



**BOURKE  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**

## “From the General Manager’s Desk” 12 May 2022”

### **Bourke Show**

The headline in last week's edition of the Western Herald stated that there were “Only 9 more sleeps until Bourke Show.” The good news is that the number of sleeps is now down to 2, with the Show on this Saturday, 14 May 2022 at the Renshaw Reserve in Bourke. With gates opening at 6.00am on the day and show jumping commencing at 7.30am, the Bourke Show Society have arranged an action-packed day of activities which culminates at 6.30pm with the fireworks display. Activities during the day include dash-for-cash foot races, a young farmers challenge, Show-n-Shine exhibition of vehicles, judging of the Miss and Master Bourke titles, ring events, side show alley, live music, and a dog and pet show. Then there are the static exhibitions in the pavilion which include local flowers, produce, preserves, cooking, craft, fine arts, photography and needlework, to name but some of the goods to be exhibited.

On the issue of pets, please give some thought to the welfare of your pets during Saturday night's fireworks display at the Show. The sudden loud noises and bright flashing lights that are associated with fireworks can be very frightening for many animals. Research provides that 45 per cent of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks with animals being prone to injury when they run and hide from the fireworks.

### **Certificates of Commendation**

I was delighted to learn that both the Bourke Headquarters Brigade and the Wampralea Brigade from Wanaaring were last week awarded a Rural Fire Service (RFS) Commissioner's Certificate of Commendation at the St Florian's Day Awards held at the RFS State Headquarters in Sydney. Held on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May each year, the ceremony coincides with the Feast Day of St Florian, Patron Saint of Firefighters and International Firefighters' Day. The story of St Florian is an interesting one.

Born about 250 AD in Cetium (now Austria), Florian joined the Roman army and angered the Emperor Diocletian when he refused to persecute Christians in the area. As punishment, he was twice scourged, half flayed alive and sentenced to be burnt alive. While being set on fire he challenged the Roman soldiers, saying “if you do, I will climb to heaven on flames”. The soldiers became apprehensive and instead threw Florian into the River Enns with a stone around his neck. About 700 years later, in approximately 900-950 AD, a monastery was built near Florian's tomb and subsequently the village of St Florian grew around it. St Florian was later adopted as the Patron Saint of Poland, following an incident when a person was saved from a fire by invoking St Florian's name. Since then, St Florian has been regarded in most countries as the Patron Saint of Firefighters. The NSW RFS continues the tradition of celebrating International Firefighters' Day on St Florian's Feast Day by recognising its members for their acts of bravery and service to protect the community.

Anyway, I digress! The Commissioner's Certificate of Commendation is awarded “to recognise service or outstanding actions in relation to fire service duties, administrative leadership, or exemplary performance of a specific project or task. The Certificate of Commendation is awarded to an individual

or unit for service beyond the scope of responsibility normally expected of that person or unit in their assigned duties and is therefore worthy of acknowledgement and commendation.”

The Bourke Headquarters Brigade were recognised for going above and beyond their call of duty, working tirelessly during last year’s COVID lockdown distributing Resilience NSW and Food Bank care and food hampers to communities across the Bourke Local Government Area. The volunteers joined personnel from other agencies, including Council, NSW Police, Maranguka Community Hub, NSW Health, and other partners, to deliver hampers in a contactless manner to all households in the Local Government Area, including Bourke, Enngonia, Louth, Fords Bridge, Wanaaring, and Byrock. In all the Brigade members gave a total of 700 volunteer hours by the end of the outbreak delivering 1,000 hampers and 250 fresh fruit and vegetable parcels across the region. As Chairman of the Food Group established at the time, I can certainly vouch for the Brigades fantastic work, and for that matter the work of all my fellow Food Group members.

The Wampralea Brigade were also recognised on the day for their efforts in attending to an injured motorcycle rider at an accident which occurred in June 2021, some 60 kilometres west of Wanaaring. With no NSW Police based at Wanaaring, Bourke Police were unable to reach the scene due to impassable road conditions with the efforts of officers from NSW Ambulance similarly unsuccessful. Not so for the Wampralea Brigade who responded to the Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon alarm, travelling to the scene in an RFS appliance and a private vehicle. On arrival, the crew provided first aid until such time that an RFDS Nurse arrived. They ultimately transported the injured rider to Wanaaring before he was flown out the next day.

Members of both Brigades are to be congratulated, and thanked, for their significant contributions.

## **Flights**

As a regular passenger on the Airlink flights between Bourke/Dubbo, I have both experienced and witnessed the exceptional customer service Airlink provide to all their passengers utilising the flights. At the forefront of this service has been Airlink’s General Manager, Mr Ron O’Brien. Ron has been in the airline business for many years and he has been most accommodating to the needs of all passengers who have travelled on the service. There are many airline operations around the nation that could do with some practical advice from Ron in terms of customer service. Some nine weeks ago, I turned up at Dubbo Airport for my flight to be greeted by another Airlink employee. After Ron having consistently been at the check-in counter since I started at Bourke and then greeting every returning flight during the week, Ron’s absence was most noticeable. Naturally I enquired at the time as to Ron's whereabouts, presuming he was taking some long-deserved leave. I was advised that Ron was unfortunately ill and would be off for an unknown period. I was very happy to walk into Dubbo Airport last week to once again be greeted by Ron. It was great to not only see him but also to be able to catch up and have a chat. I certainly wish him well with his continuing recovery and acknowledge his significant contribution to the provision of flights to Bourke, Walgett and Lightning Ridge.

## **Illegal Dumping**

Commencing this month Council officers will be specifically targeting illegal dumping in and around Bourke. Officers will be conducting regular blitzes of known hot spots and issuing on the spot fines. A number of measures will be introduced by Council including the use of drones, surveillance cameras and increased patrolling of the known areas to combat illegal dumpers. Residents dumping household waste are warned that “fines” await them if they opt to ditch their trash on vacant land, rather than the Bourke Waste Management Facility. Illegal dumping causes significant environmental damage to the land and I encourage residents to make use of the waste services and facilities that council provides

rather than resort to dumping illegally. Council provides many opportunities for the responsible disposal of waste including free green waste and e-waste (which includes old TV's) disposal at the Bourke Waste Management facility.

### **Bald Archy Exhibition**

From 27 May to 26 June 2022, the Back O' Bourke Function Centre will showcase the winning portraits of the Bald Archy Art Prize Exhibition from the past 26 years. The annual caricature prize was created in 1994 as an independent tongue-in-cheek response to Australia's most respected portrait prize, the Archibald.

The artworks encapsulate the irreverent, larrikin Australian spirit in a way that appeals to people from all walks of life such that the exhibition is now internationally known and has been exhibited over the years all across Australia. Winning subjects have included Kerry Packer, Shane Warne, John Howard, Pauline Hanson and a myriad other Australian icons.

After the passing of the exhibitions founder, Peter Batey, in 2019, the administration of the Bald Archy Prize was handed over to the Museum of the Riverina, Wagga Wagga. Bourke is fortunate to be able to exhibit these winning artworks this year and has further secured the exhibitions return in 2023, for its 27<sup>th</sup> year. Council will be hosting the opening of the exhibition on Friday 27 May 2022.

**Quote: "At its meeting today, the Reserve Bank Board decided to increase the cash rate target by 25 basis points to 35 basis points."** Philip Lowe, Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia announcing last week an increase in the cost of money, with further interest rate lifts expected over the period ahead.