



# BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**



## Celebrating 70 years of Legacy Service in Barraba

On Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, to commemorate the centenary of Legacy, we will be unveiling a plaque to celebrate the 70 plus years the Barraba Legacy contact group has been in operation. The Barraba contact group was formed in the early 1950s to carry on the work of Tamworth Legacy which was established in 1948. Legacy provides care for dependents of those who served their country, namely veterans, who gave their lives or health on operational service or subsequently, and Australian Defence Force personnel who died as a result of their service. Legacy was conceived in 1923, the year that Melbourne Legacy was formed.

The plaque will be positioned in the Memorial garden adjacent to the Playhouse Hotel and will be unveiled by Mrs. Lorne O'Leary whose husband Ted was Barraba's Legacy chairman for 28 years, 1965-1993 and was a Legatee for 55 years. He was most ably supported through this time by Murray Chapman, Legacy secretary for 35 years. The current chairman, Bill Crowley, joined Legacy in 1973 and at that time Barraba Legacy was caring for 43 Widows and their families. He well remembers the support given by the wives of Legatees such as Lorne O'Leary, Nug Faint, Eileen Chapman, Bessie Baldwin and Trixie Garland. Trixie would make sure everyone she encountered during Legacy week purchased a Legacy badge while Lorne and Nug would try to outdo each other cooking cakes for the street stall, at times cooking up to 40 each.

Today we care for 6 Widows supported by 4 Legatees: Bill Crowley, Robert Sweeney, Adrienne and Peter Hancock. Adrienne became a Legatee in 2000, our first female

Legatee and has been a great asset to our group. In Tamworth Legacy there are now more female Legatees than males and they are really making their mark.

The plaque will be unveiled at 4.00pm, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and all are welcome to attend. A light afternoon tea will be provided at the Playhouse at the conclusion of the event.

## VINYL NIGHT

**Saturday 25 November**

**DJ LUKE**

**Playing songs from  
your vinyl records**



**SUNDAY LUNCHES 12 til 2.00 pm**

**Book if you can please. 67821023**

**COMMERCIAL HOTEL**



At about 9am on Friday the 17 November, the Westpac Rescue Helicopter was tasked by NSW Ambulance on an

urgent inter-hospital retrieval from the Barraba Hospital to the John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle for a man in his 70s suffering from a serious medical condition. The male was stabilised at Barraba by the helicopter's critical care medical team before being flown direct to Newcastle where he will undergo further specialist treatment.



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

Phone 67821379

For the information of members and guests.

#### **THIS WEEK**

**FRIDAY 24th November**

MEAT RAFFLES

1st Draw 6.45pm

2nd Draw 7.30pm

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1000

**Sunday 26th Nov closed**

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Members Christmas Party Sat 16th Dec.**

**Minimum numbers apply.**

**Bookings essential by 10th December.**

#### **BISTRO HOURS**

Phone 0427330808

**DINE IN OR TAKEAWAY**

**DAILY BLACKBOARD SPECIALS AVAILABLE**

**ALSO PIZZAS MADE TO ORDER**

**MONDAY: CLOSED**

**TUESDAY: CLOSED**

**WEDNESDAY: 12PM-2.00PM**

**THURS/FRI/SAT: LUNCH 12-2PM**

**DINNER FROM 6PM**

**SUNDAY: 12-2PM**

**Bistro closed Sunday 26th November**

## **St Joseph's Primary School**

### **Students of the week**



**3/4: Ruby for effort and persistence in all learning.**

**5/6: Zara for a positive attitude to learning.**

**Captains Award: Fletcher for great playground behaviour**



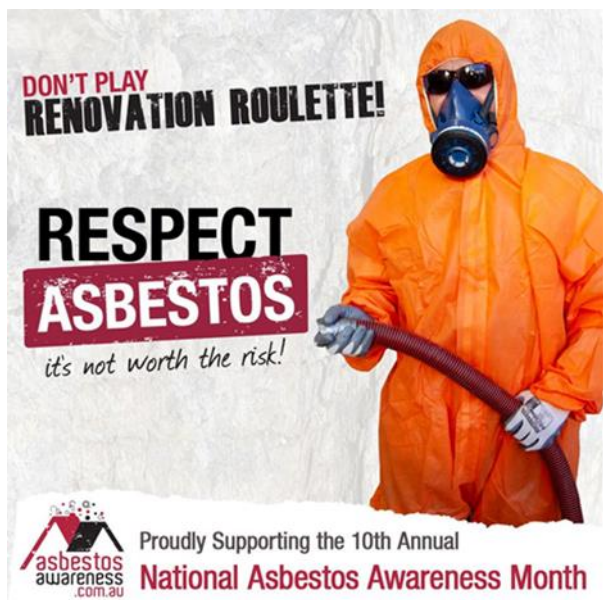
### **Reading Awards**

**200 Nights reading for Willow**



**Alfie received an award from the CCN for dedication to his piano lessons.**





Removing asbestos? Use ONLY licenced professionals! To ensure you protect yourself, your family and workers, Asbestos Awareness recommends using only licenced asbestos removalists to remove and dispose of any asbestos-containing materials safely and in accordance with regulations because it's not worth the risk! To find out more visit [www.asbestosawareness.com.au](http://www.asbestosawareness.com.au)



## History Notes

There isn't much to report this week as sorting and planning continues. The rate books are currently being sorted into the year of operation and put into order so we can refer to them at a later date.

This week I have come across a supplement to the Barraba Chronicle - a dozen pages compiled by the Barraba Apex Club to celebrate their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and 500<sup>th</sup> dinner.

The Barraba Apex Club was formed in October, 1966, at a dinner held in the R.S.L. Hall when 20 'Prospexians' were presented to the National President. The club flourished cutting wood for pensioners, raising money for the scouts, supporting the hospital and raising money to buy an ambulance.

Looking through the twelve pages there are lots of laughs and remarks made by their fellow Apexians - some of which may not be repeated for obvious reasons.

In the section for Letters to the Editor there is a letter from one of the Apex members - it goes like this:

The Editor, Sir,

In reply to your request to send a cheque, I wish to inform you that the present condition of my bank account makes it ordinarily impossible.

My shattered financial condition is due to union laws, liquor laws, State Laws, town laws, sister-in-laws, mother-in-laws and outlaws.

Through these laws, I am compelled to pay a business tax, excise tax, tariff tax, sales tax, railway tax, petrol tax, and amusement tax, of which I have none.

I am suspected, inspected, disrespected, rejected, examined and re-examined, informed, required, summoned, fined, commanded and compelled until I provide an inexhaustible supply of money for every known need, desire or hope of the human race.

Simply because I refuse to donate something or other I am boycotted, talked about, lied about, held up, held down and robbed until I am ruined.

I can honestly tell you that except for a miracle that happened I couldn't enclose this cheque.

The wolf that comes to my door so many times nowadays had pups in the kitchen. I sold them and here is the money.

Down and Out.

## From the Barraba Historical Museum

A little bit of Barraba history from photos loaned by Ted Smith (Schmidt) many decades ago.

Ted was a mostly a carter with his trucks and living in Bent St. when I knew him, and his interests were largely involved with moving freight or passengers over the years.

These first two pics illustrate perfectly the economic realities of carting just wool bales in the early 1900s.

The first pic is the famous photo of George Simpson carting a load of wool from "Ironbark Station" with his big team of 18 draught horses crossing the Manilla river at the eastern end of Maude St which was our only direct route towards Bundarra and Ironbark Station in those days.

Ted's 2nd. pic is of his truck loaded with wool which I had labelled as being parked outside Roly Hungerford's place in Edward St. I don't remember Roly living in Edward St but I would have been going on what Ted told me.

No doubt there was a smaller load on the truck but if we just give a bit of thought to the costs of maintaining 18 draught horses against a small truck it is easy to see why the horse drawn transport industry collapsed almost overnight.

Posted by Brian Coote.







### The Fate of Lea and Cummings

There's a place you know well, the Victoria Hotel  
Where many times you and I have drunk  
But the years they have flown, old Barraba has grown  
Was once known as the town's local bank.

Now the old people say times are quieter today  
We have police here now to keep the law  
They will tell you the tale, if their memory don't fail  
How the bullet holes were shot through the door.

Ruthless men, two were they, came to Barraba one day  
On the long road of crime, they had sunk  
Shot the bank manager dead, so the old people said  
And stole all the money from the bank.

There's a place not far, known as Mount Kaputar  
Where two bush rangers rode from town  
On a cliff side, dead end track  
Could not ride on, could not turn back  
Killed his horse over the side, he pushed him down.

And the trooper at last caught this outlaw at the pass  
They tell me his sentence was long  
In Boggabri they got his mate  
And my friends, it was the fate  
Of Lea, Cummings and the end of my song  
Vic (Stumpy) Turner

## Parody from WWI trenches

THANKS to the many readers who responded to Betty Chard's request for the words of the World War I song *My Little Wet Home in the Trench* (a parody of the old song *My Little Grey Home in the West*).

From the replies I

received and my own research it is obvious there were several versions of the parody but the one most recognised was apparently written by signaller Tom Skeyhill of the 8th Battalion, AIF, in 1915, which goes like this:

*I've a little wet home in the trench, which the rain-storms continually drench;  
Blue sky overhead, mud and clay for a bed, and a stone that we use for a bench.  
Bully beef and hard biscuits we chew; shells crackle and scare, but no place can compare  
With my little wet home in the trench.  
Our friends in the trench o'er the way, seem to know that we've come here to stay;  
They rush and they shout, but they can't get us out, though there's no dirty work they don't play.  
They rushed us a few nights ago, but we don't like intruders, and so  
Some departed quite sore, others sleep evermore, near my little wet home in the trench.  
So hurrah for the mud and the clay; it's the road to "Der Tag" - that's "The Day"  
When we enter Berlin, that big city of sin, where we'll make the fat Berliner pay.  
We'll remember the cold, and the frost, when we scour the fat land of the Bhost;  
There'll be shed then, I fear, redder stuff than a tear  
For my little wet home in the trench.*

**Perilous state': Dozens of areas across NSW at risk of critical GP shortages**

By [Lucy Carroll](#) and [Carrie Fellner](#)

Dozens of towns across the state are at risk of not having a single GP available in coming years as experts warn the exodus of hundreds of doctors from the workforce has left the system in a "perilous state". The *Herald* can reveal the locations of 60 towns and regions across NSW identified by authorities as being at risk of critical doctor shortages, including larger population centres such as Cessnock, Singleton, Moree and Gunnedah.

Suburbs on the outskirts of Sydney, including Katoomba and Blackheath in the Blue Mountains and Kurrajong in the Hawkesbury, are also in danger following an "unprecedented decline in workforce supply". "The reality is there isn't a town in rural NSW that isn't at risk of being able to sustain viable primary care right now," said Richard Colbran, the chief executive of the NSW Rural Doctors Network. "For every general practitioner that leaves the workforce there will need to be three to replace them to keep up with demand. After COVID-19, floods and bushfires, GPs have never felt a time when the system is in such a perilous state. They are exhausted."

The recent NSW parliamentary inquiry into regional health heard evidence of an exodus of GPs from regional and rural areas, which is set to worsen as more than half of GPs in small towns retire within a decade and younger doctors do not step forward to replace them. The malaise has been blamed on financial pressures on rural general practices jeopardising their sustainability, increasing specialisation of the medical workforce and generational change as thinning ranks of rural GPs struggle with increasing workload pressure, repelling young doctors seeking work-life balance.

The federal government is responsible for supporting and monitoring the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of primary health care services. The Office of the National Rural Health Commissioner told the inquiry that the GP workforce has become concentrated in Australia's urban centres. "While Australia has one of the highest ratios of doctors per head of population in the world, this workforce is not distributed proportionately across the country," it said in its submission. The Royal Australian College of GPs also stressed the need to attract GPs working in urban centres to the bush, as well as providing additional support to those already based regionally.

Data provided by the Hunter New England and Central Coast public health network show Barraba, Wee Waa, Moree,

Gunnedah, Glen Innes, Cessnock, Murrumbidgee/Scone, Denman/Merriwa, Muswellbrook and Singleton are at risk of current or impending shortages. The network said Maitland and the Central Coast are also "under pressure". Colbran described general practices as businesses that were "fundamentally critical" to regional and remote towns. "The NSW rural health inquiry has clearly shown that the way we operate now needs to be changed. We need to be brave and show courage." At least 600 rural general practitioner proceduralists - who also work as doctors at local hospitals - have left their positions in the past 10 years, Colbran said. There are now fewer than 200 GP proceduralists working in rural NSW, with authorities concerned this number could dwindle to fewer than 100 within the decade. Western NSW Primary Health Network confirmed there are at least 45 towns across the region at risk of being without a general practice within the next 10 years. "Without intervention there will be no GPs that are willing to take the place of those that leave, and people will have limited access to essential primary care services," a spokesperson for Western primary health network said. "Hospital admissions will increase as will the burden on the health system more broadly."

Parts of the Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury are also at risk, including Blackheath, Katoomba Kurrajong, Glossodia and Colo. The head of the Nepean Blue Mountains primary health network, Lizz Reay, said in parts of outer metro Sydney there are two-week waits to see a doctor. Further inland, that wait can triple as some general practices close their books to new patients entirely. "The Upper Blue Mountains has faced an unprecedented decline of workforce supply with one practice losing 10 GPs due to retirement or relocated out of the region," Reay said.

Dubbo GP Ai-Vee Chua said three of the 12 general practices in Dubbo had closed recently. "I've worked in rural NSW for more than 20 years and the shortages we are seeing now are the worst they've ever been, especially with the increasing population." Dr Chua said patients were being forced to go to emergency departments because "they have no other option". She said there were concerns the recent announcement to recruit more than 10,000 nurses, doctors and other staff to the state's hospitals and health services could drain supply of general practitioners from areas that were already struggling.

Dr Kerrie Stewart from Parkes told the parliamentary inquiry the town of 11,400 was experiencing a huge GP shortage and there came a time when scarcity of resources create an unsafe environment for both patients and clinicians. "I believe we are on the precipice of this scenario in Parkes," she said. Numbers of general practices had remained

relatively stable across the South Eastern NSW and North Coast regions, while numbers in the Murrumbidgee region had increased marginally, according to the Primary Health Networks. Head of south-eastern NSW Primary Health Network Dianne Kitcher said while there were no areas at immediate risk there are concerns about many smaller towns and an ageing GP workforce with few options to incentivise doctors to those areas.

In response to questions, the Minister for Health Mark Butler issued a statement, saying the government “will take action to increase the number of doctors in communities that are desperate for more GPs.” He said Labor had “committed to \$146 million in initiatives to deliver more doctors in rural and regional Australia”. Butler said the previous government “repeatedly cut and undermined Medicare, including cutting rural and regional bulk billing incentives, and in 2019 Scott Morrison cut access of outer-metro and regional Australia to bonded and overseas trained doctors, making GP shortages much worse.” He said the government would make it easier for regions and outer suburbs to recruit overseas trained doctors and students in programs that would require them to work in regional areas upon graduation.



## BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> service at Barraba at 10.30am,  
combined with Manilla this Sunday only.  
Light lunch to follow.  
From Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December times return to  
8.45am.  
All welcome

## ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

### St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am  
Woodsreef 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 11.30am

## Barraba Anglican Christmas Services:

**Bereen:** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, 5pm, bring a plate of food to share.

**Woodsreef:** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec, 11:30am, bring lunch to share.

### St Laurence's:

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10am Hugh & Barbara Cox farewell service

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 10am – Lessons and Carols Service

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 4pm – All ages service

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 9am – Christmas service

## CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

Barraba 1st Saturday evening Mass 6pm

2nd 3rd 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 9am

Upper Horton 11am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

Weekday Mass Wednesday 10am

### Christmas program Mass

Saturday 23rd December 6.00 pm

Sunday 24th December 8.30 pm

## In Memoriam

### Janice Ann Hamilton

7/08/1945 - 21/11/1999

There is a love that is so rare  
It is the love that sisters share  
If I could have a lifetime wish  
and one dream that could come true  
I would pray to God with all my heart  
just to see and speak to you.

A thousand words won't bring you back, I know because I've  
tried and neither will a million tears I know because I've cried  
today, tomorrow, my whole life through I will always love  
and remember you.

Your sister Pam.





# CONNECT WITH COUNCIL

Stay up to date with the latest projects, services and events across our region.

- Keep up to date through Council newsletters
- Have a chat at a Councillor Catch Up
- Report an issue on the MyTRC app
- Join the conversation on social media
- Have your say on the region's future

**LEARN MORE**

Learn more about how you can stay connected with what's on in your region by visiting [www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/connect](http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/connect)

**Tamworth**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Tamworth Christmas Tree

Join us on Thursday, 7 December to officially kick-start the festive season with the **lighting of the Tamworth Christmas tree** in Fitzroy Street Plaza.

It will be a fun, family event with free entry and lots of activities and entertainment for the kids including food stalls, Tamworth City Dance Academy performances, The Con music performances, a range of other craft activities and a visit from Santa!



## Don't Bag Your Hard Recyclables

Unfortunately bagged hard recyclables will end up in landfill as it is treated as contamination. Make your recycling count, so put it loose in the bin!

Only Curby Soft Plastics should be bagged & tagged in the yellow lid bin! Order more tags through the Curby app or call in to Council's customer service to pick them up in the meantime. If you are still waiting on tags or having issues with the Curby app, reach out to Council staff with the details of when and how you communicated with Curby so we can try to fix the issue for you.

# PUT IT IN LOOSE



Keep recyclables out of bags! Otherwise they won't be sorted correctly and will end up in landfill. Accepted items include:

- Paper and cardboard
- Metal cans
- Glass jars and bottles
- Plastic containers
- Fresh beverage cartons

**NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK**  
**PLANET ARK**



## Everyday Waterwise Guidelines



You're not alone in noticing how dry it is across our region at the moment. Water is a high priority for Council, so we're encouraging sustainable water use across our community with the introduction of Everyday Waterwise Guidelines. Everyone can do their part to reduce the impact of drought by embracing the Guidelines and conserving our water supply for as long as possible.

The new Everyday Waterwise Guidelines are:

1. Only water the garden, including using sprinklers, before 10 am or after 4 pm. This avoids watering during the hottest part of the day, when water wastage and evaporation is high.
2. Trigger nozzles to be used on all handheld hoses. Trigger nozzles provide more control over water flow and reduce wastage.
3. Avoid hosing down hard surfaces, such as concrete, paths and driveways. Use a broom, leaf blower, or if water is required, use a high-pressure cleaner or water efficient nozzle.

The Everyday Waterwise Guidelines, which replace the previous Permanent Water Conservation Measures, are not enforceable, but all residents are encouraged to reduce their water usage in line with the guidelines to reduce the impact of the drought going forward.

Council has a 6-level water conservation plan known as the Drought Management Plan for the Tamworth Region, which was adopted on October 10 2023. The plan sets out clear trigger levels for restrictions to be activated across different centres in the Local Government Area to make it easy for residents and visitors to understand exactly what water use rules apply to them.

The levels are based on dam levels, flows in streams, and bore levels for all seven water supply schemes operated by Council. For more information on Water Restrictions, definitions, and our water sources visit [www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/water-and-wastewater](http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/water-and-wastewater)

Thank you to everyone who does their bit to help keep the Tamworth region water wise.

## Tamworth Region Housing Strategy –

### Have your say

Housing is a key issue for many across the country, and like many regions Tamworth faces its own challenges.

The Tamworth Region spans a wide range of communities, from the regional city of Tamworth through to smaller towns and villages. Tamworth's influence extends widely beyond the boundaries of the Local Government Area, and it represents the most significant growth centre in north-west New South Wales.

Tamworth is experiencing a range of pressures associated with strong ongoing population and commercial growth in the city, which then adds pressure to our infrastructure. However, smaller towns and villages are not growing as strongly, with some struggling to hold population and services. To help understand, and then combat, these issues Tamworth Regional Council is developing a wide-ranging and comprehensive housing strategy for the region.

The Regional Housing Strategy aims to investigate and report on the current situation, making recommendations to support housing the Tamworth Region population now and into the future. The views of the community are important and everyone is encouraged to take the survey. Your input is anonymous and highly appreciated.

The community is being asked to complete the housing survey below between 14 November and 12 December, 2023.

For more information and to complete the survey visit our [Have your Say](#) page.

### BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

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## Spring Hack and Breed Show

Great success for Barraba Spring Hack & Breed show held November 19th at Barraba showground run by Barraba Show Society. We had great entries with competitors coming from as far as Walcha, Dubbo, Coonabarabran and towns in between.

With a fantastic breed program and Royal Qualifying open hack classes our 5 Judges judged quality horses making their decision tough at times.

Thank you to all Competitors, Judges, Stewards, Announcers, Helpers and Sponsors for making this a successful show.

Two local riders took out the prizes. Tania Charters and her mare Bells Mountain Portia were the overall winners of Supreme Led Breed and Supreme Ridden Breed (Sponsored by McAthurpac Stud) and Supreme Newcomer (Sponsored by Commercial Hotel Barraba).



*Tania Charters and her mare Bells Mountain Portia*



*Justine Aitken, riding Eva Berlese beautiful hack Kurrajong Valour*

Justine Aitken, who has just moved to our area, won the Supreme Rider riding Eva Berlese beautiful hack Kurrajong Valour,( Sponsored by New England Equine).

Barraba Show Society, are looking for a new person to take over the role of Chief Horse Steward. If you are interested please come along to our meeting this Thursday at the Bowling Club at 6.30pm.

(Photos taken by Misskellebee Photography)

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## Many people hate wasps, but they're smarter than you might think – and ecologically important

*Scarlett Howard, Lecturer, School of Biological Sciences, Monash University*

*Adrian Dyer, Associate Professor, Monash University*

Everybody loves bees, but their cousins the wasps often provoke a far less friendly reaction. The much-maligned insects often inspire fear, disgust or even the “kill it with fire” response.

The stereotypical wasp is the angular, angry-looking vespid with black and yellow stripes known as the European wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*). It has a reputation for aggression, stinging multiple times and contributing little to society. But that's just one of more than 100,000 known wasp species with a wide range of appearances, many of which don't even sting.



In our work with wasps, we have found these innocent insects have done little to deserve our scorn. In fact, they have surprisingly complex minds and can play important ecological roles.

Our latest study, published in *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*, shows European wasps have impressive abilities to learn visual tasks in different ways depending on how we train them. It adds to a growing body of research about what wasp's minds can do – including recognising human faces and learning other complex tasks.

### How to train a wasp

European wasps are central-place foragers, which means they will remember and return to a profitable food source – be that sugar, meat or your soft drink at a BBQ. This behaviour allows us to train individual wasps to return to our experiment throughout a day.

We offer the wasps sugar water, and then place an identification dot on each individual. A wasp will then continue returning to participate in experiments as long as we are offering a sugary reward. The wasps in our study were enthusiastic volunteers who would fly some distance to participate. In our experiments, wasps needed to undergo ten trials to learn a visual task, and then a further ten trials without reward to test if they had learnt. Wasps received sugar water for correct choices in learning, and continually returned to the experiment to finish all the trials.

### What did the wasps learn?

We trained wasps to discriminate between two different hues of blue cards. The colours are quite similar to wasp vision, so it is a tricky task. We evaluated three ways of training wasps to determine how they learned best.

First, we used absolute conditioning to train the wasps to discriminate between the colours. In this method, wasps were given sugar on the card of the correct colour without seeing the other colour. We introduced cards of the other colour as well to test whether the wasps could discriminate between the two.

The second training method was appetitive differential conditioning. In this approach, both colours of card were present during training. Wasps were rewarded for landing on the correct colour and received no outcome if they landed on the incorrect colour.

The third training framework was appetitive-aversive differential conditioning, where wasps were provided with a sugar reward for landing on the correct colour and tasted a bitter liquid when they landed on the incorrect colour. Again, both colours were present during learning.

With absolute conditioning, the wasps failed to successfully identify the correct colour in tests. However, when trained with either the appetitive or appetitive-aversive differential conditioning, they did pass the colour test.

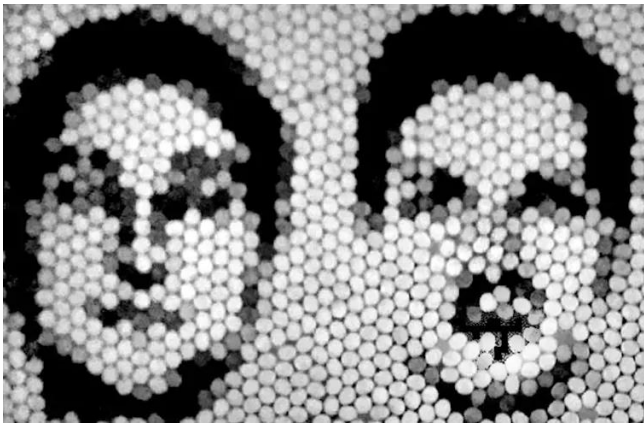
This result tells us it was important for wasps to view and compare both colours simultaneously to enable learning. Their learning was actually best when there was a sweet reward on one colour and a bitter liquid on the other.

### What else do we know about wasp intelligence?

Scientists are becoming increasingly interested in wasp intelligence.

One recent study showed two species of hornets (a kind of wasp) could learn to discriminate between two colours when one colour was associated with sugar water. The hornets could then reverse that learning when the rewarding colour

was switched. This reverse learning task is challenging for small brains to solve.



*Representation of how a bee or wasp may perceive a human face. Adrian Dyer, CC BY*

Other studies have shown paper wasps have evolved specialised abilities for learning faces. One species of paper wasp can differentiate among normal wasp face images more rapidly and accurately than non-face images or manipulated faces. This allows for a comparison between how facial recognition may have evolved in small insect brains compared to larger primate brains.

Researchers have also shown that wasps (and bees) can learn to discriminate between images of human faces.

#### **The role of wasps in pollination and pest control**

Wasps play an important role in many ecosystems by controlling pests and pollinating flowers. Many Australian orchids, for example, rely on wasps for pollination – as do hundreds of other plant species.

However, wasp pollination has been relatively poorly studied. While the economic value of pollination by bees and other insects has been well researched, the extent of wasp contributions to crop production is currently unknown.

Many wasps eat critters we consider pests, such as bugs, spiders, cockroaches and flies. Indeed, some species of wasp are sold commercially as pest control agents.



*Some wasps pollinate flowers. Wikimedia Commons, CC BY*

#### **Why we respect wasps**

Despite their poor public image, wasps display intelligence, and can be useful in agriculture if well managed.

We hope our new work will allow people to appreciate the complexity, intelligence, and value of these misunderstood animals and the importance they can have in the environment. Additionally, as wasps can learn to recognise faces, perhaps being nice to them is a good strategy.

#### **EMERGENCY SERVICES CONTACT LIST**

Ambulance	000
Fire	000
Police	67900360
VRA	000
Barraba Police Station	67821003
Barraba Fire Brigade	67821179
Barraba Health Service (Hospital)	67822500
Barraba Vet Service	0429192265
Essential Energy	132080
Beyond Blue	1300224636
Lifeline	131114
NRMA	131122
SES Barraba	132500
Tamworth Regional Council	
Emergency Number	1300733625
Council Office	67821105

#### **JPs in Barraba**

Mrs Pamela Kathryn Mary Urquhart 0267821480  
 Mrs Patti Elizabeth Crowley 0267821795  
 Mrs Elizabeth Ann Sawyer 0267825334  
 Mrs Sonia Gaye Simpson 0267831382  
 Mr Owen David Rigby 0400020307  
 Mr Neville Alexander Moore 0418251280  
 Mrs Tanya Mary Clarke 0427949127  
 Mrs Patricia Merris Currell 0428268632  
 Mrs Janene Helen Randall 0428832282  
 Mrs Pauline Ann McIver 0429671294  
 Mr Stephen Laurence Ely 0438427033  
 Ms Marilou Simpson PKLaw