

September 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

Bingara's Historic Printing Press Finds New Home at the Museum



The 1.5-tonne Bingara Advocate press is now on display—with 'yesterday's news' still on its plate.

It happened in the dark just before sunrise with only five people to witness an event best described as 'the magic of history'. The 122-year old newspaper printer from the *Bingara Advocate* was moved to its new home at the town's best kept secret... the Museum. Thanks to the generosity of highly motivated newcomers Charmayne and Gary Jones, the 1.5 tonne printer was given to the Bingara community as a reminder of the way things were. A time when hard copy local news was king and before the Internet. Prior to its closure, the *Advocate* was known to be the longest operating local newspaper in Australia.

The task to move the press was "picked up" free of charge by lifelong resident Allan Billsborough. He remembers watching with fascination, the machine working when he

was in primary school. He expertly loaded and delivered the precious load, to the museum a block away. "It's a magnificent donation to the museum and a wonderful expression, by these generous citizens, of the importance of preserving history in this town," said Museum President Judi Peterson.

The Bingara District Historical Society would like to thank the Bingara Community Op Shop for their donation that went toward the construction costs of a new building to house the printing press.

Vice President Barry McWilliams negotiated the transfer and built the weatherproof exhibit for the press which is still in working condition. The plate of the last page dated November 1983 is still in place with 'yesterday's news'.

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Next issue: The **Gwydir News** will be published on Thursday 16th October. **Plan your advertising now**—booking and material deadline for the next issue is Monday 6th October. 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.

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.

Know the warnings for bushfires, floods and storms.



Get Ready NSW



From the Mayor

Spring has sprung... and what a great start to the season. We are going into Spring with lots of green feed, water in dams, beautiful days and lots of great events coming up throughout the Shire. We are all hoping that this season will be kind to us and for those with crops that they have a good harvest.

Over the last month the Council calendar has been very full.

On Friday 8 August, General Manager, Leeah Daley and I attended the NSW Country Mayors Association quarterly meeting which featured a forum on the theme—***Crime, Law and Order***.

NSW Police Minister, the Hon Mrs Yasmin Catley MP made a presentation about 'Operation Soteria' and how it is making impacts to date. This strategic initiative by NSW Police focusses on aggravated break, enter and steal offences, stealing motor vehicles and 'post and boast' offences where social media has been used to gain notoriety.

Inverell boy, and Acting Deputy Commissioner Brett Greentree, spoke about the concerns of members about the little to no police presence in many regional areas. He reassured those present that NSW Police continue to seek ways to deal with this issue and to use resources more effectively.

He also stated that he is hoping that the 'Doli Incapax' review will bring about change and tangible outcomes. Doli Incapax is a legal principle that presumes that children aged under 14 may not sufficiently understand the difference between right and wrong to be held criminally responsible. This presumption can be rebutted if the prosecution proves the child understood their actions were "seriously wrong".

Chief Magistrate of NSW, His Honour Judge Michael Allen's presentation explained that there are 109 Local Courts across NSW, and these are serviced by 48 magistrates. Going forward under a Country Service Policy which is to be implemented there will be no more 'Fly in Fly Out' Magistrate services and he further suggested that magistrates need to live in the 'bush' for a minimum of two years so that they can feel and understand these communities.

I hope that these reviews, strategies and policies will make positive changes within our communities and that each town and village will see reductions in youth crime and an increased police presence.

I attended a Cross Border Emergency Services Meeting in Inverell on Thursday 14 August, which involved discussions

on how Queensland and New South Wales emergency services can better work together to deal with emergencies, in particular flooding and fire events. The day saw community resilience planning which is about empowering local leaders to enhance preparedness and recovery efforts for border communities. Again, I really hope that this workshop and strategic planning make a difference when disaster strikes and that we can deal with such disasters together as effectively as possible.

On Tuesday 19 August, we had a visit from David Reynolds, Chief Executive of LGNSW (Local Government NSW) and Cr Phyllis Miller OAM, President of LGNSW to discuss the issues affecting our communities and ongoing advocacy priorities. This was part of their tour of Shires in our region.

Community Meetings

We have also had our annual Community Meetings in North Star, Croppa Creek, Bingara, Coolatai, Gravesend, Warialda and Upper Horton. It is always nice to get out into the towns and villages, to meet and discuss what is going well, and what the communities would like to see happen.

I B Bore Road

On the same day as the North Star Community Meeting the I B Bore Road was officially opened. This marks the completion of a significant infrastructure project that began in August 2022, spanning 21.5 kilometres. Following the initial construction phase, Moree Plains Shire Council engaged Gwydir Shire Council to deliver the final 2.2 kilometre stretch.

This project was jointly funded by the ***Fixing Country Roads Program*** (\$9.54m), and the Federal Government's ***Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program*** (\$2m).

Gwydir LGA Telecommunications Information Roadshow

Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 and 10 September, saw the Gwydir LGA Telecommunications Information Roadshow roll into Upper Horton, Bingara, Warialda, Gravesend, Croppa Creek and North Star.

Over 150 people attended these events. At each event presentations were made by representatives of Telstra, NBN, the Regional Tech Hub and the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman body.

Following the presentations and Q&A sessions residents were able to meet with these representatives and have their individual concerns and issues dealt with. Many residents gained positive outcomes from their one-on-one meetings which included compensation being paid to them.

Residents remain frustrated with mobile coverage across our Shire however the Roadshow was a brilliant initiative of Cr Michael Collins, as an employee of NSW Farmers. Thank you so much Cr Collins, your efforts and skill in coordinating the Roadshow are very much appreciated.

It will be through continuing to host and hold meetings, petitioning and similar initiatives to the Roadshow that we will achieve improved mobile coverage throughout the whole of our Shire.

Health Alliance

Council's General Manager, Leeah Daley and I were invited to a meeting of Inverell's Health Alliance on Tuesday 19 August.

For many, many years, Gwydir Shire Council has supported and worked with local doctors, allied health providers, businesses and residents to provide the best of services.

It was interesting to attend this meeting and to hear what Inverell is undertaking and what they are achieving.

Sister City Relationship—Willoughby City Council and Gwydir Shire Council

Councillors Rachel Sherman, Scot Crispin, John Bishton, Council's General Manager, Leeah Daley and Chief Financial Officer, Helen Thomas and I travelled to Sydney the first weekend of September to celebrate 30 years of our sister city relationship with Willoughby City Council. Our relationship is rather unique and gets stronger each year. Councillors and staff from both Councils discussed resource sharing, cross training of staff and staff exchanges.



On the same weekend our Gwydir exchange students joined their Willoughby counterparts for an 'action packed' weekend of activities. I felt honoured and proud to watch these young adults mix. Some of their activities included the Harbour Bridge Climb, watching Parramatta Eels play the Newcastle Knights at CommBank Stadium, a visit to Taronga Zoo, a trip on the ferry to Manly, and marching in the Emerge Festival at The Spring Fair. I think for many of them the highlight of the weekend was lots of shopping at Chatswood Westfield, some of their suitcases were bursting at the seams.



Community Happenings

The annual Bingara Race Day was held on Saturday 16 August, unfortunately Racing NSW put a stop to the horses running, but in true country spirit, the community still turned out in force to support the day. The crowd had a great day which was a positive outcome for all the hard work that Jockey Club volunteers do. I feel that those making decisions from afar often do not see that events like ours are only made possible by a small group of volunteers. These race days do not just support the Jockey Club, they bring valuable income and energy to the whole community.

Grazing on the Gwydir was held the following weekend. People came from surrounding areas and campers joined with locals to sit and enjoy a family afternoon while listening to local artists perform. It was great to see so much talent... Home Grown made a special comeback on the day, along with Tony and Helen Cornish, Natalie Baker and Hayley Reynolds.

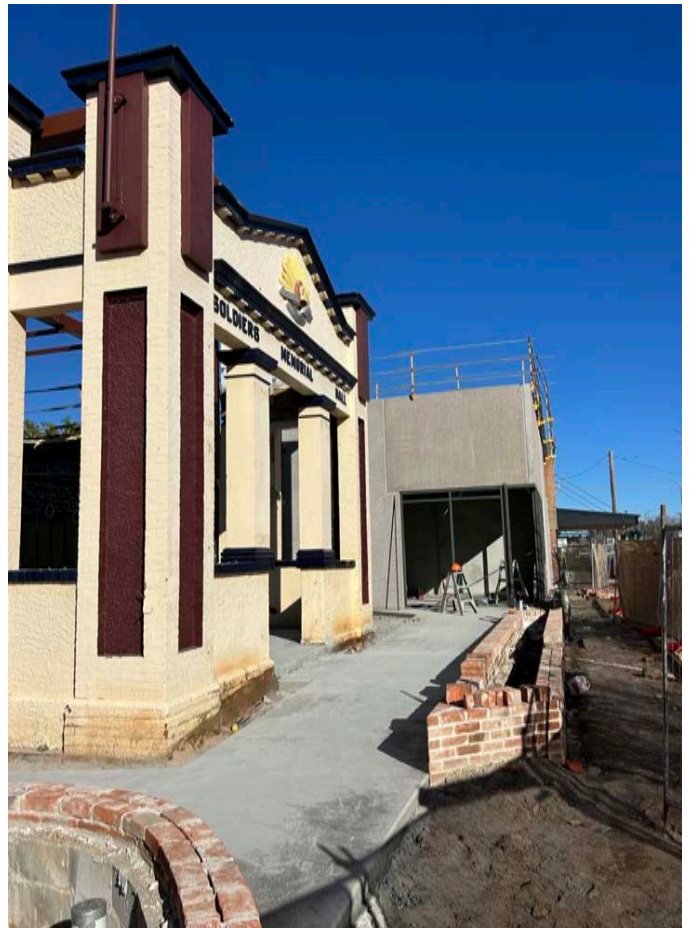
Then we had the Gravesend Campdraft on Saturday and Sunday, 30 and 31 August. The Gravesend Recreation Ground is another fantastic example of how hard volunteers work. The grounds have seen a great deal of development with the latest upgrade being the installation of a white picket fence. The fencing costs were covered by community funding and volunteers erected the fence. Other works on the grounds which have been externally funded and completed by volunteers include a large shade structure and landscaping.

Coolatai Campdraft was held on Saturday and Sunday, 6 and 7 September. I have received so many great reports about the weekend and it has been fantastic to hear how well everything went. A big thank you goes to the hardworking committee for their efforts in organising and running the event so smoothly—your dedication truly paid off.

There were lots of high scores across the board at both the Gravesend and Coolatai Campdrafts, showcasing some impressive local talent, with many Gwydir residents having collected ribbons at each event. It is wonderful to see strong support from the many local sponsors who helped make both of these events possible.

As I write this so much preparation is going into our annual Honey Festival. This year it is very exciting to have it back in Hope Street with a record number of stalls and the opening of our new Warialda Town Square.

- installation of external cladding;
- pouring of concrete to entry arbor and Visitor Information Centre entry;
- installation of external glazing, framing and glazed panels;
- installation of electrical, lighting, data, AV and security ruffins; and
- completion of plumbing ruffin.



Council Project Updates

Bingara Administration Centre

The Bingara Administration Centre site continues to be a hive of activity, with many trades onsite.

Works completed or in progress include:

- installation of wall framing;
- installation of mechanical ventilation duct work and indoor units;
- installation of metal roof cladding;

The Living Classroom Wellness and Interpretive Centre

Wellness and Interpretive Centre works continue to progress well with the following being completed at the end of August:

- floor coverings;
- cabinetry; and
- concrete paths.

The project is on target to be completed by 30 September 2025.



Hostel. This session also featured a reading of Hickory Dickory Dash by Tony Wilson and Laura Wood.



Book Week 2025 at our Libraries

During Book Week, staff and patrons enjoyed a variety of activities and themed events which included *After School Program* participants spending time enjoying their favourite adventure-themed books, followed by a series of interactive activities designed to foster creativity and their love of reading.

They also engaged in a meaningful letter-writing activity, connecting with their pen pals at Naroo Frail Aged Care

Bingara and Warialda Day Care Services

Bingara Day Care Service continues to be full, with a waiting list. There are still places available at the Warialda service.

Going to day care is a very enriching experience. During August, the children engaged in various forms of play that supported their imagination and creativity. Activities included the use of magnetic tiles, peg boards, the ball pit, and Mobilo, which encouraged open-ended construction and problem-solving. They also interacted with a large wooden farmyard with animals, and sensory play experiences were introduced using Cheerios, Weet-Bix, tractors and diggers.

There are group sessions with play group which incorporates musical instruments, singing, colour flashcards, books, dramatic play and role sharing.

Special days are also acknowledged and celebrated. During August the following occurred:

Jeans 4 Genes Day

To support Jeans for Genes Day, children participated in a creative collage activity using pieces of old denim to make their own jeans on paper. This hands-on craft encouraged creativity, fine motor skills and individual expression. Children were also invited to wear jeans on the day to show their support for the cause, helping to build awareness and a sense of community involvement.

Pyjama Week

To acknowledge and celebrate this significant event Pyjama Week continued into August. Children read bedtime-themed books, including "Bears in Bed", "Let me sleep Sheep" and "Pyjama Time". These stories supported language development and provided a familiar, comforting context for group discussions about bedtime routines.

Children were encouraged to wear their pyjamas to the service, fostering a sense of belonging and community. To extend on this experience, a creative art activity was offered where children designed and created their own pyjamas using various craft materials. This supported their imagination, self-expression, and fine motor skills, while deepening the connection to the theme in a playful and meaningful way.

Dental Health Week

Children participated in teeth-cleaning activities using a large teeth model and giant toothbrush to learn proper brushing techniques. They also used a whiteboard teeth sheet to draw and "clean" teeth, supporting fine motor skills and reinforcing healthy habits. The experience was made fun and engaging with the song "Brush Your Teeth", helping children learn through music and movement.

Book Week

Book Week is always a fun and engaging time for the children. They had the opportunity to dress up as their favourite book characters and enjoyed group readings of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar", "Wombat Stew", and "We're Going on a Bear Hunt". To extend on these stories, educators created sensory trays linked to each book, using materials like coloured rice, wooden fruit, leaves, small insects, dirt and sticks. These hands-on experiences

supported story comprehension, sensory exploration and imaginative play.

Emergency Week

Emergency drills are held twice each term to help children understand the importance of emergency situations, including lockdowns and evacuations. These practices support children in becoming familiar with safety procedures, helping them remain calm and settled in the event of a real emergency.

To support this learning, educators read books such as "My First Emergency-In the Neighbourhood", "The Fire Engine", and "My First Emergency-On the Ferry". These stories helped explain emergency concepts in a child-friendly way, promoting awareness and reducing fear or anxiety around the topic.

Father's Day

The children created Father's Day gifts by painting wooden photo frames, which later included a photo of each child. These gifts were intended not only for dads but for any special person in the child's life, promoting inclusiveness and recognising the diversity of family structures.

To support this experience, educators read "My Dad Used to Be So Cool" and "Daddy, Tell Me a Story", sparking meaningful conversations about the important people in children's lives. This activity supported creativity, fine motor development and emotional expression.



Get BUSY Roadshow

I was excited to attend the recent Get BUSY Roadshow presented by BUSY At Work Apprenticeship Support Network at Warialda Town Square. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with representatives Toby and Jocelyn from BUSY At Work, who took the time to engage with our local trainees and apprentices and share valuable insights into apprenticeship pathways. The majority of Gwydir Shire Council's trainees and apprentices were in attendance and thoroughly enjoyed the experience — including receiving some great branded merchandise as a memento. This event was yet another example of Gwydir Shire Council striving to be the recognised leader in Local Government through continuous learning and sustainability.

Until next time...

Living the Gwydir Good Life
Cr Tiffany Galvin, Mayor



From the General Manager

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) – Dream it. Share it. Shape it.

We are inviting you to help shape the future of our Shire by contributing your ideas and feedback to the Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

So why does this Plan matter?

The CSP is the cornerstone of long-term planning for Gwydir Shire Council. It sets out a shared vision for the future of our Shire (over the next 10 years), shaped by the values, priorities and aspirations of our community.

At its heart, the CSP reflects what matters most to the people who live, work, and invest in Gwydir. It is built on the principles of access, equity, participation and rights.

This plan belongs to you—the community. It guides how Council, alongside its State and Federal partners, work to deliver outcomes that matter most to our area.

Whether you are passionate about local infrastructure, environmental

sustainability, community wellbeing or economic development—your voice matters. We want to hear what you love about living here, what challenges you see and what opportunities you believe we should pursue.

How It All Fits Together

The CSP is part of a broader planning framework that ensures Council's decisions and actions are aligned, transparent and accountable:

- **Delivery Program (4 years)**

This Program outlines how Council will deliver on the goals of the CSP, turning community priorities into real outcomes. It aligns with the four-year term of the elected Council.

- **Operational Plan (1 year)**

This is a detailed annual plan that includes budgets, services, and projects to be delivered each year. Council provides regular updates to the community through its quarterly and annual reports with each showing how we are tracking against the year's objectives.

How to Get Involved

- Scan the QR code on posters around Gwydir Shire and in this publication.
- Email us directly with your ideas or feedback: mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au



**DREAM IT.
SHARE IT. SHAPE IT.**

It's time to imagine the future of our community - and we need your voice to help guide the way. Whether it's a bold new idea, a small improvement, or a big-picture vision, your input will help shape our next Community Strategic Plan.

Tell us what matters most to you - for your family, your farm, your street, your town.

Big dreams start with small conversations. Let's start one today.

CONTACT US

- ✉ mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au
- ☎ 02 6724 2000
- 🌐 www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au



Digital Suggestion Box



- Look out for our suggestion boxes in key businesses across our towns and villages.

The CSP is not just a Council document—it is a Community Plan. Together, we can ensure Gwydir Shire continues to be a place of innovation, opportunity and resilience.

Impact of Recent Land Revaluations

Council acknowledges the significant rate increases experienced in some areas across the Shire following recent land revaluations. It is important to note that Council has no input into the valuations, which are set by the Valuer General. However, we are actively advocating to the Valuer General regarding the impact of these increased land values.

While we cannot guarantee a specific outcome, we remain committed to representing the interests of our community. The residents of Warialda Rail and Gravesend villages have seen the most change in their rates calculations. Letters have been sent to residents of these communities, outlining the reasons for the change and the action that Council is taking.

In response to these changes, Council will undertake a comprehensive rate modelling process throughout the remainder of this year. This process aims to achieve a more equitable distribution of rates across the Shire.

We recognise that some ratepayers may be experiencing financial hardship. If you are affected, we encourage you to contact Council to discuss available options. Council can assist by arranging a payment plan tailored to your circumstances.

Roads Update

Council's Engineering Team has commenced a great initiative whereby they will post fortnightly updates on Council's Facebook page as to their achievements and works programs. These updates are also available on Council's website.

Grading Works

Graders have been active on Agincourt, Munsies, Caroda and Gragin roads.

Slashing Operations

Slashers have cleared vegetation along Elcombe, North Star, Killarney Gap, Copeton Dam, Oregon, Mosquito Creek and Bundarra roads.

Bitumen Jetpatching Repairs

Jetpatchers have repaired surfaces on Wearnes, Mosquito Creek, Elcombe, Bingara, Copeton Dam, Bundarra, Killarney Gap, Narrabri, North Star, Warialda roads and Herbert and Riddell streets.

Water and Sewer Maintenance

Over the month of August, crews completed water and sewer main repairs, service line fixes, meter replacements and readings, sewer choke clearances, and equipment maintenance at the North Star Water Treatment Plant. Additional tasks included toilet upgrades, pool pump installation, and various public facility repairs. All works were completed to standard.

Warialda Truck Wash

The Warialda Truck Wash remains temporarily closed until 22 September 2025, while Council continues to work on a long-term solution with an external contractor to improve water treatment as the facility is seeing usage beyond its original scope.

Bingara Riverbank Project

The riverbank area continues to take shape with more turf to be laid by NSW Soil Conservation Services and native plantings to be undertaken by an external contractor.

The recreational area is being extended upstream with a flat informal pathway being formed with deposits of loam, turf and further native plantings.

In Closing

I encourage you to share your thoughts, ask questions and stay engaged. This is your community and your voice helps shape its future.

Warialda Service NSW

NEW OPENING HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday

9am - 12:30pm and 1:30pm - 4pm

Tuesday - Closed





Are you interested in upgrading or obtaining your Heavy Vehicle Drivers Licence?

GLR Training is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) owned and operated by Gwydir Shire Council, offering heavy vehicle training and assessment to anyone wishing to obtain or upgrade their Heavy Vehicle Drivers licence. If you are interested, then GLR Training offers the following nationally accredited training courses:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • TLILIC2014 – Licence to Drive a Light Rigid Vehicle | \$1,150 |
| • TLILIC2015 – Licence to Drive a Medium Rigid Vehicle | \$1,350 |
| • TLILIC2016 – Licence to Drive a Heavy Rigid Vehicle | \$1,700 |
| • TLILIC3017 – Licence to Drive a Heavy Combination Vehicle | \$1,900 |
| • TLILIC3018 – Licence to Drive a Multi Combination Vehicle | \$1,900 |
- (Learner must provide own Multi Combination vehicle)

GLR Training also offers access to AgSkilled 3.0 Funding

What is AgSkilled 3.0?

AgSkilled 3.0 is a \$5 million industry-led training strategy by the NSW Government to upskill and better prepare the agricultural workforce. Through vocational education and training, AgSkilled 3.0 is helping to equip farmers and regional communities with the skills needed to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving sector across the agricultural plant-growing and livestock industry sectors.



Who can apply for AgSkilled 3.0?

You must be Smart and Skilled eligible, which requires you to be:

- 15 years old or over
- no longer at school
- living or working in NSW

an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident, humanitarian visa holder or New Zealand citizen.

Currently working or seeking to work on-farm in the agricultural plant-growing and livestock industry sectors, or an employer in those sectors.

Contact GLR Training today!

gwydirtraining@gwydir.nsw.gov.au or 0476 786 017

RTO number 40724



GWYDIR
SHIRE COUNCIL



Get Busy Roadshow Inspires Council's Trainees and Apprentices

The Warialda Town Square was buzzing with activity on Thursday 11 September 2025, as the **Get BUSY Roadshow**, presented by the **BUSY At Work Apprenticeship Network Provider**, rolled into town. The event brought together Gwydir Shire Council's trainees and apprentices to share experiences about career development, skills training, and real-world opportunities in trades and vocational pathways.

The Get BUSY Roadshow is part of a larger statewide initiative by BUSY At Work to connect young Australians with meaningful pathways through apprenticeships, traineeships and workplace mentoring. With a mission to "Get BUSY, Stay BUSY," the roadshow aims to inspire and inform young people about the benefits of hands-on careers and the support available to them.

A key feature of the roadshow was the assistance provided to attendees in navigating the Apprenticeship Data Management System—a vital platform for managing training contracts and accessing entitlements. BUSY At Work representatives were on hand to help apprentices and trainees understand the system, update their details, and claim eligible government incentives, ensuring they are getting the most from their training experience. Council's trainees and apprentices had the opportunity to engage directly with BUSY At Work team members, Toby Fewre and Jocelyn St Clair, who provided guidance and answered questions throughout the event.

Adding a fun and memorable touch, participants were also issued with BUSY At Work branded merchandise including footballs, water bottles, stubby coolers, work socks and cooler bags, a small token that reflected the events spirit of

encouragement and support.

As the roadshow continues its journey across regional New South Wales, Warialda's successful event stands as a shining example of how collaboration between local government and training providers can empower the next generation of workers.

Gwydir Shire Council Mayor, Cr Tiffany Galvin, welcomed the Get BUSY initiative.

"We are proud to host the Get BUSY Roadshow here in the Gwydir Shire. Initiatives like this are incredibly valuable for our local communities, where access to career guidance and training support can sometimes be limited. By bringing these resources directly to our doorstep, BUSY At Work is helping to empower our young people, strengthen our workforce, and build a more resilient future for our region." Cr Galvin stated.



Brendan Moylan MP

Grant Opens Doors for Warialda Community

WEDNESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Warialda CWA is a vital part of the local community and Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan was proud to deliver funding from the *Community Building Partnership* program to the group's hall so members and the wider public can continue to use the facility.

Mr Moylan secured \$36,172 from the CBP program for the Warialda CWA so a wheelchair access point can be constructed at the hall.

"The Warialda CWA is a group of dedicated volunteers who play a key role in the community in bringing their members together to connect, fundraise, and assist however needed," Mr Moylan said.

"The CWA's hall is a central point for the entire town and outside visitors with other activities such as playgroup and community event all using it.

"At the moment access is difficult for people in a wheelchair and there is no adult change table in Warialda at all so having these at the hall will be a huge benefit for anyone within the town who wishes to use them.

"I am glad to be able to deliver this funding to the Warialda CWA for the whole community to benefit."

Warialda CWA president Libby Cotter said there's limited disabled facilities within the town and said the whole community has been supportive of the hugely beneficial project.

"The community would benefit as there are few disabled facilities in the town," she said.

"We are hoping that it will be used by the community and those visiting our rooms.

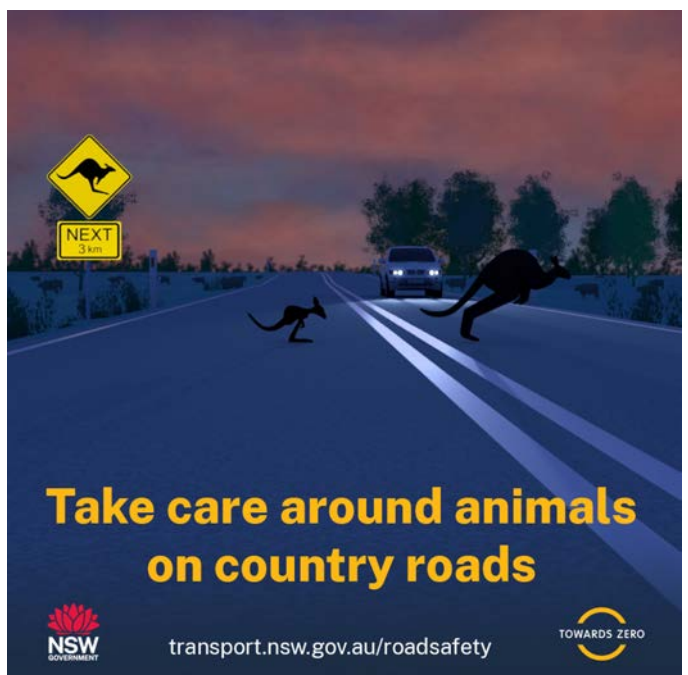
"We are very thankful for this grant as we would not be able to raise it in the future; we are an ageing group of women but some of us work at the rooms selling used clothing and other items. This keeps us busy, and our bills covered."



Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan delivered \$36,172 to the Warialda CWA to upgrade their hall.



The Warialda CWA Hall will soon be more accessible for disabled members of the community thanks to \$36,172 delivered by Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan.



Spring



Into Smarter Home Appliances

Spring has arrived in Australia—a time of fresh starts, decluttering, and getting our homes ready for the warmer months ahead. It's also the perfect season to take a closer look at the appliances we rely on every day.

From fridges working overtime to keep food fresh, to washing machines handling all those extra loads of sports gear and gardening clothes, our appliances are the silent workhorses of the household. A little care now can save you money and stress later.

Simple steps like cleaning filters in your air conditioners, checking seals on fridges, or running a maintenance cycle on your dishwasher can extend the life of your machines and keep them running efficiently. With energy costs rising, efficiency isn't just about convenience—it's about saving money too.

In future columns, I'll be sharing tips on how to choose the right appliance for your needs, how to get the best value, and how new technology (like smart appliances) is changing the way we run our homes.

Here's to a fresh season of smarter living!

Adam Stone
— *The Appliance Guy*



Public consultation of proposed revised access rules for water sharing plans

The NSW Government is committed to considering the needs of the environment, commercial water users, towns and the community.

Six inland NSW water sharing plans for unregulated rivers lapsed on 30 June 2025. As part of replacing 4 of these plans, the department is proposing revised cease-to-pump (CTP) access rules in 11 water sources across the Gwydir, Namoi and Peel, Macquarie/Wambuul Bogan and Lachlan unregulated plan areas.

You are invited to attend a face-to-face session (where available) or webinar where staff from the department will provide an update on the proposed changes to the revised access rules and answer your questions.

To find out more information, including how to make a submission, register and book a call please visit:
water.nsw.gov.au/cease-to-pump or email **water.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au**

Submissions close at 11.59 pm on Wednesday 8 October 2025.



LT0670

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



RFS



Learn more on fire safety



In the News

Moylan Concerned about New NRAR Legislation

Agriculture

Politics

Originally published by STA FM

by **Gerry** | September 11, 2025

<https://www.stafm.com.au/moylan-concerned-about-new-nrar-legislation/>

Northern Tablelands MP Brendan Moylan has slammed new legislation introduced by the NSW government in relation to the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) labeling it revenue raising, adding Premier Chris Minns is not a friend of regional NSW.

Speaking on STA FM yesterday, Mr Moylan says if this legislation is passed, it will allow the Regulator to retrospectively commence civil proceedings against farmers who may or may not have breached the water legislation, deliberately or by accident, therefore allowing the government to sue farmers.

Mr Moylan says the legislation is currently in the Upper House and is expected to reach the Lower House next week, adding it's a Bill that has had no media coverage and has the possibility of doing great harm to farming families.

He says this legislation is a slap in the face for regional NSW farming families.

In the News

Surveys Seeks Recommended Aged Care Facilities in the Region

Community

Business

Originally published by STA FM

by **Gerry** | September 9, 2025

<https://www.stafm.com.au/surveys-seeks-recommended-aged-care-facilities-in-the-region/>

Several aged care facilities have fared well following the latest quarterly report from the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

In an item in the *Daily Telegraph*, Bingara's Touriandi Lodge,

Sunhaven Hostel in Ashford, Roseneath Aged Care Centre in Glen Innes, and Warialda's Naroo Frail Aged Care Hostel were some of the 236 homes in NSW where 100% of residents surveyed said they would recommend their home 'always' or 'most of the time'.

Bundarra's Grace Munro Centre received an 88% approval but also received 12% non-recommendations while 77% of residents surveyed at Inverell's McLean Care would recommend the facility but 23% wouldn't.

The report also found that the number of complaints to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission had risen to 1,606 complaints between January and March this year up from 1,413 for the same period last year.

In the News

Food Sustainability Focus of CWA of NSW Awareness Week Campaign

Community

Environment

Originally published by STA FM

by **Gerry** | September 9, 2025

<https://www.stafm.com.au/food-sustainability-focus-of-cwa-of-nsw-awareness-week-campaign/>

In an affluent country like Australia, no-one should be going hungry, but the reality is that in 2025 it's estimated 1 in 3 households in NSW and the ACT do not have enough to eat. It's prompted the Country Women's Association of NSW to take action, using this year's annual Awareness Week campaign to highlight the issue of food insecurity and food waste, and encouraging strategies and policies to help combat the pervasive issue.

"It's just not good enough," said CWA of NSW President Tanya Jolly. "We are a rich and lucky country, so to know so many people do not have enough to eat, many of them in rural and regional communities, is heartbreaking.

"It's something all of us can do something about though, by changing the way we think about food, changing the way we shop, and learning ways to help reduce food waste and make our household budgets go further."

CWA of NSW Awareness Week ran from 7 to 13 September, with the focus on:

- Increasing public understanding of the benefits of seasonal eating, highlighting the health, economic, and environmental benefits to consumers and local producers;
- Highlighting ways to help household grocery budgets

go further—and help ease cost-of-living pressures—with strategies like consuming foods that are in season;

- Highlighting the amount of food currently wasted by Australian households each year, and ways to help reduce this waste, particularly through increased awareness and education; and
- Advocating for the introduction of a national Food Donation Tax Incentive.

“These food sustainability issues were really brought to the fore for the association at our State Conference, where there were two motions overwhelmingly endorsed by delegates, which encouraged us to pursue them as the basis for this year’s Awareness Week,” Mrs Jolly said.

The first was the tax incentive motion, and the other was that the association advocate for increasing public understanding of the benefits of seasonal eating, highlighting the health, economic, and environmental benefits to consumers and local producers.

This year’s campaign coincides with the current Federal Government call for submissions to its National Food Security Strategy discussion paper, aimed at reinforcing the resilience of the nation’s supply chains and enhancing productivity, innovation and economic growth. It’s also aiming to help address the issue of food insecurity within segments of the community, particularly low-income households and those in remote areas.

This year, the CWA of NSW campaign has two Ambassadors to help spread the message, with Orange-based food writer and seasonal eating advocate Sophie Hansen and CEO of Foodbank, Brianna Casey, both partnering with the CWA of NSW.

Sophie said she was excited to be partnering with the CWA of NSW on their food sustainability campaign, and that the association had a history of showing people the value in learning about preparing their own food, storing food and preserving food to keep it from becoming waste.

“Food is my passion, and sharing the joys of locally-grown produce and making the most of them when they’re in season is what I love to do. If more people start to think in this way, we start looking at what’s being grown around our communities, there’s more support for local producers and we start changing the way we think about food,” Sophie said.

“The result is good news for our weekly budget, good news for the environment and less food ends up in the bin at the end of the month. When so many people don’t have enough food, it’s terrible to think about how much we waste each year, so this campaign by the CWA of NSW couldn’t have come at a better time.”

Brianna Casey knows all too well the toll that food insecurity has on NSW households. As the CEO of Foodbank, the nation’s largest food relief charity, Brianna sees the impact every day and knows the value of building community awareness around reducing food waste, introducing incentives for people to do this and directing surplus food to

places where it’s really needed.

“This year’s CWA of NSW’s campaign really resonates with my organisation, with a lot of shared aims and objectives. The association’s call for a National Food Donation Tax Incentive is something we’ve been advocating for as well. Our figures show that if this was implemented today, it would save around an additional 100 million meals a year by 2030, making an immeasurable difference to our sustainability and the wellbeing of vulnerable Australians,” Brianna said.

“Food waste is a major issue. Australia generates more than 7.6 million tonnes of food waste each year—enough to fill the Melbourne Cricket Grounds nine times. It’s costing us \$36.6 billion despite 70% of it being perfectly edible. At the same time more than 640,000 households in NSW and the ACT experienced severe food insecurity in the last 12 months, and this is being felt more acutely in the regions with 36% of households compared to 28% in metropolitan centres.

“We view this as a real crisis and anything we can do to help raise awareness, change people’s thinking and get strategies in place that can make a difference, then we are behind it 100%.”

Throughout September, CWA of NSW branches around the state will be holding their own awareness-raising activities in their communities, and highlighting the importance of increased food sustainability.

“Food security and insecurity, food miles, food sustainability, paddock to plate—they’re all terms that we have come to know in recent years and which have sparked greater interest in, and awareness around where our food comes from, and how we can improve the ways we use it, source it and reduce waste,” Mrs Jolly said.

“This Awareness Week we really want to push these messages and continue to raise awareness of the issues the nation currently faces, and how strategies like a food donation tax can really help make a difference. By being more aware, we can be more conscious of how we shop and use our food, and all of that can contribute to ensuring more Australians can enjoy regular meals every day. In a country like ours that should be a right, and not a privilege.”



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

The Legacy of John McMaster, Warialda's Whipmaking Icon

For more than three decades, John McMaster has been synonymous with quality leatherwork—not just in Warialda, but across Australia and even overseas. His full-time career selling handcrafted whips and belts has earned him recognition far and wide, manned by a simple but powerful motto: “quality will always sell.”

With a reputation for excellence and commitment to his craft, John’s philosophy was always to improve with every piece.

“My attitude was to make my next whip better than the last one—always striving to make the perfect whip... but there is no such thing,” admits McMaster.

While many might have retired after a career like his, John for the past 20 years has been sharing his skills with students in Warialda, a role he still approaches with the same excitement and commitment as he did with his craft.

“I still get a huge thrill out of teaching; I’ve got no plans to hang up the belt just yet.

When John first started out, he had no mentor, it was just trial, error, and persistence. Today, his students are far more fortunate, benefitting from decades of experience and craftsmanship.

“Back then, no one handed down advice. Now, I make sure my students get everything I never had.”

Today, John runs his monthly whipmaking workshops in Warialda, with each session attracting between 8 to 10 students, with some travelling from as far as the Sunshine Coast, Kiama on the South Coast, country Victoria, and everywhere in between. The demand, built entirely by word of mouth, is a testament to his passion and quality.

The courses range from flat plaiting (used for belts and similar items) to round plaiting, starting with four strands and progressing up to twelve. Students leave not just with handcrafted leather goods, but with respect for an art that McMaster is keeping alive.

Among John’s proudest achievements is a 1st Prize at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney, awarded for one of his hand-crafted whips—a long time ago now, but still a career highlight.

As he continues to share his craft with future generations, John McMaster leaves us with a fitting quote from Michelangelo—one that he has embodied his whole life:

“Little things make up perfection. Perfection is no little thing.” – Michelangelo



Tree Planting, Science, and Community: Australian Koala Foundation Visits in Warialda This October

The Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) will be in the Gwydir Shire from 28–30 October, with AKF Chair Deborah Tabart OAM and the AKF team of scientists spending three days in Warialda. They will connect with the local community, share updates on the **Koala Kiss Project**, and meet supporters at the AKF Shop.

The highlight of the visit will be a community tree planting day on Wednesday 29 October, where residents are invited to join the team in helping restore vital koala habitat.

September is always a very special month for the AKF, as it marks Save the Koala Month—our biggest annual campaign. It's a time when communities world-wide are inspired to take action to protect koalas and their homes. The Warialda visit continues this momentum into October, offering a hands-on opportunity to make a real difference through tree planting, learning about koala science, and supporting conservation initiatives.

During their time in Warialda, the AKF team will also showcase their retail and online shops, giving the community a chance to see how these initiatives fund vital Koala conservation efforts. Excitingly, the Foundation has recently established a new warehouse, the Koala Quarter, near the Warialda Fire Station to store stock for the online shop. An open day is planned, inviting community members to tour the facility and explore ways they can help protect koalas on their own properties.



"We're looking forward to meeting as many community members as we can," said Deborah Tabart OAM —Chair AKF. "This is a wonderful chance for everyone to get involved and see how they can help protect koalas and their habitat."

More to come from the AKF next month!



For more information about the **Koala Kiss Project**, or Save the Koala Month please visit savethekoala.com

"Action comes out of brilliant movies like *The Koalas*"
— Bob Brown AO

"You'll be charmed. You'll be dismayed. And then I bet you'll be as angry as hell!"
— Tim Winton AO

THE Koalas

A MOVIE ABOUT SURVIVAL

ROXY THEATRE BINGARA Friday 24th October 6:00pm
The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with the filmmakers Gregory Miller and Georgia Wallace-Crabbe with guest speakers Ecologist Wendy Hawes and Elizabeth Kakoschke WIRES carer.

FREE SCREENING and refreshments

The *Koalas* challenges viewers to become aware of wildlife, support wildlife carers and preserve native habitat in their local areas. It embraces a spirit of hope with insights from those on the frontline of wildlife rescue and ecology.

WIRES

The Social Media Ban Is Coming, Whether Families Like It Or Not: 5 Ways To Prepare Kids And Teens

On December 10, world-first legislation will ban Australian under-16s from certain social media platforms.

Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, X, Reddit and YouTube will all be off limits for children and teens.

It's still not clear exactly how the restrictions will be implemented. But the federal government says social media platforms must take "reasonable steps" to delete the accounts of minors before or on December 10 and stop them from creating new accounts through age verification software. Parents will not be able to give their consent to allow under-16s to use these platforms.

Not everyone's a fan

Unsurprisingly, there has been a fierce debate about the potential benefits and risks of this ban on young Australians. Regardless, the ban is here. Cutting back on screen time and social media will be challenging for many young people.

Research suggests social media allows young people to express themselves, develop their identity and seek social connection. In a society where two out five young Australians feel lonely, seeking out social support is crucial.

Equally, social media can be addictive and the "fear of missing out" can see young people engage more intensely on these platforms.

Here are five ways to prepare your child for the December 10 ban.

1. Don't wait until December 10

The sudden removal of social media could be a shock to young people. So start the conversation as early as possible with your child and work together to create a plan on how to manage the ban.

Talk to kids and teens about why the ban is being implemented and how it will affect both their friendships and their daily routines. This can help children feel informed, supported and importantly, heard.

Conversations could include gentle curiosity around the role of social media in their life, seeking their views on an impending ban, acknowledgement of the anxiety this might

cause, as well as online safety.

Revisiting the topic in a series of smaller chats might also be helpful.

2. Fade out social media

Gradually reducing your child's time on social media rather than suddenly stopping it will help them to adjust slowly and prevent feelings of withdrawal and frustration.

You could try reducing time spent on social media by a quarter each week and completely stop after one month. Families might opt to do this faster or slower.

By planning this approach together, your child can understand and accept it, making the removal of social media smoother and less stressful for the whole family.

3. Replace, rather than remove

Social media meets young people's needs to socially connect with others, develop their identity, and belong to a community. These needs will not disappear when the ban is introduced.

You could consider signing up to some other activities for regular social connection and a sense of belonging. These might include team sports, group hobbies, or volunteering. Consider creative pursuits such as art, music, or handicrafts so your child can express their identity.

4. Start offline connections

Normalise and encourage engagement within your communities that isn't reliant on social media.

In US psychologist Jonathan Haidt's divisive book, *The Anxious Generation*, he contends it is much harder to replace a child's screen time with play if they are the only one in their peer group not using screens and in the park.

The ban presents an opportunity for parents to encourage and support children to build supportive offline groups together, where children can regularly connect in person. These could be connected to existing friends or newly established groups of like-minded families.

These groups can stick to the social media ban together and use alternative means of communication such as by phone, text or email.

5. Do it yourself

Children and young people absorb the behaviours and attitudes that are modelled to them in the home.

So this means parents can help by managing their own screen time, prioritising face-to-face connections with friends and family, and setting aside regular time for hobbies and activities.

This reinforces the importance of balancing digital and offline experiences. Modelling these behaviours consistently will help your child feel supported in the upcoming ban.

Originally Published in *The Conversation*, August 20 2025

<https://theconversation.com/the-social-media-ban-is-coming-whether-families-like-it-or-not-5-ways-to-prepare-kids-and-teens-263346>

NRAR Warns Landholders To Watch For Unlicenced Bore Drillers

Property owners have been urged to verify the credentials of bore drilling contractors following reports that an unlicensed operator has allegedly been installing defective bores on some NSW farms.

The Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) is investigating several reports of possible illegal bore drilling in the Tamworth, Inverell and mid North Coast regions.

NRAR Manager Investigations, Tim O'Connell said engaging an unlicenced bore driller could cost landholders thousands of dollars and lost time if bores were incorrectly drilled and needed to be repaired or replaced.

"I urge anyone who thinks they might have engaged or been approached by a driller without the necessary credentials to contact NRAR to make a confidential report," Mr O'Connell said.

"They can do that by lodging a suspicious activity report on NRAR's website, or by calling our contact centre on 1800 633 362."

Mr O'Connell said landholders considering accessing groundwater must first obtain a water supply work approval from WaterNSW before any bore drilling takes place.

"They need to engage a driller holding a NSW driller's licence of the correct class to construct the bore.

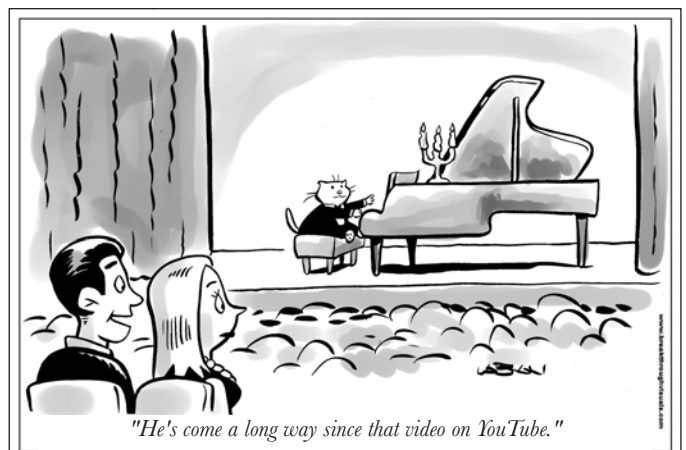
"And the driller must sight the landholder's current work approval before drilling a bore and must comply with any relevant conditions."

Mr O'Connell said poor drilling practices and poorly constructed bores could contribute to groundwater misuse, waste and damage by uncontrolled bore flow or contamination of aquifers.

"Being licenced to drill water bores is more than just paperwork. There are serious issues when drilling bores and unlicenced drillers may not have the knowledge or skills required to do this safely and properly and within the rules."

NRAR is responsible for enforcing rules around drilling licences under section 346 of the *Water Management Act*.

To make a confidential report of suspicious activity, call NRAR on 1800 633 362. To check a driller's licence, call WaterNSW on 1300 662 077.



Bingara's Country Music Festival to expand in 2026

After the great success of last year's event, the Bingara Returned Servicemen's Club has announced that its Country Music Festival will expand from four to five days in 2026.

Club Manager Vanessa Patch said the decision was made after recognising the growing popularity of the festival.

"They're already here on the Monday, so I thought, why not make the most of it," she said. "It's getting bigger and bigger every year. There's such a buzz around town when it's on — we're all knackered by the end of it, but it's fantastic."

The festival's reputation has now spread far beyond the region, with visitors planning their holidays around the event.

"Last year I got a call from Hawaii. They were planning a trip to Australia and wanted to make sure they could fit us into their itinerary. We've even had people call from overseas just to check our dates," Ms Patch said.

The festival also highlights the importance of community partnerships, with a wide range of local groups and businesses pitching in.

"I involve as many local groups as I can—the Lions Club, United Hospital Auxiliary, Westpac Rescue Helicopter

Service. The meat trays come from our local butcher, soft drinks from the IGA, and our local tradies keep everything running. Even our school bus drivers get in on the action, running buses for the festival," Ms Patch explained.

She added that the festival is about much more than music.

"It's not just about the music. Not everyone is a country music fan, but everyone enjoys the atmosphere and the boost it gives local business. That's the real reward. It's for everybody. It's something the whole town can be proud of."

With its extended program in 2026, the Country Music Festival is set to bring even more visitors, energy, and community spirit to Bingara.



ROSS COOPER OPTOMETRIST

Next visits to Warialda

- October 29
- November 26

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

Goondiwindi 07 4671 1550

Next visits to Bingara

- October 30
- November 27

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



CCNI Shines During Adult Learners' Week 2025

For more information about Adult Learning Australia, visit: <https://ala.asn.au>



CCNI CEO Melanie Squires and Senior Campus Coordinator Tania Archer congratulate winner of the Adult Learners' Week 2025 STAR Award, Steffi-Lee Frankland.

Community College Northern Inland (CCNI) is celebrating a week of outstanding achievements during Adult Learners' Week 2025, with students, staff, and campuses recognised at regional and national levels.

Adult Learners' Week is an annual celebration highlighting the power of lifelong learning and its impact on individuals and communities. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the campaign—and for CCNI, it has been a milestone year.

Gunnedah student, Sharon Ziwach, was nominated by CCNI for one of five Adult Learners' Week scholarships valued at \$1,000. Sharon was selected as a finalist, a recognition of her commitment to study and future aspirations in nursing.

Inverell's Darren Finn was chosen as one of this year's Adult Learners' Week Ambassadors. Darren represented adult learners across the country, taking part in interviews and community appearances throughout the week. His story of resilience and achievement positioned him as a tremendous spokesperson for adult education.

Inverell student, Steffi-Lee Frankland, became the first recipient of the STAR Award, recognising her remarkable mentoring and support of fellow students in her Certificate III in Individual Support course. Steffi-Lee's story has been featured widely on media and stands as a shining example of the strength of adult learners.



Rounding off the week, CCNI's Inverell Campus was recognised nationally for hosting one of the Best Events for Adult Learners' Week 2025, winning a \$1,000 prize to further promote adult learning. The campus hosted a celebration event on September 1, which included a morning tea, inspirational talk given by Learning Ambassador Darren Finn, presentation of awards, and an inspiring group interview with some of CCNI's youngest learners who are finding new opportunities through adult education.

"These awards and recognitions reflect the incredible effort of our students, staff, and community," said CCNI CEO Melanie Squires. "We are proud of every learner who takes the step to continue their education, and these achievements showcase the life-changing impact of adult learning in regional NSW."

CCNI also acknowledged Adult Learning Australia, the national body responsible for coordinating Adult Learners' Week each year.

"We are very grateful to Adult Learning Australia for recognising the efforts of both our students and organisation," Ms Squires said. "Their support this year has truly lifted us up and helped shine a spotlight on the achievements of adult learners in our region."

Adult Learners' Week 2025 has been a moment of pride and celebration for CCNI—and a powerful reminder that it's never too late to learn.

About Adult Learning Australia

Adult Learning Australia (ALA) is Australia's national peak body for adult and community education. Each year, ALA coordinates Adult Learners' Week, a nationwide celebration of the power of learning at every age and stage of life.

ALA advocates for equitable access to lifelong learning, particularly for people in regional and rural communities, those returning to study after a break, and individuals who face barriers to education. Its work includes policy advocacy, research, professional development, and national campaigns that highlight the achievements of adult learners across the country.

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

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Bingara Centrelink Agency
Service NSW
Bingara Community College
Bingara IGA Plus Liquor
Bingara MPS
Bingara Post Office
Bingara Returned
Servicemen's Club
Bingara Sporting Club
Bingara Visitor Information Centre
Liberty Bingara Café
Shell Garage Bingara
Touriandi Lodge

Warialda

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

THE NEW BOY

"The New Boy" is the NWTC Film Club's offer for September

Set in 1940s rural Australia during World War II, "The New Boy" follows a young Aboriginal boy (played by Aswan Reid) who is forcibly taken from his homeland and placed in a remote monastery orphanage. The monastery is run by Sister Eileen (Cate Blanchett), a fiercely independent nun who has quietly assumed control after the death of the elderly monk in charge.

The boy arrives silent and wild, resisting assimilation into the Christian norms imposed on him. He struggles with the monastery's rigid expectations—refusing to wear clothes, speak English, or conform to religious teachings. Instead, he finds solace in mysterious spiritual rituals, including conjuring floating balls of light, which unsettle Sister Eileen and challenge the monastery's worldview.

Directed and shot by Warwick Thornton, the film is praised for its stunning cinematography. The rural landscapes reflect poetic beauty, with candlelit interiors and sweeping harvest scenes that feel timeless.

Cate Blanchett delivers a compelling portrayal of Sister Eileen—a complex figure torn between compassion and control. Her descent into wine-fuelled paranoia adds intensity occasionally overshadowing the boy's more poignant journey.

The film explores the painful clash between Indigenous spirituality and Christian dogma. It's a meditation on identity, colonialism, and the cost of forced assimilation, told through the eyes of a child who cannot articulate his trauma but expresses it through magic and silence.

The music was composed by Nick Cave and Warren Ellis. The score adds a melancholic, haunting layer to the film's emotional depth.

"The New Boy" is a powerful, atmospheric drama that blends mysticism with historical critique. While Cate Blanchett's star power draws attention, it's Aswan Reid's quiet, magnetic performance and Thornton's evocative direction that often leave the deepest impression on viewers.

The film will show at the Roxy Theatre in Bingara on Sunday September 28 at 4pm. New Film Club members are welcome to join us for the show and contribute to the 'after-show' supper and discussion.



INTRODUCING
**ASWAN
REID**

**DEBORAH
MAILMAN**

**WAYNE
BLAIR**

AND
**CATE
BLANCHETT**

A film by **WARWICK THORNTON**

THE NEW BOY

A ROADSHOW FILMS PRESENTATION

A DIRTY FILMS, SCARLETT PICTURES, SCREEN AUSTRALIA, FREMANTLE LONGBRIDGE NOMINEES, SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FILM CORPORATION AND SCREEN NSW PRODUCTION "THE NEW BOY" CINEMATOGRAPHY WARWICK THORNTON EDITED BY NICK MEYERS MUSIC BY NICK CAVE & WARREN ELLIS PRODUCTION DESIGN AMY BAKER CASTING BY ANOUSHA ZARKESH COSTUME DESIGN HEATHER WALLACE ART DIRECTION BY DANIEL WILLIS PRODUCED BY CATE BLANCHETT, LORENZO DE MAIO, GEORGIE PYM, KATH SHELPER, ANDREW UPTON WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY WARWICK THORNTON

FAITH IS ELECTRIFYING.



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
UN CERTAIN REGARD
OFFICIAL SELECTION

The North West Theatre Company Film Club presents
The New Boy
Sunday September 28th 2025 | 4:00pm | The Roxy Theatre

Workshops coming up across Barraba, Bingara and Wyallda 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

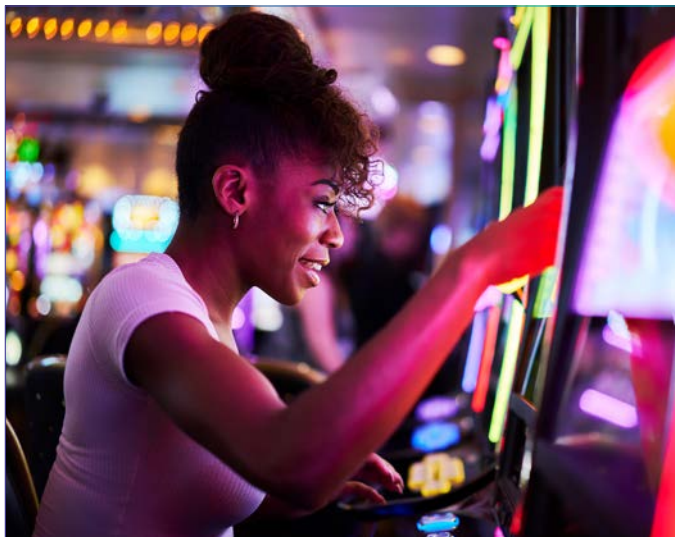
Bingara Campus  Thursday 9 October

Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG) ♦

SITHGAM022 Provide responsible gambling services

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

Bingara Campus  Friday 10 October



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  30 September - 2 October

- ♦ **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)



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  Wednesday 1 October

Forklift

Issuing Registered Training Organisation
Talented Training | RTO 45144

Forklift ♦

TLILIC0003 Licence to operate a forklift truck

2-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 8.30AM - 4.30PM \$880

Wyallda Campus  Tue 4 - Wed 5 November

- ♦ **Talented Training** - RTO ID No. 45144, will be delivering, assessing and issuing Statements of Attainment to students assessed as competent in the units per course requirements.

Apply online at www.ccninsw.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 | Tuesday 14 October | | |
| Barraba Campus | Monday 3 November | | |
| Bingara Campus | Thursday 27 November | | |

Provide CPR

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation



| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|------|---|
| ½-Day Face-to-Face Workshop | 9.00AM - 12PM | \$90 | F |
| Warialda Campus | Tuesday 14 October | | |
| Barraba Campus | Monday 3 November | | |
| Bingara Campus | Thursday 27 November | | |

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.



Community College Northern Inland Inc. | RTO 90027

For more information
call Toby on 0438 546 519

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 |
| Warialda Campus | Friday 3 October | | |
| Bingara Campus | Wednesday 12 November | | |

Food Safety Supervisor

SITXFSA005 Use hygienic practices for food safety

SITXFSA006 Participate in safe food handling practices

NSW RTO approval number 71063



| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------|---|
| 1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop | 9.00AM - 3.00PM | \$260 | F |
| Bingara Campus | Wed 12 Nov - Thur 13 Nov | | |

High Risk & Industry

Issuing Registered Training Organisation
Community College Northern Inland | RTO 90027

White Card

CPCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry



| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------|---|
| 1-Day In-Campus | 9.00AM - 4.30PM | \$190 | F |
| Bingara Campus | Thursday 20 November | | |

Work Safely at Heights

RIIWH204E Work safely at heights



| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------|---|
| 1-Day In-Campus | 9.00AM - 4.30PM | \$260 | F |
| Bingara Campus | Tuesday 11 November | | |

Confined Spaces

RIIWH202E Enter and work in confined spaces



| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------|---|
| 1-Day In-Campus | 9.00AM - 4.30PM | \$310 | F |
| Bingara Campus | Tuesday 2 December | | |

News from Warialda Public School



From the Principal

North West PSSA Athletics Success

Twenty of our students proudly represented Warialda Public School recently at the North West PSSA Athletics Carnival in Tamworth, competing across a range of events. All students showed outstanding sportsmanship, determination, and gave their absolute best on the day.



A huge congratulations to the following six students who have qualified for the NSW PSSA Championships in Sydney – an incredible achievement!

- Hugo Barwick (Jnr) – 100m
- Coen Cooney – 100m
- Hugo Barwick (Snr) – 100m, 200m High Jump and Discus
- Harley Cowell, Hugo Barwick (Snr), Stanley Valdal and Nate Cleal – 100m Senior Boys Relay.

WPS Busy Bee Program

Our Kindergarten Transition program has been off to a fantastic start! It's been wonderful to see our 2026 Kindy students settling in and absolutely loving their time at 'big school'.

We're looking forward to welcoming them back for our next transition session on Friday 19th September, from 9–11am. We can't wait for another morning of smiles, discovery, and connection here at WPS!



Premier's Debating Challenge

Our two talented debating teams competed against each other in the last round of the Premier's Debating Challenge for 2025. The topic for debate was: *That primary schools should organise compulsory games and sports for all kids during the lunch break.*

Both teams produced outstanding arguments, and the winner was awarded to the WPS Warriors. Both teams have improved throughout the year and they should be very proud of themselves!



3C visit Naroo

Our students in 3C had the wonderful opportunity to visit the residents at Naroo, where they spread joy by making Father's Day cards, singing songs, and even enjoying a fun game of 'flicking the lid.'

It was a heartwarming experience for both the students and residents, filled with smiles, laughter, and meaningful connections. We're excited to be visiting Naroo again very soon!



Thank You From The Thompson Family

Our parents, John and Doreen Thompson lived in Bingara for 22 years. Dad was determined he would never leave Bingara and got his wish while Mum relocated to Springwood NSW, closer to family, in December 2024. Dad passed away on June 26, 2024 and Mum sadly followed all too soon on June 6, 2025.

We share a photo of Mum and Dad with Pip, their 'gorgeous girl' at home in their garden on their 60th wedding anniversary in 2018. Also, a poem that Mum wrote soon after their move to Bingara in 2002. The name for the poem came from learning, when talking with a Bingara local, that those who are not born in Bingara are referred to as 'blow-ins'. Thank you 'beautiful Bingara' from their five daughters and extended family for the community spirit our parents enjoyed during their 22 years living in Bingara.



The 'Blow Ins'

We've found a place, a special place to finally call our home

It's peaceful, quiet and friendly, indeed a special place

We've raised a family, a fine one at that

Travelled some miles and seen many places but this by far is the very best for us to have as our home base

We have called it 'JAND'S PLACE'.

Birds are a plenty, sunsets are many, this is truly a special place

Family is growing as families do

We grow older as we all do

Children visit and do all agree that all is fine in this special place called Bingara.

Copeton Dam Level

as at
14 September 2025

81%



Rural
Road Safety
Month
September 2025



IT'S TIME TO STEP UP
Every time you use the road, you hold lives in your hands.

RSF Australian Road Safety Foundation

Get Your Backside Trackside at the Warialda 200!

by Toby Cooper

We are just days away from one of the most anticipated events on the regional sporting calendar—the *Hunter Rivmasta Warialda Offroad 200*. Set to take place over the 20th and 21st of September at the iconic 'Monomeeth' track, the weekend will once again draw competitors and motorsport fans from across New South Wales and Queensland.

With around 65 competitors entered for battle, the Warialda Motorsports Club are thrilled to be hosting one of the strongest fields in recent years, with the action starting from 8:30am both Saturday and Sunday spectators can look forward to two full days of racing.

Locals can expect to see their very own Mike Mitchell, Bill Basham, Justin Brown, John Batchelor and Zack Smith-Connelly on track this year as they chase hometown glory!

Mark your calendars now, September 20th and 21st, and don't miss your chance to be part of the Warialda 200 action. Full canteen and spectator facilities available, with entry just \$10 per car a day. For more information and event updates, follow **Warialda Motorsports Club Inc** on Facebook.



Warialda Wombats Claim Group 19 Reserve Grade Title

by Toby Cooper

The Warialda Wombats have been crowned Group 19 Reserve Grade Champions after a hard-fought 32-26 victory over the Moree Boomerangs in the Grand Final at Varley Oval on Sunday, 31st of August. The Wombats, who finished the season undefeated, held strong against a late Boomerangs surge to secure the title.

Warialda led 20-16 at halftime, and despite a determined comeback from Moree, the Wombats held their nerve to clinch a thrilling 6-point win, capping off a remarkable year for the team, who proved their dominance in the competition.

Two Wombat players were also celebrated at the presentation ceremony, with Jermayne McGrady awarded both Player of the Grand Final for his outstanding efforts on the day, and the Group 19 Best and Fairest Award for the season, whilst Hayden McGrady was presented with Most Tries of the Reserve Grade competition for 2025.

Unfortunately for the Wombat's A-Grade side, their Group 19 title defence ended in disappointment as they were defeated by Uralla 38-18 in the Minor Semi-Final on Saturday the 16th of August, bringing an early end to their season.

The Wombats' Reserve Grade triumph is a testament to the club's strength and a source of inspiration for the entire club going forward.



SPORT

Grand Final Heartbreak for Bingara's Intermediate League Tag Team

by Toby Cooper

Photos courtesy of Avril Nicolle

The Bingara Minor League Intermediate League Tag team have fallen agonisingly short in their Group 19 grand final held in Warialda on the 6th of September, narrowly going down to Guyra 16-10 in a thrilling contest.

Bingara came out firing with a quick try to open the scoring, which they followed up with a second shortly after, adding the conversion to take a strong 10-0 lead.

Just before half-time, Guyra mounted a comeback, crossing for two tries. While they missed the first conversion, they levelled the score with the second, sending both teams into the break locked at 10 all.

The second half proved to be an evenly matched battle, with both teams testing each other down the edges but unable to break the deadlock. In the closing minutes, Bingara mounted a gallant attacking push, driving hard down the left touchline before shifting the play across the field, only to be denied once again by Guyra's desperate defence.

With the siren already sounded, Guyra launched one final play, a well-placed kick out wide to the wing that resulted in a try in the corner. A pressure sideline conversion sealed the 16-10 victory for Guyra.

It was a heartbreaking finish for the Bingara girls in blue and yellow, but they can hold their heads high after a brave and determined performance.



Bingara Golf Report

by John Gill

August/September 2025

Dalton Cup

On Sunday 17th August 2025, Bingara men's golf played an 18-hole par event for the Dalton Cup with 20 golfers taking part on the day.

Results

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Winner | Ron Armstrong +1 |
| Runner-Up | Peter Houlahan square |
| Ball Competition | Mark McGowan - 1 David Brown - 2 Eric Ozols - 2 Luke McLachlan - 2 |
| Nearest to Pin | 7/16 Garry Hincksman 9/18 Shane Thomson |
| Second Best Shot | 6/15 Tee A Grade 0/18 Ron Armstrong B Grade 19+ Laurie Mensforth |

September Monthly Medal

On Sunday 7th September 2025, Bingara men's golf played an 18-hole stroke event for the September Monthly Medal with 18 golfers taking part on the day.

Results

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Winner | Ron Armstrong - 65 nett |
| Runner-Up | Peter Smith - 66 nett |
| Ball Competition | Laurie Mensforth - 67 nett Jayden Booth - 67 nett Peter Houlahan - 69 nett Richard Scutt - 69 nett |
| Nearest to Pin | 7/16 Richard Scutt 9/18 Brad Craddock |
| Second Best Shot | 6/15 Tee A Grade 0/18 Brad Craddock B Grade 19+ No winner |
| Jackpot Ball | David Brown one ball did not play - thanks for looking after the 19th hole |
| Bradman Trophy | Vincent McTaggart |



Golf President, Garry Hincksman presenting the Dalton Cup to Ron Armstrong.



Educate your children
about fire safety.

fire.nsw.gov.au/education



Tim O'Keeffe Claims 2025 Corteva Warialda Golf Championships

by Toby Cooper

The 2025 Corteva-sponsored Warialda Golf Championships concluded in spectacular fashion on Sunday the 24th of August with close finishes across all grades.

After the first three rounds, just three shots separated the entire A-grade field, setting the stage for a dramatic final round. In B-grade, the top two contenders were within four shots of each other, while the two leading players in C-grade were tied going into the final 18 holes.

The 72-hole competition reached its peak during Sunday's final round, with Tim O'Keeffe emerging as the 2025 A-grade and Club Champion. O'Keeffe, who carded an equal low round of 75 for the championships, clinched victory over eventual runner-up Justin Moxey.

In B-grade, the ever-consistent Rod Ireland claimed a three-shot victory over Sam Dight. Rod's outstanding nett score earned him both the prestigious Les Finn Memorial Trophy for the best nett score, and the best veteran's score of the championships.

In C-grade, the drama continued as Josh Layton and Jim Lucas began the final round tied for the lead. After the final 18 holes, it was Layton who emerged victorious, finishing three shots ahead of Lucas to claim the title.

Tommy Kilner held off Wade Turner for the best nett score in A-grade, likewise David Coulton over Lionel Cleal in B-grade, whilst Billy Reardon took home nett honours in the hotly contested C-grade from runner-up Craig Lockhart.

Sunday's final round not only marked the end of the 2025 championships but also incorporated the August Monthly Mug. Tim O'Keeffe added another accolade to his name by

winning the mug with a 67 nett. Matty Williams won the daily prize with a 68, while Rod Ireland edged out Sam

Dight on a count-back to finish as the runner-up.

Warialda & Bingara It's time for a Household Chemical CleanOut

You can drop off for free:



Garden chemicals



Household cleaners



Poisons



Pool chemicals



Motor oils, fluids and fuels



Vapes



Pharmaceuticals



Other household chemicals

Only household quantities accepted (20L or 20kg).

Your next local event:

🕒 **Saturday 27 September 2025**
8:30am – 11:30am

📍 **Warialda Landfill**
Rubbish Depot Road,
Warialda

🕒 **Saturday 27 September 2025**
1:30pm – 4:30pm

📍 **Bingara Landfill**
10018 Killarney Gap Road,
Bingara

🌐 www.cleanout.com.au



Brought to you by the NSW Environment
Protection Authority, NIRW and
your local council.



PUBLIC NOTICES

NEVER BIN A BATTERY



Just one battery can spark a fire



Find a safe battery drop-off near you



battery epa



Proudly funded by the NSW Government.



Fourteen people enjoyed a free, guided visit to the Gwydir Wetlands outside Moree on Thursday September 4.

If this sounds like something you'd enjoy, then come along to our next meeting!

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 7th October at the Imperial Hotel, Bingara at 2pm. Come to see what's doing!

All 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 23rd October. **Book ads by Monday 13th October** at email: gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au

PUBLIC NOTICES



BINGARA DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Bingara District Historical Society next monthly meeting will be held on
Friday 19th September
starting at 10.30am
at the Museum Complex
16 -20 Maitland Street, Bingara

BINGARA SENIOR CITIZENS

will hold our AGM at 10:00am on Thursday 2 October at our rooms at 52 Maitland Street, Bingara. We are keen to find new committee members and volunteers. Come a bit earlier and join us for a cuppa and cake!

After the AGM we will have a general meeting to get your ideas to make the most out of our meeting place.

All are welcome to drop in on Wednesday and Thursday mornings for a cuppa and chat or just to say hello!

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.

FEATURED BUSINESSES



CERAMIC BREAK SCULPTURE PARK

Open from
Thurs to Sun
10.00am to 5.00pm
and by appointment
Phone **0417 841 741**

kerry@cbreaksculpturepark.com.au
www.cbbreaksculpturepark.com.au

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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS™

What's on

SEPTEMBER 2025

Friday 19th - Sunday 21st

Tuesday 23rd

Warialda Off Road 200

The Living Classroom Community Nursery - Open Tuesdays from 8:00am to 11:00pm in summer; 9:00am to 12:00 noon in winter - Buy your plants at competitive prices

Tuesday 23rd

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

Saturday 27th

Warialda Community Warriors, Black and White Ball - Photographer from 5:30pm - BYO Drinks and snacks - 18+ event - \$50pp - Tickets available at www.trybooking.com

Sunday 28th

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

Monday 29th - Saturday 4th

Tuesday 30th

Gravesend Pony Camp

The Living Classroom Community Nursery - Open Tuesdays from 8:00am to 11:00pm in summer; 9:00am to 12:00 noon in winter - Buy your plants at competitive prices

OCTOBER 2025

Sunday 5th

Daylight Saving begins at 2am - Turn clocks one hour forward!

Tuesday 7th

The Living Classroom Community Nursery - Open Tuesdays from 8:00am to 11:00pm in summer; 9:00am to 12:00 noon in winter - Buy your plants at competitive prices

Tuesday 7th

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

Tuesday 14th

The Living Classroom Community Nursery - Open Tuesdays from 8:00am to 11:00pm in summer; 9:00am to 12:00 noon in winter - Buy your plants at competitive prices

Saturday 18th

The Roxy Table - An unforgettable evening of food and fun at The Roxy Theatre, brought to you by Northern Slopes Landcare Association - 6:30pm at the Roxy Theatre, Bingara - Three course culinary experience featuring local produce - Contact Kiara 0498 802 370

Tuesday 21st

The Living Classroom Community Nursery - Open Tuesdays from 8:00am to 11:00pm in summer; 9:00am to 12:00 noon in winter - Buy your plants at competitive prices

Tuesday 21st

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

Friday 24th

The Koalas: A Movie About Survival - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara 6:00pm to 8:30pm - Admission FREE - Book https://www.stickytickets.com.au/zkv3k/the_koalas_a_movie_about_survival/ buy-tickets

Sunday 26th

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

Tuesday 28th

The Living Classroom Community Nursery - Open Tuesdays from 8:00am to 11:00pm in summer; 9:00am to 12:00 noon in winter - Buy your plants at competitive prices

Church Notices

ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Minister Matt Stones can be contacted on (02) 6724 1668 or email office@bingaraanglican.org

Warialda Warialda Anglican Church, Warialda - Sundays 9.30am

Coolatai First Sunday month 3.00pm

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISHES WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Bingara Sundays 8.00am

Delungra Sundays 10.00am
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.