# BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER ISSUE 11 - November 2019 Wishing all resider

Wishing all residents and visitors a very Merry Christmas

\$ Happy New Year from all the staff at Balranald Shire Council



# BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL 70 Market Street **PO Box 120** BALRANALD NSW 2715 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 SERVICE** BALRANALD LIBRARY Monday & Friday 2pm-5.30pm Wednesday 9am-5.30pm 🥸 (Closed for lunch 12pm-1pm) BALRANALD VISITOR **INFORMATION &** DISCOVERY CENTRE Enr Market & River Streets Open Daily 10am-4pm Ph 03 5020 1599 www.visitbalranald.com.au CountryLink tickets and fishing licenses can be purchased here BALRANALD MUSEUM ccess 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 tria) Tuesday & Thursday 4pm-6pm Saturday 10am-1pm Sunday 10am-3pm Euston (all year) wesday & Thursday 1pm-6pm Sunday 9am-3pm Tokens available from Council 🔊 Office, Visitor Centre, Café 💓 Cassaro & Euston Post Office

# Water Quality in Balranald

Council is aware of concerns regarding the water quality in Balranald at the moment. Please be assured that although aesthetically less pleasing the <u>water is still safe</u>. Council adheres to NSW Health Guidelines and Australian Drinking Water Standards. Our water is regularly tested both onsite and at independent labs to check its compliance. With the current decline in river water quality Council has increased the onsite monitoring with multiple samples tested daily.

We are experiencing unpleasant taste and odour in the filtered water as a result of weir pool offtake and warmer weather. The conditions lead to raised levels of Geosmin and MIB. These are naturally occurring compounds that have a very strong, earthy taste and odour, however are not harmful.

As we come into warmer weather we will again be facing the challenges of blue-green algae affecting the water supply as it did last summer. Council asks for your understanding as our water team adjust water treatment to maintain water safety. Algal blooms will require the filtered water to be treated by carbon dosage to ensure it is safe for residents to drink, it will result in a change in taste and smell of the filtered water supply. Council will share blue-green algae alerts as they are received.

Water NSW website has the most up to date information regarding algae alerts: <u>https://www.waternsw.com.au/water-quality/algae</u> currently (13/12/2019) the status is as follows:

" Murrumbidgee at Redbank Weir Buoy: RED

Red alert levels represent 'bloom' conditions. The water may appear green and may have strong, musty or organically polluted odours. Blue-green algae may be visible as clumps or as scums. The 'blooms' should be considered to be toxic to humans and animals, and the water should not be used for drinking (without prior treatment), stock watering, or for recreation."

# Keep Us Safe

New Year's Eve celebrations are a lot of fun for people, but not so much for many of our furry friends. To help keep your pets safe this New Year's Eve we recommend these tips:

- Keep pets secure and **indoors where possible** (give them a toilet break first to avoid accidents). Make sure all windows/doors are securely closed. If they must be outside, lock your gate and check your fences ahead of the event.
- Give them a safe place to hide
- Use ambient noise (e.g. tv/stereo) to mask the bangs
- Keep them busy, e.g. treat dispensing toys
- Take them for a walk or engage in some play time to tire them before the fireworks
- Remove any sharp objects on which they may injure themselves if panicked
- Update your microchip details (this can now be done online if you sign up <u>https://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au/</u>) *AND* if your pets have an ID tag, check it's still attached and also up to date. If you don't have tags on their collars, a keytag label is a very cheap way to give your pets an instant ID. *Just in case, better safe than sorry*.

## Council Services over the Christmas/New Year period:

**Balranald Shire Office**: close 5pm Friday 20 December 2019, reopening 8.30am Monday 6 January 2020. To report emergencies PH 0418 322 902

**Service NSW (Balranald)** close 4pm Friday 20 December 2019, reopening 9.30am Tuesday 7 January 2020. Enquiries 13 77 88.

**Balranald & Euston Depots**: close 5pm Friday 20 December 2019, reopening 8.30am Monday 6 January 2020.

**Balranald Library**: close 5.30pm Friday 20 December 2019, reopening 2pm Monday 6 January 2020. Don't forget to grab some books for holiday reading!!

**Balranald Pool** during school holidays is at public holidays hours: 11am to 8pm Tues-Sun.

**Balranald VIC** closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, all other days trading usual hours.

**Balranald Landfill** will be open regular hours. **Euston Landfill** closed Boxing Day (skip provided beside entrance) all other days trading usual hours. **Garbage bin collection will be as normal.** 





# From the

Mayor's Office

Wishing all residents and visitors a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Recently I have met with Superintendent Smith, I am pleased to see new a new constable assigned to Balranald, to start in January.

I am incredibly disappointed to see Yanga dry, I have been attempting to gain an appointment with the Premier and Minister for Environment, unfortunately I have been unable to arrange anything yet. I have also approached the Mayor of Murray River Shire to help and they are quite prepared to join me at the meeting should we be successful in gaining an appointment.

If you are travelling these holidays I wish you safe travels. For those staying locally, please be sure to enjoy the many events being held by local organisations. Finally, I look forward to working with community in the new year delivering projects to enhance community and economic opportunities.

#### <u>Next Ordinary Meeting of Council</u> The next meeting will be on:

18 February 2020, 5pm (TBC) in Council Chambers





Hi all,

On Thursday 5th December 2019, the Youth Council held its annual general meeting, we officially held our elections for Youth Mayor, Deputy Youth Mayor and Youth Council Treasurer. I am pleased to report I, Jackson Bialobrzeski, was re-elected Youth Mayor, unopposed, Ben Johnstone was re-elected Deputy Mayor in a close ballot against Mason Dalton, and Philipa Gaston and Skarlette Kitzelmann were both elected as co-treasurers of the Youth Council.

Youth Council recycling bins have been emptied! Please remember that any donations of 10c recyclable bottles and cans are all appreciated, our bins are located at Balranald Shire Council depot and the Balranald Caravan Park.

As I mentioned in the last meeting, we will be hosting a pool party, I have further details for the event below:

Wednesday 18th December 2019 from 3pm

Free pizza & free drinks

Team sports will be arranged by the Youth Council, participants must arrange teams of four with no more then one adult

Remember to wear sunscreen!

As the year comes to an end remember to have a very safe and happy Christmas, and look forward to a year, and indeed a new decade.

-Jackson Bialobrzeski, Mayor, Balranald Youth Council

# **Donation Applications Reminder**

Council considers donation applications twice per financial year, in August and February. For the 2019/20 financial year round two applications will close at 5pm 31st January 2020 to be reported to the February 2020 Council meeting. Should you or your club be intending to apply this financial year please be mindful of this timeframe. Any applications for financial assistance, subsidies or sponsorship must be submitted in accordance with Council's *Donations, Subsidies & Financial Assistance Policy*. To view the policy and download the application form please visit Council's website

http://www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/council-documents/requestforfunding/

or contact the Council Office in person, via phone or email.

# Get ready for summer

Aussie summers are iconic. They can also be tragic.

Each year, communities across NSW experience bushfires, home fires, floods, storms, heatwaves, power outages and other emergencies.

It's always important to be aware of and prepared for seasonal hazards, whether you're at home or away on holidays.

Get ready for summer now using the five simple steps in the below graphic.

Have fun and stay safe.

# Get Ready for Disasters

	<b>1. Know your risk</b> Think about the area you live in and the types of disasters that could affect you.	
	<b>2. Plan now for what you will do</b> Sit down and talk with your family and plan for what you will do if a disaster affects your area.	
	<b>3. Get your home ready</b> Prepare your home by doing general home maintenance and checking your insurance.	
0	<b>4. Be aware</b> Find out how to prepare and what to do if there is a disaster in your area. Connect with NSW emergency services to stay informed.	
	<b>5. Look out for each other</b> Share information with your family, friends, neighbours and those who may need assistance.	



emergency.nsw.gov.au/getready



# <u>The Year Ahead: 2020</u>

# Australia Day Celebrations - Sunday 26 January 2020



IN BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL

BALRANALD Greenham Park Hall Church Street Commencing at 8am Free BBQ Breakfast Flag Raising Ceremony Citizenship Ceremony Australia Day address by Ambassador TBC Affirmation Ceremony Presentation of Australia Day Awards EUSTON Euston Recreation Reserve Cary Street

Commencing at 12.30pm Free BBQ Lunch Flag Raising Ceremony Citizenship Ceremony Australia Day address by Ambassador TBC Affirmation Ceremony Presentation of Australia Day Awards

# Seniors Week 2020!

Get your flapper dresses and gangster suits ready, in February 2020 Council will be bringing the "Roaring '20s" back! Join us for our annual Seniors Festival Luncheon, adorned in all the glitz and glamour of *The Great Gatsby*!

The Seniors Week Luncheon is for all Balranald Shire residents who are aged 60 years and over, or Aboriginal / Torres Straight Islander 50 years or over, or over the age of 50 and have a life-long disability. Please note, Council will no longer be mailing out personalised invitations, rather posters will be displayed around town and the invitation with all the details will be in the January 2020 newsletter. So keep a look out for the call for registration and be sure to register your attendance by the due date.



We look forward to seeing you there!

#### Youth Week 2020!

Balranald Shire's Youth Week 2020 Celebrations will be by youth, for youth. To be held in the first week of April this will be an awesome event for all Balranald Shire Youth aged 12-25.

If you would like to get involved in Youth Council, with the opportunity to shape issues for the youth in our district and to be part of the committee organising Youth Week 2020, please talk to one of the current Youth Councillors.

The Youth Council AGM was held on 5 December 2019 and for the 2020 term Jackson Bialobrzeski was relected as Youth Mayor and Ben Johnstone re-elected as Youth Deputy Mayor. Skarlette Kitzelmann and Phillipa Gaston have been elected as joint-treasurers.

## GRANTS

The below grant projects were commenced in 2019 and the projects shall be completed in 2020:

## **Bidgee Haven extension**

From the Australian Government Department of Health through the *Aged Care Approvals Round* Council has secured \$4.68million funding for a significant expansion to the Bidgee Haven Retirement Hostel and to incorporate a much needed 15 bed High Dependency Unit to enable more elderly residents of the Shire to remain in our community close to their families and friends.

# **Market Revitalisation**

This project only broke ground in late 2019 but it has been a flurry of activity and is hurtling towards completion. It is anticipated main construction will be completed by February 2020, with the final plant out of trees and garden beds in April 2020.

#### **Balranald Riverfront**

With funding under "Our Region Our Rivers" Council has big plans to provide interactive facilities for locals and tourists to engage in our riverfront environments - both in Balranald and Euston - and utilise amenities that promote wellness. Items to be installed include riverside furniture and fitness stations, signage (notifying ecological and cultural assets), all access township side cycle/walkways, and first-stage place-making. This will also involve a second swing bridge!!

## 2019 in review:

Council has had a massive year, with many accomplishments. We are proud to share the below summary with you.

# **Rate Review**

Council's finance department undertook a rates review, checking each assessment in our Shire. Council was required to conduct this Rate Review under the Performance Improvement Order issued by the Office of Local Government. The new rating category structure has resulted in improved rates equalization which better reflects the use of the land; a fairer system for all.



# Youth Council

In 2019 Council worked with our Youth Council to deliver a Youth Week program founded in the voice of our regions youth. Our community minded, strong spirited members of the Youth Council gave representation to what the youth want to do during the annual celebration and brought to life a series of fun events; cupcake making, chalk street art and an outing to Mildura to take advantage of the cinema and bowling alley.

## Beautification

Council undertook varied beautifying projects this year, including the installation of Metal Art in Medley Park, a kangaroo figure that is an eye catching piece paying tribute to the wildlife we are so lucky to see in the country.

# Tourism

Council had another big year in tourism, with an 18% increase in visitor numbers. The highlight this year was a joint venture with National Parks and Destination Riverina Murray to engage with We Are Explorers. The We Are Explorers project has resulted in some spectacular images and footage of Balranald, and Yanga & Mungo National Parks. If you haven't yet seen this, it's worth googling!

The Balranald Visitor Information Centre was successful in the renewal of accreditation, a key asset for tourism.



Council has adopted new technology in 2019 that has led to better efficiencies and more modern facilities for customers.

Council has introduced public WiFi at the library and Visitor Information Centre, with new devices allowing improved speed, connection stability and secure browsing for guests. Council has also introduced WiFi access for the residents of Bidgee Haven, facilitating improved digital access for those seeking to take advantage of features such as media streaming and video-calling on their personal devices.

Council has transitioned onboard the Department of Planning's new Online Concurrence and Referral service, allowing for streamlined development application processes, now being completed through an online portal to which customers and agencies interact. This is a step forward in digitising planning processes and facilitates councils and State agencies working together more efficiently.

Council has archived it's physical files, marking a huge milestone as we move ever more rapidly towards a fully digital environment. Council's growing adoption of an electronic records management system reflects the value of information management in the digital age, allowing faster retrieval and utilisation of information and streamlining workflows in the demanding environment of local government, for overall improved performance.

## GRANTS

Council secured a grand total of <u>\$23.6 million</u> in grant funding this year. Below are some of the grant funded projects that have been completed in 2019, over the page are those we look forward to bringing to fruition in 2020.

## Wooltrack Project

The bitumen sealing of the last remaining unsealed section of the Balranald–Ivanhoe Road, "the Wooltrack" 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 completion of this project has achieved a much improved travel route, for tourists, locals and haulage.

## **Truck Wash**

This project involves the construction of a new truck washdown facility together with a sealed access road from Moa Street. The newly upgraded truck wash facility has a sealed loop, a ride-over apron, AvData, double wash station and LED lighting tower supporting freight business through our region.

## Janelle Masters Pool Upgrade

The pool revitalisation project has delivered a refurbished kiosk and change rooms, a new disabled toilet/shower, BBQs and three new shade structures. A huge win for our community.

## **Euston Parks**

With thanks to the Club Grants program, Council has purchased and installed wave seats at Medley and Centenary Parks. Improving amenity for residents seeking to spend time in our public spaces.





Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all at the Can Assist Balranald Branch Thank you to everyone for your generous support during 2019

Life can be tough. Call your energy provider if you need help paying your electricity or gas bills – you may qualify for a hardship program.



Scam Alert: Scammers impersonating the ATO

Scammers are particularly active at this time of year because people are expecting the outcome of their tax return. Over the past year we have seen an increased number of reports of scammers contacting members of the public pretending to be from the ATO by phone, email and SMS.

• The ATO will never send you an email or text with a hyperlink directing you to a page to collect personal or financial information. Always access online services through the official app or website.

• Know your tax affairs – you can log into ATO online services through myGov to check your tax affairs at any time, or you can contact your tax agent or the ATO.

• If you're unsure about whether a call, text message or email is genuine, don't reply. Call our dedicated scam hotline on **1800 008 540**.

• Know legitimate ways to make payments - scammers may use threatening tactics to trick their victims into paying false debts in pre-paid gift cards or by sending money to non-ATO bank accounts. To check that a payment method is legitimate, visit <u>ato.gov.au/howtopay</u> To see out latest alerts and for more information visit <u>ato.gov.au/scams</u>

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# BALRANALD MEN'S SHED CHRISTMAS LUNCH

# 25/12/2019

There will be a Christmas dinner cooked at the

# **CLUB AUDITORIUM**

All people that have no family's, or Nowhere to go, on the day, you are welcome to come along

Also, for people traveling through the town of Balranald, you will be welcome to have a break and have Christmas with us,

We will be open from 12 noon, PLEASE Ring

Bill Hargrave, on [040 8829 128] and let him know who is coming by the 20/12/2019 THANK YOU

Police

# Balranald & Euston Police Update

On 3rd November 2019 a 36 year old male from Queensland was charged with supply cannabis (indictable/commercial quantity). He failed to appear at Hay Local Court on 2nd December 2019 where a warrant was issued for his arrest. On 5th November 2019 a 63 year old male from Balranald was charged with Assault. He will appear at Hay Local Court on 5th June 2020. On 9th November 2019 a 19 year old Balranald male was charged with Assault, Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm. On 9th November 2019 a 50 year old female from Balranald was charged with High range PCA. She appeared at Wentworth Local Court on 3rd December 2019 where she was given a Community Corrections Order, Disqualified from driving for 6 months and participate in alcohol interlock program for 2 years. On 21st November 2019 a 50 year old female from Balranald was charged with Contravene AVO and assault. She appeared at Wentworth Local Court and was given a Community Corrections Order for 18 months. On 23rd November 2019 a 37 year old male from Manangatang was charged with Mid Range PCA. He will appear at Wentworth Local Court on 7th January 2020. On 26th November 2019 a 22 year old male from Robinvale was charged with drive under the influence of alcohol/other drug. He will appear at Wentworth Local Court on 7th January 2020. On 27th November 2019 a 38 year old Balranald male was charged with Contravene AVO. He will appear at Hay Local Court on 6th January 2020. On 28th November 2019 a 54 year old male from Balranald was charged with Assault occasioning actual bodily harm, use offensive weapon and stalk/intimidate. He will appear at Hay Local Court on 6th January 2020. 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. Police would like to remind residents if you see or hear anything suspicious to call Police immediately. Reports can also be made to CrimeStoppers on 1800 333 000 if you wish to remain anonymous.

# ouncillor 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

# BIN COLLECTION

As previously advised, waste must be confined to allow the bin lid to fully close at the kerbside pickup.

Overfilled bins result in littering and will not be collected by the contractor. Waste placed on the ground around the bin <u>will not be</u> <u>collected.</u>

Please ensure your bin is put out on the kerb the night before collection.

#### Balranald: Mondays

#### Euston: Fridays

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Residents are encouraged to make use of the various Youth Council collection points for recyclable bottles and cans.

Christmas/New Year Holidays

Residents are advised that the Christmas/New Year sholidays will not affect bin collection dates in Balranad or Euston.

# Disclaimer

Shire Balranald Counell reserves the right to edit or ewrite submissions foi grammar, style and clarity or to conform to restrictions of space Council makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of this Sinformation and does not accept responsibility for errors omissions contained within this publication. If you are aware of errors please notify Councilyby email:

Tues / Sun

Thu/ Fri

Sun/Wed

Fri & Sat

Sun

5026 4244

7.30pm.

Wednesday

omphone 03 5020 1300.



Poker Tues from 6.30pm Sun from 6pm

Raffle night & Members Draw from 6pm

Free Live Entertainment from 7.30pm

MEGA Raffle last Wednesday of month

Sundays on the deck - Live music from

12.30-4.30pm. Subject to change.

facebook.com/eustonclubresort

Members Cash & Prize Draw from 6pm-8pm

Social Bowls. 9.30am start call John Bond on

FREE live entertainment Friday & Sat from

# 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

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

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 midday - corner of Market and River

Street. Contact Amy 0417 519 051 Singing Group Friday 1.30pm Presbyterian Church all welcome

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

Take Off Weight Naturally Club Mondays 6pm, Multipurpose 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 Tuesday 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. Executive Committee 2019/20: Connie Rasmussen( President), Tina Powis (Secretary), Chantel Wrenn (Treasurer). 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). Patient Assistance – 0474 928919. 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 nonurgent transport. Contact Connie on 0428 335 711

Ability Links Balranald Wednesdays - phone 0487 740 000

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