



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

“From the
General Manager’s Desk”
13 October 2022”

Australia Day Award

Nominations are opening soon for the 2023 Bourke Shire Australia Day Awards. The various categories for the 2023 Awards are as follows:

- Citizen of the year;
- Junior Citizen of the year
- Sportsperson of the year
- Junior Sportsperson of the year
- Village Service Award
- Emergency Services Volunteer of the year

Whilst the actual Awards Ceremony, to be held on Australia Day on 26 January 2023, is still some time away, it should be remembered that in the lead up to Australia Day we have the holiday period with a number of organisations going into recess and not meeting. With this in mind, nominations for the 2023 Awards will open on Tuesday, 1 November 2022 and close at 4.30 pm on Friday, 2 December 2022 with entry forms being available from the Council Office in Mitchell St, come next month. A workshop of Councillors to determine the Award Recipients, will be convened following Councils December 2022 meeting. All organisations and residents are encouraged to consider nominating someone for these Awards. The Bourke Shire community has many people who would be worthy nominees with the Awards being the perfect opportunity to recognise the contribution made by so many people to the town and community of Bourke.

Bourke Swimming Pool

The Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool has recently re-opened with good crowds in attendance over the October long weekend. The Splash Park continues to be well received by the younger members of the community and it provides an opportunity for parents to be able to get the younger children comfortable with water in a very safe and family friendly atmosphere. The program pool is still under construction and we are hoping for this project to be completed early in the New Year. The final upgrade to the precinct will be the upgrade of the canteen that will take place from April to October 2023.

Garden Maintenance

Council in recent times has received a number of unsolicited positive comments in regard to the way the town is presented. Council staff are continuously working to improve the appearance of the town and appreciate the assistance given by many residents in maintaining the footpath area outside their homes. Residents who don't currently maintain the area outside their boundary are requested to consider doing

so as it not only assists Council but dramatically improves the appearance of the town and their home. The recent rains, future expected rains and the increasing warm weather, all provide for a bumper spring and footpath maintenance by residents will go a long way to maintaining the amenity of our town.

Weather

It is reassuring to see so much of the rural areas of the Bourke Shire appearing in such outstanding condition at present, with some of the best pasture growth for years, ongoing cotton ginning from last season's production, full irrigation storages, fat livestock, the abattoir commencing production and substantial flows in the river systems. It is hard to recall how many years it has been since all these conditions last occurred simultaneously. All this provides reassurance and confidence for the rural sector and for business turnover within the urban services sector. The rainfall that occurred across the Bourke Shire last Tuesday and Wednesday was most beneficial for pastoral industries, further stimulating vegetation growth.

Flood Warnings

The NSW SES has transitioned to an overhauled warning system under the Australian Warning System (AWS) for floods. The new System is a nationally consistent, three-tiered approach designed to make warnings clearer and lead people to take action ahead of severe weather events. The warning system comprises warning levels, action statements, hazard icons, colours and shapes.

There are three levels within the AWS - Advice, Watch & Act and Emergency Warning. For each level, there are a series of clear action statements to guide positive action by the community. These include 'stay informed', 'prepare to evacuate' and 'move to higher ground' as follows:

Advice - an incident has started. Stay up to date in case the situation changes. Stay informed, monitor conditions, and if appropriate, reduced threat status: return with caution

Watch and Act - conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family. Do not enter floodwater, prepare to evacuate, prepare to isolate, avoid the area.

Emergency Warning - the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Evacuate now / Evacuate before a nominated time, shelter now, move to higher ground.

Warnings will continue to be distributed through the NSW SES website (www.ses.nsw.gov.au) and social media channels, as well as local ABC radio stations. For emergency help in flood and storm, phone 132500. For life threatening emergencies, phone 000.

Fire Season

As mentioned, the recent rains and warm weather are providing for a bumper spring season. The recent rainfall will alleviate some imminent risk of bush fires for the coming spring; however, we should certainly not become complacent. Based on a non-complacency attitude, our local Rural Fire Service personnel have been planning thoroughly in preparation for the possible risks and in doing so, are reminding landholders in the Far West that the Bush Fire Danger Period commenced on 1 October 2022, continuing through until 31 March 2023. During this period, persons wishing to light a fire in the open are required to obtain the necessary permit. Such permits are free and can be obtained from the Bourke Fire Station, in Mitchell St, Bourke or from the Fire Control Centre located at Sid Coleman Drive, out near the Bourke Airport (Phone 6836 1226).

It should be remembered that on days of a Total Fire Ban, the lighting of any fires in the open is prohibited even if you have a Fire Permit. This includes cooking fires using incinerators and barbecues which burn solid fuel, such as wood or charcoal. Gas and electric barbecues are permitted subject to being on residential property within 20 meters of the house or dwelling; under the direct control of a responsible adult; the ground around and above a barbecue is cleared for 2 metres of all material which could burn and, an immediate and continuous supply is available.

All residents are urged to have a Bush Fire Survival Plan so that you know what to do on days of increased fire danger such that you can immediately put your plan into action if your home is threatened by fire. Information regarding Total Fire Ban declarations is published at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Alliance of Western Councils and Orana Water Utilities Alliance

The Alliance of Western Councils (AWC) is an alliance of 13 Councils located across the western area of the State. The member Councils comprise Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Central Darling, Cobar, Coonamble, Dubbo Regional, Gilgandra, Mid-Western Regional, Narromine, Walgett, Warren and Warrumbungle Councils. Whilst only recently formed, the AWC is modelled on the highly successful Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) which operated, and achieved much, over many years.

With the advent of Joint Organisations (JO), the logical decision was taken, at the time, to disband the OROC. Whilst the Far North West Joint Organisation has been successful, the same cannot be said for the Orana Joint Organisation which saw all six (6) member Councils resign their JO membership as a result as to concerns relating to financial sustainability issues. In agreeing to join the Western Alliance, Bourke Council resolved to participate in and maintain membership of the Alliance of Western Councils, whilst at the same time maintaining its active membership of the Far North West Joint Organisation. In addition to the Western Alliance, Council is also a member of the Orana Water Utilities Alliance (OWUA). This Alliance can trace its roots back to circa 2008, and was established, and continues to operate, to assist Councils deliver “best practice” water operations for the Orana Region.

Both the Water Utilities Alliance and the Western Alliance were to be meeting in Bourke today, Thursday 13 October 2022 and tomorrow, Friday 14 October 2022, respectively. Due however to the weather reports predicting significant rain last week and expected resulting wide spread flooding, the Executive of both Organisations made early calls and, like many other activities across the western that, cancelled the Bourke meetings for a date yet to be determined.

Quote: “There’s so much young talent. To go out on a high like that, it’s pretty incredible, and I’ll probably do the same thing at the Tigers.” Grand Final Winning Penrith Panther, Api Koroisau, when being interviewed as to how he felt about leaving the Panthers to join the Tigers, who haven’t made finals since 2011!