

Merry Christmas

As 2022 draws to a close, it's a good time to reflect and celebrate our achievements. I am continually humbled by the passion and generosity of our community. I want to thank everyone for their contributions to Buloke. It has been a particularly busy twelve months with a range of major projects and events. Our recent flooding event in October has tested our resolve again, and as we move into the New Year we will walk beside you through the recovery process. This Christmas, I encourage you to show kindness to family, friends and the wider community. Reach out and give to the less fortunate if you are able.

Mayor Cr Alan Getley



Colouring Bright Futures

Council has partnered with East Wimmera Health Service to release a summer holiday drawing and colouring activity book for primary aged children. The book contains ideas to draw, innovate and to explore colour. The books are part of Council's flood recovery and wellbeing response and encourage children to imagine their bright futures in Buloke Shire. Each page is also designed to be gifted to someone they care about.

Pictured L-R: St Mary's Primary, Sea Lake, School Captains Zander Wight and Coby Wight with Principal Catherine Nunn.



Wooroonook Amenities

The amenities block at Wooroonook Lake will remain closed awaiting further advice from external assessors on any restoration works required. An inspection was undertaken after the septic system's power heads became submerged when the site flooded in October. The power supply was isolated, however the system may still need to be replaced.

Berriwillock's NYE Pool Fun

Council's newly acquired pool 'Inflatables' were a huge success at their recent launch party at the Donald Pool. They include an obstacle course, inflatable volleyball and basketball. They will travel onto the Berriwillock Pool to ensure some splashing good fun on New Year's Eve, Saturday 31 December 2022.

Children under the age of 10-years will need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Schools, community groups and businesses are invited to inquire about accessing the 'inflatables' during their pool bookings. They are free to hire. Council's Aquatic Team will endeavour to make them accessible when requested, however will be dependent on suitable weather and lifeguard availability.

Buloke's Amazing 'Inflatables' tour continues in 2023:

- 7 January – Sea Lake
- 14 January – Birchip
- 21 January – Watchem
- 28 January – Wycheproof
- 4 February – Charlton



Roadside Slashing

Council's 909km roadside slashing program is on track to wind-up ahead of Christmas.

A little over 102km of roadside was yet to be completed at close of business, last Wednesday. This includes some areas where water has pooled due to localised rainfall and flooding, or where roads are closed and cannot be accessed. Council's works team will return to complete these areas when they can be accessed.

Australia Day Eve

Buloke Shire Council is hosting an Australia Day Eve event to celebrate our community.

The 2023 event will be held at Watchem, and will feature:

- Citizenship Ceremony
- Presentation of Council's Australia Day Awards
- Presentation of Buloke's Best Lawn and Best Before and After Yard Maintenance Photo Competition Winners
- Representative speaker
- A community dinner, incorporating finger food for casual dining will be provided free-of-charge to the community.

Location: Watchem Hall 280 Belvilles Rd, Watchem

Date: 25 January 2022

Time: 5:30pm- 9:00pm

Support For Farmers

A range of support measures are available for flood-affected primary producers. Information about these measures can be found at agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods.

Flood Recovery Hotline: Victorians affected by the floods can call 1800 560 760 for help with navigating support, clean-up, finding somewhere to stay, mental health and wellbeing support. The recovery hotline is open from 7.30 am – 7.30 pm every day. Press 9 for an interpreter. For more information visit vic.gov.au/2022-flood-recovery.

- **\$75,000 Flood Recovery Grant:** eligible directly affected primary producers may apply for up to \$75,000 to help with the costs of clean-up and recovery. To apply, visit ruralfinance.com.au or call 1800 260 425.
- **\$15,000 Flood Recovery Transport Support:** eligible directly affected primary producers may apply for up to \$15,000 to support 50 per cent of costs for the transport of emergency fodder or stock drinking water, and the movement of livestock for agistment, sale, or slaughter. To apply, visit ruralfinance.com.au or call 1800 260 425.
- **Flood Recovery Concessional Loan:** eligible directly affected primary producers may apply for concessional loans of up to \$250,000 to restore or replace damaged assets, and meet general expenses incurred while the clean-up is underway. To apply, visit ruralfinance.com.au or call 1800 260 425.
- **\$25,000 Rural Landholder Grant:** if you do not meet the eligibility requirements for the \$75,000 Flood Recovery Grant, but operate a smaller scale Primary Production Enterprise, you may be eligible for a Rural Landholder Grant. To apply, visit ruralfinance.com.au or call 1800 260 425.
- **Rural Financial Counselling Service:** the Rural Financial Counselling Service offers free and independent financial information, options, decision making support and referral services to farmers and small, related rural businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. A rural financial counsellor can assist farmers to understand, and apply for, government support. Call 1300 771 741.

Notice of Christmas Service Arrangements

Customer Service

Please note that Council will be closed from 12:00 noon on Friday 23 December 2022 until 8:30am Tuesday 3 January 2023.

Emergency and Maintenance Works

For emergencies, please call 1300 520 520 and follow the prompts for the service response required.

Swimming Pools

Swimming pools at Berriwillock, Birchip, Donald, Sea Lake, Watchem and Wycheproof will operate every day except for being CLOSED on Christmas Day. Charlton pool remains closed at this time, awaiting replacement plant parts. The extended school holiday pool opening times (2pm-7pm every day) will commence on Wednesday 21 December 2022.

Maternal and Child Health Service

All Council Maternal and Child Health Centres will be CLOSED from close of business, at 12:00 noon Friday 23 December 2022, reopening on Tuesday 3 January 2023. During January, only bookings for Key Age and Stages visit of 8 weeks and younger will be taken, taking into account staff shortages due to holidays. (MCH advice is also available via the 24 Hour Maternal and Child Health Line on 132 229.

Commonwealth Home Support Program/Vic HACC PYP

Normal services will be unavailable between Sunday 25 December 2022 and Monday 2 January 2023. Arrangements can be made for services deemed urgent by calling Marg Pollington on 0407 328 472 during normal office hours.

Meals On Wheels

Meals On Wheels delivery service will be available as normal.

Libraries

Buloke's Library Service will be CLOSED from 12:00 noon Friday 23 December 2022 until Monday 9 January 2023. Allowances will be made for borrowings that fall due over this period. Reduced hours of operation may occur during this period. Please call 1300 520 520 or visit the Council's website www.buloke.vic.gov.au/libraries for updates.

Kerbside Collection and Landfill

For all kerbside and recycle collections please ensure bins are out the night before collection and accessible to the garbage truck. Services are as follows:

Friday 23 December 2022

Normal garbage service for the townships of Donald and Corack Rural

All Landfills and Transfer Stations Open

Sunday 25 December 2022 (Christmas Day)

All Landfills and Transfer Stations CLOSED

Monday 26 December 2022 (Boxing Day)

Normal garbage service for Charlton, Watchem and Birchip.

All Landfills and Transfer Stations CLOSED

Tuesday 27 December 2022

Normal recycling service for Charlton, Watchem and Birchip

Donald Landfill Open

Friday 30th December 2022

Normal garbage service for the townships of Donald and Corack Rural

All Landfills and Transfer Stations open

Sunday 1st January 2023 (New Year's Day)

All Landfills and Transfer Stations CLOSED



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:

Maternal Child and Health Nurse

Council is seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic Maternal and Child Health Nurse to provide high quality services to young families in Buloke Shire.

→ Applications close: 1:00pm Monday 9 January 2023

Library Officer

Council is seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic person to take on the role of Library Officer. This role will assist in the delivery of efficient and effective library service within the Shire.

→ Applications close: 5:00pm Friday 20 January 2023

Lifeguards – Expression of Interest

We have re-opened the Expression of Interest for Lifeguard training and casual work, just in case you were looking for a cool job, by the pool like this, with free Lifeguard and First Aid training for all suitable applicants.

→ EOI close 9:00am Tuesday 31 January 2023

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