



# Balranald Shire Council NEWSLETTER

## Wooltrack Completion

### BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL

70 Market Street  
PO Box 120  
BALRANALD NSW 2715  
[www.balranald.nsw.gov.au](http://www.balranald.nsw.gov.au)  
Office Hours  
8.30am to 5pm  
Monday to Friday  
Ph 03 5020 1300  
After Hours Emergencies  
0418 322 902

### RELATED SERVICES

#### BALRANALD LIBRARY

Monday & Friday 2pm-5.30pm  
Wednesday 9am-5.30pm  
(Closed for lunch 12pm-1pm)

#### BALRANALD VISITOR INFORMATION & DISCOVERY CENTRE

Cnr Market & River Streets  
Open Daily 10am-4pm  
Ph 03 5020 1599  
[www.visitbalranald.com.au](http://www.visitbalranald.com.au)



CountryLink tickets and fishing  
licenses can be purchased here

#### BALRANALD MUSEUM

Access via Visitor Centre, 7 days

#### SERVICE NSW (formerly RMS/RTA)

*Balranald*  
9.30am to 4pm  
Tuesday to Friday  
(Closed for lunch 1pm-1.45pm)  
*Euston*  
11.30am to 3pm  
2nd and 4th Thursday of month  
(Closed for lunch 12.15pm-1pm)  
**SNSW Call Centre 13 77 88**

#### TIP HOURS

*Balranald (all year extended trial)*  
Tuesday & Thursday  
4pm-6pm  
Saturday 10am-1pm  
Sunday 10am-3pm  
*Euston (all year)*  
Tuesday & Thursday 1pm-6pm  
Sunday 9am-3pm  
Tokens available from Council  
Office, Visitor Centre, Café  
Cassaro & Euston Post Office  
DrumMuster available @ Balranald

A significant milestone is about to be reached with the bitumen sealing of the last remaining unsealed section of the Balranald-Ivanhoe Road ("the Wooltrack"). Weather permitting, the last bitumen will be sprayed on 28 June 2019, thus successfully completing an ambitious endeavour by Council to have the work completed by the end of the 2018/2019 financial year.

The project consisted of two sections totalling 10.6km in length located approximately 180km north of Balranald which required reshaping, improved drainage, pavement strengthening and bitumen sealing at a total cost of nearly \$2.8 million. The work commenced in February and was carried out using a combination of Council staff and contractors working seamlessly together on rosters of nine days on and five days off. Crews camped at Claremont Station while working on site.

The newly constructed sections of road are separated by a 4km section of bitumen that will be widened and strengthened over the next couple of years, but for now road users have uninterrupted bitumen over the 228km between Balranald and Ivanhoe. This is expected to attract an increased volume of traffic heading to and from Queensland as well as providing a safer haul route for output from the mineral sands mines in the north of the Shire.

There were many challenges to be overcome in completing the project successfully in a very tight timeframe. These included communication difficulties from a combination of the distance away from base and the lack of mobile phone coverage, and the challenge of plant maintenance far from any mechanical support services. A lack of suitable pavement gravel within reasonable proximity was overcome by using a technique of stabilising the local gravel with cement to improve its strength.



Council's Director of Infrastructure and Development, Ray Davy, said that the successful completion of the project on time and within budget was a testament to the dedication of the Council crew and the contractors who worked with them, and thanked the many people who had provided support for the crew including local landowners who had cooperated with access to water, gravel pits and camping facilities.

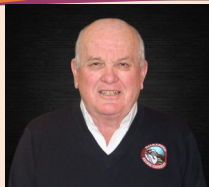
A separate project on the Ivanhoe-Mildura Road from Clare crossroads to Arumpo has also been completed to provide safer conditions for traffic on the Wooltrack heading to and from the Mildura region. The Wooltrack project was funded by the NSW Government and Mr Davy said it was hoped that the Government could now be persuaded to take over funding responsibility for the east-west "missing link" from Mossgiel to Buronga which would now experience increasing traffic volumes with the upgrading of the Wooltrack.

## Rate review means positive outcome for Balranald Shire Ratepayers

Council was required to conduct a Rate Review under the Performance Improvement Order. The new rating category structure has resulted in improved rates equalization which better reflects the use of the land. The restructure has not affected the categorisation of all ratepayers. Your annual rate notice, issued in July each year also identifies your declared rating category.

The 10% Special Rate Variation has been applied to Council's total permissible income for 2019/20. However, there has been a redistribution of rates between the categories to allow for a more fair and equitable reallocation. This may mean that your rates have varied from previous years and Council strongly recommends that you review how it may impact you. Many of the categories for General Rates still remain well under the minimum rate of \$540 as set out by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

**Continued inside.....**



## From the Mayor's Office

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with Helen Dalton, our new State Member for Murray, when she visited Balranald to meet with members of the community. I thank Helen for making the journey out to our Shire, it is pleasing to see Members maintaining engagement with community and reaching out to better understand and represent local needs.

The end of financial year brings with it the turn over of annual plans. Today is the close of the exhibition period for the *Draft 2019-20 Operational Plan* including the budget, and the *Draft 2019-20 to 2028-29 Long Term Financial Plan*. I thank those among you who have taken the time to read these documents and have made submissions. These will be discussed in detail prior to tomorrow's Extra-ordinary Meeting of Council.

The dates of the hearings for the Public Inquiry have recently been announced. The full information can be viewed on the Notice available through Council's website and at the Office. However, in brief, the hearings will be held in Council Chambers from 31 July 2019 through to 9 August 2019. Council will continue to share information with the community as it becomes available.

### **Next Ordinary Meeting of Council**

**The next meeting will be on:  
Tuesday 16 July 2019, 5pm**



## From the Youth Mayor

The Youth Council in recent weeks has not been too lively. After Youth Week's amazing success I would again like to thank all whom participated. I would particularly like to thank our adult helpers, you have all contributed so much to making the kids of the community have such a good time over Youth Week.

It's disappointing to see so much rubbish getting put into the Youth Council's recycling bins. Please respect the purpose of them being there to collect 10c recyclable products ONLY. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Best wishes

Jackson Bialobrzewski, Mayor Balranald Youth Council

### **Balranald Shire Council Signs Up For Energy Savings**

Balranald Shire Council is one of 18 to join the Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) ground-breaking program to help communities save energy and cut power bills. The OEH Sustainable Councils and Communities Program is a \$1.7 million, four-year pilot program working with resource constrained councils to help them better understand their energy use, so they can make the business case for efficiency or upgrade projects.

OEH Sustainability Programs Director, Mick O'Flynn, said: "This program is funded by the NSW Government's Climate Change Fund to help councils with limited budgets become 'investment ready' for energy saving projects which previously have been beyond their reach.

"The program will also focus on cutting energy bills for households and businesses and improving the comfort of homes for the most vulnerable. Participating councils will encourage their communities to apply for programs like the Appliance Replacement Offer and discount lighting upgrades for small businesses and households."

"There's a great desire in these local government areas to be part of a sustainable future and this program will provide the support and expert advice to help turn that desire into reality" Mr O'Flynn said.

### **Rate review... cont.**

**Residential** If you are a Residential ratepayer in the township of Balranald or Euston, there is no change to your categorisation. A new category has been created for Oxley Residential to reflect the location and nature of this township. New categories have been declared for Rural General 0-2 hectares, and Rural Residential land between 2 and 40 hectares in size and does not operate any substantial farming activity. This category effectively replaced the deleted category "Other Rural". If you were rated as "Other Rural", but engage in an ongoing farming activity, you will now be categorised in the appropriate farmland category.

**Business** In some instances some Ratepayers operating businesses on the same parcel of land as their residence were not charged the Business rate. They have now have been categorised the same as all other business operators. In general, the business category for both Euston and Balranald has decreased.

New industries which have emerged in the rural zone have brought excellent business and employment opportunities to Balranald Shire. However, the existing ratepayers should not be subsidising the additional cost to maintain Council's infrastructure and facilities in the town. As a result, there was a need to categorise these industries separately from neighbouring General Farmland.

**Farmland** As well as emerging businesses, Balranald Shire has seen the development of farmland for more intensive agricultural industries. Intensive farmland is generally identified by a large scale production of agricultural produce, labour intensive, and/or intensive land use supported by supplementary irrigation. The Shire has continued to see development of wine and table grapes and is also experiencing development of large scale orchards, including almonds and pistachios. These industries have a greater impact on Council's infrastructure compared to surrounding general dryland farming, which includes dryland cropping and grazing. Council has created a new category for Intensive Irrigable Horticulture and has levied a more equitable rate for Intensive Farmland.

**Mining** Council is provided with a value of a Mining Licence by the Valuer General for rating purposes. The value given takes into account the value of the resource and its ability to be extracted. Like the other new emerging industries, mining activities have a significant impact on Council's road infrastructure. Rates are levied accordingly.

**Pedestal charge on Commercial properties** Council, in the previous 2018/19 budget, approved the implementation of pedestal charges on all commercial properties where there are more than two cisterns and/or urinals. This charge will contribute towards the additional load on the sewer network and cost of maintaining and upgrading the network.

**Additional Water & Sewer Connections on Residential properties** This charge will impact residential units, flats and accommodation facilities as they impose a greater demand on Council's water and sewer network. Each additional unit/flat or residence on a single assessment will incur an additional 50% of the base connection size access charge for both water and sewer.

**Stormwater Levy** The stormwater levy guidelines were introduced in 2006 by the Office of Local Government in conjunction with other relevant authorities. The purpose of the levy is to manage the quantity and quality of stormwater that flows off land and manage the re-use of stormwater for any purpose. Funds raised from the levy will be utilised for projects including the improvement of street drainage. The 2019/20 financial year will be the first year this levy will be charged. Land within the urban area that is rated as Residential or Business, except for vacant land, will incur the levy. Council has proposed to charge the minimum charge of \$25 per assessment.

### **Notice to Ratepayers: Overdue Rates and Water Charges**

The 4th instalment of rates and water charges were due 31 May 2019. If you have not paid your rates and charges in full, please contact the Rates Officer to arrange a payment plan. If you pay by regular bank deposits, please ensure you are paying enough to cover the amount due. If you receive an overdue notice you need to contact Council as soon as possible to avoid legal charges. Please note that overdue accounts attract 7.5 % pa interest.



## Community Notices



BALRANALD ICPA BRANCH INVITES YOU TO

### HATFIELD HAPPENING

DATE: 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2019

HATFIELD HALL 9.30 AM

Please join us for a special day focusing on women's health and wellbeing



Coffee and tea will be provided by the salvation army



Child minding will be provided by toy library on site



### Lunch, Morning & Afternoon Tea provided

A gold coin donation for morning tea supporting the cancer councils biggest morning tea

A selection of novelty stalls will also be attending on the day for a bit of retail therapy



**Special guest speakers**  
Courtney Wakefield of the Richmond AFLW team  
&  
Natalie at Swan Yoga Bliss and Ayurveda  
Claire Butler ICPA NSW State President  
More speakers to be announced

### Free Bus Transport is available on the day from both Ivanhoe and Balranald.

Please contact Live Better community transport on 03 40224903 to book your place on the bus by the 19<sup>th</sup> July. Please contact Kathleen Harris if you would like to host a stall, or for any other information on 0428744315

## Calling all Sport & Rec Clubs

The Office of Sport is seeking to gather contact information for all Sport and Recreation Groups, so that when Grant Funding, Training Programs and other opportunities become available, we can contact you!

Please call the Kris at the Office of Sport, Western Region Office on 02 5852 6000 (leave details if after hours) or email club\_details@dubbooffice@sport.nsw.gov.au

## Community Survey

Intereach are conducting a feasibility study on the possibility of commencing a Balranald Community Service Hub and are requesting help gathering information. Online survey:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/BalranaldHaveYourSay](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BalranaldHaveYourSay)

A survey can be completed in hard copy if necessary. For further information regarding the study please contact Mardi Chartres, Phone 1300 488 226

## Little Bunyips



## Little Bunyips Open Day - 27 June 2019

Tomorrow (Thursday 27th of June) from 10am to 12noon the Little Bunyips Playgroup will be having an open morning and everyone is invited! On this morning we will also be thanking the Balranald INC Community Partnerships Committee for a grant we received from them for outdoor equipment. We encourage everyone to pop in and have a look at our great Little Playgroup and what this grant has given to the children. See you there!



## Domestic Firewood Permits – Yanga National Park

Permits are available from 1st May until 30th September 2019 for domestic firewood collection on Yanga National Park. The available firewood is from a single collection point and consists of red gum milled timber offcuts (sleeper backs). Permits cost \$25/tonne or \$12.50/tonne for pensioner concession with a limit of 6 tonne per household per year. Permits are only available to residents of Balranald and Murray River Shires.

For more information or permit applications please visit the Yanga Park Office, Homestead Precinct, Sturt Hwy Balranald or call 03 5020 1764.



## Balranald Police Update

**Police would like to remind residents to report any crime or suspicious activity to Balranald Police: 03 5020 1404, Euston Police: 03 5026 3101 or Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000.**

On 2nd May 2019 a 31 year old Torquay male was charged with Low Range PCA at Balranald Police Station. He will appear at Hay Local Court on 1st July 2019.

On 3rd May 2019 a 33 year old male from West Wodonga was charged with driving whilst disqualified. He appeared at Hay Local Court on 3rd June 2019.

On 11th May 2019 a 35 year old Balranald male was charged with Larceny. He will appear at Hay Local Court on 1st July 2019.

On 14th May 2019 a 33 year old male was charged with Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm. He will appear at court on a date to be fixed.

On 22nd May 2019 a 33 year old male from Murrin Bridge was charged with Drive with Illicit Drug Present in Blood. He will appear at Griffith Local Court on 26th June 2019.

On 22nd May 2019 a 25 year old Robinvale male was charged with Driver Never Held Licence. He will appear at Wentworth Court on 6th August 2019.

On 24th May 2019 a 31 year old male from Echuca was charged with Possess Prohibited Drug and 3 x Goods in Custody. He appeared at Wentworth Court on 4th June 2019.

On 26th May 2019 a 30 year old male from St Kilda who is working in the Balranald area was charged with High Range PCA, 1 unrestrained passenger and Not Carry Licence. He will appear at Hay Local Court on 1st July 2019.

On 27th May 2019 a 46 year old Balranald male was charged with Breaching Bail Conditions. He will appear at Hay Local Court on 1st July 2019.

On 29th May 2019 a 31 year old Robinvale male was charged with Supply Prohibited Drug, Possess Prohibited Drug and Possess Equipment for Administering Prohibited Drug. He will appear at Broken Hill Local Court on 9th July 2019.

**SAFE STORAGE INSPECTIONS FOR FIREARMS**  
Firearms owners across the district, who have not had their firearms inspected recently please contact Balranald Police Station on 03 5020 1404 or Euston Police Station on 03 5026 3101 to arrange an appointment for you inspection.



## The Balranald Hospital Auxiliary Ladies

Invites

Past Members and the General Public  
To help us Celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of Services to our Hospital

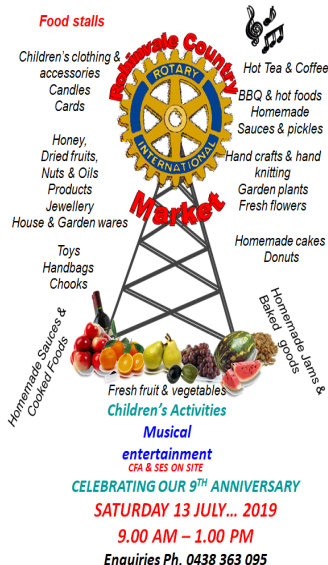
When: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at our  
Annual Ploughman's Luncheon

Where: BDES Club Function Room

Time: 12:00pm to 1:30pm

Cost: \$15.00 per person

Children Under 10 - Free



## Councilor Contact Details

Mayor  
Cr Alan Purtill  
0429 201 301

Deputy Mayor  
Cr Leigh Byron  
0418 530 782

Cr Steve O'Halloran  
0429 619 880

Cr German Ugarte  
0407 267 087

Cr Jo Roberts  
0409 147 787

Cr Trevor Jolliffe  
0408 066 460

Cr Doug Allen  
0421 526 671

Cr Jeff Mannix  
0409 783 075

### Changed Traffic Conditions

Roads and Maritime Services advise of changed traffic conditions on **Swan Hill Bridge** for essential maintenance work.

The bridge will be temporarily closed **Monday to Thursday nights, between 11pm and 6am from Monday 29 April to the end of August 2019**. The work involves strengthening the bridge structure to remove the current width restriction.

Motorists will be detoured via Nyah Bridge on the Speewa Road.

**Heavy vehicle restrictions will apply** throughout the work to protect Swan Hill Bridge from heavy loads. The bridge will be restricted to semi-trailers at 42.5 tonnes, with B-doubles prohibited. The 24-hour detour for B-doubles is via Tooleybuc Bridge. Please refer to NSW heavy vehicle maps.

Sensors & cameras will monitor the bridge's load capacity and heavy vehicle inspectors will have an increased presence in the area to monitor compliance. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

### DISCLAIMER

Balranald Shire Council reserves the right to edit or rewrite submissions for grammar, style and clarity or to conform to restrictions of space. Council makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of this information and does not accept responsibility for errors or omissions contained within this publication. If you are aware of errors please notify Council by email: [council@balranald.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@balranald.nsw.gov.au) or phone 03 5020 1300.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

27 June Little Bunyips Open Day

6-9 July Balranald Pony Club Camp

11 July Balranald Hospital Auxiliary - Annual Ploughman's Luncheon - BDESM Club Function Room

21 July Balranald Motocross Round 4

23 July Hatfield Happening

### Save the Date!

12 Oct The Great Murray River Salami Festival on the Euston Club Riverfront Lawns Saturday October 12th 2019. 10am to 4pm. \$2K Prize Money for Best Salami. Visit [murrayriversalamifestival.com.au](http://murrayriversalamifestival.com.au) to download entry forms or pick up entry forms from the Euston Club Resort, Swan Hill Wholesalers or Mallee Meats & More Mildura.

30 Nov St Joey's Fete

### What's on at Balranald Club

Mondays Members Seniors \$5 lunch

Mon - Fri \$10 lunch 12-2pm

Tue & Thu Bingo: Tuesdays 7pm, Thursdays 2pm

Fridays Smorgasbord from 6pm, Raffle and Members Draw LTPS/14/02429

Saturdays Free Poker 6.30pm registration 7pm start

### Also Available @ The Club:

BISTRO SPECIALS – Every Tuesday \$15 Homemade Chicken Parm. Every Thursday Homemade chicken Snitzel with gravy \$12. Every month, 2nd and last Sunday, Roast Lunch only \$15. New Australian dishes available in the Bistro. Don't forget our regular facilities Keno, TAB, Coffee Shop. Reminder that Fishing Licenses, Pre-paid mobile phone credit and city-link passes and a host of other pre-paid facilities can be purchased at the Club. Printing & Fax Services are available, plus we now offer hire on equipment such as PA system, tables, chairs, and a host of other goods...ask at the office to make arrangements and find out what is now available. Internet facilities available at the Club – Come on in and connect with your friends & family or simply do some surfing with the FREE WiFi.

Come and join the sewing Group every 2nd week on Sundays.

Membership is only \$10\* until 30/6/20 to take advantage of member only benefit \*+joining fee Being a member you can get a discount at the bar & bistro along with swipe & win in-house vouchers UNDER 18'S are allowed in most areas of the club except TAB and Pokie Area and they must be in the company of a responsible adult and must be supervised at all times.

[facebook.com/clubbalranald](https://www.facebook.com/clubbalranald)



### What's on at Euston Club Resort

7 Days/week Station46 Bistro open daily - Breakfast Mon-Thurs 7am-9.30am & Fri 7am-10am Sat & Sun 7.30am to 10.30am, Lunch 12pm - 2pm, Dinner 6pm-8.30pm. Café open all day Free Bingo Mon 10.15am Thurs 7pm Poker Tues from 6.30pm Sun from 6pm Raffle night & Members Draw from 6pm Members Cash & Prize Draw from 6pm-8pm Social Bowls. Registration 9.45am for 10am Start - call John Bond on 5026 4244 Free Live Entertainment from 7.30pm MEGA Raffle last Wednesday of month

[facebook.com/eustonclubresort](https://www.facebook.com/eustonclubresort)



FREE live entertainment Friday & Sat from 7.30pm

## COMMUNITY GENERAL INTEREST

**Swim Club**—Tuesdays 4.15pm—6pm, training Tuesdays, Club Swims once a month. Contact Lou Ph 0409 026 881

**Adult Day Care** Monday 10am-2pm, Thursday 10am-2pm at the Hospital. Contact 03 5071 9800

**Seniors Club** every Friday 2pm Senior Citizens Hall

**Hospital Auxiliary** 2nd Monday of month 2.30pm, Adult Day Care Centre. Contact Karen 0404 842 037

**Health Advisory Council (HAC)** 4th Monday of month 7:00pm. Contact 03 5071 9800

**Baby & Child Clinic** Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri—Balranald Tue - Euston

**Balranald Immunisation Clinic** every 2nd Wed 9.30-11.00am at the Hospital. 0427 699 485 to book

**Little Bunyips Playgroup** each Thursday 10am to 1pm - corner of Market and River Street. Contact Jess 0488 697 533

**Singing Group** Friday 1.30pm Presbyterian Church all welcome

**Men's Shed** Tuesdays & Thursdays 8am at Heritage Park (behind Visitor Information Centre)

**Take Off Weight Naturally Club** Mondays 6pm, Multi-purpose Centre. Contact Betty 0417 589 284

**Optometrist** (from Deniliquin) last Wednesday of month. Appointments made at Balranald Chemist

**Balranald Wool Centre** 3rd Friday of month, 10am - 3pm at the Gallery. New members welcome

**Balranald Community Arts & Crafts** Open most weekdays 10am - 4pm or by appointment. Meetings 3rd Monday of month, 2pm at the Gallery.

**Narelle's Driving School** Contact 0402 782 597

**Balranald History Group** 4th Tuesday of month from 5pm, Theatre Royal Ticketing Office

**Can Assist Balranald Branch** meeting 2nd Monday of the month 4p.m. at the Book Shop 92a Market Street. The Second-Hand Book shop will be open when volunteers are available. Contact numbers for the book shop are Connie on 0400 123940 and Tina 03 5020 6832. (Can Assist is a confidential service).

**Vision Australia** - Phone Yann 03 5023 9500

**Sureway Employment & Training** Tuesday & Wednesday 8.30am-5pm. Contact 03 4028 4900

**Balranald Presbyterian Church** - Monday Ladies KYB 7.30pm @ the hall, Thursday Music group worship prep 5.30pm, Men's KYB 7.30pm @ the Manse, PWA (last Thurs month) 2pm, Friday Ladies KYB 10am @ the Manse, Youth Bible Study 7.30pm (school terms), Sunday Prayer meeting 9.15am (Sunday school room), Worship service 10am. Contact Dennis Rayson 0428 830 276

**Balranald Rescue Squad** meet 3rd Thursday of month, 8pm, Rescue Squad headquarters.

**Friends of the Southern Cross Market Day** - Last Saturday of month—Woodsys corner 8.30am

**LiveBetter Community Transport** for non-urgent transport. Contact Connie on 0428 335 711

**Ability Links** Balranald Wednesday's - phone 0487 740 000

**ROAR – Reach Out and Relax** Last Tuesday of month. Contact Chris 0428 096 462

**Pony Club** please contact Emma Scott