

Balonne Bulletin

THE NEWSLETTER OF BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL

ISSUE 35 | 17 MAY 2023



Balonne Shire Businesses are getting a huge boost

The Balonne Shire Council is delivering a new Business Improvement Program that aims to promote both energy efficiency measures, and visual improvements for local businesses in the region.

This Program entails 53 projects across the Shire and includes \$880,000 of co-funding from the Australian Government, plus nearly \$400,000 in business co-contribution to help businesses reduce their energy consumption and

make improvements to storefronts and outdoor spaces.

Council believes these initiatives will not only help businesses save money but also contribute to the sustainability and overall improvement of the region.

According to Mayor of Balonne Shire Council, Samantha O'Toole, the program is a win-win for both businesses and the environment.

"We're excited to be undertaking this program because it ultimately helps businesses save money on energy costs, while also promoting sustainability and reducing our environmental impacts as a community," Mayor O'Toole said.

"By supporting local businesses, we're also helping to create jobs and boost economic growth in our community," she said.

The program started in February 2022 with all 53 projects slated for completion by late 2023, which are funded by the Australian Government under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program.

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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

CELEBRATING SMALL BUSINESS & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BALONNE SHIRE

Updates on workforce development, business mentoring, business improvement, the Small Business Friendly Charter, procurement, recovery funding and assistance and major projects. Free event, bookings essential via Eventbrite.

**When: Thur 25 May,
6pm to 8:30pm**

Where: Cultural Centre, St George

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

QUEENSLAND DAY EVENT

Come along to our celebrations for Queensland Day with Market & Food Stalls and Entertainment.

**When: Saturday, 10 June,
8:00am to 12:00pm**

**Where: Rail & River Precinct,
Railway Street, Dirranbandi**

QUEENSLAND DAY EVENT

Come along to our celebrations for Queensland Day with Market & Food Stalls and Entertainment with renowned Tenor Paul Tabone.

**When: Saturday 10 June,
1:30pm to 5:00pm**

**Where: Cultural Centre,
Victoria St, St George**

A message from the Mayor

We are currently in the midst of Queensland Small Business Month, which is an excellent opportunity for us to celebrate the vital contribution small businesses make to our local economy. Small businesses which include traditional main street businesses, tourism and agribusiness are the lifeblood of our community, providing employment and essential services to residents across the shire.

This Queensland Small Business Month, we're excited to celebrate the success of Balonne Shire Council's local small business community, allowing small business owners to take advantage of the resources and support available through our Business Mentoring Program and Business Improvement Program. These programs have been unfolding throughout the Shire in recent years and are just a few of the many ways the Balonne Shire Council is working to support our local economy and build a stronger, more resilient community.

The Balonne Shire Council's Business Mentoring Program has been a valuable resource for small business owners who were looking to take their business to the next level. The program paired experienced business mentors with small business owners, providing them with guidance and support to help them achieve their goals. Our mentors had years of experience in a range of industries and were passionate about helping small businesses succeed. The program was grant funded by the Australian Government and was entirely free to participate so that all small business owners in the region could take advantage of this valuable resource.

Additionally, our Business Improvement Program aims to support small businesses by providing access to workshops, training, and resources to help them grow and thrive. The program covers a range of topics, including marketing, finance, and strategic planning, and is designed to give small business owners the skills and knowledge they



need to succeed. We believe that by providing these resources to our small business community, we can help to create a more robust and sustainable local economy. Check out the full story on the Business Improvement Program in this edition of the bulletin.

In addition to this, we have just hosted the Balonne Shire Career and Job Expo, which was an enormous success. It included a range of guest speakers across a broad range of industries such as, Health, Arts, Women in Trades, Tourism and Police, to name a few. It was great to see the level of engagement this Expo created within our community and the breadth of opportunities available for both businesses and job-seekers in our region.

Small businesses are the backbone of our community, and it's vital that we support them wherever possible. The Balonne Shire Council is committed to working with small businesses to help them succeed, and we're proud to be part of a network of businesses and organizations across the state who are also committed to this goal.

In closing, I want to thank all of the small business owners in the Balonne Shire for their hard work and dedication. Your commitment to our community is an inspiration, and we're grateful for everything you do. We look forward to working with you and the community to continue building a brighter future for our region.

Samantha O'Toole



**BALONNE SHIRE
MAYORAL BALL**

**SAVE THE DATE
12 AUGUST 2023**

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

The graphic features a dark blue background with a film strip motif. The Balonne Shire Council logo is in the top left corner. The text is centered and uses a clean, white, sans-serif font. The overall design is modern and celebratory.

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Supporting small business and agribusinesses in Balonne Shire and building on previous success, the Balonne Shire Council launched a third-round of its Business Mentoring Program in January 2022 with 21 businesses participating.

During this third successful round of the program, Council partnered with experienced business owners and experts in various fields to provide one-on-one

mentoring sessions and workshops on topics such as financial management, marketing, e-commerce, tourism, ag expansion and diversification, Agtech and succession planning.

The program, which was available to all businesses operating in the Balonne Shire, was designed to help entrepreneurs grow their businesses and create jobs in the community.

Altogether, the three mentoring rounds have been a huge success, with a

total of 74 businesses (39 small businesses and 35 agribusinesses) taking advantage of the mentorship and guidance provided and additional benefits the program presented.

The project funding included 61 projects worth over \$115,000 with workshops and funding for feasibility studies.

This Business Mentoring Program was funded by the Australian Government under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program.



Balonne Shire Council's Shire-wide Business Improvement Program, Bollon Hardware is just one of 53 projects to gain support for visual improvements and energy efficiency measures.

Bollon Hardware benefiting from improvement funding

As part of the energy efficiency measures, Bollon Hardware is receiving new solar panels, battery storage and energy saving lighting to help reduce their energy consumption.

In terms of visual improvements, the hardware is upgrading their street-appeal with newly designed and erected additions to their shopfront and signage.

Store owners, Michael and Heather Smith, are thrilled with the prospect of reducing their energy bills and enhancing their store's appearance.

"We're grateful for the opportunity to participate in this program, and we're looking forward to the benefits it will bring to our business and the overall improvements to our community," they said.

Mayor of Balonne Shire Council, Samantha O'Toole, believes the program is a significant investment in the region's economy that will have long-lasting impacts not only on our businesses, but also on our communities as a whole.

"The previous Dirranbandi business improvement program is a shining example of that with the overwhelming positive feedback Dirranbandi has received from residents and tourists.

Mentor Program assisting local businesses

Balonne Shire Council's focus on assisting small business in the region was a key driver for the delivery of three successful rounds of a shire-wide Business Mentoring Program involving a total of 74 businesses over 3.5 years.

The latest round of this Program involved 21 businesses and one of the participants in the program, local business owner Nathan Gibbins of St George Honey, said that the mentorship had been invaluable in helping him expand his business.

"The program gave me the confidence and knowledge to take my business to the next level," he said.

"I'm so grateful for the support and

guidance provided by my mentor and the support from Council."

The program also provided the opportunity for the participating businesses to apply for additional funding that could be used on projects to help grow their business.

Balonne Shire Council Mayor Samantha O'Toole, said the program was an important investment in the region's economy giving businesses the right tools and advice to expand, diversify or future-proof their businesses.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our community, and it's essential that we support them in any way we can," she said.

"We're thrilled with the success of the program and look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on the local economy."

The program has had received positive feedback from all participants and mentors and is now considered a benchmark project by councils across Queensland.

The council is planning to continue the program in the future to ensure that small businesses and agribusinesses in the Balonne Shire area have the resources and support they need to thrive.



Dirranbandi set for town centre revitalisation

Work on the long-awaited revitalisation of the River and Rail Precinct in the heart of Dirranbandi is about to start, bringing with it jobs and a new tourist drawcard.

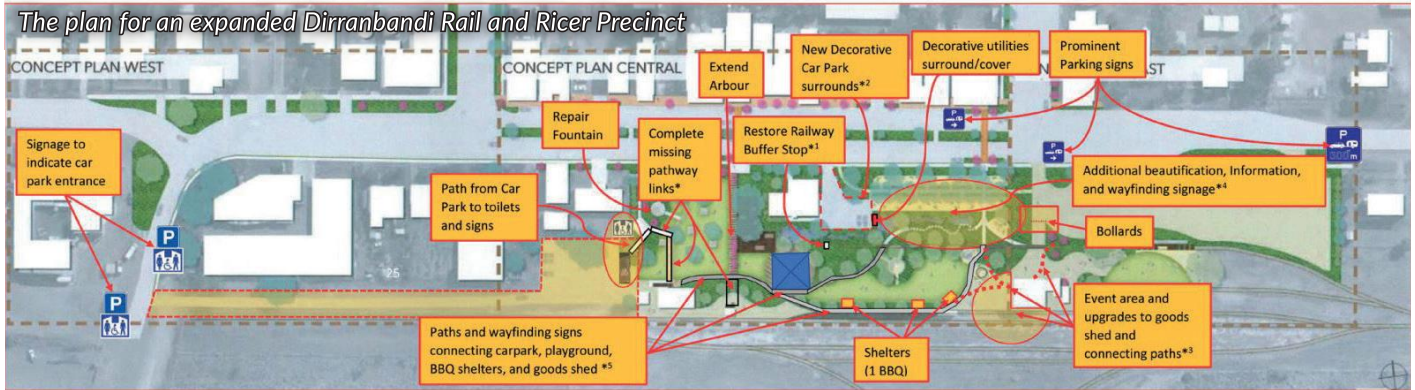
The project has been in the works for several years and after tireless work by Council, the funding applications have

been secured, plans have been finalised, tenders have been signed off and construction is set to begin at the end of May and be completed by the end of August 2023.

The River and Rail Project is a symbol of the town's resilience and determination to succeed, and as construction com-

mences it is Council's goal of having the town embark on a new era of growth and prosperity.

This project is proudly joint funded by the Balonne Shire Council and the Federal Government's Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program.



*Incomplete sections to have the same finish as the paths they are completing

*1 Research original design and reconstruct.

*2 low barriers (sandstone whitestone logs) will make manoeuvring in the car park easier by allowing overhang to the wheels while a car is manoeuvring, Look making staff/authorised personal parking only.

*3 Proposed paths not on Master plan. Toilet block bit included.

*4 Information signs on park features and artifacts and about Dirranbandi itself. Wayfinding signs for guidance on how to get to park features, amenities, artifacts...

*5 Add motion detection dimmable solar light to unlit sections

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

www.balonne.qld.gov.au/community/home

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

For the People
Balonne Shire Council

07 4620 8888
ruralservice.compliance@balonne.qld.gov.au

For the People
Balonne Shire Council

2023 Green Waste Kerbside Collection

All green waste must be kerbside by 6AM Monday 29 May 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, 1.5m length and 10cm diameter
- ineligible items will not be collected

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- pruning from shrubs and trees
- logs and branches less than 30kg and 1.5m in length
- palm fronds

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- plastic and packaging- all types
- noxious weeds
- grass clippings, leaves and loose bark
- cardboard and paper
- clothing and other fabric
- metal (e.g. cans, kitchen appliances, pots, pans)
- food
- rocks, stones, soil
- timber - all types (e.g. construction materials, wooden furniture, offcuts).
- cat litter & animal droppings
- general waste
- glass

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

New Deputy Mayor and Councillor Announced for Balonne Shire Council

Following the resignation of former Deputy Mayor and Councillor Richard Lomman in April 2013, Balonne Shire Council has appointed Councillor Robyn Fuhrmeister as the new Deputy Mayor and has also officially sworn in Councillor Adam Osborne as a new Councillor.

The process of filling a Councillor vacancy is well established in legislation. By law, with less than twelve months until the next local government election, the vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor Lomman had to be filled by inviting nominations.

Mayor Samantha O’Toole gave a warm welcome to Councillor Osborne and congratulated Councillor Fuhrmeister on her appointment as Deputy Mayor.

“I would like to congratulate Councillor Osborne and Councillor Fuhrmeister on their new appointments,” said Mayor O’Toole.

“I am delighted that we have been



Mayor Samantha O’Toole and Deputy Mayor Robyn Fuhrmeister

able to fill both the Councillor and Deputy Mayor positions with quick resolution, it is critical that we are able to get on with delivering as much as possible, as quickly as possible, for our Shire.”

“Both Councillor Fuhrmeister and Councillor Osborne bring a strong track record of serving residents and communities across our Shire. I am looking forward to working with them in their new positions.”



Balonne Shire’s New Council Team



Cr Adam Osborne

ENVIRONMENT COLUMN

Mother-of-millions

Bryophyllum delagoense (syn. *B. tubiflorum*, *Kalanchoe delagoensis*) and *Bryophyllum × houghtonii*

Mother-of-millions are erect, smooth, fleshy succulent plants growing to 1m or more in height that are native to Madagascar and are escaped ornamental plants. Five species are commonly naturalised in Queensland. It is well adapted to dry areas because of its succulent features.

These plants, especially their flowers, are poisonous to stock and occasionally cause a significant number of cattle deaths.

Mother-of-millions is a category 3 restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014, which requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control.

KEY STEPS TO MANAGE MOTHER-OF-MILLIONS

- Develop steps and procedures to prevent weed seeds from entering or leaving your property, such as cleaning all vehicles, machinery, tools, boots and other equipment when leaving weed-infested areas.
- After removing weeds, dispose of them using weed disposal practices recommended by authorities. Never dump weed cuttings or plants in bushland or other areas such as drains and waterways where they may spread.



For further information in relation to this weed, please contact Council on 4620 8888.

Getting Hooked on Tourism

Off the back of a string of national Tourism awards and nationally prominent media coverage from our previous successful Tourism campaigns, Balonne Shire Council is set to let out the drag on its next big tourism hook.

As part of the ‘You’ll be Hooked’ campaign, Council is about to launch a Shire-wide scavenger hunt that is sure to lure more tourists to our beautiful part of the world.

The campaign will set tourists and locals alike on a scavenger hunt throughout some of our most prominent fishing spots in the Shire to collect seven key fish tokens that are branded with each of our unique and picturesque towns.

The seven fish tokens collected on the ‘I got Hooked on the St George Region’ Key Ring will provide tourists with a lasting memento of the

fabulous time and memories they have gained from travelling throughout our region and hopefully spread the word of their travels to other likeminded friends and families.

As locals, we are all well aware that our Shire is one of the most picturesque and welcoming havens in Queensland’s Southern Outback. With all seven towns throughout Balonne uniquely positioned on rivers, we are famous for our inland fishing, prolific birdlife, native Australian wildlife, rich history, and relaxed country lifestyle.

With this ‘You’ll be Hooked’ campaign, Council is seeking to capitalise on these natural local benefits, which is aimed at retaining and growing our Adventure Seeking High Value travellers’ to the area.



Out and About in Balonne

Easter in the Vines



Anzac Day across the Balonne Shire



Thallon



Dirranbandi



Dirranbandi



St George



St George



St George



Bollon

After Dark Business Networking Event



Oasis Afternoon Music Event



Barefoot Bowls Welcome to the Shire Event



Career and Job Expo



Roadworks UPDATE

ROAD MAINTENANCE PERFORMANCE CONTRACT WORKS (RMPC)

- Rest area servicing across numerous sites
- Surface Correction Emulsion
- Shoulder grading & Re-sheeting Balonne Hwy
- Flood Damage works Moonie Hwy, Carnarvon Hwy - St George - Thallon, Balonne H/wy, Castlereagh Hwy - St George-Noondoo

TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (TMR) PROJECTS:

- Balonne Highway Pavement Rehabilitation - In progress

LOCAL ROADS

- Jakelwar-Goodooga Rd Nth - Road Pavement Repair - St George Crew
- Cubbie Rd - Dirranbandi Crew
- Cashel Vale Rd - Bollon Crew

FLOOD DAMAGE WORKS (CONTRACTORS)

- Rutherglen Road
- Middle Road
- Powrunna Road - Completed
- Crescent Vale Road - Completed
- Mourliyan Road - Completed
- Mundalee Road - Completed

Balonne Shire Job opportunities May 2023

CROSS ENGINEERING (St George)

Steel Salesman || \$55,328 base
Ph: (07) 4625 5012



MC DRIVERS (St George)

To find out more
call 0412 332 017
or email compliance@lamattinafarms.com.au

ST GEORGE HOTEL (St George)

Bar Staff || Drop off or email resumes to stghotel@bigpond.net.au

MITRE 10 ST GEORGE (St George)

Senior Casual || Award Wage
Drop resume to: Mitre 10 St George



BODKIN ACCOUNTING (St George)

Full Time Trainee Bookkeeper School Leaver
Call Marlies May (07) 4625 3982



BLUE CARE (St George)

Personal Carer || Apply on-line through Jora
Base rate + super = Salary Packaging Benefits + allowances + discounts



RSA CONTRACTORS (St George)

Various / Full-time / DIDO & FIFO - Laser Bucket Operators
Apply on-line through Jora



DUST DEVIL HELICOPTERS (Dirranbandi)

Wage Negotiable
Contact: Michael - 0428 671 934 or Ben - 0413 102 433
or email admin@dustdevilhelicopters.com.au



NINDIGULLY BUS DRIVER (Nindigully & St George)

1.5 hours morning & afternoon. School days only
For more information call: 0419 561 072



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 or in person at Council's offices in St George, until 30 June 2023.



MARANOA MECHANICAL (St George)

Professional & stable Service Manager
Salary package negotiable and developed to suit abilities and experience.



Contact: Emily 0427 255 449 - emily@maranoamechanical.com.au
or Brad 0427 791 727 - brad@maranoamechanical.com.au

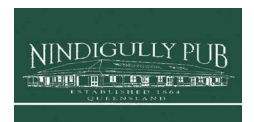
JACARANDA COUNTRY MOTEL (St George)

Motel Manager
\$200 - \$300 per day (depending on experience)
Email resume to info@jacarandacountrymotel.com.au



NINDIGULLY PUB (Nindigully)

Bar & Beverage Staff
Casual & contract wages based on experience.
Opportunity for free accommodation.
Contact Steve: 0428 744 292



COTTON AUSTRALIA (Mungindi)

Senior Farmhand
Mungindi Property // Wages reflective of experience.
Contact Cotton Australia for more information.

