

MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting	28 February 2023
Report Date:	27 February 2023
Author:	Mayor
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And in the blink of an eye we are almost into our third month of the year!

It seems forever since the meeting of 9 December 2022, and yet here we are at the end of February 2023.

Christmas has been and gone, summer holidays have been had and school has recommenced - University, TAFE and real life work have all commenced for our school leavers.

Harvest is complete, finally, and the crop rotations are in full swing - talk of watering and allocations is on the table and, after the wettest 3 months in a long time, who would have thought we would be seeing dust!

Our recreational facilities have been busy, with our pools being utilised by both families, travellers and schools alike. It is encouraging to see that Council's generosity in this space is being well invested.

Our showgrounds and sporting ovals are also receiving much usage, with all codes of football, league, tag and netball now in full swing.

Jerilderie Apex Club hosted the Annual Working Dog Auction in Jerilderie at the weekend, with a very successful result for all vendors.

The weekend of the Riverina Fishing Classic in Darlington Point (first weekend in February) was once again very successful, with many participants and lots of fun.

Australia Day across Murrumbidgee Council's footprint is a much anticipated celebration, and each community has a unique celebration and they all generously accomodate the others timeslots.

Our Ambassador Dinner in Darlington Point at the Punt Hotel kicked off this year's celebrations - this year's Ambassador, Lyndey Milan, was an entertaining and warm and engaged personality - she mixed freely and acknowledged the great job that our communities do in facilitating our Australia Day events - a life of energy, passion, challenge and belief, a life of living and learning, her journey is quite inspirational.

My congratulations to all of our Australia Day Award recipients especially and most notably our:

Citizens of the Year

Coleambally - Paul Muir

Darlington Point - Robert Gumbelton

Jerilderie - Carina Rorato

The generous funding Council received enabled us to make all of these celebrations at no cost to the community, and bigger and better.

Councillors participated in a 2 day Strategic Planning Weekend in Albury at the beginning of February - this opportunity to sit and talk and think strategically is a necessary time that enables us to have the essential conversations that hopefully inform us and define clear direction for the year ahead.

Presentations by Council's Legal Advisor and our Planning Consultant gave us current updates on relevant issues on the table.

Council's Executive Team - Infrastructure and Planning Community & Development set out some priorities for the short and long term.

A very worthwhile couple of days.

We find ourselves in the midst of another Election Campaign - State.

The General Manager and I attended the LGNSW Regional and Rural Summit in Sydney on 20 February 2023, and the following day a Country Mayors Association Political Forum.

The priorities by all political aspirants are much the same - you need to remove the blame game from the rhetoric to come to this conclusion.

The approaches are different.

The Primary election issues centre around - roads, housing, health - workforce shortages, connectivity, education, energy, the environment/climate influences, costs of living, and the sustainability of Local Government and its place in the future.

2 worthwhile days.

RAMJO Board met last Thursday evening /Friday morning in Leeton.

RAMJO has a new Executive Officer, Yvonne Lingua.

Below are some of the meetings I have attended in the last 2 months

12 December 2022

ARIC Meeting Jerilderie
Penguin Public Speaking judging -St Joseph's Jerilderie
Finley High School Presentation Night

13 December 2022

Coleambally Central School Presentation Afternoon
St Joseph's Presentation Night Jerilderie

14 December 2022

Tikandi Inaburra Graduation Ceremony Coleambally
Coleambally Central School RFS Graduation Coleambally
Jerilderie Public School Presentation Night

15 December 2022

Breakfast announcement by Justin Clancy for Jerilderie Swim Club Jerilderie
Mayor, Councillors and Acting GM Garry Stoll met with Justin Clancy afterwards.

16 December 2022

Economic Development Meeting - Confidential - Mayor and Acting GM Garry Stoll
Resilience NSW Briefing - Southern NSW Recovery

19 December 2022

Luke Park - Shared Spaces funded project meeting and update, Jerilderie

21 December 2022

Mayor and Acting GM Garry Stoll Meeting Jerilderie

5 January 2023

Monash Dinner/100 Year Cenotaph Celebration Meeting Jerilderie

9 January 2023

Jerilderie Australia Day Committee Meeting Jerilderie

13 January 2023

Meeting with a Darlington Point Resident - Mayor and Garry Stoll Darlington Point

17-18 January 2023

RAMJO - EO pre interview discussions - Zoom
RAMJO - EO interviews Albury

24 January 2023

RAMJO - follow up face to face interview with preferred candidate

25 January 2023

Australia Day Ambassador Dinner - Punt Hotel Darlington Point
Ambassador, Councillors, Australia Day Award nominees and the Coleambally
and Darlington Point Australia Day Committees

26 January 2023

Australia Day Murrumbidgee Council
Breakfast- Coleambally
Lunch - Darlington Point
Evening - Jerilderie

31 January 2023

Coleambally Lake Committee Project Meeting Coleambally

1 February 2023

Country Education Fund Presentation Night Coleambally

2 February 2023

Mayor interview with Matt Beaver Jerilderie
Telling the Jerilderie part of the Ned Kelly Story

3-5 February 2023

Strategic Planning Workshop for Councillors/Council Executive Albury

6 February 2023

PAMPS Meeting Jerilderie
Tom Dimec, our Consultant and Jerilderie Ward Councillors
These meetings also took place in Coleambally and Darlington Point with Ward
Councillors

8 February 2023

Meeting with Bendigo Bank regional hierarchy in Coleambally
GM, Mayor and Deputy Mayor in attendance
JILL Meeting Jerilderie

14 February 2023

Council Workshop Darlington Point
Mayor attended via Blue Jeans

20-21 February 2023

LGNSW Regional and Rural Summit
Country Mayors Association Political Leaders Forum
Both held in Sydney

22 February 2023

MLHD - Council Health Update

23 February 2023

MLHD - LHAC Planning and Priority Setting - Jerilderie
RAMJO Board Dinner Leeton

24 February 2023
RAMJO Board Meeting Leeton

27 February 2023
ARIC Meeting Jerilderie

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. K. McRae". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Ruth McRae
MAYOR