



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Wednesday 30th September 2026



**BARRABA RSL &
RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone 67821379

For the information of members
and guests.

THIS WEEK

**THURSDAY 1st October
BINGO**

First game starts at 6pm

**FRIDAY 2nd October
RUBY MAE RAFFLES**

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm

Membership Draw \$1800

**SUNDAY 4th October
AIR COOLED ASSEMBLY RAFFLES**

Membership Draw \$1100

BISTRO HOURS

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER

BISTRO OPEN FOR LUNCH ONLY

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

SATURDAY 3RD OCT LUNCH ONLY

SUNDAY: 12-2PM

**Back To The Bush
AUTO FESTIVAL**
SATURDAY OCT 17TH 2026
BARRABA RSL & REC

**SHOW & SHINE
MARKETS
KIDS RIDES
LIVE MUSIC
FIREWORKS
& MORE!**

**FREE ENTRY
AND RIDES!**

**PRESENTED BY
THE AIRCOOLED
ASSEMBLY**

POSTER ART: @TONES.BRUSH.WORKS

The Nandewar Historical Society Inc

REMINDER
BOOKINGS CLOSE Sunday October 4th
Barraba Heritage Small Schools
Bus Tour
Thursday October 8th 9 am - 2.30 pm approx.
Cost \$20 per person
including lunch at
The Upper Horton Sports Club
For inquiries and bookings please contact
The Secretary Lesley Grigg mobile 0428 228 109

We are grateful for funding from
TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL





Fiesta LA PEEL
MULTICULTURAL STREET FESTIVAL

celebrate
the rich cultural diversity of the
Tamworth region at Fiesta La Peel

Saturday 17th October 2026 • 4pm – 9pm
Bicentennial Park, Tamworth

fiestalapeel.com.au

Fiesta La Peel is Tamworth's annual multicultural event. Co-organised by Tamworth Regional Council and event partner, Multicultural Tamworth Inc.

TRY MEMBERSHIP FOR \$1
Full membership benefits until March 2027, for just \$1



TRY NSW FARMERS FOR JUST \$1
For just \$1, you can trial NSW Farmers membership through to 31 March 2027.
Get the weekly Farm Post newsletter, invitations to member-only events and access to member benefits and discounts.
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JOIN NOW – JUST \$1
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or visit nswfarmers.org.au

Offer excludes current members. Trial ends 31 March 2027; membership then continues at the standard member rate unless you opt out by 30 April 2027.

Love Local

Letter to Editor

Referring to the article in last week's 'News' re chemists in Barraba. The chemist shop was featured in the 'Community News' in April last year.

Richard Blackall was the chemist in Barraba for many years from the 1890's until the First World War. The Chemist shop was on the eastern side of Queen Street, somewhere near where the old council chambers are today. The war broke out and several Blackall sons enlisted. Richard and his wife moved to Sydney in 1916, while son, Harry, took over the chemist shop.

Harry built the store on the Alice/Queen St corner 4 or 5 years later. When he moved in, Gordon Mallon took over the old shop. A few years later Harry left his corner shop and went back to the old shop. He died in 1949 and Ken Stanton took over the original shop – I remember as a child looking at the big bottles of coloured water at the front of his shop, (probably in the last 1940s)

Don Coote moved his business across the street to a small shop between Clifton's garage and Byrn's shop. It was rather a small shop for his business and he soon moved to the present site of the chemist shop.

The Backpackers building hosted the café in its early days and then a series of accountants offices. I doubt there would have been room for a chemist.

Margaret Currell, Barraba



Upper Horton School

By 1907 the old 1892 building was not only too small but was in poor condition. It measured 17 x 14 feet, the walls were unlined and in parts were crumbling away; the ceiling was still of hessian, and the fireplace was falling apart and beginning to constitute a danger. At the old measure of 8 square feet of floor space per child the room could accommodate thirty pupils, but in recent years the Department had liberalised this measure to between 10 and 12 square feet per child, and at this rate only about twenty children could be comfortably housed. Yet there were already thirty-four enrolled, and another thirty children under six years of age coming up. The inspector of schools described the district as "a flourishing agricultural and pastoral centre with very good prospects", where the settlers were permanent; and the small township included a general store, saddlery, blacksmith's shop, post office, hotel, Anglican and Catholic churches, and a police station. He recommended the erection of a schoolroom to accommodate forty pupils and this was approved late in 1908 and the building completed in March, 1909. With the completion of the new building the old 1892 building was transferred to Rocky Creek where it was used probably as a Subsidised School by local residents. By early 1914 the enrolment had climbed to nearly fifty and the 1909 building was becoming cramped but not yet uncomfortably so. In 1924 the Horton Upper Parents and Citizens Association began a campaign to have the 1909 building enlarged and remodelled to improve lighting and ventilation. The Association wanted additional verandahs added to prevent the sun's rays from shining directly on the school walls making the schoolroom "insufferably hot and close during the summer months".

Upper Horton School 1959 – 1966

The Upper Horton School consisted of a single classroom with as many as 35 children in any one year. The school came with a residence - rented for a nominal fee - and was the largest of the one-teacher schools in the Barraba district. Classes ranged from 1st to 6th class, each requiring a different programme of learning and annual testing results required by the Education Department. The school had no electricity nor running water and was heated by a wood

heater. It boasted a tennis court, always popular with students.

6th December, 1988

One of the State's smallest schools, Upper Horton, is to close. Falling student numbers and general Education Department cutbacks have been blamed for the Government's decision to remove the only teacher at the school - effectively closing it. The school, over 100 years old, will cease operations from last day of term this month, December 16th. The small Upper Horton community and the six current students are upset at the decision but say it was inevitable as Government belt tightening increased. The six students will now make the two hour round trip to the Barraba Central School.

Upper Horton Primary School 1910

Teacher: Mr Taylor



Back L.to R: Don O'Brien, Ita Cox, Mr Taylor, Alex Groth, Rosie Caine, Billy Goldthorpe, Ettie Turnham, Rita O'Brien

2nd Row: Cecil Cox, Ivan O'Brien, Bede O'Brien, Mick Gray, Carrie Gray, May O'Brien, Ossie Cox, Billy Groth

3rd Row: Lila Groth, Bella Gray, Arthur Goldthorpe, Milda O'Brien, Eva Goldthorpe, Eileen Brett, Ruby Groth, Alma Steiger

4th Row: Murray Brett, Keiran O'Brien, Wal Turnham





Barraba Potters and Craft Guild News

"Come and Try Day" a great success!

We welcomed visitors from Tamworth, Manilla, Bingara and Barraba for the day.

Thank you to all who attended and to our presenters for the day. Janice Smith, Glenys McDonald, Chris Bennett, Sharon O'Dell, Rosemary Orchard, Suz Tanner and Annette Brittain. Thank you all for sharing your knowledge and expertise to everyone who attended. A special thank you to Janice Smith, who travelled from Narrabri, to share her skills and who generously donated felting wool, cards and flannel for everyone, to make a lovely, felted item to take home.



President Annette said *"That it was a fun day, with lots of chatting and laughter. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves and took home some new skills or brushed up on some old ones. You can join a pottery group at the Clay Pan on Monday, Wednesday or Saturday morning, beginners welcome."*

Dates for the diary: Resin Workshop 17th & 18th October. 10.30am to 2.30pm. Phone 0459608486 to book in. \$20 per day.

General meeting: 9th October. 10am at the Gallery.

Street stall: 1st October has been cancelled

If you are looking for a gift, pop into the Gallery for a browse of the amazing array of locally made arts, crafts, pottery, photography and much more and support our local crafts people. The Gallery is open from 10am to 1.30pm most days of the week.

Thank you to everyone for your support of The Barraba Potters and Craft Guild.

Patti Crowley
Publicity Officer





Rainwater tanks may be harbouring hidden health risks

Rainwater tanks are a popular way for Australians to save water, but new research has found they can also harbour potentially harmful bacteria and metals that could pose health concerns.

Researchers from Adelaide University and Flinders University tested rainwater from 100 household tanks across Adelaide and the Adelaide Hills, finding bacteria linked to gastroenteritis and other infections in a number of tanks.

The study found *Campylobacter* bacteria in 13% of tanks, *Salmonella* in 10%, *Shigella* in 3% (all linked to gastroenteritis) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (which causes other infections) in 12%.

Bacteria were also detected in tanks used for drinking water. Two-thirds of the households surveyed (67%) said

they used their tank water for drinking and cooking, highlighting the importance of understanding what is in the water people are consuming.

Lead researcher Dr Mira Cooper, from Adelaide University's School of Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences, said the findings were a reminder that rainwater collected from a roof does not necessarily remain as clean as it appears.

"Rainwater might look clean, but once it lands on a roof and flows through gutters and into a tank, it can pick up bacteria, metals and other contaminants along the way," Dr Cooper said. "We found potentially harmful bacteria in a number of household tanks, including tanks supplying drinking water. That doesn't mean people drinking tank water will become sick, but it does show that there are potential hazards that deserve greater attention."

Continued page 6

The researchers also found small numbers of tanks contained levels of metals including cadmium, lead, arsenic, and manganese above Australian health-based drinking water guidelines.

Metal tanks (as opposed to tanks made from plastic) were more likely to have elevated metal levels, while tanks that had not been maintained well were also associated with higher metal concentrations.

Senior author Professor Craig Williams, from Adelaide University's College of Health, said the research highlighted the importance of looking at the entire journey of rainwater – from the roof to the tap. "Water quality isn't just about what falls from the sky – it is also about what happens to that water once it reaches your roof, gutters, tank and plumbing," Professor Williams said. "Regular maintenance of rainwater systems is important because leaves, dirt, animal droppings and other material can build up and affect water quality. Rainwater systems are going to be really important for ensuring water supply for homes and gardens in Australia as our climate continues to change. So, for households that rely on rainwater for drinking, we need to make sure we understand any health risks and how best to manage them."

The study also examined whether the growing use of rooftop solar panels could affect rainwater quality. While an initial analysis found a link between solar panels and elevated metal levels, that relationship disappeared when the researchers accounted for the type of tank. The researchers found no clear link between solar panels, bird activity and the presence of harmful bacteria.

The researchers say further work is needed to determine whether the bacteria detected in the tanks were alive and capable of causing infection, as the testing identified bacterial DNA rather than proving that the bacteria were viable.

The study, published in the Journal of Environmental Management, is the first comprehensive assessment of the microbiological and chemical quality of roof-harvested domestic rainwater in South Australia.

(The study, From Roof to Tap: Emerging Public Health Risks in Harvested Rainwater, analysed samples collected from 100 household rainwater tanks across Adelaide and the Adelaide Hills between May 2024 and January 2026. Researchers assessed water quality through microbiological testing, metal analysis, nutrient analysis and household surveys examining rainwater use and system characteristics.)



Here is an overview of outcomes from the Ordinary Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council on Tuesday 22nd September 2026.

- Community members are encouraged to review and provide feedback on a draft Contaminated Land Management Policy after Councillors agreed to put the document on public exhibition. The policy outlines Council's framework for the identification, assessment and management of land contamination through the land use planning process.
- Councillors tonight received the results of the rural mulch sales trial, which saw 65.5 cubic metres of mulch sold across Barraba, Manilla and Nundle. The trial demonstrated strong community demand for locally available mulch, despite not fully covering operational costs. Council endorsed making the program an annual spring event and will place a proposed \$50 per cubic metre charge on public exhibition for 28 days.
- Councillors reviewed several financial reports, noting an upward trend in Council investments improving the overall portfolio return. They also noted an improved position in the Annual Operational Plan budget variation report for July/August 2026. Councillors also adopted the Long-Term Financial Plan after a period of public exhibition yielded only one submission, which did not relate to the Plan. This Plan completes Council's reporting requirements under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.
- Two key financial reports, the General Purpose and Special Purpose Financial Reports for Tamworth Regional Council for the year ended 30 June 2026, have been prepared and the audit process commenced on 7 September 2026. A draft set of the financial reports were provided to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) for review on 8 September 2026. When the audit is completed, the NSW Audit Office will issue a client service report which will be presented along with the audited financial reports to ARIC for review. The audited financial statements and independent auditors report will be presented to Council and the public at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 10 November 2026, in accordance with Section 419 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993.
- Councillors tonight endorsed the public exhibition of the Draft Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Policy, which will be placed on public exhibition later this month. The draft policy aims to provide a consistent, fair, and

transparent framework for Council's compliance and enforcement activities across a range of regulatory areas, including development and building compliance, companion animal management, public health, parking, and environmental matters. Community feedback will be considered before a final policy is presented to Council for adoption at a later date.

- Councillors also endorsed the public exhibition of the Draft Animal Management Policy. The draft policy aims to promote responsible pet ownership, animal welfare, and community safety by providing clear and consistent guidance for the management of animal-related issues across the region. The public exhibition will begin later this month, with community feedback to be considered before a final policy is presented to Council for adoption.

- Councillors authorised for two motions to be submitted for the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2026 to be held in November in Wollongong. A third motion, to remove Clause 236A from the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, was withdrawn as it had already been resolved in Parliament. The two motions authorised are that Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to:

- require elected Councillors and designated persons to disclose political party membership within the last 18 months in their disclosure returns; and
- provide dedicated, ongoing funding to support Councils in both the construction and ongoing delivery of year-round aquatic facilities, ensuring communities have consistent access to recreation, water safety programs, health services, and sporting opportunities regardless of season.

- Councillors endorsed another document for public exhibition, the Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2026-2030, which will be open for feedback from tomorrow, Wednesday 23 September. Developed through extensive consultation with people living with a disability, community stakeholders and Council's Disability Action Working Group, the plan outlines actions to improve accessibility, inclusion, and participation across the region. There will be a number of drop-in sessions held during the public exhibition to help community members provide their feedback.

- Councillors approved \$10,000 worth of funding be allocated from Council's General Fund to the Back to the Bush Festival in Barraba. According to economic modelling, the event generates approximately \$172,700 in total economic output from day visitors, along with approximately \$58,636 in total economic output from overnight visitors.

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

TAMWORTH WHAT'S ON



There's more at Entertainment Venues
entertainmentvenues@tamworth.nsw.gov.au



Funding decision derails plans for new aged care beds

Aged care providers across Australia have cancelled plans for over 2,000 new beds, and counting, as a direct result of the Federal Government's decision to implement a real terms cut in residential care funding earlier this week.

With almost two thirds of aged care homes already losing money, the announcement of a below inflation increase in the Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) price on Wednesday has all but guaranteed even more homes will move into the red.

From 1 October, the AN-ACC price will be \$303.19 per resident, an increase of just 2.55% from the current price of \$295.64. This compares to pay rises of 4.75% for aged care staff and inflation of 3.5%.

The hotelling supplement, which helps to fund things like food, laundry and cleaning, will remain frozen at \$22.15 pending a review, despite cost increases for those things far outpacing CPI over the past 12 months.

"Last year we were not even able to complete 1,000 of the 10,000 beds we need to build every year just to keep up with demand," said Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson. "Far from encouraging new beds, this decision is likely to see national bed numbers decline, not to mention it will put at risk the significant improvements in care and resident satisfaction we have seen over the past five years."

Dozens of aged care providers have contacted Ageing Australia over the last 48 hours to sound the alarm on the decision, with plans for more than 2,000 new beds already shelved or at risk, including new developments that were due to commence shortly. Just a few of the examples provided so far include:

- NSW provider, Whiddon, will not be able to go ahead with a planned 100- to 160-bed Residential Aged Care Home because the changes make the build unviable.
- Nationwide operator Regis will shelve its 99-bed development at Belrose, close to Sydney's Northern Beaches Hospital.
- Abound in Victoria had planned an 80-bed home in Berwick, but the financial position now does not support proceeding despite strong demand.

"These examples are just the tip of the iceberg of the many stories we've already heard, but they clearly highlight the very real consequences of a decision like this," said Mr Symondson. "At a time when national and international circumstances are hiking prices for everything, everywhere, the only way to ensure older people are not left languishing in hospital beds or suffering at home while they wait for a space, is to fund care properly. The Royal Commission described inadequate government funding as 'a major contributor' to the problems it saw in aged care. Why would we risk the enormous gains we have made in quality of care for older people in the past five years, let alone building enough beds to meet demand, by ignoring that lesson?"

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 4th October – 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

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am

Woodsreef 11.30am, 2nd Sunday of each month

BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

**Published by Community College Northern
Inland Inc.**

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Printed on site at the Community College. Free publication by email or collection from local Barraba main street businesses

NEW MURALS AT THE BARRABA PRESCHOOL



Murals done by 'It's Paint' Artworx Murals

Senior Citz News

Our AGM is the 16th October 2026. Nominations are now open for all positions at Senior Citizens. Nominations will close on 9-10-2026. All paid up members are able to vote.

We would like to congratulate our President, Kim Hill, on her award for Volunteer for New South Wales.

Don't forget Bingo every Friday at 10am.

Social Day is every Wednesday from 10am to 2pm.

Everyone is welcome.

Acting Secretary, Charlie Lumby

I'M NOT OLD

I woke up I lifted my arms.
I moved my Knees. I turned my neck...



everything made the same noise:

—CRRPPRRRAAACCCCKKK!!—

I came to a concussion:

I'M NOT OLD, I'M CRISPY!



A Community Toolkit to spark local action was launched on World Suicide Prevention Day 2026

This World Suicide Prevention Day, 10 September 2026, the National Suicide Prevention Office (NSPO) has launched a Community Toolkit to help communities start meaningful conversations about suicide and take action to prevent it.

Each year in Australia more than 3,000 people die by suicide, with an estimated 55,000 attempts. Behind every number is a person, and a ripple effect of devastation across families, friends and communities. The toolkit supports safe, respectful and practical conversations that can help reduce suicide and suicidal distress across Australian communities.

Developed by the NSPO with input from people with lived experience of suicide, and people with experience of working in local suicide prevention contexts, the Community Toolkit has been designed for community leaders, organisations, groups and individuals who want to strengthen wellbeing, connection and hope in their communities.

The Community Toolkit is free and available to download from the National Suicide Prevention Office's website, to support communities in playing an active role in suicide prevention efforts by translating the National Suicide Prevention Strategy 2025-2035 (the Strategy) into local practical action.

According to Head of the National Suicide Prevention Office, Dr Alex Hains, this toolkit is designed to put the National Suicide Prevention Strategy into the hands of communities. Dr Hains said: "Communities are at the heart of suicide prevention. They understand their people, strengths and challenges better than anyone else. This toolkit helps communities use that knowledge to identify local priorities and choose evidence-based actions that will make the greatest difference."

The downloadable resources include a Facilitator Guide, PowerPoint slides, supporting animation and video explainers, plus templates to promote the opportunity and support engagement in the conversation. Member of the NSPO's Lived Experience Partnership Group, Chris Trupp contributed to the development of the toolkit. He welcomed the initiative as an important step in supporting communities and service providers to take practical action: "When a community loses someone to suicide, there's always a huge ripple effect that is far reaching with people trying to find ways to help support their community. Too frequently that turns into a one-off fundraiser or isolated awareness campaign which often fades, because nobody's quite sure what to do next or how to affect change in a

deeper, more foundational way. Having lived experience embedded in the development of this toolkit matters because it's the difference between a resource that tells communities what to do, and one that reflects how change actually happens on the ground.

This toolkit gives communities a way to hold those conversations safely and confidently. It also helps them look at their own strengths and needs, turning that energy into action that's actually going to make a difference; action shaped by people with lived and living experience, not just designed for them.

That action lines up with the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, so communities can have confidence that it's grounded in what we know works, and in what communities themselves know they need" Mr Trupp Said. Lasting reductions in suicide deaths, suicide attempts and suicidal distress can only be achieved through collective effort. The Community Toolkit reflects the shared commitment of communities and governments across Australia to work together to create safer, more connected and supportive communities.

To access the Community Toolkit:

National Suicide Prevention Strategy Community Toolkit | National Suicide Prevention Office | National Mental Health Commission

To access the Strategy:

<https://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/national-suicide-prevention-strategy>

Message from the Editor

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

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

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

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

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.



Bogong Moths

From the Aussie Daily HM

Right now, across Sydney, the Hawkesbury, the Illawarra and the South Coast, millions of small brown moths are clinging to walls, circling streetlights and getting into houses. Social media is full of people losing their minds about it.

We understand. Truly.

But before you reach for the spray, there is something you need to know about what is happening outside your window.

These are Bogong moths. And a few years ago, they almost disappeared entirely.

Before 2017, around four billion of them made this journey every spring. Then came the drought. Researchers went up to the alpine caves where the moths shelter through summer — walls that had been carpeted with them, thousands packed into every square metre — and found them essentially empty.

The population crashed by an estimated 99.5 per cent.

In December 2021 the Bogong moth was added to the international Red List as endangered. A creature so common that it once blotted out the stars over Australian towns was suddenly a species in trouble.

So, when people tell you there are too many moths this year, understand what they are actually describing. They are describing a return.

What this little moth actually does

It weighs about a third of a gram. Less than a Tic Tac. It is between 25 and 35 millimetres long.

And every spring it flies up to 1,000 kilometres — from breeding grounds in inland Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, all the way to the Australian Alps — navigating at night using the stars and the earth's magnetic field. It has never made the trip before. Nothing taught it the way.

Along the route it feeds on native flower nectar and pollinates as it goes.

And when it reaches the mountains, it becomes dinner.

The mountain pygmy-possum is critically endangered. There are very few left. It wakes from months of hibernation under the alpine snow, starving, with young to raise — and it survives on these moths. Fat-rich, protein-rich, arriving exactly when they are needed.

When the moths collapsed in 2017 and 2018, more than half of the possum mothers in some alpine areas lost their litters.

That is what a moth plague means. It means a tiny possum in the Snowy Mountains might get through another spring.

What you can do tonight

Turn off any outdoor lights you don't need. The lights are the whole problem — they pull exhausted moths off course and trap them in suburbs instead of letting them reach the mountains.

Don't spray them. They are completely harmless to humans.

If one is inside, cup it gently and put it out. Catch, don't squish.

And if you see them, photograph them and log them on Zoos Victoria's Moth Tracker. Scientists are using those sightings to work out how many are making it to the Alps this year. Your annoying balcony moth is data.

One last thing

For tens of thousands of years, Aboriginal peoples travelled to the high country when the moths arrived, gathering at the aestivation sites for feasting and ceremony. These moths have been part of the story of this continent for a very, very long time.

They will be gone in a few weeks.

Give them a nod on the way through.

Are they at your place? Post a photo in the comments and tell us whether your team "get them out" or team "let them pass". 🦋 🏠 AU

Credit: Seven News, Patrick Burns, September 2026.

Sources: Zoos Victoria Moth Tracker; IUCN Red List (endangered, December 2021); Royal Society of Victoria, Science Victoria; Mongabay, August 2026.



**PHIL DENYER
MECHANICAL REPAIRS
(02) 6782 1107**



The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP

Member for New England

STRONGER COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

ROUND 10

**GRANTS TO COVER UP TO 100% OF PROJECT COSTS BUT
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CLOSE SHORTLY**

Federal Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce has welcomed Round 10 of the Stronger Communities Programme. Grant recipients will be covered for up to 100 per cent of eligible project costs except for local governing bodies where grant funding will be up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs.

A maximum of 20 projects will be funded in each electorate, with successful projects receiving a grant of between a minimum of \$2,500 and a maximum of \$20,000 for projects not exceeding a total cost of \$50,000.

Mr Joyce is calling on local councils and community organisations across the New England to start preparing applications for projects to receive a share in \$150,000 of an overall \$22.5million in total funding nationally.

"The last round of this program was extremely popular as always, so I'm pleased that Community Groups in the New England will have an opportunity to apply for funding again. Regional Australians deserve the same opportunities that people in metropolitan cities have, and the Stronger Communities Programme helps make this happen," Mr Joyce said. "It is important that we fund not only the big infrastructure projects but the smaller ones too because local organisations are vital to the fabric of our local communities here in the New England," he said.

To register your interest in applying for a grant, visit barnabyjoyce.com.au to download an Expression of Interest form and lodge with Mr Joyce's office by **5pm Friday, 23 October, 2026**. For more information, including eligibility and grant guidelines, visit: <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/stronger-communities-programme-round-10>

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