

# **BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS**

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

## **Australia Day Nominations Now Open!**

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Australia Day Awards, giving residents across the Tamworth Region the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the outstanding individuals and groups who make a difference in their community. The awards honour local people across the region who have demonstrated excellence, achievement, or dedicated service in their chosen field or to the broader community.

Barraba will recognise a Citizen of the Year, the Frank Darlington Young Achiever and also the Community Event of the Year. Similarly, in Manilla, nominations are open in the Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event of the Year, and Achiever of the Year. Meanwhile in Nundle residents are encouraged to nominate a worthy recipient of the Community Recognition Award.

Separate award ceremonies to be held in Tamworth, Manilla, Barraba and Nundle on 26 January 2026.

Tamworth Regional Council Events Officer Melissa Millstead said the awards provide a meaningful opportunity to acknowledge the quiet achievers and community champions who help shape the region. "Every year we see incredible stories of people giving their time, skills and energy to make our community stronger, more connected, and more vibrant," Milstead said. "The Australia Day Awards are our chance to shine a light on those efforts and say thank you."

Community members are encouraged to nominate someone they believe deserves recognition for their contribution or achievements. Nominations close 4pm Thursday, 27 November 2025. For more information and to access the nomination form, visit www.trcnews.au/2026AustraliaDay

# Barraba Cancer Patients Fund Raising Group Inc. GARDEN RAMBLE

Next SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER 2025 10am-5pm \$5/garden or \$20 ticket for all four participating gardens

Please see page 2 for details



# BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

Phone 67821379

For the information of members and guests.

### **THIS WEEK**

### FRIDAY 24th OCTOBER

MEAT RAFFLES
Tickets on sale from 6pm
MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1200

SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER BINGO STARTS AT 12.30PM

## SUNDAY 26th OCTOBER ANGLERS CLUB

Raffles on sale from 12pm, drawn 1.30pm MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1800

### **BISTRO HOURS**

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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 Cancer Patients Fund Raising Group Inc. Open Gardens 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025

## 10am to 5pm



Entry Fee \$5/garden or \$20 ticket to all gardens. Please bring cash.

- A Barraba town as a reference point of where the gardens are located. Numerous food outlets available.
- B NANGARAH, 307 Linton Road, Woodsreef, NSW 2347 (23.2km from Barraba), morning tea and light lunch available. Unfenced creek, children require supervision.
- C DOONBA, 250 Doonba Road, Barraba, NSW, 2347 (20.4 from Barraba).
- D TYCOLAH COTTACE, 166 Carisbrooke Road, Barraba, NSW, 2347 (20km from Barraba, 40km from Bingara to Carisbrooke Road), light refreshments available.
- E- THE OAKS, 287 The Oaks Road, Barraba NSW 2347 (5.3km from Barraba).

Look out for the pink and grey balloons on mailboxes or road signs.

Proudly supported by The Rotary Club of Barraba



All enquiries please contact Lib 0428653639

## Barraba United Hospital Auxiliary Happenings

The Barraba UHA would like to thank the Barraba Community for their support with our fundraising activities over the past 12 months. The Barraba Community is very generous and supportive when it comes to fundraising events.

Your generosity has resulted in our net fundraising profit expenditure, providing the following items to the Barraba MPS for the benefit of the clients, staff, residents and visitors.

### **United Hospital Auxiliaries of NSW Inc.**

Let us hold high the lamp of service for the welfare of our hospitals and health facilities

# PURCHASES BY BARRABA HOSPITAL AUXILIARY IN 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR FOR BARRABA MPS

OOK SNOW LOW FALLS PREVENTION BED \$9961.00

QUIET ROOM LOUNGES \$3997.00

QUIET ROOM COFFEE TABLE \$359.00

QUIET ROOM LAMP TABLE \$179.00

QUIET ROOM LAMP \$36.00

QUIET ROOM CUSHIONS \$50.00

QUIET ROOM OUTLOOK POT PLANTERS \$610.90

QUIET ROOM OUTLOOK TRELLIS \$154.00

EMERGENCY HOSPITAL COMFORT PACKS \$400.00

AGED CARE SPECIAL BAGS \$35.90

AGED CARE WELCOME GIFTS \$264.24

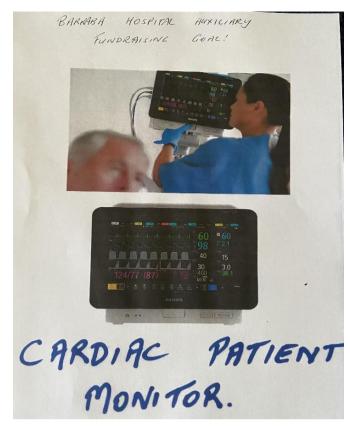
### TOTAL FUNDS SPENT \$16,047.04

We now look forward to your continued support to raise funds for a new fundraising venture that being a new cardiac monitor for the Emergency Department of the Barraba MPS. This new monitoring system is estimated to cost a total of \$23,000.00.

The monitor can be mounted onto the wall in the Emergency Department resulting in less clutter around the client, allowing improved access for staff to the client. It also allows the staff to observe the client from other areas of the hospital via a computer link up. Changes in observations, will be able to be detected instantly and appropriate care administered as required, in a timely manner.

If you would like to join the Barraba United Hospital Auxiliary and help to raise these much-needed funds, our next meeting will be on the 7th of November at 10am in the Day Centre or contact Joan on 0488740347 for more information.

# Pictured below is an example of a cardiac monitor that will be purchased.



Patti Crowley, Publicity Officer

### **CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES**

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

### **BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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

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## Public Program to celebrate the loans from the National Gallery of Australia, Sharing the Collection program

To celebrate Grace & Grace exhibition - the Gallery has prepared a weekend of creative exploration in Barraba - the birthplace of Grace Crowley. We take inspiration from Grace Crowley and her good friend Anne Dangar - a ceramicist. These ladies learnt art together in Sydney - and then travelled to France to extend their artistic education. In France they discovered modernism, and both were transformed by this new approach to artistic practice.

As such, we invite you, to bring a friend, and join us for a weekend of creative exchange. Come to one event or book all three.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the friendly staff at the Tamworth Regional Gallery on 6767 5230 or email gallery@tamworth.nsw.gov.au

Bookings are live on the Tamworth Gallery website if you want to purchase tickets.

https://tamworthregionalgallery.com.au/grace-crowley-inspired-masterclasses-in-barraba

## Friday 14th November 2025

### **Modernism Lecture from Michelle Hungerford**

Free to attend, RSVP appreciated

Michelle Hungerford provides a discussion on the importance of modernism and the role of Australian artists. She will highlight the importance of Grace Crowley, Anne Dangar, Grace Cossington Smith, Dorritt Black and their cohort.

14th November,1pm—2pm at the Clay Pan Gallery, Free RSVP required. Limit 30 people

#### Ceramics Class - with Kate Hofman



Join local ceramicist Kate Hofman as she leads a class in hand build ceramics. Each participant will have their own vessel to create, and then decorate using Sgraffito technique, with shapes and colour informed by the work of Anne Dangar, Grace Crowley and modernist art - the vessel will be a usable vase as well as a finished piece of art.

14th November, Clay Pan from 2pm—4pm. \$75. Limit of 12. All material supplied.

# Saturday 15th November 2025 Plein-air painting workshop with Michelle Hungerford



The plein-air painting workshop will take place on the Crowley property *Tycolah* in Cobbadah, where Grace grew up. The class will be set in the glorious landscape overlooking the surrounding hills. Led by leading landscape artist Michelle Hungerford - participants will create art in the outdoor *'en plein air'* and learn the techniques to capture the rugged natural beauty of the landscape, with focus on light, perspective and composition.

15th November, Leave from Clay Pan. 10am -1pm Morning tea and lunch supplied.

Easels and tables will be supplied.

BYO art supplies. Paint / brushes.

Suitable for mid-to experience artists

Cost \$75.

\$95 if you require paint materials to be supplied Limit of 30

### Cost of each workshop also includes;

Friday - afternoon platter of nibbles and tea or coffee, BYO alcoholic drinks.

Saturday workshop at Tycolah – picnic morning tea and lunch.



### The Count Down has started.

This Saturday, the 25th October, is the "Barrel of Fun" day fund raiser for two local boys, Felix Urquhart and Dusty Hiscock. Once again, Barraba has produced 2 bright and upcoming sport stars. The support from friends, family and the broader community will culminate in a day of fun being held at the Commercial Hotel from 11.00 am. The raffle prizes donated for the day include a range of beauty and shopping vouchers, camping gear and dinner vouchers.

There's something for everyone. There will be an auction on the day for a Stainless-Steel QuadBike rack, 3-day Luxury Accommodation Package, Dressed Sheep ready to collect on the day, Farm Chemical, Kinchrome Tools, Farm Weed Spraying, Sheep Shearing, Footy Jerseys, Husqvarna Chainsaw, House Spider Spraying and more! Come on in and grab a bargain.

Lunch is a delicious rolled lamb supplied by Liam Johnston/Tim Mallise, prepared by Jessie Phillips and cooked by Michael Taylor with tempting homemade sweets for dessert.

There will be Lucky Dips for the kids and the chance to win some cold hard cash in the Footy Toss or the Hundred Club. Willow be along to entertain everyone and Manilla Soccer group will be bringing the soccer balls and goals for the kids to show their skill.

Dusty has been selected to play for the North Sydney Bears in the Harold Matthew's competition held in Sydney next year. In order to compete, both he and his father Phil (Poss), must relocate to Sydney for 6 months. The first three months will involve training 3 days a week and for the following 3 months his team will compete against other NRL pathway teams. The fund raiser will help assist in covering accommodation and living expenses while they are away from home.

Felix has been invited to travel to Japan for 18 days as part of an Under 14's team touring with the Australian Wanderers. He will be accompanied by his father Luke, and they will travel through Japan for 18 days training and playing against 9 different Japanese Clubs.

Both boys acknowledge the great opportunity this is giving them to further their sporting dreams.

So, come along and enjoy the day. Every dollar goes towards aiding the boys on their journey.

# History Notes

History Notes has concentrated on sporting history as well as some of our local residents for a little while. This week I have been sorting out some Horton Valley history going back a little further.

Nandewar Historical Society Inc

Rocky Creek Station is actually on the western edge of the area and along with the surrounding settlements dates back to mid-1800's. John Pringle was the first settler settling up his camp on the bank of Rocky Creek somewhere near where the old tennis courts were.

He built a small dwelling for his wife and family on the bank to ensure they had permanent water. Apparently, the water was not very reliable and he set up a system with a bucket and pole worked by a horse.

After a few years John Pringle moved on and John Arndell purchased Rocky Creek. John moved the homestead across the creek and built a brick home on the high bank — this building was still standing a few weeks ago. As the Arndell family grew a new brick home, was constructed, beside the original building.

John and his wife, Catherine Clynes, became parents to 12 children over the next 18 years – 3 sons and 9 daughters. Sadly, Catherine died in November 1875 aged 45 years and then John found a new wife, Amelia Parsons, widow and daughter of the King family of 'Eulourie'. Sadly, she died after six years of marriage.

John Arndell than married Jane Young in 1898 and she outlived him when he died in September 1905. There is a grave at Rocky Creek and there is a special memorial to John Arndell (1827-1905) in the fenced area.

Rocky Creek was put on the market and purchased by John Capel and family, who moved from their home at Piedmont Woolshed as a result of the division of the Capel family properties.

John and Maria Capel's family were adults when they moved to Rocky Creek – Anne, the eldest daughter, had married Arthur Crowley, Emma married William Lockrey, Alice married Walter Wearne. The remaining seven moved to Rocky Creek. John Capel's son, Daniel George, probably took over management of Rocky Creek as his father was already suffering poor health and sadly died in January 1909. Henry Capel and Jessie Capel both married in the succeeding years. Henry Capel left Daniel George to manage Rocky Creek while he took up Long Arm raising shorthorn cattle and race horses in later years. There are many descendants of this old family and they are well known in the Barraba/Bingara areas.



### **NORTH WEST LOCAL LAND SERVICES**

# Pasture and weed identification paddock walk 31 October @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Free

Join North West Local Land Services for an informative and hands-on pasture and weed identification paddock walk designed specifically for small landholders.

#### **Event details:**

Held at Yarrandabbie, Goonoo Goonoo

This hands-on event will help you:

- Learn to identify local grasses and weeds.
- Gain practical knowledge to better manage your pasture.

### What to bring:

- Bring along any pasture grasses or photos of weeds you want help identifying.
- A chair for comfort.
- Sturdy shoes, hat, and sunscreen for outdoor conditions.

Whether you're new to pasture management or want to sharpen your identification skills, this workshop offers valuable insights in a friendly, supportive environment. Register now to secure your spot!

### **Additional details:**

- Morning tea and water will be provided to keep you refreshed.
- Come clean, go clean -please ensure all people, vehicles, and equipment entering or leaving a property are free from contaminants.

**Contact:** Margo Weekes, Small farms and lifestyle blocks on 0408 882 321 or via email at: margo.weekes@lls.nsw.gov.au





# Here is an overview of outcomes from the Ordinary Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council held on 14 October, 2025:

- Councillors discussed a Notice of Motion from Cr Stephen Mears requesting Council undertake community consultation to gauge residents' preferences regarding the method of electing the Mayor. The motion proposed a survey, broad community engagement, and detailed reporting of community sentiment on the issue. If the survey preference were to support a popularly elected Mayor, Council would then consider moving to a statutory process under the Local Government Act 1993 to change the method, which would require a constitutional referendum. The motion was not supported, with a division recorded 3 for, and 6 against.
- Councillors agreed to donate \$1,500 from the General Fund to support the Tamworth Legacy Veterans and Families Day to be held at Magpies Rugby Union Park this Saturday, 18 October 2025. Funds will assist in covering some events costs including the hire of coffee vendor and purchasing sensory based toys, as well as games and food for children on the day. The event will mark the start of Tamworth V Week which will culminate with the NSW RSL State Congress to be held in Tamworth over 24 26 October.
- Councillors tonight endorsed the creation of an electrical easement within Crown land at Victoria Park to allow overhead low-voltage powerlines along Scenic Road to be relocated underground as part of the Tamworth Regional Skywalk project. The General Manager has been authorised to act as the Crown Land Manager, to approve the easement following a 28-day native title notification period. The works will be funded from the existing Skywalk project budget.
- A report on the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026 was noted by Councillors before work commences on developing the next strategy. The Action Plan for the current strategy contained 243 actions; 103 have been completed, with an additional 99 actions continuing to be implemented during 2025-26. With operational and resourcing changes across the strategy

- lifespan, 15 actions are on hold, with 26 not started or overdue.
- Councillors agreed to nominate Cr Sharpham and Cr North to attend the 2025 National Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress in Bendigo Victoria on 11-12 November. This year's Congress will focus on the critical role local roads and infrastructure play in strengthening communities, enabling freight and supply chains and supporting Australia's economic growth. The cost of the Conference will come out of the \$45,500 annual allocation for Councillor attendance at Local Government sector conferences, workshops, industry working parties and community non-Council functions and events.
- Councillors have agreed to endorse the Tamworth Regional Council Draft Graffiti Management Plan 2025 – 2030 for the purposes of public exhibition for a period of 28 days. The intent of the Plan is to provide a roadmap, outlining Council's goals and demonstrating the measures Council will implement to manage graffiti vandalism across the Tamworth Region. Following the public exhibition period, community feedback will be considered and any amendments to the Draft Plan will be made prior to adoption.
- Councillors were tonight in agreement to progress plans to establish a dedicated Youth Diversionary Program facility in the Tamworth region, aimed at providing alternative pathways for disadvantaged and disengaged young people.
- Subject to securing funding, Council will purchase a 40-hectare property in Bective, to repurpose into a youth-focused training and rehabilitation centre, co-located with Council's planned Companion Animal Centre and rehoming facility. The model will draw on the success of a similar program operating in Armidale, which combines animal care and vocational training to build skills, confidence and employment opportunities for youth. Council will now commit \$100,000 to develop a preliminary design as well as pursuing external funding from State and Federal Governments, and exploring governance options for the future operation of the facility, including the formation of a voluntary Board of Directors.

For more information, see the full reports at <a href="https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/business-papers">www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/business-papers</a>





#### **Golf Notes**

Had a warm-up last Friday and competition starts proper this week. Helen Kelly overcame hand

problems to add to her ball collection which must be mounting by now. Great week by the "No Hopers" but have no-hope of keeping the score as it won't count. Good form though. Good to see "Hackers" back.

Just re-enforcing a couple of rules;

- A preferred lie must be within 15cms of where the ball lies. Not forward.
- There is no preferred lie if you are within a clublength (driver) of a tree. A preferred lie is to give you a decent crack at it but not to get you out of trouble!

Barraba Civilian & Military Rifle Club AGM. Saturday 8th November, 11.30am Barraba Rifle Range.



From The Conversation

# How do flowers know it's spring? A botanist explains

Gregory Moore, Senior Research Associate, School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences, The University of Melbourne

For many plants, spring is just a really good time. They have endured a cold, dark, hard winter and in some places, winters can be murderously tough for plants. It makes sense that when spring comes around, plants are ready to take advantage of warmer temperatures, longer days and more sunshine. They resume growth after their winter dormancies and many rapidly produce flowers.

You've probably been spotting the sudden springtime explosion of flowers everywhere on your neighbourhood walks, your commute or in your own garden. But why exactly do flowers go crazy in spring, and how do they know exactly when to show up for duty? Here's the science.

### Letting loose in a big rush

For many plants, the conditions for growth in spring are close to ideal. Water, warmth and sunlight are suddenly readily available. Plants don't have to hold back anymore. They can resume almost unconstrained growth and have the energy and resources to invest in flowering. Your garden (or a patch of natural bush) is, in fact, a highly competitive environment.

Plants will rush to produce masses of flowers in the hope this will give individual plants an advantage in the reproductive race that ultimately might lead to seed and reproduction. This, after all, is the universal goal of biological success.

There is another factor, however, that also influences spring flowering.



In spring, plants don't have to hold back anymore. Photo by Lachlan Macleod/Pexels

### The birds and the bees (and other insects)

Flowering plants (known as angiosperms) are relatively recent arrivals on the evolutionary time line. They first became significant during the Cretaceous Period, about 100 to 120 million years ago.

By then, insects had already been on the scene and evolving for millions of years. Birds had evolved more or less at the same time as these flowering plants, becoming more common during the Cretaceous Period too, but a few million years earlier. These creatures, the plants noticed, were excellent at dispersing pollen and seeds. Many flowering plants evolved to use their helpful services.

Before the angiosperms, ancient plants used spores for reproduction. Conifers, which had evolved hundreds of millions of years before angiosperms, used wind to disperse their pollen. Seed dispersal was often limited, unreliable and slow.

Flowering plants needed to attract pollinators and seed dispersal vectors, such as insects and birds. Many developed flashy and showy flowers: the epitome of good advertising. So, flowering in spring coincides with the return of migratory birds and the life cycles of insects (insect activity usually declines over winter).

It makes great sense that many plants flower when the insects and birds so vital to their reproductive success are also getting active (and getting busy). It is a matter of great timing that benefits all involved.



Perfect timing. Photo by RE Walsh on Unsplash

### Timing is everything

The way flowering plants time their flowering is superb biology. Many people assume warmer temperatures trigger spring flowering. But temperature is renowned for its variability and unpredictability. Temperature is not a good indicator of season or time.

So, most plants measure day length using a green pigment called phytochrome (literally plant colour). This exists in two forms, one of which is active in triggering plant metabolism. This phytochrome system enables plants to measure, with remarkable accuracy, both day length (also known as photoperiod) and the night length. The ratio of the two forms allows plants to measure time like a biological clock.

Photoperiod is a very accurate and reliable measure of time and season and so plants nearly always get their flowering times in spring right. In some plants there is an extra feature that can affect flowering, where the plants produce an inhibitor (abscisic acid) before winter that keeps them dormant. Abscisic acid is cold-sensitive. So, when spring comes, the inhibitor level is low. This, combined with photoperiod, helps initiate flowering. The two mechanisms combined are a very reliable and consistent trigger for flowering.

### Advantages to being a flower in spring

Flowering in spring means plants can use insects and birds to facilitate pollination and disperse seeds. The pollen can be spread effectively and in a targeted way to other flowers of the same species. Less valuable pollen is wasted than if you're relying on wind dispersal.

The seed can spread over much greater distances. The seed for many species will germinate during spring when growth conditions are highly favourable. It's not a coincidence flowering plants with this type of reproductive biology spread around the globe very quickly after their emergence during the Cretaceous Period. They are highly efficient and successful plants.

### Not everyone can be a flower in spring

So why don't all flowering plants bloom in spring? It is one of the delights of biology that there is nearly always room for contrarians and exceptions. Some plants flower in autumn or perhaps during winter and some in summer, but there is always advantage in them doing so.

Sometimes it's to avoid the fierce competition from all those other spring flowers in attracting pollinators. Sometimes it's because they are focused on a particular insect or bird vector that another season suits better. Sometimes it's because the plants can only survive in a highly competitive environment by not flowering in spring.

In the complex web of plant biology, a one-size-fits all approach never works. Spring flowering has a lot going for it — as the current profusion of flowers attests — but many plants have made success of being different.



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### **Mango Chicken**

### From The Free Range Butcher



### Ingredients:

- 1kg Chicken Breast or Chicken Thighs
- 1 tbsp oil or ghee
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, grated
- 1 tbsp ginger, grated
- 2 tsp coriander
- 2 tsp cumin
- 2 tbsp curry powder
- 1/2 tsp chilli powder
- 2 large mangos, peeled and diced or 300g frozen mango
- 250ml chicken stock
- 400ml coconut cream
- 2 tbsp fresh coriander, chopped
- 1 tsp sesame seeds to garnish

### Method:

- 1. Heat oil in large saucepan on medium heat and fry onions for about 10 minutes. Keep stirring as you don't want them to burn.
- 2. Add your garlic and ginger and cook for 1 minute. Add your spices coriander, cumin, curry powder and chilli powder and cook for a minute until the spices smell aromatic.
- 3. Pour in the chicken stock and half the coconut cream and then add half the mangos.
- 4. Simmer for about 7 minutes and then use a stick blender to blend the sauce.
- 5. Pour in the rest of the coconut cream and bring to a simmer.
- 6. Add the chicken and the rest of the mangos and simmer for about 20 minutes until chicken is cooked through.
- 7. Serve over rice topped with coriander and sesame seeds.
- 8. Add a side of Naan bread for an authentic Indian meal.



The reunion of the Barraba Central School "Class of '59" happened this week at The Playhouse.

# Another very successful Back to the Bush Autofest (Photos by Hayley Mears)





