

Edward River News



Edward
River
COUNCIL

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Edward River Christmas Fair

The weather was ideal and the setting delightful when a large crowd gathered in Waring Gardens for the Edward River Christmas Fair. Residents from across the Council region gathered for the Christmas festivities. They enjoyed musical entertainment including traditional carols from the Edward River Concert Band, Deniliquin High School Band and talented local singer Anna Bowie.

Santa's Grotto returned to the Multi Arts Centre, and as usual he was a popular jolly fellow. Lots of parents took the opportunity to snap a photo of their youngsters with Santa. Young dancers were also popular, highlighting

again the wonderful talent in our community. There was food available to feed the hungry hordes, and various other activities which were enjoyed by the young (and young at heart).

The annual Christmas Shopping Promotion major draws also took place. In the interests of encouraging everyone to shop locally, Edward River Council was major sponsor of the promotion this year. Congratulations to everyone who participated, in particular the two big winners, Lyn Rose and Audrey Dunbar who took home the \$2,000 and \$1,000 shopping voucher prizes respectively.

Message from the Administrator

Welcome to the second Edward River Council newsletter. I hope you enjoy our colourful format and the wide range of information about Council activities.

A priority of the new Council since it was established in May has been to ensure we have open and effective communication with our residents and ratepayers. If you have queries or concerns about any Council matter, please do not hesitate to talk to members of our team at the administration centre in Civic Place. We now have all staff from the former Deniliquin Council and Conargo Shire Council working together at the one site, so whether you live in town, on a farm or in a village, that is where you go to have any Council questions answered.

It is going to be a busy year for Edward River Council. We have started the recruitment for a new General Manager and are looking forward to having our first full-time appointment 'on deck' in coming months. This will help with the ongoing process of merger transition and developing a framework around which to build future stability for the organisation and our community.

In September we will have the first Edward River Council elections. There will be a lot more information provided about this process in the coming months, but I would encourage all interested residents to consider standing for Council. It is a very rewarding experience and will allow those elected the opportunity to play a vital role in building a strong, vibrant community.

One of our biggest events in the early part of the year is always our Australia Day celebrations. This year we will welcome Ambassador Susanne Gervay OAM and I trust large crowds will attend our functions in Deniliquin's Waring Gardens and at Conargo.

Again, I hope you enjoy reading about Council's activities in this newsletter. For more regular updates I encourage you to visit our website, www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au and sign up to Council's e-newsletter, or 'like' Edward River Council on Facebook.

Until next time.

Ashley Hall
Administrator



Council recruiting new GM

Edward River Council has started the process to recruit a new General Manager.

We are seeking a highly qualified and skilled person to lead our Council through the final stages of the merger transition process, then position our community to face the challenges of building a strong and prosperous region.

A leading Sydney company which specialises in finding senior executive staff for local government has been appointed to assist with the recruitment.

A recruitment panel has also been formed and includes the Administrator Ashley Hall, former Conargo Shire Mayor Norm Brennan, former Deniliquin Mayor Pat Fogarty and Managing Director of CT Management Mike Courtney.

This panel has immense experience across our community and local government, and as such is well placed to find the GM our organisation needs.

There will be further local input from Council's local advisory committee which will have input in development of the successful applicant's Key Performance Indicators.

The overwhelming support from current senior staff, including Interim General Manager Barry Barlow, to the decision to seek a full-time General Manager on a five year or similar contract, has been welcomed by the Administrator.

We hope to have our new General Manager 'on deck' in the first few months of 2017.

Australia Day Ambassador SUSANNE GERVAY OAM

Susanne Gervay is an award winning author, daughter of post war refugees, and recognized for her writing on social justice for youth & adult literature.

Susanne will be the Edward River Council Australia Day Ambassador for 2017.

She is also widely published in Australian literary journals and anthologies. Her narrative 'Days of Thailand' is included in the Picador Indian-Australian anthology 'The Fear Factor, Terror Incognito' with David Malouf, Sir Salman Rushdie and Thomas Keneally.

She is part of the Kiribati Pacific Calling Fact Finding Delegation with Patrick Dobson father of indigenous reconciliation, and she was invited to represent Australia with her story 'To East Timor – from Australia' in an IBBY and UNESCO sponsored illustrated anthology Peace Story that includes 22 countries, 22 authors and 22 illustrators to be launched at Bologna Book Fair. Recently she was flown to New York to speak at the World Burn Congress about her young adult novel 'Butterflies', recognized as Outstanding Youth Literature on Disability.

Her Jack books include 'I Am Jack', a rite-of-passage fiction on school bullying adapted into a play by premiere theatre company Monkey Baa. 'Super Jack', endorsed by Life Education, addresses blending families. 'Always Jack' has been awarded the Australian Family Therapists Award and reaches young people, families and community dealing with breast cancer. It is the first time the Cancer Council nationally and the National Breast & Ovarian Cancer Centre have validated youth fiction. 'Always



Jack' carries the yellow daffodil on its cover. Her 'Jack' books are in development as a feature film directed by the award winning director Nadia Tass.

Susanne's acclaimed picture book 'Ships in the Field' gives a voice to the children and parents of refugees and celebrates us all as Australians.

Susanne Gervay is a national and international speaker who addresses social justice through her literature at festivals and conferences from New York, Delhi, Ubud, Byron Bay, Beijing Literature Festival to Bologna Book Fair. Her books are widely read and studied throughout Australian schools.

She is head of SCBWI Australia East & New Zealand, and chairs The Sydney Children's Writers & Illustrators Network at The Hughenden. She has been awarded an OAM for Children's Literature. She is patron of Monkey Baa Theatre for Young People, Ambassador for Room to Read, Director of the Kids and Young Adult Literature Festival at the NSW Writers Centre and mentors Australian writers and illustrators.

Australia Day Celebrations

Edward River Council's Australia Day celebrations will be held in Deniliquin and Conargo.

The traditional Waring Gardens' ceremony in Deniliquin will start with the famous Rotary breakfast from 8am.

Before the official ceremony entertainment will be provided by the Edward River Concert Band and Sing Australia Choir.

There will be an official welcome at 10am, after which the Australia Day address will be given by Ambassador Susanne Gervay OAM.

This will be followed by presentation of the Australia Day Awards including Citizen of the Year, Sportsperson of the Year, Young Sportsperson of the Year and Community Event of the Year.

At Conargo, the annual Australia Day cricket match on the Conargo Oval will start at 9am.

The Australia Day ceremony, including an address by Ambassador Susanne Gervay OAM, starts at noon in the Conargo Hall and will include the Sing Australia Choir, plus poetry reading by Alex Allitt.

Presentations will be made to Citizen of the Year and Sportsperson of the Year.

Edward River Council encourages residents to get involved in Australia Day celebrations.



New lease for Crossing Café

Since The Crossing Café was developed in the Peppin Heritage Centre complex almost 20 years ago it has become a favourite meeting and eating place for locals and visitors alike.

Edward River Council is pleased to have negotiated an extended lease with Leo and Karen Benbow, who this year will celebrate a decade as lessees of 'The Crossing'.

The lease was approved at Council's December meeting.

As part of negotiations it was agreed The Crossing Café will get a facelift that will include painting inside and out, plus new floor coverings and air conditioning in the kitchen. These works will be the responsibility of the lessee.

Items for consideration by Council in coming budgets will include toilet renovations, front decking and additional air conditioning. Installation of solar panels to the roof will also be investigated.

Council is delighted with the ongoing success of The Crossing Café and the important role it plays in the Peppin Heritage Centre complex.



Park tribute to local hero

The construction of Edward River Council's newest park is underway.

A tribute to the late Manny Pottinger, Conargo's resident windmill repair man, Pottinger Park is in the first stages of construction. Completion is expected to coincide with planting of the garden beds in time for this year's autumn break.

Edward River Council has been working with community representatives and Liesl Malan Landscape Architects to develop a strong design for the site on the corner of Conargo and Carrathool roads.

The park will include a striking windmill as a tribute to one of the village's favourite residents. It will be dedicated to the unsung heroes of the wool industry, with Manny at the forefront.

Although he never owned a sheep in his life, he played an integral role across the stations of the area. For over half a century, he climbed the rungs of almost every windmill in the district to ensure a reliable supply of water for stock.

Pottinger Park will provide a welcoming, shady area for locals and tourists. The custom seats have been designed specifically for the site and a series of signs will include stories of the village and some of its residents.

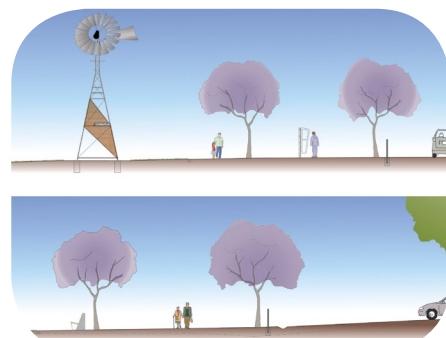
A boulevard of Jacaranda trees was chosen by community members in reference to the trees Joyce and Manny planted in their garden, next door to the new site.

Edward River Council Interim General Manager Barry Barlow is looking forward to opening the new park this year.

"Pottinger Park is a tribute to Manny. It also complements the various projects in each of the villages we've been working on over several years. It will benefit visitors by giving them a pleasant environment and introducing them to some of the village history.



Joyce and Manny Pottinger.



"These projects have all been designed to support small businesses, like the Conargo Store, and the communities of each village," Mr Barlow said.

Earthworks have begun on site and the Works Team has already encountered an unexpected challenge – they discovered a large section of asphalt from part of an old road buried well below the ground. This has all been carefully removed and work will continue after the holiday break.

If you would like to know more about this project or have stories about the village history to share, contact Helen Flisher at Edward River Council on (03) 5898 3000.

Works program

Edward River Council's Director Technical Services, Mark Dalzell, gave a comprehensive update of 'Works In Progress' to the December meeting of Council.

Following is an update on the Works Program:

Reseals – Rural area: Resealing works under the Roads to Recovery program have been completed for the following roads: Hartwood Road, Millers Road, Wanganella – Moulamein Road, part of Mabins Well Road.

Works to be completed include:

Mayrung Road – Resealing in line with urban reseals in 2017.

Conargo Road – The sections of this road to be resealed have been affected by wet weather and are currently unsuitable for resealing. Council staff shall further investigate this section to determine whether it is still suitable for resealing or, due to wet weather damage, a full reconstruction is required.

Mabins Well Road – Part of this road will be completed during the next visit.

Reseals – Urban area: Urban resealing works have commenced in December 2016 with further works to be undertaken in March 2017.

Intersection of Wirraway Drive and Saleyards Road: Reconstruction of the intersection is under the Fixing Country Roads Program. Work completed in December.

Barham Road Widening Works:

No work completed in past two months due to commitments with Ute Muster and flood preparation. It is anticipated this project shall recommence in the new year.

Road construction – Rural Area:

Wanganella – Moulamein Road, return old seal to gravel – 13.5km of this project has been completed with 2km left to do. The completion of this final section has been impacted by floodwater in the area.

Blighty Hall Road – completed

Tubbs Road – completed

Hartwood Pine Road – completed

Moonbria Road gravel re-sheeting – completed

Goolgumbra Road gravel re-sheeting – 50% completed.

Work to be undertaken as part of the 2016-17 program includes:

Pretty Pine Road – Approx. 2.5km of reconstruction work

Woodbury Road – Construction expected to start February 2017

Mayrung Road – Preliminary works currently being undertaken

Moonee Swamp Road

Wanganella – Moulamein Road

Gravel road re-sheeting including North Boundary Road, Flanagans Road, Malones Road, Woodyards Road, Chapmans Road, Warwillah Road, Moonee Swamp Rod and Booabula Road.

Road construction – Urban Area:

Works to be undertaken in the urban area include:

RMS heavy patching along the State Highway network

Hetherington Street reconstruction – to be undertaken in February 2017

Napier Street reconstruction – It is anticipated this work will proceed in February 2017, following consultation with businesses and the community

Heavy patching – Programmed for March 2017 as part of preparation for the urban resealing program.

Footpath renewals: Council is in the process of engaging a local

contractor for the completion of the footpath renewal program in the urban area. It is anticipated this work will commence in the new year.

Kerb and gutter renewals: Council is currently finalising documentation regarding the completion of this project by contractors.

Resource Recovery Centre –

Weighbridge: As part of the works at the Deniliquin landfill depot, Council has budgeted for the purchase and installation of a weighbridge suitable for vehicles up to semi-trailer size. Council staff are undertaking an open tender process for the supply and installation of the weighbridge and associated software. It is anticipated the tender will be approved at Council's February meeting which will allow for completion in the 2016-17 budget.

Reservoir in Industrial Area:

Briag Engineering has completed installation of the reservoir and are finalising the pipework and civil works, including access roads. It is anticipated the reservoir will be brought into service in the new year. Construction of the trunk main to the new reservoir is expected to start in February 2017.

Water Main Augmentation: Survey and documentation for water main augmentation works along Barham Road and in the industrial area are being undertaken. This project shall be advertised for tender in the new year.

Sewer Main Relining: Work is continuing on the sewer main relining project, undertaken in the south eastern side of the CBD area. It is anticipated this work will be completed by mid-December 2017.

Sewer Pump Stations: Quotation documents have been sent out for the supply and installation of a sewer pump station in Burton Street. Work is due to commence in February 2017.



More groups benefit from Stronger Communities Fund

Edward River Council has approved four more projects that will benefit from the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund.

They relate to applications under the auspice of Council's 355 committees and were among more than 60 expressions of interest received for community projects under the fund.

The latest projects approved are:

- Conargo Memorial Hall & Recreation Committee - \$6,500 for improving capacity
- Deniliquin Multi-Arts Centre - \$40,000 for kitchen upgrade

- Edward River Concert Band - \$9,494.07 for folding chairs, music stands, upgrading trailer and altering existing shed
- Long Paddock Committee - \$50,000 for cattle drive.

Edward River Council Administrator Ashley Hall said he was delighted that more organisations could benefit from the fund and added there may even be future opportunities, as Council would consider a second round of funding, though with a smaller amount for distribution.

Council is also considering major infrastructure projects that may be undertaken with money from the Stronger Communities Fund.

"We have \$9 million available and Council will be seeking further community input in the new year to ensure we gain maximum long-term benefit from our investment.

"Council also has \$3 million from the Murray-Darling Basin Diversification Programme and a community committee has been established to investigate and recommend the best job creation projects from this allocation," Mr Hall said.

Murray Tourism membership

The Edward River Council area will continue to benefit from membership of Murray Regional Tourism.

The council recently decided to renew its membership of the tourist organisation, which promotes Murray region communities on both sides of the border.

MRT was established in 2010 through an agreement between Destination NSW, Tourism Victoria and 14 local government councils with the purpose of developing a holistic approach to the effective coordination of tourism activities, as well as growing the visitor economy in the Murray region.

It provides access to funding through both Visit Victoria and Destination NSW, and participation in targeted cooperative advertising and promotional programs.

ERC's membership will also allow inclusion on the Visit the Murray digital platform, regular quarterly reports, access to subsidised training programs for industry operators, and participation in quarterly tourism managers' forums.

Office Changes

The merger transition process is steadily continuing, with a recent development relating to staff in the administration centre.

The former Conargo Shire administration centre in End Street, Deniliquin has been closed and all administration staff are now working from the Civic Centre in Civic Place.

New relocatable offices will be installed on site in January to provide additional office space.

So if you have any administrative queries visit reception which is accessed from the Civic Place entrance.

At this stage the works depots of the former Deniliquin Council and Conargo Shire Council are both still operational, although an increasing number of functions are based at the North Deniliquin depot, with the intention that it will be the sole works depot in the second half of 2017.

Staff have adapted well to changes since the merger was announced and have quickly developed into a united Edward River Council team.

Stay safe in the water

The water safety message is important every summer, but is especially important this year in the Edward River Council district due to changing waterways.

The effects of the October flooding have not totally dissipated so extra care needs to be taken in our popular Edward River and when enjoying water activities anywhere else.

There are still submerged logs in the river and particular care must be taken of these.

So be careful, whether you are in a boat, swimming, skiing or meandering down the river on an inflatable device.

Parents are reminded to always keep a close watch on small children, whether near the river, at the swimming pool or even around the lagoons in our beautiful Waring Gardens and other parks.

Following are a few tips to assist with summer safety around water:

- Stay alert and actively supervise children in and around open bodies of water;
- Learn to swim - every child is different, so enrol children in swimming lessons when you feel they are ready;
- Learn lifesaving skills - learning how to perform CPR will provide you with tremendous peace of mind;
- Make sure backyard pools have four-sided fencing and a self-closing, self-latching gate to prevent a child from wandering into the area unsupervised. When inflatable or portable pools are being used, remember to empty them immediately after use and store them upside down and out of children's reach.

Edward River Council trusts you enjoy the magnificent recreational water facilities we have at our disposal.

Exercise along the Beach to Beach walk

Two exercise stations will soon be installed along the Beach to Beach Walk in Deniliquin. They will be the latest upgrades to the popular walk, which stretches from McLean Beach to Willoughby's Beach.

Each of the exercise stations will feature a range of equipment (see photo) to help local residents, as well as visitors, improve their fitness levels.

Edward River Council was delighted to obtain funding support for this project, which has a late February completion timeline.

It is anticipated the exercise stations will be installed during the week commencing February 24, 2017.

Recreation water use

A new automated watering system has been installed at the Conargo Recreation Reserve.

The system, purchased and installed at the request of the Conargo Recreation Reserve Committee, will improve water efficiency.

As a bonus, it is less labour intensive, so committee members do not have to worry about turning sprinklers on and off.

Edward River Council is pleased to be able to assist the Conargo community with this project.

The Council has also been able to assist Deniliquin Golf Club with its Summer watering.

It is providing the Golf Club with 'in kind support' in the form of 150 megalitres of water to help keep the golf course in prime condition through the hotter months.

Council understands the value of the golf course to our community, including its role as a tourist attraction, and is pleased to assist in this way.

The Golf Club was also the recipient of a Council grant under the Stronger Communities Fund which enabled it to purchase a new fairway mower, which will make huge savings to time and efficiency on the golf course.



Extensive damage from flooding

There was extensive damage throughout the Edward River Council area from the October flooding, in particular to the road network.

Total estimated cost of repairs has exceeded \$2 million, and Council at this stage has received \$500,000 for repair works to roads after a Natural Disaster declaration.

Damage identified by Council staff includes road surface and pavement damage, structural damage to culverts, damage to bridge and culvert approaches, as well as damage to signs and other road infrastructure.

Further assessments to determine necessary repair works will be undertaken early this year.

Roads identified as being damaged include:

- Aratula Rd South (near Tuppal Creek)
- Boggy Creek Rd
- Chippenham Park Rd
- Conargo-Wanganella Rd
- Phylands Rd (off Dahwilly Lane)
- Pretty Pine Rd
- Wanganella Moulamein Rd
- North Boundary Rd
- Smart St
- Willurah Rd (near Conargo)
- McLean Beach car park, and caravan park access road
- Henry St-Carew St intersection
- Memorial Drive
- Golf Club Rd
- Conargo-Jerilderie Rd
- Old Morago Rd
- Jones Avenue
- Boat ramps access roads – Twin Rivers, Sloane St and Harfleur St
- River access roads – Poitiers St (after Blackett St); Wyatt St, and Lawson Syphon Rd (after bridge at Aljoes Creek)

First aid grant for athletics

Member for Murray Adrian Piccoli has advised that funding through the NSW Government's 2016 Community Partnership Program has been awarded to the Deniliquin Athletics Centre Inc.

"The Deniliquin Athletics Centre will receive \$2,500 towards the purchase of a first aid kit, defibrillator and first aid training package. This vital equipment and training package will be a huge benefit to the club," Mr Piccoli said.

He said he was pleased to receive this State Government funding and congratulates all those organisations that were successful in their applications.

Further details of the program and all successful grants funded for the 2016 program can be found at www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au under the 'successful grants' tab.

Pavement trial on roads

Edward River Council is trialling a dust suppression and pavement strengthening stabilisation of existing pavement on some urban gravel roads in Deniliquin.

The aim is to find a cost effective method of maintaining our gravel roads that reduces dust, improves surface condition and reduces future maintenance works.

The Council is using a chemical pavement conditioner called Polytahr. The construction process involves ripping the top 10mm of existing pavement, spreading Polytahr, watering, mixing by grader and rolling.

The following roads have been selected for this trial:

- Harfleur Street
- Henry Street
- Morris Street
- Sloane Street
- Wyatt Street

The works were started before Christmas and will be completed after the holiday break.

These works are only a trial and Council would appreciate any feedback on this treatment.



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Do you want to get up-to-date information from Council regarding projects, initiatives, meetings and events? Visit www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au and sign up to receive Council's e-newsletter.



Keep in touch - Follow Edward River Council and the Central Murray Regional Library on Facebook.