

THE

# Gwydir NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWS

FOR THE GWYDIR SHIRE AND SURROUNDS

Free

May 2025 Edition

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

## From Dawn to Dusk: Gwydir Shire Pays Tribute on ANZAC Day



A day of remembrance united towns and villages across the Gwydir region as residents gathered on April 25 to honour the legacy of the ANZACs. From solemn dawn services to proud community marches, the spirit of respect and reflection was felt throughout the Shire.

#### Bingara Stands in Silence

Leading up to ANZAC Day, members of the Bingara Sub-Branch presented remembrance services at the local hospital and aged care home. Both services were received with great enthusiasm. ANZAC Day commenced with a 6.00am dawn service at the Memorial Garden, followed by a Gunfire Breakfast at the RSL Club. Later, residents assembled at the corner of Cunningham and Maitland Streets for the ANZAC March, culminating in a memorial service at 11.00am.

#### Warialda Reflects with Pride

Warialda's observances began with a dawn service at Captain Cook Park, followed by a mid-morning march along Hope Street. Wreaths were laid at the Memorial Hall, leading into a commemorative service that brought the community together in reflection.

#### Smaller Communities, Deep Traditions

At Crooble, around 90 people were in attendance. Warialda and Croppa Creek School and St Philomena's School in Moree were represented by the children who live around the Crooble area. Sean Coleman represented the Gwydir Shire and read the requiem, and Mr Jim Wilby travelled from Roma to act as guest speaker. Jim is one of the Vietnam Veterans listed on



**Next issue:** The Gwydir News will be published on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June. **Plan your advertising now**—booking and material deadline for the next issue is Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Email [gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au](mailto:gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au)



## 2025 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

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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

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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)

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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.





Crooble's honour board as is his brother Bruce Wilby and father Charlie Wilby, who was a 'Rat of Tobruk'.

In Gravesend, participants assembled at Moffett Park at 8.45am, marching to the Cenotaph for a solemn service, and later shared morning tea at the Old RSL Club House.

North Star residents gathered at Anzac Park for an 11.00 am service, followed by lunch at the North Star Sporting Club.

At the Pallamallawa War Memorial Hall a dawn service commenced at 5.30am and was followed by breakfast, tea and coffee.

These ceremonies underscore the deep respect held within Gwydir Shire for those who have served, ensuring that the legacy of the ANZACs continues to be honoured by all generations.







## From the Mayor

Each month I start by saying another month has passed by quickly but who can believe we are now in May. It is wonderful going into winter with an abundance of feed, full dams and enough moisture in the soil for crops that have been planted.

### Mobile Network Coverage

Over the last month, I have driven from one end of the Shire to the other and it is so lovely to see how beautiful the country is looking; however, such travel has reinforced to me the major issue which is the very poor mobile coverage. The Councillors and I find this very troubling in this day and age. We are not worried about the fact that people are not able to scroll through Facebook or download from the internet, our major concern is what happens in a life-threatening situation and there is no phone service to call it in.

Over Easter, Bingara had no service at all, which greatly affected businesses as their customers could not use Eftpos and the ATMs were down. Sales were dramatically affected on one of the town's busiest weekends.

As you can appreciate, the community and travellers were frustrated. It was also very embarrassing with so many visitors to the town. The Annual Easter Fishing Competition was also majorly impacted.

I have written to the Minister of Communications, The Hon Michelle Rowland and have requested a meeting regarding the lack of phone reception across the Gwydir Shire.

I also reached out to the offices of the Member for New England, The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP and the Member of Northern Tablelands, The Hon Brendan Moylan MP.

I am thankful that both Members made representations on Council's behalf.

As a result of Mr Moylan's representations, Council's Executive and I met with Telstra representatives on Wednesday 7 May. In this meeting Telstra acknowledged that there are issues and have now agreed to work with Council to develop a Connectivity Plan specifically for our local government area. This is a positive commitment, and it is hoped this commitment will lead to improvement and change.

In addition, the Councillors and I intend to provide signed copies of the recent community petition, along with many letters from businesses which express how the lack of Telstra services affects them.

If anyone has any letters of support, please send them to [theofficeofthemayor@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:theofficeofthemayor@gwydir.nsw.gov.au) and we will keep you informed of the progress.

### Roads

Council's Technical Officer – Works Management, David Barwick and I went on a road tour of the north of the Shire to look at the recent flood damage. The trip was very informative as it highlighted where Council is up to with road repairs and upgrades. It was also wonderful to see the final stage of IB Bore Road that Gwydir Shire Council is completing on behalf of Moree Plains Shire Council. Once complete, this will see a full bitumen seal from North Star to the Newell Highway. Moree Plains secured funding for this section of road under the NSW Government's *Fixing Local Roads Program*.



Following damages which were incurred during flooding in September 2022, Transport for New South Wales has approved the replacement of a failed causeway at Glencoe on Killarney Gap Road with a new multi span bridge. The bridge is estimated to be 36m long (3 spans) x 9m wide (6m travel + 1.5 shoulders) with 18m approaches to match the existing layout of causeway. The total approved upper limit of funding for the works is \$6.169m, which will be funded under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. There will be no cost to Council. Works will take up to two years as environmental approvals and engineering designs are required. This is very exciting news for road users that travel this stretch of road in the Shire as the new bridge will reduce the number of times that the road is closed due to storm and heavy rain events.

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

- Air Strip Road
- Gragin Road
- Warialda Road
- North Star Road
- Killarney Gap Road
- Upper Horton Road
- Cobbadah Road

As well, maintenance grading was carried out on the following roads:

- Baroma Road
- Tucka Tucka Road
- Mungle Road
- Eulourie Road
- Oregon Road
- Trevallyn Road
- Bereen Road

## Warialda Races

A couple of my fellow Councillors and I were fortunate enough to attend the Warialda Races on Saturday 12 April. It was a wonderful afternoon with perfect weather and a great crowd. Again, there were issues with Telstra's lack of service.

With last year's event being cancelled due to wet weather, it was fantastic to see horses back on the track! The Councillors and I would like to extend our congratulations to the Warialda Jockey Club organisers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes so that people could enjoy an excellent day out.

## ANZAC Day

On behalf of my fellow Councillors, I would like to express what an honour it was for us to attend ANZAC services at Bingara, Warialda, Upper Horton, Crooble, North Star and Gravesend. The respect and spirit at each of these services was extremely profound and the atmosphere quite powerful.

## Gwydir Libraries

Council's Library Services Coordinator, Gail Philpott and I attended the Central Northern Regional Library (CNRL) committee meeting at Kootingal Library on Wednesday 23 April. This was a great opportunity to learn about the amazing services we offer throughout the region and our own Shire.

The meetings are held twice a year to ensure Councils keep up to date with changes, procedures and new incentives.

Based in Tamworth, the CNRL serves 15 libraries, including the Warialda Library and Bingara Library based in the Gwydir Shire.

CNRL provides an extensive collection of print, audio visual and electronic resources as well as access to a range of downloadable content including e-audiobooks, e-books and e-magazines. Television, film and documentary streaming services are available to members.





Scanning, printing and photocopying facilities are also available at both the Bingara and Wialalda branches.

CNRL will celebrate 75 years as a regional library service on Monday 1 September. The Gwydir Shire branches along with others in the region will celebrate by taking you back to the 1950's. You will step back in time to see how much libraries have changed and ponder what the future may hold.

Both Gwydir Libraries continue to be busy, people are visiting the libraries to sit and chat, seek assistance, use computers or access WiFi.

Membership to either of the Wialalda or Bingara Libraries is free to all Shire residents.

The libraries are vibrant and relaxing spaces proving they are the hub of the community.

Residents of Touriandi Lodge and Naroo aged care facilities visit the libraries fortnightly to borrow resources, for craft activities, to chat, connect and enjoy morning tea.

After school programs continue to be well attended. Activities include book club, homework assistance, Lego, games, craft and sewing.

The *Challenge* group visit both branches for craft and a chat once a fortnight.

Home deliveries are offered to the aged and frail in the community.

Outreach programs are offered across the outer villages with staff planning visits to play groups, preschools and schools to host story times and activity sessions.

If you are looking for a service to cater to the interests of the whole family, call into one of the Gwydir Libraries. Branch locations:

**Bingara Library** – 29 Maitland Street, Bingara NSW 2404

**Wialalda Library** – 38 Hope Street, Wialalda NSW 2402.

### Tharawonga Day Care

Enrolments continue to grow at both the Wialalda and Bingara Day Care facilities. At the time of writing this report, there were 13 children enrolled at the Bingara centre and nine children attending the Wialalda facility on most operational days.

The learning environment has been alive with creativity, movement and discovery. Educators remain committed to fostering each child's development through engaging, age-appropriate experiences.

The day care service has been a long time coming for many families that now have the opportunity to return to work and increase their household income. It is amazing

to see the number of families who have benefited from this wonderful service which is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills, and Employment.

### Wialalda Town Square

Council has continued work throughout the month of April on the Wialalda Town Square project. Recent completed works include the electricity being connected to the block and underground wiring set throughout the park. At the time of writing, an irrigation system is being installed, and the boundary fence is nearing completion.



Construction on the amenities block has commenced, as well as concrete works. Shelters and furniture have been delivered, ready for installation once the concrete works are complete.

The trees and turf have been ordered. The project is still on track for completion by end of June 2025.

### Bingara Administration Centre Project

The Bingara Administration Centre project remains on schedule despite some minor setbacks. The project contractor remains confident that they will be able to catch up and complete the project on time.

The terms of the mains power upgrade has now been agreed upon and the contractor will now proceed with the final design and lodgement of the necessary applications to the network provider.

Internal concrete tilt panels have now been erected with the concrete slabs around those tilt panels being poured. External concrete tilt panels are due onsite within the next two weeks.

Structural steelwork has arrived on site and has begun to be erected.

Piers for the concrete foundations to support the portal columns for the entry have been bored and steelwork installed with concrete to be poured next week.



### Bingara Riverscape Project

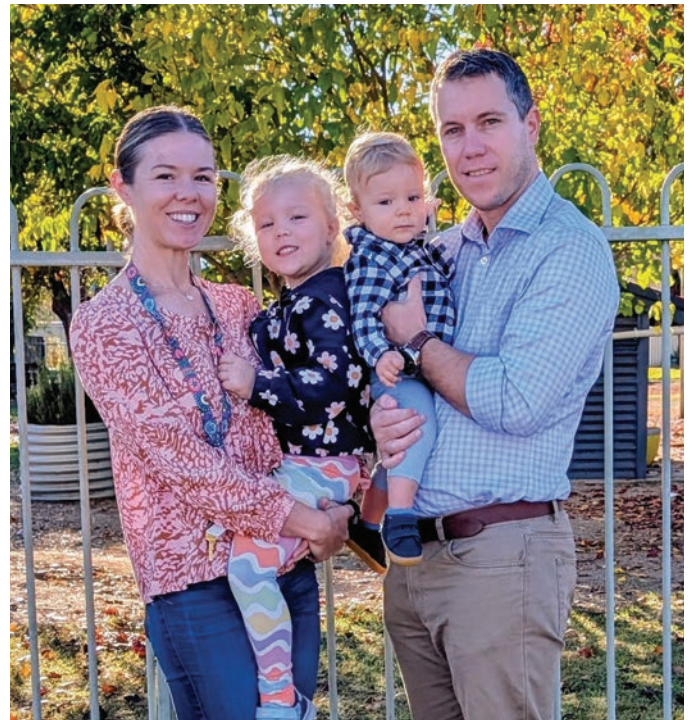
Soil Con have commenced works on the Gwydir River Bingara. It is fantastic to see this project commence, and when complete the area will once again be a beautiful place to enjoy the river with friends and family.

### The Roxy

It is also wonderful to see works commence at The Roxy.

These works will see an upgrade of the drainage system around the complex which will allow stormwater to leave the building quicker thereby minimising water damage to its structure and internal walls.

### Justin Hellmuth, Director of Business and Strategy



In February of this year, Justin was appointed Council's Director of Business and Strategy.

His current areas of responsibility are:

- IT, Records, GIS (Information Services)
- Business Improvement
- Risk & WHS
- Planning
- Environment
- Native Title, Crown Land, Contract Management
- Building Services
- Compliance
- Weeds
- Landfills

Justin commenced employment with Council on 5 November 2012 as an Information Technology Trainee, while concurrently undertaking a Bachelor of Information Technology through the University of Southern Queensland (USQ).

When he completed this degree, he was soon appointed Information Technology Officer.

Justin then undertook further study and completed a Master of Management (Information Technology) from Charles Sturt University (CSU) in 2019. In October 2020, he progressed to the role of Business Improvement &



Information Technology Manager.

Additionally, he obtained industry certifications including ITIL and PRINCE2.

In 2023, Justin's role expanded to include responsibilities for Risk and WHS.

Most recently, in 2024, he completed a Graduate Diploma of Finance through CSU.

In these times when it is so hard to attract employees to rural communities it is heartening to see someone who has taken up opportunities which have been afforded to them, and progress and develop within our own community.

Similarly, Justin's wife Jade studied and gained qualifications while living in our Shire and is now a teacher at Bingara Central School. Jade commenced her tertiary education as a trainee at Bingara Preschool where she became an Early Childhood Educator.

Their young children attend Bingara Preschool and the new Tharawonga Day Care Centre.

I am so proud of how the Gwydir Learning Region has positively affected so many residents through education.

For those of you who are considering a professional career do not overlook the opportunities at Council. We have our Career Start Program and we are always looking for career minded individuals to come and work with us while being supported to study in an area of their interest. We will outline our Gwydir Career Start Program in a future column.

If you are curious about a Council matter and would like to see a particular update on a project, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via [theofficeofthemayor@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:theofficeofthemayor@gwydir.nsw.gov.au) and I will endeavour to provide insights on the matter in the next issue of *The Gwydir News*.

Until next time...

***Living the Gwydir Good Life***  
**Cr Tiffany Galvin, Mayor**

## Draft Plan of Management – Myall Creek Memorial Site

The draft Plan of Management (PoM) for the Myall Creek Memorial Site is on public exhibition commencing Monday 19 May 2025, for 28 days.

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

### View 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 Myall Creek Memorial Site PoM via Council's website and printed copies will also be made available at any of Council's Administration Services Centres and Libraries.

### Submissions

Submissions may be lodged via email with the subject *Submission – Draft Myall Creek Memorial Site Plan of Management* in writing addressed to the General Manager.

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

The draft Myall Creek Memorial Site PoM is on public exhibition for 28 days from 9am 19 May 2025 to 5pm 16 June 2025. Submissions will be received until 5pm Monday, 30 June 2025.

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





# 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* | CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT | 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](http://www.visitgwydir.com.au)



# Happy Days Festival

*Bingara, Now and Then*

**SATURDAY 5 JULY 2025**

**Billy Cart Competition** - Make, Display  
and Parade

**Best Decorated** - Bicycle, Skateboard,  
Pram, Wheelchair, Gopher & Golf Cart

**Cooking Competition Featuring Oranges**

**Most 'ORANGE' Window Display**

**Spot the Oranges in the Street Windows**

**Best decorated Parade Floats**

**Best dressed**

**Best presented motor bike and vehicle**

**Best Photo of the Festival**

**\$2,000  
in Prizes**

Terms & Conditions



**Contact** For further event details, local attractions and accommodation  
call the Bingara Information Centre on 02 6724 0066 or visit [www.visitgwydir.com.au](http://www.visitgwydir.com.au)

Bingara, NSW

GWYDIR  
SHIRE COUNCIL



## Brendan Moylan MP

# Further PFAS Testing for Water Supplies in Warialda

WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2025

Since the detection of Per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Warialda's water supply in December 2024, bores throughout the Warialda area have been undergoing further testing.

Owners of 20 properties had water supplies tested throughout April as part of the NSW Environment Protection Authority's voluntary testing program.

On two of those properties, PFAS was found to be above current and draft proposed drinking water guidelines. Another three properties indicated levels were above proposed drinking water guidelines.

However, the owners and residents all said these supplies were not used for drinking water. Six more properties showed levels of PFAS, but within acceptable limits.

All 20 properties have been informed of their results and precautionary advice has also been provided by the NSW Government's PFAS Technical Advisory Group on those properties where PFAS was detected.

NSW Health also recommends bore water should not be used for drinking, cooking and cleaning without testing and appropriate treatment.

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan said every effort is being made to keep the community informed.

"Given that PFAS had previously been detected in a water supply in Warialda, the latest results are not unexpected," Mr Moylan said.

"The NSW EPA will continue to offer further testing in May for any registered and unregistered bore-owners who have not already signed up for testing.

"I encourage property owners who have bores on their property to sign up when details are released for that program.

"Additionally, a community drop-in session will be held on Monday, 13 May at the Warialda Council Chambers to provide information and answer further questions."

The program supports Gwydir Shire Council's efforts to identify PFAS sources and secure a long-term safe water supply for the town. For information on the use of bore water, visit [www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/water/Pages/groundwater.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/water/Pages/groundwater.aspx)

# Moylan Welcomes Review Into *Doli Incapax*

THURSDAY 8 MAY 2025

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan has welcomed news *doli incapax* in NSW is set for review.

*Doli incapax* is a common law legal presumption that children between the ages of 10 and 14 do not sufficiently understand the difference between right and wrong and therefore cannot be held criminally responsible in NSW.

It means the police prosecution is required to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the child, at the time of doing the act, knew it was seriously wrong as a matter of morality, or according to the ordinary principles of reasonable persons and not merely naughty or mischievous.

NSW Attorney General Michael Daley announced on Tuesday a review into *doli incapax* would be conducted by former Supreme Court Justice, the Honourable Geoffrey Bellew SC, and former NSW Police Deputy Commissioner, Mr Jeffrey Loy.

The review comes after the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) released a report which found there's been a significant decline in the number of people aged 10 to 13-years-old found guilty after they are charged with a criminal offence.

Mr Moylan has been urging the NSW Government to conduct a review into *doli incapax* laws since joining Parliament in 2024 to ensure the community is protected but also to ensure young offenders are not simply released by the Courts without any intervention or assistance to stop them sliding into a cycle of crime.

"Our communities in regional and rural NSW are exhausted by serious crimes committed by young people," Mr Moylan said.

"The continual reliance by offenders on the doctrine of *doli incapax* hurts our communities, frustrates our police, and ultimately hurts young offenders as it contributes to a continuous cycle of reoffending.

"The review into *doli incapax* has been a long-time coming and is a constructive step to address the ongoing issue of youth crime.

"Hopefully it leads to meaningful reform to keep our communities safe and to stop the cycle of young people re-offending."

## In the News

Agriculture

Politics

# NSW Government Delivers \$10 million to Target High-Risk Weeds Control and Eradication

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | May 8, 2025

<https://sta.fm.com.au/nsw-government-delivers-10-million-to-target-high-risk-weeds-control-and-eradication/>

**The Minns Labor Government is delivering \$10 million to local councils to target high-risk weeds across the state to protect the state's primary production and public land.**

The NSW Government Weeds Action Program funds local councils, known as Local Control Authorities (LCA), to detect and respond quickly to incursions of new high-risk weeds.

The program focuses on prevention and early intervention to stop the spread of problem weeds by providing practical resources and on-ground support to ensure a proactive and coordinated response by LCAs.

Under the Minns Government the Weeds Action Program is focused on efforts to reduce the spread of invasive weeds to support healthy landscapes and strong agricultural productivity.

The NSW Government's program commissions LCAs to undertake services such as surveillance, and rapid response to prevent, eradicate or contain new infestations of priority weeds.

In addition, the program funds training for LCA biosecurity officers so they can effectively respond to biosecurity emergencies across NSW.

LCAs make applications for funding under the program and need to demonstrate they are focusing on high-risk weeds to gain approved funding. This year the NSW Government has approved 92 funding applications from 86 LCAs.

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

High-risk weeds targeted by the NSW Government's Weeds Action Program include:

Parthenium weed causes allergies and respiratory issues in people, liver damage in livestock and outcompetes pastures and crops. The program works to keep NSW Parthenium weed free through collaborative action and surveillance programs.

Rubber vine can invade pastures, waterways and natural areas, climbing up to 30 metres high. A major threat to grazing industries can cause livestock deaths. Found in Queensland, it could become a major weed in Western NSW.

Tropical Soda Apple (TSA), an aggressive, prickly, perennial shrub, invades open and semi-shaded areas in pastures, along rivers and in forests. It reduces biodiversity, displaces native plants and disrupts ecological processes. Its foliage is unpalatable to livestock. TSA is found on the North Coast, Mid-Coast, Hunter and New England areas.

Alligator weed has been found in the Namoi Valley, Griffith and Woomargama areas. It's a significant risk to irrigation and poses a threat to the Murray Darling Basin.

Harrisia cactus is a highly invasive weed which poses a serious threat to agriculture and native ecosystems. It reduces pasture productivity, hinders livestock movement and outcompetes native plants. Harrisia cactus is found in the North West and Hunter regions.

The program is funding significant face-to-face support from local councils to farmers and other land managers with expert advice, weed identification and management options.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development through its biosecurity and Local Land Services teams has a strong working partnership with the LCAs and communities, which supports protection of NSW's farmland, native bushland and waterways for future generations.

Minister for Regional NSW Tara Moriarty said:

"Weeds are a serious threat to our environment and economy, and our government is focused on investing this \$10 million to empower LCAs who work with community groups and farmers to protect their lands and livestock.

"This investment helps communities tackle invasive weed species head-on by supporting local management efforts, improving detection of these weeds and then responding with know-how and strong coordination between government agencies, councils and landholders.

"The Minns Government is committed to supporting our primary producers and regional communities manage these high-risk weeds, so we keep our landscapes healthy and productive."



## In the News Rural Crime E-Petition to be Debated in Parliament

Crime

Politics

Originally published by STA FM  
by Gerry | May 7, 2025

<https://stafm.com.au/rural-crime-e-petition-to-be-debated-in-parliament/>

The Time for Change E-Petition, which was tabled in State Parliament yesterday, will be debated on May 29th.

The petition, which was signed by more than 22,000 people, is calling for more tougher laws and consequences as well as greater support for local police in addressing rural youth crime.

The petition calls on the government to strengthen bail laws to prevent violent young offenders from re-offending, provide increased resources and support for police officers to effectively apprehend and prosecute offenders, and review the judicial system to prioritise community safety.

The Northern Daily Leader reports Tamworth resident Phebe Furneaux started the Time for Change e-petition, which will now be debated on the floor of state parliament, giving rural communities a voice calling for change to make communities safer in the region.

bringing the issue to the attention of State Parliament's.

Mr Moylan says Harrisia Cactus, which is a nasty and aggressive plant that chokes out pastures to a level which is unsuitable for livestock, is causing great concern to the electorate, in particular in the Moree Plains and Gwydir Local Government Area's.

The MP says the barbs of the harrisia cactus will not come out when the plant is disturbed, so livestock and native animals essentially become trapped in the cactus, where they will die a very slow and painful death if they are not found by the landholder or neighbours.

Despite the government running a program to combat the weed, which ends this June, Mr Moylan called for the government to do more to stop the spread of this awful weed.

## In the News Joyce Celebrations Tempered by Cancer Diagnosis

Politics

Originally published by STA FM  
by Gerry | May 5, 2025

<https://stafm.com.au/joyce-celebrations-tempered-by-cancer-diagnosis/>

The Nationals Barnaby Joyce has been emphatically returned as the member for New England following Saturday's federal election.

Mr Joyce claimed 52.43% of the New England vote from Labors Laura Hughes with 20%, One Nation's Brent Larkham with 10.28%, followed by the Greens Wendy Wales, Independent Natasha Ledger, Holly Masters from Family First and Patriot of Trumpets candidate Todd Juchau.

On a two-party preferred basis, Mr Joyce claimed 67.3% of the vote from Ms Hughes on 32.7, giving him a 2% swing.

The former Deputy Prime Minister says he's humbled by the vote adding he ran a campaign based on the needs of the New England.

Meantime, Mr Joyce revealed he has prostate cancer and will take a month off to recover from surgery.

He says medical staff believe they got it in time adding if it was much serious, he would've retired immediately.

## In the News Government Needs to do More on Harrisia Cactus

Agriculture

Politics

Originally published by STA FM  
by Gerry | May 6, 2025

<https://stafm.com.au/government-needs-to-do-more-on-harrisia-cactus/>

An invasive weed species continues to be a big issue in the district with Northern Tablelands MP Brendan Moylan

# \$1.2 million invested in education achievement through Inspire grants

St.George, BankSA, and Bank of Melbourne Foundations have jointly announced the recipients of their 2025 Inspire Grants, awarding a total of \$1.2 million to five exceptional charities dedicated to improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged young Australians.

The grants aim to support innovative programs that enhance educational achievement among young people facing challenges such as low socio-economic status, geographic isolation, and systemic barriers, including those from First Nations communities.

"Funding to address educational inequity in Australia is essential to help ensure all children and young people have the opportunity to thrive," said Sally-Anne O'Brien, CEO of the St.George, BankSA, and Bank of Melbourne Foundations. "Disadvantage can significantly impact a student's educational outcomes from an early age, and without intervention, the gap continues to grow."

2025 Inspire Grant Recipients:

- **GO Foundation** – Awarded \$300,000 to provide education scholarships for First Nations students, incorporating cultural and aspirational activities, partnerships, and financial support for school essentials.
- **EPIC Pathways** – Granted \$300,000 to empower First Nations high school students by integrating cultural knowledge with contemporary education strategies, enhancing outcomes and expanding pathways into further education, training, and employment.
- **Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF)** – Received \$300,000 to offer community-based support and financial assistance to rural and regional youth pursuing post-school education and training.
- **Australian Business Community Network Scholarship Foundation** – Granted \$150,000 to support young people in completing Year 12 and pursuing tertiary pathways through financial assistance, professional mentorship, and career readiness resources.
- **Skyline Education Foundation** –



Jayden Reid, Central Australia - winner of 2022 CEF Launching Stars Award.

Awarded \$150,000 to empower high-potential students facing social and economic adversity to complete their Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) by providing educational, emotional, and practical support, including payment of school fees and transformative learning experiences.

Over the past five years, the St.George, BankSA, and Bank of Melbourne Foundations have committed \$3.87 million to 13 local organisations, reinforcing their dedication to creating a future where every young person has the chance to reach their potential, regardless of background or circumstances.

The funding will directly benefit students across 49 rural and regional communities - from Kangaroo Island and Kapunda to Cowra, Clare Valley, Shoalhaven and Orange - helping more young Australians pursue further

education, training or employment.

**CEF CEO Wendy Mason said the grant will strengthen the Foundation's support across its nearly 50 local chapters**, providing financial assistance and vital pathways to young people in:

Balranald, Bendigo, Blackall Tambo, Boorowa, Braidwood, Canowindra, Central Australia, Clare Valley, Clermont, Coleambally, Darlington Point, Coolah, Coonamble, Cootamundra, Cowra, Edward River, Eudunda, Eurobodalla, Far West NSW, Gilgandra, Goulburn, Great Lakes, Grenfell, Griffith, Gulargambone, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Harden, Hastings, Kangaroo Island, Kapunda, Kimba, Macleay Valley, Merriwa, Moree, Namoi, Narromine, Nyngan, Orange, Paroo, Port Lincoln, Shoalhaven, Snowy Monaro, Temora, Walgett, Warracknabeal, West Wyalong, Yass and Young.





## Tech Neck Time Bomb: Spinal Health Week Exposes Hidden Cost to Australians' Health & Productivity

With over 5.3 million Australians suffering from neck pain including Tension Neck Syndrome, a musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) commonly known as 'tech neck' or 'text neck', national Spinal Health Week (26 May to 1 June 2025) is dedicated to promoting spinal health and preventing the incidences of tech neck in Australians of all ages.

MSDs affect the joints, bones, muscles and multiple body areas (including the neck) and cost the Australian economy over \$55 billion annually through direct health costs, lost productivity and reduced quality of life.

Dr Billy Chow, President of the Australian Chiropractors Association (ACA) said, "With tech neck emerging as a growing global public health concern, together with the projected increase in MSDs over the next two decades, the health burden on Australians and our economy is and will continue to be significant."

"With over 34 million mobile phone connections and 95% of Australians accessing the internet via a smartphone, the focus of ACA's annual national Spinal Health Week is on encouraging Australians to adjust their thinking and take proactive steps to improve their spinal health and avoid debilitating tech neck," said Dr Chow.

"Once primarily experienced by seniors, with the advent of smart devices and wide-spread use of tablets and computers by people of all ages including children; we're seeing a growing number of younger patients in their 30s and 40s suffering from cervical spine disorders due to incorrect use of technology devices," he said.

Studies have shown smartphone and computer use can have a significant impact on pain severity among tech neck sufferers with the most prevalent symptoms of neck and back pain linked to the length of time spent using a device and the degree of discomfort experienced.

Caused by poor posture and the prolonged or incorrect use of digital devices, tech neck can lead to headaches, neck, shoulder and upper back pain that over time, can lead to changes to the natural curve of the cervical spine.

A recent study 'The Association Between Mobile Phone Usage Duration, Neck Muscle Endurance, and Neck Pain Among University Students' published in *Nature* (29.8.2024), examined the correlation between phone use, duration, addiction, neck muscle endurance, and neck pain in university students.

"Although the study focused on mobile phone use by

university students, with almost 87% of Australians now regular smartphone users and 75.5% being daily computer users, it's fair to consider the findings may be broadly applied to the population generally, particularly young people who've grown up using smartphones and tablets," said Dr Chow.

"While more studies are needed to better understand the implications of incorrect and overuse of technology on spinal health; to help prevent tech neck, we need to re-think how we use devices particularly young people who spend prolonged periods with their head bent forward viewing a smartphone," he said.

"When it comes to smartphones, not only must we monitor the length of time we use our devices, but we must be cognisant that overuse and the way we use them can negatively impact our spinal health as well as our mental health," Dr Chow said.

"The ACA recommends limiting recreational screentime to two hours per day, holding devices at eye level to prevent bending the neck forward, changing posture and taking regular breaks every ten minutes to look away from the device and move the neck from side-to-side."

"Computer use is also a primary cause of tech neck. Although most common among office workers, with 75.5% of Australians aged 16 to 64 using computers daily, incorrect use and computer set up can lead to a range of MSDs.

"Whether using a laptop or a desktop at home, school, university or at work; it's essential to take regular postural breaks every 30 minutes for movement and stretching and ensure workstations are set up ergonomically correct to help prevent tech neck, increase productivity and maintain overall spinal health and wellbeing,"

"During Spinal Health Week, we're encouraging all Australians to adjust their thinking on how they use smartphones, tablets and computers to help prevent persistent, aggravated head, neck and upper back injuries which impact productivity at home, school and at work," he said.

Get the heads up on tech neck and download ACA's FREE Avoiding Tech Neck Factsheets and Electronic Device Checklists for Adults, Parents and Students, the Ergonomic Checklist, and the Stand Corrected Stretching Poster available to download from [www.spinalhealthweek.org.au](http://www.spinalhealthweek.org.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**

### 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

# The NWTC Film Club's Feature Film for May is 'Quartet'

'Quartet' is a 2012 British comedy-drama based on Ronald Harwood's play of the same name. Set in a picturesque retirement home for former professional musicians, the film explores themes of aging, friendship, and the enduring power of music. It marks the directorial debut of acclaimed actor Dustin Hoffman.

At Beecham House, a serene retirement home for musicians, residents prepare for the annual concert celebrating composer Giuseppe Verdi's birthday. The arrival of Jean Horton (Maggie Smith), a renowned soprano and former member of a celebrated quartet, disrupts the home's equilibrium.

The cast includes Jean Horton (Maggie Smith) as a retired opera diva whose arrival stirs memories and unresolved emotions; Reginald Paget (Tom Courtenay) as Jean's ex-husband, a thoughtful and reserved tenor adjusting to life at the home; Wilfred Bond (Billy Connolly) as a jovial baritone known for his humour and zest for life; Cecily Robson (Pauline Collins) as a kind-hearted soprano with a touch of forgetfulness, bringing warmth to the group. The ensemble cast delivers heartfelt performances, bringing depth and authenticity to their roles.

Dustin Hoffman's first foray into directing is marked by a gentle and respectful approach to storytelling. He allows the characters' interactions to drive the narrative, creating an intimate portrayal of life's later stages. Filmed at Hedsor House in Buckinghamshire, the setting adds to the film's charm and elegance.

*Quartet* received several accolades and nominations including National Board of Review (2012). Named as one of the Top Ten Independent Films. Movies for Grownups Awards (2013) which Dustin Hoffman won for Breakthrough Accomplishment as a director. **Golden Globe Awards (2013) where Maggie Smith** was nominated for Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Comedy or Musical. British Independent Film Awards (2012) where Billy Connolly was nominated for Best Supporting Actor.

The film was also recognised at various international film festivals, reflecting its global appeal. Critics have praised 'Quartet' for its warmth, humour, and the stellar performances of its cast.

**Quartet will be shown at the Roxy Theatre at 4:00pm on Sunday May 25. New members are always welcome. Drinks and nibbles follow the movie. Please bring a plate.**



HEIDI SMITH TOM COURTENAY BILLY CONNOLLY PAULINE COLLINS MICHAEL GAMBON

"HEARTWARMING.  
A FILM TO CHERISH."  
JOHN SUCHET - QUABRIC FM

"A MUST-SEE  
MOVIE"  
GOOD HUSBANDRY

"UNFORGETTABLE  
PERFORMANCES"  
COUNTRY LIVING

DIRECTED BY  
DUSTIN HOFFMAN  
**QUARTET**



The North West Theatre Company Film Club presents

**Quartet**

**Sunday May 25th 2025 | 4:00pm | The Roxy Theatre**

## Workshops coming up across Barraba, Bingara and Wialda campuses!


### Hospitality


Issuing Registered Training Organisation  
Australian Training Plus (ATPlus) | RTO 91434

#### Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) ♦

SITHFAB021 Provide responsible service of alcohol

1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 4.00PM \$320


Bingara Campus  Tuesday 27 May


Wialda Campus  Monday 7 July

#### Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG) ♦

SITHGAM022 Provide responsible gambling services

1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 4.00PM \$235

Bingara Campus  Wednesday 28 May

Wialda Campus  Tuesday 8 July

### WHS & Traffic

Issuing Registered Training Organisation  
Australian Training Plus (ATPlus) | RTO 91434


#### Traffic Controller Combined Skill Set ♦

This training delivers two skill sets:

RIISS00054 Traffic controller

RIISS00055 Traffic management implementer


3 Days In-Campus 9.00AM - 4.00PM \$755

Bingara Campus  10 - 12 June

#### Working Under Powerlines ♦

UETDREL006 Work safely in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus as a non-electrical worker


1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 4.00PM \$655

Wialda Campus  Monday 23 June

#### Working Under Powerlines - Refresher ♦

UETDREL006 Work safely in the vicinity of live electrical apparatus as a non-electrical worker

1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 4.00PM \$580

Bingara Campus  Wednesday 16 July


♦ **Joblink Plus Limited**, trading as Australian Training Plus (ATPlus) - RTO ID No. 91434, will be delivering, assessing and issuing Statements of Attainment to students assessed as competent in the units per course requirements.

### Non-Accredited Skill-Building Workshops

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

#### Access Online Services


Enrol in this non-accredited session delivering CSO202025 Access online services.

½-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 10.00AM - 1.00PM \$50 

Wialda Campus  Friday 23 May

#### Digital Skills - Using Digital Devices


Enrol in this non-accredited session to learn basic digital skills and gain the confidence to use digital devices.

½-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 12.00PM \$50 

Wialda Campus  Friday 6 June

#### Online Safety & Scam Awareness


Enrol in this non-accredited session delivering CSO202310 Online safety and scam awareness.

½-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 12.00PM \$50 

Bingara Campus  Friday 20 June

#### Introduction to Barista Skills

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

1-Day In-Campus 9.00AM - 4.00PM \$180 

Bingara Campus  Thursday 15 May


Wialda Campus  Friday 27 June

#### Career Pathway Program

Tired of missing the mark on those job applications? Enrol in this non-accredited training that will give you the real-world skills you need to get on point!

The Career Pathway Program is a great starting point for students who are new or returning to study or work.

Gain confidence and get job-ready as you learn to plan your career, budget wisely, present yourself professionally, and build essential digital skills that include creating your own resume and using Google Docs.

1-Day In-Campus each week 9.00AM - 3.00PM 

Wialda Campus  Tuesdays: 10 June - 15 July



Apply online and we'll assess your eligibility for funded training: [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
Warialda Campus	Thursday 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	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 29 May		
Barraba Campus	Monday 30 June		

## High Risk & Industry

Issuing Registered Training Organisation  
Community College Northern Inland | RTO 90027

### Work Safely at Heights

RIIWH5204E Work safely at heights



1-Day In-Campus	9.00AM - 4.30PM	\$260	F
Bingara Campus	Tuesday 17 June		

### Confined Spaces

RIIWH5202E Enter and work in confined spaces



1-Day In-Campus	9.00AM - 4.30PM	\$310	F
Bingara Campus	Wednesday 18 June		



Community College Northern Inland Inc. | RTO 90027

For more information  
call Toby on 0438 546 519

## News from Bingara Central School



# From the Principal

### Anzac Day Services

Upon return to school, our students, staff and teachers were joined by community groups for a small service commemorating ANZAC Day. Held on return to school each year, this is an



### Anzac Day Services

opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made in order for us to have the freedom we do today.

School Captain, Blaire Johnson spoke about the spirit of Australian soldiers and the qualities that emerged when faced with hardship during the Gallipoli Campaign.

Thank you, Mr Don Mack for piping our student leaders into the ceremony and thanks also to the following groups who were able to lay a wreath during our service: Bingara RSL Sub Branch, Bingara Legacy, Bingara Community Op Shop, Gwydir Shire Council, SRE Representatives, Emergency Services and Bingara Central School.

### Basketball Sessions

In Week 2 we wrapped up our Sporting Schools Basketball sessions with a final visit from Emma Higgins of Tamworth Basketball Association.





With four sessions over two terms students in Years 2 – 6 grew in leaps and bounds. We watched such growth in their skills, coordination and most importantly confidence, thanks to this expert guidance.

It was definitely two thumbs-up from our defensive legends and sharp shooting point scorers!



### UNE Open Day

Bingara Central School's senior students attended an open day at the University of New England on Friday, May 2.

Students were able to find information on degrees and study options, Early Entry schemes, the residential colleges and student life.

Students were accompanied by Dr Sullivan and Careers Adviser, Robyn Gasson.

Highlights included tours of the Law School, Archaeology Department, Nursing School, the greenhouses and animal houses of Rural Science and information sessions on the many degrees available for study.

The college breakfast and free lunch on Booloominbah lawn were also much appreciated.

### Term 2 Representative Sport

Well done to Mikayla L, Jed L and Koen S for their efforts as they travelled to Tamworth to compete to gain selection in the 11 Years and Opens Regional Rugby League Team. Congratulations to Jed L, who was chosen as reserve for the 11s team that will compete at the NSWPSSA Rugby League Championships in June.

We are pleased to share that Year 5 students Finn M and Torah W have been selected in the Inverell Zone Boys and Girls Soccer teams. They represent the Zone and BCS when they travel to Tamworth at the end of May in an attempt to gain selection in the North West Regional teams.

Both Primary and Secondary trials will continue at various locations throughout Term 2. Bingara Central School will also host the upcoming Inverell Zone Cross Country on May 30. We are proud of all students as they demonstrate great sportsmanship while representing BCS at these events.



Jenny Beasley of 51 Cunningham Street Bingara has won the Encouragement award for April 2025. She is developing an interesting and diverse garden that covers almost every inch of a small space in a colourful and attractive way. To match the burgundy house trim, on the verandah, large pots are filled with well-grown abelia grandiflora. Three lilly pillies form a strong backdrop for the front garden of smaller plantings of liriopse, roses, blue perennial asters, camellia, dwarf bottlebrush ('little Johnny'), lavender, agapanthus, gazanias, daisies—all very relaxing and some seeding. Stand out, at front of the verandah, is the golden diosma. The left side of the house, to be clearly seen from the car, provides further interest, with burgundy geraniums and crepe myrtle, while the letter box is softened with dwarf nandina.

The simplicity of this beautiful space sends a very welcoming vibe to visitors!





## News from Warialda Public School



of ANZAC Day. Their involvement showed a strong sense of community and respect for our history.

## From the Principal

### ANZAC Day

Our students took part in the ANZAC Day march and ceremony with pride and respect. By attending, they showed their appreciation for the brave men and women who have served our country. It was a meaningful way for them to honour the sacrifices made by others and to learn more about the importance

### Running Club

We're excited to kick off our new Running Club in Term 2! Held before school, this fun and active club gives students the chance to run laps around the school grounds while enjoying music and starting the day with energy. Each time they complete a lap, they mark a tally, aiming to beat their personal best next time. It's a great way to build fitness, set goals, and have fun with friends!

We're looking forward to an exciting Term 2 filled with engaging learning, new experiences, and plenty of enjoyment along the way!





# Carinda News

Warialda Cultural Community Centre, Carinda, held the Annual General Meeting in March, 2025, with the following ladies being elected to executive positions.

**President:** Margaret Haug

**Vice Presidents:** Lanna Hockley and Sue Smith

**Secretary:** Marilyn Stubbins

**Treasurer:** Carmel Stevenson.

Outgoing President, Lanna, expressed her thanks to all the volunteers at Carinda. Without the wonderful volunteers Carinda could not continue to showcase the quality items from local artisans in the shop and to work on maintaining the grand old 1880s building.

On Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Carinda will host a Garden Party in the grounds of Carinda to raise money for Cancer Research. The Garden Party will be a part of The Biggest Morning Tea event with patrons able to have a delicious morning tea for a cost of \$10 commencing at 10.00 am.

McGrath Support Nurse, Sally Laurie based in Moree, will be the guest speaker. Patrons will also be able to purchase tickets in a major raffle—drawn at the Morning Tea. Many thanks to local business houses who have donated items for the raffle.

Business houses, schools and other work places are able to contribute by purchasing scones with jam and cream or damper with honey, on Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup>. Orders to be placed by Friday May 16<sup>th</sup> at Carinda or by phoning Lanna on (02) 6720 1580 - cost \$5.

The Carinda shop has a wide variety of handmade items for sale as well as home baked cooking from Jeanette's Kitchen. Patrons are welcome to browse and purchase.

So, join family and friends for a relaxing and delicious morning tea on Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup>. You will be supporting a very worthwhile cause with all money raised going to The Cancer Council.

**Carinda members look forward to welcoming you.**



**Cancer Council**  
Australia's Biggest  
Morning Tea



## ROSS COOPER OPTOMETRIST

### Next visits to Warialda

- 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

- May 29
- June 26
- July 31

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



# Bingara BUSH BASH

**Where it all started – the year was 1936...**

**On July 8<sup>th</sup> 1936** the *Bingara Advocate* reported: 'The first tournament held on the new tennis courts at the Golf Links took place on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June, when a number of visitors from outside centres were present, and were successful in carrying off trophies.'

**On June 5<sup>th</sup> 2015** it was stated in a tennis report that ... 'It has been 79 years since Bingara held the first June long weekend tennis tournament and while the faces of the tournament committee members and players may have changed, the traditions of the tournament have remained steady.'

Over the years this tournament has played host to hundreds of players from all over the country, some of whom went on to become professional tennis players. What was once a traditional 'boys' weekend of tennis is these days attracting players of all abilities due to the family friendly range of events on offer. Those who grew up with the long weekend ritual of the tennis open are now continuing the tradition with their own children and grandchildren.

**In 2021/22** we were fortunate enough to have the top four courts refurbished and completed just in time for the 2022 Bush Bash, whew!

They are beautiful synthetic grass and lookin' good and are available for play with an easy user friendly 'honesty box' system for payment.

And now here we are in 2024 the Bingara Bush Bash Tennis Open (formerly called the Bingara Annual Open Tennis Championships), is still running strong 88 years later and are looking forward to, once again, hosting another great tournament of top, entertaining tennis and camaraderie with players from Queensland, Victoria, ACT and all points of New South Wales (including surrounding towns Wialda, Inverell and Tamworth) competing. It's interesting to note that the only times this tournament did not run was during World War II and during the Covid19 lockdown of 2021.

The Sunday night is a social evening with Natalie Baker as this year's guest artist. Opportunity is also offered to anyone who would like to get up and 'have a go' to do just that.

This year the June Long Weekend falls on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June and if you or anyone you know would like to register to play in the tournament the information on how to do that is on the poster included here. You don't need to be a competitor—all family and friends are welcome—you are sure to have a good weekend.

Jan Miller



**2025 – 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

## BINGARA BUSH BASH 2025

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

It runs right through the June Long (King's Birthday) Weekend from Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> until finish of play on Monday 9<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://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.



# Bingara Golf Report

April/May 2025

by John Gill

On the weekend 26th and 27th April 2025, Bingara golf held the annual open golf weekend. On Saturday 26th, a mixed 4 B.B.B. event was held with 15 pairs taking part.

Results	
Winners - Gross	Trudi Tonkin and Mitch Lane
Runners-Up - Gross	Judy and Robert Northcott
Nett Winners on a count back	Frances Young and Bob Williams
Nett Runners Up	Di Etheridge and Marshall Bond
Nearest to Pin	7/16 Tee Ladies - Bernie Houlahan Mens - Ian Egan 9/18 Tee Mens - Robert Northcott Ladies Second Best Shot - Trudi Tonkin

On Sunday 27th April 2025, a Men's Open Stroke event was held with 62 golfers taking part on the day.

Results	
Open Winner	Congratulations to David Avery - this was David's fourth consecutive year winning the Bingara Open
A Grade - Gross Winner	David Avery - Wee Waa Club
B Grade - Gross Winner	John Dawson - Coonabarabran Club
C Grade - Gross Winner	Josh Layton - Warialda Club

## Bingara Golf wishes to thank all sponsors for the Open weekend:

Indoor Golf Narrabri, Meat on Maitland, Imperial Hotel, Nutrien A G Services, Gaukrogers Car Sales, J A McGregor LiveStock and Property, Crump Stock and Station Agency, Bingara IGA, McGregor Gourlay, Print Anything Inverell, Bingara Bakery, Brad Craddock Building Services, Campbells Fuel, North West Petroleum Liberty Café.

Thank you Golf Foundation NSW for your generous donation to Bingara Golf.



On Sunday 4th May 2025, Bingara Golf played Men's Monthly Medal 18 hole stroke event with 15 golfers taking part on the day.

Results	
Winner	Shane Thomson with rounds of 37/31, gross 68 - nett 63
Runner-Up	Jayden Booth - 64 nett
Ball Competition	Laurie Mensforth - 66 nett Merv Hall - 68 nett Tom Fullerton - 69 nett Chris Morrissey - 69 nett
Nearest to Pin	9/18 Jayden Booth
Second Best Shot	6/15 Tee A Grade 0/18 Shane Thomson B Grade 19+ Jayden Booth
Jackpot Ball	Steve Pleffer 2 balls (did not play)
Bradman Trophy	Luke McLachlan

## Bingara Golf Events

Thursday 9 Hole Chook Run	2:00pm Tee
Saturday Mixed Golf	12:00pm/12:30pm Tee
Sunday Golf	12:00pm/12:30pm Tee
Tuesday Ladies Golf	Contact 0428 241 415



Graeme Trew sponsor presents Bingara Golf Open trophy to David Avery

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## Copeton Dam Level

**53%**

as at 12  
May 2025





## PUBLIC NOTICES

SUNDAY MAY 18

**Happy BIRTHDAY**

**DAN HERRINGE**

Dan Herringe is 60 on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025.  
I'd like to wish my husband a wonderful birthday.

- ♥ Dan is a respected member of our Bingara community
- ♥ CEO of Bingara Returned Services for 27 years
- ♥ Resident for 30 years - Loves Bingara
- ♥ Loved and respected by his staff and customers who are his friends - Loves his Club
- ♥ Founding member of the Cancer Kids Fundraiser
- ♥ First affiliated Member of the Bingara Sub Branch
- ♥ Loves the Bullets and his Manly Sea Eagles

Happy Birthday Dan. Enjoy your quick snappy.

### 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

**Liberty**  
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**0267 241 520**

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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS™

# What's on

## MAY 2025

Friday 16<sup>th</sup>

Cut for the Koalas Fundraiser - 10:00am - Cut, Shave, Colour or go wild with your hair - BBQ lunch - Gardening advice, guess the 'Lolly Jar' and guided tours to see the koalas - Enquiries call Kiara on 0499 802 370

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>

St John's Anglican Quilting & Craft Show - 9:00am to 6:00pm - Wiseman Crowley Hall, Finch Street, Bingara - \$5 entry

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>

Ball in the Hall - Hosted by Upper Horton Pony Club - Auction - Bus available from Bingara, indicate when booking - \$130pp includes dinner, drink on arrival, entertainment and Ball in the Hall merch - Upper Horton Village Hall - Tickets available Upper Horton Pony Club Facebook Page

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>

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

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea hosted by Carinda House (phone event) - RSVP by 16<sup>th</sup> May to (02) 6729 1580 - Scones and damper available - \$5pp - Pick up 10:00am from 15 Stephen Street, Wialda

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea Garden Party hosted by Carinda House - Commences 10:00am - \$10pp - Lucky door prize, raffles and a guest speaker - 15 Stephen Street, Wialda

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>

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

Friday 30<sup>th</sup>

Gwydir Ark Biodiversity Group Guided walk through the Living Classroom Grassy Box Woodland - 100 year old White Box, aged Narrow Leaf Ironbark and the Scar tree - Meet in the car park Living Classroom at 9:00am

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>

The Biggest Morning Tea - 9:00am to 12 noon - Hosted by Gravesend Community Group

## JUNE 2025

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>

Myall Creek Memorial Exhibition - Ceramic Break Sculpture Park - 10:00am - 5:00pm - Entry by Gold coin donation

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>

Arts North West Artisan Gather & Trade Market - Ceramic Break Sculpture Park - 10:00am - 5:00pm - Entry by Gold coin donation

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>

Saddle Up for the Wialda Pony Club's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration - Wialda Golf & Bowling Club - 6:30pm - Purchase tickets by 17<sup>th</sup> May via trybooking.com - Contact Amy Brooks on 0427 000 203

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> - Monday 9<sup>th</sup>

Bingara Bush Bash - Bingara Sporting Tennis Club, 8 Bombelli Street Bingara - Contact Jan Miller on 0429 991 747

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>

Croppa Creek Cracker & Bonfire Night

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>

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

# Church Notices

## ANGLICAN CHURCH

**Bingara** Worship at St John's Anglican Parish, Bingara - Sundays 9.30am

**Wialda** Wialda Anglican Church, Wialda - 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

**Wialda** 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

**Wialda** 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.

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