



Bridge To Nature

Scilley's Island Bridge is now open to the public after the completion of rectification works. The importance of this bridge cannot be overstated.

Not only is it a significant tourism asset, frequently profiled by photographers, it connects the community to nature.

Research tells us being in nature, or even viewing scenes of nature is fundamental to wellbeing, reducing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension, and the production of stress hormones.

This lovely island on the Richardson River is a good spot for a walk, to birdwatch, or as part of your exercise walking, riding or jogging route.



Nomination Date Extended

Council is again looking to celebrate what is great in the region, our people, as we recognise outstanding contributions to the community with the annual Australia Day Awards.

Council is now calling for nominations for each of its three coveted awards.

- Citizen of the Year (for persons 25 years or older on 26 January 2023)
- Young Citizen of the Year (for persons aged 15 to 24 years on 26 January 2023).

The basic criterion for the awards in these two categories is persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the local community during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years.

- Community Event of the Year Award (presented to the person/group who has staged the most outstanding community event during the year).

Nominations for these awards are now open and can be made by downloading the Australia Day Awards nomination form from Council's website.

Nominations are to be received by close of business Friday 9 December 2022.

Just pesky mozzies

The good news is there has been no confirmed cases of Japanese encephalitis (JE) virus and no detections of JE virus in mosquitoes in Victoria so far this season, according to the latest information from the Victorian Department of Health.

In February 2022, JE virus was detected in pigs in Victoria and several other states of Australia, with 13 locally acquired human confirmed cases of JE virus. However, there have been no new cases of JE in Victoria since March 2022.

The simplest and best way to prevent mosquito-borne diseases is to avoid mosquito bites.

- Mozzies can bite through tight clothing. Cover up - wear long, loose-fitting clothing and covered footwear when outside.
- Use mosquito repellents containing picaridin or DEET on all exposed skin.
- Limit outdoor activity (if possible) if lots of mosquitoes are about.
- Remove stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed around your home or campsite.
- Cover all windows, doors, vents and other entrances with insect screens.
- Use 'knockdown' fly sprays, mosquito coils or plug-in repellent where you gather to sit or eat outdoors.
- Don't forget the kids – always check the insect repellent label. On babies, you might need to spray or rub repellent on their clothes instead of their skin. Avoid applying repellent to the hands of babies or young children.
- Advise people of the importance of regular and routine mosquito bite prevention to help prevent JE and other mosquito-borne diseases.

In Victoria, a JE vaccine is available free-of-charge for specific priority groups residing or working in high-risk areas, where exposure to the virus is considered more likely.

Contact your local GP to discuss if the JE vaccine is appropriate for you or visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au for more information.

Fire Prevention Inspections

The annual fire prevention inspection has commenced in Buloke.

It's great to see landowners responsibly continually cutting grasses and vegetation with every break in the weather. Let's all get prepared ahead of the fire season. Remember to cover up and avoid mosquitoes.

Support For Farmers

Farmers who have been impacted by floods and require assistance or have urgent animal welfare needs, please contact the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

They can tell you about the support packages available including: clean-up assistance grants, concessional loans and transport subsidies, or if just want to have a chat. Mental Health and wellbeing support is available too.

Flood Recovery and Relief

The Victorian Government has launched a webpage containing the latest information about where you can go for support, and the relief payments on offer for individuals, families, small business, primary producers and community groups, visit: www.vic.gov.au/october-2022-flood-recovery.

Information is also available on Council's website, including wastewater and contamination issues. Contact Buloke's Environmental Health Officer for advice by phoning 1300 520 520.

Sandbag Round-up

Council continues to collect sandbags from the townships of Charlton, Culgoa, Donald and Wycheproof.

If the sandbags on your property are flood affected, it is recommended that you dispose of them.

Anyone needing assistance moving sandbags can phone Council on 1300 520 520.

You can also return uncontaminated sandbags. Rest assured, in the event of another flood new sandbags will be available.

For further advice on safe sandbag disposal refer to the Environmental Protection Authority's website, visit: www.epa.vic.gov.au.

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:

Administration Assistant - Casual

Looking to start your career in local government? Do you have a range of administrative skills that can be adapted to the various departments including Customer Service, Library Service and Records Management? If so we may have a role suitable for you.

→ Closing date: 5.00pm Friday 9 December 2022.

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



BULOKE
SHIRE COUNCIL



Phone: 1300 520 520
www.buloke.vic.gov.au