



# Murrumbidgee COUNCIL

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Message from the Mayor



The year is flying by and we're already into autumn!

Our region has received significant rain and the country and

our waterways have been replenished. A bountiful harvest was a very welcome reward in a year that had been seriously challenging.

Our small businesses continue to press on with resilience and optimism, and it is my hope that we are supporting them as best we can and that the new normal will provide us with a sustainable way forward.

Council has some major infrastructure projects on the go, including Bencubbin Avenue, Coleambally Sporting Precinct, Broлга Place, Jerilderie Long Day Care Facility, Young Street Subdivision, Wiradjuri Walk Shared Spaces Project and the Revitalisation Projects across our three towns. I thank Council staff for driving these projects.

The impact of these projects and the generational investment will serve us well into the future. Newly completed infrastructure projects have been well received, with the community joining Council at official opening ceremonies.

It's very pleasing to be able to host community events again, with the community also supportive of these. Our Youth Week events, such as the Autumn Festival and the Colour

Runs have seen good attendance. As too, have the Women in Business Networking Event, Curatorial Crash Course and National Portrait Gallery Curator and Artist Talk.

Thank you to Council staff and community members who have assisted with and attended these events. It's great to see more and more events being promoted by local hotels and community groups and I encourage you to get along and support these.

Water, as always, is a focus of our advocacy work at Council. Community consultation for the Yanco Creek SDLAM Modernisation Projects has been held, with the draft business case scheduled for delivery in October 2021.

*continued page 2*



*The emu family is a gorgeous addition to Kingfisher Avenue in Coleambally. The emus and the other animals featured as street art in Coleambally are proudly made locally by John Pound.*

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# Stunning new artwork at Jerilderie

One of the positive things to eventuate from the drought was the \$2 million worth of funding injected into our community by the Australian Government. It was used to support local enhancement projects, with the new mural at Jerilderie Swimming Pool the latest in a long line of projects across the Council area.

The project saw the transformation of the external wall at Jerilderie Swimming Pool into a vibrant and colourful mural.

Created by Matt Thompson from MT Design, this amazing piece of art celebrates the unique flora and fauna found in the area, most notably the

Grey Crowned Babbler and the Darling Pea.

Other works to be undertaken as part of this round of funding have focused on revitalising our towns through other street art projects and signage.

Rustic animal sculptures, storyboards and signage can be seen throughout the area. Wherever possible, Council has used local contractors to undertake the work which has meant a further injection of funding into the local economy.

Other work includes enhancements at our swimming pools, improved lighting, landscaping and planter boxes.

Work in the first round of funding focused on footpath improvements, kerb and guttering, shade structures, fencing, tree/bin guards and seating.

It was also used to host or support a great range of community events. These events provided an important social outlet and support mechanism across our area.

The funding has also been used to employ Drought Support Officer Samantha Star.



Part of the new mural on the external wall of the Jerilderie Swimming Pool. Another project Council has undertaken through the Australian Government Drought Communities Programme.

## Mayoral Message continued

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the recent retirement of long standing staff member Greg Purcell. Greg served Council and the community for close to 49 years, which is a remarkable record. On behalf of all at Council, I thank Greg for his commitment to Council and wish him all the best for the future.

I would also like to welcome Tom Dimec who joined Council earlier in the year as the new Director of Infrastructure.

As always, I ask that you continue to practice COVID safety.

Ruth McRae, Mayor

## Electric Vehicle Fast Charger in Jerilderie



Drivers of electric vehicles have been stopping in Jerilderie to recharge at the new fast charger in the town's centre.

*Pictured at the new fast charger (L-R) Cr Faith Bryce, Council's Director Infrastructure Tom Dimec, Council's A/g Operations Manager Justin Williams, Cr Ruth McRae and Cr Gaila Smith.*



# New infrastructure opened across the Council area

The community has joined with Council to celebrate the official openings of a number of new facilities.

The most recent was the opening ceremony for the Junior Change Room facilities at the Coleambally Sports Precinct. The opening coincided with home games for both seniors and juniors and it was wonderful that so many players and supporters were present.

The facilities were funded by a \$443,000 grant from the NSW Government. They were designed by architect Steven Murray and constructed by Kennedy Builders.

Works are currently underway on Stage 2 of the Sports Precinct redevelopment.

In Darlington Point, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier Steph Cooke represented the Government at two major infrastructure project openings: the \$580,712 display centre and amenities at Lions Park, which proudly showcases The Dennis historic

firefighting unit, and the new \$1.2 million boat ramp and floating pontoon on the Murrumbidgee River. Member for Murray Helen Dalton MP was also present.

In Jerilderie, an official ceremony marked the completion of several projects, namely the \$1.94 million Jerilderie Swimming Pool, the \$225,000 studio addition at the Jerilderie Sports Stadium and the new roof and amenities block at the Showground, totalling nearly \$380,000. The NSW Government supported the projects, with Member for Albury Justin Clancy present.

Good news for locals and visitors to Bundure, with Telstra switching on the new mobile base station,

helping to provide new and improved 4G mobile network coverage along the Kidman Way and more consistent data speeds for rural residents and visitors.



*At Jerilderie Sports Stadium studio addition opening (L-R) Ben Nash, Cr Gaila Smith, Kennedy Builders Andrew Kennedy, Member for Albury Justin Clancy MP, Kennedy Builders Andrea McDonald, Cr Faith Bryce and Cr Pat Brown.*



*At the opening of the Lions Park Display Centre and Amenities (L-R) Mayor Ruth McRae, Darlington Point Public School Captains and Vice Captains Zane Lyons, Jed Strachan, Starlett Norris, Armani Coe, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier Steph Cooke, Project Manager Ben Nash and Architect Steven Murray.*



*Pictured at the Bundure tower (L-R) Captain Murrumbidgee Rural Fire District and Mid Murray Zone Andrew Browning, Cr Gaila Smith, Telstra Regional General Manager for Southern NSW Chris Taylor, Cr Ruth McRae, Cr Pat Brown and Council's General Manager John Scarce.*



## Carmen hangs up the stopwatch!



Jerilderie's young swimmers have reaped the benefits from the guidance of Jerilderie Swimming Club instructor Carmen Lawton over the last ten years.

Carmen has decided to hang up the stopwatch after countless hours at the pool. In that time, she has not only had a major impact on improving the swimming techniques of the young swimmers, but has also had a profound influence on their positivity, attitude and respect for others.

Thank you Carmen for your dedication and commitment as a volunteer. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

*Carmen, pictured with her son Evan and the lovely gifts she received from the Swimming Club.*

## Pool season closes

A very big thank you to all three communities and the many out of towners who supported the pools throughout the 2020-21 swimming season!

Council is very proud that each of our pools are accessible to one and all through free pool entry.

Thanks to our Pool Managers who did an amazing job:

- ✦ Fiona and Peter Clarke at Coleambally
- ✦ Rebecca Norris at Darlington Point, and
- ✦ Paige Nash at Jerilderie.

The pools will reopen in November.

## Thanks to our firies!

Our Mayor, Cr Ruth McRae, had the pleasure of attending the RFS NSW Bushfire Emergency Citations Presentation recently.

She presented citations on behalf of the NSW Premier to recognise the outstanding contribution of volunteers and service agency personnel during the bushfire emergency response effort.

Congratulations to Stephen Lockhart (pictured) and to Catherine, Perry and Thomas Hardy.

On behalf of the community, Council thanks each of you for your efforts during the bushfires and for your dedication and commitment to our community each and every day.



*Pictured (L-R) Acting Area Commander Superintendent Paul Jones, Cr Ruth McRae, Stephen Lockhart and Mid Murray Zone District Manager Tony Whitehorn.*

## Baiting program

Murray Local Land Services have laid 1080 fox baits in Jerilderie Racecourse TSR until 28 May 2021 as part of the Autumn fox baiting program. Please be careful and muzzle your dogs if entering the reserve and keep your dogs restrained or muzzled if you live nearby. More information: Jerilderie office of Murray LLS on 03 5886 2100.

## Scholarship for Josie

This year's recipient of the Murrumbidgee Council Charles Sturt University Scholarship is Josie Moore. Josie is studying her first year of a Bachelor of Nursing degree. Great work Josie and all the best with your studies!

# Are you putting your hand up to run for Council?

Are you passionate about what happens in our community? Would you like to work with others to enhance our three towns? Do you have the time? If you've answered yes to these questions, then why not consider running for Council in the upcoming Local Government elections to be held on Saturday 4 September 2021.

## A councillor's role includes:

- ✦ attending council meetings once per month.
- ✦ reading council business papers and preparing for council meetings.
- ✦ reviewing council's strategic plans, policies and budget on a regular basis to check progress is on target.
- ✦ speaking to members of the community about their needs and concerns.

Other activities include:

- ✦ taking part in special council committees, such as local traffic or planning committees.
- ✦ inspecting progress on council projects like road works or new buildings.
- ✦ being aware of problems with council assets that need to be reported.
- ✦ participating in civic events and representing council at events.

Councillors are not involved in the day-to-day running of the council. That is the role of the general manager.

## Important dates

Monday 26 July 2021 - Lodgement of nominations open. The roll closes for the purpose of being a candidate, nominator and for roll printing (6 pm).

Tuesday 27 July - Lodgement of postal vote applications open.

Wednesday 4 August - Close of nominations and registration for candidates. Registration of electoral materials open.

Thursday 5 August, 10 am - Conduct of ballot paper draw.

Monday 23 August - Pre-poll voting opens.

Friday 27 August, 5 pm - Close of registration of electoral material. Close of registration for third-party campaigners.

Friday 3 September - Close of pre-poll voting period.

Saturday 4 September - Election day (8 am - 6 pm).

More information, including if you are enrolled to vote, is available on the NSW Electoral Commission website.

## Council meetings

Council's monthly meetings commence at 1.00 pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month, excluding meetings in December and January.

Upcoming dates are:

- 25 May 2021 - Jerilderie
- 22 June 2021 - Darlington Point
- 27 July 2021 - Jerilderie
- 24 August 2021 - Darlington Point
- 28 September 2021 - Jerilderie

Council meetings are live-streamed to the Murrumbidgee Council Facebook page. An audio or video recording is available on Council's website following each meeting.

## Could your property be found in an emergency?



Is your rural property number clearly visible so that emergency services can find you?

Check yours today and contact Council if it needs replacing.

T: 1300 676 243 E: [mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)



## Fresh new artwork pops up in the area

Fresh new artworks and sculptural pieces are popping up throughout Coleambally, Jerilderie and Darlington Point, as part of Council's vision to showcase the unique aspects of each of the three towns.

Murrumbidgee Council Mayor Ruth McRae said the enhancements all build on our diverse range of natural and built attractions, which all contribute to making our area such an interesting place to live and visit.

This includes new sculptural entrance statements. The statements are just one part of the Wiradjuri Walk project, funded with a \$460,000 grant through the NSW Government's Shared Spaces Program. The projects aims to activate public spaces by encouraging walking and cycling, particularly through public art.

Cr McRae said as the name suggests, the Wiradjuri Walk project celebrates Aboriginal culture, which was one of the main guidelines for the project.

Murrumbidgee Council's Planning and Environment Manager Kelly Tyson

said the Wiradjuri Walk project pays homage to the area's history and also builds a stronger connection between the Murrumbidgee River, Fig Tree Park and the business district.

"Residents and visitors will already have seen a vast changes in Fig Tree Park, with the old fence replaced, new ochre red footpaths, improved parking, and screening around the unsightly vent at the entrance to the park. This screen will also have colourful artwork added, which has been prepared by the Waddi art group," she said.

Mrs Tyson commented the best of the artistic elements are yet to come, with two striking murals prepared by local artist Kerri Weymouth in partnership with regional artist, Bohie Palacek to be located in the Park precinct.

Also part of the project, are historical photos, interpretive signs telling the history of the area, rendering of the toilet block, resealing of Stock Street, new bins, seating and street banners.

The Wiradjuri Walk project will be completed in September this year.



The entrance statements which can be found in all three towns feature the corporate colours of Council, each symbolising the elements of our community.

## Jerilderie Raw Water Restrictions

Times for Raw Water Restrictions have changed in line with daylight savings ending. They are now as follows (effective until Sunday 3 October 2021 at 2.00 am):

**Residential** – 7 am to 11 am and 4 pm to 7 pm daily (automated sprinklers or sprinklers with timers set to no more than 120 minutes or hand held).

**Commercial** (including Council) – 11 pm to 7 am daily (automated sprinklers only); 7 am to 9 am daily (sprinklers with timers set to no more than 120 minutes or hand held).

Residents with automated sprinkler systems must seek permission from Council if they wish to water outside the above times. Please call into the Jerilderie Office or telephone on 03 5886 1200.

Please check all automatic sprinkler systems to ensure that the correct amount of water is being delivered, and water isn't being wasted by running into the gutters. This may mean adjusting sprinkler heads or shortening watering times.

## Past relics

Do you know of a house or other structure that was once in the Darlington Point area? If so, Mona Finley would love to hear from you as she is hoping to map out the town as it was in earlier times. Contact Mona and let her know about these past relics - their location, who lived there? Was it demolished, burnt down, or just fell down? Maybe you even have a photo? T: 02 6968 4130, E: monafinley2@hotmail.com

## Applications for development go online

Residents and developers in our Council area have access to a streamlined application process through the NSW Planning Portal on Council's website.

Council's Planning and Environment Manager Kelly Tyson said while moving to online lodgement was a mandatory requirement of the NSW Government, it also has many benefits.

"Developers and residents are able to access planning services and information from anywhere at any time, rather than just during business hours, as has happened in the past," Mrs Tyson said.

"We are encouraging people to take advantage of our free pre lodgement advisory service.

"Anyone thinking of lodging an application can meet with staff, either in person or over the phone, and we can clearly outline the steps involved and all the documentation that is required.

"This speeds up the whole application process and avoids the need for us to seek additional information to support the application," she said.

To access the planning portal visit Council's website at [www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)



*Pictured (L-R) are Manager Planning and Environment Kelly Tyson and Technical Support Officer Heidi Bryce.*

## Mice ain't nice

The predicted mice plague has certainly lived up to expectations. Not only are these pesky pests filthy, but they can also spread harmful diseases so it's vitally important we take steps in our homes and businesses to control them.

### Some tips are:

- ✦ Seal up holes inside and outside the home or business to prevent entry by rodents.
- ✦ Trap rodents around the home and business to reduce the rodent population.
- ✦ Clean up rodent food sources and nesting sites.

### Be careful with baits

Mouse and rat baits are potentially deadly to animals that eat them. The baits are normally flavoured to make them attractive to rodents, which also attracts other animals to them. Dogs and cats who ingest rat baits may die.

If you are using baits, make sure they are always stored and used out of reach of children and other animals. Loose poison baits (pellets, meals) should not be used, instead the poison should be inside a bait station that cannot be accessed or opened by children and pets.

Take steps to avoid your dog gaining access to rat baits outside of your property by keeping them on a leash in areas where you know rat baits are present, and preventing them from eating rodents or carcasses.

Cats may be at risk of eating poisoned rodents due to their hunting behaviour. You can take steps to protect your cat, particularly if they are safely contained in your property.

## Looking for residential land?

Residential blocks in Stage 2 of the premium Wunnamurra Estate in Jerilderie are still available.

Just minutes walk from the Jerilderie CBD, the estate integrates beautifully into its surroundings. It is also just a stone's throw from Billabong Creek and Lake Jerilderie.

The development comprises 37 level, residential allotments, ranging from Billabong Creek views or quiet cul-de-sac blocks to lots adjacent to the rural lifestyle Stage III for future release.

All lots are fully serviced, including sewerage, drainage, underground power and a dual water supply. Additional services include underground electricity connections and sealed, kerbed and guttered streets. Blocks range in size from 900m<sup>2</sup> to 1500m<sup>2</sup>.

Full details of lot prices and sizes can be obtained from Council's Jerilderie office, telephone (03) 5886 1200 or email [mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au).

# Dine & Discover NSW vouchers

Have you applied for your Dine & Discover NSW vouchers?

The vouchers are designed to inject money into our dining and entertainment sectors after disruption to businesses during COVID. They are available to NSW residents aged 18, who can apply for 4 x \$25 vouchers, worth \$100 in total:

- ✦ 2 x \$25 Dine NSW Vouchers to be used for dining in at restaurants, cafés, bars, wineries, pubs or clubs.
- ✦ 2 x \$25 Discover NSW Vouchers to be used for entertainment and recreation, including cultural institutions, live music, and arts venues.

You can apply on the Service NSW App, online, by calling 137 788 or by visiting a Service NSW Centre.

The vouchers can be used at participating NSW businesses that are registered as COVID Safe. They can be used seven days a week, including public holidays and are valid to 30 June 2021.



# Our Councillors

## Jerilderie Ward



**Cr Ruth McRae (Mayor)**  
0428 861 767  
ruthm@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au



**Cr Faith Bryce**  
0438 108 803  
faithb@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au



**Cr Gaila Smith**  
0428 861 513  
gailas@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

## Murrumbidgee East Ward



**Cr Robert Black (Deputy Mayor)**  
0428 696 102  
robertb@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au



**Cr Christine Chirgwin**  
0467 544 724  
christinec@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au



**Cr Pat Brown**  
0427 546 151  
patb@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

## Murrumbidgee Ward



**Cr Robert Curphey**  
0448 629 502  
robertc@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au



**Cr Gavin Gilbert**  
0439 255 448  
gaving@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au



**Cr Phillip Wells**  
0408 445 339  
phillipw@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

# Regional Seniors Travel Card

Eligible seniors in our area can apply for a Regional Seniors Travel card, which provides them with a \$250 prepaid card to help ease the cost of travel. You can use the card at certain retailers to pay for pre-booked NSW

Trainlink Regional trains and coaches, fuel and taxis.

Applications for 2021 (Year 2) will close on 30 November 2021. You can apply online, by calling 137 788 or by visiting a Service NSW Centre.

# Contacting Council T: 1300 676 243



PO Box 96 Jerilderie NSW 2716 | E: [mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au) | [www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)

### Coleambally Office

39 Brolga Place  
Coleambally NSW 2707  
T: (02) 6954 4060 or (02) 6954 4179  
Office hours: 9.00 am - 1.00 pm and  
2.00 pm - 5.00 pm (Open Monday,  
Wednesday and Thursday)

### Darlington Point Office

21 Carrington Street  
Darlington Point NSW 2706  
T: (02) 6960 5500  
Office hours: 8.30 am - 5.00 pm (Monday to  
Friday)

### Jerilderie Office

35 Jerilderie Street  
Jerilderie NSW 2716  
T: (03) 5886 1200  
Office hours: 8.30 am - 5.00 pm (Monday to  
Friday)

Information is correct at the time of printing. April 2021.