



“From the GM’s Desk”

27th September 2018



At the Ordinary meeting of Council held on Monday, 24th September 2018 the elections were held for the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the ensuing two (2) years.

Councillor Barry Hollman was re-elected Mayor for the next two (2) years and Councillor Lachlan Ford elected as Deputy for the same period.

Council once again resolved to hold its Ordinary Meetings at 9.00am of the fourth Monday of each month as has been the practice for a number of years. However, there has been the need to change a few of those dates due to other commitments and public holidays as follows:-

The 2018 October Meeting has been rescheduled until the 29th October due to clash with the Annual Conference of Local Government New South Wales.

The scheduled date for January 2019 is the Australia Day holiday and the meeting will be held on the 21st January and the April Meeting scheduled date is Easter Monday so that meeting will now be held on the 29th April 2019. With Council hosting the 2019 Western Division Conference on the 25th February which is Council Scheduled meeting day this has had to be brought forward to the 18th February 2019.

The New South Wales Office of Industry has provided funding to Councils to assist in the promotion of Small Business Week in October 2018. Bourke Shire has embraced the opportunity to assist small businesses within the Bourke Shire Community and will be holding an evening on the 25th October 2018 to allow the small businesses within the community to have an evening with Certified Action Coach and Business Coach for Small Business, Beau Robinson.

The evening will be held at the Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre Café starting at 6.00pm and will finish around 8.00pm depending on questions.

There is no cost to small business and during the course of the evening there will be the opportunity for business to enter a draw to win one (1) of five (5) one (1) hour sessions with Beau at their individual businesses the following day. Registrations can be made with Michael McDowell on 0268308000 or email at aes@bourke.nsw.gov.au and will greatly assist in the provision of any material and catering requirements.

The wait is almost over for those looking to utilise the Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool. The pool will be open for the 2018/2019 season at 10.00am this Saturday, 29th September 2018. The cost of utilising the pool is one of the lowest in the state and those who elect to purchase a season ticket are getting excellent value for money.

To assist in recognising the significance of Remembrance Day it is proposed that knitted or crocheted poppies be made and displayed at the Remembrance Day service in Bourke. It is hoped that at least 267 poppies are able to be made and displayed with 267 being the number of persons from the Bourke area who enlisted to serve their Country in the quest for peace.

Remembrance Day has previously been known as Armistice Day and "Poppy Day" and the poppy continues to be the flower that is used on Remembrance Day.

Anyone who has the skill and time to produce poppies is encouraged to participate.

Bourke Rotary Club will donate the wool for the project and both the wool and patterns can be collected from Carole's of Bourke.

It would be ideal if the poppies could be made and delivered to Carole's before the end of October so that they can be mounted for display on Remembrance Day. Poppies can still be delivered up until Friday, 9th November 2018.

Whilst on Remembrance Day, I was always of the understanding that the Armistice was signed at 11am on the 11th November 1918. However the Armistice was in fact signed in France at 6.00am on that date to come into effect at 11.00am.

Bagpipers across Australia will be part of an international commemoration on 11th November to mark the signing of the Armistice in World War One.

They will honour the service and memory of more than 2000 Allied pipers who were killed in the war and many more who were wounded and served in four (4) years of conflict at Gallipoli and on the Western Front.

At 5.00pm as the Centenary of ANZAC commemorations remember the final day of the war, at memorials across Australia pipers and bands will play The Battle's O'er, a tune composed a century ago to honour those who served and to this day regularly played by bands the world over.

Australia's participation in the international commemoration is being co-ordinated by Pipe Bands Australia and is timed to coincide with pipers in Britain and across Europe playing The Battle's O'er at the time the Armistice was signed at 6.00am in the Northern Hemisphere.

Bands and Individual pipers have been invited to participate.

Annette Earl has registered with Pipe Bands Australia and will participate in this global event and will play locally at the Bourke Cenotaph.

Bourke Shire Council will be hosting a Grant Writing Workshop and it is likely to be held on Saturday, 6th October at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre Café. There will be no charge for the workshop and it is being run to assist members of the various sporting and social groups in town, to improve their grant writing skills which could in turn translate into additional funds being available via the success of grant applications that are lodged.

The Facilitator will be Belinda Colless who has a great deal of experience in the area of grant writing will also provide participants with some reference material. Belinda has assisted in the preparation of a number of grant applications for Bourke Shire Council which have achieved a great deal of success.

Anyone who would like to participate is invited to leave their name and contact details at Council Offices.

Representatives of The New South Wales Aboriginal Lands Council, New South Wales Office of Water Aboriginal Communities Program Water and Sewer Program and New South Wales Department of Health were in the Shire this week and held a community meeting to determine the level of community acceptance to having the water supply in Enngonia chlorinated.

While the Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewer Programme generally only focus on the Aboriginal Communities it was felt that circumstances in Enngonia, including both to the way in which the current water supply was set up and the relatively small number of people within the village of Enngonia provided the opportunity to have the water supply as a whole chlorinated.

The initial meeting in relation to the proposal to chlorinate the water supply was apparently met with a generally positive feeling although there was not a unanimous agreement.

Prior to further progressing the concept the representatives of the organisations proposing and funding the project sought the views of Council and together with The Manager of Corporate Services, Leonie Brown and I met with the representatives in the absence of the Manager of Works.

It is felt the next step would be a need for a more formal consultation process led by Council given the fact that Council is the owner of the water supply and this is planned to happen in the last week in October subject to Council's concurrence.

Once Community endorsement is obtained detailed plans and costing can be developed.

The Member for Barwon, Kevin Humphries, MP, will be in Bourke on Tuesday, 2nd October to launch the newly developed Bourke Jobs Board.

The Jobs Board is one of the initiatives under the Bourke Aboriginal Employment Prosperity Strategy which aims to increase employment in the Bourke community.

The design and implementation of the Strategy was a result of the combined efforts of the Maranguka Community Hub, Bourke Shire Council and the New South Wales Ombudsman's Office.

The Strategy has been funded by the New South Wales Department of Industry.

The strategy focuses on four (4) key areas:-

- To increase liaison between local business and those who are unemployed
- Establish a Local Jobs Board to readily identify jobs which are available locally
- Assist in the facilitation of State Government contracts and work to enable local businesses to more readily capitalise on those opportunities
- Develop a register of programs operated by State Government and Non- Government Organisations.

Bourke Shire Council is administering the strategy and has employed a senior Project Officer to facilitate its implementation and already a number of initiatives have been put in place including a jobs expo to be held in November.

The Senior Project Officer, Michael McDowell is working closely with a number of agencies to ensure that all opportunities for employment and training are maximised.

The Executive Director of the Maranguka Community Hub, Alistair Ferguson has welcomed the launch of the Jobs Board, indicating it will provide opportunities for all jobs to be readily identified in a single area making it much easier for locals looking for employment and those seeking to move to Bourke to identify the employment opportunities that exist.

Mr Ferguson said he sees the Strategy as an excellent example of the collaboration of the State Government with Local Government and the broader community.

Councillor Barry Hollman, Mayor of Bourke Shire Council said that with the commissioning of the new small stock Abattoir imminent, the launch of the Jobs Board is timely. He said that in addition to the opportunities that the abattoir will present directly there will be a number of other jobs that will be created in local businesses.

Mayor Hollman said he was pleased to note that the jobs board itself was designed by a local firm which recognise the ability of locally based people providing a quality of services in a number of areas.

The Jobs board can be accessed at www.bourkejobsboard.com

River flows are virtually non-existent; this is concerning coming into the warmer months. Standing water holes and weir pools may become an ideal environment for algae production. Stock owners and managers should be vigilant and be on the lookout for signs of algae scums.

A guide to help with identification of algae can be found on the WaterNSW website.

<https://www.watarnsw.com.au/water-quality/algae/identifying-algal-blooms>

Council at the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday resolved to grant permission to the United Services Union members to conduct their Annual Picnic Day on Friday, 19th October 2018. Details relating to

changes of hours at Council Offices, Service New South Wales and the Library will be advertised in the Western Herald along with any emergency service arrangements will be advertised in the Western Herald.

Michael McDowell, Senior Project Officer with the Bourke Aboriginal Employment Prosperity Strategy has been working with the Staff at Bourke High School in the facilitation of a Jobs Expo in Bourke on the Thursday, 22nd November 2018. The Expo is planned to be held at the Bourke High School Multi-Purpose Centre and will provide the opportunity for students and other job seekers to get an insight into the various careers that are available and how to have the best opportunity to access these careers.

Invitations will be issued to the surrounding high schools to attend and anyone seeking information in relation to a possible career change is invited to attend.

In August 2016 the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Anthony Roberts released the Far West Regional Plan. The Plan detailed the NSW Governments Strategy for Guiding Planning Decisions for the next 20 years.

One of the priority Actions identified in the Plan was to undertake modelling with local communities to better understand the factors contributing to population change and implications for Councils and their communities. The focus of the action is to build capacity to respond effectively to change through a targeted Action Plan that sets a vision and priority actions.

Bourke Shire Council was selected as the pilot Council in the Far West Planning Region to participate in the project being coordinated by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment Staff at Dubbo and is looking at opportunities aimed at improving the sustainability of towns in the Far West Region.

Once completed it is intended that the pilot project will be rolled out in the other Councils in the Far West.

There have been a number of earlier workshops conducted and these have been both well attended and productive.

The Department of Planning and Environment will, as part of the next phase of the project conduct a Workshop in Bourke entitled "Bourke Building Future Communities Workshop".

The workshop is scheduled for the 16th October and will be held at the Council Chambers 29 Mitchell Street Bourke. The meeting will commence at 5.30pm, light refreshments will be provided.

The Workshop is aimed at assisting in the shaping of an action plan that maximises opportunities for Bourke in such areas as education, tourism and agriculture.

Working with Council it is hoped that the plan can assist in delivering a sustainable and prosperous community and that the plan will support Council's Community Strategic Plan.

Quote of the Week!

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see".

Mark Twain

Ross Earl
General Manager