



**FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER**

# BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

## **BARRABA MEDICAL CENTRE**

The surgery will be closed from 12pm Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025 until Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025.

Reopening on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am

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.

## **ESSENTIAL ENERGY – PLANNED OUTAGE**

Essential Energy advises a planned outage that will affect 1378 properties in Barraba and surrounds on:

**SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER from 7 am to 5 pm.** The outage is for essential general maintenance.

## **Barraba Community Inc AGM**

6.00 pm Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Venue: Andy's Guest House

Incorporated entity for the following committees;

- Frost Over Barraba
- Friends of Barraba Trees
- Barraba Birth Books and Beyond
- Barraba Public Art
- Barraba Shire Band
- Barraba Mosaic Group

## **Barraba Civilian & Military Rifle Club AGM**

Saturday 8th November, 11.30am

Barraba Rifle Range.

## **Barraba Lions Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Christmas Party**

HELP US CELEBRATE OUR CLUB'S  
50<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF LIONS.  
FINGER FOOD, ROAST DINNER AND  
DESSERT. BAR AVAILABLE.

COST: \$40 PER PERSON  
PRE PAYMENT VIA DIRECT DEPOSIT  
PREFERRED BUT NOT ESSENTIAL.  
PARTNERS AND KIDS WELCOME.  
SMART CASUAL ATTIRE

**SATURDAY 29TH  
NOVEMBER 2025**

Location: Barraba Golf Club

Time: 5pm. Formalities at 6pm. Dinner at 7.00pm

Please RSVP to Trent Hartwig 0457821007 or  
barraba@lions201n1.au by 15/11/25.

*The end of 2025 marks 50 years of the Barraba Lions Club since forming. With many members moving on and becoming uncontactable directly we are calling out for anyone who was or knows of any of the former members to invite them to our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Christmas Party this November. For more information or if you are a former club member wanting to RSVP please contact Club Secretary Trent Hartwig, 0457821007.*

## **FREE GOLF CLINIC**

Saturday 8th November.

We have Sophie Cusack from Golf NSW conducting free Golf Clinics next Saturday at the Barraba Golf Club.

**JUNIORS GOLFERS from 10.00 am.**

**LADIES GOLF CLINIC from 11.15 am.**

These lessons are for anyone interested in coming along to try golf or those that want to tweak their swing.

Please contact Amanda Koopman 0429958816 or Kerrie Smith 0439628647 to book in.



**This year marks the 107<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW1.**

The armistice concluded four years of terrible warfare which resulted in an estimated twenty million dead and twenty million wounded.

The young Australian nation contributed 416,809 enlisted men of which over 62,000 were killed and 155,000 wounded. Another 8,000 died of war related injuries.

Unfortunately, many of those that returned never recovered from the mental scares that the war inflicted on them.

A young Australia nation lost so much of its future in the conflict.

This year the Barraba community will be holding a service to remember those that served and died in World War One. Our service this year will be held at the railway gate memorial (opposite O'Meara Park) and will commence at 11:00 am.

The venue for our service has been changed this year as it was from this site that many of those Barraba men that served in this conflict had their last view of their home and district.



**Armistice Day Celebration in Barraba circa 1925.**

A good crowd in the street and on the balcony of the Royal and no doubt the Central Hotel. The War Memorial Clock was built in 1924 and Jim Hardiman still owned the license of the Royal Hotel in 1925. Jim Hardiman was born in Boorawa and was a licensee in various towns in NSW before dying in Nowra in 1931. Unfortunately, I never recorded who loaned me this photo. Posted by Brian Coote.



**BARRABA RSL &  
RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone 67821379

For the information of  
members and guests.

**THIS WEEK**

**TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER**

**MELBOURNE CUP DAY**

**Bistro open lunch only.**

**Sweeps available at the bar**

**FRIDAY 7th NOVEMBER**

**No raffles or members draw.**

**Bistro closed.**

**SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER**

**BINGO STARTS AT 12.30PM**

**SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER**

**Club Closed due to power outage**

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**Barraba High  
Country  
Music Musta**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>  
November 2025.  
12 to 4pm.**

**FREE ENTRY.  
Walk-up artists  
welcome.**

**Barraba Bowling Club.**

**Garage Sale**

**41 Fitzroy St, Barraba**

**8am – 12pm Saturday 8/11/2025**

**8am – 12pm Sunday 9/11/2025**

**Display cabinet, freezer, sofa bed and jewellery.**

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Australia Day Awards in Barraba. Help us celebrate the outstanding individuals who make a difference in our community - from those achieving excellence in their field to those dedicated to serving others.

Nominate someone deserving today and give them the recognition they've earned! Nominations close 4pm Thursday 27 November 2025.

Submit a nomination, [www.trcnews.au/2026AustraliaDay](http://www.trcnews.au/2026AustraliaDay)



Hello,

This year we're hosting a Christmas Market for our aged care residents in Barraba, giving them the opportunity to do their Christmas shopping right here at the facility.

We're reaching out to see if you would be interested in having a small stall with gifts available for residents to purchase. As many of our residents find it difficult to leave the facility, this event is a wonderful way to bring the joy of Christmas shopping to them.

You're very welcome to attend on the day to sell your own items and join us for morning tea, or if you prefer, a staff member can sell on your behalf.

If you're able to assist or would like more details, please contact me on 0400 119 424 or email [leah.hyles@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:leah.hyles@health.nsw.gov.au) - My usual work days are Tuesday and Wednesday

Warm regards,  
Leah Hyles  
Aged Care Coordinator  
Barraba MPS







## Barraba United Hospital Auxiliary Happenings

### BREAKING NEWS!

The Barraba United Hospital Auxiliary has great pleasure in announcing that we have received a very generous donation from the Estate of Wilfred Harris to help cover the cost of the new cardiac monitor for the Emergency Department of the Barraba MPS. This donation will now allow the Barraba Community and MPS staff to be able to benefit from this much needed piece of equipment, much sooner than we had originally anticipated.

Thank you to all those people and groups who offered their services to help fundraise for the new cardiac monitor, we are sure that we will be able to take up your offer for future fundraising ventures.

Julie, Joan and Jenny recently attended the UHA State Conference in Orange where they were presented with the State President's Award for 2025. The State President, Sally Cronberger stating that she nominated Barraba UHA for this award in recognition of *"Their resilience and perseverance during a time of adversity, when it looked like the Auxiliary would fold due to a lack of members"*. Congratulations to all members (past & present) on receiving this much deserved recognition and for helping to keep the Barraba Auxiliary sustainable, for the benefit of our Health Service and community.

New members are welcome to join the Auxiliary to help raise funds for the Barraba MPS and to enjoy the friendship of other members. Our next meeting, will be held on the 28th November at the Barraba Bowling Club at 12md. This will be our Christmas lunch get together.

Thank you again to the Barraba Community for your patronage with our fundraising activities during 2025. Merry Christmas everyone and we look forward to your continued support in 2026.

Patti Crowley, Publicity Officer



State President, Sally Cronberger, Joan McCarthy, Jenny Simpson & Julie Williams



## SENIOR CITIZENS

Hello Everyone

Yes, I'm back again. Seniors held their AGM on Friday; the results as follows;

President, Kim Hill

Vice President, Beryl Jobson

Treasurer, Carol Lewis

Secretary and Publicity, Judy Brady

Vice President, Beryl, thanked Trevor for the sterling job he has done over a very long time. The outgoing President presented long term member, Iris Ingles, with a certificate to acknowledge her long and loyal membership in 'Seniors'. Well done Trev and Iris.

Bingo was a great day with a definite 'spooky' feeling. The old boy guarding the lolly bowl certainly has seen better days. He's been on Ozempic much too long.

There is a very busy few weeks ahead for Seniors, once we get it all sorted out. We are always wanting to welcome new members, so, if you feel you would like to join in you will be more than welcome.

This is all for now, but before I close, to those on the sick list, I wish you a speedy recovery, everyone else, take care.

Cheers for now. Judy Brady, Hon. Secretary

## Village Art Collective - "Country Life" project nears completion

Out of a total of 21 planter pots along Queen Street, there are only five to go and the project will be completed. The all-volunteer team of very enthusiastic people are still meeting and producing beautiful tiles to finish the mosaic pot planter venture.

Arlene said that *"She is now waiting on the Tamworth Regional Council Staff to move pots into place before they can finish sticking the tiles into place and repainting pots, so that there is no damage to tiles and paint work while the pots are being moved."*

*"We are very excited that the end is near and it has been an honour to watch how the group member's skills have improved and evolved since we started 12 months ago."*

We are now looking forward to viewing the completed project in the not so far distant future. Well done to everyone involved with this beautification project, all of your cutting, gluing, grouting of tiles and painting of pots is coming to realisation!

If you would like to join the mosaic group, activity days are posted on the: Barraba Notice Boards Sales and Information face book page. They are now meeting on Wednesday & Sunday.

*Article by Patti Crowley*

*Photos curtesy Arlene Weekes and Patti Crowley*





## Barraba Cutting Weekend

Congratulations to the Barraba Show Society and the Peel Valley Cutting Club on staging a very successful cutting competition at the Barraba Showground over the weekend.

The event saw 300 entrants coming from Emerald, Central Queensland, Grafton, Casino, Hunter Valley, Eugowra and Barraba. Barraba competitors to do well were Tara Watkins, Bill Servin and Bill Tonkin. Congratulations to all competitors and winners.

There were 800 head of cattle used, all donated from local properties. Without this support these events would not be able to be held. Thank you to all donors of cattle.

Thank you to all of the event organisers, volunteers, competitors, sponsors, visitors and Barraba Business's for your assistance and support over the weekend.

Money raised will be channelled back into showground facilities for the community and user groups to benefit from.



## Golf Notes



After 3 years of constant coaching "Pud" had a breakout game and won the chook with 23 points after, mind you, scratching the first two holes. Well done. Balls went twilight specialist Dan Harris with 21, Luke and Ally Smith and Ian Cabot all with 20 and Patti Crowley 19. Jack Ward was the best of the 5 Holers. There was a bit more run last week as we get a little drier.

Coaching clinic coming up Saturday. Mandy Koopman has more details so contact her if you are interested.

Happy Golfing

## Message from the Editor

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

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

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

Contact [news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au](mailto:news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au) or drop into the Community College on the corner of Alice and Fitzroy Sts.



**BARRABA CREATIVE EXCHANGE**  
**Modernism, Ceramics, En Plein Air**  
**Kate Hofman and Michelle Hungerford**

To celebrate Grace & Grace exhibition - Tamworth Regional Gallery and Barraba Craft and Potters Guild have prepared a weekend of creative exploration in Barraba - the birth place of Grace Crowley. We take inspiration from Grace and her good friend Anne Dangar - a ceramicist. They discovered modernism, and both were transformed by this new approach to artistic practise.

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.

|                                                                             |                                                                            |                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Modernism Lecture</b><br>Michelle Hungerford<br>FREE<br>Clay Pan Gallery | <b>Ceramics Class</b><br>Kate Hofman<br>\$75 inclusive<br>Clay Pan Gallery | <b>Plein-air Painting Workshop</b><br>Michelle Hungerford<br>\$75 / \$95 with all materials<br>'Tycolah' Barraba |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

All the details and bookings  
[www.tamworthregionalgallery.com.au](http://www.tamworthregionalgallery.com.au)

### CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

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

### BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November  
 Service time 8:45am Please note new time.  
 All Welcome

### ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

**St Laurence's Barraba**  
 Sunday service at 10.00am  
 No Woodsreef service in November

### BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

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 main street businesses



## History Notes

Last Saturday morning was a day to remember when we welcomed members of the Smith family to the museum. They were descendants of James Smith who was Mr Dean's partner in the firm Dean & Smith who ran the business for thirty plus years in Barraba from 1900.

The visitors showed lots of interest in the museum as well as the history of James Smith. Several visitors were studying the map to see just where Doonba was in their ancestor's years and lots of questions were asked. Their visit for an hour was over in no time, and they then moved onto the cemetery and lunch before visiting the family's old home.

Not many of our visitors had heard of the company of Barraba businessmen who owned a property in north Queensland. They visited it regularly and on one of the visits, after lunch, Mr Dean was lying on the verandah floor, having a rest before the party moved on. When he stood up there was the pattern of his body in sweat on the verandah – it must have been very hot! Soon after this the group decided to sell out, and it is said that Mr Dean and Mr Smith used their share of the money to build their homes in Barraba.

Members are still having a problem sorting out the Kilgour family who lived in this area in the past. We have a few facts but not enough to help the descendant making the enquiry. They were apparently here in the early 1900's but may be connected to a Barraba family that we do not have in our records.

To change the subject, I wonder if there are Barraba residents enjoying some of the poetry written by past residents. I am presently re-reading one of the Gun-a-roo books – it is still just as entertaining as it was when I purchased my copy at the Champagne Breakfast in 1983. Kennedy's pigs published in the Cobbadah book introduced me to his writings – he was a rather clever writer.

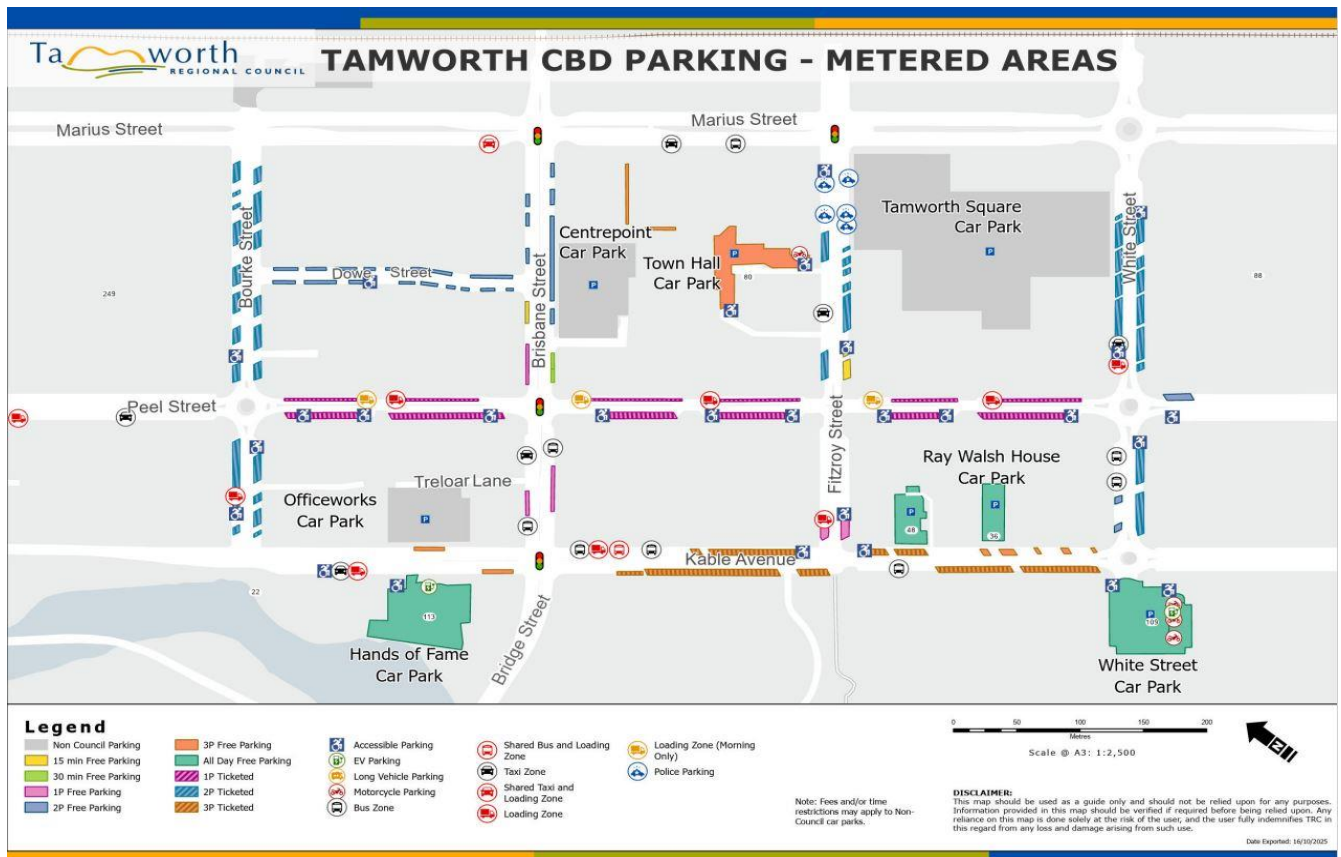
### Barraba Museum Markets

**This Saturday November 8th**

**8.00am – 11.30am**

**Hand crafts, giftwares, plants, food,  
 BBQ, Music, 2026 Calendars**





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### [What is being done about parking in our towns and villages?](#)

Generally, there's plenty of parking in our towns and villages, but it can fill up quickly during events. It's important to review planned events carefully to minimise their impact on parking. The Council values feedback from residents, as it helps identify issues and improve services in our communities.

Long vehicle parking for tourists is also crucial for our towns and villages. We're working on finding suitable long vehicle parking spots near the main business areas to support the local economy.

### [Why do the types of parking meters being changed to not accept coins or cash?](#)

Card-only and ticketless meters are usually always operational while in contrast, the current coin-operated meters often have problems like ticket jams, coin jams, and software issues while also needing regular coin collection and paper refills for tickets. Switching to a more reliable system should help reduce frustrations for those using our paid parking areas.

### [What is being done in terms of catering for those drivers or passengers with reduced mobility?](#)

Council is always looking to improve our parking network for those with accessibility challenges, including adding more disabled parking bays as well as footpaths and pram ramps to better connect to destinations. We encourage you to share any ideas for making our parking more user-friendly, such as ideas for new disabled parking bay locations, improvements to pram ramps, and footpath maintenance.

Additionally, the introduction of ticketless parking meters will help reduce the distance a driver may need to cover because they will not need to use a machine and then return to their car to display a ticket.

### [Why is paid parking being introduced in Peel Street?](#)

Austroroads Best Parking Practice suggests that premium parking spots should be short-stay and metered, while areas further away should be long-stay and free. As Peel Street is the most sought-after area for parking, it makes sense for it to have short-stay, metered parking while out all-day parking areas become free. We expect this proposed change, along with more efficient parking enforcement, will help those visiting Peel Street to find parking more easily.

Once we roll out paid parking in Peel Street and remove all-day metered spots, there will be about 200 fewer metered spaces in the CBD. This means workers will have the option to park for free all day in the CBD and surrounding areas.



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REGIONAL COUNCIL

To get started scan me!



## Council Meeting Update – Tuesday 28 October, 2025

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

- Councillors discussed a Notice of Motion from Cr Ryan Brooke, requesting Council works towards gender parity and other diverse representation. This includes committing to engage with diverse community groups and organisations which would encourage and support minority groups to consider civic leadership roles. It was noted that Tamworth Regional Council is currently the only council within NSW with no elected female representation. The motion was supported with a division recorded 7 for and 2 against.
- Councillors have endorsed the rollout of Microsoft 365 across all Council operations and approved an additional \$633,900 to the Technology Blueprint budget to fund the necessary hardware. Deploying Microsoft 365 is a key strategic initiative within the Technology Blueprint program. As Windows 10 is being phased out, most of Council's existing devices - primarily laptops and desktops, have reached the end of their 3 to 5-year useful life. A successful rollout of Microsoft 365 therefore requires a complete refresh of these devices to ensure staff have the technology needed to work efficiently and securely.
- Councillors agreed that the Tamworth Regional Film and Sound Archive will transition from a Section 355 Committee to now sit under Council's museum operations. This will better support the long-term asset management of the collection/archive, simplify legal requirements and the documentation required under the Section 355 Committee. The management under Council's museum operations will be in accordance with the Tamworth Region Museum Strategy and Asset Management plans.

For more information, see the full reports at [www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/business-papers](http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/business-papers)



## NIOKA PALLIATIVE CARE TO DOUBLE IN SIZE

Palliative care services in Tamworth will be doubled thanks to a major investment in the Nioka Palliative Care unit at Tamworth Base Hospital.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said today a contractor was appointed to build the upgraded unit, marking a major milestone in the campaign to increase local services. "In 2022, I joined with Friends of Nioka led by local advocate Bryan Singh to kickstart the campaign for a bigger, better Nioka Palliative Care Unit in Tamworth," Mr Anderson said. "Today, that campaign took a huge leap forward with a building contractor appointed to the project that will take the Nioka Unit from a 6-bed facility to a 12-bed facility. Local advocates have been pushing for more beds in Nioka for some time, recognising that we have a growing ageing population, and the local palliative care unit is almost always at capacity. Friends of Nioka are also hopeful that the upgrade will provide the opportunity for respite for local families who are full time carers of those in palliative care. I thank the Minister for Health Ryan Park for his commitment to this very important project and ensuring that the funding remained available to upgrade this facility and deliver those services closer to home. Friends of Nioka deserve credit for their tireless efforts for palliative care services in Tamworth. I know it is a deeply personal issue, and I thank Bryan Singh and members for their advocacy. This is another major health infrastructure project for our region that will provide additional healthcare options for our community."



*'Friends of Nioka' turning the first sod*

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|





From The Conversation

## It took just 60 years for red foxes to colonise Australia from Victoria to the Pilbara



*Sean Tomlinson, Research Associate, Ecology and Evolution, University of Adelaide*

*Damien Fordham, Associate Professor of Global Change Ecology, University of Adelaide*

To a newly-arrived red fox, the abundant rolling grasslands and swamps of Wadawurrung Country, around what is now called Port Phillip Bay, must have seemed like a predator's paradise. This landscape was filled with small native marsupials and birds, and free of European wolves or bears that usually kept fox numbers in check.

The first red foxes, (*Vulpes vulpes*), to arrive in Australia were deliberately released by European colonialists in 1870 in three Victorian locations – Werribee, Corio (near Geelong) and Ballarat. They were introduced for the “noble” sport of fox hunting. Small native animals became easy prey for foxes because they did not evolve with these predators and did not know to avoid them.

Red fox numbers ballooned and they spread rapidly. How fast? Our new research shows it took just 60 years for one of Australia's most devastating invasive predators to colonise the continent. These days, foxes can be found everywhere except the tropical north and Tasmania.

Their rapid spread offers clues to how we might prevent future extinctions of native animals from foxes, and map the infiltration of Australia by other invasive species.

### Mapping the spread

To model the arrival and spread of foxes across Australia, we relied on hundreds of historical “first-sighting” records collected from library, local government and state archives. First sightings of foxes were particularly newsworthy at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century in

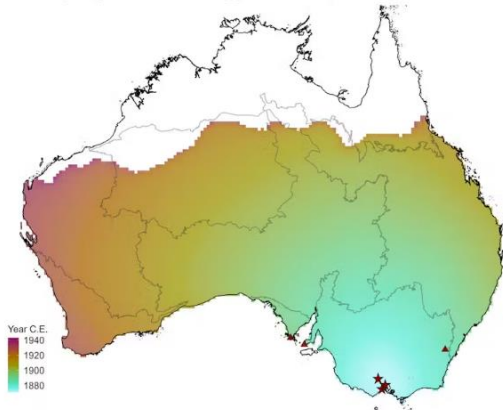


Australia. This is because of the threats that foxes posed to sheep and poultry.

We ran thousands of model simulations reconstructing the arrival and spread of foxes across Australia. We played out likely scenarios of fox survival, reproduction and dispersal based on what we know about their behaviour today. We then compared these simulated patterns of population growth and expansion against inferences of demographic change from these historical records. Our best models were able to closely reconstruct the timing of arrival of foxes in places and regions as well as their current day population sizes.

Our modelling demonstrated foxes populated Australia at incredible speed. Between 1870 and 1895, they had spread across the south-eastern corner of Australia. Then they spread more slowly to the north and west directions in arid regions. By 1940, however, they had reached the remote northwest.

### Feral fox population growth, 1880-1940



### Flourishing foxes

Foxes mate in winter, with females giving birth to four to five cubs. By autumn, the young foxes are on their own. They can travel up to 300 kilometres in search of new territory. As omnivores, they eat everything from small mammals such as rodents and rabbits to birds, insects and plants. In their native range from Europe to the Middle East foxes have been suppressed by predators like bears and wolves, but in Australia, fox numbers have soared.

Unfortunately, the suppression of dingoes across Australia following European colonisation is at least partly to blame for the explosion in fox numbers because there are not sufficient densities of dingoes control foxes.

Foxes flourish in areas modified by humans. We show that their populations are densest around urban centres, and they do well after land is cleared for agriculture. Population growth rates of foxes in agricultural regions increased

notably in the 1950s, as a result of large-scale agricultural expansion following World War II.

This research also showed that in arid areas, population cycles of foxes follow a “boom and bust” cycle, while their numbers seem more stable in agricultural landscapes.

### Driving extinction

European red foxes and domestic cats brought to Australia kill about 300 million native animals in Australia every year and remain the major driver of past and current extinctions.

Australia’s fox population is about 1.7 million, and the Invasive Species Council estimates as many as 16 mammal species have become extinct mainly or partly because of foxes. This is about 40% of total extinctions since European arrival.

Our new research provides important insights into which native species have been threatened for the longest period of time, identifying areas that were potentially important refuges from foxes. The adaptable simulation models we used to track fox expansion can be used for other invasive species that haven’t yet infiltrated all of Australia, such as cane toads. We hope these models will help us map the spread of other invasive species such as cats, and potentially curb Australia’s decline in native wildlife.



Pop in for a  
free\* hearing  
check

Date: 10AM-12PM

Time: 10/11/2025

131 797 hearing.com.au

\*Only 30-minute hearing checks are free. Other services may attract charges. Fees may be subsidised for those eligible under the Australian Government Hearing Services Program. A hearing check is a screening that helps identify people that may have hearing loss.

**At: BINGARA LIBRARY, 29 Maitland St Bingara**