



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 22nd May 2024

VEGAS IS COMING TO BARRABA

CASINO NIGHT

**SATURDAY, 8TH JUNE
6 PM
BARRABA GOLF CLUB
TREVALLYN RD**

QR Code

Tickets \$90
Includes
Bubbles on arrival
Nibbles & Dinner
Starter pack of Casino chips

SCAN TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKET!

CASINO TABLES & LOTS OF GAMES!
BROUGHT TO YOU BY BARRABA PRESCHOOL

MEN'S Stretch

FREE

FREE CLASSES | BARRABA

Come and spend an hour with a group of men just like you and give your body a chance to release some of that tightness.

Niggles in shoulders? Aching back? Stiffness in hips? Dodgy knees?

Loosen up your body and learn relaxation techniques to help you sleep better, cope with daily stress and a million other benefits that your family and workmates will thank you for.

Maybe head out afterwards for a drink and catch up with mates.

WHEN: Tuesdays from May 14 until June 25, 7 - 8pm
WHERE: Barraba Golf Club
BOOKINGS: Kaz on 0429 647 925

This program is run by Sarah Yoga, thanks to funding from the Hunter New England and Central Coast PHN, and support from the Bingers Nudge at the Southern Queensland and Northern NSW Innovation Hub.



**BARRABA
CANCER
PATIENTS FUND
RAISING
GROUP INC.**

BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Thursday 23rd May, 9am
Barraba Queen Street Mall

COUNTRY | GLAMOUR

SPECIALISING IN
Brows
Lashes
Builder Gel Manicures
Pedicures
Spray Tans
Body Waxing

APPOINTMENTS ONLY
Tues 9am - 4pm
Wed 6pm - 9:30pm
Thurs 9am - 9:30pm
Fri 5:30pm - 9:30pm

QR Code

SCAN TO BOOK

For online bookings scan the QR code, visit the social pages or alternatively phone or text Courtney 0439 725 943
'Stonehouse' 1289 Manilla Rd

f Instagram

First Aid Training

Provide First Aid



Enrol in this course to learn how to recognise and respond to an emergency situation, assessing the casualty and the need for a first aid response, managing immediate hazards to the health and safety of those present and seeking assistance from emergency response services.

Course Program

HLTAID009 Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation
HLTAID010 Provide basic emergency life support
HLTAID011 Provide first aid



31 MAY 2024 | 8:30AM to 4:30PM | \$190

Issuing Registered Training Organisation:
Community College Northern Inland Inc. RTO 90027

Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation



Learn the skills and knowledge required to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in line with the Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC) Guidelines. The course applies to all workers who may be required to provide CPR, in a range of situations, including community and workplace settings.

Course Program

HLTAID009 Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation



31 MAY 2024 | 8:30AM to 12:00PM | \$90

Issuing Registered Training Organisation:
Community College Northern Inland Inc. RTO 90027



REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATION 90027

Tel: (02) 6782 1662

www.ccn.nsw.edu.au/first-aid-courses



Welcome to
Barraba RSL
and Recreation Club

BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

Phone 67821379

For the information of members and guests.

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY 23rd May

Bingo from 6pm

FRIDAY 24th May

MEAT RAFFLES

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1100

SUNDAY 26th May

ANGLER CLUB RAFFLES

Membership Draw \$1300

BISTRO HOURS

Phone 0427330808

DINE IN OR TAKEAWAY

DAILY BLACKBOARD SPECIALS AVAILABLE

ALSO PIZZAS MADE TO ORDER

MONDAY/TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY: CLOSED

THURS/FRI/SAT: Lunch 12-2pm. Dinner from 6pm

SUNDAY: 12-2pm



Barraba Veterinary Service

Phone: 0459 192 265

Email: admin@barrabaveterinaryservice.com

219 Mulwarree Rd, Barraba 2347

Mon to Fri 8:30am – 5.30pm

Closed from 1-2pm

After Hours service available for emergencies only.

Offering veterinary services within the Barraba district for small and large animals in clinic or on farm.

Cat & Dog Boarding available for short or long-term stays.

IT'S TIME TO HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT OUR ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGET!

Have a look at what our plans are for the year ahead.

Have your say at haveyoursay.tamworth.nsw.gov.au before 12 June 2024

Ta  worth
REGIONAL COUNCIL



have your say



Barraba
Community Care

Thanks to Whiddon I'm still home

You may be looking for a little extra help with housework or gardening to keep your home looking spic and span, or for specialist health care and registered nurse visits. Whatever it is, we are dedicated to keeping you in your own home!

Understanding Home Care event Barraba

Are you in the process of finding a Community Care provider or accessing a Home Care Package? Join us for morning tea and meet our friendly and local care coordinators and learn about MyAgedCare, Government funded Home Care Packages and available services in the Barraba area.

Date: Thurs, 30 May 2024
Time: 11am - 1pm
Location: Barraba Bowling Club, Queen St, Barraba NSW 2347
Cost: Free

Free admission, all welcome for no obligation consultations.
Bookings are essential and spaces are limited.

Call 1300 738 388 or email hello@whiddon.com.au

whiddon.com.au

Morning Tea will be provided



Whiddon
Award-winning care



History Notes

Our thanks to the members who were able to run the stall last week and congratulations to Helen Kelly who won the box of fruit and vegetables.

Some weeks ago I wrote about Harry Watt, who lived in Barraba after World War 2 and this week while searching through some old family photos I found a snap of him. Thus, I was correct when I thought that he was friendly with my ancestors - still have no comment from anyone else.

This week I have managed to read David York's history of the Golf Club- a must for anyone connected with the Club since its beginnings on the police paddock well over 100 years ago.

He has put a lot of time and effort into finding all the information - especially in the early days when golf was played next to the Recreation Ground and then up at the Showground. I wonder if anyone can name all the men in the early photos!

Reading the later history brings back a lot of memories - imagine the era of the crows on the course taking golf balls and members adding a gun to the golf sticks in their bag - no gun laws in those days!!

Another memory concerns playing a mixed event along the river when a fellow player put a golf ball out in the river and then hit an even better shot also out in the river!! Another memory of a lady golfer climbing a tree to retrieve her ball and yet another lady hitting a very nice drive off the tee at right angles straight into the metal sign beside the tee - the noise echoed all around the course.

The associates did a lot of catering forty years ago and we had some dramas at times - I particularly remember the night the handle came off a big boiler full of soup, just as two ladies were moving it from the stove to the table. No one was hurt but we lost some soup onto the floor and some even went down a hole in the floor! The guests received a smaller helping that night and the staff missed out!!

Our lives have changed since then, many of the early golfers have passed on and those like myself find it hard to get around but we are always interested in all sports. I had lunch with Joan Bragg last week and she is very interested in Barraba and the Golf Club. As someone said "Golf is not a matter of life and death. It is much more important than that!"



Senior Citizens Notes

Hello everyone,

Some good news and some not-so-good news. Firstly, the street stall and raffle ticket sales boosted the bank budget to \$900 plus. A real credit to all who contributed in any way. Well done all round.

The not-so-good news, I have had to cancel the Dubbo holiday plans. There were only eight confirmed bookings. Never mind, hopefully we will be able to do something else in the not-too-distant future.

Meanwhile, back at the homestead, our Wednesday handicraft day is going along very well. If you have a craft of some kind and would like to join in, please feel free. The girls make a darn good cuppa, if you would just like to drop in and see what is doing.

The numbers for housie are fairly steady, that is a great way to spend a Friday morning.

This is all for now, so until next time wrap up and stay warm. To those who are not well, a speedy recovery wish to you.

Till next time, cheers.

Judy Brady

Garage SALE

- Furniture - dining table and 6 chairs , tv cabinet, coffee table, 2x2 seater couches
- Kitchenware - cups, platters, pots and pans
- Knickknacks, vases, baskets, crystal bowls, silver platters, lamps, cushions.
- Books -cook books, kids & teen fiction dvds \$1 each. CDs, Board games , toys
- Baby items (hand knitted booties and jumpers, cot linen, baby bath etc)
- Linen - towels & sheets

SATURDAY 1 JUNE
9AM - 1PM
26 MCDUALL AVE
BARRABA



About the event

Join Dementia Support Australia for this Tamworth Event. Hear directly from our team on a range of topics, including: how to understand changes to behaviour and the impact of mental health, your wellbeing and when to seek help as a family carer, practical steps to reduce the impact of changes to communication and behaviour, and why pharmacological interventions are often not the answer. You'll hear directly from our most experienced consultants, leaders and medical specialists and have an opportunity to ask questions of our expert panel. Stay for light refreshments and talk with members of our team in a friendly and supportive environment.

Date: Tuesday, 4 June 2024

Location: [Powerhouse Hotel Tamworth by Rydges](#) Guy Kable Room

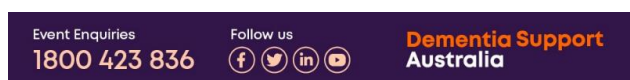
248 Armidale Rd, Tamworth NSW 2340

Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm, registration opens from 9:30am

Please join us for a light lunch from 12:00pm in the Guy Kable Room.

Should you have any questions regarding this event, please contact the Events Team at

events@hammond.com.au or 1800 HC EVEN (1800 42 3836)



MINNS DELAYS PROTECTIONS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE TAMWORTH ELECTORATE

The NSW Opposition is calling on the Minns Labor Government to take strong and urgent action on domestic violence, after it delayed strengthening the state's bail laws.

Liberal and Nationals MPs were prepared to push the Government's new bail bill through Parliament this week, in order to increase protections for women and children as soon as possible.

But Labor and the Greens refused to back the move, which means the changes won't be looked at for at least another month.

NSW Nationals Leader Dugald Saunders said we need swift and decisive action when it comes to addressing the scourge of gendered violence gripping the state. "We all know the shameful statistics that almost 30 women have lost their lives at the hands of a former or current partner this year, and our communities are calling for help," Mr Saunders said. "The Government didn't want to work with us on our proposed bill last week, and now it doesn't want to work with us on its own proposal this week, which begs the question, what are we waiting for? Every day that goes past is another day that women in NSW go unprotected."

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said the Premier needs to put people's needs before politics. "We have heard of the tragedies that have occurred across NSW and we have also seen similar experiences here," Mr Anderson said. "We know it can be harder for women to leave abusive relationships when they live in the country because they often have nowhere else to go and we simply can't continue to sit on our hands. The women in our community want us to work together on this issue, but unfortunately we aren't seeing the level of bipartisanship or urgency from the Government that we need to deal with this important issue."



Meet the candidates for the upcoming North West Local Land Services board member election. North West Local Land Services is encouraging ratepayers to register now so they can vote in the local board member election, starting next week. Voting opens on 21 May and closes 14 June. Voting packs can be requested until 12 June.

In the North West, 7 candidates will stand for election to the local board, with 3 positions available.

- LOMAX, Mike – Werris Creek
- COLLINS, Rebecca – Bangheet
- REARDON, Vera – Warialda
- HART, Michael – Bendemeer
- CHAPLAIN, Christopher – Burren Junction
- HODDLE, Charlotte – Gunnedah
- COCKBAIN, Jocelyn - Tintinhull

Acting North West Local Land Services General Manager Matthew Davidson said that voting is essential if North West producers want to ensure that the local board best represents their interests.

For more information about your candidates and how to vote in your local board election, visit www.lls.nsw.gov.au/board-recruitment

Ecological Burn Notice

Please be advised that Whitehaven Coal will be undertaking Burn Preparation and a cool season Ecological Burn on the following Biodiversity Properties "Wirradale, Mt Lindesay and Coonoor," between 8 April and 31 May 2024. For further information, please contact Whitehaven Biodiversity on call 0488 407 000.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

TRANSPORT DRIVER
Provide transport to individuals or groups of older persons

COMPANION INDIVIDUAL
Spend one on one time with a GoCo client in their home or out in the community

COMPANION GROUP
Deliver fun activities to our clients such as bingo or mystery tours!!

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY
Deliver meals to clients straight to their door

GET IN TOUCH AND START VOLUNTEERING TODAY! 6740 2240 OR SEE JODY AT OUR QUEEN ST OFFICE

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



At The Playhouse Hotel

Open Saturday and Sunday

8am to 2pm

Breakfast, morning tea, brunch and lunch

To book or enquire please phone

Shelley on 0488192256

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Re the National Australia Bank (NAB), formerly the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Ltd (CBC): The CBC was established in 1834 and came to Barraba in 1876. My father and his father - and my aunt - and probably my great grandparents; all banked with the CBC as did so many people around Barraba and Bingara.

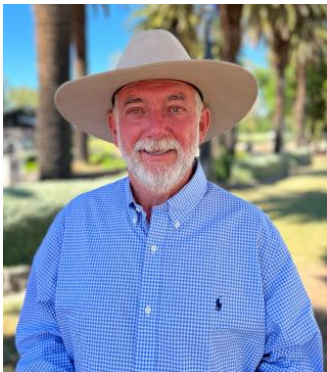
I am pleased that I never banked with the CBC or the NAB, and I have no intention of doing so. The bank rewarded its loyal customers in the regions by abandoning them. If the customers are supposed to be able to do everything at the Post Office that they used to do in person at the bank, how come they need to travel to the branch in Gunnedah?

I think that is very unfair on those who can't do internet banking. It is not illegal to not have or want a credit or debit card or keycard. I suggest people transfer their funds to the Regional Australia Bank which supports local projects and at least is open for a few hours twice a week.

Julie Williams



Message from the Mayor



This week the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) approved our Special Rate Variation (SRV) application. We sought a permanent SRV of 36.3% over two years - with an 18.5 per cent increase from 1 July 2024-25 (including the rate peg of

4.9%) and 15% in 2025-26 (including the forecast 2.5% rate peg). Councillors will decide in June whether or not to implement the approved increases.

Of course, no one in our community will be happy about rates going up. However, IPART’s approval does recognise our application was sound.

The IPART put our financial modelling under the microscope and found that without a Special Variation our financial position would be unsustainable. Council will use two-thirds of the additional income on roadworks. Importantly, we have updated our financial hardship policy and we will have an additional concession of \$100 for eligible pensioners over the 2-year Special Variation period.


For more details and our rates calculator, see <https://trcnews.au/srv>

Let's talk... **SPECIAL RATE VARIATION PROPOSAL**

NOW LIVE

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION (SRV) CALCULATOR

FIND OUT what the increase will be for you
www.haveyoursay.tamworth.nsw.gov.au



Tamworth REGIONAL COUNCIL

Have your say on public art around the region



The draft Tamworth Region Public Art Strategy 2024-2029 is on public exhibition for community feedback until Wednesday 12 June 2024. We've created our draft Tamworth Region Public Art Strategy and invite your feedback.

The Strategy supports our vision for a vibrant community and recognises the important role public art plays in creating a sense of place, enhancing the region and engaging the community. It will also help guide the inception and maintenance of public art across our region.

Check it out and have your say before 12 June at <https://trcnews.au/HaveYourSay>.

HERITAGE ASSISTANCE FUND



Applications for Council’s Heritage Assistance Fund 2024 -25 are now open! Do you own a building that is heritage listed,

or located in a heritage precinct? If so, you could be eligible to apply.

The dollar-for-dollar funding is awarded to successful projects involving the repair, maintenance or reinstatement of missing items on heritage buildings. Pictured is the old dairy separating room at Elmdale Cottage. Owners Wayne & Marianne replaced the roof and painted the internal and external walls thanks to their successful application in the 2023-24 fund.

For full details and to apply, visit www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/heritage-assistance-fund

Council meeting update

Here is an overview of outcomes from Tamworth Regional Council Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 14th May 2024:

- Councillors have given the green light for work to continue on detailed design of the proposed Tamworth Regional Aquatic Centre and Northern Inland Centre of Sport and Health. Tonight, they approved in principle the proposed concept design and authorised Council's General Manager to submit a development application for the project. Council proposes to develop a major aquatics and sports health centre at the Tamworth Sports and Entertainment Precinct with a total budget of \$45 million. Artist renders of the concept designs were included in a report table at tonight's meeting. The design features a state-of-the-art 50m indoor pool with a 1.2m fixed shallow end, moveable floor in the deep end to provide 1.2m to 2m depth, and a central swim wall to allow the pool to be set up as a 50m pool, 25m pool or a combination of both. The project is designed to be delivered in stages as funding becomes available. Council has secured \$15 million for the project from the NSW Government and has applied for funding from the Australian Government. A future report will be presented to Council with a detailed funding strategy for their consideration.
- Councillors agreed to place the Draft Integrated Planning and Reporting suite of documents for 2024/2025 on public exhibition for 28 days. They include drafts of 'Our Annual Plan and Budget 2024/2025', 'Statement of Revenue Policy 2024/2025' and 'Fees and Charges 2024/2025'. Each year Council invites community feedback about the documents which guides our community activities, projects and services to be delivered in the coming financial year before they are adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 25 June 2024. The 2024/25 Annual Plan and Budget is different from previous years because of the Special Rate Variation recently approved by IPART and if implemented by Council in June the increase will take place from 1 July 2024. The Plan includes two financial scenarios:
 - One budget based on a rate rise of 18.5 percent (13.6% increase and 4.9% rate peg). This will enable Council to continue to deliver the services and projects our community has told us they want and need.
 - An alternative budget if Council does not implement the SRV, limiting the rise of rates income to the annual rate peg of 4.9% for 2024/25, would result in Council not being able to deliver the projects identified to address key areas of asset backlog, particularly in sport and recreation (including pools), stormwater, roads and buildings.
- Councillors reviewed the minutes of the Tamworth Regional Community Safety Working Group February meeting and the request from the Working Group that Council consider the role that it can play in supporting the establishment of a residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility in the region. Tonight, Councillors agreed to undertake a review of Council owned land to determine any sites which may be suitable for the facility, as well as investigating funding options for the development of a business plan and writing to the NSW Premier, NSW Minister for Health and the local State Member to advocate for the service.
- Councillors endorsed a report from Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee which included recommendations to approve modification works at the intersection of Goonan and Marathon Streets in Westdale, a footpath crossing over Elbergs Gully, Bendemeer, reducing Havannah Street, Bendemeer to one lane of traffic across the low level bridge to improve the safety of pedestrians, relocating No Stopping signs at the intersection of Johnston and Smith streets in North Tamworth and moving a disabled parking space on White Street, Tamworth closer to Peel Street.
- Tamworth Baseball Incorporated will be hosting the largest baseball carnival in the southern hemisphere once again over the June long weekend, and Council has agreed to waive the fees associated with running it. With the event expected to host over 900 players at Tamworth's Riverside Sporting Complex and give a projected economic boost of \$929,000 to the region, a complete fee waiver of \$6,035 will be granted under the Sports Event Subsidisation Policy.
- Councillors have adopted an updated Public Art Policy and now community feedback is being sought on the draft Tamworth Region Public Art Strategy. The strategy will be on exhibition for 28 days. The Public Art Strategy will be used by Council to govern inception, coordination, installation, maintenance and ongoing management of public art in the Tamworth region. A number of Councillors spoke in support of increasing the Public Art Fund by \$26,000 in the 2024-25 budget. The fund has not been increased since 2015.
- Tamworth Region Mayor Russell Webb was formally endorsed by his fellow Councillors to nominate for the position of chair for the Murray Darling Association – Region 11. The next board meeting will be on Thursday this week in Tamworth.

To make a formal comment, community members can go to the MyTRC Online Community from Wednesday 15 May to Wednesday 12 June 2024 at haveyoursay.tamworth.nsw.gov.au.



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**73 Queen Street,
Barraba NSW 2347**

(02) 67 821 107

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am

Woodsreef 2nd Sunday of the month at 11.30am

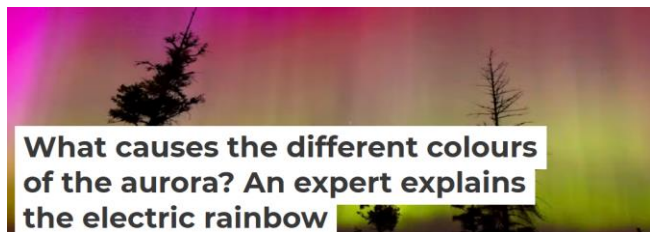
BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 26th May

Service time 8.45am for the next 4 months
PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE OF TIME. All Welcome.

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

Barraba 1st Sunday of the month, Saturday
evening Mass 5pm
All other Sundays 9am



Timothy Schmidt, Professor of Chemistry, UNSW Sydney

Earlier this month, a huge solar flare sent a wave of energetic particles from the Sun surging out through space. Over the weekend, the wave reached Earth, and people around the world enjoyed the sight of unusually vivid aurora in both hemispheres. While the aurora is normally only visible close to the poles, this weekend it was spotted as far south as Hawaii in the northern hemisphere, and as far north as Mackay in the south.



5:48 PM · May 12, 2024

This spectacular spike in auroral activity appears to have ended, but don't worry if you missed out. The Sun is approaching the peak of its 11-year sunspot cycle, and periods of intense aurora are likely to return over the next year or so. If you saw the aurora, or any of the photos, you might be wondering what exactly was going on. What makes the glow, and the different colours? The answer is all about atoms, how they get excited – and how they relax.

When electrons meet the atmosphere

The auroras are caused by charged subatomic particles (mostly electrons) smashing into Earth's atmosphere. These are emitted from the Sun all the time, but there are more during times of greater solar activity. Most of our atmosphere is protected from the influx of charged particles by Earth's magnetic field. But near the poles, they can sneak

in and wreak havoc. Earth's atmosphere is about 20% oxygen and 80% nitrogen, with some trace amounts of other things like water, carbon dioxide (0.04%) and argon.



May 2024 aurora was visible in the Emilia-Romagna region of northern Italy

When high-speed electrons smash into oxygen molecules in the upper atmosphere, they split the oxygen molecules (O_2) into individual atoms. Ultraviolet light from the Sun does this too, and the oxygen atoms generated can react with O_2 molecules to produce ozone (O_3), the molecule that protects us from harmful UV radiation.

But, in the case of the aurora, the oxygen atoms generated are in an excited state. This means the atoms' electrons are arranged in an unstable way that can "relax" by giving off energy in the form of light.

What makes the green light?

As you see in fireworks, atoms of different elements produce different colours of light when they are energised. Copper atoms give a blue light, barium is green, and sodium atoms produce a yellow–orange colour that you may also have seen in older street lamps. These emissions are "allowed" by the rules of quantum mechanics, which means they happen very quickly. When a sodium atom is in an excited state it only stays there for around 17 billionths of a second before firing out a yellow–orange photon. But, in the aurora, many of the oxygen atoms are created in excited states with no "allowed" ways to relax by emitting light. Nevertheless, nature finds a way.



Aurora australis visible from Oatlands, Tasmania on May 11 2024

The green light that dominates the aurora is emitted by oxygen atoms relaxing from a state called “S” to a state called “D”. This is a relatively slow process, which on average takes almost a whole second.

In fact, this transition is so slow it won’t usually happen at the kind of air pressure we see at ground level, because the excited atom will have lost energy by bumping into another atom before it has a chance to send out a lovely green photon. But in the atmosphere’s upper reaches, where there is lower air pressure and therefore fewer oxygen molecules, they have more time before bumping into one another and therefore have a chance to release a photon.

For this reason, it took scientists a long time to figure out that the green light of the aurora was coming from oxygen atoms. The yellow–orange glow of sodium was known in the 1860s, but it wasn’t until the 1920s that Canadian scientists figured out the auroral green was due to oxygen.

What makes the red light?

The green light comes from a so-called “forbidden” transition, which happens when an electron in the oxygen atom executes an unlikely leap from one orbital pattern to another. (Forbidden transitions are much less probable than allowed ones, which means they take longer to occur.)

However, even after emitting that green photon, the oxygen atom finds itself in yet another excited state with no allowed relaxation. The only escape is via another forbidden transition, from the ¹D to the ³P state – which emits red light.



Captured the Aurora Australis and the Milky Way in all its beauty.

This transition is even more forbidden, so to speak, and the ¹D state has to survive for about about two minutes before it can finally break the rules and give off red light. Because it takes so long, the red light only appears at high altitudes, where the collisions with other atoms and molecules are scarce. Also, because there is such a small amount of oxygen up there, the red light tends to appear only in intense

auroras – like the ones we have just had. This is why the red light appears above the green. While they both originate in forbidden relaxations of oxygen atoms, the red light is emitted much more slowly and has a higher chance of being extinguished by collisions with other atoms at lower altitudes.

Other colours, and why cameras see them better

While green is the most common colour to see in the aurora, and red the second most common, there are also other colours. In particular, ionised nitrogen molecules (N_2^+ , which are missing one electron and have a positive electrical charge), can emit blue and red light. This can produce a magenta hue at low altitudes. All these colours are visible to the naked eye if the aurora is bright enough. However, they show up with more intensity in the camera lens.



Lights over Hobart

There are two reasons for this. First, cameras have the benefit of a long exposure, which means they can spend more time collecting light to produce an image than our eyes can. As a result, they can make a picture in dimmer conditions. The second is that the colour sensors in our eyes don’t work very well in the dark – so we tend to see in black and white in low light conditions. Cameras don’t have this limitation. Not to worry, though. When the aurora is bright enough, the colours are clearly visible to the naked eye.

To the ladies who gracefully walk around in heels all-day, I admire you.

To the women who fall over their own feet in flip flops... You are my soul sisters.



Barraba Rugby

On Saturday the Barraba Rams hosted the Gunnedah Devils in what was an exciting day for the 2024 Ladies Day and neither Barraba teams disappointed. The 'ladies game was thought to be a tough one coming across the undefeated Devil Women but Barraba kicked off the game strong with Chantelle Pursell getting the first points on the board early on in the game. The Rams maintained their structure and utilised some forwards hit ups from Jemma Johnson and Emily Kelso to gain meters and create space for the back line consisting of Charlie Norton, Kaila Gillogly, Chantelle Pursell and Regan Simpson to show their pace and skills to get the Regan over the line twice for the day. Zahlie Cabot needs a mention for her brilliant work at halfback, when she typically plays in the forwards but she has adapted and excelled in her new spot at the back of the ruck. Barraba spent a bit of time defending in the second quarter and after Gunnedah's consistent forward hit ups they managed to get over the line to get on the board but the rams did not let that stop them. The ladies came back with Kaila Gillogly, Zahlie Cabot and Jemma McDouall all managing a meat pie, with Charlie Norton's golden boot converting all but one to take the final score to 38-10. The rams putting a stop to the Gunnedah girls previous winning streak.

The men had quite a game to follow and came out strong with a few last minute changes in the starting line. Barraba's bench saw some faces that haven't been seen in the green and white for quite some time with the likes of Tim Mallise, Jesse Phillips, Shaun Spence, Luke White, Chris Sweeney and a few more coming back to lend a hand. Both Gunnedah and Barraba were looking for their first win of the season and both teams were determined. Not even 2 minutes into the game Cody Townsend showed his pace on the sideline, with an offload to the inside to Isaac Devine and the rams were first to score under the posts. Liam Mack converting putting the rams 7 up. The men worked hard and managed to get Nick Sweeny over the line after the forwards chugged the ball up, to swing it out to the backs. Once Barraba had started there was no stopping them. Liam Mack showed his pace, as he has done so frequently this season, and got two tries to his name and Isaac Devine managed to get over the line for another 5 against his. Discipline showed to be a downside for the rams again this week with a yellow card being shown for repeated infringements. The Gunnedah devils capitalised and managed to get a converted try on the board but it was too late, Barraba had already put the hard work in and Gunnedah weren't able to chase them down. With 10 minutes left to go Nick Sweeney had a slight hiccup

and let the heat of the game get the better of him and he was shown a red card. However, the men managed to stay in front on the board through some excellent scrums, solid tackles and plays by Will Robinson and Tom Green, showing a great improvement in their line outs. The Rams managed to take the win with a final score of 29-7.

Points were as follows:

Women

3-Charlie Norton

2- Regan Simpson

1-Chantell Pursell

Players Player - Jemma Johnson

Men's

3-Liam Mack

2- Tom Green

1- Connor Rodgers, Will Robinson, Brock Phillips

Players Player - Isaac Devine

Next week the Rams head to Scone for a 2pm and 3pm kick off!



Golf News

Golfers were put to the test last Sunday with the cold and windy weather that got worse as the day wore on. With the course still being pretty lush and green golfers are finding it is playing very long. In form golfer Chris Sweeney won the V Par event on a countback with +2. New golfer Jack Boyd and veteran Davo York were on the wrong side of the countback and claimed a couple of balls each. Other ball winners were Chris Oxford +1 and Keith Akers with a square. Chris Sweeney claimed the NTP on the 6th. Thanks to Daniel Anderson for supporting the day.

We made a start on our single matchplay. Tom Mellor defeated Dan Lott on the 19th as did Ian Cabot over Paul Grigg. Liam Johnston won 1 up over Neil Smith as did David McMurtrie over Sam Faint. Talk about tight matches! In the final match Campbell Tonkin defeated Keith Akers 4 and 3.

Next week we play our regular golf on Saturday as our Ladies Open is on Sunday. We are playing a 4 Ball BAM - 6 holes of Best ball, 6 of Aggregate and 6 of Multiplier. Bit of fun and hopefully we might get the odd visitor to warm up for the Ladies Open.

Happy Golfing