



**AUGUST
2023**

NEWSLETTER

BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL

📍 70 Market Street
✉ PO Box 120
Balranald NSW 2715
☎ 03 5020 1300
@ council@balranald.nsw.gov.au
🌐 www.balranald.nsw.gov.au

SHIRE OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES

Balranald: 0418 322 902
Euston: 0419 693 956

SERVICE NSW HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 9.30am to 4pm
CLOSED FOR LUNCH 1PM TO 1.45PM

BALRANALD LIBRARY

Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5.30pm
CLOSED FOR LUNCH 12 NOON TO 1PM

BALRANALD SWIMMING POOL

CLOSED

BALRANALD CARAVAN PARK

Every day 8.30am to 6pm

BALRANALD LANDFILL

Tuesday & Thursday 4pm to 6pm
Saturday 10am to 1pm
Sunday 10am to 3pm
CLOSED DURING WET WEATHER CONDITIONS

EUSTON LANDFILL

Tuesday & Thursday 1pm to 6pm
Sunday 9am to 3pm
CLOSED DURING WET WEATHER CONDITIONS

PLEASE DON'T OVERFILL YOUR BIN!



***TO ENSURE THAT YOUR BIN IS COLLECTED, PLEASE
PUT IT OUT THE NIGHT BEFORE COLLECTION DAY***

Please email: council@balranald.nsw.gov.au
if you wish to receive an e-copy of our monthly Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

2024 Councillor Elections



The next local government elections for the Balranald Shire will be held on **Saturday 14 September 2024**. The NSW State Electoral Office will conduct the election.

Over recent weeks I have been discussing the Shire's Councillor return pathway with the NSW Office of Local Government (OLG) and the Administrators of Central Coast and Wingecarribee Councils, with a view to developing a formal program for candidates. The program will be separate to the elected councillor induction, which is a matter for the General Manager to deliver after the election.

Balranald, Central Coast, and Wingecarribee Councils were all subject to independent Public Inquiries with recommendations from Commissioners that all public offices be declared vacant and other recommendations in relation to education and training. All three councils are presently under administration. The OLG has indicated that the Administrators need to play a key role in supporting a Council to transition back to elected civic leadership.

The OLG sees the participation of Administrators in candidate information sessions to talk about the leadership failures that led to the previous elected Council's dismissal and the steps taken to address these failures while under administration as something that will contribute to the success of that transition.

Local government elected service is not a profession, and electors should have confidence that their representation comes from a sense of civic and community service and pride, and not from entitlement, ego, or personality.

Following a meeting with the OLG recently, it has been agreed that the OLG will oversee and assist in facilitating Councillor return pathways and it has also been agreed that program content will be independently developed for the three councils with each party making a financial contribution towards this.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A COUNCILLOR?



MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR - CONTINUED

2024 Councillor Elections

Good governance in local government is about councillors representing the whole Shire area and being a contributing and active member of the Governing Body. The Local Government Act 1993 is very clear on this. In my view, the Balranald public inquiry provides evidence that the previously elected council was not successful in achieving this.

An initial public session for intending candidates will be held in mid-to-late October 2023, with three formal sessions to be conducted in May, June, and July 2024. While roles and responsibilities will no doubt be at the forefront, financial responsibilities, managing conflicts, governance, interaction with Council staff, social-media, and how to make a positive impact and work cohesively as the elected Council will be addressed as part of the programme.

Importantly, the lessons from the dysfunctional activities of the previous Council (both political and administrative) will be addressed in these sessions to ensure that the reputational, social, and financial costs, not to mention stagnation/lost opportunities that would have benefited the Shire, are not repeated.

It is proposed to also invite participation of successful past and present Councillors from within NSW local government, in order to provide their input and share their experience on being an effective elected representative and how to make a positive impact in the local community.

Post-election induction of Councillors will be a matter for the General Manager, and in that regard, plans are already underway to ensure the that elected members can hit the ground running and to ensure that the lessons of the Balranald Public Inquiry are learnt.

I encourage all Balranald Shire electors to consider candidacy, and to those who are, that you participate in the pre-election sessions. Please stay tuned for details of the session dates, times and locations.

MIKE COLREAVY
ADMINISTRATOR



BALRANALD & EUSTON WATER NETWORKS

Regional Leakage Reduction Program

The Regional Leakage Reduction Program, funded by the NSW Government, was conducted in Balranald and Euston during June 2023.

Specialised leak detectors, engaged by WaterNSW, work with the local water utilities across regional NSW to reduce water leakage, by finding leaks in supply networks and improving infrastructure. WaterNSW works with local water utility staff, to enhance their abilities in identifying, targeting and fixing leaks as part of their maintenance programs, so improving overall leakage management.

The program identified significant leaks in Balranald & Euston, which have now been repaired.

Council staff learned new skills, which will continue to benefit them in their future work.



Engineering Update

Roads



REGIONAL ROADS

Balranald Ivanhoe Road (MR67)

Heavy patching works are ongoing. Approximately 7,000m² of road has been repaired between Clare and the Shire boundary. This work will continue into the 2023/2024 Financial Year.

Oxley Road (MR514)

Potholes repair and edge sealing works have progressed. Further grading and formation works are planned from July 2023 as contractors become available.

UNSEALED ROAD MAINTENANCE

Maintenance grading and road repair is continuing on:

- Prungle Mail Road
- Euston Prungle Road
- Docherty Road
- Binda Melton Grove Road
- Euston Prungle Road
- Marma Box Creek Road
- Hatfield The Vale Road (North)

Road reformation and compaction works are being carried out on:

- Clare Mossgiel Road
- Mildura Ivanhoe Road
- Prungle Marma Road

Contractors will move onto the following roads when these works are completed:

- Abbots Tank Road
- Magenta Wampo Road (West)
- Turlee Leaghur Road
- Tarwong Freshwater Road
- Clare Freshwater Road
- Nandum Corrongo Road

FLOOD DAMAGED ROADS

Oxley Road (MR514) remains closed.

Approximately 1.8km of road is still covered by deep flood water, around 18km from the intersection of the Balranald Ivanhoe Road. The water is receding/evaporating slowly. Repair works cannot commence until the water recedes completely. Access to Oxley from Balranald is via the Clare Oxley Road or via Maude.

Morrison Road / Antonio Drive, Euston remains closed.

The road is still affected by flood water in the (normally dry) Lake Lara. Repair works will be undertaken once the water has receded, and the area is dry. 'Road Closed' warning signs are in place

Abbots Tank Road

The road has been severely damaged by storm and floodwater in approximately ten locations. Contractors will commence repair works, once works on Prungle Mail Road are completed.



OXLEY ROAD FLOODED

BALRANALD LIBRARY NEWS



From 1 August 2023, Balranald Library will be open five days a week:

Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 5.30pm
(closed from 12 midday to 1pm for lunch)

PUPPET WORKSHOP

The Shake Shake Theatre visited Balranald Library on Monday 10th July, for a puppet workshop.

The workshop leaders were impressed by the children's openness to play, explore and create!

"The incredible young puppet builders became puppeteers before our eyes, delighting us with their characters and stories!"



Puppets created at the Puppet Workshop

Tech Savvy Seniors

Free, fun digital skills sessions for seniors



The second 10-week Tech-Savvy Seniors program was completed at the library in June, and funding has been approved to run an additional 10 sessions per school term. Dates to be confirmed.

Do you want to learn how to:

- use a smartphone
- search for things on the internet
- send an email
- try shopping online
- Facetime your family
- understand your grandkids tech-speak (somewhat!)

For information, please contact Janaya at the Balranald Library on (03) 5020 1388

New to Friday afternoon youth session is a brand new PlayStation 5.

High school students are welcome to pop in and enjoy the PS5.



YOUTH LIBRARY

**YOUTH SESSION FOR
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**
Friday afternoons
after school - 3pm

TECHHUB



Books for youth include manga and graphic novels, as well as young adult fiction.

There are comfy chairs to sit and relax.

Or come in and use one on the library computers at the Tec Hub

BALRANALD AND EUSTON SETTLEMENT STRATEGIES for Enhancement and Growth

The Balranald & Euston Settlement Strategies have been developed from reports and documents submitted to Council over many years, that have recommended projects and changes. Close consultation with the community has been undertaken.

Plans are outlined for improvement and development of community facilities, parks & gardens, signage and public art, to name a few.

Tourism and economic development changes are also addressed.

The Settlement Strategies for Balranald & Euston can be found on Council's website.

At the Ordinary Council meeting on 18 July 2023, Council resolved to:

- Adopt the Settlement Strategies for Balranald and Euston
- Develop a program of works to deliver the identified outcomes and work with residents
- Use its community newsletter and social media to advise residents of the works program, how the residents and Council can work on projects, and work together to identify grants & other funding opportunities.

THESE PLANS CANNOT BE DELIVERED BY COUNCIL ALONE.

COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY RESIDENTS WILL NEED TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING, TO ASSIST EACH OTHER, TO SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF IMPROVEMENT AND TO WORK PATIENTLY IN THE DELIVERY OF THE OUTCOMES.

THESE STRATEGIES GIVE COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY A PLAN AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF BOTH TOWNS.



Shattered Glass Mosaics Workshop by Jill Reed

The Gallery

51 Mayall Street, Balranald
Sunday 27 August 2023 at 10am

Fee: \$105 - all inclusive

PLEASE BYO LUNCH

Please come to the Gallery
between 10am and 3pm to book
your place.



Mary Mac in the Outback

LIVE PLAY - THE LIFE OF MARY MACKILLOP
Proudly brought to you by St Dymphna's Catholic Parish

7pm Tuesday, 8th August

Donations welcome to cover the delicious supper provided.

EX SERVICES CLUB - 116 MARKET STREET, BALRANALD

Regardless of your religious affiliation, Mary MacKillop was an amazing Australian, who did not back down when she faced injustice and persecution. A young woman in the late 1800s who travelled to remote parts of Australia to establish schools for **everyone**.

PROJECT ENERGYCONNECT

JULY 2023

Project EnergyConnect involves the construction of 700km of new power lines from the SA border to the regional energy hub of Wagga Wagga.

The project will connect the electrical grids of New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria, improving reliability of our nation's energy supply.

Works are expected to be completed by 2025.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES TO COMMENCE

The first construction activities on the Eastern section of the project will be commencing at multiple sites from Wagga Wagga to Buronga, weather permitting from July 2023.

The hours of operation will be: 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm (Saturday)

MAP SHOWING ENERGYCONNECT ALIGNMENT



UPCOMING WORK

Access Points

Vehicle access and egress points will be established, for safe vehicle entry and exit from roads, to facilitate construction of the transmission line and Dinawan and Cobb Highway camps. Traffic management will be in place affecting some local, regional and state roads.

These first activities will be staged to allow unimpeded and continuous access to the construction corridor for the construction crews and the delivery of construction related materials for the construction of the transmission towers and substations.

Substations

We are expanding and upgrading the existing Buronga substation into a world class facility with some of the most sophisticated electrical equipment in the Southern Hemisphere. Work is scheduled to begin shortly on a new substation known as Dinawan, located between Jerilderie and Coleambally and work is also scheduled to occur on the expansion of the existing Wagga Wagga substation.

A summary of the construction activities planned between Wagga Wagga and Buronga (weather permitting), is outlined in the table below.

SUMMARY OF PLANNED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

LOCATION & ACTIVITY		SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE*
BURONGA to DINAWAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation clearing Access points and access tracks 	Clearing and Grubbing Removal of any vegetation necessary along the construction corridor. Construction of Access Points Establishing vehicle access and egress points for safe vehicle entry and exit from roads to facilitate construction of the transmission line and Cobb Highway camp.	July to Sept 2023
BURONGA to DINAWAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overhead transmission line construction Tower foundation excavation 	Transmission Tower Foundation Activities including set up of foundations with reinforcing steel cages and pouring of concrete tower footings.	Aug to Nov 2023
BURONGA to DINAWAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tower assembly and erection 	Tower steel arrives to site with assembly at ground level prior to lifting each stage of the tower into position and fastening. Crews assemble towers in location	Oct 2023 to March 2024
DINAWAN to WAGGA WAGGA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access points and access tracks 	Construction of Access Points Establishing vehicle access and egress points for safe vehicle entry and exit from roads to facilitate construction of the transmission line and Dinawan camp.	July to Oct 2023
DINAWAN to WAGGA WAGGA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation clearing 	Clearing and Grubbing Removal of any vegetation necessary along the construction corridor. (Including minor road works.)	July to Sept 2023
DINAWAN to WAGGA WAGGA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overhead transmission line construction Tower foundation excavation 	Transmission Tower Foundation Activities such as setting up foundations with reinforcing steel cages and concrete pour for tower footings.	Aug 2023 to May 2024
DINAWAN to WAGGA WAGGA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tower assembly and erection activities 	Tower steel arrives to site with assembly at ground level prior to lifting each stage of the tower into position and fastening. Crews assemble towers in location.	Nov 2023 to Oct 2024

*Subject to change

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The type of plant and equipment you can expect to see at various stages of the construction are graders, rollers, mulchers, excavators, concrete trucks, tractors, and mobile cranes. All construction activities will be carried out in accordance with SecureEnergy Management Plans which can be found at <https://www.transgrid.com.au/projects-innovation/energyconnect>

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

We thank you for your patience and understanding during these construction activities. Please feel free to contact us for further information about the project by:

phone: 1800 49 06 66

email: community@secureenergyjv.com.au

web: www.transgrid.com.au/energyconnect





OUR MEALS NEED YOUR WHEELS!

Balranald Meals on Wheels are currently seeking dedicated volunteers to deliver meals to clients in the local region.

For more information, please contact:

Charlotte McLean (Service Manager)

25 Darling Street, WENTWORTH NSW 2648

PO Box 283 WENTWORTH NSW 2648

Phone: 03 5027 3352 Mobile: 0427 373 407

Email: charlotte.m@mealsonwheelswentworth.com.au



DOMESTIC FIREWOOD PERMITS YANGA NATIONAL PARK

Permits are available from 1 April until 30 September 2023 for domestic firewood collection on Yanga National Park. The available firewood is from a single collection point and consists of redgum milled timber offcuts (sleeper backs).

Permits cost \$25/tonne or \$12.50/tonne for pensioner concession with a limit of 6 tonnes per household per year.

Permits are only available to residents of Balranald and Murray River Shires.

PLEASE NOTE: APPLICATIONS MUST BE EMAILED TO THE NPWS BURONGA OFFICE FOR PROCESSING AT: npws.lowerdarlingfirewood@environment.nsw.gov.au

Permit applications are available:

Online: Search "NSW Domestic Firewood Collection"

Printed copies: from Yanga Park office open 8:30am to 4:30pm every day.

For more information:

Phone: Yanga Park office (03) 5020 1764

Email: npws.lowerdarlingfirewood@environment.nsw.gov.au

STREET SWEEPER

BALRANALD

- 10 August 2023 - Market Street and north of town. (Racecourse side)
- 31 August 2023 - Market Street and south of town. (River side) Includes Caravan Park.
- 21 September 2023 - Market Street and north of town. (Racecourse side)

EUSTON

- 9 August 2023 – Whole town of Euston
- 13 September – Whole town of Euston

The above dates are **proposed scheduled dates and are subject to variation** depending on weather and contractor availability.





Preparing for natural disasters has unfortunately become a way of life.

The Flagstaff Group has put together a library of resources to help you and your loved ones prepare.

Visit www.emberapp.com.au for ideas on what to pack, who to tell, and when to leave.

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE NEXT EMERGENCY?



- ☒ Develop your plan
- ☒ Know what to take
- ☒ Know who will help you evacuate
- ☒ Know when to leave and how you'll get there



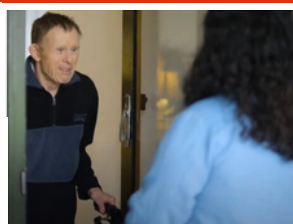
VISIT WWW.EMBERAPP.COM.AU FOR INFORMATION TO HELP YOU:

CAN YOU HELP VULNERABLE NEIGHBOURS?

Become a Streetmate

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ☒ Ensure a neighbour has a plan and is prepared for a natural disaster or emergency
- ☒ In an emergency, help neighbours to activate their plan and evacuate quickly
- ☒ Check if neighbours need transport or any extra support
- ☒ Make sure neighbours have what they need until they can go home.
- ☒ Stay in touch with neighbours after an evacuation



www.streetmate.com.au | www.emberapp.com.au

Looking out for neighbours that need help from time to time is a sign of a great community. When natural disasters occur, this extra level of support will ensure that all community members stay safe.

The Flagstaff Group is pleased to launch StreetMate, a library of resources to help you have conversations with the people that live in your street or town.

Visit www.streetmate.com.au to download the free materials and pledge your support.

BE PREPARED, STAY SAFE.

The Flagstaff Group is a not-for-profit Australian Disability Enterprise.



Women's Resilience Centre Employment Readiness 6 Trauma-Informed Sessions

Beginning Aug 7th Online
Mondays 12-1:30



REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

Please send an email to jaclyn@wresilience.com.au to register or call 02 99791865. We will then reach out with more information and confirmation of your spot.



02 99791865



womensresiliencecentre.com.au



@womensresiliencecentre



Women's resilience centre



womensresiliencecentre

Facilitators

Simone Allan



simoneallan

&

Kristen Hansen



kristenlouisehansen

ONLINE OR IN PERSON

- Successful employment mindset
- Resetting your brain for starting or changing employment
- Seeking employment: resumes, applications & interviews

AUDIENCE

Women wishing to reset their lives after experiencing domestic violence, trauma, or deep loss. We support the path forward post-crisis care.

BOOK LAUNCH

La Famiglia Matarazzo



Petaurus
EDUCATION GROUP



On Friday 28 July, Council's Administrator, Mike Colreavy and General Manager, Craig Bennett attended the launch of 'La Famiglia Matarazzo' at The Gallery.

This book has been written and illustrated by four students from Balranald Central School - Kayla Harding, Camden Matarazzo, Lilian Matarazzo and Anna Scoleri. It documents the history of 'La Famiglia Matarazzo' - four generations of the Matarazzo family, who have lived and worked on the same rural property, just outside Balranald, since the 1940s. The book contains many wonderful photographs alongside the family's story of hard work, perseverance and adaptability.



Back row: BSC General Manager Craig Bennett, Administrator Mike Colreavy, Camden, Lilian, Charlie, Joe, Veny, Hamish and Nadine Matarazzo.
Front row: Petaurus Project Officer, Bronwyn Hicks & teacher Fleur Cullenward

One of the aims in the creation of this book, was to connect young people with the rich history of their town through interviewing individuals who have had a long-term impact on the local community. The students involved worked on this project in addition to their usual schoolwork. They spent many hours interviewing members of the family, writing the story and creating artworks. They were ably assisted by teachers Fleur Cullenwood and Nadine Matarazzo, and local artist Jan Lawler.



Book authors and illustrators - Kayla Harding, Anna Scoleri, Camden Matarazzo and Lilian Matarazzo

The project was co-ordinated by the Petaurus Education Group and funded by the NSW Government through the Stronger Country Communities Fund.



Euston Public School Regent Parrot Program

Petaurus Education Group plans to recommence the (COVID interrupted) Regent Parrot Program at Euston Public School this Spring.

Petaurus will be working with students to develop information signs, which will be installed around Euston.

These signs will be designed by the students, with information and artwork about local nature and wildlife - particularly the Regent Parrot.

**Free workshop for
parents and supervisors
of learner drivers**

**HELPING LEARNER DRIVERS
BECOME SAFER DRIVERS
FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP**

To register visit:
<https://bit.ly/YoungDriver16Aug23>
Wednesday 16 August 2023
6:00pm - 7:30pm