



CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

25 March 2025

Stories Behind the Stones soon to be released

After about 18-months research historical stories from Central Darling Shire Pioneer Cemeteries – Ivanhoe, Wilcannia, Menindee, and White Cliffs – are about to be revealed under the Stories Behind the Stones project.

The piecing together family histories is a growing interest for many Australians with people wanting to know more about their ancestors.

In September 2023 work started on extending the Central Darling Shire Heritage Trail App to include historical stories about people buried in local cemeteries. The app initially included the towns of Wilcannia, White Cliffs and Menindee. With the extra funding Ivanhoe's pioneer cemetery is now also due to be featured.

The Stories Behind the Stones modules are created by Historian and App consultant Dr Bernadette Drabsch and Heritage Specialist Ben Churcher, in collaboration with community members. A total of 106 stories will soon be revealed.

People will be able to experience carefully researched historical information about specific individuals at the touch of a button. This will enable visitors to tour the cemeteries at their own pace and engage with the heritage within each cemetery. Stories belonging to the region's early inhabitants will be shared in a sensitive and respectful manner through a collection of four modules specifically designed to provide a balance of comprehensive historical information and a selection of specific stories, based on key individuals. The stories are told through engaging text and high-quality photographs. Visitors to the cemeteries will receive notifications based on where they are via GPS alerts, allowing for better navigation through the cemeteries via a beautifully customised interface, designed to be user friendly for people of all ages. The viewers will be provided with in-depth interpretive content and local information which will bring the pioneering heritage of the Central Darling to life.

Dr Drabsch and Mr Churcher are visiting Central Darling Shire this week to conduct testing. Provided there are no issues with GPS functionality the new modules will be available next month. The modules will be positioned within the Central Darling Heritage Trail app, freely downloadable to any Apple and Android phone. More details are on Council's website:

<https://www.centraldarling.nsw.gov.au/Tourism-App>

The project has been made possible thanks to a \$45,455 in funding from the NSW Government - Heritage NSW, Community Heritage Grant. Central Darling Shire Council appreciates this grant support.

Ends

Council Media Contact: Gabrielle Johnston 0472 787 022

Administration Centre – 21 Reid Street Wilcannia
Mailing Address – PO Box 165 Wilcannia 2836
Email council@centraldarling.nsw.gov.au
Phone 08 8083 8900