



NOVEMBER  
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

Tuesday to Friday

5.30 am - 7.30am  
3.30pm - 6.30pm

Saturday and Sunday 11am - 6pm

CLOSED MONDAY

If weather 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

**On the 13th of November, CEO Terry Dodds PSM and I attended the Country Mayors Association Annual General Meeting held at NSW Parliament House.**

The meeting was very interesting. Hon Chris Minns, Premier of NSW and opposition leader Raymond Speakman addressed the meeting, and many questions were asked from the audience, mainly about the challenges that rural councils are facing in regions.

We had the pleasure to meet with the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Margaret Beazley at Government House and with Minister Ron Hoenig, who was very pleased to hear how things are going with Balranald Shire.

I also attended the workshop at the George Room Masonic Club to discuss the CMA Annual Survey.

The CMA association has been strongly advocating for more funding for the rural regions from the State and Federal Governments.

Premiere Chris Minns stated that the NSW return on GST is 86 cents in the dollar, while Victoria gets 107 cents in the dollar. He also went on to say that this is unfair, and the CMA should help the NSW Government lobby against this discrepancy.

In my opinion, this was a distraction from Premier Minns from the fact that the percentage of grants is forecast to be reduced from the NSW state Government over the next few years.

The fact is, that rural councils are surviving on the smell of an oily rag and cannot be sustained. Lobbying for the GST discrepancy does not necessarily mean that more money is going to flow to the rural areas.

Federal Assistance Grants were also the topic; this would certainly be welcome if it were raised to 1% from the now 0.51%. This would be great news, but the end result would be the same if state governments see this as an opportunity to reduce their funding.

We were also informed about the new Environmental Planning & Assessment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025. We were advised that the Joint Regional Planning Panels would be phased out and 'Local Planning Panels' (LPPs) would be formed in consultation with councils. However, we were to discover that councillors would not be members of the new LPPs. This is of concern to most.

## From the Mayor's Office Continued

Council's new Chief Executive Officer, Terry Dodds PSM, commenced on October 27, having relocated from Tenterfield with his wife Fiona. Mr Dodds has hit the ground running, demonstrating a proactive approach and strong focus on establishing a positive workplace culture at the shire.



Council signed Mr Dodds to a five-year contract, hoping to break the cycle of frequent general managers in the past. The decision to appoint an interim manager for 10 months allowed council adequate time to find the right candidate. I am confident about the shire's direction 12 months after emerging from administration and performance improvement orders. The Office of Local Government has provided very positive reports about Council's progress.

Negotiations continue regarding the purchase of land for extending the runway at Balranald Airport.

Dr Vitalis has announced plans to expand his medical practice in the region and is eagerly awaiting the completion of the medical room in Euston. He currently attends a couple of days a week and is looking to bring additional services to the town.

Works on the Balranald Water Towers have been completed, although the project experienced setbacks, council is pleased to have finished the essential upgrade.

Top dressing of the Euston oval has been completed, the heat in the coming months will be ideal to achieve growth in the lawn which will look amazing, great job to all those involved in this project.

The Discovery Centre Extension is nearing it's final stages, mural designs on walls are being worked on to showcase our wonderful shire and what it has to offer. We are planning on having an opening for the Discovery Centre and the Lion's Park upgrade in the new year.

The Balranald shared footpath newly proposed route along the highway to Endeavour Drive is being worked on with further updates coming soon for the community.

Council has also resolved to seek funding for a proposed shared footpath from the Euston Primary School along the highway to the Recreation Reserve entrance. This will be of great benefit for children to safely ride their bikes or walk to the recreation ground.

Garreffa Parade median strip is complete, works were undertaken to install irrigation and sow lawn, looks great.

Iluka community partnership panel meeting took place on 20 November, the community and scholarship applications were all closely looked at, the result will be announced at a later date. Thank you Iluka for the wonderful support to our communities in the Balranald Shire!

**Mayor Louie Zaffina**  
**Balranald Shire Council**





# Balranald Women's Lunch Celebrates Resilience, Inspiration, and Community Leadership

Balranald Shire Council proudly hosted the Balranald Women's Lunch on Friday 7 November 2025, a vibrant and heartfelt gathering that brought together women from across the region to celebrate resilience, leadership, and community connection.

Sponsored by the NSW Government's Drought Resilience Planning Program—a joint initiative between Balranald Shire Council and Wentworth Shire Council—the event welcomed local women, visiting guests, and young leaders from Balranald Central School for an afternoon of inspiration and empowerment.



The highlight of the event was a keynote address by special guest Dr Jana Pittman, whose extraordinary career and personal journey captivated the room. A two-time World Champion and four-time Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist, Jana has since earned a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, and a Master's in Reproductive Medicine. Currently pursuing a PhD in Obstetrics, she is also a devoted mother of six and an ambassador for the Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation. Her story of triumph through adversity deeply moved attendees and sparked meaningful conversations about courage, purpose, and women's health.

The lunch also showcased the strength and leadership of local young women. Kaitley Amy, speaking on behalf of Balranald Fire & Rescue, encouraged women to consider joining the service and highlighted the importance of female representation in emergency response. Kathleen Harris shared details of an upcoming Mental Health First Aid Training workshop in Euston on 18 November, underscoring the community's commitment to wellbeing and proactive support.



The event was emceed by Hodi Beauliv, Executive Manager of Community & Governance at Balranald Shire Council, whose warm and engaging presence guided the afternoon's program.

Thanks to the Drought Resilience Planning Program funding, several local businesses were engaged to bring the event to life. The Rustic Pear provided stunning floral arrangements, Le-Gees added festive flair with balloon decorations, The Pantry Shelf Catering delighted guests with a delicious menu, and DJ Ash set the tone with uplifting music.

Balranald Shire Council extends its heartfelt thanks to all who attended and contributed to the success of the Balranald Women's Lunch. The \$3,100 raised from tickets sales will go to CanAssist, in recognition of Jana's own journey with cancer and the fantastic job that CanAssist do locally to support local women. The event stands as a testament to the power of shared stories, local leadership, and community resilience.



# The Great Murray River Salami Festival 2025

Congratulations to Guy Fielding and the team at the Euston Club Resort for another awesome festival! The clouds cleared and the blue sky appeared, and it turned out to be a fabulous day out along the banks of the majestic Murray River in picturesque Euston.

Wonderful music, great selection of market stalls, children's entertainment and of course a delicious selection of food & beverages.... something for everyone!

Balranald Shire Council's Mayor Louie Zaffina was mingling with his hometown crowd and actively welcoming visitors to the Festival. Balranald Shire Council CEO Terry Dodds PSM was also there mingling with the crowd with his lovely wife Fiona. Terry was also one of the salami competition judges. Another fabulous festival which is getting better each year!





**Balranald Shire Council** has arranged maintenance grading on;

- *Hatfield The Vale Road* – Nearing completion with ongoing grading
- *Wooranbarra Corrong Road* – Fully Completed
- *Turlea Leaghur Road* – Enhanced with polymer treatment and limestone re-sheeting to tackle corrugations.

These improvements should make a noticeable difference for local traffic and reduce wear and tear on vehicles.

# INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE!



## Wooranbarra Coorong Road Maintenance

Re-sheeting with natural based material has been added to 4kms of Wooranbarra Coorong Rd alignment, the section mentioned has been raised between 300mm to 450mm. This will make the road accessible during flooding events, also, the road was widened for safety purposes.

The section raised was inaccessible during inclement weather events and will assist local commuters by reducing the incidents of isolation during these events.

## Unmetered Water Theft - Important Notice

Balranald Shire Council is committed to ensuring the fair and sustainable management of our community's water resources. As part of this commitment, Council is conducting a follow-up program regarding unmetered water use across the Balranald and Euston townsites.

This initiative supports accurate water usage recording, responsible consumption, and fairness in billing and cost recovery.

Council reminds all residents and property owners that, as the designated water service provider, we are responsible for ensuring the lawful and equitable use of the Shire's water supply.

Unmetered water use occurs when water is accessed without an operational meter or without Council approval. Please note that this is considered unauthorised use and may be treated as water theft under relevant legislation.

Unauthorised water use places an unfair burden on the community, compromises the integrity of Council's water management systems, and can result in increased costs for other ratepayers. Council is taking the matter seriously and will be resolving any identified issues.

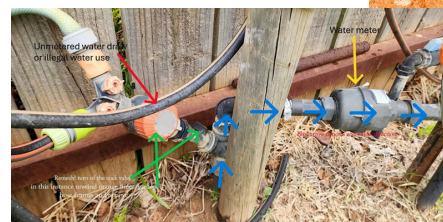
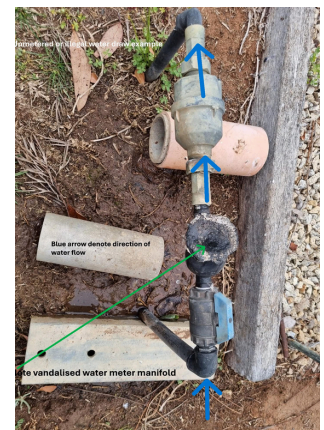
If you have any questions or require further information, don't hesitate to get in touch with Council on 03 5020 1300 or email [council@balranald.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@balranald.nsw.gov.au)

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us manage our shared water resources responsibly and equitably.

## Island Road Maintenance

Island Road has undergone headworks related to the recent flood event, where pipes had separated and provided egress/moisture into the road pavement, creating a sinkhole.

The new installation of the culvert and headwalls will eliminate this problem from recurring.





# Activities in our Planning Department

Notices of Determination (DA), Construction Certificates (CC), Complying Development Certificates (CDC), Section 68 Certificates (S68), Subdivision Certificates (SDC), Subdivision Works Certificates (SWC) and / or Occupation Certificates (OC) that have been issued under delegated authority in the month of August 2025

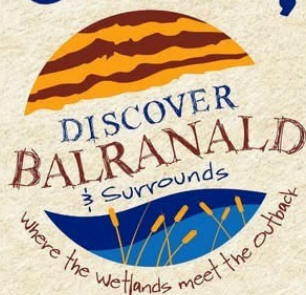
Description	Description	Description	Description
DA 30/2025 (Approved)	Lynden Stevens for Lynden Stevens & Tegan Muscat	47 Yuranigh Street, Balranald	Garage
DA 31/2025 (Approved)	Price Merrett Consulting for Tanjee Turner	50577 Sturt Highway, Euston	Boundary Realignment
DA 06/2026 (Approved)	The Building Supply Co Pty Ltd for Aboriginal Housing Office	178 Lily Street, Balranald	Demolition of Existing Dwelling & Two New Dwellings
DA 08/2026 (Approved)	Kiandra Dalton for Brendan & Jennifer Coates	908 Ivanhoe Road, Balranald	Dwelling & Onsite Sewage Management System
DA 09/2026 (Approved)	Leane Kennedy for Teacher Housing Authority NSW	156-158 Ballandella Street, Balranald	Dwelling Extensions to Four Units
DA 10/2026 (Approved)	Caroline Hillerman for Butler & Achmad	155 Turandurey Street, Balranald	Shed
CC 09/2026	Caroline Hillerman for Butler & Achmad	155 Turandurey Street, Balranald	Shed
CC 10/2026	Lynden Stevens for Lynden Stevens & Tegan Muscat	47 Yuranigh Street, Balranald	Garage
OC 07/2026	Toni Ganci	35 Murray Terrace, Euston	Dwelling







# STOP, SHOP, STAY



## MARKET DAY!

### Balranald NSW | Monday 22nd December

- **LOTS of CHRISTMAS SPECIALS** from our local business operators across the town. Lots of gift options for Christmas!
- **LIVE RADIO BROADCAST** at Balranald with 3SH/MIXXFM @10am - 2pm outside the Senior Citizen's Hall - 106 Market Street, Balranald. The crew will be there with some freebies!
- **COMPETITION DRAW:** Make a purchase in any shop between 10am - 1.45pm & bring your docket to the broadcasting area & go in a draw for a voucher valued at **\$250** to be redeemed in any shop of your choice **within the Balranald Shire**.  
The **draw will take place at 1.45pm**.
- **ROVING ENTERTAINER TIM TIM** will be spreading his funky fun entertainment to shoppers and children and **ROSE'S FACE, PAINTS & SMILES** will be there creating lots of happy faces!
- **FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE** will be sizzling from **11.00am** in front of **Meat on Market**, 105A Market St, Balranald
- **MUSIC from 3SH** to make your shopping extra enjoyable!
- **GRAB A BITE** at one of our eateries during & after shopping!
- **STAY** a night or two if you're travelling through and visit some of the shire's popular attractions!
- Contact the Visitor Information Centre **03 5020 1599**





# News from Bidgee Haven Hostel



Bidgee Haven Hostel were very privileged to join our wonderful local care services in participating in the Dementia Respite Education and Mentoring (DREAM) Project.

We are grateful to Penny and Sarah from the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre for travelling to Balranald to share their knowledge and support.

We look forward to continuing to work together as a community to build our skills so we can better support people and their families who are living with dementia.

## Australia Day Nominations are OPEN

Balranald Shire Council is seeking nominations for the 2026 Australia Day Awards, recognising our community for their contributions during the year

The following categories will be recognised on 2026 Australia Day

- Citizen of the Year
- Sports Person of the Year
- Community Event of the Year
- Sporting Team of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Young Sports Person of the Year
- Environmental Citizen of the Year
- Special Achievement

Nomination forms are available from Councils website [www.balranald.nsw.gov.au](http://www.balranald.nsw.gov.au), or Council Offices, or by emailing [council@balranald.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@balranald.nsw.gov.au) to request a form to be emailed to you.

**Nominations MUST be submitted by Friday 28 November 2025.**

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



*Council's Administration Office,  
Service NSW, Library, & Depots  
will be closing for the  
Christmas/New Year Holidays  
Wednesday 24 December 12pm  
and will  
reopen Monday 5 January 2026*





# LiveBetter set to take on operations of the Balranald Early Learning Centre

LiveBetter Community Services has announced it is working towards taking on the operations of the Balranald Early Learning Centre from 1 January 2026, pending the completion of the required regulatory and approval processes.

The announcement was made at a Balranald Shire Council's Civic Reception on Wednesday, 22 October, recognising the efforts of visiting service agencies to the region to improve the lives of residents across the Balranald Shire. This included celebrating the dedicated work of the local parent-led committee for early childhood education in the community and welcoming a new chapter under LiveBetter.

Following the loss of key staff in August this year, the Centre was at risk of closure. Council stepped in to support the Centre to keep the doors open 3 days per week, by providing Council's Librarian to take on the role of nominated supervisor. To support the Committee and LiveBetter to work towards the transition, Council will continue to provide these services until the end of the year.

*"Council is delighted to see LiveBetter stepping into this important role," said Balranald Shire Mayor Louie Zaffina. "The Early Learning Centre has always been a cornerstone of our community, and LiveBetter's commitment ensures that local families will continue to have access to quality early education delivered by dedicated local educators. This partnership represents a positive step forward for Balranald."*

This transition marks a significant milestone for Balranald, helping to secure the long-term sustainability of the Centre and continuing access to high-quality early learning for local families. LiveBetter, which also operates the neighbouring Euston Preschool, brings a wealth of experience in early childhood education and community services across regional New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland.

*"We're honoured to build on the incredible legacy established by the Balranald Early Learning Centre committee," said Jenny Nalder, Head of Childhood Education and Development, LiveBetter. "Their passion and dedication have created a service that is truly valued by local families. Our focus is on ensuring the Centre remains strong, sustainable, and continues to nurture children's learning and development for generations to come."*

The parent-led committee made the decision to transition the service to LiveBetter to strengthen governance and operational support, ensuring the Centre's long-term viability. Under LiveBetter's banner, it is hoped the Centre will be able to attract the appropriate staffing and resources so the Centre. Subject to recruitment of key staff, it is hoped the centre can go back to operating 5 days per week from 1 January 2026.

*"Our committee is proud of the role we've played in supporting early education in Balranald," said Tegan Stevens, out-going President of the Balranald Early Learning Committee. "We're confident that LiveBetter's experience and resources will help the Centre continue to thrive as an essential part of our community."*

Families can expect continuity of care, with existing staff remaining in their roles and day-to-day operations continuing without disruption. LiveBetter's existing connection with the Euston Preschool is expected to create new opportunities for collaboration and shared learning between the two services.

*"With the support of Council, the committee, and local families, we're working together to ensure a smooth and positive transition," added Jenny Nalder, LiveBetter. "This collaboration shows the power of community partnerships in strengthening the future of rural services."*

## About LiveBetter

LiveBetter is one of regional Australia's leading not-for-profit providers of community, disability, aged care, housing, and children's services. Through the recent unification of LiveBetter with Kirinari, the combined organisation supports thousands of people across NSW, Victoria, and Queensland, with a strong focus on empowering people and strengthening regional communities.



Balranald Early Learning Committee and Live Better and Kirinari staff  
L-R: Jayne Farnsworth, Euston Pre-School; Jenny Nalder, LiveBetter; Janaya Gaston, Balranald Shire Council and nominated supervisor, Balranald Early Learning Centre (BELC); Tegan Stevens, President, (BELC); Cr Alison Linnett, Balranald Shire Council and Committee Member, BELC; Stuart George, Kirinari



# Balranald Shire Council



Home to the 'Five Rivers', the Balranald Shire offers a unique lifestyle where water sport lovers are spoilt for choice and hikers and campers have the wonders of Mungo National Park at their doorstep. Steeped in history and with easy access to the regional hubs of Swan Hill, Mildura and Griffith, Balranald Shire is a place where the community is front of mind and the Council is committed to the Shire's long-term future.

Council is seeking the services of a qualified and experienced

## WORKSHOP MECHANIC

**Attractive Salary up to \$90,000, plus Superannuation depending on skills, qualifications and experience**

Reporting to the Infrastructure Coordinator, the Workshop Mechanic will undertake routine service and maintenance, including a variety of small plant and vehicles, both diesel and petrol. A strong safety focus and team player awareness is required with good communication skills.

The successful applicant will be a trade qualified diesel mechanic preferably with heavy rigid (HR) or heavy combination (HC) licence and experience with medium sized earthmoving equipment, trucks and plant including light vehicles. Prior experience and qualifications towards welding and metal fabrications would be a considerable advantage.

Excellent written and verbal communications skills, strong computer literacy and the ability to work as part of a close knit and collaborative team is essential.

Some of our great benefits include a 9-day fortnight, 12% Superannuation, 15 days' sick leave per year, long service leave after 5 years, ongoing learning and development opportunities and an employee assistance program.

Terms of employment will be in accordance with the NSW Local Government (State) Award 2023 and Councils salary and performance management systems.

The position description is available at [www.balranald.nsw.gov.au](http://www.balranald.nsw.gov.au) or contact the Human Resources Officer on (03) 50201300 or [recruitment@balranald.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recruitment@balranald.nsw.gov.au)

**Applications close: Friday 12th December 2025 at 5pm and should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, via email to [recruitment@balranald.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recruitment@balranald.nsw.gov.au)**

Terry Dodds PSM  
**Chief Executive Officer**



# Big Skies & Farmscapes

AN EXHIBITION OF ARTWORKS BY GRAHAM HEARN

NOW SHOWING



*The Gallery*

51 MAYALL ST  
BALRANALD

**Maari Ma Health Balranald**

# Womens Pamper Day

**FREE MESSAGES, MANICURES  
BLOWDRYS + JEWELLERY MAKING!  
CATERED LUNCH • PRIZES TO BE WON**

**FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2025  
11AM - GREENHAM PARK HALL**

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT  
MAARI MA HEALTH 03 5020 0009

*In conjunction with*  
**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM  
AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

## JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS TWILIGHT MARKET

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5TH,  
FROM 5 PM TO 8:30PM  
MARKET ST, BALRANALD

### Tis the Season for Local Savings!

Discover christmas savings by browsing our local shops and stall holders. Lots of instore promotions and workshops.

### Shop Local Christmas Bingo!

Collect a card from us on the night, have the squares stamped as you shop, enter it at our stall and go in the draw to win \$150 or \$100. Winners drawn at 8:30pm.

Brought to you by: Local Businesses and Committees

**DRAGGED TO**  
*Christmas*  
**UNWRAPPED**  
RAISING FUNDS TO SUPPORT  
**BULLY ZERO**

**ELLECTRA KUTE  
AND  
ATLANTA DUSK**

# DRAG BINGO

BALRANALD  
19TH DECEMBER 7PM DOORS





**BALRANALD  
HOSPITAL AUXILIARY  
Christmas Stall**  
**FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
2025**  
**Senior Citizens Centre**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 9:00AM**  
**Cakes, Biscuits, Slices and  
Lots More**  
**CASH ONLY**  
**NO EARLY BIRDS**

**Balranald Shire residents**  
**Christmas Lights Competition**  
*Must be a resident of Balranald Shire and winners will receive Vouchers from a local business (of their choice)*

**FIRST PRIZE: \$300**  
**SECOND PRIZE: \$200**  
**THIRD PRIZE: \$100**

*Please phone Councils office to your residence by  
5pm Friday 12th December 2025*

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




YOU ARE INVITED TO  
**Carols**  
ON THE *Riverfront*

**DECEMBER**  
**THURSDAY 11 5:30PM**  
**EUSTON CLUB RESORT RIVERFRONT RESERVE**

**FOOD & DRINK STALLS**  
**LOADS OF FREE FUN FOR THE KIDS**  
**LIVE MUSIC**  
**A SPECIAL VISIT FROM SANTA**



**EUSTON CLUB RESORT**  
Where you'll love relaxing by the Murray River

Balranald Combined Churches  
**CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025**  
**6.00pm for 6.30pm start**  
**Greenham Park**

Come along for an evening of fellowship and fun to celebrate the joy of Christmas.

Presented by the Balranald Combined Churches



Food and drinks are available to purchase.

The Parish of the Cobb Highway  
St Barnabas Balranald

Christmas Service:  
**Sunday 21st December**  
**3pm**  
Family Christmas Service  
with Christmas Story  
and Blessing of the Crib

The Anglican Parish of Balranald  
and the Cobb Highway  
20 Mayall St, Balranald

Contacts: Lea: 0429 201 647  
Fr Tim: 0418 556 007

DISCLAIMER Balranald Shire Council reserves the right to edit or rewrite submissions for grammar, style and clarity or to conform to restrictions of space. Council makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of this information and does not accept responsibility for errors or omissions contained within this publication. If you are aware of errors please notify Council by email: [council@balranald.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@balranald.nsw.gov.au) or phone 03 5020 1300. This document is compiled some weeks prior to delivery, while all due care is made to ensure information is accurate matters are subject to change due to time passage between print and delivery, please contact Council for most current details on a subject if concerned.