

# Balonne Bulletin

THE NEWSLETTER OF BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL

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## Dirranbandi Community Rallies To Save Town From Disaster

The Dirranbandi community spirit shone through as the savior of the town in the face of circumstances that had all the makings of a potentially catastrophic natural disaster.

On Tuesday 5 November, the township of Dirranbandi was evacuated due to two fires burning to the south-east and north-east of the town that threatened to move in overnight.

While the rest of the nation was enjoying festivities surrounding the race that stops the nation, the fires started in the afternoon and the community swiftly pulled together to bring the blaze under control with earthmoving equipment, water bombers and an endearing sense of community spirit.

In the space of a few short hours the Balonne Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) was made aware that the fires had dropped power poles and cut-off power to the town, which meant telecommunications only had hours of battery life left until they were also out.

As if that wasn't enough, weather predictions were indicating a wind change coming through during the night that would have pushed the fire and its embers towards the town.

This situation left the Queensland Fire Department with no other option but to recommend the immediate evacuation of Dirranbandi.

In a coordinated series of actions that then followed, emergency services and other parties within the LDMG set about communicating the evacuation with text messages to all mobile

phones in the area, Police door-knocking, phone calls, media alerts and social media posts.

While every effort was being made to evacuate residents out of the town, Council staff set about making preparations for the evacuation centre in St George, with food, bedding, supplies and alternate accommodation arrangements.

Chair of the Balonne LDMG and Mayor Samantha O'Toole praised everyone that played a role in keeping Dirranbandi safe during this potentially catastrophic disaster.

"This disaster evolved so rapidly and it really highlights just how important it is to have a strong and dedicated team of emergency services volunteers", said Mayor O'Toole.

"I am completely heartened by the way everyone came together so quickly to chip in, from the local Dirran community to the local farmers, the emergency service crews, local businesses, Council staff and broader Balonne community.

"It really does fill me with a great sense of pride to be part of a community that has such a strong sense of mateship and willingness to support one another in times of hardship.

"I would like to express my deepest thanks to everyone who chipped in to avert what could very easily have been a disastrous outcome."

*More coverage on page 5.*

# What's On

## NINDIGULLY PIG RACES

This event features pigs racing in a lively and entertaining atmosphere. It's a delightful blend of humour, excitement, and community spirit that will have everyone cheering for their favourite pig.

**Where:** Nindigully Pub

**When:** 29 November

## MAC 100

With approximately 1000kms of high-speed racing through natural paddock terrain, dirt tracks and timbered country, it is the longest off-road race with the biggest prize pool in Australian off-road racing!

**Where:** Whyenbah Road

**When:** 7 December

## ST GEORGE CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

Come and enjoy all of the fun activities, raffles, market stalls, karaoke competition, photos with Santa and you can even view the MAC 1000 Off Road Race cars supplied by SEQORRA.

**Where:** Amphitheatre on the Terrace

**When:** 5pm-8pm 6 December

## BOLLON CHRISTMAS TREE

Join in on all the festivities of the annual Bollon Christmas Tree event.

**Where:** TBC

**When:** 5pm 7 December

## CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Come along to Thallon and enjoy the Christmas trivia, Santa photos and BBQ dinner.

**Where:** Thallon Town Park

**When:** 5pm 7 December

## CHRISTMAS IN THE SHOWGROUNDS

Complete with fireworks a lolly drop, raffles, Santa photos, raffles, music, bar and BBQ, this is an event not to be missed.

**Where:** Dirranbandi Showgrounds

**When:** 6pm 14 December

# A message from the Mayor



Our past month certainly ended quite dramatically and differently to how it started with a significant fire emergency in Dirranbandi and I want to thank everyone who was involved in helping to avert this potentially catastrophic situation.

I want to express my deepest thanks to everyone who stepped-up during this disaster, as without each and every one of you, this could quite easily have been a much worse outcome.

One of the greatest attributes of our regional lifestyle is the way we take care of each other in times of need, which is far removed from the hands-off approach towards emergency services that metropolitan communities tend to subscribe to.

The entire community really came together in this instance when it counted most, and it really does show what can be achieved when we all chip-in and push in the same direction.

It also highlights just how important it is for each and every one of us to do what we can to support our Rural Fire Service Auxiliary and/or SES in the region. I would urge everyone who has the capacity, to make contact with these organisations and sign up, so we are even better prepared in the event of future disasters like this one.

Prior to this fire, during the past month, we had the great fortune of welcoming the St George Chinese Community Memorial Committee back to the Shire to rededicate the memorial at the St George cemetery in honour of the unnamed graves of the Amoy shepherds who settled here in the mid 1800's.

These visits by the SCCMC to our Shire are always a welcomed reflection of the historical cultural origins of our region, as

well as a great opportunity to build new relationships and potential investment collaborations in areas such as business, tourism, education, and migration.

We warmly welcome the generous gifts from the Committee for four \$500 bursaries to local students, with the aim of assisting them in pursuing their educational endeavours.

I know the students put a great deal of effort into the literary competition for the \$500 bursaries provided by the Committee and I congratulate the winners and thank the delegation for their generosity.

On another note, with the State election now behind us, we have a new State Government to engage with over the coming period and I am looking forward to meeting the new Ministers and advocating on behalf of the Shire for the things that matter to us most.

In this election, our very own member for Warrego, Ann Leahy MP has not only been re-elected, but has also been appointed to the Cabinet as the Minister for Local Government and Water, and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, which will be of great benefit for our Shire.

Ann has been an invaluable member for Warrego over the past 9 years and having worked with her on shared issues with water, fire and disaster recovery I have every confidence that she will hit the ground running in her new portfolios.

I would like to congratulate Ann on her appointment to Cabinet and I'm looking forward to continuing working with her locally as our member of Parliament and now as a Minister.

*Samantha O'Toole*

A QUIET STREET IS A HAPPY STREET

WHO LET THE WOOF'S OUT?

DID YOU KNOW?

COUNCIL OFFERS BARKING DOG COLLARS FOR LOAN.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT COUNCIL ON 4620 8888





## All Systems Go For Harvest

Harvest is well underway across GrainCorp’s southern Queensland network, with sites seeing excellent quality wheat and chickpeas coming through the gates.

At GrainCorp’s Thallon site, it’s all systems go with the team taking in 18,000 tonnes in one day this month - a record day for this winter crop harvest.

The team at Thallon have been working around the clock to unload grain across the site’s 13 bunkers, giving the site capacity to hold up to around 320,000 tonnes of grain when full.

So far this harvest, GrainCorp sites in Queensland have received over one million tonnes of commodities, and over two million tonnes across their entire network.

## New Allied Health Building Opened in Balonne

On 30 October, Queensland Health officially launched their new Allied Health Building on the grounds of the St George Hospital to support vital health to residents throughout the Balonne Shire.

The new modern facility will be a central place to provide a broad range of services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, social work, mental health, dietitian services and podiatry.

South West Hospital and Health Service Chief Executive Dr Anthony Brown welcomed the completion of the works for this new facility, which will be of benefit to local communities for many years to come.

“Our local staff do a wonderful job amid often challenging circumstances, so it’s important we provide the best conditions for them that we can from which to deliver vital health services to the area”, said Dr Brown.

“What has been delivered are modern, state-of-the-art facilities in place of the previous ageing structures, which were past their use by date.

“The modern layout of the new building provides for improved quality of care and ability to undertake vital health services in a combined location.

“We hope the local community finds these new modern facilities provide the comfort and support they require and expect during their time and treatments there.

“The modular construction used in the delivery of these three facilities significantly reduced building time and makes it easier to add additional structural components in the future as needs require.

“The South West Hospital and Health Service has delivered over a hundred million dollars in new health infrastructure in recent times with the new Roma Hospital that opened in October 2020, upgrades and expansions of the aged care units at Cunnamulla, Surat, Injune and Augathella and the recently completed new staff accommodation at Mungindi.”



## Dirranbandi & Nindigully Set to Guide New Master Plans

Dirranbandi and Nindigully residents will get the chance to help guide the development of Master Plans for their townships with an inclusive consultation scheduled to take place over the coming months.

As outlined in the 2024/25 budget, Council received \$150,000 grant funding from the Queensland Government’s Works for Queensland program to create the new Dirranbandi and Nindigully Master Plans in consultation with the local community.

Council will be undertaking this community consultation in two stages, which will include seeking initial feedback from the local community groups, sporting groups and government bodies on what their main priorities are for the townships.

Feedback from the initial consultation will then be used to develop a draft Master Plan, which will be taken to the community for their opinion and comment to guide the development of the final Master Plans for adoption by Council.

The first stage of consultation is now scheduled to take place with Nindigully residents in December 2024 and with Dirranbandi residents in January 2025 and the community will be broadly notified of specific dates in advance of its commencement.





# Chinese Delegation Commemorates Their Local Heritage

The St George Chinese Community Memorial Committee made their fifth visit to the Shire in October to commemorate the Chinese settlers from Amoy, China, who arrived in the mid-1800s and played a significant role in laying the foundations for our thriving agricultural sector.

While here, the Committee held a rededication ceremony at the site of the memorial, which was installed in 2019.

As part of the three-day visit, the Committee also awarded four \$500 Bursary Awards to students from St George State High School and the Country Universities Centre Balonne to assist with the students' study needs.

The delegation also toured the Shire, visiting iconic features such as a tour of Moonrocks Farm, viewing of the Thallon Silo murals, events at Riversands Wines, a tour of the AWE facilities at the High School and they even attempted to conquer two Road Train Burgers at the Nindigully Pub. Mayor Samantha O'Toole welcomed the Committee back to Balonne for their fifth visit.

"The Committee's visit was another great opportunity, to celebrate the early Chinese settlers whose efforts really helped to lay the groundwork for the prosperity that we all enjoy to this day in the Balonne", said Mayor O'Toole.

"We warmly welcome the generous gifts from the Committee for \$500 bursaries to four local students, with the aim of assisting them in pursuing their educational endeavours.

"I know the students put a great deal of effort into the literary competition for the \$500 bursaries and I congratulate the winners and thank the Committee for their generosity.

"As a Council, we conducted a series of productive meetings, presenting and exploring future avenues for collaboration in areas such as business investment, tourism, education, and migration.

"The relationship we have built over the past few years is even starting to create investment and cultural opportunities that may become mutually beneficial for both communities over the coming period.

"We look forward to building upon the positive outcomes of this visit and remain committed to exploring further opportunities for collaboration, growth, and shared success."



Road Train Burger at Nindigully Pub



Thallon Silos



Riversands Wines visit



Presentation of SCCMC Bursaries



Rededication of The St George Chinese Cemetery



# Minister Announces Financial Support For Dirranbandi Community

On Friday 8 November, the newly appointed Minister for Local Government & Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery & Volunteers, Ann Leahy MP visited the Dirranbandi community and inspected the fire zone to announce disaster recover relief to residents.

As the State Member for Warrego, Ms Leahy MP participated in Balonne Local Disaster Management Group meetings as the intensity of the situation quickly spiraled from an emergency and into an evacuation order.

The Minister praised the efforts of emergency service crews and the local community for dealing with this emergency situation in such a swift and determined way.

“The Dirranbandi community is renowned for its community spirit and mateship, but to watch them all come together and support each other through this emergency was a sight to behold”, said Minister Leahy.

“As a government, our key focus is on supporting this community, who have been through so much over recent days with financial support to get them back on their feet as quickly as possible.”

Emergency Hardship Assistance Grants of \$180 for individuals and up to \$900 for a family of five or more are available to eligible Dirranbandi residents to go towards the costs of food, clothing and medicine.

To access support or check eligibility, residents can go to the Dirranbandi RTC, contact CareBalonne on 4625 5450 or phone the Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349.



Lloyd (Bunny) Becker with Minister Leahy at the Dirranbandi fire site



Minister Leahy meeting with the local Dirranbandi community

A graphic for the Emergency Dashboard. It features a QR code, a map of the region, and text: "Do you know how to keep up to date with current Natural Disasters?", "Opt-In Alerts", and "Keep up with current warnings on our Emergency Dashboard at www.emergency.balonne.qld.gov.au".

## Opt-In for Updates During Times of Emergency

Our Emergency Dashboard is a crucial and central source of information during natural disaster events in our Shire, which has the ability to provide residents with updates direct to their mobile as they happen.

The Emergency Dashboard provides real-time updates on road conditions, information on active fires, weather forecasts and much more information that people will need to access in times of an emergency.

The dashboard also has an Opt-in feature that allows people to register their details to receive text messages and emails during times of disaster to help keep them up-to-date with important information.

To opt-in to receive updates from our Emergency Dashboard during times of disaster, please scan this QR code or go to [emergency.balonne.qld.gov.au](http://emergency.balonne.qld.gov.au)



## ENVIRO-COLUMN

# HARRISIA CACTUS



Harrisia Cactus is a Category 3 restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014 and must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment.

Harrisia Cactus is a perennial plant with spiny fleshy stems that form tangled mats about 30cm high with spines that are a problem for stock management, interfering with mustering and stock movement.

Its bright red fruit contains 400–1000 small black seeds, which can be spread by birds and other animals. Even the broken-off stems containing the fruit will take root and spread this species throughout the landscape.

This plant reaches its maximum development in the shade and shelter of Brigalow Scrub, though established infestations can persist once scrub is pulled.

For more information on how to deal with this invasive plant, scan this



## Bollon Town Common Cleared of Rangeland Goats

The Bollon Town Common has now been cleared of stock after an Impoundment Notice was issued on hundreds of Rangeland Goats were identified on the block.

After attaining the appropriate approvals, Council engaged external mustering services to round up over 400 Rangeland Goats and have them transported to holding yards for sale.

Anyone who may have thought to have claim to the goats were given the opportunity to inspect the herd in the holding yards for ear tags and possible lineage.

All profits from this process will be used to support Council initiatives for residents in the Balonne Shire.

The Bollon Town Common is now currently closed until a significant rain event allows for the feed to replenish.

For more information on Town Commons, please contact Council on 4620 8888 or [council@balonne.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@balonne.qld.gov.au)



## The Resurfacing of the St George Netball Courts

Following a highly successful 2024 netball season, the St George Netball Committee is currently resurfacing the St George Netball courts in preparation for next year's season.

This resurfacing upgrade is occurring on all four courts and will provide a better experience and a safer playing surface for all players who use them.

These resurfacing works were made possible due to the diligent efforts of the Committee who successfully secured grant funding, which complimented their other fundraising activities such as catering at the Dambusters off road race and other activities.

A huge congratulations to the St George Netball Committee for making these upgrades happen to create a better space for the local netball community!

# Roadworks UPDATE

## COMPLETED WORKS THROUGH OCTOBER:

- Carnarvon Highway – Road widening and seal (3.5km)

## WORKS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

- Castlereagh Highway – Shoulder re-sheeting
  - Expected completion: late December 2024
  - Construction is ongoing
  - Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.
- Castlereagh Highway - Heavy shoulder grading
  - Expected completion: late December 2024
  - Construction is ongoing
  - Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.
- Chelmer Road - Re-sheeting
  - Expected completion: early 2025
  - Construction is ongoing
  - Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

- Baltana Road – Re-sheeting
  - Expected completion: early 2025
  - Construction is ongoing
  - Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.
- Warrie Road – Re-sheeting
  - Expected completion: early 2025
  - Construction is ongoing
  - Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.



## UPCOMING WORKS

- Beardmore Place and Grey St – Asphaltting
  - Expected completion: late November 2024
  - Construction is to be carried out at night
  - Expected low impact on traffic due to nightworks
- Jakelwar–Goodooga Road – sealing approximately 20km (starting from Balonne Highway heading west)
  - Expected to commence late November 2024
  - Expected completion January 2025

## EARLY 2025

- Whyenbah Road – Sealing approximately 15km
- Noondoo-Mungindi Road – Reseal approximately 9km
- Noondoo-Mungindi Road - Re-sheet as required

## Calling All Veterans to Help Raise Funds for Renovating St George RSL

The St George RSL Sub-Branch is calling for help from local veterans within the Shire to get behind their fund-raising efforts to renovate the new RSL clubhouse in St George.

In early 2022, the Sub-Branch acquired the old Scouts building at 1-3 Church Street after leasing it for several years.

Renovations to date, through grant funding, have included new toilets, exterior painting and the installation of solar panels and electrical works.

The RSL Sub-Branch has diligently raised more than \$44,000 over the past 3 years with raffles, donations and other fund raisers to go towards further renovation of this facility.

Plans are in place for building a new deck across the front of the building with disability access, putting in a kitchen and adding a covered deck on the back and side of the building overlooking the river, as well as converting a storeroom into a memorial display room.



The Sub-Branch is calling on local veterans to join in their cause to get the extra facilities off-the-ground, which will support the welfare needs of veterans, their families and the broader community.

Anyone wanting to join the RSL Sub-Branch to help with this fund-raising can contact Terry Salmon via email [secretary@stgeorge.rslqld.net.au](mailto:secretary@stgeorge.rslqld.net.au)



# Grant Funding Provides Active Women & Girls Program

Passionate about fitness? Love supporting your community? We want to hear from you!

Council has been awarded grant funding from the Queensland Government to boost women's participation in sports and recreation.

As a Council, we are on the lookout for enthusiastic fitness professionals to help us roll out an exciting fitness program/s across the Shire with the received funds between 1 February and 30 April 2025.

Applications to participate in this program are due by 5pm 22 November 2024.

The successful applicant will receive up to \$8,000 each for the development and execution of the program, as well as the purchase of minor equipment.

Could this be you? Scan the QR code below to find out more and apply!



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST  
**ACTIVE WOMEN & GIRLS PROGRAM**

WE ARE NOW SEEKING A FITNESS PROFESSIONAL TO DELIVER THIS PROGRAM.

To view the application criteria, scan the QR Code

For more information, contact Council on 4620 8888.

This is proudly funded by the Queensland Government through the Active Women & Girls Funding.

*Balonne Shire Council*

# Update on Primary Health Care Provision in the Shire

The Community Working Group that was created to investigate a more viable and sustainable model for the St George Medical Centre's services is continuing to work through the development of a new business model.

To date, the key focus of the Working Group has been to set up a new business structure that is best placed to successfully attract grant and other funding opportunities and to maintain the sustainability of primary health facilities into the future.

The Working Group has been meeting regularly and working through a detailed process of attaining approvals, submitting applications and preparing business plans to establishing a new not-for-profit community-based company structure to transition the current entity to.

The Working Group has now been filtered down to a core group of community members to drive this change and Council's direct involvement ended following the initial phase of gaining community attention of the need for change.

The Working Group is looking to finalise the new company structure by the end of 2024 and transition to appointing a Board in early 2025 to drive the ongoing provision and attraction of primary health care services to our community.



Balonne Shire Council  
**2025**  
Calendar Now Available

Calendars are available for collection from your local Libraries, Information Centres, or Council Main Office.

# 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.

## AGED CARE INFORMATION HUB AT THE ST GEORGE LIBRARY

Drop into the aged care information hub in the library where you'll be able to access a range of resources, engage in conversations about aged care and more.

The pop-up display will be visiting the other libraries in the Shire over the coming months.

# BOOK of the MONTH



## Fire and Bones by Kathy Reichs

The #1 New York Times best-selling author returns with a twisty, addictive thriller featuring forensic anthropologist Temperance Brennan, who finds herself at the centre of a Washington D.C. arson investigation.



# 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

Are you 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 is 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 session on Tuesday from 5pm at the Amphitheatre & Thursday's from 5pm at the studio.



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 at the Western end of St George's Terrace.



For more information visit [www.parkrun.com.au/stgeorge](http://www.parkrun.com.au/stgeorge)

## ST GEORGE AQUATIC CENTRE - OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday - 5:30am to 12pm, 2pm to 6pm

Weekends - 1pm to 6pm

Party Bookings available Saturday & Sunday mornings 9am - 1pm but must be booked in advance.

For more information or to book a party call 0497 722 076

## 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 there?



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 SWIMMING CLUB

It's not too late to register. If you'd like to try your hand at more competitive swimming, the St George Swimming Club has started back up for term 4 of school and meets Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm at the St George Aquatic Centre. head on down to register.



For more information you can email [stgswim@hotmail.com](mailto:stgswim@hotmail.com) or visit their Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/stgeorgeswimmingclub](http://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeswimmingclub) information contact Peter on 0428 258 601

## ST GEORGE NETBALL ASSOCIATION

St George Netball Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on February 4th, 2025. We encourage all community members to go along and get involved in the exciting plans for the 2025 season. Additionally, we're thrilled to announce that the St George netball courts are undertaking a significant makeover, with all four courts being resurfaced. This upgrade will enhance the facilities and provide a better experience for all players.



## 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, visit their Facebook Page - Let's Dance St George.

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







# St George Fishing Competition creating a Healthy River Ecosystem

This year's St George Fishing Competition saw 390 people nominate in total (230 adults and 160 juniors), which resulted in a staggering 1193 fish being caught!

Although no one caught a tagged Yellowbelly, 487 Yellowbelly, 15 Jewfish and 3 Black Bream were reeled in, but even more impressive was the 688 Carp that were eradicated from our Balonne River system.

Carp pose a major environmental threat, as they can rapidly outnumber native fish and greatly disturb aquatic environments through their destructive feeding habits.

St George and Districts Fishing and Restocking Club President Justin Roberts said the annual competition is a fantastic opportunity for the community to come together, enjoy the outdoors, and make a positive impact on our environment.

“Our annual St George Fishing Competition is more than just an opportunity for family and friends to join in a fun-filled day of camaraderie and competition, it’s an opportunity to help protect the biodiversity of our river system”, said Mr Roberts.

“As a club, we continue to promote sustainable fishing practices and in a significant boost to local biodiversity, we released 37,500 fingerlings into the Balonne River this year to further support the growth of native fish populations.

“The proceeds from this year’s competition will go towards further fingerling releases in 2025.”





# 2024 Upcoming Courses

## Gateway to Training

### FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE

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.

**Where:** 119 Victoria Street, St George

**When:** 24 November 2024

**Cost:** \$180 for initial category, plus \$100 for every additional category

To register, please phone 07 4671 2258

### FORKLIFT LICENCE (ST GEORGE):

Gain the skills, knowledge and accreditation to get your forklift licence. Be sure to book as numbers are limited.

**Where:** 119 Victoria Street, St George

**When:** 12-14 November 2024

**Cost:** \$725

To register, please phone 07 4671 2258

## Council

### FREE BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING (DIRRANBANDI, BOLLON, ST GEORGE):

Sam Noon from SJN Rural will help you get ready for the unexpected. Disasters such as flood, drought, fire and cyber attacks can significantly disrupt your business. With a Business Continuity Plan in place, you'll be better prepared to bounce back quickly and minimise losses.

**Bollon -**  
26 November 2024

**St George -**  
27 November 2024

**Dirranbandi -**  
25 November 2024

**Cost:** Free

To book or for more information, please contact John Goodall on 07 4620 8888.



## Our Shire Hosts Potential Future Health Workers

In October, our Shire played host to a large group of potential future health workers with a coordinated visit by health students with GROW Rural Southwest Queensland.

During GROW Rural's coordinated visit to the Shire, the students were given a full tour of all that our Shire has to offer aspiring new health workers.

From tours of the St George Hospital, St George Medical Centre to community facilities such as the Community Wellbeing Centre, the students had to chance to closely inspect prospective employment opportunities.

The students also got to experience the unique lifestyle on offer in our Shire with visits to Riversands Wines, the Country Universities Centre Balonne, local farms and other unique activities.

They even experienced a mock emergency on the banks of the Balonne River to put them through their paces.

Council assisted in this activity and hopes to see some of them return to take up health placements within the Shire.





# Out and About in Balonne





# Boolba Family Fun Day



# St George Fishing Competition





# Launch of the St George Allied Health Building





## Council's Authorised Inspection Program is about to commence

1 November 2024 to 31 January 2025

Every allotment in townships will be inspected to check on the following:

- Registration of Dogs
- Permits for the keeping of Other Animals
- Permits for the keeping of Stock Dogs

Find out more by scanning the QR code



For more information, contact Council 07 4620 8888



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

## RADF ASSESSMENT PANEL

Are you interested in joining the peer assessment panel?

Applications close 1 December

For more information, contact Council's Communities Team on 4620 8888.

# Balonne Shire Job Opportunities

November 2024

Personal Support Worker (St George)

### CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Permanent Part-time

You will assist residents with high and low care needs. A variety of shifts are available.

Certificate III or IV in Individual Support or Certificate III in Aged Care, plus current National Police and NDIS Check or ability to obtain.

For more information, please phone Louise Mason on 0400 860 963 or please apply via SEEK: <https://www.seek.com.au/job/78709634>



Service Manager (St George)

Full time

You will lead and mentor a multi-disciplinary team, manage recruitment and selection, manage and report on budgets and KPI's, report to internal and external stakeholders. This position is focused on clinical experienced candidates. We will require candidates to be a qualified AHPRA Registered Nurse, ideally with active age care experience and knowledge are desirable. This position will require you as a Clinical Service Manager to be happy to work 3 days on the floor per week as a Registered Nurse. You will assist residents with high and low care needs. A variety of shifts are available.

Please apply via SEEK: <https://www.seek.com.au/job/79716984>

For further information, please contact Bobbie-Jo Woods via email [bobbiejo.woods@cofcqld.com](mailto:bobbiejo.woods@cofcqld.com)

Sales/Warehousing (Dirranbandi)

### DIRRAN AG SPARES

Permanent / Full time

Looking for a motivated, energetic person to join our team.

Role involved unpacking orders and restocking shelves, sales duties, parts interpretation, learning to make hydraulic hoses. Must be capable of handling and moving stock items when needed. Experience in Agriculture industry would be an advantage, but not necessary. Forklift license required, however we will provide training to the right applicant.

To apply, please send your resume to [accounts@dirranag.com.au](mailto:accounts@dirranag.com.au)



Medical Receptionist (St George)

### ST GEORGE MEDICAL CENTRE

Casual - to cover leave

Main duties are answering phones and making appointments, for a person with good communication skills and a keen eye for detail.

\$25.00 - \$30.00 per hour.

To apply, please email [pm@stgmed.com.au](mailto:pm@stgmed.com.au) attention Jennifer McKay.



Venue Manager (St George)

### ST GEORGE HOTEL

Full time

With autonomy to implement your ideas, responsible for leadership of your team, achieving budgets and objectives, and driving performance of the venue, including Public Bar, Motel Accommodation and Gaming Facilities. Must have suitable experience, correct certificates and licences or able to apply for, and full visa working rights.

Onsite accommodation can be negotiated.

Please apply online at <https://www.seek.com.au/job/79625126>



Cleaner (St George)

### MERINO MOTOR INN

Casual

To apply, please phone Tamlyn on 07 4625 3333.



Barista and Runner (St George)

### THE FARMHOUSE CAFÉ ST GEORGE

Casual

Seeking a passionate and experienced Barista to join our friendly team.

Approximate pay scale: \$25.59 - \$31.09 / hour.

We will provide accommodation at a reduced rate, if required.

To apply, please email CV to [stgeorgefarmhouse@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgefarmhouse@gmail.com)



Outside School Care (St George)

### ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monday to Friday, 3pm-6pm and School Holidays 8am-4pm

We are looking for someone to make a positive impact on children within the community. All you need is a Blue Card and all other training is provided.

Please contact Lauren Booth on 0497 227 984 or email [STGcare@tck.edu.au](mailto:STGcare@tck.edu.au)



Retail Supervisor (St George)

### SUNSHINE MITRE 10

Full time

Responsible for delivering and maintaining excellent standards in customer service, merchandising, teamwork and product knowledge.

You will have excellent customer service skills, previous experience in the Hardware industry, be proactive and help the team achieve sales targets.

Career opportunities, staff discounts, ongoing training, health and wellbeing programs, and great employee benefits

Please apply online at <https://www.seek.com.au/job/79200968>

Assistant Venue Manager (St George)

### THE AUSTRALIAN HOTEL

Full Time

Seeking an experienced and hands-on Assistant Manager to oversee a tight-knit group of staff. You will have a proven track record, experience in a high-volume venue, strong leadership and motivational skills, be passionate about the hospitality industry, proficient in stocktake and inventory, capable of remaining calm and managing conflict, and hold current RSA, RSG, CLO RMLV and Approved Manager certifications. Negotiable salary package, discounted accommodation, staff meals and discounts, internal training and opportunities for career growth.

Please apply online at <https://www.seek.com.au/job/79676008>



Bottle Shop Retail Attendant (St George)

Casual

Seeking a Retail Attendant to help oversee the retail operations within the drive-thru.

Responsibilities include: delivering exceptional customer service, ensuring the correct handling of money within the bottleshop, ensuring the retail stores are fully compliant with all relevant legislation, coordinating the ongoing cleanliness and maintenance of cellar or liquor store areas and equipment.

You will possess: Responsible Service of Alcohol, highly focused attitude with excellent communication skills, understanding of stock control and cash control, ready and able to learn new skills and take on extra responsibility, attention to detail and time management.

Position will start as Casual, with a view to becoming full time for the right candidate. We offer discount staff meals and internal training and development to take your career to the next level.

To apply: Phone Adrian on 07 4625 5000 or email [retail.manager@australianhotelstgeorge.com.au](mailto:retail.manager@australianhotelstgeorge.com.au)

Housekeeping (St George)

Casual

We are looking for a reliable team member to join our housekeeping team. Immediate start available. Previous Housekeeping experience in a hotel is preferred and attention to detail and high cleaning standards. We will provide in house training to enhance your skills and development. Paying the Award \$31.23 per hour for Monday to Friday rate for Casual Staff + Penalty Weekend Rates.

Call the Australian Hotel on 07 4625 5000 or email [admin@australianhotelstgeorge.com.au](mailto:admin@australianhotelstgeorge.com.au)



# Balonne Shire Job Opportunities


November 2024

<p>Council Positions Available St George &amp; Surrounds</p>	 <p><b>COUNCIL IS HIRING!</b> JOIN OUR TEAM Visit our website to find out what jobs are available. <a href="http://www.balonne.qld.gov.au">www.balonne.qld.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>Christmas Casuals (St George)</b></p>	<p><b>CORNETTS IGA</b> Casual Looking for enthusiastic staff. If you're passionate about providing great customer service, we'd love to meet you. Please drop resume in store to Stacey Brunner or Beck Mallick.</p>
<p>Store Person (St George)</p>	<p><b>AGNVET RURAL</b> Full time The primary purpose of this role is to undertake general warehousing duties, including receiving, storing and delivering agricultural products to customers. The incumbent will have specific responsibility for the maintenance of the yards, shop and warehouse areas. 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. A covering letter outlining your relevant experience should be forwarded along with your resume and two work-related referees, to jobs@pursehouserural.com.au. 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.</p>	<p><b>Produce Manager (St George)</b></p>	<p>Full Time We require a passionate leader, who is hands-on, enjoys physical work, and ensures customer satisfaction. The role is Monday to Friday, however you may be required to work a rotational roster. Please apply via SEEK: <a href="https://www.seek.com.au/job/79818651">https://www.seek.com.au/job/79818651</a></p>
<p>Male Support Worker</p>	<p><b>AHANO DISABILITY CARE SERVICES</b> Casual Seeking a 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. Accommodation may be provided. To apply, please email CV to <a href="mailto:info1@ahano.org">info1@ahano.org</a></p>	<p><b>Senior Staff (St George)</b></p>	<p>Casual Looking for senior staff to join our team. Must be reliable, available to work afternoons and weekends. Please drop resume in store to Stacey Brunner or Beck Mallick.</p>
<p>Home Care Worker St George</p>	<p><b>ANGLICARE</b> Part time You will offer essential assistance to clients, aiding them in daily tasks to maintain independence and comfort at home, including personal care, medication assistance, transportation, domestic duties, and assisting clients to meet social needs. Minimum qualifications include: Certificate III in Individual Support, Aged Care, Disability or equivalent, current National Police Certificate, current driver licence and your own reliable vehicle, immunisation against Tetanus and Hepatitis B, completion of Assist clients with medication (or commitment to obtain), completion of Recognise healthy body systems (or commitment to obtain). \$31.00-\$39.00 per hour. To apply, please email the Recruitment Team at <a href="mailto:careers@anglicaresq.org.au">careers@anglicaresq.org.au</a></p>	<p><b>Bachelor Qualified Early Childhood Teacher (St George)</b></p>	<p><b>NCC EARLY LEARNERS</b> 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. To apply, please email <a href="mailto:headofearlylearners@ncc.qld.edu.au">headofearlylearners@ncc.qld.edu.au</a></p>
<p>Mechanic (St George)</p>	<p><b>B A TIERNEY MECHANICAL</b> Permanent / Full time 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&amp;S/WHs preferred. Above award rates offered. Hourly rate will vary depending on experience. Overtime is readily available if wanted. Please email applications to <a href="mailto:batierneymechanical@gmail.com">batierneymechanical@gmail.com</a> or phone Ben on 0448 755 030.</p>	<p><b>Diploma Qualified Educator (St George)</b></p>	<p>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. To apply, please email <a href="mailto:headofearlylearners@ncc.qld.edu.au">headofearlylearners@ncc.qld.edu.au</a></p>
<p>Rural Products Sales Representative (St George)</p>	<p><b>ELDER'S</b> Permanent Full time We are looking for a person with a proven track record in sales and with seasonal and rural products knowledge to build and maintain strong relationships with clients, including finding new opportunities to explore. Must have a driver's license. Forklift license preferred, however we can support to obtain one. For more information, please phone Georgina Speedy on 0408 382 686 or please apply via SEEK: <a href="https://www.seek.com.au/job/78448818">https://www.seek.com.au/job/78448818</a></p>	<p><b>All Rounders (Nindigully)</b></p>	<p><b>NINDIGULLY PUB</b> Casual or Permanent Looking for staff to join our friendly team and legendary pub. To apply, please phone Paul Halloran on 0417 060 769</p>
<p>Kitchen Hand (St George)</p>	<p><b>GEIGERS BISTRO</b> Casual Looking for someone to join our friendly team and assist in the kitchen. To apply, please phone Luke on 0437 116 486 or email <a href="mailto:geigerbistro@outlook.com">geigerbistro@outlook.com</a></p>	<p><b>Service Technician (Field) (St George)</b></p>	<p><b>RDO EQUIPMENT</b> Full time Varied role 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, please contact the Careers Team on 1300 154 600.</p>
<p>Housekeeper (St George)</p>	<p><b>RIVERLAND MOTOR INN</b> Casual To apply, please phone Jeet Aulakh on 07 4625 1229.</p>	<p><b>Business Manager (St George)</b></p>	<p><b>RIVERSANDS VINEYARDS</b> 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. Please apply online at <a href="https://www.riversandswines.com/job-vacancies">https://www.riversandswines.com/job-vacancies</a></p>
<p><b>Service Manager (St George)</b></p>			<p><b>ST GEORGE MACHINERY CENTRE</b> 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: <a href="mailto:cameron@sgmc.com.au">cameron@sgmc.com.au</a> or call 07 4625 3633 for more information.</p>

For the People  
**Balonne Shire Council**

For more information on local jobs

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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.

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