



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED


FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER





Community College


NORTHERN INLAND INC.

CHC33021 Certificate III in Individual Support

 The CHC33021 Certificate III in Individual Support is the standard entry qualification for personal care work in a variety of roles in residential care, home and community support, and disability settings.

Train for a rewarding career where you can build relationships with the people you care for, learn and grow across a variety of roles, and work flexible hours in aged care, disability support and home care.

 **Starts** Thursday 25th July **Barraba Campus** 9AM - 4PM 

 This training is subsidised by the NSW Government. Eligibility rules apply.

47 Fitzroy Street
Barraba NSW 2347

Call for more information
 **1800 952 264**

About Barraba Incorporated.

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 24th July 2024 6pm
Barraba Bowling Club
All welcome



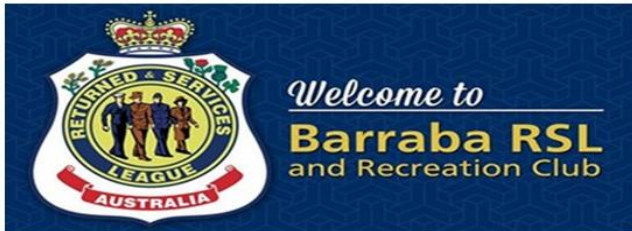
Local Government Elections

Tamworth Regional Council A reminder for anyone considering running in the 2024 Local Government Elections for the Tamworth region, that on 17 July, there will be an info session at the Tamworth Community Centre from 6pm - 8pm. Registrations required, www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/candidate-info-registration

There will also be an online Women for Election EQUIP: Candidate Training Program session held at 6pm on 16 July. More information on the Women for Election EQUIP sessions can be found at <https://www.wfe.org.au/events>

Gwydir Shire Council Community Election Information Night People interested in becoming a candidate for the upcoming Local Government Elections there is a general information session.

Tuesday 6 August 2024 | 7:00pm | The Living Classroom, Bingara and Tuesday 13 August 2024 | 7:00pm | Warialda Memorial Hall



BARRABA RSL & RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD

Phone 67821379

For the information of members and guests.

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY 11th July

Bingo from 6pm

FRIDAY 12th July

MEAT RAFFLES

Tickets on sale from 5.30pm

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1500

SUNDAY 14th July

ANGLER CLUB RAFFLES

Raffles on sale from 12pm, drawn 1.30pm

Membership Draw \$1900

BISTRO HOURS

Phone 0427330808

DINE IN OR TAKEAWAY

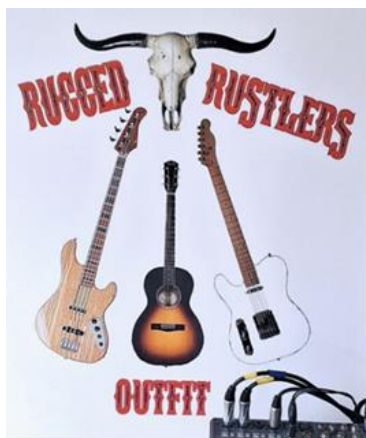
DAILY BLACKBOARD SPECIALS AVAILABLE

ALSO PIZZAS MADE TO ORDER

MONDAY/TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY: CLOSED

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

SUNDAY: 12-2pm



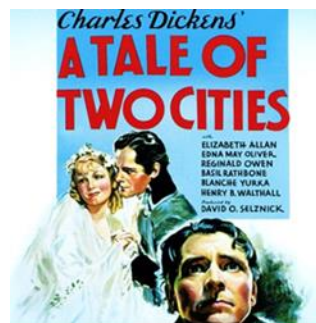
**Barraba High
Country Music
Musta**

**Sunday 14th July
2024.**

**12 to 4pm.
FREE ENTRY**

**Walk-up artists
welcome**

Barraba Bowling Club



The Playhouse Cinema

2.00 pm SUN 14 JULY

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

(PG, 128 mins)

To celebrate Bastille Day, relish the unsurpassed 1935 version of ATOTC on the big screen, with its grand,

sweeping storyline, impeccable period detail and definitive portrayal of Dickens' colourful characters.

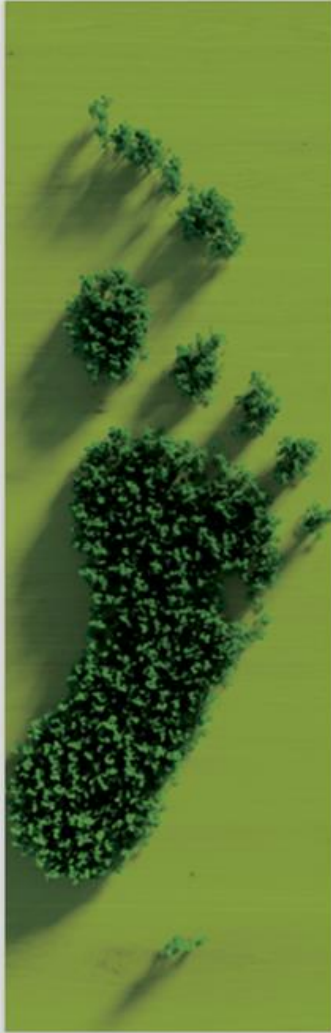
Golden Jubilee Celebration

Fr John Curran, our Catholic Priest, will celebrate his Golden Jubilee of Ordination during August.

To celebrate this milestone of 50 years in the priesthood, we will be having a celebration mass service at St John's Catholic Church on Sunday 25 August commencing at 10.30am then a lunch to follow at the Playhouse.

If anyone would like to come and join in this celebration please rsvp to the details provided in the ad below.

Numbers are needed for catering purposes; the lunch will be subsidized by the Parish.



Graymont announces launch of community-focused Carbon Reduction Fund and invites applications for 2024 initiatives

We are proud to announce the launch of the Graymont Carbon Reduction Fund , an innovative, grass-roots initiative designed to support the development of carbon-reduction initiatives in the communities across the globe that we call home.

The fund’s role is to support projects focused on:

- Protecting the environment by the responsible use of resources
- Reducing our carbon footprint through increased energy efficiency
- Developing and maintaining natural, biological ‘carbon sinks’ such as agricultural land, forests or peat bogs that act as a natural offset for carbon

If you have a project idea that relates to any of these topics, the GCRF is looking for you!

For additional information, please contact Lizz Norvill - 0428 450 171 or lizz.norvill@graymont.com



Sunday marked the beginning of NAIDOC Week 2024.

This year’s theme – Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud, celebrates the unyielding spirit of our Indigenous communities and invites all to “stand in solidarity, amplifying the voices that have long been silenced”.

There are a number of events taking place for all ages that have been organised by Tamworth NAIDOC. To find out what else is on, visit the website

<https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/.../aboriginal-community>



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Why isn't there mouse-flavoured cat food?

Scam alert



NASC impersonation scammers

Criminals are calling people and pretending to be from the National Anti-Scam Centre.

They tell you that your phone number is being used in a scam in China and offer to help you 'clear your record'. These scammers work hard to get your trust, then try to steal your money and personal information.

Hang up on unexpected callers who say they're investigating a scam.

It's probably a scam: the National Anti-Scam Centre will never ask for money or personal or financial information.

How to spot the scam

This scam can be hard to spot because scammers can make a call look like it's from a legitimate number.

However, the National Anti-Scam Centre will never ask you for money, financial or personal information, or threaten you.

Anyone calling and behaving like this is probably a criminal. Hang up immediately and report the scam.

How the scam works

1. Someone calls you saying they're from the National Anti-Scam Centre.
2. The phone call looks like it comes from a legitimate phone number belonging to a trusted organisation, like the government or police.
3. They say they're investigating a phone number registered in your name that's being used in a scam in China.
4. These criminals may tell you they work with the Chinese Anti-Scam Centre or Chinese police, and say they will help you 'clear your record'.
5. They ask you questions to 'confirm you're not involved' in the scam.
6. They may spend a lot of time with you, building your trust.
7. These criminals will try to threaten you to steal your money, financial and personal information.

Stay protected

STOP – Don't give money or personal or financial information. Don't click on any links if you're unsure. Say no, hang up, delete.

CHECK – Scammers pretend to be from organisations you know and trust – like myGov, your bank, the police or government. You can check the call, message, or email is real by calling the official phone number of the organisation using contact details you find yourself.

REPORT – The more we talk, the less power they have. Report scams to Scamwatch. By speaking up, you protect others and stop scams before they happen. Better safe than scammed.

If you've been affected

1. If you have lost money, contact your bank or financial institution immediately.
2. If you've had personal information stolen or need support to recover from a scam, contact IDCARE on 1800 595 160.
3. Help others by reporting scams to Scamwatch.
4. Tell your friends and family: you can share your experience, get support and help to protect others from scams.

Who is the National Anti-Scam Centre?

The National Anti-Scam Centre is where government and industry work together to protect Australians.

We're harnessing shared resources and smarter analytics to cover blind spots, strengthen weak links and use data to react faster, stopping scams before they happen.

Our aim is to make Australia a harder target for scammers.

For more information about how to avoid or report a scam, visit the Scamwatch website.



World Chocolate Day is a global celebration of one of the world's favourite treats – chocolate. Whether you're a fan of dark, milk, white, or vegan chocolate, this day is all about indulging in the sweet and delightful flavours that chocolate has to offer. Let's dive in to learn about the history and significance of Chocolate Day and much more.

World Chocolate Day is celebrated annually on July 7th. This date marks the introduction of chocolate to Europe in 1550, which significantly contributed to its worldwide popularity. On this day, chocolate lovers around the globe come together to enjoy and appreciate the rich history and taste of chocolate.

The history of World Chocolate Day dates back to the 16th century when Spanish explorers first brought chocolate to Europe from the Americas. Originally consumed as a bitter drink by the ancient Mayans and Aztecs, chocolate evolved into the sweet confection we know today through the addition of sugar and milk.

By the 19th century, chocolate had become a popular treat in Europe, leading to the establishment of World Chocolate Day to celebrate this beloved food. This day not only acknowledges the culinary evolution of chocolate but also honours its cultural and historical significance.

Five fun facts

Health Benefits: Dark chocolate is known for its health benefits, including improving heart health, boosting brain function, and providing antioxidants. It is also a good source of iron, magnesium, and fibre.

Vegan Chocolate: With the rise of veganism, many brands now offer vegan chocolate options made without any animal products. These chocolates are made with ingredients like almond milk, coconut milk, and soy, ensuring that everyone can enjoy chocolate regardless of dietary preferences.

Ancient Currency: In ancient Mesoamerican civilizations, cacao beans were so valuable that they were used as

currency. The Aztecs, in particular, traded cacao beans for goods and services.

Melting Point: Chocolate melts at around body temperature (98°F or 37°C), which is why it melts so easily in your mouth. This unique property is due to the cocoa butter content in chocolate.

World's Largest Chocolate Bar: The world's largest chocolate bar, created in the UK in 2011, weighed 12,770 pounds (5,792 kilograms). It was made by Thorntons to celebrate their 100th anniversary.



My Mate Jack- Vic (Stumpy) Tumer-2005

He's as true blue as the Gumtrees
That you'll find along the track
Been every where, done everything
And most folks call him Jack

I know that's not his real name
As mates we go back so far
When we went to school together
At a place called Cobbadah

As young he worked with drovers
That's where he got his degree
Eating damper, bully beef and campie
On a stock route neath a tree

He done it tough in early years
Then drifted way out west
To the black soil plains of Moree
When shearing was at its best

Learning everything in the shearing shed
Then Jack learnt to shear
Gambled on the racing horses
And had a thirst for beer

Racehorses, beer and women
Sometimes lived like a millionaire
Won and lost a fortune
But he don't really care

But he'll always be my mate
And I know when I get back
We'll have a beer together
He'll always be my mate Jack.



TCMF 2025 SHOWS ANNOUNCE

Tickets on Sale Monday 8 July | 10AM

Entertainment Venues announce a bumper line-up of shows across their venues for the 2025 Toyota Tamworth Country Music Festival.

"We are thrilled to have a mix of new and old in our programme of shows for 2025 – all the favourite artist shows that the fans love to see each year plus some new and exciting special events that will make the 2025 Festival one to remember." said, Peter Ross, Manager and Festival Programmer for Entertainment Venues.

One of the many highlights for the 2025 Festival is rockstar Suzi Quatro making a return visit to Tamworth. Suzi is known as a singer-songwriter and bass player and she will deliver her two-hour Rocking On show at TRECC to her many adoring fans. Also, our regular festival greats; Troy Cassar-Daley, Lee Kernaghan and John Williamson and the coveted Toyota Golden Guitar Awards return to TRECC.

A huge line-up of artists will help raise funds for the McGrath Foundation at the annual Music For McGrath Concert and Amber Lawrence brings back her Tamworth's Biggest Kids Country Show with songs from her Kids Gone Country albums as well as a Taylor Swift song set; Amber Joy Poulton pays tribute to the late Loretta Lynn with her Coal Miner's Daughter - The Story Of Loretta Lynn & Friends show; the CCMA present their long running National Jamboree showcasing a new generation of country; the popular People's Choice Awards returns to recognise and reward; the Royal Flying Doctor Service will present their inaugural Songs For the Skies, a spectacular musical variety show and charity fundraiser; plus more shows on sale for Ashleigh Dallas, Fanny Lumsden, Graeme Connors, Kasey Chambers, and Travis Collins.

The Capitol Theatre has a number of events on-sale including a range of much-loved tribute shows. Darren Coggan returns with his successful Remember The Days Of Cat Stevens show; Mark Shelley will present his two popular shows Classic Country featuring The Crooked Button Band with Ian Lees, Jack Evans, Mark Shelley and Narelle Evans and The Roy Orbison Story with Mark honouring the songs of Orbison; Tania Kernaghan & Jason Owen – Together In Concert; Pixie Jenkins with Donella Waters and Josh Powell-Fussell present The Most Outrageous Dolly & Kenny Show

and Western Australia's Gary Anderson presents his internationally renowned Elvis - The Golden Years.

In addition to the tribute shows these popular artists will also be at the Capitol including Melissa Bajric's special Tamworth Edition show with Lindsay Waddington, Duncan Toombs, Brian Letton, Melinda Schneider, Felicity Urquhart and Josh Cunningham, and singer-songwriter Shane Nicholson and The Golden Fiddle Awards returns to showcase and award the most amazing and accomplished violinists and fiddlers from around the globe.

The Toyota 53rd Golden Guitar Awards, will light up the TRECC to celebrate the last twelve months of recording excellence.

Single tickets and Packages for all these shows and more go on-sale Monday 8 July via www.entertainmentvenues.com.au

Festival Ticket Packages are where you can save when you buy 3 or more shows. Time now to grab your friends, browse the shows and plan your 2025 Festival shows!

Step into the magic of our Giant Snow Globe!

Embrace the magic of winter on Saturday, 10 August for 'A Winter's Night', a free event to be held on Peel Street between Bourke and Brisbane Street. This enchanting evening promises to warm your heart and lift your spirits with the best of winter's comforts. Step inside a life-sized snow globe and be surrounded by swirling snowflakes and twinkling lights.

Experience the country atmosphere in the heart of the CBD with live music, dancing and the warm glow of fire pits. Gather with family and friends to savour a range of delicious hot food and beverages. 'A Winter's Night' will showcase a silent disco for music lovers, where attendees can dance the night away to a mix of tunes through wireless headphones. "This event is not just for the adults; there will be plenty of activities to keep the little ones entertained, including a balloon twister, craft sessions and face painting," said Natasha Little, Event Coordinator at Tamworth Regional Council. The best part? 'A Winter's Night' is a free event, open to the whole community. We encourage you to invite your friends, family and neighbours to join us in this celebration of winter. It's an opportunity to come together and experience the warmth of our Tamworth community spirit. Applications to participate in the event, either as a stallholder or a performer are now open and will close on Thursday, 25 July 2024. There are no site fees for food or market stall traders, making this an excellent opportunity for local businesses and performers to showcase their talents. For more information, visit our website www.tamworthregion.com.au/event/a-winters-night-on-peel-street.



History Notes

Back on the job this week and I am glad to report that Julie has had her operation and is staying in Sydney for a while to recover. We hope that the surgery has been successful and look forward to her returning home in a little while.

This coming week is going to be rather busy with two different family researchers visiting on Friday and then the markets on Saturday with at least two usual members missing from the stall. Perhaps someone might like to come along and help with the society stall.

The first family researcher to visit is the family of an early manager of the Gulf Creek Copper Mine – their request was published in the Barraba News a couple of weeks ago and I am hoping that one of our readers may be able to help answer their questions. I have tracked down the old Gulf Creek folder without finding anything much about the Stevens or Dower names.

We do have some information from the descendants which may help with the ownership of the Royal Hotel in Barraba. William Stevens came to Barraba with his two sons and a daughter and the daughter's husband, Michael Dower. Michael Dower was supposedly the manager of the Gulf Creek Mine in about 1900 – I have found him although not the mine manager, he was the mine captain in mid-1901. The mine manager was the well-known Mr W.H. Trewenach. The two Stevens sons seemed to have a connection with the Royal Hotel in Barraba, and it is noted that Harry Stevens was in charge of the Royal Hotel in 1915 and 1918 although Mrs Stevens is recorded as the owner when it burnt down in 1935. I have also found that Harry Stevens had the Commercial Hotel in Bundarra in 1910! Hopefully the story will be a little clearer after their visit.

The second visitor, also arriving at 10am on Friday, has seven families that she is following. We have information on the Myers and some on Baldocks but not a lot on Riley, Field, Mulholland. The Kirk family may be in order at the museum and then there is the Waldron family who were out west at Walgett as far as I know. We are going to have a very interesting morning on Friday and if anyone can assist please let me know.



Historical Society Markets

Saturday 13th July
(this weekend)

A great variety of stalls including Handicrafts, cooking, jams & relishes. Plants, herbs and succulents. Point of lay chickens and eggs.

9am to 12 noon

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am

Woodsreef – recommence on 14th July then every second Sunday of each month

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 14th July

Service time 8.45am

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



I'm getting so old that all my friends in heaven will think I didn't make it

52 years with you, 6 without you.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take. But by the moments that take our breath away.

As the anniversary of Guy's death comes and goes for the 6th time I decided to continue his organ donation story. After conversations with people I realised that it is not well understood the process of organ donation. Sadly, it needs to be the perfect storm for it to be able to proceed. For our family it was just that. Guy was pronounced brain dead. His life was being sustained by life support and the discussions began. The Donate Life team were lovely and very supportive and although it was a traumatic time, as I look back and reflect on it, our family realise it was the right decision. This is also further evident as we read the lovely letters from the recipients and hearing how it has changed their lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the readers of this article to visit donatelife.gov.au and read the stories of people who have both donated and received organ and tissue.

Organ donation Statistics

191,000 deaths in Australia

84,000 deaths in hospital

1,530 potential donors

1,435 requests

793 consents

513 donors

This represents a consent rate of 55%.

The reality is that few people die in such a way that donation is possible. Organ donors must die in hospital where the body can be medically supported until organs can be retrieved. There are as many as 1,850 Australians, adults and children, on the list at any one time. There are as many as 14,000 people on dialysis while they await a kidney transplant.

In Australia only around 2% of deaths - approximately 1,250 each year meet the criteria to be an organ donor. Both organs and tissue such as veins, bone, skin and parts of the eye can be donated.

When a person dies in hospital staff will check with the family if that person is a registered donor. Specialist doctors and nurses will meet with the family and continue to provide support during and after the donation. Medical testing is done on all organs to be donated to ensure they are

medically suitable for transplant and matched to potential recipients. The majority of deceased organ donation takes place after a doctor has declared a patient to be brain dead.

Donate Life Week is the national awareness week held in July each year. This year it is from 28th July to 4th August. Sadly only 36% of Australians are registered to be donors. If you would like to like to be a donor please talk to your family. Visit the donate life website to find out how. MyGov and the Medicare app are other ways to register.

It doesn't matter how old you are, your lifestyle or medical history you can still register.

Guy has helped 2 families to live happier healthier lives through his gift and we as a family are proud and grateful for that.

People rush to get rid of grief because it is seen as hanging onto loss. Grief is really hanging onto love - which is why you always feel it.

In memory of a loving son, brother and much-loved uncle

Guy John Derrick

20-4-1966 ~ 11-7-2018

Forever in our hearts

**DONATE
A MINUTE.
DONATE
A LIFETIME.**


**REGISTER AS AN
ORGAN AND TISSUE
DONOR TODAY**

donatelife

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RECENT ANNIVERSARIES

The British Royal Family renouncing its German names and titles and adopting the name of Windsor (1917)

The Rocky Horror Picture Show musical debuting in London (1973)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) issuing an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin for the illegal deportation of hundreds of children from Ukraine (2023)

The Battle of Waterloo, which saw Napoleon defeated by Britain (1815)

Amelia Earhart becoming the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean (1928)

The UN Commission on Human Rights adopting the International Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

Sally Ride becoming the first US woman in space (1983)

Venetian Elena Cornaro Piscopia becoming the first woman to receive a university doctoral degree or PhD (1678)

The start of the Korean War (1950)

The first use of the rainbow flag as a symbol of gay pride at a march in San Francisco (1978)

The invention of the toothbrush in China using boar bristles (1498)

The publication of JK Rowling's Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (1997)

Kevin Rudd ousting Julia Gillard to become PM for the second time (2013)

Catherine the Great declaring herself sovereign ruler of Russia (1762)

The coronation of Queen Victoria in Westminster Abbey (1838)

The patenting of the saxophone by Antoine-Joseph "Adolfe" Sax (1846)

The last stand of the Kelly Gang at Glenrowan (1880)

The world's first emergency telephone number (999) being introduced in London (1937)

The publication of the first women's magazine, the Ladies' Mercury (1693)

The world's first ATM installed in London (1967)

SOS morse code signal becoming the worldwide standard for help (1908)

The beginning of the Battle of the Somme, one of the biggest battles of WWI (1916)

The establishment of the International Criminal Court (2002)

The rescue of 12 boys and their coach from a cave in Thailand after being trapped for 9 days (2018)

The launch of the famous luncheon meat Spam (1937)

The launch of the modern bikini (1946)

The launch of hotmail.com, the first free web-based email service - and we're not judging if you still use it... (1996)

Rugby Report

On Saturday the Barraba Rams hosted the Tamworth Pirates for what was going to be 2 exciting games of rugby for the Women and Men.

The women kicked off the first of the games after a long few weeks of byes. The first half saw some strong tackles by Charlie Norton, Kirra Jordan and Jacqui Bradbery with some fast pace from Eliza Warby however Pirates were quick to score their first try. Upon resetting, Ali Smith found some luck and managed to steal the ball back so that the Rams had possession of the ball again but along with this small win, the Rams suffered an injury, ending the first half 5-0 to Pirates. The second half saw the Rams run on with purpose and determination with Jemma, Jessica and Emily Kelso making some excellent tackles that provided a strong line of defence to keep Pirates from the try line for the first 5 minutes. Unfortunately, this was short lived as Pirates managed to score again with an unsuccessful conversion. The Rams held their strong line of defence looking for an opening to make it to their try line however as the game drew to a close - the Rams suffered a Yellow Card for a high tackle made by Ali Smith and Pirates took advantage of that leaving the game at 15-0 to Pirates.

The Men's game saw an excellent start with a massive strong tackle from Isaac Devine and some excellent defending which held pirates out until 22 minutes to go when they scored their first try. Pirates took advantage of that small win and managed to score another 2 quick tries with scrum pushovers taking the score to 19 - 0 to Pirates with 16 minutes to go. The Rams did not lose their determination with some excellent speed and agility from Cody Townsend and strong passing from Boof Abra and Isaac Devine which lead the way for Jack Ward to put the first of the Barraba points on the board. The try was followed by a surprise conversion from Liam Mack. The game finished with some excellent defence from Tom Green and Kane Ward with Pirates still leading 19-7. The second half saw anticipation rise with Pirates making quick work of 2 tries but failed to follow through with an unsuccessful conversion by 28 minutes to go. With the Rams trying to keep their team fresh a few swaps were made with Henry Starr, Keiren Darlington, Dallas Fraser, Harry Kelly and Rory Staines took to the field towards the back end of the half. The Rams seem to continue to struggle with scrums this week but some excellent defensive strategies by Oisin McKenna and Nick Sweeney kept Pirates out. Pirates scored another 2 tries with successful conversions leaving the score at 43-7 to Pirates at full time.

Points for the weekend went to;

Men's

3 - Jack Ward

2 - Jack Kelly

1 - Nick Sweeney

Players player - Tom Green

Women's

3 - Jess Kelso

2 - Charlie Norton

1 - Jemma Johnson

Players player - Charlie Norton and Jess Kelso

Next weekend the men have a bye but the women will kick off at 12pm against Narrabri in Barraba.



Pickleball is heading to Barraba these school holidays!

There will be two come and try sessions held at the Barraba Bicentennial Community Centre on:

🏓 Thursday 11 July, 10am-12pm

🏓 Thursday 18 July, 10am-12pm

Come along and try pickleball for \$4.50 per session, per person.

No equipment or experience is necessary, minimum age is 12.

From The Conversation

Native raspberries, limes and geraniums: how did these curious plants end up in Australia?

Gregory Moore, Senior Research Associate, School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences, The University of Melbourne

While plants can't walk, they can certainly travel. Some species have travelled vast distances over millennia, moving by different and varied modes.

Some found new habitats when the continent they were riding on slowly crashed into another. Others went on perilous ocean-going journeys – think of coconuts washing up on new island shores. Others still have been carried as seeds by birds or other animals – including us.

Many have now become local, endemic to their region of Australia. Some may surprise you.

Native nuts – how macadamia trees began

Early in the age of jet aeroplanes, flying to America meant a stop-over in Hawaii to refuel. Here, many Australians tasted macadamia nuts for the first time and probably assumed they were a local delicacy. Imagine their surprise at discovering the truth. Hawaii's macadamia industry began when a few nuts were sent from Australia in the 1880s.

Of course, this was not news to Australia's First Nations people, many of whom had enjoyed macadamia nuts for millennia.



Macadamia nuts first gained notice in Hawaii – but they're Australian as can be. Shutterstock

There are four species of Macadamia, of which two are the most important nut producers, namely Macadamia integrifolia and M . tetraphylla. All species belong to the Proteaceae family, meaning they are related to banksias, grevilleas and proteas.

This family connection reveals the genus has a long evolutionary history, dating back about 100 million years.

Macadamias travelled with the continent of Australia as it split off from Antarctica and South America.

In their natural habitat across northern New South Wales and southern Queensland, these subtropical trees can reach heights of 25 metres. But even though they are now widely farmed, they're actually threatened in the wild – and may be further threatened by climate change.

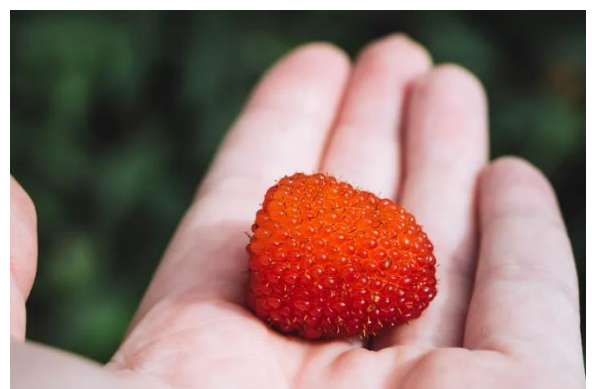
Oranges, lemons – and native citrus?

Many of us are fond of tart and tasty citrus – oranges from southern China, lemons probably from northern India. All the world's citrus trees stem from an ancestor species which grew in the foothills of the Himalayas, according to DNA evidence. Over time, these trees spread out and new species split off. Eventually, about 8–10 million years ago, they arrived in Australia.

The most well-known is the finger lime, *C. australasica*, with tiny globes spilling out of the fruit like citrus caviar. But there are others, like the Australian lime, *Citrus australis* and the desert lime *C. glauca*. Like many citrus, they can be prickly customers with long painful spines. While most are shrubs and small trees, the Australian lime can reach heights of 20 metres.

Native raspberries

In recent years, the native raspberry, *Rubus probus*, has achieved celebrity status as a prickly, quick growing bramble with a good fruit. But like its relative, the blackberry, *Rubus fruticosus*, you have to work hard to get fruit and rarely come away unscathed. That's why it was big news when a thornless specimen was found and propagated. This will make a big difference to the cultivation of our native raspberry.



Our native raspberry is becoming popular. Shutterstock

So how did Australia come to have raspberries? It seems likely their ancestors migrated from North America towards Europe and Asia between 10 and 15 million years ago and eventually made it to Oceania.

Exactly how the genus *Rubus* made it to Australia is unknown, but the most likely pathway is a few seeds stuck to the feathers of a migrating bird. It could have happened as recently as a few hundred thousand years ago.

Native geraniums? It's true

I associate geraniums with my maternal grandmother, who had the most magnificent red geraniums along her back fence. Family folklore had it they were cuttings from a prize winner at a major horticultural exhibition – and I believe it.

While we associate garden geraniums with Europe, they're actually African and only arrived in Europe in the 17th century. But while we all know these geraniums, Australia has its own species. That fact still amazes me after decades of studying plants.

But first, let's clear up the debate over names. In the 17th century, geraniums and closely-related pelargoniums were grouped together in a single genus. But early in the 18th century, Charles LeHeritier – the botanist who first described eucalypts – divided them and there has been confusion ever since. The easiest way of telling them apart is that geraniums have five petals of the same size and shape but pelargoniums have two larger petals and three smaller ones.

Most of the Australian native plants commonly called geraniums are in fact pelargoniums. You may have stumbled across *Pelargonium australe*, the most common of our seven species, which is spread across much of southern Australia.



Native geranium? The pelargonium australe is the native plant most commonly thought of as a geranium. Wikimedia, CC BY

Native orchids: from flying ducks to the Queen of Sheba

There's something about orchids. In the 19th century, so many Europeans went mad for their flowers that the name "orchidelirium" was coined. We have some of the most iconic orchids as natives, such as the remarkable flying duck orchid and the stunning Queen of Sheba. Our 1800 species mostly grow in our tropical and subtropical areas.



Australia's flying duck orchid (Caleana major) is world-famous for its resemblance. Shutterstock

Some orchids can be traced back to the last years of Gondwana. But curiously, we also have tropical species which must have island hopped from Papua New Guinea and Indonesia more recently. That's only the start of our surprising plants. We have native tamarinds, native rivermint, and a native rhododendron.

And did you know that cloves come from an Indonesian species of lilly pilly? This species is related to Australian lilly pillies, a genus which evolved as the final fragmentation of Gondwana occurred about 65 million years ago. They rapidly diversified and there are now over 1000 species.



The Eastern Queen of Sheba orchid is rightly famous. Shutterstock

Plants move slowly. But they move much more than you'd expect. Their success has enriched the biodiversity and novelty of our ecosystems in surprising ways. As for me, I love an Australian macadamia nut – and I'll always love those imported red geraniums.