



FEBRUARY
2026

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



From the Mayor's Office

Happy New Year Everyone!

Under the leadership of the Councillors and CEO Terry Dodds PSM, I would like to acknowledge the strong momentum the Council has built as we move into the new year.

It is evident that the organisation has hit the ground running, with staff and leadership actively progressing a broad range of initiatives aimed at strengthening our future.

Across all departments, teams are working diligently on projects that enhance long-term community wellbeing, infrastructure resilience, and economic opportunity. A major area of focus has been the pursuit of external funding, with several grant applications already submitted to accelerate key priorities. This proactive approach positions Balranald Shire to secure valuable resources that will further strengthen our ability to deliver meaningful outcomes for residents.

Staff have demonstrated exceptional commitment, creativity, and professionalism during this early phase of work. Their efforts reflect a shared dedication to building a sustainable and vibrant future for the Shire. The pace and quality of progress to date lay a strong foundation for the months ahead.

Please continue to maintain this momentum as we move forward. The work underway today is shaping the opportunities and achievements of tomorrow.



From the Mayor's Office Continued

ROUND TABLE DROUGHT MEETING

On Wednesday, 4 February, CEO Mr Terry Dodds PSM and I attended the RSN Roundtable – *Dry Conditions of Far Southwestern NSW* community meeting in Wentworth.

NSW Drought Coordination

The Minns Government has appointed Mr Ray Willis as Drought Coordinator for southern NSW. His role is to strengthen coordination and support for communities affected by dry conditions.

The NSW Government is launching a communication campaign across email, print, radio, and social media to raise awareness of available State and Federal drought support.

Current Policy Approach

Since around 2013, governments no longer use formal drought declarations to trigger assistance. Instead, support is based on individual circumstances rather than geographic boundaries.

Key features include:

- **Preparedness:** Encouraging proactive drought planning.
- **Ongoing Access to Programs:** Low-interest RIC loans and Rural Financial Counselling remain available year-round.
- **Evidence-Based Support:** Assistance delivered through financial, environmental, and mental-health programs.

Community Concerns

Participants raised several issues:

- **Low public awareness:** Without drought declarations, broader community understanding of dry conditions is reduced.
- **Impacts on subsidies:** Concerns were expressed regarding the absence of declaration-based support such as livestock transport subsidies.

The Minns government has made an announcement for additional support for drought relief.



SOUTHERN CROSS MUSEUM

- The Southern Cross Museum is an important heritage and tourism asset for Balranald, celebrating Sir Charles Kingsford Smith and the rich social, industrial, and transport history of our region. The museum is proudly operated by dedicated volunteers, but like many volunteer-run facilities, it faces long-term sustainability challenges.
- The current building also presents limitations, particularly in collection care, visitor experience, and ongoing maintenance needs. There is local interest in exploring whether the museum could one day form part of a larger cultural or visitor precinct, but no formal planning work has yet been undertaken.
- To support informed decision-making, Council is proposing to seek financial assistance from Heritage NSW to undertake a **Strategic Heritage Planning and Pre-Feasibility Study**. This study would:
 - Document the museum's heritage significance.
 - Identify constraints and opportunities.
 - Assess the suitability of the current site.
 - Explore future options—from maintaining the status quo to upgrades, operational changes, or relocation.
 - Provide high-level cost, risk, and governance considerations.
 - Recommend a preferred pathway for Council to consider.
- Importantly, this study would not commit Council to any capital works. Instead, it would provide the evidence needed to plan responsibly for the museum's long-term future and support future funding applications.

From the Mayor's Office Continued

EUSTON OVAL

The Euston Recreation Ground upgrade is now complete – and it's looking fantastic. Council is currently working with the Robinvale–Euston Football Netball Club as preparations begin for the first game of the season and the official Council opening.

We look forward to celebrating this milestone with the community.

ROADS UPDATE

Tapalin Mail Road

Council submitted an application to the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program to seal 7.7 km of Tapalin Mail Road. Unfortunately, this application was not successful.

Benanee Road

Council has lodged a separate application for Benanee Road. If approved, this funding will allow the sealing of an additional 15 km.

Council will continue to pursue funding opportunities to improve road safety and connectivity across the Shire.

EUSTON MEDICAL ROOM

The NSW Sustainable Communities Program is supporting communities affected by water recovery under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan to build resilience, create jobs and promote economic opportunities. Under the Sustainable Communities Program Infrastructure Round, Council is partnering with the Euston Club, to apply for funding to construct a Services Hub at the Euston Recreation Reserve, a retail/services precinct to further activate the Euston CBD and a residential housing development. The joint project will help stimulate the Euston economy and make Euston a more attractive place to live for locals and people looking to relocate to the region to take up the range of job opportunities available locally. Applications close on 24 February and outcomes are expected to be announced sometime after 30 June 2026. All projects must be completed by no later than 31 May 2029.

COUNCIL OFFICE SPACE

Council is currently progressing the upgrade of our main office facilities. As part of this improvement program, the Engineering team will be relocating to the Council Depot.

This change will bring operational teams together in one location, helping to streamline communication, improve coordination, and support more efficient delivery of works across the Shire.

We look forward to the benefits these upgrades will bring for both staff and the community.

SHARED FOOTPATH TO ENDEAVOUR DRIVE

The variation to the scope of works has been submitted to the funding body and is now awaiting approval.

BIDGEE HAVEN

Balranald Shire Council approved the construction contract for the Bidgee Haven Extension Project at an Extraordinary Council Meeting in late January, demonstrating Council's strong commitment to residents and the future of aged care in the Shire. Councillors voted unanimously to enter into a contract with RTM Constructions for the delivery of the project, valued at \$4,595,803.08 (excluding GST).

This major investment will transform and future-proof Bidgee Haven, delivering enhanced facilities, improved care capability, and a more comfortable, dignified environment for residents and staff alike. The project includes:

- A new six-bed memory support ward, strengthening specialised dementia care locally
- A modern, purpose-built kitchen
- Expanded and improved communal living areas
- Upgraded laundry facilities
- Enhanced outdoor spaces to support wellbeing, accessibility, and quality of life.

Construction is expected to commence shortly, with Council looking forward to sharing progress updates as this important and exciting project takes shape.

Mayor Louie Zaffina
Balranald Shire Council

Community Notice – Chairs Available at Balranald Cemeteries

Balranald Shire Council has chairs available for use at the Lawn Cemetery and the Denominational Cemeteries.

Families wishing to use these chairs for a funeral or memorial service are encouraged to contact Balranald Shire Council or speak with their funeral director for further information and arrangements.

Australia Day

Balranald Shire celebrates Australia Day

2026

Residents from the Balranald Shire communities gathered for the local Australia Day celebrations and award presentations held across the Shire.

The Euston Recreation Reserve and Greenham Park Hall became hives of activities, despite the heat, with Australia Day celebrations and an awards ceremony.

Australia Day Ambassador Isabella (Bella) Bain captivated the audience with stories of her life and as an Australian design and innovation leader who brings together creativity, technology, and community to create positive change. Named the 2025 NSW/ACT Young Achiever of the Year, Bella is driven by a deep belief in the power of people and in the role that design, education, and compassion play in shaping a better future.

Bella has contributed her leadership to organisations including the Macquarie Group and IBM, helping to design clearer, more inclusive, and human centred experiences for all Australians. Her work is grounded in the idea that technology should support people, not overwhelm them, and that great design starts with empathy and understanding.

To begin these celebrations, Bella, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Terry Dodds PSM and Mayor Louie Zaffina joined residents and friends at Euston Recreation Reserve for a BBQ Breakfast and entertainment. They then joined the Balranald Community at the Greenham Park Hall in Balranald for a delicious BBQ Lunch and more entertainment.





Citizen of the Year Jeremy Jolliffe

Jeremy was the founder of Men's Day in Balranald for mental health; Jeremy is also an active member in Balranald Tennis Club and coaching junior football. He is a deeply respected and quietly influential member of the Balranald Community known for his unwavering commitment to supporting the wellbeing of others.

His contributors are especially significant in the men's health space, where his compassion, leadership, and tireless advocacy have made a profound and lasting difference. Jeremy has long recognised unique challenges faced by men in rural communities, barriers to seeking help, pressures of isolation, and the stigma that too often surrounds mental health. In response, he has worked selflessly to create safe, welcoming environments where men feel heard, valued and supported.

Young Citizen of the Year Vienna Buchanan

Being an exceptional student at Balranald Central School, Vienna was awarded Young Citizen of the Year in recognition of her outstanding contributions and leadership in 2025.



Special Achievement Awards

Karen Norfolk with the many tireless hours of volunteer work on many committees and organisations in Balranald, especially the Balranald SES.

Josie Harding for recognition of her outstanding and sustained commitment to the Balranald community over the past 25 years. Josie's dedication and generosity have made a profound and lasting impact on numerous local organisations and community initiatives in the sporting field.



Community Events of the Year

Back to Care Country Event – the 2025 Back to Clare Country Event was an outstanding success, marking the first major community gathering of its kind in over 25 years. The event reignited the community spirit.

ICPA Balranald Branch - with the outstanding year of achievement, leadership, and community impact through hosting the 2025 ICPA NSW State Conference in Euston and delivering the Hatfield Happening Women's Day.



Sportsperson of the Year

Sienna Comitti - for her outstanding sports at Balranald Central School

Young Sportsperson of the Year

Noah Bodinnar – is an exceptional athlete who embodies the true meaning of sportsmanship – showing respect, fairness, perseverance, and humility in every sport that he plays. Beyond his impressive sporting achievements, Noah stands out for his attitude, leadership, and commitment to his teammates and community.



Sporting Team of the Year

Under 18's Football Team – Jake Lockhart and Graeme Longford - Under the guidance of the coaches, Jake Lockhart and Graeme Longford the delivered an exceptional season in 2025. After many years without securing a single win, the team demonstrated perseverance, growth, and belief, resulting in a remarkable run through the Central Murray League competition and reaching the preliminary finals.



Congratulations to all the award winners and thank you for your contributions throughout the year.



Positions Vacant @ Balranald Shire Council



Balranald Shire Council have an exciting job opportunity and is seeking applications for
Executive Assistant.

Executive Assistant is responsible and accountable for the provision of elevated level secretarial and personal assistant services to the CEO and Directors.

The outputs in the form of documentation, customer service and diary management, must be of a high standard expected by a professionally run organisation.

For more information on the job description please access the website www.balranald.nsw.gov.au

How to apply:

Position descriptions are available at www.balranald.nsw.gov.au or by contacting Human Resources Officer on (03) 5020 1300 or recruitment@balranald.nsw.gov.au.

Applications close: **Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 5pm** and should be addressed to the Human Resources Officer via email to recruitment@balranald.nsw.gov.au.

Please include:

- A cover letter specifying the role you are applying for.
- Your resume.
- A short statement (maximum 1–2 paragraphs) outlining what makes you the ideal candidate for the position, based on the position description.

Terry Dodds PSM
Chief Executive Officer

Balranald Shire Council has an exciting opportunity for a
Workshop Mechanic

and is seeking applications from motivated and experienced individuals to join our team.

The Workshop Mechanic is responsible for the efficient maintenance and repair of Council's plant and vehicle fleet, including field repairs and servicing of plant and equipment, ensuring operational reliability and safety.

For more information on the job description please access the website www.balranald.nsw.gov.au

How to apply

Position descriptions are available at www.balranald.nsw.gov.au or by contacting Human Resources Officer on (03) 5020 1300 or recruitment@balranald.nsw.gov.au.

Applications close: **Wednesday 3rd June 2026 at 5pm** and should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer via email to recruitment@balranald.nsw.gov.au.

Please include:

- A cover letter specifying the role you are applying for.
- Your resume.
- A short statement (maximum 1–2 paragraphs) outlining what makes you the ideal candidate for the position, based on the position description.

Terry Dodds PSM
Chief Executive Officer

Balranald Shire Council's Engineering Team has been highly proactive throughout December and January, delivering key maintenance works and progressing several infrastructure projects across the region.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE!

Road Construction Update – MR 67 (Homebush Area)

Construction works on MR 67 near Homebush are progressing well. The widening of the sealed pavement is now approximately 50% complete, with 5 km of sealing works finished to date. Once complete, the project will have widened a total of 8 km of pavement along this section of road, improving safety and accessibility for all road users.

Council thanks motorists for their patience throughout the construction period and greatly appreciates road users continuing to observe posted speed limit when travelling through the work zone. These measures help keep both workers and drivers safe while works are underway.



Maintenance Grading Update

Council has recently completed maintenance grading on Marma Box Creek Road, with the full 38 km length of this unsealed road now graded. These works have significantly improved driving conditions, offering a smoother and more comfortable journey for visitors travelling to Mungo National Park.

Additional maintenance has also been conducted out on Chillichil Road, with 4.5 km now graded. Approximately two-hundred (200) metres across the dry creek bed have been re-sheeted with gravel to enhance safety, improve surface durability, and ensure reliable access for local residents and travellers.

Council will continue to prioritise regular road maintenance to support safe transport links across the Shire.

Selwyn Street Sealing Works

A 250-metre section of previously unsealed pavement at the end of Selwyn Street, Euston, has now been sealed. This upgraded stretch leads directly into the caravan park, providing a much cleaner and more welcoming entrance for visitors and improving the overall appearance of the approach to the park.



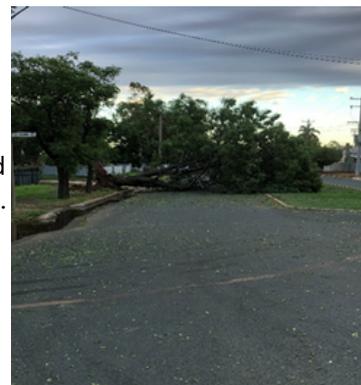
Improved Accessibility at Market Street

Recent works in Market Street have introduced additional access points alongside the disability parking spaces. These upgrades are designed to provide smoother, safer, and more convenient access to the footpath. The extra space and improved layout will be especially beneficial for people with mobility restrictions, offering more options and greater ease when exiting their vehicles.



Following the recent storm event, Council crews have been working diligently to clean up the township of Balranald. The severity of the storm caused considerable damage to trees across the area, and for up to a week afterwards, branches continued to fall, adding to the clean-up workload. Council's arborists have since assessed a number of trees around town and identified several as high-risk due to structural damage. These trees will need to be removed to ensure ongoing community safety.

Council staff have consulted with all affected residents, and there is agreement to proceed with the removals. Council will continue to prioritise safety while working to restore the township to its best condition.



News from Bidgee Haven Hostel



Mrs Tyrer enjoyed a wonderful day out with Edna selling raffle tickets, helping support the community and spreading plenty of smiles along the way. To make the day even more special, she happened to run into an old friend from Mildura—an unexpected and delightful reunion!

A Heartfelt Thank You...
Thank you to Mrs Maureen Theile and Mrs Annette Jones for the delicious biscuits and thoughtful gifts. Your kindness and generosity brought great joy, and Terry Dodd PSM was especially appreciative of your lovely gesture.



We had a lovely afternoon hosted by Murray River Shire at the Tooleybuc Sporting Club. Everyone enjoyed a relaxing movie session featuring *The Calendar Girls*, along with plenty of laughs and good company.

We were also delighted to welcome new friends from Moulamein who joined us for the outing, making the day even more special.



A big thank you to Mrs Karen Jackson for these beautiful placemats. Our residents were absolutely delighted with the new Christmas table décor, which added a joyful and festive touch to their dining experience. Your creativity and generosity are genuinely appreciated!

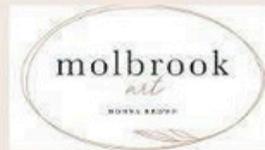


ART EXHIBITION 'PORTRAITS IN THE Paddock' BY DONNA BROWN

OPENING NIGHT
6PM - SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026

Please join us for nibbles and drinks at the opening night of "Portraits in the Paddock" at The Gallery, Balranald

Exhibition Dates March 7th - April 30th 2026



Balranald's Library Hub

is proud to announce.....

the winning logo!



Thankyou to all community members who kindly guided our decision.
I look forward to seeing the logo on our doors shortly!

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

JOIN OUR FUN!

JOIN OUR FUN !

- Arts & Crafts
- Science & Exploration
- Homework Help
- Light afternoon snack

PROGRAM DETAILS :

- Monday & Thursday
- At 03:00 pm- 5:00 pm
- @theLibrary Hub

MORE INFORMATION

- jgaston@balranald.nsw.gov.au
- FB: Balranald Library Page
- PH: 0350201388



Seniors

*
@THE
LIBRARY

Morning Tea

12
MARCH



10am - 12pm

PLUS COMMUNITY

Serving the Far

West Community

Balranald Office

Staying Home
Leaving Violence

Staying Home Leaving Violence How the program can help you

SHLV is an important program that helps women and their children to remain safe in their homes, or home of their choice, after leaving a violent relationship. The aim of Staying Home Leaving Violence program is to prevent you and your children becoming homeless or having to move away from your support system of family and friends, and the school and community where you live.

The program works in cooperation with the NSW police to remove the perpetrator (the Violent partner) from the home. It provides a range of support, such as safety planning, improving home security, help with financial institution referrals, referrals to legal help and support and all other necessary referrals to organisations that will help support the women and children with their case.

Stay Home Leave Violence Support Include:

- Safety planning
- Security audits of the home
- Urgent lock changes if required
- Phone and laptop check for tracking devices
- Limited security items on assessment of risk and situation
- Case co-ordination and case management
- Advocacy with contractors, police, housing transfer applications
- Referrals to financial counsellors and counselling services
- Escaping violence and immediate needs payment application support
- Assistance to access additional childcare subsidy advocacy with childcare and educational facilities
- Support letters and referrals
- Phone 1800959806 for more information

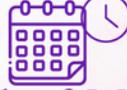
The Plus Community Balranald office is now open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday by appointment, we are in the old emergency department building in the Balranald MP hospital grounds in Market Street.



Improving people's lives through independence and choice

Residents of the Balranald Shire over 60 are invited to the 'Live Life in Colour' Balranald Shire Council Seniors Luncheon


Theatre Royal
Market Street, Balranald


Tuesday 10th of March 2026
12pm

Bus available from Euston



RSVP to Council office on 03 5020 1300
or council@balranald.nsw.gov.au by the
2nd of March 2026

Balranald

Murrumbidgee Classic - 2026

BALDWIN
Boats

MERCURY
STACER

Fishing comp

- Friday 20th March - Sunday 22nd March

Entry:

Adult - \$160
Child - Under 16 - \$110
Full crew package -
2a/2c - \$450

Over \$25,000 worth of prizes to be won - including TWO boats! - more on our Facebook page! 



Tickets@ www.trybooking.com/DFXTU

HOMEBUSH RODEO



25TH APRIL 2026

HOMEBUSH REC RESERVE
IVANHOE ROAD, BALRANALD

GATES OPEN 9AM / SLACK 2PM / RODEO STARTS 4PM

PHOTO CREDIT: HH PHOTOGRAPHY
POSTER DESIGN: ZOE BRIFFITHS

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT | BAR-NO BYO | OUTBACK TRADERS
FOOD VANS | KIDS ACTIVITIES | CAMPING AVAILABLE

FOR FULL DETAILS VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
FB/HOMEBUSHRODEO

PIP 0427 296 844 | EWAN 0417 863 931



**BRIAN O'HAIRE SOLICITORS
NEW OFFICE HOURS**

MONDAY – CLOSED
(APPOINTMENT BY
ARRANGEMENT)

TUESDAY – BRIAN IN
ATTENDANCE - 9.00AM – 1.00PM

WEDNESDAY – STELLA IN
ATTENDANCE - 9.00AM – 4.00PM

THURSDAY – CLOSED
(APPOINTMENT BY
ARRANGEMENT)

FRIDAY – BRIAN IN
ATTENDANCE - 9.00AM – 4.00PM

PLEASE PHONE THE ROBINVALE
OFFICE ON 03 5026 1980
TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT

BRIAN V. O'HAIRE LL.B Solicitor

**With offices located in Robinvale and
Balranald, our firm specialises in:**

- Will / Power of Attorney / Medical Power of Attorney
- Conveyancing / Property Sales
- Water Transfers / Property Transfers
- Retail and Commercial Leases
- Deceased Estates / Probate Applications
- Family / Financial Agreements
- Divorce Applications
- Immigration Visa's / Citizenship Applications
- Court Appearances

For enquiries please contact

Email: info@bvohaire.com.au | Robinvale 03 5026 1980 | Balranald 03 5020 1100

Become a Mobile Field Representative



Census

Become a Field Manager



Census

- ✓ Travel to help Census teams in your region
- ✓ Distribute and collect Census forms
- ✓ \$39.68 per hour (incl. 25% casual loading) + super

Support communities to participate in the Census.

See all opportunities at census.abs.gov.au/jobs



- ✓ Recruit, train and manage a team
- ✓ Lead Census work in your area
- ✓ \$42.65 per hour (incl. 25% casual loading) + super

Look after your community's future.
Work for the 2026 Census.

See all opportunities at census.abs.gov.au/jobs

