

# Media Release

## Volunteerism Celebrated

5 June 2018

“Give a Little, Change a Lot” was the theme of this year’s National Volunteer Week and it provided the perfect starting point for Buloke Shire Council to partner with some local agencies to begin the conversation around supporting, celebrating and encouraging volunteers as set out in the Council’s Volunteer Strategy.

In conjunction with the East Wimmera Health Service and the Centre for Participation, volunteers gathered at the Donald Community Centre recently to enjoy a chat, a cuppa and the opportunity to update police checks and talk about volunteer opportunities.

Attendees also got the chance to look over Donald’s new community car under the guidance of centre volunteer Ray Walker.

Two of the Buloke Shire Council’s Mount Jeffcott Ward councillors Cr Carolyn Stewart and Cr Graeme Milne gave regular Meals on Wheels volunteer Patsy Dunstan the ‘day off’ and undertook the Friday delivery run. Buloke Shire CEO Anthony Judd then delivered Patsy afternoon tea at her workplace to thank her for her volunteer contribution to the Meals on Wheels program.

“Our communities wouldn’t exist without volunteers. It’s as plain and simple as that,” Buloke Shire Council Mayor David Pollard said.

“What we are hearing from our communities is there is a level of volunteer fatigue and navigating the necessary paperwork which is now a part of volunteering can be confusing and a barrier to this continued, priceless work.

“We plan to hold events like this one in Donald across the Shire to chat to volunteers, offer support and listen to how we can better strengthen volunteering throughout our wonderful communities.

“When you look at an example like Meals on Wheels, not only does the volunteer effort allow residents to receive a tasty meal, it also provides a point of social contact, a smiling face and a quick chat. It has been great to hear the benefits volunteers get out of their commitment for themselves, adding enjoyment and purpose to their own lives as well as the cause they are helping.”

Any residents across the Buloke Shire interested in chatting about any aspect of local volunteering or keen to help structure a small volunteer recognition event can contact Rose Harris at the Buloke Shire Council on 0447 287 846 or e-mail [rharris@buloke.vic.gov.au](mailto:rharris@buloke.vic.gov.au).

### End release

For further information contact Team Leader Communications, Travis Fitzgibbon on 03 5478 0181 or [tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au](mailto:tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au)

