

# COMMUNITY UPDATE



## Buloke Shire COVID-19 Update

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve Council is taking a proactive approach to ensure the balance of the health and safety of the community and staff alongside the provision of essential services.

Some of our services and facilities have closed. Some services will take on a different form for the time being. We are enacting these changes on the back of advice from the Federal and State Governments.

Council will be cancelling face to face events, meetings and consultations and identifying nimble solutions to continue vital Council business.

Our IT staff have put in place measures to give some of our staff greater flexibility to work remotely. Essential services like waste, public amenity cleaning and Independent Support Services will continue.

As well as remaining committed to community safety and wellbeing, Council also has an obligation to look after staff, volunteers and Councillors.

Council's Wycheproof Customer Service Office will be accessible by appointment for issues that require face-to-face contact. Customer service will still be provided by calling 1300 520 520 and online and there are a range of ways to make any payments you may need without visiting our office.

Normal Buloke library sites and mobile service operations have been suspended until further notice. Council is putting in place some nimble solutions for distribution of books. "Borrowbox" is a great alternative to access e-audiobooks, download the free app and use your library membership number for access.

For Maternal and Child Health clients, Normal Key Age and Stage visits will be cancelled until further notice to reduce face-to-face interaction with vulnerable populations during this time. If you have any questions or urgent needs, please get in touch with the MCH nurses on 0417 506 174 or the MHC 24-hour phone on 13 22 29. Some consultations can occur over the phone, there may be some home visits where urgent.

Immunisation services will be by appointment only to avoid large groups gathering. Please ring the Shire on 1300 520 520 to book an appointment.

In order to prioritise our cleaning and hygiene efforts, Council has closed some of the secondary Public Toilets in the five larger townships. This will ensure we can keep the most important public toilets open, and hygienic, in each township.

Minimising disruption is a high priority, second only to the health and wellbeing of the community. Council will continue to keep the community updated and you can find a range of resources and a full list of affected services at [www.buloke.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-health-alert](http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-health-alert).

**For the latest updates on the COVID-19 from the Federal Government's Department of Health visit [www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert](http://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert).**

## Doggone Happy!

It is always great to read a happy story. Recently a beautiful Staffy was abandoned in Buloke Shire and he desperately needed a new family!

Snoop, the friendly pooch, was quite the hit on Council's Facebook page with many people very keen to be his new best friend.

Well, some great news with Snoop finding a new home to grow and play in. He has even got a bit formal, now going by the name Snoopy Howard!

Council's Local Laws staff are passionate about animals and do a great amount of work to ensure our community and our animal friends are well provided for.

Good boy Snoopy Howard, all the best to you.



## Easter Collection Arrangements

All kerbside garbage and recycling collections will occur as outlined below for Buloke Shire this Easter period.

**Thursday 9 April 2020** – Normal kerbside garbage collection service for the townships of Berrivillock, Culgoa, Nandaly, Nullawil, Sea Lake and Wycheproof. Donald and Corack rural kerbside garbage collection is moved to Thursday 9 April 2020 also (please note truck will be later than normal).

**Friday 10 April 2020 (Good Friday)** – Landfills and Transfer Stations CLOSED. Normal kerbside garbage collection service for the townships of Donald and Corack rural is moved to Thursday 9 April 2020.

**Monday 13 April 2020 (Easter Monday)** – Normal kerbside garbage collection service for the townships of Birchip, Charlton and Watchem.

Please place your bins out for collection the night before the scheduled pick up.

Council would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Easter.



## New Pool and Spa Regulations

Have you got a backyard pool or spa?

Pool and spa owners are required to register pools or spas with their local councils by 1 June 2020.

Owners will also be required to lodge a compliance certificate for their pool or spa barrier every four years. These new laws have been introduced to keep young children safe.

In addition, owners will be required to engage a registered building surveyor or building inspector to inspect and certify the compliance of their safety barrier every four years.

These new pool and spa laws have been mandated by the State Government and Councils are bound to implement and enforce them. Registration fees are \$31.84 and there is an information search fee of \$47.24. To register your pool or spa you can download the application form below or call Council's Building Department on 1300 520 520 or visit [www.buloke.vic.gov.au/new-pool-regulations](http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/new-pool-regulations)

## Animal Registration

We all love our furry best friends. Did you know registering your pets is necessary under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (Victoria), and greatly improves the chances of your pets being returned to you if they become lost?

Council has sent out animal renewal notices to all owners of previously registered animals, this is a reminder only, and compliance with the law remains the responsibility of individual pet owners.

**Remember your registrations must be renewed by 10 April 2020.**

For more information on pet registration call Council on 1300 520 520 or visit [www.buloke.vic.gov.au/registration-microchipping](http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/registration-microchipping)

