



FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 20th May 2026



YES, it is ON - TOMORROW from 9am in the usual spot – the **Queen Street Mall**.

BARRABA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Barraba Cancer Patients Fund Raising Group Inc. will again be conducting their annual Biggest Morning Tea fund raising Street Stall, tomorrow, **Thursday 21st May**. Complete with all of their home baked, homemade delights, a 100 Club, a Guessing Competition, and more on the trading table, the morning should be a very sociable one, with deliciously filled morning tea plates and steaming hot cuppa's for sale to enjoy as well, in the Mall. For those Businesses that cannot make it to the Mall, there will be 'home delivered' goodies throughout the township. The local band 'Old Spice' will be there to entertain the crowd too, with their old time favourite tunes – a treat for all to hear!

The local group are looking forward to hosting this worthy event, whereby funds raised are donated to the Cancer Council of NSW, and other Australian cancer related organizations. We invite the whole community to again support this extremely worthwhile cause. All donations to the morning are welcome, either on the stall table or otherwise.



BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

Phone 67821379

For the information of members and guests.

THIS WEEK

**THURSDAY 21st MAY
BINGO**

First game starts at 6pm

**FRIDAY 22nd May
MEAT RAFFLES**

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm
Membership Draw \$2000 (2 draws)

**SUNDAY 24th May
ANGLER CLUB RAFFLES**
Membership Draw \$1500

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



**Barraba Potters and Craft Guild
Street Stall**

**Thursday 28th May. 9am till sold out
Outside the Playhouse Hotel
All donations gratefully accepted**

Barraba Cancer Patients Fund Raising Group Inc.



Street Stall
**TOMORROW,
THURSDAY 21ST MAY,
from 9am.
Queen Street Mall**

BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Starlight SUPER STEPS
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>

Annabel has been keeping up the running and walking, even thrown in some skipping! She's a little tired from the athletics carnival on Friday though!! Annabel has raised \$300 so far, not including donations left with Saunders. Thank you, Barraba for supporting Annabel again to help sick kids.

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

Warm & Woolly Exhibition

Barraba Claypan & Fuller Gallery
Friday 5th - Monday 8th June
10am - 3pm Daily

YESTERYEAR display

For Sale

- 2010 White Toyota Hilux 4x2 Workmate, single cabin
 - 2.7 litre Petrol
 - 5 speed manual
 - Towbar and Traymaster tray
 - Rego till 04/2027
 - Odometer: 111091km
- One owner only, solid, reliable, runs well and work-ready.
\$8000.00
Contacts: V McCusker 0455788815, A Wilson 0428713941

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.



Barraba Potters and Craft Guild News

Warm and Woolly, Tree Bombing and Yesteryear Exhibition is on again over the JUNE Long Weekend.

Guild Members are busy knitting and crocheting brightly coloured squares in preparation to bomb the trees and footpath seat in front of the Gallery and Museum.

President Mandy Cabot said that *“Tree Bombing is set to happen on Friday the 5th of June from 10am with the exhibition opening that day, and will remain open until the 8th June 2026 at 3pm”.*

2026 special feature will be a display from *“Yesteryear”*. A sample of items that we already have for display so far are pottery by Colleen Capel, Kath Spencer, Liz Cannington & Nora Buck.



“Do you remember Kath Spencer’s Swagmen”?


Portable wind up record player, Ericsson radio with headphones and a 1940’s theodolite. (For sale from Michael Clinch).

Framed Jacobean Embroidery by Audrey Statham, Candlewick quilt, vacola preserving set and cook books, just to name a few.

If you have anything to loan, please contact Patti on 0459608486.

Homemade morning tea and lunch will be available again for a very reasonable price on Saturday and Sunday. The fire will be burning to keep you warm on our winter days.

 **Morning Tea: Saturday** from 10am – “Bottomless” cup of tea or coffee with a plate of homemade Devonshire tea - \$10pp

 **Morning Tea: Sunday** from 10am – “Bottomless” cup of tea or coffee with a slice of homemade Sponge cake with jam and cream - \$10pp



Lunch from 12md On Saturday & Sunday only– Bowl of soup, bread roll, tea or coffee and biscuit - \$16pp

There will be a spinning demonstration on Saturday along with hand knitted articles, crochet articles, pottery, paintings, photography and craft items for sale in the Fuller Gallery over the weekend.

Plus, raffle tickets for Meat voucher, Fruit and Veg voucher and bottle of wine. Don’t miss out, \$2/ticket

Make it a weekend and come and stay in Barraba.

www.visitbarraba.com.au



JUDE’S TOMATO SOUP

Ingredients:

- 800g tomatoes (canned)
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed...optional
- 60g butter
- 1 heaped teaspoon vegeta stock powder...or chicken stock powder
- 1 tablespoon sugar or to taste
- cracked black pepper to taste
- 600ml chicken stock
- 1 can evaporated milk
- crème fraiche, optional
- basil, optional

Method:

In a large pot and over medium heat add butter, onions and garlic and sauté until transparent. Add tomato paste and cook out for 2 minutes before adding sugar, stock powder, pepper, tomatoes and chicken stock. Cook over gentle heat for 10 minutes. When the soup has cooled enough blend and sieve, return to the pot to reheat. Remove from heat, add evaporated milk, adjust seasonings and sugar and serve with a dollop of crème fraiche and torn basil.



Woodsreef School



The first school was a one room building and was built on the Creek bank. At first the school was 3 days a week at Woodsreef and 2 days a week at Ironbark. Mr W. Woodhouse took charge on 13th September, 1901 and remained at the school until April, 1942. Mr Woodhouse taught both schools. At first, he walked the distance to 'Ironbark' from 'Anglesey' where he was boarding but later he travelled on horseback.

During 1901, nineteen pupils were enrolled at the school. They were:



Ivy Marian Saunders, Clarice M. Saunders, Ella Maud Tyrrell, Kathleen Mitchell, Harriet A. Graham, Sidney J. Saunders, Arthur J. Reading, Albert Reading, Sidney S. Reading, Frederick R. Saunders, William James Tyrrell, James Thompson, Thorton Spencer, George King, Ernest Hayes, Henry Graham, John Cotton, Charles Cotton, William E. Cotton.

The second school building was built about 1907. After the closure of Woodsreef School in December, 1965, this building was transferred to Barraba Central School. The school became full-time in 1914. Mr Woodhouse married Miss Ivy Saunders in 1907 and in the same year built a

residence to the east of the school. Mr Woodhouse kept bees and any interested children were shown how to look after bees. He also looked after the stock on the common. During his years at Woodsreef, Mr Woodhouse and his wife were active in the following pursuits:

They operated the local Post Office as well as selling stores to the inhabitants.

He cultivated a thriving vegetable garden, the produce of which he sold.

He operated a licensed dairy.

He was possibly the first in the district to purchase a car.

On quite a number of occasions it was necessary for him to act as the doctor and the dentist. Many old residents can recall clearly the times when "Old Woody" removed teeth with the aid only of a pair of forceps and a "hefty tug".

Visiting Geologist

A recent Saturday morning Museum opening evolved into a very interesting experience when a visiting geologist from Sydney identified and labelled our rock collection. Of particular interest, and pictured below, is this locally found fossilized plant, a leptophloeum – a mere 360 million years old ! Our visitor also identified another mysterious rock as opalized wood.



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS
COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Published by Community College Northern Inland Inc.

Cnr. Alice and Fitzroy St Barraba
 Contacts: Bronwyn 0447 165 008 or Office: 67821662
 Email news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au
 Printed on site at the Community College. Free publication by email or collection from local Barraba main street businesses



RECOGNISING LOCAL ADVOCATES THIS PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK

Caring for a loved one during the latter stages of their life is a deeply personal time requiring love, care and strength. Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson MP said National Palliative Care Week is a strong reminder of the importance of having conversations, raising awareness, and advocating for palliative care.

“When someone enters palliative care, it is a very difficult time for patients, their families and their friends and they deserve the utmost support and care,” Mr Anderson said. “It’s a tough topic, and people don’t tend to discuss the importance of high-quality palliative care until they need it. In our region, the staff and clinicians of the Nioka Palliative Care Unit do an outstanding job in providing high-quality compassionate clinical inpatient care. Local advocacy group Friends of Nioka have been instrumental in supporting that ward for many years, working hard to advocate for patients and improved services in the region.”

Friends of Nioka’s Bryan Singh said the support of health workers and clinicians throughout palliative care is critical. “Palliative care is critical for patients and families through one of the toughest times of their lives. We appreciate the support of Government and Hunter New England Health in delivering services both in Nioka Palliative Care Ward, and for patients in their home.”

Mr Anderson worked with Friends of Nioka to win a commitment for a \$21m upgrade to the palliative care unit, which will double its capacity from 6 beds to 12. “Friends of Nioka recognised that the ward needed to be bigger, and offer more support to patients and families, so doubling the size is a great outcome,” Mr Anderson said. “There will also be a room where families can stay, meaning when someone is near the end of life, their families will be able to stay with them.”

Construction on the upgraded Nioka Palliative Care Unit has begun and expected to be completed in early 2027.

The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP Member for New England

JOYCE CONTINUES FIGHT FOR LOST SUPER

The Federal One Nation Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, has urged people to check their superannuation funds to ascertain if they may be linked to funds such as the Shield or First Guardian Master Funds which collapsed last year, robbing thousands of Australians of their retirement savings.

Mr Joyce has been demanding further, urgent government action to assist those people who have lost their money through no fault of their own to recover their retirement savings and to question and hold to account those involved with the mismanagement and loss of these funds, having again raised this issue in the House of Representatives during this week’s sitting of Parliament.

“Now we hear that 400 investors in Lion Property Group have lost around \$250 million,” Mr Joyce said. “As an accountant and former auditor, it is clear to me there are some very important questions which need to be asked of those involved with the various companies and processes which have resulted in thousands of hardworking Australians losing around \$1.2 Billion,” he said.

“So:

- Who approved the financial licences these companies used?
- Who reviewed them?
- Who audited those funds and trustees?
- How much did they charge?
- Where are the working papers to prove diligence in the process?
- What qualifications, if any, were given on the audit reports?
- Who was responsible on the company boards for audit?
- What process did ASIC use in checking compliance?
- What fees were charged by any in the process of investment?
- What due diligence was done by those who charged fees?
- What minutes of board meetings spoke to issues prior to the collapse?
- If any organisation received remuneration, what did they do for it to protect the investors?

“If ASIC can’t protect investors from malfeasance, then what exactly is their job? ASIC have advised that around 11,000 investors are known to have invested in good faith their money, including their retirement savings into Shield and First Guardian, however there may be many more people

who are unaware they have lost their money. People caught up with the collapse of these schemes may be able to obtain compensation by lodging a complaint with the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA), however, they need to take action now and lodge their complaint,” Mr Joyce said.

AFCA can be contacted by calling 1800 931 678 for free (9am – 5pm Melbourne time), or lodging a complaint online on AFCA’s website at: <https://www.afca.org.au/make-a-complaint>

Further information is available at: <https://takeyoursuperback.com/>

Mr Joyce paid tribute to Save our Super (SOS) advocacy group’s Melinda Kee who has been leading the fight on this issue. “Of the 11,000 Australians affected by the collapse of First Guardian, 7,000 plus are still waiting for the government to act,” Ms Kee said. “These tax paying Australians used licensed advisers, regulated platforms and APRA regulated trustees. They operated within the framework of Australia’s superannuation system, including SMSFs,” she said.

Mr Joyce said that he will be meeting with ASIC in an endeavour to further progress this issue on behalf of affected investors.



Here is an overview of outcomes from the Ordinary Meeting

of Tamworth Regional Council Tuesday 12 May 2026.

Ø Tonight’s meeting began with an acknowledgement of the 150th anniversary of the first Mayor of Tamworth, Alderman Philip Gidley King, elected on 12 May 1876. Mayor Webb expressed his appreciation of all past and present Councillors, staff and community leaders who have contributed to local government in Tamworth. Four youth councillors were also in attendance to mark the occasion.

Ø Councillors tonight endorsed the public exhibition of two draft Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs) for the approved Calala Battery Energy Storage System and Thunderbolts Wind Farm projects. The draft VPAs will provide nearly \$5.4 million to the community through monetary contributions to Council and separately managed community benefit funds over the life of the developments. The draft VPAs will be placed on public exhibition later this month for 28 days, giving the community an opportunity to

review and provide feedback before a further report is presented to Council.

Ø Councillors tonight reviewed the Draft 2026/2027 Operational Plan and Budget. The suite of documents included with the plan are the Draft 2026/2027 Statement of Revenue Policy, 2026/2027 Draft Fees and Charges, New Fees and Charges, and Fees and Charges Discontinued. All documents will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days as per the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

Ø As part of a 2026/2027 Draft Budget Review, Councillors have committed to finding \$3.6 million in savings in the coming financial year for General Fund operations to meet contractual obligations. This is necessary to prevent inadvertent utilisation of restricted water and sewer funds.

Ø Councillors tonight decided to withdraw from the Murray Darling Association after becoming a financial member and part of the association’s Region 11 in 2022. Councillors decided, given recent experience where member Councils across region 11 could not agree on the main points to be raised in response to the review of the Murray Darling Basin Plan, that common ground on issues facing communities within the Basin would be unable to be found in the future. As a result, the Association would be unable to formulate a compelling message, endorsed by all members, on Basin wide issues, to lobby State and the Australian governments and therefore Council’s ongoing membership of the Association could not be justified.

Ø A report outlining results from a Regional Water Network Leak Detection Program was reviewed by Councillors tonight. The leak detection program, funded and implemented by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) inspected water networks in Attunga, Barraba, Bendemeer and Manilla in March. DCCEEW found a total of 19 leaks with a total leak volume of 98.5 litres per minute. Four leaks were found post water -meter, with all four customers previously identified and notified of the leak through Council’s automated water meters.

Ø Councillor Marc Sutherland will participate as a panel member at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Summit on the Gold Coast on 4 June 2026 after his attendance was approved by Council. The panel will be facilitated by the Aboriginal Languages Trust and the discussion will focus on the principles and case studies included in the Our Languages, Our Way Guidelines, and will explore the impacts that broader language use is having on Aboriginal language revitalisation efforts in NSW. The trip will come at no cost to

Council with expenses covered by the Aboriginal Languages Trust.

Ø Councillors approved the allocation of \$80,000 from the Parry Bushfire Reserve to go to the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) to extend the Kootingal RFS brigade station. Funds in the Parry Bushfire Reserve have been collected from development across the former Parry Shire area over many years. These funds are for the specific purpose of assisting the RFS to upgrade their facilities to improve their response to fires in those locations.

Ø Councillor's approved Tennis Australia's request of \$30,000 per year in sponsorship to host the ITF World Tennis Tour events in Tamworth in 2026 and 2027. The event will be held over two weeks and forms an important part of Australia's tennis pathway, providing opportunities for emerging and professional players. The successful delivery of the 2025 Capital of Country International Pro Tennis event demonstrated the region's capability to host high quality sporting events and Council looks to capitalise on the two-year partnership to boost the region's economy and profile as a tourism destination.

For more information, see the full reports at www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/business-papers



Ageing Australia alarmed at lack of new funding for home and community care

Ageing Australia is alarmed at the lack of Support at Home packages announced in tonight's Federal Budget.

The Government has announced an additional \$389.8 million in funding for Support at Home, which brings forward new packages, extends End-of-Life Pathway funding, supports a review of the Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT), and digitisation of the financial hardship assistance process.

While we have strongly advocated for many of these announcements and welcome them, the funding falls well short of the amount required to address the national Support at Home waitlist. We are also concerned by the lack of new funding for the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), which delivers care to more than 840,000 older people and is already at capacity.

"This is fast approaching a national emergency. At last count, more than 200,000 older Australians were either waiting for a Support at Home package or waiting just to be assessed," Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson said. "This funding clearly won't meet increased demand over the next 12 months, let alone clear the backlog. This creates a real risk to those older people who are waiting for care and increases the chances they will experience poor outcomes or hospitalisation while they wait to get to the front of the queue. We've been clear that providers have the capacity to care for more older Australians at home, but we can't do that without more packages. It's heartbreaking for providers to be forced to turn older people away who are begging for help."

"Enabling older Australians to remain in their own homes is a fundamental part of maintaining their independence and their dignity. It also has a flow on effect to the entire health system and takes pressure off growing wait lists for residential aged care, which is now effectively full. While we await the outcomes of the Senate Inquiry into CHSP, we have been pushing for new investment into this critical program. We already know that people across the country are struggling to get the care they need in the community, and this puts even further pressure on Support at Home and residential care capacity."

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 24th 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, 2nd Sunday of each month

Mystery deepens over promised gun buyback as states refuse to sign on

by [RK Crosby](#). Edited from the New England Times April 20, 2026



The fate of a promised national gun buyback scheme has become increasingly unclear, with the once-urgent reform now stalled amid disagreement between governments and lingering questions over whether it will proceed at all. Announced in the immediate aftermath of the Bondi Beach Chanukah Massacre, the buyback was framed as a decisive, nation-shaping response. Four months on, it has yet to secure the support required to get off the ground.

The Albanese Government pledged in December to deliver the largest overhaul of gun laws since the aftermath of the Port Arthur massacre, including a national buyback scheme to remove newly banned and illegal firearms from circulation.

At the time, the language was unequivocal. "This national buyback scheme will help get guns off our streets, and help keep all Australians safe," Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said. "Australia led the world in gun control after Port Arthur. A generation later it's time to update our laws to keep our country safe," Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke said.

The urgency of the moment was driven by the December attack at Bondi Beach, described by the government as a deadly antisemitic terrorist incident that exposed gaps in both firearms access and broader counter-terrorism settings. In New South Wales, Premier Chris Minns and Police Minister Yasmin Catley moved quickly to introduce what they described as "the toughest gun law reforms in a generation," including strict caps on firearm ownership, tighter licensing rules and enhanced compliance checks.

A buyback scheme was central to those reforms, intended to accompany new restrictions and encourage owners to surrender firearms that would become illegal.

But the confidence and clarity of those December announcements have given way to a far more uncertain reality. A March deadline set by the Commonwealth for

states and territories to agree to the scheme has come and gone without consensus. Several jurisdictions have refused to sign on, effectively halting progress on what was intended to be a nationally consistent reform.

Federal officials have struck a frustrated tone in response. "It's for states and territories to justify to Australians if they intend to stand in the way of getting those guns off our streets," a federal government spokesperson said. "All governments should be working to help to keep Australians safe. National cabinet agreed to strengthen gun laws across the nation. The reforms would be the largest since Port Arthur in 1996. Gun laws are only as strong as the weakest state. Having laws that are national and consistent is vital to their effectiveness."

While the Commonwealth has led the policy push and proposed a 50:50 funding model, responsibility for implementing the buyback rests with the states and territories. Without their agreement, the scheme cannot proceed in a meaningful way. At the time, the Commonwealth had set an ambitious timeline: agreement by March 2026 and legislation in place by July. That schedule now appears increasingly unrealistic.

New South Wales maintains it is still committed to the national approach, saying they are still working on that which is doomed to fail. So far, Queensland and the Northern Territory have now both stated they will not participate in the buyback, and South Australia does not intend to tighten gun laws. Victoria is not committing either way. At the other end of the spectrum, Western Australia has implemented its own buyback and Tasmania is under way with one. ACT has signed on with NSW to the federal program.

Neither NSW nor federal government spokespeople would give a clear answer on what will happen given the lack of agreement from other states, leaving local gun owners in limbo. Federal Member for Parkes Jamie Chaffey said the reforms were driven more by political urgency than practical planning. "Both the New South Wales and Federal Labor governments charged into these reforms boots-and-all following the horrific events at Bondi on 14 December," Mr Chaffey said. He said the lack of consultation with key stakeholders, including farmers, sporting shooters and gun retailers, had undermined confidence in the proposal from the beginning.

Mr Chaffey said the failure to secure agreement from the states and territories confirmed deeper problems with the policy.

Thanks to Penny Hand for sharing an update on the Food Map project

April 2026



MAP My
FOOD

Map My Food data collection is now in its final month - but it's not the end!!

What does this mean?

- We had 3 intense months of data collection across the communities of **Tamworth Regional Council** and **Colac Otway Shire** in late 2025
- We have over **300 individual responses from community** - importantly telling us the stories of where, how and why people get their food
- Some schools in the **Tamworth Regional Council** are continuing to promote participation in Map My Food in their communities until the end of April 2026
- The project team is planning on meeting with the **community advisory groups** later in the year to discuss some of the preliminary findings:
 - Colac Otway: 12 August 2026 (TBC)
 - Tamworth region: 4 September 2026 (TBC)

This will allow the research team to introduce findings and also discuss potential implementation ideas that were generated through the data collection phase.

PAPERS

'A Human-Centred Co-Design Framework for Developing a Web-Based Platform to Engage With Rural Australian Communities: Addressing the Complex Issue of Healthy Food Access' has now been published. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to read this paper.

The operational team are busy writing papers and this will continue over the coming months. Any Chief / Associate Researchers are invited to contact either Penny or Cindy if they would like to contribute.

CONTACT US

Feel free to contact us if you have any queries at all or are interested in hearing more about the project.

Dr. Cindy Needham - cindy.needham@deakin.edu.au

This project is supported by a Medical Research Futures Fund Early-Middle Career Research Grant - Incubator stream (ID:2030589).

Visit us on the web at <https://iht.deakin.edu.au/project/mapmy/>





Manilla Vintage Machinery Group Annual Rally
Saturday 6 June - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday 7 June – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Step back in time at the Manilla Vintage Machinery Group Annual Rally, returning to the Manilla Showground on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June 2026. Held under the shadow of Manilla’s historic viaduct, this much-loved event will feature a huge display of stationary engines, vintage tractors, trucks, cars and motorbikes, along with sheep shearing, a jumping castle, fairy floss, snow cones and popcorn for the whole family to enjoy.

A special highlight for 2026 is a celebration of 80 years of “The Little Grey Fergie”, along with new pavilion exhibitions and a street parade at 11am on Saturday. There’ll also be market and trade stalls, plus a tractor trek on Friday to kick off the weekend. The rally runs Saturday from 9am to 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 3pm, with entry \$10 for adults and free for children under 16.



2026 National Cutting Horse Association of Australia (NCHA) Futurity. 24 May - 7 June

The Annual National Cutting Horse Association of Australia (NCHA) Cutting Futurity has grown into the richest three-year-old performance horse event in Australia, attracting more than 800 competitors and paying out over \$900,000 in cash and prizes!

It incorporates the best cutting seen in the nation, the largest country/western rural trade displays, restaurants, bars, big screen and the Legacy Select Cutting Bloodstock Sale which auctions some of the finest bred performance horses in Australia.



Archibald Prize Finalist to Open Exhibition at Gallery

David Darcy, recently announced as a finalist in the most prestigious portraiture award in Australia, the Archibald Prize, opens his exhibition, ‘Self Sabotage – Portraits by David Darcy’ at the Tamworth Regional Gallery on Friday 8 May.

Showing until Sunday 21 June, ‘Self Sabotage’ marks the first solo exhibition for the Murrurundi-based artist, who has achieved great recognition for traditional portraiture in Australia. His repertoire includes winning the People’s Choice Award at both the Archibald Prize (2019) and National Portrait Gallery (2020), being commissioned by Parliament House to paint the Honourable Bob Katter for the Historic Memorial Collection and most recently becoming a finalist in the 2026 Archibald Prize for his portrait of fellow artist Dale Frank titled ‘To whom: let’s be Frank, it’s no walk in the park.’ Excitingly, Darcy’s latest body of work ‘Self Sabotage’ is a reinvention of his usual practice, where traditional portraiture merges with abstraction – faces bloom from landscapes, fracture into myths and borrow masks from memory. Unlike his work before, these latest portraits fragment realism and embrace distortion colour, gesture and a little madness. For opening hours and more information on the exhibitions, visit the Gallery’s website; <https://tamworthregionalgallery.com.au/kms/events/Exhibitions/>





Hello Everyone

Barraba Rugby League Football Club is looking forward to celebrating the 'Old Boys Day' on the 30 May 2026, along with next weekend's Round 7 home game at Barraba Recreation Ground.

Old Boys Day will be a special occasion for the Club as we celebrate the proud history of rugby league in Barraba, which dates back to 8 June 1914. We encourage all past players, volunteers, supporters and community members to come along, reconnect with old teammates and celebrate the Bulldogs tradition.

🏉 Round 7 – Barraba Bulldogs v Glen Innes Magpies

- 📅 Saturday 23 May 2026
- 📍 Barraba Recreation Ground
- 🕒 Ladies League Tag – 1:15pm
- 🕒 First Grade – 2:30pm

🐅 Round 8 - Old Boys Day – Barraba Bulldogs v Uralla

Tigers

- 📅 Saturday 30 May 2026
- 📍 Barraba Recreation Ground

We would also love any past club photos or memorabilia that supporters may wish to share as part of the celebrations.

Thank you again to our volunteers, sponsors and supporters for continuing to back the Bulldogs in 2026.

Kind regards,
Barraba Rugby League Football Club Inc.

Barraba Bulldogs Celebrate More Than 110 Years of Rugby League History at Old Boys Day

The Barraba Rugby League Football Club is calling on all past players, supporters, volunteers, families and the wider community to come together for a massive celebration of local rugby league history at the club's 2026 Old Boys Day on Saturday 30 May 2026 at Barraba Recreation Ground.

The special day will see the Barraba Bulldogs take on the Uralla Tigers in what promises to be one of the biggest days on the club calendar, with all three grades taking the field and celebrations continuing into the evening at the Barraba Bowling Club.

Old Boys Day is more than just football — it is a celebration of generations of Bulldogs who have proudly represented Barraba and helped build the club into an important part of the community.

The event also recognises the rich history of rugby league in Barraba, which dates back more than 110 years. On the 10 June 2014, the Manilla Express records show rugby league was being played in Barraba as early as 8 June 1914, with reports detailing representative matches played in the town before large crowds.

The 1914 report described Barraba fielding a “very weighty 15” and praised the match as one of the finest games seen “up country,” highlighting the deep passion for rugby league that has existed in the district for generations.

Barraba RLFC President Neville Phillips said Old Boys Day would be a proud moment for the club and the town. “This club has a long and proud history, and Old Boys Day is about recognising everyone who has helped keep rugby league alive in Barraba over the generations. Whether you played one game or one hundred, volunteered behind the scenes, washed jerseys, marked fields or supported from the sideline — you are part of the Bulldogs family. The return of three grades to the competition has brought enormous excitement back to Barraba, and we would love to see past players and supporters come home and be part of this special day.”

The club is also encouraging former players and families to send through old team photos and memorabilia to help celebrate the Bulldogs’ history and share memories from past eras of Barraba rugby league to their Facebook page: “Barraba Bulldogs Rugby League Football Club”.

The day promises:

- Three grades of rugby league action
- Reconnecting with former teammates and friends
- Club history and memorabilia
- A huge community atmosphere
- Post-match celebrations at the Barraba Bowling Club

The Barraba Bulldogs are encouraging everyone across the region to get behind the day, wear their blue and white proudly, and help celebrate more than a century of rugby league in Barraba.



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

 **WARDS PLUMBING**

Lic No. 306630C

- Plumber
- Drainer
- Gasfitter
- Polywelder
- Roof Plumber

Ph0408117358 wardsplumbing@bigpond.com

 **PHIL DENYER MECHANICAL REPAIRS**

(02) 6782 1107

Become a Field Officer

 **Census**

- ✓ Deliver Census letters and forms
- ✓ Earn extra money close to home
- ✓ No experience necessary

Apply now
census.abs.gov.au/jobs



Perfect roast leg of lamb



With rosemary, garlic and anchovies

Ingredients

- 2 sticks of celery
- 2 carrots
- 2 onions
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 large leg of higher-welfare lamb (2.4kg)
- olive oil
- ½ a bunch of fresh rosemary (15g)
- 4 cloves of garlic
- red wine vinegar
- optional: 9 anchovy fillets

Method

Preheat the oven to 220°C/425°F/gas 7. Roughly chop the celery, carrots and onions, throwing into a large roasting tray as you go, with the bay leaves.

With a sharp, pointed knife, follow the lamb bone down about 10cm to 12cm (you are just making a 'tunnel' where you are cutting the meat away from the bone). Do this from the top end and the bottom end. Pierce the skin at an angle with a sharp pointed knife 6 or 8 times at random around the leg, then open up the incisions by poking your fingers down them to make a bit of space. Rub the lamb all over with olive oil, sea salt and black pepper.

Strip the leaves off the rosemary sprigs and peel and finely slice the garlic, then toss in a little drizzle of olive oil and a splash of red wine vinegar. Push a little rosemary, a couple of slices of garlic and an anchovy fillet (if using) into each hole, adding any leftovers and a good splash of water to the trivet tray with the veg.

Place the lamb directly on the bars of the middle shelf of the oven, and place the tray on the shelf beneath. Turn the oven down to 180°C/350°F/gas 4 and cook to your liking.