

December 2024 Edition

gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au

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



30

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6 Riddell Street
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Gwydir GPs Honoured for 35+ Years of Long Service to Country New South Wales

2024 Recipients of the RDN Rural Medical Service Awards (Absent: Dr Chris Matthews)



Each year the Rural Doctors Network (RDN) recognises rural GPs who have achieved 35+ years' service to remote, rural and regional communities in NSW. This year, 16 outstanding GPs were honoured with a 2024 Rural Medical Service Award. Thirteen recipients made the trip to the Manly Pacific Hotel in Sydney for the award presentation held on Saturday 30th November 2024, at the Rural GPs Conference gala dinner as part of Rural Health Month.

The presentation of the Awards at the gala dinner was an important moment of recognition—few things are valued more highly by country communities than the peace of mind that comes with having a “local doctor” as part of the fabric of their community.

Dr Diana Coote – For service to Warialda

After commencing her career in Queensland, Dr Di Coote has served 35 years as a GP in Warialda, NSW. She has completed a Fertility Control course with the Australian Family Planning Association and regularly attends the Rural Health Continuing Education programs. In addition to comprehensive general practice care she has special

interests in obstetric care, paediatrics, women's health interests and counselling.

Dr Clement Gordon – For service to Warialda

Dr Clem Gordon had extensive hospital and general practice experience before commencing as a GP in Warialda in 1989. His postgraduate qualifications before moving to Warialda include a Diploma of the Royal Australian College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists, Diploma of Anaesthetics (United Kingdom) and Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Clem has also completed Postgraduate Diplomas in Family Medicine and Rural Health. Since arriving in Warialda, his commitment to general practice and continuing medical education has continued.

Dr Chris Matthews – For service to Cessnock, Kurri Kurri and Bingara

Dr Chris Matthews has practiced as a GP in rural areas since 1973 including in Cessnock, Kurri Kurri and Bingara in NSW. Dr Matthews has also worked across Australia including as a coordinator of rural training in Adelaide from 1993 to 1995.

Next issue: The Gwydir News will be published on Thursday 20th February. **Plan your advertising now—** booking deadline for the next issue is Monday 10th February. Email gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au



2025 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

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



Mayoral Column

I have had so much joy attending school presentations over the last few weeks. Thank you for inviting me and welcoming me into your schools.

Last week Councillors and staff undertook a tour of the Shire's southern roads to gain knowledge and information so we can best understand the needs and challenges of our southern road network.

Country Education Foundation of Gwydir Learning Region (CEF GLR) was established to provide much needed financial assistance and support to local youth to help them achieve their post high school education, training, and vocation aspirations. We recognise that the cost of rural students pursuing their post high school goals is often much greater than those of their metropolitan counterparts and that sometimes these costs can be prohibitive.

With this in mind, CEF of Gwydir Learning Region fundraises throughout the year and accepts donations from local residents and businesses in order to provide financial grants to students who need an extra helping hand. The funds come directly from your local community—none of it is government funded—celebrating the aspirations of local youth and working to help them achieve these aspirations.

It's our way of saying "we believe in you and want to support your goals".

The CEF GLR Committee are currently viewing submissions received and interviewing applicants.

As many would already know PFAS was recently found in the Warialda water supply. Understandably this has caused concern for us and our residents. Council assures you that we are doing everything we can do to effectively deal with this contamination. Our highest priority is to keep everyone safe.

If you have any questions, please email mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au or call (02) 6729 3000 or follow Gwydir Shire Council's Facebook page.

More updates will be made available as information and samples results are received.

Below are general updates on various Council projects and happenings for your information and interest.

Warialda Truck Wash

Warialda truck wash facility was used by 162 trucks during November with an average wash down time of 67 minutes and total water used was 1228kL. The estimated income for the reporting period of November is \$14,333.88 less monitoring fees and expenses.

Council recently received from a contractor to Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association (ALRTA) a request for information including technical drawings, specifications, and operational data for the Warialda truck



wash as they deemed it to be an premier example of a well-designed and efficient truck wash facility, as nominated by industry operators and stakeholders.

Warialda CBD Park

Works have been ongoing at the Warialda CBD Park with the backfill of the site to natural level now complete. The timber fence between the site and the Post Office has been erected.

Negotiations continue with Telstra and the Department of Communities and Justice for the acquisition of land for a footpath to join the CBD park with Stephen Street.

Landscaping improvements are expected to commence late January 2025.

County Boundary Road Upgrade

The County Boundary Road sealing project is jointly funded by the Federal Government's Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) Program (\$9.75 million) with Council contributing an additional \$2.44 million.

Stage 3 of the construction works were completed in November 2024. Construction of the remaining Stage 4 subgrade is well underway. There is now 9km of the 12.3km long project completed with the project scheduled to be all completed by April 2025 and is tracking under budget.

Asset Protection Zone Maintenance

Regular slashing work is being undertaken APZs in Bingara, Coolatai and Warialda with another round programmed for December 2024.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations

Thanks to NSW Destination grant funding three EV Charging Stations have been installed in our Shire area. Two are located in Bingara (Cunningham Street near the Roxy Café and Copeton Dam Road near the Swimming Pool) and one in Warialda in the carpark between the Memorial Hall.

These stations will encourage drivers to travel through our area with the knowledge that this infrastructure is in place.

On behalf of Councillors and Staff I would like to wish all ratepayers, residents and visitors a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Tiffany Galvin
Mayor, Gwydir Shire Council

The Hon.
Mark COULTON MP
THE NATIONALS FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PARKES
THE NATIONALS CHIEF WHIP
Media Release

Coalition Energy Costings Released

Leader of the Opposition Peter Dutton and Leader of The Nationals David Littleproud last week announced the much-awaited costings of the Coalition's energy policy.

The latest analysis from Frontier Economics reveals the Coalition's balanced energy mix, including zero-emissions nuclear power, offers a cheaper, cleaner, and more consistent alternative, delivering massive savings for Australian families and businesses.

The Coalition's energy plan will save Australians up to \$263 billion compared to Labor's renewables-only approach – a 44 per cent saving for taxpayers and businesses.

Nuclear energy sits at the heart of this plan, providing the "always-on" power needed to back up renewables, stabilise the grid, and keep energy affordable. The Coalition will ensure a sustainable and responsible shift from coal to nuclear energy by avoiding the need for Labor's overbuild of infrastructure on pristine landscapes and agricultural land.

Australians are facing soaring energy costs, record levels of hardship, small business insolvencies, and growing uncertainty under Labor's renewables-only energy plan. There is a clear choice as we head towards the Federal Election: Labor's costly and unreliable renewables-only agenda, or the Coalition's cheaper, cleaner, and consistent energy plan to secure Australia's future.

The Coalition's policy is the key to achieving net-zero emissions sooner. Only the Coalition's energy plan guarantees a cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable future for Australian households and businesses while protecting our environment and securing our energy needs.

For more information visit:

<https://www.australianeedsnuclear.org.au/>

Brendan Moylan MP

Warialda Water Supply Update

14 DECEMBER 2024

Early results from the additional testing of three bores at Warialda have now been received by Gwydir Shire Council.

Encouragingly, the samples collected from the Saleyard and Gragin Road bores had no detectable levels of PFAS. Town water will now be sourced solely from these bores which will provide PFAS free water to the Town.

Gwydir Shire Mayor Tiff Galvin, General Manager Max Eastcott and Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan met with Senior Council Staff and representatives from NSW Health yesterday evening to put a plan in place to secure safe drinking water for the Town.

Over the weekend, Council Staff will undertake pipe flushing to assist in removing any residual PFAS from the system. The Council will also continue to issue free bottled water from the Warialda Visitor Information Centre. This includes both Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 5pm. Member for Northern Tablelands, Brendan Moylan will be at the Visitor Information Centre on Saturday from 11am – 5pm assisting.

To manage the reduced water supply, Council will introduce water restrictions for the next five days. These restrictions will be – no fixed sprinklers to be used only hand-held hoses are permitted.

The bore at Hospital Park was detected as having significant levels of PFAS, this bore has now been isolated and disconnected from the water supply indefinitely.

Additional bores will be tested early next week and will not be used until results are available.

The advice from NSW Health remains unchanged. Drinking town water in Warialda in the short term is unlikely to pose a health risk for residents. However, bottled water is available for people who would prefer to use this for cooking and drinking while the pipes are flushed and the testing on the offline bores continues.

Letter to the Editor

Queensland dam casts a long shadow

Paradise Dam in Bundaberg was built in an era when Peter Beattie was premier of Queensland. The cost was reputedly around \$200 million dollars and an assured water supply helped Bundaberg convert from historical sugar cane production to agricultural crops like Queensland nuts, avocados, citrus, olives and mechanised vegetable farming.

The dam construction method differed from that of past. Concrete was much drier and each layer was compacted before the next layer was added and compacted. Some years after construction, when growers had become accustomed and reliant upon irrigation allocations, corrosion was detected in the dam wall. Extensive research revealed the risk factor was such that recommendations were made to remove the upper portions of the dam wall and reduce storage to around half. This work was finished early in 2021 with allocations reduced accordingly.

Ongoing research, identified the cause of the construction failure. Too little cement powder had been added to the mix and structural strength was inadequate. This analysis determined that after partial removal of the dam wall the subsequent risk of dam failure remained unacceptable. Despite many hundreds of millions of dollars in attempted remediation, demolition is recommended. The projected replacement cost has been estimated at \$1.2 billion. A lot of time could elapse before the dam is commissioned, rebuilt, water storage is captured and supply reinstated.

The owners/operators of such dams (State) have insurance—or policies equivalent. Those dependent upon the dam for irrigation purposes have initiated a class action based on dam mismanagement. Corporate and everyday farmers have to date contributed a war chest of a million dollars. At risk, is investment, loss of income, future prospects, potential death of orchards and of course real estate value declines due to damaged goods and reduced circumstances? Public disclosure of unacceptable risk may also mean landholders downstream of the dam incur additional flood insurance premiums.

In NSW as elsewhere, it is broadly recognised that dams need to be carefully monitored with checks and balances to ensure dam integrity and safely. Copeton Dam in Gwydir Shire is a large, deep dam and the declared policy of NSW Water is that the management of Copeton is based upon preserving dam integrity above all other considerations. Built in the 1970's principally for irrigation purposes, the huge storage capacity, to date, has effectively minimised downstream flooding. However, full capacity around 2011

caused a rethink about dam safety and the means of ensuring it. In 2013 around \$70 million dollars were spent on reconstruction, stabilising rock structures and inserting a 'fuse plug' that, in an emergency, would sequentially enable some 6.5 metres of surface water to be vented from the dam. In 2024 the daily peak discharge from the spillway is quoted at 1,280,000ML. Whilst discharges may occasion serious downstream flooding, dam integrity would be preserved. To date no assessment is known to have been done on just what flood levels might result.

In 2022 Bingara experienced some flooding due mostly to massive discharges from Copeton Dam. Simple equation—rain coming in to a dam already at capacity and therefore discharges made to avert danger associated from further rises.

With global warming influencing our weather patterns in odd and unusual ways: for instance, long term Bingara locals say the high humidity of 2023 and this summer of 2024 are uncharacteristic. Rainfall during this period has been above average. So perhaps, the cautionary approach becomes imperative as we contemplate what extreme weather patterns may yet lie ahead. Insurance providers will have done their homework. Could Bingara and others—downstream of Copeton, be paying additional insurance associated with perceived flood risks posed by Copeton Dam?

Name and address supplied

The Gwydir News welcomes letters on topics of general interest to our readers. Letters should generally be between 300 - 600 words. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for space and content.

The right is reserved to reject any letter—in whole or in part—including those determined potentially libelous. Authors must provide their name, town of residence and telephone number for verification purposes. Letters should be emailed to:

gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au



VISIT
Gwydir Shire



Is your business or community group on our new website?

Would you like your business or community group on our new website?

Meetings will be taking place in the Bingara and Warialda Libraries to have business pages updated and new businesses added to the website

Warialda Library - Tuesday 7 January

Bingara Library - Thursday 9 January

Call Nerissa on 02 6724 2000 to book a time or to ask any questions

Alternatively email - gmc@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

2025 Bingara Australia Day Award Nominations

The Bingara Special Events Committee in conjunction with Gwydir Shire Council invite you to nominate citizens for consideration in the below categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Volunteer or Volunteer Team/Group of the Year
- Community Event of the Year
- Junior Sportsperson (under 18 years of age)
- Senior Sportsperson
- Sports Team

To request a nomination form, please email gmc@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Nominations close Friday 10 January 2025.



2025 Bingara Australia Day Award Nominations

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- Community Event of the Year
- Junior Sportsperson (under 18 years of age)
- Senior Sportsperson
- Sports Team

Nomination forms can be sourced via the following channels:

- By directly emailing the Gwydir Communications Team at gmc@gwydir.nsw.gov.au and requesting a form.
- Download the form directly from the '2025 Bingara Australia Day' event listing on Council's website.
- Nomination forms can be collected directly from the Bingara Library located at 29 Maitland Street, Bingara NSW 2404 or the Bingara Council Office located at 74 Maitland Street, Bingara NSW 2404.

Nominations close Friday 10 January 2025.

The next issue of **The Gwydir News** will be published on Thursday 20th February.

Rotary Club of Warialda & Gwydir Shire Council



are calling for Australia Day Award nominations!

You are invited to nominate citizens from the Warialda, Gravesend, Yallaroi, North Star, Croppa Creek, Coolatai, Crooble and Warialda Rail districts for consideration in the below categories:

Junior Citizen of the Year

Senior Citizen of the Year

Citizen of the Year

Event of the Year

Jnr/Snr Environmental Champion

Nominations close Monday 23 December 2024

Please send nominations to:

Warialda Rotary Club, PO Box 17 - Warialda NSW 2402

For enquiries call Curly on 0428 790 005 or Peter on 0447 007 221

2025 Warialda Australia Day Award Nominations

Warialda Rotary Club with the support of Gwydir Shire Council invite you to nominate citizens for consideration in the below categories:

- Junior Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year
- Citizen of the Year
- Event of the Year
- Jnr/Snr Environmental Champion

Citizen must reside in the old Yallaroi Shire which includes the following towns and villages; Warialda, Gravesend, Yallaroi, North Star, Croppa Creek, Coolatai, Crooble and Warialda Rail.

Letters of nomination can be submitted to the Warialda Rotary Club, PO Box 17, Warialda NSW 2402.

Nominations close Monday 23 December 2024.

When seconds count...

Barraba | Bingara | Warialda

Visit ccni.nsw.edu.au/ to book your accredited first aid training

In the News

Atep Family Extension to Remain in Australia

Community

Politics

Originally published by STA FM

by **Louis** | Dec 16, 2024

<https://stafm.com.au/atep-family-extension-to-remain-in-australia/>

Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, has welcomed a Ministerial decision to allow the Atep family of Bingara more time to stay in Australia.

The family's right to stay was due to end today however, the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Tony Burke has requested his Department prepares a Ministerial Intervention Submission for his consideration.

Mr Joyce says the request allows the Atep family to apply for a Bridging Visa which would allow them to stay in Australia legally, until the Minister hands down his decision on the family's future.

He says he's been working with the Minister's office to bring about a resolution to the Atep family's plight and appreciate the temporary reprieve and paid tribute to the way the New England community threw its support behind the family through many phone calls and more than two thousand people signing a petition of support.

In the News

Livestock Warning Against St Johns Wort Weed

Agriculture

Community

Originally published by STA FM

by **Louis** | Dec 12, 2024

<https://stafm.com.au/livestock-warning-against-st-johns-wort-weed/>

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services have issued a warning against the toxic weed St Johns Wort, a weed that is poisonous to livestock.

Known for its dense clusters of bright yellow flowers, the weed produces toxins called hypericin that can cause reddening and blisters on light coloured and soft skin areas.

The Local Land Services team advise to be on the lookout for Yellow flowers that are 15-25mm wide with 5 petals that flower from spring to autumn, with the petals having small black dots on their edges, leaves are 10-30mm long, green in colour and lighter on the underside, with small translucent oil glands that can be seen when held up to the light, and the leaves appearing as though they have holes in them.

Farmers and Landholders are advised to remove livestock from pastures affected by the weeds immediately and move to a paddock with shade, as animals tend to recover after removal.

More information can be found by contacting the Local Land Services Agronomist, weeds officer or rural store.

In the News

Worker Shortages Hamper Business Growth in New England Northwest

Business

Media Release

Originally published by STA FM

by **Gerry** | Dec 9, 2024

<https://stafm.com.au/worker-shortages-hamper-business-growth-in-new-england-northwest/>

Access to more workers with relevant skills is stifling business growth across the New England North West region.

The latest Business Conditions Survey from the state's peak business body reveals 58% of NSW business self-rated as operating below full capacity due to difficulties in accessing the talent and continuously upskilling existing workers. This number is higher at 63% for NENW businesses.

Diane Gray, Business NSW Regional Director for New England North West, said "Businesses are already under pressure from rising operational costs, yet optimism for growth is evident with 36% of businesses wanting to hire in the next three months."

The top three cost concerns for businesses in the NENW remain insurance; taxes, levies and other government charges; followed by energy.

The survey found 43% of businesses are facing price

negotiations, 31% are seeing more demand for cheaper alternatives, and 36% are waiting longer for invoices to be paid.

“Businesses are now waiting longer for invoices to be settled, which means added financial pressure on cash flow and for small businesses, this delay could be the difference between staying open or closing their doors.”

Despite the challenges being faced, businesses confidence is on the rise at -56.7 from 59.5 last quarter.

“Yet, with the challenges being faced, businesses in NENW are geared up and ready for growth, and this is an optimistic position to start 2025,” said Ms Gray.

Key NSW findings include:

- Businesses are turning to international students to fill key workforce gaps, with nearly half of employers saying they’re vital to easing the labour crisis and driving economic growth.
- The top three business challenges are financial management, regulation and compliance, and strategic planning.
- Customer demand remains weak, with 61% reporting fewer purchases and 58% seeing smaller order sizes. Additionally, 38% are facing more price negotiation, and 30% are seeing increased demand for lower-cost substitutes.
- 58% of businesses are maintaining the same headcount and 23% are hiring additional staff.
- Nearly 60% of businesses are operating below full capacity, highlighting significant opportunities for improvement and efficiency gains.

Business NSW is calling on the NSW government to:

- Implement reforms to the Emergency Services Levy to reduce the markup on insurance premiums for SMEs.
- Continue to remove barriers that prevent SMEs from dealing direct with the NSW Government.
- Join the fight against inflation by ensuring public sector wage increases are matched to productivity gains.
- Streamline the recognition of reputable qualifications attained overseas, and
- Ensure that all invoices, both government and non-government, are paid within agreed timeframes.

In the News Crime Police News

Man Charged with Several Break and Enter Offences in the Region

Originally published by STA FM

by **Gerry** | Dec 5, 2024

<https://stafm.com.au/man-charged-with-several-break-enter-offences-in-the-region/>

A man will face court over a number of break and enter offences in the state’s north-west.

In November 2024, officers attached to New England Police District commenced an investigation following reports of multiple break and enter offences in Bingara, Warialda and Glen Innes areas.

Initial inquiries established a number of solar panels, motor controllers and metal products were stolen from several locations since Tuesday 19 November 2024.

Following extensive inquiries, about 8.45am yesterday (Wednesday 4 December 2024), police executed a search warrant at an address on Reedy Street, Delungra, where they arrested a 60-year-old man.

During the search, police seized a number of items including a water tank, water pump, solar panels, mirror, street signs and electric tools.

The man was taken to Inverell Police Station where he was charged with:

- Two counts of enter dwelling with intent
- Two counts of break and enter house steal value less than or equal to \$60,000
- Three counts of goods in personal custody suspected being stolen (not motor vehicle)
- Destroy or damage property

He was refused bail to appear at Inverell Local Court today (Thursday 5 December 2024).

**Calling all
Publicity
Officers**

Are you a publicity officer for an organisation in the Gwydir region? **The Gwydir News** welcomes submissions from the community.

Send your contribution to the Editor at gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au or call us on **0438 546 519**.



Encouraging Health in Rural Communities: A Pathway for Warialda High School Students



by Toby Cooper
Campus Coordinator - Barraba and Gwydir Campuses

Photos courtesy of Jacinta Russell
Head Teacher Careers | Educational Pathways Program

During November, a key opportunity emerged for students at Warialda High School who were interested in pursuing careers in the health sector. Recognising the potential of these students and the need for skilled workers in rural areas, the Educational Pathways Program (EPP) aligned with Community College Northern Inland (CCNI) to create an innovative program aimed at providing students with the knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience necessary for a future in health care.

Over the course of a three-day program at the Warialda High School, delivered by CCNI trainer Ean Muhs, the students were immersed in a range of practical and theoretical activities related to the health and aged care industries; kicking off with essential certifications, students gained their First Aid qualification, along with completing an Infection Control unit.

"The students completed two accredited units during the workshop, so if they decided they wanted to switch to a different course they could get a credit transfer and take those units with them. I think the clinical skills component which included taking blood pressure, performing blood sugar tests, and measuring body temperature gave students a real-world glimpse into the day-to-day tasks of health professionals," said Muhs.

One of the program's highlights was Clarissa Barwick from the Gwydir Shire Council (GSC) speaking to the students about long term employment opportunities at Naroo, a local aged care facility in Warialda. Clarissa shared valuable insights on school-based traineeships and post-school employment pathways, supporting GSC's long-term commitment to local students in their transition from school to work.

"The workshop was really good, there was a lot of information that we didn't know as a group, and to take valuable health and First Aid skills away from the program was important. I also learnt there was so much more to CPR and I think I could save a life or two now myself, I would highly recommend it to any other students moving forward, and am definitely considering a future in the industry," said student Pyper Dawson.



To further enhance their understanding of the industry, the students participated in a careers immersion tour at Naroo Warialda the following day, allowing students to experience first-hand what it would be like to work in the aged care sector.

"The aim of the program was to empower students with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their future education and career pathways. Whether they choose to pursue further training or secure local employment through an SBAT, the program provided them with exposure to critical skills in an industry that is in high demand," said Jacinta Gorton - Head Teacher Careers, Educational Pathways Program.

For rural communities like Warialda, programs like this are vital in addressing long-standing skill shortages across

industries. The ability to attract and retain skilled workers, particularly in industries like health care and aged care, remains a challenge for local employers, with an aging population in these communities, training the next generation of health professionals is more important than ever.

The Educational Pathways Program, in partnership with CCNI and local organisations like the Gwydir Shire Council, is playing a crucial role in bridging this gap, offering students the skills they need to succeed while also meeting the workforce demands of rural communities.

"It was a really good week, very helpful. I am only in Year 8, plus the only male in the class but aged care is something I am looking at in the future. I enjoyed learning about handwashing, like the correct ways to do that, it was quite shocking to see how trash I was at it, plus the aged care side of things. I would recommend this type of training to kids in the future, we all found it interesting and very engaging whilst learning life skills."

Ezra Johnston



"I had fun with all the pracs and all that, and I got to learn a few things I didn't know. I learnt how to deal with a snake bite, I never knew any of that to be honest—that was pretty awesome. The week was a fun experience, I definitely think if anything happens now I can say I have done this training and know how to do it if needed."

Indiana Armstrong

"I also learnt a lot and had lots of fun, doing the finger pricking and blood sugar levels is what I enjoyed the most. Ean was such an awesome trainer, knows his stuff, and was very funny."

Mia McConnell

"It was really good, I enjoyed all the practical stuff, and learnt a lot I didn't know. I was interested in how you wrapped a limb with the bandages if you get stabbed by an implement, and if it's still in there how you put the padding around it first and then wrap round it real tight. My approach to the Health sector has changed a lot, there is so much to know about First Aid that you don't realise, aside from the CPR part. I was going to do some aged care work experience, so I can take these skills into that."

Kayla Digby

Exciting Programme for NWTC Film Club 2025

The film club had a good and varied programme in 2024 with films from Australia, the US, the UK and New Zealand. The oldest was from 1960 and the most recent from 2023. Additionally we had 38 members so they must have thought it was good too. This is the most members we have had since 2019.

The selection committee has just selected the films for 2025 and the committee is very happy with our offering.

In February we usually start with a blockbuster type of movie and this year is no exception. We start the year with **Seven Years in Tibet** based on a true story, starring Brad Pitt and David Thewlis.

In March we show the 1999 Australian comedy drama **Two Hands** starring Heath Ledger, Rose Byrne and Bryan Brown. A 19-year old finds himself in debt to a local gangster when some gang loot disappears and sets him on the run from thugs.

In April we show our foreign film and this time it is a Japanese film directed by Wim Wenders from 2023 called **Perfect Days** about a contented toilet cleaner in Tokyo. Through unexpected encounters, he reflects on finding beauty in the world.

In May we go a bit musical again with the 2012 film, **Quartet**, directed by Dustin Hoffman and starring Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly and Michael Gambon. Reggie, Wilf, Cissy and Jean are members of a quartet that vowed never to sing again. But things take a turn when they have to perform in order to save their retirement home for musicians.

In June we have the Australian rom/com from 2015 called **Alex & Eve** starring Richard Brancatisano and Andrea Demetriades as a Greek Orthodox schoolteacher who falls in love with a Lebanese Muslim lawyer.

For July we have another courtroom drama from 2007, **Fracture**, starring Anthony Hopkins, Ryan Gosling, and Rosamund Pike. This film was recommended by previous Film Club President John Wearne who showed it to great acclaim in Armidale.

In August we show the classic comedy from 1959, **Some Like It Hot** directed by Billy Wilder and starring Marilyn Munroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon. When two male musicians witness a mob hit, they flee the state disguised as women in an all-female band.

For September, we have another recent Australian film made in 2023 – **The New Boy** – directed by Warwick Thornton and

starring Cate Blanchett. In the 1940s, during the dead of night, a nine-year old Indigenous Australian orphan arrives at a remote monastery run by a renegade nun.

In October we show the 2023 film from the UK, **Scrapper**. Living alone in her London flat, 12-year-old Georgie must confront reality when her estranged father, Jason, shows up out of nowhere.

Finally in November we have a drama from 2022, **The Lost King** based on a true story. An ambitious writer and amateur historian defies the academic establishment to unearth Richard III's long-missing remains in a Leicester car park.

The selection committee is very happy with this programme and we are sure that there should be something for everyone. At \$60 for 10 films we think it is great value and we will again be offering gift memberships available from the Tourist Office. They make a good, easy Christmas gift.

Finally, we should like to thank all the people who make the film club possible. Thanks too to the North West Theatre Company who provide our insurance and Roxy use arrangements and especially to our members.

The North West Theatre Company would like to introduce Bethany Simons an award winning actor, performer, director and NIDA coach.

Bethany will be presenting two workshops called "Find Your Voice" on Saturday the 8th of February for Adults and Sunday the 9th of February for Youth 9-18 years, both workshops from 10.00am to 4.00pm at The Roxy, Bingara.

If you're a public figure or teacher needing to elevate your presentation skills, an amateur actor wanting to level up your performance or you sing in your local choir and would like to understand the power of your instrument, the adults workshop is for you.

Bethany's workshop will help you build your confidence, communication skills and unlock your creativity using theatre techniques, creative expression and assist you in understanding the connection between your body, voice and imagination.

The youth workshop on the Sunday will be a load of fun where Bethany will assist you in understanding the connection between your body, voice and imagination through movement, theatre techniques and creative expression.

Unlock your creativity through the power of play and develop the confidence for many communication needs—public speaking, performance, presenting and more.

BOOKINGS: Bingara Tourism, phone (02) 6724 0066, or www.trybooking.com/CXSVU



The North West Theatre Company Inc.
... proudly presents ...



Find Your Voice

with NIDA Coach BETHANY SIMONS

Two Workshops at the Roxy Theatre, Bingara.

Saturday, Feb 8 for ADULTS \$20 10am to 4pm

Sunday, Feb 9 for KIDS (9-18) \$10 10am to 4pm

***Confident speaking in public; Vocal skills;
Unlock your creativity, and have lots of fun.***

**BOOKINGS: Bingara Tourism Ph: 6724 0066
or www.trybooking.com/CXSVU**

NWTC AGM President's Report

December 4, 2024

The past twelve months have been relatively quiet and steady for our company. We have tried some poetry with a dinner offer, a 'special date focused' Trivia Night, and produced a One Act play for a competition.

Poetry & Pancakes was a project aimed at gaining some new performers onto the Roxy stage and offering a meal and show for our audiences. Thank you to Friends of Touriandi for partnering in this and to the sixteen or so poetry readers who took the "All the World's a Stage" theme to heart and presented the "Seven Ages of Man" through a range of great poems: funny, dramatic, poignant and historical.

Our audiences were smallish, but it has been a tough time, since Covid, getting people back into the theatre and rebuilding our numbers. Thank you to all the readers, reciters and tech crew for putting the "Poetry & Pancakes" project together.

Saturday, "May the Fourth" was too good an opportunity to be missed, and so the "Force" was with us as we staged our 2024 Trivia Night. This was a great success both in numbers and in the numerous question categories that challenged and bemused the participating teams.

The Roxy Theatre and our technical expertise allow us great scope in exploring Trivia. Few venues or providers can offer a variety of music, film and dance, as well as the traditional sets of questions, quite like the North West Theatre Company. Thank you to all the planners, coordinators and presenters for that magic night.

We tried to find a play production for the second half of the year and came up with the idea of accepting the invitation and challenge from the Wyong Theatre Company on the Central Coast to enter a play into their One Act Play Festival.

"Nasty Things Murders" was selected and Ros Moulton, Johnette Walker, Esther Honey, Lee Loudon and Rick Hutton set to rehearsing this quirky murder mystery. Along with Susan Hutton and Paul Moulton we journeyed to Wyong for the weekend of the festival. Many thanks to Susan for arranging with her sister Fiona McWhinnie and her husband Andrew, for us to use their lovely beach house in Bateau Bay as our accommodation that weekend. We all had a great time both with our show and with each other's company.

Ours was a good first effort in the competition. We had Esther receive the acting encouragement award and we got to see what other companies were doing. We have decided to take one of the plays we saw, "Super Snout" and add it to our "Nasty Things..." play for a double bill early in 2025.

The NWTC Film Club continued its 'last Sunday in the month's screening of a mixture of films from many ages and genres. A regular troupe of supporting members created audiences up to the forties. Thanks to Ros Moulton and her committee for selecting and accessing the movies and to Ros and Paul Moulton for setting up the Roxy as a cinema each month.

We have also invited the Bingara Choir "Local Vocals" to be

members of the NWTC in 2024. By so doing they access the use of the Roxy for their rehearsals and gain benefit from our insurances and theatre access. Thank you to Esther Honey, the choir director, for your engagement with us.

Ros Moulton, Louise Zampa and Gene Taddio represented the NWTC at the Association of Community Theatre's Conference held at NIDA this year. They all enjoyed the experience, and Louise made special contact with voice and performance coach Bethany Simons. A workshop with Bethany is being planned for February 2025. Thank you, Louise, for your efforts in initiating and progressing this project.

Some of our members have taken to reading prospective plays for our company to consider going forward, and Lee is coordinating some further 'actor' reads to see how they fare as future projects.

We are also pursuing the prospect of another youth-based production for 2025. We have developed a pattern of trying these projects every second year and Rick has created an adaptation of "Alice in Wonderland" as our project for the first half of 2025. Thank you to all our members who are showing interest in this.

We are a small but efficient theatre company. We have a very healthy bank balance, excellently managed by our Treasurer Susan Hutton, and a very committed Executive with Secretary Ros Moulton and our Committee Members, Tanya Heaton, Louise Zampa and Lee Loudon giving generously of their time during 2024. It was my honour and pleasure to work with you during 2024.

Thanks also to Jen Mead at GSC Bingara Tourism for managing our bookings and to Carmen Southwell, the Roxy Manager for her ongoing support. Our arrangement with GSC and the Roxy has extended for more than 20 years. We are grateful for their support and for honouring our usage arrangement.

We hope to participate further in the health and well-being of the Roxy and are maintaining close contact with Carmen and her staff with this in mind. Sound and lighting upgrades are on the agenda for GSC.

The first half of 2025 is filling up well with NWTC activities. Building on her experience at the ACT Conference Louise is organising the workshop for February, and "Alice in Wonderland" is progressing for a May 2025 season. "Alice" promises to involve young people from late primary and high school age, as well as adults, in a crazy romp of a show based on the Lewis Carroll classic.

We are also looking to stage the two one-act plays, "Nasty Things Murders" and "Super Snout" early in 2025. The casts are being established and I hope that rehearsals for these will be underway in January.

I have enjoyed my year as your President and especially with the 2025 first half projects already happening, I hope to continue in that role in 2025 should you choose to nominate and elect me. Soon I will declare all Executive positions vacant, and I hope to see a mix of returning faces and new executive members putting forward their talents, ideas and energy for a wonderful year for the NWTC.

Thank you once again for your support and your passion, and all the best for 2025.

Rick Hutton

NWTC President 2024

Two Farming Fatalities Within 24 Hours Sparks Safety Warning

SafeWork NSW is reminding people working on farms to take care when using side-by-side vehicles and quad bikes after two fatal incidents within 24 hours.

At 2.45pm Tuesday (26 November), a man was killed on a farm in Peelwood in the state's south-east when the quad bike he was riding rolled over.

At 1pm yesterday (27 November), a farm manager drowned on a farm located between Orange and Dubbo, when the side-by-side vehicle he was driving rolled into a creek.

Since 2001, there have been more than 57 deaths in NSW from quad bike incidents. A further 21 people have died on side-by-side vehicles.

SafeWork NSW is urging those working on farms to manage the risks associated with quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles by:

- making sure the vehicle is appropriate for the task, the terrain and the rider,
- avoiding steep terrain,
- ride at a speed that's suitable for the conditions,
- always wear a helmet,
- always wear a seatbelt in side-by-side vehicles, and
- have an operator protection device fitted on all quad bikes.

Businesses are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety in accordance with the provisions of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017.

According to Head of SafeWork NSW, Trent Curtin, the safety features and procedures at your disposal could save your life:

"These two fatalities within such a short space of time are tragic and my sympathies go out to their families, friends and communities.

Those running farms and working on farms need to stop and have a look at the safety systems they have in place to prevent these types of incidents.

Remember the safety features on your vehicle could save your life. Just by wearing a helmet you reduce the risk of fatality in a quad bike incident by 40 per cent.

Where SafeWork Inspectors come across workers operating

side-by-side vehicles not wearing seatbelts or operating quad bikes without wearing helmets or having an operator protective device fitted, they will be taking a zero-tolerance approach and issue notices and fines.

I want to remind all farmers and workers using quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles to please take care."

For further information about quad bike and side-by-side vehicles visit the SafeWork NSW website: www.safework.nsw.gov.au/hazards-a-z/quad-bikes-and-side-by-side-vehicles/quad-bike-safety

COMMUNITY NEWS

FOR THE GWYDIR SHIRE AND SURROUNDS

THE *Gwydir* NEWS

Pick up your free copy at these local outlets

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 Bingara MPS
 Bingara Post Office
 Bingara Returned Servicemen's Club
 Bingara Sporting Club
 Bingara Visitor Information Centre
 Liberty Bingara Café
 Shell Garage Bingara
 Touriandi Lodge

Warialda

Carlo's IGA Warialda
 Galeria Coffee/Pepperbox Gallery
 Gwydir Shire Council Chambers
 Naroo Aged Hostel
 Save the Koala Gift Shop
 Warialda Community College
 Warialda Family Medical Practice
 Warialda High School
 Warialda Library
 Warialda MPS
 Warialda Newsagency
 Warialda Post Office
 Warialda Public School
 Warialda Visitor Information Centre

COMING IN 2025 - APPLY NOW!

Career Pathways & Qualifications

Issuing Registered Training Organisation
Community College Northern Inland Inc. (RTO 90027)



CHC33021 Certificate III in Individual Support

The care and support sector is now hiring, with rewarding jobs available in aged care, disability support and veterans' care.

- Dual Qualification - Nationally Recognised Training
- Delivery - Face-to-Face
- Duration - 12 Months

The **CHC33021 Certificate III in Individual Support** is the standard entry qualification for personal care work in a variety of roles in residential care, home and community support, and disability settings.

Career opportunities for graduates of this course may include the following job roles: Aged Care Worker; Disability Support Worker; Home Care Assistant; In Home Respite Care Worker.

WARIALDA



Starts Wednesday 19th February



**Course commences
Wednesday 19 February.** Scan the code for more information or apply for your place online.



This training is subsidised by the NSW Government. Eligibility rules apply. Fully subsidised training may be available for eligible students (subject to funding available at the time of application). Contact us to discuss course fees and eligibility.

Courses with the Nationally Recognised Training logo are accredited and comply with a national standard. These courses are recognised by employers and educational institutions Australia-wide.



Meet Toby...

Gday!

My name is Toby Cooper, and many of you may know me from around Warialda and Bingara, whether it's on the golf course or from one of the sporting fields over the years. I have lived in Warialda for most of my life and am currently heavily involved in the Australian Off Road Racing scene after a stint working for the Adam Scott company on the Gold Coast, and it's an honour to now serve as the new Gwydir Coordinator for Community College Northern Inland.

In my new role, I'll be working across Warialda, Bingara, and Barraba, supporting our communities with the educational opportunities and services provided by the college. I'm excited to help foster growth, and learning within our region, and I look forward to working closely with all of you in the coming months.

The College for those who don't know, offers a range of accredited training in aged care and disability, health, community services, business and IT, construction and safety, hospitality and literacy programs plus non-accredited programs for hobby, leisure, and wellbeing that provide connection for communities.

If you see me around, please don't hesitate to say hello, or if there is anything you would like to see happen within the campus, we would like to know, so we can work together to make our small communities even better.

Toby Cooper
Gwydir Coordinator
Community College Northern Inland



COMING IN 2025 - APPLY NOW!

First Aid

Issuing Registered Training Organisation
Community College Northern Inland Inc. (RTO 90027)

Provide First Aid

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation
HLTAID010 Provide basic emergency life support
HLTAID011 Provide first aid



1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop	9.00AM - 4.30PM	\$190	F
Barraba Campus	Monday 17 February		
Bingara Campus	Friday 11 April		
Warialda Campus	Thursday 6 March		

Provide CPR

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation



½-Day Face-to-Face Workshop	9.00AM - 12PM	\$90	F
Barraba Campus	Monday 17 February		
Bingara Campus	Friday 11 April		
Warialda Campus	Thursday 27 February		
Warialda Campus	Thursday 6 March		

Child Care First Aid

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation
HLTAID010 Provide basic emergency life support
HLTAID011 Provide first aid
HLTAID012 Provide first aid in an education and care setting



1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop	9.00AM - 5.30PM	\$210	F
Barraba Campus	Monday 17 February		

COMING IN 2025 - APPLY NOW!

Hospitality

Issuing Registered Training Organisation
Community College Northern Inland Inc. (RTO 90027)

Food Handling (Level 1)

SITXFSA005 Use hygienic practices for food safety



1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop	9.00AM - 3.00PM	\$160	F
Barraba Campus	Monday 17 March		
Bingara Campus	Monday 24 February		
Warialda Campus	Tuesday 8 April		

Food Safety Supervisor

SITXFSA005 Use hygienic practices for food safety
SITXFSA006 Participate in safe food handling practices



2-Day Face-to-Face Workshop	9.00AM - 3.00PM	\$230	
Bingara Campus	Mon 24 & Tue 25 February		

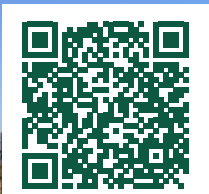


High Risk & Industry Licensing

We offer a range of safety training for individuals and businesses whose staff work on construction sites, at heights, and in confined spaces.

For everyone's safety, work safely.

Visit <https://ccni.nsw.edu.au/high-risk-courses/> to check courses and apply.



Call Toby on 0438 546 519

Community College Northern Inland | RTO 90027



Industry Led Workforce Development

Supported by the NSW Government

- Producers and employers
- Industry employers and jobseekers

Grow on-farm work skills with the help of Community College Northern Inland and the **AgSkilled** vocational training program. Scan the code to find out about subsidised training near you.

News from Bingara Central School



From the Principal

End of Year

Reflecting on the year, my favourite memory of 2024 has been witnessing our incredible community rally around our students to give them unforgettable experiences. Every family has felt the support through these generous contributions. This year our secondary students took off to the snow, while our primary students enjoyed a Zoo Snooze and explored the Blue Mountains. Rather than relying solely on family and school funds, our students took matters into their own hands. They sought sponsorship, organised fundraising events, and found ways to showcase and support our community as a show of gratitude. Our students wouldn't have had these memorable experiences, without the backing of our community. This is the strength of our community: you show up and stand by us every time. Thank you for making this year unforgettable.

I would like to thank all those who have supported our school to thrive in 2024 and congratulate our award recipients. We look forward to what 2025 will bring and welcome our new school leaders.



Swim Survival

Our School Swimming Program focuses on survival and safety and concluded this month with students completing a survival sequence dressed in light clothing. They demonstrated how to stay safe while clothed in the water, how to remove clothing if they were to fall into water and the ability to get themselves out of the water safely.

Throughout the last two weeks Year 2-6 have improved their confidence in the water, gained knowledge on water safety and exhibited the skills required to help themselves and others in the water.

We extend our thanks to staff at the Bingara Memorial Pool for their assistance over the duration of this program.

Copeton Foreshore Excursion

Students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 travelled to Northern Foreshores Copeton Dam in November as part of their unit in science. Students participated in a scavenger hunt, searching and discovering different living things in the park area, ticking items off in their workbooks and observing the landscape.

Fun was then had by all at the water splash park and children's playground. The children especially loved the large water bucket and water guns. The staff and students would like to thank the Bingara Central School P&C who enabled everyone to participate in this wonderful experience as well as Duncan's bus company for ensuring we travelled in comfort. A very enjoyable day was had by all!

Brooke Wall, Principal

BCS School Captains 2025
2025 Secondary School Captain - **Blaire Johnson**, 2025 Secondary School Vice-Captain - **Zoe Allen**, Principal - **Brooke Wall**, 2025 Primary School Vice-Captain - **Cristian Kerrigan**, and 2025 Primary School Captain - **Lara Coleman**



2024 Presentation Awards - Year 3 - 12

2024 Primary Dux, Overall Academic Achievement	Ivy Miller
2023 High School Dux, Overall Academic Achievement	Tammy Trevithick
Gwydir Shire Mayoral Achievement Award	Amelia Kilmore and Benjamin Ricardo
Bingara Teacher Association's Lifelong Learner Award	Kash Sullivan and Zoe Allen
Personal Best Award	Jessica McDouall and Aylah Mounter
Public Speaking Champion	Ruby Miller (Secondary) and Yarrundaali Fernando (Primary)
Public Speaking Runner Up	Charlotte Irwin (Secondary) and Daniel Rowleson (Primary)
Public Speaking Highly Commended	Scarlett Standerwick, Coltë Minnett (Secondary) and Taysharn Peterson (Primary)
Public Speaking Encouragement	Benjamin Cover and Cristian Kerrigan (Primary)
Junior Girls Sports Award	Sophie Latham, Junior Boys Sports Award - Koen Sullivan
Senior Girls Sports Award	Faithlyn Atep, Senior Boys Sports Award - Luka Barac
Primary Sportsperson of the Year	Summer Rowleson
Premier's Sporting Challenge	Benjamin Cover
Secondary Achievement in Sport	Stephanie Petrus, Ruby Miller, Blaire Johnson, Charlotte Irwin, Addison Dixon, Zoe Allen
Outstanding Achievement in Sport	James Irwin and Jarrod Petrus
Sportsperson of the Year	Liam Johnson
Secondary Sports-Team of the Year	Senior Girls Touch Football
Champion House, Athletics, Swimming and Marching House Champion	Fraser
Reuben F Scarf Award for Commitment Award	Jesse Minnett
Ampol Best All Rounder	Blaire Johnson
ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award	Zoe Allen and Jesse Minnett
2025 Primary School Captain	Lara Coleman
2025 Primary School Vice-Captain	Cristian Kerrigan
2025 Secondary School Captain	Blaire Johnson
2025 Secondary School Vice-Captain	Zoe Allen
Bradman House Captains	Daniel Rowleson and Mailee Sullivan
Bradman House Vice Captains	Mikayla Larkins and Tobie Cover
Fraser House Captains	Hudson Pleffer and Dylan Weber
Fraser House Vice Captains	Summer and Ellé-Grace Haley
Laver House Captains	Jakiya Fernando and Jonté Minnett
Laver House Vice Captains	Yarrundaali Fernando and Jymari Robinson
Bingara Central School Junior AECG Executive	President - Jymari Robinson, Vice President - Taminya Bloomfield, Secretary - Amelia Dixon
Cathy Brown Memorial Award	Sage D
Gwydir Shire Mayoral Award	Mia Coleman

News from Gravesend Public School



What's News @Gravo Public School

Year 6 - Bouncing Out!

Once a semester students at Gravo bus to Bounce Fitness in Inverell where they look forward to the new obstacles and challenge set by the Bounce team. It is always a hot conversation on the bus about who will get the icy-pole for the new challenge set each visit. For our last visit the challenge was to get three 'golden snitches'. Maggie, Islah, Lottie and Cate all managed to be great snitch thieves and enjoyed their icy pole!

Hats off to our amazing Year 6 Graduates; Maggie, Islah and Makiitah!

These children have picked Bounce Fitness and a delicious Chinese luncheon to celebrate their end of an era at Gravo PS. Maggie, Makiitah and Islah are wonderful students who have made incredible memories and achieved great success during their time at Gravesend Public School. We know these girls will shine bright as they all venture to Sydney to start their high school journey.

Entrepreneurs Update

Croppa Creek Public School hosted a wonderful Young Entrepreneurs Market day that saw students from across three small schools and their families admire the budding young business minded students while supporting their small business. Gravesend Public School students worked in teams to market, make and sell food, resin key rings, candles, slices, smoothies, body butter, bath salts and lip balm all within \$120 budget. The task posed many challenges any successful businesses would face, however our students overcame these risks and found solutions to improve their product and service before hitting the market.

Young Entrepreneurs Market Day Preparation



Collaborative Learning Groups

In Terms 2 and 3, every Friday at Gravesend PS is a fun Friday! The day commences with a celebration of student achievements, followed by sport. After this students split into collaborative learning groups.

These rotations occur fortnightly and include cooking in our alfresco kitchen, gardening in our community garden where we learn about seed to plate, sewing and leatherwork, all part of our future careers development and independence skills.

Pasta is on the Menu @ the Gravo Alfresco Kitchen!



Presentation Night and Festive Wishes

We invite friends and families to our Annual Presentation Day on Thursday 12th December at 6.30pm. Bring along your own beverages and cheese platters as we celebrate student successes and enjoy the entertainment.

As the festive season approaches, the staff at Gravesend Public School would like to wish their students and families a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to welcoming all the students back on Thursday 13th February 2025.

School's Out!

News from St Josephs School Warialda



From the Principal

The end of the school year is always a bittersweet time. As students prepare to close their textbooks and wrap up their final projects, there's an undeniable excitement in the air for the upcoming holiday season and a well-deserved break. It's a time for reflection on the hard work and achievements accomplished throughout the year, celebrating growth, learning, and the countless memories made with friends and teachers. Simultaneously, it's a period of goodbyes, as students and staff part ways, some moving on to new schools or adventures. The end of the year is a culmination of dedication and effort, mixed with anticipation for what lies ahead. It's a moment to appreciate the journey and look forward to the opportunities and challenges that the new year will bring.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible school families for your unwavering support and dedication. Your involvement and encouragement have been instrumental in making this year



a success. From participating in school events to supporting your children through their academic and extracurricular endeavors, your commitment has not gone unnoticed. Your partnership has enriched our school community and fostered a nurturing environment for our students to thrive. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey, and we look forward to continuing this wonderful collaboration in the years to come.

I wish everyone a season filled with joy, peace, and safety. While you

enjoy the festive celebrations, take a moment to prioritise the well-being of yourself and your loved ones. If you're traveling, ensure all your preparations are thorough and you travel with care. Keep an eye on weather updates, and drive safely if you're hitting the road. Amidst the fun and festivities, don't forget to rest and recharge. May your holidays be safe, joyful, and full of heartwarming moments. Merry Christmas and happy holidays!

Mathew Mills
Principal
St Joseph's Warialda

News from Warialda Public School



From the Principal

Learning is our ultimate focus no matter the time of year, whether that be during guided reading groups, dance routine practice, Maths lessons and 'Grow your mind' activities.

As teachers, we love the fact that at this time of year, we can look at how far our students have come and where they are headed.

We celebrate how they have developed friendships, grown in their resilience, shown the confidence to work hard at challenging tasks and learn new concepts.

Hearing conversations where teachers are so excited by how much a student's reading and comprehension levels have improved... or how a student's quality of writing is going ahead in leaps and bounds... or where they have grown in their number facts knowledge and application...

It is exciting! What a great school and community we are a part of!

NW PSSA Cricket Trials

Last week, our cricket legends, Izzy



Diprose and Harley Cowell, headed off to Tamworth to compete for a position in the NW Cricket team. They batted and bowled with determination, up against a host of skilled competitors.

We are excited to announce that Izzy has secured a position in the NW PSSA Girls Cricket side and Harley has been selected as a reserve in the NW PSSA Boys Cricket Team.

This is such a great achievement for both Izzy and Harley, with their training and hard work shining through on the day. Thank you for showing such great sportsmanship and being wonderful representatives of WPS and the Inverell Zone, Izzy and Harley!

A shout out to our School Chaplain Mr Mac!

Mr Mac is our School Chaplain who joins us at Warialda on Wednesdays and Thursdays!

From the moment he arrives at school, it is action stations. The soccer field is set up and Mr Mac can be seen darting through the students, giving helpful tips on the game, whilst laughing alongside the students.



He works in classrooms, reading groups, Maths rotations, lending a helping hand and a listening ear.

He can also be seen running specialised leatherwork and ukulele groups!

The leatherwork skills that are taught and projects that are completed are amazing—whips, keyrings, belts... and with his musical background, our students learn new skills that they have never been taught before! It has been so good hearing the strum of music also coming from the hall...

Warialda Public School is so lucky to have you, Mr Mac!



Kindergarten next year with Miss Courtney Beard! She is so excited to be teaching these wonderful children in 2025!

We are so proud of how you fulfilled these roles respectively and thoughtfully.

Lest We forget

PSSA Touch football State Finals

A huge congratulations to our touch footy superstars who ran and tagged their hearts out last month in Sydney. It is such a massive achievement to finish first in the North West and an amazing 7th in the State for both boys and girls teams. A massive thank you to the WPS P&C and Gwydir Shire Council for their kind donations toward the purchase of their fantastic new singlets and assistance with travel costs. Thank you to Kearni Reynolds for supporting and coaching the teams and of course, Coach Miss Naomi Cole for going above and beyond! I know that all the students and parents are so thankful for all Miss Cole has done!



A shout out to our G.A, Mr Sheehan

Mr Richard Sheehan is one of those people who will do anything to lend a helping hand.

As well as working hard to create and maintain our beautiful school grounds, he goes about making sandpits for students, moving furniture for teachers, setting up equipment for special days, marking sports fields lines... so many tasks that he does with a great attitude and a smile!

Thanks Mr Sheehan!

Remembrance Day

Warialda Public students took part in both the Warialda Remembrance Day Service at Captain Cook Park and our Warialda Public School Service at School.

The SRC, Student Representative Council participated in the wreath-laying Ceremony. They also had the privilege to listen to Mr Mac, our School Chaplain, playing the bagpipes rendition of "Flowers in the Forest".

Back at School, our Year 6 students stepped to lead their peers in the Remembrance Day Ceremony.



The Story of Our Nativity Ornaments



Seven years ago, these beautiful 70-year-old ornaments were rescued from a Catholic Church in Goulburn as they sat waiting to be taken to landfill.

They were in fairly poor condition with pieces missing and lots of paint missing from years of being moved about the church. The Parish Priest was reluctant to let us have them. His words were, "If people see the state of Baby Jesus, we will be had up for child abuse."

When told the idea for the retrieval was to fix them up and use them at the Bingara Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) for the residents to enjoy, he agreed.

Anne Hunter was asked if she thought that the restoration was achievable, and fortunately for us, Anne took the challenge, and what a fantastic job she did. Anne, with the help of her husband Dennis, replaced broken bits and filled holes to bring each and every ornament back to life. Then Anne did the repaint to complete the restoration.

These beautiful ornaments had three years at the MPS and three years at the Op-Shop. As they are made of plaster, they had started to show some 'wear and tear' again, so again, Anne has lovingly spent endless hours restoring them to the beautiful state we see them in today.

Fantastic work, Anne, and a huge 'Thank you' from everyone.

Bingara United Hospital Auxiliary Branch Members Recognised



Bingara United Hospital Auxiliary branch members were recently joined by UHA State President, Mrs Sally Cronberger, along with special guests Joanne Thornton, Susan Mack and Renae Kilmore.

Before enjoying a delicious afternoon tea at the Fresh Finds, Life Membership was given to Mrs June Ritter, member since 2005 and branch treasurer since 2011, as well as Beulah Malloy, a branch member since 1987.

"A worthy recipient, Beulah has been a dedicated worker ever since becoming a member," said host Johnette Walker. "And June does a mighty job as treasurer keeping our fundraising under control."

Recognition was given to Branch President Jill Smith for 40 years of service - 30 as President and to Mr Bill Goldthorpe for his 10 years of service and support to his late mother, Wendy Reading, in her Secretarial position.

Special mention was also made to Bingara MPS administration officer, Renae Kilmore, for her ongoing assistance with the Auxiliary's needs.

"No matter how busy she is she finds time to assist the UHA with anything we require. As a branch, we decided to make her an honorary member," said Johnette.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Bingara

Garden Club

Drive By Encouragement Award

The winner of the Bingara Garden Club Drive-by Encouragement Award for November 2024 is Kerry White of 9 Dinoga Street. Absent a front fence, mature trees, one in cream flower, compliment generous lawns in a peaceful setting that provides relief from the western sun, with walkways in the shade. A large oblong garden bed at the back of the trees gives space to Lomandra grass in cream flower, agapanthus with blue tips showing on their buds and white evening primrose sprawling along the front. Red salvias backed by taller gold foliage plants grace the left side of the boundary fence between properties. Overall, a neat and tidy garden!



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BIODIVERSITY



NATURE WALK

GETTING HIGH FOR SUMMER IN MT KAPUTAR

WHEN: Saturday 18th January 2025

WHERE: Meet at 7.30am @ The Living Classroom
(1 Narrabri Rd, Bingara) - car pooling preferred

WHAT: A wander in the National Park exploring the natural wonders. Hopefully cooler than on the slopes! It will be a long day, so....

BYO: food, drink, hat, sturdy shoes, sunscreen

MORE INFO: gwydir.ark@gmail.com



Koala Ambassador Andy Penkow gets ready to rock in Moree

Australian country music star and Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) ambassador Andy Penkow is set to light up northern NSW this New Year's Eve when he brings his live show to the Moree Services Club.

Known for his soulful voice, heartfelt lyrics and electric live performances, Andy is set to make this New Years Eve in Moree one to remember. The concert will feature all of Andy's hits, including the new version of "Heavy on Me," re-written in a special collaboration with the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) for Save the Koala Day 2024.

Andy is a rising star in the Australian country music scene, and his blend of both traditional and modern country sounds mixed with impeccable storytelling have earned him critical acclaim. Just recently, it was announced that his latest album release, "Shades On Me" has been nominated for three Golden Guitars – Contemporary Album of the Year, Toyota Album of the Year and Bush Ballad of the Year for the song, "The Lone Drover". The awards ceremony will be held on the 25th January 2025, during the esteemed Tamworth Country Music Festival.

"Moree is such an important area for the Australian Koala Foundation, as are the towns surrounding it," says AKF Chair Deborah Tabart OAM. "Moree Secondary College recently held a fundraiser for Save the Koala Month, and generously donated the proceeds to the AKF. That donation went directly towards our first Koala KISS Project in the Gwydir Shire. Our Save the Koala gift shop is also permanently set up in Warialda, and is a popular destination for locals and visitors who actively support us when they shop there."

Entry for the show is free, and all attendees will receive a special one-time discount code for the Australian Koala Foundation's online shop, in collaboration with Andy.

"We're thrilled that our long-time Koala ambassador and friend Andy Penkow is taking his concert to Moree for New Years Eve. The AKF was lucky enough to host Andy and his band at our HQ office in September for Save the Koala Month, so we all got a front row seat to his spectacular live set!"

EVENT DETAILS

DATE: December 31, 2024

TIME: 8.00pm – 12.00am

LOCATION: Moree Services Club, 3 Albert St Moree, NSW



About the Australian Koala Foundation

The Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) is the principal non-profit, non-government organisation dedicated to the effective management and conservation of the Koala and its habitat. Our main goals are to refine and update the Koala Habitat Atlas mapping of all wild Koala habitat and to get the Koala Protection Act enacted to ensure Koalas and their habitat are protected.

4x CMAA GOLDEN GUITAR NOMINEE

**ANDY PENKOW
& BAND**

PERFORMING LIVE
NEW YEARS EVE
8PM-MIDNIGHT

MOREE SERVICES CLUB
3 ALBERT ST, MOREE NSW 2400

Funds to Bring Delungra Together

Delungra's non-profit community group, Muster Up Delungra is among the recently announced grant recipients from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR).

Under the FRRR grants, Muster Up Delungra will receive just over \$23,000 to host five community events next year, which are expected to provide something for everybody in the Delungra community.

A representative from the Foundation, Jill Karena, said their funding program is committed to empowering local groups to lead projects that will best meet the needs of their community.

"The projects we fund truly matter and have a meaningful impact. Our Strengthening Rural Communities program proves that a grant, no matter how small, can make a big impact in a regional place.

Leah Bennett from Muster Up says the funding will provide a major boost for the group's 2025 plans and also comes on the back of a highly successful night with acclaimed comedian Peter Rowsthorn.

"We have a Farmers BBQ planned in May where our hard-working farmers, families and local community can come together to relax, socialise and make new connections, while enjoying a meal, drinks, music and dancing. We are expecting a big turnout to this event."

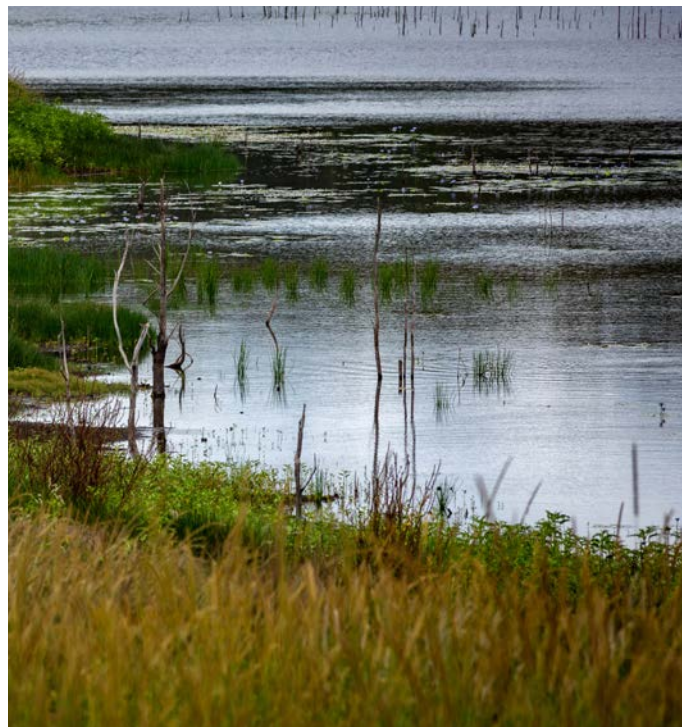
"We will be hosting some fun, on-farm education to boost knowledge and productivity, First Aid training for locals, alongside other events we have planned throughout 2025 including another comedy and dinner night in October 2025.

"The funding will also help Delungra celebrate Rural Women's Day on 15 October 2025. A fun day to assist in helping women look after their health and connect to services they may not have known about, or how to connect to."

"We want our rural ladies to remember they are an integral part of our community."

Muster Up will also host two children's Christmas movies on Saturday 7 December from 11.30am at the Delungra Bowling Club.

For updates on Muster Up Delungra and their events, visit their Facebook page - @MusterUpDelungraInc



Copeton Dam Level

69% as at 18 December 2024

Bingara Golf Report

November 2024

Submitted by John Gill

On Sunday 3rd November 2024 Bingara golfers played 4 B.B.B. Championship with 22 golfers taking part.

Results

Winners	Shane Thomson and Brad Craddock - Gross score 34
Runners Up	Peter Smith and Mick Walton - Gross score 28
Nett Winners	Richard Scutt and John Robinson - 48 nett
Runners Up	Marshall Bond and John Gill - 45 nett
Nearest to Pin	7/16 Mick Walton 9/18 Danny Capel
Second Best Shot	6/15 Tee A grade 0/18 Shane Thomson B grade 19+ Garry Hincksman
Jackpot Ball	Eric O - Did not play

On Sunday 10th November 2024 with 17 players, Men's Monthly Medal was played for the November medal.

Results

Winner	Richard Scutt - 63 nett
Runner-Up	Mick Walton on a count back - 64 nett
Ballcomp	Clayton Southwell - 64 nett Dave Armitage - 65 nett John Gill - 65 nett
Nearest to Pin	7/16 Shane Thomson 9/18 Laurie Mensforth
Best Second Shot	6/15 Tee A grade 0/18 Ron Armstrong B grade 19+ (no one good enough)
Jackpot Ball	2 Balls - Damien Galvin did not play, oh bad luck Damien

On Sunday 17th November 2024 Bingara and Warialda golfers met at Bingara for the second round of the David Rose Cup to decide the winner. Warialda came to Bingara with a convincing lead after round one played at Warialda 18th February 2024, Bingara up for the challenge on their own course. Bingara won the day, but short of the Warialda lead giving the cup to Warialda for 2024. Congratulations Warialda.



Hayden Mack, Bingara presenting the David Rose Trophy to Warialda's Mark Smith

On Sunday 1st December 2024 with 20 players, December Mens Monthly Medal was played.

Results

Winner	Brad Craddock - 65 nett on a four way count back. Brad also won the medal of medals for 2024 - congratulations Brad.
Runner Up	Playing his last game as a junior, Marshall Bond - 68 nett
Ballcomp	Shane Thomson - 65 nett Mark McGowan - 65 nett
Nearest to Pin	7/16 Mark McGowan 9/18 Cameron Maisey
Best Second Shot	6/15 Tee A grade 0/18 Shane Thomson B grade 19+ Ben Whatman
Bradman Trophy	Jayden Booth
Jackpot Ball	1 Ball played on the day
7/16 Tee Super Shot	Won by John Gill

PUBLIC NOTICES

OPTUS

PROPOSAL FOR 5G UPGRADES TO MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION AT EXISTING TELECOMMUNICATIONS SITE IN BINGARA

1. The site at which this works is being undertaken is located at Apex Lookout Road, Bingara NSW 2404 (Lot 315 DP754819). The proposed works include the installation of new 4G and 5G equipment and associated works at the existing 35m lattice tower. The proposed works comprise of:
 - Replacement of three (3) existing panel antennas with three (3) new panel antennas (each antenna no longer than 2.8m in height) on new antenna mounts on existing structure,
 - Installation and reconfiguration of associated ancillary equipment including but not limited to the replacement of three (3) remote radio units (RRUs) for two (2) RRUs on the existing mounts and the installation of one (1) GPS antenna on the existing equipment shelter to ensure proper functioning of the facility.
2. Optus regards the proposed works as a low-impact facility under the Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018 based on the description above.
3. The proposed infrastructure will comply with the ACMA EME regulatory arrangements. An EME Report and further information can be obtained from www.rfnsa.com.au/2404002.
4. In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to: CPS Technology & Infrastructure, (02) 9300 1700, submissionsVIC@cpstech.com.au by **5pm on Thursday 16th January 2025**.

Community Recycling Stations

The right place for your small problem waste



It's FREE to drop off:

- Household batteries
- Smoke detectors
- Fluoro globes (no fluorescent tubes)
- Mobile phones
- Electronic waste
- Ink cartridges
- Eye glasses
- X-rays

Collection of these items will vary by location.

To find your nearest Community Recycling Station and the items accepted, visit nirw.org.au/projects/community-recycling-stations or contact your local Council



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What's on

DECEMBER 2024

Saturday 14th	North Star Sporting Club Christmas Party - 5.00pm - Visit from Santa
Friday 20th	Christmas Tree and Disco - Warialda Golf and Bowling Club - 6.00pm Start - Santa arriving at 8.00pm
Sunday 22nd	Warialda Christmas Carols by Candlelight - 7.45pm - BBQ dinner from 6.00pm - Anglican Church backyard, Stewart Avenue - Bring a rug, chairs and some cash for dinner
Monday 23rd	2025 Warialda Australia Day Award Nominations close
Wednesday 25th	Christmas Day Lunch - 11.00am - Warialda Memorial Hall - Food, drink and games provided
Monday 30th - Wednesday 1st	Upper Horton Campdraft and Rodeo - Campdraft 1.00pm Monday and 6.00am Tuesday and Wednesday - Junior Rodeo 4.00pm Monday - Novice and Open Rodeo 7.00pm Tuesday

JANUARY 2025

Saturday 18th	Gwydir Ark Mt Kaputar Nature Walk - 7.30am - The Living Classroom, Bingara - BYO Food, drink, hat, sturdy shoes and sunscreen
Sunday 26th	Australia Day Breakfast and Awards Ceremony - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara
Sunday 26th	Australia Day Breakfast and Awards Ceremony - Warialda Showgrounds

FEBRUARY 2025

Monday 3rd	AGM Crooble Hall Committee - 7.30pm - Crooble Hall
Saturday 8th	"Find Your Voice" Workshop with NIDA Coach Bethany Simons - Adults - 10.00am to 4.00pm at the Roxy, Bingara
Sunday 9th	"Find Your Voice" Workshop with NIDA Coach Bethany Simons - Youth 9-18 years - 10.00am to 4.00pm at the Roxy, Bingara
Friday 14th	Library Lovers Day
Sunday 23rd	NWTC Film Club 'Seven Years in Tibet' - 4.00pm - The Roxy, Bingara - New members welcome

Church Notices

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 4 th weekend 6.00pm
Warialda	Saturdays 6.00pm 4 th weekend 10.00am

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Bingara	2 nd and 4 th weeks - Rosary 9.30am/Mass 10.00am
Warialda	1 st and 3 rd 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.

2025 Claim the Date

JANUARY 2025

Sunday 26 th	Australia Day Breakfast and Awards Ceremony - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara
Sunday 26 th	Australia Day Breakfast and Awards Ceremony - Warialda Showgrounds

FEBRUARY 2025

Friday 14 th	Library Lovers Day
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MARCH 2025

Sunday 2 nd	Biggest Clean Up Australia Day
Friday 14 th - Sunday 16 th	Mason Daley Memorial Cod Classic, Gravesend
Friday 14 th - Sunday 16 th	Gwydir River Run Stockman's Challenge - Charity Fundraising Event for Ronald McDonald House
Saturday 22 nd	50 Years at the Star - North Star Sporting Club 6pm
Saturday 22 nd - Sunday 23 rd	Bingara Show
Saturday 29 th	Croppa Creek Crows Rugby Gala Day

APRIL 2025

Thursday 3 rd - Sunday 6 th	Bingara Country Music Festival
Saturday 12 th	Warialda Races
Friday 18 th - Monday 21 st	Bingara Anglers Club Easter Fish
Friday 25 th	ANZAC Day Services

MAY 2025

Thursday 8 th - Saturday 10 th	Warialda Show
Saturday 17 th - Sunday 18 th	Coolatai Vintage Tractor Pull
Wednesday 21 st	National Simultaneous Storytime

JUNE 2025

Saturday 7 th	Croppa Creek Cracker & Bonfire Night
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JULY 2025

Friday 4 th	Willoughby Youth Exchange
Saturday 5 th	65 th Anniversary Orange Picking Ceremony
	Orange Festival
	Gravesend Mini Pony Camp - to be held during school holidays

AUGUST 2025

Thursday 7 th	North Star Polo Carnival
	"Trinket the Robot" at The Roxy Theatre, Bingara
Saturday 16 th	Gravesend Campdraft
Saturday 30 th	Bingara Races
	Grazing on the Gwydir

SEPTEMBER 2025

Saturday 13 th	Warialda Honey Festival
Wednesday 17 th	Cinderella, Spinderella play, Warialda Memorial Hall
Friday 19 th - Sunday 21 st	Warialda Off Road 200
Saturday 27 th	Croppa Creek Cricket Day
	Community Warriors Black and White Ball

OCTOBER 2025

Croppa Creek Crop Tour
Gravesend Pony Camp - to be held during school holidays

NOVEMBER 2025

Tuesday 4 th	Melbourne Cup
Tuesday 11 th	Remembrance Day
Saturday 29 th	Bingara Christmas Concert

DECEMBER 2025

Friday 5 th	Warialda Christmas Carnival
Friday 5 th	Lighting of the Christmas Tree - Warialda
Sunday 14 th	Crooble Carols
Sunday 21 st	Warialda Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 30 th - Thursday 1 st	Upper Horton Campdraft and Rodeo