



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Wednesday 17th June 2026

GARAGE SALE

Saturday 20th June 9am-2pm

2 Queen St

NO EARLY ARRIVALS



BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

Phone 67821379

For the information of members and guests.

THIS WEEK

**THURSDAY 18th JUNE
BINGO**

First game starts at 6pm

**FRIDAY 19th JUNE
MEAT RAFFLES**

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm
Membership Draw \$1100

**SUNDAY 21st JUNE
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

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.

Apply for an Active and Creative Kids voucher

Vouchers to help families with eligible school-aged children pay for sport, recreational, creative or cultural activities.

Introduction

Parents, guardians and carers receiving Family Tax Benefit can apply for an Active and Creative Kids voucher for each eligible child.

The \$50 voucher is available twice a year to use towards sport, creative and cultural activities.

Voucher 2 – 2025: Available now

- Apply for and use the voucher by 14 July 2026

Voucher 1 – 2026: Available now

- Apply for and use the voucher by 31 December 2026

Note:

- Vouchers must be used with a [registered activity provider](#).
- If you have 2 vouchers that have not expired, you can use them together for a combined value of \$100. Each voucher can only be used once.

[Apply for an Active and Creative Kids voucher | Service NSW](#)

Colonna School (Black Springs)

Colonna School was situated six miles south of Barraba on the main highway at Black Springs. The school was a large weatherboard ceiled and lined room with a wide verandah.

Colonna opened as a Provisional School in April, 1886, having been applied for by the local residents under the name of "Black Springs". It became a Public School in October, 1890 and continued to operate as such until May, 1926 when the school was closed. After the school was closed in 1926, it was removed to the Gulf Creek area about 1930.

Note: June, 1905 – The school house at Colonna (Black Springs) was burnt to the ground.

About 1906 a school was removed from "Mulwarrie" property to Colonna and a skillion was built on where some male teachers boarded themselves. This later became storerooms for the school.

After that it was operated as a subsidy school for a time by Miss Edith Thomas (Mrs Reg Irwin) and Eileen Elliott (Mrs Roy Reed).

Children attending the school from the families of:

Tufrey, McGregor, Orchard, White, Garske, Thompson, Johnson, Jackson, Carter, Eaton, Gould, Morris, Behan, Gatley, Hayes, Burns, Russell, Akers, Gibson, Berry, Riley.

When the Rockmore School closed in 1902, many of the pupils came on to Colonna by a horse drawn bus run by Mrs Fletcher Snr.

Many of the pupils served in World War I, some paying the supreme sacrifice. Mrs McIlrick rode a bike around during WWI and collected donations towards buying the Roll of Honour, Colonna School, Old Boys and Teachers.



Pupils at Black Springs School. 1914/15

Back: Edna McGregor, Elsie Chester, Myrtle McGregor, Tory Thompson, Violet Carter, Jean Berry, Ruby Fletcher.

3rd: Dick Carter, Arthur McGregor, Charmy Thompson, Fred Fletcher, Roy Reed, Harold White, Wilf Elliott, Nick Brown.

2nd: Mary Carter, Ruby McGregor, Ethel Carter, Ida Driscoll, Dot Simpson, Eva Oliver.

Front: Cliff Garske, Roy Carter, Henry Elliott, Jim Conway, Sandy Orchard, Roy Simpson, Jack Driscoll.

Police Station, Barraba - 18/06/05
A SCHOOL BURNT DOWN NEAR BARRABA

Sergt. Moroney reports: The provisional school at Black Springs, six miles from Barraba was burnt down at 3 o'clock this morning. There is nothing to show how the fire originated.

The building was 15ft.x 17ft.x 10ft. high, built of pine weatherboards with galvanized iron roof. No one lived at the school & the nearest place to it is Mr D. Orchard's place, about ½ mile away. The teacher, Mr Miller, resides at Barraba. The school ground abuts the main road. Mr H.E. Martin, Engineering Assistant, Public Works Department, has been at work in the immediate vicinity of the school for some days past, taking the levels for the proposed railway siding. He camped in a tent on the road about 250 yds north of the school. He says he was close about all day yesterday (Saturday) and went to bed about 10.30 last night. He did not see anyone about the school during the day or night. He woke about 2.50 this morning through the light from the burning building shining on him. He went to the fire and thinks it was burning then about ten minutes. It was full moon and he did not see anyone about. He did not get any smell of kerosene or notice anything to show how the fire was caused. There was a covered in verandah on the northern end of the school. This and the N.E. corner of the school were on fire when he arrived.

The chimney was in the N.W. corner. He looked through the window and could see the fireplace, there was no fire in it. Mr Martin was alone. Frank Gray came to the camp this morning, he is a road maintenance officer and Mr Martin sent him to inform the Police. He arrived at the Police Station at 8 o'clock. The Sergt. had Mr Miller, the teacher, informed at once and immediately went out to investigate.

Mr Miller says he uses the fire in the school, but it was quite out when he left on Friday afternoon. There were no matches in the school that he knows of, he used to leave a box there one time but has not done so lately. In wet weather swagmen sometimes camped in the covered in verandah and on two occasions got into the school. He never knew them to make a fire, but he sometimes found matches on the floor which they had apparently dropped. The press containing the schoolbooks, etc. was kept in the N.E. corner where the fire was when first seen. There was nothing in the press to cause a fire by spontaneous combustion. There were mice about the school, and he often saw them running about the press. Under the floor of the covered in verandah would also be a harbour for them as it is only a few inches off the ground. There are 19 children attending the school ranging in ages from 6 to 13 years, they live from ½ mile to 3½ miles away. The children are all particularly good, not a bad one amongst them. The parents as far as he knows are all well satisfied with the situation of the school, it is centrally situated. So far as he knows none of the parents want it, or ever did want it, anywhere else and so far, as he knows, there is no likelihood of it being re-built anywhere else. It was erected in 1891, he does not know if it is insured.

Mr David Orchard, farmer and grazier, who lives ½ mile from the school and has two children attending it, says yesterday afternoon he was at the corner of his cultivation paddock about 200 yards south of the school from 4 o'clock till dark waiting to shoot hares. He did not see anyone about the school. His place is infested with mice, and they are plentiful about the bush. He knows the neighbours are all well satisfied with the situation of the school and very pleased with Mr Miller, the teacher. The Coroner has been informed.

(Signed) Geo. A. Moroney.

Sergeant Superintendent Sutherland. TAMWORTH

Letter to the Editor

I was intrigued by the article in this week's News about what was called the Hospital Shop.

When I was a child that shop was owned and run by Mr & Mrs Joe Ray who provided all the things that the article talked about. Mrs Ray was a local girl. Their son, Max, also worked with them in the shop and built a house across the road from his parents' place when he got married.

After I left Barraba it was owned and run by Mrs Joan Rourke. Mary Grocott, Manilla 2346



News from Barraba Central School

Barraba Central Secondary students recently took part in the NSW Secondary School Cadet Program with the Rural Fire Service (RFS). This program has been running for more than 20 years, giving students a chance to learn important skills in a hands-on way.

The students learned how to work as a team, lead others, and help their community. They also learned practical skills that could help them in emergencies. The cadet program helps students become more confident and responsible, and gives them the chance to make a real difference.

Barraba Central Secondary is proud of its students for their hard work and commitment. Taking part in the RFS cadet program is a fantastic way for them to grow, learn, and help others. These experiences will stay with them for life and show the value of young people getting involved in their community



Three of our Barraba Central Primary students competed at the North West Cross Country Trials in Coolah. Congratulations to Hayley, Destiny and Annabel for proudly representing our school.



A special congratulations to Annabel for her outstanding 5th place finish, which has earned her progression to the next stage in Sydney this July!

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am

Woodsreef 11.30am, 2nd Sunday of each month

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 21st June – 8.45am

Please note new time for the next few months.

All welcome

In memory of Bill Ingles

28-8-1926 to 20-6-2005

Loving memories of a dear husband, father and grandfather.

Iris, David, Stewart, Peter, Lorraine, Phillip, Mark and their families.

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

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Cnr. Alice and Fitzroy St Barraba

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Message from the Editor

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

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

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

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

In Memoriam

Patrick James Brady

11th February 1935 – 6th June 2020

Loved and remembered always

From Judy and the Family

JPs in Barraba

Mrs Pamela Kathryn Mary Urquhart 0267821480

Mrs Patti Elizabeth Crowley 0267821795

Mrs Elizabeth Ann Sawyer 0267825334

Mrs Sonia Gaye Simpson 0267831382

Mrs Tanya Mary Clarke 0427949127

Mrs Patricia Merris Currell 0428268632

Mrs Janene Helen Randall 0428832282

Mrs Pauline Ann McIver 0429671294

Mr Stephen Laurence Ely 0438427033

Letter to the Editor

As a ratepayer of TRC area and a concerned citizen of Barraba I pose the following questions:

1. Who are the members of the Barraba Precinct appointed to meet with Council regarding matters concerning Barraba?
2. The names of the Councillors attending these meetings?
3. Where and when do they meet?
4. Are members of the community able to attend?
5. Who do you contact if you have a matter of concern to be discussed?
6. Who is responsible for publishing the minutes of these meetings for the citizens of Barraba to read?

Perhaps TRC or one of the appointed members could answer these questions through the Community Newspaper then we will all know the answers.

Helen Kelly, Barraba



LIBERAL AND NATIONALS GOVERNMENT TO REINSTATE REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD

The NSW Liberals and Nationals will bring back the Regional Seniors Travel Card if successful at the 2027 election. The Regional Seniors Travel Card will provide eligible seniors in regional NSW with a \$250 prepaid card for fuel, taxis, and pre-booked train or coach tickets.

NSW Opposition Leader Kellie Sloane said despite receiving more than 22,000 signatures on a petition to save the Regional Seniors Travel Card, Labor ignored regional voices and cut it anyway. "One of Labor's first actions when coming to government was to cut cost of living support relied upon by thousands of people across NSW. We know that with the increasing cost of fuel people are increasingly looking at ways to save, and we know that the Regional Seniors Travel Card will provide hip pocket relief," Ms Sloane said.

NSW Nationals Leader Gurmeh Singh said NSW is an incredible place to live, but there is no doubt the distance and isolation is a challenge especially for our seniors. "An elected Liberals and Nationals Government will reinstate the card and ensure the most vulnerable members of our communities are not left without the support they deserve again," Mr Singh said.

Established in 2020 by the former Liberal and Nationals Government, the Regional Seniors Travel Card saw more than 1.3 million people access more affordable transport before the program was axed by Chris Minns and Labor.

Shadow Seniors Minister Kevin Anderson said seniors living in the regions have fewer transport options than those in the city and deserve support to get to medical appointments, groceries, or connect with friends and family.

Shadow Regional Transport and Roads Minister Paul Toole said Labor's scare campaign against the card will not be tolerated.

"This card is all about making daily life easier by helping ease the cost of living for regional seniors," Mr Toole said. "Unlike people living in metropolitan areas, regional seniors often need to travel considerable distances to access medical appointments, specialist health services, shopping and other

essential services. We simply don't have the same services or public transport options on our doorstep. "The return of the Regional Seniors Travel Card would provide practical support to older Australians living in regional NSW and help reduce the financial strain faced by many seniors on fixed incomes."

ANDERSON LAYS OUT BUDGET WISH-LIST

The 2026/27 NSW Budget will be released on the 24th of June, and Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson has a long list of demands for the Labor Government.

Mr Anderson said the former Coalition Government invested strongly in infrastructure in the electorate, and he has been calling on Labor to match that investment. "I have a strong plan for our region which involves investing in the essential services and infrastructure that people rely on," Mr Anderson said. "The former Coalition Government had a record-breaking infrastructure fund which saw the delivery of major infrastructure projects across the region. We need a greater focus on the regions from the current government," Mr Anderson said. "We are a growing community and need the services to match. I've been pushing hard on our behalf and it's time for Labor to listen, to hear the concerns of regional NSW, and to act."

Mr Anderson is calling for funding to be retained for the following projects in the upcoming budget:

- \$58.4m Goonoo Goonoo Road upgrade
- \$25m Port Stephens Cutting
- Finalisation of the \$21m for the Nioka Palliative Care Unit

Mr Anderson is also hoping to see new funding for the following projects:

- Funding for renal and chemotherapy services the Gunnedah Hospital upgrade
- Funding to fix the Gunnedah Hospital helipad
- An extension of the PolAir Drone pilot program for police in Tamworth and Gunnedah
- Planning money for a new school for Moore Creek
- Funding for a new plan for Tamworth's water security
- Funding for Werris Creek and Manilla fire stations
- A major funding package to upgrade rural and regional roads
- A return of the Mobile Phone Blackspot Program
- Funding for health worker accommodation in Barraba

This wish list meets the immediate needs of our community, and I'll be calling on Labor to progress these projects in the 2026/27 NSW Budget," Mr Anderson concluded.

“What’s on in Tamworth Region”

MANILLA MUSEUM MARKETS



20 June: 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.

TAMWORTH MINIATURE RAILWAY

Victoria Park, Piper Street, East Tamworth 2340
Phone: 0409418278



Sunday 21 June: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Cost: \$3

We have Public Running days on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 10 am – 3 pm with picnic areas, canteen, and great views.

2026 TAMWORTH OUTDOOR LIVING AND CARAVAN EXPO

Friday 26 June – Sunday 28 June



Discover the ultimate outdoor lifestyle experience at the 2026 Tamworth Outdoor Living & Caravan Expo! Explore a large showcase of industry leading caravan, camping, and outdoor accessory brands at AELEC from Friday 26th June to Sunday 28th June 2026.

Whether you’re planning your next adventure or upgrading your setup, you’ll find the latest innovations, expert advice, and must have gear. Plus, dive into our Education Schedule, where industry leaders share demonstrations, knowledge, travel tips, and product insights. From seasoned explorers to first time campers, there’s something for everyone. Join us for a weekend of inspiration, learning, and all things outdoors! Tickets available for purchase at the Gate. Card and Cash accepted.

Adults: \$16.00

Seniors and Concession Card Holders: \$13.00

Children Under 16 Years: Free Entry. Parking: Free

BINGARA Orange festival Competitions
SATURDAY 4 JULY 2026 | 10am | Street Parade 2pm

Spot the Crochet Oranges in the shop windows, complete the entry form and return to either Bingara Wattle Arts and Crafts, Bingara Newsagency or The Op Shop by Friday 3 July 2026.

Best Photo of the Festival Gwydir Shire Council seeks to build its photograph library so it can use these photos and continue to promote future Orange Festivals.

Best Decorated Parade Float, Bicycle, Skateboard, Pram, Wheelchair, Scooter, Gopher and Golf Cart. Will be judged throughout the Festival.

Orange Window Displays can be anywhere in the Shire. The display needs to promote the Orange Festival. Categories - home, mailbox and businesses.

Best Dressed competitions including best dressed boy, girl, lady and man. Best individual/couple in period costume in classic car.

Bingara, NSW
For further event details, local attractions and accommodation visit www.visitgwydir.com.au

Pharmacist prescribing could unlock \$1 billion in savings; free 10 million GP visits and prevent 30,000 hospitalisations annually

New national modelling identifies pharmacist prescribing as a practical, scalable reform to improve access to care at a time when GP workforce shortages are projected to worsen. 'Rewriting the Script' was prepared by HTANALYSTS and shows pharmacist prescribing will create \$1 billion in annual health system savings; free up over 10 million GP appointments and prevent 30,000 hospitalisations annually.

Professor Trent Twomey, National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, said the modelling should be a catalyst for the federal government to make the most of community pharmacy. "This modelling shows that empowering specially trained pharmacists to prescribe for appropriate conditions isn't just good for patients – it's good for the entire health system. It improves access, reduces wait times and delivers more than a billion dollars in annual savings."

Irene Deltetto, Principal, Strategy and Social Impact HTANALYSTS said: "Behind every dollar in this analysis is a patient who waited too long to see a GP, or a hospitalisation that could have been avoided. HTANALYSTS modelled that \$21 billion in overall economic impact would be created across just four conditions through pharmacist autonomous prescribing. "What's needed now is the regulatory and funding architecture to make this model permanent and nationally consistent," she added.

The report recommends nationally consistent prescribing powers; sustainable funding to support access and connected digital health systems. The Guild is calling on the government to implement the three recommendations made in the report

"Every day pharmacists assess the safety, appropriateness and clinical need of medicines prescribed to patients. The right national frameworks will mean pharmacist prescribing can transform access to safe and effective healthcare. Community pharmacy is Australia's most accessible frontline healthcare destination. People visit their pharmacist every three weeks on average and each of those visits is an opportunity to do more to create healthier communities. We need to make sure patients get the right care, at the right time, at a place they choose."

Australians can find their local community pharmacy and learn more about available services at <https://www.findapharmacy.com.au>

2026 Australia Post Community Grants

Our Community Grants program supports projects that connect people to improve mental wellbeing in local communities. Local community groups play an important role in creating positive change in people's lives. To help them deliver for their communities, we award Community Grants of up to \$10,000 each year to fund community-led, local projects.

We are proud to offer additional grants totalling up to \$250,000 to support disaster-impacted communities across Australia. These funds will be dedicated to projects that enhance mental wellbeing by fostering connection and building resilience within communities recovering from a natural disaster or a major storm event. To be eligible for an Australia Post Community Grant, projects must:

1. Improve mental health and mental wellbeing outcomes of a community
2. Help people meaningfully connect
3. Be locally-led and locally-delivered. For applications relating to disaster-related projects **only**, an additional criterion applies:
4. Support a disaster-impacted community for improved connection, wellbeing and/ or resilience.

[Community Grants Program - Australia Post](#)

Touring and Travel Fund - Domestic Travel and International Professional Development

Key information

- **Status:** Open
- **Grant amount:** Up to \$5,000 per person
- **Application opened:** 29 May 2026
- **Application closes:** 31 July 2026, 12:00 pm

Program objective

Funding can support travel and accommodation costs for:

Artists and Acts

- domestic tours
- domestic professional development opportunities, including performance at significant music market events, attendance at workshops, camps, mentorships and residencies
- significant international professional development opportunities, including performance at significant international music market events, attendance at workshops, camps, mentorships and residencies.

For domestic tours and performance at music markets, funding can support up to six people per touring party. This includes the artists and a maximum of two people with roles that support the artists to undertake the tour.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/touring-and-travel-fund>

BARRABA GOLF CLUB

Individual Stableford Competition

Date: Sunday, 14th June 2026

Venue: Barraba Golf Club

Winner: Paul Grigg

Runner-Up: Keiran Darlington (c/b) from Neil Smith and Gary Allen

On Sunday, 14th June, Barraba Golf Club hosted an Individual Stableford competition. The cold weather and damp course conditions seemingly made scoring difficult.

The winner was Paul Grigg (26), who scored 36 Stableford points, edging ahead of a three-way tie for second place. Keiran Darlington (13), Neil Smith (24), and Gary Allen (18) all finished with 35 points, with Keiran taking the place on a countback. Ball winners for the day were Josh Austin (12), Jamie Neale (5), and South Australian visitor Jan Chalmers (18). Jan also was the highest scoring Lady, narrowly defeating Amanda Koopman (15) and Kerrie Smith (26).

The Barraba Golf Club welcomes all players to participate each Sunday for a 12 midday start. Provisions can be made for social golfers to be included. Next Sunday is Round 2 of the Club Championship with members contesting the C. Tonkin Trophy.

UPPER HORTON RECREATIONAL TRUST

HORSE SALE
SUNDAY 21st JUNE 2026 / COMMENCING AT 11AM

RIDDEN AND UNRIDDEN HORSES
FOR ALL BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRES PHONE LEON CUMMINS / 0428821661

COME FOR THE FOOTY. STAY FOR THE FUN!

LADIES DAY CELEBRATION

EVERYONE WELCOME

A GREAT NIGHT OUT FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

GREAT FOOTY, LIVE MUSIC, RAFFLES, AUCTIONS & GOOD TIMES!

TICKET RAFFLES & JERSEY AUCTION FROM 6:30PM

LIVE MUSIC WITH **MATT BARRATT** FROM 8:30PM

IN SUPPORT OF BARRABA PALLIATIVE CARE UNIT

EVERYONE WELCOME! PLAYERS, FAMILIES, FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS & OUR COMMUNITY! Bring the family, bring your mates, let's make it a night to remember!

CELEBRATIONS TO CONTINUE AT THE BARRABA BOWLO

BULLDOGS V WARIALDA WOMBATS

SATURDAY 4TH JULY EVENTS FROM 6:30PM

PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE BARRABA PALLIATIVE CARE UNIT

Come for the footy, stay for the music, and help support a wonderful local cause.

NAIDOC WEEK 2026

COME CELEBRATE NAIDOC WEEK WITH US, ALL WELCOME.

The Barraba Multi-Purpose Service Invite you to join us to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2026.

WHEN: Thursday 2nd July 2026
TIME: 1030am
WHERE: Barraba MPS Day Centre.

There will be a Welcome to Country, presentations from the local school children and Story Telling followed by morning tea.

Join the Elders to celebrate the rich history of the First Nations people in our district.

If possible, a call to the Administration Office at the Barraba Health Service, (02) 67822500, for catering purposes.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS NAIDOC WEEK

NAIDOC WEEK 50 YEARS DEADLY
5-12 JULY 2026

BARRABA TENNIS CLUB

Manilla Takes Home the Split Rock Cup Trophy

It was a glorious, almost summer-like day as Barraba and Manilla contested the Split Rock Cup on Saturday. Both teams brought their A-games, delivering competitive and entertaining matches, but ultimately this year's bragging rights went to Manilla.

After a three-year hiatus, it was fantastic to see the Split Rock Cup back in action, with a strong turnout from players and supporters.

A big thank you goes to all the players from both Manilla and Barraba for their sportsmanship, commitment and effort throughout the day. It was great to see both clubs come together once again and make the return of the Split Rock Cup such a fun occasion. Congratulations to Manilla on taking home the trophy, and here's to the next chapter of this valued local rivalry!



The Captains and the Cup



The teams: Barraba vs Manilla



Play in progress

Barraba Rugby Union 'Old Boys Day'

What a fantastic day at our Old Boys Day for the Barraba Rugby Union Club.

The day kicked off with a light luncheon at the club, proudly sponsored by Garvin & Cousens Tamworth — thank you Mr Warden for your generous support. It was wonderful to see past players, clubmen and supporters come together to relive memories, watch the legendary 1986 Grand Final and enjoy plenty of laughs and catch-ups along the way.

Can you believe it's been 40 years since Barraba claimed the 1986 Grand Final victory? What an incredible milestone for our club and community.

On the field, it was a battle between the RAMS, in what proved to be a tough contest. Walcha's defence was undeniably strong, heading into half time with a 14–0 lead. Barraba showed plenty of determination in the second half, managing to break through and put points on the board, but Walcha remained dominant and finished strongly to take the win 35–7. Thank you Walcha Rams - Rugby Union Club for descending from the hills for the day.

We would also like to extend a massive thank you to our major sponsor for 2026, Commercial Hotel Barraba NSW, for their continued support of our club throughout the season.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, shared stories, supported the club and helped make the day such a special celebration of Barraba rugby history.



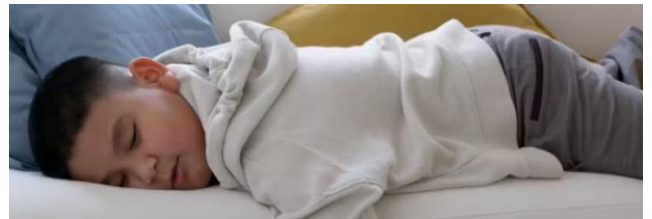
1986 Grand Final winning team



From The Conversation

How can I tell if my child is too sick to go to school?

Liz Sturgiss, Professor of Community Medicine and Clinical Education, Bond University



As a GP and mum to two boys I have many experiences of trying to navigate the school morning when my boys aren't feeling well. It always seems to happen on the busiest days.

None of us want to send our child to school when they are not well – I hate the thought of my kids feeling sick in the classroom and also the idea they might make other children sick.

Lots of families have someone for whom illnesses are more dangerous. They might have a weakened immune system because they are going through cancer treatment or suffer from another illness.

But it can be hard to tell. A child might be dramatically crying “my tummy HURTS” one minute and racing around with their sibling the next. Or you might wonder if they are angling for some time off in front of the TV.

How can you tell if your child is too sick to go to school?



Symptoms to look out for

In school-aged children here are some symptoms to consider.

Fever: if your child feels hot to touch, or you have a thermometer showing a fever (a temperature above 38 degrees), then they shouldn't attend school.

WINTER SPECIAL

MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES AIR CONDITIONING

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BARRABA BASED AND WILL TRAVEL TO SURROUNDING AREAS

BK ELECTRICAL + AIR CONDITIONING

ONE TRADESMAN WITH BOTH ELECTRICAL & REFRIGERATION LICENSES

2.5kw Mitsubishi Heavy Industries A/C Fully Installed - Back to Back \$2270	5 kw Mitsubishi Heavy Industries A/C Fully Installed - Back to Back \$2870	7.1kw Mitsubishi Heavy Industries A/C Fully Installed - Back to Back \$3350
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PHIL DENYER MECHANICAL REPAIRS

(02) 6782 1107

WARDS PLUMBING

Lic No. 306630C

- Plumber
- Drainer
- Gasfitter
- Polywelder
- Roof Plumber

Ph0408117358 wardsplumbing@bigpond.com

This is even if you are giving them regular paracetamol or ibuprofen to keep their temperature down. Your child won't feel comfortable at school with a fever and they have a high chance of making others unwell.

Vomiting and diarrhoea: children should stay home until it is at least 24 hours since their last vomit or runny poo. This is to reduce the spread of viral gastroenteritis (or stomach flu) and to make sure your child can stay hydrated and well. If your child is vomiting or has diarrhoea, it also is important to keep a close eye on them to make sure they are improving and to seek medical care if they are getting worse.

Runny noses: a runny nose without a fever might be a sign of hayfever, especially if your child has other symptoms like itchy eyes or sneezing. On its own, this is not a reason to stay home.

But a new runny nose with a fever is a reason to stay home. Many infections, including influenza, COVID and even measles can start with a fever and runny nose, although usually it signals a common cold.

The common cold needs rest, fluids and encouraging your child to keep their nose clear with gentle blowing or saline sprays. And a reminder, the annual flu vaccine is an excellent way to protect your family from the serious consequences of the "proper flu".

Cough: there are many different reasons for a child to cough. This includes infections such as COVID, whooping cough and influenza and non-infectious reasons such as hayfever and reflux. If your child has developed a new cough, and especially if they are also feverish, this is a reason to keep them at home. A cough that doesn't go away after two weeks should also be checked out by your GP.

Tiredness: mostly on Fridays, my kids are tired after a busy week – much like me! Tiredness can be an early sign of a lurking infection or some other health issue. But on its own is probably not a reason to keep your child home. However, ongoing tiredness is a good reason to have your child checked out by your GP as there are many causes from poor sleep to iron deficiency.

Poor appetite: kids' appetites can vary so wildly, especially when they move into growing phases. Not wanting to eat breakfast in the morning might be an early gastro infection, a sign of constipation or nervous butterflies for the day ahead. If your child is otherwise OK, with no tummy pain, fever or tiredness, then a lack of appetite for breakfast is not a solid reason to stay home.



Watch out for school refusal

I find it helpful to let my child know if they stay home, they will need to stay in bed with no screens to rest and get well. This tends to separate the "truly feeling unwell" days from the "just hoping to have a rest" days.

But feeling unwell in the morning – particularly in the tummy, tiredness or unexplained headaches – can be an early sign something might not be going smoothly for your child at school or home.

School refusal is a serious problem where a child is completely overwhelmed and unable to attend school. It can come on gradually or suddenly. Talking with your child's school is a critical first step if you are concerned about school refusal – it should be a conversation that happens promptly and your school should have procedures for helping you to manage it.

Phone a friend

If you're not sure, consider giving a trusted friends or family member a quick call to talk things over.

You can also contact Healthdirect on 1800 022 222 (or 13 Health if you are in Queensland). This is a national phone service open 24 hours for anyone who has symptoms and needs advice on what to do next.

