



“From the GM’s Desk” 23rd April 2015



Council has previously written to the Hon. Niall Blair MLC the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Lands and Water congratulating him on his appointment and inviting him to visit Bourke so that he could meet with Council representatives first hand to discuss a range of issues within his portfolio affecting this part of the state. Issues include the ongoing drought conditions and the lack of water flow in the Darling River and availability of water for irrigation.

Minister Blair has only been in his role for a little over two (2) weeks but has already accepted the invitation making the time to visit Brewarrina last Monday, 20th April 2015 and the Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis, Deputy Mayor, Cr Barry Hollman, Manager of Works, Peter Brown, Manager of Tourism and Economic Development, Phil Johnston and myself travelled to Brewarrina for a meeting with Minister Blair.

Minister Blair was very receptive to the concerns raised by Council which included the current embargo on pumping from the Barwon Darling River System. The economic and social impact both on landowners and the commercial sector of the ongoing drought conditions and strategies that could be put in place to further drought proof Bourke and the villages within the Shire.

Additionally the issue of the problems being caused by Wild dogs was also raised following representations to Council by the Lednapper Wild Dog Action Group recently.

Water carting to Byrock will commence this week and will involve the delivery of three (3) tanker loads of water per week which will be pumped into the overhead storage.

Residents are reminded that restrictions apply and the water is only to be used for inside domestic use.

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 display developed by the staff at the Bourke Public Library as part of the Centenary of ANZAC commemorations was launched last night at a small function at the library.

The display 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.

A lot of the information included in the display has been result of the extensive research which was undertaken by local historians Alan Barton and Bill Cameron

This CD has been reproduced and is also able to be viewed in Council's Offices and at Bourke Bowling Club.

Water restrictions for Bourke and North Bourke will be lifted as at 5.00pm today in accordance with the adopted drought policy of Council which provides for the lifting of restrictions if there is a guaranteed flow in the river that will reach Bourke and flow over the weir.

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.

Preparations for local ANZAC Day services have been finalised.

The Dawn Service 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 Dawn Service will be followed by a breakfast supplied by the Bourke Bowling Club.

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.

It is good to see the small community of Enngonia is to hold an ANZAC DAY Service for the first time in many years and it is scheduled to commence at 5.00pm on Saturday evening.

Louth will also conduct ceremony on Saturday evening as they have in previous years with the service to commence at 5.00pm.

Annette and I had breakfast at Emmdale Road House (between Wilcannia and Cobar) on route from Adelaide last Monday and whilst talking to another fellow traveller at Emmdale the conversation turned to ANZAC Day and he said he and some other push bike riders had, by chance, the opportunity to attend last years' service at Louth and were very pleased to have been able to be part of that ceremony.

The Member for Parkes, Mark Coulton, MP and his wife Robyn visited Bourke on Monday and also visited Enngonia.

Mark met with Councillors at 12.00pm on Monday for a lunchtime meeting and covered a range of issues including the lack of mobile phone coverage in the area and the proposal to assist drought affected towns with the introduction of a stimulus package to boost employment and economic activity. The Chair of the Bourke Local Aboriginal Working Party Alistair Ferguson and Vanesa Kendall from the Maranuka Initiative were also in attendance for much of the meeting.

Council's Roads and Plant Committee met on Tuesday, 14th April and received a report on the options for the ongoing maintenance of the old Bridge. The bridge is in need of urgent repairs and the options available will be costed and a report placed before Council for its further consideration.

Part of the old Bridge has been fenced off to the public due to damage to both the decking and the sub structure.

Council assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the bridge in 1997 and received funding for the painting of the bridge in the 2004/2005 financial year which was undertaken at a cost of just over \$600,000.00

Also on the agenda on the Plant and Roads Meeting was the recommendation in relation to the allocation of the Roads to Recovery Funding for 2015/2016 which will be doubled for that year by a one off allocation by the Federal Government. Included in the projects recommended to be undertaken in 2015/2016 are the replacement of Len Mallon Bridge on the Burrawantie Road and the replacement of Whiskey Creek Bridge on the West Culgoa Road.

Resealing works recommended to be undertaken include the resealing of O'Grady, Vicary and Church Streets in Wanaaring. The programme will also include the sealing of Hospital Lane that will service a carpark constructed by the Department of Education to reduce congestion in Green Street. This work has been the subject of a request from Bourke Public School.

Cr Stuart Johnston represented Council and the local tourism industry at the 2015 Caravan and Camping Show held in Sydney over the past week.

The show was held at Rosehill Racecourse and there were an estimated 80,000 visitors to the Show throughout the week. Interest in the Kidman Way and other Outback destinations was again strong as were the sales of caravans, camper trailers and camping equipment.

Given that those with caravans form a significant part of the tourist traffic for Bourke it was important that we be able to be at such promotions to encourage as many people as possible to visit the town and take advantage of the attractions that the town and district has to offer.

The fourth rate instalment is due on 29th May 2015 as are the charges for the usage of filtered water. If you are experiencing difficulty in paying these accounts and wish to make arrangements for the payment of these accounts please contact Councils Rates and Water Billing Officer.

Thought for the week!

“Start by doing what’s necessary, then do what’s possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible”- Francis of Assisi

Ross Earl
General Manager