



# “FROM THE GM’S DESK”

## 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019



Bourke Shire Council was announced as the recipient of the 2019 Bluett Award for Rural Councils at the Gala Dinner held as part of the 2019 Annual Conference of the Local Government New South Wales.

The A R Bluett Memorial Award has been awarded annually since 1945. The Award is contested each year by Councils in NSW who would like to be recognised as being the most progressive in the state.

It is acknowledged that the Bluett Award is "*The greatest accolade a Council can achieve*" and "*The pinnacle of local government achievement*".

To receive the award was indeed an honour and a reflection of the hard work that has been undertaken by Council over the past few years and the support that Council has received from all sections of the community.

Council was one of three (3) finalists in the rural division along with Bellingen and Narromine Councils.

The finalist in the Metropolitan / Regional section were Coffs Harbour and Shellharbour Councils with the winner being Shellharbour Council.

Mayor Barry Hollman and I were on hand to collect the certificate from the Trustees and President of Local Government New South Wales, Linda Scott.

This was the second time that Bourke has won the Award with the previous time being in 1970 when the award went to the, then, Darling Shire which at that time was led by Shire President, R. J. (John) Ridge and the Shire Clerk, Bob Reynolds.

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Members of the AR Bluett Trust, Chairman, Les McMahon and fellow Trustees Allan Ezzy, APM AM and Mike Montgomery, AM will be coming to Bourke in February 2020 to make the Official award to Bourke Shire Council including the presentation of a plaque which will be erected as a permanent record of Council's achievements.

A function will be held as part of the presentation with all staff to be invited with the award recognising the achievements from the entire organisation.

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At the Annual Conference the elections were held for the Board positions for the next two (2) years and this resulted in the current President Councillor Linda Scott of Sydney City Council being re-elected.

Linda has done on an outstanding job over the past two (2) years and the way she conducted the business section of the conference was excellent with over 120 motions being dealt with in less than a day but still allowing motions to be debated.

Linda has made herself both very visible and accessible to all Councils across the state

Joining her on the Board for the next two (2) years be Treasurer Cr Jerome Laxale (City of Ryde); Vice-President Metro/Urban Cr Angelo Tsirekas (City of Canada Bay); Vice-President Rural/Regional Council Cr Stephen Lawrence (Dubbo Regional Council).

**Metropolitan Directors:** Councillors Karen McKeown (Penrith City Council), George Greiss (Campbelltown City Council), Khal Asfour (City of Canterbury Bankstown), Julie Griffiths (Blacktown City Council), Lesley Furneaux-Cook (Burwood Council), Dai Le (Fairfield City Council), and Mazhar Hadid (Liverpool City Council).

**Rural/Regional Directors:** Councillors Darriea Turley (Broken Hill City Council), Phyllis Miller (Forbes Shire Council), Ben Shields (Dubbo Regional Council), Marianne Saliba (Shellharbour City Council), Dominic King (Bellingen Shire Council), Ruth Fagan (Cowra Council), and Keith Rhoades (Coffs Harbour City Council).

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It is that time of year again when mosquitos start to come out. Below are a few friendly tips to reduce mosquito risk around the home.

Stop adult mosquitoes entering the home by using fly screens on windows and doors, and screening chimneys, vents and other entrances. Repair any damaged screens.

- Consider also using a surface insecticide spray in areas where mosquitoes like to rest. During the day, mosquitoes rest and hide in cool shady areas such as in and around the home before emerging at dusk to feed. Make sure you avoid aquaria and fish ponds as fish are acutely sensitive to these insecticides.

Mosquitoes need water to breed and some mosquitoes can breed in very small amounts of water, such as in the water that collects in a discarded soft-drink can. Measures to reduce the risk of mosquitoes breeding in around the home include:-

- Cleaning up your backyard and removing all water-holding rubbish, including tires and containers
- Keeping your lawns mowed
- Flushing and wiping out bird baths and water features once a week
- Filling pot plant bases with sand to avoid standing water
- Storing anything that can hold water undercover or in a dry place, and keeping bins covered
- Flushing out the leaves of water-holding plants such as bromeliads once a week
- Keeping drains and roof guttering clear to avoid standing water
- Covering or securely screening the openings of septic tanks and rainwater tanks

Properly cleaned and chlorinated swimming pools are rarely a source of mosquito breeding but neglected pools can be a haven for mosquitoes.

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As of Sunday, 13th October 2019, the Darling River will have stopped flowing over the weir at Bourke for **428 days**.

The river height was at Bourke was 2.46 metres over the weekend and the level of the water has dropping at the rate of around one (1) centimetre per day.

This rate of loss will increase as the weather heats up and the level of evaporation increases.

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A reminder that level four (4) restrictions are in place with no fixed sprinklers allowed and hand held hoses are allowed for one (1) hour per day.

A full listing of the restrictions is detailed on the Bourke Shire Website, [www.bourke.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bourke.nsw.gov.au)

With the Darling River dropping at the rate of 1 centimetre per day it is likely that level four (4) water restrictions will remain in place for around six (6) weeks until a move to level five (5) would need to be considered.

Whilst Council has the ability to fine residents for non-compliance with restrictions and restrict supply these are only instituted as a last resort and it is hoped that all residents recognise the importance of compliance with restrictions and not only their legal responsibility to do so but their moral obligation.

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The Annual Graffiti Day will be held across New South Wales on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019. However, Bourke Shire Council will be undertaking its graffiti removal on this Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019, we will be meeting at the Percy Hobson Park at 10.00am to try and increase the level participation which has unfortunately been very low the past few years.

Graffiti Removal Day is a State Government Initiative to inspire people to volunteer to remove and prevent graffiti in their neighbourhoods. Materials required for removal of the graffiti on the day are supplied free of charge, due to the generous sponsorship of Industry and the State Government.

Mick McDowell will be coordinating a Graffiti removal day so if you are able to assist please contact him on 68308000.

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The library has a great range of eBooks and eAudio available through Bolinda BorrowBox. Watch out for our upcoming campaign titles, which will be available for unlimited simultaneous loans for the period of the campaign. Authors for the campaign include Michael Connelly, James Patterson and Rosalie Ham. These will be commencing in the coming weeks. If you would like to access this free service, you just need to be a member of the library. Drop in and sign up, it only takes a few minutes.

If you are already a member, download the BorrowBox app and log in with your library membership number and date of birth to start accessing free loans straight away.

Coming up on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November we will be holding a Murder Mystery Party. This one will have a Hawaiian theme.

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Maintenance grading is continuing on the Dowling Track Main Road 404, graders are working towards town from Green Creek this week. Once finished they will move to the Wanaaring Road to grade the remainder of the unsealed sections.

On completion of grading the Wanaaring Road, the maintenance team will move to Avondale Road.

Once finished they will move to the Wanaaring road to grade the remainder of the unsealed sections.

Wanaaring road formation is going well at Goonery, the target for seal is 12kms to be completed before Christmas.

Council has submitted an application for funding on the next stage of the project and hopefully this application will be met with approval but we will have to wait and see.

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The next meeting of Bourke Shire Council will be held on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and will commence at 9.15am

Persons who wish to address Council on any matters on the agenda can do so at a public forum convened each meeting day commencing at 9.00am.

Persons wishing to speak are encouraged to contact the Executive Assistant to the Mayor and General Manager, Kai Howard-Oakman 0268308000.

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*Quote of the week!*

"People who shine from within, don't need a spotlight."

Ross Earl  
General Manager