



BARRABA COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY OWNED AND EDITED

Wednesday 29th January 2025



Richardson House would like to congratulate Tammy Walker and Bella Dipple who recently obtained their Certificate III in Individual Support.



Tammy started with Richardson House as part of the domestic team before deciding to study for her Certificate III to become a carer.

Bella joined us earlier this year as a School Based Trainee, taking on her school work, studying for her Cert III and doing shifts at Richardson House.

Tammy and Bella are great assets to Richardson House and we are very proud of their achievement.

Richardson House is always willing to provide support people who wish to gain the qualifications to work in all areas of Aged Care from care, admin, hospitality and support services.

The training and assessment undertaken by Tammy and Bella was through the Community College Northern Inland Inc here in Barraba.

BARRABA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Australia Day 2025 Awards

There was very warm applause at the Golf Club on Sunday evening when the Barraba Citizen of the Year for 2024 was announced – **Jenny Simpson**.



2024 Citizen of the Year – Jenny Simpson.

For many years Jenny has been a tireless community worker in Barraba, particularly as the voluntary Treasurer of many organisations. Being a voluntary Treasurer is often both a thankless task, and a very complex and demanding one, particularly in a large organisation like the Barraba Show Society. Jenny has carried out this role, and others like it for many years with good humour, grace, and endless patience. And this is only one of her many voluntary roles. Thank you, and congratulations Jenny Simpson from the people of Barraba.

Other Barraba Award winners were:

Frank Darlington Young Achiever of Year – **Akira Kanno**, who in 2024 starred at the both the state Athletics and state Swimming Championships, and won prizes both at the Barraba Show for photography, and for poetry at the Clock Centenary.



2024 Frank Darlington Young Achiever of the Year – Akira Kanno

Barraba Community Event of the Year – **Barraba Sports Shear and Wool Handling competition**, which was held in conjunction with the Barraba Show. It drew record crowds, was great entertainment, and showcased the Wool industry in Barraba.



2024 Community Event of the year – Barraba Sports Shear and Wool Handling. Committee Members Jock Mallise (R) and Ashley Miller.

The awards ceremony was very ably chaired by Bindi Abell. Australia Day Ambassador Mel Thomas presented the awards. Ms Thomas is the founder of KYUP!, a very successful domestic violence prevention education program for women and girls.



Barraba and Manilla Australia Day Ambassador, Mel Thomas



MC, Bindi Abell and Ambassador Mel Thomas

(Thank you to Terry Threlfall for the information and photos from the Barraba Awards Ceremony)

Opening entertainment and the National Anthem was provided once again by our very own Barraba Band.



The Barraba Band plays the National Anthem



All Nominees for Citizen of the Year (from L): Peter Squire, Jenny Simpson, (Mel Thomas, Bindy Abel), Jeffery and Janet O’Leary, Carolyn Faint.

Following the ceremony, Barraba Rotary provided a sausage sizzle, and the large crowd was entertained by music from Nookie and the Free Spirits.



Welcome to Country – Jeffery O’Leary



Prayer – Rev Mathew Hearne



Presentation of Awards

- 2024 Frank Darlington Young Achiever of the Year
- 2024 Community Event of the Year
- 2024 Citizen of the Year

2024 Award Nominees were;

2024 Frank Darlington Young Achiever of the Year

Akira Kanno

2024 Community Event of the Year

- Barraba Sports Shear and Wool Handling
- Barraba Potters and Craft Guild, Warm and Woolly Exhibition
- Barraba Memorial Clock Centenary

2024 Citizen of the Year

- Janet and Jeffrey O’Leary
- Peter James Squire
- Carolyn Faint
- Jenny Simpson



Christmas lunch with the Senior Citz

Barraba Combined Pensioners & Senior Citizens Association, would like to thank:

IGA Barraba, Barraba RSL Club, Lions Club, Bowling Club, Op Shop, Fruit Shop, Butchers and also to the winner of The Helicopter Raffle, who so kindly donated \$200 of his \$300 prize and last but not least, the amazing support of Elizabeth King and her partner Dave Harfield, for their huge amount of cooking and supplying of food, and also to Wendy and Peter Woodhouse from the Barraba Motel for their amazing assistance.

We have had amazing feedback from our Seniors who attended our Christmas Day Luncheon.

We hope we can continue the tradition every year and with the same amount of Community Spirit, thank you all for your ongoing support.

We fundraise all year to be able to do this, so thank you for your contribution, which enables us to do this and thank you all for our Raffle support also.

Carole Lewis
Secretary
Barraba Combined Pensioners and Senior Citizens Association Inc.



Barraba High Country Music Musta

Sunday 9th February 2025. 12 to 4pm. FREE ENTRY.
Walk-up artists welcome.
Barraba Bowling Club.





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





United Hospital Auxiliary:

General meeting on the 7th of February at the Day Centre at 11am. Following the meeting New Year lunch for those attending. Please bring something to share. New members welcome.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To whom it may concern

My wife Mary and I had the pleasure of visiting Barraba on our long touring holiday. We stayed at the Barraba caravan park and was impressed with the easy-going nature of the park and the friendliness of the entire community. Our initial intention was to stay about 2 days but upon discovering the gems of the township decided to prolong our stay to 3 weeks

The daily routine of frequenting the swimming complex especially the hydro pool and shopping at the great green grocers and equally good butcher shop not to mention the opportunity shops and IGA have made our stay most enjoyable.

A special thanks to Miro at the pool complex who greeted us daily with a cheery hello and welcome and some of the participants who made us feel at home. We have already decided that sometime in the future we will return and look forward to that time

Sincerely

Ian and Mary Murdock

Merry Christmas to all involved with the Barraba Community News, I always look forward to receiving my copy, and a belated thank you for your support when I was on TRC. I still miss the interaction with your Community, but having said that I have made life-long friends in Barraba.

Cheers Jim Maxwell.

A few months ago, I wrote an article about Barraba's two "opportunity shops". I think I questioned who was getting the opportunities.

I compared St. Vinnies (I refuse to use the new rebrand) to Opportunity Knocks - the relatively recent addition, and recently expanded relocation, to the Barraba streetscape.

St. Vinnies has a high-powered CEO at, probably, around \$200,000+ a year - the new structuring changed the pricing policies, as reported, from helping the community and a local charity basis to a profit-making operation to fund the executives, and other good works.

Opportunity Knocks, as far as I can glean, is there exclusively for the community. Nothing is over-priced, most is under-priced. It's a service as opposed to a profit centre. If

someone is in need they don't even charge. All profits, if there are any, stay in the town for community projects.

It seems to me that St. Vinnies is scamming its volunteers. If you pay the boss quarter of a million I don't think you can ask the lowly peasants to work for free. Having said that, in the charity racket, St. Vinnies pays its executives considerably less than some of the others - they are about in the middle. Charity is big business . . . and we all thought it was charity, aren't we adorable.

How many scarves and tops have to be sold to pay for one person getting \$5,000 a week.

No one wants St. Vinnies to close - or any of the few shops we have to go dark - but the pricing levels I saw recently showed a distinct fund-raising goal, not a "help the community" ethos. That may be what the new St. Vinnies is all about, good on them - collect all you can under the banner of charity, get the tax break, let the executives buy chalets in Aspen and with anything left-over do-good deeds. It's a reasonable business model.

Everyone who cares about the community, and where their money goes, should know that all "opportunity shops" are not created equal.

Name and address supplied



Congratulations to Mia, who had the most nights reading in 2024



114th BARRABA SHOW – coming soon!

The 2025 Barraba Show will be held this year from **Friday 7 March to Sunday 9 March**. Secretary Carmen Bennett writes: "Barraba Show is back in

2025 bringing you more family entertainment and fun with three massive days of Junior Judging, Rodeo, Sports Shear, Wool Handling, Campdraft, Working Dogs, Motorbike Barrel Racing, Pavilion displays, Cattle showing, Chook Show, Horse Sections, Pet Show and Live Music."

Full details, and the full schedule including entry forms, are available on the show website: www.barrabashow.com.au. Regular updates will appear on the Show Facebook page and in this newspaper. Any enquiries can be made by email to the Secretary barrabapah@hotmail.com, or phone 0447 222 347. Each week during February, we will bring you stories about what is new and exciting this year, and details of how to enter (and the closing dates) and how to get involved.

2025 BARRABA SHOW – The Pet Show **SUNDAY 9 MARCH 2025**

Big changes in 2025!

The Children's Pet Show is getting a facelift!

FIRSTLY – a new time.

Start time on Sunday is **now 10.30 am**

Same place (behind the Grandstand), entries from 9.30.

SECONDLY – new classes.

Dog classes simplified to four – separate classes for other pets.

More novelty classes.

THIRDLY – new and better prizes and awards.

More vouchers, great prizes from our new major sponsor, our local Vet.

FOURTHLY – a new competition.

Great fun and skill in the Dog Jump.

SEE YOU THERE!



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Sylvester Stallone said he wants to make a movie about classical music. He says, "I will be Beethoven."

Jean Claude Van Damme says, "Okay, I'll be Mozart."

Arnold Schwarzenegger says, "I'll be Bach."



**BARRABA RSL &
RECREATIONAL CLUB LTD**

Phone 67821379

For the information of
members and guests.

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY 30th JANUARY

Bingo from 6pm

FRIDAY 31st JANUARY

Meat Raffles, tickets on sale from 5.30pm.

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1200

SUNDAY 2nd FEBRUARY

AIRCOOLED ASSEMBLY RAFFLES

Raffles on sale from 12pm, drawn 1.30pm

MEMBERSHIP DRAW \$1400

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



History Notes

The markets are taking a holiday in February, due mainly to the heat. Please save up your goodies for March which happens to be Show Day this year. We still have a few calendars left for sale and there is always someone at the museum on Friday mornings if anyone wants to visit.

Over the last few weeks I have been catching up on book work and reading the various History magazines. Recently I read the story of a Tasmanian family who had traced their

convict ancestor back to the incorrect family in the U.K. There were two young chaps, born about the same time, given the same name.

The one that grew up and was sent to Tasmania happened to be born in a nearby village rather than the village named in the records they had found and used. How easy it is to make mistakes, especially in early family history.

Then there are those who did their best to keep their descendants 'in the dark'. Being a descendant of Doctor Williams, a long-time resident of Barraba in the 1880's, I am well aware of the problems especially if the subject went to extreme lengths to keep his early life in England a secret.

Henry Edward Williams was supposed to have been born in London on 5th December, 1822, son of Henry Edwin Williams and his wife, Margaret, nee Hall. There is no record of birth in London - these details came from Henry himself on various other documents. To go with this information there is the story that Henry's mother, Margaret, was a first cousin to the Earl of Warwick and that he stayed at Warwick Castle. The Earls of Warwick have been searched with no sign of cousin Margaret!

Henry's father is said to have died in a horse accident at Warwick Castle and there is no record of the accident or of Henry's death. After quite a bit of research and finding a number of other possible Williams' family it seems that Henry and his mother lived in the Reading area near London; Some of the Berkshire records in the 1840s show possible Williams families. It is likely that his mother died about 1843 at Reading in Berkshire but this has not been followed up.

Henry kept a diary from 1844 and it seems that he started his medical training about then. He cut the year date out of these three diaries and it was years before we were able to put a date on them - he reported helping at a bridge accident which killed a lot of people and we eventually found the record of the accident in a newspaper. He was a difficult person to research and there is more next week including the voyage to Australia. He signed on as medical officer and landed in Melbourne, sailed on to New Zealand, left the ship and returned to Australia.

In Memoriam



Margaret Morgan (Luxford)

2-11-1966 – 15-1-2024

We speak your name, with love and pride,

We smile with tears we cannot hide.

We thank you for the years we shared,
the love you gave, the way you cared.

With love always,
Dad, Mum and Kevin

CATHOLIC CHURCH TIMES

Barraba 1st Sunday of the month, Saturday evening
Mass 6pm
All other Sundays 9am

BARRABA UNITING CHURCH NOTICES

Sunday 2nd February 2025 at Barraba
8:45am for all services.
All Welcome.

ANGLICAN CHURCH TIMES

St Laurence's Barraba

Sunday service at 10.00am

2nd Sunday of every month, 11:30am at Woodsreef

**More free family fun this summer – free entry to
Council pools**



Fancy a cool-off this summer? Council has added additional free family fun days to the calendar for Barraba, Manilla, Kootingal and Nundle.

Next free entry at Barraba Pool: SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY

Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit
DAYCARE CENTER
Gwydir Shire Council will be offering Daycare in Warialda and Bingara
2025
Opening Hours
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Week 1
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - Warialda
Thursday, Friday - Bingara
Week 2
Monday, Tuesday - Warialda
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - Bingara
Ages - 0 - 2 Years
Please send expressions of interest
swebber@gwydir.nsw.gov.au
GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL



Community Building Partnership 2025

This program awards grants for community infrastructure projects that deliver positive social, environmental and recreational outcomes while also promoting community participation, inclusion and cohesion.

Key information

- **Status:** Opening soon
- **Grant amount:** From \$10,000 to \$100,000
- **Application opens:** 28 January 2025
- **Application closes:** 21 February 2025, 5:00 pm

Program objective

CBP awards grants for community infrastructure projects that deliver positive social, environmental and recreational outcomes. These guidelines set out the funding rules for the 2025 Community Building Partnership program for applicants, including eligibility and the process for assessing and allocating funding to the successful grant applicants.

In 2025, the total value of the CBP program is \$41.85 million.

There is a maximum of \$450,000 to allocate in each electorate. This program is administered by Department of Communities and Justice.

Applying for the CBP 2025 round is simple. Once you have confirmed that both your project and organisation are eligible, go to the SmartyGrants platform at <https://communitybuildingpartnership.smartygrants.com.au/CBP25> and start your application.

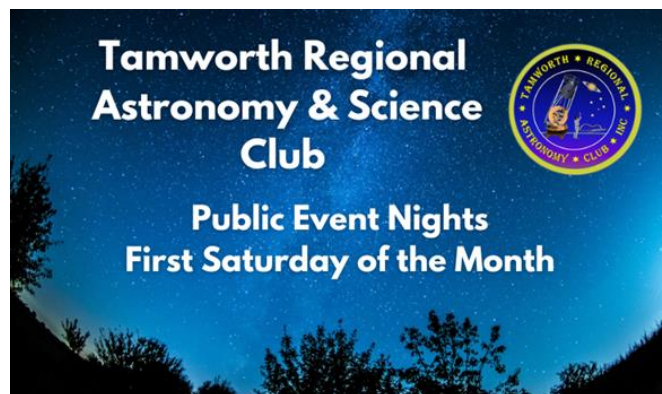
SLASH THE COST OF LIVING THIS SUMMER

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 in the New Year.

“I know many in our community are coming back from a holiday break looking for ways to save some money and improve the household budget,” Mr Anderson said. “With back to school 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.



Tamworth Regional Astronomy Centre
1 February @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Join us for an evening of stargazing and scientific discovery at the Tamworth Regional Astronomy Centre! Our Public Event Nights are held on the first Saturday of each month.

Schedule:

- **6:00 pm:** Social hour with tea, coffee, biscuits, and drinks available for a small fee.
- **7:00 pm:** Astronomy and science presentation.
- **8:00 pm:** Telescope viewing session (weather permitting).

We’ll have a variety of optical telescopes available, including the impressive 34-inch Hewitt Camera, to explore galaxies, nebulae, star clusters, comets, and more.

Note: Even though it’s summer, evenings can get cool, so please bring a jacket. We look forward to seeing you there for a night under the stars!



Australia Government grants \$9M for aquatics

Tamworth Regional Mayor Russell Webb is thrilled with news the Australian Government has awarded \$9M funding towards the proposed Tamworth Aquatic, Education and Health Centre of Excellence.

Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King today announced the funding among 16 projects receiving funding under the Australian Government’s Growing Regions Program.

“This is a win for our community who will benefit from this much-needed year-round aquatics and health facility,” Cr Webb said. “Whether you are a competitive swimmer, swim for recreation, need water-based physical therapy or are learning to swim, this new facility has what you need.”

Councillors approved a funding strategy for the \$45 million facility in August last year. It included a \$15 million grant secured through the NSW Government's Centre of Excellence Fund and Council making \$30 million co-contribution through loans and other grant funding.

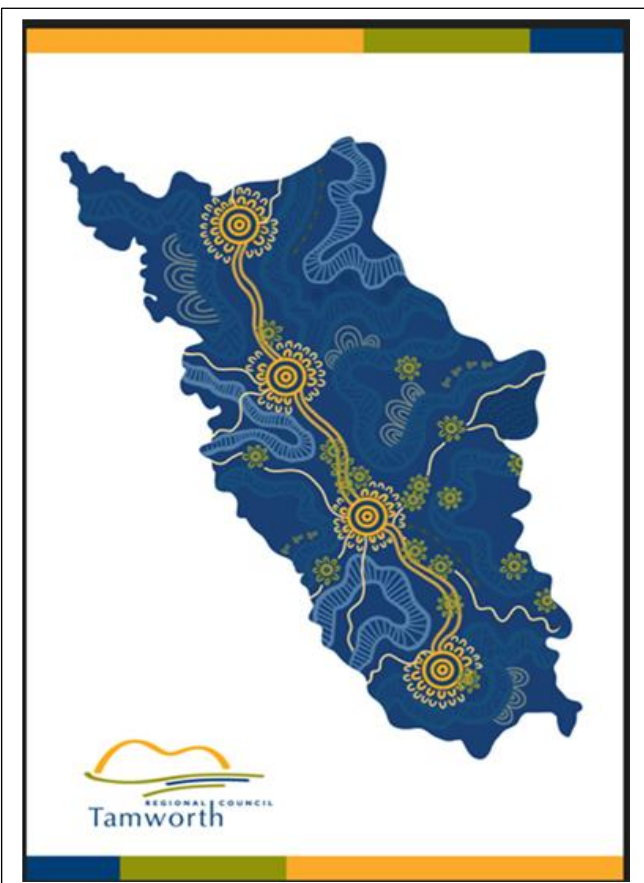
Tamworth Regional Council with the support of the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Lands Council has unveiled an Aboriginal artwork element which will feature in its corporate branding.

Gomeri artist Tess Reading's submission to Council will be rolled out in 2025 across a range of assets to better reflect the significant role that Aboriginal people have played and continue to play in our community.

"Almost 10,000 Aboriginal people call the Tamworth region home, and to be able to include the story and the voice of Aboriginal people within the corporate branding of the organisation is a really historic step," said Councillor Marc Sutherland.

Ms Reading's artwork was selected after Council called for expressions of interest from Aboriginal artists with a connection to the Kamilaroi/Gomeri Nation to create an artistic element for inclusion in its corporate brand. "I am honoured to have my artwork selected by Tamworth Regional Council. I am a proud Gomeri woman and have grown up in Tamworth. It is really inspiring to see my culture represented throughout Community. This artwork depicts the land and communities that spread across the Tamworth Regional Council footprint," said Ms Reading.

Elements of the artwork will begin to appear on Council's letterheads, business cards, signage and uniforms in 2025.



**Dobell Drawing Prize #23 Exhibition
1 February - 6 April at the Tamworth Regional Gallery**

At its core, the Dobell Drawing Prize has always posed the fundamental question: what is drawing? Over the past 30 years since the biennial Prize began in 1993, the answers have been compelling, challenging and exhilarating, as artists across the country have responded using an astonishing array of mediums and materials. The Sir William Dobell Art Foundation is delighted to support this new iteration of the Dobell Drawing Prize in partnership with the National Art School in 2023.

Presented for the first time at the National Art School Gallery in 2019, the Dobell Drawing Prize builds on the legacy of Australia's most respected award for drawing, the Dobell Prize for Drawing, previously held at the Art Gallery of New South Wales from 1993 to 2012. Former Prize winners include Kevin Connor, Virginia Grayson, Nicholas Harding, Ann Pollak, Gareth Sansom, Jan Senbergs, Garry Shead and Aida Tomescu.

This third iteration of the Prize at NAS Gallery includes entries in many media, from traditional pencil and graphite on paper to salt, staples and rust; from resin, fibreglass, enamel and wood to intricate three-dimensional wire objects; bodily video performance to sculptural forms built with tea bags and bamboo. The exhibition is again a vital tribute to the human ingenuity and imagination that arises from the simple act of making a mark, and NAS is proud to continue one of Australia's preeminent art competitions into the 21st Century. The three judges, artist Catherine O'Donnell (and previous Dobell Drawing Prize finalist); Paula Latos-Valier from the Sir William Dobell Art Foundation; and NAS Gallery Manager and Senior Curator Katrina Cashman had the challenging task of individually reviewing a record of 1,062 entries and awarded the Prize to Jane Grealy on Thursday 30th March 2023.



**Industry networking
and advice on offer at
Feeder Steer School**

Beef producers will soon have the chance to build industry networks and improve their skills in the breeding, feeding and management of cattle bound for feedlots this February at the Feeder Steer School in Armidale.

Tailored for feeder steer producers, the conference will feature hands-on workshops and practical advice from leading industry research agencies, buyers, agronomists, meat scientists and livestock operation managers. The event will be held over three days between Monday 10 and

Thursday 13 February 2025 at the University of New England (UNE).

The Northern Tablelands Local Land Services event will be hosted in partnership with UNE, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and CSIRO supported by AgSTAR Projects. Attendees can expect to hear about genetic selection, pasture management and improvement, yard weaning and pre-feedlot nutrition, carcass data and cattle transport.

Sara Paton, Land Services Officer at Northern Tablelands Local Land Services said that the conference was designed to provide beef producers with the skills and knowledge required to meet the needs of the market and ensure that cattle are feedlot ready. "We've got a great cross section of speakers from across the sector giving up their time to arm producers with the latest advice," she said. "The event also provides some great opportunities for producers to broaden their network amongst the industry", said Ms Paton.

This year the event will feature workshops and presentations from Meat & Livestock Australia, Teys, Angus Australia, CSIRO, Jeff House Livestock, Apiam Animal Health, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, UNE and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services.

Accommodation and meals for participants will be available at UNE's Duval College. Tickets for the full registration range from \$450-\$550, while the single day packages begin at \$200. To purchase tickets visit the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services website at <https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/northern-tablelands/events/nt-events/feeder-steer-school>

Interested producers can also phone their closest Northern Tablelands Local Land Services office on 1300 795 299 for more information.



Golf Notes

Twilight golf on the 17th January 2025

Our first round of twilight for the New Year saw Paige Phillips take out the honours with any impressive 25 points. Ball winners were John Harris 21, Morgan Phillips 20, Luke Smith 19 & Helen Kelly 18.

There will be a couple of handicap adjustments.



Sunrise in Barraba 1st January 2025



(Thanks to Julie Williams for the photos)