



JUNE
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



The announcement by Minister Penny Sharpe of \$60 million in funding for the Southwest Renewable Energy Zone is a very welcome development for our region. This investment will support local communities by strengthening infrastructure and creating new job opportunities.

As part of this announcement, several areas outside the core resident zone have also been included due to the impacts they will experience from renewable energy development and associated transport routes.

Although Balranald Shire does not currently host a wind farm within the connection zone, we will still be significantly affected by project activity. Over the course of construction, an estimated 6,000 transport loads are expected to pass through the Balranald Shire, including the towns of Balranald and Euston, placing pressure on our roads, services, and local infrastructure.

Given these impacts, we are hopeful that an appropriate share of this funding will flow to our Shire. The mayors of the affected councils will be meeting to discuss how best to allocate the funding once it is formally distributed by the Minister.

I recently met with Minister Sharpe in Hay, where Mayor Carol Oataway hosted her visit and participated in a productive meeting afterwards. I look forward to continuing these discussions to ensure our communities receive fair recognition and support for the role we play in enabling the Southwest Rez Zone.



We are pleased to announce that Balranald Shire has secured a loan to purchase the additional land required to extend the Balranald Airport runway. This is a significant milestone for our community and an important step toward strengthening our region's future.

With the recent lifting of the Performance Improvement Orders from the Office of Local Government, we are now in a strong position to move forward with long-term planning and investment. Securing this land allows us to progress with a runway extension that will support future aviation needs and ensure the airport remains a vital asset for years to come.

From the Mayor's Office Continued

An upgraded runway will deliver considerable benefits to Balranald Shire, including improved access for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and enhanced capability to support growing activity in our region. With major investment occurring through the Renewable Energy Zone and increased interest from mining companies, it is essential that our airport infrastructure can meet these demands.

This achievement marks an exciting step forward as we continue to build a stronger, more resilient future for our community.

On 11 June, I attended the opening of the Limondale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located alongside the existing solar farm. The event was well supported, with NSW Minister for Climate Change and Energy Penny Sharpe, RWE Renewables Australia CEO Daniel Belton, and our State Member for Murray Helen Dalton all in attendance. The weather was perfect, and the day had a real sense of optimism.

This is the first battery of its kind set up in Australia, and it's significant to see it right here in our Shire. As Mayor, I welcome investment in our region. Even though we may hold different views about renewable energy projects, what matters most to me is that our community benefits from them.

Government initiatives will continue to shape the future of our Shire – whether we agree with every aspect of them or not. That's why it's important that we work to secure real lasting community benefits from this project and from any future renewable developments. My priority is, and always will be, ensuring that our community is supported, heard, and able to share in the opportunities that come with change.



After the Limondale opening and a quick lunch at the Balranald Bakery, Helen Dalton travelled to Euston and visited the Euston Public School, it was a lovely reminder of why these small country schools matter so much. As a former teacher herself Helen said “there is nothing quite like the energy of a classroom full of kids who are proud of their school and proud of where they come from.”



There is plenty happening across the Shire, with several important projects now moving from planning into action.

Theatre Royal - Temporary works are about to commence on the Theatre Royal, with the building expected to be sealed over the next month to prevent further pigeon access and allow for a full clean-up of the site. This is an important first step in protecting one of Balranald's most recognisable buildings.

Bidgee Haven Retirement Hostel - Works have also commenced at Bidgee Haven on the new Memory Unit, which will provide a much-needed six-bed extension and improved care facilities for residents.

Benanee Road - Construction and Sealing - Council staff have also held a pre-tender meeting on-site at Benanee Road as we prepare to receive tenders for the construction and sealing of the remaining fifteen kilometres; a major step forward for this long-awaited road project.

Anderson Street Public Toilet - And in Euston, work has commenced on the construction of a new toilet block at Anderson Park, further improving facilities for residents and visitors.

It is exciting to see so many projects progressing at the same time, each delivering real and practical benefits for our communities.

**Mayor Louie Zaffina
Balranald Shire Council**

Mayor calls out unacceptable funding inequity for the Balranald Shire

Balranald Shire Council Mayor, Cr Louie Zaffina, has called for an urgent explanation from the NSW and Australian Governments over what Council says is an unacceptable and inequitable distribution of Sustainable Communities Program funding.

The program was established to support Murray-Darling Basin communities exposed to the impacts of water recovery and water buybacks. Yet, based on the Council's analysis of funding allocations to date, Balranald Shire has received just \$731,331, while several other local government areas have received many millions of dollars. This is despite circa \$75 million in buybacks occurring in our area only in the last few months.

Mayor Zaffina said the figures speak for themselves, "Balranald Shire has been directly impacted by water buybacks. Our communities, our businesses, our farms and our local economy all live with the real consequences of reduced productive water," Cr Zaffina said. "Yet when the funding is handed out, Balranald Shire is left at the bottom of the list. That is not fair. It is not reasonable. And it is not what this program was meant to do."

Council's analysis shows total Sustainable Communities Program funding across eligible local government areas have included approximately:

Murray River Council – \$15.57 million
Griffith City Council – \$12.52 million
Murrumbidgee Council – \$10 million
Leeton Shire Council – \$8.19 million
Narrandera Shire Council – \$7.67 million
Carrathool Shire Council – \$7.12 million
Federation Council – \$7.02 million
Edward River Council – \$5.59 million
Berrigan Shire Council – \$5.35 million
Hay Shire Council – \$4 million
Wentworth Shire Council – \$1.51 million
Balranald Shire Council – \$731,331



Given that we know there have been water buybacks in Balranald Shire, while other LGAs have not had any, it is an appalling process for the distribution of funding. Cr Zaffina said the disparity is impossible to ignore. "How can a program designed to assist communities impacted by water recovery deliver more than \$15 million to one area and less than \$1 million to Balranald Shire?" he said.

"Our Shire is not asking for special treatment. We are asking for fair treatment. When other towns receive major investment in housing, industrial land, childcare, freight infrastructure, tourism and economic activation, they become more attractive to new residents, workers, families and businesses."

"That is exactly why this funding matters. It helps shape where people choose to live, invest and do business. If Balranald Shire is continually overlooked, then the gap gets wider. That is not regional development. That is regional disadvantage being reinforced by government decision-making."

Cr Zaffina said Council will be seeking a full explanation of the funding assessment process, including how actual water buyback impacts were weighted, how community vulnerability was assessed, and why Balranald Shire has received such a disproportionately low share of funding.

"This program must not become another example of the communities most affected by government policy being left to fight for crumbs," he said. "The people of Balranald, Euston, Kyalite, Hatfield and our surrounding rural communities deserve a fair go."

"We need investment in housing, business growth, local jobs, tourism, community infrastructure and services just as much as any other Basin community, arguably more, given the direct impacts we have experienced. Council will be raising this matter directly with the NSW Government, the Australian Government, our local Members of Parliament and the agencies responsible for the program.

"We want transparency, we want accountability, and most importantly, we want the funding to correct this imbalance."

Cr Zaffina said Council will also continue encouraging local businesses and community organisations to apply for future rounds, including the current Business and Industry Round, but said the broader issue could not be ignored.

"Of course, we will keep putting forward good projects," he said. "But good projects need a fair process. The current outcome does not pass the fairness test. If this program is genuinely about helping water-impacted communities adjust, then Balranald Shire must receive its fair share."

May was a busy and productive month for Council's Engineering and Planning Team, with important maintenance works delivered and a number of new projects getting underway.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE!

A strong focus has been placed on road maintenance and grid works to ensure the safety and reliability of our local road network.

In partnership with contractors, significant progress has been made on the removal and installation of new cattle grids. These upgrades have primarily taken place along MR 67, which has experienced increased heavy vehicle traffic. The improvements are essential to enhancing both safety and long-term durability along this key route.



Over recent weeks, the team has also dedicated considerable effort to responding to adverse weather conditions, which have resulted in several road closures across the network. While these conditions are outside of Council's control, every effort is being made to minimise disruptions—particularly along important tourist routes, including access roads to Mungo National Park, one of the region's major attractions.



Meanwhile, drainage improvement works on Harben Street have commenced and are progressing well. The project remains on schedule, with the first section expected to be poured around 9 June 2026.



Feral Cats – Council Update

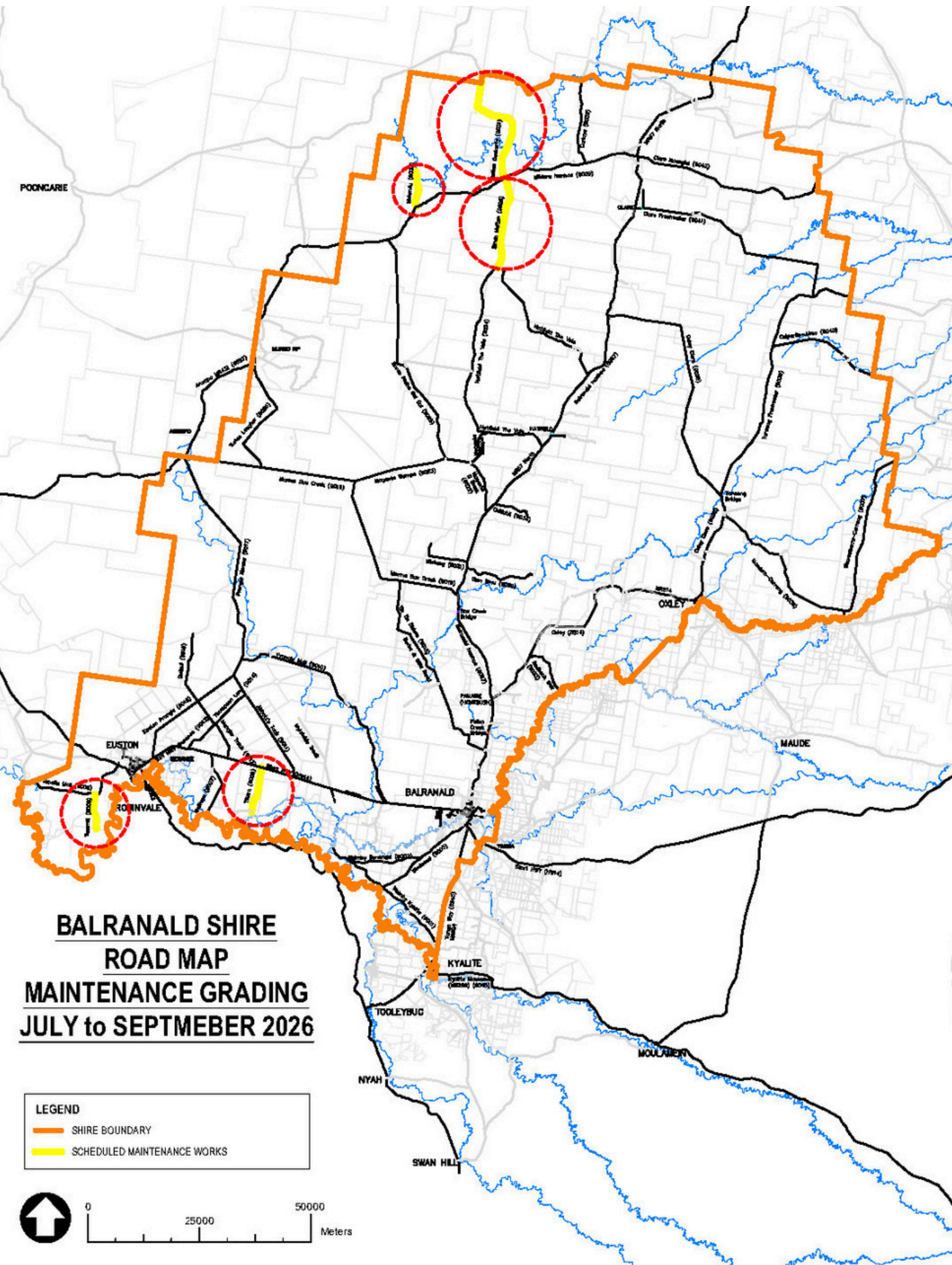
Council is aware of community concerns regarding feral cats.

Council does not currently have a formal policy and cannot support broadscale control programs due to limited resources.

Current approach:

- * **Issues managed case-by-case in town areas**
- * **Focus on public safety and animal welfare risks**
- * **Working with relevant agencies such as Local Land Services**

A draft policy is now being prepared, based on approaches used by similar regional and remote councils, to provide clearer direction and consistent messaging.



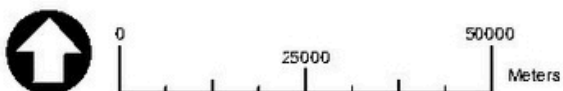
POONCARIE

**BALRANALD SHIRE
ROAD MAP**

**MAINTENANCE GRADING
JULY to SEPTMEBER 2026**

LEGEND

- SHIRE BOUNDARY
- SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE WORKS



Successful Recipients Announced – Iluka Resources Community Funding Program



Balranald Shire Council is pleased to announce the successful recipients of the Iluka Resources Community Funding Program, with a total of \$80,400 awarded to local organisations and individuals across the Balranald Shire.

The funding supports a diverse range of initiatives that strengthen community wellbeing, enhance local facilities, and provide meaningful opportunities for residents of all ages.

Council acknowledges and thanks Iluka Resources for its continued commitment to supporting local communities and investing in projects that deliver long-term social, recreational, and educational benefits.

Successful Funding Recipients

The following organisations and individuals have been approved for funding:

- **Balranald Golf Club Inc** – Purchase Greens Mower for improved maintenance of the Balranald Golf Course
- **Euston Public School Parents and Citizens Association** – Contribution towards replacing 18-year old play equipment
- **Balranald community Arts and Crafts Inc** – Deliver an Indigenous Artist in Residence Program
- **Balranald community arts and Crafts Inc** - Purchase of pottery equipment
- **Homebush Recreational Club** - Purchase timed event electronic rope box
- **Five Individual Scholarship Recipients** – Scholarship Funding

These projects reflect the breadth of community activity across the region and demonstrate the positive impact of targeted community investment.

Iluka and Balranald Shire Council congratulates all successful applicants and looks forward to seeing these projects delivered for the benefit of the wider community.

ENDS

For further information: Hodi Beauliv, Executive Manager Community & Governance

Balranald Shire Council

Phone: (03) 5020 1300

Email: council@balranald.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.balranald.nsw.gov.au



Balranald Shire Councils' contractor, Interflow Pty Ltd, will commence sewer and stormwater smoke testing in your area.

This will require Interflow staff to enter outdoor areas of your property for up to ten minutes. They do not need to access the inside of your residence to perform these works. You do not need to be present, however **please contact the Interflow Site Supervisor should there be any issues with accessing your property, such as pets in your backyard.**

These works are expected to be performed between 19/06/2026 to 17/07/2026.

What is smoke testing?

This is where our contractor pumps a vapour-like simulated smoke into local sewer pipes as a way of discovering sewerage system faults and non-compliant household stormwater connections. These can lead to sewer spills, public health risks and serious environmental impacts.

What is a non-compliant stormwater connection?

This is where household stormwater plumbing is found to be connected to a Council-owned sewer instead of a stormwater drain. This is a breach of Clause 638 of the Local Government Act.

What happens if my property is found to have a non-compliant connection?

Council will send a notification providing details of what the property owner needs to do next.

What is the smoke? Is it harmful?

The smoke is non-toxic, non-staining and odorless, akin to the smoke used in concerts and other live events. However, we recommend people with respiratory problems to avoid direct exposure to the smoke. **To minimise the risk of smoke entering your home, please ensure showers, toilets, sinks and floor drains have been recently used.**

What to do if smoke enters your home

Some amount of smoke may enter your residence through any connections to the sewer, such as the toilet, sinks & showers. Should this occur, please open your windows to ventilate the affected rooms, then flush toilets and run sinks and showers to suppress the smoke.

If any assistance in this process is required, please contact Interflows Site Supervisor.

If smoke does enter a home from the inside, it is advisable to contact a licensed plumber to find out if there is a sewer connection problem. Sewer connection problems may expose the resident to potentially harmful sewer emissions.

In addition, it is advisable – while smoke testing is being performed – to leave your toilet lids down to minimise the risk of accidental toilet spurts. Toilet Spurts may occur when there are issues with the properties Air Vent or Overflow Relief Gully.

For general enquiries, please contact Interflows Community Relations Manager, Joanne Dillon, on 0409 129 670.

Should there be any problems during the delivery of the work, please contact Interflows Site Supervisor, Mark Faulkner, on 0497 961 299

For further information on the work, please contact Balranald Shire Council on (03) 5020 1300
INTERFLOW PTY LIMITED



The Dr. Julie Zrna Centre continues to welcome a steady flow of guests as word spreads about this wonderful centre, with a heartwarming milestone recently reached.

Since opening, the Centre has recorded a total of 461 nights of accommodation and supported 74 guests who have travelled from a wide catchment area - which includes Woomelang, Ouyen, Broken Hill, Menindee, Meringur, Patchewollock, Balranald, Kenley, Berri, Euston, Robinvale, Walpeup and Ivanhoe - to access treatment and accommodation.

Mildura Health Foundation are forever grateful for the continued contributions we receive to ensure this facility is supported and available as a comfortable and convenient accommodation option to those undergoing cancer treatment.

We're proud to share that the Dr. Julie Zrna Centre has reached 80% occupancy.

With the car park full and guests making the most of shared spaces like the gazebo, it's been heartening to see friendships forming and moments of connection unfolding.

These moments remind us that the Centre is more than just a place to stay – it's a place of comfort, support and community. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible. We look forward to continuing to grow and support even more people when they need it most.

Icon Mildura is a collaboration with Mildura Health Private Hospital day unit to provide an integrated service for cancer patients in one location. For those travelling for care, patient accommodation is available at the nearby Dr. Julie Zrna Centre, a purpose-built, pet-friendly facility, as well as a complimentary transport to treatment service. To book accommodation, contact us at accommodation@mhfoundation.com.au or phone (03) 5023 0269

ABS CENSUS - Mark your calendars!

The ABS Census is happening on Tuesday, 11 August 2026 

Every five years, this count provides a snapshot of our nation. More importantly, it directly impacts our local community.

Census data helps decide where funding goes for the vital services you use every day, including:

REWYN



Local roads and transport



Healthcare facilities and hospitals



Schools and childcare centres



Parks, playgrounds, and libraries

Keep an eye on your letterbox starting late July for instructions on how to complete your form securely online or on paper.

Let's make sure our council area is fully represented!

Find out more at abs.gov.au/census

Staying Home
Leaving Violence



PLUS
COMMUNITY

Christmas in July

Monday 13th July 12:30pm - 2:30pm

Join us for a free event- afternoon tea with lucky door prizes,
and meet the Far West Staying Home, Leaving Violence Team.

Seats are limited and bookings are
essential for catering purposes.
Register via the QR code.



Balranald Art Gallery
Creative Arts Building
51 Mayall St, Balranald

For more information:
Jaime: 0427 828 755
Yeva: 0484 791 029
Coralie: 0428 892 167

Welcoming our newest citizens!!



On Friday 22 May, Council was proud to welcome Clotilde Chereau and Alofa Eastman as new citizens of our community.

The citizenship ceremony, held at the Euston Club, marked an important milestone for both individuals. As part of the celebration, Clotilde and Alofa were each presented with a commemorative citizenship coin and a specially selected plant from Council, symbolising growth and connection within our community.



Becoming a citizen is a meaningful step, and we are delighted to have Clotilde and Alofa join us. Their presence enriches our community and reflects the diverse and vibrant spirit of our region. Please join us in congratulating Clotilde and Alofa and extending a warm welcome as they begin this exciting new chapter.

Another fun-filled morning was spent with our favourite firefighters, who helped us try a new game with sticky balls and targets—something that quickly sparked some friendly competition!



We raised our glasses and toasted King Charles III over the formal King's Birthday weekend—and we'll be sure to raise them again in November for his actual birthday!



What a wonderful afternoon with Harry the Birdman and his beautiful parrots! We all had the chance to enjoy a pat and even a bird on our shoulder—such a memorable experience. Thank you so much for making the trip out to Balranald!



News from Bidgee Haven Hostel

A different kind of excitement is filling the Hostel as work officially begins on our new building project. The atmosphere is buzzing with anticipation and pride, as this next chapter promises growth, improved facilities, and new opportunities for everyone who calls this place home. It's inspiring to see plans turning into reality, and there's a shared sense of progress and optimism among residents and staff alike as we watch the transformation unfold.

It's been a little noisy as preparation works get underway, but there's a sense of energy that comes with it. Many of us have enjoyed watching the daily activity—seeing the machinery in action and the steady progress taking shape before our eyes. It's a reminder that something meaningful is beginning, and the excitement continues to grow as each milestone is reached. This marks the start of an exciting new chapter for the Hostel, and we look forward to sharing regular updates as the project unfolds.



Balranald Shire Library Hub



AN EVENING WITH DAVID BALDACCI



Join us Tuesday, 21st July 2026 at 6:30pm ACST
Register via the link



Read & Grow

Balranald Shire Library

For ages 0-5 years

Thursdays 10:30

April 30th
May 28th
June 25th
July 30th
Aug 27th
Sept 24th
Nov 26th



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

JOIN OUR FUN!

JOIN OUR FUN!

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

PROGRAM DETAILS:

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

MORE INFORMATION

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



TUESDAY MORNINGS

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

10-12PM
COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN!



The Balranald Shire & The Balranald Art Gallery

Proudly Presents

Flying High

This is an exhibition for the promotion of the huge and diverse range of bird life in our region. Exhibition to be opened at The Gallery on Friday 7th August and showing til the 28th September 2026.

A Grand Acquisitive prize of \$5,000 will be awarded to the entry judged best In Show.

Another \$8,000 in non-acquisitive prize money will be awarded in various other sections.

All works must include something relating to birds.

To register your interest, please forward your contact details to:

The Art Show Coordinator
'The Gallery'
51 Mayall Street
Balranald NSW 2715
or email:
thegallery5@bigpond.com



DAVID MALIN
AWARDS 2025
ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY
EXHIBITION

TOURING SOUTH WEST NSW 2026

SPORTIES BAROOGA

JUNE 8 - 23

BOOROOBAN HALL

JUNE 27

CLUBARHAM

JULY 3 - 27

BALRANALD DISCOVERY CENTRE

JULY 28 - AUG 20

THE SOUTHERN SKY

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY
SOUTH WEST ARTS' THE NIGHT SKY PROJECT

WWW.SOUTHWESTARTS.COM.AU



POWERHOUSE



SAVE THE DATE...

FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST

For a night of fun & laughter!

As part of the "Flying High" Festival, The Gallery will be hosting a progressive dinner in conjunction with our Exhibition opening night.

• 3 Locations
• 3 Courses
& entertainment!

Prices and Tickets to be released soon, watch this space!



SAVE — THE DATE —

MELBOURNE CUP
Luncheon

• TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2026 •



VENUE
RETREAT STATION



PROUDLY SUPPORTING
CLARE PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C



DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIP

Options Available
FOR BUSINESSES WISHING TO
SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

EMAIL ENQUIRIES TO
clarepsandc@gmail.com



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BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL

ALL COMMUNICATIONS MUST
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

70 Market Street, Balranald NSW 2715
PO Box 120, Balranald NSW 2715
Tel: 03 5020 1300
ABN: 74 678 751 581
Email: council@balranald.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.balranald.nsw.gov.au

Contact: RJ:TD:D26124899

Digital Water Metering

Balranald Shire Council is delivering a digital water meter upgrade across the region to ensure that Council can continue to provide all residential and commercial properties with a safe, reliable and cost-effective drinking water supply.

The benefits of digital water metering include the early detection of leaks, the ability for residential households, businesses and council business units to manage water supply reducing wastage and for customer service to respond more effectively to usage enquiries.

About the rollout

The meters will be installed by council staff in a staged approach across the region, starting in Euston. Installation is scheduled to start 1st July 2026.

Only Council owned meters are involved in this project. Sub-meters do not form part of these works. In addition, if your property is currently occupied by someone other than you (e.g. a tenant), please advise them of the upcoming works to ensure they are aware of the potential water supply interruptions taking place during the installation period

What happens during installation?

Most meters in the existing fleet have reached their end of life and will be replaced with a new digital water meter. This normally takes up to 20 minutes, depending on the location of the meter. For meters that have not reached their end of life and are not being replaced, a retrofit device will be installed with no disruption to supply.

Installers will take care to minimise disruption to the area surrounding the meter and will be taking photos of the meter works during the installation to document:

- the old meter reading (including the serial number) at the time of disconnection;
- the new serial number and initial reading; and
- the new meter in situ

Your water supply should only be interrupted for between 10 and 20 minutes. Immediately after installation your water may be discoloured, or air pockets may have formed in the line causing the water to sputter. If this happens, please run each tap on your property for approximately 30 seconds or until the water becomes clear or stops sputtering

What if I'm doing the dishes or shampooing my hair?

We do not want to catch people out, so the installers check first:

- They will knock on the door to confirm with the residents if it is ok to change the meter at that time. If not, an alternative day/time will be agreed;
- If no one's home, and there's no water running through the meter, they will complete the installation;
- If no one answers the door, but there's water running through the meter, installers will leave a note and revisit on another day at another time;
- When a digital meter is installed, a flyer will be left in the mailbox or at the premises.

Dogs and Locked Gates

As many meters are located within fence boundaries, installers need access to do the work. If you have a dog which is usually in the garden, or you have a locked gate Balranald Shire Council will follow up with the property owner to arrange access.

Enquiries

For more information on the Digital Water Meter project including latest updates, please visit <https://balranald.nsw.gov.au/infrastructure/digitalwatermeters/>

If you have further questions, please contact Raju Ranjit, Manager of Technical and Project Services on 03-50201300 or rranjit@balranald.nsw.gov.au

Yours faithfully



Terry Dodds PSM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

