



“From the GM’s Desk” 23rd July 2015



Council has continued to receive requests from residents asking Council to obtain further information relating to the provision of maternity services in Bourke. With the decision not to reopen the Birthing Unit being officially announced on the 9th June 2015 and the other suggestion of a Midwife Led Maternity Service not getting any support the maternity services were to be confined to both ante and postal natal support. The details of this service have yet to be communicated to the community and although the service is already provided through Community Health it was indicated that the services would be enhanced.

The Barwon Darling Zone of the NSW Rural Fire Service which incorporates the Councils of Bourke and Brewarrina will hold a meeting on Wednesday, 12th August 2015. The meetings are coordinated by Chris Favelle the Manager of the Far West Team and aim to increase the level of preparedness for the forthcoming bushfire season. While at the moment we have been experiencing some cold and wet conditions the reality is that this will lead to a significant increase in fuel across the two shires and planning needs to take place well in advance so that every opportunity is taken to mitigate the potential of fire.

A number of residents have been placing additional bin(s) out for collection on a regular basis and as a result have received notification that they will be receiving a charge for that additional bin(s). If you have been notified that you are to be charged for an additional bin and do not want the additional service you should notify Council’s Rates Officer and the additional charge will be removed.

Council’s adopted fees and charges provide a charge for each 240 litre capacity bin, with additional bins available for the additional charge.

If you would like to save yourself the trip to the Waste Management Facility and arrange for an additional service you can contact Council’s Rates Officer.

While on garbage collection residents are asked that they put the bins out the night before as collection times can vary. To reduce the likelihood of bins being knocked over they should be placed on level ground and have the lid closed.

Council meets next Monday, 27th July 2015 at 9.00am in the Council Chambers with the Public Forum being held at 10.00am for those who wish to take the opportunity to raise any issue with Council.

Council staff will this week commence the work on the grading of the roads around Louth in preparation for the Louth Races.

Graders are currently on Main Road 68, Louth-Tilpa East Side below Louth and will cross over to Rural Local Road 10, Tooralé when they arrive in Louth and work back down to the boundary of Central Darling Shire. Main Road 407, Louth-Cobar Road will receive a grade as well as both sides of the river from Louth to Bourke. Work will be completed in time for the race meeting.

The Shire works crew completed the work on State Highway 7, North of Enngonia last week.

Bourke Shire Council in conjunction with the NSW Heritage Council, offers small grants on a \$ for \$ basis to private home owners for restoration and repair work. Conserving places of historic value is important to the whole community.

This is a good opportunity for owners of old houses to look at repairing or repainting their home. Some of the work that has received assistance in the past includes repairing verandas, re-stumping floors, new fences to suit the style of the house and roof repairs.

If you think you have a project that might qualify for these funds, or wish to make an appointment with Council's Heritage Advisor, please phone Carolyn Crain on (02) 6830 8000.

Application forms can be downloaded from Council's Website www.bourke.nsw.gov.au.

Applications are to be submitted to Council by **4.00pm, Friday, 7th August 2015**.

The Manager of Tourism and Economic Development Phil Johnston will travel to Broken Hill later this week to attend the Annual Conference of Inland Tourism. The conference will also feature the presentation of awards.

This year one of the features of the Annual gathering will be a one day workshop aimed at providing training and information to operators in the region. This workshop replaces the Symposium format but will feature a range of speakers providing best practice information in the fields of digital technology, marketing advice, events and the topic of visiting friends and relatives.

The networks provided at this forum and the relationships that are formed are important to our year round marketing efforts as we continue to partner with others in the region to highlight the attractiveness of visiting the area.

For all Pet Owners

Identification/Microchipping – Once dogs and cats reach 12 weeks of age, they MUST be microchipped.

Microchipping is the placement of a small chip (about the size of a grain of rice) between the shoulders of your pet. The chip has 15 digit number inside that is read by a scanner.

The microchip number is entered into the NSW Companion Animals Register, along with the animal's details, and your name and address, enabling Council officers to identify who owns the animal.

If you sell/give away a dog or a cat that is less than 12 weeks old, it is required to be microchipped before being sold/given away.

Microchipping can be done at your local Veterinary Surgery.

Lifetime Registration – When your pet reaches six (6) months of age, it is required to be lifetime registered.

Current fees to have your pet registered are:

Non desexed	\$192.00*
Desexed	\$52.00*
Pensioner (Animals MUST be desexed)	\$21.00*
Recognised Breeder	\$51.00*
Assistance Animal	Free

*Please note these fees generally increase on 1st July each year.

If you are claiming the reduced registration for fee for de-sexing, you must provide a letter, certificate or clear receipt from a Vet or a statutory declaration from the owner.

If you are claiming the reduced registration fee for a pensioner, you must provide proof of de-sexing of the animal (see above) and a current pensioner concession card.

Once your animal is registered, it is now registered for life, as long as it remains in NSW.

Registration of your animal can be undertaken at any local Council.

Rotary held its Annual Changeover on Monday night which marks the changeover of office bearers for the ensuing twelve months. I have been elected President for 2015/2016 with Charlotte Finch as Secretary and Lisa Crothers continuing as Treasurer. Phil Johnston the retiring President is to be congratulated on the work he put into the club during his period at the helm.

Due to a number of factors membership of many service clubs has dwindled and Bourke has seen in the past very strong active Apex, Rotary, Rotaract and Lions Clubs, however, like many towns Bourke has seen the demise or significant reduction in member numbers in these clubs. Rotary has seen highs and lows of membership and in turn the ability to undertake community service over the years. Over the next twelve months we will be striving to gain an increase in membership which will in turn enable much more service work to be undertaken.

Volunteerism plays a very important part in developing the social fabric of towns whether that be participation in the School P & C, kids sporting groups, Rural Fire Service, Hospital Auxiliary, Meals on Wheels or the myriad of other organisations within the town. If you have a bit of spare time I am sure that there will be a number of organisations who will make you welcome.

Quote of the Week

“Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.” Winston S. Churchill

Ross Earl
General Manager