

## MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting	24 October 2023
Report Date:	19 October 2023
Author:	Mayor
File #:	SC217
Approval:	Mayor

Spring, and its ever changing climatic challenges, is certainly making its mark felt. The fluctuations in temperature, the damaging wind, the rain event that saw between 50-70 mm of very welcome rain, and the significant hay fever and related allergy imposts, makes for a very interesting part of the world to live .

School is back after a welcome break to ward off the winters ills. Our Year 12s have finished their formal classroom education and are now in exam mode - we wish them well and offer our support.

There are many challenges before us at the moment. The Voice Referendum has been held - the result should inform, but by no means be the end of the dialogue. I am of the belief that continued advocacy and collaboration with strong informed leadership will provide a way forward.

Our health challenges remain ongoing. Securing health professionals - doctors nurses and allied health professionals - is a cycle that is unending. For example, the looming aged care deadlines for mandated RN ratios and the deep dive occurring into the provision and delivery of planned services in the NDIS. Our advocacy for an Ambulance Station at Darlington Point is ongoing. These issues come across Council's table on a daily basis.

The latest Federal Government push to enable the successful completion of the Murray Darling Basin Plan by June 2024 (with some extended time frames) "Restoring Our Rivers" is in Legislation and before the Senate as we speak. The resumption of any water from our productive agriculture and our communities is a risk that will have far reaching effects and spell economic and social decimation that may well be non-recoverable.

Spring has seen many social events being held in our communities. The Darlington Point Spring Fair, the Jerilderie Gold Cup Race Meeting, the Coleambally Argoon CWA 50th Birthday celebrations and many more.

The Murrumbidgee Councillors acknowledge the passing of one of Council's valued employees Mr John O'Hara - Council thanks John for his contribution to Council and to the community of Darlington Point. He will be missed by his work colleagues and friends.

Small Business Month has seen the rollout of some valuable information sessions. I have attended 2 of these. 1 was held in Darlington Point on Cyber Security; 1 held in Jerilderie on Stress Management in Small Business. Both of these were a great investment of time and provided useful tools to take into day to day life. Thank you to Councils staff and the facilitators who presented.

I would like to acknowledge two of our staff who have recently retired/relocated, and thank them for their service – Librarian Rhonda Cox and Senior Administration Assistant Simone Prentice. We wish you well.

Below are a list of Meetings/Forums/Conferences I have attended in September-October

12 September 2023 - Jerilderie Independent Living Ltd Meeting – Jerilderie

13 September 2023 - St Josephs “Cinderella” production – Jerilderie

14 September 2023 - Jerilderie Early Learning Centre Meeting – Jerilderie

15 September - Country Mayors Health Forum - Wagga Wagga

19 September - OAM Presentation at Government House, Sydney

21 September - Funeral of John O’Hara - Darlington Point  
- YACTAC AGM - Conargo

26-28 September - Murray Darling Association Conference - Murray Bridge SA

29 September - Murrumbidgee Council Altina Family Day - Darlington Point

4 October - Murray Darling Basin - Community Listening Tour Forum - Griffith

5 October - CWA Sturt Group AGM – Coleambally

9 October - JELC Meeting – Jerilderie

10 October - RAMJO EO Meeting - Water Paper Related - Jerilderie

11 October - Small Business Month - Cyber Security Information Session -  
Darlington Point

12 October - CE/LHAC MLHD update

17 October - Jerilderie Independent Living Meeting  
- MLHD Council Zoom Update

18 October - LEMC Meeting - Darlington Point  
- Small Business Month Stress Management in Small Business  
Information Session – Jerilderie

19 October - Jerilderie CWA AGM – Jerilderie

23 October - Remaining Funds Teams Meeting with Transgrid  
- Ambulance for Tocumwal public Meeting - Tocumwal

*R. K. McRae*

Ruth McRae, OAM  
**MAYOR**