



# “From the GM’s Desk”

## 19th October 2017



Carting water to Byrock is continuing and will continue until significant inflow into the ground water tanks is received and the level in the dam allows for pumping to recommence. The recent rain was welcomed but was not enough to provide the required runoff. While water carting is taking place the ongoing cooperation of the community of Byrock is sought in ensuring water is conserved and usage limited to internal domestic use only noting that the supply is non potable.

---

Bourke Shire Council has been selected as one of the locations for a series of destination planning workshops to be hosted by the Chairman and Directors of Destination Network Country and Outback NSW.

Bourke will join with Parkes, Cowra Orange, Lithgow, Broken Hill, Dubbo, Moree, Inverell and Tamworth in hosting the workshops.

The Bourke Workshop will be held on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November at the Council between 10.00am and 1.00pm.

While they will be on a relatively short timeframe it is hoped that the Board Members of Destination Network Country and Outback NSW will have the opportunity to have a look around Bourke and the attractions it has offer.

The number of meetings and locations of those meetings gives a good insight into the large geographic footprint of Destination Network Country and Outback NSW.

Tourism plays an extremely important part in the economy of Bourke and it is important that Council and the community are aware of all contemporary issues and marketing opportunities in relation to tourism for this area.

It is anticipated that Bourke will be joined by representatives of our adjoining towns for this workshop.

The Board members are as follows:-

Stephen Bartlett - Chair (Tamworth)  
Robert Mason - Director (Sydney)  
Rhonda Taylor - Director (Orange)  
Russel Holden - Director (Mudgee)

Colin Hughes - Director (Sydney)  
Marie Russell AM - Director (Tilpa)  
Wincen Cuy - Director (Broken Hill)

---

The next ordinary Meeting of Council will be held this coming Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 commencing at 9.00am.

The meeting will include a public forum at 10.00am.

The public forum provides the opportunity for residents to raise issues of concern with Council and it is advantageous if you wish to address Council, contact Kai- Howard-Oakman so that arrangements can be made for information to be available or audio visual equipment to be set up if required.

---

Bourke Shire Council has received numerous complaints from residents and visitors in relation to the way in which the trees around the powerlines in Bourke have been trimmed. I have made representations to the appropriate staff in Essential Energy in relation to the matter and was advised that the work is required to be undertaken in accordance of the provisions of Australian Standard 4373 and the trimming work that was done has been undertaken in compliance with that standard.

While acknowledging the fact the work may have been done in accordance with the appropriate standard the way in which it has affected the appearance of the trees and this would in many cases fall well short of a pass mark in any test of aesthetic appearance.

I have issued an invitation to the staff at Essential Energy to visit Bourke so that appropriate measures can be discussed to bring about a change to the way the work is undertaken in the future to ensure the preservation of the aesthetic appearance of the trees. It is hoped that visit will take place prior to the end of the year.

The concerns relating to the way in which the trimming of street trees around power lines is not unique to Bourke and is shared by other Councils. Bourke Shire Council will seek to have the matter placed on the agenda at the next meeting of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC).

Councils spend quite a substantial portion of their budgets on the planting and maintenance of street trees and conscious of the contribution they make to the amenity of the towns. Councils are also increasingly mindful of the species that they now plant to avoid such things as root damage to infrastructure and also interference to power supply, so that the problems now being incurred are minimised into the future.

---

The Enngonia Branch of the CWA will be holding their Annual Fashion Parade on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> November at the Enngonia Public School. Functions such as this in small country communities are important as they provide a great deal of the social fabric for these communities and bring together all section of the community. The Fashion Parade has proved very popular in previous years and events such as these provide an ideal opportunity for the social interaction for people living in the area.

---

Murray Constructions who will be undertaking the repairs to the bridge over the Cuttaburra Bridge on the Hungerford Road has been in Bourke again to review the job and has indicated that work should commence this week.

Until the works are completed motorists are able to use the side track which has been constructed across the Cuttaburra.

---

Work has recently been completed on the sealing of an additional 1.5 kilometres on the Hungerford Road at Lauradale Hill, approximately 45 kilometres from Bourke. The additional 1.5 kilometres builds on the existing 10 kilometres, the work was undertaken in response to the concerns of residents and road users in the area.

---

The recent rain whilst, initially playing havoc with the unsealed road network has provided the required moisture to allow a major grading project to be undertaken on the Bourke to Wanaaring Road with Council deploying five (5) graders to the job with three (3) starting from the Bourke end and the other two (2) from the Wanaaring end. Council has for years, been trying to seek funding for the sealing of the road but at this stage has been unsuccessful. An application for funding has been lodged and is currently being assessed for funding under the current round of fixing Country Roads Program.

---

Nomination forms for the 2018 Australia Day Awards are now available from the Councils Offices, Bourke Public Library, Bourke Post Office and for download on Council's website at <http://www.bourke.nsw.gov.au/> and for viewing on Council's Facebook page. If you think there is someone or an organisation or an event that is worthy of a nomination don't say "someone should nominate them - be that someone."

---

The 2017 Graffiti Removal Day is scheduled for Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and I would ask residents to consider giving up a couple of hours to support the initiative.

---

At the fundraising function for the Tour de OROC, Mayor Barry Hollman acknowledged the contribution made by Sandra Gordon in collecting sponsorship for the local riders for the three (3) tours held, to date and Mathew Dickerson presented her with an arrangement of flowers in appreciation of her contribution.

The riders were also genuinely impressed with the efforts of Mark Gordon who also secured considerable sponsorship then rode 50km with the peloton and finished the night by providing the entertainment.

---

Council staff will be holding their Annual Picnic Day on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November and the Council Offices, Depot, Service New South Wales 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.

Council staff will still be available for emergencies and the afterhours contact number is 0419722055.

---

Bourke Shire Council successfully undertook the transfer of its accounting records to its new system over the past week and the planning and preparation put into the transfer paying dividends with the transfer going relatively smoothly.

There was a lot of work undertaken over a very short period both by Council staff and representatives of the software suppliers and our Project Manager.

I would like to acknowledge all those involved and thank them for their efforts.

I would also like to thank the families of those involved for their cooperation and understanding.

---

The Mayor, Councillor Barry Hollman joined with delegates from Local Government Councils from South Australia, New South Wales Queensland and Victoria in attending the 73<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Murray Darling Association held in Renmark last week.

The Murray Darling Association is a membership-based peak representative organisation representing Local Government and communities across the Murray Darling Basin. Our purpose is to provide effective representation of Local Government and communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources.

---

### **Quote of the Week!**

*The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress.*

*- Charles Kettering*

Ross Earl  
General Manager