



“From the GM’s Desk” 3rd May 2018



The issue of parking in Oxley Street between Richards and Sturt Street was again discussed at the April Council Meeting. A notice of motion in relation to the issue was received and discussed at the meeting and following consideration of, and debate on the motion Council resolved as follows;

“That in view of the recent decision to not adopt 2 hour parking in Oxley Street between Richard and Sturt Street, that Council investigate strategies to optimise parking availability, including strategies to avoid long-term parking in the main street as part of the main street re-development”

There is some concern that the re-development of the main street will reduce the availability of parking and measures need to be put in place to ensure that people do not park in the main street for extended periods denying the opportunity for both locals and tourists alike to readily access shops in the area.

The Council are keen to explore options available and as such have called for staff to prepare a report which will no doubt involve further consultation with the traffic committee members. Additionally, contact will be made with other Councils who experience similar issues regarding extended period of parking in their main streets to determine, what, if any, strategies have been put in place to alleviate the problem and the success of those strategies.

The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder Jody Swirepik plans to visit Bourke on the 29th and 30th May 2018.

During her visit Jody will meet with representatives of Bourke, Walgett, Brewarrina and Central Darling Shires as well as taking the opportunity to visit Tooralé National Park.

The four (4) Councils worked closely with the Commonwealth Environment Water Holders Office and the various NSW agencies and Minister for Regional Water Hon Niall Blair to bring the current environmental flow to fruition and have acknowledged the level of cooperation from a number of parties that led to the flow becoming available.

The water provided through the environmental flow should reach Bourke in late May and hopefully will be flowing through Bourke by the scheduled time of Jody Swirepik’s visit. Monitoring of the river has continued, particularly downstream of Bourke looking at fish, habitat and water quality, and this monitoring will continue in coming weeks.

The current flow in the river at Bourke continues to hover around the 4.00 metre mark with a flow of approximately 50 megalitres per day and will hopefully keep at this level until the environmental flow reaches Bourke late May. However, with limited flow in the upper reaches it is likely that water restrictions will need to be again considered.

The flow which came down the Culgoa recently and allowed the lifting of restrictions at Bourke was initially anticipated to reach Wilcannia; however, at this stage it would appear that this will not be the case with the flow easing dramatically after Tilpa with the large dry water holes and river bed consuming much of the flow. The hot weather during late March and throughout April also saw high levels of evaporation also impacting on the river flow.

However, with the current environmental flow to traverse a much wetter river bed it is anticipated that it will reach Wilcannia which has not seen a flow since mid-January. The flow will not reach Wilcannia until late June.

Once again the hard working committee of the Annual Bourke Show were rewarded with another very successful show with good entries in the pavilion exhibits and other events across the day.

The weather was fantastic and the day went off as planned with something to keep the large crowd entertained for the while day culminating with the very popular fireworks and live entertainment that followed.

The tractor pull once again created a lot of interest and will no doubt grow.

There was very strong sense of family at the show with the side show alley and various rides being very popular with the younger members of the community.

It was good to see the attendance at the show once again by the business sector and other organisations not only from Bourke but across the region with car dealerships from both Narromine and Dubbo bringing their current models out west and they were joined by a motorcycle dealership who had a comprehensive display of agricultural motor bikes and vehicles.

The Show is a truly a community event with everyone having the opportunity to be involved. With a lot of show committees across the state seemingly struggling to maintain sufficient numbers of people on their committee and in particularly young people it is refreshing to see that Bourke Show Committee has both reasonable numbers plus a good mix of ages amongst its members.

Like all committees I am sure that they would appreciate the participation of anyone would like to join the committee and assist in the coordination of future shows

The grounds were looking great after the races and the work done by both Council staff and the volunteers from the race and show committees. There will be an increased demand to utilise the facilities are able to be utilised at Renshaw Oval and it is hoped to be able to undertake further improvements to the facility as funds become available.

Bourke Shire has received a grant of \$54,760.00 for the introduction of Radio Frequency Identification (RFI) at the Bourke Public Library. The system will provide for the installation of a new system for keeping track of inventory. Customers will be able to check out their own books at a self-check kiosk, which means that they don't have to wait if staff are busy with other duties or customers. There will be security gates on the entry to ensure no books leave the library without being scanned. It will also be a great help for stocktaking, as we will not have to physically remove every item from the shelves, just run the scanner past them.

The Grants are part of the Public Library Infrastructure Program aimed at significantly improving facilities at public library Buildings

In my last column I mentioned the value of volunteerism to the various communities within the Shire. During my visit to Enngonia on ANZAC Day I saw another great example with Local police officer Glen Wilson given unselfishly of his time off duty to utilise his skills to undertake some improvement works to the foyer of the Enngonia Hall. Glen also enlisted the assistance of his son-in-law. Work undertaken has made a huge difference to the appearance of the hall and has been very much appreciated by both Council and his fellow residents at Enngonia.

2018 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice at 11.00am on the 11th November 1918 which saw an end to World War I. To mark this significant occasion Bag Pipe players across the world are being asked to play the same tune at the same time at a prominent location or landmark within their community. Pipe bands and solo pipers can take part by playing the Pipe Major William Robb composition, *When the Battle's O'er*, at 6.00am local time a location of your choice, whether that be a cenotaph or war memorial or other location in their village, town or city. The most important part is everyone playing the tune together at 6.00am local time. This is the time when the Armistice was actually signed on November 11, 1918. It came into effect at 11.00am.

Annette has indicated that she will be taking part in this event which marks a very significant day in world history.

The series of meetings conducted by CAPRA Developments Pty Ltd and Darling River Goat Exporters were well attended with people within the community keen to learn a little more about the progress in relation to the construction and also the opportunities for employment.

With both the Labour Hire Company and Training Organisation now in place it is anticipated that there will be an increased level of activity in this area and there will be opportunities available in a number of areas at the abattoir.

ANZAC Day Services within the Shire were once again very well attended with large crowds gathering for both the Dawn Service and the March and Commemorative Services in Bourke.

The twilight Services in both Louth and Enngonia each recorded an attendance of in excess of 50 people including many visitors who took the opportunity to join with the locals to pay their respects to those who served our country in the various conflicts in which Australia has been involved.

On behalf of Bourke Shire Council and the broader Bourke Shire Community, I would like to thank all those who assisted in the organisation of the ANZAC Day commemorative services.

Our 2018 Australia Day Ambassador Katryna Robinson founded the Charity "*Every Little Bit Helps*" who provide care packs for those people in need including those who are homeless victims of domestic violence or perhaps refugees to detail some of those who benefit. The care kits are comprised of unwanted hotel toiletries, inflight amenity kits, and cosmetic and make-up samples. Bourke Shire Library is a collection point for these items and from there the care packs are made up by the local CWA. It is a great initiative, so if you travel and stay in motels and don't use the toiletries supplied why not collect them so they can be utilised by those in need.

The South Australian Murray Darling Basin Royal Commission scheduled a meeting in Bourke for Tuesday, 1st May and invited all people who have an interest in the Basin Plan to share their views in accordance with the Commission's Terms of Reference between 11.00am and 12.30pm on that day. Mayor Barry Hollman accepted the invitation from the Commission to have a discussion with the Commission earlier in the day.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 23rd April 2018, Council considered a report from the Manager of Environmental Services in relation to the changes in both the Environmental Planning Assessment Act and also legislation revolving around Native Vegetation Management. Council expressed concern at the potential cost involved in the administration of the additional responsibilities both, in terms of administering the new responsibilities and the training of staff.

Council resolved to write to Local Government New South Wales detailing its concerns and to ascertain as to whether the concerns are shared by other smaller councils and what could be done to alleviate the impact on Councils.

Council operates a booking system for the use of its ovals to avoid clashes of dates for both training and games. It is expected that the bookings will reflect a fair and equitable sharing of the use of the grounds and the cooperation of all sporting groups and individual is sought in adhering to the approved booking times.

If you have not booked the grounds you should vacate them to allow those who have booked them to be able to have use without the fear of interruption.

Additionally, it would be appreciated by all users and Council if rubbish can be deposited in the bins provided and the grounds left in a neat and tidy condition.

Quote of the Week!

"Work hard for what you want, because it won't come to you without a fight. You have to be strong and courageous and know that you can do anything you put your mind to. If somebody puts you down or criticizes you, just keep on believing in yourself and turn it into something positive". - Leah LaBelle

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