



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 20th October 2021



History Notes

This and next week are busy times for historical society members and those who may wish to join and those who can help us raise some money. Note the advertisement re the approaching street stall next week. Unfortunately, the Annual Meeting will be over by the time you read this, but we are always hoping for new members – historians and stall holders.

This week I have been asked a 'curly' question by a Bingara district resident. I wonder how many travelers heading to Bingara along the Fossickers Way would even realise they were following the route of the Mail Coaches in the late 1890's. As one descends the Devil's Elbow spare a thought for those who were tipped out of their carriage on the descent – most survived including one of my great aunts – but one coach driver was killed when his horses bolted down the hill tipping the coach over on the way down.

When the Hall's Creek valley opens out, and the traveler notices another turn to Upper/Top Bingara, there is an old house on the left. This was the Dinoga Post Office and a Mail Coach horse-change in the 1890's and home to Reuben and Elsie Gill and their

Continued page 2



'ALPHA' - AUCTION FRIDAY 12TH NOV 2021



'ALPHA' IO SPLIT ROCK DAM ROAD, UPPER MANILLA

AUCTION

- Alpha is approx. 100 acres located at Upper Manilla, less than 15kms from Manilla
- 150Meg Manilla River WAL, 234Meg Well water licence, 110m lateral pivot irrigator watering 32 Ac, currently 1/2 under established lucerne
- 300m Centre Pivot irrigator watering 35 Acres. Currently into fallow
- Comfortable 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home, with office and screened sunroom with fantastic views across the valley
- 375,000lt Rhino water tank, 24m x 18m 3 bay machinery or hay shed, steel cattle yards, with calf cradle, crush and loading ramp
- Auction to be held 11am Friday 12th Nov 2021 at Manilla Services Club, if not sold prior

Contact: Jacob Hawley 0428 624 493

Christopher Atkinson 0499 851 911

40.18 Ha / 100 Ac

3 2 4 6



Cobbadah Flowers
Marnie Crowley
0267822045
0429878788



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Ph 0267822106

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Open 7 days

family. The enquirer was asking for information about the old house and its history.

At first, I just said it was a coach stop but then remembered the Bingara books and pamphlets collection in the cupboard. The Gill family was written up in the Bingara Historical News Volume 1, Issue 7, August 1995, and again in Volume 4 number 42, but the time to find these references could easily have been shortened with an index to all issues.

Returning to the Dinoga building itself, the article in 1995 says it was a Wine saloon, coach stop and Post office until the end of March 1961. Reuben Gill served in the first World War and returned to Dinoga to live the rest of his life there.

Dinoga was quite a stopping place in the early days as well as later in its history – cricket was played there in the 1940s and there is a record of a cricket team from Upper Horton travelling to Dinoga around that time. The team travelled on the back of a truck seated on two benches, played their match, and returned home in the truck after refreshments – not something that would be legal these days.



Across the Desk from the Relieving Principal Kirsty Ebzery

I trust our families enjoyed the benefits of being out of lockdown during the school holidays and were able to enjoy some of the freedoms that brought with it. While restrictions continue to affect our daily lives, and how we operate at school, any frustration is outweighed by the positivity of having our students back onsite.

Last term in September Kathleen Mulligan sent an email inviting all parents to complete a 5-10 minute 'Tell Them From Me Parent Survey'. Thank you to those who have completed it. The school will be resending this survey via email next week and we would appreciate it if all parent and carers could find 5 to 10 in their day to complete this survey. If you completed it last term please disregard the email.

Starting Monday 18 October 2021 – week 3, masks are required indoors for all staff and students in Year 7 and above. The Public Health Order will be updated, with changes to mask and face covering advice for schools to come into effect from Monday 18 October. Under Level 3 settings:

- masks are required indoors for staff and students in Year 7 and above
- masks are strongly recommended indoors for primary students

School sign-in procedure update: from Monday 18 October 2021, all visitors, contractors, and staff can use School Visitor Check-in to sign-in at Barraba Central School. The new QR codes replace all existing COVID-safe QR codes and will be located at the front office area to ensure visitors and contractors who attend the school during school hours report to

the front office reception area. Parents and carers will not be required to check-in for drop off or pick up. Schools will be able to use the Logbook to confirm that they have completed the relevant entry requirements for visitors (including sighting vaccination status, eCPC checks and safety induction briefings).

Congratulations to the Secondary Gold and Silver Level recipients Sky-Anne Stead, Phoebe Watkins-Wilson, Gemma White, Hannah Walker, Eloise Chandler, Riley Payne and Michaela Prinic; your commitment to learning and school community is to be celebrated and commended. We certainly appreciate your contribution to the school and its community, thank you.

Year 11 yearly exams commence Monday 11 October 2021, I trust they have prepared well for the examination period.

'I am learning every day to allow the space between where I want to be to inspire me and not terrify me.' – a quote by Tracee Ellis Ross.

Kirsty Ebzery


Relieving Principal

Premier's Debating Challenge

Our Barraba Gold debating team competed against Walcha Central School in the Finals Knockout of the Premier's Debating Challenge. They had some confident arguments and clever rebuttals that proved for an exciting and fun debate.

The adjudicators delivered some fantastic feedback, but Walcha ended up the winning team for the day. Our students did an amazing job and we are already excited for next year! Congratulations to every student who strived in the Debating Club this year.

Mrs Lowe



Street Stall
Historical Society
Thursday 28 October 2021
Cakes, biscuits, plants etc on sale

JOEY'S NEWS

This week Miss Eleisha Outridge made a shop for her Year 2/3/4 class in the school hall. The students have been learning about money in class. Each student had an amount to spend. They had to work out what to buy within their budgets and how to calculate change. Year 5/6 have been continuing rehearsals on their dramatic performance, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and K/1 has been learning about living things.



Nevaeh Griffiths and Nate Halloran working on their budgets and spending in maths class

Transition days start on 27 October at St Joseph's. Children starting Kindergarten in 2022 come to school on Wednesdays for six weeks. They get to experience what school will be like next year. It's not too late to book your child in. Call the school office on 6782 1685 to get it organised. All children are welcome to come to the Joey's transition days. Parents do not need to have made a final decision about enrolling their child at St Joseph's. Children can dress in play clothes or a St Joseph's summer uniform. They need to bring a hat for outdoor play, a water bottle, a healthy fruit or vege snack for sip'n'crunch, a recess snack and lunch. The school day starts at 8.50am and ends at 3.05pm.

Congratulations to last week's students of the week. Well done to Makenna Griffiths of K/1 for excellent work in Mathematics, Darci Hunter from 2/3/4 for a fantastic Cold Write and to Ashlee McDouall in Year 5/6 for her persuasive

Big Write. Congratulations also to Jock Bowman for receiving the Captains' Award for excellent playground behaviour and being a great sport.



Students of the week clockwise from top left: Makenna Griffiths, Darci Hunter, Jock Bowman, Ashlee McDouall



Barraba Community Workshop – Talking Tamworth Tomorrow

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.

An online Workshop about plans for Barraba will take place on **Friday 22 October, 2021, 12:00pm – 1:00pm**

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



Welcome to
Barraba RSL
and Recreation Club

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-

RIFLE CLUB RAFFLES

MULTISCREEN DRAW-THIS WEEK \$10,000

FRIDAY: 11AM-

MEAT/FRUIT/VEG RAFFLES 6PM

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 6-8.00PM

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

From Adam Marshall's Facebook page

2 EXTRA \$25 DINE & DISCOVER VOUCHERS

Some great news. There will be two additional Dine & Discover vouchers (one of each) coming everyone's way. The additional \$250 million investment will help businesses recover from months of restrictions and encourage people to do what they love most! These vouchers will be available again via your Service NSW app in the coming weeks.



Royal Flying Doctor Service
SOUTH EASTERN SECTION

Pop-Up vaccination clinic

Barraba

Bicentennial Hall, Bridge Street

Friday 22nd October, 2021

10.30am - 2.30pm

This is a Pfizer vaccination clinic only and is for
everyone aged 12 years and above.
Either first or second dose.

Please ensure you have your medicare card on the
day.

Remember to socially distance, wear a mask and
follow all NSW Government's rules and regulations.
Bring a hat and water. No bookings necessary.



Royal Flying Doctor Service
SOUTH EASTERN SECTION

Pop-Up vaccination clinic

Manilla

Saturday 23rd October, 2021

Soldiers Memorial Hall, Manilla Street

10.30am-2.30pm

This is a Pfizer vaccination clinic only and is
for everyone aged 12 years and above.
Either first or second dose.

Ensure you have your medicare card on the
day.

Remember to socially distance, wear a
mask and follow all NSW Government's
rules and regulations at all times.

Bring a hat and water. No bookings necessary.

COVID ROADMAP

Now that NSW has reached 80% vaccination of the 16 years + population, there are some changes to the **COVID Roadmap** published in the "Community News" last week.

Some restrictions have been lifted:

FROM MONDAY 18 OCTOBER



Travel

- **Travel permitted within Greater Sydney for Greater Sydney residents.**
- **Residents in Regional NSW can travel, but not into Greater Sydney.**
- **From 1 Nov, statewide travel is allowed.**



Masks

- **Masks will remain mandatory for all indoor public venues.**
- **Only hospitality staff will be required to wear a mask when outdoors.**
- **Masks no longer required in office buildings.**

FOR THE FULLY VACCINATED



Hospitality, retail and gyms

- **Drinking while standing is allowed (except in nightclubs).**
- **Cap removed for personal services (e.g. hairdressers & beauty).**
- **From 1 Nov, no cap on bookings for hospitality venues.**

FOR THE FULLY VACCINATED



Events and entertainment

- **Nightclubs can reopen with seated drinking only.**
- **Ticketed outdoor events can resume.**



Weddings and religious services

- **No limit on guest numbers at weddings & funerals.**
- **Up to 10 singers can perform at places of worship.**



Gatherings at home and outdoors

- **20 people can visit your home.**
- **Groups of 50 can gather outdoors.**
- **Visitors allowed to aged care (follow the facility's rules).**



PROOF OF VACCINATION ESSENTIAL FOR TAMWORTH COUNCIL FACILITIES

Adults who wish to visit any Tamworth Regional Council facility in Barraba (ie Council Office, Swimming Pool, Library) MUST have proof of vaccination.

This notice has been published by Tamworth Council –

In line with the NSW Public Health Order the following Council venues will now require you to provide proof of vaccination upon entry:

- Capitol Theatre
- Tamworth Town Hall
- TRECC
- Tamworth Community Centre
- AELEC
- Tamworth Sports Dome
- Tamworth Youth Centre
- All Pools
- All Libraries
- Tamworth Regional Gallery
- All Visitor Information Centres
- Barraba, Manilla and Nundle Branch Offices
- Tamworth Regional Airport

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

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**We're live on the web
Now you can get the
local news updated
more frequently by
going to**

www.barrabacommunitynews.org.au



Let's celebrate all things water

The Tamworth region has been enjoying the rain that 2021 has brought and what better way to continue to celebrate all things water, than with a whole week dedicated to it?

National Water Week kicks off on Monday 18 October and this year brings us the theme *Caring for water and Country*, celebrating the vital and cultural role water plays in our daily lives.

Tamworth Regional Council's Water Sustainability Officer, Louise Cadell, says throughout the week members of the Gomeri Community will share their personal connections with water and Country.

"Water has become increasingly important to all of our residents over the years, but for our First Nations people it's been a way of life for more than 65,000 years," she says.

"This week is a great way for everyone to continue to educate themselves around water sustainability, and deepen their understanding of the role the Indigenous community continue to play in protecting and sustaining water and Country."

Additionally, residents are being encouraged to take on the Water Night Challenge which will help improve water mindfulness.

Council is once again sponsoring the Smart Approved WaterMark (SAWM) event, Water Night, which is being held on Thursday 21 October between 12pm and 12am.

New research commissioned by SAWM and conducted by YouGov

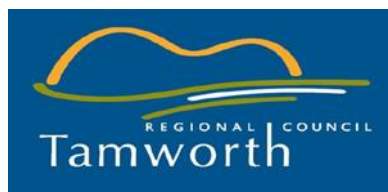
found the average New South Wales resident has a tap running for 1 hour 44 minutes per day – 52 more minutes than the Australian per person average.

"Water Night is all about challenging residents to become more conscious of how often they turn on the tap in a day," Ms. Cadell says.

"The average Australian thinks they turn the tap on nine times a day, but in reality, the figure is much higher as those who sign up to Water Night will quickly find out."

Households who register for the event could be in with the chance of taking home a raft of water efficient prizes.

Event information and resources, including Water Night Challenge hacks and activities for children, like Tap Guardians and Brake Bracelets, can be found at haveyoursay.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/national-water-week



Council meeting report from Tuesday 12 October, 2021

Here is an overview of outcomes from the Ordinary Meeting:

Councillors considered a number of reports related to the Tamworth Global Gateway Park, including three items in closed council. One report gave a detailed update on the progress of the infrastructure projects being constructed at the Tamworth Global Gateway Park. Of note, the reactivation of the rail line was completed by John Holland Rail at the end of last month and the Mahony Avenue pedestrian rail crossing was permanently closed to ensure community safety. The report

explained John Holland Rail still have works to complete in relation to the commissioning of the automatic controls of the level crossings at Gunnedah Road, Dampier Street and Evans Street. Council will continue to carry out roadworks at these level crossing as part of the safety upgrades associated with reactivation of the rail line. Additionally, Councillors agreed for Council to enter into a future contract for the relocation of existing electrical infrastructure to facilitate train access into the Park.

The report revealed land sales continue to progress well, with 83% of Stage One lots under contract or on-hold. The Park has also attracted strong enquiries for Stage Two lots, the report said. In the part of the meeting closed to the public, tenders were awarded for future landscaping works at the Park and the development of the first stage of the Business Park.

Council will cover the increased costs for bulk water this financial year. The decision was made tonight after Councillors considered a report about IPART's final determination regarding Water NSW's and the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation's Bulk Water Charges which will result in a \$308,547 - or 32.5% - increase in the annual cost for Council to provide water to homes and businesses across the Tamworth region. The increase came into effect on 1 October and will remain in place until 30 June 2025. Councillors will decide during 2022/2023 budget deliberations whether or not the price increase should be passed on to residents and businesses next year. If Council does decide to pass on the additional costs it would result in a \$12.67 increase to the average cost of water rates.

Councillors tonight approved the allocation of \$41,000 from the Heritage Assistance Fund, which will go towards a number of heritage and restoration works across the region. A total of \$41,000 will be invested across 13 different projects in Tamworth, Barraba, Manilla, Duri, Piallamore and Bendemeer. This includes residential, commercial, and community buildings. Each application was assessed by the Tamworth Region Heritage Assistance Working Group, which includes members of the community, Council staff, and Councillors. To reaffirm Council's commitment towards preserving the region's built heritage, an increase to the amount of money available through the fund will be considered during next year's Budget discussions.

A total of 16 community groups will share close to \$45,500 through the 2021/2022 Annual Donations Program. This year support is being given to groups supporting their community at Barraba, Manilla, Nundle and Tamworth ranging in amounts from \$500 to \$7000. The Annual Donations Program is one of the ways Council gives a helping hand to local organisations, many of which rely on volunteers.

For more information, see the full reports at www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/business-papers

Watch the video report at www.facebook.com/TamworthRegionalCouncil

Information session for potential new councillors

With the postponement of the 2021 NSW Local Government Elections until December 4 this year, Tamworth Regional Council is

running a second information session for anyone considering running as a candidate.

Tamworth Regional Mayor Col Murray, who is retiring from local government after 17 years and is not seeking re-election, said another information session will be held on Thursday 21 October, 2021 at Ray Walsh House (437 Peel Street, Tamworth) in the Level 4 Function Room from 6pm to 7pm.

The Candidate Information Session will include details about the role of a councillor as set out in the NSW Local Government Act and other legislation, provide an overview of the Tamworth Regional Council Code of Conduct and an opportunity to ask questions. There will be some printed information available for attendees.

Overview – 2021 NSW Local Government Elections

Tamworth Regional Council has engaged the NSW Electoral Commission to conduct the election of nine councillors to represent the community of the Tamworth Local Government Area on 4 December, 2021.

The successful candidates will vote for a Tamworth Region Mayor and Deputy Mayor when they meet for the first time in January 2022.

Local government elections are generally held in NSW on the second Saturday in September every four years. They were not held in September 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information about the elections, go to the NSW Electoral Commission website. The website has a range of resources for voters and anyone who is considering being a candidate in the elections.

It is compulsory to vote in the election if you are eligible to do so.

If you own property in the Tamworth region but do not live here or you are an occupier or rate-paying lessee you can have a say in who is elected to council by asking to be included on the Non-Residential Roll. Tamworth Regional Council is now updating its non-residential roll. For details, see www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/2021localgovernmentelections

Nominations open for candidates running in the 2021 Local Government Election on Monday 25 October, 2021 and close on Wednesday 3 November, 2021. The ballot paper draw will be on Thursday 4 August 2021 and be conducted by the returning officer.

Applications for postal votes open on Tuesday 26 October, 2021 and close on Monday 29 November, 2021.

Pre-poll voting will start on Monday 22 November, 2021 and close on Friday 3 December, 2021. Tamworth Region locations for pre-poll are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

Locations of polling places for Saturday 4 December will be announced and advertised by the NSW Electoral Commission closer to voting day. Polling places will open at 8am and close at 6pm.



FUNDING TO SUPPORT NSW WOMENS WEEK EVENTS

Women and girls across the Tamworth, Gunnedah and Walcha regions can benefit from a range of community led events designed to educate, mentor and bring together women during the 2022 NSW

Women's Week thanks to a \$100,000 grants program from the NSW Government.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said Women's Week events in the Tamworth Region had been a great success and he was encouraging local councils and not-for-profits to apply once again.

"NSW Women's Week is about recognising the brilliant women from our region and celebrating their diverse contributions to our community," Mr Anderson said.

"During this year's women's week, CWA Tamworth Evening Branch and UNE SMART Region Incubator utilized this funding to host an event titled 'Her Path – Women Paving the Way' that inspired, motivated and supported women working in male dominated fields.

It was a fantastic event that really brought local women together to hear from inspiring key note speakers who shared their stories to a crowd of just under 100 women."

Events should support at least one of the key priorities of the NSW Women's Strategy 2018-2022: improving women's financial wellbeing and security, encouraging a holistic approach to health and wellbeing or helping women to build confidence and celebrate their achievements.

"Women from all walks of life will be celebrated during NSW Women's Week including women living in our regional and rural communities, Aboriginal women and women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds," Minister for Women Bronnie Taylor added.

Applications for the 2022 NSW Women's Week Grants Program are open until the 15th of November. For further information and to apply, <https://womenssw.smartygrants.com.au/WWG22>

Barraba Anglican Parish

St Laurence's Barraba: Sunday service at 9.00am

Woodsreef: 2nd Sundays 11.30am

Bereen: 4th Sundays at 6.00pm

Youth Group at Youth Centre:

Saturdays 7-9pm

Uniting Church Notices

There are no services this Sunday in Barraba

CATHOLIC CHURCH NOTES

Barraba – Please note Mass for this week only (as an exception) will be 6.00 Saturday 23rd October

1st & 5th Sunday 6pm

2nd 3rd & 4th Sunday 9am.

Upper Horton – 3rd Sunday – 11am.

Weekday Mass – Wednesday - 10am.

PHIL DENYER

MECHANICAL REPAIRS

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plumberdrainer@gmail.com

Barraba 7 day Forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology



Wednesday 20 Oct

Summary Max 25

Mostly sunny

Chance of rain: 5%



Thursday 21 Oct

Summary Min 5 Max 26

Mostly sunny

Chance of any rain: 20%



Friday 22 Oct

Summary Min 8 Max 27

Mostly sunny

Chance of any rain: 30%



Saturday 23 Oct

Summary Min 11 Max 31

Possible storm

Chance of rain: 60%



Sunday 24 Oct

Summary Min 14 Max 28

Shower or two

Chance of any rain: 60%



Monday 25 Oct

Summary Min 7 Max 24

Mostly sunny

Chance of any rain: 30%



Tuesday 26 Oct

Summary Min 6 Max 24

Sunny

Chance of any rain: 10%

Regional Dam Levels from Water NSW

Chaffey 100.5%

Copeton 85.6%

Keepit 98.8%

Split Rock 46.1%

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!



LADIES GOLF Out and about

Last Sunday the Longyard golf course hosted 108 ladies for their annual 4BBB Par Open Day. Lib Thompson paired up with Lyn Groth, Stacey Etheridge with Zoe Holcombe and Mandy Koopman with Kerrie Smith. It was great to see Barraba girls out and about complying with the new Covid restrictions of being double vaccinated! The word about is the Barraba ladies donated quite a few balls to the dams. Zoe found out the mother goose did not like her looking closely at her babies!!! A couple of our ladies thought it was better going in the rough than up the beautiful fairways. Some of our girls were hopeful for a while with their names on longest drives and NTP etc. However unfortunately they were scratched out by players behind them. The Longyard course won on the day with our girls not being able to get into the pluses. Winning score for the day was plus 7. Thank you to the Longyard Ladies Committee for a great day.

Last Thursday 7th October, Di Etheridge and Lib Thompson travelled to Moree for the Moree ladies 4BBB open day. The course was beautiful with the fairways lush green and the river still in a mini flood. The conditions must have suited a lot of golfers, as there were some very hot scores posted. Di and Lib ended up with a very handy 43, but this was nowhere good enough for a prize, with the winning score being 55. Donations of balls to the river was frequent, too much water to

retrieve!!! Congratulations Di on winning NTP on the 11th with a birdie that resulted in a 5 pointer (2 a 5). You should have a break from golf more often Di!! Thank you to the Moree ladies for their lovely morning tea, lunch and company.



Twilight Golf

Yellowstone Fever fired the first team salvo as the Twilight Golf competition commenced last Friday evening. Ben Spencer carding an impressive 25 points claimed the first week's individual win of the competition and he was well supported by Yellowstone Fever team mate Campbell Tonkin on 19 points. They recorded a best 2 card score of 44 points and sit atop of the teams leader board.

Individually Ben Spencer (Yellowstone Fever) with 25 points was just ahead of ball winners Tom Mellor (Hackers) 22, Craig Rutley (Lotapign) 21, Sam Faint (Geriatrics) 21, Peter Simpson (Golf Creek) 21, Lincoln Brown (Hackers) 20, Dimity McMurtrie (Sand) 20, Campbell Tonkin (Yellowstone Fever) 19, Harry Summerell (The Butchers) 19, Ed Lockrey (Manilla Boys) 19 and Phil Denyer (Yeah Nah) 19 points

The teams leader board sits;
Yellowstone Fever 44
Hackers 42
Lotapign 38
Geriatrics 38
Manilla Boys 38
Golf Creek 37
Butchers 36
Unreliables 35
Yeah Nah 35
Wouldbe Champions 34
Burglars 34
Bogey Men 33
Fine Winers 32
6666 31
Sand 30

Vintage 30

Worm Burners 30

New and Old 27

AKA 25

With nineteen teams nominated it is pleasing to see so many players out enjoying their Friday evening. The weekly meat tray draw went to Lyn Simpson.

Broccoli Salad



Ingredients

- Extra large floret of broccoli (approx 8 cups)
- small red onion, finely chopped
- 300g Bacon
- 1/2 cup raisins (cranberries) or raisins
- 1/2 cup sunflower seeds

Dressing

- 1 cup mayo or sour cream or yoghurt
- 2 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 3 tbsp honey
- salt and pepper to taste

Method

- Place salad ingredients in large bowl.
- Place dressing ingredients in a jar and mix thoroughly.
- When ready to serve add dressing to salad and mix well.
- Salad and dressing can be made day before and kept separately in the fridge until ready to serve



TAMWORTH ELECTORATE CONSULTATION CONTINUES ON VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL

A Bill that will allow voluntary assisted dying in NSW has been introduced into the NSW Parliament by the Independent Member for Sydney Alex Greenwich. Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said that this deeply personal issue was a very delicate subject that would create discussion at many levels in the community. NSW Nationals members of Parliament will be granted a free vote on the floor of the Parliament when the bill is eventually voted on. "As a result I am canvassing the community on their view as to which way they would like me to vote on their behalf. "Community consultation is underway and already I have received more than 800 responses. The consultation involves various formats including mail outs, online survey, phone and direct contact with my office and I expect more submissions to come flooding in once debate in parliament begins. "The question is "do you or do you not support voluntary assisted dying in NSW" "I want to thank everyone who has registered their interest so far and I encourage anyone who has a view to share that with me. So far from the 849 responses, 462 have voted no and 387 have voted yes. "The opportunity to register your view will continue also include a letterbox survey which will be delivered in coming days that will run in parallel with the debate in Parliament as its happening. "I will be taking the community's majority decision forward in Parliament so please make sure you let me know your thoughts."

From The Squiz

YOUR SHORTCUT TO... VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING LAWS

Just a few weeks ago, Queensland joined Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania in passing voluntary assisted dying laws, which makes NSW the only state not to have them. That could change soon with a bill introduced into the NSW parliament this week. It's a sensitive topic and one that comes up from time to time in the news, in conversation, and in our lives. So in this Squiz Shortcut, we cover:

- the history of the euthanasia debate here in Australia;
- the arguments for and against it;
- and where each state has landed on voluntary assisted dying laws.



First things first. What is voluntary assisted dying?

Let's get straight to the acronym - VAD. It's the term used by Australian lawmakers and advocates to refer to

the lawful assistance provided to a person by a health practitioner to end their life. Terms like 'euthanasia', 'doctor-assisted suicide' and 'physician-assisted dying' are also used when discussing this topic.

So it's euthanasia we're talking about?

A form of it, yes. And that word stems from the Ancient Greek for "good death". Euthanasia - the act of intentionally ending a life to relieve suffering - is not a new concept.

And what about VAD?

So to dive right in, the premise is that the act itself is performed by the patient and not a medical professional. The nature of the assistance to die is through a lethal medication prescribed by doctors that the patient takes themselves. Under the laws that are currently in place in Australia, there is an exception for a person who cannot physically take or digest that medication. In those cases, a doctor can help administer it.

So how many other countries around the world have implemented VAD laws?

Surprisingly very few. We're talking Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Spain. And in the US there are 10 jurisdictions that have what they call 'death with dignity' statutes.

Is that because it's controversial?

Exactly. And the debate for and against VAD has played out a few times in Australia in recent times.

So what do critics say?

On this side of the debate, it for many it has a lot to do with religion. And just to be clear, it's not correct to say that people with religious beliefs oppose VAD. In fact, there are polls that show strong support of VAD laws from people with religious beliefs. But the religious argument goes that we don't have the right to take our own lives and some consider it a sin. They say it's an immoral practice akin to suicide and murder that violates the intrinsic value of life.

And what's the non-religious argument against VAD?

That services such as palliative care, aged care and mental health supports should be improved to ensure that people don't suffer in the end stages of their lives.

So what do supporters say?

Those in support of VAD often talk about their own experiences of watching a loved one suffer with a terminal illness. They also raise concerns about poor quality of life and the desire for a peaceful death.

Some say VAD should be extended to non-terminally ill people...

That's right. A poll taken by National Seniors Australia a couple of months ago saw two-thirds of the 3,500 respondents support VAD even if a person's illness wasn't terminal. And they said there is support for making it accessible to all seniors over a certain age, whether ill or not.

Will that be allowed in Oz?

That's not on the cards here, and neither is extending eligibility to access the laws for people who are struggling with a mental illness or a disability. It's a controversial topic...

So back to Oz - where were the first VAD laws passed here?

In 1995, the Northern Territory became the first jurisdiction in the world to pass laws allowing a doctor to end the life of a terminally ill patient at the patient's request.

But that's not the case now, is it?

No, the laws were struck down by the Federal Government in the first term of the Howard Government. It also passed a bill that removed the power of the territories to legalise VAD, but the states still hold that power.

So for a long time, we didn't have those laws. What happened?

There were several cases of people being charged with helping people to die, although prosecutions have been rare. One name that has popped up in the news time and time again has been Dr Philip Nitschke.

Who?

He's the founder of Exit International and was the first doctor in the world to administer a legal, lethal

voluntary injection under those NT laws. After the legislation was overturned, he continued to campaign for VAD and to help people end their own lives with guides and advice.

So which was the first Aussie state to pass VAD laws?

That would be Victoria, which passed legislation in 2017 that made it legal for someone who fits the criteria for VAD to end their own life. That law came into place in 2019 and it has been a template for other states to follow.

What are the rules?

That the patient is aged 18yo and over; is an Australian citizen/permanent resident. They have to have decision-making capacity; and have a disease, illness or medical condition that is incurable, advanced, progressive and will cause death within 6 months. That's extended to 12 months for people with neurodegenerative diseases like motor neurone disease.

And there's a whole process for patients to go through...

Yep. For example, 2 doctors over a series of appointments have to assess the patient as being suitable to access VAD.

How many Victorians have accessed VAD since then?

When the laws were passed, the Victorian Government predicted about 150 people a year would end their lives using the arrangement provided for by the laws, and that seems to be what's transpired.

So what about the other states?

VAD laws have since been passed in Western Australia, Tasmania, South Australia, and Queensland.

And NSW could become the last state to implement VAD laws?

That's right. NSW has knocked back the laws before, but this week Independent Member for Sydney Alex Greenwich introduced VAD laws into the parliament.

Does he have much support?

He does - from across the political spectrum. But there are some who are vehemently opposed.

So what's going to go down?

Dunno - it's an observe and wait. One thing to note: newly installed Liberal Premier Dominic Perrottet and Labor leader Chris Minns are giving their MPs a conscience vote.

And the territories?

As we mentioned, they have no ability to make their own laws on this. And there are no plans for the Morrison Government to move in that direction.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Reading: Former NSW Premier Mike Baird [penned an opinion piece](#) in opposition to the VAD laws that are coming to parliament this week. It's just one opinion, but it's a thoughtful read.

Clicking: The [Go Gentle Australia website](#). It's a VAD support and advocacy group that television presenter Andrew Denton co-founded. He became a vocal advocate for VAD laws after his experience of his own father's death.

If this Shortcut has raised any issues for you, you can find helplines and information for mental health services [here](#).