



## St George show a big success

The St George Show has been another great success this year, attracting more than 2,000 patrons from throughout the Balonne Shire.

Susan Higgins, President of the St George Pastoral and Agricultural Association, said the organising committee was very pleased with the good crowd at the show this year, and also with the participation of livestock groups.

In particular, the Braford Society brought their annual event to the show and spectators were pleased to see these animals on display – something of a return to the past, when there was a greater emphasis on livestock competition.

A total of 61 Braford cattle were brought to the show from as far away as Casino in New South Wales and Emerald in Central Queensland.

Also, there was an auction of Aussie Whites and Dorper sheep, some from as far as Wellington and Dubbo in Central NSW, and this attracted keen interest.

Other feature events included the motorbike gymkhana and the pet competition – attracting entries ranging from ponies to yabbies.

One keenly-contested event was the Farmer's Challenge, where teams of four competed to be the fastest to successfully roll a cotton tarp, preg-

test a cow, build a pen and roll a tyre over a set course.

Summing up, a lot of people had a lot of fun, there was some fine livestock on display, along with hand-craft and horticulture, and the main ring was full of action.

The only disappointment is that it's a 12-month wait till it all happens in St George again.

PS: Don't forget the Mungindi Show will be on over the weekend of August 6-7. See the Balonne Shire Council website for all the details.

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# What's On

## Bollon Polocrosse

The Polocrosse Multi-horse Carnival held at the Bollon Showgrounds will be a great day out. Offering local entertainment everyone will enjoy. Camping is available with showers and toilets available.

**WHEN:** 11-12 June 2022

**WHERE:** Bollon Showground

## Career Expo

High school students and their parents, come along and learn about work and training and education all in the one place from industry organisations, individual employers, universities and providers of vocational education and training. See the options available when high school is over. This event is open to the entire community.

**WHEN:** Thursday, 16 June 2022, 9.30am-2pm.

**WHERE:** Cultural Centre, Victoria Street, St George

## Yellowbelly Country Music Festival

A great week of country music, bush poetry, food, drink, camping, fishing, friends and country hospitality. There's always a great line up of country music performers, bush poets and lots of fun walk-ups held throughout the week. Camping is available: first-in, best-sited. Show and camping tickets are available at the gate.

**WHEN:** 27 June - 3 July 2022

**WHERE:** St George Showgrounds

## Mungindi Races

The Mungindi Cup is country racing at its best. First held in 1872, Live entertainment and a fully licensed bar. Fashions on the Field. Bookmakers and a TAB are also available for punters on the day.

**WHEN:** Saturday, 2 July 2022

**WHERE:** Mungindi Racecourse

## Got a story, event or notice?

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

Phone: 07 4620 8888

Email: [martin.bowerman@](mailto:martin.bowerman@balonne.qld.gov.au)

[balonne.qld.gov.au](mailto:martin.bowerman@balonne.qld.gov.au)

# A message from the Mayor

In this edition of the *Balonne Bulletin*, I want to talk to you about education and jobs, and the increasing opportunities to get the best of both of those right here in the Balonne Shire.

I particularly want to talk about the Country Universities Centre, which is turning one-year-old this month, and providing Balonne students with a great opportunity to gain a higher education without leaving our region.

There are 56 students currently registered to study with the CUC and there have already been five graduates. I am proud to say two of those graduating students work for the Balonne Shire Council.

As a Council, we are keen to employ local students leaving high school – and other residents wanting to return to the workforce – and the CUC allows them to work in a good job while building their academic qualifications. That's a win/win situation.

For more information, please telephone CUC Manager Alix Greenhill on 1800 OUR CUC.

You can also talk to Alix about a terrific Career Expo planned for Thursday, June 16.

If you are a high school student or the parent of a high school student, this is a chance to learn more about work and training and education all in the one place.

The Career Expo will be open to the entire community. I hope the St George High School will be able to have all their year levels attend at some point during the day. And it will be great if students from Dirranbandi can attend as well.

You can read more about the CUC and the Career Expo in articles in this edition of the newsletter.

I have spoken before about how many jobs are available in Balonne at the moment, including a number of positions with the Shire Council.

Like all local councils in south-west Queensland right now, we have more positions at Council than we have applicants.

As a Council, we always prefer to recruit our staff from within our own communities, whenever possible.



Please have a look on our website for current vacancies.

Also, I know that private businesses have plenty of jobs available throughout the Shire – and our Economic Development Officer Garnet Radford can help with more information about some of those. Telephone Garnet at the Council on 4620 8888 for more details.

And, even if you are not looking for work yourself, if you have family members or friends who might be ready to enjoy the relaxed lifestyle of Balonne Shire, please let them know we are hiring.

It was an honour to be asked by the RSL to say a few words at an ANZAC Day service in St George.

As I said on the day, it is important – as years slip away and there are fewer returned service men and women marching with us on ANZAC Day – that we keep their memories alive and pass down the knowledge and stories so future generations may understand the contribution they made on our behalf.

Lastly, I want to sincerely thank the organising committee behind the St George Show for all their hard work.

Once again, they gave us a terrific event that really does put the rich diversity of our Shire on display – and is a heap of fun at the same time.

*Samantha O'Toole*



Scene at the St George Show (clockwise, from top left): Bike crew Boyd Girdler, Eli Robinson, Jake Gudgeon, Abby Brassey and Sam Brassey; the Hebel team in the Farmers Challenge of Jamie Deshon, Thomas Burnett, Andy Armstrong and Olly Armstrong; Showgirl Jessica Embrey and Rural Ambassador Amity Robson; Lizzie Gardiner with "Zipper" at the pet parade; a dog-tired competitor; winning blooms; and (front page) Chloe Southern clearing hurdles with ease. (Photos from Georgia Hoolihan at Images By GH [www.images-bygh.com](http://www.images-bygh.com))

# Sacrifice remembered on ANZAC Day



Honouring the fallen at the dawn service in St George (left to right): Kevin Swan, Andria Swan, Harvey Fewings, Rod Cassidy, Warrego MLA Ann Leahy, Cec West, Chris Wall, Terry Salmon, Barry Dau and John Chapman. (Photo by Win Salmon)

The sacrifice of Australian service men and women was remembered across the Balonne Shire on ANZAC Day.

Those who left their homes to defend the nation were honoured at multiple services across the region on April 25, including in Bollon, Dirranbandi, St George and Thallon.

At a service in St George, Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole said it was an honour to be asked to speak on ANZAC Day.

"Every ANZAC Day, Australians gather to reflect, to remember and to support each other in strength," Mayor O'Toole said.

"In doing so, we are reminded that the reason we gather this way goes back more than century. It is to commemorate the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps – the original ANZACs – on a beach at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

"In the decades since that landing at Gallipoli, Australia has contributed to many significant conflicts around the globe – not just World War 2 battlefields but also places like Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Afghanistan and Iraq, and numerous peacekeeping missions.

"Each of these campaigns was supported by ordinary Australians who

left small towns like ours, said farewell to family and friends – sometimes for the last time – and fought to protect our country and our freedoms.

"Those selfless men and women are more than just names on a monument. They were Australians like us. Australians who were called into action to defend their nation and who left home and jobs and family behind.

"They were Australians who were loved. Those names, as each is read, gives a sense of pride – and at times loss and pain from their loved ones.

"Names like my husband's grandfather, Keith O'Toole, who, with his brothers Kevin and Frank, enlisted between 1942 and 1944.

"And both my grandfathers: William Holt, who served in the Canadian Army Corps in World War I, and David Chandler, who served in the Royal Air Force in World War II.

"It is important, as years slip away and there are fewer returned service men and women marching with us on ANZAC Day, that we keep their memories alive and pass down the knowledge and stories to future generations about the contribution they made on our behalf.

"In 2020, I had the opportunity to travel to Canberra with my family and

we spent a day at the Australian War Museum. If you ever get the opportunity to go, I could not recommend it enough.

"As we toured the Museum, we entered a section that had a collection of displays that depicted the stories of some past service men and women.

"One of them has stayed with me ever since. That is the story of 18-year-old Teddy Sheean, a gunner in the Royal Australian Navy during World War II.

"On December 1, 1942, Sheean was a gunner aboard the Australian Warship HMAS *Armidale*, which was being attacked by Japanese aircraft off the Timorese coast.

"As the *Armidale* began to sink and its crew abandoned ship, Japanese aircraft repeatedly attacked survivors in their life rafts.

"Sheean, who it is thought was already wounded, physically strapped himself into a gun on the deck and blasted the aircraft. Survivors said he shot down one aircraft and damaged two more. He saved 49 other crew that day.

"The first Australian naval vessel named after an ordinary seaman rather than an officer, the HMAS *Sheean*, was launched in 1999. →

# Milestone for the Country Universities Centre

The Balonne Country Universities Centre (CUC) is one-year-old this month.

The CUC is providing Balonne students with a real chance to gain a higher education without leaving our region.

For some people, who aren't able to relocate to a city to further their studies, the CUC is bringing a university education within reach for the first time.

CUC campuses have been established in St George and Dirranbandi, and provide students with the technology and study assistance to undertake tertiary study.

The CUC opened its doors to students in Balonne Shire in May 2021, so it is just a year old this month.



However, for the first semester this year, a total of 56 students registered to study with the CUC: 46 in St George and 10 in Dirranbandi.

Those are terrific numbers for an institution barely a year old.

There have been five graduations already (and two of those graduating students work for the Balonne Shire Council).

For more information, please telephone me on 1800 OUR CUC, email [alix.greenhill@cucbalonne.edu.au](mailto:alix.greenhill@cucbalonne.edu.au) or check out our website: [cucbalonne.edu.au](http://cucbalonne.edu.au)

**Alix Greenhill**  
**Manager**  
**Country Universities Centre**  
**Balonne**

“And on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Teddy Sheean’s death – his family was presented with his posthumously-awarded Victoria Cross.

“Currently, we are watching daily the conflict in the Ukraine. It drives home to me how everyday people have stood up and are doing extraordinary things to fight for their freedoms.

“Today, we live in much more uncertain times than my generation has grown up in and I hope that we never need to put the call out for people to once again step forward to protect us.

“May we continue to be strengthened by the duty, example and memory of all those that have served or continue to serve. My thanks goes out to them.

“Lest We Forget.”

## Spotlighting career paths for our Balonne students



Thursday, June 16 – that is a date high school students and their parents should mark in their diaries.

It's the day a “Career Expo” will be held in St George.

This will be an opportunity to learn more about work and training and education all in the one place.

It is expected industry organisations, individual employers, universities and providers of vocational education and training will all be in attendance.

There will be information booths, stalls and interactive displays, plus experts who can guide students and their parents through the options available when high school is over.

The Career Expo will be open to the entire community.

The venue is the Cultural Centre, next door to the Balonne Shire Council building in Victoria Street, and the opening times are 9.30 am till 2 pm.

For more information about this event, please contact Alix at CUC Balonne on 1800 OUR CUC or email [alix.greenhill@cucbalonne.edu.au](mailto:alix.greenhill@cucbalonne.edu.au)

PS: Potential stall-holders are very welcome to apply for a spot.



# Streetscape shade and colour on the way

Tree plantings currently underway around the Balonne Shire will add shade and colour to town streetscapes.

Council has been successful in receiving funding through the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (Phase 2).

Council applied for funding to plant trees around the entire Shire as part of a broader beautification scheme.

This funding has seen the staged implementation of the tree planting program, with over 200 trees planted so far in alignment with the Town Tree Master Plan.

This funding has also allowed installation of new water lines around the towns to irrigate all of the new trees.

The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program is an Australian Government scheme which has received total funding of \$3 billion.

The program is described as supporting local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.



*New plantings are already adding colour on our streets.*



*Trees are being planted in suburban streets ...*



*... and in town streets like here in Grey Street, St George.*

# Shocking fish research



If you see this vessel in local waterways, it is part of an ongoing study of inland fish by the Queensland Department of Agriculture & Fisheries (DAF).

It is an “electro-fishing” boat: researchers lower electrodes over the side and pass an electric current through the water.

Fish stunned by the electric shock float to the surface, and can be scooped up to be identified, counted, weighed and measured.

After a short time in a large container of water, they get over the shock and can be returned to the water to swim away.

This boat was photographed when DAF researchers were refuelling in St George on their way west in the first week of May.

Their current work is taking them to several locations in the south-west, including waterways around Cunnamulla, Eulo, St George and Surat.

To read more about freshwater fisheries research in Queensland, go to the DAF website: [www.daf.qld.gov.au/](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/) Also, Google a report called *Fisheries Long Term Monitoring Program Sampling Protocol*.

## Camera coverage enhanced

Security cameras in St George, Dirranbandi, Bollon, Thallon and Mungindi are being upgraded or new ones installed.

Council is able to complete this project due to a grant from the Federal Government’s Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

The upgrade of current locations and the positioning of new installations have been discussed and approved by Council based on the needs of Council and the community.

The project will deliver:

- improved architecture that ensures the core CCTV recording platform meets Council requirements and is compliant with all State and federal laws;
- a modular design core network that allows Council to add new locations without major reconfiguration;
- improved visibility to enhance security of Council assets to reduce damage and prevent crime;



Cameras will be installed along the extended riverwalk in St George.

- a safe community and deterrence of anti-social behavior in the community;
- CCTV cameras along the new river walk at St George; and
- visibility of traffic movements through Shire towns and, where applicable, flood conditions.

# Work on heavy vehicle pad

The Council's Roads Team have begun works on the Balonne Highway Heavy Vehicle Breakdown Pad.

The \$2-million project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments and being delivered by Council crews.

Preliminary activities, clearing and grubbing, have been completed, and currently ground-surface treatment work is being carried out at the site.

This project will provide 10 parking bays for type-2 multi-combination vehicles.



Work has begun on the heavy vehicle breakdown pad in St George.



The project is expected to be completed by early August, weather permitting.



The blue dot shows the location of the new facility.