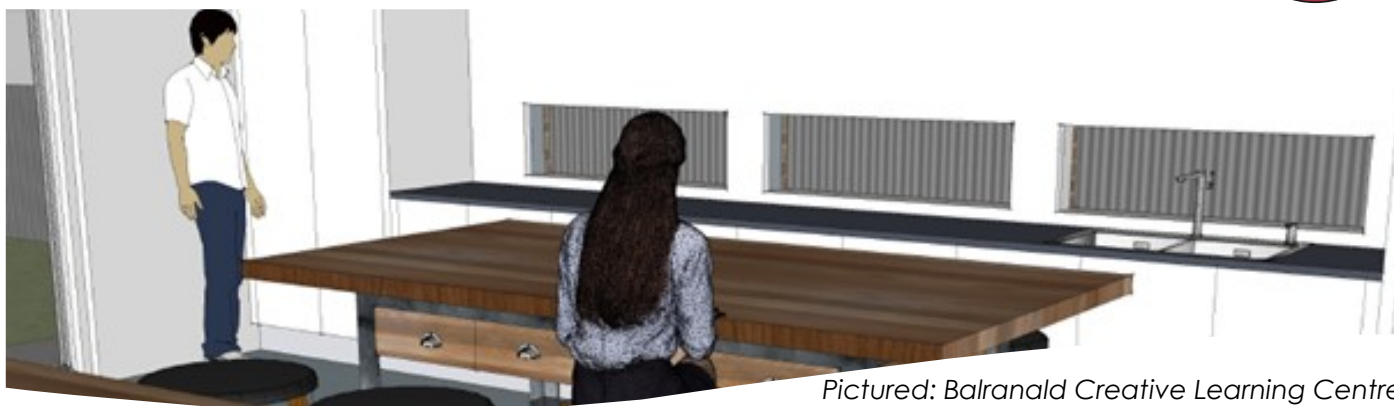


Balranald Shire Council Community Newsletter

Issue 10/2020 — October/November



Pictured: Balranald Creative Learning Centre preliminary design - works commencing soon!

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Next Ordinary Meeting of Council:
5pm, 17 November 2020

BALRANALD RIVERFRONT RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Council has approved the installation of an additional walking trail and swing bridge to complete a loop of the riverfront area, along with respite furniture, signage, a toilet block and shelter structures with footpath linkages to the central business area of Balranald. The project's costing is around \$900K. A second footbridge will be constructed over the Murrumbidgee River with a circuit footway along the township into the town common zone of the River area.page 2.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Nominations are open! Preparations have commenced for Australia Day 2021! If you know someone deserving of recognition for their outstanding achievements this year, please nominate now. Forms are available on our website or from Council office.

SWIM SEASON 2020/2021

The pool has opened for the season opening fixed hours and free to casual users. Swimming lessons will take place in January 2021....page 5.



In this edition

Youth Mayor Column Page 3

Balranald Beautification Page 3

Infrastructure Update Page 4

Balranald Pool Page 5

Pound Improvements Page 6

Meet Claire, RRO Page 7

Yanga Update from NPWS Page 8

Water Survey Page 12

CHANGE SPEED LIMIT

Transport for NSW have introduced lower speed limits in sections of McCabe Street and Ivanhoe Road.



Signage is in place reflecting these changes, please take care and observe the new lower speed limits.

COVID-19

As restrictions ease, it is crucial to maintain the good habits developed throughout the year. Remember, to wash your hands, avoid touching your face, maintain social distancing, and get tested if symptomatic.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR (Cont.)

A review of environmental factors (REF) was required to satisfy statutory requirements to support Council's application for the relevant Crown licences and to ensure the project is undertaken in a sustainable manner. The REF examined all matters likely to affect the environment arising from the proposed activity. It established that it is not likely to significantly affect the environment or threatened species, ecological communities, or their habitats. An aboriginal cultural heritage due diligence assessment made recommendations in relation to training and heritage induction, mitigation measures for new access paths, and measures related to potential discovery of aboriginal objects or ancestral remains that will be followed by Council. The Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council had advised that it was happy with the findings and conclusions of that assessment.

The REF concluded that the proposed works are justified and where additional permits are required, it identified processes that need to be followed to allow the works to proceed.

The project's benefits are:

- pedestrian access to the southern side of the Murrumbidgee River;
- formalising the current informal pedestrian track, reducing impacts on soils and the environment;
- vehicle access management;
- improved recreational facilities;
- safer access to the area;
- improved cultural and environmental knowledge through signage; and
- improved Council current assets and new assets for community use.

The REF recommended that the proposal proceed, subject to implementation of a range of mitigation measures that it identified and compliance with all relevant statutory approvals, licences, permits and authorisations.

Council's community participation plan was used as a guide to the public exhibition process. Neighbours adjoining the area of the proposed works were notified of the proposal and it was advertised extensively in local media. Fifteen submissions were received during the exhibition period, including one petition. Although there was some local objection to the project in its proposed form, the majority of submissions received by Council favoured it.

Further aspects of the project including construction of a sound shell, weather shed, pavilion and timber wharf are envisaged at a later stage, subject to funding and these will trigger further community consultation.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Council's seven new Advisory Committees started to function throughout September and October. Their advice is starting to roll through to me now. I received the first of the Advisory Committee reports at the October Council meeting which included guidance on proposals to improve the Balranald riverfront, Discovery Centre, library and Bidgee Haven Hostel, plus insurance issues for sporting facilities, conversion of some tennis facilities to basketball, and development of a Youth Facebook page. Council has also asked the Executive of Chairs of these Advisory Committees to determine the Australia Day award recipients for the forthcoming 2021 Australia Day celebrations.

| Mike Colreavy ADMINISTRATOR |

FROM THE YOUTH MAYOR

I am excited to begin the new term of Youth Council, with a new executive team! I am thankful for those Youth Councillors who voted to re-elect me as Youth Mayor, the support means a lot. We are always trying to push forward new and innovative ideas, and those ideas start with our team discussing them, deciding what features best suit each idea, and then we push for those ideas to be established, through the recommendation to Council process. My special congratulations to our new Deputy Mayor, Matthew McIvor-Kepa, and our new Treasurer Mason Dalton. I would also like to thank our Former Deputy Mayor Ben Johnstone, and Former Treasurer Philipa Gaston for their contributions to the Youth Council. We also have a Secretary position which at this time is still vacant.

"You're never too young to change the world." (Unknown source)

A magnificent quote I think, because of how true it is. When we commenced this term of Youth Council, we had our swearing in ceremony at Bidgee Haven Hostel; It was a statement of our previous leaders handing over the baton to our upcoming ones. I think this goes to back up the meaning of this quote, that the hands of innovation are being passed on to the young people of our world, and it will soon be up to us to make a difference, so why not start early? It only gives us a better build up to our capacity.

Anyway, that all from me. Remember to stay safe, and keep well.

| Jackson Bialobrzewski
YOUTH COUNCIL MAYOR |



THANK YOU, BALRANALD CENTRAL SCHOOL!

Council thanks the Year 7 & 8 students of Balranald Central School for sharing their amazing creations!

Council is thrilled to have been included in the Children's Book Council of Australia Book Week 2020 event, the *Curious Creatures*, *Wild Minds* Project.

Students' art is on display in Council reception, and all along the main street in window frontages and on shop counters. It is a lively and engaging collection of pieces and joyful to behold.

Pictured below - Student art on display at Council.



R U OK?

The final project of the former Balranald Beautification Committee was the installation of "R U OK?" signage on Balranald Cemetery's Blue Tree.

Pictured right, photo by Mary Grisdale.

The letters were made by our local Balranald Men's Shed and installed by our outgoing Balranald Beautification Committee members.



Council extends warm thanks to outgoing Balranald Beautification Committee members: Angela Harben, Mary Grisdale, Jill Bath, Karen Norfolk, Clint Jolliffe and Margie Van Zanten who came up with this lovely idea, and to Balranald Men's Sheds creative hands: Brad Simpson and Bill Hargrave.

*The 2020 theme for R U OK Day was
'THERE'S MORE TO SAY AFTER R U OK?'*

"If you feel like something's not quite the same with someone you know – there's something going on in their life or you notice a change in what they're saying or doing - trust that gut instinct and take the time to ask them "Are you OK?" If someone says they're not OK, make time to listen, encourage action and check in. That conversation could change, or even save, their life."

<https://www.ruok.org.au/join-r-u-ok-day>

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT HEADLINES

Reconstruction of Marma-Box Creek Road

15km of new bitumen seal will be carried out shortly

Main Road 296 Kyalite – Moulamein Road

Start on the widening from the Kyalite Caravan Park entrance to the Shire boundary is due to commence but has been delayed until after the Marma-Box Creek roadworks are sealed.

Unsealed Road Maintenance Grading

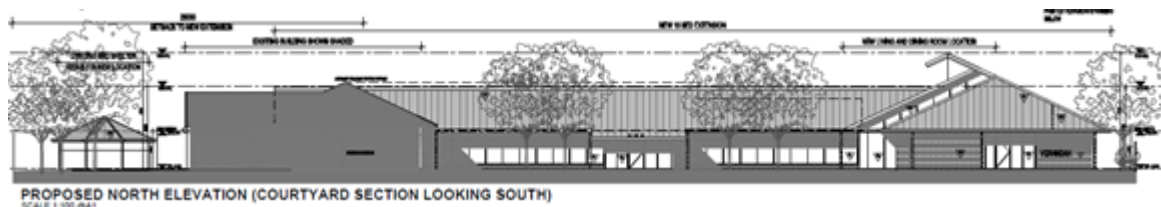
Contracts have been awarded for maintenance grading on the Euston to Marma road, the Prungle Mail Road and sections of roads in the northeast of the Shire that were not graded in the last round of works.

Ben Scott Memorial Bird Walk

A Request for Quotations for upgrading Ben Scott Memorial Bird walk has been advertised, however works may be delayed until the water levels recede.

Bidgee Haven Hostel

Construction tenders were invited in October 2020 for the new 15-bed high-dependency wing, with the expectation that a contract will be awarded in the last week of November 2020. For more information please visit Council website. All tenders to be submitted via Tenderlink.



Pictured above: Bidgee Haven Retirement Hostel Extension Concept Art.

Balranald landfill – out of hours facility for green waste

Council is aware that during the current growing season residents may find the opening hours of the Balranald landfill inconvenient for the disposal of green waste. A temporary skip has been placed outside the gates of the landfill for out of hours disposal. **THIS IS FOR GREEN WASTE ONLY.** This is a temporary measure that may be withdrawn if Council believes that it is being abused (such as normal household waste being left in the skip). A second locked skip has been provided for commercial users, who can apply for a key by contacting Council.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLAIRE BUTLER!

Council extends sincere thanks Claire for her outstanding work with Council over the past two years! Claire has recently made the leap to an exciting new role in Federal Government in the *National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency* and we wish her all the very best. Claire will still be working in our district as a Regional Recovery Officer and we look forward to seeing all she and this Agency achieve! Included on pages 7 & 8 is an introductory flyer about this fantastic program.

Council also congratulates Claire upon her recent recognition in the 2020 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll. Her nomination is well deserved. Visit the website below to learn more about this program and to read about some Claire's inspiring works.

"An annual initiative of Department of Primary Industries' Rural Women's Network, Hidden Treasures recognises the outstanding efforts of women volunteers in NSW and promotes the valuable role of volunteering to the community." <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rural-support/rural-womens-network/hidden-treasures>



BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

Pursuant to Section 4.59 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*, public notice is hereby given that the following development applications have been approved:

Approval Date	Reference	Applicant	Address	Description
04/09/2020	DA 04/2021	James Golsworthy Consulting	Crown Land on the southern bank of the Murray River	Irrigation Pump Station Upgrade
08/09/2020	DA 07/2021	Ms Jennifer Alvarado	84 Dowling Street, Balranald	Shed
17/09/2020	DA 03/2021	Darren & Tracy O'Halloran	133 Turandurey Street, Balranald & 132 Ballandella Street, Balranald	Boundary Realignment
22/09/2020	DA 43/2020	Planningmatters Development Service	Dockerty Road, Arumpo	Gravel Quarry
24/09/2020	CDC 03/2021	Fisher Planning Pty Ltd	1 Cary Street, Euston	Swimming Pool

The development consent is available for public inspection, free of charge, during normal office hours at Balranald Shire Councils Office, 70 Market Street, Balranald.

Peter Kozlowski, Acting General Manager
PO Box 120, BALRANALD NSW 2715
03 5020 1300
www.balranald.nsw.gov.au

BALRANALD POOL

The Janelle Masters Memorial Pool (Balranald Public Pool) opened for the 2020/2021 swim season on 31 October 2020.

As in the 2019/2020 swim season the pool facilities are free to casual users, and operating fixed hours as below.

The pool has a COVIDSafe plan in place and all users (including observers) must sign in and comply with social distancing and other safety procedures.

Pool Hours

Other than during school holidays*
*Staff on duty to have discretion to extend closing times to 8 pm on very hot evenings

Monday (unless public holiday)
Closed

Tuesday - Friday
3pm to 6pm

Saturday, Sunday
& Public Holidays
11am to 6pm

School holidays
As above but closing at 8pm

It's time to DUST OFF THE SWIMMERS

While the drought is making things tough, let's not forget that learning how to swim is a gift for life. So dust off the kids' swimmers, we'll get the pool ready and let's put some smiles on a few faces.

SWIM & SURVIVE SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

12 January – 22 January 2021

Wonder: 6 months to 36 months | \$52 for 8 lessons
Courage: 36 months to 5 years | \$52 for 8 lessons
Active: 5 years to 12 years | \$74 for 8 lessons

BALRANALD PUBLIC POOL
Spaces are limited, so please book early.

Book now online at
royalnsf.com.au/swim-and-survive
or call (02) 9634 3700



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
AUSTRALIA



POUND GRANT FUNDING PROJECT

Office of Local Government (OLG) provided Council with \$4,000 funding for local pound improvements. Funding was provided to ensure that Council pound facilities continue to operate and maintain the welfare of animals in their care.

Staff from Council's engineering and depot teams collaborated to review and prioritise the needs of the pound facilities. It was determined to use the funding for equipment upgrade. Materials were purchased with which our skilled staff constructed new dog beds and upgraded damaged water wells for both pounds.

Council extends thanks to OLG for their support and commends our Balranald Depot workers, Jack and Johnson, for their craftsmanship.

Pictured at right: Jack and Johnson with the dog beds during construction. Picture by Malcolm Dunn.



Got symptoms? Get tested.

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should be tested.

Symptoms include:



fever



cough



sore throat



difficulty breathing



loss of smell



loss of taste

Other reported symptoms of COVID-19 include:

fatigue, runny nose, muscle pain, joint pain, nausea/vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite or other flu symptoms.



Testing is free, quick and easy
health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus

New Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) 2020

The BAM 2020 comes into force on 22 October 2020. The Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020 – What's New fact sheet outlines the key amendments made to BAM 2017.

Clause 6.31 of the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 provides transitional arrangements to minimise the impact that amendments to the BAM may have on proponents and landholders with a biodiversity assessment underway.

This includes assessments for development, activities, clearing, biodiversity certification and biodiversity stewardship agreements.

For further information please visit:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/biodiversity/biodiversity-assessment-method>



Planning,
Industry &
Environment



YOUR LOCAL REGIONAL RECOVERY OFFICER

MEET CLAIRE

My name is Claire Butler and I am the Regional Recovery Officer for Far West NSW.

I live on a merino sheep station located between Balranald and Ivanhoe. I have worked in both local and state government community engagement roles, including five years on the State Council of the Isolated Children's Parents Association of NSW, advocating for access to education for rural and remote families, developing networks and pathways that help farming families and assisting in policy change at a NSW Government level.

Having run our own farming business, combined with working and volunteering off farm, I know the ebbs and the flows of farming and remote living.

We have experienced the hardships caused by drought as well as the intermittent good seasons that come with farming in a marginal rainfall area. We have also experienced the joys and the challenges of raising and educating children in an isolated area.

In my role as Regional Recovery Officer I will be travelling widely and often, meeting with individuals, businesses and local stakeholders and reporting back to the highest levels of Government on the grassroots issues that affect Far West NSW communities.

ABOUT THE AGENCY

The National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency works hand-in-hand with communities, all levels of government, charities and agricultural organisations to support farmers and other rural and regional Australians living through the immediate and longer-term effects of drought and flood.

Our aim is to ensure people and communities are given the support they need, and to do this we have established a national network of Regional Recovery Officers (RROs) to ensure farmers, regional businesses and communities are aware of what Australian Government assistance is available, how to access it, and to ensure it meets their individual needs.



CLAIRE BUTLER
FAR WEST NSW

GET IN CONTACT

RROFarWestNSW@pmc.gov.au

PH: 0427 563 876

www.droughtandflood.gov.au

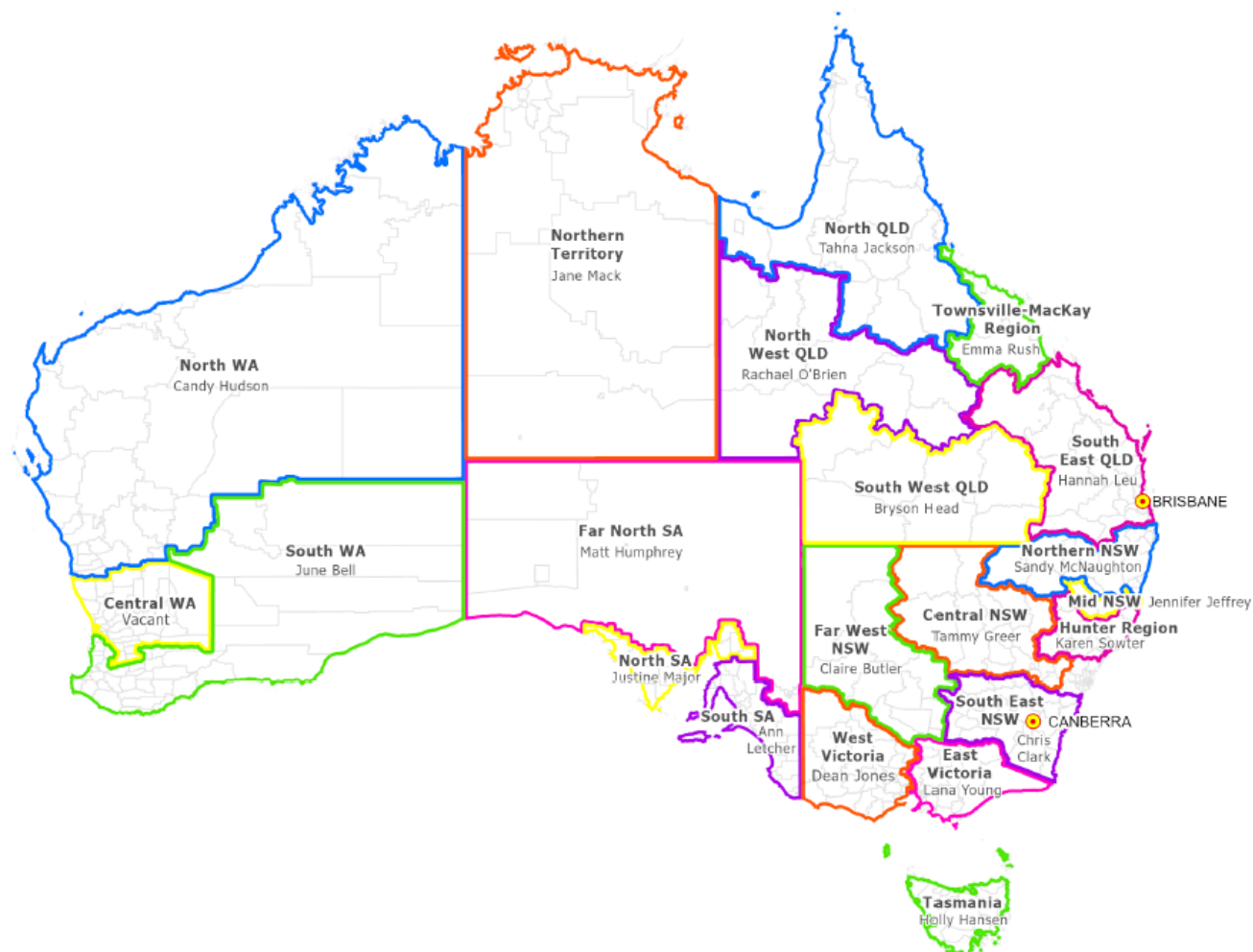
Subscribe to our newsletter
droughtandflood.gov.au/news/subscribe

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twitter.com/droughtfloodaus
instagram.com/droughtandflood



DROUGHT AND FLOOD REGIONAL RECOVERY OFFICER NETWORK



The National Drought and Flood Agency is committed to maintaining 'boots on the ground' through our Australia-wide network of Regional Recovery Officers.

RROs live in the regions and work alongside other government and non-government agencies; they are an important conduit between people in regional and rural areas and the Australian Government, providing a voice from the regions straight back to the National Drought Coordinator-General Shane L Stone AC QC and his team.

DROUGHT AND FLOOD ASSISTANCE

The Australian Government is committed to supporting farmers, businesses and regional communities affected by drought and North Queensland floods.

The Drought and Flood Agency website features a summary of the Australian Government support measures available.

www.droughtandflood.gov.au

Current as at 15 October 2020

Can Assist Balranald Branch

Financial Assistance & Support

Can Assist Balranald Branch will continue to provide assistance to all our existing clients and any new clients in the normal way during the health crisis.

**Help is always on hand by contacting the
Community Health Nurse -Contact number**

0408 375529

The Executive Committee of Can Assist send their best wishes to everyone in the community to Keep Safe and Keep Healthy during this difficult time

THE EUSTON CLUB RESORT IS OPEN!

SUNDAY TO THURSDAY 12PM TO 9PM

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 12PM TO 10PM

TAB AND KENO FACILITIES AVAILABLE

STATION46 BISTRO HOURS:

LUNCH: 12PM TO 2PM

DINNER 5.30PM TO 8PM

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL BY CALLING
03 5026 4244.**

We have a venue capacity of 250 patrons. We have many measures in place to ensure our Club is COVID Safe.

What's happening at Balranald Club – October

Allow our Courtesy Bus to pick you up from your home, so you can come and enjoy the atmosphere on a Friday night. Raffles and the Members Draw are on every week. However, pre-bookings are ESSENTIAL for this service (Before 4pm on Friday afternoons!) Simply call the office, and we will be happy to book a time that's convenient for you. We'll even arrange to have you taken home! Simple, easy and stress-free!

Please adhere to social distancing, and any instructions from our staff, including refraining from moving furniture. This is in place for the safety of all our Members and Visitors.

The Club appreciates all members and visitors observing the current protocols in place in regards to entering and exiting the premises.

We would like to advise that we are a COVID safe establishment, with a current and recognised safety plan in place.

UNDER 18'S are allowed in most areas of the club except TAB and Pokie Area and the must be in the company of a responsible adult and must be supervised at all times.

We are open 7 days from 10:00am to 9.30pm

Service NSW Visiting Euston

Service NSW is bringing NSW Government services to communities with our Mobile Service Centres

Friday 6th November 2020

9am - 4pm

Riverfront Recreation Reserve

Euston Club

(via rear entrance)



The National Dementia Helpline

The National Dementia Helpline is a free, federally funded service that provides information & advice to:

- people living with dementia
- people concerned about changes to memory and thinking
- people living with mild cognitive impairment
- family, friends and carers of people living with dementia
- people who work in health and aged care.

In addition to sharing information and advice, the team can also:

- provide emotional support and guidance
- connect constituents to Dementia Australia and community support services and programs
- discuss government support, including My Aged Care, National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Carer Gateway and Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service (DBMAS).

The National Dementia Helpline can be accessed

via: Phone: 1800 100 500,

Webchat: dementia.org.au/helpline/webchat

Email: helpline@dementia.org.au



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Scholarships

The RAS Foundation provides scholarships to help rural Australians realise their potential through education, make a difference in their community and achieve their ambitions. These scholarships include:

- RAS Foundation Rural Scholarships
- Sydney Royal Wine Study Scholarship
- Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship
- JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications
- RAS Foundation VET Scholarships

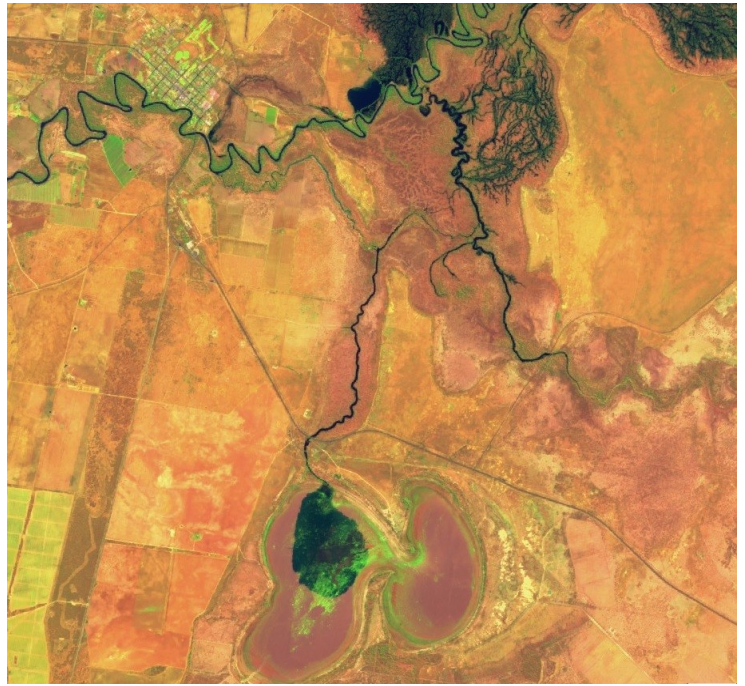
For more information please visit:

www.rasnsr.com.au/foundation/scholarships/

Yanga Update - October 2020

After drying out last Summer Yanga Lake is filling again as result of extensive flooding of the Yanga Wetlands with allocated environmental water. This water has been making its way through key wetland sites since August and has triggered colonial waterbird breeding, topped up important native fish habitats and provided water for known Southern Bell Frog sites.

Yanga Lake is expected to continue to fill over the next few months and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is working hard to reinstate the access to Regatta Beach using the existing road. This road has been closed for an extended period following the discovery of Aboriginal freshwater mussel shell middens on the road.



These middens were the subject of an archaeological excavation in May this year which found the sites to be very old! As well as shells the archaeologists also found charcoal fragments and heat retainers used in cooking, this coupled with the age of the middens make them quite important and a lengthy process continues to preserve the site.

NPWS has collaborated with the local Aboriginal community on the archaeological survey, research and protection works and will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to ensure the access to Regatta Beach occurs as soon as possible. At this stage it is not know how much water will flow into the lake or if it will reach safe boating levels, but we will be able to provide more information on the water and the access in the coming weeks.



For more information, please contact Yanga Ranger, Simone Carmichael on 03 5020 1764.

Pictured top R: Satellite Image taken 22 Oct 2020. Image Credit: Sentinel Hub | Pictured at right (L-R): Kelvin Murray (BLALC) and Tanya Charles (NPWS) work on test pit during recent archaeological survey. Image credit: NPWS/DPIE | Field Officer, Andrew Gibson, working on test pit during recent archaeological survey. Image credit: NPWS/DPIE





Contact Council

Street Address 70 Market Street BALRANALD
Postal Address PO Box 120 BALRANALD NSW 2715
Office Hours 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday
Reception Hours 9am to 4.30pm, 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

Other Council Services

Balranald Library - M/F - 9am - 5.30pm, W 9.30am-5.30pm
(closed for lunch 12pm-1pm)
Balranald Landfill - T/T 4pm - 6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, Sun 10am-3pm
Euston Landfill - T/T 1pm-6pm, Sun 9am-3pm

Join the Team

Council is recruiting the following positions:

- EA/Finance Officer
- PCA (Carer) @ Bidgee Haven

For full details visit Council website.



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/>

- Records Management Policy
- Model Code of Conduct
- Draft Leasing & Licencing of Council Property Policy

Development Applications

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

View this newsletter in colour online!

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

Want to receive an e-copy each month? Email to subscribe: council@balranald.nsw.gov.au

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 or phone 03 5020 1300. This document is compiled some weeks prior to delivery, while all due care is made to ensure information is accurate matters are subject to change due to time passage between print and delivery, please contact Council for most current details on a subject if concerned.



WE NEED YOU TO TAKE OUR SURVEY

As a Balranald Shire resident, are you dependent on sourcing your domestic water from:

- rainwater tanks,
- dams,
- waterways (rivers, lakes, etc) and/or
- bores?

If you answered **yes** then we need **your response** to our survey!

This survey is now live on SurveyMonkey and takes approximately 7 minutes to complete.

Council seeks to gain minimum 100 responses to the questionnaire to provide representative data for our *Increasing Resilience to Climate Change (IRCC) Project*.

The survey will close Tuesday 9 November 2020.

A brief introduction to this project is provided below and further details are available on Council website.

To access the survey please scan the QR Code, or navigate to the below website on your browser:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DGDQWVB>



A printable version is available from Council website or physical copies may be collected at Council Office or Euston Post Office, should you wish to complete a paper copy.

Please share this survey with friends, family and neighbours to help grow participation!

For more information regarding this survey and this project, please contact:

Peter Waterman | Adjunct Professor

Institute for Land Water and Society, Charles Stuart University

Email: pw.ems@bigpond.net.au | Mobile: 0418 628 431

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTIVE PRIVATE DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLIES ON RURAL & REMOTE PROPERTIES

Council is undertaking a survey of water adequacy and quality for our *Increasing Resilience to Climate Change (IRCC) Project*, funded by the NSW Department of Local Government and assisted by NSW Department of Planning, Environment and Infrastructure. This is being done in order to:

- help to ensure that everyone can have adequate and safe household water supplies
- better appreciate the water supply problems being confronted by residents in the Shire living on rural properties or using rainwater tanks, and;
- identify any possible health risks that may be present due to the quality of the water that is being used.

Council are inviting people on rural and remote properties in the Shire who are dependent on private sources of water for their household use to participate in this collaboration. Private sources include surface water from farm dams or creeks or rivers, ground water from deep or shallow bores, and rainwater tanks that capture runoff from roofs. People in Balranald and Euston who have rainwater tanks for household use (e.g. drinking, cooking, showers, bathing and children's play) are also invited to participate.