



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

“From the Acting General Manager’s Desk”
1st October 2020

Brand Style Guide:

Following an earlier workshop of Councillors and staff, Council at its April 2020 Meeting adopted a new Council and community brand along with an accompanying Style Guide. The Style Guide provides the detail as to where and how the Brand will be used.

The idea behind the branding proposal describes Bourke as a destination, and as a progressive Shire that has a visual forward-thinking approach. The different aspects of the Shire from its history, legends, icons, culture, landscapes and significant attractions were all considered in the development of the Brand.

Community consultation in respect of the proposal was presented at each of the community consultation meetings held earlier this year with extensive coverage provided by the Western Herald. Meetings were held with individual community members who sought additional information. It was pleasing to see that all community members involved in the process were excited with the idea and supported the project.

The new brand will be rolled out in a progressive manner and I am happy to present the new brand in the banner to this column.

Outback Arts:

ART4AG is a photographic exhibition by amateur and professional photographers from around the region. It is an opportunity for people living in regional agricultural communities to celebrate their lifestyle as part of National Agriculture Day, which is Friday, 20 November 2020. The exhibition is currently on display in the Visitor Centre at the Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre until the end of October.

Enngonia World War 2 Memorial:

The construction of the Enngonia War Memorial Hall dates back to the 1950’s. Outside the Hall and to the left of the entrance is a memorial “courtyard” comprising of artwork on the ground, a First World War honour roll plaque and a flag pole.

In recent weeks, a World War 2 honour roll plaque has been installed at the Hall. The installation of this plaque is a credit to all involved to recognise those who went off to war from the Enngonia district.

Business Capability Development Programme:

In partnership with Destination Country and Outback NSW (DNCO) a live webinar for tourism operators in the Bourke hub will be delivered at the beginning of November.

This opportunity will ensure businesses in the region of Bourke, Brewarrina, Nyngan and Cobar have the right systems in place so consumers will be able to book online with them. Following the live webinar, 60 hours of support per business will be delivered to ensure continuity of the program. Businesses that take up this opportunity will also be able to easily integrate their platform into our new visit Bourke website. For further details in respect of this fantastic development opportunity contact Councils Manager of Tourism and Events. (mte@bourke.nsw.gov.au)

Baiting Program for Wild Dogs:

I was most interested to recently read some statistics issued by the Western Local Land Service (WLLS) in respect of the wild dog baiting program in Western NSW undertaken by landholders from the end of August to mid-October 2020.

A total of 106,291 baits were distributed over an area of some 10.35 million hectares by landowners, while 53,000 baits were distributed aurally over 5,300km of bait lines. 142 properties were involved in aerial baiting and 328 involved in ground baiting. This was quite a program.

Western LLS will now begin planning for the autumn 2021 program with pest management and Western Landcare groups. Landholders that are not a member of a group are strongly encouraged to join one. If there is no group in your local area, contact Western LLS or Western Landcare who can assist to establish one.

AUSTRALIA DAY NOMINATIONS:

I mentioned last week that nominations are now open for award recipients for the Bourke Australia Day Awards.

This year's categories include: -

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year (18 and under)
- Emergency Service Volunteer of the Year
- Shire Village Community Service
- Sports person of the Year
- Young Sports person (18 and under)

Nominations will need to be completed and sent to Council by 7 December 2020 and voting by Councillors on the nominations will take place at a workshop after the December Council meeting.

Details on how to nominate are available on Councils website or by calling into the Council Office at 29 Mitchell Street Bourke.

There are a lot of worthy potential recipients in the Bourke Shire for the various categories in these awards. We all need to ensure that unsung heroes within our community are recognised.

RENSHAW/SHOWGROUND COMPLEX:

Bourke Shire Council was fortunate to receive funding from the Showground Stimulus Funding, as provided by the NSW Government to undertake three (3) projects at the Renshaw/Showground Complex.

The projects that were funded were the construction of a new toilet block which will be access compliant, an upgrade to the shower facilities and the installation of an automated water sprinkling system.

Works have now been successfully completed on all the projects and users of the facility will undoubtedly benefit from the upgraded facilities. One of the aims of the funding was an injection of funds into the local economy and the fact that the project used local trades to complete the works and local suppliers to supply the materials certainly achieves that objective.

DREADED MOSQUITOES:

It is that time of year again when mosquitoes start to come out.

You can stop adult mosquitoes entering the home by using flyscreens 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.

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; and
- 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, however neglected pools can be a haven for mosquitoes.

KERB AND GUTTER UPGRADES:

The continued renewal of kerb and guttering in Bourke has been progressing well with work at the corner of Richard and Wilson streets now complete. The next replacement to be undertaken will be at the corner of Darling and Wilson streets.

COVID-19:

Last week, NSW Health warned Bathurst residents to be vigilant after remnants of the COVID-19 virus was found in their raw sewage. Health advised that sampling, comprising of wastewater from the weekend of the Bathurst 1000 motor race, could indicate a current or a previous infection in someone who attended or worked at the motor race, a visitor to Bathurst, or even a local resident.

As a result of these results, attendees of the Bathurst 1000 race or locals who live in the area, were urged to monitor for symptoms and get tested as soon as possible.

The relevance of this to Bourke is that wastewater from Bourke is also being tested for remnants of the virus. To date, and touch wood, there has been no indications of the virus in our wastewater. Whilst that is pleasing, it is essential we continue to be vigilant.

Remember to practice the 1.5m social distancing rule, practice good hygiene, stay at home if you have a fever, runny nose, cough or loss of smell and taste and get tested.

ROADWORKS:

The MR 405 project, Bourke to Milparinka Road, is continuing to progress. 6 km of construction on the Romani – Wangamana section of the road is proceeding with the importing of a second layer of base material currently in progress.

Maintenance work on RLR 27, Burrawantie Road, has been completed with graders now making their way towards Yantabulla and then onto Hungerford.

Towards Wanaaring, grading works from Dargle Bore to Wanaaring are in progress.

The sealing of village streets in Louth will commence shortly with a view to completion in November/December 2020.

SPORTING DREAM:

The last two (2) weeks have been an absolute dream for watchers of sport with many quality sporting events being on tap for sports lovers to watch. Multimillion-dollar horse races, end of season netball and rugby league events, big dollar dog races, Bathurst car races and even the Wallabies showing some skills, albeit for a short period! I thought the best team won the NRL Grand Final last weekend and I now look forward to the State of Origin contest in coming weeks where I expect the Blues will dominate.

Quote of the Week.

“If you fail to prepare, you’re prepared to fail.”

Mark Spitz

Leonie Brown
Acting General Manager