



**BOURKE  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**

## “From the Acting General Manager’s Desk – 13 June 2024”

### **Bourke Show**

Congratulations to those hard-working members of the Bourke P&A Show Committee, and their many volunteers, who once again delivered a high quality agricultural and pastoral (P&A) show event for the Bourke Community recently. Celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> year since the annual event commenced in 1874, the 2024 Bourke Show was well attended and had something for everyone whether they be interested in cattle breeding, horse competitions, floral arrangements and like displays in the pavilion, or a ride or show bag from side show alley.

The first agricultural show in NSW was held at Parramatta in 1823. Since then, shows have spread across the State becoming an important social and cultural institution in the history of regional and local communities across the State. They are found in all places, from rural towns, like Bourke, to cities like Sydney where the Sydney Royal Easter Show is one the most attended events across the Nation.

Mayor of Bourke Shire, Barry Hollman, was given the honour to officially declare open the 150<sup>th</sup> Bourke Show. In his address, Barry was keen to point out that events such as the Bourke Show are inevitably the culmination of many months of work by the organisers and their dedicated team of volunteers. Whether it be the annual Bourke Show or say, this year's Back O Bourke Stampede - Peter Simmonds Memorial Pro Rodeo to be held on Saturday 12 October 2024, without people stepping up and volunteering, the events just don't happen. Similarly, the financial support provided by local businesses is imperative to the success of community events. Unfortunately, in a small community, it is generally the same businesses that are called on to support events and I congratulate them accordingly.

### **Heart Attacks Rates**

I was rather alarmed to read in a recent edition of the Western Herald that Bourke has a cardiovascular mortality rate of more than twice the national average and four times that of northern Sydney. The good news is that the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance and the University of Sydney Cardiovascular Initiative co-hosted a recent workshop in Dubbo which focused on the significant differences in health outcomes between rural and urban areas. With local clinicians and health care workers in attendance, the workshop also saw Sally Davis attend. Sally, who in addition to being a Councillor on Bourke Shire, sits on the board of the Western NSW Local Health District, such is her passion for improving health outcomes for residents in the far west. The workshop learnt of an initiative underway in Bourke which involves mobile CT capability, which is strongly supported by Western NSW Health, Siemens Technology and Professors Figtree and Grieve from Sydney University and Cardiologist, Dr Melissa Doohan.

It is great to hear of such an initiative and great to hear of these professionals and large organisations assisting our community. I particularly single out Dr Melissa Doohan for her contribution to Bourke, a town she has strong links to. Melissa's father is the late Hon. Jack Doohan, OBE, who was a Member of the NSW Legislative Council of the NSW Parliament from 1979 to 1991. Mr Doohan was born in Bourke,

educated at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill before becoming a grazier at Louth. Melissa's brother, John, still has interests in the Louth district. Bourke is most fortunate to have a cardiologist of Ms Doohan's expertise assisting the town and region. She is an experienced and skilled cardiologist who practices at St Leonards in Sydney having over 30 years' experience in the field. With Honours in medicine from Sydney University, Dr Doohan was the first female to complete cardiac training at Royal North Shore Hospital, having a particular interest in heart disease in women.

To Dr Doohan and all health professionals and others who contribute to health initiatives that seek to improve the health outcomes for residents in the far northwest of NSW, your contribution and expertise is very much appreciated.

## **Cold Chisel**

I recently watched an edition of the ABC's "Australian Story" featuring the Australian pub rock band Cold Chisel which is celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of formation with an upcoming anniversary tour of Australia titled "The Big Five-0". Fronted by the gravelly voiced Jimmy Barnes, the band with iconic songs such as Khe Sanh, Flame Trees, Forever Now and Bow River, have, over the years, disbanded but reformed several times.

What pricked my interest in "Australian Story" was when they spoke of 3 secret country shows in western NSW in February 1998. These shows were billed as Jimmy Barnes shows, given that at that time the band had split. The secret was that all the members of Cold Chisel were playing at these 3 shows. Curious as to where Chisel performed these secret shows, I tracked down that the shows were held at Broken Hill, the Garden Hotel in Dubbo and yes, at the Bourke High School Multi Purpose Centre. Ian Cole of the Western Herald remembers being at the concert with his children, who were disappointed that Jimmy Barnes did not sing any of his 'Jimmy Barnes Solo Hits'.

Former Dubbo DJ, Ken Smith had done a piece for the Dubbo Photo News in 2019 on Cold Chisel reunion at the Garden Hotel in Dubbo. Ken wrote that in late 1997 it was announced "that Jimmy Barnes would be playing the Garden Hotel in February 1998 and, to be honest the response was little better than lukewarm." At the time the band had been rehearsing with a view to reforming and as Ken wrote, "Valentine's Day 1998 saw the start of three days of rehearsals by the band in Sydney and the beginning of the now legendary "three days growth" (tour) that found Cold Chisel being billed as "Jimmy Barnes and Band" roaring through Broken Hill (February 20), Bourke Bowling Club (February 21) and finally the Garden Hotel in Dubbo on Sunday February 22". Ken notes that in Dubbo, word quickly spread throughout town on the Sunday morning of the show, that it was the full Cold Chisel Band playing. Ken wrote "The Garden was packed to overflowing; think a sheepdog over the top of the flock type packed. Outside of the Garden the streets were a sea of people with every possible vantage point being grabbed including the few high trees that were high enough to afford a view over the fence. The park opposite, where the skate park is today, was filling quickly with those who couldn't get in or who couldn't find a last-minute babysitter and brought the kids with them, and there were plenty of cars, parked as close as they could, with the parents in the front and the children fast asleep in the back." Certainly, a one-of-a-kind event for Dubbo and undoubtedly the same for Bourke. Perhaps the Western Herald can garner some stories from Bourke locals about the day in February 1998 when Cold Chisel came to Bourke.

## **Australian of the Year**

2025 will be 65 years of the Australian of the Year Awards: celebrating those in our communities who demonstrate great Australian spirit. As per previous year's, the various Award categories are as follows: Australian of the Year; Senior Australian of the Year (those aged 65 years or over);

Young Australian of the Year (ages 16 to 30) and Australia's Local Hero. Nominations for the 2025 Australian of the Year Awards close on 31 July 2024, and the Australian Government is seeking help in finding Australia's next worthy recipients. Further details are available at: <https://australianoftheyear.org.au>

On the topic of awards, nominations are open year-round under the Australian Honours and Awards system, which recognises the outstanding service and contributions of Australians. Recipients come from right across the country and from all walks of life. While some are well-known, the majority are unsung heroes. Whilst typically recipients haven't sought thanks or recognition, they deserve both. The Honours and Awards system gives the nation a chance to celebrate and acknowledge those who work tirelessly to improve local communities and to make Australia a better place. Any Australian can nominate someone for an award. Nominations are assessed by the Honours and Awards Secretariat, considered by the Council of the Order of Australia before recommendations are made to the Governor-General. Again, further information is available, this time at: <https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards> Bourke has many residents who go above and beyond in assisting the community and recognition with a National Award would not be out of place.

**Quote: "You could have gone home and hid away in your room and tucked yourself away because of the disappointment – but he's still fronting the group and helping in meetings and doing what he can for the group."** - Penrith Captain Isiah Yeo on injured Dylan Edwards.