



Murrumbidgee COUNCIL *Community Newsletter*

 **AUTUMN 2023**

Message from the Mayor

The Christmas break is now well and truly behind us, and with Easter on the horizon, many of us are looking forward to another well-earned break.

What an unusual weather pattern we have been navigating! The colossal rains and resulting flooding in the last quarter of 2022 were challenging, to say the least. Of late, intermittent spells of hot, then cool weather, have been continually keeping us on our toes.

Fortunately, our fears of a total loss of harvest were generally unfounded. There was significant downgrading, and some did indeed experience large loss, but as a region, we managed to fare much better than others.

Australia Day was celebrated in grand style in all three communities and I had the pleasure of attending each event. Our Australia Day Ambassador Lyndey Milan was very complimentary of our Council area and thoroughly enjoyed her 24 hours in our patch. My congratulations to all recipients for their very worthy recognition, with notable mention to our Citizens of the Year across the Council area:

- **Coleambally - Citizen of the year**
Paul Muir
- **Darlington Point - Citizen of the Year**
Robert Gumbleton
- **Jerilderie - Citizen of the Year**
Carina Rorato

We've seen locals and visitors embracing the great range of events across our towns and enjoying our recreational and hospitality offers. The recent Catch and Release Fishing Classic at Darlington Point had a tremendous turnout. I congratulate the organising committee for another

highly successful event, including the considerable donation to Rural Outreach Counselling and the release of another batch of fingerlings into the river, ensuring the sustainability of fish stocks into the future. The event received the well-deserved accolade of Darlington Point Event of the Year in the Australia Day Awards.

Our recent youth events have continued to be popular, including the Portsea Camp, which Council and the community have supported for the past 60 years. Any community event requires a considerable investment of time and energy, and I'd particularly like to mention the volunteers: Sophie Roe, Brad Aylett, Michaela Walsh, Laura Mannes, Nicola Di Lullo and Alison Kleinschmidt.

The annual Monash Dinner and Oration will be held on Friday 17 March 2023, with guest speakers the Hon Michael McCormack MP and NSW RSL President, Ray James OAM. This year's event is being held in conjunction with the Jerilderie RSL Sub Branch 100-Year Commemoration of Jerilderie Cenotaph. Contact Jerilderie Office on 03 5886 1200 for tickets. Our free networking session for businesswomen is also coming up in NSW Women's Week on 7 March.

Our swimming pools continue to be places of much activity, with locals and visitors enjoying the free entry. Our lessees have put their best foot forward and the attractiveness and amenity are much appreciated by patrons. Activities like pool parties, Learn to Swim classes, Swimming Club, gentle exercise and rehab, are all benefitting from committed and friendly attention to community needs.



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Council staff are very busy progressing our projects under construction - Bencubbin Avenue, Darlington Point Lift and Change Facility, Coleambally Community Hall redevelopment, Jerilderie's Luke Park and the new residential subdivision at Darlington Point, to name a few.

Planning is also continuing on the Council-wide introduction of the new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service and recycling collection for Jerilderie. This new system will come into effect from the start of July.

Our winter sporting teams have commenced pre-season training. Please support these clubs as they are the heart and soul of our communities and they need you to be involved on any level.

In closing, my best wishes for a safe and productive 2023.

Regards,

R. E. McArae





Community Achievers honoured with Australia Day Awards

Community spirit was as strong as ever with large crowds turning out to celebrate the day and the achievements of Australia Day award recipients.

Murrumbidgee Council Mayor Ruth McRae said she had great pleasure in joining the community to honour those that have gone that extra mile. "Their achievements and contributions are inspiring and genuinely make our community a better place," she said.

Well-known cooking and food show personality Lyndey Milan OAM was the Australia Day Ambassador. Ms Milan said she really values going to small communities on Australia Day. They put so much into it and it means so much to all involved.

Congratulations!



Australia Day Award 2023 Recipients

Coleambally

Citizen of the Year: Paul Muir (pictured with Lyndey Milan)

Young Citizen of the Year: Daniel Collier

Lifetime Achievement Award: Penny Sheppard

Event of the Year: Taste Coleambally Food and Farm Festival

Sportsperson of the Year: Daniel Collier

Junior Sportsperson of the Year: Hannah Pound

Sub-junior Sportsperson of the Year: Charlize Perkins

Environmental Citizen of the Year: Coleambally Men's Bowling Club

Sporting team of the Year: St Peter's PP5 Swimming Relay Team: Charlize Perkins, Abbey Muir, Logan Pound and Coco Rossato

Cultural Award: COLCOM Stage Productions



Darlington Point

Citizen of the Year: Robert Gumbleton (pictured with Lyndey Milan)

Junior Sportsperson of the Year: Ivana-Rose Lawson

Event/Group Achievement of the Year: Darlington Point Riverina Classic Catch & Release Fishing Competition



Jerilderie

Citizen of the Year: Carina Rorato (pictured)

Sportsperson of the Year: Fiona Baxter

Little Aussie Awards: Zavier Rorato, St Joseph's Primary School

Stella Williams, Jerilderie Public School



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Order of Australia ...

You don't have to look far in our amazing community to find someone that works tirelessly for their chosen cause. How about you nominate them for an Order of Australia?

Not one of our community champions dedicates their countless hours for the sake of kudos and recognition. Nevertheless, it is indeed an honour to be celebrated and recognised for the work they do.

Nominations can be submitted at any time in the year. Visit www.gg.gov.au to find out more.



Apply now for an Education Scholarship with Murrumbidgee Council

Are you studying at a tertiary institution this year? This includes universities, TAFE and other recognised tertiary education providers.

If you live in the Murrumbidgee Council area, you can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to help with your study and living costs.

Murrumbidgee Council Mayor Cr Ruth McRae said the annual scholarship program is aimed at helping students and their families meet the many costs of studying.

Visit our website for more information or drop into one of our Council offices at Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie.

Applications close at 12 pm on Friday 17 March 2023.

For more information or for help with your application telephone Sue Mitchell, Manager Corporate and Community Services on 1300 676 243.



Summer youth workshops



Totem is returning to run free skate workshops as part of Youth Week, which runs from 20-30 April. Stay tuned for more details!



Work starts on new housing subdivision for Darlington Point

The housing shortage in Darlington Point is set to ease in the future with works commencing on the housing subdivision in Young Street.

The subdivision will comprise 55 allotments, ranging in size from 725m² to 1,052m².

Murrumbidgee Council's General Manager John Scarce said it's an exciting project for the town and the whole Council area with the potential to attract new families, bringing economic benefits for local businesses, schools and other service providers.

Mr Scarce said a 2022 survey of Murrumbidgee Business Operators showed 21% of respondents believed a lack of affordable housing was the main reason their business had difficulty finding suitable staff.

"Locals may have noticed action at the Young Street site, with preliminary works started. The first stage of the works includes survey set-out and excavation for the road network. This phase also involves planning for the procurement of sewer and stormwater material.

"Residents will see extensive excavation work as the project progresses with public utilities, such as water, sewer, electricity, gas and roads, to be installed in the coming months.

"The construction project will mean increased trucks and machinery on local streets so we're reminding people to stay alert and keep themselves and their family safe," he said.



Pictured: Rural Financial Counsellor Bonnie Hayes talking to a local primary producer.

Helping our community to get back on their feet

Flood Recovery Sessions have provided one-stop shops for support and assistance after the flooding events experienced in our area.

The latest was held at the Sports Club in Darlington Point on Thursday 16 February, with around 45 people attending.

Sessions were also held on Wednesday 7 December at the Darlington Point Council Chambers with 30 people attending. Feedback from attendees included "Thank you for organising this one-stop shop" and "Need more events like this".

Murrumbidgee Local Health District also held a JE vaccination clinic at the Community Health Centre in Darlington Point, with 125 people being vaccinated.

A Hub was also held in Jerilderie at the Civic Hall on Thursday 15 December with 40 people attending, with a range of agencies present, as well as Justin Clancy MP, Member for Albury. Feedback from attendees included "Needed more DPI reps", "Well done Council, A very informative day", "Thanks to Murrumbidgee Council".



IT'S GO, GO, GO WITH FOGO!

Our new kerbside collection service for Food Organics and Garden Organics, known as FOGO, is due to kick off from 1 July this year. A kerbside recycling service will also commence for Jerilderie. This will mean the whole Council area will have three bins. Here's a table summarising what can go in each bin.

1. General Waste (currently has a green lid, to be replaced with a red lid)

Collected fortnightly

- Polystyrene and foam
- Soft plastics
- Nappies (flush loose faeces down the toilet first, if possible)
- Damaged old shoes, clothing and textiles
- Broken glassware, crockery and mirrors
- Pet waste



2. Recycling (yellow lid)

Collected fortnightly

- All paper, cardboard, newspaper, magazines, etc (no shredded paper and no plastic bags)
- Juice and milk cartons
- Plastic containers with recycling triangle and numbers 1-6 on container
- Steel cans, including aerosols
- Aluminium cans trays, and foil



3. Food Organics and Garden Organics FOGO (green lid)

Collected weekly

- All food waste (including bones and seafood) - freeze anything that might get smelly until bin night
- All garden waste (sticks <10cm in diameter)
- Certified compostable packaging and items



It's an exciting development for our Council area that will allow us all to manage our waste better. We will be able to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and extend the lifetime of products by composting and also recycling them. The contents of your FOGO bin will be sent to the WormTech Composting Facility at Carrathool and the contents of your recycling will go to the Kurrajong Recycling Centre at Wagga Wagga.

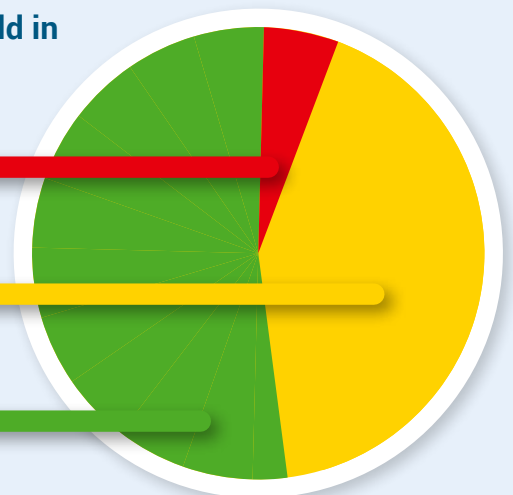
You may be surprised to learn that over half of the average bin contents is made up of food and garden waste, with general domestic waste making up just 8%.

Average waste per household in Murrumbidgee Council area

General Waste 8%

Recycling 41%

FOGO 51%





Sir John Monash Dinner and Oration and 100 Year Commemoration Jerilderie Cenotaph



in collaboration with

Jerilderie RSL Sub Branch

Jerilderie Civic Hall

Friday 17 March 2023 commencing 6.30pm

GUEST SPEAKERS

The Hon. Michael McCormack MP, Member for Riverina
Ray James OAM, RSL NSW Parliament

Tickets for the dinner are now available

Bookings/enquiries: www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au
Murrumbidgee Council's Jerilderie Office T. 03 5886 1200 by Thursday 9 March 2023



2023 NSW Women's Week

Business Networking Evening

Tuesday 7 March 2023

Punt Hotel, 5 Punt Road,
Darlington Point



This is a free event, including a free shuttle bus from
Coleambally and Jerilderie



Come along for an entertaining evening. Meet with fellow rural business women from throughout the Murrumbidgee Council area and learn more from these amazing guest speakers, who will provide practical, hands-on information to assist business women achieve their goals and personal development:

- **Faith Rogers** - Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP)
- Stress Management and Decision Making for Successful Businesses
- **Steph Girdwood** - Outreach Speech Pathology
- **Julia O'Connell** - Crops & Sequins Styling



For more information: nsw.gov.au/womens-week Register at Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/3JDQa4x>

Putting Murrumbidgee in the spotlight

Council staff have been promoting the beauty and diversity of our wonderful area on the Kidman Way Promotional Committee stand at the recent Victorian Caravan and Camping Show. Economic Development and Tourism Manager Kellie Dissegna said attending the show provided us with the opportunity to reach an enormous audience, with over 500,000 attending the event.

Pictured: Council's Manager Economic Development and Tourism, Kellie Dissegna, on the Kidman Way stand.



New Residents ...

Newly arrived residents to our area will be made to feel extra welcome in the near future with the New Resident Welcome Guide. It will be packed with information about living and working in the Murrumbidgee. To launch the guide, we'll be holding events in each town to welcome new residents. If your organisation or community group would like to be a part of this welcome event to recruit new members, please send an email to Kellie Dissegna at kellied@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

Venue Guide

Also, to be published soon is the inaugural Murrumbidgee Venue Guide. Aimed at attracting organisations to hold events in our Council area, it will include details of all indoor and outdoor spaces available. If you'd like a free listing for your venue, please contact Eden Hercus on 1300 676 243 or edenh@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

Check out What's On in our Council area by visiting our website: 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

Does your community group have a project in mind, but need funding?

Our Grants Writer Officer, Michaela Walsh, is available to assist local community organisations submit an application for funding for projects and events. Michaela brings a wealth of experience in sourcing and writing grants for community groups across Victoria and NSW.

Your proposed project will need to be 'shovel ready', meaning you will need to have a firm plan for the project so that it is ready to start if you receive funding. A checklist is available on our website, which shows all the details you need to complete before progressing on your application.

See <https://bit.ly/3kUvKKh>



Portsea Camp

The recent Portsea Camp was a roaring success with 26 young people from our area having an absolute ball for 5 days in January. We participate in the Portsea Camp every year, so stay tuned if you'd like to go next year. It's a great summer holiday activity!



We have some fabulous images from the 2023 Australia Day activities, made possible with funding from the National Australia Day Council.



Take care to protect yourselves from mozzies as we know they carry viruses!

Don't take the risk - protect yourself and your family by:

- Wearing light, loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts, long pants and covered footwear and socks, especially around dusk and dawn
- Applying repellent to exposed skin, using repellents that contain DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- Re-applying repellent regularly, particularly after swimming, being sure to always apply sunscreen first and then apply repellent
- Using insecticide sprays, vapour dispensing units and mosquito coils to repel mosquitos (mosquito coils should only be used outside)
- Covering openings such as windows and doors with insect screens and checking there are no gaps in them
- Removing items that might collect water outside your house where mosquitoes can breed (such as old tyres, empty pots)
- Improving drainage on your property so water does not become stagnant.



Ask your GP about the Japanese Encephalitis vaccination.



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

DO NOT SWIM IN CHANNELS



Irrigation channels are dangerous to swim and play in! You may encounter:

- ✗ Varying water depths
- ✗ Submerged objects
- ✗ Snakes
- ✗ Unpredictable flows with structures being remotely operated - you could be trapped or drowned

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 96 Jerilderie NSW 2716 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

