



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

“From the
General Manager’s Desk”
2 March 2023”

Welcome to Bourke Function

I was interested to read in last week's Western Herald, stories in respect of the arrival of new teachers in Bourke to coincide with the start of the 2023 school year. Undoubtedly there are also other new arrivals to town whether they be with the Police, Health, other government department or to work in private enterprise. For whatever reason people have come to Bourke, I invite each and every new resident to Bourke to attend the Welcome to Bourke function to be held at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre commencing at 7.00pm on Wednesday 15 March 2023.

Representatives of Council, sporting, social and other community organisations will be in attendance to welcome our new residents. I would encourage the various managers of organisations in Bourke to bring this event to the attention of their newly arrived staff and encourage them to attend. In fact, managers you are most welcome to come along with your new staff to the function.

For catering purposes, it is requested that attendees advise their RSVP to info@backobourke.com.au by Tuesday 7 March 2023. If you need any further information, please don't hesitate to contact Briana at the Back O' Bourke Centre on 6872 1321.

For me personally, I enjoy talking with our new residents to hear of what has led them to Bourke and seeing them interacting with both their fellow new residents and long-established residents and learning about local networks, which are so important in any community, particularly so in a remote community such that Bourke is.

Further accolades for Trae

The 2022 Young Citizen of the Year for Bourke Shire, as announced on Australia Day 2022, was Trae Wilson. The announcement was very well received on the day and to his credit, since then, Trae has continued with his selfless work assisting others in our community. Last week it was announced that Trae was the winner of the Australia Youth Trust -Tom Harvey Award for Citizenship 2023.

By way of background, the Australia Youth Trust was launched in October 1996 by the late Diana, Princess of Wales. The Trust is a non-profit organisation made up of volunteers from the government, business and community sectors which seeks to provide financial support to Commonwealth and other agencies providing relief programs to young people suffering from poverty, illness, exploitation and abuse in developing countries; to provide better opportunities for young people and their families including literacy, education, employment and training programs and to provide funding for students to travel, study and work in a developing Commonwealth country.

Named after the late inaugural Chairman of the Australia Youth Trust, the Tom Harvey Award recognises the outstanding contribution of a young Australian citizen between the age of 15 and 30 years. Trae will

be presented his award at the annual Commonwealth Day event to be held at Parliament House, Sydney on Monday 13 March 2023. Commonwealth Day is celebrated across the Commonwealth of Nations – a voluntary association of 56 member nations, including 2.6 billion people or 33% of the world's population. The award is made as part of a wider programme of grants made by the Trust to assist young people working together within Australia and developing Commonwealth nations within Australia's region.

I won't embarrass Trae by writing of his specific volunteering efforts in Bourke, except to say that this Award is a big deal and I congratulate him warmly on his achievement.

Stronger Communities Program

Expressions of interest, via the Office of the Federal Member for Parkes, the Hon Mark Coulton, MP are now open in respect of Round 8 of the popular Stronger Communities Programme. An Australian Government grant program, funding of up to \$20,000 is available for eligible not-for-profits or local governing bodies.

The Stronger Communities Program has funded many community projects over the years to boost community participation. With a total of \$150,000 in funding available to fund up to 20 small capital projects in the Parkes electorate, funding can be used for small-scale infrastructure upgrades, fit-outs and equipment purchases. It's a case of "you have to be in it to win it" and if your community group has a suitable project in mind, submit an expression of interest to Mr Coulton's office by 5pm next Friday, 10 March 2023. Organisations that are shortlisted will then be invited to complete a formal online application, for submission by 10 May 2023. For details and to download an EOI Form go to: www.markcoulton.com.au/stronger-communities-programme-round-8-open

Outback Museum of Australia

Up at Charleville in Queensland, the local Council, known as Murweh Shire, and Griffith University, have joined forces to develop the Outback Museum of Australia (OMOA) which is to be built around the relics of a clandestine bush air base where almost 4,000 US troops were based during World War II. From the Shire, "OMOA will celebrate the diversity of the Australian outback regions, by revealing the contemporary spirit of the outback and its inhabitants. OMOA 's focus is about the present and future of the outback, stories of the lands, stories of the people and future stories. For example, it will display facts about climate change in the outback and the coping mechanisms that inhabitants have engineered to be resilient and the solutions that they are still working on (not only in Qld, but for all the Australian outback)."

While OMOA construction will start in a few months, OMOA are starting to prepare their exhibitions and have invited outback residents to contribute items to their opening exhibitions. Further information is available at: <https://www.murweh.qld.gov.au/news/article/123/outback-museum-of-australia-omoa-call-to-the-outback-residents>

In undertaking this development, the Murweh Shire is confident that it will become a major tourism drawcard in Queensland, complementing existing tourism attractions. This includes complementing our own Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre. With more and more tourists exploring the outback and taking the inland route to Darwin from the south, the more attractions that are available for people to stop and see, the greater the potential for a significant increase in the number of travellers attracted to the region. An important project that Council is pursuing is improvements to the road located in the Unincorporated Area, between Wanaaring and Tibooburra, which includes a section of the Bourke-Milparinka Road and The Cut Line. Transport for NSW is responsible for this road in the Unincorporated

Area with the organisation continuing to explore funding options to seal priority sections of this road. The thought of tourists being able to travel to Tibooburra/Camerons Corner via Broken Hill and then return via Bourke, on a sealed road, is an exciting one for the region.

2023 Rugby League

I don't profess to be a prolific follower of rugby league. I do however support the Balmain Tigers. It is rumoured that my husband, Charlie, and I named our eldest son Wayne, after Balmain great, Wayne Pearce. I neither confirm nor deny such a suggestion. I have however been somewhat enthused by the Tigers results from their pre-season trials, including a convincing win over the Canberra Raiders recently.

Whilst I have heard from various members of my staff, who I think may be St George Dragons fans, "not to take any notice of preseason results," I did see a heading in the Daily Telegraph recently, "Finals bound? Why Tigers look the real deal." Obviously, time will tell and come September 2023, we will see how it has all panned out. Season 2023 commences this weekend with Round 1. Regardless of who you support, enjoy the season.

On the issue of rugby league, I saw that current NSW Blues Origin Coach, Freddy Fittler and Blues Women's coach, Kylie Hilder, and other league luminaries of the past, including Ronnie Gibb's, were in Bourke in early February as part of Freddy's annual "Hogs for the Homeless" motorbike tour. 2023 was the 11th year of the tour and the first time it had travelled to Bourke. Importantly the tour was joined by Gus Worland, Chairman and founder of Gotcha4life who delivered messages about mental health.

One of the riders on the tour was former Rooster's player of the 1980's, and NRL Salary Cap Auditor, Ian Schubert. If readers google "Ian Schubert Bourke" you will see a youtube clip of him reviewing the sausage rolls and pies, at Morrall's Bakery in Bourke, washed down of course with a Splashe Cola. He very much enjoyed the curried pie!

Quote: "I thought the earth was going to split open under my feet." A displaced resident in response to another earthquake in Antakya Turkey where the death toll from previous quakes is near 50,000 people.