

## **HAVE YOUR SAY on the future of Rowden Park**



Rowden Park has long been a central sporting field in the heart of St George that holds for many of us cherished and happy memories filled with pride, triumph and sometimes sporting despair.

It's a place where our community comes together to share a passion for their given sporting codes of either footy, tennis, cricket, lawn bowls and now basketball.

To ensure Rowden Park continues to be a place fitting of the many memories it has already created, Council has developed three options to guide its long-term development as part of the Rowden Park Master Plan.

Council is now seeking feedback on proposed options for the Rowden Park Master Plan via a community survey and the following community information sessions:

> 9:00am to 11:00am Saturday 16 December at Rowden Park 4:30pm to 6:30pm

Tuesday 19 December at the Cultural Centre

Balonne Shire Mayor, Samantha O'Toole said this is a great opportunity for the local community to help shape the future of a sporting facility that means so much to so many.

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## Your Emergency Dashboard for all Disaster Information

Our Shire is no stranger to natural disaster events and keeping up-to-date with disasters and road closures as they unfold is vital for our local communities.

Our Emergency Dashboard is essentially our central source of information during natural disaster events, complete with flood cameras, updates on road conditions, weather forecasts and much more information that people will need

to access in times of an emergency.

The Emergency Dashboard is updated directly by Council staff and other Emergency Services government departments who place new information up there as it comes to hand and remove it once it is no longer

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## What's On

#### **MUNGINDI POOL PARTY**

To get into the swing of summer and the festive season, Mungindi pool is having a pool party for everyone to have a dip at the pool or play on the pool inflatable. This free event is a great way for your kids to keep cool and have fun these school holidays.

When: Wednesday 21 December

2pm-5pm Where: Mungindi Pool

### ST GEORGE AQUATIC CENTRE OPEN BOXING DAY

What are you up to this boxing day? Are you looking for a way to keep cool and spend the afternoon with your family and friends? Enjoy an afternoon at the St George Aquatic Centre this Boxing Day, 26 December.

When: 26 December

1pm-4pm

Where: St George Aquatic Centre

### BALONNE AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Celebrate your local champions and our diverse community this Australia Day!

Join us at the St George Amphitheatre on Friday 26 January at 8am for a free community breakfast, followed by the awards ceremony at 9am

When: 26 January

from 8am

Where: St George Amphitheatre

COUNCIL OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED FROM
23 DECEMBER 2023
AND RE-OPEN ON
2 JANUARY.2024

## A message from the Mayor

It has been such a big year with floods, bushfires and over \$100 million in infrastructure and road improvements delivered throughout the Shire and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to a well-earned break over Christmas.

The past month did bring a welcome reprieve from drier conditions with significant rainfall across the Shire and as much as this rainfall brought with it a much-needed reprieve from the threat of bushfires and modest inflows to dam levels, it also created widespread road closures throughout the Shire.

The vast amount of roads that were closing and re-opening during this flood event was a great example of why Council has set up the Emergency Dashboard for residents to use in times of emergency.

I would encourage everyone to please go to Balonne's Emergency Dashboard from the Council's website during emergency events, as the team updates this site in real time as they become aware of road conditions, road closures and other situations that may impact our community.

The rainfall also marginally improved dam levels, thus delaying the need to go to Level 4 Water Restrictions in St George before Christmas, which I'm sure will be welcomed by all. It is important to note that although we received an increase to the river water supply, it did not lift us out of the need for water restrictions in St George.

As a community, St George has put in a great effort to greatly reduce river water consumption recently, but we must remain vigilant as our latest consumption readings have again picked up above the target levels. We still only have a limited supply and forecasts to drier conditions ahead.



I would like to congratulate all of our newest graduates from the Balonne Country Universities Centre who were celebrated at the latest graduation ceremony. At this event, I had the great privilege of handing over a \$50,635.02 cheque from the proceeds of the Mayoral Charity Ball held earlier this year.

The Balonne Country Universities Centre has been such a successful initiative for our Shire and I hope the proceeds from this donation will help to inspire and assist more people to achieve their higher education goals.

On behalf of Council, I would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing and working with you all in the new year.

Samantha O'Toole





## Record Nominations for 2024 Balonne Australia Day Awards

Council has received a record-breaking 32 nominations spread across 8 categories covering every township in the Shire for the 2024 Balonne Australia Day Awards.

Celebrations for the 2024 Balonne Australia Day Awards will kick off at the St George Amphitheatre with a Community Breakfast at 8:00am and the awards ceremony are set to commence at 9:00am.

Balonne Shire Mayor, Samantha O'Toole said this is a great outcome and thank you to everyone who made a nomination and congratulations to all our nominees for next year.

"We are looking forward to seeing all of our nominees on the day and celebrating all of the great work you have done for our communities," Mayor O'Toole said.



## Business Mentoring Program using groundbreaking software

Council has partnered with software developer MyMalekso to deliver a multi-dimensional business improvement and governance platform to help guide the current round of its business mentoring program.

In July 2023, Council commenced its fourth Business Mentoring Program, after the previous programs achieved some great results for local businesses in the Shire.

This partnership means more accessible support, with up to 40 businesses being able to access one-on-one mentoring with an advisor

Local businesses will benefit from automated reports that address problem areas, highlight opportunities for improvement, and provide recommendations for sustainable growth.

The platform also boasts diagnostic tools, templates, and performance monitoring features, that provide additional assistance and education to businesses that have registered.

In addition to offering real-time performance monitoring, the platform also ensures complete transparency, which is fundamental to publicly funded initiatives.

### **Bollon Business Boom**

Business in Bollon is booming as two shopfronts get a facelift, the Bollon Post Office and The Bollon Cafe!

The Bollon Post Office, now known as Little Mulga Mailbox, has new local owners - the Wall family.

Since taking over mid-November, the Little Mulga Mailbox has a new stock range to provide all your Christmas gift needs and smiling faces in store.

"We are so excited to have Little Mulga Mailbox open and are looking forward to supporting the community" Emily said.

The Bollon Cafe also has a fresh look now under new management with Rebecca Steer and Carly Lowe.

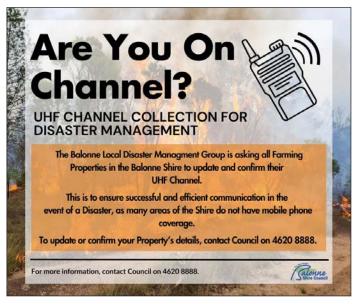
Bec & Carly have revamped the Cafe to create a beautiful, relaxing space with plenty of homemade goods, hot food and delicious coffee.

"The Bollon Cafe has always been a popular spot for the locals and tourists, we love being a part of the community and ensuring everyone is well fed!" Bec & Carly said.

The fresh faces at these two businesses are a positive sign for the Bollon community, who have been working hard to attract new businesses and visitors to the area. We look forward to watching the success of the Little Mulga Mailbox and the Bollon Cafe.







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"We want to make sure that as we develop Rowden Park into the future, it is in line with what the community and park users would like to see developed," Mayor O'Toole said.

"The three proposed options were the result of past engagement with the clubs that use Rowden Park and each option outlines facilities that will continue to suit the future needs of all sporting codes.

"This Master Plan is about the long-term view for Rowden Park and setting in place a direction for how we would like it to be in 10, 20 or 30 years time.

"Although some of the changes may fit into the ongoing oper-

ational Council budget, the bigger picture items might require grant funding and further community consultation at a later date.

"I would urge anyone that has an interest in the future of Row-

den Park to go to the website and provide their feedback, so we can take everyone's views into consideration."

Feedback will be open until 15 January 2024, which will then be compiled and presented to Councillors for deliberation at their next meeting.



## Calls for feedback on St George Cemetery Extension



With the St George Cemetery reaching capacity, Council is seeking community input into the expansion of the existing cemetery with a new cemetery Master Plan.

Council is currently seeking community feedback on the design of the Master Plan, which incorporates this new expansion.

The Master Plan will guide the longterm development and expansion of the St George Cemetery into the future.

Council is now seeking feedback on the extension of the St George Cemetery via a community survey and at the following community information sessions:

4:30pm to 6:30pm Tuesday
19 December at the Cultural Centre

4:30pm to 6:30pm Thursday
11 January at the Cultural Centre

The Master Plan sets out of a range of new facilities and although some of this infrastructure will be built in the Council's operational budget, much of the development will be reliant on future grant funding.

#### Works on the existing cemetery include:

- Upgrading the existing boundary fence with gates for better side access;
- Additional tree planting to the centre of the existing area;
- Existing front gates will be relocated to the rear of the existing cemetery.

## The design for the additional area includes:

- An additional 892 grave plots to the south of the existing cemetery;
- An open-air Chapel to accommodate funeral ceremonies with seating for around 6o;
- Designed 'Feature' main entry gates and matching exit gates to the Cemetery and feature walls with signage;
- Ash interment gardens with bespoke memorial cylinders;
- Proposed columbarium wall;
- Landscape buffer at South Eastern boundary with native tree, shrubs and groundcover planting.

Community feedback will be open until 15 January 2024, which will then be compiled and presented to Councillors for deliberation at their next meeting.





## Are you on Channel?

Balonne Shire's Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is urging local farmers to update their property's UHF channel to Council to enhance communication and coordination during future natural disaster events such as bushfires.

The Council recognises the vital role that local farmers play in our community and their knowledge of the land and communication networks can be invaluable in managing and mitigating the impacts of natural disasters given the inconsistent mobile phone coverage in the Shire.

This initiative is part of the Council's proactive approach to update the current information already collated and protect the local community in times of emergency situations.

Balonne Shire Mayor, Samantha O'Toole said we are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents.

"As many parts of our Shire have patchy or no mobile phone coverage, the collection of UHF channels used on farming properties is a crucial network to harness and understand," Mayor O'Toole said.

"By providing their UHF channels, farmers will be contributing to a comprehensive database of around 450 farming properties in the Shire that



the LDMG can use to facilitate effective communication during emergencies.

"This will enable swift dissemination of critical information, coordination of resources, and timely updates on the

Farmers are encouraged to participate in this initiative by contacting Council directly on 4620 8888.

## We need to be ready for all natural disasters in Balonne

Following on from previous flooding events, Balonne Shire has been working with the community to create a series of insightful videos to prepare us for any future flooding events.

Our recent rainfall is a reminder that flooding or isolation can happen quickly and at any time in our Shire.

It's always best to be prepared, know your local area and flood history, make an

emergency kit and establish a plan.

Our Flood videos can be viewed on the homepage of www.balonne.gld.gov.au or the Balonne Shire Council Youtube channel

In times of emergency, visit the Balonne Shire Council Emergency Dashboard for regular updates; https://emergency.balonne.qld.gov.au/

> These videos were funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.





Balonne Shire Libraries are free to join as a part of the Rural Libraries Queensland and services to over 2000 people each month.

Our latest book exchange has arrived in the Balonne and has hit the library shelves, ready for new and different books for your Christmas reading!

Enjoy your holiday break at the St George Library with great arts & crafts activities.

To register scan this QR Code:





#### **BOOK of the MONTH**



Love Match by Clare Fletcher

#### **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS** AT THE ST GEORGE LIBRARY

Friday 15 December 2pm - 4pm Macrame decorations

Monday 18 December 2pm - 4pm Cookie decorating

Tuesday 19 December 10am - 11:30am **Snow globes** 

Wednesday 20 December 10am -12nm

**Craft with Sharyn** 

Thursday 21 December 10am - 11am Games, songs, and dance

Friday 22 December 9:30 - 10:30

First Five Forever

# Roadworks DDAT

## COMPLETED WORKS THROUGH NOVEMBER:

- 1. Teelba Road
- 2. Littleton Road
- 3. McDonnel Ave
- 4. Albert St
- 5. Ballangarry Rd
- 6. Salmon Rd
- 7. Fernlee Rd
- 8. Wonolga Rd
- 9. Thungaby Rd
- 10.Corack Rd
- 11. Chelmer Road
- 12. Gunnindaddy Rd
- 13. Byra Rd
- 14. Beltana Rd
- 15. Cambo Road
- 16.Loughnan Downs Rd
- 17. Tambingey Rd

#### WORKS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY: Recent weather events have impacted the progress of:

• Wagoo Rd

- » Expected completion: mid December
- » Construction is ongoing.
- » Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.
- Euraba Rd
  - » Expected completion: mid December

- » Construction is ongoing.
- » Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.
- Whyenbah Rd (Northern Section)
  - » Expected completion: late January
  - » Construction is ongoing.
  - » Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.
- Woolerina Rd (50%)
  - » Expected completion: mid January
  - » Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.
- Dingadee Road
  - » Expected completion: mid December
  - » Construction is ongoing.
  - » Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.
- · Mulga Downs Road
  - » Expected completion: mid December
  - » Construction is ongoing.
  - » Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.
- Ihelum Plains
  - » Expected completion: mid December
  - » Construction is ongoing.
  - » Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.
- Warrie Road
  - » Expected completion: mid

- December
- » Construction is ongoing.
- » Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.
- Bollon- Dirranbandi Bridge (75% completed, abutment one side completed and backfilled; abutment 2 poured and curing ready for backfill and rock pitching works).
  - » Expected completion: early December
  - » Construction is ongoing.
  - » Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.
- Fernlee Culverts (75% completed, deck pour ready for better weather)
  - » Expected completion: early December
  - » Construction is ongoing.
  - » Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

#### **UPCOMING GRADING WORKS**

- Cashelvale (Early December)
- 2. Booligar Road (Mid December)
- 3. Noondo Mungindi Road
- 4. Kooroon Rd
- 5. Satur Rd
- 6. Pine Park Rd
- 7. Fernlee Road
- 8. Kulki Rd













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necessary.

The community also has the ability to feed information directly to us for the Dashboard by contacting Council on 4620 8888 or emailing council@balonne.qld.gov.au.

As a Council, we also have regulatory obligations to provide factual information to our community and directing people to the Emergency Dashboard is the best way of providing up-to-date and factual information as opposed to Facebook where incorrect information can reverberate for days and weeks.

This is the reason Council directs people to the Emergency Dashboard on social

media during natural disaster events, as opposed to posting every road closure or giving directions for people's travel plans,



which may be subject to change at any time.

You can also find info at other resources, such as:

#### www.qfes.qld.gov.au/Current-Incidents

for Queensland-wide fire warnings and incidents or

https://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au/ for Queensland-wide road

conditions and road closures.



## New Mungindi Boat Ramp now open to the public

The new boat ramp at Mungindi River Park is now finished construction and is open for use.

The addition of the \$300,000 Mungindi Boat Ramp will improve safety and reduce environmental damage to the Barwon Riverbank.

The boat ramp is a complimentary installation to the upgrades at Mungindi River Park, such as the footpath extension.

"It is great to see these upgrades completed at the Mungindi River Park." Mayor O'Toole said. The new additions will greatly benefit the local Mungindi community on both sides of the border in terms of liveability and improved amenities and accessibility to attract more tourism to the area.

The Official Opening of the Mungindi Boat Ramp will occur in the coming period.

This project was managed by the Balonne Shire Council and funded by a grant from the New South Wales Government.



# ENVIRO-COLUMN Devils Rope Cactus

The Devils Rope Cactus is a very spiny, drought tolerant shrub or small tree up to 3 meters tall.

The Devils Rope flowers are redpurple and produce numerous viable seeds that are readily distributed to new sites by the stem and fruit fragments attaching to animals, footwear, and vehicles.

It thrives in semi-arid and arid environments and occurs in native environments, in woodlands and shrublands.

To manage small outbreaks and for scattered plants burying, burning or chemical control is preferable.

For more information on the Devils Rope Cactus or on how to manage them scan this OR code:









## Out and About in Balonne

## **New Basketball Court Opens Balonne Style**

Council joined together with the Youth Council and local Police to launch the new basketball court in Rowden Park, St George with a nail-biting display of sporting prowess that would easily have drawn the interest of NBL selectors.

The opening of the court involved a range of three-on-three matches and an exhibition match with an elite sporting

team of Councillors and Council staff versing an ultra-athletic team from the local Police.

"As much as Council would like to say we showed the Police who owns the court, I think the Police might've just got the upper hand on the scoreboard," Mayor O'Toole said.

"Mind you, the whole scoring process did get a little bit lost in the whole competitive fun of the match.

"We really hope everyone enjoys the new Basketball court and maybe us Councillors will have to have a re-match with the Police after a bit more practice."







## Thallon Pub Choir











## St Patrick's School Fete





















Thallon Christmas Tree











## Selwyn Cobbo Rugby League Training Camp















## Nindigully Pig Races



















## 



Lady Gowrie QLD

**Early Childhood** Teacher/Director **Permanent** 

Cotton Ginner /

**Assistant Ginner** 

St George

St George

Cleaners

Dirranbandi (HQ)

Part Time Dirranbandi **C&K KINDERGARTEN** 

A Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood or equivalent

(recognised by ACECQA) First Aid CPR and Asthma and Anaphylaxis certification

**C&K** Childcare & Kindergarten Valid Blue Card and Police Check

To apply, go to: https://careers.candk.asn.au/jobs/dirranbandi

**OLAM AGRI** 

Queensland Cotton

MERINO MOTOR INN

**Red Dirt Fairies** 

For more information and link to apply, Contact Bella Turnbull:

bella.turnbull@olamagri.com or call 0488 770 624

**Multiple Positions** Dirranbandi

THREE RIVERS MEATS

Permanent Full-time | \$80,000

(subject to experience and skill set)

Skilled Boner (skilled in breaking sides) | Apprentice Butcher

Above award rates Accommodation included

Email resume to: office@abarue.com.au

**MERINO MOTOR INN** Housekeeper - Weekend Junior casual **Multiple Junior** 

Kitchenhand/Wait staff Casual Positions Junior casual required 2-3 evenings per week

Pay based on age

Contact Janine: 4625 3333 or email: bookings@merinonotorinn.com.au



Previous experience a bonus. but not essential | Flexible hours

Must be able to pass police check

Send cover letter and resume to:

message on the Red Dirt Fairies Cleaning Service Facebook Page

**Bottleshop Attendant** St George

THE AUSTRALIAN HOTEL

Full Time | Hourly Rate + penalties | Day Shifts Ability to lift and move cartons of stock regularly.

Call: 4625 5000

THE AUSTRALIAN or email: admin@australianhotelstgeorge.com.au

**Room Attendant** Dirranbandi

**DIRRANBANDI MOTOR INN** 

Approx. 20-25 hours per week. Accom available for long term employee.

Call Joel for a confidential discussion: 07 4620 7000 or email dirranbandimotorinn@bigpond.com

Facility Manager St George

Coordinator of 35+ social enterprise & wellbeing activities.

For more information contact HR:

07 4679 5966 or email hr@goondir.org.au

Venue Manager **Full-Time** St George

ST GEORGE HOTEL

Must have experience in hospitality management Be available weekends and nights Have RP, RSA, and Gaming Certifications

and full visa working rights

Contact: 0423 373 684 or email resume to: stghotel@bigpond.net.au

**Multiple Positions** St George

**ST GEORGE HOTEL** 

Kitchen Staff | Cooks | Chefs

Take this iconic hotel on the next phase of its journey.

Contact: 0423 373 684

or email resume to: stghotel@bigpond.net.au



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LADY GOWRIE BALONNE COMMUNITY **KINDERGARTEN Relief Early Childhood Teacher** Must have ACECQA approved

Bachelor of Early Childhood Education or similar qualifications Many employee benefits

Renumeration per Lady Gowire Enterprise Agreement

Forward resume to: hr@ladygowrie.com.au / 07 3252 2667

**Civil Construction** Traineeship Cert II St George

Part-time

St George

or Full-time

**BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL** 2024 TRAINEESHIPS

12 month fixed term On the job training plus formal study organised by a Registered Training Provider.

**NCC EARLY LEARNERS** 

term time for the right applicant

Full-Time | Flexible hours

based on length of service

Duties include labouring works on road, street construction and maintenance projects throughout the Shire.

For more info visit: Balonne Shire Council website employment page

**Bachelor Qualified** Early Childhood Teacher

St George

**Bus Driver** 

Casual/Full Time St George to Nindigully **BUS DRIVER** 

Mornings and/or afternoons - School days only St George to Nindigully return / Award Wages

Approx wage scale \$36.81 to \$47.37 per hour

Email: headofearlylearners@ncc.qld.edu.au

Manual HR licence required + Police check

For more information call Marlies May 0419 561 072

**Ground Handler** St George

**REX AIRLINES** 

Tender submission required.

Commencing January 2024,

For more information contact michelle.gordon@rex.com.au

Horticulture Traineeship Cert II St George

**BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL 2024 TRAINEESHIPS** 

12 month fixed term On the job training plus formal study organised by a Registered Training Provider.

Duties include general road and street maintenance parks and gardens maintenance & plant operation.

For more info visit: Balonne Shire Council website employment page

Electrician or Refrigeration Mechanic

St George & Surrounds

**BEESONS ELECTRICAL & REFRIGERATION** 

Accommodation Package incl. Above Award Wages, 38hr week with overtime available, Work vehicle, iPAD & Christmas Bonus.

Qld Electrical Lic, Artick Lic, Construction Industry White Card, CPR/LVR, Manual Drivers Lic, Full unrestricted Aus work rights. Ability to work unsupervised

For more information phone: 4625 5500 or email beesons@beesonselectrical.com.au

Cleaner

St George

**BINIRIS (AUST) PTY LTD** Award rates of pay | Needed for 1hr per evening

Monday-Fridays for Henry St Business

For more information, contact: simone.tippett@biniris.com or 07 3252 3100

Ag diesel fitter apprenticeship St George

ST GEORGE MACHINERY CENTRE

Award Wages / Great opportunity for a School based apprenticeship

Email: cameron@sgmc.com,au for an interview.



**BEESON'S** 

ELECTRICAL & REFRIGERATION

For more information on local jobs

**SCAN THIS OR CODE** 





If you have a position you would like placed in this section, please contact Balonne Shire Council's Workforce Development Officer: Angelina Niven on 0499 816 151.

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