

Balonne Bulletin

THE NEWSLETTER OF BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL

ISSUE 46 | 16 AUGUST 2024



2024/25
**Budget
Feature**
PAGES 4-5

Storyfest is Coming to Balonne

The excitement is building as we prepare to host the much-anticipated Storyfest South West!

Get ready for all the fun, festive excitement celebrating storytelling, literature, and creativity, promising a series of engaging events for all ages such as interactive workshops, and captivating performances.

Our Storyfest South West Writers Festival on 26-28 August in St George is being coordinated by the organisers of the highly successful Somerset Storyfest, as they extend their reach into regional communities.

Attendees can look forward to engaging author talks with renowned authors and emerging writers who will share their insights and experiences, offering a unique opportunity for literary enthusiasts to connect with their favourite storytellers.

The festival highlights will include a Prologue Party, Literary Lunch, Young Writers Dinner and an Adult Panel Session, along with a range of children's activities that have already been subscribed to by over 700 people from across the region.

With something for everyone, Storyfest South West is not just a celebration of literature but a community event that brings people together.

Mark your calendars and join us for a weekend of inspiration, creativity, and community spirit. We look forward to seeing you at Storyfest South West in the Shire!

For more information, see the Storyfest overview on page 8 and 9, or visit www.storyfest.com.au/southwest

HAVE YOUR SAY



What's On

DOWNS & SOUTH WEST LADIES GOLF COMPETITION

Get ready to tee off, ladies! The Downs and South West Ladies competition is heading to St George Golf Club, and it welcomes all levels of skill.

When: 19-21 August

Where: St George Golf Club

DIRRANBANDI CAMPDRAFT

The annual Dirranbandi Campdraft is back for another great year! An event not to miss.

When: 23-25 August

Where: Dirranbandi Showgrounds

BALONNE CUTTING HORSE FUTURITY

Hold onto your saddles horse lovers! The Balonne Cutting Horse Futurity is a celebration of the rich heritage and tradition of cutting.

When: 25 August – 1 September

Where: St George Showgrounds

STORY FEST – SOUTH WEST

Immerse yourself in the magic of storytelling, where tradition meets innovation, and literary enthusiasts of all ages are invited.

When: 26 – 28 August

Where: See page 10 & 11

THALLON TEAM TRUCK PULL

Get ready to rev those engines because the Thallon truck pull is back for another round! Brace yourself as teams push their limits and go full throttle to move some serious trucks.

When: 31 August

Where: Thallon

BOLLON CAMPDRAFT AND RODEO

Get ready for a weekend filled with thrilling rodeo action, high-speed campdrafting, & unforgettable experiences.

When: 31 August – 1 September

Where: Bollon Showgrounds

A message from the Mayor



It has been a busy month, with a lot of major initiatives and activities happening both inside and outside of Council.

On 25 July, Council adopted its 2024/25 Budget and Operational Plan, which struck a balance between containing rates within CPI, while keeping the budget in surplus and delivering the important infrastructure and services required for the Shire.

This was a little later than normal for our budget delivery and I thank the new Councillors for getting through their immense workload of not only getting across the requirements of becoming a Councillor, but also dealing with a challenging budget so quickly in their new term.

As a Council, we are acutely aware of the cost-of-living pressures facing our community, which is why we struck the balance we did, but it is important to note that Council is not immune to the rising prices of goods and services.

I would urge everyone to take a look through the detailed overview of the 2024/25 Budget in this edition or go to the Council website.

It was more than a little concerning to hear of Rex Airlines' steps to go into Voluntary Administration recently, as this is a vital service for our regional area.

As a community, we rely so heavily on our regional air routes to access essential requirements like health, visiting family and business needs and the loss of these routes would create significant negative ramifications for us in so many ways.

Together with the 'South West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils' and the 'Western Queensland Alliance of Councils', we made representations to State and Federal levels of government to express the absolute vital nature of regional air routes for our communities.

As this issue shifts out of the glare of the metropolitan media agenda, it is important

that we continue to pursue and lobby governments to find a solution that sustains our regional air routes into the future, and we will be doing that relentlessly.

Over this past month, Council undertook its first round of Community Catch-ups with visits to each of the townships throughout the Shire.

These were a great opportunity for residents to meet our newest Councillors and to chat with the Council team about upcoming initiatives and about any issues they may need sorting.

Thank you to everyone who participated and came along to have a chat, as the more we can hear your perspectives on both Council matters and other government matters, the easier it is for us to make decisions in your best interest.

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I inform you all of the resignation of our Council Chief Executive Officer Matthew Magin, who will end his time with us on 30 August 2024.

Matthew has been a pillar of strength and support for our Council since he started his tenure as CEO in November 2016 and it is more than a little sad to see him moving on, but I understand and respect his decision.

Over the coming period, Council will undertake a recruitment process for a new Chief Executive Officer, however this process can take some time to coordinate and finalise.

In the meantime, we will be appointing an Interim Chief Executive Officer to maintain the day-to-day operations of Council and ensure that residents continue to receive the service they require from Council.

We will keep you updated on this transition to a new Chief Executive Officer as this process progresses.

Samantha O'Toole



Change can often be a daunting thing to endure in life. I have been sitting on Council since 2016 and for nearly all of that time, Matthew Magin has been our Council's CEO and a consistent source of advice and guidance.

As an elected decision maker, it is one thing to choose the direction of the ship, but it is vitally important to have a committed and capable crew in place, and with the resignation of the current CEO, the need for change is upon us.

Matthew's tireless efforts have helped deliver so many outstanding initiatives that have truly shaped and changed the fabric of the Balonne community we all enjoy today.

Matthew's boundless enthusiasm was a driving force behind the delivery of the Country Universities Centre Balonne, which has allowed over 300 students to stay in the Shire and achieve their educational goals, while remaining close to their families.

Under his astute guidance, the Wild Dog Exclusion Fencing Program has resulted in almost 70% of the Shire now fenced with exclusion fencing and is set to create a \$100 million increase in agricultural income for the Shire.

The successful management of hundreds of millions of dollars in road works and flood damage throughout the Shire did not happen by accident and is a testament to Matthew's experience and management.

It is difficult to name every successful initiative that Matthew has helped to administer, but major beautification projects like the Dirranbandi Rail and River Precinct, St George Foreshore walkway, Mungindi River Park, Bollon Skatepark are a few that really deserve a mention.

If you do see Matthew out and about on his last days and weeks with us, please take the time to thank him for the outstanding service he has delivered for our Shire.

Matthew, you will be sorely missed, and we all wish you the very best in your future endeavours.

Change can be difficult, but we will continue to follow your mantra of taking care of one another and finding a way through any adversity that comes our way.

Yours Sincerely

Mayor Samantha O'Toole

2024-25 Budget Achieves Financial Prudence While Delivering For The Shire

At a Special Budget meeting on 25 July, Council officially adopted its 2024/25 Budget and Operational Plan that will deliver an extensive infrastructure and capital works program, while achieving a net operating surplus and keeping rates increases in line with CPI.

The 2024/25 Budget features a net operating surplus of \$110,000, a net result of \$5.13M (including capital revenue), total revenue of \$60.18M and expenditure of \$55.06M.

Council will deliver a \$17.498M Capital Works Program, which includes an estimated \$6.977M in grant funding and this budget dedicates \$2.71M to operational projects, with \$1.371M of this from grant funding.

A further \$16.24M in flood recovery will be delivered to focus on restoring road networks back to pre-flood conditions across the Shire.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole praised the efforts of all in Council who contributed to bringing together a balanced budget that delivers for our residents.

"As a team, we have worked hard to balance the budget, with a modest surplus and one that continues to deliver

improvements and services for our Shire," said Mayor O'Toole.

"We understand the price of goods and services have risen significantly over recent times and is creating cost-of-living pressures, which is why we have worked hard to contain rates increases in line with CPI.

"The focus of this budget is on improving our local road network with additional flood recovery works, community programs and planning for the future needs of our communities.

"Our operational plan and projects reflect our commitment to service delivery and that meets the needs of our communities and working towards a sustainable future for the Shire.

"There is still funding for projects awaiting sign-off from the State and Federal Governments that we look forward to announcing soon."

Council remains committed to transparency in financial planning and reporting and will monitor progress on the delivery of the 2024/25 Operational Plan on a quarterly basis and continue providing monthly financial reports to Council.

2024-25 BUDGET

Roads A Central Feature Of The Budget

Road upgrades are a central feature of Council's budget with a total allocation to the local road network of \$7.245M, with \$5.073M dedicated to the re-seal and re-sheet programs.

In addition to this, \$16.24M has been estimated for flood recovery works with a high likelihood of additional funds following submissions to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA)

Jakelwar Goodooga Road is set to receive a total investment of \$3,458,000, with \$2,263,000 of that as part of a betterment project that is jointly funded by Council and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

Our Flood Camera Network has been an outstanding investment for the Shire in times of disaster and additional flood cameras will be installed thanks to funding from the Flood Warning Infrastructure Network fund through QRA.

These additional flood cameras, along with an additional flood gauge in the Wallam Mungallala catchment will continue growing our capacity to better monitor flood impacts to the road network in the Shire.



Outstanding Grant Funding

The following projects will be adopted by Council as a budget amendment at a later Council meeting after they have received the relevant government approval.

WORKS 4 QUEENSLAND -

awaiting government approval

Staff Housing (New) - \$1,320,000

Nindigully Master Plan - \$45,000

Dirranbandi Master Plan including Sports Plan incl community engagement - \$150,000

Airport Master Plan Development & Review (Shire wide) - \$100,000

IT Strategic Plan - \$57,000

Staff Training - risk management, project planning & management - \$88,000

LOCAL ROADS COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

- now approved by government

St George Cultural Centre Audio - \$155,000

Thallon Playground - \$300,000

Hebel Amenities - \$250,000

Mungindi Flood Pole - \$16,450

Dirranbandi kerb & channel South Railway Street - \$280,000

Bollon Cemetery Project - \$80,000

Nindigully Landscaping/Road - \$60,000

Fund Beardmore Dam place & Grey St Asphalt program - \$658,414

KEY CAPITAL PROJECTS 2024/25

AERODROMES

Industrial Development St George - \$1,500,000

St George Aerodrome Lighting & Perimeter Fencing Upgrade - \$400,000 (\$200,000 funded through the Australian Government's Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program)

St George Aerodrome Perimeter Road \$100,000

St George Airport Terminal DDA Compliance Design & Delivery - \$90,000 (\$45,000 funded through the Queensland Government's Passenger Transport Accessible Infrastructure Program)

DEPOTS

Flood Barrier Housing St George Depot - \$65,000 (\$38,000 funded by the State Emergency Service)

Implementation of Depot Master Plan St George - \$80,000

FACILITIES

CBD Furniture - St George - \$63,000

St George Cemetery Expansion - \$225,000

St George Rowden Park - Female Amenities - \$704,000 (\$520,000 funded through the Queensland Government's Minor Infrastructure and Inclusive Facilities Fund)

Town Entry Signage Lighting - \$61,000

FOOTPATH, KERB & CHANNEL

Bollon Median Renewal - \$72,000

Design Klinge Lane and Grey Street

Carparking - \$80,000

Footpath Booligar Street, Thallon - \$34,000

Mungindi Gravel Footpath to 2 Mile - \$120,000

St George - Alfred Street Footpath Upgrade - \$103,000

St George - Victoria St Footpath Renewal - \$200,000

Thallon - Pine St Footpath Renewal - \$38,000

Thallon - Pine St Kerb Renewal - \$58,000

PARKS & GARDENS

Dirranbandi Rail & River Remaining Scope - \$63,000

Hebel Masterplan Stage 1 Implementation - \$245,000 (\$200,000 funded through the Queensland Government's Building Bush Tourism Fund)

St George River Foreshore Renewal Plan (stage 2) - \$60,000

Victoria Street Median Strips - \$55,000

STORMWATER

Drainage Master Plans - Mungindi & St George - \$110,000 (\$41,000 funded through the Queensland Government's Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program)

TRANSPORT & LOCAL ROADS

2024/2025 - Town Local Roads Rehab Program - \$845,000

Detail Design for Victoria Street Between Scott & Henry Streets - \$102,000

Jakelwar Goodooga Road North 4kms - \$1,195,000 (Funded through the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery Program and the Queensland Government's Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme)

Jakelwar Goodooga Road North - Betterment - \$2,263,000 (\$2,076,000 funded through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority)

Re-seal Programme - \$875,000 (\$437,000 funded through Roads to Recovery Program)

Re-Sheet Programme - \$700,000 (\$250,000 funded through Roads to Recovery Program)

Sealed Road Network Pavement Rehabilitation - \$1,115,000 (Funded through the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery Program and the Queensland Government's Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme)

Hebel Bypass - \$150,000

SEWERAGE

Shire sewerage holding tank upgrades - \$85,000

St George Sewer Relining - Stage 1 - \$500,000

WATER

Bollon Mary St Mains Renewal - \$60,000

Mungindi Reticulation Upgrades - \$175,000

Mungindi Water Security Project (24/25 cost) (\$506,000 funded through the New South Wales Cross Border Commissioner Fund)

St George - Barlee & Marie St Potable Mains Renewal - \$251,000

St George Non-Potable Water Meters - \$56,000

Thallon Pine St Mains Renewal - \$288,000

FLEET & PLANT

2024/2025 - Plant & Fleet Replacement Plan - \$2,200,000

Camera & Road Condition Signs - \$300,000 (Funded through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority)

RURAL LANDS

Dirranbandi Common Boundary Fencing - \$22,000

FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

Server Replacement - \$90,000

Audio Visual Upgrades - \$62,000

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Generator - Balonne Shire Evacuation Centre - \$55,000 (\$50,000 funded through the Queensland Government's Flexible Funding Grants under the Disaster Recover Funding Arrangements)

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Grants Co-Contribution Fund - \$648,000

KEY OPERATIONAL PROJECTS 2024/25

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Equine And Events Centre Feasibility Study - \$60,000

Shovel Ready Project Planning - \$50,000

PARKS & GARDENS

Beardmore Dam Implementation of Master Plan - \$100,000 (Funded by Sunwater)

WATER

SCADA Strategy Implementation - \$50,000

STORMWATER

St George Integrated Stormwater & Flood Management Plan Study - \$149,000 (Funded through the Disaster Recover Funding Arrangements)

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Balonne Active Women & Girls Program - \$25,000 (Funded through the Queensland Government's Active Women and Girls Program)

Community Sponsorship Donation & Grants Program - \$50,000

Balonne Community Recovery & Resilience Officer - \$235,000 (Funded through the Community Recovery and Resilience Officer Program)

Regional Arts Development Fund - \$28,000 (\$25,000 funded through the Queensland Government's Regional Arts Development Fund)

Work Camp - \$40,000

Youth Council Projects - \$10,000

Youth Summit - \$20,000

First 5 Forever Program - \$9,000 (Funded through the Queensland Government's First 5 Forever Grants Program)

Story fest South West - \$10,000

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

RURAL SERVICES

Cultural Burning Weed Management - \$162,000 (Funded through the Australian Government's Pest, Animal and Weed Pipeline Program)

Roadside Weed Management - \$97,000 (Funded through the Queensland Government's Department of Transport and Main Roads - Roads Maintenance Performance Contracts)

Feral Animal Management - \$129,000

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Annual Shire Clean-Up - \$70,000

Concrete Crushing - St George Landfill - \$71,000

Greenwaste Shredding - St George Landfill - \$180,000

Illegal Dumping Waste Officer & Vehicle Rental - \$115,000 (\$90,000 funded through the Queensland Government's Local Government Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program)

TOURISM SERVICES

One Ton Post - Assessment & Preservation Report - \$20,000 (Funded through the Queensland Government's Flexible Funding Grants under the Disaster Recover Funding Arrangements)

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Balonne Shire Evacuation Centre - Evaluation Report - \$50,000 (Funded through the Queensland Government's Flexible Funding Grants under the Disaster Recover Funding Arrangements)

Disaster Management Officer - \$86,000 (Funded through the Queensland Government's Flexible Funding Grants under the Disaster Recover Funding Arrangements)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Balonne Investment & Industry Fact Sheets - \$36,000

Business Mentoring Program - \$36,000 (Funded through the Queensland Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement - Local Recovery and Resilience Grants Program)

Workforce Development Officer - \$87,000 (Funded through Queensland Government's Growing Workforce Participation Fund)
Renewable Energy & Anhydrous Ammonia Production - \$200,000 (Funded through the Queensland Government's Regional Economic Futures Fund)

ENVIRO-COLUMN

Tropical Fire Ants – Look, Report and Protect

Tropical fire ants get their name from their powerful sting, which results in a painful burning sensation.

While the tropical fire ant species is related to the red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*), and share similar traits and behaviours, they are a little smaller and are managed and treated differently.

Tropical fire ants also protect and 'farm' sap-sucking insects such as scales, mealybugs and aphids, increasing their populations on native plants, resulting in decreased plant health or premature plant death.

Despite being small, Tropical fire ants are highly aggressive and attack any intruder that disturbs its nest.

They can inflict painful stings, which can result in red itchy bumps that can last for days, and in some cases can lead to an allergic reaction.

Tropical fire ants can form super colonies, displacing native ants, insects and animals and have the potential to destroy crops.

Tropical fire ants (publications.qld.gov.au)



Health Care Workers Returning to their Red Dirt Roots

After leaving our Shire to further their studies at University and establishing their careers, two healthcare workers have been drawn back to their roots here in St George.

Louisa Greste and Loxlee Blacket have returned to St George to fulfill positions at Vital Health with Louisa filling the position as a Clinician and Loxlee a Exercise Physiologist and Service Delivery Manager.

"For me, coming back to St George after the career opportunities of the city just made sense to me", said Louisa.

"I am excited to be able to bring my knowledge in Paediatrics out to the bush and to grow my skills in the area to support the Shire."

"It has been a 'full circle' moment... St George just has a funny way of pulling you back."

We warmly welcome Louisa and Loxlee back to the Shire as it is great to see young people returning to our Community with their unique knowledge and skills.



Loxlee Blacket



Louisa Greste

St George Region Swamped with Entries for VIP Trip to The Shire

The St George Region received almost 3,000 entries and over 10,000 web views for their recent "Win a VIP Trip for Two to the St George Region" competition.

A lucky Gold Coast resident Colleen Dacosta took out the grand prize and visited the region with her husband Tom.

The contest was originally aligned with the 150-year celebration of the St George Cup Races and not even the rain that cancelled the event could dampen Colleen and Tom's spirits whilst in the Shire.

While here, the pair enjoyed accommodation and fine dining at the Riverland Motor Inn, took in the ambience of the Nindigully Pub, enjoyed breakfast at Geiger's Bistro and dinner at the Australian Hotel.

Their lunch and wine tasting at Riversands Wines was complimented by a spot of shopping at our upmarket CC's Trendz Boutique and a \$50 hamper pack from the St George Explore Centre.

Lucky winner Colleen said "We would be happy to win again! All in all, a great visit".

A big congratulations to Colleen and Tom and we look forward to seeing you again sometime in the St George Region.





COMPLETED WORKS THROUGH JULY

- None

WORKS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

- Narine Rd
 - Expected completion: mid August
 - Construction is ongoing.
 - Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.
- Jakelwar-Goodooga Rd North
 - Expected completion: early September
 - Construction is ongoing.
 - Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

- Mungindi Levee Works
 - Expected completion: early August
 - Construction is ongoing.
 - No expected traffic delays.

UPCOMING WORKS

- Eumerella South Road – mid August
- Chelmer Road – mid August
- Ballangarry Road - mid August



BALONNE SHIRE REMEMBERS

Interactive Veteran List Across The Shire

With the help of funding from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Balonne Shire Council has engaged a qualified Historian to collate the records of veterans and former servicemen who have a connection with the Balonne Shire.

This project has involved the detailed collation of information from a range of databases to record the details of veterans who lived in the Shire at the time of enlisting or serving, or those who were born in or originated from the Shire prior to enlisting.

This project has now moved to the next stage with the installation of three digital touch-screen monitor stands based in the St George Library, St George Explore Centre and the Dirranbandi Rural Transaction Centre (RTC). (The Dirranbandi monitor might be a little delayed due to current renovations at the RTC.)

We would encourage anyone with an interest in understanding the connections of over 500 veterans who have a connection with the Shire to check out the monitors at these locations.

This activity was funded under the Commonwealth Government's Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program.



Rowden Park Female Amenities Change Room

Council has now awarded a contract for the design and construction of the new Female Amenities and Change Rooms at Rowden Park in line with the new Rowden Park Master Plan.

The new female amenities block will include two change rooms, each with two showers and two toilets, a separate referee's change room with a toilet and shower, as well as four public toilets and a disabled/family room.

The design and construction of this project was awarded to a local building contractor in line the Council commitment to supporting local business.

Council will engage with the Rowden Park Users Group prior to the construction of these facilities.

These new facilities are jointly funded by the Balonne Shire Council and the Queensland Government's Minor Infrastructure and Inclusive Facilities Fund.



NOTE: This is an artist's render of the amenities block and may differ from the final product.

SOMERSET Storyfest™ is Coming to Balonne

SOUTH WEST

Storyfest South West will be here in St George from 26 August to 28 August.



Storyfest CEO, Andrea Lewis, is thrilled to present Storyfest South West, the first instalment of the Regional Tour 2024!

Dedicated to fostering literary talent, Storyfest goes beyond the confines of its flagship event, offering a diverse range of literary experiences, workshops, masterclasses, and featured authors throughout the year.

This ongoing commitment ensures the growth of emerging writers and creates enriching opportunities for readers and wordsmiths alike.



Prologue Party

Monday 26 August
4:30pm to 7pm
Balonne Shire Council Cultural Centre

Come along to the opening night of Storyfest South West. A fun-filled evening for all the family to celebrate reading and writing!

The Heart of the Matter ADULT PANEL SESSION

Tuesday 27 August 5:30pm to 7:30pm
Tickets are \$50 per person.

In this panel conversation, Nicole Alexander (bestselling author of eleven historical fiction novels), Megan Daley (multiple award-winning teacher librarian, author and podcaster) and Jacqueline Harvey (million-copy bestselling children's author) explore the role of storytelling in an ever-changing world.



QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

St George Concert

5 SEP 7:00PM

ST GEORGE CULTURAL CENTRE

SCAN FOR TICKETS

Young Writers Dinner

Tuesday 27 August
5pm to 8pm
Anchorage Homestead

Nat Amooore, Charlotte Barkla, Joel McKerrow, Belinda Murrell and Will Kostakis.
Suitable for students aged 10+, tickets are \$50 per person.

ADULT WORKSHOP

The Art & Science of Reading
with Megan Daley

Tuesday 27 August 9:45am to 11:45am | Tickets \$50 per person

Join author and award winning educator Megan Daley for a workshop exploring how parents/caregivers and educators can support and nurture a joy of reading in young people from primary to secondary years.

Literary Lunch
with Nicole Alexander


HOSTED BY
JACQUELINE HARVEY

Tuesday 27 August
11:30am arrivals
for 12 noon start
Riversands Wines


Step back in time and explore the art of crafting historical fiction with Nicole Alexander, hosted by Jacqueline Harvey.

Tickets are \$75 per person which includes a 2 course meal, drink upon arrival, cash bar available. Tickets are strictly limited!


Meet The Authors




NICOLE ALEXANDER




NAT AMOORE




CHARLOTTE BARKLA



MEGAN DALEY



JACQUELINE HARVEY



JOEL MCKERROW

TICKETS AVAILABLE

Tickets are required for most events with the exception of the Prologue Party. Ticket prices vary, please refer to the individual event for more information.

To purchase your ticket, visit South West Tickets | Somerset Storyfest

Modular Homes to be Delivered for Thallon Seniors

The Queensland Government has partnered with Thallon Community Services to deliver two new two-bedroom modular homes.



The project has been specifically designed to meet the needs of seniors living in Thallon, including those with mobility challenges.

The modular homes are built in a factory located in Toowoomba and can be set-up in three months.

Thallon Community Services Chair, Bill Willis, stated that we are very excited to develop new social housing in our community.

“One of our aims is to provide new housing and in particular ageing-in-place housing for Thallon to improve Thallon services and facilities for the benefit of the

Thallon community,” said Mr Willis.

Housing Minister Meaghan Scanlon said these homes will assist older Thallon residents, who will be able to enjoy a more accessible home surrounded by a familiar community.

Council is looking forward to the arrival of modular homes in Thallon and the betterment it will provide for the community.

THE LIBRARY LENS



Balonne Shire Libraries are free to join, provide services to around 1,500 residents each month, and are part of the Rural Libraries Queensland, which is a collaboration between local governments and the State Library of Queensland.

The countdown to Storyfest Southwest has begun! Storyfest Southwest will be in St George from 26 August to 28 August, with something for everyone to enjoy. The Storyfest Southwest programme is out now, so be sure to check it out.



INSURANCE BILLS UNFAIRLY PUNISH QUEENSLANDERS

Soaring insurance bills are putting pressure on Queensland’s already desperate housing market and gouging Queenslanders during a cost of living crisis, Queensland councils have warned.

Mayors from across Queensland say the State and Federal governments need to step in to make insurance coverage fairer, more affordable and more available to cover more homes.

Local Government Association of Queensland Chief Executive Officer Alison Smith stated that there has been a dramatic rise in the cost of flood insurance premiums faced by Queensland homeowners, particularly in the aftermath of flood events in 2022.

“This surge in premiums has resulted in financial hardship for homeowners, as some have been offered unaffordable premiums, while others have been denied insurance coverage,” said Ms Smith.

“Councils have invested significantly in flood mitigation projects since 2012, yet communities are not benefiting as they should.

“In Australia’s most natural disaster-prone state, the LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to urgently implement measures to make flood insurance affordable.”

St George Region Explore Centre Tripadvisor Award – 4 years running!



For the fourth year in a row, our very own St George Region Explore Centre has reeled in the Tripadvisor Travelers’ Choice Awards.

Every year, Tripadvisor gives a Travellers’ Choice award to accommodations, attractions and restaurants that consistently earn great reviews from travellers and are ranked within the top 10% of properties on Tripadvisor.

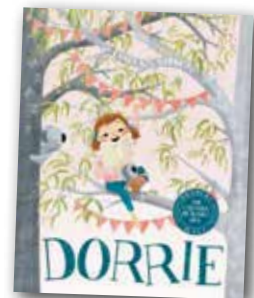
“We are incredibly proud to receive this recognition from Tripadvisor” said Kim Wildman, Tourism Manager of St George Explore Centre.

“It is a testament to the hard work of our team, and the wonderful travellers we enjoy in our Shire each year!”

St. George Explore Centre invites travellers and locals alike to experience its unique offerings, which include great restaurants, idyllic farm tours, strolling through the winery, following the sculpture trail, and so much more.

For more information on the St George Explore Centre, visit www.stgeorgeregion.com.au

BOOK of the MONTH



Dorrie
by Dorothy Wall

From the award-winning author-illustrator of *Mamie* comes a beautiful and inspiring picture book that celebrates Dorothy Wall, creator of the beloved Australian icon, *Blinky Bill*.

FUN AND FITNESS IN BALONNE

ST GEORGE SQUASH

St George Squash play every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday night. If you'd like to join in the fun and enjoy a hit, reach out to John on 0428 735 944.



ST GEORGE TENNIS CLUB

Anyone keen on having a hit of tennis? The St George Tennis Club holds fixtures on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm in Rowden Park, St George and they sometimes have reserve spots available.



For more information, contact Debbie on 0488 042 951.

BOXING

Sign up to be a member of In the Box Boxing Club! Come down and work on your fitness or prepare for fights. Training on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday nights from 5:30pm.



For more information, contact John Morris on 0411 857 691.

GROUP TRAINING SESSIONS

If you're really looking to get in great shape for summer, you can head along to an Optimal Training. Group training sessions on Tuesday from 5pm at the Amphitheatre & Thursday's from 5pm at the studio. In recess during school holidays.



For more information, contact Deanne on 0407 720 327.

INSPIRED FITNESS WITH TJ

Inspired fitness runs group training sessions on Tuesday at 10:00am, 4:30pm and 5:30pm (Pilates), and 5:30pm on Thursdays (Tone class). Classes are now held at the St Patrick's Church Hall on Balonne Street. For more information, phone Tori 0447 080 872



PARKRUN

Do you love a social run to get in shape? There is a free Parkrun held each Saturday morning at 7am along the St George foreshore leaving from the boat ramp on the Western end of St George's Terrace.



For more information visit www.parkrun.com.au/stgeorge

ST GEORGE GOLF CLUB

Enjoy a swing of Golf anytime at the St George Golf Club. Regarded as one of the best sand greens courses in SWQ - why wouldn't you spend a day here?



If you would like to contact the Golf Course, please call on 07 4625 3283.

ST GEORGE BOWLS CLUB

Head down and enjoy a game of Bowls at St George Bowls Club. Wednesday 8am for social bowls, all welcome. Green available on Saturdays for casual bowlers.



ST GEORGE NETBALL ASSOCIATION

The A grade Competition on Monday nights from 5:30pm has commenced. The C Grade & B Grade competition and Netta is up and running on Saturdays. Training for C Grade & B Grade is Thursday Afternoons, with C2 at 4pm, C1 at 5pm & B Grade at 6pm.



For all enquiries, please contact the St George Netball Club via email stgeorgenetball@gmail.com or 0413084891.

ST GEORGE RLFC SAINTS

The season has started and training is underway for the St George RLFC Saints. Head down to Rowden Park every Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30pm for some fitness or a social outing.



For more information, contact 0427 949 196 or stgrlfc@hotmail.com

ST GEORGE HASH HOUSE HARRIERS - SOCIAL RUNNING GROUP

Enjoy a social run or walk of a Thursday evening! The group leave from The Terrace in front of The Australian Hotel at 6:00pm on Thursdays for a 5km run or a 3km walk, this is not a timed event.

For more information contact Peter on 0428 258 601

LET'S DANCE - ST GEORGE COMMUNITY WELLBEING CENTRE

Would you like to learn a few new dance moves? Then come along to the Community Wellbeing Centre each Friday night at 6pm to 7:30pm and join with a fun group of people to learn various types of dances.

For more information, contact Shiela Marshall on XXXXXXXX

If you have a **FITNESS PROGRAM** or **CLUB** in the Shire that you would like posted here, please send the details to: media@balonne.qld.gov.au



St George Chinese Community Memorial Committee
\$500 Bursary Applications
Open for Students

Out and About in Balonne

Mungindi Races



Bollon Polocrosse



Community Catch up day



St George Netball Carnival



St George Rugby Union Ladies Day







Balonne Shire Job opportunities

August 2024


Council Positions Available
St George & Surrounds



COUNCIL IS HIRING!
JOIN OUR TEAM
Visit our website to find out what jobs are available.
www.balonne.qld.gov.au


Store Person
St George

AGNVET RURAL
The primary purpose of this role is to undertake general warehousing duties, yard & warehouse maintenance. Above Award salary, plus superannuation, and generous staff discount. Enthusiastic and approachable. Customer service, time management and planning skills required. Manually handle stock up to 30kg safely, LF Forklift (or willingness to obtain). Experience in Agribusiness sector and holding an MR Truck Licence will be highly regarded. Please apply to jobs@pursehouse.com.au or for further information, please contact Branch Manager Scott Haynes on 0429 473 071 or Elaine Alker in the Employee Relations and Safety Team on 0439 374 400.



Male Support Worker
St George

AHANO DISABILITY CARE SERVICES
Casual
We're currently seeking dedicated Male Support Workers to make a positive impact in St. George. If you're passionate about empowering individuals with disabilities, providing personalized care, and fostering a supportive environment, we want to hear from you. Experience working with Disability Support Services, preferably with Certificates. Approximate pay scale: \$38.20 - \$31.09 / hour. To apply, please email CV to info1@ahano.org




Service Manager
St George

ST GEORGE MACHINERY CENTRE
Full time
We are seeking a highly motivated and organised service manager to join the SGMC team. The Service Manager will serve as the point of contact between a business and its prospects or clients and have a range of responsibilities including maintaining customer satisfaction, booking service repairs, leading a workshop, diagnosing repairs, etc. Wage aligns with experience. Email: cameron@sgmc.com.au or call 07 4625 3633 for more information.



Home Care Worker
St George

ANGLICARE
Part time
In this role, you will offer essential assistance to clients, aiding them in daily tasks to maintain independence and comfort at home. Your responsibilities will include personal care, medication assistance, transportation, domestic duties, and assisting clients to meet social needs. Minimum qualifications and immunisations required, please contact us for more information. \$31.00-\$39.00 per hour. To apply, please email the Recruitment Team at careers@anglicaresq.org.au




General Store Assistant
St George

HALLS FURNITURE COURT
Casual
15 hours minimum per week. Heavy lifting involved. Drivers license required. To apply, please phone 07 4625 3296.



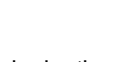
Diploma Qualified Educator
St George

NCC EARLY LEARNERS
Full time
Flexible hours, term time for the right applicant. Approximate wage scale \$36.81 to \$47.37 per hour, based on length of service. Email headofearlylearners@ncc.qld.edu.au




Bachelor Qualified Early Childhood Teacher
St George

NCC EARLY LEARNERS
Full time
Flexible hours, term time for the right applicant. Approximate wage scale \$36.81 to \$47.37 per hour, based on length of service. Email headofearlylearners@ncc.qld.edu.au



Mechanic
St George

B A TIERNEY MECHANICAL
We have a fully equipped heavy vehicle workshop and are looking for a qualified mechanic in either heavy vehicle, light vehicle or mobile plant industries. Depending on the applicant's interest, this position can be either field service or workshop based. Australian Driver Licence and sound understanding of OH&S/WHs preferred. This is a permanent full time position. Above award rates offered. Hourly rate will vary depending on experience. Overtime is readily available. Please email applications to batierneymechanical@gmail.com or phone Ben on 0448 755 030.



Business Manager
St George

RIVERSANDS VINEYARDS
Part time or Full time
Duties include managing events, mail orders, wine club, retail orders, staff recruitment, ordering supplies, running the office. Must have skills in customer service, website management, excel spreadsheets, event costing and office management. \$30.00-\$35.00 per hour depending on experience. Apply online <https://www.riversandswines.com/job-vacancies>




Police Liaison Officer / Senior Police Liaison Officer (First Nations)
St George

QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
Permanent / Full time
Yearly Salary \$72,864 - \$79,976
Assist in developing trust and understanding between members of the QPS and wider community, with particular focus to local First Nations communities. We value diversity and are actively seeking candidates with varied backgrounds who can think differently and innovate. Identify and link key stakeholders across police, community, and government agencies in support of community based/community led programs and/or initiatives to improve community safety. For more information, please contact Officer In Charge, Megan Down on 07 4620 3033 or OIC.StGeorge@police.qld.gov.au




Service Technician (Field)
St George

RDO EQUIPMENT
Full time
A varied role that will see working on a range of equipment across John Deere Agriculture equipment. This field-based role will entail from general service and repairs to major overhauls and new machine assembly. Mechanical Trade Certificate, current valid Driver Licence and previous experience of engine overhauls and major repairs. To apply or for more information, contact Careers Team on 1300 154 600.




Health Workforce Connector (SWQ)

HEALTH WORKFORCE QUEENSLAND
Full time
We are looking for a person living within the community to increase health workforce capacity by advancing structured workforce pathways into primary healthcare settings in Roma, St George and Charleville. Be part of a team and work remotely and independently, to generate and implement innovative workforce strategies. Apply via SEEK: <https://www.seek.com.au/job/77528239>



Barista and Runner
St George

THE FARMHOUSE CAFÉ ST GEORGE
We are looking for a passionate and experienced Barista to join our friendly team. Approximate pay scale: \$25.59 - \$31.09 / hour. To apply, please email CV to stgeorgefarmhouse@gmail.com



For the People
Balonne Shire Council
For more information on local jobs
SCAN THIS QR CODE



If you have a position you would like placed in this section, please contact Balonne Shire Council's Workforce Development Officer: Karen on 4620 8839.

This Balonne Shire Council initiative is proudly supported by the Queensland Government through its Growing Workforce Participation Fund.

2024 Upcoming Courses

Gateway to Training

FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE (ST GEORGE)
SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER, 2024

A prerequisite to obtaining a Queensland weapons licence, this accredited firearms safety course will provide you with the required knowledge of safety practices for the use, storage, and maintenance of a weapon or category of weapon. Price: \$100 to \$200

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