



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

“From the
General Manager’s Desk –
14 November 2024”

Christmas Markets

The Bourke Christmas Markets will be held this year on Friday, 22 November, commencing at 5:30pm until 8pm down at Darling Park and at the adjacent Wharf Precinct. Whilst in the past the Markets have been held in December in Central Park, this year a revised date in November has been determined such that it's easier for schools and boarding school families to attend, and to ensure the availability of our stallholders. In addition, the move to the Wharf Precinct seeks to take advantage of the shade and amenity of the wharf area.

Santa will be at Darling Park, so be sure to bring your camera for some festive photos. Council is on the lookout for stallholders to participate in this fun evening. If you or someone you know is interested in having a stall, please contact the friendly team at the Back O' Bourke Information & Exhibition Centre. You can reach them at 6872 1321 or via email at info@backobourke.com.au

This year’s event is once again FREE and open to everyone—families, friends, and visitors are all welcome. Whether you can stay for an hour or the whole afternoon, we hope you'll join us for a wonderful time.

Remembrance Day

Well done to the Bourke sub-branch of the RSL for their organisation of last Monday’s Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph in Central Park. As always, Monday’s ceremony was well attended as the community continued to show their support to all those who have served to protect our great Nation.

The 2024 Remembrance Day ceremony in Bourke came 106 years’ from when the First World War ended with the fighting having stopped between combatants when an armistice between the Allied powers and Germany came into effect at 11 o'clock on the morning of 11 November 1918.

This First World War conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. From Australia, more than 60,000 of our service personnel – about one in five of those who served overseas, died. To put that 60,000 number of fatalities into perspective, it is equivalent to the combined populations of Narromine, Dubbo and Wellington. So sad and such a waste of lives. In addition to the fatalities, many thousands more were wounded in body or mind.

History provides that on the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919, two minutes' silence was instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony at a new Cenotaph that had been constructed in London. The silence was proposed by Australian journalist Edward Honey, who was working in Fleet Street, London. At about the same time, a South African statesman made a similar proposal to the British Cabinet, which endorsed it. King George V personally requested that all people of the British

Empire suspend their normal activities for two minutes on the hour of the armistice "which stayed the worldwide carnage of the four preceding years and marked the victory of Right and Freedom". The two minutes' silence was popularly adopted, and it became a central feature of commemorations on what was originally called, Armistice Day.

After the end of the Second World War, the Australian and British governments changed the name to Remembrance Day. Armistice Day was no longer an appropriate title for a day which would commemorate all war dead. In 1997, the then Governor-General of Australia, Sir William Deane, issued a proclamation formally declaring 11 November to be Remembrance Day, urging all Australians to observe one minute's silence at 11 am on 11 November each year to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts. The Australian War Memorial in Canberra has a Roll of Honour that contains the names of over 103,000 Australians who have lost their lives in war and conflict, and it is most fitting that each year we pause and remember the sacrifice made by so many.

Bourke Library

On the topic of Remembrance Day, the Bourke Library has this month released an updated version of its First World War slideshow that features servicemen from Bourke. The Library's original slideshow has had almost 8,000 views on Facebook, with the Library having had a number of people send them photos of other servicemen which the Library records did not previously contain. As a result, the Library has updated the slideshow to include these new photos and posted the new slideshow on Facebook. The updated slideshow is also being shown in the library, so head on down to the Library in Mitchell St, Bourke during November to not only view the slideshow but also to view the display of war photos and articles.

As an aside, if you have any photos or information on servicemen and women from Bourke that you haven't seen in our slideshows, the Library would be very happy to include them in future updates. Photos can be dropped in to the Library, or simply emailed to: bpl@bourkelibrary.com.au

Australia Day Awards

Nominations for the Bourke Shire Council's Australia Day Awards for 2025 are now open. With awards for Citizen of the Year; Junior Citizen of the Year; Sportsperson of the Year; Junior Sportsperson of the Year; Village Service Award; Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year, and the Community Event of the Year Award, nominations close with Council at 4.30 pm on Friday 6 December 2024. The nomination process allows residents to input into recognising those in our community that have made outstanding contributions to the local community during 2024 and/or contributions to the local community over a number of years. Nomination forms can be downloaded from Council's website (www.bourke.nsw.gov.au) or by accessing a copy from Council at 29 Mitchell St, Bourke. Award winners will be announced at the Australia Day ceremony to be held at the Bourke Wharf precinct on Sunday 26 January 2025.

Higher School Certificate

Exams for the 2024 Higher School Certificate have now wrapped up. For the seven (7) students from Bourke High School who sat the various exams, well done and the "world is now your oyster." With your Year 12 Formal also recently having been held, I trust you all had an enjoyable evening as you celebrated your 12 years of schooling, the friendships formed and the various teachers over that time who have contributed to your education.

Councillor Induction Program

Bourke Shire Councillors elected in September 2024 have completed the initial phase of their Councillor Induction Program. Following the 28 October 2024 Council meeting, Council's Managers briefed the Councillors on their respective departmental roles and responsibilities before the Councillors embarked on a bus tour of Council's various community assets. This session was followed by a full day of induction and training on Thursday, 31 October 2024 as the Councillors learnt more about Council and their important role in the functioning of Council.

This later session was facilitated by Graeme Flemming, who is well known in local government circles in NSW following an extensive career as a Shire Clerk and then General Manager in the regions. I and my Managers also attended the day with Graeme and found his experience most beneficial picking up some learnings that will assist in the operation of Council. Induction and ongoing training for Councillors is a requirement of the Local Government Act and I thank all Bourke Shire Councillors for their attendance and input on the respective days, as they take time out of their busy schedules to attend.

November Council Meeting

Please note that Council has recently determined to change the commencement time for Council's Ordinary Monthly Meeting such that meetings will now commence at 10.15am with meetings still being held on the 4th Monday of the month, noting that there is no meeting in January.

Council's next Ordinary Meeting will be held on Monday, 25 November 2024, at 10.15am in the Council Chamber. A Public Forum is scheduled at each Council Meeting commencing at 10.00 am. If you wish to address the Public Forum on a matter included on the Agenda, please contact Council's Executive Assistant, Margo Anderson on 68308000 or by email at ea@bourke.nsw.gov.au, by 4.00pm, Friday 22 November 2024, so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

Quote: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." – Ferris Bueller