



“From the GM’s Desk” 16th April 2015



The staff at Bourke Public Library have developed a Centenary of ANZAC display which includes memorabilia from the period of World War I, copies of newspaper clippings and details on the service personnel from the Bourke District who served during that conflict. Part of the presentation included a CD depicting pictures and information of the local service personnel who enlisted from Bourke.

This CD has been duplicated and is also able to be viewed in Council’s Offices.

The display will be launched at the Bourke Public Library next Wednesday, 22nd April 2015 at 5.30pm by the Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis and President of the Local RSL Sub Branch, Victor Bartley.

Ex-Service personnel and members of Legacy are encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

The water supply storage at Byrock is severely depleted with the lack of rainfall coupled with the hot weather combining to see it reached critical levels. Unless there is significant rainfall over the next few days it is likely that carting will commence. Council has approval to cart water up until the 30th June 2015.

Residents are reminded that once carting commences the usage is restricted to inside domestic use only.

Residents and visitors are reminded that the water supply to Byrock and all other villages is non – potable.

Should residents require potable water to be delivered, Council can supply the contact details of local carters with the facilities suitable to be able to cart potable water

The Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Monday, 27th April 2015 will commence at 9.00am in the Council Chambers. All meetings of Council and Committees of Council where members of that Committee are Councillors are open to the Public. A Public Forum is scheduled at each Council Meeting at 10.00am. It would be appreciated if you wish to attend the Public Forum if you would please contact Kai Howard-Oakman on 68308000 or by email at khoward@bourke.nsw.gov.au so that your items can be placed on the Agenda.

The Centenary of ANZAC is just over a week away and the local RSL Sub-Branch is finalising arrangements for the services at Bourke.

The Dawn Services will be starting at 6.00am sharp at the Cenotaph in Central Park and all persons attending are asked to be at the Cenotaph at 5.45am.

The ANZAC Day March will commence at 10.40am with all marchers being asked to assemble at Diggers on the Darling at 10.20am so that marshalling can take place and allow the March to commence promptly at 10.40am and allow sufficient time to reach the Cenotaph so the ANZAC Day Service is able to start at 11.00am sharp.

The March will go along Sturt Street then up Oxley Street to the Cenotaph.

A reminder that Council's Draft Operational Plan (Budget) for 2015/2016 and Delivery Plan 2013/2017 is on public exhibition at the moment with submissions in respect of the document due on the 4th May 2015.

The document and any submissions thereto will be tabled for consideration and adoption at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Monday, 25th May 2015.

A reminder, that tenders for the Management of the Bourke Memorial Pool close next Wednesday, 22nd April 2015 at 3.00pm.

I would like to acknowledge the coverage given to all events held as part of the Back to Bourke weekend by the local press and radio. It has been excellent and the success of the weekend was certainly assisted by the level of publicity generated. While social media enabled the information to be disseminated across Australia, the two (2) traditional forms of media provided the required detail on a local basis.

The positive feedback from the Back to Bourke Weekend continues and is just reward for the hard working members of our community who made it happen.

The Member for Parkes, Mark Coulton MP., will be in Bourke on Monday and will meet with representatives of Council to discuss a number of issues including the impact of the ongoing dry conditions.

Mark will also take the time to visit Enngonia to inspect the new memorial which has recently been constructed. Part of the funding was provided from the Federal Government.

I will be travelling to Dubbo on Thursday night for a meeting of the General Managers Advisory Committee (GMACC) to be held on Friday. GMACC meet prior to the meetings of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) to be able to provide advice and recommendations to those meetings. The next meeting of OROC is scheduled for the 1st May and will be held in Warren.

Items on the agenda will include the Local Government Reform Process, the findings of the Australian Energy Regulatory in relation to electricity prices for street lighting.

There are good falls in the upper reaches of the catchment of the Barwon Darling River System and as a result there are good flows expected.

It is anticipated that flows of between 25000 and 40000 mega litres will pass Collarenebri later this month with between 5000 and 10000 mega litres reaching the Menindee Lakes System. It is anticipated that at least 200,000 mega litres are required to ensure that Broken Hill's water security is back to 21 months.

The requirements of Broken Hill mean that an embargo on pumping is in place along the Barwon Darling River which is not good news for the irrigators whose storages are currently dry.

The flow is good news for Bourke as the salt level in the weir pool and below the weir rises quickly once the river stops flowing and this obviously has a significant impact on the water quality.

Despite the anticipated water flow, restrictions will remain in place. Once the water passes Walgett consideration will be given to lifting the water restrictions that are currently in place for Bourke and North Bourke in accordance with the adopted Drought Policy of Council.

Council's Roads and Plant Committee met on Wednesday and amongst the items on the Agenda was the work required to repair sections of the old bridge across to North Bourke and the sealing of the laneway behind the Bourke Public School.

Residents would have noticed that part of the old Bridge has been fenced off to the public due to the identification of some damage to both the decking and the sub structure.

The Bourke Show will be held on the 2nd May and a hardworking committee has been working for some time to ensure that the 2015 Bourke Show is a success following the recess of the show in 2014.

The show has been very much part of the social landscape in Bourke for many years and will continue to be so if it is well supported.

With the grounds looking very good following the work undertaken prior to the race meeting and other facilities also being the recipient of a facelift everything is shaping up well. Members of the

Show Committee and the Pony Club have worked hard in conjunction with other members of the various organisations to bring the overall complex to its best condition for a number of years.

Why not collect a copy of the Show Schedule and consider putting an entry in to the one or more of the many categories that are available. Remember to mark the date on your calendar.

Expressions of interest for the operation of an air service to provide flights to both Bourke and Walgett will now close at the end of this month. The process has been quite lengthy but will hopefully result in a positive outcome over the next few months.

One of the proposed models for mid-wifery services at Bourke was the subject of a discussion last week during information sessions convened by the Western Area Health. Together with the Manager of Tourism and Economic Development, Phil Johnston and Manager of Corporate Services, Leonie Brown, I met with the panel in town to discuss the model and whilst it falls short of the expectations of Council it seemed to have some merit.

I thought I would finish each column each week with a quote.

"A person who has never made a mistake never tried anything new"- Albert Einstein

Ross Earl
General Manager