



“From the GM’s Desk” 19th November 2015



The Remembrance Day Service was again well attended with strong representation of school children in attendance.

As part of the Ceremony we saw the dedication of the rose garden which has been established alongside the lone pine. The unveiling of the plaque to mark the opening of the garden was undertaken by the Bourke Public School Captains, Tara Brookman and Bradley Parnaby whilst Manager of 2WEB, Wayne Harrison gave an enlightening address on the significance of the colour of each of the roses, prior to the unveiling of the commemorative plaque.

The recognition of the contribution of the servicemen and women seems to grow stronger as the appreciation of how lucky we are to live in Australia becomes increasingly apparent.

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 the 8th December 2015. He will join with Council in conducting a series of information sessions to detail 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.

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 on 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 include 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 consultation meetings will be held on Friday, 4th December.

The meeting will provide an the opportunity to raise issues that the Bourke delegates to the Advisory Committee will be then able to table at the next meeting of the Far West Initiative Advisory Committee.

The meeting of the Far Western Initiative Advisory Committee was scheduled for Bourke on the 7th December 2015 but has now been transferred to Sydney to provide the opportunity for the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Paul Toole, MP to be able to attend.

SafeWork NSW will be visiting some towns in the far West as part of their Safer Community/Safer Towns Days Program. They will be in Bourke on Tuesday, 15th December and Brewarrina on Wednesday, 16th December. SafeWork NSW Inspectors will be in the towns to provide information, guidance and advice on Work Health and Safety, Return to Work and Workers Compensation.

They can also arrange presentations and advisory visits to businesses and their workers after hours and at other locations if people are interested. You will need to contact the Dubbo Office of SafeWork NSW before the visit to Bourke so it can be arranged.

Small businesses who attend the SafeWork NSW site and the presentations may qualify for the SafeWork NSW \$500 Small Business Safety Rebate. A Small Business is any business with 0 to 50 employees including Sole Traders, farmers etc.

Further details will be advertised in the local media.

Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis was joined by Cr Victor Bartley in representing Bourke Shire at the dedication of a Monument at Hungerford Saturday 14th November 2015. The dedication was coordinated by Bulloo Shire and recognises those from the Hungerford District who saw Service in World War I and World War II.

People travelled from a wide area to attend the ceremony to dedicate the monument which will provide an ongoing reminder of the sacrifices made so that we can enjoy the life we do today.

The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday, 23rd November commencing at 9.00am in the Council Chambers at 29 Mitchell Street. A Public Forum will be conducted at 10.00am and whilst not essential it would assist to provide a response if notification of your attendance could be given prior to the day.

The recent rainfall has provided a boost to many of the ground storages within the shire as well as minor inflows to the Darling River. The groundwater storage at Byrock is looking a lot healthier with an additional metre being recorded on the gauge, which is good news for the residents of Byrock in the lead up to the summer period.

Annette and I travelled up to Cunnamulla last Friday staying overnight and visiting the various attractions around the district including making a trip out to Eulo. We were impressed with the friendliness of both towns and the presentation of the parks and gardens.

We were also pleased to see that the persons within the tourist industry seem to actively promote a visit to Bourke to visitors with many having a range of Bourke brochures on display. While there is some informal relationships between some businesses in Bourke and Cunnamulla it would be beneficial to both towns if stronger links were established encouraging people to stay a little longer in this part of the Australia.

Council held an Extraordinary Meeting on the 11th November to discuss the current developments in the Local Government Reform Process with the Government advising that those Councils in the Far West Initiative could lodge a merger proposal should they wish to and then potentially access some of the financial incentives that were being offered to the other 144 Councils. There was no obligation, nor any expectation that Councils would lodge such a proposal.

Council reaffirmed its previous decision to remain a standalone Council.

Council also resolved to ask the Minister to give an assurance that all eight (8) Councils earmarked for the Far West Initiative would continue to exist in their current form and structure, to be able to assist in the development of and operate within any new model for Local Government and Service Delivery within the Far West.

Today is the day that all councils in New South Wales, with the exception of the eight (8) Councils in the Far West Initiative are expected to lodge merger proposal. It will be interesting to see the outcome of that process given that not only do the two (2) or proposed merger Councils have to agree to the proposal but also the Government.

Bourke Public Library will be joining with Wakefield Press in hosting Author, Adrian Mitchell at the Library on Thursday, 26th November 2015. Adrian will present an address and also conduct a book signing. Books will be available for purchase on the night.

Long serving employee David (Croc) Hyland worked his last shift with Council last Thursday and was given a farewell barbeque by his workmates. Croc clocked up 25 years of service with Council and for much of that time started at 5.00am on the Street Sweeper.

I would like to join with the Councillors and staff in offering congratulations and thank you to Croc for his service and wish him all the best for the future.

Visitors to Council offices would have noticed the new signage that has been erected to signify Council becoming an agent of Service New South Wales. Whilst the bulk of the transactions will still be those related to Motor Vehicle Licensing and Registration the other services able to be provided include the provision of Birth Certificates and Boat Licences.

Bourke and Cobar Shires are two (2) of the first such agencies to be commissioned in New South Wales.

Quote of the Week!

“Stop being afraid of what might go wrong and start being positive about what could go right”.

Ross Earl
General Manager