



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 11th February 2026

SSS Mobile Concrete Services – A new business in town.



BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

Phone 67821379

For the information of members and guests.

THIS WEEK

**THURSDAY 12th February
BINGO from 6pm**

**FRIDAY 13th February
MEAT RAFFLES**

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm
Membership Draw \$2000

SATURDAY 14th February

Bistro Closed

Club will reopen after funeral

SUNDAY 15th February

**Club Closed due to power outage
(weather permitting)**

ALL MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW OVERDUE

BISTRO HOURS

Phone 0427330808

DINE IN OR TAKEAWAY

DAILY BLACKBOARD SPECIALS

PIZZAS MADE TO ORDER

MONDAY/TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY: CLOSED

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

SUNDAY: 12-2PM

Bistro closed Saturday 14th February



Paul Hennessy and his partners have recently opened a new business in Barraba. This is the third location they have established and Paul is the manager of their Barraba site.

Located at 68 Alice St, next door to Rural Traders, they will be servicing an area from Tamworth to Bingara with their mobile plant, but expect most of the business will be in the Barraba area. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm and Paul can be contacted on 0427495070. Paul said "I hope people will call in to check out our products but best to phone ahead to ensure I'm here to meet them."

The SSS Concreting will supply concrete, batching and mixing on your site, sand, 10-20cm aggregate, fine dust, Attunga road base delivered in their tip-truck. They also have garden mulch, sand and have plans for other garden products and fire wood will be available in the next few weeks.



When the Barraba Community News team talked to Paul he outlined the many and varied jobs he's had, from helping in his father's butcher shop, NSW Fire Fighter for 15 years and an interstate truck driver which is where he met his two business partners.

Paul and his wife had been considering a move to a rural area and identified Barraba as a great location more than 12 months ago. The opportunity to take on the establishment of SSS Mobile Concreting in Barraba was too good to refuse.

Paul and his wife also have a restaurant in Canberra, which his wife is still running until they are ready for her to relocate to Barraba.



Paul said "I'm here because I want to be in Barraba, become part of the community, provide services to and promote the local town. I also want to ensure we have a profitable and sustainable business."

Paul will be at the Barraba Show on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th March, so find him for a chat or phone him on 0427495070.



115th BARRABA SHOW – coming soon!

The 2026 Barraba Show will be held this year from **Friday 6 March to Sunday 8 March**. Barraba Show 2026 once again brings you family

entertainment and fun with three days of Rodeo, Sports Shear, Wool Handling, Campdraft, Working Dogs, Motorbike Barrel Racing, Pavilion displays, Cattle showing, Chook Show, Horse Sections, Pet Show and Live Music."

Full details, and the full schedule including entry forms, are available on the show website: www.barrabashow.com.au. Regular updates will appear on the Show Facebook page and in this newspaper. Any enquiries can be made by email to the Secretary barrabapah@hotmail.com, or phone 0447 222 347. Over the weeks to the Show we will bring you stories about what is new and exciting this year, details of how to enter (and the closing dates) and how to get involved.

See pages 8 to 12 for everything you need to know about the Show.

Barraba Central School. Class Reunion 1972-1977

45 people, including 29 students, had a great weekend of reminiscing, stories (some funny, some sad) at our class reunion. It is hard to believe that it has been 50 years since some of us last met. Class members travelled from as far as Papua New Guinea, Swan Hill, Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Harvey Bay, Kiama & Bacchus Marsh just to name a few, to catch up again. It was great to see everyone after all this time...

Thank you to Aleeta Eames for taking time out of your weekend to show us around the High School precinct. What changes there have been!

Thank you also to the Vic Hotel, Barraba RSL & Rec Club, Barraba Golf Club and accommodation venues for your hospitality and support of our weekend.





(Thanks to Patti Crowley for the Reunion info and pictures)

CARP MUSTER FISHING COMPETITION

Something a bit different! Saturday arvo we will have a bit of fun with a casting comp down on the water's edge. I'll float a couple of targets out at Glenriddle in front of the Lions Marquee, and see who can hit them. Adults will be a bit further out and need to make your cast into the drum. Kids will be closer and a larger target to hit. I'll rustle up something for prizes to those that can hit the target. More info and times closer to the day. (Thanks Trent Hartwig)



**POWER OUTAGE THIS SUNDAY. MORE
INFO PAGE 12.**

This week I have finally changed the rain record chart – with barely 25mls so far this year perhaps a change of chart might help! While putting the old chart away I came across records of a heatwave at Cobbadah in 1939.

There were ten days of readings ranging from 102 to 110 finishing with 104 on the 17th January. With 104 being about 40 centigrade in today's measurements it must have been a rather testing time. The heat further west in our state is worse than the central areas and a friend has found details of a heat wave in 1896 in western NSW where residents died from heat exhaustion – up to 25 residents of Bourke died in January 1896 for example.

We are rather fortunate that we live in an era of air conditioning in cars and houses and do not have to turn the hose on, up in a mature tree, to get my father's version of cooler air!!

The hot weather has been a good chance to read Aaron Hardy's history of the gold fields in this area – he has done a wonderful job – spending lots of time with references from a number of newspaper sources as well as some exploration in the areas. It is hard to imagine particularly the Crow Mountain mines at full production with a Post Office, grocery shop and other services on the field. There is nothing there now.

Woods Reef has seen more attention with settlers remaining there after the gold rush. With a lot of research sites of miner's homes, shops, and school were all marked for future generations of visitors to the area. The cemetery has a few memorials to mark the burial of possibly 100 residents.

The school, Post Office and store remained in the village for some years – for instance the Post Office continued until the early 20th Century – in fact it operated from 1861 to 1913. The store remained to at least 1919 when John McKechnie ran the business.

The gold mining gradually faded away as asbestos was found and then mined early in the 20th Century. There is a photo of the early mine in this year's Historical Society calendar. Finally, I must remind everyone there are open shafts in the mining area – very dangerous today so keep away, especially children.

**BARRABA CANCER PATIENTS FUND RAISING
GROUP INC.**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2026, 11am.

Andy's Guesthouse
All are welcome

**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.

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

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

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 15th 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



**Faulkner,
Christopher Shane**

30/11/1961 to 5/2/2026

Born in Bingara. Now residing in Katherine NT.

Beloved husband of Margot and beloved son of Gordon (Crow) (dec) and Suzanne, brother to Shelley and Geoffrey (Ted), uncle and cousin to many.

Passed away in Darwin after a very brave and short battle with cancer.

Chris's wish was that there be no service he will be privately cremated and his remains returned home from burial in Bingara at a later date.



Callan Mollise

August 23, 2001 - January 24, 2026

THE MOLLISE FAMILY INVITE YOU TO GATHER IN
CELEBRATION AND HONOUR OF CALLAN'S LIFE

10.30 AM SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

CELEBRATION OF LIFE CEREMONY
BARRABA GOLF CLUB GROUNDS
228 TREVALLYN RD, BARRABA NSW 2347

COMMITTAL SERVICE
BARRABA CEMETERY

GATHERING & REFRESHMENTS
BARRABA BOWLING CLUB

**WE ASK THAT THOSE ATTENDING WEAR ANYTHING
THAT REMINDS THEM OF CALLAN**

Josephine Roberta Ann Witten

Passed peacefully
5th February, 2026 Aged 82 Years

Beloved wife of David.
Loving mother and mother-in-law of
Pamela & Michael and Steven & Alison.
Treasured grandmother of
Thomas, Matthew, Isaac and Hannah.
Much loved sister and aunt.

The family and friends of JOSEPHINE are warmly invited
to attend her Funeral Service to be held in
St. Laurence's Anglican Church,

**Cnr. of Maude & Fitzroy Streets, Barraba commencing
at 10.30am, Tuesday 17th February, 2026.**

Following the service the cortege will proceed to the
Barraba Lawn Cemetery, Memorial Avenue, Barraba.

Donations may be made to the *Royal Flying Doctors Service.*
A donation box will be available at the church.



Shawn Hamilton Funerals
125 MARIUS STREET
TAMWORTH NSW 2340 | 02 6766 1366

WNEIDA Funerals Australia



Judy Brady was awarded the trophy for winning the Poetry Section of the Somerton Hotel Open Mic Competition during the Tamworth Country Music Festival on Sunday during the Barraba High Country Music Musta at the Barraba Bowling Club.



Tamworth Miniature Railway

Victoria Park, Piper Street East Tamworth
Phone: 0409 418 278

Sunday 15 February @ 10:00am - 3:00pm. COST: \$3

We are dedicated to providing an exceptional all-day experience for families of all ages. With 900 meters of track, four platforms, two tunnels, and the Oxley Bridge offering stunning views over Tamworth, our Running Days promise a unique and unforgettable adventure for train enthusiasts of every generation. Come join us for a day full of fun and excitement! We have Public Running days on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 10 am – 3 pm with picnic areas, canteen, and great views.



The brand-new Tamworth Mental Health unit is looking outstanding! A 37 bed facility that provides the future of mental health care in the northwest.

Looking forward to this opening in 2026!

BARRABA KIDS COMMENDED AS JUNIOR TOUCH WRAPS UP

Our u10 boys and u12 girls have done us proud over the weekend at the Northern Eagles Junior Champs at Coffs Harbour, playing some very promising touch football against older, well-drilled opponents from across Northern NSW.

Although neither team came away with a win, there was a great deal of praise for our Barraba kids' tenacity, positivity and general conduct over the tournament. Each player has also shown great improvement in their game, positioning and teamwork in recent months - with some strong sequences of play at Coffs a thrill to watch.

The boys played against Macksville, Taree and Tamworth (twice); they were coached by Bindy Abell, and supported by Katie Shadbolt and Jimmy Hardaker.

The girls played against Taree, Gunnedah, Coffs Harbour and Grafton; they were coached by Cint Russell, and supported by Penny Hands.

Both Bindy and Cint pulled on the referee kit a few times over the weekend, too. Along with Ben Abell, we wish to thank them for their efforts officiating on behalf of our association. With some great food and beach time thrown in, it was a fun weekend away for players and supporters alike.

The Northern Eagles Junior Champs marks a wrap on our 2025/26 season for Barraba Junior Touch. We are grateful for the ongoing support of local families, friends and sponsors - including Barraba Community News for featuring our occasional updates! We look forward to seeing you again later this year.



Whooping cough cases are at their highest level in 35 years – so why the surge?



Archana Koirala, Paediatrician and Infectious Diseases Specialist; Clinical Researcher, University of Sydney

Australia is battling its biggest rise in whooping cough cases in 35 years. During 2024 and 2025 Australia recorded 82,513 whooping cough cases – the highest number since monitoring began in 1991.

Also known as pertussis or the “100-day cough”, whooping cough is a potentially fatal respiratory illness which causes severe coughing episodes. It spreads from one person to another and is particularly deadly among infants. So why the surge? And how can you protect yourself and your loved ones?

What is whooping cough?

Whooping cough is a respiratory infection caused by the bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*. Transmission occurs through close contact with infected people such as via coughing and sneezing.

Early symptoms include runny nose or sore throat. This is called the “catarrhal phase” and can look similar to a common cold. A persistent cough comes next, and typically lasts between six and ten weeks. This leads to intense bouts of coughing, with babies and children often making high-pitched “whoop” sounds when they breathe in. This is where the term “whooping cough” comes from.

Whooping cough can be very severe in newborn babies and infants. About one in 125 babies with whooping cough aged below six months dies from pneumonia or brain damage. Household contacts and carers often pass the illness onto infants, with parents the source of infection in more than 50% of cases. Infants can also pick up an infection from siblings and health-care workers.

Complications in older children and adults include interrupted sleep and pneumonia, a lung infection which can require hospitalisation. Patients can even sustain rib fractures from coughing so hard.

Antibiotics, when given early, can stop disease progression. However, after the cough is established, which is when most people realise they are infected, antibiotics have little effect on the disease’s progression.

But, there’s a vaccine for it?

Yes. The whooping cough vaccine is given as a combination vaccine with diphtheria and tetanus. In Australia, this vaccine is part of routine infant and childhood immunisation schedules. A booster dose is also given to Year 7 students.

Pregnant women are advised to vaccinate every pregnancy to boost the production and transfer of antibodies to their unborn baby. This also helps protect infants who are too young to be immunised. A 2025 study from Denmark found vaccination during pregnancy to be 72% effective against laboratory confirmed whooping cough.

Although infants are most vulnerable to whooping cough, it can cause infection across all ages and put a large strain on the health-care system, especially for adults aged over 50. To protect themselves and limit spread of the disease, adults should get vaccinated every ten years.

Australia’s national vaccine regulator checks the safety of whooping cough vaccines each year. Ongoing monitoring over many years shows these vaccines are safe and continue to protect people of all ages. But low immunisation rates among children and adolescents remain a concern, with new data showing Australia’s 2024-25 childhood immunisation rate was the lowest in a decade.

Only about one-fifth of adults 50 years and older are up to date with the whooping cough vaccine. This means they have had a booster within the last ten years.

Why are there so many cases right now?

Whooping cough is a challenging disease to control because immunity, acquired through immunisation or natural infection, wanes over time. This gives rise to whooping cough epidemics every two to three years.

Whooping cough is most commonly diagnosed using PCR testing of a throat swab. This usually involves visiting a GP to get the swab sent to a lab, and then waiting for the results. This method has been routinely used since the early 2000s.

In 2024, 57,257 whooping cough cases were detected in Australia. This included a case where a child with an antibiotic-resistant infection required intensive care support.

This represents the highest notification rate since records began in 1991. And it reflects a true increase in the

prevalence, as well as awareness and testing, of whooping cough.

The 2024 surge in cases was likely due, at least in part, to COVID public health restrictions which disrupted the usual epidemic cycle. During this time, many children didn't get the normal immune "boost" after being vaccinated and exposed to the bacteria. This left them more vulnerable to infection, particularly when authorities lifted social distancing restrictions.

Whooping cough was also widespread in 2025 with 25,256 cases reported that year. All age groups were affected, but notification rates were highest among school-aged and preschool-aged children.

Unfortunately, whooping cough isn't going away anytime soon. However, timely vaccination across all ages is vital to curb its spread and protect vulnerable populations.

**Your friendly
local professional**



**PHIL DENYER
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(02) 6782 1107**

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SSS Mobile Concrete Services

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Delivery available. Servicing the Barraba Area.
Phone Paul 0427495070

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COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

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Presidents Report

An invitation is warmly extended to all Members of Barraba and our surrounding communities to join us for the 115th Annual Barraba Show, to be held on 6, 7 and 8 March 2026 at the Barraba Showground. On behalf of our stewards, committee members and volunteers, it is my pleasure to welcome you to enjoy the many activities and events that make our show such an important part of our district.

This year, we have been exceptionally fortunate to receive a grant enabling significant upgrades to our rodeo facilities. These works include a brand-new set of roughstock yards and a complete resurface of the rodeo arena. These improvements not only increase safety for our livestock and volunteers but also provide a safer, softer landing for our cowboys and cowgirls.

Our campdraft facilities have also benefited from a full arena resurface, enhancing safety and performance for the livestock, riders and their horses. I extend a sincere thank-you to the Showground Management Committee for their tireless efforts in making these upgrades a reality.

Turning to the show program itself, we are excited to present two huge nights of rodeo. The ever-popular Junior ABCRA Rodeo will return on Family Friday Night, followed on Saturday by the Extreme Broncs event, with live music afterwards by Vanessa Lea and the Roadtrain. For our bike enthusiasts, the Motorbike Barrel Race will be held again on Friday night prior to the junior rodeo.

Across the three days, our traditional and much-loved events will once again be on display: Cattle judging, Campdrafting, Pavilion exhibits, Horse events, Fat Lamb competitions, the Pet Show and the Dog Trials. The Sports Shear and Wool Handling Competition will also return, with a Merino focus on Saturday and a Crossbred focus on Sunday—an event that has truly become a highlight of our show.

After the success of last year's event, our members are enthusiastic and committed to making this year's show even better. A tremendous amount of time and effort goes into preparing for the Barraba Show, and we warmly encourage our community to come along, participate and celebrate everything that makes our region unique.

We look forward to seeing you there.

-David Penna President





Event Schedule

FRIDAY

- **6am** - Gates Open
- **9am** - Dressage
- **9:30am** - Wool Judging
- **11am** - Wool Judges comments
- **3:30pm** - Junior Beef Cattle Judging
- **3pm** - Campdraft Start
- **5pm** - Pavillion Opens
- **6pm** - Grand Opening/Junior Young Woman
- **6:00pm** - Motorbike Barrel Race
- **8:00pm** - Junior Rodeo
- **11:30pm** - Bar Closes

SATURDAY

- **Daylight Start** - Campdraft
- **6am** - Gates open
- **7:30am** - Yard Dog Trails
- **8am** - Sport Shear and Wool Handling Comp

SATURDAY CONTINUED

- **8:30am** - Show Jumping and Cattle Judging
- **9am** - Pavilions Open
- **9:30am** - Poultry Judging
- **10am** - Car Show
- **12pm** - Registration for Sporting Events ringside and CirqueUm Navigate Entertainment
- **2pm** - Sporting Events
- **5pm** - Six Bar Jump
- **7pm** - Extreme Broncs
- **9pm** - live music
- **11:45pm** - Bar Closes

SUNDAY

- **Daylight Start** - Campdraft
- **7am** - Sports Shear/Wool Handling Comp
- **8:30am** - Horse events Ring 1
- Ring 2
- Ring 3
- Australian Stock Horse
- **10:30** - Pet and Dog Show

Pavilion



Pavilion Ribbons Donated by Tamworth Regional Council.

Entry Fee: \$1 each. Bulk School Entries \$0.50.

Prize Money: Money can be collected from the Secretaries office between 2pm-5pm on Saturday and 10am-2:45pm or between 3pm-4pm from the pavilion on Sunday. **NO MONEY TO BE GIVEN AFTER THE SHOW.**

Entries only permitted when accompanied by an entry form and waiver. Entries are to be made directly to the secretaries office at the showground between 10am-4pm during the week prior to the show (2-5th Feb) or delivered to the pavilion on Friday 6th March between 8am-10am.

Photography: entries close Tuesday 3th March at 3:30pm. Po Box 108 Barraba NSW 2347

Cut Flowers: entries to be made to the luncheon pavilion from 2pm-4:30pm on Friday 6th March.

Farm Produce: entries should be delivered to the luncheon pavilion from 2pm-4pm on 6th March.

Collection of exhibits from 3pm-4pm on Sunday 8th March

Pavillion Officials

Chief Steward

Mrs M Cabot -
0429941978

This years pavilion theme:

Rivers and Creeks

The Barraba Show Society would like to say thank you to the following individuals and businesses for their support of the 2026 Pavilion Section

Contact Information

Phone: 0447 222 347

Mail Address: PO Box 108,
Barraba **Address:** 1 Rodney St,
Barraba, NSW, 2347

Email: barrabapah@hotmail.com

Website: barrabashow.com.au

ABN: 675 254 983 39

PIC: NG507971

Show Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 5 Mar 2026

10am - 4pm

For all early entries and memberships.

Stables & Camping

Stabling & Camping **MUST** be booked through the following link or Nominate: <https://shorturl.at/IOn0W>

Stables - \$15.00 per day. Stables must be booked by the 3rd March.

Camping - \$15.00 per night

STALLS ONLY TO BE USED TO STABLE HORSES

Executive Committee

President: David Penna

Vice Presidents: Campbell Tonkin and Jock Mallise

Secretary: Carmen Bennett

Treasurer: Jenny Simpson

Ring Master: Tim Crowley

General Committee

Katie Sweeney, Kerry-Ann Tonkin, Mandy Cabot, Peter Squire, Julie Williams, Leah Watkins, Patti Crowley, Zac Mallise, Matt Walker

Honourary Life Members

Mrs E.Carter, Mrs M.Crowley, Mrs V. McCusker, Mrs R. Peake, Mr J. Riley, Mrs R. Sparke, Mr T. & Mrs P. Crowley, Mr C. & Mrs L. Forbes, Mrs J. Simpson, Mr R.I. Witten, Mr L.Cummins, Mr B. & Mrs E.Croll, Mr S. & Mrs T. Crowley, Mr W. & Mrs J. Crowley, Mrs A.Cabot, Mr D.McDouall, Mr H.Carter, Mr. J. Barker, Mr C. & Mrs K A Tonkin



Entry Cut Off Information

PHOTOGRAPHY Entries close 3:30 pm on Tuesday 4th March.

STUD CATTLE Entries close Friday 21st February All entries to cattle secretary: mctswalker@bigpond.com Tammy Walker PH: 0429 310 479 or 02 6782 7378 Entry form on website: www.barrabashow.com.au/forms Please send in completed waiver form, with entries.

POULTRY Entries close Friday 28th February. All entries to the Secretary
WOOL Fleeces can be left at the show office during the show week or at the wool pavilion by 2:30pm on Thursday 6th Mar.

HORSES Entries are taken on the day under the marque in the horse section.

PAVILION ENTRIES Delivered to the Secretary's Office at the Showground between 10am - 4pm on Weekdays, from Monday 3rd March to Thursday 6th OR to the Showground Pavilion on Friday 7th March, 8am – 10am.

CUT FLOWERS Luncheon Pavilion from 2pm – 4:30pm, on Friday 7th March.

GARDEN PRODUCE Luncheon Pavilion from 2pm- 4pm, on Friday 7th March. Please note times

DRESSAGE Entry Cut off 26th Feb



Essential Energy crews will complete maintenance on the electricity network supplying power to Barraba, Upper Manilla and surrounds this weekend **Sunday (15 February)**.

Crews will install new network equipment on the main power line supplying Barraba to improve the reliability of the Upper Manilla zone substation. This will help reduce the number of customers affected by outages.

Additional crews will also be working in Barraba town, to replace two power poles and 18 pole crossarms, along with other network components, to maintain the safety and reliability of the local power supply.

A planned power outage is required so our crews can complete this work safely and is **scheduled to occur between 7am and 5pm on 15 February**.

Customers affected by the planned power outage have been informed via Essential Energy's outage notification system. Tips for managing power outages can be found at essentialenergy.com.au/outage-tips.

If you rely on medical equipment, we encourage you to have a power outage plan and keep your contact details up to date. More information: essentialenergy.com.au/at-home/life-support

We appreciate the community's patience while these important works are carried out to maintain a safe and reliable electricity network.