



Murrumbidgee COUNCIL



NEWSLETTER MURRUMBIDGEE MAGAZINE December 2017

Volume 2 Issue 11

Message from the Mayor



Murrumbidgee Council continues to be a very busy place to be. The challenge of attending to core everyday business, rolling out and completing our Stronger Communities Fund projects and putting to bed our assessments for the Major Projects has seen us seriously under the pump.

The one thing we are sure of and which senior management continues to advocate for, is the need to bring an innovative mindset to the table to make us an attractive employer of choice. This is something we will concentrate on moving forward.

On behalf of your Councillors and Council staff I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Please drive safely if you are travelling.

Regards,

Cr Ruth McRae

HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE

Residents are being invited to help to create a blueprint for the future of the Murrumbidgee Council region.

Council is currently working to prepare a Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

The development of a new CSP is a statutory requirement of all Councils in NSW, but it's also an exciting opportunity to create a new roadmap for the region that will guide decision-making and community participation over the next decade.

The Plan will outline the goals, challenges and opportunities for our Council area. It will set out ways to make the most of our strengths while also fulfilling our potential.

The CSP will only be as good as the feedback we get from the community, and that's where you come in. Locals can expect Council to ramp up community consultation efforts in the new year, with anyone interested in the future of the region urged to have their say.

There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved including community workshops, library and business displays and surveys.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ADD FESTIVE SPARKLE

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas across the Council area.

Lights and other decorations are going up in the three towns, helping add some festive cheer in time for Christmas. Trevor Bright is pictured (below right) hanging new lights.





COUNCIL CLOSURES

DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

The December ordinary meeting of Council will be held on Friday 15 December, 2017 from 10.00am in the Council Chambers, Darlington Point.

OFFICE, DEPOT, BENDIGO BANK & LIBRARY CLOSURE

FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2017

The Council Offices, Depots, Bendigo Bank agencies and Jerilderie Library will be closed from 11.30am on Friday 15 December 2017, for the Annual Councillor/Staff meeting and Christmas get-together.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURE

The Council Offices (including Bendigo Bank Agencies) will be closing for the Christmas period from 12.00 midday on 22 December 2017, and will re-open 8.30am Tuesday 2 January 2018.

For any emergencies arising within the town area during that time please refer to the emergency contacts below:

Darlington Point	Shane Curphey	0427 684166
Jerilderie	Bryan Payne	0428 579095
Coleambally	Trevor Bright	0417 827216

JERILDERIE LIBRARY CLOSURE

The Jerilderie Library will be closed during the Christmas period, on 27, 28 and 29 December 2017. The Library will re-open on Wednesday 3 January 2018, at 10.00am.



COUNCIL MEETINGS 2017/18

The monthly Ordinary Meetings of Council will commence at 10am on the fourth Tuesday of every month, excluding December and January, and will be held on the following dates:

- Friday 15 December 2017 -Darlington Point
- Tuesday 27 February 2018 -Jerilderie
- Tuesday 27 March 2018 -Darlington Point
- Tuesday 24 April 2018 -Jerilderie
- Tuesday 22 May 2018 -Darlington Point
- Tuesday 26 June 2018 -Jerilderie
- Tuesday 24 July 2018 -Darlington Point
- Tuesday 28 August 2018 -Jerilderie
- Tuesday 25 September 2018 -Darlington Point

The meeting venues will alternate between Jerilderie and Darlington Point until suitable facilities are available in Coleambally.

NOMINATE NOW FOR AUSTRALIA DAY

Each year the Australia Day Council invites Local Government to participate in Australia Day activities.

It particularly encourages Councils to participate in the Citizenship Awards, which are offered by the Australia Day Council for the purpose of recognising outstanding contributions to the local community.

Murrumbidgee Council will once again participate in the presentation of Awards, with Jerilderie, Darlington Point and Coleambally each hosting individual Ceremonies. Nominations have closed for Jerilderie while nominations for Coleambally close on Wednesday 3 January 2018 and Darlington Point Friday 12 January 2018.

All nominations are strictly confidential. All nominees must be residents of Murrumbidgee Council. Nomination forms and additional information can be found at Council offices in Jerilderie, Darlington Point and Coleambally or on Council's website: www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

Further information can also be obtained by telephoning 1300 MRMBGE (676 243).





NOMINATE TOP WOMEN

Nominations for the 2018 NSW Women of the Year Awards are now open.

The Awards recognise the many women in the region who are leading the way in their chosen fields, and making outstanding contributions to local life.

The 2018 Awards categories include:

- NSW Premier's Woman of the Year
- NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year
- Community Hero
- Harvey Norman's Young Woman of the Year
- Rex Airlines Regional Woman of the Year
- NSW Business Woman of the Year Award
- First State Super Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominations for 2018 close Monday, 18 December 2017. For further information or to submit a nomination via the online portal please visit: www.women.nsw.gov.au

SWIM AND SURVIVE PROGRAM

The Office of Sport delivers the Royal Life Saving Society's national Swim and Survive program in regional areas of NSW where limited learn to swim opportunities exist.

Lessons cater for children aged 18 months to 12 years and provide everything from water awareness through to developing strokes and endurance.

Classes are delivered by nationally qualified instructors and normally run for nine consecutive week days.

Prices for nine lessons are \$72 for school aged children and \$51 for pre-schoolers.

For more information, or to book, phone 13 13 02 or go to: sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/swimandsurvive



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Locals can get in the festive spirit by attending Carols by Candlelight at the Darlington Point Club's Barbecue Area on Sunday, 17 December from 7pm.

Come and listen to some of your favourite Christmas carols or sing along with Julie Lawrence, Peter Smith and a host of other talented singers. Bring a chair or blanket. Glow candles will be on sale for \$3.

For further information contact Jan Congdon 0447 811 151.



SWIMMING POOLS

Coleambally Swimming Pool

Closed Mondays, Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Open 12pm to 7pm everyday (except Monday)

Tuesday to Friday mornings 6am - 9am

For more information call (02) 6954 4063.

Darlington Point

War Memorial Swimming Pool

Closed Mondays, Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Open 12pm - 7pm everyday (except Monday)

Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9am - 11am (water aerobics)

For more information call (02) 6968 4209.

Jerilderie Swimming Pool

Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Open 12pm - 7pm everyday

Tuesday and Thursday mornings 7am - 9am

The Jerilderie Swimming Pool is unsupervised.

Users are required to sign a waiver and hire a fob for access. Please visit the Council Office, 35 Jerilderie Street, during office hours to sign a waiver and pay your membership.



MOBILE BLOOD SERVICE VISITS COLEAMBALLY

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service made regular visits to Coleambally in 2017.

The community's support to the blood service enabled them to collect 78 donations in 12 months. That's 234 lives saved!

The mobile service will visit the Community Hall, Kingfisher Avenue, Coleambally from 9.30am to 2.30pm

on the following dates in 2018;

- Tuesday 23 January 2018
- Tuesday 24 April 2018
- Wednesday 25 July 2018



WATER QUALITY UPDATE

Council continues to make water quality at Darlington Point a priority.

Council carried out maintenance work on Bore Number 1 at Darlington Point recently, while a suitably qualified consultant has now been secured.

Work on Bore Number 1 included cleaning and assessment using cameras.

Meanwhile Bore Number 2 at Darlington Point has also been cleaned and treated to enable it to be in use while Bore Number 1's pump is being serviced.

Council continues to monitor chlorine levels and has negotiated consultant services with NSW Health Department.

The work, including regular sampling, will be ongoing.

A gas chlorination injection system is planned for installation at the earliest possible opportunity following system review by the consultants.

Council is complying with the best practice guidelines at all times and will continue to provide regular updates to the community on the progress made.

Recent sample results indicate Total Chlorine 0.99 mg/L and Free Chlorine 0.64 mg/L.

NSW Health Department accredited consultant Adam Wilson from Atom Consulting commenced work on the assessment of the Darlington Point water supply on Monday 11 December. Council is looking forward to his assessment report and recommendations so that immediate action can be taken.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Foundation Scholarship

Murrumbidgee Council sees education as a key process in the development and growth of its residents, particularly its youth. In order to aid this development and to ease the transition and expenses for rural students, Murrumbidgee Council offers this scholarship to students who reside within the Murrumbidgee Council Local Government Area.

This is available to commencing and continuing students. Applicants should provide evidence of: sound academic achievement, community/regional involvement and career goals and aspirations.

Applications open on 1 February 2018 and close on 1 April 2018.

For more information head to www.csu.edu.au

Council Scholarships

Applications are invited for funding under Council's Student Scholarship Program. To be eligible students must be undertaking tertiary education at a university, TAFE or other educational facility in 2018. The criteria and application forms are available at Council's Offices in Darlington Point, Coleambally and Jerilderie or on Council's website.

There are three \$1,000 scholarships available. Applications close 19 January, 2018.





MOBILE BREAST SCREENING

Local women aged 50-74 are encouraged to make an appointment with the BreastScreen NSW mobile van which will be in Jerilderie from 8 to 12 January 2018.

The van's digital technology provides doctors with clearer images faster and improves early detection. BreastScreen is a free breast screening service for women aged 50-74 years.

The mobile BreastScreen van will be located at the rear of the Civic Hall, Powell Street, Jerilderie.
Don't delay: Phone now for appointments on (02) 59 081200.



BUSINESSES NEEDED FOR DATABASE

More than 70 representatives of local businesses recently took the opportunity to find out how they can benefit from the development of solar farms in the Murrumbidgee Council area.

The Big Opportunities for Small Business forum, held late November in Coleambally, included collecting contact information to produce a database of local and regional firms to promote business capabilities.

All businesses are being urged to get behind Council's Capability Database initiative so we can promote our small to medium enterprise sector and make the most of all business opportunities that may present.

Businesses wanting to be included in the Murrumbidgee Business Capability Database can contact Council's Economic, Tourism and Community Development Manager, Gerrie Carr-MacFie via gerriec@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

SIR JOHN MONASH DINNER A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The tenth annual Sir John Monash Dinner and Lecture, held at the Jerilderie Civic Hall on Friday, 24 November, saw 100 people in attendance.

Military historian Ashley Ekins enthralled the crowd with his talk on "General Sir John Monash, Master of the Battlefield—an Appreciation".

A stunning portrait of Sir John Monash, donated by Mrs Miriam Berman, was also unveiled on the night.

Organisers thanked the community for their interest and support of this annual event.



Pictured above: Guest speaker Ashley Ekins and his partner Dr Debbie Lackerstein with Mayor Ruth McRae and Member for Murray Austin Evans.



NEW PLACE WITH A FUNNY NAME OPENS IN DARLINGTON POINT

The iconic Coolibah Café building in Darlington Point has undergone a major transformation, both inside and out, over the past few weeks, in readiness for a grand reopening.

Now that the building has been brought back to life, residents of Darlington Point have another place to meet and enjoy a coffee. The building has new owners, a new name and a totally new business concept.

'Hygge Living & More' is the brainchild of Darlington Point residents Ross Askin and Kylie Place.

Kylie is a qualified Interior Designer and was looking for an outlet to expand this passion.

Gone are the hamburgers and the décor, making way for a fresh new look and concept. Hygge Living & More is a homewares shop and coffee lounge, based on the principles of 'Hygge'. 'Hygge' pronounced hue-gah, is a Danish word that describes an experience and not a 'thing'.

As quoted in Hyggehouse.com.au, it is a word used to

'acknowledge a special feeling or moment. It can be alone or with family or friends, at home or out, ordinary or extraordinary but it is always cosy, charming or special'.

Located at 2 Punt Road Darlington Point (next door to the Post Office) it will be open 7 days a week leading up to Christmas from 7.30am to 3pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 2pm on weekends.



COLEAMBALLY STREETSCAPE MASTER PLAN

Council recently appointed Red Belly Landscape Architecture to create the Draft Master Plan for the Coleambally Town Centre Revitalisation Project.

The redesign of the town centre streetscape is being led by Murrumbidgee Council, in collaboration with the Coleambally Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc.

Representatives from Council, Coleambally Chamber of Commerce and other community members met with project architect Garry Murray recently, allowing him to develop a better understanding of the community's views and ideas.

The main aim of this Master Plan is to guide the town centre improvement works to enhance and future proof the town centre as the economic, social and cultural hub of the Coleambally Township.

The focus area of the Draft Master Plan encompasses land generally contained within Brolga Place and Kingfisher Avenue, with the proposed Sporting Precinct also being considered.

Preliminary concept ideas for the Plan will be discussed in mid-December and a draft will be submitted to the February Council meeting.

NOTE OF THANKS FROM EDIFY ENERGY

Edify Energy would like to thank Darlington Point residents and the broader community who attended the Community Drop-in Session for the Darlington Point Solar Farm on 5 December 2017. We appreciate your unanimously positive support and we look forward to engaging with you further as we work to finalise the project. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any further queries via our email address: hello@edifyenergy.com *Regards, Andy Winter from Edify Energy*





FUNDING INJECTION FOR McDONALD ROAD

Murrumbidgee Council has received support with funding of \$1,642,015 from the NSW Government towards the \$1.85 million cost of carrying out a much needed upgrade of McDonald Road, near Coleambally.

This investment will significantly reduce costs to business and industry, while driving economic growth and improving safety along this important link road," Member for Albury, Greg Aplin said.

"Economic growth in rural areas relies on agricultural commodities, industrial products and natural resources being able to move to market efficiently."

This project will see the road between Graham Road intersection and Morundah Road widened to 9m and sealed to a width of 7m, to match with existing sealed sections. Murrumbidgee Council is contributing \$212,000 towards the cost.

Pictured right: Greg Aplin with Council's Mayor Ruth McRae and Deputy Mayor Robert Black.



STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND

Council is a step closer to earmarking funds in the third and final stage of the Stronger Community Fund (SCF), after the Assessment Panel met in Jerilderie on 29 November to consider the major project applications.

The Stronger Community Fund (SCF) comprises three funding streams.

The first stream is \$5 million available to the Council to fund the work required to merge the two former Councils. Any unspent funds within this component of the SCF will be transferred to either of the other streams, the Community Grants Program (CGP) or the Major Project Fund (MPF).

The second stream, the CGP, comprises \$1.5m in funding for not-for-profit community organisations for grants of up to \$50,000. This stream was run via two rounds of funding.

In November 2016 Council announced the recipients of Round One grants totalling \$1.014m to 33 organisations within the Council area. In May 2017 Council announced the recipients of Round Two grants totalling \$518,995 to 24 organisations.

Projects funded in Rounds One and Two of the CGP are at various stages ranging from projects which have been completed to projects that are yet to commence.

Since the Round One and Two grants were announced, staff and Councillors have been working in conjunction with those organisations to deliver the funded projects.

Further updates on the third and final stream, the Major Projects Fund (MPF), will be provided in February 2018.

FRIDAY MOVIE NIGHT FUN

Friday nights are set to get a whole lot more fun in Darlington Point in 2018.

On the first Friday of each month starting in January a fun movie night for kids will be held at the CWA Hall in Darlington Point.

The movies are aimed at primary school students; however all are welcome to attend.

The \$5 entry fee will include popcorn and a fruit box, with all proceeds going to Country Hope.

Bring your blanket and pillow and get comfortable for the first Movie Night on Friday, 5 January starting at 6pm.

For more information contact Linda on 0404 724 864.





AUSTRALIA DAY 2018

LIFTING OF ALCOHOL BAN, JERILDERIE

NOTICE is hereby given that the prohibition on the consumption of alcohol in the vicinity of the Council Chambers, Civic Hall, Luke Park and Powell Street, Jerilderie will be lifted from midday to midnight on 26 January 2018 for the Jerilderie Community Australia Day Celebrations.

WHAT'S ON?

Upcoming events

Christmas/New Year Period: Council's administrative offices will be closed for the Christmas/New Year period from 12 noon, Friday, 22 December 2017 and will reopen on Tuesday, 2 January 2018.

16 December -Christmas at the Coly Club

17 December 2017- Carols by Candlelight
Darlington Point Club barbecue area from 6pm

5 January 2018- First Friday Movie Night, CWA Hall Darlington Point

26 January 2018 - Australia Day Award Ceremonies in each of the towns

9-11 February 2018 -Riverina Classic Fishing Competition @ Darlington Point

Tuesday 27 February 2018 - First Council Meeting for the New Year at Jerilderie Chambers

Save the date – June 8-11, 2018 – Coly's 50th Birthday Celebration Weekend

Contacting your Council

Council Branch Offices are located at:

Darlington Point - 21 Carrington Street

Coleambally - 39 Brolga Place

Jerilderie - 35 Jerilderie St

Phone: 1300 MRMBGE (676243)

E-mail: mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

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IN THE FRAME...

