



MEDIA RELEASE

Buloke Libraries

19 April 2016

The Buloke Shire Council's review of library services in the Shire is continuing. An important part of that review was the community survey conducted over the last couple of months which generated significant interest and response from library users from right across the Shire.

Council is convinced that access to a quality library service is extremely important to many residents of the Shire and the information obtained via the community survey has strongly reinforced that view. Council recognises the three Regional Library Corporations providing library services into Buloke have provided a good service over a long period of time but attendances have been low and it is important to provide what people need.

During its review, Council became aware that two of the current library providers were themselves reviewing their individual mobile library services with a focus on alternative models of service delivery that might better suit small rural communities.

The Buloke Shire is not a member Council of the Goldfields Library Corporation nor the Swan Hill Regional Library. Instead, it has for many years purchased library services from these two organisations under a succession of Service Agreements. Now, the Goldfields Library Corporation has recently made a decision to discontinue using its mobile library truck to provide library services into Loddon and northern areas of the City of Greater Bendigo. Further information and the rationale behind that decision is available at: www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/rural

Although the Goldfields Library Corporation does intend to continue to provide a service to these member Councils (Loddon and Bendigo) through the implementation of 'bricks and mortar' library agencies in selected townships, it has at the same time decided that, from the end of 2016, it will cease providing any type of library service to non-member Councils.

"Effectively", said Buloke Shire Mayor Cr Reid Mather, "this means that over the next six months the Buloke Shire needs to come up with an alternative, quality library service that meets the needs of the people in Charlton".

"Council will continue to work closely with all three of its current library providers to ensure that all Buloke residents continue to have access to good library service" said Mayor Mather.

End Release

For further information contact Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520