



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 4th February 2026

Annabel Kanno, swimming for the Starlight Foundation

Starlight
SUPER SWIM
powered by speedo

Donate now

I'm swimming for sick kids this February

Annabel, a Year 6 student at Barraba Central School, has a goal is to swim 32Kms = 960 laps of the Barraba Pool between the 1st and 28th February and raise \$1000 for sick kids.

Please donate, support Annabel to help others. You can donate online at [Annabel Kanno • Super Swim 2026](#) or drop into Saunders Fruit and Veg and Toni will help you. Every \$ raised will help towards Annabel meeting her fundraising goal.



Annabel Kanno

Annabel said "I'm diving into the Super Swim this February to raise vital funds for the Starlight Children's Foundation. I hope Barraba will help me be a 'Super Swim Hero'. I'll be swimming 32 kilometres to brighten the lives of children in hospital – and I need

your help to reach my fundraising goal."

Did you know that every minute of every day, a child in Australia is admitted to hospital? For many of them, it's a scary and isolating experience – but with your support, we can help bring joy, laughter, and comfort to sick kids when they need it most.

Starlight's mission is "To brighten the lives of seriously ill children and their families". When a once-bright life is dulled by needles, hospital visits and painful treatments, Starlight helps sick kids forget they're sick for a while and re-discover the joy of childhood. The Super Swim challenge is for all ages, and at any location across Australia. Challengers can choose their own distance and fundraising goal, and can participate as an individual, or as part of a team.



Senior Citz News

The meeting last Friday was well attended. President, Kim, welcomed everyone, especially the new members. If you would like to join our merry band, there is a warm welcome waiting.

Great News! The Christmas Concert is back on again. More details as time goes on.

The second piece of good news is a trip to Warialda Honey Festival instead of the Bingara Orange Festival. Just a bit of a change.

Bingo continues on its merry way each Friday at 10am, numbers are continuing at a steady rate. The introduction of fruit and kebabs are proving a very popular morning tea.

There are quite a few birthdays being celebrated, "happy birthday" to all of you and a wedding anniversary. Congratulations and best wishes to Kim and Graham.

With the mention of the Concert, a few items like street stalls and market days were forgotten. However, I'll make amends in the coming days.

This is all for now, those on the sick list, get well soon. Hopefully more news next week.

Cheers for now, Judy Brady



**BARRABA RSL &
RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone 67821379

For the information of members
and guests.

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 6th February

MEAT RAFFLES—Ruby Mae's

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm
Membership Draw \$1900

SATURDAY 7th February

Bingo starts at 12.30pm

SUNDAY 8th February

Angler Club Raffles.

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

Membership Draw \$1600

ALL MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW OVERDUE

BISTRO HOURS

Phone 0427330808

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PIZZA'S MADE TO ORDER

MONDAY/TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY: CLOSED

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

SUNDAY: 12-2PM

About Ruby Mae's Wish

[Ruby Mae's Wish](#) is a charity that has been created by Ruby's parents after her unexpected passing in April 2022 (forever 4).

The charity has been established as a way for Ruby's spirit to live on through helping Children's Hospitals by purchasing essential and often life-saving medical equipment for sick and injured kids that visit Paediatric Wards, Neonatal Units, Maternity and emergency departments in hospitals across Australia (so far we have donated over \$18,900 in medical equipment), funded vital education days for Doctors and Nurses and provide Care Packages. To date we have donated 250 Care Packages to parents and/or carers. Our aim is to get the Care Packs Australia wide.

100% of the funds raised through **Ruby Mae's Wish** goes directly to children's hospitals and helping the families of sick and/or injured children.

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

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

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 8th February 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

Roseanne Badham (Rosie) passed away last week after a long illness. Roseanne was employed at the Barraba Hospital for many years, particularly involved with the Day Centre. Roseanne made a great contribution to the community during the time she, her husband Ian and their 3 children lived in Barraba. From Barraba they moved to Hervey Bay in Queensland.

Information submitted by Jenny Bucknell.

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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



**Who won the Poetry Reading
Competition at the Somerton Hotel?**



HISTORY NOTES

Anyone who has read Carol's "History of Country Schools" will have enjoyed the stories of our schools of another era! These notes may add some information as I attended Cobbabah School for one year before being sent to boarding school in Sydney. I can tell you it is a big jump from correspondence school to a small school to a boarding school with 600 pupils!

As settlers and miners settled in the Barraba district there was soon a need for education for the families of these men. To get a school in an area, several parents had to gather ages of available children, their distance from home to the school, and how they were able to travel. The parents were also responsible for a suitable building for the school and accommodation for the teacher. The teacher often ended up boarding with one of his pupil's family.

Usually someone supplied the building – a room in a home, or had a building erected – just a teaching room with a veranda on one side. Some perhaps had a fireplace for warmth in winter and no doubt the windows on one or both sides supplied some comfort in summer. The toilets were the "long drop" – all very well if there were no snakes about!!

These small country schools were one teacher from Kindergarten to at least 6th class. The school was one teaching room for all pupils. The long desks were five pupils sitting on one side on a long form – no biros mostly just pencils or pens with nibs dipped into an inkwell in a hole in the desk.

BARRABA RUGBY UNION

invites you to their

2026 Sponsorship Evening



WITH FORMER NRL ROOSTERS STAR

CHRIS KELLY

Chris Kelly has played NRL for Sydney Roosters, Moree Rugby, Central North and NSW Country in the 1990's. He has been a referee, a past player, president and is current coach of St Albert's, will share his insights into the New England competition and the future of rugby

FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY
6:30PM
BARRABA RUGBY CLUB

bookings via the QR code, link, Barraba Beef or contact Jenny Middlemiss on 0428 821 961



Some teachers were strict with their pupils and kept them in the classroom at playtime or lunchtime. There was also the cane for those, especially the boys, who misbehaved. The pupils had lunch and playlunch prepared by their family and after school at 3.30 they were dismissed to be picked up by their parents, walked home, or caught their pony and rode 3 or 4 miles to their home. I remember two boys who rode some four miles to school each day – their steeds were hard to catch but they usually passed us at a full gallop on their way home through the paddocks!

Readers of last week's Community News Notes may have some stories to tell so please don't be shy – we were young once – tell us about your bush education so we can celebrate Barraba's small schools at the end of the year – September for example!

Barraba Museum Markets are currently under review and we will let the community know when they recommence in the future.

Manilla Museum Markets

21 February @ 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Discover the charm of the **Manilla Museum Markets**, held in beautiful Pioneer Park from **8am to 1pm on the third Saturday of every month** (weather permitting, excluding December and January). Browse a wonderful range of **locally produced goods**, including plants, honey, jewellery, homemade cakes, painted homewares, t-shirts, hair accessories, and more. Take a moment to relax in the gardens with a **tea, coffee, or cool drink**, and don't miss the BBQ gurus serving up delicious **steak sandwiches and sausage sangas**. It's the perfect morning out to explore local creativity, support small makers, and enjoy the warm Manilla community atmosphere.

JOBS OF THE WEEK

This week we’re recruiting for various roles, including:

- Specialist Operator – AELEC
- Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) Educational Team Leader
- Operators & Specialist Operators – Waste (Multiple)
- Strategy Engineer
- Development Assessment Planner (Various Positions)
- Project Engineer
- Aboriginal Strategy & Partnerships Lead (Identified)
- Cleaner – Aviation Precinct
- Assets Engineer
- Expression of Interest – Operators (Multiple Roles and Locations)

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



Turning ideas into action: Essential Grants open for 2026. Grants of up to \$15,000 available for projects that drive sustainability and resilience across New South Wales

Essential Energy is calling on charities and not-for-profits within its network area to apply for the 2026 Essential Grants program, opening on 2 February. Designed to spark change, Essential Grants fund community-led projects that make a real difference for people and the environment, with a strong focus on initiatives that give back and improve outcomes for vulnerable groups.

Essential Energy’s Head of Sustainability Sophie Cruickshank says the program supports initiatives that create measurable social impact, promote sustainability and strengthen climate

resilience in regional, rural and remote communities across New South Wales.

“We know that across the footprint, there are many community-led organisations leading the way in the sustainability space. These grants give local organisations the resources they need to turn great ideas into action, whether that’s installing solar, improving energy efficiency or building resilience within their community against a changing climate,” Sophie says.

With a total funding pool of \$150,000 and grants of up to \$15,000 available, the program is designed to help regional communities bring their ideas to life and create lasting benefits for people and the environment.

Projects funded through the Essential Grants program fall into two main themes that matter to communities; (1) energy transition and (2) sustainability and climate adaptation.

“These focus areas are about helping organisations use energy in smarter, cleaner ways and supporting initiatives that protect the environment and prepare for future challenges. From installing solar panels to reducing waste or improving resilience to extreme weather, the grants provide an opportunity to create lasting partnerships that deliver practical benefits for people and the environment,” Sophie says.

Previous recipients include organisations that not only champion sustainability but also foster inclusion and create opportunities for people in regional communities.

Applications open 2 February and close 31 March at 5pm AEDT. For more information and to apply, visit: essentialenergy.com.au/EssentialGrants



Barraba High Country Music Musta

Sunday 8th Feb 2026. 12 to 4pm. FREE ENTRY.

Walk-up artists welcome. Barraba Bowling Club.

The good, the bad and the pointless - How Canberra's politicians prioritise point-scoring over policy

Ground breaking new analysis from AMPLIFY puts the spotlight on how federal politicians use their time in Parliament

The time spent on political theatre and sledging are almost on par with policy debate in the Australian parliament, Australian-first analysis from AMPLIFY has found. The AMPLIFY House Monitor used AI to categorise more than 16,000 speeches over an estimated 625 hours from the first six months of the parliamentary term (mid-July 2025 - end December 2025).

While lifting productivity is high on the political agenda, the analysis shows MPs and Senators wasted more than a third of their time on political theatre and bad behaviour, spending the equivalent of 28 business days criticising and attacking one another. Excluding parliamentary procedure and formalities, nearly 50% of the remaining time was spent on political theatre and bad behaviour.

"Australia is facing flatlining productivity, a nationwide housing crisis, growing levels of national debt and rising inflation, but instead of focusing on policy our politicians are more focused on political point scoring and chest thumping," AMPLIFY CEO Georgina Harrisson said. "Australians overwhelmingly want their elected representatives to focus on solutions to the big issues impacting them and their communities, not sledging each other."

AMPLIFY's most recent national survey found 72% of Australians believe politicians are more focused on winning votes than solving problems and the AMPLIFY House Monitor reinforces what the community already knows.

Key insights from AMPLIFY's House Monitor

- Australian politicians are spending less than 40% of their total time in the House of Representatives and the Senate towards debating policy (37.5%).
- They are spending nearly as much time on political theatre (32%), which includes partisan attacks and promoting their party.
- Bad behaviour made up 3.4% of parliamentary speeches, which includes hostile language, personal attacks and interjections.
- Excluding parliamentary procedure and formalities, almost 50% of remaining available parliamentary time was spent on political theatre and bad behaviour.
- Politicians and Senators spent approximately 220 hours (equivalent to 28 business days) on political theatre and bad behaviour.

This is nowhere near good enough to address the significant national challenges we face. Our research shows 71% of Australians believe the promise of a fair go, rising living standards and the belief each generation will enjoy greater prosperity than the last has been broken. More specifically, AMPLIFY's most recent national survey showed Aussies want urgent action to address housing (75%) and the cost of living (62%).

The scale of our housing crisis is unprecedented - with nearly 90% of homes out of reach to households on median incomes and the Productivity Commission finding that housing productivity, measured by houses completed per hour of construction work, is down by more than 50% over the last 30 years.

"Australians are facing a worsening housing crisis that requires every level of government to substantially lift their productivity to restore the promise of home ownership for current and future generations," Ms Harrisson said. "Political trust is breaking down. If we have any hope of restoring trust in government we've got to start with what happens in Canberra. Our politicians must do better."

The AMPLIFY House Monitor also categorises the speeches of every MP and Senator to provide transparency on how politicians spend their time. "Our goal is to give Australians insight into how our representatives engage with each other and on the issues that matter," Ms Harrisson said. "Providing this transparency gives us the best chance of bringing about the change we all want and need to see."

For more detailed information on the AMPLIFY House Monitor visit our website: <https://www.amplifyaus.org/our-work/housemonitor>



JUNIOR TOUCH TEAMS HEAD TO COFFS HARBOUR THIS WEEKEND

Ahead of the Northern Eagles Junior Champs in Coffs Harbour this weekend (7-8 February), Barraba Junior Touch Football has taken their representative training sessions poolside. Thank you to Miro and the team at Barraba Memorial Swimming Pool for their patience, allowing us to get these crucial sessions in with the heat!



Our u10 boys and u12 girls teams, together with their coaches and managers, are looking forward to a positive weekend of competition at Coffs Harbour for all involved. Best of luck!



*For our mates
in the bush*

Rural Aid Calls for Farmer Registrations as Disasters Escalate Nationwide

Farmers across Australia – particularly those in disaster-impacted regions – are strongly encouraged to register with Rural Aid now, as ongoing natural disasters and worsening weather conditions continue to threaten rural communities.

Large areas of Victoria are currently battling bushfires, while North Queensland continues to experience flooding and cyclone impacts, and parts of New South Wales face storms, heavy rainfall and damaging winds. With further bad weather forecast for the weekend, conditions are expected to deteriorate in many regions, placing additional strain on farmers already under pressure.

Rural Aid is urging farmers to register immediately to ensure support can be delivered as quickly as possible when it is needed most.

“Disasters don’t wait, and neither should farmers,” Rural Aid Chief Executive Officer John Warlters said. “Registering with Rural Aid now means we can act fast when conditions worsen, whether that’s financial relief, counselling, or delivering hay and water to farmers who need it most.”

Rural Aid is already responding in disaster-affected regions, providing direct financial assistance to farmers in north-west Queensland and Victoria to help cover urgent and unexpected expenses as they recover from floods, fires and severe weather events.

“Our teams are already working in disaster zones, supporting farmers who are exhausted, overwhelmed and facing enormous uncertainty,” Mr Warlters said. “By registering early, farmers ensure critical support can be delivered as quickly as possible when disasters strike.”

Rural Aid provides free support to registered farmers and their families, including:

- Financial assistance for urgent and unexpected expenses
- Professional counselling and wellbeing support
- Hay deliveries to feed livestock
- Water deliveries for household needs
- Volunteer assistance through Farm Army and Farm Recovery Event programs

With severe weather forecast across multiple states this weekend – including dangerous fire conditions in Victoria and Western Australia and heavy rainfall and consequent flooding in parts of Queensland and New South Wales – Rural Aid is reinforcing the importance of early registration.

“Farmers are incredibly resilient, but they shouldn’t have to face disasters alone,” Mr Warlters said. “We strongly encourage every farmer, especially those in high-risk areas, to register now so help can be mobilised immediately when it’s needed.”

Farmers should register for free immediately at faa.ruralaid.org.au or by calling 1300 327 624. Registering now ensures Rural Aid can act fast and deliver critical support as fires, floods and severe weather continue to impact rural Australia.



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The Early Years Parenting Service

Mobile Early Parenting Support



The Tresillian 2U Mobile Parenting Support Van will be visiting

Bingara on Tuesday 10 February 2026

Bingara Toy Library from 10:00am to 2:00pm

Please come along and have a yarn to our friendly Staff if you have any concerns about your child, we can assist you and provide advice and support in several areas including:

- Sleep & Settling Difficulties
- Breastfeeding & Bottle Feeding
 - Infant Nutrition
 - Toddler Behaviour
- Understanding your Childs Development & Cues
 - Parent mental Health & Well Being
 - Caring for your Baby

For further information or to make an appointment please contact Ava Lunch our CFHN on 0427 755 987 or Leanne Kelly our AHW on 0460 930 496.

2026 Bingara

Australia Day Winners

Citizens of the Year
Catherine and Ian Egan

Young Citizen of the Year
Scarlett Standerwick

Volunteer of the Year
Steve Adams

Community Event of the Year
NWTC Production
'Alice in Wonderland'

Junior Sportsperson
Zara Kelly

Senior Sportsperson
Liam Johnson



RECENT ANNIVERSARIES

- Donald Trump's first inauguration as the 45th president of the United States (2017)
- the first Clean Up Australia Day (1990)
- the death of Queen Victoria (1901)
- the birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756)
- the end of the Siege of Leningrad. More than 2 million Russians were killed in the WWII battle (1944)
- the Apollo 1 disaster. Astronauts Virgil Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee lost their lives when a fire swept through the command module during a preflight test of what was to be the first crewed mission of NASA's Apollo space program (1967)
- the publication of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* in the UK (1813)
- the explosion of USS Space Shuttle Challenger just over a minute after takeoff, killing all 7 crew members (1986)
- Roger Federer becoming the first man to claim 20 Grand Slam titles after winning the Australian Open for the sixth time (2018)
- Karl Benz patents the first gasoline-driven automobile (1886)
- the President of France announcing the “definite end” to France's nuclear testing program just one day after the country exploded a nuclear device in the South Pacific (1996)
- the WHO declaring COVID-19 as a public health emergency (but not yet a pandemic...) (2020)
- Apollo 14 lifting off for a mission to the Fra Mauro Highlands on the Moon (1971)
- the United Kingdom officially leaving the European Union (2020)
- the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster which killed all 7 astronauts aboard (2003)
- Queen Elizabeth I of England signs the death warrant for her cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots (1587)
- New Amsterdam (later known as New York) becoming incorporated as a city (1653)
- the Australian Premiers' Conference deciding to locate Australia's capital (Canberra) to the coldest place they could find between Sydney and Melbourne (1899)
- Explorer Charles Sturt discovering the Darling River (1829)

From Better Homes and Gardens

Matt Moran's 30-minute tomato baked risoni is the weeknight dinner we can't stop making and great for 'Meat Free Monday'



Cherry tomatoes, creamy buffalo mozzarella and fragrant basil come together in Matt Moran's baked risoni. It's a deliciously simple recipe that delivers big comfort with minimal effort. It's rich without being heavy, simple enough for weeknights and impressive enough for guests.

Ingredients

3 tablespoons olive oil,
plus extra to drizzle
1 brown onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, peeled and finely chopped
1 pinch chilli flakes
Sea-salt flakes and freshly ground
black pepper, to season
1 tablespoon tomato paste
2 x 250g punnets cherry
tomatoes, cut in halves
1 tablespoon sherry vinegar
1 teaspoon raw sugar
150ml white wine
1 1/2 cups risoni
500ml Vegetable Stock
100g buffalo mozzarella
1/2 bunch basil

Method

Step 1 Preheat oven to 210°C/190°C fan-forced.

Step 2 In a large casserole dish or saucepan, heat oil on medium. Sauté onions, garlic and chilli flakes for 3–4 minutes or until tender. Season with salt

Step 3 Add tomato paste and cherry tomatoes. Cook for a further 5–6 minutes, until cherry tomatoes start to break down. Deglaze pan with vinegar, sugar and white wine. Allow to reduce to a glaze and for the sugar to dissolve.

Step 4 Stir in risoni. Add vegetable stock and bring to a simmer. Season. Cover, then bake for 20 minutes, until all stock is absorbed and pasta is cooked.

Step 5 Remove pan from oven. Serve with torn mozzarella, picked basil leaves and a drizzle of olive oil.