



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 24th April 2024



ANZAC DAY 2024

DAWN SERVICE

Commencement 6.00 AM

After the dawn service breakfast will be provided by the Barraba RSL & Recreation Club Limited.

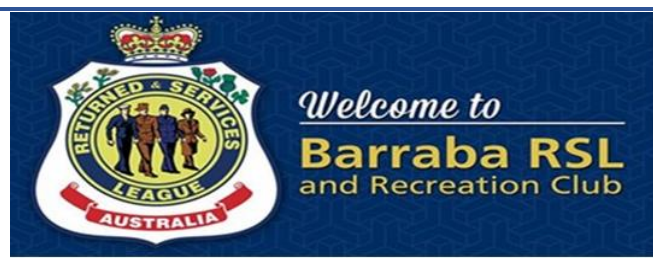
MAIN SERVICE.

Marches will form up at 10:45 am opposite Andy's Guest House.

March will commence at 10:55am

The main ANZAC Day service will commence at 11:00AM.

All Services will be conducted at the Barraba Memorial Clock.



BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

Phone 67821379

For the information of members and guests.

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY 25th April

Dawn Service Breakfast

No Bingo

FRIDAY 26th April

MEAT RAFFLES

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm
MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1900

Sunday 28th April

ANGLER CLUB RAFFLES

Membership Draw \$1100

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MONDAY/TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY: CLOSED

THURS 25th **LUNCH ONLY**

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

SUNDAY: 12-2PM

Ecological Burn Notice

Please be advised that Whitehaven Coal will be undertaking Burn Preparation and a cool season Ecological Burn on the following Biodiversity Properties "Wirradale, Mt Lindesay and Coonoor," between 8 April and 31 May 2024. For further information, please contact Whitehaven Biodiversity on call 0488 407 000.

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NOMINATE A VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Nominations have now opened for the 2024 NSW Volunteer of the Year awards which celebrate the hard work and dedication that goes into the community. Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said volunteers are the backbone of so many community groups, organisations and initiatives.

“Volunteers contribute \$178 billion to the NSW economy, and I know here locally, our community just wouldn’t work without the hard work and dedication of volunteers,” Mr Anderson said. “I’ve said many times that volunteers are the backbone of our communities, and that is particularly true in the Tamworth electorate. From our show committees to our Lions clubs, our emergency services and our hospital auxiliaries, there are those in our communities who work, day and night to make our part of the world a better place to live. There are countless projects and initiatives in our electorate that simply would never have happened without the work of volunteers, and I sincerely thank everyone who sacrifices their time for the betterment of our communities. If you know someone who deserves to be recognised as part of the 2024 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards, I encourage you to get your nomination in now!”

The NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards are an annual program aimed at recognising the incredible dedication, effort and community service of our state’s volunteers, volunteer leaders and volunteer teams.

Nominations for the 2024 awards opened today and close on 14 June 2024. There are eight categories of awards including Adult Volunteer of the Year, Young Volunteer of the Year, Senior Volunteer of the Year, and more.

For more information, visit the The Centre of Volunteering website at

<https://www.volunteering.com.au/awards/about-the-awards/>

Want to find a back issue of Barraba Community News? Go to www.barrabacommunitynews.org.au and click on the ‘archive’ tab



VISUAL STORYTELLING AND PERSONAL BRAND WORKSHOP

Arts North West are pleased to be partnering with Workforce Australia Local Jobs & UNE Smart Region Incubator to deliver a series of Visual Storytelling and Personal Brand workshops across the region.

Unlock your potential and stand out in today's competitive job market with the Visual Storytelling and Personal Brand workshop.

This 3-hour workshop equips participants with:

- Essential digital media skills to enhance any workplace
- Awareness of digital footprint and strategies to craft their personal brand to enhance future employment opportunities
- Practical experience making strategic video content for social media

Upon completion, participants will receive a certificate for their resume.

Cost: \$0 - this opportunity has been fully subsidised by the Local Jobs Program and Arts North West.

To register, contact:

Sewa Emojong, sewa@nenwfacilitator.com.au, 0423 556 377

Workshops will be held in the following communities:

Tenterfield

10.00am-1.00pm, Monday, 29 April 2024

Tenterfield Public Library, 135 Manners Street, Tenterfield

Armidale

9.00am-3.00pm, Thursday, 09 May 2024

NOVA, 122 Faulkner Street, Armidale

Tamworth

12.30pm-3.30pm, Thursday, 30 May 2024

Tamworth Community Centre, 3A Darling St, Tamworth

Inverell

12.00pm-3.00pm, Thursday 20 June 2024

Community College Northern Inland Inc., 3/23 Lawrence St, Inverell NSW

More information contact Sewa Emojong, sewa@nenwfacilitator.com.au, 0423 556 377.



History Notes

This week is Anzac Day week - a time to remember our family members who went to war so that we may be able to live safe lives. Personally, I had four Great Uncles who went to World War 1 and grew up to know two elderly men without really realizing what they had done for their country. The Second World War veterans and of course the later ones were the ones to make one realize just what they did for us all. I hope everyone who is able will be at the march on Thursday to show their respect.

While sorting and naming photos at the museum this weekend I have found a photo of Harry Watt. He was an Englishman who came to Australia before World War II. He was in Canberra at first and, while there, married Emma Woolnough, daughter of Dr. Woolnough (geology). It seems he worked on properties around there until he went to the Second World War.

After the war he moved to this area and found work on properties such as Knocktrine (Rocky Creek area) and Haylock and TeWhare. I vaguely remember my father talking about Harry Watt probably about 1950 and the note on the back of the photo says that he died about 1950/60. I wonder if anyone else remembers him?

Now, a change of subject to our clock. The Memorial Clock was built in 1924 and I have found a comment in a local 1938 newspaper re Barraba "the little town with the big clock!" The article goes on to comment that it was erected by the sub branch of the RSS and AILA and can be seen from either side of town. It is a dominating feature. There is another feature or non-feature of our clock - it has no foundation stone or plaque anywhere to be found. Some years ago, I found Trixie Garland walking around and around the clock looking for one and she had to admit that she could not find it.

Also mentioned in the above cutting book are several stories about Barraba residents coming across snakes in unusual places - one in North Barraba in a kitchen cupboard and another in the engine of a car. The lady in North Barraba solved her problem with a saucepan of boiling water while the gentleman sprayed his car engine with rabbit fumigant and removed the "dead" snake to a tree. The snake recovered and had to be dealt with, with a shovel. Life hasn't changed much in the last 60 years apart from the fact that snakes should be rehomed!!!

Results of Barraba Hospital Auxiliary 100's Club:

1st: Judy Ely \$5

2nd: Jan Greenwood \$30

3rd: Shirley Simmons \$20



Rotary Club of Barraba Inc.

PO Box 103, Barraba NSW 2347

Please help Barraba Rotary Club to find a suitable 19-27 year old that can be encouraged to develop some leadership skills to then help contribute to our great community.

We need young people to get involved. This is a great opportunity and it will help in all aspects throughout life.

If anyone knows of a young person in Barraba who they think would be suitable, please tell them about this post and ask them to Please contact Meredyth Bell (President - Barraba Rotary) on 0408709066 ASAP or a Rotary Club member that you know!

Applications close on Monday 29th April 2024

1st – 8th June 2024
Yarra Adventure Park, Stuarts point (near Macksville)

19 - 27 year old Leaders of the future in your community
7 day residential personal & professional development program
Application & Brochure on D9660 Webpage
<https://bit.ly/3dglkQk>
Applications close 29th April 2024

"What is the future of Rotary?
The future of our organisation relies on our ability to pass our evolutionary commitment to service and our belief in the value of volunteerism on to those who will take up the mantle when we are no longer here to serve. Whatever the year, whatever the time, the future is always going to belong to the next generation." DGN Evan Burrell

RYLA is the future of Rotary!

RYLA rotary youth leadership awards



SAT 1st - SAT 8th JUNE 2024
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ROTARY CLUB, ORGANISATIONS
AND DECISION MAKERS IN
YOUR COMMUNITY



RYLA IS A POWERFUL AND VALUABLE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP SKILLS THAT PARTICIPANTS CAN POSITIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES.

The objective of RYLA is to empower participants with self-awareness, confidence and leadership skills to assist them in becoming more effective leaders. Many former RYLA Awardees have benefited in ways far beyond the course objective. Past RYLarians are part of the Leadership team and many go on to become more involved in community activities.

The program provides skills in many areas including understanding human behaviour, social interaction skills, committee functions, human values, leadership, presentation skills & public speaking, lifestyle issues, communication and organisation.

Participants must be 19 - 27 years of age and ideally involved in some form of leadership within their communities, or have shown leadership potential in the workplace. Other relevant information is in the application form found on the website. Potential candidates will be formally interviewed as part of the selection process and must undergo a formal screening process, which will include reference checks.

QUERIES & APPLICATIONS:

Louise Matthews 0420 743 083 | lmjew@bigpond.com
(applications close **Monday 29th April 2024**)

Program cost: \$1450 (all inclusive) | Formal dinner Wed 5th June, Macksville

APPLICATIONS:



In 2013 David Hurley, former head of our nation's defence forces pondered the meaning of ANZAC, and the difficulty of finding any words that might do justice to the 100,000 Australians whose lives have been lost in the service of our nation. In the end, he offers us 4 words - courage, endurance, mateship, sacrifice.

Of that list, the word which, for me, most captures why we come together each year in remembrance, is 'sacrifice'. For ANZAC day is a day we remember and express our gratitude to those who left the comforts of life at home to endure the hardship of warfare, despite knowing the cost they may well pay. We come to remember those who would take up the call to fight that we might have peace and freedom - and we remember, especially, those who would never return home.

But what could motivate someone to such sacrifice? While each person, undoubtedly has their own reasons, for many it is the example of Jesus Christ which would drive them to look outside of themselves and give up so much for our sake.

Jesus says in John chapter 15 verse 13: **There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.**

Jesus would show this love by going to the cross, to bleed and die, so that peace with God might be earned for any who would trust and believe in him.

It is this sacrifice which the poet wrote of when he said:

There was One who was willing to die in my stead,
That a soul so unworthy might live,
And the path to the cross He was willing to tread
All the sins of my life to forgive.

And his great sacrifice has further inspired so many more great acts of selfless sacrifice in countless others, including many who have gone into battle for our sake.

And so, this ANZAC day I thank God.

I thank him for the 100,000 Australians who, by their sacrifice have helped to secure the peace which we enjoy in this great land of ours.

And I thank him for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through which God has made an eternal peace with me and all who believe.

Matthew Hearne,
Minister of Barraba Anglican Church.

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES
St Laurence's Barraba
Sunday service at 10.00am
Woodsreef 2nd Sunday of the month at 11.30am

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES
Sunday 28th April
Service time 10.45am
All Welcome

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES
Barraba 1st Sunday of the month, Saturday
evening Mass 5pm
All other Sundays 9am

The Great Nundle Dog Race
5 May @ 9:30 am - 3:00 pm



Entry Fee: \$2.00

Calling all dog lovers throughout New England North West! Locals and widespread visitors gather at Nundle for a fun, family day of events for dogs of all shapes and sizes.

Races for mongrels and house dogs, high jump, steeple chase.....we've got something for everyone.

The day culminates in The Great Nundle Dog Race for working dogs. Lots of entertainment, kids activities and great food.

Step back in time with the Heritage Festival

Get ready to embark on a journey through time as the Tamworth Regional Heritage Festival returns from Friday 19 April to Sunday 28 April, 2024. This annual festival will showcase the rich tapestry of our region's heritage, with a diverse array of activities and events taking place.

Launching the festival will be the biennial Tamworth Regional Heritage Awards. The awards recognise those who have made significant contributions to the preservation, sharing and promotion of heritage in the region. The ceremony will be held at the Tamworth Regional Gallery, where there is also the current display of the 'Navigating the Past' exhibition showcasing a collection of items from museums across our region.

Councillor Helen Tickle, Chairperson of the Tamworth Regional Heritage Working Group says "The Awards ceremony was last held in 2022, and we are simply delighted to recognise some of the works people have done since that time. It's a good way to kickstart the festival, where people can then go and learn about our heritage through the many activities on offer".

Throughout the festival people can expect to see guided tours and talks, a behind-the-scenes exploration at Calala Cottage, a heritage walk along Marius Street, daily exhibitions, open days, the running of Stationary John Fowler Steam Engines and never-before seen footage captured at Newcastle's Factory in Hamilton, home of the Electric Lamp Manufacturers (Australia), showing the process of creating incandescent lamps.

Council's Museum Operations and Visitor Engagement Officer Naomi Blakey, said "This is really a very exciting opportunity for the Powerstation Museum to be bringing footage from Newcastle's factory to Tamworth. The footage was captured in 2002 before its closure, so it's a rare opportunity to be able to showcase something like this".

Another of the festival's highlights will be a special performance by the renowned country music artist Pixie Jenkins, who will be performing and telling heritage tales against the backdrop of our historic surroundings at the Australian Country Music Hall of Fame.

Further information about the Heritage festival program can be found here www.tamworthheritagefestival.com.au

Winners named at 2024 Tamworth Regional Heritage Awards

The 2024 Tamworth Regional Heritage Festival is off to a stellar start with winners announced at the biennial Awards

event. Recognising the incredible contributions made to preserving and sharing our region's heritage over the last two years, the Awards ceremony was held this morning at the Tamworth Regional Gallery.

The Warren Newman Memorial Award for Contribution to Heritage within the Region was awarded to Joan Wakeford for her work in preserving the 4 Darling Street heritage significant building from demolition.

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Award went to Bumbira Arts and Culture Program for working with the local Gomerioi community to improve well-being and helping to improve cultural knowledge and skills in traditional and contemporary art making and cultural practices.

The Sympathetic Development Award went to 17 Gipps Street, West Tamworth with works by Dimity Smith including adding a kitchen and living space to the house.

The Adaptive Reuse Award went to Humble Espresso Cafe and Catering for their works in renovating the outside and inside of their building in Upper Street.

The winner of the Building Conservation Award was Bendemeer Hotel, renovated by Mark and Leanne Summers who completed the exterior paintworks of the hotel.

The final Award given on the day was the Heritage Resources, Tourism, Education and Interpretation and publication category. This was awarded to Manilla Historical Society Inc for their efforts in gaining a successful nomination to get the Manilla Viaduct listed on the NSW State Heritage Register.

The Heritage festival will continue until Sunday 28 April, with further information about the program found here www.tamworthheritagefestival.com.au



Decision on rates soon



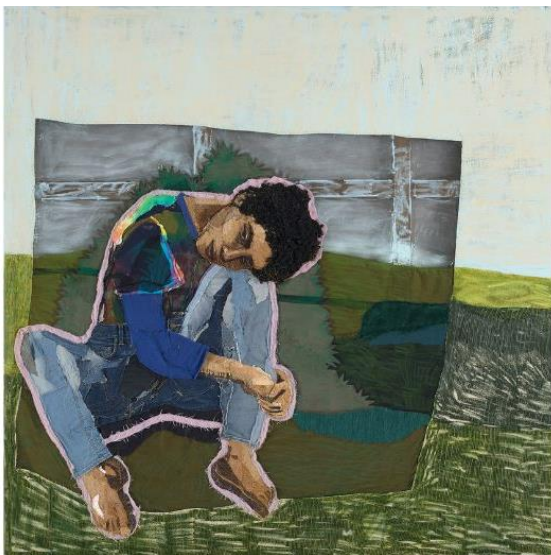
Tamworth Regional Council is one of nine in NSW awaiting the decision from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) on a Special Rate Variation application. Last month the IPART sought feedback from communities with Councils seeking a variation.

It plans to publish its decision on its website in May.

We are seeking a permanent Special Rate Variation of 36.3% over two years. It comprises a variation of 18.5 per cent from July 1, 2024-25 (including the set rate peg of 4.9%) and 15% in 2025-26 (including the forecast 2.5% rate peg).

We started talking with you about the proposed application last year. See more at trcnews.au/srv

Archibald Prize returns to Tamworth



Art lovers around the region have cause for excitement, with the prestigious Archibald Prize 2023 coming to Tamworth Regional Gallery this May.

The Archibald Prize 2023 is an Art Gallery of New South Wales touring exhibition and all 57 finalist artworks will be displayed in Tamworth Regional Gallery between May 10 and June 23, 2024. Awarded annually, it is Australia's foremost portraiture prize.

Find out more about each of the finalists here: trcnews.au/archibald

Image: Winner Archibald Prize 2023, Julia Gutman Head in the sky, feet on the ground © the artist.

Recent Anniversaries

The patenting of kerosene (1855)

The worst aviation disaster in history when two Boeing 747s collided in Spain, killing 583 people (1977)

The birthdays of author Hans Christian Andersen (1805), and singer Marvin Gaye (1939)

Fleetwood Mac's album Rumours going to #1 (where it stayed for 31 weeks) (1977)

the first mobile phone call made in New York by a Motorola employee (1973)

the publication of the Panama Papers (2016)

the first law regulating copyright being issued in Great Britain (1710)

RMS Titanic setting sail from Southampton for her maiden - and only - voyage (1912)

Paul McCartney shocking the world by confirming that The Beatles had split (1970)

Apollo 13 announcing "Ok, Houston, we've had a problem here", as an oxygen tank exploded en route to the Moon (1970)

Winx ending her racing career with a 3rd Queen Elizabeth Stakes win in Sydney (2019)

Dr Harry Plotz discovering the typhoid vaccine (1903)

the birthdays of Charlie Chaplin (1889) and Spike Milligan (1918),

the Virginia Tech massacre (2007)

the invention of modern snooker by Sir Neville Chamberlain (not the former UK PM...) (1875)

the publication of the world's first crossword puzzle book, by Simon & Schuster (1924)

the death of Albert Einstein (1955)

Wham! becoming the first western pop act to release an album in China (1985)

Captain James Cook's first sighting of Australia (1770)

the deaths of Lord Byron (1824) and Charles Darwin (1882)

Advance Australia Fair being proclaimed as Australia's national anthem, and green and gold becoming the national colours (1984)

Marie and Pierre Curie isolating the radioactive compound radium chloride (1902)

the signing of the Paris Climate Agreement (2016)



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Golf Notes

A good turnout of twenty four players contested a trophy donated by Mal Stein and Ron Bridges on Sunday. The winner was Rodger Fisher with 36 points on a three way countback from Mandy Koopman and Paul Grigg. Balls went to Jack Boyd 35, Will Sedgwick 33, Chris Sweeney 32 and Kieran Darlington also 32 points.

NTP went to Kieran Darlington with a great shot into the 16th. Next week is an Individual Stableford for Bevan Bensons trophy.

The following week is our 3 days of golf commencing the Vets on Friday 3rd May, Mixed Foursomes Sat 4th and Barraba Men's Open Sun 5th.

Golf Fun Fact - Tiger Woods becoming the youngest golfer to win the Masters Tournament at 22yo (1997)

Rugby Report

On Saturday the Barraba Rams hosted the Quirindi Lions in a neck and neck home game. In the first half Quirindi were first to score with a successful conversion putting the first of the points on the board but with some determination and continued dominance from players Will Robinson, Matt Pflugst and Thabiso Msiza, Nick Sweeney was able to gain just enough space to push through and put Barraba on the board with a try. The try was followed up by a great conversion from Oisin Mckenna, leaving the score at 7 - 7 at half time.

During the second half, Barraba saw some excellent and quick foot work from our backs, Cody Townsend and Liam Mack. Barraba seemed to have very little luck with throw ins in our line outs but the successful catches put Barraba on the front foot each time. The game started to ramp up in the last 15 minutes of the game, when Quirindi managed to gain themselves a penalty and took the three points leaving the score at 10-7 but shortly after one of their players were sent off the field with a yellow card and then it was Barrabas turn with Thabiso Msiza being given a red card. Connor Rogers took his spot on the field in the last ten minutes to boost the team with his vocals. Barraba had a chance at a penalty but chose to play it in the hope they could pull together and get a try on the board however unfortunately even with some strong plays they were unable to pull it off.

The score at full time stayed 10-7 to Quirindi.

Points for the day

3 - Thabiso Msiza 2- Liam Mack 1- Kane Ward
Players Player - Will Robinson and Matt Pflugst

The Barraba Rugby Club, all players and community stood for a minute's silence before Saturdays game to honour Tom Nash. We would like to extend our deepest condolences to the Nash family for their loss.

Barraba Rotary Campdraft

Barraba Rotary Club held its biannual Burundi Campdraft last Friday and Saturday 19th & 20th April. Unfortunately, the one that was to be held last September/October had to be cancelled due to drought conditions and cattle availability. Last weekend brought perfect conditions all round. One hundred competitors competed in the arena and were busy with 273 runs on Friday and 161 runs on Saturday.

After the club's working bee, the weekend before, the venue looked in great condition and ready for the competitors, spectators and their families. The canteen was busy during both days serving the crowd of about 150. The bar was popular during opening hours, but due to the Rugby game in Barraba on Saturday afternoon, the crowd dissipated earlier than usual and the cleaning and packing up was done by 5pm.

Barraba Rotary Club would like to thank Pud & Ruth Puddicombe, the managers of Burundi for their generosity in providing such a beautiful place to hold the event each time. Thanks also go to Shelley & Lil Steiger for organising the entries, draws and prizes, and to Phillip Steiger and Kylie Stanger making the announcements on the day and keeping things running smoothly. Thanks to all staff who helped in the yards and on the gates and a big thank you to my Rotary Club members who did a fantastic job before, during and after the event.

All in all, it was a great couple of days with perfect weather in a lovely part of our area.

We encourage our community members to come out next time to join in and see how Rotary's work raises money to help with projects that our community needs and maybe even think about joining our club!

Meredyth Bell

President - Barraba Rotary 2021-2022, 2022-2023



Campbell Bowman and Pivot – Encouragement Winners



Cameron Ninness and Cloverleaf Condos Covergirl – Novice Winners



Rotary member Steve Ely 'on the tools'

From The Conversation



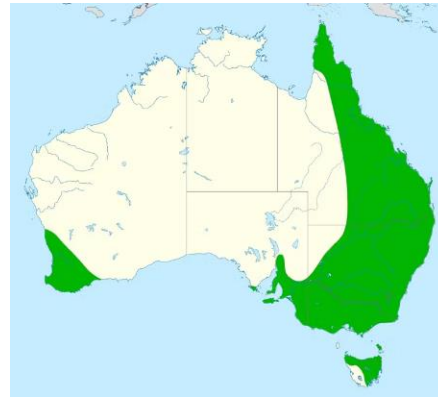
Why the kookaburra's iconic laugh is at risk of being silenced

Diana Kuchinke, Lecturer in Ecology, Federation University Australia

Once, while teaching a class of environmental science students in China's Hebei University of Science and Technology, I asked who knew what a laughing kookaburra was. There were many blank faces. Then I tilted my head, much like a kookaburra does, and opened my mouth: "kok-kak-KAK-KAK-KAK-KOK-KAK-KOK-kook-kook-kok, kok, kok". I became the "bushman's alarm clock".

Students burst out laughing. Hands waved in the air. They knew. They all knew. The call of the kookaburra is known worldwide. Why do kookaburras "laugh"? It's a declaration of territory. "I am here. This is my space."

Map of Australia showing the distribution of the laughing kookaburra.



The laughing kookaburra is native to eastern mainland Australia and was introduced to Western Australia and Tasmania.

How long has it been part of the Australian landscape? Indigenous Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay and Wiradjuri people named the "guuguubarra", so for at least 65,000 years. Genetic analysis suggests its ancestors can be traced back roughly 16.3 million years. So we can be sure kookaburras have been laughing for a very, very long time.

It is shocking, then, that the laughing kookaburra is now in trouble. A combination of human-driven factors – climate change, bushfires and land clearing – is rapidly driving down numbers of this iconic kingfisher species across its range along Australia's east coast.

Why are kookaburra numbers falling?

In 2003, the New Atlas of Australian Birds listed the laughing kookaburra as abundant. By 2015, The State of Australia's Birds report noted them as being in major decline.

What changed? Recent research shows worsening fires are adding to the woes of kookaburras, on top of land clearing, removal of old trees with nesting hollows, state permits to control local numbers and being regarded as an exotic species in Western Australia and Tasmania, where they were introduced more than a century ago.

The tree hollows kookaburras need to breed can take a hundred years to develop. Every forest patch felled means hollows are lost. Over the past 200 years, nearly 50% of our forest cover has been felled. Urban development all along Australia's east coast has continued.



The laughing kookaburra depends on old tree hollows for nesting.

Fire is a growing threat

Increasing fire frequency and severity due to climate change are having damaging impacts on kookaburras across south-eastern Australia. Megafires – those that burn more than 10,000 hectares – used to occur about once a decade. Now they are happening more often.

The 2019-2020 “Black Summer” fires were not confined to one state or season. From September 2019 through to March 2020 they burnt more than ten million hectares of native vegetation. The impacts on wildlife were huge. In the years after fire, the dense regrowth of vegetation gives many birds a flush of abundant resources for food, nesting, cues for breeding and protection from predators.

However, dense new ground growth could hinder the kookaburra’s hunting by making it harder to spot prey. This species sits high in a tree from where it pounces on its prey, which is mostly taken on the ground.

Research has also shown dense post-fire vegetation has less prey, such as basking lizards, a vital part of the kookaburra’s diet. Research shows laughing kookaburras leave areas of dense post-fire growth. They prefer areas that haven’t burnt for decades. Kookaburras also compete for prey with other birds, such as the currawong. A currawong forages both on the ground and in the canopy. In denser vegetation, this gives it a competitive advantage over the kookaburra.

If trees with hollows are burnt down, kookaburras also cannot nest. Kookaburras forced to move to new unburnt or uncleared areas must compete for hollows with other highly territorial kookaburras and species such as parrots, owls and possums.



Kookaburras may struggle to survive in areas where fire has destroyed tree hollows and caused dense regrowth.

State policies aren’t helping

The Victorian government has issued permits to remove kookaburras from their territories in certain areas. These included three “Authorities to Control Wildlife” by lethal means in 2022 and another in 2023.

The government website says these permits can be issued when wildlife causes damage to property, poses a risk to human health and safety, or is harmful for biodiversity. It is

hard to imagine which of these categories justifies permits to kill kookaburras in their native habitat.

The maximum number for lethal control across 2022 was four, and three in 2023. However, kookaburras are highly social birds. They live in family groups of about a dozen individuals with a dominant pair, juvenile helpers and young. If the dominant pair has been dealt with “by lethal means”, it’s devastating for the group.

Two Australian states, Tasmania and Western Australia, treat the laughing kookaburra as an introduced species. In Tasmania (but not WA), the species is unprotected because of its status as an exotic species.

Anecdotal evidence suggests the “first pair” to breed successfully was taken to Tasmania around 1906. But this assumes kookaburras, which are found on other Bass Strait islands, were not already there and could not fly across Bass Strait.

In Tasmania, kookaburras are much maligned and it’s legal to kill them – despite this being the one state where the species isn’t in trouble. One concern is that, as a carnivorous bird, its impact on small reptiles and birds is immense. But other birds, such as the two species of currawong on the island, hunt the same prey as kookaburras.



The laughing kookaburra isn’t the only species to prey on small animals such as reptiles and birds.

We can no longer take common species for granted

As climate change results in more bushfires and we continue to clear-fell old habitat trees, the fate of the laughing kookaburra – our icon of the ages – could be sealed. That once-ubiquitous call will be heard no more.

While considerable resources necessarily go to threatened species programs, it is imperative, too, to give more resources and attention to species we have long thought of as common. If species such as kookaburras and koalas are disappearing, then the threatened species have no hope.