



# BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

## BREAKING NEWS!



### MedCIRC News

It is with heavy hearts, we need to inform the community of Barraba that Dr Heinrich Strydom will be leaving MedCIRC Barraba on Thursday 9th March 2023 after three years of service.

MedCIRC will continue to provide medical services to the Barraba Community. Dr Neil Premaratne and Dr Jay Weerasekera, will be commencing at the practice on Wednesday 15th March.

#### A short message from Dr Hein to the community

*I would like to thank the staff at the Practice and the Hospital for all their support and good work.*

*I would also like to say goodbye to all our patients. It has been a wonderful experience working in your community. Om*

Dr Heinrich Strydom

#### **And from us on behalf of the Barraba Community –**

Thank you, Dr Hein, for your skilled and tireless work; we will miss you very much!



#### BARRABA SHOW SHOP WINDOW DISPLAY

It is show time – once again our local shops have put on a great display. Here are just a few examples; left is part of the Polka Dot display – below are the Community College and the Claypan.

Make sure you have a wander down the street in the next few days – judging will be on Wednesday afternoon. The Judges have a pretty hard job.





## History Notes

Summer is almost gone and the best part of the year is coming, before winter sets in. The Barraba Show is on this weekend and needs your support as our big neighbour to the south it trying to take over. There are probably lots of residents that remember the Tamworth Show being the week before the Sydney Show towards the end of March – if that was the case this year they should have their show on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, Easter is not until April.

Enough said about shows. Members of our society have an invitation to Bingara to open their new Military Exhibition on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. There has been quite a lot of interest from those who were at our monthly meeting and anyone who would like to go needs to get in touch with Carol now. Numbers will need to be known so we can decide on transport – cars or a bus – and Bingara Society needs to know the number as well.

There was discussion re the markets and advertising. Believe it or not there were some residents who didn't know the markets were on. We wonder if they do not drive up the street or go to the chemist or the supermarket!! The next markets are on the 11<sup>th</sup> March – mark your calendars!!

A couple of weeks ago we were searching for the Garland girls – we have found Daisy in the list of confirmees at St Laurence's Church in 1904 but no sign of Elvie. On contacting the researcher we have found that both girls married but had no contact with each other.

Elvie Evelyn Garland married Albert Andrew Brodbeck, son of Gottlieb and Amelia, nee Steiger. There were three children – Barbara, Peggy and Phillip born in the 1920's. Both Albert and Elvie died in 1984.

We now have a very difficult job tracing an adopted child who lived at the Barraba vicarage circa 1938. She was born about 1930 and seems to have been adopted by an Edith or Ruth Lewis who worked at the vicarage. It seems that the child was known as Dawn Lewis or Lillian McIntyre and later as Dawn Pascoe when she assisted with Barraba organisations such as the Hospital Auxiliary and the Red Cross. Her daughter would like to hear from anyone who can help.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR – FAMILY HISTORY

Dear Editor,

I was interested to read in last week's News about the arrival of the Jenner family in Barraba because they were my great-grandparents.

My mother, Charlotte Turner, was the youngest daughter of Charles & Amelia.

I know that my great grandfather is buried in the local cemetery next to my grandparents but the mystery is where my great grandmother is buried. I don't have any information on her but I understand from a relative that she was buried in an old cemetery either at the end of Edward or Henry Street.

I have only recently returned to Barraba after almost 60 years away, but I do remember that the block on the corner of Edward & Queen Streets, opposite the Uniting Church, was always vacant when I was growing up and I've wondered over the years if this was where the cemetery was. I know that there's a house there now and the eastern end of the block has been converted to lawn area.

Mary Grocott

Barraba

## CHURCH NOTICES

### **UNITING CHURCH TIMES**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Preparation 8.30am, Service at 8.45am.

All welcome

### **World Day of Prayer**

10.30am on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Light lunch follows

Barraba Uniting Church – All welcome.

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March members of Barraba churches will gather at the Uniting Church at 10.30am to celebrate this year's World Day of Prayer. This year we celebrate the people of Taiwan. The theme is "I have heard about your faith" and our speaker will be Mrs Faye Heywood of Manilla. All women and men are welcome and will join for a shared light lunch following the service.

### **ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES**

**St Laurence's Barraba**

Sunday service at 9.00am

Woodsreef: 2nd Sundays 11am

## Snippets from St Laurence's

It's March! Where is the year going? There is a request from Lee Jackson that we get our BCA boxes to her ASAP for counting. Bush Church Aid supports ministries right across the continent, from Norfolk Island to Exmouth and from Darwin to Southern Beaches in Tassie.

Thinking of the World Day of Prayer service this Friday morning (3 March) I am reminded of Moffatt's translation of Psalm 133. James Moffatt's translation of the Bible into modern English was published in 1913, but a copy didn't reach my family until 1948. By today's standards it is stilted and formal, but it is a vast improvement on the "thee" and "thou" of the King James Version. That talks about "brothers living together in unity," but Moffatt found a different slant for the three verses: "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!"

World Day of Prayer is a chance to share that fellowship with members of other denominations and also with fellow Christians from all over the world. If you can, join us at the Uniting Church at 10.30am.

There is to be a working bee on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and the Barraba Bash, a gathering of young people from all over the diocese, will be on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>.

Beth

### CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

Barraba 1st & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 6pm Saturday evening

2nd 3rd & 4th Sunday 9am

Upper Horton 3rd Sunday 11am

Weekday Mass Wednesday 10am

### BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

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## CAMPAIGN TO UPGRADE FIRE STATIONS



The campaign to upgrade Werris Creek and Manilla fire stations has kicked off with Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson taking Minister for Emergency Services Steph Cooke to the stations to highlight the issues the crews are facing. Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said it was important to support firefighters in our smaller communities because they are critical to protecting our communities in emergencies.

"Firefighters at Station 496 in Werris Creek and Station 375 in Manilla do so much more than respond to fire incidents," Mr Anderson said. "They're a full-on community support unit, responding to a range of emergency events, educating the community on important fire safety messages, and providing support for community events. That's why I'm keen to see them supported in every way possible, and in Manilla and Werris Creek, that means station upgrades."

"Both the Manilla and Werris Creek stations have served their communities well over generations, but they need to be upgraded to meet a modern-day workforce. The current stations do not have separate changerooms and bathrooms for male and female firefighters. They're also cramped with the modern tankers only just squeezing through the front door. It's time for an upgrade and that's why I asked the Minister to come to our area to inspect both stations and meet firefighters. It's critical that we provide the very best facilities and support our front-line workers," concluded Mr Anderson.





## LAKE KEEPIT REACHES FOR THE STARS



The Tamworth and Gunnedah regions are set to become international star-gazing tourist destinations, with the announcement of nearly \$2 million in grant funding from the NSW Government's Regional Tourism Activation Fund.

Member for Tamworth and Minister for Lands and

Water Kevin Anderson said the \$1,998,922 grant, awarded to Reflections Holiday Parks Lake Keepit, will deliver event and accommodation facilities to host iconic events with international appeal.

"This new star-gazing project aims to maximise one of the area's biggest untapped advantages: clear star-studded dark skies and no light pollution," Mr Anderson said. "It will also maximise the appeal of Lake Keepit, by making it a 'super-star holiday park' that will boost the State's capacity to attract astronomy enthusiasts from not only across the country, but around the world."

Reflections Holiday Parks will make a co-contribution of \$499,977 to the project, bringing its total value to around \$2.5 million. The tourism grant will fund a star-gazing tent precinct and star baths with views to the night sky, telescopes and firepits, upgraded park facilities, commercial catering opportunities and outdoor dining and performances under the sky. The grant also means Reflections Lake Keepit will be able to cater for longer stays, events and festivals, school groups and coach tours – visitors who will support local cafes and restaurants, enjoy adventure and cultural tourism and return year after year.

Reflections Holiday Parks' CEO Nick Mr Baker said the ambitious star-gazing project would be a magnet for inter-state, international and domestic travellers. "Big Sky country needs a big sky experience, and this brings together astronomy, nature, outdoor dining and indigenous culture," he said. Mr Baker said the new facilities will be activated in collaboration with the local Gamilaraay people, the Tamworth Regional Astrological Society, local performing artists and local food and wine producers. "The event infrastructure will enable us to welcome guests for fine dining and performances under the starry skies, from hearing stories of the Zodiac, to learning about Aboriginal Culture and the Dreamtime," he added.



## **Westpac Helicopter Barraba**

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter was tasked by New South Wales Ambulance just before 830pm Saturday night to a person suffering a serious medical emergency at Barraba north of Manilla. NSW Ambulance Paramedics carried out initial treatment on the woman in her 60's who was suffering a serious respiratory condition and road transported her to Barraba Hospital to rendezvous with the helicopter. The Helicopter Critical Care Medical Team stabilised the lady and she has been airlifted to Tamworth Rural Referral Hospital in a stable condition for further treatment.



**Coming to BARRABA**

## Smart Water Meters

Tamworth Regional Council is replacing existing water meters with new smart water meters. Installation starts March 3 to April 18.

Smart water meters measure water usage and are fitted with radio transmitters to provide accurate near real-time water usage readings, improving the accuracy of water bills, detect possible leaks, promote better water management and improve customer service.

**Find out more here...**

Find out more at  
[www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/smart-water-meters](http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/smart-water-meters) or call (02) 6767 5555.



**Advertise in Barraba Community News and reach 750 households in our local area.**

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[news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au](mailto:news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au) for the best advertising rates in the region

## 2023 SHOW PROGRAM

Thursday 2 March		Saturday 4 March		Sunday 5 March	
2:30pm	Wool entries	Daylight start 7:00am	Camp draft <b>Yard Dog trials POSTPONED</b>	Daylight	Camp draft
4:00pm	Encouragement draft			8:00am	Horse Rings 1, 2 & 3
		8:30am	Cattle judging Young paraders after interbreed classes	8:30am	Australian Stock Horse judging
		8:30am 10:00am 9:00am	Show jumping Fat Lamb judging. Sports Shear & Wool Handling	9:00am – 3:00pm	Wool & Main Pavilions Open
		9:00am – 6:00pm 9:00am – 5:00pm	Main Pavilion Open Wool Pavilion Open		
<b>Friday 3 March</b>		9:30am	Poultry Judging, Animal farm	10:30am	Reptile show.
Daylight start	Camp draft	9:00am – 3:00pm	Static ute show in front of the main pavilion	11:00am	<b>Wood chop CANCELLED</b>
8:00 – 10:00am	Pavilion entries	10:00am – 6:00pm	<b>Abbeys face painting</b>		
9:00am	Dressage				
9:30am	Wool Judging				
11:00am	Wool judges' comments				
12:00pm	Show jumping	10:00am	Light Harness & Heavy Horses in Main Ring	12:00pm	Reptile show.
2:00pm to 4:00pm	Farm & Garden Produce entries	10:00am 10:00am – 2:00pm	Reptile show <b>Health CHECKS</b>	1:30pm	Reptile show.
2:00pm to 4:00pm	Flower entries	10:30am	Fat Lamb Weighing & Judging.	1:30pm	Dog & Pet show Judging
3:30pm	Junior beef cattle judging	10:30am & 11:30pm	<b>Veterans &amp; Young Guns shearing display</b>	3:00pm-4:00pm	Pavilion Pick up
5:00pm	Six Bar jumping			3:00pm	Reptile show.
6:00pm-10:00pm	<b>Family Fun Friday Evening</b> Kids Games Pete the Clown Tiny & Junior Farmer Challenge	10:00am to 4:00pm  12:30pm 12:00pm – 1:50pm  2:00pm 2:00pm  2:30pm	Manilla Vintage Machinery & Classic Cars in front of the Grandstand <b>Reptile show.</b> Pre-register for sporting event  Sporting events in main ring <b>Senior Young Farmer Challenge</b>  <b>Reptile show</b>		
6:00pm					
6:00pm-8:00pm 6:00pm-10:00pm 7:00pm	Abbeys Face painting Mechanical Cow Mullet comp Judging				
	Show bags BBQ	3.30pm 4:00pm  4.30pm	Official Opening Mini & Junior Youngwoman/Youngman judging in front of the grandstand Reptile show.		
		5:00pm – 9:00pm	<b>Barrel Races &amp; Xtreme Bronc Rodeo</b>		
		9:00pm-12:00mn	Pippy's music		



## **BARRABA SHOW – NEARLY HERE!**

**Friday 3 March to Sunday 5 March**

### **Last minute changes!**

1. Sunday's Woodchop has been cancelled
2. The Yard Dog Trials have been postponed

### **YOUNG WOMAN 2023 – PRESENTATIONS**



Zone 4 Young Woman Competition presentation was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March at Walcha Showground following the judging during the day. Judges were representing the Land and Ag Shows NSW.

Barraba was represented by our 2023 Young Woman winner Amie Middlemiss. Amie stated that "It certainly has been a great experience in which I have learnt and developed so many skills that will help me in the future". Congratulations to Amie. Amie and Jess Kelso our runner up, will be at the show on the 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Amie will be opening the show on Saturday afternoon and she and Jess will also be helping with organising competitions and presenting prizes.

Congratulations to Samantha Coppin (Narrabri) and Jessica Town (Moree) on being chosen as the zone 4 representatives to Sydney Royal.

### **Letters to the Editor**

At Barraba Community News we welcome 'Letters to the Editor' expressing your opinion on any topic.

It is important to ensure the opinions expressed are not discriminatory or offensive. The Editor reserves the right to use judgement to edit or decline to print should a letter not meet editorial standards.



**2023 Manilla Show**  
**10,11,12th March**

**Do you want a fun family weekend out for \$25?**

Come to Manilla Show 10th, 11th, 12th March.  
A \$25 family weekend pass gets you entry to all 3 days of Show including all the entertainment.

The Boggabri Coal FMX Riders will be appearing Friday night before the ProTen Fireworks go off with a bang.  
Saturday night White Haven Coal Gill Brothers Rodeo will have all the thrills and spills to entertain the crowd.

Plus all the usual show events, Free Kid's Zone, 2 days of Yard Dogs, Cattle, Sheep, Ute Show, Horse events, Pet Show, Pavilion Displays and sideshow alley.

Prepurchase Tickets available online  
<https://www.123tix.com.au/events/31366/manilla-show-2023>  
or available at the gate with cash or card.



### **BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

**Phone: 67821379**

For the information of members and guests

**MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE**

**THIS WEEK:**

THURSDAY: 11AM-

FRIDAY: 11AM-

MEAT/VEG RAFFLES 6PM

PLUS BONUS PRIZE DRAW AFTER THE RAFFLES

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1200

SATURDAY: 10AM-

SUNDAY: 10AM-5.30PM

ANGLERS CLUB RAFFLES 1PM

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1300

COURTESY CAR AVAILABLE

MONDAY: 11AM-5.30PM

TUESDAY: 11AM-5.30PM

BINGO 11AM

WEDNESDAY: 11AM-5.30PM

**HAPPY HOUR:** 11am-1pm Wed & Fri

### **BISTRO HOURS**

Phone 0427330808

**DINE IN OR TAKE AWAY**

MONDAY: 12 NOON-2PM

TUESDAY: CLOSED

WEDNESDAY: 12NOON-2PM

THURS/FRI/SAT: LUNCH 12-2PM DINNER FROM 6PM

SUNDAY: 12-2PM



**SATURDAY  
18 MARCH  
9.30am - 1.00pm**

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**  
Shopping, food & market stalls, chalk art,  
entertainment by Tony & Helen Cornish  
and L & N Acoustica

**Grazing  
on the Gwydir**  
Maitland Street Bingara followed by  
*Live Music & Market Stalls*  
at Junction Park  
with Contingency Plan & Natalie Jane Baker  
BYO Chair, Picnic Rug, Refreshments (NO GLASS)

**LIVE  
MUSIC  
2.00pm - 6.00pm**

Info: Tiff Galvin 0428 241 318 or  
Lenore Kennedy 0428 977 923

NSW GOVERNMENT GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL

**BACK TO BINGARA ROXY DINNER DANCE**

**SATURDAY, 18 MARCH 2023  
THE ROXY THEATRE, BINGARA  
7PM**  
\$95pp  
Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/CEFTQ>

AFTER THE SUCCESS OF THE 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF THE ROXY THEATRE IN BINGARA IN 2016, THE GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL OF BINGARA TOGETHER WITH THE KYTHERIAN ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, HAVE ORGANISED THE BINGARA ROXY DINNER DANCE. MAKE A WEEKEND OF IT AND JOIN US ON WHAT IS GOING TO BE AN AMAZING NIGHT!

A BREAKFAST GET TOGETHER IS ALSO BEING ORGANISED FOR SUNDAY 19 MARCH AT THE ROXY CAFE.

**GETTING THERE**  
By car: 6.5 hours from Sydney  
By train: Train departs Central at 9.30am on Friday and connects with bus at Tamworth arriving in Bingara at 6pm. Return journey - bus departs Bingara on Monday at 7.58am, train arriving in Central at 4.50pm. Entire journey covered in one ticket.  
By private bus: Register your interest if you would like to travel by private bus (email: [admin@kytherianassociation.com.au](mailto:admin@kytherianassociation.com.au))

**ACCOMMODATION**  
Bingara  
Imperial Hotel Motel Bingara - (02) 6724 1629  
Bingara Fossickers Way Motel (02) 6724 1373  
The River House Bingara 0428 834 281  
Bingara Riverside Caravan Park (Cabins) 0427 241 300  
Lemon Gum Cottage 0412 081 642  
The Sportsman's Hotel (02) 6724 1880  
Warialda (30 mins from Bingara)  
Sunflower Motel (02) 6729 1344

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT BARBARA ON 0412 060 657

**St John's Anglican  
QUILT  
AND CRAFT SHOW**  
at the Wiseman Crowley Hall and Grounds, Bingara

**Saturday 18 March 2023**  
Doors open 8am, close 6pm  
Entry fee \$5.00

Morning and Afternoon tea  
Picnic Lunch  
Quiz  
Stalls  
Lucky door

Enquiries 0427 682 811

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This project is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the Smart Farms Initiative

National Landcare Program

**THINK LOCAL  
SHOP LOCAL**

## From The Conversation

### What is a 'shoey' and why did Harry Styles do one on stage in Australia?

*Liz Giuffre, Senior Lecturer in Communication, University of Technology Sydney*

"Shoey" is Australian slang for having a celebratory drink out of a shoe. Usually, the beverage is alcoholic and the celebration follows a sweaty quest to victory. The shoey has become a popular part of some sports and music festival cultures.

As a cultural phenomenon, the shoey represents overcoming adversity - literally drinking out of the vessels that got you over the line. Newly minted Grammy and BRIT award winner Harry Styles did his first Australian concert – and we assume his first shoey – in Perth this week. Here's the, um, footage (pun intended, sorry).

One of the most famous supporters of the shoey is racing driver Daniel Ricciardo - someone for whom Styles has shown his own fandom. Footballers, surfers, musicians and various celebrities have also had a go.

Usually, it's a cultural practice undertaken by men, although marathon runner Des Landon, inspired by Ricciardo, also celebrated in this way, as did champion golfer Hannah Green.



*Daniel Ricciardo Formula One's king of the shoey. EPA/DIEGO AZUBEL*

Although Australians have claimed the "shoey", we are not its only practitioners.

Drinking from boots, or even delicate high heels, is said to have started in Europe. There are US and Russian influences too, including drinking out of silk ballet flats.

#### Culture of defiance

The contemporary Aussie shoey is really about defiance – claiming victory against the odds.

It's a type of attitude many different types of Australians have tapped into over generations, a classic trait of the "little

battler" or "underdog" stereotype that sees triumph even after a struggle.

Importantly, there is clear humour in the shoey - this is not a win steeped in earnest glory, but deliberately crowd-pleasing and silly. The result is a soggy shoe and a terrible taste in your mouth, but also, to tap into another stereotype, making sure tall poppy syndrome is avoided.

The shoey is a great leveller – it brings everyone down to the same (albeit pretty basic) level. Like other local party tricks and traditions, it can also bring an international guest into the fold - someone willing to "do a shoey" is inevitably going to be accepted by the crowd.

American rapper Post Malone enjoying a shoey while in Australia.

The shoey does have its critics though. It is regularly called out as being messy, gross and just a bit disgusting. Styles played along but clearly didn't enjoy the actual act, joking it made him feel ashamed of himself.

#### Was the shoey just a shameless local reference?

Big touring artists may see hundreds of cities across a world tour. Typically, these massive events are hugely formulaic and stage-managed, necessitated by the stadiums they play in and the scale they need to navigate.

To make each show memorable and, importantly, to draw audiences in, many add a specific local reference to the country or city they're playing in.

It could be a nod to the sporting team or attraction, or ideally to local artists to give them some additional exposure. In Australia, some just bring out a stuffed koala or reference a Vegemite sandwich on stage. One of the most creative local references was Amanda Palmer's ode to local slang with the song Map of Tasmania.

Styles' shoey was definitely an acknowledgement of an aspect of Australian culture - even if the beautiful designer sneaker he sipped from was a world away from a sweaty footy boot.

More impressive for mine, and less likely to cause infection, was the inclusion of a cover of Daryl Braithwaite's 1990 version of Horses, a song that has gone from cool to daggy and all the way back again.

Styles hammed it up then proclaimed:

*you don't hear that song very much until you get here, but then it's like catnip... I can feel the Aussie coursing through my veins!*

It's not the first time Australian audiences have asked Styles for a shoey, but only now has he obliged. At a time when anyone around the world can stream just about any event (mostly legally), finding something special about each place and its audience can be tough.



The shoe is something those present won't forget in a hurry.

Styles hasn't always been a fan of the shoe.

For the rest of his tour, other Australian oddities Styles might want to look out for are plagues of deadly drop bears, and the "Eagle Drop" when Daddy Cool comes on the stereo.

Make sure the budgie smugglers are as clean as those sneakers though, hey?

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## From The Conversation

### 7 reasons Australia is the lucky country when it comes to snakes

Christina N. Zdenek, Lab Manager/Post-doc at the Venom Evolution Lab, The University of Queensland.



*A dugite (Pseudonaja affinis)*

Australia has a global reputation as a land full of danger, where seemingly everything is out to kill you. Crocodiles lurk in estuaries, large spiders hide in bathrooms, and we share our suburbs with some of the world's most venomous snakes.

Snakes hold a particular fear and fascination for many people. The bite of an eastern brown snake can kill an adult in under an hour. And that's just one of more than 150 venomous snakes inhabiting the island continent across land and sea. Australian snakes are well and truly overrepresented out of the world's top 25 most venomous snakes.

Terrifying, right? Not quite. Australians are actually extremely lucky when it comes to snakes. Here are seven reasons why.

#### 1) Our snakes bolt away from us

The best way to survive a snakebite is of course not to be bitten. Keeping your distance is the easiest way to avoid a bite.

But what if you're walking through the bush and don't see the snake? Luckily, most Australian snakes will rapidly slither away from us.

It could be much worse. Imagine if most of our snakes were like vipers or rattlesnakes, which hold their ground and can be easily trodden on. And imagine if our venomous snakes could sense our body heat, as pit vipers and rattlesnakes do with their heat-sensing pits. For Australians, simply staying still can keep you safe.



*Pit vipers like this white-lipped pit viper (Trimeresurus insularis) from Indonesia can sense heat but can't bolt away.*

#### 2) We have very few snake bite deaths

Compared to other countries with many snake species, Australia has orders of magnitude fewer snakebites and related deaths. South Africa has 476 snakebite deaths on average every year. By contrast, Australia has two or three.

#### 3) If you do get bitten, you're very unlikely to lose a limb

Most snakebites in Australia are completely painless. This is in part due to the short fangs of our brown snakes (*Pseudonaja* spp.), who are responsible for most bites in Australia, but mainly because most Australian snakes have venom which works internally, rather than locally at the bite site. This means snakebites in Australia very rarely result in amputations.

By contrast, across sub-Saharan Africa it is sadly common, with almost 2400 amputations reported in Africa's most populous country, Nigeria, every year. Unfortunately, the people most at risk of snakebite are the ones least able to afford the high treatment costs.



*Brown snakes like this dugite (*Pseudonaja affinis*) have small fangs.*

#### **4) We have great access to excellent antivenom and other treatments**

For snakebites, antivenom is the only specific treatment. If you're unlucky enough to be bitten by a highly venomous snake, getting the antivenom as quickly as possible is vital. Luckily, antivenoms work quickly, and ours are high quality.

Antivenom is often produced from purified horse antibodies. It's well known antivenom can cause anaphylaxis, which occurs around 10% of the time in Australia. These reactions can be quickly reversed by adrenaline administered in a hospital.

By contrast, some other countries have alarmingly ineffective antivenoms as well as triggering anaphylaxis 57% of the time.

You can get antivenom at 750 hospitals across Australia. For more remote regions, snakebite victims benefit from proven pressure-immobilisation which should be applied before the Royal Flying Doctors come to the rescue.



*Many quality snake antivenoms are available in Australia. Christina N. Zdenek*

#### **5) We have the world's only snake venom detection kits**

Using the wrong antivenom can lead to the treatment failing. So how do doctors know which antivenom to administer? It's not via snake identification by the victim because, more often than not, Australians get it wrong.

In 1979, Australia became the first country in the world to have a commercial snake venom detection kit to make antivenom choice more accurate. Even now, we're the only ones with this option.

Every other country has to rely on more dangerous options. Either the victim brings the snake to hospital for a professional ID, or doctors have to rely on the patient's symptoms and location where they were bitten to take an educated guess as to which antivenom will work.

As you'd expect, this can be a challenge. Why? Because there can be a great deal of overlap of symptoms caused by venom from unrelated species. Plus, picking the species responsible can take years of experience treating snakebite which many doctors do not have.

In Australia, there's another option if the kit is unavailable: polyvalent antivenom, effective against all our most dangerous snakes.

#### **6) Snakebites are covered by Medicare**

Antivenom can be prohibitively expensive, costing thousands of dollars per dose.

Our nearest neighbour, Papua New Guinea, is a snakebite hotspot. But many people simply do not have the money to pay for the antivenom. In some areas, taipans kill more people than malaria due to the cost of treatment.

In Australia, treatment for a bite may cost around AUD\$6,000, but this cost is covered by Medicare. In my lab, we're working to make snakebite treatment more affordable by testing next-generation snakebite treatments.

#### **7) Snake venom is actually saving lives**

To top it all off, snake venom is saving lives. There are six therapeutic drugs on the global market derived from snake venoms, with another two in clinical trials.

Our many venomous snake species hold in their venom glands a mini drug library, a cornucopia for scientists to trawl through looking for promising new therapeutic drugs. In fact, a toxin from the venom of eastern brown snakes (*P. textilis*) is being tested as a drug used to reverse life-threatening bleeding complications.

Rather than fearing our venomous snakes, let's try seeing them as they are. They pose little risk to us. They flee from us. Their bites can usually be cured quickly. Their venom holds therapeutic promise. And they play a vital role in keeping down the numbers of introduced rats and mice.

So, let's take a moment to appreciate Australia's wealth of beautiful snakes.





## Rugby Union News

The Barraba Rugby Club is waiting on an update on the proposed plans for the improvements to the clubhouse with change rooms for the women players one of the main challenges. Good roll ups at training for the men should see a fair side being put on the paddock for games throughout the year, while the girls are short on numbers, so if any girls feel like some fun, they could join in at training on Tuesday & Thursday nights at 6pm. Barraba Rams are trying to get a trial game with the Armidale Baa Baas on the 25<sup>th</sup> March for a hitout before the comp begins on the 15<sup>th</sup> April when the Rams are home to Quirindi in both men's and women's games to start the 2023 season.

Subs of \$50.00 can be paid at the gate on the first game or posted to Barraba Rugby at PO Box 159 and a card will be issued.

One of the biggest rugby days for the Club will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May when the annual Junior Carnival is run, this is one of the best and biggest junior events in the North of the state.

A steer competition is being arrange where a best of 350-400kgs would be put in a feedlot and judged after so many days, to enter a steer contact Simon Koopman or Snow Kelly.



## BARRABA SHOW

Friday 3 to Sunday 5 March

## Your friendly local professional

### Rod Bonner

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

### PHIL DENYER

MECHANICAL REPAIRS  
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Lic No. 306630C

- Plumber
- Drainer
- Gasfitter
- Polywelder
- Roof Welder

Ph0408117358

[wardsplumbing@bigpond.com](mailto:wardsplumbing@bigpond.com)

### Message from the Editor

At Barraba Community News we welcome local news and stories from our community members about activities, events and news of interest to the Barraba community. Share your news, views and what you or your local organisation is doing.

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

Contact  
[news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au](mailto:news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au) or drop into the Community College on the corner of Alice and Fitzroy Sts.

## Barraba 7 day Forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology



Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Summary Max 34

Partly Cloudy

Chance of any rain: 40%



Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Summary Min 14 Max 32

Partly Cloudy

Chance of rain: 10%



Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Summary Min 13 Max 31

Possible shower

Chance of any rain: 40%



Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March

Summary Min 15 Max 30

Chance of Shower

Chance of any rain: 20%



Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Summary Min 12 Max 31

Mostly sunny

Chance of rain: 20%



Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Summary Min 15 Max 32

Possible Shower

Chance of any rain: 50%



Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Summary Min 17 Max 31

Showers

Chance of any rain: 70%

### Regional Dam Levels from Water NSW

Chaffey 100.0%

Copeton 86.0%

Keepit 86.0%

Split Rock 99.0%

## **BARRABA SHOW 2023**

**Friday evening 3 March – Don't miss these Events!**



**INCLUDES:** Tiny (< 12) Farmer Challenge at 6pm and Junior (12-18 yrs) Farmer Challenge 6.30pm.

Also Mad Cow entertainment and Face Painting by Abby – and lots and lots of other entertainment!



**SATURDAY 4 MARCH – NEW!!**



**Static ute display**

**New - Sport Shear and Wool handling competition**

**ALL DAY SATURDAY 4 MARCH 9 AM TO 5 PM**



See Australia's best shearers and wool handlers in fierce competition all day – **FINALS 3.30 PM**



**New** - Heavy horses and ploughing demo from 10am

**NEW**



**Xtreme Broncs – Saturday 5 pm to 9 pm**

**Friday 3 to Sunday 5 March**

**NEW** – Reptile Show

Four shows both on Saturday and Sunday



**ALSO NEW** - Dressage Friday 10 am

**AND SOME OLD FAVOURITES –**

Six-bar jumping from 4.30 pm Friday

Manilla Vintage Machinery and classic cars display from 10 am to 4 pm

Senior Farmers Challenge – 2 pm Saturday

Children's Dog and Pet Show – Sunday 12.30pm

AND OF COURSE – the Barraba Campdraft runs from Thursday to Sunday.

**SEE YOU THERE!!**