



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 21st September 2022

Council seeks volunteers for Barraba and Nundle Australia Day Advisory Panels

Tamworth Regional Council is seeking Expressions of Interest for volunteers to join the Barraba and Nundle Australia Day Advisory Panels.

Panel members will play an active role in reviewing the Australia Day Award nominations, with a panel of different members formed for each location. The Panel's recommendations will be presented to Council for endorsement to determine the Award recipients for each town. Successful candidates will be appointed for a 3-year term.

Expressions of Interest close at 4pm on Thursday 13th October, 2022.

Tamworth Regional Council Place Manager Lisa Hannaford said that Council encourages any resident in Barraba or Nundle interested in getting involved to apply.

"We'd love to see local residents represented on the panel, to ensure we appropriately acknowledge the great work of both communities through the Australia Day Awards", she said.

Expression of Interest forms are available on Council's website. Expressions of Interest for the Nundle panel can be found at <https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/about/forms/nundle-australia-day-advisory-panel-expression-of-interest>.

Expressions of Interest for the Barraba panel can be found at <https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/about/forms/expression-of-interest-barraba-australia-day-advisory-panel>.

Alternatively, please contact Lisa Hannaford via email at trc@tamworth.nsw.gov.au. Printed forms will also be available at the Tamworth Regional Council Nundle Office.



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:

PUBLIC HOLIDAY THURSDAY 22ND September

CLUB HOURS 10AM-5.30PM

BISTRO OPEN FOR LUNCH BUT NOT DINNER

**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 \$1,300**

**SATURDAY: 10AM-
SUNDAY: 10AM-5.30PM
ANGLERS CLUB RAFFLES 1PM
MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1,000**

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



St Joseph's School

Unfortunately, the Small Schools Gala Sports Day has been cancelled due to the flooding of fields in Tamworth. We are looking at alternate competitions for our students next term. We are busy organising next term's calendar and I thought I would report to our community on our music program. Over the course of the year we have engaged the Conservatorium of Music from Tamworth to lead our music program. Miss Danielle Jones has taken each of the classes through the music program and has conducted individual specialist tutoring across a range of disciplines for interested students. Next term Miss Danielle will be taking each of the classes for singing. Also adding to our calendar next term, we are locking in Intensive swimming dates for K-6.

We had our last part-day of Transition for Kindergarten students in 2023 last week. The transition students have settled in very well and have all grown in confidence. Next term we welcome all students from K-6 who are considering our school for 2023, to join us for full school days on Wednesdays for the first 6 weeks of the term. This Friday we will be attending the Barraba Preschool Fun Day and we welcome conversations about our school.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe school holiday period and hope that everyone comes back fit and well for Term 4.

Mr Simon Fleming
Principal



CRAFTY GUILD LADIES TAKE THE BUS FOR A "SPIN" TO BUNDARRA

On Saturday, 10th September, our Crafty ladies decided to go for a drive to Bundarra to support the Country Women's Association Open Day and check out the town. They had CWA and Handicraft displays at the Hall which were very interesting. There were demonstrations during the day of Embroidery, Spinning, Weaving, Crochet, Knitting and Macramé'. We also checked out the museums, nursery and bought a few plants. Some scored bargains at the second hand shop and we enjoyed amazing coffee at the coffee shop, followed by a fantastic lunch at the pub.

The road wasn't too bad after the rain; a few up and down bumps, and water over Bakers Creek but thanks to our bus driver, Chris, we arrived home safely.

Bundarra, like many small rural towns, look forward to seeing people from away admiring and supporting their town. They were so excited to see a 'bus' turn up and stay for the day. It was a great day! We are looking forward to our next adventure.



CWA members Brianna Beattie (Manilla) spinning and Margaret (Bingara) maybe going to attempt weaving



Bus driver Chris trying out the spinning wheel



Brianna showing Barraba's Sharon O'Dell how to weave



Our trip to the Nursery

Words and pictures supplied by
Jenny Simpson

Is work stress impacting your life?
Is life stress impacting your work?

We're Hear2Talk - Call 1300 428 255

Free, confidential and independent peer support.

Phone-based support for all workers in NSW available between 12-8pm, 7 days a week.

Call 1300 H2TALK (1300 428 255)

Hear2Talk
1300 H2TALK

neaminational.org.au/CallHear2Talk

NSW
A Neami National service funded by the NSW State Insurance Regulatory Authority

neami national



Blithe Beauty

will be working at Barraba, Flocks n Locks every Monday. Acrylic nails, manicure, pedicure and eyebrows. Mobile home appointments Tues, Wed, Thurs ♡ Ph 0459271174 to book your appointment or go to fb page

<https://www.facebook.com/blithebeauty1>

THE SHITBOX RALLY

The Shitbox Rally raises funds for Cancer Council, a cause that is close to team members Dan & Phil as well as most of the community. The team "Off the clock" leave in May 2023 and will do 3700km over 7 days leaving from Newcastle to arrive at Townsville, travelling via Betoota. The Shitbox must cost \$1,500 or less so donations have made the car what it is today. The team is busy fund raising and have a few events coming up. The first is Charity Ride Day coming up on 5th November, 2022 which will be a morning ride (a dirt/adventure group and a road/cruiser group) followed by lunch, live music and raffle at the Commercial Hotel. The Charity Ride is a great opportunity to dust off the bike and take it for an easy morning ride. If you don't ride you can still join in the event at the pub for lunch, raffles and live music. The team have a major raffle (1st Webber BabyQ1000 2ns Husqvarna Whipper Snipper and 3rd a Carlton Dry Eksy) underway now and will be drawn at the pub on the Charity Ride Day. Tickets for the both the Charity Ride and the Major Raffle are available from Phil Denyer Mechanical Repairs. The team wishes to thank the community for their tremendous support. Major sponsors Wards Plumbing, Stock & Crop, Inland Petroleum, Hart Rural & M&M Stockyards, Barraba RSL as well as donations from Lodge St Andrew, Manilla Vintage Machinery Group, Rocky Glen Ag, Barraba Motel and many individual donations have rocketed the team past their minimum raised amount of \$5,000 and are now well on their way to their current goal of \$10,000. Donations of goods in kind have also been so important as these items have helped get the car ready to pass a Blue Slip as well as get the vehicle ready for the Rally itself. Goods have also been an integral part of fundraising like our current Major Raffle, the \$1 table raffles being held at the pub on the Charity Ride Day and for Auction Items for up-coming events.

You can check out the car, but raffle tickets, talk about the Charity Ride Day and chat to the team at the North West Auto Fest on Saturday 15th October at the RSL Grounds. If you wish to donate to the team this can be done electronically through We Give

<https://autumn2023.shitboxrally.com.au/off-the-clock>

or via cheque (made out to the Cancer Council) or goods in kind to Phil Denyer Mechanical Repairs.

Fiesta LA PEEL
MULTICULTURAL STREET FESTIVAL

Get the whole family into the Fiesta La Peel spirit with a new **OPTUS Family Zone** colouring-in competition for the kids, with over \$450 in prizes to be won!

Entries are open 12 September - 14 October. Click the link above to download the sheet now, or collect one from the Optus Store Tamworth at 372 Peel Street.

PROUDLY FUNDED BY THE NSW GOVERNMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL AND OPTUS

NSW TAMWORTH OPTUS

THINK LOCAL
\$SHOP LOCAL



COLLEGE CHAT

www.ccni.nsw.edu.au

RTO90027



CHALK PAINTING WORKSHOP

Sunday 9 October – 10am to 3pm

In just a few hours you can transform an old preloved piece into something amazing!

Enrol in our chalk painting workshop to receive a **Barley Fields** starter kit that has all the chalk paint supplies required to complete your first project. Then bring along a small piece, such as a coffee table, bedside table or chair to work with on the day.

Call Michelle on (02) 6782 1662 before 4 October if you wish to order a specific colour for your starter kit.

FLORAL IMPRINT RESIN WORKSHOP

Sunday 30 October – 10am to 12pm

This workshop is a beautiful way to capture foliage and flowers in a wall hanging to bring nature into your home.

Use clay and resin to take an imprint of natural pieces that you'll transfer to a wall hanging. Learn the techniques required to create your artwork including composition, layering, the use of clay and mixing resin to create a detailed 3D transfer of your design onto a plaque.



Finally, finish your artwork in the colour of your choice!

If you would like to know more about either of these Leisure Workshops please contact the Community 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.

It is time to nominate your Local Legend!

The Local Legends Awards nominations are now open and the community is being encouraged to put forward individuals and organisations that have made outstanding achievements and contributions to the community of the Tamworth region this year.

Tamworth Region Mayor, Russell Webb commented that it is great to see these annual awards return for the second year and give community members the recognition they deserve.

"I encourage everyone to head to our website and nominate an organisation or person that is making a difference in our community. It is important to recognise and celebrate the people who go the extra mile to make our region a better place and these awards serve that purpose."

The award ceremony will be a semi-formal event at the Tamworth Town Hall at 10am Thursday 24 November, 2022.

The award categories are:

- Access Award (Individual);
- Access Award (Business or Community);
- Volunteer of the Year Award (Youth, 24 years and under);
- Volunteer of the Year Award (Adult, 25 to 64 years);
- Volunteer of the Year Award (Adult, 65 years and older);
- Excellence in Sustainability Award (Community and/or Individual);
- Excellence in Performing Arts Award (Community and/or Individual);
- Excellence in Visual Arts Award (Community and/or Individual);
- Community Inclusion Award (Community and/or Individual);
- Local Legend of the Year, and
- Gift of Time Recognition.

Nominations for the Local Legends Awards are open from 9am Monday 19 September to 5pm Tuesday 18 October, 2022.

Nominations must be completed online at: www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/local-legends-awards

Anyone unable to complete the form online is encouraged to seek the assistance of a friend, family member, colleague or support person in the first instance. If this cannot be achieved community members are encouraged to visit their local library or community centre, or call the Tamworth Regional Council customer service number on (02) 6767 5555.



History Notes

At last a decent flood in the river when it was actually forecast. It

is a long time since we have had a 'banker' and I hope that will pressure the relevant body to get busy and clear the privet out of the river to let it flow easily. This flood is a warning – it is a long time since the water came into town!

Now back to historical matters. The main street book is progressing and the Woodsreef volume is selling regularly. The calendars are proving to be popular and we are getting a regular printing of these so just let us know if you have not been able to find one.

This week readers of the Land newspaper will have noticed a large landholding to the west of town for sale. This area was originally held by a number of settlers including Ogilvie (Tareela), Darby (Campo Santo) Wilson (Plumthorpe) and Chambers (Mayvale).

In recent times I have found out more about the Darby family who initially settled in the Tingha area. Sydney Hudson Darby and his wife Mary Ann and 4 children arrived in Sydney on 23rd January, 1840 on the "Florentina" after a five month journey from London. It seems that Sydney's brother, Arthur Darby also travelled with the family.

They soon moved to Cressfield in the Hunter Valley where Sydney left his family and travelled north with his friend John Goldfinch to look for land. They took up 80,000 acres near present-day Tingha and named it "Tiengah Run". Sydney built his home "The Grove" here in 1842.

As they settled at "The Grove" the Darby men travelled around the north looking for more land and eventually Arthur Swift Darby selected land to the west of Barraba known as Campo Santo. We know he was there in 1884 as he appears on the electoral roll, but it is likely that he had taken up land there in the late 1870's as he appears in Arthur Witten's diary from 1876 until his death in 1894 – he had been in Australia for 54 years.

Arthur S. Darby did not have a family but his nephews from Tingha appear to have visited and taken up land nearby as there is a photo of the first Mayvale home which has come back to Barraba with Darby information on the back of it.

Campo Santo was sold to the Capel family the next year and they were responsible for building the brick home which was photographed so many times. The stone home built by Darby was also still in existence when the whole area was cleared about twenty years ago.



Commercial Hotel Barraba with the stagecoach to Wialalda ready to leave. The stagecoach is fully loaded with 12 adult males and a mountain of luggage. The banner on balcony advertises Manilla Spring Races Sept. 18
Glass plate photo: Percy Williams

CATHOLIC CHURCH NOTES

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

St Laurence's Barraba

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

Uniting Church Notice

Sunday 25th September
Service at 10.45am
Please note the time change
ALL WELCOME

We're live on the web

Now you can get the local
news updated more
frequently by going to
www.barrabacommunitynews.org.au

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Published by Community College
Northern Inland Inc.

Cnr. Alice and Fitzroy St Barraba

Contacts: Bronwyn 0447165008

Office: 02 67821662

Email

news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au

Printed on site at the Community
College. Free publication by email or
collection from local Barraba main street
businesses.

Learn to Skate Classes at Tamworth Skatepark

Totem Skateboarding will be delivering a free Community Skate Workshop to beginner and intermediate skaters on Tuesday 27th September, supported by the Tamworth Regional Council.

The morning will commence from 11:00am with newcomer and beginner skaters, before the intermediate level skaters commence at 12:15pm with a mentoring class.

The day will see experienced coaches assisting young skaters in developing their on-board skills in a safe and fun environment.

The Learn to Skate Classes are tailored to skill levels varying from Level 0 (Newcomers) through to Level 3 (Intermediate skaters who know a few tricks).

Totem Skateboarding said "By combining both the physical and creative elements of skateboarding, Totem gives students the opportunity to try out and practice a wide and unique variety of skills to build self-esteem in a fun, safe, and supported environment".

The Workshop will also feature a Self-Expression Jam Session open to all ages for those currently at an intermediate level of skating and those approaching this level.

The Self-Expression Jam Session will give participants the opportunity for additional progression in a competition-style setting, with the added bonus of prizes to be won. There are limited spots available to participate in this workshop.

For further details about the event including suitable skateboarding levels and registration details please visit: [Tamworth Skatepark - Free Skate Workshop Tickets](#)



TIME TO GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN FOR HERITAGE GRANTS

Applications are now open for innovative ideas to boost public access to the region's most significant heritage places and stimulate the local economy.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson welcomed the opportunity for community groups and organisations to get involved in preserving and celebrating the region's rich heritage.

"Our region is blessed with some significant heritage sites, which connect us to our history and reminds us of the how we got here," Mr Anderson said.

"We need to do everything we can to preserve and promote that heritage which is why I am encouraging local community groups and organisations to get their applications in soon.

"\$5 million has been allocated to supporting these heritage projects and I am excited by the opportunities this significant funding could provide our community. The \$1 million matched funding grant trial is designed to protect and promote NSW heritage by incentivising owners and custodians to revitalise state heritage listed sites and bring them back to life. The Heritage Grants are all about revitalising some of our most meaningful places in NSW, and preserving them for our future generations."

The 2023-2025 NSW Heritage Grants program has six categories, including:

- The new Activating State Heritage Grant where one successful

applicant will be awarded \$1 million in matched funding

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Grants where applicants can apply for up to \$80,000
- Caring for State Heritage Grants where applicants can apply for up to \$150,000
- Community Heritage Grants where applicants can apply for up to \$50,000
- Emergency Works Grants to help address emergency situations at state significant sites
- Local Government Heritage Grants program designed for NSW local councils.

For more information, including guidelines and applications, visit the Heritage NSW website at www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/grants

FUNDING TO BETTER SUPPORT VETERANS

Local community groups can apply for \$3,000 grants for projects supporting local veterans or boosting awareness of their role in Australia's military history.

Mr Anderson said applications are now open for the \$100,000 Anzac Community Grants Program and urged locals to apply. "We need to do everything we can recognise the sacrifice and service of our veterans who have protected our country through times of war and peace," Mr Anderson said.

"Our military heritage enriches our communities, and this fund gives community groups an opportunity to better preserve and display that heritage. "Whether it's restoring a medals' display cabinet, creating an interactive remembrance garden, or researching a local veteran; groups can apply for a range of projects that will better highlight veterans' service and sacrifice,"

Grants cover four categories: local community historical research and education; preservation or display of war

memorabilia; public commemorative events; and support to members of the NSW veteran community.

Applications are open to individuals and not-for-profit organisations including local government authorities, non-government organisations, ex-service organisations, and educational institutions.

Just over 50 projects were selected in 2021, including the purchase of memorabilia cabinets, the research of local veterans and commemorative murals.

Minister for Transport, Veterans and Western Sydney David Elliott today announced an increase to funding available to local community groups to apply for a grant, worth up to \$3,000.

“The NSW Government has increased funding available to honour former and current serving personnel. I encourage anyone who is interested in the service and sacrifice of veterans in New South Wales to apply for an Anzac Community Grant.” Mr Elliott said.

“We’re looking for projects that honour and support our veterans and those who currently serve, and that broaden our understanding of their military efforts and peacekeeping contributions. This is an opportunity to get projects off the ground, at a local community level across the entire State.”

Applications can be submitted online until 5pm on 11 November 2022: www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/grants



Rod Bonner
Your local Plumber, Drainer,
Gasfitter
and Handyman
Lic No. L8791
Text is best 0447 052 140

PHIL DENYER
MECHANICAL REPAIRS
Ph (02) 67 821 107



Lic No. 306630C

- Plumber
 - Drainer
 - Gasfitter
 - Polywelder
 - Roof Welder
- Ph0408117358

wardsplumbing@bigpond.com



Barraba 7 day Forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology

Wednesday 21 Sept

Summary Max 19

Rain

Chance of any rain: 100%



Thursday 22 Sept

Summary Min 9 Max 20

Showers

Chance of rain: 95%



Friday 23 Sept

Summary Min 7 Max 23

Possible Shower

Chance of any rain: 40%



Saturday 24 Sept

Summary Min 9 Max 23

Shower or two

Chance of any rain: 50%



Sunday 25 Sept

Summary Min 7 Max 23

Sunny

Chance of rain: 0%



Monday 26 Sept

Summary Min 6 Max 24

Possible late shower

Chance of any rain: 40%



Tuesday 27 Sept

Summary Min 12 Max 23

Shower or two

Chance of any rain: 70%



Regional Dam Levels from Water NSW

Chaffey 101.0%

Copeton 98.4%

Keepit 97.1%

Split Rock 91.4%



Cobbadah Flowers
Marnie Crowley
0267822045
0429878788

Rifle Club

On Saturday 10th September we had a handful of shooters for both the morning and afternoon events.

The morning Centrefire had three shooters and the scores were extremely close, considering that the wind wasn't favourable to them. John scored a couple of 99's with Rohan scoring one 99, Dallas wasn't far behind them.

In the afternoon six shooters tried their luck with the wind as well. In the 100m benchrest Casey out did the fellas again with her score.

Casey, Andrew, and Ron all scored possibles in the 100m, and Brendan was almost there with a 99. Andrew scored his first possible in the 50m. So, congratulations to you all for your possibles.

Pistol had a good roll up on the Sunday, with everyone enjoying their morning shoot.

Just a quick reminder that membership was due on the 1st September. Thank you.

Unlimited 100m

B. McIlrick 99.5, 98.4, 98.7 = 295.16
D. McIlrick 96.3, 97.4, 94 = 287.7

AA Grade 100m

A. White 100.6, 97.4, 99.5 = 296.15
R. Bridges 92.1, 100.4, 99.4 = 291.10
G. Urquhart 98.3, 96.1, 91 = 285.4

A Grade 100m

C. Wells 100.7, 97.6, 99.4 = 296.13

Unlimited 50m

B. McIlrick 95.3, 97.3, 97.7 = 289.13
D. McIlrick 90, 95.6, 97.4 = 282.10

AA Grade 50m

A. White 100.6, 97.5, 97.3 = 294.14
R. Bridges 93.2, 92.2, 95.3 = 280.7
G. Urquhart 84, 90.2 = 174

A Grade 50m

C. Wells 93.1, 93.3, 91.2 = 277.6

Centrefire

J. Adams 97.4, 99.2, 99.4 = 295.10
R. Clark 97.2, 99.3, 95.4 = 291.9
D. McIlrick 93.2, 93.2, 95.1 = 281.5



Golf Notes

A very good attendance of 75 players supported Sundays Breast Cancer Research Golf Day and again it showed what a wonderful supportive town we live in. In excess of \$5000 was raised for Breast Cancer research as 4 person teams, many wearing something pink, battled it out over 9 holes.

The winning team of Firmen and Finn Allan and Jesse and Brock Phillips carded a very good 2 under off the stick to finish just ahead of the team of Rob Sweeney, Katie Sweeney, Nat Philpott and Chris Sweeney. Third place on the day went to Dan Lott, Chris Darlington, Dylan Walker and Zac Mallise.

NTPs went to David Kelly 12th, Jesse Phillips 16th and Charlie Hart 18th.

The overall Bradman trophy of a packet of chips went to Sam Faint, John Hartley, Bill Simpson and Paul Grigg. I understand there will be a team debriefing at Wednesday golf.

Players soon forgot their near misses and 'if only's' out on the course with Lachie Smith and Banjo Robinson providing the necessary refreshments. Auctioneer Simon Koopman again ensured Breast Cancer Research were the real winners on the day with spirited bidding amongst the good crowd. Gary Allan kindly manned the BBQ after players had finished their round. President Will Sedgwick thanked the trophy and auction prize donors and in closing he thanked the large field of players for again supporting the afternoon. All in all, a wonderful day

was had by everyone. Next Sunday we will play an Individual Stableford for the Vera Doyle Memorial Trophy. A gentle reminder also to be thinking about your twilight golf teams starting on Friday 7th Oct.

Rugby Union Report

Last Saturday the Grand Finals of the Central North Rugby Union was held at Gunnedah. We saw only 1 of the minor premier sides take out the title in front of a large crowd, where cars were parked half a mile away from the gates to the ground.

The Ladies game between the Pirates (Premiers) and Narrabri, the Pirates were too strong for the Blue Boars running out winners in an entertaining game by 31 points to 24.

Second grade, Moree, took on the Pirates in a game of missed chances when the wrong options were taken, specially with a strong wind from the north making hard work bringing back from the clubhouse end. The Moree Bulls were not able to hold out the pirates, who won 31-22 in a tough game. The main game between Gunnedah, looking for their first grand final win in fifty two years, could not hold the Blue Boars after taking an early lead 5-0 with the half time score 5-13 to Narrabri who did all the scoring in the second half to dominate the game and run out winners 25-8.

With the heavy rain in the week before the games there was plenty of water about with Gunnedah to Tamworth closed mid morning. Anyone from that area had to come home via Quirindi, Werris Creek. And with Gunnedah to Narrabri and Moree blocked they would have to go via Coonabarabran to get home, some very long trips.

Barraba Club members are reminded about Presentation Night on Friday 7th October at the clubhouse for a 6.30 start. Tickets can be bought at <http://www.trybooking.com/cckyg>

How do I donate my brain to science?

Greg Sutherland, Associate Professor, Pathology, School of Medical Sciences, University of Sydney

Have you ever thought about donating your brain to science? Don't worry, I mean after you die.

Perhaps you've heard about donating your body to science or donating organs for transplants and wondered if it's similar. Or perhaps you have a vague notion donating your brain might be a good idea and want to know what's involved.

If you do go ahead and donate your brain, it would be stored in a brain bank, perhaps one at the University of Sydney, where I'm the director.

Here are the answers to some of the most common questions we're asked about donating your brain to science.

Is it like donating a kidney?

No, donating your organs, such as kidneys or your liver, during your life or after your death is for transplants. A brain is definitely not for transplants. Donating your body to science is also different and is largely so medical or allied health students can study human anatomy including brain anatomy.

Donating your brain to a brain bank after you die allows researchers to use your brain tissue for research.

What type of brains are you after?

Scientists want to study all types of brains. That includes brains from people who have brain disease, such as dementia or depression, when they sign up for our program, and those who don't have brain disease initially but then develop it.

To understand why certain people get a brain diseases scientists need to compare affected brains to those from people without brain disease. Brain diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and stroke are among Australia's biggest causes of death.

Addiction, anxiety and depression are major causes of disease.

How will my brain be used?

Researchers use donated brain tissue to firstly confirm the patient's diagnosis. Diseases like Alzheimer's disease can only be confirmed after death.

By studying brain tissue, researchers can also learn about how brain disease progresses. By studying diseases at the microscopic level, we are trying to find how they might be better diagnosed and treated.

We still know very little about what happens in the brain to cause these conditions and the reasons why the most promising treatments fail to improve them.

Many treatments' ability to cure brain diseases in animals, but there is a high rate of failure when they are tried in humans. This is because our brains are so uniquely human, in terms of size and complexity. The only accurate model is the human brain itself.

What's actually involved?

When you die, staff from the brain bank liaise with hospital or aged-care staff, funeral directors, and your next-of-kin. Your body is transported to a mortuary, either at a public hospital or forensic medicine centre, and a brain-only autopsy is carried out.

The entire brain and spinal cord are removed by mortuary staff and immediately transported by brain bank staff to the bank for further preparation.

At the bank, staff work quickly to divide the brain in two: one half is placed into a chemical fixative, while the other half is dissected and placed in a -80°C freezer. The time between death and fixation or freezing is called the post-mortem interval and it needs to be kept as short as possible to maximise the success of future analytical techniques.

The fixed tissue remains in solution for three weeks before being dissected into a number of blocks that are then embedded in wax and

allowed to harden. These blocks are then cut with a very fine blade to produce sections one hundredth of a millimetre thick. These sections are stained for disease-specific proteins to allow a diagnosis to be formally made by the bank's neuropathologist.

Researchers interested in a specific brain disease apply to the bank's scientific committee for tissue. A prospective study will often involve both fixed and frozen tissue so complementary spatial (from fixed tissue) and molecular (frozen tissue) studies can be performed. We store about 500 brains from donors with a variety of diseases and those with "normal" brains.

Why do people sign up?

People donate their brains to science for all sorts of reasons. A review by colleagues in New Zealand found a major reason was a desire to help others. Major reasons for not donating included the family was against it, religious concerns, and being unaware that brain donation is possible. Donation was more likely if people had a thorough knowledge and understanding of the entire process.

OK, you've convinced me. What's next?

The first step is to get in touch with your local brain bank to find out what's involved. After discussing with your family or friends and giving informed consent, prospective brain donors will sign up to a program. Some donor programs are associated with referral clinics for specific diseases such as Parkinson's disease or motor neuron disease. In this case, patients will be made aware of brain donation by their specialist and will be contacted by the bank if they give permission.

The brain bank follow donor's lifestyle and medical history using annual questionnaires and optional additional studies. We need this information years before you die to build a more complete picture of the person behind the brain, and any issues that may relate to brain disease.

Thank you

Australia's brain banks have already contributed to many findings, including research into Alzheimer's disease, alcohol addiction, young-onset dementia and Parkinson's disease.

So, thank you for considering donating your brain to science so we can have a chance of learning more.

From The Conversation

What happens if you die without a will?

Prue Vines, Professor, Law Faculty, UNSW Sydney

Actor Chadwick Boseman, star of Marvel's Black Panther, died in 2020 aged 43 from colon cancer. It came to light last month his estate would be split evenly between his widow and his parents, following a legal process.

Although he knew for some time that he was dying, he did not make a will. This is why his estate (all his money and assets) passed by what's legally called "intestacy" – the rules governing someone's estate if they don't have a will.

Boseman was one of around 66% of Americans who didn't make a will before he died.

Australians are different. They have one of the highest rates of will-making in the world. For example, in Queensland in 2012, 79% of people over 35 had made a will and 54.5% of those over 18 had made one.

It's possible this is a function of Australia's high level of homeownership comparative to other countries, and that people often make their first will when they buy their first house.

But here's what happens if you die without a will in Australia – and why you should make one if you haven't already.

The law of intestacy

If you don't leave a will, then the law of intestacy will apply.

Each state and territory in Australia has rules for intestacy. These set out who is to inherit, and in what shares, when the deceased hasn't made a will. The rules are based on Western ideas of kinship, derived from English law. They focus on the nuclear family as it descends over time.

Although rules differ in each state, there's a pattern that puts the spouse first (married, registered partner, de facto, same sex, heterosexual). The spouse gets a significant part – sometimes all – of the estate.

If there's anything left after the spouse takes their share, then the children, and grandchildren, and so on share the remainder. If there's no spouse and no children or grandchildren, then the estate may go to parents, then aunts, uncles and cousins. Some states extend this a little, but if none of these relatives survives, the estate goes to the government.

If you make a will, you can decide not only who will take particular parts of your estate, but also who is your “executor” – the person tasked with carrying out your wishes. You can explain your wishes and trust they will carry them out after they have been granted “probate”. Probate gives them the right to deal with your body and property.

If you die intestate you get no choices – a court will decide who should administer your estate, and appoint someone (the administrator) to do that. This might be the Public Trustee or anyone the court thinks suitable. The executor or administrator is supposed to pay debts, gather assets, do the last tax return for the deceased and manage the property until it’s clear who will benefit, and then distribute to the beneficiaries.



Making a will gives you choices and control over what happens to your money and assets when you die.

Shutterstock

Who’s in the family?

In intestacy it’s assumed you think about your family in the same way the legal system does.

Intestacy may work very well where property held isn’t very complex, and for people whose idea of family matches the law’s view of family.

But many people in Australia do not, including some immigrants whose ideas of family may be more extended, and many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people whose ideas of family connections may be very different.

Where kinship ideas don’t match, intestacy can be problematic. For example, in many Aboriginal groups, children regard their aunt or uncle as “mother” or “father”.

Aunts and uncles often have obligations to help take care of their siblings’ children, who they think of as their own children, according to my research into culturally appropriate will making.

But the intestacy scheme will ignore this. This can create ill-feeling and confusion.

This is why in the Northern Territory, New South Wales and Tasmania it’s possible to use customary law for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who die without a will.

You lose choice without a will

For the rare people whose property consists only of a house held in joint tenancy, a joint bank account and superannuation, you may not need a will because property will pass to the other owner by the mere fact of living longer.

But anyone with more complex property than this needs a will.

Intestacy has no room for individual differences. For example, without a will you cannot set up a special trust for a child who has an intellectual disability, or donate to a charity, or pick out the particular people you wish to get particular things.

Death creates grief and sometimes grief overwhelms good sense and creates greed leading to disputes. Intestacy is a safety net, but where there has been no planning in the form of a will there may be greater grief and confusion because people do not know what to do.

The advantages of a will include that it can smooth the changeover of property from one person to another, and allows the individual to have their own wishes respected.

EMERGENCY SERVICES CONTACT LIST

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Ambulance | 000 |
| Fire | 000 |
| Police | 67900360 |
| VRA | 000 |
| Barraba Police Station | 67821003 |
| Barraba Fire Brigade | 67821179 |
| Barraba Health Service (Hospital) | 67822500 |
| Barraba Medical Centre (GP) | 67821621 |
| Barraba Vet Service | 67821316 |
| Essential Energy | 132080 |
| Beyond Blue | 1300224636 |
| Lifeline | 131114 |
| NRMA | 131122 |
| SES Barraba | 132500 |
| Tamworth Regional Council | |
| Emergency Number | 1300733625 |
| Council Office | 67821105 |