



**FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER**

# BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

*Due to Australia Day, for next week only, Barraba Community News will be out on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>*

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

## AUSTRALIA DAY



*You're invited!*



Ta  worth  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Everyone is welcome to celebrate Australia Day in **Barraba** with a free community lunch and special guest, Australia Day Ambassador and filmmaker **Anupam Sharma**.

**Wednesday 26 January, 2022**

**Barraba RSL Memorial Hall, Queen Street**

**11am:** Formal Ceremony including the presentation of the annual Australia Day Awards and Ambassador Address.

**12pm:** Community Lunch with free entry to the Barraba Pool.

[www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/australia-day-awards](http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/australia-day-awards)

This event will be subject to all current NSW Public Health Orders. Masks must be worn indoors and QR check-in will be required.



### Barraba's "Shed of Knowledge"

"I reckon I have been collecting about sixty years," Ron Hiscock told me.

I had been to Ron's "Shed of Knowledge" a number of times; a truly amazing collection of artefacts, of photographs, of tools and paraphernalia, carefully laid out with attached clear descriptions in Ron's handwriting.

In 1944, when Ron was a small child, his family moved from a rented home in Edward St to large block in Henry St, near where Ron and his wife Helen currently live. The family had to move; a fierce storm destroyed the Edward St house! By 1946 a new house had been built on the Henry St block, and Ron recalls happy school days, starting an apprenticeship, and living at home (and collecting things) as he worked as a mechanic in a local garage.

"As a young fellow, it was my grandfather, 'Gentleman Jim' Jackson, who really encouraged my interest in collecting and displaying things" Ron said. "I helped him clean up the old family home; we got a lot of bits and pieces – and a lot of history".



Ron and Helen were married in 1969 and moved into their new home. There was an old shed on the block; it had held

the sulky and harness of a previous owner. The shed was an ideal place for Ron to store and display his then rather large collection of "things" – so the "Shed of Knowledge" began - and kept expanding.

I asked Ron when and how did his "Shed of Knowledge" become an attraction for people to visit. "I think it was Sue Russell who, during a Barraba Festival, suggested that people might like to come and look at my collection. Then a chap from Narrabri rang; "could he bring a group to look at my Museum?" It seemed to snowball over the years from there, with visitors, local and from all over the state, visiting Ron Hiscock's "Shed of Knowledge".

Ron is not having visitors now because of the pandemic. When it is all over, give him a ring. You will certainly learn some really interesting things about local history!



### Edward James (Ted) Irwin

Loving husband of Margaret (deceased), father of Steve and Helen, father in law to Mazz and Wayne, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed away at Barraba Hospital on 15th January 2022.

A funeral service will be held at Tamworth Crematorium, Gunnedah Rd Tamworth on Friday 21st January at 9.00am, followed by a gathering of family and friends in the garden at Andy's Guesthouse Queen St Barraba.

Forever in our hearts



*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**  
**THIS WEEK:**  
**THURSDAY:** 11AM-  
MULTISCREEN DRAW-THIS WEEK \$9,100  
**FRIDAY:** 11AM-  
MEAT/VEG RAFFLES 6PM  
MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$2000 4 DRAWS  
**SATURDAY:** 10AM-  
**SUNDAY:** 10AM-5.30PM  
ANGLERS CLUB RAFFLES 1PM  
MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1200  
**MONDAY: CLOSED**  
**TUESDAY:** 11AM-5.30PM  
NO BINGO THIS WEEK  
**WEDNESDAY:** 11AM-5.30PM  
**HAPPY HOUR: 11am-1pm Wed & Fri**  
**BISTRO HOURS**  
Phone 0427330808  
CLOSED MON/TUES/WED  
**UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**  
**THURS/FRI/SAT:** LUNCH 12-2PM  
DINNER 6-8.00PM  
**SUNDAY:** LUNCH 12-2PM  
**DINE AND DISCOVER VOUCHERS ACCEPTED**



Health  
Hunter New England  
Local Health District

### **BARRABA COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC** Barraba Hospital

**Pfizer Vaccinations**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 10am to 4pm**

**Please phone Barraba MPS, 67822500, during office hours to register**

Open to those aged 12 years and over (including 60 years and over)

Children aged 12 to 15 years MUST be accompanied by a parent/guardian aged over 18 years

Wear a mask and bring your Medicare Card and ID (licence, student ID)

First, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Booster doses welcome. If 2<sup>nd</sup> or Booster dose, please have proof of previous vaccination

**Julie Williams shared her email correspondence  
with Kevin Anderson regarding Covid-19  
boosters**

From: Julie Williams  
Sent: 12 January 2022 09:43  
To: Electorate Office Tamworth  
Subject: Need for more Covid booster shots for Barraba people

Dear Kevin,

Yesterday there was a clinic held at Barraba for covid booster shots. We weren't here because I previously had a full day of medical appointments booked for that date in Gunnedah, so my partner and I have already been to a pharmacy in Tamworth and had our boosters.

To say that I am disappointed at what I have heard from local people today about what happened yesterday is an understatement!! The end result is that many vulnerable older people (some aged in their 90s) did not receive their shots despite going to the hospital early and being told to return, then eventually being sent away because of not having enough vaccines. I don't know who did or didn't do what, but surely it is ultimately the responsibility of our State Government to ensure the community has the means to do all possible to keep themselves safe. The Premier goes on about "personal responsibility", which is true. But it is reasonable to expect that there should be sufficient vaccines to be given now – not in a month's time. There is covid all over the place, and these people need protection NOW. It is not reasonable to require frail elderly people to travel to Tamworth where they would be at even greater risk.

Please sort this situation as a matter of urgency. I look forward to your reply by Monday lunchtime with information about how the Barraba community can access covid booster shots so we can publish this in next week's Barraba Community News.

Thank you for your help.

Julie Williams

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On 13 Jan 2022, at 1:57 pm, Tamworth  
<[tamworth@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tamworth@parliament.nsw.gov.au)> wrote:

Dear Julie,

Thank you for your email to Kevin in relation to the vaccination clinic held in Barraba on 11 January 2021. Kevin is well aware of the issues that arose from that clinic and has asked that I update you that he has written to Hunter New England Health requesting an update on plans to hold further clinics in Barraba.

Please be assured that we will pass on any information that is provided by the health district as a matter of urgency.

Regards,  
Luke Massey  
Media Officer  
Kevin Anderson MP  
(02) 6766 1422

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From: Tamworth  
<<mailto:tamworth@parliament.nsw.gov.au>>  
Sent: Tuesday, 11 January 2022 4:30 PM  
To: HNELHD-SRC <[HNELHD-SRC@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:HNELHD-SRC@health.nsw.gov.au)>  
Subject: For allocation- due 15/02 - MP22\_014: Kevin Anderson MP - Vaccinations in Barraba (Case Ref: TA39606)

To the Office of Hunter New England Health,

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson is making representations on behalf of the Barraba community relating to the availability of booster vaccinations in the town.

A number of constituents have contacted Mr Anderson's office concerned that a vaccination clinic held today at Barraba Multi Purpose Service did not have adequate supplies of the vaccine to for all that were eligible for a booster vaccine, meaning many missed out.

There is, of course, significant community concern given rising case numbers across the region.

Mr Anderson has requested an update on plans for further vaccination clinics in Barraba so that concerned community members can be assured that they will again have the opportunity to be given a booster shot.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated and I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely  
Luke Massey  
Media Officer  
Kevin Anderson MP  
(02) 6766 1422

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From: HNELHD-SRC  
Sent: 13 January 2022 04:59  
To: ElectorateOffice Tamworth  
Subject: HNE LHD response MP22\_014: Kevin Anderson MP - Vaccinations in Barraba (Case Ref: TA39606)

Dear Luke  
Thanks for your email.



Another clinic is being scheduled for February 1, with planning underway to ensure additional supply will be available.

Importantly, the District is just one provider of COVID-19 vaccinations. NSW Health clinics complement general practitioners and community pharmacies who will also be providing vaccinations and who will continue to deliver the majority of the COVID-19 vaccines across NSW.

The Commonwealth Government is responsible for vaccine supply. People can check their eligibility and make bookings for vaccination via the Commonwealth Government's eligibility checker. <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility?lang=en> For those who are able to travel, appointments for boosters are also available at the Tamworth Vaccination Clinic.

Thanks

Lauren Kendall

Communication Advisor | Strategic Relations & Communication

Locked Bag 1, New Lambton, NSW, 2305

Tel 02 4985 5522

[www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au) <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/>



### **RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS - STATEMENT FROM KEVIN ANDERSON MP**

Following discussions with the Ministry of Health regarding the safety and viability of the local hospitality industry and the community during the Tamworth Country Music Festival, I was able to secure a delivery of 20,000 Rapid Antigen Tests to ensure the safety of workers in local pubs, clubs, cafes and music venues.

Given the decision to postpone the festival, I have requested the tests be redirected to the local health system to support front-line health workers and the most vulnerable in our region.

Nurses, doctors, aged-care workers, carers and midwives have been on the front line of COVID for almost two years and these tests will help enable them to keep themselves, their families and their patients safe. I want to thank them for their dedication and their service.

We will reassess the situation with the rescheduled festival in April.

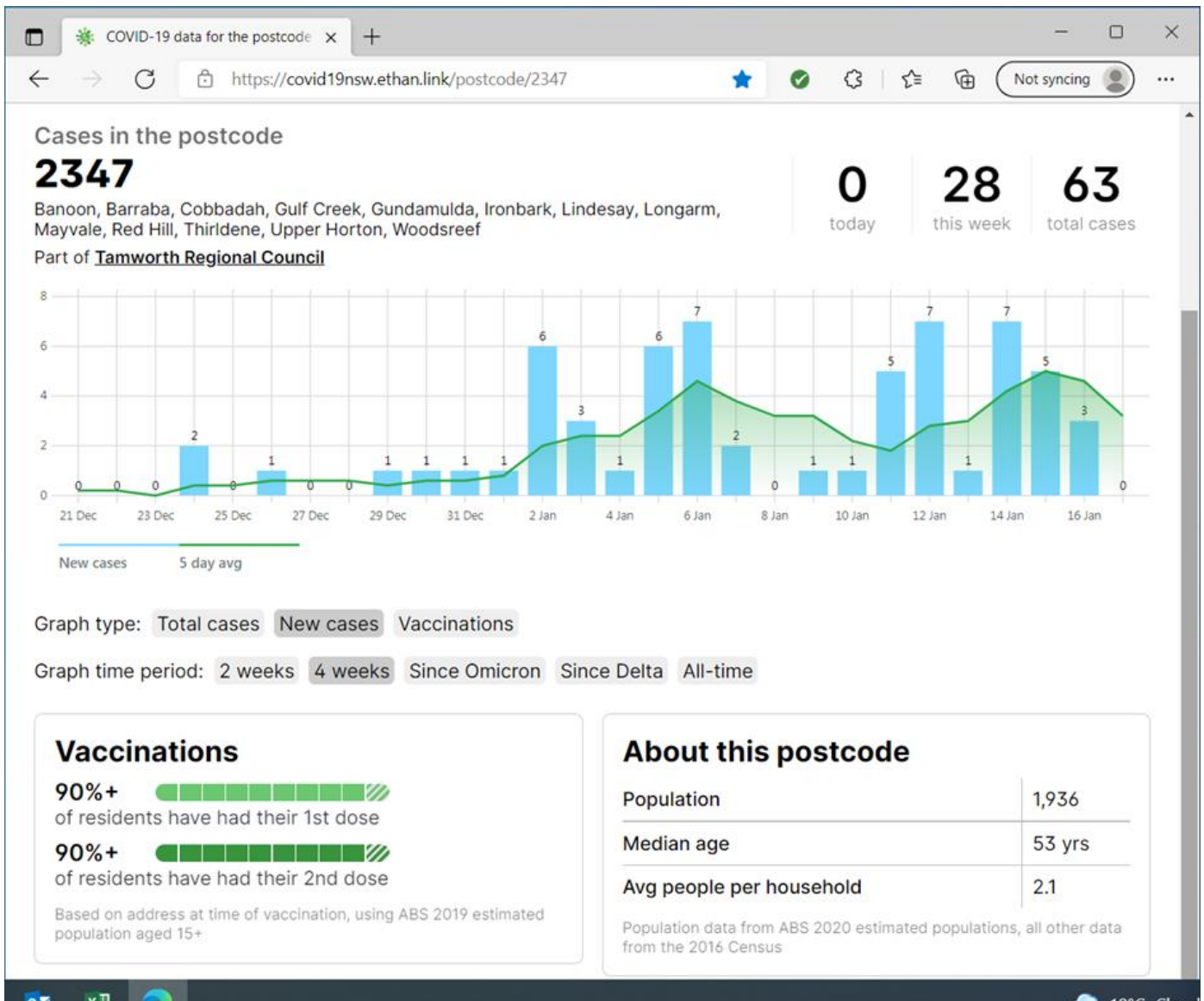
## **Tamworth Hospital Pfizer Vaccinations**

**The COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder is the best way to book a vaccination. Find a clinic near you that suits your needs by answering some simple questions. You can use the Vaccine Clinic Finder to book for yourself, your children, or someone else.**

[www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-vaccine-clinic-finder](http://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-vaccine-clinic-finder)

### **RECENT ANNIVERSARIES**

- Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, turns 40yo (1982)
- Steve Jobs introducing iTunes (2001) and the first iPhone (2007)
- the Sussexes making a shock announcement that they would "step back" as 'senior' members of the royal family (2020)
- the US Surgeon General Dr Luther Terry publishing a landmark report saying smoking caused lung cancer (1964)
- the death of New Zealand mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary (2004)
- author JK Rowling completing the final Harry Potter book in an Edinburgh hotel room (2007)
- the death of Antony Armstrong-Jones, the Earl of Snowdon/Princess Margaret's ex (2017)
- the first successful caesarean section operation (1794)
- The death Dorothea Mackellar (1968)
- the establishment of the Reserve Bank of Australia (1960)
- Anniversary of Henry VIII declaring himself head of the Church in England (1535), and of Elizabeth I becoming Queen of England (1559)
- the US announcing the start of Operation Desert Storm to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait (1991)
- Captain James Cook coming across the Hawaiian Islands, which didn't end well (1778)
- the first group of ships from the First Fleet arriving in Botany Bay (1788)



## TAMWORTH INTERMODAL RAIL LINE REACTIVATED

Work to reactivate five kilometres of non-operational rail line between West Tamworth and Westdale has crossed the finish line, supporting the development of an intermodal rail facility to deliver more efficient freight journeys to the state's major port.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole said the completion of the \$35 million rail line project put the Tamworth intermodal rail hub on track for delivery next year to better connect local producers and businesses to the world.

"The NSW Government is investing in projects like this across the State's rail freight network to increase capacity, secure reliable freight movement, and meet future freight demand.

Inland intermodals are an integral part of moving freight throughout NSW by providing a delivery point

load breakdown services and an interface for road to rail integration." Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said work to complete the upgrade provided more than 100 regional jobs over the past 12 months.

"Work included upgrading three level crossings at Gunnedah Road, Evans Street and Dampier Street with boom gates, lights and bells, as well as rolling out sleepers, ballast and formation improvements, upgrading four bridges and replacing three drainage culverts along the five-kilometre rail line," Mr Anderson said.



## Council meeting update, Wednesday 5 January, 2022



## Gwydir Shire Elected Councillors

(from the Gwydir News Jan 22 edition)

Here is an overview of outcomes from the Ordinary Meeting, the first meeting of the newly-elected Council:

Councillor Russell Webb has been elected Tamworth Region Mayor with Councillor Mark Rodda as Deputy Mayor. Mayor Webb said he was honoured to have the support of the newly elected councillors. The Mayoral term runs until September 2023 and tonight councillors supported a motion for the Deputy Mayor's term to be for the same period.

Councillors dealt with a number of administrative matters including a decision allowing any councillor vacancies arising within the next 18 months to be filled by a countback of votes cast at the December 2021 Local Government election. They also agreed to continue the current schedule of ordinary meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month and endorsed an updated General Policy Register.

Councillors Marc Sutherland and Bede Burke were chosen to join the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as voting delegates at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference with councillors Brooke Southwell, Judy Coates and Helen Tickle also authorised to attend. The conference is scheduled to be held in Sydney from 28 February to 2 March this year. Councillors tonight asked for a report about proposed draft motions to be presented to the next Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday January 25.

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

Watch the video report at [www.facebook.com/TamworthRegionalCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/TamworthRegionalCouncil)



Gwydir Shire Councillors elected to serve the community have been declared after preference distribution was finalised following Local Government Elections held in December.

Nine Councillors were elected from ten candidates to serve the next term, with two new faces joining seven returning representatives.

The Gwydir Shire Councillors, as declared by the NSW Electoral Commission on December 21 are:

Tiffany GALVIN

John COULTON

Chris MATTHEWS

Marilyn DIXON

David COULTON

Jim (Curly) MOORE

Catherine EGAN

Lyndon MULLIGAN

Geoffrey SMITH

The final tally of first preference votes recorded were: John Coulton 617, Tiffany Galvin 449, Chris Matthews 381, Marilyn Dixon 293, David Coulton 262, Lyndon Mulligan 245, Jim Moore 236, Catherine Egan 200, Geoffrey Smith 173 and Frances Young 84.

There were 3,771 residential and non-residential electors enrolled in the Gwydir Shire, with 3,073 total votes/ballot papers. Elected Councillors will now attend the next scheduled Gwydir Shire Council meeting on Tuesday January 11 when the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be decided.





## Perfect conditions as Copeton Dam sits around 100% capacity

Report at December 16, 2021

Reflections Holiday Park at Copeton Waters has enjoyed a fantastic reopening to visitors from far and wide since the reopening of NSW travel restrictions, with the dam reaching capacity over the last few weeks.



*Copeton Dam reached 100% on November 24 after heavy rainfall reached the catchment*

Reflections Copeton Waters Manager, Paul Irwin, said now was a great time to be visiting Copeton with dam levels high and the fishing at its absolute finest. “We are going gangbusters here at the moment,” Mr Irwin said. “Greater Sydney has opened up and people are rebooking their long-awaited holidays with us again. We are seeing lots of families, boating enthusiasts and people who just love to fish. There’s still plenty of availability for powered sites and bush camping.”

Guest Services Officer, Paige Hobday, said a recent fishing competition saw almost one hundred fishing enthusiasts from casual family groups to the serious anglers, coming in from Armidale and Glen Innes. “It was great to see everyone’s excitement as they came back to support this great inland park,” Miss Hobday said. Mr Irwin said there was nothing like waking up to the stillness of Copeton and enjoying the birdsong with a cuppa in hand. “Our Park is also full of kangaroos, emus and deer, which is a real delight for city siders who want to experience the Australian landscape in a holiday setting. The white deer are particularly cool!”

The Copeton Kiosk is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm, seven days a week with hot food, refreshments, and basic grocery items available. Bait, lures, and lines as well as a range of fishing clothing and camping items are also available. Mr Irwin said outdoor sports were the go at Copeton, with activities like hiking, fishing, fossicking for gold and mountain biking popular with guests and sporting groups. The BMX track was humming with activity when the Inverell Mountain Bike Club held their 6-hour Copeton Ride there on Sunday 21 November.

Reflections Holiday Parks CEO, Nick Baker, said Copeton was known far and wide for its fishing and he couldn’t wait to get out to the park to cast a line in. “What’s great about Copeton is that there is so much for you to do out there in the fresh air with your friends and family,” Mr Baker said. “We know people are eager to get out and have some fun and we think a discounted holiday at Copeton enjoying one of the best locations this State has to offer, is the perfect way to boost people’s spirits and boost local economies.”

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### KNOW THE SIGNS: NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO HELP PEOPLE IN NEW ENGLAND TO BETTER UNDERSTAND EMERGENCY WARNINGS

The Australian Government has launched a \$2 million national campaign to ensure Australians impacted by bushfires and other natural hazards better understand what to do when they receive a warning message. The education campaign will initially appear on social and digital channels, with local agencies targeting key audiences, providing information on the three levels of warnings and the high-level actions the public need to take to stay safe.

The three warning categories are:

- **Advice:** An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.
- **Watch and Act:** There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.
- **Emergency Warning:** An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce said the Australian Warning System is now in place to alert the local community of bushfires.

“It will extend over time to include floods, storms, cyclones, extreme heat and severe weather events,” the Deputy Prime Minister said. “The campaign will ensure that we all have a clear understanding of what we need to do when we see an emergency warning message, regardless of where we’re living, working or holidaying. This will potentially save lives. I commend our local fire and emergency service agencies who have worked with their counterparts in other jurisdictions to make this life-saving initiative happen.”

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A Happy New Year to everyone. The museum is open on Friday mornings and on various other days – if the gate is open and/or the open sign is in the street, do come in and say hello. There are several members who may like to come in and pay their membership. At this stage the February markets will be on the second Saturday in the month – the 12<sup>th</sup> February. We just hope that the virus comes under control by then.

History has taken a bit of a back seat during the holiday period but is getting on the move again now. One of our members has been following a line of the Natty family for a family researcher and would love to know where in Barraba Elizabeth Loder was buried in 1909. After some detective work she has been found in the unknown burials as Betsy White, daughter of James. There is some thought that she may be buried in the north west of the cemetery. Her parentage is also unknown at this stage, as James could have been her husband. We would love some assistance with this puzzle so it can be passed on to the family researcher.

Another puzzle has also been showing some progress. John Robert Finn married Harriett Ann Saunders in 1887 at Woods Reef. John was a son of Robert Finn, miner at this time. It was suspected that Robert had come from Queensland but more information is coming to light.

There is quite a bit of information re the name Finn – some connected and some belonging to other families. There are Finn burials in Bingara and then there is the marriage of Thomas Finn in 1878 – he was born in Western Australia so is unlikely to be connected to the Barraba family.

The sad story of Thomas Finn, born circa 1826, and found in Manilla in need of medical attention. The Manilla newspaper reported in 1899 that he had,

had a sad life losing his wife and two daughters in a Hunter River flood 30 years before. We doubt that he is a member of the Barraba family either.

Thus, we have a few puzzles and hope someone can help with some information to help these two people. More news next week.

### Snippets from St Laurence's

"The old year now away is sped/the new year now is entered/so let us all our sins downtread/and joyful now appear." I won't tell you how many years it is since I sang that carol but my silly brain has thrown it out this week, so I share with you its chorus "God send you a happy New Year!"

After a joyous Christmas, January is usually a time for reviewing plans and gathering strength for the year ahead. Services at St Laurence's continue as usual, and on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>, (being a fifth Sunday) we shall have a Parish Picnic in O'Meara Park from 11.30am: pack your lunch and come and join us.

February sees the start of training sessions for the year, services will be as usual, a working bee is planned for Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Parish Council will meet after the service on 20<sup>th</sup>.

In some ways 2022 seems more uncertain than ever – will borders stay open? Events be cancelled or postponed? Shopping get back to normal? Through all our anxieties we have one certainty: Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and for ever.

So, consider these words from the first chapter of John's Gospel, verses 10 to 13: "He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

## COLLEGE CHAT

Hi, I am Tanya and I am the Community College Coordinator for Barraba



Happy New Year from the staff at Community College.

Classes get underway for Term

1 starting in February.

We are offering a wonderful opportunity for local ladies to turn their hand at **woodworking** with a 1 day per week, 6 week course. If you have always wanted to try working with hand and power tools here is your opportunity. This will give you the skills to try any DIY project that you might like to try at home with your new, found skills. This training may be subsidised for eligible students.

**Get Digital – Tech Savvy Seniors** commences on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February with a morning session – 9am – 12noon and an afternoon session – 1pm – 4pm. This offers seniors an opportunity to learn all aspects of Digital technology and have fun as well.

Arlene Weekes has been kind enough to share her exceptional skills and teach us how to use a **timeless and exquisite art form known as Mosaic**. This class will be run on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March where you can create a wonderful pot for your garden or an art that can be hung in your garden.

**BSB30120 Certificate III in Business (Administration)** will provide you with the training needed to work in a range of administrative and support roles within an office setting. **RTO90027**

**Pottery for Beginners** is run over two Saturday's under the guidance of Karin Thurston and commences on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

Please if you have any questions regarding upcoming workshops please do not hesitate to contact me as I would be happy to answer any questions.

Any queries give me a call on **1800 952 264**

Or go to our website

[communitycollegeni.nsw.edu.au](http://communitycollegeni.nsw.edu.au)



### CATHOLIC CHURCH NOTES

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

### Uniting Church Notices

Sunday 10.30am for 10.45am  
start  
All welcome

### Barraba Anglican Parish

St Laurence's Barraba:

Sunday service at 9.00am

Woodsreef: 2nd Sundays

11.30am

Bereen: 4th Sundays 6.00pm

### BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

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### Barraba 7 day Forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology



Wednesday 19 Jan

Summary Max 24

Rain at times

Chance of rain: 100%



Thursday 20 Jan

Summary Min 15 Max 27

Cloudy

Chance of any rain: 30%



Friday 21 Jan

Summary Min 12 Max 27

Mostly sunny

Chance of any rain: 5%



Saturday 22 Jan

Summary Min 12 Max 26

Partly cloudy

Chance of rain: 10%



Sunday 23 Jan

Summary Min 12 Max 29

Mostly sunny

Chance of any rain: 20%



Monday 24 Jan

Summary Min 13 Max 29

Partly cloudy

Chance of any rain: 20%



Tuesday 25 Jan

Summary Min 14 Max 30

Possible showers

Chance of any rain: 40%

### Regional Dam Levels from Water NSW

Chaffey 100.3%

Copeton 96%

Keepit 99.8%

Split Rock 69.9%

## **The epic, 550-million-year story of Uluru, and the spectacular forces that led to its formation**

*Melanie Finch, Lecturer in Structural Geology and Metamorphism, Monash University.*

*Andrew Giles, Assistant lecturer, Monash University*

Part of the magic of Uluru is the way it tricks your senses. Deep orange by day, at sunrise and sunset it appears to change colour, becoming a more vibrant shade of red, and then almost purple.

Its size also seems to change depending on your perspective. Approaching Uluru from afar you are struck by how small it appears. But as you get closer, you realise it is truly a huge mountain, a behemoth in the middle of the comparatively flat Australian desert.

Australian geologists are now revealing yet another dimension to Uluru's magic: the spectacular forces that led to its formation.

Uluru is a time capsule. Within its sand grains there is an epic 550-million-year saga of continents colliding, mountains rising and falling, and the remarkable strength of our most iconic mountain.

### **Uluru is sacred**

To the Anangu, Uluru is sacred. The Anangu are the owners of the land on which Uluru sits and they have long understood its magic.

Their Dreaming stories tell of the dramatic creation of Uluru and Kata Tjuta on the previously featureless Earth by ancestral creator beings known as the Tjukuritja or Waparitja.

If you get the opportunity to tour Uluru with a Traditional Owner you will hear stories about the significance of some of the dimples, caves and undulations, many of which have a unique and important place in Anangu culture.



Compared to the Traditional Owners, whose knowledge dates back several tens of thousands of years, scientists have only realised the significance of Uluru over the last 30 years or so.

Uluru's geological history has been revealed by assembling different types of data, like pieces of a giant jigsaw puzzle. That puzzle is taking shape and the scene it reveals is perhaps even more spectacular than the rock itself.

To tell Uluru's story from the beginning we need to travel back in time 550 million years.

### **India smashed into the Western Australian coast**

Earth's tectonic plates are constantly in motion, continents collide with each other and then drift apart. Around 550 million years ago, continents collided as part of the assembly of the supercontinent Gondwana, one of several times in Earth's history where most of the continents were stuck together in one continuous piece of land.

Back then, a map of our globe would have looked very different. At this time, Antarctica was nestled against the Great Australian Bight. If you were around then you could have walked from Australia directly into Antarctica without getting your shoes wet. India was situated to the west of Western Australia when it was pulled toward our continent and smashed into the coastline.

India and Australia's collision caused massive stresses to reverberate throughout the Australian crust, like waves of energy crashing through the continent. When those waves got to Central Australia, something pretty remarkable happened that geologists can understand by mapping the rocks beneath the surface.

Those maps reveal a complex network of ancient, interwoven fractures and faults, similar to the famous San Andreas fault network. Unlike a fracture in your arm bone, these faults never healed, so they remained broken, forming weak zones susceptible to breaking and moving again.

So, when the waves of energy from WA reached Central Australia, the network of fractures moved, pushing rock packages on top of each other. As the rocks moved past each other, they also moved upwards and were thrust into the air.





### **An enormous mountain range emerged**

Each fault rupture moved the rocks so quickly that huge earthquakes shook the ground. Gradually, these faults uplifted an enormous mountain range. It was called the Petermann mountains, and it was unlike anything in Australia today.

The mountains were hundreds of kilometres long and five kilometres high, more akin to the Indian Himalaya than Australia's Great Dividing Range.

They were mostly made of granite, a rock that crystallises from molten rock (magma) deep underground. This granite was pushed up to the surface in the mountain-building process. Normally, mountains would be covered in vegetation, but 550 million years ago land plants had not yet evolved, meaning these mountains were probably bare.

### **Boulders cracked off, an ocean formed**

Bare mountains weather quickly because they are more exposed to rain and wind. Big cracks formed in the granite, splitting away rocks and boulders, which fell into rivers gushing down deep valleys carved into the mountain.

As the eroded rocks tumbled in the torrential water, they broke apart, until only grains of sand remained, like the sand you see on the bottom of a river bed. These huge braided rivers came off the northern side of the Petermann

mountains and snaked across the landscape until the rivers entered a low-lying region, called a sedimentary basin.

When the river reached the basin, the sediment from the mountains dropped out of the water, depositing layer upon layer of sand. The weight of it pushed down on the underlying rock, causing the basin to deepen until it was kilometres thick.

The overlying layers compacted the sand deposited previously, forming a rock called sandstone. Over time the basin continued to deepen and was covered by water, forming an inland ocean lapping at the foot of the huge mountain range.

### **Ancient faults reawakened, and Uluru rose from the ocean**

Sediment continued to deposit into the ocean until about 300 million years ago when the ancient faults began to reawaken during a new mountain-building event called the Alice Springs orogeny.

The thick layers of sand that had cemented into solid sandstone were uplifted above sea level. Squeezed together by huge tectonic forces, the layers buckled and folded into M-shapes. The apex, or hinge of folds, was compressed more than surrounding rocks, and it is from the hinge of a massive fold that Uluru formed.



Folding and deformation made Uluru strong and able to resist the forces of weathering that eroded the surrounding, weaker rocks, including almost all of the once mighty Petermann mountains. If we could dig underneath Uluru, we would see it is only the very tip of a rock sequence that extends kilometres down under the surface, like a rock iceberg.

Uluru is a sacred site to Anangu and our respect for their deep knowledge and ownership of this land means we no longer climb Uluru.

But even if we could, why would we want to? Uluru's magic is most evident when you stand at its base, look up, and picture in your mind the enormous forces that conspired to form it.



## Barraba Australia Day Award Nominees (Monday 17 January, 2022)

**Frank Darlington Achiever of the Year** This award is given to a young person aged below 23 years who has contributed to the community or has had an outstanding achievement over a number of years. The nominees are:

**Ms Chloe Taylor** has been a wonderful ambassador for the Barraba Show who represents her town with pride, enthusiasm and professionalism at both a district and a local level. She is pursuing further studies in Child Care and Youth Work. Played both Rugby Union and Rugby League for Barraba.

**Ms Zahlie Cabot** has had a tremendous year considering the impact of COVID-19. She has an academic scholarship at The New England Girls School in Armidale, excelling at school and extracurricular activities. She played a big role in helping her younger siblings through homeschooling during lockdown.

**Citizen of the Year** Any resident who has given outstanding service to the community in a volunteer capacity. The nominees are:

**Mr Peter Squire** gives countless voluntary hours every year to make sure the sound systems of all community events are of the best quality. The Barraba Show, the Races, Campdrafts, Rugby, etc all benefit from his expertise. When things go wrong, Peter is there.

**Mr Don Roberts** looks after Barraba Showground as a caretaker, and has spent countless volunteer hours making sure the grounds look immaculate. Mr Roberts has served on the Board of Directors of the Barraba Bowling Club and is the secretary of the Show Ground Management Committee.

**Ms Amie Middlemiss** is an instrumental figure in the Barraba sporting community as a volunteer on the Netball, Rugby Union, and Tennis committees. She has been a driving force in establishing the women's rugby team, continuing the local netball competition and helping make improvements at the tennis club.

**Mrs Estrella** is well known for her loving and caring nature. This year she established Barraba Liberty Food Care, which caters for people of all walks of life, offering groceries and food items at low cost, saving people the need to travel to Tamworth. Barraba Liberty Food Care has now over 225 registered members in just 3 months.

**Mr John and Mrs Beryl Dunn** have been nominated for their long-standing service to Barraba Uniting Church. They always show up for Sunday service without fail, and help

makes sure everything runs smoothly. Mr and Mrs Dunn have been involved in the spiritual community in Barraba for the past 65 years.

**Community Event of the Year** This award is given to community groups who have held impactful community events of the last twelve months. The nominees are:

The **Barraba Lions Club** have been nominated for organizing Christmas gifts to local children for the last 2 years. The usual event was changed as a result of the challenging 2 years with Covid-19. From all accounts, it was a memorable experience for the children to have the gifts delivered to their schools.

**Nandewar Historical Society Museum**, host of the Barraba Markets, have been acknowledged for their resilience in hosting events given the changing COVID-19 restrictions. The 2021 markets were a success and raised around \$800 for the Museum, with some great entertainment on display.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022 AT 11 AM**

### Barraba Australia Day Event

Barraba RSL Memorial Hall

We invite you to celebrate Australia Day in Barraba.

11am: Formal Ceremony including the presentation of the annual Australia Day Awards and Ambassador Address.

12pm: Community Lunch with free entry to the Barraba Pool.

This event will be subject to all current NSW Public Health Orders. Masks must be worn indoors and QR check-in will be required.

### Introducing Barraba Show Societies new secretary Carmen Bennett (L)



Learning the ropes (in a covid safe way) from out-going secretary Julie Williams. Welcome Carmen and thank you to Julie for her 4 years of dedicated service to the Barraba Show Society.

**Barraba Show is on the 4th-6th March 2022.**