

MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting	22 August 2023
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August has been busy.

We have attended many meetings across a wide range of issues.

Over the last 10 days, there have been many commemorative services in recognition of those that paid the ultimate sacrifice during their engagement in the Vietnam War. Having attended a Vietnam Veteran's Commemorative Service for Peter McDuff in Darlington Point, the reality of the lack of formal recognition was profound.

50 years is a long time for those that are left behind to hear the words "thank you for your service". I then attended, in Griffith, a Vietnam 50 Years Service facilitated by Griffith City Council and the Griffith RSL. An overview presented by Peter Cosgrove with reference to those that have lived the experience, followed by a livestream of the formal Commemorative Ceremony at the War Memorial in Canberra, was moving and so overdue. Having paid the ultimate sacrifice, over 500 young Australians needed their selfless contribution formally recognised. But to the tens of thousands that served and returned and have struggled for any form of recognition, we say "thank you for your service" - our freedom and way of life has been enabled by your selfless contribution. As Keith Payne so passionately declared "please recognise that PTSD is an injury of war" - our Veterans deserve no less.

I had the very great pleasure of attending the official opening of the Waddi Cultural Centre in Darlington Point on 9 August 2023. This collaborative project between the NSW Government and Murrumbidgee Council has seen the realisation of an Indigenous Centre of Art, Culture and History brought to life in magnificent colour created by Allen McKenzie.

The Ceremony, the Smoking Welcome, the cultural dance, storytelling and the official proceedings all added to the significance of this day. Maria Williams, the Chair of the Waddi Corporation, welcomed all. Member for Murray Helen Dalton was in attendance and helped to officially open the new centre with Debbie Callaway. Every project needs a champion and Tamileigh Chirgwin was this 'projects passionate' and tireless driver - there were many challenges but the end result is proof that it can be done. The community of Darlington Point thank you for making this happen.

On 26 July I attended the Emery RFS AGM at Emery Fire Shed. The meeting was significant, as it recognised 33 years of loyal commitment by Ken Brain to the community in his involvement with the RFS many of which were served as Fire Captain. Ken is an example of "if you find a very busy person, you will find

somebody who is willing to give even more". The community and the region thank you for your dedication to the task of helping to keep us safe and fire prepared. We wish Julia O'Connell every success as she now assumes the role of Fire Captain at Emery.

Council, is in receipt of its new garbage truck - not only does it look the goods, it is doing a great job adding to Council's initiative to make our waste stream the best it can be. The Coleambally Vintage Rally Committee facilitated a great weekend of activities and experiences on the weekend of 12 and 13 August - this biennial event attracts many visitors to our town and their visitation is valued. Our thanks to this small, but hardworking, committee for continuing to host this event and cater to this very interested group.

This time of year finds us - luckily - engaged in finals series across AFL/Netball and League. To all those competing, the very best of luck. I would like to recognise Council's workforce in making sure our sporting grounds and surrounds are presented in such a great manner.

Murrumbidgee LGA welcomed three new Australian Citizens at a Ceremony conducted in Jerilderie on 15 August. Conferees were Kevin Moran, Jackie-Ann Molloy and Liza Hore, were warmly welcomed by myself, Member for Murray Helen Dalton and family and friends.

The Jerilderie MPS is experiencing ongoing RN staffing shortages - short term RN placements are in place, but are just that - short term. Many conversations are being had in an attempt to address this with a greater level of certainty, but it is extremely challenging - as is all health and aged care related engagements.

The General Manager, Deputy Mayor and I have travelled many kilometres this month attending meetings across a multitude of issues. Included in this are the Newell Highway Taskforce Committee in Dubbo, the RAMJO Board Dinner and Meeting in Moama, the RAMJO/Murrumbidgee Health Knowledge Precinct Meeting in Albury, the Albury Wodonga Health Advocacy Meeting - Single Site Development Meeting in Wodonga, MDA water meeting in Griffith. Other meetings attended in July/August are:

26 July 2023

Emery RFS AGM (Coleambally)

27 July 2023

UHA Hospital/MPS AGM (Jerilderie)

Country Mayors Meeting - Senator Fiona Nash - Regional Education Focus Report (via Zoom)

28 July 2023

MDA Meeting

Griffith - preparation for National MDA Conference in Murray Bridge

1 August 2023

RAMJO Meeting (via Zoom)

Water Sub Committee - review of Water Paper

3 August 2023

Vietnam Veterans' Commemorative Service for Peter McDuff (Darlington Point)

7/8 August 2023

Newell Highway Taskforce Committee Meeting Dubbo)

9 August 2023

Waddi Cultural Centre Opening (Darlington Point)

Presentation by students from St Joseph's Jerilderie - identified town projects

10 August 2023

RAMJO Board Dinner (Moama)

11 August 2023

RAMJO Meeting (Moama)

15 August 2023

Citizenship Ceremony (Jerilderie)

Meeting with Helen Dalton - Member for Murray(Jerilderie)

JELC Meeting (Jerilderie)

LHAC Meeting (Jerilderie)

16 August 2023

RAMJO/Murrumbidgee Health - Health Knowledge Precinct Meeting (Albury)

Albury Wodonga Health Advocacy Meeting - Single Site Push (Wodonga)

17 August 2023

Kidman Way Promotional Committee Meeting - Blue Jeans

18 August 2023

Griffith City/Griffith RSL Vietnam Veterans Morning Tea and Commemoration -

Livestream (Griffith)



Ruth McRae, OAM

MAYOR