



**BOURKE  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**

“From the  
General Manager’s Desk”  
8 June 2023”

## Scam Emails

Scamwatch is operated by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). It provides information to consumers and small businesses about how to recognise, avoid and report scams. In 2022, Scamwatch received close to 240,000 scam reports with the financial losses totalling more than \$569m. This was a 76% increase in reported losses when compared to the previous year. If you combine the data from Scamwatch with data from ReportCyber, the Australian Financial Crimes Exchange (AFCX), IDCARE and other government agencies, a record \$3.1 billion was lost to scams in 2022.

In recent months, Councils IT Staff have noticed a significant increase in scam emails which contain potentially harmful attachments. These are often disguised as payroll adjustments, invoices, or remittance notifications. These attachments often come in the form of .html files. Just like Council is receiving more scam emails, residents and businesses are no doubt also seeing an increase in such emails. As a warning, readers should never open attachments or links on emails from unknown senders before verifying their legitimacy. This especially relates to .html files!

Here are some key points to remember:

1. **Watch for Red Flags:** Be wary of emails from unknown senders, urgent requests, or poor grammar. If an email seems suspicious or unexpected, take extra care.
2. **Handle Attachments Carefully:** Do not open attachments unless you are certain of their legitimacy. Report any doubts or concerns to the sender immediately.
3. **Verify Links:** Avoid clicking on links in suspicious emails. Hover your mouse over them to check the destination. If the URL seems unrelated or suspicious, do not click.
4. **Protect Personal Information:** Never share sensitive data or login credentials via email. Report any such requests to the sender.
5. **Recognise Patterns:** Scammers often use similar tactics and strategies, such as urgent requests, payroll and invoicing advice or unexpected attachments. By recognising patterns, you can better identify potential threats.
6. **Report Suspicious Emails:** If you are unsure about an email, either contact the sender or simply delete it.

In terms of managing your money on-line, most banks offer various log-in options including password, a four (4) digit passcode, fingerprint or facial recognition, all to protect your money. Financial institutions

will never ask for your PIN, password, or for you to log in over email. Money is too hard to get and we all need to be smart as we go about our daily activities involving emails, phones and our funds.

## **National Reconciliation Week**

National Reconciliation Week was celebrated last week, from 27 May to 3 June, with the theme for this year's week being "Be a Voice for Generations." The theme seeks to encourage all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in their everyday lives. The week celebrates and builds on positive and respectful relationships and connections between Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Reconciliation involves building positive and respectful relationships between all Australians and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It helps to create a positive change and help Australians to learn about their shared histories, cultures and achievements. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have faced many challenges and inequality over the years. This history has prevented them from reaching their potential. Being able to reconcile helps lead to respect and better relationships and partnerships. We all have an ongoing role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples, histories, cultures and futures.

The dates for National Reconciliation Week from 27 May until 3 June are the same each year and are significant dates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. It was on 27 May 1967 when more than 90% of Australians voted 'yes' in a compulsory referendum to count Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples into the census. Also important is the date of 3 June which marks the day in 1992 when the 'native title' Mabo decision was made by the High Court of Australia. The decision recognised that a group of Torres Strait Islanders, led by Eddie Mabo, held ownership of Mer (Murray Island). In acknowledging the traditional rights of the Meriam people to their land, the court also held that native title existed for all Indigenous people.

## **CT Service**

In the world of health services, a CT scan is a type of x-ray that creates 3-dimensional images of your body, including bones, organs, tissues and tumours. The machine moves in a circular motion around you when you're laying down, taking x-rays of very thin slices of your body. This then creates a cross-sectional image for review by medical staff. CT scans provide different views and far greater detail than a 2-dimensional x-ray. They may be used instead of an x-ray when your doctor needs to see soft tissues in your body, which don't always show up on x-rays. CT scan images can be used to help diagnose certain types of cancer and benign (noncancerous) tumours, fractures (broken bones), heart disease, blood clots, bowel disorders, brain and spinal cord diseases or injuries and internal bleeding.

With no fixed CT service between Dubbo and Broken Hill to the west and from the Queensland border to the north, I was both delighted and excited to learn of the recent unveiling by the Minister for Health, the Hon Ryan Park and our local Member, Roy Butler, of the State's first mobile CT imaging van. The new van will be used for non-emergency patients to help diagnose causes of pain from muscles or joints, detect diseases or prepare patients for further treatment or surgery as it rotates between Bourke, Cobar and Walgett.

Whilst I certainly don't need to tell readers of the tyranny of distance when accessing health services, and with the new service expected to see some 1,500 patients a year, the Remote Mobile CT Service will help many patients avoid the 8 hour round trip to Dubbo, or even further afield, to have scans.

My understanding is that the Remote Mobile CT service will shortly begin welcoming patients in coming weeks. It is currently going through its final stages of preparation, with the CT Truck sounding like quite

an impressive piece of equipment. It is understood that the CT scanner is installed in a custom-built housing on the back of a rigid truck. The housing expands to create an air-conditioned scanning room and reception and includes a bed lifter to transfer patients in beds or wheelchairs.

Each of the multi-purpose services at Bourke, Cobar and Walgett has had significant power, data and parking upgrades so the van's functions are the same as a fixed service. A radiographer oversees and runs the service, supported by other health service staff in each location. The scans are read by Radiologists, who will report on images remotely from other areas of the District or from Sydney.

A big thank you to Minister Park and State Member for Barwon, Roy for the provision of this service which will not only assist the residents of the three Shire areas but also assist Doctors in the region to provide care locally and reduces the number of patients transferred to Dubbo from hospitals.

### **Massive Fire**

We have all no doubt seen vision of the massive fire that engulfed a heritage listed building near Central Station in Surry Hills, Sydney recently. Described as a "once in a decade" fire fought by more than 120 firefighters from 30 fire trucks, the fire bought back memories from April 2003 when I woke to news reports that the Dubbo City Council building was alight, such that the building internally was destroyed. The similarities in the Sydney and Dubbo fires was that in respect of the Dubbo fire, youths were charged and sentenced by the Court with youths currently also at the centre of investigations in respect of the Sydney fire. The costs of these fire are enormous to not only the owners of these buildings, but also to the wider community. In recent years, the Bourke community has experienced its share of major fires with "Diggers on the Darling" destroyed on 1 September 2021 and then nearly four (4) months later on 27 December 2021, the Spar Supermarket in Warraweena St was also destroyed. As testimony to the resilience of Supermarket owners, Chandra and Ramya, the new Supermarket facility is well and truly up and running to service Bourke and region.

**Quote: "I have loved every single minute of my time at *Sunrise*, and I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved over the last 21 year's."** Sunrise Presenter, David Koch announcing his retirement from the Show, with his last Show being tomorrow, Friday 9 June 2023.