

## MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting	26 November 2024
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November has seen all of us extremely busy. Agriculturally harvest is in full swing - there are mixed reports as to the comparative yields - some crops better than others.

Our roads are really busy, with many truck movements and heavy machinery having a large presence. There is much roadwork happening in "our patch"- keeping the repair work happening during such busy time is a challenge - not everybody is mindful of speed restrictions and safety first.

There has been the threat of big rains, but to date they haven't eventuated, allowing the harvest to move forward unimpeded.

The School Presentation/Graduation Night time of year is upon us. It is a special time of year and is a delight to attend such special evenings. I attended the Coleambally Central School Year 12 Graduation on 21 November. The seven young adults who completed their thirteen years of schooling should be so very proud of their achievements-as should be their parents and the School.

The General Manager and I attended the RAMJO AGM and Board Meeting in Hay on the 7 and 8 November - I was elected Chair of RAMJO for a 2 year tenure. John therefore assumes the Chair of the GMAC - the General Manager's Group.

The General Manager and I attended the Country Mayors' Meeting in Sydney on 15 November - prior to this I attended the Joint Organisation Chairs' Forum on 14 November.

We then attended the LGNSW Conference in Tamworth on 17-19 November. Since our return we have had meetings with both NBN and Telstra seeking to put in place connectivity plans that will hopefully see us better serviced into the future.

The Jerilderie community held the unveiling of the "Monash and The Bushranger" statue and story boards in Jerilderie on 17 November - a day of acknowledgement and entertainment that included piper bands, whip cracking and a re-enactment. My congratulations to the Monash Committee for their passion and commitment, ensuring the delivery of the project. Hosted and MC'd by Councillor Faith Bryce and supported by Councillor Robert Black, the unveiling was performed by Tony Fischer.

All reports suggest that it was impressively hosted and delivered - well done to Faith and Rob. Thank you Councillor Tim Strachan and Jane for attending. My thanks also to Eden Hercus and the many other Council staff who enabled this project.

The Jerilderie Community also celebrated the official opening of the new netball changerooms on Saturday 23 November. A \$750,000 dollar grant through the NSW Government and supported by Murrumbidgee Council. What a huge investment in the Monash Park sporting facility. Coupled with the Origin "Diamond 4 A Day" initiative and their ambassador Jo Weston, our junior netballers had the pleasure of being able to listen to and play with a "Real Diamond". Again my thanks to Eden Hercus for leading the event, to Murrumbidgee Council staff, particularly Vicki Sutton, and to Councillor Troy Mauger for being MC for the official opening.

On 29 October, Murrumbidgee Council convened the joint Newell Highway and Sturt Highway Taskforce Committees Meeting in Narrandera. Murrumbidgee Council is the Chair of the Sturt Highway Taskforce, and was represented by General Manager John Scarce and Councillors McRae and Black. The Meeting was well attended by member Councils.

The Hon. Jenny Aitchison, MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, NSW, attended a breakfast meeting with Murrumbidgee Council, with TfNSW representatives in attendance.

Minister Aitchison spent 4 hours with this joint meeting and was a warm, receptive and wholly engaged Minister.

On 21 November I had the privilege of presenting 5 recipients with Staff Recognition Certificates. My congratulations to Rick Moore, Darrell McNeilly, Robert Adamson, David Saunders and Kesaya Caqusau. Council thanks you for your dedication and commitment over many decades. A very impressive cumulative total and some meritorious individual feats.

In the last week the General Manager, the Director Planning & Infrastructure and I have met with both the NBN and Telstra hierarchy - they are seeking Council's input and collaboration in addressing our areas of little or missing connectivity, both digitally and mobile wise. These interactions are frustrating, but we are hopeful that the ever evolving technology will enable a better, more comprehensive, coverage, with greater surety of delivery.

On 25 October, Council conducted a Citizenship Ceremony for Helette Ferreira and Gabriel Garcia, both of whom have settled in our LGA. We wish them success and happiness as they now live their lives as proud Australian citizens.

Council lay wreaths and was represented at Remembrance Day services across our Council LGA - paying our respects and never forgetting the price paid for peace in our lives is an honour. Across all age demographics eternal vigilance must be our ongoing expectation against challenging odds.

Below are a list of meetings I have attended recently:

- 23 October - LEMC Meeting, Coleambally
- 25 October - Citizenship Ceremony, Jerilderie
- 29 October - Newell and Sturt Highway Taskforce Joint Meeting, Narrandera
- 30 October - ENERGYCO Meeting - Mayor and Garry Stoll, Director Planning & Infrastructure/landholders and ENERGYCO senior executives
  - JILL AGM, Jerilderie
- 3 November - Combined LHAC Sector Teleconference
- 7 November - Traffic Committee Meeting, Darlington Point
  - RAMJO Water Sub Committee Meeting, Hay
  - RAMJO Board Dinner, Hay
- 8 November - RAMJO Board Meeting, Hay
- 11 November - Remembrance Day Service, Jerilderie
  - YSAG - water briefing, Deniliquin
- 13 November - RAMJO Transport Sub Committee Teams meeting
- 14 November - Joint Organisation Chairs' Forum, Parliament House Sydney
- 15 November - Breakfast meeting with the Auditor General - Bola
  - Country Mayors' Meeting, Parliament House Sydney
- 17-19 November - LGNSW Conference, Tamworth
- 21 November - Staff Recognition Ceremony, Darlington Point
  - Murrumbidgee Council NBN Meeting -Jerilderie
  - Coleambally Central School Year 12 Graduation, Coleambally
- 23 November - Official Opening of the Netball Change Rooms /JFNC, Monash Park Jerilderie
- 25 November - Murrumbidgee Council/Telstra Meeting-Connectivity Plan, Jerilderie



Ruth McRae, OAM  
**MAYOR**