



# BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER**



**BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone 67821379

For the information of members and guests.

**THIS WEEK**

**THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MAY**

**BINGO**

First game starts at 6pm

**FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> May**

**MEAT RAFFLES**

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm

Membership Draw \$1900

**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> May**

**ANGLER CLUB RAFFLES**

Membership Draw \$1300

**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**

This week marks 6 years since 'Barraba Community News' started, after the closure of the Barraba Gazette. Other than a 4- or 5-week holiday over Christmas and January each year we haven't missed a week in those 6 years.

We're all volunteers who make this happen each week including Terry Threlfall, who researches information and activities from Tamworth to Bingara and proof reads 'News' every Tuesday morning. Lesley Grigg who also proof reads on Tuesday. Penny Blomfield, at the Community College, who ensures "News" is distributed via email to the 400 people on our email list and prints the 250 copies for you to pick up around town. To the businesses who accept the hard copies to ensure it's easy for you to find a copy. To the advertisers and contributors for the local news items to help you keep up to date with 'what's on' in Barraba and district.

Thank you to everyone who helps in any way. We are always encouraged by the number of people who tell us how much they appreciate our efforts.

Regards Bronwyn Clinch

## **Barraba Family Doctor Practice Notice**

Please note that the surgery will be closed from Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May (inclusive). We will re-open on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

Dr Wearne will be consulting at the practice, covering Dr Hein while he is on leave.

If you require a repeat prescription or any medication that may be due during this time, please **phone the surgery to book an appointment** before the closure.

The surgery will also be closed on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, reopening on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May.

Thank you Barraba Family Doctor

Starlight **SUPER STEPS**  
by Velocity Research Fund

I'm taking part in Super Steps 2026 to support Starlight Children's Foundation by doing **10000 Steps a day in May**. Please sponsor me and support my efforts to give back and change lives.

Thank you so much,  
Annabel

<https://www.supersteps.org.au>  
<https://www.supersteps.org.au/s/17102/17916>

**Regional Events Marketing Support Program 2026-2027**

**Applications Now Open!**

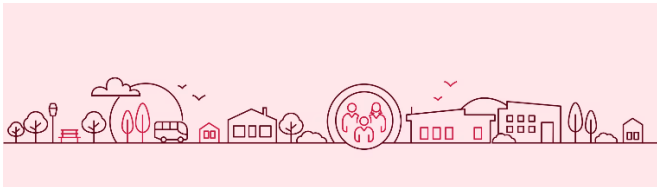
**Let us support your event**

Applications closes May 28

Full details at: <https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/contribute/funding-opportunities>

**TAMWORTH REGION** CAPITAL OF COUNTRY | **Tamworth** REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Service NSW



#### **COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS**

The NSW Government provides grant funding to local community organisations and councils to strengthen the wellbeing of NSW communities through small local infrastructure projects. Since 2009, the Community Building Partnership (CBP) program has awarded more than \$505 million to over 22,400 projects.

#### **Community Building Partnership 2026**

From \$10,000 to \$100,000

For: Local Government, Not-for-profit

**Now Open - Closing 8 May 2026**

**Applications:** Through the SmartyGrants portal.

#### **Barraba High Country Music Musta**



**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026. 12 to 4pm.**

**FREE ENTRY.**

**Walk-up artists welcome.**

**Barraba Bowling Club.**

**2026 Barra Bowlo Bash**

**Special Guest Artist Dale Hooper**

Sunday 7th 12-3pm

Barraba Bowling Club NSW

**June**

**Friday 5th**

**Saturday 6th**

**Sunday 7th**

**Everyone Welcome**

Supported by  
Nashgrill Recording Studio  
TASMA - Bunyip Guitars  
Jaycar Tamworth  
Barraba Caravan Park

**From Kevin Anderson**

## **AGE IS JUST A NUMBER: EXPERIENCE IS AN ADVANTAGE**

Experience can't be beaten, but it can be hired – that's the message going to New South Wales employers in the hunt for more workers. Shadow Minister for Seniors Kevin Anderson said older workers come with a wealth of experience, passion, skills and reliability that is an asset to the modern workforce.

"The evidence is clear – older people want to work, want to contribute and have a lot to offer in the workplace," Mr Anderson said. "Their experience, longevity, skills and reliability are an asset to any business. Our state should be leading the way in giving employers the tools they need to create an age-friendly workplace and boost the older workforce. There is a significant workforce that are below pension age but are still considered older workers who are reporting ageism in the workplace, and when looking for a job. Many older people struggle to find roles that match their experience and skills. New South Wales has an opportunity to be a leader in breaking down those ageist attitudes and in creating age-friendly workplaces."

Council of the Ageing NSW CEO Gohar Yazdabadi said older workers would benefit workplaces. "Over a third of the NSW population is aged 50 and over and older workers are a vital and often underutilised part of our workforce," Ms Yazdabadi said.

"They bring deep experience, strong work ethic, and a commitment to quality that benefits employers and communities alike. However, we continue to see unnecessary barriers and outdated attitudes that prevent older people from fully participating in the workforce. Addressing age discrimination and improving workplace flexibility will be key to unlocking this talent pool. By building more age-friendly workplaces, New South Wales has an opportunity to lead the way in ensuring that people of all ages can contribute, thrive, and remain engaged in meaningful work for longer."

### **BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS**

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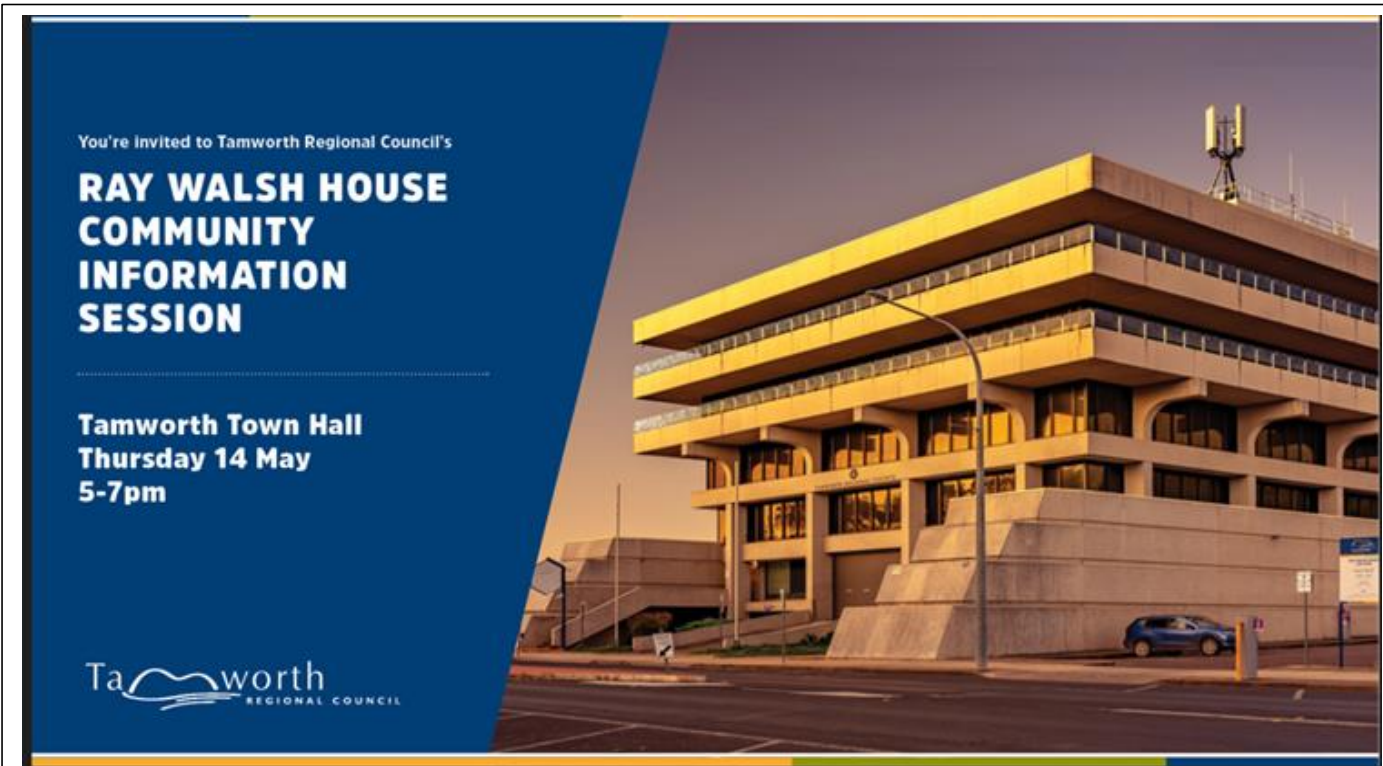
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Cnr. Alice and Fitzroy St Barraba

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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



The advertisement features a blue background on the left with white text. On the right, there is a photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a prominent yellow horizontal band across its facade. The building has large windows and a tiered structure. A blue car is parked on the street in front of the building. The text on the left reads: "You're invited to Tamworth Regional Council's RAY WALSH HOUSE COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION". Below this, it says "Tamworth Town Hall Thursday 14 May 5-7pm". At the bottom left, the Tamworth Regional Council logo is displayed.

You're invited to attend a Community Information Session about Ray Walsh House.

5pm....Thursday 14 May at Tamworth Town Hall. Questions can be pre-submitted via the Tamworth Regional Council website.

<https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/about/the-council/ray-walsh-house-remediation>



Hi my name is Annabel Kanno, I am 11 years old and I live in Barraba.

In February I completed a swimming challenge to raise money for Starlight Foundation by swimming 32km

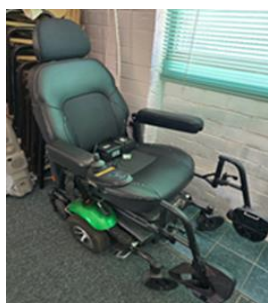
This May I have decided to take on the Super Steps challenge by doing 10000 steps a day( that's about 7km), to raise money for The Starlight Foundation.

Did you know about 44000 kids will be admitted to hospital in May? It can be pretty scary.

Through play, creativity and social connection, Starlight creates the fun and happiness seriously ill children and their parents need to help them get through their tough times.

Please sponsor me and support my efforts to give back and change lives,  
Thank you,  
Annabel

<https://www.supersteps.org.au/s/17102/17916>



### For Sale:

Merits Maverick 10 power wheelchair.  
5 years old, excellent condition with brand new batteries.  
\$1,500 Contact Amanda Koopman 0429 958 816

### 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.



### TAKE A RAZOR TO GOVERNMENT RED TAPE

Slashing red tape could be key to supporting small businesses and farmers through the ongoing fuel crisis. Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson is backing calls from the Alliance of Industry Associations to cut costs for businesses to support them through the ongoing fuel crisis.

"Small businesses and farmers are bearing the brunt of rising fuel costs spurred on by the war in the Middle East," Mr Anderson said. "It's a tough economy and these hard-working people are facing an uncertain future. Business insolvency is approaching record levels under the Labor Government. Something's got to give. Businesses are doing everything they can to avoid passing cost increases on to their customers. The government can do more to cut costs for businesses. Reducing red tape is one of the most direct levers available to the government to support businesses through this crisis. Small business owners and farmers are spending thousands of dollars and countless hours in the office dealing with overlapping regulatory compliance costs. That's got to end. I want business owners spending their time on their business, not buried in paperwork."

Shadow Minister for Small Business Gurmeh Singh said businesses deserve a break in the upcoming budget.

"The UK Government has kicked off a Regulation Action Plan with a stated goal of reducing red tape by 25-35% for small businesses," Mr Singh said. "New South Wales should do the same, and I'll be calling on the government to take their razor to government red tape ahead of the upcoming budget."



## BARRABA CREEK SCHOOL

The school, classified as a "Subsidised School", was located at "Fairview" along the Longarm road and operated from sometime in the early 1930s to the late 1940s. Barraba Creek was the original name of the McNeill property.

In the 1930s the school was set up in the wool room of the woolshed, where the bales were stored at shearing time. Nell Best (nee McNeill) in her later writings described one wall as being a tarpaulin covered with pictures cut from the *Sydney Mail*. At that time there were three families attending; the Irwin children who walked three miles from their farm, the McNeills (Nell, Maurie and Johnny) who walked one mile and the Faulkners (Edna, Norman, Pat and Gordon) who rode four miles on Paddy, a big, broad backed, quiet old horse who was quite capable of transporting the family every day.



*Background: Barraba Creek School.*

*Back: Noelene Driscoll, Nell McNeill (teacher), Wendy Bucknell  
Front: Joe Faulkner, Ted Irwin, Geoff Irwin, Bob Driscoll, Noel  
Faulkner*

Nell recounted the time that her brother, Maurie, attempted to hitch a ride with the Faulkners, all going well until another child jumped out from behind a tree, startling Paddy, with predictable results. All five riders were thrown, leaving Maurie with a broken arm.

The teacher at this time was Joyce Johnson, who later married Alf Teong.

As they became older, the McNeill children left their small school to travel by horseback to Barraba Public School, "seven miles through seven gates", as Nell continually reminded people. Nell's attainment of the Intermediate Certificate in 1938 provided her with the qualifications to take over from

Joyce as the teacher at Barraba Creek in September 1940 at the age of sixteen.

Somewhere around this date the school moved from the woolshed to a small, single room building closer to the McNeill homestead. Roger McNeill had organised the transportation of the building on a dray from Barraba.

### **Memories of McNeill's School (Barraba Creek).**

#### **Ted Irwin**

The school was held in a special school building approx. 12 ft x 18 ft. It was located about ¼ mile off the road at McNeill's run. There were 14 or 15 students. Two used to ride horses, six used to ride bikes and the rest used to walk. Ted rode a bike. The only teacher was a lady, and she held all classes. Her name was Nellie McNeill and she was firm but not strict. She maybe raised her voice a few times but never saw her use the cane. My best memory of those years was when I was about 7 years old. A magpie dived at me while I was riding my bike to school. He took the button off the top of my cap, and I headed for home. I soon got off the bike and took cover behind a tree. At this point I was 2½ miles from home and about ½ mile from the magpie. I was usually with about 5 others but this time I was on my own. The school closed when Ted was about 8 or 9 and then he did correspondence at home.

### **Memories of Barraba Creek School.**

#### **Nancy Baldwin**

I grew up on the property "Long Arm". My early memories were of playing with my doll, riding stick horses and making mud pies in our cubby house. I started school when I was 6 years old. My sisters and I had to walk three miles, to the McNeill's property "Fairview". Our school was called Barraba Creek and our teacher was Miss Nell McNeill. Our classroom was one room with an open fireplace. In the winter time we had a fire. We had long desks and long stools with a cupboard in the corner for the books. Nell had all classes from 1st class to 6th class. Besides my three sisters and myself, there was our cousin, Ted Irwin, Gordon Harper, Noelene and Bob Driscoll, Noel and Joe Faulkner and Wendy and Bill Bucknell. We played rounders at lunchtimes and played on Mr McNeill's big wagon. In the winter, going to school with the fog around and the frost, we would pretend it was fairy land with all the cobwebs like lace on the fences and tree branches. At Christmas time we would go down to the creek for a picnic. Mr McNeill grew melons and pumpkins in a paddock, and he would give us a watermelon for our picnic. Our mother and her older sister, Aunt Edie, Mrs Bucknell, Mrs Driscoll, Mrs Carter and Miss Amy McNeill would come to the picnic as well.



**Here is an overview of outcomes from 28 April 2026**

**Ordinary Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council.**

- Councillor Rodda moved a motion to charge the proposed Dungowan Pumped Hydro Project owner EDF Power Solutions a fee of \$10,000 to share data from a Dam Break Study of Dungowan Dam, paid for by Council. EDF will now consider if they give Council access to information they have prepared, in relation to dam break considerations for the lower storage dam, part of the proposed project.
- Councillors have tonight reviewed and noted the report in relation to IPART’s draft determination of Water NSW’s and Water Administration Ministerial Corporation’s Bulk Water Charges. The draft determination details, if the proposed changes are ultimately adopted Council’s cost for accessing bulk raw water across the council area will rise by 35.2% over the 3 years of the determination to 30 June 2029. Council will proceed with lodging a submission that reflects the key points outlined in the report. Future considerations concerning financial impact will be needed from Council following IPART’s final determination.
- Councillors have reviewed and noted the Annual Dams Safety Standards Report for three Council owned dams including Dungowan Dam, Connors Creek Dam and Calala Storage Dam. Council will proceed with an amendment to Council’s Dam Safety Management Policy to reflect the Calala Storage Dam is no longer a declared dam.
- Councillors have tonight considered two options in relation to the continuation of the EOI for the development of Hard Plastics Recycling Facility. This project was the recipient of grant funding from the NSW Environmental Trust. Considering timeline

restraints and updated estimates on construction costs, Council have agreed to return the funding to the NSW Environmental Trust and continue with EOI proposals for a temporary hard plastics recycling facility. Council have spent approximately \$30,000 in pursuit of this project.

- Councillors agreed to make a submission to the 2026 Murray Darling Basin Plan Review. The proposed submission detail concerns specific to the Tamworth region including increasing the importance of supplying water for critical human need over other uses, changes to relevant Water Sharing Plans to increase the security of Tamworth’s water supply, including using data from droughts since 2024 in future available water determinations and more transparency of how water allocations are made.
- An update on Council’s water supplies following a recent hot and dry weather period indicated water restrictions may be implemented for Bendemeer and Nundle in the coming months as per Council’s Drought Management Plan. The update also noted supplies for Attunga, Tamworth, Kootingal, Moonbi, Barraba and Manilla were all well above any thresholds for restrictions.
- Tonight, Council received and noted the report ‘Council Investments March 2026’. The report states that as at 31 March 2026, Council’s portfolio returned 4.35%. The current return is over and above the three-month Bank Bill Swap rate (3mBBSW) of 4.3080%.
- Councillors tonight agreed to the continued support of the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library across the region. \$200,00 will

be allocated from Council's General Fund over the next two years to enable the program to continue sending one free book per month to the 3,362 children aged 0 - 5 in the LGA who are registered with the program. Council will continue to seek corporate and community sponsorship/donations, and when possible, lobby the State Government, for funding to assist with the continued delivery of the program.

- Council received and noted the Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee Meeting minutes – 8 January 2026 and endorsed the establishment of a Mural Artist Registry and Mural Location Register. Also noted in the minutes was the success of Carols in the Park event, Entertainment Venues Subscription Season 2026, NSW Museum Advisor program and the recommendation of the installation of an additional sculpture by Emma Ferris on the Peel River Loop.

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

### ***Brendan Moylan's, MP, Website –***

#### **CALLS GROW FOR REAL ACTION ON FERAL PIG DESTRUCTION**



The NSW Opposition is again calling on the Minns Labor Government to take immediate action on the state's feral pig problem, with current population numbers spiralling out of control, damage escalating and an increase in attacks on livestock.

Shadow Minister for Agriculture Brendan Moylan has been advocating for urgent targeted control, but the government has refused to budge, and the problem is only getting worse. "Feral pigs are causing absolute carnage and destruction," Mr Moylan said. "They're tearing up crops, destroying pastures, fouling waterways and creating serious biosecurity risks, and regional communities are left to carry the cost. Until there is a serious increase in the feral pig control budget and sustained, large-scale

aerial and ground operations, feral pigs will continue to run rampant across NSW." Mr Moylan said the problem is out of control. "We don't need another review. We need the government to back farmers and regional communities with the funding and decisive action they deserve."

NSW Opposition Leader Kellie Sloane saw the destruction first-hand on a recent visit to Nyngan in western NSW. "I heard the stories from farmers out west and saw the damage these feral pigs are doing at night, coming after lambs and tearing up properties," Mrs Sloane said. "Farmers tell us the feral pig population has exploded and they feel forgotten by the government."

The NSW Government recently announced another review into feral pig populations but farmers across the state don't need another study. They need action.

#### **THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO SUPPORT OUR FARMERS AS DROUGHT WORSENS**

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan has called on the Minns Labor Government to start supporting regional communities with more than 70 per cent of his electorate now classed as drought affected. The NSW Department of Primary Industries' Combined Drought Indicator map indicates the drought status of the entire state. Currently more than 50 per cent is drought affected but Mr Moylan said the government has failed to acknowledge the seriousness of the problem.

"I have been banging on doors and doing everything I can to get the government to support our farmers," he said. "I have made more than 30 representations to the Minister for Agriculture but this city-centric government has not responded. The southern part of the state has been in drought for two years and they have failed to provide any relief in the form of grants and subsidies. All that has been provided are loans and no one wants to take on more debt."

Dry conditions are expected to worsen with the DPI's drought forecast indicating a continuation and expansion of the current circumstances. "There's no sign of improvement in the near future with the current forecast looking very grim until at least November," Mr Moylan said. "Then you add in the ongoing fuel crisis and fertiliser shortages and the outlook farmers is tough. I have extended an invitation to the Minister for Agriculture to visit the Northern Tablelands to see first-hand how serious the conditions are. It is time for the government to act without delay before the situation escalates into another devastating drought with lasting impacts on farmers, families and regional economies. They cannot continue to neglect the needs of regional and rural NSW."

### 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

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – 8.45am  
Please note new time for the next few months.  
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



**Level up your beef operation!**

North West Local Land Services is hosting the 2026 North West Beef Producers Forum this May. Stay productive with an update from global market analyst Simon Quilty, tailored seasonal forecasts, advice on confinement feeding and new ag technologies, as well as insights into supply chain requirements.

13 May 2025  
Tamworth Jockey Club

Scan to register or call  
1300 795 299



### North West Beef Producers Forum 2026 offering timely advice on remaining productive during dry times

With dry seasonal conditions and a fuel shortage creating challenges for beef producers in the North West this year, advice on offer at the 2026 North West Beef Producers Forum in May will focus on helping producers navigate the season ahead.

Tailored for beef producers, the event will feature an update on global beef markets, seasonal forecasts, advice on drought strategies and herd decision-making, new ag technologies, as well as insights into supply chain requirements with Teys Australia. The event will be held on Wednesday 13 May at the Tamworth Jockey Club.

Naomi Hobson, North West Local Land Services Team Leader Land Services Sustainable Agriculture said this year's event will

provide much needed advice about the seasonal outlook and herd decision making, while also featuring insights into new innovation such as virtual fencing. "We are especially looking forward to hearing from Simon Quilty," she said. "A deep dive into beef markets in Australia and globally will be a great asset to beef producers looking to make some tough decisions in the coming months. Nutrien's Senior Science Fellow Eric Snodgrass will also provide a detailed climate forecast tailored for the North West and surrounding regions to give producers a better understanding of where the season is headed."

This year the event will feature presentations from Simon Quilty, Market Analyst at Global AgriTrends, Eric Snodgrass, Senior Science Fellow at Nutrien, Ellie Bennet, Representative from Halter Virtual Fencing, Gus Rose, University of New England's 'Decide and Thrive' Project, and Ethan Mooney, Livestock Strategic Operations Manager at Teys in addition to insights from the Local Land Services Sustainable Agriculture team. Teys Australia are generously supporting this event.

Throughout the day, attendees will also be able to explore a trade fair, with exhibitors on site showcasing products, services, and practical solutions for beef producers. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

The event is free, but registration is essential. To register for the event visit the North West Local Land Services website at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/local-land-services/events/north-west-beef-producers-forum-2026>.

Interested landholders can also phone their closest North West Local Land Services office on 1300 795 299 for more information.



### COMMUNITY BANDS PROGRAM

The Regional Community Bands Program supports the work of

community bands in regional NSW through an annual program providing small grants to support their activities.

#### Key information

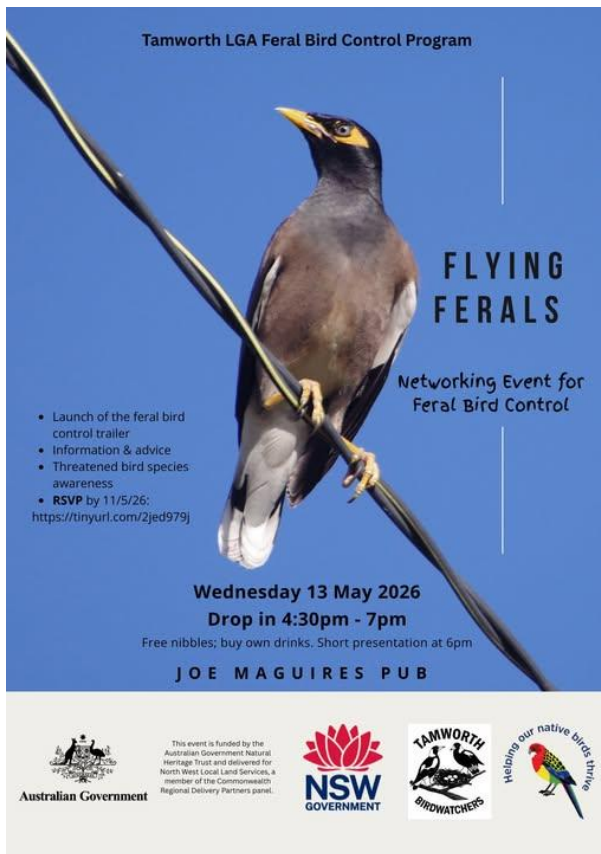
Grant amount: Up to \$2,500

Application opened: 17 February 2026

Application closes: 19 May 2026, 2:00 pm

#### Program objective

Through on-demand, quick response funding, the program will address challenges in sustaining community bands in regional NSW due to limited access to funding, dispersed populations from which to draw membership and travel required for members to participate.



**'FLYING FERALS' - WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2026**

Join us for a casual gathering of likeminded community members together with the supporters of the Tamworth LGA Feral Bird Control Program!

We'll be launching the feral bird control trailer, funded by Tamworth Regional Council and made locally by the Tamworth Community Men's Shed – providing a free and convenient option for the humane disposal of feral birds trapped at home.

See our promo flyer for details!

RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/2jed979j>

This event is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered for North West Local Land Services, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.

**'Deer' and here: Feral deer breeding season action underway**

With Australia's feral deer population now in breeding season, innovative approaches to better understand their movements across landscapes and manage their spread are rolling out on the ground and on our screens.

The Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) is using GPS technology to track fine-scale feral deer movement patterns, habitat use and home range behaviour within a New South Wales population centre.

CISS Lead Researcher for Feral Animal Projects, Darren Marshall says, "This is an exciting project for CISS as it transfers our

acknowledged expertise in GPS collaring for feral pigs to deer for the first time. We'll be collaborating with New South Wales Local Land Services in the Port Macquarie region to better understand Rusa deer movements in that peri-urban environment."

"The project builds on Rusa deer management undertaken in the region over many years. But what makes it special – and an Australian first – is a higher incidence of GPS datapoints from each animal. The collars will transmit nearly 300 datapoints each day to reveal new insights into individual deer behaviour and provide rich data for our movement analysis work with the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. This analysis will not only help inform local management approaches but also provide key information on how deer interact with the community and the built environment. Critically, for example, where and when they're crossing roads, as well as other interactions impacting residents," Mr Marshall said.

Meanwhile, the National Feral Deer Management Coordination Program's 'Cute but costing us dearly' social awareness campaign is appearing on screens nationally via Facebook, 9Now and YouTube. 'Cute but costing us dearly' first trialled in 2022 to educate Australians about the threats of feral deer, shifting public attitudes about the species from natural novelties to costly environmental vandals and public safety risks. It is funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

Dr Jane McKenzie, National Feral Deer Management Coordinator, says the campaign builds community awareness about the invasive species, an understanding of their impacts and the need for control. "While deer may appear charming, the campaign will reach Australians across the country with the message that their rapidly growing deer populations are not only endangering public safety on roads and rail but placing increasing pressure on our natural environments and farming communities. This is the best time to spot deer and signs of activity, such as rubbing their antlers on shrubs and trees. It's important to report sightings and signs of live and dead deer through the app, particularly in areas with low deer populations where they can otherwise go unnoticed. These reports are especially valuable where we know their numbers are still low: for example, feral deer are encroaching on the outskirts of Brisbane, Hobart, Adelaide and south of Perth. Compared to the previous year, last year's campaign saw a 72% increase in reporting of deer sightings, including in new areas, and a 140% increase in visits to the DeerScan map – strengthening the evidence base needed to guide coordinated management. This year, we're hoping to see the campaign prompt even more reporting from our communities."

## HERITAGE FESTIVAL

### Moonbi Museum Open Day



**Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 May and Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 May. 10am – 3pm**

Moonbi Museum next to Moonbi shops on the highway is a great local Museum. Tribute is paid to early settlers and farming activities of the area as well as local sporting and cultural activities. Moonbi has a significant history in the poultry industry of NSW. Enjoy a beautiful drive from Tamworth to see our museum, with its village well, the beautifully restored Buggy and a great selection of hand tools, household paraphernalia. Of interest are the compiled family history books of local families.

**Cost:** Donations welcome

**Location:** Moonbi Museum, 41 Gill Street, Moonbi

### Tamworth Film & Sound Archive Open Day



**Tuesday 12 May. 9:30am – 3pm**

Discover more about the history of photography in Tamworth with the Tamworth Regional Film and Sound Archive's new display.

The Archive will also open its doors and visitors will have the opportunity to handle old still cameras like the ones on display.

**Cost:** Free. **Location:** 218 Peel Street, Tamworth

### Manilla Museum Markets

**16 May @ 8:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Discover the charm of the Manilla Museum Markets, held in beautiful Pioneer Park from 8am to 1pm on the third Saturday of every month (weather permitting, excluding December and

January). Browse a wonderful range of locally produced goods, including plants, honey, jewellery, homemade cakes, painted homewares, t-shirts, hair accessories, and more. Take a moment to relax in the gardens with a tea, coffee, or cool drink, and don't miss the BBQ gurus serving up delicious steak sandwiches and sausage sangas. It's the perfect morning out to explore local creativity, support small makers, and enjoy the warm Manilla community atmosphere.



### Community markets

#### First line up of artists announced for Tamworth's 26<sup>th</sup> Hats Off To Country Festival

The first round of headline acts for this year's 'Hats Off To Country' Festival have been announced, including Golden Guitar winners **Amber Lawrence, Brendan Radford** and **The Bushwackers, Dear Tommie, Mak & Shar** and **Jason Owen**.

The popular mid-year festival will take place from 10-12 July, with performances to be held in venues right across Tamworth.



**HATS OFF TO COUNTRY TAMWORTH 2026**  
FRI 10 - SUN 12 JULY  
Tamworth's mid-year cooler festival

**AMBER LAWRENCE, BRENDAN RADFORD, DEAR TOMMIE, JASON OWEN, MAK & SHAR, THE BUSHWACKERS, STRIKE A CHORD**  
FEATURING **ALEYCE SIMMONDS, ALLISON FORBES, GOLDHEIST, SALLY-ANNE WHITTEN AND ROZ PAPPALARDO** AND MANY MORE.

Proudly supported by  
**Tamworth** REGIONAL COUNCIL **TAMWORTH REGION** CAPITAL OF COUNTRY



## Government's commitment to aged care beds a welcome first step

Ageing Australia welcomes the Federal Government's \$3 billion dollar commitment to aged care in the upcoming budget as a vital first step, with more work needed to cater to Australia's surging ageing population.

The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Ageing announced today:

- New targeted capital subsidies for residential aged care, providing additional funding for supported residents for newly built or refurbished homes.
- An increase to the Accommodation Supplement.
- Structural changes to introduce new tiers, and additional payment for homes with more than 60% supported residents

The Government says the package will deliver an extra 5,000 beds a year. "We welcome any investment in aged care that can provide more beds at a difficult time for the Australian economy," Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson said. "We have highlighted time and time again, that additional investment into aged care cannot wait and beds do not build themselves. So we're pleased that the government has heeded these warnings and pushed some of the outcomes of the accommodation review forward. Whilst today's announcement is a good start, we have been very clear with government that much more will be needed if we're going to build 10,000 additional beds each and every year over the next two decades. In addition, need to make sure that existing beds don't close."

"The \$5 increase for existing beds announced today is less than half the \$13 gap between current funding and the cost of providing accommodation. The \$5 increase for existing beds announced today is less than half the \$13 gap between current funding and the cost of providing accommodation. And the need is urgent. To put it into perspective, last year instead of 10,000 beds, we built only 800. Even now we're showing strains on the system with residential aged care sitting at about 94% capacity nationally, and in many capital cities, that number is 100%. More and more homes are putting up the no vacancies sign every day."

Ageing Australia also welcomes the Government's commitment of \$200 million for 20 additional Specialist Dementia Care Program units and an expansion of the Hospital to Aged Care Dementia Support Program. The Government has also promised to release more 'Support at Home Packages', with details to follow in the federal budget. At last count more than 200,000 Australians were waiting for a package or waiting just to be assessed, so we eagerly await the Government's announcement."

## Ageing Australia welcomes decision to abolish contributions for showers for older people

Ageing Australia has welcomed the Federal Government's decision to reclassify showering as 'clinical care' under the Support at Home program, calling it a win for the dignity of older Australians.

The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Ageing and the Hon Sam Rae MP, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, today announced that showering will move from the 'personal care' category, which attracts client contributions of between 5% and 50%, to the 'clinical care' category, which is contribution free.

"We commend the Government for listening to the significant concerns of older people and providers," Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson said. "Sweeping reforms will always have unintended consequences, and we've been clear from the outset that charging contributions for showering needed to be kept under constant review to ensure the best possible outcomes for older people."

"Since the reforms were implemented on 1 November 2025, our members have been deeply concerned about those unintended consequences. Particularly alarming has been the increasing evidence that older people were reducing the number of showers they had or forgoing them altogether due to cost. That is the worst possible outcome. Showering is not just about hygiene and health, it's about basic human dignity. The Government's decision to fully fund it as part of the upcoming Budget reflects our values as a society and should give older people greater confidence that they will be able to access the services they need, when they need them."





## Round 4 Wrap Up - Barraba Bulldogs Show Strength Across All Grades

The Barraba Rugby League Football Club hosted Guyra at Barraba Recreation Ground on the weekend, with a large crowd of supporters turning out to witness all three grades in action — a strong sign of the club’s growing momentum within the community.

The Ladies League Tag side continued their impressive form with a 24–16 victory, built on tries from Nicole Coombes, Natalie Phillpott, Talia Gillogly and Brooke McKinnon. Charlie Norton was reliable with the boot, converting opportunities to secure the win.

In Reserve Grade, Barraba prevailed in a tightly contested match, defeating Guyra 22–20. Logan Withers led the way with two tries and added conversions, supported by strong performances from Daniel Earl, Jeremy York and Jack Mallise scored the winning try in the final minutes.

First Grade delivered an entertaining, high-scoring contest, with Barraba narrowly defeated by Guyra 28–34. Try scorers included Matt Sly, Dylan Walker, Brodie Cummins, Michael Rutherford and Kane Ward, while Joey Latham contributed four goals.

At the conclusion of the match, an altercation occurred between players from both teams, resulting in one player from each side being sent off. Despite this, the match remained a closely fought and entertaining contest for the strong crowd in attendance.

First Grade Coach Tim Coombes said: "It’s the first time the side has played a full match, and I saw so many positives – it really highlighted the talent of our young players." The strong crowd attendance and support across the day highlighted the continued growth of the Barraba Bulldogs, with all three grades competing strongly and demonstrating the club’s depth across men’s and women’s competitions.

The club extends its thanks to all volunteers, sponsors and supporters whose efforts continue to drive the successful return of rugby league to Barraba. The next home game will be Saturday, 23 May 2026.



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