



# BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

**FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER**

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**EASTER**  
School Holiday  
Activities  
Barraba Library

**TUESDAY 18 APRIL** 10:00-11:00am Ages 5 +  
**Rock Craft** | Get creative with rocks! We will be making photo holders, monsters and animals or create your own rock story.

**WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL** 2:30 - 3:30pm Ages 9 +  
**The pit of DOOM** | Team up and prepare your robot for a battle while trying to avoid the deadly PIT OF DOOM

Bookings required as places are limited.  
Please call 02 6767 5947 to book

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**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

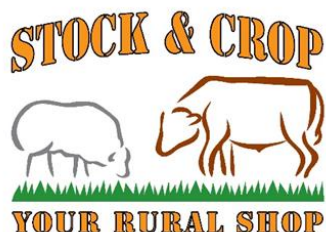
**TRANSPORT DRIVER**  
Provide transport to individuals or groups of older persons to remain actively connected

**COMPANION INDIVIDUAL**  
Spend one on one time with a GoCo client in their home or out in the community with cups of tea

**COMPANION GROUP**  
Help out our group officers to deliver fun activities to our clients such as bingo or mystery tours!!

**MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY**  
Love the locals and having a quick chat? Sign up to deliver meals to clients straight to their door

**GET IN TOUCH AND START VOLUNTEERING TODAY! 6740 2240 OR SEE JODY AT OUR QUEEN ST OFFICE**



## EASTER TRADING

**WE WILL BE CLOSED**  
**THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> April to**  
**MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> April**

Please note our last

trading day before Easter will be Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**SKYE MCMILLAN**  
**OSTEOPATH**

For more information contact : 0476867340





**BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone: 67821379

For the information of members and guests

**MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW OVERDUE**

**THIS WEEK:**

**THURSDAY: 11AM-**

**FRIDAY: 11AM-**  
NO RAFFLES

**SATURDAY: 10AM-**

**SUNDAY: 10AM-5.30PM**

ANGLERS CLUB RAFFLES 1PM

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1300

COURTESY CAR AVAILABLE

**MONDAY: CLOSED**

**TUESDAY: 11AM-5.30PM**

BINGO 11AM

**WEDNESDAY: 11AM-**

EASTER EGG AND MEAT RAFFLES

MEMBER DRAW \$1000

**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 6-8.00PM**

SUNDAY: 12 NOON-2PM



## History Notes

This week is market week again and it falls on Easter Saturday so there will be a couple of

special things on as well as the stall, barbeque and museum open for inspection. There are plans for signs to be displayed and delivered around town so it is unlikely that any residents will miss the event.

Also, this week has been busy with firstly our visit from Kim, who visits regularly to help with our organization as well as visiting several other museums in the area, and a number of queries. Then we received a very interesting parcel in the mail.

To begin with the enquiries – the Simpson family. The Simpson family is well documented in our records with thanks to the late Noel Carter but this person is enquiring about a section of the family moving to the coast. The Barraba family does not check out with this apart from a couple who married and lived in Inverell – William Thomas died at Inverell in 1954. The original great grandfather in the enquiry was Percival Carter born at Barraba in 1902. Any help would be appreciated.

The second query was from a descendant of the Briggs family who were at Gulf Creek in the early days of mining there. The Society has a list of the family of George Henry Briggs and Mary Sheedy who married in 1902 at Gulf Creek and were the parents of eight children. However, no record of the marriage in either Bingara or Barraba C/E marriages. They could have married in another denomination which is rare in those times or perhaps they married in Tamworth or Bundarra. If anyone can help please let us know.

Returning to the parcel in the post – it is the original minute book for Dean & Smith together with the 1900 newspaper notifying the public that they had taken over the well known business of Messrs Excell & Malcolm. Surprisingly the minute book starts in 1913 when Mr Dean and Mr Smith added some formality to their bookkeeping, and runs until its closure sometime after the death of Mr Dean and the sale of the business to M.C. McKenzie and Sons.



## Barraba Museum Markets

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Saturday) 9am to Midday**

**Easter competitions, Variety of stalls, Barbeque, Museum visits. Local history.**

## Garage Sale

Furniture, kitchen appliances,

Tools, jewellery

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 8am – 2pm**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 8am – 2pm**

**41 Fitzroy Street**

**Barraba NSW 2347**

## WANTED TO BUY

**1 PANASONIC DVD RECORDER IN WORKING ORDER**

**MOBILE 0488 125 057**



## Frost to return in 2023

Barraba's well loved Arts Festival "Frost Over Barraba" looks set to return in 2023. The annual festival did not run in 2020-2022 due to the effects of the pandemic. Organisers made early plans in both 2020 and 2021 only to have to cancel.

Members of the past committee have been joined by new people keen to see the almost 50 year old regional arts festival continue. The group are currently contemplating some variations to the traditional exhibitions and competition and assessing their feasibility.

At this stage the group are considering some springtime dates for the festival. They say they welcome people to join in organising the festival. Anyone interested can message the Frost Over Barraba facebook page or email [frostoverbarraba@yahoo.com.au](mailto:frostoverbarraba@yahoo.com.au).

## Barraba Lions Cooking for Charity

On Monday 3 April, 2023 the Barraba Lions Club cooked lunch for a group of cyclists at the Barraba Lions Park. The group was on a 3 day charity ride, Armidale to Tamworth, to Bingara, to Armidale.



## Powerstation Musuem - Steam Engines in Action

Tamworth Powerstation Museum

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023 AT 10 AM – 3 PM



See our mighty John Fowler Steam Engine's in action as part of the Tamworth Regional Heritage Festival.

Bring family or friends along and celebrate Tamworth as the First City of Light at the Tamworth Powerstation Museum!

Entry is just a gold coin donation to receive a guided tour by one of our brilliant Volunteers and to see the Steam Engines in action.





### April Fools' Day 2023:

The first day of April is called April Fools' Day in most parts of the world, and it has been observed for centuries. Also called All Fools' Day, the day is usually marked by pranks and practical jokes played on friends, family and acquaintances, or even strangers. It is not known as to how people actually started to observe the day.

Here are some facts about the fun day.

1. In ancient Rome, people celebrated a holiday, which was called Hilaria, and it was very similar to All Fools' Day! They played jokes on each other on this day.
2. It is widely believed that April Fools' Day started in 1564, when France switched to a different calendar as Charles IX issued a decree saying the new year would begin on January 1, and not on Easter, which would be around April 1. People who continued to celebrate the day in April would be called 'April fools'.
3. Many also suggest that people might have come to observe All Fools Day around this time because of the vernal equinox (March 21), when the weather tends to show sudden changes and people get fooled by it.
4. In France, the person who gets fooled is called poisson d'avril, which means "April fish". This could be in reference to a fish who is easily caught. A common custom is seen in France on April 1 when people try to stealthily attach a paper fish to someone's back.
5. In Scotland, April Fools' Day is celebrated over two days. April 1 is known as 'April Gowk (cuckoo)', or 'Gowkie Day', and also 'Hunt the Gowk'. The next day is 'Tailie Day', when revellers place signs reading "kick me" on their friends' backs.
6. According to one theory, which now stands disputed, it was Geoffrey Chaucer's 1387 work, The

Canterbury Tales, which first recorded an association between April 1 and foolishness.

7. British folklore has the April Fool's Day associated with a Gotham event in Nottinghamshire dating back to the 13th century. It is said that it was a tradition then that any road that the king placed his foot upon would become public property. King John once planned to travel through Gotham town, but when the residents heard this they devised a plan to stop his visit since they did not want to part with their land. When the king sent his soldiers to Gotham, they found the place to be full of fools doing mindless activities such as drowning fish in water or caging birds in cages without a roof. The king apparently declared Gotham too foolish for a visit, and April Fools' Day came to be known as the town's victory over King John.
8. A Roman myth says God Pluto abducted Proserpina and took her to the underworld, leaving her mother Ceres to search for her in vain. Many believe this fruitless search gave birth to the tradition of "fool's errands", which are basically an imaginary or impossible task.
9. There are two Biblical theories also about fool's errands. It is believed that the biblical character, Noah, was the first "April Fool" because he sent the dove out by mistake on April 1 to see if the waters had subsided from the face of earth, and to find dry land before that happens. According to another story, Jesus was sent on this day to Herod from Pontius Pilate and back. The saying, "sending a man from Pilate to Herod", literally means sending a person on a fool's errand.
10. Sometime in the early 1960s, Sweden's only television channel that would broadcast in black and white announced on the news on April 1 that the viewers could convert their TV sets to display colour reception by just pulling a nylon stocking over the device screen.

Source: Britannica, The History Press,

Q. What's the difference between an outlaw and an in-law?

A. Outlaws are wanted.

Q. My IQ test results came back.

A. They were negative.



## Manilla and Barraba Uniting Church.

### Easter Service 2023

**MANILLA - Good Friday Service @ 8.30 a.m. Easter Sunday Service @ 11.00 a.m.**

**BARRABA – Good Friday Service @ 10.00a.m. Easter Sunday Service @ 8.45 a.m.**

*“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?”*

*Matthew 16:25-26*

Easter points us to the ultimate fulfilment of the above verses from Matthew. Jesus tells his disciples what is expected of them if they wish to experience God’s Kingdom. Easter is the time where each of us are called to reconsider what we are doing with our lives. Have we become inward looking, “life savers”, or do we use our gifts and become a “life spender”. That is, using our lives for the good of God, society, community, neighbours.

Retreat Director Margaret Silf poses this critical question in her book *The Other Side of Chaos – Will you save your life or spend it?* She says “... we are invited to follow the man, Jesus, who, every moment and in every way, spends himself for others and for truth and justice, a man who invites us to become life **spenders**, to become a people on a quest not for rescue but for transformation.”

Without Easter, we would all be lost, continuing to do our own thing for the benefit of self, trying to win our status. Sadly, this only leads to further struggles where life becomes meaningless, and the world around us appears to be on a slippery slope.

Only when we can acknowledge that Jesus’s death on the cross has given us a new start, a new beginning, only then can we truly be “**life spenders**”, giving everything we have for a better world for the generations that come after us.

How will you spend this Easter?

Easter ... the time of remembering what Jesus has given to you ... salvation.

Rev Jim Furze.

### **UNITING CHURCH TIMES**

#### Easter Services

Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April - Service 10am

Easter Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April - Service 8.45am

Services continue at 8.45am after Easter

All welcome

### **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

**Holy Week Program:** Holy Thursday Mass 5.00pm,  
Good Friday, Stations of The Cross 10.00am,  
Easter Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm.

### **ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES**

#### **St Laurence’s Barraba**

Sunday service at 9.00am

No Woodsreef service in April

Bereen service 4pm Easter Sunday



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Email – [office@barrabaanglican.com](mailto:office@barrabaanglican.com)  
Website – [barrabaanglican.com](http://barrabaanglican.com)

## What's so good about Good Friday?

When I was growing up, I loved easter time! It meant we were on holidays and didn't have to go to school, but more importantly, it meant I got to eat easter eggs! But the problem was my parents wouldn't let me eat them until Easter Sunday, rather than starting on Friday like I wanted. And I was always confused because it's called Good Friday, right? It didn't sound very good if I couldn't eat my eggs!

And as I got a bit older, I got even more confused about Good Friday, because I found out that it was about the day Jesus died. What is good about a man dying?

In the Gospel of Luke in the Bible, we see that as Jesus is taken to the cross to die, two other men, both criminals, are taken with him to be crucified. And we see two very different responses to Jesus from these men. One of the criminals mocked Jesus and hurled insults at him. This criminal thought Jesus was a nobody, he thought he was crazy, he thought he was weak and useless.

But then we get the other criminal, and he is the complete opposite. He says that Jesus has done nothing wrong and doesn't deserve to die. This criminal recognises that he himself will have to face God when he dies, and rightly fears the punishment that will come for his wrongdoing.

And so, he asks a bold question of Jesus. Recognising Jesus as God, he says to him: **"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom"**. This criminal knows that Jesus is God, he knows that he has the power to give him life after death, to take him out of punishment and into eternal life, into heaven.

And what does Jesus say to him? **Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."**

Wow. Jesus makes this man an astonishing promise. Instead of facing the judgement of God and the punishment that he is due, he is promised paradise. How can Jesus make this promise? How can this man who has lived a life of crime be allowed into heaven instead of being punished?

Well, this is why it's called Good Friday. When Jesus died on the cross, he was dying as an innocent man. He had never disobeyed God; he didn't deserve to die. And yet he chose to die for us. Jesus died to take the punishment that we deserved for our rebellion of God, for all the wrongdoing we

have done in our lives. Jesus took our sin on his shoulders and dealt with it on the cross.

And because he was punished for us, because he died in our place, if we trust in him as our Lord and King, just like the criminal on the cross, he promises that we too can have eternal life, that we will be in paradise when we die. No matter how bad you think you've been, no matter what you've done, Jesus paid for it on the cross.

This is the great news of the Bible; this is why it is called good Friday - an innocent man, coming into the world to die for us, so that we can be forgiven, so that we can have the hope of life after death, this is the great news that Jesus brings.

But it's worth asking the question, what criminal next to Jesus do you see yourself as? Perhaps you think Jesus is nothing special, maybe you think he was a good teacher, but nothing more. Maybe you go as far as mocking Jesus for the claims he makes about himself. If this is you, then like the first criminal, you will one day stand before God and must face his judgement.

But if you are like the 2nd criminal, if you trust in Jesus as your Lord, if you trust that he died in your place, that he took your sin in his death, then you have the sure hope of eternal life in paradise with him. This is a great joy and a great hope! This is why it is such a Good Friday!

If you want to know more about this good news, then please join us at Barraba Anglican church this Easter, we'd love to see you there!

Matthew Hearne, Minister of Barraba Anglican.

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COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

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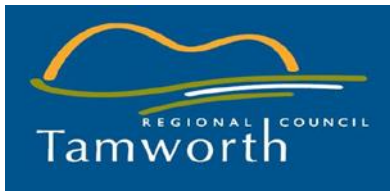
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### **Council meeting update**

- In the Mayoral Minute put forward by Tamworth Region Mayor Russell Webb, all business from the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled to be held on March 14 was deferred to this evening's meeting. To facilitate the ongoing smooth delivery of works and services a number of tenders were actioned under delegation by the General Manager.
- Councillors approved additional expenditure associated with Council's forced relocation from Ray Walsh House. A report was considered requesting the approval of \$287,407 further to the original cost estimate previously approved on 13 September 2022. September's estimated budget for the relocation was followed closely, however at that stage the total costs for the refurbishment of 474 Peel Street was not known. The report said during the refurbishment works unplanned electrical and insulation works were required at 474 Peel Street in late October 2022. These were needed to ensure the building remained compliant with current building regulations. It was determined that as the building is Council owned, the extra costs represent a good investment as they will ensure Council is able to continue occupying or lease the building into the future.
- Councillors noted and received an "Energy Sustainability Six Monthly Report" which is a regular report providing an update to Council on various Energy Sustainability programs, projects and activities in the current financial year. One notable initiative is the Street Lighting Upgrade. As of October 2022, an estimated 97% of streetlights had been upgraded to more energy efficient LEDs. The remaining 153 streetlights are set to be upgraded by the end of quarter 1, 2023. The estimated annual electricity savings as a result of street lighting upgrades is approximately \$250,000.
- Councillors approved the installation of a disabled car park on Marius Street, Tamworth, and line marking along Marius and Bourke Streets to create more parking opportunities and provide more inclusive access. Councillors also approved the installation of missing signs on the Rodeo Drive and Stockmans Way roundabout, Hillvue, and the Logistics Road and Country Road intersection, Westdale.
- Councillors have agreed to approve \$645,000 in additional funding to the Tamworth Global Gateway

Park to complete Stage 1, demolish a farmstead dwelling on Marathon Street, design for Stage 2, and for precinct management activities in operations and maintenance for the next four years. A previously committed \$1,750,000 in funding for the Jewry Street Extension was given a funding source.

- Councillors approved a \$5,000 donation to Tamworth International Eventing for the purchase of a Dressage Arena Trailer as part of the 2022/23 Annual Donations Program.
- Councillors recognised the achievements of the 2022 Youth Council and endorsed the appointment of the incoming 2023 Tamworth Regional Youth Council members. The first meeting of the 2023 Tamworth Regional Youth Council will occur on 30 March 2023.
- Councillors authorised four motions to be submitted on behalf of Tamworth Regional Council to the 2023 National General Assembly for Local Government. These motions relate to water security; improving regulation for recycled water as well as funding and education to support reuse of waste water; shortfalls in financial assistance to Local Government in relation to roads; the implementation of the Growing Regions Program to progress projects in the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF); and to recognise the significant contribution made by volunteers across Australia.

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### **Stories Under the Stars with Len Waters and Friends**

Tamworth Regional Astronomy & Science Centre  
Victoria Park, Top End of Piper Street Tamworth.  
Friday 14 April 2023, 06:00 PM TO 8.00 PM Free event



Discover the region's Aboriginal heritage and stories with Night Under the Stars at the Tamworth Regional Astronomy and Science Centre. Join Len Waters and his friends for a performance under the night sky as they explore Aboriginal astronomy in the 'big sky' country of Tamworth and celebrate our culture. Proudly presented by Tamworth Aboriginal Land Council and Tamworth Regional Council.

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## Hats Off to a cool Festival

Two of the biggest names in Australian country music will, this year, headline Tamworth's cool midyear festival – Hats Off to Country which will take place in **Tamworth over four days from Thursday 6 July to Sunday 9 July.**

Multiple Golden Guitar winners and great mates Beccy Cole and Adam Harvey have included Tamworth Town Hall on their Great Country Songbook Volume 3 tour, playing the iconic venue on Friday, 7 July. Supporting the dynamic duo will be everybody's favourite player, Duncan Toombs, whose debut *Steel on Steel* album is opening doors for him everywhere; and Tamworth's own Loren Ryan, the 2023 Toyota Star Maker winner. Tickets are on sale now.

Hometown lad Lane Pittman who took out the Best of the Buskers title at this year's Toyota Country Music Festival is a man on a mission. The young entertainer has already gained national recognition on *The Voice* in 2022 and will be opening the show for U.S. country sensation Luke Combs on his sold-out national tour of Australia and New Zealand in August. Lane is hoping his hometown fans will come out to send him and his band off on the road in style at The Pub, on Saturday, July 8.

Travis List, direct from Nashville, Tennessee is another one to watch out for presenting two big band shows at West Tamworth League Club to celebrate his homecoming tour. Tamworth Regional Council's Country Music Coordinator Cheryl Brown said; "The heat of January is a far cry from the cool change you'll experience in Tamworth in July so, if you're not a fan of the heat, you can get a real taste of country in much cooler circumstances at this 23-year-old festival."

Returning to Hats Off is the popular Cowboy Crawl taking crawlers to a range of venues with live music by coach on Saturday night. It's perfect for singles, couples or groups as everyone leaves with new friends.

The Press Basement Bar will be welcoming Lawrie and wife Shelley as part of the midyear fun as well as Brooke Harvey and Allison Forbes' Birthday Bash show. Wests' Diggers brings you Hunter Valley band The Versatiles on Friday night and Katie Jayne, 2022 Star Maker Top 10 finalist, will rock it out with her band on Saturday night. The West Tamworth League Club have a fantastic line up including Dan Murphy and band, Travis List, Lawrie & Shelly Minson with more to be announced. The Tamworth Hotel has jumped right into Hats Off with three shows, singer-songwriter JB Paterson, Good Corn Liquor and the best bar band in the country, CK & The 45s. The Longyard Hotel will be the place to be for all the grooves with local party band Savage Groove featuring Johanna Hemara, Kym Beare, John Lee and Rob Bennic on Friday

night and on Saturday, Queensland country rock artist Jeremy Turner will heat up the room and to finish off the weekend catch an acoustic set from Daniel Thornton before Splashpool featuring Kevin Anderson, Sally-Anne Whitten, Rae Moody, Alwyn Aurisch, Kym Beare, Dave "Stixy" Adams hit the stage.

Fans of traditional country music will no doubt have their tickets sorted for the Australian Bush Balladeers' Association's only concert of the festival on Sunday at Moonshiners' Honky Tonk Bar, at the Family Hotel. Appearing on the bill will be Tom Chesterfield, Lynette Guest, Rodney Walker, Anthony Baxter, Lorraine Pfitzner, Lyn and Phil Manning, Ron Lynch, Greg Bain and Patti Morgan, with Lorraine Pfitzner OAM the emcee. Another nod to tradition and not to miss, is The Pub Balladeers, hosted by Brian "Howdy" Howard on Friday, July 7 at The Pub.

The Oasis Hotel, Tamworth City Bowling Club, The Pub and Post Office Hotel will all host the Tamworth Songwriters Association Showcases on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday with a big line up of talented artists including Paul Ricketts, Jake Murdoch, Owen Smith, Andrew & Amy Ryan, Brendan McMahon, Mem Davis, Beth Lucas, Studio 8, Joel Bear McKay, Kylie Adams-Collier, Craig Lloyd, Suz Dorahy, Peter Salata, Dunc & Sue, Sandy Louise, Frecko, What She's Having, Sandy Louise and Cec Peterson.

The Tudor Hotel opens its doors to Country Karaoke on Thursday night, with Tamworth songbird Sally-Anne Whitten Band on Friday night, and the Autumn Blues Band Saturday following their spot at Joe Maguire's Hotel. The Nemingha Tavern, one of the first venues in town to have country music, presents on Friday night, female singer-songwriter Teak, who is known through her 2015 Top 12 Finals appearance on *The Voice* as well as Bowraville singer-songwriter Graham Howle on Saturday and local country artist Dale Hooper for the Sunday session. The Courthouse Hotel has free country music over the festival weekend with Daniel Thornton solo acoustic on Friday night and Mr Entertainment Ryan Sampson, Saturday night.

Any budding musicians who haven't got a gig but are interested in performing are encouraged to head along to The Atrium Arcade for their Walk-Up sessions on Friday and Saturday from 10am to 2pm.

More venues are still to finalise their programs so keep an eye on the website, [www.hatsofftocountry.com.au](http://www.hatsofftocountry.com.au) for details of more shows as they are rolled out.



## Bringing the bling to the Tamworth Region

Friday, 31 March to 28 May 2023



Monica Rani Rudhar 'Drop Earrings, That Once Belonged To My Mother,' 2022. Photo by Chantel Bann.

Art and gold enthusiasts are encouraged to head down to the Tamworth Regional Gallery tomorrow, 1 April, for the new "Looking at Gold" exhibition that will be open to the general public.

The development of this exhibition grew out of a collaborative partnership between the teams at Casula Powerhouse and the team at Tamworth Regional Gallery. The exhibition includes several artworks from the Tamworth Regional Gallery collection, in particular a series of the Utopia silk batiks.

Given the prominence of gold within Liverpool and also within the Tamworth region, Casula Powerhouse originally proposed this ambitious exhibition, which highlights different artists who share an interest in both the material and symbolic qualities of gold. Every artwork in this exhibition showcases the expert skills of the artist and how they can manipulate materials and their courageous ideas with their hands.

This partnership further showcases Casula Powerhouse's reputation for leadership in authentic engagement with culturally diverse artists and storytelling, and the deep connections Tamworth Regional Gallery has with local First Nations artist which is reflected in their Art Collection. The exhibition first opened at Casula Powerhouse in October 2022 and will tour to Tamworth April 2023.

Bridget Guthrie, Director of Tamworth Regional Gallery and Museums, would like residents in the region to know that the exhibition brings together artists from all career levels and areas across NSW.

"Looking at Gold has been a fabulous opportunity to work in partnership with another public gallery and ensures that artworks by established and emerging contemporary artists are available for our regional audiences" she said.

It includes newly commissioned artworks by Megan Hanson, Monica Rani Rudhar, Marcia Swaby, Abdullah M.I Syed, Hiromi Tango and Tom Yousif. Amy Hammond's 'Crown Bugalaa,' recently acquired into Tamworth's Art Collection and a collection of silk batiks from the Utopia Collection to Tamworth Regional Gallery. Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran's works recently acquired into Casula Powerhouse's Art Collection and an installation by Blak Douglas who is the most recent winner of the Archibald Prize.

This exhibition is open to the public from Saturday 1 April and the joint exhibition opening occurs at 6pm on Thursday, 13 April as part of the Heritage Festival celebrations. The exhibition closes on 28 May.



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## Genetic research confirms your dog's breed influences its personality — but so do you

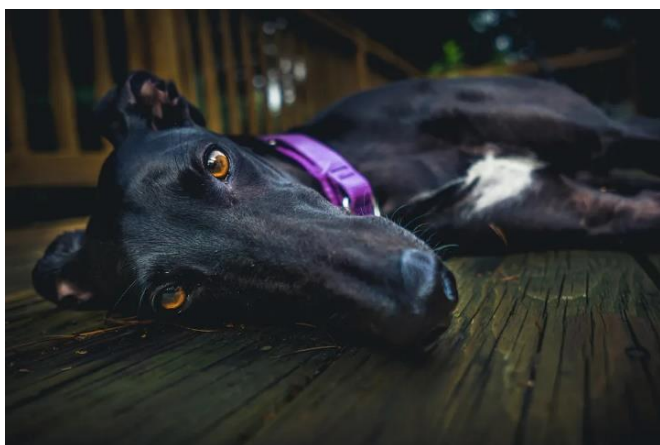
Melissa Starling, Postdoctoral researcher, University of Sydney

Over thousands of years of firm friendship between humans and dogs, we have successfully created about 350 different breeds. We've relied on terriers for hunting, sheepdogs for herding, and all for companionship – but how much are dog personalities defined by their breed?

In a new paper, researchers from the United States zoomed into the genetic codes of more than 4,000 different dogs, and surveyed 46,000 pet owners. They identified many genes associated with behaviours typical of certain breeds, such as the tendency for terriers to catch and kill prey.

Their findings ultimately suggest the type of breed does indeed explain many aspects of a dog's unique personality.

But dog owners also play an enormous role in shaping their dog's personality – such as whether they're playful, tolerant of others, attention-seeking or quick to bark. So let's take a closer look at how you can raise a good canine citizen.



*Greyhounds are examples of sighthounds, which have keen vision and are extremely fast.*

### What the research found

Dog breeds are a fascinating window into selective breeding, and some behaviour patterns we see in different breed groups – for example, herding and retrieving – are difficult to explain. The new US paper gives us hints as to how some of those patterns may have emerged.

The researchers analysed DNA samples from more than 200 dog breeds. Based on DNA data, they managed to whittle these down to ten major genetic lineages, including terriers, herders, retrievers, sighthounds, scenthounds, and pointers/spaniels.

Each lineage corresponds to a category of breeds historically used for tasks, such as hunting by scent versus sight or herding versus protecting livestock.

This means breeds that are not closely related, but bred for the same purpose, may share common sets of genes. This has been very difficult to show in the past.



*Jack Russell terriers are characterised by high predatory chasing.*

For example, the paper identifies herding breeds, such as Kelpies or border collies, as characterised by high “non-social fear”, which is fear of environmental stimuli such as loud noises, wind or vehicles. Terriers, such as Jack Russells, are characterised by high predatory chasing. And scenthounds, such as Beagles, by low trainability.

These align with what these dogs were bred for: herding breeds for their high environmental awareness and sensitivity, terriers for chasing and killing prey, and scenthounds for their independent focus on non-visual signals (scent).

The researchers take a more detailed look at herders, because of their easily identifiable and usually innate behaviour of herding.

Interestingly, the gene found to be common among sheepdogs – called EPHA5 – has also been associated with anxiety-like behaviours in other mammals, as well as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in humans. The researcher team says this might explain the breed's high energy and tendency to hyperfocus on tasks.

### What dog owners need to know

The fact dog behaviour varies with breed has generally been accepted among researchers for a while, to varying degrees. But it's important not to discount how a dog's upbringing can also shape their personality.

In fact, a different genetic study earlier this year suggested that while a dog's lineage is one influencer of behaviour, it's probably not the most important.

Those researchers stress that dog behaviour is influenced by many different genes that existed in dogs before breeds were developed, and these genes are present in all breeds. They argue modern breeds are mainly distinguished by their looks, and their behaviour is likely more heavily influenced by environmental factors such as upbringing and learning history, than genetics.

So, what does that mean for dog owners? Well, while a dog's behaviour is influenced by its breed, there's much we can do to shape a good canine companion.

This work is particularly important over the first one to two years of a dog's life, starting with early socialisation when they're puppies. They should be exposed to all the stimuli we want them to grow up accepting, such as kids, vehicles, other animals, pedestrian malls, weekend sport, travelling and grooming.

We then need to continue training and guiding dogs to behave in ways that keep them and others safe as they grow up. Just as human children and teenagers need guidance to learn how to make good decisions and get along with others, so our dogs need the same guidance through adolescence to adulthood (usually around age two).



*A good canine companion is shaped over the first one to two years of their life*

While breed alone might not be a good predictor of the behaviour for any individual dog, it's certainly sensible to pay attention to what breeds were originally bred for. The new study supports that sentiment. Those behavioural patterns that helped dogs do their original job for humans are probably still strong in the population.

That means if you already own backyard chickens or pocket pets such as rabbits, think carefully before adopting a terrier, and plan what you'll do if the terrier wants to hunt your small animals.

If you live in the city or an apartment block where the environment is constantly busy, this is likely to be very challenging for a herding breed. And if you want a dog super responsive to you, scenthounds are probably not a great bet.



*Selecting a dog that will work with your lifestyle is a probability game. Shutterstock*

Selecting a dog that will work well with your lifestyle is a probability game. It's perfectly possible to find a very responsive and trainable scenthound, or a terrier that can live peacefully with, for instance, pet rats.

But if that's something you specifically need from a dog, play the odds by starting with a breed developed for that lifestyle. Then pour lots of time and effort into socialisation and training.

Dogs are mostly what we make of them, and they repay the effort we put into their behaviour tenfold.

### Golf Notes

Ali Smith enjoyed the glorious Autumn conditions on Sunday to claim Ian and Brenda McColls' trophy. Playing a Bisq Par Ali finished with the very good score of plus 7 to finish two shots ahead of Chris Sweeney plus 5 with balls also going to Kerrie Smith plus 4 Liam Johnston plus 2 and Jesse Phillips also plus 2. Chris Sweeney claimed NTP on the 6th.

Next Sunday is an Individual Stableford for Gary and Sandra Allen's trophy.

On the following week Sunday 16th April we will play our annual 18 hole Mixed Foursomes Championships. This annual mixed event is for the L and V Bridges Memorial trophy whilst the Mixed Net winners play for the Lions Club trophy. So, a heads up to get in early and organise yourself a partner.

Those players without a mixed partner will contest an Individual Stableford for a trophy donated by Bill and Gail Simpson.



Thanks again to Brian Coote for providing this photo



### St. Joseph's Barraba Classes 4,5 & 6. 1982

Rear Row: David Hawkins, Peter Conway, Graham Bell, Graeme Davis, (Name unknown).  
Middle Row: Karen Summerell, Therese Hatfield, Megan Coote, Therese Stringer, Nicola Moss.  
Front Row: Jim Grant, Tony Akers, Alexis Lindsay, Melissa Byrnes, Therese Carter, Justin Coote, Chris Newsome.