

TAKE A LOOK: Dirranbandi's next attraction is soaked in local flavour

Settling in to your own private spa bath, looking out over the Balonne River, and listening to the tranquil sounds of the bush - it is truly the height of luxury in the outback, and soon it will be the newest landmark in Dirranbandi.

The Dirranbandi Dip Thermal Baths are currently in the design phase, with early architectural drawings recently released.

Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole said the attraction is very much by and for the community.

"From day one, Council has received valuable input from residents of Dirranbandi, who want to create the best facility possible," she said

"They have driven the design of the dip - including the private baths, a group pool, and a function room - so it can best serve their needs, as well as the lucrative tourist market."

When complete, the Dirranbandi Dip will become a huge drawcard for the town; in addition to hosting visitors and encouraging a longer stay in town, the facility will also have



View of Entry looking north-west

CONCEPT DESIGN: Artist's rendering of the future Dirranbandi Dip Thermal Baths; construction of this facility is currently out to tender.

capacity as an event venue for all kinds of celebrations.

At 32m total length, the compact riverside building is designed to hold three private bathing suites, a larger group pool (aka the "dip"), a

function room and deck, a kitchen, and amenities.

Aesthetically, the design will take notes from *The Goods Shed* at Dirranbandi's Rail and River Precinct.

READ MORE: P5

Big weekend of Rugby League

A busy weekend of Rugby League - from Under-6s to A-Grade - marked the recent 50th anniversary of the St George Junior Rugby League.

Sides converged on St George from throughout the region and both sides of the NSW border to celebrate this milestone, with more than 350 juniors taking part.

READ MORE: P6-7



POWERING THROUGH: St George A-Grade winger Alan Murphy breaking the line for St George against the Wallumbilla-Surat Red Bulls.

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

Yoga Classes with Jess

Join Jessica's Warrior Wellness each week for a relaxing yoga class, where all ages and abilities are welcome.

WHERE: Dirranbandi Tennis Club Hall

WHEN: Wednesday, 5.30pm | Saturday, 9am

Dirranbandi Campdraft

An exciting weekend is guaranteed as Dirran kicks 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

Balonne Cutting Horse Futurity

Get ready for the round-up, six days of cutting action is coming to Balonne Shire!

WHERE: St George Showgrounds

WHEN: 31 August - 5 September

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

A message from the Mayor

All Balonne Shire ratepayers will receive their rate notice shortly, including their water billing notice.

Council must calculate the rates for land by using the rateable value of the land and has worked through a range of strategies to help minimise the impact on all rating categories across the Shire, including a limit of a maximum 10 per cent in rates where rates otherwise would be impacted greater than 10 per cent (due to changes in land valuation).

In summary, this means that no property will experience an increase greater than 10 per cent in their rates notice for the general rates for 2021-22.

As a result of these changes - and Council's overall rating strategy - Council's rate revenue will increase no more than 2.05 per cent from 2019-20.

Of course, there was no increase in rates or utility charges in 2020-21 financial year because Council was very conscious of the financial impact on Balonne families and businesses from COVID-19.

Residential rate payers will notice changes to their rating category, from residential 1, 2 and 3 based on allotment size to residential 4A and 4B based on value. St George residential and rural residential rate payers will notice changes to



their water billing, with bore water base allocation and river water base allocation itemised on the notice as two separate charges for the first time.

There is no increase to the base water allocation charge and no excess water charges on river water at this point in time.

All utility charges for waste, for water and for wastewater have been increased by 2 per cent across the board.

Please remember that a 10 per cent discount is available to all ratepayers who pay within 30 days of date on the rate notice. Payment options are listed on the rate notice.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole

Mungindi's makeover to begin

Balonne Shire Council is on a mission to bust waste and is setting its sights to Mungindi for the next phase of town-wide clean-ups.

During August and September, Council is removing all rubbish from its own allotments and road reserves, town streets and footpaths in Mungindi

A kerbside collection for bulky household waste will follow shortly after.

All items are being removed from Council-owned lots and public areas in the first instance.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole said the clean-up is one step in an ongoing

campaign to remove waste.

"Our Council is tackling the issue of waste head-on," she said.

"Once we have cleaned up our towns, our team is looking ahead to implement more fantastic initiatives which encourage more widespread recycling and reduce illegal dumping in our Shire."

During the clean-up, Mungindi residents can request Council's help in removing large items or large volumes of scrap metal from their own properties.

For assistance in removing waste items, Mungindi residents can call Council on 07 4620 8888.

River Height Monitoring Project focuses on safer travel

Greater safety and traveller convenience will be provided in times of flooding by 18 new cameras to be installed across the Balonne Shire in the next 12 months.

The 18 monitoring cameras – along with six new rain gauges and three new river height gauges – will be installed as part of the Balonne River Height Monitoring Project, managed by the Balonne Shire Council.

A tender for the project tasks is expected to be approved by the Council at its September meeting, with work to be completed before June 30 next year.

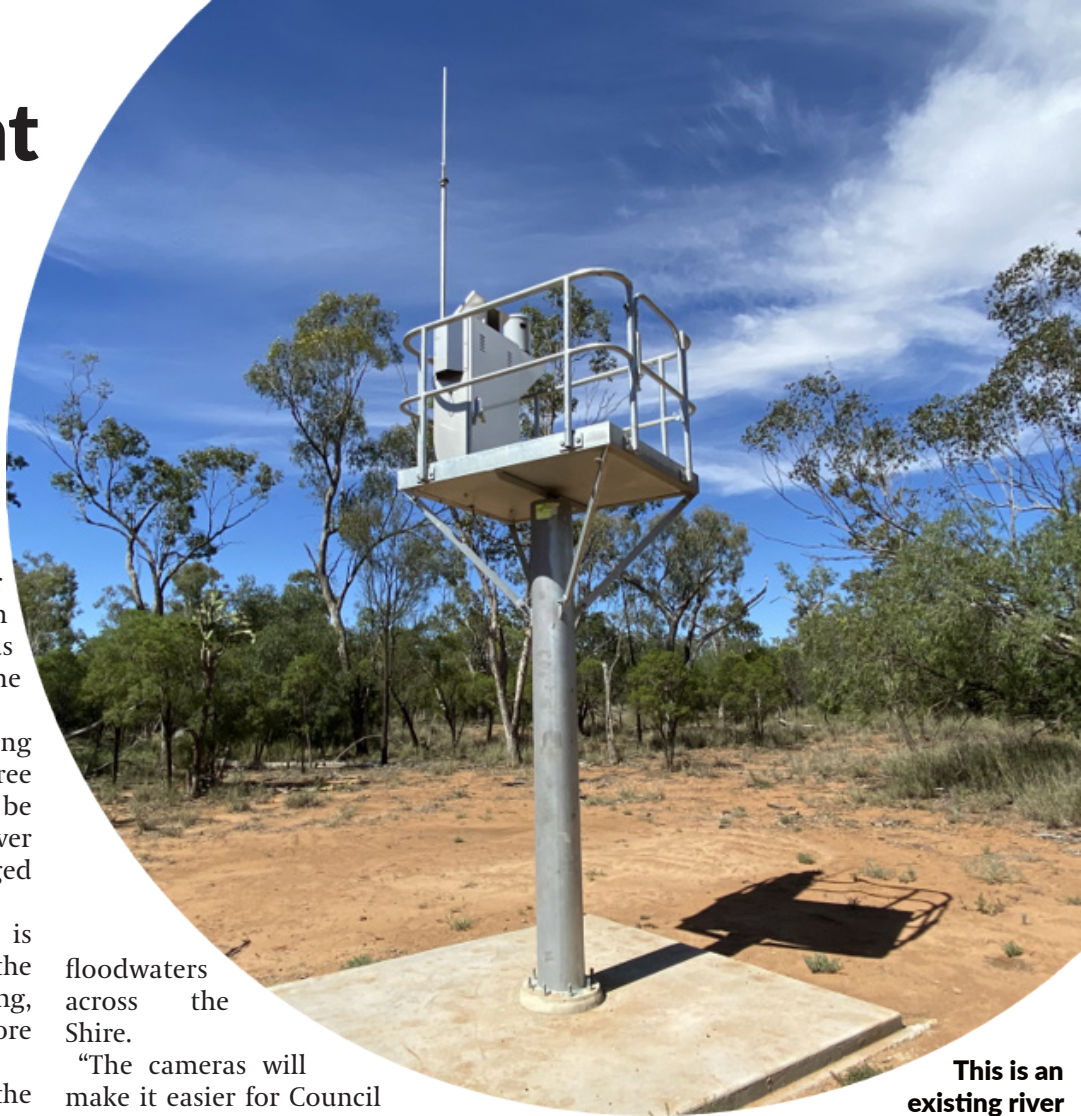
The exact location of the monitoring equipment is being finalised in consultation with the Balonne Local Disaster Management Group, the Bureau of Meteorology and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

Andrew Boardman, Director of Infrastructure Services at Balonne Shire Council, said the new cameras will provide better visibility of

floodwaters across the Shire.

“The cameras will make it easier for Council crews to get to flooded roadways sooner to erect warning signs and take any other necessary action,” he said.

“Also, road-users will be able to log on to the cameras and see for themselves water heights at critical points along their intended route, and alternative routes, making travel safer and more convenient.”



This is an existing river height camera and rain gauge beside the Moonie Hwy, near the Bowhay Bridge over the Moonie River.

The project is expected to cost more than \$500,000, with the bulk of funding provided by the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund.

More information will be available as the project progresses.



When Balonne waterways flood, they can cover big areas for long periods. This is the Castlereagh Hwy floodway near Dirranbandi.

South West Mayors join forces in Balonne Shire

Mayors and CEOs from every Council across the Darling Downs and South West corner converged on St George recently, as Balonne Shire played host to the region's biggest meeting of Local Government representatives.

The Darling Downs and South West Queensland Council of Mayors met on 23 July to discuss a huge range of regional issues from housing, to flights, waste management, roads, water, agriculture, and more.

Ahead of the landmark meeting, the Mayors, CEOs and other guest speakers to the event were shown the best of St George, touring local

farms and hearing about the exciting developments being made by Balonne producers.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole said the Council of Mayors is all about improving all communities in Southern Queensland.

"As Mayors we are already passionate about our communities, and as a collective we are even stronger advocates for our whole region.

"Together we are working to improve essential services and quality of life in our rural Shires."

The Council of Mayors will meet again in October.



LEADERS: Mayors Paul Antonio, Samantha O'Toole, Vic Pennisi, Shaun Radnedge, Suzette Beresford, Stuart Mackenzie, Paul McVeigh and Deputy Mayor Rob Mackenzie

HIRING NOW



Asset Management and GIS Co-ordinator (St George)

Responsible for implementing and managing all Council GIS and Asset Management systems. Experience in ESRI (ARCGIS) Professional and Online is essential.

Co-ordinator, Libraries (St George)

Launch Balonne Shire's state-of-the-art Library Hub in St George, manage three satellite libraries and a library partnership, promote the Library as a community service.

Manager, Community Services (St George)

Lead Council's Libraries, Communities and Multicultural Services team. Build networks with regional and community groups and facilitate programs, services and events.

Roller Operator (Bollon)

Operate a variety of roller machines on all local road works - including sealed roads, rural roads and town streets. Part of the Road Maintenance and Construction Crew.

Roller Operator (Dirranbandi)

Operate a variety of roller machines on all local road works - including sealed roads, rural roads and town streets. Part of the Road Maintenance and Construction Crew.

Casual Tourism Services Officer (St George)

A friendly and enthusiastic people person, the Tourism Services Officer is responsible for assisting with the daily operations of the St George Visitor Information Centre.

To apply, visit www.balonne.qld.gov.au
or scan the QR Code 



Dirranbandi in the swing with new River and Rail playground

Dirranbandi has a new children's playground.

Balonne Shire Council Mayor Samantha O'Toole cut the ribbon to officially open the new park last month.

The Dirranbandi River and Rail Playground was designed and built by Forpark Australia – described as a family-owned Australian company and the largest manufacturer of commercial play equipment in the country – at a cost of \$178,500.

It was funded by the Queensland Government with a *COVID Works for Queensland* grant.

Mayor O'Toole said there was considerable community consultation as the playground was being developed, particularly with the Dirranbandi Progress Association, that was vital in final decision-making.

The playground has a train-themed feature (in keeping with its position near the historical Dirranbandi railway station) that includes honeycomb climbers, a tunnel, three slides, a rope seat and a pommel



IN THE SWING: Andrea Killen (left) and Karen Sullivan from the Dirranbandi Progress Association, assisted by Mayor Samantha O'Toole, tried out the town's new playground.

climber.

Other play equipment includes a “torpedo” see-saw, a “mining cart” and a swing set.

The COVID-19 Works for Queensland Program (COVID W4Q

Grant Program) forms part of the Queensland Government's economic recovery strategy to support local jobs and Local Governments with funding for building productive infrastructure.

Luxury in the bush at baths

from page 1

It will have a rustic feel, inspired by shearing sheds and sheep dips - a cornerstone of local history - and there is even the chance for genuine local artefacts to become part of the building.

Residents are invited to loan or donate relics from the local area for display at in the Dirranbandi Dip.

This can include photographs, old shearing equipment, or other objects - from the times of First Nations custodians through to recent years.

Farm building materials such as galvanised iron, posts and railings, hooks and racks, ladders, and even old floor boards can be used for cosmetic purposes to give the whole facility a uniquely “Dirran” feel.

Those wanting to gift or lend their relics to the Dirranbandi Dip should



UNWIND: The Thermal Baths will be a place for all to relax in tranquil bushland.

contact Project Manager Kirien Withers by email:

kirien@spaguru.com.au

Construction of the Dirranbandi Dip Thermals Baths is currently out to tender; for further information, visit

Council's website.

The Dirranbandi Dip Thermal Baths are funded by the Australian Government under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program.

Hundreds of young players show true footy spirit

More than 350 youngsters from throughout the region took to Rowden Park in St George recently in a fantastic celebration of junior Rugby League.

St George Junior Rugby League hosted a weekend carnival on July 24-25 to mark the club's 50th anniversary.

Teams from Under-6 to Under-14 travelled to St George from Lightning Ridge, Mungindi, Dirranbandi and up Roma way (the Saints and the Carnarvon Cubs) for the event.

SGJRL President Phillip Lockwood said it was "a terrific weekend".

"It was great to see the kids playing a couple of days of back-to-back footy," Phillip said.

"All the games were played in great spirit, and I want to thank the coaches and players for maintaining that spirit and sportsmanship throughout the weekend.

"We saw a fantastic standard of football and maybe some State of Origin players of the future going round."

Phillip said he especially appreciated the time and effort put in by visiting parents and clubs.

"Given the border restrictions and passes required, it could have been easier for some of the New South Wales teams and players just to cancel their attendance but they all turned up. It was terrific.

"We also received great support from the community, and it was terrific to see so many past players, committee members and supporters in attendance.

"I particularly want to thank our current committee for all their organisational work.

"It took a lot of work by a lot of people to make it a success and the fact the event went off so well is a tribute to their efforts.

"It was also terrific for the broader community as well," Phillip said. "Lots of visiting families stayed in town overnight and that was good for business around town."

The photographs on this page from Kasey Lockwood show something of the action and colour of the weekend. For more photographs, visit the SGJRL Facebook page.



GOLDEN WEEKEND: Junior players from U6 to U14 flocked to Rowden Park for the St George JRL 50th anniversary celebration. **Photos: Kasey Lockwood.**



St George A-grade sharp in attack

The St George A Grade Rugby League team looked sharp in attack when they notched up 24 points against the Wallumbilla-Surat Red Bulls at home recently.

Unfortunately, some defensive lapses against the powerful Red Bulls side (currently running second in the seven-team Roma District Rugby League A Grade competition) saw St George go down by 14 points.

The game climaxed a big weekend of football at Rowden Park, with a carnival of Under-6 to Under-16 teams from throughout the region celebrating the 50th anniversary of the St George Junior Rugby League Club.

St George defended well in the first half and, at 16-6 to the Red Bulls at halftime, it was still anyone's game.

Dropped ball from kicks proved especially costly and allowed the Red Bulls to put the game out of reach.

However, St George fought to the final whistle and provided great role models to juniors watching from the sidelines.



Beau Petfield busts the line and starts a weaving run that ended under the posts.



Collared: halfback Jayden David reins in a Red Bulls counter-attack before it can get started.



A hard man to stop: front rower Dan Bailey makes some big post-contact metres up the middle.



Airborne Adam Parkes scoring in the corner after running through half the Red Bulls team.



Jayden Davis weaving his way to a late try. St George fought to the final whistle against the Red Bulls.

UPDATES

BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL | LONERGAN PROJECT SERVICES



Disaster Recovery

Gunnindaddy Rd

- Completion: early August.

Diamond Tank Rd

- Completion: early November

Honeymah Ln

- Completion: mid-September.

Corack Rd

- Completion: early June.

Bollon-Dirranbandi Rd

- Completion: late August.

Chelmer Rd

- Expected start: mid-August.

Jakelwar-Goodooga Rd

- Expected start: mid-August.

Denholm Ln

- Expected start: mid-August

Council has engaged contractors to deliver these packages of works under the DRFA - Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



Completed Roads

- Crescent Vale Rd
- Rutherglen Rd
- Cubbie Rd
- Unity Rd
- Middle Rd
- Whyenbah Rd
- Thomby Rd
- Wagoo Rd
- Cardiff Rd
- Powrunna Rd
- Mourilyan Rd
- Lower Plains Rd
- Narine Rd
- Commissioners Point Rd
- Thuraggi Rd
- Johnston Rd
- Cambo Rd
- Mundalee Rd

What is Disaster Recovery

Disaster recovery roadworks include: surface correction, gravel re-sheeting, formation grading, concreting and more, to repair damage from the February 2020 severe weather event. These are proudly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

What is RMPC?

RMPC (Roads Maintenance Performance Contract) works are

routine maintenance on state-owned roads. They are managed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, and the work in Balonne Shire is carried out by Council's Road Crews.

What is TIDS?

The Transport Industry Development Scheme is a state government funding program, which provides money to local governments for transport-related initiatives that support state government objectives. Those objectives include: increasing works on the local government

transport network, promoting regional development and building a safe and sustainable transport system.

When will Council reach my road?

Crews' progress is governed by weather conditions, water availability, emergency repairs, and other factors outside of Council's control. Works can get delayed by rain or machinery breakdowns, or can be pushed to a later date if a site has no available water source. This update is an approximate guide to Balonne Shire roadworks.