

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 19th November 2025





Lawn Mowing

Yard maintenance, rubbish removal, weed spraying. Pensioners and DVA discounts on provision of appropriate cards. Phone Scott,

obligation free quote.



BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

Phone 67821379 For the information of members and guests.

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 21st NOVEMBER

Meat Raffles. Tickets on sale from 6pm. Membership Draw \$1000

> SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER **BINGO STARTS AT 12.30PM**

SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER Angler Club Raffles on sale from 12md. Drawn at 1.30pm.

Membership Draw \$2000 (2 draws) **Happening Soon**

Friday 12th December Ham Raffles **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 6pm

Sunday 12-2pm

Senior Citizen Update

Street Stall Thursday 20th November 9am to 1pm in Queen Street. All donations gratefully accepted.

Market Day at the Senior Citz Hall. Saturday 29th November 9am to 1pm. \$5 for a table/stall but phone Judy, 0429 821 158 as soon as possible to book your spot.

Celebrating the works of Grace Crowley

A collaboration between the Tamworth Regional Art Gallery and the Barraba Potters and Craft Guild provided two days of interesting information and hands-on workshops which the Modernist art style practiced by Grace Crowley was experienced.



Artist, Michelle Hungerford; Ceramicist, Kate Hofman and Emma Stilts from Tamworth Regional Art Gallery worked together to ensure everyone enjoyed their weekend.



Michelle Hungerford gave a free and interesting talk on Friday afternoon about the work of Grace and her Modernist artistic practice. The talk was followed by a hands-on workshop in the Claypan tutored by Kate Hofman An enthusiastic group of potters worked on pots which had been prepared by Annette Brittain, the President of the Potters and Craft Guild.





On Saturday morning a group of artists, both local and from other parts of the region, met at Tycolah to paint local rural scenes under the guidance of Michelle Hungerford. One of Grace Crowley's very well-known pieces was the view of Blue Knobby from Tycolah.



A very sincere thank you to Steven and Therese Crowley for hosting the day at their property.











Hudson Crowley with his completed painting on Saturday afternoon.

The artists chose their position, under cover of the Tycolah shed or nearby trees in the paddock, using the En Plein Air techniques to complete their art work.

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.

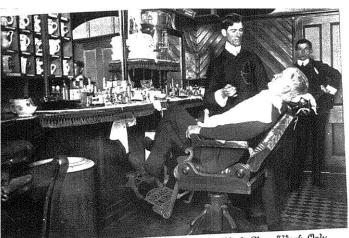
Share your news, views and what you or your local organisation is doing.

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



To begin with this week, I must correct last week's mistake there were two Albert's involved in the brick making at Carisbrooke - Albert Thorpe owned the property Carisbrooke and Albert Tufrey was making the bricks at a site just east of the present-day Carisbrooke Cottage.

Our Society has a photo query which members have not been able to solve - I hope one of our readers might know where it was - it looks a bit overdone for Barraba but there is nothing on the back.



Weir's Gent's Hairdressing Saloon, Barraba. High-Class Work Only.

Finally, we have had a Grace Crowley Exhibition in Tamworth which has led me to read her file and the various cuttings and letters - a very interesting member of the Crowley family who always did her own thing.

Grace, fourth child and first daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Crowley was born at The Forest in 1890. The Forest was actually an out station built on the southern end of Cobbadah Station, probably near one of the small creeks in the area to ensure a water supply. Grace's mother made the family clothes and grew vegetables and made their food.

Henry's father, William Crowley, died in 1892 in the midst of a drought and depression leaving his sons to carry on. Henry moved his family to the head station and with the help of the other brothers they managed to survive.

In 1900 Henry bought Glen Riddle and moved his family there. Grace at this stage was 10 years old and showing an interest in art - using chalk to draw on the square water tanks. She drew farm animals and drew her father's bull.

Grace had her mother's diary and sent me pieces out of it when we wrote to each other for a while in the 1970s - she could remember Cobbadah Station away back when they were living there before moving to Glen Riddle. I wonder what happened to that diary – it was probably thrown out after she died at Manly in 1979. Thankfully I still have a copy of some letters and the booklet - Grace Crowley - being modern, 2007.

Strong sentence for reptile smuggler

A 27-year-old woman has been sentenced in Sydney's Downing Centre District Court for wildlife smuggling offences.

Chinese national Shiyao Wang was sentenced to 2 years and 7 months imprisonment, to be served by way of an Intensive Corrections Order. Ms Wang attempted to mail native reptiles to Hong Kong in November 2024. DCCEEW's Environmental Crime Investigators seized 8 parcels containing 19 Blue-tongued lizards. The reptiles were restrained in socks and hidden in work boots, tackle boxes, and cosmetic bags.

Wang was arrested in December 2024 by DCCEEW Environmental Crime Investigators during Operation ARES, an investigation targeting illicit wildlife exports. Investigators intercepted a domestic delivery of 35 native reptiles including Blue-tongued lizards, Eastern Ranges rock skinks, and Cunningham's skinks at her Ashfield residence. A subsequent search of her residence revealed Wang to be in possession of a further 40 specimens including Bluetongued lizards, Shingleback lizards, and Cunningham's skinks.

Exporting Australian wildlife is a serious offence under Australia's national environment law. Each offence has a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment and fines of up to \$330,000 or both. Through DCCEEW's partnerships with Commonwealth agencies, state and territory law enforcement, and industry, we work together to prevent, detect, and deter illicit wildlife exports. By combining expertise, intelligence, and resources, we protect Australia's unique biodiversity and uphold our international obligations.

A spokesperson for the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water said "If you suspect an activity does not comply with our legislation, report it immediately. You can report a breach through the department website or call 1800 110 395."



Last year, Australians lost \$9.8 million* to online shopping scams, with criminals exploiting the convenience of online shopping and

our search for a bargain.

Whether you're shopping for your business, buying for yourself, or helping your customers and employees stay informed about scams, it's important to know how to spot the red flags.

Watch out for fake online stores

Criminals use social media ads, emails and text messages to lure shoppers to fake websites. These sites might promote big discounts, claim they're closing down, or use fake celebrity endorsements to seem more trustworthy.

One common scam is the 'ghost store'. These sites pretend to be local boutiques, often saying they're based in major Australian cities and closing down after many years in business. In reality, they're overseas operators who sell poor-quality products and often refuse refunds.

Spot the red flags



Prices that seem too good to be true and pressure to act quickly so you don't miss out on an offer.



Emails, text messages and advertisements that pop up on your screen with links to unbelievable sales. These may contain malicious software or direct you to fake websites that steal your information.



Websites with blurry logos or images. But some may have images that look too perfect and unrealistic (Al-generated), sometimes showing the 'owners' outside their store.



No evidence a real store exists when you do an online search.



Sellers who ask you to pay with gift cards or cryptocurrency.



You can't find information about a refund policy on the seller's website.

Before you buy

Stop and pause before clicking links. It's safer to type the store's actual website into your browser or use their official app.

Look for genuine reviews online. You can also check if a website has been associated with a scam by searching "is this (website name) a scam?".

Be cautious with overseas stores. If it's a scam, it's harder to get your money back.

Compare prices across multiple sites, especially if one offer seems unusually cheap.

Check if the store has an Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Company Number (ACN) listed.

Consider using payment options that come with some enhanced protections, like PayPal or a credit card.

Think twice before entering your credit card details into a website you're unsure about – if it's fake, your card details could be used for fraud.

Visit the NAB security hub

For more tips on staying one step ahead of online shopping scams, visit nab.com.au/shoppingscams.



COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

Here is an overview of outcomes from the Ordinary

Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council on 11 November

2025:

- Following extensive consultation with the community and State agencies, Councillor's resolved to adopt the Planning Proposal to permit secondary dwellings in certain rural areas. This will contribute to increase housing diversity and support succession planning in rural areas. Council will now exercise its delegated plan-making authority under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to finalise the amendment.
- Councillors tonight resolved to publicly exhibit the draft Site-Specific Development Controls for the Stratheden Residential Precinct, Oxley Vale. The draft controls outline a clear framework for future residential development, focusing on housing diversity, high-quality urban design, improved stormwater management, and enhanced natural amenity within the precinct. Community members will be

able to provide their feedback on the draft Controls between Thursday 13 November and Thursday 11 December 2025 via Council's Have Your Say page.

- Councillors agreed to amend the Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010 in accordance with the Planning Proposal to designate two new Special Entertainment Precincts (SEPs) in Tamworth. The proposed SEPs are Tamworth Central Business District and Tamworth Sports and Entertainment Precinct.
- Councillors have reviewed the and endorsed the Forest Road Landfill Staging Plan. These plans outline how landfilling activities will be staged over the life of the landfill, with priority given to optimising the use of the existing landfill site. The approved landfill design will increase the estimated life of the landfill by 28 years.
- Councillors noted the Audited Financial Reports and Auditor's Report for Tamworth Regional Council for the past financial year. The 2024/2025 reports outline Council's operations and financial position and have been lodged with the Office of Local Government. The reports are available via Council's webpage, with public exhibition submissions open for another week

www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/about/news/public-notices

• Councillors have agreed to waive the Council fees associated with Tamworth Veterans Cricket hosting the touring Australia and Sri Lanka Over 65s Masters Series. To be held in Tamworth from 8 to 10 March, the series is an opportunity to showcase Tamworth's sporting facilities, including No. 1 Oval, to an international audience and demonstrate the city's capacity to host world-class sporting events.

The fees waived are for the costs of No. 1 Oval field hire and preparation, and Tamworth promotional signage which total \$1795.40. The fees associated with this event will be covered by the Sport Event Subsidisation Policy (SESP) annual budget.

 Councillors have approved the request to contribute \$10,000 in funding to Hockey NSW toward the cost of holding a NSW State Championships at the Tamworth Hockey Complex in 2026.

This state level competition will attract 40 teams from across NSW to Tamworth for the event, resulting in more than 800 competitors competing over three days. As a result, this event is estimated to have an economic benefit of \$681,377. Council staff are also working closely with Tamworth Hockey Association (THA), who will assist Hockey NSW in the running of the event. The \$10,000 funding will be sourced from Council's General Fund.

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

Christmas Carols in Tamworth

A CONSERVATORIUM CHRISTMAS

Two festive Christmas concerts! FREE 5 December @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm 12 December @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

On Friday, 5 December, kick off the holiday season with a fun-filled evening on the Conservatorium grounds. Bring your family and friends and enjoy performances by our ensembles, lively carol singing, reindeer games, and a free BBQ and drinks. It's a relaxed and festive gathering for all ages!

A week later, experience the magic of the season with a traditional carol evening in the beautiful Chapel Theatre. Featuring the Conservatorium Chamber Singers and a small ensemble of instrumentalists, this concert will transport you with timeless carols and holiday cheer.

Join us for these joyful evening as we celebrate the spirit of the season with food, fun, and music!

Carols on the Grass

6 December @ 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm FREE Community event Hosted by St Peter's Church South Tamworth

We're excited to be back in ANZAC Park for Carols on the Grass 2025! Come along to enjoy a picnic on the grass & hear (and even sing along to) your favourite carols played live by the band.

5:30pm - Food trucks, Free Face Painting, Free Jumping Castles & more!

7:00pm - Live Carols begin.

We love Christmas and want to share it with you! So come along and celebrate with us on Saturday 6 December in ANZAC Park for 'Carols on the Grass'



SAME FESTIVE COMMUNITY SPIRIT - NEW EVENT, WITH PLENTY OF SPARKLE!

This year, the much-loved lighting of the Christmas Tree will be one of the many highlights at Baiada Carols in the Park.

Join us in Bicentennial Park on Saturday 13 December from 5pm for this free community event to share in the magic of Christmas.

Keep your eyes out for a big announcement next week and follow along on all the updates at the Baiada Carols in the Park Facebook event page.



Keep it loose!

When it comes to recycling, there's one simple rule that makes a big difference... always put your recyclables in the bin loose, not in a bag! If recyclables are tied up in plastic bags, they can't be sorted correctly at the recycling facility. The whole bag and everything inside it often ends up in landfill.

What to do instead:

- Place items loose in your yellow-lid recycling bin
- No plastic bags or liners
- Empty, clean, and dry items before recycling Every loose item helps the recycling process run smoothly and ensures more materials are recovered and reused. Let's all do our part to recycle right and keep valuable resources out of landfill!

WHAT DOESN'T GO IN YOUR YELLOW BIN Be a great sort!

Let's talk about some of the sneaky items that often end up in the wrong bin. Sorting your waste correctly helps keep our recycling stream clean and effective. Every correct choice makes a big difference!

Commonly mistaken items that don't belong in your yellow bin:

Textiles and clothing - These can't go in your recycling bin. Donate good-quality items.

Coat hangers - Both plastic and wire hangers aren't recyclable in kerbside bins. Try reusing or donating them.

Plastic bags & soft plastics - These can clog recycling

machinery if loose in your bin. Check out Curby program and sign up to soft plastic recycling today! This program will have you recycling soft plastics the right way!

Coffee cups - Most takeaway cups are lined with plastic, making them non-recyclable so they belong in the red-lid general waste bin.

Nappies - Whether disposable or compostable, nappies DO NOT belong in the yellow bin. Please dispose of them in your red-lid general waste bin.

Glass cookware & mirrors - These are made of different glass types and can't be recycled with bottles and jars. **Styrofoam** - Polystyrene packaging and containers are no

Styrofoam - Polystyrene packaging and containers are not recyclable through kerbside collections.

Learn more about how to recycle correctly at https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/live/waste-and-recycling

DISABLED PARKING SPACES IN TAMWORTH



You may have noticed a number of new disabled parking spaces being installed throughout the CBD, particularly within Peel Street.

These works have been funded by the parking reserve which itself is sourced directly from all parking meter and infringement revenue.

The decision to create these spaces came from consultation with the Disability Action Working Group and will help residents and visitors with reduced mobility to access shops and services.

Each disabled parking space is marked with a "shared space" beside the bay, which is designed to help valid Mobility Parking Scheme (MPS) permit holders exit their vehicle more easily.



Saving Food, Saving Money, Saving the Planet

Did you know Australian's waste around 7.6 million tonnes of food every year, that's about 312kg per person, costing households up to \$2,500? We can all play a part in reducing food waste at home, saving money, resources,

and making the most of every meal.

Here are a few simple ways to start:

<u>Use it up</u>: Freeze bread you won't use straight away and turn leftovers into easy lunches or creative new meals.

<u>Plan ahead</u>: Write a shopping list and plan your weekly meals around what you already have in the fridge and pantry.

<u>Store it smart</u>: Keep veggies crisp by storing them correctly, salads stay fresh longer with a paper towel in the container, and fruit can be frozen for smoothies or baking later.

<u>Compost and worm farms:</u> Not everything can be eaten, but it doesn't have to go to waste! Compost bins and worm farms are great ways to turn food scraps into nutrient-rich soil for your garden.

<u>Get creative</u>: Use veggie peels for homemade stock, repurpose leftovers, and try new recipes that make the most of what's on hand.

Reducing food waste isn't just good for the environment, it's good for your budget too. Let's make the bin jealous and keep the good stuff on your plate!

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

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

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 16th 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



We would like to thank all the staff at Garvan House and Barraba Hospital for the care, friendship, professionalism shown to Sharyn during her time at Garvan House.

Thank you

Paul and Lesley Grigg

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

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Published by Community College Northern Inland Inc.

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Printed on site at the Community College. Free publication by email or collection from local Barraba main street businesses



Only 6 weeks to Christmas, that means only 5 weeks to the last edition of Barraba Community News for 2025. That's right, our last BCN for 2025 will be 17th December.

So, if you would like to send your customers, members or clients a 'Christmas/ New Year/holiday closure dates' message please contact us as soon as possible to book your space.

Cost will be as follows;

4cm x 8cm = \$20.00

6cm x 8cm = \$25.00

 $8cm \times 8cm = 35.00

Bigger is always better and we're happy to provide you with a quote for your preferred size.

Contact news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au

From The Conversation

Don't dismiss kids' sadness or anger. How to minimise family conflict over the social media ban.

Catherine Page Jeffery, Lecturer in Media and Communications, University of Sydney

In just over a month Australia's social media ban will begin from December 10, those under 16 will only be able to see publicly available content on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X and YouTube. They will not be able to have their own accounts.

For example, they could look up Taylor Swift's latest music video on YouTube, but they would not be able to post their own content. There are no penalties for children who access an account on an age-restricted platform, or for their parents. Platforms face fines of up to A\$49.5 million if they don't take reasonable steps to implement the ban.

While the changes have been welcomed by some safety experts and parent advocates, eSafety acknowledges, "many parents and carers are worried about how under 16s will react to no longer having access to social media accounts". If you have a child or teen who loves social media, how can you help approach this change, while minimising conflict in your family?

Social media is already a source of conflict

My research shows young people's social and digital media use is already a major source of conflict for families. A lot of the tension comes from parents not understanding the important role digital media plays in young people's lives, and young people reacting to "unfair" restrictions imposed by parents.

So, conflict around screen time rules and parents' social media restrictions is common. Young people can put a lot of pressure on their parents for devices or access to certain platforms to fit in with their peers ("but all my friends have it").

One of the federal government's rationales for the social media ban is to help parents manage this situation – because people are already finding it hard. So, potentially, some families may find relief in being able to say "this is just what the government says, this is the law".

Uncertainty ahead

But we still don't really know what's going to happen come December 10. Some of the criticism of the ban has been that young people will find a way around it, such as by using a VPN (which can mask location and identity). Experts are also concerned about the reliability and privacy implications of age verification technology. Meanwhile, some parents may also help their children circumvent the restrictions. If a lot of parents in a friendship group are helping their children get

around the ban, this could in turn create pressures on other parents and lead to conflict or resentment in families. Parents need to remember there is no blanket right or wrong answer. All families and kids are different and it's important to make decisions based on your family values and your child's maturity.

Acknowledge it's hard

Either way, if young people are used to social media and suddenly it's gone, they might be really sad, annoyed or angry. And parents will have to manage the fall out.

We know young people can forge important connections with others over social media. It's not just mindless scrolling, it's a significant way to interact with peers. This is especially important for marginalised young people. So young people will need to find other ways to connect – and parents should help their kids maintain their social connections.

It's also important parents are not dismissive and acknowledge this may be a difficult time and transition. Young people tend to respond much better to rules and regulations when they are given a clear rationale and a clear reason.

For example,

I know it's hard. It's out of my hands, this is a decision made by the government. We may not like it, but this is the way it is. Can I help you find another way to connect with your friends or participate in these communities?

You may also want to note how time away from social media, where young people may be doomscrolling or exposed to cyberbullying, can be healthy.

Don't assume kids are now 'safe'

One risk of the ban is parents will now think kids are "safe" online. We know children are likely to find other spaces online – and if they don't, their friends will. And the ban only covers certain platforms. Parents needs to keep talking to their children about what they see and do online

Parents also need to keep providing opportunities for children to develop critical digital literacy skills – this means they can assess what they are reading and seeing and not just taking it on face value. Children also need help to navigate social relationships online as they grow up.

This means children under 16 need ongoing opportunities to explore online spaces with support and guidance. This doesn't necessarily mean parents monitor everything their children do online. But they should show an interest in their children's activities, and be available to help navigate any risks and tricky situations.



Trainee - Customer Service

Are you friendly, organised, and love helping people? Tamworth Regional Council is looking for our next Customer Service Trainee in Barraba! Gain hands-on experience, earn while you learn, and complete a Certificate III in Business (Customer Engagement) — all while working in a supportive team that values growth and community connection.

Location: Barraba

Training + real experience = your career starts here! Go to Tamworth Regional Council Website to apply now or for more information on how to take the first step toward a rewarding career in local government. Applications Close 11:59pm, Monday 24 November 2025.









Come on down to the Gwydir Oval for the Bingara Christmas Concert! Get ready for an afternoon full of festive fun — the kids will love a visit from Santa, exciting laser tag, creative crafts and the RFS fun water spray! Enjoy live performances by The Contingency Plan and The Local Vocals, bringing the holiday spirit to life with great tunes and good vibes. Bring your family, friends and Christmas cheer — it's going to be a fantastic community celebration you won't want to miss!

From Brendan Moylan's weekly newsletter



Feral Pig and Pest Program

As part of the Feral Pig and Pest Program, Local Land Services (LLS) is providing free grain and bait to combat feral pigs. Feral pig numbers have exploded in recent years after a few good seasons. They cause widespread carnage and devastation with attacks on livestock and destruction of crops and I have been lobbying the NSW Government to do more to address the situation. The latest round of the Feral Pig and Pest Program offers \$850,000 worth of free grain and bait for landholders until it runs out. This won't go far though and there needs to be more funding and more programs to really tackle the problem. Landholders interested in accessing free grain and bait can contact their closest Local Land Services office on 1300 795 299.

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Fast Glass and Glazing Pty Ltd

Nathan Benjamin

Glazier

0480504620 fastglassglazing@gmail.com



Phil Denyer Mechanical Repairs will close for Christmas on the evening of Friday 19th December 2025 and will re-open Monday 5th January 2026.

Ph (02) 6782 1107.





<u>13 November 2025</u> The TRC repayed one block of Maude St. yesterday. A very neat job. 80 years ago, there was no kerb, gutters & footpaths, a really major step. Just dust or mud roadways and Pepper trees down the centre of the road. No concrete footpaths either and only a moderate amount of horse manure. Brian Coote.

BARRABA JUNIORS SHINE AS TOUCH SEASON HITS FULL STRIDE

Barraba Junior Touch Football is enjoying another great season, with nearly 90 juniors registered across the local and representative program this Term.

We are halfway through the Wednesday afternoon social competition, with twelve teams competing across three age groups. Our recent Buzz Round was a great success, with the older age-groups playing three games in a row, allowing the kids to really build on their teamwork and skills.



A fantastic crew of junior referees have been doing an amazing job overseeing Wednesday games, particularly in guiding our younger players as they build their confidence on the field.

Barraba Junior Touch is also pleased to be supporting two representative sides this year, with an under 12 girls and under 10 boys team taking part in gala days at Gunnedah and Scone recently.



Our representative players are already showing great improvement in their game, with stronger drives and movement across the field each time they play. They are also doing our small town proud, with plenty of positive comments about their efforts from other associations.



Cooper Hartwig (u12) is also doing us proud, taking to the field at both Gunnedah and Scone with the Gunnedah under 16s.



With the Wednesday competition and representative training continuing right up to 17 December, Barraba Junior Touch looks forward to sharing another update soon.