



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

“From the General Manager’s Desk” 21 April 2022”

ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day commemoration services will be held next Monday, 25 April 2022 at both Bourke and Louth. The Dawn Service at Bourke commences at 6.00am on Monday morning with attendees requested to be at the Cenotaph by 5.50am. The main ANZAC Day Service in Bourke will commence at 11.00am on Monday. The Louth Community have for many years conducted a dusk commemoration Service. This Service will again be held this year starting at 5.00pm, Monday evening.

The Bourke RSL Sub-Branch is again joining with local radio station 2WEB to broadcast both the Bourke 6.00am Dawn Service and the 11.00am Morning Service over its airwaves. Residents who are unable to attend either of the Bourke ceremonies are invited to follow proceedings on Frequency 585 on your AM dial – Outback Radio 2WEB. This is a great community service and I thank the Station accordingly.

HRH Platinum Jubilee

In the Council Chambers in Mitchell St, there is a picture which holds pride of place for many people, and that is a photo of Queen Elizabeth II from when she visited Bourke in 2000. In writing this week's column I was interested to see how the media reported the visit back then and noted a story following a Google search that “The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh travelled to the “back of beyond” in the Australian outback today to a town called Bourke.” Back then the Queen had reigned for nearly 50 years. 2022 is the year when Her Majesty The Queen celebrates her reign of 70 years, being the first Australian monarch ever to achieve such a period of reign. To recognise this significant milestone, the Australian Government has created an Australian Platinum Jubilee Emblem for use in Australia. Three colours make up the Emblem – platinum, gold and purple. The platinum colour represents Her Majesty The Queen’s reign of 70 years, whilst the purple colour is synonymous with royalty. The gold is drawn from Australia’s floral emblem, the golden wattle; and our national colours, green and gold. The emblem may be used with permission by individuals, organisations, and charities for celebrations to mark Her Majesty The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

Easter Celebrations

I am sure that most people were dismayed to hear of the stabbing murder of a 17-year-old youth at the Sydney Royal Easter Show Sunday week past. Very sad for all concerned. Up until that point, attendance numbers at the Show had been most healthy and part of those numbers was a strong contingent of family and friends at the Show in support of Lilly Hand who was in for the Award of Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman for 2022. This followed Lilly being crowned Miss Bourke Showgirl in 2021. Whilst Lilly didn’t win the award, I have it on good authority, and not from her Aunt who is possibly somewhat biased, that Lilly represented Bourke exceptionally well displaying qualities of purpose, ambition, poise, humility and the ability to hold a solid conversation. From a personal development perspective Lilly has gone through an experience that very few people get to

undertake. For instance, how many people can actually say that they have dined with a Princess as Lilly did with Princess Ann?

With the Bourke Show rapidly approaching on 14 May 2022, if you are interested in becoming Bourke's 2022 Young Woman, please contact either the Show President, Grace Ridge, or Lilly Hand or send an email to bourkeshow@gmail.com Whilst on the topic of Easter, the Bourke Community and Visitors came together for another very successful Bourke Easter Festival last weekend. I have written previously about how good the Renshaw looked with the newly constructed Pavilion, however I must say that the Renshaw in total looked magnificent for the Bourke Picnic Races last Sunday. The Pavilion, the grass coverage, the number of people, the number of horses in each race, all made for a fantastic afternoon. The races were just one event held over the weekend with a myriad of activities provided to residents and visitors. Such activities don't just happen by themselves and I take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all those hard-working people who worked so hard behind the scenes to make the various events the great success that they were.

Regional Health

I was most interested to read an announcement recently by Minister for Regional Health, the Hon Bronnie Taylor regarding the establishment of a new Regional Health Division for NSW Health with the purpose of the new Division being to bring a renewed focus on health services and outcomes for people living in regional and rural NSW.

Following the significant number of concerning health issues as highlighted state-wide by community members during the recent the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Rural Health, and our own experiences in Bourke, Minister Taylor views the establishment of the Regional Health Division "as a key step towards ensuring the public health system has the needs and expectations of the communities of regional NSW at its heart."

Importantly for Bourke, where it has been difficult to recruit medical staff at all levels, the Regional Health Division has been purposed to bring a renewed focus on recruitment to key healthcare roles in regional NSW and to find innovative ways to support nurses, doctors, allied health practitioners, and support service providers who work in healthcare facilities, to live and work in regional communities. Minister Taylor noted that the new Division will sit at the top level within the Ministry of Health and will be led by a Coordinator-General for Regional Health, who will report directly to the Secretary of NSW Health, and support and provide advice to the Minister for Regional Health about issues concerning health in regional communities.

Under the new structure, local health districts (LHDs) will continue to deliver health services to their local communities. In our area the Western NSW Local Health District will work to establish defined roles who will report directly and be a key interface with the new Division to help deliver on its objectives with the Division having staff based in regional NSW.

Vaping

Vaping is the inhaling of a vapor created by an electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) or some other vaping device. E-cigarettes are battery-powered smoking devices. They have cartridges filled with a liquid that usually contains nicotine, flavourings, and chemicals. The liquid is heated into a vapor, which the person inhales, hence the term vaping. Whilst vaping hasn't been around all that long to allow longitudinal research studies to be undertaken to know the full effects of vaping on the body over time, health experts are reporting serious lung damage in people who vape, including some deaths. Vaping puts nicotine into the body. Nicotine is highly addictive and can slow brain development in kids and teens

and affect memory, concentration, learning, self-control, attention, and mood and further increase the risk of other types of addiction as adults. E-cigarettes also irritate the lungs, may cause serious lung damage, even death and can lead to other forms of tobacco use.

To raise awareness of the harms of vaping, I note that NSW Health is undertaking an education campaign for young people aged 14 to 17 years. The *'Do you know what you're vaping?'* campaign aims to educate young people that vaping is not safe due to a range of chemicals present in vapes and that it can become addictive due to the high levels of nicotine in vapes. The campaign includes paid media on online social media channels specifically targeted to young people aged 14-17. This will be supported by social media engagement from NSW Health and partner channels. The campaign also includes a *Vaping toolkit* that can be used by schools, health services and a range of other partners. Education resources for schools have been developed in partnership with the Cancer Council of NSW and the Department of Education with the toolkit including factsheets, social media tiles and posts, posters, newsletter examples, and a social media video. The toolkit is accessible via the website: health.nsw.gov.au/vaping

Quote: *"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."* – Laurence Binyon's poem, *For the Fallen*, first published in *The Times* of London in September 1914.