



“From the GM’s Desk”

26th March 2015



At the Council Meeting held last Monday Councillors approved the advertising of the Draft Delivery program 2013/2017 and Operational Plan (Budget) for 2015/2016.

The draft document will now go on public exhibition until the 4th May 2015 and during that time all members of the public are able to make a submission in respect of the documents. Prior to adopting the Draft Operational Plan Council is required to take into consideration any submissions received.

It is proposed that the Draft Operational Plan and any submissions will be again submitted to Council for consideration and adoption on 25th May 2015

The work on the new Cenotaph to recognise those from the Enngonia District who served in World War I has been completed and is the result of a lot of hard work by the Enngonia Community. Much of the initial work in relation to the lodgement of grant applications and planning was undertaken by Kaye Mathews who has now left Enngonia and she was well supported by Greg Oates, President of the Enngonia Progress Association. Kaye continues to follow the progress of the village and will no doubt reflect with a sense of pride on her contribution to the construction of this monument which will have an increased significance with this year being the Centenary of Anzac Day. It is likely that Enngonia will hold an ANZAC Day Ceremony this year for the first time in a number of years.

Don’t forget the “Fee Free Tip Day” scheduled for this Saturday, 28th March 2015.

Whilst there is generally no fees applicable on the day there are some minor exceptions, with a charge still applying to tyres, asbestos, chemicals, liquid waste, building and commercial waste.

Senior Citizens Week activities concluded last Sunday with a luncheon sponsored by Bourke Rotary and Red Cross. It was a huge week for all the senior citizens and no doubt they will look forward to a more sedentary pace of life this week.

A big thank you, to all those individuals and organisations that combined to make Senior’s Week so successful. There were numerous prizes available on most days and these were made possible by the generosity of many businesses and individuals.

The possible return of an air service for Bourke is one step closer with expressions of interest from companies interested in providing the service having been called. The expressions of interest opened on the 12th March 2015 and will close on the 13th April 2015. The expressions of interest are being coordinated by the New South Wales Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Don't forget that the NSW State Election is on Saturday, 28th of March with Pre Poll voting available at the Bourke TAFE.

On Election Day polling will be held at the Bourke Public School in Green Street and at the Ennionia Public School. Polls are open on Election Day from 8.00am to 6.00pm.

Daylight saving will finish on the night of Sunday, 5th April 2015 with all clocks to be moved back one hour at 3.00 am. The change over at the beginning and end of daylight saving always takes a little adjustment and I am sure that this year will be no exception and some people will forget to adjust their clocks.

To allow for the conduct of the Wool Bale Rolling Competition in Oxley Street on Easter Saturday, Oxley Street will be closed to traffic and no vehicles are allowed to be parked in the Street on the Saturday morning. Whilst this may cause some minor inconvenience it will allow the safe conduct of the events and the cooperation of businesses in particular is sought.

There will be a number of other street closures to allow for parade to be safely conducted and also the market day.

The gravel re-sheeting of Main Road 404 at Fords Bridge will commence shortly with the section of road to be subject to the works stretching from the bottom of the sand hill past the old race track over the by-Wash Bridge and finish at the Bourke side of the approach to the main bridge. This area has been an ongoing problem during wet weather with the existing black ground becoming quite greasy.

At the same time there will also be some gravel re-sheeting work done in the Kerribee Station area. Both of these projects have been funded under the Roads to Recovery Program.

The work will be undertaken by Council staff with the assistance of some contractor plant and it is anticipated it will take several weeks to complete.

Work will also commence shortly on the shoulder grading of State Highway 7 between Bourke and Byrock and also on State Highway 29 between Bourke and the Boundary with Brewarrina Shire.

The work being undertaken on State Highway 7 between Barringun and Enngonia is continuing with 13 kilometres of reseals being completed last week.

The line marking around town has been refreshed by the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) line marking crew and they have done a very good job. The RMS has undertaken the work to assist Council in their preparations for the Back to Bourke weekend and their cooperation and assistance is very much appreciated.

An Amber Alert has been issued in respect of blue-green algae at the Boat Ramp. The Following precautionary warning is issued by the Algal Coordination Committee in relation to an Amber Alert

"Blue-green algae may be multiplying and the water may have a green tinge and musty or organic taste and odour. The water should be considered as unsuitable for potable use and alternative supplies or prior treatment of raw water for domestic purposes should be considered."

The water may also be unsuitable for stock watering. Generally suitable for water sports, however, people are advised to exercise caution in these areas, as blue-green algal concentrations can rise to red alert levels quickly under warm, calm weather conditions".

Council has resolved to seek advice as to the best way to control the increased numbers of rabbits that are in and around the town of Bourke. Council will in the first instance be contacting the offices of Local Land Services – Western to see what options are available.

The good flows that have existed in the Darling River primarily due to the significant inflow from the Culgoa River is rapidly slowing and as a result so is the level in the Bourke Weir Pool. Staff will be monitoring the levels in the storage across the river system with interest over the next week. Storage in the Dams across the state is at a worrying level with Keepit Dam at only 4% of capacity, Burrendong Dam at 14% of capacity and Copeton 17% capacity.

Council at its meeting on Monday resolved to adopt the recommendation of the Town and Village Committee that it note the concerns raised by a number of residents in relation to the current tree removal policy, however, not to amend the current policy which is to gradually remove the Queensland Figs from the streets of Bourke. In accordance with the adopted tree replacement program Council will ensure that suitable trees are planted to replace those removed.

A good news story is that Wanaaring has made the shortlist in the "Australian Regional Community Competition" that is being run by the music initiative "small Town Culture". Wanaaring has made the TOP 10, coming in at Number 6 in the nominations. Small Town Culture is a project run by country music Golden Guitar winner Josh Arnold, at schools throughout regional, rural and remote Australia.

The competition is run via Facebook, where users can nominate their town to win a local anthem and music video created for their community by the Small Town Culture Team. Voting started 23/03/15 and closes at midday 30/03/15, to show your support vote for Wanaaring the link is www.facebook.com/SmallTownCulture follow the link and “like” the Small Town Culture – Josh Arnold in Wanaaring Tab.

At the meeting of Council held on Monday, Dr Heather Dalgety was presented with a plaque by the Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis to recognise her twenty years of service to the Bourke Community. Dr Dalgety joined Councillors and Senior Staff for morning tea following the presentation.

Congratulations to Phil Johnston, Council’s Manager of Tourism & Development who tomorrow will graduate from New England University with his Masters of Business Administration (MBA). Studying part-time and working full-time is no easy task and requires good time management and a supportive family. Phil also finds time to be involved in a number of community activities. It is a great achievement. Well Done!

Ross Earl
General Manager