

MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting:	26 July 2022
Report Date:	25 July 2022
Author:	Mayor
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Approval:	Mayor

As we move through the winter months, we once again find ourselves engaged and challenged in an ongoing re-emergence of another COVID 19 variant. Coupled with a particularly virulent strain of the flu and an accompanying gastro bug, our communities are certainly feeling the strain.

Public messaging across all virus and bug related illness is consistent - if you are unwell please stay at home and please keep your little people at home also - it really is the only way to get on top of the revolving spread.

While the frosts have been memorable, the ensuing days have been better for getting out and about - the longer days hopefully will see a great growth period for our crops and a much anticipated return to general health for us all.

The official opening of the Jerilderie Early Learning Centre on 29 June was a memorable and much anticipated occasion for the community and the Committee who have worked so very hard to make it a reality.

This multi-generational investment in our children and wider community will enable quality care and educational opportunities from the very beginning of their life's journey.

This vital service will nurture our children, provide employment, training opportunities and career enhancement and pave the way for this service to be replicated and delivered through our Council area. Officially opened by Member for Albury, Mr Justin Clancy MP, the completion of this project is a feather in the cap for all involved. The Pre-School Committee led by President Steph Girdwood, The Murrumbidgee Council team, Julia Ham, Architech Steven Murray and building contractors, Adaptive Pty Ltd, T/A DeSign.

The Coleambally Community Gym is very close to being able to be occupied. A MoU is being developed, and once signed off the user body will be instituted.

The Opening of the 'Her Story' art exhibition by Roslyn Lockhart at the The Willows, Jerilderie, took place on 16 July 2022. This amazing body of creative art work depicts the lives of 24 very uniquely different women with links to the Jerilderie, Leeton and Griffith area.

The stories accompanying the works of art speak very clearly to the stories etched on these subjects' faces.

Facilitated by Western Riverina Arts this is a very real exposure to all that they have to offer - our membership allows us access to a myriad of opportunities.

A school holiday adventure organised by Council's Tourism & Events Officer, Eden Hercus, saw 34 lucky young people experience the truly wonderful Altina Wildlife Park - this amazing attraction is unique and one that we are justifiably proud to have in our footprint - I am sure there will be many more memorable trips to Altina.

The commencement of VALMAR delivering many of the Commonwealth Home Support Program services in Darlington Point and Coleambally appear to be transitioning smoothly.

Socially our communities seem busy and active, despite the challenges. Our children have returned to school, our football and netball codes and our golfers are all pushing on despite the COVID health related interruptions.

Our renewable energy developers are present in our communities - VIREYA ENERGY spent most of Saturday 16 July in Jerilderie engaging with community.

The water engagement continues - many meetings, Stakeholder Advisory Groups, two Murray Darling Association Region Meetings this week, Murray Irrigation and Murray Group of Councils, and also a presentation regarding bridges and culverts in the Murray Region.

We have new staff on board and Council warmly welcomes them.

Below a list of meetings I have attended since the June Council meeting.

29 June 2022

Official opening of the Jerilderie Early Learning Centre, Jerilderie
Meeting with Justin Clancy MP, Member for Murray, Jerilderie

30 June 2022

Coleambally Community Gym walk through with General Manager John Scarce, Councillors Robert Black, Christine Chirgwin and myself, Danny Graham, Lauren Pound, Jess Burge and Joe Briggs

12 July 2022

Councillor Workshop, Coleambally

13 July 2022

YANCO Stakeholder Advisory Group - SDLAM Meeting at Morundah
JILL Meeting, Jerilderie

15 July 2022

Consultation for the New Regional Health Plan (via Zoom)
(including LGA's and NSW Departments and Agencies)

16 July 2022

Opening of "Her Story" Art Exhibition by Roslyn Lockhart
The Willows, Jerilderie

22 July 2022

State Resilience Strategy Workshop (via Zoom) initiated by RAMJO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. K. McRae". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Ruth McRae
MAYOR