The Barraba Artisans’ and Farmers’ Market (BAFM) began two years ago, an initiative of Barraba Community Incorporated (BCI). BCI is a not for profit incorporated organisation, with a small executive committee. The aims of BAFM are to build local economic strength; supply locally grown and healthy products; encourage local artisans; strengthen local identity; and promote tourism to Barraba.

What They Do

The Market is held every second and fourth Saturday of the month from October through to April, and every second Saturday from May to September, a total of 19 Markets each year.

The Market is supported by the local retailers, many of whom offer a 10% discount for the day. The day is promoted as “the Queen Street Shopping Experience”.

Vendor displays fluctuate with each market, and it is estimated that over the past two years since commencement, these events have resulted in an increase of between 2,000 and 4,000 visitors to the town each year, including about 600 tourists.

Why They Do It

BCI hopes that running a regular market in Barraba will allow locals to celebrate the village atmosphere which Barraba provides, and encourage out of town visitors to come and enjoy all that Barraba has to offer.

Stalls such as The Market’s Community Table, which features locally grown and produced products, help to ensure that the proceeds of sales from locally produced wares and food, circulate again and again through the local economy of Barraba, thereby helping to build the economic resilience of the town and its surrounds.

BCI believes that every dollar spent in Barraba helps to ensure a sustainable and resilient future for Barraba and the surrounding villages. Since commencement in 2010 retailers have reported an increase in sales on Market days.

What’s On The Horizon

- Sustainability workshops - The Market has a commitment to sustainability by promoting locally grown produce and locally made wares. BCI have received a grant from Sustainable Namoi Living to run 10 workshops to promote sustainable living. These workshops, on topics as diverse as Solar Power Options, Natural Cleaning and No Dig Gardening.
- Entertainment is planned for every other market, with opportunities offering exposure for local music groups, dance troupes, and performers.
- Local Councillors and members of Parliament, both State and Federal, have been invited to attend the Market and take the opportunity of speaking to locals in a relaxed atmosphere. It is hoped that these visits will help to further profile Barraba as a preferred place to live, and highlight the importance of rural Australian economies to decision makers.