

Mendooran

Community Action Plan



BUILDING OUR
Warrumbungle
COMMUNITIES
2022-2026

Foreword



The Mendooran Community Action Plan is the culmination of many ideas and initiatives from a range of organisations including the Mendooran & District Development Group Inc., and other local community groups. The Mendooran & District Development Group Inc. was formed in 1995 with the charter being to assist with the economic development of Mendooran with membership open to all residents who have an interest in working together to achieve positive changes.

In 2021, Mendooran was part of an exciting shire-wide project of community consultation facilitated by well-known community enthusiast, Peter Kenyon, from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S

Funding for this project came from the Federal Drought Community Extension Programme to the Warrumbungle Shire Council for drought affected local government areas.

The community worked with the guidance of Peter to create the Mendooran Action Plan.

With the vision of Mendooran as “A vibrant, safe and family friendly community, working together for the future of our people and lands”, assets were mapped, challenges, goals and actions identified.

This plan will provide the basis for a five year plan for the years ahead, assisting in achieving funding which will enable projects for the Mendooran community to prosper into the future.

Acknowledgements

Peter Kenyon - Community Enthusiast from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S

Warrumbungle Shire Council

Australian Federal Government under the Drought Communities Extension Funding

Rural Aid

Building Our Warrumbungle Community Committee and Sal Edwards - Facilitator

Mendooran & District Development Group Inc.

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Mendooran & District Development Group Inc. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.



Our Story



Mendooran is the oldest town on the Castlereagh River and is situated in the Warrumbungle Shire in the Central West of New South Wales. Mendooran lies midway between Dubbo and Coonabarabran and between Dunedoo and Gilgandra on the Castlereagh Highway. Mendooran is on the doorstep of the Goonoo State Conservation Area.

The explorer, John Oxley, came through the area in 1818 finding excellent grazing land, rolling hills, sheltered areas and good access to water, all of which are very conducive to the breeding of stock. The area was settled in 1834 and in 1852 Mendooran was gazetted as a town. In 1856, the surveyor G B White laid out the town plan with the spelling of Mendooran, however the local spelling of Muntooran remained in place for 62 years until the railway was surveyed and in 1918 the spelling was changed to the present version - Mendooran.

Sleeper cutting in the early days provided employment up until the 1990s. Present day employment is predominantly agriculture including cropping, sheep, cattle, beekeeping and allied industries.

Mendooran has a rich history of horse racing with the first race meeting being held in 1856. In 1972, Mendooran ran the first metric race in Australia, upstaging the premier tracks of Randwick, Flemington and others at the time.

Many buildings in the main street favour the art deco design with the Mechanics Institute Hall a splendid example of the Inter War Spanish Mission design. Built in 1935 with the assistance of the local people, the hall has been the hub for many functions including making camouflage nets for the war effort. Other buildings portray the early heritage style of the town and need to be preserved for the future generations and in keeping with Mendooran being “The Oldest Town on the Castlereagh”.

AB Paterson’s poem “The Travelling Post Office” mentions Mendooran:-

“The sheep are travelling for the grass, and travelling very slow;

They may be at Muntooran now, or past the Overflow,

Or tramping down the black-soil flats across by Waddiwong;”

There is anecdotal evidence that Paterson wrote “A Bush Christening” whilst in Muntooran in the late 1800s.

In recent times, boutique industries have become established including the Blackgate Distillery, Blue Sky Cheese and Dill Tickle.

Our Vision

A vibrant, safe and family friendly community, working together for the future of our people and lands.

Our Goals

Our community working together with the support of the Warrumbungle Shire Council to meet our goals.

- To actively promote and showcase our community as a great place to stop, stay, experience, and reside, especially through a vibrant and welcoming town centre.
- To support, promote and celebrate active community participation and volunteering.
- To facilitate opportunities and experiences that build upon local assets. Utilise capacities and creativity of all community members.
- To create an environment where our young people feel involved, supported and empowered, and will consider returning to our community for work, business, family and lifestyle opportunities.
- To provide a safe attractive living and working environment that will attract skilled people and families thereby helping grow our population base.
- To actively pursue new economic and entrepreneurial opportunities that strengthen and diversify our local economy and business life.
- To encourage greater use of our parks and open spaces by both residents and visitors.
- To preserve, maintain and strengthen our community assets and heritage.



Our Guiding Values

A diverse village that showcases the community aspects which we pride ourselves in: Art, Culture, Tourism, Environment and Local Business.

Our guiding values that we embrace:

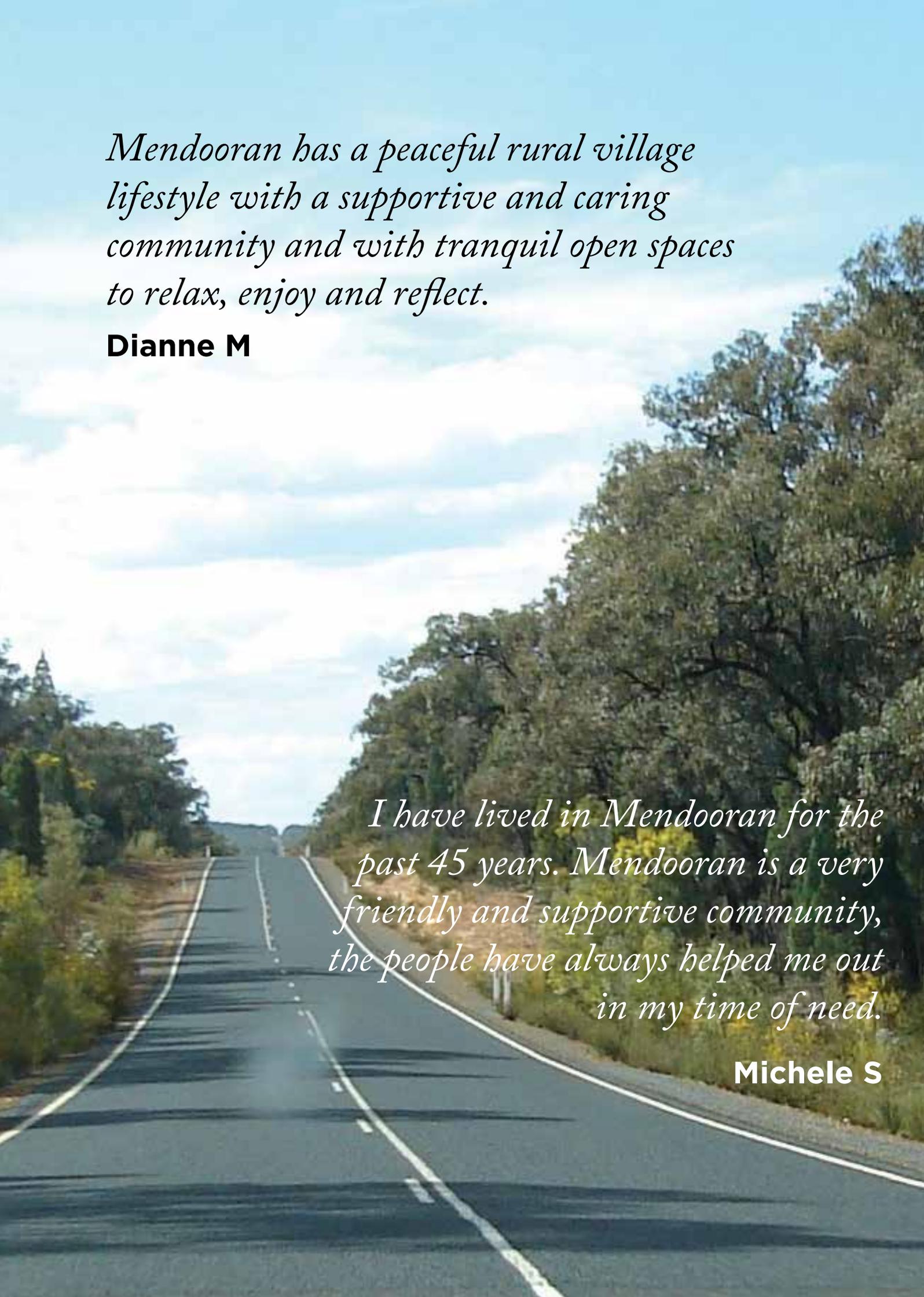
- Welcoming
- Friendly and Caring
- Community Pride and Spirit
- Respect for Heritage & Environment
- Village Lifestyle
- Safety
- Appreciation
- Sense of Community
- Intergenerational Solidarity

Our Challenges

- Community appearance - bland look of mainstreet, tired signage and lack of appeal
- Lack of marketing and promotion
- Limited visitor infrastructure eg. petrol, services and attractions, accommodation
- Ongoing shortage of GP services and allied health support
- Access to mental health support
- An ageing population, lack of Community Care Services eg. transport, meals on wheels
- Business loss and service gaps exacerbated by proximity of larger regional centres that act as 'Sponge Towns' drawing services and employment
- Limited local employment opportunities
- Limited services and activities for youth
- Corporate owned farms that were previously family owned and multi-generational
- High government department staff turnover
- Lack of rental housing
- Poor connectivity
- Environmental challenges eg. Drought, mouse plague, floods, fire and locusts







Mendooran has a peaceful rural village lifestyle with a supportive and caring community and with tranquil open spaces to relax, enjoy and reflect.

Dianne M

I have lived in Mendooran for the past 45 years. Mendooran is a very friendly and supportive community, the people have always helped me out in my time of need.

Michele S

Our Assets

Economic

Accommodation
Blue Sky Cheese
Café and Groceries
Campground facilities attracting visitors
Trades – painter, beautician, farrier, electrician, lawns keeper, carpenter, mobile mechanic, concreter
Craft shop
CWA OP shop
Dill Tickle
Earthmoving
Farming
Farming Contractors
Shearing Contractors
Fencing Contractors
Sheep and Cattle Ultrasound Pregnancy Scanning
Hay Contractors
Spraying Contractors
Windrowing and Harvesting Contractors
Garage
Horse Trainers
School Bus Operators
Mounted Security Service
Dog Groomer
Book-keeper
Post Office
Roo Shooter, chiller and pet food
Sleeper Cutter – Little Family
The Bee Farmer
Sign Writer and Graphic Designer
Mechanics and NRMA and diesel

Licensed venues - Mendooran Bowling Club, Royal Hotel, Mendooran Memorial Club, Black Gate Distillery

Local fundraiser events - various community groups

Annual Events

Anzac Day Ceremony
Remembrance Day Ceremony
Christmas Carol Service
Meganuts
Mini horse shows
The Craig Devlin Memorial Pink Stumps Day:
Cricket Match and Auction
Races
Annual Agricultural Show
World Whisky Day
Polocrosse Carnival
Pony Club Camps and Gymkhanas
Bee Farmer Training and Field Days
Australia Day Ceremony and Celebration Events
Community Markets
Mendooran Rodeo

People

Artists

Mary Fleming, Thelma Gordon, Lyndal O'Leary, Beth McGirr, Liz Ascher, Locky Naef, Judy Skinner, Jenna Waters
Campers/travellers
Car enthusiasts – Cliff Carter
Children and youth
Farmers - agriculture
History - Val Dries
Community Nurse
State Member for Barwon
Federal Member for Parkes
Warrumbungle Shire Councillor
Locally based Police Officer
Postman and couriers
Teachers

Identities/Entrepreneurs

Hugh Bowman - Jockey
Ron Quinton - Jockey
Katrina Gibbs - Athlete
Debbie Kiem - Blue Sky Cheese
Cameron Walden - Crackerz Bakery
Genise and Brian Hollingworth - Black Gate Distillery
Kylee Ward - Publican Royal Hotel
Adrian Grew – The Bee Farmer
Scott Sciberras - Central Motors
Lizzie Waters - Dill Tickle
Barry Williams - Concreter
Locky Naef Sign Writer and Graphic Designer
Aaron Gibson - Mobile Mechanical Repairs
Joe Thompson - J T Shed Construction
Dale Hayes - Roo Shooter and Pet Meat
Cathy Cummins - Cathy's Country Dining
Phil McCormack - Post Office
Volunteer and Community Group Committees

Mendooran – My safe place

Jenny L

Our Assets

Physical

Air BnB
Art Deco streetscape - mainstreet
Archery Club
Fishing
Free campground
Goonoo State Conservation Area
Historic signage trail
Local creeks, river and riverbanks
Mallee Fowl Conservation District
Memorial Cenotaph and Lone Pine Tree
Optus and Telstra towers
Park, playground and amenities
Swimming Pool
Public phone box
Racecourse
Railway line
Showground
Silos
Sports Oval
Tennis courts
Warrumbungle's Dark Sky Park
Native Flora and Fauna
The Charlie Nott Water Treatment Station
Warrumbungle Shire Council Depot
Defibrillators x 6
Police Station

Institutions

RSL Sub- Branch
Mendooran Bowling Club
Churches - Anglican, Catholic
Mechanics Institute Hall
Mendooran Community Centre
Country Link Bus service
Rural Fire Service
Library
Men's Shed
National Parks and State Forests
NSW Health outreach community services: child and family nurse, community nurse, women's health
Funded Playgroup Sessions x 2
Police
Mendooran Preschool (Community Based)
Mendooran Memorial Club
Central School K - YEAR 12
Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA)
Country Women's Association (CWA)
NSW Farmers
Tennis Club
Warrumbungle Shire Council
Community Consultation Meetings

Culture, Stories & Sources of Pride

Aboriginal heritage - King Togee

Gravesite, scar trees
Art Deco Architecture - Mainstreet Buildings, Mechanics Institute Hall
Art exhibitions
Churches
Warrumbungle Dark Sky Park
Gramby Inn
Historical Cobb and Co
Mechanics Institute - Old picture projection room
Oldest Town on the Castlereagh River
Racecourse: In 1972 the Mendooran Turf Club became the first club in Australia to run a race over a metric distance.
River, riverbanks
Being a small town
Lone Pine Tree in front of Mendooran Memorial Club

Social Networks

Aqua fitness
Archery
Art exhibitions
Mendooran Bowling Club
Mendooran Central School
Christmas light comp
Church groups - Catholic, Anglican, Uniting
Community Social Cards Group
Community Development Group
Craft shop Not for Profit
Cricket
CWA
Gun Club
Handicraft group
Health Council
Men's Shed
Mendooran Central School P&C.
P.A&H. Association
Polocrosse
Pony club
Preschool - community based
Mendooran Memorial Club
RSL Sub-branch
Showground Reserve Land Manager
Singers
Swimming and points score
Tennis club
Touch football
Turf club
Community Notice Board
Facebook Page
Mendooran Pride - Local newspaper



Ossie Hatton told me the story of how he met Alma at a party at "Mundooran". He knew straight away she would be his bride. Os and Alma lived to the grand age of 101 together.

Sue F

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme One

Tourism and Event Promotions

ACTIONS

1

1. Update Tourist Map

- Include heritage trail
- Create and identify walking and cycling trails
- Provide soft and hard copy eg. available online
- Accommodation, dining and business listings
- Events and recreation

Timeframe: Short - Medium Term

2. Prioritise Tourism Roads and Trails

- Identify and promote tourism trails for walking, cycling, horse-riding eg. Riverwalk
- Identify and promote day trips by road for travellers

Timeframe: Short - Medium Term

3. Expand Tourism Accommodation

- Create Tourism Sub-Committee
- Retain and improve Free Camp by the river
- Instigate Mendooran Memorial Club Air BnB Listing
- Promote the Central West Cycle Trail
- Form collaborations to promote potential accommodation locations
- Market as a peaceful, tranquil and central hub to stay eg. Day trips to Zoo, Macquarie Marshes, Warrumbungles, Coolah Tops, Pilliga
- Create and maintain Mendooran NSW Facebook page

Timeframe: Medium - Long Term

4. Expand Events, Attractions and Niche Experiences

- Support local entrepreneurs and business owners to develop and grow
- Support the showground developments and events
- Support the Rodeo to re-establish
- Explore potential unique events eg. Country Music Talent Quest
- Investigate potential day festival themes
- Support the hosting of a dance Eisteddfod in the Hall

Timeframe: Medium - Long Term

LEAD GROUPS

**Mendooran and District Development Group Inc.,
Local Tourism Operators and Business Owners**

OTHER PARTNERS

Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mendooran Volunteer Rescue Association, Mendooran PA&H Association, Mendooran Showground Land Managers, Mendooran Rodeo Association, Mendooran Touch Football Association, Mendooran Tennis Club

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Two

Business & Community: DEVELOPMENT & CONNECTIONS

ACTIONS



1. Advocate for Access to Community Health and Welfare Services

- Investigate the viability of representation on the Dunedoo Health Advisory Committee
- Investigate and promote the services available eg. health in the Mendooran Community Centre
- Consider ways to attract visiting Doctors and Allied and Mental Health Professionals eg. 1 day a week
- Investigate potential aged care services and facilities

Timeframe: Long Term

2. Support Local Artisans and Entrepreneurs

- Promote and advertise local artisans and entrepreneurs
- Develop ways to promote collaboration between local businesses

Timeframe: Short Term

3. Develop and Foster Services for Children and Youth

- Support the Central School, Parents and Citizens group and the Preschool
- Create sustainable childcare services including 0-2 years
- Foster youth engagement and development
- Develop spaces for youth activities: Skate Park, BMX Track and Pump Track by encouraging youth involvement and ownership
- Create after-school activities

Timeframe: Short - Medium Term

4. Identify trades gaps and attract local tradespeople

- Support and promote tradespeople who service the town
- Promote school based traineeships and Vocational Employment Training (VET) courses eg. shearing

Timeframe: Short Term

5. Create Community Garden

- Involve the Central school and Preschool
- Consider potential locations eg. Rest area

Timeframe: Short - Medium Term

6. Investigate Local Indigenous History

- Recognise and promote indigenous history
- Preserve King Togee's memorial

Timeframe: Short Term

7. Support Showground Development and Improvements

- Prioritise and support improvements at Showground

Timeframe: Short Term

LEAD GROUPS

Mendooran and District Development Group Inc., Business Owners, Mendooran Central School, Mendooran Preschool, Mendooran Showground Land Managers

OTHER PARTNERS

Warrumbungle Shire Council, Gilgandra Aboriginal Lands Council, Warrumbungle Interagency, Western Health District, Dunedoo TAFE

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Three

Mainstreet Appeal and Enhancement

ACTIONS



1. Refresh town and tourism signage

- Conduct signage audit
- Improve town and business signage
- Investigate potential refresh of Town Entrance signs
- Create signage to promote businesses and services as you enter Mendooran
- Consider highway signage to promote visiting Mendooran

Timeframe: Medium Term

2. Renew Murals

- Create a subcommittee for Mural revitalisation
- Plan and prioritise Mural revitalisation

Timeframe: Long Term

3. Maintain Heritage Look and Unique Façade

- Educate, support and promote building owners to repaint and preserve Art Deco buildings in Art Deco colours
- Actively participate in the development of the Warrumbungle Heritage Strategy

Timeframe: Long Term

4. Mainstreet Enhancement

- More seating and alfresco dining in the main street
- More trees/treescape in town
- Lighting audit and improvements eg. Fairy lights

Timeframe: Medium Term

LEAD GROUPS

**Mendooran and District Development Group Inc.,
Business Owners**

OTHER PARTNERS

**Mendooran Memorial Club, Warrumbungle Shire Council,
Mendooran Tennis Club, Local Artists and Signwriters,
Mendooran Bowling Club**

Our Strategies & Actions

Theme Four

Enrich Lifestyle & Population Attraction

ACTIONS



1. Collaborate with Council to facilitate better road and land use

- Audit and plan to seal unsealed roads around town
- Council promote sale of unowned and use of vacant land - attract families to buy
- Explore potential Council incentives to attract families to settle

Timeframe: Long Term

2. Improve Swimming Pool Access and Utilisation

- Investigate ways to improve access to and utilisation of Swimming Pool eg. ways for travellers and visitors to utilise
- Extend the swimming season, investigate swimming pool blanket for potential to start earlier and finish later
- Consider ways to utilise Pool area eg. centrally located community hub space, book exchange, birthday parties, play area etc
- Encourage fostering of free lifeguard training
- Encourage Council to employ Lifeguards year-round by diversifying duties during the off-season

Timeframe: Medium Term

3. Enhance and promote Riverbank Spaces

- Between Truskett and Pampoo Streets, between Napier and Farnell Streets and the Rest Area
- Promote as place to reflect, meditate and improve wellbeing
- Investigate and develop Riverwalk and cycle trail concept

Timeframe: Medium Term

4. Attract Social Housing

- Investigate need for Social Housing

Timeframe: Long Term

LEAD GROUPS

Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mendooran and District Development Group Inc.,

OTHER PARTNERS

Men's Shed, NSW Government



I was originally attracted to Mendooran as a Bee Keeper and was blown away by the country. The undulating hills and floral resources available to my bees, it's a paradise. I soon learnt the quiet little country village had a beautiful history and community full of mateship, town pride, comradery and care for one another. As a new resident to the area (for a year), for the first time in my life I finally have a place I am proud to call home.

Adrian - The Bee Farmer

Mendooran

NEW SOUTH WALES

