



“From the GM’s Desk” 10th September 2015



It is proposed that the first meeting of the Far Western Initiative Advisory Committee (FWIAC) will be held in Broken Hill on the 24th or September 25th 2015.

The FWIAC will be appointed by the Minister for Local Government and be made up of:-

- Chair
- A representative of each of the eight (8) Councils in the region
- DPC Executive Director, Regional Coordination
- OLG Director, Innovation & Development
- A representative of the Commonwealth Government.
- A representative of the non-government service delivery sector

The Chair appointed by the Minister is John Williams the former member for Murray Darling. Each of the eight (8) Councils is to nominate their own representative with the Minister hoping for a mix of elected officials and non- elected officers. The FWIAC will be appointed for a period of three (3) years.

Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis is Bourke Shire Council’s nominee with the Deputy Mayor, Cr Barry Hollman as the alternate. Council has asked that the General Manager attend as an advisor.

In addition to the meeting proposed for the 24th or 25th September another meeting is proposed for Sydney during or immediately after the Local Government New South Wales Conference which will be held at Rosehill Racecourse 11th to 13th October 2015.

The newly appointed chair John William’s previous electorate included Broken Hill, Central Darling, Wentworth and Balranald Shires and as such he is relatively familiar with that area. He is keen to visit the Shires in the Northern area to meet Councillors and Staff and get an understanding of the major issues and requirements of each of the towns.

David Papps, the Environmental Water Holder was due to be in town next week to hold discussions with Council and local irrigators however, his visit has now had to be postponed.

Council will be conducting a “Fee Free Tip weekend” on the 12th and 13th September 2015 to allow residents to undertake their annual spring clean in preparation for the upcoming summer period.

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

Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis is attending the Annual General Meeting and National Conference of the Murray Darling Association at Barooga and Tocumwal on the 9th, 10th and 11th September 2015. With the issues relating to the Murray Darling Basin Plan impacting on a number of communities along the river system it is critical that Council maintains a strong involvement.

Don't forget to book a table for the Trivia Night to be held on the 16th September at the Bowling Club to raise funds for Tour De OROC. Tickets are \$10.00 per head with tables of 10 preferred. Booking can be made at Council.

Together with the Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis, Cr Sarah Barton, the Manager of Corporate Services, Leonie Brown and I attended the reception hosted last week by Ninti One.

Ninti One is a national not-for-profit company that build opportunities for people in remote Australia through research, innovation and community development. Their visit to Bourke was coordinated by Maranguka Community Hub and the group were particularly keen to learn more about the project involving "Justice Reinvestment".

Ninti One is nationally representative and based in Alice Springs and the board meet quarterly with one meeting per year held in a remote location and in 2015 Bourke was chosen for that meeting.

Along with Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis, I attended the Darling River Area Command Annual Awards and Medal ceremony held at the Bourke Bowling Club on Wednesday. We were joined by representatives from Bogan and Brewarrina Shires Councils.

Presenting a number of the awards was the Assistant Commissioner, Western Regional Commander Geoffrey McKechnie. The awards included both the National and NSW Police Medal for Diligent and Ethical Service as well others for recognition of specific meritorious service.

Work continues on the ongoing maintenance of the huge road network that Council is responsible.

The Bourke to Wanaaring Road has had a grade completed as has the Wanaaring to Hungerford Road.

On the rural local roads the grading work on Tarcoon and Dry Bogan Road have been completed whilst work is currently in progress on the West Culgoa Road, Toorale Road and the Myroolia Roads.

The bulk of the work undertaken at Alice Edwards Village to reconstruct the internal road has been completed with some minor concrete works still to be undertaken. This work was funded under an Aboriginal Road Safety Infrastructure Programme Funding.

The concrete works still to be completed will see a new footpath linking to the recently constructed pathway to the Bourke CBD.

The Bourke Swimming Pool will be open for the summer season on the 19th September 2015 which is the first day of the school holidays.

The Bourke Public Library gets in new stock on an ongoing basis and the Library staff always tries to cater for the needs of the whole community and offer a wide range of material. If you are not a member why not join up. Membership is free and it costs nothing to borrow.

News that Dubbo will soon have an air service to Melbourne is good news for people from this part of the state trying to travel to that location without having to go via Sydney. With Dubbo now being linked to all three (3) capital cities on the eastern seaboard it will certainly be of increased benefit to both the commercial and tourism sectors.

From a local perspective it will be tremendous when the proposed air service for Bourke is operational to have ability to connect to such a wide area of Australia. Work on the establishment of the air service for Bourke is still progressing and hopefully we might see a positive outcome over the next few months.

Work on the reconstruction of the Mertin Street Sewer Pump Station is all but finished with only some minor matters to be attended to before the handover takes place.

The work on the project has gone smoothly and the finished product will provide a much greater degree of reliability and effectiveness in relation to the operation of the well. With Mertin Street now complete it means both the major pump stations have been completely refurbished with the Warraweena Sewer Pump Station being subject to extensive repairs in 2012.

As the weather heats up residents are reminded to be aware of the increased fire risk that traditionally accompanies the hot weather. The winter rain has provided sufficient moisture to see a reasonable grass coverage in areas across the shire most of which will quickly dry out as the temperature increases.

It is a timely reminder to acknowledge the efforts of the members of both New South Wales Fire and Rescue and the Rural Fire service who respond to the numerous call outs at all times of the day and night.

As we move into the warmer weather there will no doubt be an increased usage of water to keep our lawns and gardens in good condition. Bourke has reputation for being an “oasis” with the well-presented parks and gardens attracting a number of positive comments. In watering out lawns we should remember that water is a finite resource and shouldn’t be wasted by letting it flow down the gutters. If you have trouble remembering to move your sprinkler why not invest in a timer tap which can be purchased at the local hardware and plumbing stores.

Quote of the Week

“A journey of one thousand miles begins with a single step “- Confucius

Ross Earl
General Manager