



FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 6th December 2023

Council to apply to IPART for Special Rate Variation

Tuesday 28 November, 2023

To secure the financial future of the region, Tamworth Regional Council resolved to proceed with an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a permanent Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 36.3% over two years. The application will comprise of a variation of 18.5 per cent from July 1, 2024-25 and 15 per cent in 2025-26 (including the forecasted rate peg).

Tamworth Region Mayor Russell Webb said the difficult decision was made recognising the community's feedback while also trying to ensure Council's financial future, addressing the widening gap between Council's income level and the growing costs of providing current services and infrastructure.

"I want to sincerely thank members of our community who took the time to provide Council with feedback during the consultation period," he said.

"An increase in rates is never welcome news and not something that Council wants to be doing. However, it's important to recognise that this SRV application is not the only action Council has considered to improve overall financial sustainability. Additionally, we have a plan to implement a further 24 actions in the coming years providing further annual net savings and benefits of \$1.6 million and one-off net savings and benefits of \$2.2 million to help maintain financial viability." Concluded Cr Webb.

In considering feedback from the community consultation, Council endorsed additional measures to ensure adequate assistance is provided for ratepayers experiencing genuine financial hardship. These included a review of the Financial Hardship Policy, Long Term Financial Plan 2023-24 and an increase in pensioner rebates on Ordinary Rates. Tamworth Regional Councillors agreed to increase the rebate for ratepayers who receive an Australian Government pension/income support payment. The rebate will be \$50 in addition to the State Government Funded

existing rebate in the first year if a Special Rate Variation is approved and enacted, and an additional \$50 (\$100 in total) in the second year of the Special Variation and continue ongoing.

During the consultation process, Council received more than 850 submissions from the community. Council now intends to formally submit an application to IPART by the end of January 2024 accompanied by a comprehensive report summarising the feedback received.

Community members will have additional opportunities to provide feedback directly to IPART as part of the application process and details on how to have your say can be found on their website at www.ipart.nsw.gov.au.

IPART will then consider the application and provide a decision in May 2024. If Council's application is approved, the rate increase will come into effect on 1 July 2024. To keep up to date with the progress follow the project page on Council's website www.haveyoursay.tamworth.nsw.gov.au



Barraba High Country Music Musta
\$10 entry for 18 years and older
Sunday 10th December 1pm to 5pm
Special Guest Johnny Nashgrill Grills
Christmas fun and prizes
Wear you best Christmas outfit
Barraba Bowling Club



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THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 8th December

MEAT RAFFLES

1st Draw 6.45pm

2nd Draw 7.30pm

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1200

Sunday 10th December

Angler Club raffles from 1pm

Membership Draw \$1300

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 13th December - Ham Raffles

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

What's On at The Pub

Trivia Tuesday
12 December
7.30 start

CHRISTMAS EVE EVE
Time to catch up with friends for Christmas
SATURDAY 23rd DECEMBER
DINNER 6 TIL 9
LIVE MUSIC from 7.30
With Willow

COMMERCIAL HOTEL

Next week, 13th December, is our last edition for 2023. A bumper Christmas edition. Get your news, interesting updates, advertisements and well wishes in early so you'll be sure to have some space. The Barraba Community News team will have a break and return on Wednesday 17th January 2024. Thanks to everyone who contributes each week, we couldn't function without you.

The Playhouse Theatre this Sunday



2.30 pm SUN 10 DEC THE LAST PICTURE SHOW

(M, 118 mins.)

In 1951, a group of high schoolers come of age in a bleak, isolated North Texas town. Peter Bogdanovich's

1971 masterpiece stands the test of time, emerging as one of the greatest American films.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

TRANSPORT DRIVER
Provide transport to individuals or groups of older persons

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

COMPANION GROUP
Deliver fun activities to our clients such as bingo or mystery tours!!

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY
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

I had the rudest, slowest, nastiest cashier today!

I guess it's my own fault for using the self checkout lane.

Garage Sale

43 Fitzroy Street, Barraba
Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th Dec 2023
Use Lockrey Street back entrance.
Not before 9am

Garage Sale

23 Henry Street Barraba
8am Saturday & Sunday 9th & 10th Dec
Shed Clean out, Old Tools, New Briggs & Stratton motor. New Clothing. House hold goods. Boat motor and more. Shop Scales.

Senior Citizens' Notes

Hello everyone,

Our last meeting for 2023 was held on Friday. Top of the agenda – Christmas lunches. Housie players, please take note – after a lively discussion, it was decided that each person contribute to lunch. We have called it “a potluck” lunch. Friday 15th December will be the last Housie day for 2023. Housie will start again on the 19th January 2024, at 9.30am. An earlier start is to try and contend with the hot weather, as it will be slap-bang in the middle of summer.

Now to deal with the members' lunch. The Chinese Restaurant is the venue. Saturday the 16th December, with an eleven thirty start. Each member will be subsidized to the cost of \$20 for their meal. Anything over that, must be paid for themselves. Visitors will have to meet their own costs. Names must be in by Friday 9th December. If you have not as yet got your name on the list, please give Debby a call on 0428617417, or me on 0429821158. Tickets for the raffle have been selling well and will be available and drawn at the lunch. Alcoholic drinks will not be subsidized.

These are my last notes for 2023. To all of our members and supporters, thank you for your contributions to Seniors during the year. Have a safe and Happy Christmas and holiday time. Stay safe and take care. I will catch up again in 2024.

Cheers to all

Judy B

Recently at the Barraba Uniting Church, someone discovered a page copied from the Barraba and Manilla News from April 1, 1899. It is headed "The New Wesleyan Church". It describes the grand opening of the brick building, "situated on one of the best sites in the town". It cost £188/5/4, leaving a debt of about £80. The style of the building was Gothic, with seating for about 70 worshippers. (On 3 December 2023 there were 10 people in the church.) Mr L. Bond was the contractor for labour and Mr L. McKechnie "did the greater portion of the brickwork, which reflects great credit to both artisans." It appears there were three services for the day – morning, afternoon and evening. These were taken by Rev J. Beale of Tamworth and Rev R. Bowes. Rev Beale took the evening service and "the large congregation listened with unabated interest to the eloquent sermon, which took about three quarters of an hour to deliver."



(photo by Brian Coote)

On the Monday evening there was a fundraiser at the Mechanics' Institute, which I have been reliably informed was probably where there is now a private home in Maude Street. I'm rather intrigued by the title of this event – a "conversazione". It was well attended by about 250 people! So, I looked up a couple of dictionaries. It's a "scholarly social gathering...for discussion of literature and the arts", says the Oxford Dictionary. However, what is described sounds like a variety performance including songs and instrumental performances by Misses Connolly, Smart, Poggioli, Ryan and Douglas to name a few. Mr D Sinclair was the secretary who presented the balance sheet and the net proceeds of the evening were £7. "Mr Bowes...sang 'The Village Blacksmith' in very good style, but he was not heard to advantage, for while he was singing

refreshments were being handed around by the ladies who provided all the good things..." The recitation by Mr Dawson was "received in the usual manner when that gentleman appears in any good cause..."

Who else has heard of conversaciones? Is this an idea for the next Barraba fundraiser?

Meanwhile, don't forget the markets on Saturday! It's shaping up to be a good market. We have plants, garden pots, ornaments, herbs, candles, crystals, timber and glass giftware, sewing items, jewellery, cakes, jam, pickles, relishes, honey, macrame, wind chimes, plus the society stall. Live music, BBQ, tea and coffee. We'll start at about 9am.

The following photo was supplied by Ron Hiscock
Frederick William Hiscock & Charles Bridges
relates to 28-11-23 History Notes



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Don't forget the 2024 calendar will be available for \$15 per copy

Some photos from the Barraba Historical Museum files.

All the following photos were scanned by Adrian Hagan



Church of the Annunciation at Cobbadah.

The 50th Anniversary of the church in Feb 1960.



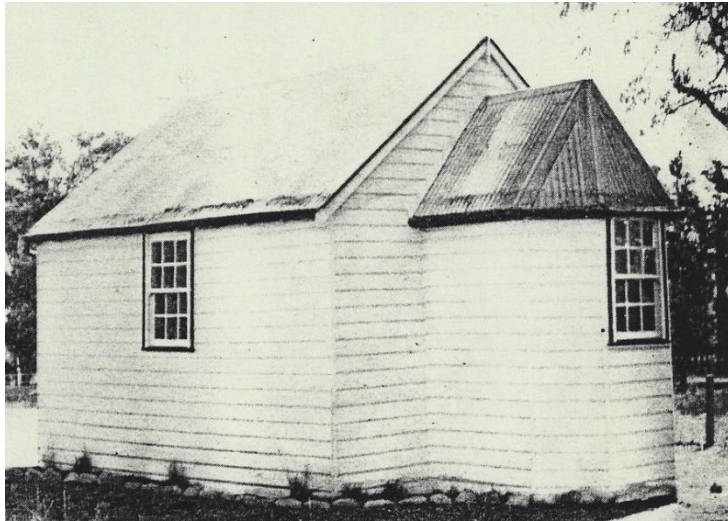
The 70th Anniversary Sept. 1979



The earliest photo here was of the Confirmation Class on 7th. Dec 1943.



The Salvation Army Hall in Barraba in 1993.



**St Mark's "Bereen"
date unknown.**



St. John's Catholic church in Fitzroy St.

The first photo is of the original church built by Albert York Snr, in 1905-1906. Barraba was originally part of the Bingara Parish which stretched from Tarpoly Creek to the Queensland border. Visible on the right side of the earlier photo is the front of the initial church / school building which still exists. The church was extended (2nd. photo) in 1950. The builders for this were again Albert York Snr.



St. Laurence's Church of England Barraba.

The original church was built on the corner of Queen & Alice Sts. in 1874-75. This was a commercially valuable site and this church was demolished in 1906 and the current church built with local bricks in 1909.

The first two photos from the Museum files are of the church, vicarage & hall as they were in the early 1900s. The 3rd. photo is the church in 2014.





St. Vincent's Church, Hawkins Creek.

The 2nd. photo is from the official closing ceremony at St. Vincent's in 1968.



BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 10th December 8.45am.

All welcome

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am

Woodsreef 2nd Sunday of the month at 11.30am

Barraba Anglican Christmas Services:

Woodsreef: Sunday 10th Dec, 11:30am, bring lunch to share.

St Laurence's:

Sunday 17th Dec, 10am Hugh & Barbara Cox farewell service

Sunday 24th December, 10am – Lessons and Carols Service

Sunday 24th December, 4pm – All ages service

Monday 25th December, 9am – Christmas service

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

Barraba 1st Saturday evening Mass 6pm

2nd 3rd 4th and 5th Sunday 9am

Upper Horton 11am on the 3rd Sunday

Weekday Mass Wednesday 10am

Christmas program Mass

Saturday 23rd December 6.00 pm

Sunday 24th December 8.30 pm

Golf Notes

With all the recent rain and the mowers out the course is looking a picture. Phil Dawson from 6666 took out the chook this week with a great score of 25 points. Runners up were Bevan Benson and Adam Scanlon on 24, Shane Middlemiss 23, Nick Sweeney 22, Paul Grigg 21, Firmen Allan 21, Helen Kelly 21, Dan Lott 20 Rodger Fisher 20, Dan Harris 20, Bill Simpson 20, and Tom Mellor 20. In the team competition tear away leaders Next Gen have come back to the pack over past two weeks however they still lead by 10 points.

Next Gen. 280	6666. 270
New and Old. 263	Geriatrics. 260
The Forgetfuls. 260	The Bogey Men 260
Hackers. 260	Ruttleys Earthmoving. 259
Bareela Birdies. 257	Over the Hill. 256
Unreliables. 253	The Wouldbes. 246
Stock and Crop. 246	Dams. 232
Vintage. 226	Worm Burner. 218

In the five holes Jack Robinson was the winner with 10 points just ahead of Nat Philpott 8 and Amie Middlemiss 7. How great is it when Firmen Allan birdies the twelve on Friday only to have son Finn take the bragging rights over the old man with birdies on the 13th and 17th on Friday. So good to see all the younger players enjoying the golf.

PHIL DENYER

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**Remember, if you
lose a sock in the
dryer, it comes
back as a
Tupperware lid
that doesn't fit any
of your containers.**

Crocodile Dundee

He just came in from nowhere
And wandered into the pub
He had been out shooting crocodiles
Somewhere in the scrub
It was way up in North Queensland
Where also would it be
They would breed a man as rough and tough
As Crocodile Dundee

He was a hero with the locals
And some believe it's true
How he fought a crocodile and lived to see it through
Half dead he staggered into town for the local folk to see
Dragging the killer croc by the tail
Was Crocodile Dundee

His name and fame spread over the land
And far across the sea
The Yanks sent out a reporter, a blue-eyed blond lady
She met Mick in the local pub
And it was plain to see
She was really fascinated by Crocodile Dundee

Mick took her out beneath the stars
And camped beneath a tree
Fed her baked goanna
And boiled her Billy Tea
Fed her yams and Witchetty Grubs
Showed her a Corroboree
And saved her from a killer croc
Did Crocodile Dundee

He was to Tarzan, machete on his hip
She said "come to New York with me
I'll shout you the trip"
He had never been in an aeroplane
Or been across the sea
But wrestle pythons in the north
And lived with Aborigines
He thought New York was one great town
And he nearly had a fright
Scarred that gangster with a machete
And beat up the gangster on the street
He won the heart of the blue-eyed blond
Now the Yanks in reality think that every tourist
Is a Crocodile Dundee

By Vic (Stumpy) Turner



LABOR GAGS DEBATE ON REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD

Labor have again ignored the voice of the Tamworth electorate by refusing to let Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson debate the cancellation of the Regional Seniors Travel Card. Mr Anderson said this was the second time Labor had prevented him from speaking on behalf of the electorate in the NSW Parliament, proving that they don't want to listen to our seniors.

"The Regional Seniors Travel Card was a lifeline for our local seniors, boosting their travel budget and helping them get out to see friends and family, or to go to medical appointments," Mr Anderson said. "Labor broke the hearts of more than 1,580 local seniors who signed the petition to keep the card by cancelling the card in the NSW budget. Today we were due to debate the issue in the NSW Parliament, and I was ready to speak on behalf of our electorate. Labor gagged debate, refusing to let me speak and raise the concerns of the many people right across our region who have written to me, worried about how they would be able to balance the books moving forward. They know they've done the wrong thing in cancelling this card and severely disadvantaging regional seniors. The loudest opponents in the debate were city-based Labor MP's who just don't get it and treat our seniors with a lack of respect. Time and time again, regional MPs stood up to speak on behalf of their communities and Labor shut them down every time. We have a right to represent our communities – and our communities expect that of us – that's why we were elected. Labor stopped us from doing so because they don't want to hear the voice of the regions, which is a disgraceful reflection of their obsession with metropolitan seats."

FREE SENIORS DIARY RETURNS FOR 2024

The hugely popular *Legal Topics for Seniors Diary* has returned for 2024, and Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson is encouraging seniors to stop by his office and pick up their free copy. Mr Anderson said the diaries are incredibly popular among local seniors, and he didn't expect his 250 free copies of the diary to last long.

"The free legal aid seniors diary is a great resource as it's packed with useful information about a range of legal issues that affect our seniors – including driving and fines, neighbour disputes, wills and planning ahead," Mr Anderson said. "I've already had a number of people contact my office asking if the diary's will be back for 2024 and I'm pleased to confirm that they are now in stock. I always run out of stock

of this diary, so if you'd like to get your hands on a copy, please pay my office a visit as soon as possible."

Seniors and their supporters can also order copies of the diary and the seniors calendar online and from the comfort of their own home from December on the [Legal Aid New South Wales website](#).

The diaries can assist seniors who can be impacted by legal issues relevant to their age. "The Legal Topics for Seniors Diary helps seniors understand their rights and provides details about where they can turn if they are experiencing discrimination, elder abuse, or financial exploitation," Mr Anderson added. "Now, more than ever, it's important that our seniors protect themselves from predatory scammers, and those who attempt to take advantage of vulnerable people."

Residents of the Tamworth electorate can now pick up their copy of the free seniors diary during business hours from Mr Anderson's office, 13 Fitzroy Street, Tamworth.

From Adam Marshall MP's Weekly report –

No Christmas cheer for our region's seniors



The much-anticipated debate over the reinstatement of the \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card was taken to the floor of State Parliament last night. The government's response to the debate was discouraging, and the decision to axe the card cold-hearted and mean spirited, particularly during a cost-of-living crisis.

Unfortunately, the government's position remains absolutely unchanged. There will be no Christmas cheer this year for our region's seniors, instead, the Christmas Grinch has come in full force, stealing pennies from our region's most vulnerable. I reminded the Parliament that Premier Minns said multiple times, before the election, that the card would roll over if he was successful in forming government.

Stop the march of Red Imported Fire Ants now

An army of Red Imported Fire Ants is on the march toward the region, having crossed over the Queensland border into New South Wales and being detected in the northern rivers, and it must be stopped dead in its tracks. I pressed the Minister for Agriculture by placing a question on the Parliament's notice paper, demanding urgent and immediate action, before the ants take a hold in the north of the State and begin marching south. I have asked the Minister what she has done so far following the discovery of Red Imported Fire Ants and what measures are in place to prevent the further spread in NSW. These ants can inflict very painful bites on people and livestock and cause extensive damage to ecological and agricultural systems. The Department of Primary Industries estimates that unless stopped and eradicated, fire ants will spread and cause more than \$1 billion of damage and lost agricultural production. This cannot be allowed as it would forever destroy productive agriculture in our region and send some farmers to the wall. This is the most serious biosecurity threat we have faced in many years and the government must take steps to ensure that cattle, the natural environment, and humans are adequately protected from harm and the pests are prevented from spreading further.

BACKING OUR PARAMEDICS PAY CLAIM & PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION PUSH

I'm proud to throw my full support behind our region's paramedics, who are seeking professional recognition from the State Government and a fairer pay deal.

Our paramedics do an incredible job and deserve proper recognition and remuneration for the higher-level emergency and medical care they now provide to our communities. Having spoken with paramedics from across our region, I know they want to focus on serving our communities and they feel let down by the government, which promised a better and fairer deal, which has not yet materialised.

I'm calling on the government to act now to support our hard-working paramedics, recognise their unique medical skillsets and remunerate them accordingly. The showdown with paramedics cannot be allowed to continue – they are the lowest paid and highest injured paramedics in the country. I have always backed our paramedics and will continue to fight for a better deal for them.



The unveiling of the Legacy plaque commemorating 75 years of Legacy. Lorne O'Leary, Bill Crowley and Rosemary Milson at the ceremony held in Queen St. last Saturday. Many thanks to those who attended and participated, and to Andrew Sharp who catered for attendees with a delicious afternoon tea.

Barraba Legacy contact group was formed following the formation of Tamworth Legacy in 1948, with Col Clifton as Chairman, to carry on the work of Tamworth Legacy in providing care and support for the widows and families of veterans who had given their lives on operational service, specifically in World Wars 1 and 11 at that time. This later expanded to include the dependents of those veterans of all subsequent conflicts. You had to be invited to join Legacy and you served a probationary period of 12 months. I was honoured to be invited to join Legacy in 1972 by Legatee Bob Longton and was inducted in 1973 with Ted O'Leary Chair and Murray Chapman secretary. In those days we had to apply to Tamworth to issue fields of service and we generally had 6 Legatees to look after the 43 widows and their families we had at that time.

We tried to ensure that our widow's children were looked after in regard to school uniforms, shoes etc and we would support widows with house repairs and maintenance. We occasionally went on bus trips to places such as Copeton, Split Rock and Keepit Dams, movies in Tamworth or even trips for lunch at local farms. The Barraba and Upper Horton Pony Clubs would invite Legacy wards to participate in their pony camps and provide quiet horses for these children to ride, some children coming from Sydney and Newcastle.

Ted O'Leary was chairman from 1965 to 1993, serving 28 years as chair but remained in Legacy till 2006, 55 years of service, while Murray Chapman remained secretary from 1963-1998, 35 years of service. Peter Milson and Harold Faint joined Legacy in 1974. Peter giving 20 years of service and Harold served for 6 years as chairman 1993-1999 and gave 29 years of service. Robert Sweeney became a Legatee in 1995 and was the driving force behind our wood cutting excursions, when we would spend all weekend cutting wood for our widows. Barry Fenn and Adrienne Hancock became Legatees in 2000, Barry spending many years as secretary/treasurer, while Adrienne, our first female Legatee has been invaluable to our group. Peter Hancock joined us after retiring as Captain of the Fire Brigade and is a great asset.

In all that time we have had great support from the Barraba community, I would particularly like to mention the Barraba RSL Club where we held our meetings for many years and David Kelly who audited our books until they were taken over by Tamworth and who is our MC today. Philip Hodges and David Witten continue to support our formal functions and never let us down and the Barraba clergy have always been available to assist us, particularly the Anglican Ministers and we are most grateful for their support.

We are indeed honoured to have Lorne O'Leary and Rosemary Milson here today, both wives of long-serving Legatees, and we Legatees indeed owe a great debt to our wives and partners. I well remember Lorne and Nug Faint trying to outdo each other cooking cakes for our street stall, sometimes 40 cakes each, ably supported by Bessie Baldwin and Eileen Chapman. Trixie Garland was notorious in selling Legacy Badges during Legacy Week, never allowed anyone to pass without purchasing a badge. I would like to thank my wife, Judy, for her continued support over the years and Rob's wife Kim as well as their children, Chris, Nick and Katie.

Bill Crowley