Australian Local Government Assembly – Canberra

It was my pleasure to represent the Port Pirie Regional Council at the recent ALGA held in our National Capital. Mayors and Council officials from destinations as far away as the Tiwi Islands and the bottom of Tasmania converged on Canberra for an opportunity to network and to receive information that helps build better Councils across the Nation. It certainly was a great opportunity for me to learn what is working well and what we can adopt and use here in our Region.

Importantly while in Canberra I, along with Mayor Sam Johnson from Port Augusta City Council, his CEO John Banks and Executive Officer, Anita Crisp from the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group were given fantastic access to range of Federal Ministers and their advisers to push projects that we think are important to our Region, particularly in our case, the Sports Precinct Redevelopment. I want to thank the Member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey and his staff who were particularly generous with their assistance in making these meetings happen while we were in the National Capital.

Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea

A tradition that continues to grow and build support for those who are dealing with Cancer is the Cancer Council’s Biggest Morning Tea. Held every year at the Solomontown Football Club, it was my absolute pleasure to be in attendance amongst the large crowd that gathered to enjoy a nice cuppa and cake and raise much needed funding for the fight against cancer. Joan Perkins and the team did an amazing job again raising in excess of two thousand dollars. I want to congratulate all those that organised this very successful event.

A Year of 50’s

2015 has shown to be a year of celebrating fifty milestones. I have had the pleasure recently to attend two events where fifty has been the key. Firstly it was a pleasure to attend along with a large crowd at the Port Sporting and Community Club the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of Meals on Wheels in Port Pirie. Across all those years volunteers have been providing a hot meal and an opportunity for human contact for the elderly and others who are still living at home but find it difficult to get out and about. Impressively a very dear lady, who was one of the original members those 50 years ago, returned to Port Pirie just for the occasion.

It was also an important occasion for the Lions Club of Port Pirie who recently held their fiftieth handover dinner. It is always a pleasure to share an evening with those who see service to the Community as an important part of their lives and on such an important occasion it was an honour to witness the handover of the Presidency of the Club from Stax Kerr to Barry McGree. I congratulate Stax on his efforts and leadership over the past year and wish Barry well for his leadership role in the year ahead.

Book Launch – Bullion

The Port Pirie Regional Art Gallery was looking resplendent with the Nyrstar exhibition of ‘Families, Floods and Furnaces’ for the launch of a much anticipated book by former ABC radio presenter, Andrew Male called ‘Bullion’. The book will be much cherished as a fascinating look back at 125 years of the Port Pirie Smelter but important the Community of Port Pirie as a whole. For those who are interested in the history of Port Pirie, the Nyrstar exhibition continues to the 12th of July.

Farewell Ellie Green

After 27 years of loyal service to Council, Personal Assistant to the CEO, Ellie Green has decided to take retirement and enter the next phase of her life. Ellie is well regarded amongst her peers and she has served the elected body admirably in her role as minutes secretary at our ordinary meetings. On behalf of the elected members we wish her the very best in the years to come.