



**BOURKE  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**

“From the  
General Manager’s Desk”  
29 September 2022”

### **Long Weekend**

As all would be aware, this weekend is a long weekend with a public holiday on Monday, 3 October 2022. The first Monday in October annually in NSW is called Labour Day and is a public holiday to celebrate the arrival of the eight-hour working day, a victory for workers in the 1850s. With the beautiful spring weather that we generally experience, the weekend is a perfect opportunity to get out and about in our fantastic Shire. If you need information on exploring “your backyard” don’t hesitate to head out to the Back O’ Bourke Information Centre for assistance.

Also, the long weekend marks the pinnacle for all the league lovers with the NRL Grand final commencing at 7.30pm on Sunday. We will see a battle of the Sydney teams Parramatta and Penrith. Best of luck to the teams involved to win the coveted premiership title, I am sure the myriad of each team’s loyal supporters will be dusting of their jerseys and wearing them with pride ready for the big one.

### **Day light Savings**

Don’t forget to wind your clocks forward with the commencement of daylight-saving time in NSW from 2:00 am on Sunday, 2 October 2022, the change of time will run through with until it ends at 3:00 am on Sunday, 2 April 2023.

### **COVID-19 Isolation Rules**

The NSW Government has advised that it has updated the COVID-19 self-isolation rules such that the requirement to self-isolate if you test positive to COVID-19 has been reduced from 7 to 5 days, except in certain circumstances. I consider it worthwhile to repeat the requirements now in place. If you test positive to COVID-19, you must:

1. Register the result online with Service NSW if you used a rapid antigen test. If you cannot register online, call Service NSW on 13 77 88.
2. Self-isolate immediately for 5 days from the day you did your test. If you have acute symptoms on day 5, such as a cough, sore throat, runny nose, or shortness of breath, remain in isolation for 7 days from the day you did your test.
3. Not enter high-risk settings for 7 days from the day you did your test. This includes hospital premises, public clinics and private health facilities, residential aged care facilities, and disability care facilities. If you need urgent medical attention, tell staff immediately you have COVID-19.
4. Tell people you live with and self-isolate away from them. Your household contacts must follow the advice at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/management/household-contacts> for 7 days from the day you did your test.

5. Tell the people you spent time with 2 days before testing positive or 2 days before your symptoms started. This includes people at places like work, school or with whom you socialised. These people should follow the fact sheet available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/management/people-exposed-to-covid>

People who have had COVID-19 can spread the virus to other people for up to 10 days after they tested positive. To protect people around you after you leave self-isolation, advice is available at [nsw.gov.au](https://www.nsw.gov.au) for the most up to date information.

12 months ago, Bourke was certainly still “in the thick” of the pandemic with the NSW Government announcing at the end of September 2021 that Stay-at-home orders were to be extended until 11 October 2021 “for a number of local government areas (LGAs) in regional NSW due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health risk”. Bourke Shire was one of these LGA’s. After the initial Stay-at-home orders for Western NSW were announced effective 7pm, 11 August 2021, it was undoubtedly a most difficult time for many.

### **Recycling in Bourke**

I am privileged to be part of the Board of Directors in respect of the Bourke Laundry Service (BLS), which is an Australian Disability Enterprise providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Bourke. As the name implies, the core business of the laundry is just that, laundry. A lesser-known fact, however, is that the Laundry Service is also the centre for the recycling of cans and bottles in Bourke as part of the State Governments “Return and Earn” initiative.

Mayor Barry recently made enquiry as to how many bottles had been recycled by the Bourke community since the commencement of the service in 2018. The answer to his question was an amazing 3.6 million bottles and cans had been sorted, packed and transported to Sydney for recycling. The impact that this recycling has had on negating the need to have those bottles and cans dumped at the Bourke waste land fill is most positive with an estimated 174 tonnes diverted from the landfill in the last financial year alone. With each bottle earning a 10-cent refund, from a financial perspective, the return of the 3.6 million bottles has equated to \$360,000.00 having been reclaimed by the Bourke community. Supporters of the recycling service have reported they have been able to contribute to their grandchildren’s pocket money, holidays, car payments and a host of other purposes with some funds donated back to BLS.

On a statewide basis, since its introduction in 2017, 8 billion containers (yes billion!) have been returned and, in the process, some \$800 million in refunds have been delivered to the people of NSW and importantly, helped reduce drink container litter across the state by a massive 52 per cent. Well done to the Bourke Laundry Service on making a positive impact on our environmental well-being.

### **Peter Simmonds Memorial Saddle Bronc**

As regular readers of this column would be well aware, the Back O’ Bourke Stampede-Peter Simmonds Memorial Pro-Rodeo will be held on Saturday, 15 October 2022, at the Bourke Showgrounds (Renshaw Oval). That’s only three (3) Saturdays away. One of the most sought-after prizes on the night will be the “Peter Simmonds Memorial Saddle Bronc”. This event has been created by Peter’s nephew, Tye Simmonds. Tye recently expressed why he pushed for this event on the day and what it means to him and I thought it was well worth repeating.

“For me, what a dream come true to have the Back O Bourke Stampede up and running again with the last one being in 2000. Uncle Pete and Dad had been talking about it for the past few years, and with the help of Garry McPhee (Livestock Contractor) in their ears, we slowly started to get the ball rolling again.

Of course with the sudden tragedy of losing uncle Pete there was no doubt in our minds that we had to get this going; for him. A massive thank you to the Bourke Shire Council for getting on board with some funding and to the small but powerful committee that's been put together to make sure the event runs smoothly. We've got some of the best bucking stock in Australia coming and some of the highest placing cowboys and cowgirls competing for some of the best prize money in the country. For all that knew Uncle Pete, he was one of Australia's finest saddle bronc riders & Bourke's son. So myself and some family thought it only fitting to hold a Peter Simmonds Memorial Chute Out. Only the top 6 saddle bronc riders on the night, will go head-to-head with McPhee Rodeo Company's top saddle bronc horses in a chute out to win an additional winner takes all \$2000 in prize money & a very special buckle. It's going to be an absolute cracker and something for the ages.... I'm beyond grateful to be able to sponsor this event and hopefully make one of my life long inspirations, Uncle Pete, proud. This one's for you! It's rodeo time!" Well said Tye with the organising committee not hesitating in supporting Tye's proposal.

### **Active Kids Grant**

Does your children's sporting team require new uniforms or equipment to commence the next sporting season? If so, an application to the Active Kids grant program may be in order. The program is generously funded by the Dickinson Foundation in partnership with the Australian Sports Foundation (ASF). It focuses on volunteer-run grassroots and community clubs and organisations with members aged 20 or younger. Active Kids grants are for free sports equipment and on-field or training uniforms supplied by ASF partners HART Sport and ISC. Applications close on 7 October 2022 at 5.00pm with further information available at <https://fundraise.sportsfoundation.org.au>

### **Quote:**

**"In loving and devoted memory. Charles R."** A card, handwritten by King Charles III, sitting atop the wreath that adorned the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II.