

January
2025

COMMUNITY 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 - 4.30pm

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES

Water & Sewer: 0418 322 902
Roads: 0427 273 741
Euston: 0419 693 956

SERVICE NSW

(within Balranald Shire Offices)
Tuesday to Friday: 9.30am - 4pm
CLOSED FOR LUNCH: 1PM - 1.45PM

BALRANALD LIBRARY

Monday to Friday: 9.30am - 5.30pm
CLOSED FOR LUNCH: 12PM - 1PM

BALRANALD SWIMMING POOL

Monday: Closed

Tuesday to Friday: 3.30pm - 6.30pm
Saturday & Sunday: 11am - 6pm
IF FORECAST IS UNDER 26 DEGREES,
THE POOL WILL BE CLOSED

BALRANALD CARAVAN PARK

Daily: 8.30am - 6pm

BALRANALD LANDFILL

Tuesday & Thursday: 4pm - 6pm

Saturday: 10am - 1pm

Sunday: 10am - 3pm

CLOSED DURING WET WEATHER CONDITIONS

EUSTON LANDFILL

Tuesday & Thursday: 1pm - 6pm

Sunday: 9am - 3pm

CLOSED DURING WET WEATHER CONDITIONS

If you wish to receive an e-copy
of this monthly newsletter
please email:
council@balranald.nsw.gov.au

AUSTRALIA DAY

Sunday
26th January
2025



EUSTON

EUSTON RECREATION RESERVE

8 am - 11.30 am

- BBQ breakfast and food stalls
- Australia Day awards ceremony
- Children's entertainment, including jumping castle & face painting
- Live entertainment with Don Costa

Limited seating available, BYO chairs recommended.
Promotional photographs will be taken on the day

BALRANALD

GREENHAM PARK HALL & GROUNDS

11.30 am - 1.30 pm

- BBQ lunch
- Australia Day awards ceremony
- Children's entertainment
- Live entertainment

Limited seating available, BYO chairs recommended.
Promotional photographs will be taken on the day.

ALL WELCOME



Council Offices, Depots & Library

will be **CLOSED** on

Monday 27 January 2025

for the Australia Day Public Holiday

**GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULED FOR
MONDAY 27 JANUARY**

WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY 28 JANUARY



PLEASE PUT YOUR BIN OUT ON MONDAY NIGHT TO ENSURE THAT IT IS EMPTIED

Citizen of the Year 2025 Nominees

Balarald Shire Council received four nominations this year for the Australia Day Awards, Citizen of the Year 2025. Each of the four nominees have given tremendous amounts of time and energy to improve our communities and the lives of the people in them. They have worked in many different areas, such as education, youth opportunities, health, domestic violence prevention and sport & recreation. Although there can only be one winner, Council would like to acknowledge the tremendous work and achievements of each nominee. Our small communities thrive and survive thanks to the dedication and hard work of amazing people such as these.

We thank all of our community's volunteers who generously offer their time to serve in committees, clubs, churches and schools. Our towns would not be what they are without you all.

(Nominees in alphabetical order)

Tony Conway



As well as being a local business owner and raising a family, Tony has worked behind the scenes for many years with Balarald Football Club, Balarald Racing Club, Southern Districts Racing Association and Swan Hill District Cricket Association. Tony has served as a committee member, timekeeper, umpire, fund-raiser, auctioneer and coach. He is ready to help out with whatever needs doing. As President of Balarald Racing Club since 2005, he supports other small racing clubs and advocates for the continuation of country racing. Tony also volunteers his time for St Joseph's annual school fete and as a stand-in meals-on-wheels driver when needed.

Tony has lobbied the Police, Ambulance and Teacher Housing Authority for better housing conditions for professional people and their families. He is also a strong proponent for the expansion and development of Bidgee Haven Retirement Hostel.

Emma Moore



Emma is mum to three young boys and works as Nurse Manager for Maari Ma Health in Balarald. She has completed multiple post-graduate nursing courses with the aim of offering extended and improved health care services in Balarald. On top of her work duties, she has been involved with the organisation of successful service expos and health promotion events.

Emma is a member of the Western Primary Health Network, Far West Community Advisory Council, the Lower Sector Violence, Abuse and Neglect Interagency Group and Council's Strengthening Community Access, Inclusion and Wellbeing Advisory Committee and St Joseph's School Committee.

Emma is also secretary of the Balarald NAIDOC Committee, St Joseph's School Parents & Friends Association, and Balarald Soccer Club, of which she was a founding member.

In an interview for Women's Week in March 2024, Emma stated "I hope that I can inspire and empower other women to set a positive example for their kids and families. I'm firstly a proud Mum, but my heart expands to all my other commitments and community, where I hope to influence positive change."

Glenn Stewart



Glenn was a secondary school teacher for 22 years, and since then has worked for many years in various government organisation roles, working to improve local education, youth training and employment. Glenn's passion to see improved services to the people of the Euston-Robinvale area also extends outside of the workplace. Through his roles on several boards and advisory committees, Glenn strongly advocates for improvements in such areas as economic development, vocational training, higher education, indigenous affairs, youth affairs, school education and AFL administration. He has been an active member of the Euston Progressive Advisory Committee for the past four years.

With Glenn's local industry connections and extensive experience, he works hard with local government and the community to improve the small town of Euston.

Rachael Williams



Rachael works with her husband in managing their farm, while also running her own business and raising three children. In addition, she gives her own time in many areas to improve opportunities and services in our community.

Rachael played a key role in developing Advisory Committees to work with the Council's Administrator. She is Chairperson and Secretary for the Strengthening Community Access, Inclusion and Wellbeing Advisory Committee and a member of the Executive of Chairs Advisory Committee. Rachael has also assisted with community engagement to help guide positive outcomes in areas such as community development, business growth and tourism. .

Rachael works in several areas for local children and youth. She has advocated for early intervention initiatives, recognising that addressing challenges faced by young people at the earliest stages can have a transformative impact on their futures. She has served several terms as President and committee member of the St Joseph's Parents & Friends Association, as well as being a member of the School Committee, dedicating countless hours volunteering and raising funds to support our local school children.

Keen to see our rural youth succeed, Rachel has been secretary of the Local Country Education Foundation for over a decade. This foundation provides financial support to local students aged 16-25 transitioning from school into further education or the workforce. Rachael volunteers her time to source funding, assess applications, interview candidates and communicate outcomes.

Rachael has helped to organise events such as 'White Ribbon' nights in support of victims of domestic violence, the annual Health, Wellbeing and Support Services Expo and Women's Health Pamper Day.

Rachael's passion, commitment, and tireless work ethic have made a significant impact on the lives of many individuals in Balranald. She has worked relentlessly to advocate for improved healthcare, mental health support, women's health, youth and early childhood services and domestic violence resources in the community, always striving to create a better, more inclusive environment for all.



WINNERS OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION



1st Prize: Clive & Marilyn Williams

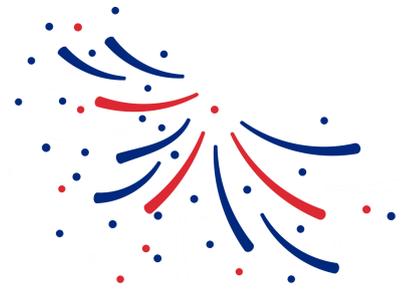
2nd Prize: Nancy Garreffa

3rd Prize: Rasmus Family

Congratulations to our winners and thank-you to everyone who took time to decorate their homes for Christmas for the enjoyment of everyone.



Balranald Shire 2025 Australia Day Ambassador Dr Benjamin Veness



Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and Churchill Fellow

Benjamin Veness is a medical doctor with sub-specialty training in child and adolescent psychiatry. He had an unusual path into medicine, having initially received a scholarship to study accounting at university.

After completing his accounting degree while on exchange in Canada, Benjamin graduated with a job in banking. As he spent his early 20s working on spreadsheets and PowerPoint slides high up in a city skyscraper, he developed a sense that he could – and should – make a greater contribution to society.

Returning to university to study medicine at the age of 25, Benjamin put his skills from the corporate world to good use. In his first year he produced his faculty's hugely successful revue, *Cadavatar*, raising \$43,000 for charity. He then served two terms on the University of Sydney's governing body as the undergraduate student Fellow of Senate, before spending 2013 as President of the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA). In this national role Benjamin represented 17,000 medical students in dealings with the media, government ministers and senior bureaucrats.

While President of AMSA, Benjamin also completed a Master of Public Health. In recognition of his academic excellence and enrichment of the diverse life of the University and the broader community, he was awarded the Edmund Barton Medal for master's by coursework achievement. In 2015 and 2016, the University profiled Benjamin in its 'Leadership for Good' campaign, alongside illustrious alumni such as Gough Whitlam, Michael Kirby and Victor Chang.

Benjamin was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2013 to research student mental health, travelling to the US, Canada, the UK, China and Singapore. Benjamin has been invited to present his report, titled 'The Wicked Problem of University Student Mental Health', at conferences throughout Australia. After finishing his psychiatry training, he spent most of 2022 in New York City, where he worked as a consulting expert for The Jed Foundation, a student mental health charity. Since 2023, Benjamin has been based in Sydney, where he works in the public mental health sector, treating children, families and young adults.

While working as a doctor, Benjamin has maintained his involvement in public health initiatives, medical research and advocacy. He is particularly interested in how to support Australia's next generation of young people and their families to have positive relationships and the best possible mental and physical health.



INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

MARMA BOX CREEK ROAD

Gravel construction works of a further 3.9km section of Marma Box Creek Road commenced early January 2025. It is planned that this 3.9km section will be sealed this coming autumn. On completion of this section, Marma Box Creek Road will be sealed all the way to the intersection with Magenta Wampo Road.

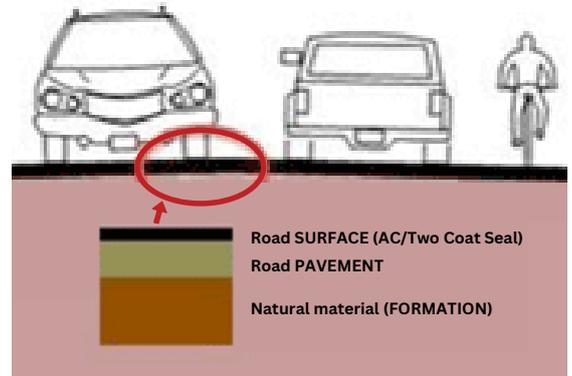
MR67 - BALRANALD IVANHOE ROAD

Heavy patching works will continue in early January 2025. Heavy patching is used when large sections of the road are badly damaged or deformed.

What is heavy patching?

A road is made up of three layers:

- the SURFACE
- and two layers of foundation:
- the PAVEMENT
- the FORMATION or SUBGRADE



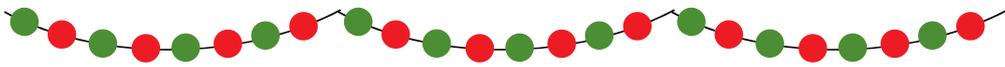
During heavy patching, the damaged SURFACE is removed. The PAVEMENT gravel is pulverised by road reclaimer machinery. A binder is mixed into the pavement gravel for strength. The pavement is then watered and re-compacted before a surface seal of either asphalt or sprayed seal is applied.

The binder being used on MR67 is called “Triple Blend”, which is a mixture of lime, cement and flyash. This binder strengthens the pavement, helping it to hold together, resist moisture and cope better with the demands of today’s larger, heavier traffic.

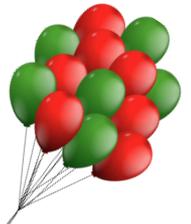
MAINTENANCE CREWS

Council’s maintenance crews have also been busy on MR67 with pothole patching. They are doing an excellent job during the hot conditions.

They have also been busy installing and replacing guideposts on Council’s unsealed road network making the area safer for visitors and locals. In addition, old, outdated road signs are being replaced new updated signage. This will continue across the Shire until all signage has been updated with more compliant signs.



Market Day 2024



Market Day 2024 was held on Wednesday 18 December 2024. With a barbecue, balloon animals, a photo booth, and lots of Christmas specials from business operators across the town, it was a successful day, encouraging people to support local retailers and businesses.

3SH Radio broadcast live from Market Street, promoting local retailers, eateries and accommodation across our Shire as well as activities and attractions within Balranald Shire for the summer holidays.

People making a purchase in any shop between the hours of 10am and 1.45pm, were able to bring their docket to the 3SH broadcasting area to enter a prize draw for a \$250 voucher to be redeemed at any shop of the winner’s choice within Balranald Shire.

This Prize Draw was won by Megan Walker

St Barnabas Op Shop



**Every Wednesday
& Thursday
10am - 2pm**
Cnr Ballandella &
Mayall St, Balranald



K Y A L I T E

FISHING CLASSIC

**Friday 21st
Saturday 22nd
& Sunday 23rd
February 2025**



To register use the QR Code

Kyalite Fishing & Sporting

ENTRY

1st Prize:
430 Mako Craft Estuary Tracker (Painted) Side Console. 50 HP Mercury Motor and Trailer Package. Value \$37,000

2nd Prize:
3.7m Hunter Marine Tinny with 9.9 Yamaha Motor with Trailer. Value: \$7,200

3rd Prize:
Honda Voucher

4th Prize:
Engel Portable Fridge/Freezer. Value: \$1,439

5th Prize:
Assorted Vouchers

Entry Fees:
Open (17 & over) - \$160
Junior (16 & under) - \$160

For inquiries contact: - Brenten Hogan: 0493 568 018 or Josh Standen: 0400 467 738

DIAMOND SPONSOR

PEARSONS GROUP

Balranald Murrumbidgee Classic Fishing Competition 2025

Tickets
\$160 adults
\$110 Juniors

28TH, 29TH & 30TH
MARCH

WHATS ON OFFER?

Meals included:

Saturday and Sunday Breakfast

Saturday night dinner

Sunday lunch

Thanks to the
Balranald Football and Netball Club



**Thousands of dollars worth of prizes,
raffles and give aways!!
Including 2 x boats!**

Book ONLINE NOW-

<https://www.trybooking.com/CWUAR>



Services
Australia

Beware of scammers

Scammers are dodgy people. They send you messages to trick you and steal your myGov, Centrelink or other personal details.



They might promise you money or gifts. They might threaten you. These are lies.



They'll use your personal details to steal your Centrelink payment.



NEVER give your myGov, Medicare, Centrelink or Child Support information to anyone.



NEVER click links in text messages, emails or social media messages.

You can find out more about scammers by:



Talking to a staff member.



Calling our Indigenous Call Centre on 1800 136 380.



Scanning the QR code or going to our website, servicesaustralia.gov.au/scams



Hay

Farm Safety Training Week

Tocal College delivers accredited training at your doorstep to improve farm safety. Fully funded training for eligible participants.



7 to 11 April 2025

This is a great opportunity for locals in the Hay district to pick from a range of practical, hands-on training, designed to improve safety on-farm.

This training is aligned with national units of competency.

Funding through **AgSkilled 3.0** is available for eligible participants, making this training **FEE FREE!**

Courses

Tractors with attachments and front-end loader operations - AHCMOM317 - Operate tractors with attachments - AHCMOM207 - Conduct front-end loader operations	2 day course
Machinery hygiene - AHCBIO203 - Inspect and clean machinery, tools and equipment to preserve biosecurity	1 day course
Working in confined spaces - RBWHS202E - Enter and work in confined spaces - RBWHS201E - Work safely and follow WHS policies and procedures	1 day course
Working safely at heights - RBWHS204E - Work safely at heights - RBWHS201E - Conduct local risk control	1 day course
Quadbike operations - AHCMOM217 - Operate quad bikes	1 day course
Side by side operations - AHCMOM216 - Operate side by side utility vehicles	1 day course
Telehandler operations - AHCMOM303 - Operate a telehandler	1 day course
SMARTtrain chemical application (Level 3) - AHCCM304 - Transport and store chemicals - AHCCM307 - Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases	2 day course

Interested in participating?

Register your interest today
<https://nswtrade.wufoo.com/forms/farm-safety-week-hay/>



Contact

Andrea Basham
T 02 6951 2789 M 0417 791 171
E andrea.baker-basham@dpi.nsw.gov.au

About Tocal College

Tocal College is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO 91166), is part of the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and is the leading Australian provider of specialised training to rural industries. We deliver nationally recognised training all over NSW through the CB Alexander Campus at Paterson, the Yanco Campus in the Riverina, and branches at Tamworth and Wagga Wagga.

Check out our face-to-face and online courses:

www.tocal.nsw.edu.au



J24-101

Please see funding link below:

<https://nswtrade.wufoo.com/forms/farm-safety-week-hay/>

If you require further information, please contact Andrea on 02 6951 2775 or email andrea.baker-basham@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Total College Farm Safety Training Week is coming to Hay 7-11 April 2025

We will be offering a range of courses such as:

- SMARTtrain chemical application (Level 3)
- Tractors with attachments and front-end loader operations
- Telehandler operations
- Machinery hygiene
- Working safely at heights
- Working in confined spaces
- Side by side operations
- Quad bike operations

With fee-free training available for eligible participants, we aim to reduce financial barriers and ensure that all farmers can access essential safety training for their teams.

AgSkilled funding eligibility criteria below:

- Live and work in NSW
- Over the age of 15 and no longer at school
- Work in the Agricultural industry in production of Horticulture, Viticulture, Grains, Rice, Cotton & Livestock
- Australian or New Zealand citizen or approved visa holder
- Have not received funding for the same units in the past



KEEP MOZZIES AWAY

Take the steps to protect

SPRAY UP • COVER UP • SCREEN UP

INTRODUCING INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER MR. PETER BASCOMB



Balranald Shire Council has appointed Mr Peter Bascomb as Interim General Manager.

Peter commenced employment with Council on Wednesday 18 December 2024. He brings a wealth of experience to the position, having worked in local government for the past 29 years, including holding jobs at General Manager level in New South Wales councils for 23 years.

Having worked in New South Wales local government since 2001, Peter is an experienced and successful Chief Executive with an outstanding record for organisational renewal, both financial and cultural.

Peter holds tertiary qualifications in science, computing and business leadership. He is also an AICD accredited company director. His professional background is equally diverse, including the public sector, consulting and information technology.

His core and transferable capabilities include:

- Innovative and collaborative leadership
- Long-term thinking and strategic planning around infrastructure and the environment
- Outstanding negotiation, financial management and stakeholder management.

Peter enjoys AFL football, following and watching the Richmond Tigers.

He looks forward to working closely with staff, Councillors and the community of Balranald Shire to ensure that positive outcomes are achieved for the community.

Councillors and staff of Balranald Shire Council would like to thank Mr Glenn Carroll for taking on the role of Acting General Manager for the past five months. Mr Carroll will now be able to focus on his role of Director of Governance, Business and Community Services.