



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

**“From the
General Manager’s Desk”
4 MARCH 2021”**

OCHRE HEALTH

Monday this week saw the changeover from the Rural and Remote Medical Service (RaRMS) to Ochre Health as the provider of medical services to the Bourke Community. Council has previously formally thanked RaRMS for its contribution to the Bourke community during its term as the health service provider.

To Ochre, a warm welcome back is expressed. I say welcome back because Ochre previously held the health services contact in Bourke, as I understand, till 2016. Interestingly, the story of Ochre began “around a kitchen table” in Bourke in 2002, when doctors Hamish Meldrum and Ross Lamplugh worked in the town. Challenged by the need for quality locum doctors in rural Australia, Ross and Hamish established ‘Australian Outback Locums’, promoting the family-friendly, outback Australian lifestyle to like-minded and capable doctors.

Ochre Health has grown since those early days to being a provider of healthcare to rural, regional and urban communities around Australia. It operates a network of over 40 medical centres across five states and territories and they partner with more than 250 doctors. Ochre also works with hospitals and medical practices throughout Australia and New Zealand to source and place locum and permanent doctors across a wide range of specialties.

Ochre is quite a success story and from Councils perspective we look forward to their contribution of quality health services to the Bourke community.

WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENTS EVENT

In terms of welcomes it was also great to see a crowd of some 80 people in attendance at the Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre last Wednesday evening for Councils annual New Residents Welcome to Bourke function. With Councillors, community members and local community and sporting groups in attendance to greet and interact with new residents, the night was a great success. In welcoming participants Mayor Barry Hollman encouraged new residents to get involved with the community and enjoy what Bourke has to offer. A big thank you to all attendees, whether a new or current resident, for being part of this important annual event.

VILLAGE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Councils 2021 round of Village Community Meetings concluded last Wednesday, and I take this opportunity to thank all attendees for their hospitality and engagement with Council representatives. During the various meetings, Leticia Tiffen of Council was busily taking notes and Leticia is currently in the process of collating the matters raised such that these issues can be actioned as required.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

One of the matters that has been raised at each of the Village Community Meetings is the upcoming Ordinary Local Government General Elections to be held on Saturday 4 September 2021. In raising the issue, both Mayor Barry and I have encouraged interested residents to step forward and put their hand up. As I have said at the meetings, elected Councillors don't do it for the money, but rather, they do it to give back and assist the community.

The NSW Office of Local Government has developed comprehensive information about becoming and being a councillor, including eligibility and the nomination process. This guide has been prepared as an introduction to the role of councillors and the operation of councils. It is a starting point to help you decide whether you would like to run in the next council election. A link to this information is:

<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/about-councils/become-a-councillor/information-for-candidates/>

WESTERN WATER & WEIR STRATEGIES

Staff from the NSW Government will be undertaking Aboriginal community consultation sessions in relation to the Western Regional Water Strategy and the Western Weirs Strategy in Bourke on Friday, 12 March 2021, from 10.00am to 12:00pm at Diggers on the Darling, 23-25 Sturt Street Bourke.

This consultation relates to:

- The Western Regional Water Strategy

This Strategy is one of 12 regional water strategies being developed across the state. One of the objectives for this strategy is to recognise and protect Aboriginal rights, interests and access to water. At the information session the Government Staff in attendance will discuss water management in NSW and the community's aspirations and opportunities for water in the region.

- Western Weirs Strategy

A Strategic Business Case for the management and operation of the weirs along the Barwon Darling and Lower Darling river systems aimed at improving town water, is also being developed.

FAR WEST COACHES NETWORK

The aim of the Far West Coaches Network is to connect ALL sport coaches of the west with each other and with national and international coaches.

To progress this aim, there will be a free webinar tonight from 6.00pm – 7.00pm for sports coaches with the guest speaker being Brad Donald who is the current Australian Rugby League Women's Coach. Brad has significant experience coaching both Men's and Women's Rugby League teams at the highest levels which sees him having a wealth of experience from community level through to high performance, athlete and team development. If you are interested in joining in, access the following Facebook address to join the Far West Coach Support which will have all the details.

www.facebook.com/groups/3561509333895416/

RONNY GIBBS 7's BOURKE

The 2021 Ronnie Gibb's 7's Rugby League and Netball Tournament will be held at Davidson Oval in Bourke on Wednesday 25th August 2021 in Bourke.

Whilst the event is some months away yet, 2021 is the 25th Anniversary of the 7's with both rugby league and the netball having two age divisions (U14's and Opens) with games being played in 7-minute halves (subject to change depending on nominations).

It is hoped to have as many schools as possible participate in Bourke on the day to continue the success of this well recognised event.

ALGAE ALERT

Water NSW in its latest Algae Alerts Report for the Far West Region, dated 26 February 2021, issued a Green Alert for the Darling River at Louth. No alerts are applicable at the Darling River at Bourke. A Green Alert is where Blue-green algae is occurring naturally at low numbers. At these concentrations, algae would not normally be visible, however some species may affect taste and odour of water even at low numbers and does not pose any problems for recreational, stock or household use.

Information on identifying algae blooms can be found at:

<https://www.waternsw.com.au/water-quality/algae/identifying-algal-blooms>

STURT STREET – TREE PLANTINGS

Well done to Councils Town Services, Parks and Gardens and Water and Wastewater teams for their work to date in the planting of trees in Sturt St, Bourke as part of Councils Street Tree Replacement Program. Over the years it has been necessary for many trees in Bourke to be removed. Whilst some of the trees were large shade trees, when in their prime, they had died due to either vandalism, drought or having caused damage to property due to their size and being of an inappropriate species, or again, been an inappropriate species located under power lines and have had to be removed. Such required removal of trees has left gaps in both the streetscape and in passive recreation areas in Bourke.

Council has been provided with grant funding of \$90,000 through the NSW Drought Communities Fund to undertake tree plantings throughout the urban area of Bourke. Given this funding a Tree Planting Staging Plan for Bourke, comprising five (5) stages, has been developed. Stage One (1) of the Plan, which is now underway, comprises plantings along, from the south, along Sturt Street, along Mitchell Street and then north along Moculta/Warraweena Streets.

The Stage One (1) plantings comprise of bottle brush under the power lines and bottle trees where there are no power lines, with a total of 240 trees to be purchased and planted to begin Stage 1 at a total cost of \$90,000. It is considered that these trees will have a considerable positive impact on the urban amenity of Bourke, and I look forward to the growth and development of these important community assets.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK!

*"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."
Ferris Bueller- From the Movie, " Ferris Buellers Day Off."*

Mark Riley
General Manager