

## MAYORAL REPORT

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It is all hands on deck as we move towards the close of 2020.

Business “as usual” sees us busy but adapting to a different way of delivering what we need to. Our harvest is in full swing - from all reports it is producing some outstanding returns - it is a hive of activity with machinery, trucks and people working long hours to get the crops off.

Labour challenges have been an issue. A common problem across all areas of agricultural harvest - making sure we all stay safe and looking out for each other is a priority.

The end of school presentation nights and celebrations are being delivered in a different way this year -while it is pared back the most important aspect is that parents and caregivers can be included and, at the end of the day, that is what really counts.

Our Year 12 students have completed their exams and now eagerly await their results - the completion of this truly testing year is commendable and I congratulate them in getting to the finish line.

Our 3 communities acknowledged Remembrance Day with due respect on 11 November. It was a privilege to be able to participate in this Service. Each community brings their unique approach to this day, and we acknowledge and thank the local RSL Sub Branches for facilitating and leading our services.

The annual Sir John Monash Bursary was awarded to Simon Toscan from Darlington Point. We congratulate Simon and wish him well with his tertiary studies in 2021.

The proposed change to our electoral boundary has initiated lots of discussion - yet again scant regard has been given to the voice of the community that will be impacted.

The proposed change - yet another imposed change to satisfy a numbers game - will have an insignificant impact in creating balance for the bureaucrats but most certainly creates a further feeling of being insignificant in the political argy-bargy that surrounds us.

Council works really hard at developing relationships that best serve and guarantee us fair advocacy - the Member for Albury, Justin Clancy has worked diligently for us in this space. He has a high degree of visibility and we most certainly appreciate his input. Stay tuned I guess.

The re-opening of the Victorian border on 23 November will hopefully proceed with no further glitches - the development of the South Australian Covid-19 cluster certainly reinforces the stark reality that continued vigilance is the only way to keep our communities safe - as the holiday season approaches and the traffic stream and people movement increases we must all play our part in adhering to the Public Health Order.

Some of our major projects are completed or nearing completion - what great visible evidence that our Council footprint has certainly been the beneficiary of some very welcome funding opportunities.

The \$1.96 M Jerilderie Pool redevelopment is complete. The Pool complex opened to the community on Saturday 21 November 2020. This a truly amazing generational investment in the Jerilderie community's health and recreational wellbeing.

The boat ramp and pontoon project in Darlington Point is nearing completion - this asset is sure to attract many visitors to this beautiful part of the Murrumbidgee River and enhance the development of the central hub and our Caravan Park.

Finally, it is our hope that the Coleambally Sports Precinct will mobilise and power ahead as soon as the border reopens on 23 November. I am confident that we will see real movement quickly - this important redevelopment will have an enormous impact for not only the local community but those visiting to participate for many sporting pursuits.

The annual LGNSW Conference is being delivered via Zoom on 23 November. This virtual experience will be vastly different to the personal engagement and networking we are accustomed to, nevertheless it allows us to conduct some really important business and, at the end of the day, this is the alternate stratosphere in which we find ourselves.

The Darlington Point office re-development is progressing and the end result I'm sure will provide a modern, light filled environment that will serve Murrumbidgee Council well into the future - I am sure the staff are looking forward to its completion - conducting business amidst a building re-development is a whole new experience.

Visible evidence of our 3 town revitalisation projects is emerging, it is generating lots of comment and people are enjoying seeing the roll out - I am confident that this is the beginning of many good things to come.

A collaborative tourism initiative involving Murrumbidgee Council and Lockhart, Narrandera and Leeton Shires was launched at the Whitton Malthouse on 18 November.

This publication, featuring local businesses and attractions in our region, identifies and promotes the many experiences we have on offer - its production has taken time to get to the table but from the entry artwork to the content I am sure it will be a valuable resource to the visitor economy. Our thanks go to Kellie Dissegna and her associates at our 3 neighbouring Councils for bringing this initiative to fruition - I hope it is a springboard for lots more to follow.

Our water meetings and engagement continues- I will provide an update/brief at the November Council meeting.

Below is a list of meetings I have attended during the month:

- 28 October 2020 - Town Revitalisation Meeting - Jerilderie
- 4 November 2020 - YSAG Meeting (water meeting) - Morundah
- 6 November 2020 - Audit Risk and Improvement Committee- Jerilderie
- 8 November 2020 - RAMJO Water Sub Committee - Zoom Meeting
- 9 November 2020 - Brolga Place Redevelopment Meeting - Coleambally
- 10 November 2020 - Director of Infrastructure Interviews - Jerilderie
- 11 November 2020 - Remembrance Day Service - Jerilderie
- 11 November 2020 - Revitalisation Graphic Art Meeting with Natasha Wells - Jerilderie
- 12 November 2020 - RAMJO Board Meeting and Dinner - Albury
- 16 November 2020 - Mayor/General Manager Meeting - Jerilderie
- 17 November 2020 - Town Revitalisation Meeting - Jerilderie
- 17 November 2020 - RFS Brigade Management Agreement Discussion - Jerilderie
- 18 November 2020 - Constituent Meeting Darlington Point 9am
  - Murrumbidgee Trails Launch - Whitton Malthouse
  - CERC Meeting ,Coleambally Irrigation - Coleambally
- 19 November 2020 - Mayor/General Manager Meeting - Jerilderie
- 19 November 2020 - Town Revitalisation Meeting – Natasha Wells - Jerilderie
- 23 November 2020 - LGNSW Annual Conference - virtual - Jerilderie



Ruth McRae  
**MAYOR**