

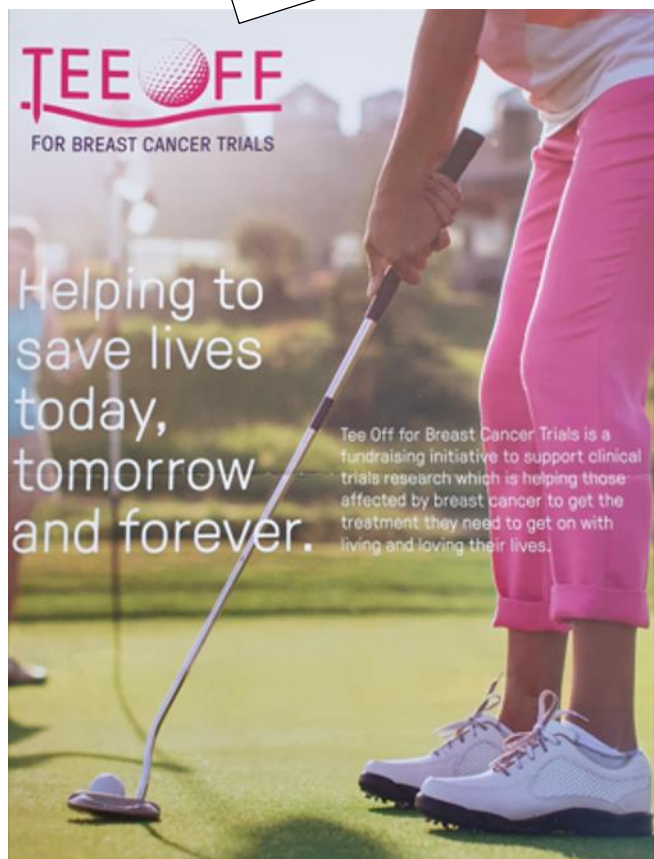


BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Wednesday 9th September 2026



Annual Breast Cancer Day

9 Hole 4 person Ambrose

Sunday 20th Sept. 1.00pm. \$25 pp inc Hi tea.

Breast screening in Barraba

29th September - 2nd October 2026

Behind the Queen Street Mall

Bookings: Online at

www.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au or call 13 20 50



BreastScreen
NSW

BARRABA RACES

SATURDAY 19th
SEPTEMBER 2026



6 RACE PROGRAM - ON SITE
BOOKMAKERS

GATES OPEN 12.30PM
FIRST RACE 1.30PM

BBQ LUNCH - LICENCED BAR - COFFEE
VAN - FASHIONS ON THE FIELD -
JUMPING CASTLE



Barraba High Country Music Musta

Sunday 13th August 2026.

12 to 4pm. FREE ENTRY.

Walk-up artists welcome.

Barraba Bowling Club.



**BARRABA RSL &
RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone 67821379

For the information of members
and guests.

THIS WEEK

**THURSDAY 10th SEPTEMBER
BINGO**

First game starts at 6pm

**FRIDAY 11th SEPTEMBER
MEAT RAFFLES**

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm

Membership Draw \$1500

**SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER
ANGLER CLUB RAFFLES**

Membership Draw \$1800

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



Retro Caravan is available for a single person, located in Horton Village. Free rent and electricity in return for some odd jobs, garden work etc.

Fully equipped and available now. References required.

Phone Betty 0448 218 636

**Westpac Barraba Support Group AGM
on Tuesday 29th of September
at Barraba Bowling Club 6 pm
New members welcome**

It's time to nominate for the Australia Day awards

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond for their community? It's time to recognise these members of the community with nominations for the 2026 Australia Day Awards now open.

The awards celebrate residents who have demonstrated sustained selfless commitment, active involvement, initiative and dedication in activities that positively impact the community. Award ceremonies will be held in Tamworth, Manilla, Barraba and Nundle on 26 January 2027. Tamworth Region Mayor Russell Webb is calling on residents to nominate the unsung heroes out there. "We all know someone who is working tirelessly for their community and deserves recognition," Cr Webb said. "While these people don't volunteer their time for the accolades, they deserve every bit of praise they get. This is a chance to say thank you. So, if you know someone who should be recognised, nominate them today."

The award categories for Barraba and Tamworth will remain the same as last year, while there will be changes to the awards for Manilla and Nundle.

In Nundle, the Citizen of the Year Award, Young Citizen of the Year Award and Community Event of the Year Award have all been reintroduced and will replace the Community Recognition Award.

Manilla will also have the Citizen of the Year Award, Young Citizen of the Year Award and Community Event of the Year Award, while the Achiever of the Year award has been removed for 2026.

These changes have been made, following community consultation, in order to better align with the National Australia Day Council and provide greater consistency across the regional Australia Day award ceremonies. To nominate someone for an award and find more information, head to <https://trcnews.au/ausdayawards26>.

Award categories

Barraba:

- **Citizen of the Year Award**
- **Frank Darlington Young Achiever Award**
- **Community Event of the Year Award**

Manilla:

- **Citizen of the Year Award**
- **Young Citizen of the Year Award**
- **Community Event of the Year Award**



Barraba Potters and Craft Guild

"Come and Try Day"

Needle Felting

Back by popular demand!!!

Barraba Potters and Craft Guild are pleased to have special guest instructor Janice Smith from Narrabri attend the "Come and Try Day" on the 26th of September to demonstrate Needle Felting technique at the Gallery, 74 Queen Street Barraba, from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

Felting is a textile technique that involves matting, condensing and pressing fibres together. Needle felting uses barbed needles to poke and matt fibres together. Often used for creating detailed designs and patterns, adding embellishments to fabric and making three-dimensional sculptures of figures. The barbed needles catch and tangle the fibres, holding them together.

If you would like to try needle felting, this is your chance to "give it a go" at something new or to refresh your technique. Articles that can be made on the day are gift cards, needle case pictures, earrings or a sheep. President Annette said "We are looking forward to welcoming Janice back to help us make our own unique felted item".

All equipment required will be supplied on the day. The option of purchasing a barb needle felting kit to take home will be available on the day.

Cost is \$10 per person.

Bookings and payment requested prior to the day.

Phone Patti on 0459 608 486 to book in and for more information.

Coffee and tea available, BYO lunch.

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



Early results are in and the Map My Food survey reveals fresh is best



Wednesday 2 September 2026

Deakin University public health experts now have a better understanding of where people in the Tamworth and Hunter New England region shop for food.

A first-of-its-kind community survey, that forms part of the Map My Food project, has revealed most people are buying their food from supermarkets, but greengrocers and butchers are still a popular choice and quality and freshness drive shopping choices.

More than 160 people completed the survey last year, including 38% from Manilla, 35% from Barraba and 21% from Tamworth. The survey asked people to detail their food shopping habits and share their ideas for improving access to healthy, affordable food.

Dr Cindy Needham from Deakin Centre for Global Preventive Health and Nutrition in the Deakin Institute for Health Transformation said the research team was thrilled with the response to the Map My Food survey and was now visiting communities to discuss the early findings and next steps while further analysing the data and preparing the results for publication.

'Quality and freshness of produce strongly influenced shopping behaviours and the time needed to travel to food outlets was also a big factor for people,' Dr Needham said.

'Early insights suggest people living outside of Tamworth are traveling long distances to access big supermarkets.

'We learnt that Tamworth residents were most likely to shop at a major supermarket while small supermarkets were the most popular shopping choice in Manilla and Barraba.

'We also learnt that Manilla and Barraba residents are big supporters of their local butchers and the greengrocer is a favourite choice for people living in Barraba.

'Residents told us that increasing the availability and affordability of fresh produce in local stores would help make their food shopping easier. Locals were also very supportive of partnering with local farmers and food producers to sell more locally grown product in existing retail outlets.'

The project team is also gathering feedback about the Map My Food online tool co-designed with community. It will be

further refined to adapt to other settings and help explore complex problems in the future.

Dr Needham said the Map My Food project was supported with funding from the Australian Government's Medical Research Futures Fund, and the research team were now looking for further funding to implement community suggestions about improving access to healthy food.

'We have recently submitted an NHMRC Partnership Grant which would support the roll-out of community-led food cooperative, Box Divvy, into rural areas and examine the health and wellbeing impacts on the community over time,' Dr Needham said.

'The information we have collected will also be shared with local organisations as they work to improve local food systems in line with what people say they want.'



GRAB A GRANT, SAVE A LIFE

The popular life-saving Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program has

returned, and local sporting clubs and recreational facilities are encouraged to apply for a grant of up to \$3,000 to install a defibrillator.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said having a defibrillator on hand could be the difference between life and death for a player or a spectator.

"We love the great outdoors and playing sport, which is why our local sporting fields and recreation areas are a hive of activity through the year, but particularly as we enter into Spring," Mr Anderson said.

"Exercise and physical activity are so important to healthy living, but strenuous activity can lead to cardiac arrest, so it's important that sporting clubs and recreational facilities have access to the tools they need to save a life.

"A defibrillator can be the difference between life and death because medical experts tell us that the first eight minutes following cardiac arrest are critical to saving a life.

"That's why I've always been a big supporter of the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program, encouraging local clubs to apply.

"It can happen to anyone, at any time, which is why I'm keen to see as many defibrillators in the hands of local clubs as possible."

Applications for the Government's Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program is now open and closes on 7 October 2026.

For more information, visit <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/local-sport-defibrillator-program-lsdp-2026/27>

Letter to Editor

Dear Editor

Following the Councilor Catchup at the Barraba Markets, a few weeks ago, and my query about household chemical disposal.

I appreciate the Councilor following up my request for a 1 day/year residential chemical collection in Barraba and the TRC letter in the Barraba Community News, 2nd September 2026, which clarifies the current process.

However, as a senior citizen who now lives alone, after the death of my husband last year, there are household chemicals in his shed that should be disposed of safely.

Surely Barraba could have 1 day/year, at the local tip, where we could deliver the partially used chemicals for safe disposal.

Could TRC plan for this in the future please.

Marjorie Urquhart, Barraba.

Missions

JULY 2025 - JUNE 2026



1,659

*missions
thanks to
your
support*

Your support of our Service reaches far and wide across Northern NSW. From our bases in Belmont (Newcastle), Lismore and Tamworth we performed 1,659 mission responses during the July 2025 to June 2026 period.

MISSION NUMBERS

- Pre-Hospital Emergency
- Inter-Hospital Transfers
- Search and Rescue



TYPE OF MISSION

689 Medical Conditions	65 Farming
255 Motor Vehicle	43 Burns
169 Motorcycle	43 Industrial
141 Other	19 Sporting
119 Water	6 Air Transport
110 Falls	

Your support helps people and families that you may never meet, and it is your generosity and kindness that they sincerely appreciate. When we meet past patients, we often hear them say "we can't thank everyone enough who donates to the Service that saved my life".

Regionally breakdown of missions flown:

Belmont - 661

Lismore - 502

Tamworth - 496

Our thanks again for being a part of every response we make 24-7 to emergencies and critical moments in your local area.

INDIAN MYNA

WORKSHOPS

LEARN HOW TO MAKE A TRAP SUITABLE FOR CATCHING INDIAN MYNA BIRDS

- HAVE YOU NOTICED INDIAN MYNAS AROUND YOUR PROPERTY?
- ARE YOU CONCERNED THEIR NUMBERS ARE INCREASING?
- DO YOU WISH TO LEARN HOW TO CONTROL THEM?
- THIS WORKSHOP MIGHT BE FOR YOU!



JOIN US: MAKE
AND TAKE HOME
A TRAP AND BE
PART OF
CONTROLLING
THE RATS OF
THE SKY



WORKSHOP DETAILS

29th August 2026

09:00 - 16:00 MUNGINDI GOLF CLUB

4th September 2026

10:00 - 16:00 GRAVESEND HALL

5th September 2026

10:00 - 16:00 MOREE SHOW GROUND

19th September 2026

10:00 - 16:00 TLC BINGARA

SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, a collaboration between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.



CRICKET DAY

AT UPPER HORTON SPORTS GROUND

BAR & CANTEN AVAILABLE

SATURDAY 12 SEPT 2026

KIDS CLINIC

8:30 - 9:30AM

7-12 YEARS

WITH LEGEND Tom Groth!

TEXT TOM WITH NAME AND AGE
0408 621 938

FOLLOWED BY

HORTON BIG BASH

9:30AM START

TATTS NARRABRI

UPPER HORTON

CAMPBELL FREEBAIRN REBELS

10 A SIDE

2 GAMES EACH

★ FUN ★ COMMUNITY ★ CRICKET FOR EVERYONE!

Letter to Editor

I write in response to Kevin Anderson's comments on the need for healthcare workers in Barraba.

I arrived in Barraba October 2023. I have a double nursing certificate in Individual and aged care nursing. I had successfully worked in Brisbane for five years as a locum community care Assistant in Nursing.

Within the first week of commencing community healthcare work in Barraba a resident of Barraba turned up at a home I was working at and stood so close in front of my client and I (we were standing with our backs to the wall) that we were unable to move away. Deprivation of liberty when it causes fear of potential violence is generally considered a form of assault. My client was terrified. The person is large and aggressive. This was a mandatory reportable incident, so I immediately went to the police. Nothing happened. I had six months off and recommenced work.

On the week of the Australia Day weekend the following year, GOCO, according to my employer, made a mistake with the roster and no-one attended when my client was expecting someone. He had been complaining about GOCO for a while, and I regularly urged my boss to set up a meeting with them for him. She did nothing. I arrived on the Wednesday and was badly verbally abused by my client because no-one had turned up on Tuesday. I have not worked as a community care nurse in Barraba since and have no intention of ever doing so again. I enjoyed my clients and loved my job however; I will not expose [myself] to these types of abuses again.

Kerrina King. Kerrinakine3@gmail.com

Miniature Train | Running Day. 20 September 2026

Public Running days on the 3rd Sunday of each month



Head to Victoria Park Tamworth for the miniature train public running day. Bring a picnic or grab a bite to eat at the canteen and enjoy the beautiful views. Train will be operating from 10am - 3pm, please wear enclosed shoes to avoid disappointment.



25 and 26 September 2026. 5.30pm to 10.30pm

Visit Tamworth's first City of Lights Festival — two dazzling nights celebrating the city that was among the first in the Southern Hemisphere to switch on electric street lighting. Across Tamworth's CBD, Fitzroy Street and Bicentennial Park, the theme "Land and Light" brings together projection art, live music, First Nations storytelling, roving performers and illuminated shopfronts — where history meets innovation, and the streets come alive again.

This event is delivered with support from the NSW Government's Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner through the Regional Night-Time Economy Program.

A WEEKEND OF DISCOVERY

Antiques, jewellery, furniture, silver, porcelain, collectables, books, art and more.

DEALERS BUYING, SELLING & OFFERING
VALUATIONS ALL WEEKEND

FRIDAY 11 SEPT 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	SATURDAY 12 SEPT 10:00 am – 5:00 pm	SUNDAY 13 SEPT 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
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THE EVENT CENTRE
Mercure Hotel
West Tamworth NSW

WEEKEND ADMISSION
\$10 per person
Includes unlimited re-entry
throughout the entire weekend

DISCOVER. CHAT. BE INSPIRED.
Where history finds a new home.

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am

Woodsreef 11.30am, 2nd Sunday of each month

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 13th September – 10.45am

Please note new time for the next few months.

All welcome

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

Barraba 1st Sunday of the month, Saturday evening

Mass 5pm. (Note the time change)

All other Sundays 9am

WORLD TENNIS SERIES RETURNING TO TAMWORTH

Following a successful inaugural Capital of Country International Tournament last year, Tamworth is set to host its second Australian Pro Tour event this October. The 2026 Tamworth Capital of Country International M25 will take place from 18 October to 1 November, featuring back-to-back Men's 25 ITF World Tennis Tour tournaments, at the Tamworth Regional Tennis Centre at the Courts at East.

Tamworth Region Mayor Russell Webb says the city is excited to host the Capital of Country International for a second year. "It was an honour to host a strong field of Australian and international players in Tamworth last year, and we look forward to welcoming both new and returning competitors this year. The Capital of Country International Tournament provides a valuable opportunity for aspiring young players to see what they can achieve through hard work and dedication. With some of the region's best sporting facilities, Tamworth is proud to support the next generation of talent."

The Capital of Country International is expected to attract a strong field of players competing for over \$60,000 in prize money and valuable world ranking points. CEO of Tennis NSW, Olivia Thornton says the organisation is thrilled to confirm the return of the World Tennis Series to regional New South Wales in 2026, building on the strong success of last year's events and the growing connection between these tournaments and local communities. "Wagga Wagga and Tamworth will proudly host the series for a second year, bringing international tennis back to regional NSW and giving local players, fans and communities another opportunity to experience world-class competition close to home. While these tournaments play an important role as a stepping stone for emerging players aiming to progress to the main tour, their real strength lies in how they connect people to the sport at a local level," said Ms Thornton.

In 2025, more than 60 per cent of the player field came from overseas, highlighting the quality and global relevance of the events, while also creating unique opportunities for regional communities to engage with international athletes up close. "These events allow us to activate the significant infrastructure investment made across New South Wales, not only by hosting world-class competition, but by inviting communities to be part of it through playing, volunteering and engaging with the sport." Ms Thornton says. "The Capital of Country International is a testament to what can be achieved when organisations come together with a shared commitment to excellence. The tournament is made possible through the collaborative partnership of Tamworth

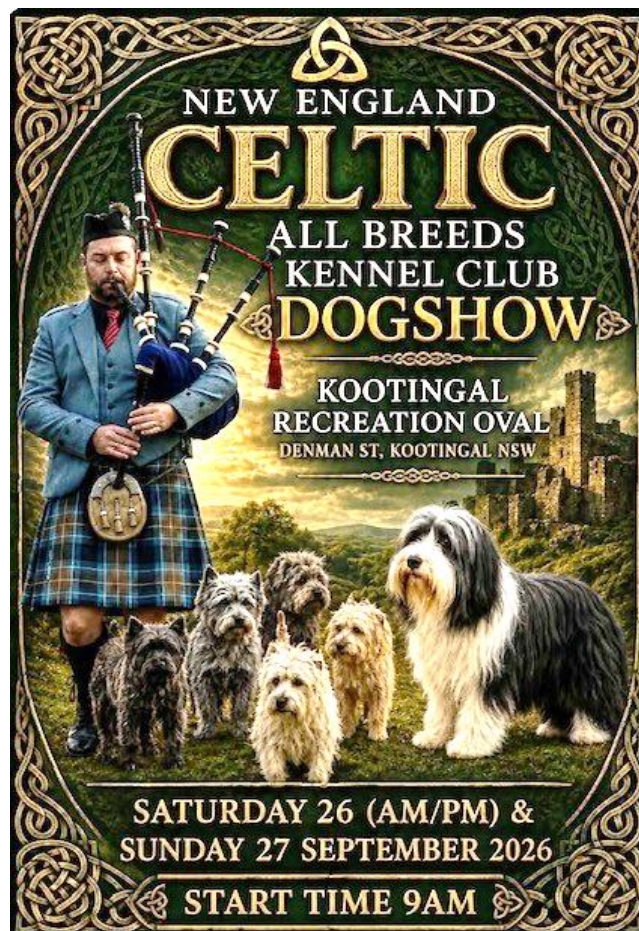
Regional Council, Wests Tamworth, Tennis NSW and Tennis Australia, with valuable support from Northwest Tennis Academy."

The Capital of Country International is part of the Australian Pro Tour, a series of professional tennis events held throughout the year to bridge upcoming players with the ATP Tour, providing an opportunity to earn significant world ranking points. This event is free for spectators who wish to come along and enjoy world-class tennis.

NEW ENGLAND CELTIC ALL BREEDS KENNEL

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

26 and 27 September 2026



Letter to Editor

Went to Saunders Fruit Shop last Friday and noticed a gathering of people outside the old baker's shop, had to have a look and yes, the doors to the painted Leafy Loaf Bakery were open. Had to investigate further, climbed the stairs and went inside, nice, went over to the display units and picked out a couple of tasty items to take with me. On the way out, had a chat to some other customers gathered, and then took my purchase home to enjoy.

Congratulations to Kim and Nick Peake on bringing life back to the bakery.

David York Barraba

IHACPA releases residential aged care pricing advice

2 September 2026

The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) has released the Residential Aged Care Pricing Advice 2026–27.

The advice was developed after extensive public consultation and is directly informed by the costs of delivering residential aged care services as measured in various data sources, including the Aged Care Financial Report.

The pricing advice includes:

- the recommended Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) price from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027
- the recommended price weights for each AN-ACC class, respite class and base care tariff category
- the estimated gap between the costs of delivering everyday living services and related revenue received by residential care homes.

IHACPA Chair, Mr David Tune AO PSM, said the advice is grounded in evidence and informed by engagement across the sector.

‘We are committed to ensuring that our pricing advice for residential aged care is transparent, evidence-based and reflects the costs of delivering quality care,’ Mr Tune said. ‘The advice has been developed through extensive consultation and rigorous analysis, helping to support a sustainable aged care system and the delivery of safe, high-quality care for older Australians.’

In developing this advice, IHACPA accounted for recent Fair Work Commission decisions, superannuation guarantee increases, and the indexation of historical cost data. The IHACPA pricing advice to the Australian Government helps inform funding decisions for residential aged care services. The Minister for Health and Ageing is responsible for determining and announcing the annual AN-ACC price and price weights for each AN-ACC class and base care tariff category.

More information

- Residential Aged Care Pricing Advice 2026–27 and Technical Specifications
- Pricing Framework for Australian Residential Aged Care Services 2026–27 and consultation report
- Consultation Paper on the Pricing Framework for Australian Residential Aged Care Services 2026–27 and submissions
- Information about the Residential Aged Care Pricing Advice 2026–27 fact sheet



Residential care funding falls short

Ageing Australia has labelled changes to the 2026-27 Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) price as “unacceptable”, saying aged care providers won’t be able to make ends meet, let alone build new beds as a result.

Today the Australian Government announced that the AN-ACC price will be \$303.19 per resident, per day commencing 1 October. This is an increase of just 2.55% from the 2025-26 AN-ACC price of \$295.64.

The hoteling supplement will also remain frozen at \$22.15 while IHACPA completes its current review.

“This is an extremely disappointing outcome. It does not reflect the major financial challenges the sector is facing, or the massive increase in costs for fuel and clinical supplies driven by an unpredictable international environment,” said Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson.

“62% of residential homes were already losing money and this below inflation increase in funding will make that number go up. The announcement also doesn’t cover the 4.75% increase in wages awarded to aged care staff by the Fair Work Commission this year, which the sector has been paying without any funding since 1 July. It was expected that the annual increase would cover both that unfunded three months as well as the rest of the financial year, but this announcement does not do that.”

Ageing Australia has been raising issues of sector viability ever since the new Aged Care Act was introduced and has been strongly advocating that a sustainable sector is vital if older people are going to be able to access services when and where they need them.

“We are extremely unhappy to see a pricing decision that fails to reflect the real costs of delivering residential care to older people. And this is at a time when everybody has been asking why the sector is unable to build the 10,000 beds per year required to keep up with demand,” Mr Symondson said. “Put very simply, this decision is not good enough and lets down both providers and the older people who rely on them every day.”



TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL: 2026-2027

Annual Donations Program

The Annual Donations Program objectives are to:

- support charities and community projects, events and activities which occur within the Tamworth Regional Council local government area, and are of benefit to the local community;
- foster or support new services, initiatives and resources which address the needs of the Tamworth regional community;
- improve awareness and use of community services and resources within the Tamworth Regional Council area; and
- encourage increased participation in local community activities within the Tamworth Regional Council area.

Applications are invited from not-for-profit organisations, charities, community groups and organisations located within the Tamworth Regional Council local government area, that provides a service to the Tamworth regional community which may be of a unique nature. Recipients of donations funding in previous years are welcome to reapply. Organisations are eligible for only one donation per financial year, that is 1 July to 30 June.

Donations will not be made to individuals, to organisations which operate on a for-profit basis, or to branches of charities which fund-raise for projects and activities outside Council's area of jurisdiction.

Examples of applications which have been supported, either in part or full, in the past include:

1. purchase of specific office equipment and furniture;
2. funding for local activities, such as assistance with advertising, printing etc;
3. reimbursement of expenditure of Council fees, such as DA's, rates (excluding service charges), hire fees for use of Council facilities, including halls, parks and public buildings, banner fees;
4. hire of transport services, such as buses, for community activities; and
5. purchase of resources for use in community training programs.

To be considered for a contribution from the Annual Donations Program, applications should meet at least one (1) of the Program Objectives outlined above. Applications should:

- describe the project clearly;
- describe how the project will be a direct benefit to the community;
- demonstrate that the project is able to be managed and/or completed using the funding or part funding which may be provided; and
- for applicants who have previously received a donation, a completed [Acquittal Form](#) must be received for the previous donation.

Applications close 29 September 2026

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS
COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

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Office: 67821662

Email news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au

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BARRABA BAKERY RE-OPENS



After extensive renovations the Leafy Loaf - Barraba Bakery has opened its doors.

If you are travelling between Tamworth and Inverell on the Fossicker's Way, call in, say hello and try one of their delicious baked items and a coffee. All baked onsite....

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 6:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Saturday 7:00 AM - 12:30 PM Sunday: CLOSED

The rising concern over smart glasses

From The Squiz. Written by Andrew Williams and Larissa Huntington.

The idea of smart glasses - eyeglasses that have cameras and other kinds of tech built into them - is nothing new. They've been in development for years, and really came to prominence with the release of Google Glass over a decade ago. But this year, Kmart released a pair for \$89 in Australia which triggered a rush of buyers, followed by a rush of privacy concerns. So, in this Squiz Shortcut, we'll unpick:

- What smart glasses actually are
- Why they're causing concern
- And what might happen next

First up, let's take a look at the origins of smart glasses...

Google released the idea for Google Glass back in 2013, and there was loads of interest in them. A pair of glasses that a superhero like Iron Man might wear allowing people to see the world in a different way? Sign us up... But the promise ended up being a bit more appealing than the reality, and Google Glass was discontinued a little later...

Why didn't they take off?

It was for plenty of reasons, but one of the key ones was exactly the main concern when it comes to smart glasses in 2026 - and that's privacy...

So, what makes them smart?

The smart bit is that they're like a wearable computer. And while some pairs are built for gaming, projecting a screen onto the inside of the lens and don't have a camera, a basic pair of smart glasses has a camera built in. This means users can capture vision and audio of what they're seeing and hearing.

And some go further than that?

Yep... Some pairs have artificial intelligence built in, so the user also gets an AI chatbot or assistant interpreting what they're seeing and hearing, and feeding data back to them.

Is there much demand for them?

Yes, it's quite strong - pretty much every major tech company is getting in on the action, including big players like Samsung, Apple and Meta.

So why are they in the news?

It's because if someone wearing a pair of smart glasses is filming or recording you, you don't necessarily know it's happening. That's what kicked this story into high gear in July...

What happened in July?

That's when Kmart released its own pair of smart glasses under its Anko range. Normally a pair of smart glasses

would set you back hundreds of dollars - that price was a barrier so they weren't really that common. But the Anko glasses were much more affordable at \$89, meaning they were suddenly within reach of a whole lot more people.

So, they took off?

They did... That lower price range saw them go from niche tech into the mainstream. And it's not just Kmart selling cheap versions - there are others going for a similar price on Amazon, Temu, and the like (and some are priced as low as \$30). But what put the Kmart version into the headlines was how quickly they sold out - they were gone within a week. Questions were quickly asked about the reasons behind such a high demand.

Is this where privacy comes into the picture?

Yep... As we mentioned, it's very easy for smart glasses to record you without your consent - and that opens up a huge can of worms. Electronic Frontiers Australia chair John Pane says there's a difference between recording someone via smart glasses and recording someone via phone - phones require a gesture or movement that gives away that you might be recording, whereas smart glasses don't.

Has that led some people to use them to covertly record people?

Yes... Particularly women and children without their knowledge or consent, and that's why they've been described in many quarters as 'pervert glasses'.

Is there any research to back that up?

There is... Research out of Monash University found that a number of smart glasses owners admitted to recording people without their consent, including in places like change rooms and at the beach. And they've also been used to upload content online to shame or harass people.

Just explain that a bit more...

It's been a recent thing on social media - these glasses have led to people being shamed and harassed online. One example you might have seen is so-called pick-up artists (mostly men who make a sport out of trying to pick up women) recording their encounters secretly and then uploading them to social platforms.

Has any action been taken over them?

Well they've been banned from some places, including many classrooms around Australia, and Brisbane City Council has warned people that anyone seen to be using them to record people at public pools will be ejected - although you can still bring them in and wear them. There was also a petition calling on Kmart to

withdraw the glasses. But even if that happened, they're widely available.

Apart from video games, how else are they helpful for people who use them legally?

They can be very useful for people who are blind or have low vision and they can translate what people are saying into captions for people who have difficulty hearing. So, the question for our politicians is how to address the problems they bring without also taking away the benefits...

Are our laws keeping up?

In a nutshell, no... Taking broad national action on the tech requires some heavy lifting - so on 7 August, Attorney-General Michelle Rowland wrote to our privacy watchdog - that's the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner - asking for it to look into the privacy concerns around smart glasses. She listed the concerns we've outlined, but there are some possible legal gaps.

What sort of gaps?

Privacy Commissioner Carly Kind actually posted a blog about this around the same time that Rowland wrote to her. In it, she points out that our Privacy Act only applies to businesses and government agencies - and it only applies when those entities collect personal information. So essentially, it doesn't cover an individual collecting personal information on another individual - and that creates an issue when it comes to how these smart glasses are regulated.

What about state and territory laws?

There are legal reforms in the works, but they're not there yet. In the individual states and territories, some laws do cover covert audio recording, but there's not much for video. In many places around Australia, our laws are way behind where technology is up to.

So, the upshot is...

If you think you've been filmed in public without your permission or knowledge, you have limited legal avenues to tackle it. That's how far the laws are behind the tech - you've been able to record video fairly covertly in public for years and there's not very much protection around it.

Is anyone trying to fast-track tightening things up?

Yes... While the laws get figured out, some parliamentarians are pushing for more action in the short term. The Greens are proposing a 12-month import pause on smart glasses with carve-outs for legitimate uses, as well as making it illegal to film,

share or store footage of someone from a wearable recording device without consent. The thing is, the government has already ruled that out...

What were the reasons for that?

There are 2 main reasons... Firstly, it says an import ban on smart glasses would affect a whole range of other trade, and it's too legally complex to enforce. And the other reason is the legitimate benefits we mentioned earlier, specifically for blind or vision-impaired Australians. Vision Australia has supported that view - it says the glasses have been a game changer for vision-impaired Aussies.

Has anyone else weighed in?

Yes... eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant has suggested a number of workarounds, where the tech in the smart glasses would blur people's faces if they hadn't consented to being recorded. She also suggested that livestreaming be put on a delay, and she's called on manufacturers to make it more obvious to people when they're being recorded.

And where have things landed?

The lack of movement from the government has irritated both the Greens - who are still pushing for change on this - and the Coalition, with Shadow Attorney-General Michaelia Cash pointing out that the latest draft privacy legislation had the chance to make a change but it ignored the issue entirely.

So, what's next?

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner is still doing its work looking into the glasses, and the new Privacy Act reforms have been drafted and are out for consultation. But as the tech develops and - you would imagine - gets cheaper, the debate isn't likely to go away anytime soon.

Zooming out...

It's part of a broader public debate over privacy. In May, the Privacy Commissioner put out some research showing that 87% of Australians are more concerned about privacy issues than they were 5 years ago. It's from a survey that the Office conducts every 3 years - and as it becomes easier to record people, and to be recorded - personal privacy protection is becoming more and more of an important social and political issue.

And the outlook for the glasses?

We'll see if Kmart and other retailers continue to sell them, and what form they take, given demand for them is still strong, despite the concerns raised over some of the ways they're being used.



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Barraba Rugby Union
Football Club



Rugby Union Recap

The Barraba Rams Women enjoyed a weekend off from playing this weekend, but there was certainly no rest as the ladies came together for a solid training run to keep the momentum building ahead of the **big dance this Saturday!**

The Rams will travel to Armidale to take on the **Glen Innes Elks in the 2026 Grand Final**, with kick-off at **1:45pm** at **Bellevue Oval**.

A **spectator's bus** will be running on Saturday, with pick-ups in both Bingara and Barraba before making its way across to Armidale. Make sure you get your name down and come across to support the Barraba ladies as they look to **bring home their first-ever trophy!**

It has been an exceptional first season in the New England competition for our women. Across their 14 games, the Rams recorded **12 wins, one loss and one draw**, finishing the season on **60 competition points** with an impressive **for-and-against differential of +323**.

Those results are a testament to the hard work and commitment the entire squad has put in throughout the season. A huge amount of credit must also go to coaches **Ben Freeman and Luke Smith**, along with manager **Jess Kelso**, for the time and effort they have put into the team throughout 2026.

Reaching the Grand Final in their first season in the New England competition is a fantastic achievement, but there is still one job left to do!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the Barraba Rugby Club throughout the 2026 season. Whether you helped around the club, sponsored us, volunteered your time or simply came along each weekend to cheer on the men and women who proudly pulled on the green and white jersey — **thank you**. Your support is what keeps our club going.

We hope to see as many green and white supporters as possible at Bellevue Oval this Saturday to get behind our ladies for one final game.

Barraba Rams Women vs Glen Innes Elks

2026 Grand Final

Saturday 12 September

Kick-off: 1:45pm

Bellevue Oval, Armidale

One more game. Let's bring it home. Up the Rams! And we hope to see you all again in **2027 for another great season!**

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