



# BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## BARRABA SHOW 2026 – THE JUNIOR PET SHOW

It was raining at dawn on Sunday, but fortunately the weather cleared just in time for our 2026 new format Dog and Pet Show at its new time of 10.30 am. There were dogs of all sizes and colours (and energy levels!) – our judge, Rebecca, our local vet, had a very difficult time choosing the winners.



The Winners were –

### BEST PET (Sponsor IGA)

1. **Pet other than Dog:** “Froggie” (Chastity Eddington)
2. **Working Farm Dog:** “Kristy” (Tommy Ezzy)
3. **Terrier:** “Pippi” (Hayley McIlrick)
4. **Large Dog:** “Vera” (Nicolas Hodges)
5. **Small Dog:** “Scruffy” (Caspian Eddington)

### NOVELTY CLASSES (Sponsor Meg Crowley)

1. **Best tail wagger:** “Bluey” (Felix Urquhart)
2. **Best trick:** equal 1<sup>st</sup>: “Mia” (Josie Steiger) and “Benji” (Chastity Eddington)
3. **Best Costume:** “Daisy” (Elkie White)

4. **Best owner and Pet dressed alike:** “Maggie” (Emma Shadbolt)

### DOG JUMP (Sponsor Barraba Veterinary Service)

**Small Dog:** “Benji” (Chastity Eddington)

**Large Dog:** “Daisy” (Elkie Whyte)

And finally, the hardest task, to select the Champions.

### BEST IN SHOW (Sponsors Barraba RSL Club and Barraba Veterinary Service)

1. **GRAND CHAMPION:** “Scruffy” (Caspian Eddington)
2. **RUNNER-UP:** “Pippi” (Hayley McIlrick)
3. **MOST UNUSUAL PET:** “Froggie” (Chastity Eddington)

Thank you to our Sponsors, our hardworking Judge Rebecca Roberts, her helper Nicole, our melodious voiced MC, Bill Croll, and our Stewards Terry Threlfall and Meredyth Bell. See you next year!



The three champions. From left: Chastity Eddington, Hayley McIlrick, Caspian Eddington.

Steward Meredyth Bell and her “Rivers and Creeks” Banner.



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For the information of members  
and guests.

**THIS WEEK**

**THURSDAY 12th March  
BINGO**

First game starts at 6pm

**FRIDAY 13th March  
MEAT RAFFLES**

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm  
Membership Draw \$1100

**SUNDAY 15th March  
Angler Club Raffles**

Raffles on sale 12pm, drawn 1.30pm.  
Membership Draw \$2000

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**SUNDAY: 12-2PM**

**Sydney Symphony Orchestra to perform in  
Armidale**

by [New England Times News Desk](#)

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra will add Armidale to its 2026 Regional Tour, bringing a dance-inspired orchestral program and a series of young musician workshops to the New England.

The Orchestra will perform at Lazenby Hall on 22 May, with an afternoon schools concert followed by an evening public performance. The program, titled Sydney Symphony Performs Music That Moves You, will be led by Conductor in Residence Benjamin Northey and explores the influence of dance on orchestral music.

Armidale joins Port Macquarie, Nowra, and Canberra on the 2026 regional itinerary, expanding the Orchestra's reach into north-west New South Wales.

The program features Claude Debussy's Sacred and Profane Dances, showcasing Principal Harp Louisic Dulbecco, alongside Igor Stravinsky's suite from The Firebird.



Zoltán Kodály's Dances of Galánta draws on Eastern European folk traditions, while Sydney composer Holly Harrison's Hi-Vis offers a contemporary work inspired by late-night roadworks.

"We're so excited to take our music to Armidale," Mr Northey said.

"These pieces practically dance themselves, and seeing communities light up with live orchestral music is what regional touring is all about."

Beyond the concert performance, the Orchestra's Playerlink program will return to Armidale from 19 to 21 June at the New England Conservatorium of Music. The three-day workshop invites young musicians from across NSW to rehearse and participate in masterclasses and mentorship with Sydney Symphony players, culminating in a performance for family and friends.

The Sydney Symphony has toured regional New South Wales since 1938, and the addition of Armidale continues that tradition, offering local audiences and emerging musicians the opportunity to experience a full symphony orchestra in their own community.

Tickets for the Armidale performances are on sale now.



## A NOTE FROM THE BARRABA SHOW SECRETARY.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026

This morning the grounds look a little quieter and the dust has settled (with the help of some much-needed rain over the weekend).

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone that attended the 2026 Barraba Show! We are blown away by the support you give us every year.

To the Competitors, thank you for coming and having fun at our Show. Your entries and attendance is vital to keeping our sections going for years to come. We hope you all travelled safely and had a blast this weekend.

To our Judges & Stewards, thank you for giving up your time to manage your sections. You guys are the ones that make the competitors and exhibitors want to come back each year.

To our Sponsors and Stock Donors, we cannot thank you enough for what you give back to your community. You guys are a part of the Show backbone and we are truly grateful for those that give to the Show each year to make it a success for the community.

To our Volunteers, Announcers and Show Committee, you guys form the other half of the backbone for this wonderful community event and without you the show would not run. So thank you to everyone that lends a hand.

To the Show Executives, you guys are the brains trust that makes sure everyone else can function in their roles! Without you guys I would not be able to do my job as Secretary and there's not many people that would put up with the statement 'I have an idea'. You guys go above and beyond in your roles and I'm super proud to be working with you guys. So, a massive thank you to you!

See you all in 2027!

**Carmen Bennett**



**BARRABA  
SHOW SOCIETY  
- PETER SQUIRE  
LIFE  
MEMBERSHIP  
PRESENTATION**

On Friday evening we proudly recognised Mr Peter Squire as a Life Member of the Barraba Show Society.

Peter has dedicated 15+ years to supporting the Show, giving his time, energy and passion to help keep this community event going – the excellent public address system we can all hear is a result of his untiring work, among many other things.

Thank you, Peter, for your dedication to our Show and our community.



A massive thank you to Lib Croll. Total dedication to the Barraba Show for the last 40 years.



## HISTORY NOTES BY JULIE WILLIAMS

Please don't be alarmed, readers of History Notes in the Barraba

Community News and the Barraba Historical Museum Facebook page! Margaret Currell is only briefly out of action and plans to be on the job again soon and back to writing History Notes. However, perhaps it is time for other people to contribute sometimes, so expect to see some different authors' names every now and then.

Recently I was fortunate to visit Pam Spencer Johnson, a third cousin whom I had never met previously. She lives at Lake Tabourie on the NSW South Coast. Her extensive family research includes a new book entitled "The Heather was Blooming, the Scottish Ancestors of Minnie McKid/Spencer of Ironbark NSW". She gave me a copy of this book, which I rely on for these notes. There are many people around Barraba who have Scottish heritage.

I admit to being very ignorant about the history of the Scottish Highland clearances. I was aware that it involved farmers and families being evicted from their land, but I was not clear about the background to this, and I didn't realise that my ancestors the Sinclairs were victims of this. I suppose I thought that the hint of blue in their blood, being descended from the Earl of Caithness, would mean they were exempt. But now after reading some of Pam's book and other references eg wikipedia; I realise that is not how it worked. Since the Middle Ages, clans were the major social unit of the Highlands and the expectation was that the chief owned the land and the family members (clansmen) were protected by the leader while they rented and worked the land. This is greatly oversimplified, but it seems that they worked along happily enough until about 1750. Over time the chiefs evolved into landlords as an economic model of society replaced the clan model. The landowners realised they could make more money by clearing land to raise sheep for wool rather than leasing to tenants with small holdings.

According to Pam, our ancestor William Sinclair (born 1753) and his family were "removed" in 1807 from their comfortable and productive farm at Kirkton, as was his son Colin; and they moved to smaller, less fertile plots nearer the coast. Colin's children included Catherine and Jean, both of whom have numerous descendants in the Barraba area. That land was then sold on in about 1829 so the families had to move yet again. These "clearances" seemed especially brutal, with many of the little farms and houses burned to the ground, although there is no evidence that the Sinclairs suffered this fate. They next moved to a place called Dunn-Watten in Caithness, the home of the McKid families.

These people certainly had a rough time of things but probably not as bad as some of their neighbours. Six of the Sinclair children emigrated to Australia between 1839 and 1850.



This is my great great grandmother, Jean Innes Gordon, whose daughter Mary Innes married my great great grandfather, Henry Edwin Williams. I never thought I would see a photo of her until Rita Saunders was cleaning out her house and going through

old photos and she found it – labelled from long ago. She died in 1877, so it can't be a new photo

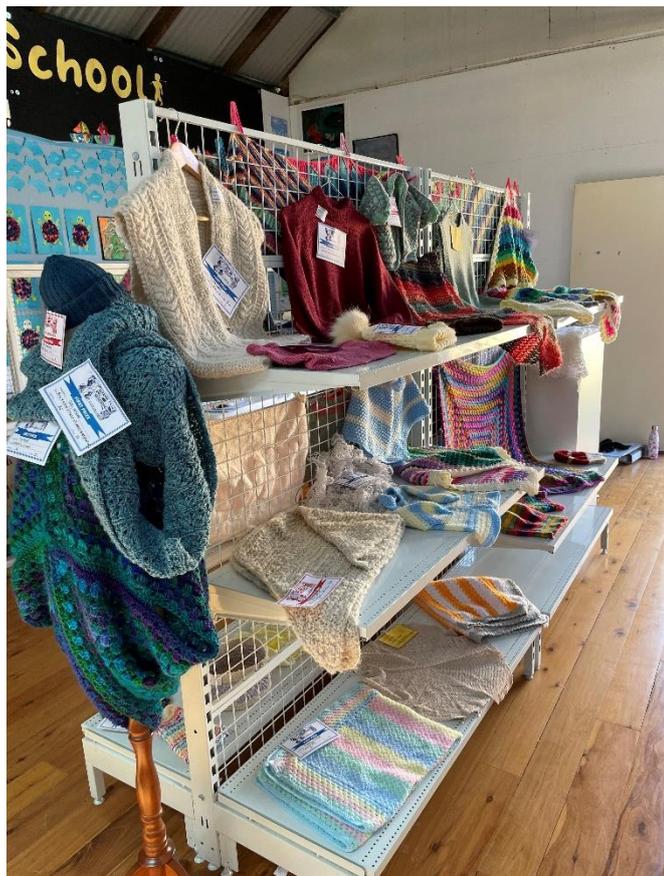


This one is Catharine Sinclair (spelt with "a" not "e"). She married John McKid, and then Edward Newton. This photo came from my great grandmother Emily Crowley's photo album. It wasn't named, but

we worked it out with other photos that matched as well as the timing of when Emily would have been collecting photos. Catharine died on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1901 aged 81 years in Barraba.

**KNITTING AND CROCHET EXHIBITS**

It was great to see the Knitting & Crochet section so well supported at the 2026 Barraba Show. Champion knitted article went to Penny Blomfield with her Stephen West designed Mystery Musikal shawl and the Champion Crocheted article to Jennifer Copelin with her amazingly fine crocheted Doily. The Most Successful Exhibitor was Chris Glasheen. Congratulations to all prize winners and a big thanks to our judge Bek Capel. The stewards would like to thank all those who entered and we look forward to more entries in 2027. Get out those knitting needles and crochet hooks!



**POULTRY SECTION**



What a great day in the poultry pavilion here at Barraba Show! Thank you to all exhibitors and a huge congratulations to all placegetters!

**Bird of show :** Nicole Smith

**Res bird of show :** Nicole Smith

**Hard Feather large:** Nicole Smith

**Hard Feather bantam:** Nicole Smith

**Soft Feather Large :** Peter Mammen

**Soft Feather Bantam:** Felicity Mammen

A massive thank you to the judge, Leila Harris who is representing our Zone at Sydney Royal Young Poultry state finals.

A huge thank you to our Stewards, Chris and Janice Mammen, for officiating again this year!

**MANILLA SHOW 14-16 MARCH 2025**

Founded in 1932, the Manilla Show Society hosts the Annual Manilla Show. We welcome all current and past members of the Manilla community and surrounding district to attend the show and enjoy a great weekend in a fun family friendly atmosphere.

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Livestock competitions   | Photography               |
| Handicraft               | Produce                   |
| Wool                     | Horse riding              |
| Show jumping             | Fireworks                 |
| Pets                     | Wife Carrying Competition |
| Young Farmers' Challenge | Ute Show                  |

## SHOP WINDOW DISPLAY

The results from the Window Display Competition is in. Congratulations to everyone and thank you to all the businesses that take part each year.

- **1st place:** Barraba Library
- **Runners up:** Hart Rural Agencies and Polkadot
- **Highly commended:** Opportunity Knocks (display spread over 4 windows)



### **When is daylight saving time ending in Australia?**

Daylight saving time will come to an end on Sunday, April 5 at 3am Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT).

### **Do clocks go forward or backward in April?**

Clocks will go back by one hour from 3am to 2am to give millions of Australians an extra hour of daylight in the morning.

### **Will my phone update automatically?**

Most smartphones will automatically update their clocks when daylight saving time ends, but some older or 'dumb' phones may need to be updated manually.

### **Which Australian states and territories change their clocks?**

New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and the Australian Capital Territory all observe daylight saving time.

Queensland, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory do not.

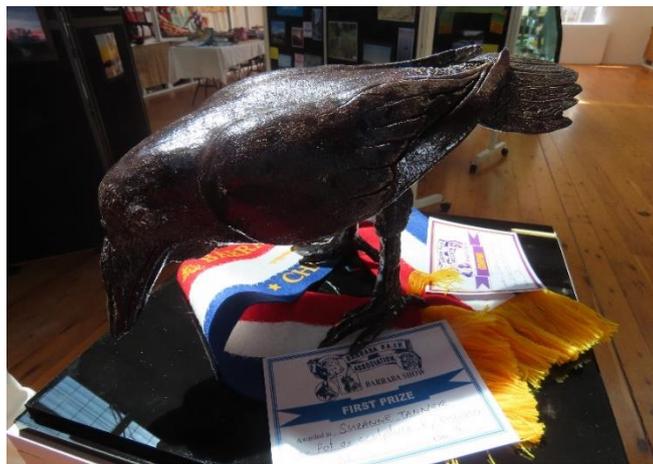




### The Barraba Potters and Craft Guild Show News

The Barraba Show Pavilion looked fantastic! Well done to everyone involved. Thank you to all Guild members for your entries and congratulations to those who were awarded prizes.

Thank you also to everyone who helped in, or donated food for the catering in Luncheon Pavilion over the weekend. This is our major fundraiser for the year and helps to keep the bills paid.



### CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

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

### BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month



### Olga Dawn Akers

29<sup>th</sup> March 1937 – 5<sup>th</sup>  
March 2026

A Funeral Service for Dawn will be held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at St Laurence's Anglican Church Barraba at 9am.

A Cemetery Service will follow.

Following the services, a wake, including refreshments, will be held at the Barraba RSL Club.

Sadly, missed by Peter (dec), Graham, Keith and Christa and their families.

### BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

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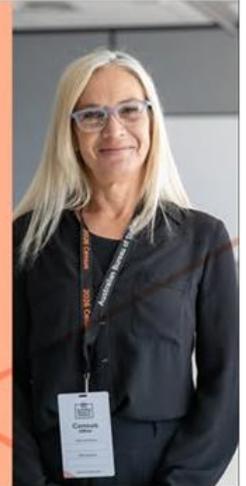
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### DEATHS ON REGIONAL ROADS

NSW recorded 78 fatigue-related deaths in 2024, a 47% increase from 53 deaths in 2023. The vast majority of these incidents occur in regional areas. In 2024, 69 out of 78 deaths (88.5%) happened on regional roads

## Top tips to avoid driving tired



Get a good night's sleep.



Avoid driving after midnight.



Pull over for a break in a safe place.



Plan to take regular rest breaks.



Arrange to share the driving.



Take a nap, 20 minutes works best.

Tiredness can affect your drive no matter how long or short.



**Easterfish Competition** 3 - 5 APRIL 2026

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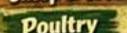
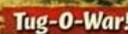
**BINGARA SHOW**  
 Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 March  
 at the Bingara Show Ground










**MAIN ENTERTAINMENT: AUSSIE FMX!**








## See It Live & See It Local. Upcoming Events.

For further information or booking any of the following events go to [entertainmentvenues.com.au](http://entertainmentvenues.com.au)

### Luke Kidgell – Good Intentions

Luke Kidgell is an Australian comedian, who has amassed 4 Million fans online. Now, he's back in Tamworth to prove that he really does have Good Intentions.

Luke is known for his viral crowd-work interactions that often lead to some unusual, yet hilarious encounters. Despite not having much control over his impulsive thoughts, Luke insists that deep down he means well, and this year he's on a mission to prove it

### Toni Childs

Emmy Winner and three-time Grammy nominated recording artist, Toni Childs is a celebrated Singer/Songwriter known for her powerful voice, inspiring independent spirit and crafted storytelling. Over Toni's illustrious career she has opened for Bob Dylan and performed duets with greats such as Al Green and Peter Gabriel.

Join the legendary Toni Childs for a special two-hour performance as she celebrates her life's musical works in song and in story.

### Jimmy Carr – Laughs Funny

Award-winning British comedian Jimmy Carr has hit Aussie soil to commence his 'Laughs Funny' tour. If you like fast-paced, edgy one-liners then get ready to be happy, as he brings his show to Tamworth for one night only. The first show is already sold out!

Jimmy tells jokes, and jokes are like magnets.

Jokes attract people, but they can also repel.

Some people are repelled by Jimmy's dark brand of comedy. This show is not for them.

But if it's the kind of thing you like, then this is the kind of thing you'll like.

### The Adventures of Peter Rabbit and His Friends

Five delightful tales including Peter Rabbit, The Tailor of Gloucester and Jemima Puddle-Duck are interwoven with the fascinating life of their creator, Beatrix Potter, in this enchanting, enlightening entertainment for all ages.

The show kicks off on Friday 20 March, with a special Gala Evening to raise money for Sora Community Services, presented in partnership with The Powerhouse Hotel by Rydges.

For the first time, Tamworth Dramatic Society will be presenting a Sensory-Friendly performance, on Thursday 26 March, as part of its commitment to making local theatre more inclusive and accessible.

Both entertaining and educational, this play is a must for any child, or adult who loves Peter Rabbit and theatre.

### Hot Tub – In The Raw

After a hilarious start to the *In The Raw* season, the creative geniuses behind You'll Miss The Tide Productions are back with 'Hot Tub'.

This play is a modern-day fable set on the sun-drenched Gold Coast during Schoolies Week. Dido, a lonely girl from Townsville, rocks up at her estranged family's deteriorating residential high-rise building 'The Great White' to ask a favour. When Dido's father refuses to loan her the cash for weight-loss surgery in Brazil, she teams up with her cunning stepbrother to exploit men online. Meanwhile, Eunice, the family's ageing matriarch, discovers she is the prime suspect in a criminal investigation, but refuses to do the one thing that'll keep her family out of jail: sell the building!

### The House of Jazz Collective

Don't miss a great night of entertainment, Wednesday 25 March at the Tamworth Community Event Centre.

The House of Jazz Collective is a marvellous group of world-class musicians staging glamorous, fun-filled jazz concerts on a monthly basis in regional areas.

Based in Tamworth, The House of Jazz Collective features local and touring talent, inviting guest artists to showcase their musical prowess each month. The concerts are vibrant, dynamic and ever evolving.

### You & Me and the Land of Lost Things

The team behind the 13-, 26-, 52-, 78- and 91-Storey Treehouses brings Andy Griffiths and Bill Hope's brilliantly bonkers book to the stage in a hilarious new theatrical adventure for children aged 6–12 and their adults.

It's a dangerous adventure – but with a bathtub boat, a guinea pig detector and just a little bit of luck, they might just make it home. That's if they don't get eaten by sharks. Or tricked by Johnny Knucklehead. Or trapped in the Lost Foot Empawrium...



From The Conversation

## No small beer: how the famous drink affects law (and law affects beer)

*Dan Jerker B. Svantesson, Professor specialising in Internet law, Bond University*



Law affects beer, and beer affects law. The connection between the two is stronger than you might think, as we have illustrated in the recently published book *Beer Law*.

So, as you pour a nice cold one during the summer holidays, here are a few things to think about.

### 1. Beer was a trigger for civilisation

It is common knowledge that humans transitioned from a “hunter-gatherer” type of life to civilisation and settling down to cultivate wild grains. But why did our ancestors take this life-changing step?

Many have assumed they wanted the grains to bake bread and make porridge. But modern science suggests the harvests would have been inadequate as a reliable food source, and that it was for the production of alcohol in the form of a type of beer that our ancestors became farmers.

So perhaps humankind became civilised by beer? That fact alone may be worth a toast.

### 2. Once upon a time, beer laws were very, very tough

People have been brewing beer for at least 13,000 years and as it turns out, beer law is also a very old discipline. Nearly 4,000 years ago, the Code of Hammurabi, an ancient Babylonian law from around 1755–1751 BCE, regulated the serving of beer.

For example, if a person selling beer watered down the beer, they could be drowned. This sort of consumer protection law makes the Australian Consumer Law look weak indeed.

### 3. A little beer money

The most obvious way beer drinkers feel the impact of the law is when it comes time to pay. A healthy (or indeed, unhealthy) portion of the price you pay for your beer goes straight to the government. And this is not a new phenomenon.

Beer consumption has been a relatively stable factor in society for thousands of years. Politicians who have wanted to raise revenue have taxed it. At the same time, those wishing at least a temporary popularity, for example before important elections, have lowered the beer taxes.

Throughout history, beer has been taxed in many different ways. Beer has been taxed when consumed, and also when produced. And the individual ingredients have been taxed. Sometimes this has resulted in brewers changing the styles they brew – a very direct way that law affects beer.



*Former prime minister Bob Hawke was famous for loving a pint. Dan Himbrechts/AAP*

### 4. Prohibitions and restrictions

Another obvious way in which the law has had an impact on beer is through prohibitions. Luckily, that is not something we have to worry about these days, but it is worth remembering that not everyone is so lucky. Beer, along with other alcohol products, is banned in many Muslim countries. And prohibitions have lasted into modern times in some surprising places – for example, Iceland had a beer ban until March 1 1989.

These days, the harmful effects of excessive drinking are well known. We are used to restrictions on where and when beer may be produced, marketed, and sold. But history shows us that, whether beer is considered healthy or unhealthy has changed over time and in different contexts.

At many different points in history, beer (a product that has been produced by boiling ingredients that contain nutrients and natural antibacterial properties) has been viewed as an essential source of energy. It has historically often been much safer than dirty town water or stronger alternatives like gin.

For example, sailors on the ill-fated *Vasa* ship that sank in Stockholm's harbour in 1628 were to be given two to four litres of beer per day. Sounds like a recipe for disaster? Perhaps not, as the beer was weak. It's also worth noting

that at the same time, the nuns at Solberga Abbey in Sweden were given five litres of beer per day.

### 5. Classic brew or peanut raspberry porter?

Perhaps the most famous beer law in the world is the German (Beer) Purity Law, especially in the version from Bavaria 1516. It prescribes that beer may only contain water, hops and barley.

But what do you get if you combine these three ingredients? Well, not beer – you also need yeast to convert the barley's sugars into carbonation (fizziness) and alcohol. Perhaps modern day lawmakers can learn from this – it is important to understand the technical realities of what you are trying to regulate.

In any case, brewers, and also beer drinkers, have tended to split into two camps. On the one hand, we have the traditionalists who work to preserve this focus on purity, and on the other we have the pioneers wanting to maximise creativity.

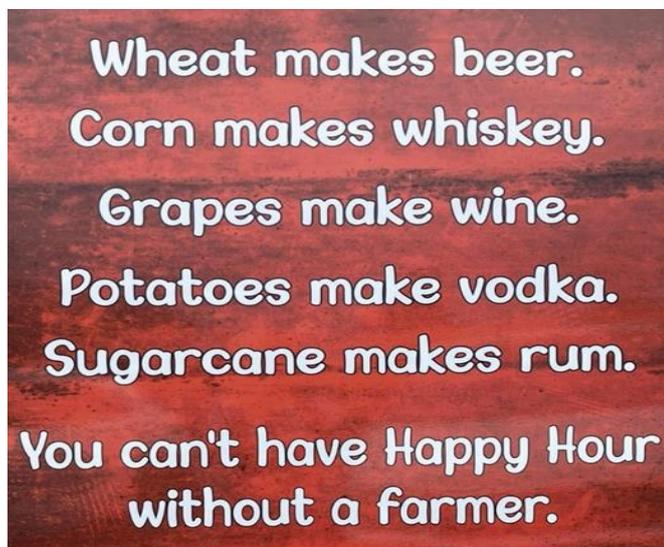
Do you favour a traditional German pils, or do you prefer a peanut raspberry porter?

### 6. An important part of our culture

Beer is a unique product with an incredible history. It is much more than a just a drink, and beer has shaped our culture in different ways around the world.

Belgian beer tradition, and Czech hop growing have made it onto the UNESCO lists of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and World Heritage respectively.

Many other countries, such as Germany, are also true “beer countries”. But perhaps the Finns take the cake with their concept of Kalsarikänni which has been explained as “getting drunk at home in your underwear without any intention of going out”. Cheers to that!



## Homemade Savory Biscuits



These little crunchy and cute biscuits will gladly replace store-bought crackers during your gatherings with friends. The key is your dough, and then you can shape your biscuits however you like! The flavours can also change according to your tastes.

### Ingredients

1.5 cups flour  
1 egg  
1 tsp salt  
1 tsp baking powder  
1/4 cup water  
1/4 cup sunflower oil  
Salt and spices to taste

### Preparation

Step 1 - In a bowl, mix all the ingredients and knead until the mixture is smooth. Leave in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Step 2 - Roll out the dough thinly on a floured surface.

Step 3 - Using a cookie cutter, cut out your future savory biscuits.

Step 4 - Place on a baking tray, then prick each one with a fork.

Step 5 - Salt your biscuits. You can also add pepper, paprika, poppy seeds, sesame, or herbs.

Step 6 - Bake for 15 minutes at 180°C.

Step 7 - And there you have it! your savory biscuits are ready!

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