

## MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting	27 February 2024
Report Date:	26 February 2024
Author:	Mayor
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Approval:	Mayor

Council, like everybody else, enjoyed some down time over the Christmas/New Year period - I hope everyone is suitably refreshed and ready for a very busy year ahead.

The weather has been challenging - finally some warm weather for the rice, coupled with some out of the box humidity. Our country has certainly dried off and the difference this year is the very obvious growth as opposed to howling winds and dust storms. The ever present heightened awareness around bushfires has us all on alert, and the unusual storm activity has us all scratching our heads. The ever present umbrella grass - hairy panic (or even the less politically correct terminology) is testing the patience of most of us.

Our Council footprint for renewable energy activity continues to have an obvious presence. It is a considerable challenge for our operational staff trying to keep abreast of this very movable space.

Since Council last met in December, we have had a few challenges. The Jerilderie Town Water Supply was compromised on 19 December 2023 - this put the town on a Boil Water Alert immediately. Council's operational staff were diligent and thorough and, in collaboration with NSW Health, kept our community well informed and normal water delivery was resumed on 24 December 2023.

In collaboration with Council, the NSW Government funded pool parties for all three communities during December and January. These social activities were really well supported by both local residents and visitors to our towns at this time.

On 16 January 2024 Council conducted its first Citizenship Ceremony for 2024. Murrumbidgee Council warmly welcomes Rosanna Tempest as our LGA's newest citizen - we wish Rosanna and her family the happiest of times as they live and work in Coleambally.

Council held an Extraordinary Meeting on 16 January 2024 to adopt the Audited Financial Statements.

Australia Day was a very full day across Murrumbidgee Council's LGA, with breakfast in Coleambally - Citizen of the Year Chris Gardener; lunch in Darlington Point - Citizen of the Year Troy Heath; and an evening event in Jerilderie - Citizen of the Year Joan Ferris. Council's Australia Day Ambassador John Harper brought a "salt of the earth" approach to his presentation. He was warmly welcomed and his message gladly received - his movement "Mate Helping Mate" is invaluable, readily accessible and so very necessary. Council was the recipient of funding that contributed towards the hosting of our 3 town events. Waddi Cultural Centre also facilitated a weaving and painting workshop on

Australia Day that was well attended and funded by the National Australia Day Council.

Council conducted its Annual Strategic Planning Weekend in Albury at the commencement of February. We sometimes become so immersed in what we do and its challenges that we don't take the time to acknowledge what we have achieved. This workshop is a timely opportunity to do this. Like all Local Government providers, we face significant financial challenges - our staff clearly outlined where we need to focus our attention and identified areas where we can make change. Having our road hierarchy assessment complete enables a maintenance plan to be referenced and prioritised - this is a big step forward. Continuing advocacy around the timely attention to our water supplies and filtration systems is at the top of our lists. Focus on completion of our many major projects is something Council is keen to see during 2024. The inclusion of a Grant Writer has certainly supported those in the organisation, with very many positive outcomes. A readable and informed presentation on depreciation was welcomed by all Councillors at the table. This is a very valuable team building exercise and I am sure that all who attended took something valuable away.

Below is list of meetings and events I have attended:

16 January 2024

- Citizenship Ceremony Rosanna Tempest in Jerilderie

16 January 2024

- Extraordinary Meeting of Council in Jerilderie

18 January 2024

- VIP Luncheon Barooga - signing of the Women in Golf Charter

26 January 2024

- Australia Day ceremonies/events across Murrumbidgee LGA

29 January 2024

- Meeting with CICAL CEO and Board Chair (and Council's General Manager) in Coleambally

31 January 2024

- Country Education Foundation for Coleambally/Darlington Point In Coleambally

1 February 2024

- Monash Statue Committee meeting in Jerilderie

2-4th February 2024

- Strategic Planning Workshop in Albury

19 February 2024

- Murrumbidgee Council and NSW Telco Authority (Teams Meeting)

20 February 2024

- Jerilderie Independent Living Limited Meeting, Jerilderie

22/23 February 2024

- RAMJO Dinner and Board Meeting in Albury

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, OAM

**MAYOR**