

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 16th October 2024







Get ready for a free men's night of bush poetry, belly laughs, and a BBQ that'll hit the spot. With a friendly moustache competition for best natural, best attempt and most creative moustache's. Awesomes prizes to be won!

FRIDAY NIGHT 29 NOVEMBER 2024 FROM 6:00PM AT THE PLAYHOUSE HOTEL, BARRABA

Get in Touch kiara@nsla.net.au 0498 802 370



Bookings essential.

Scan the QR code, or follow the link to book your spot http://tix.yt/blokes-and-jokes-movember-edition













Barraba Cancer Patients Fund Raising Group

kindly supported by Barraba Rotary Club

GARDEN RAMBLE

\$5 per garden or \$30 for all Please see insert for list of the 7 gardens NB. CASH only



The Vic



Imported and craft beer, wine, cocktails
Finger Food and Snacks
Opening hours Wednesday to Sunday 11am-9pm
Cnr Queen and Alice Street Barraba.
Phone 02 67825375

GARDEN RAMBLE 2024

BARRABA CANCER PATIENTS FUND RAISING GROUP INC. KINDLY SUPPORTED BY BARRABA ROTARY CLUB

SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER 2024, 10AM - 4PM

36 Alice Street: David and Helen Kelly. The garden is considered

to be a small town plot featuring shady trees such as Prunus, Gleditsia, Crab Apples and Pistacia trees. Garden beds are edged with Sedum, Box, Liriope and Grasses. It is underplanted with Salvias and Aspidistra. The Iceberg Roses, both Standard and Bush are a feature when in flower. The firepit serves as a great outdoor recreation area. Access to the back garden is by a gravel driveway.



'Andy's Guest House', 98 Queen Street: Andy and Gerda. The

entrance to the garden features two Forest Pansies, Weeping Elm, two native Hibiscus, with a variety of ground covers. Lavender graces one side of the entrance, Nandina Domestica the other. Through the gate, takes you past a raised herb garden and fish pond, leading into an open garden space, featuring Narrow-leafed Gum, Walnut, Olive, Pecan and Oak trees. The space, a popular venue for outdoor functions, is shared by Gerda, to the right, and Andy and Miro, to the left. The area features shrubs and flowers, a Fairy Garden under the Olive tree, pizza oven and fire pit. Beyond is Gerda's weaving shed and vegetable garden, to the right, and at the back

is Gerda's weaving shed and vegetable garden, to the right, and at the back left, surrounding the chook house, is a fine collection of Eremophila.



'Clarendon', 267 Jump Up Road: Sinclair and Karen. Hughson. Just out of town, you are welcomed into the garden by established trees, a rock garden with Daisies, Standard Roses and other plants. Plenty of pots and treasures are scattered around. A stall of rustic homemade metal garden art will be on display and for sale to purchase. A rest room is available at the back of the home.

'Kuvera', 19 O'Regan Lane:

Andrea and Chris Jeffery. Andrea purchased the property in 2005, when there were a couple of roses and some shrubs. As time passed the lawn was developed and expanded, while one garden bed turned into two, and now five! A fig tree and a peach tree existed in the orchard with apricot trees, nectarines, apple, orange, mandarin, pear, plum, olive, mulberry, cherry and last month a plumcot being planted. Chinese Elm have been planted out the front along the road. Garden boarders are rocks sourced from our properties. The garden is not planned in any way, just put it in and if



it grows, great, if not then it was not meant to be there. There is old machinery scattered through the garden, water is from the bore on the property. A model railway is Chris' domain, it is an amazing room with detailed scenery and HO Scale trains. A must see on the day! Chris is a history buff and has a mini museum, displaying many old tools and things from yesteryear that will also be open on the day. Refreshments are available too, from 'Polkadot' coffee van.

'Coolabah', 2249 Burindi Road, Bill and Dot Hannaford.

The garden started from scratch. It would be described as a semi-formal, with rustic elements. Clipped hedges provide different areas and Dianella Lomandra's provide a less formal feel. Roses, Lavender, Iris ground covers, Succulents and Perennials provide colour and interest throughout the year. Trees and shrubs are grown throughout the garden – Crepe Myrtle, Ornamental Pear, Chinese Elm, and Escallonias, to name a few. Unfortunately, due to drought and a recent severe storm, some of these are only a few years old.





"Cath Henry Gardens', 53 Henry Street: Helen Hiscock. The late Ron & Helen have been gardening for around 69 years, during which they have entered their beloved garden in local competitions and often received prizes. Several wedding photographs have been taken in the beautiful setting over the years. The passing on of Ron recently, has Helen at 81 years of age, keeping active in the garden, as well as sharing her knowledge with anyone who has an interest in gardening. You will find Helen in the garden in the early morning and late afternoon, watering and nurturing all of her colourful plants. If you happen to drive past, give a wave to Helen, or if you are after gardening advise, she is than have more happy gardening

'Aberlady': 173 Banoon Homestead Rd, Will and Stacey Sedgwick. Our rambling rural garden has evolved over the 20ish years we have been living here. Lucky enough to have had the previous occupants plant a beautiful English Oak, some Manchurian Pears, Japanese Elms and other trees, as well as establishing some garden beds. The garden has morphed with the everchanging climate, along with expanding over the years — the fences have been moved outwards! A mixture of Perennials, Roses and Shrub thickets exists, which the small birds love. Larger birds of course love the medium and larger trees. Hedges include English and Japanese Buxus, Abelia, White Japonica and Mays. There are a few rarer, old fashioned specimen plants scattered throughout the garden. Refreshments and a restroom are available.



Funds raised on the day will be donated onto some of the Australian Cancer related and Cancer research Organisations. Please note that there are no EFTPOS facilities at any of the gardens. Bottled water will be available at all gardens for a gold coin donation.



BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

Phone 67821379

For the information of members and guests.

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY 17th October

Bingo from 6pm

FRIDAY 18th October

BACK TO THE BUSH RAFFLES Tickets on sale from 5.30pm MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1200

SATURDAY 19TH October

BACK TO THE BUSH FESTIVAL COURTESY CAR FROM 5pm

SUNDAY 20th October

ANGLER CLUB RAFFLES

Raffles on sale from 12pm, drawn 1.30pm

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1700

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 Catholic Women's Organisation

is holding a street stall this Friday, 18th October commencing at 9 am. There will be lots of baked goods as well as plants and books. Come along and grab a bargain!

Senior Citizens' Annual General Meeting



Will be held on Friday 25th October 2024 at 1pm at Seniors Centre, 50 Fitzroy Street. All financial members are urged to attend. Nomination forms for office bearers are available at the Centre, and close at 3pm on the 18th October

Honour local achievers on Australia Day 2025

Who are the people who add something special to your community and make a positive difference? It's now time to give them the recognition they deserve by nominating them for a local Australia Day award.

Tamworth Regional Council is calling for nominations for Australia Day Awards at Tamworth, Manilla, Barraba and Nundle. The awards recognise individuals and groups who make an outstanding contribution to their community.

Tamworth Regional Council's Lisa Hannaford encourages residents to nominate community members who go above and beyond to help others. "The Awards are a great way of recognising the efforts of individuals or groups making a real difference in our community," she said. "Exceptional things can be achieved by everyday people – and this is one small way to acknowledge what they achieve."

Barraba, Manilla, Nundle and Tamworth will host Australia Day celebrations coordinated by Council and local Australia Day committees with awards presented at these events to recognise the achievements. Barraba is seeking nominations in the categories of Citizen of the Year, Frank Darlington Young Citizen of the Year (for Barraba district residents aged 23 years and under) and Community Event of the Year.

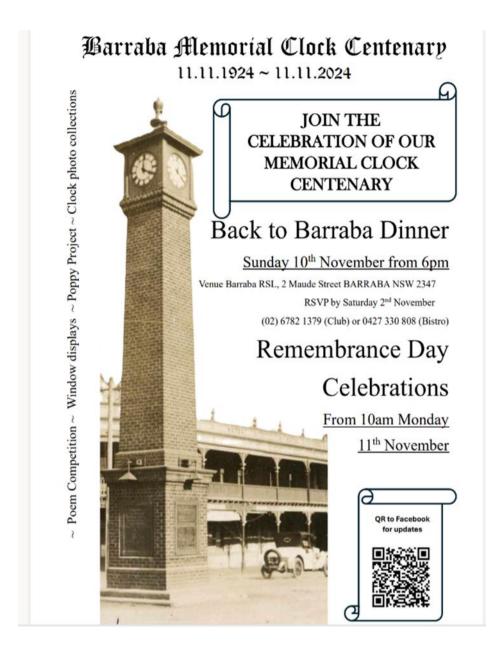
Manilla will award a Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year (20 years and under), Community Event of the Year and Achiever of the Year.

The people of Nundle and district have a refreshed awards program and are invited to nominate for the 2024 Community Recognition Award. It is open to individuals, students, groups or organisations that have made significant contributions academically, contributed to their school or community in one or more impactful ways, achieved consistent outstanding results in sport either in the past year or over several years and/or championing environmental causes.

Tamworth presents awards for Citizen of the Year and the George Nethery Medal to a person aged over 25 years of age, Young Citizen of the Year and the John Green Scholarship for a person aged 17-25 years and the Mitchell Brady Encouragement Award to a student aged 16 and under.

Nomination forms for each community (along with terms and conditions for the awards) can be found on Council's website http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/2025-australia-day-awards and offices in Barraba, Manilla and Nundle.

Nominations close on Thursday 21 November, 2024. Awards will be presented as part of local Australia Day celebrations around the region on January 26, 2025.





History Notes

The busy week at the Historical Society is almost over and members have managed to cope. There were not a lot of stalls at the market on Saturday although there

was a continual stream of people who came to buy, chat and listen to the one man band doing a great job. Thank you, Martin.

It has been pointed out that I missed an earthquake last week- there was another one in 2012. Perhaps someone would like to provide a few details about that tremor as I don't remember it and may have been away from Barraba at that time.

The Centenary of our Clock is less than a month away and preparations are warming up. The request for poetry for the poetry competition reminded me of the Barraba Jiffy Bag Poets. The quality of their poetry and prose published in a few volumes was very well received by the Barraba residents.

Sadly, there are only two of the original authors left so perhaps it is time for the younger generation to show their talent and contribute to the Clock Competition or

at least have a go. There are two rather long poems written about the construction of the cattle shed at the showground and another about the golf ladies some time ago. Both of these works make very easy reading and provide entertainment especially for those who remember the people mentioned.

If someone needs a topic for the clock perhaps something about a past Barraba resident searching for the plaque on the clock some twenty years ago. There is no plaque but this resident made an exhaustive search walking around and around the clock tower as she was sure it must have had a plaque when it was opened.

Finally, one of our members has found the Ballad of Kennedy's Pigs and is rather amused at this well written story about someone's pigs getting into a vegetable garden at Cobbadah and the panic from both the pig owners and the gardener getting them out. It will have to be included in the reprint of the Cobbadah Book when we get it done.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In reply to Judy Coates letter in the Community News.

I would like to acknowledge Judy's interest in the Barraba community during her time on the Tamworth Regional Council. I base my comments on the interest she showed in the Barraba Community, as I saw it in general, and in particular her assistance with several needs in the local Nandewar Historical Museum. Judy was instrumental in assisting us with several projects and she showed interest in obtaining needed items. I thank her for her assistance and support it was much appreciated.

Lesley Grigg

Barraba Medical Centre Closure

Please note the Medical Centre will be closed from Thursday 17 October 2.00pm to Monday 21 October 11.00am.

If you require urgent medical attention during this time please phone the Barraba Hospital on 67822500 or the Ambulance service on 000.

Management Barraba Medical Centre.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Hon Aileen MacDonald today issued a reminder that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Ms MacDonald said this is an important time to support the National Breast Cancer Foundation because breast cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia. with nine people losing their lives to the disease every day.

"The aim of Breast Cancer Awareness Month is to shine a light on the devastating impact breast cancer has on thousands of Australians each day," Ms MacDonald said.

"The statistics are alarming. Every year more than 21,000 people in Australia, including around 200 men, will be diagnosed with breast cancer," she said. "It saddens me that every year more than 3,300 people in Australia, including 33 men, will die from breast cancer."

Ms MacDonald urged everyone to get checked, because early intervention means breast cancer that is contained within the breast is now largely treatable. "If you experience any symptoms such as lumps, dimples, discharge or discolouration, head to your doctor for further examination," she said. For further information Ms MacDonald said visit the National Breast Cancer Foundation website: Breast Cancer Awareness Month - National Breast **Cancer Foundation**



At the Queen Street Mall, 114 Queen Street and will be leaving at the end of the week. Book your free breast screen by calling 132050 or book online at

https://book.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au #bsnswhne



The New England Garden Festival is just over 3 weeks away and all the plans are coming together well. With close to 100 market stalls there will be something for

everyone from plants, hats, gloves, garden tools, stunning handmade garden ornaments plus of course coffee and lots of food choices.

Special guest Costa Georgiadis, gardening and TV guru will start the Garden Festival weekend with a presentation at the Ex Services Club on Friday evening. Tickets are \$5 and can be bought online or at the door. Come along and listen to his gardening gems.

Entertainers, the Memphis Movers will be Rovin' and Movin' throughout the Festival in their mini vehicles, try not to miss their mini Finale Parade, balloons will be twisted and turned to create fun creatures, Bill & Ben the Flower Pot men make a welcomed return, along and the slightly inappropriate gardening ladies who are sure to make you laugh.

8 Open Gardens will provide hours of enjoyment & inspiration for gardeners, opening each day at 9.30am closing at 5pm on Sat and 2pm on Sunday. Maps, tickets and information are on our website negf.com.au \$5 entry to each garden although 2, only accessible by bus, are \$8pp each.

Special attractions of Lawn Mower Racing Demonstrations and the BackTrack Dog High Jump are great additions. Both so different but guaranteed to be talking points. Festival Music will be a showcase of the rich talent evident in all the schools in Armidale and special thanks to Leanne Roobol and Sally Spillane for their inclusive coordination. Workshops form the basis of our aim to educate gardeners and an extensive breadth of choice and topics are available.

The New England Garden Trail commences on Thursday 31st October in Walcha where 3 private, cool climate, country gardens are open to the public from 9am till 2pm, and after the gardens close, visitors are encouraged to explore the local town and what makes each one so special. The following day, Friday 1st November, the Trail continues onto Uralla with 3 open gardens from 9-2 and exploring the town in the afternoon. Then onto Armidale for the Festival weekend and what a weekend that will be! Guyra is the focus of the Garden Trail on Monday, then on to Glen Innes on Tuesday 5th Nov for Melbourne Cup celebrations and 3 beautiful gardens to visit, and finishing in Tenterfield on Wed 6th Nov.

New England Garden Festival Armidale Racecourse 2nd + 3rd November, 2024 newegf@gmail.com 0431711100

Should you be organizing a bus load of travellers, please get in touch with the committee.

Grant Ready Workshop - Small Business Month

Join the Grants for Gold Seminar presented by Sarah Holder, Founder and Director of Active Admin & Business Solutions. Sarah will share her expertise in helping businesses become "Grant Ready" and guide you through the grant application process.



Event Details:

Venue: Tamworth Community Centre **Address**: 3 Darling St, Tamworth NSW 2340

Date: Tuesday, 15th October 2024

Time: Arrival from 7:00am for a 7:30am start. The

workshop will conclude at 9:30am.

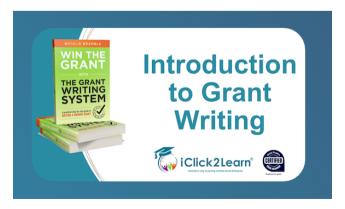
Tickets: \$50

For more information and to register, please visit: Grant

Ready Workshop.

Free Online Grant Writing Course

Additionally, a free online **Introduction to Grant Writing Course** is available to help you master the basics of successful grant applications. Access the course here: Introduction to Grant Writing Course.



Better Oils, better heart health

As part of ongoing efforts to increase awareness of healthy living choices, Tamworth Regional Council has launched the Better Oils program, a proactive initiative which focuses on encouraging local food businesses to switch to a healthier oil option by June 30 2025. The program aligns with two key Council objectives; Improve the health outcomes for all residents and; Promote and increase awareness of healthy living.

Tamworth

The Better Oils program aims to decrease residents' consumption of excessive saturated and trans fats when dining out, by encouraging local food businesses to prepare food using healthier cooking oils. This initiative is an important step toward reducing heart disease rates in the Tamworth region.

Health experts warn of the significant impact that dietary fats and oils have on the risk of developing heart disease. High consumption of saturated and trans fats is a leading contributor to cardiovascular issues, raising blood cholesterol levels and contributing to atherosclerosis.

Tamworth Regional Council Director of Liveable Communities, Gina Vereker highlighted the long-term goal of Council to decrease heart disease risk within the community.

"We have been proactive in promoting heart health through the introduction of smoke-free policies in the CBD and enhancing public spaces to encourage more pedestrian and physical activity. The Better Oils program is yet another opportunity for us to advocate for healthier choices and reduce heart disease risk in the community," Ms Vereker said. Local food businesses are encouraged to participate and can register their interest by emailing trc@tamworth.nsw.gov.au. Participants who meet the program criteria will go into the draw to win one of three free Primary Food Business Inspections for the 25/26 financial year. Participating businesses will display a Better Oils support sticker at their place of business.

Sumit Barman from Burger Urge Tamworth said the team is excited to register as part of the program. "We believe that using better oil leads to a better life and a better burger. We are looking forward to seeing how this change will lead to better health outcomes for our customers and enhance our menu" he said.

The program began on Tuesday 1 October 2024. For more information about the Better Oils program, please visit Public Health | Tamworth Regional Council (nsw.gov.au)

TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL – WHO WILL BE OUR MAYOR FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS?

In our local Council, the Mayor is not elected by popular vote, but by a vote of the nine new Councillors at their first meeting. It is understood that two Councillors have nominated — Mark Rodda and previous Mayor, Russell Webb. The first Meeting is Tuesday night 15 October.

SOME DOMESTIC WISDOM!

I was reading the other day how a dad gave his son \$100 for reading a book. It started his son on a love of books, he doesn't give 100 anymore because there is no need. His dad on reflection said I don't regret it at all.

Another story that's going around is of a kid who wouldn't do his homework.

"A boy had developed a reluctance in doing the homework that he had been set and it was proving to be very frustrating for his teacher and parents. The teacher suggested to the father of the boy to perhaps bribe him by offering him \$2 when he finished the homework he was set. Unfortunately, this did not prompt the boy to change his ways, then suddenly the teacher found that the homework was being completed well and on time.

The teacher and the father of the boy had developed a good friendship, and they were having a drink at the local hotel the teacher was anxious to know what had happened to result in the homework being produced. The father of the boy smiled and said, "My wife and I made a deal with our son that each time he did NOT do his homework we will give his sister \$2, it has obviously worked out so well!" The teacher to say the least was astonished with this wise strategy.

Jesus of Nazareth knew well the complexity of the human condition and it prompted him to say; "the children of this world are wiser than the children of the light." (Luke Chapter 16, verse 8)

If only the world at large could work out ways of finding peace among nations, and instead of countries invading other countries would it not be better to use God given gifts of technology and inventions to improve the country they already have. Unfortunately, however many people particularly in Africa immigrating out of their countries because they're finding the climate too difficult.

May God inspire political leaders to find a way of peace to reject revenge and to restore neighbouring countries rather than destroy them.

Fr John Curran Manilla/Barraba

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

Barraba 1st Sunday of the month, Saturday evening Mass 6pm All other Sundays 9am

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am
Woodsreef service 2nd Sunday of the month,
11:30am

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 20th October 2024 at Barraba Return to 10:45am for all services. All Welcome.

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

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They say 40 is the new 30 and 50 is the new 40.

All I know is the older I get, the more 9PM is the new midnight.



Barraba Men's Shed Annual Report for 2023/2024.

From Bryan Barrass
The year of 2023/2024 witnessed the deaths of two members, namely

Tony Spencer & Mark Scarlett.

On the demise of Tony, David was inaugurated as both Secretary, and a signatory for the bank accounts and visa card.

The Barraba Central School Primary Department sent students to work at the Shed on projects for the school. The first project was to make bird boxes, which were later placed and attached by the Shed members at the school. The Shed also sponsored the Primary Department to the tune of \$500.00.

The Preschool requested the Shed to make fertilizer barrels and a noughts and crosses board.

During the year the Shed was visited by a team of Mental Health workers who ran a four-week course on Mental Health at Richardson House.

The Shed updated the required information with Fair Trading and Tim became the Public Officer.

Christmas saw the Shed members and guests visit the RSL to have a Christmas get together and lunch, which was enjoyed by all and well catered for by the RSL.

Next on the list of things to do was to buy Hi-Vis shirts, which had to be worn by members taking active part in the Workshop area.

The Regional Australia Bank from its CPP programme gave us a generous donation.

Phil Denyer, a local mechanic, was sponsored by the Shed in The Shit Box Rally.

An extraordinary meeting was called to advise a member on his attitude and behaviour.

It was decided that the recycling money was to be put into a special account in order to pay for the Christmas meal and any gifts.

Members of the Shed who work with the school students have to hold a Working with Children certificate. This is to comply with the law and is not debatable. Also, the children working in the workshop have to wear Hi-Vis.

The second half of the year has seen a problem, as raised by the ATO, in our definition of being a Charity or a Not-for-Profit Organisation. The Treasurer and the Shed bookkeeper, who is our advisor on all money matters, have spent a lot of energy trying to sort out this problem. It now appears that we will have to pay income tax. The executive of the Shed had meetings with Andrea Jeffery, our bookkeeper, to be advised on the ATO problem.

The ANZAC wreath made by Tim Harfield's mother was laid by Tim and David. Many thanks for doing that job.

Lastly, we unfortunately have had to raise the annual membership fee from \$35.00 to \$45.00 because of rising costs.

This concludes the Annual Report of the Barraba Men's Shed.

Drivers' feedback steers draft Tamworth parking planFeedback from drivers and local residents has steered the creation of a new draft Tamworth Regional Parking Strategy which is now on public exhibition with the aim of getting more input from the community.

Tamworth Regional Council senior transport engineer, Nicholas Smith, said the Tamworth Regional Parking Strategy will add to the forward looking car parking planning which formed the first strategy in 2020. "Our region is steadily growing and it's important we evolve how we manage our parking network to align with how drivers are moving around and where they are needing a parking space," he said. "The draft strategy is guided by a survey we did last year asking drivers and local residents whether the available parking was meeting their needs.

Councillors have also been involved in discussions and guided what the actions the strategy should include. This strategy proposes some major parking changes – with the first 13 of those to be in place before the end of this year," he said. "It's all about overcoming the frustrations the community has told us about. Firstly, the biggest change – a win for anyone working in the CBD - is to remove parking meters from all off-street parking areas in the Tamworth CBD. Secondly, with the aim of increasing availability of parking for shorter stays in the CBD we will be changing twohour parking in the Town Hall Car Park to three hours and three-hour parking in the Tamworth Community Centre Car Park will become all-day parking. Thirdly, to reduce the high number of drivers who overstay in timed parking areas, we are embracing new technology with licence plate recognition cameras mounted on vehicles to monitor timed parking more efficiently. And fourthly, to increase the turnover of parking spots in Peel Street and reduce traffic congestion from drivers going around the CBD, we will introduce paid meter parking on Peel Street between White Street and Bourke Street."

All community members are encouraged to go our <u>Have Your Say page</u> to read the strategy and understand how the proposed actions will help reduce current parking pain points. After the public exhibition ends, all feedback received will be included in a report to be presented to the incoming Councillors for their consideration in deciding whether to endorse the strategy.



To the property owner

We wish to advise that there will be a fireworks display as part of the Back to the Bush Auto Festival

Location – Barraba RSL and Rec Club 2 Maude St Barraba NSW 2347

Date - Saturday 19th October 2024

Time - approx. 9.30pm

Firing time is subject to change due to a number of contributing factors such as inclement weather, risk assessment, event schedule etc. We will endeavour to conduct the display within half an hour of the proposed time.

If you are the owner of any animals, pets and/or livestock that you think may be affected, this notice is especially important to you as you can take measures in preparation for the event to keep your pets/livestock as safe as possible.

You can find some great information from the RSPCA website.

This display is Safework NSW approved and all relevant authorities have been notified.

Regards

Back to the Bush Auto Festival Team



Phone 02 67 821 107



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Golf Notes

Congratulations to Firmen Allan who is the 2024 Single Matchplay Champion. In an exciting final today, he defeated defending champion Ally Smith at the 19th hole.

In fourball matchplay Peter Summerell and Mike Artis defeated Mandy Koopman and Stacey Sedgwick 1 up at the 18th in another close game. They will now play the winners between Firmen Allan and Jesse Phillips and Dan Lott and Kieran Darlington.

On Friday we had the summer Twilight Chicken warm up with Graham Bowman winning the chook with 20 points whilst balls went to Helen Kelly 19, Liam Johnston 19 and Campbell Bond 18 points. There have been some teams trading in and out players. Whoever thought golf could be so brutal. Captain Ian has sent out the changes that he knows but teams may take a couple of weeks to settle down.

Next Saturday we have 8 players going to Walcha for their Mixed Open and 13 contesting the Walcha Men's Open on Sunday.

TENNIS NEWS



A big thank you to Jarrod Campbell and his team for a great tennis camp for the children over the past 4 days. Congratulations to Chelsea for winning the overall coaches award. Hopefully Jarrod will be running a coaching clinic one day a week after school this coming term.

Hope to see everyone at the AGM this coming Tuesday the 15th of October at the Barraba Bowling Club.



NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN FOR THE TERM 4 TUESDAY NIGHT LIGHT TENNIS COMPETITION.
STARTING ON TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER

PLEASE CONTACT HEATH WHITE (0427 070 374) OR THE FACEBOOK PAGE TO PUT YOUR NAME DOWN



From The Conversation

The dangers of voice cloning and how to combat it.

Leo S.F. Lin, Senior Lecturer in Policing Studies, Charles Sturt University

Duane Aslet, Senior Lecturer in Policing Studies, Charles Sturt University

Geberew Tulu Mekonnen, Lecturer, School of Policing Studies, Charles Sturt University

Mladen Zecevic, Lecturer at the School of Policing Studies, Charles Sturt University



The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) has brought both benefits and risk. One concerning trend is the misuse of voice cloning. In seconds, scammers can clone a voice and trick people into thinking a friend or a family member urgently needs money.

News outlets, including CNN, warn these types of scams have the potential to impact millions of people. As technology makes it easier for criminals to invade our personal spaces, staying cautious about its use is more important than ever.

What is voice cloning?

The rise of AI has created possibilities for image, text, voice generation and machine learning. While AI offers many benefits, it also provides fraudsters new methods to exploit individuals for money. You may have heard of "deepfakes," where AI is used to create fake images, videos and even audio, often involving celebrities or politicians.

Voice cloning, a type of deepfake technology, creates a digital replica of a person's voice by capturing their speech patterns, accent and breathing from brief audio samples. Once the speech pattern is captured, an AI voice generator

can convert text input into highly realistic speech resembling the targeted person's voice.

With advancing technology, voice cloning can be accomplished with just a three-second audio sample. While a simple phrase like "hello, is anyone there?" can lead to a voice cloning scam, a longer conversation helps scammers capture more vocal details. It is therefore best to keep calls brief until you are sure of the caller's identity. Voice cloning has valuable applications in entertainment and health care – enabling remote voice work for artists (even posthumously) and assisting people with speech disabilities. However, it raises serious privacy and security concerns, underscoring the need for safeguards.

How it's being exploited by criminals

Cybercriminals exploit voice cloning technology to impersonate celebrities, authorities or ordinary people for fraud. They create urgency, gain the victim's trust and request money via gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency.

The process begins by collecting audio samples from sources like YouTube and TikTok. Next, the technology analyses the audio to generate new recordings. Once the voice is cloned, it can be used in deceptive communications, often accompanied by spoofing Caller ID to appear trustworthy. Many voice cloning scam cases have made headlines.

For example, criminals cloned the voice of a company director in the United Arab Emirates to orchestrate a \$A51 million heist. A businessman in Mumbai fell victim to a voice cloning scam involving a fake call from the Indian Embassy in Dubai.

In Australia recently, scammers employed a voice clone of Queensland Premier Steven Miles to attempt to trick people to invest in Bitcoin. Teenagers and children are also targeted. In a kidnapping scam in the United States, a teenager's voice was cloned and her parents manipulated into complying with demands.

How widespread is it?

Recent research shows 28% of adults in the United Kingdom faced voice cloning scams last year, with 46% unaware of the existence of this type of scam. It highlights a significant knowledge gap, leaving millions at risk of fraud. In 2022, almost 240,000 Australians reported being victims of voice cloning scams, leading to a financial loss of \$A568 million.

How people and organisations can safeguard against it

The risks posed by voice cloning require a multidisciplinary response. People and organisations can implement several

measures to safeguard against the misuse of voice cloning technology.

First, public awareness campaigns and education can help protect people and organisations and mitigate these types of fraud. Public-private collaboration can provide clear information and consent options for voice cloning.

Second, people and organisations should look to use biometric security with liveness detection, which is new technology that can recognise and verify a live voice as opposed to a fake. And organisations using voice recognition should consider adopting multi-factor authentication.

Third, enhancing investigative capability against voice cloning is another crucial measure for law enforcement.

Finally, accurate and updated regulations for countries are needed for managing associated risks.

Australian law enforcement recognises the potential benefits of Al. Yet, concerns about the "dark side" of this technology have prompted calls for research into the criminal use of "artificial intelligence for victim targeting."

There are also calls for possible intervention strategies that law enforcement could use to combat this problem. Such efforts should connect with the overall National Plan to Combat Cybercrime, which focuses on proactive, reactive and restorative strategies. That national plan stipulates a duty of care for service providers, reflected in the Australian government's new legislation to safeguard the public and small businesses. The legislation aims for new obligations to prevent, detect, report and disrupt scams. This will apply to regulated organisations such as telcos, banks and digital platform providers. The goal is to protect customers by preventing, detecting, reporting, and disrupting cyber scams.

Reducing the risk

As cybercrime costs the Australian economy an estimated A\$42 billion, public awareness and strong safeguards are essential. Countries like Australia are recognising the growing risk. The effectiveness of measures against voice cloning and other frauds depends on their adaptability, cost, feasibility and regulatory compliance.

All stakeholders — government, citizens, and law enforcement — must stay vigilant and raise public awareness to reduce the risk of victimisation. involving deception.