

ITEM NO. MAYORAL REPORT
FILE: 03.16.01
FROM: MAYOR

Our October has been hectic.

The October meeting of Council was rescheduled to 30 October due to our regular meeting date coinciding with the LGNSW Conference.

The 2018 Conference was held in Albury, and it was a great opportunity to be part of presenting our part of the world to wider Local Government family.

Big changes, yes even more change, has been a huge part of October
The 5th October was the last working day for Council's General Manager Mr. Craig Moffitt. Craig's 13 years of service, with many significant achievements and many significant challenges, marks a momentous time in Murrumbidgee Council's new history.

The 8th October saw the commencement of Council's newly Appointed General Manager Mr. John Scarce. Council welcomes John and his family to Murrumbidgee Council.

John's first fortnight has been very busy – orientating himself with the challenging geography and demographics is vital and John has been very visible and engaged from the start.

We look forward to a mutually beneficial working relationship, and thank John for his investment of faith in Council, our staff and the wider Council community.

Below is a brief outline of key meetings attended during October:

28 September 2018 - Chairman's Reception - Deni Ute Muster

Deni Ute Muster is celebrating its 20th year. Deniliquin is justifiably proud of this hard earned achievement. The Ute Muster is recognised as one of the Premier Events held at local, regional and state level.

3 October 2018 - METAG MEETING Coleambally

3 key priorities identified:

- Website - vital link
- Collective Data Base - a Living document
- Branding Proposal - Business, Economic Development, Tourism

A multi-faceted approach to communication is key.

This Group is very engaged, has a high level strategic mindset, and brokers open frank and informed discussions. This Advisory Group will form an important branch for the new Economic, Development and Tourism Officer.

5 October 2018 - Sir John Monash Dinner and Oration

This year marks the 11th Annual Dinner. Our Guest Speaker was Hon David Elliott, MP - Minister for Veterans Affairs, Corrections and Counter Terrorism.

Minister Elliott brought a “ lived “ experience to the table, having seen active service and the portfolios he now has carriage of . His current, relevant, thought provoking and personal presentation was warm and refreshing and yet again added another dimension to the Monash Story.

Zac Barlow was the recipient of the Monash Education Bursary.

My thanks to Julie Conn and Councillors Bryce and Smith for their hard work and Murrumbidgee Council staff for their assistance with bookings and enquiries.

9 October 2018 - LEMC MEETING Coleambally

Representatives from:

- Murrumbidgee Council
- RFS - Business as usual - low fire risk no growth, plans being developed as mandated;
- Coleambally Irrigation - regular maintenance for Fire season;
- Police - new policeman for Coleambally, DP Policeman transferring to Sydney, LAC Paul relieving in supervisory capacity for Wayne McLachlan;
- SES restructure - we belong in the Southern zone - 3 LGA's 24 hr on call no 132500

15th October 2018 - Community Socio-Economic Neutrality Workshop convened by Murray Regional Strategy Group

Addressing the proposed 450 gig upwater resumption and its impacts /neutrality issue. Dissatisfaction at the “Neutrality Test “The Basin Plan dictates - does not address the cumulative 3rd Party impacts - these are:

- *Compounding Swiss Cheese effect;
- * Decrease in Sthn Basin Consumptive Water Pool;
- * Loss of critical mass of production;
- * Loss of jobs/ skills;
- * Decrease in agricultural economic activity - flow on impact to small business and essential services

16/17 October 2018 - Coleambally Meetings

- 1- Addressing concerns re the Toilet Block build in Lions Park with Assistant General Manager and Coleambally Councillors - successful resolution
 - 2 - Meeting with CFNC and Cricket re progress at Coleambally Sports Precinct
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Outcomes

- Assistant General Manager to source alternative designer/ planner/ landscaper as soon as possible;
- Matter of urgency is addressing the timekeeper's box – WH&S issue as soon as possible.

18 October 2018 - Jerilderie Country Womens Association (CWA) AGM

Attended the AGM of Jerilderie Branch of CWA and chaired the Election of Office Bearer.

A level of interest displayed in co-hosting an International Women's Day Event. I will follow up, when we have the Corporate and. Community Services resource appointed.

18 October 2018 - Retirement Function for Craig Moffitt

Many thanks to Julie Conn and Murrumbidgee Council Councillors and staff for organising and hosting Craig's retirement function. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and worthy recognition for a generous contribution over 13 years.

Julie's organisation of the evening ensured its success, and we thank her for her efforts.

20 October 2018

Official acknowledgement of works completed at the Jerilderie Sports Club. A Community Grant received through an opportunity from Local Member for Albury, Mr Greg Aplin, MP. The grant provided water coolers, seating, mist fans and a groomer for the bowling green

21/22/23 October 2018 - LGNSW Conference Albury

3 days of information sharing and networking;

100 motion Business Paper

2 Workshops - Legal Responsibilities

- Developing Capabilities

1 Information Session - hosted by Gwydir Shire Council, addressing issue of GP recruitment and retention and Allied Health attractability

Keynote addresses by: Craig Rucasel - War On Waste and Stephen Bradbury - Olympian - Last Man Standing

Smart Cities presentation with a focus on data collection Launch of LGNSW Recycling Initiative (can be visited at www.saveourrecycling.com.au)

25 October 2018 - Murray Regional Strategy Group Deniliquin

- Governance Workshop
 - Workshop facilitated to develop strategy for further advocacy
 - Still to be determined
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- Meeting with David Littleproud on 2 November
- Key messages
 - No further water recovery - 450 gigs
 - No further negative impacts
 - Support in principle SDLAM but must be more flexible and adaptive

25 October 2018 - Annual General Meetings - CIMCL And CICL

- All appears to be travelling well
- Guest speaker was Steve When CEO, National Irrigators Council
- Promoting the need for the Basin Plan to succeed
- A knowledge that further impacts would be totally unacceptable

26 October 2018 - Meeting of GM and Mayor with CICL CEO Chair and Communications Manager

- Engaged discussion centred round the proposed SDL projects
- CICL concerned that if Council questions these the impact would adversely affect water availability to the Irrigation system
- Determined the need to meet with Tracey McDonald NSW DPI Water to confirm the current status of the proposed SDL Project at the Yanco Offtake - Jenny MacLeod to assist

26/27/28 October 2018 - Coleambally Food And Farm Event

I attended the 50 mile Degustation Dinner on the 27 October and the Main St Festival on 28 October.

Congratulations to the small but dedicated committee who managed to put together a jam-packed weekend. It was full of fun and offered something for everybody. An amazing achievement, truly commendable.

Ruth McRae
MAYOR
