

July 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)
Freecall **1800 952 264**

Bingara

6 Riddell Street
Bingara NSW 2404

Warialda

47 Hope Street
Warialda NSW 2402

Largest crowd at the Bingara Orange Festival in nearly two decades!

The first weekend of July proved that Bingara, a population of approximately 1,500 people, really knows how to draw locals and visitors from afar for a jam packed schedule of events.

On Friday 4 July 2025, the Orange Picking Ceremony kicked off the weekend celebrations. This popular tradition started in the 60s and honours those who served in World War I, II and also in recent combat missions.

The event starts off with a service and is then followed by the much loved ritual of the children picking oranges along Finch Street. The orange trees serve as a "living memorial" to the fallen soldiers of the Bingara area.

"It is important to take a moment to pause and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, allowing us to enjoy today's freedoms and the beautiful town we call home," Cr Scot Crispin, Chair of the Bingara Special Events Committee said.

On Saturday 5 July 2025, approximately 3,000 people flocked to Bingara for the



Orange Festival. At some points throughout the day, event goers could be forgiven for thinking that they were at an international popstars concert because the space was packed with people.

"I truly believe this was the largest crowd I have seen at the Orange Festival in the past 18 years and the atmosphere was unforgettable," Cr Crispin marvelled.

This year, Bingara's very own Hugh Whitfeld was the MC for the festival and Hugh also participated in other events throughout the weekend, including official duties at the Orange Picking Ceremony.

Attendees at the Orange Festival were able to enjoy music performed by local talent, including the Bingara Choir, Bingara Preschool, Bingara Central School and Haylie Reynolds. The Memphis Moovers are a roving band and they were back by popular demand, much like the Sydney Swing Katz who are a professional dance group that specialise in vintage dance styles from the 20s to 50s. Both the Memphis Moovers and the Sydney Swing Katz have participated at the Orange Festival for the past few years and are definite crowd favourites.

This year's parade was one of the largest in many years.

Continued on page 3



Next issue: The **Gwydir News** will be published on Thursday 21st August. **Plan your advertising now**—booking and material deadline for the next issue is Monday 11th August. 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.

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.

Don't overload power boards



Overloaded power boards are a **leading cause of house fires in winter**. Avoid using double adapters, never plug boards into other boards, and keep cords untangled.

Check your setup before it becomes a hazard.

Be fire safe this winter
fire.nsw.gov.au/befiresafe



Be fire safe this winter.

It included approximately 100 vintage cars, which were organised by Alan Bilsborough. Approximately 15 local float entries also participated in the parade, along with the Memphis Moovers, Swing Katz, Gwydir Willoughby Exchange Students, Cirque Um Navigate and Manilla Pipe Band.

The Bingara Special Events Committee arranged a variety of competitions for this years event which added extra flare and pizzazz to the festival. Below are the following categories and winners:

Best Decorated Pram	\$50	Laura Kwan
Best Decorated Wheelchair	\$50	Flo Callaway
Best Dressed Boy	\$50	Charlie Kunoric
Best Dressed Girl	\$50	Charlotte Anderson
Best Dressed Lady	\$50	Linda McDouall
Best Dressed Man	\$50	Gary McDouall
Best Individual in Costume in Classic Car	\$50	Jenny McGowan
Best Couple in Costume in Classic Car	\$100	Spanner and Mandy Tanner
Best Window Display in Maitland Street - 1st Place	\$200	Pally Styles
Best Window Display in Maitland Street - 2nd Place	\$100	Twisted Thistle
Best Decorated Float - 1st Place	\$200	Bingara Gold
Best Decorated Float - 2nd Place	\$100	Red Hat Ladies

The yet to be announced Best Photo of the Festival Competition is to be published later in the month. To submit an entry, please email the image to gmc@gwydir.nsw.gov.au before close of business on Friday 18 July 2025. In the body of the email, please include a name for your photograph/s entry, your name and phone number.

The prizes were donated by the Bingara Op Shop and Australia Koala Foundation.

Following the conclusion of the festival, many event goers popped over to the Bingara Showgrounds to watch the Rodeo which was organised by the Bingara Show Society. This event included a ute barrel race, as well as the rodeo and attendees were treated to a fireworks display to end a fantastic weekend in Bingara.

"Thank you and congratulations to all involved in the organisation of the Orange Picking, Orange Festival and Rodeo event planning. Without the hard work of our local community, these events simply would not happen. A special mention to the Bingara Special Events Committee, Gwydir Shire Council Staff, Bingara Show Society, Bingara Central School, Hugh Whitfeld, Noah Bilsborough and Alan Bilsborough for your contribution across the board this past weekend." Cr Crispin said.

Next years Orange Festival will take place on Saturday 4 July 2026. Mark the date in your calendar and prepare for another fun filled weekend!



Photo credit: Gillian Hembrow



Photo credit: Gillian Hembrow

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to keep your devices secure.

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actnowstaysecure.gov.au



Australian Government



From the Mayor

I cannot believe we are more than halfway through 2025! I always enjoy reflecting on the months as they go by and connecting with you all through this column. This space is reserved for keeping you up to date on events happening in the region, progress reports on Council

projects and issues affecting our area. It has been another jam-packed month and it is great to see so much happening!

Orange Festival

Wow! What a weekend! On Friday 4 July 2025, The Bingara Central School hosted a successful Orange Picking Ceremony. This is a much loved tradition for the students and children who attend, where they finally get to pick the oranges that they have spent many months guarding as the 'Orange Police'. This event also teaches the youth in our community the significance of the trees and pays homage to those who served in World Wars I and II, as well as recent missions.

The Bingara Special Events Committee in conjunction with Gwydir Shire Council hosted the Orange Festival on Saturday 5 July 2025. This event was one of the biggest festivals in the last two decades and it was wonderful to see the crowd enjoying every minute of it. Following the conclusion of the festival, many people then went on to the Rodeo at the Bingara Showgrounds which was another fantastic job well done and was well received by all in attendance.

Be sure to check out Cr Scot Crispin's account of the weekend in the media release about the festivities included in this edition of the Gwydir News.



Photo credit: Gillian Hembrow

Country Education Foundation

On Wednesday 11 June 2025, the North West Theatre Company (NWTTC) hosted a production of Alice in Wonderland at The Roxy Theatre in Bingara for schools in the region. All money from ticket sales was donated to the Country Education Foundation of Gwydir (CEFG).

The cast of 30 and the production crew generously donated their time to make this happen. The schools that attended thoroughly enjoyed the experience, being the first time for many of the students to experience live theatre, and many of them recognising friends and teachers on the stage. The costumes, makeup, set and sound and lighting was of a professional standard and a credit to the NWTTC.

The partnership between NWTTC and CEFG is beneficial, not only as a successful fundraiser, but also by raising awareness of both CEFG and NWTTC. A whopping \$1,030 was raised on the day for CEFG.

CEFG provides financial assistance to eligible students within Gwydir Shire that go on to further education after leaving school to assist them to achieve their goals.



Roads

During June, maintenance grading or resheeting was carried out on the following roads:

- Blue Nobby Road
- Ottley Road
- Kirewa Road
- Oregon Road
- Croppa Creek Road
- Bangheet Road
- Buckie Road
- Kemps Road
- Noumea Road
- Yallaroi Road
- Mosquito Creek Road
- Duftys Road

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

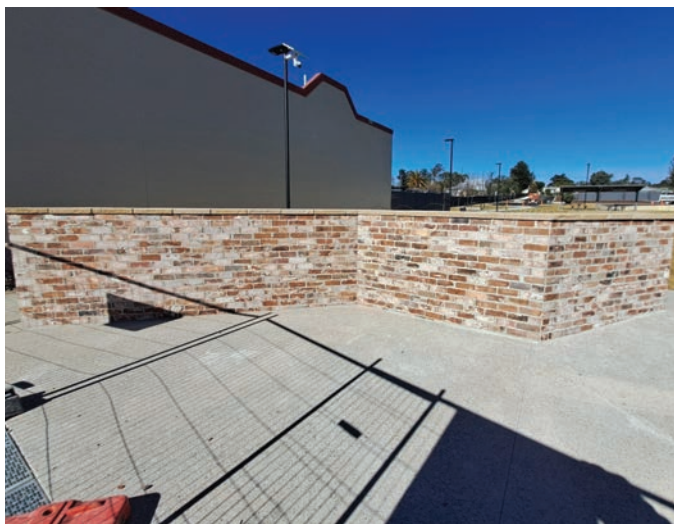
- Killarney Gap Road
- Elcombe Road
- Bundarra Road
- Cranky Rock Road
- Bingara Road
- Copeton Dam Road
- Gwydir Highway
- Mosquito Creek Road

During June, heavy patching was carried out on the following roads:

- Hope Street, Wialda
- Gragin Road, Wialda
- Martyn Street, Bingara
- Loves Lane, Bingara
- Market Street, Wialda
- Heber Street, Bingara
- West Street, Bingara
- Wialda Road

Wialda CBD Park

Throughout the month of June, a lot of progress was made on this project. The toilet blocks and concrete works are nearing completion. The feature wall is almost complete, and power is ready for connection at the site. Shelters and furniture have been installed, as well as the security cameras. Lastly, the landscaping is complete which is wonderful, as you can really see the site coming together now.



Wialda CBD Park

Telstra

Below are details that were discussed at a meeting with Telstra on 18 June 2025.

A Connectivity Plan (which I have written about before) was again discussed. Telstra representatives said that this plan will extend beyond just mobile coverage to include other technologies such as NBN, satellite and alternative solutions. Council looks forward to seeing a draft plan and agrees to work with Telstra in an effort to get the best outcome for our community.

At the meeting, Council gained a clearer understanding of the current infrastructure challenges, particularly congestion issues which continually affect our towns and villages. As we know these issues are due to limited band spectrum. These constraints are a major contributor to the poor quality of service many of you are experiencing.

Unfortunately, Telstra representatives were still unable to give any dates for upgrades to the towers at Bingara, Warialda, Gravesend and Copeton Dam.

We were advised that most other sites are either small cell installations or have already been upgraded.

Telstra also acknowledged that there is an issue with the power backup at the Bingara tower. Telstra representatives advised at the meeting that the backup issue involves a software fault. Their technicians are now working on a fix, although it is still in the early stages and again no date was provided.

That said, Telstra had previously indicated that the Bingara tower was due for an upgrade in the last quarter of this year, and that they are now treating it as a priority due to ongoing power reliability concerns.

Council has also made it clear that we are willing to be early adopters of new technologies which may improve connectivity in our region. We are actively exploring these opportunities and will keep the community informed as things progress.

At the meeting, Council presented the petition which so many of you signed. This is the petition which came about from a public meeting at Gravesend. The petition was supported and made available throughout our Shire at various venues.

My fellow Councillors and I thank everyone for taking the time to support and sign the petition. The petition has also been sent to the offices of the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP and Brendan Moylan MP. Both continue to support us and advocate for Telstra to make urgent changes to improve their services. We are very thankful for their efforts.

We will continue to advocate strongly for better telecommunications for all residents of our Shire.

Bingara Administrative Centre

Council is seeking expressions of interest from the Bingara community about having input into the landscaping at the front of the new Council building in Maitland Street, with the view to incorporate some form of war memorial.

If you would like to provide landscaping ideas, please email through your thoughts by close of business on Thursday 31 July 2025 to mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Conference

Cr Coleman, Cr Crispin, Cr Bishton, Cr Crump and I, along with executive staff travelled to Canberra for the ALGA Conference on 23 June 2025. This was a 3-day summit that is held every year. This gives Gwydir Shire Council a chance to gain insights into ways we can improve our services to the community and also network with other councils to see what they are doing in their area. This year we heard from the Hon Kristy McBain MP, Dr Anne Webster MP and Her Excellency the Honourable Ms. Sam Mostyn AC, just to name a few.



At the conference, Council made a motion for the National General Assembly (NGA) to urgently request the Federal Government to undertake a comprehensive review of the adequacy of the existing service charter obligations for the universal delivery of acceptable mobile and internet service to rural and remote communities. This motion will be referred by the NGA to the relevant Ministers for response.

While in Canberra, the Councillors who attended the ALGA Conference also visited The Australian War Memorial for The Last Post Ceremony on 26 June 2025. At each Last Post Ceremony, a serviceman or servicewoman is remembered if they passed away while in combat.



The day my fellow Councillors and I visited, Lieutenant Fred Ditzel, who was killed in World War I, was being honoured and he was from the Inverell area.

The soldier that is chosen each day, is not known by the public until the day. It was a very surreal moment for all in attendance to know someone from our neighbouring shire was been honoured on the day we just happened to be there.

Sam Kennedy, a Gwydir local was in attendance to play The Last Post. Sam commenced playing the trumpet at Bingara Central School and went on to keep playing this instrument while attending Warialda High School. He also represented at state and overseas levels during his schooling years and went on to complete a Bachelor of Music at the University of Newcastle. Later, Sam enlisted in the Royal Australian Army Band. Sam sounded The Last Post for many years at the Bingara ANZAC Day Services.

It amazes both my fellow Councillors and I to know, that no matter where we are in the country, we can run into or have a connection from the Gwydir in the most unlikely circumstances. We are all proud of the achievements and successes that each former Gwydir resident has gone on to accomplish.

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 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



Brendan Moylan MP

Funding Flows In For Region's Waterways

WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2025



Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan said the Reconnecting Watercourse Country program supports healthier rivers and environmental biodiversity.

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan has announced another \$4 million has been committed to a significant water program in the Northern Tablelands Electorate.

The Reconnecting Watercourse Country program is aimed at increasing the effectiveness of environmental water flows in the Gwydir catchment.

The program seeks to increase environmental water release efficiency, enable farming and water for the environment to coexist, restore and establish water flows for the environmental corridor, and improve conservation efforts.

The additional \$4 million commitment to the program was announced in the 2025-26 NSW Budget.

Mr Moylan said it covers the Gingham Watercourse, Lower Gwydir Watercourse and the Lower Mehi River and will benefit the entire region beyond the riverbank.

"The Gwydir Reconnecting Watercourse Country program aims to ensure that environmental water actually reaches the areas that rely on it, including wetlands which will help the survival of wildlife in the area," Mr Moylan said.

"Overall, the purpose of the program, is to support healthier rivers, more wildlife, and stronger connections between water systems, benefiting both the environment and local communities."

The project began in 2023 and forms part of the Northern Basin Toolkit, aimed at improving the ecological health of northern Basin rivers. The total estimated cost is \$9.8 million and is anticipated to be completed in 2027.

Coalition Bill to Crackdown on Illegal Vapes and Tobacco

MONDAY 30 JUNE 2025

The NSW Coalition will introduce a Bill in Parliament to crack down on the fast-growing illegal tobacco trade.

The Bill seeks to make NSW the hardest place in Australia to sell illegal vapes and tobacco.

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan said while other states have cracked down on the sale of illegal vapes and tobacco, the Minns Labor Government has let NSW become the easiest place in the country for crooks to make money.

"The number of illegal tobaccoists operating has exploded, and they pose a huge risk to community health and safety, particularly to the region's youth," he said.

"Everyone knows what's going on - illegal shops run by criminals are popping up all over the Northern Tablelands, and the scary part is, they are become more accessible to

our kids. The NSW Government has done nothing while our communities and small businesses wear the cost. If Labor won't clean it up, we will."

"Our plan will shut these shops down, hit the criminals with million-dollar fines or jail, and make it crystal clear - if you're dealing illegal tobacco in NSW, your days are numbered. No more soft touch. No more excuses."

"If you're dealing illegal tobacco or selling vapes to kids in NSW, your days are numbered."

The Coalition's Public Health (Tobacco) Amendment (Stopping Illicit Tobacco) Bill 2025 will:

- Further increase the penalties for the sale of illicit tobacco, including prison sentences of up to 7 years for serious offending or a \$1.5 million fine.
- Provide NSW Health with the power to issue closure orders for businesses selling illicit tobacco and vapes for up to one month.
- Provide magistrates with the power to issue closure order for businesses selling illicit tobacco and vapes for up to 12 months.
- Give lessors the statutory right to terminate leases where a closure order has been issued.
- Create a new offence for lessors who knowingly permit their tenant to use the store for the sale of illegal tobacco or vapes.

In the News

Man Dies Following Bat Bite

Health

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | July 9, 2025

<https://www.stafm.com.au/man-dies-following-bat-bite/>

NSW Health has issued a warning to residents not to touch bats following the death of a man in his 50's from Northern NSW.

The man was the first confirmed case of lyssavirus in NSW and had been bitten by a bat several months ago and received treatment following the injury with NSW Health investigating if other exposures or factors contributed to the man's infection.

Director in Health Protection at NSW Health Keira Glasgow says it's incredibly rare for the virus to transmit to humans, but once symptoms of lyssavirus start in people who are scratched or bitten by an infected bat, sadly there is no effective treatment.

Ms Glasgow advised if you're bitten or scratched by a bat, seek urgent medical assessment, also wash the wound thoroughly for 15 minutes right away with soap and water and apply an antiseptic with anti-virus action, such as betadine, and allow it to dry.

FRNSW's Community Safety Command has crunched the numbers and created a profile of those most vulnerable.

If you meet one or more of the following criteria, you need to take precautions:

- Over 65 years of age
- Male
- Drinks alcohol
- Smokes
- Lives alone
- Prone to clutter

Amid FRNSW's annual "Be Fire Safe" winter campaign, the fire service's research shows the risk of a residential fire during these colder months rises significantly for each of the categories met by NSW residents.

The statistics show that in recent years, one in every two residential fire deaths in winter involves an elderly person, while people with disabilities account for 47-percent of fatalities.

Three people, aged in their 50's, 60's and 80's, have died in three separate house fires this week.

A working smoke alarm saved the lives of a mother and her adult son during another house fire yesterday at Smithfield, in Sydney's west.

FRNSW is providing fire prevention and safety information to the young, elderly, people living with disabilities and culturally diverse communities, particularly in Sydney's south-west, which has a large multicultural population.

FRNSW Commissioner, Jeremy Fewtrell, said the combination of known dangers and demographics has helped firefighters identify people most at risk of being injured or killed in a winter fire.

"It's a mixture of factors. If a person drinks, is of a certain age where mobility and health start to become issues, if their exits are cluttered – then you're potentially vulnerable and that's something we want to change.

"Then there are added risks. Is your home fitted with a working smoke alarm? Can you hear it? When was the last time you checked that it works?

There are smoke alarms available for people who are hearing impaired that have a strobe light and vibrating pad to notify you when the smoke alarm goes off.

"It's imperative that we look after the elderly and at-risk members of our communities," Commissioner Fewtrell said.

"Firefighters can come to your home for a Safety Visit, give you fire safety advice, check your smoke alarms – and if they're not working, install replacement alarms for free.

Simply contact your local fire station to book a visit – <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/visits>

"You're at risk of a winter home fire even if you meet only one or two of the criteria. Let's check on our older neighbours or seniors we know might need a helping hand to ensure they can "Be Fire Safe" this winter."

In the News

Fire and Rescue NSW Identifies People Most At Risk Of a Home Fire This Winter

Community

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | July 2, 2025

<https://www.stafm.com.au/fire-and-rescue-nsw-identifies-people-most-at-risk-of-a-home-fire-this-winter/>

Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) has identified the people most at risk of a residential fire this winter.

In the News

Big Three Energy Providers Confirm Price Hikes Of Up To 13.5%

Lifestyle

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | July 1, 2025

<https://www.stafm.com.au/big-three-energy-providers-confirm-price-hikes-of-up-to-13-5/>

Australia's biggest three energy retailers – Origin, AGL and EnergyAustralia – have each confirmed their electricity prices are rising from 1 July, with hikes of up to 13.5% to hit households.

The retailers, which combined have a share of more than 60% of the electricity market, have cited higher wholesale, network and retail costs as the reason behind the increase to their variable market plans.

The announcements follow changes to the new default plan prices approved by the regulators, set to take effect on Tuesday, 1 July, with increases across almost all networks, in some cases, by over 9%.

The default prices act as a cap for customers who don't, or can't, change their energy plans, as well as a benchmark for pricing for market plans, however the vast majority of customers are on a market plan.

Note: Western Australia, north Queensland and the Northern Territory are operated independently from the national energy market.

What energy price changes mean for the average household bill?

The actual price paid by households will differ based on the cost of their current plan, their consumption from the grid and whether they generate solar power that feeds back to the grid.

Canstar Blue research estimates that the average household with one of the big three providers will see an annual increase of between \$31 and \$261, depending on location

and provider.

This is based on the average-priced plans from each provider on the Canstar Blue database.

What should customers do?

Step 1 – Call up your current provider and ask to get on the cheapest plan available. This is peak switching season and the energy companies are in the mood to make a bargain.

Step 2 – Compare prices. While some people will want to wait until all providers have changed their prices, avid switchers can compare today with the view to re-checking their rate in spring.

Step 3 – Switch. Once you've selected your new provider, all you typically need to do is fill out an online form, including a few details such as your license number and expiry date, and your new provider will do the rest for you. If you do switch, make sure you ask your new retailer whether the price has already been increased or is still to come.

Step 4 – Compare again in summer. Electricity prices can and do change regularly. While there are plans to limit price hikes to once a year, this doesn't come into effect for most states until next July.

Canstar Blue's data insights director, Sally Tindall, says, "The price increases from Australia's biggest energy retailers is not the Christmas in July message we were all hoping for – particularly now so many Australians are in the throes of a cold, wet winter."

"For the average household, they're looking at price hikes of between \$31 and \$261 a year, however, for bigger families, they could well be looking at hikes that are double this.

"The extension of the government's electricity rebate will take some of the sting out of these price hikes through to December, however, this could lead to even bigger bill shock in the new year unless people take action.

"The electricity price hikes are not limited to the big three – we expect the majority of providers will be hiking their energy rates over the next couple of months on the back of increased network, wholesale and admin costs.

"If you get a note from your provider letting you know prices are on the rise, take a look at what your new rates are in relation to the reference price, but also check what date these new rates take effect.

"While EnergyAustralia's announced increases are, in many cases, smaller than Origin and AGL's, what ultimately matters is the price you're paying, so make sure you compare your plan against the rest of the pack, not just once, but at least twice a year.

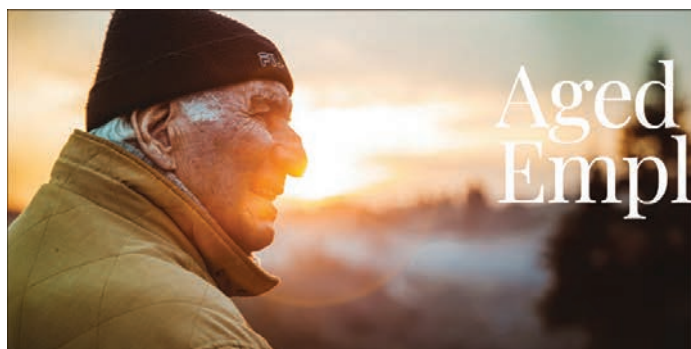
"The market is going to be in a state of flux over the next couple of months. Yes, you can wait until the dust settles before making the move to compare, or, if you're serious about saving, cast aside the waiting game and get yourself a better energy deal now. You can always compare again later.

"Whether you switched energy plans last year or last decade, you can and should be getting out there to get yourself a better deal."

Source: *Canstar News*



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



Aged Care Employee Day



Thanks for caring

THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 2025



Time to celebrate our aged care superheroes

Aged care, retirement living and seniors housing providers — along with residents, clients, families and loved ones — are invited to join Ageing Australia and say a massive ‘thanks for caring’ to our dedicated and compassionate care workforce to mark Aged Care Employee Day next month.

All Australians are gearing up to show their appreciation with morning and afternoon teas, celebrations and heartfelt messages of thanks to the dedicated workers who care for their loved ones.

Now in its seventh year — this year on Thursday 7 August — Aged Care Employee Day is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the dedicated people who work tirelessly to ensure the dignity, comfort and wellbeing of older Australians.

Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson said workers in aged care had gone above and beyond the call of duty in this past year and continue to face immense challenges in providing care and support for older Australians.

“As we approach Aged Care Employee Day, we want to keep in mind the almighty effort put in by everyone working in aged care — from leaders to frontline staff and those working behind the scenes — and encourage the public to take a moment and say, ‘thank you for caring,’” Mr Symondson said.

“Aged Care Employee Day has become an important date in our calendar and reminds us of the caring and professional work of our aged care superstars. Their care is personal, selfless and often unsung, and makes a meaningful difference in the lives of older people every single day,” Mr Symondson said.

“Our workers have proven to be care ‘superheroes.’ We want our residents and clients, their families and friends to join us in saying ‘thank you for a job well done’ and recognise the hard work that goes into in caring for our loved ones.”

“Be they managers, personal carers, nurses, kitchen and laundry staff, allied health professionals, cleaners, administrators, gardeners or volunteers, going above and beyond the call of duty, to keep older Australians cared for and safe.”

“We also want to encourage the entire aged care workforce to take a moment for themselves to regroup, take a breath, and recharge.”

“They all deserve our thanks for their professionalism, their warmth, and their enthusiasm to help older Australians live comfortably.”

“We congratulate our aged care heroes for their dedication, their compassion and their resilience and we encourage the public to give them the recognition they are so deserving of.”

Aged Care Employee Day will also be the day the winners of the Ageing Australia You are ACE! Awards will be announced, chosen from the over 500 nominations received as part of Ageing Australia’s You are ACE! sector recognition program. The Ageing Australia You are ACE! Awards recognise sector excellence across 15 categories.

Find out more about Aged Care Employee Day: <https://ageingaustralia.asn.au/aged-care-employee-day>

Dying To Know day
8th August
www.dyingtoknowday.org

Death: it takes all of us.



**Come and join us at the Bingara Op Shop
on Friday the 8th of August from 10am-
12pm to talk about dying.**

Morning tea provided.

Speakers:

Sue Mack - Nurse practitioner
Voluntary assisted dying laws

Robyn and Fiona - Palliative Care Nurses Narrabri
Services available

Saul Standerwick - Law Graduate
Power of Attorney and Enduring Guardianship

Stephan West
A personal story

Nominate Your Community Pharmacy Heroes To Help Find Australia's Best!

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is calling on all Australians to nominate the community pharmacies and pharmacists who consistently provide exceptional service and care for the 2026 Guild Community Pharmacy Awards.



**The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia**

These awards celebrate the individuals and teams delivering outstanding care, improving patient's health, and providing Australia's most accessible frontline healthcare.

"Every community has a pharmacy team that's making a difference. Our pharmacies support patients through chronic illness, provide trusted healthcare when it's needed most, and are open when other services are closed," National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, said Professor Trent Twomey said.

"These awards recognise everyday excellence and giving Australians the chance to say thank you. These awards are your opportunity to thank the everyday heroes in your community pharmacy, the ones who are always there, providing expert care when it's needed most."

With 430 million visits to Australia's 6000 pharmacies each year, there is an abundance of dedication, compassion and innovation happening inside community pharmacies every day.

Whether it's a pharmacist who always goes the extra mile, a pharmacy team that's become a lifeline for locals, or a student pharmacist already making a mark, a nomination in

the Guild Community Pharmacy Awards ensures they get the recognition they deserve.

"Aussies know what great pharmacy care looks like. As more services are delivered through community pharmacies, now is a better time than ever to acknowledge the important role they play," Professor Twomey said.

It only takes a few minutes to nominate your community pharmacy heroes. Simply visit findapharmacy.com.au/awards and share their story.

Nominations close Tuesday 16 July 2025.

There are three major awards:

- **Community Pharmacy of the Year**
- **Community Pharmacist of the Year**
- **Student Pharmacist of the Year**

Winners from each state and territory will be selected as finalists. National winners will be announced at the 2026 Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP), held 12–14 March on the Gold Coast.

Nominate now at findapharmacy.com.au/awards.

ROSS COOPER OPTOMETRIST

Next visits to Warialda

- July 30
- October 29
- November 26

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

Goondiwindi 07 4671 1550

Next visits to Bingara

- July 31
- October 30
- November 27

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



COMMUNITY NEWS
FOR THE GWYDIR SHIRE
AND SURROUNDS

THE
Gwydir
NEWS

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The Gwydir News each
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Bingara Visitor Information Centre
Liberty Bingara Café
Shell Garage Bingara
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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 to Present 'Fracture' as its July Feature Movie

Our July Film Club offering is the 2007 drama *Fracture*. The movie was directed by Gregory Hoblit who is known for tense legal and crime dramas such as *Primal Fear* and *Fallen*.

The film stars Anthony Hopkins as Ted Crawford, Ryan Gosling as Willy Beachum, Rosamund Pike as Nikki Gardner and David Strathairn as Joe Lobluto.

Fracture is a cerebral legal thriller centred around Ted Crawford, a wealthy and meticulous structural engineer (Anthony Hopkins), who discovers his wife is having an affair. In a cold and calculated move, he shoots her in the head—and then calmly confesses when the police arrive. However, things are not as simple as they appear. Enter Willy Beachum (Ryan Gosling), a hotshot young prosecutor on the verge of a lucrative corporate law job. Confident that the case is open-and-shut, Beachum soon finds that Crawford has devised a nearly flawless plan — no weapon, no clear evidence, and a confession that may not hold up in court.

What follows is a gripping cat-and-mouse battle of wits, as Beachum fights to bring Crawford to justice and salvage both the case and his own professional integrity.

Anthony Hopkins channels a chilling version of his Hannibal Lecter charm, portraying Crawford with eerie calmness and unsettling intellect. His performance is commanding, methodical, and laced with quiet menace.

Ryan Gosling plays the ambitious, somewhat cocky young prosecutor with depth, balancing charisma with vulnerability as his confidence erodes through the film. This role marked a transition for Gosling into more mainstream dramatic work following indie acclaim.

Rosamund Pike, in a supporting role, brings a poised performance as Nikki Gardner, Beachum's love interest and professional mentor, and David Strathairn lends gravity to the DA's office scenes, portraying a seasoned and sceptical superior.

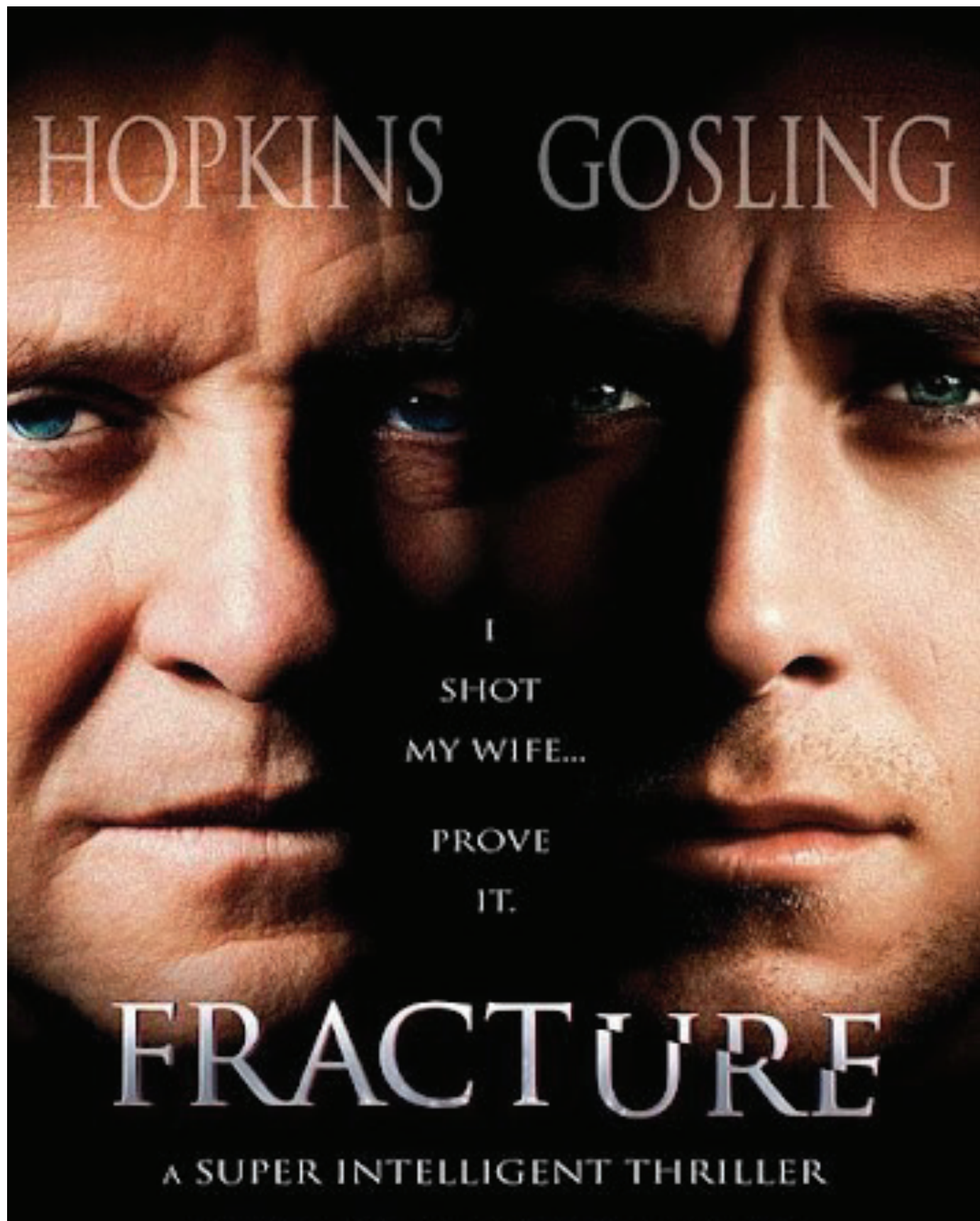
Gregory Hoblit's direction is sleek and suspenseful. The film maintains a cool, clinical tone throughout—mirroring Crawford's calculated personality. The cinematography uses glass, reflections, and clean architecture to underscore the theme of appearances vs. reality.

The pacing is tight, and the courtroom scenes, while occasionally stylized, are grounded and engaging.

Critics praised the film as an intelligent, well-acted thriller. Particular acclaim was given to Hopkins' performance, which many described as magnetic, even if it echoed his earlier roles. Gosling also received positive attention for holding his own against such an iconic screen presence.

Fracture is a slick, well-acted legal thriller that thrives on the strength of its two leads. It may not reinvent the genre, but it delivers smart dialogue, engaging mind games, and strong performances, especially from Hopkins. If you enjoy courtroom chess matches and psychological sparring, this film is well worth your time.

Fracture will show at the Roxy Theatre in Bingara on Sunday July 27 and **new members are always welcome**.



The North West Theatre Company Film Club presents

Fracture

Sunday July 27th 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 2 September

Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG) ♦

SITHGAM022 Provide responsible gambling services

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

Bingara Campus  Wednesday 3 September




WHS & Traffic

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

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  Thursday 14 August

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

Wialda Campus  Thursday 18 September

♦ **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)



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 22 August

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 

Barraba Campus  Monday 4 August

Wialda Campus  Friday 12 September

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  9 - 11 September

Apply 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
Wialda Campus	Friday 1 August		
Barraba Campus	Monday 11 August		
Bingara Campus	Friday 5 September		

Provide CPR

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation



½-Day Face-to-Face Workshop	9.00AM - 12PM	\$90	F
Wialda Campus	Friday 1 August		
Barraba Campus	Monday 11 August		
Bingara Campus	Friday 5 September		

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 31 July		
Barraba Campus	Monday 25 August		
Wialda Campus	Thursday 28 August		

Food Safety Supervisor

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



1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop	9.00AM - 3.00PM	\$260	F
Bingara Campus	Thur 31 July - Fri 1 August		
Wialda Campus	Thur 28 August - Fri 29 August		



COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NORTHERN INLAND

Community College Northern Inland Inc. | RTO 90027

For more information
call Toby on 0438 546 519



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Employee Day



Thanks for caring

THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 2025



News from Bingara Central School



From the Principal

Write a Book in a Day Competition

In June, a team of seven students from Stage 3 taking part in the Write a Book in a Day Competition. Under the guidance of Miss Barrie, this group of authors and illustrators are among 700 other teams across Australia who are taking part in the Kids for Cancer Project.

Each group was tasked with completing a book from start to finish in just a one day. With a unique set of characters and words that must be incorporated into the story, the team has been busily working throughout the morning to put together their best ideas.

Every book submitted will also be made available for free to kids in hospitals around Australia, potentially changing a child's day in hospital, while funds raised will work to get them out of hospital and back in the classroom sooner.

You can get behind them by donating to this fabulous cause via the following

link:
<https://writeabookinaday.com/team-sponsorship/?id=273>



Hugh Whitfeld Visit Inspires Students

BCS was pleased to welcome Channel 7 National News Desk Director, Foreign Editor and former student Hugh Whitfeld, recently. Hugh is a former Bingara Central School student, starting Kindergarten here in 1991 before becoming School Captain in 1997.

Generous in his time, he addressed Year 5-12 students, sharing the story of his career, the places this has taken him and some of the challenges he has faced along the way. Demonstrating the broad nature of news journalism, Hugh played some news stories of the different types of stories he has covered throughout the nearly 20 years he has been finding stories.

Following his presentation, students were able to ask questions where we learned a lot more about what working in his role can be like - from his first story covering the need to change batteries in smoke alarms and the scary and dangerous places he has been, to studio spaces and famous faces that he has interviewed.

We now know that Hugh has a soft spot for the Marrow Man of Wales, that he had some of the same teachers that our students have had and that he did work experience just down the road in Tamworth.

We are sure that he has sparked something in our students, inspiring them to find opportunities that are out there, find a way to make things

happen and to believe that growing up in Bingara is their greatest asset.



MC Play Together Picnic

Our MC Class, along with their family and friends, came together for a modified sporting event and to enjoy a morning of fun and action this month. Their day started with an opening march, accompanied by Mr Crispin and Faithlyn A on the drums.

There was an opportunity to participate in modified activities including discus, shotput, long jump, high jump, running races and an egg and spoon race. Stage 4 joined our MC class for much of the fun, encouraging them to try each activity and participating together.

Following all the action, students and their families enjoyed a picnic morning tea which included some delicious looking pizza that was handmade in the MC classroom yesterday.

From the sounds of laughter and big smiles we know that our students and their families enjoyed the fun-filled morning of play, connection and community.



Orange Picking Fun

The long wait to pick the oranges of Bingara's living memorial finally came to an end with the wave of the Orange

Flag by Channel 7 News Editor and former BCS student Mr Hugh Whitfeld. Tempting as it has been, our students have been holding off for this important occasion, often reminding others of the significance and symbolism that the trees stand for.

Joined by visitors, family and friends, it was a race to find the biggest and of course, the highly prized. Golden Oranges. Back at school, Mrs McGowan and Mrs McDouall had the jobs of slicing and weighing the haul.

The Golden Oranges went to: Stephanie P, Lashayah D, Ellie K, Cooper S, Nathan R, Daniel R, Colte M, Maya W and Saffin W.

The all overall Biggest Orange weighed in at a whopping 599g.

With thanks to the many, many people that make this one of the most memorable days of the calendar each year: Bingara RSL, Gwydir Shire Council, BCS staff and students, parents, carers, visitors and friends. Ultimately, the oranges of Bingara and their Picking Ceremony are an opportunity to hold the memory of the men and women who have served our country at the front of our minds.

BINGARA *Highlights* ORANGE FESTIVAL



News from Warialda Public School



From the Principal

Creative Arts Evening



On the 19th of June, we held our first ever Creative Arts Spectacular. It was a lovely evening when our students could showcase what they had been making and creating individually and also as a class.

It was wonderful to watch our choir, ukulele and dance groups perform beautifully during the evening whilst enjoying a hot meal under the stars!



We auctioned off 9 wonderful class artworks with the bidding next level! Thanks to the legendary auctioneer 'Sharkey' from JA McGregor who worked the room with great skill and a greater sense of humour!

What a creative group of students we have here at Warialda Public School!

Athletics Carnival

On the 27th of June, we held our combined Athletics Carnival and Jellybean Cup!

It was a frosty start to the morning, but the day turned into an absolute cracker! It was fantastic to see students dressed proudly in their Rose and Cleal house colours, getting involved and giving it their all with a real 'red hot go' attitude.

Congratulations to our Age Champions and Runners-Up:

- Junior Boys Champion – Reid Rose
- Junior Boys Runner-Up – Henry Coulton
- Junior Girls Champion – Poppie McClymont
- Junior Girls Runner-Up – Zoe Lyons
- 11yrs Boys Champion – Ziggy Hall
- 11yrs Boys Runner-Up – Dexter Brooks
- 11yrs Girls Champion – Indie Cosh
- Joint 11yrs Girls Runner-Up – Ada van Velthuizen and Sallisah Stokes
- Senior Boys Champion – Hugo

Barwick

- Joint Senior Boys Runner-Up – Nate Cleal & Harley Cowell
- Senior Girls Champion – Scarlett Turner
- Senior Girls Runner-Up – Ruby Hodges



Congratulations to Rose House for taking out the win on the day!

A special shout-out to Hugo Barwick for an outstanding achievement — breaking the Senior Boys High Jump record with an impressive leap of 1.50m!

Inverell Eisteddfod

Our choir competed at the Inverell Eisteddfod on the 26th of June, performing "True Colours" and "Count on Me."

Their hard work and beautiful singing paid off, earning them first place in their competition!

Debating

Our debating teams have been very busy lately!

The WPS Warriors were successful in their recent debate against Moree Public School, arguing the topic: "That kids under 12 should have to earn any screen time they get by helping around the house."

The WPS Wombats also came out on top in their latest debate against Rowena Public School, tackling the topic: "That the school day should be made longer."

We're proud of both teams and look forward to seeing them back in action in Term 3!

Sport

WPS has been very busy with PSSA sporting events over the last few weeks!

Soccer

Both our girls' and boys' soccer teams recently played their knockout games against Ross Hill Public School. And whilst narrowly being beaten, they brought a superb competitive edge to the games! Both teams displayed an impressive range of skills and strong teamwork throughout their matches. Their dedication to training during lunchtime breaks has truly paid off in their performance and sportsmanship.

Superb effort from all involved — well done!

Basketball

Both our girls' and boys' basketball teams competed in the PSSA Basketball Gala Day in Inverell.

They kicked off the day with strong performances, each securing a win in their opening games against Bingara Central School. Both teams then faced Inverell Public School in closely contested matches, playing with determination and making their opponents work hard for the win.

Our students are to be commended for their sportsmanship, teamwork, and effort throughout the day. Well done to all!

Netball

Our netball team played their next game of the knockout season against Moree Public School. We were fortunate to host the match on our amazing multi-purpose court.

It was a fantastic game against a fast and competitive Moree side, with our team securing a convincing win and advancing to the next round!

Great effort, girls!

Cross Country

Recently, 8 of our students proudly represented the North West region at the Cross Country competition in Coolah.

Congratulations to Harley Cowell, Harrison Clark, Scarlett Turner, Indie Cosh, Dexter Brooks, Levi Taylor, Henry Coulton, and Edward Coulton on reaching this impressive level of competition!

We're proud of your hard work, determination, and achievement!

Term 2 has been a busy and exciting time for our students and staff at WPS, and we're looking forward to all the opportunities and activities that Term 3 will bring!

BINGARA *Highlights* ORANGE FESTIVAL



Bingara Branch

Bingara CWA Branch is up and running!! We sadly went into recess in 2024.

A wonderful result at our "coming out" meeting saw a group of women from our small rural community coming together, with an executive team led by President Kerriane Anderson and 14 members who are passionate in keeping our Bingara Branch going. Raising money for important causes is our main aim, supporting the community and reaching out to help those in need.

Our members have a wide variety of talents, enjoying cooking, handicraft and teaching skills to others.

Our priority was to get the morning tea fundraiser going again, this began on the 27th of June, with great success. The delivery to main street offices and shops was well received as well as encouraging any member of the public to come in for cuppa and a chat. This will be regular now on the last Friday of each month.

We were very appreciative of a beautiful painting donated by local lady Denise Dennis; this is being showcased as a silent auction and is displayed in a shop window in town.

Our biggest gig was at the Bingara Orange Festival on the 5th of July. Our friendly team welcomed all to come and meet us, maybe join the branch or just have a chat. This was a great opportunity for us to be known in the local and broader community and show off the cooking and handicrafts of our talented team.

All in all, it is great to be back keeping the history of CWA in our town, the town that Mrs. Grace Monroe lived in and was co-founder of the Country Women's Association in 1922.

Warialda Branch

During our recent monthly meeting, members started a 100 Club with full money raised to be sent to CWA Head Office, Sydney with the view to support the disaster appeal.

As well as this, all money takings from each Friday (during July) from the Op Shop Warialda will be included with these funds. This disaster appeal will be accessible for communities affected.

Please call in and buy a ticket and take a look about—the



shop is open Fridays and Saturdays.

Monthly meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month and new members are always welcome.

Members are planning a Spring garden area along the North fenceline—this area will be a beautiful spot for a cuppa and a chat.

And always remember, "Say Goodday to CWA" and be kind to each other.

Lanna Hockley, Publicity Officer

WARIALDA RC MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB FUN FLY

The Warialda RC Model Aircraft Club hosted a fun fly on the 3rd and 4th May which to my surprise drew pilots from all over, sporting some seriously spectacular models.

The models ranged from electric gliders to a vast array of .46 size aircraft, with a Pc9, a few Astro Hogs, scanners Giles ducted electric jets, up to turbine jets over 2 meters I would think, they were big.

There were plenty of electrics both fast and slow on show including two Tundra's doing the slowest combat ever seen and as low to the ground as possible with one-wheel loooooong touches, a crowd pleaser to say the least, these pilots were flying them like they hated them.

Then came the IMAC boys putting on a show with hovering rollers etc, with over 2-meter models, I do believe they were trying to twist their planes inside out, they were again as good as any I have seen on YouTube, doing things they shouldn't.

One big thing I noticed was the number of locals coming out to have a look, it was amazing they just never stopped. Across the board it was one of the most entertaining and spectacular laid-back weekends you could ever go to, all the guys were just in tune, great flying easy to talk to, lots of information given.

Barry Power and his crew run a very tidy event; it was non-stop flying all weekend. His team keep everyone fed and watered all weekend, the field was grassed and in pristine condition. The weather was perfect with no complaints at all. Barry arranged a Saturday night get together at the local for a great feed and comradery. If you want a laid-back fun weekend to talk model planes, this is the fun fly to go to, Barry hasn't set the date for next year, but I will be there.



Bulldog Pitts - Craig Laird



Lazer 230Z with DA 150 - Chris Rutter



Tim Wellard with his Lazer 230exp with a DA 120 up front



Cub running a twin Saito - Tony/Adam Tjavarnius



ACRES Speedway Racing News

by Rick Turner

The Speedway season is over for the 2024/25 year and the Acres Speedway Team is facing some changes.

Damien has now turned 17 and is no longer a Junior. With him living in Newcastle, the car being based in Wialda, Crew Chief, Rick in Townsville and the logistics of getting to and from race meetings, he has chosen to end his racing career. It's a very sad decision and the Team was faced with the dilemma, do we continue with just Brooklyn racing or call it quits altogether? Brooklyn made the decision quite easy after her performance in Tamworth on May 31st.

Brooklyn races in the RSA Fast Fours division and had an absolutely fabulous night's racing at Oakburn Park Speedway. Whilst not placing in any of her four races, her commitment to the racing and the way she drove convinced me that we should continue for her sake.

Meanwhile, we've had a fairly busy schedule since our last report in *The Gwydir News*.

On April 5th, we ventured to the Lockyer Valley Speedway at Gatton where Damien raced in the SSA Junior Top Stars' events. This is his favourite track and the racing was tremendous. He scored a third, fourth and a fifth in the heats and finished the night off on the podium with a third spot in the Feature race.

It was a drama-filled night however, with the Mirage developing a huge oil leak after the first race and it was touch and go whether we should continue racing or retire for the night. As crew chief, I made the decision to keep the oil level topped up before each race and hope it lasted. It did and the night was a success.

After a busy week fixing the engine's rear main oil seal, we were off on another long drive to Kingaroy for the Queensland SSA Junior Sedan Championship. There were 41 drivers nominated from as far afield as Victoria and the NT. Unfortunately, after the first round of heats, the rain came and never let up and the rest of the meeting had to be abandoned. The Title event had already been rescheduled after a December rain-off and there will now be no Title run for the 2024/25 season.

In Damien's heat, he started out of position 10 and finished 8th, just ahead of Narrabri's Benji Gordon.

On Good Friday we headed off to Grafton and Damien had a

great night's racing. His best placing on the night was a third in his third heat.

Then we were off up the road to Lismore for the Saturday and Sunday nights. Unfortunately, the track conditions were rough and not conducive to good racing and Damien was not at all comfortable. He struggled through the heats and withdrew before the end of the Final race.

Although he did not want to race on the Sunday night, I convinced him to at least make an appearance. He raced the two heats but baulked at the Feature. Rather than leave the car sitting in the pits, I offered the drive to Travis Dhu, one of the top local drivers. His own car had developed a problem and he was unable to drive it in the Feature, so he accepted my offer and raced our Mirage, starting from the rear. This was the first time we'd ever had an "outsider" drive the Acres' car.

Understandably, driving a strange car and not wanting to damage it he drove very cautiously. The end result would not have been what he is used to but at least he got to race the Feature and our car was on show instead of in the pits.

The next week, April 26th we were off to Narrabri and were all set up ready to race when the rain put an end to that idea. Another wasted trip.

On May 3rd, we raced at Tamworth's Oakburn Park Speedway. Damien drove very consistent all night on a perfectly-prepared track scoring a 5th, 4th and 5th in the heats and a 6th in the Final. The racing in the Juniors was tremendous, very fast and close and Damien had some great tussles with Newcastle driver, Ethan Everleigh and Narrabri's Bailey Jackson.

The Fast Fours too, put on a mighty show with 12 cars in each race and Brooklyn was right in the midst of the action throughout.

Our next race meet was on May 10th at Narrabri where the weather forecast was much more favourable than the fortnight before. Brooklyn competed at the Wialda Show with her horse, Jesse on the Saturday morning and then we were off to Narrabri for the night's racing. Damien was unable to make it. Brooklyn drove consistently through the three heats and was in contention for a placing in the Feature race until a flat front tyre put paid to her chances.

The final meeting of the season was at Tamworth on May 31st. Damien raced in the Junior All Stars for the very last

SPORT



Damien awaits his last ever Speedway race at Tamworth on May 31st.

time and as mentioned, for the last time ever. Also as mentioned, Brooklyn had a great night as we experimented with several adjustments on the car's handling. In heats two and three, she started out of position 10 and finished 4th in both. In the Feature race, she finished 5th.

And now with the season over, we will refresh the car ready for the new season and our first race will probably be at Tamworth on October 25th.

Bingara Golf Report

June/July 2025

by John Gill

On Sunday 22nd June 2025, Bingara mens golf played the Scutt Cup—an 18-hole stroke event now in its eighty-second year with 14 golfers taking part on the day. Bingara Golf wishes to thank Richard and Jenny Scutt for their continued support of the Scutt Cup.

Results

Winner	Mark McGowan - 60 nett
Runner Up	Ian Egan - 63 nett
Ball Competition	Tim Cox - 67 nett Richard Scutt - 68 nett Marshall Bond - 68 nett Tom Fullerton - 68 nett
Nearest to Pin	9/18 Tee - Ian Egan 7/16 Tee - Damien Galvin 4/13 Tee - Shane Thomson
Second Best Shot	6/15 Tee A Grade 0/18 Shane Thomson 11th Tee B Grade 19+ Marshall Bond
Jackpot Ball	2 balls Leigh Miller (did not play)

On Sunday 6th July 2025, Bingara mens golf played July Monthly Medal 18-hole stroke event with 18 golfers taking part on the day.

July Monthly Medal - Results

Winner	Garry Hincksman - 62 nett
Runner-Up	Cameron Maisey - 67 nett count back
Ball Competition	John Gill - 67 nett Robert Northcott - 68 nett Danny Capel - 69 nett
Nearest to Pin	7/16 Tee Merv Hall 9/18 Tee John Gill
Second Best Shot	6/15 Tee 0/18 A Grade Shane Thomson 11th Tee 19+ B Grade Dick Oakley
Jackpot Ball	4 balls Wayne Rampling (did not play)
Bradman Trophy	Mick Walton



Richard Scutt presents the Scutt Cup to Mark McGowan.

Winter at The Shed

an afternoon of art & words

Saturday July 19, 2-4pm

Peter Champion art exhibition

Diving Into Deep Water book launch by

Kristy Reading of ABC New England

Come for a free drink & nibble

10% of sales donated to Westpac Rescue Helicopter



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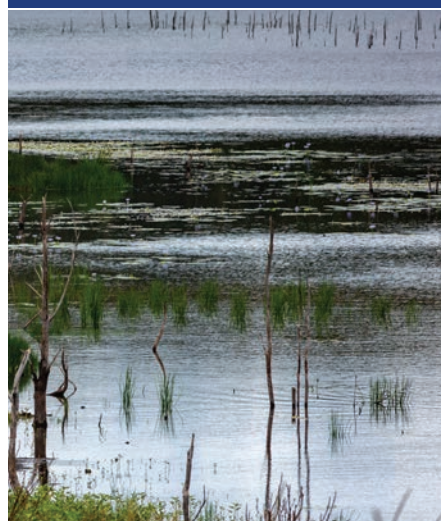
www.themakersshed.org



Copeton Dam Level

as at 13
July 2025

54%



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.**

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.



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

Next issue of The Gwydir News Thursday 21st August. **Book ads by Monday 11th August** at email: gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGACY



Bingara Legacy Street Stall

- Thursday 4 September
- Friday 5 September

Dying To Know day
8th August
www.dyingtoknowday.org

Death: it takes all of us.



The next meeting of the Gwydir Ark Biodiversity Group will be held on Tuesday 5th August starting 2pm at the Imperial Hotel. All welcome.

FEATURED BUSINESSES



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JULY 2025

Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th

Sunday 27th

RRR Trail Ride - North Star

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

AUGUST 2025

Saturday 2nd

Bingara RSL Sub-Branch Military Ball - 6:00pm to late - Bingara RSL Club - Featuring the Australian Army Band - \$70pp - Tickets available from the Bingara Information Centre or at www.trybooking.com

Tuesday 5th

Warialda MPS Outreach Clinic at Coolatai - 10:00am to 12:00pm - Coolatai Community Hall

Tuesday 5th

Gwydir Ark Biodiversity Group Meeting - 2:00pm - The Imperial Hotel, Bingara

Thursday 7th

Warialda Rotary Golf Day - 10:00am shotgun start - 18-hole two-person Ambrose - \$40pp includes morning tea and BBQ lunch - Call Curly on 0428 780 005 or Peter on 0447 007 221 to book a spot or a team

Thursday 7th

Trinket the Robot at The Roxy Theatre, Bingara - 11:00am - \$10pp - Tickets available at www.trybooking.com

Thursday 7th

Bridge, 500, Scrabble and Mahjong - Fundraiser for Naroo Hostel - for details contact 0428 291 902

Saturday 16th

Bingara Races

Saturday 16th

Rock City Rock performing - Bingara RSL - from 5:30pm

Tuesday 19th

Warialda MPS Outreach Clinic at Gravesend - 10:00am to 12:00pm - Gravesend RSL Club Hall

Saturday 23rd

Grazing on the Gwydir

Saturday 30th - Sunday 31st

Gravesend Campdraft

Sunday 31st

NWTC Film Club 'Some Like It Hot' - 4:00pm - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara - New members welcome

SEPTEMBER 2025

Thursday 4th - Friday 5th

Bingara Legacy Street Stall

Saturday 6th

Gwydir River Run Beach Volleyball - Ronald McDonald Fundraiser

Saturday 6th - Sunday 7th

Coolatai Campdraft

Saturday 13th

Warialda Honey Festival

Wednesday 17th

Cinderella, Spinderella at the Warialda Memorial Hall - Session 1 at 9:30am or Session 2 at 11:30am - \$5pp - Tickets available at www.trybooking.com

Friday 19th - Sunday 21st

Warialda Off Road 200

Tuesday 23rd

Waltzing The Wilarra at The Roxy Theatre, Bingara - 7:30pm - \$35pp - Tickets available at www.trybooking.com

Church Notices

ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Warialda Warialda Anglican Church, Warialda - Sundays 9.30am

Coolatai First Sunday month 3.00pm

Minister Steve Cimarosti can be contacted on (02) 6729 1501.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISHES WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Bingara Sundays 8.00am

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.