



“From the GM’s Desk”

4th October 2018



The member for Barwon Kevin Humphries was in Bourke on Tuesday and announced the successful projects for Council under round two (2) of the Stronger Communities Fund.

Council received a total of **\$1,790,000** in funding which has been allocated as follows:-

1. Upgrade to Bourke Olympic Pool – \$932,000
2. Connecting Bourke to North Bourke (Pedestrian Path and Cycleway) Stage One – \$100,000
3. Upgrade 2WEB community radio technology - \$145,307
4. Beautify and upgrade facilities in smaller villages of Bourke Shire – \$200,000
5. Develop Wharf Precinct (Sturt St) - \$300,000
6. Extend Bourke Levee Walk (Pedestrian Path and Cycleway) Stage Two - \$100,000
7. Install ‘Welcome to Bourke’ signs - \$12,693 (part funded)

Council is appreciative of the funding being made available and it will ensure that the amenities in town are greatly improved.

The funding for the swimming pool will need to be supplemented by loan funding with the estimated costs of a new pool being around \$1,850,000.

The current pool is over 60 years old and requires a considerable amount of maintenance on an annual basis and is also subject to leakage which in turn contributes to the movement of the pool and the loss of tiles.

Once completed the Pool complex will be a feature of the summer recreation in and around Bourke, with the relatively new slash park already seeing an increase in family usage.

A master plan has been developed for the War Memorial Swimming Pool Complex with the new Splash Park and the replacement of the main pool were identified as priorities under that plan.

In a series of workshops held last year involving the sporting groups within town, a number of priorities were established and again the pool was included in those priorities. Other priorities included the Lighting and Facilities at Davidson Oval and additional lights at Coolican Oval and these were undertaken with funding provided under round one (1) of the Stronger Country Communities funding.

With \$200,000.00 to be allocated to the improvement of the villages across the Shire Council will be seeking input from the various Community Progress Associations and Business Chamber of the best way this funding can be utilised.

There are number of projects that have been discussed and some of these are included in the Bourke Shire Community Strategic Plan but it is important that the priorities are reviewed and that the needs identified by the village community members are recognised.

Whilst in Bourke for the announcements, the Member for Barwon, Kevin Humphries, MP, took the opportunity to officially launch the newly developed Bourke Jobs Board. This is one of the initiatives under the Bourke Aboriginal Employment Prosperity Strategy which is aims to increase employment in the Bourke community.

The development of a local Jobs Board was one of the four (4) key elements of the Strategy which was developed as a result of the combined efforts of the Maranguka Community Hub, Bourke Shire Council and the New South Wales Ombudsman's Office and has been funded by the New South Wales Department of Industry.

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 Strategy is seen as an excellent example of the collaboration of the State Government with Local Government and the broader community.

It is pleasing to note that the jobs board itself was designed locally by Laura Gillard, this recognises the ability of locally based people and businesses to be able to provide a high quality of service across a wide range of areas.

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

Tourism Staff at Bourke Shire Council in association with local businesses and other local organisations have developed a package of entertainment to ensure that visitors and locals alike are catered for during the school holidays.

With a strong focus on school age children the package incorporates events such as the Hungerford Horse and Motor Bike Gymkhana, Louth October Long weekend fishing as well as Barefoot Bowls and free barbeque.

Events over the two (2) week holiday period also includes movie evenings and a family fun day with activities at the local pool and deals on meals for the family.

It shows Bourke has a lot to offer including National Parks, Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre, Outback Show, Jandra Paddle Boat to mention a few, but importantly Bourke offers a welcoming and friendly rural community where everyone can get a taste of the outback and outback life and a town not only part of Australian folklore but also rich in history.

Bourke Shire Council has completed 20 kilometres of widening on the Kidman Way. This has resulted in upgrading the section of Highway from Bourke to Cobar from as narrow as 6.5m to a sealed width of 8.5m to achieve the Route Standard. This highway is recognised as an interstate freight route, linking freight movements from the south to the north, so the widening of this road has been crucial to the overall safety and pavement performance.

The achievement of these works is a classic example of the success of the Roads Maintenance Council Contracts between Roads and Maritime Services and local Councils to carry out maintenance works on the State Road Network in their Local Government Area. It is an example of a fantastic team effort, with the RMS Asset Sections working collaboratively together with the Bourke Council to achieve this high output at short notice at the end of the Financial Year. Congratulations to all our staff involved as a great outcome has been achieved.

The successful completion of the works is yet another indicator of Councils ability to deliver high quality work "On Time and on Budget".

Tenders have been called for the construction of the new Water Treatment Plant for Bourke with advertisements appearing in both the local and Sydney press last week. Tenders will close on the 4th December 2018. The tenders will be then be evaluated and once the successful tenderer has been appointed it is anticipated that work will commenced in the first quarter of 2019.

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 World War I in the quest for peace. Patterns and wool are available free of charge from Carole's of Bourke and already there have been around 50 poppies that have been made still leaving a large number to go. However, the project has attracted considerable interest within the community and I am confident that the target will be reached.

On Thursday of last week the Mayor and I were invited to attend the 10th Anniversary celebrations of the Bourke Men's Shed. The Mayor took the opportunity to congratulate the Bourke Men's Shed on their achievements over that 10 year period.

It was interesting to learn from the Zone Chairman of the Men's Shed Organisation who was in attendance for the celebratory function just how much the concept of the Men's Shed has expanded not only in Australia but is now in a number of other countries.

If you are interested in joining the Men's Shed drop into the shed which is located at the corner of Mitchell and Sturt Streets any Thursday lunchtime or contact John Beer or Bob Stutsel.

Together with the Mayor Councillor Hollman, Councillors Stutsel, Dorrington and Bartley, I attended the Annual Police Remembrance Day Service held at the Anglican Church last Friday morning.

The Service was conducted by former Anglican Minister in Bourke, Father Graeme Yeager who is the Police Chaplain for this area and brought together members of the Police, their families, members of other emergency services and the public. The service is conducted each year to recognise those police who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Many of us forget the dangers faced by Police on a daily basis, some of the tasks that they undertake and situations they can find themselves in. The service provided the opportunity to reflect on the dangers they face and the contribution they make to ensure our communities are safe.

The Grant Writing workshop initially scheduled for on Saturday 6th October has been *postponed* with a number of potential participants indicating their unavailability due to the school holidays. The Workshop will now be held on the **20th October 2018 and will commence at 10.00am.**

The workshop will be held in the Council Chambers at 29 Mitchell Street Bourke.

There will be no charge for the workshop as it is being run to assist members of the various sporting and social groups in town 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, Belinda will also provide participants with some valuable 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.

Council will be hosting a Community Consultation meeting at Enngonia on the 31st October to discuss the chlorination of the Enngonia Water Supply.

Representatives of the New South Wales Aboriginal Lands Council, New South Wales Health and New South Wales Department of Industry Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewer Program have already held an initial consultation meeting and the findings of that meeting will be presented at the meeting on the 31st October 2018. The meeting is scheduled for 10.00am on the day and will be held in the War Memorial Hall at Enngonia.

Following the discussion on water, the opportunity will be taken on the day to discuss the proposed upgrade of the playground equipment in the park adjacent to the Hall which will be funded primarily from a grant received under the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund Program (CRIFP).

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>

The Department of Planning and Environment will, as part of the next phase of the "Bourke Building Future Communities" project be conducting a Workshop in Bourke on Tuesday, 16th October 2018 commencing at 5.30pm, at the Council Chambers at 29 Mitchell Street Bourke. 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.

Bourke Shire Council wishes to remind Bourke residents and business owners of the collection times for Domestic and Trade Waste Collection.

Domestic garbage collection times are Monday – Friday between the hours of **3:00am – 11:00am ONLY**

Trade Waste garbage collection times are - Tuesdays and Fridays between the hours of **3.00am - 11:00 am ONLY**

Bins are to be put out for collection the **NIGHT BEFORE** your scheduled bin collection day, to avoid your bin being missed.

Additionally both residents and businesses are reminded that they should only be putting out the number of bins which have been paid for.

The Board of the Destination Country & Outback NSW Tourism Network has appointed Lucy White of Bathurst as its new General Manager, to guide and assist the Board in the growth of the tourism industry in the largest of the six NSW Government Tourism Networks.

Lucy will commence work as General Manager in the Dubbo Headquarters of Destination Country & Outback on the 8th October 2018. She brings 22 years of tourism industry experience from previous positions held in local and regional tourism organisations within the NSW Central West.

The area of Destination Country and Outback Network is huge, covering around 61.2% of the State. It extends from Tenterfield in the north, to Oberon and Cowra in the south, and from Lithgow in the east out to Broken Hill in the west. It offers an incredible diversity of visitor experiences, precincts and places to attract visitors from across Australia and overseas.

An invitation has been issued to Lucy to visit Bourke as it is imperative to the development and marketing of our tourism product that we establish strong linkages with all organisations with who we are actively engaged. It is not an easy task for the person in this role as the sheer tyranny of distance making the ability to gain an understanding and appreciation of issues impacting on the Local Government areas within the region challenging to say the least.

Council staff have taken advantage of the low level in the river to commence the construction of a new boat ramp which has been funded by the Roads and Maritime Services. The old ramp has been removed and works on the new boat ramp commenced. It is hoped to have the projected finished over the next few weeks.

With an increase in the number of people enjoying water skiing during the summer the new boat ramp will be of great benefit. The boat ramp is also used by the large number of recreational fishermen both local and visitors alike.

As the drought bites harder it is important that landowners are aware of some the assistance that may be available to them. The Central Region of the Rural Financial Counselling Service has published a list of handy links and although they may have been published elsewhere they are reproduced as a handy reference. <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub/drought-assistance>

The Rural Financial Counselling service can be contacted on 1800 940 404

The following are links to the Rural Assistance Authority.

Transport Subsidy

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/drought-transport-subsidies>

Drought Assistance Fund

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/drought-assistance-fund>

Animal Welfare Transport Assistance

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/rebate-on-road-transport>

Quote of the Week!

"Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy."

Norman Vincent Peale

Ross Earl
General Manager