



JULY
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



It has been a proud and positive period for Balranald Shire, with opportunities to both recognise the remarkable contributions of our community members and celebrate important developments for our region's future.

Balranald recently marked a significant milestone with the rollout of the NBN fibre network to the town, an important development that will help shape the community's future for years to come.

I would like to thank Mr. Andrew Cottrel, Regional Development Engagement Manager, and his team for their support and for their efforts in bringing the project to life. Their work with regional communities continues to make a meaningful difference.

This upgrade is more than just faster Internet. It's about opening doors. Fibre connectivity means our businesses can operate more efficiently, download and upload at high speed, and engage with customers and markets across Australia and around the world. It means students can learn without limits, families can stay connected, and our town can participate fully in the digital economy.

Access to reliable, fast Internet is no longer a luxury - it's essential infrastructure. And now Balranald is stepping confidently into the future, keeping pace with technology and embracing new opportunities for growth and innovation.

I encourage everyone in our community to connect. To connect is free, and the benefits will be felt across homes, businesses, and community organisations alike.

I had the privilege of attending the Balranald Medal Presentation Ceremony for the NSW Rural Fire Service, where we celebrated and recognised the outstanding contributions of local volunteers. The event honoured dedicated community members who generously give their time, energy and, at times, put their own safety at risk to protect others. Their commitment often goes unseen, but the extensive training, long hours, challenging conditions and moments of real danger require immense courage, resilience and a strong sense of duty.

To the volunteers: you embody what service really means. You put the lives and wellbeing of others before your own, and you do it without expectation of reward. That is something rare, and something profoundly admirable.

From the Mayor's Office Continued

To the staff who support these efforts: your work ensures that every volunteer can do their job safely and effectively. Your dedication behind the scenes is essential and deeply appreciated. And to the families of our volunteers: your support makes this service possible. You carry the worry, you manage the disruptions, and you stand behind your loved ones every time they are called upon. Your contribution is just as important, and we thank you sincerely.

The Balranald Medal represents commitment, bravery, and service to community. Today's recipients have demonstrated all of these qualities, and more. We celebrate you; we honour you, and we thank you for being there when needed.

Congratulations to all our Medal winners and thank you to every member of the NSW Rural Fire Service for the vital work you do.

Mayor Louie Zaffina
Balranald Shire Council



Mayor's Update – Heavy Haulage and Traffic Islands

I know many of you are concerned by recent rumours that Balranald's traffic islands, bollards, and other road features might be removed or altered to let giant wind-farm trucks through town. Let me be clear: those traffic islands exist to protect pedestrians and manage traffic flow in our CBD, and no official plan to remove them is before Council. We have not received any formal advice from Transport for NSW (TfNSW) or any developer about ripping out safety infrastructure. In fact, Council fully expects that any changes would only proceed after rigorous safety assessments and community consultation.

At the same time, our region is indeed at the forefront of the State's renewable energy push, and that means oversized trucks will be using the Sturt Highway and nearby roads. As our own recent submission on the Yanco Delta Wind Farm noted, these projects will require 'significant heavy and OSOM (oversize/overmass) vehicle movements' on both state and local roads.

We understand that hearing about these convoys can be unsettling. People in regional communities are right to wonder how roads designed decades ago will handle blades, towers and transformers dozens of metres long. (One council report even warned that people 'are worried about safety, and rightly so, when they see more and more large trucks on roads built for lighter traffic.)

Rest assured, Council shares your safety concerns and is acting now, not waiting for something to happen.

Here's what we're doing:

Seeking clarity from Transport for NSW. We have formally engaged with TfNSW and will be intricately involved with any planning or permits related to heavy haulage routes through Balranald. We will not rely on hearsay; we want written, confirmed information from the agency responsible for issuing heavy vehicle permits. Once we have that, we will publish the details and explain any proposed works or changes. At this stage, however, although designs have commenced, there is no surety of the routes.

Strict timing and conditions. We've demanded enforceable conditions on any heavy convoy. For example, Council's position is that OSOM moves must not occur during school drop-off/pick-up times or busy shopping hours. Convoys should be staggered between projects, so they don't all hit town at once. We will remind the State and developers of these conditions if moves are approved.

Regional advocacy for safer roads. Balranald is part of the Sturt Highway Taskforce of eight councils (Wagga Wagga, Narrandera, Leeton, Murrumbidgee, Hay, Murray River, Wentworth and Balranald) united to demand safety upgrades on this freight route. Together, we have been loudly reminding NSW and Federal governments that billions of dollars are being spent on renewable energy, but our highway is carrying the load without matching investment. Even Transport for NSW admits it is working with the Sturt Highway Taskforce and local councils to review crash data and identify priority safety improvements. We're using that forum to push for overtaking lanes, rest areas, laybys, and other upgrades so heavy vehicles can operate more safely, and to ensure our town's intersections are not overlooked.

On-the-ground actions. Council staff are attending every meeting with TfNSW officials, the Energy Corporation's project teams, and regional representatives. We've raised Balranald's specific concerns in the NSW Parliamentary inquiry into renewable zones and in dozens of planning submissions. At every step, we emphasise that our community's safety and way of life come first.

I understand why you're anxious. Many of you have seen photos or heard stories of mammoth turbine parts on our highways and wondered 'what about Balranald?' We feel that concern too. Our streets have children, seniors, shoppers and local businesses, and we will do our utmost to protect them. That's why I personally have brought this up directly with the Minister's office and our local MP, and why Council held up that wind farm modification until haulage concerns were fully addressed.

As soon as any official proposal comes in, Council will:

- Review all engineering and traffic reports.
- Seek external peer review if needed.
- Require a public exhibition of the plans.
- Hold community information sessions and take your feedback.

Remember, though, as the Sturt Highway is a state-controlled road, that although council has influence but isn't the final decision maker.

In the meantime, please do not panic. Avoid sharing unverified social media claims. Instead, direct your questions to Council. We are committed to providing factual, timely updates on this issue via our website and newsletter. Your patience is appreciated while we sort out the facts. Balranald has a long history of looking out for itself, and this situation will be no different. We're on the case, and we will keep standing up for road safety in our community.

Cr Louie Zaffina
MAYOR

AWL NSW ANIMAL CARE TRUCK SERVICE UPDATE!

The AWL NSW Animal Care Truck delivered essential preventative care and pet identification services to local pet owners, supporting the health and wellbeing of companion animals across the Balranald community.

They visited Balranald on Sunday, 14 June 2026, providing accessible veterinary support and promoting responsible pet ownership. Below are the outcomes from the visit

 Animals Seen: 54

- 41 Dogs
- 13 Cats

 Animals Vaccinated: 49

- 37 Dogs
- 12 Cats

 Animals Microchipped: 22



Euston Footpath

To enhance commuter safety and connectivity in Euston, Council has successfully completed the construction of a dedicated pedestrian footpath linking the designated bus stop transit zone on Perry Street. The new pathway improves safe and convenient access for passengers and is now open for public use, delivering a significant upgrade to regional transport drop-off and pick-up arrangements while supporting a safer and more connected township.

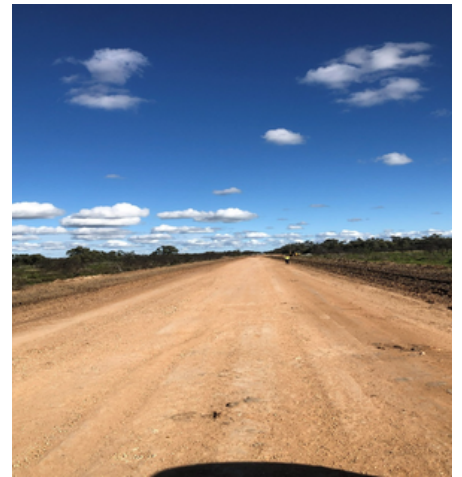


INFRASTRUCTURE *Update!*



Oxley Rd Construction Work

Major construction works are now underway on MR 514 Oxley Road to upgrade and rebuild low-lying sections of the corridor, helping to improve resilience against future flooding and severe weather events. As part of the project, road pavement levels are being raised to reduce the risk of flooding similar to that experienced in 2022. Temporary side tracks, traffic control measures, reduced speed limits, and variable message signage are in place to maintain safe traffic flow and protect work crews. Motorists are reminded to follow all traffic directions and posted signage while travelling through the work zone.



Protecting Our Road Network

a message to all road users

Council continues to work hard to keep the shire's unsealed road network safe and serviceable; however, driving on roads that are officially closed during wet weather can cause significant and avoidable damage. The cost of repairing these roads places additional pressure on Council resources and reduces funding available for long-term road improvements. Thanks to ongoing drainage and infrastructure upgrades, most unsealed roads are now accessible again within 24–48 hours after heavy rain. By respecting road closures and waiting for roads to dry, the community can help protect valuable assets, save thousands of dollars in repair costs, and support better road conditions across the shire.

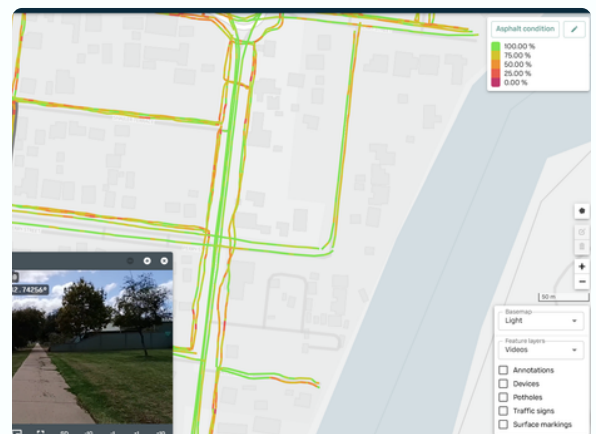
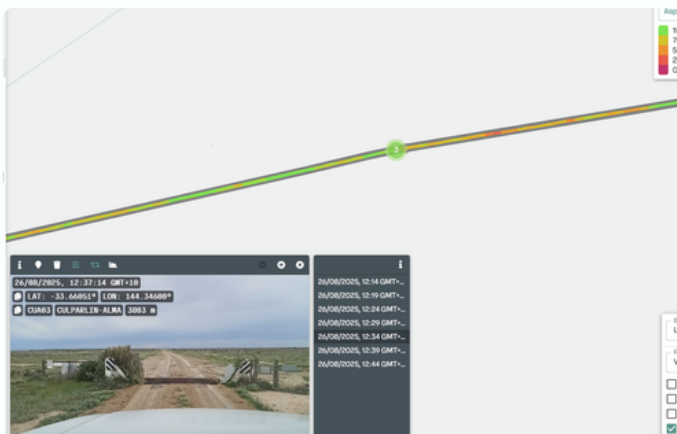
Smarter Road and Footpath Inspections

Balranald Shire Council is using Vaisala's AI technology to make road and footpath inspections faster, more efficient and more cost-effective. Using cameras and advanced software, the system assesses sealed and unsealed roads, as well as footpaths, providing consistent and reliable condition data without the need for lengthy manual inspections.

By collecting data using everyday Council vehicles, the technology reduces inspection costs, labour requirements and safety risks. This allows more funding to be directed towards maintaining and improving local roads and pathways. The improved data also helps Council identify issues earlier, prioritise maintenance works and make better-informed decisions about future investments.

Council is using new technology to work more efficiently, deliver better outcomes for the community, and make the most of available resources.

Here are some screengrabs from Vaisala AI below:



Another fun-filled morning was spent with our favourite firefighters, and everyone enjoyed playing fun games!



News From BIDGEE HAVEN HOSTEL



Enjoyed a lively afternoon of dancing and movement with visiting Allied Health staff. The session brought smiles, laughter and plenty of energy, providing a wonderful opportunity to stay active, socialise.



We enjoyed a wonderful intergenerational art activity, sharing creativity, conversation and connection across generations.



Veronica was proud to show off her new blanket. She loved to receive a parcel from family.





Bidgee Haven

Building Work update!



CSU Research Study

SURVEY INVITATION

You are invited to take part in a research study exploring people's thoughts and experiences related to ageing.

Understanding how people think about ageing is important for supporting wellbeing and improving how ageing is understood within the community.

This study is being conducted by Benjamin Lee as part of a Psychology Honours project at Charles Sturt University, under the supervision of Dr Rabiul Islam. Adults aged 18 years and over are invited to complete an anonymous online survey, which takes approximately 20-30 minutes. Participation is entirely voluntary, and all responses remain confidential.

Take Part Here

https://csufobjbs.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2nOLmaydlwmxmZHE

If you have any questions, please contact:

Benjamin Lee

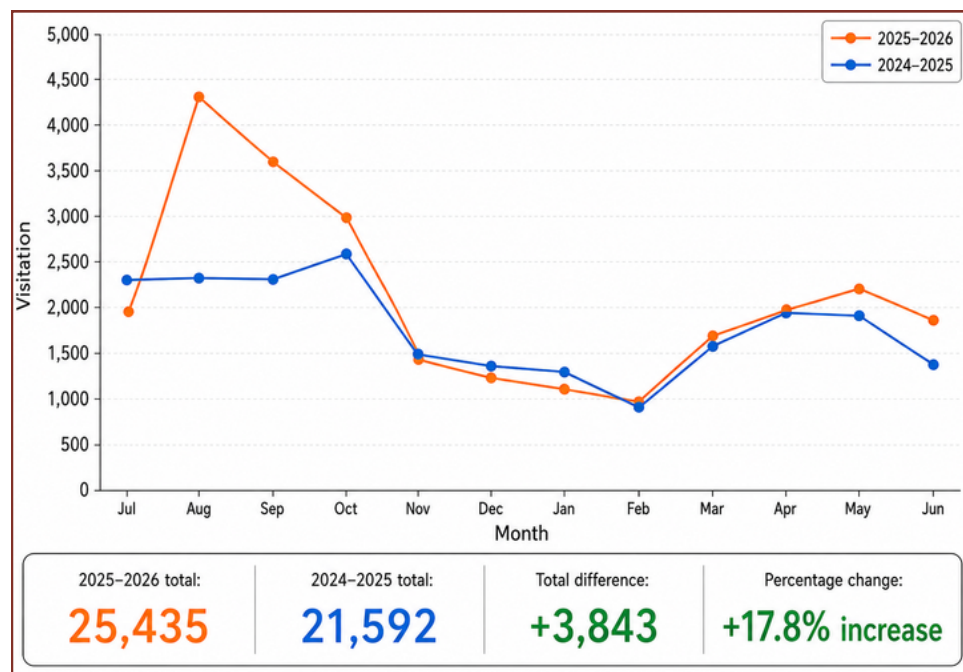
E: ben.csu.research@gmail.com



What's happening in the Tourism space?

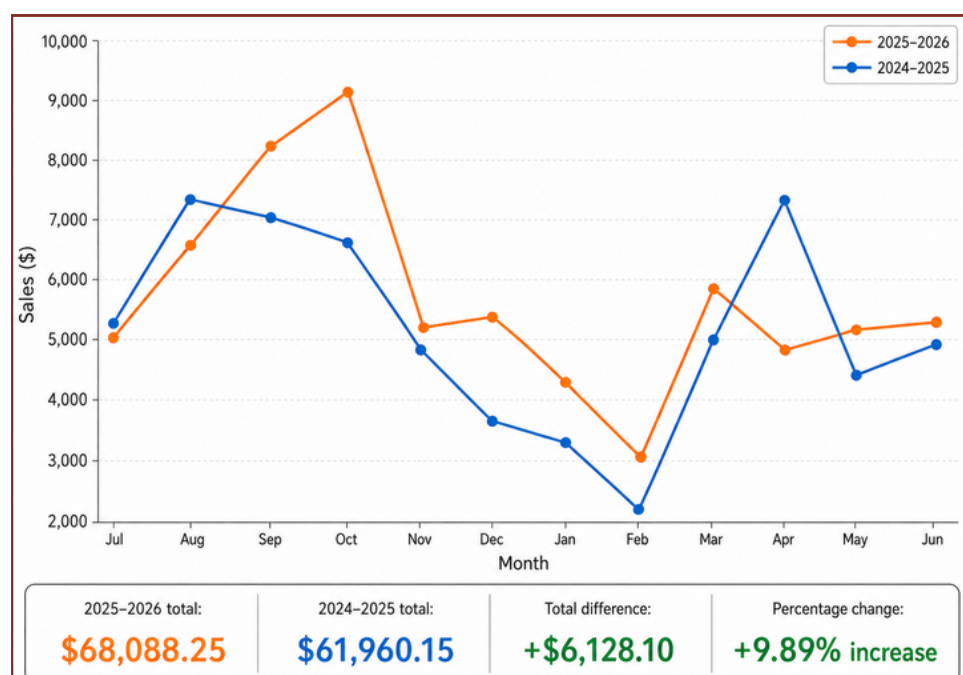


Balranald Discovery Centre **Visitor Numbers** compared to previous year (includes VIC, IP, Museum & Goal)



- Visitor numbers at the Discovery Centre precinct was on the increase last 2 quarters of 2025
- The dip between Nov 2025 – Feb 2026 were due to weather conditions, traditionally slow months, fuel uncertainties and slow travel across the region
- Regardless of key challenges affecting travel across the region, visitation to Balranald and the Discovery Centre precinct performed better than the previous year

Visitor Information Centre **Sales** compared to the previous year



- Visitor numbers at the Visitor Centre was impacted by the challenges on visitor travel between Nov 2025–March 2026, nevertheless there was still an increase in visitor numbers and visitor sales across the year compared to the previous year.

Nominate now for the 2027 Australian of the Year Awards!



Extraordinary Australians are all around us. See them. Hear them. Nominate them.

Australian of the Year Awards celebrate the achievements and contributions of extraordinary Australians.

You can play your part by giving these Australians the recognition they deserve.

The four Award categories are:

- Australian of the Year
- Senior Australian of the Year (those aged 65 years or over)
- Young Australian of the Year (ages 16 to 30)
- Australia's Local Hero

Your nomination shows the efforts of a fellow Australian have not gone unnoticed.

Nominations for 2027 close Friday, 31 July 2026.

Nominate today at <https://australianoftheyear.org.au/nominate>

ATO Masterclass Supporting Small Businesses

Are you looking to strengthen your business skills, improve record keeping, better manage your finances, or understand your tax obligations? The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is offering a series of free online



Masterclasses designed to help small business owners build confidence and achieve business success.. The ATO's Essentials to Strengthen Your Small Business program provides access to more than 30 short, practical courses covering key business topics, including tax, superannuation, GST, cash flow management, and business planning. Building on the success of previous webinars, the upcoming ATO Masterclass Series will run throughout August and September, offering valuable guidance and the opportunity for participants to submit questions in advance.

Topics include:

- Starting a small business
- Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- Claiming small business tax deductions
- eInvoicing
- Cash flow for small business success
- Claiming deductions for your home-based business
- Super guarantee employer obligations

The program has already helped thousands of small business owners across Australia, with:

- 80% of attendees planning to improve how they manage their tax and super obligations after attending a masterclass.
- 96% of attendees recommending the masterclasses to other small business owners.
- Whether you're just starting out or looking to enhance your existing business knowledge, these sessions provide practical information to support your business journey.

Register Today

Explore the free learning platform:

Essentials to Strengthen Your Small Business

<https://smallbusiness.taxesuperandyou.gov.au/>

MAJOR NBN FIBRE UPGRADE MILESTONE IN BALRANALD!

Many homes and businesses in Balranald are now eligible to upgrade to full fibre via nbn Fibre to the Premises (FTTP), after network upgrades in the town were recently completed. More than 640 premises in Balranald can now apply for an upgrade to nbn Fibre broadband.

Upgrading to full fibre can enable access to a faster, more reliable nbn broadband internet service, delivering a range of benefits, including smoother, higher-resolution video calls, enhanced streaming, faster downloads, and the ability to connect more devices simultaneously.

Upgrading to full fibre can unlock higher-tier plans, including multi-gigabit speed plans, which are designed to meet the growing data needs of households, businesses, and support online learning, working, healthcare, streaming, gaming, home smart devices and appliances.

In Australia, data demand and usage have grown 13% in the last year alone, with the average household consuming 557 gigabytes per month across 22 internet-connected devices, which is a significant increase from 40 gigabytes of monthly data use across approximately seven internet-connected devices, on average, 10 years ago.

To find out more about the benefits of nbn full fibre and to check what type of nbn connection is available to you, visit www.nbn.com.au/CheckRegional.

Come and talk with the nbn team;

Tuesday July 14th 12 pm-2pm – Balranald Club

- Fibre launch event including light luncheon. 2pm-5pm – Information Drop-in

Wednesday July 15th 9am-12pm – Outside Balranald news Agency, market Street

Please Check your address at www.nbnco.com.au/checkregional

Andrew Cottrill

Regional Development and Engagement Manager

Riverina Murray – nbn Local RDE

M +61 400733017 | E andrewcottrill@nbnco.com.au

Riverina Murray



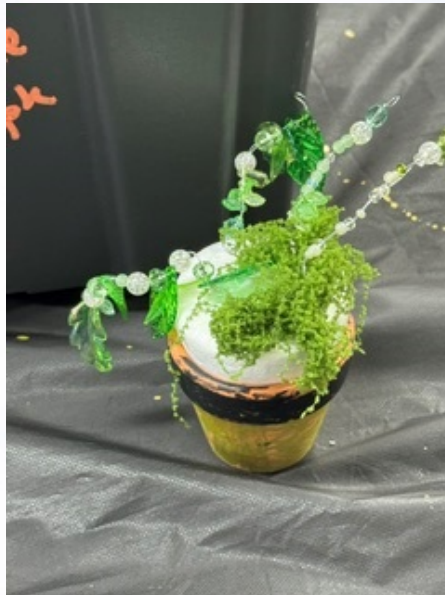
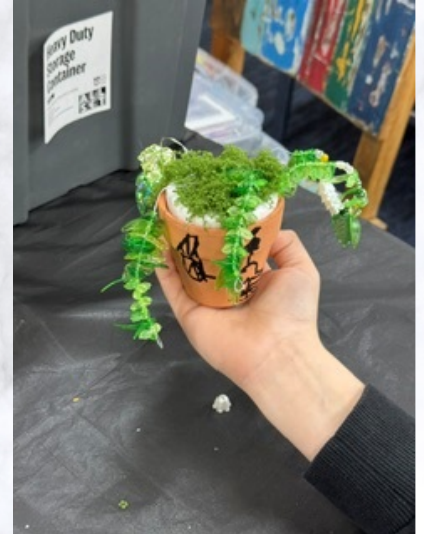
nbnTM Local

LIBRARY HUB NEWS



*July
School Holiday
Programs*

*Building Competition
Clay Works
D&D Games
Jewellery Plants*



*We even had a sneaky game of
Pokemon Monopoly!*

Mental Health & Wellbeing Workshops

28th-31st July

Building Resilience, Finding Balance

These FREE workshops are designed to provide tools and support for our community for anyone looking to improve their mental wellbeing, self care and resilience. Workshops are in conjunction with Mental Health and Wellbeing Month in August around the Balranald Shire region



Topics Covered:

Understanding Mental Health and wellbeing

Signs of Burnout, Anxiety

Ramping up rural readiness

Please register your attendance by Thursday 23rd July

Light refreshments will be provided at all workshops.



Workshops supported by the Strengthening Community Access, Inclusion and Wellbeing Advisory Committee to the Balranald shire



Tuesday 28th July

3.30pm - 5pm

Where: Clare Public School

Ramping up rural readiness

Who: All members of the community



Wednesday 29th July

9.30 - 11am

Where: Balranald Senior Citizens Centre

Who: Senior citizens in our community

3.30 - 5.30pm

Where: Balranald Senior Citizens Centre

Who: All members of the community



Thursday 30th July

9 - 11am

Where: Balranald RFS Shed

Who: All emergency services staff in the community



Friday 31st July

10 - 11.30am

Where: Euston Club

Ramping up rural readiness

Who: All members of the community including those living and working in food/fibre production industry

3.30 - 5pm

Where: Euston Primary School

Who: all members of the community



To register your interest and find out more please click on the link below or scan the QR code

mental health and wellbeing workshops - Fill out form

Delivered by



ramhp

RURAL ADVISORY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

projectofficer@balranald.nsw.gov.au



What you need to know about H5 bird flu

Avoid:

contact with sick or dead wildlife and their environment

Record:

the date, time, location and take a photo

Report:

multiple sick or dead birds or other animals via the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline 1800 675 888



EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE HOTLINE
1800 675 888

Census 2026

It's important, It's safe You matter!

LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER 11th August






A MEDICAL ALERT SAVES LIVES

The world's smallest, smartest medical devices with fall detection!



AUSTRALIA WIDE COVERAGE

AVAILABLE IN MOST AGED CARE PACKAGES

Over 65s may qualify for a **FREE DEVICE!** Conditions Apply

24/7 Professional Monitoring

CALL NOW!

0756 671 547

www.omscg.com.au

KEEP SAFE WITH **SafeTwear**

MvLifeWatch

KERBSIDE PICKUP RETURNS!



KERBSIDE PICKUP IS FREE TO RESIDENTS OF BALRANALD & EUSTON TOWNSHIPS

Pickup will commence on
Monday 21 September 2026 from 7.00am

Please place items out for pickup
NO EARLIER than the weekend of 19 & 20 September.



**WE WILL COLLECT
LARGE ITEMS SUCH AS:**

- FURNITURE
- WHITE GOODS
- LARGE DEAD TREE LIMBS
- ROOFING & FENCING MATERIALS
- ITEMS TOO BIG FOR YOUR BIN



THAT YOU CAN'T GET TO THE TIP



THINGS WE WON'T COLLECT:

- TYRES
- BATTERIES
- DANGEROUS GOODS
- SMALL PRUNINGS
- GRASS CLIPPINGS
- SMALL ITEMS WHICH WILL FIT IN YOUR BIN



If you wish Council to remove large items from your yard, please contact Council on 03 5020 1300 to make a time for the item(s) to be inspected and access determined. A collection fee may need to be charged for some large items removed from within your property. Please ask at the time of inspection.

NORMAL TIP HOURS

BALRANALD

- Tuesday 4pm to 6pm
- Thursday 4pm to 6pm
- Saturday 10am to 1pm
- Sunday 10am to 3pm

EUSTON

- Tuesday 1pm to 6pm
- Thursday 1pm to 6pm
- Sunday 9am to 3pm



REMINDER

Don't over fill your bin.
The bin lid must be **FULLY CLOSED**
for weekly collections.
Overfilled bins result in
littering and will not be
collected by the
contractor.

kirinari Transport

Balranald Community Transport

Balranald Community Transport is now operating fortnightly!
Call 1800 590 590 to book your transport.

TRIP COST

Local Trips	\$6.00	Each Way
Swan Hill	\$25.00	Return

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER TIMETABLE

14 July	Swan Hill	10.30am-3.30pm
15 July	Local Balranald	9am-2pm
28 July	Swan Hill	10.30am-3.30pm
29 July	Local Balranald	9am-2pm
11 August	Swan Hill	10.30am-3.30pm
12 August	Local Balranald	9am-2pm
25 August	Swan Hill	10.30am-3.30pm
26 August	Local Balranald	9am-2pm
8 September	Swan Hill	10.30am-3.30pm
9 September	Local Balranald	9am-2pm
22 September	Swan Hill	10.30am-3.30pm
23 September	Local Balranald	9am-2pm

Call us: 1800 590 590

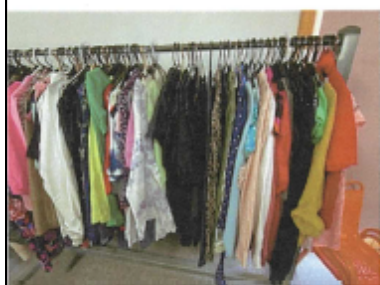
Send an email: questions@kirinari.com.au

kirinari.com.au

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



We also have:

Glassware, Kitchenware
& household goodies

Blankets & Sheets

CDs and DVDs

Friendly helpers & bargains galore!



Find Us:

Balranald Anglican Op-Shop
Cnr Mayall and Ballandella Streets

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
clarepspandc@gmail.com



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