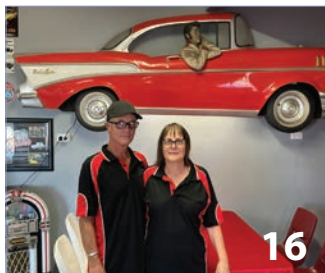


February 2025 Edition

[gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au](mailto:gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au)

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*Classic Takeaway Brings a Taste of Nostalgia to Warialda*

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



Published by  
Community College  
Northern Inland

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Freecall **1800 952 264**

### Bingara

6 Riddell Street  
Bingara NSW 2404

### Warialda

47 Hope Street  
Warialda NSW 2402

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## Moylan to Introduce Private Members Bill for Youth Crime Reform

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan gave notice in Parliament today of the introduction of the 'Regional Youth Crime Reform Bill'.

Mr Moylan intends to read the Bill either next week or in the March NSW Parliament sittings.

The Bill seeks to make three straightforward, yet significant changes, to address the ongoing youth crime problems in regional NSW.

The three proposed changes include:

1. Reversal of *doli incapax*.
2. To remove the loophole in section 22 of the Bail Act so courts, including the Supreme Court, are not permitted to grant bail to serious juvenile repeat offenders.
3. To require courts to place greater weight on the impact on the victim when sentencing an offender.

In the last two years, there has been an increase in serious crime, particularly violent break-ins, across the Northern Tablelands.



*Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan intends to introduce the 'Regional Youth Crime Reform Bill' to NSW Parliament.*

The purpose of this Bill is to protect the community.

Last year, \$13.4 million was pledged by the NSW Government to Moree to implement programs to prevent youth crime and another \$2 million was promised last Friday.

This week, \$4 million was allocated to Bourke and Kempsey for the same problem.

Mr Moylan acknowledges the importance of diversionary programs but believes serious repeat offenders should be held accountable.

"We must hold offenders accountable for the harm they cause innocent victims and the broader community,"

he said.

"While diversionary programs are important, the community needs the laws to change so they are protected, and offenders are dealt with properly and not released without proper consequences.

"Continually throwing money at this problem won't change it.

"We can't keep doing the same thing and hoping for a different outcome.

"We need serious legislative change and this bill is the start of the process. I was hoping the Government would introduce their own Bill, they haven't done anything so I will."

**Next issue:** The Gwydir News will be published on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March. **Plan your advertising now**—booking and material deadline for the next issue is Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Email [gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au](mailto:gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au)



## 2025 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

|           |               |                       |
|-----------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au) and we will respond with a quote.



## Mayoral Column

I hope all readers enjoyed a safe and happy festive season. On behalf of my fellow Councillors, I would like to wish all the Gwydir Shire residents and ratepayers the very best for 2025.

Throughout the month of January, Council's Technical Services team worked on several road projects within the Shire including:

- Contracted work for Transport for NSW on State Highways within the local government area.
- Continued construction of Country Boundary Road in the north of the Shire which is funded by the 'Roads of Strategic Importance' initiative.
- Commenced construction of the last 2 kms of IB Bore Road as a contractor to Moree Plains Shire Council.

On Wednesday 5 February 2025, Alex Eddy, a Director of Council, and I together with the Mayor of Dubbo Shire Council made a presentation to the NSW Upper House regarding PFAS contamination. Alex and I spoke of the recent Wialda water supply contamination. If you would like to view this presentation it is available on the NSW Parliament YouTube Channel.

Last week Council staff and I met with the Minister for Water, Rose Jackson. At the meeting we sought financial assistance with the construction of a new bore for the Wialda water supply and a fast-tracked Approval. This meeting was very successful with the Minister indicating strong support for the establishment of an additional bore. When Council receives more information, we will inform the community.

## Call to Return Council Venue Items

Gwydir Shire boasts many fantastic community venues. These venues are used by many continually to celebrate, gather, catch up and enjoy.

In these venues there are a great variety of items big and

Please note that a site for a new bore has been identified. The proposed site is well upstream from the contaminated bores and is adjacent to a private bore. This bore has been tested and the results showed no measurable traces of PFAS.

On Friday 14 February 2025, Council staff and I attended a Border Regional Organisation of Councils (BROC) meeting at The Living Classroom, Bingara. BROC meetings are held quarterly every year to discuss, and deal with issues which are faced by rural and remote communities either side of the NSW/Queensland border.

I have been in touch with Barnaby Joyce's Office and have discussed with them the poor level of Telstra services. Council foresees this to be an ongoing conversation and we hope to be involved with the push to improve coverage for our community. We need to be able to connect with one another effectively. This issue will be discussed at our next Council meeting.

There was no Council meeting for the month of January, as this is traditionally a time of recess. The next Council meeting will be held on Thursday 20 February 2025 at The Living Classroom, Bingara.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the nominees and recipients of the Australia Day Award ceremonies that were conducted across the Shire. It is wonderful to see the efforts of our community members being recognised for all their great work.

In other exciting news, it is fantastic that the Atep family have now secured a permanent visa, allowing them to stay within the Gwydir Shire. I recognise the Atep family have long been a part of the Bingara community, however I would like to officially welcome them to the Gwydir community. I acknowledge the efforts of local residents in the push for the Atep family to stay in Australia, your support with this initiative was extremely impactful on the final outcome.

small. From time-to-time items may be taken from a venue to clean, repair or for use at another venue.

If you have an item, Council would love for it to be returned so it can again be used by our community.

You may have a bowl, tablecloth, rake, hose, cutlery, mug, plate, vase, swimming kickboard, or any other random item.

Council requests that you return any items to any of its offices, libraries or visitor information centres.





## Connecting With Council on Social Media

Have you ever wondered how your friend knows about a Facebook post?

Do you ever feel that you don't receive Facebook posts that you want to read? For example, you may want to find out when an event is happening. Or you may want to inform yourself about a community issue.

Many Facebook users find it frustrating that their page seems to be filled with advertisements and that there are just so many posts which don't really interest or affect them.

Gwydir Shire seeks to connect with residents and visitors through many mediums including Facebook. When staff upload posts some of these posts reach a very small number of people only, while other posts reach thousands of people.

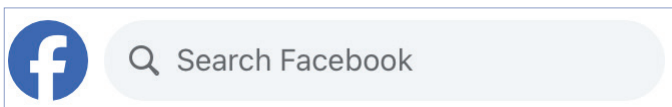
Facebook connections are embedded in complicated software algorithms but together we can bypass these and connect in a much easier way and more often.

Please consider taking the following steps so that Council can connect with you in a more effective and timely manner through Facebook.

Instead of waiting to see what falls onto your page, go to the top left-hand corner of your Facebook page and click on the magnifying glass icon (see image below) and type in

**Gwydir Shire Council**

and then click on the page link.



The page will then open and you see what has been posted by Council staff for you to read.

Going forward when you again wish to read what has been posted you just repeat the same steps.

That is, you go to the magnifying glass icon on the top left-hand side of your page and start typing the name of the Facebook page you would like to see. As you type you will see the page's name generate. Simply then click on this name and the page will open.

You can do this for Council's other Facebook pages as well. These pages are entitled Warialda, Place of Wild Honey and Bingara, NSW.

Using these steps, you bypass seeing only what Facebook places on your page feed. Instead you can directly connect with the Facebook page you seek.

If you need a bit more help or assistance you can ask one of our staff in our libraries.

Try it, you may like it.

## Bingara Riverside Project

During the month of November 2024, the Soil Conservation Service advised that they could not undertake the project over the Summer period due to the heightened river levels caused by water releases from Copeton Dam. However, the new project officer oversaw temporary works which included the protection of the riverbank and river gum.

The actual project will commence now in March 2025 under the stewardship of this new project officer. Council now has confidence that this project will be completed by end July 2025 and that the foreshore will again be a showcase for the Bingara township.

## The Living Classroom (TLC)

TLC continues to be a busy place. New all-access footpaths are being constructed, works on the Interpretive Centre are progressing well. TLC has many bookings with the Classroom and Bunkhouse being used frequently.

The electricity low voltage supply, water and sewage have been connected to the new cabins. Unfortunately though, Council is still awaiting the necessary electricity high voltage supply to be installed. Council has been advised that this supply will be installed mid-March 2025.



# Bingara Administration Centre Update

The Bingara Administration Centre project is progressing with trades returning to site after the Christmas/ New Year break.

The following work is in progress:

## Image 1

The roof of the existing façade has been moved and other sections have been stripped out in preparation for the supporting structural steel work to be added. Sections of the existing brick façade to be removed are yet to be demolished.

## Image 2

Underfloor sanitary drainage has now been completed.

## Image 3

Strip footings to the southern section of the building (adjacent to the Pally Styles building) have been excavated with reinforcing steelwork installed. Block layers have commenced laying of the concrete blocks to form the fire wall adjacent to Pally Styles.

Council will be removing the granite material which has been excavated from the building strip footings and stockpiled on site. It is good clean material so Council will stockpile it at the sewer treatment plant site for re-use on other projects.



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

## GWYDIR WASTE COLLECTION

**TUESDAY:** Gravesend, Warialda Rail, North Star, Croppa Creek

**WEDNESDAY:** Bingara

**THURSDAY:** Warialda

**GARBAGE:** Weekly collection

**RECYCLING & ORGANICS:**  
Fortnightly, alternating weeks

**WASTE HOTLINE**  
**1300 736 719**

## Draft Plan of Management - Community Land Gwydir LGA

The draft Plan of Management (PoM) for Community Land - Gwydir Local Government Area (LGA) is on public exhibition commencing from 9am, Thursday 20 February 2025 to 5pm, Thursday 20 March 2025.

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 land.

### View the Plan of Management

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

You may view an electronic copy of the draft Community Land 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 Community Land - Gwydir Local Government Area PoM between 11am and 12.30pm on Tuesday 18 March 2025 at the Bingara Customer Service Centre, 74 Maitland Street, Bingara.

### Submissions for the PoM

Submissions may be lodged via email with the subject *Submission – Draft Community Land Gwydir LGA PoM* in writing addressed to the General Manager.

For enquiries, please contact Council's Community Assets Manager on 0428 241 542.

The draft Community Land Gwydir LGA PoM is on public exhibition for 28 days, from 9am, Thursday 20 February 2025 to 5pm, Thursday 20 March 2025. Submissions will be received until 5pm, Thursday 6 April 2025.

### Public Hearing for Categorisation

Section 40A of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to hold a public hearing as this plan establishes the category of Council owned lands within the Community Land Gwydir LGA PoM. Note: this does not relate to Crown land.

The public hearing about the proposed categorisation will be at the Bingara Customer Service Centre between 9.30am and 11.00am on Tuesday 18 March 2025. A *Public Hearing information package* is available with the draft PoM.

### Submissions for Categorisation

Submissions may be lodged via email with the subject *Submission – Community Land Categorisation* or in writing to the General Manager.

Submissions will be received until 5pm, Thursday 6 April 2025.

The question to address at the public hearing and/or in your written submission is:

- Do you agree or not with the proposals to categorise council owned community land as shown in Appendix 1 of the *Public Hearing information package*?
- Why or why not?

NOTE: SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED MAY BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE UNLESS YOU REQUEST THAT PERSONAL DETAILS BE SUPPRESSED.



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

## Return to Parliament

Parliament returned for the first sitting fortnight of 2025 last week. It was a bittersweet week for me, marked by the reality that it was my last 'first week' back in Canberra.

Speculation on when the election will be called was rife within the walls of Parliament House, but it was still business as usual for me with plenty of meetings, debates and events to partake in.

It is clear that the Labor Government has realised, on the slim chance that they do win the election, they'll have nothing to do because they have spent their entire term in government happily announcing and opening projects which were funded by the previous Coalition Government. I suggested to the House that they could maybe have a sod-filling ceremony for the section of Inland Rail that they stalled; they could also have a game of cricket on the parched cotton fields where water has been diverted to win South Australian Senate votes; or perhaps they could even try beating a road train across the Newell Highway where funding was cut for the \$44 million overpass at Moree. These suggestions were unfortunately laughed off by those in Government, because they are only interested in opportunities which make themselves look good. The truth is Labor only cares about making promises and then fails to deliver.

On Wednesday I also took the opportunity to speak in the Federation Chamber on the closure of Wee Waa Hospital. The community of Wee Waa have been very angry and upset by the decision, and despite reassurances from the Independent State Member and the New South Wales Health Minister, there appears to be no action by Hunter New England Health. It's time for the leadership of Hunter New England Health to get their skates on, get in the car and come to Wee Waa to find a solution. Basic health care is something that all Australians should have access to, and I'm backing the people of Wee Waa on this.

### Free student broadband extended

With many across the electorate already back in school or about to start school this week, now is a great time to remind families of the **School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI)**.



Through this initiative the Australian Government aims to bridge the digital divide and expand educational opportunities for students who do not have home internet access.

I am pleased to see SSBI has been extended, now offering free home internet to eligible families until 30 June 2028.

To qualify, participants must:

- Have a child living at home that is enrolled in an Australian school;
- Not have an active NBN network internet service at home or in the past 14 days (having a mobile internet service does not affect eligibility); and,
- Live in a premises that can access the NBN network.

This extension is available to all eligible families, whether they are existing participants of SSBI or new to the program.

Only 30,000 places are available. To check your eligibility, call 1800 954 610 or visit: <https://www.anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet/>

For more information, visit: <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-communications-arts/internet/national-broadband-network/school-student-broadband-initiative-ssbi>

### 2025 NAIDOC Grants

Applications for the 2025 NAIDOC Local Grants are now open to provide a co-contribution to the cost of activities and events being held around National NAIDOC Week (6 to 13 July 2025).

Activities and events should align with the annual National NAIDOC Week theme *The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy*.

For more, visit: <https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=77A22A8E-6FB5-4FB3-8626-F0CF973D8435>



## Brendan Moylan MP

# New Electorate Office in Inverell Open for Business

TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY



*A new satellite electorate office is open in Inverell.*

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan has unveiled a new electorate office in Inverell to provide a central place for the community to raise state government matters.

From 11 February, the office will be open on Tuesdays and Fridays at the Inverell Shire Council building at 114 Otho Street.

"NSW Parliament allows larger electorates, like ours, to have part-time satellite offices as long as they are in existing government buildings," Mr Moylan said.

"It is great to be able to open an office in Inverell for two days per week."

"Inverell is the centre point of the Northern Tablelands so it will benefit people within the community who cannot get to Armidale or Moree."

Although the Inverell satellite electorate office will only be staffed on Tuesdays and Fridays, a correspondence box will be available for drop-offs during business hours (8.30am until 4.30pm) on all other days.

The electorate office can help with public health and public hospitals, education, land and water management, police, transport, public housing, main roads, public works, emergency services, national parks, community services, NSW industrial relations, fair trading, primary industries, and family and communities.

## Letters to the Editor

### Australian Hearing Aid Industry at Crossroads

In Australia one in six people are considered affected by hearing loss while one in five could actually benefit from wearing hearing aids. The Federal Department of Health and Aged Care finances a Hearing Aid Program that fully or partially subsidises the supply of hearing aids. In those instances where extra features are sought the client pays the additional cost.

The hearing aid industry professes to service clients with a "mild to moderate hearing loss" but what about those severely handicapped? An honest audiologist classified a 100 decibels hearing loss as "profound" and on ethical grounds declined to fit a hearing aid to the client. This level of loss brings cochlear implants into contention.

Hearing assessments normally comprise a number of tests and reputable outlets provide a graph of hearing loss. Unfortunately some clients do not receive the graph to which they are entitled. Without truly knowing their real circumstances the seller's recommendations often fall short of meeting their expectations. Those with severe hearing loss frequently become disillusioned about the performance of their hearing aids and ambivalent about wearing them.

There is a need to properly consider the limitations of hearing aids. All devices are miniscule and because of wearer sensitivity, invisible ones are in demand. Because of their tiny size and limited decibel output they lack the necessary grunt to combat severe hearing loss. In the absence of a visible cable linked to a portable power pack – increasing the volume would be the equivalent of pushing a modest stereo amplifier beyond its best reproductive capacity. As all hearing impaired people quickly come to realise, to hear is one thing, to comprehend, another.

A Google search on personal amplifiers provides a negative impression and warns of associated risks. Yet for around \$400 to \$500 the best have merit and can compensate for profound hearing loss. They are not as discreet as hearing aids but small personal amplifiers are portable and come with ear buds and/or light headphones. The personal amplifier normalises car conversations and a cable to the TV gives individual control over fluctuating volume while assisting comprehension and clarity. For the severely handicapped, personal amplifiers appear underutilised.

In 2017, America revolutionised the marketing of hearing aids by dispensing with mandatory assessments and endorsing over the counter sales. However, it was not until October 2022 that the law took effect. Walmart reputedly sells some basic units for \$200. As a consequence of these structural changes, heavily discounted used hearing

aids have found their way on to the Australian market through *Ebay*. The Australian industry appears to have taken a protective stance to preserve its expensive marketing structure by declining to service compatible discounted international brands purchased overseas.

A world-wide examination of the hearing industry indicates that behind the scenes there is resignation the available technology cannot meet all the desired objectives. New technological innovations must be developed if the industry is to gain widespread approval and win endorsement from that portion of the affected community.

Name and address supplied

**The Gwydir News** welcomes letters on topics of general interest to our readers. Letters expressing the writer's view on a local, state or national issue or event, or letters submitted in response to a previously published letter, are encouraged.

Letters should generally be between 300 - 600 words. In all cases the editor reserves the right to edit letters for space, style 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](mailto:gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au)

If you're a budding journalist or photographer, we'd love to feature your work—reach out to us to learn how to get involved.

[gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au](mailto:gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au)

## The Gwydir River. What it was, is, and could be.

The scenic Gwydir River is one of the most popular river camping spots with caravaners and mobile home owners in all of NSW. On a daily basis Bingara residents witness the presence of caravans and mobile homes as an endless stream of retirees tour Australia. Made welcome, their stopover presence is a fillip to the local economy.

Copeton Dam, a very large and deep dam, was built in the 1970's as an irrigation source for Americans who pioneered the cotton industry. Based on an American design, along with many other NSW dams, it shares a common flaw—cold water pollution.

Long term Bingara locals say prior to the dam, the untamed river had deep holes up to six metres deep with water so clear you could see the bottom. Naturally unspoilt, it was then a haven for murray cod, yellow-belly, catfish, platypus, shrimps and all small river biota that underpinned the river ecology.

Below, at the end of Maitland Street, locals water skied. As in all other instances, river capture by dams changes the natural flow and introduces a more restrictive regime that inevitably results in the rivers silting up. Where once, devotees water skied, horses now cross the river knee deep. Silting could have serious implications. In the unlikely event the dam fills and copious rainfall continues Copeton would no longer inhibit flooding. Water that once ran deeper must then flood wider.

Water in the dam stratifies and “dead” water from the bottom—released as cold water depletion—nullifies the effective breeding of the iconic Murray Cod and other desirable species. With an absence of small fish and biota on which to feed, progeny have a poor start while running the gauntlet with carp that infest the river. As indicated by their more copious infestation hundreds of kilometres downstream, carp obviously do not relish the cold water pollution either.

Some years ago when cold water

depletion was put on the agenda with the Murray Darling Basin Association agricultural interests and Indigenous representatives were supportive of finding and implementing a solution as it presented problems for them too. Local State representative Adam Marshall was very supportive, presenting an online petition and making numerous representations to the respective minister. A delegation met with federal representative Barnaby Joyce who conceded the problem and mentioned “morning glory” as a likely solution. It is understood morning glory is an adjustable device that skims viable water from the surface. Gwydir Shire Council, at best, were only luke warm. However nothing has ever been done and the insidious problem remains. In the absence of agitation, political interest appears even colder than the water.

So, what benefits would a solution to cold water pollution bring? Well, firstly there is an obligation once a problem is identified to deal with and rectify it. As a society we are mere custodians of our environment and the dependent species that in this case, once inhabited it. That we have an appalling record of degradation and species loss is to be ashamed of. As a wealthy, apathetic society we have the means of doing better, but where do we find the motivation?

What would it take to rectify cold water pollution in the Gwydir River and somewhat restore the river to its former glory? Sometimes, such remedies can occur on the back of the endless toil of committed individuals. In real terms there is one obvious way to move governments and get results. Wholesale community participation. It starts with Council, political representatives and organisations. Not just lip service but genuine grass roots involvement, passion and insistence. Various studies have been done and rectifying cold water pollution would be a cost benefit.

Name and address supplied

# In the News

## Work to Begin to Deliver Fire Control Centres

Community

Rural

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | Feb 11, 2025

<https://stafm.com.au/work-to-begin-to-deliver-fire-control-centres/>

The NSW Government is investing \$21 million in the safety of Northern NSW communities with the development of two new bush fire and emergency management centres in the region.

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) has awarded construction contracts for the development of the new Clarence Valley and Namoi Gwydir Fire Control and Emergency Operations Centres.

Hines Construction Pty Ltd will soon begin building both facilities following a competitive tender process, with the projects to be managed by NSW Public Works.

The Clarence Valley centre, currently in Ulmarra, will relocate next to Grafton Airport, providing better access to aerial firefighting resources during bush fires and other emergencies.

The new Namoi Gwydir facility will be built on a larger site opposite the existing Control Centre in Narrabri. It will include a new station for the Narrabri Headquarters Brigade and a helipad.

Both centres will feature state-of-the-art operational workspaces, training rooms and storage facilities, better supporting the needs of local volunteer firefighters.

The centres will provide local emergency services with the cutting-edge technology and resources they need to effectively manage a multi-agency response to hazards, including storms and floods.

The new facilities are being developed in response to the 2020 NSW Bushfire Inquiry, which identified the need for upgraded emergency management infrastructure in the region.

Minister for Emergency Services, Jihad Dib said:

“These new centres will ensure our firefighters and emergency services have the modern infrastructure they need to better protect lives and properties.

“The Government is pleased to support skilled employment opportunities that these projects will create in regional areas.”

“These centres strengthen our ability to respond to

emergencies across the region, ensuring communities have the resources and coordinated support they need to face future challenges.”

“This work builds on wider investment in firefighting fleets and equipment across the emergency services to ensure resources are in place to prepare for future disasters.”

Commissioner of the NSW RFS, Rob Rogers said:

“These new centres are designed to support day-to-day operations and large-scale emergency management, ensuring our firefighters are better equipped to respond when disasters strike.

“These purpose-built facilities will enable our dedicated staff to provide even greater support to our volunteer members and the local communities they protect.”

# In the News

## Essential Energy Opens Community Grants Program

Community

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | Feb 7, 2025

<https://stafm.com.au/essential-energy-opens-community-grants-program/>

Essential Energy has launched its Community Grants program, with applications now open.

Grants up to the value of \$15,000 are available for community-based initiatives supporting the environment, education, resilience or related to the energy transition and aims to support eligible community groups contributing towards positive outcomes for regional communities.

Eligible groups include not-for-profit organisations, charities and community groups located within Essential Energy's network area.

Since 2018, Essential Energy has contributed more than \$1.1 million to 1,560 community groups through their previous Community Choices and Community Halls programs.

Applications close 5pm (AEDT), Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. More information about the program can be found on the Essential Energy website at <https://www.essentialenergy.com.au/about-us/community-support/Essential-Grants>



## In the News Nominate an Outstanding Senior for Local Achievement Awards

Community

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | Feb 7, 2025

<https://stafm.com.au/nominate-an-outstanding-senior-for-local-achievement-awards/>

People from the Northern Tablelands can recognise an outstanding older person in their community with nominations for the 2025 NSW Seniors Festival Local Achievement Awards now open.

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan said the awards celebrate the valuable and important contributions seniors make in their community.

"We are very lucky to have so many seniors in our community who are generous with their time and energy," he said.

"If you know a senior who makes our community a better place through their substantial involvement in the community, now is the time to put them forward to recognise their efforts."

The awards are part of the NSW Seniors Festival which runs from 3 March 2025 until 16 March 2025.

Nominations for Local Achievement Awards can be made by completing the nomination form and returning to the Armidale or Moree electorate offices.

The form is available online at [brendanmoylan.com.au](http://brendanmoylan.com.au) or collect a printed copy from the Armidale or Moree electorate offices.

Nominations close on 28 February 2025 and recipients will be announced during the NSW Seniors Festival.

For more information about NSW Seniors Festival and the Local Achievement Awards, visit [seniorsfestival.nsw.gov.au](http://seniorsfestival.nsw.gov.au)

Media Release: Brendan Moylan

## In the News Link Air Suspends Sydney Service

Business

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | Feb 5, 2025

<https://stafm.com.au/link-air-suspends-sydney-service/>

Regional airline Link Air has made the decision to suspend flights from March 1<sup>st</sup> between Inverell, Narrabri, and Sydney due to reduced demand.

In an update, the airline says despite the suspension, they will continue to monitor the market closely and look to return to Sydney when demand recovers.

Flights will continue to operate between Narrabri, Inverell and Brisbane and will increase to operate four days a week.

Customers on affected Sydney flights will be contacted and offered a full refund or a re-booking on alternative flights to Brisbane adding they would like to thank the Inverell and Narrabri communities, and Councils, for their ongoing support since Link Airways commenced flights at both locations in 2017.

Inverell Shire Mayor Kate Dight assured residents that Council shares in the community's disappointment regarding Link Airways decision.

In a statement, Council says they've strongly supported Link Airways, including waiving landing fees to assist in maintaining this service but despite this setback, Council will continue to work closely with Link Airways and any other interested operators to explore viable options for re-establishing commercial passenger flights to Sydney in the future.

In the News presents a roundup of current news of interest to local communities. Articles originally published by STA FM. Reprinted with permission.

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](mailto:gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au) or call us on 0438 546 519.





# Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

## Warialda Australia Day Awards

Picked up by Rotary member Curly Moore from the Moree airport, our Ambassador Mr Gary Dawson OAM and his wife Michelle, started their weekend by having morning tea at the Pally Pub. After a quick stop to get situated at their accommodation they were off to shear some sheep for the first time at Bob and Kate Swains. They joined Rotary members for dinner at the Royal Hotel where stories were swapped, and laughs were had to end the night.

The next day was Australia Day and we gathered for a delightful celebration filled with community spirit and joy. The day began with a barbeque and an array of fresh fruit platters, setting a festive tone for the event. Once everyone was seated, we commenced the ceremony with a heartfelt Welcome to Country by Donell, acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land.

Following this, we sang the national anthem, and Charles Allen raised the flag. Ambassador Mr. Gary 'Smokey' Dawson OAM then delivered an inspiring speech, highlighting the significance of the day and the achievements of our community, ending with a poem called 'Green and Gold Malaria'. The ceremony continued with the presentation of awards, where each winner was called upon to receive a certificate and a tree, symbolising growth and sustainability.

The Award Winners are:

**Citizen of the Year:** Mick Collins

**Young Citizen of the Year:** Emily Burgess and Maddison Findlater

**Senior Citizen of the Year:** David Coulton

**Event of the Year:** A Walk Back in Time (Croppa Creek)

**Environmental Champion:** The Gravesend Fishing Club

To conclude the event, the Country Women's Association (CWA) served a lovely morning tea, offering a perfect opportunity for everyone to mingle and celebrate together. It was a memorable day that truly embodied the spirit of Australia.

Gary has organised golf events and raised over 18 million dollars for charities all over Australia, so it seemed fitting that a game of golf was planned. He and Michelle were paired up with Dave Coulton and Toby Cooper to play in a mixed 2-person Ambrose event. They enjoyed their stay in Warialda, and we thank them for their time.







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**[bwweldingservices@bigpond.com](mailto:bwweldingservices@bigpond.com)**

**MVRL62410**





# Bringing Health Professionals Back to the Bush

Bringing health professionals back to the bush, HealthWISE and Gwydir Cotton Growers Association (CGA) have awarded three Moree and Gwydir students with \$22,000 to support their university studies.

For two decades, the Dr William Hunter scholarship and a variety of Gwydir CGA scholarships have helped health students complete their studies, with the shared goal of building the local health sector.

"There are no words to describe how much of a difference this scholarship has made and the opportunities it has given me," Dr William Hunter scholarship winner Kristen Rogers said. After a year of health struggles, she said the funds made it possible for her to commit to full-time study.

"We were impressed by her love of nursing and her dedication to her vocation as well as her community," scholarship namesake Dr Hunter said.

An assistant in nursing at the Bingara Multi-Purpose Service for the past eight years, Kristen is working towards becoming a registered nurse, studying a Bachelor of Nursing at the University of New England. Dr Hunter encouraged Kristen's ambitions, and said the Moree health service relies on several registered nurses who first trained as assistants.

"I am beyond excited to bring more registered nurses to these beautiful country towns. I really hope I can make you all proud," Kristen said.

The first person in her family to attend university, Moree local Mikala Bearman was awarded a \$2,000 Dr William Hunter encouragement scholarship. Mikala is passionate about rural mental health care, and can see herself working in schools with Indigenous students. She is completing a Bachelor of Counselling at Southern Cross University while working as Campus Coordinator at Community College Northern Inland's Moree Campus.

"Going into such a rewarding and fulfilling career can allow



There are no words to describe how much of a difference this scholarship has made and the opportunities it has given me.

*Dr William Hunter scholarship winner Kristen Rogers.*

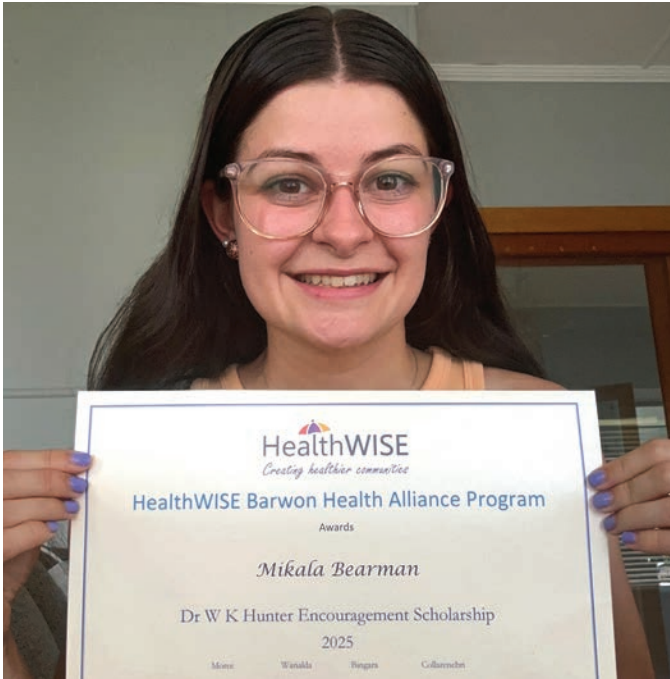
me to help people in rural and remote areas," she said. Mikala also hopes her experience will inspire other rural people to consider university and recognise that there is more than one path to higher education.

Gwydir CGA Healthy Communities winner James Nolan shared his story growing up in Moree, dealing with long waits and expensive travel to ensure his sister had the care she needed for cystic fibrosis.

"I have firsthand knowledge of the difficulties facing families in rural and remote communities, and I want to bring some of those health services to those in need in country areas," he said.

James is studying a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy at Southern Cross University, and hopes to one day open a mobile practice in the Moree region, specialising in neurodiverse paediatrics. Gwydir CGA committee member

  
**HealthWISE**  
*Creating healthier communities*



*Dr William Hunter encouragement scholarship winner Mikala Bearman.*

Liam Winter said the interview panel was impressed by James' end goals and commitment to his community.

"My aim is to service a broad area, helping regional and remote children achieve the best that they can, especially in their important earlier years of life," James said.

"HealthWISE is honoured to be supporting the Dr William Hunter scholarship and the Gwydir Valley Cotton Industries Healthy Communities scholarship, and thereby strengthening community capacity for improved health and wellbeing," HealthWISE Barwon Health Alliance program manager Susanne Kable said.



*Healthy Communities scholarship winner James Nolan with Liam Winter from the Gwydir Cotton Growers Association.*

The non-profit took on the Dr William Hunter scholarship last year as part of their Barwon Health Alliance program, which was developed to continue the work of the Barwon Health Alliance Inc, a former support network and non-profit association for Barwon health professionals.

The Gwydir Cotton Growers Association has offered a range of medical scholarships over the past 25 years with the aim of encouraging current and future health professionals in the region, including the Healthy Community scholarship, which supports Warialda, Bingara, Moree and Collarenebri health students.

## ROSS COOPER OPTOMETRIST

### Next visits to Warialda

- February 26
- March 26
- May 28
- June 25
- July 30

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

## Goondiwindi 07 4671 1550

### Next visits to Bingara

- February 27
- March 27
- May 29
- June 26
- July 31

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





# Spotlight on **BUSINESS**

## Classic Takeaway Brings a Taste of Nostalgia to Warialda

by **Toby Cooper**

Warialda's latest addition, **Classic Takeaway**, is bringing an old-school charm back to the community. Situated on Stephen Street, the café replaces the Civic Café, which has been closed for a couple of years. **Classic Takeaway** is now under the ownership of John and Wendy Beaton, who recently relocated from Armidale. They are also proudly supported by their son, Brendon, and his wife, Christine, who themselves have made the move from Pimpama.

What makes this new café stand out is its nostalgic vibe, and an inviting atmosphere that feels like a step back in time. For Wendy, this marks the first time owning a takeaway store, although she brings years of café experience from her time working in Armidale. Her daughter, Jodie, also runs the busy Urunga Seafood café on the coast, which has made the Beaton's transition into the hospitality industry that little bit easier.

The Beaton family have carefully created a menu filled with a variety of delicious food options, sure to please anyone with a taste for takeaway meals. **Classic Takeaway** serves a wide range of delicious dishes, including battered and crumbed fish, made fresh onsite, as well as family packs, burger deals, tasty chips, and many other scrumptious snacks.

**Classic Takeaway** opened its doors on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, with its very first customer being Paul Kent, who was visiting family in the area. Since then, the café has become a hit with locals and visitors alike, eager to try the delicious offerings from the Beaton family.

Open Thursday to Sunday from 10am to 7pm, **Classic Takeaway** is poised to become a major part of Warialda's food scene. With its warm atmosphere, nostalgic charm, and impressive menu, it's clear that John and Wendy Beaton's new venture will be a hit with the community.



Wendy Beaton welcoming Classic Takeaway's first customer, Mr Paul Kent.







## COMMUNITY NEWS

FOR THE GWYDIR SHIRE AND SURROUNDS

THE  
Gwydir  
NEWS

**Pick up your free copy of The Gwydir News each month at these local outlets**

### Bingara

Bingara Central School  
Bingara Centrelink Agency / Service NSW  
Bingara Community College  
Bingara IGA Plus Liquor  
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

## Bingara's Film Club Looks Forward to 2025



Bingara's Film Club is set to kick off in February with an exciting selection at the end of the month. The Film Club looks forward to 2025 with a variety of films embracing a contemporary vibe with a mix of newer releases and cherished classics.

The Film Club, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, maintains its commitment to affordable entertainment, with membership fees held steady at \$60 for access to a stellar collection of 11 movies throughout the year. Member numbers were around 35 last year, and everyone enjoyed not only the diverse range of films, but the socialising with a glass of wine afterwards. Other club benefits include free access to an excellent DVD library which includes many films screened by the club over the years, reviews of the selected movies each month and introductions to the films.

The 2025 program showcases a rich tapestry of genres, spanning epic dramas and comedies to Academy Award winners. The eclectic mix includes timeless classics and contemporary gems. Film screenings take place on the last Sunday of each month at 4.00pm at the Roxy Theatre.

February's film is **Seven Years in Tibet**, a 1997 American based on Austrian mountaineer Heinrich Harrer's 1952 memoir of the same name, about his experiences in Tibet between 1944 and 1951. It stars Brad Pitt and David Thewlis, and has music composed by John Williams with a feature performance by cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

In the film, Pitt and Thewlis are mountaineering in 1930s India. When World War II begins in 1939, their German citizenship results in their imprisonment in a British prisoner-of-war camp in the Himalayas. In 1944, they escape the prison and cross the border into Tibet. There, after initially being ordered to return to India, they are welcomed at the holy city of Lhasa and become absorbed into an unfamiliar way of life. Pitt is introduced to the 14th Dalai Lama, still a boy, and becomes one of his tutors.

This is a well-made historical movie. It depicts a turbulent period in the history of Tibet which is not so known because of China's aggressive intervention and secretive policies. The scenes of mountaineering are an amazing addition to the whole episode and the transformation of the Austrian mountaineer and SS officer is astonishing.

If you're eager to join the Film Club or want a copy of the 2025 programme, contact Ros Moulton on 0412 081 642 or Jen Mead at the Bingara Visitor Information Centre. Don't miss the chance to be part of a thriving club enjoying the magic of cinema!

B R A D P I T T

# SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET

The North West Theatre Company Film Club presents  
**Seven Years in Tibet**  
**Sunday February 23rd 2025 | 4:00pm | The Roxy Theatre**



# SHOWS IN THE GWYDIR SHIRE

# 2025

## "Our Rock & Roll Journey"

**John Wood & Dave Allen**

**Thursday 13 March 2025 at The Roxy Theatre, Bingara**

**10am | \$20pp includes morning tea**

Gold Logie Winner John Wood has teamed up with musician Dave Allen to form this show. Three hours of Rock and Roll including a dialogue history from John throughout the show, with the inclusion of a huge live video backdrop behind their performance.



## Cinderella Spinderella

**Wednesday 17 September 2025**

**at the Warialda Soldiers Memorial Hall**



Cinderella is always doing the household chores while her bossy Stepmother, Edna Bucket, sits around playing on her phone all day. It's hard for Cinders to make any friends because she is cleaning, cooking, and spinning- all the time. She gets very dizzy! Murray the Moose has just delivered an invitation to the big party. Everyone will be there, even Prince Perfect, but Cinders is not allowed. And even if she could go, how would she stop spinning? Poor Cinders! Will she ever make any real friends? Will she ever meet Prince Perfect? Will she EVER stop spinning? Come along and find out!

Running Time: 50 minutes | Suggested Age Range: 4 - 11 years



**Taxiride ft TTSAR**

**Wednesday 28 May 2025**

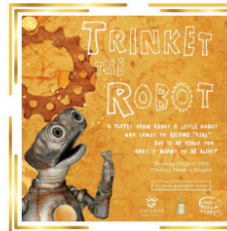
**at The Roxy Theatre, Bingara**

**Fundraiser for Community Comfort**

Born in the leafy green suburbs of Melbourne, Australia; and with vocal harmonies reminiscent of 60s bands Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young and The Beatles, Taxiride blend retro sensibility with modern style.

Crafted over two years in Melbourne and Los Angeles, their debut album 'Imagine' debuted at Number 1 on the Australian Music Charts. It launched 4 singles including the memorable 'Get Set' and 'Everywhere You Go' (the most played Australian song on radio for 2000).

The second album 'Garage Mahal' contained their biggest hit 'Creepin' Up Slowly' which was the most played song on radio for 2002 and featured a further two hit singles. Taxiride achieved Top 30 status in the States and subsequently toured the US, Japan and Europe.



**Trinket the Robot**

**Thursday 7 August 2025**

**at The Roxy Theatre, Bingara**

Trinket the Robot is an enthralling tale about a little robot who longs to become "real" – but is he ready for what it means to be alive? An inventor, Dr Doovalacky, sets out to build a robot with the help of his assistant, a green caterpillar named Gizmo. But this robot will be no ordinary robot. Trinket will be able to have feelings like a "real human" and the audience needs to help him learn about the world. Trinket learns that to become human is not only to feel wonder and joy, but also to feel anger, fear and the sadness of having to say goodbye to someone when you don't want to.

Based on the tale of Pinocchio, Trinket the Robot is a lively, funny, interactive solo show by Little Wing Puppets that explores emotions and offers ways for children to understand different feelings.

Running Time: 40 minutes | Suggested Age Range: 3-10 years

Warnings: Coloured disco lighting effects.



**Waltzing the Wilarra**

**Tuesday 23 September 2025**

**at The Roxy Theatre, Bingara**

Charlie, Elsa and Fay take you on a musical journey back to 1940's post war Perth. Against a backdrop of curfews, and the fear of arrest for consorting, white and black manage to form their own club. For a night they can forget their worries and experience rare happy times singing, dancing, listening to music, and with a little luck... romance.

Forty years on, as the club faces demolition, our three characters meet once again to stage a musical reunion and protest in an attempt to save their old stomping ground. As the trio reflects upon loves lost and found, old arguments and alliances resurface.

Dark secrets and ghosts that have lingered for more than half a century are revealed, and we discover that reconciliation is more than saying sorry.

# Bingara Show Pavilion Update



*Kate Muir with Pavilion Chief Steward Laila Hosegood—stepping away from their roles after more than 15 years.*

This year Pavilion Chief Steward Laila Hosegood and her able assistant Kate Muir have stepped away from their roles after more than 15 years. These ladies have put many volunteer hours into compiling the pavilion schedule, selecting judges, cleaning, finding sponsors, arranging entries, supporting

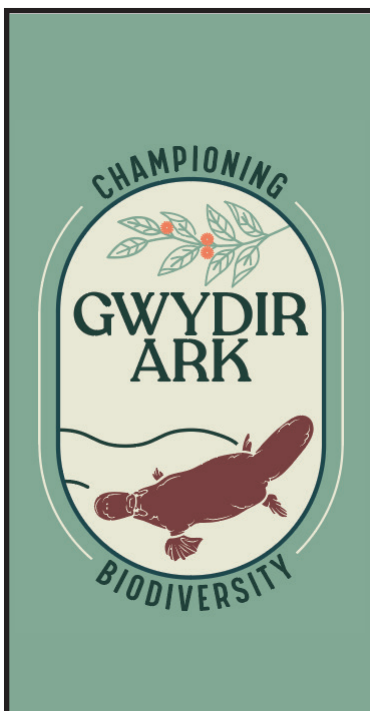
individual stewards, ordering place cards/ribbons, allocating winnings and budgeting. They deserve a big **Thank You** for their commitment and dedication to making the Pavilion the wonderful exhibit it is at Showtime.

The Bingara Show is the one event the whole community can participate in. The Pavilion plays a big part in community inclusion from those who like cooking, lego, art, leather work, needlework, photography, gardening and so much more. The Show Pavilion is the place that displays all the talent and skills that abound in Bingara and surrounds.

Without dedicated volunteers to step into these roles this wonderful community event would not happen. A big **Thank You** should also be expressed to Chrissy Allen who has for years, provided a wonderful lunch to all the section judges. Chrissy is also stepping away from her role and needs to be thanked for providing the opportunity for the judges to come together and have a meal before the tough job of judging.

Kate Bradshaw is taking over the role of Pavilion Steward and will have huge shoes to fill. If anyone is interested in becoming giving back to the community by becoming involved with the Pavilion, please contact Kate via email at [Thornleigh19@outlook.com](mailto:Thornleigh19@outlook.com) or phone 0417 834 736. Many of the stewards have volunteered for years and are ready for a well earned retirement but we need enthusiastic, dedicated volunteers to fill these positions to continue to make the Pavilion a feature of the Show.

This years' Show date is quickly approaching and will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Schedules for the Pavilion are available at the Gwydir Shire Council Office, Bingara Library, Bingara Wattle Arts and Crafts, and Sew Much More.



## WALKING IN THE CLOUDS

Who would have guessed you could travel such a short distance and have such an intense contrast in... well... everything. Our most recent walk to Mt Kaputar National Park was a surreal experience for sure. Wild, windy, 12 degrees and a little bit wet, we had a sensational time exploring the more sheltered walks in the Park.

We apologise to those who turned up to the meeting point for the walk but decided to stay local when they realised how far we were travelling for the experience.

Lesson learned—our flyers will contain expected times in the future. We're glad you had a good walk without us and hope to see you at the next one!





## From the Executive Officer



At CCNI, we're welcoming the new year with excitement and an abundance of training opportunities across the region. Keep an eye out for new programs alongside familiar favourites in the coming months!

For those considering a career in Aged or Disability Support, our Warialda campus is offering the Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing & Disability), running on Wednesdays starting this month. The care industry is a rewarding field, with qualified workers in high demand across the region. To secure your place in the class, contact Gwydir Coordinator Toby Cooper on 0438 546 519 — places are limited and filling fast.

We're pleased to offer funded training again under the NSW Government's Smart & Skilled and ACE programs, covering full and part qualifications as well as short courses for eligible students across all our campuses.

Additionally, AgSkilled's fully funded First Aid training will be available again in 2025 for primary producers and their employees. For more details, visit your nearest campus or check out our website: [www.ccni.nsw.edu.au](http://www.ccni.nsw.edu.au)

This month, we're celebrating 12 months of Gwydir News at CCNI! We've loved being part of the Gwydir community and look forward to even more engagement in the coming year. If you're a budding journalist or photographer, we'd love to feature your work—reach out to us to learn how to get involved.

As we reflect on 2024, the incredible team at CCNI is proud of a year filled with growth, achievements, and transformation. You may have even noticed our brand-new look unveiled in recent weeks!

It's been a whirlwind time. As CCNI's newest Executive Officer, I've travelled over 20,000 kilometres across the region to stay connected with students, staff, and industry partners. I've also made regular trips to Sydney, meeting with fellow CEOs of community colleges from across Australia—every moment has been incredibly rewarding.

Taking on a leadership role in my home region has been a special experience. I love being out in the community and feel immense pride when I meet former students who are now thriving in the industries they trained for. That's what CCNI is all about—helping people achieve their dreams.

Since its founding in 1982, CCNI has been a cornerstone of education in the Northern Inland region, providing high-quality vocational education and training for learners of all ages and backgrounds. In 2024 alone, we enrolled over 2,000 students, a testament to the strength and demand for our programs.

Looking ahead to 2025, there's no doubt that the best is yet to come for CCNI.

**Melanie Squires**  
Executive Officer, CCNI

## 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





**Enrolling now!**

[www.ccni.nsw.edu.au](http://www.ccni.nsw.edu.au)



## 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 |
| 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 |
| Bingara Campus              |  Friday 11 April  |      |   |
| Warialda Campus             |  Thursday 6 March |      |   |


## High Risk & Industry

Issuing Registered Training Organisation  
Community College Northern Inland | RTO 90027

### White Card

**CPCWHS1001** Prepare to work safely in the construction industry



|                 |   |       |   |
|-----------------|---|-------|---|
| 1-Day In-Campus | 9.00AM - 4.30PM   | \$190 | F |
| Warialda Campus |  Thursday 27 March |       |   |

**F** 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 course are recognised by employers and educational institutions Australia-wide.






## 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  | \$260 | F |
| Barraba Campus              |  Mon 17 & Tue 18 March    |       |   |
| Bingara Campus              |  Mon 24 & Tue 25 February |       |   |





### Introduction to Barista Skills

Enrol in this course to develop your confidence around kitchen equipment, customer service, and of course, making coffee.

Topics covered in this one-day, non-accredited training include:

- background and preparation;
- a guide to coffee-making;
- customer service; and
- cleaning.

|                 |   |       |   |
|-----------------|---|-------|---|
| 1-Day In-Campus | 9.00AM - 3.00PM   | \$180 | F |
| Barraba Campus  |  Monday 7 April  |       |   |
| Bingara Campus  |  Friday 14 March |       |   |

## News from Bingara Central School



## From the Principal

BCS Kindergarten 2025 have had a fantastic start to Term 1 and are settling in well with classroom teacher, Mrs Tammy Hall. They have made a smooth transition from Kindy Gritters into the classroom and spent their first days discovering the school, settling into new routines, making friends and having fun.



Ned A

What are you looking forward to at school? **Writing Numbers**

I want to learn about: **Nothing**

When I grow up I want to be: **A school cleaner**



Hunter C

What are you looking forward to at school? **Taking photos**

I want to learn about: **School things**

When I grow up I want to be: **I don't know**



Hallie H

What are you looking forward to at school? **Sports**

I want to learn about: **Playing with my friends**

When I grow up I want to be: **A good horse Rider and a Horse Doctor**





**Logie K**

What are you looking forward to at school? **Kicking footy with my brother**

I want to learn about: **Kicking the footy**

When I grow up I want to be: **Like my Daddy**



**Evie M**

What are you looking forward to at school? **Dancing**

I want to learn about: **Numbers**

When I grow up I want to: **Work with mum**



**Aisia M**

What are you looking forward to at school? **Playing**

I want to learn about: **Reading**

When I grow up I want to be: **A runner**



**Hadley P**

What are you looking forward to at school? **Hugging people**

I want to learn about: **Ring a Ring a Rosie**

When I grow up I want to be: **Make Up Artist**



**Roman R**

What are you looking forward to at school? **Being with Taysharn**

I want to learn about: **Learning**

When I grow up I want to be: **A Footballer**



**Rocky W**

What are you looking forward to at school? **Playing football with my friends**

I want to learn about: **Numbers and Letters**

When I grow up I want to be: **Be a Dad**



**Sienna W**

What are you looking forward to at school? **Dancing**

I want to learn about: **Letters**

When I grow up I want to be: **A cop that rides horses**

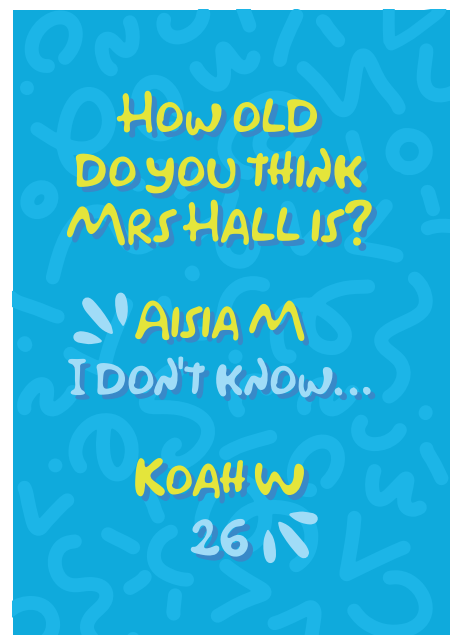


**Koah W**

What are you looking forward to at school? **Sports**

I want to learn about: **Sport**

When I grow up I want to be: **Horse Rider**





SPORT

# Warialda Men's Golf Ready for 2025 Launch

by Toby Cooper

The Warialda Men's Golf Club is gearing up for a strong 2025 season with a new committee at the helm, which consists of President Sam Dight, Vice President Tony Ballard, Captain Toby Cooper, Vice-Captain Josh Layton, Treasurer David Coulton, Secretary Joel Daley, and Publicity Officer Tom Kilner.

Looking to build on a strong start to the year, the club has averaged 20 golfers over the summer competition, despite facing some scorching conditions. The hope is that these solid numbers will continue from next month's winter competition launch into the rest of the season, and across all championship events.

The club has already celebrated some impressive performances in 2025. Launching the new year on January 5, Wade Turner posted an outstanding 61 nett, a score that set the bar high. This was followed by Lionel Cleal's stellar 40 points on January 12, before Kimbo Cleal and Phil O'Keeffe teamed up for victory in the 2 Person Ambrose on Australia Day, Josh Layton's impressive nett 67 on February 2nd and the Smith brothers, Mark and Dave who roared home on the 9th of February for 46 points to win the 4BBB Stableford were amongst the other winners.

On Sunday, February 16th, Warialda travelled to Bingara for Round 1 of the 2025 David Rose Memorial Intertown competition, kickstarting their quest to retain the shield.

The action doesn't stop there, on Sunday, February 23rd, the club will host the annual 4 Person Ambrose Machinery Fund Day, sponsored by Roger Moore's and Peter Moore, where non-golfers are encouraged to join a team and get involved. Then, the Winter Programme will officially get underway on March 2nd, with the Warialda Electrical sponsored Individual Stableford.

For those interested in taking part in men's golf, please see one of the committee members, and they will happily point you in the right direction to getting involved.



Warialda's inform golfer Wade Turner on the 9th tee box.



## Mozzie season isn't over. Those critters are still biting.

That's why it's still important to take the steps to protect. Learn more at [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

**KEEP MOZZIES AWAY**  
Take the steps to protect  
SPRAY UP • COVER UP • SCREEN UP





# Bingara Golf Report

January/February 2025

Submitted by John Gill



On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Bingara golfers played an 18 hole men's monthly medal stroke event with 22 golfers taking part.

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 Mens golf played 16 hole stroke event for Monthly Medal—16 holes due to earth works adjacent to the 7/16 green, 7/16 green out of play. Nineteen golfers took part on the day.

## Results - January

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Winners          | Robert Northcott - 63 nett  |
| Runner Up        | Tyrone Greacen - Count back 65 nett                                     |
| Ballcomp         | Merv Hall - 65 nett<br>Mick Walton - 66 nett<br>Mick Phillips - 66 nett |
| Nearest to Pin   | 7/16 Mark McGowan<br>9/18 Tom Fullerton                                 |
| Best Second Shot | 6/15<br>A Grade 0/18 Peter Smith<br>B Grade 19+ Mick Walton             |
| Jackpot Ball     | Col Whitfield 1 ball did not play                                       |
| Bradman Trophy   | Peter Smith   |

## Results - February

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Winner           | John Gill - 55 nett  |
| Runner-Up        | Mark McGowan count back 56 nett  |
| Ballcomp         | Laurie Mensforth - 56 nett<br>Tex Wright - 58 nett<br>Mitch Lane - 58 nett                                     |
| Nearest to Pin   | 4/13 John Gill<br>9/18 no golfer was going to beat this one, Shane Thomson hole in one - congratulations Shane |
| Best Second Shot | 6/15<br>A grade 0/18 Shane Thomson another good shot<br>B Grade 19+ no-one good enough                         |
| Jackpot Ball     | Ron Armstrong, played on the day 3 balls   |
| Bradman Trophy   | Tom Fullerton  |

## Bingara Golf Events

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Thursday  | 9 hole chook run from 2.00pm                              |
| Saturday  | Mixed Golf 12.00pm for 12.30pm Tee                        |
| Sunday    | Golf 12.00pm for 12.30pm Tee                              |
| Tuesday   | Ladies Golf (Contact 0428 241 415)                        |
| Cart Hire | Vendi cart available for hire. Details front of the club. |

## Local Land Services



# Have you seen Sambar deer on your property?

We need your help! Report sightings of Sambar deer in the North West.

Get to know feral deer species, and report sightings privately on the free FeralScan app or visit [feralscan.org.au](https://feralscan.org.au)

Scan the QR code to learn about species of feral deer and how to report.



**Don't get caught  
home or away, know  
your escape plan**



Learn more on fire safety





## PUBLIC NOTICES

### WARIALDA WATER RESTRICTIONS UPDATE



#### GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL



**Current as of 9:00am, Tuesday 11 February 2025.**

Fixed sprinklers may now be used in the following circumstances as a trial:

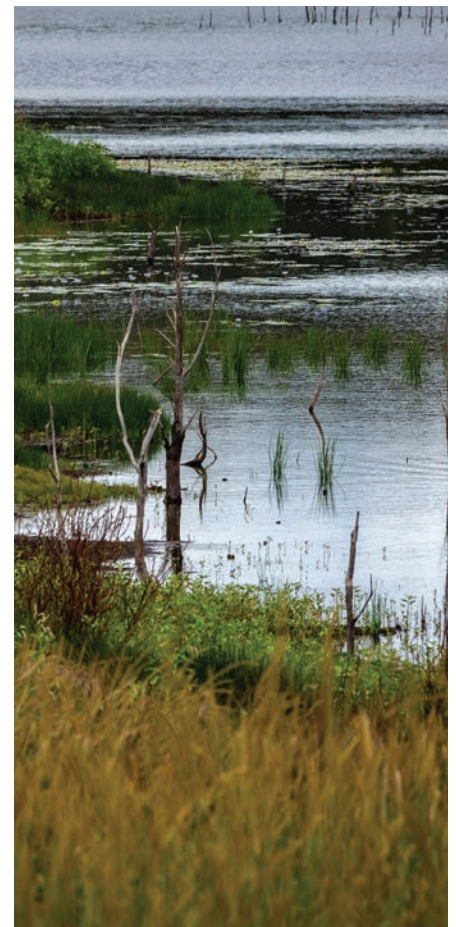
- Even street number houses may use their sprinklers from 8pm to 10pm Monday and Wednesday; and;
- Odd street number houses may use their sprinklers from 8pm to 10pm Thursday and Saturday.

This trial will be reviewed weekly.

Use of handheld hoses is permitted by residents in Warialda at any time of the day, however the most effective use is before 10am and after 8pm.

The last PFAS test conducted across Warialda on 8 January 2025 indicated that the town water supply is safe to drink under the water quality guidelines.

Council thanks you for your support and understanding during this time, especially given the continuing heat conditions.



### Copeton Dam Level

**53%** as at 17  
February 2025

# SAFER DRIVING **STARTS WITH YOU**



**DON'T LET A CAR  
CHANGE WHO YOU ARE**

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE



**Bingara Branch of CWA of NSW is in recess, as most people from Bingara are aware.**

Bingara is one of the first branches to open and it had the privilege of having Mrs Grace Munro from Keera Station (which also was a branch) to live nearby. Mrs Munro was the first State President of CWA of NSW which has passed its centenary in 1922.

Therefore, we are inviting any women of Bingara to consider taking on a role of either: President; Secretary; or Treasurer. Bingara Branch cannot continue if these roles are not filled.

There are other roles to consider, such as: Agriculture and Environment Officer; Cookery Officer; Cultural Officer; International Officer; Publicity; and of course, Handicraft.

There will be full support from the Gwydir Group Executive. We do not mind if you need more information on any of the roles, particularly those of President, Secretary or Treasurer. We also do not mind if you think the question is stupid as it may be an important one that many would like to know the answer.

We, Gwydir Group members, are having a get-together at Cunningham Park (near the Bingara Pool) on Saturday March 29 at 10am where any queries can be answered and hopefully a committee can be formed on the day to keep this iconic organisation going in Bingara.

There will also be a stall at the Bingara Show to give any information to the community on the day.

**All enquiries, please contact the Gwydir Group Secretary Mrs Libby Cotter by phoning 0421 109 203 or by email to [gwygrpsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:gwygrpsecretary@gmail.com)**

### 'Suzie Sings' Karen Carpenter

Tribute Show

celebrating 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Karen's birthday



Ceramic Break Sculpture Park  
**March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12 noon - 2pm.**

Finger food and refreshments provided.  
\$20.00 per person. **Bookings essential.**

Call or text Sue on 0427 414 616.  
\$5.00 per ticket will be donated to charity.

### Bingara Community Op-Shop Summer Trading Hours





## PUBLIC NOTICES

Be in it to win it! Get your ticket at:  
<https://www.raffletix.com.au/bingarashow2025>

**BINGARA SHOW SOCIETY PRESENTS**

# Enter to Win



**1ST PRIZE - HONDA PIONEER 520 SIDE X SIDE  
 2ND PRIZE - HONDA CRF50 MOTORBIKE  
 3RD PRIZE - HONDA UN5426 LINE TRIMMER**

**TICKETS \$25**

**DRAWN 22 MARCH 2025  
 7PM @ BINGARA SHOW**

**PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY**  
 THOMAS LEE MOTORCYCLES

HONDA

## FOR SALE

## FOR SALE



# FISHING GEAR

**FOR SALE**

Kyak (KYAKS2FISH) + heavy duty Esky  
 and heaps of fishing gear.  
 All brand new. Never been used.

**Call Rob Wilson on  
 0427 225 115.**

## FEATURED BUSINESSES



## CERAMIC BREAK SCULPTURE PARK

**Open from  
 Thurs to Sun  
 10.00am to 5.00pm  
 and by appointment**

**Phone (02) 6729 4147**

[kerry@cbreaksculpturepark.com.au](mailto:kerry@cbreaksculpturepark.com.au)  
[www.cbreaksculpturepark.com.au](http://www.cbreaksculpturepark.com.au)



## Liberty BINGARA CAFÉ

**HOT FOOD | FUEL | SNACKS**

# 0267 241 520

**56 FINCH STREET, BINGARA NSW**



**Gwydir  
 Chartered  
 Accountants**

- Tax & Accounting
- Business Planning
- CFO Services
- Management Accounting
- Software Advice
- Bookkeeping Automation

Locally owned and operated in the  
 Gwydir Shire

(02) 6724 1658  
[admin@gwydirca.com.au](mailto:admin@gwydirca.com.au)

**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS™**

# What's on

## FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>

NWTC Film Club 'Seven Years in Tibet' - 4.00pm  
- The Roxy Theatre, Bingara - New members welcome

## MARCH 2025

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>

'Biggest Ever' Clean Up Australia Day  
Ceramic Break Sculpture Park - Karen Carpenter  
Tribute Show - 12 noon to 2.00pm - Finger food  
and refreshments provided - \$20 pp. Bookings  
essential - Call/text Sue on 0427 414 616

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>

'Our Rock & Roll Journey' - John Wood & Dave  
Allen - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara at 10.00am -  
\$20pp. includes morning tea

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>

Mason Daley Memorial Cod Classic - Gravesend  
Gwydir River Run Stockman's Challenge - Charity  
Fundraising Event for Ronald McDonald House

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>

Scrapheap Adventure Riders Annual Dirt  
Poker Run - 9.30am - Raffles, fun and live  
entertainment - Sportsman Hotel, Bingara - All  
proceeds go to Down Syndrome Australia

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>

'50 Years at the Star' - North Star Sporting Club  
- 6.00pm

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday 28<sup>th</sup>

Bingara Show

Quantum Leap Foundation Course - The Living  
Classroom, Bingara - For information and pricing  
go to [www.quantumleapsubtleenergy.com.au](http://www.quantumleapsubtleenergy.com.au)

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>

Subtle Energy Community Field Day - The Living  
Classroom, Bingara - Free Event

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>

Croppa Creek Crows Rugby Gala Day

Bingara Branch of the CWA of NSW - Get-  
together at Cunningham Park (near the Bingara  
pool) from 10.00am

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>

NWTC Film Club 'Two Hands' - 4.00pm - The  
Roxy Theatre, Bingara - New members welcome

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>

Quantum Evolutions Course - The Living  
Classroom, Bingara - For information and pricing  
go to [www.quantumleapsubtleenergy.com.au](http://www.quantumleapsubtleenergy.com.au)

## APRIL 2025

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>

Bingara Country Music Festival - RSL Club,  
Bingara - Free Entry - Walkups 10.00am to  
6.00pm Friday and Saturday - Shows on  
Thursday, Friday and Saturday night from  
6.30pm and Sunday between 10.00am and  
3.00pm including club raffles

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>

Warialda Races

Bingara Anglers' Club 'Easterfish' - Catch and  
Release Competition

# 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<sup>th</sup> weekend 6.00pm

**Warialda** Saturdays 6.00pm  
4<sup>th</sup> weekend 10.00am

### WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

**Bingara** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks - Rosary  
9.30am/Mass 10.00am

**Warialda** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.