

27 January 2023

Roger Bailey  
General Manager  
Warrumbungle Shire Council  
PO Box 191  
Coonabarabran NSW 2357

Dear Roger

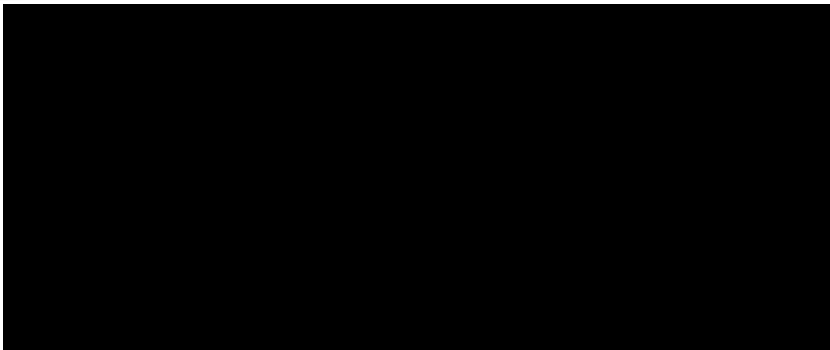
I write to you in relation to the naming proposal for the new Warkton Road bridge. Further to my original letter, I would like to reiterate my support for naming the bridge, the “John Knight Bridge” after my grandfather, John Robert Knight.

I believe in the importance of acknowledging not only tangible legacies; our family farm, the houses, sheds and infrastructure. We should also celebrate the intangible heritage, my family and the values instilled in us by my grandfather as well as the positive difference he made within the community with his kind and generous nature.

Kind Regards



# Customer Feedback Form

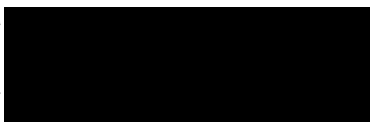
Name		
Address		
Phone		
Email		

## Details/Comments

NAMING WARRUM. BRIDGE

Subject:

Wish to pub forward that the bridge be named John Knight. Bridge in recognition of Councilor John Knight work for the community.

Signature 	Date 27/1/23
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### Office Use Only

Received by:  Mail  
 Counter

Taken by: ER

RECEIVED  
27 JAN 2022  
Date Received Stamp

## Rejoice De Vera

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 January 2023 6:32 PM  
**To:** Records Officer  
**Subject:** John Knight bridge. Attention General Manager

Good afternoon

I would like to support the proposal to name the new Warkton Road bridge after John Knight. Having grown up at Tannabah I am well aware of the time and effort Uncle John put into the district and think the naming of the bridge is a small recognition of his years of service.

With kind regards

[REDACTED]

## Rejoice De Vera

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 January 2023 2:30 PM  
**To:** Records Officer  
**Subject:** Naming Proposal for the New Warkton Road Bridge

The General Manager  
Warrumbungle Shire Council  
John Street  
Coonabarabran NSW 2357

Dear Mr Loane

I would like to thank the Shire Council for inviting submissions supporting the proposal to name the new Warkton Road bridge the John Knight Bridge.

To learn of such a request to Council is a surprise but a very much appreciated gesture.

John Knight was a tireless worker for the community he loved and passionate about seeing it grow and develop. To that end, he stood for Council and represented over many years, firstly as a Councillor then Deputy Mayor and Mayor.

His dedication saw numerous achievements and fittingly, this would be recognition of his contribution to the Shire and Warkton Valley in particular where he was born, grew up and raised his family.

Yours sincerely  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

# Customer Feedback Form

Name	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]

### Details/Comments

Flaming Warburton bridge  
Post office bridge

Signature	[REDACTED]	Date	27-1-23
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*Office Use Only*

Received by:  Mail  
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Taken by: ER

RECEIVED  
27 JAN 2022  
Date Received Stamp

## Rejoice De Vera

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 January 2023 8:04 AM  
**To:** Records Officer  
**Subject:** Naming Proposal Bridge on Warkton Road

[REDACTED]

Thursday 19 January 2023

Naming Proposal Bridge on Warkton Road

The General Manager  
Mr Rodger Bailey  
Warrumbungle Shire Council  
infor@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Bailey

We would like to address the matter of naming the Warkton Road Bridge.

There have been and are still many John Knight's since the first arriving around 1854, with his wife Louisa.

To show respect and remembrance for all the John's and other Knight descendants; their achievements, resilient, to show the contributions and what they have given to the community; while being inclusive equal and recognizing that women gave as much; we would like to propose the bridge be named, The John and Louisa Knight Bridge.

We feel that to do otherwise would show disrespect and a rather male biased prejudiced view of our history.

Thank you for your interest, regards  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 January 2023 9:53 AM  
**To:** Records Officer  
**Subject:** Naming Proposal for New Warkton Road Bridge.

## The General Manager

Dear Sir

RE: NAMING PROPOSAL FOR THE NEW WARKTON ROAD BRIDGE

In response to your letter dated 23 December 2022 we would like to submit the name of 'LAWRIE SMITH' as the most appropriate name for the bridge located at Warkton.

Lawrie and his wife Betty were a vital part of the Warkton Community and lived in the Post Office house right next to the bridge.

Lawrie was well-loved throughout the district and known as an honourable, selfless and kindhearted man. A true gentleman.

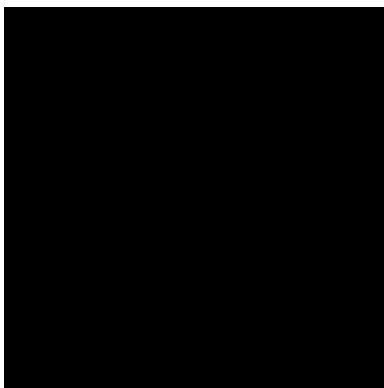
In 1962/63 Lawrie & Betty moved to the Warkton Post Office house and named their small holding 'Windana' with Betty taking on the role of Postmistress and Lawrie the local mailman and 'Jack of all trades'.

Lawrie was affectionately know as the 'Magic Mailman' due to his ability to fix appliances and small engines and would turn his hand to fixing just about anything. His services to the locals of the Warkton Valley were invaluable.

The Post Office closed in 1981 as did many small community Post Offices. However, Lawrie & his wife Betty continued to serve the community by way of supporting neighbours in need and Lawrie continuing to repair whatever came his way as well. Lawrie also kept and maintained the local Rural Fire Service truck. A voluntary service that was deeply appreciated by all the community.

The kindness of Lawrie and Betty will long be remembered by those of the Warkton Valley. Former neighbour [REDACTED] quotes that she doesn't know how she & her husband [REDACTED] would have survived without the continual kindness and assistance of Lawrie and Betty.

We appreciate your consideration of our proposal which is put forward by the following residents & former residents of the Warkton Valley.





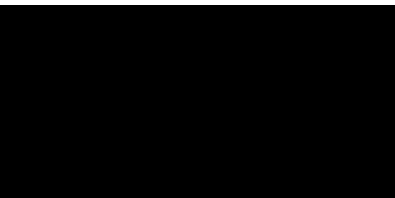
Sent from my iPhone



## Rejoice De Vera

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 January 2023 4:30 PM  
**To:** Records Officer  
**Subject:** Naming proposal for the New Warkton Road Bridge



24 January 2023  
General Manger  
PO box 191  
Coonabarabran NSW 2357

Dear General Manager

We write regarding the naming proposal for the new Warkton Road Bridge located 2.5km from the Newell Highway.

We request that the bridge be named "Warkton Post Office Bridge." The information listed below describes some of the history of the 'Warkton Post Office Bridge' and we believe the history of the bridge and Post Office can be preserved and remembered in this way.

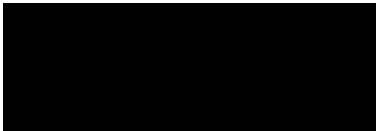
1. John Brooks was a pioneer settler who first took up the purchase block of what is now known as the Warkton Post Office.
2. The Warkton Post Office was established in April 1925 at "Windana," which still stands today and is situated approximately 100 metres on the eastern side of the bridge. It was a receiving office. Two photos of the Warkton Post Office are seen below.
3. The locals have known the bridge as the Post Office Bridge for 98 years, as it is situated so closely to the Warkton Post Office- approximately 100 metres
4. Albert Holt, Dorothy Maloney, Alan Seckold and Wally Berney were the Post Masters and Mistresses at 'Windana' from 1925 to 1962.
5. The last Post Mistress was Betty Smith, from 1963 to 1981, when it was officially closed on the 30 April 1981. Betty and Laurie Smith, named the Post Office House 'Windana.'
6. In the late 1960's and into the 1970's, the school bus would stop at the Warkton Post Office. The children would get off the bus, collect their family's mail and get back on. The bus would continue across the Warkton Post Office Bridge, delivering the children and their mail to their homes.
7. "Windana" is currently owned by [REDACTED]

We believe that the name, “Warkton Post Office Bridge” is a very appropriate and significant name for the new bridge. It successfully links the memories between the bridge and the Post Office, which are in such proximity to each other, and retains some of the history of our Warkton area which would otherwise be forgotten. The name, ‘Warkton Post Office Bridge’ continues the tradition of the unofficial name of the bridge known by the locals as the Post Office Bridge.

We thank you for considering our proposal and look forward to your future correspondence.

The historical information listed in this email has come from The Coonabarabran Historical Society and “Warkton” - a bicentennial project book.

Yours sincerely



The Warkton Post Office –“Windana” The Warkton Post Office with the Warkton situated on the Warkton Road, approximately Bridge in the distance. 100 metres from the Warkton Bridge.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## Rejoice De Vera

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 January 2023 11:39 AM  
**To:** Records Officer  
**Subject:** Fwd: John Knight bridge. Attention General Manager

Good morning

Further to my email below I would be very interested in seeing [REDACTED] submission re Louisa Knight. is this possible?

Thanks and regards

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** info@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 Jan, 2023 At 5:32 PM  
**Subject:** John Knight bridge. Attention General Manager

Good afternoon

I would like to support the proposal to name the new Warkton Road bridge after John Knight. Having grown up at Tannabah I am well aware of the time and effort Uncle John put into the district and think the naming of the bridge is a small recognition of his years of service.

With kind regards



1/11/2023

Dear General Manager,

**Re: Naming Proposal for the New Warkton Road Bridge**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a request to name the new Warkton Road Bridge.

The Warkton Valley is known around the region for its beauty, however the intricate details of its history are not often discussed. We believe that the name of the new bridge should be well considered to showcase the past, to start conversations about the history of the valley. The naming of a bridge paints a picture, it tells a story.

The Bridge over the Castlereagh River in Coonabarabran has been named after Mary Jane Cain, a proud Gomeri woman who lived in the Coonabarabran region from 1844 to 1929. Mary Jane was a land rights activist, matriarch and community builder. To us, this highlights that the Coonabarabran district recognises prominent female figures by bearing their names on bridges. We would like to propose "Louisa Knight" to highlight the important role that women played, and continue to be a part of, within the history of the Warkton Valley.

Louisa Elizabeth Pulsford was born in Coonabarabran on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January in 1874 to Charles Robert Pulsford and Mary Ann Baccon. Louisa was the teacher at the Belar Creek School and married Alfred Knight (of Tannabah) in 1901. In the 1900s the opportunities for women were restricted by social expectations and norms. If married, most women stayed at home to look after their husbands and children, whilst their husbands worked and brought in the weekly wage. This was not the case for Louisa. She challenged the social norms when she continued to teach after she was a wife and a mother. Louisa retired in May 1907 – by then she had two daughters (Olive and Eunice) and was 6months pregnant with her first son (Geoff).

During World War Two, many children came to live at Tannabah whilst their parents served. Louisa started up a school at Tannabah so that these children could be educated during these difficult times and have equal opportunities to their town and city-based peers.

We know that education is a powerful tool for change as it improves health and livelihoods and contributes to social stability. By providing these children with access to education, Louisa developed their communication skills (written and verbal), their world knowledge, and their ability to solve problems and make decisions. Ultimately, she opened up their employment opportunities, understanding of the world, and their ability to successfully engage with peers. Louisa gave these children a purpose.

We considered putting Noel Knight forward as a potential name for the bridge. Noel Knight grew up on Tannabah, and then later worked there as a grazier. When Noel was 31, he began his tour with RAF Bomber Command during the height of the bombing offensive on Germany in 1943. Noel, a navigator in Lancaster bombers, survived his tour, winning the Distinguished Flying Cross, and returned to his pastoral pursuits. Australian volunteers in Bomber Command accounted for only two percent of all Australians who enlisted in World War Two, yet their losses represented more than 20 percent of the country's death in combat. Noel Knight and his crew flew in seven Lancasters throughout their operational tour. All seven aircraft were subsequently lost, with 38 crew members killed and a further 12 taken prisoners of war.

Noel returned home a war hero, however his focus and passion were always for his land along the Belar Creek.

Noel Knight was a well-respected man within the district not only because of what he did for Australia during the war, but for what he did for his local area. He was a community man,



advocating for the improvement of hospital services and education facilities, housing and highway developments, increasing population within rural areas, building access through transport (such as railway lines), and developing ways to conserve water.

Our preference is to have Louisa Knight's name to be put forward, as we believe it is important to highlight the influential woman within the valley's history. We know that the stories of women have not always been the forefront of history, even though they have always been important in shaping it. This is why it is necessary for our younger generations to be exposed to bold women in history. Primarily, the focus has firmly been on how society perceives women to be, however now is the time to shift the focus to what women are and what they can do. Louisa broke stereotypes and reclaimed her space in society, to educate her community, not for her own personal gain. These are the stories people should hear, as they encourage others to give back to their community. It affects the way we see the world.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to highlight Louisa's story through utilising her name for the new bridge.

Yours sincerely,

