



“From the GM’s Desk”

8th November 2018



A Remembrance Day Service will be held in Bourke in Central Park adjacent to the Cenotaph. All members of the community are encouraged to attend the Service which marks the Centenary of Remembrance Day. The Local RSL sub Branch President Victory Bartley has asked that everyone who is attending the service is to be there at **10.45am** as the service will commence at approximately 10.55am.

Even if you are unable to get to a service Council encourages all members of the community to stop and pause for reflection at 11.00am on Sunday, 11th November 2018 to remember our veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice and express the gratitude for the peace and prosperity that we enjoy today.

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 these handmade (knitted or crocheted) poppies to be displayed around the cenotaph area on Remembrance Day. The target 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.

If you have made poppies and have yet to deliver them, it would be ideal if the poppies could be delivered to Carole’s of Bourke, by Friday so that they can be prepared for display on Remembrance Day.

A big thank you to the staff at Carole’s for the work they have put into the coordination of the project.

As part of the Centenary Celebrations, Bagpipers across Australia will be part of an international commemoration on the 11th November 2018 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.

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.

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 a 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 over 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 at 5.00pm (AEST).

Residents of Bourke and North Bourke are reminded that Level Two (2) Water Restrictions have been implemented as from 8.00pm, Friday, 2nd November 2018.

The height of the Darling River at Bourke has dropped to 3.5 metres which is the catalyst for the introduction of Level Two (2) restrictions.

The use of fixed sprinklers is now limited to one (1) hour per day either between the hours of 7.00am to 8.00am or 7.00pm to 8.00pm daily.

Handheld sprinklers can still be used at other times.

The washing of paved areas and motor vehicles can only be undertaken using a pressure cleaner or buckets 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 cooperation of all residents is sought in complying with these restrictions.

Last week, I received advice that the Federal Minister for Regional Development, the Hon. Dr. John McVeigh, MP had endorsed my appointment to the Board of Regional Development Australia Orana. (RDA Orana).

The foot print of RDA Orana mirrors the old Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) area.

I am looking forward to the new challenge and working with the Board whose members come from all over the area covered by RDA Orana and is led by Chairman of John Walkom of Dubbo.

I have a strong interest in developing opportunities for Regional areas and will be looking at every opportunity to reverse the trend of people moving from the regional areas to the eastern seaboard.

Not only has this placed enormous pressure on the infrastructure along the coastal areas but has also led to the demise of many rural communities as employment opportunities disappear and quite often this results in the loss of a critical population mass to be able to maintain the wide range of services expected of a community. This in turn effectively creates a snowball effect on such things as school numbers and the ability to be able to field sporting teams which is a very important element of the social fabric of most rural communities.

I look forward to being able to assist in the reversal of this trend.

The drought continues to bite hard throughout New South Wales and many impacted persons seeking access to Farm Household Allowance (FHA) are frustrated by the way in which the eligibility criteria are determined and applied.

An independent panel has been appointed to review the Farm Household Allowance. The Panel will be in Dubbo on 15th November 2018 to hold a feedback session with interested stakeholders including farmers who have accessed FHA and those that haven't. If you have an interest in the issue you are invited to go along and share your views.

Date: 15th November 2018

Time: 9am-10.30am with a morning tea to follow

Location: Dubbo RSL Memorial Club

To attend please RSVP FHAreview@agriculture.gov.au

More information on the review can be found at: [Farm Household Allowance Review 2018 | Have Your Say – Agriculture](#)

Mark Coulton visited Bourke last Wednesday and took the opportunity to catch up with the Mayor, Councillors and staff.

As always the opportunity was taken to raise a number of issues with Mark. These included ongoing need to improve mobile services across the shire, but at the same time recognising the introduction of a mobile service for the immediate area around Wanaaring village and the improved service at Louth.

One of the concerns related to the transmitter at Tarwoona near in the Enngonia. When this tower goes it down, not only impacts on the mobile service in the area but the landlines as well and this could have dire consequences if the outages coincide with an emergency.

At the Community Consultation Meeting held at Enngonia later in the day the issue was again raised and it was good to be able to inform the community of the representations already made in respect of the issue.

Other issues discussed was the benefits derived for both the road network and community from the increase in the Roads to Recovery Funding and that benefits would continue if the Federal Government were able to maintain this increased level of funding.

Coonamble Shire Council had been keen to be part of the Far North West Joint Organisation (FNWJO) of Councils and had made an application to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP to be able join as a member of that JO.

To be a member of a JO a Council has to be part of the same planning region and Coonamble is part of the Orana/Central West Planning Region while the FNWJO is part of the Far West Planning Region.

The application by Coonamble has apparently been rejected by the Minister despite the Governments desire to try and ensure that all rural and regional Councils are a member of a JO.

Last Wednesday Councillors and staff travelled to Enngonia and undertook a series of meetings with the Enngonia Community. The first related to the proposal to chlorinate the water supply at the village and we were joined for that meeting with representative of the State Aboriginal Lands Council New South Wales Health and Staff of the Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program who first raised the concept of chlorination and have agreed to contribute to the capital costs of installing the equipment required and the ongoing maintenance.

The meeting was extremely constructive with a number of people posing interesting questions and comments.

The second meeting was to look how the recently obtained funding of approximately \$30,000.00 could be spent on improving the park next to the hall with a number of suggestions being made including the need for shade and additional seating as well as further developing the gardens.

There was a desire to keep some of the existing playground equipment however; there was also an acknowledgement that some may need to be replaced with a wide range of equipment now available.

It was great to learn that there has been a lot of voluntary work being done at the park and it is showing the benefits of this community input.

The last of the meetings was the first of the current round of Community Consultation meetings which are held across the towns and villages within the Shire each year with the opportunity being taken to have the Enngonia meeting on the same day as the other scheduled meetings.

This meeting gave an outline of the work being undertaken by Council across the Shire and the need for community input to assist in the determination of priorities.

There was a great roll up and some excellent contributions to the meeting.

Council recently was successful in an application for funding under the Stronger Country Communities Program to undertake improvements to the village areas which will result in all villages within the shire being allocated funding to undertake works identified as a priority by community members. Council has also sought funding along similar lines from the Federal Government Drought Communities Program and if successful will add the availability of further funding.

Council is conscious of the need to ensure that the amenities and services within each of our villages are maintained and upgraded as funds allow.

Meetings for the remainder of the villages are schedule over the next few weeks and the details of these meetings are as follows:-

BYROCK

Monday - 19th November 2018 TIME: 1.30pm – 3.30pm, Venue: Mulga Creek Hotel

FORDS BRIDGE

Thursday - 28th November 2018 TIME: 1.00pm – 3.00pm, Venue: Warrego Hotel

LOUTH

Wednesday - 5th December 2018 TIME: 9.00am -11.00am, Venue: Louth Tennis Shed

WANAARING

Wednesday - 5th December 2018 TIME: 1.30pm – 3.30pm, Venue: Wanaaring Hall

The meetings will also present the opportunity for residents to have an input into the development of the 2018/2019 Operational Plan (Budget). Council has received a grant for village improvements and the allocations of these funds will be one of the focus items.

Please take the opportunity to come along and meet with Bourke Shire Council Councillors & staff to discuss any issues, air your views and share your ideas for the future.

Next meeting of the Far North West Joint Organisation of Councils will be held on the Wednesday, 21st November 2018 with a number of issues in the agenda for board members. Mayor, Councillor Barry Hollman will be attending the Annual Roads Congress and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Lachlan Ford will be filling in for him. There has been the suggestion put that each of the Deputy Mayors attend the meetings on a regular basis. This would allow a better understanding of the way the JO operates and the issues for determination. The suggestion is likely to be considered at the next meeting of the JO.

The Joint Organisation will shortly be reviewing the tender documents in relation of the air services proposed for Bourke Cobar and Walgett/ Lightning Ridge.

Ratepayers are reminded that the next rates instalment is due on the 30th November 2018 with the water charges also due on that day.

Barwon-Darling Water will be holding their quarterly meeting in the Council Chambers on the 15th November 2018 at Council. Barwon Darling Water brings together all those with a strong interest in water issues along the Barwon Darling from Menindee to Mungindi together as both an interest group and advocacy body. This includes the various Local Government areas including Bourke. As a member with a strong interest in water issues Bourke Shire will be represented.

The nomination will be shortly called for the 2019 Australia Day Awards. I would like everyone to consider nominating someone for each of the awards as there are a number of people within our community who make a significant contribution and often go relatively unnoticed.

In a change from previous years the *Community Event of the Year Award and the Community Service through Employment* will no longer be awarded whilst the Junior Sportsperson of the Year and the Young Citizen of the year will be restricted to those (18 Years & Under).

The categories for 2019 are as follows:-

- Shire Village Community Service
 - Emergency Service Volunteer of the Year
 - Young Sportsperson (18 Years & Under)
 - Sportsperson
 - Young Citizen of the Year (18 Years & Under)
 - Citizen of the Year
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Quote of the Week!

*"The cynics may be the loudest voices – but I promise you, they will accomplish the least."
Barack Obama*

Ross Earl
General Manager