



# “From the GM’s Desk”

## 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018



Congratulations go to the Board and staff of Local Government New South Wales (LGNSW) and to the Council and staff of Albury City Council for their organisation of the 2018 Annual Conference of LGNSW. The Conference was fortunate to enjoy great weather and this certainly made the welcome function held in one of their many local parks an ideal way to start the Conference.

Albury has a mix of new and old buildings and is a very pretty city, the staff at Albury ensured that the city was presented to its best advantage.

The coordination of a Conference with around 900 delegates is a huge task and everything went relatively smoothly which is a credit to the organisers.

The business session involved the consideration of just over 100 motions dealing with a wide range of topics and President of Local Government New South Wales, Linda Scott did a fantastic job in both ensuring that the proceedings kept moving but also that persons wishing to speak on a motion were able to do so. It cannot be an easy task to chair a Conference such as the LGNSW Conference and keep most people happy but she managed to do that quite easily.

There were a number of close votes in relation to some motions, however, with each of the voting delegates being issued with an electronic voting device it only took a few seconds for all the votes to be recorded and displayed on the screen. This is a far cry from the days of having to do a manual count of hands, and then potentially a further recount.

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One of the speakers at the Conference was Stephen Bradbury the first Australian to win a Winter Olympic Gold Medal which he did under unusual circumstances with all other skaters in the race being involved in a pile up and falling over allowing him to finish first. Some people say that he was lucky but after hearing his story you understand the dedication and effort that went into winning the gold medal and the injuries and disappointment encountered throughout his long career, a career which saw him world ranked for a number of years.

He said just prior to the medal ceremony he wasn't sure if he was going to accept the gold medal under those circumstances but after a few minutes decided to go out on the podium, and accept the gold medal.

*"But not for the 90 seconds of the race – I'm going to take it for the 14 years of hard work, five (5) hours a day, six (6) days a week for 14 years. That's not that lucky; I think I'll take it for that."*

He was the last speaker on the last day but still held everyone's attention and interest as he reflected on how it took fourteen years skating at the highest level and the sacrifices and commitment that goes with that to be able to make that final and win the gold medal.

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As mentioned in last week's column the Mayor and I took the opportunity at the LGNSW State Conference to promote the Western Division Conference which will be hosted by Bourke Shire in late February 2019.

All member Councils of Western Division have indicated their proposed attendance whilst a number of others who have previously been members, including Bogan and Moree Plains Shires have also indicated that they will also be attending whilst others from within the area including Gilgandra and Coonamble have indicated their attendance.

Putting together a program takes a considerable amount of work, lead time and I am pleased to advise that the Deputy Premier, the Hon. John Barilaro, MP last week confirmed his attendance and he will open the Conference and deliver an address. Also confirming their attendance are the Shadow Minister of Local Government, the Hon Peter Primrose MLC, The Chief Executive of The Office of Local Government Tim Hurst and the President of Local Government New South Wales Linda Scott.

Parliamentary Secretary for Western Division Hon Rick Colless MLC will also attend as will local Member for Barwon Kevin Humphries MP and Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton MP

Council is still awaiting notification from a number of other Ministers recognising that many will be involved in the election campaign with the State Election only a month after the Western Division Conference.

It is anticipated that the Conference will have speakers on a range of issues impacting on Local Government particularly in the Far West of the State.

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Annette and I were pleased to be able to attend the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of our former neighbour in Bourke, Jan Green, which was held at her new home in Dubbo last Saturday. The party was hosted by husband Brian and daughters Katrina, Marnie, Jodie and Lisa. There were a large number of Jan's relatives and friends in attendance including a number of Bourke and ex- Bourke residents; in fact most of those present had a link to Bourke either directly or indirectly. It was a great day out, the speeches very entertaining and providing some interesting stories in relation to Jan's life. Congratulations Jan.

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One of the new provisions in the Model Code of Meeting Practice for all New South Wales Councils to be released shortly is the requirement for Council meetings to be Webcast.

Carrathool Shire Council moved the following motion at the recent Annual Conference of Local Government New South Wales held in Albury.

**81 Carrathool Shire Council**

***Council Meeting webcasting***

*That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to not introduce compulsory webcasting of Council meetings as the resources required to implement in rural NSW is exorbitant and internet facilities are negligible for the nil benefit gained.*

### *Note from Council*

*Internet availability within rural and remote NSW is often poor and in many areas non-existent. Regional areas such as Carrathool do not have the upload speeds to enable Council to stream the broadcasts. Councils are often on ADSL.*

*Regional areas such as this are also not on the plan for NBN anywhere in the near future*

The motion was lost although there were subsequent motions calling for the State Government to pick up the cost of web casting.

It would appear that the webcasting of meetings will become a reality with the idea that people can be part of the democratic process and see how Local Government operates from the comfort of their own homes. It will no doubt be of assistance to residents in the outer reaches of various shires who would otherwise be faced with considerable travel expenses.

Bourke Shire Council will be investigating on how best to install the required technology.

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The Minister for Veteran Affairs in New South Wales, the Hon. David Elliott, MP has written to Council highlighting that 11<sup>th</sup> November this year will be the Centenary of the Armistice that marks the end of the Great War.

He is seeking Councils support to encourage the community to stop and pause for reflection at 11.00am on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> November for one (1) minute to remember our veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice and express the gratitude for the peace and prosperity that we enjoy today.

Minister Elliott says that whether attending a commemoration, walking down the street, listening to the radio or watching television on public transport or in shopping centres it would wonderful to see our state come to a standstill and remember the fallen.

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In recognition of the Centenary of Remembrance Day in Bourke 267 poppies were to be made recognising each of the men and women from the Bourke area who enlisted in World War 1. The concept involves the display of these handmade (knitted or crocheted) poppies to be displayed around the cenotaph area on Remembrance Day. The target was 267 which has been exceeded thanks to the generosity and hard work of the local community and the display will reflect the efforts of all those involved.

Anyone who has the skill and time to produce poppies and has yet to make any and would like to do so is encouraged to participate. Bourke Rotary Club has donated the wool for the project and the wool and patterns can be collected from Carole's of Bourke. It has been very much a community effort.

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

The Local Sub Branch of the RSL will again be coordinating the Remembrance Day Service in Bourke and are anticipating a large crowd to be in attendance for the Centenary Service.

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As part of the Centenary Celebrations, Bagpipers across Australia will be part of an international commemoration on 11th November 2018 to mark the signing of the Armistice in World War One.

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

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 6am in the Northern Hemisphere.

At 5.00pm as 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 century ago to honour those who served and to this day this tune regularly played by bands and pipers all over the world.

The Battle's O'er commemoration will involve hundreds of pipers across Australia in a final act of remembrance for the Centenary of ANZAC.

Annette has registered to participate in this international event and will play locally at the cenotaph in Central Park.

The bagpipe tune Battle's O'er is part of the ANZAC story - a tune always in the piper's repertoire that allows us as musicians to continue sharing the stories of ANZAC, honour and gratitude to those who have served over the last century.

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There was a lot of very positive feedback from the Small Business Seminar conducted last week with keynote speaker being well known Business Coach Beau Robinson. The event was primarily funded via a grant provided by the NSW Department of Industry as part of Small Business Week and supported by Bourke Shire Council who undertook the overall coordination of the event. With the drought impact on all sectors of our community it provided an opportunity for business owners to learn how to work on their business as well work in the business.

Beau Robinson was impressed with the excellent turnout of local business all of whom would have benefitted from Beau's presentation. In all there were 36 business people at the seminar.

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The level in the river has dropped to 3.52 metres as I write this column and depending on the weather conditions there is every likelihood that the level will drop to 3.5 metres prior to its publication.

3.5 metres is the trigger point for the introduction of Level 2 Water Restrictions.

There is not a significant difference between level 1 and level 2 Restrictions save for the fact that period allowed for watering reduces from two (2) hours each day to one (1) hour each day.

The ongoing dry conditions are cause for great concern and Council will continue to monitor the water supply situation for all supplies across the shire.

Council looks forward to the ongoing cooperation of residents in complying with the restrictions.

The ongoing dry conditions are a real cause for concern across much of Australia. Many stocks of hay and grain have now been depleted and what is left commands a high prices.

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Arrangements have commenced for the 2019 Australia Day Celebrations and one (1) of the changes resolved by Council at the October meeting the Australia Day Celebrations will take place at the Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool.

In other changes the award for the Community Event of the Year and Community Service through Employment have been deleted.

The age for Young Sportsperson of the Year and the Young Citizen of the Year have both been reduced from 25 Years and Under to 18 Years & Under.

The nomination forms will be out in early November 2018 and I would like everyone to consider nominating someone for each of the awards as there a number of people within our community who make a significant contribution and often go relatively unnoticed.

Please be sure to include eligibility criteria and the listing of the most significant achievements that make the nominee a worthy recipient.

The function will remain as a breakfast function with Council agreeing to provide breakfast free of charge. Bourke Rotary will again be responsible for the preparation of the breakfast.

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### *Quote of the Week!*

*'Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity'*

Ross Earl  
General Manager