

## \$2.4 million in Federal funding flows to community projects

More than \$2.4 million in Federal Government grants for the Balonne Shire have been announced.

Maranoa MP David Littleproud said four projects will be funded under round three of the Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program.

“Each of the selected projects will help our communities by using local suppliers and resources, as well as through local knowledge to drive the best outcomes for our region” Mr Littleproud said.

Balonne Shire Council will receive \$1 million to upgrade and enhance the river foreshore in St George, including an extension of the foreshore footpath to incorporate a boardwalk, river lookout and recreation area.

Another \$908,601 will go towards stage two of the St George Community Wellbeing Centre, allowing Goondir Health to continue refurbishing the former RSL building.

The St George Community Wellbeing Centre will provide Indigenous-focussed programs, plus function rooms and conference facilities, and



TOUR OF INSPECTION: Maranoa MP David Littleproud checks out works on the river foreshore in St George with Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole.

other beneficial healthy lifestyle, arts, culture, education, mental health and social wellbeing initiatives.

Thallon Progress Association will receive \$447,780 to fund community and visitor engagement coordinators.

The project aims to increase employment opportunities in Thallon,

diversifying and strengthening the local economy.

It will also deliver enhancements to local infrastructure and visitor sites.

\$100,000 will go towards establishing the Women's Leadership and Business Collaboration, which will create workshops for women and small businesses designed to support individual leadership and community building.

The project will be developed by Care Balonne, in conjunction with stakeholders from the Balonne Shire business community.

“Each and every project will make a positive and lasting difference in their region,” Mr Littleproud said.

“The approved projects will create new jobs as they are delivered, as well as support enduring employment

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Care Balonne chairperson Robyn Fuhrmeister and Maranoa MP David Littleproud.

Care Balonne has won a \$100,000 Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program grant.



# What's On

## First 5 Forever

A weekly session for children aged 0-5 and their parents/guardians, aimed at building strong literacy foundations and neural pathways in kids.

**WHERE:** St George Library

**WHEN:** each Friday, 9.30am

## Dirranbandi Polocrosse

Jump on your last chance to catch Polocrosse in the Balonne - for this year, at least.

**WHERE:** Dirranbandi

Showgrounds

**WHEN:** 31 July - 1 August

## Mungindi Show

Roll up, roll up, for the quirkiest country show around. The cotton picker/header demolition derby is a must-see!

**WHERE:** Mungindi Racecourse

**WHEN:** 7-8 August

## Dirranbandi Campdraft

Rough stock events more your style? Dirran is kicking off campdraft season in the Balonne Shire.

**WHERE:** Dirranbandi

Showgrounds

**WHEN:** 27-29 August

## Thallon Team Truck Pull

A true test of human strength - be sure to get your team together for the ultimate challenge. The winning team will win a \$2000 cash prize.

**WHERE:** Thallon Recreation Grounds

**WHEN:** 28 August, 1pm

## Got a story, event or notice?

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

Phone: 07 4620 8888

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

# A message from the Mayor

As I write this, the border has once again been closed between Queensland and New South Wales because of a new wave of COVID-19 in the south.

Balonne Shire residents are all too familiar with the arrangements put in place when border closures occur.

Border zone residents are able to leave and enter Queensland for a permitted purpose, such as work, school, health care, caring responsibilities and essential shopping.

A detailed list of reasons for travel and a map of Local Government Areas in the NSW border zone can be found on the Queensland Government's COVID-19 website.

Also, restrictions have been placed on a number of roads crossing into New South Wales.

Police have advised a number of border roads would be closed and checkpoints installed at three State-controlled road crossings: Castlereagh Highway at Hebel; Carnarvon Highway at Mungindi; and Border Connection Road at Mungindi.

Details are available on the Balonne Shire Council website.

All local Councils along the NSW border are working constantly with the State Government to try to minimise disruption to lives and businesses caused by border closures, and we will continue to do so.

Health authorities seem to agree that one long-term solution to the COVID-19 pandemic is a high level of vaccination.

I certainly want to encourage everyone in the Balonne Shire to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible, and at the same time thank and congratulate everyone in the South West Hospital and Health



Service on the fantastic job they are doing running community vaccination hubs here.

I know the response to the hubs has been terrific, with large numbers of Balonne residents already taking the opportunity to be vaccinated.

For information about the vaccination hubs, please go to the South West Hospital and Health Services website: [www.southwest.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.southwest.health.qld.gov.au)

I want to congratulate the St George Junior Rugby League for reaching their 50th anniversary.

What an achievement to have provided half-a-century of sport for the kids of the region.

Demonstrating that after 50 years the STGJRL is still going strong, they held a weekend carnival on 24-25 July, hosting regional teams from Under-6s to Under-16s, plus Reserve Grade and A Grade.

It was a terrific event.

We all know how important sport is in regional areas - both for the fitness component and its social aspects - and the St George JRL performs a very valuable service in the Balonne community.

*Mayor Samantha O'Toole*

# Country Universities Centre opens for Dirranbandi students

A Country Universities Centre is starting up in Dirranbandi and community members took the opportunity to inspect the facilities recently.

The Centre kicked off with an Open Evening event on July 20, and local residents were able to see the space in the Rural Transaction Centre and discover more about how the CUC Balonne can support local students with their studies.

Local CUC Balonne Board Member Andrea Killen said the Centre will provide flexible support and access for local students in semester two.

“Being located in such a small town makes this Country Universities Centre one of a kind and, with the Commonwealth Government’s support, there have been significant upgrades to the internet connection, security and accessibility of the RTC building.

“The opening of a CUC Balonne in Dirranbandi is an exciting opportunity for the community to have greater accessibility to further study options.

“A move away to study at university or to access VET opportunities is not an option for all students, especially our youth,” she said.

“The CUC hub will provide a more supportive, and financially viable, option for students to study in community.

“Access to current technology and



OPEN FOR LEARNING: CUC Balonne Centre Manager Alix Greenhill (right) at the Dirranbandi Centre open night with registered CUC student Jessie Twidale.

free high-speed internet will make engaging in online university study and VET courses accessible to all. This has been an obstacle in the past, with poor connectivity placing many at a disadvantage.

“We have really appreciated the wonderful support of the RTC to see this project realised, another great example of locals supporting locals.”

CUC Balonne is supported by the Commonwealth Government under the *Regional University Centres Program* alongside key local support, including Balonne Shire Council.

Registration for Country Universities Centre Balonne at St George and

Dirranbandi is now open.

For further information, contact:

**Alix Greenhill**

**Centre Manager, CUC Balonne**

[alix.greenhill@cucbalonne.edu.au](mailto:alix.greenhill@cucbalonne.edu.au)



## Queensland Ballet

Community Classes

📍 DIRRANBANDI CIVIC CENTRE

**SUNDAY 8 AUGUST**

**Petit Pointers (2-5yrs)**  
9am - 9:30am

**Ballet for Seniors**  
9:45am - 10:45am

**Community Class (6-9yrs)**  
11am - 12pm

**Community Class (10-14yrs)**  
12:30pm - 1:30pm

This event is proudly supported by the Regional Arts Development Fund through a partnership between Arts Queensland and Balonne Shire Council, to develop and support regional arts.





# LGAQ Executives visit Balonne

Representatives of the Local Government Association of Queensland have visited Balonne Shire for a meeting with Councillors and senior executives.

The LGAQ is the peak body for local government in Queensland, representing the State's 77 Councils, and in particular advocates on local government issues to the State and Federal Governments.

The meeting on 19 July covered a wide range of topics, including: Roads Maintenance Performance Contracts, where the LGAQ is advocating for changes to legislation to ease the burden of potential court action against Councils; conflict-of-interest legislation; and arguments to the State Government for greater clarity on the methodologies for land valuations.

The meeting also discussed the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils' work on the calculation and distribution of the Federal Government's Financial Assistance Grants to local government bodies.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole said it was a valuable meeting that provided



COUNCIL ADVOCATES: LGAQ CEO Greg Hallam, CEO-elect Alison Smith, Mayor Samantha O'Toole, and LGAQ Media Executive Sarah Vogler.

an update of LGAQ's work on issues important to Balonne residents.

The LGAQ representatives were CEO Greg Hallam, Head of Advocacy and CEO-elect Alison Smith, and Media Executive Sarah Vogler.

Ms Smith will take over as CEO on 1 November, following the retirement of Greg Hallam after more than a

quarter-century in the role.

Balonne Shire representatives included Mayor Samantha O'Toole, Councillors Robyn Fuhrmeister, Ian Todd and Bill Winks, CEO Matthew Magin, and departmental directors Michelle Clarke (Finance), Digby Whyte (Environment), and Andrew Boardman (Infrastructure).

# Basin funding builds our communities



Diana Weribone of Goondir Health with Maranoa MP David Littleproud.

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opportunities, increase the capacity of communities to diversify and strengthen their local economies, and help them manage their current and future economic challenges and changes."

Mayor Samantha O'Toole welcomed the funding and said it will generate real benefits for Balonne Shire communities.

"The projects chosen by the Federal Government are all very worthwhile initiatives and this money will generate terrific return on investment in terms of liveability, tourism enhancement, capacity-building and infrastructure.

"Thank you to Minister Littleproud for continuing to be a strong advocate for the Balonne Shire and the impacts felt by the Basin Plan."

The Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program supports economic development projects in identified communities impacted by water recovery under the Basin Plan.



# Exceptional tourism events are driving a major funding boost

The outstanding success of Balonne Shire events is paying off – literally – for local organisers, who can now reap even greater benefits from Council’s *Tourism Events Grant Funding Program*.

More funds have been added to all categories of the thrice-yearly grant round, along with a new category: *Hallmark Events*.

The new class awards up to \$10,000 to events which attract high visitor numbers and make a significant positive impact to the Balonne Shire economy.

Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O’Toole said the catalyst for expanding Council’s *Tourism Events Grant Funding Program* was the incredible success of major events which had returned to the Shire in 2021, following a COVID-19 hiatus last year.

“Our best and most popular events have come back with a bang this year, attracting visitors from across Australia.

“Each one of them has given so much back to the community.

“Some of the biggest events included the Paul Kelly and Friends Concert at Dirranbandi, the St George 399, Battle on the Balonne, and Thallon’s Grazing at the Watering Hole.

“Council’s decision to increase the grants reflects the local events’ success in attracting huge numbers of visitors from outside our Shire, their positive economic impact, and also the high calibre of the organisers themselves.”

The *Tourism Events Grant Funding Program* opens 1 August and closes 1



**HUGE BOOST:** Paul Kelly and Friends was one of the many wildly-successful tourism events in the Balonne Shire this year.

September.

Balonne Shire Council offers five different categories under the *Tourism Events Grant Funding Program*.

More details about the grants, and application forms, are available on Council’s website:

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

## Grants available for water-saving ideas

Queensland landholders are being reminded to put their hands up for grant money to save water in the Great Artesian Basin.

Landholders can apply for funds to cover up to 90 per cent of costs of on-farm works to manage water flow in Queensland’s section of the Basin.

Federal Minister for Resources and Water Keith Pitt said recently the funding under the *Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience Program* is all about empowering communities to drive the delivery of water-saving projects in the Great

Artesian Basin.

Mr Pitt said the Federal Government has committed \$27.6 million over five years (2019-20 to 2023-24) to improve drought resilience and water security in the Basin.

The Queensland Government is matching the Commonwealth Government’s funding contributions to the program.

The next round of applications for project funds will be open from 16 August to 19 November.

Landholders can access further information on the *Improving Great*

*Artesian Basin Drought Resilience Program* on the Queensland Government website or by emailing [GABPMO@rdmw.qld.gov.au](mailto:GABPMO@rdmw.qld.gov.au)

Mr Pitt said more than \$9 million has been committed to drive the delivery of Queensland projects to control bores, install efficient delivery systems, create education and communication programs, and undertake studies to assist with improved water management.

“To date, \$1.6 million of Australian Government funding has been spent on Queensland projects,” he said.



# NAIDOC Awards recognise the locals making a big difference

NAIDOC awards are presented each year to people and groups who make significant contributions to the St George community.

The winners and nominees of this year's awards, presented during NAIDOC week, are:

## **Elder/Senior of the Year**

An Indigenous Elder who has been an active member of the local community and made positive contributions during the last six months.

Nominees:

- Pam Turnbull
- Mary Stanton

## **Winner: Mary Stanton**

## **Indigenous Apprentice/Trainee**

A person with regular attendance who shows initiative, and has a positive attitude towards their role.

## **Winner: Jarara Oliver**

## **Indigenous Female Sportsperson**

Someone who is committed to training, shows good sportsmanship, encourages team spirit and respect for their coaches, club and other team mates.

## **Winner: Emmy Davis**

## **Indigenous Male Sportsperson**

Someone who is committed to training, shows good sportsmanship, encourages team spirit and respect for their coaches, club and other team mates.

Nominees:

- Lochie Pollock
- Sam Davis

## **Winner: Sam Davis**

## **Indigenous Community Person of the Year**

Presents as a good indigenous role model; is actively involved in community groups, events and activities; and contributes to the cultural enhancements of the Indigenous community.

Nominees:

- William Taylor
- Jasmine Cleven
- Sam Davis

## **Winner: Jasmine Cleven**

## **Indigenous Female Employee**

Presents as a good role model to the Indigenous community, displays initiative and actively promotes



# HEAL COUNTRY!

Indigenous culture in their workplace.

Nominees:

- Josephine Bunyan
- Shari Woodbridge
- Joy Weatherall

## **Winner: Shari Woodbridge**

## **Indigenous Male Employee**

Presents as a good role model to the Indigenous community, displays initiative and actively promotes Indigenous culture in their workplace.

Nominees:

- Edgar Draper
- William Taylor

## **Winner: Edgar Draper**

## **Non-Indigenous Community Person (or Organisation)**

Presents as a good role model, is actively involved in community, groups, events and activities. Contributes to the cultural enhancements of the Indigenous

community (such as NAIDOC, Reconciliation Day, CTG Day) and actively participates and promotes Indigenous culture in the wider community.

Nominees:

- Jane Cornish and Mariella Perez
- Jaimee Heiser

## **Winner: Jaimee Heiser**

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NAIDOC originally stood for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee.

The Committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself.



# ST GEORGE BATHS

# open



EVERY DAY  
10AM - 4PM



## Youth Council

Applications are open!

### What's Youth Council?

An opportunity for people aged 12-25 to have their voice heard and make a change.

Want a new park?

A new arts or dance group?

This is how you can do it!

You can be active in your community.

### Get your application from:

- School Office
- Lifeline
- Big Buddy
- Aboriginal Housing
- Balonne Shire Council
- Goondir Health

### Want to know more?

Call: 07 4620 8888

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

Visit: Balonne Shire Council

You want change?  
You make it happen!



## Balonne Shire Church Services

### Anglican/Lutheran, St George

8.30am, each Sunday.

### Bush Disciples, St George

10am, 1st - 4th Sunday.

### Church of Christ, Dirranbandi

6pm, 1st and 3rd Sunday.

10am, 2nd and 4th Sunday

### Harvest Point, St George

9.30am, each Sunday.

### Hebel Catholic Church

10am, 1st Sunday.

### Immaculate Heart of Mary,

**Bollon**

11am, 4th Sunday.

### King's Church, St George

10am, each Sunday.

### Riverlife Church, St George

9.30am, each Sunday.

### Riverlife Church, Warrawee

10am, 2nd Wednesday.

### St Andrew's, St George

9am, each Sunday.

### St Patrick's, St George

6pm, 1st and 3rd Saturday.

8.30am, 2nd, 4th and 5th

Sunday.

### St George Uniting Church

9am, each Sunday.

### St Therese's, Dirranbandi

8am, 1st and 3rd Sunday.

### Thallon Catholic Church

10am, 3rd Sunday.

**Want to include your Church service or Church group meeting?**

Email: [media@balonne.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@balonne.qld.gov.au) with your Church name, plus the time and location of worship.



# BALONNE SHIRE COMMUNITY SPORT



## Bollon's top team gallops to victory at home-grown carnival

Is it possible to have your cake and eat it too? Absolutely - if you're the Bollon Polocrosse Club.

The little outback team hosted their successful annual Polocrosse Carnival this month, and snagged a win in the A-grade final to boot.

Combined with players from Inverell West, the Bollon team faced off in a tightly-held contest against a formidable Toompine side.

Ultimately the Bollonites pulled ahead in the final chukka for a 16-11 win over the far-western visitors.

In the B-grade final, Dirranbandi played Inverell West - a composite team with ring-ins from Quilpie, Toompine and Bollon - with the latter finishing on a convincing 18-5 win.

Charleville faced Eulo in the C-grade final, winning 13-6.

Individual awards went to:

- Brett Woodward (Inverell West) - Best A-grade player
- Cody Woodward (Inverell West) - Best B-grade player
- Chloe Webb (Charleville) - Best C-grade player
- Greg Jamieson (Goondiwindi) - Best D-grade player

Balonne Shire Council is a proud sponsor of the Bollon Polocrosse Carnival.



MASTERS OF POLOCROSSE: Bollon played Toompine in the A-grade final at their home carnival, snaring a win to cap off an already successful weekend.



ABOVE: Dirranbandi v Inverell West.  
BELOW: Tom Perkins (Dirranbandi) and Steven Hall (Quilpie).



ABOVE AND BELOW: Charleville v Eulo in the C-grade final.



Liam Gibson and Sam Gunn; Patricia Nolan, Christie and Dierdre Edwards.

