

The Paddock: The Goals Episode 4 is on Air this Saturday.

Join in for some game day action and to hear about what is happening in Buloke.

The Paddock: The Goals is sure to inspire you to achieve your own goals, no matter what challenges come your way. If you have missed previous episodes you can listen on Spotify or Apple Podcasts on your drive home. Just use your phone camera setting to scan the QR-code and select the latest episode.



Find the links to the podcasts using the QR-Code.

Business Grants Now Open

Business Groups Flood Recovery Grants are now open. Chambers of commerce, trader groups, industry associations and more, can apply for grants of \$20,000 or \$50,000 (excl GST) to reactivate businesses in flood-affected regions.

Similar to the previous 3 rounds of the Business Chambers and Trader Groups Program, grants will be awarded to business groups to deliver locally led projects that support small businesses to recover and thrive.

Business groups must support a membership of businesses in flood-affected regions. Victorian multicultural Business Groups and Aboriginal Business Groups are encouraged to apply.

More information: <https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/business-groups-flood-recovery-grants>

Support for Business

The Partners in Wellbeing helpline is a free and confidential service for small business owners and employees.

Get support from trained wellbeing coaches, financial counsellors and business advisers, as well as information in languages other than English.

Call 1300 375 330 or visit the website to connect on live chat, send an enquiry or make a referral.

Flood Grants Extended

For information about farm support, visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods. A list of other grants and support networks are available at <https://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/funding-available-for-those-affected-by-flooding>. Eligible primary producers now have until 4pm local time on Thursday 13 July to apply for the:

- Primary Producer Flood Recovery Grant (up to \$75,000);
- Rural Landholder Grant (up to \$25,000);
- Flood Recovery Transport Support Program (up to \$15,000); and
- Primary Producer Flood Recovery Concessional Loan (up to \$250,000)

The Rural Financial Counselling Service is available to assist primary producers to understand and apply for flood and storm support. Primary Producers can contact their local RFCS on 1300 771 741.

More information is available at Rural Finance www.ruralfinance.com.au/ or by calling 1800 260 425.

Farmers Counselling Support

A list of grants and support networks are available at <https://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/funding-available-for-those-affected-by-flooding>

- Rural Financial Counselling Service: the Rural Financial Counselling Service offers free and independent financial information, options, decision making support and referral services to farmers and small, related rural businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. A rural financial counsellor can assist farmers to understand, and apply for, government support. Call 1300 771 741.
- The Royal Flying Doctors Service Wellbeing is a free mental health and wellbeing service for people in rural and remote Victorian communities. This service enables people to access sessions with a mental health clinician without needing to leave their local community, with appointments available face-to-face and via telehealth and telephone. Make an appointment by calling 1300 363 788 or email wellbeing@rfdsvic.com.au

Flood Response Support for Victorian Primary Producers

The National Centre for Farmer Health provides support to primary producers affected by the devastating floods in Victoria. Recognising the challenges faced by farming communities in the wake of extreme climatic events, the centre has implemented various initiatives to promote mental health and well-being among farmers. Additionally, free access to online psychology support is offered, facilitated by psychologists trained in farmer health.

To view the available resources, head to farmerhealth.org.au/buildingfarmspirit

Small Towns, Big Difference Forum

It's not long now until the Small Towns, Big Difference Forum will be held in Charlton on Tuesday 6 June. Hear all about how small towns throughout the Mallee have made a big difference in their communities by developing community-owned models for facilities / retail, seeking diverse funding sources, finding new ways of delivering services, improving their facilities, and organising fabulous events. Everyone is most welcome to attend this free event brought to you by Mallee Regional Partnership and Regional Development Victoria. Morning tea and lunch provided. Seats are filling quickly - **make sure you don't miss out! Register here:** <https://bit.ly/435PfjN>

Free Green Waste Month

We know we have a lot of residents in Buloke who enjoy spending time in their gardens keeping their yards neat and tidy. Recognising that we have had good opening rains to stimulate growth Council is offering another free green waste month in June 2023. Gardening offers a range of benefits that positively impact our physical, mental, and emotional well-being including: Physical exercise, Stress reduction, Connection with nature, Vitamin D, Sense of accomplishment, and Social interaction. We hope this initiative inspires you to get out into the outdoors and tackle the gardening!

National Reconciliation Week - libraries

This is an important week for everyone and an opportunity to learn about Australia's shared history. Buloke is promoting First Nations authors via BorrowBox in acknowledgement through to June 3, 2023.

Remediation Works Watchem Lake

There are remediation works scheduled to take place at the Watchem Lake Male Showers starting on 5 June. During the remediation works, it will be necessary to temporarily close the male showers and toilets for the safety of our community. In the meantime, we want to reassure everyone that the female and disabled toilets will remain fully operational throughout this period. Please note that we currently don't have a definite finish date as the extent of the damage is still being assessed, however we are hopeful that the work will be completed within a week.

Have Your Say – Draft Annual Budget 2023-24

Buloke Shire Council's Draft Annual Budget 2023-24 has been adopted for consultation and builds on recent budgetary successes whilst continuing to invest and ensure outcomes in the best interests of the community.

Prepared in line with Council's Long-Term Community Vision, Council Plan 2021-2025, Revenue and Rating Strategy, and 10-year Financial Plan, the Draft Budget proposes a total capital works program of \$19.9M, including an estimated \$6.7M of projects being delivered over multiple years.

Key initiatives such as the Wycheproof Wetlands, cabin accommodation projects and the Playspace Trail are highlights of the Draft Budget.

Outside the flood recovery road program, a further \$5.5M is proposed to be invested into the Shire's Road network to ensure these critical assets continue to meet the needs of the community.

The community is encouraged to provide feedback on the Draft Budget before 12 noon on 1 June 2023 by completing an online feedback form at www.buloke.vic.gov.au, by emailing your response to buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au or by mail to P.O. Box 1, Wycheproof, Victoria, 3527.

The Draft Annual Budget 2023-24 is now available on Council's website with hard copies available at Council's Customer Service Centre or by mail by calling 1300 520 520.

Council will hear submissions to the Draft Budget at the Wednesday 14 June 2023 Council Meeting, with the Annual Budget to be adopted after submissions are considered at an additional Council Meeting on Tuesday 27 June 2023. Further details of these meetings can be found on Council's website.

Employment Opportunities

Council is an equal opportunity employer. Our roles are non-gender specific, and Council encourages all suitably qualified applicants to apply. Council is currently recruiting for:

Grader Operator

The position is responsible for the undertaking road grading maintenance and construction on Council roads, within townships across the Shire through, undertaking programmed and preventative grading works for the delivery of safety improvements on Council's road network.

→ Applications close 9am Monday 12 June 2023.

Urban and Parks Maintenance Operator

We are seeking a suitable person who likes to positively influence the protection and enhancement of the natural environment through maintenance and effective risk management of open space areas.

→ Applications close 9am Monday 12 June 2023.

Works Maintenance Operator

The position is responsible for the undertaking civil maintenance and construction on Council roads, and within townships across the Shire.

→ Applications close 9am Monday 12 June 2023.

Visit www.buloke.vic.gov.au/employment or call Human Resources on 1300 520 520 for full details about these exciting roles.