



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Wednesday 28th October 2026

THE TRAVELLERS
A Film by Brian Bonfield

POLIO FUNDRAISER NIGHT

\$25 = NIBBLES + MOVIE
\$35 = NIBBLES + MOVIE + PIZZA

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NOV 1**

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DRAW FROM 3PM WITH AUCTION TO FOLLOW

KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR SOCIALS AND WEBSITE
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Barraba Hospital Auxiliary Street Stall 5th November from 9am. All donations will be greatly appreciated.





BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

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For the information of members and guests.

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY 29th October

BINGO

First game starts at 6pm

FRIDAY 30th October

MEAT RAFFLES

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm

Membership Draw \$1300

SUNDAY 1st November

AIRCOOLED ASSEMBLY RAFFLES

Membership Draw \$1200

Tuesday 3rd November

MELBOURNE CUP DAY

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MONDAY/TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY: CLOSED

THURS/FRI/SAT: LUNCH 12-2PM

DINNER FROM 6PM

SUNDAY: 12-2PM

Australia Day
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

NOMINATIONS OPEN
AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2026

PRESENTED 26 JANUARY 2027
TAMWORTH, NUNDLE, BARRABA AND MANILLA

Tamworth Regional Council's Australia Day Awards acknowledge and celebrate the contributions and success of individuals and groups within the Tamworth Region.

To find out more or nominate someone go to
www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/australiaday

Nominations close Thursday 26 November 2026 and will be presented at events across the region on Australia Day January 2027.

Scan for more information

Barraba Civilian and Military Rifle Club AGM

Saturday 7th November 2026

Barraba Rifle Range. 11.30am

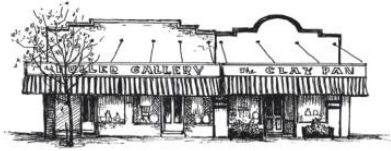
Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Just wondering if the gardeners could please contribute their suggestions for how to control onion weed??

Thanking you.

Julie Williams



Barraba Potters and Craft Guild News

Recently the Potters and Craft Guild held a Resin Workshop at the Claypan.

Thank you to our special guest tutor Andrea Robinson from Bundarra for sharing your skills with all who attended and to Rosemary for looking after Andrea for the weekend.

Attendee at the resin weekend, Glenys Mc Donald said that "The resin workshop was a happy creative experience that taught me new skills in creating a variety of items using resin and colour. A great weekend was enjoyed by all at the Claypan".

Dates for the diary:

1st November at 10am: Manilla Garden Club visit to Andrea and Chris Jeffery's garden

8th November at 10.30am: Bonsai group catchup at the Claypan

If you are Christmas shopping, call into the gallery for that one-off hand-made gift and support our local creative members.



Thanks to Rosemary Orchard for the photos

Tamworth Regional Council is proud to present the return of Baiada Carols in the Park set to take place on Saturday 12 December in Bicentennial Park from 5-9:30pm. Following the success of last year's event that attracted over 4000 people, this year's event promises to be bigger and brighter with more carols, more entertainment and more surprises (including live reindeer!)

Baiada is back on board as major naming sponsor and supporting event charities Ronald McDonald House and Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

The preshow entertainment will run from 5-7pm, with the carols show starting at 7pm and concluding at 9:30pm following a fireworks display.

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

Historical Society Notes - Banoon School

The first school was conducted in the Banoon huts while the building was being built in 1954. It was a weatherboard building consisting of a large room and library, storeroom and verandah. It was built on the Banoon - Burindi road near the branch road which runs to Orana, Calvalda, etc. It was close to the Louis' property.

The reason for the setting up of the school was the new soldier settlement blocks on Banoon. After the closure of the school in March, 1966, the building was moved to Barraba School where the pupils were also taken by bus.

There were only three teachers:

Tony Stortinbecker who married Ros Barwick (daughter of M. & A. Barwick).

Denis Gill (1961) who married Kath Reading.

??

Families who had children attending the school:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Adleback | 9. Drew | 17. Moss |
| 2. Atkinson | 10. Dunn – John, Lillian, James | 18. Muir |
| 3. Austin | 11. Feltman | 19. Nelson |
| 4. Berry | 12. Hannaford – Beverly, Bill | 20. O'Keefe |
| 5. Boylan | 13. Hawkins | 21. Retrowski |
| 6. Cameron | 14. Hogno | 22. Simpson |
| 7. Carwood | 15. Louis | 23. Wilkinson |
| 8. Doyle – Robert, Vicki, Richard, Barbara | 16. McPherson | 24. Winter |



Banoon School

John Smith in pale jumper and Clarrie Smith 2nd from right in back row.



Opening of Banoon Public School 1955



Banoon Sunday School maybe 1962 or 1963.

Not sure where the picture was taken. I can only name a few. Kath Dunn, Lillian Dunn(Reading), Eadie Simpson, Neville Simpson, Robert, Vicki and Richard Doyle, Bill Hannaford.

Photos courtesy of Barbara Avar (Doyle)

**Executives of the Nandewar Historical Society for
2026/27**

President: Carolyn Faint

Vice-President: Adrian Hagan

Secretary: Lesley Grigg

Treasurer: Diana Simms

Curator: Glenda Geary

Letter to the Editor

On behalf of the Manilla Historical I would like to thank your Historical Society for conducting the tour of the former sites of small schools in the Barraba District. It was a very informative and enjoyable day, again congratulations and cheers to Chris for getting us all back safely.

Regards Jim Maxwell

President Manilla Historical Society.



Held from 20–22 November 2026 at Barraba Showground

This annual event is designed to give clinic participants the opportunity to put their training into practice in a supportive, professional, and competitive environment. Now entering its sixth consecutive year, the event has become a standout on the campdrafting calendar, attracting hundreds of competitors, families, and spectators from across Australia. Built around TSPH's unique "clinic to competition" pathway, the campdraft provides riders of all levels the chance to build confidence, improve cattle-working skills, and experience the thrill of competition among like-minded competitors.

The 2026 program will feature a huge lineup of events, including a full campdraft program such as Jackpot Campdrafts, Memorial Campdrafts, Junior and Juvenile events, Ladies and Masters Campdrafts, and the ever-popular TSPH Progeny Incentive Campdrafts—showcasing and rewarding the success of TSPH-bred and TSPH-sired horses. With approximately 1,200 first-round runs expected across the multi-day program, the event not only celebrates horsemanship and competition but also delivers significant economic and tourism benefits to the local community. The move to Barraba reflects TSPH's commitment to supporting rural communities and bringing major equine events to regional areas.

Whether you're competing, supporting from the sidelines, or simply coming to watch some of Australia's horse-and-rider combinations in action, this is one event you won't want to miss!



BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 1st November – 10.45am
Please note new time for the next few months.
All welcome

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

Mass Sunday 1st November 9.00am, not Saturday evening this month only.

All Souls Day

Fr Damien Locke will be holding a mass service at the Barraba Cemetery on Monday 2nd November commencing at 7.30am to commemorate All Souls Day.

After the service Fr Damien will do a blessing of graves.

Everyone is most welcome to attend, please bring a chair if you need to sit.

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am
Woodsreef 11.30am, 2nd Sunday of each month

PETA WILSON WINS MAJOR CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS.

The grand daughter of the late Joyce Abra, Peta Wilson, has won a number of major awards for her recently published children's book, "My First Dawn Service". At the 2026 SLVR (self published and illustrated) Children's Book Awards, held in Melbourne on 17 October 2026, Peta won these Awards:

2026 SLVR Book of the Year

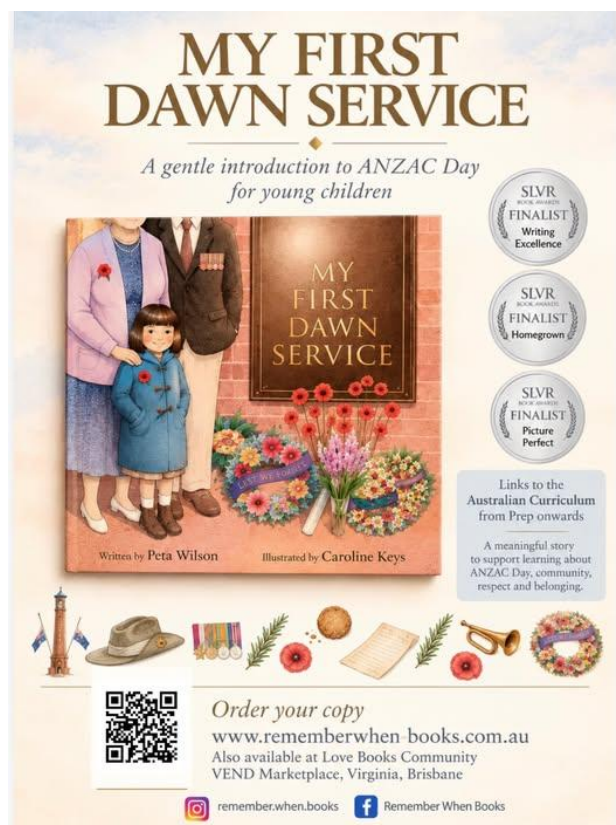
My First Dawn Service — Peta Wilson & Caroline Keys

Picture Perfect

My First Dawn Service — Peta Wilson & Caroline Keys

Home Grown

My First Dawn Service — Peta Wilson & Caroline Keys



"My First Dawn Service", and other Peta Wilson books, are available at *Babes In The Bush*, Barraba.



ROAD SAFETY

Can I stop in a No Parking Zone?



Vehicles may stop in a designated No Parking zone for up to two minutes (or five minutes for Mobility Permit Holders) to drop-off or pick-up goods or passengers, however, the driver must remain within three metres of the vehicle.

The signpost pictured indicates No Parking during select hours only, on school days.

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TRAIN SERVICE UPDATE!

The Government has announced that Tamworth and Kootingal train stations will be closed for upgrades for 6 weeks.

From Wednesday 21 October to Wednesday the 2nd of December, a replacement coach service will replace trains from Werris Creek Station, to Armidale via Tamworth, Kootingal, Walcha Road and Uralla. This is a concern for many in our community who rely on the train service, especially those with mobility issues who find it easier to board a train than a coach. I've written to the government about the impacts this will have on our community. I'm particularly concerned about any delays. If the work is delayed, it could impact the busy school holiday, Christmas and Tamworth Country Music Festival periods. Any delays will be unacceptable and I've asked the government to stick to the schedule and keep the community updated on progress.

Further information from NSW Trainlink.

Works will include platform upgrades and resurfacing, accessibility improvements, new fencing and lighting, drainage and underground service upgrades, installation of assisted boarding infrastructure, and the removal or relocation of redundant assets. Site investigations, vegetation management, and other enabling works will also be undertaken as part of the project. Passengers will still be able to book and travel throughout the closure period, with replacement coach services operating between Werris Creek and Armidale. Replacement services will be aligned with existing train timetables although they may not run at exactly the same times.

All passengers booked on services during this period will be notified by SMS or email that their service will operate as a coach rather than a train. Passengers are encouraged to arrive at least 20 minutes before their scheduled departure time. Those requiring accessible transport or travel assistance should contact NSW TrainLink before travelling to make arrangements. Bookings can be made at transportnsw.info/regional-travel or by calling NSW TrainLink on 13 22 32. Minor works will continue at and around the stations until 24 December 2026.

For the latest travel information, passengers should check NSW TrainLink and Transport for NSW travel information channels before they travel.

Edited from Brendan Moylan's website

FINANCIAL GRANTS TO LOCAL COUNCILS

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan has called on the NSW Government to provide greater transparency around proposed changes to the allocation of Financial Assistance Grants for local councils.

The State Government is currently reviewing the methodology used to distribute Financial Assistance Grants, with a new funding formula proposed to take effect from the 2027-28 financial year. Under the proposed changes, some regional councils could receive significantly less funding, with reported reductions ranging from 10 to 50 per cent.

Mr Moylan said mayors and general managers across regional NSW had raised serious concerns about the lack of information provided to councils about how the changes have been calculated and the potential impact on already stretched local government budgets.

"The feedback I've received from local councils, not just in the Northern Tablelands but right across regional New South Wales, is that there has been very little transparency about how these Financial Assistance Grants have been calculated," Mr Moylan said. "Some councils appear set to benefit from the proposed changes, while others stand to lose millions of dollars, yet there has been little explanation as to how those outcomes have been determined."

Many councils have also expressed concern that the proposed methodology places too much emphasis on population based revenue measures, potentially disadvantaging rural and regional councils with small populations but extensive road networks and large geographic areas to maintain.

Mr Moylan said Gwydir Shire Council was one example of a council that will be negatively affected if the proposed changes proceed.



Reduce the risks from lithium-ion battery fires

Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries now power everything from tools and equipment to devices and vehicles. While they bring many benefits, they can also create serious fire and safety risks if they're not charged, stored, handled or disposed of correctly. To help your workers understand the dangers and learn how to keep their workplace safe, connect them with practical resources, advice and an [inspector-led webinar](#) available from SafeWork NSW.

[Lithium-ion batteries | SafeWork NSW](#)

Protect customer data and strengthen your cyber security

See how a data breach could affect your business before it happens. Use the Personal Information Risk Assessment Tool (PIRAT) to get an instant risk score and understand the potential impacts of a data breach. You'll also find practical steps to help reduce the risks, and guidance on what to do if a breach occurs.

https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/id-support-nsw/be-prepared/pirat?utm_source=

Are you meeting your WHS responsibilities?

Check the strength of your Work Health and Safety (WHS) due diligence by using the Officer Due Diligence Self-Assessment Tool from SafeWork NSW. Answer a series of questions to help you understand if you're keeping workers, volunteers and visitors safe according to NSW WHS legislation. Use the online tool now during Safe Work Month to:

- get a clearer view of your due diligence practices
- see where you can improve
- receive practical steps to strengthen your safety leadership.

<https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/employer-business-obligations/due-diligence?utm=>



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Why the humble rabbit might be Australia's worst introduced species.



*Ina Smith, Senior Research Scientist, Team Leader Rabbit
Biocontrol, CSIRO*

Elena Smertina, Molecular Virologist, CSIRO

The 19th century pastoralist Thomas Austin was homesick. He yearned for the pastimes of his home in England – especially rabbit hunting. He asked his family to send him some rabbits.

On Christmas Day in 1859, around two dozen wild and domestic rabbits arrived in Australia.

Delighted, Austin released them on his Barwon Park estate near Geelong. A member of the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria, Austin was among many working to bring European animal species to Australia. Of his efforts, he would later write:

*the introduction of a few rabbits could do
little harm and might provide a touch of
home, in addition to a spot of hunting.*

Domestic rabbits first came to Australia with the First Fleet. But these introductions were domestic rabbits and didn't establish.

Austin's rabbits fared differently, as they were from wild genetic stock and much better suited to establishing self-sustaining populations. These rabbits began one of the most devastating biological invasions in Australia's history. Rabbits, after all, breed like rabbits.

It didn't take long for rabbits to go from desirable to undesirable. In the 1950s, CSIRO scientists began releasing biocontrols – viruses lethal to rabbits. Rabbit numbers are now estimated at around 200 million, vastly lower than a century ago. Even so, rabbits are resilient. They remain one of Australia's most widespread and damaging invasive species – perhaps even the worst.



An 1867 engraving shows the Duke of Edinburgh shooting rabbits in Thomas Austin's Barwon Park estate, where rabbits were first successfully introduced. Engraving by Robert Bruce, 1867

What's the issue with rabbits?

As rabbits spread across the continent, their numbers grew to plague proportions. Farmers came to loathe them for their ability to eat through pastures, spread weeds and dig huge warrens.

Desperate farmers resorted to traps and poisons, while many people worked as rabbiters. Some farmers were forced to abandon their properties.

In 1901, West Australian authorities saw rabbits approaching and began building enormously long fences to keep them out. It was pointless. By 1920, Australia had an estimated 10 billion rabbits.

Rabbits don't just affect farmers

As highly efficient grazers, rabbits compete for food with endangered yellow-footed and brush-tailed rock-wallabies, southern hairy-nosed wombats and many other native herbivores.

Rabbits consume up to a third of their body weight each day. Even at very low densities, they can stop regrowth of native trees and shrubs by selective grazing. Their digging of large warrens can increase erosion, degrade the surrounding land and accelerate the spread of invasive weeds.

Rabbits are incredibly good at making more rabbits. A doe can get pregnant and give birth about 30 days later to between three and eight kittens. A single doe can produce up to 50 kittens a year. Young rabbits begin breeding at around 4 months old.



Digging and burrowing by rabbits can do significant damage to soils. Heidi Kleinert, Author provided (no reuse)

Their sheer fecundity makes them hard for native or introduced predators to control. In some areas of Australia, European rabbits can breed year-round. As a result, Australia's rabbits threaten over 300 species of native animals and plants.

Rabbits also represent an abundant source of prey for foxes and feral cats, two introduced species which have become apex predators in Australia. These opportunistic hunters kill and eat threatened bilbies, bandicoots, lizards and birds, too. Foxes also target lambs and other young livestock, leading to major losses for farmers. The sheer size of the rabbit population supports large numbers of cats and foxes, intensifying the damage to native species.

Biocontrols work – but are not a silver bullet

In the 1950s, scientists at CSIRO researched and then released the first biological control for rabbits, Myxoma virus. This virus causes the lethal disease myxomatosis, which slashed rabbit numbers by an estimated 95% in some areas.

Over time, the surviving rabbits built up resistance to Myxoma virus. In 1984, another virus was identified in domestic rabbits in China. Rabbit calicivirus – otherwise known as Rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus – spread and infected rabbits in many countries.

In 1995, scientists began testing calicivirus on South Australia's Wardang Island. It was an ideal biocontrol candidate, as it only infected rabbits, was stable in the environment and caused a disease with rapid onset and progress.

During testing, the virus was carried by flies to the mainland. In the wild, it proved highly effective at keeping rabbit numbers down, though surviving rabbits began to develop immunity. About 20 years later, a highly virulent new strain

appeared in Europe and spread to Australia, where it cut rabbit numbers by 60%.

In 2017, authorities released a new strain of the calicivirus, known as K5, to augment the effectiveness of the naturally circulating virus strains. This year, sharp rises in rabbit numbers have been reported. We don't yet know if this is due to a mild winter and plant growth after good rainfall, a reduction in effectiveness of the circulating viruses, or both.

So how can we get on top of this trend before the rabbits get out of hand again?

At CSIRO, we have developed a new way of growing rabbit calicivirus in the lab to speed up selection of new variants with potential to boost control.

We are also tracking virus strains circulating in Australia to map the activity of the various rabbit biocontrol viruses. Anyone can send in samples from rabbit carcasses to be tested through our citizen science project.

CSIRO researchers have begun investigating longer-term solutions such as genetic biocontrol (commonly known as gene drives) for key pests – including rabbits.



Rabbit populations can grow rapidly into plague proportions. JohnCarnemolla/Getty

There is no single answer

While rabbit viruses work very well for a time, they are not a silver bullet. To keep numbers down long-term, we need to combine viruses with other control methods such as baiting, fumigation and destruction of rabbit warrens and, ultimately, novel technologies such as gene drives.

If we do nothing, we will once again have a true plague of rabbits. Keeping them under control is essential.

Savoury Impossible Pie

From Women's Weekly Food

You've probably heard of the sweet version, but have you tried a savoury impossible pie? It's easy, cheesy and so quick to get in the oven. Serve it warm or cold.

Ingredients

2 cup baby spinach
1/2 cup plain flour
1 cup grated tasty cheese
1 cup diced ham
1/2 cup crumbled feta
2 cup milk
4 eggs, beaten lightly
60 gram butter, melted
1/4 cup grated parmesan

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Lightly grease a 24cm pie dish.
2. Blanch spinach by placing in a bowl and covering with boiling water. Soak for 1 minute, drain, and refresh under cold water to stop cooking process. Drain again.
3. Sift flour into a mixing bowl. Stir in cheese, ham and feta.
4. In a jug, blend together milk, eggs and butter. Whisk into flour mixture with spinach.
5. Pour mixture into prepared pie dish. Sprinkle evenly with parmesan.
6. Bake for 45-50 minutes or until golden and set. Serve warm or cold with salad.

Could you be the next *Barraba*

Community News editor?

The *Barraba Community News* has been sharing the stories, events and achievements of the Barraba community and wider region for over 6 years with a small team of volunteers (truth bomb 1; we don't have a tax problem because we don't get paid) and contributions from you – our community members.

Bronwyn is moving from Barraba and we're looking for a person who would like to continue the role of 'Editor'. If you believe there is value in keeping local news and information available to our community, have 2 – 3 days each week of spare time, can meet a deadline for printing you might be the person we need.

You might be someone who loves writing and gathering and telling local stories, someone who enjoys photography, a community connector who always knows what's happening around town. You might be interested in contributing stories, gathering information, assembling the information to meet the printing and distribution of Barraba Community News each Wednesday morning.

You don't need to be a journalist. What matters most is an interest in our community and a willingness to give the time each week commencing in January 2027. There will be plenty of opportunity for practice and handover before the Christmas break.

We're inviting expressions of interest from people who would like to be part of the future of *Barraba Community News*. Get in touch and tell us a little about yourself, your interests, your involvement in the local community and your computer skills. (truth bomb 2; you don't need to be brilliant, just average will get you by).

news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au or phone Bronwyn on 0447165008 and have a chat.

EMERGENCY SERVICES CONTACT LIST

Ambulance	000
Fire	000
Police	67900360
VRA	000
Barraba Police Station	(02) 6790 0360
Barraba Fire Brigade	02 57328415
Barraba Health Service (Hospital)	67822500
Barraba Medical Centre (GP)	67821621
Barraba Vet Service	0459192265
Essential Energy	132080
Beyond Blue	1300224636
Lifeline	131114
NRMA	131122
SES Barraba	132500
Tamworth Regional Council	
Emergency Number	1300733625
Council Office	67821105