



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

**“From the
General Manager’s Desk”
8 April 2021”**

Vale Paul Faulkner

As the community would be aware, Councils Team Leader – Building Services, Mr Paul Faulkner passed away last week after a short illness. Whilst only having limited interactions with Paul during my time at Council, there have been plenty of stories told amongst staff at Council in the last week as to the “cheeky” character that he possessed. I have also seen some great photos of Paul with various other Council staff at social events. Pauls Graveside Service will be held at the Bourke Cemetery at 11.00am on Wednesday, 14 April 2021. As a mark of respect to Paul, the Council Office will be closed on the day of the funeral from 10.30am till 1.00pm with flags flying at half-mast. To members of Paul’s family, Council extends its condolences on his passing.

Easter Festival Success

Congratulations to the Bourke community for getting involved in a very active Back O’ Bourke Easter Festival. From the starters in the Colour Run on Good Friday morning, the significant number of attendees at the Street Parade, the wool bale rolling and the rugby union on Easter Saturday, the very large crowds at both the Easter Egg Hunt in the morning and the Picnic Race Meeting in the afternoon on Easter Sunday through to historical tours on Easter Monday, to name but some of the events, the Easter long weekend in Bourke was certainly event filled and very well supported by the community.

These events just don’t happen of their own accord. Invariably it is a small band of dedicated volunteers who bring events to fruition. Whilst I wouldn’t attempt to name these various volunteers for fear of missing someone out, you know who you are. To each of you a big thank you is extended for what you have contributed to the community. I also extend a thank you to various members of my staff who went above and beyond to ensure the weekend was the success that it was.

The Bowden Superliner

I am sure that the community would be happy to join with me in extending a big thank you to the current owners of the Bowden Mack Superliner who bought this magnificently restored truck to Bourke for the Easter weekend.

Most people who have been in Bourke for a while would know that this particular truck was once the most famous truck in Australia. This recognition came about in 1994 when the late ‘Plugger’ Bowden set a national record for the longest road train when the truck pulled 29 stock crates and driving into the streets of Bourke. Before this particular truck ran out of “steam” and ended up sitting in a yard in Bourke for an extended time, the truck clocked up more than five million kilometres, or some 200 laps around Australia, with much of this travel across outback roads.

At the time of its introduction to the Australian market in 1980, the Mack Superliner was a giant leap forward in the nations trucking industry when it replaced the former R Model Mack, which many in Bourke would also be familiar with. The livestock transport business of a very good friend of mine in Dubbo acquired a new Superliner way back in 1982. I remember being shown the truck when it was new, and compared to other trucks of the day, the Superliner was "huge". It had a long wheelbase full of diesel tanks, a plush interior with a big sleeper and a monstrous bonnet, which if it was a dining table would sit near 10 people!

Dine and Discovery Vouchers

The NSW Government has launched Dine & Discover NSW to encourage the community to get out and about and support dining, arts and tourism businesses.

All NSW residents aged 18 and over can apply for four (4) x \$25 vouchers, worth \$100 in total.

Two (2) of these \$25 Dine NSW Vouchers are for dining use at restaurants, cafés, bars, wineries, pubs or clubs. They can't be used for take-away. The other two (2) \$25 Discover NSW Vouchers are to be used for entertainment and recreation, including cultural institutions, live music, and arts venues.

The vouchers can be used 7 days a week, including public holidays, and are valid to 30 June 2021. Importantly the vouchers can only be used at participating NSW businesses that are registered as COVID Safe.

It's easy to get your vouchers. Simply go to the Service NSW website (www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/dine-discover-nsw) which takes you through the various application steps.

Renshaw Sporting Complex

With new toilet facilities and a recently installed irrigation system, the Renshaw Sporting Complex was in first class condition for the recent Back O' Bourke Picnic Race Club Meeting held on Easter Sunday. In talking last week with the Clubs Secretary, Sarah Barton, she advised of the Clubs \$460,000 grant funding success and the exciting plans for the expenditure of these funds. Whilst the overall amenity of the facility was excellent, I was most impressed with an "Honour Board" that was on display which recognised the 43 sponsors of the race meeting. Just as events can't do without volunteers, they also can't do without sponsors and it was great to see so many businesses to the fore in supporting the Club and its major event for the year.

Bourke Show

After being cancelled in 2020, the 2021 Bourke P&A Show will be the next event at the Renshaw Sporting Complex with the Show being held this year on Saturday, 1 May 2021. It's not that far away. One of the activities on show day is the Back O' Bourke, Show 'n' Shine. Entries open at 10.00am on the day with judging commencing at 12.00pm. The Show 'n' Shine is presented by the Bourke Historic Vehicle Club. From the examples of historic vehicles that the Club organised to be on display at the Welcome to New Residents function held earlier this year, along with the vehicles that participated in the Street Parade last Saturday, there would appear to be many historic vehicles in the Bourke Community. Should you have any enquiries about any aspect of the Show, please contact the P&A Secretary at bourkeshow@hotmail.com

Visitors to Bourke

Whilst there were many visitors to Bourke on the weekend who had arrived from all points of the compass, there were also many ex-residents in town visiting friends and relatives. One of these was Gary Lavelle who is the General Manager at Temora Shire Council who was in town to visit his mother for the weekend. Schooled in Bourke, Gary has held his General Manager position at Temora for some 26 years which, in itself, is significant. During Gary's term, one of his major achievements has been working with Mr David Lowy, AM to develop the Temora Aviation Museum. This museum is somewhat different in that its displays aren't just static. Rather, it is a museum that collects and maintains airworthy historical military aircraft as flown by, or in conjunction with, Australian military forces. The Museum hosts regular flying showcases of their aircraft. I attended their Warbirds Down Under Air Show in October 2018, which attracted some 20,000 people. I recall at the time Mr Lowy being publicly complimentary of Gary and his team at Council in playing a big part in making the event happen successfully.

2021/2022 Operational Plan

Don't forget that Council's 2021/2022 Operational Plan is now on exhibition for public comment until Monday 3 May 2021. Any submissions received are required to be considered by Council before it ultimately adopts the Plan, which will be at its meeting to be held on Monday 24 May 2021. Copies of the draft Plan can be accessed from Council's website (www.bourke.nsw.gov.au) or at the Bourke Library or the Council Office, both in Mitchell Street Bourke.

Quote of the Week!

"No-one ever made a difference by being like everyone else."

P T Barnum

QUOTE OF THE WEEK!

*Mark Riley
General Manager*