



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 23rd April 2025



BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

Phone 67821379
For the information of members and guests.

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY 24th April

BINGO from 6pm

FRIDAY 25th April

NO RAFFLES or MEMBERS DRAW
Bistro open lunch only

SUNDAY 27th April

ANGLER CLUB

Raffles on sale from 12pm, drawn 1.30pm

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$2000 (6 DRAWS)

BISTRO HOURS

Phone 0427330808

DINE IN OR TAKEAWAY

DAILY BLACKBOARD SPECIALS AVAILABLE

ALSO PIZZAS MADE TO ORDER

MONDAY/TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY: CLOSED

FRIDAY 25TH LUNCH ONLY

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

SUNDAY: 12-2pm



ANZAC DAY 2025

The commemoration of ANZAC Day in Barraba will commence with our dawn service which will be held at the memorial clock in Queen Street.

This service will assemble at 5:45 am with the service to commence at 6.00am.

At the conclusion of this service breakfast will be provided by the Barraba RSL & Recreation Club Limited.

The main service will assemble in Queen Street opposite Andy's Guest House at 10:45 and then march to the Memorial Clock with the main service to commence at 11:00am.

Ecological Burn Notice

Please be advised that Whitehaven Coal will be undertaking burn preparation and cool season Ecological Burns on the following Biodiversity Properties "Neranghi North", "Bimbooria", "Long Gully", "Greenwood" and "Nindethana" between 7th April and 13th June 2025. For further information, please contact Whitehaven Biodiversity on 0488 407 000.

WINTER SPECIAL

MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES AIR CONDITIONING

KEEP WARM THIS WINTER

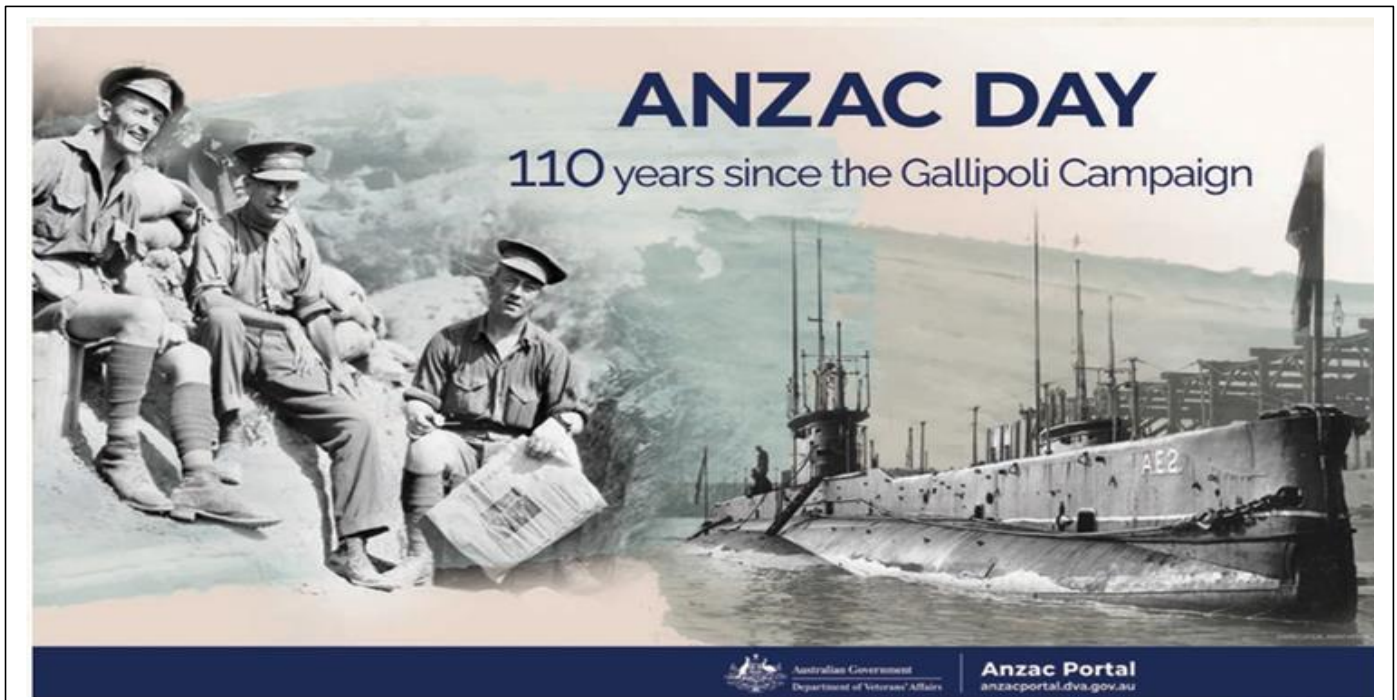
PH: 0410 522 967

BARRABA BASED AND WILL TRAVEL TO SURROUNDING AREAS

BK ELECTRICAL + AIR CONDITIONING

ONE TRADESMAN WITH BOTH ELECTRICAL & REFRIGERATION LICENSES

2.5kw Mitsubishi Heavy Industries A/C Fully installed - Back to Back \$2270	5 kw Mitsubishi Heavy Industries A/C Fully installed - Back to Back \$2870	7.1kw Mitsubishi Heavy Industries A/C Fully installed - Back to Back \$3350
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Honour In The Bricks.

The rural town of Barraba was born from blood and sweat.
 Humble origins from farming and the colonial onset.
 Ancestral lands of Kamilaroi Indigenous peoples hold.
 Upon with European settlement, a new world was to behold.

Barraba sprang to life. The community began to sprawl.
 A dark threat of war loomed. Barraba's finest, answered the call.

For such a small township, she offered up her sons.
 To leave their home behind and face the 'Great War's' guns.
 This 'war to end all wars' finally came to a welcomed end.
 Barraba's weary men and women, returned to home and friends.

Barraba's first RSL, deciding a memorial to befit.
 A grand clock tower to be built, erected in red block and mix.

(Upon Queen Street of Barraba, they placed honour in the bricks.)

A grand opening celebration was planned
 Armistice Day, November 1924.

For dedication of this clock tower.

In memory of the brave from that First World War.

In our modern time, upon each ANZAC Day.

Solemn reflection is given to the sacrifices made.

So each time you drive through Barraba.

Your gaze upon that clock you fix.

Take a moment to respect, that honour in the bricks.

By Simone Taylor

This poem was an entry in the Barraba Clock Centenary Competition

History Notes

Well, Easter is over for another year, Anzac Day is almost here and then winter will arrive with frosts. I am told it will be a warm winter!

The vintage car visit on Sunday morning saw lots of treasured cars in the street and plenty of people inspecting the cars and being treated to morning tea before inspecting the museum. Those inspecting the museum showed a lot of interest in our collection and asked a number of questions, including items in the blacksmith's shop. An early lamb cradle attracted a lot of interest as well as descriptions on how to tail a lamb.

The museum is having a busy week with plans to organize an Anzac Day display on Tuesday and then more visitors on Wednesday. Wednesday's visitors are tracing the Natty, Connors and Corcoran families for an elderly family visitor.

In research so far, I have found an Irish Convict who served his sentence in Tasmania before moving to Victoria where he met his wife, Martha. They moved north to NSW with their growing family and seemed to settle in the Gunnedah area.

As we are approaching Anzac Day it is appropriate to mention two members of this family who enlisted and served in World War 1. Mary Ann Launt and her husband Harry Corcoran were the parents of 19-year-old Arthur James Corcoran and 24-year-old Henry Corcoran when they enlisted at Gunnedah towards the end of 1915.

Sadly, Henry was killed in action while serving with the 54th Battalion in February 1917. He is buried in France. His young brother returned to Australia after the war.

Studebaker Nationals visit to Barraba

On Easter Sunday morning the Aircooled Assembly Inc hosted morning tea in Barraba for the 2025 Studebaker Nationals.

The Barraba Historical Museum and Phil Denyer Mechanical Repairs opened for people to check out the old treasures inside while the Studebaker Club had their morning tea. What a busy day Margaret Currell and Diana Sims had at the Museum, when they opened the Museum to the visiting Studebaker Car Club members. The 'Sunday Sewers' at the Fuller Gallery were also busy with browsers and buyers, from the visitors, who purchased local art and craft.

The Aircooled Assembly had broad display of our club cars along Queen and Alice Streets including a 1923 Studebaker Tourer that has been in the Denyer family since new. Some 80 cars and about 180 people come as a part of the Studebaker Nationals planned activities and everyone enjoyed a chat, had morning tea and saw a little bit of Barraba before leaving again to view a private collection on their way back to Manilla for lunch. Attendees have travelled from as far as Western Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand to attend the 2025 Studebaker Nationals.

Thank you to the Studebaker enthusiasts for coming out to Barraba with your beautiful cars and saying hi. We hope to see you back with your caravans in the future when travelling.



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Fighting for Better Communication



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✓ Fighting for More Coverage for the Gwydir and New England.

BARNABY JOYCE MP

THE NATIONALS for *New England* 

Authorised by V Mentshelyi, National Party of Australia - NSW, Suite 3, Level 7, 50 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000.



\$27.2M BOOST FOR NEW ENGLAND ROADS AND COMMUNITIES

A Liberal Nationals Coalition Government will deliver **\$27.2 million** in partnership funding to local councils across New England under a revitalised Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, empowering communities to prioritise better roads and essential facilities.

The \$27.2 million investment will support councils in Tamworth, Armidale, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Inverell, Liverpool Plains, Tenterfield, Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook, Uralla, and Walcha to address local priorities, from road upgrades to community facilities.

Tamworth Mayor Russell Webb welcomed the announcement, noting the financial pressures regional councils face. Total for Tamworth Council = \$5,804,455

EARLY VOTING CENTRES CLOSEST TO BARRABA 2025 ELECTION

[535 Peel St](#) (between Hill St and Roderick St) [TAMWORTH](#)

Tue 22nd Apr – Thu 24th Apr · 8:30am – 5:30pm

Sat 26th Apr · 9:00am – 4:00pm

Mon 28th Apr – Thu 1st May · 8:30am – 5:30pm

Fri 2nd May 8:30am – 6:00pm

Sat 3rd May – Sat 3rd May · 8:00am – 6:00pm

[Tamworth Southside Uniting Church](#)
[426-440 Goonoo Goonoo Rd, HILLVUE](#)

Tue 22nd Apr – Thu 24th Apr · 8:30am – 5:30pm

Sat 26th Apr 9:00am – 4:00pm

Mon 28th Apr – Thu 1st May 8:30am – 5:30pm

Fri 2nd May – Fri · 8:30am – 6:00pm

If you can't vote on Saturday 3 May, you may be eligible to vote early.

All Australian citizens aged 18 years and over are required by law to vote.

So, if you can't make it to a polling place on election day, you may be eligible to:

- vote early at an early voting centre, or
- apply for a postal vote.

If you're travelling, working or will be outside the electorate where you're enrolled on election day, you can vote early.

To check early voting options and eligibility, visit aec.gov.au/early

Your vote will help shape Australia.



To learn more
aec.gov.au/early
13 23 26



Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra.

Better together Vote 1 Natasha Ledger New England Independent



I plan to lead in a progressive, transformative effort to create a sustainable, thriving, healthy and abundant region. To build democracy, education and collaboration, and stop

corruption and promote transparency.

My passion is seeing this nation succeed, my experience tells me success is drawn from community.

- ride motorbikes horses enjoy golf and running
- own ten acres in Invergowrie with solar creek bore three faze and dam
- raised four of the best ask them they'll tell you
- My eldest married with son My greatest accomplishment to date is building the renewable energy zone, creating the five acres off grid living choices for new residents, and writing the successful business plan to enable trains North of Armidale with the commitment dedication and drive of the community leading the way to achieve win/win community outcomes. The renewable energy zone Uralla includes wind, solar, hydroelectricity, geothermal and now waste incineration electric generation. proving the success of diversity. Leading Chinese negotiations achieving favourable outcomes, leading the change in Australian Trade TP trans pacific.

Edited from the New England Times

Barnaby legacy vs Dutton ideology: Regional public servants under threat



Edited from New England Times
by **RK Crosby** 15th April 2025



Peter Dutton is not having a good time on the campaign trail.

From Trump tariffs to his dad having a 'medical episode' on the day of the debate, not much is going to plan, and it is

clear that the Opposition Leader is starting to panic as the confidence wanes. The most concrete example of this is the backflip and equivocation on the policies around public servants. As part of their ideological push to have a 'better not bigger' public service, the Coalition originally announced they would cut 36,000 jobs to bring the size of the public service back to where it was the last time they were in office. After the recent budget announced an increase in public servants, the number of job cuts was raised to 41,000.

The 'how' has shifted almost on a daily basis, beginning with claims they will sack the required number. That then became a reduction through voluntary redundancies and natural attrition by not replacing staff as they resign. That then became a 'cap' that will be achieved over five years through natural attrition.

Then Dutton ruled out reductions in frontline staff and critical agencies, including those that contribute to national security, but has not specified which of the tens of thousands of roles will not be replaced once they are vacant, nor if any of those jobs are in regional areas.

Public service cuts will hit the New England hard

In the New England, cuts to the public service are a real threat to many local communities. As at 31 December 2024, there were 401 public servants within the New England North West. Almost half of those are at the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) in Armidale, which Barnaby Joyce fought very hard to forcibly move here when he was the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources in 2016.

Most of the other public servant jobs based in the New England are in service delivery roles, such as Services Australia staff, or working on specific projects, like the five ongoing roles at the Inland Rail office in Moree.

However, while they have made clear that front line jobs will be quarantined from the cuts, it is not clear if the Coalition's proposal includes project or temporary roles, which are the vast number of jobs associated with the Inland Rail project, which hit around 2000 workers in phase 1 of construction.

It's also not clear if the cuts to the public service will extend to other roles in the public sector, that are not public servants per se, such as the 21 full time equivalent roles at the Cotton Research and Development Corporation in Narrabri. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, at the time of the 2021 Census, 2297 New Englanders were employed in the public sector by the Commonwealth Government.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Every time I pass the corner of Queen & Alice Streets I remember the coloured bottles in the window of what was then the chemist's shop when I was a child.

I also vaguely remember the last pharmacist from there.

We moved back to Barraba, my place of birth in Alice Street at the old maternity hospital in Alice Street and where I grew up until our marriage in April 1963. In those days I was Mary Turner.

We now live in Callose Drive and overlook the river and the hills my Father, Arthur Turner, rode on a horse while working at Walroodah.

I've been saying in the last few weeks that we were welcomed with a flood in October 2022 and are now being farewelled with one.

We're unable to find alternative accommodation here and have agreed to a unit in Manilla. My husband has become part of the community through the church I grew up in, St Laurence's, and involvement with the Men's Shed. I even go to church with my Year 7 teacher, Beth Brodbeck, having been in her first ever class here.

It is with heavy hearts that we farewell Barraba but there just isn't affordable accommodation here. When I look around at the number of empty houses that could be used by people like us or families but are just being left empty. Think about it, owners.

(Mrs) Mary Grocott

Dear Editor

Using this new Energy Efficiency Application Tool in homes and businesses to lower Energy Bills. Lowering Energy Bills in Businesses and Homes, using the Powersensor Energy Efficiency Tool Powersensor is a top quality Australian Energy Efficiency Tool to lower Energy Bills.

University trialled. Powersensor shows that Increasing Energy Efficiency decreases Energy Costs. That is Lowering Energy Costs by Increasing Energy Efficiency in Properties. Powersensor accurately monitors energy use and cost and monitors savings in real time. It also includes an Electricity Tariff Cost Comparison Tool to get the cheapest energy and can be Self Installed (see videos) giving customers important reasons to purchase. Can be used for both Solar and non-Solar premises. Powersensor has Residential and Commercial applications using either a 1,2 or 3 phase power supply and monitoring up to 9 appliances. Better

monitoring, Powersensor helps you develop a more efficient management of your energy use to save more.

Powersensor is an advanced Australian design technology that helps save money. Powersensor algorithms are widely patented. Powersensor helps contribute to Energy Efficiency and reaching Net Zero Emissions. A product relevant to your business or home, all properties need to be Energy Efficient. Increasing Energy Efficiency decreases Energy Costs in Properties, producing a Climate Action Dividend.

Additional Support:

1. For NSW Check the : NSW Gov. Net Zero Planning Grant . Up to \$30,000 to cover up to 75% of Net Zero Planning costs. https://www.linkedin.com/posts/powersensor_net-zero-planning-grant-powersensor-activity-7312259051810103296-ij7O

2. Federal Government...All States and Territories. Obtain advice on the current applications of the Federal Government "Instant Asset Tax Write off" program, currently \$20,000 for business.

This is an economical Cost of living Support in home design with high quality Australian Energy Management Tool to help lower Energy Bills

Thank you

Alan Rutherford

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

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ANZAC Day Reflection

At the front of the Glenn Innes Anglican church sits a little memorial. When the minister there told me about it, I found it utterly tragic. It reads:

*To the Glory of God
In Loving Memory of Leslie George King Ross. 1st Lieut. 33rd
Batt. AIF.
Died in France.
November 9th, 1918. Aged 21 Years.
After 2 years of active service.
His service done.*

Ultimately, there is nothing good about war. At times, the need to stand up for what is right may make it necessary. But this is very different from saying that war, even when fought for the most upright reasons, is a good thing. If you are tempted to think otherwise, consider the date engraved upon that memorial and the story it tells.

The war was as good as won. The events that would lead to Germany's surrender were in full swing. Still, without a signature on a piece of paper, the fighting continued, and a young life was snuffed out only 2 days before the guns fell silent.

As I read the memorial, my mind also turns to the people who put it there. People who had sent their son, brother, grandson, and friend off to a war from which he would never return. Did they experience the joy of hearing news of the Armistice and begin to plan the party to celebrate his return? Was their euphoria crushed by a knock on the door a few days later to inform them that Leslie would not be coming home after all?

It's a devastating thought. Yet, Lieutenant Leslie's is only one of millions of stories, each equally tragic for those who lived with the grief of loss.

This week, our nation pauses to mark ANZAC Day, and it is right that we remember 102,000 Australians who have given their lives in the service of our country.

May we never forget that each one of them was a person whose death was a tragedy for those left behind.

Equally, may we never forget that as we pause to reflect on past wars, the raging conflicts in Ukraine, Palestine and many other corners of the world will not pause, much less end. And as we reflect on humanity's inability to find a way

to lasting peace, may we echo Rudyard Kipling's familiar refrain, remembering that he calls our gaze heavenward:

The tumult and the shouting dies;
The Captains and the Kings depart:
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
A humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

In a world such as ours, which lurches endlessly from one conflict to another, it is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on that first Easter that holds out the promise of eternal peace, a restored life, and the drying of every tear. A world in which stories such as Lieutenant Leslie George King Ross's story will no longer need to be told.

Because in that place, the death of Jesus will cause eternal joy and celebration for all who seek refuge in it.

This ANZAC day I am thankful as I remember the 102,000 Australians who have died, and the many others who have served at a great cost that I might enjoy this peaceful land. And I thank God for Jesus Christ, whose death has earned eternal peace for all who trust in him.

Matthew Hearne, Minister of Barraba Anglican Church.

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Service Sunday 27th April 8.45am

All welcome

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am

Woodsreef service 2nd Sunday in each month 11.30

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

Barraba 1st Sunday of the month, Saturday evening

Mass 6pm

All other Sundays 9am

TAMWORTH REGIONAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL



Week 1: Saturday 26 April - Sunday 4 May 2025

Stories from Bridge Street Heritage Walk

Sunday 27 April 9am-12pm

Join the Tamworth Historical Society and learn about the early days of Tamworth. The walk will cover areas from Bicentennial Park, No. 1 Oval and interesting points along Bridge Street to Ebsworth Street. There will be a morning tea stop along the way.

Cost: Walk – free. Morning tea – gold coin donation.

Meeting point: Bottom of White Street, opposite Bob Jane T-Mart.

Contact: Tamworth Historical Society 6765 7492

Tamworth Film and Sound Archive Open Day

Every Tuesday during Festival

10am-2pm

Discover more about the history of photography in Tamworth with the TRFSA's new display in.

The Archive will also open its doors and visitors will have the opportunity to handle old still cameras like the ones on display.

Date: Tuesday 29 April

Cost: Free

Location: Tamworth Community Centre

Tamworth Country Music Hall of Fame Tour

Every Wednesday during Festival. 10:30am

Join us at the Australian Country Music Hall of Fame for a guided tour with one of our volunteer experts in the industry. Learn about the origins of Australian Country Music and hear the unique stories from across the ages.

Cost: \$10 adult, \$7 concession, 12 and under free

Location: 561 Peel Street, Tamworth

(Museum open normal hours Tues-Sun 10am-4pm)

Manilla Museum Open Day

Thursday 1 and Saturday 3 May. 9am-3pm

Full of historical memorabilia and archives relating to the history of Manilla, there's also Yarramanbully School – a one teacher school operating from the early 1920's and a Chinese Memorial Garden, commemorating early Chinese market gardeners and shareholders of the district.

The Manilla Rural Museum in Alexander Lane houses an impressive display of farming machinery and implements of days gone by, including a 1917 Jelbart Tractor and a 1914 Mogul Tractor.

Date: Thursday 1 May and Saturday 3 May

Cost: \$4 adult, \$3 senior, \$1 child

Location: 197 Manilla Street, Manilla

Len Waters Foyer Talk

Saturday 3 May 2:30pm

Join us at the Australian Country Music Hall of Fame for the opening of our First Nations led foyer exhibition directed by Kamilaroi man Len Waters. This exhibition enables the sharing of First Nations stories and truth telling through Australian Country Music. Len will take visitors on a journey through the new foyer exhibition as he tells the stories of several prominent First Nations Country Music Artists whose stories have interwoven with Tamworth's country music history. Afternoon tea included.

Please RSVP to 026767 5950 and advise of any dietary requirements.

Cost: Museum entry free from 2:30pm on this day and Talk included

Location: 561 Peel Street Tamworth

Moonbi Museum Open Day

Saturday 3 May 10am-3pm

Visit the Moonbi Museum on their open day where tribute is paid to early settlers and farming activities of the area as well as local sporting and cultural activities such as Moonbi's significant history in the poultry industry.

Enjoy a beautiful drive to see the Museum, with its village well, the beautifully restored Buggy and a great selection of hand tools, household paraphernalia, plus a flour bag used as clothing during the Great Depression.

Time: 10am-3pm

Cost: Donation at the door

Location: 41 Gill Street, Moonbi

Tamworth Powerstation Steam Engines

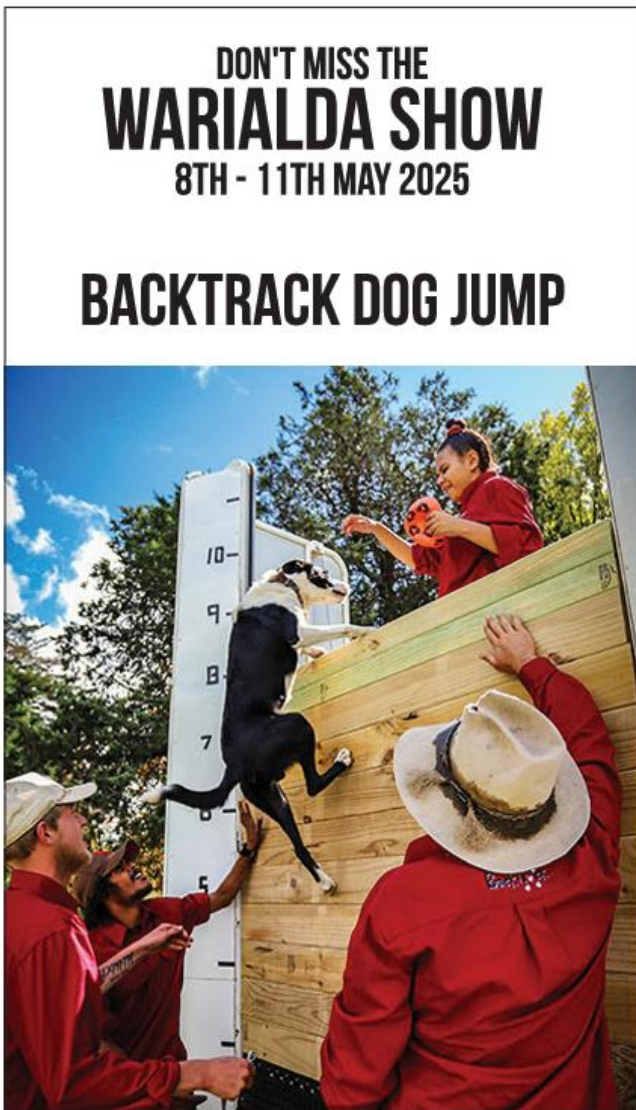
Saturday 3 May and Sunday 4 May 10am-2pm

Come and see the mighty John Fowler Steam engines in action. As the only working machinery of its kind, it's not to be missed. Learn why Tamworth is the 'First City of Light' by taking on the challenge of our brand new 'Kids Trail'. There's Plenty of interactive challenges for kids of all ages.

Time: Museum opens 9am, engines run 10am-2pm

Cost: \$5 adult, \$3 concession

Location: 216 Peel Street Tamworth



Australians urged to check vaccination status as flu and measles infections soar

Australians should take action to protect their health this Autumn, advises Professor Trent Twomey, National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Cases of preventable infections, such as influenza and measles have continued to rise – despite vaccination offering an effective way to protect from potentially serious illness. Australia has recorded more than 60,000 cases of influenza so far this year*, more than the same period in 2024. Measles cases have also surged, with 54 cases currently recorded – compared to last year’s total of 57.

“The rise in influenza and measles cases is alarming,” says Professor Trent Twomey, National President Pharmacy Guild of Australia. “We know vaccines are critical in protecting public health – stopping these potentially deadly conditions from spreading. Vaccination is the best line of defence against influenza, measles, COVID and shingles. They prevent infection, lower the risk of serious illness and are recommended for people over six months of age. The great thing is some vaccines can be co-administered, meaning in one visit to your community pharmacy you can get protected against a range of infections. 1 in 4 flu shots is given at a community pharmacy, which are open into the evening and weekend, making it easier for patients to get vaccinated.”

Many patients are eligible for free vaccines under the NIP and those living in Queensland and Western Australia can get vaccinated against influenza for free.

Adults aged 20-49 who are unvaccinated, or under vaccinated, are particularly at risk from measles. This serious condition is easily preventable with two doses of the combination measles vaccine, which provides 99% protection against illness and serious complications.

“Vaccines work. They reduce transmission and reduce your chance of getting sick. Community pharmacies are a convenient and accessible way to get protected,” Professor Twomey said.

Patients can visit www.findapharmacy.com.au to find out more or book an appointment.

Someone asked me what the 9th letter of the alphabet was...

It was a complete guess, but I was right.

How do you console an English teacher?

There, their, they're.

This event is weather dependent so if raining, we will reschedule to 17th May

Regent Honeyeater Walk

Exploring endangered woodland bird habitats in the Barraba region



10
MAY

9.30-12.30

Dr Steve Debus will lead the walk & share his extensive knowledge of woodland birds, including the critically endangered regent honeyeater. No doubt there will be plenty of general birdwatching tips too! We'll carpool to two sites in the Gulf Creek area.



MEET AT: Russ Watts Park, Barraba (town side of bridge)

BRING: binoculars, sturdy shoes, hat, water.

PROVIDED: morning tea and great information.

For more information and to book, ring Ali on 0438 353 682



This project is funded by the Australian Government National Heritage Trust and delivered by North West Land & Land Services, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.



This project is funded by the NSW Government Nature & Conservation and the Western Districts Regional Delivery Partners panel.

Bendigo Bank warns impersonation scams may rise ahead of Federal Election

With the Federal Election approaching, Bendigo Bank is warning customers to be extra vigilant, as scammers ramp up their efforts not to steal votes, but to steal personal and financial information, and ultimately Australians' money. As people begin receiving more approaches, calls and texts from campaigning representatives, Australia's most trusted bank is reminding customers that these might not be legitimate.

"Scammers may pose as government agencies, political parties and representatives, or financial institutions, using phone calls, emails, text messages or even door-knocking to trick Australians into handing over sensitive details," Senior Manager Customer Protection at Bendigo Bank Aaron Westberry says. "Be on the look-out for anyone soliciting personal information for electoral roll updates, requesting donations, and of course, warning of fraudulent activity on your bank accounts.

1. **STOP** – Don't give money or personal information to anyone if unsure. Scammers will offer to help you or ask you to verify who you are. They will pretend to be from organisations you know and trust like the Australian Electoral Commissions, police, government, or a fraud service.
2. **THINK** – Ask yourself could the message or call be fake? Never click a link in a message. Only contact us, businesses or government using contact information from their official website or through their secure apps. If you're not sure, say no, hang up or delete.
3. **PROTECT** – Act quickly if something feels wrong. If you notice unusual activity or if a scammer gets your money or information, report it and get support.

Impersonation scam signs


- Links in SMS text messages or emails – Bendigo Bank will never ask you to click a link to login to your online banking. If you're concerned about your account, always login directly through the main website.
- Urgency or threats – Scammers use frightening language to try to get you to act quickly and override your sense of caution. They might tell you to update your information immediately to protect your account or ask you to verify login information via a fraudulent link.
- Any request for sensitive information – Bendigo Bank will never ask you for passwords, passcodes, PIN numbers or login information. Never give this out to anyone, even if they claim to work at the Bank, and only enter your personal information on a website you've visited directly. Never follow login links in emails or texts.
- Instructions to install software – Scammers may try to get you to install software under the guise of protecting your accounts or devices. These programs are used to remotely access your devices and copy your passwords and login information to compromise your accounts.
- Requests to transfer money – Bendigo Bank will never instruct you to transfer money to another account. Any mention of making transfers is an immediate red flag that you're speaking to a scammer.

Mr Westberry's advice to customers who may have fallen victim to a scam is to visit www.bendigobank.com.au/security immediately to report it and get support.



Rod Bonner
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Text is best 0447 052 140



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From The Conversation

The social lives of kangaroos are more complex than we thought.

Nora Campbell, PhD Candidate, UNSW Sydney

Have you ever wondered what a kangaroo’s social life looks like? Well, kangaroos have stronger bonds to one another than you might think.

Over six years, we monitored a population of around 130 eastern grey kangaroos near Wollar in New South Wales to see how their relationships changed over time. Keeping tabs on individual roos led to some surprising results.

We found that kangaroo mothers become more social when caring for joeys (which is the opposite of what we previously thought). We also uncovered new evidence that indicates kangaroos could potentially form long-term relationships.

This research, published in *Animal Behaviour*, sheds new light on the behaviour of Australia’s most iconic animal.

How to watch kangaroos

Eastern grey kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*) are found throughout the eastern third of Australia, and they are extremely social animals.

If you’re lucky enough to have some living near you, you’ll notice they are rarely alone. What you might not notice is how often their small groups (called mobs) fluctuate throughout the day.

Kangaroos have a loose “fission–fusion” social structure, which means mobs often split and reform. Knowing this, we wanted to see just how strong kangaroo relationships actually are, and how these relationships changed over several years.



Individual kangaroos can be identified by the distinctive shapes of their ears. Terry Ord, CC BY-SA

To find out, we spent a few days each year taking photographs of every single kangaroo in our study population. We then used these photographs (all 3,546 of them!) to individually identify each kangaroo.

The best way to tell kangaroos apart (for humans) is the unique shape of their ears, because both the outline of the ears and the inner ear tufts remain very similar throughout the years. New scars can change the overall ear shape, but we were careful to watch out for those.

Using this method, we identified 130 individual kangaroos. We then looked at which kangaroos appeared next to each other in the same photograph to get an idea of what their social groups looked like.

We also gave each kangaroo a social score based on how many other kangaroos they associated with and how “popular” these associates were.

Surprising sociability

There are usually a couple of difficulties in this sort of long-term animal study, such as identifying individual animals and being able to follow the same population over several years. These problems are easily avoided with kangaroos, as our photographic survey let us identify animals without invasive tagging, and they tend to return to the same place every day.

We could easily look at the short-term and long-term relationships of each kangaroo, as well as how these relationships varied with sex, age and reproduction.

Looking at sociability on an individual level produced some surprising results.

We discovered some kangaroos were just more social than others. In some this was consistent, and in others it changed from year to year.

In fact, we found female kangaroos tended to be much more social in years when they had joeys. This is quite different from earlier research, which suggested kangaroos actually tend to isolate from the rest of the population when they become mothers.

What we think is happening here is that, while mothers tend to spend time in smaller groups (which is what other studies have shown), those groups change often. As a result, mothers associate with more other kangaroos in total – which would account for their high social scores.

So, kangaroos’ loose social structure allows them to adjust their sociability with their reproductive state.

Long-term friendships?

However, the fact the social structure is loose doesn’t mean it is simple. We found kangaroo relationships might be far more complex than previously thought.

Some of our kangaroos maintained friendships across multiple years, a phenomenon that was particularly common among females. Kangaroos that were more “popular” – as determined by the social score we calculated – were far more likely to have these friendships.



Like other large herbivores, kangaroos may form long-term relationships. Terry Ord, CC BY-SA

This is the first evidence for long-term relationships in macropods (the animal family that includes kangaroos as well as wallabies, quokkas and others). However, long-term relationships are common in other large, social herbivores such as elephants, giraffes and ibex.

We only looked at the kangaroos for a short time each year. To find out whether they really do form long-term relationships, we will need to do more research. However, we have shown such relationships are a possibility, which is itself a very exciting development in the study of kangaroo behaviour.

The importance of social organisation

So, what’s next? The study of animal behaviour is constantly changing and there’s always lots more we can learn.

We have shown the benefits of looking at animal populations on an individual level, not just a species level. With this in mind, future research should investigate the existence of long-term relationships in kangaroos, as well as why female kangaroos might deliberately increase their sociability when they become mothers.

We often underestimate the importance of social organisation in animals. Further research into kangaroo behaviour can help us better appreciate the intelligence and social complexity of our favourite marsupials.