

## MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting	26 March 2024
Report Date:	25 March 2024
Author:	Mayor
File #:	SC217
Approval:	Mayor

Easter is here already. I'm aware it is early, but where have those first 3 months gone?

Our communities have certainly been active, with much social activity taking place. Darlington Point again has stepped up to the plate and supported the Riverina Outback Rally - it commenced in Darlington Point on 18 March and concluded in Grong Grong on 22 March 2024 - in excess of \$600K has been raised, a remarkable result for a dedicated team. Well done.

Coleambally embraced the Ian Sneddon Tractor Trek and raised approximately \$10K for MND research – 17 - 23 March 2024. They also warmly welcomed “Woz” on his MND journey from Toolleen to Canberra in his quest to enhance the profile of MND and its need for generous funding, allowing research to be maximised. A great effort by this generous community.

Jerilderie hosted a very successful Fun Fair on 2 March - a great day weather wise encouraged a crowd of approx. 800 people during the day, enjoying music, many varied stalls, many food offerings, the hugely popular ferret races and a myriad of activities for the kids. A big undertaking, well done to the small but well organised committee.

Our swimming pools are still operational - I encourage you during our Easter break to keep patronising them, weather permitting.

Council, in collaboration with Ricegrowers, facilitated a “Women In Rice” event in Coleambally on 5 March - enabled by Women’s Week Funding.

The day commenced with a farm tour of Maddy and Mitch Dunbar’s rice farm. The tour then returned to the Coleambally Community Hall where the participants were treated to a lovely lunch and entertained and informed by a panel of women involved in the “rice sphere”. The panel comprised Denise Kelly, Michelle Groat, Emma Finemore, Melissa DeBortoli and Ainsley Massina. A wealth of lived experience and the progression of women’s involvement in the rice industry provided a very interesting session. Hon Sussan Ley MP, joined us for the town session and spoke briefly, encouraging all women to challenge the norms and follow their dreams.

YACTAC convened a “women’s function” titled “Chicks in the Sticks” in Jerilderie on 17 March. With 3 very interesting speakers, a collective group of 80 women listened attentively to addresses targeting health and wellbeing. Keynote Speaker Shanna Whan gave a raw and insightful talk.

During March the General Manager and I have attended the continuing discussions regarding the redevelopment of the Albury/Wodonga Health Facility - this complex and highly political and parochial regional development is fraught with issues and runs the real risk of not progressing expeditiously, as required, due to lack of consensus.

On 21-22 March, the General Manager and I attended the Country Mayors Association of NSW meeting in Sydney - we had a full session on Youth Crime with presentations from the Police Minister, the Deputy Commissioner of NSW Police, Shadow Minister for Police and the Executive Director of the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistic (BOSCAR) - this follows on from the Country Mayors Report on law and order and its fervent advocacy to bring greater action in this space.

We then formed part of a RAMJO delegation that met with Water Minister Rose Jackson - a large amount of preparatory work was done prior to this meeting and our thanks to Leeton Shire Council for taking the lead role - the RAMJO Water Sub Committee has ramped up its advocacy as the Government's stance has become more evident.

Enjoy your Easter Break - stay safe on the roads - enjoy this beautiful weather and the many recreational events programmed.

Below is a list of meetings and events I have attended during March

1 March 2024 - Health Forum Albury Wodonga - Wodonga  
2 March 2024 - Jerilderie Fun Fair - Jerilderie  
4 March 2024 - ARIC Meeting - Jerilderie  
5 March 2024 - "Women in Rice" Event - Coleambally  
6 March 2024 - ACME Meeting/Glenn Saddler - JILL - Whitton  
7 March 2024 - Traffic Meeting - Coleambally  
12 March 2024 - Country Mayors Association Port of Newcastle Update (on line)  
17 March 2024 - YACTAC - "Chicks In The Sticks" Women's Function - Jerilderie  
18 March 2024 - RAMJO Water Sub - Committee Meeting - Urana  
18 March 2024 - RFS Mid Murray Captains Meeting - Jerilderie  
20 March 2024 - Local Heritage Grant Assessment Panel - Darlington Point  
21 March 2024 - CWA Defibrillator Information Session/NSW Ambulance - Jerilderie  
21-22 March - Country Mayors Association NSW Meeting - Parliament House Sydney  
22 March 2024 - RAMJO Delegation to Water Minister Rose Jackson



Ruth McRae, OAM  
**MAYOR**