



“From the GM’s Desk”

25th May 2017



Richard Stutchbury, the landscape architect who has done much of the work at the Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre and assisted in the landscape of the Skate Park has been working on preliminary plans for the upgrade of much of the Bourke CBD. Richard presented some of his concept plans to Council last Monday with the general response from all Councillors being positive. Richard has undertaken comprehensive consultation with the business owners over the past few weeks and will continue with that consultation process as the project develops.

The funding for the work has been provided to Council from the Murray Darling Basin Diversification Fund and Council was successful in securing \$1.5 million dollars from that fund.

A number of options for the redevelopment are being considered with the finalisation of the plans still sometime away. One of the common themes from members of the public has been the need to try and incorporate trees into the redevelopment and provide for the “greening” of the area.

Whilst the Minister for Police and the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Troy Grant, MP was in Bourke last week he took the opportunity to present a cheque for \$37,000 to the Bourke Joeys Soccer Club for the erection of a canteen at Coolican Oval. The funding was made available through the Safer Communities Program and the Committee of the Joeys Soccer Club are to be congratulated on their initiative.

Council will work with the club to assist them with the determination of a suitable site and also be able to connect to the services which will be required.

The Canteen Facilities will be a valuable addition to the existing facilities at Coolican Oval.

Mark Horton from the Department of Sport and Recreation was in Bourke earlier in the week to assist Council staff in the development of a Master Plan for the Sporting and Recreational Facilities in Bourke. Council has allocated \$20,000.00 to the project to ensure that the development of the sporting and recreational facilities in town is undertaken in a coordinated manner. In the first instance the plan will be looking at the existing sporting precinct which includes Davidson Oval, the War Memorial Swimming Pool and Coolican Oval. However all sporting and recreational facilities will be included with Bourke boasting a wide range of facilities.

Council has experienced some problems with the lighting at Davidson Oval recently with the some of the wiring possibly due for an upgrade. The replacement of the lights in the future will have to be considered.

The Renshaw Oval Complex will need to be included in the Master Plan with this area also being an important facility for a number of organisations including the Show, Race Club, Pony Club and Gun Club. There has been a significant amount of work that has been undertaken both by Council and the individual users and the area has been vastly improved. Again it is important that all these works are undertaken in a coordinated manner so that the utilisation of any funding that is available is maximised.

The quarterly meeting of the Far West Regional Emergency Management Committee was held on Tuesday at the Rural Fire Service Facilities at the Bourke Airport. The Meeting saw representatives from all agencies in attendance either in person or via telephone conference.

As I have previously mentioned the meetings of all agencies it is important to determine their readiness to handle any number of emergency situations that could arise within the west of the state is important. The development of plans by the various agencies to handle the situations critical for a prompt, effective and efficient response is also important.

The Mayor, Councillor Barry Hollman and I will be travelling to Dubbo next week to attend the Board meeting of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) on Friday, 2nd June 2017. The Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP will be visiting Dubbo on the day and will be attending part of the OROC meeting and will also be joining members of the Board for lunch.

Former Mayor of Dubbo, Mathew Dickerson has advised Council that there will be another "Tour de OROC" in 2017. Mathew who was instrumental in the development of the concept of the "Tour De OROC" which involves some very dedicated push bike riders cycling around the OROC region to raise funds for Macquarie Homestay which is a residential Complex to be built adjacent to the new Dubbo Hospital to provide accommodation of patients and families of patients utilising the hospital facilities. The accommodation is designed to be affordable and provide ready access to people from the wide area that the hospital will service and Bourke is very much with this area.

The 2017 Tour de OROC will commence from Mudgee on Sunday, 2nd October 2017 and finish in Dubbo on Saturday, 7th October. The riders will stay overnight in Bourke on Thursday, 4th October 2017.

Bourke residents have been very supportive of the ride over the last two occasions it has been held and it is anticipated that this level of support will continue in 2017 with the benefits to all outlying communities utilising Dubbo for specialist medical services obvious.

The Lachie Cossor Outback Stockman's Show has commenced in Bourke for the winter visitor season. Lachie is an experienced horseman and entertainer and his Outback Show includes stock handling, storytelling and singing. Lachie has most recently been performing at the Stockman's Hall of Fame and also at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The Outback Show is on now and runs six (6) days per week, Tuesday through Sunday at 11am. Tickets are available from the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre. The Outback Show has been a big hit with visitors and locals in our region and we welcome Lachie to town.

Council hosted a farewell function for Phil Johnston on Monday night at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre and all speakers at the function spoke on glowing terms of Phil's contribution to both Bourke Shire Council and the broader Bourke Community in many different ways including his involvement in Rotary Bourke, District Children's Services and various sporting and other community groups.

From a personal view I would like to thank Phil for his dedication and support and his contribution to both Council and the community and wish him and his family all the best for the future. No doubt Bourke's loss will be Narromine's gain.

Phil will commence with Narromine Shire Council next week in an Economic Development role.

At the Public Forum held in conjunction with the Council meeting on Monday, local landowner Brian Bambrick addressed Council on the problems being caused to graziers as a result of the increased wild dog numbers. Whilst not a direct responsibility of Council it was acknowledged that the problem has significant consequences for many of the landowners with the Shire and surrounding Shires and that a coordinated effort was required to address the problem. Council has agreed to make representation to the appropriate bodies to see what can be done in a proactive attempt to see the numbers of wild dogs reduced.

The next meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, 20th June and on the agenda will be the consideration of the Draft Community Strategic Plan, The Draft Operational Plan and the Draft Delivery Programme as well as the Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

Quote of the Week!

"Things do not happen- things are made to happen"

- JFK

Ross Earl
General Manager