

BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3/2020 - MARCH

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Next Ordinary Meeting of Council: 5pm, 21 April 2020

Since taking on the Administrator's role, I have invested a lot of time meeting many Shire residents and I want to thank everyone for being so kind and welcoming towards me. I have held four "Meet the Administrator" sessions in Balranald and one in Euston (with another scheduled there in April). I met another group at the Clare school and another at the Homebush Hotel. I have walked the CBD in Balranald calling in on the local business owners to introduce myself and I have met some of the industry leaders in Euston. I have also met with quite a few town and rural residents by appointment, some individually and others in small groups. I have met the Balranald swimming club and in the next week or two I will be meeting other local sporting groups and schools. I am interested in gaining an understanding of their needs and use of community sporting facilities.

While out inspecting the local road network, I have looked at road pavements and culverts and it is self-evident that roadworks are a very significant priority for us. I've inspected the town streets and been out to the far reaches of the Shire – including to Mungo National Park, Oxley, and to the northern road boundary. I have also inspected other Council infrastructure and services – water supply and sewerage infrastructure, pools, parks and reserves, the library and Discovery Centre.

A draft community engagement strategy was considered at the March Council meeting and is currently on public exhibition. Due to the impacts of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) and the advice provided by the State and Federal Government, Council will be holding the planned Community engagement process via a Live Video Presentation and through the use of an online survey tool.

Over the next three months Council will be reviewing its Operational Plan, then developing its Delivery Program and Revenue Policy for 2020-2021. Drafts of these will come to me for consideration at the May Council meeting on 19 May followed by a 28-day exhibition period to obtain public comment, before finalising them at the June Council meeting (16 June). The Revenue Policy will establish Council's rates and charges for 2020-2021. It contains impacts for all ratepayers. I would appreciate receiving your views on the draft policy when it goes on exhibition.

All properties in the Shire have undergone revaluation by the Valuer-General and by now you should have received your revaluation notices from the Valuer General. The revised valuations will be used to calculate your 2020-2021 Council rate assessments. Your valuation notice will advise you how to object to a valuation if you wish to do so. Information about the valuation process received from the Valuer-General can be found on Council's website.

Shortly Council executives and I will be engaging with the community to finalise the advisory committee framework. Some of you have mentioned concerns to me that committees will be curtailed while Council is under administration. The rumours about this are not correct. There will be advisory committees, and these will channel community opinions and feedback into Council's strategic decisions. We will publicise when our community engagement on this is about to occur so that you can participate if you are interested.

Many of you have mentioned the Balranald Caravan Park to me. I understand this has been a contentious and difficult subject for the community, but you have told me that "it now is what it is", that I need to focus on its future, and that you want it to prosper. I am concentrating on this now and giving it the priority that you are telling me it should be given.

Above all, my highest priority is to restore community confidence in Council, so I need a baseline measurement of the current community confidence level. Shortly a survey will be undertaken to derive this which will be compared against measurements at future intervals to ascertain the extent to which we have improved. You will hear more about how this will occur soon.

Mike Colreavy
ADMINISTRATOR

E: mcolreavy@balranald.nsw.gov.au
P: 03 5020 1300





Hi all,

It is with much disappointment that I have to announce the cancellation of Youth Week (scheduled from April 1-9), due to the pandemic, we have been forced to do so. But along with this I announce that the youth council logo re-design drawing competition deadline has been extended, the new due date will be Thursday 9 April 2020.

In the coming weeks, the Youth Council will launch an official public Facebook page. Please stay tuned for future updates.

We would like to thank all those whom have donated to our recyclable drink container points, we will be continuing this programme into the future, with the help of some of our very fine locals. Proceeds for this fundraiser go towards continued youth council action into the future.

Towards the end of the year, will celebrate mental health week. We would love to hear your suggestions on the topic. Please talk to one of your local youth councillors, or email us at YouthCouncil@balranald.nsw.gov.au with your suggestions.

That's all from me!

-Jackson Bialobrzewski, Mayor, Balranald Youth Council

New look newsletter!

You may have noticed the newsletter has had a shake-up.

One of the strongest pieces of feedback from the community has been the request for more information from Council. Another request has been to assist our local agencies in sharing their information.

In support of this, Council is devoting more print space to sharing Council information, and a dedicated page for agency news, this month that is the Balranald Health Service.

This has in turn meant the removal of some other sections, namely the calendar of events, and the general interest column. Council will still provide for the sharing of this information, however this will now be through our website, and in print form at the library!

If you have any feedback on these changes, please share it with us via email: council@balranald.nsw.gov.au

Council Projects

Main Street Revitalisation

The Market Street Revitalisation is in the home stretch and it is so exciting to see the project coming together. Street furniture has recently been installed (pictured below) and has added incredible amenity to our CBD, inviting locals and visitors alike to take a break in the main street and linger awhile in our beautiful township.

The furniture is sharp and vibrant while retaining an earthy feel, the beautiful river design across the seat backs pays homage to our region's stunning natural assets. This theme carries through in the design of the new median strips. The artistic design here was created by gifted local artist Louise Murray, who has applied her talent to style the inlays with an indigenous "Murrumbidgee river meander" design. This work seeks to embrace our community's identity as a river town. Taking the forms of yabby, cod, yellow belly, long-necked turtle and river swirls.

The Senior Citizens parklet is nearing completion. The installation of Southern Bell Frog play structure, "Swampy", has been completed (pictured below, middle image). The custom shelter for the large double-sided bench, overlooking the play sculpture, and a notification Southern Bell sign are scheduled to be installed within the next few weeks.

Tree planting is set to be completed in early April, subject to weather, in the following locations:

- The Avenue trees (evergreens) along Market Street
- The Theatre Royal garden (deciduous trees)
- Senior Citizens plaza/parklet (deciduous trees)



Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses known to cause respiratory infections. These can range from the common cold to more serious diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). This new coronavirus originated in China and the disease caused by the virus is named COVID-19.

While coronavirus is of concern, it is important to remember that most people displaying these symptoms are likely suffering with a cold or other respiratory illness – not coronavirus.



Clean your hands



Cover your coughs and sneezes



Stay at home if sick



www.health.nsw.gov.au

Practise simple hygiene by washing hands regularly



Social distancing means we reduce the number of close physical & social contacts we have. Social distancing includes staying at home when you are unwell, avoiding large public gatherings if they're not essential, keeping a distance of 1.5 metres between you and other people whenever possible and minimising physical contact such as shaking hands, especially with people at higher risk of developing serious symptoms, such as older people and people with existing health conditions.

Slowing the spread of coronavirus in NSW

NSW residents should act now to reduce the risk of infection from coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

When social distancing actions are combined with good personal hygiene measures the spread of a pandemic through the community can be slowed. This helps protect the most vulnerable members of the community and reduces the impact of the pandemic on essential, life-saving health services. (See Fig 3)

Figure 3 demonstrates the impact of effective social distancing and other interventions on the timing and size of the peak burden of disease. As demonstrated in the figure below, the intent is to ensure the burden of disease does not exceed the capacity of the health system to manage.

Figure 3. 'Flattening the curve' - health capacity and epidemic curve of an outbreak by introduction of first case, number of infection and interventions

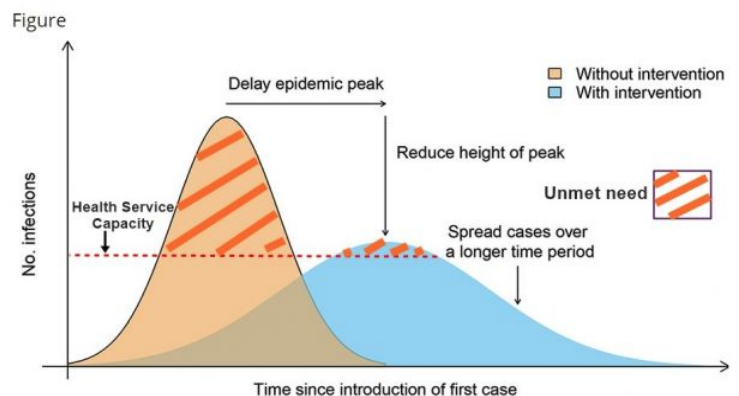


Figure. Intended impact of social distancing measures as nonpharmaceutical interventions for an influenza pandemic. Adapted from similar diagrams in the European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention Technical Report (2) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidance Report (3).

Take personal action to reduce exposures and stay healthy

The most important action is to practice good hand hygiene. (See graphic above left).

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitiser with at least 60 per cent alcohol.

Staying connected as a community

- Stay informed. Use information from reputable sources including the NSW Health COVID-19 website and the NSW Health Facebook page.
- Support others in our community. Look out for neighbours and family.
- Keep connected to your family, friends, work colleagues through phone, email and social media.

For further information

Coronavirus Health Information Line Call this line if you are seeking information on coronavirus (COVID-19). The line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. **PH 1800 020 080**

Aust. Dept. Health <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

NSW Health COVID-19 website <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

If you have concerns about your health, speak to your doctor.

Recent & Upcoming Council Events

Seniors Week 2020

In a spirited happening that would have made Gatsby proud, Balranald Shire brought the Roaring 20s back for the 2020 Seniors Week Luncheon! Adorning the Royal Theatre in black and gold, with glitter and pearls in abundance, it was a showy celebration of opulence and elegance.

Staff wore Gatsby attire as flappers and bartenders, and it was fantastic to see so many guests likewise embracing the themed dress-up opportunity. Pictured right, nine of our guests stepped up for the best dressed competition; Eddie King and Marlene Gillis were selected winners by our guest judge.



Lucky door prizes were awarded to several guests, and the hospital table won the game of guessing the meaning of a variety of 1920s colloquialisms. Over 100 guests attended our luncheon. Warm thanks to the St Joseph's Parents & Friends Association for catering, lunch was absolutely scrumptious! A yummy roast for the main, and divine sticky date pudding for dessert, the food was enjoyed by all. Pictured left, guests after lunch, enjoying the atmosphere.

Balranald Central School band provided entertainment after lunch. Council congratulates band members: Amelia Gibson, Matthew Mckivor-Keppa, Jack Helgeland, Issac Longford, Drew Lloyd and Macy Llyod on an excellent show! Pictured right, the band introductions are made, picture below right, some guests take to floor.



The students sang a mixture of covers and originals in various group compositions and solos. We were lucky enough to secure the group in their first official outing since formation and with the talent among those on stage we are sure to have become witness to some of the big names of the future. Council thanks the band, their coordinator Kristy Helgeland and also Gavin Helgeland for assisting on guitar.

Council thanks all the guests who took part in the lunch. It was a pleasure to host you, and we hope to see everyone again next year!

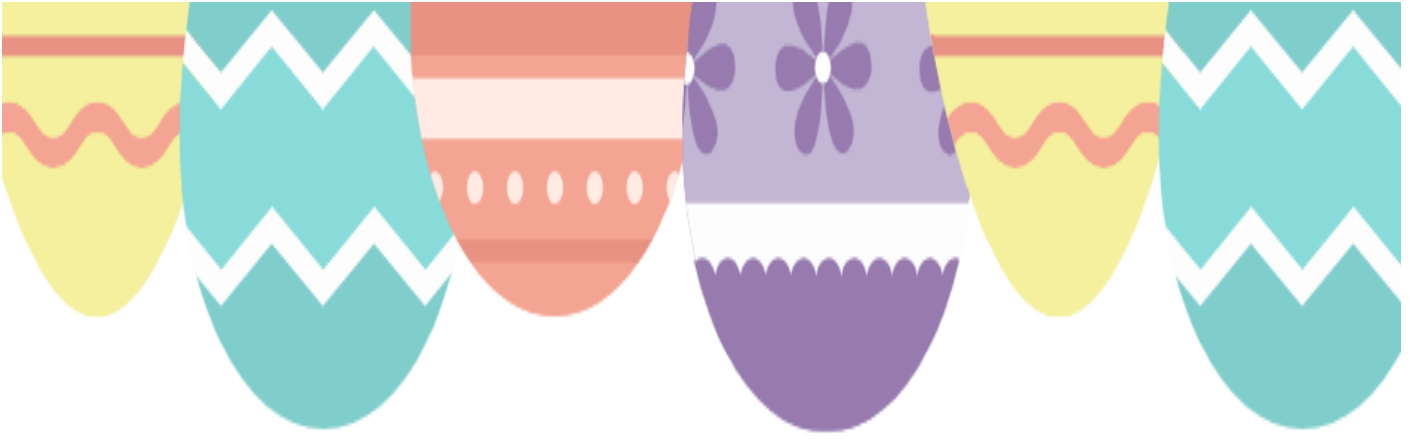
Do you have any suggestions or requests for Seniors Lunch 2021? Let us know: email council@balranald.nsw.gov.au or snail mail PO Box 120 BALRANALD NSW 2715.



Youth Week 2020 - events cancelled

In compliance with State policy, in response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the planned activities for Youth Week will not proceed at this time. Although disappointing, community safety must be our top priority. Council extends commendation to the Youth Council on their efforts in planning these events and hopes to be able to undertake Youth Week at a later date this year.

Council Notices



Easter Council Closures

Balranald Shire Office will be closed from 5pm Thursday 9th April 2020 and will re-open at 8.30am Tuesday 14th April 2020. To report emergencies call 0418 322 902.

Service NSW (RMS) will be closed from 4pm Thursday 9th April 2020 and will re-open at 9.30am Tuesday 14th April 2020. Please call Service NSW with any enquiries 13 77 88.

Balranald Library will be closed from 5.30pm Wednesday 8th April 2020 and will re-open at 9.30am Wednesday 15th April 2020.

Balranald Visitor Information Centre hours will be as follows:

Good Friday – closed

Easter Saturday – 10am to 4pm

Easter Sunday – 10am to 2pm

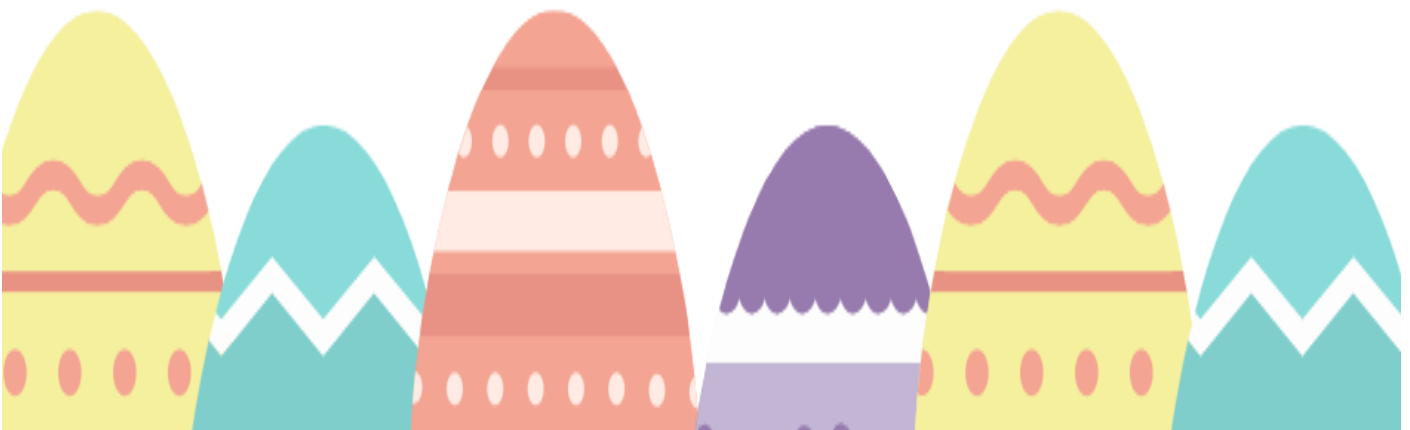
Easter Monday – 10am to 4pm

Garbage bin collection:

Euston residents & Balranald Businesses who have their bins collection on Fridays are advised that Easter collection will be Thursday 9 April (instead of Good Friday).

Balranald Residents who have their bins collected on Mondays are advised that Easter collection will be Tuesday 14 April (instead of Easter Monday).

*Wishing a very happy Easter to all our residents & visitors
from Council Staff*



Community Notices

WOMEN'S WELLBEING RETREAT

A weekend of networking with
inspired, visionary women

Limited
places

Bindara Station

(via Menindee): 29 - 31 May

Paika Station

(via Balranald): 12 - 14 June

Retreats are fully funded by the NSW
Ministry of Health, through the Far
West LHD Mental Health, Drug &
Alcohol Service

- Clarify your vision,
- Remove obstructions
and barriers, and
- Set clear pathways
forward
with Stephanie Dale
of 'The Write Road'

"I came tired and i'm going home empowered." - workshop participant

Only 8 places available at each retreat. If you would like to join, contact Marie Kelly for an
application form: 0429 674 307 | Marie.Kelly@health.nsw.gov.au



Aboriginal Women's Yarning Circle

Are you an Aboriginal woman?

Then you're invited to join in our
FREE Yarning Circle

WHEN: Monday 6 APRIL 2020 @ 10.30am

WHERE: THE THEATRE ROYAL

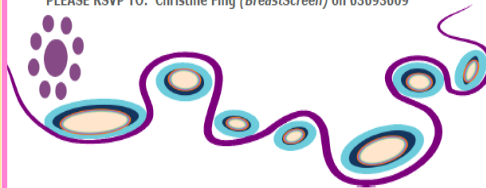
Market Street BALRANALD

Informal gathering to yarn about the importance of breast screening. If
you are 40+ you can have a FREE breast screen on the day if you want.



Free refreshments and goodie bags
provided and a LUCKY DOOR PRIZE.

PLEASE RSVP TO: Christine Fing (BreastScreen) on 63693609



DROUGHT: WE ARE WITH YOU

Up to \$3,000 per household is
available to farmers, farm workers
and farm suppliers/contractors
who are over 18 years of age,
are Australian citizens or
permanent residents, and
who live or work in an eligible
Local Government Area.

This is funded by the
Australian Government's
Drought Community Support
Initiative (Round 2).

The drought helpline is open
8am - 8pm, Monday to Friday.

The online application
process is quick and simple.



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Cities and Regional Development



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

To find out more please call **1300 846 643**
www.vinnies.org.au/droughthelp

Supercharged Fellowship opportunity for aspiring agricultural leaders.

Leading Australian Agriculture.

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) and the Winston Churchill
Memorial Trust (The Trust) have joined forces to provide an
exciting opportunity for two aspiring agricultural leaders.

Applications are now open for the 2020 round of Churchill
Fellowships, a unique award that supports people from diverse
backgrounds to explore best practice anywhere in the world for up to
eight weeks.

Over 100 Fellowships are awarded each year, however in 2020 two
recipients interested in agriculture will also receive additional
mentoring, networking and development opportunities from the NFF
as a result of this exciting collaboration.

Applications can be made online until 30 April 2020, for travel
between 1 February 2021, and 31 January 2022.



Gambling Help

Robinvale District Health Services provides a Gambling Help
Counselling Service that is available for Balranald Residents.

The following are Services Available:

- Gambling Help Therapeutic counselling
- Gambling Harm Awareness and Education
- Self-exclusion from Gambling sites
- Referral to Financial Counselling
- Referral to other services as required
- Gambling Help Library, books and DVDs available for
borrowing

The Gambling Help Counsellor outreaches to Balranald on
Fridays. Our intake phone number is 03 5051 8160, referrals
can also be sent via email: gamblinghelp@rdhs.com.au



Applications for community grants now open

TransGrid's Community Partnerships Program is offering
grants for community groups and non-for-profit organisations
within your region.

Applications must be received by 5pm on
Friday 1 May 2020.



@TransGrid

More information
www.transgrid.com.au/partnerships
Free call 1800 222 537

Balranald Multi-purpose Service

Services Available

Adult Day Care

Monday and Thursday 10am – 2pm

Auxiliary (0404 542 037)

2nd Monday of each month – 2:30pm at DayCare Centre

Country Hearing (1800 432 748)

Every 2nd Monday

Mental Health (03 5021 7200)

Thursday

RESPIRE

Residential Aged Care – Respite bed available

Radiology (xrays)

Every Monday 9am – 4pm

Ultrasound (03 5020 1055)

Every 2nd Wednesday 9am – 2pm

RESPIRE

- Residential Aged Care
- Respite bed available

GP

Female Doctor



Contact Details

MPS: 03 5071 9800

Doctors Clinic: 03 5020 1055

41-43 Court St, Balranald NSW 2715

Child and Family Health Clinic

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – Balranald

Tuesday – Euston

Exercise Program

Monday and Thursday in Hospital Gym

Dental

Friday (18yrs and Under)

Immunisations (0427 699 485)

Every 2nd Wednesday 9:30am – 11am

Community Health Services Available

- Palliative care team
- Diabetes
- Wounds/Dressings
- Aboriginal Health
- Aboriginal Transport
- Chronic Disease

Allied Health

- Podiatry (Wednesday)
- Physiotherapy (Wednesday)
- Dietician (Friday)
- Screening
- Speech Pathology (Friday)
- Social Worker
- Occupational Therapist
- Aqua Aerobics (Monday and Thursday)
- Tai Chi (Tuesday)

Health Advisory Council

4th Tuesday of each month – 5:15pm



Contact Council

Street Address 70 Market Street BALRANALD

Postal Address PO Box 120 BALRANALD NSW 2715

Opening Hours 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Phone 03 5020 1300

After Hours (Emergencies) 0418 322 902

Email council@balranald.nsw.gov.au

Website balranald.nsw.gov.au

 Balranald Shire Council

 @balranaldshire

Currently on Exhibition

Draft Documents

For most current list and full details please visit <http://www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/council-documents/exhibition-of-draft-documents/>

- Community Engagement Strategy (comments due 17 April)
- Draft Water Leak Policy (comments due 17 April)
- Draft Code of Meeting Practice (comments due 25 March)
- Draft Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Administrator, Mayor and Councillors Policy (comments due 25 March)

Development Applications

For most current list and full details please visit <http://www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/environment-and-planning/developments-on-exhibition/>

Notice of proposed development, as follows:

- DA 36/2020 - Hostel Redevelopment and Extension - 24 Mayall St Balranald NSW (Applicant: Balranald Shire Council)
- SSD 5012 Development Modification - Proposed Atlas-Campsaspe Mineral Sands Project Modification - 80kms Nth Balranald NSW (Applicant: Tronox Limited)

[View this document in colour online!](http://www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/notice-board/general-notices/)

<http://www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/notice-board/general-notices/>

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