



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 21st January 2026

REFLECT, RESPECT AND CELEBRATE
THIS AUSTRALIA DAY IN
BARRABA AT BARRABA GOLF CLUB

6pm: Australia Day Awards Ceremony, barbecue and live entertainment

Scan the QR Code to find out more or head to www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/ausday2026

Proudly supported by

Hosted by

NSW
Government

Australia Day
National Day Committee

Tamworth

QR Code

Communities come together for Australia Day 2026

People right across the Tamworth Region will have a range of bumper events they can attend this Australia Day, from morning barbecues through to an evening concert.

The concert, with a full lineup to be announced, along with fireworks will round out the 2026 Australia Day events on Monday 26 January and provides an extra excuse for visitors to stay another night in the region following the conclusion of the Toyota 54th Tamworth Country Music Festival the day prior.

Other Australia Day activities – like barbeques, live music, cricket and games – will also be held around the Tamworth Region.

Tamworth Regional Council is organising and supporting events across the region for the community to reflect, respect and celebrate our nation and our people.

Tamworth Region Mayor Russell Webb said he was thrilled to see so many events being held across the region for our communities to enjoy. "We have so many great events on

Australia Day throughout the Tamworth Region for people to attend," Cr Webb said. "It's a chance for our towns and villages to come together for a moment of reflection and also celebration."

Australia Day Awards ceremonies will be held at Tamworth, Barraba, Manilla and Nundle, to recognise those who have made an outstanding contribution to the community.

Events have been made possible by assistance from the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council, and with the support of local community groups.

A full list of events across the Tamworth region for Australia Day include:

Barraba – The Barraba Australia Day Awards will take place from 6pm at the Barraba Golf Club. There will also be a free barbecue and live entertainment with "Willow" after the ceremony.

Manilla – The Manilla Matters S355 committee have organised a fun morning for all at the Manilla Memorial Swimming Pool. Enjoy breakfast at 8am, followed by the Australia Day awards ceremony and kids' activities from 9am.

Tamworth – There are plenty of options in Tamworth. A Church Service will be held at 10am at the Tamworth War Memorial Town Hall followed by the Citizenship Ceremony and Australia Day Awards from 11am. A barbecue lunch at 12.30pm will follow. Then, in the evening at 7pm, the concert will kick off in Bicentennial Park while there will be fireworks at 9pm.

To stay up to date with the Australia Day events across the region visit <https://trcnews.au/ausday2026>



**BARRABA RSL &
RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone 67821379

For the information of members
and guests.

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 23rd January

MEAT RAFFLES

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm

Membership Draw \$1700

SATURDAY 24th January

Bingo starts at 12.30pm

SUNDAY 25th January

Angler Club Raffle.

Raffles on sale from 12md. Drawn at 1.30pm.

Membership Draw \$1400

ALL MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE

BISTRO HOURS

Phone 0427330808

DINE IN OR TAKEAWAY

DAILY BLACKBOARD SPECIALS

PIZZA'S MADE TO ORDER

MONDAY/TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY: CLOSED

THURS/FRI/SAT: LUNCH 12-2PM DINNER FROM 6PM

SUNDAY: 12-2PM

ACT II

**Farewell
to
~ Andrew Sharp ~**

Saturday 28th February
All welcome to the garden
at
Andy's Guest House
98 Queen St Barraba
between 4pm - 8pm

** Please bring your drinks & snacks of choice **

Please phone Andy Wright on 0428821880 for more information

WHY SOME MEN HAVE A DOG BUT NO WIFE:

1. The later you are, the more excited your dogs are to see you.
2. Dogs don't notice if you call them by another dog's name.
3. Dogs like it if you leave a lot of things on the floor.
4. A dog's parents never visit.
5. Dogs agree that you have to raise your voice to get your point across.
6. Dogs find you amusing when you're drunk.
7. Dogs like to go hunting and fishing.
8. A dog will not wake you up at night to ask, "If I died, would you get another dog?"
9. If a dog has babies, you can put an ad in the paper and give them away.
10. A dog will let you put a studded collar on it without calling you a pervert.
11. If a dog smells another dog on you, they don't get mad. They just think it's interesting.
12. If a dog leaves, it won't take half of your stuff.

TO TEST THIS THEORY:

Lock your wife and your dog in the garage for an hour. Then open it and see who's happy to see you.

The PLAYHOUSE HOTEL



'Take 2' at The Playhouse

The Barraba Community News team caught up with Rachel Bennewitz on her first day as the new owner of The Playhouse. In amongst guests, tradies and fire inspectors Rachel found a few minutes to talk to us.

Q. Welcome Rachel and congratulations on your purchase of The Playhouse. Is this type of business a new adventure for you?

A. *Yes, it is. Whilst I've had some hospitality experience I've never owned and operated anything as exciting and diverse as The Playhouse.*

Q. Tell us a bit about your background?

A. *I've worked in a range of service sectors supporting people as a lecturer, behaviour practitioner trainer, rehabilitation, supporting and advocacy for social justice principles for people with disabilities, and community development.*

Q. What was the attraction for you of The Playhouse and Barraba?

A. *I was looking for a new direction, saw The Playhouse, fell in love with it and I can understand Andrew's passion for the business. I plan to work with the community and build on what Andrew has created.*

Q. You have been out and about Barraba over the last few weeks – what's your first impressions?

A. *I'm loving it, everyone is so welcoming and helpful. I've had people offering to help just to make the changeover easier for both Andrew and me. This is now my home and I want The Playhouse Hotel to be used as a community hub.*

Andrew is leaving Barraba with a wonderful resource. I'm interested in your plans for the future.

Q. Barraba has a great range of accommodation options but The Playhouse has been 'the boutique hotel'. Is that where you see the future of the accommodation you have on offer?

A. 100%.

Q. What plans do you have for the theatre? Will the movies and live shows continue?

A. *The theatre will most definitely continue, with movies and live shows. I'm looking to continue Andrew's legacy and hope to increase the creative arts options available to Barraba. I'm already working on an 'old fashioned candy bar' to be built in the theatre foyer.*

At the moment though it's looking a bit of a wreck as it's storing 23 years of Andrew's life and memories.

Q. For the café/restaurant. What are your thoughts about that area.

A. *I want to reopen the café, including evening restaurant hours. I'd like to host functions, both small and mid-size for family birthdays or other get togethers where people need a venue with various options. First, I need to find a person to run it and I want them to be open consistent hours, to have a strong sense of ownership and we'll work together to build it up. I hope local people won't feel it might be too expensive. I really want them to talk to me so I put together a package to meet their needs at a cost to meet their budget.*

I'm hoping locals will drop in for coffee, chat or glass of wine. I want to see people enjoying themselves at The Playhouse.

In talking about The Playhouse and what it offers I can't help but realise what a diverse range of traveller and hospitality services you offer. It's a complex multi-faceted business

Q. Are there some other services you have in mind for the future as you both settle in?

A. *I'm thinking about weekend retreats such as, creative arts, wellness, local tours and a few other ideas that I have floating around my head.*

Rachel's contacts are: phone 02 67821109 and email play@playhousehotel.com Give Rachel a call.

love 
local

Thinking of selling?



>Listings Wanted!

It's been a huge few months for the Hart Rural Agencies Real Estate team and properties are moving fast!

Buyer demand is strong and we're on the lookout for new listings.

If you've been thinking about selling or know someone who is – now is a great time to start the conversation

Contact our friendly team today and let's get your property sold!



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Barraba NSW 2347
Ph: 02 6782 1006

Manilla
73 Manilla St
Manilla NSW 2346
Ph: 02 6782 1911

Bingara
32A Cunningham St
Bingara NSW 2404
Ph: 02 6724 1170

Message to Richardson House from Ageing Australia

Dear Richardson House Aged Care Barraba
You are ACE!



Here is why [resident family member] thinks so:
I would like to nominate my mum's facility for this award in recognition of its extraordinary care and excellent commitment on all levels of management and day to day care.

Despite its isolation, the staff consistently provide compassionate, dignified and person-centred care that ensures residents feel safe, valued and genuinely at home. They go above and beyond with limited resources, building strong relationships not only with residents but also with families who rely deeply on their support. The facility plays a vital role in keeping elderly community members connected, respected and cared for close to the place they call home. Their dedication, resilience and kindness shine through every day, often quietly and without recognition. This facility truly exemplifies excellence in aged care and deserves to be celebrated for the difference it makes in the lives of its residents and their families.

Meaningful, varied activities in a nursing home are essential to maintaining older people's physical health, cognitive function, and emotional wellbeing. A wide range of activities ensures residents of different abilities, interests, and cultural backgrounds can feel included and valued. Social activities reduce loneliness and isolation, helping residents build friendships and maintain a sense of belonging. Physical activities, when adapted appropriately, support mobility, balance, and independence for as long as possible. Creative and purposeful activities stimulate memory, identity, and joy, giving residents opportunities to express themselves and feel accomplished. Together, this variety of experiences enhances quality of life, dignity, and overall happiness for elderly residents.

My mum chose to go "Home" after my dad passed away, nine hours from my involvement. She tried respite and moved in permanently. All the residents feel heard and love the staff and each other like family. Amongst all my friends this is the busiest and most active socially successful nursing home, I have experienced and heard of. No comparison to where my dad lived for several months. They even had a baby goat visit the other day. They celebrate everything with significance and sensitively deal with loss.

Congratulations! From Ageing Australia

"Please find attached your 'You are ACE' certificate of excellence from Ageing Australia.

Ageing Australia staff may be in contact with you in the future regarding this nomination as we gather stories to recognise excellence and promote the amazing people and projects across the aged care, retirement living and seniors housing sectors.

The best nominations received between 1 July and 30 June may also be put forward as a finalist for the annual Ageing Australia You are ACE! Awards, which take place on Aged Care Employee Day, 7 August.

Thank you for all you do to improve the lives of older Australians."

Kevin Anderson opens new courtyard at Richardson House



Everyone loves a good courtyard!

There's a brand new one at Richardson House in Barraba thanks to a \$30,000 grant from the Community Building Partnerships program!

A great asset for residents and the community!

Thank You

We wish to express our deep gratitude to the nursing and domestic staff at the Barraba Health Service, and to Palliative Care Nurse, Jon Gourlay, for the kindness, compassion, respect and professionalism which was given to our husband and father, Robert Orchard ("Bob").

We are thankful for the use of the palliative care room, which, along with their quiet support, allowed us to continue to care for Bob ourselves, while also honouring his wishes of retaining his privacy. Their support in this difficult time, and during Christmas, brought us much comfort and will never be forgotten.

Rosemary Orchard, Laura Stevenson and Jane Geddes.
9th January 2026

I would like to share a positive and heartfelt update.

The Orchard family recently presented Barraba Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) with generously donated items in honour of their beloved Bob Orchard.

The donation included a new refrigerator and a hamper for the palliative care room, intended to support and provide comfort to families who may need to use the palliative care facilities in the future.



Pictured: Kim Peake Barraba HSM with the Orchard Family

Barraba MPS sincerely thanks the Orchard family for their generosity and thoughtfulness during this difficult time.

We extend our deepest appreciation, along with our thoughts and heartfelt condolences to the family.

Kind regards,

Kim Peake

Health Service Manager

Barraba

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Barraba Potters and Craft Guild Inc Annual General Meeting

Friday 13th February 2026 commencing at 10am.

An ordinary meeting will follow.

All members welcome.

If you are interested to join the Guild, enjoy a variety of craft activities and meet people please come along. Please phone Bronwyn 0447165008 if you have any queries.





History Notes

Wilkinson is a well-known district name – it has been in the Barraba/Bingara district for more than a hundred years. At this stage I do not know when or where George Wilkinson was born but it is thought he was about 27 years old when he married Mary Kelly at Wallabadah in 1857. George was employed by John Gill in the early days, more than likely working with horses and coaches and learning “the trade”.

George went out with Bowden in 1874 in the Tamworth/Bingara area. He had stables in Bingara which burnt down about five years later. Bowden left the business after the fire leaving Wilkinson to continue on his own.

The Wilkinson's coaches were on the road 6 days a week which must have required a large stable to service the run. The coaches left Barraba early in the morning travelling along a route similar to the present-day road with the exception of Bells Mountain. On arriving at the Hotel at Bells Mountain the coach stopped for exchange of passengers and probably horses before moving onto Cobbadah to deliver mail and passengers. There is a photo of the old Cobbadah Hotel given to me, many years ago – an old fence around a slab building which was not replaced until the early 1900s by John Crowley from Cobbadah Station.

The coach continued on after delivering mail for the surrounding villages and stations. On arrival at Oakey Creek the horses were changed for the journey up to Hilltop and down the steep incline to follow the creek valley into Bingara. There is another coach stop about halfway along the creek which could have been a horse exchange as well, but I do not have enough information about that at the moment.

This mail run was serviced by Wilkinson for about three years before he sold it. His interest then turned to the Cobbadah Hotel where he ran the hotel and the post office for a few years. There is a story that he built the Cobbadah Pub but that is not correct – John Crowley had the pub built and leased it to different people to run it. The story of the pub apart from the fire in 1965 is in the Cobbadah book.

George Wilkinson had 13 children – number 10 was Walter who worked in the Horton Region until he died in 1910 aged 36 years leaving a widow and 6 children. George Wilkinson died two years before his son in 1908. I think he may be buried in Tamworth.



Senior Citz Notes

Hello Everyone,

Hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas break. There was a very good crowd for Bingo on Friday. The bowl of fresh fruit was a great idea, good on you Kim.

Great news – the \$5 for handicraft has been dropped. We are in a very sound financial position, so extra expense is unnecessary.

Talking of expenses – our membership of \$15 is due now. Perhaps if you are thinking of joining Seniors, you will be welcomed with open arms, the more the merrier, new people – new ideas.

The committee has been busy putting together plans for the coming year, perhaps a mystery trip or two could be on the list. Once we have had our first meeting, everyone will know what is going on.

This is all for now, except a wish for those on the sick list, a speedy recovery.

Cheers for now.

Judy Brady, Hon Sec.

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

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

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 25th January 2026
Time 10.45am
Please note new time till the end of April.
All welcome

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba
Sunday service at 10.00am
Woodsreef 11.30am, 2nd Sunday of each month



Barraba Rugby League Football Club Successful 2026 Season Launch and Sponsorship Auction

The Barraba Rugby League Football Club has hailed its Official 2026 Season Launch and Sponsorship Auction on Saturday 10 January 2026 a resounding success following a strong turnout at the Barraba Bowling Club on Saturday night.

The event brought together sponsors, players, coaches and supporters in a clear display of community support, with the Club proudly exceeding its sponsorship target for the upcoming 2026 New England Group 19 Rugby League season.

Club President Neville Phillips said the result highlighted the strength of local backing for rugby league in Barraba. "The support shown on the night was outstanding. Exceeding our sponsorship target is a credit to our sponsors, volunteers and wider community, and it gives the Club a strong platform heading into the 2026 season," Mr Phillips said.

The Club extends sincere thanks to all sponsors for their contributions, which play a vital role in player development, team operations and the long-term success of the Club. Special appreciation is extended to Major Sponsor Barraba Bowling Club for its continued and unwavering support.

The evening was enhanced by a camp oven dinner prepared by Jesse Phillips and Tim Coombes, with vegetables generously donated by Saunders Fruit and Vegetables, and desserts supplied by Queen Street Cafe.

A highlight of the night was the appearance of guest speaker and local National Rugby League Women's star Jada Taylor, who impressed attendees with her professionalism, humility and openness during the Q&A session. Jada shared valuable insights into her rugby league journey, the dedication required to reach the elite level, and the importance of community clubs in developing future talent. Her connection with the audience and willingness to engage with players, sponsors and supporters alike made her contribution to the evening truly outstanding.

The Club also acknowledged the efforts of MC Jock Mallise for his engaging delivery and for expertly guiding the Q&A session, creating an entertaining and informative experience for all in attendance.

Enormous gratitude is also extended to Charlie Hart from Hart Rural for his outstanding skill and professionalism as auctioneer. Charlie was ably supported by his spotters Rudi

Hart and Jarrod Hannaford, whose efforts helped drive a highly successful auction.

The Barraba Rugby League Football Club also thanked its committee members and volunteers, whose dedication and hard work continue to underpin the Club's success.

The Club now looks ahead to the 2026 season with confidence and gratitude, following a launch night that reflected the pride, generosity and unity of the Barraba community. Training is kicking off this Tuesday night at 6:30pm for the Men's First Grade, Reserve Grade and Ladies League Tag side at the Barraba Recreation Ground.



*Front: Jada Taylor, Ash Lowe (Ladies League Tag Coach),
Rear: Tim Coombes (Men's First Grade Coach), Charlie Hart (Hart Rural), Zac Mallise (Under 18s Coach), Neville Phillips (Club President), Shaun Spence (Reserve Grade Coach) and Jock Mallise (MC)*



Auction live On Stage: Rudi Hart, Jarrod Hannaford and Charlie Hart from Hart Rural



Council Meeting Update – 16 December 2025

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

- Reports on the Draft Tamworth Region Structure Plans and the potential sale of the “Mechanics Institute” on Brisbane Street were deferred until 2026, with Councillors citing the need for further information.
- Councillors tonight adopted the Draft Tamworth Regional Lands Strategy 2025, setting a long-term vision for rural lands across the LGA. The Strategy identifies eight focus areas and 28 actions to guide future land use, support local producers and industries, and ensure our rural lands remain diverse and productive now and into the future.
- Councillors have approved several recommendations made by the Tamworth Local Transport Forum. One of those approvals is for parking in the CBD to be free from 7am on Tuesday 13 January until 8.30am on Wednesday 28 January. While the meters won’t be turned off, they will instead show that you do not need to pay. Easypark will be the same. Where feasible, all other parking regulations will still be monitored by Rangers, including time restrictions and loading zones. The Forum also approved the closure of Peel Street between Brisbane Street and Bourke Street for part of the 2026 Toyota Tamworth Country Music Festival.
- Councillors reviewed feedback about a proposed change to Commercial Developer Charges at the 26 August 2025 meeting. In a review of the 2018 charges and methodology, Councillors had moved to adopt Option 3 and move away from the current structure, meaning the change was put on public exhibition and required a peer review. All submissions received opposed the change, and the peer review confirmed water and sewerage rate payers would subsidise the non-residential development in Hills Plain and Arcadia. Councillors tonight resolved to adopt Option 3 and move forward with implementing the change which will see all non-residential development, no matter where it is located in Tamworth, pay the same unit rate for placing additional demand on Council’s water and waste water system, and existing water and sewer customers will make up the shortfall in funding as a result of this change.
- After a call for EOIs in September, Councillors tonight appointed 29 community members to represent their communities through the newly formed Tamworth Regional Precinct Advisory Committees. Two Councillors were also nominated for each precinct Committee. A further EOI process will be undertaken in early 2026 to seek nominations from areas that have had modest responses, specifically focusing on a call for youth representatives.
- Councillors approved the Annual Operational Plan budget variation reports for October and November noting a boost of almost \$20,000 in lease income at the International Flight Training Tamworth facility, as well as grant funding for the Sports Dome lights and fans, and storm clean up to the value of \$50,000 which is expected to be reimbursed by the Federal Government’s claim process. An additional authorisation request was included for \$15,000 to develop a costed project plan to explore options for Ray Walsh House, accommodation for Tamworth office-based staff, as well as a new Visitor Experience Centre as resolved at the 23 September 2025 Council Meeting. Councillors also noted the Council Investments November 2025 report, pleased to see the portfolio performed above industry average within the reporting period.
- Councillors resolved to appoint real estate agents for the sale of two Council-owned two parcels of land on New Winton Road, Westdale. The assets have no strategic purpose for Council to retain and this determination was made prior to Council’s Commercial Property and Landholdings Activation Plan discussion at the 27 November 2025 Extraordinary Meeting. Details remain commercial in confidence at this stage of the process, however, proceeds from the sale will be used to pay Council loans.
- Councillors received and noted the minutes of the Central Northern Regional Library Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting held on 5 November 2025 and approved Tamworth Regional Council’s 2026/2027 contribution. The meetings confirmed continued strong performance of the regional library service, key strategic and digital initiatives, and the adoption of an updated Local Studies Policy. Council endorsed the draft 2026/2027 budget based on a \$13.39 per capita contribution, totalling an estimated \$882,508.

➤ Councillors have agreed to continue sponsoring the National Cutting Horse Association Futurity event for the next three years. The sponsorship for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 will be \$15,000 per year. The sponsorship will give the Tamworth region prominent branding exposure through venue signage, livestream coverage and marketing for the futurity event which attracted 3000 visitors per day, over 16 competition days in 2025, and generated in excess of \$11.8 million into the Tamworth Region economy.

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

FREE ENTRY AT ALL SWIMMING POOLS



Yes!! Free pool days are back in 2026.

Following the success of our free days in last summer, we are pleased to announce the dates for our FREE pool days in 2026.

Across the region all of our pools will have free entry on:

- Sunday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th January
- Sunday 1st February

For more information visit

www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/pools

TRC WATERWISE GUIDELINES

As we hit the height of summer, a little reminder about our Water Wise Guidelines:

- Only water your garden before 10am or after 4pm
- Trigger nozzles should be used on all handheld hoses to reduce water wastage
- Avoid hosing down hard surfaces like concrete paths and driveways – use a pressure cleaner or water efficient nozzle if you can't avoid using water.

JOBS OF THE WEEK

We're hiring for various roles this week, including:

- Senior Venues Technician
- Distribution Operator
- Cyber Security Specialist
- Expression of Interest – Strategic Planning Opportunities
- Senior Leader Enterprise Applications
- Apprentice Operator – Transport Operations (Various Locations)

Apply now www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/careers

TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL WATER REBATE SCHEME



Looking at a few projects to kick off the new year?

We can help you save water and money at home or work with our

Water Saver Rebate Scheme.

Check our website for the full list and eligibility about initiatives including:

- Rainwater tanks
- Greywater systems
- Showerheads
- Pool covers
- A new toilet

Apply today:

<https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/.../water.../water-rebates>

BINGARA AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

REFLECT, RESPECT, CELEBRATE



Ambassador
Mr Anupam Sharma



Where: Bingara Swimming Pool
When: Monday 26 January 2026
Time: 10am - 2pm

Anupam Sharma is an award-winning filmmaker, author and cultural ambassador, widely credited with pioneering Australia's relationship with Indian cinema and named among Australia's fifty most influential film professionals.

Featuring the band SixFold

Lions Club BBQ and Pool Canteen
No alcohol and no glass. BYO chairs and picnic rugs.





Please join us for a Hawaiian Theme

POOL Party

Friday 30 January 2026



Movie | Music | Pool Games | Free Entry
Starts at 7:00pm
Bingara Pool
FREE Bus from Warialda → Bingara
RSVP Required: Tori - 0408 548 813
Ages 12 - 20




GWYDIR CAREER START 2026

Positions being offered are:

- Apprentice - Civil Construction Road Maintenance
- Apprentice - Gardener
- Trainee - Water Operator
- Trainee - Early Childhood Educator - Bingara Preschool

Applications close Friday 30 January 2026.



GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL

ARE YOU LOOKING TO KICK START YOUR CAREER?

Gwydir Shire Council has the perfect opportunity for you to develop valuable skills and obtain a nationally recognised qualification while working as a valued member of a diverse, multi-skilled workforce. Positions being offered are:

- Apprentice - Civil Construction Road Maintenance
- Apprentice - Gardener
- Trainee - Water Operator
- Trainee - Early Childhood Educator - Bingara Preschool

Applications close Friday 30 January 2026.

To view or apply for a role, please visit
<https://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au/.../Gwydir-Career-Start...>

GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL

31 December 2025

From the Mayor – Update – Connectivity Issues

I have spoken with The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP, Member for New England, and representatives from Telstra. Telstra has advised that it investigated the reported issue but was unable to identify any faults at the Bingara site. While Telstra has now indicated that a new tower for the area is expected in early 2026, this does not resolve the current and ongoing connectivity issues being experienced across the Shire.

Council continues to advocate and lobby for improved connectivity across the whole of our Shire. The recent outage in Bingara is one example, but we all know that mobile and data services remain substandard across many areas. Council appreciates the support shown by the community through signing the petition. The next step is for residents to provide Council with specific information about the issues they are experiencing — whether it be reduced mobile coverage when travelling between Warialda and Inverell, or service outages in Bingara on particular dates and for specific periods of time.

Council will collate these reports and regularly forward them to Telstra, and to our elected representatives on your behalf. Council will continue to push for change. Please email mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au or send a letter to PO Box 5, Bingara NSW 2404.

WINTER SPECIAL

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**What could be more Australian than
BBQ lamb on Australia Day?**

Marinade for Lamb

From the Free Range Butcher

Try this delicious marinade with lamb chops, steaks or on a butterflied leg of lamb this week. It was a beautiful rich, red colour and the paprika provided just a hint of smokiness. The cayenne pepper is optional but I think it definitely needs it and it's only a teaspoon so won't be too hot.



Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp sweet smoked paprika
- 1 tsp cayenne
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 tsp cumin
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp Italian herbs
- 1 tbsp red wine vinegar

Method:

- Mix all ingredients together
- Place lamb into a glass dish
- Pour over marinade
- Cover and place in fridge for 3-4 hours

