



APRIL
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

TRAFFIC UPDATES

www.livetraffic.com

OR

<https://balranald.nsw.gov.au/infrastructure/roads-condition-report/>

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

Closed - Reopening October 2026

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

Country Mayors Association (CMA)

On the 26th and 27th March the CEO and I attended the CMA meeting in Sydney.

This forum brought together councils from across regional New South Wales, creating a valuable opportunity to discuss the key issues currently affecting our Shire. Topics included inadequate funding, rising operational costs, housing shortages and the ongoing fuel crisis were central to the discussions. The Country Mayors Association continues to play an important role in advocating for regional communities, often issuing media releases that highlight these shared challenges.

The meeting also offered strong opportunities for engagement with government representatives. During my time there, I met with the Honorable Jenny Aitchison, Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, which provided a constructive opportunity to raise matters relevant to our region.

Overall, attendance at the CMA meeting was a productive and worthwhile opportunity for strengthening relationships, sharing insights, and ensuring our Shire's concerns are represented at a broader level.

The Balranald Shire Council welcomes the opportunity presented by the upcoming by-election for the federal seat of Farrer on 9 May 2026. With national attention focused on our region, this moment provides a critical platform to highlight the challenges and opportunities facing our communities.

Federal By-Election

In recent weeks, several candidates have engaged directly with me to discuss the issues that matter most to our Shire. We appreciate this dialogue and wish to ensure that all candidates are fully informed of the priorities we are advocating on behalf of our residents.

From the Mayor's Office Continued

Council has been actively voicing these concerns through multiple channels, including:

- Direct engagement with candidates
- Joint advocacy through RAMJO and the Western Division
- Media releases aimed at drawing national attention to regional issues
- Public statements regarding the Murray–Darling Basin Authority Plan Review, both independently and in partnership with regional organisations.

Our Shire faces significant pressures relating to water security, infrastructure investment, service accessibility, and long-term economic resilience.

Balranald Aerodrome Extension

I'm pleased to say Council is continuing to focus on practical projects that help secure the future of Balranald Shire and make life better for residents. One of the most important recent steps has been progress to date toward acquiring additional land for the future expansion of the Balranald Aerodrome. This has been funded by local ratepayers as an investment in a service that could one day make all the difference in an emergency. The reason is simple, when the Royal Flying Doctor Service moves to larger aircraft, Council wants to make sure Balranald, and surrounding communities, can continue to receive that vital service when it is needed most.

Benanee and Oxley Roads Update

I'm also very pleased that Council has secured major funding for the upgrade of Benanee Road at Euston. Around 15 kilometres of road will be sealed and improved, delivering safer travel, better access in wet weather, less dust and a stronger road network for local families, farmers, freight operators, and especially school buses. It is exactly the kind of practical investment regional communities deserve. Another important outcome has been receiving funding and approving a tender to reconstruct the flood damaged section of Oxley Road. Getting this road repaired properly is a priority for Council, and I know residents and road users will welcome seeing works move ahead.

Theatre Royal

I also believe the appearance of our towns matters. Councillors inspected the Theatre Royal on Market Street, Balranald yesterday, and Council is now working through the best way to address the current state of the building. It is a well-known part of Balranald's main street and holds a lot of local history and character. I know many people would like to see the site improved, and I share that view. We all want Balranald looking its best and continuing to be town locals are proud of and visitors enjoy stopping in.

Euston Recreation Reserve

The Euston Recreational Reserve Upgrade will be officially opened Saturday 2 May at 1.30pm.

Mayor Louie Zaffina
Balranald Shire Council

Major Funding Boost for Benanee Road Upgrade at Euston

Balranald Shire Council has welcomed confirmation of significant Australian Government multi-million-dollar funding for the sealing and upgrade of Benanee Road at Euston under the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program.

The project will deliver the upgrade and sealing of approximately 15 kilometres of Benanee Road, a key local route used by school buses, residents, agricultural traffic and other local road users.

Works will include construction of new subbase and base pavement layers, application of a bitumen seal, and installation of edge line marking across the full length of the road.

Mayor Cr Louie Zaffina said the funding outcome was a major win for the Euston district and the broader Shire.

“This is exactly the type of investment regional councils need, practical funding for roads that are essential to everyday life, economic productivity and community safety,” Cr Zaffina said.

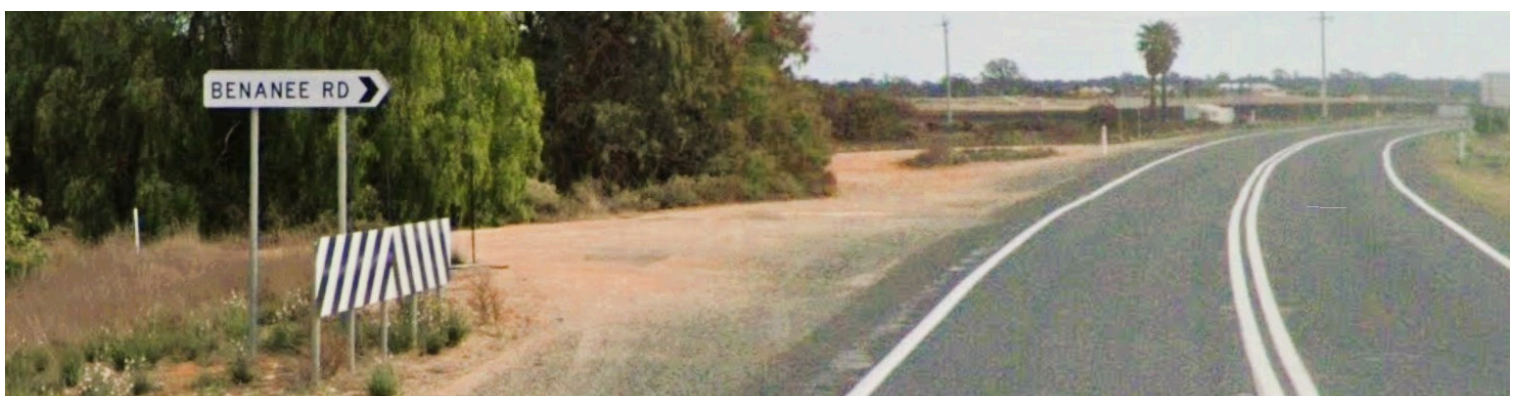
“Benanee Road is relied upon by local families, school transport services, farmers and freight movements. Sealing the road will provide safer and more reliable access in all weather conditions, while reducing dust, maintenance costs and long-term wear.”

Cr Zaffina said the project also demonstrated the value of targeted infrastructure programs that recognise the challenges faced by rural and remote councils.

“Small regional councils simply cannot fund projects of this scale alone. Partnerships with the Australian Government are critical if we are to keep improving infrastructure and supporting our communities.”

Council will now work through final planning and delivery arrangements, with further updates to be provided as the project progresses.

“This is a strong investment in the future of Euston and the surrounding district, and Council looks forward to seeing works commence,” Cr Zaffina said.



Road Closure Information: Wet Weather Access

Balranald Shire Council reminds residents, visitors and freight operators that local road closures are advertised through the [Live Traffic NSW](#) app.

This is particularly important during wet weather periods, as most unsealed roads within the Shire are 'Dry Weather Only' and may be closed when rainfall makes conditions unsafe or likely to cause road damage.

Council also advises that maintenance grading of unsealed roads is undertaken on a programmed, time-based schedule rather than a condition-based response model. This means that where roads are significantly damaged, often through motorists and transport operators ignoring closure notices and travelling on wet roads, it may be some time before those roads can be restored to normal operating standards.

Council encourages all road users to check conditions before travelling, especially after rain events, and to never drive on closed roads. Respecting closures helps protect the road network, reduces repair costs and improves access for everyone.

The Live Traffic NSW app is available on Apple and Android devices, providing up-to-date closure information to help you travel safely and avoid delays.



www.livetraffic.com



DRAFT 2026/2027 Budget, Fees & Charges, Revenue Policy, Operational Plan and Motor Vehicle Policy

Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 April 2026 resolved to endorse the Draft 2026/2027 Budget, Fees & Charges, Revenue Policy, Operational Plan and Motor Vehicle Policy to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days.

These documents can be found on councils website— <https://balranald.nsw.gov.au/community/community-announcements/exhibition-of-draft-documents/>

Written comments and feedback must be addressed to The General Manger and submitted to Council no later than **5pm, Friday 29 May 2026** via email council@balranald.nsw.gov.au, or delivered to 70 Market Street or post— PO Box 120 Balranald NSW 2715.

Balranald Shire Council, 70 Market Street, (PO Box 120) Balranald 2715

Phone 03 5020 1300 Fax 03 5020 1620 www.balranald.nsw.gov.au



March was a busy month for Council's Engineering & Planning Team, with key maintenance works completed and significant progress made on infrastructure projects across the region.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE!

Harben Street – Kerb and Gutter Upgrade Complete

The kerb and gutter replacement work in front of the Early Learning Centre on Harben Street is now complete. These improvements will provide safer and more user-friendly access for parents and carers during drop-off and pick-up times.

A new parking bay has been installed to create a safe and convenient short-term drop-off location. Additionally, upgraded drainage has been incorporated into the works, eliminating the ponding issues that have affected the area for some time.



Wet Weather

Balranald always welcomes rainfall; however, wet conditions can unfortunately create significant issues across Council's unsealed road network.

Road condition information can be accessed via Live Traffic NSW, where road reports are updated as required.

Motorists are strongly advised to follow the information provided on this site, as it is in place for your safety.

Recent rainfall has resulted in water covering roads at various locations, with recovery periods required before roads can safely reopen. Council does not carry out recovery work for vehicles that become bogged or stranded due to non-compliance with road closures or warnings.

If Live Traffic NSW advice is ignored, motorists may be stuck for an extended period and may also be charged the full cost of repairing any damage caused to the road. In addition, fines may apply and are calculated per axle, with penalties potentially running into several thousand dollars.

Other issues created from recent wet weather are sink holes, as per photos, these create a serious hazard for drivers. Council has filled in all known sites. If any new ones have developed, please contact the Council Office on **03 5020 1300**. Your assistance will be much appreciated.

Council appreciates the community's cooperation in helping to protect the road network and ensure everyone's safety during wet weather events.





Positions Vacant @ Balranald Shire Council



Balranald Shire Council have an exciting job opportunity and is seeking applications for a
Part Time - Registered Nurse.

You'll play a key role in delivering high quality care, supporting the residents of Bidgee Haven Hostel and contributing to a positive professional workplace.

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.

Essential qualifications:

- Registered Nurse qualification
- Current AHPRA registration
- Criminal check
- First Aid Certificate

Terry Dodds PSM
Chief Executive Officer

News from Bidgee Haven Hostel

Balranald Bidgee Haven Retirement Hostel

Creating a home away from home



A Gentle Introduction to Aged Care

Exploring aged care options for the first time can feel overwhelming for individuals and families. Respite care provides a supportive and reassuring way to take that first step. At Bidgee Haven Retirement Hostel, respite residents are welcomed into a comfortable, homelike environment where they are supported by familiar, caring staff. We focus on personalised care, comfort, and wellbeing, with opportunities to enjoy our peaceful and accessible gardens.

Respite care may be suitable for short-term stays, recovery following hospital care, or to provide carers with a much-needed break.

Whatever the reason, families can feel confident that their loved one is safe, respected, and well cared for.

To learn more about respite care availability or to arrange a visit, please contact Bidgee Haven Retirement Hostel on 03 5020 1035.





ILUKA

ILUKA RESOURCES COMMUNITY FUNDING: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Iluka Resources and Balranald Shire Council warmly invite applications for funding for the Community Fund and Scholarship Fund.

These funds are annual community contributions that form part of the Voluntary Planning Agreement between Iluka and the Council.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

Community groups and individuals can apply for either fund:

- **Community Fund:** a fund of \$75,000 in May (\$150,000 annually) to support a range of community projects, events and initiatives. Evidence of consideration for project costs and budget must be provided.
- **Scholarship Fund:** a smaller fund to support educational and training initiatives, for example contributions towards traineeships, apprenticeships and higher education.

Applications for both funds must be made by completing an application form. Both forms are available on the BSC website or upon request by emailing balranald.community@iluka.com.

Applications must be received by Friday 15 May 2026 to be considered by the committee.

For more information or if you have any questions, please email balranald.community@iluka.com.

We look forward to receiving your application.



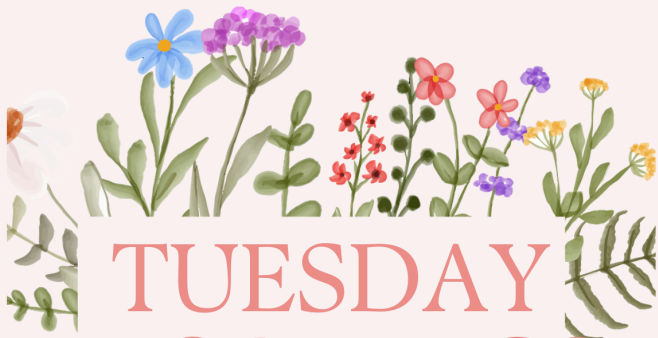
1800 305 993 (24/7 Iluka Community hotline)



balranald.community@iluka.com



www.iluka.com/community-engagement/balranald



TUESDAY MORNINGS

New Seniors Group @ the Library - Grey Hairs and Golden Hearts

10-12PM
COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN!



Emergency Australia AG Skilled Training



TRAINING *Workshop*



Get Skilled. Be Ready. Save Lives.
Join us for a hands-on, nationally-recognised First Aid course tailored specifically for those living and working in remote and rural areas of NSW.

Proposed Location

Balranald District Ex Services Memorial Club
Market St, Balranald.

Date and Time

Mon 25 and Tues 26 May 2026
8:30am to 4:30pm

Duration

2 DAYS PRACTICAL PLUS THEORY WORKBOOK

What you'll learn:

- Provide First Aid in Remote and Isolated Site (HLTAID013)
- Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (HLTAID009)

FULLY FUNDED
eligibility applies

Who can apply?

Currently working in or seeking work in:

- cotton, grains, rice, sugarcane
- viticulture, horticulture,
- livestock,
- fibre (e.g. wool)

What's included?

- Accredited trainers with real emergency experience
- Nationally recognised statement of attainment
- All materials and equipment supplied
- Supportive, practical learning environment
- Skills that save lives when it counts

SCAN ME



TO REGISTER

1300 857 918

sales@emergencyaustralia.com.au

This training is fee-free and fully subsidised by the NSW Government
Delivered by Emergency Australia Pty Ltd - RTO 41448
emergencyaustralia.com.au

or email / call us



The grass stains you get playing as a kid stay with you your whole life. So for fun, friendship, and getting your hands dirty, it's gotta be NAB AFL Auskick.

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

BALRANALD AUSKICK CENTRE

THURSDAY | 5PM - 6PM
STARTING 30TH APRIL
GREENHAM PARK, BALRANALD



REGISTER NOW



BFC's Social Calendar

18TH APRIL



KIDS DISCO



9TH MAY



AWARDS AT RSL



30TH MAY



GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION/
SPONSORS DAY



20TH JUNE



GRANDFRIENDS DAY



11TH JULY



LADIES DAY/
06 REUNION



1ST AUGUST



FLIGHT NIGHT



SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST



REVERSE RAFFLE



15TH AUGUST



ROO BALL





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6pm
Balranald RSL Club

Wednesday 29th April 2026

Our race club needs your help!
Come along, join in and give back to
your community



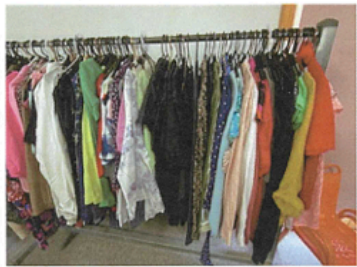
0437200475



balranaldrc@gmail.com

Balranald Anglican Op-Shop

Cnr Mayall and Ballandella Streets
in the Hall of St Barnabas' Anglican Church
Open Wednesdays 10am to 4pm
& Thursdays 10am to 2pm



Bargain
Adult
Clothing



We have shoes, Hats
& Jewellery,
Children's & Baby clothes, Handbags

Volunteers Wanted

If you would like to volunteer in our Op-Shop
Please contact Lea on 0429 201 647
or drop in for a chat
A venture of St Barnabas' Anglican Church



The Gallery

Proudly presents...

MINIATURES in MAY

15th May - 21st June 2026
Entries close Friday 1st May

51 Mayall Street, Balranald NSW 2715 | Ph: 0488 728 986



Email: thegallery5@bigpond.com



Opening of 'Miniatures in May' Exhibition
6pm Friday 15th May 2026
ALL WELCOME

ENROLMENTS OPEN

2026 JUMP INTO JOEY'S TRANSITION PROGRAM



MONDAY'S 8:45AM - 3:00PM

STARTING WEEK 3 - 4TH MAY 2026



For More Information
(03) 5020 1592



admin.balranald@wf.catholic.edu.au



REGISTRATION FOR SCHOOL TRANSITION FORM MUST BE COMPLETED
PRIOR TO STARTING.

Community Building Partnership 2026 program



Apply for a grant and kickstart your
community infrastructure project today.

**Expression of Interest (EOI) stage
closes 8 May 2026**

Visit nsw.gov.au/cbp

Women's Health CLINIC

Thursday 7th May

Women's Health and Continence Nurse Karen will be at Maari Ma Health Balranald to provide a range of supportive and confidential services, including:

- Cervical screening (Pap tests)
- Contraception advice
- Sexual and reproductive health care
- STI testing and information
- Continence support

To book an appointment with Karen, please call us on (03) 5020 0009.



GIRLS ON FIRE

1-day Fire and Resilience Program

Get Hands On in Balranald

Develop real skills and explore emergency service careers

FREE PROGRAM



OPEN TO
YOUNG WOMEN & MEN



14-19 YEARS



LOCATION
BALRANALD, VIC



DATE
6TH MAY 2026

REGISTER NOW



www.girlsonfire.org.au



Balranald ICPA Branch

Invites you
to attend

Hatfield Happening

Date: 15th May 2026
Hatfield Hall- Balranald-Ivanhoe Rd
Time: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Entry: Free
Full Catering supplied
on the day
generously supported with
funding

Our guest speakers for
the day

Talicia Sutherland

Dietitian and Menopause Coordinator

Bronte Lee

Rural Adversity Mental Health
Coordinator

Rural Adversity Mental Health Program

Come and dive into a day of
connection and fulfillment—
bring your best self!
embrace in some retail therapy and
engaging conversations!



A special thanks to our
funding partners

