

## Australian Army Band Brisbane set to rock Balonne



Musicians from the Australian Army Band Brisbane will play two shows while in Balonne in August, including the inaugural Mayoral Ball on Saturday 20 August and a special performance at the Day Out in Dirran on Sunday 21 August.

Since its formation in 1949, the Australian Army Band Brisbane has become known throughout Queensland as one of the finest Military Bands in Australia, earning a reputation for its musical excellence and impressive military

appearance.

Presenting a wide variety of musical styles, from traditional military music to contemporary popular music, including jazz and rock, they will have people on their feet and ready to dance in no time.

### 2022 Mayoral Ball

Dust off your dancing shoes, pull out your black tie and channel your inner Bond.

The inaugural 2022 Mayoral Ball, on Saturday 20 August, is going all out glamour with a spectac-

*Above: The Australian Army Band Brisbane will be playing at two events in the region in August, in St George and Dirranbandi.*

ular James Bond theme.

The 12-piece Australian Army Band Brisbane will provide the soundtrack to dance the night away. There will also be a gala charity auction.

All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Student Bursary of the Country Universities Centre Balonne.

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# What's On

## Falling in Love... Again

You and the love of your life can re-commit with the King, and enjoy high tea afterwards. Elvis will be joined by Buddy Holly in the evening for songs around the campfire. Ticket options available.

**WHEN:** 6 Aug 2022

**WHERE:** Dirranbandi Retreat and Caravan Park (bookings essential)

## Mungindi Show

The Mungindi Show has a long list of events for the whole family including the header-picker demolition derby, wood chop competition and fireworks on Saturday and the Poets' Breakfast, dog high jump and grain shovelling competition on Sunday.

**WHEN:** 6-7 Aug 2022

**WHERE:** Mungindi Showgrounds

## Day Out in Dirran

The Australian Army Band Brisbane is coming to Dirran! For a day out with music, food, market stalls and a chance to catch up with friends old and new, this is set to be a great day out.

**WHEN:** 21 Aug 2022

**WHERE:** Dirranbandi Rail and River Precinct

## Thallon Truck Pull

Can a team of six people pull a prime mover 25 metres? And which team will be the fastest? This fun family day has markets, kids' activities, great food and plenty of entertainment while raising money for the Thallon P&C.

**WHEN:** 27 Aug 2022

**WHERE:** William Street, Thallon

## Balonne Cutting Horse Futurity

More than 400 entrants from across the country will be competing in this week-long cutting event. Organisers have prepared 2,300 head of local cattle for the competition.

**WHEN:** 27 Aug to 4 Sep 2022

**WHERE:** St George Showgrounds

## Got a story, event or notice?

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

Phone: 07 4620 8888

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

# A message from the Mayor

The role of mayor in regional areas often means pulling together with our neighbours or with external partners to achieve the outcomes we all want for the Shire.

Recently, I've been talking with mayors from the Darling Downs South West Queensland (DDSWQ) Council of Mayors about some big issues that are important to us and that could impact on our communities.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is high on our discussion list at the moment, and we're using a combined approach to apply pressure to the Federal Government to take real action on protecting our borders.

Taking a coordinated approach, the ten members of the DDSWQ Council of Mayors are speaking out alongside rural partners like AgForce and Regional Development Australia, to urge Federal Government Ministers to protect our borders and the beef and small livestock industry in Australia.

Central and western Queensland is the largest beef-producing region in Australia, with around one fifth of the country's total cattle production happening here.

The potential impact of FMD cannot be understated for not only the industry, but for the towns and communities that rely on its continued success.

Primary producers need to play their part too, making sure they have a strong biosecurity plan for their property.

We've included information on page 6 of this issue of the Bulletin that will help livestock owners understand the signs of FMD and lumpy skin disease (LSD) as well as resources for strengthening biosecurity management plans.

It was a real surprise to learn that our community has loaded



almost \$200,000 onto Buy Balonne Gift Gifts since the program began back in late 2019. What was even more surprising was that over \$45,000 worth of these cards haven't been redeemed.

Some of these cards are worth \$500 – that's a couple of visits to the grocery store, the fuel station or a shopping spree on its own. If you have some of the cards sitting in wallets or handbags, can I encourage you to check the balance and use it up.

Show some love to our local businesses, and let's see that \$45,000 getting out into our towns and communities. Coming off the business disruption caused by the May flood, this is a great way to give the local economy a bit of a boost.

Finally, I am overwhelmed by the support the Balonne region is showing to the inaugural Mayoral Ball. Tickets flew out the door at a rate we didn't expect and the event has now sold out.

I want to express my thanks to our generous sponsors for their support, and the community for getting on board so quickly for this charity event. Thank you.

*Samantha O'Toole*

## From page 1

The following event sponsors have generously supported the Ball.

### Gold:

AH & JH Earthmoving, O'Brien Toyota, Field Solutions Group, Leading Roles and Lonergan Project & Engineering Consultants

### Silver:

Safeway Excavations and Tierney Crushing & Transport

### Bronze:

St George Cotton Growers

### Day Out in Dirran

The band will also be playing at the Day Out in Dirran on Sunday 21 August, which will start at 11am.

Enjoy music, market stalls, food and fun at this event, which is being held at Dirranbandi Rail and River Precinct. More details will follow in the next Bulletin.



Above: Guests attending the inaugural Mayoral Ball will enjoy music by the Australian Army Band Brisbane

## Mental health & community sport

We are a Good Sports club



INSPIRING A HEALTHIER SPORTING NATION

One in five Australians experience mental ill-health every year. It's more important than ever to make sure your players, members and parents feel safe, connected and supported.

Good Sports clubs with a mental health policy are stronger and more connected in their local communities, making them more attractive and welcoming.

Covering mental health in club policies makes it easier to support its members and guests. For more information on how clubs can put strategies in place around mental health, visit [goodsports.com.au/mental-health/](https://goodsports.com.au/mental-health/)

A MESSAGE FROM  
THE BALONNE SHIRE

# 2022 Mayoral Ball

COMMITTEE

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK AND ACKNOWLEDGE  
OUR GENEROUS EVENT SPONSORS

FUNDS RAISED WILL SUPPORT STUDENTS OF  
THE COUNTRY UNIVERSITIES CENTRE BALONNE

# Tourism Events Grants open this August

The next round of the Balonne Shire Council's popular Tourism Events Grant is opening 1 August.

Council offers a series of Tourism Events Grants to support event organisers in developing, promoting and executing events which contribute to growing tourism in the St George Region.

Tourism events are an important and growing part of our local economy and add to the vibrancy of our region. The Tourism Events Grants provide funding for events which have the potential to attract a significant number of visitors to the Balonne Shire.

Priority will be given to events which increase visitation to the Balonne Shire, generate positive media coverage, and stimulate the local economy.

The program provides a tiered range of grants to support event organisers to develop, promote and host events which make a positive and ongoing contribution to the Shire.

Funding is available across four



categories for pre-existing Shire events:

Regional Events (up to \$3,000)

Destination Events (up to \$4,000)

Major Events (up to \$7,000)

Hallmark Events (up to \$10,000)

In addition, one-off funding of up to \$3,000 is available for the development of new tourism events.

Applications open 1 February for events held between 1 July-30 December 2023.

More information including guidelines, criteria and application forms can be found on the Council website at [balonne.qld.gov.au/homepage/89/tourism-events-grant-funding-program](https://balonne.qld.gov.au/homepage/89/tourism-events-grant-funding-program)

If you need any help filling out your application or simply want to discuss your event, please contact Balonne Shire Tourism Manager Kim Wildman on [Kim.Wildman@balonne.qld.gov.au](mailto:Kim.Wildman@balonne.qld.gov.au)

## 6 Ways to Promote your Event for FREE!



List your event on the [Balonne Community Diary](#). This is the go-to-place to list all local events both big and small. Simply [Register your Organisation](#) then follow the [5 Step Process](#) to list your event for FREE.



Create a [Facebook Event](#). Sharing your Event Poster to your Facebook page gets very little, if any, engagement. Rather create an Event attached to your page and invite all your friends. Then encourage them to invite their friends!



Design an Event Poster – use a free [template in Canva](#) if you're not good at design. Then post on local noticeboards & distribute to businesses & accommodation providers around the Shire (both digitally and physically).



Contact the [Visitor Information Centre](#) and notify staff of your event. They can promote to travellers through the Centre and through their social media channels.



Send an Event Notice to the [Balonne Bulletin](#) so it can be included in the local newsletter. While you're at it, send it to the local schools for promoting in their newsletters.



List your event on [Australian Tourism Data Warehouse](#) (ATDW). Want to attract visitors from beyond our Shire? [List your event on ATDW](#). It will then be shared by Tourism & Events Queensland & Outback Queensland Tourism Association.

# First time author returns with stellar debut novel

While writing her debut novel, Clare Fletcher was surprised to rediscover a new love for her old hometown. Clare has spent much of the past 15 years in major international cities, including Sydney and New York, but will be returning to St George to speak about *Five Bush Weddings* at the St George Library on 5 August.

It is evident that writing this novel has renewed Clare's affection for St George and regional Queensland.

"I haven't been able to spend much time at home in recent years and it was a real pleasure to imagine myself there while I was writing," Clare said.

"Even though the towns in the book are fictionalised, there is a scene that takes place after the pub shuts and two characters buy pies from the back of the bakery late at night. I don't know if you can still do that in St George, but it was a very fond memory for me!"

Clare describes *Five Bush Weddings* as a light, fun story about a wedding photographer who is great at capturing other people's love stories but has not really had one of her own.



"It's about growing up and expectations and gossip and of course all different kinds of love. And if you're from country Queensland I hope some of the parties and wedding scenes might feel familiar."

Clare wanted to explore the period of life for women in their early thirties, when it feels like the world expects you to have achieved the impossible, including love, marriage, babies, owning a house and having an amazing career. As Clare got into the story, she discovered she was trying to say something more.

"I realised I was trying to say something bigger about why small towns and bush communities need young people to commit to them in order for these places to survive," said Clare.

"I came up with quite a grandiose justification for my silly love stories, but I do believe that people falling in love and starting families is important for regional Australia."

Clare acknowledges that it has been too long between visits to St George and cannot wait to get back to catch up with friends, do

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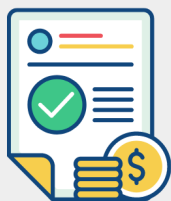


## Rates Notices

Reminder: Rates notices will be sent out mid-August

Extended discount period: 10% discount period extended to 60 days for the August levy

Payment options available: Interest free payment arrangements can be agreed by contacting Council



Visit [www.balonne.qld.gov.au/rates-3](http://www.balonne.qld.gov.au/rates-3) for more rates information

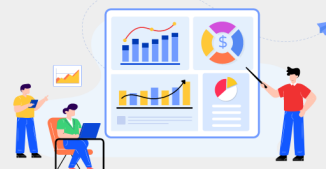


## Expression of Interest Independent Audit & Risk Committee Member

The audit committee is a source of independent advice to the council regarding finance, governance, risk management and audit related matters.

We are seeking expressions of interest from candidates with experience and/or professional qualifications in accounting, finance, business and/or risk management. Previous experience on a board or in local government would be an advantage.

Expressions of interest must be submitted by 5pm Friday 12 August 2022.



To apply, or for confidential enquiries, please contact the Finance Services Support Manager, Craig Dreher on 07 4620 8888

# Livestock emergency animal disease preparedness

Emergency animal diseases have the potential to cause significant and far-reaching impacts to Australia's livestock industries, including considerable economic losses and restrictions. Lumpy skin disease (LSD) and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) are currently broaching the northern border of Queensland.

## Now is the Time to ACT

The detection of LSD and FMD in our near neighbour, Indonesia, highlights the importance of having strong biosecurity systems in place.

Livestock owners know their animals best. Key actions you can take now are:

## LOOK for and know the signs of animal disease

For more information on LSD and signs of LSD visit this link: [business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/pests-diseases-disorders/lumpy-skin-disease](https://business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/pests-diseases-disorders/lumpy-skin-disease)

For more information on FMD and signs of FMD visit this link: [business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/pests-diseases-disorders/foot-mouth](https://business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/pests-diseases-disorders/foot-mouth)

## REPORT anything unusual

Contact the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 or your local vet immediately.

## PROTECT your livestock and livelihood

Have a biosecurity management plan in place and ensure it is being followed by all those who access your property. Visit this site for



more information on preparing a biosecurity management plan: [farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/planner/](https://farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/planner/)

Ensure you are a Registered Biosecurity Entity. Registration helps quickly locate animals and contact livestock owners in the event of an animal disease emergency in Queensland. You can check if you are registered here: [business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/biosecurity-entity-registration/check](https://business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/biosecurity-entity-registration/check)

Biosecurity Queensland also has a number of tools available to livestock owners, including the Farm Check-In app at [daf.qld.gov.au/onfarmbiosecurity/farmcheckin](https://daf.qld.gov.au/onfarmbiosecurity/farmcheckin) and biosecurity signage [publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/biosecurity-planning/resource/3e916f83-4dd3-4b68-ac2e-54e267e97533](https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/biosecurity-planning/resource/3e916f83-4dd3-4b68-ac2e-54e267e97533).

## SPOTTED ANYTHING UNUSUAL?

If you spot unusual signs of disease or abnormal behaviour in your livestock consult your veterinarian.

If you suspect LSD or FMD call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline IMMEDIATELY on 1800 675 888.

## From page 5

Parkrun with her dad and catch some footy. She will also be speaking with the local CWA branch on Saturday morning.

In Conversation with Clare Fletcher is a FREE 18 years + event. Join us for wine and canapes on Friday 5 August from 5:30pm at the St George Library. Bookings essential: [eventbrite.com.au/e/in-conversation-with-clare-fletcher-tickets-38081311267](https://eventbrite.com.au/e/in-conversation-with-clare-fletcher-tickets-38081311267)

## AgVet containers accepted for DrumMUSTER on 5 August

All landholders are invited to dispose of their empty AgVet chemical containers at DrumMUSTER, Springwell Road, St George on Friday 5 August from 8 am to 12pm.

Proper rinsing and cleaning are the first steps in safely disposing of empty AgVet chemical containers. Clean containers are essential for meeting Occupational Health and Safety standards in our processes. Any rinsing should be done immediately after emptying the chemical container, as residues are much harder to remove when dry.

For further information, contact Council's Rural Service and Compliance Team on 07 4620 8888.



# Cash bonanza in unused Buy Balonne Gift Cards

If you have an unused Buy Balonne Gift Card at home, you should definitely go and find it.

While almost \$200,000 in funds have been loaded onto these cards since the program began in October 2019, there is currently over \$45,000 yet to be redeemed on cards around the region.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole is encouraging residents to find their cards, check their balance and go shopping.

“The Buy Balonne Gift Cards are a great gift idea, but the real value is that the money spent on these cards is money that supports our region. 100% of the funds on the cards stay in the Balonne Shire. This is such an easy way to support local business.

“There are over 80 business participating in the program and

many of those lost important tourism trade during the flood. Fuel, hardware, groceries, haircuts and accommodation are just a handful of items that can be purchased with the Buy Balonne Gift Cards.”

Businesses are also encouraged to remind their customers that they accept the cards, through in-store or online promotions. Any business that would like to participate or is experiencing any kind of problem with the cards can contact Garnet Radford, Council's Economic Development Officer.

One common issue for businesses is that ALL EFTPOS terminals of a business need to be activated from the business' activation card and if, for example, there is new ownership of a business, the new terminals need to be activated in order to accept the cards. The activation process takes less than 10



seconds per terminal.

Mayor O'Toole said “There are individual cards worth more than \$500 that are probably just sitting in drawers and wallets – someone is getting a nice surprise when they find they have a few hundred dollars to spend.”

For a list of all participating businesses in the Buy Balonne Gift Card program, go to [balonne.qld.gov.au/](http://balonne.qld.gov.au/)

## Ready to expand your farming business?

**Buying, leasing, intensifying. There are many options when it comes to expanding your business, but what's the right option for your operation? Find out more with farm business consultants AGRISTA**

### Farm Expansion Fundamentals

Perspective	Leveraging	Financing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> What drives the perception of value?</li> <li> Risk profiling</li> <li> What's changed?</li> <li> Scale advantages</li> <li> Is bigger better?</li> <li> Does efficiency matter?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> What is it?</li> <li> Is debt cheaper than equity?</li> <li> Profit from equity versus profit from debt</li> <li> Sensitivities of leveraged investments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> What is my financier looking for?</li> <li> Character, cashflow, collateral</li> <li> How can I become a low margin borrower?</li> <li> How important is the interest rate?</li> <li> Managing financial risk when expanding</li> </ul>

**More information:**  
Rhonda Toms-Morgan  
0407 678 574  
[rhonda@connectag.com.au](mailto:rhonda@connectag.com.au)

**St George Cultural Centre**  
9am - 5pm, August 3, 2022  
\$250/person + GST  
[www.bit.ly/ConnectAg](http://www.bit.ly/ConnectAg)

## 27th August 2022

# THALLON TRUCK PULL

Teams of 6 people  
25 metre pull  
Winning team takes

## \$3000

Great day out!  
Jumping castles, ice cream,  
face painting for kids  
Food and drinks available  
all day

Scan here to nominate your team

Thallon Truck Pull is supporting the Thallon State School P&C committee in raising money for the Thallon students



# Roadworks UPDATE



## Local Roads

### **Bollon Crew**

- Honeymah Lane Maintenance Grading 7 Days
- Crescent vale Road Maintenance Grading 5 Days
- Mourilyan Road Maintenance Grading 12 Days

### **Dirranbandi Crew**

- Narine Road Maintenance Grading 7 Days
- Gunnindaddy Road Maintenance Grading 23 Days
- Diamond Tank Road Maintenance Grading 11 Days
- Noondoo Mungindi Road 21 Days

### **St George Crew 1**

- Chelmer Road Maintenance Grading 18 Days
- Beltana Road Maintenance Grading 3 Days
- Warrie Road Maintenance Grading 6 Days
- West Haran Road Maintenance Grading 6 Days
- Whyenbah Road Maintenance Grading 25 Days

### **St George Crew 2**

- TMR Heavy Vehicle Breakdown Pad Balonne Highway 25 Days.

### **Completed Roads**

- Corack road



## Flood Emergent Works

Flood Emergent works have recently been completed on the following roads:

- Link Road
- Wagoo Road
- Euraba Road
- Davirton Road
- Woolerbilla Road

The plan for week commencing 25 July is to return to Cubbie Road.

While some areas have been difficult to reach with the wet weather, conditions are monitored to allow works to commence when access allows.

## Construction Project

Works are still progressing on the Balonne Highway Truck Pad. Council staff are currently preparing base in anticipation of sealing the next few weeks, weather permitting.

