



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 11th December 2024



Around 4.15 pm, on Sunday 8 December, a Westpac Rescue Helicopter was tasked by NSW

Ambulance to a motor vehicle accident at Red Hill between Manilla and Barraba. A woman in her 70s was treated by NSW Ambulance paramedics and the helicopter's critical care medical team for multiple injuries before being transported to Tamworth Rural Referral Hospital.



**Barraba Museum
Christmas Market**
 Saturday December 14th
 8.30 am - 11.30 am
 BBQ, Music, Homemade foods, Gifts,
 Hand crafts, Toys, Jewelry, Plants
 Historical Society 2025 Calendars

Letter to Editor



NOTICE

The offices of **PJK Law** will close at **5pm on Friday, 20 December 2024** and reopen at **9am on Monday, 6 January 2025**.



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Telephone: (02) 6782 1103

Email: admin@pjklaw.com.au

Comment and picture from Helen Kelly that, after all the money spent on the Courthouse renovation, it's disappointing to see the grounds so neglected.

Who is responsible?



**BARRABA RSL &
RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone 67821379
For the information of
members and guests.

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY 12th December

Bingo from 6pm

FRIDAY 13th December

HAM RAFFLES Tickets on sale from 5pm

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1400

SUNDAY 15th December

ANGLER CLUB RAFFLES

Raffles on sale from 12pm, drawn 1.30pm

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1700

HAPPENING SOON

Saturday 21ST December

Ruby Mae's Movie Night

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



**Is your
Christmas
shopping
under
control?**

Pop into the Claypan and Fuller Gallery, you will be amazed at the incredible range of pottery, art, sewing, photography, preserves and crafty nicknaks available for sale.

We can promise you unique gifts, a quiet, friendly and relaxed shopping experience - plus value for money.



The Vic

- * Imported and craft beer
- * Wine and cocktails.
- * Finger food available
- * Wednesday to Sunday
- * 11am to 9pm

**Cnr Queen and Alice Streets
Barraba Phone 02 67825375**



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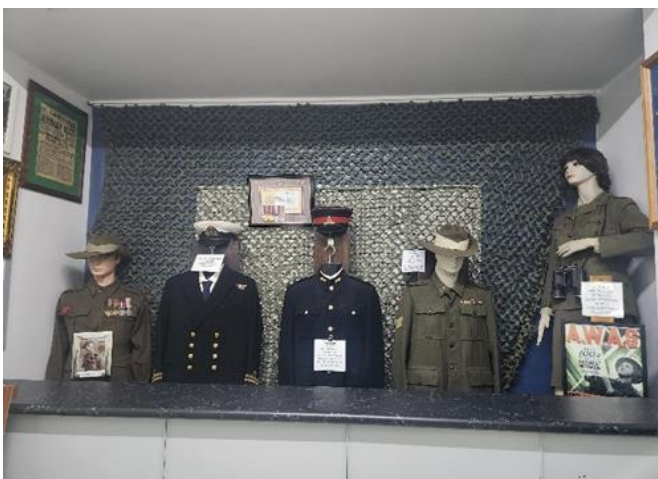
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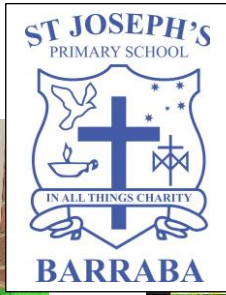
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Part of the Military display in the RSL Club foyer





Student Awards for Term 4 Week 7

Student Awards for Term 4 Week 8



Students of the Week - Arley, Christina, Stella and Parker T

Students of the Week - Rupert, Mia and Angel-Lee



*Captains Award
- Piper*



*Captains Award -
Millah*



Reading Awards - Caspian, Nahla, Benitto and Ben



Reading Award - Preston, Albie, Angel-Lee and Grace

Some students from St Joseph's School came to make Christmas decorations from clay at the Claypan. The course is over three visits to the Clay Pan, first making the decorations out of clay, then they were bisque fired in the kiln. The last two visits are to decorate their work ready for Christmas.



Thanks to Paula McIver for tutoring the students and taking the photos.

Compulsory register to block SMS scams

The federal government has announced a new tool to limit SMS scams that have cost victims millions of dollars this year, as Meta cracks down on misleading Facebook ads.

What we know:

- A mandatory SMS Sender ID Register will require telco providers to check whether messages being sent under a brand name correspond with the legitimate registered sender (SBS);
- If the sender ID is not on the register, the Australian Communications and Media Authority will either block the SMS or include a warning;
- "This mandatory register will enable these messages to be blocked or flagged as a scam – better protecting consumers from being cheated," Minister for Communications Michelle Rowland said;
- The register is designed to help stop scammers from using the names of trusted brands, including banks, service providers or government entities, and deceiving recipients into thinking the scam messages are from reputable sources;
- More than \$11m in losses from text message scams have been reported by Scamwatch this year so far, with some 68,000 attempted scams recorded;
- The Albanese government says it has provided \$10m through the 2023-24 federal budget over four years to launch and maintain the register, which is expected to be open to add sender IDs from late next year;
- It comes as Meta pledges to introduce tighter rules on advertisers to tackle scam ads targeting Australians on Facebook and Instagram (SMH);
- On Monday, Meta announced new rules for advertisers promoting financial products or services to Australians, including a requirement forcing advertisers of investment schemes to provide credentials;
- Advertisers will have to verify which company the ad is for, who is paying for it and who the beneficiary is, with the information to be available to social media users seeing the ad.



IMPROVING TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce has increased pressure on the Federal Government to improve telecommunications in the electorate, following the closure of the 3G network.

Mr Joyce said he has held meetings with the Minister for Communications, Michelle Rowland and Telstra management to highlight the dire situation in towns such as Bundarra, where businesses and residents are suffering from a lack of connectivity.

“It’s not good enough,” Mr Joyce said. “Businesses need to connect to do business. Family and friends need to communicate, especially as we approach Christmas and the New Year, while in times of emergency, communications are essential. If we have an emergency, which cannot be appropriately addressed through a lack of communications, the Federal Government will need to take responsibility. My office has received numerous complaints about poor mobile phone and data services, including EFTPOS in Bundarra and other locations, such as Nullamanna, Willow Tree, Murrurundi, Cameron’s Creek and Mount Mitchell, following the closure of the 3G network.

“I am very concerned about the many incoming reports of poor, or non-existent mobile services, since the 3G network has closed, and have been making numerous representations to Telstra on behalf of residents and business owners who have been contacting my office To escalate a response to these concerns, I met with Communications Minister, Michelle Rowland and Telstra representatives last week to highlight the plight of local communities. I am closely monitoring the situation, while maintaining pressure on the Federal Government to act promptly to resolve these issues,” Mr Joyce said.

Mr Joyce noted that Round 3 of the Mobile Network Hardening Program (MNHP) is currently open for applications by the telco industry to fund resilience upgrades to mobile telecommunications infrastructure to reduce the risk of outages and improve restoration times after a natural disaster. Communities have the opportunity to identify potential projects or locations which would benefit from a Resilience Upgrade via their local council, state or federal

parliamentarians, but only have until 13 December 2024 to do so.

Similarly, communities currently have the opportunity to identify mobile black spots via their local council, state or federal parliamentarians ahead of Round 8 of the Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP).

Round 8 is scheduled to open during December which will co-fund projects with mobile carriers and tower companies that deliver new and improved mobile coverage and competition in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia that are prone to natural disasters, including bushfires, cyclones and floods.

The nomination of potential sites will close three weeks after applications for Round 8 open.

Information regarding the MNHP is available at www.infrastructure.gov.au/mnhp and details regarding Round 8 of the MBSP are online at www.infrastructure.gov.au/mbsp



GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL



Gwydir Shire Council is currently looking for skilled Plant Operators and Labourers to join our team.

Further information can be obtained from the position description or by phoning Human Resources Officer, Amy Taylor on 0457 247 664 or Alex Eddy on 0409 094 432 or David Barwick on 0447 290 100

To view or apply for a position, please visit <https://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au/Council/Positions-Vacant>

Applications must be received by 4.00pm Friday 3rd January 2025

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am

Christmas Services:

Bereen: Sunday 15th December, 6pm. Bring a plate of food to share.

St Laurence's:

Sunday 22nd December, 5pm, Carols on the church lawn (including BBQ and kids activities). There will be no service at 10am.

Tuesday 24th December, 8pm, Traditional Communion Service.

Wednesday 25th December, 9am All ages Christmas Service.



CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

Barraba 1st Sunday of the month, Saturday evening

Mass 6pm

All other Sundays 9am

Mass on Christmas Eve 8.30pm

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 15th December 2024 at Barraba

10:45am for all services.

All Welcome.



History Notes

As the end of the year is fast approaching, we have our end of year/Christmas markets this week - it is definitely this week. There will be a few Christmas items around on the stalls and of course all the usual sales including our calendars

and history books. Our next market will probably be in February if we have not all melted by then!

After last week's notes about the Sinclairs and McKids towards the end of the 1880's perhaps it is time to find some of the other early families as well - I think most people have heard of Mrs Adams walking around the village (past the McKid establishment) in the late 1850's, with her two nieces before she had any children of her own.

Archibald Bell owned a lot of land north of Barraba by the late 1830's but he did not live in the area. Those listed in the Licences for Depasturing Stock beyond the boundaries up to 1837 included Arndell, Brown, Baldwin, Hoskinson and Pringle. They named the country where they were as Liverpool Plains, and Brisbane/Banaba Plains. We know that Hoskisson was actually Barraba Creek Plains, Arndell settled at Rocky Creek, Baldwin was Manilla and there was no mention of Archibald Bell although the Eaton boys bought Cobbadah Station from Archibald Bell in 1836.

I have found a reference to the land owned by Archibald Bell - his country apparently originally stretched from Bell's Mountain west down the Horton valley including places such as Ulumbarella in 1848. It seems he was the "estate agent"!

Piedmont had several early owners before Daniel Capel brought his family up to Barraba. The station was auctioned in 1846 when William Bowman bought it from F. G. Foote. Bowman soon sold it to Ben Lee who came up to see his new property and found it un-stocked. Bowman got the property back and then sold it to Dan Capel for 300 pounds. The Capel family were in residence at Piedmont soon after purchase.

To the east of Barraba, the Spencers settled at Ironbark in the 1850s a large area of land in those days but there were soon lots of miners living at Woodsreef and following Ironbark Creek up to the station in the search for gold.

The stations mostly ordered their supplies in bulk from the Newcastle area and there was trade for the Barraba store at first from those passing through.

Later as things began to open up and the gold was discovered there was more traffic and more families for Barraba.

Gradually a few houses were built as businesses arrived to service the travellers with repairs to their vehicles, to provide more food outlets and of course to provide accommodation for travellers.



POPULAR FREE SENIORS DIARY RETURNS

The popular Seniors diary has returned for 2025, and Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson is encouraging seniors to stop by his office and pick up their free copy.

Mr Anderson said Legal Aid’s *legal topics for Seniors* diaries are always incredibly popular among local seniors, and he expects his 250 free copies of the diary will go quickly.

“The free legal aid Seniors diary is a great resource as it’s packed with useful information about a range of legal issues that affect our seniors – including driving and fines, neighbour disputes, wills and planning ahead,” Mr Anderson said.

“I’ve already had several people contact my office asking if the diary’s will be back in time for Christmas and I’m pleased to confirm that they have now arrived.

“I always run out of stock of this diary very quickly, so if you’d like to get your hands on a copy, please visit my office as soon as possible.” From today, seniors and their supporters can also order copies of the diary and the seniors calendar online at the [Legal Aid NSW website](#). The diaries can assist seniors who can be impacted by legal issues relevant to their age.

“The Legal Topics for Seniors Diary helps seniors understand their rights and provides details about where they can turn if they are experiencing discrimination, elder abuse, or financial exploitation,” Mr Anderson added. “This diary is also a great resource because it gives seniors some of the tools they need to protect themselves against predatory scammers.” Residents can now pick up their copy of the free Seniors diary during business hours from Mr Anderson’s office, Shop 1, 445 Peel Street, Tamworth.

SLASH THE COST OF LIVING THIS SUMMER

Residents across the region are encouraged to take advantage of more than 70 rebates and vouchers designed to help reduce the cost of living this summer. Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said vouchers and rebates from Service NSW could go a long way to helping household budgets heading into Christmas and the New Year. “I know many in our community are looking forward to a great Christmas and a relaxing summer holiday, but I know that

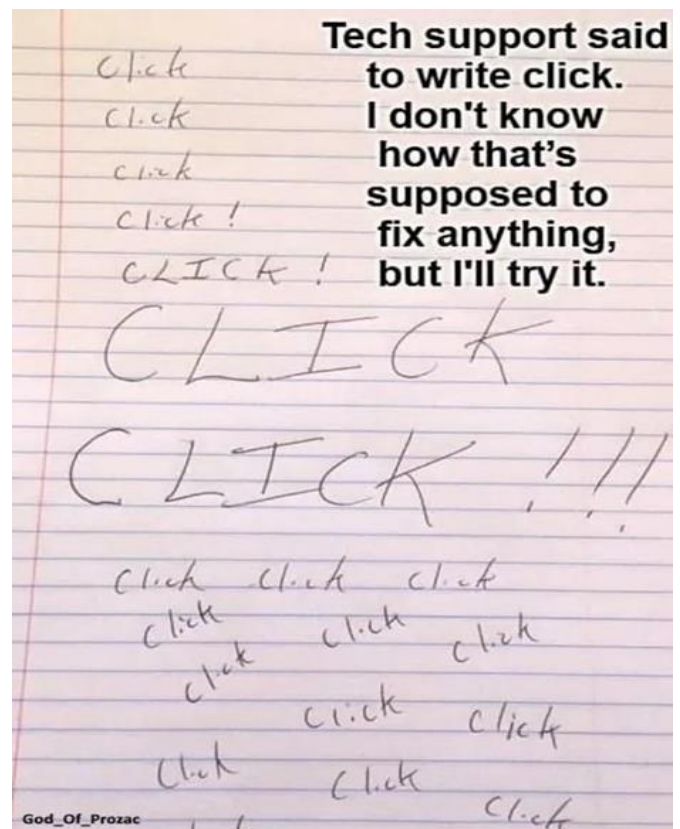
the holiday break can be incredibly stressful as it can cause increased financial pressure on households,”

Mr Anderson said. “With Christmas on the way, and the summer holidays coming up, every dollar counts, and this could be a way to save a bundle. Whether it’s energy relief for low-income households and families, council rate rebates for pensioners, the Housing Pathways program for renters, or the Revenue NSW Unclaimed money service, there may be money to be saved for everyone.”

The Service NSW Savings Finder Tool works by asking a few tailored questions to help individuals find rebates and vouchers they may be eligible for.

“It’s disappointing that cost-of-living measures that would have made a real difference to our communities like the Regional Seniors Travel Card, energy rebates, energy efficient appliance rebates, and First Lap swim vouchers have been cut by the Labor Government,” Mr Anderson added. “Despite these cuts, there are still more than 70 rebates and concessions available, and I am encouraging everyone to jump online to the Service NSW Savings Finder and check their eligibility.”

The tool can be found online at <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/savings-finder> or by contacting Service NSW on 13 77 88 to book a free 45-minute appointment with a Savings Finder specialist either at the nearest Service NSW branch or over the phone.





An exhibition many years in the making

Tamworth Regional Gallery will be hosting an official opening event for the launch of its newest exhibition, “50 to 100 – Many Years in the Making.” This is a celebration of 50 years of Tamworth’s textile exhibitions and over 100 years of the Gallery’s collection.

The exhibition will run until Sunday 26 January, 2025, offering visitors a unique opportunity to explore the Gallery’s rich history. Director Gallery and Museums Bridget Guthrie says “This is a very special exhibition as it is one of the Gallery’s own. We’ve been planning this for a while and are thrilled to share with the community some of our collection that we house. Not only that, but all of the artworks were created by female artists. This is important to showcase as our Gallery collection is made up of 53% of works created by women – which is considerably high in comparison to many other galleries”, she says.

To launch the exhibition, an Artist Talk event will be held at the Gallery on Thursday 5 December from 5pm, with featured artist Jeanette Stok. This event is free for the public to attend, and will lead into the official opening of the new exhibition.

The official opening event will take place from 6pm to 8pm and will feature Dr. Roslyn Russell, an esteemed art historian, editor, curator, and co-author, as the guest speaker.

The exhibition itself draws inspiration from the National Gallery of Australia’s Know My Name program, bringing works by women artists in the Gallery’s collection to the forefront. By showcasing their contributions, “50 to 100” reinforces Tamworth Regional Gallery’s commitment to gender equality. Visitors can expect to see a diverse range of works that reflect the strengths and breadth of the Gallery’s collection, highlighting decades of creativity and innovation in textile art while celebrating the role of women artists in shaping the cultural landscape.

Coinciding with “50 to 100” is the ‘*Minyaminyabul garaybaraay: Everything has Story*’ and ‘*Synergy – Pattern and Patina*’ exhibitions. The *Minyaminyabul garaybaraay* exhibition showcases the Gomeri Culture Academy students’ work and will be on display until Sunday 5 January, 2025; and Christine Murphy and Sandra McMahon’s *Synergy*

exhibition presents ceramic pieces on display from Saturday 7 December to 2 February, 2025.

Council calls time on abusive behaviour

Part of our community, working for our community. That’s the message from Tamworth Regional Council General Manager Paul Bennett as he launched a new campaign to combat the increasing instances of abuse of Council staff across the region.

“Like all workers in the region, our Council staff deserve to be treated with respect. Unfortunately, the instances of unacceptable behaviour towards staff is increasing,” he said.

Mr Bennett acknowledged that feedback and criticism for Council and Councillors are to be expected, but urged the community to raise the issues in a polite and respectful manner with staff who are only trying to help make the Tamworth region a fantastic place to live, work and play.

As part of the campaign, Council’s social media channels will have posts reminding users of the Social Media Acceptable User Guidelines, with comments having to be turned off posts recently due to the volume of offensive language used in the comments.

“Members of the community have the right to their opinions, but what they seem to forget is that the person they are often criticising on the other end of the computer could be standing next to them on the sporting field, in front of them at the supermarket, or helping them flip sausages at the P&C BBQ,” said Mr Bennett.

“Our staff make our public spaces safe and welcoming places for people to use or visit. They do jobs that make our lives better and keep our region running, and they deserve to be in a safe working environment free from abusive, aggressive, and threatening behaviour.”

“Next time you are interacting with a Council staff member across the region, stop and think about the person doing the job and how they live here, just like you.”

If a member of the public does have an issue to raise with Council, they can do so using the MyTRC app, by contacting Council via our website, or by calling (02) 6767 5555.

A spoon's only objective in life is to make soup go upwards, and it knows this. That's why when you put one under a running tap it blasts the water way high. The spoon thinks there's suddenly TONS of soup to deal with and it freaks out.



New land valuations for Regional New South Wales

Land values across regional New South Wales have risen by almost \$9 billion according to new analysis from the NSW Valuer General. The NSW Valuer General has finalised land values for every parcel of land across NSW. The land values reflect the value of land only, as at 1 July 2024.

Sally Dale, Valuer General of NSW said: "Regional NSW has experienced a slight increase in land values, with continued demand for property and constrained supply."

The total land value for regional NSW experienced a combined increase of 2.7% across all property types from \$329 billion to \$338 billion between 1 July 2023 and 1 July 2024. Property sales are the most important factor valuers consider when determining land values. Regional industrial land values experienced the highest growth across property categories, with a 9.9% average increase.

Warrumbungle (92.4%) saw the largest increase in industrial land values, as well as Greater Hume (61%) and Tamworth Regional (41.5%).

Residential land values across regional NSW saw a 2.7% increase on average. Cobar (45.4%) experienced the strongest growth, driven by a strong performing economy, a thriving local minerals and critical minerals mining sector and support from the visitor economy. Gilgandra (37.6%), Balranald (35.9%) and Bogan (29.3%) also saw very strong increases. Bland (-6.7%), Murray River (-3.0%) and Broken Hill (-2.4%) experienced the biggest decreases in residential land values.

"The state's constrained housing supply and resulting population shifts continue to support increases in residential land values across western NSW as people look for more affordable and available housing," Ms Dale said. "It'll be interesting to see if this trend continues over the longer term and whether the 'tree change' remains a trend in the future," Ms Dale said.

"Major government projects have also supported strong growth, as seen with the increase in residential land values for Gilgandra, with the Inland Rail construction kicking off."

Commercial land values across regional NSW experienced a minor increase of 2.4%. Uralla (34%) recorded the strongest increase, driven by high interest in the announced

Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). Cobar (23%) and Bogan (21.5%) both saw strong increases driven by increased demand from renewed mining activity and the potential for new mines in surrounding areas. 42 of 71 LGAs experienced less than 1.0% or minor negative growth in commercial land values.

Rural land values across the region experienced a slight increase of 2.7%. Gwydir (23.0%) recorded the highest percentage change, driven by continuing strong demand for good quality farming land in well regarded tightly held areas. Snowy Monaro Regional (19.6%) and Lachlan (19.1%) also saw strong increases. The growth in rural values for Snowy Monaro Regional has been attributed to the increase in livestock prices and ideal seasonal conditions.

Overall, land values across NSW increased by 6.4%, from \$2.8 trillion to \$2.98 trillion. The new land values were assessed following analysis of more than 54,000 property sales.

The new land values will be used by Revenue NSW to calculate land tax for the 2025 land tax year for landowners subject to land tax. Registered land tax clients will receive their land tax assessment from Revenue NSW starting January 2025. For more information on land tax, visit revenue.nsw.gov.au.

Land values are provided to local councils at least every 3 years for calculating council rates. To learn how your council rates are calculated, visit the Office of Local Government.

Landholders have 60 days from receiving their notice to object to their land valuation if they believe it is incorrect and can provide sales evidence to support their claim.

The latest land values for all properties in NSW are available on the NSW Valuer General's website, along with information on trends, medians, and typical land values for each local government area. For more information on land values and the NSW valuation system, visit www.nsw.gov.au/valuergeneral.

The month is disappearing fast and Christmas is only a few weeks away.

If you wish to advertise your Christmas greetings, opening and closing dates to your customers or members please contact us no later than Friday 13th to book some space in our last edition for 2024 on the 18th December.

Contact Bronwyn on 0447165008 or email news@barrabacommunitynews.org.au to discuss your needs.

Destination Country and Outback NSW are looking for sites in regional NSW to host EV chargers and need your help!

The NSW Government is investing \$199 million in growing the EV charging network across NSW and calling for regional businesses and councils to register their interest to host electric vehicle (EV) chargers. These sites may then be considered by EV charging companies to install chargers in regional areas with Government co-funding.

Did you know that NSW EV ownership increased by 83% over the previous financial year? Sites that provide convenient charging options in regional NSW are well-positioned to attract more customers, enhance tourism presence and stand out from the competition. EV drivers plan their trips around charging stops, using them as opportunities to rest, eat, or explore.

Minimal effort, maximum benefit

Many sites in regional NSW may hesitate to install an EV charger due to costs or complexity concerns. However, by registering interest to host a charger at their site, if selected, an EV charging company will manage the installation, operation and maintenance of the charger for them. All they need to do is provide parking spaces and access. This setup allows them to offer a valuable service to attract EV drivers with minimal disruption to their operations.

How it works

Businesses and local councils are encouraged to submit an obligation free site host expression of interest form. The NSW Government may provide information collected to EV charging companies looking for locations to install chargers in regional NSW with the help of our funding.

How you can help

They would appreciate your help to:

- Share the benefits of hosting an EV charger with businesses and councils in your network.
- Encourage them to [register interest in becoming a site host](#)

To support this, there are two articles available for you to share with your audience via your communication channels (website, newsletters and/or social media):

1. [How hosting an EV charger can benefit your business](#)
2. [How to make your town a preferred charging stop for EV drivers](#)

Please contact the NSW Government EV destination charging grants team for more information destination.charging@environment.nsw.gov.au

STRENGTH IN GREATER POLICE NUMBERS

Four new probationary constables have commenced duties in the Oxley Police District meaning more police on the ground serving the Gunnedah and Tamworth communities. Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson welcomed the new police officers to the region, congratulating them on their graduation and thanking them for their service.

“Today is an exciting day for our region’s newest probationary constables who begin their careers serving our community,” Mr Anderson said. “Probationary constables play an important role within the district, performing a wide range of duties including responding to motor vehicle accidents, stealing offences, domestic issues, and many other incidents. It’s a privilege to welcome the regions newest officers to the region, and it’s great to learn that our newest police are Tamworth locals with strong ties to the region coming home to serve their community. I have been calling for greater police resources for our region, and with our newest probationary constables having lifelong ties to our region, I am confident that they will continue to call the Oxley Police District home for many years to come. Becoming a police officer is a tremendous honour and I wish our new recruits the very best as they embark on a career that is equal parts challenging and rewarding. On behalf of our community, I thank them for their service and welcome them back to our community.”

The recruits have completed eight months of foundational training, including 16 weeks at the Goulburn Police Academy. Two Probationary Constables will be based in Tamworth, one in Gunnedah and one in Narrabri. They will now complete 12 months' on-the-job training and study by distance education with Charles Sturt University.



Mr Anderson welcomed Probationary Constables Wolds and Ryan who will both be based in Tamworth



Golf Notes

We don't normally have countbacks for our chicken run but with four players getting 21 points it was thought a countback was needed or the chicken would be a wing! Luke Smith wins the chook from Paul Grigg, Lachie Smith and Chris Darlington. Others to win a ball were Chris Sweeney 19 and Cooper Chapman and Nick Shapter with 18. With 2 weeks to go it looks like Next Gen may well go back to back as they lead Stock & Crop by 9 with Who gives a Put a further 2 back and Eagle Hunters another 2.



Phone 02 67 821 107



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Caravan Industry Calls for Safety First This Christmas Season as 2.8 million hit the road

Whether towing a caravan, charging lithium-ion batteries, or enjoying the amenities of a caravan park, planning and awareness are key to ensuring a happy and safe holiday season. Caravan Industry Association of Australia is calling on everyone to keep safety top of mind this summer, whether you're planning your trip, heading out on the road, or enjoying our beautiful countryside at your favourite camping spot.

As we approach the major holiday period of the year, Caravan Industry Association of Australia is encouraging caravaners this holiday to focus is focusing on:

- **Pre-Planning:** Emphasising the importance of vehicle servicing and safe towing practices.
- **Road Safety:** Highlighting measures for staying safe while travelling on the roads, and taking regular breaks.
- **Water Safety:** Promoting awareness around staying safe in and around water.
- **Caravan Holiday Park Shared Spaces Safety:** Encouraging responsible behaviour and safety in communal areas within caravan parks.

We know from the rising death tolls on our roads, 1063 Australians have lost their lives on our roads this year alone, up 12% on 2023 (ABS). The top three contributing factors leading to this loss of life is the fatal three, inattention, speed and fatigue. Road Safety Research indicates:

- Road users are most likely to have a crash on Monday or Sunday as drivers return from their holidays.
- Crashes are most likely to occur between 10am and midday.
- Whilst crashes are more likely to occur in urban centres, fatalities are more likely to occur on regional roads. "As Australians embrace the caravanning lifestyle, it's vital we all take simple precautions to protect ourselves and others," says Stuart Lamont, CEO of Caravan Industry Association of Australia. "By planning ahead and following safety guidelines, we can ensure the festive season is a time of joy and adventure."

"We want to want to make sure caravan and campers have the most amazing summer break, but importantly we want everyone to get back home safely. That is why we have developed a comprehensive list of top tips to having a safe summer holiday."

Top Safety Tips for a Safe and Enjoyable Holiday Battery Safety

Lithium-ion batteries power many caravan essentials, but improper use can lead to serious hazards, including fires.

- Use the correct charger supplied by the manufacturer—avoid cheap replacements.
- Never charge unattended, in direct sunlight, or overnight.
- Inspect batteries for damage such as swelling or leaks. If damaged, have them checked by a professional.
- Be prepared for emergencies with a working smoke alarm and a clear evacuation route.

A comprehensive guide to Lithium-ion batteries usage can be found [Lithium-Ion Review](#)

Towing Safety

With nearly 1 million registered caravans on Australian roads, towing safety is paramount.

- Consider taking a towing course if new to towing or simply to refresh your skills
- Know your weights and make sure your load is balanced – this helps with towing safety and braking distance.
- Always use caravan mirrors to monitor your surroundings and ensure you leave plenty of space between your vehicle and others.

- UHF – if you have one, use it to communicate with other heavy vehicles. Displaying your channel number on the back of your caravan is helpful to others. Channel 40 is a dedicated heavy vehicle channel

Free towing handbooks and guides are available at [Let's Go Caravan and Camping](#).

Getting to your destination safely

Fatigue and distractions are major contributors to road accidents, particularly over long distances.

- Rest every two hours during your trip to avoid fatigue. Use designated rest stops, not truck rest areas. Pre-planning your rest stops is important here, fatigue management is key.
- Avoid distractions, make sure the kids are occupied, and your music playlists are set before departing – or designate DJ duties to your passenger.
- Stick to safe speeds and watch for changing road conditions.
- Road safety statistics reveal that accidents are most likely to occur between 10 am and 12 noon on Sundays and Mondays. Stay alert during these peak times.
- Make sure you are rested – we have mentioned this already, but it's super important!

Learn more about safe road practices through resources like [Coexist](#).

Pool and Caravan Park Safety

Caravan parks are fantastic for family holidays but come with their own safety considerations:

- Supervise children at all times around pools and shared spaces.
- Store lithium-powered devices like e-bikes and e-scooters safely, away from caravan exits, and avoid charging them indoors.
- Be mindful of fire risks by keeping BBQs and open flames well away from vehicles and structures.

Learn more about safe practices at caravan parks through resources like [Caravan Park Safety](#).



A Community Effort for Safety

Caravan Industry Association of Australia has collaborated with state associations, safety regulators, and holiday park operators to provide free resources, including videos, quizzes, and towing guides. With over 16 million annual caravan trips recorded in 2024, promoting safe practices is a shared responsibility for all road users.

“Safety isn’t just about protecting yourself—it’s about respecting everyone on the road and in the communities, we visit,” Mr. Lamont says. “Let’s make this Christmas season memorable for all the right reasons.”

For more safety tips and to access the latest resources, visit [Let's Go Caravan and Camping](#).

Caravan Industry Association of Australia in partnership with other state caravan associations, professional service providers and other relevant bodies such as the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and Queensland Trucking Association, provide free to access consumer digital and print educational assets.

This information is available through easy to digest videos, engaging online quizzes and written content across email, social media, and digital platforms.

Each year tens of thousands of Towing handbooks are distributed free of charge.

<https://www.letsocaravanandcamping.com.au/safety/>
<https://coexist.org.au/>