



# “From the GM’s Desk”

## 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020



### **COST OF VANDALISM**

Vandalism costs our community a considerable amount of money each year and this form of petty crime not only has a financial cost but a social cost in terms of the unavailability of services and facilities. This was recently evidenced when the toilets in Central Park were deliberately set alight.

Bourke has unfortunately recently experienced a spike in vandalism/petty crime with a number of rubbish bins set alight and numerous signs broken. Last Friday night, shade sails protecting the skate park from the harsh summer sun were also damaged by fire along with the pulling out of plants that are being cultivated to improve the overall appearance of the town

Council has gone to a lot of trouble to be able to provide amenities for all section of the community. The skate park has been lauded as a great asset to the town and we have recently witnessed damage to facilities that have made the skate park such a positive asset for the youth of our community.

I drove past Central Park on Saturday afternoon and it was alive with children of all ages who were enjoying the facilities the Park has to offer. For the life of me, I cannot see why anyone would like to see the loss of the facilities as a result of them undertaking an act of stupid vandalism. Why people seek to destroy facilities built for their enjoyment and the enjoyment of their family and friends, absolutely beggars’ belief.

Council will not be deterred by acts of stupidity by a minority. Council will continue with its endeavours to beatify the town and provide the amenities that the people of Bourke deserve.

### **LIBRARY NEWS**

The library has a significant number of great resources available online. Did you know that you can access all the Bourke Western Herald newspapers as published, from 1887-1970, online through a website titled Trove? You can either search for something specific or browse the newspapers from a particular year to see what you can find. You can access this through the Trove website:

<https://trove.nla.gov.au>

Alternatively, you can access the library website, [www.bourkelibrary.com.au](http://www.bourkelibrary.com.au), go to the Bourke menu and select Local History. From here you can go directly to the Western Herald to either search or browse.

Don’t forget to download the Bourke Public Library app, available on the App Store and Google Play, and carry the library with you in your pocket. If you would like any more information contact the library on 0268722751 or [bpl@bourkelibrary.com.au](mailto:bpl@bourkelibrary.com.au), and one of the friendly staff will be happy to help you.

### **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG DAY.**

Today, Thursday 3 September 2020 is Australian National Flag Day.

Australian National Flag Day celebrates the first time that our Nations flag was flown. This was over the dome of the Exhibition Building in Melbourne on 3 September 1901. On this day Australia’s first

Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Sir Edmund Barton, announced the winners of a competition to design a national flag for Australia.

3 September is an opportunity for all Australians to celebrate the anniversary of the Australian National Flag by flying or displaying the flag.

In accordance with flag protocol, Australian Government departments and portfolio agencies are requested to fly or display the Australian National Flag on 3 September 2020 to join in the celebration of the Australian National Flag.

If facilities permit, you may wish to consider displaying multiple Australian National Flags on this day. Organisations are encouraged to follow this protocol.

### **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Monday, 28 September 2020. The agenda for this meeting will include the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 12 month ending the 4 September 2021. The election of Mayor is generally for a two (2) year period, however, the issues surrounding COVID-19 has seen the term of the current Council extended by 12 months and a Mayoral election needed to occur for that extended period.

Unless there is a substantial change in the restrictions in place it is likely that the meeting will be restricted to Councillors and staff only. Members of the public will have the opportunity to follow the meeting via the live streaming facility.

There is a requirement that copies of the livestream or audio recording are to be kept on Council's website for a 12 month period.

### **FIXING LOCAL ROADS PROGRAM**

During a recent visit to Bourke, the Minister for Western New South Wales, the Hon Adam Marshall indicated that the new Fixing Local Roads Program, which saw Bourke Shire Council secure \$4.5 million for the reconstruction and sealing of the Coronga Peak Road, will continue for some time with a further five (5) rounds of the program planned.

Bourke Shire Council has developed a policy of having "shovel ready" projects to submit once funding opportunities are announced and in keeping with that policy direction has adopted a listing for future rounds of Fixing Local Roads Programs.

While an adopted priority list, it can change as other grant opportunities may become available. A list can be found on Council's website at <https://bourke.nsw.gov.au>

### **COUNCIL AUDIT**

Despite the difficulties associated with the audit being done remotely for the first time, Council staff have been able to work with the auditors to see most of these difficulties overcome and the audit has gone relatively smoothly.

It will be some time until the final audit result will be known but I am confident it will show that Council continues to have sound financial management practices in place and is in a sound financial position.

### **WORK ON CENOTAPH PRECINCT**

As part of the CBD development, there will be an upgrade of the Cenotaph area in Central Park with a Public Consultation meeting being held on Tuesday to detail what is planned for the area and to seek

constructive ideas for improvements to the work planned. Council has been very strong on community consultation in recent years and this meeting is yet another example of Council seeking input from its residents.

The Bourke community has always demonstrated a strong appreciation and acknowledgement of the sacrifices made by those persons who served in the armed forces, and in particular, those who paid the supreme sacrifice so that we could enjoy the freedoms and liberties we do today. The upgrade of the Cenotaph will be a demonstration of this appreciation.

### **HERITAGE ADVICE**

Council's Heritage Advisor, Kate Higgins, will again be visiting Bourke on Monday, 7 and Tuesday, 8 September 2020. Kate visits the area approximately four (4) times per year and the visits are made possible with the assistance of funding from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

If anyone would like to discuss heritage matters, seek heritage advice or is able to provide information on heritage buildings/items within our Council area, please contact Council's Department of Environmental Services on 6830 8000.

### **PLANT HIRE TENDERS**

Council recently invited tenders from persons wishing to supply plant and equipment to supplement the resources owned by Council.

Council maintains a modern fleet of plant, but often needs to supplement its available resources to complete the work required to be undertaken over the wide area, that is the Bourke Shire.

Council received a good response to the tender invitation and is confident to have the resources available to undertake the increasing workload that is developing.

Tenders are called to supply plant on "as required basis" and attracted tenders from local supplies as well as tenders from persons and companies outside the area.

### **COVID-19**

As a sobering reminder as to the seriousness of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the national death toll has reached 600 fatalities whilst world-wide, the figure exceeds 843,000.

To stop the spread of the disease, practicing the following is the answer:

- Stay 1.5 metres apart from others – when that's not possible, wear a face mask;
- Practice good hand washing hygiene;
- Stick to the rules about visiting other households;
- Get tested immediately if you have any symptoms and stay home while waiting for results; and,
- If you go out to a restaurant, café or pub, the maximum group size is 10 and you must sign in.

### **QUOTE OF THE WEEK!**

*"You Are Never Too Old to Set Another Goal or to Dream a New Dream."*

*C.S. Lewis*

Ross Earl  
General Manager