



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 13th October 2021

Electric bed

Antique L.A. Case tractor 1942 -- 64hp (currently not working, needs to be checked before starting)

ONLY DOUBLE VACCINATED CAN ATTEND- BRING PROOF PLS

Ken and Joy Hodges are MOVING ON

Petrol Compressor - Honda motor with hose reel

Garage Sale!

When: Saturday, 16th of October 2021

Where: 'Beeutee' 8103 Manilla Road, Barraba 2347

Time: 2:00pm - 5:00pm

EVERYTHING MUST GO THAT IS NOT ALREADY SOLD! BRIC A BRAC, FURNITURE, FARM ITEMS, TOOLS ETC. COME CHECK IT OUT, MIGHT BE SOMETHING YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

ENQUIRIES PRIOR: KEN 0427821396

CORRECTION

Barraba Shotgun Club AGM

Sunday 17th October 2021

4.30-5pm at the Barraba Bowling Club



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Community College Northern Inland Inc. AGM will be held on Friday, 15th October from 5pm at the College Campus, 47 Fitzroy Street, Barraba.

Nominations for vacant Board positions are welcome and must be received prior to the meeting. To obtain a EOI form, please contact Kylie on 0418 338 152.



HART RURAL
AGENCIES

FIELD DAY

'DERRA DERRA' UPPER HORTON
WED 20TH OCT, 9AM - 1PM

Limited numbers - RSVP to Andrew Jack 0484 821 006.

Guest speakers. Topics include soil structure, limitations, constraints & opportunities of 2 soil pits. BYO water, thermos, chair & covered shoes. Fruit & biscuits provided. Attendees must observe all current COVID-19 requirements + wear a mask & check in via QR code

Barraba: 6782 1006 Manilla: 6785 1911

JOEY'S NEWS

It was great to start Term 4 with the children learning at school. There has been a very positive atmosphere in the playground and classrooms. The children have a renewed appreciation of school!

We have a great term planned. Later on when the weather warms up we will take advantage of Barraba's beautiful swimming pool to give the children a nine day swimming program. Also planned is a Year 5/6 dramatic production. Miss Marshall and her students have been preparing to produce and perform Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Congratulations to last week's students of the week. Well done to Mason Hallford of K/1 for achievement and effort in English, Courtney Turner from 2/3/4 for incredible work on multiplication and division and to Alessia Bowman in Year 5/6 for excellent work in all Key Learning Areas. Congratulations also to Oliver Newberry for receiving the Captains' Award for excellent playground behaviour and being a great sport.



Students of the week clockwise from top left: Mason Hallford, Courtney Turner, Alessia Bowman, Oliver Newberry



Ashlee McDouall, Izzy Allan and Mrs Maria Wilson painting props for the Year 5/6 production.



Enrolling for 2022


St Joseph's Primary School, Barraba

A caring learning environment for everyone,
Catholic & non-Catholic.

**Transition days for 2022 starters will be
Wednesdays, 8.50am-3.05pm,
27 Oct - 1 Dec (6 weeks) .**

Call 6782 1685 for an enrolment pack.



Network maintenance for Barraba and Manilla

A planned power outage has been scheduled overnight from
10.00pm on Saturday, 16 October until 8.00am on Sunday, 17 October 2021.



BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

Phone: 67821379

For the information of members and guests

WE ARE A COVID-19 SAFE CLUB

ALL NSW HEALTH REGULATIONS APPLY

**ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS MUST SHOW PROOF OF
DOUBLE VACCINATION UPON ENTRY**

THIS WEEK:

**ALL MEMBERSHIP DRAWS ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL
AT LEAST THE 1ST DECEMBER**

THURSDAY: 11AM-

ANGLERS CLUB RAFFLES

MULTISCREEN DRAW-THIS WEEK TO BE ADVISED

FRIDAY: 11AM-

MEAT/FRUIT/VEG RAFFLES 6PM

MEMBERSHIP DRAW-THIS WEEK \$1,800.00

SATURDAY: 10AM-

SUNDAY: 10AM-5.30PM

ANGLERS CLUB RAFFLES 1PM-3PM

MONDAY: CLOSED

TUESDAY: 11AM-5.30PM

BINGO 11.30AM

WEDNESDAY: 11AM-5.30PM

HAPPY HOUR: 11am-1pm Wed & Fri

BISTRO HOURS

Phone 0427330808

CLOSED MON/TUES/WED

THURS/FRI/SAT: LUNCH 12-2PM

DINNER 6-8.30PM

SUNDAY: LUNCH 12-2PM

TAKE-AWAY MEALS STILL AVAILABLE TO THE
UNVAXED

PLEASE RING ORDER THROUGH AND PICK UP AT SIDE
DOOR OF CLUB

DINE AND DISCOVER VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

Thank you to Eliza Fagan from Designer Bunches
for this beautiful new flower arrangement at
Barraba Hospital.



Cobbadah Flowers
Marnie Crowley
0267822045
0429878788



Queen Street Café
82a Queen St. Barraba
Ph 0267822106

Dine in or takeaway.
Open 7 days

We're live on the web
Now you can get the local news updated
more frequently by going to
www.barrabacommunitynews.org.au

OUT AND ABOUT AT THE WEEKEND

The Markets

The monthly Historical Society's Saturday markets attracted good numbers. Great weather and lots of stalls brought a good crowd. A new stall attracted a lot of attention; John Kerklaan, a Wood Turner/Furniture Maker from Quirindi. He was pleased, making a number of sales. He will be back.



Cut Flower Show

The Manilla Evening CWA Branch put on a "Display of Flowers in Bloom" at the Manilla Uniting Church Hall on Saturday. Pretty spectacular!

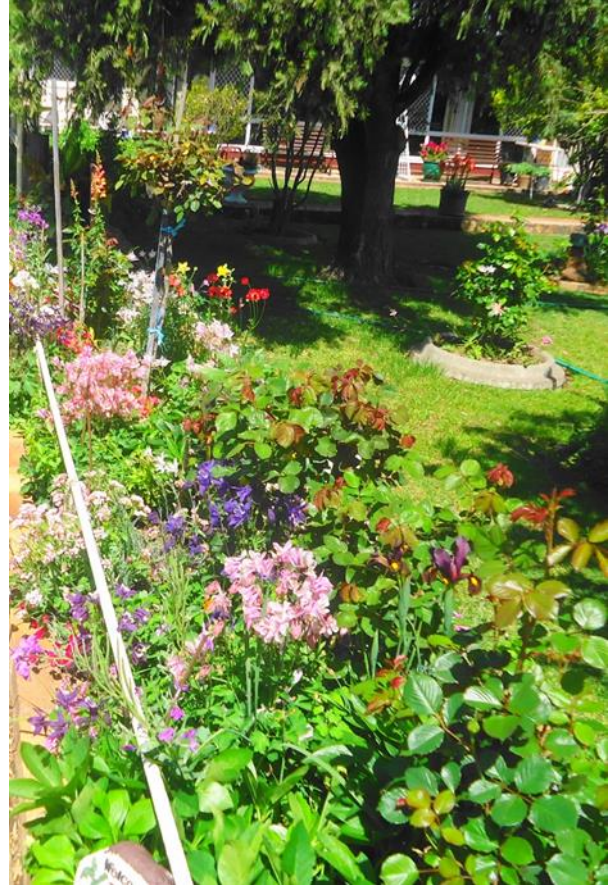


What a wonderful spring! Looking around town the gardens are coming on beautifully; there are already some spectacular displays.

Here at "Community News" we would like to publish some photos each week of Barraba gardens; it does brighten up the paper. We will start this week with photos of Helen and Ron Hiscock's garden.

Please send in some photos of your garden: attach them to an email news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au or to a text message 0447 165 008.

Or call Terry Threlfall 0400 216 365 and he will come and take some photos for you.



BEAUTIFUL BARRABA GARDENS



AGM NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of the Barraba P A & H Association (Show Committee) will be held at 7 pm on **THURSDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2021** at the Barraba Bowling Club; General Meeting will follow. All Welcome.



History Notes

What wonderful weekend Barraba had with lovely fine warm weather for the markets. There were lots of stalls and quite a good attendance considering all the rules and regulations that we all have to live under. The Annual General Meeting is next week and is open to anyone interested.

This week we have been asked for a bit more history – this time on the Legg(e) family itself. Charles Alfred Legge was born in 1854 in Hampshire, UK. His father, Stephen, had married a widow, Elizabeth Jane Harman nee Gray at Ripley in England in 1848.

Elizabeth already had a family by her first husband, and it is unusual to find only the youngest, Letitia Harman, mentioned with the Legge family. Stephen, her stepfather, had also been born in Hampshire circa 1828 and it seems that she lived with Elizabeth and Stephen until she married in Australia.

Stephen and Elizabeth decided to migrate to Australia with their growing family, arriving in New South Wales on the Washington Irvine in 1855. Travelling with them were Letitia Harman and James Henry Legge aged 3 years and baby Alfred Charles Legge.

On arrival it seems that the family settled on the south coast of NSW where Leah was born on 3rd August 1856. Another daughter, Mary was born in 1859 and she died in infancy.

By 1880 Stephen Legge and his family had settled on the western side of Barraba where the children had

grown up and married. Alfred Charles Legge married Elizabeth Sims/Simmons and had at least three children – Mary Emmeline who married John Potter, Constance Ann who married George O'Regan and a son Charles who may have died in 1892. Alfred left the district and supposedly went to Moree. His wife soon followed leaving the two daughters with Barraba relatives. Apart from a brief mention in Minnie Michell's family history there is no further mention of Alfred.

James Henry arrived in Australia in 1855 and after a few years at Jamberoo came to the Barraba district where he lived for the rest of his life. He married Elizabeth Rumsby and there were eight children in the family, including several sons to carry on the family name.

The third child and only surviving daughter, Leah, who learnt to be a hard worker early in life, married Arthur Wellesley Russell in Warialda on 30th March 1874. She became the mother of fourteen children at their home at "Tareela" west of Barraba where she lived for most of the rest of her life.

Uniting Church Notices

There are no services this Sunday in Barraba

CATHOLIC CHURCH NOTES

Barraba – 1st & 5th Sunday 6pm
2nd 3rd & 4th Sunday 9am.
Upper Horton – 3rd Sunday – 11am.
Weekday Mass – Wednesday - 10am.

Snippets from St Laurence's

On 17th and 24th October, church will be online (via Zoom) at the normal time of 9am.

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

If you have access to internet you are encouraged to join us online. If you do not have internet and are double vaccinated, please come to church, which will be conducted from the Youth Centre and broadcast live.

The Gospel Coalition Australia is holding an online conference on Saturday 16th October from 1 to 5pm. The conference, "Entrusted with the Gospel in Fractured Times", will be screened in the Youth Centre. More information can be found at <https://thegospelcoalition.org.au/tgca21/>

Parish Council, on 17th October, will also be held on Zoom. Remember to raise any issues you have with one of the wardens or councilors before then.

Coming out of lockdown seems to be as problematical as going into it so these words of Paul's to the Christians in first century Rome are my prayer this week: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* Romans chapter 15 verse 13.

Beth.

Barraba Anglican Church for next two weeks is as follows:

Barraba at 9 am on the 17 & 24 October is online only at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8176347316>

Woodsreef: 2nd Sundays at 11.30 am
Bereen: 4th Sundays at 6 pm



TAMWORTH ANNOUNCED AS A PILOT LOCATION FOR COVID-19 DIGITAL CERTIFICATES

Tamworth customers will be among the first to display their COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate on the Service NSW app, with the State Government pilot of the technology commencing tomorrow.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said the two-week closed pilot would be limited to staff and visitors at a few hospitality, retail and taxi businesses and aged-care facilities.

"Tamworth was chosen as a pilot location following consultation with industry peak bodies," Mr Anderson said.

"Customers will have the convenience of checking in to a venue and showing proof of vaccination status on the one app, rather than waste time opening up multiple apps. It's great to see local pubs like the Longyard Hotel and Wests are taking part in this trial which will help to determine the future of check ins in NSW."

The Service NSW app will include a number of security measures to help compliance officers and businesses with checking and validating a customer's vaccination status, including a NSW Waratah logo hologram and rotating QR codes, similar to the Digital Driver Licence.

Mr Anderson said customers will be selected by the participating businesses and operate under the existing Public Health Orders in Tamworth. Participants do not gain any additional freedoms or exemptions.

"Integrating the vaccine certificate onto the Service NSW app will be optional. Customers can also use the Express Plus Medicare app, the digital wallet on their phone or a paper certificate from the Australian Immunisation Register to prove their vaccination status," Mr Anderson said.

To integrate a COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate with the Service NSW app, customers will need to have a Federal MyGov account with Medicare linked and the Express Plus Medicare app. Customers without a smartphone should contact Services Australia for a non-digital option.

For more information, please visit nsw.gov.au



Southern Qld and Northern NSW drought hub to broaden its focus

The Australian Government is expanding the Southern Qld and Northern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub to catalyse agricultural innovation, drive commercialisation and create jobs.

Federal Member for New England and Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce said the Southern Qld and Northern NSW Hub and nodes will become a flagship for agricultural innovation.

"The Hub supports farmers and communities from Longreach to Roma, Stanthorpe, Lismore, Narrabri and the University of New England hosts a dedicated node in Armidale to service Northern NSW.

The hub will engage with farmers and traditional owners to empower them to adopt innovative practices that will

make real impacts on the ground and to their businesses.

The hub already has extensive collaborators including farming and NRM groups, industry organisations, universities, state government, research providers and Agribusiness," Minister Joyce said.

Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia David Littleproud said the Government has allocated additional funding for each Hub to develop regionally focused and responsive innovation and adoption strategies and to undertake activities.

"This investment is the next phase in the evolution of the Drought Hubs from being just drought focused to being focused on Innovation more broadly," Minister Littleproud said.

"These hubs are key to unlocking the potential of the agricultural innovation system, enabling people to collaborate and deliver regionally targeted productivity gains.

The hubs will build connections between researchers, technology developers, investors, producers and agribusinesses to drive innovation and digital technology uptake across industry and the supply-chain.

The hubs will always be a shopfront for farmers to access innovative technologies and practices that enable them to be more prepared and resilient to drought.

Now, as part of the National Agricultural Innovation Agenda, we are expanding their remit into broader agricultural innovation activities and outcomes.

We are providing the right conditions to help the agricultural sector to modernise, improve, innovate and grow," Minister Littleproud said.

For more details visit [Southern QLD/Northern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub – Department of Agriculture](https://www.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/southern-qld-northern-nsw-drought-resilience-adoption-and-innovation-hub)

Recognise and celebrate carers across Australia from 10 - 16 October 2021

Running from October 10 to 16 2021, National Carers Week theme is 'Millions of Reasons to Care', to recognise and celebrate the 2.65 million Australians who provide care and support to a family member or friend.

National Carers Week is an opportunity to raise community awareness among all Australians about the diversity of carers and their caring roles.

Carers are people who provide unpaid care and support to family members and friends who have a disability, mental health condition, chronic condition, terminal illness, an alcohol or other drug issue or who are frail aged – anyone at any time can become a carer.



Attachments not worth the risk

Attaching signs and other advertising material to power poles may seem like free advertising, but the risks could be costly, warns energy distributor Essential Energy.

Operations Manager Northern Tablelands, Mark Summers, said "Anyone attempting to attach signs such as advertising material or other items to power poles is putting themselves at risk of serious injury or death as a result of potential exposure to electrical current.

It's just not worth the risk."

Mark said that attachments to power poles can also risk public safety and network reliability by causing damage to the pole or covering critical safety signage like pole identification numbers and defect notices.

"Not only are these illegal attachments dangerous to whoever's putting them up, they're an ongoing danger too. Illegal signage could also become a danger to the owners' wallets, as Essential Energy has the right to bill for the cost of safe removal from its network," Mark said.

"When an unplanned outage occurs, if there are illegal pole attachments in place they need to be removed by Essential Energy's crews before they can begin restoring power, which means a longer outage for everyone. If community members spot any illegal signs or advertising material attached to our power poles, we'd like to remind them to never attempt to remove it themselves, but to report it to Essential Energy so that our crews can remove it safely," Mark said.

Under the *NSW Electricity Supply Act 1995* and the *NSW Graffiti Control Act 2008*, it is illegal to attach signs and advertising material to power poles. Essential Energy crews are required to remove attachments, which takes them away from important electricity network maintenance.

Essential Energy's number one priority is the safety of the public and its infrastructure. If members of the public notice an illegal sign or piece of advertising material attached to the network, they are asked to report it by calling 13 23 91 or visiting essentialenergy.com.au/powerpoleattachments

FACT FILE:

- Essential Energy builds, operates and maintains one of Australia's largest electricity distribution networks, servicing more than 875,000 customers across regional, rural and remote NSW and parts of southern Queensland
- Our footprint covers 95 per cent of NSW, traversing 737,000 square kilometres of landmass with 183,612 kilometres of powerline, including 163,417 kilometres in designated bushfire zones
- The network has approximately 5.1 customers to each kilometre of powerline, which is almost one-tenth the customer density compared with our counterparts in NSW
- Essential Energy's footprint also includes 1.38 million power poles, equating to 1.6 power poles per customer

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Published by Community College Northern Inland Inc.

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Talking Tamworth Tomorrow – new strategies to drive economic development, investment and visitation for the Tamworth region

Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) has recently commenced steps to evolve its economic development and investment strategy and visitor economy plans with members of the community invited to get involved and have their say.

The Tamworth Tomorrow Economic Development and Investment Strategy will be complimented with an Investment Prospectus to attract, support and retain an already growing and prosperous region. In unison, Council is developing a Visitor Economy Plan to build the Tamworth regional brand, tourism, business visitation, events and associated investments to deliver future outcomes as described in Blueprint 100 adopted by Council in 2020.

Council is committed to working closely with the community and stakeholders across the region through its engagement plan which includes online surveys and a series of workshops this month.

Director, Growth & Prosperity at Tamworth Regional Council, Jacqueline O'Neill said "We are focused on developing these strategies and plans to deliver community, stakeholder and industry led economic priorities as we recover from the effects of the pandemic and support future regional opportunities."

She said, "The Tamworth region has acted as an economic hub for years, and delivers a range of essential

services to surrounding regions. We are looking forward to building on a strong foundation by developing key growth sectors, jobs, skills, affordability, liveability and creating opportunities for diversity and investment.

We want these strategies to be guided by the community. Economic development is about more than Council delivering new projects and infrastructure – it is about collaborating with our community to develop clear strategic themes and priorities that we can all work towards together."

Interested community members can register for these workshops or be part of the conversation through the online survey by visiting haveyoursay.tamworth.nsw.gov.au.

Community sessions will be run online on the following dates:

- Nundle Community Workshop: Tuesday 19 October, 12:00pm – 1:00pm
- Manilla Community Workshop: Wednesday 20 October, 2021, 6:30pm – 7:30pm:
- Tamworth region Community Workshop: Thursday 21 October, 2021, 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- Barraba Community Workshop: Friday 22 October, 2021, 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Monday's (11 October) "Northern Daily Leader" reports –

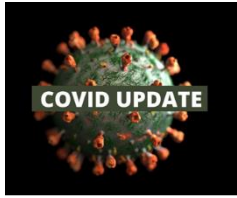
TEN NEW cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in Tamworth in the city's largest daily jump in infection numbers since the early days of the pandemic last year. Hunter New England Health (HNEH) confirmed out of the 10 new cases in the latest

update, five are located in South Tamworth and the other five are in Tamworth. There were two new cases reported in the Gunnedah local government area in the latest period, both are residing in Gunnedah.

HNEH previously said they were investigating some mystery cases in Tamworth; patients who had an unknown source of infection. NSW Health data shows there are about 40 active cases of COVID-19 now residing in the Tamworth local government area, and about 13 in the Gunnedah shire.

The latest information from NSW Health shows Tamworth is hovering at a double vaccinated rate of between 50 and 60 per cent of the eligible population, with between 80 and 90 per cent having received a single dose. The double dose rate in Gunnedah is between 40 and 50 per cent, according to NSW Health. The entire HNEH district saw 82 new COVID-19 infections in the 24 hours to 8pm on Sunday, including nine in Newcastle. At least 47 of those cases were infectious while in the community.

The new cases come on the same morning another Tamworth school closed for deep cleaning after a member tested positive to the virus over the weekend. Tamworth High School is not operational today, and both Hillvue Public School and South Tamworth Public School also remain closed as they await further advice from NSW Health as contact tracing takes place. Monday marks the first day of "freedom" for people who are double vaccinated in Tamworth, and regional travel - including to and from the Newcastle area - is now allowed.



COVID Roadmap – How the changes effect you.

Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall has summarised the Roadmap changes for us in Regional NSW.

NO CHANGES FROM MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021

There are **NO CHANGES** in **COVID requirements** for the following critical retail premises. All the same requirements as we are used to: **signing in, masks, and social distancing.**

There are **NO vaccination requirements** for staff or customers of the following businesses:

1. chemists and pharmacies
2. garden centres and plant nurseries
3. hardware and building supplies
4. kiosks
5. landscaping material supplies
6. rural supplies
7. shops that predominantly sell food or drinks (eg butchers, bakeries, fruit shops & delicatessens, but does not include restaurants or cafes)
8. shops that predominantly carry out repairs of mobile phones
9. shops that predominantly sell any of the following in the course of the normal operation of the shop: (i) office supplies, (ii) pet supplies, (iii) newspapers, magazines or stationery, (iv) alcohol, (v) maternity or baby supplies and (vi) medical or pharmaceutical supplies.
10. supermarkets & grocery shops
11. timber yards
12. vehicle hire premises but NOT the premises at which vehicles are sold.

COVID ROADMAP - CHANGES FROM MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021

Basically, the **only** businesses/business premises that are impacted by Monday's COVID Roadmap changes are the following.

If your business/work is **not** in the list below then it continues to operate as per normal:

- ◆ Hospitality venues (eg. pubs, registered clubs, cafes, & restaurants)
- ◆ Places of public worship
- ◆ Entertainment facilities (eg. cinema, theatre, concert hall)
- ◆ Public swimming pools
- ◆ Retail premises, but NOT critical retail premises
- ◆ Indoor recreation facilities (eg. gyms, bowling alley, squash court)
- ◆ Major recreation facilities (eg. showgrounds, racecourses, motor racing tracks)
- ◆ Hairdressers
- ◆ Beauty/tanning/waxing/nail salons
- ◆ Tattoo/massage parlours
- ◆ Properties operated by the National Trust or Historic House Trust
- ◆ Gaming lounges & betting agencies
- ◆ Auction houses
- ◆ Markets that do NOT predominantly sell food
- ◆ Information and education facilities

From **MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021**, a **person who works** at any of the above businesses/business premises **MUST have had at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.**

For **customers**, to enter any of the above businesses/business premises, from Monday 11 October, **you must be fully vaccinated.** You can, however, still access click and collect and takeaways at the above businesses/premises.

For the **owners of businesses/business premises** in the above list, you must take reasonable steps to prevent unvaccinated people entering your premises.

'Reasonable steps' does **NOT** require business owners/staff to ask customers their vaccination status, although you are free to do so. Placing vaccination requirements posters & information at the entry of your premises, alongside Service NSW QR code check-in material, for example, satisfies the 'reasonable steps' requirement.

Being bombarded with delivery and post office text scams? Here's why — and what can be done

*Ismini Vasileiou, Associate Professor in Information Systems, De Montfort University
Paul Haskell-Dowland, Associate Dean (Computing and Security), Edith Cowan University*

For most people, the ping of an incoming SMS will induce some level of excitement — or mild intrigue at least. But with SMS scams on the rise, many may now be meeting this same sound with trepidation.

According to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) ScamWatch website, scams delivered via "phone" or "text" this year far outnumber those sent through any other delivery method, including social media or email.

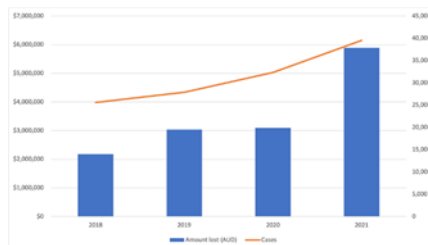
Delivery and postal scams are particularly common in SMS scam campaigns, with Australia Post even hosting a dedicated scam alerts page on its website. Other forms of fraud encountered via SMS include premium-rate text fraud, tax demands, fake contact-tracing messages and smishing (SMS phishing).

While eliminating the threat might be difficult, there are some simple ways you can avoid becoming the next victim.

A growing global problem

SMS scams have seen considerable growth in the last few years. ScamWatch reported a near-doubling of yearly losses between last year (A\$3,091,790 lost) and this year, as of August (A\$5,889,596). SMS scam reports have also shot up to a total 39,531 reports this year as of August — up from last year's total of 32,337.

Of particular concern is the escalation in cost per incident (total reported losses divided by number of incidents), indicating a significant shift in the impact of these scams.



SMS scam statistics drawn from ACCC ScamWatch data

(<https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/scam-statistics>) - 2021 data up to August.

Author provided

This isn't just in Australia, either. The US Federal Trade Commission reported US\$86m in losses to SMS scams last year, and the UK's Office of Communications reported a significant rise in scam messages received by UK residents.

Evolving scam techniques

Email remains the cheapest method to distribute scams. But most email services now provide efficient spam filters to block them.

When it comes to SMS messages, however, our smartphones don't afford the same level of protection. While telecommunication providers are enhancing their SMS scam (and spam) detection capabilities, this issue so far hasn't received the same attention as email scam.

Perhaps this is because of the extent of impact on consumers. Compared with email scams, it was only relatively recently that SMS scams became a problem leading to direct and highly visible financial consequences.

That said, SMS scams aren't just limited to financial fraud. Since last month, Australian's have been increasingly targeted with SMS messages carrying the flubot malware. This malicious software (malware) migrated from Europe to Australia, and targets Android devices with the intention of stealing online banking credentials.



It's delivered via SMS messages that attempt to convince the recipient they must install an "app" on their smartphone to reschedule a missed delivery or listen to a fake voicemail. Unfortunately, rather than an actual app downloaded from the app store, this fake "app" contains malware which is installed when the link in the SMS message is clicked.

Once installed, the malware provides "overlays" (fake pages) on top of the login screens of genuine banking apps installed on the phone. So the next time the victim uses their real banking app, the overlays capture their banking details, which are then fed back to servers controlled by cyber criminals.

The flubot malware was previously associated with the Cabassous cybercrime group in 2020, but seems to have seen a resurgence in 2021 despite multiple arrests in Spain.

Why SMS scams are hard to stop

Scammers often leverage real scenarios to mislead people. The COVID pandemic has forced people to work from home, take temporary leave, or get laid off altogether — prompting a surge in online shopping and more internet use overall.

Scammers are taking advantage. The ACCC's ScamWatch received 13,191 "online shopping scam" reports this year as of last month — with 35.6% of the reports claiming financial loss.

Most malicious campaigns use a scatter-gun approach, targeting thousands of phone numbers sequentially (such as by starting with "0400 000 000" and working up), randomly (with the aim of seeming less predictable), or using stolen lists of valid numbers.

And while most mobile devices do have options to block or filter numbers, such as by SMS filtering services or by categorising unknown numbers — much like email scam/spam filters these approaches are only as reliable as data collected from user reports.

If all scam messages came from a single number, it would be a simple case of blocking that number. Unfortunately, scammers use sophisticated technology to rapidly send large volumes of SMS messages, and will often generate spoofed numbers to appear legitimate or to bypass blocking by the phone's automatic filter, or the user themselves. Since the scam messages are not expected to generate replies (since they only want you to click the link), they don't even need to be real phone numbers. On the screen they may appear legitimate (such as with "DHL" appearing as the company name) or may be completely random.

It's evident blocking is only part of the full solution. Ideally the criminal groups behind these operations would be shut down. But as with most forms of organised crime, the culprits are often located overseas — making it difficult to investigate and prosecute for these crimes.

Exercise caution

Spotting scams is becoming increasingly difficult. Scammers use various techniques to trick targets, including:

- pretending they have authority. For example, by pretending to be DHL or the tax office
- convincing you there is limited time to respond. This can prompt panic and an urgency to respond
- offering something of value or attraction to incite a response, such as a fake lottery win. Or threatening you with a consequence, such as a fake penalty or fine.

Legitimate organisations and agencies will rarely (if ever) use overly casual,

hostile or threatening language in an SMS. To stay safe and alert, you must keep this in mind.

If you ever receive a suspicious SMS message, don't reply or click on any attached links. If the message purports to come from an official organisation, always contact the organisation directly (never trust any contact details included in the message).

If your phone supports the option, block the number — and consider reporting it to the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

If you've been compromised (or suspect it)


If you think you have fallen victim to a scam, it's important to remain calm.


The first thing to do is seek advice from the relevant organisation, which in Australia is ScamWatch. If you're concerned your banking details may have been compromised, contact your bank immediately to block any rogue transactions, prevent future transfers and change your details as necessary.


If you have disclosed your password, you must change it immediately across all sites and services the password is used for. And if the issue is affecting a work-related device, contact your IT department to check whether your device has been compromised. This may require it to be checked for malware, cleaned and/or re-imaged.

Finally, always ensure your mobile devices are kept up-to-date with patches and software upgrades. While this might not stop the SMS messages, you will benefit from system updates designed to protect you. The Australian Cyber Security Centre has further advice on what to do if you've fallen victim to a scam.

Barraba 7 day Forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology


Wednesday 13 Oct 
Summary Max 22
Shower or two
 Chance of rain: 70%


Thursday 14 Oct 
Summary Min 9 Max 23
Showers possible storm
 Chance of any rain: 90%

Friday 15 Oct 
Summary Min 9 Max 20
Shower or two
 Chance of any rain: 60%

Saturday 15 Oct 
Summary Min 5 Max 21
Mostly sunny
 Chance of rain: 5%

Sunday 17 Oct 
Summary Min 4 Max 22
Sunny
 Chance of any rain: 0%

Monday 18 Oct 
Summary Min 5 Max 25
Mostly sunny
 Chance of any rain: 30%

Tuesday 19 Oct 
Summary Min 8 Max 25
Shower or two
 Chance of any rain: 60%

Regional Dam Levels from Water NSW

Chaffey 101.3%
 Copeton 84.8%
 Keepit 98.9%
 Split Rock 45.6%

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Rod Bonner

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Text is best 0447 052 140

plumberdrainer@gmail.com

Sport Report

Barraba Town and District

Tennis Club will be holding their annual AGM on Saturday 30th October at 6:30pm. There will be social tennis played from 5pm with a BBQ to follow.

All are welcome!

Golf notes Fri 8th Oct 21

In absolutely beautiful conditions on an immaculate course, we had 45 Golfers for our start to the Friday Twilight competition. We've had some players transferred in and some out, some new teams and some under different guises but all looks good for this year's comp. In what was a "dry" run to get teams organised and to give twilight specialists a warmup Adam Scanlon won the chook with a blistering 24 points. Balls went to Lincoln Brown 22, Craig Rutley and Firman Allan 21, Ian Cabot, Dave Kelly and Ed Lockrey 20 and Jesse Phillips and Kerrie Smith 19. Ed is from a new team from Manilla. It's not too late to join so if you're keen be there [at 4.00pm Friday](#).

Rifle Club

Saturday saw four shooters for the Centrefire morning event and seven for the .22 Benchrest event. We would like to welcome Jimmy to the Benchrest competition, hope he enjoys himself. Weather wise the day was not too bad for shooting and we had some good scores recorded. Once again there were a few possibles shot from Brendan and Darren. Brendan scored a possible in both the 50 & 100m events, with Darren scoring one in the 100m and others were not too far behind them with scores in the 90's.

We also had our AGM on Saturday with 15 members attending, after the meetings we all enjoyed a Bbq lunch and a big thank you goes out to Steve for helping to cook the Bbq.

Just a reminder that we still have to QR in when attending the range and remember that all shooters attending the range up until the 1st December must be double vaccinated. Proof of vaccination will need to be presented. Thanks for your understanding.

Sunday's handgun event saw four shooters there and they scored rather well.

Unlimited 100m

B.Mcilrick 100.6, 99.5, 97.3 = 296.14

D.Mcilrick 93.1, 97.2, 93.1 = 283.4

AA Grade 100m

D.Dewson 99.5, 100.3, 97.4 = 296.13

G.Urquhart 97.1, 95.3, 92.4 = 284.8

R.Bridges 94.1, 94.3, 90.3 = 278.7

A Grade 100m

J.Moloney 97.3, 95.4, 91.2 = 283.9

J.Doble 68, 94.3, 93.3 = 255.6

Unlimited 50m

B.Mcilrick 98.7, 97.3, 100.7 = 295.17

D.Mcilrick 86, 89.2, 92.2 = 267.4

AA Grade 50m

D.Dewson 95.1, 87.3, 94.2 = 276.6

R.Bridges 82.1, 89.3, 89.2 = 260.6

G.Urquhart 87, 83, 90.1 = 260.1

A Grade 50m

J.Moloney 62.1, 90.2, 90.2 = 242.5

J.Doble 58, 86.1, 95.3 = 239.4

Centrefire

D.Dewson 99.1, 99.5, 99.5 = 298.1

B.Mcilrick 94.1, 97.2, 99.3 = 290.6

D.Mcilrick 81, 93.1, 94.3 = 268.4

M.Conway 74, 55, 6 = 135

Our Executive Committee for 2021/22 are:

Captain D. Currell

Vice Captains S. Ely, G. Urquhart,
C. Jeffery, R. Bridges

Sec/Treasurer P. Currell

Public Officer C. Jeffery

Publicity Officer D. McIlrick

Committee; All other members who were present at meeting.