



FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 2nd September 2026



Map My Food invites you, the **community member**, to morning tea at the Clay Pan, to hear about **preliminary research results** and the **important "what's next"**.

Where: Claypan and Gallery
74 Queen Street, Barraba

When: Friday 4 September
9.30am

"The Barraba community deserves to have the best possible healthcare delivered in their local community," Mr Anderson said. "Like any regional community, one of the biggest challenges facing local healthcare is the difficulty in attracting and retaining a workforce that meets the needs of the local community. Often, visiting workers help fill the gaps when local workers are on leave or unwell. That's why I'm always looking at ways to improve the accommodation for those visiting workers to ensure they have a safe, clean, and modern place to stay while they are caring for Barraba. The current available accommodation is cramped, uncomfortable, and does not meet the expectation of the modern workforce. That's why Barraba needs new accommodation, and I've been pushing the government to deliver it as part of the \$200m Key Health Worker Accommodation program."

The former Coalition Government delivered health worker accommodation in Tamworth, Gunnedah and Quirindi as part of a similar program. "I've worked hard to deliver the essential health worker accommodation our region needs, and Barraba is next on the list," Mr Anderson added. "I'm calling on the government to listen to the needs of our region and deliver the accommodation Barraba needs."



BARRABA NEEDS HEALTH WORKER ACCOMMODATION

The Barraba community deserves better health worker accommodation to ensure that visiting health workers are supported in the community.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said the modern workforce expects modern, comfortable accommodation and visiting health workers in Barraba need a new place to call home.



Member for Tamworth, Kevin Anderson, and Will Rixon, Barraba Ambulance inspecting a possible site for Health Worker accommodation.



**BARRABA RSL &
RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone 67821379

For the information of members
and guests.

THIS WEEK

**THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER
BINGO**

First game starts at 6pm

**FRIDAY 4th SEPTEMBER
RUBY MAE RAFFLES**

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm
Membership Draw \$1400

**SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER
AIRCOOLED ASSEMBLY RAFFLES**

Membership Draw \$1700

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
TOWN & DISTRICT
TENNIS CLUB**

Attention all members! The Barraba Town and
District Tennis Club AGM is coming up.

All members are warmly invited to attend.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Wednesday | 9th September | Bowling Club
6pm**

AGM NOTICE

Please be advised that the AGM of the Showground
Management Committee will be held on Tuesday the 8th
September 2026 - 6pm at the Barraba Bowling Club. All
positions will be declared vacant - general meeting to
follow.

Don Roberts
Secretary

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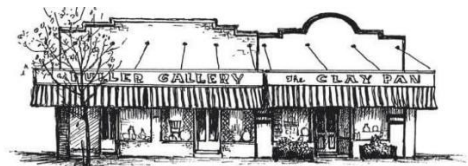
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IT TAKES A LITTLE



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Barraba Potters and Craft Guild

"Come and Try Day"

26th September 2026

Sashiko/Kawandi Hand Embroidery & Machine Embroidery Demonstrations.

Have you ever wondered what Sashiko and Kawandi hand embroidery are?? Now you have the opportunity to see it executed and get an idea on how it is done.

A FREE work shop has been organised by the Barraba Potters and Craft Guild, to be held at the Fuller Gallery at 74 Queen Street, Barraba.

Sashiko is a traditional Japanese embroidery technique using simple, rhythmic running stitches to create geometric patterns, historically used to reinforce or mend indigo fabric with white thread. It focuses on creating consistent, small stitches—ideally with backstitches being 1/3 the length of top stitches—often done in one direction at a time.

Kawandi stitching is a traditional, meditative hand quilting technique from the Siddi community in India.

COME AND TRY DAY!

BARRABA

POTTERS AND CRAFT GUILD

SEPTEMBER 26TH 2026

10AM – 3PM

POTTERY \$25

FELTING \$10

SASHIKO AND MACHINE EMBROIDERY DEMONSTRATION: 1:30 – 3PM FREE

Tea and coffee available.
BYO lunch

CONTACT PATTI TO BOOK IN & PAY
0459 608 486

Unlike Western quilting that starts in the centre, Kawandi is built from the outside in using scrap fabric pieces and a simple running stitch through all layers directly onto a backing.

Maybe you have a new embroidery machine or keen to purchase one and would like a few tips and learn some new tricks on how to use it, this is your chance to ask all those questions you might have!!

Sashiko/Kawandi Embroidery: Free from 1.30pm to 3pm. Instructors Glenys McDonald & Chris Bennett from Manilla.

Machine Embroidery: Free From 1.30pm to 3pm. Instructors will be Rosemary Orchard and Sharon O'Dell from Barraba.

All equipment will be provided.

Phone/message to book in: To Patti on 0459608486 and for more information.

Coffee and tea available, BYO lunch.

Watch our Facebook page for updates. Barraba Potters and Craft Guild Inc

Payment to:

Bank Details: BSB: 932 000 Account Number: 100339692

Reference: Your name



Sample of Sashiko Embroidery above

Sample of Kawandi Embroidery below.

Photo courtesy of [Kawandi Style](#) Face book page



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor, Barraba Community News

I am always amused by spirited defences that prove the other's case. The concept that diligently jumping through bureaucratic hoops, after the event, equates to useful work.

A letter in last week's Community News went into copious detail about how Barraba became an irrelevance to Tamworth Regional Council. A "not my fault" missive.

We were told that "Strong community members" worked tirelessly. Surprisingly "strong community sentiment" was not mentioned.

As I understand it, Bingara and Warialda courted Barraba, but the "strong community members" said "no". Leading inevitably to the "forced" amalgamation.

The article from last week was a perfect example of what is wrong with committee structures. A chronology of meetings, lobbying and bureaucracy writ large. Even, if I read correctly, the ludicrous concept of "virtual amalgamation" with a Sydney council six hours away - dragging along facilitators, consultants, more strong community members and a gaggle of mayors to meeting after meeting after meeting. "Virtual amalgamation", possibly the most hilarious concept in government - and that is a high bar.

From all the information I know from non-vested sources we, Barraba, did get shafted by both State governments and our own council - they said "no" to Bingara/Warialda leading to the, to no one's surprise, forced amalgamation with TRC.

It really doesn't matter - we aren't putting a plaque in a park. The deed is done and personally I would have preferred to be a third of a small regional council rather than an afterthought on the Titanic, but hey, its local politics. We live with who we vote in.

Doesn't absolve Tamworth from treating Barraba fairly - not as a loss centre, but as rate-payers who need services and consideration. Even just a tenth of the consideration given the new Tamworth Skywalk(er) to the Oxley Scenic Lookout would be nice.

Name supplied Barraba

Dear Bronwyn, Thankyou for printing my letter last week. This Local Newspaper is a clear example of leadership in the Barraba community.

On a personal note, your work over many years has enabled many people to benefit and for this I say Thankyou.

Sincerely Shirley Close

Tamworth Regional Council Letter to Editor

Good Afternoon,
Happy Friday. [28th August 2026]

I attended the Councillor Catch Up in Barraba on the 8th, this month. There were a number of issues raised which have been reported and assigned to relevant staff.

I just wanted to share some important updates that might be of interest to the whole Barraba community, that you may wish to also share, based on questions raised.

In relation to disposal of chemicals and chemical drums at the Barraba Waste Facility:

These can be attributed to a Council Spokesperson:

“Barraba is a registered drumMUSTER site and accepts chemical drums. Residents and farmers can dispose of empty and washed drums at the Barraba facility, when open. If residents are turned away, it is because the drums do not comply with the drumMUSTER guidelines and assessment process. For example; not empty or not clean. The details of drumMUSTER, including that residents can participate at Barraba, are on Council’s website: www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/live/waste-and-recycling”

- “In relation to chemicals, no Tamworth Regional Council sites accept chemicals. The only way anyone can dispose of chemicals is via Council’s annual chemical collection day. This is aimed at domestic/residential chemicals and is part funded by NSW EPA (50% of the cost). Council is waiting on the EPA to provide the latest funding deeds and further details. Assuming Council gets the funding deeds soon, it is hoped a collection day will be planned for October/November 2026. Drop off can occur at Tamworth and Manilla (the site must have a hard stand area and Manilla has this). Publicity will be undertaken closer to the day, but details are provided on Council’s website here: www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/live/waste-and-recycling”
- “Finally in relation to agricultural chemicals, Agsafe has announced a statewide ChemClear collection for [New South Wales](http://www.chemclear.org.au), providing farmers and agribusinesses with an opportunity to clear unwanted, obsolete or unknown AgVet chemicals from their properties. There is a register process for this collection. Registration is required by 31 August and further information can be found at www.chemclear.org.au”

Hope this helps!

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 6th September – 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 1st Sunday of the month, Saturday evening
Mass 5pm. (Note the time change)
All other Sundays 9am

Remembered With Love

John (Jack) Dunshea – Passed Away 1999
Linda (May) Dunshea – Passed Away 2005
Christine (Chris) Wakeling (nee Dunshea) – Passed Away 2015

A Memorial service to celebrate the life of the late
Troy Ryan,
who sadly departed this life suddenly on 7th July
2026, will be held at
10:00am
Tuesday 8th September
at
St Laurence’s Anglican Church, Barraba.
All welcome to attend.

Letters to the Editor

At *Barraba Community News* we welcome ‘Letters to the Editor’ expressing your opinion on any topic.

It is important to ensure the opinions expressed are not discriminatory or offensive. The Editor reserves the right to use judgement to edit or decline to print should a letter not meet editorial standards.

Advertise in Barraba Community News and reach 750 households in our local area.

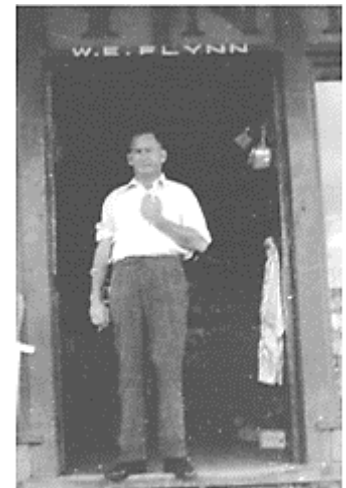
Contact news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au for the best advertising rates in the region

Reminiscences of Marie Smith (nee Flynn)

In the later part of the 1930's, there were two emporiums in Barraba—Dean & Smith who sold to M.C. McKenzie & Son and J.T. Treloars (the sign is still on the top of the building). Treloars sold their store to M.C. McKenzie & Sons and in doing so stipulated the staff had to receive positions in their store.

Those I can recall were from the Grocery section - Alec Faddy, Dick Myers, Lou Coleman and Walter Flynn. This sale motivated Walter to purchase his own business from Mr & Mrs Steve Newton and it became Flynn's Corner (now The Corner Store). It meant a move for the entire family to squeeze into the premises. Bill and Wal in one room, the next room was the lounge - sitting - ironing room (whatever) - next Lilla and Walter's room with a bed for Marie and Jan. I'm not sure where Don and Geoff would have slept - so just as well they were in the RAAF.

McKenzie's manager refused to release Walter until he convinced them it was in their interest to do so. Lilla, Bill, Wal, Marie and Jan did their part in running the store until then. The shop would open around 8am and close when there were no more customers arriving, usually around 10pm, as it became a meeting place for all the teenagers who lived around that end of town. During this period, chocolates, crumble bars, chewing gum, etc. were hardly thought of except once in a blue moon we would get a delivery and almost every child in town came a-running. Sugar, tea and butter was rationed. Each person had a ration book, etc.



Walter Flynn at Flynn's
Corner - 1944

When our men returned from the war, they were entitled to a tobacco ration. We dreaded this time as each parcel had to be wrapped and named and go on a big bookshelf. Of course, purloining a bit from here and there for the heavy smokers became a real headache because Dad couldn't say no to them. One morning a surly, unkempt character entered the shop and demanded Mum sell him some tobacco. She assured him there was no spare. He threatened her and made advances towards the end of the counter, "I fought for people like you in the war." Fighting words to her! "You didn't fight for me at all," she said. "I had two sons fighting for me." He kept coming and at that moment, Mavis Hatch, who lived on the opposite side of the street, came in the door. He eyed them both up and down, turned tail and left. Mavis was very upset and enquired why Mum had not called Dad into the shop.

"He isn't here," says Mum. "I'm by myself." This naturally gave an excuse for a cuppa and sympathy. One wonders if two ladies put the 'bee-jeebies' up him, did he actually come face to face with the enemy!

Note:

For anyone interested in mining in this area in the past, the Society has acquired some books by Aaron Hardy on mining at Woodsreef, Crow Mountain and Red Hill, which are available for sale.



New Busking Process Strengthens the Heartbeat of the Festival

Busking registrations are now open for the Toyota 55th Tamworth Country Music Festival, which will take place from 15-24 January, 2027. Busking is an iconic aspect of the Festival, with up to 400 buskers performing on Tamworth's "Boulevard of Dreams" in Peel Street and surrounding areas.

Every artist, no matter their age or experience converge on Tamworth's streets every January, making it one of the most anticipated parts of the Festival. It is free to busk.

As the tradition continues to grow, The Festival is now introducing a new, centrally coordinated busking allocation system for 2027, designed to create a fairer, more consistent experience for performers, businesses and festival-goers.

Developed following extensive feedback from the community and 2026 buskers, the new process will see all busking locations and schedules managed by the Festival's Busking Coordinator, through an online system, ensuring performance opportunities are shared more equitably across the event.

Under the new system, buskers will perform only at official designated busking locations, which will be clearly marked throughout the CBD. While businesses will no longer allocate busking sites directly, they can still nominate preferred performers or request an exclusive approved busker where an existing relationship exists.

Festival Executive Producer Peter Ross says the changes have been carefully considered following extensive feedback and consultation with stakeholders and are aimed at improving the experience for everyone involved.

"By managing locations and schedules centrally, we can provide a more organised and equitable process while still recognising the strong relationships many performers have built with local businesses over the years." Mr Ross says.

Buskers will also need to comply with new sound requirements. While amplification is still permitted, performers will be encouraged to keep equipment to a minimum, with a maximum sound level of 70 decibels and some locations operating as acoustic-only zones at certain times.

Acoustic instruments, compact battery-powered amplification and light percussion remain welcome, while excessively loud equipment such as subwoofers, full drum kits, large PA systems and non-musical entertainment acts will not be permitted.

"Busking is the heartbeat of the Tamworth Country Music Festival, and we are excited to create a more transparent system that gives every registered performer the best possible opportunity to be seen and heard," Mr Ross says.

The Toyota Best of the Buskers Championships will return in 2027, celebrating the Festival's outstanding street performers. Buskers who nominate to compete will be assessed by a panel of secret judges throughout the Festival, while fans can once again vote for their favourite performer via a QR code displayed on each registered busker's official poster.

The public's choice will receive the Festival Fan Favourite award and automatically earn a place in the prestigious Toyota Best of the Buskers Top 10, with finalists competing for cash, performance opportunities and valuable industry prizes.

For more information and to register to busk, visit www.tcmf.com.au/busking

Tamworth Country Music Festival is proudly supported by the NSW Government through its tourism and major events agency, [Destination NSW](http://DestinationNSW.com.au). Stay up-to-date on the Toyota 55th Tamworth Country Music website. [TCMF Facebook](#) and [TCMF Instagram](#)

Sky's the limit as Tamworth's newest attraction opens

A new chapter for Tamworth's outdoor recreation and tourism offering has begun, with the Tamworth Skywalk officially opening on Saturday 29th August.

The grand opening featured a ceremonial ribbon cutting and a community celebration, with live entertainment, food and drinks, children's activities and the opportunity for attendees to experience the Skywalk firsthand.

The elevated 1.5-kilometre experience connects Victoria Park with Oxley Scenic Lookout, providing a safer alternative to walking along Scenic Road while giving residents and visitors a new way to experience the natural landscape and views across the region. The idea for a safer pedestrian connection to Oxley Scenic Lookout emerged through community consultation undertaken as part of the Victoria Park Master Plan in 2021.

The Skywalk has been designed to encourage people to get outdoors, be active and spend time in nature, while maximising accessibility for people of different ages and abilities. The design concentrated the stairs in the middle of the structure to allow people using wheelchairs, prams or with limited mobility to access significant sections of the Skywalk from either end.

Tamworth Region Mayor, Russell Webb, said the opening marked an exciting milestone for the community. "This is a project that started with a simple but important idea; that people should be able to safely walk to the lookout and enjoy the natural environment along the way," Cr Webb said. "Today, we can see that idea brought to life in a way that offers so much more. The Skywalk is a place to exercise, explore, spend time with family and friends, take in the views or simply enjoy being outdoors. We have also worked hard to make the Skywalk accessible to as many people as possible, so more of our community can experience this part of Tamworth."

The \$18 million project was made possible through a \$14.3 million investment from the NSW Government, with a Council contribution of \$3.7 million. Minister for Regional NSW Tara Moriarty said the Skywalk is an example of the NSW Government investing in projects that make regional communities better places to live, work and visit.

"The Tamworth Skywalk will give locals and visitors a safer, more accessible way to enjoy one of the region's most scenic locations, while supporting recreation, tourism and the local businesses that benefit when people spend more time in town," Minister Moriarty said. "This project reflects what can be achieved when the NSW Government works with councils to deliver projects that provide long-term benefits for regional communities."

Cr Webb said the project demonstrated the value of strong partnerships, noting that projects of this scale are never delivered by one organisation alone. "Council has worked closely with head contractor FORGE throughout the planning and construction of the Skywalk, with Council staff coordinating closely with their team, local subcontractors, suppliers and businesses to bring the project together," Cr Webb said. "The success of the project has relied on that collaboration, problem-solving and a shared commitment to delivering a quality outcome for the community."

FORGE Head of Construction, Robert Antonios, said that FORGE is privileged to have led the delivery of the iconic Tamworth Skywalk as principal contractor, bringing this bespoke project to life, from design and engineering through to construction. "Local contractor participation was a priority for FORGE. In line with our tender commitment, and

as part of our Grassroots™ program, we focused our procurement strategy on engaging local businesses to ensure the project generated meaningful economic benefits for the region across both delivery and supply chains," Mr Antonios said. "It was a pleasure working with the local teams, who delivered a significant component of the works. Their diligence, expertise and passion were evident throughout the project."

The Tamworth community has also played an important role throughout the planning, design and construction phases of the Skywalk. Early consultation with community groups and organisations resulted in shaping the final Skywalk alignment, ensuring the project reflects the needs and priorities of those who will use it while also respecting the cultural heritage of the landscape.

The project has required complex construction in a challenging natural environment, including the installation of hundreds of footings, elevated boardwalk sections, viewing platforms and the bridge across Scenic Road. Temporary closures and changes to access were required at different stages of the build to allow work to be carried out safely.

"On behalf of Council, I want to thank the community for their patience and understanding while this project was being built. We know there have been times when access to various locations has been restricted, and we appreciate everyone who has worked with us while construction has taken place," Cr Webb said.

The Skywalk is expected to provide a lasting boost to Tamworth's visitor economy, adding a distinctive outdoor experience to the region's tourism offering and giving visitors another reason to explore the area and stay longer.

While access to the Skywalk is free, visitors can experience other attractions, enjoy local hospitality, shop in the region and stay overnight, supporting businesses across the broader Tamworth region.

"For our community, it provides a new place to connect with nature and with each other. For visitors, it adds another distinctive experience to our tourism offering," Cr Webb said. "When visitors stay a little longer, enjoy a meal or coffee, shop locally or explore another attraction, that activity helps support local businesses and contributes to the strength of our regional economy."

The Tamworth Skywalk is now open for the community and visitors to experience.

**Here is an overview of outcomes from the Ordinary
Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council on Tuesday 25th
August 2026.**

- Councillors tonight approved new road names for subdivisions in Westdale and East Tamworth. 'Leichhardt' Chase in Westdale will be named after Ludwig Leichhardt, who carried out three inland expeditions in the 1840s across NSW and QLD, and reflects the subdivision's 'Explorers' theme. 'Kangaroo' Crest and 'Koala' View in Stage One and 'Bandicoot', 'Dingo', 'Echidna', 'Numbat', 'Platypus', 'Possum', 'Potoroo', 'Quokka', 'Sugar Glider' and 'Wombat' in future Stages of an approved subdivision in East Tamworth featuring an Australian Mammals and Marsupials theme were also approved.
- Councillors agreed to accept a revised delegation from Building Commission NSW, allowing Council to continue its role in regulating on-site plumbing and drainage across the region. The updated arrangement maintains Council's existing inspection responsibilities and introduces additional requirements to formally appoint inspectors and enforcement officers under the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2011. Councillors also approved a new Memorandum of Understanding outlining operational conditions, ensuring Council can continue delivering plumbing and drainage compliance services in line with state regulations.
- Councillors approved for the Draft Hills Plain Recreation Reserve Masterplan to be placed on public exhibition. The feedback period will be open from Wednesday, August 26 until Thursday, September 24 before a future report is compiled outlining any submissions made during this period which will then be put to Council for approval. The masterplan applies to approximately 6.5 hectares of land, in a broader parcel of 19 hectares owned by Council, at the corner of Moore Creek Road and Browns Lane and sets out a clear plan for delivering a district-level park in North Tamworth to service Tamworth's housing growth to the north.
- A report outlining the return of Council investments to July 2026 was received and noted by Councillors. Last financial year the average return on council's investments was 4.55% which resulted in actual investment income exceeding budget by more than \$811,000.00. A significant proportion of this interest income will be allocated to externally

restricted reserves including water, sewer and developer contributions. Unless there is a significant downturn in interest rates, Council is well positioned to achieve its budgeted investment return of 4.75% for the current financial.

- As part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework, Councillors reviewed Our Progress Report, January–June 2026, which outlines progress against 250 actions identified in the Operational Plan and Budget 2025/26. At the conclusion of the reporting period, 91% of the recorded actions were reported as Achieved or On Track, and 9% were identified as Monitor or Discontinued. The report is accompanied by focus area highlights and service delivery insights demonstrating how business-as-usual operations contribute to the successful delivery of strategic objectives. The report should be read in conjunction with the Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 and the Delivery Program 2025-2029.

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



**CAPITOL THEATRE TAMWORTH. Saturday 5 September
7.30pm**

Hear your favourite Aussie rock anthems like you've never heard them before! The 2340 Big Band presents Rock The Classics: Aussie Rock Anthems, a spectacular new show that fuses the raw power of our nation's legendary rock music with the smooth, sophisticated sound of a big band. This is a one-of-a-kind production that will take you on a thrilling journey through the very heart and soul of Australian rock music. "Every generation finds its own way to rock. The songs stay the same, but the fire's always new." MICK JAGGER – THE ROLLING STONES

From the gritty pub-rock legends that defined a generation to the iconic stadium fillers that captured the world, this is a show for people of all ages. Featuring a line-up of incredible vocalists, you'll experience a powerful and exhilarating new

take on songs that have truly stood the test of time. Don't miss this unique and unforgettable tribute, a high-energy evening celebrating the very best of our musical heritage. It's a powerful fusion proving that great music is truly timeless.

Presented by 2340 Big Band as part of Season 2026 presented by VW Commercial Vehicles.



TAMWORTH WEINER DOG FESTIVAL 2026 SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

This family-friendly event is dedicated to all things dachshund (aka weiner dogs!) and promises a fun-filled day for dog lovers, families, and the local community.

Weiner Dog Competitions (prizes to be won!)

- Chill-Out Zone for your pups
- Fun Photobooth Area
- Meet Local Rescue Groups
- Delicious Food Trucks
- Coffee Vendors
- Plus heaps more surprises planned!

GALA DAY IS BACK! – Sunday 27 September



Join us on Sunday 27th September 2026 at Bicentennial Park for a paw-some day out celebrating dogs and the people who love them!

The day as always, is set to be fun for the whole family, with pet-related market stalls, live entertainment, jumping castle and plenty of activities for both two and four-legged guests.

Try your pup on the agility course and meet local trainers and behaviourists for expert tips. For the kids, there'll be a jumping castle, and don't miss the sizzling BBQ fundraiser, with proceeds going to support our local Animal Welfare League.

We'll also be hosting a Toy Drive for the dogs at Paws For Life Animal Shelter and the Companion Animal Centre – a chance to give back to pups still waiting for their forever homes.

The highlights of the day will be our live demonstrations and dog-friendly competitions, with multiple prizes to be won across a variety of categories thanks to our generous sponsors.

Live demonstrations:

9am -10am: Agility Demonstration by Tamworth Agility Group who is a branch of DSNE - Dog Sport New England, affiliated with ADAA.

10:30am - 11:20am: Canine Scent Work Demonstration & 'Gala Games' by What A Nose! Canine Scent Work.

Event Schedule:

10am: Golden Oldie (Senior Dog - 7 Years & Over)

10.15 am: Junior Handler (Under 12 Years of Age)

11.30am: Tiny But Mighty (Small Dog)

11.45am: Gentle Giant (Large Dog)

12.00pm: Dual Event: One of a Kind (Most Unique) & Rescue Rockstar (Shelter Dog)

12.15pm: Skilled Handler & Best Trick (12 Years & Over)

12.30pm: Fur Fashionista (Best Dressed / Costume)

All dogs must remain on a lead and owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets. Bring your pup, bring the kids, and join us for a tail-wagging, fun-filled day you won't want to miss!



On Saturday, 29 August, the Barraba Ram Ladies travelled to Armidale to compete in their first-ever Major Final since the team's inception in 2019. On a warm and sunny afternoon at Bellevue Oval, the Rams were ready to take on the Armidale Barbets for the third time this season, with a place in the Grand Final on the line.

The starting 10 looked dangerous as Barraba kicked deep to the Barbets to begin the match. Armidale held possession and worked their way towards Barraba's 10-metre line, where a perfectly timed draw-and-pass put one of their

centres through a gap to score the opening five points. From the restart, a scrum on halfway saw the Barbets overpower the Rams and turn the ball over, but a cracking tackle from Charlie Norton and a well-timed clean out by Amie Middlemiss won possession back. Barraba quickly went to work, and after some exceptional passing and support play, Norton found space and ran the ball in under the posts to level the scores at 5-all heading into the first break.

Barraba started the second quarter strongly, sending the restart deep into the Barbets' 22. After just three phases, the Rams forced a turnover and kicked for touch. A shaky lineout saw Barraba scramble for possession, but halfback Ally Smith settled the play before shifting the ball through the backline, where Leilani Tevaga crossed for her first try of the afternoon. Norton added the conversion to give Barraba a 12–5 lead. The next passage of play looked very similar, with Emily Kelso earning Barraba a penalty for the Barbets failing to release. A much cleaner lineout followed, and the Rams shifted the ball wide before bringing it back towards the sideline. Kirra Jordan looked almost certain to cross, but a wayward pass from Middlemiss sailed into touch. It mattered little, however, as a mistake at the resulting Barbets lineout saw young gun Macey Cabot collect the ball and charge to just short of the line. Some strong pick-and-drives from the forwards created an overlap out wide, allowing Tevaga to dive over for her second try. With five minutes remaining in the half, Barraba continued to apply pressure. Norton secured another turnover and immediately took a quick tap, making valuable metres back into the Barbets' 22. A strong carry from Cabot and some great tip-on passes eventually put the ball into the hands of Lily Bradshaw, who found herself with plenty of space and raced underneath the posts. Norton converted to extend Barraba's lead to 24–5 with three minutes remaining.

The Barbets controlled possession for the final few minutes of the half, but Barraba's defence refused to crack, keeping them outside the Rams' 22 and sending Barraba into halftime with a commanding lead.

The third quarter began with Barraba receiving the kick-off, and a powerful carry from prop Jemma Johnson immediately put the Rams back around halfway. After a handful of phases, Barraba once again found themselves attacking inside the Barbets' 22. A scrappy period followed, with possession changing hands four times in general play before Norton stripped the ball. Kelso followed with a huge carry before Norton took over again, bulldozing her way across the line to extend the lead to 29–5. Barraba worked hard to keep the game firmly in Barbets territory for the remainder of the quarter, with Kiah Newell using her pace through the middle to continually push the opposition backwards. After a Barbets forward was shown a yellow card, Barraba kicked for touch and set up a lineout just five metres from the try line. A powerful rolling maul from the Rams forwards drove towards the line before Jordyn Snape collected the ball from the back and darted down the short side with nobody in front of her, adding another five points.

Barraba headed into the final quarter leading 34–5 and just 10 minutes away from a historic Grand Final appearance. The Rams took the field for the final quarter determined not only to protect their lead, but finish the job in style. It didn't take long for another commanding Norton carry to put Barraba back into attacking territory. Catching the opposition napping around the ruck, Kelso powered over the line to add another five and extend the score to 39–5. A short restart handed the Barbets a scrum feed on halfway, but the fresh legs of Paige Oliver and Piper Cribb in the Rams pack proved a menace for their opposition and forced a reset.



Play remained around the middle of the field before another Barbets penalty allowed Barraba to kick for territory. From there, the ball was shifted to the backline and Addison Dixon made a commanding run through the middle. Another penalty followed when the Barbets were slow to roll away from the tackle. Barraba wasted no time. A quick tap and shift found Middlemiss five metres from the line, and she dove over for another Rams try. Norton added the conversion and the lead grew to 46–5. Not long after the restart, Barraba's relentless pressure forced another Barbets fumble. Bradshaw was there to scoop up the loose ball and race the remaining 20 metres to score, with another successful conversion adding seven more points to the tally. With a minute remaining, Barraba kicked deep once again and Newell's pace ensured the Barbets made virtually no ground from the return. With just 10 seconds left on the clock, Barraba's dangerous front row of Urquhart, Oliver and Johnson laid the platform with a strong scrum. Hard runs from Bradshaw and Smith followed before Norton put the final nail in the coffin, crashing over underneath the posts. Norton converted her own try as the final whistle sounded, sealing an emphatic 60–5 victory. It was a dominant performance from the Barraba women and, more importantly, one that has secured their place in the Grand Final for the first time in the team's history.

From the formation of the women's team in 2019 to now being just one win away from their first piece of silverware, it is a huge achievement for everyone who has pulled on the green and white jersey and helped build the women's program along the way.

The Rams now earn a weekend off before returning to Bellevue Oval in Armidale on Saturday, 12 September, where they will face either the Glen Innes Elks or Armidale Barbets, depending on the result of this weekend's Final.

A supporters bus will be running to Armidale for the Grand Final, and we would love to see as much green and white on the sidelines as possible! If you would like to put your name down for a seat, please message the Barraba Rugby Club Facebook page or contact Amie Middlemiss on 0409 879 093.

Let's get behind our Rams Ladies as they chase history!



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