



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

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

King’s Birthday Honours List

Coinciding with the recent King’s Birthday long weekend was the announcement of the 2023 King's Birthday Honours List which recognised 1,192 recipients across Australia. The Honours List includes awards in the Order of Australia (General and Military Divisions), meritorious awards and recognition for distinguished and conspicuous service. As reported in last week's Western Herald, a recipient of the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) was well known Bourke identity, Mr Michael Amos. He received this prestigious award for his commitment to the New South Wales Rural Fire Service, with his citation describing such services as being “far beyond the call of duty.” With Michael having joined the North Bourke Bushfire Brigade in 1995 and then elected as Captain in 1996, I have known Michael for many years, and “beyond the call of duty” is a very apt description of his service to the community.

I was pleased to see that the formal citation in respect of his AFSM Award specifically recognised his actions during COVID where Michael “coordinated a small team of firefighters who delivered food and care boxes to households in Bourke and all surrounding villages in the Bourke Shire.” During those early days of COVID there were many unknowns as Michael and his team would don protective clothing to deliver food boxes, as required, around our community. It was a most sterling effort by Michael and his team. As part of the 2022 Bourke Australia Day Awards, Michael and his team were recognised with the Award for Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year and then in May 2022 Michael and the Bourke Headquarters Brigade of the Rural Fire Service received the Commissioner’s Certificate of Commendation for going above and beyond to aid their community during the COVID-19 outbreak.

I extend to Michael, the very best wishes of Council in respect of his receipt of this Award.

Australian Local Government Association – 2023 General Assembly

Along with more than 1,100 local government delegates, Mayor Barry and I recently attended the 2023 Australian Local Government Association’s (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra. The event attracted Mayors, Shire Presidents, Councillors and General Manager from across Australia to discuss how local governments can partner with the Federal Government to deliver a better future for Australian communities. With presentations by the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese, the Opposition Leader, the Hon Peter Dutton and a myriad of other politicians and high-profile speakers, the Assembly was most worth while attending. As with all like conference events, there was a Conference Dinner and for the General Assembly, it was held in the “Great Hall” at Australia’s Parliament House. At this dinner Mayor Barry was fortunate to connect with the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese. In doing so the Mayor reminded the Prime Minister of a previous visit to Bourke in 2009, when he officially opened the Back O’ Bourke facility in his capacity, at the time, as the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government. The Prime Minister excitedly recalled opening the facility and was keen to know how it was operating. The Mayor explained the

success and expansion of the facility and naturally, invited him to return to Bourke and witness firsthand, the now expanded, popular and well utilised tourist facility.

Pontoon Installations

Council staff and contractors have begun the installation works of two (2) new pontoons and landings on the banks of the Darling River as part of work to improve visitor access to the PV Jandra. The new landings will include a replacement for the pontoon behind the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre with another pontoon being installed downstream of the Sturt Street Wharf Precinct. Both pontoons will allow the Jandra to take passengers to and from these locations for special events or private charters. The works have been in the planning for some time and were delayed in 2022 due to the ongoing height and flow of the river. The works have been made possible through grant funding from the NSW State Government, for which Council is most appreciative. It is expected that the works will be complete in July 2023.

Drought Proofing of Bourke

Council's 3.5 ML/d Bourke Water Treatment Plant (WTP) was commissioned in 2021 and provides potable water to our town. Raw water for the WTP is sourced from the Darling River. Following the completion of initial concept designs by NSW Public Works Advisory (PWA), and with funding from the NSW Government (Infrastructure NSW), an emergency bore water system has been constructed to supplement, or in cases of severe drought, substitute the river water supply. The bore system includes three bores (Walkden's Bore, Stony Rise Bore and Belvedere Bore) and a high lift pump station at Walkden's Bore to pump the water from all bores to Bourke WTP site. The high-lift pump station is located approximately 19km from the WTP. As part of the drought proofing project, two new bores were drilled in 2019/2020 (ie Belvedere and Stony Rise bores). Connection to the water network was undertaken in a temporary manner due to the urgency of the situation and thus these bores were powered by diesel generators with the switchboards and generators being located inside a shipping container at each site. In September 2022, Council awarded a tender for the extension of the mains power supply network to Stony Rise and Belvedere Bores, and electrical work at all three bores sites.

Work continues to progress on the final stages of the drought proofing project with powerline construction now being well underway such that power poles are standing in place connecting Walkden's bore to Belvedere bore with transformers in place on poles, as required. Wires have been placed onsite along with other necessary materials, in readiness for installation. In addition to the installation of these power lines, work to install the telemetry system, which connects the bore sites with the Treatment Plant such that the bores can be monitored remotely, and the installation of gravel access roads to each bore site, are both well underway. All these works are expected to be completed by the end of August 2023.

One of the final components of the drought proofing project is for Council to secure a water allocation for the bores. In this regard Council will be shortly going to the market to purchase licences to increase its current 100ML/ 40 days only capacity.

Critical Communications Enhancement Program (CCEP)

The NSW Government has a program that is titled the "Critical Communications Enhancement Program (CCEP)." Under this program, the NSW Telco Authority (NSWTA) is expanding and enhancing the Public Safety Network (PSN) for emergency services organisations. This network provides critical, secure and reliable radio communications to frontline responders with PSN sites having been pivotal in protecting

communities and supporting the emergency response to the 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires and the widespread floods of 2021 and 2022 across NSW.

The Telco Authority has completed the detailed design in respect of upgrading the Louth, Landsdowne Digital Radio System on Tara Road at Louth with work moving to the construction stage in coming months. The contract for these works has been awarded by the Telco Authority to a firm called Service Stream. Council has been advised that a representative from Service Stream will shortly be in contact with community member/s in proximity to the site regarding the upcoming work. Further information about the Community Enhancement Program is available at www.nsw.gov.au/telco-authority Alternatively the Telco Authority can be contacted directly by phone on 1800 794 862 or via email ccepinfo@customerservice.nsw.gov.au

Hayley Lewis

People of my vintage will undoubtedly recall the name of Hayley Lewis. Hayley was an Australian swimmer who excelled in her chosen sport of swimming at the age of 15 when she won five (5) gold medals and one (1) bronze medal at the 1990 Commonwealth Games in Auckland NZ. She also went on to win Gold and Silver Medals at the 1991 World Championships and the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, respectively. Now 49, it was great to see Hayley “acting like a crazy lady” (her words) supporting her 19-year-old son, Kai Taylor, as he won the men’s 200m freestyle final at the Australian swim trials. As a twist in the tale, Kai actually missed qualification for the 200m freestyle final - he finished ninth fastest overall - but was given a second chance thanks to Kyle Chalmers withdrawing from the final. It is certainly a case of when you get the opportunity, grab it with both hands.

Quote: “Liquor & Gaming NSW has issued show-cause notices to two betting operators due to irregularities in their TV ads that undermined agreed responsible gambling messages” – Remember: you win some, you lose more.