



“From the GM’s Desk”

13th July 2017



The Hon. John Barilaro, MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills and Minister for Small Business was in Bourke on Tuesday and Wednesday and met with Representatives of the Councils and Regional Development Australia Representatives within the electorate of Barwon. The Member for Barwon, Kevin Humphries accompanied the Deputy Premier on the visit which was aimed at providing Councils with more information in regards the Regional Growth Fund which will see \$1.3 Billion allocated to Councils in Regional New South Wales. There are a number of individual programs within the funding package and Bourke Shire Council sees the opportunity to be able access the funding for projects within the Shire.

The amount of money which seems to be made available under the Regional Growth Fund seems to be unprecedented and is in at least in part due to the lease of the electricity “poles and wires”

Bourke Shire hosted an informal welcome function on the Tuesday night at the Bridge Inn for the Deputy Premier and Member for Barwon together with the other visitors to town. The dinner was also attended by Councillors and Staff of Bourke Shire and representatives of the Bourke community who travelled to Sydney to meet with the Deputy Premier in relation to the Proposed Bourke Aboriginal Employment Prosperity Strategy.

The Deputy Premier was also given the opportunity to review the progress being made in regard the construction of the Abattoir Complex north of Bourke.

On Tuesday morning Council representatives had the opportunity to meet with the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, MLC, Minister for Early Childhood, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Assistant Minister for Education over breakfast to touch on a range of issues within her portfolio. Minister Mitchell also took the opportunity to meet with a number of other groups whilst she was in town. Mayor Barry Hollman issued an invitation to the Minister during a meeting in Sydney and it extremely pleasing to see that she was able to make the trip to Bourke. Minister Mitchell is no stranger to this part of the State and was previous the Parliamentary Secretary for Western New South Wales.

Gary Barnes, Deputy Secretary, Premier and Cabinet, David Collins - Executive Director Training Services NSW, Tony Aumuller Regional Manager for Western NSW / Aboriginal Services Training NSW, , Peter Whitley - Director Regional Operations Training Services NSW and Michelle Schipp the Aboriginal Strategy Training Manager were all in Bourke last week to meet with a number of key stakeholders, including Bourke Shire Council in relation to the Bourke Aboriginal Employment Prosperity Strategy and more broadly jobs, training and economic development within the Bourke Shire.

Bourke Shire Council and the community are appreciative of the fact that the party took the opportunity to undertake this engagement with the Bourke Community and to get a firsthand appreciation of the need for economic activity to stimulate job creation with the Shire and ensure that the available workforce has the skills to meet the demands of any job opportunities created.

In addition to the formal meetings the group also had the opportunity to get an understanding of the Cotton Industry and were able to visit the Cotton Gin at Clyde Cotton and also took the opportunity to visit the site of the new abattoir complex which is taking shape at North Bourke.

The first of the workshops to assist Council in the preparation of a Strategic Plan for the Future Development of Sport and Recreational Facilities in Bourke Shire was held last week and was very well attended with the majority of sporting organisations within Bourke being represented. The facilitator Mark Horton did a great job in ensuring that all ideas were brought to the table and the representatives of the organisations had the opportunity to detail both the immediate and future needs.

Mark now will collate all the information and suggestions and this will form the basis of discussion at the second of the workshops.

The second workshop will be held on Wednesday, 19th July 2017. The workshop will commence at 5.30pm and finish by 7.30pm. It is important that we again get a good representation of all sections of the sporting community involved in this planning process.

There is a strong possibility that funding may become available under the Regional Sports Infrastructure stream of the Regional Growth Fund and it is important that Council positions itself well to be able to maximise the opportunity to access this funding.

Mark Horton as well as being the Regional Sport and Recreation Manager and very competent facilitator is also a very accomplished artist and was in fact a finalist in the 2016 Archibald Prize. Mark's portrait of the then Deputy Premier, the Hon. Troy Grant, MP who is also the member for Dubbo, saw him achieve this distinguished status and it is an excellent portrait.

The Dubbo Regional Gallery which is part of the Western Plains Cultural Centre has been fortunate enough to be able to attract an exhibition of all the finalists of the 2016 Archibald Prize and the official opening of the exhibition was held last Friday night. Annette and I were in Dubbo last Friday and we took the opportunity attend.

The quality of the paintings was excellent as you would expect and to be amongst the finalists certainly an achievement. The exhibition will be available in Dubbo for the next few weeks and I would encourage anyone who is able to take the opportunity to visit the gallery during this period to do so as the opportunity to see works of art of this standard at a regional venue do not come around all that often

Dubbo Regional Council can be justifiably proud of the Western Plains Cultural Centre and the Dubbo Regional Gallery and the quality of exhibitions it is able to attract and the same can be said of the Dubbo Regional Theatre.

Charles Liggett, Council's new Manager of Tourism and Economic Development commenced duties on Monday and has been busy trying to get an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the position as it relates to Bourke Shire. Charles will be making himself known throughout the community and will be looking forward to meeting with his peers at a regional level and to get an understanding of regional issues and both current and emerging.

The Fords Bridge Cricket Club will have a new pitch to play on at the commencement of the 2017/2018 cricket season with the work on the replacement pitch to be finalised shortly. The provision of sporting facilities at the villages within the shire can substantially increase the social amenity within the villages.

The Fords Bridge Cricket Club will be hosting a "Back to Fords Bridge" function on Saturday, 7th October 2017

Further details can be obtained by contacting Tim or Sue Davis on 02 68 747 640.

Bourke Shire Council said farewell to long serving employee, Lauren Tyndall, last week. Lauren began working with Council around 10 years ago initially as a school based trainee at The Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre prior to working for Council and then as the Service New South Wales (previously RTA/RMS) Officer. Lauren will be missed at Council and all staff wish Lauren, Dave and Tom all the best for their move to Tamworth.

Quote of the Week!

"Working hard for something we don't care about is called stress. Working hard for something we love is called passion"

Ross Earl
General Manager