



“From the GM’s Desk”

5th December 2019



Main Street Upgrade

Back in September 2019, General Manager, Ross Earl reported that work was continuing on the finalisation of the Main Street Upgrade Project and that the Project continues to draw positive comment from all sectors of the community. I am happy to advise that the NSW State Government has now advised that under the Drought Infrastructure Package a further \$1.8 million of funding is to be provided to fund further revitalisation of the CBD area. Works to be undertaken include; new awnings, paving, shade coverings, seating, pedestrian crossings, garden beds, CCTV and lighting in Mitchell Street, east of Richard Street, and upgrades to the Cenotaph in the Central Park, Bourke.

Annual Report

Council held its Ordinary November meeting on 2nd December 2019. The meeting was postponed due to last week’s visit by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet. Monday’s meeting was a full agenda which is available for viewing on Councils Website, www.bourke.nsw.gov.au. One (1) of the items considered was Council’s 2018/2019 Annual Report. Should members of the community wish to view this document they are requested to contact Council on 02 6830800 and a copy will be provided. This was Councils final meeting for the year, the next Ordinary meeting of Council will be held 20th January 2020 commencing at 9.15am.

Water Restrictions

A reminder that Level One (1) Water Restrictions are in place. This means that the use of fixed sprinklers is limited to two (2) hours per day either between the hours of 6.00am to 8.00am or 6.00pm to 8.00pm. Hand held hoses can still be used at other times.

The washing of paved areas and filling of new swimming pools is prohibited in accordance with Councils adopted policy. A full listing of the restrictions is detailed on the Bourke Shire Website, www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

Mobile Phones

Whilst there has been publicity elsewhere, I thought it would be of interest to reproduce information provided by Transport NSW regarding the Introduction of Cameras Targeting Illegal Phone Use across NSW.

“Mobile phone detection cameras started targeting illegal phone use across NSW on 1st December and include fixed and transportable trailer-mounted cameras. Together, these cameras will target illegal mobile phone use anywhere, anytime.

The detection system operates both day and night and in all weather conditions, using high-definition cameras to capture images of the front-row cabin space of all vehicles to detect illegal mobile phone use.

The system uses artificial intelligence to automatically review images and detect offending drivers, and to exclude images of non-offending drivers from further action. Images that the automated system considers likely to contain a driver illegally using a mobile phone are verified by authorised personnel.

As with other road safety camera programs in NSW, strict controls are in place to ensure images captured by the system are securely stored and managed.

Warning letters will be issued for the first three (3) months. Following this period, the penalty for offending drivers is five (5) demerit points and a \$344 fine (\$457 in a school zone). The penalty increases to 10 demerit points during double-demerit periods.

While mobile phone detection cameras will be switched on and issuing warning letters from 1st December, NSW Police continue to enforce illegal mobile phone use and issue infringements as part of regular operations."

Maitland City Council Christmas Decoration Donation

Bourke Shire Council last week were the lucky recipient of a number of Christmas decorations kindly donated by Maitland City Council. The decorations included a number of giant baubles, nativity scene lights, a giant Santa chair and many smaller baubles with tinsel.

Councils Manager of Tourism and Events, Fran Carter, is working hard to light up Bourke with her energetic team. Bourke's Central Park will be the highlight of the displays. Fran made direct contact with Maitland City Council and asked if there were any unwanted or left over Christmas decorations. Fran was aware of the effort Maitland put into their decorations each year, with Maitland always looking amazing at Christmas time.

Maitland not only donated the decorations they also paid the freight to transport them to Bourke. The Bourke Shire Council and the Bourke community thank Maitland City Council for the donation. The decorations will be installed this week

Residents are encouraged to get on board with "Light up Bourke" this Christmas, with many prizes to be won.

Rotary Seniors Christmas Party and other Club announcements

The Senior Citizens Christmas Party hosted by the Bourke Rotary Club was held on Sunday, 1st December. Again was a very successful event with around 65 of our seniors in attendance and all enjoyed a two (2) course meal and refreshments. The Bourke Choir provided great entertainment and led all in attendance in the singing of a number of Christmas carols. The party was held at the Bourke Bowling Club and thanks go to the club for making their facilities available.

At the Rotary meeting on Monday evening we had a number of guest including Keith Stapley, Lyn Stapley and John Vandenberg from the Hills Kellyville Rotary Club and Brett McCarthy, President of the South Dubbo Rotary Club.

The Hills Kellyville have been supporting the breakfast program at the Bourke Public School for six (6) years. The Club also contribute to the presentation night by funding many awards. This year they once again brought with them a number of toys to be distributed to children that may not receive a present at Christmas time. Keith presented the Bourke Rotary Club with a cheque for \$2,000 to contribute to the drought funds that the Bourke Rotary Club distributes to Ratepayers in need. The support shown to the Bourke community is another example of the City helping the Bush. The assistance and monetary contribution by the Hills Kellyville Rotary Club is very much appreciated and Council thanks them for their continued support.

The South Dubbo Rotary Club organise the Tour de OROC that visited Bourke in early October. Part of the Club activities is to raise money for the Macquarie Home Stay that provides accommodation for families from the bush when attending medical appointments or you have a family member staying in hospital. This year the Tour de OROC raised \$93,000. Bourke community contributed \$5,000 of these fund through an action and donations on the evening the riders were in Bourke.

Brett McCarthy, South Dubbo's President also presented the Bourke Rotary Club with a donation of \$5,000 on Monday evening to contribute to the drought funds that the Bourke Rotary Club distributes to Ratepayers in need. Again we would like to thank the South Dubbo Rotary Club for this kind donation.

Australia Day - Nominations

Nominations are now open for the 2020 Bourke Shire Australia Day Awards. Nominations will be accepted up until 10th January 2020.

Please take the time to nominate someone and ensure that the unsung heroes within our community are recognised.

Although there is still a while to go before nominations close we are moving into the festive and holiday periods and the reminders issued through the Western Herald won't be available and it is easy to miss the closing date.

Don't say **"someone"** will nominate a person, be that **"someone"**!

Concept Design – New Council Chambers and Office Space

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 2nd December 2019, Council received a presentation from B Creative Architecture + Photography and Red Dust Designs in relation to the concept design to replace the current Council Chambers and Office. Council has engaged B Creative Architecture + Photography to undertake this work.

The new building is proposed to include Bourke Shire Council Chambers Offices and ancillary spaces, Library, public meeting rooms, multipurpose community space and retail tenancies.

The next phase of the design process is to engage a quantity surveyor to prepare cost estimates for the new building. When completed it will be presented to the Councillors for further consideration with the concept design.

Illegal Dumping

Council officers will be targeting illegal dumping in and around Bourke. Officers will be conducting regular checks of known hot spots and issuing on the spot fines. A number of measures are being considered by Council including the use of drones, surveillance cameras and increased patrolling of the known areas to combat illegal dumpers. Residents are warned "significant fines" await them if they are caught dumping rubbish on the road side or on vacant land, rather than at the Bourke Waste Management Facility.

Illegal dumping can cause significant environmental damage and can increase the risk of fire as well as placing an unfair burden on the owner of the land to clean it up. Residents are encourage to make use of the waste services and facilities that Council provides rather than dumping illegally. Council provides many opportunities for the responsible disposal of waste including the free disposal green waste and e-waste (including old computers and televisions) at the Bourke Waste Management Facility.

Easter 2020

Preliminary arrangements are being made for the Easter Celebrations for 2020 with the range of activities being planned along a similar format to that in previous years. One of the proposed features will involve a number of accomplished performers and musicians playing at local venues and a highlight event at the Amphitheatre in Darling Park.

The owners of the restored "Pluggar Bowden" truck will be the highlight of the street parade, this again is expected to draw a large crowd.

The Easter Egg Hunt will keep the kids busy on Sunday morning where I am sure we will see a lot of kids looking for the "Golden Egg". This will lead into the annual "Back of Bourke Picnic Race Meeting".

If anyone in the community has an event they would like to include in the Easter programme please contact Fran Carter at the Council office on 68 308000. The Easter Committee will meet early in the New Year to finalise the calendar for the Easter Festival.

Carole's of Bourke

Last Thursday was the end of an era for Bourke when "Carole's of Bourke" closed their doors. The grips of the drought has led to this unfortunate closure.

I worked with the Simmonds family for 12 years from 1990 to 2002. Carole's shop was always a hive of activity and a go to point for many residents and in the district. Carole always had the "billy on" and had a sounding ear to many. When the shop was sold six (6) years ago to Darling Dozen they carried on this wonderful tradition. The community will miss what this small business had to offer and I would like to thank Una, Tanya, Charlotte and Anna for carrying on Carole's tradition. I am sure the whole community wishes you well in your future endeavours.

Quote of the Week!

"Big pay and little responsibility are circumstances seldom found together".

Napoleon Hill

Have a good week.

Leonie Brown
Acting General Manager