

# Balonne Bulletin

THE NEWSLETTER OF BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL

ISSUE 34 | 6 APR 2023



## Iconic Thallon Silo Campsite to get Upgrades

Thallon's McGeever Recreational Campsite, at the base of the beautiful GrainCorp painted silos, are receiving a major overhaul in line with the Thallon Campground Masterplan to create a more user-friendly and attractive facility for residents and visitors.

The \$220,000 of upgrades will include a more functional and user-friendly layout, construction of picnic shelters, a Communal Camp Kitchen open to the community and visitors, as well as improved accessibility with a footpath connecting amenities and the kitchen.

Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole said these upgrades give tourists a great opportunity to enjoy all the beauty that

Thallon has to offer.

"There is no question that camping in the foreground of the beautifully painted Thallon GrainCorp silos is an unrivalled and wondrous experience," Mayor O'Toole said.

"The fact that we are increasing capacity and facilities is testament to the popularity of this unique location.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the grounds at capacity this camping season," she said.

The construction works will also see upgrades to the existing power mushroom heads and an additional twelve mushroom head powered campsites will be added to the campground.

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### SO YOU WANT TO BE A COUNCILLOR?

BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL ARE INVITING NOMINATIONS FOR A COUNCILLOR VACANCY

NOMINATIONS OPEN: 8:30AM MONDAY 3 APRIL 2023

NOMINATIONS CLOSE: 5PM WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A COUNCILLOR NOMINATION FORM VISIT [WWW.BALONNE.QLD.GOV.AU/COUNCILLOR-NOMINATION](http://WWW.BALONNE.QLD.GOV.AU/COUNCILLOR-NOMINATION)





# What's On

## OASIS AFTERNOON

Featuring Hussy Hicks, Karl S. Williams and Jem Cassar-Daley. Settle in along the riverbank, kick back and enjoy a cool beverage, local eats and, of course, a full session of blues n roots and contemporary folk music!

**When: 3pm to 7pm, Thurs 13 April**

**Where: The Amphitheatre, St George's Terrace, St George**

## ST GEORGE SHOW

Come and experience the spectacular St George Show for a weekend of fun and excitement the whole family will enjoy. Ring events kick off at 7am. You won't want to miss the cattle and sheep events, sideshow alley plus the pavilions including photography, cooking and preserves, flowers and floral work, fruit and vegetables. As the sun sets a Rodeo and fireworks display is sure to be a highlight—plenty of food and drinks available. Family (two adults, three school-age children) - \$40. Adult - \$15. Child (Primary and High School) - \$5. Senior Concession - \$5.

**When: Sunday 30 April**

**Where: St George Showgrounds**

## BOLLON POLOCROSSE CARNIVAL

The Polocrosse multi horse Carnival held at the Bollon Showgrounds will be a great day out! Offering local entertainment, everyone will enjoy. Camping is available with showers and toilets available.

**When: Sat 27 and Sun 28 May**

**Where: Bollon Showgrounds**

# A message from the Mayor

We are now well into 2023, with Easter already gone and noticeably cooler weather slowly edging its way into the early mornings in our Shire.

This year our Council has clearly hit the ground running and I'm delighted to see a range of major beautification and upgrade works getting started and underway right across our Shire.

Clearly, our main focus has been on delivering a broad range of road projects right across the Shire to continue addressing the damage caused by widespread flooding over recent years.

In St George, anyone who's passed through recently would've noticed that work has commenced on revitalising Victoria Street with the St George CBD Beautification Project. These works will aim to create a more urbanised environment, improve attractiveness and liveability for locals, attract tourists and will include construction of consistent footpaths and landscaping along the main street.

In Dirranbandi, we have similar beautification and construction works set to commence in the coming weeks at the River and Rail Precinct. This Precinct is already a popular spot with locals for family gatherings and other events, it is also an important tourist attraction for Dirranbandi. The upgrades to the Precinct include new walkways, providing a more inviting walking track through to the "Goods Shed", a historical railway building. It also includes new designated caravan and long-vehicle parking, with clear signage, making this area much more accessible and safer for tourists to park and explore the area.

In Bollon, construction works are set to commence to deliver a new, modern amenities block and new 2-metre-wide walkway leading from Walter Austin Park to the main camping area. This is a great addition to a highly sought after camping area in our Shire and will hopefully add to the serene camping experience in this location. Campers will also benefit from a new camping QR Code payment system to simplify the process, so that they can spend more of their time enjoying the surrounds of Wallam



Creek.

Council has also submitted an \$800,000 Grant Funding Application to fund the detailed design and construction of a Bollon Cemetery Flood Levee to better protect this historical and serene area during flooding periods.

We have a range of other projects in every township throughout our Shire, probably too many to mention here. I'm looking forward to getting out and seeing each and every one of them as they are completed.

In addition to all of the work inside our Shire, I've been spending a bit of time outside of the Shire as part of my role as Chair of the South West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (SWQROC). This position has seen me travel far and wide this month, I'm writing this message from Toowoomba where I'm currently meeting with our regional council counterparts to discuss opportunities to advocate for our region at the state level. We also had a packed two-day agenda in Canberra, meeting with Ministers, elected representatives and ministerial advisors. With the Federal Budget on the horizon, it was a great opportunity to put South West Queensland on the agenda and hear more from our national leaders.

Finally, I can't quite believe Easter has passed us by already...another year is rushing along at lightning speed! I hope everyone had an opportunity to enjoy some downtime over the Easter break and spend some time with family and friends, enjoying everything our region has to offer, particularly at this spectacularly beautiful time of year.

*Samantha O'Toole*



With Regards,  
**MARK LAMB - CEO**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**NORTHERN BASIN FORUM**  
**TAMWORTH, 9 - 10 MAY 2023**

**JOIN US IN TAMWORTH TO HEAR FROM BASIN EXPERTS,  
ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION, AND INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT POLICY**

**9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**  
**TAMWORTH TOWN HALL**  
**03 5480 3805**  
**T.PHILLIPS@MDA.ASN.AU**

## from page 1

Landscaping will be undertaken, including installing an irrigation system, green scaping and tree planting to beautify the area.

These works commenced onsite at the end of January and are expected to be finalised by June 2023.

As part of the upgrades, nightly camping rates for powered sites will increase from \$5.50 to \$10, unpowered sites will remain free.

These works are proudly funded by the Australian Government and Queensland's Fishing Infrastructure Grants Program.



## Balonne's Youth set to Inspire & Lead

Year 10, 11 and 12 students from across the Balonne Shire attended the Inspire and Lead Youth Summit in St George last month. The event provided opportunities for students to be inspired, consider new and different career options and encourage them to become leaders of tomorrow.

The event was a collaborative venture, jointly organised by Country Universities Centre (CUC) Balonne, Balonne Shire Council and St George Aboriginal Housing. CUC Balonne Centre Manager, Alix Greenhill hopes that students walked away from the summit encouraged to chase their dreams.

"We hope students walked away knowing that they matter, their dreams matter and that they can be and do what they dream of," she said.

"I have been so impressed with the interest and engagement shown by students and hope they have benefited from gaining an insight into the many career pathways and support available to them.

Throughout the course of the day, students had the opportunity to hear from representatives from the University of Queensland about opportunities available at UQ, as well as the University of Southern Queensland who provided practical advice about careers now and into the future.

Students also heard from a group of young people, from a range of fields,

who spoke about their own experiences of pursuing their dreams and achieving career success in the Balonne Shire.

The highlight for many of the students was an uplifting address from the keynote speaker, J-MILLA, a 24-year-old member of the Mak Mak Marranungu people. He told his story about the power of narrative in his culture and how music and storytelling has been a powerful and positive influence on him and those around him, he also gave a live performance.



The 2023 Inspire and Lead Youth Summit has been the second youth summit held in the Balonne Shire and organisers are hoping it is a summit that will continue to grow and expand for years to come.



**WE ARE HIRING A**  
**CENTRE MANAGER**

To apply or see more information, visit [www.cucbalonne.edu.au/1125-2/](http://www.cucbalonne.edu.au/1125-2/)

For the People  
**Balonne**  
Shire Council

DO YOU HAVE A GREAT IDEA FOR AN EXCITING ARTS, CULTURAL OR HERITAGE PROJECT?  
**WE CAN HELP BRING YOUR CREATIVE VISION TO LIFE!**

REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND (RADF)  
APPLICATIONS OPEN FROM 1 APRIL TO 21 MAY 2023

THIS WILL BE THE FINAL AND EXTENDED SUPER ROUND FOR THE 2022-23 FINANCIAL YEAR WITH GRANTS OF UP TO \$2500 AWARDED TO SUCCESSFUL INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANISATIONS DELIVERING ARTS AND CULTURE PROJECTS IN OUR REGION.

For more information call our Community Development team on 07 4620 8888 or email [cdo@balonne.qld.gov.au](mailto:cdo@balonne.qld.gov.au)

[www.balonne.qld.gov.au/community/home](http://www.balonne.qld.gov.au/community/home)



# Southwest Queensland Mayors Take Critical Issues to Canberra

With the federal budget on the horizon, regional leaders from the Southwest Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (SWQROC) congregated in Canberra last month, spending two packed days meeting with elected representatives and ministerial advisors.

SWQROC Chair, Samantha O’Toole, said the trip was a fantastic opportunity to ensure Southwest Queensland remains high on the agenda with national leaders and to unlock the potential of the region.

“Our meetings with both elected representatives and ministerial advisors were invaluable opportunities not only to ensure critical issues in our region are being addressed, but also to promote and grow the potential of our region,” Mrs O’Toole said.

The Government’s commitment to implementing the Murray Darling Basin Plan and water buybacks was a critical issue in discussions with the Hon Minister Tanya Plibersek (Minister for Environment and Water) and Queensland senators including the Hon Senator James McGrath, the Hon Senator Gerard Rennick and the Hon Senator Susan McDonald. The SWQROC group advocated for the need to ensure communities are well engaged and compensated for the economic and social impacts of buybacks.

The delegation also had detailed discussions about key education opportunities and challenges in the region, including support for Country University Centres, early childhood care and education challenges, when meeting with the Hon Senator Anthony Chisholm (Assistant Minister for Regional Development

and Assistant Minister for Education), the Hon Anne Aly MP (Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth) and Fiona Nash (Regional Education Commissioner).

While meeting with the Hon Kristy McBain MP (Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories), Brendan Moon AM (CEO, National Emergency Management Agency) and Nathan Dal Bon (CEO, National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation), the group were able to discuss options to address the housing crisis in Western Queensland and escalating household insurance premiums, protecting critical funding programs, including investment in rural road networks and disaster funding arrangements.

Other agenda items included carbon farming in Southwest Queensland and net zero transition, which were discussed with the Hon Senator Larissa Waters, the Hon Senator Penny Allman-Payne and



FREE

### HEALTHY LIFESTYLES PROGRAM

The Healthy Lifestyles Program will assist you to make healthy lifestyle choices, increase physical activity levels and improve your health well into the future.

FOR THE ST GEORGE COMMUNITY

This program is open to all adults who are not currently getting enough exercise; are overweight or are at risk of heart disease or diabetes or already have a chronic disease (such as diabetes, high cholesterol, or high blood pressure).

FOR BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL STAFF

This program is open to all council staff wanting to improve their health and fitness. It is suitable for all levels and ages, from beginners to fitness fanatics.

**WHEN?**  
Sessions held twice a week.

**WHERE?**  
Community Wellbeing Centre  
106-110 Alfred St, St George

### STRENGTH & BALANCE PROGRAM

FOR THE ST GEORGE COMMUNITY 50+ YEARS

Join our program to improve your strength and balance while building your confidence.

WHO IS THE PROGRAM FOR?

For people aged over 50, who are at risk of falling, have had a fall or want to improve their balance.

**WHEN?**  
Sessions held twice a week.

**WHERE?**  
Community Wellbeing Centre  
106-110 Alfred St, St George

### TO REGISTER:

**Register online:**



**OR visit us:**  
Allied Health Education and Training Hub  
Community Wellbeing Centre  
106-110 Alfred Street, St George

**OR call us:**  
P 0467 836 514

**OR email us:**  
E [sqrhstg@uq.edu.au](mailto:sqrhstg@uq.edu.au)

GP clearance may be required for some participants. See our website for inclusion and exclusion criteria.

**A COLLABORATION BETWEEN:**







the Hon Senator Anthony Chisholm. While a meeting with the Hon David Littleproud MP provided a chance to discuss ideas to promote and grow the potential of communities in Southwest Queensland.

SWQROC represents, advocates and creates opportunities for the six local governments of the Southwest Queensland region, including Balonne Shire Council, Bulloo Shire Council, Maranoa Regional Council, Murweh Shire Council, Paroo Shire Council and Quilpie Shire Council. For more information, visit: [www.swqroc.com.au](http://www.swqroc.com.au).





QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

Notice is hereby given that  
**St George’s Terrace, St George**  
will be closed to all vehicular traffic from  
**6am to 9pm 13/4/2023**  
between the intersections of Barlee Street and Roe Street,  
for the purpose of an event namely  
**“Queensland Music Festival – Oasis Afternoon”**  
held by the Queensland Music Festivals.

Senior Sergeant Dan GALLAGHER  
Superintendent of Traffic  
St George Police Division  
17/2/2023

# Oasis Afternoon

The Oasis Afternoon Music Event is set to take place on Thursday 13 April, from 3pm to 7pm on the banks of the Balonne River, in St George.

The free event promises to be a fun-filled afternoon of music, food, and relaxation in the beautiful setting of the Balonne River. 'Blues n roots' and contemporary folk music musicians will provide live entertainment, while food and drinks will be available for purchase from a range of vendors.

The Oasis Afternoon Music Event is the first stop for the Queensland Music Trails events occurring throughout Southwest Queensland, and part of Balonne Shire Council's ongoing commitment to supporting local artists and promoting community engagement.

Balonne Shire Council Mayor, Samantha O'Toole is thrilled the Shire will be hosting the upcoming Oasis Music event.

"It's a great way to showcase the talent of our local musicians and provide a fun, family-friendly event for our community," said Mayor O'Toole.



"I would encourage people from far and wide to pack up your swag, grab your mates and head to St George for what is sure to be yet another great event in the Balonne Shire."

"This event will provide an opportunity for residents and visitors alike to come together and enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the heart of our beautiful shire."

All attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket or chair and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the Balonne River.

For more information, visit the Balonne Shire Council's Tourism website on the below link:

<https://www.stgeorgeregion.com.au/whats-on/>

## Bollon Infrastructure Upgrades

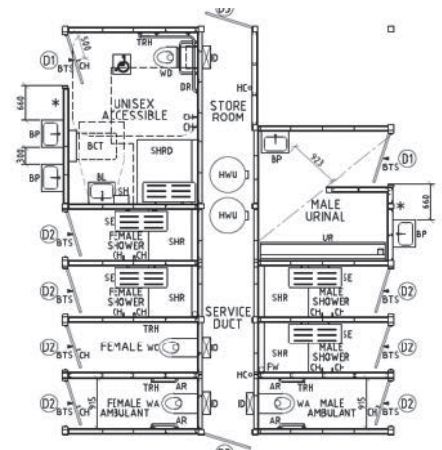
The town of Bollon is set to receive around \$400,000 in upgraded, modern facilities with a new amenities block and walkway in the central Walter Austin Park.

The new, upgraded amenities block will feature modern showers and toilet facilities that will be complimented by new access via a new 2-metre-wide walkway along the beautiful Wallam Creek.

Construction works are set to commence in mid-late April with this new upgraded facility due for completion by the end of May 2023 and are joint funded by the Balonne Shire Council and the Australian Government.

Campers in Bollon will also benefit from a new and simpler payment facility for camping in Bollon with new Camping QR codes, so that campers to this popular destination can more simply and easily pay their fees and sit back and enjoy the serene location.

In addition to this, Council has submitted an \$800,000 Grant Funding Application to fund the detailed design and construction of a Bollon Cemetery Flood Levee to better protect this historical and serene area during flooding periods.



# Balonne Shire Job opportunities

April 2023

### BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL

Balonne Shire Council have range of positions available. For more information please visit: [www.balonne.qld.gov.au/employment](http://www.balonne.qld.gov.au/employment)



### FARMHOUSE CAFE

Looking for someone to work Saturday mornings from 8am - 12 noon and occasional functions. Call Donna on 0427 255 910 for more information.



### RIVERSANDS WINES

Casual & part time. Visit [www.riversandswines.com/vineyard-jobs](http://www.riversandswines.com/vineyard-jobs) to fill in a resume or head out to the winery to have a chat about what roles are on offer.



### GOLDERS

Looking for both Full-time and Casual retail staff. Drop your resume in-store, attention: Tanya.



### FOODWORKS

Looking for casual team members. Drop your resume in-store, attention: Kim.



### DELICATE CAFE

Looking for people on a casual basis. Drop resume in-store, attention: Susie.



### PITSTOP CAFE

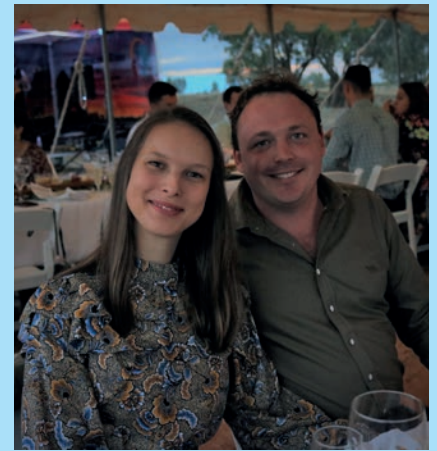
Currently looking for casual staff Tuesday to Friday afternoons from 3:30 - 7pm and Saturdays & Sundays 7am - 2pm. Drop resume in-store, attention: Dianne.





# Out and About in Balonne

*Grazing at the Watering Hole*



**BALONNE SHIRE  
MAYORAL BALL**

**SAVE THE DATE  
12 AUGUST 2023**

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES NOW OPEN  
MB@BALONNE.QLD.GOV.AU**



# Wild Dog Baiting Program Commences in May

Balonne Shire Council will be conducting a coordinated Wild Dog Baiting Program in May, using baits injected with 1080, which is a management tool targeted to control wild dogs.

Failure to control wild dogs and feral pigs can result in livestock and crop losses, attacks on domestic pets and loss of native fauna.

Landholders have a legislative responsibility to control declared pests on their land and participation in this program is an effective way to help meet this responsibility.

Baiting stations will be held throughout Balonne Shire from Thursday 11 May to Friday 19 May 2023.

For further information and to register your intention of attending a baiting station please contact Council on 07 4620 8888, or email [ruralservice.compliance@balonne.qld.gov.au](mailto:ruralservice.compliance@balonne.qld.gov.au).

All participants must register their intention to conduct baiting – this will allow sufficient time to receive baiting information and ensure all administrative requirements are met prior to attending the baiting station.

Participants must present their rates notice and a sealable container to collect baits.

Protection of domestic and working dogs: Owners of domestic and working dogs are advised to restrain or muzzle their dogs during the baiting program to minimise the risks of dogs wandering and coming into contact with poison baits.

## ENVIRONMENT COLUMN

# Foot & Mouth Disease

The detection of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (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 include:

### LOOK FOR AND KNOW THE SIGNS OF ANIMAL DISEASE

For more information on FMD including signs of the diseases visit this link: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/pests-diseases-disorders/>

### REPORT ANYTHING UNUSUAL

If you spot any unusual signs of disease or abnormal behaviour in your livestock consult your veterinarian. If you suspect FMD call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline IMMEDIATELY on 1800 675 888.

### PROTECT YOUR LIVESTOCK AND LIVELIHOOD

Have a biosecurity management plan in place that it is being followed by all who access your property. For more information on preparing a biosecurity management plan visit <https://www.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. Register here: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/biosecurity-entity-registration>

Biosecurity Queensland also has a number of tools available to livestock owners, including the Farm Check-In app.



## WILD DOG BAITING PROGRAM MAY 2023

All participants must register their intention to conduct baiting with Council  
Participants must present their Rates Notice and a sealable container to collect baits

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Thursday 11 May	8am - 8:30am	Wonolga Rd - Stock Route
	11:30am - 12pm	Ula-Ula Road
Friday 12 May	9am - 9:30am	Noondoo Intersection
	10:30am - 11am	Mungindi, Dirranbandi, Noondoo
		Thallon Niminbah Property Entrance
Thursday 18 May	9am - 9:30am	Bollon
	11:30am - 12pm	Cashelvale Gravel Pit
		Boolba - Dam
Friday 19 May	8am - 8:30am	Chelmer Gravel Pit

07 4620 8888  
[ruralservice.compliance@balonne.qld.gov.au](mailto:ruralservice.compliance@balonne.qld.gov.au)

## Land Valuations 2023

The Department of Resources has revalued the Balonne Shire Council area, taking into consideration all information and sales data available, as at 1 October 2022.

Objections to land valuations must be lodged with the Queensland Government Department of Resources no later than 16 May 2023.

Landowners can view the valuation roll display listing online at [www.qld.gov.au/landvaluation](http://www.qld.gov.au/landvaluation) or in person at Council's offices in St George, until 30 June 2023.



## ROADS UPDATE

### CUBBIE RD

- Expected completion: early – April
- Only minor works remain.
- No traffic delays are expected.

### MINNUM RD

- Expected completion: early – May
- Construction is ongoing.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

### POWRUNNA RD

- Expected completion: mid – May
- Construction is ongoing.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

### MOURILYAN RD

- Expected completion: late – April
- Construction is ongoing.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

### RUTHERGLEN RD

- Expected completion: mid – May
- Construction is ongoing.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

## UPCOMING WORKS

### BOLLON-DIRANBANDI RD

- Expected start: early – April

### MIDDLE RD

- Expected start: late – April



Above: Minnum Road.

Below Left-Right: Powrunna Road & Rutherglen Road



## New Infrastructure Director to Guide Projects

Balonne Shire Council has engaged a new Infrastructure Director, Chris Whitaker to lead the infrastructure team and help to deliver the broad range of projects the Council is currently delivering.

Chris brings to the Council a wealth of local government experience with over 16 years' experience leading regional council infrastructure teams, including most recently with the Southern Downs Regional Council and the Banana Shire Council.

Chris holds a Bachelor of Civil Engineering and has developed a key focus throughout his career on delivering road maintenance, road construction projects.

“I’ve really enjoyed my time here so far in the Balonne and am looking forward to working with our Infrastructure Team to deliver the significant workload ahead of us,” Mr Whitaker said.

“We certainly have a lot of work to get through with all of the flood damage to our road network and beautification projects underway throughout the Shire.”





# ST GEORGE SHOW 2023

CELEBRATING 138 YEARS

EXPERIENCE A WEEKEND OF FUN AND EXCITEMENT THE WHOLE FAMILY WILL ENJOY. RING EVENTS KICK OFF AT 7AM. CATTLE AND SHEEP EVENTS, SIDESHOW ALLEY, PAVILIONS, RODEO AND FIREWORKS. PLENTY OF FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE.

## SUNDAY 30 APRIL 2023