



OCTOBER 2021 VILLAGE NEWS

Daylight-Saving Time

Daylight-Saving begins again at 2:00am Sunday, 3 October 2021. Forgotten which way you adjust your clock? Wind it forward by one hour. All that remains is for us to keep a close eye on our curtains and ensure the addition hour of sunlight doesn't prematurely fade them. 😊

If you are not a fan of useless information, please skip the next few paragraphs and begin reading again at *Look Out Snakes About*.

Otherwise ... 'Why change to daylight-saving time?' you ask. The answer is simple – to take advantage of the longer daylight hours in summer. History, however, has demonstrated the motives behind making the change can be altruistic or mercenary.

Daylight Saving was first proposed to the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1895 by George Hudson, a British born New Zealand entomologist. George initially proposed a two-hour shift in time during the summer months so he could hunt insects after work. New Zealand did not adopt daylight saving until 1927.

In 1907 William Willett introduced the *Daylight Saving Bill* to British Parliament to "improve health and happiness" by utilising daylight better. He proposed making eight 20-minute time switches every year. (A difference of 80-minutes instead of an hour.) Despite having the backing of Winston Churchill and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, William died before the Bill was enacted.

At 11:00pm on 30 April 1916, Germany became the first country to implement daylight-saving time. Unfortunately Germany's motives for introducing daylight-saving were not quite as altruistic as George Hudson's or William Willett's. Germany believed daylight-saving would provide more productive daylight hours for their factories and conserve the fuel and coal needed to produce munitions for World War I.

Three weeks later, so as not to be at a disadvantage, Britain began daylight-saving on 21 May 1916. They were followed by the USA and other European countries.

Whatever the motives behind adopting daylight-saving time it

does not change its effects. Cows become confused and stop producing milk, curtains fade, and human beings become irritable whilst their circadian rhythms adjust to changed light conditions and artificial time constructs. 😊

Look Out Snakes About

It's brown snake mating season and there have already been plenty of sightings of big brown snakes basking in the sun, or trolling for trade, so keep a wary eye out for them.

All snakes in NSW are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. Claiming 'self-defence' is not going to get you out of trouble, assuming you manage to survive the close encounter. The best way to stay safe is to keep your distance – keep away from snakes and they will keep away from you. We've all heard stories of snakes that actively seek out the company of humans, however, these are the exceptions to the rule, and no reason to ignore the accepted safety advice.

Here's a reminder of some of the

things you can do to keep yourself and your family snake safe:

- Treat all snakes as if they are venomous.
- Do not try to catch or kill a snake (90% of snakebites occur this way).
- Children especially should be taught not to attempt to pick up or harm snakes.
- If you see a snake, give it plenty of space to make an escape – snakes will usually only attack if they feel threatened or trapped.
- Clean up potential habitats around the home, such as aviaries, dog kennels and poultry pens where food attracts mice, and in turn the smell of mice attracts snakes.
- Remove debris and clutter from yards, keep lawns mowed and slash tall grass along fences.
- Remember snakes swim too.
- Ensure gaps under doorways are sealed and any holes or gaps in walls fixed.
- Wearing long pants and solid footwear will provide some protection when bush walking or working outdoors.
- Keep your first aid knowledge up to date.
- Call Triple 0 immediately in the event of a bite.

The best snake safety strategy is vigilance and preparedness. If you must spend time in snake habitat, don't go alone, dress appropriately and take a pressure immobilisation bandage with you. Most people look at Murphy's Law, through the eyes of a pessimist – if

anything can go wrong, it will. Try looking at it through the eyes of an optimist – if you are prepared for something to go wrong, it won't.

Spring Has Sprung

The beginning of October sees us one month into the spring season and Mother Nature has wasted no time in putting on her colourful show. The fields of canola are looking stunning! Not to be outdone, the wattle is also blooming like a champion. If you don't like golden yellow, you're living in the wrong postcode right now.

If you prefer purple, Paterson's curse has also started to rise above the undergrowth and flower. If you can get past this purple weed's invasiveness, impact on pasture productivity, cost of herbicide or physical control and toxicity to grazing animals, it does look pretty while you drive past it on the side of the road (with bleached blond hair flapping out the car window helping your few remaining brain cells to escape). 😊



Photo: Bleached blond, peace, love and mung hippie hanging out of car smelling pretty flowers and losing brain cells.

If green is your colour there is also plenty of that around as well. The glorious weather we've had is helping everything to grow, the crops are looking spectacular. Let's hope this weather continues and helps our farmers yield a bumper crop this year. As always with spring weather, don't get too bogged down in what it is doing right now. Spring is all about changeability – so if you don't like the weather, wait ten minutes. 😊

Speaking of bumper crops, harvest is approaching. This means more people in town. Where there are more people, there are lots more vehicles, so pay attention when driving or cycling ... or using the roads for any other reason. Slow down and be cautious when approaching an oversized vehicle. Be prepared to move to the left side of the road, if necessary. Give them plenty of room to stop and turn. Remember size does matter when navigating around these vehicles. Knowing you had right of way is cold comfort to your family and friends if you are injured or killed in an accident.

New Playground Delayed

One of the many delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has been the new playground at the Barmedman Community Recreation Grounds. Council ordered the equipment from the supplier earlier in the year and had planned to have the play

-ground delivered and installed in plenty of time for the summer season. Unfortunately, the by-products of COVID-19 (scarcity of raw materials and innumerable lockdowns) have delayed manufacturing, and Council currently don't have an estimated delivery date.

There may not be a physical playground to unveil, but we can quell your curiosity with an artist's impression of what the playground will look like.



Drawing: Artist's impression of the new playground equipment on order for the Barmedman Community Recreation Grounds

Multipurpose Court for Our Youth

Our Community Recreation Ground is growing but we need to create a facility there for all our youths to play, socialise and grow. In August of this year, with this goal in mind, the Barmed Postie started a fundraising campaign on Facebook for a multipurpose court to be built alongside the soon to be installed smaller kids playground under the shade cloth.

"What is a multipurpose court?" I hear you ask. It is a large slab of concrete with a basketball hoop and rendered brick wall at one end. Line markings for court games like basketball, netball, volleyball, handball, badminton, tennis etc are painted on the concrete slab. Single players can enjoy solo games of tennis or handball against the wall or join with other players to utilise the whole court.

It is proposed the Barmedman

court be about the size of a half basketball court, and the side of the wall that does not face the court be set up as a rock-climbing wall.

Our community really appreciates the Government grants and Bland Shire Council input we have received, but they are hard to secure for tiny communities. So our Barmed Postie is asking us all for our help to raise \$5,000 to build the court. Facebook fundraisers can only be set up for short periods of time, so the initial fundraiser has already expired after raising over \$600. Have no fear, fundraising will continue, a GoFundMe page will be set up shortly to take up the mantle where Facebook left off. So follow the General Store on Facebook and watch for the GoFundMe page announcement. If you're not comfortable about using your cards online, donations can also be dropped off directly in the jar at the Barmedman General Store, or just popped into the

Letters slot outside with a note that it's for the court fundraiser.

Help us add facilities to the Community Recreation Ground and grow it into a full family area with heaps of space to remain COVID-19 safe while playing and having a barbie as well.

Coffee Shop Re-Opens

With lifting of stay-at-home orders in regional NSW the Barmedman Arts, Crafts and Coffee Shop is gradually re-opening. Current opening times are Tuesday and Friday 10:00am to 12:00pm. The plan is to gradually increase opening hours each week.

Under the new restrictions patrons must wear a mask, sign in using the Service NSW App, or the registration book at the Coffee Shop, and stay 1.5 meters apart. The indoor café area will be restricted to six seated patrons with an additional six patrons browsing in the craft and

pre-loved goods area. When weather permits chairs and tables will be set up out the front of the café.

The Café volunteers would like to thank everyone who has come along to support the Coffee Shop reopening in the past two weeks. They look forward to serving coffee and catching up with everyone again soon.

General Store for Sale

You may have seen the advertisements or heard the rumours – the Barmedman General Store and Takeaway is up for sale. After three plus years of faithful and diligent service, Steve and Linda have decided to sell the business to focus on other ventures. "We're not leaving Barmedman, we're just selling the business, so we have time to concentrate on the other projects we've started out here," Steve said. "Linda and I are selling the business and all the goods and chattels needed to

run it, but not the building."

The Barmedman General Store and Takeaway is a multifaceted business providing a full post office service and local banking facility as well as selling staple grocery items, personal care and various household goods, giftware and takeaway food.

It is the editor's opinion the Barmedman General Store and Takeaway also acts unofficially as a tourist information centre and Barmedman Community and Public Relations office. Many residents who moved to Barmedman in the past few years would credit Steve and Linda as having provided positive information that helped them make the decision to join the community.

"The Barmed Postie isn't going anywhere. I'm keeping the mail run!" Said Steve. "We [Linda and Steve] moved to Barmedman because we love the scenery and the people. The mail run gives

me the opportunity to stay connected to both."

"We want to 'share the wealth'. The business has been good to us and now we want to give someone else a chance and we will move on to our other projects in town. We are confident we've built things up to a point where new owners can take over and support themselves in Barmedman," said Steve.

Steve hastened to add, "The General Store and Post Office offer essential resources and services to Barmedman. They need to be run by people who are willing to commit to the town and start a new life out here. This business is not all about profit, it's also about community service, so we're not going to sell to the first person who turns up with a cheque. We will do our best to ensure the new owners will be great folk who understand they are buying into the community, not starting a new commercial empire."



Photo: Barmedman General Store and Takeaway.

Tidy Town Gardens

Street Gardens

The sun is shining, the birds are singing, and we've had plenty of rain. Perfect conditions for plants and weeds to grow. If anyone has spare time to help look after the street gardens all help would be appreciated with watering and weeding. If you would like to donate some spare plants and do some planting your input is also welcome. It would be appreciated if you didn't plant anything that grows tall and obstructs vision of the street or its buildings.

Thank you to Linda, Tracey, Shannon and Jessica for their green thumb support of our street gardens.

Town Gardens

The Tidy Towns Committee would like to send out a big thank you to all those locals who have been working on their house frontages and gardens. You should all be very proud of yourselves. The results looking amazing. It's so nice to drive around town and see the love and care people are taking for their homes.

Thank You

Cleaning Up

It's time to clean the bottom of the Barmedman Mineral Pool before the long process of filling it with water can commence. With substantial rain forecast for this week it was looking like summer preparations would be delayed.

That was until two Bland Shire Council workman, Phillip Sibraa and Mick Hampton, heard about the pool's predicament and came to the rescue. They've done an amazing cleaning job and ensured summer preparations remain on track. Thank you, Phillip and Mick, for acting on such short notice.

Another two of Bland Shire Council's staff also need to be thanked for their very thoughtful actions of tidying up Barmedman's Cemetery on Monday, 27 September. Town maintenance crew Kevin Daniher and Alex Johnston heard there would be a funeral at the Cemetery on Wednesday, 29 September and chose to ensure it looked its best for the relatives and family of Betty Hazel McCabe (nee Dougall).

The Gratitude Project

Our very own Barmed Postie was among the inaugural round of winners of The Gratitude Project – a joint initiative of Evolution Mining and Bland Shire Council to recognise the essential workers, quiet achievers and good Samaritans who have helped keep the local community going throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the challenges brought by the last 18 months of COVID-19, the Barmed Postie, and the resilient fraternity of local postal workers have ensured the mail does indeed "go through".

Steve and Linda not only process

and deliver the mail, they also run the Barmedman General Store and Takeaway which provides dine in and takeaway food and grocery items for the local community. They also deliver scripts, grocery items and hot meals for isolated, elderly and infirmed Barmedman residents.

An ongoing and reliable postal service, general store facilities and takeaway has been critical in keeping the Barmedman community informed, connected and safe throughout the various stages of COVID-19. "The General Store and Post Office is the hub of the town where people have been able to safely meet and interact," Steve said.

"We have also been able to keep an eye on people's health and if we haven't seen a regular for a day or two, we will phone them or call in and conduct a welfare check ... on a couple of occasions I have had to call an ambulance.

"Because everyone in town is in contact with us, we have to make sure all the right practices and processes are in place to protect the community," Steve said.

Welcome to Town

Barmedman has been busy attracting new blood to town. Welcome Phillip, Mario, Rosa, James, Bronte, Victoria, Bill, and Melanie as new locals. If anyone has been left off this list, please don't feel you are any less welcome – blame Steve, he's the one who tells the editor about new arrivals. 😊

THIS MONTH

Barmedman Rural Fire Brigade AGM

The Barmedman Rural Fire Brigade Annual General Meeting will be held at the Bowling Club on Wednesday, 13 October at 7:30pm. All are welcome.

Barmedman Mineral Pool Working Bee

It's that time of year again! Time to get together and roll up our sleeves to tidy the pool area and get things ready to for the swimming season. It's free to swim in and is just like having a pool in your backyard – only much, much bigger.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the Barmedman Mineral Pool's construction. COVID-19 restrictions make planning a celebration a little difficult, but luckily the pool was officially opened a year later, so maybe 2022 celebrations can be planned if everyone gets vaccinated and COVID 19 restrictions are eased.



Working bees will be at 9.30am on Sunday 10 October and Sunday 17 October. Morning tea and a Sausage sizzle lunch will be provided on both days.

Young, old, and in-between are encouraged to come along and show some pride in our community's facility. There's plenty of work to do, walls of the kiosk and toilets need the dust washed off; gardens tidied; and general maintenance. Turn up and there will be a job for you.

Any realistic suggestions to improve the pool area please phone 0428 275 257.

Barmedman Courthouse

Previous months newsletters have mentioned there would be a community working bee organised to take care of a few basic repairs and paint the fence at the Barmedman Courthouse. September was month it should have taken place however, COVID-19 didn't get the memo. Consequently any thoughts of a working bee were put on hold until lockdown restrictions were eased. We're now in October and we'll all be busy with the Mineral Pool working bee, so let's just say the Courthouse working bee has been delayed until further notice. Don't worry, you'll get plenty of advance warning of the new date so you can make space in your diary. 😊

Church Services:

St John's Anglican Church:

Morning Prayer

Sunday, 3 October, 8:00am

St Joseph's Catholic Church:

Mass

Sunday, 10 October, 8:00am

Sunday, 24 October, 8:00am

Bible Study

Thursday, 14 October, 2.30 pm

Thursday, 28 October, 2.30 pm

For more information, please ring Keith on 0408 003 760

Anyone wishing to add content to the Newsletter can leave their entries on the piece of paper at the General Store or email newsletter@barmedman.com.au with details. It can be about the coming month – or something in the future. Please leave/email your entries before the 21st of each month. Thank you.

CLASSIFIEDS

Dine and Discover Vouchers

Dine and Discover Vouchers have been extended and are accepted at the General Store and Takeaway for everything.

Heat and Eat frozen meals are also eligible.

If you have any classifieds you would like included in the Newsletter, feel free to email newsletter@barmedman.com.au or write them on the sheet at the General Store or by the 21st of any month. It can be For Sale, Wanted, Thank You etc.