



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Wednesday 22nd July 2026



Barraba Family Doctor

The surgery will be closed on Thursday 6th August and Friday 7th August and will reopen on Monday 10th August at 9.00am.

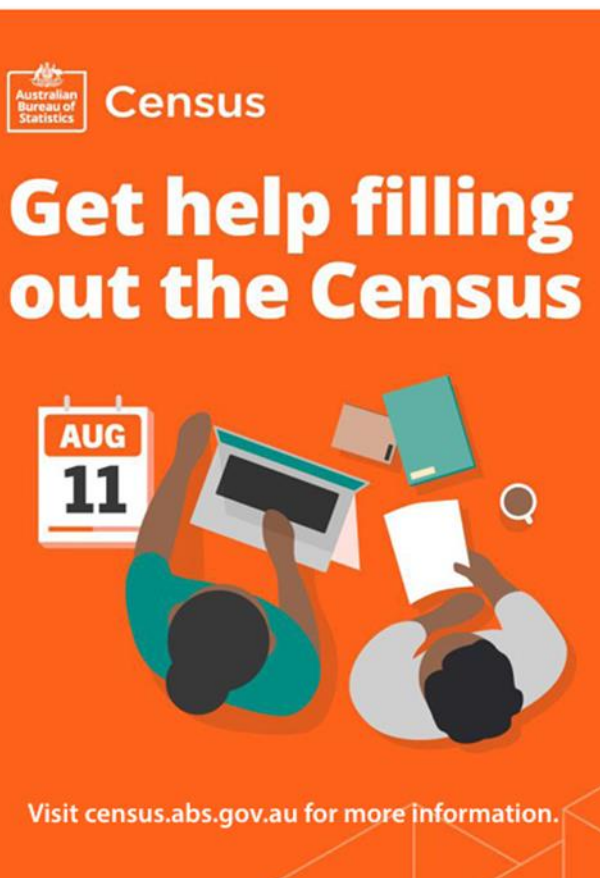
Dr Wearne will be here from Monday 10th to Thursday 13th August.

If you require medical attention, please present to the Barraba Hospital or in an emergency call 000.

**About Barraba Incorporated
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 29th July, 6pm
Andy's Guesthouse**

Westpac Helicopter at Horton

Around 5:30pm, on Friday 17 July, a Westpac Rescue Helicopter was tasked by NSW Ambulance to a horse-riding accident on a property near Upper Horton. A girl in her teens was treated by NSW Ambulance paramedics and the helicopter's critical care medical team for injuries sustained from the incident before being airlifted to Tamworth Rural Referral Hospital for further treatment.



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Cnr. Alice and Fitzroy St Barraba

Contacts: Bronwyn 0447 165 008 or Office:
67821662

Email news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au

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We had an 'oops' last week.

Apologies to the Historical Society, the picture below of the "McIntyre School 1966" headmaster and pupils was reversed. (Thanks Pam for the call to let me know).

Correct version below.



Headmaster: David Hilder

Back Row: Sally Frost, Janice Groth, Lindy Brown, Elizabeth Spencer, Rhonda Mallise, Lynette Mallise

3rd Row: Kerry Mallise, Peter Brown, Stephen Spencer, Stuart Spencer, Robert Groth

2nd Row: Mark Dodds, Terri Brown, Narelle Hockley, Julie Mallise, Patti Groth, Martin Bower

Front Row: Greg Mallise, Richard Frost, David Frost, Matthew Faint, Don Frost



Australia will conduct a nationwide AusAlert test on Monday, 27 July 2026 at 2pm, sending a critical alert to compatible mobile devices across the country.

Test Overview

The AusAlert national test is a trial of Australia's new emergency warning system, designed to deliver urgent messages to mobile phones, tablets, and smart watches in

affected areas. The system uses cell-broadcast technology, which allows alerts to reach devices quickly, reliably, and even when networks are busy, bypassing silent or "do not disturb" settings.

The test ensures the system works as intended before its official launch in October 2026.

Test Schedule NSW

The test will occur at the same local time across each region: Australian Capital Territory (ACT), New South Wales (NSW), Queensland (QLD), Tasmania (TAS), Victoria (VIC): 2:00 PM AEST.

What to Expect

Devices will vibrate and play a siren-like sound for about 10 seconds.

A message will appear on the screen clearly stating it is a test alert.

Older devices or alternative operating systems may display headings like "Presidential Alert" or "Extreme Threat Alert," but the content remains the same.

No action is required; it is purely a test.

If You Don't Receive the Test

Not receiving the alert is normal and can occur due to:

Device incompatibility or outdated software.

No mobile signal or tower issues.

Device switched off or in aeroplane mode.

Safety and Opt-Out

Critical Alerts cannot be turned off via device settings.

To avoid receiving the test, turn off your device or switch to aeroplane mode before the scheduled time and leave it off for at least one hour.

Purpose of the Test

The national test helps authorities:

Confirm the system works across different devices, networks, and locations.

Build public awareness of AusAlert.

Ensure readiness for real emergencies, including bushfires, floods, cyclones, tsunamis, biosecurity incidents, and public health threats.

Preparing Your Device

Update your device software to the latest version.

Restart your device after updates to ensure compatibility.

Familiarize yourself with the alert sound and message format.

The AusAlert system is a critical tool for keeping Australians informed and safe during emergencies, and participating in the test helps ensure it functions effectively when needed.



Richardson House Aged Care Barraba NSW

Registered Nurse position

We are seeking an experienced and enthusiastic Registered Nurse to provide exceptional care to our Residents here at Richardson House.

In collaboration with the Facility Manager and Clinical Staff the Registered Nurse will be responsible for delivering comprehensive nursing care to the Residents of the Facility.

The position is full time . Hours will be worked over a variety of shifts that are subject to regular change to suit the operations of the facility.

The Selection Criteria is as follows:

- Current Registration as a Registered Nurse with AHPRA (at least 3 years experience preferred but not essential)
- Current National Police Clearance (or ability to acquire)
- Computer Literacy
- Experience working with the elderly (desirable)
- Knowledge of the Aged Care Standards
- Willing to work weekends and be on call (on a rostered basis)

The applicant must demonstrate the ability to:

- Perform appropriate clinical practice and clinical leadership
- Deliver coordinated care to Residents through application of nursing skills and knowledge and in accordance with Care Standards.
- Collaborate effectively with Management and Health Service Professionals and providers
- Understand and work with Residents with complex health needs including dementia
- Comply with all relevant legislative requirements pertaining to care delivery
- Record accurate documentation relating to care of the Resident
- Provide Medication Administration and management consistent with guidelines
- Provide support for palliative Residents and their families
- Perform all clinical and care duties pertaining to the support of Aged Care Residents
- Comply and meet obligations relating to Work Health and Safety legislation

Please note that we are willing to discuss permanent part time if that is a more suitable option for the right candidate.

Richardson House is a 21 bed, not-for-profit aged care facility located an hour North of Tamworth in Barraba NSW. This facility was built by the community for the community and we pride ourselves in providing care for the elders of our community.

Please contact the Facility Manager, Hellan Philp on 02 67821563 or email manager@richardsonhouse.com.au for further information regarding the role.



**BARRABA RSL &
RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone 67821379

For the information of members
and guests.

THIS WEEK

**THURSDAY 23rd JULY
BINGO**

First game starts at 6pm

**FRIDAY 24th JULY
MEAT RAFFLES**

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm
Membership Draw \$1600

**SUNDAY 26th JULY
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

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 26th July – 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

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

Barraba Mass

**Sunday 26 July 10.00am for Confirmation by Bishop
Murphy.**



**RENTING? YOU CAN
STILL ACCESS YOUR
WASTE VOUCHERS!**

<http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/.../waste.../waste-vouchers>

Each financial year, residential properties receive four digital waste vouchers, and tenants are eligible to use them too. The only difference is that renters need to complete a quick verification process before the vouchers appear in their account.

Getting started is simple:

- Register through the online self-service portal
- Select "I'm a tenant"
- Choose Tamworth Regional Council as your agent
- Once verified, your vouchers will be available automatically

Verification can take between 2–10 business days, so it's worth setting up your account before you need to use a voucher. Register today and make the most of the services available to your household.

tamworth.residentservices.com.au/sign-in

Letter to the Editor

I was reading the local newspaper July 15 2026, when I came across the article about Dog owners responsibility.

1. Who is going to enforce the rules especially in a village like Barraba?
2. Where does the monies from the fines (if they ever happen) go to?
3. Maybe used the funds from the fines to add waste bags to bins so that people with dogs have no excuse for not picking up after their pets
4. Some kind of dispenser to be able to dispensed one bag at a time.

There is nothing worse than a child stepping in dog poo and the smell in a car...

Please everyone it only takes a minute to pick up after your dog, so everyone can enjoy the spaces especially parks.

Have a great day.

Thank you

ANONYMOUS Barraba (Name supplied)



Here is an overview of outcomes from the Ordinary Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council held Tuesday 14 July 2026.

- Councillors supported a Mayoral Minute outlining challenges and inefficiencies from a legislated amendment to the Local Government (General) Regulation 2026. Council resolved to write to the NSW Premier stating their concerns, and to also lobby against the change at the upcoming Local Government NSW Conference. The amendment prohibits any Councillor other than the Mayor to engage with any briefing or workshop sessions with staff prior to Council Meetings.
- Council's Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP), which spans 10 financial years, will be on public exhibition for 28 days after Councillors reviewed the document. The document is part of the suite of documents that makes up the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework. The LTFP is reviewed annually.
- In May 2026, EnergyCo released revised plans for the proposed transmission corridor to connect the New England Renewable Energy Zone to the Bayswater Power Station in the Hunter Valley, including through Council-owned property upstream from Dungowan Dam. Councillors noted the revisions including less Council-owned property impact, a reduced corridor, and the compulsory acquisition powers of EnergyCo regardless of Council's position on any proposed easement/s. Councillors noted the expected next steps of the project acquisition process.
- Councillors have tonight agreed to explore the potential sale of former Kootingal Groundwater Supply Wells 1 and 3, with neighbouring landowners to be approached to gauge interest and negotiate potential sale terms. Any proposed sale will be subject to a further report and formal Council approval.
- Councillors tonight endorsed public exhibition of proposals to renew seven Alcohol Free Zones across the Tamworth region for a further four years from 29 December 2026. Councillors also endorsed the continuation of alcohol restrictions in five regional parks. Community feedback will be considered before making a final decision later this year.
- The 2026 National Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress has a focus on fuel security, supply chain resilience, road infrastructure design, accessibility and driver behaviour. To understand and identify areas of

improvement and innovation for the Tamworth Region, Councillors Brendon North, Matt Shapham and Charles Impey (tentative) will attend the conference in Cairns.

- Mayor Russell Webb, Deputy Mayor Jeff Budd and Councillors Mark Rodda and Brendon North will be attending the 2026 Local Government NSW Annual Conference in Wollongong in November as voting delegates along with General Manager Paul Bennett. Councillor Ryan Brooke, Matt Sharpham and Marc Sutherland will attend as observers. Councillors are allocated the sum of \$2,000 annually to attend the Local Government NSW Annual Conference.
- Councillors reviewed a draft Extreme Heat Policy which will be on display on Council's website for public exhibition and feedback in the coming days.
- An amendment to the recently adopted New Fees and Charges 2026/2027 will be placed on public exhibition after sections relating to Drainage Diagrams, and an update to Conveyancing Certificates – Outstanding Notices fee were inadvertently omitted from a previous draft. The documents will be on Council's website for 28 days.
- Councillors agreed to make a \$10,000 donation to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service for their annual fundraising ball. Councillors recognised the significant contribution the service makes to the community through aeromedical and rescue responses.

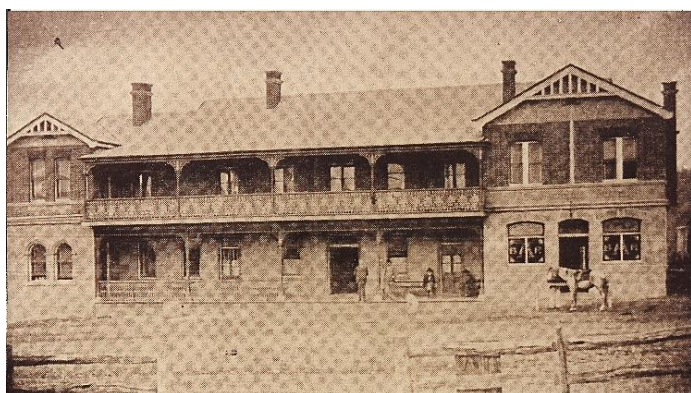
For more information, see the full reports at www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/business-papers



Does anyone have any idea who these two people are?

COMMERCIAL HOTEL

Early 1900s



In later years



The first hotel on the site seems to have been Markham's Hotel, which was run by Daniel Markham.

Hotel Licensees

March, 1878 - 1879	Daniel Markham
1880	Richard Thame
1880 - 1881	Richard Thame (hotel named Commercial)
1881 - 1882	Richard Thame

Richard Thame bought the hotel circa 1880. He was responsible for the brick building. The McKechnie brothers are said to have constructed a new single storey hotel in the mid -1880s.

The Thame's second daughter, Mary Annie, married John Banfield in February, 1883. There were three children born to the young couple who ran the local Post Office. About 1890, John Banfield left his wife and family, and Barraba. Annie then worked with her parents at the hotel.

Richard Thame died suddenly at Ironbark Creek on 15th May, 1894 at the age of 59 years and his daughter, Annie Banfield, took over the license of the Hotel.

The coaches which ran regularly from Tamworth to Warialda stopped at the Commercial Hotel in the 1880s and early 1890s. In 1891 Wilkinsons took over the license of the Central Hotel and managed to take the coaches there. Three years later the coach stop was returned to the Commercial. Noted in 1902 - Annie Banfield in charge of the Commercial - she was agent for the Royal Mail coaches. Also offered was a sampling room (drinks?) and advertised plunge and shower baths as well as the best brands of Wines, Spirits, etc.

Early in the 1900s Annie had the hotel enlarged. This is most probably when the second storey was added. The second storey was visible in photos taken in April, 1904, to mark the occasion of the first Show held in Barraba. Annie's children were grown up by this time and in 1906 or early in 1907, she sold the license and left Barraba - she actually still owned the Hotel building at the time of her death in 1939.

The next licensee appears to have been Robert Otto Rabe, local businessman and tobacconist, who advertised in the local paper in January, 1910 "so long famous for its cuisine and cellar, is still unrivalled in the north." On 24th May, 1923, Robert Otto Rabe, was still advertising the Commercial Hotel as "the leading house". Unfortunately, Mr Rabe died on 29th March, 1925 at the age of 60 years.

By July of that year (1925) Michael Casimaty held the license. Casimaty appears in the local press as a butcher in 1930 and by 1932 was declared bankrupt so it is unlikely that he held the license for long. W.T. Madden held the license in April, 1942 and Daniel O'Connell held the license in December, 1945, but there is no continuous list of licensees for the Commercial Hotel after 1925.

Later in July, 1978, the Commercial Hotel caught fire and there was extensive damage to the upper storey which was later restored.

Tag someone who lives in a remote country town

Census Field Officer jobs now open
Flexible work at \$33.05 per hour





2026 CENSUS

Field Officer jobs are available in locations all over Australia, including regional and remote areas. Join the 2026 Census team and help collect the data that informs local services for your community. Apply now at census.abs.gov.au/jobs

**BARRABA MUSEUM STREET STALL
&
COUNCILLOR CATCHUP**

WHERE?
MUSEUM GROUNDS

WHEN?
SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST 9 am – 11.30 am

HOMEMADE FOOD, COFFEE, HONEY, PLANTS, BOOKS



FREE SENIORS FORUM TO TACKLE SCAMS

Seniors are invited to attend a FREE forum on the 26th of August to give them the tools they need to protect themselves from predatory scammers.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said Council on the Ageing NSW will host the forum at Wests' Diggers Club to support seniors in the local community.

"Older Australians have spent a lifetime building their savings to support their retirement and their families. They shouldn't have to spend their older years worrying about what scams are lurking around the corner," Mr Anderson said.

"Predatory scammers prey on trust, kindness and confusion which is why they target older people who could be vulnerable to sophisticated scams. It's so important that people give themselves the knowledge and the tools to protect themselves.

The Council on the Ageing's Staying Safe from Scams session is a great opportunity to learn the tools you need to protect yourself, and I thank Council on the Ageing NSW and sponsor ANZ for bringing this important forum to Tamworth."

Council of the Ageing NSW CEO Gohar Yazdabadi said older people deserve to feel confident and safe in an increasingly digital world.

"Scams are becoming more sophisticated, but knowledge is one of the best forms of protection. Our Staying Safe from Scams sessions provide practical advice to help older people recognise common scams, protect themselves and know what to do if something doesn't feel right," Ms Yazdabadi said.

We encourage older people, their families and carers to come along and learn how to stay one step ahead of scammers."

Registrations are now open for the free forum online at [Staying Safe from Scams](#). People can also contact Council on the Ageing NSW directly on (02) 9286 3860 to register.

Trusted medical advice more important than ever in world of misinformation.

Australians are being inundated with health information from more sources than ever before, making it increasingly difficult to know what advice is credible and who to trust. It is particularly difficult for patients to know who to trust in an era of rampant AI use, where 'manufactured evidence' that looks credible but is false, is increasingly distributed online. In response, the Australian Medical Association has released an updated Role of the Doctor position statement, outlining the unique role doctors play in diagnosing illness, managing risk, supporting informed decision making and providing safe, accountable medical care.

AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen said trusted medical advice — trained in medical evidence — has never been more important. "Australians are increasingly being asked to navigate complex and often conflicting health information online, while new technologies such as artificial intelligence are rapidly changing the way healthcare is delivered," Dr McMullen said. "At times like these, having access to a doctor who can listen, assess the whole picture, make a diagnosis, explain risks and uncertainties, and take responsibility for clinical decisions is more important than ever."

The position statement sets out the core knowledge, skills and responsibilities that define medical practice, highlighting the importance of trust in the patient-doctor relationship and the role doctors play in helping patients understand complex information and make informed choices about care.

"Australians deserve a doctor — someone who can listen, assess the whole picture, make a diagnosis, manage risk, and take responsibility for the outcome," Dr McMullen said. "At a time when misinformation spreads faster than facts, patients need someone they can trust to explain what the evidence shows and what it means for them. That trust is earned through years of medical education, supervised training, and ongoing professional development."

Dr McMullen said the AMA's "Whether people are seeking advice about a new diagnosis, weighing up treatment options, or trying to make sense of information they found online, doctors play a critical role in helping patients make informed decisions and navigate an increasingly complex healthcare system. Healthcare is a team effort, but patients should never be left wondering who is responsible for diagnosing their condition, coordinating their care, and managing clinical risk. Doctors have a unique role in the health system, and that role remains central to delivering safe, high-quality patient care."



Sectors welcome Senate call to remove limits on end-of-life care at home

Older people with life-limiting illness should be able to receive the care they need at home, without their support being constrained by fixed funding and time restrictions, Ageing Australia and Palliative Care Australia (PCA) said today.

The two peak bodies have welcomed a Senate Community Affairs References Committee recommendation to abolish the funding and time restrictions placed on the Support at Home End-of-Life Pathway and develop a flexible, clinically guided, needs-based model for end-of-life care at home.

Ageing Australia and PCA said the recommendation recognises that care at the end of life should be shaped around a person's needs, not arbitrary limits or uncertain predictions about how long they may live.

Ageing Australia

Ageing Australia Chief Member Experience Officer Belinda Allen said older people and their families need certainty, flexibility and practical support when someone is nearing the end of life. "At the end of life, people and families need care that can respond to their circumstances, not a model that puts arbitrary limits around support," Ms Allen said. "Access to aged care at home should be based on a person's needs, not a prediction about how long they have left to live. Older people who want to remain at home at the end of life should be supported to do so wherever possible, with care that is clinically guided and responsive to their circumstances."

Ms Allen said a more flexible model would also help reduce pressure across the broader health and aged care systems. "When people cannot access appropriate support at home, they are more likely to experience unnecessary hospital admissions and families are left trying to navigate a system that is not designed around their needs," Ms Allen said.

Palliative Care Australia

Palliative Care Australia National Policy Director Josh Fear said the recommendation was an important step towards fixing a fundamental flaw in the Pathway.

"The current model does not always work because access is tied to a time limit and a prognosis, rather than to a person's care needs," Mr Fear said. "That is a particular problem for people living with frailty, dementia, neurological conditions and other progressive illnesses, where predicting life

expectancy is inherently difficult. As long as access to the End-of-Life Pathway depends on whether someone is expected to live less than three months, older Australians with significant unmet palliative care needs will continue to miss out."

The Federal Government recently announced it would, from early 2027, introduce a second round of funding for people who live beyond the initial 12-week funding period. While welcomed as a practical improvement, Mr Fear said the change did not address the underlying problem with the Pathway's design.

"Providing a second round of funding for people who survive longer is a positive step, but it does not fix the core issue," Mr Fear said. "Some people may still outlive the Pathway's funding, while others may never gain access because their prognosis is uncertain. Eligibility should be determined by unmet need, not by asking clinicians to predict exactly how long a person has left to live. That is why the sector is developing a clinically guided alternative model that would better identify unmet need and support older Australians to receive the care they need, when they need it. We look forward to presenting that model in our submission to the current Senate Inquiry on the broader Support at Home Program, and to working with government on a model that better supports older people, families, providers and clinicians."

Palliative Care Australia will outline the sector's proposed needs-based model in submissions to the Senate inquiry into Support at Home by the 31 July deadline.



Greyhound Adoption Day in Tamworth

26 July @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Greyhounds make amazing pets because they are:

- Gentle, sweet-natured, and surprisingly playful
- Quiet companions (they rarely bark!)
- Minimal shedders with no doggy smell
- Only need a short walk then they're happy snoozing by your side for the rest of the day — the perfect winter companion
- Great with families and adapt beautifully to country living

SPECIAL ADOPTION RATES:

Greyhound Adoption Fee: \$150 (normally \$250)

Sweet Senior Greyhounds (7+ years): \$75 (normally \$150)

Letter to the Editor

It's time to get serious about the future of the PLANE TREES in Queen Street, between Alice Street and Savoy Street, and their future.

To be blunt, they should be removed before further damage is done to the various surfaces surrounding them, as stated before, they are a tree that needs SPACE, good even deep soil, a colder climate and should never have been planted in Queen Street. Still, what has been done, has been done with good intentions.

Looking through the trees at the Shop fronts, they are still in good order and would respond well to a fresh street scape makeover, perhaps with another Main Street Program.

Can I make the following suggestions, STARTING NOW.

1. Completely remove the two trees with bunting around them, the tree in front of the old memorial hall, the one, looking sad, in front of the old National Bank building and other dead or dying trees.
2. Set out a workable plan to remove rest of the trees in this area over the next two or three years.
3. Completely refurbish the parking area where trees have been removed from, including the Foot path and Curb and gutters.
4. Select areas where new trees are to be planted, prepare for planting and construct concrete surrounds to match existing.
5. Selection of trees, this could be interesting, I would suggest they should be young saplings appx 20mm dia. Single trunk, NOT ESTABLISHED TREES, that will accept pruning/shaping, my pick would be:
6. Photinia Red Robin or Robusta mixed with Manchurian Pear well selected from a reputable supplier; I don't think native trees are suitable for this application.

I think I have said enough, comments and suggestions would be welcome.

Yours faithfully.

David York.

In Memoriam

John Lennon

23/06/1938 – 27/07/2025

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed,
and forever in our hearts.

Joan, Anthony, Elizabeth.

2026 LANDCARE AWARDS

Time's running out to recognise local people in your community quietly caring for Australia.

Across Australia, thousands of landcarers are out in paddocks, parks, coastlines, classrooms, creeks and community spaces doing the work that protects the places and productive landscapes we all rely on. Most never ask for recognition. With just one month remaining until nominations close for the 2026 State and Territory Landcare Awards, Landcare Australia is calling on communities to shine a light on the local people and groups making a real difference to the health of our land, water and environment.

Who in your community deserves recognition?

It could be:

- A farmer improving soil health and biodiversity on their property
- A volunteer who's spent years restoring a local reserve
- A landcare, Coastcare, bushcare or rivercare group making a difference
- A Traditional Owner or First Nations organisation caring for Country
- A teacher inspiring students through environment projects
- A young person leading positive change in their community

From farmers improving soil health and productivity, to volunteers restoring native vegetation, Traditional Owners caring for Country and young people leading environmental projects, these are the kinds of everyday efforts that often happen quietly but make a lasting difference to communities and the environment.

It might also be the neighbour who spends weekends replanting a creek line, the farmer trialling new ways to keep soil healthy, the teacher helping students grow a habitat garden, or the volunteer group that turns up month after month to restore a local reserve.

Many landcarers do this work quietly and consistently, often over many years, so a nomination is a simple but powerful way to say their work matters. The awards celebrate the people helping create a more resilient future for Australia.

Anyone can put forward a nomination — whether it's for yourself, someone you know, or a group doing great things in your community. **Nominations close Friday, 31 July 2026.**

The State and Territory Landcare Awards are often the first step towards national recognition, with winners progressing to the 2027 National Landcare Awards. But for many

nominees, the greatest reward is knowing their efforts have been seen and valued by the communities they serve.

Dr Shane Norrish, CEO Landcare Australia said “Every community has people who turn up, get their hands dirty and keep going because they care deeply about the environment around them. All it takes is one nomination for someone to be recognised for their efforts. This isn’t just about saying thank you, a Landcare Award can help elevate people’s voices, strengthen their mission and open doors to new opportunities. Nominating is quick, free and incredibly impactful.”

More information: Contact your Local Landcare Group.



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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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- Polywelder
- Roof Plumber

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For Australian households looking to reduce their electricity bills, finding the best balance between rooftop solar and battery storage can be a challenge.

In a new paper published in SCI Sustainability, Adelaide University researchers have crunched the numbers to give householders some practical options to maximise their energy self-sufficiency. Dr Kirrilie Rowe and Professor Peter Pudney analysed real electricity consumption data from South Australian households and apartments over a two-year period.

Rather than attempting to predict future electricity tariffs – which are likely to change over the lifespan of solar and battery systems – the team focused on three long-term trends that are expected to continue:

- daytime solar exports are becoming increasingly less valuable as electricity networks become saturated with rooftop solar;
- battery prices are continuing to fall; and
- electricity purchased from the grid during morning and evening peak demand periods remains more expensive than off-peak power.

Using these trends, the researchers developed a method to identify the combination of solar generation and battery storage that delivers the greatest reduction in grid imports for a given investment.

“Our research shows that the trade-off between adding more solar panels or installing a battery depends on how much solar PV you already have,” said Dr Rowe, who is based in the Centre for Sustainable Infrastructure and Resource Management. “If your existing system is relatively small, adding more solar may be the best option. However, once you reach a certain point, a battery may be the better investment.”

Professor Pudney, from the Industrial AI Research Centre, said that instead of trying to predict future electricity prices, the research focused on how householders can maximise their use of the clean energy they generate themselves. “The less electricity you need to import from the grid, the more resilient and cost effective your energy system becomes,” he said.

The study identified clear tipping points at which batteries become more cost effective than additional solar panels.

For the most common household solar installations in South Australia – typically between 6 and 9 kilowatts – homeowners should consider installing a battery matched to

their system size (a 6 kW system with a 6 kWh battery, or a 9 kW system with a 9 kWh battery) before expanding their solar further.

“Some households may not be choosing the most effective mix of solar panels and batteries to cut their reliance on the grid during expensive peak times,” Dr Rowe said. “For example, our sample of relatively energy efficient households showed that a 6 kW solar system with 4 kWh of battery storage reduced electricity imports by 71%, while spending the same amount on a much larger 18 kW solar-only system achieved just a 49% reduction. Even larger batteries paired with small solar systems couldn’t match the savings of a well-balanced, larger solar-plus-battery setup.”

The researchers describe their findings as a practical guide for residential energy systems, helping households identify the combination of solar and battery storage that is neither too small nor unnecessarily large.

“The solar panels are what generate the clean, low-cost energy,” Professor Pudney said. “The battery’s role is to store excess energy so it can be used later. The ideal battery size depends on how much surplus solar energy you produce and how much electricity you use overnight.”

The researchers say oversized batteries may still make sense for households participating in virtual power plants or using electricity tariffs that allow them to buy and sell energy strategically. However, for most homeowners, achieving the right balance between solar generation and storage is the key to getting the best return on investment.

Match Report – Barraba Rams vs Armidale Blues | Ladies Day

The Barraba Rams welcomed the Armidale Blues to Barraba on Saturday for the club's annual Ladies Day, with a fantastic crowd turning out to celebrate and support women's rugby.

The women's team kicked off the afternoon with a special tunnel walk, each player accompanied by a significant woman in their life in recognition of those who support them both on and off the field. While the Rams took a few minutes to settle into the contest, they quickly found their rhythm and took control of the game. Strong defence kept the Blues scoreless in the opening quarter, while Barraba crossed twice to take a 12-0 lead into the first break.

The Rams continued to dominate possession in the second quarter, with excellent support play and slick offloads creating plenty of attacking opportunities. The Blues managed to cross late in the half, but Barraba's defence stood strong to limit the damage, taking a commanding 27-5 lead into the break.

Barraba never took their foot off the pedal in the second half, continuing to apply pressure across the park and running in more tries to secure an impressive 47-5 victory.

Try Scorers: Addison Dixon (2), Kirra Jordan (2), Kiah Newell (2), Ruby Smith, Lily Bradshaw and Ally Smith.

Conversion: Lily Bradshaw.

Player Awards

- **3 Points:** Lily Bradshaw
- **2 Points:** Emily Kelso
- **1 Point:** Kiah Newell
- **Players' Player:** Lily Bradshaw



The men's side then faced the competition-leading Armidale Blues with a full bench and plenty of confidence. Barraba made the perfect start, applying pressure from the opening whistle before halfback Digby Munro crossed in the opening 10 minutes. Cody Townsend added the extras to give the Rams an early 7-0 lead.

The Blues responded strongly to level the scores before gradually showing why they sit atop the competition ladder. Despite the final score of 64-14, the Rams never stopped competing, producing some outstanding defensive efforts and several strong attacking passages throughout the 80 minutes. Brandon Newell added Barraba's second try, while Cody Townsend and Jarrod Petrus each slotted a conversion.

Try Scorers: Digby Munro and Brandon Newell.

Conversions: Cody Townsend and Jarrod Petrus.

Player Awards

- **3 Points:** Brandon Newell
- **2 Points:** Will Robinson
- **1 Point:** Lachy Mack
- **Players' Player:** Will Robinson

A huge thank you goes to everyone who attended and supported our annual Ladies Day. The support shown by our community continues to make these events so special, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make the day such a success.

Next weekend the Barraba women travel to Dorrig to take on the Rangers, while the men enjoy a well-earned two-week break before returning to action.