



“From the GM’s Desk” 12th November 2015



Council will continue working with the Far West Initiative Advisory Committee (FWIAC) to develop a new model of governance and service delivery for this part of the state. The next meeting of the FWIAC is scheduled for Bourke on the 7th December 2015. The Committee is chaired by John Williams who was previously the Member for Murray Darling based in Broken Hill.

Bourke will be hosting the Quarterly Meeting of the Regional Emergency Management Committee on 24th November at Diggers on the Darling. The Committee is chaired by Geoff McKechnie the area Police Commander and brings to the table all the agencies potentially involved in a Regional Emergency situation. These include Rail Operators, Transport, Health, Primary Industries, Local Government, Police and the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Nominations for the 2016 Australia Day Awards are open and can be lodged at Council’s Offices. Bourke has a great number of volunteers who give unselfishly of their time for the benefit of the community and these awards are an ideal opportunity to acknowledge that contribution. Volunteers and award recipients can come from across a wide range of areas and there are a number of categories to reflect the diversity of the contributions.

Councillors and staff had the opportunity to catch up with Kevin Humphries the Member for Barwon on Wednesday night and discuss with him a range of issues including, the return of air services to Bourke. The next round of the Murray Darling Diversification Funding, Health Services in Bourke, updates of the status of various grant applications and opportunities and water security.

The Bourke Business Group met last Wednesday night and there was possibly the best attendance I have seen at the meeting for some time. There were many issues raised and included was the proposed summer time promotion for Bourke focusing on the benefits of our very warm climate. There was a great deal of interest in the current status of the planning and approval process for the proposed small stock abattoir and also the reintroduction of the air service for Bourke.

Rural and Remote Medical Services (RaMS) will take over the provision of medical services at the Darling River Medical Centre from the 30th November 2015. At this stage everything is on track for a seamless transition.

I have previously mentioned the amount of time taken by Councillors in undertaking their civic duties and this is particularly the case with those holding the Office of Mayor.

Despite the fact that he lives 90 kilometres from Bourke and travels extensively for his own business, over the past two (2) weeks Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis has attended the meeting of Council on the 26th October then travelled to Griffith for the Tuesday hearing of the Senate Inquiry on the MDBP (Murray Darling Basin Plan) was in town on Thursday for a teleconference before travelling to Lightning Ridge for OROC. On the 2nd November he attended the Western Lands Advisory Council in Cobar as a Local Government Representative. On Tuesday he was back in town to meet with the Chair of the MDBA (Murray Darling Basin Authority) then on Wednesday evening met with the local member Kevin Humphries. Thursday saw him appear before the Upper House Inquiry into the Delivery of Social Services on Areas of high Need. On Saturday he travelled to Cunnamulla to represent Bourke Shire at the "Mayor's Challenge" which was held as part of the Cunnamulla Fella Festival. A bull rider is selected to represent each of the neighbouring Councils of Paroo Shire, the winning Mayor wins the right to hold the miniature of the famous Cunnamulla Fella Statue for the ensuing twelve months.

The trip to Cunnamulla was made very worthwhile with the Bourke Shire rider being the winner of the Bull Ride.

The quarterly meeting of the Local Emergency Management Meeting was held last Tuesday and brought together members of the Emergency Services within Bourke. The meetings as I have said provide the opportunity for each of the organisations to familiarise themselves with the operations and capabilities of the other plus develop a understanding of each other which is important in the case of emergencies.

The Long Table Dinner which was hosted by the hospitality class at Bourke High School last Thursday provided those in attendance an excellent meal, the deserts being exceptional! There were around 50 people in attendance and I am sure that everyone would have not only enjoyed the meal, but also the entertainment provided. Well done to all involved.

The Legislative Council of NSW Standing Committee on Social Issues visited Bourke on Thursday. The Committee has been tasked with undertaking an Inquiry into service coordination in communities with high social needs.

The Membership of the Committee is as follows:-

The Hon. Bronnie Taylor, MLC	<i>The Nationals</i>	Chair
The Hon. Gregg Donnelly, MLC	<i>Australian Labour Party</i>	Deputy Chair
The Hon. Shayne Mallard, MLC	<i>Liberal Party</i>	
Revd. the Hon Fred Nile, MLC	<i>Christian Democratic Party</i>	
The Hon. Dr. Peter Phelps, MLC	<i>Liberal Party</i>	
The Hon Penny Sharpe, MLC	<i>Australian Labor Party</i>	

Along with a number of groups within the Community Council had the opportunity to meet with the committee. After making an opening address to the Committee, the Mayor and Staff in attendance then had the opportunity to respond to a number of questions raised by the committee members.

Unfortunately the charter flight bringing them from Sydney was delayed due to bad weather which put additional pressure on the committee to stay within what was already a relatively tight time frame; however they were able to complete the round of scheduled consultations.

To provide the opportunity for residents to rid their homes and yards with unwanted rubbish prior to Christmas a “ Fee Free Day” will be held Saturday, 5th December 2015. All domestic rubbish will be able to be deposited free of charge on that day. There are some minor exceptions, with a charge still applying to tyres, asbestos, chemicals, liquid waste, building and commercial waste.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet will be joining with the Office of Local Government with a series of Stakeholder meetings to detail the concept of the Far West Initiative more fully to the communities of the eight (8) Councils involved.

As part of the Stakeholder meetings they will meet with all Councils and also try and meet with representative groups including business groups, progress associations, social groups and other interested parties. The stakeholder meeting for Bourke will be held on the Thursday, 3rd December whilst Brewarrina will be held on Friday, 4th December. Full details of times and location will be announced shortly.

With the meeting of the Far Western Initiative Advisory Committee scheduled for Bourke on Monday, 7th December 2015 it will provide and the opportunity to raise issues that Delegates to the Advisory Committee which they in turn table at that meeting of the Advisory Committee.

Staff members have noted that on a number of occasions that events are being advertised as being conducted at Council owned facilities without a booking being made. Whilst generally there is good availability for most facilities the booking of facilities provides the opportunity

to ensure that the facilities are prepared correctly, that there is no potential clash and the user/hirer is aware of the requirements for the use of facilities including insurance coverage.

James Price the representative of CAPRA Pty Ltd which is the proponent company of the proposed abattoir to be built north of Bourke will be in Bourke on Tuesday, 8th December 2015. He will join Council in conducting a series of information sessions to provide details to Councillors and various sectors of the Bourke Community further information in respect of the proposed small stock abattoir and the planning and approval process that needs to be undertaken prior to construction. The opportunity will be available for all members of the community to attend one of the sessions. Further details will be provided over the next three (3) weeks.

Quote of the Week!

“Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard “-Tim Notke

Ross Earl
General Manager