



# BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

**FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021**

## Hospital Happenings

### Barraba Multi-Purpose Services

**Emergency Department open 24 Hours, 7 Days per week**

*Disabled access to Hospital via driveway (Front Entrance) and Community Health.*

#### Community Health

Child and Family Health – Tuesdays 9am till 4.30pm – Appointment Only

Dressing Clinic – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – 1.30pm to 2.30pm

Dressing Clinic – Weekend Dressings and Thursday

Dressings - Attend ED between 11am till Noon

Foot Clinic – Thursdays – Appointment only

Hearing Clinic – By appointment

Women's Health – Once a Month – Appointment Only

Physiotherapist – Appointment Only – Referral Needed by GP – Wednesdays and Thursdays

Psychologist – Wednesday by Appointment

**Phone Barraba Multi-Purpose Service for Appointments 67822500**

#### Day Centre

Open Tuesday and Thursday - 9 am till 3pm

Bingo, craft, bus trips, lunches and various activities

#### **All Community Members Welcome**

Gentle exercise **for over 65's**– 1.45pm, followed by Tai Chi (**for over 65's**) on Tuesdays – phone Wendy Taylor if interested in attending classes.

**Phone: 67822563**

#### Visiting Services from Tamworth Community Health

Continence Advisor

Drug and Alcohol Counsellor

Dietitian

Mental Health Counsellor

Paediatric Occupational Therapist

Speech Pathologist

**Phone Tamworth Community Health for Appointments – 67678100.**

#### X Ray

Tuesday and Thursday morning – Referral needed by GP – Appointment Required

#### Pathology Collection

Monday to Friday 8am to 1pm- **Non Public Holidays**

**There is now a sharps disposal unit in the driveway of the hospital for the community to safely dispose of sharps.**

**Due to safety reasons NO SCOOTERS are to be ridden in the Health Service Facility. Please use buzzer at main entrance if assistance is required**



## BARRABA LANDCARE COMMUNITY MEETING

**Be a part of something great**

#### **Barraba Bowling Club**

**Wednesday 8th September 2021 - 5.30pm**

Face to Face or Via Zoom - [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3927410350?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3927410350?pwd=aFpkOok3TS9zMUJkZm41N1VHVDOzdz09)

pwd=aFpkOok3TS9zMUJkZm41N1VHVDOzdz09

Meeting ID: 392 741 0350 Passcode: 1aqU3d

Contact - Penny Kelly 0438 353682



#### **Barraba Landcare Community Meeting**

Northern Slopes Landcare will be facilitating a community meeting on Wednesday 8th September to gain interest from members of the public and community groups in the formation of a Barraba Landcare Group.

Landcare is a grassroots-led, volunteer-driven movement with members making a real difference to natural and sustainable resource management across their local area and regions via their efforts and dedication.

If you are interested in being a part of Barraba Landcare, please join us at the Barraba Landcare Community Meeting on Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 5.30pm, at the Barraba Bowling Club or Via Zoom.

Please note that the meeting will be fully virtual via zoom if restrictions are not lifted.

For enquires please phone

Penny Kelly - Landcare Coordinator, Northern Slopes Landcare Association.

Phone: 0438 353 682

Email - coordinator@nsla.net.au



**WEEKLY SPECIALS**  
**SPRING SALE!**

15% OFF ALL WATER SPORTS  
EQUIPMENT IN STOCK  
(EXCLUDES NEW SEASON STOCK  
ARRIVING MID-SEPTEMBER)

30% OFF ALL WINTER SHIRTS,  
TOPS & JACKETS

10% OFF FLOOR STOCK OF  
STIHL CHAINSAWS


Barraba: 6782 1006 Manilla: 6785 1911  
Offer ends 10/09/2021. While stocks last.



**Queen Street Café**  
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Dine in or takeaway.  
Open 7 days

**COVID-19 SEWERAGE DETECTION  
IN TAMWORTH REGION**



**GET TESTED**

### COVID-19 SEWERAGE DETECTION IN TAMWORTH

Due to a detection of COVID-19 in the Tamworth sewerage network, we are encouraging anyone in Tamworth to come forward and get tested at one of the following COVID-19 testing clinics even if you do not have symptoms:

**Tamworth Minor League Park - Plain Street Carpark, Tamworth**

Monday to Friday: 7:45am – 3pm

Saturday: 9am – 1pm

Sunday: 9am – 1pm

No booking required

**Tamworth Respiratory Clinic – 255a Goonoo Goonoo Road, Tamworth**

Monday to Friday: 8:30am – 11:30am

Bookings required via 02 6768 3288 or <https://bit.ly/2VLJ47e>

**Tamworth Hospital Clinic – Access via Dean Street or Ring Road, Tamworth**

Monday to Friday: 8am – 12pm

Bookings required via 1800 881 568 (Over 12 years only)

**Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology – Suite 3, 199 Peel Street, Tamworth**

Monday to Friday: 8:30am – 4pm

Saturday: 8:30am – 10:30am

Bookings required via 1800 026 622 or 02 9111 3405

### POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE AGM OF THE BARRABA SHOWGROUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

THANK YOU

D.ROBERTS SECRETARY

## Joey's News

As lockdown is continued at Joey's we are concentrating on taking care of each other's well-being over the next few weeks. Home-learning can be a wonderful experience, but it can also be very challenging. Sometimes if things aren't going well then it's best to leave the school work for the day and go outside and enjoy the sunshine!

This is a temporary situation and learning at school will resume. Our data shows our students' learning was not greatly impacted during last year's lockdown. Our director Chris Smyth put it well in the CSO e-bulletin this week: "The need for parents to just love their children and focus on their wellbeing must be a consistent message. Parents cannot be expected to be teachers to their children, just like teachers cannot be parents to their students".

During home learning K/1 students have been using the seesaw app as our learning platform. Mrs Phillips has been able to set the class tasks and upload videos to support children's learning at home. Seesaw has allowed the class to maintain a somewhat normal learning routine.

2/3/4 students have been completing some incredible work whilst working from home. Book Week was celebrated enthusiastically from home. The class had fun with dress up Zoom classes with students telling everyone about their favourite books. Year 5's Zoom classes have focused on practising the 5/6 play, practising maths questions and engaging in science experiments.

When the extension of lockdown was announced Joey's staff made small care packages for families. It contained a deck of cards and a bouncy ball for games, a Joey's mug with some coffee and tea for mum or dad, and a Joey's glass for cold drinks. There were a few little treats in the box too. There was also a pencil and a rubber because they are always handy. Our bus drivers have been amazing, so they received a coffee mug and some treats as well.



*Some students learning at school working on a painting on our water tank. Yaama means hello in Gomerioi.*



## Empowering Rural Women

Northern Slopes Landcare Association have received funding from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal with their successful Tackling Tough Times

Together, \$16975 grant application for The Rural Women's Catch-Up.

*"This could not be possible without funding, and I would like to Thank the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal in supporting the delivery of the project. Women play a huge role in the community and empowering women is essential to sustainable economies in isolated communities"* Penny Kelly said.

A series of workshops will be delivered over the next 12 months in the small, drought affected communities of Boomi, North Star, Coolatai and Upper Horton. The project will assist women to form reliable and strong connections within their local communities to ensure that they are resilient and supported in the face of future natural disasters.

To register your interest in a Rural Women's Catch-up in the communities of Boomi, North Star, Coolatai or Upper Horton please contact, Penny Kelly, Landcare Coordinator Northern Slopes Landcare Association. Phone: 0438 353 682





### Property Manager - Manilla

At Hart Rural Agencies you can explore the many roles and activities of an industry leader in Australian agribusiness. We have a vacancy for the role of Property Manager at our Manilla branch.

The successful candidate will be in charge of a portfolio of 80 - 100 rental properties in the Manilla area, and residential sales in conjunction with our other sales agents.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate:

- The ability to work autonomously and also within a team environment
- Current Real Estate qualifications
- Current drivers licence
- Sound knowledge of all facets of working in the real estate industry
- Be well presented, have good computer & communication skills
- Time management & organisational abilities
- The ability to manage web-based advertising for rental and sales properties, in particular [realestate.com.au](http://realestate.com.au)

A competitive salary will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

Enquiries & applications (including references) can be emailed to:

[merchmanager@cbhart.com.au](mailto:merchmanager@cbhart.com.au)

or mailed to:

Hart Rural Agencies

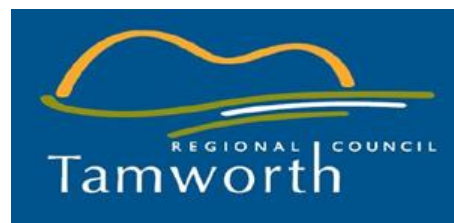
Attn: Jacob Hawley

73 Manilla Street

Manilla NSW 2346

For more information contact Jacob Hawley on 0428 624 493.

Applications close 5pm on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021.



### Here is an overview of outcomes from the Ordinary Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021:

Tamworth Regional Councillors tonight decided to delay making a decision about funding a study into the economic impacts of the recent drought until after a Councillor workshop. At the workshop, Councillors want to discuss how the study may look at water security more broadly and how this is tied to Council's growth objectives of the future.

Two new bus zones will be installed adjacent to Manilla Pre-School in Carinya Avenue following Council's support of a Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee recommendation tonight. The Manilla Pre-School's Director asked for the introduction of the zones because local buses have been dropping off and collecting children from the area since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The zones will be active from 8:30am to 9:30am and 2:30pm to 3:30pm, Monday to Friday.

Tonight's meeting heard about plans to locate a restored Vampire Jet in Tamworth's Bicentennial Park. A report from Tamworth Region Art Advisory Committee revealed the Tamworth RSL Sub-Branch strongly supports the aircraft be given a new home in the park once restoration work is completed. The jet was removed from a stanchion in the Hands of Fame Park for repair and restoration by TAFE Aeroskills students. Work is expected to be completed in December 2021 or January 2022. The report said the committee will further consider the matter once Council staff have completed locational designs.

The Tamworth Region Art Advisory Committee report also provided Councillors with an update about plans to create an annual arts festival in Tamworth. Wildspark Rural Arts Vision Community Group, a registered not-for-profit, has been formed to run the festival and form a partnership with Council. Councillors supported a recommendation for Tamworth Regional Gallery and Museums Director, Bridget Guthrie, to represent Council as part of the group.

For more information, see the full reports at [www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/business-papers](http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/business-papers)

**We're live on the web from this week.**

Now you can get the local news updated more frequently by going to

[www.barrabacommunitynews.org.au](http://www.barrabacommunitynews.org.au)

Save the address in your favourites and check out the latest news, views and community activities.

# NEWS FOR BARRABA



This Friday the 3rd of September, I will be hosting an information session on COVID support available to businesses right across the region. Please contact the Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce, Tamworth Business Chamber or my office to register your attendance.

The brand new Namoi River Crossing is nearing completion with the final pieces of the \$7 million project being laid right now. This critical piece of infrastructure will better connect the communities of Barraba and Manilla to the South providing safer, quicker journeys.

Office: 13 Fitzroy Street Tamworth NSW 2340  
Mail: PO Box 1740 Tamworth NSW 2340

Email: [tamworth@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tamworth@parliament.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [kevinanderson.com.au](http://kevinanderson.com.au)

Phone: 02 6766 1422  
Fax: 02 6766 6765

**Authorised by Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson. Funded using parliamentary entitlements**



## THE NATIONALS CREATE HISTORY WITH AGRICULTURE VISA

The Nationals have delivered a vital agriculture visa to help secure the future of rural and regional Australia.

The Agricultural Worker Visa will provide a long-term, reliable workforce for our critical industries while solving one of regional Australia's greatest challenges in recent history.

Leader of The Nationals and Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce and Deputy Leader of the Nationals, David Littleproud said they were incredibly proud to be leaders of the party that has consistently fought and delivered for regional communities.

"The agriculture visa delivers what so many primary producers are crying out for," Deputy Prime Minister Joyce said.

"It will give regional Australia the workers they need to get produce to plate in Australia, as well as our export markets.

"This agriculture visa will be in place no later than 30 September this year, with the full implementation of this demand-driven visa complete within 3 years."

The visa will be open to applicants from a range of countries and will be available to skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers. It will include meat processing, fisheries and forestry sectors, and provide a basis for the ongoing growth of our primary industries. Minister Littleproud said "With the changes to the Working Holiday Maker program as a result of the UKFTA, The Nationals knew this was the time to get the agriculture visa across the line. This is a structural change to the agricultural workforce. It gives our farmers a confidence to plant a crop and know that they'll be able to get it into the supply chain. It will complement the Pacific programs we have got in place but also provide a pathway to permanent residency. We've listened to our communities and our industries and this is what they've asked for. This will also help keep our next generation in town knowing that the future of regional Australia is bright and prosperous."

## When life gives you lemons ... 4 Stoic tips for getting through lockdown



Matthew Sharpe, Associate Professor in Philosophy, Deakin University

### Here are four tips from a stoic:

#### 1. Don't worry about things we can't control

If we worry about things we can't change, we are wasting our energies. If we imagine that we can control the past or future — or even pandemics — we are setting ourselves up for disappointment.

But we can think and act, and do our best to respond to situations with courage, justice, and moderation.

Today's citizens in lockdown can't control whether (or when) restrictions are lifted. We can all however wear masks, social distance, get vaccinated as soon as possible, and continue working, exercising and educating our kids as best we can.

#### 2. Prepare for the worst, hope for the best

People are most prone to being disturbed by events which take them by surprise. By premeditating the worst case scenario, and imaginatively working through how we could respond in advance, we can lessen our vulnerability.

While the preparation can be confronting, being grieved or angered by things we have no say over, like a sudden lockdown extension, is far worse. "Premeditated is prepared". If things go better than we prepare for, all the better.

#### 3. Contextualise and 'other-ise'

When we're under duress, we often feel as if what we are experiencing is unprecedented. No one else can understand. But it helps to remember that few experiences, even during a pandemic, are unprecedented.

We are in the second year of COVID. But the world has lasted four and six years. This is a pandemic, yet other generations have experienced plagues (or the Spanish flu) in which grievous losses were also sustained. Those who survived were able to rebuild. So will we.

It can also help to "step back" and assess our experience as if it was happening to somebody else:

*For example, when a friend's child breaks a cup it is easy for us to say, 'That is in the nature of cups and of children.' [But] when you realise that situation is true of you, it is easy for you to say that same thing to yourself when a child breaks your cup ...*

So, when we are inclined to despair in difficulties "we ought to remember how we feel when we hear of the same misfortune befalling others". By looking at ourselves as if we

were an 'other', we can apply the same support and encouragement to ourselves.

#### 4. Slow down, make sure

In life, we can easily leap between ideas in ways which lead us to false beliefs.

*These reasons do not cohere: I am richer than you, therefore I am better than you; I am more eloquent than you, therefore I am better than you.*

*On the contrary these reasons cohere: I am richer than you, therefore my possessions are greater than yours: I am more eloquent than you, therefore my speech is superior to yours.*

It's easy to add a lot of avoidable, habitual, evaluative judgements to what we know and experience. Often, these add-ons introduce assumptions which aren't based on adequate information. These lead us to react excessively or poorly.

We should slow our roll and our "judginess" down, especially when it comes to condemning others.

In the age of swarming internet conspiracies on social media, this fourth piece of advice is new again.

When presented with allegations of nefarious or appalling conduct by fellow citizens ask: do I know that that is true? Do I have enough information to be sure?

Such self-examination stops us from becoming enraged on the basis of fictions — let alone spreading misinformation which provokes or enrages others. If enough people do that, we could collectively avoid many future difficulties.

## Tamworth MONOPOLY approved to pass 'GO'



The official Tamworth MONOPOLY game approved to pass 'GO' after receiving final design approval from Hasbro.

The board has been developed by Tamworth Regional Council with Winning Moves, manufacturers of Monopoly under license from Hasbro.

Tamworth region Mayor, Col Murray said "It's an incredible honour for the region to have its very own version of the world's most popular board game. There are so many great things we have on offer across our region and this board game really showcases that."

The Barraba Silos were added in as the image for 'Barraba', Nundle was expanded to 'Nundle and Hanging Rock' and the image used for the Powerstation Museum includes an original electric streetlight in a throwback to Tamworth's history.

Pre-sale links:

MONOPOLY:

<https://evtam.sales.ticketsearch.com/.../salesproduct/15133>

Top Trumps:

<https://evtam.sales.ticketsearch.com/.../salesproduct/15134>





## Applications for the Heritage Assistance Fund have been extended to Thursday 16 September.

Each year, Council provides partial funding to renovations or restoration works across the region.

Steps to apply for the Heritage Assistance Fund

1. Background research to support works.
2. Determine work to be carried out.
3. Get two quotes from registered tradespersons.
4. Fill in an application form. Download from [www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/haf](http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/haf) or pick one up from Council offices in Tamworth, Barraba, Manilla, Nundle.
5. Take a few photos of the proposed areas of work.
6. Owner's consent will be required if the applicant is not the owner.



*The Heritage Fund assisted in the restoration of the old Anglican Church in Barraba*

## UPDATE OF COVID RESTRICTIONS

**Editor's Note:** Constant changes to the restrictions are very confusing for all of us. Keep in mind the intention of the "Stay at Home Orders". The only way to limit the spread of the very infectious delta virus is to stop people moving around.

In the last week in our area, the delta virus has been found in Tamworth sewage for a second time. That almost certainly means that someone, probably unknowingly, has the virus in Tamworth. So I guess the lesson for us in Barraba is "don't go to Tamworth" unless it is absolutely necessary.

### 1. Stay-at-home orders for regional NSW extended

Stay-at-home orders for regional and rural NSW are extended until at least 11:59pm on 10 September, in line with existing orders for the Greater Sydney area.

### 2. Travel restrictions

Do not travel to Greater Sydney (including the Blue Mountains and Wollongong) without a reasonable excuse.

### 3. COVID-19 travel registration

From Saturday 28 August 2021, if you live in regional and rural NSW and need to enter a local government area of concern for work, you will need to [register for travel](#). Areas of concern are the local government areas of Bayside, Blacktown, Burwood, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Liverpool, Parramatta, Strathfield, and some suburbs of Penrith.

### 4. Weddings

From 12:01am on Friday, September 3, residents can get married with a group of up to five guests.

The minister or celebrant conducting the wedding, as well as a photographer, would not be included in the five guests.

## PERMANENT WATER RESTRICTIONS IN BARRABA

*Just a friendly reminder that under Permanent Water Conservation Measures (which all town water supplies in the Tamworth Regional Council area are on at the moment), you should only be using a sprinkler, spray, microspray, or fixed hose between 4pm and 9am.*

Here are the restrictions -

Barraba is currently on permanent water conservation measures.

This means:

- Permanent Water Conservation Measures are always in place when there are no actual water restrictions.
- Use of sprinklers, sprays, microsprays and fixed hoses is not allowed during the heat of the day, which means watering must take place between 4pm to 9am Eastern Standard Time and 6pm to 8am Daylight Saving Time.
- Hand-held hoses with trigger nozzles, and buckets or watering cans, may be used for watering of lawns, gardens and vehicle-washing at any time.
- Trigger nozzles must be used on all hoses to help conserve supplies and avoid waste.
- No washdown of hard surfaces unless using a high-pressure cleaner.
- Access water for any purpose from the water supplies bulk water filling stations using a credit card or Council issued card.

### Barraba Landcare Community Meeting

Wednesday 8th September 2021

Barraba Bowling Club, Queen Street Barraba NSW 2347 Or Via Zoom -

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3927410350?pwd=aFpkQ0k3TS9zMUJKZm41N1VHVQ2dz09>

Meeting ID: 392 741 0350 Passcode: 1aqU3d



### Barraba Anglican Church

Please join us on Zoom at 10 am Sunday when in lockdown:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8176347316>

God bless Daniel Avenell



### Legacy Week is from Sunday 29th August 2021 to Saturday 4 September 2021.

For NSW, VIC, ACT, QLD, SA, NT and TAS, Badge Day is Friday 3rd September 2021.

As there are no badge sales on the street in NSW this year due to stay at home regulations, you can support Legacy online; go to [www.legacy.com.au](http://www.legacy.com.au)

**Advertise in Barraba Community News and reach 750 households in our local area and get free advertising on our new website.**

[www.barrabacommunitynews.org.au](http://www.barrabacommunitynews.org.au)

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### Golf Notes

Players contested a 4 BBB Stableford on Sunday for the Col and Rene Sweeney Memorial and Middlemiss trophies. Col and Rene Sweeney were Jenny

Middlemiss's grandparents and were great club people in the 60s and 70s. The winners with a good score of 42 points were David York and Des Kelaher on a countback from Will Sedgwick and Campbell Tonkin. Balls went to Tom Mellor and Lincoln Brown 40 points and Daniel Anderson and Firmen Allan also on 40 points. NTPs went to Gary Allan on the 6th, Kerrie Smith on the 12th, Dave Capes on the 16th and Peter York on the 18th. In singles match play results Daniel Anderson just got around Firmen Allan 3 and 2.

Next week Sunday 5th September is the compulsory final round of our Club Championships for Ian Cabot's trophy whilst the week after, Sept 12th is a 4BBB Aggregate Stableford for the Mick Djuric and John Freeman trophies.

Pleasing to see a good turnout of social players enjoying the course midweek.

### Ladies Golf

This weekend gone, saw the ladies bring their championships to an end. On Saturday it was disappointing to see only 3 ladies turn up for the 3rd round which was Gail Simpsons Trophy. Gail's trophy was won by Kerrie Smith with 72 Nett and Lib Thompson runner up with 77. Sunday was a lovely day for golf as well, however the wind was quiet strong. Four ladies took on the wind to complete their championships. Stacey Etheridge was the donor of this round and it was proudly won by her mum, Libby Thompson with a great round of 69 Nett and Kerrie Smith was runner up with a consistent 72 Nett. Out of bounds did come into play for a couple of the girls, but we blamed the wind!!!! The girls also enjoyed having to take relief from unplayable shots. Congratulations to Amanda Koopman who took out the Ladies Championships with a gross of 270. Runner up was Lib, a very safe distance back on 294. The winner of our championship Nett was Kerrie Smith on 218, nudging Lib out by 3, very close!!



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## History Notes

Well the lockdown drags on and we get inquiries about the Markets, Meeting, etc. and there are no answers! This week I have had an enquiry re the Bowling Club which I will need help with from an older member of the club – one who remembers the first rebuilding of the club in the 1950's at a guess. We have photos of the event which need some identifying. The enquirer is the daughter of the president at that time – Jack Thompson, manager of Mayvale. Any help will be gratefully received after we are able to move around again.

Partly because I had time and partly because of the above query I have been turning out boxes of store history. Sometime back we used the first Gazette to remind residents about the "Ironhorse Festival" in 1968. Today I have found Betty Crowley's folders kept from the festival – she was the Historical Society secretary at the time.

In the folder, which is rather thick, I found multiple copies of the Recreation Time (published weekly) with the T.V. programs and sporting news. This publication led to the beginning of The Barraba Gazette which began in January 1969. There were also some school publications obviously written by the children and printed in blue ink on old folio paper. There was a competition for Moustache and Beard growing, as well as a Colonial girl, and a huge list of donations amounting to \$500 but still \$90 short of the cost. There was even a large piece of Mackenzie's wrapping paper – remember when we bought something it was wrapped or put into a paper bag!

The following comes from the children's efforts:

'Three year old Johnnie returned home from a visit to the hairdresser and proudly showed his crew-cut to his baby sister. "You'll get one when you are older" he told her. "But girls

don't have crew-cuts, dear" explained his mother. Johnnie looked baffled. "You mean she's going to stay a girl." He exclaimed.' And just one more:

'Mother of quads was sitting up proudly in bed, when her 5 year old son came to visit her. The first question he asked his mother was – "How many are we keeping?"

The school principal at the time was Mr Ken Mitchell and he notes in his Report that steps are being taken to secure a site for the new Secondary School and the new steps at the front of the Primary School were nearing completion.

There is more for next week.

**PHIL DENYER**  
**MECHANICAL REPAIRS**  
**Ph (02) 67 821 107**



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**Text is best 0447 052 140**  
**[plumberdrainer@gmail.com](mailto:plumberdrainer@gmail.com)**

## Barraba 7 day Forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology

**Wednesday 1 Sept** 

**Summary** Max 26

**Sunny**

Chance of rain: 0%

**Thursday 2 Sept** 

**Summary** Min 5 Max 25

**Sunny**

Chance of any rain: 0%

**Friday 3 Sept** 

**Summary** Min 4 Max 23

**Sunny**

Chance of any rain: 0%

**Saturday 4 Sept** 

**Summary** Min 5 Max 23

**Partly cloudy**

Chance of rain: 30%

**Sunday 5 Sept** 

**Summary** Min 7 Max 18

**Shower or two**

Chance of any rain: 70%

**Monday 6 Sept** 

**Summary** Min 2 Max 19

**Partly cloudy**

Chance of any rain: 20%

**Tuesday 7 Sept** 

**Summary** Min 1 Max 19

**Partly cloudy**

Chance of any rain: 20%

### Regional Dam Levels from Water NSW

Chaffey 100.6%

Copeton 79.8%

Keepit 97.3%

Split Rock 40.9%

## Hidden women of history: how mother of 8, Mary Anne Allen, made do on the goldfields amid gunshots, rain and sly grog

Katrina Dernelley, PhD Candidate in History, La Trobe University.

In February 1852, 46-year-old Mary Anne Allen set off from Melbourne for the Mt Alexander (Castlemaine) diggings with her husband Reverend John Allen and their eight children, the youngest aged five.

Histories of the Victorian gold rushes often overlook women's presence on the goldfields in 1852. Women, children and home, however, were always part of goldfields life.

Mary Anne Allen's diary appears to have been written for publication. In it she observes life on the diggings, not through the lens of masculinity and mateship, but through family and home.

### A perilous journey

Englishwoman Mary Anne and her family had arrived in Port Phillip before the gold rushes. They migrated in 1849 to deliver the word of God for Scottish evangelist and colonial enthusiast John Dunmore Lang. Yet two years later the family abandoned their congregation in search of gold, "dreaming of little beyond wealth and competency".

On route to Mt Alexander, the family almost lost their dray over a ravine. Their son Frederick tried to "scotch the wheels" (likely wedging a stone or bar to stop them rolling) but to no avail.

"My little girl came running towards me", wrote Mary Anne in her diary. "She said we expected father would have been killed but Fred's hand was smashed and two of his fingers broken." Disaster was averted, but it would be just the beginning of the family's trials.



*Most stories of the goldfields were told through the lens of mateship and masculinity. An early illustration by S. T. Gill. State Library of Victoria*

Next, four bushrangers bailed up a bullock driver ahead of them. The Allen family continued cautiously forward, one of her sons armed with a gun, the second with a hatchet, a third with a club. Mary Anne's younger children inquired anxiously, "What will they do with you Mamma?" Fortunately, fate spared Mary Anne an answer.

### Life in the clearings

Mary Anne found the new goldfields "remarkably picturesque and singularly beautiful". The countryside was already home to miners' mia-mias (based on Aboriginal dwellings) and hundreds of tents, scattered for miles through the still dense bush.

But clean drinking water was impossible to find. A German miner gave Mary Anne's children a cup of water, milky with chalk. Another miner gave Mary Anne a loaded gun to help her protect any water they found. The family moved on to nearby Barker's Creek, where there were fewer tents and more available water.

The Allens erected their tent and furnished it with handmade "bush bedsteads": saplings driven into the ground and bed cases filled with dried leaves. Their table was topped with bark and the floor carpeted with the same. Mary Anne wrote that the bark decomposed rapidly in wet weather, producing an "exceedingly unpleasant" smell.



*Henry Winkles, 'Interior of a digger's tent', c.1853. National Library of Australia*

Many miners' tents, she wrote, were lined with blankets inside and bullock hides externally to keep out the weather. Her sons built a stone fireplace with bark sides, which they topped with an old sugar cask. They put up a tarpaulin awning so the family could bake damper and roast meat without standing in the rain. Even with these precautions, mould covered everything.

### Living with uncertainty

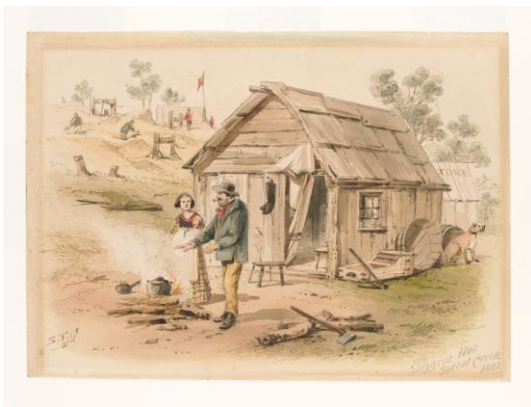
Families lived in fear of the dangers presented by mine shafts. The lesson was brought home for the Allen family as they watched a man trapped down a shaft. Then another man went in after him. The father of one of the men rushed forward and he too fell headlong into the mine. The whole party, Mary Anne noted disapprovingly, was the worse for “the influence of spirits”.

Bushfires were a frightening, yet entertaining, reality:

*“One small tree burnt through fell at our horses feet. We hastened onwards and when out of danger we sat and admired the grandeur of the scene.”*

At night, diggings glowed with fires outside every tent and lamps lit by candlewicks made from honeysuckle flowers soaked in oil. One night, as the family sat reading around their table, a gun was fired through their tent. The bullet landed on her son’s book: “So uncertain was life at Barker’s Creek”.

On the diggings, Sunday was not for religion but for domestic duties and domestic quarrels. Sometimes Mary Anne expected that “instant death would ensue from stabbing members of their own families”.



*Canvas and bark tents smelled terrible when wet. S. T. Gill/State Library of Victoria*

### Abrupt endings

Living next door to a sly grog tent, Mary Anne reported: “Drunkenness, fighting, profanity and robberies were every day occurrences”. Her diary ends abruptly, to cries of murder and an aborted gold robbery.

She did not record whether her family found gold. Historical documents reveal the family only stayed six months on the diggings. John did not return to the church until just before his death in 1861, by which time the couple had bought a number of properties in Melbourne.

My doctoral research is the first time Mary Anne’s diary has been written into goldfields history. Her manuscript is entitled Mrs Allen’s Trip to the Gold Fields, suggesting she intended it for publication. Now, almost 170 years later, we can read her observations as one of many women on the diggings in early 1852.

### Recent Anniversaries

- the HMS Roebuck, captained by William Dampier, lands at Shark Bay, WA on the first British scientific expedition to Australia (1699)
- the US dropping an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan (1945)
- the US dropping a 2nd atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan (1945)
- the World Wide Web becoming publicly available (1991)
- the birthdays of poet Alfred Tennyson (1809)
- the invention of Corn Flakes by William Kellogg (1898)
- the US, USSR, Britain and France signing Treaty of London, which set down procedures for the Nuremberg war trials of Nazi leaders (1945)
- the opening of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican (1483)
- the birthday of author Enid Blyton (1897)
- the start of the Weimar Republic in Germany (1919)
- the premiere of The Wizard of Oz (1939)
- the formation of al Qaeda (1988)
- American inventor Isaac Singer patenting the sewing machine (1851)
- Henry Ford’s company building the first Model T car (1908)
- Clarence Birdseye receiving a patent for his method for quick freezing food (1930)
- IBM launching its first Personal Computer (1981)
- the death of Cleopatra (30BC),
- the death of Florence Nightingale (1910)
- the British Army deployed on the streets of Northern Ireland, marking the beginning of Operation Banner which would become the British military’s longest-ever continuous deployment (1969)
- Wikileaks founder Julian Assange being granted political asylum by Ecuador (2012)
- the deaths of music legends Elvis (1977) and Aretha Franklin (2018)
- Captain James Cook setting sail from England on board HMS Endeavour (1768)
- the birthday of Mother Teresa (1910)
- the release of The Beatles’ Hey Jude (1968)
- the first publication of the Guinness Book of World Records (1955)
- the premiere of Walt Disney’s Mary Poppins (1964)
- Lord Mountbatten, cousin of Queen Elizabeth II, was killed by the IRA (1979)
- pharmacists John Lea & William Perrins inventing Worcestershire sauce (1837)
- Reverend Martin Luther King delivering his 'I have a dream' speech (1963)



### EMERGENCY SERVICES CONTACT LIST

Ambulance	000
Fire	000
Police	000
VRA	000
Barraba Police Station	67821003
Barraba Fire Brigade	67821179
Barraba Health Service (Hospital)	67822500
Barraba Medical Centre (GP)	67821621
Barraba Vet Service	67821316
Essential Energy	132080
Beyond Blue	1300224636
Lifeline	131114
NRMA	131122
SES Barraba	132500
Tamworth Regional Council	
Emergency Number	1300733625
Council Office	67821105

### BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

#### Message from the Editor

At *Barraba Community News* we welcome local news and stories from our community members about activities, events and news of interest to the Barraba community.

Share your news, views and what you or your local organisation is doing.

Advertise in *News* at a competitive cost and reach 750 households in our area who receive a free copy each week.

Contact [news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au](mailto:news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au) or drop into the Community College on the corner of Alice and Fitzroy Sts.

### Daggy Jokes about being in Quarantine

Why did the chicken cross the road? Because the chicken behind it didn't know how to socially distance properly.

Two grandmothers were bragging about their precious darlings. One of them says to the other, "Mine are so good at social distancing, they won't even call me."

Who's idea was it to sing "Happy Birthday" while washing your hands? Now every time I go to the bathroom, my kids expect me to walk out with a cake.

My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, "Throw this and wherever it lands—that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends." Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge.

After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason.

If I keep stress-eating at this level, the buttons on my shirt will start socially distancing from each other.

Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pyjamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.