

Balonne Bulletin

LETTER OF BALONNE COUNCIL

ISSUE 11
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2021



EXCELLENCE AWARDED

BALONNE WINS TOP HONOURS AT LGAQ CONFERENCE

FULL STORY: PAGE 5



What's On

First 5 Forever

A weekly session for children aged 0-5 and their parents/guardians, aimed at building strong literacy foundations.

WHERE: St George Library

WHEN: each Friday, 9.30am

St George Cup

Racing is back in the Balonne, with a rescheduled date for the hotly anticipated St George Cup. Enjoy a five race program and all the usual trackside fare.

WHERE: St George Racecourse

WHEN: 13 November

White Card Short Course

Get certified to work on construction sites with this accredited short course, thanks to TAFE Queensland.

WHERE: CUC Balonne, St George

WHEN: 17 November, 9am

CUC Balonne Parents Evening

If you're looking to discuss study or work options with your young person, but aren't sure where to start, this is just the ticket.

WHERE: CUC Balonne, St George

WHEN: 17 November, 5.30pm

Nindigully Pig Races

The beloved fundraising event returns to Nindigully this month. Enjoy live music, raffles, auctions, fireworks, camping, country hospitality, and of course the adorable racing pigs!

WHERE: Nindigully Pub

WHEN: 27 November

Got a story, event or notice?

Tell us! We can include your information in the newsletter.

Phone: 07 4620 8888

Email: media@balonne.qld.gov.au

A message from the Mayor

Recently, I attended the annual conference of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), along with Mayors and senior staff from 77 Councils throughout the State.

The meeting in Mackay was the 125th annual conference of this organisation, founded in 1896, so the fact it has been going for a century-and-a-quarter demonstrates it is performing a valuable service.

To me, there were three major issues at the conference:

Sustainability of local councils, a big issue that was discussed at length;

The new conflict-of-interest legislation that is coming in to correct some of the excesses of the existing harsh legislation; and

Recognition of how widespread the housing shortage is throughout regional Queensland.

The existing conflict-of-interest legislation has been recognised by the State Government as being too harsh and too complicated and confusing for Councillors, and the Government is bringing in some more reasonable rules. This is something the LGAQ has been campaigning for on behalf of all Councils across the State.

On the housing issue, the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils report into housing was tabled at the conference, and there were several motions seeking both State and Federal Government support to try to ease some of the housing shortages – both properties to purchase and properties to rent – in western Queensland.

One of the practical steps governments could take is to allow first-home buyers to purchase existing homes under the scheme.

I think it is important that all three levels of government have recognised the difficulties of finding housing for people wanting to move to western Queensland and how serious this problem is.

That's an important first step.



There was also recognition that many rural and regional councils are not financially viable long-term, and this is what we mean by the future sustainability of councils.

There is support for an increase in Federal Government funding in particular for councils, and there is a review going on right now in Queensland into Federal Government funding.

We expect to see the results of that review by the end of this month and its findings will be a big piece of the puzzle about how councils can be financially viable in the long term.

This is a very important issue, especially for the more remote councils with smaller populations who can't maintain the facilities needed by residents and visitors in the years ahead.

This is an issue we will certainly be advocating about with the Federal Government and the Opposition between now and the federal election, which will be held by the end of May next year, just seven months away.

There was a motion at the conference for the Federal Government to restore funding for councils across Australia to one per cent of the total federal tax revenue, and this will certainly be an election issue.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole

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Our editions are available online - simply scan the QR code



DON'T WAIT. nominate

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS: NOMINATIONS OPEN NOW

Nominations are officially open for the 2022 Balonne Shire Australia Day Awards.

The awards recognise local residents' extraordinary efforts and achievements within our community, across a variety of categories.

For 2022, nine awards are open for Balonne Shire residents:

1. Citizen of the Year

Balonne's Citizen of the Year is someone aged 26 years or older, whose efforts result in short and long-term benefits, and promote the welfare and wellbeing of our community.

They can be a volunteer or someone who goes above and beyond in their paid work - or someone who does a bit of both.

The Citizen of the Year is a role model for others in the Balonne community.

2. Young Citizen of the Year

Balonne's Young Citizen of the Year is someone aged under 26 years, who meets the same criteria as Citizen of the Year.

3. Cultural Award

The Cultural Award winner is someone of any age who makes a significant contribution to, or is a high achiever in, local cultural life and activities.

Examples include, but are not limited to: performers, artists, visual arts projects, literary projects, and cultural heritage expression or conservation.

4. Sports Award (senior)

The Sports Award winner is someone

aged 26 or older, who has made major sporting achievements as part of a community club.

5. Sports Award (junior)

The junior Sports Award winner is someone aged under 26 years, who meets the same criteria as the Sports Award winner.

6. Sports Administrator Award

The Sports Administrator Award winner is someone aged 26 years or older who has made a significant contribution to local sports clubs through coordination or administration.

This can include coaches, officials, or any sporting club volunteer who is vital to keeping a local sporting club operating.

7. Volunteer of the Year

Balonne's Volunteer of the Year is a person of any age who shows a high level of community participation, service and involvement.

They are the kind of person who goes above and beyond for their community through volunteer work.

8. Event of the Year

Balonne's Event of the Year is any event organised by a local resident (or residents), which has delivered an

outstanding community service and a high level of community participation.

The event should show a reflection of Australian values, and achieve its stated purpose.

9. Community Group of the Year

Balonne's Community Group of the Year is any group whose members are local residents, which has delivered an outstanding community service.

The group's activities will have a high level of community participation, and a significant impact on the local community.

Looking to nominate someone?

Find more information and a nomination form on Council's website:

www.balonne.qld.gov.au

or scan the QR code below:



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



LOCAL LEGENDS: 2021 Australia Day Award winners with Mayor Samantha O'Toole and Australia Day Ambassador Jordyn Francis.

Multicultural meals delight Balonne

In a single weekend, Balonne residents and visitors took a round-the-world trip with their tastebuds.

Kicking things off with a Mexican Degustation dinner event at The Farmhouse St George, locals enjoyed gourmet food and a Mariachi performance from Jose Zepeda.

Sunday lunch in Bollon was equally delightful, with the Bollon Multicultural Feast showcasing culinary favourites from around the globe. Diners were also treated to entertainment from Mariachi singer Jose and Thallon's own Fijian Choir.

Cuisines on offer included Fijian curries, rice puffs from Hong Kong, Mexican tacos, Russian pirozhki, Swedish meatballs, Polish pierogis, and some uniquely Bollon treats: emu egg quiche, kangaroo meatballs, and quandong pies.

Both events were made possible thanks to Celebrating Multicultural Queensland funding, an initiative of the Queensland Government



FESTIVE: Brisbane visitors Patricia Arias, Hugo Rico, Clara Cadavid and Andres Orozco delighted in meeting fellow Spanish-speakers celebrating in St George.



Julie Davies and Stephanie Price got into the spirit of the occasion.



Sue Baxter-Winch, John Winch, and Kim Wildman.



Owner of The Farmhouse Donna Haslem and daughter Holly.



More than 70 people from throughout the Bollon district and beyond gathered for the recent multicultural feast.



Bill Speedy and Judith Russell of Nullawokka First Nations Gallery.



Gina Vuniulu, Adiva Feoka, Balonne Shire Councillors and Tinvaleti Davy.

Local Government awards celebrate the people behind Council's success

Balonne Shire's own Di Francisco has been named an inaugural Local Government Association of Queensland Community Champion, in recognition of her immense impact on the region.

She was one of two winning Community Champions named by the LGAQ; fellow Community Champion Sean O'Connell is from Murweh Shire.

Both were awarded the title at the annual LGAQ Conference in Mackay - where Councils from across the state gather to solve common issues - and each also received \$4,500 in funding for professional development.

Nominated for her tireless efforts during COVID-19, Di has helped countless locals, visitors, businesses and community groups navigate difficult restrictions which have been a hallmark of the pandemic; efforts which are above and beyond her role as Environmental Health Officer.

Di thanked everyone at Council and in the community, who are ahead of the curve in pandemic preparedness.

"We have been leading the way during COVID and with vaccinations, and I look forward to life going on as we learn to live with COVID," she said.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole expressed her own thanks to Di after the win.

"Di has been instrumental in supporting our community during



ACHIEVEMENT: Di Francisco accepts her Community Champion Award at the Local Government Association of Queensland Conference in Mackay.

the pandemic and her love for the community really shines through her personal drive to step up and go that extra mile," she said.

"Di's resilience and ability to think outside the box during challenging times makes her a true local government community champion."

Balonne Shire Council took out another award at the conference: the LGMA Risk Management award for Southern Queensland.

Up against larger Councils, Balonne

won for outstanding improvements in the risk management field over recent years.

"This win reflects the quality and calibre of all team members who work to manage risks every day," Balonne Shire Council CEO Matthew Magin said.

"I thank everyone at Council who does their part to ensure our workplace is safe - it is because of our hard-working team that we have been officially recognised like this."



A crowd of at least 50 people enjoyed a fantastic night of Mexican fiesta food, music, fun and games.



Jane Cornish, Jose Zepeda and Mariella Perez.



Pamela Heraty and Jessica Mumford.

ST GEORGE

Summer

WATER RESTRICTIONS

Level One | 2021

WATERING TIMES

Odd street numbers

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
5am - 9am | 5pm - 9pm

Even street numbers

Wednesday, Friday, Sunday
5am - 9am | 5pm - 9pm

Businesses, odd street numbers

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
7am - 11am | 2pm - 6pm

Businesses, even street numbers

Wednesday, Friday, Sunday
7am - 11am | 2pm - 6pm

Schools and caravan parks

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
9am - 12pm | 3pm - 6pm

Meet Birdie: the little bird helping our kids understand big, scary events

Australian-made books about a sweet little bird and a jolly frog are helping families prepare for when natural disasters strike.

Birdie's Tree is a series of picture books written by Dr Andrea Baldwin, who recently brought her stories (and her friends Birdie and Mr Frog) to the St George and Dirranabndi Libraries on the *Birdie's Tree* Roadshow.

In a fun and interactive session, Dr Baldwin read *Birdie* stories with our little people, helping them better understand natural disasters like storms, bushfires, and floods - which can be very frightening and upsetting for young children.

Plenty of fun was had as the children tried craft activities, played games, and talked with Dr Andrea, Birdie and Mr Frog.

The stories and play-based activities from *Birdie's Tree* Roadshow can help young children and their families work through the scary experiences



PLAY AND LEARN: Dr Andrea Baldwin joined kids at the St George Library, bringing her *Birdie's Tree* Roadshow to the regular First 5 Forever session.

and big feelings.

Birdie's Tree also offers information and resources for parents and carers.

To learn more about *Birdie's Tree*, visit: www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/natural-disaster-recovery



Dr Andrea Baldwin, Kathy Morrow, Mr Frog and Birdie read *Birdie and the Fire* at St George Library.



Birdie's Tree Roadshow was interactive, with the kids crafting their own birds for display in St George Library.

Merry Christmas
from Balonne Shire Council

We wish all Balonne residents a merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Our office will be closed from **4.45pm Wednesday 23 December**.

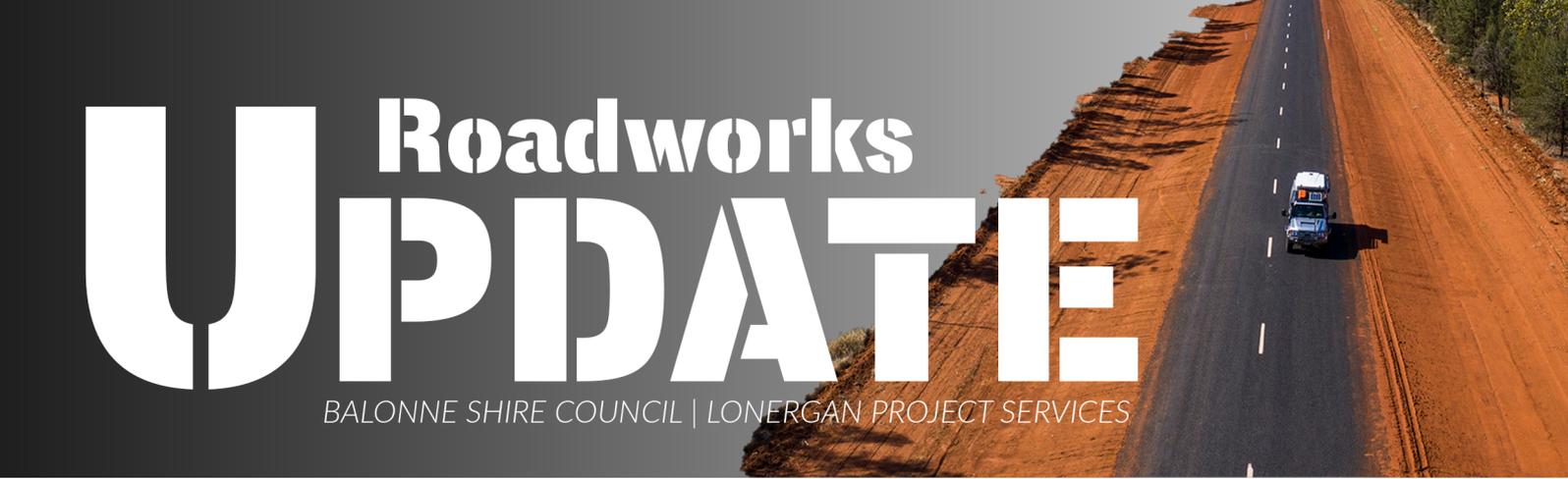
We will reopen at **8.45am Tuesday 4 January 2022**.

All Council depots will be closed from Friday 17 December.

For the People
Balonne
Shire Council

f i t @balonnesc

UPDATES



BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL | LONERGAN PROJECT SERVICES

Local Roads

Bollon Crew

- Cashelvale Rd: 20 days
- Runnymede Rd: 28 days
- Fernlee Rd: 28 days

Dirranbandi Crew

- Whyenbah Rd: 17 days
- Jakelwar-Goodooga Rd: 30 days

St George Crew 1

- Aerodrome upgrade: 10 days
- Noondoo-Thallon intersection upgrade: 30 days
- Balonne Hwy truck pad upgrade: 30 days

St George Crew 2

- Munro Rd: 1 day
- McDonald Rd: 2 days
- Ian Paul Rd: 2 days
- Carnarvon Hwy, RMPC shoulder re-sheeting: 15 days

Disaster Recovery

Mulga Downs Rd

Expected completion: mid November

Dalkeith Rd

Expected completion: early November

Koomalah Rd

Expected completion: mid November

Castlereagh Hwy

Expected completion: mid November

Woolerbilla Rd

Expected completion: early November

Upcoming

- Tambingey Rd
- Runnymede Rd
- Woolerina Rd
- Teelba Rd
- Nulky Rd
- Wagoo Rd
- Ula Ula Rd
- Thompsons Rd

Completed Roads

- Dingadee Rd
- Habnary Rd
- Kilcummin Rd
- Ramalis Rd
- Eumerella South Rd
- Davirton Rd
- Jakelwar-Goodooga Rd (north)
- Narline Rd
- Cashelvale Rd
- Jakelwar-Goodooga Rd (south)
- Littleton Rd
- Diamond Tank Rd
- Honeymah Ln
- Corack Rd
- Gunnindaddy Rd
- Mundalee Rd
- Cambo Rd
- Johnston Rd
- Thuraggi Rd
- Commissioners Point Rd
- Narine Rd
- Lower Plains Rd

When will Council reach my road?

Crews' progress is governed by weather conditions, water availability, emergency repairs, and other factors outside of Council's control. Works can get delayed by rain or machinery breakdowns, or can be pushed to a later date if a site has no available water source.

This update is an approximate guide to Balonne Shire roadworks.

What is Disaster Recovery

Disaster recovery roadworks include: surface correction, gravel re-sheeting, formation grading, concreting and more, to repair damage from the February 2020 severe weather event.

These are proudly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

What is RMPC?

RMPC (Roads Maintenance Performance Contract) works are routine maintenance on state-owned roads. They are managed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, and the work in Balonne Shire is carried out by Council's Road Crews.

What is TIDS?

The Transport Industry Development Scheme is a state government funding program, which provides money to local governments for transport-related initiatives that support state government objectives. Those objectives include: increasing works on the local government transport network, promoting regional development and building a safe and sustainable transport system.