



**BOURKE  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**

“From the  
General Manager’s Desk”  
9 February 2023”

### **Funding Announcements**

It was an exciting day for the Bourke Shire last Saturday when the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, the Hon Sam Farraway MLC, was in Bourke to announce a further \$5m in funding to undertake the continued sealing of the Bourke – Wanaaring road. It doesn’t seem all that long ago that the full length of this notorious road was basically known for its corrugations and poorly formed surfaces. This latest instalment of funding will leave but 9 km of the roadway remaining to be sealed. What was essentially a full day for a round trip between Wanaaring and Bourke can now be undertaken in some four (4) or so hours. Such a difference.

I wrote in last week's column of the NSW Governments announcement of \$500million of funding under the Regional and Local Roads Repair program with all 128 local councils in NSW eligible for a one-off payment to help fix roads that were damaged by severe weather events during 2022. These funds have been allocated based on the total kilometres of roads managed in each local government area. On Saturday, Minister Farraway announced that Bourke Shire would receive \$4.476million in funding under this program. Once the funding deed is signed and returned, Council will receive a 100% upfront payment of the grant funding. This funding must then be expended by 29 February 2024.

In addition to the road funding announcements, Minister Farraway also announced various other funding packages for Bourke. In this regard he announced that Council was successful in its application for \$506,000 under Round 2 of the Regional Tourism Activation Fund to undertake extensions to the very successful Café at the Back O’ Bourke Centre and further improve the Outback Show Arena, also at the Centre. Council will be contributing \$168,000 of its funds towards these exiting projects for the Centre and for tourism in the Shire. Minister Farraway also announced a total of \$1.252m under the Stronger Country Communities Program to go towards the staged upgrading of facilities at Davidson Oval. Council worked with the Bourke Rugby Club to achieve this funding.

The Minister also announced funding of some \$1.425m for the roll out of two (2) separate diversionary programmes to be rolled out for the youth of Bourke. One of these programs will see Maranguka undertake an After-hours Program which is focused on health and wellbeing, education, and connection to Culture. To be delivered by qualified youth development workers and community volunteers to connect with and engage local young people who are wandering the streets of Bourke after dark, the Minister announced that the Program will run 5 nights per week from 6pm-12am.

In responding to the Ministers various announcements, Mayor Barry was able to personally thank the Minister for his visit and for the NSW Governments ongoing support in assisting with these significant funding packages to improve the quality of life for all residents in our Shire.

### **Australia Day Honours**

Congratulations to well-known Bourke resident, Dr Sally Torr, on being appointed as an Honorary Member (AM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division as part of the 2023 Australia Day Honours List. Individuals are appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service in a particular locality or field of activity or to a particular group.

For Sally, that significant service relates to not only healthcare administration but also to the community of western New South Wales. The citation for Sally on the Governor Generals website ([gg.gov.au](http://gg.gov.au)) sets out a most comprehensive and impressive resume of her involvement over the years in Community Health and Healthcare, her contribution to the Australasian College of Health Service Management (ACHSM) and her contribution to the Country Women's Association of NSW. In addition to these activities, since arriving in Bourke in 2006 she has been the Secretary of the Bourke Arts Community Inc, a Member of Bourke Rotary and a Board Member of Outback Arts - Regional Arts NSW since 2016, and that's just what I am aware of!

Sally has been the recipient of numerous awards over the year's including being inducted into the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll, Department of Primary Industries in 2020. Undoubtedly the awarding of her AM would be the pinnacle of awards made to her and she is to be congratulated.

### **Honours Story**

A friend of our family is an avid reviewer of the lists of awardees for Honours as issued each year by the Governor General on Australia Day and on what has been the Queens Birthday each June. He was telling me that this year, as he always does, he was quietly scrolling the lists early Australia Day morning to view the recipients and to see if he knew any of them. He said that he was onto the AM lists when he saw the name of his wife's best friend. Yes it was her, a lady by the name of Dr Therese Burke, who received her award "for significant service to medicine, particularly to multiple sclerosis research, and to nursing."

He recounted to me that after settling his rather excited wife, congratulatory phone calls were made, and arrangements also made for flowers and champagne to be sent. He said that Dr Burke did all her schooling in Dubbo before training as a nurse at Westmead Hospital in Sydney. Her Brother, Anthony Brown (no relation), lives in Dubbo where he is the Bowls Manager at Club Dubbo. I suspect a few of our local bowlers would know of Anthony as part of their bowling exploits and travels.

Anyway, my friend said that he saw a post on Anthony Browns Facebook page from a fellow bowler by the name of Mick congratulating Anthony's Sister on her award. It turns out that Mick's wife was a patient at the Westmead MS Clinic some 7 years ago and was nursed by Dr Burke. Whilst Mick and Anthony have apparently never met, they are Facebook friends through bowls and when Mick saw the brother/sister connection he commented that Anthony's sister "was such a lovely person and a great help to my wife in the early days of her MS diagnosis. A wonderful women who we will never forget." A nice story that reminded me as to how small a world it is but also a nice connection through bowls.

### **Future Women Rural Scholarship Program**

The NSW Government has launched a new round of the Future Women Rural Scholarship Program to help women living in regional, rural and remote NSW achieve their goals. Partnering with Future Women, an organisation delivering virtual events, leadership training and a curated digital network to its members, the NSW Government launched the Program which includes 24 scholarships valued at over \$6,000 each. These scholarships are available to women from regional, rural and remote parts of the State to develop their leadership skills by equipping future female leaders with the tools and knowledge

they need to accelerate their road to success. Applicants can be as diverse as a small business owner, a farmer or a healthcare worker, and every role in between.

Successful recipients will receive a place in the Future Women Platinum+ Program worth \$6,000, where they will take part in networking, mentoring and digital learning opportunities. Recipients will also be invited to attend the Future Women Leadership Summit on 6 and 7 March 2023 to celebrate International Women's Day.

Applications are open until 16 February for all women living in regional, rural and remote NSW aged 18-39 years old. To apply or to nominate someone you know, visit: <https://futurewomen.com/rural-womens-scholarship/>

### **Back to School**

The NSW Government is helping families pay for school supplies with the Premiers "Back to School Vouchers." Parents, guardians, carers or students can apply for three (3) x \$50 vouchers, totalling \$150 for each eligible primary, secondary or home-schooled student. The vouchers can be spent on the cost of school uniforms, shoes, bags, technology, textbooks and other eligible expenses. The vouchers can be redeemed at registered businesses/schools here in Bourke until 30 June 2023.

Full details are available at: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/back-to-school-vouchers>

**Quote: "I'm a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let them down."** — Abraham Lincoln