

Balonne Bulletin

THE NEWSLETTER OF BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL

ISSUE 61 | 28 AUGUST 2026



Storyfest South West spreads its Literary Wings

Now in its third year, Storyfest South West continues to celebrate the creativity, stories and spirit of the Balonne Shire and the people and landscapes that make the region so unique.

Storyfest South West brings with it a celebration of storytelling, creativity and community spirit to the heart of Balonne with events for all ages, including a chance for locals to meet and chat to Authors, immersive storytelling, workshops, a pop-up bookshop, a Prologue Party, student sessions and a workshop for grown-ups.

With schools from right across the south-west Queensland region already registered, this year's festival promises to be a true showcase of local talent and imagination.

Since its launch in 2024, the festival has proudly showcased local creative talent through the Beehive Project (2024) and

Ocean Project (2025), created by local artist Kimberly Thornton in collaboration with students from Balonne Creative Arts.

In 2026 Kimberly and Balonne Creative Arts students travelled to Storyfest Gold Coast, bringing the Ocean Project to a new audience and sharing the students' creativity with thousands of festival-goers.

This year, that creative journey continues with Birds of Balonne focused on Jodie McLeod's books. Supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, the project once again brings Kimberly and Balonne Creative Arts students together to celebrate the remarkable birdlife, natural beauty and creative spirit of the region.

Through their work, festival-goers are invited to experience a little piece of Balonne: its nature, its art, and, most importantly, its people.



Do you have a community story, event or notice for the next edition of the Balonne Bulletin?

Let us know here ►



What's On

BOLLON CAMPDRAFT AND RODEO

When: 3-6 September 2026

Where: Bollon Showgrounds

Get ready for a weekend filled with thrilling rodeo action, high-speed campdrafting, and unforgettable experiences at the Bollon Campdraft & Rodeo!

NINDIGULLY CAMPDRAFT

When: Saturday 12 – Sunday 13 Sept

Where: Nindigully Sports Ground

A great family-friendly weekend. There will be plenty of entertainment along with a full bar and canteen available all weekend. Saturday night is the main night with music, dancing, entertainment, and prizes to be won.

ST GEORGE CUP RACES

When: Saturday 26 September

Where: St George Jockey Club

Ticket Fee

Full racing card, TAB bookies and the much-heralded Fashions of the Field. Take advantage of our bus service with several pickup points taking you to the racetrack, observe the modern fashions with the country twist, or share a story or three at the bar.

HEBEL GYMKHANA & MOTORKHANA

When: Saturday 26 – Sunday 27 Sept

Where: Hebel

Perfect for all ages! Whether you're riding a horse or a motorbike, enjoy classic competitions like barrels, bending, flags, and even apple bobbing. Plus, don't miss out on the excitement of the farmers' challenge and kids' novelty events and live entertainment.

NINDIGULLY PIG RACES

When: Friday 2 – Sunday 4 October

Where: Nindigully Pub

Ticket Fee

Nindigully Pub's annual Pig Races draw crowds with live music, food, auctions, and camping, featuring pigs racing in a lively and entertaining atmosphere. The event supports the Royal Flying Doctor Service and offers loads of family fun.

ST GEORGE FISHING COMPETITION

When: Friday 2 – Sunday 4 October

Where: Rowden Park, St George

Nominations open from 3pm Friday, so grab your gear, bait up, and cast a line. With thousands of dollars in cash and prizes up for grabs, it's a weekend not to be missed.

A message from the Mayor



With drier conditions currently upon us, we are seeing changes to life in Balonne.

Although we have had some winter rains, it has not been in abundance, well below average and missed many parts of the Shire.

A simple look across some of our drier pastures, tells a story of how quickly life can change for our agricultural industry, which consistently generates economic certainty for our Shire.

Whether these drier conditions will continue is beyond our control, but the Bureau of Meteorology is certainly making predictions about drier times ahead.

The Queensland Government recently announced a drought declaration for Balonne, Goondiwindi, Southern Downs and part of Maranoa local government areas.

This drought declaration unlocks vital funding from the Queensland Government for our local primary producers to access interest free loan schemes to see them through this drier period.

The Queensland Government also announced the automatic deferral of land rent and lease payments for drought-affected landholders.

These initiatives from the Queensland Government will go a long way to supporting our agricultural industry and I urge any affected landowners to take advantage of these initiatives where needed.

The flooding that weaved its way through our river systems in February, came from rainfalls upstream and certainly provided a welcomed reprieve for our Shire, as it replenished our river systems.

With Beardmore Dam's capacity currently at just below 70%, our allocation for the river water supply in St George Water Supply Scheme has dropped to below 2,500 megalitres ushering in Level 1 water restrictions for river water use in St George.

My message to river water users in St George is to please take note of the advised daily target levels, as the more we can do to conserve our remaining water allocation, the longer it will last us all.

Here's hoping these drier conditions will be short-lived and washed away with some welcomed rainfalls in the coming months.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole



Balonne Drought Declaration Supports Our Agriculture Sector



Following prolonged periods of below-average rainfall in the region, the Queensland Government has initiated a drought declaration over Balonne Shire, as well as Goondiwindi, Southern Downs and part of Maranoa local government areas.

This drought declaration means that the Queensland Government has now reinstated the Emergency Drought Assistance Loan Scheme providing

interest-free loans of up to \$50,000 for eligible landholders.

The Queensland Government has also reinstated support through the Drought Carry-on Finance Loan Scheme, which will provide interest-free loans of up to \$250,000 for business carry-on expenses.

These loan schemes can be accessed through QRIDA and Primary Producers will need to have a Farm Resilience

Business Plan in place, which can be arranged with the support of Rural Financial Counselling Service.

For more information on drought assistance programs, visit www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/disaster/drought



New Art Gallery Installation In Balonne

Thanks to funding from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, Council has transformed an underutilised area of the St George Library into an Art Gallery for the public display of artworks.

The project involved the installation of directional lighting and adjustable hanging to accommodate a range of art exhibitions.

The area is currently filled with historical images and will be used in the future for the display of local and travelling exhibitions, giving local residents more access to different artistic displays.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole said the funding from FRRR has transformed an underutilised space in our Library.

"This area also hosted the recent Flying Arts Exhibition that travelled through the area," said Mayor O'Toole.

"The area is now seeing higher usage from community groups and we are looking forward to future art installations in this refurbished area."



THE LIBRARY LENS



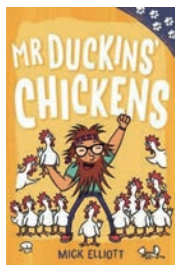
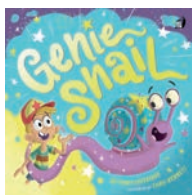
A selection of books from some of our Storyfest authors are now available to borrow from Balonne Shire Libraries.

Looking for a laugh? Try Mr Duckins' Chickens by Mick Elliott. Keen to dive into a thrilling sequel? Pick up Jane Doe and the Cradle of All Worlds by Jeremy Lachlan. Or for a magical rhyming tale with a tiny plot twist, borrow Genie Snail by Bethany Loveridge.

These are just a few of the titles by this years' Storyfest authors now available.

You can search for and reserve titles through the QLDLibraries app or visit your local library and chat with one of our friendly librarians.

Keep the Storyfest magic going and discover your next great read at Balonne Shire Libraries.



Ben Lawson Wins School Community Award



Congratulations to St George State High School Teacher Business Services Manager Ben Lawson who was awarded the 2026 School Community Award at the School Business Managers Association of Queensland's recent awards ceremony.

Ben has been instrumental in collaborations between Council and the School and anyone who has had any dealings with Ben would know he is well deserving of this award.

Congrats Ben!

Little Lending Libraries get a Home-Grown Touch

Council's Libraries team has engaged the support of the St George Men's Shed and the Balonne Creative Arts Group to build and add character to six mobile Little Lending Library's to be located and rotated in Cafes, businesses and public spaces throughout the Shire.

The Little Lending Library's will be filled with a range of donated books that people can borrow to read and replace with other books they may have.

The general rule for borrowing a book from a Little Lending Library is that if



you take a book, leave a book, and that will leave them replenished and ready for the next person.

It is hoped these Little Lending Libraries will provide more access to reading books in the Shire for locals and travellers alike.

More than a fundraiser. A celebration of community, courage and resilience.

HEART OF COUNTRY COURAGE

A bush-themed event supporting



Appetisers, dinner, dessert bar, and a drink on arrival
Complimentary alcoholic-free drink throughout the night

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 2026

3 PM - MIDNIGHT

PURCHASE YOUR TICKET NOW!



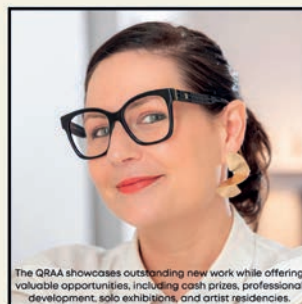
- ♥ Live band
- ♥ Inspiring speakers' real-life stories
- ♥ Gold Medallist MC
- ♥ Heartkids and SITC speakers
- ♥ Raffles & Auction

Your contribution will help children living with congenital heart disease and rural communities working to address alcohol harm.

For more information
Leonie: 0428 378 510 leoniebrassey72@gmail.com

Entering the Queensland Regional Art Awards

with Dr Holly Arden



Join Dr Holly Arden, former QRAA judge to explore the QRAA entry process and learn practical insights to help strengthen your submission and approach the awards with confidence.

Scan the QR code to listen now



Entries Close
3pm Friday 18 September

FLYING ARTS

Men's Shed Progressing Rail Buffer Stop Restoration

Thanks to the dedication and craftsmanship of the St George Men's Shed, the restoration of the historic rail buffer stop from the Dirranbandi Rail and River Park is progressing well.

Guided by the original 1955 Queensland Rail drawings, the St George Men's Shed has brought the project

a long way since the buffer stop was removed for refurbishment.

Council is pleased to see this important piece of Dirranbandi's rail history being brought back to life and looks forward to seeing the restoration continue.



Interim CEO takes the reigns at Council

Interim Chief Executive Officer David Burges commenced with Council on 4 August 2026, following the resignation of Council's Chief Executive Officer, Michelle Clarke on 18 June 2026.

Mr Burges comes to the Interim CEO position with over 28 years' experience in senior management roles for regional Councils, including as a former Chief Executive Officer for Quilpie Shire Council and Southern Downs Regional Council.

Mrs Clarke left Council on 7 August to allow for an adequate handover period, before taking up her new role as CEO of Charters Towers Regional Council, where she can be closer to family after the recent birth of her grandchildren.

Council has now commenced an executive recruitment process to secure a suitable candidate for the permanent Chief Executive Officer position.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole welcomed Mr Burges to the position and said she is looking forward to working with him as he settles into the position.

"We have every confidence in David's capacity to guide the management of Council's operations, while we undertake an executive recruitment process to secure a permanent CEO," said Mayor O'Toole.

Mr Burges said he is excited to be taking on the role of Interim Chief Executive Officer at Balonne Shire Council.

"Local government has been such a huge part of my life for decades now, and I really do enjoy working within communities and addressing the different challenges Councils face



ENVIRO-COLUMN

MOTHER OF MILLIONS



Mother-of-millions is an invasive, drought-tolerant succulent that spreads rapidly through seeds and plantlets.

It grows along roadsides, fence lines, rubbish dumps and in pastures, and is highly toxic to livestock, particularly cattle.

Mother-of-millions is a category 3 restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014, which requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control.

Visit the fact sheet via scanning the QR for more information on preventative measures, how to manage the weed and general guidance.



every day in delivering services for their region," said Mr Burges.

"I would like to assure residents that my primary focus as the Interim Chief Executive Officer will be to ensure the day-to-day operations of Council continue business-as-usual while the transition occurs to a new permanent CEO."

Noondoo Intersection Safety Improvements Now Complete

The intersection of Noondoo-Mungindi Road and Castlereagh Highway has now received a significant upgrade to improve safety for travellers at this location.

This upgrade has delivered improved safety with a new configuration that includes a larger radius and improved delineation of the intersection and upgraded signage.

The project was funded by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads project and constructed by Balonne Shire Council finalising the works around the start of August, which are now open to travellers.



Delivering More Sealed Roads for the Shire

Council has delivered more sealed road upgrades to the Shire, thanks to \$756,000 in funding from the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery Program.

This funding meant that Council could seal an additional 11 kilometres of Noondoo-Mungindi Road to improve longevity and accessibility on this road to create easier connections between our townships.

Council also delivered 5 kilometres of re-sheeting to Noondoo-Mungindi road to improve accessibility between Dirranbandi and Mungindi, including for agricultural properties that use this road for access.

NOOND00-MUNGINDI ROAD UPGRADES



DO YOU WANT TO JOIN YOUTH COUNCIL

BALONNE

Help young communities thrive | Be a voice for local youth
Gain valuable CV experience | Enhance your leadership skills

APPLY NOW

Head to our website and search Youth Council

Or scan the QR code

*Applications open to 12 - 25 year olds
cdo@balonne.qld.gov.au | 4620 8888

Kath Dickson FAMILY CENTRE
Community Toy Library

Supported by
Care Balonne
BALONNE Shire Council

Toy Bus
Southern QLD Route

Come along and visit the Toy Bus to explore everything it has to offer families and community playgroups in our Shire! Borrow a range of high-quality toys and resources for children under 5.

Tuesday 25 August 2026	
8:30am - 9:30am	Mungindi Daycare
11am - 12pm	Thallon Library
Wednesday 26 August 2026	
10:30am - 12pm	Hebel Library
2pm - 3pm	Dirranbandi Library
Thursday 27 August 2026	
9am - 10:30am	St George Library

A proud initiative of Kath Dickson Family Centre
1300 336 345 | hello@kdfc.com.au | kdfc.com.au/toy-library

Care Balonne

Federal Deal a Disaster for South West Queensland

The Federal Government has dealt a major blow to disaster recovery funding, which is an essential part of getting our Shire back on its feet following flooding events.

When flooding occurs in Balonne Shire, it causes devastation to our sealed and unsealed road network, with Council delivering over \$135 million on disaster recovery works over the past 5 years.

Funding for these works is provided through the State and Federal Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, and the Federal Government has announced that they are reducing their contribution from 66% to a 50/50 split with the Queensland Government.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole said this funding cut will have devastating consequences for disaster recovery in South West Queensland.



"In the last 5 years alone, we have needed over \$135 million to fix our road network after disasters, which represents double our rates income for that period," said Mayor O'Toole.

"Disaster funding has helped our Shire get back on its feet after floods and is absolutely crucial to rebuilding the infrastructure our resident's need.

"The latest federal budget has clearly led to more backflips than a gymnastics medallist, but this disaster funding deal needs a gold-medal-worthy double-layout with a full twist to turn it around!

"This is a dud deal for our Shire, a dud deal for our region and a dud deal for any area that needs financial assistance after disaster strikes.

"We are calling on the federal government to dump this dud deal and return disaster funding arrangements back to the funding arrangements that have worked time and time again for regions when they need it most."

YOU PLAYED WHERE!?

TOUR

FRI 11 SEP	GREAT ARTESIAN SPA	MITCHELL. QLD
SAT 12 SEP	ROMA SALEYARDS. BULL ARENA	ROMA. QLD
SUN 13 SEP	JONDARYAN WOOLSHED	JONDARYAN. QLD
FRI 18 SEP	GREENUP MEETING PLACE	COOLMUNDA. QLD
SAT 19 SEP	AMPHITHEATRE	ST GEORGE. QLD
SUN 20 SEP	WARWICK RAILWAY STATION	WARWICK. QLD
FRI 2 OCT	DENI UTE MUSTER	DENILIQUIN. NSW

TIX @ LAURAFRANK.COM.AU

The
MEMOIR WRITER

THE STORIES THAT SHAPE US

Free memoir-writing workshop
St George Library

Friday 25 September 2026

A practical workshop for people who want to write their life story

Register at the St George Library
Numbers are limited.

Queensland Government

This project is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

Oakey Creek Bridge Lowered to 14t Load Limit for Community Safety

Following an annual bridge inspection program, Council identified issues with Oakey Creek Bridge on Bollon-Dirranbandi Road and placed a 14-tonne gross load limit on the bridge and a reduced speed limit to maintain community safety for those travelling through our Shire.

Motorists are advised to observe all signage and ensure the combined weight of their vehicle, trailer and load does not exceed the limit before crossing.

VMS boards have been placed at either end of Bollon-Dirranbandi Road to advise heavy vehicles.

Council is currently undertaking a detailed assessment of the issues to confirm potential solutions to resolve this matter, and preliminary assessments are showing that the bridge may be able to be repaired, as opposed to the lengthier

process of a full bridge replacement.

It should be noted that fixing these bridge issues will require Council to develop detailed engineering plans, before sourcing tenders to have these works undertaken, which may take months to complete.

If heavy vehicle operators ignore this 14 tonne load limit and continue

to traverse this damaged bridge, it may cause further damage and create the need for a full bridge replacement, which would take a significantly longer period to rectify.

In the interim, heavy vehicles travelling in this area should seek an alternate route, which can be found by using the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's portal.



Bulk Fuel Supply Provides Budget Assurance for Council

Fuel is a significant cost component of Council's ongoing operational budget, as it is essential for our fleet and plant to upgrade roads, undertake landscaping and for other operational requirements.

As a Council, we are committed to delivering services to our residents in the most cost-effective manner possible and changes to our fuel supply procurement is one way we can reduce costs to our ratepayers.

Given the conflict in the middle east is continuing to cause increases and fluctuations in fuel prices, Council has secured its own bulk fuel supply to limit cost impacts from these fuel variations.

The 65,000-litre bulk fuel supply is now being used for Council's fleet and plant at a cost well below retail and is having a



marked decrease in our ongoing monthly fuel costs.

The bulk fuel container stores around 6-8 weeks supply at a time and is secured safely within a locked premises, has a dedicated CCTV monitoring system and a coded fuel management system, which

prevents tampering or theft.

In addition to previously stated limits on Council work-related travel and increased carpooling, Council is making sure that we can continue to deliver the vital services our residents needs in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Balonne Shire Council

2027 Calendar PHOTO COMPETITION

theme
THROUGH YOUNG EYES

THE BALONNE AS SEEN THROUGH YOUNG EYES:
MOMENTS FROM OUR NEXT GENERATION

OPENS 15 AUG 9AM **OPEN TO UNDER 25's** **CLOSES** 28 SEP 9AM

To submit your entry, please email cdo@balonne.qld.gov.au with your name, age, contact details and location of photo taken.

Please make sure you read the cheat sheet and entry guidelines before you start taking photos and before you submit them. Photos which do not adhere to the technical requirements will not be considered for the calendar.

CHEAT SHEET

theme
THROUGH YOUNG EYES

UNDER 25's

Balonne Shire Council
2027 Calendar PHOTO COMPETITION

LOCATION
All photos must be taken within the Balonne Shire.

ORIGINAL WORK
All entries must be original photographs taken by the entrant. No third party may own or control any materials the photo contains.

COPYRIGHT OWNERSHIP
Under Australian law (Copyright Act 1968), the photographer is the initial copyright owner. By entering, you retain full copyright of your image.

PERMISSION FOR USE
By submitting, you grant Balonne Shire Council a non-exclusive license to use your photo in the 2027 calendar, promotional posters, and social media. You will be credited wherever your photo is used.

TECHNICAL SPECS
Landscape orientation
Clear, colour photographs only
JPEG, JPG (high quality), or TIFF format
Digital format, less than 10MB per image
Minimum resolution: 300dpi at A4 size (297mm x 210mm)
No borders, frames, watermarks, signatures, or copyright notices

SELECTION & RECOGNITION
Photos will be chosen based on how well they represent the Balonne Shire and the theme, Through Young Eyes, open to under 25's.
Selected photographers will be credited in the calendar and any promotional materials.
Council may feature submitted photos in calendar promo publications, on Council's website, and other media platforms.

To submit your entry, please email cdo@balonne.qld.gov.au with your name, age, contact details and location of photo taken.

For more information, contact Council's Communities Team on 4620 8888.

Council Appoints New Tourism Manager

Council has appointed a prominent member of its multi-award-winning St George Region tourism team as its new Tourism Manager, following the departure of our well-respected Kim Wildman, who left the Shire to be closer to family.

Tara Edwards takes the reigns as the new Tourism Manager, after being instrumental in St George Region's recent successful initiatives, such as the You'll Be Hooked on St George Region campaign, the development of the recently released Destination Management Plan and the new Traveller's Guide.

Tara has a background and tertiary qualifications in marketing and business administration and her efforts in the tourism team supported the recent Queensland and Australian tourism

awards for tourism services at the St George Explore Centre.

Tara said she is delighted to be appointed as the new Tourism Manager.

"I've learnt so much from my time with Kim and I'm really looking forward to continuing the successes we've celebrated as a team over recent years.

"It is such rewarding work promoting our Shire to visitors and putting in place initiatives that showcase our region.

"Over the coming period, we will be unfolding further initiatives such as the Birds of Balonne, Cotton in the St George Region, Dark Skies Tourism and an Indigenous Trail to further boost visitors to our region and I'm really looking forward to playing a role in bringing new visitors to our region off the back of these initiatives."



COMMUNITY CATCH-UP

29 AUG	THALLON William Road, Thallon From 1pm	
1 SEP	HEBEL Hebel Pub 11am - 12:30pm	DIRRANBANDI Rail & River Park 2:30pm - 4pm
8 SEP	MUNGINDI Barwon River Park 11am - 12:30pm	NINDIGULLY Nindigully Pub 1:30pm - 3pm
9 SEP	BOLLON Walter Austin Park 11:30am - 1pm	

SAFE PETS IN BALONNE

Register your dog by **AUGUST 31** and claim **FREE MICROCHIPPING**

*Only 100 spots available!

To pay your dog registration, visit Council or call 4620 8888

Progress While Protecting our Cultural Heritage

Recently, Council delivered significant upgrades to our road network around Noondoo with a careful eye on delivering progress, while protecting our Shire's cultural heritage in that area.

Anyone travelling down the newly sealed section of Noondoo-Mungindi Road might be forgiven for thinking the Council team missed a section of sealing, however the reality is the cobblestones in this unsealed section hold historical significance to our region.

This cobblestone section, may just seem like a few rocks laid down as a roadbase, but this section was constructed by a group known as the Amoy Shepherds who came to our country from Amoy in China in the 1800's.

Many of these Amoy Shepherds never returned to their homeland and were laid to rest in since unmarked graves in the St George Cemetery and are honoured now by a memorial installed by the St George Chinese Community Memorial Committee.

While adding an additional 11km of sealing to Noondoo-Mungindi Road, the Council team carefully left these cobblestones exposed as an unsealed section of the roadway so as to not impact the cultural heritage that this area reflects.

Another example of respecting our cultural heritage occurred during the upgrade of the Noondoo Curve on the corner of Noondoo-Mungindi Road and the Castlereagh Highway.

This upgrade increased the radius to



improve safety at this intersection, but the increase radius was set to go straight over the top of some foundational rocks that were laid to signify the original construction of the intersection.

Instead of disregarding these rocks,

the Council crew carefully relocated the rocks and plaque to the adjacent rest stop and cemented them in place so that they will continue to stand as a historical recognition of past works for future generations to reflect on.

REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND
#Queensland'sTimeToShine

RADF 2026 - 2027 Grants Round 2 Opening Soon!

Applications Open 7 September 2026
Close 13 October 2026

For more information, contact Council's Communities Team on 4620 8888

RADF is a partnership between the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and Balonne Shire Council to promote local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

RATES DISCOUNT PERIOD

PAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF ISSUE AND RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT

If you do not receive your rates notice by the end of August 2026, please contact Council to avoid missing discount and/or being charged interest on unpaid rates.

Contact Council on:
☎ (07) 4620 8888
✉ rates@balonne.qld.gov.au



CONNECT — ACTIVATE — AMPLIFY — INFLUENCE

LAUNCH PARTY

BALONNE SHIRE YOUTH STRATEGY
BRING YOUR GREAT IDEAS!

FREE BURGER PROVIDED
BAREFOOT BOWLS
GAMING TRAILER
WIN PRIZES
BAR 18+
JENCA POOL

FRI 25 SEP | ST GEORGE BOWLS CLUB
FREE ENTRY
6PM - 8PM

RSVP BY WEDNESDAY 23 SEP
TEXT: 0438 422 623 | EMAIL: COUNCIL@BALONNE.QLD.GOV.AU

YOUTH SPOKE
WE LISTENED JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

FREE Prologue Party • Pencil to Plate • Workshops for Adults & Children

meet the authors.

SOMERSET Storyfest SOUTH WEST
31 AUG - 2 SEP '26

Scan the QR code for the full program and meet the authors.

Multicultural Queensland Month
Bringing people together

free event

plus

prologue party

Monday 31 August
4.30pm to 6.30pm

Balonne Shire Council Cultural Centre

Free Event
Food and drink available for purchase

As part of Multicultural Queensland Month, enjoy foods from different regions and show us "Where in the World Does Your Family Come From?" on the map.

This event is proudly sponsored by the Queensland Government, Welcoming Cities and St George Lions Club Qld Australia.

Silversmithing WORKSHOP

SEP 19
CWA Building
47-49 William Street
Thallon QLD
Thallon, Queensland

BEZEL SETTING GEMSTONE to Silver Pendant

Learn the art of bezel setting and create your own silver pendant with a beautiful gemstone.

A hands-on, creative experience to wear, treasure and be proud of!

- 1 REGISTRATION FEE: \$180
- 2 9AM - 5PM (COMPLETION DEPENDENT)
- 3 NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE NEEDED

A mindful, hands-on craft that calms the mind, builds focus, and supports overall mental wellbeing.

PAY 50% OF REGISTRATION FEE TO SECURE YOUR SPOT

LIMITED NUMBERS BOOK NOW
0403 956 133

ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME | RELAX, CREATE, FEEL GOOD | STRONGER TOGETHER, BETTER TOGETHER

The Regional Arts Development Fund is a Queensland Government initiative through an Arts Queensland and Balonne Shire Council partnership to promote local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

CUC Balonne Helps 500 Students Over First 5 Years

Since opening its doors in 2021, CUC Balonne has helped 500 regional students access higher education while staying connected to the community they call home.

From dedicated study support and facilities to bursaries, scholarships, community partnerships and outreach programs, the Centre continues to create opportunities and reduce barriers for local students. This a huge achievement given the original goal of the CUC Balonne was to support 38 students over 4 years.

Congratulations to the CUC Balonne team, students and community on two incredible milestones!



Dirranbandi Community kept safe following Water Treatment Plant malfunction



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Do you know a local that deserves recognition?

Opening Soon

Awards will be announced on Australia day, Tuesday 26 January 2027
For more information on Australia Day, please email cdo@balonne.qld.gov.au or call 4620 8888

Australia Day
Balonne Shire Council

Following a malfunction at the Dirranbandi Water Treatment Plant at 8pm on Saturday 15 August, Council acted immediately to protect the health and safety of the Dirranbandi community by putting in place a Boil Water Alert.

The Boil Water Alert was swiftly communicated via an Emergency Alert to all mobile phones in the area, provided updates on the Emergency Dashboard and free bottled water was provided from the Dirranbandi Depot.

Council flushed the mains water reticulation system and undertook NATA-accredited and in-house water testing to ensure water supply from the Plant is in line with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

All water testing showed negative results for coliform bacteria and were provided to Queensland Health and the water regulator, who advised that the Boil Water Alert could be cancelled at 5pm on Wednesday 19 August, as the water supply is safe for human consumption.

After this event, Council brought forward the \$200,000 full upgrade of the water treatment plant's electrical switchboard, automated systems, which was scheduled to commence around one week after this unscheduled outage.

EOI
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
CUC BALONNE BOARD MEMBER

STRATEGIC DIRECTION
PROVIDING GOVERNANCE
DELIVER POSITIVE OUTCOMES
VOICE FOR LOCAL STUDENTS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST

SAM SCHWARZ, CENTRE MANAGER
centremanager@cucbalonne.edu.au

FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR LEASEHOLDERS IN DROUGHT DECLARED AREAS

Do you have a leasehold block in the drought declared Southern Downs, Goondiwindi, Balonne and parts of the Maranoa regions?

Last week the Crisafulli Government announced the deferral of land rent fees for 12 months for drought affected leaseholds in the drought declared regions.

If you are feeling the effects of the drought or are unsure of what this announcement means for your farming operation, get in touch with your local RFC today.

Out and About in Balonne

Mungindi Show



FUN AND FITNESS IN BALONNE

ST GEORGE SQUASH

Social comps held 6pm every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday during the school term. Grading has already occurred this term, but you can contact the club on the below if you'd like to get involved.

Open to anyone. Beginners Welcome! Courts available to hire \$12.50/hr.

Email – stgeorgesquash@outlook.com or on Facebook @ [stgeorgesquashclub](https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgesquashclub)



BOXING

Sign up to be a member of In the Box Boxing Club! 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

Optimal Training group provides training sessions to improve your health and fitness on Mondays at 5pm, Tuesdays at 5:30pm, and Thursdays at 5pm at the Amphitheatre, St George.

Dates & Times can be subject to change, so check Facebook for updates.

For more information, contact Deanne - 0407 720 327



INSPIRED FITNESS WITH TJ

Inspired Fitness runs group training sessions. On Tuesdays at 6:15am, Pilates, then at 8:45am, Pilates with Mums & Bubs. On Thursdays at 6:15am, Tone Class, and on Fridays at 6:15am, Pilates Online at St Patrick's Church Hall on Balonne Street.

For PT inquiries and more information, contact Tori - 0447 080 872



ST GEORGE AQUATIC CENTRE

Winter Hours: Tuesday to Sunday 11-4 Thermal Pool only

50 metre pool closed

For more information 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) or Penny (0427 250 072)



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"



ST GEORGE CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Join the action at Rowden Park! Training runs every Wednesday from 5-7pm, and games kick off Saturdays at 9:30am - everyone's welcome to get involved!



BERRY PILATES

Berry Pilates is a boutique studio in St George offering expert-led Mat and Reformer classes. Small, supportive sessions follow classical Pilates with a modern approach to build strength and flexibility. Classes suit all levels, with movements tailored to individual needs. Group classes run most Mondays to Saturdays, with private one on one sessions also available.

For bookings or info, contact lauren@berrypilates.com.au, follow @ [berrypilates.com.au](https://www.berrypilates.com.au), or visit www.berrypilates.com.au.



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



Roadworks UPDATE

COMPLETED ROADS THROUGH JULY:

- Honeymah Ln

WORKS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

Cashel Vale Rd

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

Chelmer Rd

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



CASHEL VALE RD

Euraba Rd

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

Jakelwar-Goodooga Rd South

- Expected completion: early-November.
- Construction is halted, construction expected to recommence early-September

Woolerina Rd

- Expected completion: early-September.



EURABA RD

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

UPCOMING WORKS IN AUGUST:

- Mitchell Bollon Rd: late-August
- Beltana Rd: mid-August
- Warrie Rd: late-August
- Ula Ula Rd: mid-August
- Trackers Crossing Rd: late-August
- Narine Rd: late-August



HONEYMAH LN

Council Bids Farewell to Michelle

As our previous CEO, Michelle Clarke's time at Council came to an end, we thought it appropriate to reflect on all that she has done to improve the ways in which Council delivers its services to residents.

The role of a CEO in a small regional Council is naturally centered around delivering the most efficient and effective internal systems that improve service delivery to residents, and Michelle has achieved a lot of outcomes in this space.

As with any initiative, a third-party endorsement is one of the best assessments of an organisation, and Council's recent Snap Send Solve Resolver Award is one of the most resounding endorsements of how Council's internal processes deliver for residents.

The latest budget also ushered in a new Service Planning model, which improves transparency to the community by providing a direct link to each service we deliver to the community, including the costs and staffing required to deliver them.

Recently, Council officially adopted its 'Grow Our Own Strategy', which focusses on upskilling our teams and providing opportunities for new school-based

trainees and an increase in the number of new school leaver employees.

It is also important for Council's management to listen to our local communities and its work teams across the Shire, which was a key driver for the implementation of 'Senior Leadership Group on the Road' and the implementation of 'Community Catch-ups'.

The CEO is also ultimately responsible for the safety of employees and maintenance of its assets, which saw the introduction of a Safety-First Culture that included monthly safety meetings and an Electrical Safety Audit, which has laid the foundations for a program of works to upgrade electrical infrastructure across our facilities.

Last year, Michelle delivered our new Corporate Plan 2025-2030, which will guide Council's actions with Key Performance Indicators in place for years to come.

Over the years, Michelle played an integral role in the Local Disaster Management Group activations, which have guided our Shire through countless times of natural disaster.

As a Council, we are subjected to regular Audits relating to our processes and compliance with regulations and

Michelle's astute guidance kept Council on track to maintain its accreditations with other levels of government to continue grant funding programs.

On the topic of government interaction, Council's in today's day-and-age need to advocate to State and Federal governments to improve funding outcomes and Michelle has been front and centre of that advocacy in her role as CEO, bringing about countless positive outcomes for our Shire.

There are so many more significant Council initiatives that Michelle has played a role in over her time at Council, such as the establishment of CUC Balonne, a decade of balanced budgets, coordination of levee easements, the implementation of our CCTV strategy and a range of submissions through our associated Council bodies.

It is without doubt, that Michelle's contribution has delivered some significant achievements throughout her time with Council and we wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.



Balonne Shire Job Opportunities

August 2026

Registered Nurse Child & Family (Identified) St George	SOUTH WEST HOSPITAL & HEALTH SERVICE Full Time \$87,790 - \$112,607 First Nations RN to deliver Putting QLD Kids First initiative, which includes home visits, immunisations and childhood screening of vision and hearing. Requires a strong focus on supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and prior experience within the child and paediatric health area. Apply on Seek
Clinical Nurse Child Health St George	Full Time (2 positions) \$114,532 - \$122,643 Provide community-based nursing care in child health and delivering Putting QLD Kids First initiative, which includes home visits, immunisations and childhood screening of vision and hearing. You will provide leadership in clinical decision-making and coordinate care for our families in the south-west. Apply on Seek
Workforce Development Coordinator SW Location	Full Time or Part Time \$109,262 - \$118,881 Key role in delivering workforce development programs that support our local community to explore, transition, thrive and flourish within the SWHHS. Role requires high-quality engagement with local schools, RTOs, universities, training organisations and community stakeholders to promote, engage and grow our local workforce. Apply on Seek
Traffic Controllers St George	AVADA TRAFFIC Require casual TMI Level 2 Drivers and STS Level 1. Training is provided Apply on Seek or E: jobsqld@avadattraffic.com.au
Dairy Department Supervisor St George	CORNETTS IGA Full Time Looking for a highly motivated, passionate retail leader for our St George store and responsible for overall management of the dairy department in a busy store. Retail and / or fresh food experience preferred, along with managing inventory. Required to work a rotational roster which may include nights, weekends and public holidays. Apply on Seek
Store Person St George	FURNITURE COURT Friendly and reliable person to help with stock and deliveries, unload and move furniture, store maintenance and other duties as required. Opportunity for growth within the team. We need a good communicator who can work weekends and be flexible on hours. Apply via E: hallsfurn@westnetcom.au , or drop into the store.
Apprenticeship - Heavy Road Transport Mechanical Technology St George	BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL Develop the skills and knowledge for this apprenticeship working with the Shire Council. If you love working with your hands and fixing things, this apprenticeship is about reporting and maintaining heavy vehicles, including trucks, buses, agricultural or earthmoving machinery. Driver's licence required. Apply on Jora
Administration Officer-General St George	Casual \$42.10 / hour Provide administrative and customer service support for the Council's corporate, finance and administration functions, and roles include mail, manage documentation, taking payments, answering the telephone, inhouse facility bookings, reception and word processing. Apply on Jora

Service Technician St George	ST GEORGE MACHINERY CENTRE Full Time A well established Case IH Dealership requires an experienced Ag Mechanic to join the team. Ideal candidate will have previous experience in a similar role, value exceptional customer service, and have a trade background with technical knowledge of agricultural machinery and tractors. Case IH product knowledge an advantage. Apply on website: https://sgmc.com.au/careers-at-sgmc/
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QLD CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

2026 COLOUR RUN

ST GEORGE AMPHITHEATRE

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

REGISTRATIONS OPEN 9AM FOR 10AM START

FREE
ENTRY ♦ T-SHIRT ♦ MERCH
SAUSAGE SIZZLE
LUCKY DOOR AND BEST DRESSED PRIZES

[f](#) [i](#)

Care Balonne CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY 40 YEARS QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION WEEK Actforkids

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.

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