW (60 entries from inter and intrastate –
 waiting on final report). Several Golf packages were booked at the Quest and the social media
 campaign had a reach of 13.4K and 444 clicks.
- VisitGriffith.com.au new website launched. Griffith Region Ambassadors now profiled on the website. New feature - event holders can load their event details directly to the website.
- Heritage Train sunset dinner train with the newly renovated dining car. Liaised with Lachlan Valley
 Rail to create a sunset dinner train with local wine and catering. Developed a marketing campaign,
 promoted through visitgriffith 44 tickets sold out event.

Destination promotion

- Sydney Weekender Griffith coverage
- Landline established contact with presenters Sean and Pip
- True Blue Rex magazine Griffith region destination campaign and Spring campaign
- Spring Fest marketing campaign, including DNSW It's On
- Batman Group Griffith Compendium proof read/edits
- Provided Health Industry jobs agency with promotional material
- DNSW/DRM Coop Marketing brand health research showed Riverina was found to be the least known region in all of NSW. Awareness campaigns will be the first step in marketing the region.

Regional Collaboration

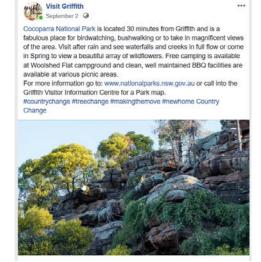
- Kidman Way Promotional Committee, work collectively with Murrumbidgee, Carrathool, Cobar and Bourke Councils to promote the whole region/touring route. July meeting in Hillston.
 - Kidman Way Promotional Committee: Project lead new 2018-2020 touring book launched in September.
- Thrive Riverina (formerly Riverina Regional Tourism) Griffith is a member council, Board meetings attended held in Griffith and Leeton.
 - Taste Riverina Committee Cruise Express Heritage Gourmet Rail Adventure returning to Griffith October long weekend for four days with 88 people – showcasing the region as a foodie destination. 2019 event discussion is looking at changing the event – cruise from Sydney to Melbourne, train to Shepparton and bus to Griffith for a gourmet weekend experience and train to Sydney.
 - o Out of market research taking Taste Riverina to Sydney and Canberra in 2019

Destination Events

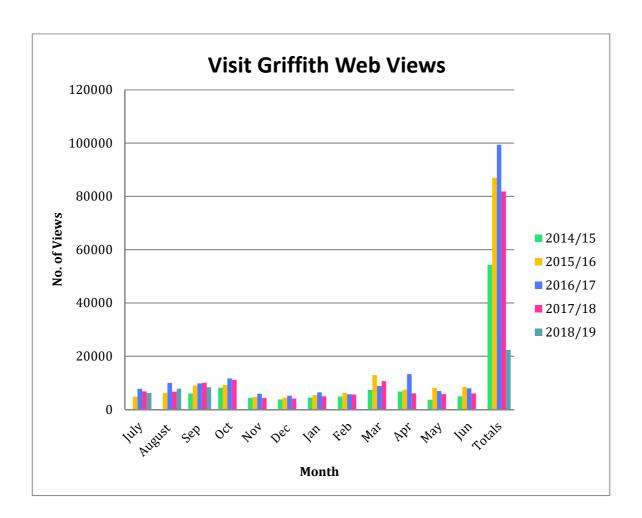
- August 'Italian' showcase there were many local businesses that offered wonderful Italian themed events during the August Festa del Salsicce weekend. In 2019 Council will develop a marketing campaign, along the same lines as Griffith Easter Party, to support and grow this as an *Italian* festival weekend.
- Murray Riverina Tourism Awards 2 award recipients in Griffith Quest (gold) and Limone
 Dining (silver) great destination promotion for the region.

Social Media

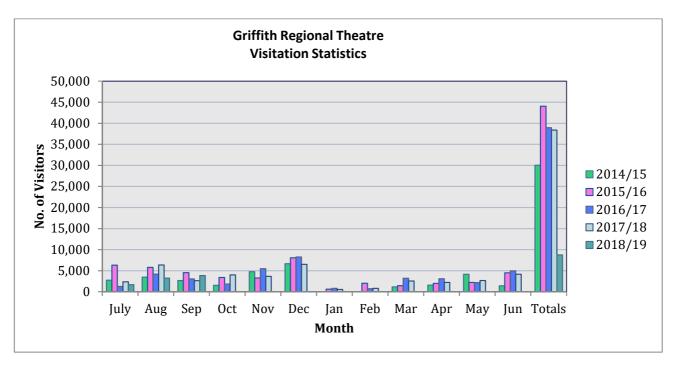
- o Instagram: visitgriffith 1,250 followers (8.5% increase on last quarter). Demographics 75% women and most are aged between 25-34 years.
- Visitgriffith Facebook: 5,900 Likes (9% increase from previous quarter)
- o The Juice monthly enews to local businesses 430 recipients/ 35% open rate / 6% click through. The new events calendar, Spring Fest and REX were recent popular links.
- o Griffith Region 30 second clip 55K online views (10% increase from last quarter)
- o Griffith Ambassador program partner promotion on Facebook continues, examples below.







Griffith Regional Theatre and Art Gallery



Theatre:

- Junior & Senior Drama Troupes continuing, with the Senior Troupe rehearsing to stage a performance on stage early next term.
- A total of 8,748 people visited the Theatre during the three months.
- Highlights have included Justice Crew (almost 400 people), and several school events, such as KROP (1450 people), St Mary's Concerts and Wade High MADD Night.
- Theatre is being utilised on a regular basis by schools and Council to stage information sessions for members of the public.
- BGR and foyer were used for total of 37 events with over 950 people attending these events.
- Off-site, Snake Sessions conducted skating / music events with young people in the community at the Griffith Skate Park.
- MYSKATE a youth festival was held at the Skate park, involving young community members and different departments within Council.

Gallery:

- Visitation for Q1 was 1,608, including almost 100 people taking part in public programs.
- "For Country, For Nation" commemorating the service of First Australians was an important educational exhibition, attracting 491 school students to the Gallery.
- Gallery hosted a NAIDOC week morning tea and floor talk in conjunction with the Griffith War Memorial Museum.
- "Lucky City" pop-up exhibition and included a McWilliam's Sundowner floor talk evening.
- The Gallery hosted its flagship exhibition the "National Contemporary Jewellery Award" with a ticketed Gala Black Tie opening (Sold Out) sponsored by McWilliam's Family Wines.
- To coincide with the "National Contemporary Jewellery Award" the Gallery hosted an Object Art Forum with a number of workshops exploring jewellery making with resin, polymer clay and silver.
- Hosted the National Emerging Art Glass
 Prize exhibition a collection from Wagga
 Wagga Art Gallery.