

April 2025 Edition

gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au

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



Published by
Community College
Northern Inland (CCNI)

Call **0429 934 346**
Freecall **1800 952 264**

Bingara

6 Riddell Street
Bingara NSW 2404

Warialda

47 Hope Street
Warialda NSW 2402

The 2025 Warialda Show

A Celebration of Community and Tradition

Warialda is a town rich in history and community spirit. Each year, the Warialda Show brings locals and visitors together to celebrate the region's agricultural heritage, showcase local talent, and enjoy a weekend of entertainment.

The Warialda Show has been a staple of the community for over a century, with the ATJ's Earthworks Pty Ltd 120th Annual Warialda Show set to take place May 8-11, 2025.

The event has long been a platform for farmers, artisans, and competitors to display their skills and produce. Warialda itself has deep historical roots, dating back to its establishment as an administrative centre in the 19th century. The show continues to honour this legacy by fostering a strong connection between the town's agricultural past and its vibrant present.

Exciting Events to Look Forward To

The Warialda Show is packed with activities that cater to all ages and interests. Some of the highlights culminating with the Grand Parade include:

- Livestock Competitions – Showcasing the best cattle, sheep, and poultry in the region.
- Horse Sports – Open flag races, show jumping, campdraft, dressage, junior novice rodeo, bull/steer rides and barrels.
- Pavilion Exhibits – Featuring wool, arts and craft, needlework, photography, horticulture, farm produce, there's something for everyone.

Thrilling entertainment this year includes:

- Madstylemoto – Stunt Motorcycle
- Comedy Duck Races

- BackTrack Dog Show
- Grain Shovelling Competition
- Kids Farm Olympics
- Mechanical Bull
- Music in the shed
- Demolition Derby
- Spectacular fireworks each night.

The Warialda Show is more than just an event—it's a celebration of the town's identity and a chance to strengthen community bonds. Supporting the show means:

- Preserving Tradition – Keeping alive the agricultural and artistic heritage of Warialda.
- Encouraging Local Talent – Providing a platform for farmers, artists, and competitors to showcase their skills.
- Boosting the Local Economy – Attracting visitors and supporting local businesses.
- Creating Lasting Memories – Offering a fun-filled weekend for families and friends.

Whether you're a long-time resident or a first-time visitor, the Warialda Show is an event not to be missed. Mark your calendars for May 8-11, 2025, and come experience the best of Warialda's community spirit!



Next issue: The **Gwydir News** will be published on Thursday 15th May. **Plan your advertising now**—booking and material deadline for the next issue is Monday 5th May. Email gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au



2025 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

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

MAY	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 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.

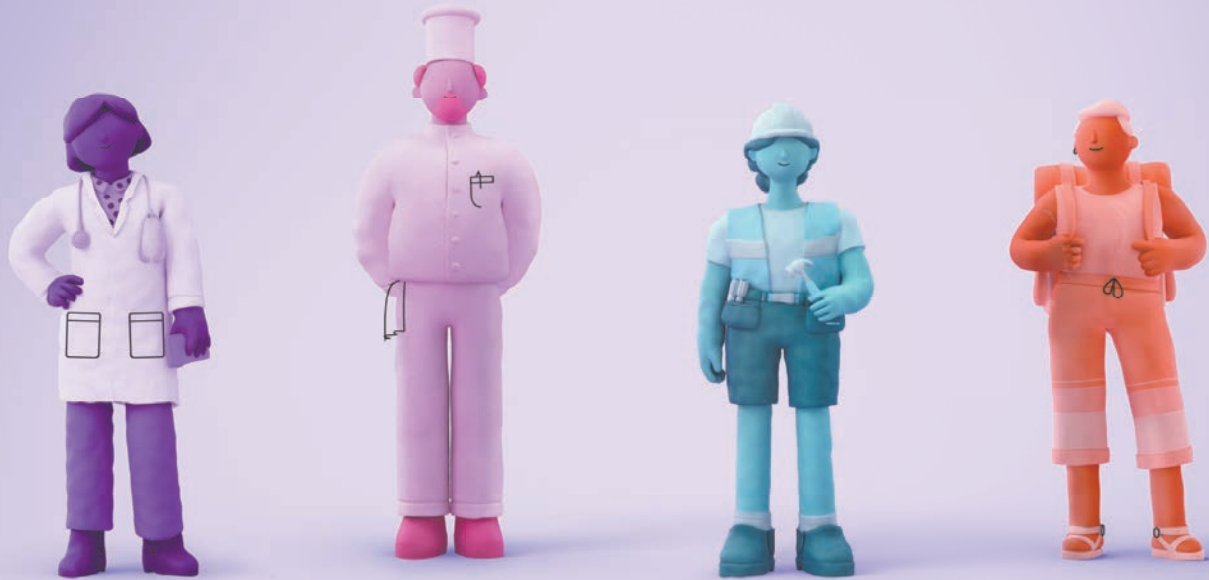
To maintain quality, images should be emailed as attachments to gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au

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.

Can't make it on Election Day?



If you can't vote on Saturday 3 May, you may be eligible to vote early.

All Australian citizens aged 18 years and over are required by law to vote.

So, if you can't make it to a polling place on election day, you may be eligible to:

- **vote early at an early voting centre, or**
- **apply for a postal vote.**

If you're travelling, working or will be outside the electorate where you're enrolled on election day, you can vote early.

To check early voting options and eligibility, visit **aec.gov.au/early**

Your vote will help shape Australia.



To learn more
aec.gov.au/early
13 23 26





From the Mayor

April is proving to be another busy month across our Shire. It has been wonderful to see such beautiful rain to green things up and fill dams coming into winter.

Roads

At the time of writing this there has been a lot of road damage throughout the Gwydir Shire due to the recent rain events which caused roads to be closed and road works to be delayed.

During March, maintenance grading/re-sheeting was carried out on the following roads:

- Scotts Road
- Yallaroi Road
- Currangandi Road
- Whitlow Road
- Tucka Tucka Road
- Baroma Road
- Upper Whitlow Road
- Bristol Lane
- Ironbark Creek Road.

During March, slashing was carried out on the following roads:

- Gwydir Highway
- Gravesend Road
- Warialda Airstrip Road
- Mosquito Creek Road
- County Boundary Road
- Eulourie Road
- Elcombe Road
- Warialda Road.

Council's General Manager, Max Eastcott, Deputy General Manager, Leeah Daley, and Engineering Director, Alex Eddy and I met with the Mayor of Moree Plains Shire Council, Susannah Pearse, Acting General Manager, Natalia Cowley, Councillor Peter Mailer and Engineering Director, John Dyer to discuss roads in our Shires and how we do things. As I mentioned in my last month's Column Gwydir is undertaking some road work within Moree Plains Shire Council as a contractor. This close co-operation is such a positive for all of our residents.

Telstra Services

In previous columns I have written about the poor Telstra service in our Shire and Council's meeting with The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP.

Following this meeting Mr Joyce made a speech to the Federal Parliament House of Representatives on 27 March 2025. Below are two extracts from his speech.

'As a regional member of parliament, some of the biggest things you can do are to get people a mobile phone tower. It's not that they want to do share transactions; they just want to know at Upper Horton that, if someone comes off a horse at the campdraft when it's on—and you've got 1,000 people or so there—and the person is suspected to have broken their neck, you can make the call straight away. People in regional areas have a right to be looked after.'

'When we go back to them [Telstra], we'll say, 'Hang on, these people got 3G, and you promised they would get 4G and 5G, but now they're getting "no G". They have no G at all.'

Hopefully something will change, and services improve soon. Please sign the community petition if you haven't had a chance yet.

Meeting with Essential Energy

Council's Executive and I had an online meeting with Essential Energy staff to discuss issues which included getting electricity supply connected to The Living Classroom cabins, activating our electric car charging stations and how the electricity supply will be set up to the new administrative building.

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) Conference - Gilgandra

In the first week of April, Council's Chief Financial Officer, Helen Thomas and I attended an ARIC conference in Gilgandra. At the conference we heard presentations on best practice, internal and external auditing, corruption and fraud and an address by NSW Auditor General, Bolac Oyetunji. The conference was very valuable.

Bingara Show

On Saturday 22 March and Sunday 23 March 2025, Bingara had their Annual Show. It was an honour to open the Show together with the Bingara 2025 Citizen of the Year Mr Daryl Burling and The Hon Brendan Moylan MP.

This year's Show was a great success with a large increase in attendees. The bigger crowds created such a great atmosphere across the whole weekend.

Unfortunately, the rain on Friday night meant that the Campdraft had to be postponed, however all other sections across the Show were well supported.

The Councillors and I would like to acknowledge Charlie Mill and his amazing Committee for their hard work and tireless efforts in bringing the Bingara Show to fruition. The support of volunteers at events like these are so important and they secure the future prosperity of not only the event, but of the community, by bringing visitors to the area. In turn these visitors support and grow our local businesses.

Additionally, the Bingara Show would not have been possible without generous community sponsorship and its event partner, the Bingara RSL Club.

Bingara Administration Building

The Bingara Administration Centre project is progressing well, although recent rain delayed the progress by 2-3 weeks. The contractor for this project, is confident that they can pick up this lost time and still complete the project in September.

It is very exciting to see walls starting to go up.



Orange Festival

The Bingara Special Events Committee has been meeting regularly to organise the 2025 Orange Festival and in exciting news, Hugh Whitfeld - 7 National News Desk Director and Foreign Editor is returning to his hometown for both the Orange Picking and Orange Festival commemorations. When I spoke with Hugh we were talking about his recollections of these events as a child and this is what he had to say.

"Some of my earliest memories are sitting on a plastic bag on Finch Street on the morning of Orange Picking, waiting for the ceremony to end so we could fill the plastic bags with oranges. It's incredible to see how the tradition recognising the service of men and women from Bingara, has evolved to include a festival on Saturday that celebrates our great town. I've always been proud to say where I come from and can't wait to get back to Bingara."

PFAS

Testing for PFAS was undertaken again in March and results show all Council bores and reservoirs were clear except for the Hospital Park bore. The application for a new test bore has been approved by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

A contract driller has been engaged, and the test bore should be drilled before the end of April, weather permitting. The general location of the test bore will be in the vicinity of the truck wash, the exact location is yet to be confirmed.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is supporting Council to try and locate the source of PFAS in the Wialalda water supply. Earlier this month, Council staff collaborated with the EPA to provide information to the Wialalda community regarding testing of private bores. The residents and ratepayers of Wialalda were offered free bore water testing. Seventeen registrations were received. Thank you so much to those who participated. Participants can expect to receive their results within the next four weeks.

Council expects to use the information gathered to help identify the source of the PFAS which ended up in the Wialalda water supply.

Wialalda CBD Park

Works have been ongoing at the Wialalda CBD Park with the installation of the new fence. The retaining wall which runs along the boundary fence is complete. The electrical cabling has commenced, as well as the under-boring of the existing concrete in preparation for the installation of the irrigation system.

The old hairdresser/bakery shops have been demolished. No well, nor evidence of one was found.

As the demolition progressed, it became clear that the building foundations were much lower than the existing ground level. The difference in the levels created a sump type effect under the building. This may have caused the moisture infiltration and goes somewhat to explaining why there was a pump under the structure.



Coolatai and Upper Horton Landfills

Council has recently upgraded infrastructure at the Coolatai Landfill. The gates at the facility were locked on Monday 7 April 2025 and residents and ratepayers now enter the site using an access code.

An information session was held at the Wallaroo Hotel on Wednesday 2 April 2025 to inform residents about the changes, demonstrate how to use the lock, and answer queries.

All eligible residents were mailed information about the changes in access requirements to the site however if you have any follow up questions, please contact Council's Environmental Services Department.

These changes follow a similar roll out at the Upper Horton Landfill and consultation with residents.

Planning

The Councillors held a Planning Workshop recently to look at ways the entire process can be made less complicated for residents. Dealing with planning legislation can be quite daunting when all you want to do is put up a carport or build a granny flat.

Please remember that Council has staff who can help you through this process, especially for minor applications.

At the Workshop, Council decided on a range of actions that once approved by the relevant State Department, will improve the approval processes. These proposed actions covered the following areas: Gwydir Shire's Housing Strategy, minor updates to the Gwydir Local Environmental Plan, Community Participation Plan, rural workers' dwellings and some revisions to expand the use of industrial zoned land in Wialalda.

Country Mayors' Association Meeting – March 2025

At the last Country Mayors' Association meeting the group resolved to endorse all 17 recommendations of the subject report which was entitled, **Ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services**.

The report was prepared by a cross-party Standing Committee on State Development. The Committee undertook the preparation of the report at the request of the Minister for Local Government.

The Terms of Reference were:

That the Standing Committee on State Development inquire into and report on the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services, and in particular:

- a. the level of income councils require to adequately meet the needs of their communities*
- b. examine if past rate pegs have matched increases in costs borne by local governments*
- c. current levels of service delivery and financial sustainability in local government, including the impact of cost shifting on service delivery and financial sustainability, and whether this has changed over time*
- d. assess the social and economic impacts of the rate peg in New South Wales for ratepayers, councils, and council staff over the last 20 years and compare with other jurisdictions*
- e. compare the rate peg as it currently exists to alternative approaches with regards to the outcomes for ratepayers, councils, and council staff*
- f. review the operation of the special rate variation process and its effectiveness in providing the level of income Councils require to adequately meet the needs of their communities*
- g. any other related matters.*

This Report's recommendations are all extremely sensible and were strongly supported.

More details are available on Council's website. Please see my Mayoral Minute – Ordinary Meeting 8 April 2025.

Gwydir Country Education Fundraiser (CEF)

The Bingara Central School, St Joseph's Primary School, Wialalda High School, Wialalda Public School and Naroo

Aged Hostel participated in the recent CEF Boot Bash Fundraiser. Together they raised \$627.60. CEF assists rural students between the ages of 16 and 25 with post school education, through providing financial resources to aid them in their study efforts and costs associated with learning. *THANK YOU.*

subsidy, Priority Wage Subsidy and Hiring Incentive. The total amount claimed for 2023/4 financial year is \$46,409.40 and total subsidies claimed for 2024/5 financial year to date amount to \$52,186.30.

Bingara and Warialda Day Care Service

It has been very heartening to hear such positive feedback from parents and guardians about the new Day Care Services. I have been approached by a couple of mothers who expressed how very happy they are with the care that their children are receiving.

These services have been needed in our community for many years, and it is wonderful that they are finally available. So far Council has received 17 enrolments and with current staffing there is a capacity to accommodate 16 children at each centre.

The hours are as follows (8:00am – 4:00pm)

Week 1

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday – Warialda
Thursday, Friday – Bingara

Week Two

Monday, Tuesday – Warialda
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – Bingara



Gwydir Career Start

Gwydir Shire Council currently employs 10 school-based trainees, six trainees, 23 full-time apprentices and two Cadets.

Gwydir Career Start participants represent 16% of Council's full-time equivalent workforce. The Councillors and I find this figure to be incredibly exciting because most Career Start participants are within the younger age bracket. It is great to know that these young people are gaining qualifications here in our own backyard, and that in the years to come they will have the skills to be at the helm of Council.

Training is provided by a number of registered training organisations including TAFE, Australian Training Plus, Community College Northern Inland, International Childcare College, Upskilled and Fusion Training Solutions. It is wonderful to have access to well-renowned and respected training providers.

Council claims the following subsidies for eligible Trainees/Apprentices: *Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy, Completing Apprenticeship Commencements wage*





Council's trainees and apprentices

A Fresh Start for Local Government Apprentices, Trainees & Cadets program

The NSW Government has recently launched 'A Fresh Start for Local Government Apprentices, Trainees & Cadets' program in line with its goal to increase the local government workforce and for this sector to employ an additional 1,300 apprentices, trainees and cadets.

\$252.2 million over six years has been committed to directly support local councils to develop sustainable workforces. Round 1 of the program closed in November 2024. Of the nine positions that Gwydir Shire Council applied for, seven have been granted conditional approval.

These positions include Apprentice Mechanic, Apprentice Plant Operator (x 2), Trainee Individual Support, Trainee Early Childhood Educator, Trainee Business Administrator, and Cadet Planner. The Councillors and I are ecstatic with this result, as all these wages will be externally funded and will not come out of Council's budget.

Until next time...

The Councillors and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Easter. If you are looking for an exciting way to entertain the kids or play tour guide to your extended family, may I suggest staying local and exploring our very own backyard. With the recent rains, Cranky Rock, Horton Falls, Rocky Creek Glacial Area and Ezzy's Crossing have never looked better!

Living the Gwydir Good Life
Cr Tiffany Galvin, Mayor

**DON'T MISS THE
WARIALDA SHOW
8TH - 11TH MAY 2025**

BACKTRACK DOG JUMP





BINGARA **Orange** festival

Bingara, Now and Then

SATURDAY 5 JULY 2025

10am | Street Parade 2pm

MEMPHIS MOOVERS | SWING KATZ | VINTAGE CAR DISPLAY | MARKET STALLS

***Rodeo* | AMUSEMENT RIDES & ATTRACTIONS | FOOD TRUCKS**

TOURS OF THE ROXY THEATRE AND *Happy Days Theme*



Bingara, NSW


GWYDIR
SHIRE COUNCIL

For further event details, local attractions and accommodation visit www.visitgwydir.com.au

Brendan Moylan MP

Funding for Permanent Shade Structure at Cranky Rock

THURSDAY 10 APRIL



Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan and Gwydir Shire Council mayor Tiffany Galvin at Cranky Rock Recreation Reserve which will soon be home to a new permanent shade structure thanks to funding from the LSCA program.

A new shade structure at Warialda's Cranky Rock Recreation Reserve will greet visitors later this year with funding secured to renovate the outdated facilities.

Gwydir Shire Council was allocated funding from the NSW Government's Local Small Commitment Allocation program, which provides benefits to local communities through a range of events, services and programs, playground and park upgrades, and more.

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan said the upgraded shade structures will improve visitor comfort, particularly in hot weather.

"Cranky Rock is a popular spot for families, tourists, and locals to visit with plenty of facilities and activities on offer there," he said.

"The Reserve is a great place for bushwalking, picnics, camping, swimming, birdwatching and more.

"Having more shade facilities will make visiting the Reserve a much more comfortable experience.

"Well done to Gwydir Shire Council for identifying the need to upgrade the shade structures and being successful in their application to the LSCA program."

Gwydir Shire Council mayor Tiffany Galvin said bettering the Reserve was a priority and the \$24,000 from the LSCA program for the shade structure certainly helps.

"Many groups meet at Cranky Rock; special interest groups, families, travelling groups," she said.

"When they visit the site, the caretaker puts out temporary gazebos for them to use. With this funding there will be a permanent shaded meeting and gathering spot for them.

"A new shade structure with solar lighting and fans will be used by many who visit the site."

It is anticipated the new shade structure will be completed by the end of October 2025.

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

Final Statement

FRIDAY 28 MARCH

With today's announcement of a 3 May 2025 Federal Election, my time as the 1,029th member elected to the Australian Parliament and as the Federal Member for Parkes has now officially come to an end.

I thank my family, colleagues, staff and The Nationals for their unwavering trust in me to do this job. I will be forever grateful for the people of the Parkes Electorate and the support they have shown me over the past 17 years.

I said in my first speech that I have a deep and unshakeable belief in inland Australia; and I still believe that to this day. There is no better place to live in the world than Australia, and no better place in Australia to live than in western New South Wales.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the people of the Parkes Electorate.

Thank you.

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

Letters to the Editor

Reply to Orange Festival Naming

History of the Orange Festival

I started the orange festival 30 years ago with \$500.00 of my own money.

The Back to Bingara Centenary had been an enormous success. I had been the Secretary/publicity officer for it. From this festival the historical society was formed. I was foundation secretary/publicity.

I approached the council about having a festival for Bingara to show how beautiful Bingara is and to promote tourism. Inverell had the Sapphire Festival and Glen Innes the Rose Festival.

The council asked me what I would name the festival. I said it was obvious The Orange Festival. No other town had a 'living memorial' to the dead and soldiers of both world wars. The children of Bingara respected the avenue and honored the meaning.

Bingara had the largest number of enlistments of any town in NSW—also sadly to number of fatalities. Many of those men were members of the 8th Div/2/18, 2/19 battalions sent to Singapore 1941. A disaster Singapore fell on 14/2/1942. The families of those men live here today.

My father Vin McTaggart, and many of his mates, were killed in action. The others spent three and a half years POW of the Japanese. No one knew of what happened to their loved ones until 1945. Just a telegram stating 'MIA, presumed dead.' No television or Facebook then.

The orange trees were planted in 1960, this year is the 80th anniversary of WW2. ANZAC 110, 65 of the orange trees.

The orange festival started small. I decided to go for and see what happened without the council's approval (different days; not now).

I enlisted the help of Rick Hutton, and Councilor John Wearne, they could visualise what I was about.

A man with three camels arrived in Bingara on the Thursday, before camping on the river. Not letting an opportunity pass, I did a deal with him—\$2.00 a ride and \$1.00 festival.

John and Rick dressed in bedspreads, led the parade, no one told me horses and camels do not mix! The Lighthouse's were bucking, the camels snorting and spitting. The one float threw lollies to the children who scrambled for them!

Afterward Don Whiteman wrote it was a glorious shemozzle.

The next year the council gave me \$1,000; H Fay & Son paid the insurance, and The Orange Festival was born.

For 15 years I ran the festival with the Councils help, Tourism, all clubs, businesses, hotels.

The arts council was formed. I was the president enabling

us to get grants for a cultural or children's activity slippery circus etc. Trudi Drewitt was secretary, Kim Brisset Treasurer and Jenny Mead publicity officer.

The last festival I organised was the Greek Festival to promote the Roxy Project. It was massive. The council asked me if they could take it as an event and I said yes with two conditions. The name would never change and there would always be a military aspect in the parade such as the Lighthouse, Army tank, flag etc.

I asked to stay as the consultant and keep organising the parade with members of council and community support.

We have had many great festivals, Italian, Chinese, Goldrush, Murals, Centenary, Australia remembers foundation, That's Roxy entertainment.

I am 90 this year and a member of the events committee. The name Orange Festival will never change. The committee have kept the festival going when many others have failed.

Bingara, let's make this Orange Festival the best—do a float, decorate a window, dress up a dog, dress up, dress up your children. Fly the flag, decorate a scooter.

There will be a display of past festivals at the library prior to this year's festival. Perhaps, you will see yourself. I know it is a school holiday, please try, there are many prizes.

The car club has been a great supporter of the festival over the years. This year a \$200 prize for the best car/driver dressed in the era of the car.

Nancy MacInnes

G'day. In response to Ann Willis letter...

Ann, we need you as our prime minister, then we would have at least one politician with brains and common sense.

You are exactly correct with all you have said.

We need big and small business owners as politicians, not barristers and lawyers and career politicians who wouldn't know the price of bread or baby food.

Governments can't bring a million people into a country and expect real estate and rental properties not to go crazy, that's insanity.

The way we are going it seems governments want to turn us into a third world country, spend spend spend and then leave it up to someone else to get us out of trouble.

Immigrants, nationalised or not that are doing criminal acts should be deported immediately.

All these feral kids in the Alice and Townsville etc should be put in the army regardless of age and let the soldiers teach them discipline and respect. Stop the crimes.

Perhaps we could hire Trump, Musk, and Kennedy for a few months. Remember the old saying - **follow the money trail** - that is what Trump is doing.

Warren Grover

Dear Editor

Please allow me space to wish the new General Manager all the best in her very important role to guide Gwydir Council back to some sort of workable position. A brief history of the formation of Gwydir Shire between the Yallaroi-Bingara-and part Barraba council areas.

Some 20 odd years ago, Yallaroi had 86 staff at Bingara—21 according to the Bingara General Manager. During the one-year administration period, which was done from Bingara, an additional 54 casual staff were located in Bingara to catch up on a back log of works. On the day of the amalgamation these staff were made permanent, the local government minister Kelly commented at the time. Yallaroi was 'had', 'history'.

Most of the high traffic roads in Yallaroi were sealed including town streets, with a motion in Council to seal Dr Wheatley Drive, plus three kilometres a year leading to Warialda, eg., Mosquito–Oregon roads etc. The one road up north which was sealed recently was considered a B class, and kept in good gravel condition. Bingara however had town streets sealed and not much more.

The new council in it's wisdom agreed to catch Bingara up, firstly sealing the Narrabri road, then to Gravesend. These programs, along with the Roxy Theatre, cost millions over some years.

Meanwhile, the streets of Warialda and roads north to the Queensland border (plus the airstrip at Warialda), are deteriorating fast. That brings us up to March 2025.

The town streets at Warialda and roads north to the border area are a disgrace. Road edges are not mowed, potholes are filled with soup that may last one day up to two weeks depending on the B doubles from up north to Inverell abattoir etc.

I understand the current council has a program to build an administration centre in Bingara. I would suggest Warialda has enough buildings to house enough staff to administer the council, if not the people of the old Yallaroi Council should start a move to withdraw from Gwydir with the understanding there is only enough money to look after one end of the existing council.

R. Tremain OAM

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

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**

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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



We're Growing! New Location! Same Trusted Service!

Brad and Kelly, along with their children Morgan, Mason and Maya, are proud to announce the expansion of their local, family-owned business!



With a new location at 6 Saleyards Road, we're offering even more to help locals shop locally and stay safe on the road. Along with our expert advice, we will continue to offer these services:

- ✓ Welding Repairs and Fabrication – Light and Heavy Machinery
- ✓ Pink Slips (E-Safety Checks)
- ✓ Vehicle Servicing and Repairs
- ✓ Tyres – Sales, Fitting and Repairs
- ✓ Wheel Balancing and Alignments

Whether you need top-quality welding repairs, vehicle maintenance, or new tyres, we're here to help with the same friendly, reliable service you trust.

Come visit us at our new location or call us today!

Brad & Kelly White



Come see us at 6 Saleyards Road

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Brad 0409 365 153

Thank you for your continued support—
we can't wait to welcome you!

In the News 1080 Baiting Program to Commence in the Gwydir region

Agriculture

Environment

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | Apr 11, 2025

<https://stafm.com.au/baiting-program-to-commence-in-the-gwydir-region/>

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is conducting a 1080 baiting program in Gwydir River National Park and Gwydir River State Conservation Area from Monday 14th April 2025 to Thursday 1st May 2025.

The program will use meat baits containing 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) poison for the control of wild dogs and foxes. The baiting program will utilise ground baiting techniques.

The program is designed to minimise predator impacts on wildlife, especially threatened species, and to minimise the impact of wild dogs on neighbouring stock. Signs will be placed at the entry to the baiting location.

Domestic pets are not permitted in NSW National Parks managed lands. Pets and working dogs may be affected (1080 is lethal to cats and dogs).

Pets and working dogs must be restrained or muzzled in the vicinity and must not enter the baiting location. In the event of accidental poisoning seek immediate veterinary assistance.

If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact:

NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
Barwon Area
Phone (02) 6792 7300
Email npws.barwon@environment.nsw.gov.au

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

In the News Have Your Say on Local Land Services Board Election Process

Agriculture

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | Apr 10, 2025

<https://stafm.com.au/have-your-say-on-local-land-services-board-election-process/>

Local Land Services is inviting ratepayers to have their say on the way community representatives are elected to its local boards.

As part of a review of the election process, Local Land Services is conducting a survey to understand how it can improve the experience for voters.

Open to new and long-time voters, the short, five-minute survey closes on 17 April 2025.

Local Land Services CEO Kate Lorimer-Ward said feedback would inform recommendations to make the election process more engaging and accessible.

“Local boards play a key role in connecting Local Land Services to landholders and communities across NSW,” Ms Lorimer-Ward said.

“The election process allows our customers to vote for who represents them on their local board and is critical to ensuring their voice is heard on matters that affect them, so it’s important we make it as simple as possible.

“While there was an increase in the number of voters in last year’s election, compared to 2020, we recognise there’s room to improve engagement with the election process.

“Whether you’re a past voter or have never voted before, we want to hear from you about what’s working well and where we can make improvements.”

Local board elections are run in accordance with the LLS Regulation 2014. The review Local Land Services is undertaking will inform where regulatory and non-regulatory changes may need to be considered to improve customer experience.

In addition to elected board members, each of Local Land Services’ 11 local boards has some Ministerially appointed members.

Together they provide oversight of local strategic planning, performance monitoring and local policy, helping to shape the services Local Land Services delivers.

The chair of each local board sits on the statewide Local Land Services Board, which is responsible for overseeing statewide priorities in line with the State Strategic Plan.

Those interested can complete the survey online. All responses are anonymous. https://regionalnsw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d0AgoGguF6HMLyS

In the News Apply for a Postal Vote Now

Politics

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | Apr 9, 2025

<https://stafm.com.au/apply-for-a-postal-vote-now/>

The AEC is urging people who cannot make it to vote in-person, and need to cast a postal vote in the 2025 federal election, to apply early or risk missing out.

Every effort is made for applications lodged late in the election period, including using priority and express mail services, but depending on a voter's circumstances, there may be a chance it is not received in time.

"Australia has some of the best in-person voting options in the world. If a voter can turn up to a voting centre, then that is what they must do."

A list of early voting centres will be available on the AEC website soon. Early voting starts on Tuesday 22 April.

Each federal election there are around 2-2.5 million postal vote applications received by the AEC – many of those arrive late in the election period. All require local roll verification checks, processing and ballot pack printing prior to delivery.

The AEC is not only urging people needing a postal vote to apply early but also to apply directly through the AEC.

Voters can apply for a postal vote now by visiting <https://www.aec.gov.au/pva>

Key information:

2,389,751 postal votes were cast at the previous federal election in 2022.

The legislated deadline to apply for a postal vote is 6pm local time on Wednesday 30 April

Any application after Thursday 24 April risks your postal vote pack not arriving in time, depending on your circumstances.

Your postal vote must be completed on or before election day, Saturday 3 May 2025 and returned to the AEC before Friday 16 May 2025, or your vote will not be included in the count.

In the News BreastScreen Campaign Targets Underscreened Women

Health

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | Apr 1, 2025

<https://stafm.com.au/breastscreen-campaign-targets-underscreened-women/>

BreastScreen NSW has relaunched a campaign encouraging women to have a life saving mammogram and join the more than 55,000 women who screened across Hunter New England Local Health District in 2024.

Kairsten Marley, Hunter New England Local Health District BreastScreen NSW Manager, said with almost 900 women in our district expected to be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, now is the time to book a free, life-saving breast screen.

"For women aged 50-74, a breast screen every two years is the best way to detect breast cancer early before it can be seen or felt. The message is clear – put yourself, and your health first and make breast screening a priority," Kairsten said.

First launched in late 2023, the Breast Cancer Doesn't Wait campaign has been refined to reach even more women, now including targeted advertising in local government areas with the highest numbers of underscreened women.

The campaign encourages women to prioritise their two-yearly breast screening, which is the best way to detect breast cancer in its earliest stages. New data from Cancer Institute NSW shows around 3,100 additional cancers would be detected if every eligible woman had a regular mammogram.

Professor Tracey O'Brien AM, NSW Chief Cancer Officer and CEO of the Cancer Institute NSW said the Breast Cancer Doesn't Wait campaign is part of efforts to spread awareness of the life-saving power of a mammogram.

"More than 1,000 women are expected to die in NSW this year from breast cancer and we are determined to support women to detect and treat breast cancer as early as possible," Professor O'Brien said.

"Early detection not only significantly increases a person's chance of survival to 98 per cent, it can also greatly reduce the need for invasive treatment like a mastectomy.






For more information and to make an appointment at a local BreastScreen NSW clinic or mobile van, call 13 20 50 or book online at www.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au



INVERELL MEDICAL EDUCATION GRANT

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY IF:

-  you are in your 2nd year, or above, of health studies
-  you are intending on continuing your studies
-  you study at an Australian University and/or a registered training organisation—full time or part time study
-  your intention is to undertake work experience in a rural area, if possible
-  your principal place of residence is within the CWA Gwydir Group *

Application forms are available by emailing a request to the CWA Gwydir Group Secretary on gwyrpsecretary@gmail.com on an updated form dated February 2023



Scan for email

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 30 JUNE 2025

*The boundaries of the Gwydir Group are: Inverell-Bundarra-Bingara-Moree-Weemelah-Yetman-North Star-Bonshaw-Atholwood and all localities contained within.



**Breast cancer doesn't wait.
Don't wait to breast screen.**

**Aged 50-74?
Book yours today.**

breastscreen.nsw.gov.au
13 20 50

BreastScreen
NSW

*Sue Smoothy
Massage and Reiki
mobile service*

Mother's Day Special!

*25% off....
gift vouchers purchased
Before Mother's Day!*



Call/text 0427 414 616

ROSS COOPER OPTOMETRIST

Next visits to Wialda

- May 28
- June 25
- July 30

For appointments, contact the
Wialda Medical Centre on
02 6729 1520

Goondiwindi 07 4671 1550

Next visits to Bingara

- May 29
- June 26
- July 31

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



Country Music Star Adam Harvey to Perform at Delungra Farmers Gathering

Award-winning country music artist Adam Harvey, a multiple Golden Guitar winner, will headline a special, free event at Delungra Bowling Club. This event, dedicated to bringing together farmers and residents in the Delungra district, is a unique opportunity for locals to meet, network, and enjoy an unforgettable night of live music.

The event, taking place on Saturday 3 May, invites all farmers, their families, and members of the community to join in the celebration of rural life and local talent.

Hosted by Delungra's own non-profit group, Delungra Muster Up and chairperson Leah Bennett says it's a chance to reconnect, get to know some new faces in the district and enjoy an evening of entertainment in a friendly environment.

"Thanks to funding from FRRR, we have been able to bring Adam Harvey to Delungra and will be offering a free

barbecue dinner to the first 250 people".

In addition to Adam Harvey's performance, local talent Larissa Uebergang will be taking the stage as the supporting act. Larissa's connection to the region's live music scene promises to bring a night of entertainment for all ages.

With numerous Golden Guitar awards under his belt, Harvey's music resonates deeply with fans and continues to define the sound of contemporary Australian country music.

The event is free of charge and is made possible by the generous support of Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal, who aim to provide opportunities for rural communities to strengthen networks.

Date: Saturday 3 May, 2025 - Doors open 5.00pm

Location: Delungra Bowling Club, Delungra

Cost: Free

For more information, please contact Leah Bennett at Muster Up Delungra musterupdelungrainc@gmail.com

Fascinating "foreign film" offering to feature at the NWTC Film Club on May 4

Wim Wenders' directed film *'Perfect Days'*, is a Japanese-German drama that premiered at the 76th Cannes Film Festival in May 2023. It is being shown at the Roxy Theatre in Bingara as the North West Theatre Company Film Club's foreign feature film for 2025.

The story follows Hirayama, played by Kōji Yakusho, a public toilet cleaner in Tokyo. Hirayama leads a structured and repetitive life, finding joy in simple pleasures like music, books, photography, and nature. His pride in his work and his quiet appreciation for the beauty of everyday life form the heart of the narrative.

The cast includes Kōji Yakusho, who won the Best Actor Award at Cannes for his performance, along with Tokio Emoto, Arisa Nakano, and Aoi Yamada. The film's meditative approach and Yakusho's portrayal have been widely praised, with critics highlighting its delicate storytelling and ability to find beauty in the mundane.

'Perfect Days' has also received international recognition, including a nomination for Best International Feature Film at the 96th Academy Awards. The film has been described as one of Wenders' best works in recent years, capturing the quiet beauty of routine and the joy of living in the moment.

Wim Wenders is one of Germany's leading contemporary film makers and *'Perfect Days'* is ranked among his best work. The showing at the Roxy will be on Sunday, May 4 and not on the last Sunday in April as previously advertised due to the NWTC's *'Funny Business at the Roxy'* plays being performed on April 27.



A FILM BY **WIM WENDERS**

PERFECT DAYS

"A POEM OF EXTRAORDINARY
SUBTLETY AND BEAUTY"

VOX



STARRING **KOJI YAKUSHO**

The North West Theatre Company Film Club presents

Perfect Days

Sunday May 6th 2025 | 4:00pm | The Roxy Theatre

Workshops coming up across Barraba, Bingara and Warialda campuses!



Alcohol Ink Workshop

Learn all the tips and tricks to using alcohol inks to create magical works of art—anyone can do it! In this 3-hour workshop you'll practice using the materials and then create some medium-sized artworks that you can take home. Don't miss this chance to join award-winning Glass Artist Skye Petho of Arthouse Industries for a mesmerising creative experience in a supportive and fun environment.

½-Day In-Campus 10.00AM - 1.00PM \$120

Barraba Campus  Saturday 17 May



Mini Print Making Using Recycled Materials

Learn how to recycle waste into art using household products! In this 3-hour workshop you'll use the same techniques that are used in large scale printmaking, using a pasta roller, waste packaging materials and some imagination to create cute mini prints. With all these materials easily accessible at home you can print any time you want without spending lots of money on special materials.

½-Day In-Campus 2.00PM - 5.00PM \$120

Barraba Campus  Saturday 17 May



Welding 101

Enrol in this evening course to develop basic welding skills that will give you the confidence to tackle home- or farm-based welding projects and complete them to a good standard. Topics covered in this non-accredited training include:

- working safely;
- workplace personal protective equipment;
- practical welding skills.

Friday Evenings 6.00PM - 9.00PM \$450

Warialda Trade Centre  6 x sessions commencing Friday 16th May

See the full range of courses and enrol online at www.ccn.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
Warialda Campus	Thursday 8 May		
Warialda Campus	Tuesday 20 May		
Barraba Campus	Monday 2 June		
Bingara Campus	Tuesday 1 July		

Provide CPR

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation



½-Day Face-to-Face Workshop	9.00AM - 12PM	\$90	F
Warialda Campus	Thursday 8 May		
Warialda Campus	Tuesday 20 May		
Barraba Campus	Monday 2 June		
Bingara Campus	Tuesday 1 July		

Provide First Aid in an Education and Care Setting

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
Warialda Campus	Tuesday 20 May		

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
Bingara Campus	Thursday 22 May		
Barraba Campus	Monday 30 June		

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
Bingara Campus	Tuesday 13 May		

Confined Spaces

RIIWHS202E Enter and work in confined spaces



1-Day In-Campus	9.00AM - 4.30PM	\$310	F
Bingara Campus	Wednesday 4 June		

Work Safely at Heights

RIIWHS204E Work safely at heights



1-Day In-Campus	9.00AM - 4.30PM	\$260	F
Bingara Campus	Tuesday 3 June		

For more information
call Toby on 0438 546 519

News from Bingara Central School



From the Principal

Aboriginal Languages

Throughout Term 1, students from K-Stage 4 have been learning about Aboriginal language. Visiting our school this week, Dermott from Marangiir shared his knowledge and explained to students the strong connection between language and culture.

In our younger classes there has been lots of fun with familiar games such as Simon Says involving Gamilaroi words, as well as song and dance. This continues to be a valuable part of our children's learning.

Beef Education Day

Friday 21 March saw BCS host the first Beef Education Day at the Bingara Show ground, coinciding with the Bingara Show.

Under the guidance of Mr Mill, students learnt about all aspects of preparing and judging cattle.

We would like to thank our guest presenters for taking their time to share their knowledge with our students – Mr Sinclair Munro, Monique McKinnon, Casey Wieck and Nigel Weick, as well as Gunnedah and Farrer High Schools for



Aboriginal Language Learning

travelling to be a part of this experience. Many thanks also goes to our SRC, Mrs hall and student volunteers who cooked up a storm on the barbecue for all to enjoy.

Health Careers for Rural Students

BCS hosted the Rural Health Student Network at the end of Term 1. Visiting from various campus' of the University of Newcastle the group consisted of students currently studying for a career in health.

The afternoon offered Bingara Central School students an opportunity to explore a variety of health career options including nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, radiography, speech pathology, occupational therapy and dietetics.

With the idea that 'you can't be what you can't see', the Health Network provides sessions to rural schools to promote rural health careers to students and encourage those who are interested in practising in rural health care.

Interested Stage 5 and 6 students rotated through the options, spending time asking questions and gaining a better understanding of what future study might look like in that field and what career options lay ahead.



Bingara Show

We were proud to see our students shine at the Bingara Show over the weekend. Not only did our classes provide some fabulous group displays to share with the community but many of our students and staff showcased their talents with individual entries across the pavilion. It was great to see the creativity of our artists, cooks and green thumbs on display.



Regional Swimming

Bingara Central School regional swimmers hit the water in week 9 of this term for the North West PSSA and CHS Swimming Championships. Well done to all of our swimmers who competed over the two days. For some, this was their first of many carnivals to come whilst many of our senior students have shown that with growth and experience, they can continue to thrive and achieve their goals.

Our small but mighty Secondary swim team performed very well and we are proud to share that 5 students will represent North West at the NSWCHS swimming at Sydney Olympic Park

in Week 11.

Congratulations to Liam J (50m freestyle), Ivy M (100m freestyle) and our Central School relay team consisting of Nikola B, Ruby M and Addison D and Liam J on this great achievement.

All students showed GRIT and determination as well as gaining valuable experience.

Preston Campbell Cup & Alan Tongue Rugby League

Our five U14s girls combined with St Philomena's and Guyra. The girls drew with Macintyre, 8 all and had a narrow loss to Trinity 12-8. Stephanie led as captain, scoring 2 tries and Faithlyn scoring 1 from dummy half. A great effort by Jess, Ava and Charlotte who tackled hard and combined well with the other girls to play two very entertaining games. Thanks to Guyra for the loan of the jerseys.

Our U16s boys combined with Barraba and Uralla. They played Macintyre first and O'Conner second winning both games 12-4. The last game was against Inverell with the result 4-4. Liam led as captain, scoring 3 tries and Jarrod scored a nice try from a kick. Jontë, Jai and Sam all played well. Thanks to Mr McGowan for taking the side.

Luka played with a combined Bundarra and Ashford U14s side. They played Inverell and O'Conner, with Luka playing really well as dummy half. Thanks to Mr Vickey from Bundarra for coaching the team.

Unfortunately, due to time issues with the draw, the U14s boys and girls didn't get to play their last game. Thanks to Mr Mill for his organisation leading up to the day.

Winter Trials

During week 10, Liam J travelled to Tamworth to trial for the Northwest U16's Boys Rugby Union team. This was a competitive process in very trying wet conditions. We look forward to the upcoming team announcement.

The following day, Liam J and Jarrod P travelled to Coonabarabran for the second round of the Namoi Winter Trials - Open Boys Rugby League. Again, in difficult weather the boys gave their best.

Despite being only 15, Liam J made it through to the 'possibles and probables' stage of the Opens selection process. This is a great achievement, well done!

Inverell Zone Rugby League Trials

Congratulations to Jed and Koen (11 years) and Yarrundaali and Mikayla (opens) for their selection in the Inverell Zone Rugby League teams.

They are now off to Tamworth in May, where they will trial for a position in the NSWPSA 11's and Open's Rugby League teams.

We're so proud of you all and wish you the best of luck in the next phase!

News from Warialda Public School



From the Principal

Visual Arts Clay Workshop

We welcome Trina McCrae from Anthill Pottery to being a series of workshops for our students in Years 3-6. Not only is a visual arts and well-being initiative, but it also focuses on the way that playing with clay engages our kinaesthetic learning through our senses.



North West Swimming Regional Carnival

Our super swimmers competed in Armidale for a spot in the North West Swimming Team. A huge congratulations to all students who participated! A special mention to the following students who will now move on to compete in Sydney on 10th and 11th of April.

- Standley Valdal – 12 years 50m Freestyle
- Harry Durkin – 10 years 50m Freestyle
- Ada van Velthuisen – 11 years 50m Breaststroke
- Senior Boys Relay – Dexter Brooks, Hugo Barwick, Liam Brazel and Stanley Valdal.



North West Sporting Trials Success

It is with great excitement that the following students have been selected to represent North West in the following sports:

AFL

- Nate Cleal
- Heath Edwards
- Ryan O'Neill
- Beau Robertson (Shadow Reserve)

Rugby 7's

- Scarlett Turner
- Ruby Hodges
- Sallisah Stokes



Basketball

- Scarlett Turner

Tennis

- Isabelle Diprose

Cricket

- Isabelle Diprose.

Preston Campbell Cup

On Wednesday 26th March, over 70 students participated in the Preston Campbell Cup. The rain held off for most of the day, and our students had a great day of physical activity and importantly, fun with friends!



Story Poles

At our 2024 NAIDOC Day Celebrations, Jodie Herden, in consultation with our students, teachers and community designed our Story Poles. The first pole represents Warialda School, Students and Staff. The second pole represents the Animals, Start and Country. The third pole is about Culture and Community. We look forward to the official opening of these incredible Story Poles!



This event is weather dependent so if raining, we will reschedule to 17th May

Regent Honeyeater Walk

Exploring endangered woodland bird habitats in the Barraba region



10

MAY

9.30-12.30

Dr Steve Debus will lead the walk & share his extensive knowledge of woodland birds, including the critically endangered regent honeyeater. No doubt there will be plenty of general birdwatching tips too! We'll carpool to two sites in the Gulf Creek area.



MEET AT: Russ Watts Park, Barraba (town side of bridge)

BRING: binoculars, sturdy shoes, hat, water.

PROVIDED: morning tea and great information.

For more information and to book, ring Ali on 0438 353 682



This project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by North West Local Land Services, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Enabling Program. A collaboration of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.

Cut For The Koalas

FUNDRAISER



16 May 2025
10am

Support Tanya, a dedicated wildlife carer, as she shaves her head in preparation for cancer treatment. Tanya has set up a GoFundMe to raise funds for Friends of the Koala. Join us in supporting this event at the Warialda Koala Wildlife Reserve.

Join our fundraiser :

Cut, Shave, Colour, or Go Crazy with Your Hair or Beard – All for a donation!

Enjoy a Sausage Sizzle – Delicious food available!

Purchase locally grown plants from the NSLA Nursery Stall.

Get Expert Gardening Advice – Available for a donation.

Enter our Guess the Lolly Jar competition – Only \$2 to enter!

Take a guided walk and Spot our Resident Koalas – \$5 donation

To donate now:



Register here:



All proceeds to go to Friends of the Koala, supporting the Lismore Koala Hospital

Any enquiries call Kiara on 0498 802 370



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Drilling Program. A collaboration of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.



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.





The winner of the March 2025 *Garden Club Drive By Encouragement Award* for area D was Gordon Fletcher in Finch Street. He has continued to lovingly care for his garden for 40 years. All this effort shows. There are welcoming shady corners, one protected by the canopy of a huge bottlebrush and by New Zealand hibiscus. There are several well-kept hedges of nandina, abelia and dwarf oleander. One oleander hedge attractively replaces the need for a boundary fence. Even the verge is enhanced by a row of gazanias, and the roses, geraniums, dahlias and petunias add variety to the manicured lawn. There are also arches and a bird bath that add a welcoming touch for visitors, both people and birds.

Well done Gordon!



2025 – 7th 8th and 9th JUNE

BINGARA BUSH BASH 2025

This year will be the 89th Anniversary of the Annual Bingara Tennis Tournament (now known as the Bingara Bush Bash).

It runs right through the June Long (Kings' Birthday) Weekend from Saturday 7th until finish of play on Monday 9th. A great tournament of friendships new and old, camaraderie, fun and laughter and of course TENNIS.

The Monday afternoon is traditionally set aside for a City versus Country Bowls match on the clubs' greens, for any players who don't have to race home and can stick around for a bit. It's a fun way to finish off the weekend. **NEW PLAYERS ARE WELCOME.**

All registrations and payments are done online now at the following webpage:

www.92computing.com.au/bushbashentry.htm

THE BINGARA GARDEN CLUB

The Bingara Garden Club holds monthly meetings at the Bingara Sporting Club at 10am on the fourth Thursday of each month. **Aspiring members are welcome.**



The Warialda Golf and Bowling Club (WGBC) is an important part of our community where people can socialise, have access to recreational activities and use the facilities for a variety of events.

The WGBC has a long and proud history in our community and many people over the years have played key roles in helping make it what it is today. Many thousands of voluntary hours have been put in to keep it going and improving.

There have been hard times such as droughts, covid etc. but all small businesses in our rural and regional community face these challenges and together as a community we always come out on the other side of such adversities. Clubs play an important part in communities, and we thank our patrons and supporters who support the WGBC.

Your local Golf and Bowling Club has a range of activities that may interest new people in our community and those who have been here for some time. Have a look at the following activities and don't hesitate to get in touch with the WGBC if interested in getting involved:

- Darts – Wednesday nights
- Line Dancing – Thursday afternoons
- Ladies Golf – Wednesday and Saturday mornings
- Men's Golf – Sundays
- Veterans Golf - Fridays
- Social Bowls – Saturday afternoons social and competition for set events
- Keno, Poker Machines, kids' playground

Upcoming events include:

- Easter Raffles \$1,500 in Easter Eggs – Sunday April 13th 5.00pm
- April Monthly Raffle \$1,000 in prizes – Saturday April 26th 5.00pm
- ANZAC Day DAGS Cleal memorial Golf 4 person Ambrose,

open to all skill levels

- TWO UP ANZAC DAY in the afternoon
- Friday Night Raffles – 20 meat vouchers, members draw and Joker Jackpot – 6.30pm
- Monthly Raffles are on the last Saturday of each month at 5.00pm.

We also have a Chinese Restaurant open seven days a week for lunch and dinner.

WGBC also has a catering group for all your events held at the club offering a range of options for parties, wakes etc.

For further information contact the WGBC on (02) 6729 1192.

Give us a go and get involved in your local club!

Mick Collins, President



Aged 50 and over and spend 4+ hours outside per day?

You could be eligible for the Japanese encephalitis vaccine.



SPORT

Gray and Mills Warialda 27 Hole Foursome Champions

by Toby Cooper

In foursomes, alternative shots are played, and it is generally a more difficult game, but someone forgot to tell Richard Gray, and Matty Mills who dominated proceedings on Sunday the 16th of March, for the annual 27-hole Foursomes sponsored by Layton Structural. Recording a blistering 110.5 nett over the 27 holes, they came home almost 10 shots over the eventual runners up Wade Turner and Josh Watson, who edged out Clem Gordon and Toby Cooper on a score of 120.

The following weekend saw the running of the prestigious George Rose Memorial 4BBB Stableford sponsored by the Lindsay family, and with a terrific field of 32 players, the scores were tight at the top. Coming out victorious was the inform Craig Lockhart and Wokka Storm, who survived a countback from their playing partners Joel Daley and Matty Williams, both on 44 points. In a topsy turvy battle over 18 holes, it was Lockhart who delivered the knockout blow, sinking a four-metre downhill putt on the final hole giving them the title by the narrowest of margins.

After the recent rain, conditions were soft and challenging for the first monthly mug event of 2025 sponsored by the Regional Australia Bank, in conjunction with the Warialda Newsagency on Sunday the 29th of March. Finding the course to his liking was Tommy Kilner, who claimed the first mug of the year with a strong net 67, the best score in A grade was Matty Williams with a nett 69, finishing just one stroke ahead of A grade runner up Wade Turner, who produced the highlight of the day with an eagle two on the fourth. The winner of B-grade was Christian Whalan with a solid score of 72 and the runner-up was Adam Kent on 73.

Sunday the 5th of April saw Round 1 of the 2025 Syngenta Individual Matchplay get underway with many matches completed. There was also an 18 Hole Individual held sponsored by Blu Print Inverell which was won on a count-back by Rod Ireland with 36 points. Doctor Clem took home the runner-up prize, with his putter working overtime only having 24 putts for the 18 holes.

Sunday 13th April – 4BBB Stableford sponsored by the Warialda Pharmacy.

Good Friday 18th April – 2 Person Ambrose Medley

Easter Sunday 20th April – Individual Stableford sponsored by Incitec Pivot Fertilisers

Easter Monday 21st April - 4BBB Multiplier Medley

Anzac Day Friday 25th April – Dag's Memorial 4 Person Ambrose sponsored by S&D Goodworth Contractors

Sunday 27th April – 18 Hole Individual Stableford (Also Bingara Men's Golf Open)



Anyone interested in playing competition on Sunday is encouraged to speak to one of the committee members, who will be happy to guide them on how to get involved. With such a strong start to 2025, the Warialda Men's Golf Club looks set for another exciting and competitive season!



Enjoy the great outdoors,
bite free.

SPRAY UP • COVER UP • SCREEN UP



SPORT

Bingara Golf Report

March/April 2025



by John Gill

On Sunday 16th March Bingara golf played a mixed four-somes championship, a 27 hole event.

Results

Winners

Congratulations to defending champions from 2024, Trudy Tonkin and Ron Armstrong, winning the 2025 foursomes championship.

Runners Up

Judy and Robert Northcott

Nett Winners

Judy and Merv Hall

Nearest to Pin

7/16 Tee
7th Merv Hall
16th Judy Hall
9/18 Tee - No-one good enough.



On Sunday 6th April the Men's Monthly Medal stroke event for April was played with 23 golfers taking part.

Results

Winner

Clayton Southwell - count back 64 nett

Runner-Up

Garry Hincksman - 64 nett

Ball Competition

Mitch Lane - 65 nett
Merv Hall - 67 nett
Tom Fullerton - 69 nett

Putting Competition

Tom Fullerton - 24 putts

Second Best Shot

Tee 6/15 A Grade 0/18 Tom Webb visitor
19+ B Grade Garry Hincksman

Jackpot Ball

2 Balls Mick Recenberg (Did Not Play)

Bingara Golf Open Weekend

Saturday 26 April 2025 Mixed 4BBB

Sunday 27 April 2025 Men's Open

Enquiries

Garry Hincksman
0418 366 849



ANZAC DAY SERVICES

Ode of Remembrance

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.

ANZAC DAY 2025

CROOBLE WAR MEMORIAL HALL

We remember the 110th Anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli and 50 years since the end of Vietnam War

Crooble War Memorial ANZAC Day Service
25th April 2025 | 8.30 am

Display and history about Service men and women
on the Crooble Honour Board

Vietnam footage shown by Tim Hayes

Guest Speaker | Jim Wilby

The service will be followed by morning tea provided
by the Crooble Hall Committee.



Anzac Day
25 April 2025
Lest We Forget

Bingara Anzac Day Service

- 6:00AM Dawn Service at Memorial Garden
- 6:30AM Gunfire Breakfast at Bingara RSL Club
- 10:30AM ANZAC March (corner of Cunningham and Maitland St)
- 11:00AM Memorial Service at Memorial Garden



25 APRIL
ANZAC DAY SERVICE
9:15am
at Cenotaph, Anzac Park
Gwydir Highway, Gravesend

LEST WE FORGET

8:45am - Assemble at the OLD RSL Club,
Gwydir Highway for march

Morning Tea for community to follow at
Old RSL Club
All welcome



ANZAC DAY SERVICES



Anzac Day North Star 2025

ANZAC DAY SERVICE

We warmly invite you to join us in commemorating Anzac Day at North Star Memorial Park.

Details of the Event

Date | April 25th, 2025
Location | North Star Memorial Park
Assembly Time | 10:45 AM
Service Time | 11:00 AM

Post-Service Lunch

Following the service, lunch will be held at the North Star Sporting Club. We hope you can join us to further honour and remember the sacrifices made by our brave servicemen and women.



Warialda Anzac Day Service

6:00AM Dawn Service at Captain Cook Park
10:30AM ANZAC March in Hope Street
11:00AM Wreath Laying Ceremony at Warialda Memorial Hall
11:15AM Service at Warialda Memorial Hall

PUBLIC NOTICES

Local Land Services



Calling all beef producers!

North West Local Land Services is once again hosting the 2025 North West Beef Producers Forum this May.

Hear the latest industry advice from local producers, meat processors and feedlot managers as well as pasture, soil health and carbon farming experts.



15 May 2025
Tangaratta Vineyards,
Tamworth

Scan to
register



LT0327

Copeton Dam Level

52% as at 13
April 2025



PUBLIC NOTICES



Save the Date

Twilight Concert

Friday 12th December 2025 at 6.00pm
Warialda Public School

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN QUILTING & CRAFT SHOW 16 & 17 MAY 2025

Doors open 9am | Close 6pm

\$5 entry

at the

Wiseman Crowley Hall
Finch Street, Bingara

QUILT QUIZ
LUCKY DOOR
MORNING TEA
LUNCH
AFTERNOON TEA
TRADING TABLE

Booking in and setup 15 May from 8am to 2pm
Please call Jacqui 0427 682 811 for information

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
www.cbreaksculpturepark.com.au

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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS™

What's on

Church Notices

APRIL 2025

Friday 18th - Sunday 20th

Bingara Anglers' Club 'Easterfish' - Catch and Release Competition - See Facebook page for more details

Saturday 19th

Opening Night - NWTC 'One Act Plays' - Evening performance from 7:30pm - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara

Sunday 20th

NWTC 'One Act Plays' - Matinee performance from 2:30pm - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara

Sunday 20th

Popinguy Church Centenary Service - Crooble Church - 10:00am - Lunch afterwards at the Crooble Hall - To book for lunch call Geoff on 0427 254 706

Friday 25th

Bingara ANZAC Day Service | 6:00am Dawn Service in Memorial Garden - 6:30am Gunfire Breakfast at the Bingara RSL Club - 10:30am ANZAC March (corner of Cunningham and Maitland Streets) - 11:00am Memorial Service in Memorial Garden

Friday 25th

Crooble ANZAC Day Service | 8:00am to start at 8:30am Crooble War Memorial Hall

Friday 25th

Gravesend ANZAC Day Service | 8:45am Assemble at Moffet Park to March to the Cenotaph - Followed by morning tea at the Old RSL Club House

Friday 25th

North Star ANZAC Day Service | 10:45am Assemble at ANZAC Park for an 11:00am Service - Followed by lunch at the North Star Sporting Club

Friday 25th

Warialda ANZAC Day Service | 6:00am Dawn Service at Captain Cook Park - 10:30am March in Hope Street - 11:00am Wreath Laying Ceremony at Warialda Memorial Hall - 11:15am Service at Warialda Memorial Hall

Saturday 26th

NWTC 'One Act Plays' - Evening performance from 7:30pm - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara

Sunday 27th

NWTC 'One Act Plays' - Matinee performance from 2:30pm - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara

Tues 29th - Wed 30th

RC Model Aircraft Fun Fly - Warialda Airstrip - Nominations \$20pp (any number of planes) - Camping \$5

MAY 2025

Sunday 4th

NWTC Film Club 'Perfect Days' - 4:00pm - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara - New members welcome

Thursday 8th - Sunday 11th

120th Annual ATJ's Earthworks Pty Ltd Warialda Show - See Facebook page for more details

Saturday 17th - Sunday 18th

Coolatai Vintage Tractor Pull - Gold coin entry - Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday 8:00am to 1:00pm

Sunday 25th

NWTC Film Club 'Quartet' - 4:00pm - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara - New members welcome

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

Delunga Sundays 10.00am
4th weekend 6.00pm

Warialda Saturdays 6.00pm
4th weekend 10.00am

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Bingara 2nd and 4th weeks - Rosary 9.30am/Mass 10.00am

Warialda 1st and 3rd weeks - Mass
Mon, Wed 9.00am
Tue, Thu 10.00am

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

UNITING CHURCH

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

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bingara Scots Presbyterian Church is open for worship at 10.00am every Sunday. Sunday School is also held each week.

Warialda St Stephen's Presbyterian Church has a weekly worship service each Sunday at 10.00am. All welcome. Enquiries (02) 6721 0511.