



MAY
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



From the Mayor's Office

Bidgee Haven Hostel has just recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Largely built off the back of over \$700,000 worth of local people fundraising and donating money, it is owned and run by Council.

It has run for many years at a deficit. There has been around \$6 million dollars in grant funding which had been given to the former Council to expand and improve the hostel, and this money has been sitting there for years. The elected Council members and the Executive team decided it is time this money was used for the good of the hostel, and to keep its resources at peak.

Under the current grant, the Council will accomplish many valuable implementations and upgrades which will further maintain and enrich Bidgee Haven Hostel.

These include the construction of a new six-bedroom extension, which consists of the expansion by five high-dependency rooms plus a room to replace one lost to the internal modifications of the existing facility.

There will be new kitchen works and new dining room extension to the existing building. Also included are landscaping, fire protection upgrade (pump house and tanks), power upgrade, loose furniture fittings and equipment and an activity room extension.

There will also be laundry and pan room refurbishment and external works and infrastructure including fencing. Additionally, in May, Council will be applying for two grants to continue the Bidgee Haven enhancement project. With grant funding, there will be a rework of store and consulting rooms, as well as a refurbishment of existing resident rooms. The second amount of grant funding will allow the Bidgee Haven staff accommodation project to commence, with the building of two, two-bedroom units, and three studio-like rooms.

At the moment there are rooms at Bidgee Haven which are unoccupied and not bringing in revenue. While we are definitely thinking towards the future with regards to making sure there is enough room for residents, we are also thinking about the whole picture, and the bottom line is you cannot have residents there without qualified staff also having somewhere to live in order to work there as well.

It is vital to be proactive about things and accomplish things now and into the future; the longer things remain the same, the more work needs to be done in the future. A lot needs to be done in the shire, in a lot of areas.

And Council has hit the ground running.

From the Mayor's Office cont....

ZONING RESTRICTIONS

The recent community consultation drop-in session was to discuss the housing strategy for the shire. One of the issues raised was to change the zoning restrictions on allocations of land around the area, and the size restrictions of lots.

We are certainly looking towards changing the size restrictions on blocks. At the present time, there is a restriction on blocks to the tune of about 40 hectares, and we are looking to change it so people can have five acre lots for hobby farms and various other purposes, and rezoning land next to town.

The change has already been made in Euston and has been in the processes for four years or more. Euston is an intensive agricultural area, and the move has been to great benefit for many.

THE CENSUS

Council have been urging agencies such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics to find alternate solutions to reporting population in the area. When initiatives such as the community consultations are undertaken it means experts looking into and analysing the needs of the town are operating on inaccurate data when they are looking to the census. The census is not accurate for the area as we have a lot of seasonal and itinerant workers; therefore, many times of the year, populations of towns, such as Euston and Robinvale, can be easily doubled if not tripled.

As fantastic as these workers are for our local economies, for the government at large to not be recognising this means we are accommodating many more people in the area but not receiving the correlating government funding for essential needs such as medical and hospitals.

Figuring out how to get this accurately reflected on things such as the census is still an ongoing issue. The way it is at the moment is actually hurting us, we need to make government bodies understand and reflect the true number.

The census tells us who we are and where we are going as a nation, and helps our communities determine where to build everything from schools to supermarkets, and homes to hospitals. It helps the government decide how to distribute funds and assistance to states and localities.

BALRANALD AIRPORT

Council has resolved to negotiate with the adjacent landowners of the Balranald Airport. This negotiation is to try to purchase land to extend the runway at the Balranald Airport which will potentially add over 500 meters to the existing runway. The primary goal is to upgrade the airport's capabilities and facilitate the use of larger aircraft. The extended runway would improve the airport's ability to attract larger commercial and private aircraft, supporting regional economic development and tourism. Additionally, It will improve the airport's ability to handle larger firefighting aircraft and other emergency services, enhancing community safety.

RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION (RAMJO)

In the interests of being proactive, Balranald Shire Council has been attending RAMJO meetings for the past few months, in an observer capacity and intends on joining the organisation. The RAMJO brings together 11 regional councils to provide a united and local voice for our communities on key issues. The RAMJO region covers an area of over 80,000 square kilometres and has a population of 152,909 people.

Joint organisations help to build stronger councils and to improve service delivery and infrastructure in key priority areas such as water security, energy, transport, digital connectivity, waste management and health, across these rural and regional communities.

The small RAMJO team works collaboratively with the General Managers and Mayors and other staff at each council to identify priority issues and then advocate for government funding and industry support to address these key projects.

CARAVAN PARK

There is the prospect of a Master Plan for Balranald Caravan Park with the view of upgrading and modernising the council asset. This is of course all subject to grant funding. Additionally, it is being considered whether it would be more beneficial for council to keep running the caravan park utilising day labour or for Council to lease the park to another party to manage.

From the Mayor's Office cont....

BYPASS

There has been some uncertainty in the community, with talks of a potential bypass being implemented.

During the recent community consultation meeting with regard to housing, attendees expressed they were happy with the prospect of the ever-increasing quantity and sized heavy vehicles to have another avenue to travel, but were worried a bypass would result in the town dying, such as other towns like Tooleybuc who have had a bypass. It is my view that this simply would never happen.

As part of an agreement entered into by the Iluka mining company at the start of their work in the area, an upgrade is to be made by them to McCabe Street in Balranald. This was so mining trucks coming in off the Ivanhoe Road had somewhere to go, with the aim of reducing the strain on main roads in the town.

On 6th May I attended the Highway Taskforce Meeting. Some of the discussion with Transport NSW centred around the future transportation of wind turbines via their preferred route from South Australia through our Shire to the destination windfarms. One of the benefits of this increased traffic will be the installation of overtaking lanes on the Sturt Highway between Euston and Balranald, the road upgrade would be funded by the windfarm companies. Any full or future bypass would undergo heavy and specific consultation with the community.

SOUTHERN CROSS MUSEUM

Balranald Shire Council was recently approached to take over the highly popular and culturally significant Southern Cross Museum. At the moment, we still need to be careful and conservative in our actions. Balranald Shire Council is still subject to two Performance Improvement Orders, one implemented in 2019, and one implemented in 2024.

We are making great progress with these, but are still working through them, and need to heed these and be cautious, especially with regard to budgeting.

EXECUTIVE ROLE CHANGES

The Interim General Manager, Mr Peter Bascomb has also recommended and implemented changes to the organisational structure of the executive arm of Balranald Shire Council.

The role of Director of Governance will now be split into two positions; Chief Financial Officer and Executive Manager of Community and Governance. The two more focused positions will only continue to ensure all aspects of the council's needs and business run to peak. The position of Director of Infrastructure and Planning Services will remain.



Mayor Louie Zaffina with the Cr Rick Firman, Mayor of Temora and Chair of Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc
Mayor Zaffina received his Country Mayoral Association Pin at a dinner held for all Country Mayors in NSW. The Minister for Health, the Hon. Ryan Park, addressed the meeting with some important issues facing rural communities with regard to health workforce shortages. The Minister agreed to meet with the Mayor at a later date to discuss the health issues that are being faced within the shire.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT



April 2025 Council commenced draining then cleaning & disinfecting the Balranald **raw water** reservoir. This activity is in preparation for filtered water Reservoir refurbishment.



This may produce **minor disruptions** to services for commercial end-users such as **water carting** operations. For the duration of approximately **2 months** water carting operations will need to source the **raw water** from an alternative location.



The **raw water** reservoir has been **refilled** for later use to re-charge filtered water reticulation. Restrictions are now in place with raw water usage.

Council **does not envisage any disruption** of filtered water supply to residential or end user.



Using the filtered water from the raw water reservoir,



Council will re-charge the filtered and raw water reticulation.



Council will **decommission** the filtered water reservoir then **drain** the filtered water reservoir ready for mandatory tenderer site inspection briefing.



Filtered water Reservoir refurbishment will commence the second week of **June 2025**



Council anticipates the practical completion of filtered water during **September 2025**



For further information or queries please email Council at council@balranald.nsw.gov.au or call on 03 5020 1300

Balranald Shire Council Fresh Start Program

The NSW Government's Fresh Start program is funding the wages of an additional 1,300 apprentices, trainees and cadets in the local government sector over the next six years.

Councils across NSW have now been given the green light to employ 1,008 new apprentices, trainees and cadets this year under the first two rounds of funding. More than 60 per cent of the approved new roles are in regional and rural councils, providing a major boost to regional communities and more job opportunities for people in country towns.

The Fresh Start program enables students and school leavers to study and learn on the job while gaining a nationally accredited qualification.

Balranald Shire Council are excited to announce we have been granted provisional approval funding in Rounds 1 & 2 for a total of 4 Apprentices and 6 Trainee positions.

We have welcomed the following staff under this program:

- Caleb Hines, Apprentice Mechanic
- Isacc Swanton, Apprentice Mechanic
- Nahun Nargisraho, Engineering Trainee
- Emmy Gebert, Health Environment & Development (Planning) Trainee

Council is advertising the following positions to commence on 1st July 2025:

- Apprentice Horticulture
- Apprentice Road Maintenance
- Assistant Librarian Trainee
- WHS & Risk Trainee
- Human Resources Trainee
- Water & Sewers Trainee

If you are interested in any of these positions please send your resume and a letter of application to hr@balranald.nsw.gov.au

Also if you have any interests that are not currently available please reach out as there are other funding rounds we can apply for in the future!



Expressions of Interest Advisory Committee Membership

Council at the April 2025 Ordinary Council meeting resolved to establish 3 Advisory Committees & 1 Section 355 Committee.

Australia Day Committee (Section 355) (ADC)
Euston Progressive Advisory Committee (EPAC)
Balranald Wellbeing & Health Advisory Committee (BWHAC)
Tourism & Economic Development Advisory Committee (TED)

We are now seeking nominations from interested community members to serve on one or all of these 4 committees. Terms of References of each committee can be found on our website.

If you are interested please complete the registration form, which can be downloaded from the website <https://balranald.nsw.gov.au/business/committees-and-working-parties/> and return to Council by **Tuesday 10 June 2025**

For further details please contact Peter Bascomb at Councils Offices on 03 5020 1300 or email council@balranald.nsw.gov.au

Balranald Shire Council, 70 Market Street, (PO Box 120) Balranald 2715
Phone 03 5020 1300 Fax 03 5020 1620 www.balranald.nsw.gov.au



Temporary Closure McCabe Street

On Monday 28th of April 2025 works commenced on the upgrade of Ivanhoe Road / McCabe St Intersection with lane closures, and the closure of McCabe Street, between Market Street and Ivanhoe Road, to widen/upgrade and resurface the road. These works were subjected to an approved State Significant Development SSD 5285 for the Balranald Mineral Sands Mine by Iluka Resources Limited.

As this works program rolls out:

- A detour has been put in place via Market Street and Mayall Street;
- Access will be maintained to Island Road and Baupie Road;
- Oversize vehicles are being directed under escort through McCabe St alignment, as required;
- Access will be maintained to properties and businesses; and
- Access will be maintained to the Aboriginal Cemetery and Motorcycle Track.



Upgrade of Ivanhoe Road / McCabe St Intersection shoulder preparation works April 2025

What's been going down at the Pound?



Council's Ranger has rehomed 4 dogs for the month of April.
2 impounded dogs were returned to their owners
with infringement notices paid.

The Ranger is following up on 2 dog barking complaints
in Balranald and Euston. Balranald Shire has 1 feral cat trap in use.

Over the Easter weekend, 1 dog wandered
into a property between Balranald and Kyalite,
the owner was tracked down in Wagga with the dog being returned.

Tenders

Council is calling for tenders for the following project:

- Provision of Internal Audit Services

Further information can be obtained via Council's website www.balranald.nsw.gov.au or <https://www.vendorpanel.com.au/PublicTenders.aspx?emcc=34AAD26A701D&mode=all>

Notice of proposed weed spraying



Residents are advised that Council will be conducting weed spraying in public areas during May/June when conditions are suitable:

- Old SES yard
- Purtill Court
- Purton Lane
- Balranald Cemetery

Please contact Council's Biosecurity Officer on 03 5020 1300 for more information.

Library Hub News



Japan here I come!!!

During May and June I will be visiting Japan and am leaving Mrs Jackie Ting and Mrs Dale Pope to run our ever-growing Library Hub. Both ladies will be available to support all your needs. The afterschool program will still run however it is now full and cannot accept any new participants until Mrs Gaston returns. There will be **no** JP service available from the library while I'm away. Thanking you all for your continued support. See you when I get back!!

Mrs Gaston

News from Bidgee Haven Hostel

Congratulations Mrs Dawn Conway!!!!

Mrs Conway received a certificate from Hospital Auxiliary in recognition of her many years volunteering in our Community. We celebrated all our wonderful Hospital Auxiliary volunteers with a fantastic morning tea in acknowledgement of Volunteers Week.



The Euston Scoop



Council resolved at the February Ordinary Council meeting it will source funding for a purpose built medical facility building to be located at the Euston Recreation Reserve. The possible building or portable building would have the option to be used as a doctor's clinic as well as an option for Council staff to work out of the building as needed giving the Euston community access to these services locally

Works at the Euston Recreation Reserve have been completed, however the ground still needs some time to settle after the works. We look forward to seeing the first game of football played on the ground very soon.

Go Eagles!!!



Balranald Early Learning Centre Inc

Exciting opportunities are available to join our team at BELC.

BELC is a well-established Long Day Care Centre. Providing a safe, stimulating, educational and fun environment for children aged 8wks to school age. Operating 5 days a week, 49 weeks a year. BELC is not for profit and is managed by a committee made up of parents.

Early Childhood Teacher

About the Role:

Completion of or working towards Bachelor of Early Childhood Teaching (evidence of ECT Accreditation with NESA or equivalent) required.

- Lead and support educators to provide high-quality education.
- Communicate professionally with children, families and relevant services.
- Work alongside the Director to ensure the continued success of BELC.
- Lead staff in programming and implementation of appropriate development activities guided by the Early Years Learning Framework.
- Adhere to policies, procedures and Federal/State regulations.
- Apply knowledge of QIP and Early Years Learning Framework.
- Maintain progress reports and documentation for children.
- Support a culture of evidence based pedagogy.

The ideal applicant will hold:

- Current First Aid certificate including asthma and anaphylaxis.
- Current NSW Working with Children Check & National Police Check.
- Current statement of attainment for CHCCHILD1B or CHCCHILD1C.
- Strong understanding of Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations and other relevant legislation.
- The ability to meet Room Leader Requirements.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Previous experience working in early childhood education.

Enquires: Tegan Muscat - President 0427 056 436
To apply: Submit your cover letter and resume with 2 references to committeebelc@gmail.com



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Diploma Educator

About the Role:

Completion of or working towards Diploma of Early Childhood Education required.

- Lead and support educators to provide high quality education.
- Assist with daily operations.
- Observe, access, plan, implement and evaluate children's activities.
- Plan and implement programs as a Room Leader.
- Engage with children, families and team members.
- Foster a positive and inclusive classroom environment conducive to effective learning.

Certificate III Educator

About the Role:

Completion of or working towards Certificate III of Early Childhood Education required.

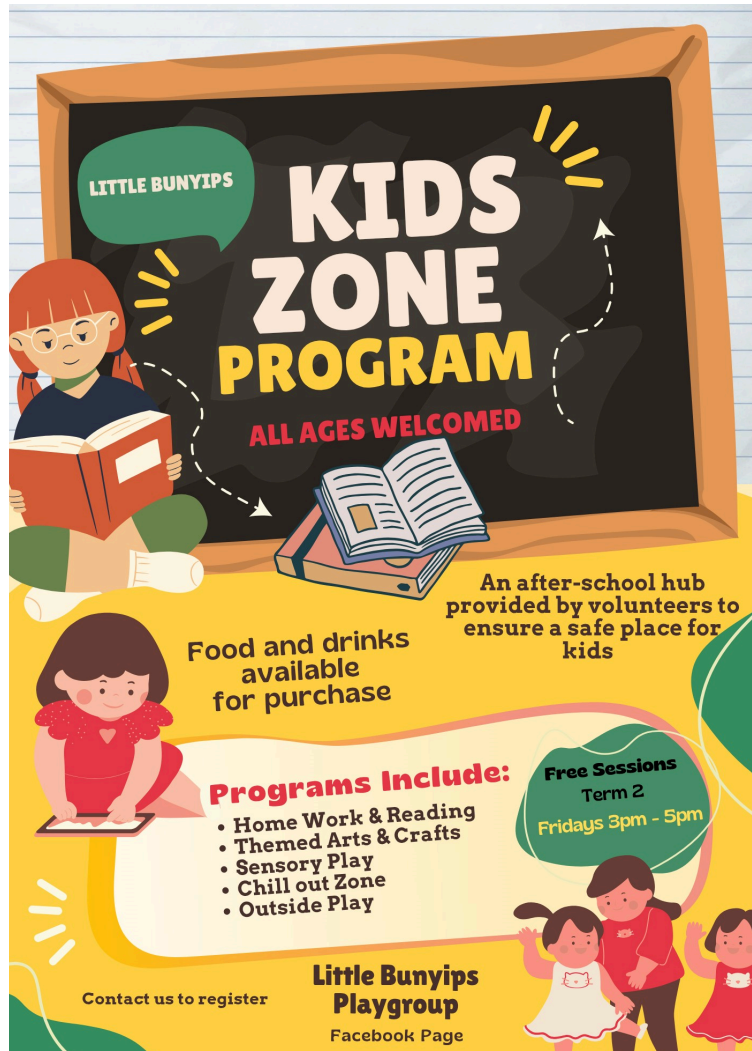
- Assist with daily operations.
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- The ability to meet Room Leader Requirements.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Previous experience working in early childhood education.

Enquires: Tegan Muscat - President 0427 056 436
To apply: Submit your cover letter and resume with 2 references
to committeebelc@gmail.com





LITTLE BUNYIPS

KIDS ZONE PROGRAM

ALL AGES WELCOMED

An after-school hub provided by volunteers to ensure a safe place for kids

Food and drinks available for purchase

Programs Include:

- Home Work & Reading
- Themed Arts & Crafts
- Sensory Play
- Chill out Zone
- Outside Play

Free Sessions
Term 2
Fridays 3pm - 5pm

Contact us to register

Little Bunyips Playgroup
Facebook Page



**SUNRAYSIA
SOLAR FARM**

SUNRAYSIASOLARFARM.COM.AU

SUNRAYSIA SOLAR FARM

2025 COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Total Sponsorship Amount:	\$20,000 total funding is available in 2025. This total funding can be shared amongst multiple applicants
Deadline for proposals	5pm on Friday 4 th July 2025
Selection criteria	The funding must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • benefit the community; • be environmentally and socially acceptable; • be used within the Balranald Shire Council Local Government Area within 12 months of award.
Submission guidelines	Proposals must be submitted via email to sunraysia.sponsorships@res-group.com Proposals received after the submission deadline will not be considered. Proposals should provide the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact phone and email address. • Details of the group or organisation requesting sponsorship • Funding amount requested • Details of how the funding would be used and how this meets the selection criteria.
Selection process	A selection committee will assess all proposals and select those that best address the selection criteria. Proposals of most merit will be recommended to the Sunraysia Solar Farm Board. The Sunraysia Solar Farm Board will decide which of the recommended proposals receive funding. Successful applicants will be advised by end of July 2025, with grant funding available from August 2025 for successful applicants.
Requirements for successful applicants	We request successful applicants to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the intended purpose within 12 months of award. • Provide photos or other evidence of how the funds have been used.



Pine-Apple Creations

RESIN ART WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS

BALRANALD, NSW

CREATE : Resin art workshop:
-A VIBRANT OCEAN DESIGN ON A WOODEN SERVING BOARD (approx 30cm) FROM A SELECTION OF 50 COLOURS
-MATCHING COASTER (mandala, flower, round)
-BONUS ITEM!!!

OR : Resin jewellery & trinkets workshop
-8-10 pairs loop fitted earrings
-1 necklace pendant with black cord-1 mini bird
-coaster (mandala, flower, round)

LEARN:
-A NEW FUN ART FORM
-GIVES YOU THE KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE JEWELLERY, TABLE TOPS, RESIN CLEAR COAT ON PAINTINGS AND OTHER RESIN ITEMS

Pine-apple Creations offer public and private workshops for

- Arts groups
- NDIS participants*
- Hens parties
- Birthday parties
- Team building/organisations
- Community programs

OVER 18'S ONLY. NOT SUITABLE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN. Sorry no babies or children to attend.


WHERE: 'THE GALLERY', BALRANALD COMMUNITY ARTS AND CRAFTS INC
WHEN/TIME: RESIN JEWELLERY WORKSHOP 27-7-25 - 11-1.30PM
OR
RESIN BOARD, COASTER AND BONUS ITEM 2.30-5PM

\$120 P.P, PER CLASS

To book your ticket for this limited ticketed workshop visit - www.pineapplecreations.art

0424963699

afterpay Available on request



MODEL KIT CLASS

WHEN: SUNDAY 13 JULY 2025
WHERE: BALRANALD ART GALLERY
TIME: 10AM TO 4PM
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE
LEARN THE BASICS OF THIS GREAT HOBBY. AVOID CLASSIC MISTAKES AND COMPLETE YOUR FIRST KIT. COST: \$90
KIT INCLUDED WITH STARTER TOOLS, PAINT AND GLUE.
BOOKINGS: DIRECTLY FROM THE ART GALLERY (03) 5020 0200

NOTE: KITS SHOWN ARE FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES. INCLUDED KIT WILL DEPEND ON AVAILABILITY. THEREFORE THE SOONER YOU BOOK BETTER THE CHANCES TO SECURE YOUR PREFERRED KIT.

KITS SHOWN:

- 1:72 AIRFIX SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.Ia
- 1:24 AIRFIX VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE
- 1:72 AIRFIX BEEBEE ARROWS HAWK
- 1:72 AIRFIX SHERMAN FIREFOY

- ST DYMPNA'S CATHOLIC PARISH, BALRANALD -

Music Trivia Night

18+

7:30pm Friday, 13th June

FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB SHED

(Greenham Park, Balranald NSW)

\$20 per person (Tables of 8). Bookings: Text/Call Jo Simpson 0417 578 017
Drinks from the Bar. BYO Table Nibbles. Theme: *A Splash of YELLOW*

We're coming to your community



We're bringing NSW Government services to:
Euston Tuesday, 3 June 2025
09:30AM - 3PM

Visit our Mobile Service Centre to access services like:

- Driver Knowledge Tests
- driver licence, mobility parking and photo card applications
- Working with Children Checks
- NDIS Worker Checks
- birth, death and marriage certificates
- cost of living support and more.

Call 13 77 88 or visit service.nsw.gov.au to check our latest timetable.

Severe weather may mean our timetable has to change at short notice, we strongly recommend you check on the day.

Find us at:
Euston Club
10 Nixon Street



Come along and join in the free fun and activities at

EUSTON PLAYGROUP

Your new **PLAY** and **COMMUNITY CONNECTION SPACE**
starting up at Euston Public School

Welcome to all families, Parents and carers with children
aged 0-5years

WHERE: Euston Public School

DAY: Tuesday

TIME: 9.30am - 11am

Parking and access to Playgroup area via Shailer Terrace.

Please phone 5026 3766 if you have any questions.

Lots of great
play activities
for
Children and
families
With
Song
and
Storytime

SAVE THE DATE

Balranald Football Netball Club



Debutante
Ball

Saturday,
18 October
2025

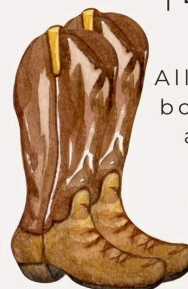


SAVE THE DATE

Balranald
Camp turns 21

Please join us

THURSDAY | JULY 10TH 2025
| EVENING (TBC) |



All roads lead to Balranald so
book a room, phone a friend,
and put in for holidays to
help us celebrate

**BALRANALD PONY CLUB
CAMP'S 21ST BIRTHDAY**

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