



“From the GM’s Desk” 17th November 2016



The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Tuesday, 22nd November and includes the presentation of Council’s Financial Reports for 2015/2016 and also the opportunity for Councillors to hear from Professor Sally Tracy regarding the importance of the re-establishment of the Birthing Unit at Bourke Hospital. Professor Tracy has maintained a keen interest in the need to have birthing facilities re-established in Bourke and in other regions across the western section of the state and is currently looking at raising funds to be able to have a ‘Women’s Business Bus’ operational and to be based at Bourke . The bus will be staffed with professionals and will provide antenatal/postnatal care and advice where appropriate both in Bourke and surrounding districts. Professor Tracy will address Council at 2.00pm on the 22nd November and interested members of the public are invited to attend.

The opportunity exists for all members of the public to attend meetings and to also address Council during the public forum which is held at 10.00am on each meeting day.

Whilst there is no need to book an appointment to speak it can be advantageous if you could advise the Executive Assistant, Kai Howard- Oakman of your proposed attendance and matter of concern so that if necessary, background information can be prepared.

Mayor Barry Hollman’s press release in relation to the need for the Department of Health to, as a matter of urgency to seriously consider the provision of incentives for nurses and allied health professionals to work in the western part of the state has received support from the NSW Nurse’s Union who also recognise the problem and would like to see a solution developed.

Council will be conducting a series of meetings throughout the Shire to commence the review process for the update of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

The time table for the community consultation meetings is as follows:-

Wanaaring	30th November	10.00am
Louth	6th December	8.00am
Byrock	7th December	1.00pm
Bourke	7th December	5.30pm
Enngonia	8th December	1.00pm
Fords Bridge	8th December	9.30pm

PLEASE NOTE THE AMENDED TIME FOR WANAARING

I would encourage members of the public to attend the meeting and provide input into the future direction that should be taken for our community. Not all of the issues raised will be the responsibility of Council but are still important to the shire community and will be included in the CSP. In many instances whilst Council is not the provider of a service it can be a strong advocate for the community.

It is particularly important that the views and concerns of residents in the outlying areas of the shire are captured in the CSP.

Following the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Consultation Meeting in Wanaaring on the 30th November 2016 the NSW Office of Local Government (OLG) will take the opportunity to conduct their Community Information Session in relation to the Far West Initiative (FWI) for the people in the Wanaaring area including those in the Unincorporated Area.

This meeting was postponed from October due to the wet weather.

At the conclusion of the Shire Meeting, the OLG will provide a light lunch with their meeting then commencing at 12.30pm and will go for about 90 minutes. The meetings were scheduled together to save people from the outlying areas having to make two (2) separate trips.

Residents are reminded that submissions in relation to the Far West Initiative are due on the 16th December 2016. Any resident who would like assistance with the submission can contact Council Office Staff.

Mayor Barry Hollman and Manager of Roads, Mark Gordon travelled to Toowoomba last week to attend the National Roads Congress. The Congress brings together Councils from across Australia and provides an important forum for these Councils to discuss issues in relation to the road network across our vast nation.

The Remembrance Day Commemoration Service held last Friday was again well attended and it was particularly pleasing to see so many school children in attendance to observe what is, a very important day in Australia's history.

It was also good to see so many local organisations represented and to lay floral tributes in recognition of those men and women who gave up so much so that we can enjoy the way of life we do today.

The Remembrance Day activities were once again coordinated by the Local RSL Sub- Branch led by Victor Barley and supported by a number of organisations within town.

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 suggested way forward on the issues which are raised with him. Appointments will be made for 15 minute periods.

Nominations are open for the 2017 Bourke Shire Australia Day Awards. Nominations will be accepted up until 11th January 2017.

While nominations will not close until January 11th, the opportunity exists for organisations and individuals to consider nominating someone now for these important awards which recognise the contributions many people make to ensure our community enjoys the services and amenity it does.

Another Long serving and dedicated Bourke Shire Council employee Stephen Bridge announced that he would retire from Council early in January after 30 years' service with Bourke Shire Council. "Bridgey" has been on long service leave for the past few months and has transitioned himself into his new residence in Dubbo during that period.

On behalf of Councillors and all his workmates I would like thank Stephen for his dedicated service over the past 30 years and wish him all the best for the future.

The 2nd December is shaping up as a busy day for Bourke with the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) to meet in Bourke with OROC also conducting their Annual General in addition to having their normal quarterly meeting

I have also been made aware that the Murray Darling Basin Authority will be in town to meet with interested persons following the release of the report in relation to the Northern Basin which is scheduled for the 22nd November 2016.

The time and venue of the meeting will be advised as soon as it is to hand.

Councillors and staff met with representatives of the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) yesterday to review the suggestions for the names of the rest areas along the State Highways within the Shire. The naming of the Rest Areas will be one of the items for consideration at the Town and Village Committee to be held today (Thursday).

Mayor Barry Hollman and Councillor Victor Bartley accepted an invitation to attend a meeting of Bulloo Shire Council which was held at Hungerford on Tuesday. Bulloo Shire is based at Thargomindah but the Council has taken the opportunity to have one of their meetings at Hungerford and invited representatives of Bourke Shire to attend given that we are neighbours with each bordering the State boundary.

To provide the opportunity for residents to rid their homes and yards of unwanted material prior to Christmas two (2) "Fee Free Weekends" will be held at the Bourke Waste Management Facility on the Cobar Road on the weekends of Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th November and also the 3rd and 4th December 2016.

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 Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Paul Toole, MP has convened a meeting of the Far West Initiative Advisory Committee (FWIAC) via video-conference for the 24th November 2016. During an informal meeting with the Minister during the LGNSW Conference held on 17th October 2016 Wollongong he invited the Council members of the Far West Initiative (FWI) to submit questions to him and he would provide answers. I was asked to coordinate the questions on behalf of the group and it is anticipated that these questions will be answered during the video conference. The installation of video conferencing facilities was an initiative of the Minister and this will be an opportunity for him to gauge for himself the effectiveness of the new technology.

Quote of the week!

*“Challenges are what makes life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful-
“Joshua. J. Marine*

Ross Earl
General Manager