



“From the GM’s Desk”

23rd August 2018



The revitalisation of the Commercial District of Bourke (CBD) is being undertaken primarily with funding which has been provided by the Murray Darling Diversification Fund to assist those communities adversely impacted by the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Planning for the revitalisation works has been in process for a number of months.

The one way option which has been adopted provides the opportunity for the beautification works to be undertaken with minimum disruption.

Work is progressing well and is being staged to minimise any disruption to business during the construction phase.

Once completed the works will result in a significant beautification of the CBD and will provide much needed shade and seating.

The project focuses on making the CBD a functional inviting and welcoming environment for locals and visitors alike.

During a visit to Forbes on Sunday the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP announced a range of assistance that would be made available to farmers and communities impacted by the drought.

The Coalition Government is extending the Drought Communities Programme with an additional \$75 million in further support for drought stricken communities announced as part of the drought package.

Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government, the Hon. Dr John McVeigh, MP in providing details in relation to the funding said the funding would provide immediate and short-term support for farmers and regional communities doing it tough.

The funding will provide flexibility for Councils to choose projects that will have the biggest impact.

Examples of projects could include:

- Employing local contractors to undertake repairs and maintenance
- Upgrading or building new community facilities
- Holding events and undertaking drought-relief activities
- Carting potable water into communities for drinking and bathing

36 Councils in New South Wales will each receive \$1 million dollars. Bourke Shire Council is one of those Councils. Council is awaiting the receipt of further details in relation to the grant prior to making a decision on projects that can be undertaken with the funding that is available.

Dr. McVeigh said that this is a terrible drought affecting the livelihoods and wellbeing of our farmers and regional communities, particularly those in New South Wales and Queensland. This fund will target those most seriously impacted by the drought.

Council received funding under the Fixing Country Roads Program to reconstruct several sections of the Wanaaring Road and work is about to commence on the project:-

- Construction on the Gumbalie section (1) was scheduled to commence on Monday, 20th August 2018. This section of road is 12.79 km in length and is expected to be completed by December 2018 at a cost of \$4,110,000.00
- Work on the Poison Point Section (2) is planned to start in March 2019 and completed by July 2019. This section is 16.55 km in length at a cost of \$4,650,000.00
- Work on the Wongareena section (3) is planned to commence August 2019 and finish in December 2019. This section is 7.02 km in length at a cost of \$2,352,000.00

There has been considerable amount of preparatory work required before construction could commence, including the undertaking of a Review of Environment Factors in relation to the roads and gravel pits. The identification and crushing of gravel and establishment of a new bore at Gumbalie to ensure that there is enough water to undertake the works, plus a base camp for the construction crew has been established at Yandaroo Station. Facilities have been installed for the construction crew who will be camping out.

Council has also secured some additional plant as in addition to these works, Council will be continuing with its normal works programme including work done for the Roads and Maritime Services and Work under the Roads to Recovery funding.

The total cost of all projects is \$11,112,000.00 and Bourke Shire Council is very appreciative to the State Government for providing the funding required.

The work will be completed by Council staff with these resources supplemented by contractors if required.

The Annual General Meeting of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) will be held in Coonamble on 7th September 2018.

Mayor, Councillor Barry Hollman is currently the Deputy Chair of OROC, whilst I am Chair of the General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC) of OROC.

The establishment of Joint Organisations of Councils (JOs) has meant that the need for Regional Organisations (ROCs) has been brought into question with some seeing the retention of ROCs as a duplication of the services to be provided by JOs.

Just a reminder to residents of Bourke and North Bourke that Level 1 water restrictions, came into effect on midday Thursday, 9th August 2018 when flow in the Darling River had dropped to a level where the water has ceased to flow across the Bourke Weir which is the trigger for the introduction of water restrictions which means:-

- The use of fixed sprinklers is limited to two (2) hours per day either between the hours of 6.00am to 8.00am or 6.00pm to 8.00pm daily.
- Hand held sprinklers can still be used at other times.
- The washing of paved areas and filling of new swimming pools is prohibited in accordance with Councils adopted policy.

Water restrictions will also apply to watering of public parks, recreational areas and sporting ovals and where possible the hours will be varied from residential allocated periods to ensure, as far as possible, water pressure is maintained for all residents during the times allowed for watering under the restrictions.

The Enngonia Races will be held on Saturday, 15th September 2018 and if the previous year's racing can be used as a guide it will be an excellent day out, so mark it in your diary.

The Ordinary Meeting of Bourke Shire Council will be held on Monday, 27th August 2018 commencing at 9.00am in the Louth Tennis Shed.

A Public Forum will be held at 10.00am. Whilst not essential, people wishing to speak at the public forum are encouraged to contact Kai Howard-Oakman by calling 0268308000, so that if necessary, background information may be researched on the issue on which they wish to speak.

There is also a "Request to Address Council in Public Forum" form that is available on Council's website at <http://www.bourke.nsw.gov.au/council/forms> you can fill that in and email it back to khoward@bourke.nsw.gov.au if you wish.

Councils are able to introduce Alcohol Free Zones, however, prior to do so or extending an existing zone, must give public notice in accordance with Section 644A of the Local Government Act 1993. Bourke Shire currently has an alcohol free zone (AFZ) in place 24 hours per day, on all public roadways, footpaths and laneways within the village of Enngonia and proposes to extend that AFZ for a further four (4) years from 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2022.

A copy of the proposal may be viewed at the Bourke Shire Council Chambers, 29 Mitchell Street, Bourke and the Bourke Public Library, Corner of Mitchell & Glen Streets Bourke, during normal business hours. Details are also available on Council's website www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

Written submissions are invited on any aspect of the proposal and will be received up until 4.00pm Monday, 24th September 2018.

Bourke Shire Council offers small grants on a dollar for dollar basis to private home owners for restoration and repair work recognising that conserving places of historic value is important to the whole community.

This is a good opportunity for owners of old houses who are looking at repairing or repainting their home to obtain some assistance in meeting the cost of those works. Examples of the work that has

received assistance in the past includes repairing any verandahs, internal and external painting and roof repairs.

If you think you have a project that might qualify for these funds or wish to discuss the funding you are invited to contact Carolyn Crain on (02) 6830 8000 who will make an appointment with Council's Heritage Advisor.

Local Heritage Fund Application forms are available from Council's offices, 29 Mitchell Street, Bourke or on Council's website at www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

Applications are to be submitted to Council by 4.00pm, Friday, 31st August 2018.

The Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool will open for the summer season at 10.00am on Saturday, 29th September 2018 with Mark Hollman being the new lessee. Mark is busily undertaking the work required to ensure the pool is ready for that date. Given the cold nights we have been experiencing, it is hard to believe that the opening of the pool is only a little over five (5) weeks away. Mark will be operating the canteen and is looking to introduce a number of initiatives to the pool to provide a variety of activities as well as trying to increase the usage of the pool.

The cost of utilising the pool is one of the lowest in the state and those who elect to purchase a season ticket will get excellent value for money.

A reminder that first instalment for the 2018/2019 rates are due on Friday, 31st August 2018.

The Book sale at the Bourke Library is still on and finishes on Friday, 24th August 2018. It is a great opportunity to replenish your book stocks at bargain basement prices. As the library staff attempt to ensure that the book stock meet the needs of all readers they are regularly purchasing new stock which means that the old books or those which have not proved to be popular have to make way for this new stock.

A reminder that the Western Region "All of Emergency Services Expo" will be held in Bourke on Thursday, 23rd August 2018 between 9.30am to 2.00pm at Davison Oval. The Expo is being coordinated by Fire & Rescue NSW Community Safety Coordinator, Susan Gibbs-Kelly.

The Mayor, Councillor Barry Holman will represent Council at the 74th Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Murray Darling Association (MDA) in Leeton on the 29th, 30th and 31st August 2018. The MDA is a Local Government based Organisation with representatives from all Australian States who have area within the Murray Darling Basin. The impact of the Murray Darling Basin Plan is one of the key areas that will be discussed and given the current drought situation that exists the conference will take on an increased level of importance.

The Hon. Niall Blair, MLC - Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry NSW will open the Conference and AGM.

Speakers will cover a range of topics with leading speakers and decision makers including the Basin Plan, carp control, renewable energies, economic development, national productivity, irrigated agriculture, climate change adaptation, environmental management, and socio-economic impact assessment.

Shane Hatton the Chief Executive Officer of Rural and Remote Medical Services has advised that Doctor Ali Attia will be moving to Bourke to take a position at the Darling River Medical Centre and will join with Doctor Fasiha as permanent Doctors. The third position will still to be filled by Locums who will be coming on a rotational basis where possible to provide an increased level of consistency for patients.

Doctor Attia comes to Bourke from the Emergency Department at Bankstown Hospital and is a very qualified and experienced acute care medical practitioner.

Doctor Attia visited Bourke around six (6) weeks ago and was impressed with the town and the facilities that the town has to offer. Shane Hatton was appreciative of the fact that a number of people took the time out to assist in showing Doctor Attia around Bourke and demonstrating what a welcoming and friendly town Bourke is.

Residents and businesses are reminded that unless they are paying for an additional bin(s) that they should only be putting the one bin out for collection.

The Interim Executive Officer of Far North West Joint Organisation (FNWJO) has written to each of the Councils asking them to nominate their strategic priorities.

The next meeting of the FNWJO will be held in Bourke on the 6th September 2018 and this will be an opportunity for the member Councils to commence to shape the organisation.

Quote of the week!

Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do. – Pele

Ross Earl
General Manager