



“From the GM’s Desk” 30th April 2015



The display developed by the staff at the Bourke Public Library as part of the Centenary of ANZAC commemorations will remain at the library for the next few weeks. If you haven't had the opportunity to have a look, why not drop into 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.

Water restrictions for Bourke and North Bourke have been lifted and it is anticipated that there will be sufficient water currently coming through the River system to last around two (2) months. Obviously if there are further flows this period will be even greater.

The water flowing over the weir is certainly a welcome site!

While the town has had restrictions lifted there is still an embargo on much of the pumping from the river for irrigation purposes. This embargo will in all probability stay in place until the level in Menindee Lakes rises sufficiently to allow a guaranteed supply of water for Broken Hill. Currently the level of water will only provide a guarantee of around six months and work on trying to find alternative water sources is taking place.

Around 200-250,000 mega litres is required and it is anticipated that this current flow will only provide 5-10,000 mega litres towards this amount despite there being between 25-40,000 mega litres passing through Bourke.

Both the ANZAC Day Services in Bourke were very well attended with estimates putting the crowd at around 300 for the Dawn Service whilst there would have been around 500 who participated in the service and the March at 11.00am.

Whilst the numbers of servicemen and women who march dwindle with the passage of time there are an increasing number of young people who march wearing the medals of their fathers, grandfathers and other relatives with pride which is good to see.

It was tremendous to see such a good representation from the schools and the speakers from each of the schools did both themselves and their schools proud.

Congratulations also to young Abe Liddell who delivered the occasion address and undertook the role with a great sense of occasion and confidence and our thanks go to his family for travelling back for the day.

There were people from Townsville and Toowoomba whom I spoke to at the Breakfast hosted by the Bourke Bowling Club after the Dawn Service who had travelled to Bourke for the ceremony as they had relatives who were ex-servicemen and were buried in the Bourke cemetery and thought the centenary of ANZAC was an appropriate time to acknowledge their service.

The cenotaph area looked good for the ANZAC DAY Services and it is a credit to all who have been involved in the beautification works. The lone pine certainly looks much happier in its new surrounds and once the roses that have been planted begin to flower the garden area should be a picture.

Other works are planned over the next few months which will include the repairs to the lighting which allows the area to be illuminated.

Enngonia held its first ANZAC DAY Service for many years and was attended by the members of the Enngonia Community who were pleased that Victor Bartley was able to lend a hand to both assist in the organisation of the ceremony and act as the MC for the occasion. It was the first opportunity the community had to showcase its new monument and it was a fitting occasion being the centenary of ANZAC. Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis delivered an address and laid a wreath on behalf of Council.

The dedication delivered regarding the men and woman from the districts of Enngonia and Barringun in World War 1 was very well researched and indications are that the research will continue to include the later conflicts involving Australia.

Trumpeter Roy Hall and Piper Annette Earl accompanied Victor to Enngonia and there attendance was also appreciated by the Enngonia community.

Louth also conducted a ceremony on Saturday evening as has been the tradition over a number of years in this community. Staff member Leanne Davis laid a wreath at this service on behalf of Council.

Work is progressing well on the major projects that Council has underway at the moment with the construction of the new Pre-School Building being on schedule and starting to take shape.

Work on the refurbishment of the Mertin Street Sewer well is ahead of schedule with the Manager of Works, Peter Brown pleased with the progress to date.

The construction of the pipeline to connect Walkden's Bore to the Water treatment Plant is also on track with the boring to take the pipeline under the river currently being undertaken

The Parliamentary Secretary for Water Bob Baldwin, MP was due to embark on a tour of the Northern section of the Murray Darling Basin last week but his visit has been postponed.

Unfortunately, Mr Baldwin's electorate is the seat of Paterson which bore the brunt of the severe storms last week and he understandably elected to return to assist his constituents

Council representatives will travel to Warren tomorrow for a meeting of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils.

There are a number of items on the agenda and once again the Local Government Reform Process will figure prominently, as will street lighting charges and the report of the Australian Energy Regulator (AER).

Also on tomorrow is a teleconference of the Barwon Darling Critical Water Advisory Group which meets to review the current level of water at various points through the Barwon Darling System. It brings together Representatives from the New South Wales Office of Water, Irrigators, Local Government and other involved agencies. The major focus will be the current situation of depleting water supplies for Broken Hill. Bourke Shire Council and representatives of Barwon Darling Water will take part in the conference.

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 & Water Billing Officer.

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 closing 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.

Given the sudden outage of the mobile phone services to Bourke last week I made contact with the Regional Manager for Telstra, Scott Curtain, who agreed that the lack of notification was unacceptable and undertook to ensure that in future instances when planned outages were to occur that adequate notification was provided. Scott's quick response and action to ensure that there would be no repeat to the problem was very much appreciated.

Mark Coulton's Office also provided representations in relation to the matter.

A positive to come out of all the phone calls was the notification that the reason behind the work being undertaken was that the network in Bourke was being upgraded to the 4G network which is good news and follows the recent announcement of the roll out of the NBN in Bourke over the next twelve months.

Annette and I will be travelling to Ottawa, Canada in about ten days to see our new grandson Olivier who was born last week. We are looking forward to catching up with daughter Gillian, son in law Jean-Luc and grand-daughter Pascale.

Thought for the week!

"The difference between a smart person and a wise person is that a smart person knows what to say and a wise person knows whether or not to say it." -- Unknown.

Ross Earl
General Manager