



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

“From the General Manager’s Desk”

28 March 2024

Youth Crime

Much has been written and broadcast across all forms of media of late regarding both frightening examples of crime perpetrated by youths across the state and also news items regarding the increase in such criminal behaviour. The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR), which records and presents the data in respect of crimes in NSW, recently provided details of its 2023 data. Such data, amongst a myriad of data, noted that the rate of property crime in regional NSW was 59% higher than in Sydney and the rate of violent crime in regional NSW was 57% higher than in Sydney. Unfortunately, BOSCAR have reported that in 2023, “rates of both violent and property crime were almost three times the NSW average in the far west of the state.”

In recent times, basically every regional locality in New South Wales has received a mention in respect of unsavoury behaviour. Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Bathurst, Dubbo, Orange, Moree, Narromine, Parkes, and Bourke have all, for example, been mentioned in dispatches at some point in recent times. Nationally aired programs such as A Current Affair airing stories of a mid 80’s aged couple having been attacked in their home at Moree, does little for attracting tourists to Moree and inland NSW, but certainly highlights the plight of so many towns across the State, or for that matter, the Nation.

At a state-wide level, the Country Mayors Association, of which Council is a member, is pursuing the NSW Government for a parliamentary inquiry into crime and policing resources in regional NSW. Such request has as yet been unsuccessful. The inquiry is being pursued to allow victims of regional crime, support workers, past and present law enforcement officers, and communities to have the opportunity to share their lived experiences and offer suggested solutions to address and seek to turn around the current crime situation.

The NSW Premier, Chris Minns, has thankfully, ruled out raising the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years of age. He has also proposed legislation to make it harder for teenagers to get bail and criminalise “posting and boasting” about offences on social media. The proposed legislation would see the Bail Act changed to include an extra test for 14- to 18-year-olds charged with committing certain serious break-and-enter or motor vehicle theft offences while on bail for the same offences and seeking further bail. Numerous legal and criminal justice advocates have come out against the proposals with some advocating for more diversionary programs. It’s a difficult issue, however senior residents who reside in regional communities should not live in fear of being invaded and attacked in their own home.

Louth Field Day

The bi-annual Louth Field Day will be held from 10.00am on Saturday 8 June 2024 at Elsie Eade Park, Louth. Now, whilst June is still some time away, Field Day organisers, Gary Mooring and Cherise Duncan, are currently out and about inviting involvement in the activities at this year's holding of the event. Interested individuals, groups or businesses are requested to please forward indications of interest to

either Gary or Cherise as soon as possible, so that exhibitors can be included in the advertising for the day. Site fees for a Cottage Industries are free with fees for all other exhibitors being \$100. At 4pm on the day, a Charity Auction will be held with part proceeds to help cover the insurance for the day and the remainder of proceeds being donated to the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Bookings or phone enquiries can be directed to either Garr (0268747371) or Charise (0417497770) or by email (louthfieldday@outlook.com).

Warhammer - The Game

Books are only the beginning at the Bourke Shire Library. There are many other resources and activities available, including, I am told, regular Warhammer sessions. When this information came across my desk, I thought it appropriate to seek out what Warhammer was. What I found was that Warhammer “is a tabletop battle game which puts players in command of armies of valiant humans, noble elves, savage orcs or a variety of twisted and monstrous creatures. Players collect forces of miniature plastic models, all with different stats and abilities, and use them to play out clashes on a tabletop battlefield. Unlike a board game, where players’ moves are restricted to defined areas, Warhammer commanders freely manoeuvre their units set distances using rulers and resolve shooting and hand-to-hand combat by rolling dice.” What I also found was that since its first release in 1983, the game has gone through eight (8) editions, and whilst the core movement, combat and shooting systems have remained generally unchanged, the rules have apparently been tweaked and new units and creatures for players to deploy in their armies have increased. The Warhammer version played in the library sessions is Warhammer 40,000. The Library have advised that Warhammer 40,000 “takes place in the grim darkness of the far future, in which humanity fights spectacular battles across the galaxy to defend its place among the stars. Arrayed against the might of mankind are the many different alien races and the malignant forces of Chaos.”

At the library sessions, you will be able to build, paint and play Warhammer. The libraries “Warhammer host” has available kits for building and painting, or you can join in a game or watch others play. Everyone is welcome to attend, whether you’re a Warhammer veteran or have never played before. Contact the library for more information, or to find out session times drop into the Bourke Shire Library located at 46 Mitchell St Bourke or phone the library on 6872 2751.

Genealogy

Genealogy is the study of families, family history, and the tracing of their lineages. Fascinating and on matters that some may consider outside of a traditional library setting, did you know that members of the Bourke Shire Library have free access to the MyHeritage Library Edition through the library? Available in 42 languages, MyHeritage is one of the world's largest and most internationally diverse genealogy databases. With billions of historical records from 48 countries, you can trace your lineage, uncover historical photographs, and learn about your ancestors from the comfort of your home. The Library is certainly encouraging Shire residents to start their journey into their past today! Library members have access to census data; 5 billion family tree profiles; over 600 million photos including historical and gravestone images; comprehensive military records, immigration records and passenger lists, various legal and personal documents including citizenship records, guides, government records and wills along with access to exclusive databases and licensed content with over 100 million new records added monthly.

Library members can access the database through the library website to get started. All you need is a library card number. If you have signed up online, contact the library for a permanent borrower number which will allow access to all the library’s online resources.

NRAR Survey

The NSW Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) has recently released the results of its 2023 Community Benchmarking Survey which it opens to water licence holders, stakeholder groups and members of the public to provide feedback on the way water is regulated in NSW. Interestingly, the survey identified that 70% of the general public who responded to the survey believed illegal water take was happening and that 84% wanted stronger action to combat the problem. Other key findings from the survey included that 83% of responding water licence holders believed it was never okay to break the rules; 99% of those who thought it was sometimes okay to break the rules gave emergency scenarios such as fire as the most common justification and most stakeholder groups believed that because of NRAR, rule breakers are more likely to be caught. It's an interesting read which can be sourced at:

https://www.nrar.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/603475/NRAR-Community-benchmarking-survey-2023.pdf

NRL

After some ardent fans predicting a big NRL season for the Sydney Roosters and the St George Dragons following impressive Round 1 performances in the national rugby league competition, I certainly sensed a more subdued sense of success by the supporters of these two (2) teams after defeats in Round 2 of the competition. Manly looked very good in defeating the Roosters and as for the Dragons, lets just say nothing went right for them in their clash against the Dolphins!

Quote: "The Princess of Wales, has been filmed by a member of the public talking and smiling at a farm shop in Windsor as she continues her recovery amid worldwide conspiracy theories." - Good news in the Sydney Morning Herald, but seriously, can't we just leave her alone?