COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

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



At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 September, Council conducted the mid-term election for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

I am very honoured to have been re-elected as Mayor, and I extend my sincere congratulations to Councillor Dwaine Scott on his re-election as Deputy Mayor.

I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors for entrusting us with these very important leadership positions and thank the councillors for their amazing input.

It is often said that these roles are to be respected, and that it is not about the person who holds the position, but about the importance of the office itself. While I agree with that sentiment, I would like to take it a step further. The most important thing is that the person who holds the office respects the position and the responsibility that comes with it. If we do not respect the office ourselves, we cannot expect others to do the same. We have come a long way in the last 2 years; I would like to recognise and thank the wonderful job the staff are doing, our CEO Terry Dodds' PSM leadership and of course you the community that we serve.

Recently, I was invited for morning tea at the Bidgee Haven, I had a wonderful time chatting with the residents and staff there. We spoke about many topics affecting our communities and enjoyed some lovely hospitality, including jam and cream, cakes, and a cup of tea or coffee. It was also great to look outside and see the progress being made on the works underway. It is encouraging to see the project moving along, and we remain hopeful that it will be completed before April next year. I would like to thank Michelle and all the staff for their hospitality and the important work they do.

I would also like to provide an update on the proposed shared footpath from Endeavour Drive to the Central School. Planning and preparations are progressing well, there is a strong possibility of a further path along Moa ST to the cemetery, we hope to see construction commence soon

From the Mayor's Office Continued

In more good news, Council has been successful in securing funding for a shared pathway project in Euston, connecting Euston Public School along the highway to the recreational ground. This is an important project that will improve safety and accessibility for residents, students and visitors alike.

I am also pleased to announce that Councillors recently resolved to source funding to progress the Kyalite domestic water supply project. This is a very important initiative for our smaller communities and demonstrates Council's commitment to supporting their long-term sustainability and future growth.

Across the Shire, we continue to deliver improvements to community infrastructure and amenities. The Theatre Royal engineering report has been received, council is now organising to have the building repaired.

The Euston town entry signs have been revamped, we are now working on new Balranald town entry signs and shire entry signs.

You may also have noticed survey crews working in Market ST Balranald, These surveys are being undertaken to identify obstacles etc for the proposed transportation of the wind turbine components. Council will keep the community informed as further information becomes available and as any works are scheduled.

Finally, I would like to share some very positive news regarding the Federal Government's Financial Assistance Grants. The funding methodology has changed, and at this stage, it appears that Balranald Shire Council will receive approximately $1 million in additional funding. This is a tremendous outcome and reflects strong advocacy by Council.

As Mayor, together with our CEO, Terry Dodds PSM, I continue to attend meetings and engage with government representatives to advocate for additional support and investment in our region. This work is critically important for the long-term sustainability of our Shire. As a council with a relatively small-rate base, every additional dollar helps us deliver services, maintain infrastructure and support our communities into the future.













Mayor Louie Zaffina
Balranald Shire Council

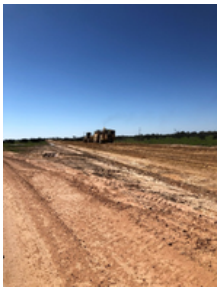
Infrastructure Updates!

Maintenance Grading Program Underway

Council's Maintenance Grading Program is currently underway across the unsealed road network.

Contractors are actively undertaking works on several roads, including:

- Weimby Benongal Road
- Weimby Kyalite Road
- Clare Freshwater Road
- Oxley Road
- Tapalin Mail Rd






These works are being carried out to improve road conditions and ensure continued safe access for road users.

Council appreciates the community's patience and understanding while these important maintenance works are completed.



Slashing is underway across Council. The rapid growth across the sealed road network is a concern with upcoming fire season, plus vision obstruction with animals etc being a large concern.

This is going to be a massive task.

Water meters are almost complete in being installed at Euston the smarts meters will be a great asset to staff and the residents once installed. The technology will make billing and leak detection more efficient.





Parks and Gardens are keeping busy with the town presentation suffering the same problem mentioned earlier trying to keep up with the growth.

The team are doing a great job.

Welcome to our newest citizens!

On Monday 31st August, Council proudly welcomed Bishnu Rijal and Carla Abais and as new members of our community!

The Citizenship Ceremony was held in the Council Chambers, where both received a Citizenship Coin and a special commemorative plant from Council to mark the occasion.

Please join us in congratulating Bishnu and Carla and giving them a warm community welcome!





BIOSECURITY
– We All Have a Role to Play

Favourable seasonal conditions have resulted in significant weed growth across the district, and Council's Biosecurity team is continuing its focus on the control of Wheel Cactus, Rope Cactus, and African Boxthorn.

Landholders and residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and be on the lookout for these weeds, as well as any other unfamiliar cactus species or invasive weeds that may be emerging in the area.
Under the General Biosecurity Duty, everyone has a responsibility to take reasonable and practical measures to prevent, eliminate or minimise biosecurity risks where possible.
If you come across a weed or cactus that you do not recognise, please contact Council. To assist with identification and response efforts, please provide:

- A clear photograph (if safe to do so)
- The location of the infestation
- GPS coordinates where possible

Early detection and reporting are critical in preventing the spread of invasive weeds and protecting our agricultural land, native vegetation and local environment.
For further information or to report a suspected invasive weed, please contact Council on [03 5020 1300.
Remember: See it, report it, stop it spreading.







NEWS FROM Bidgee Haven Hostel

Footy Colours Morning Tea with the Mayor

Residents enjoyed a wonderful Footy Colours Morning Tea with the Mayor, sharing plenty of good food, friendly conversation and football spirit.

A special thank you goes to Marg, who did a fantastic job organising the morning. The food was a highlight, with Bev, one of our newest residents, declaring the scones were "the best I have ever eaten".

Congratulations to Fay, who took out the Toyota AFL 2026 Footy Tipping Competition. While Fay was the official winner, Mayor Louie achieved the highest score overall, so he may well consider himself the real champion!

The Dark Horse Award was awarded to Daina, whose achievement was even more remarkable given she has never watched a game of Australian Rules football.

It was a lovely morning enjoyed by all, with plenty of laughter, great company and community spirit on display. Well done to everyone who participated and helped make the event such a success.







Getting out and about

We love getting out and about with our residents and sharing the changing landscape of our region. Many of our residents remember when this country was predominately used for broadacre cropping. Today, they can see firsthand how agriculture has evolved, with vast almond plantations producing crops for export markets around the world and attracting significant investment.

It is a privilege and an honour to take our residents on these outings, providing opportunities to reconnect with the local area, share memories, and experience the remarkable changes that have shaped our community over the years.





Bubble Party

Isla had a special request this week. She wanted someone to come outside and blow bubbles with her, so that is exactly what happened!

It turned into a magnificent afternoon in the garden, with bubbles floating through the sunshine and plenty of smiles all around. Isla thoroughly enjoyed chasing and watching the bubbles drift across the lawn, creating a fun and carefree atmosphere for everyone who joined in.

Sometimes it is the simplest activities that bring the most joy, and this delightful afternoon of bubble blowing certainly brightened everyone's day. 🫧☀️😊









NEW UPDATE

Building Work







Tradies are working on our new dining room. Lots of action out the window. Such exciting times to be a part of the Bidgee Haven Crew





New Water Tanks Delivered

There was plenty of interest this week when a crane arrived to deliver our new water tanks. Most people are used to seeing the traditional round tanks, so the arrival of square water tanks certainly caught everyone's attention.

Who would have thought water tanks could be square? Their unique design sparked plenty of conversation among residents and staff as they watched the crane carefully position them into place.

It was an impressive sight and another reminder that practical solutions can sometimes come in unexpected shapes!









@ THE LIBRARY HUB

HALLOWEEN

ART & COOKING

OCT SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

MON 28TH SEPT 10–12

THUR 8TH OCT 10–12



BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL LIMITED SPACES

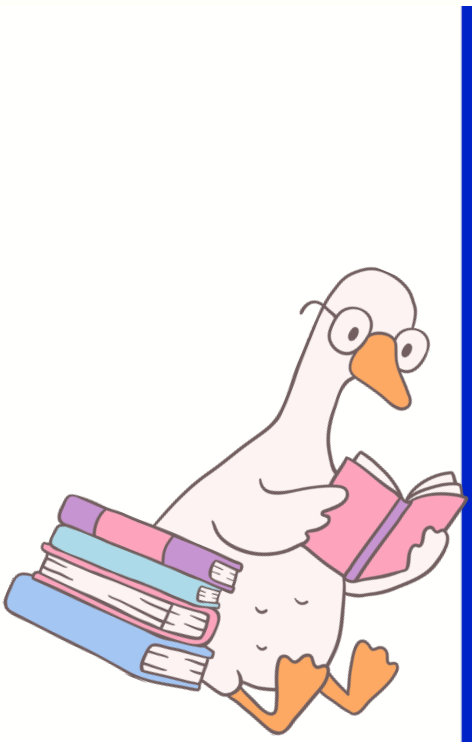


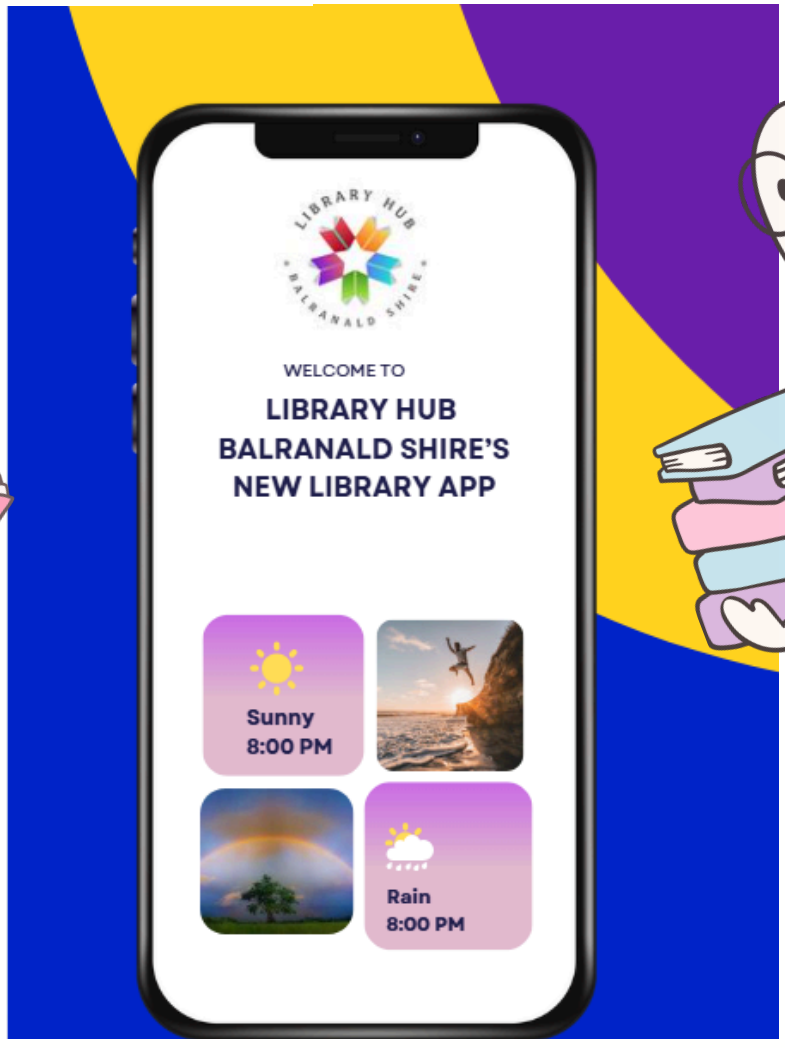
You can now access Balranald's Library Hub on your phone!

Please feel free to QR CODE in and have a look at our ever changing site!











KERBSIDE PICKUP RETURNS!



KERBSIDE PICKUP IS FREE TO RESIDENTS OF BALRANALD & EUSTON TOWNSHIPS

Pickup will commence on
Monday 12 October 2026 from 7.00am

Please place items out for pickup
NO EARLIER than the weekend of 10 & 11 October.

✓ 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.

What's happening in the Tourism space?

Gateway Signs Welcome Visitors to Euston





Residents and visitors may have noticed the installation of new town entry signs at key approaches to Euston.

The new signs have been designed to create a welcoming first impression for visitors while showcasing the unique identity and character of our community. As an important gateway to the region.

The project forms part of Council's ongoing commitment to enhancing the presentation of our towns and improving the visitor experience. Clear, attractive entry signage not only assists visitors in identifying their destination but also highlights Euston as a vibrant and welcoming community on the Murray River.

Council would like to thank everyone involved in the planning and installation of the new signs and looks forward to the positive impact they will have on promoting Euston and the wider region.

If you are travelling through the area, take a moment to check out the new signs and help us celebrate another improvement to one of the district's key gateways.

Reggie the Regent Parrot – Euston's Tourism Icon

Balranald has the popular frog icon and Euston now has Reggie the Regent Parrot as it's icon! We now have a series of merchandise with Reggie including stubby holder, sticker, pin & cloth badge to get things rolling.



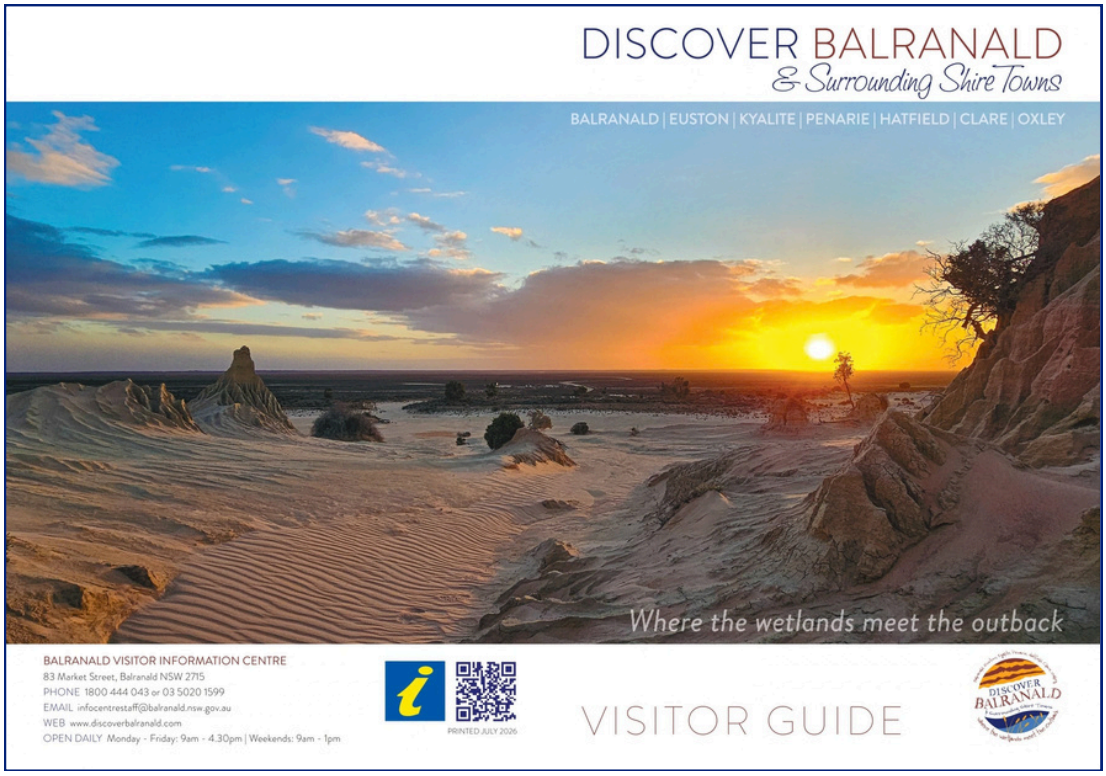




What's happening in the Tourism space?

New Balranald Shire Visitor Guide

Our new Visitor Guide has arrived and we have already received wonderful feedback from our visitors. We will be commencing distribution locally and regionally within the coming weeks. If you have visiting friends and family be sure to drop in to the Visitor Information Centre and grab a copy. Thank you to the Tourism team for updating the content, thank you to Zoe Griffiths for the design and developing the guide, and thank you to Outback Geo Adventures (German Ugarte) for the cover photo.



Series of Brochures promoting key shire attractions

The Tourism department is currently in the process of developing a series of brochures promoting the shire's key attractions. The latest brochures include one about Lake Benanee and the other about the Discovery Centre precinct. Pop into the Visitor Information Centre to grab a copy and watch this space for upcoming brochures.









Brochures developed by Musca Musca

Big feelings belong in little families too. Let's talk, connect and look after each other.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE

FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Little Bunyips Playgroup

Healthy Minds, Happy Families

Parents • Carers • Kids • Everyone Welcome

Stronger Families Brighter Communities

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

A relaxed afternoon bringing our community together for connection, fun, family wellbeing and conversations that matter.

SATURDAY
10 OCTOBER 2026
12:00PM – 3:00PM
LITTLE BUNYIPS PLAYGROUP

Come as you are. You are welcome here.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- Kids' Activities & Sensory Play
- Kindness Wall & Crafts
- Unlimited Airbrush Tattoos
- Family Photos
- BBQ Lunch & Refreshments
- Lucky-Door Prizes & Raffles (including a Meat-Tray Raffle)
- Mental Health Information & Local Support Services

$5 PER FAMILY

INCLUDES EVERYTHING!

BBQ LUNCH · A REFRESHMENT · A FAMILY PHOTO · KIDS UNLIMITED AIRBRUSHING TATTOOS!

CONNECT with each other · PLAY and have fun together · LEARN about mental wellbeing · SUPPORT each other and our community · YOU MATTER take care of you too

DONATIONS WELCOME!

We are seeking donations for:

- Lucky-door prizes
- Meat-tray raffle
- Kids' prizes
- Vouchers / gift cards
- Gift baskets / hampers
- Family-friendly items
- Monetary donations
- Anything appreciated!

Every donation makes a difference!

Thank you!

Together we can build happy, healthy families.

Small towns. Big hearts. Strong communities.

For more information, contact our Playgroup Committee or follow us on Facebook.

Little Bunyips Playgroup
A welcoming playgroup for children 0–5 years and their families.

Mental health starts at home.



Balranald Play and Learn

Term 4 Activities

Book: Halloween Book

28th October
Wednesday, 11am–1pm

Dress up, sing Can You Make a Happy Face, create spooky bubble magic, decorate Halloween cupcakes, explore slime, and learn Uu and Vv.





Local agencies invite all families to a monthly kids' Storytime Adventure playgroup in Balranald.

Sessions are designed to spark creativity, fun and learning for your little one.

Food is provided at each session. Please inform us in advance of any dietary requirements.

When: 11am-1pm

Where: 120 Market St, Balranald NSW 2715

Book: I Am the Music Man

18th November
Wednesday, 11am–1pm

Sing, create a tin drum and xylophone, enjoy a music jam, explore sensory play, and learn Ww and Xx.





Christmas Story time

16th December
Wednesday, 11am–1pm

Enjoy festive stories, Christmas crafts, sing-alongs, a special guest with gifts, and learn Yy and Zz.





More information
Bonita (MFC) - 0455 111 853
btalent-heinrich@malleefamilycare.com.au

mfc malleefamilycare

ourplace
education is the key to the door

EUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL Est. 1885 WE LEARN FOR LIFE

Tuesday's are WELCOME Day's at Euston Public School

ACCESS VIA SHAILER TCE

PLAY GROUP 9:30–11am

Tuesday's 9am – 4pm
***during NSW school term**



Anna Kilpatrick
Community Hub/ Playgroup Coordinator
Ph: 5026 3766

Amanda Healy
Community Facilitator
Our Place
Ph: 0412 730 226



Providing support with:
access to services, employment, adult education, wellbeing, school & pre-school connection and much more.
*Private and confidential spaces available to chat

WELCOME TO ALL FAMILIES, PARENTS AND CARERS WITH CHILDREN AGED 0-5 YEARS

EUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL Est. 1885 WE LEARN FOR LIFE

EUSTON PLAYGROUP



FREE

WHERE: EUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL
PARKING & ENTRY VIA SHAILER TERRACE

TIME: 9:30AM - 11AM

DAY: TUESDAY'S
*DURING NSW SCHOOL TERMS

PLAY AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES, SONG & STORY TIME

PLEASE PHONE: 5026 3766 FOR MORE INFORMATION









DISCLAIMER Balranald Shire Council reserves the right to edit or rewrite submissions for grammar, style and clarity or to conform to restrictions of space. Council makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of this information and does not accept responsibility for errors or omissions contained within this publication. If you are aware of errors, please notify Council by email: council@balranald.nsw.gov.au or phone 03 5020 1300. This document is compiled some weeks prior to delivery, while all due care is made to ensure information is accurate matters are subject to change due to time passage between print and delivery, please contact Council for most current details on a subject if concerned.