



# “From the GM’s Desk”

## 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018



There were a number of issues discussed at last Thursday’s meeting of the Bourke Business Group and amongst them was the progress on the work in the CBD and there was generally a very positive response in this regard.

The issue of parking was raised and the suggestion made that Bourke Shire Council once again consider the introduction of two (2) hour parking in the CBD. The suggestion met with almost unanimous support and no doubt it will be an item for discussion at a future Council Meeting.

Council has previously rejected the call for two (2) hour parking for a number of reasons, including the cost of enforcing the restrictions.

A preferred option would be the self-regulation by residents and business owners to encourage staff to park outside the CBD, thus freeing the spaces up for customers. There are a number of businesses who are already doing alterations to their premises to provide additional parking.

No doubt there will be further discussions held on what could prove to be a controversial issue, however, one that needs to be addressed and a decision made.

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Also at the meeting of the Bourke Business Group held last week, the agenda included a presentation from Senior Executives from the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), Russell James, Executive Director Office of Compliance and Monique White, Assistant Director Partnerships. They were in Bourke to meet local business operators to discuss and listen to local concerns and issues relating to the Darling River and the Murray Darling Basin. They were accompanied to the meeting by Peter Thomas, the local MDBA Engagement Officer for the Barwon Darling. Peter Thomas is based in Bourke, however, the area for which Peter is responsible for engaging with communities covers a very large area.

The MDBP has been in existence for some time and whilst some parts of the Plan have been put in place, there are others which are still to be finalised. The Plan has an impact for all those within the footprint of the Murray Darling Basin which spans to include sections of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia and given the MDBA is a federally administered and funded organisation.

A considerable amount of consultation needs to take place and compromises reached on a number of issues which has no doubt contributed to the time taken to both finalise and then implement the Plan.

Russell will be back in Bourke to represent the CEO of the Murray Darling Basin Authority, Philip Glyde at the Annual Conference of the Western Division Councils to be held in February 2019.

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The Success of the Justice Re-Investment Project which is being coordinated in Bourke by Maranguka was the subject of story on the Channel Ten News Program "The Project" last week. "The Project" painted a very positive picture of the initiative and its impact on the town. For those who missed the show and would like to have a look it is still available on line

<https://tenplay.com.au/channel-ten/the-project/extra/season-10/how-the-town-of-bourke-turned-itself-around>

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A group of farmers and truck operators in Western Australia are organising a hay run to arrive in Bourke on Australia Day 2019.

Approximately 50 trucks carrying hay will be making the trip from WA to Bourke.

The organisers have teamed up with Lions Club "Need for Feed" to coordinate the distribution of the hay.

Farmers in the Bourke area who would like to receive some hay (maximum 10 bales) are required to register on the "Need for Feed" website [www.needforfeed.org](http://www.needforfeed.org)

They should click on "apply for assistance", select "fodder" and complete the requested information.

For further information please contact the Rural Financial Counsellor in Bourke on 1800 940 404.

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Congratulations to John Gaff, who on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018 will be ordained as an Anglican priest in a ceremony to be held at Dubbo. The Ordination will be conducted by Bishop Ian Palmer the Bishop for the Bathurst Diocese.

John has been a lay Minister for some time and became a Deacon twelve months ago and now has elected to take the step of being ordained and continue his work with the Anglican Church.

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Return and Earn is a year old and has collected nearly a billion drink containers, leading to a record reduction in litter volume across NSW and a massive environmental gain.

NSW Environment Minister, the Hon. Gabrielle Upton, MP said Return and Earn has been an outstanding success saying that figures speak for themselves:-

- Eligible drink containers collected and recycled: up by 69 per cent
- Eligible drink container litter volume: down 44 per cent
- NSW total litter volume: down 48 per cent since 2013
- Drink containers being processed each week: 26 million
- Most drink containers processed in a day: 5.6 million on Sunday, November 11

Minister Upton said that more than half the drink containers in the marketplace (54 per cent) are now being recovered, compared with the 32 per cent that was being collected in yellow bins before Return and Earn kicked in.

Return and Earn is undertaken locally by the Bourke Laundry at the corner of Richard and Oxley Streets. It is a great initiative and one that should be supported by the whole community.

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Preliminary arrangements are being made for the Easter Celebrations for 2019 with the range of activities being planned along a similar format to that in previous years. One new feature being considered is the introduction of a feature called a "Day in the Dirt" which will involve a music festival to be held adjacent to the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre and will feature a number of accomplished performers.

The idea of the "Day in the Dirt" is to ensure that the weekend provides something for everyone and has continuous entertainment and activities.

Also in the planning stages, is the holding of a wide-ranging church service for the Saturday night remembering of course, the true meaning of Easter.

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The Christmas Markets are taking shape with a number of stall holders already booking their space and local business's agreeing to stay open. Later in the evening the Annual Bourke Carols by Candlelight will be held with a great spirit of Community Cooperation being displayed in the coordination of the evening.

New Tourism and Events Manager, Fran Carter is encouraging everyone to consider the installation of lights at their residence and is keen to "Light up Bourke". It is planned to have lights placed around the Wharf area whilst for the first time for a few years there will be a Christmas tree at the wharf.

Christmas in Australia is a very busy time with end of school functions and annual holidays for many people coupled with Christmas celebration which of course is very important for those with a strong Christian faith but is also a time for families and friends to get together.

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A reminder to all residents that Council does not meet in December with the next scheduled meeting to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 which has been brought forward due to the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday being the designated Australia Day public holiday. The meeting for February has also been brought forward to the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 as the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday will be the first Day of the Western Division Conference to be held in Bourke.

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The Annual Bourke Rotary Senior Citizens lunch was held last Saturday at the Bourke Full Gospel Church. The number of attendees was down slightly on previous years; however, those in attendance enjoyed a nice meal, good fellowship and were entertained by the Bourke Choir who once again were more than happy to contribute to the day.

Thank you to everyone who assisted in making this annual event a success.

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In news that will no doubt please those wishing to utilise the floodlights at Davidson Oval and Coolican Oval for Night games or training the lighting charges for the facilities have been proposed to be reduced.

This is due to the anticipated reduction in energy usage and maintenance as a result of the new lights being installed utilising the funding provide under the Stronger Country Communities Program.

Council has resolved to advertise the proposed new charges prior their presentation for formal adoption at the January Meeting

- The fees for the use of the Floodlights at Davidson Oval will be set at \$25.00 per hour
- The fees for the use of the Floodlights at Coolican Oval will be set at \$12.50 per hour
- For commercial users of Coolican Oval the charge for electricity (in additional to the floodlights) will be based on actual consumption plus a meter reading fee of \$25.00

The fees for Davidson Oval reflect a significant increase in the current charges which were put in place some time ago when the lights were much less energy efficient.

The charges are currently being advertised and will be adopted by Council at the January meeting following the consideration of any submissions received.

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Council has adopted a revised Street Tree Policy which covers a wide range of issues including the types of trees to be planted, the responsibility for maintenance and removal of street trees. The issue of the removal of trees has been the subject of some debate over recent months and it is hoped that the revise policy will provide some clarity.

For anyone wishing to review the policy it is on Council's Website [www.bourke.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bourke.nsw.gov.au)

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The Far North West Joint Organisation of Councils (JO) will be holding their next Meeting in Bourke on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and it will include a Facilitated Strategic Planning Workshop.

In addition it is expected that Councils will receive an update in relation to the tender process being developed to secure an air service for Bourke, Walgett/Lightning Ridge and Cobar.

Councils will also have the opportunity to present to the Board details of the projects for consideration for funding from the \$5 million being allocated to both the Northern and Southern JOs for the promotion of Tourism and Cultural activities.

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Residents of Bourke and North Bourke are reminded that Level 2 Water Restrictions have been effective from Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018.

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.

Hand held 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.

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Nominations are called for the 2019 Australia Day Awards and will be received up until midday on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The form for nominations are slightly different from previous years and persons nominating people for an award should ensure that they included all relevant details to assist the judging panel in their deliberations.

Quite often the work undertaken by the volunteers within our community goes relatively unnoticed and it is important that their work is recognised.

Similarly the significance of sporting achievements at a regional state or national level if applicable need to be highlight as well as awards provided by sporting organisations for service and outstanding achievement(s).

Nomination forms are available from Bourke Shire Council, Bourke Library or on the Council website [www.bourke.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bourke.nsw.gov.au)

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New South Wales State of Origin Representative and Melbourne Storm player Josh Addo-Carr has agreed to be the Australia Day Ambassador for Bourke for 2019.

No doubt his visit will create a lot of interest with Rugby League fans and in particular those who follow the Melbourne Storm.

Communities across the state are very appreciative of the fact that so many high profile members of the community give freely of their time to undertake the role of Australia Day Ambassadors and their attendance at Australia Awards and Presentations is always very well received.

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Arrangements for the operation of Council over the Christmas period were advertised in last week's edition of the Western Herald.

Details of changes in the operation of Council's services and facilities are detailed in the advertisement and are also on Council's website [www.bourke.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bourke.nsw.gov.au)

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The Far West Blue-Green Algal Reports are based on samples collected by various Councils; Moree Plains, Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke and Central Darling Shire Councils and WaterNSW.

As of Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 its summary report provided as follows:-

- **The Darling River at Bourke Boat Ramp is on Amber Alert.**
- The Barwon River at Brewarrina is on Green Alert.

- Areas of low flows, 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.
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*Quote of the Week*

*"Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success" - Unknown*

Ross Earl  
General Manager