

April 2024 Edition

gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au



The Gwydir News is a free monthly publication available online or for collection from local outlets.



Aged Care VR Therapy for residents at Touriandi Lodge.

Published by
Community College
Northern Inland

Bingara

6 Riddell Street
Bingara NSW 2404
Mon - Thu 8.30am to 4.00pm

Warialda

47 Hope Street
Warialda NSW 2402
Wed - Fri 8.30am to 4.00pm

BW WELDING SERVICES
0409 365 153
FOR ALL YOUR WELDING NEEDS

Community Pantry putting food on local tables

Bingara's Community Pantry is helping locals by providing a welcoming place where food and grocery items are available for anyone struggling to make ends meet amidst the rising cost of living. The pantry supplies free or low-cost food and grocery items to support people in need and at the same time, provides an opportunity to those who can help, to take part in community building.

The Pantry was officially opened on February 22 at a launch attended by representatives of local business, organisations, individuals and volunteers who all had a hand in bringing the Pantry to life.

Gwydir Shire Council Social Services Manager, Suzanne Webber spoke candidly and from the heart at the Pantry's launch, describing how Council's Neighbourhood Centre, John Bishton from Bingara IGA and the Bingara Community Op-Shop worked together to get the pantry started:

"I'm really excited about the Community Pantry and the collaboration with the Neighbourhood Centre. The IGA rang me and said *Would you like to do a pantry?* and I said, *Well, I don't have anywhere but leave it with me.* I rang Bev (Matthews) from the Community Op-Shop and said, *If I buy you a freezer, can we do a pantry?* and she said *Yes, yes, yes!*"

Continued on page 3

Op-Shop volunteers ensure the Pantry is run by the people of Bingara, for the people of Bingara with volunteers restocking the pantry shelves to meet ongoing demand from those in need.



Next issue: The Gwydir News will be published on Thursday 16th May. **Plan your advertising now**—booking deadline for the next issue is Monday 6th May. Call 0438 546 519 or email gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au



2024 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

The Gwydir News is a free-to-read monthly publication, available online or for collection from local outlets. Support the news with paid advertising and advertorials, to enjoy free editorial content.

MAY	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 6 MAY
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 16 MAY
JUNE	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 10 JUNE
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 20 JUNE
JULY	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 8 JULY
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 18 JULY
AUGUST	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 5 AUGUST
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 15 AUGUST
SEPTEMBER	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 7 OCTOBER
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER
NOVEMBER	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER
DECEMBER	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 9 DECEMBER
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER

How to get your article published in The Gwydir News

Do you have some news, an article or other content that you'd like to contribute to The Gwydir News?

Submission Guidelines

The Gwydir News welcomes submissions for publishing in print. Please read the guidelines below and email your submission to gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au

Text | Text submissions should be emailed in Word or Word-compatible file format.

Text articles should be around 600 words in length.

Images | High quality images will be accepted in most formats including .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .eps etc. We are unable to publish images that have been scanned, copied or downloaded from the Internet. If you are using images that belong to someone else, please provide details and ensure you have written permission regarding their use.

To maintain quality, images should be emailed as attachments to gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au

Flyers | Flyers in .pdf format can be accepted however please consider the layout and design of your flyer elements including text. An A4 flyer, when reduced to a quarter page ad will result in illegible text.

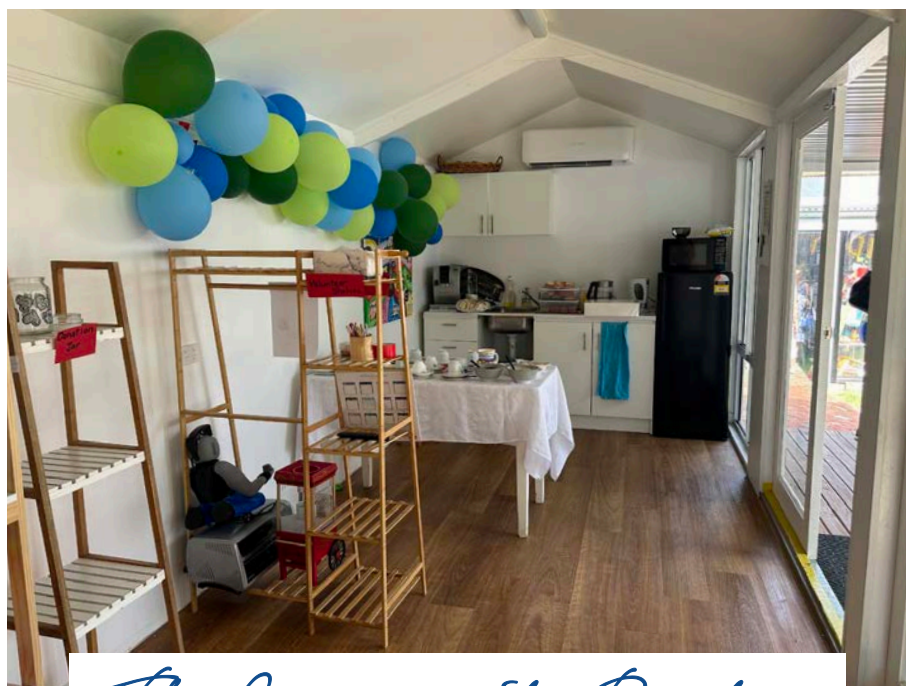
Costs | The Gwydir News supports not-for-profit organisations with reduced pricing or (occasional) free editorial space. If you are submitting content on a regular basis, or you are a business or organisation that receives income, you will need to book a paid ad to support submission of your article.

Please outline your needs by email at gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au and we will respond with a quote.

Continued from page 1

"I know this will be a fabulous thing for this community. A lot of people go to Inverell to use the Pantry up there. It will be lovely for them not to have to travel—to use this pantry and to keep things in town, so it can go back to town. I see the amazing donations that the Community Op-Shop makes to all the different organisations and the difference that makes to people is really astounding."

Op-Shop volunteers ensure the Pantry is run by the people of Bingara, for the people of Bingara with volunteers restocking the pantry shelves to meet ongoing



The Community Pantry



The pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 1pm.

demand from those in need. Regular deliveries of excess food and pantry items are donated by Bingara IGA with donations coming in from community members as well.

Businesses, sporting groups and community organisations are urged to support the Pantry by donating in any way they can, while Bingara's residents—famous for their green thumbs and quality produce—are encouraged to donate excess fruit and veggies from their gardens.

Future plans for the Pantry include stocking frozen meals and soup, and holding volunteer cooking days to utilise seasonal produce.

The pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 1pm. For a small donation of between \$1 to \$5 community members can come to the pantry and select a bag of items. The message from the Community Op-Shop's Bev Matthews is that:

"The Pantry is for everyone. Grab your grocery bags, come along and help yourself to some food and a cuppa, or donate excess items to the pantry that will help someone else. All food donations are welcome and can be dropped at the Pantry or with our Op-Shop volunteers who can assist at times outside Pantry opening hours."

You can find the Bingara Community Pantry at 25 Maitland Street with street entry through the Community Op-Shop or laneway entry via the back gate. The Pantry's sharing trolley is stocked with food items and placed at the front of the Op-Shop on weekends.

To find out how you can support the Bingara Community Op-Shop or to talk to someone about becoming a volunteer, call 0492 018 843 or email thebingaraopshop@gmail.com

Bingara's community groups support aged care residents to *(re)Live the Gwydir Good Life*



On Wednesday 20th March invited locals were treated to a heart-warming demonstration of virtual reality (VR) headsets while they were being used by residents of Touriandi Lodge. The VR headsets were donated by a consortium of community groups including local Lions, Friends of Touriandi, Bingara CWA, Bingara Senior Citizens, Bingara Legacy and the Bingara Community Op-Shop.

Touriandi's Willow Wing was filled with a surprising level of music, chatter, laughter and food as visitors and residents were expertly guided by staff to sit back for a virtual travel experience complete with afternoon tea!



NeuronsVR is a therapy tool that can help improve a resident's lifestyle in a number of ways:

- increasing empathy between carers and residents
- providing psychological wellbeing
- evoking memories of the past by transporting residents to treasured times and locations
- encouraging conversation and socialisation with group activities
- encouraging physical movement
- managing pain, anxiety and insomnia.

Touriandi Facility Manager, Darralyn Cleary, acknowledged the Bingara community and the various groups who continue to provide vital support to the Lodge and its residents, thanking them for their commitment.

"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, it's been absolutely fantastic. If our residents are having dressings or something done on the wounds on their legs, they're a little bit anxious, as we all are when we take a bandaid off, so they pop this on and they forget anyone's doing anything with any dressings."

Care Manager Christal Harding said the VR headsets were having immediate health benefits, "Clinically, we use the VR to provide a distraction for residents from their pain and when we're doing advanced wound care."

The **NeuronsVR** project got underway when Lifestyle Coordinator, Libby Ritter—recognising the value that VR Therapy could bring to Touriandi residents and particularly those living with dementia—approached the local Lions Club to ask if they could raise the money to purchase the equipment for Touriandi. The Lions got swiftly to work with other Bingara community groups and raised the funds.

The **NeuronsVR** headsets are programmed with virtual experiences that allow residents to get up-close-and-personal as they navigate unique locations, scenery and animals. Aged care VR Therapy can help unlock memories for older people and dementia sufferers as they experience a long-forgotten world of wonder.





Lions Secretary, Gail List said she was amazed when she saw how much residents were getting out of the equipment.

"Some of the residents are living with significant dementia and haven't communicated with anyone for a very long time. When the VR headsets are used on these residents they perform swimming actions, giggling and moving their legs as they experience being on the beach with their feet in the water."

"One gentleman who worked in the shearing sheds was looking around at the virtual reality shed but not taking any interest in the sheep. When he was asked about his VR experience he told staff that he used to be a shed builder so he was very interested in the construction of the building."

NeuronsVR has an extensive library of travel destinations around the world, with additional programs available for purchase so that facilities can ensure a diverse range of experiences for residents.

Anyone interested in contributing to the ongoing purchase of VR experiences can leave a donation—large or small—with Gail List at Bingara Wattle Arts and Crafts. You can find the shop at 66 Maitland Street, open weekdays between 9am and 3pm as well as Saturday mornings.

***Right:** Bingara Lions Club President, Scot Crispin prepares for a virtual journey to far-flung places!*

***Below:** Lions Club Secretary, Gail List, was amazed by her VR experiences including swimming while surrounded by fish!*



Join our Lions Club!

Be part of something much bigger and make a difference in your community.

lions australia
we serve



Living the Gwydir Good Life

Skate Park

As part of Council's Open Spaces program, earthworks are continuing at the Bingara skate park in Cunningham Park. It is expected the concrete areas will be completed by the end of April. Council will then undertake landscaping of the area in time for the opening of the park at the end of May 2024.

Scot Crispin has been a great advocate for the skate park and has arranged training for interested skaters for the July school holidays.

▼ *The drone picture below is provided courtesy of Scot Crispin*



Warialda Show Ground Amenities

Upgrading works to the Warialda Showground existing amenities building is now complete. This work complements the new accessible amenities building. This project was funded by the NSW Government Stronger Country Community Fund.

Warialda Rail Recreation Ground Amenities

After seeking quotations for a prefabricated structure, all quotations received were deemed to be too expensive and not within our project budget.

The project will now be constructed by Council's Building Service team. Construction has now commenced with the installation of sanitary drainage and pouring of the concrete building slab and access ramp. We are waiting on the arrival of building materials so that works can commence. It is hoped the project will be completed by the end of this financial year.

Important Notice

Regarding Container Homes

Are you thinking of installing a Container Home? If so, there is a potential need for council approval when considering these types of dwellings/buildings in Gwydir Shire.

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*, the installation or construction of any type of dwelling will likely require council approval (transportable and pre-manufactured dwellings and container homes are considered dwellings). In addition, the connection to the sewerage system or septic tank, and water supply systems will also require a Section 68 approval under the *Local Government Act*. These regulations ensure that building developments adhere to safety, environmental, and sustainability standards that benefit our community.

It is important to understand that failure to obtain the necessary approvals could result in fines, delays, or even the need to remove or demolish the structure altogether. Residents considering the purchase of a container home need to consult with the council's planning department before proceeding with any construction or installation.

If you have any questions or require assistance navigating the approval process, please don't hesitate to contact the planning department administration on (02) 6729 3000. We are here to support you and ensure that any developments within our community are compliant and beneficial for all.



Warialda Pool Restoration

When *The Gwydir News* was in recess Council sought feedback and suggestions through its Facebook page. Council received three replies to a request for suggestions for signage to be placed on the façade of the Warialda War Memorial Olympic Pool.

The image below illustrates the proposed signage to be

installed on the front of the building. Images will be printed on composite panels and attached to existing brick. Council is inviting comments, suggestions, and objections from the community. Submissions should be forwarded to mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au and will be received up until 5pm Friday 10 May 2024. Alternatively, you can contact Council on (02) 6729 3000, post a letter to Locked Bag 5 Bingara NSW 2404, or deliver a letter to Council's Tourist Information Centre.



Bingara Community Op-Shop

The Bingara Community Op Shop is a S355 Committee of Council. The Op Shop has installed an incredible display of handmade poppies at the Bingara Library. This display boasts over 600 poppies to commemorate ANZAC Day. The display is made up of different coloured poppies – white, red, black and purple. **Visit the library, experience the display, and learn what the different colours signify.**

There will be ANZAC Day ceremonies held at Gravesend, North Star, Croppa Creek and Bingara. For more details see the Community *What's On* page.



Plunkett Place

Council recently ran a competition to name the new Plunkett Street Development and individual buildings. The chosen names for the buildings and complex are:

Complex – Plunkett Place

Plunkett Place was chosen because of the street name and its namesake John Plunkett QC. John Plunkett was Attorney General of New South Wales from 1836 to 1941. He was determined to establish equality before the law, first by giving emancipists the right to sit on a jury, and then extending legal protections to convicts, assigned servants and Aborigines. He is most well-known for prosecuting the two Myall Creek massacre trials.

All Abilities Cottage – Koala Haven

Two Cabins – Kenny Cottages 1 and 2

The Kenny Cottages are to be named after Elizabeth Kenny who was born in 1880 in Warialda. Elizabeth was a remarkable woman, not only for her self-trained 'bush' nursing skills but because she had the strength to use and promote her own methods of treating polio. Elizabeth's methods were controversial and involved applying hot compresses followed by gentle exercise or movement. Her method of rehabilitation proved much more effective than the conventional practice of immobilising the limb in plaster casts. Elizabeth's methods and principles became the foundation of what we now know as physical therapy or physiotherapy.

The existing structure at Plunkett Place will be known as the Warialda Community Op Shop. The façade of the Op Shop will boast the valued contributions of Jimmy Bowman and how he conducted business.

The winners of the naming competition have been notified, and Gwydir Gift Cards vouchers have been issued.

Draft Plan of Management – All Nations Hill

The draft Plan of Management (PoM) for the All Nations Hill is on public exhibition commencing Monday 22 April 2024, for 29 days.

A PoM is a requirement under the Local Government Act 1993 and Crown Land Management Act 2016 for all public land classified as community land. It provides strategic planning and governance for the ongoing management and use of the reserve.

View Plans of Management

Members of the community are invited to review the plans and to lodge submissions with Council for consideration.

You may view an electronic copy of the draft All Nations Hill PoM via Council's website and printed copies will also be made available at any of Council's Administration Services Centres and Libraries.

Council officers will be available to discuss the draft All Nations Hill PoM between 10.30am and 12.30pm on Wednesday 8 May 2024 at the Bingara Customer Service Centre, 74 Maitland Street, Bingara.

Submissions

Submissions may be lodged via email with the subject Submission – Draft All Nations Hill Plan of Management in writing addressed to the General Manager.

For enquiries, please contact Council's consultant, Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd on 0428 474 542.

The draft All Nations Hill PoM is on public exhibition for 29 days from 9am 22 April 2024 to 5pm 20 May 2024. Submissions will be received until 5pm Monday 20 May 2024.

Draft Plan of Management - Gwydir Riverside Bingara

The draft Plan of Management (PoM) for the Gwydir Riverside Bingara is on public exhibition commencing Monday 22 April 2024, for 29 days.

A PoM is a requirement under the Local Government Act 1993 and Crown Land Management Act 2016 for all public land classified as community land. It provides strategic planning and governance for the ongoing management and use of the reserve.

View Plans of Management

Members of the community are invited to review the plans and to lodge submissions with Council for consideration.

You may view an electronic copy of the draft Gwydir Riverside Bingara PoM via Council's website and printed copies will also be made available at any of Council's Administration Services Centres and Libraries.

Council officers will be available to discuss the draft Gwydir Riverside Bingara PoM between 10.30am and 12.30pm on Wednesday 8 May 2024 at the Bingara Customer Service Centre, 74 Maitland Street, Bingara.

Submissions

Submissions may be lodged via email with the subject Submission – Draft Gwydir Riverside Bingara Plan of Management in writing addressed to the General Manager.

For enquiries, please contact Council's consultant, Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd on 0428 474 542.

The draft Gwydir Riverside Bingara PoM is on public exhibition for 29 days from 9am 22 April 2024 to 5pm 20 May 2024. Submissions will be received until 5pm Monday 20 May 2024.

Community Meetings

Tuesday 14 May 2024 | 6pm | Croppa Creek Bowling Club

Thursday 16 May 2024 | 6pm | The Roxy Theatre, Bingara

Tuesday 21 May 2024 | 6pm | North Star Sporting Club

Thursday 23 May 2024 | 6pm | Warialda Memorial Hall

Tuesday 28 May 2024 | 6pm | Gravesend Hall

Tuesday 4 June 2024 | 6pm | Coolatai Hall

Thursday 6 June 2024 | 6pm | Upper Horton Sporting Club



Marshall to call time on two decades of politics next month

MEMBER for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall will draw his 20-year career in public office to a close next month, announcing he would be stepping down from State politics during a recent meeting of Mayors from across the region in Inverell.

Mr Marshall said he would formally hand his resignation as the Member for Northern Tablelands the Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly on 13 May, some 11 years after he was first elected to the role.

"This is not a decision I have made lightly, but it's one I'm now very comfortable with," Mr Marshall said. "Put simply, I feel it's time for me to move on and take up new challenges.

"Coming into this role 11 years ago, it was never my intention to stay forever, believing that our region is best served by those prepared to get in, give it everything they have and then pass the baton on to fresh hands. Hopefully I have done this.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my years in public life serving the communities of Gunnedah Shire and now the people of the Northern Tablelands, as a Councillor, Mayor, State MP and a Minister.

"Their support for me has been overwhelming and heart-warming. It's been an honour and a privilege to serve rural communities and country people and I thank them sincerely for that opportunity over the last two decades.

"We have achieved some incredible things together and I will always cherish the friendships I have made and the interaction I have had with people during my time in the role."

Mr Marshall said post politics he intended pursuing opportunities in the corporate world and in his own personal life.

"This is a demanding and all-consuming role to do properly and it inevitably takes its toll," he said.

"I've come to the conclusion that despite absolutely loving our region, its people and my role as a local State MP, I cannot put this move off any longer. This will be the end of representative politics for me."

"While there will be plenty of time for reflection over the next five weeks and beyond, for me, I'm firmly focussed on the work I still have to do, which I intend to carry out with the same enthusiasm and energy as I always have."

<https://www.adammarshall.com.au/make-your-voice-heard-rural-regional-crime-inquiry-begins/>

Make your voice heard: Rural and regional crime inquiry begins

NORTHERN Tablelands MP Adam Marshall is encouraging local residents to contribute to the newly-established regional crime inquiry to ensure communities across the region have their say on law and order issues.

Mr Marshall said the inquiry, spearheaded by NSW Country Mayors Association Chairman Jamie Chaffey, was the result of months of campaigning to convince the government of the need to examine the issues behind the incidence and severity of crime in the regions.

"Make no mistake, this inquiry is all thanks to the hard work of Jamie Chaffey and the Country Mayors Association who, along with the Police Association, NSW Farmers, the CWA, and members of the opposition, called on the government to once and for all, take action on combatting regional crime," Mr Marshall said.

"I backed the need for this inquiry from day one as I too believed it was the only way that we could properly assess the situation, identify whole of government solutions, and put in place long-term measures that will address the issue, and hopefully, provide residents in rural and regional areas with some peace of mind.

"Of course I remain incredibly grateful to Premier Chris Minns for the support and assistance shown for Moree, but this in no way negated the need for a broader and more in-depth examination of these issues across all rural and regional areas."

Mr Marshall discussed the inquiry and its terms of reference with Mr Chaffey, along with other mayors from the Northern Tablelands, who had gathered at Parliament House for a meeting of CMA members today, with regional crime at the top of the agenda.

"I certainly welcome the inquiry, but the hard work has only just begun; we've lost six valuable months while the government dragged its feet on this, so it's important that we mobilise now, and create real momentum towards achieving meaningful outcomes for the regions," Mr Marshall said.

"And that's where our local communities come in; I'm encouraging anyone who would like to tell their story and contribute to this important initiative, to make your voice count by lodging a submission to the inquiry.

"I've already written to the committee chair requesting that the committee conduct one of the various regional hearings in our region, to ensure they see firsthand our issues,

concerns and hear some of the solutions.

"This parliamentary inquiry is a fantastic step, alongside bail reform legislation introduced this week, and will go a long way to examine the causes of youth crime in rural and regional NSW."

Mr Marshall said the Inquiry is accepting public submissions until 31 May 2024.

For more information and to lodge a submission, visit www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=3042

<https://www.adammarshall.com.au/make-your-voice-heard-rural-regional-crime-inquiry-begins/>

Best wishes to Adam Marshall

I would like to pay tribute to Adam Marshall for the significant contribution he's made over the last 11 years as the State Member for Northern Tablelands.

Adam has always been a fierce advocate for the communities in his electorate and has fought hard to secure an enormous amount of funding for the region.

I've enjoyed working with him on various projects over the years and know he will be missed by his constituents.

I wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Federal Member for Parkes, Mark Coultan paid tribute to Adam Marshall on announcement of his retirement from politics



Business for Sale

\$9,000+SAV

Dewberry Lane



Are you interested in operating your own retail fashion business?

Dewberry Lane Boutique Fashion & Accessories—a gorgeous retail business located at 64 Maitland Street, Bingara, is for sale.

With a mix of ladies clothing, footwear, accessories and gifts, this business currently has a customer base consisting of a solid mix of dedicated locals and delighted visitors.

There is great potential to further develop this business; to explore marketing opportunities, to increase online sales or social media presence. The choice could be yours!

Priced at \$9,000 plus SAV, this is an excellent way to create your own workplace environment, with the flexibility of deciding your own work/life ratio.

If you would like to pursue the possibility of owning and operating your own fashion retail business, please contact Lenore Kennedy by email: dewberrylanebingara@gmail.com or phone **0428 977 923** or call in for a chat at 64 Maitland Street, Bingara.

SADDLEMAKER

CUSTOM SADDLES & REPAIRS

MR BOB BOWDEN

0427 741 952

bobbowdensaddles@hotmail.com

More Carinda happenings

Mothers Day is fast approaching so why not drop into Carinda and select something unique and handmade for your special mum.

Members of Carinda have been kept busy over March and April. A working bee was held on April 1st to refresh the upstairs area. Still more needs to be done but the workers were satisfied with what was achieved. Betsy was kept busy altering curtains and covering two dining room chairs. A big thank you from everyone and the chairs look fantastic!

In March we were all saddened at the sudden death of Carinda member and long time supporter, Fay Cains. Many members attended Fay's funeral and formed a Guard of Honour at the conclusion of the service. Our condolences are extended to Fay's family.

Condolences are also extended to Carinda members Sue Smith and Dulcie Ryan who both lost sons recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with you both at this very sad time.

On March 21st Carinda hosted a well-attended meeting with Inspector Duane McPherson from Inverell district. In-

spector McPherson was invited to speak with Carinda and community members regarding the concerns of policing in Warialda. This was in response to a letter written to Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands, from Warialda Cultural Community Centre (Carinda) regarding the concerns mentioned above. Inspector McPherson emphasised the need to report any incident (no matter how small); for everyone to lock homes, cars, sheds and for everyone to look out for neighbours, the elderly and those living alone.

On Monday March 8th Carinda hosted a morning tea for the group of caravanners who stayed at the Showground and the Caravan Park. What a great group of people!

The morning tea was very successful and a promise was made that the word would be spread about Carinda and Warialda. Many thanks to the Golf and Bowling Club, and Michael Collins in particular, for all their organisation. The group really enjoyed their stay in Warialda.

On Thursday April 11th, the postponed AGM was held and the following ladies were elected to executive positions:

President - Lanna Hockley

Vice Presidents – Margaret Haug and Jenny Devlin

Secretary – Marilyn Stubbins

Treasurer – Carmel Stevenson.

Congratulations to these ladies who are always supported by the Warialda Cultural Community members.

Coming up on Thursday May 23rd is the Biggest Morning Tea where all funds raised go to the Cancer Council for Research projects. Warialda Cultural Community Centre (Carinda) is registered with the Cancer Council so put Thursday May 23rd in your diary. A delicious morning tea, Guest speaker and entertainment is on the agenda!

News from Warialda Hospital Auxiliary

Warialda Hospital Auxiliary members held their April meeting on Monday April 15th at the MPS.

The meeting agreed to the purchase of bed cradles and a power lift recliner for long stay patients. These were items on the wish list provided by MPS Health Manager Mel Austin.

The Auxiliary provides equipment/items for patients and staff at Warialda MPS.

Currently, Auxiliary members are selling tickets in a BBQ Weber which will be drawn in May. Please support the Auxiliary by purchasing your tickets at \$2 or 3 for \$5.

The popular Market Night has been booked at the Golf and Bowling Club for Saturday November 16th so please put that date in your diary. There are great prizes to be won on this family friendly night out which is just in time for some Christmas gifts.

At the conclusion of the meeting members enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea.

The next meeting of the Auxiliary will be on Monday July 1st at the MPS with a 2.00pm start. This will also be the AGM. New members are always welcome.

NAROO BED REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Naroo is in the process of purchasing new beds for the facility.

Members of the community are encouraged to make a small donation if they are interested in purchasing an existing bed when the new beds arrive in 4-6 weeks time.



GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL





**SAVE
THE
DATE**

GRAZING
on the
GWYDIR

SATURDAY 31 AUGUST 2024

UVER UVER THE *Gwydir*

Help save our local koalas

Have your say in the next phase of the NSW Koala Strategy

Elizabeth Kakoschke | NW Regional Koala ARKS Landcare Group



◀ Gwydir Shire Koala @ Bingara & Warialda (March 2024)

to travel hundreds of km to receive specialist care.

- To fund research
- To restore critical habitat, control invasive weeds and feral animals.
- To connect tree corridors to allow koala and other native animals safe passage.

The NSW Government has opened up a chance for local organisations, Landholders and individuals to have a say in the next phase of the NSW Koala Strategy via an online questionnaire.

Not all questions need to be answered, but please share your thoughts about our local koalas and their needs and share them with the NSW Government koala taskforce.



Despite local efforts, our Western Koala populations are unfortunately not yet recognised as a viable koala population by the NSW Government.

At Gunnedah, sadly the once 'Koala Capital of the World', there has been a catastrophic population decline of koala due to loss of viable habitat, disease and the impact of extremely hot summers. Gunnedah is still eligible for funding even though this sad decline has already occurred.

Our area is currently not eligible for any koala funding as data has either been

'lost' or not considered to be from a viable source.

Our area needs to act now to preserve our remaining koala populations.

Currently koalas recorded in Gwydir Shire appear to be in good health and breeding is occurring.

Why is funding needed people might ask?

There are several reasons why funding is needed and here are just a few:

- To establish a designated NW NSW Koala Treatment facility. Currently all seriously injured or sick koala have

Visit the following link to download the Reviewing the **NSW Koala Strategy Discussion Paper** and complete the online questionnaire to have your say:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/programs-legislation-and-framework/nsw-koala-strategy/reviewing-the-nsw-koala-strategy/consultation-form>

Online questionnaire closes 26 April 2024.

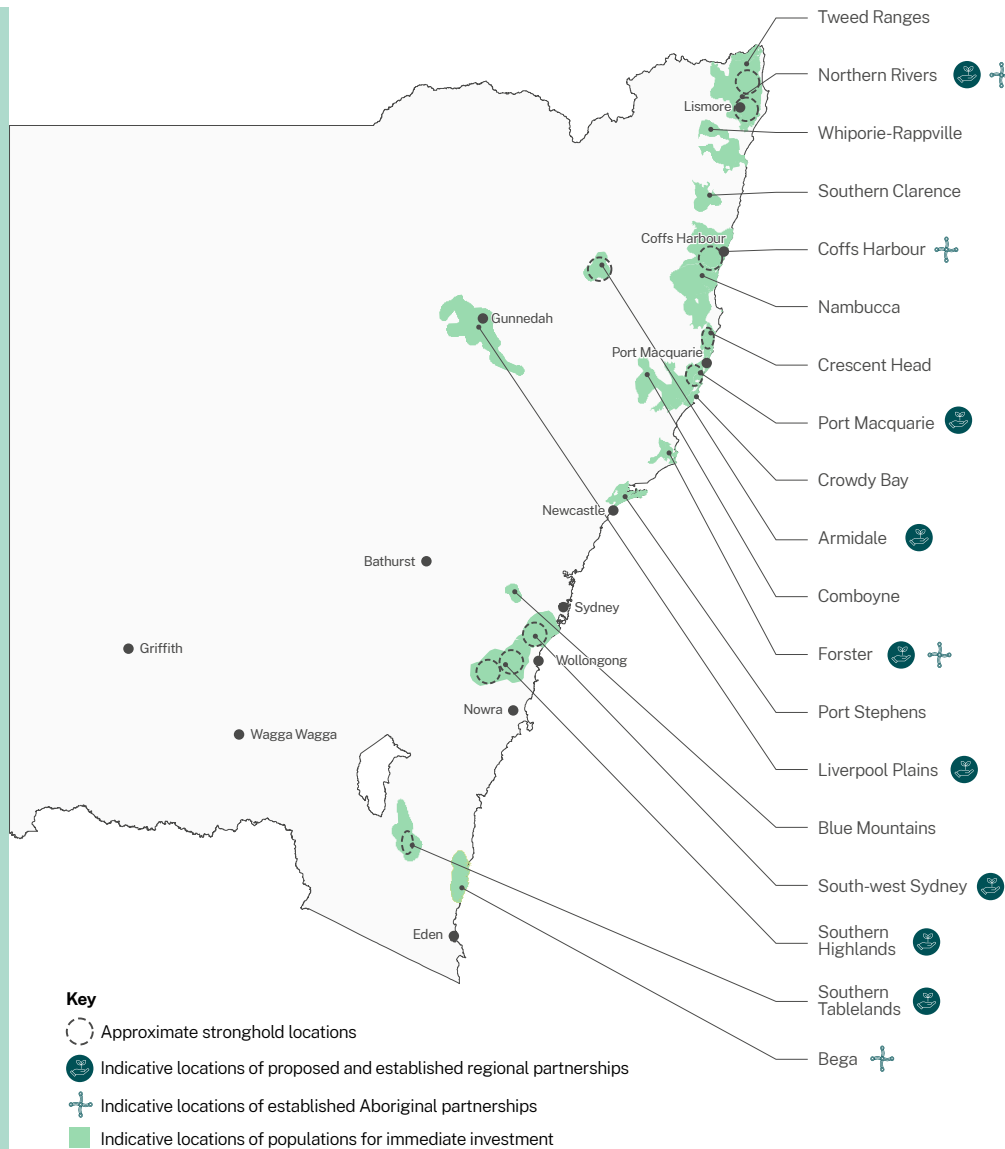


Figure 2 | Populations for immediate investment, stronghold locations, regional partnerships and Aboriginal partnerships as identified under the current Strategy



State of New South Wales and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (2024) *Reviewing the NSW Koala Strategy Discussion Paper*, p.10.



CHALLENGE
Community Services

DOG WASH

Every Thursday from 12.00pm to 2.30pm
2/2 Hall St, Warialda
Message Alysha Clarke on Facebook





HOT FOOD | FUEL | SNACKS

0267 241 520

56 FINCH STREET, BINGARA NSW

WE'RE BRINGING THE CLASSIES BACK!

BIRTHS

Joe and Jenny Smith
of Gwydir are proud to announce the birth of a daughter, on November 1st, weighing (GST Inclusive) \$20.00 at birth. She is welcomed by her brother, Joey, and sister, Jacqueline.

\$20.00
(GST Inclusive)

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Sam Gordon, a long-time resident of Gwydir, who passed away on November 1st, 2023. No more, but always and ever near.

\$13.00
(GST Inclusive)

House-Sitting

Reliable, trustworthy and experienced house-sitter available for your home. References available. **\$15.00** (GST Inclusive) per day! Call 0123 567 890

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COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE GWYDIR SHIRE AND SURROUNDS

THE
Gwydir
NEWS

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The Perfect Candidate

The North West Theatre Company's Film Club April offer is the beautifully crafted and presented "The Perfect Candidate".

April is our foreign film month and this April we show "The Perfect Candidate", a contemporary 2019 Saudi Arabian film directed by Haifaa al-Mansour. The story revolves around a young Saudi female doctor named Maryam who decides to run for local office in her conservative society.

The film offers a compelling story that sheds light on the complexities of gender dynamics and political participation in Saudi Arabia. Through Maryam's journey, the audience gains insight into the struggles faced by women in a male-dominated society and the gradual shifts towards empowerment and equality.

Viewers should consider watching "The Perfect Candidate" for its engaging storytelling, thought-provoking themes, and its portrayal of a changing Saudi Arabian society. It offers a unique perspective on the challenges and triumphs of women navigating the realms of politics and social change, making it a relevant and compelling film for audiences worldwide.

Younger people, particularly women and girls, can find inspiration in the film's protagonist, Maryam, as she defies societal norms and takes on the challenge of running for office. Her journey highlights the importance of representation in politics and encourages young individuals to pursue their aspirations despite facing obstacles.

For all audiences "The Perfect Candidate" provides a poignant portrayal of gender inequality and the struggle for women's rights. The film prompts discussions about the barriers women face in male-dominated fields and the importance of dismantling patriarchal structures.

Overall, "The Perfect Candidate" serves as a compelling and relevant cinematic experience for all audiences, offering them a platform to engage with pressing social issues, contemplate the power of activism, and envision a more inclusive and equitable future.

"The Perfect Candidate" will show on Sunday April 28 at the Roxy Theatre, Bingara at 4.00pm. New members are always welcome.

FROM HAIFAA AL MANSOUR THE TRAILBLAZING DIRECTOR OF WADJDA

"SMASHES THE
SAUDI GLASS CEILING"

TOTAL FILM



THE GUARDIAN

"ENTHRALLING WORK
OF SUBTLE POWER"

BACKSEAT MAFIA



LITTLE WHITE LIES

"A TIMELY, SPIRITED
FEEL-GOOD MOVIE"

PUNCH DRUNK CRITICS



THE SKINNY

THE PERFECT CANDIDATE



The North West Theatre Company Film Club presents

The Perfect Candidate

Sunday April 28th 2024 | 4:00pm | The Roxy Theatre

EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCES 2024

Whalebone at The Roxy Theatre

Saturday 27 April 2024

WHALEBONE is a highly visual family show full of surprises and stage wonders. A compelling theatre adventure where quirky inventions and contraptions, dazzling interactive video and computer animations, robotics, a pinch of circus and magically flying objects are all part of the storytelling.

Suitable for families and children in Years 1-7. Bookings via <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1205220?>



A Fish That Wanted To Fly at The Roxy Theatre

Thursday 8 August 2024

The Fish That Wanted to Fly is about having the courage to pursue something even if it seems likely you will never reach it.

Prepare to spend the day in Bingara alternating between a play and having fun at The Living Classroom. Recommended for 3 - 10 years of age. \$10pp.

Little Red in the Hood at the Warialda Memorial Hall

Thursday 26 September 2024

Little Red loves her Granny and her neighbourhood! She's like a super-hero in a hoodie- always on the lookout for litterbugs and people who don't know how to Recycle. Everyone in "the hood" thinks Red is pretty amazing! Of course, every story has a troublemaker and this one has Walter – The Big Bad Wolf!

Suitable for ages 4 -11 years and families. \$5pp.



TryBooking details will be released closer to the performance date. For enquiries, please contact the Bingara Visitor Information Centre by simply calling in, or by phone on 02 6724 0066, or via email at bingaratourism@gwydir.nsw.gov.au



3G closure

Find out what you need to know

Telstra is switching off 3G from 30 June 2024. The 3G closure will help Telstra provide better service to their customers, but what will it mean for you? Find out in a free Tech Savvy Seniors session at your local Community College campus.

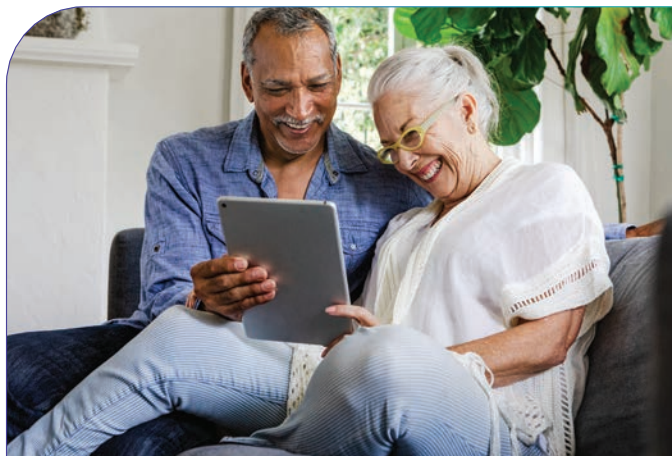
If you have a device that can only use 3G, you won't be able to connect to Telstra's network after 30 June 2024. Telstra has a clear message for anyone using a 3G-only device, **act now to stay connected**.

Once the 3G network closes, any device that can only connect to 3G will no longer be able to send a signal, initiate a data session, voice call or send an SMS. To be clear, if somebody needs emergency help and dials 000, or has a medical emergency that requires help and presses an alert button that relies on 3G, the alert will not be sent. This could delay an emergency response.

Phones aren't the only devices that can be affected by the 3G network closure. Devices such as tablets, mobile broadband modems, smart watches, medical alerts, some home security systems, and other connected devices might also be using 3G services.

In spite of the fact that Australia's major mobile network operators have been preparing customers for the 3G network closures for the past two years, many people—particularly older people who are more likely to be using older technologies—are unaware that their 3G-only devices need to be upgraded and the time to act is running out.

Community College Northern Inland provides free digital training for eligible people through the Tech Savvy Seniors program. Join a class where you'll learn how to identify 3G devices not compatible with Telstra's 4G network, what sort of 4G/5G mobile device you need, how to dispose of your old 3G device and more. Register your interest in the **Closure of Telstra's 3G** session now by calling 0438 546 519.



Tech Savvy Seniors

A NSW Government initiative
in partnership with Telstra



Get Digital with Tech Savvy Seniors

Tech Savvy Seniors technology sessions are free for beginners to learn how to get the most out of using technology. Topics planned for this term include:

Accessibility Features

During this short interactive workshop you'll familiarise yourself with accessing and using accessibility features on your devices. Develop your understanding of:

- the types of features available and why these may be useful, regardless of any personal accessibility requirements;
- the specific features that will assist with any personal disability to make using your device easier;
- how to navigate to different accessibility features and enable/disable them.

Closure of Telstra's 3G

Telstra is switching off 3G from 30 June 2024. The 3G closure will help Telstra provide better service to their customers, but what will it mean for you?



Contact the college on 0438 546 519 to express your interest in enrolling in these important workshops.



Find out what you need to know about Australia's 3G network closure and what you need to do to stay connected. Register for a free class by phoning 0438 546 519.

Free stretch classes for Gwydir Shire residents

Residents in the Gwydir Shire will soon be able to benefit from free stretch classes to help improve mobility, strength, balance and overall health, while also reducing stress.

Yoga teacher Kaz Bishton, from **Selah Yoga**, is running the free classes throughout May and June, thanks to funding from the Hunter New England and Central Coast PHN and support from the Bingara Node of the Southern Queensland and Northern NSW (SQNNNSW) Innovation Hub.

Kaz said she was offering Sit & Stretch classes in Bingara, Barraba and Manilla, as well as men's-only stretch classes in Bingara and Barraba.

"The one-hour sessions help people with their mobility, range of movement, strength and balance as well as offering breathing and relaxation techniques to reduce stress, tension and encourage improved sleep," she said.

"These gatherings improve your overall health and provide a great social outing. In regional areas like ours, it is so important to make time to connect with our friends and neighbours."

Kaz said her men's classes had proven extremely popular in the past, as they gave local men a place to catch up with mates and release some of the tightness in their bodies.

"Men are more inclined to put their health on the backburner, and only deal with issues as they become a problem," she said.

"As a result, men are more likely to develop and sustain back, knee and shoulder injuries. Thankfully, we are starting to see more men looking after their bodies – even professional sportsmen and teams now build yoga and pilates into their fitness regimes."

Both the Men's Stretch and the Sit & Stretch classes also teach relaxation techniques to combat the stresses of general life. This can help improve your sleep and better cope with day-to-day demands.

A recent participant started going to Kaz's classes because his wife had noticed he was getting wound up with the stress of work and drought.

"I kept going because I realised the benefits of stretching and breathing to free up the tightness and strain that your body develops from stress and lack of beneficial exercise," he said.

Janelle Schafer, the Bingara Extension and Adoption Officer with the

SQNNNSW Innovation Hub, said she was pleased to support this program of stretch classes for the local community.

"Maintaining overall health and wellbeing is critical in managing the daily pressures of farming or living in an isolated area," she said. "We're very grateful to Kaz for offering this service – she is a highly experienced yoga teacher who understands the benefits that these classes can bring to men and women of all ages."

Sit & Stretch classes will be held at the following locations:

Bingara: Thursdays, May 2 until June 27, 12pm - 1pm Gwydir Health Hub.

Barraba: Tuesdays, May 14 until June 25, 4pm - 5pm, Barraba Golf Club.

Manilla: Wednesdays, May 1 until June 26, 12pm - 1pm, Louis Johnson House (opp. Manilla Hospital).

Men's Stretch classes will be held at:

Bingara: Thursdays, May 2 until June 27, 6.45pm - 7.45pm, Gwydir Health Hub.

Barraba: Tuesdays, May 14 until June 25, 7pm - 8pm, Barraba Golf Club.

Numbers are limited for all classes and bookings are essential. Phone Kaz on 0429 647 928.

Stretch FREE

FREE CLASSES AT BINGARA, BARRABA, MANILLA

SIT & STRETCH

BINGARA

Thursdays, May 2 until June 27, 12pm - 1pm
Gwydir Health Hub

BARRABA

Tuesdays, May 14 - June 25, 4pm - 5pm, Barraba Golf Club

MANILLA

Wednesdays, May 1 until June 26, 12pm - 1pm, Louis Johnson House (opp. Manilla Hospital)

MEN'S STRETCH

BINGARA

Thursdays from May 2 until June 27, 6.45 - 7.45pm
Gwydir Health Hub

BARRABA

Tuesdays from May 14 until June 25, 7 - 8pm
The Barraba Golf Club

Maybe head out afterwards for a drink and catch up with mates.

BOOKINGS: Kaz on 0429 647 928

This program is run by Selah Yoga, thanks to funding from the Hunter New England and Central Coast PHN, and support from the Bingara Node of the Southern Queensland and Northern NSW Innovation Hub.



BINGARA DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Military Museum
Thursday 25th April
open for viewing
9.00AM - 10.30AM

Monthly Meeting
Bingara Museum
Friday 17th May at 10.30am

Local History
Story Telling Event
Bingara Museum
Wed 22nd May at 9.30am



Bingara

Garden Club

Section C of the Bingara Garden Club Drive-by Encouragement Award for March 2024 was won by Jeff and Jane O'Donnell of 10 Gwydir Terrace. A lovely revamped garden with flowering salvias and crepe myrtles make a neat street appearance. House and garden fit well together and make a simple eye catching impression.



News from Bingara Central School



From the Principal

Stage 3-6 Crime Story

It's 2.00am, dark and cold and three beeps have just sounded to indicate that there has been a serious crime committed. Our detectives have been called to the scene to observe and interpret what they see. From Stage 3 – 6 our Orange Police rose to the rank of Detectives to explore the evidence left behind in a perfect example of hands-on literacy.

Luke and Brenda from Crime Story spent two days inspiring our students to tell stories through experiential learning. They shared their expertise as teachers and former NSW Police Officers and challenged students to observe and evaluate a scene before putting that curiosity into their creative writing.

We can confidently say that this has been a most popular activity that will continue to be explored in classroom learning in the coming weeks. What better way to put all our Grit dispositions of resilience, creativity,

self-motivation, engagement and reflection into practice.

MC Athletics

Our MC Class attended the Inverell Sporting Complex for a come and try Athletics Day. Miss Mandy, Ms Mead, Miss Lucie and Mr Stratford accompanied Zander, Roman, Anton and Novak on what was a very busy day.

Students were able to participate in a non-competitive environment with students from schools including Tenterfield, Glen Innes and Inverell High Schools, Ross Hill, Inverell and Yetman Primary Schools and Bundarra Central School.

Whilst discus, running and relay races were all enjoyed it was Javelin that was most popular. Well done to our MC Class on their efforts.



Sydney Royal Easter Show Success

Bingara Central School has had an amazing week of achievement at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Our students, with the BCS steer, placed third in the Purebred Steer—Schools and Open category and Addison D was awarded with a Highly Commended in the Beef Cattle Paraders' Competition.

It has been a week of very early starts and long days gaining invaluable experience and making new friends.

Our students were able to qualify for this prestigious and iconic show through local events with the support and assistance of Mr Mill. We would like to thank the families of Addison, George and Montanna who have made a huge commitment to ensure they were able to attend this event.



Year 1 Shaving Cream Fun

Mrs Caban's students discovered just how much fun learning can be recently as they explored spelling and making shapes with shaving cream. By getting messy and writing their names and spelling words students were also developing their fine motor skills.

This proved to be a popular activity and there was some strong competition for



the highest shaving cream tower. In the end it was a tight contest but Olympia P was declared the winner.



Year 1 Careers

At Bingara Central School we value the opportunity to be able to offer a Careers Syllabus from Kindergarten to Year 12 through the wonderful and

resourceful Ms Gasson.

Year 1 explored a variety of career options, discussing what each job entails, where job opportunities exist and who might want to do certain types of activities.

After choosing a job that they were interested in each student was required to create a tool that could be used in that profession. Ms Gasson's green playdough made this an extra fun activity.



Ag Plot Update

Stage 5 have been busy in the Ag Plot this morning as they prepare for the Northern Schools Prime Lamb Competition being held in Inverell. Our 11 students will be amongst several hundred others from other schools from across the region who will attend.

As Autumn settles, the ground is also being readied for oats that will soon be planted to help feed our stock. This is an opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience using a tractor under the supervision of Mr McGowan.



Year 2

Mrs McGowan's Year 2 students have been very busy this term and it only takes a look around their classroom to see why. Throughout the past few weeks, they have been reading, writing, painting, creating and typing their way through various texts including Sophie Scott Goes South, Koala Lou, Peggy, Where the Wild Things Are and Koala Ark.



We love how creative they have been in exploring these texts, including drawing their own interpretation of the Gwydir River when learning about drought and flood, building their dioramas after discussing the story of Where the Wild Things Are and creating koala collages.

Congratulations Liam J

After successful selection in the North West Under 15's Touch Football side, Liam spent the last few days in Mudgee earlier this term playing in the State Touch Football Championships.

They were very competitive and finished 8th overall, which is the best result they have had in recent years.

Liam also displayed plenty of speed in the 4 x 100m novelty relay. Well done Liam!

Brooke Wall

Principal
Bingara Central School

News from Warialda Public School



From the Principal

The students of Warialda Public School continue to thrive with the most incredible teachers, facilities and opportunities.

As Term 1 draws to a close, it's a great opportunity to stop and reflect upon all of the wonderful progress made by our students in the past ten weeks. Each student must be congratulated on their application and commitment to personal growth and achievement.

Recently, our school participated in the Preston Campbell Cup in Inverell. This event saw 11 schools from across our area converge on Kamilaroi Oval with 55 teams participating in a non-competitive day of league and league tag. Our school sent no less than 107 students to this event and to say they had a good time was an understatement. It was a fabulous opportunity for students to meet peers from nearby schools, share a laugh

and develop all important teamwork skills. Thanks to Bradley Field from the NRL for making this event such a resounding success.

Our annual K-2 Easter Bonnet Parade was quite the spectacle with our students bopping, hopping and dancing to some catchy tunes whilst showing off their hats. This event is always very special as it ultimately gives us an excuse to come together as a school community and catch up prior to Easter. The event culminated with the Monster Easter Egg Raffle being drawn. Our sincere thanks is extended to all of the families who donated prizes for this P&C fundraiser.

A great initiative that is undertaken at WPS is that of leather craft. Our resident Chaplain – Mr Bill McIntosh teaches our students the finer skills of leather craft with some of our older students currently working on impressive projects such as belts, stockwhips and general leather plaits. This is such an awesome initiative and we are truly grateful for Mr McIntosh taking his time to share these lifelong skills.

Our PSSA Knockout commitments have commenced. Warialda Public School has had immense success in recent years in knockout events and this is directly attributed to the time, care and dedication of our staff who coach teams. Our school proudly enters the State Knockout in as many sports as possible as we wholeheartedly believe that it is our responsibility to give all of our students as many opportunities as possible. We know that all of our students excel in different areas and by having a diverse range of offerings on hand, there really is an opportunity for every student to find success!

Our Year 5 and 6 students are currently preparing for the upcoming Premier's Debating Challenge. Each year, WPS

enters at least two teams in this amazing program where students participate in a series of debates against other teams from across our region. Whilst we typically think of contact sports as being tough, debating takes incredible courage as students are required to argue or rebut in front of an audience which is certainly quite intimidating. We look forward to this program starting shortly.

Our famous Running Club continues to grow and build momentum. The last week or so has been difficult as daylight savings has made it harder to get out of bed in time! Our plan is to maintain this activity until at least the Inverell Zone Cross Country to ensure that students have the opportunity to train leading up to this event. We're also pleased to announce that we've had Running Club visors made! Why not!

An exciting project that we are working on is the erection of totem poles throughout the school. As part of this project, renowned First Nations artist – Jodie Herden will be visiting our school shortly to work with students, staff and community to ensure that these totems are designed to include images that reflect our community. We are so excited about this project and know that it will be a truly meaningful finished product that we can all be proud of.

Another opportunity just around the corner is a Language and Culture Camp to be held online – Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay Yuwaalayaay. This will be made available to students in Years 5 and 6 commencing on the 8th of May.

Dan van Velthuisen
Principal
Warialda Public School

News from St Josephs School Warialda



From the Principal

What a busy Term 1 we have had at St Josephs!

February

We welcomed Julie O'Brien to our staff. Julie brings a wealth of knowledge with over 30+ years of experience and commitment to education. Julie will be teaching Kindergarten – Year 3. Welcome Julie!

We elected our Leadership Team for 2024. School captain Jada Jones, Sports Captain Katana Allen-Grande and Vice Captain Lauren Bates.

St Josephs hosted a combined Swimming Carnival with Pallamallawa and Gravesend Public Schools. Students from all schools competed enthusiastically both in the pool and with their war-cries. Congratulations to Joey's students Jaxon Moore and Lauren Bates who took out 11-year old boys and girls aged champions.

Staff and students celebrated Shrove

Tuesday by cooking and sharing a pancake morning tea. Shrove Tuesday is a traditional feast day celebrated to mark the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

March

March 1st was World Day of Prayer.

Students held a joint prayer liturgy, welcoming parishioners from various religious orders within our town to pray together. Thank you to all attendees.

Students sold chocolates to raise money for the Year 5 and 6 camp. Thank you to everyone who supported these fundraising efforts.

Naplan: Our Year 3 and 5 students sat for their Naplan testing in Writing, Reading, Mathematics and Reading Conventions. All students gave it their best and should be proud of their efforts in this challenging task!

Students from years 3 – 6 attended the Preston Campbell Cup in Inverell, to compete in a 7-side tag and tackle competition. Well done to everyone who competed and to Eva Hodgkinson, Isaac Moore and Isaac Moxey for being awarded best and fairest.

April

The St Joeys P&F held their annual BBQ at the Warialda Races on April 6th. All proceeds made will go towards the grade 5 and 6 camp. Thank you to all who contributed to this great cause

Families are welcome to join staff and students for the ANZAC Day March on Thursday April 25. We will be meeting in front of the Warialda Medical Centre at 10:30am.

We hope everyone has a fun, safe and happy school holidays and look forward to everyone's return for Term 2!

Term 2 Dates:

Wednesday 1st May – Friday 5th July

Mathew Mills

Principal

St Josephs School Warialda



Newly elected: School captain Jada Jones, Sports Captain Katana Allen-Grande and Vice Captain Lauren Bates.



Congratulations to Jaxon Moore and Lauren Bates who took out 11-year old boys and girls aged champions.



Students cooking and sharing a pancake morning tea in celebration of Shrove Tuesday.



Eva Hodgkinson, Isaac Moore and Isaac Moxey awarded best and fairest.



What lies beneath our feet?

A short course in pasture grass identification

Did you know there are approximately 400 grass species in our area, over half of which (251) are native? So, those green or brown paddocks you see when driving around are actually often havens of biodiversity.

On Wednesday 20th March, George Truman from the NW LLS, with support from Northern Slopes Landcare Association, delivered a great short field day at Terry Hie Hie Hall. The morning started off with a whirlwind tour of flower structure. This is the main feature used to identify grasses, and, for the natives especially, now is the best time of year to do that. George has about 50 grasses currently in flower in pots which provides a great visual tool to help us understand what makes a panicle, spike, raceme etc (also makes for interesting jigsaw puzzle packing his vehicle at the end of the morning)!

Lachlan Biddle from Moree Plains Shire Council then had a quick chat about biosecurity issues, particularly in relation to plants. Most of the priority weeds in the area are in fact shrubs, not grasses, but it was a great for Lachie to meet the farmers in attendance so they know who to contact if there are any weeds of concern spotted.

George and Justine McNally (District Vet, Moree) then talked a little about toxicity and certain plants to be aware of when grazing stock. The take-home messages from which were – don't put hungry stock in a paddock, and the more diversity the better.

To top off the morning, we had a short 30 minutes to identify grasses (and one weed) in the paddock and in pots that George had tagged during morning tea. Great to see that within 20 metres of where we were sitting there were at least 15 different species (probably many more, just without their flowers).

We left armed with a suite of resources so we could continue improving our knowledge and understanding of these important plants, and how best to encourage a range of species for increased pasture resilience, stock health and biodiversity.



Copeton Dam Level

63% as at 16 April 2024

COOLATAI VINTAGE TRACTOR PULL

2 DAYS **18TH & 19TH MAY 2024**



The Coolatai Sports Council, in conjunction with the Riverina Vintage Machinery Club, are holding their next annual vintage tractor pull on the 18th and 19th of May 2024.
Entry is by gold coin donation at the gate.



Along with the usual tractor pull events, which will be conducted over both days, there will also be static car, truck and engine displays and various market stalls. Catering will be provided onsite for both days.



Saturday will run from 9.00am until 5.00pm and Sunday will run from 8.00am until 1.00pm.

There is camping available at the sports ground. All camping will be \$5 per night.

There are toilet and shower facilities located at the sports ground. No arrivals before Thursday.

There are no powered sites available.



COOLATAI VINTAGE

TRACTOR PULL

If you would like more information regarding the tractor pull, please contact

Chris Gooda on 0437 600 914

For more information regarding holding market stalls, call or text **Jodie Brandon on 0490 712 836**

Are you a Veteran?

According to the 2021 census there were 554 veterans in the Inverell Legacy area. Over 200 of them are not known to Legacy or local RSL Sub-Branches. Inverell Legacy wants to make contact with these veterans, because their families may be eligible for Legacy assistance.

A veteran is;

- any person who served, or is serving, as a Defence Member in the Australian Defence Force (ADF), OR
- any other person who was a member of or officially attached to the Defence Force of any part of the Commonwealth of Nations who served in a War or Operational Area.

Eligibility for Legacy has changed in recent years. Assistance now extends to the families of members of the ADF who have conditions accepted by DVA (Gold or White card holders), as well as those who have died.

The following groups of people may be eligible for assistance from Legacy:

- Partners of any deceased veteran regardless of the area of service
- Partners of deceased veterans, who re-partnered, but have since become single again
- Children of deceased veterans who
 - are aged under 18
 - have a disability (regardless of age)
 - are 18-25 and still studying
- The partner and/or children of veterans who have a DVA Gold or White card
- Another close relative who was wholly or substantially financially supported by the deceased veteran, allied veteran or member of the mercantile services at the time of death.

Legacy can also refer veterans who have not made a DVA claim to a qualified advocate who will help them lodge a claim (at no cost).

Even if you do not think that you are eligible or you were not eligible in the past, please ask! It costs nothing.

Eligibility is subject to individual circumstances. In some cases, further investigation will be required to determine eligibility.

For more information, contact Inverell Legacy, on (02) 6722 1945 or email inverell.legacy@gmail.com

WARIALDA ANZAC DAY Commemorations

Thursday 25 April 2024

Dawn Service

6.00am - Captain Cook Park

Gunfire Breakfast

6.30am - Golf and Bowling Club

\$2 gold coin donation to Legacy

Dawn Service attendees are welcome

March and Laying of Wreaths

10.30am - assemble in Hope Street at Captain Cook Park

10.45am - March starts from Captain Cook Park and proceeds along Hope Street to the Memorial Hall

10.55am - Laying of Wreaths out the front of the Memorial Hall

Commemorative Service

11.00am - Memorial Hall

Luncheon

12.30pm - Memorial Hall

Catering by the Warialda CWA

All current and ex-service personnel and their partners are invited

For bookings, please call Charles on 0428 457 237

Two-up

Golf and Bowling Club - all proceeds to Legacy

Commercial Hotel - all proceeds to Legacy

For more information, please call Charles on 0428 457 237

BINGARA ANZAC Day

Thursday 25 April 2024

*Lest we
forget*

Dawn Service at 6.00am

Followed by breakfast at the Bingara RSL Club

March assembles between 10.15am and 10.30am on the corner of Cunningham & Maitland Streets

March commences at 10.45am to the RSL Memorial Gardens

The Anzac Service commences at 11.00am, including a wreath laying ceremony by the Sub Branch, the RSL, individuals and various organisations

12.00pm for 12.30pm Luncheon at the RSL Club

Live entertainment with Peter Denovan 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Two-Up 3.00pm

ANZAC Day Commemoration in Bingara with Adam Marshall MP

Bingara RSL Sub Branch is honoured to announce the presence of Mr Adam Marshall MP, Member for New England, at the upcoming ANZAC Day commemoration in Bingara. Mr Marshall will be joining us in paying tribute to the sacrifices of our service men and women on this solemn occasion.

Highlights and Commemoration history:

- **March and Wreath-Laying:** Mr Marshall will march alongside our President, Mr Peter Kennedy, and participate in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Bingara Memorial Gardens on Finch Street.
- **ANZAC Day Luncheon:** Mr Marshall will also serve as the guest speaker at the ANZAC Day Luncheon.
- **RSL NSW Appreciation Awards:** Two Bingara locals will be honoured with RSL NSW Appreciation Awards.
- **Bingara Orange Picking Event** (for info - held in July): Mr Marshall has been a longstanding supporter of the annual Bingara Orange Picking event, which serves as a tribute to service members. The event involves school children protecting oranges planted in memory of those who did not return from service.

New Military Museum: Bingara is also home to a newly opened Military Museum, which has quickly become a must-visit attraction for tourists and military personnel from various services. **The Military Museum will be open for viewing between 9.00AM and 10.30AM.**

Order for the Day:

- **10.15AM - 10.30AM:** Participants gather for the March.
- **10.45AM:** March commences, accompanied by two bagpipers.
- **11.00AM:** Commemoration at the Memorial Gardens, featuring a catafalque party by the Hunter River Lancers and flag duties conducted by cadets from 319 Squadron Inverell.
- **12.00PM for 12.30PM:** ANZAC Day Luncheon, with Mr Marshall as guest speaker and award presenter. Bookings are essential - phone (02) 6724 1404.



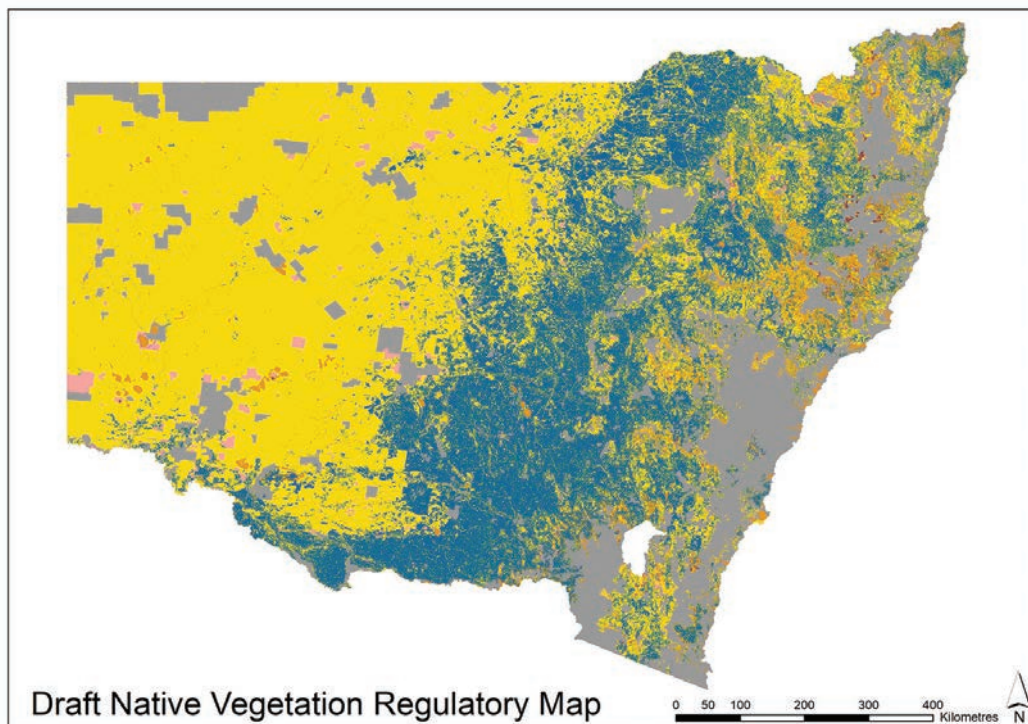
The Draft Native Vegetation Regulatory map has now been released across all areas of New South Wales

The Local Land Services Act and Regulation require preparation and publication of a Native Vegetation Regulatory Map. A staged release of the draft Native Vegetation Regulatory map commenced on 5 October 2022. North West and remaining areas of South East Local Land Services Regions were published on 26 March 2024. All Local Land Services Regions have now been released.

The draft NVR map is a tool landholders can use when considering how best to manage native vegetation on their land. It does not impose any new legal obligations. The map provides certainty when determining whether an approval is or isn't required.

A free review of the draft map as it relates to your land is available now or at any time in the future. The review will normally be completed in 40 days. Landholders in all regions can request a free map review at any time, even when the map is finalised.

Information about and access to the draft Map is available at:
environment.nsw.gov.au/native-vegetation-regulatory-map.



Landholders with any enquiries about the map can submit an online enquiry form via the website, email map.review@environment.nsw.gov.au or call our staff based in regional NSW on **1800 001 490**.



LP2135



We've had our COVID-19 vaccination

COVID-19 vaccination is your best protection against serious illness

If you are an adult at higher risk of severe illness or are 65 years and over, a [free COVID-19 vaccine](#) is recommended for you every 6 to 12 months.

Speak to your doctor or pharmacist about what is best for you.



For more information on getting your **free** COVID vaccination, including how to book, visit nsw.gov.au/vaccination

ROSS COOPER OPTOMETRIST

Goondiwindi
07 4671 1550

Next visits to Warialda

- May 29
- June 26
- August 28
- September 25

For appointments, contact the Warialda Medical Centre on **02 6729 1520**

Next visits to Bingara

- May 30
- June 27
- August 29
- September 26

For appointments, contact the Bingara Community Practice on **02 6724 1900**



Bingara ★★★★★★★★★★ Minor League

Bingara Minor League is back!

On Saturday our teams took to the field on our home ground to face Glen Innes. With the welcomed rain leading up to the day, the children were blessed with plenty of mud puddles to run, jump and tackle in. By all reports, the kids had one cracking time!

Under 6's

With Glen Innes not having enough 7s we combined the 2 grades for the day. With all very keen for their first game it was hard to keep 4 kids off the field. The newbies were shown the way by last years players, with Bingara getting off to a flying start.

The first half had Bingara leading 16-0. Second half we swapped them around quickly off the bench. This seemed to add a bit of confusion to our defence letting Glen in for 4 tries to our 4.

Elijah Wilson was the star in defence with some outstanding tagging. Try scorers for the day were Billy Kilmore with 4 tries and Charles Mack, Archer Reddan, Leo Allen and Hugh Mack with one try each. All kids contributed to an outstanding game.

Final score: Bingara 32 – Glen Innes 16

Under 8's

A great start to the season with the sun coming out just in time to shine on our 8's game. They all played one hell of a game! In the first half, Bingara had to work extra hard in defence with Glen Innes running hard and fast. With great teamwork, we kept the points down and in the second half it was our turn. Bingara had some amazing line breaks, sideline runs and off loads happening as well. The kids played a very competitive game with both sides showing some great offence and defence.

Try scorers for the day were Solomon Petrus with 2 tries and Baxter O'Brien with one try and a conversion.

Final score: Bingara 14 – Glen Innes 30

Under 11's

Very proud of the whole team for their mighty effort in their first game of the season against a really tough team. Well done 11's!!! It was great to see them all back on the field playing footy and having fun with Luka Barac breaking the

line to score a try.

Final score: Bingara 4 – Glen Innes 38

JLT

It was a great hit out by JLT with a whole lot of newbies on our side. We had a red hot crack at a well-drilled Glen Innes team. We are very proud and can't wait to see how the year progresses. There's a lot of talent in the hiding.

Tries go to Indie Cosh, Mia Coleman and Summer Rowleson with Eva Hodgkinson converting one goal.

Final score: Bingara 14 – Glen Innes 28

ILT

Glen Innes turned up with a tough and competitive side. Although our Bingara girls played well, unfortunately, they could not make a break.

We can only go up from here with plenty of talent and promise hiding in the wings.

Final score: Bingara 0 – Glen Innes 42

SLT

A great game to watch on Saturday for our SLT girls who had a very competitive game against Glen Innes. In tough wet conditions the girls showed how much they love their game with great teamwork. Backing each other, and with some great defensive sets, they came away with a positive look to their season after their narrow loss of 26-20.

Tries going to Mailee Sullivan, Zoe Allen, Sioben Derrick and Indika Gallen with Indika converting 2 goals. It is so exciting to see our club with an SLT team back in the mix paving the way for our junior girls.

Final score: Bingara 20 – Glen Innes 26



Bingara Golf Report

Submitted by John Gill

On Sunday 7th April Bingara golfers played April Monthly Medal Event for both Men and Women with 22 golfers taking part on the day.

Results April Medal Event

Men's Winner	Eric Oles	65 nett
Runner-up	Hayden Mack	66 nett
Second Best Shot	Ron Armstrong	6/15
Ball Comp	Mick Phillips	67 nett
	Ron Armstrong	68 nett
	Robert Northcott	69 nett
Women's Winner	Bernie Houlahan	78 nett
Runner-up	Jenny Burling	79 nett
Second Best Shot	Judy Northcott	9/18
Next Monthly Medal – 12 th May (Men's and Women's)		

Mixed Foursomes Championship 2024

On Sunday 17th March Bingara golfers mixed golf foursomes championship played over 27 holes with five pairs of golfers taking part. Congratulations go to winners Trudi Tonkin and Ron Armstrong.

Winners	Trudi Tonkin and Ron Armstrong	Gross score 137
Nett Winners	Jenny Burling and Lloyd Fullerton	1061/4
Nearest to Pin		
Women	Judy Northcott	7/16
Mens	Dave Armitage	7/16

Bingara Golf Events

Thursday	9-hole Chook Run	2.30pm
Saturday	Mixed Golf	12pm for 12.30pm Tee
Sunday	Sunday Golf	12pm for 12.30pm Tee
Tuesday	Ladies Golf	Contact 0428 241 415

Bingara Open Golf Weekend - April 27th - 28th

Saturday 27 th	Mixed 4BBB Open 12pm
Sunday 28 th	Men's Open stroke event, running draw or shotgun start (depending on numbers) Entries are to be submitted to Cameron Maisey on 0427 131 165 or emailed to cmaisey@bigpond.net.au no later than Friday 26 th April.



FEATURED BUSINESSES

WARIALDA NEWSAGENCY

Stationery | Cards | Giftware

Lotto | Magazines

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 5PM

SATURDAY 8AM - 12 NOON

SUNDAY 8AM - 11AM

Ph: 6729 1049

NEWSPAPER



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SAVE-THE-DATE

Ceramic Break Sculpture Park presents.....

Opening Saturday April 27th,
12-5pm

Featuring works by emerging artist Cheri Bate
and a Collective of Women from New England North West.



Mimi-Sister (marnequin) \$1500.00, *Layers of Knowledge* \$3500.00
by Jodie Herden



Auroras Winter, soft pastel (framed) \$150.00
by Cheri Bate



Ochre Yinaar \$1500.00
by Waabii Chapman - Burgess



2535 Allan Cunningham Road
Warialda, 2402
02 6729 4147

www.cbbreaksculpturepark.com.au
kerry@cbbreaksculpturepark.com.au



Lunch and light refreshment provided.

Entry by gold coin donation.

Bring your own utensils to enter the Green Prize
raffle to win a beautiful plant.



BINGARA CENTRAL SCHOOL EXCURSIONS FUNDRAISING EVENT

**SAVE THE
DATE**
3 JULY 24



*Beef
Tasting*

Time slots will be the
same as last time

3:30pm - 4:30pm

4:30pm - 5:30pm

5:30pm - 6:30pm

More details to come

Save the date

Part of the Orange Festival

6th July

**Line dancing/
Rock and roll
Workshop 9-11
and Social 2-6**

**DJ
Ian Duke**

*In the beautiful
Roxy Theatre
Bingara*

What's on

Church Notices

APRIL 2024

- Thu 18th - Sun 21st** **Bingara Country Music Festival** - Bingara RSL Club from 6.00pm
- Wed 24th - Sun 28th** **NRCHC Classic Challenge Cutting Horse Show** - Upper Horton Sports Club
- Thu 25th** **ANZAC Dawn Service**
Bingara Memorial Park - 6.00am
Breakfast - 6.30am RSL (02) **6724 1404**
- Thu 25th** **ANZAC Commemorations**
Croppa Creek - 8.00am Service followed by breakfast
Donations go to Legacy
- Thu 25th** **ANZAC Service**
Gravesend - 8.45am for 9.00am
March from Gravesend old RSL Hall to ANZAC Park
- Thu 25th** **ANZAC Dawn Service**
Warialda Captain Cook Park - 6.00am - March from Warialda Medical Practice - 10.30am - Charles Allen (02) **6729 1868**
- Sat 27th** **Gravesend 100 Mile Long Lunch** - 1.00pm - See Facebook page for more information - Tickets from 5 April 2024
- Sat 27th** **Whalebone** - The Roxy Theatre
- Sat 27th** **Ceramic Break Sculpture Park** - Open Day featuring works from emerging artist Cheri Bate and a Collective of Women from New England North West - from 12.00pm to 5.00pm
- Sun 28th** **NWTC Film Club** - 'The Perfect Candidate'

MAY 2024

- Thu 2nd** **Bingara Sit & Stretch Classes** (commence) - Gwydir Health Hub from 12.00pm to 1.00pm
- Thu 2nd** **Bingara Men's Stretch Classes** (commence) - Gwydir Health Hub from 6.45pm to 7.45pm
- Tue 14th** **Gwydir Shire Community Meeting** - Croppa Creek Bowling Club from 6.00pm
- Thu 16th** **Gwydir Shire Community Meeting** - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara from 6.00pm
- Fri 17th** **Monthly Meeting** - Bingara Museum from 10.30am
- Tue 21st** **Gwydir Shire Community Meeting** - North Star Sporting Club from 6.00pm
- Wed 22nd** **Local History Story Telling Event** - Bingara Museum from 9.30am
- Thu 23rd** **Biggest Morning Tea** - All funds raised go to the Cancer Council for Research projects. Warialda Cultural Community Centre (Carinda) - Morning tea, Guest speaker and entertainment
- Thu 23rd** **Gwydir Shire Community Meeting** - Warialda Memorial Hall from 6.00pm
- Tue 28th** **Community Meeting** - Gravesend Hall from 6.00pm
- Tue 28th** **Monthly Committee Meet** - Warialda PreSchool at 5.00pm

ANGLICAN CHURCH

- Bingara** Worship at St John's Anglican Parish, Bingara - Sundays 9.30am
- Warialda** Warialda Anglican Church, Warialda - Sundays 9.30am
- Coolatai** First Sunday month 3.00pm
- Minister Steve Cimarosti** can be contacted on (02) **6729 1501**.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISHES WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

- Bingara** Sundays 8.00am
- Delungra** Sundays 10.00am
4th weekend 6.00pm
- Warialda** Saturdays 6.00pm
4th weekend 10.00am

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

- Bingara** 2nd and 4th weeks - Rosary 9.30am/Mass 10.00am
- Warialda** 1st and 3rd weeks - Mass Mon, Wed 9.00am
Tue, Thu 10.00am

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Thanksgiving and Family Mass - by appointment (02) **6729 1116**.

UNITING CHURCH

Inverell Uniting Church services are live streamed at 9.00am on the Inverell Uniting Church Family private Facebook Group. These services are also recorded for later viewing - please search and join.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- Bingara** Scots Presbyterian Church is open for worship at 10.00am every Sunday. Sunday School is also held each week.
- Warialda** St Stephen's Presbyterian Church has a weekly worship service each Sunday at 10.00am. All welcome. Enquiries (02) **6721 0511**.