



“From the GM’s Desk” 15th October 2015



The Toyota Tour De OROC arrived in Bourke last Wednesday afternoon after a long hot ride from Cobar. Mark Gordon and John Bartley joined the group on the Bourke/Cobar boundary to make the ride into Bourke. The Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis joined also the group out of Bourke for the remainder of the ride into Bourke.

David Pickard represented Bourke on Thursday morning, riding from Bourke to the Brewarrina boundary. Special thanks to all of the riders representing Bourke and raising money for such a worthy cause.

A dinner and auction was held at the Port of Bourke Hotel on Wednesday night, special thanks to all involved for making the event such a success with a total of \$3,500 being raised at the auction with an additional \$2,500 was raised through sponsorship for the riders, a great effort by all involved.

The Toyota Tour De OROC hope to raise around \$100,000 this year to contribute to the Macquarie Homestay Facility. This facility will benefit all in the region.

As part of the additional Roads to Recovery funding Council received in 2015/2016 it was resolved to undertake an upgrade of the gravel roads around Bourke. The upgrades include resheeting the River Road, Parkdale Road, Polygonum Swamp Road, Weir Road and Long Meadows Road. This work is currently being undertaken by Council’s Road Crews.

The “Garage Sale Trail” is fast approaching and is all set for Saturday, 24th October. Bourke Shire Council urges all local businesses, community groups and residences to jump online and register your garage sale. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of this new incentive to de-clutter your place of any unwanted treasures. Anyone not registering for a garage sale should visit the “Garage Sale Trail” website (www.garagesaletrail.com.au) the morning of Saturday, 24th of October to see where and who is holding a garage sale.

The Annual Graffiti Removal Day is scheduled for 18th October 2015 and will be coordinated locally by Bourke Rotary Club with Phil Johnston acting as the coordinator. I would like to encourage all members of the Bourke Community to get involved.

In the lead up to the day Bourke Shire Council will be undertaking a targeted removal programme and looking at some of the Graffiti on its own property.

Graffiti is a blight on the landscape and everyone should do their bit in its removal. Of course it would be much easier for the whole community would cease with this ongoing mindless sort of vandalism.

The Bourke Shire Council staff Union Picnic Day will be held on Friday, 30th October 2015 and all Council Offices and the Library will be closed on that day. Council will have staff on call for any emergency situation that may arise and can be accessed by calling 0419 722 055.

The Waste Management Facility will be operating as normal.

A reminder that nominations for the 2016 Australia Day awards are open and can be lodged at Councils Offices. It is important that we recognise those persons who assist our communities in so many ways and I encourage everyone to think about nominating someone for the awards especially those quiet achievers.

The Louth celebrations for the sesqui centenary of the village are planned for the 31st October 2015. It should be a good weekend for the village and no doubt many ex-residents and those with ties to the community will take the opportunity to participate in the celebrations.

The coordination committee have a Facebook page and further information is available from that source.

The Mayor Councillor Andrew Lewis has accepted an invitation from the Australian Women's Pilots Association to represent Council at a function to mark the 100th birthday of Nancy-Bird Walton AO, OBE, DS&J, Aviation Pioneer and founder of the Australian Women Pilots' Association (AWPA) to be held Friday, 16th October 2015 at 7.00pm at Pymont. Nancy –Bird is Australia's most famous aviatrix and the Terminal at Bourke Airport is named in her honour.

Congratulations to the Bourke and District garden Club on the conduct of yet another successful Rose and Spring Collection Show on the weekend. When you drive around Bourke there are some magnificent examples of roses and they certainly add a lot of colour to the gardens and streetscape.

With the hot weather now upon us there is an increased risk of fire so all residents are asked to particularly cautious when undertaking activities that could lead to fire and this include the slashing of dry areas and the use of power tools in the open. If you need to undertake such work ensure that you have an adequate firefighting resources available.

While members of the Local Rural Fire Service are well equipped to handle emergency situations many such situations could be avoided if people took a little more care and properly prepared.

With conditions becoming more conducive to the spread of fire, people need to be extremely careful when using fire.

In times of total fire bans it is critical that the directions relating to these are obeyed. These include:-

- Anybody wishing to light a fire on their property during the Bush Fire Danger Period will require a permit from their brigade permit officer or Fire Control Centre.
- Even with a permit you need to check whether a Total Fire Ban is in place before lighting any fires.
- Have a Bush Fire Survival Plan, so all members of the household know what to do on days of increased fire danger, and if their home is threatened by fire.
- Residents should also continue with their hazard reduction activities.
- Residents also need to ask whether they need a Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate.
- Never leave a fire unattended and if a fire does escape, it is essential to call Triple Zero (000) immediately so that emergency services can respond accordingly and minimise the damage.

We have all seen the devastation that bushfires can bring to a community, so you are strongly urged to contact your local brigades and use their expertise to assist in carrying out safe hazard reductions.

For more information contact Bourke Fire Control Centre on 02 68724 023 or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

While speaking of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) I would like acknowledge the efforts of all the RFS volunteers and the volunteers from the State Emergency Services (SES) who provided a dedicated service in protected our community and in assisting in many dangerous situations in all sorts of weather conditions. The work they do in responding to such emergencies is well documented but what is not as well- known is the additional hours these volunteers put in in training to ensure they are properly equipped to handle all those situations

Quote of the Week!

“Laugh when you can, it is cheap medicine“

Lord Byron

Ross Earl
General Manager