



## “From the GM’s Desk” 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015



Monday’s Council meeting saw the election take place for the office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2015/2016. The Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis was re-elected unopposed as was the Deputy Mayor, Cr Barry Hollman. This is Councillor Lewis’s eighth consecutive term as Mayor whilst it will be fourth consecutive term for Councillor Hollman.

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Representatives of RaRMS addressed Council during Monday’s Meeting regarding their plans to provide medical services to Bourke over the duration of their contracted period. RaRMS already have already recruited an additional permanent doctor for Bourke and are confident that they will have a full complement of doctors available prior to the changeover on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

RaRMS have a presence in a number of towns already including Gilgandra, Tenterfield, Warren, Warialda and Bingara and with the addition of the six (6) towns that they will now service following the recent tender announcement RaRMS will have a significant foot print in rural New South Wales

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Council reviewed its membership of its standing committees, internal Committees and Delegates to other organisations at Monday’s meeting and there were no changes to the existing appointments.

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Council will continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each Month at 9.00am following a resolution passed at Monday’s meeting. The meeting in January however, will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in January to allow Councillors the opportunity to select the Australia Day Award Recipients. The 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in March is Easter Monday and the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in April is ANZAC day so each of those meetings will also be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday.

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As part of their presentation last week the New South Wales Grants Commission tabled a map of New South Wales which detailed those Local Government areas that had experienced a population decline over the period 2001-2014. The map shows, that with a few exceptions, those areas west of the Newell Highway had generally experienced a decline.

During that time New South Wales has seen an overall population growth of 14.3% or 943,255 people. This is a clear demonstration of the population drift to the eastern seaboard of the state. The ongoing population increases along the eastern seaboard is placing considerable pressure on the infrastructure in those areas while there is existing capacity in

the rural and regional centres that can readily cope with an increase in population and all that is required is sustainable employment.

The cost to provide the infrastructure to cater for the increase is enormous and the relocation of some industries to rural NSW would have beneficial impacts for all parties.

There needs to be a return to an active policy of decentralisation and if adopted it will assist in arresting the decline of Rural New South Wales.

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The next Meeting of Barwon Darling Water is scheduled to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the Walgett Sporting Club and will commence at 10.00 am.

Enquiries should be directed to the Executive Officer Ian Cole on 0429 7225857

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The 2015 Tour de OROC will visit Bourke on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 with around 26 people in the party, including support drivers and other coordination staff. Bourke Shire Council will join with Bourke Rotary Club in hosting the visit to town.

The Rotary Club and Bourke Shire will be holding a welcome to town / fundraiser on the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the Port of Bourke Hotel. Planned activities for the ride within Bourke Shire and the function that evening will include.

- The representatives from Bourke Shire to accompany the riders from the Cobar Shire Boundary to Bourke on the 7<sup>th</sup> and then from Bourke to the Brewarrina Boundary on the 8<sup>th</sup> October. At this stage a rider for both legs is still to be confirmed but Mark Gordon and John Bartley will be riding on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 with that leg going from the Cobar Boundary into Bourke
- Dinner at the Port of Bourke Hotel
- Raffles and Auction on the night
- Music

Tour de OROC aims to raise funds for the construction of Macquarie Homestay which is the proposed accommodation for patients and family of patients at the new Dubbo Base Hospital.

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Together with the Deputy Mayor, Cr Barry Hollman, Cr's Cec Dorrington, Jack Bennett and Victor Bartley and I represented Council at the Police Remembrance Service on Tuesday this week. The service was held at Holy Innocents Anglican Church in Bourke with the Service being conducted by Police Chaplain, Graeme Yeager who was assisted by the Bishop for the Diocese of Wilcannia Forbes the Most Reverend Columba Macbeth-Green.

The service remembers those Police Officers who have been killed on duty and members of the Police Force who have died in the past twelve months.

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As the summer approaches there will be an increased demand on the water supplies right across the Shire. Residents are reminded to be “Water Wise” and ensure that water is not wasted. Far too often water can be seen flowing down the gutters or ponding. If possible, water in the evening or early in the morning and not in the heat of the day to maximise the benefit and reduced evaporation.

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The Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis and I attended the farewell function for Dr Hutchison Thuraiajah (Dr Hutch). Hutch was in Bourke for around two and a half years and built a strong relationship with his patients during that period. The farewell was also attended by a number of representatives of the Health Service Providers within the town with Hamish Meldrum one of the directors of OCHRE Health making the trip from Sydney for the occasion.

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One of the items on the agenda at Monday’s Council meeting was the endorsement of a recommendation to apply for a Clubs NSW Grant under the next round of funding from this source. Council has previously developed a masterplan for the upgrade of the Bourke Memorial Swimming Pool.

The first stages of this masterplan are the installation of a water splash park for the little kids and the re-development of the small pool into program pool which will enable that pool to be put to a greater range of uses. A new filtration system to specifically cater for these two (2) facilities would be required to be installed in accordance with current requirements.

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Bourke Shire Council commissioned a report from the New South Wales Department of Public Works in relation to the upgrade the bores within the Shire that service the villages. There has been a strong commitment from the current State Government to provide better water supplies across the state and in anticipation of additional grant funding possibly becoming available a number of “shovel ready” projects will be developed. Council is very conscious of the needs of the village communities and a reliable water supply is critical.

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Councillor’s Auditors Hill Roger Spencer Steer from Sydney have almost completed the audit of Council’s Annual Financial Statements for 2014/2015. They will then provide a report to Council which needs to be included with the Financial Statements so that they can be lodged by the end of October as required.

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Council is currently calling for tenders for the construction of three (3) bridges which, when complete, will mean that all timber bridges within the Shire have been replaced and Bourke Shire Council would be one of the few rural Council’s that have been able to achieve this milestone. The bridges to be replaced are the Len Mallon Bridge near Enngonia, the Cuttaburra Bridge No. 2 and Whiskey Creek Bridge on the West Culgoa Road.

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Quote of the Week!

“The only way to do great work is to love what you do” - Steve Jobs

Ross Earl  
General Manager