



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Wednesday 15th APRIL 2026



Volunteer Awards nominations now open

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Volunteer Awards, celebrating the outstanding contributions of community members from across the Tamworth region as part of National Volunteers Week.

National Volunteers Week is Australia’s largest annual celebration of volunteering, recognising the vital role they play in strengthening communities and encouraging more people to get involved. In 2026, the week will be held from 18 to 24 May, with the theme “Your Year To Volunteer”.

Volunteers are at the heart of the community, generously giving their time, skills and passion to support events, services and organisations for the benefit of the entire region.

A highlight for this year will be the Volunteer Week Celebration, taking place at Bicentennial Park on Saturday 23 May from 10am to 2pm. This family friendly event will feature some amazing displays, activities as well as the opportunity to learn more about our region and the dedicated people who live here. The event will also host the Volunteer Awards Ceremony at 12pm, recognising individuals and groups who have made a meaningful contribution over the past 12 months.

Tamworth Regional Council’s Volunteer Services Officer, Elissa Wesche, said recognising volunteers is an important way to celebrate the spirit of giving within the community.

“Volunteers are the backbone of our community. Taking the time to recognise their efforts not only shows our appreciation but also helps inspire others to step forward and make a difference,” she said.

Community members are encouraged to nominate a local volunteer or volunteer group for one of the following awards:

- Youth Volunteer of the Year
- Adult Volunteer of the Year
- Senior Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer Leader of the Year
- Emergency Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer Team or Group of the Year
- Gift of Time Recognition
- Junior Volunteer Recognition
- Nominee Recognition
- Outstanding Years of Service

Nominations can be made by visiting www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/about/forms/national-volunteers-week-volunteer-award-nominations before 5pm Tuesday 5 May, 2026.

LORNA MILGATE SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FORMS AVAILABLE

Lodge St Andrews. is pleased to announce that the Lorna Milgate Scholarship Trust PRELIMINARY NOMINATION FORMS 2026 are still available until April 30th.

The scholarship is available to young people, either currently enrolled or intending further education such as university or TAFE.

Contact David Jones 0429852110 or Bob Dixon 0428885564.



ANZAC DAY Saturday 25th April 2026

The commemoration of ANZAC Day in Barraba will commence with our dawn service which will be held at the Memorial Clock in Queen Street.

This service will assemble at 5:45am with the service to commence at 6.00am.

At the conclusion of this service breakfast will be provided by the Barraba RSL & Recreation Club Limited.

The main service will assemble in Queen Street opposite Andy's Guest House at 10:45am and then march to the Memorial Clock with the main service to commence at 11:00am.

The last year has been one of turmoil with the continuation of the war in the Ukraine and the expansion of conflict in the Middle East.

As with previous conflicts the costs to humanity will continue for many years.

In our time we have been blessed with long term peace and economic stability.

Our forebears have borne the cost to bring this peace and stability to our country.

On this ANZAC Day we pause and remember the sacrifice of those that have gone before us and ensure the freedoms that we now enjoy.

We remember those men and women from Barraba and district who served our country and paid the ultimate sacrifice.

We also remember those that continue to serve our country.

ANZAC Day is a celebration of the human spirit – mateship, resilience and compassion shown by ordinary people in extraordinary times.



BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

Phone 67821379

For the information of members and guests.

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY 16th April

BINGO

First game starts at 6pm

FRIDAY 17th April

MEAT RAFFLES

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm

Membership Draw \$1600

SUNDAY 19th April

ANGLER CLUB RAFFLES

Membership Draw \$1000

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

For Sale:

Merits Maverick 10 power wheelchair.

5 years old, excellent condition with brand new batteries.

\$1,500 Contact Amanda Koopman 0429 958 816





Morning Tea at the Museum

An enjoyable morning was had at the Museum on Wednesday, 1st April, when residents of Richardson House and the Garvin House joined the Historical Society for morning tea. The weather was great, and everyone had a chance to wander through the Museum and the Dean Room and check out the historical items on display. We then, all sat outside and enjoyed morning tea and shared lots of stories.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ORGANISATION



Street Stall Thursday April 23rd at 9am.
Books, plants, cakes, scones, and variety of produce available.
Raffles - meat and veggie tray.

Free Needle-Free Flu Vaccine Now Available For Young Children in NSW Pharmacies

Young children across NSW can now receive free protection against influenza with the launch of a needle-free nasal spray flu vaccine in participating community pharmacies for children aged 2, 3 and 4 years.

The NSW Government funded program makes FluMist®, a nasal spray influenza vaccine, available at no cost for eligible children, helping families protect their kids ahead of the 2026 flu season.

NSW Branch President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Mario Barone, said the program removes one of the biggest barriers to childhood vaccination.

“This is fantastic news for families right across NSW,” Mario Barone said. “For many children, the fear of needles can be overwhelming. Being able to receive flu protection through a simple nasal spray makes the experience much easier and far less stressful. Complications from influenza can be particularly high among young children, which is why it’s so important to get vaccinated before flu season really takes hold. Early vaccination helps protect children, their families, and the broader community.”

NSW Minister for Health Ryan Park said the goal of rolling out the free nasal spray flu vaccines for 2-4 year olds is to increase vaccine uptake following a record flu season in 2025.

“The immunisation rate of children under 5 is only 24%, far lower than we need it to be,” Minister Park said. “Needles can sometimes be a big hurdle for young children getting a flu vaccine, and challenging for parents. Community pharmacies are vital in giving access to vaccines for many people and I urge everyone in NSW to protect themselves and their families this winter from serious illness by getting the flu vaccine.”

FluMist® is administered as a nasal spray rather than an injection, offering a needle free alternative for young children while still providing protection against influenza.

Community pharmacies across NSW are now offering the free FluMist® vaccine for eligible children aged 2, 3 and 4 years, making it easier for parents to access timely vaccination close to home.

Parents and carers are encouraged to contact their local pharmacy to check availability and book an appointment ahead of the peak flu period.



Australians' trust in aged care doubles once they experience it, new national report reveals

Australians are more than twice as likely to trust aged care once they have direct experience of it, according to a landmark new report from Ageing Australia, highlighting a major gap between perception and reality.

The Ageing in Australia Community Expectations Report 2026 – the first study of its kind capturing the views of Australians aged 18 and over – shows confidence in the system improves significantly with firsthand experience, despite mixed perceptions across the broader community.

Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson said the findings reveal both challenges and opportunities for the sector and government. "People who have direct experience of aged care are far more likely to trust it, but too many Australians are forming views based on things they've heard in the past or negative media," Mr Symondson said. "That tells us the system is performing better than people think - but we're not closing the gap between perception and reality."

The report reveals that respondents with current or recent firsthand experience of aged care have high levels of trust and satisfaction, pointing to a disconnect between lived experience and public perception.

"71 per cent of those who had personally used aged and 63 % of those who cared for someone were either very, or somewhat satisfied with the care they received. This aligns with other evidence such as the Residents' Experience Survey carried out independently of the sector each year which showed 88% of residents would recommend their home to others. For many younger Australians, negative media stories guide their view and reduce their trust. And as a sector we must do everything we can to respond to issues and give the community confidence in our services. But while stories generally focus on isolated incidents, they are often incorrectly painted as the norm. We can see from these results the fear that creates and the harm that it does to public trust."

It also shows that just 21 per cent of Australians would turn to the government for information about aged care, while nearly three quarters would go directly to providers,

reinforcing the trusted position providers have but highlighting the need for government to step up.

The findings also challenge common assumptions about how Australians want to age. While a majority of Australians say they want to remain in their current home for as long as possible, the report shows this is not universal, with 30 per cent open to moving into retirement living.

At the same time, around half of Australians over 50 are considering downsizing, yet only 37 per cent believe the government is doing enough to help.

"It is clear that older people want to remain independent, but for some this does not mean remaining in the family home," Mr Symondson said. "For many it means downsizing, and for almost a third it could mean moving into retirement living. That shows a huge opportunity for our sector to build more homes and offer increasingly innovative housing solutions tailored to older people."

Mr Symondson said Australians are clear about what they want, but less certain about how to navigate the system to get there. "Australians want to age with dignity, independence and choice but far too often they don't know where to start or who to trust," he said. "There is a clear and urgent need for government to improve how it communicates about aged care, including the current reform process."

"This report shows that too many in the community are concerned about their future as they age. Better public information about the system, including the current reforms, better supports for downsizing and better support to access and navigate aged care can all help in the short term," Mr Symondson said. "We must also continue to rebuild public trust in our services. That is made much more difficult by the current rollout of major reforms at the same time as demand is rising and workforce pressures are at fever pitch. But, if we get this right, we can build a system that not only meets the needs of Australians now and into the future, but one they understand and trust."

Ageing Australia will repeat this research every two years to track changing community expectations and ensure reforms remain aligned with public needs.

Ecological Burn Notice

Please be advised that Whitehaven Coal will be undertaking burn preparation and cool season Ecological Burns on the following Biodiversity Properties "Nindethana", "Rosevale", "Wirradale", and "Yarrowonga" between 30th March and 26th June 2026. For further information, please contact Whitehaven Biodiversity on 0488 407 000.

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

Barraba 1st Sunday of the month, Saturday evening
Mass 5pm. (Note the time change)
All other Sundays 9am

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

19th April – Special ANZAC Service – 8:45am
26th April – 10.45am
Please note new time till the end of April.
All welcome

ANZAC SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE

Barraba Uniting Church

8.45 a.m., Sunday, 19th April, 2026

A Service of Remembrance

**Guest speaker – Mr Terry Smart,
Vietnam Veteran**

Manilla RSL Padre, Mr Garry Kirk, will lead the service, supported by Veterans and other local church people. Everyone is invited to come.

The service will commence at 8.45 a.m., with the marching in of the Australian flag. There will be an opportunity to place a sprig of rosemary in remembrance of a veteran/s you may wish to honour.



ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am

Woodsreef 11.30am, 2nd Sunday of each month

In loving memory of my son

Robert John Rumsby

Passed away on the 20th April 2023

Always thinking of you son.

Love Mum, sister Anne, brother-in-law Eric and family

IS YOUR BOX OF OLD PRE-DECIMAL COINS A TREASURE CHEST?

If you are like many Australians at the moment trying to raise a few extra dollars to cope with the increase in the cost of living, and you are also one of those who has a box of Australian, pre-decimal coins put away somewhere, it's possible you have a treasure chest.

Some of those old coins in good condition can be surprisingly valuable to collectors. Many of us have heard of the rare 1930 penny, which can sell for tens of thousands of dollars, but there are other old Aussie coins, including halfpennies, threepences, sixpences, shillings and florins, that with the right date and in good condition could bring you a small windfall. Some common pre-decimal Australian coins in good condition are now worth \$100 or more, and a rare, "like new" coin could sell for tens of thousands.

At the upcoming Nobel Numismatics April auction in Sydney, from April 13th to 17th, collectors are expected to bid in excess of \$50,000 for a silver threepence from 1860, featuring an Indigenous man with a boomerang.

A 1910 two-shilling piece (florin) in the auction is valued at \$1,500, a 1932 florin could sell for \$2,500, and a 1924 shilling for \$1,500. If a coin has incurred an error in the minting, its value can skyrocket. A threepence in this auction with an overdate "1922/21" could sell for \$35,000. And, yes, there are two rare 1930 pennies up for sale. It's estimated they will attract bids in excess of \$15,000 each.

If you've kept a few pre-decimal coins, the most valuable are those that are old and in good condition, especially if they look like they just came from the bank. The first 1966 fifty-cent pence is now worth up to \$30 because it is silver, which has gone up in value in the last year. And if you are lucky enough to have a bank paper roll of certain new coins from that era, you will have a real treasure.

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Tamworth Region Heritage Festival 2026
18 April @ 9:00 am - 18 May @ 5:00 pm

Discover our region's rich heritage during the [Tamworth Regional Heritage Festival](#) from Saturday 26 April to Sunday 18 May 2025. In alignment with the NSW Heritage Festival, this year's theme is Change. During the Festival there will be plenty of opportunity to learn about the region's heritage with events including:

- Stories from Bridge Street Heritage Walk
- Bush Medicine with Ted Fields
- Stationary John Fowler steam engines running at the Tamworth Powerstation Museum
- A range of open days with the Tamworth Film and Sound Archive, Manilla and Moonbi Museums, Family History Group, Nundle Courthouse Museum, Manellae Collectables, Gil Bennet Rocks, Gems and Minerals Collection and Odgers and McClelland Exchange Store.
- Change Exhibition on display at the Tamworth Regional Gallery and a guided tour
- Daily tours at the Nundle Woollen Mill

There are plenty of events and exhibitions throughout the week festival, with things to see in Manilla, Moonbi, Nundle and Tamworth.

View the full program at www.tamworthregion.com.au

From Brendan Moylan's Weekly Newsletter
Active Regional Communities Package - Community

Participation grants

Applications for grants from \$100,000 to \$1 million are now open through the Community Participation stream of the Active Regional Communities Package. Funding is geared towards not-for-profits who aim to increase social cohesion and liveability of communities through greater participation in community activities. Projects can include new and improved infrastructure, new or expanded programs and activities, and addressing barriers to participation, increased safety, supervision and transport. For more information and how to apply, visit www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/community-participation.

TAMWORTH BIRDWATCHERS

THE COMMON MYNA*

Causing harm to Australian native birds






*Also known as Indian Myna



TAMWORTH LGA FERAL BIRD CONTROL PROGRAM

Today we're launching a new awareness campaign about feral birds.

Q. What IS a feral bird exactly?

A. It's an introduced, non-native species of bird that has established a self-sustaining population in the wild.

Several species of feral birds pose a nuisance to humans; however, the Common or Indian Myna poses the greatest threat to our native birds by competing aggressively for nest hollows. Email us for more info - tambirds4us@gmail.com

THE INDIAN MYNA IS:

FAST BREEDING
Up to 18 young in a year (2/3 clutches of 4-6 eggs). Outbreeding native birds.

RIDDLED WITH MITES
Carriers of bird mites and harmful bacteria like Salmonella.

NASTY
Raids tree hollows; evicting native bird & mammal species & killing chicks

PREFERS OPEN LAWNS & PALMS
Attracted to exotic palms, open lawns and open grazing country.

LIKE AN EASY FEED
Hangs around bins, outdoor cafes, picnic areas etc

BAD FOR BUSINESS
• Tourism
• Farms
• Public places

*Also known as Indian Myna

TAMWORTH LGA FERAL BIRD CONTROL PROGRAM

TAMWORTH BIRDWATCHERS

What's on



TAMWORTH REGION

CAPITAL OF COUNTRY



Create a business listing with Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW)

The ATDW is Australia's national tourism marketing platform representing over 50,000 tourism businesses and destinations. It helps Australian tourism businesses enhance their digital marketing, expand their reach, promote their offerings, and attract more online traffic.



Add your listing now.

How to list with the ATDW:

Step 1: Register & Create Profile

1. Visit www.atdw.com.au to register, click the 'Register Now' button.
2. Select 'Tourism Operator', then 'Continue'.

Registering and setting up your profile is quick and easy!

What to have ready:

- Organisation details: business name, contact details and ABN.
- Business or Event Description: briefly describe your business (refrain from using CAPS LOCK).
- Contact Information: include your social media links.
- Key Details: opening hours, prices, facilities, accessibility services or event date and time.
- Photos: professional or smartphone photos (at least 1600 x 1200 pixels in size and no larger than 10MB).

Tips:

- ATDW-Online is a live platform, so updates to your listing will be displayed across all ATDW distributor platforms.
- You can add multiple listings under the same

Step 2: Submit your listing.

- Your listing will be reviewed and published within 5 business days.

STEP 3: Get visible

- Your listing will appear on the Tamworth Region website, reaching over 10,000 unique website visitors every month!



Please call our friendly staff at Tamworth Visitor Information Centre on 02 6767 5300 if you have any questions.

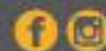


TAMWORTH REGION

CAPITAL OF COUNTRY

TAMWORTH REGION

CAPITAL OF COUNTRY



tamworthregion.com.au

BINGARA COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

WED 15TH April - Sun 19TH APRIL 2026
An invitation to come and enjoy some great relaxing country music in the comfort of the beautiful Bingara RSL Club.

FREE SHOW
ALL WEEKEND

FEATURING
CAMERON MASON, TONY & HELEN CORNISH, REECE BLINMAN, RICK FERRET, GEOFF CLAPSON, BILL & TRACEY ROWLAND, ROB BREESE, LACHY MCKAY, RAY ESSARY, KYLIE HOGAN, THE CURRY MOB





WALKUPS
10 - 6pm Thursday, Friday & Saturday
great backing band supplied

SHOWTIME
6.30 - 10.30pm Wed Thurs, Fri, Sat
10 - 3pm Sunday- including club raffles

WALKUP PRIZE
JOHN BANCROFT MEMORIAL TROPHY
\$1000 PRIZE MONEY plus RECORDING DEAL

FREE CAMPING
on the banks of the Gwydir River
COURTESY BUS FROM CAMPING GROUNDS TO CLUB
Breakfast available at the club from 8.30am Thursday, Friday & Saturday Mornings.
PROUDLY SPONSORED BY BINGARA RSL CLUB

POETS BREAKFAST THURSDAY MORNING 8am



0267241404
Phone the club and register your interest

WINTER SPECIAL

MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES AIR CONDITIONING

KEEP WARM THIS WINTER

PH: 0410 522 967
BARRABA BASED AND WILL TRAVEL TO SURROUNDING AREAS



BK ELECTRICAL + AIR CONDITIONING
ONE TRADESMAN WITH BOTH ELECTRICAL & REFRIGERATION LICENSES

2.5kw Mitsubishi Heavy Industries A/C Fully Installed - Back to Back \$2270	5 kw Mitsubishi Heavy Industries A/C Fully Installed - Back to Back \$2870	7.1kw Mitsubishi Heavy Industries A/C Fully Installed - Back to Back \$3350
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Lawn Mowing

Yard maintenance, rubbish removal, weed spraying.

Pensioners and DVA discounts on provision of appropriate cards.

Phone Scott, 0428941979, for an obligation free quote.



Barraba rugby season to kick off on Saturday 18th April with a home game against Tamworth Magpies. The women's game will commence at 2.15 followed by the men's game at 3.15.

To kick off the season we are having an Hawaiian party in the clubhouse after the games - so dust off those grass skirts and boardies and enjoy the hula dancing!!

Message from the Editor

At *Barraba Community News* we welcome local news and stories from our community members about activities, events and news of interest to the Barraba community.

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

Advertise in *News* at a competitive cost and reach 750 households in our area who receive a free copy each week.

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



**PHIL DENYER
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RECENT ANNIVERSARIES

- the first Easter, according to calendar maker Dionysius Exiguus (31)
- the abolition of the slave trade throughout the British Empire (1807)
- the death of composer Ludwig van Beethoven (1827)
- the Schengen Agreement - which phased out internal border checks for many European countries - going into effect (1995)
- the patenting of kerosene (1855)
- the end of the Spanish Civil War (1939)
- the world's largest dinosaur footprint, a whopping 1.7m, found in Western Australia (2017)
- day one of Australia's first federal election, which lasted over 2 days, leading to Edmund Barton being elected Prime Minister (1901)
- Nelson Mandela being acquitted of treason after a 4.5-year trial (1961)
- the discovery of the Terracotta Warriors in Xian, China (1974)
- the birthday of painter Vincent Van Gogh (1853)
- the Morrison Government announcing the introduction of the JobKeeper payment (2020)
- Harry and Meghan officially stepping down from royal duties (2020)
- the Battle of Okinawa, the largest battle of the Pacific War during World War II (1945)
- the Netherlands becoming the first country in the world to legalise same-sex marriage (2001) and euthanasia (2002)
- the first mobile phone call made in New York by a Motorola employee (1973)
- the signing of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) treaty in Washington, D.C. (1949)
- the first law regulating copyright being issued in Great Britain (1710)
- the patenting of the safety pin (1849)
- RMS Titanic setting sail from Southampton for her maiden - and only - voyage (1912)
- the arrest of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange after his forced removal from the Ecuadorian embassy in London (2019)
- The crew of Apollo 13 announcing "Ok, Houston, we've had a problem here", as an oxygen tank exploded en route to the Moon (1970)
- Tiger Woods becoming the youngest golfer to win the Masters Tournament at 21yo (1997)
- Winx ending her racing career with a 3rd Queen Elizabeth Stakes win in Sydney (2019)

From The Conversation

Giant tree-kangaroos once lived in unexpected places all over Australia, according to major new analysis

Gavin Prideaux, Professor, Flinders University

Natalie Warburton, Associate Professor in Anatomy, Murdoch University

Kangaroos are an enduring symbol of Australia's uniqueness. To move, they do what no other large mammals do: they hop along on oversized hind legs. So you may be surprised to learn that some kangaroos live in trees, and are among the most endearing and threatened of all marsupials.

Today, biologists recognise ten tree-kangaroo species, all in the genus *Dendrolagus*. Two species inhabit tropical forest in far northern Queensland. The other eight live in New Guinea.

Studying them is difficult because their habitats are hard to access, they live high in trees and are increasingly rare due to human impacts. The evolutionary history of tree-kangaroos is even more obscure. In a new study published today in *Zootaxa*, we pull together all the evidence on fossil tree-kangaroos and show giant tree-kangaroo species were widespread across Australia, and lived in habitats that were a long way from tropical forest – their modern-day home.



Reconstruction of the giant tree-kangaroo Bohra illuminata, Nullarbor region, 250,000 years ago. Peter Schouten, Author provided

Tree-kangaroos from the Treeless Plain

In 2002, a team of explorers found three new caves in the middle of the arid Nullarbor Plain of south-central Australia. The cave floors were littered with the bones of the extinct marsupial "lion" *Thylacoleo carnifex* and short-faced kangaroos, as well as those of several mammals, birds and reptiles that still live in drier parts of Australia.

Given the high diversity of herbivores, we concluded the Nullarbor had to have been more than just arid shrubland some 200–400 thousand years ago, even if it was still very dry. This is because a few shrubs would not have been enough for such a range of herbivores to live on.

In this light, it was hard to believe when we discovered partial skeletons of two new species of giant tree-kangaroo in 2008 and 2009. They belong to the extinct genus *Bohra*, first named in 1982 on the basis of leg bones found in the Wellington Caves in New South Wales.

Like the picture on a jigsaw box, we used the Nullarbor skeletons as a guide to search for isolated pieces in museum collections. We discovered more than 100 teeth and bones belonging to a total of at least seven species of extinct tree-kangaroos. These come from fossil sites extending from southern Victoria to central Australia to the New Guinea highlands, and range in age from 3.5 million (late Pliocene) to a few hundred thousand years old (middle Pleistocene).



Skull of the extinct *Bohra illuminata* alongside that of a modern tree-kangaroo (scaled to same length). Author provided

A big leap forwards – and then upwards

Anatomical and molecular evidence shows that, among living marsupials, kangaroos are most closely related to possums. No one is sure exactly when the kangaroo ancestor made the descent to the forest floor, due to big gaps in the Australian fossil record.

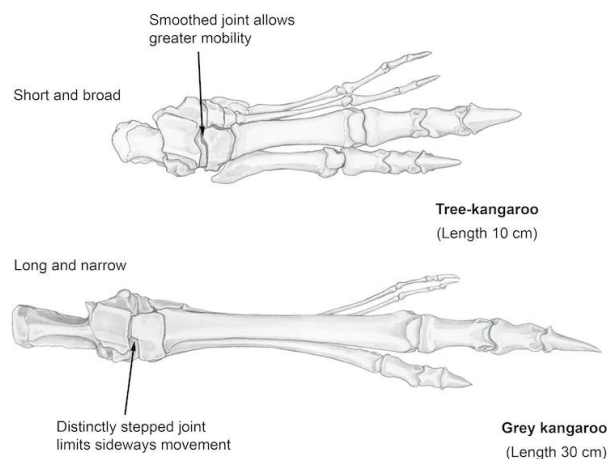
Similarly, we do not know whether the distinctive “bipedal” hopping mode of locomotion originated in the trees or on the ground – but we do know it became the enduring hallmark of the kangaroo family. They have longer hind legs and longer feet than their possum ancestors, and the foot bones lock together in such a way as to limit sideways foot movement.

Combined with high tendon elasticity and a large muscular tail, these adaptations make kangaroos among the most energy-efficient movers on the planet.

The foot bones of tree-kangaroos reveal three stages in the evolutionary “reversal” of these adaptations. Pliocene

species of *Bohra* evolved a broader heel bone and upper ankle joint, allowing them greater mobility. Later, Pleistocene species of *Bohra* evolved a smoother joint at the front of that heel bone, giving them the ability to roll the soles of their feet inward to wrap around tree trunks and limbs.

As well as shorter feet, modern tree-kangaroos (*Dendrolagus*) have shorter hindlimbs, in conjunction with powerful forelimbs and claws for grasping and climbing. They can even walk with their hind legs while climbing, whereas ground-dwelling kangaroos only move their hind legs alternately while swimming.



Comparison of tree-kangaroo (*Dendrolagus*) and grey kangaroo (*Macropus*) foot bones. Author provided

Why return to the trees?

As Australia dried out over the past 10 million years, more open vegetation became widespread. This trend was interrupted by a greenhouse phase 5–3.5 million years ago. We speculate that the temporary expansion of forest habitats during this period would have opened new ecological niches that early tree-kangaroos evolved to exploit. By the time climatic drying returned, tree-kangaroos had become established members of the Australian fauna, with species adapting to expanding woodland and savannah habitats.

As some larger monkeys do today, species of *Bohra* probably divided their time between living in trees and on the ground, whereas modern tree-kangaroos spend most of their time in the canopy.

So, although we might now think of tree-kangaroos as quintessential rainforest animals, this is because the *Bohra* species that lived in other habitats have become extinct.

Despite everything we can learn about evolution from studies of modern species, the fossil record holds the potential to flip the script with one discovery.

From The Conversation

Does your child want a part-time job?

Here's what the law says about kids at work.

Kerry Brown, Professor of Employment and Industry, School of Business and Law, Edith Cowan University

For teens, a holiday or weekend job is a good way to earn pocket money and learn a new range of skills.

But given the historical and ongoing exploitation of child labour across the globe, strict laws are set out to protect children.

Australia follows the 1973 International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention on a minimum working age. Under this convention, the standard age for employing young people is 15 years old.

But people can start work before that, subject to additional legal protections. Even if young people are volunteers and undertaking unpaid work, there are similar restrictions on their activities to the limits in paid employment.

So if you have a young person in your life who's thinking about getting a job, it's worth knowing what the laws and rules are.

What are the rules for kids under 15?

Every state in Australia has specific requirements for employing workers who are under 15 years old. These specifications differ from state to state, but most principles are broadly similar.

For employers, they need to hold a child employment licence to employ children under 15.

There are set limits on how many hours young people can work, depending on their age. Generally, they can do up to ten hours each week.

There are also restrictions on doing heavy work. Young workers under 15 years can only undertake light duties. In Victoria, for example, a child cannot work on a building site or on a fishing boat.

There are also rules for when children can work. Working during school hours is generally not allowed because state laws require children to attend school. Legislation about children in the workplace is built around ensuring they access education.

Some jurisdictions have special provisions around times of day children under 15 can work.

In Western Australia, young workers aged 10–12 cannot start work earlier than 6.00am or finish their work after

7.00pm. Children aged 13–14 cannot start before 6.00am but can finish work at 10.00pm.



The law limits where children and teenagers can work.

In Tasmania, children between the ages of 11 and 14 aren't allowed to work between 9.00pm and 5.00am of the following day, unless it's for charity or school.

There are similar laws in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

What sorts of jobs can kids under 15 do?

While laws are in place to protect children from exploitation, there are many opportunities for children to be part of the workforce, starting as young as ten or 11 years in the delivery services industry or as child models in the advertising industry.

Children from ages 10–12 can work in a limited capacity delivering newspapers, pamphlets or advertising material.

Children aged 13–14 can extend this work to a variety of roles in the retail and hospitality sectors, including in cafes and restaurants, the fast food industry and shops.

While they can be employed in the hospitality sector, young workers under 18 generally can't serve alcohol or sell cigarettes.

In some sectors, there are fewer requirements for employing children of any age.

Working in a family business, for a charity or not-for-profit organisation or in the entertainment industry is not subject to many restrictions, apart from the need to attend school.

Parental supervision is needed under some circumstances. For example, photographic work with children up to three years old needs a parent involved, as does letterbox delivery, door-to-door sales and charity work by kids under 12.

In some instances, the requirement to undertake work outside school hours can be waived, such as when a child is home schooled.

What if a child is 15 or older?

Children older than 15 years are still subject to different conditions than 18-year-old or adult workers. Child workers up to the age of 18 years still require their parent's consent or hold a right to work "special circumstances certificate" to be employed.

Workers under 18 years are exempt from holding a Working with Children Check, required when working in close contact with children such as in child care centres and schools, or involved in sports coaching.

The adult hourly wage rate starts at 21 years. Younger workers are paid a percentage of the adult rate, so the wages of young people are differentiated by age.

The exceptions to the rules

The entertainment and advertising industries are high profile and highly sought after sectors employing children. But they're not subject to many of the rules above.

Laws allow children in the entertainment industry to "take the stage" at any age, provided their schooling is not interrupted. Children can work as an actor, musician, entertainer or a model in advertising under these conditions, but all need parental consent.

The entertainment industry has requirements for employers to be licensed to employ children and adult employees may need to undergo a Working with Children Check if they are working alongside those under 18 years in a role such as a coach or an actor.



Children can take to the stage at any age, but there are rules.

Parents of child workers have the right to be informed about all aspects of their child's job, including extensive briefings about the things their child will see, hear and do in their role.

The child cannot be exposed to anything that is inappropriate for their age, maturity and level of development, or be put in situations to cause them distress or embarrassment.

But even when entirely lawful, things can get messy. Signing kids up to record deals or modelling contracts can be hard for parents to navigate and many may not understand the potential long-term ramifications. It may be helpful to consult a lawyer when looking at legal paperwork like this.

Overall, labour laws emphasise the importance of education, adequate rest and access to leisure time. Any job a child can get must adhere to these standards.

Chocolate Weetbix slice

Story by Women's Weekly Food

This chocolate Weetbix slice is a classic recipe the kids will love, with the bonus of using up those left over crushed up bits at the bottom of the box.

Ingredients

- 4 Weet-Bix, crushed
- 1 ¼ (185g) self-raising flour, sifted
- 1/2 cups (110g) brown sugar
- 1/2 (40g) desiccated coconut, plus 2 tbsp extra
- 1/4 cup (25g) dutch-processed cocoa powder
- 185 grams butter, melted

Icing

- 1 cup (160g) icing sugar mixture
- 2 tablespoon Dutch-processed cocoa powder
- 20 softened butter
- 2 tablespoon boiling water

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan-forced. Grease a 20cm x 30cm slice pan; line base and sides with baking paper, extending paper 2cm over long sides.
2. Place WeetBix, flour, sugar, coconut, cocoa and butter in a large bowl; mix well to combine.
3. Press Weet-Bix mixture into pan. Bake for 25 minutes or until firm to touch. Cool in pan.
4. Meanwhile, to make icing, sift icing sugar and cocoa into a small bowl. Add butter and the boiling water; mix until smooth.
5. Spread icing over cooled slice; sprinkle with extra coconut. Refrigerate for 30 minutes or until icing sets.
6. Transfer slice to a chopping board and cut into 24 squares.

Slice can be made up to 1 week in advance; store in an airtight container.
