



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 24th August 2022



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 5 draws

SATURDAY: 10AM-

SUNDAY: 10AM-5.30PM

ANGLERS CLUB RAFFLES 1PM

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$2,000 2 draws

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

COURTESY CAR NOW AVAILABLE



Friday August 26th sees the Barraba Cancer Patients Fund Raising Group holding their annual Daffodil Day Fundraiser. This year there will be a street stall in the Barraba Queen Street Mall, again laden with loads of home baked goodies, etc. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide the ever popular morning tea plates to the Community, and the band will not be playing. Despite these changes for this year, we encourage the Barraba community to support the Stall, and buy a bunch of beautiful Daffodils.

MEETING NOTICE

Barraba Pony Club will be holding a General Meeting at the Barraba Bowling Club on 9th September, 2022 at 6pm. Discussions will centre on upcoming Spring Camp. All interested persons invited to attend
D Etheridge, Secretary

Barraba Senior Citizens

The AGM will be held on Saturday 10th September at 1.30pm.

Nominations for positions will be taken on that day. This will be the first meeting since COVID. 2 years ago. Membership will be taken that day \$15 per member as we are in need of finance to keep going with rates, insurance and power.

Would like to see some new faces on the committee.
Dallis Ervine

For Sale

2 x Electric Recliner Rockers, both stand up function, one battery backup.

1 Kelvinator 2 door fridge 519Lt.

1 x USA made Whirlpool Washing Machine, 6.5 litre semi commercial.

Phone 0413 710 875

Barraba town clock

Tamworth Regional Council wishes to advise Barraba residents that the town clock is currently showing the incorrect time, and is in the process of being repaired and upgraded. Committed to maintaining the historical town monument, Tamworth Regional Council has been liaising with Tower Clock Services Australia to provide the necessary skills and services to improve and update the clock. Ensuring its character and longevity.

The Barraba clock repairs will take substantial time given the age of the system, however Council is aware of their importance for memorial occasions and aims for completion prior to November.

Tamworth Regional Council will trial a proposed new book-in waste pick-up service for those items too big to fit into your kerbside bin.



We are asking the community to give us feedback about the proposed service which will have a user pays fee structure.

To find out more and tell us what you think, go to <https://haveyoursay.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/waste-wagon>






**RURAL
WOMEN'S
CATCH-UP**

UPPER HORTON
FRIDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2022, 10.00AM
UPPER HORTON SPORTING CLUB

JOIN US FOR A FREE DELICIOUS MORNING TEA FROM 10AM
2 SHORT PRESENTATIONS & PLENTY OF TIME FOR A CHAT
TOPIC - HEALTHY GARDENS - AMBER HALL

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR CATERING - GO TO WWW.STICKYTICKETS.COM.AU OR
SCAN THE QR CODE

FURTHER QUERIES CONTACT SHELLEY ON 6724 2052,
OR EMAIL ADMIN@NSLA.NET.AU

Tamworth Show

The 2022 Tamworth Show returns to AELEC from Friday, 2 September to Sunday, 4 September 2022.

Since Tamworth Show's move to AELEC in 2018 the show continues to feature classic agricultural show activities from horse ring events, cattle, sheep and fleece judging, the popular poultry pavilion, rodeo and sheep dog trials.

It doesn't stop there, with side show alley and trade stalls adding to things to see and do.

Inside the main arena there's the classic pavilion exhibits where talented local arts and crafts people, photographers and artists, cooks and produce growers battle it out for best scone, biggest pumpkin or champion photo as just some of classes.

It's three fabulous days of family fun including fireworks.

For more information head to the [Tamworth Show Website](#).

Kick Start to Barraba Pony

Club

Barraba Pony Club was established in 1958. Over those ensuing 64 years the Club has aimed to promote fun and friendship for boys & girls with their horses and ponies. They learn how to care for their mounts and improve their horsemanship and learn new equestrian disciplines.



As their riding improves the children are able to explore other horse sports including jumping, polocrosse, horseball, campdrafting & tentpegging to name a few.

The Club has struggled a bit over the past few years coming off drought and two Pandemic years but a few dedicated families are keen to reinvigorate the Club and ensure that any horse mad youth don't miss out. The next Pony Camp will be held from September 25th to October 1st 2022 culminating with a Gymkhana (Competition) on Saturday.

We will be having a general meeting prior to camp (advertised in this Community News) and all interested persons are invited to attend.

In the meantime, if you would like further information please contact us via email

barrabaponyclub@gmail.com and your enquiry will be directed to the appropriate person.

Diane Etheridge, Secretary

Seed Conservation Training & Research Workshops

In partnership with the Northern Slopes Landcare Association, Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust (RBG&DT) staff will share their expertise in seed conservation at a series of workshops. Over the past three years, RBG&DT staff have undertaken research on the seed germination requirements of key plant species from Threatened Ecological Communities in the North West Slopes region.

In each workshop, participants will learn about seed collecting strategies such as provenances, recent advances in genetic sampling and testing, how to collect seeds and process collections, and understand seed storage behaviour and germination strategies. Accompanying the theory will be a hands-on activity on collecting equipment and materials, and seed quality testing of different species. No prior knowledge is required!

Local speakers to also feature include
Moree - Pippa Jones - Beneficials in Brigalow, supported by Local Land Services with funding from the Australian government.
Narrabri - Sydney Uni - Monitoring the Landscape with Sensors in the field.
Jo Skewes, NSLA, Invasive Cacti Update.
Gunnedah Urban Landcare project update

FREE ENTRY, LUNCH PROVIDED
TO BOOK GO TO WWW.STICKYTICKETS.COM.AU, SCAN A QR CODE OR PHONE NORTHERN SLOPES LANDCARE ON 6724 2052

These workshops are funded by the NSW Government through a partnership between the Saving our Species program and the Environmental Trust

MOREE 30 AUGUST

NARRABRI 31 AUGUST

GUNNEDAH 1 SEPTEMBER

Logos: NSW Government, Landcare Services, Australian Institute of Botanical Science, The Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust, University of Sydney, Northern Slopes Landcare Association Inc, Australian Government

PULSE OF THE EARTH

A FESTIVAL OF REGENERATION

SATURDAY 3RD

Where: The Living Classroom Bingara
Entry: Gold coin donation
Bring: Cash for food and stalls. Stalls covering of Benjara Linn. BYO Alcoholic drinks NO GLASS PLEASE. Chairs & Rugs

8.00am Yoga at the Aussie Farm Dam Kara Boker - Sula Yoga
9.00am Official Opening
9.15am TOM DAVIES - co-founder Edge Environment. "In the middle of the Ecological Revolution"
10.00am **ALL DAY LIVE MUSIC**: LOREN RYAN DUO, LARRY & NAT, JANE DUDLEY, NATALIE BAKER

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS - IN THE MARQUEE
10.15am GRAEME SALT Nutri-Tech Solutions "SOIL HEALTH & YOUR WEALTH"
12.00pm LORRAINE GORDON - Southern Cross University "RESILIENCE"
1.00 - 2.00pm LUNCH BREAK
2.00pm DR ANGELA PATTISON - University of Sydney "NATIVE GRAINS - REVITALISING AGRICULTURE"
3.00pm GARRY MCDONALD The Carbon Farm "CHANGE - THREAT OR OPPORTUNITY"

THEN ON THE MAIN STAGE:
4.30pm PANEL DISCUSSION "HOPE, HARMONY & HAPPINESS IN THIS CHALLENGING WORLD"
5.30pm LAURA FISHER, ALEX WISSER & OTHER ARTISTS - Reflections on "An Artist, a Farmer & a Scientist Walk into a Bar", newspaper launch & video works of art.

IN THE CLASSROOM
10.15am AMBER L HALL Professional Photographer "THROUGH THE LENS, OUR CHANGING LANDSCAPE"
11.00am ALEX DUDLEY Faunaverse "WILDLIFE ON THE BRINK"
12.00pm JOHN MONGARD Landscape Architect "DESIGNING FOR TODAY & TOMORROW"
1.00 - 2.00pm LUNCH BREAK
2.00pm DR GUNDI RHOADES - Vet & Author "THE FOOD SOLUTION"
3.00pm GEOFF BASSETT - Farm Mojo "CONNECTING WITH LANDSCAPE"

ACTIVITY "PODS"
HEALTH & WELLNESS
REGENERATIVE BUILDING
ELECTRIC VEHICLES
YARNING CIRCLE

ON DISK - OUTDOOR MOVIE "KISS THE GROUND"

ALL DAY FOOD AND DRINK VENDORS, STALL HOLDERS, FUN AND FESTIVITIES FOR THE CHILDREN STORY TELLING, CRAFT, ART, PLANTING AND MUCH MORE

KISS THE GROUND

From Kevin Anderson's Facebook page –

MY DROUGHT STORY



While there's plenty of water around now, it wasn't too long ago, we were in the grips of one of the worst droughts on record. We all have stories and images from that time and [My Drought Story](#) want to hear from the experiences of our community. The project will collect stories from across the state for publication in a book, highlighting the resilience of Regional NSW. The book will be made available in local libraries and council buildings as a reminder of our community's strength in the face of adversity.

My Drought Story is a project aimed at reflecting on rural mental health and resilience in the face of adversity, particularly drought. If you are based in Regional NSW and have a drought story, we want to hear from you! We are calling for submissions of images and stories of the drought from our local communities, with the goal of turning these experiences into a book highlighting resilience in the face of adversity, and sharing practical methods for coping with disasters in regional areas. To submit your story, visit <https://www.ramhp.com.au/my-drought-story/>

Northern Slopes Landcare and The Carbon Farm present

SOIL HEALTH & YOUR WEALTH

2 DAY COURSE WITH GRAEME SAIT

"DISCOVER THE FASCINATING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MINERALS, MICROBES AND HUMUS. THIS UNDERSTANDING CAN PROVE A GAME CHANGER IN TERMS OF BOTH PROFITABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY"

SOIL HEALTH AND NUTRITION WITH INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED SOIL SPECIALIST GRAEME SAIT. LEARN ABOUT THE LATEST IN MICROBIOLOGY AND NITROGEN MANAGEMENT FROM ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING PROFESSIONALS, AND GET THE MOST OUT OF THE GROUND.



PRELUDE TO THE PULSE OF THE EARTH FESTIVAL, BINGARA, BEGINNING 2ND SEPTEMBER

THE LIVING CLASSROOM, BINGARA, 1ST & 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2022. 9.30AM-5PM \$260/PP, SMOKO & LUNCH INCLUDED

10% DISCOUNT FOR NSLA MEMBERS

To book go to www.stickytickets.com.au



Further enquiries contact Northern Slopes Landcare, on 6724 2052



Dad Jokes

@Dadsaysjokes

I taught my kids about democracy tonight by having them vote on which movie to watch and pizza to order. I then picked the movie and pizza because I'm the one with the money.



CRAFTY UP-CYCLING AT THE CLAYPAN

Thursday and Sunday Craft groups are going really well at the Claypan, with up to 10 ladies each day. We have a great bunch of ladies who share their love and expertise of any craft that we wish to do. We have a couple of new ladies to town joining in which is great to see. Everyone is welcome to join us on any day. Sunday tends to be a good day for people calling in while travelling and checking out our Gallery. We have met some very interesting people and they are always interested in whatever activity we are doing at our Claypan.

Sunday the 14th August was very exciting as we created our Up-cycle items whilst being inspired with the amazing Jen from Manilla. Our craft ladies are keen to learn different skills and using left over bits and pieces plus recycled items had us thinking beyond our normal crafty projects. There's no right or wrong way to express your individual creativity, we just let loose and thoroughly enjoyed our day. Jen's coat that she made, specifically relates to events that she has endured during a 12 month period of her life. You really need to see this in real life, it is stunning. Her picture board of nine squares also relates to events that she has been through; living on the coast, moving to Manilla just before the drought started and many more inspirational squares. There are so many talented ladies in and around our district and being able to meet and share ideas is such a great privilege

Words and image supplied by Jenny Simpson.



History Notes

I wonder how many local residents saw the photo of our silo bathed in fog on channel 7 a couple of weeks ago? It was a lovely photo, worthy of exhibition as the weather photo for that evening. To our local photographer, well done.

While on the comments, I must comment on the lovely wattle trees that have been in bloom for several weeks. The specimens on the northern end of the "mad mile" (south of Tarpoly Creek) have been wonderful.

As we admire the wattle, we should remember Thunderbolt's Rock which was nearby until the Manilla Shire Council of the day blew it up about 80 years ago.

The coaches used to pass this rock on their way south, to and from Barraba, and Thunderbolt used the rock as cover while he waited to rob the passengers on the coach. In all his career he never hurt anyone and there are stories of horses being taken and then retuned as "not being fast enough"!

Thunderbolt was quite often in the Barraba district and on one occasion he visited "Ironbark Station" inviting himself to dinner and after dinner enjoyed a musical evening with the family around the piano before taking his departure – riding off into the night, taking with him one of the Spencer boys' horses. The horse was left at Woodsreef when it was deemed to not suit Thunderbolt.

Thunderbolt was not the only bushranger to drop in for some entertainment at Ironbark, three men rode up and demanded a meal one evening in 1873. They enjoyed William Spencer's home brew until they fell asleep, and the family tied them up leaving one of the sons in charge while the police were summoned from Barraba. All three men later faced court in Tamworth.

While on the bushranger subject there was the case of the mailman delivering the mail to the isolated stations up in the mountains to the west of Barraba. He was riding along the river approaching the next station when he was held up at gun point, forced to hand over the mail bag, and remove some of his clothing and boots. The bushranger then left the scene with the clothing, and the mail, while the mailman had to get to the next station with few clothes and no mail.

The visiting days to the museum have been altered slightly and there are now some phone numbers visitors can use if the museum is closed. The main street book is proceeding with more information coming forth. The other two books ordered at the markets have been printed, one delivered but we do not have a phone number for the other person.



KEEPING SENIORS HAPPY, HEALTHY AND CONNECTED

Council and not-for-profit organisations in

the Tamworth Electorate are encouraged to apply for a share of \$600,000 to run programs aimed at reducing social isolation among seniors.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said programs run with the assistance of these grants are an important social lifeline for seniors, particularly those who live alone.

"No one likes to be alone and to feel disconnected from their neighbours and their community," Mr Anderson said.

"The reducing social isolation grants address this issue by giving councils and not-for-profits the funding they need to create and grow events that foster connection and community amongst our seniors."

There are three funding categories. One for new innovative projects, one specifically for local councils and one for existing or established projects for seniors.

Mr Anderson added. "Applications are open through to the 19th of September so I would encourage councils and not-for-profits to start planning now to ensure they are able to access this funding."

Round three will have three funding categories to deliver a more flexible program. The categories include:

- Category 1: \$30,000 grants for known or existing projects.
- Category 2: \$50,000 grants for projects or partnerships run by local council.
- Category 3: \$20,000 grants for new or innovative projects.

Applications are open until **11.59pm on Monday 19 September**. For more information and to apply, please visit, www.facs.nsw.gov.au/seniorsgrants.



Council's Annual Donation Program now open

Tamworth Regional
Council's Annual Donation

Program 2022-2023 is now open for applications. The program is designed to help small to medium organisations and community groups, who do significant work in the community, with funding to help their operations.

There is \$61,000 available for the Tamworth region, including the villages of Nundle, Manilla and Barraba.

Councillor Helen Tickle said it is a great program that assists with the operations of essential community groups.

"Donation programs like these are so important in regional communities and it is a great opportunity for organisations that directly benefit the community to receive some assistance. The donation can be used for a variety of projects such as funding local activities, purchasing specific office equipment or supplies, hiring transport services, purchasing resources for use in community, training fees and many other opportunities."

Applications are invited from not-for-profit organisations, charities, community groups and organisations located within the Tamworth Regional Council local government area, that provides a service to the Tamworth regional community which may be of a unique nature. Recipients of donations funding in previous years are welcome to reapply. Organisations are eligible for only one donation per financial year, that is 1 July to 30 June.

Successful applicants will be determined by a panel of three Councillors, Cr Helen Tickle, Cr Brooke Southwell and Cr Judy Coates.

For more information and to apply, visit the Tamworth Regional Council website:

<https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/about/forms/2022-2023-annual-donations-program-application-form>

Applications must be submitted by **5:00pm on Tuesday, 13 September 2022**.



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Barraba 7 day Forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology

Wednesday 24 Aug

Summary Max 14

Partly cloudy

Chance of any rain: 10%



Thursday 25 Aug

Summary Min -1 Max 15

Morning frost. Cloudy

Chance of rain: 5%



Friday 26 Aug

Summary Min 0 Max 19

Frost. Mostly sunny

Chance of any rain: 5%



Saturday 27 Aug

Summary Min 4 Max 20

Partly cloudy

Chance of any rain: 10%



Sunday 28 Aug

Summary Min 4 Max 21

Partly cloudy

Chance of rain: 10%



Monday 29 Aug

Summary Min 5 Max 21

Shower or two

Chance of any rain: 60%



Tuesday 30 Aug

Summary Min 6 Max 20

Showers

Chance of any rain: 80%



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 28th August
Service at 8.45am
ALL WELCOME

St Laurence's Barraba

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



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Chaffey 100.5%
Copeton 99.0%
Keepit 98.6%
Split Rock 78.9%

Rifle Club

Saturday had perfect conditions for shooting as the scores show. The Centrefire morning event saw some good scores recorded with Brendan scoring a possible and John & Dallas were up there in the high 90's too. It was good to see Nina out at the range having a shoot again.

Congratulations goes to Brendan scoring a 300.21 in the 100m Benchrest event, he has equalled Blue's score now, so, the race is on for him to beat Blue's score. Also, congratulations to Andrew scoring two possibles for the day and Ron who scored a possible as well.

Garry scored in the high 90's, while Adam was up there too.

Just a reminder about the AGM on the 27th August at the Rifle range @ 11.30am.

Unlimited 50m

B. McIlrick 95.2, 97.5, 99.7 = 291.14

AA Grade 50m

R. Bridges 98.3, 92.2, 95.4 = 285.9

A. White 93.2, 94.2, 92.1 = 279.5

G. Urquhart 92.3, 90, 85 = 267.3

B. Grade 50m

A. Spence 93.3, 83.1, 88 = 264.4

Unlimited 100m

B. McIlrick 100.7, 100.9, 100.5 = 300.21

A Grade 100m

A. White 100.5, 100.4, 97.4 = 297.13

R. Bridges 100.5, 97.2, 99.6 = 296.13

G. Urquhart 98.5, 95.2, 90.2 = 283.9

B. Grade 100m

A. Spence 88.2, 86, 86 = 260.2

Centrefire

J. Adams 96.1, 98.3, 93.2 = 287.6

B. McIlrick 91.2, 97.3, 100.3 = 288.8

D. McIlrick 94.1, 92.1, 95 = 281.2

R. Clark 84, 92, 95.2 = 271.2

Barraba Civilian & Military Rifle

Club AGM

Saturday 27th August 2022

11.30am @ Rifle Range



Golf Notes

A closing round three over par 74 was enough for Kevin Kelaheer to claim his 15th Barraba Golf Club Mens Club Championship on Sunday. Only club stalwart David York with 16 Mens titles now holds more than Kevin. Kevin finished on 220 for his 3 best rounds whilst Peter York with a closing round of 73 finished on 226 and Craig Rutley on 229. In the Men's Club Championship overall net event Tom Mellor sitting 4 shots ahead of the field heading into the final round held his nerve to compile a 3 card net total of 202 and win by 4 shots from Craig Rutley on 206 with Campbell Tonkin a further shot back on 207.

Sunday's final Championship round was for Ian Cabot's trophy and the winner was Lib Thompson with a net 67 to win on a countback from Peter Simpson also net 67. Balls went to Amanda Koopman 69, Peter York 70, Mike Artis 70, Kevin Kelaheer 71, David York 71, Craig Rutley 71, Tom Mellor 71 and Campbell Tonkin also 71.

In the Ladies Club Championship Amanda Koopman carded a good round of 83 off the stick to claim her 17th Ladies Club Championship on Sunday. Amanda finished with a 3 card total of 267 to finish ahead of runner up Lyn Simpson whilst Lib Thompson with a 3 card net total of 210 finished ahead of runner up

Amanda Koopman to claim the ladies net event.

Golf is not considered a dangerous sport. However, when trying to conquer the 7th hole on Sunday John Hartley finished with a broken driver and a cracked windshield on his golf cart. There is history with John in crossing gullies and creeks.

Next week Sunday 28th August we will play a 4 BBB for the Col and Rene Sweeney and Middlemiss trophies. The week after Sunday 4th September is an Individual Stableford for a trophy donated by Rodger Fisher.

Junior Rugby Carnival

Held on Sunday at the Rugby Ground saw about 20 teams from around the Central North Zone and further, participate in a huge day of football ranging in ages from under 6's to 12's. They showcased some outstanding young talent in all teams, which augers well for the future of the code.

One of the stand-out plays of the day was the number of Rams players who did most of the refereeing. They would have enjoyed the experience. To see the number of vehicles parked nearly up to the Golf Club fence on the western side and three-deep around the oval boundary deserved a photo.

The Junior Committee should be applauded as they run the biggest Junior Day, especially in the north of the state – well done. That is why it is so popular and the weather was great.

One of the features was the 'under 8's,' from Barraba was undefeated all season, so I was told, well done boys.

A full report on the Carnival will be published in next week's Community News



Rugby Union

The Barraba/Gwydir Rams made the trip for the final round to play Walcha Rams and came home winners after a 29-12 victory. The win put them into the semi-final this weekend against Gunnedah at Inverell. Gunnedah beat Narrabri to enable the Ram/Rats to progress, so good luck boys for the game.

From a few reports the game was a good one with the usual slick hands and backing up, which is what Coach Garry Walsh has been drilling into the team. It has been producing some great running rugby and plenty of backing up by all of the team, a pleasure to watch.

When the ball was fed to the slick backs their pace produced scoring chances and put pressure on the opposition.

At one stage of the match Walcha were putting a lot of pressure on Barraba's defence line but the stout resistance held firm.

A new player in the backs, a school mate of the captain, stood out on the day amongst a number of top efforts. Players Player Matt Pfinget

3. Josh Sloan
2. Mackenzie Austin
1. Matt Pfinget

Semi-finals at Inverell

11.45am Girls Quirindi v Inverell
1pm 2nds Gunnedah v Barraba/Gwydir
3pm 1sts Inverell v Pirates

Following week

11.45am Girls Pirates v Narrabri
1pm 2nds Moree v Pirates
3pm 1sts Gunnedah v Narrabri

Another one of the 'old Barraba Rams' passed away last week, he was Ken Holder of Bingara.



Barraba Central School sport

PSSA Netball Semi Final

Our Primary Netball Team ventured to Tamworth to play against Tamworth South in the Regional Semi Final.

It was a hotly contested game that was goal for goal every quarter. Barraba fought hard to the end and came away victorious with a close score of 22-20. They will now compete in the Regional Grand Final. Congratulations and Good Luck! We are very proud of you all!

Mrs Lowe
Sports Coordinator

Qualifying for State

Jack Myers placed 1st in Shot Put, qualifying him for State.
Dusty placed 3rd in his 100m also qualifying him for State, and placed 3rd in Shot Put.



Congratulations to you both!!!

Zone Cross Country



Congratulations to Leo Lawlor for an outstanding effort with his team placing 1st in the Zone Cross Country Teams event

PSSA State Netball Carnival



Lara Thomson competed in Sydney at the PSSA State Netball Carnival.

Message from the Editor

At *Barraba Community News* we welcome local news and stories from our community members about activities, events and news of interest to the Barraba community.

Share your news, views and what you or your local organisation is doing.

Advertise in *News* at a competitive cost and reach 750 households in our area who receive a free copy each week.

Contact news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au or drop into the Community College on the corner of Alice and Fitzroy Sts

Greater gliders are hurtling towards extinction, and the blame lies squarely with Australian governments

Darcy Watchorn, PhD Candidate, Deakin University

Luke Emerson, PhD Candidate, Deakin University

The southern and central greater glider, the world's largest gliding marsupial, was officially listed as "endangered" this week, with the species facing a very high risk of extinction.

In just six years, the number of greater gliders has declined at a staggering rate, going from no conservation listing at all, to "vulnerable", and now to "endangered". During this time, the destruction of their forest habitat in eastern Australia has continued.

Greater gliders are among thousands of native species under threat of extinction. Already this year, for example, the yellow-bellied glider was listed as vulnerable nationally, and koala populations across Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory were listed as endangered.

A key reason is that Australia's environmental laws and practices are outdated and offer little meaningful protection to threatened plants and animals. To avoid a future in which greater gliders are nothing more than a memory, we must immediately stop destroying their habitat.

The plight of the greater glider

Greater gliders are beautiful, fluffy, cat-sized possums with large ears, long tails and claws. They have fur-covered membranes that enable them to glide up to 100 metres between trees.



Greater gliders were listed as vulnerable in 2016. AAP Image/Supplied by Dr Peter Smith

Like koalas, greater gliders feed almost exclusively on eucalypt leaves. But, unlike koalas, greater gliders require mature forests with tree hollows to sleep in and rear young.

In 2020, scientists discovered there are actually three species of greater glider: the northern greater glider (now vulnerable), as well as the central and southern greater gliders, although these two are not officially recognised by the federal government as separate species yet.

The conservation advice following this uplisting to endangered indicates an overall rate of population decline exceeding 50% over a 21-year period – that's just three generations of greater gliders.

Greater gliders were once abundant along Australia's east coast. However, 200 years of forest clearing and logging has steadily reduced their habitat and numbers. This legacy of disturbance has amplified the impact of recent bushfires on remaining forest and glider populations.

For those who have stood on bare ground in recently logged or burnt forest, you know the silence of a once thriving ecosystem is chilling. The sense of loss is overwhelming.

The last six years

In 2016, before we knew three species existed, the greater glider was listed as "vulnerable" under Australia's key environment law: the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

The conservation advice back then stated that stopping their decline required a recovery plan, and "existing mechanisms are not adequate to address these needs". However, no such plan has ever been developed and implemented.



Greater gliders can glide over 100m between trees. AAP Image/Supplied by WWF Australia, Sami Raines

Logging and land clearing continued unabated. In fact, our recent study found that after this listing, destruction of greater glider habitat actually increased in Queensland and NSW, and remained consistently high in Victoria.

Then, in the summer of 2019 and 2020, the catastrophic Black Summer bushfires struck, razing around 30% of greater glider habitat. Still, logging and land clearing continued.

A NSW government report revealed that in 2020, 51,400 hectares of woody vegetation was cleared.

So, it's not terribly surprising that only six years on from the 2016 "vulnerable" listing, central and southern greater gliders have been nationally listed as endangered.

Controllable threats continue

Climate change also poses a considerable threat to the greater glider, in terms of both the increasing risk of fire and rising temperatures, particularly in NSW and Victoria.

While the impacts of these threats will be ongoing and are challenging to mitigate, they can be addressed by urgently and significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Cutting down forests, however, is a threat that could be stopped immediately.



Unfortunately, native forest logging continues in NSW and Victoria. And in Queensland, a new coal mine will destroy thousands of hectares of greater glider and koala habitat.

It's clear the EPBC Act is ineffective at protecting forest-dwelling species. One reason is due to so-called "regional forest agreements" established in the mid-1990s as a compromise between warring environmentalists and the forestry industry.

Under these agreements, a range of logging operations around Australia are exempt from federal environment laws. They need only comply with state regulations, removing a layer of potential protection for threatened species.

Failure to implement legislation that protects our biodiversity is incredibly short sighted. Not only does it mean many essential ecological processes on which we depend will be irreversibly disrupted, but the joy of encountering unique wildlife - shaped by millions of years of evolution - may be lost forever too.

What needs to change?

Being listed as endangered does nothing to boost protection for Australian species unless meaningful policies and legislated protection measures are actually implemented in

response. The failure of state governments to act appropriately on the recommendations of the 2016 vulnerable listing is evidence of this.

Often, attempts to conserve greater gliders and other forest mammals take the form of artificial hollow provisioning (including nest boxes) or reforestation. While these measures can be valuable, they are far from silver bullets.



Nest boxes are, at best, a local stopgap for greater gliders.

AAP Image/Mick Tsikas

It's not possible to provide nest boxes across the 5 million hectares of greater glider habitat that burned in the Black Summer fires. Nor can they replace the thousands of hectares of habitat logged each year.

At best, nest boxes are a localised stopgap. At worst, they can be completely ineffective, and can even be used to greenwash environmentally destructive projects or delay appropriate action.

Similarly, reforestation will do little in the short term for a species that depends on old-growth forest. It can take well over 100 years for trees to form hollows in which greater gliders can shelter.

Rather than band-aid solutions that don't address the cause of decline, meaningful legislated change is required to protect our biodiversity. Australia must strengthen its environment laws and transition towards a timber supply from certified plantations.

Western Australia has already committed to end native forestry by 2024. The Victorian and NSW governments must do better, and end native forest logging immediately, or see more greater gliders, koalas and other endangered forest mammals perish.

We cannot wait until they're listed as critically endangered to take serious action. We've been lucky enough to share peaceful, cool nights in an ancient forest, surrounded by greater gliders, their bright yellow eyes shining, before they launch into the night and glide out of view. We want future generations to experience this too.

Repost of a Tom Rumsby photo he shared 6 years ago.

Barraba Primary First Class 1947.

There were some names here that Tom was unable to supply at the time but a good clear photo.



Barraba 1st. Class 1947

L-R Rear: John Jackson, Jenny Bright, Roslyn Barwick, Jenny Brown, Mary Turner, Colleen Russell, Ron Cambridge, Janice Jobson, Jeanette Jobson, Robert Campbell.

2nd Row: Ray Connolly, Kath Urquhart, Jenny Bowman, Lola Brodbeck, Barry Corcoran, Betsy Baldock, ?????????????????, Phyllis Urquhart, Russell Conolly.

3rd. Row: Keith Bridges, Ken Hungerford, John Garland, Jacqui Darlington, ?????????????, ?????? Luxford, Helen Grant, ?????????, Robert Wrigley.

Front Row: Joan Reading, Aileen Chester, Marie Baker, Alan Luxford, Tom Rumsby, ?????????, David Witten, Ian Garske.