



# BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

**FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2026**



All services will be at the Memorial Clock.

This is a time for our residents to attend these services and to remember the sacrifice of those that served and those that are still serving.

“They died for a cause held just in the service of our land so that you and yours may say in freedom we are proud to be an Australian.”



A reminder to the Barraba and District community of our ANZAC Day Services.

The Dawn Service will assemble at 5:45am with the service to commence at 6.00am.

The main service will assemble at 10:45am with the march commencing at 10:50am and the main service at 11.00am.





**BARRABA RSL &  
RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone 67821379  
For the information of members  
and guests.

**THIS WEEK**

**THURSDAY 23rd April  
BINGO**

First game starts at 6pm

**FRIDAY 24th April  
MEAT RAFFLES**

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm  
Membership Draw \$1700

**SATURDAY 25th April**  
Dawn Service Breakfast.  
Club will re-open after the March

**Bistro open for lunch only**

**SUNDAY 26th April  
ANGLER CLUB RAFFLES**  
Membership Draw \$1100

**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**



**Café now opening Sunday  
through Wednesday from  
7:00am to 3:00pm.**

The Playhouse Hotel is opening an exciting new chapter, bringing a fresh café experience to the local community while embracing

a spirit of growth, connection, and collaboration.

As newcomers to the café scene, the team at the Playhouse Hotel is approaching this venture with both enthusiasm and humility. Their goal is simple: to create a welcoming space where locals and visitors alike can gather, relax, and enjoy quality food and coffee—while helping shape the café's future through their feedback.

Currently, the café is operating on a trial schedule, opening Sunday through Wednesday from 7:00am to 3:00pm. During this period, the team is eager to hear from customers—whether it's thoughts on the coffee, the menu, or the overall experience. Community input will play a key role in refining and expanding the offering over time.

Beyond day-to-day service, the Playhouse Hotel café is also looking to become a hub for gatherings of all kinds. From casual meetups to dinners and special functions, the venue aims to be flexible and accommodating, supporting events whenever possible outside regular café hours. We will be advertising specialty dinners, Karaoke with a twist, Movies, themed nights and much more!!

"We're really looking forward to serving the community and sharing this beautiful space with both locals and visitors," said Rachel from the Playhouse Hotel. "This is just the beginning for us—we're learning, evolving, and excited about what's ahead."

The team encourages everyone to stop by, try the menu, and be part of the journey as the café continues to grow and flourish. For more information or enquiries, contact Rachel at the Playhouse Hotel on 0438 233 849 or 02 6782 1109.

**For Sale:**



Merits Maverick 10 power wheelchair.

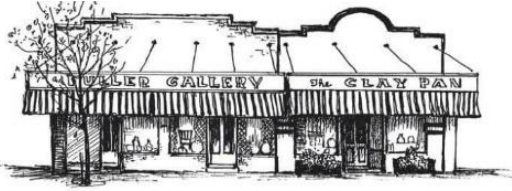
5 years old, excellent condition with brand new batteries.

\$1,500

Contact Amanda Koopman  
0429 958 816



*Rachel and Alec were very busy serving brunchers and lunchers last Sunday morning.*



## The Barraba Potters and Craft Guild News

Our annual **Warm and Woolly Exhibition** will be on the Long Weekend 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June with the feature exhibition this year being *"Things from Yesteryear"*. Along with the usual Gallery display of crafts and woollen items.

Together with the ever-popular Devonshire morning tea and home-made soup and roll lunch. (Saturday & Sunday only)

### Tree and seat bombing

Tree bombing squares for Warm and Woolly Long Weekend in June seems a long way off, but it will be here before we know it! Time to start thinking about knitting or crocheting squares for the "Tree & Seat Bombing" project. Any size, colour or pattern. Leave your squares at the Clay Pan and they will be sewn together ready to be placed onto the trees and seat. If you have any spare wool, can you leave it at the Gallery to be used for squares? Thank you.

Tree Bombing squares activity TUESDAY and FRIDAY MORNINGS at the Fuller Gallery if you would like to join a group for a chat and a cuppa while you knit or crochet. Squares can be left at the Gallery to be sewn together, ready to be placed onto the trees and bench in front of the Gallery and the Museum.

### Dates for the diary:

Street Stall days - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October. -  
- Bonsai review morning - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August. -  
- Birthday Group Lunch catering - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you to those members who have already offered to help with the lunch catering.

### Save the date for the "Come and Try Day" on the 26<sup>th</sup> September.

If you are looking for a Mother's Day gift, pop into the Gallery for a browse of the amazing array of locally made arts, crafts, pottery, photography and much more and support our local crafts people.

The Bonsai group had a very enjoyable get together on the 12<sup>th</sup> to plant and prune a new Bonsai. Thankyou Raelyn & Patricia for your guidance and to Sue for the cake for morning tea.



The Sunday Sewers made the trip down the road to the Tamworth Craft Shed to attend an applique class, conducted by Jackson from the House of Jackson in Armidale. Many tips and tricks were shared by all those in attendance.

The Gallery is open from 10am to 1.30pm most days of the week. Thank you to everyone for your support of The Barraba Potters and Craft Guild.

Patti Crowley, Publicity Officer

## Mobility Scooter – For Sale As New

Details of scooter: it's lightweight, folds up for transport, it has a strong night light, warning buzzer, extra child seat, powerful three speed motor, large rear basket and front basket, also reverse gear, 25 to 40-kilometre range, six hr battery recharge.

\$700.00 – Ph 0428464657



## Stories from the War Years

### Lieutenant Clive Stanley Crowley (2/8/1890 – 25/6/1918)



Clive Crowley was from Cobbadah Station. He enlisted in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Battalion on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1916 and left for England on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1916. Sadly, he died on 25 June, 1918 aged 27 in Amiens, France, due to an accident. In the Red Cross files, it stated that “..... our own gas shells.... fell short and landed on our own front line instead of the German line.”

He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

It is unusual to have letters written by soldier’s families, but in this case, there are at least two letters written by Clive’s mother, Alice Crowley. They may have been returned with Clive’s belongings. However, they were written in March and April, 1918 and Clive died in June of that year. So perhaps they did not reach him before he died? Alice’s letters included some very poignant words. They were part of the inspiration behind the musical work “An Australian War Requiem”, composed by Chris Bowen. So far, this has only been performed on very few occasions. These words included:

*“I am feeling awfully low spirited, dearest, since hearing such very terrible news relating to this fearful war. It just feels too heavy to bear. Whenever will it end, and I am always wondering how you are, my poor dear Clive away over in that wretched place.”*

She goes on to thank him for portraits he had sent the family, and this reminds her of the time they spent together before the war.

*“We did not sufficiently appreciate those happy days I fear dearest Clive and I would give anything to enjoy such very happy times again together.”*



Alice Crowley

## **“An Awful Sensation”**

### **Trooper F.L. Spencer**

#### **Barraba: Nearly buried alive at Gallipoli**

Trooper Spencer, who is 24 years of age, writing to his mother at “Nangarah” Barraba relates the following story concerning himself.

“One night while I was off duty and was sound asleep in the reserve trench, the side of the trench fell in on top of me, completely covering me. It was an awful sensation. I couldn’t move a muscle and it took two or three men over ten minutes to dig me out. When they moved me out, I could only move the top part of my body, the lower part was useless. They carried me down to the doctor and was eventually place aboard a boat and brought here to Luna Park Hospital, Egypt.”

### **Timeline from 1915**

- April 14 Zeppelin raids the Tyne Valley.
- April 15 Airships and aeroplanes raid Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Kent.
- April 18 British capture Hill 60.
- April 22 Germany makes another great effort to break through on the Yser front, with the aid of asphyxiating gases. Allies forced back.
- April 25 Germans driven back across the Yser. Allies landing at three points on the Gallipoli Peninsula begins.
- April 27 Allies firmly established on Gallipoli Peninsula.
- April 30 Allies regain two-thirds of the ground lost on the Yser front.
- May 4 Germany claims to have pierced the entire Russian line in Western Galicia.
- May 6 Tremendous assault by Allied troops and warships begun on Achi Baba and Krithia.
- May 8 Further engagements between Allies and Turks in Gallipoli. Great British attack on La Basses. Frightful massacre by Turks in Persian Armenia.
- May 11 Mobilisation of Italy’s first line completed. Anti-German outbreaks and riots in England.
- May 13 General Botha takes possession of Windhoek, seat of government of German South-West Africa. Strong anti-German outbreaks in England; internment of alien enemy males ordered. Desperate battle raging in Gallipoli. French successes north of Arras.
- May 14 British battleship “Goliath” torpedoed in Dardanelles. 500 lives lost.
- May 16 Russians fall back in Carpathians but take 20,000 Austrians on the Pruth. Great pro-intervention demonstrations in Italy.
- May 17 Further British successes south of Richebourg. Great charge of the Black Watch and penetration of the German line.
- May 19 Lord Fisher and Mr Winston Churchill resign.



## Barraba United Hospital Auxiliary Happenings

The Barraba Hospital Auxiliary members held their meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> April with fond memories of Life Member and Patron - Meg Crowley who had passed away in March, following a short illness.

**At the meeting discussions were held to organise the upcoming street stall on the 7th of May from 9am. All donations will be greatly appreciated.**

The Mother's Day Raffle will be drawn at the street stall. First prize is a beautiful patchwork quilt (which is on display at the Fuller Gallery). 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize is a crochet shawl donated by Coral and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is a mosaic pot donated by Arlene. Thank you everyone for your very generous donations. Tickets are available at The Fuller Gallery, Frocks N Locks, Barraba MPS, Saunders Fruit and Veges, and at the street stall.

The new cardiac monitor has been installed into the Barraba MPS Emergency Department and Auxiliary Members had a demonstration on how it works following their March meeting.

Staff have received training on its use and are very excited about the improved treatment outcomes the cardiac monitor will provide for community members attending the ED.

Julie and Joan gave an overview of the very interesting and informative Regional Conference held in Tamworth on the 14<sup>th</sup> March. Risk assessments for fundraising activities was high on the agenda of items discussed.

It was passed at the March meeting that the Auxiliary would purchase an induction cooktop to be installed in the Garvin House kitchen for staff and residents to be able to perform cooking activities as a part of diversional therapy program.

Welcome to new members Vicki Quinn and Karen Brown.

If you would like to join the auxiliary and help raise funds for our local Health Service patients and staff the next meeting is on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, 10am at the Day Centre.

Thank you for supporting the auxiliary, and the people of Barraba & wider community who access the Health Service



1<sup>st</sup> prize



2<sup>nd</sup> prize



3<sup>rd</sup> prize

## Happy heavenly birthday Guy

On April 20 Guy would have been 60 years old.

Born in 1966 to a life full of challenges.

The year decimal currency was introduced and bread was about 17 cents and milk 19 cents a litre and sold in glass bottles with a foil top and both could be delivered to the door step of your house.

Life was simple and birthdays seemed to take so long to come around. Money was tight and gifts were things like a new ball, a toy car or a doll.

Guy, as he got older, loved his birthday and quite often started to talk about the next one only week's after the last. He especially loved a milestone birthday. When he was 50 we planned an open invitation party for anyone who wanted to celebrate with him at the Bowling Club. He had the most amazing night and many people came. The canvas signature board we made for him still hangs proudly above his bed. He didn't just love his birthday he enjoyed celebrating with anyone having their special day and always wanted to give something often purchasing flowers or some random thing that he thought would be enjoyed by the recipient.

Guy loved to help, give and share. Friendships were so valuable to him and he often told us 'they like me', with a massive smile. He gave generously all his life.

I write about our brother to keep his memory alive. To encourage people to realise that disability does not define you. To remind ourselves of the challenges that face parents and family of children with disability. Sacrifice and love that family dedicate to raising, nurturing and supporting children. It goes without saying this is true for any child brought into the world but children with disability need so much more because some never grow up to work and function in society and without this dedication from family their life would be very different.

We realise that some people who read this article may have never met Guy as it is almost 8 years since he passed away. His passing was the perfect situation where he was able to help someone one last time. He was placed on life support after suffering a seizure from an undiagnosed brain abscess. This allowed our family to decide if he could one last gift and he did. That gift was his kidneys and there a two extremely grateful people enjoying a better life as a result of this decision.

Finally, we would ask if you, in Guy's memory, could think about Organ Donation, donating to a charity or maybe just making someone smile.

DOWN SYNDROME IS A JOURNEY NEVER PLANNED BUT WE SURE DID LOVE OUR TOUR GUIDE.

Happy birthday little brother  
From all your family and many friends.

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### 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 30<sup>th</sup> March and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026. For further information, please contact Whitehaven Biodiversity on 0488 407 000.

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Email [news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au](mailto:news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au) Printed on site at the Community College. Free publication by email or collection from local Barraba main street businesses

### 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

26<sup>th</sup> April – 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

## ANZAC Day Reflection

A popular song that resonated with so many during the time of WW1 was the hymn Abide with Me. Written by Henry Francis Lyte in 1847 as he was slowly dying of Tuberculosis, he sang starkly of death. The 2nd verse reads:

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away  
Change and decay in all around I see  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me**

Almost 1 out of every 10 Australians at that time had sailed off to WW1. There wouldn't have been an individual in our nation who did not live in fear of the knock on the door with the news no one wanted to hear. Of course, for the communities, the loved ones, the families of 60,000 Australians, that devastating news would come.

The reality of death confronted the world as never before and this hymn helped people to express what they felt. But it is a hymn which looked to a hope bigger even than the horror of war. Another verse says:

**I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness  
Where is death's sting?  
Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me**

Soldiers, and their loved ones, could sing these words as an affirmation of hope, a hope that comes from the God who is in control over life and death itself.

This verse quotes from 1 Corinthians 15 which looked to the promise that Jesus had risen from the dead and had promised that all who clung to him for hope in this world and the next would also rise from death.

The true sting of death has been removed by the God who has overcome the grave. It is little wonder that British Sergeant Patrick McGuinness, would sing this hymn with his men each night amidst the dangers which surrounded them.

And as they sang, they would remind themselves that in the dangers of life and of battle, hope was to be found by keeping their eyes fixed upon the cross of Jesus Christ. Hope not only in their present, but in the life to come.

For God had not stayed distant from us but had taken on flesh. He had suffered and bled and died so that we no longer had to. And then he rose to a new, perfect, life, which is imperishable and can never taste death again so that we might join him in that life. As the hymn ends...

**Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies**

## Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee In life, in death, o Lord, abide with me

As the soldiers faced death, it is no wonder this hymn resonated so greatly with them.

As we reflect this weekend on the sacrifice that so many made so that we can have peace in this country, it is also worth reflecting on the peace many of these soldiers had as they faced battle because of the sacrifice Jesus had made for them and for all who believe.

It is only as we trust in Jesus as the one who has died for us and then defeated death that we can have a true hope.

It is a hope that is not wishful thinking, it is not a 'cross your fingers and hope for the best'. It is not a hope that lasts for a short time.

No this is a hope grounded on the historical man Jesus, who rose from the dead, and now offers life to all who believe. It is a hope that goes beyond this life and into the life to come. I pray you will all know this hope.

Matthew Hearne, Minister of Barraba Anglican Church.

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## Senior Citz News

Hello Everybody

Sorry about the hiccup on Friday, the monthly meeting will be held this Friday, 24<sup>th</sup>, come hell or high water.

Headquarters has had to delay their visit due to chaotic changes in flight schedules. We are hoping she will be here in July, I'll keep you posted.

Plans for our concert are slowly taking shape. If you feel you would like to take part, please let me know.

Our next Market Day is set down for Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at the Seniors Centre. Stall holders are very welcome, the more the merrier. This is when our current Mother's Day raffle will be drawn. Market Day will be a great chance to pick up something nice for that special person in your life.

Bingo is proving to be a very popular past-time on Fridays, numbers are quite steady and sometimes there are pop-in visitors.

This is all for now, just a 'get well soon wish' for those on the sick list. If you should be blowing out candles, have a great day. Till next time, everyone take care

Cheers Judy Brady.

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**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

# Your Council News

*Stay in the know*

Get details on Council projects, events and important updates that may impact you in your inbox each month.

[tamworth.nsw.gov.au/subscribe](https://tamworth.nsw.gov.au/subscribe)

**CONNECT WITH COUNCIL**

Tamworth REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Here is an overview of outcomes from Tamworth Regional Council’s Ordinary Meeting on 14 April 2026.**

Councillors tonight adopted the Tamworth Regional Structure Plans after the report was deferred at the Council Meeting of 16 December 2025, to allow for further consideration of two of the three precincts. The Structure Plans for the Southern Gateway Activation Precinct, Kootingal Residential Growth Precinct and Tamworth Sports and Entertainment Precinct provide a high-level framework for development, housing, transport and open space in three key precincts to accommodate population growth, facilitate infrastructure delivery, and enhance liveability. Council will now forward the adopted Tamworth Regional Structure Plans to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure requesting endorsement.

Council have tonight approved a request to apply for an increase in the maximum annual tonnage of waste that can be landfilled at the Forest Road Waste Management Facility under our current EPA license from 60,00 tonnes to 90,000 tonnes per year. This figure does not include material presented at the facility which is suitable for recycling. Since amalgamation Council has been slowly replacing landfills across the Council area with small vehicle transfer stations. Waste delivered to these transfer stations is transported to Forest Road for disposal. This, together with population growth across the LGA indicates, based on current waste projections and historical data, the existing limit of 60,000 Tonnes may be exceeded in the short term. Should the increase in landfill limit be approved by the EPA then it is

expected it will take a further 17 years to reach the new limit at current rates of growth.

The draft Tamworth Central Sports Fields Masterplan has been approved to go on public exhibition by Council. The draft masterplan has been developed to provide a clear, coordinated, and future focused vision for the Tamworth Central Sports Fields precinct and will work as a critical planning and funding tool for Council. The plan has been informed by targeted consultation with the peak sporting organisations that currently utilise the precinct. A Have Your Say page will now be created on the Tamworth Regional Council website where members of the community can leave their feedback.

Tonight, Council approved the request of \$20,000 in sponsorship to support the hosting of the New South Wales Rugby League (NSWRL) Regional Magic Round 2026. The three-day event will bring together local and professional teams, fans, and the community for a series of competitive matches and engagement activities. Council also approved the request of \$25,000 in sponsorship to support the 2027 Hockey Australia National Country Championships. Should Tamworth Regional Council be successful in hosting this event, it would welcome around 12 teams, with more than 300 players, coaches, and officials, as well as their supporters to the region. Sponsorship support for both events will be funded through the General Fund.

Councillors considered and approved a proposal to relocate the majority of indoor Council staff that used to work in Ray

Walsh House into a single large premises. The medium-term decision is necessary as Council cannot afford to refurbish Ray Walsh House or build a new administrative office without significant time to establish a financial reserve. Councillors agreed to lease a Tamworth premises, and Council staff are expected to move to the new space by early 2027.

For more information, see the full reports at [www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/business-papers](http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/business-papers)



### Rugby Recap – 17.04.26

Saturday marked the first game of the 2026 season in the New England competition for the Barraba Rams, as they took on the Tamworth Magpies. With free entry at the gate and a Hawaiian-themed night ahead, there was plenty of excitement around the grounds.

The Women’s side kicked off the day with an exceptional 70–17 win. They showed great skill throughout, with Ally Smith and Lily Bradshaw controlling play well in their 9/10 combination, shifting the ball effectively to create space for the backs to run in multiple tries.

The Rams held the Magpies scoreless until the 22nd minute, when the visitors built some momentum and crossed for three quick tries. However, Barraba regained control and kept them scoreless in the final quarter. Jemma Johnson stood out with strong hit-ups and multiple turnovers, allowing the Rams to transition quickly from defence to attack. It was a fantastic first outing for the women, building confidence for the season ahead.

**Tries:** Lilly Walker (2), Leilani Tevaga (2), Kiah Newell (2), Amie Middlemiss (2), Addison Dixon, Lily Bradshaw, Ally Smith, Charlie Norton

**Conversions:** Lily Bradshaw (2), Charlie Norton (2), Amie Middlemiss

The Men’s side took to the field looking to build on the Women’s momentum, with a mix of new young players and experienced heads. They showed promise early, but the Magpies opened the scoring in the 11th minute and quickly gained momentum, with their pace proving difficult to contain.

Barraba created several strong attacking opportunities, with Chook Townsend showing speed and linking well with

winger Corey Jordan to make ground down the sideline, but they were unable to break through the Magpies’ defence. The forwards worked hard in the middle, with Thabiso Msiza carrying strongly, while halfback Brandon Newell showed quick thinking—picking up the ball from the back of the ruck and diving over the line, resulting in a penalty try after a high tackle from the Magpies.

The final score saw the Rams go down 7–61.

#### Points

##### Women

- 3 – Lily Bradshaw
- 2 – Leilani Tevaga
- 1 – Ally Smith, Jemma Johnson
- PP – Ally Smith

##### Men

- 3 – Nick Sweeney
- 2 – Brandon Newell
- 1 – Thabiso Msiza
- PP – James Brand

This weekend, both teams will travel to Armidale to take on the Baa Baa’s for an ANZAC Day clash, with kick-off times to be confirmed later in the week.

| EMERGENCY SERVICES CONTACT LIST   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Ambulance                         | 000         |
| Fire                              | 000         |
| Police                            | 67900360    |
| VRA                               | 000         |
| Barraba Police Station            | 67821003    |
| Barraba Fire Brigade              | 02 57328415 |
| Barraba Health Service (Hospital) | 67822500    |
| Barraba Medical Centre (GP)       | 67821621    |
| Barraba Vet Service               | 0429192265  |
| Essential Energy                  | 132080      |
| Beyond Blue                       | 1300224636  |
| Lifeline                          | 131114      |
| NRMA                              | 131122      |
| SES Barraba                       | 132500      |
| Tamworth Regional Council         |             |
| Emergency Number                  | 1300733625  |
| Council Office                    | 67821105    |



## Artificial intelligence innovation turns field notes into safety intelligence

Essential Energy's peer-reviewed innovation set to improve frontline productivity and strengthen network safety

An algorithm that can rapidly analyse notes made by employees to proactively detect and assess network safety insights to identify and prioritise material risks shows how Essential Energy is positioning itself among leading organisations in the energy industry using artificial intelligence (AI) to solve real-world problems.

Designed by the organisation's data science team, the program can swiftly sift through thousands of unstructured text notes from field staff, classifying, and analysing the unstructured data and building patterns to support safer outcomes for network safety.

According to Essential Energy's Principal Data Scientist, Andrew Slack-Smith, the output of the program is designed to improve the accuracy and reliability of the information used to manage the electricity network.



"The work our team has done will make a huge difference because it automates the first pass of analysis from the field and creates actionable insights for human review. What they have created is important because it will enhance our ability to identify safety risks," Andrew says.

The current rules-based checks rely on predefined pass/fail criteria and identify network safety data successfully 59 per cent of the time. By contrast, the new algorithm will lift this to 76 per cent, reducing the time people spend manually sifting through the data.

The algorithm is currently being further refined and tested before being rolled out.

The project's success is underscored by its selection for peer-reviewed publication and presentation at the prestigious AMPEAK conference this week (April 12-15).

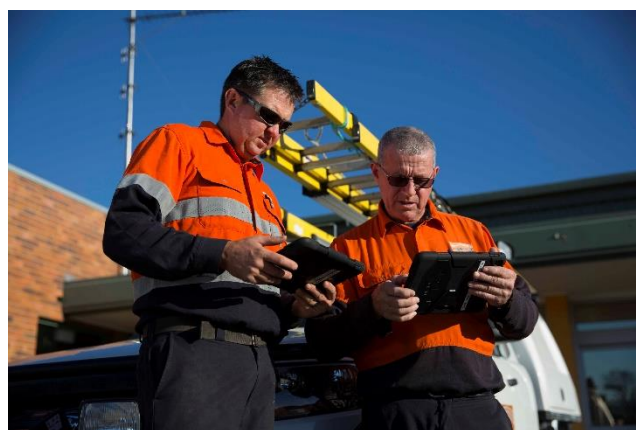
"In an area like AI, where there's a lot of hype, being peer-reviewed and accepted into AMPEAK is a significant achievement for our data team and a celebration of their ingenuity and hard work," Andrew says. "We have been leaders in innovation for some time, but we are integrating AI where it makes sense and adds value, not just because it is AI."

While the algorithm will be used to analyse network safety data for the time being, Andrew expects his team's creation will quickly expand into other areas of the network.

"What we've created is an algorithm that can create structure out of unstructured data, from people writing notes in their iPads when they are out in the field. It is potentially scalable to hundreds of other data sources. All we need to do is find the data source we want to analyse and run an algorithm over it," Andrew says.

Like many successful innovations, this solution evolved from a slightly different initiative. The original plan had been to create a program to analyse the structured data the field crews enter into the system when in the field, recording issues with infrastructure. "We were going through all the structured data when we realised that all the juicy data was under the comments section in the system, which isn't that unusual. It's where people were writing the notes that really make a difference because there were real insights," Andrew says.

He sees a day where field crews and AI are working together to better identify network safety issues.



"The next step at some stage is going to be speech to text where crews in the field will be able to simply talk about what they are seeing and AI will not only help build out the full picture of the issue by using its knowledge of our assets, but also give them three succinct paragraphs that will fill in any gaps for them," Andrew says.

# Your friendly local professional

**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**

QUALITY ELECTRICAL TRADESMAN ONE TRADESMAN WITH BOTH ELECTRICAL & REFRIGERATION LICENSES

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 2.5kw Mitsubishi Heavy Industries A/C<br>Fully Installed - Back to Back<br><b>\$2270</b> | 5 kw Mitsubishi Heavy Industries A/C<br>Fully Installed - Back to Back<br><b>\$2870</b> | 7.1kw Mitsubishi Heavy Industries A/C<br>Fully Installed - Back to Back<br><b>\$3350</b> |
|--|---|--|

**Rod Bonner**  
Your local Plumber, Drainer, Gasfitter and Handyman  
Lic No. L8791 [plumberdrainer@gmail.com](mailto:plumberdrainer@gmail.com)  
Text is best 0447 052 140

## Gill's Chocolate Brownies



### 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.

### INGREDIENTS

- 125 g butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 125g dark chocolate.
- 1 cup caster sugar or brown sugar
- 1/2 cup plain flour
- 1 cup fresh walnuts roughly chopped (optional)

### METHOD

Melt choc & butter over low heat - allow to cool.  
Whisk eggs in a bowl, gradually add sugar, beating until thick & foamy.  
Add vanilla & cooled chocolate mixture, blend thoroughly.  
Sift flour over & add walnuts.  
Pour into baking paper lined 20 cm tin.  
Bake 180 for 30 mins  
Allow to cool slightly Cut in to squares.

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Thanks to Andrea Fahey for sharing this recipe.

Andrea suggests using the brown sugar rather than caster sugar for improved flavour and replace the plain flour with gluten free flour to make the Brownies gluten free.

Keeps for ages in fridge