



“From the GM’s Desk”

1st June 2017



Mark Horton from the Department of Sport and Recreation who was as in Bourke last week has offered to facilitate a number of workshops aimed at providing all members of the community into development of a Master Plan to be developed for the upgrading Sporting and recreational facilities in Bourke. Dwayne Willoughby, Council’s Manager of Environmental Services and I accompanied Mark during an inspection of the existing sporting and recreational facilities to ensure that Mark was familiar with the facilities and the opportunities which may be available to build on the existing infrastructure.

Mark has offered to return to Bourke to facilitate workshops involving the sporting groups and other interested organisations and individuals to determine the identified needs and/or expectations of the community in relation to the recreational amenities within Bourke. Mark has undertaken several other workshops of a similar nature across the western region and his expertise is welcomed, and offer very much appreciated.

The results of the workshop will be the first step in developing a strategic plan for the facilities.

It is proposed that the first of the two (2) workshops will be held on Wednesday, 14th June and will be open to the whole community and Mark was particularly keen to get the input of the younger members of our community.

The second of the workshops will be held Wednesday, 5th July 2017.

All sporting groups will be encouraged to be represented at the meetings.

The OROC Board Meeting to be held tomorrow promises to be a very informative meeting with the Premier of NSW, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian agreeing to attend the meeting and she will be accompanied by the Member for Dubbo and Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon. Troy Grant, MP.

Also in attendance and making a presentation to the meeting will be the NSW Regional Infrastructure Coordination Team of Ken Gillespie and Don Murray who have accepted an invitation to attend. This team has been appointed by the Premier to identify and rectify any problems associated with the delivery of infrastructure projects.

The sealing of the approaches to the Cuttaburra Bridges was to be undertaken this week and the erection of the guard rail scheduled to be completed prior to the end of the financial year. The completion of these works will mark the finalisation of Council’s Bridge Replacement Programme. Bourke Shire is one of the very few Councils in rural New South Wales to have replaced all its timber bridges. The Council’s Engineering Department strategic action in planning for the replacement of all bridges and the commitment of the current and previous Council’s in supporting the replacement programme has resulted in tangible benefits for the road users within the Shire and

funds previously directed to the Bridge Replacement Programme will again be directed to the maintenance and improvement of the road surfaces.

Richard Stutchbury the landscape architect providing Council advice on the proposal to re-develop the Bourke CBD conducted a number of community workshops over the past week to discuss the initial concepts involved in his proposal. Richard had previously made a similar presentation to last week's meeting of Council meeting.

The workshops catered for different sections of the community and there was a large degree of enthusiasm for the concept at all meetings.

Among the suggestions put forward was the making of Oxley Street between Richards and Sturt Streets a one way street which in turn presented the opportunity for additional space to be made available for the planting of trees, which is line with the "greening" theme for the CBD area. This suggestion had overwhelming support and was also seen as a mechanism for not only improving the aesthetics of the precinct but reducing the speed of vehicles utilising the street.

Council was successful in securing \$1.5 million dollars from the Murray Darling Basin Diversification Fund to assist with the funding of the project.

It is clear that the work required will exceed the \$1.5 million dollars available and the works will need to be prioritised and potentially staged.

The DRAFT drawings in relation to the redevelopment are available for inspection at the Bourke Shire Council Offices and will also be made available at the Bourke Public Library.

Council staff have finished the installation of a new public toilet at Enngonia which is located adjacent to the Enngonia Hall. The new facilities have been welcomed by the Enngonia community and the community have indicated that they will assist in undertaking of the cleaning and maintenance of the facility to ensure they are always clean and tidy. This offer will be of tremendous assistance to Council and will provide a great service to the travelling public.

Bourke Shire Council is pleased to welcome John and Tanya Milgate of Morrall's Bakery as the new operators of the Café at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre. With the new Outback Show having commenced last week, the re-opening of the Café in very timely and will provide the visitors to the Centre and the Outback Show the opportunity to enjoy a coffee and a meal and be ready to spend at little additional time in the centre.

The Café provides a very pleasant setting and to date has been very much an under-utilised facility.

The catering for the farewell function for Phil Johnston last week was provided by students from the hospitality classes at Bourke High School under the guidance of hospitality teacher, Kristie Ibbotson. The food was excellent and the polite and courteous manner in which the students served the food and interacted with the guests displayed a maturity and level of professionalism beyond their years and they were a credit to, and very good ambassadors, for the Bourke High

School. The willingness of Kristie to provide the students with this valuable practical experience is to be commended and will certainly provide a beneficial addition to their curriculum and the students will be well placed to seek employment opportunities within the hospitality industry.

The office staff at Bourke Shire Council held their own version of the “Biggest Morning Tea” last Thursday with staff members generously donating food for the occasion. Over \$270.00 dollars was raised and it will be forwarded to be combined with the other fundraisers within town. The support from Bourke residents for this very worthwhile cause has once again been excellent.

Last month Council engaged contractors to undertake the resealing of all the sealed streets in Wanaaring as part of the annual reseal program. The work has ensured the longevity of the street surfaces and has been welcomed by the residents of the village.

Council has written to the Chief Executive Officer of the Western New South Wales Local Health District seeking information regarding a number of matters relating to procedures and actions which were to be put in place following the “decommissioning” of the “Birthing Unit” at Bourke Hospital. Included in the request was for updated information to the “New Model of Care” that was developed and to be introduced following the closure of the Birthing Unit and seeking information regarding the location of the plant and equipment from the Birthing Unit. Councillors raised concerns that with the closure of the “Birthing Unit” the facilities that provided both privacy and access to amenities, were no longer available to cater for any emergency births at the hospital.

Council also sought to obtain a range of statistical information including the number of births by Bourke-based women since the closure of the “Birthing Unit and the number of these births that would be deemed to be “high risk” .

A reminder that if you are going to utilise one of Council’s Park Ovals or Reserves you should book the proposed function with Lynette Gooch, Councils Engineering Support Officer to ensure that there is no potential clash and that the facility is presented in accord with your requirements.

Quote of the Week!

“You should never regret anything in life. If it is good, it’s wonderful. If it’s bad, it’s experience”

Ross Earl
General Manager