



# Murrumbidgee

## COUNCIL *Community Newsletter*

 **AUTUMN 2024**

## Message from the Mayor

Welcome to our autumn community newsletter.

**Improving our road network continues as a high priority, with the recent spate of accidents on the Sturt Highway a cause for alarm. We are currently working with surrounding councils to establish a Sturt Highway Taskforce to implement a range of approaches to increase safety.**

Our council footprint for renewable energy activity continues to have an obvious presence and it is a considerable challenge for us to keep abreast of this very movable space.

Recent council events for businesses and the community have been well attended. This includes the Women in Rice tour and networking event held in collaboration with Ricegrowers' Association of Australia as part of NSW Women's Week.

The Business Support Session in Jerilderie, which was supported by many agencies and organisations. The pool parties over the summer holidays also had a great turn out in all three communities. Thank you to the NSW Government for funding all of these events.

At our first Citizenship Ceremony for 2024, we warmly welcomed Rosanna Tempest as our LGA's newest citizen. I wish Rosanna and her family the happiest of times as they live and work in Coleambally.

Thank you to everyone who applied for our annual round of community grants and scholarships. The successful recipients will be announced this month.

In closing, I would like to highlight that we have local government elections coming up on 14 September 2024. With this year marking my 20th year as a councillor, I can assure you it is an absolute privilege to represent the community and area. If you have an interest in how our council area develops and progresses into the future, I encourage you to consider running as a candidate. You can find out more on the NSW Electoral Commission website.

Regards, Ruth McRae OAM

*R. K. McRae*



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### The swimming season is coming to an end!

The pools at Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie will close for the winter recess on 21 April 2024. It caps off another great season where the community has enjoyed the free access to the pool and the events held. Thank you to the lessees for your great work!



## Save the date

**2024 NSW Local Government elections**

Saturday, 14 September

Voting is compulsory

Visit [elections.nsw.gov.au/lge24](https://elections.nsw.gov.au/lge24) or call 1300 135 736



# The end of an era

**Earlier this year, Pooginook Merino personalities John Sutherland and Pat Brown bid farewell to the stud.**

Pat has retired after 33 years of dedicated service to Pooginook and the merino industry. He and wife Pauline and family had moved from Western Australia to take up the Sales Manager role at for C R Taylor and Sons at Pooginook in January 1991.

John and his wife Anthea moved to Pooginook in 2010 when John was appointed as the manager. Under his

leadership, Pooginook responded to commercial demand by transitioning to poll genetics. They also introduced mules free and used DNA to provide accurate quality data to ram buyers.

John is moving on from Pooginook to set up his own advisory business named Sheep Sense Pty Ltd. Through his business, he will be transitioning to provide assistance to the Australian sheep and wool industry.

We wish them and their families all the best in their new endeavours!



*(L-R) The end of an era, with John Sutherland and Pat Brown both moving on from Pooginook Merino and Poll Stud.*

## Monthly support service at Waddi Cultural Centre

**Available the 1st Wednesday of each month from 10 am to 1 pm at the Waddi Cultural Centre, Carrington Street, Darlington Point.**

Agencies on hand include Revenue NSW, Legal Aid, Services Australia, Transport for NSW, Aboriginal Legal Service, Services NSW, and Births, Deaths & Marriages. Help is available for these things and more:

- ID and proof of age cards
- Travel concessions
- Centrelink benefits and concessions
- Obtaining a birth certificate
- Legal help

**For more information:**  
**Janaya Carney at**  
[outreachrevenue.nsw.gov.au](http://outreachrevenue.nsw.gov.au)

## Recognition of the Mayor in parliament

Earlier this year, the hard work and dedication of Mayor Ruth McRae was recognised in the NSW Parliament with a Community Recognition Statement.

Member for Murray Helen Dalton MP used the statement to pay tribute to the Mayor's Order of Australia medal for dedication to local government and the community, along with other achievements. In March, Mrs Dalton presented Cr McRae with a certificate to mark the parliamentary address.

## Active and creative kids vouchers

Give your kids the freedom to move, play and create.

Check eligibility and apply for your Active or Creative Kids \$50 voucher today.

**Find out more at**  
[service.nsw.gov.au](http://service.nsw.gov.au)





# Projects in progress

Here's an update on the major capital works taking place across the council area.

## Brolga Place Upgrade, Coleambally

We received 145 responses to the community survey on street furniture. We are now finalising the procurement plan to integrate community feedback with the project's budget.



## Civic Hall Extension, Jerilderie

The building is taking shape with all formation brickwork, the steel structure, ramps and concrete floor in place.

## Young Street Subdivision, Darlington Point

Kerb and guttering is underway. Once this is complete, the council team will be constructing the road network throughout the subdivision. Quotations have been received for the sewer rising main and the new water main.

## Netball Change Room Monash Oval, Jerilderie

The framework is complete and bricklaying is in progress.

## Flood restoration works on our road network

Stage 1 of this program is continuing with road crews currently repairing the extensive damage to our gravel road network. Stage 2 will involve restoration of the sealed road network.

## Road resealing programs

Currently underway across the council road network.

## Bob notches up a half-century with local government

**Bob Adamson began his career as a mail clerk at Jerilderie Shire Council in 1974. At that time, the office was very different from what it is now.**

All documents were handwritten or prepared manually on unsophisticated equipment. Typewriters were used to prepare typed documents and a large manual calculator was used to perform calculations. Transactions were recorded in a big handwritten ledger book. Computers were non-existent!

Bob remembers there were about 8 people working in the office at the time, covering all of the council's services. He comments, "We were all multi-skilled!" We had 3 typists who typed everything, even all the rates notices, which were prepared in duplicate so council could keep a copy.

Bob said, "In 1979, we finally got a state-of-the-art NCR499 data processing system,". The machine operated with magnetic cassettes for storage and magnetic ledger cards. It only had the capacity to process content for one job at a time. Bob was the Assistant Operator of the NCR499

so worked on the system whenever the main operator was away.

Over the years, Bob worked in a variety of different roles, including creditors and stores, before moving to rates in the mid-1980s. For Bob, the most valuable part of his 50 years with the council has been working for the community in which he is a part of.

As Bob transitions to retirement, he has an exciting overseas trip coming up. His racehorses also keep him busy, with a new 3-year-old filly in training and his beloved Zarsupreme still performing well despite approaching the end of his racing career. Bruce, as Bob affectionately calls him, has won 8 races during his impressive career.





## Career workshop showcasing jobs in Murrumbidgee

Local businesses have jumped on board the Coleambally Careers Workshop that is coming up on **Thursday 27 June 2024 at the Coleambally Community Club.**

The event, being organised by Coleambally Irrigation and Coleambally Central School's P&C, aims at providing students with the information about employment opportunities in our region. It will also give businesses a chance to showcase their positions, apprenticeships and career opportunities.

Any businesses within our council area who would like to participate can contact Alison Hayes (Coleambally Irrigation) on 02 6954 4003 or Catherine DeMamiel (P&C) on 0408 020 873.

# Women in rice celebrated for NSW Women's Week

Over 30 women celebrated women in rice in Coleambally as part of NSW Women's Week. The ladies came from Wagga Wagga, Narrandera, Murrumbidgee, Benerembah, Jerilderie, Griffith and Coleambally.

Participants received a guided tour from Maddy Dunbar of the family rice farm and a tour of the Walsh Rice Shed. Over a networking lunch, they heard from The Hon Sussan Ley MP, and then received advice and tips from the panel

of speakers, which comprised Denise Kelly, Michele Groat, Emma Finemore and Melissa De Bortoli.

Thank you to the Ricegrowers' Association for their partnership in hosting the event, Australian Grain Storage for a tour of the Walsh Rice Shed, Maddy Dunbar for hosting the tour of her rice farm, our guest speakers and the NSW Government for supporting the Women in Rice Coleambally Networking event.



## Have you considered becoming a councillor?

**If you have a strong desire to make a positive impact on your local community, becoming a councillor might be the perfect opportunity for you. With the local government elections coming up on 14 September this year, there's no better time than now to give it a shot.**

As the level of government closest to the community, local councils are vital in providing essential infrastructure, facilities and services to residents, and building strong and connected communities.

As a councillor, you will have the opportunity to represent the needs, wants and aspirations of your local community, and make important decisions that can positively impact their lives.

Regardless of your background or formal qualifications, you have the potential to make a meaningful difference in your community. Having a diverse range of people on council is important so that there is a range of voices that reflect the communities they serve.

If you are interested in becoming a councillor, make contact with any of the existing councillors (their contact details are on the back of this newsletter) or reach out to the Office of Local Government for more information on 02 4428 4100 or [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au).

The NSW Electoral Commission website ([www.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au)) also provides lots of information on registering, nominating, managing election campaign finances, voting and other election processes.



# What's on in the Murrumbidgee

## Anzac Day arrangements 25 April 2024



**Dawn Service - Coleambally**  
5:45 for a 6:00 am start  
John McInnes Square

**Dawn Service - Jerilderie**  
6:00 am at Jerilderie Cenotaph,  
followed by a light breakfast  
provided by the RSL in the Ian  
Gilbert Room of the Civic Hall  
(free of charge)

**March - Jerilderie**  
Meet near the pharmacy at  
9:45 am to walk to the cenotaph  
(10:00 am service)

**March - Darlington Point**  
Meet at the Post Office at  
10:45 am to walk to the cenotaph  
(11:00 am service)



## Jerilderie Holiday Youth Program

22-24 April 2024  
Jerilderie Racecourse

\$10 per day.

For young people in years  
kindergarten to year 12.  
Includes sports, cooking, art and  
craft, live band, bible stories, guitar  
workshops, piano workshops,  
canoeing and much more!

**Contact:** 0491 183 557  
Facilitated by Jerilderie Uniting  
Church.

Check out What's On in our Council  
area by visiting our website:  
[www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au).  
If you'd like your event added, send  
an email to Tourism and Events  
Officer, Eden Hercus at  
[edenh@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](mailto:edenh@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)



## Autumn Youth Activities

April 15

**Read the Play  
Jerilderie**

April 17

**Youth Week Paintball  
Bus trip to Wagga**

April 22

**Read the Play  
Coleambally**

April 24

**Youth Roller Disco  
Darlington Point**

Youth Week



Scan for more

## Talented quartet to play at Coleambally

Tuesday 23 April, 11:30am  
Renowned string ensemble, Acacia  
Quartet, will be performing at Kerri  
Weymouth Art Gallery & Studio in  
Brolga Place, Coleambally.

Entry: Free

Acacia is in high demand both in  
Australia and throughout the world.

They have recorded 12 albums  
and are known for their versatile  
and inventive programs, featuring  
Australia's leading composers. Their  
engagements include the Sydney  
Opera House, City Recital Hall  
Sydney, Melbourne Recital Hall, as  
well as throughout regional NSW and  
Victoria. They have also played in  
Canada and Europe.





## Sort FOGO right every time

Every month, we receive a report from Wormtech, the company that accepts our food and garden organic (FOGO) waste.

The report includes statistics for the month regarding the amount of waste, level of contamination, and types of contaminants. Contaminants are items that cannot be accepted by organic composting companies.

There are strict guidelines about what can be accepted by composting companies. The need for this was highlighted recently when a Sydney resource recovery firm supplied asbestos-contaminated mulch that was then used in public places.

At the micro level, we all have an essential role to play in ensuring we put the correct items in the green-lid FOGO bin.

### Here is a snapshot of the audit of our FOGO waste for February:

- Total mass of FOGO delivered for February: 28.44 tonnes
- Percentage contamination: 4.5%
- Types of contaminants: hard and soft plastics, bags of general garbage

The good news is that the contamination rate of 4.5% is very good, particularly when considering that we are new to the FOGO system. However, the contaminants have been the same for every month since we introduced the service.

To improve the contamination rate, we can take the following steps:

- Put hard plastics in the yellow-lid recycling bin if they have the numbers 1, 2, and 5 in the recycling triangle stamped on them. All other hard plastics should go in the red-lid garbage bin.
- Put general garbage waste in the red-lid garbage bin. If your red-lid garbage bin is full, consider checking if there are items that could go in either FOGO or recycling. Check the flyer we sent to all households or the website for information on what can and can't go in each of your bins.





# Community round up

## Jerilderie APEX club putting the hard yards in

Shout out to the members of Jerilderie APEX! The 20th Jerilderie Working Dog Auction was held in February and was very successful. Sixty two dogs were sold with the top dog fetching \$16,000. The club uses the annual event as a fundraiser.

Club members have also been working hard to restore the Jerilderie APEX mini-rail following the flood damage that occurred in 2023. The popular activity was up and running for the Australia Day celebrations. The club hopes to eventually open one Sunday every month.

## All the fun of the fair

Jerilderie's Fun Fair in early March was a great event! The Fun Fair is coordinated and managed by a group of dedicated parent volunteers from St Joseph's Jerilderie Primary School. The funds raised support the children at St Joseph's Jerilderie Primary school, by funding resources, excursions and more.

The next fun fair will be held on Saturday 1 March 2025.

## Riverina Classic Catch and Release Fishing Competition

Congratulations to the organising committee for another highly successful event, held from 9-11 February in Darlington Point. A total of 817 entrants took part, with 1,300 catches over the three day event. Rural Outreach Counselling benefited from a \$20,000 donation. In excess of \$200,000 has been raised for local charities since the event started in 2014. As a catch and release event, the committee also has a strong environmental focus with about 5,000 fingerlings released into the Murrumbidgee River this year.

If you would like the great work your community organisation is doing to be promoted in our newsletter, please send your content to [mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au) and mark it "Community Newsletter".

## Community Bank celebrates 25 years

Community Bank Coleambally recently celebrated its 25th anniversary of serving the Coleambally community. The bank was established on 5 March 1999, and has been offering commercial and retail banking services ever since. Additionally, the bank has generously donated over \$1.8 million back to the community over the years.

## Care for children before and after school

Are you looking for care for your school aged children in Coleambally? Thrive OSHC in Coleambally is offering before and after school care, as well as vacation care. Everyone is welcome to use the service, which operates from Coleambally Central School. Transport is available for St Peter's students.

Contact Becky Fraser for more details: [coleambally@thriveoshc.com.au](mailto:coleambally@thriveoshc.com.au)

## Storytime visit a special treat for children

Fridays are special for the children at Jerilderie Early Learning Centre (ELC) as they venture down to Jerilderie Library for storytime. Director Abbey Hillier said the children have really enjoyed the regular excursion to storytime. Reading has many benefits in developing concentration, social and communications skills, as well as imagination and creativity. It is wonderful we have the opportunity to carry out this important activity and incorporate an excursion with it".

If you would like to find out more about the ELC, call 03 5886 1770 or email [director@jelc.com.au](mailto:director@jelc.com.au).

## Riverina Outback Rally

Congratulations to the Riverina Outback Rally for another successful event! The event has just wrapped up, after starting in Darlington Point. Running since 2017, it has raised over \$3.18 million to support County Hope to make a lasting impact on country families with a child with cancer or other life-threatening illnesses and on the small communities along the way.





## Council meetings

Council meetings are held 11 times per year, known as 'ordinary meetings'. Councillors and senior staff attend these meetings with staff briefing councillors on matters to be considered.

The meetings are held alternately in Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie and the public is welcome to sit in the public gallery. Meetings are also live-streamed

on the Murrumbidgee Council Facebook page.

A Business Paper is published before each meeting, which contains the agenda and reports on each item to be discussed. This is available on our website.

After each meeting, a recording is made available on our website and on the Murrumbidgee Council YouTube page.

### Meetings start at 2 pm on these dates:

23 Apr	Coleambally Community Hall	23 Jul	Coleambally Community Hall
28 May	Jerilderie Chambers	27 Aug	Jerilderie Chambers
25 Jun	Darlington Point Chambers	30 Sep	Darlington Point Chambers

## Meet the General Manager



**John Scarce**  
General Manager  
Murrumbidgee Council

Is there a project, initiative or issue you would like to discuss?

### COLEAMBALLY

17 April  
15 and 29 May  
12 and 26 June  
from 1 pm to 4 pm

### DARLINGTON POINT

11 and 18 April  
16, 23 and 30 May  
6, 13, 20 and 27 June  
from 9 am to 4 pm



## Our Councillors

### Jerilderie Ward

**Councillor Ruth McRae (Mayor)**

T: 0428 861 767

E: ruthm@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

**Councillor Faith Bryce**

T: 0438 108 809

E: faithb@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

**Councillor Troy Mauger**

T: 0460 291 739

E: troym@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

### Murrumbidgee East Ward

**Councillor Robert Black (Deputy Mayor)**

T: 0428 696 102

E: robertb@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

**Councillor Christine Chirgwin**

T: 0467 544 724

E: christinec@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

**Councillor Tim Strachan**

T: 0428 544 441

E: tims@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

### Murrumbidgee Ward

**Councillor Robert Curphey**

T: 0448 629 502

E: robertc@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

**Councillor Gavin Gilbert**

T: 0439 255 448

E: gaving@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

**Councillor Judy Saxvik**

T: 0427 684 114

E: judiths@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

## CONTACTING MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL

**T: 1300 MRMBGE (676 243)** This number will direct you to your closest office.

E: mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au **Postal Address:** PO Box 5 Darlington Point NSW 2706 [www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)

### Coleambally Office

39 Brolga Place  
Coleambally NSW 2707  
Office hours: 9.00 am - 12.00 pm -  
1.00 pm - 5.00 pm  
**After hours emergencies only**  
T: 0417 827 216

### Darlington Point Office

21 Carrington Street  
Darlington Point NSW 2706  
Office hours: 8.30 am - 5.00 pm  
**After hours emergencies only**  
T: 0427 684 166  
Banking is available 9.00 am -  
12 pm and 1.00 - 4.30 pm

### Jerilderie Office

35 Jerilderie Street,  
Jerilderie NSW 2716  
Office hours: 8.30 am - 12.00 pm -  
1.00 pm - 5.00 pm  
**After hours emergencies only**  
T: 0428 579 095  
Banking is available 9.00 am -  
12 pm and 1.00 - 4.30 pm

