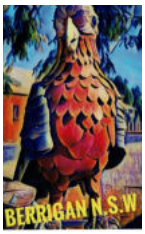
ISSUE:145

FEBRUARY 2026

BERRIGAN NEWS

The latest news, information and events in Berrigan, NSW

A community iniative brought to you by the BDDA



Welcome to 2026, it's an exciting time for all of us! The start of a brand New Year and the chance to make this one even better than the last...

On behalf of the BDDA, may I thank you all for your continued support, your news, your photos and your advertisements.

Most of all we thank you for sharing your lives with us, the memories, the achievements and the heart of our Berrigan Community.

MR JOHN O'DWYER

Lachlan Whelan has returned home after a trip of a lifetime with Wanderers Australia to Dublin, Ireland See P9

Congratulations to Bruce Rendell and Kurt Buer who both received the prestigious Melvin Jones Award for 30 years of service to the Berrigan Lions Club

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DAWMAC
Est. 1967
INDUSTRIES

Administration Assistant – Full Time

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Join our friendly and fast paced team! DAWMAC INDUSTRIES is seeking a motivated **Administration Assistant** to support our busy office with general administrative duties and exceptional customer service.

Key Responsibilities:

- General office admin: data entry, filing, photocopying
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- Maintain accurate records and internal databases
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About You:

- 2+ years admin or customer service experience
- Strong organisational and communication skills
- Confident using Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Proactive, positive, and detail focused
- Experience with Accounts Payable/Receivable is an advantage

What We Offer:

- Supportive and flexible work environment
- Career development opportunities
- Friendly, community focused team

If you are looking for a rewarding role with a long-established local business, **APPLY NOW** and join our team!

Send us your CV to: mail@dawmac.com.au

We will be in touch regarding the next steps in the recruitment process.

DAWMAC
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Sales Assistant – Full Time

Local Opportunity | Supportive Team | Berrigan NSW

DAWMAC INDUSTRIES is seeking an enthusiastic **Sales Assistant** to join our friendly, community focused team. This role suits someone who enjoys helping customers, has strong attention to detail, and is keen to grow within a longstanding local business.

Key Responsibilities

- Assist customers with enquiries, product information, and quotes
- Process sales transactions
- Manage phone and counter enquiries professionally
- Maintain tidy, well presented displays
- Support inventory checks, pricing, and general sales operations

About You

- Positive, customer focused attitude
- Strong communication skills
- Retail/sales experience ideal (not essential)
- Confident using Microsoft Office
- Reliable, team oriented, and eager to learn

Why Join Us?
With over 50 years serving regional NSW, DAWMAC INDUSTRIES offers a supportive workplace, opportunities for professional growth, and a friendly, inclusive team culture.

Ready to apply?

If you are motivated and customer-focused, we'd love to hear from you. **APPLY NOW!**

Send us your CV to: mail@dawmac.com.au

We will be in touch regarding the next steps in the recruitment process.

Berrigan Bookshop

43-45 Chanter Street, Berrigan NSW 2712

0429571988

berriganbookshop@gmail.com

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(except Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day, Good Friday and ANZAC Day)

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Berrigan Return & Earn

Open Daily
12.30pm to 4.30pm
(closed all public holidays)

Rear of the Berrigan Bookshop, access via lane

GOOD TO GO: MOST DRINK BOTTLES AND CANS

- Cans (e.g. soft drinks)
- Bottles (e.g. beer bottles)
- Cartons
- Juice boxes or poppers

Containers must…

- Be empty
- Have the label attached
- Be in good condition (not be crushed or broken)
- **Look for the 10c label on the container for refund eligibility.**
- Remember to leave the lids on when returning your containers. They'll be recycled too.

NO GO: ITEMS THAT ARE NOT REFUNDABLE

These items aren't accepted, so put them into your household recycling.

- Plain milk bottles or cartons
- Flavoured milk containers of 1L or more
- Glass wine bottles
- Glass spirit bottles
- Cordial bottles
- Pure juice containers 1L and over

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Contact Jason on 0427 077 787

Berrigan RSL News

Berrigan RSL is a community Ex-Service Organisation (ESO).

The end-of-year meeting was held on 9th of December, discussion focused on investigating repairs that may be required to the RSL building. Members agreed to follow up with our Community Relations Representative, Johnathon Tuckfield, regarding possible grants and financial assistance for the branch.

Following the meeting, a Christmas dinner was held in the function room at the Royal Hotel. Members enjoyed the festive spirit, along with the excellent food and hospitality provided by the staff at the Royal Hotel.

Our street stalls were highly successful last year, raising much-needed funds. The branch sincerely thanks the local community for their generous support throughout the year.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Secretary – Karen Davis 0418 148 979
Treasurer – Peter Still 0429 098 370

Facebook –follow our Facebook page
Email address BerriganSB@rslnsw.org.au

National Serviceman's Day February 14th 2026
This year marks 75 years since the beginning of National Service in 1951.The Department of Veteran's Affairs is holding a commemorative service which will be broadcast at 11am on the 14th of February 2026, on ABC and available to view later on ABC iView.

More information on the DVA website where you can register to attend the event in Canberra.

www.DVA.gov.au to register to attend and for more information

What was National Service?

National service refers to two conscription schemes for the armed forces that operated during the Cold War. Those who served were affectionately known as 'Nashos'.

The National Service Training Scheme (NSTS) ran from 1951 to 1959. It required nearly all 18-year-old males to be registered and undergo between 3 and 6 months of full-time training in one of the armed services followed by a part-time service in either the Royal Australian Naval Reserve, Citizen Military Force, or Citizen Air Force.

The National Service Scheme (NSS) ran from 1965 to 1972. This scheme required males turning 20 and resident in Australia to register for potential National Service and then men were selected for National Service by a ballot system. Those selected were required to complete 2 years of full-time service with the Australian Regular Army or six years of part-time service in the CMF.

Over 280,000 young men were called up for national service between 1951 and 1972. More than 200 died on active service overseas and others died while serving in Australia. Many of our sub-members were called up to National Service in the second scheme.

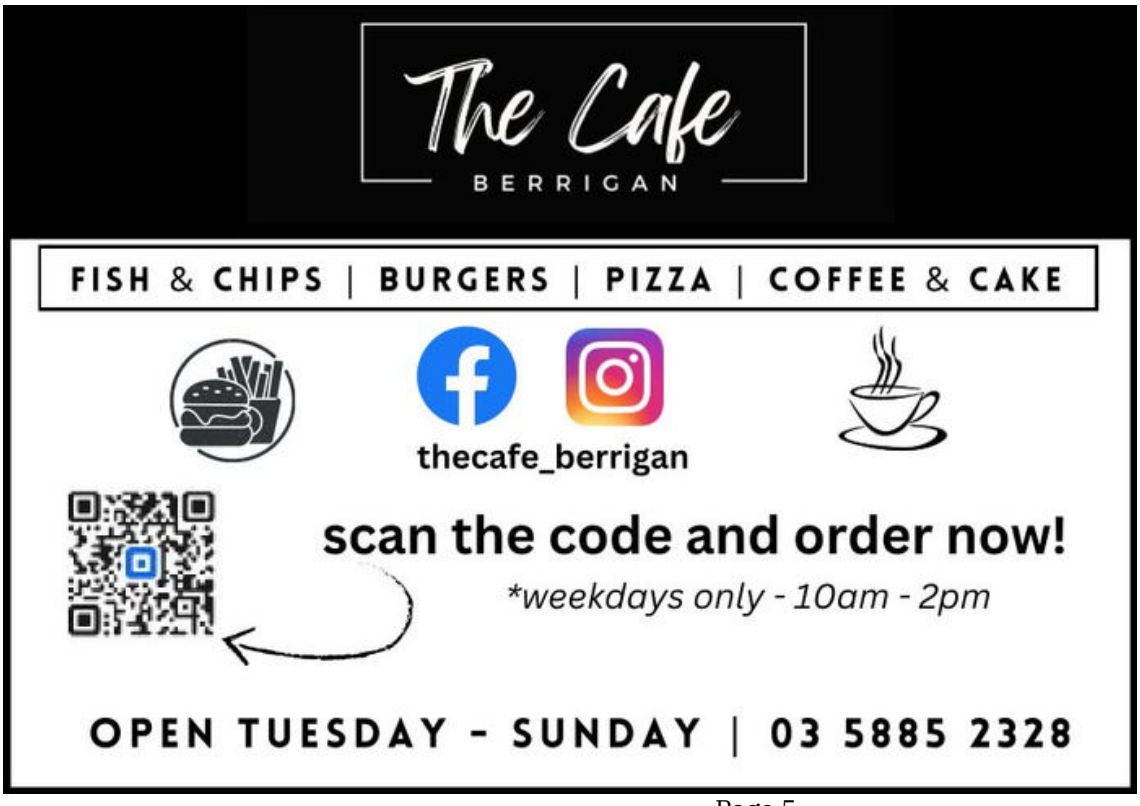
Our president Jeff Stein had his birthdate pulled out of the barrel in March 1966 and was called up in September. He travelled to Melbourne and was trucked to Puckapunyal for 10 weeks of basic army training. He then moved to various bases in Sydney to complete his artillery training. He spent 18 months in Australia before spending the last 6 months of his compulsory 2 years' service in Vietnam. Once his 2 years was up, he was sent back home. Other Berrigan members who were called up for National Service including Mick Hartney, Stuart Brooksby, Wayne Milne and the late Mo Harvey.

This ANZAC day we will pay homage to our Vietnam veteran's at our service.

Left is a photo of Jeff Stein with his gun during his tour of Vietnam.

Below is a photo of Jeff Stein at the Australian War Memorial in January 2026.

By Karen Davis



BETTER IN BERRIGAN

BERRIGAN COMMUNITY GOLF AND BOWLS CLUB

CLUBHOUSE OPEN TIMES
Wednesday - 5:30pm-10pm
Thurs-Fri - 4pm - 11pm
Saturday - 11:30pm - 11pm
Sunday - 11:30pm - 9pm
All closure times are at staff discretion

COMING UP

14 & 28 February
Chinese Smorgasbord 6 to 8pm

19 February
Live Music with Will Eldridge & Kath Harris

Bowls
Barefoot Bowls every Wednesday 6.15pm

Golf Comps Tee Off
Every Wednesday 9.30am, Friday 3.00pm,
Saturday 2.00pm & Sunday 9.30am

Poker
Every Wednesday—6.30pm Registration
for 7.00pm Start

Members Draw & Raffles
Every Thursday—Tickets on sale 6.00pm,
Meat Trays, Club & Restaurant Vouchers
$250 Cash Members Draw
(Must be a financial member & present at time of draw)

Remember to Follow Us on Facebook or Instagram for More Information

CHINESE RESTAURANT

Come and enjoy the delicious flavours at ***988 Chinese Restaurant***, now under new management with an exciting new menu! Smorgasbord and catering options available for in-house functions.

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5PM-8PM SUN

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CONTACT

Clubhouse Phone
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Resturant Phone
03 5885 2642

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Community Page

Happy New Year

What's happening in Berrigan?

Mondays:
CWA Craft Day is 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm
CWA Meeting is the 3rd Monday of the month at 2pm in the CWA rooms
Line-dancing at 9am at The Cox Hall
Cards at 1.30pm in the Berrigan Uniting Church Fellowship Centre - gold coin donation
Gentle exercises in the Madill Centre at 9am

Tuesdays:

Scrabble 9.30-11am in Berrigan Library
Storytime at the Library at 10.30am
Mens Shed, 9am till 12 noon, Chanter Street
Sewing in the Madil Centre from 11am till 8pm

Wednesday's:

Berrigan & District Heritage Museum, 9-11am
Community Garden meets at 1.30pm
Model Railroaders 9am-4pm, 101 Cobram Street
Bingo 1.30pm at The Feddy Commencing Wednesday 4th February.
Conservation, Tidy Towns & Community Gardens meet 7-8pm at the Berrigan RSL
Heritage Museum in the Meeting Room
Red Cross meets every 3rd Wednesday at 2pm in the back rooms of the Red Cross Shop

Thursday's:
Mens Shed 9am-12 noon, Chanter Street
Model Railroaders 9am-4pm at 101 Cobram Street
Gentle exercises at 9am in the Berrigan Uniting Fellowship Centre - gold coin donation

Fridays:
Street Stalls:
There are no street stalls in February

Saturdays:
Community Garden 9.30am
Model Railroaders 9am-4pm, 101 Cobram Street
Catholic Church Services held on Saturdays at 6pm

Sundays:
Model Railroaders 9am-4pm, 101 Cobram Street

Churches:
Presbyterian Church Service 9am, 1st & 3rd

St. Aidan's Anglican Church Service:
1st, 2nd, & 4th Sundays of month - Holy Communion (Eucharist) at 11am
3rd Sunday of the month - Holy Communion (Eucharist) at 11am, meal following.

Berrigan Uniting Church Service every Sunday at 11am. 1st Sunday of the month Fellowship lunch, all welcome here.

Red Cross Opening Hours:
Monday 9.30am till 1pm
Tuesday - Friday 9.30am till 3.30pm
Saturday 10.30am till 12.30pm

Berrigan District Development Association

Working for a stronger, more connected Berrigan district. Supporting local business, community projects, and regional growth.

Volunteer Opportunity – Association Secretary

We are seeking a volunteer Association Secretary to support the committee with administration and meeting coordination. A great way to contribute to your local community and be involved in regional development. Get involved and help shape the future of our community.
Please contact bddasecretary@gmail.com for more information.

Notes from the Library Desk...

The Summer Reading Club Party will be held at the Berrigan Library for all children who registered for the program. Please bring along a record of the books or pages read (or were read to). There will be snacks, games and prizes to be won. Saturday 7th February 10.30am-11.30am.

RSVP Friday 8th February

WRAP UP Party Sat 7th Feb 26
Snacks, games, prizes & fun
10.30-11.30am

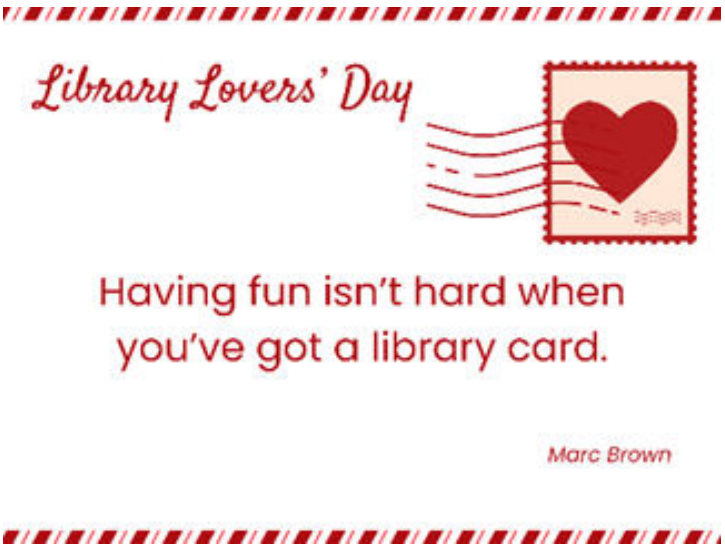
The library has been busy over the Summer with lots of children and families enjoying the cool space.

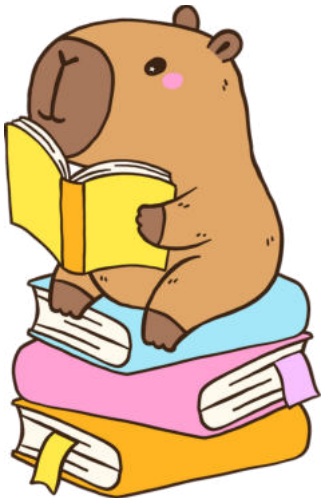
Scrabble continues on Tuesday mornings at 9.30am. All welcome.

Come down on the last Thursday of the month to play Canasta at 10.30am. Snacks provided.

February 14th is not only Valentines Day. It is also Library Lovers Day!

By Jenny Congdon





Jenny Congdon - Berrigan Library Officer
Berrigan Shire Council | 56 Chanter Street, Berrigan NSW 2712
P: 03 5888 5100
E: Jenny.congdon@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au
W: www.berriganshire.nsw.gov.au

BERRIGAN SHIRE
BAROOGA • BERRIGAN • FINLEY • TOCUMWAL

One of Berrigans own, Lachlan Whelan on a trip of a lifetime...

Lachlan Whelan has returned home after a trip of a lifetime with Wanderers Australia on a Junior Boy AFL Ireland Tour.

Lachlan departed on December 2nd to Dublin and it was straight into training and meeting the Irish Lads that they would be playing against.

The team managed to fit in some sightseeing and toured the famous Croke Park, the historic home of the GAA and the All-Ireland Gaelic Football Finals.

Over the ten days, Lachlan enjoyed playing against clubs from across Ireland and Northern Ireland and winning all games, with a lot of sight-seeing along the way.

From Ireland, the Wanderers team headed to London to enjoy 2 days roaming around London.

The next stage of the trip was taking the Eurostar from London to Paris, and the highlight of the trip was the 90 minute journey North into the Somme Region where the team paid their respects to those who fought in World War One.

They headed to the site of Villers Bretonneux, which is where Australians fought to save the village in 1918.

From there a visit to the impressive Sir John Moash Centre and the main Australian memorial to the Australians missing in the Somme.

The final stage of this tour was to Pozieres and to the preserved Canadian battlefield at Beaumont Hamel.

By Marianne Whelan

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BERRIGAN

New Year, New You!

Looking for a way to make a real difference in 2026? Why not join the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) Tocumwal Unit and become part of a team that helps communities when they need it most!

✅ Free Nationally Recognised Training provided – Learn valuable skills that last a lifetime

✅ Build lifelong friendships – Be part of a supportive team

✅ Endless opportunities to give back – Make a real impact in your community

✅ Learn essential emergency skills – Be ready when it matters

✅ Work alongside other Emergency Services – Collaborate and grow

We're looking for volunteers from Berrigan and surrounding areas , aged 17+ for a variety of roles, including:

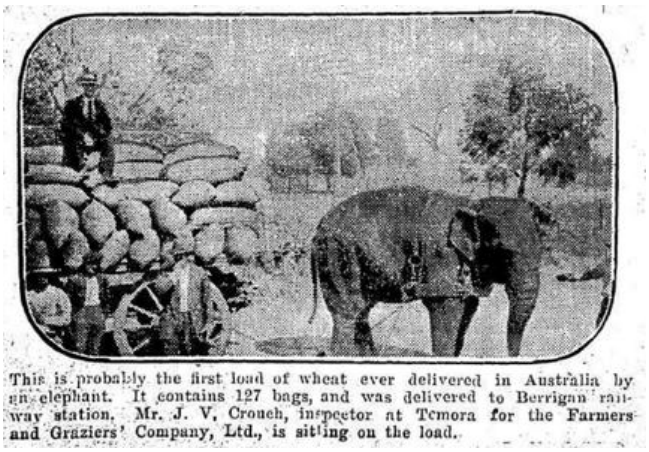
Flood Rescue & Storm Response

Ready to step up? Apply now: 👉 https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/volunteer

ELEPHANTS IN BERRIGAN

"The men engaged carting wheat had rather an exciting time at the Berrigan Railway Station yesterday morning. Wirth's Circus had arrived during the early hours, and later, five elephants were engaged removing the baggage to the site selected, opposite the station.

During the morning Mr. W. Powell's team, which he had left standing near the Goods Shed whilst he went to assist Mr. A. Egan on to the weighbridge, attempted to make off and, slewing around, wrenched the shafts off the wagon.



This is probably the first load of wheat ever delivered in Australia by an elephant. It contains 127 bags, and was delivered to Berrigan railway station. Mr. J. V. Crouch, inspector at Temora for the Farmers and Graziers' Company, Ltd., is sitting on the load.

The load thereon weighted 10 tons 16 cwt and it looked as if Mr. Egan would have to unload and then return and remove the wheat from M. Powell's to his wagon, but an elephant was hooked to the broken vehicle and walked away with it. Before he had gone too far, however, another elephant was attached and the pair landed the load at the stack."

Wirth's circus was a massive travelling spectacle, moving around Australia by horse, wagon and train. In 1918 the entire circus travelled on the railway from Port Augusta to Kalgoorlie, all arriving safely.

Berrigan Advocate 15th of February 1917

Sourced by Marnie Steer

CIRCUS AND MENAGERIE
Of TRAINED WILD ANIMALS
Opening in BERRIGAN on
WEDNESDAY, 14th FEBRUARY.
POSITIVELY ONE NIGHT ONLY.

Menagerie open from 4 to 5 p.m.
MORE NEW ARTISTS.
MORE NOVELTIES.
MORE SENSATIONS.
MORE AMAZEMENT.

This Season is the Greatest of all in the Brilliant History. Marvellous in the extent of its Unparalelled Features. Classic in its Refinement, and Superior in Everything.

Small part of the Wirths Circus Flyer. unfortunately, the rest is illegible

Berrigan Lions Club News

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year to all of the Berrigan Community.

Lions are on the go again, supplying Christmas cakes at the Post Office, 99 Stitches, the Chemist and the Red Cross - there are still some left.

On the 20th of December Lions cooked the annual Dawmac free breakfast in the Big Store for the 30th year. A big thank you to John, Wendy, Paul and all the staff for this wonderful community gathering.

Lions continue to maintain the town Cemetery and this has been a challenge with the dry season and the heat in keeping it looking green.

Lions Mints are always on the go and we continue to support our local Schools.

All this is done with only 8 Members, so anyone interested in joining please see a Member.

Bruce Rendell

LOCAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
a voice for health in your community

BERRIGAN LHAC HEALTH MATTERS

By the time you are reading this article it will already be February. I hope you all had a great Christmas break and a Happy New Year and are now ready to face 2026.

During the second week of February the LHAC will hold its Annual General Meeting. However, as I have had to write this article in January I cannot pass on the results of the meeting till the March Edition.

In 2026 your LHAC is going to present a major project and whilst I cannot reveal what it is at this stage, we have been busy over the break getting initial things sorted out and it is all systems go. It will probably be the biggest project that the LHAC has ever tackled. All will be revealed in the next edition of the Berrigan News.

I would like to introduce our new temporary Facility Manager Smitha Varghese, who will be in charge until a permanent appointment is made when our previous manager actually leaves after completing her owed leave.

Smitha comes to us from Blaney where she managed two aged care facilities. Smitha has been a Registered Nurse for more than 15 years including 4 years in the United Kingdom. She arrived in Australia in 2024. Her experience covers having been a Clinical Nurse Manager, Facility Manager and a Nurse Educator in addition to managing the two aged care facilities. So Smitha is well qualified and will be a valuable asset to our Multi Purpose Service (Hospital).

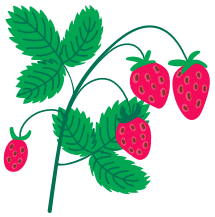
Facility Manager Smitha Varghese

Welcome Smitha to our town and we hope you enjoy your time here. If you see Smitha in the street please welcome her to our community.

Until next month please look after each other with the heat and stay healthy.

Tony Taylor
Chair, Local Health Advisory Committee
Berrigan Ph 0429 004 292
squizzyt@westnet.com.au

Our Community Garden



Welcome back to all readers and hope you have enjoyed the break.

Congratulations John O'Dwyer on reaching the milestone of 100 years, and I have heard that you enjoyed a few celebrations. John has been a member of the garden from almost the beginning and gave a lot of great suggestions. The fire bucket in Winter so we can sit around enjoy a cuppa and chat in the warmth. Also was very reliable in watering and caring for gardens. His attempt to grow the biggest pumpkin created a lot of interest. Thank you, John, and keep coming to have a cuppa with us.

Our working volunteer numbers are very low, if you would like to help in any way come down on a Saturday morning to discuss with us. A Big "Thank you" must go to the volunteers who have watered over the Christmas break, in some very hot days.

We have beautiful fresh beans and zucchini ready to pick for a donation.

You might ask what we do with our donations, they go towards purchasing seeds, seedlings, weed control, Seasol and other items needed for gardening, without your generosity we could not continue.

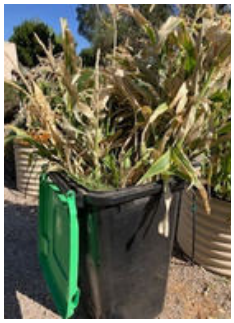
I am including a photo of our Native Garden with the bird bath, which was covered by Our Menshed, Community working together is what makes Berrigan very special.

Happy Gardening
By Clara Way

The garden when it began in 2017

Our Native Garden featuring the bird bath that the Mens Shed created.

Photo: Steel family left to right Stuart, Keith, Owen, Donna, Peter, Gemma, Ruby and of course Happy



Thank you to Peter Steel's family for the huge clean up at the Garden on Saturday 24th of January

AUSTRALIAN MEN'S SHED ASSOCIATION
Shoulder to Shoulder

BERRIGAN MENS SHED
FEBRUARY 2026

Greeting and Happy New Year to all residents of Berrigan and surrounds.

The weather has been extreme with a number of days in January exceeding 40°and a real contrast with the cooler Xmas weather. Our Eastern states have been suffering with extremes of weather providing fire storm conditions in Victoria and prolonged wet weather in North/Northwest Queensland. Our thoughts and prayers are with those individuals and families that have sustained loss of homes and livelihoods. There are currently a number of drop-off centres in Victorian towns along the Murray River where donations of goods can be delivered /left. In addition, the BLAZEAID organisation will have a presence in northern Victoria to assist with fence replace duties and fire clean-up support. Check their website for further information if you wish to assist. (blazeaid.com.au).

Camps are located at Yarroweyah, Longwood and Harcourt in our area.
On a much brighter note, Berrigan shed's eldest life member has celebrated his 100th Birthday at the shed on Tuesday the 13th January. John J O'Dwyer was born in 1926 and was present to celebrate with 30 members and guests. His passing comment to visitors as he left the shed was for them to book the date in for 2027 to celebrate his 101st birthday, such is his humour and resilience.

The supply of garden beds has diminished and members are currently working to rebuild stock with the delivery of the last six beds to Rand on-route to Melbourne. We are currently working to replenish stock, and orders are welcome by contacting the sectary direct or by email.

In closing we are all looking to the sky to share some of the precipitation happening in Northern Queensland to build up soil moisture to ensure another bumper Winter crop here in Berrigan Shire.

However, the sudden downpour and disaster that has occurred along the Great Ocean Road and in particular Wye River is an unfortunate reminder of the power of nature and again the members express our heartfelt grief at the loss of property and give thanks for no lives lost in this emergency.

Myles Humphries – Secretary Berrigan Men's Shed

E: Berriganmenshed@Yahoo.com.au

There were many celebrations for Johns 100th Birthday

A great afternoon was held on Sunday for John O'Dwyer for his 100th birthday at the Community Club.

150 people celebrated with John and the O'Dwyer family. Guests travelled from near and far; many stories told over the last 100 years which brought lots of laughter and a few tears.

There were special cards notable from King Charles and Queen Camilla, The Governor-General of Australia Samantha Mostyn and Federal Member for Farrer Susan Ley.

Ange Ednie, Marg Ednie and Sandra Starr enjoying the 100th Birthday celebrations at the Community Club

Advertising Rates 2026

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Quarter page: Member $20.00/ Non-Member $40.00
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Berrigan & District Model Railroaders Display & Exhibition 101 Cobram Street Berrigan

Open Thursday-Sunday 9am-4pm

Admission FREE

Enquiries or group bookings call..

Neville Grigsby 0407981737

MAYORS MESSAGE

While we may have had a slow start to Summer it certainly has come with a vengeance as the new year has emerged. With three consecutive days with temperatures over 40 in the first full week of 2026 came extreme fire danger for Berrigan Shire. The fire risk was realised in a number of fires in our adjoining councils, including a significant fire in the Yarroweyah area. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the tireless efforts of community volunteers who keep us safe including the Barooga, Berrigan, Finley and Tocumwal fire brigades, the CFA in Cobram and the volunteer SES units across both states. We are a cross-border community, and these groups work together across the border to keep us all safe. Your bravery does not go unnoticed.

Following on from these recent events, it is timely that residents of Berrigan Shire will receive the 'First 72 hour' toolkit this week. The kit will help you to develop your own plans in the event of emergency and provides tips on other things you should have prepared in advance. There is also a video which Council has available on its website, which I was honoured to be involved in, that steps you through some practical things to consider such as backing up hard drives, having copies of important documents ready to go and having a few dollars in cash just in case.

Cr. Julia Cornwell McKean- Mayor

2026 STREET STALL BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

Berrigan Shire Council is now accepting bookings for 2026 Street Stalls.
Applications will be processed on a first-in, best-dressed basis.

Application forms are available on our website or by contacting the Customer Experience Team.
Phone: 03 5888 5100
Email: mail@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au

RATES NOTICE REMINDER

The third Rates Instalment Notice will be issued on 27 January 2026 and is due for payment by 28th of February 2026. Ratepayers are also reminded to ensure any outstanding water consumption charges or rates notices are paid.

If you are unsure of your current balance, please contact the Rates Team at rates@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au or phone (03) 5888 5100

'72-HOUR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS'

We are pleased to share that Berrigan Shire Council, in partnership with Federation Council, has officially launched the '72-Hour Emergency Preparedness' campaign to help our communities better prepare for emergencies.

Commencing Monday 19 January, every household across both local government areas will begin receiving emergency preparedness toolkits in the mail. The mail-out provides simple, practical steps to help households:

- stay informed
- make a plan
- prepare an emergency kit

Emergencies can happen at any time — and being prepared makes a real difference.

Learn more by visiting our website:
https://www.berriganshire.nsw.gov.au/Our-Services/Emergency-Management

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