



FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 4th September 2024

About Barraba Inc. has organised a meet the candidates forum.

The details are:-

Venue: Barraba Bowling Club

Date: 11th September 2024

Time: 6:30 pm for a 7.00 pm start

The format of the meeting will be: -

- Each candidate will be allocated two (2) minutes to present their case as to why we should vote from them and a further two (2) minutes at the conclusion of the forum to sum up.
- Time will be allocated for the candidates to answer questions. These questions will be either directed to the candidate themselves or they will be allocated by the meeting moderator.
- All questions must be submitted in writing and emailed to kelly@djkelly.com.au or frocksnlocks@gmail.com
- Question must be submitted by Monday 9th September 2024.
- NO questions will be taken from the floor.
- Those attending will have the opportunity of mixing with the candidates at the conclusion of the forum.

List of candidates for the Tamworth Regional Council Election on Saturday 14th Sept 2024

BROOKE Ryan	HILLVUE	THE GREENS
TOLMIE Gemma-Lea	HILLVUE	THE GREENS
EMOJONG Sewa	NTH TAMWORTH	THE GREENS
GUNNING Robin	NTH TAMWORTH	THE GREENS
FOGARTY Catherine	HILLVUE	THE GREENS
MEARS Stephen	HILLVUE	LABOR
HUGHES Laura	HILLVUE	LABOR
ROBINSON Thomas	KOOTINGAL	LABOR
McHUGH Denise	HILLVUE	LABOR
RINDO Sergio	MOORE CREEK	LABOR
TAIT Ray	HILLVUE	Independent
RODDA Mark	STH TAMWORTH	Independent
BUDD Jeffrey	MOORE CREEK	
MEYER Greig	WARRAL	Independent
WILLIAMSON Heidi	CALALA	
NORTH Brendon	HILLVUE	
WEBB Russell	NTH TAMWORTH	Independent
IMPEY Charles	HILLVUE	Independent
FENN Marie	CALALA	Independent
GILLETT Daniel	EAST TAMWORTH	Independent
BURKE Bede	BECTIVE	
SHARPHAM Matt	TINTINHULL	Independent
COATES Judy	CALALA	Independent
SUTHERLAND Marc	HILLVUE	Independent

Further information about the candidates can be found at;

[Tamworth Regional Candidates - NSW Electoral Commission](#)



COUNCIL ELECTIONS – PRE-POLLING

The Local Government Elections will be held on Saturday 14 September. If you are not able to vote on election day, pre-poll voting (in-person) will be available from Monday 7 September to Friday 13 September for those eligible. You can Pre-Poll at - **Tamworth Council Barraba Branch Office** 108 Queen Street, Barraba NSW 2347

Opening Hours: Mon 09 Sep - Fri 13 Sep 2024 Mon - Fri: 8:30am - 4:00pm or at other locations in Tamworth Regional Council area.

If you need to enrol to vote or update your details, visit elections.nsw.gov.au/voters/enrolment

VISIT THE FULLER GALLERY DURING THE 'FROST OVER BARRABA' WEEKEND



Open 10am to 3pm
each day from
Thursday 5th to
Sunday 8th
September

Drop in, browse the
Gallery, new items of
art, craft and pottery

Friday and Saturday
take time to relax,
chat to friends and
have some
refreshments.

Morning teas; with
homemade slices and
bottomless cuppa

Lunch; lasagne or
spinach pie with side
salad and cuppa



Senior Citz News

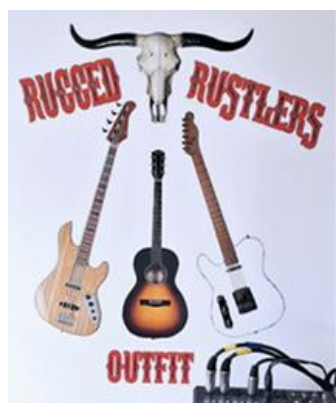
Hello everyone,
What a great result from our street stall on
Friday. A tad over \$1000.00, was the
reward for a lot of work by very few people. Members
please don't forget Saturday at "Frost".

To the winners of the raffle, thank you for your support and
enjoy your prizes. After "Frost" our next fundraiser will be
on the Saturday of the long weekend in October.

This is all for now, get out folks and enjoy this wonderful
weather and have a great time at "Frost".

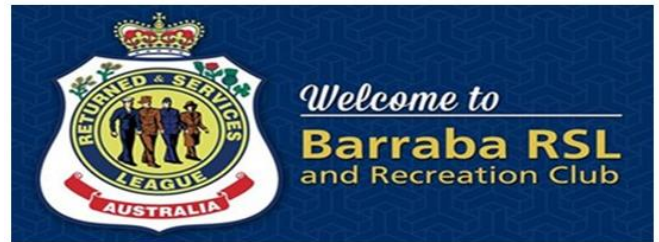
To those on the sick list – a speedy return to good health.

Cheers Judy Brady



Barraba High Country Music Musta

**Sunday 8th
September 2024.**
12 to 4pm. FREE ENTRY
Walk-up artists welcome
Barraba Bowling Club



Welcome to
Barraba RSL
and Recreation Club

BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

Phone 67821379

For the information of members and guests.

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY 5th September

Bingo from 6pm

FRIDAY 6th September

MEAT RAFFLES

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$2000 (4 draws)

SUNDAY 8th September

ANGLER CLUB RAFFLES

Raffles on sale from 12pm, drawn 1.30pm

Membership Draw \$1100

BISTRO HOURS

Phone 0427330808

DINE IN OR TAKEAWAY

DAILY BLACKBOARD SPECIALS AVAILABLE

ALSO PIZZAS MADE TO ORDER

MONDAY/TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY: CLOSED

THURS/FRI/SAT: Lunch 12-2pm. Dinner from 6pm

SUNDAY: 12-2pm

Barraba Medical Centre

The Medical Centre will be closed on the following days:

Closed Monday 16th September, Friday 20th September &
Monday 23rd September.

Friday 13th we will be making appointments prior for that
day but, will not be taking phone calls on the day.

Dr Wearne will be in attendance from Tuesday 17th to
Thursday 19th September while Dr Hein is on leave.

The surgery will re-open Tuesday 24th September.

Please ensure that you have enough medication during the
closure dates.

As we have Influenza and Covid in the community, and you
have any flu-like symptoms please advise reception and we
can then make a phone, or a carpark consult for you.

**KICKSTART
YOUR CAREER
WITH TAMWORTH
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www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/kickstart

APPLY NOW!

Kick Start Your Career

Tamworth Regional Council is excited to announce the opening of applications for our annual intake of apprentices and trainees, offering a unique opportunity for community members to kick-start their careers with the Council.

Apprenticeships and traineeships at Tamworth Regional Council provide an excellent pathway to gain qualifications while learning on the job and earning a wage at the same time. This year's intake features a diverse range of roles across the organisation, ensuring that there is something to cater to almost everyone's interests and career goals. The available positions include:

- Trainee - Transport Operations
- Trainee - Transport Operations (Sealed Roads Southern)
- Trainee - Operator Waste
- Trainee – Designer (Survey and Design)
- Trainee - Water Operator (Distribution / Networks)
- Trainee - Water Operator (Headworks / Treatment)
- Trainee - Sports & Recreation
- Trainee - Business Support Officer (Sports & Recreation)
- Trainee – Aquatics

• Apprentice - Fitter Machinist

We are especially proud to announce that there are roles in the Transport Operations area which are specifically targeted at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This initiative underscores our commitment to providing meaningful career pathways that benefit our entire community.

"At Tamworth Regional Council, we believe in nurturing talent from within our community," said Leesa Bryant, Coordinator - People & Culture Operations. "These traineeships and apprenticeships offer a fantastic entry point into a variety of interesting skill areas, allowing individuals to not only launch their careers but also make a positive impact on our community."

Recognising the importance of work-life balance, Tamworth Regional Council is committed to prioritising our employees lifestyle needs. Ensuring employees have time and energy to enjoy what matters most outside of work, results in greater levels of wellbeing and higher levels of workplace achievement

Applications for these positions open on Thursday, 29 August 2024, and close on Sunday, 29 September 2024. If you or someone you know is ready to take the next step in their career, now is the perfect time to apply! Apply today at www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/kickstart.

Well, spring has sprung and so have a number of events to keep us all busy for the next few weeks as we cram things in before daylight saving arrives.

It has happened, at last we have a date of closure for the Upper Horton School. Thankyou Anne, for letting me know and now a search of the books of newspaper cuttings has revealed some relevant information which I am sure will complete another section of our isolated schools history.

The Horton school closed in December 1988, due to a lack of pupils - the number needed was nine but there were only six enrolled. Upper Horton residents and parents did everything to try and keep it open without success.

Local parent, Bill Shilling, said at the time "one hundred years of history was about to end". Teacher, Jannine Digley, was leaving after more than a year teaching at the Horton school and the children were facing an hour on a bus to get to Barraba to school and another hour in the afternoon to get home. It made a very long day for the students, especially for those in kindergarten. It is sad to drive past the old Horton School yard and see that Mr Shilling's prediction has come true. It has even taken weeks for someone to come up with the correct closure date!

While searching through old papers and records, the date of actual closure of the Court House has also "been found - it closed on the 6th July 1988, just six months before the Horton School. The Court furniture was all removed and the building was left as an empty shell. The actual record books (Birth, Death and Marriage) went to Gunnedah but I do not know where they are now.

There is still one question about the Court House. The Historical Society's original secretary, Mrs Betty Crowley, organized a copy of the plans of the Court House, had it framed and hung in the Court House. It would be good to know where that plan is now. I do not think it is in the Society's collection and perhaps it should be for its protection.

The markets are to be held on Saturday along with Frost and a host of other events. At least two museum members will be attending the Spencer funeral late in the morning and so the Society Stall could do with an extra member or two to help out if they have a couple of hours to spare.

RIP Ron Hiscock



Ron and wife Helen at home October 2021 (photo Terry Threlfall)

St Lawrence's Barraba was packed last Saturday (31 August) to farewell prominent local Ronald Albert (Ron) Hiscock. He died on 26 August, one month short of his ninety-first Birthday. Ron was perhaps most widely known for his sprawling collection of local history - his "Shed of Knowledge", collected over forty years, and painstakingly described and displayed in the backyard of his Barraba home. He regularly opened the Shed of Knowledge to the public - we all learnt a lot about local history of Barraba and surrounds.

Ron spent his working life in Barraba - a skilled local motor mechanic, who kept many of our vehicles running over the years.

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am

No Woodsreef service in September
BCA boxes returned this month please.

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 8th September

Service time 10.45am

PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE OF TIME.

All Welcome.

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

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

Winners of Seniors Raffle

1st - Troy ?

2nd - Glen Bennett

3rd - Michael Henderson

Thank you to all who purchase tickets. J Brady Hon Sec



Nandewar Historical Society Inc

Monthly Market Day

Saturday 7th September 8.30-1pm

Variety of stalls including plants, food, honey, household goods and lots more.

Links For Life Disability Expo

19 September @ 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Free

The Links For Life Disability Expo has been a longstanding resource for the New England North West community, providing invaluable support and information to those in need. Each year, this free event showcases a diverse range of products and services specifically designed to enhance independence and improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Attendees have the opportunity to explore the latest innovations, connect with service providers, and gain insights into various support systems available to them.

This year's expo will take place on Thursday, 19 September, starting at 9:30 am at the Tamworth Sports Dome. The event promises to be an informative and engaging day, filled with opportunities for learning and networking. Whether you are a person with a disability, a caregiver, or a professional in the field, the Links For Life Disability Expo offers something valuable for everyone. Don't miss this chance to be a part of an event that is making a real difference in the community.

The Tamworth Links For Life Disability Expo was established 16 years ago in 2008 with a team of 5 committed individuals and service providers from across the Tamworth area.

The committee has since grown in strength and 25+ services now contribute to the funding, planning and overall success of the event. It has developed into a community orientated event – with many participants contributing with their skills on the day.

This is an opportunity for stakeholders to explore the diversity of supports available to them in the Tamworth region. It is also an excellent networking opportunity for attending service providers.

After feedback from previous years and careful consideration, we have decided to run a "Quiet Hour" from 1-2pm to assist participants with sensory issues by reducing the sensory overwhelm that comes with attending a large event. We will be asking everyone to support Quiet Hour, as we cease all announcements, dim the lights and ask everyone to turn the volume down.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Tamworth Miniature Railway Open Day

15 September @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm



A monthly public open day run by the Tamworth Miniature Railway Inc. Enjoy the sun and fun as we run on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 10am to 3pm, just \$3 per ride for all ages. The Loco Cafe will be open with food and drinks. Find the Miniature Railway in the Botanic Gardens precinct at the top end of Piper St, Tamworth.

From the Northern Daily Leader 27 August 2024 -

PET scanner finally up and running at Tamworth hospital

By Fiona Ferguson



In a massive step forward for cancer patients, Tamworth's new PET scanner is finally up and running. The installation of the machine was given the green light by Hunter New England Health (HNEH) in April 2023, after its timeline was pushed back by a year.

Costing \$2 million, the Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner is a highly specialised form of nuclear medicine imaging, which assists in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, along with brain and heart related conditions.

Executive Director, Imaging Services, HNE Health, Tony Gilbertson, said: "Accessing this imaging service closer to home will reduce travel burdens for patients, keeping them supported in the community. We thank everyone for their patience and understanding during the installation period."



Here is an overview of the Ordinary Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council held on Tuesday 27th August 2024:

Councillors noted the Waste Sustainability 6 Monthly Report which highlighted 36 tonne of Community Recycling was diverted from landfill through the Community Recycling Centre. The ongoing bin tagging program over the 6 months shows 7,967 properties had their bins tagged across the region with 82% being blue tags meaning brilliant recyclers, 12% orange tags meaning ok but some things needing attention and only 6% of tags were red meaning bin rejected and needing attention. Contamination reduction overall improved by 6% of the tagged properties.

Tonight, Councillors approved in principle the proposed fees for hire of Kootingal Multipurpose Centre and the fee structure for the 2024/25 budget year will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days. The proposed fees are closely aligned to the current fees to hire Manilla Town Hall and are designed to encourage participation and allow the community to enjoy the full benefit of this new and renovated facility.

Tamworth Regional Council On-Site Wastewater Management Plan was endorsed after Councillors reviewed feedback received during the 28-day public exhibition. This plan supersedes some requirements within Council's On-Site Sewage Management strategy 2014, mostly those relating to approvals for new system installations.

Councillors have endorsed a recommendation from the Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee to install 60 degree 'rear to kerb' parking on Innes Street in Nundle with an inclusion of two disabled bays. The NSW Electoral Commission requested installation of a temporary disabled parking space in front of 25 Fitzroy Street from 6 September to 14 September for the duration of the Local Government Election.

Youth Council Meeting Thursday, 29 August Update

- Youth Councillors met with Kevin Anderson MP to seek guidance on ways to approach funding for a number of initiatives aligned with the Youth Strategy Action Plan. Kevin Anderson MP expressed his desire to help support the Youth Councillors with their endeavours. The Youth

Council were extremely grateful for his guidance and support.

- The Youth Council has requested Tamworth Regional Council's Traffic Committee support in creating a road safety and traffic report on the Oxley Highway near Peel High School. This request has come from the Youth Council's proposal to create a shared pathway near the state-owned road. To enhance pedestrian safety, the Youth Council also requested that Tamworth Regional Council's Traffic Committee conduct a safety report of Manilla Road. This aligns with Tamworth Regional Council's *Wellbeing* focus area of the Youth Strategy Action Plan.
- The Youth Council will write to Tamworth Regional Council's Mayor to request funding for a building a new basketball court in Manilla. This court is currently listed as part of the Chaffey Park Manilla Masterplan and aligns with the *Wellbeing* focus area of the Youth Strategy Action Plan.
- As part of Council's *Connectivity* focus area of the Youth Strategy Action Plan, The Youth Council discussed ideas to enhance youth communications with Tamworth Regional Council's Marketing and Communications team.
- Youth Councillors have pledged to support headspace's Green Park Markets. The event will be held on Wednesday, 9 October from 4:00pm – 9:00pm as part of National headspace Day.

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

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Focus on renewable energy for Electricity Safety Week

SAFETY AROUND SOLAR AND BATTERIES ARE THE BUZZ WORDS IN NSW CLASSROOMS

The importance of community safety around sources of renewable energy will be a focus of Essential Energy's annual Electricity Safety Week activities from 2-6 September. Electricity Safety Week raises awareness of the hazards associated with electricity and teaches students how to be safe around electricity at homes and outdoors.

Essential Energy Chief People Officer Amalie Smith says this year's addition of renewable energy sources is a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness about how to stay safe around things like community batteries and solar farms. "Renewable energy generation and storage are becoming more common in the regional, rural and remote communities across the Essential Energy network footprint," Amalie says. "Students will learn why more of our electricity is coming from renewable sources and how the rooftop solar panels, that are becoming more common on homes in their neighbourhoods, generate electricity. While solar energy, wind, hydropower and community batteries are great for the environment, they are no-go zones for most of us."

The NSW Government's Smart Energy Schools Pilot Project has installed 17 megawatts of solar energy systems in about 1,500 NSW public schools. Solar and battery energy storage systems have also been installed at 79 public schools in NSW. These systems can generate enough energy to power 3,000 NSW homes.

More than 870 schools in Essential Energy's footprint will be involved in the program which includes lesson booklets with activities, electricity safety posters, stickers and great schoolroom prizes including high bounce balls and circuit kits.

"Electrons, currents and volts will be the buzz words in classrooms, along with safety messages around keeping away from overhead powerlines, how to use home electrical appliances safely, and what to do in an electrical emergency," Amalie says. "Electricity Safety Week is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about potential electrical hazards in a way that is interesting and engaging for children."

Find out more about Electricity Safety Week activities and online resources on the Essential Energy website.

Rod Bonner

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Tamworth Zone Athletics Carnival

Congratulations to each of our students who competed at the Tamworth Zone Athletics Carnival. We are very proud of your achievements and sportsmanship. Well done to Annabel for 2nd place in the Junior 1500m and Akira for 1st place in the 13 years 100m. Thank you to our parents for your support on the day.



Well done to Holli Thomson who competed at the PSSA State Netball Championships in Sydney.

Good Luck to Xavier Darlington, who is competing at the PSSA State Rugby Union Championships this week.



Golf Notes

Golfers enjoyed the glorious first day of spring to play for Rodger Fisher's trophy. Scores were very close with eight players picking up balls. Mike Artis finished on 37 points one shot ahead of Ally Smith 36, Jesse Phillips 35, Ian Cabot 34, Mandy Koopman 33, Will Sedgwick 33, Paul Grigg 33 and Bill Simpson 32. In matchplay games Peter Summerell and Mike Artis just got over Ian Cabot and Neil Smith whilst in singles matchplay Mike Artis defeated Ian Cabot.

Next Sunday 8th September is a 4BBB Aggregate Stableford for Mick Djuric and John Freeman's trophy. The following week our normal Club competition will switch to Saturday the 14th September. It's our usual Ball Competitions with the emphasis on getting as many rounds of the singles and pairs matchplay games done.

On the Sunday 15th September Barraba host the Central Northern District Men's Open. It's a 9.30am Shot Gun Stroke event and part of the Order of Merit competition with prizes valued over \$1000. Nominations close Monday 9th September so draws can be organised.

Pumpkin, Gorgonzola and Rosemary Pie

For this rich pie, we've opted for a buttery sour cream pastry base, which gives an extra piquant, savoury hit, and topped it with butter puff pastry for a flaky finish. Use any pumpkin you like, Kent (Jap) will give a deeper colour and flavour, and butternut a softer result. Watch the amount of liquid that comes from the pumpkin when roasting and, if needed, drain the pumpkin well before assembling the pie.

INGREDIENTS

- 900 gm peeled Kent (Jap) pumpkin (about a third large), cut into 4cm cubes
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp pine nuts
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp coarsely chopped rosemary
- 80 gm Gorgonzola dolcelatte
- 50 gm finely grated parmesan
- 1 egg, lightly beaten, for eggwash
- 375 gm sheet butter puff pastry (see note)

- To serve: mesclun leaves, dressed with white wine vinaigrette

Crème fraîche shortcrust pastry

- 250 gm (1 cup) plain flour
- 100 gm unsalted butter, chilled
- 75 gm sour cream

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 250C. Place pumpkin in a shallow roasting pan, drizzle with half the oil, season to taste, toss to coat and roast until pumpkin starts to caramelise at the edges and you can insert a knife with just a little resistance (17-20 minutes; be careful not to overcook). Transfer to a colander placed over a bowl and set aside to drain and cool (40-50 minutes). Coarsely break up a third of the pumpkin in a bowl and refrigerate until chilled (1 hour).
2. Meanwhile, for crème fraîche shortcrust pastry, process flour and butter in a food processor to fine crumbs, add sour cream and pulse to combine. Turn out, pat into a disc, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes to rest.
3. Heat remaining olive oil in a frying pan over medium-high heat, add onion and sauté until tender and caramelised (8-9 minutes). Add pine nuts and garlic, and sauté, stirring occasionally, until golden (2-3 minutes). Add rosemary, stir until fragrant and rosemary starts to lose its bright colour (1 minute), then season to taste and transfer to a bowl to cool (20 minutes). Add pumpkin, stir to combine, then stir in cheeses and season to taste.
4. Preheat oven to 250C and line a baking tray with baking paper. Roll shortcrust pastry to a 30cm round and refrigerate 15 minutes to rest. Place on prepared tray, spread on pumpkin mixture, leaving a 2cm border, then brush border with eggwash. Roll out puff pastry to 4mm thick and place on top, pressing around pumpkin filling gently to seal. Trim edges to form a neat round and pinch edges to seal. Score a criss-cross pattern on top, brush with eggwash, scatter with sea salt flakes and bake until pastry is puffed and starting to turn golden (10 minutes). Reduce oven to 180C and cook until pastry is golden and crisp (25-30 minutes). Set pie aside to rest and cool briefly (5 minutes), then serve with mesclun salad.



Australian amber has revealed 'living fossils' traced back to Gondwana 42 million years ago

Maria Blake, PhD student, Monash University

Jeffrey Stilwell, Associate Professor of Palaeontology, School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, Monash University



Amber is fossilised tree resin. Unlike traditional fossils found on land or in the sea, amber can preserve ancient life forms in incredible detail. It's often considered the "holy grail" of palaeontology worldwide.

Amber acts like a time capsule, capturing tiny animals, plants and even microorganisms from millions of years ago. These fossils – also known as inclusions – can appear astonishingly fresh, preserved just as they were when they died trapped in sticky tree resin.

Australian amber is now helping to understand the biological diversity of ancient Gondwanan environments from 42 million years ago and their connections to today's Australian forests. From it, we can learn yet more reasons for why we must protect today's forests.



A fossil springtail – a common arthropod found in soil – trapped in Australian amber. Maria Blake

The unique value of Australian amber

Unlike typical, squashed fossil rock shapes, palaeontologists value amber for its remarkable ability to preserve inclusions in full three dimensions. This means we can study fossil organisms that would otherwise not have been recorded in such detail.

This is especially important considering that around 85% of modern biodiversity comes from arthropods (spiders, flies, beetles, bees and the like). Only 0.3% is represented by the "bony" mammals more commonly found as fossils in rocks.

Overall, only a tiny fraction of all life throughout geologic time has been fossilised. This means we work with a biased fossil record that may not accurately represent past diversity.

Amber provides a unique opportunity to find less common specimens. It helps to reveal the diversity of past ecosystems and to reduce these biases in our understanding of ancient life.

Most amber discoveries come from the Northern Hemisphere (the Baltic region, Spain, China, Myanmar). Australia is one of the rare places in the Southern Hemisphere where scientists can also study organisms trapped in amber.

The most promising site for finding these preserved organisms is a former coal mining area in Victoria. The amber and fossils from this site are estimated to be 42–40 million years old, dating back to the Eocene epoch.

At that time, Australia and Antarctica were still connected as part of the slowly fragmenting supercontinent called Gondwana. Australia had a warm and moist climate, and forests teeming with insects, arachnids and other creatures.



The full body of a midge captured in three-dimensional detail. Maria Blake

Living fossils

The amber we're working with has been studied by researchers since 2014. Findings described in 2020 include biting midges, baby spiders, and even a pair of mating flies.

Our latest work reveals more details on the species. We've learnt not only where these organisms lived in the past, but also the surprising fact that many of them still exist in Australia's forests today, albeit in greatly reduced geographic ranges.

This means creatures from ancient Gondwana have persisted for more than 40 million years. Their survival for so long gives even more reason to protect them into the future.

One major breakthrough in our research is based on new advancements at ANSTO's Australian Synchrotron research facility in Melbourne. Improved resolution and the capability to scan smaller samples with X-rays have greatly improved how we can produce images of organisms trapped in amber. This allows us to create detailed 3D reconstructions, and we can identify the species more easily.

The synchrotron has also made it possible to finally detect inclusions within large, opaque pieces of amber that were hard to examine previously with traditional microscopes.



3D reconstruction of a fossilised 'non-biting' midge based on X-ray scans from the Australian Synchrotron.

What have we found in Australian amber?



A 'non-biting' midge. Maria Blake

Some of the new major findings have been a "non-biting" or "feather" midge from the Podonominae insect subfamily.

It's the first fossil record of the genus *Austrochilus* in the Southern Hemisphere. Even though it was widely distributed globally in the past, it is now restricted to Australia.

With the synchrotron, we revealed not only the specimen's sex and position in its family tree, but also internal structures of what are potentially wing muscles. Even in amber fossils, that's a rarity.

We also found a true biting midge that's still around today (*Austroconops*). It's the first fossil of its kind dating back to the Cenozoic, spanning the last 66 million years. Once widespread, today this midge is only found in Western Australia, again restricted just to our continent.

A wasp from the family Embolemidae, recognised today from all around the world to be a parasite on planthopper nymphs, is another highlight from Australian amber. This group has quite a scarce fossil record, and this is only the second time one has been found in the Southern Hemisphere.



This parasitic wasp has a very scarce fossil record. Maria Blake

All of these insect fossils are the first of their kind found in Australia. And we've only scratched the surface – there are many more yet to be described.

Remarkably, these insects are still around in Australian forests today, tracing their lineage back in time to ancient Gondwana. Without realising it, we exist among living fossils.

While we know these species were widely distributed in the past, today most of them are found only on this continent. They now face new challenges which threaten their habitats. The threats include climate change, deforestation and urban sprawl.

Protecting these ancient "living fossils" and their environments is essential for the health of our native ecosystems.



Fee-free First Aid training for eligible students



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Build the productivity of your business by upskilling existing workers and providing new industry entrants with training in the skills you need, now and into the future.



Industry Employees & Jobseekers

Gain the skills employers want with industry relevant and up-to-date training. Increase your career and employment prospects, both now and into the future.

The NSW Government has invested an additional \$5 million for the AgSkilled workforce training program until 30 June 2025. AgSkilled supports current and future agricultural workers by providing access to fee-free training that will lead to employment outcomes, and grow production, business, technology and safety skills.

Your local campus is offering fee-free First Aid training to eligible students under the Ag-Skilled program. If you're a primary producer, farm employee, industry professional, or someone seeking employment in the sector, including job seekers and school leavers, you should look for AgSkilled-funded training near you today.

First Aid Training

Provide First Aid



Enrol in this course to learn how to recognise and respond to an emergency situation, assessing the casualty and the need for a first aid response, managing immediate hazards to the health and safety of those present and seeking assistance from emergency response services.

Course Program

HLTAID009 Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation
HLTAID010 Provide basic emergency life support
HLTAID011 Provide first aid



18 September 2024 | 9:00AM to 4:30PM | \$190

Issuing Registered Training Organisation:
Community College Northern Inland Inc. RTO 90027

Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation



Learn the skills and knowledge required to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in line with the Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC) Guidelines. The course applies to all workers who may be required to provide CPR, in a range of situations, including community and workplace settings.

Course Program

HLTAID009 Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation



18 September 2024 | 9:00AM to 12:00PM | \$90

Issuing Registered Training Organisation:
Community College Northern Inland Inc. RTO 90027



REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATION 90027

Tel: (02) 6782 1662

www.ccni.nsw.edu.au/first-aid-courses