

# WARREN YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

shire council

2021 has certainly been a remarkable year.

From the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 to extreme weather events, we have faced the year with such a strong community spirit. Together we quickly achieved one of the highest COVID-19 vaccinations rates in NSW and have supported each other through drought to floods. 2021 has shown our resilience and commitment to the Shire.

Returning to Warren Shire Council in 2021 to take up the position of General Manager, I am proud to be part of a Council and community that has achieved such a huge amount.

Let's look back at the year that was 2021.



## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We celebrated the advancement of important community infrastructure projects:

- Near completion of the \$6.5M new Warren Sewerage Treatment Works. This critical project is 50% funded through Infrastructure NSW's Restart Program.
- Improvements for the overall safety and comfort for pilots, passengers, the Royal Flying Doctor and Air Ambulance services at the Warren Airport. The \$2.37M upgrade project is funded under the NSW Government's Drought Stimulus Package.
- \$1.4M in improvements to the Warren Showground Racecourse, including upgrades to the water, sewerage and electrical facilities and the opening of the new Warren P&A Society Ron McCalman Pavilion. Thanks to an additional grant of \$841,500 received from the COVID-19 Showground Stimulus Program, work is also underway for further upgrades to amenities, flooring and perimeter fencing.
- A \$1.5M economic boost from the Federal Government's Round 3 of the Economic Development Program for four community projects:
  - \$500,000 for the Carter Oval Sports Lighting Project;
  - \$500,000 for the Monkeygar Creek Macquarie Marshes Bird Viewing Project;
  - \$250,000 for water reservoirs and private property murals; and
  - \$250,000 for the Warren Showground Racecourse Improvement Program.
- Refurbishment of the Nevertire Water Reservoir which is nearing completion. The \$750,000 project is funded by Council's Water Fund via a loan.
- A Shire-wide mural program commenced with the unveiling of Stafford Street Water Tower Mural and plans underway for the Nevertire Water Reservoir Mural and public art on private property.
- Upgrades to the netball courts, basketball courts, tennis courts and Warren Cemetery.

## ROADS

Council successfully advocated for vital road funding and delivered a number of major upgrades, despite challenging weather conditions throughout the year. Highlights included:

- Rural road construction including the \$712,400 Old Warren Road (Segment 22 and 24), the \$610,000 Nevertire-Bogan Road (Segment 02), and the \$432,000 Ellengerah Road (Segment 20).
- The \$1.7M construction for Ellengerah Road (Segments 22, 24 and 26) is underway. This work is funded with \$698,771 from the Fixing Local Roads - Round 2, Council contribution of \$174,693, \$211,587 from Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 2 and \$634,762 from Fixing Local Roads Round 3. Construction of Old Warren Road (Segments 26 and 28) is also underway. The \$1.67M project is funded by \$1,259,960 from the Fixing Local Roads Program Round 3, \$296,147 from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 2 and \$123,840 from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3.
- Work commenced on the \$800,000 rehabilitation to the Collie-Trangie Road Regional Road No.347 (Segment 14). This work is funded through unspent 2020/21 Transport for NSW's REPAIR Grant.



Image credit: Steven Christian

- The \$1.15M upgrade to Wonbobbie Bridge, Wonbobbie Road over Marthaguy Creek.
- Improving Council's plant capacity by purchasing a 22.5 tonne rubber-tyred roller which features the latest technology and building an emergency trailer that is equipped and ready to use on callouts for road accidents, water pipe breakages and any other incidents that require traffic control.

# PEOPLE

As a community, we came together to:

- Enjoy a Wet and Wacky Summer with a series of aquatic activities throughout the Shire including a hugely popular inflatable trampoline at the Warren War Memorial Swimming Pool and the official opening of the Warren Splash Park by Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, The Hon. Bronnie Taylor MLC and Duty MLC for Barwon, The Hon. Sam Faraway.
- Showcase the current and future projects planned for the Shire with a Council stand at the 141st Warren Pastoral and Agriculture Association's Warren Show and at Council's Local Government Week event.
- Celebrate the talents of our people through the Women of Warren Shire profiles and Warren Wednesday photography series.
- Launch the first in our sculpture series, a table tennis sculpture created by Shire resident Damian Plunkett and funded through the Drought Communities Program Round 2 grant and earmarked under the Pathways Structures program.
- To officially unveil the Stafford Street Water Tower Mural and open the new Warren Shire Community Room and Council Administration Centre refurbishment.
- Acknowledge the efforts of our local SES and emergency management response teams, for their tireless work to help keep our community safe during several significant extreme weather and flooding events.
- Construct the Warren Chamber of Commerce and Warren Shire Council Christmas Tree and spread festive cheer with our Santa Street competition.
- Farewell our current term of Council and thank all Councillors for their contributions to our community. With local government elections held on 4 December, we anticipate the results of the incoming Council to be announced just before Christmas.



Image credit: Jo Lincoln Images



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# ENVIRONMENT

Important environmental initiatives across the Shire included:

- Proactive drought management with applications to Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program - Large Grants to fund the installation of Ultraviolet Disinfection System and a pipeline at the new Sewerage Treatment Works and Tiger Bay Wetlands and a \$1.72M project to install 25 Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices at stormwater locations that discharge directly into the Macquarie River and Gunningbar Creek.
- Ensuring sustainable groundwater usage through a \$1M augmentation project.
- Council supported applications to the NSW Government's Regional Tourism Activation Fund for further enhancements to Burrima Walkway and Window on the Wetlands.

**It certainly has been an incredible year!**

**On behalf of everyone here at Warren Shire Council, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, happy and healthy Christmas season and I look forward to continuing our achievements together in 2022.**

**Merry Christmas,**

**Gary Woodman  
General Manager**



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