



# Murrumbidgee COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

MURRUMBIDGEE MAGAZINE

February 2018

Volume 3 Issue 1



## Message from the Mayor

January has traditionally been a busy time for the Murrumbidgee area, with 2018 being no exception. Our Australia Day celebrations, as always, were enthusiastically attended and supported across the region.

The 13th Burrumbuttock Hay Run left Darlington Point on 26 January 2018, heading to Cunnamulla in south western Queensland. Being a strong farming region, I cannot emphasise how important this kind of initiative is in helping farmers and farming communities in need.

Council received fantastic news on the grants front with \$450,000 received to build a second boat ramp in Darlington Point. The Point is a key area for recreational fishing and activities, and we welcome this funding to build such a key piece of infrastructure.

Our draft Community Strategic Plan has been released, and community participation will be strengthened by public meetings to be held in each of our 3 communities.

On the Councillor front, we have a by-election for the Murrumbidgee East Ward, contested by Pat Brown, Haidee Laycock and Shane Fraser.

Regards,

Councillor Ruth McRae  
Mayor

## Murrumbidgee celebrates Australia Day

Australia Day celebrations provide our communities with an opportunity to recognise our history, and celebrate our heritage, our freedom and our future.

Our hard working Australia Day Committees provide community celebrations, which allow us to acknowledge the achievements and contributions of our citizens through the Australia Day Citizenship Awards.

The communities of Darlington Point and Coleambally welcomed the Murrumbidgee Council 2018 Australia Day Ambassador Prue Watt, OAM, a determined and outstanding young woman, who has an impressive career as a Paralympian. Prue has represented Australia at four Paralympics from 2004 to 2016. Prue was recognised with an Order of Australia Medal in 2014.

Australia Day festivities commenced in Coleambally with a tasty breakfast served by the Lions Club, followed by the official program of events, Award presentations and cutting of the Australia Day cake.

Then it was on to Darlington Point for their Australia Day Ceremony, with the customary flag raising and announcement of the 2018 Award winners. A delicious barbecue lunch was enjoyed by community members and guests.

Jerilderie commenced its celebrations at 6.30pm, with the traditional format of barbecue, spinning wheel draws and entertainment by Ray Macartney. Presentation of the Awards was made to the worthy winners, with the evening capped off by a magical fireworks display over Lake Jerilderie, always the highlight of this great night.



(see details of Award winners on page 2)

## Murrumbidgee Council Community Strategic Plan

Murrumbidgee Council has agreed to an extended community engagement process for the Murrumbidgee Council Community Plan 2027. This plan is about preparing a shared vision for our community, which will help shape Council's planning over the next 10 years.

Your input will help Council identify where we are now, where we would like to be in the future and how we can plan together to get there. It's about retaining the things Council and the residents of Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie love and ensuring we work together to create a positive future.

As part of the extensive community engagement strategy, Council is hosting a

series of activities, including meetings in each of our towns.

Council is also conducting a survey to capture information from the community about their long term vision for the future for the whole Council area as well as being able to differentiate town specific priorities. This survey is being delivered to each household in Council's area. The survey is also available on Council's website [www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)

Further information or feedback can be provided in writing to:

Murrumbidgee Council, PO Box 5,  
Darlington Point, or email:  
[mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)

### COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN PUBLIC MEETINGS:

- Jerilderie:** Council Chambers, 6-8pm Tuesday 27 February 2018  
**Coleambally:** Community Hall, 6-8pm Wednesday 28 February 2018  
**Darlington Point:** CWA Hall, 6-8pm Thursday 1 March 2018



**CELEBRATIONS IN JERILDERIE**

Mia Neessen, Lucy Simpson, Mayor, Cr Ruth McRae, Sadie Herrick and John Purcell



**CELEBRATIONS IN DARLINGTON POINT**

Councillors Gavin Gilbert, Gaila Smith, Ruth McRae and Robert Curphey with 2018 Australia Day Ambassador Prue Watt, OAM



Australia Day



Congratulations to Kevan Boyle, pictured receiving his Lifetime Achievement Award



The Swag 'n' Billy Band performing on Australia Day

Recognised for their contributions to our communities:

**COLEAMBALLY**

**Citizen of the Year**

Mrs Dianne Anderson

**Lifetime Achievement**

Mr Kevan Boyle

**Event of the Year**

Beck's Goods and Services Auction

**Young Citizen of the Year**

Mr Tom Breed

**Cultural Award**

Miss Phoebe White

**Sub Junior Sportsperson of the Year**

Miss Charlotte Young

**Sportsperson of the Year**

Mr Joshua Fattore

**Junior Sportspersons of the Year**

Thomas Fattore and Jack Cullen (Joint Winners)

**Sporting Team of the Year**

Coleambally Ladies Golf Four Ball Team

**JERILDERIE**

**Citizen of the Year**

Mrs Edith (Sadie) Herrick

**Sportsperson of the Year**

Mr John Purcell

**Little Aussie of the Year**

Jerilderie Public School – Miss Lucy Simpson

St Joseph's Primary School – Miss Mia Neessen

**DARLINGTON POINT**

**Citizen of the Year**

Mr Steven Ford

**Event/Group Achievement of the Year**

Riverina Redneck Rally

**Young Sportsperson of the Year**

Miss Lexi Heath

**Sporting Team of the Year**

CDP JRL Mini League Tag (Coach-Ms Rebecca Norris)



## Murrumbidgee East Ward

### By-Election

A by-election to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor Austin Evans, will take place in Murrumbidgee East Ward on Saturday 10 March 2018.

**Voting is compulsory for electors within the Murrumbidgee East Ward.**

## Notice of By-election



**Murrumbidgee Council**  
Murrumbidgee East Ward  
Local Government Area

**Saturday 10th March**  
**Voting is compulsory**

For more information visit  
[www.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300 135 736

### By-Election Key Dates

#### Postal Votes:

Postal Vote applications close 5.00pm Monday 5 March  
Return of Postal Votes closes 6.00pm Monday 12 March

#### Pre Polling Venue:

Murrumbidgee Council Office, 39 Brolga Place, Coleambally

#### Pre-poll dates and voting hours:

Monday 26 February to Thursday 8 March 9:00am – 5:00pm  
Friday 9 March 9:00am – 6:00pm  
Pre-poll is closed 12:30pm-1:30pm daily  
Weekends closed

#### Election Day Polling Venue:

Saturday 10 March 2018-Coleambally Central School, Kingfisher Avenue, Coleambally.  
Polling Place open between the hours of 8.00am and 6.00pm

**Distribution of Preferences to Determine Elected Candidate (if required)-13 March**

**Declaration of Results-14 March**

#### Further Information:

[www.elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/murrumbidgee\\_council\\_by-election\\_10\\_march\\_2018](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/murrumbidgee_council_by-election_10_march_2018)

[www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)

Telephone: 1300 135 736

Local Government Election

Murrumbidgee East Ward

**Murrumbidgee**

BALLOT PAPER FOR

**ELECTION OF 1 COUNCILLOR**

Held on 10 March 2018

### **DIRECTIONS FOR VOTING** **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

Place the number **1** in the square next to the candidate of your choice. If you wish to vote for any more candidates, place consecutive numbers starting with **2** in the squares next to those candidates in order of your preferences for them.

**BROWN Pat**  
Independent

**LAYCOCK Haidee**

**FRASER Shane**





# PUTTING MURRUMBIDGEE ON THE MAP

Helping visitors discover tourism product, retail and services available in the three towns across Murrumbidgee Council has been made easier with the release of Town Maps. The new tear off maps have been supported by advertising from businesses and Murrumbidgee Council. The maps aim to help visitors discover the walks, trails and services that make Murrumbidgee a great place in which to live, work and stay.

Delivery of the print run was finalised at the end of January, with distribution happening now across Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie. The Town Maps, which include information on the Kidman Way, can be sourced through participating advertisers; and in fuel stops, local shops and at Council offices. Supplies will also be made available to surrounding Visitor Information outlets.

Traffic counts and visitor surveys indicate Jerilderie, at the start of the Kidman Way, as a significant entranceway to the Murrumbidgee Council area. Our three towns are rich in heritage, bird-life and river-based tourism. The maps particularly target the caravan and camping segment, which is an excellent emerging market. A 'mud map' of the Kidman Way is provided on the map to entice visitors to stop and stay.

Visitor dollars, whether for a quick fuel stop, food or accommodation, contribute to the local economy of our towns. The Town Maps build on recent advertising in the Griffith and Berrigan Visitor Guides. The maps complement practical initiatives, such as the recent display of flags in the Jerilderie main street, planning for the Darlington Point boat ramp, and support for events like Taste Coleambally. Town Maps are just another step in building a diverse and stronger Murrumbidgee economy where Murrumbidgee Council and businesses encourage visitors to

*“Rest, Relax and Stay...  
Take a Murrumbidgee Day.”*



## PLANS IN PLACE FOR A TOP 2018 YOUTH WEEK EVENT

Cool kicks and daring flips will feature when young people in our Council area celebrate Youth Week 2018.

Two days of skating fun have been planned, with Skate Park (NSW League) coming to Coleambally on April 14 and Darlington Point on April 15.

The Skate Park Leagues are community based, grass-roots events focused on embracing skate park culture and bringing the community together.

Locals will be able to compete in skate, scooter, or BMX events, and there will be free giveaways and prizes to be won.

Registrations are now open: <http://skateparkleagues.com/enroll/nsw-series-registration/>

For more information including event Guidelines, Scoring Criteria and Policies go to: <http://skateparkleagues.com/guidelines/>

A bus will run from Jerilderie to ensure all youth from across the Murrumbidgee Council area can participate.

Event Partners include: Murrumbidgee Council, YMCA NSW, Nike, Element, Skullcandy, OCD Skate Shop, Pro-Tec, Goliath Skate, Crisp Scooters, Grit Scooters, District Freestyle Scooters & Conduct HQ.





# BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OUR YOUNG SPORTS STARS

## LEXI HEATH

The sporting future looks bright for 17 year old Lexie Heath, one of Murrumbidgee's rising stars, and recipient of the 2018 Young Sporting Person of the Year Award for Darlington Point.

Lexi is an inspiration to younger players coming through the ranks. She represented Darlington Point/Coleambally (and Griffith in the South West Competition) at League Level in tag football, before starting her career in 'tackle' rugby league. Scouts invited Lexi to trial for Cronulla for the 2017 season after seeing her play in the 'Nations of Origins' competition in Port Stephens. Later in 2017, Lexie was also invited to train with Canberra, eventually being accepted into the team squad to compete in the NRL female rugby league competition.

Lexi's family, parents Jody and Kylie and sister Ella, have supported her throughout her journey, with Jody travelling to Canberra once or twice weekly for training, and encouraging her commitment to her training when at home. Lexie is currently in Canberra for an eight week training session, which also includes her attending school.



## PAIGE NASH

18 year old Paige, daughter of Ben and Natasha Nash, is enjoying success as she pursues a career in the Australian Football Womens' League (AFWL). Years of commitment and regular training sessions has seen Paige receive a jersey for Collingwood VFL Ladies Squad. With team selection still to be finalised, Paige will continue to live and train in Melbourne as she chases her dream.

Paige is a former Jerilderie Australia Day Sports person of the Year, 2016 and Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year 2017.

She is an experienced netballer, having represented Jerilderie in all grades of netball. Paige has played representative netball for Picola District Football Netball League Under 17's, Goulburn Murray League, and was a member of the Barellan under 15's and under 17's state team.

Her football career started with the Finley Wildcats, and she then went on to play in the Murray Bushrangers, Girls Under 18's Giants and NSW Under 18 state football team.

## FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Murrumbidgee Council's Foundation Scholarship with is now open to students who reside within the Murrumbidgee Council Local Government Area, and study through Charles Sturt University.

### Applications will close at:

- 11:59pm 1 Apr 2018 for Commencing Students
- 11:59pm 1 Apr 2018 for Continuing Students
- **Value:** \$4000
- **Duration:** one off payment

Applicant to provide evidence of:-

- sound academic achievement
- community/regional involvement
- career goals and aspirations

Further information is available on Council's website [www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au) or go to [www.csu.edu.au](http://www.csu.edu.au) and search Murrumbidgee Council Scholarship.



## Lets Do More Together

Celebrating its 60th birthday, and with the theme '*Let's do more together*', the Seniors Festival (formerly NSW Seniors Week) promotes inclusive communities. Seniors will be inspired to try new things, socialise, share skills, and keep doing the things they enjoy.

A range of activities are planned for our seniors, as follows:

Seniors Luncheon-Jerilderie Civic Hall-23 March

Seniors Luncheon-Coleambally Club-12 April

Ukelele Workshop-9 April-Coly Community Hall

Eco-Dyeing Workshop-10 April-Coly Community Hall

Men's Shed Carving Workshop-To be Confirmed

Full details will be available from Council offices or on Council's website as the become available.

There's always room in life for new experiences and they're even better when shared with friends, family and others, so...

*"Let's do more together".*



## PROJECTS KEEP FLOWING

2018 is off to a positive start for Murrumbidgee Council. Community groups and Council worked diligently on putting together a number of community-based projects in 2017. Many of these have focussed on the Stronger Communities Fund grant program. Netball courts and goal posts in Jerilderie, solar panels and sewing machines in Darlington Point and Coleambally, are just a few of the projects adding value and improving the Murrumbidgee lifestyle.

Over the past months Council has been helping community groups submit applications for an array of smaller and larger projects as other funding from the NSW Government becomes available. During the Christmas / New Year period, the communities of Yamma and Jerilderie received news that projects under the Community Building Partnership program were successful. Member for Murray, Mr Austin Evans, announced \$5,000 for improvements to the play area at Yamma Hall. Member for Albury, Mr Greg Aplin, announced \$13,000 to keep bowlers and sport players hydrated with bubble taps, fans, seating and equipment at the Jerilderie Sports Club. Meanwhile thanks to a Heritage Near Me Activation Grant, Council is sub-contracting work to maintain the integrity of The Willows building at Jerilderie.

In January the 'big win' came for Darlington Point with the announcement of \$450,000 for the proposed Darlington Point boat ramp on the Murrumbidgee River. The partnership between community, Council and Government is supported through the 'Boating Now' Program. The ramp will improve recreational fishing and boating amenity for the community, and also help to attract visitors to the township. This project has received solid support thanks to the hard work of the Darlington Point APEX Club. Partnership projects are the result of volunteers 'rolling up their sleeves' and working with Council to make Murrumbidgee Council a great place to live, work and play.

In 2018 Council is continuing to source funding for projects identified as priorities by the community. Consultation with Coleambally sports precinct user groups, Brolga Place businesses and the Chamber of Commerce are informing major community developments. In Jerilderie a swimming pool upgrade is being investigated. Major priorities include securing a safe and dependable water supply in Darlington Point and in Jerilderie.

Keep checking Council's website for updates on projects, consultations and funding announcements.

## PORTSEA CAMP 2018



On 11 January, 45 children from the Murrumbidgee Council area headed off to the Portsea Camp for 7 days of fun filled activities. The Portsea Camp is a charity camp just out of Melbourne that runs 4 week-long camps over the summer school holidays for children aged 9-12 years, and one camp for teenagers. The camp is for disadvantaged, special needs and rurally remote kids. Costs are heavily subsidised, with up to 280 children attending each camp.

The camp has been running since 1945, and the Jerilderie Portsea Camp Committee has been sending a group of local children for over 50 years.

The Jerilderie Portsea Camp Committee would like to sincerely thank the volunteers who attended the camp as leaders and juniors, supporting our Murrumbidgee group: including Cindy Eldridge, Otaden Evans, Kelsey Fraser, Ryan Mannes and Jack Hatty.

Attendance at The Portsea Camp provides local children with an opportunity to experience different and fun activities, and the Committee thanks those organisations who generously donated towards our sponsored children: 2RG Sunshine Club; Catholic Women's League – Jerilderie; Coleambally Central School; Coleambally Community Bank; Coleambally/Argoon CWA; Darlington Point Lions Club; Jerilderie CWA; Jerilderie Football Club; Jerilderie Lifeball Group; Lions Club of Coleambally; Lions Club of Jerilderie; MAKATAK; Murrumbidgee Council, Willawa School Bus Committee and the Wunnamurra School Bus Committee.





## FILMING MURRUMBIDGEE

Murrumbidgee Council tourism and lifestyle has been showcased in recent film productions. First-up has been a focus on Darlington Point with national and international television coverage. A partnership between Altina Wildlife Park and Murrumbidgee Council saw Altina and Darlington Point showcased on national and international television in November 2017.

Council and Altina worked with travel industry expert Greg Grainger of GraingerTV to get footage and produce a paid-for segment that was aired on Channel 7TWO, which is the highest-rating Australian free-to-air digital television multichannel. The video segment has a YouTube 'life' beyond the original to-air story, and is being used by Council in other promotions.

In December 2017 Riverina RDA and Council collaborated on a video segment produced for the 'Country Change' initiative. This project seeks to entice 'tree-changers' to Riverina including the Murrumbidgee Council area. Riverina company Blue Clay Productions filmed a story in Murrumbidgee Council focussed on the Walsh family's move back to Coleambally. This was an opportunity to promote the Murrumbidgee Council lifestyle. The story was largely focused on Coleambally. Further opportunities to promote the lifestyle advantages and business opportunities in Darlington Point, Jerilderie and the entire Council area will happen in 2018 as Council promotes:

*"Live Work and Play...  
the Murrumbidgee Way."*

Check Out the video productions:

Visit Darlington Point & Altina Wildlife Park: <http://traveloztv.com/Series-4-Episode-30-Travel-Oz.html>

Country Change-Coleambally: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICX-bV\\_\\_wSI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICX-bV__wSI)

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2018

Leave No Woman Behind

### SAVE THE DATE

An International Women's Day 2018 event is being held at the Darlington Point Club on Thursday 8 March 2018, 11.00 am to 2.00pm. A light lunch will be available.

We have secured a fantastic guest speaker, General Manager of Southern Cotton, Ms Kate O'Callaghan.

Buses will run from Jerilderie and Coleambally to the event.

Further information will be available in local papers and on Council's website leading up to the event.

**To register to attend the luncheon, please telephone Council on 1300 676 243.**

## WHAT'S ON?

### Upcoming events

Community Strategic Plan Public Meetings:

- ◆ 27 February 2018-Jerilderie Chambers
- ◆ 28 February 2018-Coleambally Community Hall
- ◆ 1 March 2018-Darlington Point CWA Hall

8 March 2018-International Women's Day Event (Darlington Point Club)

16 March 2018-Pysanky Egg Decorating (Seniors Group)-(Coleambally Community Hall)

23 March 2018-Senior's Luncheon (Jerilderie Civic Hall)

1 April 2018-CSU Scholarship closing date

Youth Week Event-Skate Park (NSW League):

- ◆ 14 April 2018-Coleambally
- ◆ 15 April 2018-Darlington Point

4 April to 15 April 2018-Seniors Week

12 April 2018-Seniors Lunch (Coleambally Community Club)

19 May 2018-Jerilderie Tractor Trek

20 May 2018-Jerilderie Show 'n' Shine & Tractors

8-11 June 2018-Coleambally 50th Birthday Celebrations

### Council Meetings

27 February-Jerilderie

27 March-Darlington Point

24 April-Jerilderie

22 May-Darlington Point

26 June-Jerilderie

### 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](mailto:mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)**

**Web: [www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)**

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