



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 1st October 2025



BARRABA UHA FASHION PARADE

at the
Barraba Bowling Club
Saturday, October 11th 2025
1.30pm

Fashions by: Frocks 'n' Locks

- Scone making demonstration by guest bakers Judy & Gillian
- Pop-up trading table by Cobbadah Flowers
- Numerous raffle prizes
- Special guest compare - Justine Harris
- Homemade Afternoon tea available.
- Barraba Nutrition Survey information session presented by Penny Hands for the Deakin and Newcastle Universities
- 100 Club draw
- 2 x \$20 lucky seat prizes
- Lucky door prizes

Admission: \$15 per person (cash only)

LOCAL ROCK BAND

GROWLER
6 pm SAT 4th October
The PLAYHOUSE HOTEL
123 QUEEN STREET BARRABA

FREE ENTRY
BAR OPENS 5.30
CONCERT 6.00 TILL AROUND 8.00
DINNER SNACKS AVAILABLE
ENQUIRIES 6782 1109

Tool Sale 9 Flood Street, Barraba
Not before 8am Saturday 4th October 2025

Barraba Medical Centre

The surgery will be closed from Tuesday 7th October 2025 until 10th October 2025. Reopening on Monday 13th at 9.00am.

If you require scripts before the closure, please call the surgery to make an appointment.

If you require medical attention, please present to the Barraba Hospital or in an emergency call 000.

BARRABA RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB WOULD LIKE TO INVITE EVERYONE TO THEIR UPCOMING

AGM

SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER | 3PM SHARP | BARRABA RUGBY CLUB

BBQ TO FOLLOW

Tuesday Night Light Comp
OCT 14 6:30 PM
Junior Tennis
TBC

TENNIS IS BACK!

Nominations are now being taken for the Tuesday night light tennis comp, starting Tuesday 14 October.

We are also gauging interest in junior coaching and/or comp.

Make sure to message us on Facebook or contact Heath White to put your name down for the night light comp, or to register your interest for junior tennis.

Barraba Town and District Tennis Club

CONTACT: Heath White 0427 070



Fiesta LA PEEL
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**SATURDAY,
 18 OCTOBER 2025
 4pm - 8.30pm**

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f i



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- Save water, save money
- Better water management for a sustainable future
- Find and fix leaks early!

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mytrcwater.tamworth.nsw.gov.au

Tamworth REGIONAL COUNCIL

To get started scan me!

Barraba September School Holidays

DIY Pencil Case	Wednesday 8 October	1pm - 2pm	Barraba Library	5+	Bookings are essential and can be made by calling Barraba Library on 6782 1105
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**BARRABA RSL &
RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone 67821379

For the information of
members and guests.

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 3rd OCTOBER

MEAT RAFFLES

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$2000 (4 Draws)

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER

BINGO STARTS AT 12.30

SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER

AIRCOOLED ASSEMBLY

Raffles on sale from 12pm, drawn 1.30pm

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1500

MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER

CLUB CLOSED

BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN

FOR BACK TO THE BUSH CAMPOVEN

DINNER BOOKINGS CLOSE 15TH OCT

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

Mandy and Jenny for helping and to everyone who attended, making this a great day. Thank you also to Una, Pat and Cobbadah Flowers for your donations towards our gifts for the instructors.

We now look forward to the bonsai group get together at the end of November, to review how their bonsai plants are progressing and a big welcome to the new potters who will be joining the pottery group on a Monday or Wednesday morning at the Clay Pan, to expand their pottery skills. Contact Annette for more information about the pottery group 0459471513.



**Barraba Potters and Craft Guild Inc News
The "Come & Try Day" at the Fuller Gallery &
Clay Pan.**

Saturday 27th September proved to be very successful for the Guild, with 30 attendees coming from Warialda & Bundarra CWA, Tamworth, Breeza, Bingara, Barraba and Manilla.

Thank you to our volunteer instructors Annette Brittain, Suzanne Tanner, Raelyn Smith & Janice Smith who demonstrated pottery, bonsai & needle felting. Thank you,



History Notes

Occasionally the name Darby appears in Barrabas' history records but who knows who he was and what he did while living in our area.

Arthur Swift Darby arrived in Australia on 23rd January 1840. He travelled with his brother, Sydney Hudson Darby, Sydney's wife, Mary Ann, and their four children – Edmund aged 6 years, Anna aged 5 years, Swift aged 3 years and Robert just one year old.

The Florintina was a barque of 425 tons and completed the journey to Sydney in five months. On arrival the party stayed in Sydney for a short time before travelling on to Cressfield, Scone in the Hunter. The family were left there while Sydney Darby and a friend travelled north to look for suitable land for sheep farming.

They took up "Tiengah" an 80,000 sheep station and called it Tiengah Run and the house "The Grove" was built in 1842. The story of the family at Tiengah can be found in the Tingha history book. Unfortunately, little is known about Arthur in the Tingha book, but the Bundarra book is a little more helpful.

Arthur took up a property named Winscombe near Bundarra in 1843 and probably lived there as he provided a security bond for the Postmaster at Bundarra.

As the years passed more people moved into the area. In the year 1884 the government introduced the Land Act, resuming about half of each grazing property and finding people to take over the resumed section. Arthur then rented his section of Winscombe to another grazier and finally sold it.

Referring to Arthur Witten's diary we find entries from 1876, and it seems that he gradually cut his ties with Bundarra and bought land to the west of Barraba. He called his property Campo Santo and built the stone house which was there for many years. The Capel family built a new brick home almost adjoining the stone house and the two houses remained there until both were destroyed by a later owner.

With the use of Mr. Arthur Witten's diary, I have found entries concerning Arthur Darby e.g. Mr. Goodwin went to see Mr. Darby in January 1876. Also, Henry Lockhart went to Darby's for cattle in 1879.

In 1888 there were great fires burning on Darby's land. There is also a note "Darby's brother died at Tingha in 1884".

He is buried near the site of the old homestead. The Grove homestead is at the Inverell Museum.

Ten years after the passing of his brother, Arthur Swift Darby died at Campo Santo in July 1894 aged 58 years. Although he was said to be a bachelor, I think that there was mention of a widow at the time of his passing at home just after midnight in July 1894. He is buried in Barraba in the old Church of England section. Sadly, there is little evidence that he lived in the Barraba district for twenty years.

As I close the notes this week I must mention the passing of Nancy Baldwin – a member of our Society for many years up until the last couple and responsible for putting the cemetery records together and then printing a new edition every few years. A wonderful job and well-done Nancy.

Winners of the Historical Museum RAFFLE

1st prize \$70 meat voucher Dan Rumbsy

2nd prize Joan McCarthy Fruit & Veg tray

Thank you all for your support.

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

Barraba 1st Sunday of the month, Saturday evening
Mass 5pm. All other Sundays 9am

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 5th October

Service time changes to 8:45am for next four months. Please note new time.

All Welcome

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am

Woodsreef service 2nd Sunday of each month

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Council on 23 September, 2025.

Councillors tonight endorsed a Mayoral Minute instructing the General Manager to prepare an options paper for the future of Ray Walsh House. The paper will explore remediation and refurbishing of the building, building a new office space for Council staff and new Visitor Experience Centre, as well as proposals received through the EOI process from earlier this year. Formal approval of any option will rest with Tamworth Regional Councillors. Council will hold community consultation once the options paper is received which is expected before June 2026.

Councillors agreed to make a submission to the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's consultation around water management in the region. The draft Water Sharing Plan for the Namoi and Peel Unregulated River Sources 2025 proposes significant changes to the number of days general security licence holders can access water from local rivers, particularly along the Cockburn River. Councillors agreed to express concern around the likely impacts to agricultural production and the region's economic viability as a result. The plan is on public exhibition until 8 October.

Councillors tonight reviewed the process of nominating and voting for the election of the Deputy Mayor position. Councillors adopted the outlined process for voting and announced Councillor Jeff Budd for the position of Deputy Mayor for the ensuing 12-month period.

Councillors were in agreement to change the Council Meeting start time to 6pm from February 2026. They will now consider developing an alternate option to the traditional public forum that was previously held at 6pm on the first Tuesday of each Month.

Councillors have endorsed the public exhibition of two reports tabled at tonight's meeting commencing tomorrow, Wednesday 24 September; the General Policy Register for a 28-day period; and the Draft Code of Meeting Practice for a 42-day period. The General Policy Register is reviewed annually to ensure policies remain relevant and appropriate. The new 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW (2025 Model Meeting Code) has been finalised by the Office of Local Government. Councils throughout NSW must adopt a code of meeting practice that incorporates the mandatory provisions of the 2025 Model Meeting Code before the end of the year.

Ahead of the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025, Councillors authorised five motions to be submitted to the conference by Council. The motions include redirecting funds that were set aside for the failed purchase of Rosehill Racecourse by the NSW Government to fund critical social, transport, housing, economic and enterprise infrastructure in regional areas, acknowledgement of the need for a weed management response from the NSW and Australian Governments, acknowledgement from the NSW Government on the impact of removing the four year Create NSW funding program on regional galleries, the investigation of adding "Energy Production and Storage" as a rateable land category, and to lobby the NSW Government to ensure a surety is paid by any self-represented litigants at the commencement of proceedings that would be returned if they win and given to Council if costs are awarded.

Councillors have reappointed Cr Matt Sharpham as the Council Representative on the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee until September 2028. The Committee is chaired by Mr Robert Lagaida, with external members Dr Meredith Caelli and Mr Glenn Inglis. Councillor representatives serve as non-voting members, ensuring the Committee's independence while providing a vital link between the Governing Body and the Committee.

Councillors noted and approved budget variations identified during July and August 2025. Notable budget variations have been received in the 2025/2026 financial year including \$200,000 in funding received for the Special Entertainment Precincts, \$300,000 from Council's Regional Development Reserve for works on the velodrome site as well as grant funding received to assist with weed management at the Mountain Bike Park and a Tamworth CBD Levee Shared Path design. The operating expenditure budget for general fund has also been increased by \$197,500 to cover Koori Knockout Event and the water division has adjusted its operation expense budget by \$100,00 to carry out electrical works at the Barraba treatment plant.

Councillors tonight agreed to the proposed gate fees for clean concrete disposal at Council's Forest Road Waste Management Facility. The changes will be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days. Following public contemplation, Councillors agreed to adopt the changes to gate fees if no objections arise. Council's Director of Water and Waste will submit a further report to council following the public display period if objections do arise.

For more information, see the full reports at www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/business-papers

Spring School Holiday Workshops at Tamworth

Regional Gallery

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday of the holidays -
Esther Halliday Studio

All workshops - \$30. Register via Tamworth Regional
Gallery Website

Session 1: 10.00am - 11.30am

Session 2: 12.30pm - 2.00pm

Week 1: [Felt Making Joanne Barr](#) Tuesday 30 September

[Animation Skills - Little Worlds, Big Ideas with Daniel](#)

[Elliott](#) Wednesday 1 October & Thursday 2 October

Week 2: [Experimentation and Abstract Art with Emma](#)

[Stilts](#) Tuesday 7 October

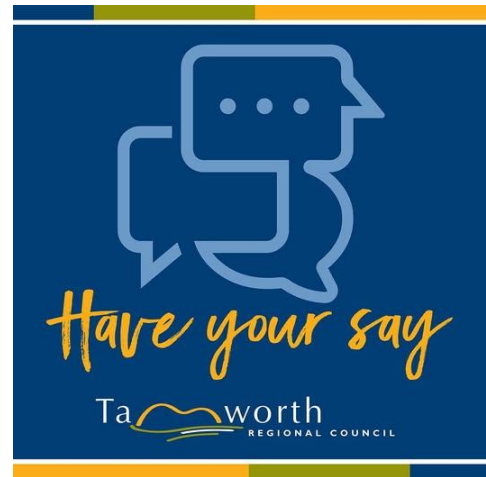
[Model and Printmaking with Emma Stilts](#) Wed 8 Oct

[Ceramic Art with Sasha Jury-Radford](#) Thurs 9 Oct

ALL WORKSHOPS AT:

Tamworth Regional Gallery

466 Peel Street Tamworth



We currently have two documents on public exhibition that have just opened for community feedback.

The General Policy Register is reviewed annually to ensure policies remain relevant and appropriate and is open for feedback until 5pm Wednesday 22 October 2025.

Council's draft Code of Meeting Practice has been updated to incorporate the Office of Local Government's mandatory provisions of the 2025 Model Meeting Code. Community feedback will be open until Tuesday, 4 November 2025.

Please visit <https://brnw.ch/21wW4g7> to provide your feedback!

At a glance

Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor by Councillors

- The positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor are open to Councillor vote at several times during a four-year term.
- In our region, the Mayor serves a two-year period, and the Deputy Mayor serves a one-year period.
- The Local Government Act says a Mayoral term is two years and the Deputy Mayor can be for the same or lesser period. Tamworth's Deputy Mayor is traditionally elected each year.
- At the end of their one or two-year period, Councillors are invited to nominate for the position/s.
- If there is only one nomination for a position, that Councillor is elected. If there's more than one, Councillors will vote. Our Council usually conducts this vote by ordinary (secret) ballot.

Tamworth
REGIONAL COUNCIL

NSW Fair Trading Commissioner Warns Consumers About Digicat Ops Aus Pty Ltd

NSW Fair Trading Commissioner, Ms Natasha Mann, has warned consumers not to deal with Digicat Ops Aus Pty Ltd, trading as 'Digicat'.

Digicat is an online retailer selling a variety of goods including kitchen appliances, sporting goods, personal grooming and health care products, computer and gaming equipment, mobile phones and car accessories through the website "www.digicat-au.com".

Since January 2023, NSW Fair Trading has received 43 complaints about Digicat Ops Aus Pty Ltd. Consumers report that:

- They did not receive goods they ordered.
- They received the wrong item.
- Their order was only partially filled.

Anyone who has dealt with Digicat Ops Aus Pty Ltd and is not satisfied with their interaction is urged to lodge an online complaint to NSW Fair Trading, at any Service NSW centre, or by calling 13 32 20



FREE FISHING WORKSHOPS

Join us on our Gone Fishing Day on Sunday October 5 from 9:00am at the Bingara boat ramp. Free fishing workshops, free bbq and free giveaways! No registration required.



Big news for rural women in NSW & ACT! Applications for the 2026 **AgriFutures Australia Women's Award** are now open.

Celebrating 25 years, The AgriFutures Rural Women's Award is Australia's leading award empowering and celebrating the inclusive and courageous leadership of women involved in Australia's rural and emerging industries, businesses, and communities, now and into the future.

If you're a woman leading a project, business or program that's making a real impact in rural or regional Australia, this is your chance to be recognised and supported 🙌 With up to \$35,000 in grants from Platinum Partner Westpac, it's an incredible opportunity to grow your vision.

Don't miss out, share this with the amazing women in your network who should apply! 🙌

agrifutures.com.au/opportunities/rural-womens-award

Are you a farmer - or work in agriculture?

You're invited to a **free ag tech day** to hear how innovation and technology is driving productivity and making safety easy on farms.

Hear from up to ten industry experts and suppliers, enjoy live demos, take home practical tools and learn how ag tech solutions can help you transform safety and efficiency on your farm.




Come along for a free lunch, and learn how:

- virtual fencing is reshaping livestock management
- drones are transforming on-farm tasks
- complex data can be turned into clear decisions
- government is backing farm innovation and supporting "Farms of the future" agtech.dpi.nsw.gov.au
- to improve productivity through remote livestock monitoring solutions
- to assess digital connection and emergency response options for your farm.

Plus - find out what rebates and free ag tech is available to you now!

Event details

When: Tuesday 21 October 2025
10:00am to 3:00pm
Free coffee/tea from 9:30am

Where:
Gunnedah Show Ground (Griffiths Hall)
South Street
GUNNEDAH 2380

Your attendance counts as an eligible interaction for the \$1000 NSW Small Business Rebate.




All are welcome! Register for the event by scanning the QR code or visit safework.nsw.gov.au and search 'Smart Farms, Safe Futures'

SafeWork NSW

Farms of the FUTURE

Bundarra Garden Festival will have market stalls this year!

Both Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th November
9am til 2pm
Centre of town
Off the main street between the Pub and Bottle Museum

Please contact
Cate Ivins 0450588627
or Amy Layton 0429029162
to book a stall spot on one or both days.



The Gunnedah Show Ladies Auxiliary are hosting the 2025 Spring Rose Show at the Smithurst Theatre, Gunnedah. The dates are one week earlier than previous years – Friday, 11th and Saturday, 12th October 2025.

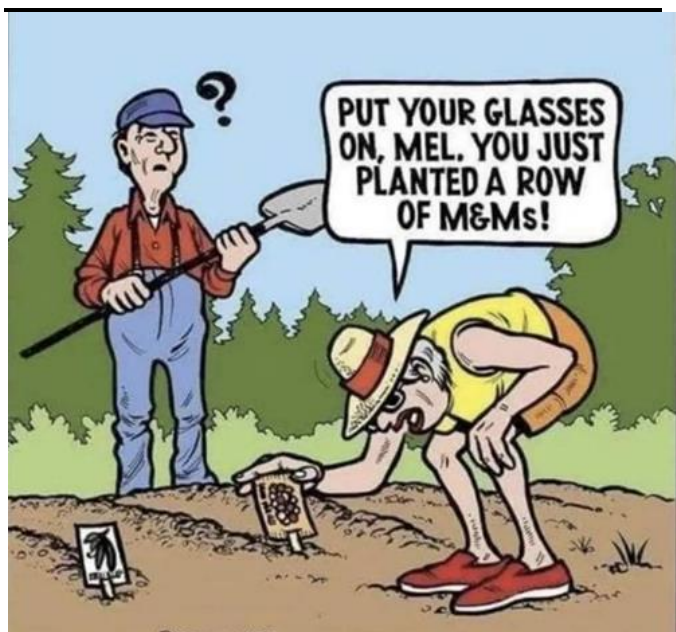
Opening Hours:

- Friday 9am – 5pm and Saturday 9am – 1pm
- Entries taken from 8am – 11:30am (11th October)

Rose sections:

- white
- bi- colour
- mauve
- yellow
- pink
- peace
- red
- miniature
- orange
- double delight
- colour not mentioned
- floribunda
- vase of 6 roses (different colours)

Prizes in all sections + Champion Rose of the Show sponsored by Petries Mitre 10. Further information contact Coralie Howe 0427427911 or Julia Withers 67422898.



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Study finds famous Australian caves are up to 500,000 years older than we thought - and it could help explain a megafauna mystery

Rieneke Weij, Postdoctoral researcher in Geochemistry/Palaeoclimatology, University of Cape Town

Jon Woodhead, Professor emeritus, The University of Melbourne

Kale Sniderman, Senior Research Fellow, The University of Melbourne

Liz Reed, Research Fellow, University of Adelaide

South Australia's Naracoorte Caves is one of the world's best fossil sites, containing a record spanning more than half a million years. Among the remains preserved in layers of sand are the bones of many iconic Australian megafauna species that became extinct between 48,000 and 37,000 years ago.

The reasons for the demise of these megafauna species are intensely debated. But the older the fossils we can find, the better we can understand the species' evolution and extinction. To date, determining the precise age of the caves has been difficult. However, our research demonstrates, for the first time, how old Naracoorte's caves really are – and the answer is up to 500,000 years older than previously thought.

Our findings shed new light on the antiquity of this important place. We hope this will aid understanding of how biodiversity responds to a changing climate over time.



Artist's impression of extinct Pleistocene megafauna in Australia by Julian Hume. Lower left: enormous short-faced kangaroos. Lower right: Thylacoleo carnifex and Wonambi naracoortensis. Centre left and right: Diprotodon optatum and Zygomaturus trilobus. Author provided

A moment in geologic time

Caves can be extraordinary time capsules, often preserving the remains of long extinct plants and animals in exquisite detail. The Naracoorte Caves in South Australia is one such example.

The cave complex is South Australia's only World Heritage site. Among the remarkably diverse and complete fossil record are the remains of iconic megafauna such as:

Thylacoleo carnifex (marsupial predator)

Zygomaturus trilobus (huge herbivore)

Wonambi naracoortensis (giant constrictor snake)

Procoptodon goliah (browsing sthenurine kangaroo).

Palaeontologists have excavated and dated many of these fossil deposits and reconstructed the skeletons of a number of megafauna species.

The caves formed when groundwater percolated through cracks in limestone rocks, dissolving them and forming cavities. They were previously dated at between 0.8 and 1.1 million years old – an estimate generated by dating a fossil dune ridge that lies over the cave complex.

But the methods used to date the dune ridge were not entirely suitable for the task. As such, a precise age of the caves had not been obtained, until now. This intricate work involved in our study has taken five years, but it was worth the wait.



Layers of flowstones overlying sandy layers with fossil bone material in Specimen Cave, Naracoorte. Jon Woodhead, Author provided

What we did

The dating method we used involved examining the beautiful calcite formations inside the caves. Collectively, these are called "speleothems" and they include stalagmites, stalactites and flowstones.

When speleothems form, tiny amounts of uranium – a radioactive element – are locked inside them. Over time, uranium slowly decays into the element lead. This occurs at

a known, constant rate – which means we can use uranium in speleothems as a natural clock to date them.

Doing so involved extracting uranium and lead from the speleothem in a laboratory. We then measured each element and calculate the sample's age very precisely.



*Whale Bone Cave, one of the oldest caves at Naracoorte.
Steve Bourne, Author provided*

Because speleothems only start to grow once a subterranean cavity is formed and above the groundwater table, the oldest speleothem age reveals the minimum age of the cave itself. From this, we found the caves began to form at least 1.34 million years ago – making them 250,000 to 500,000 years older than previous estimates.

The second part of our study sought to determine when the caves first opened to the surface, allowing both air and animals in. We did this by examining microscopic particles of charcoal and pollen captured in the calcite formations as they grew.

We found charcoal and pollen first appeared in the caves around 600,000 years ago. This suggests the caves may harbour exciting new vertebrate fossil material up to 600,000 years old – more than 100,000 years older than the oldest known fossil deposits at the complex.

Why this matters

There's heated debate about whether the extinction of Australia's megafauna was the result of humans or the climate. A good chronology is key to understanding when and how quickly natural processes occurred over time. Without precise ages, we cannot know the rate of change to landscapes, climate or biodiversity.

So, while the Naracoorte Caves formed at least 1.34 million years ago, they did not open to the surface until 600,000 years ago. This sheds new light on the vast separation in time between landforms evolving and fossils accumulating. Our findings will also help palaeontologists target new excavation sites to find older fossils – hopefully providing

valuable further evidence of how our continent's unique biodiversity has changed.

Our new approach can help to unravel how old fossil deposits at other cave complexes in Australia and around the world where both speleothems and vertebrate fossils are found.



Lead author Rieneke Weij descending into a cave at Naracoorte. Liz Reed, Author provided

Australia's richness of plant and animal species faces an uncertain future, due to climate change and other human impacts. Studying important sites such as the Naracoorte Caves helps us understand not just how climate change influenced biodiversity in the past, but what might happen in future.



Golf Notes

On Sunday we played a 4BBB V Par for John Hartley and Tim Bucknell's trophy. The winners on plus 7 were Will Sedgwick and Jesse Phillips. Runners up on plus 6 were Ian Cabot and Neil Smith and balls went to Bevan Benson and John Hartley on plus 5. There were no NTPs. In singles matchplay low markers Peter York and Firman Allen had a great tussle with Pete winning 1 up on the last hole.

Next Sunday 6th October we are playing a 3 Person Ambrose for a club trophy and the following weekend 11-12th October Barraba plays host to the NSW Sandgreen Championships.

A gentle reminder also to be thinking about your twilight golf teams starting on Friday 17th October.

9 myths about electric vehicles have taken hold. A new study shows how many people fall for them.

Christian Bretter, Senior Research Fellow in Environmental Psychology, The University of Queensland

Matthew Hornsey, Professor, University of Queensland Business School, The University of Queensland

Samuel Pearson, Post-doctoral Research Fellow, The University of Queensland

More people believe misinformation about electric vehicles than disagree with it and even EV owners tend to believe the myths, our new research shows. We investigated the prevalence of misinformation about EVs in four countries – Australia, the United States, Germany and Austria. Unfortunately, we found substantial agreement with misinformation across all countries.

People who endorsed false claims about EVs were, not surprisingly, significantly less likely to consider buying one. Electric vehicles are vital in the fight against climate change. But pervasive misinformation is a significant challenge to the technology's uptake and has serious implications for the shift away from fossil fuels.

Widespread agreement with false EV claims

We conducted a survey of 4,200 people who did not own an electric vehicle across the four countries. We measured the extent to which they agreed with these nine misleading claims about electric vehicles:

9 big myths about EVs

MYTH	FACT
Due to the resource intensity of the production process, electric vehicles produce more carbon emissions across their life span than petrol cars do.	Lifetime emissions of petrol cars outweigh lifetime emissions of electric vehicles.
The electromagnetic fields emitted by electric vehicles majorly disrupt the migratory patterns of birds and other wildlife.	EVs primarily emit electromagnetic fields with extremely low-frequency which are unlikely to impact wildlife.
Electric vehicles do not reduce climate change because their production requires mining rare minerals, which causes deforestation, and so increases CO ₂ in the atmosphere.	The mining required for EV batteries can lead to deforestation, but the overall effect of EVs on emissions compared to petrol cars is still positive.
Electric vehicles emit electromagnetic fields that can lead to serious health issues, including cancer.	Measured field levels of EVs are considered low and not a health concern.
Electric vehicles are more likely to catch fire than petrol cars.	EVs are less likely to catch fire than petrol cars.
Electric vehicle batteries are designed to fail after a set number of charge cycles to boost manufacturer profits through replacements.	Outside major recalls, the replacement rate for EV batteries is below 1%.
Electric vehicle batteries are deliberately made non-upgradeable to force consumers into purchasing replacements.	There is no evidence that EV batteries are deliberately designed to be non-upgradeable due to profit motives. The target lifespan of an EV battery is 15 years.
Compared to petrol car technology, electric vehicle technology is designed to be unnecessarily complex to prevent DIY repairs and force people into expensive service centres.	EVs do not need to visit service centres more often than petrol cars. Safety considerations make DIY repairs more difficult with EVs, but there is no evidence this is by design due to profit motives.
Electric vehicle accidents are deliberately under-reported by authorities.	There is no evidence to support this myth.

What we found

To tally the results, we looked at participants' responses for all nine misinformation statements – more than 36,000 responses in all. We then calculated how many of these responses indicated agreement or disagreement.

Of the 36,000 responses, 36% were in agreement with a statement and 23% were in disagreement. A further 24% were undecided and 17% did not know. Misinformation agreement was highest in Germany and lowest in the US, but the differences between nations were small. The most widely believed myth was that electric vehicles are more likely to catch fire than petrol cars. Some 43–56% of people agreed with the statement, depending on the country.

Agreement with misinformation was strongly correlated with a lack of support for electric vehicle policies and a lack of intention to buy an EV in future. A separate part of the research involved 2,100 people in the US, about half of whom owned an electric vehicle. Surprisingly, EV owners did not significantly differ in their agreement with misinformation compared to non-owners. This underscores how embedded the problem has become.

It's not about education

We also examined the factors that make individuals more susceptible to EV misinformation. The strongest predictor was people who scored highly on a "conspiracy mentality" – in other words, they believed conspiracies were common in society, they saw the world through a lens of corruption and secret agendas, and distrusted institutions.

People with progressive political and environmental views were less likely to endorse misinformation about EVs. A person's scientific knowledge or level of education was not a predictor. This finding aligns with previous research, and suggests the pervasive endorsement of misinformation stems from distrust in institutions and expertise rather than from a lack of education.

Grounds for optimism

We tested whether misinformation could be reduced with two interventions among a different sample of US participants. One group was asked to converse with ChatGPT about their views on EV misinformation. The second was asked to read a traditional EV fact sheet from the US Department of Energy. On a third "control" group, no intervention was tested.

Participants who engaged with either ChatGPT or the fact sheet before we surveyed them showed significantly lower endorsement of EV misinformation compared to the control group. This persisted at a follow-up session ten days after the survey. Notably, ChatGPT did not produce any misinformation about EVs. These results build upon existing research demonstrating ChatGPT's potential to reduce endorsement of conspiracy theories.

How to tackle EV misinformation

Our findings show misinformation about electric vehicles has a substantial foothold in Western nations. Susceptibility is not a matter of education or knowledge, but rather stems from distrust of established institutions and expertise. We also found people who engage with facts about electric vehicles are less likely to endorse misinformation. This suggests a dual strategy is needed to reduce misinformation about EVs. First, those who deliberately spread misinformation should be held accountable. And second, evidence-based information, including accessible AI tools, can be used to build public resilience against false claims.

