

MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting:	27 April 2021
Report Date:	26 April 2021
Author:	Mayor
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Approval:	Mayor

The seasons are progressing quickly, and 2021 is disappearing at a rate of knots.

After a very warm Easter break - perfect for camping and family gatherings - we have moved onto Autumn with shorter days and cooler evenings and mornings.

The agricultural activity is hectic - harvesting and sowing - and balancing these timeframes with the expectation that the rain will arrive. Health water allocations in the north of the Council area give certainty to the intense programming.

The mouse plague brings challenges all of its own!

Seriously we must have just about exhausted the unexpected, out of left field challenges.

The Jerilderie community once again hosted and supported the Good Friday Royal Children's Hospital Golf Day, capably led by the Jerilderie Sports Club. This amazing day never fails to deliver, and in excess of \$20,000 raised is a remarkable effort. It is generously supported by a network that has a large geographical reach and we thank you for your continued generosity.

Socially our communities have been the beneficiaries of:

1. **Youth Week Activities**

The MC Colour Run, made available to all aged between 12-24 years and held in both Darlington Point and Jerilderie, attracted over 300 participants - this unique activity that encourages social and physical engagement is so much fun to watch and be involved in.

Our Council staff and community groups are to be congratulated on making this fun activity happen. Special thanks to Eden Hercus for pulling it all together.

2. **Autumn Festival**

Live Music in the Parks events have been funded by Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network - the events have been held in Darlington Point and Jerilderie, and will be held in Coleambally on the 9 May. Once again many thanks to Eden Hercus

3. Coleambally - Junior Change Rooms

The official opening of the Coleambally Junior Change Rooms, located at # 2 oval within the Coleambally Sporting Precinct, took place on Saturday 24 April - this important piece of infrastructure has been long awaited and is very welcome. This is the first step in the whole of Precinct redevelopment.

4. ANZAC Day

Sunday 25 April sees us once again able to commemorate ANZAC Day in the public way we have become accustomed to. We must adhere to the Public Health guidelines to keep us safe - thank you to the local Sub-Branches that lead these very important occasions and thank you to our communities for their commitment to ensuring that the valour and sacrifice that our own so willingly gave to ensure our ongoing safety and quality of life is not forgotten.

5. Town Revitalisation Projects

Our Town Revitalisation Projects, which are funded under the Australian Government's Drought Communities Funding, are seeing very real visual impact in all 3 communities.

They are drawing much comment and praise from near and far.

While it has been a challenging space for our organisational staff to navigate and co-ordinate, the benefits are so uplifting for all of us.

Particular mention of the public art:

- The mural on the wall at the Jerilderie Swimming Pool is a truly unique art work that elevates our streetscape to a whole other level
- The laser cut story line of the development of Jerilderie is again a really different depiction of how this community has evolved
- The animal sculptures that are strategically placed around Coleambally
- The colourful street signage throughout Coleambally
- The solar lighting on the pedestrian walkways in Darlington Point
- The laser cut signage for the Boat Ramp and the proposed one for the Paddlesteamer
- The redeveloped garden at the car park adjacent to the swimming pool in Darlington Point

6. Regional Connectivity Programme

Council, in collaboration with Field Services Group, has been successful with its Regional Connectivity Programme Application .The funding allocation of \$1.2m will be a huge game changer for our Council area.

7. **Forum and Farm Tour**

The General Manager and I were part of a Forum and Farm Tour during the recent visit of the Interim Inspector General of Water Compliance Troy Grant and his 2 advisors last week.

Charged with bringing transparency, governance and rationale to the water business is a huge challenge and we look forward to significant progress in this area.

The SDLAM Projects Working Groups continue their exploration of the proposed initiatives, awaiting current and relevant data for consideration and inclusion

Below are a list of meetings I have attended since the last Council meeting:

24 March 2021 (Jerilderie)
NBN Meeting with Andrew Cotterill

25 March 2021 (Deniliquin)
MMZ Bushfire Management Committee Meeting
MMZ RFS Liaison Committee Meeting

26 March (Jerilderie)
Dinner - Mural artists Meet and Greet - Matt Thompson and Lloyd Knowles

27 March 2021 (Deniliquin)
NSW Premiers Bushfire Emergency Citation Awards

2 April 2021 (Jerilderie)
Good Friday Royal Children's Hospital Golf Day

14 April 2021 (Morundah)
SDLAM Project Working Group

14 April 2021 (Berrigan)
Retirement Function for Rowan Perkins, General Manager, Berrigan Shire Council

18 April 2021 (Jerilderie)
Murrumbidgee Colour Run
Autumn Festival/Music Interlude

20 April 2021 (Coleambally)
Interim Inspector General Water Compliance -Troy Grant - Forum and Farm Tour

21 April 2021 (Jerilderie)
Heritage Advisor - Noel Thompson -consultation –Jerilderie

21 April 2021 (Griffith)
Troy Grant Dinner - Exies Club

24 April 2021 (Jerilderie)
Parliamentary Committee Witness Briefing - Rural Health Access
Phone conference - Jerilderie
(Follow up Hearing in Deniliquin on 29 April 2021)

24th of April 2021 (Coleambally)
Official Opening of Junior Change Rooms # 2 Oval Coleambally Sports Precinct
Coleambally

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. F. McRae". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Ruth McRae
MAYOR