



"From the GM's Desk"

12th October 2017



The carting of water to Byrock commenced last weekend with the ground tank running dry. The rain on the weekend was not enough to allow sufficient runoff from the catchment to put any significant amounts in to the storage. However, with more rain forecast and the catchment already damp there is the opportunity for the ground tank to be replenished. In the meantime three (3) loads of water will be carted per week to Byrock and residents are reminded that the water is a non-potable supply and is for internal domestic use only.

Council staff this week will again clean the drains leading to the catchment to ensure that water is able to flow freely and the benefit of the rain maximised.

Tour de OROC concluded in Dubbo on Saturday afternoon and has been once again been extremely successful with a target of \$100,000.00 looking likely to be exceeded; it was a great effort by all the riders and support crew.

Locally; Manager for Roads, Mark Gordon and Mayor Barry Hollman rode 50km and 25km respectively and were able to attract good sponsorship which will be forwarded to the organising Committee.

It was a big effort from the local representatives and it has been some time since Barry has ridden a bike and from his comments it may be a long time before he again gets back on the bike; although the aches and pains will be long forgotten when the Tour DE OROC 2019 comes around.

The welcome function and charity auction which was held on the Thursday night was well attended and a very good night with over \$3500.00 being raised via the auction

All money raised will go towards the Macquarie Homestay Facility which will provide accommodation for person from towns outside of Dubbo who themselves or family members require treatment at Dubbo Base Hospital.

Bourke has been a solid supporter of the Tour De OROC since its inception and it is great to see that support continuing.

Bourke is an extremely generous town and regularly punches above its weight in support of good causes and Macquarie Homestay is one of those good causes.

Many people from Bourke will benefit from the facilities to be offered by Macquarie Homestay and on behalf of all users in the future, I would like to thank the Committee of Macquarie Homestay for the foresight in building the complex and the riders and support staff involved in the three (3) Tour de OROCs to date, for their contribution in assisting the "**turning a dream into a reality.**"

I would like to thank all those businesses and individuals who support the auction by way of donations and of course all those who dug deep at the auction for a very good cause.

Bourke Shire Council has written to Cobar Shire Council supporting their efforts to see a change to the route of the proposed Western Slopes Gas Pipeline. The proposal of Cobar Shire would see the route go from Narrabri to Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke and Cobar then joining up with the existing Moomba to Sydney Pipeline.

The new small stock abattoir will be a big user of gas and I am sure that they would welcome access to the pipeline should the representations to amend the route be successful.

Mayor Barry Hollman and I represented Council at a meeting of the Barwon Darling Bush Fire Management Committee. The Committee's role includes the planning of Bushfire Fighting activities, equipment purchases and hazard reduction activity across the Shires of Brewarrina and Bourke and is attended by Councillor and Staff representatives of those Councils, along with brigade representatives and other involved organisations including the Police, NSW Fire and Rescue, Department of Lands and National Parks.

The lack of rain and resultant of growth for fuel within the area means that the threat of a major fire this year is somewhat diminished, however, the threat of smaller bushfires is very high and every efforts need to be taken to mitigate the risk of fire and to ensure outbreaks are contained as quickly as possible.

The 2017 Graffiti Removal Day is scheduled for Sunday, 29th October 2017. Bourke Shire will be working with Bourke Rotary Club in relation to the coordination of the day. The state wide initiative has attracted a great deal of corporate sponsorship including the supply of graffiti removal kits free of charge so that all that is needed is the manpower. Individuals and Organisation within the community are asked to consider assisting on the day. Any enquires can be directed to the Council Offices.

General Manager of Cobar Shire, Peter Vlatko has arranged a Professional Development and Training Day Councillors and Senior Staff to be held in Cobar on the 29th November 2017. The Training and Professional Development day has been organised with the cooperation of the Office of Local Government who will providing the trainers for the day. It is a good initiative by Cobar Shire and being held regionally will save considerable expense for Councils in the area in travelling and accommodation.

Among the topics to be covered on the day will be Meeting Procedure and the Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors and Senior Staff at Council and in the community.

Council staff will be holding their Annual Picnic Day on Friday, 3rd November 2017 and the Office, Service New South Wales, Depot and Library will all be closed on that day. There will be no alteration to the operating hours of the Waste Management Facility and the garbage collection will be as normal.

The on-call officer will be contactable for emergencies by calling the afterhours contact number 0419722055.

The “go live” date for the transfer of Councils accounting functions to a new system was last Tuesday and has involved a considerable amount of work to ensure that all records were transferred accurately. The finance staff led by Manager of Corporate Services, Leonie Brown worked over the weekend to ensure that everything was in readiness for the transfer. They were assisted by Laurie Knight a systems consultant who has been engaged by Council assist in the facilitation of the changeover.

Staff from Civica, the suppliers of the software being installed, arrived on Sunday night to ensure that any issue encountered was able to be quickly resolved and allow for a seamless transition.

Nomination forms will soon be available for the 2018 Australia Day Awards and I would encourage all members of the community to look at nominating someone for the various categories. There are many within the community whose efforts assist in making our community a better place to live and whilst they don’t expect any recognition for what they do, it is always nice for the community to be able to recognise their achievements via the Australia Day Awards.

The rain on Sunday and Monday was extremely welcome by everyone and none more in the grazing fraternity who were starting to get desperate for both feed and water. While certainly not drought breaking at this stage it does give a degree of optimism, particularly when follow-up rain is forecast.

There has apparently also been some good rain in the upper reaches of the catchment which will hopefully result in an ongoing flow in the Darling which is again beginning to drop to worrying levels.

The wet weather played havoc with the unsealed roads across the west of the state with many roads having to be closed including all those unsealed roads in Bourke Shire. The roads are closed to prevent damage to the roads surface and to ensure the safety of motorists. Damaged caused by those using the roads costs considerable amounts to repair and is money that could be better utilised on improvements to the road network.

Residents are reminded that **ALL** children under the age of nine (9) must be accompanied and supervised by a person over the age of sixteen (16) whilst they are at the Bourke War Memorial Pool Complex. Staff at the pool provide lifeguarding services and general supervision, however, the cooperation of all residents in the close supervision of their children under nine (9) years of age would be appreciated and in particular ensuring that those who cannot swim are restricted to the appropriate facilities.

The complex provides a great source of relief from the hot summer and the splash park constructed last year has proved to be extremely popular with the toddlers and those yet to be able to swim.

Quote of the Week!

"Success does not consist in never making mistakes; but in never making the same one a second time".

George Bernard Shaw

Ross Earl
General Manager