



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

“From the
General Manager’s Desk”

21 March 2024

NSW Road Toll

Statistically, one person will be killed in a motor vehicle accident in NSW today. That’s right, one person..... daily. For the 12-month period ending 11 March 2024, 364 lives were lost in NSW from road accidents. For the corresponding period ending 11 March 2023, that figure was 275. In 12 months, fatalities have increased by 89 or a staggering 32.36%. Essentially, it’s a one-third increase. These are most sobering statistics as provided by Transport for NSW. From such statistics I also note that “non-urban country roads” are the predominant location for fatal crashes in NSW. Speeding and fatigue are major contributors to fatalities, and I note that TfNSW attributes a fatality to fatigue if the accident meets any of the following conditions:

- Police said the motor vehicle driver or rider was asleep, drowsy or tired;
- The vehicle travelled onto the incorrect side of a straight road and had a head-on collision (and wasn't overtaking another vehicle and no other relevant factor was found); or,
- The vehicle ran off a straight road or off the road to the outside of a curve and the vehicle wasn't travelling at excessive speed and there was no other relevant factor found for the crash.

Having regard to these statistics, I was interested to learn that the NSW Government is seeking to improve safety along 500 kilometres of the Mitchell Highway between Orange and Bourke through the installation of Audio Tactile Line Marking (ATLM), better known as rumble strips. These rumble strips provide a significant vibration effect which reverberates through a vehicle if the vehicle leaves its travel lane. This vibration alerts the driver and provides time for them to correct their path to avoid a potential serious accident, if the vehicle was to drift into the path of an oncoming vehicle or off the road into a tree, or the like. The work involves installing approximately 800 kilometres of rumble strips, which includes edge and centre lines, and about 300 kilometres of new line marking.

With fatigue being a contributing factor in many serious collisions on country roads, I see the rumble strips as an important safety upgrade to help decrease the incidence of fatal and other serious motor vehicle collisions on this busy highway. A highway which is regularly used by so many of us in the Bourke community.

Work to install the Audio Tactile Line Markings started along the Highway from Nyngan in early February 2024, with work scheduled to continue progressively along the route until May.

FREE Training Opportunities

I have previously written about the need for asbestos safety. Safework NSW and NSW TAFE have joined forces to offer a FREE online Asbestos Awareness and Safety course, fee free until 12 June 2024. Aimed at all construction tradespeople, demolition workers, renovators, handypersons and anyone who

is likely to encounter asbestos on the job, completion of the course will ensure employers of these workers meet their legal obligation to provide asbestos awareness training. Whilst further training is required to undertake licensed asbestos removal work (i.e. to remove more than 10sqm of non-friable asbestos or any amount of friable asbestos), completion of this course will seek for participants to recognise the risk and serious long-term impacts of asbestos exposure; recognise the roles, responsibilities, and legislation for asbestos related work; determine if asbestos containing material may be present; identify asbestos containing materials and hazardous activities that lead to asbestos exposure; identify suitable control measures for asbestos and asbestos containing materials; safely handle asbestos and asbestos containing materials; and further, be able to inspect worksites and communicate asbestos risks and asbestos controls with an informed perspective.

This is a great opportunity with the online course having a duration of 2.5 hours. Further information is available at the following link: <https://store.training.tafensw.edu.au/product/asbestos-awareness-and-safety/>

In addition to this training, Council has secured FREE RSA (Responsible Service of Alcohol) and FREE RCG (Responsible Conduct of Gambling) training for Shire residents. In NSW, to sell, serve or supply alcohol, you must complete an RSA training course provided by an approved training provider. If you are new to the liquor industry or your RSA competency training took place more than five years ago, you need to complete a full training course. RSA training applies to club secretaries and club directors (if they serve alcohol); licensees and managers; service staff; RSA marshals; crowd controllers; security staff; promotional staff; and volunteers. So regardless of whether it's a wedding, corporate gathering, or community event: if alcohol is present, an RSA is required. Similarly, If you're going to work in a registered club or hotel and your duties involve gaming machines, you must complete competency training in the Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG).

Given the legal requirements, Council has partnered with the Registered Training Organisation, Verto, to secure this training for the Bourke Community with the RCG training to be held on Saturday 23rd March 2024 with the RSA Training taking place on Sunday 24th March 2024. Both courses will be held at the Back O' Bourke Function Centre, running from 9am till 5pm each day. Lunch, tea and coffee will be supplied for each course. To enrol in either of these hospitality courses, simply go to: <https://verto.assessapp.com/webforms/76063/new>

Should you have any questions, please contact Councils Manager Economic Development, Melanie Milgate, on 0487 221 936 or the fantastic team at VERTO on 1300 483 786.

Student Program

Last year, Bourke High School launched its 'Our Tiddas, Our Sisters' program for their female students. The program aims to improve students' culture, learning, physical health, mental health, relationships, and provide pathway opportunities. To commence the programs planning efforts, the High School in late February 2024 hosted a collaborative session with local organisations and service providers. Council and various local businesses are already assisting in the program. However, for the program to be of most success, the school seeks further contributions of time from community members. Maybe you could contribute as a mentor – taking the opportunity to tell your story and meet the youth of Bourke, who one day may be the leaders in our community. If you are interested, please contact the Principal at the Bourke High School, Mr Murray Cronin.

Long Table Dinner

With the 2024 Good Friday Long Table Dinner now slightly just over a week away, I make a final call for those who wish to attend to purchase their tickets by 10.00am next Monday 25 March 2024. This timing will enable organisers sufficient time to arrange catering requirements. Unfortunately, prospective diners without a ticket will not be able to simply turn up on the evening. You must have purchased a ticket. As previously mentioned in an earlier column, the dinner comprises a tappas menu. When I said to staff that tappas in Spanish refers to small plates of food, I was quickly advised that I was correct in terms of the meaning of tappas. I was simultaneously assured that there would be *infinidad* (Spanish for the word plenty) of small plates of food! I for one am very much looking forward to the Long Table Dinner.

On other matters relating to the Back O' Bourke Easter Festival, one of the major drawcards over the Easter Festival period is the Back O' Bourke Picnic Races. I was pleased to see that the Club had recently announced that all their Corporate Tents for the Easter Sunday picnic race meeting had already sold out. I consider such an early sell out to be an excellent indicator of the ongoing popularity of people attending this racing event in Bourke.

Holiday Lego Challenge

Throughout the upcoming April 2024 School Holidays, the Bourke Library will be hosting a LEGO Challenge. With two (2) age groups in the Challenge, being Juniors (8-12) and Seniors (13-18), the preliminary rounds will be held over the 2 weeks of the holidays, followed by finals at the end of each week. The winners will receive prizes of LEGO vouchers. All LEGO bricks will be provided and there is no charge to enter and participate. Notwithstanding, it is necessary for participants to register with the library by Wednesday 10th April 2024. Participants will then receive their session time come Friday 12 April 2024 with the respective building challenges being revealed at the beginning of each session.

By way of trivia, the humble Lego brick dates to, and has remained unchanged since 1958, when it was patented. Some 60 billion LEGO bricks are produced annually. As of this year, over 1.1 trillion LEGO pieces have been produced with this production equating to over 1.8 million tons of Lego pieces! Amazing.

QUOTE: "I had no idea he was on 98." - Australian Cricket Captain, Pat Cummins after hitting the winning runs against NZ and in doing so, denying Alex Carey a century.