

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 18th September 2024



BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

Phone 67821379 For the information of members and guests. THIS WEEK

THURSDAY 19th September

Bingo from 6pm

FRIDAY 20th September MEAT RAFFLES Tickets on sale from 5.30pm MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$2000 (6 draws) SUNDAY 22nd September

ANGLER CLUB RAFFLES Raffles on sale from 12pm, drawn 1.30pm Membership Draw \$1300

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

Preliminary results (Monday 16th September) of the Tamworth Regional Council Local Government election is on page 12.



The Vic Barraba Opening times Wed 18th – 4.30-9pm. Thurs 19th – 4.30-9pm Fri 20th 11am-9pm. Sat 21st 4.30-9pm Regular hours coming soon. Phone 02 67825375 Thank you for your patience



The Bi-Monthly and AGM meetings to be held on Friday 11 of October at the Workshop, Clifton Lane, at 10.00am. Attendance is essential in order to have a Quorum



"Meet the Candidates" forum organised by "About Barraba Inc" held on Wednesday 11th September 2024.

Information and photo submitted by Julie Williams.

Fifteen out of twenty-four candidates for the Tamworth Regional Council election attended the "Meet the Candidates" forum at 7pm at the Barraba Bowling Club, as well as about fifty locals. Organisers were happy with these numbers, especially as the people from Tamworth had to give up their evening and drive home after the event, which was chaired by David Kelly. The candidates were: Gemma-Lea Tolmie, Brendon North, Heidi Williamson, Charles Impey, Judy Coates, Jeff Budd, Russell Webb, Bede Burke, Brooke Ryan, Tom Robinson, Laura Hughes, Stephen Mears, Matt Sharpham, Marc Sutherland and Daniel Gillett. Five of these were current councillors.

Unfortunately, there was not enough time to discuss topics in detail, but the issues talked about included clarification that Barraba has not been "downgraded to a village" in any official capacity and is in fact still classified as a township. There were references to the lack of trust between TRC and the community, and a perception of a lack of transparency. It was suggested that there could be the occasional council meeting held in Barraba and other outlying areas to try to build better communications. Another possibility for the future was to consider a ward system for the region. If residents feel they are not getting problems resolved by council staff, then contact councillors directly.

After the meeting, residents were able to mingle with candidates over food and drink and continue informal discussions.

Thank you to "About Barraba" for organising a well-run and informative meeting.



BARRABA BRANCH

Thank you to everyone who supported the Barraba Hospital Auxiliary at Frost Over Barraba.

The raffle was drawn by a visitor from Tamworth and the winners were; Judy Sautchuk, Lib Croll and Jacqui Crowley.



Riders Ready to Ride for the Chopper

A total of 38 riders have geared up for the 22nd annual 'Ride For The Chopper', that got underway last Friday, September 13 from Glen Innes, raising funds for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. The 8-day, 7- night mountain bike ride from the 13th-20th September, covers over 500 kilometres with a full support crew, including safety vehicles, bike trailers, catering crew and a very experienced team of riders to guide and assist participants on the adventure of a lifetime, exploring the stunning New England region of New South Wales.

Amongst the 38 riders are two tandem bikes, with two visually impaired riders participating. The Ride started in Glen Innes, travelling through Inverell, Warialda, Bingara and Manilla before reaching the final stop in Tamworth on Friday 20th September.

Along the way, riders will enjoy themed ride days, have plenty of games and activities and enjoy a variety of spectacular sights and locations including NSW Celtic Country, Glen Riddle Reserve and the Myall Creek memorial just to name a few. The Ride is all about fun, achieving some personal goals and importantly supporting the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service's operations in the New England North West.



Across the Desk from the Principal, Patrick Sullivan

Term 3 is flying by, and welcoming our new kindergarten students for 2025 has been fantastic! Miss Hook, Luna,

and I had a great morning meeting the new students and welcoming their parents to our school community.

I hope all the Dads had a fantastic Father's Day last weekend. It was terrific seeing so many join us on Tuesday for some great activities. The photos and videos are worth a look, especially the fairy race and the doughnut competition! A big thank you to Mrs Sweeney, Miss Wicks, and the SRC for their superb organisation.

Mrs Bell and I have enjoyed interviewing Year 10 and 11 students about their pathways over the next few years. We have been developing strategies to help students achieve their goals and exploring how to do this. We are fortunate to have TAFE delivering hospitality courses for Years 10, 11, and 12 starting in Term 4, greatly expanding options for our students. We are also grateful to the businesses supporting our school-based traineeships, providing an incredible pathway for students.

Congratulations to Akira & Annabel Kanno, who represented Barraba Central School at the Regional Athletics competition on Wednesday. Akira has advanced to the State level. This is a significant achievement, and we are proud of Akira for reaching this stage. Competing at the State level is a great opportunity, and we wish Akira the best as he takes on this next challenge. Well done, Akira!

Our school's commitment to restorative practices continues to grow as we work towards building a culture that fosters understanding, empathy, and mutual respect. This term, we have been focusing specifically on the power of language and how it shapes our interactions and relationships within the school community. We encourage everyone - students, teachers, and staff — to use respectful and inclusive language, ensuring all voices are heard and valued. Additionally, we strive to communicate in a supportive and encouraging manner, helping to build a positive environment where everyone feels safe to express themselves. Our goal is to adopt a restorative approach to all situations where conflicts are seen as opportunities for learning and growth. By doing so, we aim to strengthen our connections, promote accountability, and enhance the overall well-being of our school community. This work is an ongoing journey, but we are proud of our progress together. I want to thank all the parents who attended our New Zealand trip meeting on Wednesday night. It's getting closer and more exciting with only 62 days to go! A big thank you

to the P&C, Rotary and Lions Club for their support and generous donations for the excursion.

Finally, I wish our primary netball team luck in their Regional Final against Wee Waa Public School next Wednesday.

Secondary Debating



On Wednesday 21 August 2024, Secondary students travelled to Scone for a debate against Scone High School. Students were very strong in their arguments on the day but unfortunately lost the debate. This will conclude debating for the year with the BCS team winning 1 of their 3 debates. Well done to all students who participated. Mr Hurn



The Debating team were presented with a 2024 Premier's Debating Challenge certificate for participation in the Challenge for Years 7 & 8.

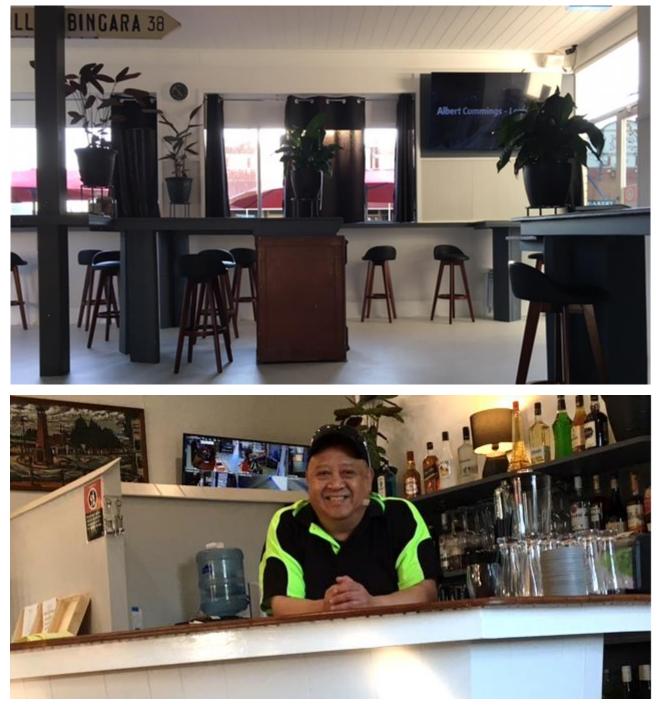


A visit to The Vic

Last weekend saw The Vic Barraba open again and this coming week The Vic will be open for more hours. (see advertisement on page 1) After years of standing idle this landmark Barraba building, with a wealth of history, is functioning again with a modern makeover. Planter boxes across the front and umbrellas on the veranda make the Vic stand out in our streetscape and says "come on in".



The owner of The Vic, John Moussa, has renovated the bar area in a smart black and white colour scheme whilst maintaining some history with the pianola to one side of the bar and the old Manilla/Bingara road sign nailed to the post.



With a smiling and friendly Randy behind the bar my time at The Vic with a G & T was well spent.

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History Rotes

Another busy week for some of our members with two days of gathering

to discuss disasters and how to deal with them in your museum. The first day's meeting was held in Manilla and the second rather shorter day was held in Barraba. Although some of the ideas were more appropriate for larger sites in bigger towns we have a few ideas to apply in Barraba.

Recently we have had several visitors looking for their family history with varied success - Finn is one that keeps on coming up - another Simshauser is coming this week and the Faddy family were also recent visitors.

A copy of the Weekend Australia Review sparked a bit of interest with an article on Grace Crowley this week. It seems that Barraba's population has either not known about her or has forgotten her. I have gathered a bit from 'Grace Crowley, being modern' to remind our residents.

Grace Crowley was born on 28th May, 1890, at the The Forest which in those days was the southern end of Cobbadah Station. Her grandfather, William Crowley, died in 1892, and Henry & Elizabeth Crowley with their five children moved north to the main station and lived at Tycolah for a few years until the estate was settled and Henry was able to purchase his own station.

They moved to Glen Riddle - a property run by this family for many years. Grace was always interested in art and showed her early talent by drawing on the old square kitchen water tank with some white chalk. Later she drew the animals around the farm including her father's prize bull. Her mother was so impressed with this picture that she sent it to a magazine early in the 1900's and it won a prize.

In 1905 both Crowley girls were sent to boarding school at MLC in Burwood for a year. Uncle Archibald Crowley had already moved to Sydney and suggested that Grace attend classes with the Julian Ashton Sydney Art School. Grace was not interested and returned to Glen Riddle to do housework.

Julian Ashton could see her talent but she was still not interested but did eventually return to Sydney branching out with other artists. She met her friend Anne Dangar in 1914 and it was 12 years before they went to France to learn cubism and abstract painting.

Grace came home to Australia in 1929 and split her time between her aging parents and living in Sydney. She was shown in some exhibitions and then of course there was the exhibition at the National Gallery in 2007.

Grace lived in Sydney and Mittagong in the last years of her life. She died in 1979 at her unit in Manly.



Grace Crowley in Paris about 1927



Landcare Grants Program Now Open for Community Groups to Plant Trees

• Apply for Grant Funding of \$5,000 to \$25,000 to Plant Trees

Applications close September 30, 2024

Open to Landcare groups and networks,

environmental community groups, Landcare organisations, local governments, NRM organisations, Traditional Owners and First Nations organisations

The Bupa Landcare Grants Program is open to a wide range of community groups and organisations to plant trees and shrubs that are endemic to the local area, including Landcare groups and networks, environmental groups such as 'Friends-of', Coastcare, WildCare, Dunecare, Bushcare, and Intrepid Landcare, local governments, NRM organisations and non-profits operating nationally, Traditional Owners and First Nations organisations, as well as State and Territory Landcare Organisations.

The Bupa Landcare Grants Program aims to enhance both environmental and health outcomes by improving the connectivity of native vegetation and creating new green spaces in urban areas.

For more information about the Bupa Landcare Project Funding go to: <u>https://landcareaustralia.org.au/bupa-</u> <u>healthy-cities-landcare-projects/</u>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

By all means vote - just don't ask questions

Under the guise of meet the candidates Barraba residents were treated, without cause, like unruly five year old's in a classroom.

Last night I sat through most of a town meeting to introduce about a dozen candidates for the election next week.

The candidates 'two minute introductions were useful and told us something of their views. Largely because we don't have a Ward system a lot of time was spent explaining how they were part of our community. One even told us that he came to a wedding in Manilla in 1991 and stayed in Barraba at the time. Credentials no one could argue.

The reason we couldn't argue was because an officious, totalitarian tyrant ran the meeting. He established draconian rules that precluded comments from the floor and required questions in writing the day before.

Consequently, after the introductory usefulness, he read anonymous "questions" that may or may not have been submitted. Certainly a few sounded like his own.

The answers were given and no follow-ups allowed from the floor. Very much like ratepayers voting 97% against the rate increase but getting it anyway. We, the people, don't matter.

I do not blame the candidates - they seemed honest, passionate and forthright. The moderator was the petty bureaucrat who broached no complaints from the floor when a question was inadequately answered.

I left half way through - it was a joke and if that man ever is allowed to moderate another meeting I can assure everyone that anyone within my sphere of influence will be urged not to attend.

I don't know who he was or where he came from but the disrespect he showed the Barraba residents who came to learn and question the candidates was incredible - straight out of 1984 with children-should-be-seen-and-not-heard comments like "We are better than this" when a man merely asked for better details to a totally inadequate answer.

It was very much a "sit down and do as you're told" attitude to grown-ups who came out to responsibly do their civic duty, identify candidates and get answers.

An example: Question (paraphrased): "The project was allocated \$350,000 three years ago and nothing has happened. Has the money been spent elsewhere?"

Answer (paraphrased): "I don't know but if it's allocated it can't be spent anywhere else - the money is probably still in the account."

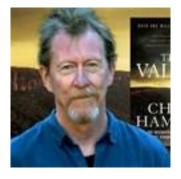
From the floor: "What about the interest?"

Immediately shut down with prejudice by the dictator-inchief.

So where does the interest go? Three years on 350k something like 50 thousand dollars interest. Where is it? Depending on the answer, delays could be very profitable for Council, while the buying power of the 350 reduces each year with inflation. But we weren't allowed to find out.

Barraba deserves better.

(Editor - Name and address supplied)



Chris Hammer – Author Event

Join bestselling author Chris Hammer as he discusses his highly anticipated new book, *The Valley*, with ABC Radio's Kristy Reading on

Tuesday October 1 2024, at Tamworth City Library.

The Valley promises to captivate readers with its gripping plot, complex characters, and a vividly depicted setting where intrigue lurks around every corner. This latest release continues Hammer's tradition of delivering immersive and emotionally resonant thrillers, following his internationally acclaimed works such as *Treasure & Dirt*, *The Tilt*, and *The Seven*.

Chris Hammer, a leading name in Australian crime fiction, gained widespread acclaim with his debut novel *Scrublands*, which became an instant #1 bestseller in 2018. The book earned the prestigious UK Crime Writers' Association John Creasey New Blood Dagger and received multiple award nominations both in Australia and the United States.

The event will begin with refreshments at 5:30 pm, followed by Chris Hammer's conversation with Kristy Reading at 6:00 pm. Attendees will then have the chance to participate in a Q&A session and purchase signed copies of Mr Hammer's books, courtesy of Collins Booksellers Tamworth.

Bookings for this free talk can be made via https://bit.ly/CNRLchris

Workplace R U OK? Not just one day a year

SafeWork NSW is urging all workers to help build a R U OK? culture every day, not just one day of the year, to help create psychologically safe and healthy workplaces.

Historically, many business owners have focussed on physical safety only in the workplace. However, employers and business owners have a legal responsibility to manage hazards and risks to workers' physical and mental health and safety in the workplace, under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

Managing psychosocial hazards such as high workloads, exposure to trauma, bullying, and harassment in the workplace, creates a healthier and happier environment that is more productive and benefits everyone.

Consultation with workers is the first step and a cornerstone of safety in any workplace. It can include regular discussions with workers about safety, establishing a Work Health and Safety Committee or the use of Health and Safety Representatives to help workers raise health and safety concerns and be consulted about risks.

Employers can consult with their workers about mental health by using the People at Work tool. It's a free, evidencebased survey to help identify and manage risks to psychological health at work.

SafeWork NSW has a wide range of resources and toolkits available at their Mental Health at Work website.

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 22nd 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



Here is an overview of outcomes from the Ordinary Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council

held on Tuesday 10th September 2024:

1 Two local groups have been given ongoing certainty after Councillors tonight agreed to negotiate new licences to continue to use the Council-managed land they operate on. The Tamworth Regional Astronomy Club located within Victoria Park in East Tamworth and the Tamworth Radio Control Car Club located on Back Kootingal Road, Nemingha will both be offered three-year renewals.

2 Proposed changes to Council's General Policy Register will go on public exhibition for 28 days to allow the community to give feedback. Ten changes to the register have been identified in a recent review to ensure the policies remain relevant and appropriate. A report based on feedback received will then be presented to the newly elected Council for their consideration later this year.

3 At tonight's meeting, Councillors received the minutes from the latest Tamworth Region Inclusive Culture Advisory Committee (TRICAC) session. One key discussion centred around the 'Inclusion Guidelines for Public Aquatic Facilities,' a document from Welcoming Cities. These guidelines are considered crucial to the design and delivery of the new aquatic centre. Key points include the importance of adult swimming lessons, appropriate signage to cater for non-English speakers and well supported public transport options. Additionally, it was noted that the second stage of the Women, Life, Freedom Mural is scheduled for completion ahead of the Fiesta La Peel event in October



How long has it been since you last serviced your evaporative air conditioner?

With warmer months on the way, now's the perfect time

to book a service to keep it running efficiently and save water sustainably!

Did you know Tamworth Regional Council offers rebates for servicing and maintaining your evaporative air conditioner—up to twice a year?

Check your eligibility and learn more at: https://bit.ly/TRCwaterrebates

BARRABA TENNIS CLUB – summer sport is starting

soon!

Barraba Town and District Tennis Club, with the newly resurfaced courts, has a busy program coming up in October.

1). BARRABA TENNIS CAMP for juniors

Now's your chance to learn tennis from a fully qualified professional coach! For young people aged 4 to 16, coaching will be held on the Barraba Courts during the next school holidays.

Dates: 8 – 11 October 2024 (4 days), 9am to 12pm.
Cost: \$45/day or \$140 for four days. Family discounts available and Active Kids Vouchers accepted.
Contact: Coach Jarrod Campbell 0421 287 004.

2). Barraba Town and District Tennis Club Annual General

Meeting. This will be held at 6pm on Tuesday 15 October 2024 at the Barraba Bowling Club.

Refreshments will be provided – we would like all current and perspective Members to attend.

More information over the coming weeks.

3). 2024 TUESDAY NIGHT LIGHT COMPETITION – starting Tuesday 22 October Nominations are now been taken for our regular Term Four competition. To put your name

down – contact Heath White 0427 070 374, or the Tennis Club Facebook page.

More information in coming weeks.





TEE OFF 9 Hole 4 person Ambrose Sunday 22nd Sept. 1.00pm \$25 pp inc Hi tea.



TEE JFF

FOR BREAST CANCER TRIALS

Golf Notes

A good field of 25 players contested an Individual Stableford for a club trophy on

Sunday. The winner with 38 points was Mandy Koopman from runner up Ally Smith on 35 points. Balls went to Paul Grigg 32, Neil Smith 32, Kerrie Smith 32, Kevin Kelaher 32, Josh Austin 32, Stacey Sedgwick 32 and Kieran Darlington also on 32. NTPs went to Paul Grigg 3rd, Kev Kelaher 12th and Shane Middlemiss on the 18th.

In one singles matchplay game Ally Smith was too strong for Tom Mellor whilst in fourball matchplay Mandy Koopman and Stacy Sedgwick defeated Josh Austin and Jack Boyd 3 and 1.

Next Sunday 22nd Sept is our annual 4 person Ambrose Breast Cancer Charity Day. Be great to see a big turnout for what is always a fun social day. Bar opens at 12 noon for a 1 pm hit off

Sunday the 29th Sept is a 4BBB V Par for John Hartley and Tim Bucknell's trophy.



BARRABA RACES SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21ST 2024

Annual Barraba Races will be held this Saturday 21st September 2024 at the Barraba Racecourse. Gates open at 11.00am. There will be a six-race programme with the first race commencing at approximately 1.30pm. Strong fields are assured with sixty-five nominations received, with a full field of ten starters for the Barraba and District Cattle Breeders' Cup.

Admission prices are \$10.00 per adult. Pensioners \$5.00 and children under 18 years free. There will be bookmakers on course betting on local races as well as Sydney races & Interstate races. Barraba Lions Club will provide a BBQ on race day, Polkadot coffee will be on course, and a bar will operate during the races.

Fashions in the Field will be judged during the day, best dressed Lady, Man, Colt, Filly & Best Hat/Fascinator on course with the winners in each category to be announced in the saddling enclosure between the 4th & 5th race.

A courtesy bus service will be running on race morning leaving form the Upper Horton Sports Club at 11.00am, then Cobbadah at 11.20am. A bus will also leave from "Rocky Glen" (cnr McIntyre Rd & Gulf Creek Rd) and travel via the McIntyre Road to Barraba picking up along the way if needed. Bookings are required for travel from these bus routes please contact Tony Frost Ph: 0488 514 749 or Peter Spencer Ph:0428 821 381 to confirm your booking numbers. A bus service will also pick up from the various stops in the main street starting at the Caravan Park from 11.30am.

A jumping castle with free entry will be on course to entertain the children on race day, parents are requested to accompany their children at the jumping castle area.

Please come along for an enjoyable day of Horse Racing and support this event in your community.



NATURE WALK exploring the bingara waterfall

WHEN: 8am Sat 28th September 2024 WHERE: Meet the Bird Route just west of The Living Classroom, Narrabri Road WHAT: Meander along the creek through endangered semi-evergreen vine thicket up to the waterfall which is the tongue of a lava flow BYO: snack, drink, hat, sturdy shoes



MORE INFO: gwydir.ark@gmail.com/0438 353 682



Rod Bonner Your local Plumber, Drainer, Gasfitter and Handyman Lic No. L8791 <u>plumberdrainer@gmail.com</u> Text is best 0447 052 140







Commonwealth Home Support Program

As you get older, everyday tasks can become more difficult. Asking for help doesn't mean losing your independence or moving out of home. The Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) helps senior Australians access entry-level support services to live independently and safely at home. CHSP works with you to maintain your independence rather than doing things for you.

Gwydir Shire Council runs a CHSP service in Bingara, Delungra and Warialda and our staff co-ordinate a range of activities and services including:

• Transport Bookings - available to all ages for medical appointments

- Aged Care Assessment Team referrals
- Information for Vital Call
- Meals on Wheels
- Department of Veteran's Affairs transport claims
- Social Activities
- Social Support and Outings

Eligibility for this program is based on your support needs and age. If you're having trouble with everyday tasks and feel that a little support could improve your health and wellbeing, CHSP could be right for you.

To be eligible for this program, you must be aged:

• 65 years or older (50 years or older for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people), or

• 50 years or older and on a low income, homeless, or at risk of being homeless

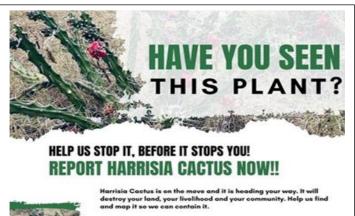
You can check your eligibility and apply online for a face-toface assessment to find out what services you could receive based on your needs. To apply for an online assessment, please visit

https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/assessment/apply-online For more information, please contact your local CHSP Office: Bingara CHSP Jan Kane 38 Maitland Street Bingara NSW 2404 02 6724 1948 or 0407 140 651



AEC WEBSITE – Latest count as at 10.57am Monday 16 September 2024

Grou	o ATL/Candidate	Group/Party/IND	FP Votes	Quota Ratio	% Formal Votes
А	Group Votes	ALP	2,325	1.38	13.83%
В	Group Votes	GRN	1,292	0.77	7.68%
	Ungrouped				
	COATES Judy	IND	633	0.38	3.76%
	IMPEY Charles	IND	810	0.48	4.82%
	NORTH Brendon		1,002	0.6	5.96%
	BUDD Jeffrey		972	0.58	5.78%
	WEBB Russell	IND	1,168	0.69	6.95%
	RODDA Mark	IND	4,597	2.73	27.34%
	TAIT Ray	IND	345	0.21	2.05%
	FENN Marie	IND	299	0.18	1.78%
	SHARPHAM Matt	IND	870	0.52	5.17%
	GILLETT Daniel	IND	262	0.16	1.56%
	MEYER Greig	IND	169	0.1	1.00%
	SUTHERLAND Marc	IND	898	0.53	5.34%
	WILLIAMSON Heidi		431	0.26	2.56%
	BURKE Bede		744	0.44	4.42%
Total Formal Votes Counted		16,817		100%	
Total Informal/Other Votes		S	4,435		20.87%
Progressive Total Votes			21,252		



Harrisia Cactus poses a significant challenge due to its prolific seed production, with each fruit capable of yielding up to 1000 viable seeds. It fruits continuously throughout all seasons, and its seeds are dispersed widely by birds and feral animals. This makes effective containment and eradication particularly challenging.

We urge all community members who have identified Harrisia Coctus on their properties, or are aware of its presence in the wild, to promptly report it. Your involvement is crucial to the success of our program.

Please reach out to Debi Bancroft at the Northern Slopes Landcare Association or your local Biosecurity Officer for assistance and advice.

Together, we can make a substantial impact in managing Harrisia Cactus and safeguarding our environment for the future.

Debi Bancroft - Harrisia Cactus Project Officer forthern Slopes Landcare Association n partnership with Local Land Services

NSW



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS - Tamworth Regional Council preliminary results

Twenty four candidates stood to elected to the Tamworth Regional Council for the next four years; there are nine positions to be filled. After voting closed at 6pm on Saturday, officials started counting the votes. The Australian Electoral Commission, who conduct the election, publishes the results of the ongoing count on their website; the table above was the count at 10.57am on Monday 16 September. The final result will not be known until the end of September, after all postal votes are in, and the preferences distributed.

From these figures, it is clear that two of the nine future Tamworth Councillors have been elected on the voters' first preference: **Mark Rodda** and **Stephen Mears** (the leader of the Labor group). The rest are too close to call, as they will change with the preference distribution.

Letters to the Editor

At *Barraba Community News* we welcome 'Letters to the Editor' expressing your opinion on any topic.

It is important to ensure the opinions expressed are not discriminatory or offensive. The Editor reserves to right to use judgement to edit or decline to print should a letter not meet editorial standards.

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