

## **Windows to Riverstone**

**Artists Jan Cleveringa**

**Rosalind Stanley**

**With Dharug design input from Leanne Mulgo Wilson**

### **About the murals**

#### **Mural 1**

This mural has a prominent eye looking out at you which challenges you to reflect and look back no matter who you are or where you come from. It starts the mural story where an Aboriginal 'meeting place' symbol is on the ground below the eye and signifies the first peoples of the land and pays respect to the past, present and future. Emu prints go up the wall. A rainbow connects all the windows.

The soldier, ghost like, based on a local soldier Private Cruickshank stands opposite the Riverstone Cenotaph (near Riverstone Station). The red poppies signify the first sign of life from the muddy trenches in WWI when war ended.

#### **Mural 2**

The horns blare from the wall as the Meatworks sirens went off each day, so much so, that people in Riverstone can remember that they could set their schedules to the sound of them- much like a school bell going off each day for lunch time.

Many people still have connections to the Meatworks either through employment, family, community or the past. People have physical, visual, audio and olfactory memories. In addition, some people said fondly that they always knew when they were reaching home as they could see the two clouds from the smokestacks appear in the sky. The artists exaggerated the experience of them- making them larger.

The meatworks artistically portrayed here is inscribed with one of its previous brand names.

The railway is central to Riverstone's history. There have been so many versions of trains on the railway from steam engines to the present modern-day transports. We designed a hybrid of carriages to symbolise the changes. The community has grown around it. The trains have transported many things from livestock and wood to people for many years.

There is an original antiquated Riverstone train station sign and old railway lever and a hybrid of the original railway street crossing sign.

#### **Mural 3**

Riverstone railway has always been a significant piece of infrastructure and appears to be a continuing heartbeat of the town as various industries and suburbs grow around it. The green steam engine is a symbol representing so many types of trains and engines that have passed Riverstone over the years. You may notice the invariably loved or hated 'Red Rattler' carriages and so on.

The green train also represents ideas about Riverstone's growing and changing diverse community and acknowledges that growth, industry and sustainability, innovation and progress can go hand in

hand if we, as a community, can take time to positively reflect about how sustainability and industry can work together as the suburb grows.

The Eucalyptus tree in the background can be found near the train station. Riverstone was once woodland and some information shows that the last two koalas were seen in 1990 at Tregear, and in 2006 at some woodland in Riverstone (<https://www.savethekoala.com/our-work/chifley>). However, recent anecdotal reports suggest that Koalas in Riverstone have been seen again recently.

Up top on the ledge, you will find a younger Connie Moulds (nee Stephens) looking through a window at you and her older self. This is also her on her Sulky with her horse. She lived in Riverstone around the 1940's. Unfortunately, her husband, a Riverstone Butcher, had passed away. They had a son. Connie apparently saved a horse from the local Knackery and then went on to breed horses for trotting and became part of trotting royalty for her efforts (as seen in the Book of Australian Horsing Royalty).

The artists decided to put her story here as a strong female character from the district whose horses won several races at the trots, including at Harold Park in the city. However, as a woman she could only register her horses under her sons' name, not her own, thus recognising the period of the times and how things have now changed. She apparently also delivered ice around Riverstone.

Shown in sepia colours is an old street view of the old town road and some locals walking.

You may notice that there is a greeting on the wall in Dharug language which means, "Good to see you on Dharug country" coupled with Boomerangs. You might also notice the footprints of an emu walking up the wall and upside-down under the ledge. A Kangaroo looks on.

## **Mural 4**

This section of the mural says a 'quirky and fun hello' to those who are driving past the lane. Here you will find various livestock, symbolised by animals. You will notice the Olympia Theatre, the local school and the Riverstone Hotel as a context whilst Riverstone changes with more development and diversity.

The Riverstone rugby colours have changed throughout the last 100 years as a player kicks for touch or does a drop kick. The player is a symbolic combination of past and present whilst the ball flies to the viewer.

There is a recognition of the land on the wall, a bee on the sunflower and up high symbolising the ecology of the environment and symbol of a Mullet on the wall recognising the local creek and its cultural history. There is more here but that is for the viewer to think about.

Some people might not know that Riverstone was originally called 'Riverston' without an 'e' as the name of the first government stock farm settled here. However, many people affectionally call it 'Rivo'.

Extracts from description written by Jan Cleveringa & Rosalind Stanley