

Buloke... *room to grow*



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Location

The Shire of Buloke covers an area of 8,001 square kilometres with an estimated resident population of 7,028 (ABS 2010) – less than one person per square kilometre. It is located in the north-western part of the state, midway between Melbourne and Mildura. Buloke is named after the tree Buloke *Allocasuarina luehmannii* which is common in the area.

Population

At the 2006, Census Buloke's towns had the following population figures according to people's usual place of residence: Berriwillock 353, Birchip 823, Charlton 1467, Culgoa 98, Donald 1,698, Nandaly 123, Nullawil 237, Sea Lake 634, Watchem 213 and Wycheproof 816. The population of Buloke is very community-driven, with about seventy five percent of the population involved in volunteering.

Age structure age group (years)	Enumerated data	Number	%
0 to 4		382	5.7
5 to 11		658	9.8
12 to 17		645	9.6
18 to 24		260	3.9
25 to 34		507	7.6
35 to 49		1,385	20.7
50 to 59		934	14.0
60 to 69		807	12.1
70 to 84		900	13.5
85 and over		207	3.1

Climate

Climatic conditions in Buloke: rainfall of about 375ml per year; falls of at least one millimetre are recorded on 57 days per year (does it rain once a week?). Temperatures: average daily maximum is 22.2 and daily minimum is 8.5 degrees. On four days of the year, the temperature exceeds 40 degrees Celsius and on five days it falls to below zero.

Facilities

Buloke has five hospitals, five medical clinics, five Pharmacies, multiple housing options for the elderly, nine schools, and five kindergartens. Buloke caters well for sport and recreation, with seven swimming pools, seven sporting ovals which are home grounds to local clubs, five indoor basketball stadiums and five squash complexes, as well as many other sporting grounds and facilities. All ten towns have at least one community hall and most have several venues used for different community functions. The shire is also home to several recreational lakes for camping, fishing, swimming, waterskiing and other recreational pursuits.

eg.:



Edward hairdresser to the local stars

Edward Futter was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, but moved as a 23-year-old to Sydney in 1976. There he used his hairdressing skills in a salon in Lane Cove, of which he was very soon the owner. After 12 years, he moved briefly to Perth before returning to South Africa to visit his ailing mother.

There he met his partner, David, and they soon made a home in Australia, once more in Sydney. But the countryside beckoned, and time and fortune sent them to Sea Lake, in the Buloke Shire. When an obliging Real Estate Agent showed him a vacant hairdressing premises, the decision was made.

Today, Edward's Unisex Hair Salon is a social hub in the main street of town, where he fulfils multiple roles: hairdresser, confessor, fashion consultant and social worker.

People often ask Edward how and why he came to Sea Lake via the rest of the world.

"That's easy to answer," he says. "I couldn't have had more encouragement and support. The community is welcoming and friendly. The town has plenty of facilities and is central to a range of weekend options. Sea Lake is a great place to live."



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Housing

In Buloke, 57 percent of people own their own home and a further 21 percent are in the process of buying. ABS figures show the median loan repayment in Buloke is \$550 per month. According to Australian Property Monitors House Price Guide the median price for a house in Buloke to January 2012 was \$127,000 which is more than two thirds less than the median house price in Victoria of \$419,000.

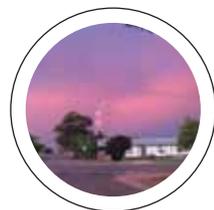
Economy/Employment

The main economic driver in Buloke is agriculture. It is home to the world-renowned Birchip Cropping Group (BCG), an agriculture-based research and extension group. Figures produced by BCG at the start of the century showed that half of all grain production in Victoria occurred within a 100 Kilometre radius of Birchip making Buloke an important grain production centre.

The employment figures below show the extent to which agriculture is the main economic driver for the region.

Enumerated data	Number	%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	926	32.7
Mining	11	0.4
Manufacturing	145	5.1
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	33	1.2
Construction	132	4.7
Retail Trade	246	8.7
Wholesale Trade	105	3.7
Accommodation and Food Services	95	3.4
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	146	5.1
Information Media and Telecommunications	16	0.6
Financial and Insurance Services	29	1.0
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	13	0.5
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	31	1.1
Administrative and Support Services	38	1.3
Public Administration and Safety	155	5.5
Education and Training	237	8.4
Health Care and Social Assistance	318	11.2
Arts and Recreation Services	8	0.3
Other Services	94	3.3
Inadequately described or Not stated	57	2.0
Total	2,835	100.0

Industry, 2006 ANZSIC (employed persons)



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