

# Room to... *grow your career*

## Fast Track Your Career

Rural organisations are ideally suited to kick starting a career and a future. Those with specialist jobs in the country invariably develop a much wider skill base than their counterparts in the city. This gives country people a much broader range of experience and responsibility, and enables them to climb their career ladder at a much earlier age and faster rate.

The State Government provides grants of up to \$2,500 to encourage students in tertiary education to work during their holidays for country businesses. This provides many benefits to students and businesses in Buloke and offers a career start for young people who often do not consider professional opportunities in the country.

There are a wide variety of job opportunities in Buloke, ranging from traditional roles such as labourers through to professionals in almost every field. Employment is available to the following people: labourers, agricultural advisers and consultants, business managers, transport operators and drivers, civil engineers, human resources managers, finance experts, doctors, nurses, miners, retailers, hospitality workers and managers and all types of tradesmen.

Employment type	Number	%
Managers	1,020	36.0
Professionals	357	12.6
Technicians and Trades Workers	307	10.8
Community and Personal Service Workers	171	6.0
Clerical and Administrative Workers	220	7.8
Sales Workers	177	6.2
Machinery Operators and Drivers	196	6.9
Labourers	334	11.8
Inadequately described or Not stated	53	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,835</b>	<b>100.0</b>

An analysis of the jobs held in Buloke Shire in 2006 shows 65.4% of employed persons working in Buloke worked in highly skilled occupations compared with the Victorian State average of 56.3%. The three most popular industry sectors were: • Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing - 33.3% • Health Care and Social Assistance - 11.1% • Retail Trade - 8.7%



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*eg:*



**John Richmond**  
Principal - Birchip P-12 School

John Richmond is Principal of the Birchip P-12 School. He grew up on a farm near Watchem, just down the road, and completed his teacher training at the University of Melbourne. John is committed to the achievement of good outcomes for all students and believes that a caring and nurturing environment extends beyond the school grounds to the wider community.

John explains his belief in the role of the school in the following words: "Birchip P-12 School has an excellent record of supplying tailor-made courses to our students. Our VCE results are excellent, which perhaps suggests that our goals are purely academic. However, that is not the case. We offer VCAL, VET and Australian School Based Apprenticeships. Some of our students graduate with three certificates and others two. We deliver, onsite, Certificate II (Hospitality) and Certificate II (Engineering) to an increasing number of students in the later years.

"Our staff operates in an encouraging and open workplace. Opportunities to gain promotion or special payments often become available and are accessible to younger teachers. We currently have a young teacher taking on a leading teacher's role. Most first and second year teachers will teach VCE units from the beginning: they do not have to earn the right or wait for the incumbent to move on."

"Although our town is small, we are seen as 'go-ahead' and progressive. We have many young tertiary-educated people living and working in our town in jobs with Birchip Cropping Group, Buloke Shire Council, East Wimmera Health Service and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water. Birchip is a friendly country town with excellent sporting facilities and access to numerous sports: football, tennis, hockey, netball and squash are played throughout the year. Classes are run in aerobics, circuit gym, yoga and dance, to name a few, and in previous years the town has put on a play during the year."

