

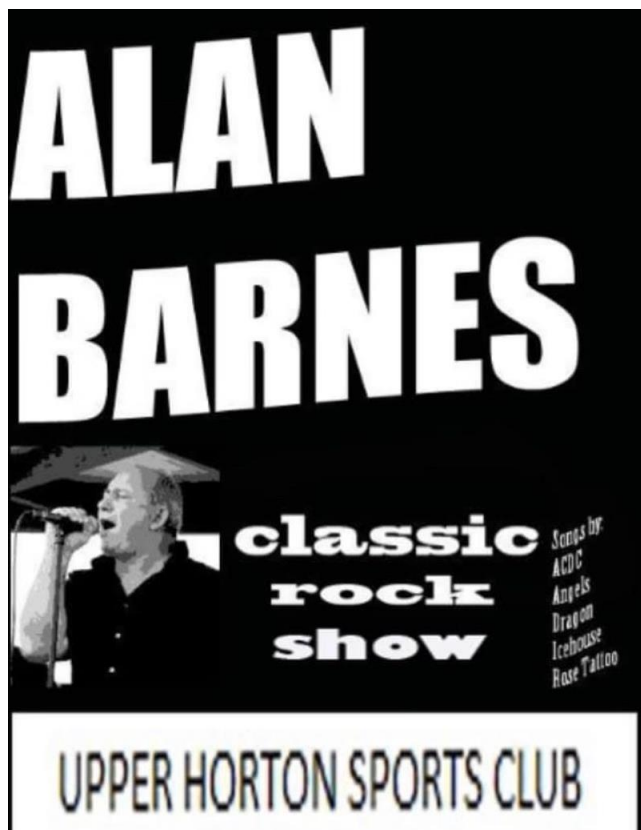


# BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022



**ALAN BARNES**

classic rock show

Songs by:  
AC/DC  
Angels  
Dragon  
Icehouse  
Rose Tattoo

UPPER HORTON SPORTS CLUB

It's official!! We have a band coming to the Upper Horton Club on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

Come down and meet Alan Barnes, yes Jimmy's brother, also Gayle and Brett.

Meals will be available and there is plenty of camping area available.

Please come and support us at the Horto.



**OFF THE CLOCK CHARITY RIDE DAY**

**WHEN**  
5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022  
Ride from 8am  
Lunch from 12pm  
Live music from 2pm

**WHERE**  
The Commercial Hotel Barraba

All ride info available from Phil Denyer when purchasing your ride ticket.

**RIDE TICKETS**  
\$75 pp inc morning tea and lunch & drink on arrival at the Pub

**AT THE DOOR**  
FREE entry

**DON'T RIDE?**  
Join in on lunch, raffles and live music at the Pub.

**FEATURING**  
Adam Mills LIVE

**BENEFITING**  
Dan Etheridge and Phil Denyer are team "Off the CLOCK" participating in the SHITBOX Rally Autumn 2023 raising money for the Cancer Council.

QR to team page on The Shitbox Rally site.

QR to Facebook event

thank you for your support

In partnership with **Cancer Council**

**SHITBOX RALLY**

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 team have a major raffle (1<sup>st</sup> Webber BabyQ1000 2ns Husqvarna Whipper Snipper and 3<sup>rd</sup> a Carlton Dry Esky) underway now and will be drawn at the pub on the Charity Ride Day.

## Masonic Lodge donation to the Shitbox Rally

On Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> September, Barraba's Phil Denyer and his co-driver took their Shitbox Rally car to Manilla Masonic Lodge (Lodge Saint Andrews) and were presented with a cheque for \$500 by the Worshipful Master, George Huenteler, towards their Rally Fundraising, and the Lodge members wished them well in their enterprise.



## Barraba Central School

### Across the Desk from the Principal Patrick Sullivan

As Term 3 draws to a close I would like to thank all students, staff, and parents for a fantastic and busy term, with some outstanding highlights from Netball and Rugby to Primary Debating. I want to thank the Secondary SRC and Miss Mulligan for organising the new school (hoody) jumpers. It has been very pleasing to see how Secondary students have embraced it and how good the students look. Students who wear our uniform daily show pride in themselves and their school, and a commitment to being Safe, Respectful Learners. It is also essential that students representing the school, attending excursions, extra-curricular activities and formal school events wear full school uniform and project the best possible image of our school and our community. Mrs Campbell runs after-school study sessions in A1 every Thursday for senior students from 3.00 to 4.30 pm. These sessions are available for junior students if they need help with their homework. Mrs Campbell will be emailing parents a fortnightly homework update for Year 7 & 8 students. Years 9 to 12 were lucky enough to participate in an Edge Job Readiness Workshop. From handshakes to how to dress, the students enjoyed the day with William Russell and Jack Coombes looking a little too comfortable in the Principal's chair. Students who received haircuts looked very smart and the girls all dressed up for an interview, including make-up, looked ready to take on the world. Navigating the online world is challenging for our students. This year we have had the Police School Liaison Officer in term one and the PCYC this week talk to our students about issues that arise in the online world. Suppose you need to report the problems that occur online. In that case, the eSafety Commissioner can investigate cyberbullying of children, adult cyber abuse, image-based abuse (sharing or threatening to share intimate images without the consent of the person shown) and illegal and restricted content. There are some great resources for parents and carers on the ESafety website: [www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au). Mrs Bell and I have been interviewing Year 10 students and their parents about their subject choices for the HSC. The compressed curriculum for Year 11 will start in week 6 of Term 4, which will mean that the timetable for Years 7-9 will roll into next year. Years 8 and 9 will start their electives for 2023 in week six of next term. Thank you everyone for a great term and I look forward to Term 4 and celebrating all our students' achievements at Presentation Day on Monday 12 December 2022.

Patrick Sullivan Principal





### Tigers Development Day

Ten of our year 7 and 8 students enjoyed an action-packed day in Tamworth courtesy of the visiting West Tigers Rugby League Club. Modified league tag, wheelchair rugby league, boomerang and spear throwing and arts and crafts were on the agenda.

A great day out and well done to Dustin Hiscock, Hope Dawson and Amelia Walker from Year 8 and Chelsea Inwards, Jake Turner, Andrea Riley, Charlotte Gillogly, Siobhan Derrick, Eleanor Ross and Lilly Groth for your enthusiastic participation. Thank you to Mr Good for organising the day.

Mr Maloney

### Edge Program

On Tuesday 13 September 2022 the students from Years 9 to 12 had the opportunity to participate in the Edge Program that is designed to help prepare students prepare for employment and transition from school.

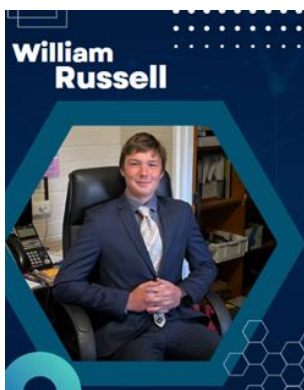
The workshops covered a range of activities which centered around presentation, social media awareness in employment along with interview techniques.

This is increasingly important for students from Regional areas to develop these skills before leaving the school setting.

The students were very engaged in the program and the feedback from the presenters was very positive in regards to how the students actively participated in the day.

A huge thank you to all involved and to Sharna Dawson and her team for the event.

Scott Good



## Community College NSW State Training Awards

On Friday, 16th September 2022, CCNI Executive Officer Alison Heagney, VET Manager Vicki Zammit, Compliance Officer Ted Nabung & President Judy Campbell attended the NSW State Training Awards held in Sydney. The College had been nominated earlier this year in the Large Training Provider of the Year category and on Friday, became one of three finalists in the category.

The awards are held annually and are designed to recognize outstanding achievement in the Vocational Education Training sector.

Executive Officer Alison Heagney is proud of the efforts of all involved with the College stating, "Isn't it amazing that our College, based in Barraba, can be showcased at such a high level. It goes to show that giving real, authentic help to our communities pays off. It is a testament to the grit and determination of CCNI staff in getting the job done."



*L to R – Vicki Zammit, VET Manager; Judy Campbell, College President; Alison Heagney, EO.*



**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 \$1,400

**SATURDAY: 10AM-**

SUNDAY: 10AM-5.30PM

ANGLERS CLUB RAFFLES 1PM

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1,100

**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**



**The Barraba Potters and Craft Guild** recently hosted a 1-day pottery workshop led by Andrew Parker from Uralla. The workshop was funded by Arts North West and was part of a 4 workshop series, with different artists, across the region. Both local and regional potters enrolled in the program at the Claypan to improve their knowledge and skills. As one participant said "I've learned so much today, it was great to have the benefit of Andrew's knowledge."



## NSW COVID-19 weekly update

In the past 7 days to 4pm Thursday 22 September 2022

**14,170**

new cases

**69**

lives lost\*

8,400 RAT

5,770 PCR

As at 4pm Thursday 22 September 2022

**1,176**

people in hospital

**24**

people in ICU

\* Not all COVID-19 deaths occurred in the week in which they are reported as there is sometimes a delay between a death occurring and it being notified to NSW Health.





## Author talk with Fiona McArthur

The Tamworth City Library is hosting author Fiona McArthur for an in-conversation author event to discuss her latest book 'The Opal Miner's Daughter', a heart-warming story set in Australia's outback.



Drawing from her earlier life as a rural midwife, Fiona McArthur shares her love of working with women, families and health professionals in her books previously releasing the non-fiction book 'Aussie Midwives'. Council's Coordinator of Library Services, Shiralee Franks said. "Our author talks are always a big hit, and we can't wait to have Fiona share her exciting new book with us." The event will be held on Wednesday 28 September 2022 from 2pm and will be followed by afternoon tea provided by Friends of Tamworth Library. For further details and to register for this event, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/an-afternoon-with-author-fiona-mcarthur-tickets-403852843727>



## JOINT PUSH FOR AN ALTERNATIVE PALLIATIVE CARE OPTION

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson has joined Friends of Nioka (FoN) to explore a new model that could deliver better outcomes for palliative care patients who may not require the high-level care of the Nioka ward.

Mr Anderson invited FoN Vice President Bryan Singh to meet with the Minister for Regional Health Bronnie Taylor on a recent visit to Tamworth to introduce a model that would increase support for patients receiving in-home care.

"Friends of Nioka are a dedicated support team of volunteers and friends who raise funds to enhance palliative care services at home and at Nioka," Mr Anderson said.

"Their work has resulted in real positive outcomes for our community so when they came to me with a proposal to enhance palliative care in our region, I was very keen to work with them to see what more could be done to support patients."

Friends of Nioka Vice President Bryan Singh said the group had been working with the support of local health professionals on fine-tuning a proposal to government that would fill a gap in services currently available. Mr Singh said. "Many palliative patients choose to be cared for in their own homes 24 hours per day by friends and family. There are occasions where the carers need respite from this role, due to health, fatigue, or other commitments. There is currently

nowhere that offers these carers the ability to leave the patients in a comfortable, safe and caring environment. Friends of Nioka has been working in consultation with Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson to investigate provisioning such a facility for Tamworth."

## NSW GOVERNMENT LEADING THE WAY AS FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROVISIONS ENHANCED FOR ALL NSW PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES

The NSW Government is doubling family and domestic violence leave provisions for all NSW public sector workers with staff able to access 20 days of paid leave per calendar year from 1 January 2023. The same paid leave provisions will also be provided to casual employees, while access to existing carers leave will be also extended to all employees providing support to a family or household member who is a victim-survivor of domestic violence.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said this change was so important when it comes to supporting those impacted by domestic and family violence.

"The public sector remains one of the biggest employers in our region and this important change gives workers the support they require when they require it, making safety a priority without having to exhaust other entitlements like sick leave or annual leave," Mr Anderson said. "We are committed to improving women's safety after the pandemic saw an increase in domestic violence cases, particularly in our region."

The NSW Domestic Violence Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 1800 656 463 to explain services and support available. [The 1800RESPECT](#) online chat service is available as an alternative to calling.

Information about other services and support is available on the [Department of Communities and Justice website](#).

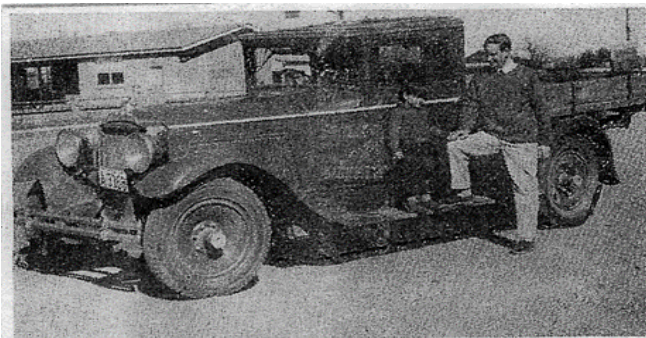
A relatively quiet history week this week apart from a phone call re an Edie O'Brien who married a Fred Foreman. The only Foreman I have found in the records was a Jane Foreman who died at Copeton in 1901 aged 19 years. The contact was talking about going to Inverell so I hope she has more success there.

This week is busy at the museum with visitors expected to talk about the collection and the usual meeting early in the week, so call in if you see the gate open. We like to see visitors.

The search for the photo of Mr Ridley, the Bingara bank manager, has been called off – seems that there are photos of his father and mother but not the man himself.

While still looking for Mr Ridley, I have come across some cuttings donated to the Historical Society by Mrs O'Brien many years ago. Hopefully, there is something on the Coronation Sports Day when I get to the bottom of the box but in the meantime, I have found the following complete with a photo.

Some 50 years ago a 1929 Packard car was sold to a Vintage car collector at Dural and the story was printed in the Barraba Gazette in July 1969.




The new owner of the Vintage Car, takes a look at his purchase, just before leaving Barraba.

The history of this vehicle began when it was imported to Australia and purchased by Mr C. P. Wilson of "Mayvale" Barraba. Joe Loveday was working with the firm Hoskins and Hoskins and serviced the vehicle even before he set up his motor business in Barraba in 1935.

Mr Wilson drove the vehicle home from Sydney, accompanied by Mrs Wilson and Miss Knight, spending a night in Murrurundi with relatives on the way. The women were both amazed to find how tired they were on arrival at Murrurundi.

As the years passed the car became 'old fashioned' and a new model was purchased. Mr Wilson then asked Mr Bill Alce (blacksmith) to build a utility tray on the old one. The utility was used on Mayvale and Cairton until after Mr Wilson's



death in 1950. Mr Loveday then purchased and cared for the old vehicle until it was sold to Mr Smith of "Doonba" in 1963. The vehicle remained on "Doonba", unregistered but doing all sorts of carrying jobs around the property until a Mr John Andrew of Rose Cottage farm at Dural purchased it in 1969 complete with its original instruction book and tools. He drove it home to Dural after telling the interested Barraba onlookers that the car would never wear out or rust out. I wonder if it still exists.




# Bible Society


## BIBLE TOUR!

BARRABA ANGLICAN CHURCH, 52 FITZROY ST, BARRABA  
MORNING TEA AT 10:30 AM 9TH OCTOBER 2022

Ancient bible collection shares stories of risk and revelation





**William Tyndale**  
- strangled and burnt at the stake... Why?  
For translating the Bible into English.


**SOME OF THE SPECIAL COLLECTION ON DISPLAY:**

**Tyndale's translation | 1552 AD**  
One of the oldest Bibles in the world

**First Fleet Bible | 1773 AD**  
Transported to Australia with John Hunter; with an engraved leather cover decorated by a convict

**The Bullet in the Bible | 1915 AD**  
See the actual bullet lodged in the New Testament that saved a soldier's life!

ONCE IN A LIFETIME VIEWING!  
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFO:



PRESENTED BY  
BIBLE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA  
JONATHAN HARRIS

CONTACT:  
0403811480

### Snippets from St Laurence's

Did you watch the funeral service for Queen Elizabeth II? All that pomp and ceremony, split – second timing and the sonorous phrasing of the Book of Common and the King James Bible! I found it incredibly moving, and a fitting tribute to a long life of disciplined service.

It is quite a few years since we started using a modern translation of the Bible in church. It is even longer since modern translations started appearing in our bookshops. I was given a James Moffatt translation for Christmas in 1948, and it was an eye – opener.

One of our church family, home after some weeks travelling, commented that she missed the fellowship, and I was reminded of Moffatt's translation of Psalm 133: "How rare it is, how lovely, this fellowship of those who meet together... for in this fellowship has the Eternal fixed the blessing of an endless life." Come and meet with us and share the fellowship. With Daylight Saving back next weekend our Sunday services will revert to 9am. There will be no service at Woodsreef on 9<sup>th</sup> October, and on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October we shall be packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.



**St Laurence's Barraba**  
Sunday service at 9.00am  
Woodsreef: 2nd Sundays 11.30am

**Uniting Church Notice**  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October  
Service at 10.45am  
Please note the time change  
ALL WELCOME

**CATHOLIC CHURCH NOTES**  
Barraba—1st & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 5pm Saturday evening  
2nd 3rd & 4th Sunday 9am  
Upper Horton 3rd Sunday 11am  
Weekday Mass Wednesday 10am

### **The Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme**

will hold its initial public hearing in Brisbane at 10am on Tuesday, 27 September 2022. At this hearing the Commissioner and Senior Counsel Assisting will make short opening statements. No witnesses will be called.

The hearing will be held in the Grand Windsor Ballroom, Pullman Hotel King George Square, corner Ann and Roma streets, Brisbane.

The hearing will be streamed live through the Royal Commission's website and a transcript will be available on the website shortly after the hearing.

Further information on the Robodebt Royal Commission is available at [www.robodebt.royalcommission.gov.au](http://www.robodebt.royalcommission.gov.au)

#### **Public submissions**

The Royal Commission is accepting submissions from members of the public. The online form for submissions is available on the Royal Commission website at

<https://robodebt.royalcommission.gov.au/share-your-story>

Submissions will be accepted until 3 February 2023.

#### **Enquiries**

For general enquiries, email

[RRC.enquiries@royalcommission.gov.au](mailto:RRC.enquiries@royalcommission.gov.au)

### **We're live on the web**

**Now you can get the local news updated more frequently by going to**

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



### **Spring has sprung in time for the holidays**

The school holidays are almost back again and Tamworth Regional Council has pulled together a sensational array of activities to keep the boredom at bay. The calendar is packed full of events that promise to keep the kids entertained from September 26 through to October 7.

There is something on offer for all ages, interests and abilities. From movie nights, scratch art, Lego challenges and cooking, to a pool comp and even a disco to keep the holidays groovy. Tamworth Regional Council, Coordinator Out of School Hours Care and Youth Centre, Haley Fenn, said: "The selection of events we offer are fantastic not just to keep the kids busy, but they allow them to explore new activities, experiences and meet people in the process."

Activities will be on operating at The Youthie, Tamworth libraries, Tamworth Gallery, Manilla Library, Barraba Library and Kootingal Library, not to mention a collection of online workshops accessible at any time.

One highlight of the spring program this year is the cartooning workshops with award-winning local artist Danny Stanley. Young artists will have the opportunity to embrace their abstract thinking and develop their own special characters. Being guided through the processes of technical drawing and storytelling, participants are invited to embrace their imagination and creativity.

To book a place and find out more visit [www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/schoolholidays](http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/schoolholidays)

For more activities and experiences go to the Destination Tamworth website for details of what's on in the Tamworth region.

#### **BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS**

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Cnr. Alice and Fitzroy St Barraba

Contacts: Bronwyn 0447165008

Office: 02 67821662

Email [news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au](mailto:news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au)

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## **Why does my cat wake me up so early, and what can I do about it?**

*Susan Hazel, Senior Lecturer, School of Animal and Veterinary Science, University of Adelaide*

*Julia Henning, PhD Candidate, University of Adelaide*

You've got an important meeting in the morning and your cat wakes you at 4am. Why? And what can you do to stop this happening again?

Although cats are evolved for night-time activity, during domestication they have adapted to human lifestyles. Domestic cats tend to be most active early in the morning and at dusk, not in the middle of the night. They also change their activity cycles to fit in with their human housemates. This means if you sleep at night, your cat should also be resting. And a lot of people do sleep with their cat. In a survey of women in the US, around 30% slept with at least one cat.

### **So why do some cats want to play in the wee hours?**

The reason why your cat is waking you up will often help you understand how to stop them. Here are three reasons your cat might be waking you up and how to address the issue.



*Domestic cats tend to be most active early in the morning and at dusk, not in the middle of the night. Shutterstock*

### **1. They're hungry**

This is among the most common reasons. Unfortunately, one of the first things a sleepy person will do is feed their cat. This rewards the behaviour and makes the cat more likely to repeat it. To start addressing this problem, make sure your cat is getting enough to eat throughout the day. You can feed them a meal or a satisfying snack right before you go to bed.

If you usually feed your cat in the morning, you need to make sure your cat is not associating wake up time with breakfast time. Leave a gap between when you get out of

bed and when you feed kitty breakfast – aim for at least half an hour. You can also train your cat to associate something else with getting fed, such as saying “breakfast time!”.



*If you usually feed your cat in the morning, you need to make sure your cat is not associating wake up time with breakfast time. Shutterstock*

### **2. They don't have a routine**

Cats love predictability. Keeping a regular routine has even been associated with reduced stress levels in cats.

To maintain a routine, keep mealtimes, play times and any grooming close to the same time each day.

Empty litter at regular, predictable intervals (dirty or disturbed litter may also be a reason your cat is waking you up). Try not to move litter trays, bowls or scratch posts around unless needed.

If something changes in their environment – you go on holiday, move furniture or have a new house guest or pet – your cat may return to early morning wake up calls. This is typical for cats. Keep the routine as consistent as you can and eventually your cat will settle in to the new normal.



*Keeping a regular routine has been associated with reduced stress levels in cats. Shutterstock*

### **3. They're not using up their energy throughout the day**

It's common knowledge cats love to sleep, but they also love to play and move their bodies just like us. It's important to give your cat access to a variety of toys and resources around



the house to interact with, especially if you're not home often.

Scratch posts offer cats a place to climb and stretch. Balls, soft and motorised toys give them an opportunity to play and exercise. When you are home, engage your cat with an interactive toy (like a cat wand) or play a game of chase around the house. You can even try making up a game your cat will enjoy.

Cats get bored easily. Keep variety in your play times. And don't play with your cat in the hour before you want to go to bed. Ideally, a play session before you go out and once you get home should help to keep your kitty quiet overnight.



*Cats get bored easily. Keeping variety in your play times is important. Shutterstock*

### **Help! I've made these changes and my cat still woke me up!**

Your cat might still wake you up for some time. This behaviour may even get worse in the short term as your cat adjusts. The key is to ignore your cat's behaviour at night or in the early morning. Don't get up and, if you can, don't interact with your cat when they wake you.

If you've tried everything and your cat still wakes you up, it's time to go to see your veterinarian. There might be a health reason causing the behaviour.

Hopefully, you and your cat can come to an agreement about when it's sleep time and when it's wake-up time. It is definitely possible to love your cat and still get your sleep.



**When you're driving past a cemetery and dad pipes up with: I bet everyone is dying to get in there.**

From The Conversation

## **17,500-year-old kangaroo in the Kimberley is Australia's oldest Aboriginal rock painting**

*Damien Finch, Postdoctoral Researcher, The University of Melbourne*

*Andrew Gleadow, Emeritus Professor, The University of Melbourne*

*Janet Hergt, Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor, The University of Melbourne*

*Sven Ouzman, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology and Centre for Rock Art Research + Management, University of Western Australia*

In Western Australia's northeast Kimberley region, on Balangarra Country, a two-metre-long painting of a kangaroo spans the sloping ceiling of a rock shelter above the Drysdale River.

In a paper published today in *Nature Human Behaviour*, we date the artwork as being between 17,500 and 17,100 years old — making it Australia's oldest known in-situ rock painting.

We used a pioneering radiocarbon dating technique on 27 mud wasp nests underlying and overlying 16 different paintings from 8 rock shelters. We found paintings of this style were produced between 17,000 and 13,000 years ago. Our work is part of Australia's largest rock art dating initiative. The project is based in the Kimberley, one of the world's premier rock art regions. Here, rock shelters have preserved galleries of paintings, often with generations of younger artwork painted over older work.

By studying the stylistic features of the paintings and the order in which they were painted when they overlap, a stylistic sequence has been developed by earlier researchers based on observations at thousands of Kimberley rock art sites.

They identified five main stylistic periods, of which the most recent is the familiar Wanjin period.

### **Styles in rock art**

The oldest style, which includes the kangaroo painting we recently dated, often features life-sized animals in outline form, infilled with irregular dashes. Paintings in this style are said to belong to the "Naturalistic" stylistic period.

The ochre used is an iron oxide in a red-mulberry colour. Unfortunately, no current scientific dating method can determine when this paint was applied to the rock surface. A different approach is to date fossilised insect nests or mineral accretions on the rock surfaces that happen to be overlying or underlying rock art pigment. These dates

provide a maximum (underlying) or minimum (overlying) age range for the painting.

Our dating suggests the main period for Naturalistic paintings in the Kimberley spanned from at least 17,000 to 13,000 years ago.

### **The oldest known Australian rock painting**

Very rarely, we'll find mud wasp nests both overlying and underlying a single painting. This was the case with the painting of the kangaroo, made on the low ceiling of a well-protected Drysdale River rock shelter.

We were able to date three wasp nests underlying the painting and three nests built on top of it. With these ages, we determined confidently the painting is between 17,500 and 17,100 years old; most likely close to 17,300 years old.



*The 17,300 year old painting of a two-metre long kangaroo can be found on the ceiling of a Kimberley rock shelter. Damien Finch. Illustration by Pauline Heaney*

Our quantitative ages support the proposed stylistic sequence that suggests the oldest Naturalistic style was followed by the Gwion style. This style featured paintings of decorated human figures, often with headdresses and holding boomerangs.

### **From animals and plants to people**

Research we published last year shows Gwion paintings flourished about 12,000 years ago — some 1,000-5,000 years after the Naturalistic period. With these dates, we can also partially reconstruct the environment in which the artists lived 600 generations ago. For example, much of the Naturalistic period coincided with the end of the last ice age when the environment was cooler and drier than now.

During the Naturalistic period, 17,000 years ago, sea levels were a staggering 106 metres below today's and the Kimberley coastline was about 300 kilometres further away, more than half the distance to Timor.

Aboriginal artists at this time often chose to depict kangaroos, fish, birds, reptiles, echidnas and plants (particularly yams). As the climate warmed, ice caps melted, the monsoon was re-established, rainfall increased and sea levels rose, sometimes rapidly.



*Traditional Owner Ian Waina inspecting a painting of a kangaroo that we now know is more than 12,700 years old, based on the age of overlying mud wasp nests. INSET: an artist's recreation of the in-situ rock painting. Photo by Peter Veth / Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation. Illustration by Pauline Heaney.*

By the Gwion period around 12,000 years ago, sea levels had risen to 55m below today's. This would undoubtedly have prompted long-term adjustment to territories and social relations. This is when Aboriginal painters depicted highly decorated human figures, bearing a striking resemblance to early 20th-century photographs of Aboriginal ceremonial dress. While plants and animals were still painted, human figures were clearly the most popular subject.

### **Reaching into the past**

While we now have age estimates for more paintings than ever before, more work is continuing to find out, more accurately, when each art period began and ended.

For example, one minimum age on a Gwion painting suggests it may be more than 16,000 years old. If so, Gwion art would have overlapped with the Naturalistic period but further dates are required to be more certain.

Moreover, it's highly unlikely the oldest known Naturalistic painting we dated is the oldest surviving one. Future research will almost certainly locate even older works.

For now, however, the 17,300-year-old kangaroo is a sight to marvel at.

*Acknowledgements: we would like to thank the Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation, the Australian National Science and Technology Organisation, Rock Art Australia and Dunkeld Pastoral Co for their collaboration on this work.*



## Things to think about:

- What if my dog only brings back the ball because he thinks I like throwing it?
- If poison is past its expiry date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
- Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?
- Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?
- Why is the letter w, in English, called double u? Shouldn't it be called double v?
- Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work.
- Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
- The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".
- Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to win.
- 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
- Your future self is watching you right now through memories.
- The doctors that told Stephen Hawking he had two years to live in 1953 are probably dead.
- If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.
- Many animals probably need glasses, but nobody knows it.
- If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.

## Recent Anniversaries

- the debut of *The Golden Girls* (1985)
- the deaths of Princess Grace of Monaco (1982)
- Malcolm Turnbull ousting Tony Abbott as PM and leader of the Liberal Party (2015)
- the birthdays of explorer Marco Polo (1254) and author Agatha Christie (1890)
- Scottish bacteriologist Alexander Fleming discovering penicillin (1928)
- [google.com](https://www.google.com) being registered as a domain name (1997)
- the opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympic Games (2000)
- New Zealand becoming the first country to grant all women the right to vote (1893)
- the death of Slim Dusty (2003)
- the death of psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud (1939)
- Kentucky Fried Chicken opening its first franchise in Salt Lake City, Utah (1952)
- the release of Elvis Presley's *Jailhouse Rock* (1957)
- the Mars Orbiter Mission making India the first Asian nation to reach Mars' orbit, and the first nation in the world to do so in its first attempt (2014)
- Henry Ford announcing an 8-hour, 5-day work week (1926)
- Cathy Freeman's famous 400m Olympic win at the Sydney Olympics (2000)
- the 'Battle of the Sexes' tennis showdown between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs (1973)
- US President George W Bush declaring a "war on terror" following the 11 September terrorist attacks (2001)
- the birthdays of sci-fi author HG Wells (1866), musician Leonard Cohen (1934), and former Japanese PM Shinzō Abe (1954)
- the passing of a proclamation announcing the formal abolition of the French monarchy during the French Revolution (1792)
- the publication of JRR Tolkien's *The Hobbit* (1937)
- the proclamation of the People's Republic of China by the Chinese Communist Party (1949)
- the publication of a genomic study finding Indigenous Australians are the oldest known civilisation on earth in *Nature* (2016)
- Olivia Newton-John's birthday (1948)
- the first publication of comic book *Tintin* (1946)
- the premiere of TV series *Gilligan's Island* (1964)
- the release of The Beatles' *Abbey Road* (1969)
- Republican Richard Nixon squaring off against Democrat John Kennedy in America's first televised presidential debate (1960)
- Saudi Arabia announcing the overturning of its ban on women driving - the last country in the world to do so (2017)



## Golf Notes

A glorious spring day greeted a good field of golfers hitting off in the Vera Doyle Memorial trophy on Sunday. With all the recent rain there is no run in the course and the scores are showing this. Playing an Individual Stableford Josh Austin with 37 points won the day with balls going to runner up Firmen Allan on 36, Ian Cabot 34, David Kelly 32 and Shane Middlemiss on 31 points. A NTP went to Graham Bowman on the 6th.

Next Sunday 2nd October we will play a 4BBB v Par for a trophy donated by John Hartley and Tim Bucknell. The following Friday 7th October is the start of our Twilight Teams competition. It is hoped that if we have enough interest in people wanting golf lessons we can have a golf professional attend on the 7th.

### 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.

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## Barraba 7 day Forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology



**Wednesday 28 Sept**

**Summary** Max 21

**Possible shower**

Chance of any rain: 40%



**Thursday 29 Sept**

**Summary** Min 4 Max 20

**Partly cloudy**

Chance of rain: 10%



**Friday 30 Sept**

**Summary** Min 7 Max 21

**Partly cloudy**

Chance of any rain: 10%



**Saturday 1 Oct**

**Summary** Min 7 Max 22

**Shower or two**

Chance of any rain: 60%



**Sunday 2 Oct**

**Summary** Min 7 Max 18

**Shower or two**

Chance of rain: 70%



**Monday 3 Oct**

**Summary** Min 5 Max 21

**Mostly sunny**

Chance of any rain: 20%



**Tuesday 4 Oct**

**Summary** Min 7 Max 23

**Possible shower**

Chance of any rain: 40%

### Regional Dam Levels from Water NSW

Chaffey 101.4%

Copeton 99.2%

Keepit 98.1%

Split Rock 97.4%

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