



“From the GM’s Desk”

24th August 2017



Representatives from Bulloo Shire Council led by Mayor Tractor Ferguson and CEO, Edwina Marks enjoyed their visit to Bourke on Sunday and Monday and had the opportunity to speak to a number of people involved in the Tourist Industry. The group arrive at lunchtime on Sunday and left after lunch on the Monday, but during that time they had the opportunity to visit the Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre, the Bourke Cemetery and Fred Hollows Grave, attend Poetry on a Plate, enjoyed a cruise on the Jandra and Lochie Cosser’s Outback Show.

The groups focus was to learn about Bourke’s journey to becoming a “tourist destination” and from the lessons learned on that journey. Key to developing a tourist industry for your town is two-fold, in the first instance you need to get people to visit and then you need to be able to provide both the activities and hospitality to encourage them to stay.

At lunchtime on Monday, the Mayor of Bulloo Shire, John “Tractor” Ferguson and Mayor of Bourke Barry Hollman, signed an MOU between the Councils, looking at an increased level of cross border cooperation which it hoped can be extended to the adjoining shires on both side of the border.

Representatives from the KAMILAROI HIGHWAY marketing group met in Lightning Ridge on Thursday, 17th and Friday, 18th August to prepare a DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Running from Willow Tree; just south of Tamworth, straight out to Bourke.

Along the way, the Kamilaroi’s towns and settlements create an excuse to extend the journey, with each stop presenting its own unique slice of life in the bush.

The meeting, attended by representatives from Visitor Information Centres in Quirindi, Gunnedah, Narrabri, Walgett, Lightning Ridge, Brewarrina and Bourke drafted a framework for a revised 2017-2022 Destination Management Plan. The plan is a prerequisite to access funding from Destination NSW and set out what the group wants to achieve, identified target markets and how the group planned to develop these markets.

As markets change it’s important to evaluate existing products, activities and experiences that the Highway corridor offers – and how they can be improved.

The key things that the State and Federal Government Agencies (including Destination New South Wales) are looking for are:-

- Catalytic Projects – these are projects which have the potential to take tourism to the next level and also have ramifications for other industry sectors, and:-
- Game Changers - projects that significantly increase or open up new markets.

Infrastructure projects – for example: the establishment of a camping area or installation of a boat ramp.

One of the key objectives of the Destination Management Plan was to determine whether there are projects along the highway corridor that align with Council priorities. If you would like to contribute to the task of developing a Destination Marketing Plan for Bourke please contact Charles Liggett at cliggett@bourke.nsw.gov.au

Congratulations to the Bourke Warriors Under15 team coached by Scott Parnaby who took out the premiership of their division, in the Barwon Darling League on Sunday. The group are made up of players as young as thirteen and I am sure that they will be looking to replicate the success in 2018.

The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday, 28th August 2017 and a public forum will be held at 10.00am with members of the public welcome to attend to raise any issues with Councils. Persons wishing to present at the meeting are encouraged to contact Kai Howard-Oakman on 68308000.

Council has lodged an application for funding the under Round 3 of Fixing Country Roads with the application being in respect of three (3) sections of the Bourke to Wanaaring Road which have been identified as a significant impediment to the flow of all types of freight to and from the North West of the State with the freight being carried critical to the economy of that area. The road is an extremely important freight corridor and this importance is expected to grow with the transport of stock to the abattoir which is currently under construction north of Bourke.

Bourke Shire Council has also lodged an application for grant funding to replace the boat ramp on the Darling River. The application is part of Round 2 from a program entitled NSW Boating Now and is provided by the NSW Department of Transport. The increased popularity of skiing and the subsequent increase in usage of the boat ramp has highlighted the fact that the current ramp is in need of an upgrade.

In an unfortunate incident at the Bourke Airport last Tuesday night, one of the RFDS planes coming to Bourke to transfer a patient collided with a kangaroo on landing. It would appear that the kangaroo had burrowed under the security fencing to try and avail itself to the "green pick" around the airport area. Fortunately, no one was injured, however, the plane did suffer damage to the propeller and motor and it was unable to be flown without repairs being undertaken.

As a result of the incident and the high number of kangaroos across the west of the state and those kangaroos coming closer to towns in search of feed the RFDS has asked that all Councils in the west of the state to drive the airport runways prior to any night landings to as an extra precaution. The additional measures will be in place for the next four (4) weeks and will involve Council staff being "on call" to undertake the role. All staff undertaking the "roo runs" have to be trained Airport Reporting Officers (ARO) and be aware of the "air side" operating procedures applicable.

An inspection of the Cuttaburra Bridge on the Hungerford Road near Yantabulla has identified some structural deterioration and as a result a ten(10) tonne limit has been placed on the bridge pending further assessment of the damage and how best to undertake the required repairs. Any enquiries in relation to the load limit should be directed to the Engineering Department of Bourke Shire Council.

A Stakeholder's meeting for water users along the Barwon Darling System will be held at the Council Chambers in Bourke on the 31st August 2017. The meeting brings together representatives from various organisations representing users along the Barwon Darling System which stretches from Mungindi on the Queensland Border to the Menindee Lakes. The stakeholder meetings are an initiative of DPI Water who officers are responsible for the determination of representation and the agenda.

The first instalment for the rates is due on the 31st August 2017.

If you are having difficulties meeting your obligations in relation to the payment of rates please contact the Revenue Officer at Council so that, if possible, suitable arrangements can be put in place.

The library has been very busy this week with Children's Book Week.

Thanks to everyone who entered our competitions. The library will be holding our prize-giving party on Saturday 26th August, at 11:00am. Everyone is welcome to go along.

For the kids, the library has a great collection of readers available if you would like to supplement school readers or get the kids started early. The Library has a wide range of subjects, including Star Wars, Hot Wheels, Tool School, Fantastic Forest, Frozen, Moshi Monsters, Peppa Pig, Peter Rabbit, Lego Ninjago, Avengers, AlphaTales, Sparklers, Fairytales, and heaps more. There is something for all reading levels and interests. It's great to get the kids reading early and the collection of popular and appealing readers are sure to spark their interest.

Last week the shoulders of Warraweena Street were sealed as part of Council's 10 year reseal program. There has been heavy patching work done on the Wanaaring Road whilst the completion of the widening work on the Mitchell Highway (SH7) from Barrington to the Border has continued.

Council staff have also finished the stage 2 works in relation to the entrance to the new abattoir complex.

Quote of the Week!

One day or day one –you decide!

Ross Earl
General Manager