

# Balonne Bulletin

THE NEWSLETTER OF BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL

ISSUE 56 | 8 DECEMBER 2025



## TOURISM TEAM BRINGING MORE THAN AN ECONOMIC BOOST TO BALONNE

The St George Region Tourism team has been awarded Gold at the Queensland Tourism Awards in the Visitor Information Services category for the exemplary work it delivers from the St George Explore Centre.

The St George Explore Centre triumphed over other Visitor Centres from across the State, many which have much higher traffic volumes and higher funding, which is a testament to the professionalism of our team in their dealings with the travelling public.

Over 2025 to date, the team has offered their award-winning service to over 15,315 visitors through the Explore Centre and helpfully directed visitors toward the region's top tourist attractions.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole said this award is a clear indication of how the efforts of our tourism team are

helping boost numbers, which offers obvious economic benefits for the Shire.

"Tourism promotion in South West Queensland is all about offering a broad experience to travellers so they stay longer, or they hear good things about our region and choose to venture through here.

"Clearly, the job our team is doing is second to none in Queensland and I applaud their efforts.

"The better experience travellers receive, the more likely we'll have more visiting and this equates to more dollars flowing through our local economy.

"This award comes off the back of recent news that the St George Explore Centre was awarded Trip Advisor's Travellers Choice Award for the fourth year in a row, so hat's off to the team!"

As Christmas gets ever closer and the end of 2025 is now in sight, it's timely to reflect on priorities within our lives and focus on family and those closest to us.

Large organisations like Balonne Shire Council can often be seen as a faceless entity, but in reality, it is an organisation made up of a collective of individuals who come together to provide the services we do for our Shire. As an organization, one of our top values are our people who do this work.

November has been a particularly challenging month for our people as we lost

two of our own in quick succession. I would like to take a moment to offer condolences on behalf our entire community to the families of Michael O'Brien and Kevin Cordrey who both recently passed away. Both these gentlemen had made contributions to Balonne, with Michael joining us a year ago as our Workshop Foreman, and Kevin joining us 25 years ago in our Parks and Gardens town crew for St George. Their loss has left a profound impact across our teams, and we are taking time to support both their families and our people. Our thoughts and prayers are with them in the days, and weeks ahead.

2025 has seen Michelle Clarke, settle into the role of the Chief Executive Officer, who transitioned to the role after being our Director of Finance and Corporate Services for several years. Thanks to Michelle's efforts and leadership she has made the transition into the CEO position seamless for Councillors, staff and the community.

Despite the very tight budget this year, which necessitated a need for Council to find a broad range of internal efficiencies, we certainly are in the process of delivering an immense amount of new infrastructure for the community.

I welcome the finalisation of sealing the full length of Whyenbah Road. This road has been sealed in sections over a number of budget cycles, but now is a second sealed route between Dirranbandi and St George, which provides for movement of agriculture products.

Early in 2025 with funding from the State Government we will also finish the sealing of Jakelwar-Goodooga Road North. Council has advocated hard for a number of years, and it was a great win to secure the final allocations of funds needed to complete this road to provide north-south movements in our Shire regardless of the weather. We recognise that roads are our biggest asset class and Council is continually working on how we can provide a good service across the 1000s of kilometres of rural roads with limited budgets.

We have also been focusing on community facilities upgrades that provide for better livability and during this year we have delivered significant beautification works in Nindigully in line with the new Master Plan, in Hebel including a new truck stop and at Dirranbandi's Rail and River precinct.

Thallon's new playground facility has been warmly welcomed and I'm consistently hearing of people travelling there from across the Shire to spend time at this new facility with their families.



## A message from the Mayor

The new Rowden Park Female Change rooms are supporting our female teams that play there and the upgrades to the Beardmore Dam Recreational Area have certainly reinvigorated that area back to the nostalgic parkland that locals would all recall from years past.

I know the upgrades to Bollon's median strip are not far off and I'm looking forward to inspecting these beautification works when they are complete.

Council's advocacy also brought about a number of very significant and positive changes for our Shire. We started this year with a visit from our newly elected Premier David Crisafulli, which got the ball rolling on a whole range of new connections for our year's lobbying.

The commissioning of the Mungindi Water Security Project was a significant achievement for our residents of Mungindi involving collaboration with multiple levels of government and will secure their water supply for many years to come.

Likewise, the commencement of the Mungindi Daycare and Preschool was the culmination of a groundswell of community support and efforts from multiple levels of government and as a Council we were proud to have been able to contribute to this positive outcome.

Whilst on Mungindi, we were proud to support the work of our Cross Border Commissioner Ian Leavers to unravel the complexities of life in a cross-border town. Commissioner Leavers was achieving some real and significant improvements for Mungindi residents and we were all deeply saddened to hear of his recent passing.

Our Shire was very fortunate to host the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils 2025 Assembly this year. This event put our Shire front-of-mind for the Ministers that visited and resulted in some multi-million-dollar commitments for our region that we will see unfold in 2026.

On a lighter note, on the eve of the final State of Origin game we celebrated a Border Battle culminating in a series of challenges between Mayor Susannah Pearse and myself. Although we didn't bring home the win for

## What's On

### CHRISTMAS IN THE SHOWGROUNDS - DIRRANBANDI

Fireworks, Bar & BBQ, Lolly Drop, Stalls, Santa, Ham Spins and much, much more

**When:** From 6pm Friday 12 December

**Where:** Dirranbandi Showgrounds

### ST GEORGE BLUELIGHT POOL PARTY

**When:** 3pm-5pm Tuesday 16 December

**Where:** St George Aquatic Centre

### CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA - THALLON

**When:** From 10am Wednesday 17 December

**Where:** CWA Rooms, William St, Thallon

### LONG TABLE IN THE VINES

**When:** From 6pm 24 January 2026

**Where:** Riversands Wines, 66 Whytes Road, St George

### AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

**When:** From 8am Monday 26 January 2026

**Where:** St George Amphitheatre, St George's Terrace



**WHAT'S ON**

See what's happening in the Balonne Shire!



Balonne, it was a great community event and one that I'm sure will continue into the future.

We also held 16 Community Catch-ups throughout 2025 to give all members of the community the opportunity to meet with Councillors in an informal setting and raise any concerns or ideas they may have. These Community Catch-ups have been a great format for engaging with community in each of our townships and we are all looking forward to continuing them in 2026.

We should all be extremely proud of the recognition and awards that Council received this year. For the second year in a row, our Shire was awarded the Small Business Friendly Regional Member of the Year. A great achievement and recognition of our commitment to support small businesses in the Shire.

We also received an award for Excellence in Innovation for the highly successful How the Catchment Works video series that featured local students as animated cartoons. These videos received unanimous praise for the way they so succinctly

communicated our river system.

On the disaster management front, we were fortunate this year with just two Local Disaster Management Group activations, one in March due to the tropical low that ventured into our region from ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred and another activation from persistent wet weather in April.

Both 2025 flooding events were relatively minor in comparison to previous year's flooding events, however the persistent wet weather did cause havoc to some local roads, which we managed to fix with the cooperation of the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Separate to these flooding events, we did have a couple of significant initiatives unfold with 5 new flood cameras installed in the flood camera network, as well as a new BOM river height gauge in Neabul Creek. We also placed fixed road signage in truck stops across the Shire with QR Codes showing travellers how to access the Emergency Dashboard and the new cameras and signage will hold us in better stead when future flooding events return to our Shire.

Finally, I am so proud of the efforts and results we are achieving with Tourism. Our St George Explore Centre was awarded Tripadvisor's Traveller's Choice Award for the fourth year in a row and the Centre was awarded the Gold Award at the recent QTIC Awards.

Throughout the year, we also received our RV Friendly status and launched a new Traveller's Guide to further promote more tourism in the Shire.

There are so many more initiatives that I could mention, but it is clear that 2025 has brought with it a revitalization across the Shire and we are looking forward to continuing this trend in 2026.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy festive season and I hope you all get to spend some time with loved ones and return safely to us.

Kind Regards

*Mayor Samantha O'Toole*

## Council Team Ready to Act on Flood Levee Assembly

The Council team have undergone detailed refresher training sessions on the quick assembly of flood gates along the St George flood levee.

The St George flood levee was completed in 2014, following severe flooding in 2010, 2011 and 2012, with the 2012 flood necessitating a mandatory evacuation of the town.

To the untrained eye, a large portion of the flood levee looks like a retaining wall along the front fence line of properties on St George's Terrace, however it has a much more functional purpose and will protect the town from a flood of up to 14.5m.



Each driveway and property entrance along this section of the flood levee has its own specific flood gate, which would need to be individually installed in the event of

a significant flood event.

This training exercise is central to our commitment to keeping the town safe in times of flooding and natural disasters.



## Balonne CCTV Network Upgrade to Improve Community Safety

Council has received grant funding through the Queensland Government's Secure Community Partnership Program for an upgrade to its CCTV network across the Shire.

There are currently over 130 CCTV cameras throughout the Shire and they have been pivotal in assisting Police to identify and resolve criminal activity in the Shire.

Council has worked closely with our local Police across the Shire to

identify areas where upgrades will be most effective and beneficial to improve and protect community safety.

The CCTV network will involve hardware and software upgrades and AI advancements to the existing network, as well as a number of new CCTV camera locations in the Shire and additional lighting.

This project will be going out to tender in early 2026 with works expected to be completed by the middle of 2026.

# CUC Ball Delivers for Balonne Students

In September, the Country Universities Centre Balonne delivered a stellar Charity Fundraising Ball that raised around \$46,000 to support the Student Bursary Program, which assists students in Balonne with study expenses.

The event drew a total of 157 partygoers who kicked up their heels to the melodic beats of the Army Band and dug deep into their pockets to support an array of auctions and raffles.

This year's Charity Ball continued the strong momentum established by three preceding Mayoral Balls

and was facilitated by the CUC Team and supported by a dedicated committee of community volunteers.

The Student Bursary Program is an initiative that recognises finance as a significant barrier for remote and regional students being able to access tertiary education.

To date, the Mayoral Balls and the CUC Charity Fundraiser have raised a total of over \$207,000 to support the study and travel costs for CUC Balonne students and is set to continue as a regular highlight on Balonne social calendars.



## Bollon Hotel Site Update

Earlier this year, the Bollon Hotel was destroyed in a fire, leaving the town without its only pub and leaving the locals with a daily reminder of what they had lost in the form of its burnt-out ruins.

Immediately following this devastating loss, Council acted to ensure the site was fenced off and made safe for the surrounding community.

Since this devastating loss, behind the scenes, Council has been in discussions with the owner to have the site cleared and the remnants of the



burnt-out hotel site removed.

Council can now inform the community that we have been advised works are scheduled to commence on clearing the site at the end of January 2026 and are expected to take around three weeks.

These works are being undertaken by an external contractor and this work is not at the expense of Council, as it is a privately owned site, however Council will work with the contractors to ensure the works and disposal of materials are undertaken in a manner that protects community safety.

# Wombat Foundation Celebrates Three Wild-Born Joeys



Some remarkable conservation achievements are unfolding right here in the Balonne Shire with the birth of three wild-born Northern-Hairy Nosed Wombats!

The Wombat Foundation has been doing some incredible work over the years to bring the Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombat back from the brink of extinction when in the 1980's, only 35 remained.

There are now more than 400 Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombats and these three joeys are the first documented wild-born.

This news comes after the Queensland Department of Environment moved 11 wombats to Powrunna State Forrest from Epping Forest to join the 25 that were relocated since 2024 and is a clear sign that the Department's and Foundation's efforts are a clear success.



## Adopt a Street Tree!

Have you ever wanted to have your very own street tree to improve the visual amenity of your street?

Well, now you can, as Council is offering residents the opportunity to adopt a street tree.

It may not need a nappy change, regular bottle or a lengthy adoption process, but it will need a regular

water and a bit of help and love to grow into a mature and respected part of our Balonne Shire.

To adopt your very own street tree, all you need to do is contact Council on 4620 8888 and the team will help you with taking your pick from the Council nursery with a tree that is in line with your town's master plan and planting it on your footpath.

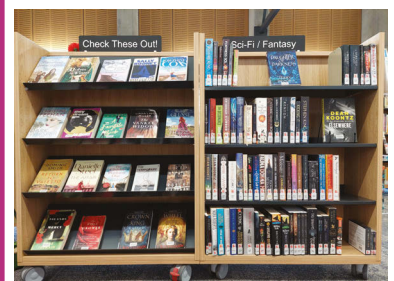
## THE LIBRARY LENS



All library branches have received their final exchange for this year, and library staff were very quick off the mark to get them shelf ready for patrons to borrow.

Whether you'd like a new recipe to try for Christmas Day, a mocktail to ring in the New Year, or that next great read, we encourage everyone to visit a library in our Shire to find a book that's right for you! And if you're not a member...it's easy... scan the QR code below or call today:

- Bollon 4620 8883
- Dirran 4625 8411
- Hebel 4620 8865 *(new number)*
- St George 4620 8878
- Thallon 4620 8864 *(new number)*



# Generous Community Groups Support Local Musical Talent

Our local communities have been very fortunate to have local instrumental talent Tomas Kunde play at regular events and ceremonies in the Shire.

At the most recent Remembrance Day Ceremony in St George, Tomas featured with his rendition of the Last Post on his trusty school clarinet.

With Tomas' impending graduation from year 12 this year, he was faced with the need to hand the clarinet back into the school, leaving the Shire without his talented musical prowess for future events and ceremonies.

With a heartening degree of community spirit, the St George Lions Club of Australia and the Rotary Club



of St George weren't about to let Tomas go without his beloved instrument and stepped up, gifting Tomas with a brand-new clarinet that he can use for all his future musical volunteering.

Thank you to the St George Lions and Rotary clubs, your generosity would bring a tear to a glass eye!

# Balonne Youth Council Helping to Shape Our Community

The Balonne Youth Council have rounded out a highly successful year that saw them coordinate a Family Movie Night, contribute to a Youth Engagement Strategy, support community events and engage with Councillors on key matters of interest.

This year also saw them develop a new Youth Council logo and they have plans in the works for another Family Movie Night.



The Youth Council has 10 members, aged 12-25, including involvement from Mayor O'Toole, Councillor Winks and Councillor Marshall and meets fortnightly to discuss upcoming initiatives and relevant matters.

This year's meetings included a number of guest speakers such as Council's Manager of Economic Development, the Country Universities Centre Balonne and other community leaders.

The Youth Council is a great opportunity for our aspiring youth to get involved in community activities, learn some great life skills and have their say on community matters, and involvement is a great addition to anyone's future CV.

Anyone interested in joining Youth Council next year can apply at any time by contacting the Communities Team on 4620 8888 or by scanning this QR Code.



*Transforming Today, Shaping Tomorrow*  
**24/25 Annual Report**  
**Now available online!**



## ENVIRO-COLUMN

# AFRICAN SWINE FEVER



Queenslanders need to remain on alert for African swine fever as the serious disease of pigs continues to spread in neighbouring countries.

African swine fever is an infectious viral disease of domestic and feral pigs. People cannot be infected. African swine fever can result in a very high mortality rate in infected pigs and no vaccine or treatment is available.

If it were introduced to Australia, African swine fever would significantly impact pig health and production.

Pigs can become infected with African Swine Fever virus by:

- eating contaminated pork products and feed
- close contact with infected pigs
- contact with contaminated equipment.

You can help protect against African Swine Fever by:

- always disposing of food waste and scraps properly so pigs can't access and eat them.
- never feeding pigs food or food scraps that has come into contact with or contains animal matter such as meat and meat products. It is best to feed pigs commercially available feed.

The signs of African swine fever in pigs can include:

- death (possibly before other signs are noticeable)
- blotching/reddening of the skin
- high fever
- lack of coordination or stiff gait
- difficulty breathing
- abortion
- diarrhoea
- vomiting.

If you suspect African swine fever, you must immediately contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.



## CUC Balonne Celebrates Graduates Of 2025

The Country Universities Centre Balonne celebrated their graduates for 2025 with another 22 students being acknowledged at a ceremony at Riversands Wines.

These graduations build on the success of the Centre with 430 students now having registered to further their tertiary education, which far exceeds the original target of 38 students over its four years of operation.

The majority of students that have registered with CUC Balonne have been local students who chose to remain in the Shire to complete their

studies, which is a great outcome for the students, their families and our broader community.

Studies for this year's graduates ranged from Bachelor degrees in Law, Property, Rural Science, Agribusiness, Health and Information Technology, Diplomas in Nursing and Science, and Certificates in Carpentry, Electrotechnology and Community Services.

If you are looking to undertake studies in the future, please feel free to make contact with the team at CUC Balonne or visit their website at [www.cucbalonne.edu.au](http://www.cucbalonne.edu.au)

## Balonne Bird Lovers Soar Into Action

Balonne bird lovers were given the opportunity to crow about the abundance of native bird life in Balonne during the Great Aussie Bird Count on 20-26 October.

A total of 76 local bird lovers swooped in and took part in the nationwide bird count across our Shire, and they didn't just wing it, counting a total of 2,962 birds for this great cause.

These statistics contributed to the national total of 5,273,328 birds counted across the nation to build a national snapshot of bird life in Australia.



Great job Balonne bird lovers, that's an effort that would put a smile on the face of a swooping Magpie!

# Council and High School Working Together on Key Issues

Council has been working hand-in-hand with the St George State High School to support the infrastructure requirements for their recent additional buildings and upgrades.

During this year, Council installed upgrades to the front parking bay with a pedestrian crossing ramp, new kerb and build out, resurfacing of the bitumen on pavements, installation of upgraded road furniture and

line marking to improve safety for all users.

Following the installation of the School's new Multipurpose Hall and Skill Centre Complex, Council assisted in the installation of a culvert and pipe to improve drainage in the vicinity of the Complex.

Council also supported the school with the installation of a new 115,000 litre tank to meet the water needs

of the school and reduce impacts to the surrounding water reticulation system.

The School's Agriculture, Water and Environment program has been an outstanding success for the School, Shire and our broader region with interest coming from schools right across the State, and Council is proud to have worked with the school to implement this program.



*Balonne Shire Council*  
**2026**  
*Calendar*  
*Now available*

You can pick up your free calendar at:

- Council Administration Building
- Balonne Shire Libraries
- St George Explore Centre
- Golders
- Two Mile Pub
- Mungindi RTC
- Mungindi Hospital
- Dirranbandi RTC
- Thallon Post Office
- St George Hospital
- Warrawee



Australia Day  
 Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

#austr



**Australia Day**  
 Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST  
 AND AWARD PRESENTATIONS

MON | AMPHITHEATRE  
 JAN | ST GEORGE'S TERRACE  
 26 | FROM 8AM

2026

Assisted by the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council



Australia Day

WE'RE ALL PART OF THE STORY.



For the People  
 Balonne Shire Council

# Whyenbah Road Sealing is Now Complete!

Council has just completed the full sealing of Whyenbah Road after years of staged sealing projects!

Council first commenced the sealing of Whyenbah Road in 2023 and due to the size and costs associated with sealing all of its 76.3 kilometres, Council needed to undertake the sealing project in stages.

Thanks to \$675,000 funding from the Queensland Government's Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme and the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery funding Program as



outlined in this year's Council budget, Whyenbah Road is now a completely sealed road.

This now opens up a second dirt-road-free route between St George and Dirranbandi.

Anyone travelling on this route should be aware that Whyenbah Road is unfenced and travellers should drive to conditions, taking note of the potential for stock to be on the roadway.

This news comes after a recent announcement from the Queensland Government, through its Country Roads Connect program to fund the sealing of the final 10.4 kilometres of Jakelwar-Goodooga Road North.

Council is also investing \$756,000 into sealing along Noondoo-Mungindi Road thanks to funding from the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery funding program.

# Workforce Development Role is Back in Balonne!

Thanks to another successful grant application, the Workforce Development Officer role is back!

Council has secured another 12-month extension for the role, which has connected 112 job placements in Balonne over previous placements and continues the work to help employers, and job seekers by promoting local business job opportunities and developing career pathways.

To take on this 12-month placement, Council has secured well-respected and locally connected Robyn Cross to continue delivering for local employers and job seekers.

Robyn has been in St George for over 3 years, previously supporting Goondir and Riversands and brings a wealth of experience in community focused roles.



Local employers are encouraged to contact Robyn for advertising job opportunities, for assistance with training and recruitment and accessing workforce development services and associated funding.

Local businesses and jobseekers can contact Robyn to discuss your workforce by calling Council on 4620 8888 or Robyn directly on 0456 644 203 or by email at [robyn.cross@balonne.qld.gov.au](mailto:robyn.cross@balonne.qld.gov.au)

The project is proudly funded by the Queensland Government through its Growing Workforce Participation Fund.

# ST GEORGE LIBRARY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



Book Now!

<p><b>Monday 15 December</b></p> <p>10am - 12pm Beaded Trees and Stars</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Angels</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 16 December</b></p> <p>10am - 12pm Christmas Gnomes</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Cardial Spritz Sip 'n Paint</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 17 December</b></p> <p>10am - 12pm Felt Decorations</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Clay Decorations</p>	<p><b>Thursday 18 December</b></p> <p>10am - 12pm Folded Christmas Tree</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Snow Globes</p>	<p><b>Friday 19 December</b></p> <p>9:30am - 10:30am First 5 Forever</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Christmas Jars</p>
<p><b>Monday 22 December</b></p> <p>Drop in any time between 10 - 2pm Create something Christmassy or BYO Christmas Craft!</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 23 December</b></p> <p>Drop in any time between 10 - 2pm Create something Christmassy or BYO Christmas Craft!</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 24 December</b></p> <p>Drop in any time between 10 - 2pm Create something Christmassy or BYO Christmas Craft!</p>	<p><b>Thursday 25 December</b></p> <p><b>Christmas Day</b> Library CLOSED</p>	<p><b>Friday 26 December</b></p> <p><b>Boxing Day</b> Library CLOSED Reopens 5 Jan 2026</p>

5-9 January: Drop into the Makerspace between 10am and 4pm and craft to your heart's content!

# ST GEORGE LIBRARY BACK TO SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

<p><b>Monday 12 January</b></p> <p>10am - 12pm Shrinky Dinks</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Sun Spinners</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 13 January</b></p> <p>10am - 12pm Pom-poms</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Mini Albums</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 14 January</b></p> <p>10am - 12pm Paddlepop Stick Creations</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Box Lid Games</p>	<p><b>Thursday 15 January</b></p> <p>10am - 12pm Mini Ferris Wheel</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Bracelets</p>	<p><b>Friday 16 January</b></p> <p>9:30am - 10:30am First 5 Forever</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Lego</p>
<p><b>Monday 19 January</b></p> <p>10am - 12pm Woven Horses</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Decorate a Library Bag</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 20 January</b></p> <p>10am - 12pm Lego</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Book Covering</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 21 January</b></p> <p>10am - 12pm Pom-poms</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Salt Painting</p>	<p><b>Thursday 22 January</b></p> <p>10am - 12pm Box Lid Games</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Paddlepop Stick Creations</p>	<p><b>Friday 23 January</b></p> <p>9:30am - 10:30am First 5 Forever</p> <p>2pm - 4pm Bracelets</p>

THALLON LIBRARY - Activities available 9am-3pm 17 Dec, 9am-11am 24 Dec & 10am-12pm 14 & 21 Jan

DIRRANBANDI LIBRARY - Activities available 9am-2pm daily until 24 Dec. Check the Dirran RTC Facebook page for details

BOLLON LIBRARY - Activities available 9am-3pm 19 Dec & 10am-12pm 9 Jan

HEBEL LIBRARY - Activities available 12pm-4pm 17 Dec, 12pm-2pm 24 Dec & 1pm-4pm 21 Jan

**All children must be accompanied by an adult**

For more information on Library events, contact St George Library on 4620 8878



# New Public Housing Development in St George

The Queensland Department of Housing and Public Works is developing new public housing at Scott Street, St George.

This development will deliver 14 new homes in St George and ease pressure on the broader housing market in the area.

The Department has undertaken engagement with adjoining property owners to advise them of the project, which is expected to be completed in mid-2026.

The Department has designed the development to ensure the project does not impact upon a culturally significant tree on the site.

If any local resident would like to apply or update their application for public housing, they can either go to the Government Agency Office in the St George Courthouse building or contact Care Balonne for assistance.

For further information on this development, please contact the Department of Housing and Public Works on 13 74 68.



**BUY BALONNE BONANZA**  
**12 Days of Christmas**

**THE STEPS ARE SIMPLE**

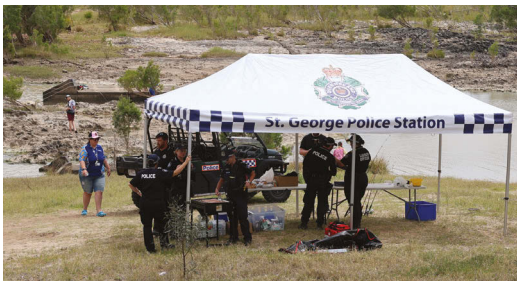
- 1 SHOP LOCAL
- 2 KEEP YOUR RECEIPTS
- 3 SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY

SCAN HERE FOR DETAILS

SHOP LOCAL IN AT LEAST THREE SHIRE TOWNS BETWEEN 12-23 DECEMBER, KEEP YOUR RECEIPTS, AND SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A \$400, \$200 OR \$100 BUY BALONNE GIFT CARD.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT COUNCIL ON 4620 8888

# Local Blue Lures Program Receives National Recognition



A Balonne born and bred program developed and run by the St George Police called Blue Lures has received national recognition with a Bronze Award at the 2025 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards.

Blue Lures is a Queensland Police-led early intervention program that engages with youths through recreational fishing activities with regular Police-led fishing sessions.

These informal sessions allow Police and community mentors to build rapport with participants, offer guidance, and provide positive role modelling in a culturally safe setting.

Blue Lures creates a calm, inclusive space where young people can connect with Police in a non-confrontational environment, building trust, life skills, and resilience while participating in a healthy outdoor activity.

Founded in St George by Constable Dan Burton and First Nations Police Liaison Officer Chelsea Beardmore, the program was developed as a proactive response to increasing youth

disengagement and to enhance community trust in Police.

Initially piloted in St George, the program has seen overwhelming success and has since expanded to nine locations, with a further 23 communities preparing to implement Blue Lures in 2025/26.

Increasingly, families and kin also attend, strengthening intergenerational connection and providing a whole-of-family approach to support.



# Bollon Causeway to be more flood resilient

The Wallam Creek Causeway on the Balonne Highway in Bollon is set to receive an upgrade to make it more flood resilient following a funding announcement from State and Federal governments.

Through the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements the governments committed \$155 million to upgrade six crossings in western Queensland following the devastating flooding that occurred earlier this year.

The Wallam Creek Causeway is one of the key projects identified to be upgraded to be more flood resilient.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads advised Council that community engagement had already been undertaken on the upgrades in previous years and that this funding announcement paved the way to commence detailed design works, which are already underway.

The Department is expecting to commence these upgrade works to the causeway in around the middle of 2026.

# Mallawa Supports Local Ag Students

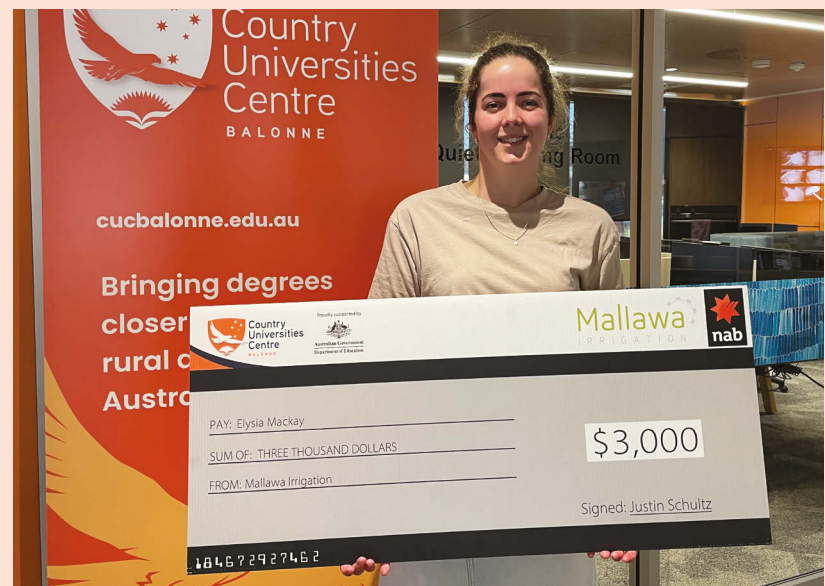
Mallawa Irrigation awarded scholarships to three local students at the Country Universities Centre Balonne Ball last month.

The successful scholarship recipients were Elindre Lamprecht, Elysia Mackay and Zahra Knights.

Mallawa scholarships support students enrolled in either vocational or undergraduate studies in agriculture, water or environment at the Country Universities Centre Balonne.

Mallawa would like to congratulate our scholarship recipients and look forward to watching them develop in their field, making positive contributions to our district's thriving agricultural industry.

For more information about the Country Universities Centre Balonne and the Mallawa scholarships, please get in touch with Elspeth Hurse at CUC Balonne.



# St George High's Principal Leads the Way

St George State High School's Principal Thomas McKenna was awarded the 'Excellent Leadership in Teaching' Award at the recent 2025 TeachX Awards held by the Queensland College of Teachers.

The award recognised Mr McKenna for his dedication in creating meaningful pathways for students in rural Queensland.

Mr McKenna has played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Agricultural, Water and Environment Partnership program at the school, which has connected students with local industries and government to

explore careers in agriculture.

The program's flagship initiative, the Ag-Careers Immersion Camp, has attracted students from across sectors and across Queensland, gaining national recognition for its hands-on, industry-focused approach in supporting students to become more industry-ready.

On behalf of Balonne Shire, we would like to extend a huge congratulations to Mr McKenna on his unwavering dedication to schooling in the Shire and on receiving this recognition he so truly deserves.



# 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  
For information on social games over the Christmas break, please check out their Facebook page @stgeorgesquashclub



## 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



## 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 6:15am and 9:15am (Pilates), Thursday 6:15am (Tone Class), Friday 6:15am (Pilates Online) 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

Tuesday to Sunday: 11am - 4pm

When Winter temperatures get colder, only Thermal Pool will be available.

Party Bookings available Saturday & Sunday mornings, but must be booked in advance.

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



## ST GEORGE RLFC SAINTS'

Pre-season training has started for 2025, all welcome, head down to Rowden Park on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6:30pm.

For more information, check out the St George RLFC Saints Facebook Page.



## 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](http://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 BOWLS CLUB

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

Wednesday 8am for social bowls, all welcome.

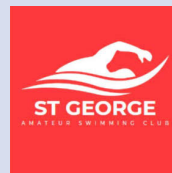
Green available on Saturdays for casual bowlers.



## ST GEORGE SWIMMING CLUB

If you'd like to try your hand at more competitive swimming, the St George Swimming Club has started back up for term 1 of school and meets Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm at the St George Aquatic Centre. head on down to register.

For more information, you can email [stgswim@hotmail.com](mailto:stgswim@hotmail.com) or visit their Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/stgeorgeswimmingclub](http://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeswimmingclub)



## 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](mailto:stgeorgenetball@gmail.com) or phone Jade - 0413 084 891



## 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](mailto:media@balonne.qld.gov.au)



# Out and About in Balonne

*Waltzing on the Wallam*



# Roadworks UPDATE

## COMPLETED ROADS THROUGH SEPTEMBER:

- Mulga Downs Road (Flood Recovery Work)
- Loughnan Downs Rd
- Whyenbah Road
- Pine Park Road

## WORKS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

### Dunbar Road

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

### Littleton Road

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

### Diamond Tank Road

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

### Teelba Road

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

## UPCOMING WORKS:

- Narkoola Rd - Early December
- Sunset Valley Rd - Mid December
- Hollymount Rd - Mid December



TEELBA ROAD



PINE PARK ROAD

Have you spotted something that needs fixing?

Report an issue to Council, so we can get it sorted for you!

[www.balonne.qld.gov.au](http://www.balonne.qld.gov.au)



LITTLETON ROAD

# RADF 2025 - 2026 GRANTS ROUND 3 OPENS 1 JANUARY!


Applications close 9am 27 Jan 2026



# Balonne Shire Job Opportunities

December 2025

<p>Council Positions Available St George &amp; Surrounds</p>	<p><b>BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL POSITIONS</b> Construction Supervisor   Full Time   St George RMPC Roads Laborer   Full Time   St George Administration Officer   Part Time   St George Town Labourer   Full Time   Dirranbandi Apply: <a href="http://www.balonne.qld.gov.au">www.balonne.qld.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>Administration Officer</b></p>	<p><b>DIRRANBANDI HEALTH SERVICE</b> Full Time / Part Time \$76,963 - \$85,591   Dirranbandi At our 13 bed Multipurpose Health Service and Medical Centre, the team at Dirranbandi are passionate about their town and their community. Role provides high standard administrative support and performs a range of administrative duties that contributes to the efficient and effective operations of the team or work unit. Apply Queensland Government Health Careers</p>
<p>Venue Operations Manager</p>	<p><b>THE AUSTRALIAN HOTEL</b> Full Time   St George Proven leader in hospitality management to support daily operations, maintain high standards of service, point of contact for all guest enquiries, assist in stock management, staff performance management, ensure compliance with health and safety, licensing laws, regulatory requirements. Apply on uWorkin</p>	<p><b>Recreational Officer</b></p>	<p>Permanent Part Time   Dirranbandi Role is to design, implement and evaluate a variety of recreational, diversional and social activities to improve or maintain the physical and mental function of the residents. Under the supervision of a clinician, you will assess the needs of residents and plan individual lifestyle programs. Apply Queensland Government Health Careers</p>
<p>Management Accountant</p>	<p><b>DIRRANBANDI BAKERY</b> Full Time \$80,000 - \$85,000 pa   Dirranbandi A crucial role in supporting the financial operations and strategic decision-making to grow the business. Detailed financial reports, budgets and forecasting, analysis of financial data, identifying drivers of profitability, advice on resource allocation. Bachelor's degree in accounting or finance, CPA / CA qualification desirable and minimum 1 year relevant experience. Apply on Seek</p>	<p><b>Retail Pharmacist</b></p>	<p><b>ST GEORGE PHARMACY</b> Full Time \$105,000 - \$115,000 pa   St George Work closely with the Pharmacist Manager to oversee the day-to-day operations while ensuring the highest standards of customer service and professionalism. A key role in leading and supporting pharmacy staff, managing inventory, and contributing to business growth. Current registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia (AHPRA) is mandatory. Bachelor of Pharmacy or equivalent qualification recognised in Australia. Apply on Seek</p>
<p>Early Childhood Educators</p>	<p><b>NCC EARLY LEARNERS</b> Part Time / Full Time   St George Supporting the room Lead Educator in the development and delivery of the learning program as per the Early Years Learning Framework and service philosophy. Flexible working hours and ongoing opportunities for professional development. Certificate 3 in Early Childhood or Diploma and a current Blue Card/Working With Children check. Apply on Seek</p>	<p><b>Mental Health Coordinator</b></p>	<p><b>ST GEORGE MEDICAL CENTRE</b> Contact / Temporary \$30 - \$40 / hr   St George Work with general practitioners and/or psychiatrists to provide coordinated clinical care for people with severe and complex mental illness. Provide evidence-based intervention to people with severe mental illness and provide links to other services. Family-owned practice. Apply on Seek</p>
<p>Early Childhood Teachers</p>	<p>Full Time   St George Experience in play-based learning, ability to document and develop own programs. Critical you build and maintain meaningful relationships with young children and their families. Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, Blue Card/Working with Children required. Apply on Seek</p>	<p><b>School Officer / Classroom Support</b></p>	<p><b>ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL</b> Contract / Temporary Multiple Positions \$32.53 - 35.62 / hr   St George Apply your knowledge to assist teachers and other staff members with preparing, implementing and supervising learning programs. You will proactively work hand in hand with teaching staff to support students with identified and additional requirements to enhance access to the curriculum and provide a high-quality faith-based education for students. Apply on Seek</p>
<p>Parts Interpreter</p>	<p><b>RDO</b> Full Time   St George Assist customers to identify and order the right parts, accurately process sales, invoices and stock movements. Need a team player to deliver expert service and support, previous experience or formal training in parts interpreting and a strong understanding of mechanical and technical terms. Apply on Seek or <a href="http://www.rdoequipment.com.au/careers/">www.rdoequipment.com.au/careers/</a></p>	<p><b>Gardener</b></p>	<p><b>CUBBIE AG</b> Full Time \$30 - \$35 / hr + meals, accommodation   Dirranbandi Skilled gardener to maintain and enhance the grounds across our homestead and accommodation. Ideal for someone who has a genuine passion for horticulture, enjoys working outdoors, and takes pride in keeping landscapes healthy, safe, and well-presented. You may also assist with irrigation checks, light property upkeep, and general site presentation tasks. Manual driver's licence required. Apply on Seek</p>
<p>Service Technician Field</p>	<p>Full Time   St George Work on a range of John Deere agricultural equipment from general service and repairs to major overhauls and new machine assembly. Deliver expert service and support to our customers and partners and contribute to a culture of safety, innovation, and continuous improvement. Working in construction, agriculture and turf products. Apply on Seek or <a href="http://www.rdoequipment.com.au/careers/">www.rdoequipment.com.au/careers/</a></p>	<p><b>Cleaner / Cook</b></p>	<p>Full time   Dirranbandi Request a reliable, proactive, and hands-on cook/cleaner to support the day-to-day running of our homestead, accommodation communal and office facilities. Ideal for someone with strong hospitality and housekeeping experience who enjoys variety in their daily work and takes pride in maintaining high-quality standards. Driver's licence required. Apply on Seek</p>
<p>Service Technician</p>	<p><b>ST GEORGE MACHINERY CENTRE</b> Full Time   St George Experienced Ag mechanic who has proven success in similar role with exceptional customer service, trade background with technical knowledge of agricultural machines and tractors. Case IH product knowledge an advantage. E: <a href="mailto:cameron@sgmc.com.au">cameron@sgmc.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>Registered Nurse</b></p>	<p><b>CHURCHES OF CHRIST WARRAWEE AGED CARE</b> Permanent Part Time   St George Conduct assessments and develop care plans based on individual needs, review and evaluate care strategies, working closely with clients, families, and the care team, maintain accurate documentation in line with organisational and legal requirements and collaborate with internal and external service providers to enhance care delivery. Current AHPRA registration as a Registered Nurse.</p>
<p>Parts Interpreter</p>	<p>Full Time   St George Exceptional customer service and a passion for agricultural equipment and parts is essential. In addition to interpreting duties you will be ordering, receiving, storing and maintaining the stock inventory. E: <a href="mailto:cameron@sgmc.com.au">cameron@sgmc.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>Fruit &amp; Vegetable Stockist</b></p>	<p>25 hours / week (7am - 1pm)   St George Assisting the manager, you are responsible for stock filling and food safety. This is a physical position, and a friendly and helpful attitude is important. On the job training provided. E: <a href="mailto:accounts@stgeorgefoodworks.com.au">accounts@stgeorgefoodworks.com.au</a> or drop in your resume to Kim Webster</p>
<p>Casual Staff</p>	<p><b>FOODWORKS</b> Casual / Part Time   St George Looking for enthusiastic staff who are passionate about providing great customer service over the Christmas period. E: <a href="mailto:stgeorgeiga@cornetts.com.au">stgeorgeiga@cornetts.com.au</a> or drop in your resume to Stacey Brunner or Beck Mallick</p>	<p><b>Measure &amp; Quote</b></p>	<p><b>CORNETS IGA</b> Casual 15 hrs with Full Time Potential   St George Working in the shop and providing measure and quote services for our customers. Training is provided and involves some heavy lifting. Driver's licence required. Apply by dropping resume at the shop, 14 Grey Street</p>

  
**For more information on local jobs**  
**SCAN THIS QR CODE**


If you have a position you would like placed in this section, please contact Balonne Shire Council's Workforce Development Officer: Robyn on 4620 8839 or 0456 644 203.

This Balonne Shire Council initiative is proudly supported by the Queensland Government through its Growing Workforce Participation Fund.