

# Edward River News



ISSUE 8 | 2020

## Mayors Message

**I continue to be amazed at all the different services, projects and facilities Council manages. My calendar is often filled with celebrations.**

Whether it is to celebrate a new playground or facility, a special milestone, or the achievements of an individual or community group, these occasions constantly remind me of how lucky I am to be part of both a community and an organisation that are full of innovative, caring, passionate and hardworking people.

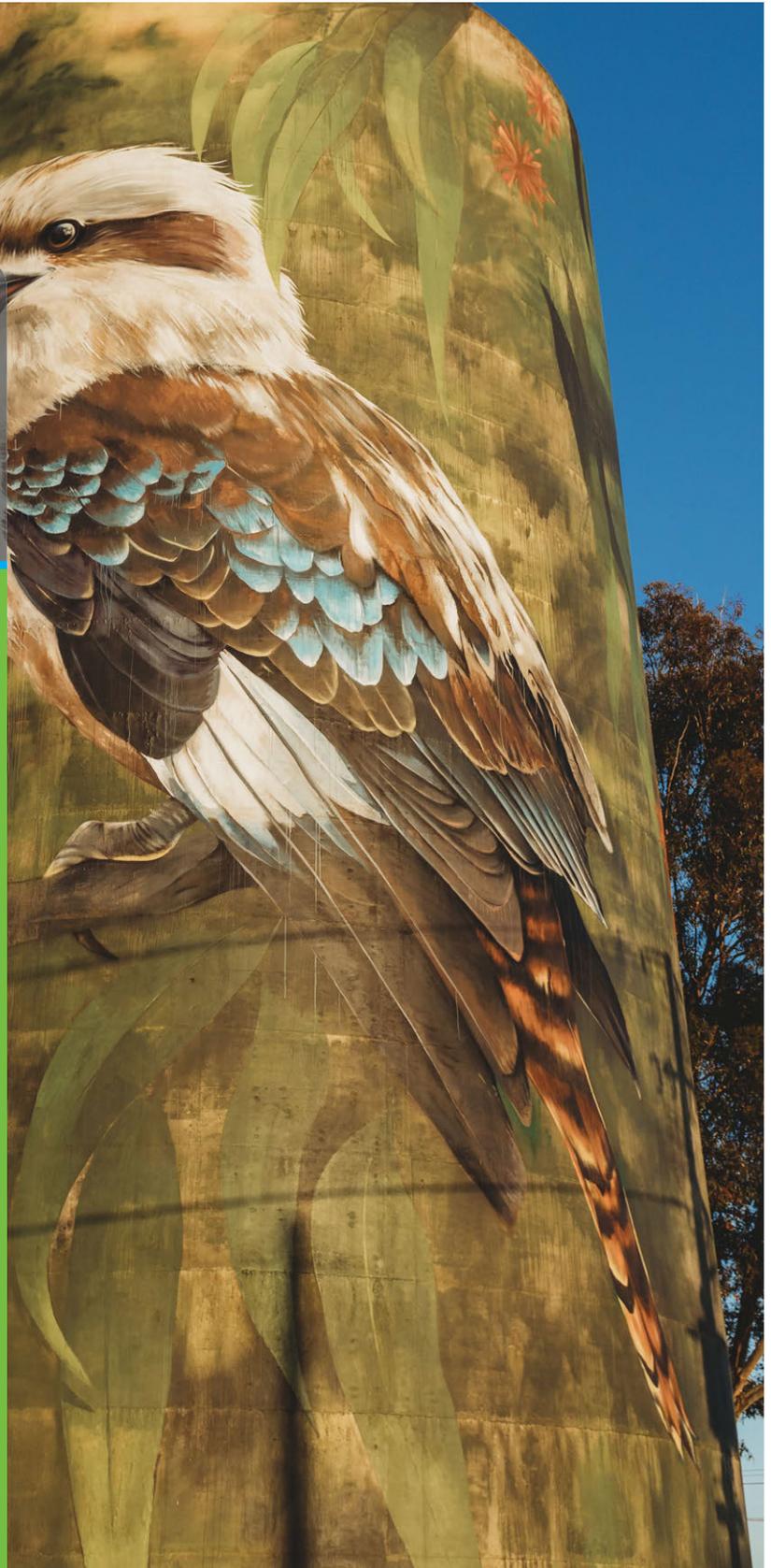
We have recently called on the community for feedback on a range of topics and projects including the North Deniliquin Tennis Courts site, the Edward River Oval, the Long-Term Strategic Strategy and the Edward River Tourism Development Plan 2019-2022.

This is an integral part of the decision-making process and I encourage everyone in our community to get involved and help us shape our Council's future.

I hope everyone in the Edward River Council enjoyed the Christmas and New Year period, and perhaps got to experience some of the amazing events held across the Council in this time.

I hope you have enjoyed the summer with family and friends and are feeling refreshed for the year ahead.

**Regards,  
Cr Norm Brennan**



# Rates Harmonisation

**As a result of the merger to create the Edward River Council, it is a legal requirement that the existing general rates structures of the former Conargo Shire Council and Deniliquin Council are harmonised into one new equitable and efficient rating structure for the Edward River area.**

The new harmonised general rates structure will not lead to an increase in rates revenue for Council, but rather will be designed to create fairness in how the existing rates revenue is raised from within the new Edward River Council area

Council will begin engaging with the community in the first half of 2020 on the general rates structure options. More information about rating, rating structures and rates harmonisation is available on Council's website at: <https://www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au/Council/Rates/Rates-Harmonisation>.

## Register to receive your rates notice electronically

Did you know that Edward River ratepayers can now opt to receive their rates notices by email, rather than through the traditional post?

Visit [edwardriver.enotices.com.au](http://edwardriver.enotices.com.au) to register to receive your rates notice electronically.

Rates are paid every year and can be paid in full or by quarterly instalments.

Due dates for quarterly instalments are:

- Third instalment: February 28, 2020
- Fourth instalment: May 31, 2020

# Rural Tree Planting Scheme

**The Rural Tree Planting Scheme was held again this year with Edward River Council residents claiming the full amount of plants designated to them.**

The claimed seedlings are grown to order and will be delivered at the end May or early June 2020. Landowners in the Edward River Local Government Area whose properties are larger than one (1) hectare in size were able to purchase subsidised indigenous plants.

# Capital & Road Works

**Council had a successful year in the delivery of the Capital Works Program.**

**The highlights include:**

## Roads and Road Related Infrastructure

Gravel Roads that were re-sheeted across the Edward River Council included:

- 7km of Oro Road
- 5.5km of Henderson Road
- 6.5km of Cowans Road
- 4.5km of Carrigan Park Road
- 20km of other roads

## Resealing

There was \$1.027 million for urban and rural roads to complete resealing works throughout the Council. These works protect the road pavements and reduces the likelihood that the roads will need a costly rehabilitation.

Works completed included:

- \$200,000 resealing the airport taxi ways
- \$125,000 Lakers Road
- \$125,000 Wanganella -Moulamein Road
- \$155,000 on Eastman's Road
- Balance spent across a further 10 roads.

## Road Renewal and Kerb & Gutter

Council focussed on the renewal of road and kerb and gutter to segments of roads that required both asset types to be renewed.

This provides better outcomes to the community and efficiency in the delivery of the work.

Some of the works completed include:

- Russell Street, between Wood and Sloane Streets - reconstruction of the full road pavement and the kerb and gutter along both sides of the road;
- Butler Street, between Poitiers and Maher Streets - reconstruction of the road shoulders and kerb and gutter along both sides of the street as well as resealing the full road width;
- Harfleur Street, between Hardinge Street and Macauley Streets - the reconstruction of the kerb and gutter along both sides of the street, with the reconstruction of the pavement continuing in 2020;
- Pakenham Street, from Waring Street towards Hetherington Street - construction of new kerb and gutter and road shoulder along the western side of the street;
- George Street, from Hardinge Street towards Napier Street - reconstruction of the kerb and gutter along the northern side of the street.

# Town Hall Revitalisation Project

**Council was successful in obtaining \$1.3 million for stages 1 and 2 to revitalise the Deniliquin Town Hall in Round 2 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund to provide a vibrant, flexible and multi-use community hub.**

An application to fund Stage Three of the project has been submitted to further transform the Town Hall into a Regional Performance Space, Theatre and Community Hub.

The scope of the works include:

- Construct a large glassed entry foyer to open onto an outdoor town square.
- Construct a town square – this is an open-air venue and garden area for people to meet and mingle before and after performances and to provide opportunities for outdoor theatre, functions, concerts, music and films.
- Renovate the ticketing office and reception area.
- Transform the former Council Chamber into a function room/pop-up bar for pre-performance gatherings or private functions.
- Soundproof the meeting rooms to enable use as green rooms, rehearsal, tuition and informal spaces for music groups.
- Preserve and make the upper dress circle/balcony functional again.

This project was identified for young people in the region as a facility to actively explore artistic expression.



## Waring Gardens and Cressy Street Revitalisations

**The Cressy Street project, which is scheduled to begin after Easter 2020, will create a green oasis in the Deniliquin CBD and will improve connections to Waring Gardens.**

It will also include renewal of the Kerb and Gutter, footpath, street furniture and median strip between Napier Street and Edwardes Street.

The Waring Gardens project will recognise the gardens inherent attractions and character and refresh the existing landscape amenities: spaces, paths, park furniture and planting.

## Deniliquin Water Tower Art

**The Deniliquin Water Tower received an artistic makeover with acclaimed street artist Cam Scale completing the full mural in just 17 days in July.**

The mural wraps around the 22.8-meter-high Water Tower located in Scott's Park, and features two kookaburras resting on gum tree branches and transitions into a starry night sky.

The project was funded through Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Program.

## Australia Day

Council will once again host Australia Day celebrations on Sunday, 26 January 2020. Held in the beautiful Waring Gardens at 9.00am with Australia Day Ambassador Brenda Norman, the festivities on the day include recognising the local award recipients, Australia Day Ambassador address and Affirmation Ceremony.

The Deniliquin Rotary Club will again be providing a barbecue breakfast and the Edward River Concert Band will be performing for the crowd.

# Napier Street Revitalisation

**Edward River Council's \$1.5 million Napier Street Revitalisation Project was completed in September.**

This project was funded through the NSW State Government's Stronger Country Communities (Round 2) and Stronger Communities Funds.

The project included the reconstruction of Napier Street, Deniliquin between Cressy and George Streets including stormwater drainage, water reticulation system, kerb and gutter, traffic islands, footpaths, road pavement and asphalt works, line marking, signage and landscaping as well as an upgrade of the Cressy Street roundabout.

The official opening to celebrate the completed works was held at the end of September and was well attended by the community. The event included face painting and balloon animals for the kids and a ribbon cutting ceremony with Mayor Norm Brennan and Senator Perin Davey.



## CBD Painting and Signage Initiative

**Shopfronts in the Deniliquin Central Business District were able to get a new look as part of the CBD Painting and Signage Project co-funded through the Drought Communities Programme.**

Applications were received for the project from building and business owners in Napier Street and Cressy Street during August and September of this year.

Business's took advantage of the initiative and got an updated look with local painting and signage contractors prioritised to complete the works for the project.

## Boots up Resilience Events

Edward River Council invited rural residents to put up their boots and catch up with friends at a series of drought relief events held across the region in July and August.

Events were held in Blighty, Conargo and Pretty Pine and were a great opportunity for local families to come together for a meal, a laugh, and to enjoy a much-needed break.

Families from across the region were able to take up the offer of a night out and to have some fun.

The three nights were funded through Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network's community grants program.

## Free Microchipping Week & Pet Desexing Program

**As part of Council's commitment to promoting responsible pet ownership in our community, multiple Free Microchipping Weeks were held throughout the year.**

Owners of cats and dogs had the option to get their pet microchipped at the Deniliquin Pound, or at their home. Council extended the Pet Desexing Program initiative to include healthcare card holders as well as pensioner concession card holder and residents of the Edward River Council local government area to encourage responsible pet ownership.

Run in partnership with Southern Riverina Vets, the program aims to make it affordable for all residents to desex their cats and dogs. Desexing lowers the risk of animal health problems and helps reduce the number of animals who end up in pounds and shelters.

# Deniliquin Swim Centre Refurbishment

The \$1.56 million Deniliquin Swim Centre Revitalisation was completed with the official opening held in late November. A great crowd in attendance made use of the free entry and sausage sizzle while enjoying the warm weather.

The works undertaken included resurfacing of the main pool, new tiling, solar installation to the learner's pool, an all abilities amenities facility refurbishment and plantroom upgrades with funding through the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund and Stronger Communities Fund.

## New Welcome to Deniliquin

Visitors and residents to Deniliquin will have noticed a welcoming sight as they entered the southern side of town.

A new and improved entrance at Crispe Street, funded through the 'Drought Communities Programme' began in November to beautify the area including tree planting, irrigation of the parkland and landscaping.

In addition, the iconic "Deniliquin" sign, formerly positioned on the highway at the eastern entry point to town, was relocated to the Crispe Street intersection.



## Riverfront Revitalisation

The Riverfront enhancement project is due to start construction in the first quarter of 2020.

The project will provide more functional and accessible parking on the main arterial road for locals and visitors, improved connection between visitor parking and the town centre.

It will also provide improved pedestrian linkages between the riverfront and town centre and increased access to and functionality of the riverfront public spaces.

## No Water Restrictions Necessary

Council continually reviews whether water restrictions are necessary and based on current water levels Council is satisfied that the amount of water currently in reserve is sustainable, with good water security and that no restrictions are necessary.

The community are encouraged to monitor the Council website or social media for any updates or changes.

## Get Ready for a Bush Fire

Getting ready for a bush fire is easier than you think. By taking 20 minutes with your family to discuss what you'll do during a fire, you could save their lives, as well as your home.

### FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

There are four simple steps to get ready for a bush fire:

#### STEP 1 - DISCUSS

##### DISCUSS WHAT TO DO IF A BUSH FIRE THREATENS YOUR HOME

Many households find that having a discussion over dinner works best as everybody is together and focussed.

#### STEP 2 - PREPARE

##### PREPARE YOUR HOME AND GET IT READY FOR BUSH FIRE SEASON

There are simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for a bush fire, like keeping the grass low and having a cleared area around your home.

#### STEP 3 - KNOW

##### KNOW THE BUSH FIRE ALERT LEVELS

If there is a fire in your area you will find its alert level on the NSW RFS website and in the 'Fires Near Me' app. You need to keep track of the alert level so you know what you should do.

#### STEP 4 - KEEP

##### KEEP ALL THE BUSH FIRE INFORMATION NUMBERS, WEBSITES AND THE SMARTPHONE APP

In a bush fire, it's important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area. It's a fact. If you and your home are well prepared, you stand a better chance of surviving a bush fire.

Visit the NSW RFS website at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) to download a Bush Fire Survival Plan Guide and learn more about how you can keep your family and property safe this summer.

## Rural Villages Beautification Project

**Council completed improvement projects at each of the rural villages. Through consultation, projects were identified that would provide social benefits to each of the communities.**

These completed projects are:

- Blighty Recreation Reserve - entry upgrade including new entry sign;
- Booroorban - new picnic tables, access ramp and new concrete on the front interpretive signage;
- Conargo - heritage walk and 13 new signs;
- Mayrung - new childproof fence, installation of memorial gates, relocation of fencing, raising of the storeroom floor and a flagpole;;
- Pretty Pine - new pump shed, covered walkway, cooktop and cricket mat;
- Wanganella - new tennis lights to the standard of "social play" and a barbecue.



## New Ute sculpture in Deniliquin

**After more than 10 years on display in George Street, the beloved TransmUTE has retired from public exhibition. The mosaic Ute was transformed in 2005 by a group of dedicated local artists and became an icon for locals and visitors alike.**



TransmUTE was moved to the new Ute museum at the Deni Ute Muster site, which is expected to be completed in late 2020.

To replace the TransmUTE, a new "Reutilise" sculpture was commissioned under a joint project between Edward River Council and The Long Paddock.



Award-winning local artist Stuart Taylor was engaged to create a life-size Holden Ute from metal objects collected from farms in the local area.

The new Reutilise sculpture is Stuart's largest piece of work and highlights his signature style of repurposed scrap metal.

# Sign Up to Monitor your Water Consumption anytime, anywhere for free.

**The smart water meters have been in place for 12 months and Council has seen outstanding outcomes with decreases in property leakage and in system losses.**

To ensure you get the most out of this great initiative please follow the instructions below.

Property owners can keep up to date with their water consumption through registering to use the MiWater MyH2O public portal, available online at [edwardriver.miwater.co](http://edwardriver.miwater.co).

This system will allow you to:

- Monitor your water use;
- Identify leaks; and
- Compare your water use with averages (both for Deniliquin and similar demographics).

## How to register

Visit the MiWater MyH2O public portal at [edwardriver.miwater.co](http://edwardriver.miwater.co) to register. Before using the system, you will have to:

- Register as a user. Click the 'Sign Up Now' button and provide your details to create your MiWater account.
- Confirm your account. You will receive a confirmation email after

creating your account. Follow the instructions set out in the email to confirm your account and begin using your MiWater account.

- Register your property. After logging in, click the 'Add Properties' button and provide the relevant information. After advising your relationship to the property, the address and the assessment number, you can register your property and view your water use once approved. If you are the property's owner, Council will approve your registration, and if you are a tenant, your property's owner will approve your registration.

## How to set alerts

MiWater will let residents see when there is a leak or where there is substantial use. After logging in and selecting a property, look for the panel called "Consumption Metrics". The second slide should show the maximum leak rate per hour for the property.

You can also arrange to receive an alert for leaks and substantial use. At the top of the page hover over "My Alerts" with the mouse and when it drops down select "Manage Your Alerts". On the alerts page select which alert you want and fill in the thresholds for which you want to receive emails and texts for.

## 2020 Seniors Festival

The 2020 NSW Seniors Festival will include three events in the first portion of the year and will include:

Indoor Movie Screening  
2.00pm Friday 14 February  
To be held at Intereach, 366 Trickett Street Deniliquin NSW 2710.

Outdoor Tai Chi & Meditation Class  
9.30am Friday 21 February  
To be held in the Waring Gardens, Cressy Street Deniliquin NSW 2710.

Afternoon Concert  
2.00pm Sunday 23 February  
To be held at South West Music, 241-245 Cressy Street Deniliquin NSW 2710.

## Live Streamed Council Meetings

From 14 December 2019, all councils in NSW are required to webcast meetings of council and post them online.

Edward River Council had its first live stream at the December Council Meeting with all future streams available to anyone with access to Council's website at <https://www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au/Home>

## Deniliquin Sports Stadium

The Deniliquin Regional Sports and Entertainment Stadium extension and upgrades are well underway and due for completion early in the New Year.

The extension to the existing facility is now complete. The internal concrete floor has been poured and the internal fit out is now well underway.

This development supports improvement in the sports provided within the Centre and allows growth of new sports in the future.

## Drought Communities Programme Race Day Initiative

As part of Council's Drought Communities Programme Funding the first 200 people to enter the gates for October's Deniliquin Caulfield Cup race day received free entry.

Complimentary buses ran from each of the six rural villages to the race event providing the community the opportunity to come together in unity for a fun day out.

# Contact your Councillors



**Cr Norm Brennan, Mayor**  
Mobile: 0409 407 740  
Email: norm.brennan@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au



**Cr Pat Fogarty, Deputy Mayor**  
Mobile: 0418 681 108  
Email: pat.fogarty@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au



**Cr Peta Betts**  
Mobile: 0419 103 636  
Email: peta.betts@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au



**Cr Marg Bull**  
Mobile: 0429 846 693  
Email: margaret.bull@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au



**Cr Ashley Hall**  
Mobile: 0429 173 775  
Email: ashley.hall@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au



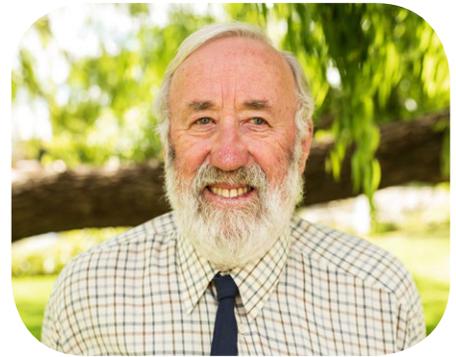
**Cr Norm McAllister**  
Mobile: 0418 592 656  
Email: norm.mcallister@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au



**Cr Peter McCrabb**  
Mobile: 0429 930 643  
Email: peter.mccrabb@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au



**Cr Nick Metcalfe**  
Mobile: 0427 825 964  
Email: nick.metcalfe@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au



**Cr Mac Wallace**  
Mobile: 0427 847 541  
Email: mac.wallace@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Customer Service Centre**  
180 Cressy Street, Deniliquin  
PO Box 270, Deniliquin NSW 2710  
Phone: 03 5898 3000  
Email: council@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au  
www.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au

**Central Murray Regional Library**  
Gorman Park, 55 Napier Street, Deniliquin  
PO Box 206, Deniliquin NSW 2710  
Phone: 03 5898 3100  
Email: library@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au  
www.cmrl.edwardriver.nsw.gov.au

**Deniliquin Visitor Information Centre & Peppin Heritage Centre**  
George Street, Deniliquin  
PO Box 270, Deniliquin NSW 2710  
Phone: 1800 650 712  
Email: info@edwardriver.nsw.gov.au  
www.visitdeni.com.au

**Keep in touch** - Follow Edward River Council, Central Murray Regional Library and Visit Deni on Facebook.