

Balonne Bulletin

THE NEWSLETTER OF BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL

ISSUE 55 | 2 OCTOBER 2025



ADVOCACY EFFORTS DELIVERING FOR BALONNE

Over recent decades, the role of local government has undergone a marked shift away from a simplistic notion of ‘Roads, Rates and Rubbish’, and towards an ever-increasing level of responsibility and obligation to advocate for support from State and Federal governments.

If Council’s budget for 2025/26 is anything to go by, rates revenue will cover around \$13-14 million, while the remainder of the \$53 million budget comes from a broad range of State and Federal government grants and funding programs.

Like other local governments, our Council is undertaking a wide array of advocacy with State and Federal governments and is achieving some outstanding results for the residents of Balonne.

Mayor Samantha O’Toole is proud of our Council’s advocacy efforts and of the great results Council has been achieving.

“We welcome the recent announcement by the Queensland Government through its Country Roads

Connect Program to fund the sealing of the final 10.4 kilometres of Jakelwar-Goodooga Road North,” said Mayor O’Toole.

“We understand the importance of our State road network and have successfully lobbied for additional work to be undertaken on the St George-Noondoo section of the Castlereagh Highway for shoulder widening and we are currently awaiting the outcome of a number of other Transport and Main Road projects in our Shire.

“Council has also been successful in receiving \$1,019,904 as part of the Queensland Government’s Residential Activation Fund to develop further housing opportunities in the Shire.

“Our efforts have also just paid off with funding for another 12-month position of a Workforce Development Officer as part of the Queensland Government’s Growing Workforce Participation Fund.

...continued on page 4

What's On

GET READY DAYS

Being prepare for natural disasters is a way of life in the Balonne. Come along and hear all the latest on how to keep your family safe in times of disaster.

BOLLON – Walter Austin Memorial Park – 8 October 3-4:30pm

THALLON – Pine Street Park – 9 October 3-4:30pm

DIRRANBANDI – Rail & River Park – 10 October 3-4:30pm

ST GEORGE – Anglican Church, Victoria St – 11 October 4:30-6:30pm

COMMUNITY CATCH-UPS

Come along and have a one-on-one chat with your local Councillors and Council team about any Council matters you'd like to raise.

BOLLON – Walter Austin Memorial Park – 8 October 3-4:30pm

THALLON – Pine Street Park – 9 October 3-4:30pm

DIRRANBANDI – Rail & River Park – 10 October 3-4:30pm

ST GEORGE – Anglican Church, Victoria St – 11 October 4:30-6:30pm

CHRIS HAMMER AUTHOR EVENT

Join us for an In Conversation evening with bestselling Australian author Chris Hammer as he chats about his latest release, Legacy.

When: 9 October 2025

Where: St George Library

WALTZING ON THE WALLAM – BOLLON CHARITY BALL

Get ready for an excitingly relaxing night of dancing and festivities at this charity ball to support Lifeflight.

When: 11 October 2025

Where: Bollon Civic Centre

PROGRESSIVE SHOP AND SIP

After a successful event last year, the Progressive Shop and Sip is back in town.

When: 11 October 3pm

Where: Delicate Café, 17 Henry Street, St George

THE SLEEPOVER

A dance extravaganza that's one big pyjama party celebrating all your favourite movies.

When: 12 October 2025

Where: St George Cultural Centre

BATTLE ON THE BALONNE BACKWARDS

It's time to polish up the lycra and get in those last training sessions, as this grueling triathlon is coming back to town.

When: 18 October 2025

Where: The Terrace, St George

A message from the Mayor



Last week, our Local Disaster Management Group met to report progress for ongoing actions and to discuss requirements for the upcoming high risk weather season.

These meetings are always a great opportunity to gain a broader perspective of the weather outlook, advancements and capabilities of our emergency departments and gain detailed information on prospective hazard risks across our region, especially after years of consecutive rainfall events.

As much as I would like to see no significant events in the Shire this summer season, the reality is disasters can strike at any time and as an LDMG and as a community we all need to be prepared for the unexpected.

If we all take the time to prepare by clearing vegetation and debris around properties, locking away flammable substances, cleaning out gutters, preparing an emergency plan and having an emergency evacuation kit ready to go, we can reduce the risk to yourself, your family and our community.

After all, a well-prepared property is easier to defend and reduces the risk to surrounding properties and community.

There is a whole range of useful tips and advice on the Queensland Fire Department and Get Ready Queensland websites, and I would urge everyone to head there and check out everything that is available.

Council has Emergency Evacuation Pack starter-kits available for pick-up at our upcoming Get Ready Days and at the main office and I would urge everyone to drop into your local event to chat with emergency service personnel and pick up a pack.

We will also have a range of information available at Get Ready Days on the Australian Warning System, which is used by all emergency services to inform the community on how to respond during an event.

The more we all understand this simple warning system, the safer our communities will be and you can find out more at www.australianwarningsystem.com.au

Please do what you can to prepare for disasters and help us keep everyone safe over the coming period.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole



Insurance Roundtable Voicing Concerns Over Rising Premiums

In September, our Mayor joined with other South West Queensland Regional Organisation of Council leaders to attend an insurance roundtable in Charleville to chart a way forward on skyrocketing insurance premiums throughout the region.

The roundtable was Chaired by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority along with representatives from the Insurance Council of Australia, individual insurance companies, the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), the National Emergency Management Agency and the Hon Ann Leahy MP

Participants discussed the significant impacts of premiums which have risen by over 350% in some cases despite a reduction in



flood risk due to improved mitigation infrastructure across the region.

Balonne Shire Mayor and Chair of SWQROC Samantha O'Toole said the roundtable proves that goodwill exists to find a pathway forward.

"The strength of our regions depends on resolving this issue and to be frank so does the public reputation and standing of Australia's insurance industry," said Mayor O'Toole.

Local Business Receives National Recognition

Local retail business 'Balonne Betta – Electrical' has triumphed on the national stage to win two top awards ahead of 200 other stores from across the nation in both regional and metropolitan areas.

At the BSR Group's National Conference and Buying Expo in Perth, store owners Brett and Elizabeth Nosse received awards for the Betta – National Retailer of the Year 2024 and Betta – State Retailer of the Year 2024 (Qld).

The awards were an acknowledgement of a number of factors including store presentation, Betta initiatives, sales growth, community engagement along with a number of other criteria.

Store owners, Brett and Elizabeth Nosse said they were beyond proud to have received this recognition.

"We know this wouldn't be possible without our amazing team, past and present, who give their all every single day and our loyal customers who support us year after year," said Mr Nosse.

"From the bottom of our hearts thank you to everyone who has supported our journey to build this business into what it is.



"We would also like to thank Council for their support over the years in assisting with grant applications and business support to help with continuing to improve our facilities and operation."

Mayor Samantha O'Toole was proud to hear that a local Balonne business received such an outstanding acknowledgement.

"As a Council, we fully support the business sector in the Shire and have delivered a broad range of business improvement measures to support local businesses.

"I think these awards are a tremendous acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication of Brett and Elizabeth, but I hope that in some small way our Council has helped them along their journey toward this National Award."

Advocacy Efforts Delivering For Balonne

....continued from cover

“On a broader level of government services, and following years of lobbying from our Council, the Queensland Cross Border Commissioner Ian Leavers was appointed in August 2024.

“The Commissioner has now visited us on three occasions and is working hard to improve communications between NSW and Qld emergency services by advocating for improved training outcomes and capabilities for Police to work across our borders.

“The Commissioner is also helping to establish a seamless living experience for our residents who might work on both sides of the border, like trade qualifications being recognised in each State and reducing the duplication for our volunteers.

“Recently, we met with the Minister for Education, seeking continued support for the Agriculture Water Environment (AWE) immersion program at the St George State High School.

“The AWE has also received valuable support from the Isolated Children & Parents Association who see it as an opportunity to serve as a hub for innovation, sustainability and economic growth for students with a pathway into the agricultural study and careers.

“In partnership with the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils and the South West Regional Organisation of Councils, we have advocated for fast internet speeds across the region, frequent flights to Brisbane, quality roads and housing solutions.

“Together with these organisations we have also achieved some great results, like stopping the injection of carbon waste into the Great Artesian Basin, and just recently we met with a broad range of insurance representatives and key government officials in a bid to reduce sky-rocketing insurance premiums in regional Queensland.

“We have also been seeking input into the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and working on improved tourism promotion of our region.

“Over recent years, we’ve also successfully lobbied for growth in exclusion fencing in the Shire with the Wild Dog Exclusion Fencing Program to now have around 70% of the Shire covered to assist in pest management.

“As a Council, we fully understand that advocating for the needs of our local community is the new norm in operating a local government and we will continue to push for other levels of government to deliver for our community and Shire.”

Moonie River Beef Challenge Success

Moonie River Beef Challenge has wrapped up for 2025 and the organisers want to thank everyone involved, including the sponsors, those who donated cattle or joined a syndicate, sponsored feed or attended the Gala Dinner.

This year saw an increase in weight gained by the steers with the average weight gain of 2.34kg/day, which is an increase of 0.55kg/day from last year.

With this increase in weight gain, the Chaplaincy in South Queensland saw an increase in profits to over \$180,000, with over \$90,000 of that going towards Chaplaincy in the Balonne.

The Gala Dinner was a fitting celebration of this outstanding result with winners announced and Aussie Country Music singer Brendon Walmsley singing a masterfully blended set of heartfelt storytelling with themes of love, family, and faith.

If you would like more info on how the Moonie River Beef Challenge went in 2025, check out Balonne Cluster Chaplaincy on Facebook!



Quilts of Valour for our Local Veterans

Our local ex-service men and women were presented with custom designed quilts by Quilts of Valour Australia Inc at a moving ceremony in St George.

As each quilt was presented to local Defence veterans, they were told how this quilt has been made with love from fellow Australians to wrap you in warmth and care.

The top of the quilt, with its many colours, shapes and fabrics, represents the diverse communities and individuals we are.

The wadding provides its warmth and symbolizes our

hope that this quilt will bring you comfort, peace and healing.

The backing represents the strength that supports the other layers, reflecting your strength, the support of our communities and our nation.

Each stitch that holds the layers together represents love, gratitude and sometimes the tears of the maker.



THE LIBRARY LENS



BOOK of the MONTH

A Hunger of Thorns
by Lili Wilkinson

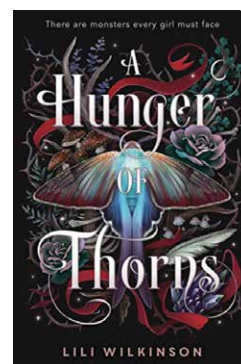
This award-winning Young Adult novel by recent presenter at Storyfest South West – Lili Wilkinson – is the first of the series.

Maude is the daughter of witches. She spent her childhood running wild with her best friend, Odette, weaving stories of girls who slayed dragons and saved Prince's. Then Maude grew up and lost her magic - and her best friend.

These days, magic is toothless, reduced to glamour patches and psychic energy drinks found in supermarkets and shopping malls. Odette has always hungered for forbidden, dangerous magic, and two weeks ago she went searching for it. Now she's missing, and everyone says she's dead. Everyone except Maude.

Storytelling has always been Maude's gift, so she knows all about girls who get lost in the woods. She's sure she can find Odette inside the ruins of Sickelhurst, an abandoned power plant built over an ancient magical forest - a place nobody else seems to remember is there. The danger is, no one knows what remains inside Sickelhurst either. And every good story is sure to have a monster.

Pop into your nearest library branch or use the QLDLibraries App to reserve your next great read today!



SOMERSET Storyfest™ Grows in Popularity

SOUTH WEST

The Storyfest South West festival is going from strength to strength with a huge increase in attendance at its second annual instalment in September 2025.

Storyfest South West festival is supported by Council and delivered by Somerset Storyfest with the aim of providing regional communities with equitable opportunities to interact

with authors and books in a fun, festive atmosphere.

The festival included a range of workshops, author panels dinners and informal community gatherings for children and adults to allow locals to interact with prominent authors and foster connections through storytelling.

This year's festival was attended by 17 schools, an increase from 12 schools in 2024 and sold in excess of 1,500 tickets, which is up from 1,100 ticket sales in 2024.

As a nod to Pip Harry's book 'The Little Wave', this year's event also showcased another highly successful community art display titled the Ocean Project.

The art display involved local students hand decorating their own timber fish, which were fixed like waves throughout the Cultural Centre and adorned an art feature with crocheted marine life, designed by local artist Kimberley Thornton.

Given the growing support for Storyfest South West, we are all looking forward to the third annual instalment in 2026!



Hebel Upgrades Build on its Attraction

Travellers and locals in Hebel can enjoy the new facilities and better connection throughout the township with the delivery of Stage 1 of the Hebel Master Plan implementation.

This first stage of implementing the Hebel Masterplan included the installation of a new electric BBQ in the Bokhara River Park picnic area, a rejuvenation of park facilities and a 270 metre footpath connecting the park to the Hebel General Store and Pub.



An additional 160 metres of footpath was added along William Street connecting the Pub, Hebel Hall and Doctor's clinic down to the tennis courts.

This project was made possible thanks to joint funding from Balonne Shire Council and the Queensland Government's Building Bush Tourism grant.



Mungindi Community Rallies to Support Local Families



It's been a long road for the community in Mungindi to get a new childcare in place, but all their efforts have now come to fruition.

In what should be considered an exemplary case study in community spirit, Mungindi residents banded together to build and develop a new childcare facility on the New South Wales side of town, following an announcement to close the childcare facility on the Queensland side.

For some areas, losing a key piece of community infrastructure like this is just a fait accompli, but not for the tenacious residents of Mungindi!

For around 20 months the Mungindi Community Education Association tirelessly set about lobbying governments, applying for grants and delivering a broad range of fund-raising initiatives from harvest donations to raffles and a gala dinner to raise a staggering \$950,000 to set up a new facility.

Mungindi Community Education Association president Lisa Orchin said she was lost for words when watching the first children enter the facility.

"We're absolutely thrilled with the result, and it'll be great to expand into after-school or vocational care to meet the needs of the community," Mrs Orchin said.

"Childcare affects every single one of us, no matter what stage of life we're at.

"It captures the heart of what rural communities can do, and I think it gives hope to others that there is a way and it can be done.

"It doesn't matter whether you were a platinum or gold sponsor, or just bought a raffle ticket, everybody in our town has done something to support this new daycare facility.

"People say to me they have no kids, so it doesn't affect them, but we have the children of nurses, teachers and police officers at the daycare.

"It also means we can develop our farming businesses and prepare for the next generation, because if there aren't basic facilities that families and staff need, what's the point?"





**REGIONAL ARTS
DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**RADF 2025 - 2026 Grants
Round 2 is now open!**

*Applications Close
9am Monday 20 October 2025*

Council Increasing Dog Ownership Compliance

Owning a dog can be an extremely rewarding experience, but it also comes with a great responsibility.

As a Council, we are committed to creating a safe and pet-friendly environment for our pets and our community.

Recently, we have had a number of incidents involving dogs and we are acting to increase compliance and ensure our community is kept safe from any future incidents.

From 1 October - 31 December we will be undertaking an Authorised Inspection Program across the Shire and will be issuing fines for unregistered pets at premises.

To keep our community safe, we will also be issuing on-the-spot fines of \$333.90 for roaming dogs, dogs being walked off-the-lead and for not picking up dog poo in public spaces.

It is also important to note that under State Government

legislation, the owner of a dog that attacks another animal or causes serious harm or death, can be liable for a fine of up to \$116,830 and/or up to 3 years imprisonment. We do not want to see this occur in our Shire!

As a community, we can keep our Shire safe, but we need everyone's help to make this happen.

If you would like information on how to register your dog please go to www.balonne.qld.gov.au or call us on (07) 4620 8888.



Celebrating Collaboration Between Council and SES

Recently, Council met with the Regional team from the State Emergency Service and were presented with a plaque celebrating 50 years of collaboration with the Queensland SES.

The SES provide such a valuable service for our region in times of need and we were honoured to help them celebrate this important milestone.



ENVIRO-COLUMN

FERAL PIGS



Feral pigs are typically smaller, leaner and more muscular than domestic pigs with well-developed shoulders and necks, and smaller, shorter hindquarters.

They are mostly black, buff-coloured or spotted black and white and their body is usually covered in sparse, coarse hair and they have a longer, larger snout, longer tusks, a straighter tail and narrower back than domestic pigs.

Feral pigs can carry many infectious diseases and internal and external parasites that can spread to domestic pigs, other livestock. They can also transmit sparganosis, melioidosis, leptospirosis, Q fever and brucellosis to humans.

They can also cause extensive damage to crops, livestock, pastures and the environment.

There are a range of measures available to landholders to manage feral pigs, including fencing, trapping, shooting, dogging and poisoning.

For more information on managing feral pigs, please scan this QR Code:



Chinese Memorial's 6th Rededication Ceremony

The St George Chinese Community Memorial Committee visited Balonne for the 6th Rededication Ceremony of the Memorial to recognise the Amoy Shepherds who came to the region in the mid 1800's and never returned to their homeland.

In addition to the Rededication Ceremony, the Committee visited Agriculture, Water and Environment facilities at the St George State High School, the Beardmore Gin, Nindigully, Riversands Wines and attended the CUC Ball.

The Committee also distributed four \$500 bursaries to local high school students and CUC students following a competition aimed at increasing cultural awareness of the role Amoy shepherds played in shaping the strong agricultural sector we enjoy today in Balonne.

These visits are creating and building strong ties with the Chinese community and fostering collaborative business opportunities for the Shire.



Get Ready Days Being Held Across Balonne

Get Ready Queensland is a year-round initiative helping Queenslanders and our Balonne communities to prepare for natural disasters like floods, bushfires, storms and heatwaves.

To help inform and prepare our shire, Council will be hosting a series of Get Ready Queensland days throughout the Shire.

There Will Be:

- Emergency Service Demonstrations
- Emergency Information and Resources

Come along to chat with us and learn how to keep your household disaster-ready.

BOLLON – Wed 8 Oct 2025
Walter Austin Memorial Park
3pm – 4:30pm

THALLON - Thu 9 Oct 2025
Pine Street Playground
3pm - 4:30pm

DIRRANBANDI - Fri 10 Oct 2025
River and Rail
3pm - 4:30pm

ST GEORGE - Sat 11 Oct 2025
In conjunction with the St George Anglican Parish Fete
4:30pm - 6:30pm

For more information, contact Council on 4620 8888

This event is proudly supported by Balonne Shire Council and funded by the Queensland Government programs:

- Get Ready Queensland - helping all Queensland communities prepare for natural disasters

Mungindi Flood Marker Tells a Historic Tale

Council has installed a new historic flood marker on the banks of the Barwon River, which tells a nostalgic tale of flooding events in the region.

The flood marker is located in the Mungindi River Park and marks the height and years of the seven highest recorded flood levels back to 1890.

The highest flood level of 8.5 metres was recorded in 1903, followed by 8.2 metres in 1890, 8 metres in 1976, 7.9 metres in 1996/1998/2022, 7.8 metres in 1956/1984/1988, 7.7 metres in 1950/1971/1974/2011, and 7.6 metres in 1921/1953/1987.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole said

the flood marker in Mungindi highlights how important it has been for the region to be prepared for flooding.

"This historic flood marker is a great reminder of how our region and community has always had to be resilient and prepared for major flooding events over time," said Mayor O'Toole.

"We hope this installation is yet another great tourist attraction for the region and a reminder to the local community of how important it is to



remain vigilant and be ready for any future flooding events."

The project was made possible thanks to funding from the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Do you know a local that deserves recognition at the 2026 Australia Day Awards?

Nominations are now open!

NOMINATIONS CLOSE 3 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 9AM

Please visit www.balonne.qld.gov.au or email cdo@balonne.qld.gov.au or call 4620 8888



Anglican Parish Fete

October 11th, 2025 from 4:30pm

- *Cake Stall
- *Bar & BBQ
- *Raffles
- *Games
- *Circus Activities
- *Kids Corner
- *Best Dressed Bike
- ...and plenty more...



FUN AND FITNESS IN BALONNE

ST GEORGE SQUASH

Social comps held 6pm every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday during the school term. Grading is during the first week of the school term.

Open to anyone. Beginners Welcome!
Courts available to hire \$10/hour.

Email – stgeorgesquash@outlook.com
Contact Andrew - 0407 992 495 or Hayden - 0407 902 162



ST GEORGE BOWLS CLUB

Head down and enjoy a game of Bowls at St George Bowls Club.

Wednesday 8am for social bowls, all welcome.

Green available on Saturdays for casual bowlers.



ST GEORGE TENNIS CLUB

Are you keen on having a hit of tennis? Come for a social hit at St George Tennis Club on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm in Rowden Park, St George.

For more information, contact Debbie on 0488 042 951



BOXING

Sign up to be a member of In the Box Boxing Club! Come down and work on your fitness or prepare for fights.

Training for Juniors - Mon & Wed 5:30pm - 6:00pm
Training for Seniors - Mon & Wed 6:00pm - 7:00pm

For more information, contact Lisa Anderson - 0418 154 104



BOXING CLUB

ST GEORGE NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Junior competitions are held every Saturday - ages 5 to 17. Social mixed summer comp to start Sept-Nov 2025

For all enquiries, please email the St George Netball Club at stgeorgenetball@gmail.com or phone Jade - 0413 084 891



GROUP TRAINING SESSIONS

If you're eager to improve your health and fitness, come along to an Optimal Training group training session on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 5pm at the Amphitheatre. It's FREE until Thursday 18th September 2025, thanks to the generosity of Care Balonne. Check out Facebook for updates, or for more information, contact Deanne - 0407 720 327



INSPIRED FITNESS WITH TJ

Inspired Fitness runs group training sessions on Tuesday at 9:15am and 5:30pm (Pilates), and 5:30pm on Thursdays (Tone class). Classes are held at St Patrick's Church Hall on Balonne Street. For PT inquiries and more information, phone Tori - 0447 080 872



ST GEORGE AQUATIC CENTRE - SUMMER HOURS

Monday to Friday: 5:30am - 12pm & 3pm - 6pm

Saturday and Sunday: 1pm - 6pm

Splash Park can be hired before 1pm for parties, but must be booked in advance.

For more information or to book a party, call 0400 633 519



PARKRUN

Do you love a social run to get in shape? Parkrun is free and held each Saturday morning at 7am along the St George foreshore, leaving from the boat ramp at the Western end of St George's Terrace.

For more information, visit www.parkrun.com.au/stgeorge

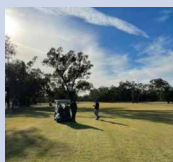


ST GEORGE GOLF CLUB

Enjoy a swing of Golf anytime at the St George Golf Club.

Regarded as one of the best sand greens courses in SWQ - why wouldn't you spend a day there?

For more information, contact Tom - 0427 730 984



ST GEORGE HASH HOUSE HARRIERS - SOCIAL RUNNING GROUP

Enjoy a social run or walk every Thursday evening! The group leaves from The Terrace in front of The Australian Hotel at 6:00pm on Thursdays for a 5km run or a 3km walk, this is not a timed event.

For more information, contact Peter - 0428 258 601



LET'S DANCE - ST GEORGE COMMUNITY WELLBEING CENTRE

Every Friday night 6pm to 7:30pm at the Community Wellbeing Centre.

Free Entry - Gold coin donation for refreshments

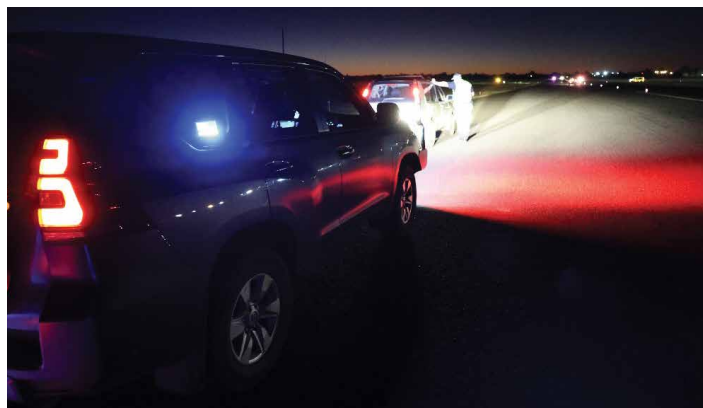
Want to learn a few new dance moves? Come join us!

We are a group of people who want to learn various types of dances for fun! To find out what kind of dance we are currently teaching or for further information, visit our Facebook page at "Let's Dance St George"



If you have a **FITNESS PROGRAM** or **CLUB** in the Shire that you would like posted here, please send the details to: media@balonne.qld.gov.au





Learner Drivers Put Through Their Paces

We all know that sinking feeling when the blue and red lights flash from behind for a traffic stop, even when you've done nothing wrong.

Learner drivers in Balonne got to experience this feeling first-hand in a safe and secure Learner Driver Program delivered by our local Police to give them the skills and experience of knowing how to handle the situation safely.

The Program involved closing down the St George airfield at night and having Learner drivers lap the circuit, while Police, Ambulance and Fire put them in the thick of some simulated on-road experiences.

Program participants received a prior presentation on road rules before getting behind the wheels on the airfield

to experience getting pulled over for traffic stops, random breath test stations and safely pulling over for emergency service vehicles wanting to pass.

St George Officer-in-Charge, Sergeant Megan Down was pleased with this first offering of the Learner Driver program.

"This was a great way to give our learner drivers a real-life experience in safely operating a vehicle around emergency services in the confines of a safe environment," said Sgt Down.

"We are looking forward to doing this program again in the future and we will advertise any future dates locally."

Pilot Balonne Newspaper Seeking Community Feedback

Recently, Deakin University, with the assistance of ABC, undertook a Pilot Newspaper project in Balonne Shire with the distribution of two newspapers throughout the Shire.

The goal of this Pilot Newspaper project was to better understand how independent news media could be provided to areas known as 'news deserts'.

Deakin University is now seeking feedback from the community on their thoughts around the two news sheets and the Pilot project.

The community feedback will be used to develop a report, which will go to government recommending options for potential funding to provide independent news to areas like Balonne.

Community can provide their feedback by scanning this QR Code.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

St George and
Balonne Shire

JULY 2025



NEWS



Cuts and Conversation

Youth worker uses his barber skills to connect with teens.
Full story Page 7.

Enjoyed the first issue of
St George & Balonne Shire News?

Let us know!

TAKE THE SURVEY





Out and About in Balonne

Storyfest Prologue Party



St George Races





Roadworks UPDATE

COMPLETED ROADS THROUGH SEPTEMBER:

- Jhelum Plains Road
- Byra Road
- Tambingey Road
- Thomby Road
- Diamond Tank Road
- Denholm Road
- Kilcummin Road

WORKS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

Noondoo-Mungindi Road

- Expected completion: early October
- Construction is ongoing, one crew working.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

Fernlee Road

- Expected completion: early October

- Construction is ongoing, one crew working.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

Dalkeith Road

- Expected completion: early October
- Construction is ongoing, one crew working.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

Mulga Downs Road

- Expected completion: early December
- Construction is ongoing, one crew working.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

Ballangarry Road

- Expected completion: early October

- Construction is ongoing, one crew working.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

Narline Road

- Expected completion: early October
- Construction is ongoing, one crew working.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

UPCOMING WORKS:

- Teelba Road - early October
- Corack Road - early October
- Littleton Road - early October
- Old Dareel Road - early October
- Nulky Road - early October
- Gulf Club Road - mid October
- Koomalah Road - early October



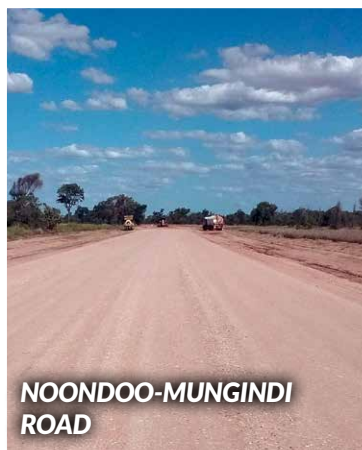
MULGA DOWNS ROAD



FERNLEE ROAD



NARLINE ROAD



NOONDoo-MUNGINDI ROAD

BALONNE SHIRE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

In Balonne Shire we have a broad range of job opportunities.

Either scan the QR Code or visit:

<https://www.balonne.qld.gov.au/Live-and-Work/My-Employment>

SCAN HERE

