



DECEMBER
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: 0417 151 798

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



Christmas Message from the Mayor

As we approach the end of another year, it is a time for reflection on the challenges we have faced and the achievements we have celebrated together. The Balranald Shire, like many communities, has encountered its share of obstacles. However, thanks to the commitment of our residents, councillors, and council staff, we continue to look forward with optimism. Throughout the year, we have delivered important local projects, embraced new initiatives, and planned programs that will strengthen our community for the future.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on sustainability, resilience, and community engagement—key priorities that will ensure Balranald Shire continues to thrive. I would like to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of our volunteers. Their dedication and generosity underpin so many aspects of community life, and we are deeply grateful for their efforts.

As Christmas approaches, our thoughts turn to family, friends, and loved ones. This festive season is an opportunity to pause, reflect, and appreciate the joy of connection and the spirit of giving. Let us take this time to express gratitude and cherish the relationships that enrich our lives.

On behalf of the councillors and staff of Balranald Shire Council, I extend my sincere thanks to all community members, volunteers, and essential workers for their commitment throughout the year and during the holiday season. We wish you a very Merry Christmas, a safe and joyful New Year, and every success in the year ahead.



Mayor Louie Zaffina
Balranald Shire Council

BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL WINS PRESTIGIOUS COUNCIL CROWN LAND MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD



Balranald Shire Council has been named the winner of the ***Council Crown Land Management Excellence Award at the 2025 Community Achievement Awards for New South Wales and the ACT***, recognising the Shire's outstanding work in transforming the Balranald Discovery Centre precinct.

The Community Achievement Awards started in 2002 and are designed to encourage, acknowledge and reward the valuable contributions that individuals, communities and businesses make throughout NSW & The ACT. These awards aim to recognise their success and achievements, which contribute to making NSW & The ACT a better place.

"I'm proud to announce that Balranald Shire Council has won this prestigious award from a very strong field of nominees," said Mayor Louie Zaffina. "With hundreds of nominations received across all categories, this is a tremendous achievement and a wonderful recognition of the dedication, vision and hard work of everyone who has contributed to this project over many years."

The winners were announced at the Gala Presentation Dinner held at the Shangri-La Sydney on Saturday, 29 November 2025, hosted by 7NEWS Presenter Michael Usher. More than 350 guests from across NSW and the ACT attended the event, including The Hon Stephen Kamper MP, Minister for Lands and Property.

Balranald Shire Council was recognised for its transformation of the Heritage Park Reserve into the Balranald Discovery Centre precinct, now a thriving destination for tourism, learning, and community connection. Key upgrades included a technology refurbishment of the Interpretive Pavilion, introducing interactive storytelling and touchscreen displays celebrating local history and Aboriginal heritage, along with the construction of the Discovery Pavilion, providing a flexible space for exhibitions, workshops and cultural events.

The precinct now features a visitor centre, museum and café, offering a vibrant and engaging experience for both locals and visitors. By blending modern infrastructure with rich heritage, the project supports cultural celebration, community connection and long-term regional economic sustainability.



The NBN Fibre Upgrade Program is coming to Balranald



Works are scheduled to commence on or around Wednesday 24 December 2025
and are expected to be completed by Tuesday 23 June 2026.

Please be aware that NBN contractors may be working in your street during this period.

We kindly ask that you remain alert to their presence and exercise caution when
driving or moving around the area.

*Set out below are details of the likely impact of the activities on
your land and the measures which **nbn** (or its contractors)
proposes to minimise disturbance to your land and to restore it
after completion of the activities.*

ANTICIPATED EFFECT:

- Temporary occupation of road reserve areas by small work crews.
- Minimal disruption to pedestrian traffic is anticipated.
- Minimal disruption to vehicular traffic is anticipated.
- Minimal disturbance is anticipated.
- Minor vegetation clearance such as grass removal and tree branch trimming.
- Minor hand excavation of grassed areas to expose pit/manhole lids
- Activity to be confined to footpaths & established telecommunication alignments.
- No material effects expected resulting from proposed activities.

*Breakout and re-instatement of footpaths and
road reserves may be required.*

PROPOSED REMEDIATION:

- After installation all areas to be filled graded and land surfaces levelled to a condition similar to its condition before the activity began.
- Traffic and pedestrian management procedures will be implemented where required.
- Notify directly impacted property owners.
- Details of remediation (if any) will be communicated to the relevant authority through consultation.
- Standard environmental management techniques would be undertaken.

Draft Documents on Display

Draft Balranald Shire Destination Management Plan 2026–2031

The Balranald Shire Destination Management Plan (DMP) provides a strategic framework to guide the sustainable growth, development and promotion of Balranald Shire's visitor economy. It aligns with the NSW Government's Visitor Economy Strategy 2030, Destination NSW regional priorities, Council's Economic Development Strategy and Community Strategic Plan, while reflecting the community's vision for economic resilience, cultural celebration, and environmental stewardship.

The plan outlines a coordinated approach to tourism development that reflects the Shire's unique identity—where ancient landscapes, vibrant wetlands, riverscapes and rich cultural heritage converge. This plan is informed by extensive stakeholder engagement, market analysis, and place-based insights. It integrates tourism with broader community development goals, ensuring that growth in visitation delivers tangible benefits to residents, businesses, Traditional Owners, and the environment.

Draft Balranald Shire Economic Development Strategy 2025–2035

The vision of the plan is to stabilise, consolidate and ultimately grow the community's future by: building prosperity, encouraging enterprise and promoting liveability. In doing so the plan values inclusion, equity and fairness; communication/engagement; integrity and honesty; transparency; trust and respect; and relationship building, collaboration and partnership.

Draft Balranald Shire Council Urban Tree Management Plan 2025–2029

A review of the 2020-2024 UTMP was carried out, and it has been updated to include historical tree registers for Balranald & Euston Townsites, Tree Hazard Evaluation Form, Council Approved and Preferred Trees table and an Essential Energy list of unsuitable trees for planting around Essential Energy assets.

Draft documents can be viewed on Council's website

www.balranald.nsw.gov.au

**Written comments and feedback must be addressed to the Chief Executive Office and
submitted to Council no later than Friday 30 January 2026**

**Balranald Shire Council's Engineering team
has been proactive in November.**

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE!

Hatfield The Vale Road

Maintenance grading to smooth the surface.

Improved drainage along the network, which protects pavement and extends the road's life.

MR 67 Balranald-Ivanhoe Road

Installation of new pipes along the shoulders.

Designed to prevent water from pooling near the road edges, helping to prevent moisture penetration of the road shoulder.

These works are all about long-term resilience: keeping roads safer, resource efficiency thus allowing redistribution of maintenance monies to other assets, and ensuring reliable access for residents, freight, and emergency services.

Project Update: MR67 Balranald-Ivanhoe Road

Location: 3 km north of Homebush

Scope of Works: Road widening over a 16 km section (8km of road length)

Progress: 3 km completed to date (On Eastern lane)

Quality Checks:

Compaction testing successfully passed

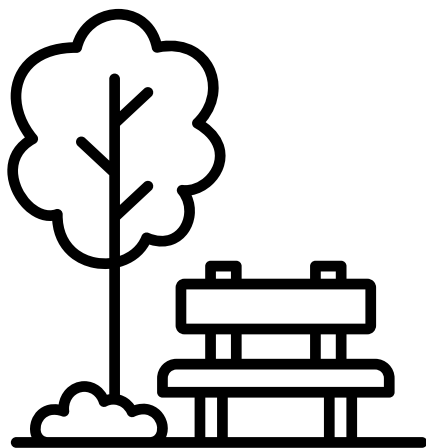
Final trimming underway before primer sealing

Next Steps: Primer sealing of the completed section will take place in coming weeks followed by continuation of widening works along the remaining 13 km.



This will improve safety for all road users, enhance usability for heavy transport vehicles, and strengthen regional connectivity and freight efficiency.

Reduced Transport Costs through; improved roads, lower fuel consumption, vehicle wear and tear, and maintenance costs.



Parks & Gardens Update

With the warmer weather and extra sunshine, the grass around town has really taken off!

Our Parks and Gardens teams have been busy watering and catching up on mowing to keep everything looking neat and welcoming.

Roadside Slashing

Council crews and Contractors are also continuing roadside slashing.

This important work helps reduce the risk of fires by keeping vegetation under control along our roads.

We appreciate the community's patience and support as these teams work hard to maintain our town's safety and appearance.



CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY FOR BALRANALD SHIRE

On Monday, 8 December 2025, we proudly welcomed a new Australian Citizen at a special Citizenship Ceremony held at the Euston Club Resort.

The ceremony marked the conclusion of Pei-Yu (Gina) Hsieh's application for Australian Citizenship. Gina received her Australian Citizenship Certificate, and as part of the celebration, Council presented her with a Citizenship Coin and an Australian native plant – a symbol of growth and belonging.

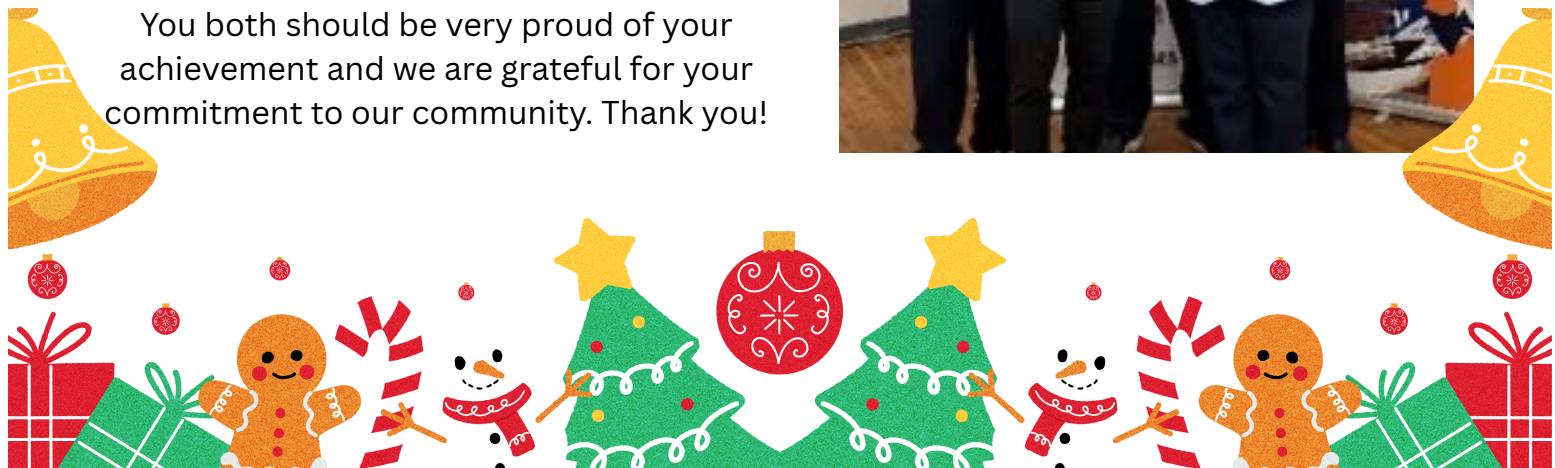
This occasion was a heartfelt reminder of the value of community, identity, and the shared journey of becoming part of the Australian family.



COMMUNITY News

Congratulations to Karen Norfolk and Andrew Manning, who were recently appointed Deputy Unit Commanders for the Balranald NSW SES Unit.

You both should be very proud of your achievement and we are grateful for your commitment to our community. Thank you!



News from Bidgee Haven Hostel



Halloween 2025 bought joy to our community

The residents had fun sharing treats, and we're grateful to all the little trick-or-treaters who stopped by!



Thanks to the dedication and persistence of our wonderful Facility Nurse Manager Leah and Dr Vitalis, we were delighted to welcome Daniel and the Bone Bus to Balranald. Daniel was incredibly patient and hardworking, ensuring as many of our residents as possible were able to see him. We are truly grateful for the care and support provided.



**Happy Birthday Maureen!
90 Years Young**



Our Team took part in hands-on training to ensure safe and confident use of the wheelchair lift on the new bus.



Jenny had a wonderful time selling raffle tickets, joined by her enthusiastic helper, Margie.



**4 GENERATIONS!!
DAWN & HER GRAND DAUGHTER EMILY,
GREAT GRAND DAUGHTER GABY, AND
GREAT GREAT GRAND DAUGHTER MACY.**



Balranald's Library Hub

2025 has seen many new faces visit our Library Hub, with growing programs and daily support we hope to continue this success into 2026.

Last week we had an exciting visit from Santa and two BCS work placement students. Thank you, Ella for revamping our outdoor free book box, and Billy for decorating the library and helping put back together our new kitchen. Works are still being completed however the new kitchen and shade structure over the sandpit are looking good. We hope to unveil our new logo early in the new year and roll out our very own Library app.



Balranald Shire Library Hub will be closed from Friday, 19 December 2025 and will reopen on Monday, 12 January 2026.

Janaya, Jackie, and Dale wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We sincerely thank you for your continued support throughout 2025 and look forward to welcoming you back in 2026.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Come, let us adore Him!

24th DEC. 5pm St Fergal's, Hay

24th DEC. 8pm St Dympna's, Balranald

25th DEC. 8:30am Tooleybuc
Our Lady, Help of Christians

Everyone is Welcome

Fr Paul Newton, Catholic Priest

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



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 or contact the Human Resources Officer on (03) 50201300 or recruitment@balranald.nsw.gov.au

Applications close: Friday 16th January 2025 at 5pm and should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, via email to recruitment@balranald.nsw.gov.au

Terry Dodds
Chief Executive Officer

SEEKING LONG-TERM ACCOMMODATION

The Council is currently looking for long-term accommodation options. If you have any units or houses available for long-term rental, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the council -
0350 20 1300 or email,
council@balranald.nsw.gov.au
for more details or to register
your property.



*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

"The Mayor, Councillors, and Staff of Balranald Shire extend their warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a joyful Christmas filled with peace and happiness. May the New Year bring prosperity, good health, and wonderful opportunities for our entire community. Thank you for being part of what makes Balranald such a special place."

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 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.