



2025 Australia Day Award recipients celebrated in Thallon ceremony

On 26 January, residents from across the Shire gathered in Thallon Town Park to celebrate our 2025 Balonne Australia Day Award recipients.

The awards acknowledged and recognised our local citizens and groups who have made outstanding contributions to our community in categories such as sports, community events, cultural and community advocacy.

The well-deserved awards were presented by Mayor Samantha O’Toole and our Australia Day Ambassador Professor James Dale.

Congratulations to all of the nominees and winners of the Balonne Australia Day Awards for 2025, who were recognised for their talents, leadership, and community advocacy.

See page 8 for an overview of each of our award recipients.



Do you have a community story, event or notice for the next edition of the *Balonne Bulletin*?

Let us know via Email: media@balonne.qld.gov.au



What's On

AUSTRALIAN COTTON GROWER OF THE YEAR FIELD DAY

When: 5 March

Where: 'Clyde' 10360
Castlereagh Highway
Dirranbandi

The 2025 Bayer Cotton Grower of the Year Field Day celebrates excellence and innovation in cotton farming and is a great opportunity to connect with others in the industry, exchange ideas, discuss challenges, and explore partnerships to enhance cotton production.

ST GEORGE RACES

When: 8 March 2025

Where: St George Racecourse

Join us on March 8, 2025, as we celebrate a historic milestone – 150 years of horse racing in St George! Experience the excitement of country racing at its finest, with thrilling races, live entertainment, and plenty of family-friendly activities.

TRAVELLIN' STILL – THE MUSIC OF SLIM DUSTY

When: 8 March 2025

Where: St George Cultural Centre

Head along to the Cultural Centre to listen to your old favourite Slim Dusty songs

VASE PAINTING WORKSHOP

When: 5:30pm 14 March 2025

Where: Delicate Café St George

Delicate Café is holding a Vase Painting Workshop, which is sure to be a popular night for all our local budding art enthusiasts, but get in quick, as tickets are limited.

BATTLE ON THE BALONNE BACKWARDS – TRIATHLON

When: 29 March 2025

Where: St George's Terrace, St George

Whether you're a seasoned triathlete or just starting out, there's something for everyone with Olympic, Sprint, Enticer, and Kids events. Don't miss out on this epic adventure!



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR A DETAILED LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE

A message from the Mayor



Recently, our Shire received a visit from the new Queensland Premier David Crisafulli, which was the first from a sitting Premier in a long time and it was very welcomed indeed.

It is meetings like this that set the tone for positive working relationships between different levels of government and during his time here we started conversations on a range of matters that are important to our Shire.

From this initial engagement there is set to be a range of further interactions with Ministers from his government and I look forward to informing you of the positive initiatives that flow from these meetings.

While on the subject of interactions with other levels of government, over the past week the Federal Government announced a possible government takeover of Rex Airlines, in the event that administrators cannot find a party to purchase it.

Although we welcome and support the certainty that comes from such an announcement, there is a lot more detail that would have to be worked through for such a statement to become reality. As a Council, we will continue to work with other members of the South West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils to push for certainty regarding out air routes, as they are absolutely vital for our region.

Another key issue we have been discussing with both levels of government is the exorbitant increases in home insurance premiums. Each of our townships are protected from flooding by extensive levee systems and yet insurance companies are charging premium increases that ignore this fact. We have been working with both Federal and State levels of Government to ensure that this issue is addressed with urgency.

Just last week, we joined with the Regional Lifestyle Magazine to launch their Autumn Edition, which contains a lengthy feature on our Balonne Shire. This magazine contains stories on all of our communities and a broad range of our most cherished characters, attractions, businesses and industries.

This edition of the magazine is such a great portrayal of what life is like in our Shire and captures the very essence of why Balonne is such a great place to visit, live, raise a family and set up a successful business.

If you haven't already seen this edition of the Regional Lifestyle Magazine yet, I urge you to get hold of a copy at one of the locations on the back page of this Bulletin before they are all gone.

Kind Regards

Samantha O'Toole



New Premier visits the Shire

In January, our Shire had the great fortune of a visit from the newly appointed Premier of Queensland David Crisafulli and Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, Ann Leahy.

While in the Shire, the Premier and Minister met with Council to discuss a range of topics relevant to local residents such as infrastructure, housing development, emergency services, road projects, water security and crime prevention.

The Premier and Minister also visited a number of local businesses, toured the Country Universities Centre and met with community members.

Mayor Samantha O’Toole welcomed the visit, which represents the first visit to the Shire from a sitting Queensland Premier in decades.

“The Premier is clearly very attuned to the issues that matter most to residents in the Shire and it was a great opportunity to discuss funding opportunities to assist us in delivering in key areas”, said Mayor O’Toole.

“We warmly welcome the visit and look forward to working with his State Government throughout their time in office to deliver for local residents.”



RATES POP-UP SHOP

Making rates payment accessible in these locations
Cheque & Eftpos Accepted

Friday 21 February - 9am to 12pm
BOLLON LIBRARY

Tuesday 25 February - 9am to 12pm
DIRRANBANDI RTC

Wednesday 26 February - 9am to 12pm
THALLON LIBRARY



Contact Council on (07) 4620 8888 or email council@balonne.qld.gov.au for more information.



Rates Discount Period

A 10% discount is offered
to those who pay within 30 days
of the date of issue.

Rates notices were issued in the week ending
14 February 2025.

**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS
ARE UP TO DATE.**

If you do not receive your rates notice by the
end of February, please contact Council to
avoid missing discount and/or being charged
interest on unpaid rates.

For more information, contact Council on (07)
4620 8888 or email council@balonne.qld.gov.au





2024 was a great year for CUC Balonne, finishing the year with an inspirational graduation ceremony and a fabulous Campus Immersion Trip. 2025 is shaping up to be equally exciting.

Last year saw 18 local students completing their studies with 11 students able to participate in a special graduation celebration held at Riversands. We look forward to continuing to support local and visiting students.

We offer a quiet dedicated study space with reliable internet along with wrap around support for anyone studying certificate level courses or University courses and for those wanting to explore study options. All services are offered free of charge and we offer travel and resource bursaries to local students.

Since opening in 2021 we have supported over 350 students, with many graduates now working locally. As well as enriching our community and supporting individuals, one of our goals is to build a skilled locally grown workforce.

In the first week of December, we took 18 high school students from Year 7 – 9 to eight university campuses in Toowoomba, Ipswich and Brisbane. Students were from St George State High School and Dirranbandi State School. They had a fabulous time which opened their eyes to new possibilities for their futures. In the words of one student: "It was the best experience of my life." Congratulations

goes to Eliza Woodruffe our Student Engagement and Success Coordinator who meticulously organised this week long adventure. Thanks also goes to Macarlya Waters, Michael Bermingham, Kylie Hegarty, Belle Sing and our university partners who supported this project.

We have much to look forward to in the coming year. Plans are being made for the annual Cultural Blessing Ceremony, to rejuvenate and refresh our mind, body and soul for the new educational year. The 2025 Youth Summit is also well underway. This year's event, to be held on April 2, is themed to align with 2025 being the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, and we're excited to present Exploring Horizons: To Infinity

and Beyond! From circus arts combined with technology to rocket making, there are workshops planned that will appeal to all High School students. The Balonne Shire Career and Job Expo is on again in 2025 with the promise of interactive stalls from industry and education providers. This will take place on May 14.

In 2024, CUC Balonne was able to deliver extensive widening participation activities for the youth of our Shire through the Horizons program. These activities nurture the aspirations of our young people, broaden horizons and help with making dreams a reality. Sporting Horizons and the Campus Immersion Trip were examples of these highly successful events. We hope to be able to continue these activities and we are exploring sponsorship opportunities to make this possible. We are looking forward to growing our connections and work in all schools across the Shire.

If you are interested in learning more about the work of CUC Balonne, supporting our work, or would like to register please contact Elspeth Hurse, the Centre Manager at centremanager@cucbalonne.edu.au or by phoning 0409 446 421.



A Festive Boost to Local Businesses before Christmas

Council generated a successful boost to local businesses with the 12 Days of Christmas competition, which was instigated to promote local purchases in the Shire in the lead up to Christmas.

The 12 Days of Christmas campaign involved people purchasing items of a least \$10 from any business within the Shire and handing in receipts from purchases in three towns to go in the draw to win a \$400 and a \$100 Buy Balonne Gift Card.

Winners of the competition were drawn on 24 December by Council's CEO Michelle Clarke, with Elisa Toft winning the \$400 card and Courtney Atkinson jaggung the second place \$100 card.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the competition for supporting our local businesses in townships throughout the Shire and congratulations to the winners.



Balonne Active Women & Girls Program



Last year, Council was successful in achieving a Queensland Government grant to boost women's participation in sports and recreation.

This grant is all about keeping our female community active and healthy.

We sought out expressions of interest

from local fitness professionals and received a great response.

Council has now chosen and coordinated three fitness programs to kick-off in line with the grant from the Queensland Government's Active Women & Girls funding program.

We commend these programs to residents in the Shire and look forward to seeing strong local support for all of these classes.

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



ENVIRO-COLUMN

HUDSON PEAR



Hudson pear is a densely branched cactus that can grow up to 1.5 meters high and 3 meters wide. Its green to grey-green stem segments are cylindrical, up to 90 cm long, and 4 cm wide. These segments are easily detached and can be whorled or sub-whorled.

The reverse-barbed spines of Hudson pear pose a significant threat, capable of injuring livestock, humans, and native animals. This reduces or even prevents grazing activities, impacting productivity.

Classified as a category 2, 3, 4, and 5 restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014, Hudson pear must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment.

The plant spreads through small stem segments that dislodge from the parent plant when brushed against by animals, people, vehicles, or machinery. These segments take root upon contact with the ground, facilitating its spread.



RAAF brought Christmas Joy to Balonne

Balonne residents were treated to some festive cheer in the lead up to Christmas with the Royal Australian Air Force flying their C-27J Spartan into town with accompanying sporting celebrities and handing out gifts to local children.

The RAAF's 2024 Operation Christmas Hop, drew big crowds of kids and families to the St George Airport on 10 December.

Attending residents were given the rare chance to explore the imposing aircraft, chat to the RAAF team and sporting celebrities Zack Stubblety, Tanya Osborne and Tracey Thompson.

Attendees were also treated to a broad range of free sporting gifts and shoes.

A huge thank you to the RAAF team that coordinated this visit and we look forward to seeing you again later this year.

Free Welcome Packs for Our Newest Residents

Moving to a new area can sometimes be a little challenging, so at Council we've pulled together free Welcome Packs for new residents to help them settle into the Shire.

The Welcome Packs contain a list of local business and community contacts, the 2025 Major Events calendar, a Balonne Shire Council wall calendar, info brochures about the Shire's townships, an Emergency Dashboard brochure to help in times of disaster, as well as a range of other relevant information and goodies.

So, if you're new to the Shire, or your business or community group has a new employee or member from outside of the Shire, feel free grab a Welcome Pack to help them settle in.

Welcome Packs are available for pick-up at Council's main office at 112 Victoria St, St George or by calling Council on 4620 8888.

To all of our newest residents, please feel free to drop in and pick up a Welcome Pack and welcome to the Shire.



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



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 RLFC SAINTS'

Pre-season training has started for 2025, all welcome head down to Rowden Park on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6:30pm.

For more information check out the St George Rlfc Saints Facebook Page.



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

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 0427 730 984 or 0427 250 072

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

If you'd like to try your hand at more competitive swimming, the St George Swimming Club has started back up for term 1 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 or visit their Facebook Page www.facebook.com/stgeorgeswimmingclub

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



2025 Australia Day Award Recipients

...continued from cover story



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to **Sally Rigney**, who has won the Citizen of the Year Award.

Sally Rigney is a vibrant and dedicated community member from Nindigully, known for her positive personality and strong engagement.

Sally and her family run a farming and transport business, and she actively supports local groups like the Nindigully Sports Community and Thallon Progress Association.

Sally's professional credentials in-

clude roles as an ABC Radio journalist, Agri-political Communications Director, and Regional Manager within Cotton Australia.

Her innovative videos highlight local events, tourism, and employment opportunities, showcasing her passion for the Balonne Shire.

Sally's contributions, both professional and voluntary, have made a significant impact on the community.



YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to **Ashleigh Ferguson**, who has won the Young Citizen of the Year Award.

Although all nominees were outstanding, Ashleigh has made significant contributions across various fields.

During her time at St George State High School, she was an active member of the student council, in her final year being president and held the position of school captain.

Additionally, she was a member of the youth council, where she played a key role in numerous projects both

within the school and within the broader community.

Ashleigh has volunteered her time at several community events, including assisting the CWA, Meals on Wheels, children's craft activities at the library, and working at various community events.

As a CUC student ambassador, she has balanced her studies both during and after school while also working.

Ashleigh was also honoured as the Lions' Youth of the Year winner in both 2022 and 2023, and is a great role model to the youth of the Shire.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to **Win Salmon**, who has won the Volunteer of the Year Award.

There aren't many events in Shire that you don't see Win and Terry's smiling faces.

Win is the President of the Rotary Club of St George, and has been a member for over 20 years, and is also on the executive committee of Toastmasters.

She has volunteered in several roles through different groups and is always the first to put her hand up to volunteer within the community.

Her recent willingness to volunteer as a mentor to local children during Storyfest and tutoring students with literacy projects is a testament to her community spirit.

We take our hat off to you Win and thank you for all that you have done for our community over the years.



COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to the **Dirranbandi Pastoral & Agricultural Association's 100th Show**, as the winner of the Community Event of the Year Award.

The 100th Dirranbandi Show was particularly special, as it welcomed many former residents who returned to reminisce and celebrate a century of this cherished event, which was evident in it nearly doubling its number of attendees in 2024.

This remarkable event brought together the community and surrounding towns in the Shire for a weekend of entertainment and celebration.

Over its 100 years, the Dirranbandi Show has significantly benefited the community by boosting the local economy and supporting businesses.

JUNIOR SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to **Mataya Turnbull**, the winner of the 2025 Junior Sportsperson of the Year Award.

While all the nominees have shown remarkable sporting achievements, Mataya has truly distinguished herself.

In just a few months, Mataya participated in state championships for five different sporting codes, demonstrating her relentless commitment to her sports.

During 2024 Mataya's hard work and perseverance earned her a place in the Queensland Representative Merit Team for rugby league.

Mataya is the sports captain at her school and embodies the values of dedication, sportsmanship, and integrity.



SENIOR SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to **Sam Rollins**, the winner of the 2025 Senior Sportsperson of the Year Award.

During 2024, Sam competed at the Australian High School Rodeo Finals where he qualified for a spot in the Australian team for Saddle Bronc.

Whilst being a part of the Australian team, Sam travelled to the USA to compete and also undertook a significant amount of fundraising and volunteering in community before his travels.

Sam is a deserving winner of this award. Congratulations Sam!



SPORTS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to **Scott McKechnie**, the winner of the 2025 Sports Administrator of the Year Award.

Scott has been a cornerstone of our St George Rugby Union club since he became a founding member in 1983.

His dedication to the club has been unwavering over the years and, as a player, Scott contributed significantly to premiership victories.

Transitioning into a coaching role, Scott continued to lead

with distinction and has brought remarkable success to the team.

Under his guidance, in 2022, the Frillies reached the semi-finals and secured second place on the ladder and in 2023 the Frillies won the minor premiership, finishing the season undefeated at the top of the ladder.

His commitment is evident in his renowned approach to reviewing game footage, always seeking ways for the team to improve.



COMMUNITY GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to **QCWA Thallon-Daymar**, who have won the Community Group of the Year Award.

The QCWA Thallon-Daymar Branch has made significant contributions to our local community, consistently providing essential support at various events such as Christmas in the Park, the Thallon Truck Pull, the DungaDerby Car Rally, and Pub Choir Thallon, among others.

The group's members, bring incredible energy and enthusiasm to their volunteer work and are truly deserving of this recognition.

In 2024, while managing their own meetings and events like the Biggest Morning Tea and the Christmas Luncheon, the Branch also raised funds and awareness for the Dementia Foundation.

Their dedication not only enriches our community but also highlights important health issues, making a lasting impact on those they serve.

Their commitment to both local events and broader causes exemplifies the spirit of community engagement and support that defines their branch.



CULTURAL AWARD

Congratulations to **Jacob Hiles**, the winner of this year's Cultural Award.

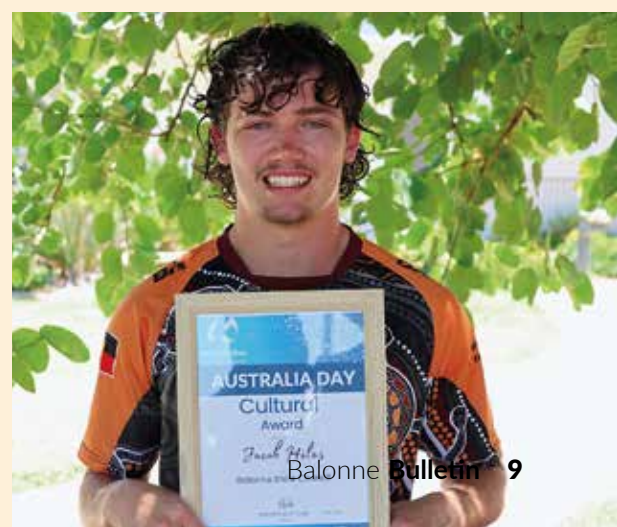
Jacob was the 2024 School Captain of St George State High School and represented his school in a variety of southwest level awards.

Jacob represented his school at both the ANZAC Day & Remembrance Day ceremonies and has regularly completed the Acknowledgment of Country at school events, encouraging his peers to follow in his footsteps.

At the high school awards night, Jacob received the Allrounder Award, recognising his achievements across a range of backgrounds, including academics, sports, community work, conduct, and leadership.

Jacob is committed to excellence, consistently displaying a willingness to help others and has made selfless contributions to the school community.

Jacob is truly a role model for his younger peers.



Australia Day Ambassador left with great memories of our Shire



Each year, our Shire hosts an Official Australia Day Ambassador to present the Australia Day Awards to our well-deserving recipients and take-in all of the attractions and great attributes our Shire has to offer.

This year we had the great fortune of hosting renowned Professor James Dale AC, who is an internationally renowned Australian agricultural scientist who has published over 80 research papers, reviews and book chapters and is the inaugural Director of the Centre for Tropical Crops and Biocommodities at Queensland University of Technology.

Professor Dale's work has also attracted funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop disease resistant banana strains in Uganda and beyond.

Professor Dale and his wife Ged, toured key industrial and farming operations in the Shire to meet with local farmers, business owners and industry representatives, as well as visit some of our most renowned local tourist attractions.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole said it was such a delight to have Professor Dale in our Shire and to hear of his globally significant accomplishments.

"We hope Professor Dale and his wife Ged, enjoyed seeing our Shire's farming and local industry operations and attractions and gets the chance to spread the word amongst his colleagues and global connections about all our Shire has to offer."



WILD DOG BOUNTY

ALLOCATION EXHAUSTED FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR

Council's 'Wild Dog Bounty' incentive scheme aims to support pest management requirements of local landholders.

Due to the success of the program, this financial year's allocation for funding has now been reached.

We regret to advise that no further reimbursements for scalps will be available this financial year.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

Green Waste

Green waste refers to general garden waste such as plants, palm fronds, tree and lawn clippings

Fines for illegal dumping are more than \$2,500 for an individual and up to \$161,300 in court and more than \$8,000 for a corporation and up to \$806,500 in court

Illegal dumping can be reported online to Council or by email.

For more information, contact Council on 4620 8888.

St George Region tourism team showcasing our Shire

Council's 'St George Region' tourism team capped off a stellar year of promoting the Shire in 2024 with 15,467 visitors, three well-deserved awards and a strong boost to its social media presence.

Since the inception of the St George Region branding, the team has been diligently unfolding a series of highly successful campaigns to bring more visitors to our Shire.

The team have also taken the region's tourism social media presence from 644 followers in 2019 to over 13,300 followers today, with 37.9% growth on their Facebook page and 12.2% increase in Instagram followers last year alone.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole is delighted with the outcome the team is achieving for the Shire.

Their highly successful 'You'll Be Hooked' campaign was recognised last year with a Silver Award at last year's Richard Power Award for Tourism Marketing and Campaigns and the St George Explore Centre was awarded Tripadvisor's Travellers' Choice Award for the fourth consecutive year", said Mayor O'Toole.

"To top this off, the efforts of our tourism team also contributed to Thallon being named the Best Grey Nomad Friendly Town in Australia and Best Grey Nomad Experience in Queensland.

"Congratulations to the team for elevating the region's profile and bringing more tourism to our Shire, along with the economic benefits that each new visitor represents for us all."



Fingerling Release Creating a Healthier River System

The St George and Districts Fishing and Restocking Club has again boosted fish stocks in the Balonne River system with the release of 40,000 fingerlings into the river on the 1 February 2025.

The fingerling release is a regular event on the Club's calendar and supports the biodiversity of the river's ecosystem with native species like Yellowbelly and Murray Cod.

This release was in addition to the 40,000 fingerlings that were released into the Balonne River in 2024 and is a testament to the club's commitment to sustainable fishing practices by further supporting the growth of the native fish population.



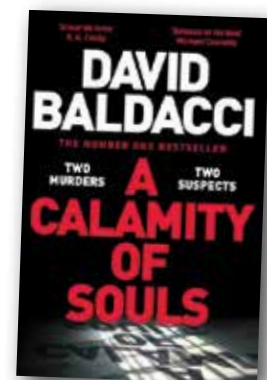
THE LIBRARY LENS

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.

Save The Date – Storyfest

Storyfest Southwest in St George, 1 September – 3 September 2025! Immerse yourself in a celebration of storytelling, creativity, and community. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details. Don't miss this unforgettable event!

BOOK of the MONTH



A Calamity of Souls by David Baldacci

In 'A Calamity of Souls,' David Baldacci explores a harrowing courtroom battle in 1968 Virginia, where two lawyers—united by their pursuit of justice—challenge a racially biased legal system. This tense, gripping novel delves deep into the complexities of race, power, and integrity, making it an essential read for fans of legal dramas and social commentary.

Roadworks UPDATE

COMPLETED WORKS THROUGH JANUARY 2025

- Chelmer Road
- Warrie Road
- Beltana Road
- Honeymah Lane
- Link Road

WORKS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

Rutherglen Road

- Expected completion: late February
- Construction is ongoing, one crew working.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

Woolerbilla Road

- Expected completion: early March
- Construction is ongoing, one crew working.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

Mitchell-Bollon Road

- Expected completion: mid-March
- Construction is ongoing, one crew working.

- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

Commissioners Point Road

- Expected completion: mid-February
- Construction is ongoing, one crew working.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

Lower Plains Road

- Expected completion: mid-February
- Construction is ongoing, one crew working.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

UPCOMING WORKS

Unity Road –

late February.

Bimbil Road –

mid-February.



Lower Plains Rd



Mitchell-Bollon Road



Rutherglen Road



Woolerbilla Road

Dirranbandi Master Plan set to shape the town's future

Dirranbandi residents have their opportunity to shape the future of their town precinct for years to come with consultation on the development of a Dirranbandi Master Plan.

Council is currently seeking community input regarding what residents would like to see occur in Dirranbandi with two stages of consultation.

The first stage of consultation has commenced with an initial consultation session that occurred on 18 February and an online survey, where residents can provide their ideas for the future of Dirranbandi.

After this first stage of consultation, a draft master plan will be developed for further community consultation.

The development of this Dirranbandi Master Plan has been made possible due to funding from the Queensland Government's Works for Queensland funding program.

**DIRRANBANDI
MASTER PLAN
INITIAL CONSULTATION SURVEY**

**Scan this QR Code
for more information**

This Master Plan is being developed thanks to funding from the Queensland Government's Works for Queensland funding program.

For more information contact Council on 4620 8888

Queensland Government
Balonne Shire Council

Dirranbandi set to welcome three new auxiliary firefighters



On 15th February, 6 participants from Dirranbandi, Bollon, Goondiwindi and Roma begin their mandatory operational firefighter training for the role of Auxiliary Firefighter with Queensland Fire and Rescue Service.

The training course runs over 5 weekends and covers training in safe working practices, operating breathing apparatus, fundamentals of urban firefighting, as well as operating response and communications systems and equipment.

Auxiliary Firefighters are paid casual, station-based firefighters who respond to emergency situations when the demand arises and are an integral part of the front-line emergency and disaster response in Queensland.

Whether they are called to help handle a bushfire emergency, or to pick up the pieces after a major flooding event – the role is crucial to protecting Queensland's people, property and environment from harm and provides an opportunity to give back to their community and earn a respected place amongst their peers.

If you are driven to lend a hand in times of need and are interested in joining the QFR team, please contact Goondiwindi Command office on 4676 6000 for more information.

Council trialling a shift to fortnightly meetings

Council is looking to change its regular monthly ordinary meeting schedule and is undertaking a 3-month trial of fortnightly ordinary Council meetings.

The aim of this initiative is to deal with the workload of Council requirements more effectively.

Council's Ordinary Meetings are open to the public and if any resident would like to visit the Council's meetings, they can find meeting dates on the Council website or can call Council on 4620 8888.

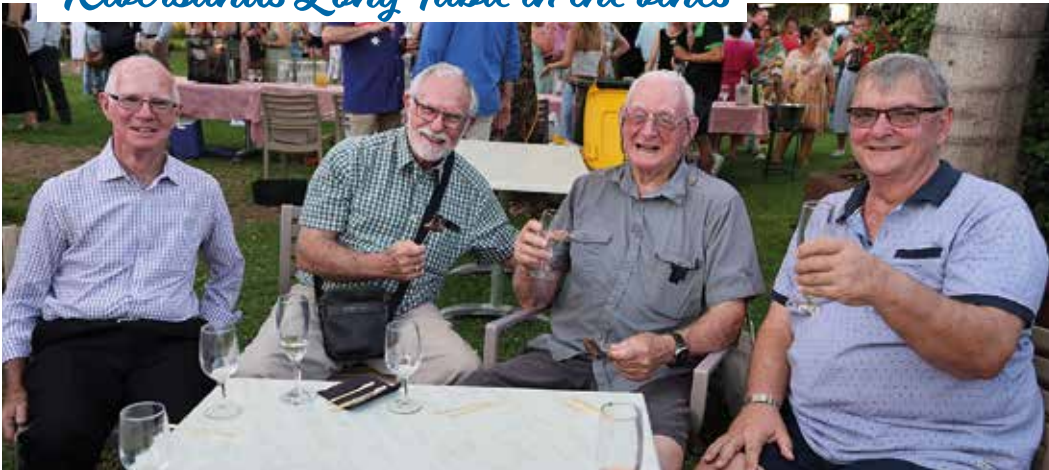


Out and About in Balonne

Regional Lifestyle Magazine Launch



Riversands Long Table in the vines



*Australia
Day Awards
- Thallon -*



Operation Christmas Hop



Regional

LIFESTYLE

AUTUMN

Balonne Council

feature

**St George, Thallon,
Nindigully, Dirranbandi,
Mungindi, Hebel, Bollon**

Available for Purchase:

- St George Foodworks - ST GEORGE
- Riverlands Motel - ST GEORGE
- Rivergum Tourist Park - ST GEORGE
- Bollon Heritage Centre - BOLLON
- Little Mulga Post Office - BOLLON
- Francis Hotel, THALLON
- Visitor Information Station, THALLON
- Rural Transaction Centre (RTC) - DIRRANBANDI
- Dirranbandi Retreat and Cabins - DIRRANBANDI
- Hebel General Store - HEBEL
- Mungindi Newsagency - MUNGINDI

\$15.00 incl GST
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VOLUME 48



BALONNE SHIRE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

In Balonne Shire we have a broad range of job opportunities, which can be found by either scanning this QR Code or going to www.balonne.qld.gov.au/Live-and-Work/My-Employment

For the People
Balonne
Shire Council

