

## MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting	21 November 2023
Report Date:	20 November 2023
Author:	Mayor
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Approval:	Mayor

As we move so very quickly towards the end of the year, life seems to be busier than ever. Harvest is in full swing - it would appear that it is a good harvest. There is plenty of movement both on and off the road network. Please be careful as you travel our road, as large machinery, escort vehicles and roadworks is a challenging space.

Our kids are moving towards the end of the school year. Year 12 have completed their formal 13 year school education. I had the pleasure of attending the Coleambally Central School Year 12 Farewell Dinner on 16 November - a small number of 5, but a group who have done their very best, and they and their parents should be very proud of their achievements. The next 4 weeks sees many invitations to presentation evenings, which is a highlight for all involved.

11 November saw Remembrance Day Services conducted in our 3 communities - thank you to the Councillors who represented Council on the day. Thank you also to our Council staff for ensuring our cenotaphs and surrounds were looking their best for these services.

Water rallies are being held in Deniliquin, Leeton and Griffith tomorrow, demonstrating our communities and our wider region's concerns at the proposed water buybacks position and the removal of the neutrality lens that has, to date, had a small influence in determining the detrimental social and economic fallout attached to many of the initiatives the Murray Darling Basin Plan has brought forward. We have our Council meeting on this day but, through our many advocacy and stakeholder bodies, our representations will be made loud and clear.

I have had the privilege of attending the 3 project launches of the Intergenerational Stories facilitated by the Pretaurus Education Group:

- a) 3 Pioneers of Coleambally
- b) Growing up in The Point
- c) Jerilderie Intergenerational Stories

Acknowledging our own, and telling our stories across the generations, was heart-warming.

We are in the process of conducting our Welcome to New Residents BBQ's. We have a printed handbook that should make moving to our community that little bit easier. Of course the warmest welcome you can receive is the personal one.

I encourage you all to use our pristine pools – our lessees are doing a great job making them as inviting as possible. No doubt the really hot weather will be here soon.

The General Manager and I attended the LGNSW Conference in Sydney last week - it is an intense couple of days, with over 137 motions debated - the Minister for LG addressed us and made particular mention of the Elected Representatives and their need to be as engaged and informed as is possible, reinforcing the need for upskilling and continuing professional development in this space. In the coming week, the General Manager and I will travel to Sydney for the Annual General Meeting of the Country Mayors Association, and the following week, accompanied by the Director of infrastructure and Deputy Mayor, I will attend the Newell Highway Taskforce Committee Meeting at Parliament House in Canberra.

Council was very pleased to receive an award for our Waste to Art initiative - congratulations to the facilitators, the artists and Council staff for nominating this very positive waste story.

Below are a list of meetings/forums/conferences, I have attended in October/November:

25 October

Michelle Grogan Edify Energy - Remaining Funds Allocation of Monies

26 October

CICL AGM, Coleambally

RDA Riverina Meeting with CEO, Darlington Point

RAMJO - Tabling of General Purpose Financial Statements

27 October

Murray Darling Association Region 9 Meeting Griffith

31 October

Staff Recognition Ceremony Jerilderie

RAMJO Water Sub Committee Meeting

Jerilderie Independent Living Limited - AGM Jerilderie

2 November

Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council with Essential Energy Jerilderie

8 November

Energy Connect Update (Teams meeting)/DP

9 November

Celebration Event - 3 Pioneers of Coleambally Intergenerational Stories - The

Pretaurus Education Group – Coleambally

Traffic Committee Meeting Jerilderie

RAMJO Board Dinner Narrandera

10 November 2023

RAMJO Board Meeting Narrandera

12-14 November 2023

LGNSW Conference Rosehill Sydney

15 November 2023

Celebration Event - Growing up in the Point Podcast - The Pretaurus Education Group – Darlington Point

16 November 2023

Celebration Event – Jerilderie Intergenerational Stories - The Pretaurus Education Group – Jerilderie

Sturt Group of CWA Meeting

Jerilderie New Residents Welcome BBQ Darlington Point

Coleambally Central School Year 12 Farewell Dinner Coleambally

20 November 2023

ARIC Meeting Jerilderie

Busy times, stay safe

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

Ruth McRae, OAM

**MAYOR**