

ITEM - MAYORAL REPORT – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

Council Meeting:	25 February 2020
Report Date:	24 February 2020
Author:	Mayor
File #:	SC217
Approval:	Mayor

It is difficult to comprehend that we have already had 2 really busy months completed for 2020.

I am sure both staff and Councillors enjoyed a well-earned break over the Christmas/New Year period.

Our country, our state and our region have been greatly challenged by the far reaching and catastrophic bushfires that have wreaked havoc over such a vast footprint.

Thankfully, with both trying and potentially shocking weather conditions, our Council area remains unscathed.

We have had some rain but, if we are to ensure that our area remains productive and sustainable, we need continuing rains - rains into our catchments.

The water story remains grim - there are many community and industry bodies trying to achieve some rationale around access, affordability and transparency.

With the rollout of the Mick Keelty Roadshow, as an independent investigator, the communities feel like they are being listened to, however Mr Keelty's appointment was a David Littleproud Federal appointment, and does not have the blessing of the States.

Australia Day 2020

It was my privilege to attend the Australia Day celebrations in our 3 towns. Each unique celebration celebrates with pride its community's achievements.

To the recipients of the many awards my congratulations. It is truly an honour to be nominated over several categories.

To the Australia Day Committees, I thank you for your generous commitment to celebrating this very important day for our nation.

Strategic Planning Workshop.

Our Strategic Planning Workshop held in Albury over the weekend 7 – 9 February 2020, was a great networking opportunity.

It seems cliché but ‘team work makes the dream work’. There is so much to be done and the only way this can be achieved is if we work diligently as a team.

Maximising our opportunities with the opportunistic money at our disposal is paramount.

Visionary, achievable goals, underpinned by sound management and positive forward thinking elected representatives, will see us progress and prosper well into the future.

On a sad note, I would like to acknowledge the passing of employee, Colin Dowell. Colin was a highly valued member of staff - he was not only very capable, but his passion for life made him so vital for the well-being of our workforce.

He is dearly missed.

Meetings

Below are a list of meetings I have attended late December 2019 and January and February 2020.

2019

17 December - Finley High School Presentation Night

19 December - Citizenship Ceremonies conducted in Jerilderie (2 conferees)

20 December - Colin Dowell's funeral in Deniliquin

2020

8 January - MRSRG water meeting in Deniliquin

9 January - Murrumbidgee Local Health District-Health CE visit to Jerilderie

13 January - Australia Day Meeting, Jerilderie

16 January - Radio I/V Triple - Maddy Page re Australia Day

18 January - Jerilderie Community Fundraiser - Bushfire Appeal

20 January - Extraordinary Council Meeting – Financials, Darlington Point

22 January - Country Education Foundation Presentation, Coleambally

23 January - Mick Keelty, Independent Investigator, MDBA Deniliquin

25 January - Australia Day Ambassador Dinner, Darlington Point

26 January - Australia Day Celebrations at Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie

29 January - Yanco Creek Advisory Group Meeting -SDLAM Projects – Deniliquin Tracey McDonald & Daniel Blacker

31 January - Student Representative Council Induction at Jerilderie Public School

4 February - Kidman Way Promotional Committee Teleconference

5 February - YACTAC Water Meeting with Maryanne Slattery and Bill Johnson

5 February - Bencubbin Ave Meeting, Coleambally

7-9 February - Strategic Planning Workshop, Albury

Note: There is a chunk of time missing, as I enjoyed 2 weeks leave!

Cr Ruth McRae
MAYOR