



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

“From the
General Manager’s Desk”
19 May 2022”

Town Works

Work on the construction of the Charles Street Water Reservoir is progressing with the tower well and truly taking shape. If you drive past Charles Street, you will see that the tower is now at a point where it is about half its ultimate height. Through the good work of the contractor, Councils Project Manager - Public Works Advisory and Council staff, in all agreeing to pre-purchase required steel for the project when the project was delayed last year due to the COVID outbreak, Council has been able to avoid the estimated 10% recent increase in steel prices. The cost of many building materials has risen substantially in recent times and it certainly makes construction projects most challenging for all concerned

Council’s Manager of Works, Peter Brown, was telling me that Ian Langdon-Smith was back in Bourke for Easter to ensure that the planted trees along Vision Way and Tancred Drive are being maintained to the necessary standards. Ian and his helpers do a great job with the trees on those town entries and a special thanks are extended to them for maintaining the new trees that Council planted in Stage one of its tree planting program. Stage two of that plan is programmed to start in coming weeks and with the recent rains, the timing will be perfect. Obviously, all in Bourke would realise that with the good rains across a large part of eastern Australia in recent weeks and months, the Darling River will continue to flow which will keep the towns water supply away from the imposition of any water restrictions for the watering of gardens for some time into the future.

Peter also mentioned that works on a new concrete footpath in Mertin Street, adjacent to Davidson Oval, is underway with construction works in Tarcoon Street, fronting the Bourke High School, will shortly commence. These works are part of a funding package that will result in Council renewing some longstanding troublesome areas for pedestrians in the Bourke community.

Destination Management Plan

A priority project for the destination networks identified within the NSW Government’s Visitor Economy Strategy 2030 (VES), as launched in early 2021, is to develop a Destination Management Plan (DMP) for their respective region. The preparation of new DMP’s will build on the important work done in the previous iteration of the document, which were published in 2018. Destination NSW and the destination networks are committed to a new and more cohesive approach to deliver a suite of seven updated DMP’s that are aligned to the *NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030*.

The DMP will also include a practical, informed and prioritised action plan split into three phases – a recovery phase to assist the industry to rebuild following recent major events including drought, bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic and two growth phases – Momentum and Accelerate – to drive the sustainable development of the NSW regional visitor economy. The Destination Marketing Store has been engaged to deliver this project for Destination Country and Outback NSW and a workshop to progress the Plan for our region will be held on Monday 30 May 2022. If your business relies on tourists, you are encouraged to get involved in the workshop. To register for this event, please go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/destination-management-plan-online-workshop-bourke-brewarrina-walgett-tickets-329323755217>

Mouse Numbers

I thought we were well and truly through the mouse plague, but NSW Farmers are urging farmers to be extra vigilant in coming weeks, with more and more reports of mouse activity in paddocks. Whilst the latest official CSIRO-Grains Research and Development Corporation Mouse Update indicates patchy numbers in NSW that are generally low NSW Farmers have advised that there have been anecdotal reports of mouse numbers growing in the north of the state, and some farmers had increased baiting in an effort to get ahead of the numbers. The last thing anyone wants to see is a repeat of last year's mouse plague, so it makes sense "that if you see something, say something."

Western NSW communities were swarmed last year as a mouse plague chewed its way through millions of dollars' worth of crops, damaging farm machinery, vehicles and buildings in the process. People were sickened by 'carpets' of mice on highways, and they were even sighted in urban environments sparking fears among Sydneysiders of a rodent invasion. NSW Farmers survey last year found a third of respondents estimated losses from the mouse plague worth between \$50,000 and \$150,000, with a loss of grain and fodder having the greatest financial impact. Rural landholders are urged to report mouse activity by visiting <https://www.feralscan.org.au/mousealert>

Law Week 2022

Today, Thursday 19 May 2022, from 9.30am -2.00pm in Central Park, Bourke, opposite the Bourke Local Court, Legal Aid NSW will be providing free legal help to Bourke residents as part of Law Week activities. Legal Aid can assist with problems like consumer scams, employment, housing, fines, funeral insurance and funeral funds, money worries, family law and kids, electricity bills, Centrelink issues, working with children checks, stolen generation reparations and unfair treatment. In addition, Legal Aid NSW is working with the NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages to offer free NSW birth certificates to eligible people at the Bourke Law Week event. The number of certificates is limited, and eligibility criteria applies. For further information contact the Bourke Legal Aid Office on phone 6808 2155.

NRL in Dubbo.

This Sunday, 22 May 2022, the South Sydney Rabbitohs play the Canberra Raiders in a Round 11 NRL Premiership game at Apex Oval in Dubbo. If you're a Bunnies or Raiders fan or you just enjoy your rugby league, Sunday is a perfect opportunity to watch that NRL game.....live. As I understand it, tickets are still available with plenty of information available at www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Tickets start at \$20 for children aged 4-15year old, whilst for adults its \$30 a ticket. Gates open at 11am with the NRL game kicking off at 2pm. Last week I was able to present two (2) game day tickets to local identity, Ian Cole, who acquired tickets to the game as part of the recent Tour de OROC auction. Provided by Dubbo Regional Council, the tickets on the night were highly sought after during the auction with spirited bidding taking place. Thanks go to Ian as the successful purchaser and to Murray Wood at Dubbo Council for providing the Grandstand tickets. Murray was very forthcoming in providing the tickets and it is pleasing to see Dubbo Council re-engaging with its "western cousin councils" after a

hiatus in the relationship in recent years. As the “capital of the west”, Dubbo is important to the region in terms of the goods and services it provides but vice-versa, Dubbo’s strength comes as a result of the goods and services that are purchased by western residents. For instance, as I walked down Oxley Street last week, I noticed that most of the cars had been purchased in Dubbo.

Whilst talking football, albeit switching to rugby union, it is pleasing to see the prospects of the NSW Waratahs have improved considerably in recent weeks with victories, firstly over the NZ Crusaders 24-21, and then the following week, they ended a seven-year winning drought on New Zealand soil with a 26-20 victory over Moana Pasifika. After winning against the Crusaders in a very physical game, the Waratahs backed up and at the time of writing this column, have leapfrogged the Queensland Reds on the Super Rugby Pacific ladder with seven victories from 11 starts. It’s a big turnaround from last years winless season, so good on them.

Budget on Exhibition

As of 9 May 2022, Councils 2023-2027 draft Delivery Program, 2022/2023 draft Operational Plan (the budget) and 2022/2023 draft Fees and Charges documents are all on public exhibition for the purposes of seeking community comment. Copies of the documentation are available on Council’s website: www.bourke.nsw.gov.au Alternatively, a hard copy of such documents is available from the Council offices or from the Bourke Library, both located in Mitchell St Bourke. Submissions in respect of any of the documents closes on Monday 6 June 2022 at 4.30pm. The Local Government Act requires that Council must consider any submissions received in respect of the documentation before adopting any of the suite of documents, so I encourage the community to review the documents and have a say in respect of the direction of Council.

Federal Election Day

Saturday, 21 May 2022 is the Federal Election to elect members in the 151 seats in the lower house, the House of Representatives, and 40 of the 76 seats in the upper house, the Senate, to comprise the 47th Parliament of Australia. Please remember that voting is compulsory for citizens over 18 years of age with the polling station in Bourke on the day being located at the Bourke Public School. Polls on Saturday are open from 8.00am until 6.00pm.

Quote: “Let’s do this fast boys, I’ve got a lot of beer to drink.” Waratahs coach, Darren Coleman, fronting his post-match media conference and savouring his team’s victory over the Crusaders.