

Hub project awarded for collaboration



Balonne Shire Council's commitment to collaboration has been acknowledged with an award for excellence for The Hub project from the LGMA, the peak body for local government management in Australia.

The LGMA – or Local Government Managers Association – is recognized as a leader in local government advocacy, collaborative learning and professional development, involving all councils throughout Queensland, and its annual awards-for-excellence are hotly contested.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole said it was an honour for Balonne Shire Council to win the award for excellence in the category of "Collaboration" at the LGMA's annual ceremony held in May.

"The Hub in St George strongly meets the criteria for the award, as a project that reflects genuine collaboration and extensive consultation with multiple parties to implement more effective service delivery models that benefit the community as a whole," Mayor O'Toole said.

"Open for just three months, The Hub is already playing a vital role in the community, opening up opportunities that will show long-term benefits.

"In gaining wider recognition through this major award, which was open to all councils in Queensland, it has become a model for other regional local government areas to emulate."

Starting back in 2018, plans for The Hub were developed in consultation with the community and local service providers, such as the St George & District Chamber of Commerce, schools, local police, health workers – including Indigenous health and youth workers – and other local inter-agency providers.

Mayor O'Toole said a point of difference for this project is the inclusion of the Country Universities Centre, or CUC.

"The Balonne CUC is described as a Queensland-first, co-designed, low-population, in-community, ter-

tiary education hub model. It was developed in partnership and collaboration with Balonne Shire Council, St George & District Chamber of Commerce, and the national Country Universities Centre (CUC) organisation.

"The CUC provides a level of support for local tertiary students not previously available in the region, with 77 students using the facility to further their study success.

"Of those, half are the first in their family to study at university level and 10 per cent are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island heritage. These figures are extremely gratifying, as they exceed our three-year pilot program goal by 50 per cent. This is something we are very proud to bring to our community."

The Balonne CUC also has a campus in Dirranbandi. A local board oversees the CUC, with representatives from the community, industry and education sectors.

Summing up, The Hub involved ex-

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What's On

Yellowbelly Country Music Festival

A great week of country music, bush poetry, food, drink, camping, fishing, friends and country hospitality. There's always a great line up of country music performers, bush poets and lots of fun walk-ups held throughout the week. Camping is available: first-in, best-sited. Show and camping tickets are available at the gate.

WHEN: 27 June – 3 July 2022

WHERE: St George Showgrounds

Dam Buster 250

The St George Dam Buster 250 is two days of action-packed offroad racing. Opening with a short course track on Saturday and a special stage in the afternoon, then Sunday will see a longer track being run. Starts at 9am.

WHEN: 2-3 July 2022

WHERE: St George

Mungindi Races

The Mungindi Cup is country racing at its best. First held in 1872, Live entertainment and a fully licensed bar. Fashions on the Field. Bookmakers and a TAB are also available for punters on the day.

WHEN: Saturday, 2 July 2022

WHERE: Mungindi Racecourse

St George Cup Races

The St George Jockey Club offers a full racing card, TAB bookies and the much-heralded Fashions of the Field: a terrific day out for locals and visitors alike. Take advantage of our bus service between town and the racetrack.

WHEN: 30 July 2022

WHERE: St George Racecourse

Mungindi Show

The Mungindi Show is a fun weekend of activities for the whole family. A long list of events include the header-picker demolition derby, wood chop competition and fireworks on the Saturday and the Poets' Breakfast, dog high jump and grain shovelling comp on the Sunday.

WHEN: 6-7 August 2022

WHERE: Mungindi Showgrounds

Got a story, event or notice?

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

Phone: 07 4620 8888

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

[balonne.qld.gov.au](mailto:martin.bowerman@balonne.qld.gov.au)

A message from the Mayor

I would like to ask all our Balonne residents to please spare a thought for many of our primary producers and other small business operators throughout the Shire who have seen their hopes for a great 2021-22 season dashed by continuing rain.

After at least eight years of drought in the past decade, you would think the last six months of heavier than usual rain would be welcome. And it has been. But now, we've had too much.

Rain has reduced the quality of cotton still in the paddocks and water laying between the rows is preventing harvesters getting the rest of the crop off. The cotton harvest has stopped throughout most of the region.

At the same time, boggy paddocks are preventing farmers sowing crops like winter wheat. Some earlier plantings have been washed away.

This means what should have been terrific seasons for our cotton and grain producers could now be very ordinary, and this reduced income for our farmers will flow right through our economy.

At the same time, flooded roads are disrupting the usual flow of grey nomads and other caravanners heading north from New South Wales.

For example, persistent flooding on the Hebel to Dirranbandi section of the Castlereagh Highway is really affecting traffic volumes in both those towns and causing problems for businesses in Dirran in particular.

Council will be talking to the State Government's Department of Traffic and Main Roads about how to make this road more flood-resistant in future and less likely to be cut after heavy rain.

Council is very much aware that businesses in Dirran, Hebel and elsewhere are doing it tough, and we will also be looking for ways to assist businesses in the shorter term to cope with fewer customers coming in the door.

It doesn't replace long lines of caravans rolling into town but it will still help our local business operators if all residents can think about please spending your money within the



Shire whenever possible.

And also think about being "tourists" in our own backyard and visiting some of the other townships in the Shire, and purchasing fuel and food and other goods while you're there. It all helps.

As you will read elsewhere in this edition of the *Balonne Bulletin*, Balonne Shire Council has coordinated a region-wide take up of the *b kinder* initiative for State primary schools, in what I believe is a first for Queensland.

The program has been developed by the *flyhighbillie* charity, established after the tragic death of 12-year-old Billie Kinder in a horse accident in 2016. Before her death, Billie displayed a passion for horses and show jumping, winning State championships in New South Wales, and was academically bright, writing stories and poetry at a level beyond her years.

As part of the rollout of the initiative, Council, schools and other community workplaces are marking *b kinder* day on Wednesday, June 22. Using blank cards, staff and students are encouraged to take time out to send messages of hope and positivity to the special people in their lives.

This is something that could benefit us all as the challenges of drought, then Covid and now continued wet weather and flooding test our patience and resilience.

Samantha O'Toole

From page 1

tensive stakeholder and public consultation, with a concept design that everyone bought in to.

The result is a contemporary, multi-purpose library, with a high level of technology, that is open six days a week, and is also the centre for the Shire's library network, as well as CUC, business, education and cultural program layers.

Clear benefits are proven through increased library membership and attendance at library events, a high demand for meetings spaces by the community and other agencies, regular use of the maker's space, and consistent bookings of CUC study / meeting rooms.

Mayor O'Toole said the project would not have been possible without support from the Federal Government. The Commonwealth's Building Better Regions program provided \$5 million for the project and the Balonne Shire Council contributed a further \$800,000.



Balonne Shire Council CEO Matthew Magin and Hub project officer Kerry Suttor accepting the LGMA award for excellence in collaboration.



16 JUNE 2022

**CULTURAL CENTRE, 112 VICTORIA STREET
9:30AM - 2:00PM**

The aim of this Career Expo is to showcase and increase awareness of employment opportunities and pathways available in the region.

We are looking for stall holders on the day to provide information about careers and pathways, interactive activities or displays. We also have limited presentation spots. From 8am stall holders will have access to start setting up displays and stalls.

On the day the Expo is open to the entire community. Invitations are extended to all schools in the region.

To register as a stall holder, complete the online form - [here](#).

For more information about this event please contact Alix at CUC Balonne on 0409 446 421 or email alix.greenhill@cucbalonne.edu.au



**Expression of Interest
Rental Houses
Balonne Shire Council**

Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from home owners or real estate agents who may consider renting their house to Council or their employees for short and long term stays.

To express an interest please contact Council on (07) 4620 8888 or email council@balonne.qld.gov.au to request an application form.

Council is willing to hear from private owners and real estate agents.

**Matthew Magin
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



Food guru tours Balonne's growers and producers

She may have been a little late but Alison Alexander – respected food guru and the State Government's official Australia Day Ambassador for Balonne Shire – made the most of her time in the region this month.

Unable to perform her official Australia Day duties in January due to Covid restrictions, Alison drove out from Brisbane on Wednesday, June 1 and spent three days meeting food and fibre producers and visiting tourism-based businesses.

After arriving on Wednesday, Alison's Thursday itinerary took in breakfast with Claire Mackey at Delicate Café and a visit to Nathan Gibbins and Geoff Ward at St George Honey, followed by a tour of Alex Benn's Bingara citrus farm, before enjoying lunch at the Farmhouse with Donna Haslem.

Her afternoon schedule was just as busy, with a drive out to Burgorah to hear from Ian and Anne Brimblecombe about their cotton and citrus production, as well as renewable energy and water storage and monitoring projects. The rest of the afternoon included talking to Richard Lomman at Black Knight Blueberries and Grapes, a quick roadside stop for a live ABC Radio interview, followed by dinner at Riverland Restaurant.

Friday took Alison to Dirranbandi, where her first port of call was Dirranbandi Bakery, with Natalya Safronova and Phil Stacey, then talking to Nikki Puffer at Dirranbandi Caravan Park

about Dirran Tours and the Old Nunery.

Back in St George, Alison spent time with David Blacket at Riversands Wines, where she also met up with David and Liz Hill, a Thallon couple producing milled seed for flour.

The afternoon continued at Moonrocks, looking over their onion and garlic operation, and Glenn and Julie-Anne Rogan at Australian Super Cotton, before ending the day with a showcase event for local produce and wines at Riversands.

On Saturday, Alison spent time with CWA members and visiting the Balonne Handmade Co-op before heading back towards Brisbane.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole said the visit would provide benefits for the region through Alison's regular ABC Radio guest spots and her wide-rang-

ing networks in the media and food industry.

"Alison has been in the food business for more than 40 years, has been a guest presenter on ABC Radio for 25 years and has written for numerous publications.

"She was an 'influencer' long before the term officially existed for someone who has the power to affect the purchasing decisions of others because of their influential relationship with an audience.

"Her live interview on ABC Radio from the Balonne Shire was heard across Queensland and she has a wide audience through her own channels and print publications.

"We are thrilled that she took the time to meet so many of our local producers."



Alison Alexander met with Nathan Gibbins and Geoff Ward at St George Honey.



Alison spent time with Councillors to discuss regional food production and tourism.

School students plant trees for Queen's jubilee

Student leaders from St George State School and St Patricks School joined Balonne Shire Council staff and Councillors on June 6 to mark two very special occasions.

Queensland Day coincided with Queen Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee celebrations, and the students assisted Council staff in the planting of 14 trees.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole said it was great to see more than 20 students helping the Council's parks and gardens team plant the seven brush box trees and seven Callistemons, while finding out more about gardening basics.

"The children had a lovely time getting hands on, and they learned there is much more to planting a tree than just digging a hole in the ground," Mayor O'Toole said.

"They learned about the safety aspects of the work they were doing, the best way to plant something to ensure it survives and the importance of choosing the right plant for the conditions."

Council staff also explained the un-

derground irrigation system to the students.

The students and their teachers were joined by Mayor O'Toole, Cr Robyn Fuhrmeister and Cr Bill Winks, along with Council staff.

The tree-planting on Bowen Street in St George was funded under the Commonwealth Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, which has enabled a broader roadside tree-planting program in the Shire.



Students from St George State School help plant a Callistemon.



Councillors and staff from Balonne Shire Council joined students from St Patricks School in planting trees.

Open Day celebrates 50 years of Beardmore Dam operations

Balonne Shire residents enjoyed a rare opportunity to learn more about the operations of Beardmore Dam recently, when Sunwater held an open day to mark the dam's 50th birthday.

Balonne Shire Council Mayor Samantha O'Toole said the dam had played an important role in the region's economic growth since its construction in 1972.

"Beardmore Dam has supported the shire through the supply of irrigation water for crops and the delivery of St George's urban water supply," she said.

"It's also a beautiful spot for spending time with family and friends with a barbecue and enjoying a great view."

The birthday celebration on Saturday, June 4 was organised by Sunwater to allow people to learn more about how dams work, how to stay safe on and around dams, and how to prepare for weather events and possible emergencies.

Sunwater CEO Glenn Stockton said the family-friendly event brought together vital community services, including Queensland fire, ambulance and police services, along with several community and neighbourhood groups.

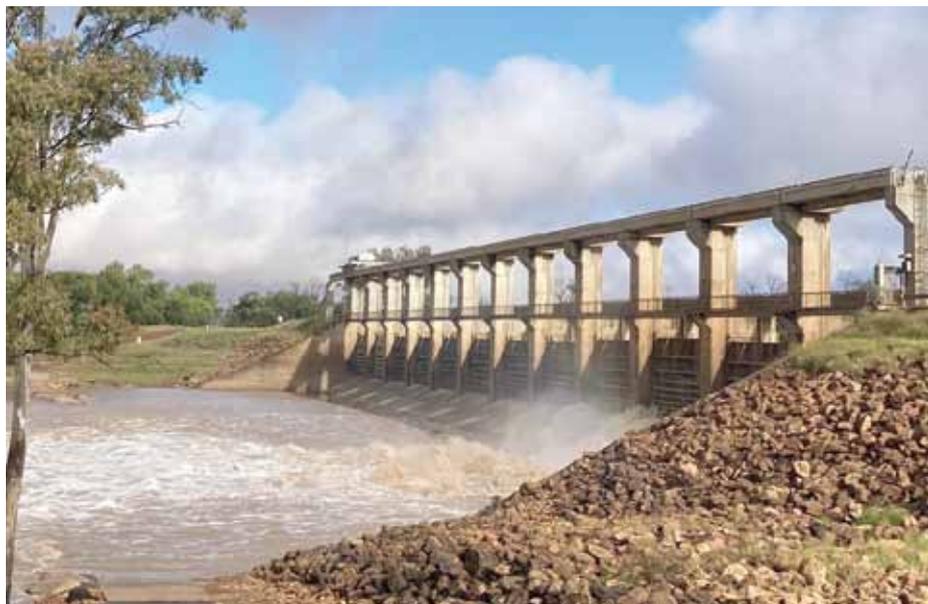
"Sunwater's local Beardmore Dam team were also on hand to share stories about the dam's operation and chat with visitors about the critical role dams and waterways play in regional economies," he said.

The dam is the main water storage in the St George Water Supply Scheme, which includes 112 km of irrigation channels and drains in the St George Irrigation Area.

With 20,000 ML a day roaring

through the EJ Beardmore Dam gates, visitors had the perfect backdrop to the celebration of 50 years for the irrigation powerhouse.

While the weather could have been kinder, the open day was well attended and visitors were treated to a welcome to country beside Lake Kajarabie, traditional dances, live music and activities for the kids, and displays from local emergency services and Cotton Australia.



Water is still flowing strongly through the dam after a wetter-than-average summer and autumn.



Local residents and staff gathered to celebrate the 50th birthday of Sunwater's EJ Beardmore Dam.



PUBLIC NOTICE Local Government Act 2009

1.

Balonne Shire Council ("Council") has proposed to make each of -

- (a) Subordinate Local Law No. 1.4 (Installation of Advertising Devices) 2022; and
- (b) Animal Management (Amendment) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2022; and
- (c) Keeping of Animals (Amendment) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2022.

2.

The local laws which authorise the making of the proposed subordinate local laws referred to in paragraph 1 are as follows -

Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018 authorises the making of Subordinate Local Law No. 1.4 (Installation of Advertising Devices) 2022;

Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2018 authorises the making of Animal Management (Amendment) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2022;

Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018 authorises the making of Keeping of Animals (Amendment) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2022.

3.

The purpose and general effect of the proposed subordinate local laws referred to in paragraph 1 is as follows -

- (a) the purpose of Subordinate Local Law No. 1.4 (Installation of Advertising Devices) 2022 is to repeal Subordinate Local Law No. 1.4 (Installation of Advertising Devices) 2018 and prescribe matters regarding the prescribed activity of the installation of advertising devices including -
 - (i) when section 6(2) of the authorising local law does not apply to particular activities; and
 - (ii) the documents and materials that must accompany an application for an approval for the prescribed activity; and
 - (iii) criteria about which the local government must be satisfied before the local government may grant an approval in respect of the undertaking of the prescribed activity; and
 - (iv) the conditions that must, or will ordinarily, be imposed on an approval for the undertaking of the prescribed activity; and
 - (v) the term of an approval for the undertaking of the prescribed activity; and
- (b) Animal Management (Amendment) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2022 amends Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2018, and in particular -
 - (i) prescribes when the keeping of specified animals is prohibited; and
 - (ii) prescribes when an approval is required in respect of the keeping of specified animals; and
 - (iii) identifies town areas for the purposes of the application of the authorising local law; and
- (c) Keeping of Animals (Amendment) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2022 amends Subordinate Local Law No. 1.5 (Keeping of Animals) 2018, and in particular -
 - (i) prescribes material that must accompany an application for an approval; and
 - (ii) prescribes additional criteria for the granting of an approval in respect of the keeping of dogs; and
 - (iii) prescribes conditions that will ordinarily be imposed on an approval in respect of the keeping of dogs.

4.

Possible anti-competitive provisions have been identified in the proposed Subordinate Local Law No. 1.4 (Installation of Advertising Devices) 2022 and Council has proposed to conduct a public interest test in relation to the possible anti-competitive provisions.

5.

Written submissions by any person in support of, or objecting to, the proposed subordinate local laws are invited for a 21 day period commencing on **1 June 2022** and ending on **31 July 2022** (the "consultation period").

6.

During the consultation period Council will make available for inspection and purchase at Council's public office at 118 Victoria Street, St George copies of -

- (a) each proposed subordinate local law referred to in paragraph 1; and
- (b) a public interest test plan about possible anti-competitive provisions included in the proposed Subordinate Local Law No. 1.4 (Installation of Advertising Devices) 2022

7.

Submissions must be received on or before 31st July 2022 stating -

- (a) the grounds of the submission; and
- (b) the facts and circumstances relied on in support of the grounds.

Matthew Magin

Chief Executive Officer

Free training for shearers and wool-handlers

With shearing contractors across the eastern seaboard of Australia reporting a shortage of staff, a series of free training courses aims to give a new generation the skills to begin working in the industry or develop new techniques to take them to the next level.

Funded by Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) and promoted by Leading Sheep, the shearer and wool-handling courses are held throughout Australia each year and cater for a range of skill levels.

Pip Gilmore, Extension Officer with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, said the hands-on practical in-shed training is designed to increase the skills, productivity and professionalism of shearers and wool handlers.

"With the current shortage of shearers and wool handlers in the industry, extra novice and improver training courses are being held to attract new talent and upskill existing staff," Ms Gilmore said.

These courses are open for anyone interested in learning new skills and are being held during school holidays to provide young people with an interest in taking up a position in the industry to get some skills under their belt.

Locations and dates for training are:

- Lightning Ridge – improver – 20-25 June;
- Tenterfield – novice – 20-25 June;
- Barcaldine – novice level – 27 June - 1 July;
- Barcaldine – improver level – 3-8 July; and
- Quilpie – novice – 4-8 July.

To register for upcoming training, phone AWI on 1800 070 099 or email swt@wool.com.

Taste tempters attract crowds to Great Australian Bites

Foods, wine and entertainment from throughout the region have attracted crowds of locals and visitors to the Great Australian Bites event in St George.

Held at The Hub in Victoria Street from 3 till 7pm on Saturday, May 28, Great Australian Bites brought together a range of local food and wine producers, hospitality businesses and community groups to provide a glimpse – and taste – of what the region can provide.

Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O’Toole said events like this are important for the region.

“We want to showcase what the Balonne Shire has to offer as a food and wine destination,” Mayor O’Toole said.

“It also provides an opportunity for locals to get together and enjoy an afternoon and evening of good food and enjoyable entertainment.

“I want to thank those eateries, producers and community groups that put time and effort into being involved. It was a terrific event.”



Claire Mackey from DeliCate Gourmet Foods in St George was one of the local restaurant owners who supported Great Australian Bites.



Locals and visitors flocked to the event at The Hub green space in Victoria Street.

Council helps kids to *b kinder*

In a first for Queensland, Balonne Shire Council has coordinated a region-wide take up of the *b kinder* initiative for State primary schools.

b kinder empowers children to make a difference through human kindness, using resources designed to promote empathy and compassion in children, and help reduce mental health issues, bullying and suicide.

Balonne Shire Council has arranged the distribution of *b kinder* workbooks to all participating primary schools throughout the Shire (and extending to Begonia, outside the Shire but part of the same cluster of schools in the south-west). The workbooks align with curriculum and have the blessing of the Education Department.

The program has been developed by the *flyhighbillie* charity, established after the tragic death of 12-year-old Billie Kinder in a horse accident in 2016. Before her death, Billie displayed a passion for horses and show jumping, winning State championships in New South Wales, and was academically bright, writing stories and poetry at a level beyond her years.

She was also an extraordinarily compassionate and caring person, which is clear through her writing. She left behind a collection of writing and drawings which her family has turned into valuable mental health resources for children through the *flyhighbillie* charity.

The books are unique, positive and interactive, and come with online units of work. They have been put together with advice from teachers and psychologists and aim to show children that our actions can make a positive difference.

As part of the roll out of the initiative, Council, schools and other community workplaces are marking *b kinder* day on 22 June. Using blank cards, staff and students are encouraged to take time out to send messages of hope and positivity to the special people in their lives.

For more information, watch for news on the Balonne Shire Council Facebook page and website.