



MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting	17 December 2024
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As we navigate our way through this really busy time of year, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. However, the flip side is to not have as many networks and opportunities in our lives. We are very lucky to be engaged and busy.

There are many end of year activity, celebrations and acknowledgements that mark a very hectic, challenging, but overall successful 2024. I would like to make mention of the storm last Saturday that created significant havoc and very visible damage in Coleambally - we thank the Emergency Services and Essential Energy which worked diligently to ensure that urgent attention to damaged power lines, electricity supply and damaged houses were attended to as quickly and safely as possible. I am so very proud of the way the Murrumbidgee Council workforce and the community of Coleambally mobilised, working immediately and effectively. This was a whole of community response - from the very young and very able to those who have quietly supported in many different ways, and we thank you.

Sincere thanks to the Lions Club of Coleambally who had their Gala Night high jacked unceremoniously, but stepped up to the plate and proceeded to feed and water the community who had no power, and the clean-up crews working in hot and humid conditions. Thanks to Coleambally Irrigation who made equipment and personnel part of the clean-up workforce.

It is always a risk to single out people, but to Justin Williams and Trevor Bright who led the emergency response, we thank you. The clean-up is ongoing and the visible damage does impact on our amenity but, as small communities do, we will be working hard to recover.

Since our November Council Meeting - I have attended 3 RAMJO meetings covering finances, water and digital connectivity. While we have been able to have the people of influence at the table in the water and digital connectivity space, our advocacy is a hard slog and will require perseverance.

Prior to Council's November workshop, we attended a tour of the new Honestly Rice Mill in Jerilderie – at this stage they are operational, with the shed nearing completion and the assembly of the mill to follow ASAP. The production of "Nice Rice" is happening now...it is actually on the shelves.

The plans for our communities Australia Day celebrations are well in hand and we are all looking forward to these special events in our towns - recognition of our communities achievers is always a pleasure and contributes towards the rich fabric of who we are , where we live and how we work together for the greater good.

I attended the launch of the new Murrumbidgee Trails Visitor Guide in Narrandera. This is an excellent product that not only showcases the 4 Councils of Leeton, Narrandera, Lockhart and Murrumbidgee, but clearly identifies and values our neighbouring Councils and the importance of collaboration in this space.

I have attended Presentation Nights and School Graduation Masses at Jerilderie Public School, St Peter's Coleambally, St Joseph's Jerilderie and Coleambally Central School. Thank you Councillor Heath and Councillor Bryce for representing Council at Darlington Point Public School and the Jerilderie Early Learning Centre evenings. These occasions are true celebrations for the students, the teachers and the parents - congratulations to all involved on a very memorable year.

In the company of Councillors Heath, Strachan and Saxvik we attended an "Understanding Local Government Finances for Councillors" presentation in Griffith. It was a very packed and valuable 6 hour education – it should ensure a level of confidence to ask questions if we are not sure of the information being made available to us.

I would like to thank the Council for their commitment to Murrumbidgee Council during 2024- a particular mention to Councillor Rob Black for his support as the Deputy Mayor. I would like to thank our operational staff led by General Manager John Scarce - you ensure the delivery of our essential services and help make our communities the best they can be. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a safe and happy new year and look forward to working with you all in 2025.

Below are a list of meetings I have attended from 26 November - 17 December 2024:

26 November 2024 - Tour of Honestly Rice Mill, Jerilderie
26 November 2024 - Presentation of Murrumbidgee Council Financial Statements - Audit Office/Auditors
28 November 2024- MDA Region 9 Meeting Griffith
29 November 2024 - RAMJO Extraordinary Meeting - Tabling of FY23/24 GP Financial Statements Teams meeting
2 December 2024 - RAMJO Meeting - MDBA Socio-Economic Program Discussion Teams meeting
3 December 2024 - RAMJO - Digital Connectivity Roundtable Albury
5 December 2024 - LGNSW- Understanding LG Finances for Councillors Griffith
9 December 2024 - ARIC Meeting Jerilderie
10 December 2024 - JILL Meeting Jerilderie
10 December 2024 - Australia Day meeting Jerilderie
11 December 2024 - Australia Day Nomination Selection Meeting Jerilderie
11 December 2024 - Murrumbidgee Trails Visitors Guide Launch Narrandera
11 December 2024 - Jerilderie Public School Presentation Night Jerilderie
12 November 2024 - St Joseph's Year 6 Graduation Mass Jerilderie
12 December 2024 - St Peter's Graduation Mass and Presentation Night Coleambally
13 December 2024 - St Joseph's Presentation Night Jerilderie
17 December 2024 - Central School Presentation Night Coleambally

R. K. McRae

Ruth McRae, OAM
MAYOR

