



“From the GM’s Desk”

19th April 2018



Bourke Shire Council has been selected to host the 2019 Environmental Development and Allied Professionals Annual Conference. The announcement was made at the 2018 held in Mudgee last week. Manager of Environmental Services, Dwayne Willoughby coordinated the bid by Bourke to host the conference which will bring approximately 100 delegates and presenters together for a three (3) day conference.

The hosting of such conferences provides the opportunity for Council to showcase the town and importantly will result in a significant injection to the economy.

The success of the Easter Festivities has heightened interest in establishing similar events within the Shire and a number of suggestions have been put forward including the expansion of the current Festival of 1000 Stories and the possibility of a music festival. In the coordination of each of these suggestions there is a large commitment needed by the coordinating committee but the benefits from tourism perspective is significant.

Some of those involved in the Festival of 1000 stories over the past few years have left Bourke including Phil Johnston, Jono Roe and Andrew Hull. There is still the nucleus of a committee and Frank Povah would be keen to hear from anyone who would like to take an active role in assisting with the staging of another Festival of 1000 Stories in 2018.

Similarly Luke Moon of the Port of Bourke Hotel would be interested in talking to anyone who would like to get involved in the coordination of a Music Festival Weekend

Representatives of Darling River Goat Exports who will be the operators of the new Small Stock Abattoir being constructed by CAPRA Developments Pty Ltd will be in Bourke next week to conduct a series of meetings in relation to the start -up of the Abattoir with a particular focus on the recruitment of staff.

They will be meeting with Council in the morning as part of the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled that day providing an update on the construction of the Abattoir and the workforce recruitment and training program.

In the afternoon they will be meeting with local indigenous groups again detailing the workforce recruitment and training program and this will be followed by a similar briefing for service providers.

There will be also meetings with a number of key agencies as the completion of the complex draws nearer.

At 5.30pm there will be a briefing for the community and business representatives providing information on labour hire and training partners and again an update on the construction progress and the workforce recruitment and training program.

All the meetings are being held at the Council Chambers.

Darling River Goat Exports have appointed their Plant Manager and he will be on hand to participate in all the presentations and to meet with as many people as possible.

The impending operations of the Abattoir will open a new and exciting chapter in the history of Bourke and the development has created significant interest across Australia.

Although the football season is in full swing in the national leagues the local competitions are still to start but will do so over the next couple of weeks. With multiple users requiring the use of Councils ovals it is important that the usage of the ovals for both playing and training is coordinated and to ensure that this is able to occur the booking of the facilities is essential. If you need to utilise Councils facilities please contact Council's Engineering Staff Support Officer who will do her best to accommodate all requests.

Work is currently being undertaken to repair and replace as necessary the lead lettering at the War Memorial Cenotaph in Central Park.

The work is being undertaken by staff from of Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust whom Council has contracted to undertake the works.

The work is a result of Council's successful application for the funding from the Department of Veterans' Affairs through their "Saluting Their Service" Community Commemorative Grant and the NSW Community War Memorials Fund which has provided the funding to enable the work to be undertaken.

This funding was supplemented by funding obtained by the Bourke RSL Sub Branch through Council's Local Heritage Places Fund.

The Memorial is the primary War Memorial for the Bourke Shire, with the plaques listing the names of service personnel from this area who served and in many instances paid the supreme sacrifice.

The Cenotaph area is very much the focal point for the whole Bourke community for both the Annual ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day commemorations. It is important that the cenotaph and the surrounds are presented in good condition at all times as a tribute to those who gave so much so that we can enjoy the Freedoms and Liberties we all enjoy today.

Bourke Shire Council's Draft Operational Plan (Budget) for 2018/2019 is currently on display with submissions in relation to the plan able to be lodged any time during the display period which concluded on the 6th May 2018. Council will again consider the Plan at its Ordinary meeting of Council to be held on Monday, 28th May 2018.

It is only just over a week to the Bourke Show to be held on the 28th April 2018. From all reports things are looking good for yet another successful show and it is important that the people of Bourke and District support this great community event which has been going for over 100 years thanks to the dedicated efforts of the hard working and volunteer committees over that period.

A welcome addition to the attractions at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre in 2018 will be nationally acclaimed horseman, Paul Clarkson who will be providing a show on a daily basis. The format of the show has yet to be finalised, but my understanding is that Paul has an innate ability to work with animals of all types and I am sure that this ability will be clearly displayed in his show.

Once the starting date for the show is finalised it will be advertised throughout the community.

Sunday, 15th April 2018 saw the final event on a very busy Senior Citizen's Week for 2018 with Bourke Rotary Club joining with Bourke Shire in hosting a barbeque luncheon at JB Renshaw Sporting Complex.

Bourke Shire Council is pleased to facilitate the week's activities for the Senior Citizens of the Shire which started with a luncheon hosted by Bourke Shire and the local branch of the CWA. During the week the seniors have and have also enjoyed a Trivia Day at the High School with the High School Hospitality Class providing much of the morning tea and it is good to see the interaction between the different generations.

A mystery tour was again on the itinerary and this year saw a visit to Gary and Samantha Mooring's residence at Rose Isle. There was also a trip on the Jandra Paddle Boat and a luncheon hosted by the Bourke Bowling Club. All in all a very busy week made possible by the generous support of a number of community organisations.

While possibly subject to debate it has been said that that Bourke Shire in association with other organisations within the community provides Senior Citizen activities for its residents which are second to none in New South Wales.

I can see why there is a rest day on the Saturday prior to the final luncheon with the week providing a very full agenda with a wide range of activities to cater for all interests. Well done to Letitia Tiffen who is the Council Coordinator for the week who also looks forward to the rest day. However, has started planning for next year already.

I would also like to thank all who volunteered in various ways to help make the days run so smoothly.

ANZAC Day is only a week away and good crowds are once again anticipated at both the Dawn Service and at the March and Service later in the morning.

There will be changed traffic conditions for the March in both Oxley Street and Richards Street and residents are asked to be mindful of these changed conditions.

The Dawn Service will be held at the Cenotaph and will commence at 6.00am sharp. Persons attending the service are asked to try and be at the cenotaph at 5.50pm.

The ANZAC Day March will commence at 10.40am from Diggers on the Darling with all those who will participating in the march are asked to assemble at 10.30am.

Commemorative Service at the Cenotaph Precinct will follow the March and commence at 11.00am.

The workshops being conducted by the New South Wales Department of Planning entitled "Bourke Building Future Communities" which were held at the Council offices last Tuesday were well attended. The representatives from the Department of Planning were very pleased with the attendance and more importantly the input from all those who attended. The next round of community consultation meetings are scheduled for July 2018.

The Barwon Darling Stakeholder Advisory Panel held their fourth meeting at Bourke on Tuesday, 10th April and there were around 40 representatives in attendance which brought together representatives of a number of interest groups and Government Departments.

Among the interest groups represented were irrigators along with Barwon-Darling Water, Local Land Services, Murray Darling Basin Authority, Australian Floodplain Association, the Commonwealth Environmental Holder, The Murray Darling Basin Authority, Bourke and Brewarrina Shires and the Western Lands Advisory Council.

There were some excellent presentations and debate as all parties looked to a solution to the problem created by the competing demands for the water that is available.

Quote of the week!

"Today's accomplishments were yesterday's impossibilities." – Robert H. Schuller

Ross Earl
General Manager