



JESSIE HOLMES RETURNS IN STRATEGIC ROLE

Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Jessie Holmes as Executive Lead, Regional Growth and Strategic

Advocacy, a newly created position focused on driving investment, partnerships and long-term opportunities for the region.

Selected from a highly competitive field, Jessie brings extensive experience in local government, regional development and executive leadership.

A familiar face to many across the region, Jessie previously spent nine years with Buloke Shire Council, where she earned a strong reputation for delivering outcomes in community and economic development.

Since then, she has served as Chief Executive Officer of Yarriambiack Shire Council and held senior executive roles with Hindmarsh Shire Council and Regional Development Victoria.

With a deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing rural communities, Jessie will lead efforts to

strengthen Buloke's advocacy at regional, state and federal levels.

Her focus will include securing investment, fostering strategic partnerships and addressing key priorities such as population growth, workforce development, housing, transport infrastructure and economic growth.

Jessie also played a key role in the development of the Resource Ready Strategy, which provides councils across north-west Victoria with a strong evidence base to advocate for infrastructure, services, workforce development and community investment.

The new role reflects Council's commitment to proactively identifying opportunities, securing funding and ensuring Buloke's interests remain front and centre in decisions that shape the region's future.

CHARLTON WEIR POOL SECURED

Work has been completed on a major construction project at the Avoca Weir in Charlton, helping to secure the future of the town's weir pool.

Flooding in 2022 and 2023 caused significant erosion on a bend of the Avoca River just downstream of the weir. Had further flooding occurred, there was a risk the erosion could have connected two sections of the river, potentially allowing water to bypass the weir altogether.

Since April, the North Central Catchment Management Authority has been working in partnership with Buloke Shire Council to construct two rock chutes designed to protect the riverbank and prevent the river from cutting through the bend.

The completed works faced their first major test during the high river flows experienced over the past few weeks and performed exceptionally well, successfully protecting this important community asset.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING

Date: **Wednesday, 16 September 2026**
at 7.00pm

Location: Wycheproof Supper Room,
Wycheproof Shire Hall

Residents can view meeting agendas and reports prior to the meeting at: www.buloke.vic.gov.au/agendas-minutes-attachments

Unable to attend in person? The meeting will be livestreamed online: www.buloke.vic.gov.au/ordinary-meetings. Council encourages community members to stay informed and engaged with local decision-making by attending in person or online.

NEW PARENTS GROUP IN DONALD

Council is inviting local families with babies aged 0-to-6-months to join a new Parents Group commencing in Donald this month.

The six-week program provides a warm and welcoming space for new parents to connect with others, share experiences, build friendships and gain valuable information to support their parenting journey.

Hosted by Buloke's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) team, the sessions will cover a range of topics relevant to the early months of parenting, including sleep and settling, speech development, emergency preparedness, movement and wellbeing and local playgroup opportunities.

The group will meet at the Donald Senior Citizens Centre, 4 Hammill Street, Donald, every Wednesday from 10:30am to 12:00pm.

Program Schedule:

- 16 Sept: Sleep and Settling
- 23 Sept: Speech Development with Lisa Armitage from RFDS
- 30 Sept: Pilates with Chloe from St Arnaud Physiotherapy
- 7 Oct: What to Do in an Emergency with Ambulance Victoria
- 15 Oct: Playgroup Session with Buloke Shire Supported Playgroup Officer Jade

Maternal and Child Health Nurses will attend each session, offering support, guidance and practical information tailored to the needs of new parents. Parents interested in attending are encouraged to contact the Maternal and Child Health team on (03) 5478 0185 to register their interest.

COUNCIL SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP

Buloke Shire Council Supported Playgroup is gearing up for an animal-themed adventure, with plenty of opportunities for hands-on play, exploration and fun for young children before the end of term.

Children can enjoy a range of engaging activities, including:

1. Find Spot the Dog in a special sensory tray activity.
2. Farm Animal Messy Play, with opportunities to squish, scoop, splash and explore.
3. Songs and Stories featuring favourite tunes and animal-themed tales.
4. Morning Tea, with fresh fruit provided for children.

Charlton

Thursday 17 September - 9.30am to 11.00am
St Joseph's Primary School

Birchip

Friday 18 September - 10.30am to 12.00pm

Birchip IHOM

Whether your child loves dogs, farm animals, messy play or simply exploring and learning through play, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

All families are welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there.