



“From the GM’s Desk”

14th September 2017



At the meeting of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) held in Mudgee recently two (2) of the guest speakers were Mr Gary Worboys Deputy, Commissioner Regional Field Operations and Mr Geoff McKechnie Assistant Commissioner Western Region and they gave an update on a number of issues impacting on the police in the west of the State including the difficulties being experienced in recruiting to some areas within the OROC area, with the shortage of police at times causing a degree of frustration amongst many councils.

The Deputy Commissioner also touched on the following

- That a re-engineering of NSW Police Force is underway with flattening of structures and middle management.
- Local Area Command (LAC) boundaries are likely to alter with a reduction in LACs and an increase in geographic areas for most LACs.

It would appear that work on the reduction of the Local Area Commands may have already commenced with the reported merger of the Mudgee and Dubbo Local Area Commands being foreshadowed and this is generating a great deal of interest in the Mudgee area.

With the large area covered by the Darling River Area Command it is difficult to see how this area could be subject to any change, however, the situation will need to be monitored as we can ill afford to lose further facilities and services from this part of the state.

In September each year Councils who elect a Mayor from within their own number have traditionally elected their Mayor for the next twelve (12) months and if they wish a Deputy Mayor. Under changes to the Local Government Act prior to the last election, the Mayor is now elected for a two (2) year period whilst the tenure of the Deputy Mayor is a decision of each Council. Bourke Shire Council determined by resolution that the tenure of the Deputy Mayor to be the same as the Mayor i.e. two (2) years. As such no Mayoral elections are scheduled for this September with Councillor Hollman continuing as Mayor and Councillor Ford as Deputy Mayor.

The opportunity will still be taken to review the membership of the various Council Committees and once again ensure that the current meeting date meets with the approval of all members of Council.

Applications have been called for the new position of Senior Project Manager for the Bourke Aboriginal Employment Prosperity Strategy aimed at increasing employment opportunities within Bourke Shire.

Funding for the position has been made available by the New South Wales State Government and is for an initial two (2) year period.

The position will provide a linkage between the unemployed and local businesses, ensure that there is an increased linkage between the schools and the employers. The person will also look to get Regional and State wide contracts broken down into smaller contracts to allow access by local trades and businesses. This will lead to an increased level of local business activity skills development and apprenticeship and employment opportunities.

The position will be within Council's Organisational Structure and details relating to the job including the position description and selection criteria can be obtained from Council's Website www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

The new playground equipment in Jones Park has proved a big hit with the families living in the vicinity of Jones Park and other from elsewhere within the community. The exercise equipment in Central Park has also received good use and as the warmer months approach I am sure that many people will take the opportunity to utilise the equipment to increase their fitness levels.

Work on the repairs to the Cuttaburra Bridge should commence in around two weeks with a by-pass now in place to allow access along the road for all vehicles.

Council is appreciative of the understanding of the residents in the area and assures them that every effort is being made to get the bridge re- opened as soon as possible.

A five (5) ton load limit will remain in place until the work commences on the repair of the bridge.

Once the repairs commence the bridge will be closed to all traffic and the by-pass will need to be utilised.

Any enquiries in relation to the load limit should be directed to the Engineering Department of Bourke Shire Council.

The Youth of the Streets (YOTS) CEO, Father Chris Riley, was in Bourke last week and the YOTS organisation taking the opportunity to show case their activity centre which is the size of a normal trailer for a semi- trailer but expands into an area three times the width of a trailer when the sides move out. The mobile activity centre was a hit with the local kids and it is hoped that it will return for an extended period over the next twelve (12) months.

The Ford's Bridge Cricket Club will be able use the new pitch at the Fords Bridge Oval when they host a match as part of a "Back to Fords Bridge" celebration on 7th October 2017.

I understand that there has already been considerably interest shown in the event and that a number of "Ex- Fordsey" players will be returning for the event.

Further details can be obtained by contacting Tim or Sue Davis on 0268747640

The popular Enngonia Races are on this Saturday and all indications are that it should be a great days racing. Although nowhere as big as the Louth Races Enngonia still attracts a very good crowd in

a very family friendly atmosphere. I would encourage anyone looking for a good day out to make the trip to Enngonia. It is a credit to the community and the committee that the races have been able to continue when many similar sized race clubs struggle to survive.

Council's Auditors Hills Rogers who act on behalf of the Auditor General have finished the Audit of the 2016/2017 Financial Statements for Bourke Shire. At the exit interview with myself and Manager of Corporate Services Leonie Brown they indicated that whilst there are a couple of matters that need to be clarified in relation to asset revaluation the audit went well and they were pleased with the way that the information was presented. The finance team within Council have done a good job in ensuring that our accounts are kept and presented in accordance with legislative requirements and also in accordance with the relevant Accounting Standards and Codes of Practice applicable to Local Government.

Former Mayor of Dubbo Mathew Dickerson has been liaising with Council regarding the "Tour de OROC 2017.

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 5th October 2017.

The funds raised will be allocated to the construction of Macquarie Homestay a project which is designed to provide affordable accommodation for patients and their families from outside Dubbo who are being treated at the Dubbo Base Hospital.

A function has been planned for the Thursday Evening at the Port of Bourke Hotel with a number of raffles and items to be auctioned.

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.

The next meeting of Bourke Shire Council will be held on 25th September 2017 commencing at 9.00 am and will incorporate a Public Forum at 10.00am. Members of the public are invited to attend all Council meetings. The only exception is those sections of the meeting which are required to be closed to the public in accordance with section 10 (2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Quote of the Week!

"My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition."
Indira Gandhi

Ross Earl

General Manager