



**BOURKE  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**

**“From the Acting  
General Manager’s Desk”  
25 May 2023**

### **Hungerford Field Day**

The Hungerford Field Day has been held since 1981 at the Ross Wallace Sports Ground, Hungerford on the NSW/Qld Border. Ross Wallace was very well known in the district before he moved to Dubbo and established the Back O’ Bourke Saddlery in Dubbo. Whilst Ross has passed on, his name remains in perpetuity at the Oval. The Field Day is a not-for-profit event which raises funds for the RFDS. A great variety of different exhibitors attend, with something available for all ages. There will be live entertainment at night, catering, a licensed bar and an auction in support of the Flying Doctors. The Sports Ground has excellent camping facilities and amenities for those who wish to stay overnight.

The 2023 Hungerford Field Day will be held next Friday, 2 June 2023. If you are looking to be an exhibitor, apart from needing to move quickly, business sites are only \$40 with arts and craft sites being \$20 for the day. If you need further information regarding any aspect of the Field Day, contact Moc Parker on (07) 4655 4064 or Stacy Keane on (07) 46554828 or 0429465548.

### **Councillors Become Members of Parliament**

Over my career, I have come across various Members of State Parliament who started their political careers in local councils. I was most interested to recently read that 50 former local government councillors now make up more than a third of the recently sworn in members of the NSW Legislative Assembly and the NSW Legislative Council, being the 58<sup>th</sup> Parliament of NSW, the Nation’s oldest Parliament. With 50 of the state’s 135 parliamentarians having once been councillors it is fair to say that such numbers are a recognition of the political training ground that local government has provided to them.

Whilst some of the parliamentarians had been re-elected for a second, third or fourth term, a number were entering state politics for the first time. Whilst not a first term MP, NSW Premier, the Hon Chris Minns, was previously a Councillor on Hurstville City Council (pre-amalgamation) whilst Stephen Lawrence MLC was a Councillor on the amalgamated Dubbo Regional Council. Some of the 50 MP’s have been civic leaders, serving as mayors or deputy mayors in their respective local government areas. In this vein, the new Minister for Local Government, the Member for Heffron in Sydney, Ron Hoenig, brings a strong background of experience to his ministerial role, having been the Mayor of the City of Botany Bay from 1981 to 2012, a record 31 years. The big issue of course, is that the elected MPs continue to remember the importance that local government plays in the community as they undertake their parliamentary roles.

## **Road Safety**

Every year, more than 1200 people are killed and 44,000 are seriously injured on Australian roads. They are tragic numbers. National Road Safety Week was recently conducted across the Nation. The purpose of the week was to raise the awareness of the importance of road safety across Australia and, in turn, seek to reduce the number of serious injuries and fatalities on our roads. One of the initiatives of the week's activities was to ask drivers to take a pledge "to drive so others survive" during Road Safety week. Mayor Barry took the pledge and Council posted this on its Facebook page. Councillors also took the pledge at this week's Council meeting and in doing so, expanded the horizon by publicly stating that they "proudly pledge to drive safely each and every day so that others survive." Road safety is a shared responsibility, and only together, can the government's goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries on NSW roads by 2050 be achieved.

## **Small World**

I was out and about recently and came across a hard copy book titled 'Wild Ride-The Story of the Australian Stock Saddle.' The book tells the story of how and why the stock saddle developed and details the history of the "earliest saddlers like Brush and Quail, the more familiar names like Wienike, Kinneer and RM Williams, and ones from modern times." I was perusing the book, and apart from finding pictures of saddles, as you would expect, I happened across some saddles that had been made by a saddler with a strong connection to Bourke. A "modern times" saddler, John Lordan of J B Lordan Saddles of Dubbo was raised, according to the book, "until age seven, on a 32,000acre sheep farm,120 kilometres west of Bourke." The book contains numerous pictures of stock saddles that John Lordan has individually made by hand. They are no doubt perfect for the job, but to look at them in the book, they are a work of art. I made some enquiries as to the Lordan's time in Bourke and sourced that John's parents were Brian (dec'd) and Judy Lordan. They lived on Clifton Downs which Brian managed, dabbling with the training of racehorses, whilst wife Judy was a nurse. John had four (4) siblings with a brother, Jamie, buried at the Bourke Cemetery. The Lordan's neighbour "down the road" in Bourke was the well-known saddler, Ross Wallace, as recognised in respect of the Hungerford Sports Oval. It was through that relationship that John's interest in leatherwork and saddles was apparently first raised. When Ross moved to Dubbo and opened his Back O' Bourke Saddlery, John became his apprentice and learnt the fineries of his trade such that his saddles are now highly sought. In the 1980's, John undertook leather work for the Royal Coach presented to Queen Elizabeth II as part of the Bicentenary and then again in the first decade of the 2000's for the Diamond Jubilee State Coach made for Queen Elizabeth II. These coaches transported Prince William from the recent Kings Coronation and King Charles to his Coronation, respectively. From my reading and enquiries, he is highly regarded in a trade from year's gone by, and he is from Bourke! It is a small world.

## **Work Health and Safety**

For business operators in Bourke, I note that from 1 January 2024, the NSW Government will commence Clause 58 "Audiometric testing" of the NSW WHS Regulation 2017. This means that from that date a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) will be required to provide audiometric testing to any of their workers who are frequently required by them to use personal protective equipment (hearing protection) to protect the worker from the risk of hearing loss associated with noise that exceeds the exposure standard for noise. Prior to 31 December 2023, I understand that SafeWork NSW will be developing and distributing a range of guidance material to business operators

In addition to this requirement the importance of businesses protecting their workers from acts of violence has recently been highlighted stemming from an apparent rise in aggressive customer behaviour in a range of public environments. Unfortunately, many workplaces have a risk of some form

of workplace violence. Organisations should proactively consider whether such a risk exists by consulting their workers and considering any claims history in their organisation and others operating in the same industry. Wherever there is direct public or customer interaction, there will almost always be a risk of some kind. It would be suggested that systems and protocols for the management of the risk of violence be developed. This would include controls to increase the level of protection for workers, such as screens, guards and duress alarms. Workplace design, including management and control of queues and cash-handling locations/procedures are also relevant. Importantly staff in your workplace should be trained in the organisations violence policies so they are prepared in the event of them being required to handle a potentially violent situation.

## **Thank You**

That's it for me in terms of my stint as Acting General Manager. Leonie Brown will back for next week's column. As always, I again encountered a very busy time at Bourke Shire Council. I certainly enjoyed my short stint in town, and it was great to be able to catch up with numerous old friends whilst here. I thank the Mayor, Councillors and staff for their assistance during my short term in Bourke. For me, it's back to Mudgee and my role as Executive Officer of the Far North West Joint Organisation of Councils.

**Quote: "Unfortunately our performances over the first 10 games of this season have not met the club's expectations so it was decided he should finish up his duties this week."** St George Illawarra Dragons, CEO, Ryan Webb announcing the recent termination of Anthony Griffins coaching contract. It's a tough game on various levels.