



“From the GM’s Desk”

24th March 2016



Welcome to all visitors who are in town for the “Back to Bourke” Weekend. Looking at the program there is something for everyone and it promises to once again be a successful weekend.

The mud run should prove popular with all age groups and is something new for the town.

Congratulations to the coordinating committee and the committees of the individual organisations who will be host an event over the weekend. A lot of work goes into the staging of the event and the work involved starts months beforehand much of which goes largely unrecognized.

I would like to also acknowledge the efforts of Kelly and Graham Randall who have literally moved mountains (of furniture) so that the people of Bourke and visitors can once again enjoy the Wonderland Theatre experience. Well done!

On Saturday there will be a number of road closures and detours put in place to allow the conduct of the Parade and the Wool Bale Rolling to take place and residents are asked to be mindful and tolerant of these closures which will only be in place for a couple of hours.

Oxley Street will be closed to traffic on Saturday morning and again the cooperation of all motorists is requested.

The Bourke Rotary Club will be in charge of both the parade and the Wool Bale Rolling on the weekend.

Persons who intend putting in a float are encouraged to register the float at the Council prior to Saturday so that the coordination of the parade and paperwork can be done as quickly as possible.

Mayor Andrew Lewis has indicated he will again be entering a number of pieces of his antique machinery and looks to once again being amongst the prize winners.

Entries for the wool bale rolling will be taken on the day with the entries to be taken outside Betta Electrical.

The Draft Operational Plan for 2016/2017 will be put on public exhibition from next Thursday, 31st March following its endorsement by Council at last Monday’s Council meeting. The Plan will be on display until 2nd May 2016 and during that time members of the public are invited to make submissions in relation to the plan. Any submissions received must be considered by Council prior to the adoption of the plan which is scheduled for Monday, 23rd May 2016.

New Regulations applying to the sale of properties with swimming pools will take effect next month. Properties with a swimming pool or spa pool sold or leased on or after the 29th April 2016 will need a valid certificate of compliance or relevant occupation certificate. Where the certificate of compliance cannot be obtained, the vendor will be able to transfer the responsibility to obtain the certificate of compliance to the buyer. The transfer will be realised through an attachment of a non-compliance certificate to the sale contract. The buyer will then have 90 days from the days of settlement to rectify defects listed in the non-compliance certificate.

The ongoing co-operation is sought from all sporting groups utilising Council facilities that have booked the facilities. Most of the facilities are utilised on a shared basis by a number of groups and to minimise the potential for clashes of use the bookings need to be clearly identified. This is particularly the case when there is for example a change to the adopted draw or additional training sessions scheduled.

Users of the lights at Davidson Oval are asked to ensure that they document the actual times of the usage of the lighting and notify the Engineering Support Officer so that accounts can be rendered correctly.

Jim and Annabelle Strachan attended last Monday's Council meeting to receive their "Village Service Award" which they were to receive on Australia Day but were unable to be in attendance. Both Jim and Annabelle put a great deal of work into the Annual Louth Races each year with both having held executive positions for a number of years. Congratulations to them both as very worthy recipients and contributors to our community.

Council services over the Easter weekend will essentially be as normal with no alteration to garbage collections.

Emergency calls can be directed to Council's Duty Officer on 0419 722055

Given the public holidays there has been some changes to the opening hours of the War Memorial Swimming Pool.

The following will apply:-

Friday, 25 th March (Good Friday)	12.00pm - 8.00pm
Saturday, 26 th March	12.00pm - 8.00pm
Sunday, 27th March (Easter Sunday)	3.00pm - 8.00pm
Monday, 28 th March (Easter Monday)	12.00pm - 8.00pm

The pool will close for the season on 31st March

The only other significant change will be the closure of the Waste Management Facility in Bourke on Good Friday (25th March 2016) and on Easter Sunday (27th March 2016).

Council has received advice that the Roads and Maritime Services have approved the naming of the bridge over the Bogan River "the Wayne O'Mally Bridge". At its meeting held on Monday Council resolved to invite the Minister for Roads, the Hon Duncan Gay, MLC to come to Bourke for the naming ceremony.

Given the busy schedule of the Minister we will need to ascertain a date suitable to him prior to finalising any arrangements.

Wayne O'Mally was a significant contributor to the Bourke Community in a number of ways including as a Councillor and Mayor of Bourke Shire and a long standing Board Member of the then Pastures Protection Board serving as Chairman, as well as being involved in a number of other organisations in various capacities.

The flow in the Darling River is rapidly diminishing and it is likely that it will cease going over the weir within the next few days once again requiring the introduction of water restrictions.

The low flow in the river coupled with the recent spate of hot weather has seen the presence of increased levels of Blue Green Algae in the Darling River and an "Amber Alert" has been issued. NSW Office of Water Supply the following in relation to Amber (medium) Alerts

Blue-green algae may be multiplying and the water may have a green tinge and musty or organic taste and odour. The water should be considered as unsuitable for potable use and alternative supplies or treatment of raw water for domestic purposes should be considered. The water may also be unsuitable for stock watering generally suitable for water sports, however, people are advised to exercise caution in these areas as blue green algal concentrations can rise to red alert levels quickly under warm, calm weather conditions.

It should be noted that Council's FILTERED WATER SUPPLY is treated to negate any effects of Blue-Green Algae, when the growth is detected.

The cautionary procedures apply to the raw water supply in Bourke and Louth. Fords Bridge, Enngonia and Wanaaring are supplied via bore supplies whilst the Byrock village supply is reliant on local catchment and is not affected by the current alert all other village water supplies are non-potable.

Council's Building Services team have just about completed the upgrade to the change room facilities under the "Keith Martin Grandstand" at Davidson Oval with the change rooms having undergone a significant facelift and offering far better privacy and improved facilities. The rooms will be used for the first time for the Rugby Union Old Boy's game over Easter.

The presence of graffiti around town still presents a problem for Council and not only is there a financial cost involved in the removal it detracts from the appearance of the town. Residents are encouraged to remove graffiti from private property. This will assist with the presentation of the town.

Quote of the week

"Courageous people do not fear forgiving for the sake of peace" - Nelson Mandela.

Ross Earl
General Manager