

# TENTERFIELD

*Celebrating*  
**25**  
**YEARS**



**ORACLES**

**OF THE BUSH**

*Program*

**THEN & NOW**

**25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**COVID-19 Restrictions will be applied**

**TICKETS**

**Phone 0484 904 553 or 0407 203 728**

**[trybooking.com/buy-tickets](https://trybooking.com/buy-tickets)**

**Pre-purchased tickets Essential**

**Bookings Open 4th January 2021**



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**Libby Sharpe**  
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**Jenni Donges**  
0439 362 630

**Jake Smith**  
0488 364 487

**Ray White**  
**Tenterfield**  
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Tenterfield,  
NSW 2372

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**THE  
POTTING SHED**  
*And*  
**GARDEN SHOP**

*Oracles of the Bush 2021*  
**Welcome from Mayor Peter Petty**



How wonderful to celebrate 25 years of Tenterfield's Oracles of the Bush!

Sadly, like many events, Oracles missed the 24th year due to the COVID pandemic but we are looking forward to welcoming you, our many visitors and community members, who are back to enjoy Australia's unique and only, stand-alone

Poetry Festival.

Although we may have to mingle with the new normal of social distancing, I'm confident that our wonderful Oracles committee will ensure a fantastic time for everybody in this, our beautiful town of Tenterfield.

With a theme of "Then and Now", Oracles will celebrate and honour the special people who have served on the Committee with the 2021 Legend being "Oracles Committee through the Years". A fitting tribute for a quarter of a century of volunteer work.

Sadly, many of the Oracles Committee members and Legends have left us in this time, and it is just that our community and the bush poetry community throughout Australia pay tribute to these great visionaries.

At the time of the first Oracles event in 1997, I wondered if there was a confidence that 25 years on, Tenterfield's Oracles of the Bush would still be entertaining our community and bringing many visitors to our area.

That it is still going strong says bucket loads about the commitment and dedication of those first Committee members. I am deeply humbled that I have had the pleasure of knowing many of them, and having a beer with quite a few others.

Many will know that I too have a go at exercising my versatility at verse but in my welcome, I will leave that to one of Tenterfield's great sons, the legendary Banjo Paterson as he writes of one of Tenterfield's natural icons

and hopefully inspires our visitors to go and take a look. As legend has it, this is where Banjo proposed to local lady, Alice Walker of Tenterfield Station.

***Banjo Paterson, The Ballad of Boonoo Boonoo...***

*Yes this is the ballad of Boonoo Boonoo,  
Where the hills are green and the skies are blue;  
And if you're fond of timber tall,  
Or would like to see a waterfall,  
That's a thousand feet from top to toe,  
And hear the waters as down they go  
Then come and enjoy yourself aplenty,  
For the Easter holidays of Nineteen-Twenty.*

All the best for Oracles 2021.

***Peter Petty,***  
**MAYOR**

## Committee Report

Once again it is a pleasure for the 'Yellow Shirt Brigade' to welcome patrons to the 25th Anniversary Oracles of the Bush in beautiful Tenterfield. We invite you to put the woes of 2020 behind you for a few days and enjoy the genuine hospitality and entertainment we have to offer you.

This year's program is jam packed and you will be entertained by the best of the best professional poets and balladeers.

Adding a touch of nostalgia to our 25th anniversary the main concert, children's concert and Looming



*Photo courtesy of Tenterfield Star*



Legend events will return to the Shearing Complex in the Showground. Friday night will see a new event, namely 'Camp Fire Yarns'. This will be held in the bar enclosure at the Tenterfield Showground and include a camp oven dinner, entertainment by Bec Hance, Jeff Brown, Ray Essery and Neil McArthur. Bar facilities will be available. Join us for a genuine country get together and yarn.

During the weekend you will also experience poetry in National Parks, in museums, in parks, at markets, and open air breakfast and lunch gatherings. You can relax and explore the beautiful gardens of Colin and Helen Chevally and Glenrock Gardens.

After a devastating few years scarred by drought, fires and Covid-19 we are amazed and grateful for the generous financial support and sponsorship received from local businesses, Tenterfield Shire Council and Tenterfield Chamber of Tourism, Industry & Business. As you explore our lovely town please support the businesses that support us.

Events have been planned with Covid-19 restrictions in mind. Please be aware as circumstances change some aspects of events may also change. We will endeavor to keep you informed of any changes to the current program. If you are attending with friends we recommend that you book as a group to ensure we can seat you together. Please supply all contact details as required on the online booking site.

Our theme for 2021 is 'Then and Now' and we congratulate every member of the organising committees from 1997 to 2021 on an amazing job over 25 years. You are all Legends!

Look out for the yellow shirts over the weekend we are here to make your weekend the best yet.

***Welcome and Enjoy!***



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## First a bit of Oracles History!

On 24th November, 1995 Tenterfield Shire Council committed \$10,000 as a seeding fund to help get a bush poetry festival project underway in Tenterfield. The proposal was submitted to council by the new owner of the Tenterfield Saddlery, Mr. Brian Meldon. The date for the Tenterfield Saddler Australian Bush Poet's Festival was set for the Queensland Labour Day long weekend of 3rd to 6th May, 1996.

Mr. Meldon always said to be successful the festival had to have the backing of the town and so a community committee known as Tenterfield United Organisations, comprising members of local clubs and service organisations was formed on 3rd January 1996 to assist Mr. Meldon and his staff with the festival logistics. At this meeting a new festival name was adopted and the festival would be known as Tenterfield Saddler Oracles of the Bush. The name Oracles of the Bush was proposed by Tenterfield journalist and 2016 Oracles Legend, Mr. Ken Halliday. Event Director, Anne Bishop presented details of an extravagant official launch and draft program to the meeting.

Tenterfield Saddler Oracles of the Bush festival was launched at a star studded event at the Tamworth Country Music Festival on 26th January 1996.

Tenterfield Shire Council granted a last minute request on 24th February, 1996 to underwrite a cost of \$6500 to employ poets for the festival as the seeding funds had all been expended on the launch.

The 3rd of May, 1996 came and so did the rains. The major rain event cut roads in and out of Tenterfield but the show went on. Many patrons didn't make it to town but travellers trapped in town joined with locals to experience a magic weekend celebrating bush culture and much needed rain.

On reviewing the festival results, the Tenterfield United Organisation committee adopted a proposal to move the festival date forward a few weeks so not to clash with events in surrounding areas of the Granite Belt and Glen Innes and also use the timing to promote the famous Tenterfield Autumn colours. The committee also resolved to change the



format slightly and encourage more amateur poets. Mr. Meldon did not approve of these decisions and on 27th June 1996 it was announced that he had withdrawn his commercial support and the Tenterfield Saddlery name from the festival.

At the AGM of Tenterfield United Organisations in August, 1996 a new committee was elected, all of whom were local volunteers. Ownership of Oracles of the Bush was now solely in the hands of the Tenterfield community and the very first Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush event was set down for 18th, 19th and 20th April, 1997! Consequently, 25th to 28th March, 2021 is a celebration of 25 years of Australian bush culture, Tenterfield hospitality and friendship.

*Compiled from information obtained from official Tenterfield United Organisations and Oracles of the Bush Inc. records and published Tenterfield Star articles.*



## **TALLY HO Motor Inn**

428 Rouse Street TENTERFIELD - (02) 6736 1577





# THE LEGEND

*Compiled by Carmel Rose*

*After the forced cancellation of Oracles of the Bush last year event organisers continued planning for Oracles 25th anniversary in 2021 with determined positivity. It was decided to combine as much of the 2020 cancelled content into 2021 including the 2020 Legend Induction.*

Finding the right legend to complement the 2021 theme ‘Then and Now’ and blend with the 2020 theme ‘Behind the Scenes’ was challenging and discussions were held over many meetings.

Then came the light bulb moment!

There is a relatively small group of dedicated passionate volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make Oracles happen every year for 25 years -

THEY ARE TENTERFIELD LEGENDS!

Looking at the different personalities over the years it would be fair to ask how could they come together and work as one. Many have tried to figure it out but there is no simple answers just accept the fact that these people are unique and legendary.

Regardless of the length of involvement, every person has equally and willingly contributed their individual skills, time and passion to Tenterfield. They aren’t necessarily bush poetry fanatics. Their drive and passion is derived from their love of Tenterfield. They have a strong desire to give back to the town and contribute to its economic and social advancement. It is that drive that binds this diverse group of people together each year to present the annual ‘Oracles of the Bush’, Bush Poetry Festival.

Collectively they have a long list of achievements including 25 bush poetry festivals, ‘Community Event of the Year’ Australia Day award, Tenterfield Shire Council Business & Tourism Awards Hall of Fame Induction, Tenterfield Shire Council Business & Tourism Awards ‘Event of the Year’ 4 times, hosting a ‘People’s Picnic’ on New Year’s Day 2001 as the first official Tenterfield Centenary of Federation celebrations, hosting the 2006 NSW Bush Poetry State Championships with 139 entrants, 25 professional school workshops for Australian literature appreciation, participation in the 2002/2005 National Trust Heritage Festival trail, donated over \$35,000 to community groups to be re-invested locally, donated \$5,000 to Tenterfield Shire Council for acoustic improvements at Tenterfield Memorial Hall and donated over \$1000 to local RFS. Each year they continually promote Tenterfield through their annual event marketing attracting visitors to the festival and encouraging them to stay and explore Tenterfield.

The 2021 legend title is not about collective committee achievements, it is to acknowledge every single unique character

who has been involved in the organisation of the Oracles of the Bush Festival since 1997.

Early organisers understood that Tenterfield could not realistically host thousands of people as proposed in the initial festival concept. As a result Oracles has developed into an exclusive boutique bush poetry festival, a festival championed by the best professional poets in Australia. Organisation of the event begins 9 months prior to the date. The committee first come together around July for initial planning and continue to meet until the festival weekend

Solid foundations laid in those early years have stood firm and guided new committees throughout the years. From day one sharing skills and experience and providing mentorship has been a trademark of the Oracles of the Bush organising committee.

The first few years saw Oracles of the Bush supported by several high profile commercial and media sponsors. These sponsorships and marketing opportunities were the result of professional expertise bought to the table by Suzie and Mark van Laarhoven. Suzie and Mark were mentors to many committee members and their knowledge helped set Oracles in the right direction.

Up until 2001 events were held at 10 different venues. It was a logistical nightmare constantly transporting chairs and equipment from one venue to the next in a short time frame. Often details got lost in the transmission. I recall one Saturday waiting at Paul's Barn for Phil Ainsworth to arrive with chairs to set up for the evening concert. Phil eventually arrived in his car! Turns out he popped home, parked the ute in the garage, freshened up and returned to the barn in his car leaving the chairs on the ute in his garage. From that day on a committee member was charged with making sure Phil got the memo and understood the instructions. Don't let that little incident detract from the many

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years Phil dedicated to Oracles including president for 5 years. He often complained he was bullied by the predominately female committee but secretly he thrived on it.

When cash was THE thing and banks closed at 3pm the first mobile bank was introduced in Tenterfield in 1997. The then treasurer, Julie Hurtz, converted the boot of her car into a mobile cash facility. She spent the weekend visiting multiple venues dispensing change and collecting takings. Everything was balanced, labelled and stashed in the boot under the spare wheel until the bank opened on Monday morning. It was safe as a bank, after all only a brave or very stupid person would attempt to steal Mrs. Moneybag's commodore.

Credit must be given to those individual committee members, past and present, who oversee both the written and performance competitions and the school workshops. The competition procedures have been finely tuned over many years under the leadership of Geoff and Jann Newman. It would be impossible to estimate the personal time these two have invested in Oracles. They have now retired and their role has been capably taken up by Lara Flanagan.

Geoff and Jann are peas in the pod and you don't get one without the other. When Jann took on the role of President for a number of years Geoff was lucky enough to land all the jobs President Jann didn't want to do. Their contribution has been outstanding and Geoff always added that bit of class and sensibility when the girls were misbehaving.

Over time certain members have developed quirky specialties that need to be respected. Here I reference Robyn Petrie, affectionately known as the 'chair lady'. Robyn is OIC of chairs and is a tad fanatical. As funny as it is to watch when an uninitiated helper comes along and begins to straighten them, Robyn's chair fetish is valued and means no one else has to worry about the seating. She is also known as the 'Gravy Queen'. Give her a box of Gravox and she can fix any kitchen disaster.

It is possible that to qualify for committee you need to love a chat. Our fearless leader for a number of years was Joan Harvey. Joan would talk to anyone, anywhere, anytime but give her a microphone and she was lethal. Once she had that mike in her hands anything could happen and usually did. The one thing you could be sure of was what she said had little to do with the notes in her hand. She had a knack of completely confusing patrons about daylight saving. By the time Joan finished no one had any idea whether breakfast next morning was at 8am DLS time or 8am EST. That yellow shirt and gift of the gab made Joan one of Oracles greatest ambassadors.

The committee graduated from green shirts to maroon and then to the famous yellow shirts. The yellow shirts were the brainchild of Debbie Roberts. With the introduction of the yellow shirts came the nickname 'yellow shirt brigade'. Debbie loved her accessories

and introduced the pearl concept to the Oracles uniform. Debbie convinced us a bit of glamour was necessary reminding us that Jackie O did say 'Pearls are always appropriate'.

One of the most famous things to come out of Oracles is, without doubt, Patti Ainsworth's 'Train Smash'. A superb tomato and onion based creation best served with bacon and eggs in the park on Sunday morning. The remaining ingredients have always been a mystery but the biggest mystery is how a responsibility as big as train smash was passed onto someone with zero culinary skills. Armed with wine I easily recruited Jenni Donges and Julie Thompson to do the work. The annual 'wine and train smash cook up' is now a firm social calendar favourite and most likely explains why the ingredient list remains a mystery. Patti would be proud of us.

We all love a bit of romance and Oracles takes full credit for bringing one couple together. It was very special when our 'chair lady', Robyn and 1998 Legend, Paul Petrie snuck off to the coast and got married in 2015. Yellow bridesmaids would have been nice.☺

Good secretaries take the pressure off the President. That being the case Oracles presidents have had an easy ride. There have been some cracker secretaries over the years. Patrons will be familiar with the smiling face of our pocket rocket Carolynne Newman, the current and long term secretary. Her organisational skills and event knowledge are exceptional. The work she does behind the scenes is phenomenal. Carolynne is a no fuss girl and just gets on with the job. She has an uncanny way of working through a crisis, shows no panic and on the surface no one would guess things were not going to plan. During Oracles weekend the most common comment you will hear is 'just ask Carolynne'. Do I have some stories to tell about Carolynne? The answer is 'yes plenty' but I am smart enough not to go public.

In 2009 the committee decided to publish the program booklet themselves. Jan Cross and Marilyn Brown took on the mammoth task of selling advertising. A time consuming job which is followed by hours of follow up visits, liaising with the printers and proof reading. As treasurer Jan has kept her finger on the



*Welcome all visitors to  
Oracles of the Bush 2020  
come & enjoy the Bowling Club &  
all its facilities while in town.*

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financial pulse and ensured the viability of the booklet.

Her offsider Marilyn certainly is a great marketer but her true value to the committee is measured by lemon slice. Every year Marilyn generously provides sweet treats for the tea and coffee stations. Every year the tray of lemon slice mysteriously disappears. For those in the know it can be found stored in the back fridge with a sign attached 'Not for public use - committee only'.

The most unbelievable aspect of Oracles of the Bush Inc committees, past and present, is their unity and lack of politics. Unlike many organisations there is no conflict and every opinion is respected. Certainly there can be robust discussions but in the end the majority rules vote actually works and is accepted.

This has been a difficult piece to compile and is about one third of my original draft. The comments here are simply my thoughts and a tiny slice of the stories I could share. Every single person has a story and their contribution equally valuable but apparently I am not allowed to take up the full booklet.

In closing I must pay tribute to the late Patti Ainsworth whose passion for Tenterfield and Oracles of the Bush touched us all. Her legacy continues to inspire us to keep smiling and continue Creating another Tenterfield Legend.

**Patti Ainsworth, Phil Ainsworth, Deb Adams, Marilyn Brown, Robyn Coker, Jan Cross, Jenni Donges, Bernadette Evans, Lara Flanagan, Archie George, Larissa George, Sylvia Grigg, Ken Halliday, Joan Harvey, Trevor Hollit, Julie Hurtz, Karin Janik, Leah Kernot, Raelene King, Marie Lowe, Ted Macquire, Noel Manser, Sandra Moss, Carolynne Newman, Geoff Newman, Jann Newman, Geoff Nye, Robyn Petrie, Terry Powell, Arthur Ramsay, Debbie Roberts, Carmel Rose, Dave Stewart, Wendy Stranieri, Daphne Struck, Janet Swain, Julie Thompson, Anne Tyler, Kevin Tyler, Mark van Laarhoven, Suzie van Laarhoven, Julie Virtue and Patsy Wilson.**

***For the purpose of this story E&OE means errors and omissions expected!***

## REST IN PEACE

In 2000 Oracles of the Bush celebrated the theme 'Women of the Bush' and Mrs. Pat Braham was our chosen Legend. With great sadness we joined with the Tenterfield community to farewell Pat in 2020. She was an inspiring woman with a deep love of her family, her horses and the land.

A true Woman of the Bush. RIP Pat!





## Open Garden



It brings us much pleasure to share our garden with you during the Oracles of the Bush festival, here in Tenterfield on Sunday the 28th of March 2021 between 10am – 4pm.

Glenrock Gardens is an award-winning country garden set in the high country of New England in the historic and pretty town of Tenterfield, NSW, Australia. It is the perfect venue for all events including weddings, workshops and garden tours and is spectacular in all of the four well-defined seasons. The 30-year-old, 10-acre gardens were voted the Best Australian Garden by the viewers and readers of Better Homes and Gardens in 2006. They are incorporated within a working farm and although the gardens are very much designed in the English-style with dry stone rock walls throughout, they are also surrounded and interspersed with iconic Australian bushland. Beautiful shady trees and water abound in this stunning property and the season of Autumn is one of the most spellbinding in the garden.

### ***Facilities***

*Refreshments and restrooms are available, catering can also be arranged if required for larger groups and BYO picnics are always fun! Due to the size of the garden, a duration of 1 to 2 hours is recommended. A 4-seater electric buggy is also available for use for the less mobile as is an electric vehicle charging station. An undercover venue is being planned and will hopefully be completed by early March. Plants available for sale.*

**Annie & Chris Jones**

84 Robinsons Lane, Tenterfield, NSW, 2372

Ph: 02 6736 1831 / 0417 733 085

**[www.glenrockgardens.com.au](http://www.glenrockgardens.com.au)**

## A Touch of Germany in Tenterfield

(Contributed)

Rosenhof is a rejuvenated 163 year old heritage listed property and includes a vast garden, fruit orchard, Indoor and Garden Restaurant and Café. Offering a genuine European food experience during breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon coffee as well as dinners three days a week and on appointment. We are fully licensed.

Rosenhof translates from the German into Roseyard, Rosegarden, Rosecourt or Rosefarm.

The 2ha property invites you to wander and ponder, sit under a hundred-year-old tree or in the grass. The 175 heritage fruit trees planted on the property together with the roses are the main features of the garden.

There is a lot of German Heritage here in the New England area. Many of our visitors tell us things such as “my grandparents came to the area in the 1800s”. So, our vision is to provide a “True German / European Food Experience” which goes well beyond the stereotype of Schnitzel & Beer.

We offer “old fashioned” food made in house from the best ingredients we can find. We champion local regional produce and cook what we love to eat ourselves which is



a vast variety of different foods and regional cultures of Germany and its European neighbours. We only buy the freshest ingredients available and convert them into food that reminds us of our childhood – home made, as if it was from Grandma.

Since our opening, Rosenhof has become known for its in house produced treats such as Sourdough Breads, Magic Bun Rolls, Cakes & Tortes, Laugen Bretzels, Ice Creams, Desserts and a good selection of home cooked cold and warm savoury dishes.

The Rosenhof Hotair Balloon “Rosalinde” VH-ILU can often be seen flying around town and it has become a Tenterfield mascot for many locals. If you are lucky and weather is favourable during your stay, a special airborne adventure in form of a private hotair balloon flight may be possible.

For the 2021 Oracles of the Bush Festival, we offer Traditional Australian Bush Tucker elements combined with a typical German Garden BBQ – made over a wood fired pit. Our good range of German Beers and Wines as well as non alcoholic beverages will be available.

Seating will be outside on the Café hardstand and the grassed area – surrounding the the grand stairs which will act as the stage for the Performers.

## Camp Fire Yarns



On Friday night you are invited to join the yellow shirt crew around the camp fire and have a yarn in the bar enclosure at the showground. As we celebrate 25 years of Oracles of the Bush in Tenterfield this will be a great opportunity to catch up with friends and make new ones, have a drink

and enjoy a genuine country camp oven meal.

Bec Hance and Jeff Brown will keep you entertained with great music while larrikins Ray Essery and Neil McArthur are guaranteed to put a smile on your face with their country yarns and poems.

Bring your favourite comfortable camp chair and get into the spirit of the night. Don't forget a wrap or blanket as it can get a little chilly. Bar facilities will be available so please no BYO. We look forward to catching up with you.

## Junior Art Competition

Our theme for 2021 is  
**'Then & Now'**

All sections should have this theme. 3D constructions are always welcome.

SECTION 1: Infants

SECTION 2: Lower Primary

SECTION 3: Upper Primary

SECTION 4: Secondary - Yrs 7-10

SECTION 5: Secondary - Yrs 11-12

SECTION 6: Primary Indigenous

SECTION 7: Secondary Indigenous

All works will be on display in the Shearing Complex for the duration of the Oracles events.

Entries are to be mounted on card with name, age, section and school printed clearly on the back.

***Entries close: 14 March 2021***



## Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March

**Induction of 2020 & 2021 Legends**

**Tenterfield Transport Museum**

**7 pm for 7.30 pm \$35 - Francis Street**

**Pre-purchased tickets ESSENTIAL**

**Bookings close 15 March 2021**

## Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March

### **Lions Club Brekkie in the Park**

8 am Bruxner Park \$15

Marco Gliori, Gary Fogarty, Ray Essery, Greg North,  
Neil McArthur, Bec Hance and Jeff Brown

**Pre-Purchased tickets ESSENTIAL**

### **Children's Concert**

10 am – Shearing Complex, Miles Street

\$4 p/p or \$10 families

Marco Gliori, Gary Fogarty, Ray Essery, Greg North  
and Neil McArthur

### **Do You Know My Tenterfield?**

Photography Exhibition

10am to 3pm at Visitors Information Centre

### **Rosenhof German Heritage Cafe Bush BBQ**

12 noon - 17 Naas Street, \$42

Marco Gliori, Neil McArthur and Jeff Brown

**Bookings Close 22 March, 2021**

**Pre-Purchased tickets ESSENTIAL**

### **Opening Centenary Museum Display**

12:30 pm - Bec Hance and Greg North

Adults \$5 Children \$2

Gold Coin donation for afternoon tea

Museum opens daily 10 am to 4 pm

### **Looming Legend 1st Heat**

2:30 pm – Shearing Complex, Miles Street \$4

**Pre-purchased tickets ESSENTIAL**

### **Camp Fire Yarns**

Sponsored by KLAS Business + Accounting  
Showground Bar & BBQ area, Manners Street

Use top gate

6.30 pm \$25 – Includes Dinner. Jeff Brown,  
Bec Hance, Ray Essery and Neil McArthur

**Pre-Purchase Tickets ESSENTIAL**

**Bookings close 22 March 2021**



# **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

**Breakfast 7.30 am**

**Pre-purchased Tickets ESSENTIAL for all Breakfast events**

**Tenterfield Golf Club \$17**

Gary Fogarty, Jeff Brown and Bec Hance

**Tenterfield Motor Inn \$17**

Ray Essery and Greg North

**Bald Rock National Park \$15**

Tea and Damper with Marco Giori (Bring a chair)

**Markets at Railway Station Museum**

Markets 9 am to 12 noon

10 am Jeff Brown and Bec Hance

**Open Garden @ Rose-Lea**

10am to 2pm - 249 Timbarra Road

**Do You Know My Tenterfield?**

Photography Exhibition

10am to 3pm at Visitors Information Centre

**Tenterfield Transport Museum Inc.**

**Country Style Roast Lunch**

Francis Street – 12 noon - \$40

Ray Essery, Gary Fogarty and Jeff Brown

Bar available

**Pre-purchased Tickets ESSENTIAL**

**Bookings close 22 March 2021**

**Arrajay Downs - Paddock to Plate**

324 Bryans Gap Road, Gates open 11.30 am

Lunch 12 noon - \$42 BYO

Neil McArthur and Greg North

**Pre-purchased tickets ESSENTIAL**

**Bookings close 22 March, 2021**

**Looming Legend 2nd Heat**

3.30 pm - \$4 - Shearing Complex, Miles Street

**Pre-purchased tickets ESSENTIAL**

**Poets Concert**

7.30 pm Shearing Complex, Miles Street - \$25

Doors open 7 pm

Marco Giori, Gary Fogarty, Ray Essery, Greg North,

Neil McArthur, Bec Hance and Jeff Brown

**Pre-purchased tickets ESSENTIAL**

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March

### Poets Brawl

*Sponsored by The Potting Shed - 8am – Jubilee Park*

Breakfast \$15 (Bring your own Chair)

Wet weather - Shearing Complex

**Pre-purchased tickets ESSENTIAL**

### Open Garden @ Glenrock Gardens

10 am – 4 pm

84 Robinsons Lane

### Do You Know My Tenterfield?

Photography Exhibition

10am to 3pm at Visitors Information Centre

### Tenterfield Presbyterian Church Service

10 am – 11 am

### Grand Final Looming Legend

12 pm - \$15 - Shearing Complex, Miles Street

**Pre-purchased tickets ESSENTIAL**

**Oracles Farewell** at the end of the Grand Final  
Shearing Complex, Miles Street Bar and Lunch  
available to purchase

## LEGENDARY TENTERFIELD GROWN BEEF & FAMOUS SAUSAGE KINGS



**Welcomes Oracles  
visitors**

**Be sure to call in  
and say G'DAY to**

**‘Another Tenterfield Legend’**

# PREMIER MEATS

**118 HIGH STREET**

(Opposite Tenterfield Saddler)

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## Bald Rock National Park 50th Anniversary

Join us in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Bald Rock National Park. This stunning national park was gazetted in 1971 and was part of a series of additions which added to the original 250 hectares of public reserve dedicated in 1906. Today, Bald Rock National Park joins Queensland's Girraween National Park and forms a 20,000 ha reserve for public appreciation and enjoyment, whilst protecting some of our unique Australian flora and fauna. The key feature of this reserve is the impressive Bald Rock. This large granite dome is certainly a sight to be seen, stretching 750m long, 500m wide and reaching 250m high. Come and enjoy some bush ballads and billy tea, followed by a walk to the top of the rock to immerse yourself in the majestic views.



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A stylized line drawing of a woman from the waist up. She is wearing a large, wide-brimmed hat and a long, flowing dress with a high collar. She is holding a small bouquet of flowers in her right hand.

# 2021 Oracles of the Bush

## TICKET ORDER

Bookings open 4th January 2021

Pre-purchased tickets are **ESSENTIAL** for all events.

EVENT	PRICE	No of TICKETS	TOTAL COST
Induction of Legend Dinner .....	@ \$35	_____	\$ _____
Lions Club Brekkie in the Park.....	@ \$15	_____	\$ _____
Children's Concert.....	@ \$4	_____	\$ _____
Family @ \$10		_____	\$ _____
Looming Legend Heat 1 .....	@ \$4	_____	\$ _____
Looming Legend Heat 2 .....	@ \$4	_____	\$ _____
Rosenhof German Cafe .....	@ \$42	_____	\$ _____
Camp Fire Yarns .....	@ \$25	_____	\$ _____
<b>Breakfast with the Poets</b>			
..... Tenterfield Golf Club @ \$17		_____	\$ _____
..... Tenterfield Motor Inn @ \$17		_____	\$ _____
..... Bald Rock National Park @ \$15		_____	\$ _____
<b>Tenterfield Transport Museum Inc</b>			
..... @ \$40		_____	\$ _____
Arrajay Downs (BYO) .....	@ \$42	_____	\$ _____
MAIN CONCERT .....	@ \$25	_____	\$ _____
Poets Brawl and Breakfast.....	@ \$15	_____	\$ _____
Grand Final Looming Legend.....	@ \$15	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL \$			_____

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PO Box 372, Tenterfield NSW 2372

Email: [oraclesofthebush@gmail.com](mailto:oraclesofthebush@gmail.com)

Phone: 0407 203 728 or 0484 904 553

[trybooking.com/buy-tickets](http://trybooking.com/buy-tickets)

Refunds: 75% - 14 day notice; Under 14 days - none

# ENTRY FORMS

## Written Sections

• **FREE ENTRY** •

**Original + 3 copies**

**Entries close 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

Sections Entered: .....

Title of Entry: .....

### **Send Entry Forms to:**

Oracles of the Bush, PO Box 372 Tenterfield NSW 2372

or Email: [oraclesofthebush@gmail.com](mailto:oraclesofthebush@gmail.com)

Photocopies of Entry form are acceptable. Additional Entry

Forms available at [www.oraclesofthebush.com](http://www.oraclesofthebush.com)

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## Performance Sections

• **FREE ENTRY** •

**Entries close 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

Sections Entered: .....

Title of Entry: .....

2nd Choice Title of Entry: .....

.....

### **Send Entry Forms to:**

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Photocopies of Entry form are acceptable. Additional Entry

Forms available at [www.oraclesofthebush.com](http://www.oraclesofthebush.com)



## Thank Our Sponsors

*Oracles of the Bush Inc. wish to acknowledge and thank the sponsors of Oracles of the Bush, Bush Poetry Festival 2021.*

*Tenterfield is a community that has been deeply scarred by bush fires, drought and Covid-19 over the past few years. Our event in 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic. We are, therefore, beyond grateful to these Government agencies and businesses for their support for 2021. The management committee urge locals and visitors to support these sponsors in every way possible as they help our community on the road to recovery.*



# **Tenterfield's Oracles of the Bush**

## **Looming Legend Bush Poetry Competition**

25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021

*Our theme for 2021*

### **'Then & Now'**

#### **Adult Sections**

***Sponsored by Tenterfield Shire Council***

Total Prize Money: in excess of \$3000 plus Trophies - **Free Entry**

**WRITTEN** - \$400 Prize (each section)

SECTION 1. Poem with humorous theme

SECTION 2. Poem celebrating 'Then & Now'

#### **PERFORMANCE**

Contestants in the Novice section will perform in ordinary heats but will be judged for a separate award.

SECTION 3. **NOVICE: \$100**

For performers who have not previously entered State Championships or Looming Legend

SECTION 4. Original Work - see Rule 7

**Prize: \$1021 Runner-up: \$200**

SECTION 5. Previously published works by other poets

**Prize: \$400 Runner-up \$200**

#### **Children's Sections**

***Sponsored by Ray White Rural Tenterfield***

#### **WRITTEN**

SECTION 6. Infants: 4 - 20 lines

**1<sup>st</sup> - \$50**

**\$25 Encouragement Prize**

SECTION 7. Primary: 9 years and under: 10 - 20 lines

SECTION 8. Primary: 10 years and over: 12 - 30 lines

SECTION 9. Secondary: 12 - 40 lines

**Prizes (sections 7, 8 & 9)**

**1<sup>st</sup> - \$50**

**\$25 Encouragement Prize**

#### **PERFORMANCE**

Child to perform any poem with a bush spirit-original or otherwise.

SECTION 10. Infant Children from all districts

**1<sup>st</sup> - \$50**

**\$25 Encouragement Prize**

SECTION 11. Primary Children from all districts

**1<sup>st</sup> - \$50**

**\$25 Encouragement Prize**

SECTION 12. Secondary Children from all Districts

**1<sup>st</sup> - \$50**

**\$25 Encouragement Prize**

See your School or visit the website [www.oraclesofthebush.com](http://www.oraclesofthebush.com)

For an Entry Form call Oracles of the Bush

Mob 0484 904 553 or 0407 203 728

Email: [oraclesofthebush@gmail.com](mailto:oraclesofthebush@gmail.com)

# Tenterfield's Oracles of the Bush

## LOOMING LEGEND COMPETITION 2021

### CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
2. Queries to be addressed to the Oracles Committee.
3. Late entries will not be accepted.
4. Children's sections are only open to those attending school.
5. Adult sections are for those 17 years and over.
6. Professionally contracted performers at Oracles, past and present, are ineligible to enter.
7. Except for Sections 3, 5, 10, 11 and 12 all works should be original and not have won a previous Oracles of the Bush event. Same poem not to be performed more than once during entire competition.
8. Rights for performance of non original works are the responsibility of the performer.
9. Copyright of original works remains with the author but the organisers of the event reserve the right to publish selected entries, use them for promotional purposes, and to have them performed during the event.
10. WRITTEN: Entries should be typed on one side of an A4 page. AUTHOR'S NAME SHOULD NOT APPEAR ON THE WORK, but must be attached as a cover note. **Entrants must supply an ORIGINAL PLUS 3 COPIES for their work to be accepted for entry.** PLEASE MARK ENTRY SECTIONS CLEARLY.
11. Entries will not be returned, so please keep your own copy.
12. PERFORMANCE: To compete for the Looming Legend Trophy, Sections 3, 4, and 5 contestants must be able to perform in Tenterfield 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The committee will randomly allocate contestants into heats. Contestants will be notified by email of which heat they will perform in. Please include legible email on entry form. Each heat will contain no more than 8 competitors in each section. Three competitors from each heat Section advance to finals. Competitors entering Section 3 must enter Section 4 or 5 or both. The best performance by a novice entrant in either of these Sections will be judged the winner of Section 3.
13. **Closing date for entries: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**



# TENTERFIELD

*Join us next year for  
a Celebration of Australian Bush  
Poetry, Ballads, Music and Fun*

## 31<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022

**OF THE  
BUSH**

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or visit our web site  
[www.oraclesofthebush.com](http://www.oraclesofthebush.com)

**CREATING ANOTHER TENTERFIELD LEGEND**



## Meet the Poets

**Marco Gliori** is a widely acclaimed writer and performer of Australian Bush Verse. His down to earth nature warms audiences, his mischievous child-like approach to life inspires them to laugh, and his love of Australia becomes evident through his presence on stage. Previously awarded the Spirit of Waltzing Matilda Award by the late great Slim Dusty, Marco continues his success with his Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Verse in 2020. Marco's impact on both Adult and younger audiences alike has seen him become a popular addition at campfires from Busselton to Wallaby Creek, from Patchywollock to Winton, and a stalwart at major festivals like The Gympie Muster and Tamworth where he continues to perform the most popular poetry shows in Australia. In Tenterfield he will celebrate our humble community characters, take the cocky ones down a notch or two, all while marveling at the landscapes of Australia that soothe the Spirit. Book in with Marco at The Million Star Motel this Oracles weekend.



**Gary Fogarty** is one of the busiest performing Bush Poets in Australia, with the demand for his services as testament to the quality and popularity of his work.

A regular performer at major festivals such as Tamworth NSW, Gympie QLD, Kempsey NSW (Slim Dusty Festival) Boyup Brook WA, Mud Bulls & Music Qld, Gary has performed regularly in every mainland state of Australia and twice internationally in Hollywood USA as a member of the Australian Performing Arts Team.

Gary's first trip to Hollywood saw him become the first ever performing poet, from any of the over fifty countries represented, to compete at the World Championships of Performing Arts. A Silver Medal and two Bronze Medals

## Meet the Poets

resulted, despite the fact that there were no poetry categories and Gary was forced to compete in Acting and Variety categories.

A two time winner and seven times finalist in the prestigious Australian Bush Laureate Awards as well as the Inaugural Australian Bush Poetry Champion, Gary has continued to attract industry accolades over a career that now spans 20 years. In 2010 he was awarded the Street Of Dreams Award for the most popular Bush Poet or Balladeer in Australia, an award voted on by the public.

Gary abilities as a performing poet are these days augmented by his reputation as an announcer/compere at a vast variety of successful events such as the Australian Camp Oven Festival, Gayndah Orange Festival, Tara festival Of Culture & Camel Races, and the Chinchilla Melon Festival etc. Gary's ability to entertain and engage the public and create a fun and festive atmosphere is acknowledged as a major contributing factor in establishing the unique character of these events, and has seen him frequently labelled as "The Voice Of the Bush".

Supported by his wife Cindy, Gary now travels to all corners of Australia, entertaining people from all walks of life. Festivals , community concerts, corporate dinners, private parties, Television and radio appearances ensure that life is never boring for this true blue country boy.



**Neil McArthur - The Ragbag Of Rhyme** The illegitimate son of a depressed Circus Clown and a wayward one-legged Nun, Neil has been on the road for over thirty years, with his sole mission being to use his collected Aussie yarns to put a grin on the dial of every Aussie he meets.

An ex-Psychiatric Nurse and Punk Rock Guitarist, Neil's love of writing, in particular comedy, blossomed after he moved from his home town of Ballarat to raise his family by the beach at Bargara, where he discovered Bush Verse through the Bundaberg Writers Group. Now living between the two states, he travels all over the Country performing at Festivals, Clubs, Caravan Parks of wherever he can find an Aussie ear.

## Meet the Poets

A regular performer and MC at Australia's most popular Festivals, this Ratbag Of Rhyme tries his hardest to cause mayhem and halt the PC crusade infiltrating the country at present. From Gay Farmhands to Shooting Swaggies, from Euthanising his Grandpa to crashing into the one tree in a thousand miles, nothing is sacred, but all within a language-friendly and non-offensive style, mostly!

"Australia is not just unique because of it's Geography and History. It is unique for it's character's and their interaction with each other, that no Cancel-Culture of PC Police can ever strip it of. We are all Mates, not States" says Neil "and neither Media nor Do-Gooders will ever tear away that uniqueness and underlying pride we have as Aussies."

Also a songwriter/guitarist who is still searching for the perfect Covid-19 song, Neil has emerged from Lockdown and Isolation with a whole new approach and attitude towards life and the Australia that he loves so much.

Neil is looking just as forward to meeting up with fans of Aussie Yarn Spinning and Poetry again as he is of telling them tales of his recent escapades, as well as getting back on stage with his Poetry and Musical Mates.

### Gregory North

Discovered wandering in the Blue Mountains, this man of many hats will have you wondering which voice is really his. Known for his rendition of 'The Man From Snowy River' in 15 different accents and his adventures with sticky tape, the voices and characters in his poems and

yarns could be the result of medical experimentation or maybe he's just a freak of nature. Whichever it is, this three-time Australian bush poetry champion brings his many characters to life whenever he performs. His book, CDs and DVDs are great ways to relive the experience. Check out Greg's website at [www.gregorynorth.com.au](http://www.gregorynorth.com.au)



## Meet the Poets

**Ray Essery – Performing Bush Poet** is without doubt one of the most highly regarded performing Bush Poets in Australia today.

After arriving on the entertainment scene in the early 90's Ray has worked hard at enhancing his natural abilities as a story teller by developing an 'on stage' persona that represents his life's journey. This 'North Coast' poet can leave his audiences in stitches with hilarious tales that reflect his years as a dairy farmer, Navy man and Sydney pub manager. Likewise he can dig deep into the kitbag of his family memories to deliver heartfelt recollections of his early life, taking his audiences on a nostalgic journey back to a time when life on the North Coast was just a little less complicated.

This mischievous, loveable larrikin is equally at home performing at any of Australia's major Festivals as he is entertaining at a corporate event. Ray Essery is a storyteller, a historian, a romantic, a comic and above all else, an entertainer.



## Meet the Balladeers



### JEFF BROWN

Growing up in a family where the music of Slim Dusty and Rick & Thel were always played, Jeff Brown has grown up to love Traditional Australian Bush Ballads. He has been involved with the music industry

since he was 18, recording 7 albums to date and winning 2 Golden Guitar awards for Bush Ballad of the Year in 2005 and 2014 at the Tamworth Country Music Festival. When not singing and touring, Jeff is a truck driver and helps on the family farm. He genuinely relates to the songs he sings and delivers them with confidence and sincerity.



# Meet the Balladeers

## BEC HANCE

Hoisting her swag of accolades, Bec Hance walks the country road as one of only a few women making their mark in the traditional country genre.

The talented singer/songwriter has a long list of admirers around the nation both for her honest, funny, catchy or melancholy lyrics as well as her engaging personality.

Bec has now firmly cemented her place in the industry as one of the finest country music singer/songwriters in the industry, with back to back

Nominations in the Golden Guitar Awards in Tamworth for Bush Ballad of the Year in 2013 and 2014 and is widely sought-after for festivals and events throughout the year, concentrating on Australian-themed country music.

Having grown up on a fourth-generation beef farm business in Lang Lang Victoria, country runs through Bec's blood. Steeped in the music of Slim Dusty, Shirley Thoms, Loretta Lynn, Johnny Horton, John Denver and John Williamson as a youngster, she learnt the guitar and piano in her teens as has been writing and composing music ever since.

Bec's husband, Pete Wilson, a musician by trade, now produces her music and comes with a repertoire and knowledge to ensure that it is crafted in her true style, and also supports her as her lead guitarist and harmonist at her live gigs, as well as some marriage banter between them, just for fun.

Bec has released 6 albums, included a duet album with husband Pete Wilson which all encompass her own written material with some remakes of songs which have inspired both her song writing and as performing artists including the popular Calypso by John Denver and Just an Old Cattle Dog by Slim Dusty.

In the Meantime Bec (and Pete) maintains her career as a paramedic in her now home base Murchison, in the heart of Victoria.



## Looming Legends Poetry Competition

The central focus of Oracles Bush Poetry Festival is the Looming Legends Poetry competitions. There are two distinct categories to the competition – the written section and the performance section. The written section is judged prior to the festival weekend and winners announced at the Looming Legend Grand Final on Sunday. The performance section is spread over three days with heats on Friday and Saturday and the Looming Legend final on Sunday which is the finale of the weekend.



There is also a children's concert on Friday where our youngest competitors perform, and the children's written competition winners are announced. The children's concert is a lovely way to kick start the amateur section of our festival.

The Looming Legends is a fabulous poetry competition judged by professional poets and integral part of the Oracles of the Bush weekend.

In addition to prize money the senior winner is presented with a unique Tenterfield trophy. The trophy is an exclusively designed clock handcrafted from the cork of Tenterfield's famous cork tree. Tenterfield's giant cork tree, still growing in Wood Street, was brought from England by Edward Parker in a jam tin in 1861. It is believed to be one of the largest cork trees in Australia.

As availability to the cork tree branches diminishes the 2021 could be the last trophy to be crafted for Oracles. An even greater reason for budding poets to enter and perform in 2021.

The Looming Legends has one of the biggest prize pools in Australia. We are pleased to have the senior competition sponsored by Tenterfield Shire Council and the Junior sections sponsored by Ray White Rural Tenterfield. These sponsors are long term supporters of Oracles and we welcome to the Looming Legends arena in 2021.

## Centenary Cottage Museum History



**Centenary Cottage**  
CIRCA 1871

### MUSEUM

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Open Wed - Sun 10am - 4pm  
(Open 7 days in School Holidays)

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The Tenterfield and Districts Historical Society during 2021 celebrates 50 years of continuous operations. Centenary Cottage museum was established in the house at 136 Logan Street previously occupied by Archie Miller. The house itself was constructed during 1871, Being built by then local builder Michael Egan. The house has had a number of residents during its 100 years occupancy and information regarding the various occupants is displayed in the parlour room of the Centenary cottage museum.

The Museum also contains exhibits such as Military history of General Chauvel who was born at Tabulam and lead the Australian light Horse regiment at the battle of Beersheba during 1917 plus, his sister Lillian Chauvel, A renown water colour and oils painter and several of her paintings.

The museum contains many memories of a yesteryear and history of Tenterfield and the surrounding district.

*A visit to the museum is a must for local residents and visitors alike.*

**Open Friday to Sunday 10am to 3pm.**



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## Then & Now

Then, Tenterfield was the birthplace of our nation, a town where Sir Henry Parkes gave his famous 'Federation Speech' to unite Australia. Now, the School of Arts Museum is a place where visitors can wander the historic rooms and have their thirst for history quenched. The hallway of this graceful old building still echoes with memories of what once was.

Then, Peter Allen sat on the step of his grandfather's saddlery and listened to the endless yarns of the Saddler. Now, the famous song 'Tenterfield Saddler' has immortalised this small sandstone building on High Street.

Then, the trains arrived, lost in huge white chuffs of steam, while visitors and returning residents disembarked on the bustling platform. Upon exiting the station, the panoramic views of Tenterfield welcomed all who arrived. Now, the historic station museum is lovingly cared for by a band of talented volunteers. The railway building is as it once was, and our history seems very real. Close your eyes, embrace history, and imagine the sounds of the wonderful steam trains leaving Tenterfield.

Then, Banjo Paterson fell in love with Alice Walker, the Tenterfield girl from Tenterfield Station. Now, you can drive past the old station building. Be reminded of a different world before visiting Boonoo Boonoo Falls where you can tread the same rough bush paths that Banjo and Alice tread during their endless courting days.

Tenterfield then and now has always been a place of poetry. Australian Bush Poetry depicts the uniqueness of Australian lives and the character and scenery of the Australian bush. Which is why now, Tenterfield is an obvious home for Oracles of the Bush, celebrating in 2021,



25 years of poetry, laughter, tears, friendship, memories, and song.

Tenterfield is home to an Australian life that is rich with character and history. In the last 2 years we have battled drought, fire, and virus just like we have done before. Just like then, we have survived. Our lives continue marching with Captain Time as the seasons remind us that the sun will keep rising, just as it will keep setting.

Our beautiful town is set against the backdrop of stunning Australian bush scenery that is dappled with touches of the New England.

Tenterfield has always been, and always will be a place where the tradition of Australian bush poetry is celebrated. Aussie larrikins, woeful tragedies, good Aussie mates, scenery that becomes part of your soul, landscapes that etch themselves into your brain and Aussie characters that fill your heart.

Then and now. Tenterfield, New South Wales. A place where the poetic Aussie bush heart lives on.

## Tenterfield Railway Station Museum



This picture shows some of our remarkably interesting rolling stock including “Tilly” the dainty little tank engine on loan from the Thirlmere Museum and No. 727 Rail Motor the same as ran on local lines.

Come and view these and many others in our Museum while attending our Big Oracles Market. The biggest of the year. For a small fee you can visit our highly regarded Museum and experience a true taste of nostalgia. We have a wonderful eclectic collection of restored rolling stock including a 100-year-old Meat Wagon, a Union Spirit wagon and a Shell Fuel Tanker.

As a long-standing partner of Oracles of the Bush we are proud to conduct our big Oracles Market once again in support of Oracles of the Bush. *(contributed)*



# Our Previous Legends ...



# Continuing Our Previous Legends ...



Keith



Rhonda



Grahame



Phyllis



Noel



Lorraine



Perry



Ken



Lucy



George



John



Karen



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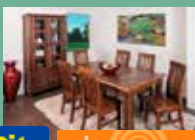
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[www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au)

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**Tenterfield NSW 2372**

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Fax: (02) 6736 6005

Email: [council@tenterfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@tenterfield.nsw.gov.au)

Website: [www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au)



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# #tenterfieldtrue



TrueColour



Photo by @kenwarephotos

True Nature



Photo by @rikerama



Photo by Peter Reid

True Blue



True Story

Photo By @rikerama

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