

MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting:	14 December 2018
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Author:	Mayor
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As we move towards the close of 2018, honest reflection presents a truly challenging year. 2 ½ years into Murrumbidgee existence, we find ourselves still very much engaged in finding out just where we sit and how we operate.

This is not judgement or even speculation, it is quite simply stating it as it is.

I would like to acknowledge Council's committed, loyal and hardworking staff. The true measure of good team work is being able to produce even when the challenges seem insurmountable.

The prioritisation of finalising the Organisational structure and salary scale will undoubtedly give confidence and certainty to all concerned moving forward.

I would like to acknowledge the leadership that has facilitated, resourced and progressed this fundamental and all important issue. A committed, valued and happy team is a productive team.

I would like to thank our General Manager, Mr John Scarce, our Human Resources Officer, Mr Noel Peters and the management team for moving this along - John did assure us he was ready for hard work and that has been proven many times over.

A proposed Strategic Planning Workshop has been set down for a date to be determined in January 2019. It will give us a "moment at this time" overview of Council's Operations for 2019 - our major projects, our finances, our essential services, our assets and most importantly our people.

To all Murrumbidgee Council staff, thank you for your commitment to Council and your communities, and let's look forward to a bigger and better 2019. To those staff who have joined Council in the last 12 months, we thank you for choosing us and we look forward to working collaboratively into the future.

To the valued staff who have moved on, we thank you for your contribution and wish you well.

To the Councillors of Murrumbidgee Council, I thank you for your support, your contributions and for generously valuing and advocating for your communities -

representative life is not always easy, but it is so very rewarding when good things happen.

My personal thanks to Executive Assistant, Julie Conn and the Jerilderie office staff. Their friendliness, helpfulness, patience and tolerance are truly appreciated.

My very best wishes to everyone for a happy Christmas. I hope you all manage to get off the merry-go-round and spend time with the important people in your lives.

Please stay safe and we will look forward to 2019, re-energised and focused, intent on making all things possible in and for Murrumbidgee Council.

Below are a list of meetings/events I have attended in the last 2 weeks:

Monday, 3 December 2018 - RAMJO Executive Officer position interviews in Albury

Tuesday 4 December 2018 - National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy Forum, Albury

Wednesday 5 December 2018

Jerilderie

- Canberra Institute of Technology representatives Jayne Miller and Lucy Marchant Facilitating training made available through funding from NEOEN - A Renewable Energy Focus

Jerilderie

- Proposed SDL Projects public meeting - Community engagement 350 people in attendance

Urana

- Riverina Rural Women's Dinner - "Wild, Wacky, Wonderful Women" Facilitated by Federation Council - Dr Natalie Shepherd

Thursday 6 December 2018-Jerilderie

- Citizenship Ceremony for Mrs Gisa Kurian
- Jerilderie Tidy Towns Christmas Party at Colony Inn Hotel

Sunday 9 December- Jerilderie

- Zenda Purcell's Retirement Function at Sports Club

Monday 10 December

Deniliquin

- Murray Regional Strategy Group Meeting - Speak Up Rally Melbourne 10/12/18 to coincide with MINCO Meeting

Coleambally

- Coleambally Sports Precinct User Groups Meeting
(also attended by General Manager, John Scarce, and Councillors Bryce, Smith, Black and Chirgwin).

Tuesday 11 December-Coleambally

- Central School Presentation Night

Wednesday 12 December 2018-Darlington Point

- Meeting at Altina Wildlife Park - Gloria and Crystal Altin, myself and General Manager John Scarce
- Darlington Point Public School Presentation Night

Thursday 13 December 2018-Jerilderie

- Selection Panel for Australia Day Awards
- St Joseph's Primary School Presentation Night

Friday 14 December, 2018-Jerilderie

- December Council Meeting
- Staff and Councillors Christmas Party



Cr Ruth McRae
MAYOR