

## MAYORAL REPORT

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| Council Meeting | 23 May 2023 |
| Report Date:    | 22 May 2023 |
| Author:         | Mayor       |
| File #:         | SC217       |
| Approval:       | Mayor       |

And in the blink of an eye we are at the end of May.

The winter cold has arrived - the days had been warmer, but that has now disappeared.

With most of the sowing completed, rice is being harvested and cotton picking commencing.

The diverse and robust nature of where we live and what we produce never ceases to amaze.

Our hope that the required rain arrives and our agricultural economy, our key economic driver which underpins our rural communities, continues to thrive.

Our three communities had the opportunity to be part of our annual ANZAC Day Commemorative Services. In Jerilderie the community was able to be part of the ANZAC Day Dawn Service and the ANZAC Day March and service at 10.00am - with the commemoration of the centenary of the of the Cenotaph a highlight - we were honoured to be part of this very important commemoration and welcomed both our Federal Member for Farrer, the Hon Sussan Ley MP and State Member for Murray, Mrs Helen Dalton. Congratulations to RSL Sub Branch President Laurie Blackmore for his organisation on the day and prior to - it was lovely to see some of our Veterans return.

Both Coleambally and Darlington Point held their respective services which were well attended.

An invitation from Edify Energy to attend the Construction Celebration for the completion of the battery component of this solar project at Darlington Point was held on 4 May 2023. Both Sue Mitchell and I attended as representatives of Murrumbidgee Council.

The investment is huge, somewhere in the vicinity of \$230 million. To the lay person observing with keen interest but extremely limited technological understanding, it is hard to believe or comprehend the technicalities of the whole process, but impressive to say the least - interestingly the site for the battery storage did not flood in October - December 2022.

I was asked to receive the 2023 Debutantes at the Coleambally Catholic Ball on 6 May. This wonderful family night for the four debutantes, their partners and their families, speaks so very clearly to the value of small communities providing the village that nurtures and supports all of us from early childhood to our senior years. The Coleambally Parish do a great job facilitating this annual event. Congratulations to all concerned, and in particular the trainers Helen Kelly and Bill Morton.

On 9 May, Councillors and staff visited Wormtech at Carrathool - this waste receival business will be the site for our FOGO when our new waste strategy kicks in come 1 July 2023. It very clearly demonstrates the importance of sorting our waste properly.

The processes needed to break it all down and the end product be reusable at completion. Very impressive ( and very smelly !!!!!!!).

Council, is busily engaged - both operationally and Elected Members in getting our budget to the table. Council received a 3 hour presentation from our Chief Financial Officer, Kaitlin Salzke and senior executive staff on 9 May 2023 - additional fine tuning and further information will be available at Council's meetings.

This is a rigorous process that requires large amounts of information sharing, and I would like to thank the staff for their commitment in this space, preparing the appropriate information and communicating it as effective as they are doing to all of us.

Sally Bryant and Simon Wallace from ABC Riverina broadcast live from Brolga Place on the morning of 18 May - a 2 hour time frame allowed them to speak with many locals across many topics including - Local Government, local business, aged care, the arts, Lions Club, health access. It was a cool morning but a great opportunity.

I have attended many water related meetings, including 2 regional meetings of the Murray Darling Association, and a meeting with CICL.

I make note of the fact that Council helped facilitate workshops that occurred over the school holiday period, including skating and arts related activities - thank you to the organisers and those that helped run these activities on the days.

Friday 19 May saw the first of our seniors events for our Council area held in Jerilderie - the very popular theme for the day was Footy Fever. The event included morning tea and lunch.

Many activities had been organised, that saw much hilarity and great collaboration and funny outcomes - trivia, bingo, a handball competition, singing of club songs and a very interesting walk back in time by Ross Wells to his playing days at Wedderburn in Victoria.

A big thank you from the 65 attendees to Eden Hercus and Julie Conn for making this happen and thank you to Council for funding this event. We look forward to other events happening in Coleambally and Darlington Point.

Below are a list of meetings I have attended in the last month:

18 April 2023

YACTAC -Water related dinner with Professor Sue Jackson and CEWH Simon Banks  
Jerilderie

21 April 2023

RFS-MOU (Teams Meeting)  
Jerilderie

25 April 2023

ANZAC Day Services  
Commemoration of Jerilderie Cenotaph

27 April 2023

WRPP Meeting in Darlington Point - site visit Kararbery  
CICL Meeting - discussing NSWIC Campaign to address implications of water buybacks

1 May 2023

JILL- Residents' morning tea and feedback session  
Further JILL Board Meeting 10 May Jerilderie

3 May 2023

Rural Recovery Support Services  
Darlington Point

4 May 2023

Edify Energy - Construction celebration - battery completion  
Darlington Point

5 May 2023

MDA Meeting - Region 9  
Griffith

6 May 2023

Coleambally Catholic Debutante Ball  
Coleambally

9 May 2023

Site Visit to Wormtech  
Carrathool

Council Budget Workshop  
Darlington Point

11/12 May 2023

Meeting with RAMJO EO in Jerilderie  
RAMJO Board Dinner Finley  
RAMJO Board Meeting Tocumwal

12 May 2023

INVENTI Ensemble - Music in The Regions Performance  
Jerilderie

16 May 2023

Presentation from the NSW Reconstruction Authority (formerly Resilience  
NSW)  
Jerilderie

18 May 2023

ABC Riverina -open morning broadcast  
Coleambally

MDA Region 2 Meeting  
Corowa

19 May 2023

Jerilderie Seniors Event/Luncheon  
Jerilderie

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. K. McRae'.

Ruth McRae  
**MAYOR**