



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 3rd August 2022



From CEOs to team leaders, family members to the wider community, let's take the time to thank an aged care superhero or a quiet achiever and show we care.

agedcareday.com.au #ThanksforCaring

When most people think of a hero, an image is conjured up of a buff individual who prefers their clothing on the figure-hugging side, and whose hair tends to never be out of place even if they have just saved little Timmy and his dog from plummeting off the side of the cliff.

On the 7th of August, the community are asked to replace this image with another, as we celebrate another type of hero on Aged Care Employee Day, with this year's theme being "Thanks for Caring".

There are over 360,000 individuals Australia wide who contribute to providing care to people in Aged Care, with our local facility Richardson House employing over 35 people in roles varying from Registered and Enrolled Nurses, Personal Care Workers, Catering, Cleaning, Laundry, Recreation, Maintenance, Management and Administration to name a few. All of these people play an integral role in ensuring the Residents receive exceptional care in a home like environment.

The last three years have been extremely challenging for Aged Care Workers as they embraced all the changes and requirements that a pandemic brings. They have had to undergo specific training regarding COVID-19, have added additional duties to their already full workloads, as well as lining up for mandatory vaccinations, and in some cases having to use up leave entitlements while they isolate in order to ensure that the Residents are kept safe. They have

been the front line when it comes to ensuring COVID-19 is kept out of their Aged Care Facility, often dealing with uncooperative or angry people who do not see why they need to abide by the restrictions put in place due to the pandemic. Yet their dedication to their Residents has not waned.

On top of this are the normal day to day operations, such as ensuring that the Residents receive their personal and medical care, wholesome meals, live in a clean and homely environment, have their clothes laundered and ironed, and are provided with stimulating activities. This all requires a committed team to ensure that the cogs run smoothly. There is no one person more important than another, as without any of them the facility would not be able to function.

Aged Care Workers are so much more than their duties. They are the people who take the time to have a chat to a Resident, who provide a smiling, friendly face for them to see, and who'll hold their hand when they are feeling low. Aged care workers share many laughs and experiences with their Residents and shed many a tear when they are low. It is an industry where the heart swells with the knowing that you are making a difference, and where the heart is often broken when someone is no longer with us. It is an industry for heroes, be they ones without capes.

This August 7th if you know of someone who works in Aged Care please take the time to give them a pat on the back and say "Thanks for Caring".



DISCOVER BARRABA

NEW website
- click and enjoy

About Barraba
Things to do
Events
Local Directories



SCAN ME



WALK STRAIGHT INTO THIS WELL ESTABLISHED BUSINESS AND MAKE IT YOUR OWN

GENUINE ENQUIRIES
CONTACT SANDRA
0419 464 307

BUSINESS FOR SALE

85-87 QUEEN ST
BARRABA, NSW




BUSINESS FEATURES

SALE INCLUDES FREEHOLD PROPERTY ON DOUBLE BLOCK, 10 YEAR ESTABLISHED BUSINESS, STOCK, EQUIPMENT, OPERATING STRUCTURE, FIXTURES & CURRENT WHOLESALE CONTACTS

- RETAIL OUTLET & COFFEE SHOP
- EXCLUSIVE COFFEE BRAND
- INTERNAL CAPACITY OF 30 + EXTERNAL DINING
- LOYAL CUSTOMER BASE
- RELIABLE STAFF
- NO SIMILAR COMPETITION IN TOWN
- CURRENTLY OPEN 5 DAYS PER WEEK WITH THE POTENTIAL TO EXTEND TO 7 DAYS
- CONSISTENTLY HELD 5 STAR "SCORES ON DOORS RATING"
- FINALIST ON 2 OCCASIONS FOR THE TAMWORTH BUSINESS AWARDS



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-SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

FRIDAY: 11AM-
MEAT/VEG RAFFLES 6PM
EXTRA DRAW AFTER EACH RAFFLE FOR A BONUS PRIZE
MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$2,000 2 draws


SATURDAY: 10AM-
SUNDAY: 10AM-5.30PM
ANGLERS CLUB RAFFLES 1PM
MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1,800

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

NSW COVID-19 update



Sunday 31 July 2022

96.8% aged 16+ have 1 vaccine dose*	95.3% aged 16+ have 2 vaccine doses*	69% have had 3 vaccine doses**
82.5% aged 12-15 have 1 vaccine dose*	78.8% aged 12-15 have 2 vaccine doses*	49.8% aged 5-11 have 1 vaccine dose*
2,265 hospitalisations	66 ICU	5 lives lost
10,993 positive tests reported in past 24 hours		
5,401 RAT		5,592 PCR

*Data as at: 24 July 2022 updated weekly
**Includes both immunocompromised people who have received a 3rd dose and all eligible people who have received a booster

Due to increased demand we are currently seeking a qualified Personal Care Assistant – Cert III/Domestic Assistant who wants to make a difference to the elderly within the community. We currently have a range of opportunities, the roles are on a casual basis providing Personal Care, Respite, and light domestic duties within the client's home.

To be considered you must have the following: Cert III in Aged Care, Current Drivers licence, Own vehicle with current Registration and CTP Insurance, National Police Check, Current First Aid and CPR, and Working with Children Check.

Please forward Resumes or expression of interest to:

kmoodie@premiumacs.com.au

or call 0429 491 199 for more information.

Visit premiumacs.com.au/careers for more information

ABOUT BARRABA AGM.

Location: Barraba Bowling Club

Date: Wed 24th August

Time: 6pm

General meeting to follow



Vietnam War Veterans Remembered

On Thursday 18th August 6.30pm, there will be a 1-hour documentary on Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, primarily The Battle of Long Tan. This documentary has interviews with 7 of the Aussie Veterans who fought in the battle, as well as nurses and medics of the day of the battle.

This will be followed at 7.45pm by the 2020 movie 'Danger Close', based on The Battle of Long Tan, in the theatre at Andrew's Playhouse Hotel, Queen Street, clock corner, Barraba. Free for both shows. There will also be a Vietnam War Military display in the 3 shopfronts opposite the NAB bank on Queen street, from Sat 6th August till Sat 27th August.

Enquiries:

Playhouse Hotel, Andrew 67821109

Military Display, Steve 0476 912 650



Lions Book Sale

The members of the Barraba Lions Club have again decided to hold a second-hand book sale.

As in previous times, the book sale will be held in the spare shop next to IGA, later this year.

Between now and then, the Lions would appreciate the donation of suitable books.

The donated books can be left at D J Kelly's office, or Barraba Rural Traders.

History Notes

The markets are back on the horizon and will be held on Saturday week – make sure you

have booked your stall so that Jenny can place everyone. It will be three months since we had a market so let's make it a big one.

This week we have had a visit from a descendant from Tareela. Her ancestor worked as a shepherd there for a year or two and was around in the broader Barraba/Bundarra area for a number of years. The family surname was Barrett or McHenry if anyone wants to add to her history.

Our notes last week resulted in a request for a Cobbadah book but sadly it is out of print. Betty Crowley wrote Cobbadah in 1975 as a sequel to the original Early Settlers in the Nandewar's which is also out of print. There are plans to update Cobbadah, but it might be a while before it goes to print.

There were various locals mentioned in Cobbadah such as Dick Smith, Joe Johnson and Harry Bushell and I am sure we can add to them when the time comes.

Miss Myers ran the Post Office and the Telephone for many years at the beginning of the century and when she retired in 1944 her customers felt that she could not be replaced.

However, Elsie Goldthorpe was appointed, and residents soon found that she was every bit as good as her predecessor.

The Goldthorpe family seem to have settled in the Bingara/Warialda area in the early days and then as the family grew, they moved to other parts of the district. Charles Goldthorpe married Ann Gaudern in the 1890's and moved to the Horton Valley where a number of his children were born.

Arthur Goldthorpe, one of the younger children, was born in 1902 and some 24 years later he married Elsie Cobcroft, daughter of the Bingara Cobcroft family. In 1944 the couple, together with their son, Roger, moved to Cobbadah to run the Post Office. A few years after moving to the village they built a new home (and Post Office) beside the Bingara Road – the building still stands as a private home.

There has been quite a lot of action among family historians in the last few weeks – families include Jones, Hagan, Potter, to name a few. Sometimes we find out that there is someone working on a family that we do not know about and thus the visiting researcher misses out on some valuable knowledge so members please let us know what you are researching so we can pass the visitor on to you. We do know of several researchers but there are probably others.



From Marj Urquhart

This photo was taken sometime between 1929 and 1931. I have no idea what the Cup was or when they won it.

Back row – last on the right is Reg Irwin, my father and back row 3rd from the left is Mick Irwin my uncle.

Does anyone know others in this team?

From Jane Harris, cousin Jonathan Harris, about the upcoming **"Barraba to Kaputar Multi-sports event"**

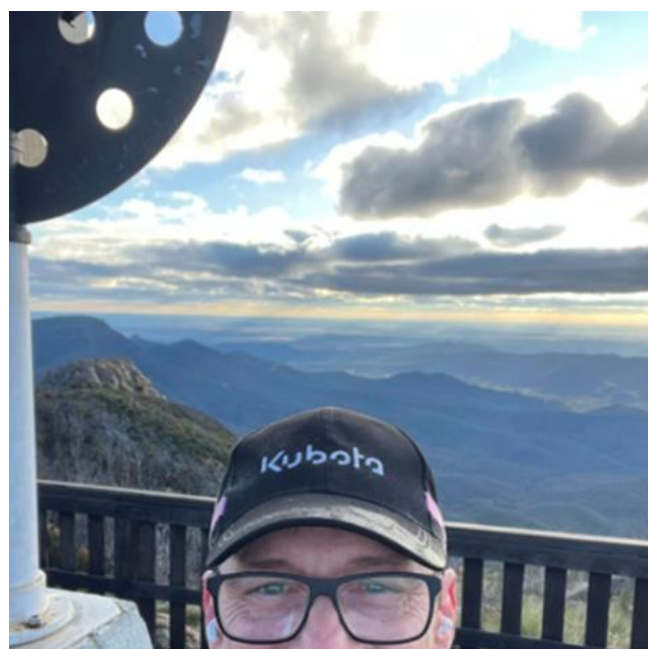
Running for Barraba By Jonathan Harris

As far as I am aware, the Barraba to Kaputar Multisport Event is the first sporting event that has challenged competitors to run or cycle to Mt. Kaputar's summit. I would be keen to hear any sporting history that might have involved someone achieving the summit by running or by bicycle. Having said that, Barraba has been a very competitive sporting town, and has set some records with both team and individual sports alike. My own experience in sport was pretty average back in the day... I attended Barraba Primary in 1977 when my family moved to the area from Darwin, and we bought the beautiful farm "Wongala" in the foothills of the Kaputar Ranges. I hadn't even played cricket up to that point of Year 6, and I learned it down on the Oval (paddock) next to the Primary School. The next year, moving up to the Barraba Central School in 1978, I started experimenting with Soccer, another new sport for me, and more Cricket. I discovered that the cricket pitch was used for more than cricket some nights- with my first experience of a sport called 'spin the bottle' being held. Don't worry I won't name any names. Having come from the Territory, the only sport I tried previously was Aussie Rules on bare red dirt pitches with aerial Aboriginal kids flying in at me from every angle and Field Hockey. Both extremely dangerous from my point of view.

From 1978 to 1981 I travelled with the blokes to Glen Innes, Inverell, Armidale, Walcha and Cassilis to verse other country kids. We had combined school dances, got to know new friends, and made pen-pals... you know when you actually write on paper and post a message in an envelope. We had some great players in those days. Besides the amazing female athletes like Lesley-Anne Levoy, Samantha Moss, and Jenny Potter, I witnessed many cricket matches Vincent Woodgate bowl out numerous sad sacks, and Neil Morris (Principal's son) try to spin the cricket ball... but I remember with some sense of awe Brett 'Watto' Watson... who had moved to Barraba from Warren. He was excellent at everything he put his bat, boot, or keeper's gloves to. I was usually twelfth man in cricket... but started enjoying Soccer with one great friend... the late Gregor Gamper... who encouraged me with teamwork, and whatever I kicked to him, he put into the net. I was fortunate enough to see the early days of our farm neighbour Geoff White's footie career taking off. But what I really enjoyed was cross-country running. The former Principal of the school was pretty serious about fitness for us (I don't remember seeing him run though?), and I remember doing a long paddock run with the

whole school around the property to the West of town that has all that old farm machinery out the front, and back passed the soccer ovals on Trevallyn Road. I wore the Central School green and gold t-shirt with pride, but never achieved a ranking that I can remember. But it was something I enjoyed.

So, jumping forward 40 years, I hadn't trained in any sport for 20 years, and I needed to lose some weight... so started trying out this thing called "Triathlon". I get bored with one exercise, and can't just sit in a gym... so I run a bit, swim a little, and get on some lycra to look the part on my secondhand bike. Two years in at the age of 57... and I am in training for my first Ironman... yep, my family thinks I'm crazy too. And then travelling back to the farm from my home in Newcastle, I was driving up the Horton Falls road and thought, wouldn't it awesome to start a mountain challenge... to encourage people to get healthy and raise awareness for the global charity I work for. So, on Saturday 8th October, we are asking people to sign up to either run, hike, cycle, or do a combination of them all, to start at any point from Barraba township to Kaputar National Park boundary gate on our farm "Wongala". (Don't worry, we're pulling the plug and postponing if there is any hint of Foot and Mouth in NSW... we value the Barraba livestock and farmers' livelihoods too much.)



I've heard of some entrants pushing a pram with their kids for a few kilometres, and another entrant jumping on their E-Bike. It's all for a good cause. The charity I work for is called Bible Society Australia- and the fundraising effort that people can choose to be involved in is going to support Bible work globally in the form of translation work, Literacy education, trauma healing and counselling in war-torn areas

of the world, and chaplaincy support in prisons, schools, and the Australian Defence Forces. If you are not of the religious persuasion and don't want to raise funds- you can still join the challenge to climb the mountain with us, by simply paying a registration fee to cover staffing costs, the after-party lunch on the farm, as well as supplements and nutrition stops. Details can be found here: <https://events.biblesociety.org.au/event/view/barraba-to-kaputar-summit> or you can join the Facebook Group to understand what is going on- search for "Barraba to Mt Kaputar Fundraising Group".

The National Park staff are behind our event and will be in attendance from the Park gate. If you aren't wanting to participate in the athletic side, we are keen for 'roadies' and volunteers to manage some drink stations, assist with any first aid needs, and for a few vehicles to follow the assorted entrants for safety.

A bit of history around the charity... you may not be aware, but the Bible Society, or the 'British & Foreign Bible Society' is the oldest organisation in Australia. Initially formed by William Wilberforce in England in 1814, Governor Lachlan Macquarie (at the urging of his wife Elizabeth Macquarie), gathered 50 business people, lawyers and others to establish the NSW Auxiliary in March 1817, to assist in helping the fledgling colony of NSW that was made up of mostly convicts, mixed settlers and morally dubious soldiers learn a more moral foundation. Three weeks later, those same gentlemen formed the first bank in Australia- the Bank of NSW- now Westpac. A special history piece was written for our Bicentenary during 2017 for ABC News- it can be found here: <https://www.abc.net.au/religion/a-new-story-for-an-old-land-200-years-of-the-bible-society-in-au/10095998>



Youth Council meeting Friday 29 July, 2022 update

Representatives from the Manilla Matters group consulted with the Youth Council on a funding opportunity for future youth-focused events servicing the communities of Manilla, Attunga, Barraba and Somerton.

Council's Sustainability Officer – Water, Louise Cadell, spoke to the Youth Council about Water Night, an event aiming to raise awareness on water usage. In 2022, The Water Conservancy is looking to engage with Generation Z to spread the event's message. Water Night will run as a part of National Water Week between 17 and 23 October, 2022.

Tamworth Region Youth Mayor, Cr Calli Nagle; Tamworth Region Youth Deputy Mayor, Cr Jack Lyon; and Tamworth Regional Youth Council Secretary, Cr Chloe-Lee Opie presented a Draft Youth Council Action Plan 2022-2023. The plan has been developed by members of the Youth Council and a revised version will be presented for consideration to the August meeting.



5 – 7 AUG – TOWN HALL

A CHANCE TO PURCHASE A PIECE OF HISTORY

Dealers will be selling a broad range of antiques and collectables including early colonial furniture, some gorgeous jewellery, china, silver and other types of collectibles.

Admission is just \$8 for adults and children are free if accompanied by an adult. For any enquiries please call 0438 450 860.



Applications for Fiesta La Peel fun open.

The Tamworth region's multicultural communities will have a second opportunity to showcase their diverse culture and heritage this year, with Fiesta La Peel returning to its usual October timeslot.

Residents wishing to participate in the event can apply to be either a stallholder or a performer from today, Tuesday 26 July, with applications to remain open until Thursday 15 September.

Showcasing lively cultural performances and delicious food from across the globe, the annual event celebrating the Tamworth region's diversity will be held on Saturday 15 October 2022.

Crystal Vero, Tamworth Regional Council Events Officer said that everyone is welcome to apply.

"Residents from over 80 different nationalities currently call the Tamworth region home, and we would love for everyone to get involved". she said.

"Whether you own a restaurant in town, perform in a local cultural group or just want to share your traditional family recipes with the community, give it a go", she said.

Residents wanting to participate can apply to be a stallholder or a performer at

<https://www.destinationtamworth.com.au/events-festivals/fiesta-la-peel/>

The region's biggest multicultural event will again be held in Bicentennial Park, with the venue proving extremely popular with the community in March.

The Fiesta La Peel 'Optus Family Zone' has been made possible through sponsorship from Optus. Fiesta La Peel has also received \$30,000 support from the NSW Government's Reconnecting Regional NSW Community Events Program, with Fiesta La Peel one of several events in the Tamworth region benefitting from \$287,582 received through the program.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said "The community came out in droves for Fiesta La Peel in March, soaking up the sights and sounds of the event and celebrating our rich multicultural identity," Mr Anderson said.

"The NSW Government is getting behind events that connect regional communities while supporting small businesses that are the beating heart of regional NSW. Our region has been through a tough few years of drought, fire, flood and a pandemic so we need to continue to do everything we can to support a vibrant community while giving businesses the platform to thrive.

Fiesta La Peel ticks all the boxes as a great, grassroots, positive local event and I am thrilled that we have been able to support its return through the Community Events Program."

The \$25 million Reconnecting Regional NSW - Community Events Program is part of the \$200 million Regional Recovery Package, designed to support economic and social recovery across regional NSW that will create new jobs and support community events, shows and festivals to boost tourism.

Council is more than roads, rates and rubbish!

Local Government Week will run next week from Monday 1 to Sunday 7 August, and Tamworth Regional Council will be celebrating the

important role councils play in local communities.

During this special week, Council will be recognising the range and diversity of services delivered to the community: everything from community events, childcare centres, libraries, sports fields, parks, and cemeteries, to food safety checks, building and development, and pet registration.

Tamworth Region Mayor, Russell Webb said this year's Local Government Week is a great opportunity to showcase the functions council employees perform to help make the Tamworth region a great place to live, work and visit.

"There's so much that Council does in the community that people might not realise! Crucially in the current climate, it includes Council working with local businesses and the wider community to promote a healthy local economy and create local jobs, in line with the Blueprint 100 strategy," he said.

"In the Tamworth region, Council has over 600 local employees. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen the very best of our employees with so many individuals, organisations and community groups coming together to help each other, to keep the wheels turning, and to support those in need."

In the 2020-2021 Financial Year, Tamworth Regional Council's service delivery included 41,776 gallery visits, 126,521 library visits, 132kms of footpath construction and 39.4km of new cycleways.

This Local Government Week explore what Tamworth Regional Council does for you at

<https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/>



PUTTING OUR REGION ON THE TOURISM MAP

Projects that will bring visitors from far and wide to our region are set for a major funding boost, thanks to the NSW Government's \$150 million Regional Tourism Activation Fund.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said the Regional Tourism Activation Fund had already funded a great project in Tamworth and he expected Round Two to fund projects to further boost local tourism.

"Tamworth's CBD will soon be a more accessible place thanks to Round 1 of the Regional Tourism Activation Fund with \$252,150 going towards the Changing Places Facility in Bicentennial Park last year," Mr Anderson said.

"Round two gives our region the opportunity to fund new and exciting opportunities to boost accessibility and develop unique tourist experiences that will be a drawcard for visitors Australia-wide.

"We live in a region that is blessed with great natural assets that sell themselves. Anything we can do to draw more tourists to the region is a huge plus for local businesses and I look forward to seeing our region get its fair share in this round of funding."

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole said the Regional Tourism Activation Fund supports local economies and jobs by backing unique tourism experiences that will attract visitors and showcase what our regions have to offer.

"Regional NSW has the best destinations and experiences on offer across Australia, so it makes sense that we invest in new high impact projects that will drive tourism dollars into the regions," Mr Toole said.

"In Round One, we supported more than 30 projects investing close to \$30 million to bring visitors to the regions, including major upgrades to the Royal Flying Doctor Service's Outback Visitor Centre in Broken Hill that is expected to attract thousands of people each year.

Every dollar spent by visitors at local shops, cafes, accommodation and visitor attractions provides a much-needed boost to our regional economies following COVID-19 and severe weather events that have hampered the tourism industry in NSW."

The latest round of the fund is for high-impact projects that will increase visitor numbers, spending and the length time people are staying in regional NSW.



The \$150 million Regional Tourism Activation Fund Round Two is part of the NSW Government's \$3.3 billion Regional Growth Fund.

Applications for Round Two of the Regional Tourism Activation Fund open Tuesday 2 August 2022 and close on 27 September 2022 at 5pm.

For more information, go to: www.nsw.gov.au/RTAFund.

RETURN OF STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITY FUND BRINGS GOOD NEWS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson has welcomed the return of the Stronger Country Communities Fund and expects the \$160 million Round 5 of the fund will bring strong investment in important community projects.

Mr Anderson called on all eligible community groups and councils to start working on their applications ahead of the opening of Round 5 on Friday, the 5th of August.

"Previous rounds have funded great projects like the ongoing Barraba Rugby Clubhouse renovations, lighting at Dungowan and Kootingal Recreation Grounds, and upgrades to Kootingal and District Pont Club.

The fund invests directly into the community projects that make a real difference in the lives of people living in rural and regional NSW so I would encourage anyone with a great idea for a project, to start pulling together all the required information now."

The \$660 million Stronger Country Communities Fund is part of the NSW Government's \$3.3 billion Regional Growth Fund, which is being invested in local projects that improve the lives of people living in regional NSW.

Applications for Round Five of the Stronger Country Communities Fund opens Friday, 5th August 2022.

For more information, visit: www.nsw.gov.au/sccf.



COLLEGE CHAT

www.ccni.nsw.edu.au

RTO90027

Hi, I am Michelle and I am the Community College Coordinator for Barraba.



We are very excited to announce that we will be hosting Helene Hunt's 'The Creative Me with Haggy' workshop series over seven weeks commencing on Tuesday 9 August from 9.00am to 12:00pm at the Barraba campus. Helene will show students how to begin visualising their surroundings and then convert their vision to images on paper. No previous knowledge or experience is required – Helene loves to work with a blank canvas! Please get in touch with us at the College if you are interested in enrolling for this course.

I am starting to plan our classes for Term 4 and am keen to hear from our community with suggestions on courses you would be interested in attending. I can be contacted at the College at 47 Fitzroy Street either in person, by phone (6782 1662 or 1800 952 264) or by email to michellemain@ccni.nsw.edu.au.



CATHOLIC CHURCH NOTES

Barraba—1st & 5th Sunday,
5pm Saturday evening
2nd 3rd & 4th Sunday 9am
Upper Horton 3rd Sunday
11am
Weekday Mass Wednesday
10am

Uniting Church Notice

Sunday 7th August
Service at 8.45am
ALL WELCOME

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am
Woodsreef: 2nd Sundays
11.30am

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

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Barraba 7 day Forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology



Wednesday 3 Aug

Summary Max 20

Partly cloudy

Chance of any rain: 20%



Thursday 4 Aug

Summary Min 8 Max 22

Rain increasing

Chance of rain: 95%



Friday 5 Aug

Summary Min 10 Max 18

Rain

Chance of any rain: 95%



Saturday 6 Aug

Summary Min 5 Max 18

Mostly sunny

Chance of any rain: 10%



Sunday 7 Aug

Summary Min 1 Max 16

Mostly sunny

Chance of rain: 20%



Monday 8 Aug

Summary Min 1 Max 15

Partly cloudy

Chance of any rain: 5%



Tuesday 9 Aug

Summary Min 0 Max 16

Sunny

Chance of any rain: 0%

Regional Dam Levels from Water NSW

Chaffey 100.1%

Copeton 99.3%

Keepit 99.5%

Split Rock 74.5%

5 big trends in Australians getting scammed

Paul Haskell-Dowland, Professor of Cyber Security Practice, Edith Cowan University

Greed, desire, wishful thinking and naivety are lucrative markets for scam artists – and their age-old hustles are increasingly being supplemented by digital chicanery.

In 2021 Australians lost an estimated \$2 billion to fraudsters, more than double that of 2020, according to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

The consumer watchdog's latest scam report details more than 20 different scam types, primarily based on reports made to its Scamwatch agency.

Some scams are perennials. Topping Scamwatch's list are investment scams, dating and romance scams, false billing, remote access scams (convincing you to allow access to your computer or phone), and threats or blackmail.

Australia's most popular scams in 2021

Losses from scams reported to ACCC's Scamwatch. A total of 286,622 reports, with losses of \$324 million, were made in 2021.

Investment scams	\$177,184,295
Dating & romance scams	\$56,175,428
False billing	\$17,303,665
Remote access scams	\$16,412,258
Threats to life, arrest or other	\$11,077,551
Identity theft	\$10,159,930
Online shopping scams	\$8,074,469
Classified scams	\$7,114,830
Phishing	\$4,324,128
Hacking	\$3,041,484
Jobs & employment scams	\$2,697,500
Travel, prizes and lottery scams	\$1,984,215
Pyramid Schemes	\$1,341,389
Ransomware & malware	\$1,172,034
Rebate scams	\$1,145,112
Betting & sports investment scams	\$976,214
Inheritance and unexpected money	\$923,256
Overpayment scams	\$841,060
Other scams	\$690,788
Health & medical products	\$372,014
Psychic & clairvoyant	\$358,501
Fake charity scams	\$188,457
Mobile premium services	\$165,139

Chart: The Conversation Source: ACCC Get the data

This article is going to focus on the five scam types that have grown most in value from 2020.

These aren't necessarily the scams anyone (including you) is most likely to fall for. But they provide a useful snapshot of how scam techniques that rely on human nature are increasingly being executed via technology.

1. Ransomware and malware

This type of scam has been on the wane due to the use of anti-malware protection. But in 2021 it roared back with a 1,482% rise in reported losses over 2020.

This was mostly due to 2020 numbers being much lower than 2019, but the reported costs per incident (about \$21,704) are still worrying given how easily such scams can be spread.

They typically involve installing malicious software on your computer or phone to make files inaccessible or lock the device. This is done by sending a bogus email, text message or voicemail with an enticing message directing you to a link that automatically installs the malicious software when you open it. The scammer then demands a payment to "unlock" the system.



Messages about deliveries are a common way to spread malware. Shutterstock

Contributing to ransomware's resurgence was the Flubot scam, in which tens of thousands of Australians with Android phones received scam text messages about missed calls or deliveries. The malware could harvest banking details as well as use contact lists to spread to other devices.

2. Pyramid schemes

The pyramid scheme promises you riches by recruiting others to the scheme. While such recruitment is also a feature of multi-level marketing (also known as referral selling schemes), in an illegal pyramid scheme financial returns are entirely or substantially reliant on convincing other people to join.

In 2021 reported losses from pyramid schemes were 368% higher than in 2020. This was due, as with malware, to losses

in 2020 being abnormally low. But even though the total number of reported cases was quite low (fewer than 500) the percentage of those reports involving people losing money was one of the highest (44%), with an average loss of \$6,239. This suggests pyramid scams remain quite alluring to some people.

3. Identity theft

Identity theft – using your personal information to steal money from you or someone else – is one of the most challenging scams to deal with. It may involve stealing money from your own account or using your identity for credit purchases, which you then have to untangle.

This is a true growth area. In 2021 there 22,354 identity theft reports, up from 20,939 in 2020. While only 951 of these cases (about 4%) reported losses, average losses more than doubled to about \$10,683. The total losses (\$10,159,930) were 230% higher than in 2020.

4. Investment scams

Investment scams tempt victims with promises of large profits from share deals and crypto-currency opportunities. In 2021, 4,068 Australians reported losing more than \$177 million on such scams – an average loss of about \$45,350.

While investment scams come in many varieties, the Scamwatch report itemises three main types. Cryptocurrency scams accounted for \$99 million of reported losses. The selling of fake high-yield corporate or government bonds accounted for \$16 million. Ponzi schemes, which create the charade of investment success by paying dividends from the money of new victims, accounted for \$8 million.

Ponzi schemes are named after Charles Ponzi, who in the 1920s promised to double people's money in 45 days. One such scheme doing the rounds in 2021 was the Hope Business app, which promised windfall returns simply by paying money into an account.

Interestingly the consumer watchdog's report says men were almost twice as likely to be victims of investment scams and reported double the losses of female victims.

5. Phishing

Phishing, closely linked to identity theft, was the most reported scam in 2021 – with 71,308 cases, compared to 44,079 in 2020 and 25,168 in 2019.

These scams are usually seeking to obtain our credentials (passwords) to various services including email, online banking and government services such as MyGov.

That just 861 cases reported a direct financial loss suggests this is one of the most recognised scams. We've all had

emails or SMS messages asking us to confirm our details or click a link to listen to a voicemail or receive a parcel.

Even so, a total of \$4.3 million was reported lost from phishing scams in 2021 – 156% more than in 2020. The average loss was slightly more than \$5,000.

How to avoid being scammed

If something seems too good to be true, it probably is. If you have any inkling you may be being scammed, the best advice is to stop and think.

If you are being asked to move money, make an unexpected payment or send personal information to someone, stop.

If you are being asked to provide information or take some action, contact the organisation involved using a number you already have (bank statement, credit card etc) or find the number yourself.

Recent Anniversaries

- the first tobacco was brought to England from Virginia (1586)
- Bugs Bunny's cartoon debut in *A Wild Hare* (1940)
- the Korean War armistice (1953)
- the birthday of author Beatrix Potter (1866)
- the invention of the hamburger in Connecticut (1900)
- the beginning of WWI, after Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia (1914)
- the release of Walt Disney's *Alice In Wonderland* (1951)
- the Provisional Irish Republican Army calling an end to their 30-year armed campaign in Northern Ireland (2005)
- the Irish Famine Rebellion (1848)
- the death of Vincent Van Gogh (1890)
- the birthdays of author Emily Brontë (1818) and businessman Henry Ford (1863)
- the publication of the first Penguin book, starting the paperback revolution (1935)
- Chelsea Manning convicted of 17 espionage charges (2013)
- New Zealand's Christchurch becoming chartered as a city (1856)
- Germany's adoption of the Weimar Constitution (1919)
- English chemist Joseph Priestley discovering oxygen by isolating it in its gaseous state (1774)
- the publication of the first Michelin Guide by the brothers Édouard and André Michelin (1900)
- Mahatma Gandhi founding the Non-Cooperation Movement aiming to end British rule in India (1920)
- te reo Māori becoming an official language of New Zealand (1987)

Rifle Club

Conditions at the range on Saturday were near perfect apart from the slight breeze that would crop up every now and then.

For the morning Centrefire event we saw four shooters try their luck for a possible and that luck was there for Rohan scoring a 100.

John came close with a 99 and Darren with a couple of 98's. The .22 Benchrest had four shooters as well and Andrew scored another possible in the 100m, others scoring in the 90's. It was also good to see Garry back at the range after a few months.

Just a reminder that with COVID cases running high, if you do have any flu like symptoms, please do not attend the range.

AA Grade 50m

A. White 95.1, 94.1, 97.4 = 286.6
D. Dewson 91.1, 95.3, 92.2 = 278.6
R. Bridges 83.2, 94.2, 93.3, = 270.7
G. Urquhart 82.1, 91.2, 92.2 = 265.5

AA Grade 100m

A. White 100.6, 98.2, 98.5 = 296.13
R. Bridges 95.1, 91.1, 96.3 = 282.5
G. Urquhart 97.2, 89, 92.1 = 278.3
D. Dewson 89, 91.1, 94.3 = 274.4

Centrefire 200m

J. Adams 99.3, 99.4, 98.4 = 296.11
D. Dewson 98.4, 98.3, 96.6 = 292.13
R. Clark 92, 100.3, 98.2 = 290.5
D. McIlrick 86, 91.2, 89.2 = 266.4

Rugby Report

Well, not much to report this week as the lady's team was short and failed to travel to Scone for the game. The men's side forfeited to Moree in Bingara, I don't know the reason for that and Bingara had a big weekend of events.

This coming Saturday Barraba/Gwydir travel to Inverell for the game before taking on Pirates on the 13th August in the second last game before the semis. On the Pirates weekend, the Club is hoping to get an 'old boys' game

together. Geoff White is collecting names of all old players of the Club wishing to come and enjoy the day out. One suggestion for the day was to bring back the tent, which upset some of the referees, so it may not occur but would bring back some good times in the south west corner of the ground.

Golf Notes

On Sunday a good field of players contested the third round of the Club Championships for a trophy donated by Sam Faint. There were a number of good scores across the afternoon however the winner of Sam's trophy was Dave McMurtrie with an excellent net of 65. Runners up and ball winners were Lyn Groth and Campbell Tonkin both net 67, Kevin Kelaher 69, Tom Mellor 69, Lib Thompson 69, Sam Faint 69, Paul Grigg 70 and Tim Bucknell also net 70. There were no NTPs claimed. In singles match play results Craig Rutley just got over Sam Faint 1 up on the 19th in what was a very close contest. The Club Championship format now allows players to take their 2 best scores over the first 3 rounds whilst the 4th and final round must be played and counted in their overall 54 hole championship score.

After the third round of the Men's Championships defending champion Kevin Kelaher with 2 best scores of 73 and 73 holds a 6 shot lead over early leader Craig Rutley and Peter York. It all points to an exciting final round on Sunday August 21st. In the Men's Championships net event Tom Mellor with his two best net scores of 62, 69 for a total of 131, sits 4 shots ahead of Craig Rutley 135, Campbell Tonkin 136 and Dave McMurtrie also 136.

After the third round of our Ladies Championship Amanda Koopman on 184 sits 8 shots ahead of Lyn Simpson whilst Lib Thompson on 146 leads the net event from Kerrie Smith and Lyn Groth.

A warm welcome to new member and former Barraba local Keith Akers.

Next week we will play an Individual Stableford for Dave McMurtrie's trophy whilst a number of our members will also play in the Boggabri Open.

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