



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 28th May 2025

NAIDOC WEEK 2025

COME CELEBRATE NAIDOC WEEK WITH US,
ALL WELCOME.

The Barraba Multi-Purpose Service and
Richardson House invite
You to join us to celebrate NAIDOC Week
2025.

WHEN: Wednesday 2nd July 2025
TIME: 1030am
WHERE: Barraba MPS Day Centre.

There will be a Welcome to Country,
presentations from the local school children
and Story Telling followed by morning tea.
Join the Elders to celebrate the rich history of
the First Nations people in our district.

If possible, a call to the Administration Office at the Barraba Health Service,
(02) 67822500
for catering purposes.



**THE NEXT GENERATION:
STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY**
6-13 JULY 2025

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you again for a most interesting snap shot of
happening in Barraba. Even though I'm not a TRC Councillor
now, I am still interested in what happens in your district,
and again thank your community for their support of me
while I was a Councillor. In that time, I made many friends
who I still keep in contact with.

Regards Jim Maxwell.



**BARRABA RSL &
RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone 67821379
For the information of
members and guests.

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY 29th May

BINGO from 6pm

FRIDAY 30th May

MEAT RAFFLES

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1000

SUNDAY 1st June

AIRCOOLED ASSEMBLY RAFFLES

Raffles on sale from 12pm, drawn 1.30pm

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1300

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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 Central School

Parliament of NSW School Leadership Program

Gemma and Jack had the honour of representing Barraba Central School at the NSW Parliament School Leadership Program in Sydney. The program brought together student leaders from across New South Wales to explore the workings of state government and develop their leadership skills.



UNE Open Day



Secondary students headed to Armidale for the annual UNE Open Day, where they explored a range of university courses, had a taste of campus life, and discovered the support services and accommodation options available to future students.



Rural Students Café

Secondary students attended the Royal Easter Show during the holidays, where Hospitality students from across NSW prepared and served a "Rural Tasting Plate." Cookery and Food/Beverage students completed simulated work placement hours by working at the café over a three day period. Our students were outstanding—hardworking, adaptable, and consistently polite. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we were incredibly proud of their efforts.



Thank you so very much to ALL, for your generous and various contributions towards the success of the day. Funds raised will be forwarded to the NSW Cancer Council and other Australian cancer related organizations.



Barraba's Biggest Morning Tea

How lucky we all were last Thursday 22nd May, for the Barraba Cancer Patients Fund Raising Group Inc.'s Biggest Morning Tea Street Stall in the Queen Street Mall.

Not only did the sun shine warmly upon us, the table was laden with goods, and the Barraba community was out in force to support the fund-raising efforts.

Sincere thanks to all of the people who supported the morning and the members of the Band 'Old Spice' - Hamilton, Martin, Mike, Dorothy and the two David's - who entertained those enjoying their morning tea plates in the Mall, the ladies behind the Stall tables and the passers-by.

Many thanks too, to donors for the Guessing competition: John and Toni Wauch, and Ken Faulkner, your generosity is much appreciated. **Winners of the Guessing Competition were:**

1st Peter Hancock,
2nd Toni Wauch.

The 100 Club winners were:

1st Sheryl Spence,
2nd Lindy McKilrick,
3rd Bill Rumsby.

Whilst we were fortunate with the weather, our thoughts extend to those on the coast experiencing extreme flooding, along with the contrasting dry conditions further south of the nation.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BIGGEST MORNING TEA IN THE MALL – A GREAT SUCCESS

Congratulation to the Barraba Cancer Fundraising Group for another successful Biggest Morning Tea. It was a lovely sunny autumn morning last Thursday – a big happy crowd gathered in the Queen St Mall to enjoy a delicious Morning Tea provided by the Barraba Cancer Patients Fund Raising Group. We were entertained by a very professional six piece local band playing a great variety of popular songs, and who had the crowd singing along – and dancing!



Terry Threlfall, Barraba



🌳🌳 Tree Bombing is back at the Warm and Woolly Exhibition at the Barraba Fuller Gallery and Clay Pan over the June Long Weekend. 🌳🌳

The trees will be bombed on Friday morning 6th June and the Gallery will be open each day for all, to look at from 10am until 3pm on the 9th June. This year a special theme of Sunflowers has been incorporated into the colourful squares covering the trees and seat in front of the Gallery.



The theme this year, as we bomb the trees, will be **'Sunflowers'**

The weekend will also include woollen items, handcrafts, pottery, photos and paintings for sale in the Gallery.

☕☕ **Morning Tea** from 10am – “Bottomless” cup of tea or coffee with a plate of homemade Devonshire tea - \$8pp

Lunch from 12md – Bowl of soup, bread roll and slice - \$15pp ☕☕ There will be a choice of soups including Jude’s famous Tomato Soup.

(Only Saturday & Sunday)

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.

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

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To begin this week there are a few notes from previous notes. Sometime ago we tried to find the history of the old chemist/library on the Alice/Queen Street corner. Since then I have been told that Pat Burns actually built the building and that Agnes Anderson ran the library before Blanche took over.

Turning to the back page in last week's Community News- well done to Adrian and Brian who produced the photos of the hospital on the last page.

The center photo includes the only photo we have of Dr. Poggioli - unfortunately too small to frame with a photo of his wife. If anyone has a larger one the society would like a copy.

The other comment re these photos includes the matron of the hospital, Mrs. Adams. Her husband was the police constable in Barraba for about eight years. They were not related to the Adams family of Gineroi.

The final comment before I continue with the Society history. The Nandewar Historical Society will be 60 years old in July not 50 as I printed last week.

Continuing with the old minute book- there was great interest in the beginning of the Society with 16 persons at a meeting in July, 1966 and 13 apologies. This was the time when the Society's first publication was being organized as well as lots of interest in photos of Barraba. In July there was a photo display in the Oddfellows Hall (where the pre-school is now). Afternoon tea was served for ten cents and admission to the hall was 20 cents. Mr Bill Ingles took photos of the display but unfortunately, they have not survived.

As the minutes continue preparations for the Railway Celebrations fill the pages with "Where to catch the Train", "where to set up a photo display", etc. Horses, sulkies, riders need to get ready at the Showground and join the parade near Rodney Street and how to move the official party from the railway station. In spite of all the chaos it all went off well and most people were able to enjoy the Ironhorse Festival.

The Society's first publication - Early Settlers in the Nandewar's - was printed and sold at and after the celebrations. The photo display in Jackson's old shop was very popular and only one photo went to the wrong owner when the display was packed up.

FLOOD in BARRABA - WHEN ?... RATHER THAN 'IF' - YOUR LOCAL SES WANTS YOU!

Whilst last week was National Volunteers Week, the SES has been very much in the news due to the situation in the mid-north coast and Hunter regions, with units heading there from all over the country, and where they have been involved in nearly 800 rescues.

We have been immensely proud of these heroes, both men and women, many of whom are still doing an outstanding job where they are now focused on resupplying the thousands of isolated residents, clean-up and conducting damage assessments.

We, here in Barraba, need to keep in mind that the past 10 years of statistics show us that floods are now more frequent, have become more severe, and last longer, so we must be prepared to take swift action to look after our town when this happens; we can't just wait for others to arrive from elsewhere to save us, as this takes time and in many cases, the damage will have already been done. So,... we're looking for enthusiastic local volunteers who would like to take part in this exciting opportunity to support our town; there are many amazing trainings available in various fields of rescue, all funded by the SES. Check out some of the NSW SES clips on YouTube and if you're interested, come and see us on a Wednesday evening, at 7pm at the unit on Morrow St, corner of Maude St or call our unit Commander on 0407 592 259.



Last Wednesday was Wear Orange Wednesday (WOW), and your local SES had great orange fun celebrating! This is a nationally recognised day to say thank you to the thousands of State Emergency Services volunteers who make themselves available to help communities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, through storms, floods and other disasters; rescuing people, clearing roads, providing first aid, searching for missing people as well as supporting other services such as police and firefighters.

We were also present to provide First Aid at the local home rugby women's and men's games on Saturday, GO RAMS! We're looking forward to seeing you at the unit very soon.

Did you know?

Your local campus has ACE funding available for eligible students to help build skills for employment. Visit www.ccni.nsw.edu.au, find your course and click **Apply**.



**Monday
2 June**

PROVIDE FIRST AID

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation

HLTAID010 Provide basic emergency life support

HLTAID011 Provide first aid



**Monday
2 June**

PROVIDE CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation



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Barraba Campus

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Biggest morning tea at Richardson House

Richardson House Biggest Morning Tea last Monday was a celebration of life and

friendship. Garvin House residents, friends, family and community came together in support of a cause close to all our hearts. The word CANCER brings fear to families. We raised \$230 on Monday and this pledge will support families for the journey they face.

Thank you to everyone who came along. Don't forget, you don't have to wait for an event to visit us, just visit.



Lake Keepit Open Day



Date: Sunday, 1 June 2025. **Time:** All Day Event

Featuring:

- Wilderluxe Tours
- Live Music
- Games & Prizes
- New Canteen Opening
- Jumping Castle
- Soup Stand

Join us for a fantastic day of free family fun and entertainment at Lake Keepit! This community event celebrates the opening of our new canteen facilities while offering a full day of activities for everyone to enjoy.

Whether you're interested in exploring the area with Wilderluxe tours, enjoying live music performances, participating in games with great prizes, or simply letting the kids have a blast on the jumping castle – there's something for everyone at our Open Day.

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this special community celebration!

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

Provide feedback on our 2025/2026 draft
Operational Plan and Budget,
Fees and Charges and Delivery Program



SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

We're encouraging you to have your say about our Operational Plan and Budget 2025-2026 and other Integrated Planning and Reporting documents now open for feedback.

The budget includes important information about a 15% increase to the Ordinary Rate from 1 July this year. This is the second and final increase of the IPART-approved Special Rate Variation (inclusive of the 3.8% rate peg).

It's easy to give your feedback! Go to our Have Your Say page (see link in comments) and share your opinion.

All feedback we receive by 5pm on Thursday 12 June, 2025 will be considered by Councillors before they vote to adopt the documents at an Extraordinary Meeting on June 30.

Progress for Manilla watermains

The next phase of water upgrades for the Manilla community are underway, as new watermains are installed in the heart of town. The watermains replacement flows on from Tamworth Regional Council's delivery of the new \$19 million in a new water treatment plant for Manilla.

Tamworth Region Mayor Russell Webb said continued investment would make a real impact to drinking water quality for locals. "The mains replacements just in Progress Lane will cost around \$550,000, and there's plans to spend a further \$900,000 to renew the mains in Alexander Lane in 2026. The majority of these water mains were installed when treated water was first supplied in Manilla in the 1930's" Cr Webb said.

Council's Water Operations Manager Dan Coe said "Given the age of the pipes, we consider they have reached the end of their life. They have had a history of failure and at times causing water discolouration issues to some residents. "This work is part of Council's Strategic Asset Renewal Program and will not only improve pipes and connections, but maintenance costs in the long run."

TPE Civil General Manager Richard Honeyfield said works are expected to be finished mid-July. "Our construction crews will work between 7am and 6pm on weekdays, and some Saturdays between 7am and 12pm. We'll notify residents and business owners about any impacts such as water outages or traffic diversions as we progress." For more about the project visit <https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/explore/major-projects/manilla-watermain-replacement>

MANILLA VINTAGE MACHINERY GROUP
Annual RALLY
 UNDER THE SHADOW OF OUR HISTORIC VIADUCT
JUNE 7th & 8th 2025
Saturday 9am-5pm Sunday 9am-3pm
MANILLA SHOWGROUND

- STATIONARY ENGINES, VINTAGE TRACTORS, TRUCKS, CARS & MOTORBIKES
- SHEEP SHEARING
- JUMPING CASTLE
- FAIRY FLOSS, SNOW CONES & POPCORN
- TRACTOR PULL
- TRACTOR TREK FRIDAY
- MARKET & TRADE STALLS- \$15/DAY (INSURANCE REQUIRED)
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BINGARA orange festival
Bingara, Now and Then
STALLHOLDERS WANTED!

Saturday 5 July 2025 | 10am - 3pm
 Maitland Street, Bingara

Enquiries to gmc@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Come along to the Orange Festival in Bingara!

Preparations are in full swing and the organising committee would be thrilled if you would be a part of this wonderful community event. If you would like to have a stall at the festival, please visit the following link to download the form:

<https://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au/.../Orange-Festival-2025>

Applications close Wednesday 25 June 2025.

Barraba Museum Markets — June Long Weekend



Saturday June 7th 9.00am – 12noon

Come and enjoy

Food, drinks, gifts, plants, music, BBQ, Tea, Coffee, Books, Gift Cards, Honey, Raffles

Museum Gardens, 71 Queen Street, Barraba

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Service Sunday 1st June 10.45am

Please note change of time for next four months.

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 5pm

All other Sundays 9am

Advertise in Barraba Community News and reach 750 households in our local area.

Contact

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Message from the Editor

At *Barraba Community News* we welcome local news and stories from our community members about activities, events and news of interest to the Barraba community.

Share your news, views and what you or your local organisation is doing.

Advertise in *News* at a competitive cost and reach 750 households in our area who receive a free copy each week.

Contact news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au or drop into the Community College on the corner of Alice and Fitzroy Sts.

ANNOUNCING THE MOST TRUSTED BRANDS FOR 2025!

Reader's Digest has announced the results of the 26th Annual Trusted Brands survey. For Australians, the results speak volumes about the formula trusted brands need in today's volatile market – retaining trust during a cost-of-living crisis is all about being focused on relevant innovation, genuine value-for-money and, above all, authenticity.

The 2025 Reader's Digest Trusted Brands Survey reveals that the brands Australians trust most are working harder than ever to help ease their customers' ever-changing financial challenges, says Reader's Digest Editor-in-Chief Louise Waterson. "The past 12 months has seen many challenges in the economy that have impacted on consumers; as a result there's a greater need for brands to not rely solely on their reputations – instead it's about working harder to be value for money," says Louise Waterson. "The cost of living crisis is being felt across all Australian communities. The brands voted the most trusted in their category adjusted their efforts to delivering products and services that have clear financial benefits over their competitors."

When times are challenging, loyal customers often need to change their purchasing habits. But any brand that operates its business on the basis of offering exceptional quality that's easy on the pocket will not only keep existing customers but also welcome new ones. Award-winning trusted brands work tirelessly to uphold the core trust values, regardless of the challenges.

With the survey now in its 26th year, a total of 4150 Australians of a mixed demographic were asked to rate their levels of trust in well-known brands. In the Top 20 Most Trusted Brands List, Dettol once again reigns supreme, being voted the No. 1 brand Australians trust most when injury and illness hits. The survey has been conducted for 26 consecutive years. During this time, a number of brands have repeatedly been rewarded by the Australian population for capturing their trust. Reader's Digest offers congratulations to these repeat stand-out performers: SpecSavers, Cadbury, Fujitsu, Bridgestone, Stihl, Bosch, Weet-Bix and Panadol.

The Top 20 Most Trusted Brands – across all categories are: 1. Dettol, 2. Dulux, 3. Toyota, 4. Panadol, 5. Cancer Council (sunscreen), 6. Cadbury, 7. Bunnings Warehouse, 8. Weber, 9. Royal Flying Doctor Service, 10. Bridgestone, 11. Selleys, 12. Vicks, 13. Singapore Airlines, 14. Vanish, 15. Bosch, 16. Finish, 17. Fisher & Paykel, 18. Victa, 19. Breville, 20. Lipton

The full list of the 2025 Australian Most Trusted Brands Awards winners can be seen here

<https://www.trustedbrands.com.au/>

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Rugby Report

On the weekend the Barraba Rams took on the Narrabri Blue Boars in a head to head home game for both our women and men teams.

Our women kicked off the afternoon with a solid start when Amie scored the first try of the game.

The game consisted of some solid forward work through the middle, big runs by Emily and Jess Kelso. The girls managed to dominate the scrums but unfortunately their line outs need some work.

Brooke McKinnon showed her pace and skill at 10 making several moves however the girls did lack the quick back up they normally showcase.

All in all, the team held their own which was made possible by a great bench (it's amazing to see so many girls pulling their boots on), however an unlucky result with Narrabri just finding gaps and getting runaway tries which led to a ending score of 28 - 7 to Narrabri.

If you are a female player wanting to join. Come down and see what it's all about on a Tuesday and Thursday night at 7pm.

Girls Points:

3- Brooke McKinnon, 2- Moss, 1- Emily and Kirra
PP - Brooke McKinnon

The boys kicked off the second game with tenacity, drive and a massive young bench – how amazing to see the future of the club coming through. The Barraba Rams dominated the game from the very start with some excellent tries by Dylan Walker, Cooper Chapman, Jacob Clarke, Nicholas Sweeney and Isaac Devine.

The men's team were no match in the scrums, with the Rams holding their own and refusing to be pushed around by Narrabri and laid a solid platform, while the support play when breaks were made kept the pressure on the defence. Jack Myers worked well as part of the forwards, backing up strong runs by Nick Sweeney and Jacob Clarke, helping the ball consistently make its way to the try line.

Relentless kick chase and clever territory play also wore down the opposition, allowing Barraba to maintain control of the game. The boys' commitment in both attack and defence ultimately led to a dominant and well-earned win with a couple of penalties proving very advantageous.

Men's points:

3 - Nick Sweeney, 2 - Harrison Davies, 1 - Liam Mack
PP - Dylan Walker

Next weekend the men's team play Quirindi at Quirindi with the next home game to be against Pirates which will also be our annual Ladies Day on the 14th June. Keep an eye on the Barraba Rugby.



Golf Notes

Jesse Phillips and Andrew Hillier took out Will Sedgwick's and Peter Simpson's 4 BBB BAM trophy on Saturday. Carding an

impressive 57 points they were clear winners from runners up David and Peter York on 47 points with Sam Faint and Paul Grigg third on 46 points. There were no NTPs claimed.

On Sunday we hosted an exciting Barraba Ladies Fourball Open. The overall results were very close with only one point separating the first 4 teams. Overall Net Winners were Barraba's Di Etheridge and partner Judy Hall from Bingara on 39 points. Runners up on a three-way countback were Jayne Kelly and Karen Turner from Manilla 38 points. Third on a countback were Lyn Bagster and Janelle Preston from Tamworth on 38 points with Barraba's Kerrie Smith and Lyn Simpson fourth also 38 points. In the Gross event the winners were Simone Sweeney and Julie Hoad from Walcha on 22 and runners up were Di Brown and Pru Newby from Glen Innes on 21.

NTPs went to

3rd - Lyn Groth, 12th - Marg Clapson, 16th - Simone Sweeney

Long Drives

0-20 K Creighton, 21- 27 R Sadler
27-45 D Etheridge

A big thankyou to our many visitors who always make an effort to support our tournament.

Next Sunday 1st June is the first round of the Club Championships playing for Mandy Koopman's trophy. On Sunday 8th June is an Individual Stableford for the Betty Artis Memorial trophy.



Do cats have ‘friends’, or do they always vie for territory? Animal experts weigh in.

Deanna Tepper, Associate Lecturer, Psychology, La Trobe University

Jessica Dawson, Associate Lecturer, Psychology, La Trobe University

Joanna Shnookal, Animal Behaviour Consultant and PhD Candidate, La Trobe University

Domestic cats have been living alongside humans for an estimated 10,000 years, first as rodent control and then as the couch-warmers we know and love. A far cry from the lone predator lifestyle of their ancestors, today millions of cats worldwide live within human families. More than 30% of households in the United States and Australia own a cat.

We highly value the relationships we share with these furry companions, frequently considering them friends, family members or even “children”. And this sentiment may be shared, with cats demonstrating affection through seeking out our company, physical contact and engaging in play. Like a secret language between friends, there is even evidence to suggest cats have developed specific vocalisations to communicate with their owners.

Despite this, cats are typically seen as aloof and elusive. But how true is this? Do cats form friendships beyond us?

A complex recipe

Firstly, what does a cat friendship look like? Behaviours that may indicate friendship between two cats include social grooming, such as licking each other’s fur, head rubbing, spending time together and playing together.



Successful cat friendships can be tricky to achieve.
Kelly/Unsplash

In contrast, behaviours such as charging, fighting or chasing may indicate a disagreement is brewing or already underway. Cats also have very few “conflict defusing” signals in their behavioural repertoire, choosing to run away or avoid each other rather than attempt reconciliation during conflict. Such disharmony can be stressful for the cats. Many owners end up wondering how to maximise the chances of fostering a positive relationship between their cat and other animals – or if they should get them a “friend” at all.

The recipe for successful feline friendships is a little complex. Research on cat dynamics in unowned, free-ranging cats has found close relationships are more likely to form – and last – if they are:

- both female
- grow up together
- are closely related and
- live in close proximity to one another.

Indoor-only cats can also form strong friendships with other cats in the household. Similar to unowned free-ranging cats, cats who have been introduced to one another at a young age, who are related, and who have lived together for a long-time, are more likely to be close friends.

However, among de-sexed cats, male pairs show closer bonds than male-female pairs. Female pairs are the least likely to be friends. Their first introduction is also the most predictive factor for positive long-term relationships.

What about outdoor friends?

We know less about the social lives of pet cats that are allowed to roam outside, but the default behaviour for most cats is one of competitiveness and territorialism. That said, cats will typically try to avoid confrontations with others.

While some research has found interactions between roaming cats are usually calm, they can and do sometimes result in fights – particularly if food is around or they venture into an unfamiliar unowned cats’ territory. To complicate things further, two cats are more likely to fight within a household if they are allowed outside – likely due to bringing in unfamiliar scents.

We also can’t forget the problematic relationship cats can have with native fauna, sometimes decimating local wildlife populations. In many places, especially in parts of Australia, cats are not allowed outdoors for this reason.

There are also dangers to their own health and safety if allowed to roam, such as misadventure, risks from road traffic or even disgruntled neighbours.



Cats are territorial, but typically avoid confrontations with others. Fred Augé/Pexels

Cats and dogs ... in harmony?

While research has mainly explored cats' friendship with each other, cats can also have positive relationships with other species. For example, while cats and dogs are commonly depicted as mortal enemies, they can live harmoniously, often sleeping and playing together.

However, once again the importance of early exposure and slow introductions in developing this relationship cannot be overstated. Interestingly, it also appears that indoor cats are friendlier towards their canine companions than cats allowed outdoors. This is possibly because outdoor cats may be exposed to multiple dogs, many of which aren't happy to see them.



Cats can have positive relationships with other species – like Alfie the cat who comes to visit Bingo the dog every day. The Conversation

Who's your cat's closest friend?

So, should your pet cat have a friend? As you may have guessed by now, the answer to cat friendships is complicated. If you do plan to introduce your cat to a new companion, here are some suggestions to follow. Firstly, cat introductions should be slow and supervised to increase the chance of a positive first meeting.

Your house should also have plenty of safe spaces, toys and puzzle feeders, scratching posts, and separate food and litter areas in a quiet spot. Providing these resources will help prevent resource guarding (where cats stop other cats from accessing things they need or like) and reduce conflict between the animals. At the end of the day, while cats can form friendships with other animals, they aren't crucial to their health and happiness.

Your cat's closest relationship is the one it has with you. Ensuring they have lots of opportunities to bask in your attention and engage in play is likely enough for even the most social of felines. After all, they have their "aloof and elusive" reputations to uphold.

