

Balonne Bulletin

THE NEWSLETTER OF BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL

ISSUE 33 | 6 MAR 2023



Local Laws Changing for Community Safety

As part of a commitment to maintaining a safe and inclusive community, Balonne Shire Council has adopted new Local Laws relating to keeping animals in town areas. These Local Laws will be in place from 1 July 2023.

Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole said the changes relate to regulating and managing which animals can be kept in town areas and how those animals are kept and controlled.

"In making these changes, our first priority was to protect the community against risk of injury from animals," she said.

"We also want to ensure that animals are kept in ways consistent with community expectations, that they are kept responsibly and that we minimise opportunities for animals to create a nuisance, or a hazard to health and safety."

What is changing?

Properties smaller than 10,000m² (2.47 acres) will only be allowed 2 dogs.

For allotments over 10,000m² (2.47 acres), up to four dogs are allowed, but a permit is required, and dogs 3 & 4 must be

desexed.

Exemptions:

Dog owners with dogs currently exceeding the new Local Law limits will be permitted to keep the additional dog, or dogs, however they will need to obtain a permit from Council. Additional dogs kept under these permits cannot be replaced after 1 July 2023.

Authorised Inspection Program:

Between 1 March and 31 May 2023 Council Authorised Officers will be door knocking and inspecting every residence in all towns. The purpose of the visits and inspections will be to inform residents of the changes to our Local Laws, answer any questions residents may have and to conduct inspections to check compliance with the existing and new laws.

Residents who are not home at the time of visit will receive a calling card in their mailbox and a leaflet detailing the changes to the Local Law.

To page 3

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

Let us know via Email: media@balonne.qld.gov.au



What's On

GRAZING AT THE WATERHOLE

This event offers guests a relaxed outback feel alongside an extraordinary culinary and cultural experience with dancing and fireworks under a star studded night sky and the backdrop of Thallon's stunning painted grain silos.

WHEN: Sat 11 Mar

WHERE: Thallon Recreation Grounds

MCINTYRE 900

This 920km high-speed enduro race through natural paddock terrain, dirt tracks and timbered country is the longest off-road race with the biggest prize pool in Australian off-road racing!

WHEN: Fri 24 Mar to Sat 25 Mar

WHERE: St George

EASTER IN THE VINES

Set in the lush gardens of the Riversands Winery in St George, Easter in the Vines offers a fun weekend full of music performed by the Missing Link live stage band, entertainment and laughter. Enjoy wine tasting, dancing, a barbecue, cheese platters and socialising, while the children are entertained with Easter egg hunts, face painting and games. FREE entry and camping.

WHEN: Sat 8 Apr to Sun 9 Apr

WHERE: Riversands Winery, St George

A message from the Mayor

At this time of year, our region is gearing up for the start of our peak tourism season. While we remain a predominantly agricultural region, tourism attractions and events are a growing and important part of our local economy, which also add vibrancy to our region.

I am so excited for the tourism season ahead and have been so impressed by the calibre and creativity of attractions and events offered by our communities and local tourism operators. I have no doubt that they will attract new visitors to our region and promote all that our beautiful St George Region has to offer.

The Mungindi Sculpture Trail, which was launched in September 2022, was recently awarded the Best Grey Nomad Trail, after proving to national tourism leaders that it provided an exceptional experience for visitors aged over fifty. I could not agree more with the Grey Nomad Awards organisers who said the Trail offered visitors something of cultural value, historical significance and natural beauty, while making hearts sing!

The 2.5-kilometre Trail is an open-air art gallery installation featuring ten raw and rustic sculptures by award-winning local artist Tony 'Nicko' McMillan, who tragically died in 2016 at 54 years of age.

Council worked in collaboration with the McMillan family, the Mungindi Progress Association and the Moree Plains Shire Council on the project, using Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program to bring the Trail to life.

The award is a credit to all involved with the project and the Mungindi community, who persevered through numerous challenges, with focus and commitment.



Council have recently awarded Tourism Event Grants to four event organisers who will host events which will contribute to growing tourism in the broader St George Region in 2023.

The funded events include Grazing at the Waterhole, the McIntyre 900, Riversands Easter in the Vines and the St George Agricultural Show.

I am delighted to see funding reach event organisers who are actively promoting tourism in the St George Region.

The first round of Tourism Events Grants for 2023 open on the 1st of March, I would encourage any event organisers interested in applying to contact Council, for more information and assistance.

I am so proud of what our region has to offer, and all the hard work our communities and tourism operators put in to making our region so special. I hope you will join me in warmly welcoming travellers who will soon be coming to visit our beautiful part of the world.

Samantha O'Toole



2023 Hard Rubbish Kerbside Collection

All hard rubbish must be kerbside by 6AM Monday 27 March 2023

COLLECTION TOWNS

- Bollon
- Dirranbandi
- St George
- Thallon

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- keep piles tidy, footpaths and roadways clear
- do not leave sharp or dangerous objects on the footpath
- items must be less than 30kg and 1.5m length
- ineligible items will not be collected



ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- bath and laundry tubs
- bicycles and sporting equipment
- carpet and rugs
- electronic waste* (e.g. televisions and computers)
- furniture and white goods (e.g. fridges and stoves) - remove doors
- small household appliances (e.g. fans and toasters)
- steel lengths less than 1.5 metres

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- garden or green waste
- bricks and concrete
- commercial builders waste
- car parts and tyres
- dirt and stones
- batteries of any kind
- gas bottles
- general household waste
- glass and mirrors
- hazardous wastes (e.g. chemicals, oil, asbestos)
- liquids
- bean bags and filling

For more information or questions, contact Council on 07 4620 8888

* Remember to delete data from your electronic devices such as mobile phones, tablets and laptops before disposing of them to help prevent theft of your personal information (known as 'identity theft'). Contact the manufacturer for advice on erasing data and personal information from your device.

from page 1

During the inspections, Authorised Officers will check for:

- Unregistered dogs
- Dogs not microchipped
- Excess dogs on property
- Security of fences for keeping animals
- Compliance to conditions for extra dog permits
- Permits for domestic animals e.g. horses, sheep, chickens etc.
- Overgrown allotments and visual amenity of allotments

Don't risk a fine! On the spot fines may occur if your dog is not registered or microchipped.

For more information, contact Council on 07 4620 8888 or email council@balonne.qld.gov.au

Domestic Dogs

<p>UNIT/FLAT</p> <p style="font-size: 48px; font-weight: bold;">1</p> <p>Per unit/flat</p>	<p>RESIDENTIAL ALLOTMENT LESS THAN 10,000M² (2.47 ACRES)</p> <p style="font-size: 48px; font-weight: bold;">2</p>	<p>ALLOTMENT OVER 10,000M² (2.47 ACRES)</p> <p style="font-size: 48px; font-weight: bold;">4</p> <p>Up to 4 Permit required Additional dogs 3 & 4 must be desexed</p>
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Stock Dogs

<p>ALLOTMENTS UNDER 1/4 ACRE (1011.71M²)</p> <p style="font-size: 48px; font-weight: bold;">0</p> <p>No stock dogs allowed</p>	<p>ALLOTMENTS UNDER 1/4 ACRE (1011.71M²) TO 2.5 ACRES (10,117M²)</p> <p style="font-size: 48px; font-weight: bold;">6</p> <p>Total of 6 dogs (including non-stock dogs). Combination of dogs as per application. Application made to full Council Meeting</p>	<p>ALLOTMENTS 2.5 ACRES (10,117M²) TO 5 ACRES (20,234M²) OR GREATER</p> <p style="font-size: 48px; font-weight: bold;">10</p>
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ANIMAL	FLAT/UNIT	ALLOTMENTS UP TO 1 ACRE (4046.86M ²)	ALLOTMENTS 1 ACRE (4046.86M ²) TO 2.5 ACRES (10,117M ²)	ALLOTMENTS 2.5 ACRES (10,117M ²) OR GREATER
POULTRY DUCKS GEESE CHICKENS GUINEA FOWL TURKEYS		12 Total number poultry in any combination Refer to standard conditions for keeping of an animal	24 Total number poultry in any combination Refer to standard conditions for keeping of an animal	50 Total number poultry in any combination Refer to standard conditions for keeping of an animal Permit required for more than 50 - Application for Permit & Assessment by full Council Meeting
ROOSTER		1 Permit required for allotments in St George	1	1
EMU/OSTRICH/PEACOCK		1-2 Refer to conditions on keeping bees	2+	2+ Application & assessment by full Council Meeting Refer to conditions on keeping bees
HONEY BEES		1-2 Refer to conditions on keeping bees	2+	2+ Application & assessment by full Council Meeting Refer to conditions on keeping bees
PIG		1-2 Refer to conditions on keeping bees	2+	2+ Application & assessment by full Council Meeting Refer to conditions on keeping bees
STALLION		Prohibited in all town areas unless special conditions Permit, Vet care & certificate. Double fenced, Defined conditions		
BULL/RAM		Prohibited in all town areas unless special conditions Permit and Vet care & certificate		
CAT	1	>1		

ANIMAL	FLAT/UNIT	ALLOTMENTS UP TO 1 ACRE (4046.86M ²)	ALLOTMENTS 1 ACRE (4046.86M ²) TO 2.5 ACRES (10,117M ²)	ALLOTMENTS 2.5 ACRES (10,117M ²) OR GREATER	ALLOTMENTS 5 ACRES (20,234M ²) OR GREATER	SPECIAL CONSIDERATION - NO LIMIT ON ALLOTMENTS SIZE
HORSE Kept in Urban Areas within Balonne Shire Towns (St George & Rural Towns). There are no distinctions between sizes of horses.		1 Private Use Permit Must meet conditions for keeping of horses within town areas	3 Private Use Permit Must meet conditions for keeping of horses within town areas	5 Private Use Permit Must meet conditions for keeping of horses within town areas	5 Commercial Use Permit for land use, not individual horse permit Submit tax statement with application Approved by full Council Meeting	5 Commercial Use Permit for land use, not individual horse permit Submit tax statement with application Approved by full Council Meeting
SHEEP/ALPACA/LLAMA		1	2 Permit Refer to standard conditions for keeping of an animal	10 Permit Refer to standard conditions for keeping of an animal	10	10 Permit Vet care with certificate Drought care - authorisation by BSC/declaration Refer to standard conditions for keeping of an animal
GOAT		1	2 Permit Refer to standard conditions for keeping of an animal	10 Permit Refer to standard conditions for keeping of an animal	10	10 Permit Vet care with certificate Drought care - authorisation by BSC/declaration Refer to standard conditions for keeping of an animal
CATTLE/COW		1	2 Permit Refer to standard conditions for keeping of an animal	10 Permit Refer to standard conditions for keeping of an animal	10	10 St George & Rural Town Areas Permit Vet care with certificate Under drought care Refer to standard conditions for keeping of an animal

New Funding to Promote Tourism Events in Balonne

Balonne Shire Council has awarded grant funding to four event organisers who will host events which will contribute to growing tourism in the broader St George Region in 2023.

The funded events include:

- Grazing at the Waterhole - a unique long-table dining experience showcasing local businesses, food producers, musicians and artists with the spectacular GrainCorp Thallon Silos as a backdrop.
- McIntyre 900 - this inaugural enduro race lays bare 920kms of high-speed racing through natural paddock terrain, dirt tracks and timbered country, it is the longest off-road race with the biggest prize pool in Australian off-road racing!
- Riversands Easter in the Vines - set in the lush Riversands gardens, this

event offers a chance to enjoy live music, cheese platters, delicious homemade scones or cooking your own sizzling BBQ with glass of wine or beer in hand!

- St George Agricultural Show - which offers entertainment for all, including livestock, handicrafts, jams and relish competition, horticulture, rodeo, fireworks and a motorbike gymkhana.

Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole was delighted to see funding reach event organisers who were actively promoting tourism in the St George Region.

"Tourism events are an important and growing part of our local economy and add vibrancy to our region.

"We are excited by the calibre and creativity of events approved for fund-

ing that promise to attract new visitors to our region and promote all that our beautiful St George Region has to offer," Mayor O'Toole said.

Council's Tourism Events Grants provide funding for events which have the potential to attract a significant number of visitors to the Balonne Shire, generate positive media coverage and stimulate the local economy.

The latest recipients were selected as part of a competitive assessment process and were announced in December 2022.

The next round of the Tourism Events Grant opens 1 March 2023.

For more information visit: www.balonne.qld.gov.au/homepage/89/tourism-events-grant-funding-program

For more information on the events funded, visit www.stgeorgeregion.com.au/



Grazing at the Waterhole in Thallon



Riversands Easter in the Vines



The McIntyre 900



St George Agricultural Show

Mungindi Officially Offers the Best Grey Nomad Experience

The QLD/NSW border town of Mungindi has been celebrating after its newest attraction was named as the winner in the national Grey Nomad Awards.

The Mungindi Sculpture Trail was shortlisted in the 2022 Best Grey Nomad Trail category after proving to national tourism leaders that it provided an ex-

ceptional experience for visitors aged over 50.

The 2.5-kilometre Trail is an open-air art gallery installation featuring ten raw and rustic sculptures by award-winning local artist Tony 'Nicko' McMillan, who tragically died in 2016 at 54 years of age and uniquely crosses the Queensland/New South Wales border in two spots.

Launched in September 2022, the Balonne Shire Council worked in collaboration with the McMillan family, the Mungindi Progress Association and the Moree Plains Shire Council on the project, using Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program to pay tribute to Nicko and showcases the sculptures for visitor enjoyment.

Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole said the award was a credit to all

involved in the project and the Mungindi community, who persevered through numerous challenges, with focus and commitment.

"We are so proud of what our region has to offer, and this award is just another reason for travellers to come and visit our beautiful part of the world."

"The past couple of years have been challenging for tourism in our region, we have had to contend with drought, COVID-19, and floodwaters which cut off important transport routes."

"The sculpture trail has brightened both the town and the spirits of our community, this award now ensures that the trail will be a draw card for travellers' deciding where to visit, play and stay," she said.



St George SHS working with renewed focus in '23

St George State High School has started 2023 with a new leadership team, new experienced teaching staff and a renewed focus on continuous improvement.

St George State High School Principal Thomas McKenna has made a commitment to working closely with students, teachers, families and the community to ensure students are set up for success and prepared for the future.

"I would like to thank the school and broader community for the warm welcome and the support we have received so far."

"I have been thoroughly impressed with the capability of our leadership and teaching staff and believe we are in a strong position to make great strides in our journey of continuous improvement."

"Student voice will be a strong contributor to directing the work at St George State High School. The leadership team are looking forward to working closely with the 2023 school leaders to ensure St George State High School is a school all students are proud to attend," he said.

Mr McKenna has also promised changes

in the way the school communicates with the community. He said that the school newsletter and St George State High School Facebook page will continue. In addition, the school website will be updated over the coming weeks to ensure all community members have a single 'point of truth' and readily accessible

information.

Mr McKenna has welcomed community feedback and invited anyone with feedback or questions to email

admin@stgeorgeshs.eq.edu.au.

The St George State High School website address is: www.stgeorgeshs.eq.edu.au/



School Leaders 2023: Principal Thomas J. McKenna with Captains Ashleigh Ferguson and Seamus Lamb, Vice Captains Grace Waters and Braxton Beardmore, with Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole

Minister Opens Upgraded Mungindi River Park

The Queensland Minister for Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, the Honourable Glenn Butcher MP came to our region to help celebrate the opening of the newly upgraded Mungindi River Park on the Barwon River.

The opening event was attended by a range of representatives of local and State governments and local community groups to celebrate the \$748,000 park upgrades.

The new park upgrades included, multiple barbecue areas and shelters, playground facilities, new accessible amenities with disability access, parking, landscaping, solar lighting, bollards, kerbing and pathways connecting the park to the township.

Balonne Shire Council Mayor Samantha O'Toole said this joint funding collaboration from all levels of Government is a great example of how significant local outcomes can be achieved when governments combine their efforts.

"The Barwon River is an incredible natural asset, and these upgrades to the Mungindi River Park will greatly benefit the local community on both sides of the border in terms of liveability, improved amenities and accessibility to attract more tourism to the area," Mayor O'Toole said.

"During this past festive season, locals in Mungindi held a Christmas event in the



upgraded park, which is a great example of the works already helping to bring the community together.

"The next step in improving the amenities in this area involves the \$300,000 construction of a new boat ramp at the site, to further improve local tourism opportunities by providing boat access to the beautiful Barwon River.

"The new boat ramp will improve safety and reduce environmental damage to the riverbank with the Moree Plains Shire

Council securing funding from the New South Wales Government and the Balonne Shire Council set to construct and install the 20-metre boat ramp at the park, providing a site to launch small vessels."

The new park upgrades were proudly joint funded by the Australian Government under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program, the New South Wales Government, the Queensland Government and the Balonne Shire Council and Moree Plains Shire Council.

Out and About in Balonne

Balonne Shire Australia Day Ceremony 2023 at Ballon



Opening of the Mungindi River Park Upgrades.



Great Australian Bites event in St George



Workforce Development Update

Balonne Shire Council's Workforce Development Officer, Angelina Niven, is working with local employers and job service providers to boost workforce participation, job opportunities and to assess and address any workforce shortages across the Shire. If you have an interest in improving workforce opportunities, workforce participation and local job opportunities in Balonne, please reach out to Angelina.



Balonne Shire Council Workforce Development Officer, Angelina Niven

Upcoming information sessions as follows:

Monday 13th March – Dirranbandi 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm 'Attracting & Retaining Staff' Workshop facilitated by Michelle Sleeth, Agri Labour. This project is proudly funded by the Queensland Government through its Growing Workforce Participation Fund & open to all employers.

Tuesday 14th March – St George 7:30am – 10:30am 'Attracting & Retaining Staff' Workshop facilitated by Michelle Sleeth, Agri Labour. This project is proudly funded by the Queensland Government through its Growing Workforce Participation Fund & open to all employers.

Angelina Niven
Workforce Development Officer
E: angelina.niven@balonne.qld.gov.au
Ph: 07 4620 8839
Mob: 0499 81 61 51

St George CBD Beautification Project works set to commence

Balonne Shire Council is set to commence work on revitalising Victoria Street in the St George CBD as part of a \$1,400,000 Beautification Project.

The works will aim to create a more urbanised environment, attract tourists, improve attractive-

ness and liveability for locals with the construction of consistent footpaths and landscaping and water mains upgrades along the main street.

Construction works are set to commence in March 2023 and be finalised by the end of June 2023.



LOCK IT OR LOSE IT

Protect your car

To reduce the risk of theft, Queensland Police Service recommend that you:

- Remove all valuables from vehicles, or keep them out of sight.
- Remove all personal documents from vehicles.
- Lock all doors and close all windows, even when parked in your own driveway.
- Remove all keys from vehicles and keep garage door openers out of sight.
- Remove unsecured tools from the back of utes.
- Regularly check your registration plates are in place.

Protect your home and valuables

To reduce the risk of theft, Queensland Police Service recommend that you:

- Lock all doors and windows in your house.
- Put wallets and keys out of sight, not near a door where they can be easily grabbed.
- Mark your property with microdots or a personal code.

POLICELINK 131 444
CRIMESTOPPERS 1800 333 000

CYBERSECURITY AND YOUR BUSINESS

BUSINESS WORKSHOP

CYBER AWARENESS & BUSINESS CONTINUITY

Technology landscape is constantly evolving providing opportunities for business innovation and grow. But contemporary technology comes with risks related to Cyber Safety, Data Security and Business Continuity. "Aliva" are a specialist technology partner that will help you learn about these risks and how to better manage them.

- How do you prepare and secure your business?
- What are current risks and how can you mitigate them?
- If your business is affected, can you still operate?

ST GEORGE

March 9
7am - 1pm
Cultural Centre

ROMA

March 10
7am - 1pm
Roma Saleyards

RSVP

www.bit.ly/ConnectAg
 \$20pp inc light breakfast & lunch
 More info
 0407 678 574
rhonda@connectag.com.au

SCAN ME

TO BOOK

This event is funded through the Queensland Government's Tackling Regional Adversity through Connected Communities Program and the Balonne Shire Council.

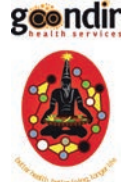
Balonne Shire Job opportunities

March 2023

Part-time
Playgroup
Facilitator
St George

GOONDIR HEALTH SERVICES

4 hours/week
\$32 per hour
Apply online goondir.org.au/about/employment
or email hr@goondir.org.au for an application form



Part-time
Playgroup
Support Officer
St George

GOONDIR HEALTH SERVICES

4 hours/week
\$22 per hour
Apply online goondir.org.au/about/employment
or email hr@goondir.org.au for an application form



Steel Salesman
St George

CROSS ENGINEERING

Full-time, \$55,328 base
Call in or send your resume to
24-44 Buchan Byp, St George Qld 4487
For enquiries phone: 07 4625 5012



Casual Cleaner
St George

MERINO MOTOR INN

Weekday mornings and weekends as required.
Award wage.
Email resume to:
bookings@merinomotorinn.com.au



Cafe/Cellar door
Sales Assistants
St George

RIVERSANDS WINES

Permanent or casual
\$26.73 - \$28/hr + commission
Email resume to:
office@riversandswines.com



Kitchenhands x 2
Back-of-House
supervisors x 2
St George

HANDY STORE

Mon-Fri, Casual
\$27 - \$30/hr
Weekend penalty rates
Drop resume in to Handy Store,
61 Victoria St, St George



Multiple Positions
Available!
St George
& Dirranbandi

BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL

Balonne Shire Council have range
of Permanent, Temporary, Full Time
& Part Time positions available.
For more information please visit:
www.balonne.qld.gov.au/employment



Professional &
Stable Service
Manager
St George

MARANO MECHANICAL

Full time. Salary package negotiable.
Contacts:
Emily 0427 255 449 | emily@maranoamechanical.com.au
or Brad 0427 791 727 | brad@maranoamechanical.com.au
For more information go to: www.maranoamechanical.repcoservice.net/articles/service-manager-maranoamechanical



ENVIRONMENT COLUMN

African Boxthorn

Exceptional seasonal conditions and good growing conditions have led to an increased presence of African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) within the Balonne Shire.

African Boxthorn is a thorny bush which restricts the movement of humans and most animals. The weed is easily recognised by its prolific red berries.

Birds spread the plant's seeds, usually depositing them under trees. As plants grow, they take over the shaded area, denying access to livestock, and creating the perfect harbour for feral animals.

Balonne Shire Council undertake control of African Boxthorn on stock routes.

All landowners and managers are urged to be on the lookout and remain vigilant in the control of this highly restricted Category 3 Woody Weed.

Under the Biosecurity Act 2014 all landholders have a "general Biosecurity obligation" to take all reasonable and practicable measures to minimise Biosecurity risks. Control methods may be manual, mechanical or by herbicide.

If you choose herbicide be sure to select the right herbicide and read the label well for application rates and safety.

African Boxthorn has been declared as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) due to its potential to spread further and its economic, environmental and social impact. The declaration highlights the need for landowners and managers to renew their weed control commitments, particularly for widespread weeds that display these qualities.

This will help protect primary production industries in our region and our natural environment.

Further information is available on the Business Queensland website, or by contacting the Environmental Services Team at Balonne Shire Council on (07) 4620 8888.

