



# BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025**



## Winter's here: time to shield our most vulnerable from respiratory illness surge

Winter has officially arrived across Australia, bringing with it a surge in acute respiratory infections that are filling hospital beds. The Australian Medical Association is urging people to prioritise conversations with their GP about vaccination against COVID-19, influenza, and RSV, particularly for those at greatest risk.

New data from Western Australia demonstrates the remarkable impact of vaccination programs, with its RSV immunisation program achieving a 57 per cent reduction in hospitalisations among infants, saving the WA health system an estimated \$6.2–6.9 million in hospital costs.

AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen said the success of this program demonstrated the power of evidence-based prevention. "These results show what's possible when we get vaccination right, with more babies being kept out of hospital because their parents chose to protect them," Dr McMullen said. "The timing could not be more critical with RSV cases climbing since the start of 2025, and children under five most at risk."

Dr McMullen said reductions in vaccination rates for COVID-19 boosters and influenza were alarming. "New COVID-19 strains continue to circulate leading to increased hospitalisations, making regular boosters essential for maintaining protection against severe illness. Across the country, influenza vaccine coverage sits at just 24.24 per cent nationally and just 14 per cent across all age groups under the age of 50 years. We are particularly concerned by vaccination rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, which have declined across all age groups. Meanwhile COVID-19 booster coverage has dropped significantly in people aged 75 and over, falling from 38.2 per cent to just 32.6 per cent in the past 12 months."

Dr McMullen said Australia now had unprecedented tools to prevent serious respiratory illness and urged people to visit their GP and get vaccinated. If patients are unsure of which vaccination they need or are worried because of the misinformation appearing on social media, their GP can provide expert guidance and the necessary facts to support them in making an informed decision. "The national RSV prevention program offers free maternal vaccination and targeted infant protection. Annual influenza vaccines provide strong protection, with more than 98 per cent of this year's circulating strains matching vaccine components."

"The evidence is clear — vaccines work. But vaccines sitting in fridges don't save lives. We need people to pay attention, particularly parents of young children and older Australians."



**Free concert Saturday 14th @ The Playhouse Theatre 6.30pm. "Growler" performs a variety classic tunes. Gee, playing bass guitar, Roger on Drums and Will vocals/guitar.**



**BARRABA RSL &  
RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone 67821379  
For the information of  
members and guests.

**THIS WEEK**

**THURSDAY 12th June**

BINGO from 6pm

**FRIDAY 13th June**

**MEAT RAFFLES**

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1200

**SUNDAY 15th June**

**ANGLER CLUB RAFFLES**

Raffles on sale from 12pm, drawn 1.30pm

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1500

**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**

which was an early stopping place for stage coaches on their way to Bingara and Warialda.

Archibald Bell was probably the first visitor interested in taking up land in the 1830s - it seems that he owned land extending from Piedmont and Cobbadah to Ulumbarella in the west although he is not on the 1837 list of licences but John Hoskisson (Barraba Creek) was. I suspect that Bell's Mountain was named after Archibald.

As the years passed more people travelled north looking to take up land and properties such as Cobbadah and Piedmont were taken up and there was more traffic heading north. One of the first to settle on the track near the intersection of Cobbadah Creek with Sheep Station Creek was James Lockhart and his family. They had a public house near the present-day stock yards and were planning to expand when their little daughter died and then less than a year later James died aged 40 years. His widow remarried but died in 1855 aged forty years leaving three sons to try and keep the public house going. They are all buried on the bank of Cobbadah Creek but the headstone marking the spot has disappeared.

The Lockharts attempt to found a village did not fail as an area of 9 square miles was reserved from sale until the land could be surveyed. The survey began with a preliminary survey in 1863 and appeared in a November, 1865 Government Gazette. The first block of land to be sold went to John Bridger, blacksmith, but it was eight more years before Henry Aumuller and John Thomas Bridger made a purchase.

When the twentieth century arrived and the government realized that no one wanted to buy north of Cobbadah Creek the size of the town of Cobbadah was reduced to the smaller size of today. The Post Office was beside the Hotel for years and then moved north into the paddock and then further north to the home built in the 1950s facing the main road.

The smaller home further north along the road was built as a shop and then a home. In a row behind this shop were several houses where families resided. One of these homes is now in Gotha Street, Barraba. There are stories of children picking fruit in a private orchard many years ago - families such as Johnson, Clark, Jeffree, Akers and Beynon lived in the street behind the old store.

There were of course some personalities in the village including Harry Bushell, Dick Smith, Joe Johnson, Charlie Robinson - the dam sinker, and Charlie White -the hotel keeper.

Today, there are three or four houses, an unused church, and the fire station making up the village.



## **History Notes**

A small but enjoyable market on Saturday held around the mud. The visitors attended the stalls and several viewed the Museum as well. We were also very happy to welcome Kevin Anderson who looked over all the Museum.

Congratulations to the musicians who provided great entertainment and also well done to Maggie who took home the box of fruit.

The old Barraba Shire has remnants of several small towns which are gradually disappearing as transport and communication change. One of these villages is Cobbadah

## Digital Skills Foundations

Applications are now open for [Digital Skills Foundations](#), the first of two digital skills initiatives being delivered in partnership between Destination NSW and Tourism Tribe.

The fully funded **Digital Skills Foundations** initiative runs over six months and will support 100 businesses from across Sydney and NSW to uplift their online presence. The initiative will build the core digital capability of NSW accommodation and experience providers, enabling them to better engage potential visitors online.

Successful applicants will receive digital health checks, ATDW assessments, two hours of one-to-one coaching, group coaching sessions and access to an online digital learning library.

Destination NSW has partnered with trusted digital experts, Tourism Tribe, to deliver this personalised, practical training program.

Applicants must meet the selection criteria including an active ATDW listing, and preference will be given to those who have established social media accounts and a business profile on Google and TripAdvisor.

[Applications](#) will close on **Friday June 20 2025**, and successful applicants will be notified on 23 June 2025.



*Photo: Patti Crowley*

New entrance signs are being installed at key entryways to locations around the region. As part of the Entrance Strategy adopted in 2023 and based on community feedback, these entrance signs were designed with artworks to showcase key themes for each location across the region. Seven signs have already been installed with all signs at Tamworth, Barraba, Bendemeer, Kootingal, Manilla, Moonbi and Nundle to be in place and complete by mid-June.

Some of the feedback received from the community suggested that the existing or previous signage was outdated, and that community members from across the region wanted to see traditional owner recognition, while including a public art component to reflect the unique character of each location. The Tamworth entrance signs feature an artwork created by Gomeroi artist Tess Reading containing shapes representing the communities that form our region such as Tamworth, Manilla, Barraba, Nundle and everything in between. This artwork has also become a part of Tamworth Regional Council's corporate branding.

Some of the other elements included in sign artworks are the Regent Honeyeater on the Barraba sign, a platypus by the river on the Bendemeer sign, the night sky on the Kootingal sign (Kootingal is an Aboriginal word for star), fishing on the weir for the Manilla sign, the picturesque Moonbi ranges for the Moonbi sign and gold panning/fossicking on the Nundle sign.

This project has been fully funded through the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.



## JOIN OUR TEAM!

### Jobs of the Week



Tamworth  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

Looking for a role where you can make a real impact? These exciting opportunities at Tamworth Regional Council could be your next big move. Check out this week's featured roles:

- Construction Supervisor
- Biosecurity Officer
- Biosecurity Specialist
- Community Safety Ranger

For more information or to apply, visit:

[www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/vacancies](http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/vacancies)



## Successful Warm and Woolly Exhibition over the June Long Weekend

The Barraba Potters and Craft Guild members would like thank everyone who came to visit, make a purchase or enjoy morning tea or lunch over the long weekend. We saw visitors from Tamworth, Tenterfield, Narrabri, Brisbane, Mt Isa, Bingara, Breeza and Bundarra. The Barraba community once again supported the weekend as usual.

We started on Friday with a visit from 6 residents from Richardson House. They enjoyed sitting in front of the warm open fire, a browse of the Gallery, morning tea of fresh scones with jam and cream and a lovely chat to the ladies who were working on Friday. Thanks to Abi, Ben and Maria for making the visit possible.



Yarn bombing of the seat, trees in front of the Gallery and, for the first time, the tree in front of the Historical Society was also a Friday activity. It has sure brightened them up for the winter! Thank you to Kathy and Brett for helping bombs the trees.





Saturday was very busy with gallery sales and food service of morning tea and lunches. Sunday morning, we had more scones ready for morning tea. There were a lot of local people come in for morning tea and lunch, making it another good day.



Thank you to guild members for helping with the sales desk, donations to the stall and for cooking and helping serve our yummy morning tea and lunch.

*Thank you to Julia Crowley for taking photos.*



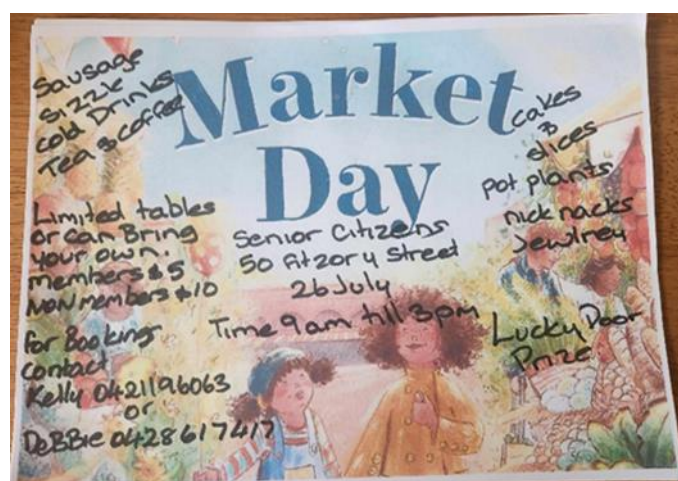
A special thank you to Mandy, Jenny and Janice for showing us you're spinning and felting skills and to Gerda for her hand-woven rug display, that added a great deal of interest to our exhibition. Member for Tamworth, Mr. Kevin Anderson also joined us for morning tea and a chat to the visitors at the Gallery on Saturday morning.



*Joan Currell with Kevin Anderson*



Thank you to all the people who purchased raffle tickets from the Warm and Woolly Exhibition over the weekend. Winners were; Meat tray: Mandy Cabot. Fruit: Helen Rixon





## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Gidday Bronwyn,

My wife Kelly and I recently went for a week-long tour through the battlefields of Northern France and Southern Belgium. We took 4 x hand crocheted poppies that were made by my Mother-in-law Jennifer at Beechwood near Wauchope in NSW. We had decided to place two of the poppies at random on headstones in the Military cemetery at the Villiers Bretonneux Australian National Memorial which is near the French town of Corbie.

One of the remaining poppies was placed on the former grave of the unknown soldier in the Adelaide Cemetery, who is now interred as the unknown soldier in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The last poppy was placed on my wife's uncle's grave which is located in the Ainsdale cemetery in Northern England.

I randomly chose RS Capel to be the benefactor of my poppy and Kelly chose a soldier called LO Chamley. They are buried in close proximity to each other at Villiers Bretonneux Cemetery.

Since I have got back to home soil I started wondering who were RS Capel and LO Chamley? [Roy had been buried twice; Leighton was only buried once] This morning I started to find more out about Royston and straight away came up with info off the internet and was able to see what the man actually looked like. Very amazing to look back at these old photos and peer into the past.

Royston was a member of the 33rd Battalion and had been killed in action on the 30th of March 1918 and "the Field France" is all it says of this location. He has a 47 page military record in the National Australian Archives that is easily locatable should any one wish to read more. It contains all his war service, when he was wounded at different times, when he was killed and even his last will and testament in which he left his estate to his father George.

It was an amazing experience to attend this memorial ceremony at Villiers Bretonneux and also be part of the other amazing, but sad experiences that we had. I had a grandfather and a great uncle that fought in the same locations as Roy and Leighton, miraculously they both survived to return to Australia but never lived long enough to make old bones.

The four other servicemen that are buried either side of Roy had also been also buried more than once, and this was pretty common throughout many cemeteries. Roy was previously buried at Hangard Wood cemetery which is a

British war cemetery and that may be why he was relocated although there are four other Aussies still buried there.

If you were able to peer over the hedge behind Roy's grave you would see the town of Corbie about 2klm away. It was a very picturesque location far removed from what it looked like in the 1916 -1918 period.

I have written a reasonably detailed daily journal with photos of our trip each day and I will send you the Anzac Day one to read also. I hope this small step back into a sad part of Australian history brings some interest to the members of the Capel family and others in the Barraba district.

Best regards

Stephen McBride

**D** 42223 LIAN **MILITARY FORCES.**

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

**Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.**

No. 379 Name CAPEL ROYSTON STANLEY  
 Unit AIF 33<sup>rd</sup> Batt.  
 Joined on 4 / 1 / 16

**Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.**

What is your Name? Royston Stanley Capel  
 1. Royston Stanley Capel  
 2. In the Parish of St. Andrew's in or near the Town of Woolongah in the County of N. S. W.  
 3. Yes Natural Born  
 4. 28 years 7 months  
 5. Not over 21  
 6. No  
 7. No  
 8. John - Mr. George Capel  
 9. Yes  
 10. No  
 11. No  
 12. Yes  
 13. No  
 14. Yes  
 15. Yes

I, Royston Stanley Capel, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military or Naval Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

\* And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children

Date 12 November 1915 1915 1915  
 Signature of person enlisted. Stanley Royston Capel

\*This clause to be amended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 16 years of age.

National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455, CAPEL RS





**Casualty Form - Active Service.**

Rank *Platoon Sergeant* Surname *Capel* 33rd Bn A.I.F. Christian Name *Rayston Stanley*

Religion *C-M* Age on Enlistment *28* years *7* months

Listed (a) *1/1/18* Terms of Service (a) *1/1/18* Service reckons from (a) *4/1/18*

Date of promotion to present rank *1/1/18* Date of appointment to lance rank *1/1/18*

Extended *1/1/18* Re-engaged *1/1/18* Qualification (b) *1/1/18*

Occupation *(Pay Book No 127554)* Signature of Officer *1/1/18*

Date	From whom received	Report	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks
		Marathon Embarked	Sydney	4/1/18	
		Disembarked	Devonport	9/7/18	
1/1/18	OC. 33rd Bn	Proceeded Overseas France	Southampton	21/11/18	FR 1372 DO 16/14753
6/17	B213 33rd Bn	To be Lance Corporal	Field	25/6/17	C 8/31 DO 26/2875
8/17	B 213 33rd Bn	To be Temp Corporal	do	7/8/17	C 6/4 DO 31/5899
9/17	do	Reverts to Pte at own request.	do	1/9/17	C 6/41 DO 34/4175
10/17	do	To be Lance Corporal	do	1/10/17	C 6/42 DO 36/4422
10/17	do	L/Cpl to be Temp Corporal vice "Murray" wounded.	do	24/10/17	C 6/42 DO 43/5428
1/1/18	do	L/Cpl To English Leave	do	1/1/18	C 6/42

*Buried at Hangard Wood*

AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
British Expeditionary Forces  
3rd JULY 1918.

(S.G.D.) S.H. CRAWFORD CAPTAIN  
For Officer in Charge of Records

Date	From whom received	Report	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks
9/2/18	B 213 33rd Bn	L/Cpl Returned from Leave	Field	2/2/18	C 6/42
21/1/18	9th Bde H.Q.	L/Cpl	Field	20/5/18	AT 30484 VL675
9/4/18	B213 33rd Bn	L/Cpl Killed in Action	France	20/5/18	C 6/42 DO 17/1974

*Buried at Hangard Wood*

AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
British Expeditionary Forces  
3rd JULY 1918.

(S.G.D.) S.H. CRAWFORD CAPTAIN  
For Officer in Charge of Records



MG 15th December, 1921.

Dear Sir,

Advice has now been received from the overseas authorities to the effect that your son, the late No. 379 Corporal R. S. Capel, 33rd Battalion, was buried near Hangard Wood. No report of his reburial has been received and it is regretted the Graves Registration Parties have been unable to trace the grave, but records reveal that a large number of unknown soldiers of the 33rd Battalion have been exhumed from the vicinity of HANGARD WOOD and buried in VILLERS BRETONNEUX MILITARY CEMETERY.

It has not been possible definitely to associate your son with any particular unknown soldier, but the circumstances warrant the erection of a Special Cross bearing his particulars and prefaced by the words -

"BURIED IN THIS CEMETERY, ACTUAL GRAVE UNKNOWN".

Steps are being taken to erect such cross in the cemetery mentioned.

Yours faithfully, Major, Officer i/c Base Records.

Mr. George Capel, Camp Santo, Barraba, N.S.W.

National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455, CAPEL R S

**Celebrating**

THE LIFE OF

*Kenneth Robert Hodges*

JANUARY 12, 1938 - MAY 28, 2025

Dearly loved husband of Joy Eva Hodges, much loved dad to Paul, Denise & Pamela, adored grandfather to Michael, Corie, Aiden, Tame, Chayse & father in law to Wendy. Great grandfather to Ruby, Evelyn, Paisley, Jaxson, Hadlee & Sonny. Cherished brother to Mervyn, Joy, Barbara & Narelle.

The family warmly invite all Ken's family & friends to attend the funeral service to celebrate his life followed by the wake to share many stories and laughs. An online stream will be available upon request.

Saturday June 14 2025 at 11:00am  
Anglican Church Cnr Maude & Fitzroy St  
Barraba NSW 2347  
Wake after service at 12:30pm  
Barraba Bowling Club



## What makes a good aged care home? We asked a 'star' in our region.

Edited from The Northern Daily Leader  
Jonathon Hawes 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025

While aged care facilities in the New England region have rated well, a government report shows there's room for improvement.

Last week, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA) updated its quarterly *Star Ratings* report – the report assigns one-to-five star ratings for all government funded aged care homes.

On the bright side, not a single facility across New England had an overall rating below three stars (acceptable) with the majority hitting a four-star (good) rating.

Three of the 31 government-funded aged care facilities were given an overall five-star (excellent) rating.

We asked one of the three, Barraba's Richardson House, what makes an aged care home 5 stars and what they think other facilities should do to improve their rating.



Richardson House is one of three New England aged care facilities to have a five-star rating from the DHDA, the other two being Touriandi Lodge in Bingara and McMaugh Gardens Hostel in Uralla. Picture by Peter Hardin

"You need to work as a tight-knit team. Everyone's involved in it, from the people that work here right through to the rest of the community," Richardson House facility manager Hellan Philp said. "We just try really, really hard, even though the government keeps throwing difficulties at us every five seconds."

One of those difficulties is convincing qualified nursing staff to move to Barraba, a small town 90 kilometres north of Tamworth with a population of about 1329 people.



Staff at the Richardson House aged care service in Barraba, one of the only services in the region to get a five-star rating from the DHDA. From left, Angela Peters, Megan Blake, Nicole Sharp, Abigail Blanch, Josie Kelly and Tammy Wade. Picture by Peter Hardin

Ms Philp only became Richardson House's facility manager nine months ago. In that short time, she's managed to hire three additional Registered Nurses (RN's) to work at the facility.

But despite having five RNs for the 21-bed facility, the DHDA still gave Richardson House only three stars for its staff rating, which makes up 22% of its overall score.



Richardson House received a five-star residents' experience rating, which is the most important factor in determining its overall score. Picture by Peter Hardin

"In a little remote area where there are minimal rentals and a minimal talent pool, it's been really difficult for us, and I think that's true for anybody in a rural area." Ms Philp said.

The data suggests Ms Philp is correct.

The DHDA's quarterly report classified all New England aged care facilities as being in rural towns (as opposed to regional centres or metropolitan). For many facilities, staff was the only metric to fall below a three-star rating.

Continued page 9



"The Government is saying little facilities need to have RNs 24/7, even in situations where it's not really needed," Ms Philp said. "Having an RN 24/7 is lovely in theory, but it's an unrealistic expectation in practice."

But staffing isn't the only issue imposed by the tyranny of distance. A lack of services has also been a problem. Richardson House has been relying heavily on telehealth services to make up for a shortage of local GPs. To combat this, Ms Philp says the most important tool is building community connections.

"We try and connect with our community, so we use our own local suppliers, so we use Barraba's own greengrocer, Barraba's own butcher. We give back to the community and they give back to us," she said. "...We also try to get our residents input into just about everything, from what plants we put in the garden to how often cleaning should happen. It's about collaboration with everyone involved. This is where people live, it's their home. They have to be happy, they have to be comfortable and they have to have trust that we'll look after them, and I hope with our 5-star rating that's what comes across."

## BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

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### BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Service Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in each month 11.30

### CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

Barraba 1st Sunday of the month, Saturday evening

Mass 5pm

All other Sundays 9am

## Thought for the week Fr. John Curran

We have just had a long weekend on the occasion of the King's birthday, actually in November, but who's counting?

Christians everywhere this Sunday have been celebrating the feast of Pentecost which is called the birthday of the church; it remembers the moment when God the Holy Spirit filled the apostles and several women who were also present including the mother of Jesus, with great courage and the knowledge that they needed to announce that the risen Lord was among them and that all people are called to be members; you don't have to be Jewish to be a Christian and therefore Greeks and people of all sorts of nations including northern Africa were considered by God to be part of God's family.

But the Holy Spirit's very hard to explain; sometimes people wonder why we need the Holy Spirit Isn't it enough to have God the creator who made everything in the world and universe and us included; and of course our saviour Jesus Christ who atoned for our sins through his death on the cross and subsequently his resurrection from the dead?

So why the Holy Spirit? Well St Paul tells us that it was through the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus was raised from the dead. That could give us a clue.

The Holy Spirit comes from the love of the father and the son for each other... and it is very powerful. Without the Holy Spirit there is nothing.

Just to give you an example: these days we have lots of electrical things... heaters, computers, washing machines; our vehicles are full of electrical appliances; you name it, it could be done by electricity. We owe a lot to people like the scientist Michael Faraday and others who were able to harness its power and make it useful for daily life.

But you could have the best TV in the world but it would be completely useless without being plugged in into an ordinary old socket in the wall; the kind of socket we've had for nearly 100 years. If it ain't plugged in the socket it's absolutely useless and a waste of money.

So, if we aren't plugged into the Holy Spirit we will not have the power to have faith and loving God... maybe too we won't have the power even to love my husband or wife or partner or children in the best way possible.

Let's all then get plugged in to the Holy Spirit through attending our church and being open to pray and asking for God's grace.

All the very best to you all

Fr John Curran St Michaels Parish and St Johns Parish  
Barraba



*Judy Brown, Joyce Bowman and Veronica Taylor*

Many Barraba people will remember Veronica Taylor...very likely through her work with the Barraba Red Cross and the Barraba branch of the Hospital Auxiliary; or maybe when she was wool classing and/or catering for other workers or shearers. She was a diligent and dedicated worker, devoting many hours to keeping the voluntary organisations afloat in Barraba for more years than anyone can remember! She tended to take on the roles of secretary or treasurer- ones many people try to avoid.

Sadly, Veronica was unable to return to Barraba in recent years. She lived at Moonby House Aged Care where there were the staff and facilities to cater for her debilitating Alzheimer's dementia. Rest in peace, Veronica.

### **VERONICA TAYLOR**

The funeral of Veronica Anne Taylor (10/10/1947 – 23/5/2025) was held at St Laurence's last Friday. Her daughter, Simone, read a poem she had written as part of the Eulogy. It is published here with her permission.

#### **Her Angel Wings**

Her life was never exactly easy.  
Even from beginning years.  
Tragedy in water, taking away her father.  
Leaving broken hearts and tears.

Her childhood was filled  
With mischief, imagination and dreams.  
Often involving siblings' adventures,  
and at times their hare-brained schemes!

Her schooling life she thrived.  
Maths, science and all those books.  
So intelligent and studious.  
Blessed to match it with her looks.

Her mother married late.  
The family again as one.  
To a man who took them under his wing,  
a returned soldier of The Rising Sun.

Her mother now hands full  
with new baby and farm to cover.  
Her big-hearted cousin stepped up  
to be known as her 'foster mother'.

Her schooling came to its end.  
Educators encouraged her, a teachers life.  
But in her youthful yearning.  
She was determined to become a wife.

A fairytale wedding and honeymoon  
Followed by a baby boy  
Her new life as a mother  
bought sleepless times, but joy.

Her family became complete  
Over the next few years.  
Arrival of her daughters meant  
more hard work and exhausting tears.

A life she thought would be perfect  
was quite further from the truth.  
Combined rural life and motherhood  
sapping away pinches of her youth.

Her children flew the nest,  
and more free time began.  
A new career in the wool-shed  
soon filled this empty span.

One of her greatest loves.  
Arrival of grandchildren, four.  
Lots of fun and special memories,  
she couldn't have loved them more.

Her life always dedicated,  
to furry creatures, both mongrel and the well-bred.  
She often left outings early  
saying "there's animals to be fed".

A hideous foe was waiting.  
Alzheimer's was its name.  
Slowly seeping out memories,  
stealing without remorse, a beautiful brain.

Her battle was brave and fierce.  
Support always gave with love in kind  
So devastating to watch the theft  
of a once amazing mind.

Her long and unwinnable battle,  
ended when the Heavens Angle sings.  
The days that wonderful Mum of ours  
'Grew her Angle Wings'

Simone Taylor. Written in honour of our Mum, Veronica  
Taylor (nee Simpson)

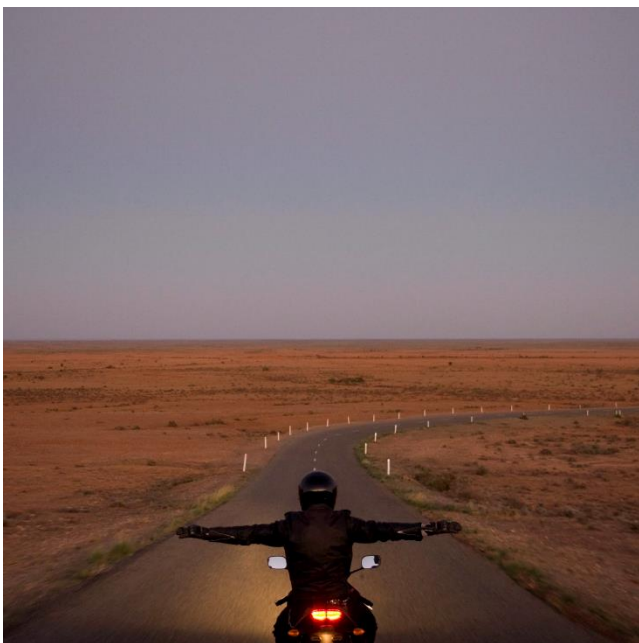


## Journey through Australian country

An ambitious new exhibition will be exclusively exhibited at the Tamworth Regional Gallery (TRG) from September.

TRG is partnering with the Art Gallery of New South Wales to present Bush Lines, an exhibition featuring the works of significant Australian artists from across the nation.

Curated by Gomeroi man Liam Keenan, assistant curator of First Nations art, Art Gallery of New South Wales, this exhibition will present a range of diverse artworks from across time featuring paintings, video art and large scale sculptures that all speak to the varied ways we connect to our regional and remote landscapes.



Tamworth Regional Council's Director Gallery and Museums Bridget Guthrie says this is an exciting chance to create an exhibition that speaks to local communities.

"Creating this exhibition in partnership with the Art Gallery of New South Wales means there will be artworks from both their collection and our Gallery collection that haven't been publicly viewable for a number of years".

The featured artworks, including a recently conserved painting by Tamworth Regional Gallery's founder John Salvana, will take audiences on a scenic journey from Gundagai, to Broken Hill, as well as the deserts of Central Australia and the Torres Strait Islands.

Curator Liam Keenan says there is an added personal element that makes this exhibition feel closer to home.

'As someone who grew up in Tamworth and all over the New England region, it feels like the best kind of homecoming to be able to present this exhibition at Tamworth Regional Gallery. Bush Lines brings together art from some of our

greatest Australian artists and celebrates what makes our regional and remote communities so unique.'

There will be a range of historical and contemporary artists featured in this exhibition which will include luminaries such as Shaun Gladwell (Sydney), Lorraine Connelly-Northey (Waradgerie) and the late Rosemary Laing (Sydney).

The artworks that will be on display as part of this exhibition will speak to the central themes of connectedness, joy and sustainability. There will be an official opening for the exhibition on the evening of Friday 12 September, with the exhibition officially on display at TRG from Saturday 13 September until Sunday 30 November. Bush Lines is an Art Gallery of New South Wales touring exhibition.

## 2025 Tamworth Outdoor Living and Camping Expo

27 June @ 10:00 am - 29 June @ 4:00 pm

Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre  
(AELEC), Tamworth



Whether you're planning your next big road trip or simply want to upgrade your current setup, you'll find expert advice, unbeatable deals and all of the tools to make your outdoor lifestyle even better. Join us for a weekend of discoveries, demonstrations and everything you need to hit the road in comfort and style. Tickets are available to purchase from the gate only.

Adults \$16, Senior and concessions \$13

Children under 16 FREE

Plenty of free parking available. No dogs allowed.





## Golf Notes

Sam Faint braved the chilly conditions to win the Betty Artis Memorial trophy today. His winning score of 32 Stableford points highlighted how long the course is playing and coupled with the cold conditions it made for a tough day for most players. Runner up on a countback to Sam was Dusty Hiscock on 32 with balls going to Kevin Kelaher 31, Ian Cabot 30 and Neil Smith 30. The only NTP was Kevin Kelaher on the 16th.

Next Sunday June 15th is the 3BBB SAND trophy whilst Sunday 22nd is the second round of our Club Championships playing for Campbell Tonkin's Trophy.

Gentle reminder to all players that due to the soft ground can we please carry and use a sand bucket both on tee boxes and on fairways please.

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## At a glance

**Integrated Planning and Reporting**

- Like all NSW Councils, we follow the State Government's requirement to lead the development of long-term plans for our community guided by their aspirations and strategic vision.
- This is known as Integrated Planning and Reporting and includes a range of documents.
- We're seeking community feedback on these draft documents, which guide Tamworth Region's long-term planning in line with NSW Government requirements. These include:
- Delivery Program 2025–2029 – outlining how the new Council will deliver on community goals.
- Operational Plan and Budget 2025–2026 – detailing actions and funding to meet priorities.
- Resourcing Strategy 2025–2036 – showing how we'll resource the community vision, including financial, workforce and asset management plans.
- Councillors will consider adopting the above documents at the extraordinary meeting on 30 June 2025.

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