



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

“From the General Manager’s Desk” 3 June 2021”

Looking for a Job?

Council is currently advertising various employment opportunities within the Organisation. From manager positions, plant mechanics, customer service staff, roads staff through to casual staff, there are a variety of jobs currently available. If your personal values align with a fair day’s work for a fair days pay, showing respect to your fellow workers, taking pride in your work and you have a positive outlook to life, I encourage you to consider submitting an application for your preferred role with Bourke Shire.

Check out Councils website link at <https://bourke.nsw.gov.au/council/positions-vacant/>

Council Elections

As previously advised, elections for Councillors will be held across the state on Saturday 4 September 2021, Bourke included.

The NSW Office of Local Government has recently released an information booklet titled “Stand for Your Community – All You Need to Know about Becoming a Councillor in NSW”. If you are thinking of putting your hand up as a candidate for the first time, this booklet is a good place to start.

To access the information, go to <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/about-councils/become-a-councillor/information-for-candidates/> alternatively search, OLG Council elections.

Councils Manager Corporate Services, Leonie Brown, and I recently held discussions with the NSW Electoral Commission regarding polling booths for this year’s elections. As per previous years, Pre-Poll Voting will be available at the Council Offices in Mitchell Street for two (2) weeks prior to actual Election Day. A poll will be available for voters on Election Day at Enngonia, however there will be no poll at Louth or Wanaaring due to low voter numbers at previous elections. Alternative arrangements will be announced in due course to facilitate voting by residents in these parts of the Shire.

Wild Dog Fence

It is reported that wild dogs cost farmers in the western parts of NSW more than \$25 million a year in lost stock. With a view to addressing such issue, the NSW Government has committed funding of \$37.5 million to extend the NSW Border Wild Dog Fence by 742km. With the existing fence being 583km in length, the funding will see the fence extended by 420km from Hungerford to Mungindi along the NSW/Qld border and by 322km from Broughams Gate to Murray River along the NSW/SA border.

With the planning and approval process working towards the next phase of construction commencing in the second half of this year, the NSW Government invited separate tenders for the project in respect of the manufacture and supply of fencing materials and to undertake the construction of the 742km fence extension.

The Western Local Land Services (WLLS) have now advised that suppliers have been shortlisted for the manufacture and supply of fence materials and that a number of businesses, including several based in regional NSW, have been selected to a pre-approved construction panel who will be asked to quote on individual stages of the 742km extension build.

The stages of construction will be 25km to 95km in length, with the WLLS noting that there will be opportunities for smaller, local suppliers from Western NSW and regional NSW to be involved, while the pre-approved panel will be regularly reviewed and potentially more businesses added.

If you would like to speak to a member of the project team, or would like to arrange for an update to be given to your group or organisation either in person or virtually, please contact Charlie Whitley at Western Local Land Services in Dubbo by email charlie.whiteley@lls.nsw.gov.au or by phone on 0428 679 974.

Water Strategies

Representatives of Council last week met with officers from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to discuss progress with respect to two (2) most important water projects for the Bourke Region.

These projects are the development of a Western Regional Water Strategy and the Western Weirs Strategy.

One of the objectives of the Regional Water Strategy is to recognise and protect Aboriginal water rights, interests and access to water, including Aboriginal heritage assets. In this regard DPIE advised that they are keen to garner local community knowledge and input to ensure the water projects strengthen outcomes for Aboriginal communities.

To progress consultation with Aboriginal members of the community, an information session for Aboriginal People will be held in Bourke at Diggers on the Darling on Thursday, 10 June 2021, from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Further information on the session, or registration assistance, is available by calling 1300 081 047.

Council has a particularly strong desire on behalf of the community to see an outcome in respect of the Western Weirs Program. In this regard, a Strategic Business Case for the management and operation of the weirs along the Barwon Darling and Lower Darling River systems is being developed. As a community, Bourke currently has a limited capacity weir pool that, when there are no additional inflows, provides some six (6) months of water to the community. Now that the river has dropped, it won't be long before Bourke is back on water restrictions even though during past weeks' water equivalent to some 18,000 Olympic sized swimming pools flowed past Bourke each day.

Sporting Youth

Bourke Shire Council previously secured grant funding under the NSW Governments Stronger Country Communities program. This was a two-part grant, with the majority of funding having been directed to improving security for youth, the public and volunteers involved in sport in Bourke. These funds saw the construction of the new fencing around Coolican and Davidson ovals.

The second component of the grant involves the co-ordination of a six (6) month program comprising sessions and activities to encourage and support sporting youth in Bourke. The program seeks to expand the knowledge and skills of Bourke's sporting youth with a view to furthering their likely involvement in the different aspects of their respective sporting club. This is regardless of their preferred sport. These sessions will include such matters as club governance, how to attract volunteers, event planning and management, as well as sports health and coaching, to name but a few. Most of the training will be carried out by NSW Sport with the Bourke PCYC kindly contributing their bus for transport.

The "Outback Archies"

The "Outback Archies" are now on display at the Bourke Men's Shed until 8 June 2021. Modelled on the acclaimed annual Archibald Portrait Prize, the display will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday and I would encourage the community to get along and see the art that is on display.

The "Outback Archies on Tour" Exhibition is a selection of specially curated artworks drawn from Outback Arts' 10th Annual Art Prize held in 2020.

The "Archies" showcase the talented creatives within regional NSW and brings them together to inspire one another as well as providing emerging artists with a platform to boost their profile.

As a regional arts development organisation, Outback Arts strives to support artists by providing opportunities to exhibit and showcase their work locally as well as in metropolitan galleries by securing exhibition opportunities.

The Exhibition contains many of the major prize winners and judges' favourites. A total of 20 artists are showcased, including our first-ever Young Archies. These artists have come together from the far-flung corners of regional NSW, stretching from Bourke and as far as Broken Hill.

I am advised that local Bourke artist, Merren Turnbull, is part of the exhibition.

Whilst talking about Art, don't forget to pop in and see the Artists at the Bourke Aboriginal Art Gallery in the main street between the Chemist and the CBA Bank. Comprising local Bourke Aboriginal Artists, you can watch the Artists paint and carve using traditional and modern techniques.

The Gallery is open Monday – Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm and all are welcome to drop in and browse, buy or just have a yarn!

Roadworks

I mentioned last week that Council had received further funding under Round 2 of the NSW Governments Fixing Local Roads Program. Under Round 1 of the Program, as announced last year, Council received \$5m to reconstruct and seal some 20km of the Coronga Peak Rd at Byrock. Work on this important road will commence shortly. This project will result in additional traffic on the Mitchell Highway between Bourke and Byrock as a result of Council contractors carting water from Bourke for the project.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK!

"Water is the driving force of all nature."

Leonardo da Vinci

Mark Riley
General Manager