



# BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

**FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022**



*Rotary Club of Barraba Inc.*

PO Box 103, Barraba NSW 2347



## ANZAC DAY MILITARY DISPLAY BARRABA 2022

This year's Anzac Day exhibition will be held in the 3 shops on Queen Street, opposite NAB Bank. Between IGA and David Kelly's accountancy. The exhibit will run from Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> April.

For those that saw last year's exhibit and appreciated it, this year's will be larger and includes exhibits from the Boer, Korean, Vietnam, Timor and Afghanistan wars and WW2.

LEST WE FORGET.

Steve Roberts



One of the WW2 Veterans who will have photos and information on her war years on display will be Barraba's own Joyce Abra, who turns 102 years old on 21<sup>st</sup> May this year and is NSW's oldest living female WW2 Veteran.

Following the article in the *Community News* about Barraba Rotary Club and its happenings and needs, we have had some interested people attend our meetings, some of whom have decided to become members or to assist with our fund raising of Charity money, which is allotted to projects here in Barraba.

These fund raisers are the Rotary Campdraft, held twice a year, when possible, and the Rotary Christmas Stocking. Our major project at the moment is to assist the Barraba Pre-School to attain their aim of an amphitheatre in the Pre-School grounds.

In order to keep the Barraba Rotary Club active and in existence we need more members, if interested in being a Rotarian or helper please come to a Rotary meeting. Rotary meetings are held twice a month on the SECOND and FOURTH Wednesday's, held at the Commercial Hotel here in Barraba, meeting at 6.30pm for 7pm finishing around 8.00pm, followed by a social time and a meal – should you wish to stay after the meeting.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April and we would be very pleased to have anyone interested attend.



**Lavery Pathology Now Open**  
**Barraba Medical Centre 67821621**  
**Tues/Weds/Thurs 8:30am -1:30pm**




**Tamworth**  
Business Chamber



**Meet Your Councillors** - A series of community events

**Barraba**  
10.00am Saturday 9th April 2022  
at Barraba Markets,  
Nandewar Historical Society Museum,  
71 Queen Street, Barraba.

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

**Pfizer Vaccination Clinic**  
**Appointment Essential**  
**Paediatric Pfizer Vaccination Clinic 5—11 years**  
**Tuesday 10th May 9.30am to 3pm**  
**Please phone Barraba MPS, 67822500, during office hours to register**

Open to those aged 5 to 11 years  
Children MUST be accompanied by a parent/guardian aged over 18 years  
Wear a mask and bring your Medicare Card and ID (licence, student ID)

**Contact: Barraba Hospital**  
**Phone: 67 822500**



**COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC**  
**Tamworth Hospital Vaccinations**  
**Main Entrance, Tamworth Hospital**  
**Clinics open Wednesdays & Saturdays only**

**Book [on line](#) & open for walk ins**  
**Closed over Easter Weekend and Public Holidays**

<b>Pfizer Adults 12yrs + Booster 16yrs+</b>	<b>Pfizer Children 5-11yrs</b>
<b>Wednesday morning 9am – 11.15am</b>	<b>Wednesday afternoons 1.00pm – 3.15pm</b>
<b>Saturday mornings 9am – 11.15am Closed over Easter Weekend and Public Holidays</b>	<b>Saturday afternoons 1.00pm – 3.15pm Closed over Easter Weekend and Public Holidays</b>

**Phone 1800 881 568**

**If no answer, leave a message and we will return your call**



**Historical Society Markets**  
**Plants, Paintings, Pottery, Coffee, Preserves**  
**Special guests, Museum open. 8.30 – 12noon**




**DRAWING IN BLACK AND WHITE WORKSHOP**  
**WITH HUGH MCKID**

At Barraba Potters and Craft Guild on Saturday and Sunday (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022)  
Cost \$120 pp, most materials supplied.  
Registration and payment required by **30<sup>th</sup> April 2022**.  
HURRY, numbers are limited to 10.

*“The aim is not to produce the best drawing, it’s to recognise and understand what you are capable of doing. The workshop is an introduction to drawing for beginners.”*

**Contact: Bronwyn on 0447 165008 for further details, or to book your spot.**

The **Barraba Netball Association annual AGM** will be held on Wednesday 6.4.22, 6pm at the Bowling Club. All major positions have been filled, however the opportunity is there if you are interested in taking on a position. We will be discussing future competition structures and junior netball among other things. If we do not have a quorum on Wednesday we will move the AGM to Friday 8.4.22 before the netball grand final takes place.  
Hope to see you all there.



**let's play netball**

## Ronald John Derrick.

Dad, uncle Ron, Ronnie, Dab ..... whatever name you knew him by.

How do you begin to tell the story of his life. It was a full life one that spanned 85 years and at least 50 more than he thought he would ever get to live.

Born in Manly to Dick and Freida on Monday 12 October 1936 returning to BARRABA until the start of the Second World War. He started school as a city boy in Manly where he and his sister Hellen lived for some years. On his return to BARRABA he resumed his schooling spending many hours outdoors learning more about planting the poplar trees that still grow in the school yard today.

Barraba was always home and once he returned here at about the age of six that's where he stayed. North Barraba holds most of his memories growing up with family his uncles, aunties and his grandparents at a Adavale and his cousin and best mate Trevor.

In his early working life he tried his hand at rouse-abouting, rabbit trapping and worked for Cecil Hancock in the slaughter yards. By the age of 18 he started working at the brick kiln for some years. During this time he met Mum, Carol at the local cafe and married her in 1959. Together they raised 6 kids. He continued his working life as a station hand after being asked if he would like a job with Cheryl Smith at Kurrajong Hills. Moving to Oakhampton in 1968 then on to Old Manilla road near the silos in BARRABA.

Dad started working at the Asbestos mine it was while working there he injured his foot discovering the melanoma under his big toe. This led to many operations over a 10 year period. During this time he worked as a yard hand at the saleyards and also tried his hand at opal mining at Lightning Ridge with Uncle Tim. The family then moved to Henry Street for about 4 years and then returned to North BARRABA going full circle. Over this period of time he started his fencing career with Cobber Tuffrey learning the skills that he went on to teach many men and growing a reputation as an expert in his field. Dad had the pleasure in watching his grandsons using some of the skills he had passed on and he was very proud of that.

Retiring from fencing at the age of 63 due to his ongoing health issues with the lymphoedema caused by his melanoma he worked casually with Jim Barker milling timber for a few years.

Dad enjoyed rough riding, camp draughts encouraged us to go to pony camp. He played hockey, bowls, darts and snooker but his main love was fishing. He had some

wonderful trips to Louth, Mungindi, South West Rocks and especially the trips to the Gulf. Sadly, he had that one last trip planned in May with me (Richard) Jimmy and 8 of his grandsons. He said he didn't even care if he didn't catch a fish he just wanted to see the scenery again. Although a Barra or thready would be a bonus.

Dad has left a huge footprint and legacy. 20 grandkids and 29 great grandkids who proudly called him Dabby. He hosted many Christmases, enjoyed birthday party's where he reached milestones he thought he never would . Asking once "why would you celebrate turning 80? "and being answered .. " because you could have died by the time you were 40 "

His final years were spent keeping his lawns nice growing his peach trees and grapes. Riding his trusty green horse around his block and Adavale checking his steers and the boundary fences.

We wish you were still here Dad there is so much more we need to know. Stories we didn't hear and questions we didn't get to ask.

Thanks for being a great husband and Dad and have a beer with Guy for us.

*Your truck is in the shed  
A hole on your side of the bed*

*Your cupboard full of clothes  
No one to move the hose*

*No black hat and gloves out on the mower  
But the grass won't grow any slower*

*Your boat is not on the water  
How sad this makes your daughter*

*We will feed your birds  
Check on your herd*

*Don't worry about Mum  
Oh and Rich will look after your guns*

*There are things we need to know  
I can't believe you had to go*

*Your chair may be empty  
But you left our hearts full*

Love you Dad  
Rhonda Phillips



**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**  
**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**EASTER EGGS/MEAT/FRUIT/VEG**  
**BISTRO: \$20PH 2 COURSE MEAL (KIDS \$12PH)**

**THIS WEEK:**

**THURSDAY: 11AM-**  
MULTISCREEN DRAW-SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE  
**FRIDAY: 11AM-**  
MEAT/VEG RAFFLES 6PM  
EXTRA DRAW AFTER EACH RAFFLE FOR A BONUS PRIZE  
MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1,800  
**SATURDAY: 10AM-**  
**SUNDAY: 10AM-5.30PM**  
ANGLERS CLUB RAFFLES 1PM  
MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1,700  
**MONDAY: CLOSED**  
**TUESDAY: 11AM-5.30PM**  
BINGO 11AM  
**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**  
**DINE AND DISCOVER VOUCHERS ACCEPTED**



Cobbadah Flowers  
Mamie Crowley  
0267822045  
0429878788



## History Notes

Another week has rapidly passed and we look forward to the Market Day this Saturday. This is a special day as we have visitors from Tamworth visiting the markets and they want to see as many residents as possible to discuss Barraba and its surrounds. Are you satisfied with the local roads? Perhaps the slasher is a bit slow getting around the road verges or you may have an idea to improve our town and district.

Do come along and at least have a social morning at the markets. Bring your dog for a walk but do have him/her on a lead as a dog fight is not a very good look and the stalls are for people not dogs – keep control.

This week we have probably found the reference to Gwen Bell after much research through the newspapers and church records – just after the poetry book “Baker’s Dozen” was posted to ‘Dubbo’ Turner, a resident was able to turn up a copy of “The Barraba Chronicle” with Gwen’s passing in it. Well done Barraba.

The Baker’s Dozen and Just Me and George and Bill were published in 1982 and 1983 respectively and the proceeds were to go to Richardson House. The author, Ken Baker, was a long-time resident of Barraba and knew lots of the older citizens and the tricks they got up to.

One story is about the kitchen maid at the Cobbadah Hotel who had attracted attention of several lonely local men. One of these fellows had asked the maid to walk with him down to the Sheepstation Creek Bridge after she finished work. Another fellow heard this and was going to take a sheet down to the bridge and appear as a ghost to frighten the young couple. The publican heard about this and organized an old pistol with a few blank cartridges made out of soap for the man who actually thought the girl was his and wanted to get rid of the fellow taking the girl for a walk.

As you can imagine there was quite a disturbance when the first couple found the so called Ghost and then the next fellow arrived on the scene with the pistol, there was a commotion – the poem is well worth a read.

At the last markets we had a visit from Brian Coote and some of his photo collection and we are hoping that we can have a repeat session. The photos are mostly 100 years old being taken by Percy Williams and they are on glass negatives. There has been a move to show some of the photos in a continuous stream during one of the market days but I am not sure which one.



## Snippets from St Laurence's

So often when we think about Easter what we remember are Easter Eggs and family feasts; yet this is like putting the cart before the horse. Without Christ's death on Good Friday there could have been no risen Lord on Easter day.

As Paul says in his letter to the Romans, in chapter 5 verses 6 to 8, "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man some might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." It is that immeasurable love of God for us that we celebrate on Good Friday. Anyone who has ever lost a child can just start to imagine that cost.

So, come and join us on Good Friday and Easter Day to celebrate God's love and its proof. Remember the services on both days will be at 9am, although through the colder months services will be at 10am.

Next Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> April, there will be a service at Woodsreef at 11.30am. You don't have to live at the Ref to be welcome there.

**Barraba Anglican Parish**  
**St Laurence's Barraba:**  
**Sunday service at 10.00am**  
**Woodsreef: 2nd Sundays**  
**11.30am**  
**Bereen: 4th Sundays 6.00pm**

**Uniting Church Notice**  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The**  
**service is at 10.45am**



**2022 TAMWORTH REGIONAL HERITAGE Festival**

Friday 22 April - Sunday 1 May

Uncover the rich and storied past of the Tamworth region at the 2022 Tamworth Regional Heritage Festival. 'Curiosity' is the theme of the 2022 Festival, with curious stories, histories and displays from across the region. Daily tours, exhibitions, open days and more.

**Tamworth REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Full program and more details go to [www.tamworthheritagefestival.com.au](http://www.tamworthheritagefestival.com.au) or call 02 6767 5555

1910 Tamworth flood  
Tamworth Lookout circa 1930  
First train circa 1875  
Opening of Tamworth Airport circa 1956

**Uncover the rich heritage and storied past of the Tamworth region during the 2022 Tamworth Regional Heritage Festival.**

**There are over 30 events, including cemetery walks, museum open days, historic behind the scenes tours and stories from yesteryear.**

**Events in Manilla, Nundle, Moonbi and Tamworth.**

**Tamworth Regional Heritage Festival Friday 22 April to Sunday 1 May**

**For a full program, visit: [www.tamworthheritagefestival.com.au](http://www.tamworthheritagefestival.com.au)**



**WHICH BIN IS IT?**

Download the free Gwydir Shire Council waste collection app

GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL

GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL

**To download the app visit your app store and search Gwydir Waste.**

### CATHOLIC CHURCH NOTES

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

## In Memoriam

***In Memory of Chester, Tony John.***

*Accidentally killed 04/04/1980.*

*In our memories you will forever be treasured and in our hearts you will remain.*

*Missing you every day.*

*Love Debbie, David and Family.*



## OUR PLAN FOR A STRONGER FUTURE FOR NEW ENGLAND

The Morrison-Joyce Government's plan for a stronger future provides cost of living relief, creates more jobs, guarantees the essential services and keeps Australians safe, including in New England

Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, said, "Australia's economic recovery is leading the world."

"More Australians are in work than ever before and the unemployment rate is now forecast to reach 3% per cent in 2022, the lowest rate in close to 50 years."

Risks to the outlook remain, with the pandemic and the invasion of Ukraine all putting pressure on the cost of living for Australian households.

As part of the Budget 2022-23, the Government is:

### Cost of living relief

**One-off Cost of Living Tax Offset** - From 1 July this year, more than 10 million individuals will receive a one-off \$420 cost of living tax offset. As a result, eligible low- and middle-income earners will be up to \$1,500 better off for a single income household, or \$3,000 better off for dual income household.

**One-off Cost of Living Payment** - To help Australians most in need the Government is providing a one-off, income-tax-exempt payment of \$250 to 6 million eligible pensioners, welfare recipients, veterans and eligible concession card holders in April 2022.

**Temporary fuel excise relief** - The Government will reduce fuel excise by 50 per cent for 6 months. This will

see excise on petrol and diesel cut from 44.2 cents per litre to 22.1 cents per litre. The reduction in excise will flow through to lower petrol prices over the next two weeks, as petrol stations replenish their stocks.

### Jobs

The Government is investing in measures to expand and upskill the workforce to secure the workers we need now and for the future, including people in New England.

This will also help Australians into more highly skilled and better paying jobs.

We have also committed \$2.8 billion to support Australian apprenticeships, building on the \$13.3 billion spent on apprenticeships and traineeships since 2013.

The Government has committed \$3.7 billion in Commonwealth funding for a new skills agreement, which has the capacity to deliver up to 800,000 additional training places for Australians.

### Backing small businesses

Small businesses will have access to a new 20 per cent bonus deduction for eligible external training courses for upskilling employees.

The Skills and Training Boost will apply to expenditure incurred from Budget night until 30 June 2024, providing \$550 million in tax relief.

The Government is also providing \$1 billion for a new Technology Investment Boost to encourage small businesses to go digital.

### Essential services

The Government has allocated \$6 billion for the COVID-19 Health response, which includes support for the Governments' Winter Response Plan to prepare for the next wave of COVID-19 and influenza.

\$3.0 billion over five years for cheaper medicines to support a healthier Australia.

\$1.3 billion to support delivery of the next National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-32.

\$165.0 million for wellbeing programs and \$104.2 million for health services to support veterans and families

### Infrastructure

The Deputy Prime Minister said "The Government is investing an unprecedented \$37.9 billion in regional Australia and priority infrastructure across the nation to create jobs and unlock the economic potential in our regions, \$8 million for the Gwydir highway, an additional \$30 million for the New England highway and a further \$433 million worth of funding for Dungowan Dam."

\$2.0 billion through the Regional Accelerator Program to drive growth and productivity in regional areas.

\$501.7 million for local councils to deliver priority road and community infrastructure projects across Australia

### Keeping Australians Safe

We are living in a time of uncertainty.

The pandemic, the invasion of Ukraine and extreme weather events have and continue to cause enormous disruption.

To keep Australians safe the Government will:

increase the Australian Defence Force by up to 18,500 by 2040

provide \$9.9 billion over 10 years to significantly enhance Australia's offensive and defensive cyber and intelligence capabilities.

support households and businesses impacted by recent floods in parts of Queensland and New South Wales, with over \$6 billion expected to be spent.

Budget documents are available at [www.budget.gov.au](http://www.budget.gov.au)

For the full report from Barnaby Joyce go to [www.barrabacommunitynews.org.au](http://www.barrabacommunitynews.org.au)



## 54 new starters power into a new career

Fifty apprentices and trainees took a huge step up in their career as the group, part of Essential Energy’s largest-ever cohort including these apprentices, trainees, and four university graduates, participated in their first hands-on training sessions.

The group joined Essential Energy this month as part of the electricity distributor’s commitment to continue sharing a better energy future for the regional, rural and remote communities in its footprint, and brings the total number of graduates, apprentices and trainees working in the business to 185.

“We were astounded by the quality of applicants we had this year, which we felt really speaks to the reputation of the program and how much people realise the benefits of working for a regionally-based company that thinks globally. We actually employed two more apprentices than we were planning due to the quality of applicants,” said Luke Jenner, Essential Energy’s Chief Operating Officer.

Koby Thurston, originally from Dunedoo, joined Essential Energy in 2021 through the Indigenous Pre-Employment Program and is one of three trainees successful in progressing through to a full apprenticeship, saying “I feel Essential Energy’s encouragement to the Indigenous community to apply for jobs is really great. My experience working for Essential Energy as a young Indigenous man is definitely like no other as they offer so much support and wellbeing groups for young Indigenous people that are working for them.”

The Indigenous Pre-Employment Program has recruited five Field Operations Trainees who commenced with the apprentice intake.

Mr Jenner continued, “This program continues to provide a career pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women into the business. I’m really proud that we have three trainees, like Koby from this year’s program, who are progressing to a full Apprenticeships in 2022.”

The new apprentices, trainees and graduates come from a diverse range of backgrounds, with 40 per cent of the new Apprentices and Trainees identifying with at least one diversity group, including 16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and four females.

“I’m thrilled to welcome these new colleagues to Essential Energy and wish them all the best in their roles with us,” Luke said.



## From Brian Coote’s Collection – Barraba Shire Councillors 1980



Barraba Shire Councillors in 1980.

*Rear L-R: Ross Campbell, Eli Salem, Tom Butterworth, Doug Cummings & David York.*

*Front L-R: Gordon Smith, Daphney Mandel, Rupert Richardson & Margaret Harris.*



### Barraba Preschool

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

#### Special Resolution Notification:

Adopt the updated version of the model constitution

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 5:30pm**

**Location: Barraba Preschool**

**148 Queen St, Barraba, NSW, 2347**

**All members are encouraged to attend**



From The Conversation

## **This shy little wallaby has a white moustache and shares its name with a pub meal. Yet it's been overlooked for decades**

*Elliott Dooley, PhD Candidate, University of Newcastle.*

*Matt Hayward, Professor of Conservation Science, University of Newcastle*

For many people, the term “wallaby” may describe a single species, or rather just a small kangaroo. So you may be surprised to learn there are actually more than 50 known species of wallaby in Australia.

The parma wallaby (*Macropus parma*) is one of Australia's smallest. It's no larger than a house cat, with a body length up to 55 centimetres and a tail about the same length again. It has thick, brownish-grey fur, and a defining white moustache.

But this is about as much as can be said for its appearance, as even its moustache is common to many other wallaby species, such as the yellow-footed rock-wallaby.

Here, we aim to defend the voiceless. The parma wallaby's failure to charm with either its looks or charisma has condemned it to obscurity by the general public and wildlife researchers alike, potentially dooming it to extinction.

### **The parma's resurrection**

So overlooked is the parma wallaby that for more than 30 years, it was presumed extinct until 1966, when a feral population was discovered on Kawau Island, New Zealand.

The species was introduced there a century earlier by former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Sir George Grey, who's zoological interests led to Kawau becoming home to a menagerie of exotic animals.



*Parma wallaby was presumed extinct for 30 years.*

This sudden rediscovery resurrected the parma from the pages of natural history books, prompting a reintroduction program to re-establish the Kawau Island population in

Australia. This occurred on two occasions, once on Pulbah Island in Lake Macquarie, and near Robertson, NSW. But both attempts were considered abject failures, with all reintroduced, marked individuals found dead, mostly due to predation by dogs and foxes.

Despite this unsuccessful program, the sudden spotlight on the species led to its rediscovery on the mainland in 1972 near Gosford, NSW. Soon after, a state-wide parma survey was conducted.

### **An elusive species**

But since then, its ecology has largely gone unstudied and, once again, the parma has faded to obscurity.

The IUCN Red List — the pre-eminent assessment of the conservation status of the world's biodiversity — has relied on a guesstimate of population size, placing it at under 10,000 individuals.

Despite little monitoring the species is still considered only “near threatened” on the Red List, but events like the Black Summer bushfires may have significantly reduced its population.

As a result of its cryptic nature and very recent rediscovery in the wild, there is scarce known about the ecology of the parma wallaby. We don't even know the exact origins of its name.

We do know its preferred habitat is moist eucalyptus forest with thick, shrubby understory. It shelters there during the day, often with nearby grassy areas as, at night, they typically feed on grass and herbs. They're also found in rainforest margins and drier eucalypt forest, but to a lesser extent.



*Parma wallabies weigh just 5kg, making them vulnerable to dogs, foxes and cats*

### **The parma wallaby is under threat**

We also know the parma wallaby's range is in decline and has been since European colonisation.

The species once occurred from southern Queensland to the Bega area in the southeast of NSW. Now, its range is



confined to the coast and ranges of central and northern NSW. It's patchily distributed throughout cool, high-altitude forests along the Great Dividing Range.

It weighs around 5 kilograms, placing it in the critical weight range category. This means it's vulnerable to feral predators, such as dogs, cats and foxes.

Another major threat facing parma wallabies is habitat destruction from catastrophic bushfires.

The 2019-2020 Black Summer bushfires killed, injured or displaced an estimated three billion animals. Over half (55%) of the parma's key habitat was severely burned. Coupled with the loss of those that would have perished in the flames, the species is now considered vulnerable in NSW.

### **Saving the parma**

The recent bushfire Royal Commission raised the issue that Australia doesn't have a comprehensive, central source of information about its native flora and fauna. This is especially urgent, given seemingly "drab" species like the parma wallaby that have gone unnoticed for too long.

All species rely on interactions with a plethora of other species to survive in a complex system from which humans are not exempt. But with so little known about these interconnected relationships, we don't know what the broader impacts to the ecosystem would be if one species disappeared.

Imagine a Jenga tower where each species is a wooden block. You can never really be certain which block you remove will cause the tower to collapse. Australia has an appalling extinction record, and we can't afford to be playing Jenga with our biodiversity — whether it's a boring bird, an ugly fish or just another wallaby.

Our ongoing research aims to help fill this conservation gap. We focus on a range of conservation actions the parma wallaby needs immediately.



*If you want to help save parmas, keep your cat inside.*

*Lachlan McRae, Author provided*

These include carrying out field surveys to gauge the extent of their survival, and identifying the places that need refuge vegetation recovery. Refuge patches of bushland are important because they provide parma wallabies escape routes and places to hide, helping protect them from predation.

### **But you can help, too**

Given the breadth of catastrophic fires is expected to increase under climate change, we can all help threatened species like the parma wallaby bounce back.

Come bushfire season, you can reduce the fire risk around your home by clearing anything that could fuel a fire — long grass, weeds and leaves on the ground and in guttering.

The parma wallaby, like many other little mammals, is vulnerable to introduced predators, especially cats. By keeping your cat indoors, you could be sparing the lives of 186 animals per year.

You can urge your politicians to value Australia's unique and precious biodiversity. They are the ones who will ultimately determine whether our threatened species survive or go extinct.

Finally, you can volunteer. There are many volunteer-based conservation projects all over Australia, run by government agencies, charities, and universities.

With the ongoing pandemic travel restrictions, there's no better time to experience the rich biodiversity this country has to offer, and discover less celebrated, but still fascinating, species like the parma wallaby.

## **BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS**

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

### **Published by Community College Northern Inland**

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



## Rugby Union News

Saturday saw a trial game between the Barbarians from Armidale and Barraba/Gwydir in the Men's and Women's games.

The girls game showed the visitors, with a larger selection base, would be a bit strong for the locals and the score of 44-24 proved that. But the girls kept going to the end with Natalie Philpott scoring two tries. Abby Mallise also having a big game, running hard and getting a try. Gemma McDouall ran hard and proved a handful for the defence and Emily Kelso showed some pace when given the chance. All in all a good hit out for the season opener. Well done girls.

The Mens game started with the BaaBaas scoring an early try from a missed tackle from Austin to lead 5-0, but the locals struck back with a try and conversion to Rafter. This resulted from a good run from Liam Mack and good support play, 7-5.

Being a trial, the players were being changed all the time so they got a reasonable amount of time on the field.

Barraba was producing some good defence with low tacking and good work around the break downs. The BaaBaas got close to scoring on a couple of occasions, but the defence held.

The condition of the locals looked to be a lot better than last year and resulted, with good backing up by W. Robinson, to score under the posts and converted 14-5.

Liam Mack was next to score when he gathered a ball on his own try-line and proceeded to run, kick and chase the ball to score a try at the other end 21-5.

Jack Robinson finished the scoring after some good forward work with a try under the posts for a final score 28-5.

The game showed the Club will have a reasonable side for this year, who will find it hard against the likes of Pirates, Narrabri who they play in the opening game on the 9<sup>th</sup> April, which will be played in Narrabri.

Paul King, the Zone President, came over to have a look at the game as there was a bit of doubt over the Barraba/Gwydir squad this year. But the weekend trial gave the club some insight for the better things to look forward to this season.

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## Rifle Club

We had a great roll up at the range on Saturday with six shooters for the Centrefire event and one visitor and there were 10 shooters and one visitor for the .22 Benchrest event in the afternoon. We had few possible shot again this week with Brendan shooting two in the 100m Benchrest along with Andrew and Ron shooting one each, Casey and Darren were close with 99's.

Darren also shot two possibles in Centrefire, congratulations to you all.

On Sunday there was also a good roll-up for the Handguns, it was nice to see that you are all turning up to have a great morning.

### Unlimited 50m

B. McIlrick 99.5, 95.4, 99.6 = 293.15  
D. McIlrick 92.1, 91.1, 90.1 == 273.3

### AA Garde 50m

A. White 93.6, 94.2, 97.5 = 284.13  
R. Bridges 96.4, 92, 90 = 278.4  
G. Urquhart 93.3, 92.2, 90.2 = 275.7  
D. Dewson 87, 90, 90.2 = 267.2

### A Grade 50m

C. Wells 92, 89.2, 89.1 = 270.3

### B Grade 50m

A. Spence 83, 87, 81 = 251  
N. Hull 77, 73, 90.1 = 240.1  
J. Moloney 79, 72, 82 = 233

### Unlimited 100m

B. McIlrick 100.5, 100.5, 99.6 = 299.16

D. McIlrick 92.1, 92.1, 93.2 = 277.4

### AA Garde 100m

A. White 99.2, 100.3, 96.4 = 295.9  
R. Bridges 100.3, 97.5, 97.3, 294.11  
D. Dewson 96.3, 98.6, 99.6 = 293.15  
G. Urquhart 94.1, 92.1, 94.2 = 280.4

### A Grade 100m

C. Wells 99.4, 97.2, 99.3 = 295.9

### B Grade 1000m

N. Hull 96.2, 92.2, 93.1 = 281.5  
J. Moloney 93, 94.2, 93.1 = 280.3  
A. Spence 87, 85, 95.2 = 267.2

### Centrefire

D. Dewson 100.6, 100.7, 99.3 = 299.16  
D. McIlrick 90.1, 89.1, 92.2 = 271.4  
H. Clark 77.1, 91, 89 = 257.1  
R. Clark 83.1, 74, 80.1 = 237.2  
J. Moloney 55, 62.1, 79 = 196.1  
A. Spence 20.1, 7, 23 = 50.1

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## Golf Notes

Unfortunately, the rain and stormy weather sent all players back to the clubhouse on Sunday where it was agreed they would play for Ian and Brenda McColls trophy later in the year.

Next Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> April is our Mixed Foursomes Championships for the L & V Bridges Memorial trophy. The Lions Club will sponsor the Mixed Foursomes Championship net winners. For players unable to find a partner there will be an 18 hole individual stableford for a trophy kindly donated by Bill and Gail Simpson.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April we will play an Individual Stableford for a trophy donated by Gary and Sandra Allen.

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## From - SQUIZ THE SHORTCUT

### Take me through Volodymyr Zelensky's early life...

He was born in 1978 - which makes him 44yo - and he grew up in the working-class city of Kryvyi Rih in Central Ukraine, which was home to the country's biggest steel mill.

#### What was his family like?

His father was a professor of mathematics and his mother was trained as an engineer. The family spoke Russian, as most families did in those parts given it was part of the Soviet Union.

#### Were they religious?

Well, Zelensky's family is Jewish and many of his relatives were killed in the Holocaust as well as fighting the Nazis in the Red Army. But Zelensky said he grew up in an "ordinary Soviet Jewish family" - which is to say, they weren't very religious.

#### Why is that?

Because, as Zelensky says, "religion didn't exist in the Soviet state as such."

#### Right. So it sounds like his family was pretty well off?

They were. Reports say Zelensky grew up in one of the more well-to-do suburbs in what was a pretty bleak city. But things got a lot worse after the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991 and his hometown saw an increase in petty crime and violence.

#### And did Zelensky get caught up in that?

No, he and his mates stayed out of it - he was more interested in playing the guitar. When he finished school, he gained a place at a local university to study law. And he also joined a sketch-comedy group.

#### Which sent him on a whole journey...

It did. Zelensky finished uni in his early 20s, but he fell in love with performing, which he did throughout Ukraine and Russia. And he went on to form a production company called known as 'District 95' in English after his old neighbourhood.

#### What kind of comedy did he do?

Let's just put it this way - his humour was pretty bawdy. You can head to Google if you want to check it out...

#### Maybe I will... How successful was District 95?

It was a successful outfit and saw Zelensky become a pretty big deal too. He was starring in movies - mostly romantic comedies. And it wasn't just acting and producing that he excelled at - Zelensky won Ukraine's version of Dancing with the Stars in 2006.

#### Wow... So he was a pretty popular guy?

He was, but his biggest hit was yet to come - a sitcom called Servant of the People which first aired in 2015. Zelensky played a high school history teacher who delivers a big rant against corruption one day at school. That's filmed by one of

his students who posted it on YouTube, and long story short, he becomes President.

#### Life imitates art...

It sure does, and the TV series came at a time of political turbulence in the country.

#### What was happening?

So just to step back a bit, in 2013 President Viktor Yanukovich was in charge in Ukraine - he was backed by Russia and he rejected a deal that would see Ukraine become closer with the European Union.

#### How was that move received in Ukraine?

Not very well - it sparked mass protests and long story short, Yanukovich was run out of the country and replaced at an election in mid-2014 by Petro Poroshenko, who pledged to look West rather than east to Russia.

#### How did Russia react?

It wasn't thrilled, and there has been ongoing fighting between the 2 countries since then.

#### Where does Zelensky come into it?

Well, when the next election came around in 2019, as Zelensky's celebrity continued to rise, he decided to take a shot at politics.

#### What issues did he campaign on?

His campaign was actually quite radical - he didn't take part in debates or publish a detailed policy platform. His main theme was to heal the relationship with Russia.

#### So, what got him over the line?

A little star power might have helped... During the campaign he kept touring the country with his comedy show - and the 3rd series of Servant of the People dropped on Netflix in the days before the election, and he went on to win it - nearly three-quarters of voters backed him in the final round.

#### That's pretty remarkable...

It was, and the kicker is that he named his political party 'Servant of the People' - and it became the first party to control both the legislature and executive branch of parliament.

#### How did Zelensky initially handle the country's conflict with Russia?

He said his priority was peace - but he faced an obstacle in the country's most important ally, America, when it froze aid worth nearly \$400 million, most of it meant to shore up Ukraine's military.

#### Why did the US do that?

It was a move mandated by then-US President Donald Trump, who was pressuring Zelensky to investigate his opponent Joe Biden's son, Hunter.

#### I think I know where this is going, but please explain...

It's a complex issue, but basically, when Joe Biden was Vice President under the Obama administration and had pushed



Ukraine to fire a prosecutor who was seen as corrupt. At the same time, his son Hunter Biden was on the board of Ukrainian energy company Burisma.

**How did that pan out?**

The prosecutor was fired but said Joe Biden went after him because he had opened a case into corruption at Burisma. But the Bidens say they never discussed it.

**Okay, but where does Trump come in?**

So in a phone call in July 2019, he pressured Zelensky to open an investigation as Biden was shaping up as the favourite to be Democratic nominee for President. But when nothing happened, the aid was frozen.

**Why was that?**

Trump said that he had concerns about corruption in Ukraine and how that money might be spent. But there was the suggestion that the president sought to leverage congressionally-approved aid money to damage his rival.

**It was a big deal, right?**

You could say that - Trump was impeached by the House over it but not convicted in the Senate. And eventually, the \$400 million in aid was released to Ukraine.

**What did Zelensky have to say about that saga?**

He was said to have felt cornered by Trump's demands. It was a steep learning curve for a guy who had no political background to encounter in his first weeks in office.

**Plus, he still had Russia to deal with...**

Nice segue. So it was the end of 2019 when Zelensky first met with Russian President Vladimir Putin, but no headway was made on the big issues like the annexation of Crimea and the Russian-backed areas in the east of Ukraine.

**And no headway on Ukraine-Russia relations, either?**

That's right. And there were other issues too, like Putin's concerns about NATO pushing east and his long-held belief that Ukraine and Russia are "one people" - those were all factors that saw Russian troops massing at the border late in 2021.

**How did Ukraine deal with that new threat?**

Well, Zelensky and his team took some convincing that Russia was getting ready to invade because they were used to things being tense...

**Talk me through it...**

At meetings between Kyiv and Washington, US intelligence officials and diplomats tried to convince Zelensky's team of what they thought was about to happen. They backed up the warnings with satellite imagery of Russian hardware being stockpiled at the border, as well as intercepted communications.

**Then things escalated...**

They did, and on the early morning of 24 February - both Putin and Zelensky appeared on TV. Zelensky chose to speak

directly to the Russian people saying he'd tried and failed to reach Putin, adding "You are told that these flames will bring freedom to Ukraine. But the people of Ukraine are already free. In attacking us, you will see our faces, not our backs."

**And he kept his word?**

He did. There's no doubt Russia has vastly superior forces - many of those have not yet been deployed. And with no on the ground military support, Zelensky transformed into a wartime leader appealing to his people to fight. Zelensky's courage has become a symbol of the country's broader will to fight.

**How so?**

He's been very clever with his messaging. Zelensky went on camera to sign a formal application to join the European Union. He became the first foreign leader to address the EU parliament in a rousing address that got a standing ovation, and he's also addressed the UK Parliament and the US Congress.

**So, he's really working the virtual room...**

He sure is - but there's one thing his impressive comms can't get him, and that's military support from the US or NATO.

**And that's a bit tricky when you're fighting against Russia...**

It sure is. While about US\$1 billion in weapons and ammunition has been promised to Ukraine by Western nations including Australia, it's a big ask to expect them to hold out. That's why there's a lot of focus on talks and what settlement can be brokered.

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