



Media Release

A Month with the Mayor

2 March 2018

February was a busy month for Buloke Shire Council Mayor Cr David Pollard which saw him cover as many kilometres as he did topics.

The month began with a trip to Shepparton for two engagements. The first was the Victorian Local Government Association briefing on the Local Government Bill Exposure Draft, outlining the potentially changed roles and powers of Mayors, Special Committees and Council. This well attended briefing also allowed more than 20 country Victorian mayors to meet and discuss the matters concerning rural Victorian Councils. Amongst the pertinent issues discussed was the growing demand for land for intensive agricultural purposes and the planning issues this presents.

The return of passenger rail services along the Mildura-Maryborough rail corridor was on the agenda when Cr Pollard along with Cr Daryl Warren and Director Works and Technical Services Anthony Judd attended a meeting in Ouyen with neighbouring Councils Mildura Rural City Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council. The Councils will continue to advocate for the return of services to the area and will meet again soon in Birchip.

Advocating for better rural services was again central at a meeting with Federal Minister for Health Greg Hunt in Mildura. Cr Pollard along with CEO Lucy Roffey outlined the local health issues and accessibility and funding problems to Mr Hunt.

February was also a month of the celebration of achievement with the Mayor attending the presentation of a Macpherson Smith Rural Foundation Scholarship to Joe Collins in Sea Lake, the opening of the Wycheproof Pool Change Rooms Redevelopment and he was present in Robinvale to see Keniesha Ryan take part in the Queen's Baton Relay ahead of the Commonwealth Games to be held on the Gold Coast this year. He also attended the funding announcement in Birchip for East Wimmera Health Service. The Mayor also presided over a Citizenship ceremony in Wycheproof which saw Dylan Ruurds become our newest Australian.

Emergency management as always is a high priority and this month Cr Pollard attended a flood mitigation meeting alongside representatives from Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, State Emergency Service, Bureau of Meteorology and North Central Catchment Authority to discuss the Avoca and Richardson Rivers. There were also Municipal Emergency Management and Municipal Fire Emergency Management meetings held in Charlton.

Cr Pollard attended community meetings in Charlton and Sea Lake in relation to the Maitreya Music Festival to listen to each community's position on a return of the festival as well as the community meeting held by the Environment Protection Authority on the situation ongoing at the destroyed Sea Lake Hotel.

End release

For further information contact Team Leader Communications, Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520 or tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au