



“From the GM’s Desk”

26th October 2017



Bourke Shire Council and the Bourke Rotary Club will present the organisers of the 2017 Tour De OROC a cheque for over \$6,000.00 as a result of the fund raising auction held and the sponsorship received by Mark Gordon and Mayor Barry Hollman for their efforts in riding 50 and 25 kilometres respectively during this year’s event.

I was speaking to this year’s Tour Organiser, Mathew Dickerson who said that Mayor Hollman was the Mayor who rode the longest distance of any of the Mayors by far and probably rode for a longer distance than his peers combined, which is a great effort.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 23rd October 2017, Council endorsed a proposal for a JB Renshaw Sporting Complex Advisory Committee to be established to ensure, amongst other things that the strategic development of the complex was in accordance with the requirements and benefit of all JB Renshaw Sporting Complex Oval Users. There has been a resurgence of activity at the complex and a lot of work done or proposed to be done in improving the complex, including a new kitchen and roof for the main pavilion, new security fencing and the building of a disabled toilet and baby changing facility. There has been other projects suggested and it is importance that these are undertaken with the views of all groups considered.

JB Renshaw Sporting Complex is a great example of a multi-purpose facility and has the potential to be utilised much more regularly, it would be good to be able to ensure that the facilities available were commensurate with that usage and with the combined efforts of all involved it should be achievable.

Bourke Shire Council has indicated that it intends to lodge a motion at the 2017 Local Government New South Wales Annual Conference which provides for the congratulating the NSW State Government on the development of the New South Wild Dog Management Strategy 2017-2021 and calling for the NSW State Government to ensure that the strategy is adequately funded to ensure its success.

The proposed motion from Council has stemmed from a number of representations from landowners regarding the impact that the presence of wild dogs is having on their stock numbers. Wild dogs do a lot of damage in a very short space of time and often leave animals badly mauled and injured.

Carting of water to Byrock has ceased as of Monday, 23rd October 2017 with good rainfall received in the catchment over the past two (2) weeks, resulting in significant inflows that has seen the water level rise to a height that enables pumping to recommence. It is estimated that the supply should be sufficient to last for the next month, although with variable weather conditions it is virtually impossible to accurately determine. With the catchment already very moist it would be ideal if we could get some further rain as a large percentage of that rain would flow into the catchment rather than be absorbed by a parched landscape.

Should the need arise approval is already to hand to recommence carting once the level in the storage is such that pumping can no longer take place.

The Annual General Meeting of Barwon Darling Water will be held at Bourke Shire Chambers on Tuesday, 14th November 2017 and will be followed by an Ordinary Meeting of that organisation. Mr Mark McKenzie, CEO of the New South Wales Irrigators Council will be a guest speaker at the AGM.

Barwon Darling Water brings together water users along the Barwon-Darling System including Local Government who are large users through their respective water supplies.

The Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) will commence across New South Wales on Friday, 1st December 2017. Bourke Shire Council has been identified as a remote area for collection points. Council is still awaiting full details from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on how the system will operate in this area.

In their weekly publication on the 13th October 2017 the State Government announced that up to 180 reverse vending machines will be placed in and around Woolworth stores as part of a network of 500 collection centres to be established across the state.

The roll out of the CDS will be extremely welcomed by Councils across the state with all hoping to see a significant reduction of litter in their communities with an estimated 40% of current litter coming from drink containers. Bourke Shire Council has been a long term and strong advocate for the introduction of the CDS and looks forward to the announcement of further details as the roll out date draws near.

The introduction, will no doubt, not be without its teething problems, with some retailers along the NSW side of Murray already concerned at the deposit on each container will make the retail price on the NSW of the Murray greater than the price of retailers on the Victorian side who will not be subject to the CDS.

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, the workshop is to be held on Wednesday, 1st November at the Council between 10.00am and 1.00pm.

The meeting is open to the public and those with an interest in the tourism industry are particularly encouraged to attend.

All roads will lead to Enngonia on Sunday, 5th November 2017 when the Enngonia Branch of the CWA will be holding their Annual Fashion Parade at the Enngonia Public School commencing at 11.00am and the parade at 12.00pm. They would encourage anyone who would like to attend to make the trip out and enjoy the hospitality that the village provides.

Murray Constructions who will be undertaking the repairs to the bridge over the Cuttaburra Creek on the Hungerford Road and are currently on site. Murray Constructions have started to undertake the work required to facilitate the repairs.

It is anticipated that the work will take around two (2) weeks to complete.

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

Nomination forms for the 2018 Australia Day Awards are now available from Councils Offices and will also be able to be downloaded from Council's website www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

If you think there is someone or an organisation or an event that you feel is worthy of a nomination don't say "someone should nominate them, be that someone".

The 2017 Graffiti Removal Day is scheduled for this Sunday, 29th October 2017 and I would ask residents to consider giving up a couple of hours to support this very worthy initiative. If you could go to Wal Mitchell Wharf area at 8.00am there will be members of Council staff and members of Rotary there to give direction as to the location of the sites where the removal will take place and supply you with the necessary cleaning and/or painting equipment as deemed appropriate.

Bulloo Shire have again invited Councillors and staff from Bourke Shire to attend the monthly meeting of their Council to be held at Hungerford on Tuesday, 21st November 2017.

Mayor Councillor Barry Hollman has indicated that he will be making the trip and will be accompanied at this stage by Councillor Victor Bartley.

The two (2) Councils have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in relation to the promotion of tourism and the attendance by representatives from Bourke at the meeting will further enhance this important cross border relationship.

Other Councillors will determine their ability to attend over the ensuing few weeks.

Quote of the Week!

"Stay away from negative people - they have a problem for every solution"

Ross Earl
General Manager