

# Historic DENILQUIN

Walking and touring routes





# Historic DENILIKUIN

## Walking and touring routes

### Historic Deniliquin ..... Page 4

A brief introduction to the history of Deniliquin

### Town Walk .....Page 6

60 - 90 minutes, 2.5km round trip of easy walking  
This walk highlights historic landmarks throughout the Deniliquin town centre. Beginning at the Tourist Information Centre and returning to the centre of town through the Waring Gardens - Map page 2

### Beach-to-Beach Walk..... Page 22

Walk 40 minutes, 3km each direction of easy walking  
There are historical markers along this popular recreational walk, which goes from McLean Beach (north end) to Willoughby's Beach (south end). The walk is also a good cycling track - Map page 2

### Greater Deniliquin..... Page 24

Driving routes to historical highlights outside of the Deniliquin town centre - Map page 25

### Local Villages.....Page 26

Head out into the open plains around Deniliquin and discover the historical local villages - Map page 27

Published by Edward River Council in 2019.

This guide has been prepared with the assistance of historians and staff at the Peppin Heritage Centre, Deniliquin Historical Society, Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre and the Deniliquin Genealogical Society. It is based on the previous brochure *Deniliquin's Heritage Town Walk* (2006) and includes additional information from the following publications:

Bushby, John E.P., *Saltbush Country* (1980)

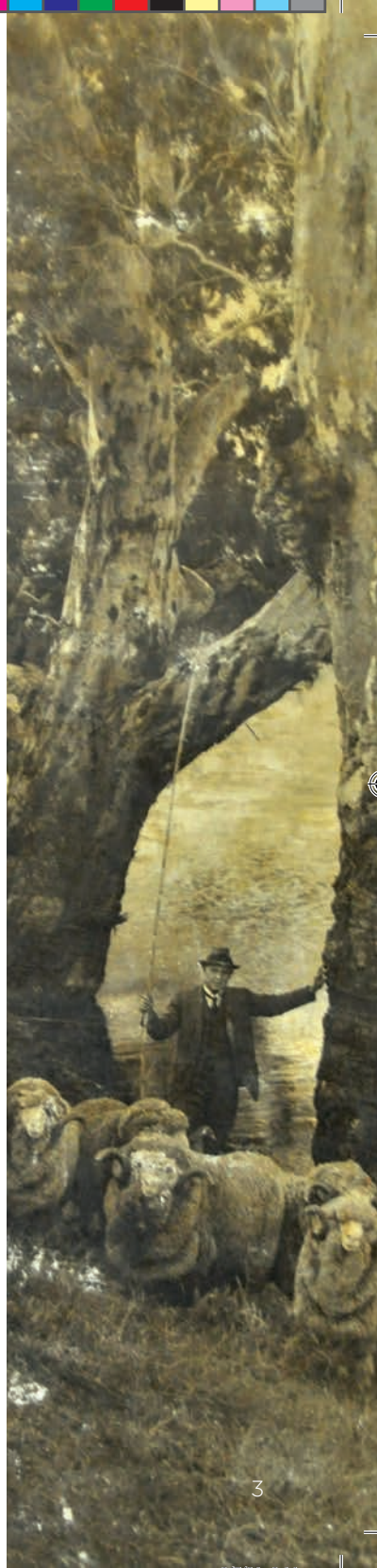
Gow, Taylah, Fletcher Maher, Tomas Learmonth, Max Langford, Christopher Moore and Beth Laverty *Our Place - Mayrung* (2016)

Jones, Karen *Pastoral Times - Deniliquin Heritage 150 Town Walk* (1992)

Mulham, William E., *The best crossing place : some highlights of life in Deniliquin and district during the period 1859 to 1890, as recorded in the columns of the Deniliquin Pastoral Times* (1994)

Images courtesy: Deniliquin Historical Society, Edward River Council, State Library of NSW and Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre.

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# Historic DENILIKUIN

1917 flood at  
the Edward  
River Hotel

Where River Red Gum forests meet the  
open Riverine plains of the outback...

The township of Deniliquin grew around a crossing  
place on the Edward River.

The river lies within the lands of the Wamba Wamba  
and Perrepa Perrepa Nations. The traditional name for  
the river is 'Kolety' (pronounced 'kol-etch'). The river  
was named the Edward by 'overlanders' en-route to  
Adelaide with cattle in 1840.

Several versions as to the origins of the name  
'Deniliquin' exist, however it is believed to be a  
corruption of the name of local Aboriginal Elder  
'Denilakoon' and was thought then to mean 'big man'  
or 'Wrestler's Ground'.

The town of Deniliquin as we know it now was  
established in about 1846 and was gazetted as a  
municipality in 1868.

Shaped by the river...

The town, originally known as 'The Sandhills', was  
considered the best crossing place on the river by local  
Aboriginal people and later by surveyors.

A punt crossed the river from 1847 to 1861, operated  
on a cable between two trees. Three bales of wool made  
up a full load. The first bridge was built in 1864. By  
1871, over 900 tons of goods were travelling across the  
bridge each year, including 525,050 sheep.

The surrounding River Red Gum forests are dependent  
upon cycles of flooding and draining. The highest  
recorded flood, in 1870, had a peak height of 9.68  
metres. Levees and water management lessen the  
threat of inundation on the town centre now, but the  
surrounding farmland and low-lying businesses are still  
heavily impacted during floods.

FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE  
STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES



## A changing community...

Deniliquin was the centre of early pastoral settlement and was a major stopping point on the stock routes and coaching roads that travelled to the new gold fields.

Large Aboriginal groups lived on the saltbush country around Deniliquin and in the early days of settlement would still camp near the current town centre between the river and lagoons. By the 1850s there were only about 20 named individuals recorded. In 1916, under the control of the Aborigines Protection Board, Aboriginal families were mostly 'required to reside' within the newly gazetted Moonahcullah Aboriginal Station, 50km north west of Deniliquin, while others lived on the outskirts of the town and on a flood-prone area of the riverbank known as 'The Flat'.

By the 1860s there was a significant Chinese community, originally working as cooks and gardeners and soon proving they could take on a range of labour tasks that were originally considered the work of white men.

War shaped the community, with locals serving in all major conflicts. The role of local women changed during WW2, when they took on more responsibility for local labour and society. The influx of Airforce men and women at the RAAF training base was also a boost to the local social life during and following the war years.

The major post-war irrigation construction projects brought a new wave of immigration from Europe, with many Italian families putting down roots in the area.

## Growing industries...

Following settlement, wool growing quickly became the major local industry. Dominated for over 100 years by squatters and their flocks on immense holdings of land, the introduction of irrigation and the creation of soldier settlement blocks in the 1940s broadened the agricultural industry, generating a doubling of the population.

The often harsh environment has inspired innovative ways to work with the land - from intricate weaving techniques to make tools from native grasses (seen in artefacts at Yarkuwa, dated 19th century), to breeding hardy sheep that revolutionised the wool industry (Peppin Merino, 1860s), to building one of Australia's most successful music and culture festivals out of only enthusiasm and dust (Deni Ute Muster, started in 1999).

A community  
gathering at  
Moonahcullah  
Mission



# TOWN WALK

Map page 2





## 1 Peppin Heritage Centre

The Peppin Heritage Centre is housed in the former Deniliquin Public School. Deniliquin's first school was built near here on the banks of the river in 1856, but it was difficult to keep teachers and there were long periods of no school. The first permanent teacher was appointed in 1861. By 1878 the population of Deniliquin had grown and the need for a new larger school building was evident. Work commenced on the new school in January 1879. The teacher's residence, built in 1880, faces Napier Street and is now part of the Crossing Café.

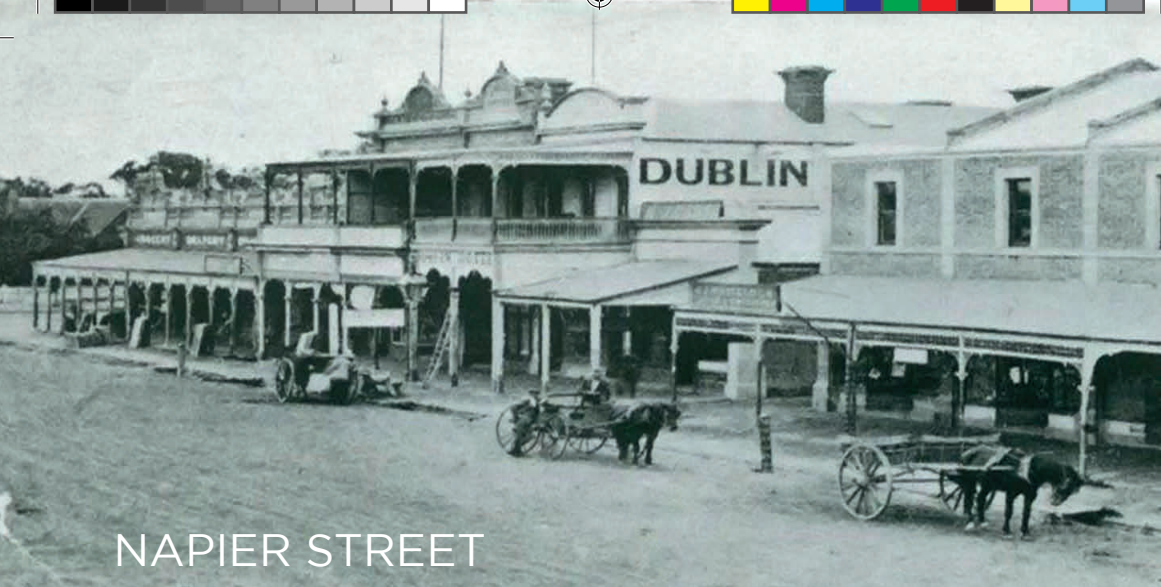
More rooms were added in 1905 when the building assumed the shape that it is today. In 1930, the school became an Intermediate High School with students housed in wooden rooms within the grounds.

By 1953, with the number of secondary pupils growing, a new separate High School was constructed and opened in 1954.

The school continued as a Primary School until 1972, with many current locals remembering the old classrooms and their hair being dipped in inkwells.

Today the Peppin Heritage Centre recognises the contribution the Peppin family made to the development of Australia's Merino Wool industry. The Centre also houses the Visitors Information Centre.





## NAPIER STREET

Napier Street features several of Deniliquin's original buildings. The top of the shop facades show some of the original character of the street.

### 2 Dublin Hotel

Built in 1878 the Dublin Hotel (above) was licensed as a hotel from 1879 until 1922 when the Licenses Reduction Board closed down seven hotels in the town. The building reverted to a haberdashery store for many years and was more recently a café. It has four split levels and has a residence on the top floor.

### 3 Federal Hotel

The original hotel on this site, the Black Swan, was licensed in 1876. It was destroyed by fire and a new Federal Hotel was built on the site in 1896. It was a grand structure with deep verandah supported by timber posts (right). In 1927, funded by a Melbourne Brewery, reconstruction of the verandahs with broad brick pillars and an extension saw the hotel flourish. The hotel continued to trade with various owners until 2009.



### A thirsty settlement...

Deniliquin's first licence was granted to the Wanderer Inn, north of the river on the sandhills opposite the newly established river crossing, in 1847. In 1868 there were 11 hotels - one for every 25 people. By 1870 the number of hotels had risen to 20. The first attempt to brew ale was in 1861, with 'The Golden Cockerel' made by Riverine Brewery a few years after that.



## 4 War Memorials

450 people of the district served during the Great War. This Cenotaph, in their honour, was unveiled by Deniliquin's Mayor Mr A H Windeyer in 1922. The foundation stone was laid by the Governor General, Lord Forster. The front panel was reserved for those who lost their lives in the service of their country. In 1964, the names of a further 529 people from Deniliquin & District who served in WW2 were unveiled by Mayor J Stewart. The names of those who served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars are now also listed on the memorial. A further plaque was added in 1992 commemorating the contribution of local women to the armed forces during WW2.

The Vietnam War Memorial of an Australian Vietnam Soldier (right) was unveiled in November 2014. The sculpture was carved in a Vietnamese workshop from Vietnamese marble and shipped to Australia, then Deniliquin. Around the base of the memorial are the emblems of the Australian Air Force, Army and Navy. The memorial is visible through the archways of the Cenotaph from both approaching streets.

A War Cemetery was opened alongside the Deniliquin General Cemetery in 1942. It underwent extensive landscaping in 1998. It has headstones for the air crew who died at the No.7 Service Flying Training School during WW2 - [See map on page 25](#)







## CRESSY STREET

Business in Deniliquin was originally centred around End Street, near the coach stopping points. When trains came to Deniliquin in 1876, trade flourished on Cressy and Napier Streets. Cressy Street has several original retail buildings, most prominently the banks. The current Target store was a Masonic Hall and sat alongside the Court House Hotel (above). During WW2, the hotel was not considered an 'appropriate' establishment and members of the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAFs) stationed at the No.7 Service Flying Training School were banned from entering.

### 5 Multi Arts Centre

Built in 1866, the building now known as the Multi Arts Centre was formerly the St Paul's Anglican Church. The church was deconsecrated in 1977 and replaced by a new church in Harrison Street. The old church was purchased by Deniliquin Council with a grant from the Heritage Commission and has, together with the adjoining Sunday School Hall, been refurbished as a venue for functions, exhibitions and regular community group meetings.

### 6 The Three Muses

The three statues, sculpted from drawings by architect Louis Harrison, represent the philosophies of Literature, Art and Science. Created by Ferrari Bros in Italy from Carrara marble they were originally located on a parapet at the front of Deniliquin's School of Arts in End Street. When the School of Arts closed in 1943, the building was acquired by Deniliquin Council and housed the Regional Library from 1946 to 1967, which was the first regional library in Australia.

Following cracks appearing, the statues were removed in 1950 and located to the Waring Gardens and later restored and relocated here.







## 7 Former Commonwealth Bank

This imposing building was constructed by Gascon Bros of Sydney in 1938. The bank moved to smaller premises in 2013.

## 8 Westpac Bank

Formerly the Bank of New South Wales, the Westpac Bank is the most historic bank in Deniliquin. The first bank was erected on this corner in 1860. The main section of the present building was completed in 1936 (pictured above, under construction in 1934), and a later extension was added on the western side, incorporating a Manager's Residence on the first floor.

## 9 Former Bank of Australasia

From 1863 to 1889 this corner was the site of Deniliquin's First Court House. The old building was demolished in 1934 to make way for a new Bank of Australasia (now ANZ Bank). Built by R.F. Anderson of Melbourne the bank building was considered one of the finest Interwar Free Classical bank buildings with attached residence in NSW. The two-storey gaol constructed behind the original Court House was demolished in 1963 - [see more on page 19](#)

## 10 Former State Bank

This Art Deco building was constructed in 1935. It stands on the site of the former police magistrate's residence which was next to the old courthouse.

### Stolen riches...

In 1859 Deniliquin's only major armed robbery occurred when Bank of New South Wales staff were held up by three armed men who robbed the safe of almost 8000 pounds. At the time the bank was situated in an isolated part of Charlotte Street and was preparing to move to better premises in Cressy Street. Eventually all but 2500 pounds of the stolen money was recovered.

### **DARING ROBBERY AT THE BANK AT DENILIQUIN.**

On Saturday evening, at half-past 7 o'clock, the Bank of New South Wales at Deniliquin was forcibly entered by three armed men with blackened faces, who, having presented revolvers a., and threatened the lives of the manager and the principal clerk, proceeded coolly to pinion them together, after which the scoundrels plundered the bank of a sum of money in gold, silver, notes, and cheques, amounting to nearly 7,400*l*.

MELBOURNE ARGUS 19 OCTOBER 1859



## 11 Boer War Memorial

This memorial, recognising the services of local volunteers in the Boer War, was erected in 1902. It was known as the Mason Memorial Lamp in memory of Trooper James Mason, who was killed in action at Elandsburg South Africa in 1901. The names of 30 other volunteers were also listed.

Originally located in its present site (above), the memorial was moved to the Waring Gardens in 1938. In 2001, following construction of the roundabout, it was relocated back to its original position at the intersection of Cressy and Edwardes Streets.

## 12 Former Gillespie's Hardware

Gillespie's Hardware was a Deniliquin icon servicing the town and district and was well known for selling just about anything.

The building (above) was built by W.W. Moore of Echuca in 1908. In 1916 the hardware business was bought by Henry Gillespie who then constructed three shops alongside it in Cressy Street. The present verandah was built in 1935. When Henry Gillespie died in 1944, the business was carried on by his three sons, Arthur, Douglas and Norris until it was sold in 1983.

Deniliquin's local newspaper, the Pastoral Times, moved its offices to the site in 1993. The newspaper was first published, as the Pastoral Times and Deniliquin Telegraph, on 26 May 1859. It was published by Dr David Griffith Jones, who contributed greatly to the early community of Deniliquin. He is credited with, among many things: bringing the town its first magistrate; setting up the school; starting the first hospital; introducing the electric telegraph and the newspaper; agitating for a municipality and bringing the railway from Moama to Deniliquin.





### 13 The Globe Hotel

Joseph Simpson, blacksmith, was granted a licence for the Supreme Court Hotel on this site in 1867.

In the late 1870s John Atkinson purchased the property and adjoining buildings, demolished the old blacksmiths building and constructed a new hotel he called the Globe (above). Sometime after 1907 a second storey was added to the building with a federation style verandah extending over the adjacent shops.

In 2018, the roof and verandah blew off the Globe into the street during a large storm. The impressive speed with which it was rebuilt is testament to the hotel's continued popularity with local tradespeople.

### 14 Post Office

Deniliquin has had some sort of postal service since 1850 and in 1868 a combined postal and telegraph office was under construction on this site. Over the years the original building had many alterations before its demolition and replacement in 1972. The first telephone exchange was opened in 1903 and changed to Subscriber Trunk Dialling (STD) in 1970.

The adjoining postmaster's residence and telegraph office were demolished in the 1960s.







Deniliquin, Wednesday.  
His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson and Lady Robinson and suite, accompanied by his Excellency Sir George Bowen, Governor of Victoria, arrived here by special train at five o'clock last evening.  
The party was met at the terminus by about 400 people, who escorted Governor Robinson to the Town Hall, where he was introduced by his Worship the Mayor to the members of the Borough Council and the committee of the Pastoral and Agricultural Association, who presented addresses to his Excellency, to which he accorded suitable replies.  
His Excellency then proceeded to formally open the new building. He said he was glad to be present at the opening of this Town Hall, which was an edifice that reflected great credit up on the public spirit and enterprise of the community. He hoped it would not only facilitate the transaction of business, but tend to promote the social prosperity of this rising town and district. Whilst here, his Excellency said, he would endeavour to make himself acquainted with the wants and resources of the district. (Cheers) His Excellency concluded by stating that he was much pleased in declaring the Town Hall now open. He proposed three cheers for the Queen. The call was joyously responded to, and followed by three cheers for the Governor.  
The proceedings then terminated.  
Sir George Bowen visited the Town Hall half-an-hour afterwards, and expressed himself highly pleased with the building.

AUS. TOWN AND COUNTRY JOURNAL  
2 DECEMBER 1876



## 15 Former Union Bank

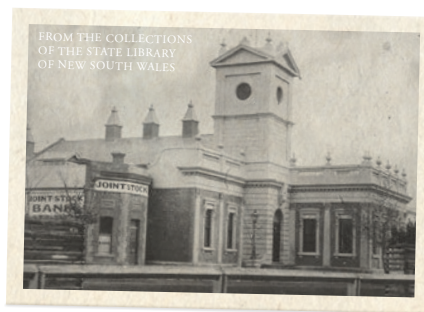
The Union Bank constructed the present building (left) in 1899 and occupied the premises until merging with the Bank of Australasia. Since the 1950s the building has housed various businesses, including Australian Estates and the Karinga Craft Gallery as well as departments of the local Council.

## 16 Deniliquin Town Hall

A competition conducted in 1875 for the design of a Town Hall in Deniliquin was won by J H Jones. The building was completed in 1876 by contractor George Anderson and opened by the Governor, Sir Hercules Robinson, in November of that year. The clocks in the tower were donated by Captain George Landale in 1904.

In 1928 a large hall was added at the rear. It is extravagantly decorated and includes a central glass segmented dome in the ceiling. In addition to being a venue for social functions the hall served as a picture theatre for many years.

Before the township of Deniliquin was elevated to a municipality in 1868, town improvements were financed by public subscription. The first Mayor elected was a storekeeper, Mr James Watson. The first female Mayor, Sue Taylor, was elected over 125 years later in 1994. The Deniliquin Council amalgamated with the Conargo Shire Council in 2016 to form the Edward River Council, covering an area of around 8,881 km<sup>2</sup>.





## 17 Noyes Lamp

The memorial recognises the services to Deniliquin & District of Dr Alfred Finch Noyes for over forty years. He was one of the town's first surgeons and served as coroner, magistrate, registrar alderman and many other positions. He died in 1902.

Now situated on the roundabout at the corner of End and Wellington Streets the memorial was originally installed at the intersection of Cressy & Napier Streets in 1905 (above).

It was moved to the Waring Gardens in 1938 and to its present position in 2000. The latter move was financed by Soroptimists International of Deniliquin who also erected a clock on the roundabout on the original site.

## 18 Former Continental Hotel

Built by Julius Sehestedt as the Continental Hotel in 1878 the building traded as a hotel until 1887. It had two bars, four parlours, dining and billiard rooms, bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchens over three floors, including the cellar.

It was taken over by the Deniliquin branch of the Joint Stock Bank, which had previously occupied a building on the east side of the Town Hall.

The building has housed several businesses over the years, including the Australian Bank of Commerce, Dr H. H. Whitehead from 1930-1950, Water Commission & Irrigation Commission from 1953 -1979 and two Chinese Restaurants.







End Street was the first part of Deniliquin to be developed south of the river. Large hotels, stables and arcades of shops once filled the area, and the remaining original buildings show its rich history of commerce. The radio station 1521QN, established in 1935, broadcast from here when their studios were destroyed by fire.

## 19 Former London Chartered Bank

Built in 1875 by the London Chartered Bank it became the ES&A Bank following a merger prior to WW2.

During the war years it served as a hostel for WAAAF'S serving at the Flying School at Deniliquin. After the war it became an administration building for the newly arrived CSIRO. In 1952 the CSIRO moved to new premises in Charlotte Street and various businesses have been located in the building since that time.



DURING FLOODS IN 1917

## 20 Former Conargo Shire Chambers

This building served as the administrative offices of the former Conargo Shire Council until March 2016, when the Conargo Shire was incorporated, along with the former Deniliquin Council, into the new Edward River Council.





## 21 Exchange Hotel

The Exchange Hotel was first licenced in 1866 as the Royal Exchange by William Perry. It had a further 10 licensees to 1900 and still operates as a hotel today.

Its long history includes notable tragedies, such as the death of a young woman in 1878, who promised in her final note to 'never leave alone' the man she felt 'destroyed' her, and the mysterious murder of a drover in 1882.



## 22 Former Burchfield Bros & Co

This long-running family business was started by James Burchfield, a coach builder, in 1858 and operated on this site for 155 years (above).

The enterprise started as a blacksmiths business, shoeing horses, making all types of implements for fencing and building light drays, carts, sulkies, gigs. Later coaches were built in the same style as the American Cobb and Co vehicles. Four-horse teams were generally used for the coaches, with a minimum of 12 horses per coach to allow for change-overs and rest.

In 1924 Burchfield's closed the coach building section and ventured into the motor vehicle business and secured a franchise with General Motors Holden Ltd in 1926. The business was sold in 2013.



## 23 Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre

Yarkuwa is a local Wamba Wamba word meaning 'to seek and search over long distances.' The organisation formed in 2003 to ensure traditional owner knowledge was preserved in future generations.



Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre has displays of local cultural heritage artifacts, including stone and wooden tools and woven baskets and an Indigenous knowledge library. The centre showcases historic photographs and family kinship information and also hosts visiting exhibitions relating to Aboriginal culture from around Australia. There is information about the local language project, with children's books, art and murals. The centre also has a bust said to be that of 'Denilikoon' the local Elder after whom it is thought Deniliquin may have been named.

Yarkuwa also offers guided tours of local cultural heritage areas, such as the Island Sanctuary, the Murray Valley Regional Park and traditional weaving workshops.

This corner was originally the site of Dr Noyes dispensary. It was run by a dentist, Alfred Betteley Jefferson, for 50 years from 1860 to 1909.





## 24 Taylor's Cottage

This is the original site of one of the longest standing houses in Deniliquin, built in 1857. John Taylor was a big influence in the town's early growth. He took the initiative in almost everything that occurred in Deniliquin and was viewed alternatively as a villain and a hero. A brass plaque marks the site.

## 25 Deniliquin Court House

When this handsome building (above) was first constructed from 1883-1887, residents claimed it was an extravagant edifice which should never have been built. Locals were horrified at the choice of site for the new Court House and claimed that the building, which was to cost fifteen thousand pounds, would look terrible in the centre of a barren wasteland. Further repairs and improvements were done and it was first used as a Court House in 1892.

The original Court House in Cressy Street, also had a large brick gaol (right) which at times housed as many as 75 prisoners. Three hangings and one flogging were known to have taken place within its walls. It replaced a small gaol that had been constructed in 1856 following outrage that drunks, thieves, forgers and murderers alike were being chained to a large log on the banks of the river.







## 26 Uniting Church

This was formerly the Presbyterian Church until 1977, when it officially became the Uniting Church with the unification of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches. It is believed the Architect may have been Louis Harrison who designed many fine buildings in Deniliquin at this time. The church was opened by Rev Peter Mercer in December 1887. A feature of the church is a stained glass window depicting Leonardo da Vinci's 'Last Supper'. The window was a gift from Mrs Alexander Landale in memory of her son.

## 27 Salvation Army Citadel

This building was built as a Methodist Church in 1938. It incorporates the foundation stone from the town's original Methodist Church, which was built in Cressy Street in 1871. The stone was laid by Joseph Baker, who led the fundraising to build the first church. Alongside it is the foundation stone for the current building, laid in 1938 by Joseph Baker's daughter, Mrs J Tyler.

## 28 St Michael's Catholic Church

The first Roman Catholic Church, built in 1858 was located in Charlotte Street. The congregation outgrew the small building and a new building capable of accommodating 200 people was opened by the Rev. Dr Crane, Bishop of Sandhurst, in 1876.

In 1887 five Sisters of the Convent of Mercy arrived to establish a nunnery at Deniliquin and in 1885 a primary school was built within the same grounds.

In May 1951 fire broke out in the convent, and spread to the school destroying them both. Luckily the church was unscathed. The church was enlarged in 1961.

## 29 Central Murray Regional Library

The library was established in 1946 and moved to this building in 1993. It now houses an astounding collecting of local history books and information. The Deniliquin Genealogy Society meets in the library every Friday. They provide research services and conduct guided Cemetery walks for groups.

"We have not a single church, and not above two schools. We have one resident clergyman at Deniliquin, who may be regarded as a missionary: he preaches at different parts of the country: at Deniliquin every second Sunday, and also at Moulamein and Moama (better known as Maiden's Point). He is a minister of the Church of England. We have occasional visits from the Catholic priest residing at Albury, that place being distant from Deniliquin about 140 miles. We are 50 miles from Moama, and 70 miles from the Moulamein. Deniliquin is composed of two townships, one on either side of the Edward River, and there may be about 400 people in the two towns, 90 being children. There is a large excess of males, about four to one, and marriageable females are much in demand, several of our young girls having more strings to their bow than I should like to name.

EMPIRE (SYDNEY) 2 JANUARY 1858

### Land to worship...

Rev J.D. Mereweather was appointed to the Edward River District in 1851. The parish districts were very large and services were held at whatever points a sufficient audience could be found, these being mainly station homesteads. The first clergymen known to have preached in Deniliquin did so in a room at the original Wanderer Inn in 1855.

## 30 Waring Gardens

Deniliquin's widely acclaimed Waring Gardens are named after the town's first town clerk John Waring. An obelisk erected in 1888 honours the efforts of Waring in promoting the transformation of a former wasteland into a tranquil garden of water and shady trees.

Established in 1880, the area was set up largely as a Botanic Garden, trialling a number of trees and shrubs for their suitability to Deniliquin's climate and soil conditions.

The lagoon is part of a system that runs throughout the town that has been developed as an area of native wetland, connected by the Lagoon to River Walk.

The garden features several historic monuments including an ornate fountain, erected in 1891 and a band rotunda, first built in 1913. The origins of brass band music in Deniliquin began in 1878 and the Deniliquin Municipal Band was formally established fifty years later in 1928. At one time Deniliquin also had a Fire Brigade's Band, a Chinese Band, the Deniliquin Excelsior Band, a Salvation Army Band and a Citizen's Band.



DENILIQUIN MUNICIPAL BAND c 1930





## BEACH-TO-BEACH WALK - Map page 2

### 31 Deniliquin Historical Museum

Built in the 1880's, the former Police Inspector's Residence has been fully restored and is now home to the Deniliquin and District Historical Society Museum, with fantastic displays of past community life. Open Tuesdays and Saturdays and by appointment.

### 32 Deniliquin Hospital

Deniliquin's first hospital was built in 1856. It wasn't open to working people, so another opened in 1858. They amalgamated in 1861 and the original building, with stained-glass windows depicting the goddess Hygeia, is at the centre of this complex.

### 33 Ute on a pole

Deniliquin's first Ute Muster was held in 1999, a community initiative to help boost the drought-affected town. The event was a huge success, with an amazing 2839 utes counted. To celebrate, the town erected this WB Holden ute on a pole in 2000. The ute was kept intact with its original motor still in place.

### 34 Site of original Punt Crossing and Town Pool

In 1847 James Maiden from Moama brought his Perricoota punt to Deniliquin, setting up the first ferry service across the Edward and providing a vital link between the Sandhills. The first bridge was constructed in 1864 downstream on the site of the current National Bridge. It was replaced in 1896. The existing National Bridge was opened in 1969.

Until the completion of the Olympic Pool in Poitiers Street in 1972, Deniliquin's main swimming pool was situated in the river directly below this corner. At various times the pool contained floating jetties used for starter blocks, roped lanes, diving boards and a floating wading pond (above). Rows of seats erected up the high bank provided onlookers with an excellent view of the action during competitions.



## 35 Deniliquin Fire Station

A local Brigade was started in 1878 and used horse-drawn turbines until it got its first truck in 1929. Deniliquin Fire Station was established here by 1910 and registered as NSW station No. 278. This station was built in 1938 and refurbished in 1990.

## 36 The Island Sanctuary

This area of native bushland is a significant Aboriginal site, with native plants used for weaving and cooking and scarred trees showing the long period of occupation.

It is also the area where the town's first doctor, Dr Coward, set up his huts.

The sanctuary is the resting place of 'Old Jack', who suffered at the hands of the notorious Melville gang of bushrangers in 1851. The gang spent a drunken week in Deniliquin, with no one to curb their debauchery after the local Chief Constable went on 'urgent business' to Moama after Melville threatened to 'cut his ... ears off'. An old inebriate, 'Old Jack' joined in the drinking to the point of becoming belligerent. One of the gang doused him in turpentine, thinking it was water. Another, not knowing this, poked a candle in his face and the old man was soon alight. It's said Melville, when found dead in 1857 in his cell in Melbourne Gaol, had scrawled on the wall: 'I am Captain Melville, but I did not murder Old Jack'.

## 37 Water Tower & Chimney Stack

The foundation stone of the water tower was laid on 3 October 1882 by Mayor J.G. Evans. In 1930 the steam engines driving the pumps were replaced with electric engines and the original brick building housing the engines was demolished. The old chimney stack is the only reminder of the old shed and cottage.



## 38 Memorial Park

This park was developed in 1945 as a memorial to those who served in WW2.

The Deniliquin Show has been held here since 1953. First held in Deniliquin in 1877, it was once the foremost in NSW, with annual prizes valued at 3000 guineas.

Deniliquin has always been a sporting community, with horse races first held at the Wanderer Inn in 1843. The first complete cricket match in Deniliquin was played on a hot day in 1861. The first golf club meeting was held nearby in 1900.

FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE  
STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES





A locally  
stationed  
WAAAF during a  
trip to the river

## GREATER DENILQUIN

### 39 Denilquin Airport

During WW2 Denilquin played a significant role in training pilots for overseas service. In 1941 Denilquin Aerodrome became the RAAF No.7 Service Flying Training School. Four of the original Bellman hangars and an original Flight Office are still in use today. A static display in the airport waiting room honours the men and women who served at the Flying School and is a memorial to the 50 young men who lost their lives during training in Denilquin.

### 40 Denilquin Cemeteries

In use since pioneer settlement in the 1800s, the General Cemetery includes a historic Chinese section. The RAAF War Cemetery is located 200 metres further along Wirraway Drive (an unsealed road). Maps are available from the Visitor Information Centre.

### 41 Lawson Syphons

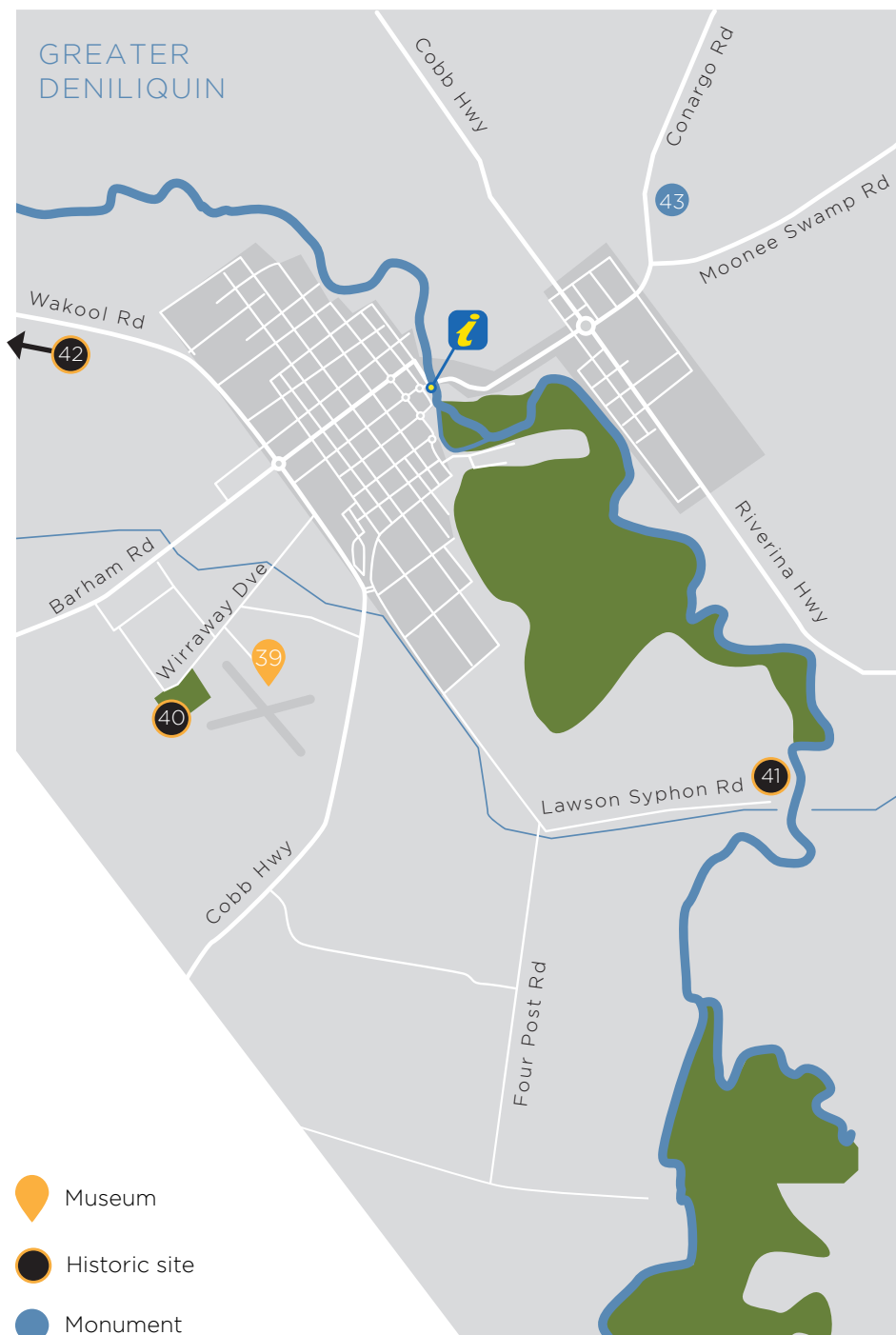
The Lawson Syphons, approximately five kilometres from town, divert the Mulwala Canal under the Edward River and Aljoe's Creek. Work started in 1939, but the outbreak of war saw construction suspended. It was officially opened in April 1955 and began delivering water to agricultural areas west of Denilquin, which was a catalyst for an agricultural boom.

### 42 Steven's Weir

Situated 24 kilometres from Denilquin, Stevens Weir was built in 1938 to guarantee permanent town water supplies. There is a pretty picnic area overlooking the weir and a fish ladder which allows native fish to migrate. Detailed driving directions are useful and available from the Visitor Information Centre.

### 43 Deni Ute Muster gates

The iconic gates were created by Benjamin Gilbert in 2008 and mark the site of the annual festival.







Part of the  
Headless  
Horseman  
sculpture by Geoff  
Hocking, near  
Wanganella

## LOCAL VILLAGES

Many of the small townships around Deniliquin emerged as changing stations for Cobb & Co coaches, due to their proximity to water. Some of the original inns and hotels remain, continuing to provide rest and refreshments for travellers and are highlights of the historic Long Paddock Touring Route.

### Pretty Pine

The Pretty Pine Hotel was established circa 1875 and is a great example of country hospitality. Visit the sculptures celebrating the local timber industry.

### Conargo

The famous 'Conargo Pub', established in 1853, burned down in 2014 but the facade remains. A twice weekly coach service from Deniliquin to Jerilderie was established in 1858 – coaches would do the 60 mile run in 14 hours. You can visit the original stables of the Conargo Inn, where coaches would stop, and the driver would race over to the hotel and buy a billy of beer for sixpence! An Interpretive Centre tells the story of the Merino in the district and local history.

### Wanganella

Wanganella once boasted two hotels, two blacksmiths, two stores, a school, a church, a bootmaker, a resident police officer and a lockup. Stop for refreshments at the Wanganella General Store on the banks of the Billabong Creek, said to be the longest creek in the world, or visit the bronze ram, erected in recognition of the contribution made by the Peppin Merino to Australia.

### Booroorban

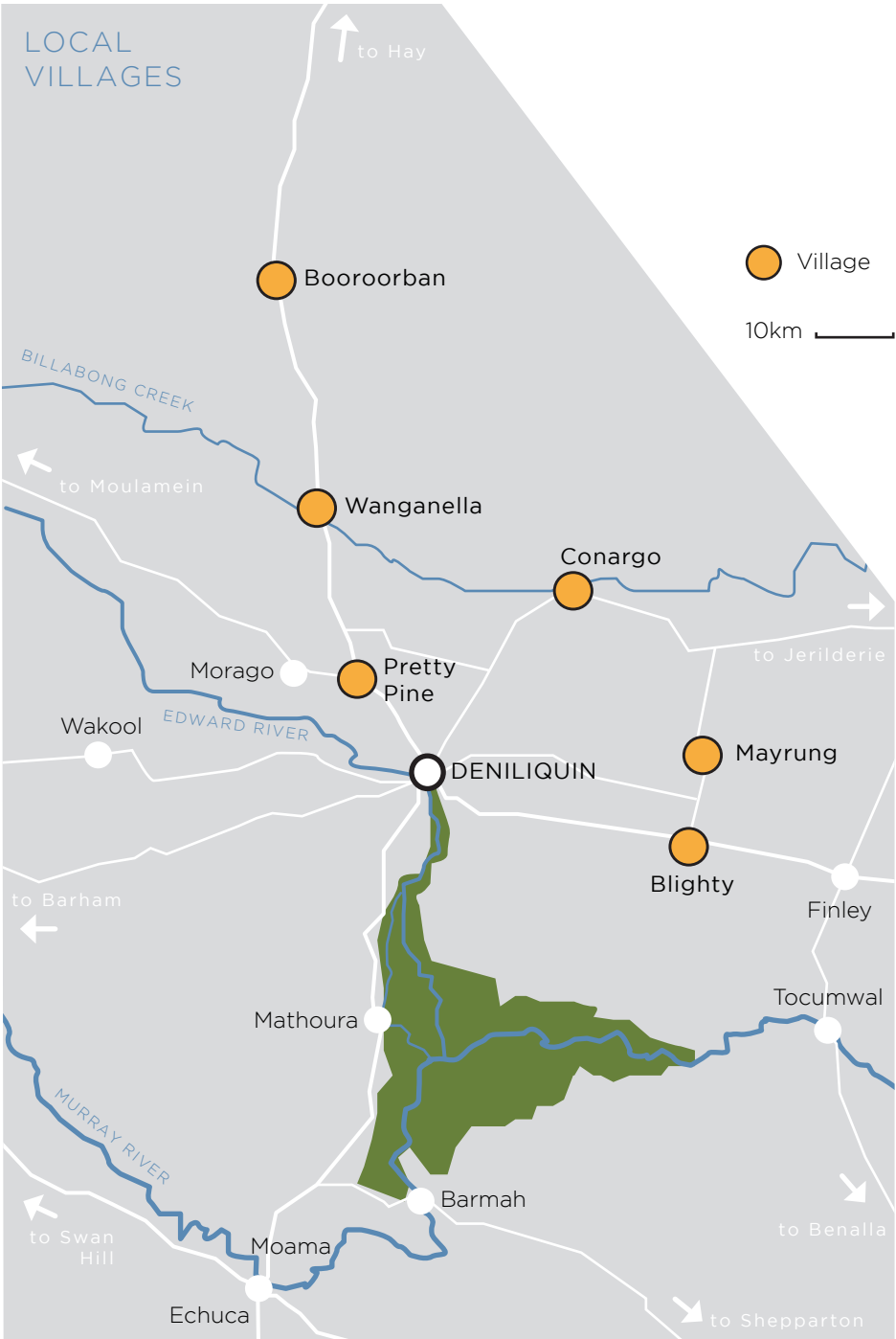
The historic Royal Mail Hotel was an original Cobb & Co stop, built in 1868. The bar and restaurant are filled with historic memorabilia and friendly locals.

### Blighty

Central to the fertile farming area of Blighty is the iconic Blighty Hotel. The Blighty school was established in 1929 and the local football and netball club has been competing since 1949.

### Mayrung

At the turn of the 20th century Mayrung was a half-day trip by horse or buggy to Deniliquin. Travellers would have to pass through 27 gates to get to town as there were no fenced roads. After WW2, Mayrung became a 'soldier settlement area' and properties were subdivided to create smaller farms for returned soldiers. Mayrung Public School was established in 1884 and is the focus of the Mayrung community today.





**Deniliquin Visitor Information Centre**  
295 George Street Deniliquin NSW 2710  
Open daily 9am - 4pm

Freecall 1800 650 712 [visitdeni.com.au](http://visitdeni.com.au)  