



COMMUNITY NEWS

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

18TH MAY

ORDINARY
COUNCIL MEETING

22ND MAY

MOULAMEIN
MUSIC MARATHON

19TH JUNE

TOOLEYBUC
CLUB—AN
EVENING WITH
COMEDIAN JOE
AVATI

SENIORS WEEK 2021

In the past Council celebrated the Seniors Week Festival with a luncheon held at Balranald. This year, with the assistance of the Ageing Well, Aged Care & Facilities Advisory Committee, 3 events were organised.

1st Event – Morning Tea with some Buster Keaton movies. There was plenty of laughter, excitement and food. A competition for the prettiest tea cup was held, with the prettiest going to Adrian Gorman, Doreen Greenham and Helen Pomroy. Thank you to all who brought in your teacup. It was exciting to hear some of the seniors chatting away with friends that they had not seen for some time due to COVID Restrictions.

2nd Event – Luncheon. This year we headed to Euston Club for the annual luncheon with The Hoffman's for entertainment. It was fabulous to see so many Euston community Seniors attending. There was plenty of laughter and dancing throughout the day. Huge thanks to the Euston Club for the delicious meal and superb hospitality.

3rd Event – Games Afternoon, completing the afternoon with some soup from P&F.

We had another fabulous day with lots of games, laughter and just catching up with some friends. Thanks to the P&F for catering of this event.

Council thanks all those who attended any or all the events. Thank you to the Ageing Well, Aged Care & Facilities Advisory Committee for all the assistance.

It was a pleasure to host the seniors in our community and we hope to see more of our seniors next year for some more exciting events.

If you have any suggestions or requests for Seniors Festival Activities in 2022, email them to cholmes@balranald.nsw.gov.au or mail your suggestions PO Box 120 Balranald 2715.



FROM THE YOUTH MAYOR

Hi Everyone!

I would like to start off my column by expressing the gratitude I have for our volunteers at our recent 'The Colour of Sound Youth Music Festival'. The time they've given is generous and appreciated. Unfortunately, the event did not go exactly to plan, but we've taken on these challenges and have learned what to expect when running this type of event. We are excited to be renewing this event for the summer season, but with a twist! So stay tuned for more details over the coming months.

I hope everyone had an amazing Easter! One of the best times in the year. A time to get with family and to spend with friends and loved ones. To engage with the Easter spirit. And an amazing excuse to stock the cupboard full of chocolate! I hope of which everyone is

recovering from the extremely high consumption of chocolate, I find that a good 3-4km walk a day helps to burn the extra calories!

I wish all of our Youth the very best for term 2 of school. We are quickly approaching the halfway point of the year, and soon enough it will be winter! So, prepare for the harsh winter weather, and try to stay warm out there!

That would be all from me! Keep well, stay safe!

On behalf of the Balranald Shire Youth Council

Jackson Bialobrzewski
Youth Council Mayor



HON SUSSAN LEY MP

Council were delighted to have the opportunity to host an afternoon with Sussan Ley MP on 6th April.

Sussan visited the Yanga Homestead and the Lake where she took the time to chat with Park Ranger (Mon Carmichael) and Officers. This gave Sussan an opportunity to understand the importance of the proposed project to raise the Balranald Low Level Weir, and the positive impact it will have on the environment.

Sussan spent some time touring our recently constructed eco trail and also an update on the proposal works at the River Bend.

From here we returned to the office to discuss projects as well as briefing her on local and regional issues.

The day ended with some dinner at the Shamrock where she took the time to speak with some



Advisory Committee Report

Growing Business, Industry and Tourism Advisory Committee

April 2021



Community Advisory Committees - Your Voice to Council

A Report from the Growing Business, Industry and Tourism Advisory Committee

The Growing Business, Industry and Tourism Advisory Committee, or GBITAC for short, has hit the ground running since forming in September last year. The committee has been consulted on a number of Council projects such as the plans for the Discovery precinct, the Riverside eco-trails project and funding distribution for infrastructure projects across the Shire including Balranald, Kyalite & Euston.

The GBITAC have already made a number of recommendations to Council which were adopted at the March ordinary Council meeting. The Administrator resolved to;

- Include the GBITAC as community representatives on future engagement with Water Infrastructure NSW on the Yanga Lake – Murrumbidgee Weir Proposal.

- Ensure that, at the next opportunity the **Discovery precinct** architect is visiting Balranald, the Director for Infrastructure & Development coordinates a walkover of the existing facilities at the precinct with the GBITAC and the architect.

- Refer the matter of the heavy traffic through Balranald township to consider safety and social impacts to Transport for NSW.

The GBITAC April meeting focused on developing an annual plan for the committee, scheduling guest speakers and visits to other towns to learn how to grow business, encourage industry & attract tourism to our Shire. The committee are also planning some familiarisation tours to local businesses and attractions with an open invitation to community to come along and discover what the region has to offer.

A major initiative the committee is working on with Council is aimed at collecting your development ideas for the region. "Project HQ" is a concept whereby an otherwise empty space temporarily becomes a hub for recording all those crazy ideas you have been discussing over a beer or cuppa, you know the one's, "What this town really needs is....". Community members can drop in to Council Office personally or there will be lots of other ways to contribute by emailing council@balranald.nsw.gov.au. These ideas are then threshed out in a public forum aimed at developing masterplans for all the Shire's towns and villages as well as contributing to a Community Strategic Plan.

Community Advisory Committees are your representative voice to Council. You can approach members to find out about Council projects, pass on a great idea or to raise a concern. Committee recommendations that are adopted through a Council meeting become resolutions of Council to be enacted by Council. Equally, the Council can consult the community through the Advisory Committees, asking for information, clarification or advice. It is all about moving away from an "us & them" mentality towards meaningful two-way communication where we are all 'community'. "Making decisions together" as per CES.

GBITAC members are; Iain Lindsay-Field (Chair), Simone Carmichael (Deputy Chair & Secretary), Dianne Williams, Peter Lawler, Bronwyn Brougham, Robyn Davis, Adrian Gorman, Sam Papa, Guy Fielding, and Linda Nelson.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Regional Roads Construction

Earthworks are in hand for the widening and sealing of a 2km section of MR514 (Oxley Road) with pavement construction to follow and sealing in late May 2021. A contract has been awarded for the widening of **MR296 (Kyalite-Moulamein Road)** from the Kyalite Caravan Park to the Shire boundary..

Local Roads Construction

Formation and drainage work on the first stage of reconstruction and sealing of the **Weimby-Kyalite Road** has been completed and it is anticipated that a contract will be awarded for further works of this nature in late April. Preconstruction activity (survey and documentation) are in hand for drainage improvements and sealing of **Purton Lane** in Balranald.

Quotations have been invited for the replacement and duplication of a number of narrow grids on the Mildura-Ivanhoe Road and the **Oxley-Clare Road**.

The bitumen reseal programme for the current year will occur in late May, comprising recently constructed sections of **Ivanhoe Road and Oxley Road** together with a section of Mayall Street, Balranald.

Work will commence shortly on traffic calming of **Bertram and Taylor Roads**, Euston including some related improvements to these roads and their intersections with Morris Road. Community consultation on this project closed on 14 April 2021 with a number of submissions in support and none opposed.

CIVIC ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

Work is substantially complete on construction of the **Riverfront Precinct ecotrail walkway**, with an additional 1.9km loop being planned. Path construction on the town side between River Street and the Caravan Park is currently in hand. Following the decision to defer the proposed second footbridge, Council is exploring modifications to the existing **swing bridge** for disability access and emergency egress. Additional proposed elements on the town side of the river include a barbeque pavilion, riverside furniture, exercise stations, removal of some "snags" and improved traffic management in addition to elements such as toilets that were previously planned.

TOWN MAINTENANCE WORKS

The Operations team continue to carry out routine town maintenance tasks at Balranald and Euston and specific works as required from time to time. Town maintenance resources in Euston are now at full strength once more. Proposals will be invited shortly to prepare a masterplan for public spaces in Euston, including the town approaches.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Tenders have been invited closing 4th May for new **football change rooms** at Greenham Park. These are designed to cater for the future introduction of women's football as well as facilities for mixed-gender umpires in response to changing trends in the sport.

Work is complete on the upgrading of electrical services to **Greenham Park Hall** to improve utilisation of the Hall and its surrounding open areas. It is also planned to purchase new furniture and construct a secure storage facility for Greenham Park Hall. Construction of a new disabled toilet is under way, with completion expected by the end of April. Tenders closing on 5th May have been invited for the upgrading of the **tennis courts** to sand-filled artificial turf.

Council is currently in negotiations with a preferred contractor for the proposed high dependency extensions to the **Bidgee Haven Hostel**. However the award of a construction contract will be deferred until the outcome is known of Council's application for additional funding for this project.

A request for proposals (RFP) has been issued to 5 architectural firms to finalise the design and documentation of the **Visitor Centre/Discovery Centre** project, following which (after review of the design and cost estimates) tenders will be invited for construction.

Quotations will be invited shortly for heating improvements at **Theatre Royal**.

A modular toilet has been ordered for **Balranald Cemetery**. The preferred location is being checked by ground penetrating radar to ensure that no unmarked graves will be disturbed.

A "walkover" to the Robinvale Weir by the Euston Progressive Advisory Committee on 25th March 2021 identified preferred enhancement works (signage, seating etc.) for **Euston Riverfront Reserve and Walking Trail**. Consideration is also being given to enhancement works for the **Euston-Robinvale walkway**.

Tenders have been invited for the design and construction of the **Balranald Creative Learning Centre**, closing on 5th May 2021.



Concept for the Creative Learning Centre next to the Art Gallery

The **Kyalite Progress Association** met on 8th April and identified the construction of steps linking Anzac Park to the **Kyalite Riverfront Reserve** as a preferred priority to be funded under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Programme.

TENDERS AND QUOTATIONS

Council frequently uses local contractors to provide services across a range of functions. The following is a list of current or upcoming requests for tenders or quotations and their closing dates.

Now open:

Panel contract for building trades – 29th April 2021

(T) Design and construction of football change sheds at Greenham Park, Balranald – 4th May 2021

(T) Design and construction of a Creative Learning Centre at Balranald Art Gallery – 5th May 2021

(T) Construction of new tennis courts at Greenham Park, Balranald - 5th May 2021

Line marking and reflective pavement markers on Balranald-Ivanhoe Road – 13th May 2021

(R) Design and documentation of modifications to the Balranald Discovery Centre – 13th May 2021

Supply and installation of stock grids at various locations – 13th May 2021

Upcoming within the next 4 weeks:

Master planning of approaches and public spaces at Euston

Drainage improvements and sealing of Purton Lane, Balranald

Installation of heating to Theatre Royal, Balranald

Construction of fencing at Anzac Park, Balranald

Installation of signs and furniture on Euston walking trails

(T) indicates that documents for this item can only be obtained from the TenderLink website www.tenderlink.com.au.

(R) indicates that this quotation is a restricted request for proposals by invitation

Documents for all other items can be obtained from Council as they become available – Council will advertise this via the Council website and Facebook page, as well as in the Swan Hill "Guardian" newspaper.

CURRENTLY ON EXHIBITION

Draft Documents

For most current list and full details please visit:

www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/council-documents/exhibition-of-draft-documents/

Development Applications

For most current list and full details please visit:

www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/environment-and-planning/developments-on-exhibition/



BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Pursuant to Section 4.59 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*, public notice is hereby given that the following development applications have been approved:

Approval Date	Reference	Applicant	Address	Description
09/03/2021	DA 31/2021	Ms Emma Dunn	174 Market Street, Balranald	Carport
15/03/2021	DA 36/2021	Mallee Sheds	14 Luke Road, Euston	Shed
17/03/2021	DA 27/2021	Mr Wesley Pye	Kyalite Road, Kyalite	Two Lot Subdivision
17/03/2021	DA 32/2021	Mr Brendan & Mrs Jennifer Coates	Glen Avon, 908 Ivanhoe Road, Balranald	Four Lot Subdivision
25/03/2021	DA 37/2021	Nathan Condely	151 Ballandella Street, Balranald	Shed
01/04/2021	DA 42/2021	Mr Sam Papa	46 We Street, Balranald	Carport & Garage
01/04/2021	CDC 09/2021	Mr Thomas Meulemans	Magenta Wampo Road, Balranald	Telecommunications Tower

Development consents are available for public inspection, free of charge, during normal office hours at Balranald Shire Councils Office, 70 Market Street, Balranald.

Oliver McNulty, General Manager
 PO Box 120, BALRANALD NSW 2715
 03 5020 1300
www.balranald.nsw.gov.au

ANZAC DAY

The Administrator Mike Colreavy and General Manager Oliver McNulty attended ANZAC Day Remembrance services at Kyalite, Euston and Balranald. The RSL branches (Robinvale sub-branch RSL, Lance Howley with Jodie Smith & Joel Butcher and the Balranald sub-branch RSL) and their committee must be commended for organizing the services to commemorate all who have served Australia and to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

“Lest We Forget”





Planning,
Industry &
Environment



Increasing Resilience to Climate Change (IRCC) Project *BSC IRCC Information Sheet 05*

The 'Bigger Picture'-----adapting to *changing climatic conditions in your region!*

The 2017 NSW Office of Environment and Heritage report *Western Enabling Regional Adaptation – Far West region* provides a **snapshot of climate vulnerability in the Far West region**. Balranald Shire is part of this region.

The report states that heatwaves are projected to occur more often, be more intense and last longer and across most of NSW there will be more days over 40°C. Also, droughts, evaporation and fire weather will increase. And people will be more vulnerable to health risks from poor quality water.

NSW councils are key players in adaptation to climate change. They have responsibility for a broad range of functions that are likely to be affected, such as public infrastructure, local emergency responses, building regulation and planning, public health and environmental management.

With each local government area having a unique set of geographical, environmental, economic and social circumstances, the effects and risks of climate change will differ. Early planning and preparation can minimise long-term economic, social and environmental costs to communities.

For this reason, the NSW Government has provided the following information for councils to help residents understand, prepare for and minimise the impacts of future extreme events and hazards caused by climate change.

- [A Guide to Climate Change Risk Assessment](#)
- [Integrated Regional Vulnerability Assessments](#)
- [Regional Climate Data](#)
- [Adaptation Planning for Local Government checklist](#)

To learn more please visit the Adapt NSW website:

<https://climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/Adapting-to-climate-change>

BSC is an active partner in the climate change adaptation process through the IRCC project.

For further information on this important initiative please contact:

Peter Waterman RFD, Adjunct Professor, Institute for Land Water and Society

Email: pw.ems@bigpond.net.au

Mobile: 0418 628 431



Planning,
Industry &
Environment



BSC is being assisted with this NSW Government Funded project by a Project Team from the Institute for Land Water and Society (ILWS) at Charles Stuart University (CSU) and the SEGRA Foundation.

Street Address 70 Market Street BALRANALD NSW 2715

Postal Address PO Box 120 BALRANALD NSW 2715

Phone 03 5020 1300

After Hours (Emergencies) 0418 322 902

Email: council@balranald.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.balranald.nsw.gov.au

 Balranald Shire Council



COUNCIL SERVICES AND OPENING HOURS

Shire Office

9am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday

Balranald Pool

Closed until next season—TBA

Balranald Library

Monday & Friday 9.30am - 5.30pm, Wednesday 9am-5.30pm (closed for lunch 12pm-1pm)

Balranald Landfill

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

Euston Landfill

Tuesday and Thursday 1pm-6pm, Sunday 9am-3pm

SERVICE NSW IN EUSTON

Every second & fourth Thursday of the month

12.30pm –3.00pm

At the Old Court House on Murray Terrace, Euston



VACANCIES

Council is recruiting the following positions:

- PCA (Carer) @ Bidgee Haven

More information on our website

WANT TO ADD SOMETHING TO OUR NEWSLETTER?

Would you like to advertise an event in our monthly Newsletter?

Email your ad to council@balranald.nsw.gov.au by the 10th of each month

SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE AN E-COPY

Would you like to receive a PDF copy of this publication each month, direct to your inbox?

Subscribe via email to council@balranald.nsw.gov.au

Council wishes to remind the community that when unsealed Shire roads are wet, then they are automatically to be regarded as CLOSED, even if there are no road closure signs out or there is no roads report on Council's website. The Roads Report is updated as information becomes available at: www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/road-conditions

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.

The Big Read



Pre-Loved Secondhand Bookshop



Can Assist Balranald Branch is pleased to announce the

CAN ASSIST PRE-LOVED SECOND-HAND BOOK SHOP IS NOW OPEN –7 DAYS A WEEK - 11AM TO 3P.M

It's an interesting and lovely place to volunteer so if you have some hours to spare Alison would love to hear from you please call 0427 502019 (the hours are flexible)

Charitable Fund raising No 12748

CAN ASSIST EASTER RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who entered the Can Assist Easter Raffle which raised \$1600. Your support of the Branch by purchasing tickets is a valuable contribution to help provide continued assistance to cancer patients and their families.

Congratulations to all the winners of the raffle who were: 1st Prize Sue Murphy, 2nd Prize Polly Murphy, 3rd Prize Lani Dalton, 4th Prize Sonia Jolliffe.

The Easter Raffle was made possible by kind donations from Clint Jolliffe and Warren & Fran Reeks. The Executive Team of Can Assist Balranald Branch extend their sincere thanks to you for your kindness.



“Living local, giving local. All funds raised go directly to the Can Assist Balranald Branch, to provide financial assistance and care in our local community for people affected by cancer”.



Can Assist Balranald Branch

Financial Assistance & Support

Can Assist Balranald Branch will continue to provide assistance to all our existing clients and any new clients in the normal way during the health crisis.

Help is always on hand by contacting the Community Health Nurse

Contact number - 0408 375529

The Executive Committee of Can Assist send their best wishes to everyone in the community to Keep Safe and Keep Healthy during this difficult time

Balranald Men's Shed

Balranald Men's Shed is now open every Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 1pm.

Every Tuesday it is scone and cuppa and bit a yarn for those that like to join for a cuppa!

Need equipment to work or study from home?

NO INTEREST LOAN SCHEME

The No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) is still available throughout Intereach's NSW service area, despite the challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic. Applications can now be completed over the phone or via video conference.



Eligible applicants can use NILS to purchase equipment such as laptops or printers, to enable work or study to continue from home.

Loans are available for essential goods and services, up to \$1,500. Repayments are set at an affordable amount over 12 to 18 months.

To be eligible for NILS you must have a healthcare or pension card, earn under \$45,000, have lived in your current residence for three months, and have a willingness and capacity to repay the loan.



For full details please contact Intereach on 1300 488 226 or email community@intereach.com.au



Older?
Need support to stay independent and living at home? An Intereach Home Care Package can help.

Book an appointment to discuss your needs with a member of our Aged Care Services team by contacting Josie on 03 5051 7301 or drop into the Bes Murray Community Centre, 95 Court Street, Balranald.

www.intereach.com.au

The Gallery

There are some exciting & busy times @ The Gallery during the next couple of months. The "David Malin Night Sky Exhibition" opens on Friday 14th May. If you are interested in participating in a night sky photography workshop to coincide with this amazing event call 0488728986 or 0418 316 347 for more details. Tenders are out for the construction of our long awaited Creative Learning Centre & tenders close soon. We are anticipating a finishing time to coincide with the festival in October. Also the banner for the side wall of the theatre is on it's way.

Thanks to some funding through South West Arts & Regional Arts NSW, an " Autumn Plein Air Painting" workshop is happening @ Paika towards the end of May. Well known Melbourne artist Ben Winspear will be the resident tutor.

Moulamein mosaic artist Sandy Peeters will be in Balranald on the 22nd- 23rd of May conducting an adult and kids mosaic workshop. Suitable for beginners and more advanced students .Come along and have some fun.

Swan Hill artist Raylene Richardson is running a fun painting/textile workshop also in May. Call into the gallery for more information or to book your place. A new range of sculptures & interesting pieces made from recycled materials by Steve Cole has arrived to coincide with the kids "Waste To Art" exhibition.

Although the entries are well down this year there is still lots of imaginative work to enjoy.

Join the many visitors to your community art centre & maybe find something original & special for Mother's Day!



ATO drought assistance

Are you impacted by drought?

The ATO offers a range of assistance and support measures to drought-affected communities to help you manage your tax affairs.

Depending on your situation, the following assistance may be available to you:

- more time to pay or payment plans with interest-free periods
- waiving penalties or interest charges
- tax incentives for primary producers
- small business tax concessions.



To find out more about ATO drought assistance visit ato.gov.au/drought

To discuss support for your situation, phone the ATO on 1800 806 218



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

ATO drought assistance

Are you a primary producer impacted by drought?

We recognise the significant impact of ongoing drought on rural communities and offer a range of tax incentives to help you.



ato.gov.au/drought

BALRANALD

Our Financial Counsellors are coming to you!

Energy Efficient Workshop

Thursday, 6th May 10.30am to 11.30am

Maari Ma Health, 95 Court Street, Balranald
Morning Tea & refreshments provided
RSVP for Catering & Covid purposes
Please call Maari Ma 03 5020 0009



One-on-One Financial Counselling Appointments

Thursday, 6th May 12pm to 3pm

Maari Ma Health, 95 Court Street, Balranald
To make an appointment please call.

Contact

Steffi Purdue
spurdue@ccwf.org.au
Jennifer Daley
jdaley@ccwf.org.au
08 8087 3477



ATO drought assistance for primary producers

To assist primary producers manage their finances when facing drought, we offer:

- immediate tax deductions for capital expenditure, including water facilities, fencing and fodder storage assets, and land care operations
- the farm management deposits scheme
- primary producers tax concessions.

To find out more about ATO drought assistance, visit ato.gov.au/drought

To discuss support for your situation, phone us on **1800 806 218**



It's never too late to ask for help. If you're feeling overwhelmed by your tax and super, visit ato.gov.au/support



ACRE 21 festival

Town TWIGs

Diverse original tunes from top Australian musicians, plus a warm fire and a catch-up with friends and neighbours. Isolation smashing concerts for the people of...

QUAMBATOOK

BALRANALD

MOULAMEIN

NYAH

BALRANALD 21 May 2021 at 7pm
Yanga Station Woolshed

Multi-award winning Mutti Mutti musician
Kutcha Edwards

Renowned singer songwriter Neil Murray

Yorta Yorta blues, roots and contemporary
soul singer/songwriter Benny Walker

FREE events

Book your place now

www.acreproject.org.au/acre21

Any questions? Call Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery 5036 2430



Yanga National Park Update

April 2021

Yanga Homestead has had a green transformation thanks to Advance Turf in Swan Hill and a herculean effort from the Balranald Football Club. On a sunny Saturday (10th April), the Yanga Homestead gardens received 2800m² of instant lawn totally transforming the space, that's three semi-trailer loads! Those familiar with the Homestead will know the flat area where the open-air movies were held in 2013. This entire space as well as the orchard is now all lawn making it the perfect venue for weddings and events.

The project was funded under a NSW Government stimulus package aimed at enhancing domestic tourism destinations.

Yanga National Park Ranger, Simone Carmichael, is thrilled with the lawns saying;

"The area is back to what it was like in the 80s with the whole bottom tier green lawn. This funding is all about supporting local businesses and to see the Balranald Footy Club get something out of it was an added bonus".

The footy club supplied 27 people on the day meaning the whole area was turfed in around 3 hours! It is hoped the Yanga Homestead will attract more visitors to the area with the gardens looking better than they ever have thanks to the new lawn and efforts of parks staff and a part-time gardener in the garden beds.

Weddings and other community events are welcome at the Yanga Homestead with a local wedding held only a week after the turf was laid.

To add to attractions at Yanga, the long-awaited reopening of the day-use area on Yanga Lake is imminent with contractors now engaged to upgrade the access road which has been closed since 2019. Regatta Beach is a popular recreation area on Yanga Lake, the discovery of 2,500-year-old Aboriginal Middens of Freshwater Mussel Shell led to an exhaustive investigation culminating in a special permit to cover the road so it can continue to be used. These road works should be complete by the end of June, hopefully the lake will refill allowing the public to once again enjoy this iconic waterbody.

For more information, please contact Yanga Ranger, Simone Carmichael on 03 5020 1764.

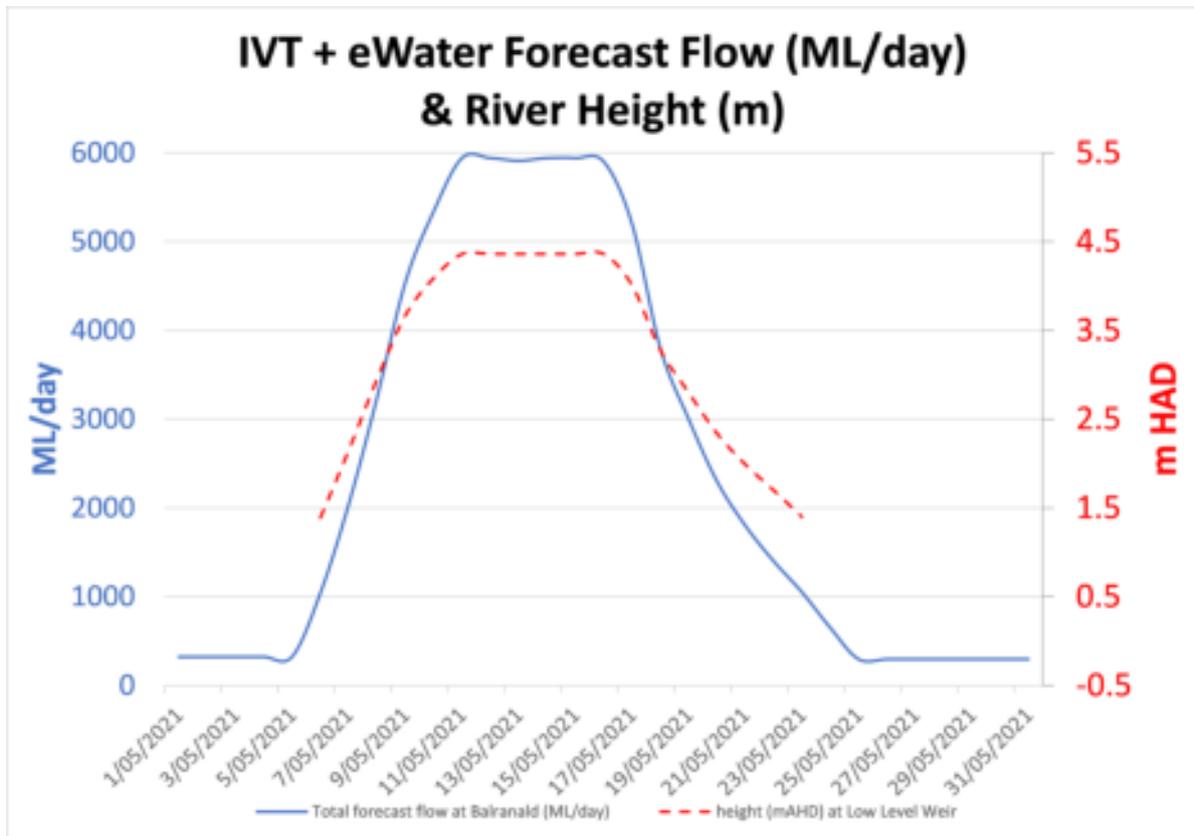
Image credit: Advance Turf/photos by Kim Deylen



The Murrumbidgee Environmental Water Manager has ordered 35GL of eWater to coincide with an order of 30GL of Inter-Valley Trading water to maximise the their fish connection program. What this essentially means is the Murrumbidgee will reach a maximum forecast flow of just under 6000 ML/day for approximately 8 days from the 10-17th May (see graph). During this doubled-up water pulse, the river level will peak at ~4.3m at the Balranald low-level weir. Our River hasn't seen that sort of flow since mid-2017!

The pulse is also expected to deliver a minor top-up for Lake Yanga.

So dust your fishing gear off and get amongst it, because the fish will be running! And, of course – if you're boating – please take extra care on the river during this time as the flows are expected to be challenging.





Fire preparedness and prevention expenses for primary producers

For primary producers

This fact sheet explains your entitlement to claim tax deductions for costs you incur on fire emergency preparedness and prevention assets and activities on your primary production land.

It only applies if you are carrying on a primary production business on land in Australia. If you're not carrying on a primary production business (for example if you're a hobby farmer), you generally cannot claim the expenses described in this fact sheet.

Capital costs and revenue costs

Special deductions are available for 'capital costs' – these are costs that provide a lasting benefit (such as the cost of business assets) and are otherwise not usually deductible.

Normal business operating expenses (such as the cost of maintaining firebreaks) are known as 'revenue costs' – these are deductible anyway under the normal deduction provisions.

You cannot claim a deduction for fire preparedness and prevention expenses that are private in nature (for example, expenses related to protecting your private residence).

Water facilities

You can claim an immediate deduction for the cost of all water facilities you use in your primary production business, including for the purposes of fire emergency preparedness and prevention.

A water facility is:

- plant or a structural improvement that is mainly for the purpose of conserving or conveying water (for example, dams, tanks, bores or sprinkler systems)

- a structural improvement that is reasonably incidental to conserving or conveying water
- alterations, extensions or capital repairs to the above.

What you can claim

You can claim a deduction for the cost of:

- quick-fill pumps
- high-rise drive-under water tanks
- lightweight water tanks for utility vehicles
- fire protection sprinkler systems in sheds
- fire dams.

What you cannot claim

You cannot claim for the purchase or installation costs of a swimming pool, even if the pool is occasionally used to draw water for fire-fighting purposes.

However, if the pool is equipped with an extra pump to be used solely for fire-fighting purposes, you can claim the cost of the extra pump.

Other capital expenses

What you can claim

You can claim a decline in value (depreciation) deduction for the cost of the following assets based on their effective life:

- fire extinguishers
- fire shields made of non-combustible materials to protect water tanks and electrics on sheds
- wind breaks of permanent materials such as rocks and iron (where they have a limited effective life and can reasonably be expected to decline in value).