



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

**“From the
General Manager’s Desk”
25 February 2021”**

February Council Meeting:

Council’s initial Ordinary Council meeting for 2021 was held on Monday this week. Given that there was no meeting in January, due to the holiday period, there were quite a few items of business to transact. At this point, there is still no access for the public to attend monthly meetings of Council.

The temporary changes that the NSW Government introduced in March last year in response to the COVID Pandemic expire 25 March 2021. Pending any future Public Health Orders, I would expect that Government will shortly issue further advice whereby Councils will be required to reintroduce the public to the Chamber for meetings under social distancing conditions and remote access to meetings by Councillors will longer be permitted.

Village Meetings:

Council’s program of Village Meetings for this year have now concluded. It was great to get out and about, not just to meet village residents and receive feedback on issues, but also to witness the massive positive change in the countryside when compared with travel to last year’s meetings, which occurred prior to the general rain in late February 2020.

Following a well-attended Bourke meeting at the Back O’ Bourke Centre on the evening of Monday, 15 February, it was off to Louth early Tuesday morning to be greeted by bacon and egg rolls at the Louth Hall for the Mayor, Councillors and staff in attendance. The breakfast was much appreciated by all in attendance and thank you to Kim and her daughter Cody of Louth for their cooking prowess. Following good discussions at the meeting we then travelled to Wanaaring for a quick lunch at the Village Shop, thank you to Col and Kathy at the Store for their catering, and then onto the meeting at the local hall.

The major issue at the Wanaaring meeting was the Levee Bank that Council installed in March last year in anticipation of a 3.9m river flow and the desire of village residents to now see that section of the levee that crosses Vicary Street removed. Residents were most complimentary of Council in respect of the ongoing sealing of the Wanaaring Road. Council has as a funding priority the sourcing of further funds from Government, who to date have been most helpful in providing funding, to complete the sealing of this most important

link road. Eleven (11) residents from Wanaaring attended the meeting and I thank them for doing so.

This week Councillors and staff have attended meetings in Byrock, Enngonia and Ford's Bridge.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) – Orana

In the company of Mayor Barry, Corporate Services Manager, Leonie Brown and Councils Grants Officer, Belinda Colless, I spent time last week with Megan Dixon, Director of Regional Development with the federally funded Regional Development Australia (Orana). We discussed economic development matters relating to Bourke and the Region and took the opportunity to show Megan the Back O' Bourke Centre and show her the location of the walkway to North Bourke and proposals for the restoration of the North Bourke Bridge, which is a high priority for Council in terms of funding. Megan was most impressed with Councils vision and the progress in the town, especially the works undertaken in the main street.

Domestic & Trade Waste Collection Times

Residents of Bourke are reminded of Domestic and Trade Waste Collection Times. Domestic garbage collection times are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday between the hours of 3:00am – 11:00am only. In respect of trade Waste, garbage collections times are - Tuesdays and Fridays between the hours of 3am -11:00am. To avoid your bin not being collected, unless you are a very early riser, bins are best placed on the kerb for collection the night before your scheduled bin collection day. The assistance of residents in adhering to these times would be greatly appreciated.

Drone Inspections

Water NSW have advised that as part of the Western Weirs Project, they are planning to conduct a drone survey at town weir sites between Mungindi and Pooncarrie commencing from 24 February 2021. The drone survey will involve flying a drone over each town weir site and up to 500m upstream and downstream of each weir location. To factor in any unforeseen logistics or weather conditions that may arise, Water NSW are proposing a 4-day timeframe for each weir location. It is scheduled to fly over:

- Bourke Town Weir between 26 February 2021 and 1 March 2021,
- and
- Louth's Weir between 27 February 2021 and 2 March 2021.

WaterNSW has engaged a CASA licenced pilot and the drone survey will be conducted in compliance with the Australian and NSW drone regulations. Should residents require further information please call the WaterNSW Helpdesk on 1300 662 077 or visit waternsw.com.au.

Tour de OROC

I was speaking with the former Mayor of Dubbo, and my previous boss, Mathew Dickerson, during the week in respect of the Tour de OROC cycling event. The Tour was Mathew's inception and in talking with him he was most complimentary of the high level of support that he and his organising committee had received from the Bourke community for past events. I was able to assure Mathew that from Council's perspective that high level of support would continue should a 2021 event proceed. Interestingly I was able to relay to Mathew my experience in the last week where I had spoken to both a mother to be, and an unrelated father to be, who had told me of travelling to Dubbo, in readiness for their and their wife's delivery, some two (2) weeks prior to the due date and staying in Dubbo at the Macquarie Homestay. This fantastic home away from home facility is where all funding proceeds from the Tour de OROC have been directed. Mathew and his team of workers and supporters should be justifiably proud of their significant contribution to both Homestay and to the visitors from the Far West of the State who utilise the facility.

Riverview Golf Course

Council's Manager of Corporate Services, Leonie Brown, was recently telling me an interesting story in regard to the former Riverview Golf Course here in Bourke. In this regard Leonie was recently contacted by Bruce Gray. Bruce was a Manager at Council for many years and retired in July 2012 and now resides on a small farm near Bathurst with his wife Marina. To keep himself busy, Bruce is currently undertaking a project on the history of the Golf Clubs in Bourke.

Of particular interest is the old Riverview Golf Course that that was formed in 1929. The course consisted of nine (9) holes amongst river gums and gullies on the opposite side of the river from the Bourke Wharf. It was described by many as being both very picturesque and challenging. Access to the course was via a punt near the current wharf. Bruce is also researching another two golf clubs in Bourke. There was a course on the showground land and of course the current course, home to the Darling River Golf Club. Should residents have photos or information, particularly in regard to the Riverview Golf Course that could assist Bruce with his research, he would appreciate the contribution to include with his historical project. If you have stories and photos please drop them into Leonie at the Council or email Leonie at lbrown@bourke.nsw.gov.au and she will ensure Bruce receives the information.

Graffiti Removal Day

The 2021 Graffiti Removal Day is scheduled for Sunday, 28 March 2021.

Bourke Shire will be working with Bourke Rotary Club in the coordination of the day which is a state wide initiative which has attracted a great deal of

corporate sponsorship including the supply of graffiti removal kits free of charge so that all that is needed is manpower on the day.

Bourke Shire will also dedicate resources to the day and in the week leading up to the day and it is hoped that other groups will consider joining in to assist in ridding the town of this unsightly vandalism in time for the Easter weekend.

Quote of the Week

*"It's the little details that are vital. Little things make big things happen."
John Wooden.*