

MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting:	23 February 2021
Report Date:	22 February 2021
Author:	Mayor
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The start of 2021 has been busy.

Our region has received significant rain, and the country and our waterways have been replenished. A bountiful harvest was a very welcome reward in a year that had been seriously challenging.

Our small businesses continue to press on with resilience and optimism, and it is my hope that we are supporting them as best we can in the hope that the new normal will allow us a sustainable way forward.

Our Covid 19 Plan is being constantly adapted and made fit for purpose, being informed by Public Health Orders and incorporating edicts from multiple adjoining states.

Our kids have all returned to school and our school leavers are readying themselves for tertiary studies or life in the workforce, a really positive step forward for 2021.

It seems forever ago that we all had a Christmas/New Year break, but it is our hope that 2021 will see a full and productive year with the completion of many of our major projects - Bencubbin Avenue, Coleambally Sporting Precinct, Broлга Place, Jerilderie Long Day Care Facility, Young Street Subdivision, Wiradjuri Walk Shared Spaces Project and our Revitalisation Projects across our 3 towns- we certainly have much on the go and its impact and generational investment will serve us well into the future.

Councillors attended a Strategic Planning Workshop in Albury from the 5-7 February 2021. An important investment in working as a team, and thinking strategically, covering areas including finance, governance, risk, our road network, asset management, organisational structure, human resources, community services, aged care, long day care, plant and equipment and Economic Development and Tourism.

The next step in the community consultation regarding the Yanco Creek SDLAM Modernisation Projects will take place at 5 sites from Moulamein to Morundah from the 23-25 February - this will be a communication session that informs of the process that has been undertaken since December 2018. The Jerilderie session is being held on 24 February between 2-4pm in the Civic Hall.

Australia Day 2021 was, this year, celebrated in a different manner across all three towns. Council's Australia Day Ambassador Mark Warren certainly brought his unique and personable personality with him, and was generous and entertaining.

Coleambally's day started with a breakfast that was planned with military precision and reverted to plan B after early showers. Darlington Point hosted a lunch at the Punt Hotel for 30 invited guests. Jerilderie hosted a high tea for 36 invited guests.

Congratulations to all those nominated across many categories, and special congratulations to the award winners.

My thanks and congratulations to the Australia Day Committees and Council staff who enabled these events to take place.

A highly successful 2021 Riverina Classic Fishing Competition was held in Darlington Point over the 12-14 February 2021. Congratulations to the organisers.

We extend a warm welcome to Tom Dimec as Council's Director of Infrastructure, and we look forward to a great working relationship that sees Council able to move forward with confidence across the many portfolios that come under Tom's management.

Retirements/Resignations

I would like to convey Council's thanks to the following staff members on their resignations or retirements:

Greg Purcell, who resigned duties with Council effective Friday 22 January 2021. Greg served Council and the community for close to 49 years, a remarkable record.

Ben Nash, for his service and contribution to Council over 10 years. We wish Ben well as he continues his career in Local Government with a westerly shift to Edward River Council.

I would like to thank Janine A'Vard for her time with Council and the contribution she has made, particularly her commitment during COVID.

The long awaited road works on the Newell Highway through the centre of Jerilderie have commenced - we look forward to this work being completed

A list of meetings I have attended in January/February 2021

20 January 2021

Country Education Fund, Coleambally – Presentation and Awarding of Scholarships

25 January 2021

Australia Day Ambassador Dinner, Coleambally
Ambassador Mark Warren

26 January 2021

Australia Day Celebrations
Coleambally - Breakfast Coleambally Club
Darlington Point - Lunch Punt Hotel
Jerilderie - High Tea Civic Hall

27 January 2021

Yanco - Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting, Morundah
Morundah
Redneck Rally Meeting with Gavin and Tammy Gilbert, Darlington Point

28 January 2021

Meeting with Tony Whitehorn MMZ RFS
Jerilderie

1 February 2021

Jerilderie Mural Assessment Panel Meeting
Awarding of successful submission

2 February 2021

Revitalisation Meeting Jerilderie
Update on projects progress

3 February 2021

Wiradjuri Walk Assessment Panel Darlington Point
Awarding of successful submissions for 2 art commissions

5-7 February 2021

Strategic Planning and Networking Workshop
Mecure Hotel, Albury

22 February 2021

Meeting with Samantha Davies Petaurus Education Group
An SCCF Project – Our Local Community
Project to commence 24 March 2021



Ruth McRae
MAYOR