



# BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022

## CHARITY GOLF DAY



**THREE PERSON AMBROSE**  
**Sunday Dec 4th**  
**9.30 for 10am tee off**

**WHERE**  
**Barraba Golf Club**  
 Tervallyn Road, Barraba

Drinks cart will be available

In partnership with  
 **Cancer Council**



**ALL AGES EVENT**

**AUCTION ON THE DAY**  
 Fire pit / BBQ – donated by Mick Johnson  
 Signed Raiders jersey – donated by the Etheridge family +and much more

**ENTRY**  
 \$25pp includes green fees and lunch

**RAFFLE ON THE DAY**

**BENEFITING**  
 Shitbox Rally team  
**"Off THE Clock"**  
 raising awareness and funds for the Cancer Council

**FACEBOOK EVENT**





Richardson House.

## Board Members Wanted

Richardson House has provided Aged Care for the elderly of our community, and employment opportunities for the people of Barraba since 1983.

We need motivated and caring individuals to join our Board to ensure that we can continue to do so for many years to come.

If you are passionate about our elderly receiving exceptional care within their own community, please forward your expression of interest to Phil Kruit [admin@pjklaw.com.au](mailto:admin@pjklaw.com.au) by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022.

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 6pm

The "Off THE Clock" team had a wonderful result at their Charity Ride Day earlier this month. The weather, ride, music, raffles and food were all spot on and everyone had a great time.

The team are now organising their Charity Golf Day which is set to be a great family day on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Sign up at 9.30 for 10am tee off. The 3-person Ambrose is always fun and we encourage people to bring their family to join in the 9 holes. \$25 includes the golf and sausage sizzle lunch. There will be a raffle held on the day and Auctions. Some of the Auction items are a signed Raiders jersey and a very sought after firepit/bbq made by Mick Johnson that is so cleverly made that it disassembles to store flat so the perfect item for camping!

While this is the last fundraising event of the year for the team, Phil & Ally will still be doing Friday night raffles at the Commercial Hotel right up till Christmas. Each Friday there are 4 meat trays, schooners and a handmade gift bundle up for grabs.



## GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

Shopping til 7pm

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2022**

Bring a friend & enjoy some refreshments, discount shopping & in store prizes. Get some Christmas shopping sorted or treat yourself to something nice. Join our local businesses as we say *Thank You* for your support throughout the year.

See our Facebook event here





*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 \$1,300  
**SATURDAY: 10AM-**  
**SUNDAY: 10AM-5.30PM**  
ANGLERS CLUB RAFFLES 1PM  
MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1,700  
**MONDAY: CLOSED**  
**TUESDAY: 11AM-5.30PM**  
BINGO 11AM  
**WEDNESDAY: 11AM-5.30PM**  
**HAPPY HOUR: 11am-1pm Wed & Fri**  
**BISTRO HOURS**  
Phone 0427330808  
CLOSED MON/TUES/WED  
**THURS/FRI/SAT: LUNCH 12-2PM DINNER 6-8.00PM**  
**SUNDAY: LUNCH 12-2PM**  
**COURTESY CAR NOW AVAILABLE**



## History Notes

The Historical Society is having a busy week this week with Kim coming back to continue with the Collection Policy for the museum on Tuesday and a visitor on Thursday afternoon and then the markets on Saturday. There are also plans for a Christmas "get together" in December so members stay in touch for details.

This week while the S to Z file is out of the cupboard, I will concentrate on The Schmidt family. They also migrated to Australia in the 1840s but their German name caused some difficulty and most changed their name to Smith.

Andrew Schmidt, son of Phillip Schmidt, was born circa 1818 near Berlin in what was then known as Prussia. He grew up with his family and in 1841 he married, Sophia, daughter of John Schroder.

The young couple went on to have four children, Eliza, John Henry, Caroline, and Minnie in the next ten years before deciding to migrate to Australia in 1854. They sailed from Hamburg, Germany on the "Singapore" on the 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1854 and landed in Sydney at Port Jackson just before Christmas.

The family soon moved on from Sydney, travelling by sea to Maitland and then by dray to Murrurundi and over the range to Goonoo Goonoo where Andrew took the job of shepherd for the next decade. There was also another Schmidt – Frederick – working as a shepherd there at the same time but it is not known if he was a brother or cousin of Andrew.

While at Goonoo Goonoo, Andrew and Sophia had their fifth child, Charles, in 1858. The older children were growing up and in 1861 eldest daughter, Eliza, at the age of 16 years married Carl Steiger at Tamworth. They settled at Glenda, near Barraba and raised a large family there.

The next two girls married in Manilla – Caroline married William Edward Garske in 1872 and Minnie married Frederick Schmidt in 1874. The two boys married in 1884 – John married Mary Ann Ivers at Mr Steiger's house and Charles married Mary Simshauser in Tamworth.

Andrew became an Australian citizen in February, 1863, and at that stage was still a shepherd at Goonoo Goonoo. It is likely that he came to the Barraba district to be near his family after he retired. He died at "Glenda" in 1889 and his wife also died at "Glenda" six years later. They are both buried in the Barraba Cemetery.

There are obviously a lot of family descendants spread around Barraba and the wider countryside in 2022.

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## Community coming together to help the Embroidered Flower Fancier

What is an Embroidered Flower Fancier I hear you ask?

Most people know them as regent honeyeater, but the literal translation of their scientific name is the embroidered flower fancier! So, of course it was largely flowering trees and shrubs that we planted, with some ground cover plants to ensure we recreated as natural an environment as possible to try and encourage and support these enigmatic and critically endangered birds. Ali Bigg from Northern Slopes Landcare said “The great thing about plantings like these is that they provide habitat for many species not just our target – ultimately even koalas, who are known to enjoy mugga ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*) of which we have planted two. Additionally, all these plants in the ground will ultimately help to reduce temperature fluctuations and improve soil health”.



Northern Slopes and Barraba Landcare hosted the day (on Wed 16<sup>th</sup> November), with support from Local Land Services (LLS). Twenty-three people came along from near and far, the young and not-so-young, got their hands dirty and learnt some interesting facts about this gorgeous little bird (and it is quite little – Craig Pullman from LLS had a 3D printed replica of a regent honeyeater, so we all got to see one up close and personal!) Dr Steve Debus from UNE was there to enlighten us on the ways we can help ensure this species does not become extinct. The take-home message is to plant food and habitat – in urban gardens flowering shrubs like bottlebrush (*Callistemon spp.*) and grevillea (*Grevillea spp.*) are great options. If you have more space, larger trees like mugga ironbark, yellow box (*E. melliodora*), white box (*E. albens*) and river she-oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) are all good options. The mistletoe that are likely to occur on these trees are key nectar sources for a range of threatened woodland birds, and regent honeyeaters are known to use them for food and nest sites.



We could not achieve days like these without the support of our wonderful community. The project also received funding from Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare program.





## Do you regularly visit the Barraba Library?

We want to hear from you about what extra library programs you would like to see available.

Due to very low visitor numbers on the weekend, the library will no longer open on Saturdays, but will instead add these opening hours to extend hours on weekdays, meaning the library can run additional programs.

Tell us what you'd like to see at QR code



Scan me

**Ta worth**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL



### St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 9.00am  
Woodsreef: 2nd Sundays 11am

### Uniting Church Notice

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov  
Service at 10.45am  
ALL WELCOME

### CATHOLIC CHURCH NOTES

Barraba 1st & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 6pm  
Saturday evening  
2nd 3rd & 4th Sunday 9am  
Upper Horton 3rd Sunday 11am  
Weekday Mass Wednesday  
10am



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Barraba Pony Club will be holding their  
Annual General Meeting at the  
Barraba Bowling Club on  
14<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 at 7pm.

All positions will be declared vacant.

All interested persons are invited to  
attend.

General meeting to follow the AGM.

D Etheridge, Secretary



Historical Society Markets this  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 8.30am to 12  
midday



## St Joseph's School building

The original St Joseph's school building in Barraba. This was a dual purpose building of three classrooms with partitions that were removed for its use as a Catholic church when needed. I always thought that this building pre-dated St. John's church adjoining it.

St. John's church was built in 1905 and the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent was built in 1910 so I am uncertain of what teachers ran the school initially.

My mother Ebbe Iliffe who came from Upper Manilla actually boarded at the Convent here in the 1910s, one of several boarders before she had to return to Upper Manilla to drag her youngest brother to school there.

This school building is essential unchanged with the classroom at the eastern water-tank end being Kinder with 1st & 2nd classes. The middle room was 3rd & 4th classes and the Fitzroy St end for the old people in 5th & 6th classes.

In 1941 my mate Des Kelaher started school here and I was pretty well lost as my brother Terry was too young to wander the countryside with me. I overcame this by climbing the fence and placing myself in Kindergarten where I was given a slate and stylus and started on a career of scratching Pot-hooks on the slate. Not the most exciting part of my education but not too bad as when I got bored I took myself home again. I did have to repeat Kinder in 1942 and no going home when I felt like it.

I have no memory of who the nun was who taught us those years but she was obviously a very tolerant woman.

We got an excellent education at St Joseph's and were well prepared for high school.

Posted by Brian Coote.





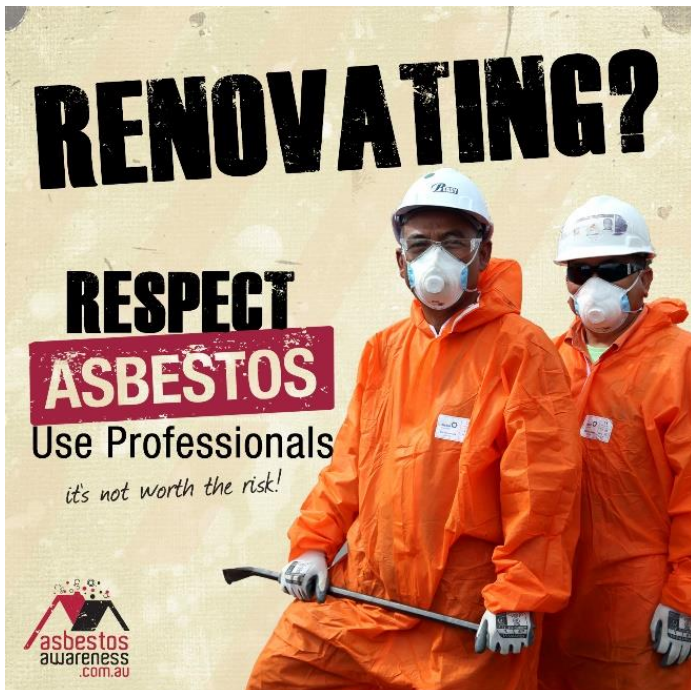
## National Asbestos Awareness Month

With deadly asbestos remaining hidden in one third of Aussie homes and with the popularity of renovating continuing to grow, as homeowners are gripped by interest rate hikes amid the unprecedented lack of tradespersons and the rising costs of labour, concerns are growing that homeowners are taking avoidable risks with asbestos, jeopardising their health and the health of others when doing DIY renovations.

Over 4,000 Australians die every year from asbestos-related diseases – 265% more than the annual national road toll. So as long as asbestos-containing materials remain in homes built or renovated prior to 1990, it's vital that DIYers, homeowners, renovators and tradies heed the warnings and learn to respect the serious dangers of asbestos to help save lives.

Asbestos can be in any brick, weatherboard, fibro or clad home built or renovated before 1990. It was used everywhere - lurking under floor coverings including carpets, linoleum and vinyl tiles, behind wall and floor tiles, in cement floors, internal and external walls, ceilings and ceiling space (insulation), eaves, garages, roofs, around hot water pipes, fences, home extensions, garages, outdoor toilets, backyard and farm structures, chook sheds and even dog kennels.

For more information please visit  
<https://asbestosawareness.com.au>



In just one week the annual Rural Aid Mates Day will be kicking off once again!

**For 12 hours on Wednesday 23 November every dollar donated to Rural Aid will go directly towards supporting Australian farming families, who've had an especially turbulent year.**

Widespread flooding and unrelenting rain have destroyed crops that were years in the making. Livestock has drowned and homesteads have been inundated. Costs are rising, supplies are running short, and we've all seen the bare shelves at the supermarket. Many of our farmers have faced crisis after crisis, and they've battled hell and high water to keep going and put food on our tables.

**With your support, Rural Aid can help keep our farmers going, get them back on track and keep homegrown produce on our tables.**

So, mark it in your calendars, tell your family and friends and get ready to show your support for our mates in the bush.

**Want to know the best part? Every donation will be DOUBLED thanks to our generous matching partners!**



This means if you donate \$50, it will become a gift for \$100 to help Aussie farmers. Your support helps keep our farmers going and keeps homegrown produce on our tables.

Supporter, I'm really hoping I can count on you to **stand with our mates in the bush** when they need it most.





## From Adam Marshall's Facebook page

Last week State Parliament passed the Port of Newcastle (Extinguishment of Liability) Bill 2022, allowing the Port to start constructing a new deep port container terminal, which will slash rail freight costs and grow profits for producers in northern NSW.

This is a huge result for our region!!

This Bill, brought forward by my colleague and good mate, Independent Lake Macquarie MP Greg Piper MP, finally breaks the impediments placed on the Newcastle Port, when Port Kembla and Port Botany were privatised by the State Government in 2013, requiring the State to compensate those two ports if container traffic at the Port of Newcastle exceeds a cap.

These Port Commitments Deeds (PCD) created a monopoly for the movement of containers in NSW, for which our region's farmers and businesses have continued to pay the price. It was vital we moved with the times and instead facilitated millions of dollars of private investment, to establish the Port as a leading NSW grain export and receivable facility. Our grain growers will now soon have a gateway to world markets on their doorstep, now that those redundant rules, keeping the door to Port of Newcastle locked and bolted, have been removed.

Establishing a container terminal at Port of Newcastle has the potential of cutting the cost of grain rail freight by \$16 to \$22 per tonne – putting huge dollars back in the pockets of growers and the local economy. Not to mention, adding vast value to the \$195 million Moree Special Activation Precinct.

Thank you to everyone who supported this important legislation to open up more economic opportunities for our region! 🙌 Personally, I am proud as punch with the passing of this Bill - it's been a long hard road, but we got there in the end!



## SEVEN LOCAL APPRENTICES GIVEN A LEG UP WITH BERT EVANS SCHOLARSHIP

A prestigious NSW Coalition Government scholarship program will lend a helping hand to seven Tamworth apprentices facing hardship in their study, boosting their budget to ensure they complete their trade and add to the State's skilled workforce.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said the Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships provide first-year apprentices with up to \$15,000 over three years, as part of the NSW Government's commitment to strengthening pathways to vocational education and training.

"The Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships program is about backing apprentices in Tamworth by giving them a helping hand to complete their training, gain a qualification and secure a brighter future," Mr Anderson said.

The NSW Coalition Government launched the Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships in 2014 to support apprentices who demonstrate a high aptitude for vocational education and training and are committed to their on the job and formal training.

The scholarship program is named in honour of the late Bert Evans AO, a passionate advocate of vocational education for more than 30 years.

Minister for Skills and Training Alister Henskens said this year's program would provide assistance to 146 apprentices from all walks of life so that they can ply their skills and trade in the workforce.

"Apprenticeships are a critical part of ensuring NSW has a pipeline of skilled and job-ready workers, but we also understand the financial challenges that can arise for apprentices while completing a trade," Mr Henskens said.

"Whether it is to purchase new tools, cover fuel and car maintenance costs or pay for additional training materials, these scholarships have helped people overcome personal barriers to finish their apprenticeships and go onto rewarding careers."

Read more about the program at [www.education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/apprentices-and-trainees/support-with-your-apprenticeship-or-traineeship/bert-evans-apprentice-scholarships](http://www.education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/apprentices-and-trainees/support-with-your-apprenticeship-or-traineeship/bert-evans-apprentice-scholarships)

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ASPIRING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

Aspiring early childhood educators in the region will soon be lining up to take advantage of the NSW Government's new scholarship program.

Early childhood educators looking to complete a Certificate III or Diploma can now benefit from a \$23.5 million investment by the NSW Government to deliver scholarships worth up to \$3,000 or \$5,000.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said the NSW Government were delivering a stronger early childcare

sector by supporting aspiring educators to upskill with financial support.

“We know how difficult it can be to access early childcare in our region which is why I remain committed to working with the sector to boost placements in all of our communities,” Mr Anderson said.

“To increase placements, we need investment in infrastructure, but we also need to make the necessary investment that will attract and retain a stronger workforce.

I’m encouraging anyone who wants to develop their skills in the early childhood sector to apply for these scholarships and take advantage of our investment in the workforce.”

Minister for Education and Early Learning Sarah Mitchell said the new VET scholarships are part of the NSW Government’s \$281.6 million package announced in the Budget early this year to attract, retrain and support early childhood educators and teachers in NSW.

“Early childhood education and care professionals make all the difference to the lives of children and families in NSW, and this new initiative will help this critical workforce to grow and upskill,” Ms Mitchell said.

“The scholarships will work in conjunction with the 25,000 fee-free places for a Cert III or Diploma qualification, which means scholarship recipients will receive a cash boost to support their studies in addition to not having to pay course fees.”

The scholarship round will be open from 15 November 2022 to 15 January 2023.

The NSW Government has committed \$15.9 billion to deliver a brighter future for every child in NSW through a revolutionary transformation of early childhood education, child development and women’s economic participation over the next decade. Through the introduction of a universal pre-Kindergarten year, the Brighter Beginnings initiative, workforce package and affordable preschool funding, the Liberals and Nationals Government are ensuring NSW is the best state to live, work and raise a family.

Current and aspiring educators are encouraged to explore the new dedicated Early Childhood Careers section of the Department of Education’s website by visiting [education.nsw.gov.au/EarlyChildhoodCareers](https://education.nsw.gov.au/EarlyChildhoodCareers).

### **NEW REFUGES TO SUPPORT WOMEN & CHILDREN LEAVING VIOLENCE**

The NSW Nationals in Government have boosted critical support services for thousands of domestic violence victim-

survivors with the funding of 39 new refugees across the state.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said he’d been fighting hard to ensure our community would benefit from this funding and it was great to see that Tamworth Gunnedah would both receive new refugees. “We know that there is a shortage of accommodation for victim-survivors fleeing domestic violence and these new homes will significantly improve the capacity to provide safe, private, and independent living spaces for women and children,” Mr Anderson said. “We have no tolerance for domestic violence, but until we can remove this scourge from society, we need to provide the accommodation and support services to help victims get back on their feet.” He said

“Over the past year, we have provided new homes in both Tamworth and Gunnedah, and this new *Core and Cluster* domestic model will further build on our commitment to drastically improve services and support in the Tamworth electorate. Thank you to Tamworth Family Support Services, Housing Plus and Gunida Gunya Aboriginal Corporation who have been working hard to achieve this goal.”

Minister for Women Bronnie Taylor says 20 of the 39 new refugees will be in regional NSW. “The locations of the Core and Cluster refugees will be in areas where there is high unmet demand for services, including regional and rural areas, and will support 2,900 more women and children each year who have escaped domestic abuse,” Mrs Taylor said. “In 2020-21, almost 40 per cent of the people who accessed specialist homelessness services in NSW, across our cities, regional and rural communities, had experienced domestic abuse.

I commend organisations such as the Country Women’s Association of NSW and Domestic Violence NSW for their strong advocacy in keeping these issues in focus and ensuring the needs of regional NSW are front and centre,” Mrs Taylor said.

Tamworth Family Support Services CEO Belinda Kotris said the organization was excited to be progressing with the Core and Cluster model. “Tamworth Family Support Services is very excited to be working alongside Housing Plus to bring the Tamworth Core and Cluster to life,” she said. “The support from the whole community has been overwhelming.”

The NSW Nationals in Government announced \$484.3 million in October 2021 to establish new Women’s Refuges in NSW.



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**Barraba 7 day Forecast  
from the Bureau of  
Meteorology**

**Wednesday 23 Nov**

**Summary** Max 26

**Mostly sunny**

Chance of any rain: 0%



**Thursday 24 Nov**

**Summary** Min 9 Max 28

**Sunny**

Chance of rain: 0%



**Friday 25 Nov**

**Summary** Min 10 Max 29

**Sunny**

Chance of any rain: 0%



**Saturday 26 Nov**

**Summary** Min 10 Max 31

**Sunny**

Chance of any rain: 20%



**Sunday 27 Nov**

**Summary** Min 14 Max 30

**Shower or two**

Chance of rain: 50%



**Monday 28 Nov**

**Summary** Min 16 Max 28

**Showers**

Chance of any rain: 80%



**Tuesday 29 Nov**

**Summary** Min 12 Max 26

**Partly cloudy**

Chance of any rain: 30%



**Regional Dam Levels from  
Water NSW**

Chaffey 100.7%

Copeton 97.0%

Keepit 97.7%

Split Rock 100.4%



**Golf Notes**

Sam Knight was in record-breaking territory claiming the chook with 28 points in last week's twilight. Ball winners were Ian Cabot 23, Trevor Hill, Bill Simpson, Thabiso Msiza and Ally Smith 22, Tom Mellor 21, Andrew Lovegrove and Bill Tonkin 20 and Cooper Chapman 19. Dave Kelly won the meat. Best team of the week were 6666 with the combination of Sam Knight and Bill Tonkin for 48 points. They are still paying for their sins of the past however and trail leading team Hackers by 40 points. Bareela Birdies made some inroads scoring 44 points and are within striking distance of the leaders while the Unreliables and Gold Creek both scored 40. Players are reminded to check their handicap each week.



**Why can't you trust an atom?  
Because they make up literally  
everything.**

**Why was six afraid of seven?  
Because seven eight nine.**



**What happens to an  
illegally parked frog?**

**...It gets toad away.**

RD

**Mozzies are everywhere right now – including giant ones and those that make us sick. Here's what you need to know**

*Cameron Webb, Clinical Associate Professor and Principal Hospital Scientist, University of Sydney*

Like all insects, mosquitoes thrive in warmer weather. But what they really need is water. La Niña rainfall and flooding are providing the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes, with numbers exploding in recent weeks.

People are also seeing giant mosquitoes, tiny mosquitoes, and species they haven't noticed before. Some of these mosquitoes are around every season but their numbers are booming, thanks to the favourable conditions. Australia has around 300 species of mosquito. So, which do you need to look out for?

**First, let's go over some mozzie basics.**

Mozzies live for around 3 weeks. The mosquito life cycle is complex. Eggs are laid on or around water. When immature mosquitoes hatch, they're completely reliant on being in water. During the warmer months, it may take as little as a week for an adult mosquito to emerge from the water to start buzzing and biting.



*The immature stages of mosquitoes (commonly known as wrigglers) are only found in water. Cameron Webb (NSW Health Pathology)*

**Only females bite**

As well as water and warmth, mosquitoes also need blood. But only female mosquitoes bite, as they need the extra nutritional hit to help develop eggs. Mosquitoes don't just bite people. They will bite a wide range of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. They can even bite earthworms, mudskippers (amphibious fish) and maybe even whales.

**What are 'giant' mosquitoes?**

One mosquito in Australia that doesn't bite at all is

*Toxorhynchites speciosus*, a "giant" mosquito, common in eastern Australia.



*The largest mosquito in Australia is *Toxorhynchites speciosus*. Lucky for us, it doesn't bite. Tess Pillekom*

The mosquito is predatory: their "wrigglers" often eat those of other pest mosquitoes. Closely related mosquitoes have even been used for mosquito control in other countries. But it isn't these "friendly" mosquitoes causing all the problems after flooding.

Other mosquitoes, commonly known as "floodwater mosquitoes", can bite and are found in large swarms following flooding. They're a serious nuisance. Examples of these mosquitoes include *Aedes sagax*, *Aedes vittiger*, and *Aedes aculeatus*. They often disappear as quickly as they appear.



*A large and distinctive mosquito, *Aedes vittiger*, can cause serious pest problems after flooding. Cameron Webb (NSW Health Pathology)*

Mosquito surveillance programs, such as the NSW Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Monitoring Program, are picking up these mosquitoes (and lots of smaller species) already this season. Perhaps the most famous of them all is the large, sandy-coloured mosquito *Aedes alternans*. Commonly known as the Hexham Grey, this mosquito has



had poems written about it and there is even a “big mozzie” in Hexham, NSW.

### Which mosquitoes make us sick?

Despite the diversity of mosquitoes in Australia, only a few pose a serious public health threat.

*Aedes notoscriptus* mosquitoes have given up their natural habitat and adapted to life in water-filled containers around our homes. They’ve proven to be nuisance-biting pests as well as transmitting viruses that make us sick.

In coastal regions of Australia, *Aedes vigilax* (commonly known as the saltmarsh mosquito) and *Aedes camptorhynchus* (commonly known as the southern saltmarsh mosquito) are found in estuarine wetlands. These include mangrove and saltmarsh habitats where water is often brought in with “king tides”. The mosquitoes tolerate the salty conditions. These mosquitoes can emerge in huge numbers in summer, are aggressive biters, and can fly many kilometres from wetlands. They are also the mosquito most likely to be causing outbreaks of mosquito-borne disease in coastal regions due to their ability to spread Ross River virus.



*The saltmarsh mosquito (Aedes vigilax) taking a chance to grab a blood meal. Cameron Webb (NSW Health)*

There are a number of pest mosquitoes found in freshwater wetlands. The biggest pest is *Culex annulirostris* (commonly known as the banded freshwater mosquito). This mosquito is found in a range of habitats, from wetlands to stagnant puddles. The banded freshwater mosquito is probably the most important species when it comes to spreading pathogens such as Ross River virus, Murray Valley encephalitis virus, and Japanese encephalitis (virus.Pathology).

### How can we beat their bites?

After three years of above average rainfall, and recently flooding, most of eastern Australia is just one giant mosquito habitat. While some efforts to use insecticides to control mosquitoes may be effective,

the reality is the task of adequately controlling mosquito numbers is insurmountable.

There are some steps you can take to protect yourself and family from mosquito bites. When outdoors, wear a loose-fitting long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and covered shoes. You can even treat your clothing with chemicals such as permethrin or transfluthrin.

Insect repellents also provide protection. Products that contain DEET, picaridin, or lemon eucalyptus oil will provide the longest-lasting protection but ensure you cover all exposed areas of skin. Mosquito coils and other products may help when paired with repellents.

Now the bad news. The floods may pass quickly but the water is going to remain in pools and puddles across much of eastern Australia for most of the summer. That is great news for mosquitoes but not so good for those of us already nursing arms and legs full of itchy red mosquito bites.

### RECENT ANNIVERSARIES

- Ned Kelly being hanged at Melbourne Gaol (1880)
- the opening of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra (1941)
- PM Gough Whitlam being removed from office by Governor-General Sir John Kerr (1975)
- Leon Trotsky being expelled from the Soviet Communist Party, paving the way for Joseph Stalin to consolidate complete power (1927)
- the first known photo of the Loch Ness Monster being taken by Hugh Gray (1933)
- US spacecraft Voyager 1 taking the first close-up pictures of Saturn (1980)
- the birthday of painter Claude Monet (1840)
- the first public trains running under the English Channel (1994)
- New Zealand officially becoming a separate colony within the British Empire, severing its link to New South Wales (1840)
- the founding of Qantas (1920)
- the founding of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (1945)
- Elizabeth I ascending the throne at 25yo following the death of her half-sister Mary (1558)
- the opening of the Suez Canal, linking the Mediterranean and Red seas (1869)
- the sinking of the HMAS Sydney in battle off the coast of Western Oz, killing 645 people (1941)
- Angela Merkel becoming the first female Chancellor of Germany (2005)

**A few photos from that marvellous snowfall on the 4th July 1984 in Barraba.**

These are from relatively early in the morning from up on Adam's Lookout. The snow around town hadn't really begun melting much and the town is almost invisible in the snowy landscape. Posted by Brian Coote.

