

MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting:	23 March 2021
Report Date:	22 March 2021
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As I write my monthly report, we have been blessed with some very welcome and timely rain - almost too good to be true.

We are, however, mindful of the havoc that is being caused by torrential rains, particularly for our coastal counterparts, and it is our hope that the damage and chaos can be managed as best it can.

A very busy, but very rewarding month has seen Council able to officially open 6 of our infrastructure projects - for a small rural Council we have certainly been able to deliver quality projects that will serve our communities well into the future.

We were fortunate to have Steph Cooke, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier, officiate in Darlington Point, with Helen Dalton MP, Member for Murray, in attendance. The Member for Albury, Mr Justin Clancy, MP officiated at the Jerilderie ceremonies.

From the Council staff, consultants, contractors and the community, the genuinely collaborative efforts have delivered commendable end products.

Given the COVID-19 challenges, and just about any other obstacle that could have occurred, everyone concerned should be justifiably proud of these achievements.

And there are more to come - what this does clearly tell us is that there will always be challenges but if we keep our eye on the end game the results will be very worthwhile.

My congratulations to Gavin and Tammy Gilbert on another fantastic Redneck Rally. To have the ability to convene and manage a large group, raising over \$400,000 for the charity Country Hope, is magnificent - such a generous time commitment and such a gift to our region.

The SDLAM Project Team public consultation was rolled out over three days 23-24-25 February 2021 - from commencement in Moulamein to Wanganella, Conargo, Jerilderie and finally Morundah, all sessions were well attended and raised many important questions and allowed the communities to impart valuable historical information. The Project Team were given a first hand glance at the palpable level of anxiety and uncertainty - the meetings spoke very clearly to the modernisation projects - 1 challenge at a time.

On 2 March 2021, General Manager John Scarce and I attended a Ministerial Road Show convened by RAMJO and led by Federal Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia, Hon Keith Pitt, MP, Hon Sussan Ley, MP, Minister for the Environment, Senator Perin Davey, Senator Bridget McKenzie and many representatives from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) at Picnic Point. It was important that Minister Pitt actually visited this part of the Murray Darling Basin, and viewed first hand the all consuming issues greatly impacting us in an ongoing manner.

The Women in Business Networking Dinner held in Coleambally on 10 March 2021 was a great opportunity for women to meet and network. While small in attendance numbers, the guest speaker gave an enlightening address and those present took away some key messages.

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

23-25 February 2021 - SDLAM Public Consultation
Moulamein, Wanganella, Conargo, Jerilderie and Morundah

26 February 2021 - Commissioning of EV Car Charger
Jerilderie

1 March 2021 - Meeting with Centacare
Tammy Caulfield and Sharon Soule
Jerilderie

2 March 2021 - RAMJO Water Meeting - Minister Pitt Roadshow
Picnic Point

3 March 2021
Official Opening of Lions Park Amenities and Display Building Darlington Point
Official Opening of Darlington Point Boat Ramp and Pontoon
Officiated by Steph Cooke, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier and attended by Helen Dalton, MP, Member for Murray.
Darlington Point

4 March 2021 - Official Council Welcome to the UHA Regional Meeting
Jerilderie

4 March 2021 - Citizenship Ceremonies
Conferees - Amelita Carpio and Maiwand, Rehan and Subhan Rasooly
Jerilderie

5 March 2021 - LHAC - Section 19 (Trust Monies)
SKYPE Meeting
Jerilderie

6 March 2021 - CWA Sturt Group Meeting
Official Welcome
Jerilderie

7 March 2021 - Deni Ute Muster Museum and Administration Centre
Official Opening
Deniliquin

9 March 2021 - Telstra hardware on the Bundure Tower
Formal handover/launch

10 March 2021 – Official Openings
Jerilderie Swimming Pool, the Jerilderie Dance Studio, the public amenities block
and the grandstand roof at the Jerilderie Showground.
Officiated by Justin Clancy, MP, Member for Albury
Jerilderie

10 March 2021 - Women in Business Networking Event
Guest Speaker Kathie Heyman
Coleambally

11 March 2021 - Darlington Point Shire Hall Meeting
Usage, future, refurbishment
Darlington Point

15 March 2021 - RFS MMZ Captains' Meeting
Jerilderie RFS Station
Jerilderie

16 March 2021 - Jerilderie Town Revitalisation Meeting
Jerilderie

16 March 2021 - Jerilderie Independent Living Limited Meeting
Jerilderie

19 March 2021 - Connected Farms Initiative Meeting
Jerilderie



Ruth McRae
MAYOR