

MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting:	28 June 2022
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Author:	Mayor
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Winter has arrived - the cooler, damper and foggier conditions are certainly a reminder of this time of year - our roads are busy with the great exodus north to warmer places and, coupled with school holiday traffic, it is a timely reminder to be vigilant on our roads to stay safe.

I had the pleasure of attending and presenting at the Mid Murray Zone RFS National Emergency Medal Recognition Ceremony in Jerilderie. Council thanks the following volunteers for their service and selfless contributions in willingly stepping up to keep not only our community safe, but those across our country that have experienced devastating bushfires in recent times:

Argoon Brigade - Andrew Browning, Benjamin Browning, Shane Foster, David Leeds and Andrew Sleigh

Emery Brigade - Graeme O'Connell

Boorobanilly Brigade - David Bryce

Jerilderie Town Brigade - Jack Anthony, Chris Barron, Bill Hanna, Roger Harris, Joe Mula and Terrence White

Our Council footprint continues to be a desirable location for renewable energy development, both solar and wind turbine - during the month Council has held conversations and meetings with interested developers -it is a highly competitive market and interested parties are looking to mobilise quickly.

Health continues to be an area in which Council finds itself actively engaged. Positive news is that the Coleambally community is once again being delivered a Child and Maternal Health Service. This is a start point and one we hope to build on in the community services area.

MLHD/Council update occurred via a Teams Meeting - an update on the critical staff issues, the current and continuing COVID Strategy and the flu immunisation program.

The RAMJO Health Sub Committee met in Jerilderie and prioritised it's focus for advocacy for the coming months, including Ambulance accessibility, recruitment and retention of staff, including overseas trained medical staff across all fields.

Local events appear to be re-emerging with Ferret Races, the Annual League of Silent Flight Tournament, Can Assist Morning Teas, football and netball, social functions and many school excursions and sporting pursuits.

Along with the re-emergence of this vital social activity comes a need to remain vigilant around the ever present COVID presence and the flu bug that has raised its head.

Vaccinations for booster COVID shots and flu vaccinations are readily available.

I had the pleasure of conducting a Citizenship Ceremony in Jerilderie on 16 June.

Our Council and our nation warmly welcomed Charme and Johan Van der Walt, Michaela Walsh and Jane McMillan. This important step for them personally adds to the character and diversity of our great country, and we congratulate them for taking this step.

The General Manager and I attended the National General Assembly in Canberra from the 19-22 June 2022. During the 3.5 days, we attended a Regional Forum, an address by the Governor General, keynote addresses by Stan Grant on global democracy, Alicia McKay on thinking differently about Local Government, Marcus Spiller on Local Government and productivity, panel discussion on population housing and workforce, an address by Linda Burney, Minister for Indigenous Australians - Closing the Gap and a confronting but heartfelt address by the very new Ukraine Ambassador to Australia.

We have a new ARIC Chair, Linda MacRae and Panel Member Steven Pinnuck who met with Council staff and Council delegate Cr Black yesterday. Council welcomes our new Committee members.

It would appear we are getting very close to the completion of a couple of major projects in Coleambally - a pleasing place to find ourselves at.

Council offers its congratulations to John Smith from Coleambally for his recognition on the Queen's Birthday Honours List. John received the Australian Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service.

Below are a list of meetings attended since the last meeting of Council.

29 May 2022

Rural Fire Service National Emergency Medal Presentations
Jerilderie

30 May 2022

.id Profile presentation to Councillors and staff - Kat Houghton
Jerilderie

2 June 2022

Introduction Meeting with Origin Energy
Solar Farm Project
Darlington Point

7 June 2022

Murrumbidgee LEMC
Darlington Point

8 June 2022

RAMJO Health Sub Committee Meeting
Jerilderie

10 June 2022

Bendigo Bank Meeting - Councillors Bryce and Mauger and General Manager
Jerilderie
MLHD/Council - Teams update

13 June 2022

League of Silent Flight Presentations
Jerilderie

15 June 2022

Kidman Way Meeting and Altina Famil
Darlington Point

16 June 2022

Citizenship Ceremony
Jerilderie

19-22 June 2022

National General Assembly
Canberra

24 June 2022

RAMJO/MDBA - Teams Meeting - update delivered by Andrew Reynolds

27 June 2022

ARIC Meeting - Commencement of new panel
Jerilderie



Ruth McRae
MAYOR