



er conditions and Fire Danger Ratings before carrying out farm work and urging travellers setting up campfires to do so responsibly.

Mowing and slashing activity has triggered several large grassfires already this season, and the dry and hot conditions are causing small fires to spread rapidly.

In times of high fire danger, as little as a spark from a grinder or a slasher hitting a rock, or an unattended campfire can spark a major grass fire, threatening lives and property.

Rural Fire Services Manager of Mitigation, Inspector Michael Welsh said the three most important factors for a property owner to remember is to check the weather before conducting work with power tools, ensure equipment is properly maintained, and to carry water or an extinguisher to put out small fires before they have the chance to spread.

Property owners should also clear grass around a welding or grinding site before starting work.

"With harvesting time approaching, we are also urging farmers to conduct all the recommended maintenance and clearing," Inspector Welsh said.

"Check all fire extinguishers are fully charged and have a mobile firefighting unit available."

Inspector Welsh said farmers should avoid carrying out work that could trigger a blaze during times of high fire danger.

Continued on page 3

There are currently more than 26,000 RFS volunteers across the state, but in rural towns throughout western Queensland there is always the need for more.

Whether they are members of a full brigade or primary producer brigades who carry a "slip on" firefighting unit on the back of their ute, RFS members form an essential part of the defence for regional Queenslanders.

There are many volunteer roles available that do not in-

volve entering the fireground, including in community education, administration, incident management and communications.

To join your local Rural Fire Brigade, scan this QR Code:





## What's On

### DRAGON COUNTRY SANDGREEN CUP

St George Golf Course is considered to be one of the best Sandgreen courses. The Inaugural Dragon Country Sandgreen Cup takes place a week prior to the men's Sandgreen championships. Golfers of all abilities welcome.

When: 29 Sept-1 Oct Where: St George Golf Club

### ST GEORGE FISHING COMPETITION

Nominations are open! Once nominated, get baited up and those lines wet. There are thousands of dollars in cash and prizes to be won. Bar and BBQ available. Presentation ceremony 12pm Sunday.

When: Saturday 30 Sept-Sunday 1 Oct Where: Rowden Park, St George

### **FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS**

The Festival of Small Halls is Australia's largest regional music tour. Grab this opportunity for music lovers to welcome Festival of Small Halls to our Shire!

When: Thursday, 5 Oct doors open at 6:30pm for a 7pm start (Food and drinks available from

5:30pm)

Where: Cultural Centre, St George

### **MULTICULTURAL FEAST**

Grab your spoons it's time to feast! Food, music, and stories from our Shire and around the world. Attend the Multicultural Feast to receive a bonus stamp to go into the Flavours of the Ba-Ionne Draw; drawn on the day

When: 14 Oct, 4pm-7pm Where: The Hub, St George

### **GET READY DAY**

Be ready Balonne! Come along for a morning of entertainment, stalls, food, and useful information and demonstrations from Emergency Services to help our community prepare for natural

When: Saturday, 28 Oct, 9am-12pm

Where: The Hub, St George

Pack up your RV, grab your family and friends and head out to Thallon for the most unique and fun Outback event this year when the phenomenon that is Pub Choir comes to Thallon!

When: Sunday, 29 Oct 3:00pm-7:00pm Where: McGeever Recreational Grounds.

Thallon

### **NINIDIGULLY PIG RACES**

Nindigully Pub's world-famous Pig Races are held annually and attract a larger crowd every year. The day consists of live music, raffles, auctions, food, drink, fireworks, camping and of course pig races.

When: Saturday, 25 November

Where Nindigully Pub

## A message from the Mayor

As we move into the warmer months, the weather brings with it the all too familiar challenges around water limitations and the heightened risk of bushfires to our region.

With numerous flood events over recent consecutive wet seasons, fuel loads have built up and dried out from frosts and that fuel is ready to burn, given the right conditions.

It is of vital importance that we are all prepared for any fire event that may occur throughout this bushfire season, as we have already had one instance of fire threat recently.

The Queensland Fire and Emergency Service has a detailed overview of how to prepare and plan for this bushfire season and I would urge everyone to go to their website so we can all do everything we can to keep our region and our families safe over the coming months.

Our seasonal weather patterns are creating another challenging issue for our Shire in the form of a fast-dwindling water allocation for the community of St George. Sunwater, Mallawa and Council have been working together to proactively explore ways of alleviating water supply shortages in St George during critically dry period when Beardmore Dam is at or below its minimum operating volume (such as last occurred in December 2019).

Jointly with Sunwater and Mallawa, we have developed a proposal to change the way that a positive reconciliation balance might be applied to

water accounts, but only when the dam is below its minimum operating volume. Please don't hesitate to contact Mallawa, Sunwater or myself directly to discuss and full details can be found on Council's website including our feedback form.

Many community members may not be aware that Council



does not currently own its water allocation for the community of St George. At the time when water and land titles were separated in the early 2000s, the water license was transferred to Sunwater and Council has since been on a term lease of the vital community asset. This is an unacceptable long-term arrangement for Council and currently sees us paying a premium for water compared to other water users on Jack Taylor Weir.

In recent times, I have represented Council at discussions with both Sunwater and the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy to secure the long-term ownership of this asset for our community. Although, we haven't to date been able to reach agreement for a suitable outcome for our community, I will continue to pursue this issue unrelentingly.

Samantha O'Toole





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



### Continued from page 1

Landowners on rural properties need to develop a fire management strategy. That means they can identify their assets including pastures and the best way of protecting those assets.

"If they can just ensure their machinery is maintained and speak with their neighbours about how they can support one another. This can really help reduce fires. If they are considering the use of fire for hazard reduction, they've got to contact their local fire warden to obtain a permit to light fire," Inspector Welsh said.

"Fire wardens are good people to speak to for guidance on the

use of fire or other mitigation strategies such as putting in breaks with machinery or slashing and mowing."

It's not just landowners. Travellers and truck drivers also have an important responsibility this bushfire season.

Sparks from worn bearings and unattended campfires are another potential trigger for bush-

To contact your local fire warden, scan this QR Code:



## Level 2 water restrictions now in place in St George

Council's remaining river water allocation in Beardmore Dam has now dropped to below 1,500 Megalitres, which has triggered Level 2 Water Restrictions in St George.

The aim of these Level 2 Water Restrictions is to prolong our remaining allocation of River Water for St George, which is predominantly used for outdoor use.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole is urging people in St George to do what they can to be waterwise with outdoor water use, so that we can preserve our precious river water for as long as possible.

"It was not that long ago that Beardmore Dam was brimming with water, but that water supply is steadily decreasing," Mayor O'Toole said.

"Despite an extended period of high rainfalls in our region over recent years, we are now being met with forecasts for an El-Nino and drier weather ahead.

"St George has already been on Level 1 River Water Restriction since May of this year and at the rate our river water

is being consumed, we will be stepping up to Level 3 Water Restrictions in the very near future.

"Water is a precious resource for our Shire and the more we can all do to practise waterwise tips with our

outdoor water use the longer that water resource will last us.

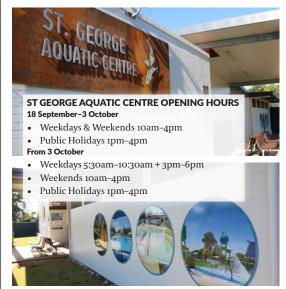
"Over recent months, we have been undertaking a public awareness campaign to raise awareness around the need for all of us to conserve river water use wherever possible. "



### St George Aquatic Centre now open

The St George Aquatic Centre is making a splash with their re-opening on 18 September for the summer swimming season, complete with new signage.

Over the break, Council took the opportunity to reline the St George swimming pool and install new signage thanks to a grant from the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.



## St George welcomes back **Fishing Competition**

The St George Fishing Competition is set to reel in another great event after becoming a popular family pastime in the Shire since it was first formed in 1987.

This year's competition on 30 September and 1 October promises to be even better, with a range of exciting prizes up for grabs, as well as a bar, BBQ and merchandise available for purchase.

The Lucky Door prizes include a fishing charter, donated by Offshore Fishing 1770 and Kulkyne swags donated by Golders.

The raffle prizes are even more impressive, with a freshwater fishing charter donated by Australian Freshwater Fishing Charters as the first prize, a firepit donated by local business CEK Spraying as the second prize, and a \$250 fuel voucher donated by Lowes Petroleum St George as the third prize.

Supporting this great event helps the St George Fishing Club with their restocking campaign. This January they released over 15,000 yellow belly and 10,000 cod fingerlings into the Balonne River system.

It's great to see that local businesses have shown massive support for the club. The organizers have expressed their gratitude for the overwhelming support from our community.

It will be a cash only event.

For more info, visit their Facebook page, email stgeorgefishing@gmail.com or call Justin on 0436 537 200



## Groundbreaking Environmental Research in our Region

Our region has hosted groundbreaking environmental research at the 130-hectare Richard Underwood Nature Refuge to the north of St George with ground penetrating radar technology to map out burrows of the world's rarest mammals, the Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat.

With an estimated total of around 315 individuals remaining, the Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat is listed as critically endangered and is one of the rarest mammals in Australia.

The Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat is the largest burrowing mammal in the world

and their burrows can be up to 90 metres long, which highlights the challenge and knowledge that could be unlocked with this research.

The Wombat Foundation Director Leanne Brosnan is excited to see this project commence.

"This is an incredibly exciting project – using cutting edge technology to reveal ancient wombat wisdom."



"It will allow us to take the first-ever behind-the-scenes peek into their private digs (at RUNR) and give us new and invaluable insight into their elusive existence."

"The Wombat Foundation are delighted to be able to fund this groundbreaking research project."

## 2023 spring and summer training courses

There are plenty of courses coming up this spring and summer. From marketing related training days to boat and jetski license courses and even firearm safety classes.

Get in touch with Patricia or Angelina to find out more about securing your spot.

GTT-GatewaytoTraining:Patricia:46253238 | WDO:Angelina:0499816151

OCTOBER				
Wed 4th	Digital Marketing	12:30-2:30	WDO	Thallon
Thurs 5th	Digital Marketing	12:30-2:30	WDO	Bollon
Mon 9th	Responsible Management of Licensed Venues	8:00am-5:00pm	GTT	St George
Fri 17th	First Aid Training	7:50-2:30pm	GTT	St George
Mon 23-Wed 25th	Forklift License Training	8:30-4:00pm	GTT	St George
Sat 28 & Sun 29	Life Guard Training & First Aid		WDO	Dirranbandi
Mon 30 & Tue 31	Life Guard Training & First Aid		WDO	St George
NOVEMBER				
Thurs 2nd	Workforce Planning	12:30-2:30pm	WDO	Bollon
		5:30-7:30pm	WDO	St George
Thurs 16th	Pilot / Escort License	8:00am-3:00pm	GTT	St George
Thurs 21st	White Card Training	8:00am-4:00pm	WDO	St George
DECEMBER				
Sun 3rd	Firearms Safety Course	8:30am-2:30pm	GTT	St George









## Queensland **Small Business Commissioner** visits Balonne

Queensland's Small Business Commissioner, Dominique Lamb visited Balonne Shire recently, to listen to the needs and views of our local businesses.

Commissioner Lamb met with Council and a range of local businesses throughout the Shire, giving an overview of business-related topics and forecasts for business in Queensland over the coming years.







### **Balonne wins award for cross-border** collaboration with Moree Plains **Shire Council**

Balonne Shire Council won the Local Government Award at the Queensland Resilient Australia Awards for their Memorandum of Understanding with Moree Plains Shire

Council to facilitate community, resilience and collaboration across borders.

The Council has a strong bond with Moree Plains Shire Council, which has been further strengthened over recent years with the region enduring more than its fair share of disasters, flood events and a COVID-19 pandemic.

Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole said to have this cross-border collaboration recognised with such a prestigious award is almost as rewarding as the bond and mateship we enjoy with our Council neighbours on our southern border.



## **ENVIRO-COLUMN ILLEGAL DUMPING COSTS US ALL**

Illegal dumping is the unlawful deposit of any type of waste material that is 200 litres or more in volume and includes household rubbish, garden waste, building and commercial waste or other materials that damage our natural areas.

Illegal dumping causes chemical and physical pollution in our neighbourhoods and waterways and spreads pests and weeds, including fire ants.

Dumpsites can lower property values and also attract other illegal activities as it may encourage others to dump more dangerous waste.

The removal of illegally dumped material in our Shire is a joint funded initiative by the Balonne Shire Council and Queensland Department of Environment and Science's Local Government Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program.

If you see or become aware of any illegally dumped material, you can contact Council on 4620 8888 or report it online by scanning the QR Code:









## Proposed changes to the **Balonne Planning Scheme**

Council is calling for community feedback on its plan to facilitate continued growth and improve development outcomes in the Shire with proposed amendments to the Balonne Planning Scheme.

Council held a series of well-attended community information sessions on the proposed amendments and residents will have the opportunity to have their say



with the proposal open for submissions until 3 October 2023.

Residents can view the proposed amendments online by scanning this QR Code or by going to Council's website or in Council libraries.

Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole outlined how growth and liveability are key drivers for the amendments proposed to the Balonne Planning Scheme.

"Our Planning Scheme is an important mechanism to help guide our long-term plan for how we want our Shire to be in the decades ahead," Mayor O'Toole said.

"The amendments we have proposed will help to facilitate continued growth in the commercial, industrial, residential and rural sectors.

> "They will also help to improve development outcomes to enhance the amenity and liveability of the Shire.

> "I would encourage anyone with an interest in the future of our Shire to talk with our planners, view the proposal in Council libraries or go to the Council website to make









### **AUGUST COMPLETED WORKS**

- 1. Thomby Road
- 2. Woolerbilla Rd
- 3. Bolins Road
- 4. Hoolavale Rd
- 5. Yilgangandi Rd
- 6. Kilcummin Road
- 7. West Haran Rd

### **WORKS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:**

- East Goondulla Rd
  - » Expected completion: early Sept
  - » Construction is ongoing.

- » Expected traffic delays 5 mins.
- Bimbil Rd
  - » Expected completion: mid Sept
  - » Construction is ongoing.
  - » Expected traffic delays 5 mins.
- Dalkeith Rd
  - » Expected completion: late Sept
  - » Construction is ongoing.
  - » Expected traffic delays > 5 mins.
- · Chelmer Rd
  - » Expected completion: end Sept.
  - » Construction is ongoing.
  - » Expected traffic delays 5 mins.

- Gunnindaddy Rd
  - » Expected completion: mid October
  - » Construction is ongoing.
  - » Expected traffic delays 5 mins.
- Davirton Rd
- » Expected completion: late October
- » Construction is ongoing.
- » Expected traffic delays 5 mins.

### **UPCOMING GRADING WORKS**

- 1. Ingaby Road
- 2. Teelba Rd
- 3. Link Rd
- 4. Hollymount Rd











## Mungindi Cotton Growers Charity Golf Day

Hordes of golfers enthusiastically swung into Mungindi Royal to raise \$25,000 at the Mungindi Cotton Growers Charity Golf Day on 25 August 2023.

In amongst the crazy costumes, a golf-ball-stealing crow proved to be the most consistent performer at the annual novel-ty Ambrose.

In an unexpected twist, some competitive golf was played with the top six teams within a point of each other.

In a controversial countback, the winner's trophy went to Namoi team #2, consisting of Bruce Coward, Phil Sloan, Jock Jackson and Jacob Booby.

Runners Up were Precision Aerial team #1, made up of Charlie Tootell, Redman and Dicky Brown.

The Bradmans went to Willow Harris,

Ty Moore and Jade Lane, who proved expensive clubs don't make much difference if you don't know how to use them.

Mungindi CGA President Tristram Hertslet said it was an unforgettable day on the greens as the community came together for their big fundraiser, which saw money flowing to the local schools, medical and aged services, sporting clubs and churches.

"We have generous and loyal sponsors who understand that small communities like ours are held together by the determination and dedication of a limited number of local volunteers."

"Today, Mungindi really is the winner because this event is a powerful day of friendship, laughter and community," Mr Hertslet said.













ST GEORGE CULTURAL CENTRE FROM 6:30PM





# Out and About in Balonne

Mayoral Ball



















# Citizenship Ceremony



















# Out and About in Balonne

Colour Run



















# PUB CHOIR



## Sunday 29 October 3pm to 7pm

McGeever Recreational Grounds - Thallon

Tickets available from the Thallon Progress Association

thallonprogress@gmail.com 0427 142 100













## Balonne Shire Job opportunities September 2023

Domestic **Assistants &** Personal Care

St George, Alton, Dirranbandi, Hebel, Mungindi & Nindigully

#### **SKILLS HUBS**

CASUAL & FULL TIME AVAILABLE

Are you kind? Then you're our kind of person!

No experience required and training available.

To find out more go to: www.skillshubs.com.au

or register at

https://lp.skillshubs.com.au/mr-candidates



BALARANG

#### **BALARANG LANDS**

Previous farmhand experience essential and/or the willingness to learn broadacre spraying skills. Current drivers' licence and operation of machinery and equipment skills essential.

Accommodation provided.

Further enquires to Jason: 0428 657 304 or email admin@balaranglands.com

See Balarang Lands Facebook page for more information.

Clinical Nurse **Bollon** 

Farm Hand

**Full-Time** 

Mungindi

#### **BOLLON COMMUNITY CLINIC**

Permanent Full-time | 76 hours per fortnight \$104,816pa - \$112,236pa

Contact Philipa Gorman: 07 4625 6105

https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-SW511185



Apprentice **Butcher** 

Dirranbandi

### THREE RIVERS MEATS

Full-time | Above award rates

Accommodation included

Email resume to: office@abarue.com.au



Skilled Boner (skilled in breaking sides)

Dirranbandi

### THREE RIVERS MEATS

Full-time | Above award rates

Accommodation included

Email resume to: office@abarue.com.au



**Relief Teacher** Dirranbandi

### **DIRRANBANDI STATE SCHOOL**

Full-time | \$69,218 to \$104,193pa

Contact Natalie Cockram: 07 4667 2303

For more info visit: smartjobs.qld.gov.au **DIRRANBANDI STATE SCHOOL** 



Cleaner

Dirranbandi

### Casual Relief | 4 to 8 hours per day,

not during school hours.

Contact: admin@dirranbandiss.eq.edu.au



**Teacher Aide** Dirranbandi

### Temp/Part-time | 3 to 5 days per week

8:30am - 3pm (15 hours per week)

**DIRRANBANDI STATE SCHOOL** 

\$26.0474 to \$28.8684 per hour

Contact: principal@dirranbandiss.eg.edu.au



### Dirranbandi (HQ)

Service other towns

### **RED DIRT FAIRIES CLEANING SERVICE**

Previous experience a bonus but not essential | Flexible hours

Send cover letter and resume to:



Olivia:fairiesdirran@outlook.com / or message on the Red Dirt Fairies Cleaning Service Facebook Page

Bottle Shop **Attendant** St George

### THE AUSTRALIAN HOTEL

\$30.10/hr + penalties | 9am to 3pm Mon to Fri.

Ability to lift and move cartons of stock regularly.

THE AUSTRALIAN

Call: 4625 5000 or email: admin@australianhotelstgeorge.com.au

**COBB & CO HOTEL** 

Full-time / part-time \$28.50/hr + penalties Contact Lethal:



**Bottle Shop** Attendant St George

0475 773 696



For more information on local jobs



**SCAN THIS OR CODE** 



### LADY GOWRIE BALONNE COMMUNITY **KINDERGARTEN**

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



Responsible for assisting with the day-to-day **Permanent** 

**Full Time** 

**Relief Early** 

Part-time

St George

or Full-time

**Childhood Teacher** 

St George

**Bachelor Qualified Early Childhood Teacher** 

St George

### **NCC EARLY LEARNERS**

For more information please visit:

Flexible hours, term time for the right applicant

operations and maintenance of Balonne Shire

Council's workshop, plant, equipment and vehicles

Balonne Shire Council website employment page

Approx wage scale \$36.81 to \$47.37 per hour based on length of service

Email: headofearlylearners@ncc.gld.edu.au



alonne

Lady Gowrie QLD

Housekeeper St George

### **MERINO MOTOR INN**

Weekend Junior casual | Pay based on age Contact Janine: 4625 3333 or email: bookings@merinonotorinn.com.au

MERINO MOTOR INN

Kitchenhand / Wait staff St George

#### MERINO MOTOR INN

Junior casual required 2-3 evenings per week Pay based on age Contact Janine: 4625 3333

or email: bookings@merinonotorinn.com.au



GEORCE TOWN

Manager

5 year term

24 Hrs Per/Week

St George

### **CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE** Negotiable salary, plus incentive payments

This role has full charge of operations under the Containers For Change contract held by the Lions Club of St George and operating from the Arthur Street depot.

QUEENSLAND Contact Mick: 0427 295 025 or planes54@hotmail.com for full position description and more info

Bar/Kitchen all-rounder

St George

St George

Assistant Shed /

**Delivery Person** 

### ST GEORGE HOTEL

Full-time / part-time Start end of September

Accommodation available if needed

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

**BALONNE STEEL** AND RURAL SUPPLIES

Casual/Part-time Wage to be negotiated.

Contact John: 0428 747 206

AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON AUSTRALIA DAY 2024.

or email: iohn@balonnesteel.com.au

## Nominations are now OPEN for the 2024 **Australia Day**

NOMINATIONS CLOSE 1ST DECEMBER 2023 AT 5PM

Please visit the website at www.balonne.qld.gov.au

contact cdo@balonne.qld.gov.au or 4620 8888



