

## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

2021 has already seen a busy start to the year for Warren Shire. As we continue to navigate through extreme weather - from drought to flooding in one short year - I am extremely proud of how our community have continued to come together and adapt in these ever-changing times.

It was wonderful to see people enjoying activities as part of our WET and WACKY in WARREN series throughout summer and joining our Australia Day celebrations at the new water park, which officially opened in February.

In March we celebrated International Women's Day and it was fantastic to see Warren Shire local Grace Brennan be named NSW 2021 Regional Woman of the Year for her work supporting regional communities with #buyfromthebush

Like many regional communities, access to health services continues to remain an important focus in our region.



I recently attended a presentation from CEO of the Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD), Scott McLachlan. It was heartening to hear that WNSWLHD are working and planning for greater access to GPs for regional communities.

Here at council, we have welcomed our new General Manager, Mr Gary Woodman, to the Warren community. Gary brings a wealth of experience and is a familiar face having previously worked at Warren Shire Council.

Clr Milton Quigley  
**MAYOR**

## NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Experienced local government leader and Engineering and Management Consultant, Mr Gary Woodman, has joined as Warren Shire Council's new General Manager.

Mr Woodman possesses an impressive track record comprising more than 34 years local government experience across areas including Central Darling, Cobar, Singleton and Narrabri Shire Councils. He's also no stranger to the Warren Shire, having previously worked for 8.5 years as its Manager Engineering Services (1994-2002).



## SCULPTURE SERIES A HIT

Local resident Damian Plunkett has created the first in a series of public art sculptures across the Warren Shire. The table tennis sculpture marks the beginning of a cultural series that has seen local residents upskill via local workshops to create distinctive pieces to showcase across the shire.

The series aims to celebrate Warren with the table tennis sculpture a nod to the popularity of the sport at Central School.

The development of this series, which is providing employment and opportunities within the local community, is funded through a Drought Communities Program Round 2 grant and earmarked under the Pathways Structures program.



# WET & WACKY SUMMER

It was a WET and WACKY week in the lead up to Australia Day with a series of aquatic activities around Warren. From guided paddling tours on the beautiful Macquarie River to five days of free entry at the Warren War Memorial Swimming Pool which included access to the hugely popular inflatable trampoline. The activities were part of the WET and WACKY in WARREN series, for which council was grateful to receive a grant of \$10,000 under the NSW Government's 'Summer Fun for Regional Youth' program.

Like many other organisations across NSW, COVID-19 meant Australia Day Celebrations looked a little different in Warren Shire this year. While official celebrations had to be cancelled, there were an amazing range of family-friendly activities including the pool's free inflatable trampoline, a BBQ run by the Warren Youth Support Group, and the Warren Water Park was opened exclusively for the day.



The Warren Water Park then officially opened in February by the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, The Hon. Bronnie Taylor MLC, and the Duty MLC for Barwon, The Hon. Sam Faraway MLC.

Located immediately adjacent to the Warren War Memorial Pool, the addition of the new \$608,000 water park has created a centralised hub of aquatic activities for community members to enjoy on hot summer days.

The Warren Water Park was funded under Round 3 of the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund grant.



Image source: Warren NSW Youth Foundation Facebook page.

The community came out in droves for a day of family fun to celebrate the Warren Youth Foundation's official Community Hub Open Day held on Saturday 16 January.

Community members learnt about the vital community service provided by the foundation while

## COMMUNITY HUB COMES TO LIFE ON OPEN DAY

enjoying a variety of games, good food and fun entertainment.

The Warren Youth Centre and Community Hub is part of the Warren Shire Youth Foundation whose work aims to support and help young people living in the shire through programs, activities and workshops. Some of their most recent offerings include a handball competition, family movie night and a Weir to Weir paddle, just to name a few!

You can follow all their latest happenings on Facebook by searching 'Warren NSW Youth Foundation'.

## MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE



The resurfacing of Runway 03/21 is well underway at Warren Airport.

As part of the Warren Airport upgrade project, work is being undertaken to reform and resurface the gravel runway, and improve the taxiway between the two runways.

Over at the Showground and Racecourse, work is continuing to upgrade the facilities with the Equestrian Centre nearly complete.



### New Sewerage Treatment Works update

The new Sewerage Treatment Works is progressing with over half the construction complete. The \$6.1million investment is a significant development and part of a number of infrastructure upgrades designed to benefit the Warren Shire community.

Designed by the NSW Government Public Works Advisory (PWA) the new works has an increased capacity of inflow and improved Peak Wet Weather Flow to allow for any stormwater infiltration into the sewerage network during heavy rainfall. The system also includes a designed overflow in the process to manage treated effluent levels and prevent damage to the treatment works in extreme wet weather.

The new site is scheduled to be complete by August 2021.

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