



“From the GM’s Desk” 10th November 2016



At the meeting of Council on Tuesday, 22nd November Councillors will have the opportunity to meet with Professor Sally Tracy, who has for some time now been concerned about the lack of maternity services in Bourke and surrounding districts and has taken the opportunity whilst in Bourke to arrange a meeting with Council. Professor Tracy is aware of Councils ongoing advocacy in trying to have the birthing unit in Bourke re-opened.

In her roles as the midwifery adviser for the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health and also as a professor at the Royal Hospital for Women (which is a state-wide service) Sally has continued to lobby for funding and to raise awareness for the plight of the women in Bourke.

She is currently actively involved in funding for a ‘Women’s Business Bus’ to be based at Bourke which will provide antenatal/postnatal care and advice where appropriate.

Professor Tracy will be travelling with Mrs Janet McDonald a Senior Board member of the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District who also has a very strong interest in seeing the Royal Hospital for Women involved in helping out where possible.

Council has determined the dates for the round of Committee consultation dates to seek input into the update of the Community Strategic Plan. The dates for the visits to the villages are as follows:-

Wanaaring	30 th November	10.30am
Louth	6 th December	8.00am
Byrock	7 th December	1.00pm
Bourke	7 th December	5.30pm
Enngonia	8 th December	1.00pm
Fords Bridge	8 th December	9.30pm

With the election of each new Council comes the requirement to review the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and the Delivery Plan. These documents provide the cornerstone for the determination of Councils priorities over the next quadrennial period for which the Council is elected. The dates for the meetings will be finalised over the next couple of weeks and be advertised throughout the Shire. It is important to note that the determination of the strategic priorities for the Council is not restricted to those which are solely the responsibility of Council but can also include areas which are the responsibility of the other tiers of Government. Council undertakes an advocacy role on behalf of the community

The Mayor and I travelled to Brewarrina last Wednesday evening to attend a function to mark the late 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Brewarrina Pool. The pool was constructed by local contactor H.H. “Boobar” Lucas and all the concrete for the job was hand mixed which would have been a huge effort. In a testimony of his construction ability the pool is one of very few around the state that doesn’t leak.

The Remembrance Day commemoration service will be held at the Cenotaph in Central Park TOMORROW, 11th November 2016. Persons intending to participate in the services are asked to be at the cenotaph no later than 10.50 am. The Bourke Remembrance Day Service is coordinated by the Local RSL Sub Branch and enquiries can be directed to Victor Bartley.

Mayor Barry Hollman reminds residents that on each Monday he will be available to meet with residents between 2.00pm and 4.00pm at the Council Offices. There have already been a number of people who have taken the opportunity to speak to Mayor Hollman on a variety of issues and where possible he will try and provide a solution or a way forward on the issues raised with him.

Please contact the Mayor's Executive Assistant, Kai Howard-Oakman on 02 68308000 or by email at khoward@bourke.nsw.gov.au to make an appointment, meetings will be limited to 15 minutes and people with appointments will be seen prior to walk-ins.

Nominations are now open for the 2017 Bourke Shire Australia Day Awards. Nominations close until 11th January 2017.

While nominations will not close until January the opportunity exists for organisations and individuals to consider nominating someone for these important awards which recognise the contributions that many people make to ensure our community enjoys the services and amenity it does.

With a number of organisations going into a Christmas/New Year recess from early December there is in all probability only one more meeting of most organisations for the year so it is time to get organised and submit a nomination.

The categories are as follows:-

- Citizen of the year
- Young citizen of the year (under 25)
- Sportsperson of the Year
- Junior Sportsperson (under 25) of the year
- Service through employment Awards
- Village Service Award
- Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year
- Community Event of the Year

It is important that the quiet achievers within our community are recognised and the Australia Day Awards provided a mechanism for these valuable contributors to our community are recognised.

The Splash Park at the Bourke Pool continues to take shape and the construction team are working long hours to get the project completed. It will certainly be an added attraction to the pool Complex and town generally.

Long serving and dedicated Bourke Shire Council employee John Keely retired last week after 29 years' service with Bourke Shire Council. On behalf of Councillors and all his workmates I would like to wish "Brushy" all the best for the future and trust he enjoys a happy and healthy retirement.

He will join Councillors for lunch during the next meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday, 22nd November 2016 as well as being farewelled by his workmates with a barbeque at the depot.

It is good to see the local business get together to once again stage a Christmas Promotion aimed at encouraging people to shop locally during the Christmas period. Bourke is well served by a small but very diverse retail sector that carries a wide range of products and are generally able to be very competitive with retailers in the larger centres. Shopping locally not only supports the retail sector but ensures that jobs are provided locally and very importantly if you buy locally you can expect local back up service.

Bourke Rotary Club will be hosting the 2016 Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner on Saturday, 3rd December 2016 at the Bourke Bowling Club commencing at 12.00. Transport will be arranged for those persons who require it. All senior citizens within the community are invited to attend what over the years been a very popular and well attended event.

Some invitations have been posted out but it is difficult to capture everyone within the community. If you would like to attend you can put name down at Bourke Shire of at the Bourke Post Office.

One of the items on the agenda for the ordinary meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday, 22nd November 2016 is the receipt and adoption of the 2015/2016 Financial Reports and an advertisement in relation to this appears in today's edition of the Western Herald. Council's financial position is quite strong and this is reflected in the financial reports and the auditor's report. Council's Auditor, Gary Mottau of Hills Rogers will be joining the meeting via Skype to both present his report and accept questions from Councillors.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our small but dedicated Finance Team led by Manager of Corporate Services, Leonie Brown whose efforts have ensure that our expenditure levels are being kept within budget and income opportunities capitalised upon. During the Local Government Reform Process much has been written about the long term sustainability of Councils and it is pleasing to note that Bourke Shire Council has continued to improve its position in this regard.

The Bourke "mud map" which is a very popular guide with all the tourists is currently being reprinted and with each print run lasting around twelve (12) months it is important that we get the information in the guide as accurate and up to date as possible. If you have any potential changes, suggestions or comments please contact the Manager of Economic Development and Tourism, Phil Johnston at the Council Office.

The Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) will meet in Bourke on Friday, 2nd December, this will include the Annual General Meeting of that organisation. Bourke Shire Councillors will join with the OROC Board Members for a Dinner on the night before the meeting.

Quote of the week!

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new"
- Socrates

Ross Earl
General Manager