

Balranald Shire Council Community Newsletter

Issue 11/2020 — November/December



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COUNCIL SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

Balranald Shire Office: closing 5pm Wednesday 23 December 2020, reopening 8.30am Monday 4 January 2021.

To report emergencies PH 0418 322 902

Service NSW (Balranald) closing 4pm Wednesday 23 December 2020, reopening 9.30am Tuesday 5 January 2021. Enquiries 13 77 88.

Balranald & Euston Depots: closing 5pm Wednesday 23 December 2020, reopening 8.30am Monday 4 January 2021.

Balranald Library: closing 5.30pm Wednesday 23 December 2020, reopening 9am Monday 4 January 2021 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 Balranald Businesses & Euston Residents who have their bins collected on Fridays are advised that the collection will be Thursday 24 December 2020 (instead of Christmas Day) and Thursday 31 December (instead of New Years Day) Balranald Businesses & Residents bins collected on Mondays as usual.



**Service
NSW**

Next Ordinary Meeting of Council:

5pm, 15 December 2020

NEW GENERAL MANAGER APPOINTED

Last week, Council officially announced the appointment of Mr. Oliver McNulty to a five-year contract as the Council's new General Manager (GM).

Originally from Ireland, Mr. McNulty settled in Australia almost nine years ago and has since taken up Australian Citizenship. After arriving, he initially held design engineer and road service management positions at the Shire of Campaspe (Echuca), before rising to executive Director roles at Swan Hill Rural City and Edward River (Deniliquin) Councils. He is presently the Director of Infrastructure at Edward River Council, and he was previously the Director of Infrastructure at Swan Hill Rural City Council.

The appointment at Balranald Shire is a natural progression in his career, after extensive operational and capital project management experience, and experience in developing council advocacy, waste, and asset management strategies. He brings hands on experience in managing change processes to the job, including in workforce accreditation, and in building a single, harmonised works force after the council mergers that led to the formation of Edward River Council. He has worked successfully with small and medium rural communities, and he is an avid triathlon, iron man, and charity event participant. Mr. McNulty is currently enrolled in the Australian Institute of Company Directors course, and he holds a Bachelor of Science (Engineering) degree and a Diploma in Structural Engineering.

At Edward River Council, Mr. McNulty directs the Council's engineering, road maintenance and construction, parks and gardens, aerodrome, waste management, swimming pools, outdoor spaces, recreational facilities, fleet, and livestock exchange functions. He is also the Local Emergency Management Officer facilitating the community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He had a similar portfolio at Swan Hill Rural Council, including leading the reactivation of the Central Murray Regional Transport Strategy in which Balranald Shire Council also participates and he was on the Victorian Infrastructure Design Manual Committee that produced the technical specifications for infrastructure development across over 40 councils. In Ireland, Mr. McNulty worked as a project engineer across small and large scale structural and civil engineering projects.

The selection panel identified Mr. McNulty as the best-fit for the position, taking into account the qualities expressed by the local community and Council staff, together with his professional background, career experience, and potential strengths in a leadership role. Mr. McNulty's leadership qualities, experience, personality, professional abilities, and track record of enthusiastic community participation closely matches what the community said they are looking for in their next GM.

Also, his experience working at nearby councils gives him ready insight into regional issues that affect Balranald Shire and established connections to our networks.



Oliver McNulty

FROM THE YOUTH MAYOR

Hi all,

The Youth Council has been hard at work recently, planning the "Official Unveiling of Swamp the Frog". This event will take place on Monday, the 30th of November 2020, I look forward to sharing with you the photos from the event in the next newsletter edition. At the event, we will be thrilled to unveil the official Swampy sign and logo. Swampy is both a fun recreational play structure and a homage to our town's strong connection to the Southern Bell Frog.

The Youth Council is a proud advocate for a Youth Dedicated space in Balranald, as we have been for Youth Sporting Facilities, infrastructure that promotes Youth and so much more, and we always love to hear and listen to your feedback. But the ways in which your feedback can be

provided are limited, recent examples are surveys specifically directed towards reaching Young People, and hearing about what they have to say. We are excited to say that we are hopefully, soon going to be launching a Youth Council Facebook page. Up until recently, we have been having trouble with different technology aspects, and creating and applying policies for the governance of the page. I would like to clarify that we are still working on this, and will hopefully soon enter approval stages.

On behalf of the Balranald Shire Youth Council, stay safe and keep well.

Till next time, that's all from me!

Jackson Bialobrzewski
YOUTH COUNCIL MAYOR



FAREWELL FROM THE KOZLOWSKIS

As we prepare to welcome a new General Manager we bid farewell to the Acting General Manager. We share this message from Peter and his wife Christine as they move on to their next adventure soon.

Farewell

Thank you Balranald Shire communities, staff and Council for the opportunity you have given to my wife and me.

It has been an absolute privilege to work for you as Acting General Manager.

You have enormous potential. I know you will succeed.

Remember, the sky is the limit when it comes to what you can achieve in Balranald Shire.

You have a lot of strong leadership in the community and I look forward to those leaders stepping up when the next Council election is held.

Farewell and take care.

Christine and Peter Kozlowski

VISITORS PRAISE BALRANALD

Council recently received the below letter from guests of the Caravan Park. Council is proud to share this and it is a positive reflection on the entire township. Authors Bill and Anna credit Council facilities as well as private enterprise and community organisation facilities. Together Balranald is an amazing destination!

Mike and Vivienne

My partner Anna and I are well seasoned travellers having travelled over 50,000KM and stayed in over 90 Caravan Parks and resorts in the last 2 years in this great nation of ours

We spent 3 nights at your Caravan Park and we felt it necessary to let you know what we thought of Balranald.....You are the GOLD STANDARD as far as tourists go!!!!!!

- We were delighted with the Caravan Park....Your managers are absolutely outstanding....They NEVER stop working and the park is a credit to them....The site is outstanding and the facilities are first rate so well done!!!

- The Visitors centre and Cafe is brilliant and it is outstanding that you allow RV tourists to use your Washroom/Toilet facilities free of cost....Well done and we will share the word

- Your streetscape management is outstandingwe had a ball cycling and walking and discovering the stories associated with your town....We have never seen that before and it made our visit...

- The Museum, Gaol and the Southern Cross exhibition were brilliant and, again, made our visit to your town

We have never felt the need to give feedback like this before!!!!!!

Congrats to all involved 'cos we had a blast

Cheers

Bill and Anna

Discover Balranald & Surrounds Visitor Guide

Be sure to pick up a copy of our latest Visitor Guide from Balranald Visitor Information Centre or the Shire Office and share it with your family and friends.



BIDGEE HAVEN RETIREMENT HOSTEL FINANCE TURNAROUND

A number of people have raised concerns about the financial position of the Bidgee Haven Retirement Hostel (Hostel), particularly with respect to how did Council turnaround the deficits in recent years into the current surplus position as at 30 June 2019.

This statement details the reasons for the improved financial position.

The Hostel has operated at a profit for the financial years ending 2018 and 2019 following a two year period of losses of \$444,000 in 2016 and \$588,000 in 2017. The financial statements for 2019/20 have not been included below because those statements, are currently subject to Council's normal annual external audit, and consequently have not been finalised.

A recent review of all income and expenditure for the Hostel since the financial year 2002/03 identified that profits were made in some years by the Hostel. These accumulated funds were able to absorb the losses made in 2015/16 and 2016/17 at no additional cost to the ratepayers. As at June 2019, the Hostel had a surplus balance of \$63,530.

The following table has been taken directly from the audited financial statements, inclusive of depreciation and end of year adjustments.

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Total Income from Continuing Operations	\$922	\$716	\$1,200	\$1,329	
Total Expenditure from Continuing Operations	\$1,366	\$1,304	\$1,135	\$1,212	
Net Operating Result for the Year	-\$444 Deficit	-\$588 Deficit	\$65 Surplus	\$117 Surplus	
Accumulated Funds \$879,900	\$333,331	(\$191,285)	(\$62,658)	\$104,222	\$63,530

The following table represents accumulated cash funds representing income received, less operating and capital expenditure. The Surplus is held in Reserve from November 2020.

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Cash Reserve Balance	\$333,331	(\$191,285)	(\$62,658)	\$104,222
b/f \$871,900 Surplus	Surplus	Deficit	Deficit	Surplus

The factors that impacted the losses are detailed under the headings "Income" and "Expenses".

Income

We understand that key Hostel personnel departed in 2016 because previous management informed the Hostel Co-ordinator that there were significant changes in Aged Care legislation which required a Registered Nurse to be the Manager of the facility and there was no longer an available position for her. The part time Registered Nurse also resigned at that time. Money was spent training Agency staff in various courses in major cities. Some Residents that departed during those years were not replaced therefore income was reduced. Capital expenditure increased over those 2 years to \$226,000 for the replacement of carpet, drapes, alarm system, nurse call system which was questionable when the normal Capital Works budget is approximately \$20,000 per annum. The new Agency staff did not have the knowledge of how to claim Aged Care Funding Instrument money and therefore an independent agency was engaged to prepare these claims for which they were entitled to keep a significant percentage of residential care fees as per the contract agreed to by Council and the Agency as well as keeping some funds from fees for any new residents entering the facility. Council considered the retention arrangements to be excessive and the contract was paid out in early 2018 as a cost saving measure.

In 2017/18, the Hostel Co-ordinator and the Registered Nurse were asked to return to the Hostel to prepare it for accreditation and to run the hostel.

On at least two occasions since 2018, it was identified that two residents owed Council money between \$20,000 and \$30,000 each. These amounts could not be recovered as the two residents had passed. On one occasion, Council was notified after the passing of a resident, and asked if any money was owed during the Probate period. Unfortunately, there was no response from Council. This resulted in Council being unable to recover the debt, as by the time it was discovered in 2018/19 the estate had been wound up.

Residential fees for 2015/16 were \$922,000 and in 2016/17 fees were \$716,000, compared to 2017/18 which were \$1,200,000 and in 2018/19 \$1,329,000. The reason for this was that Agency staff were not claiming some of the legitimate residential fees for the Hostel during that period and the number of residents had reduced.

Expenses

Excessive Employee costs in 2015/16 and 2016/17 were \$955,000 and \$829,000 respectively, with additional consultant fees of \$115,000 expended in 2016/17 compared to \$834,000 in 2017/18 and \$906,000 with no employee related consultancy in these two years.

In 2015/16 and 2016/17, Agency staff were engaged at premium fees to run the Hostel.

Several consultants were employed to review the Hostel and prepare documentation for unclaimed revenue. These consultants cost \$115,000.

Administrative costs paid by the Hostel to Council also contributed to the losses \$100,000 was charged in 2015/16 and 2016/17 for support to the Hostel. They have been reduced to \$60k in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

All other expenses were comparable over the 4 comparative years.

Hostel Turnaround

From early 2018, Council worked closely with the current management team at the Hostel and developed an excellent working relationship which has resulted in a very positive outcome for the residents and concerned community members. The Hostel returned to making a small profit in 2017/18 and 2018/19. During this time, working arrangements were reviewed, with staff input, resulting in less overtime and a more sensible approach to rostering. All Staff were engaged to make the Hostel a more efficient and sustainable business unit of Council, and to operate at a level which would see the Hostel being viable and remain as a Council asset for the long term.

The Hostel losses incurred in 2016/17 and 2017/18 caused an unacceptable risk to Council and could have been avoided.

The losses were caused by under recovery of legitimate residential fees, and over expenditure on salaries and consultancy fees.

It should be noted that the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial year will result in a small deficit. Council has taken a proactive approach to train additional staff to secure staffing requirements when the new 15 bed dementia facility is built. Based on the level of demand for dementia residents, the long term forecasts project the Hostel running at a surplus for future years.

The Hostel financial turnaround was not as a result of any cash injections by the Community or Council. It was as a result of managing the facility sensibly by experienced staff and management, as detailed above. The future sustainability of the Hostel will be maintained if Council management continues to be vigilant into the future.

COUNCIL MEETING NEWS

The following matters were dealt with at the 17 November 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting:

- **A Cemetery Master Plan** will be considered in preparing the 2021-2022 Operational Plan & Revenue Policy, and updated Long-Term Financial Plan.
- **The following community members will be joining Council's Advisory Committees:** Ms Mia Zaffina (Ageing Well, Aged Care and Facilities Advisory Committee), Ms Sue Morton & Ms Valerie Bradbury (Balranald Beautification Advisory Committee), Mr Geoff Windmill (Sport & Recreation Advisory Committee), Ms Janice Windmill (Euston Progressive Advisory Committee).
- **Council will commence a review of the current Disability Action Plan 2017-2019** with a view to updating the status of actions and developing a new Plan, with appropriate community consultation, for the period of 2021-2025, to be completed by 31 March 2021 and for consideration by Council at the April Ordinary Council Meeting. Relevant Advisory Committees will be involved.
- **Council approved the following donation applications** under the Drought Community Grant Funding: a) Balranald Art Gallery of \$10,000 for the Balarchie Mega Art on Theatre Royal; b) Balranald Golf Club Inc. of \$2716 to improve surfacing of the first fairway; c) Balranald Men's shed of \$1000 to install security cameras at Men's Shed; and d) Balranald Inc. of \$5000 for a Community Fun Sports and Market Day.
- **Council approved the following variations of previous donation applications** under the Drought Community Grant Funding: a) Homebush Recreation Club approved funding of \$10,000 towards the Rodeo be varied to allow the preparation of Recreation Club grounds for future Rodeos; b) Robinvale/Euston Ski Race, funding of \$2,000 for public liability insurance and purchase of soft drinks be varied to allow the committee to purchase an electrical generator; and c) Balranald 5 Rivers Outback Festival Committee approved funding of \$10,000 for the Family Fun Day at Kyalite be varied to allow the committee to host an alternative event or to purchase equipment for future events.
- **Council is considering the development of a Renovation and Restoration Plan** for the Theatre Royal. Council resolved to consider the resourcing for the Plan in preparing the 2021-2022 Operational Plan & Revenue Policy, and updated Long-Term Financial Plan.
- **Council established a Bidgee Haven Retirement Hostel Reserve.** This means surplus funds will be internally restricted in a separate fund. After a review of all the surplus and deficit balances from the financial year ending 30 June 2003 to 30 June 2020, a sum of \$63,530 is now restricted.

For more information check out our agendas and minutes on the website. On Facebook you can check out video coverage of the meeting. If you want more information about the matters listed above contact Carol on 03 5020 1300 and you will be directed to the most appropriate staff member.

COUNCIL CHRISTMAS LIGHT COMPETITION

Council, on 17 November, decided to allocate \$600 towards the provision of the Christmas Light Competition for Balranald Shire Residents. The judging of the Christmas Light competition after registrations close on the week commencing 14 December 2020 will be conducted by representatives of the Executive of Chairs of Council's Advisory Committees (as determined by that Committee).

To enter into our competition please register your address by phoning Council Offices 03 5020 1300 or emailing council@balranald.nsw.gov.au before 12 noon on Monday 14 December

BIDGEE HAVEN COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The Bidgee Haven Hostel is a significant asset owned and has been managed by Council over many years. It is a complex business and should be managed accordingly.

A report was put to Council's Ordinary Council meeting on 17 November 2020. This report proposed the establishment of a committee of management to manage the asset and be comprised of members with the necessary skills to deal with and provide advice on business related matters, and the general operations of the Hostel. Council resolved as follows:

- That Acting GM, Mr Kozlowski be requested to provide a handover report to the Administrator for Council's consideration covering significant matters relevant to Council's general management and operations, as he deems necessary, ahead of his impending departure on 11 December 2020.
- That the Acting GM be requested to specifically advise on the current management framework for the operation of the Bidgee Haven Hostel, suggesting appropriate changes, in the handover report.
- That, taking into account information received in the AGM handover report, and after consultation with the Ageing Well Aged Care and Facilities Advisory Committee, the incoming GM, Mr McNulty, be requested to report to Council on the most suitable management framework for the Bidgee Haven Hostel, as a matter of high priority early in 2021.

COUNCIL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2021-2022 TIMELINE

Council produces an Operational Plan annually which must be adopted by 30 June of each year. The 2021-2022 Operational Plan will be the second by Council under Administration.

Council will prepare the Operational Plan after community input (in the form of suggestions and ideas). The Advisory Committees will also play a major role. A draft Operational Plan will be reported to Council in May and adopted in June after 28 days of public exhibition.

January	Advertise for community input into the Operational Plan.
February	Staff to consider inputs from community, staff and Council decisions since 1/7/2020.
March	Council Finance staff to prepare preliminary documentation for review.
April	Council Finance staff to finalise documentation for the draft Operational Plan.
May	Council to consider the draft Operational Plan.
May/June	Public exhibition of the draft Operational Plan for 28 days, seeking submissions.
June	Council to consider submissions and adopt the Operational Plan.

COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT PROCESS

This is what we do at the Shire: All employment at the Shire goes through the same process without exception. All jobs are advertised via Facebook, Council website and local newspapers. The process involves making an application and providing whatever information is being asked for. Applicants will receive an acknowledgement. Applications are reviewed by an interview panel and a number of applicants are selected for interview. A second interview may be required. The interview panel recommends the best person for the job and an offer is made to the successful applicant.

You can supply Council with your resume at any time. You may be contacted to consider applying for a job that is being advertised.

If you want further information contact Philip Ruddick at Council's office via phone 03 5020 1300 or email pruddick@balranald.nsw.gov.au

COUNCIL OPERATIONS OVER CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

The Shire Office will be closed over the Christmas/New Year period. Adequate staffing shall be maintained for normal essential services and emergency call outs. Full details of the shut down including emergency numbers is included on the front page of this publication.

STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH ROAD NETWORK DAMAGE DUE TO UNAUTHORISED VEHICLE MOVEMENT DURING ROAD CLOSURES

Balranald Shire Council's road system suffers significant damage to its road network as a result of unauthorised vehicle movements when roads are closed due to adverse weather. Council is looking into the development of a strategy to recover the cost of reinstating road network damage.

VISITOR/DISCOVERY CENTRE UPGRADE PROJECT

An internal project team has been formed to review the scope of the project as the original estimate for the project exceeded the \$1million available. This review will consider all components of the original project, including the removal of the Library component. Relevant Council Advisory Committees will be updated on the Project Team's progress and will have direct input into the decision forming process.

LIBRARY PROJECT TEAM

An internal project team has been formed to consider an analysis of current and future library needs. The team will also consider options for the redevelopment of the current Library on its existing site. It is likely that it will take the Project Team several months before a report is presented to Council.

Relevant Council Advisory Committees will be updated on the Project Team's progress and will have direct input into the decision forming process.

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS 2021

Balranald Shire Council celebrates Australia Day annually and notwithstanding the recent challenges in holding events it intends to again celebrate this important event in January 2021. The Executive of Chairs for the Advisory Committees will determine the recipients of the Australia Day Awards and host the Australia Day Ambassador.

Currently Council is seeking nominations from the eight categories which will be presented in Balranald and Euston on 26 January 2021. Nominations close 4 December 2020 and details can be found on Council's website. **Our celebrations will be COVID 19 safe**



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
15/10/2020	DA 05/2021	James Golsworthy Consulting	Lot 716, Murray Valley Highway Euston & Crown Land on the bank of the Murray River, adj. Lot 716 DP 1187512	Irrigation Pump Station Upgrade
22/10/2020	DA 12/2021	DACCA Architecture	9 Murray Terrace, Euston	Motel Redevelopment
22/10/2020	DA 14/2021	Darren & Tracy O'Halloran	Kungie, 45207 Sturt Highway, Balranald & Waldaira, 46019 Sturt Highway, Balranald	Four (4) Lot Subdivision
23/10/2020	DA 17/2021	EB Mawson & Sons	Lot 92, Duryea Street, Balranald	Silo

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

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT HEADLINES

Marma - Box Creek sealing works started mid November and have now been completed over an initial distance of 15km. There will be speed restrictions in place for a short time to protect the new surface.

Proposed widening of Main Road 296 (Kyalite – Moulamein Road) from the Kyalite Caravan Park entrance to the Shire boundary has been deferred until after the current harvest season.



*Preparations for sealing works at the Marma – Box Creek Road
Photo by Ian Holmes*

The Commonwealth has announced a further round of funding under the Fixing Local Roads programme, and consideration is being given to which additional projects will be prioritised for an application under this scheme.

Balranald Riverfront precinct walkway pavement materials have been purchased and a contractor is being sought for these works. The swing bridge design and costings are undergoing peer review prior to inviting tenders for construction.

Balranald Landfill - in response to representations from small-scale commercial users regarding out of hours access, a trial arrangement with green waste skip bins located outside the existing entry gate has been commenced. Commercial bin is locked and key is available at Council's Office.

Aerodrome - an application is being submitted for funding under the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program (RAUP) to install kangaroo-proof perimeter fencing and seal pavement cracks.



Existing dirt track at Balranald Riverfront



St. Vincent De Paul
St Dymphna Conference



Christmas Hampers



Please if you are in need of a
CHRISTMAS HAMPER
 CONTACT SUE ON 0458 630877



Leave your details and telephone number
 And we will contact you
 ALL NAMES TO BE in
 By Wednesday 9th DECEMBER

Are you under 25 & starting your career??

The **Country Education Foundation of Balranald** has opened its annual grants round **for all young people** living within the Balranald Shire (including the towns of Euston, Balranald and beyond).

If you are transitioning from school (or a gap year) into your career, are aged 16-25yrs and **need some financial support in meeting your career goals** then go to the Country Education Foundation Australia website: <https://cef.org.au/apply-for-a-grant/> and select the 'Student Registration' button to complete an application form for the **Country Education Foundation of Balranald**

For questions or concerns call / email Rachael Williams 0416 201643 / rachael@locallogicplace.com.au

Applications must be completed online and received by COB **5pm Saturday 30th January 2021**
 (late applications will not be accepted).

Grants to our local young people are made possible with financial support from key local sponsors including Balranald Shire Council, Balranald Inc., Balranald ICPA,

Balranald Ex-Services Memorial Club and TransGrid's Community Partnerships Program.



Can Assist
 CANCER ASSISTANCE NETWORK
65th ANNIVERSARY 1955-2020

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



IT'S OPEN!!!!

Can Assist Balranald Branch is pleased to announce the
CAN ASSIST PRE-LOVED SECOND-HAND BOOK SHOP

IS NOW OPEN - 7 DAYS A WEEK

11AM TO 3P.M

If anyone is interested in volunteering give Alison a call on 0427 502019 (the hours are flexible)

Charitable Fund raising No 12748

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 www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au/ **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 collar a key tag label has enough space to put your name and number and makes a cheap way to give your pets an instant ID - *just in case!*

The Gallery News

XMAS @ THE GALLERY

Look no further than your local gallery @ 51 Mayall Street for that special personal Christmas gift. Currently we have over 70 artworks to choose from as well as other handmade works by local craftsperson's.

Check out the range of oilskin products & Andrew Chapman books as well as jewellery, glassware etc. Lay-bys & WLT cards are welcome.

Despite COVID we have had a busy year, so a huge thank you to all our supporters, volunteers etc. & we look forward to an exciting year in 2021 when we will be celebrating the old building's 140th birthday & the opening of Balranald's new Creative Learning Centre.

Balranald Hospital Auxiliary

Annual Christmas Street Stall

When – Friday 4th
December 2020

Where – Senior Citizens Centre

Time – 9:00am

**CHRISTMAS CAKES,
CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS,
BISCUITS, SLICES, CAKES,
RELISH AND LOTS MORE**

NO EARLY BIRDS

DROUGHT COMMUNITY SUPPORT INITIATIVE ROUND 2

The Drought Community Support Initiative (DCSI) Round 2 is a Federal Government funded grant that provides immediate financial assistance of up to **\$3000** to farmers, farm workers, or farm suppliers/contractors including sale yard and abattoir workers who have been financially impacted by drought. Payments may cover numerous expenses such as groceries, vehicle maintenance, energy & utility bills, health & medical expenses, for example. The benefit is limited to one per household up to a maximum cash payment of \$3000.

Not all impacts of the drought are the same. Some drought-affected communities have had rainfall, others haven't. Recovery is ongoing. Whatever your situation, we understand it takes time to bounce back.

Contact our Drought Relief team today to find out if you are eligible, or to apply over the phone call 1300 846 643 or apply online: <https://drought.svdp.org.au/apply>

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BALRANALD CLUB DECEMBER 2020

Ham and Toy Raffles are back again! Beginning on Friday the 27th of November, we have 4 fantastic weeks of Ham and toy raffles for you to enjoy. Bring the family along, and let the kids decide!

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.



EUSTON CLUB RESORT IS OPEN!

Euston Club Resort operating times:

Every day 10:30am – 11:00pm.

Station 46 Bistro meal times:

Lunch 12pm – 2pm

Dinner 6pm – 8:30pm

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.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM. SEARCH "EUSTON CLUB"

WESTPAC CLOSURE OVER CHRISTMAS/NEW YEARS

We wish to advise that Westpac Balranald branch will be closing from: Friday 25th December 2020 & re-opening on Monday 4th January 2021.

If you require assistance during this time please contact Telephone Banking on 132032

Wishing you a safe & festive Christmas & New Year.

Donna, Paulina, Josie & Helen

AURORA GRANTS PROGRAM

Aurora exists to raise funds to support the LGBTIQ community in a spirit of generosity, sharing & celebration.

Our Small Grants program is one of the ways in which we achieve this goal. Your organisation does not need to be a LGBTIQ community organisation, but the project you are seeking funding for must be focused on providing support to LGBTIQ communities in NSW.

The Small Grants round opens in November. Grants Guidelines can be accessed on the website to help you.

We are also in partnership this year with Pride Foundation Australia to offer a \$10k grant!

Applications will be considered Nov-Dec. It is advisable that funded projects not be due to begin until after 1st February.

For more information visit



JOIN GO LOCAL FIRST TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL LEGENDS' LUNCH

To start the summer, hold a Local Legends' Lunch with supplies from local small businesses, take a photo and post it on social media for the opportunity to win a \$1000 fuel voucher!

After the challenges of 2020, from bushfires to pandemic, GO LOCAL FIRST is teaming up with ACAPMA and New Sunrise Group for the Local Legends' Lunch. Support local small businesses and buy local produce for a lunch to celebrate the start of Summer.

How to get involved in the Local Legends' Lunch

- **PLAN**
Contact your family and friends to hold a Local Legends' Lunch, in a COVID safe manner, between Friday 4 - Sunday 6 December
- **BUY**
Purchase your food, drinks and supplies from local small businesses
- **PHOTO**
Take a photo of your lunch spread or hamper, tag or list the small businesses you've purchased from and post on Facebook or Instagram using #golocalfirst and #locallegendslunch
- **WINNER**
Photo of the best Local Legends' Lunch in each state or territory will win a \$1000 fuel voucher

Visit the Local Legends' Lunch website
www.golocalfirst.com.au/local-legends-lunch

COVID19 & CELEBRATING THE END OF 2020

To keep everyone in NSW safe, New Year's Eve celebration arrangements will be different this year.

Whether you are planning a celebration at home or in your local community, remember to ensure the safety of your family and friends.

Be aware of the number of people [allowed in your home](#), maintain [safe hygiene practices](#) and use [QR codes](#) to check in if you are going out to a restaurant, pub or bar.



Service NSW

You can check in to COVID Safe businesses who are using their NSW Government QR Code, via the Service NSW app.

iOS 



Android 





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BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL INCREASING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE (IRCC) INFORMATION SHEET 01

How safe are your household water supplies?

Water that does not harm you from consumption or physical contact is considered to be safe. The most common use of the term 'safe' is for drinking or potable water. However, it also applies equally to water used for cooking, bathing and showering, cleaning and other household uses. As well, it is applied to water used for recreation purposes such as swimming and children's paddle pools.

To be safe, the water must have sufficiently low concentrations of 'harmful' contaminants to avoid making people who use it either sick or result in injury or death.

The list of harmful contaminants includes:

- disease-causing microbes such as bacteria, viruses, and protozoans
- cancer-causing chemicals such as many pesticides, organic solvents and petroleum products and chlorinated by products of the disinfection process
- some metals and metalloids, nitrates and nutrients, endocrine-disrupting compounds, strong acids and bases, radionuclides and acutely toxic substances

Risk assessment and testing is needed to determine whether water is safe. We need to consider the chance of illness or injury from drinking the water, in comparison to the risk of illness or injury from the many other hazards in our lives. And we need to know that there are no contaminants such as bacteria or harmful chemicals in the water.

Using water piped from government supplied schemes is safe. Such supplies are filtered and treated to kill microbes and keep contaminants at safe levels. And bottled waters and treated domestic supplies from private surface, underground or rainwater capture sources is safe.

So, is water that you are using from your private surface or groundwater sources or rainwater tanks safe?

For further information on this important initiative please contact:

Peter Waterman RFD

Adjunct Professor, Institute for Land Water and Society

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

BSC is being assisted with this NSW Government Funded project by a Project Team from the Institute for Land Water and Society (ILWS) at Charles Stuart University (CSU) and the SEGRA Foundation.



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BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL INCREASING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE (IRCC) INFORMATION SHEET 02

Who is responsible for ensuring that private household water supplies are secure and safe?

A common response to household water supply issues is: *get the government to fix it!*

Based on experience that is not going to happen. And to know why, we need to look at the roles and responsibilities of governments in ensuring that household supplies are adequate and healthy.

State and Territory governments in Australia have statutory responsibility for centralised (scheme) domestic water supplies. This encompasses the adequacy of sources and the quality of supplies. Importantly, this includes the measure to ensure that household water supplies in towns are not a public health risk.

Australia wide the Federal Government has a limited role to play in ensuring the water supplies in rural towns are adequate and safe. However, in the Murray Darling Basin (MDB) the Federal role through the MDBA in meeting 'critical human water needs' is crucial. And these needs are defined in subsection 86A (2) of the Water Act 2007 and Chapter 11 of the *Basin Plan* and cover all uses of surface and ground water for domestic purposes. But are they being met?

Under delegation by state departments or agencies, in all Australian jurisdictions, Local Government Authorities (LGAs) only have statutory responsibility for the quantity and quality of 'scheme water' provided to rural cities, towns and settlements.

People on farming and pastoral properties are left to their own devices to secure adequate household water supplies and ensuring that the water being used is not a health risk.

This inequity could be considered a serious gap in policy and practice. Arguably, all Australians should have adequate and safe domestic water. And this situation has implications for economic productivity and the quality of life for people in Balranald Shire, the MDB and beyond.

So, is the water from your private surface or groundwater sources or rainwater tanks adequate and healthy?

And if not: what are you going to do about it?

For further information on this important initiative please contact:

Peter Waterman RFD

Adjunct Professor, Institute for Land Water and Society

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Contact Council

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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: www.balranald.nsw.gov.au

 Balranald Shire Council

COUNCIL SERVICES AND OPENING HOURS

Balranald Pool

Tuesday to Friday 3pm to 6pm, Saturday and Sunday & Public Holidays 11am to 6pm. School holidays as above but closing at 8pm.

Balranald Library

Monday to Friday 9am - 5.30pm, Wednesday 9.30am-5.30pm (closed for lunch 12pm-1pm)

Balranald Landfill

Tuesday and Thursday 4pm - 6pm, Saturday 10am-1pm, Sunday 10am-3pm

Euston Landfill

Tuesday and Thursday 1pm-6pm, Sunday 9am-3pm

DID YOU KNOW?

Council records every email that is received by or transmitted to staff.

Basically, that means that if you sent an email to a staff member that email is retained by Council and can be retrieved if necessary. So, whilst a staff member may delete an email a record is still retained by the Council system.

Members of the public can attend Council meetings and Advisory Committee meetings.

CURRENTLY ON EXHIBITION

Draft Documents

For most current list and full details please visit:

www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/council-documents/exhibition-of-draft-documents/

Development Applications

For most current list and full details please visit:

www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/environment-and-planning/developments-on-exhibition/

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www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/notice-board/general-notices/

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