COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE GWYDIR SHIRE AND SURROUNDS

October 2025 Edition

gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au

### The Gwydir News is a freeto-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



Workshop: 0438 476 882

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### Buzzing with Success – Honey Festival Celebrates Community and the Warialda Town Square Opening



Top photo of the festival winning entry taken by Nicole Hughes during the 2025 Honey Festival.

The 2025 Honey Festival was a sweet success, drawing a great crowd to the heart of Warialda and marking a vibrant return to Hope Street. With the sun shining and the buzz of excitement in the air, locals and visitors alike flocked to enjoy a day packed with entertainment, market stalls, community spirit and celebration.

Attendees shared countless positive comments about how much they loved the new space and were thrilled to see the event return to its original home in the street.

"Bringing the event back to the heart of the town made a big difference to the atmosphere and really brought everyone together. It was wonderful to see the street buzzing with event goers," said event coordinator, Courtney Loosemore.

Stall holders reported a successful day of trading, with crowds keeping their stalls bustling from morning to afternoon. From sweet treats, handmade goods to beethemed merchandise, the atmosphere was one of celebration and community connection.

Entertainment was a hive of activity throughout the day. The beloved Beiber the Bee mascot made plenty of cheerful appearances, face painting was a hit with the kids and magic tricks kept everyone guessing. Performances by talented groups including the Warialda Preschool, Warialda Public School Dance and Choir, Physical Culture and Kurt Larkham's standout vocals

**Next issue**: The Gwydir News will be published on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Plan your advertising now—booking and material deadline for the next issue is Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November. 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.

NOVEMBER

COPY DUE DATE MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER

PUBLISH DATE THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER

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

<u>Text</u> | 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.

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Please outline your needs by email at gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au and we will respond with a quote.



were crowd favourites, drawing applause and big smiles from festival-goers of all ages.

This year, the Honey Festival featured a variety of competitions, with winners judged and announced on the day. Highlights included the Most Vibrant Window Display, Best Costume of the Honey Festival and a Colouring in Competition. Each category was sponsored by a local business or family.

Most Vibrant Window Display Sponsored by the Price

family

Winner: Warialda Newsagency

**Best Costume of the Honey Festival** – Sponsored by the

Warialda Newsagency Winner: Haizel Gregory

**Colouring in Competitions** – Sponsored by JA McGregor

Livestock and Property

4 Years and Under

Runner Up: Paisley Hodges Runner Up: Sienna Wilkinson

5 - 6 Years

Winner: Hugh Aitken Winner: Rocky White

7-8 Years

Runner Up: George Durkin Ru Winner: Harper Coote W

9 – 11 Years Runner Up: Conner South Winner: Poppie McClymont

12 Years and Over Runner Up: Iylah Power **Winner**: Phobe Warren

The Top Photo of the Festival – Sponsored by Gwydir Shire

Council

Winner: Nicole Hughes

"A heartfelt thank you to the Price family, Warialda Newsagency, JA McGregor Livestock and Property and Gwydir Shire Council for your generous sponsorship and support in bringing these events to life. Congratulations to all the competition recipients! What an incredible effort each and every one of you put into earning your award," said Courtney Loosemore.

The 2025 Fay Honour and Debbie Ford Busy Bee Award was posthumously awarded to the Late Alison Allen for her lifelong dedication to the Warialda community. Known for her quiet, tireless service, Alison volunteered extensively across organisations including the Anglican Parish Council, Country Women's Association, Warialda Historical Society, Carinda House, Driver Reviver and Meals on Wheels. Her legacy of humility, strength, and service is honoured through this award, accepted by her husband, Charles Allen.

The Honey Festival was proudly delivered by the dedicated Gwydir Shire Council staff, whose efforts ensured the day ran smoothly and was enjoyed by all.

This year's festival was made even more special with the official opening of the brand new Warialda Town Square.

This long-anticipated community space received glowing feedback throughout the day. The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Gwydir Shire Councillors and staff participated in the official opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Warialda Town Square, adding an extra layer of significance to the day. The Warialda Town Square's unveiling symbolised more than just a new public space—it marked a renewed sense of pride and place for the community. The project was all made possible thanks to the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program funded by the Australian Government who contributed a total of \$1,614,148 split across two phases.

"The Warialda Town Square came about from the community's wishes to create a central place for people to come together—to rest, chat and host events. The community also identified the need for visitors, especially those arriving in RVs, caravans and motor homes to have a space to park and access our town's shops, eateries and amenities," said Mayor Cr Tiffany Galvin.

The next exciting event to be held in the Warialda Town Square is the Warialda Christmas Carnival and Lighting of the Christmas Tree on Friday 5 December 2025. Back by popular demand, Will Clift and his band return to the stage with their high energy and incredible vocals that had everyone talking last year. If you missed them at last year's Warialda Christmas Carnival, now is your chance to see the band in action. Will Clift has collaborated with none other than Matt Corby, a true icon in the music world. Check Will out on Spotify for a taste, but nothing compares to the live experience. If you loved the vibe and venue of the Honey Festival, get ready to dive into the Warialda Christmas Carnival and enjoy an unforgettable celebration packed with festive fun all in the heart of Warialda.







## From the Mayor

Daylight savings has begun, and as always, it takes a little time for our body clocks to adjust. Across the Shire, there is a buzz of activity farmers are gearing up for a busy harvest season and travellers are making the most of everything our area has to offer. Communities are also deep into planning their end of year events —

hard to believe we are already at that time of the year again.

At the time of writing this, I will be attending the quarterly Border Regional Organisation Council (BROC) meeting which Moree Plains Council is hosting. Deputy Mayor Sean Coleman, and I are attending to discuss issues affecting our region and to brainstorm with our neighbouring Councils on how they are dealing with similar matters in their areas.

#### **Bingara Administration Centre**

The office is really coming together. Completion is now expected in November. The Memorial Hall façade looks fantastic and has perfectly blended into the construction—it truly honours those who served our community.

Council staff have been working with community suggestions for the front garden, which should be finished by year's end.

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### **Caravan Parks**

Gwydir Shire Council boasts three caravan parks, North Star, Bingara and Warialda. All three are now leased to people who live locally.

The newest lessees are Jayne and Adrian Woods who are managing the Bingara Riverside Caravan Park. Jayne and Adrian are so excited to take on this challenge and have already made significant changes to the park. The park is now positively sparkling. We are getting so much positive feedback that they, and their staff are friendly, helpful and well organised.

#### **Gwydir Pools Update**

Both the Bingara and Warialda Pools officially opened on Friday 3 October 2025.

Council welcomes Grant Macey and Kim Barton, the new lessees of the Warialda Pool. Grant and Kim are looking forward to meeting everyone and keeping the pool in top

#### shape.

A familiar face has returned to run the Bingara Pool this season. Welcome back to Glenn Wade! Glenn's knowledge and experience will see the Bingara Pool run swimmingly.

In exciting news, both pools will again have free entry for all residents and ratepayers of Gwydir Shire.

**Gwydir Pools Opening Hours:** 

Daily: 11:00am – 6:00pm (closed Christmas Day)
During summer months there will be extended hours which will be 11:00am – 7:00pm.



Council welcomes Grant Macey and Kim Barton, the new lessees of the Warialda Pool.

### Government Essentials for Local Government Training

This month Inverell Shire Council invited Gwydir Shire Council to attend 'Government Essentials for Local Government' training which was held at Inverell Council's Administration Centre.

Cr Sarah Crump, Cr Scot Crispin, Cr Rachel Sherman, Cr John Bishton, and I attended.

This was a very productive and worthwhile two days of training.

The training covered key areas including 'The Role of the Council and Councillor', 'Leadership: The Councillor's Role', 'Introduction to Financial Statements' and 'Strategy and Rick: Issues for Councillors'.

### **Opening of Warialda Town Square**

On Saturday 13 September 2025, the Warialda Town Square was officially declared open.

The Town Square project came about from the community's wishes to create a central place for people to come together—to rest, chat and host events.





The community also identified the need for visitors especially those arriving in RVs, caravans and motor homes to have a space to park and access the shops, eateries and amenities in Warialda.

This project was made possible with thanks to the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program funded by the Australian Government who contributed a total of \$1,614,148 split across two phases.

My fellow Councillors and I were delighted to welcome the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP to the Opening, and we thank him for his support with the project.



Warialda Town Square official opening – L to R Cr Michael Collins, Cr John Bishton, Deputy Mayor Sean Coleman, Cr Rachel Sherman, Cr Adrian Willmot, Mayor Tiffany Galvin, The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Acting General Manager Leeah Daley.



Warialda Town Square entry.

#### **Warialda Honey Festival**

Following the official opening of the Warialda Town Square, the Honey Festival celebrations were in full swing. Attendees experienced the very best of what the Warialda community had to offer, and I was thrilled to be part of the festivities. It was fantastic to see such a strong turnout of stallholders supporting the event.

Performances by the Warialda Physical Culture Club, Warialda Preschool and Warialda Public School proved to be crowd favourites.

We were also fortunate to enjoy a live performance by Kurt Larkham, along with a range of exciting activities for the children. I would like to extend my thanks to Gwydir Shire Council staff involved in coordinating this special occasion.

It was truly exciting to see the festival mark the beginning of many future events to be held in the newly completed Warialda Town Square.

#### Communication

More and more I hear, "We didn't know" or "There is no communication".

The Councillors and I would love your ideas on how we can continue to improve communications with you.

Just so you know we have a *What's On* every month in the Gwydir News and this is published to Council's Facebook page fortnightly. There is also an electronic notice board in front of the Warialda Visitor Information Centre, and soon there will be one in front of the new Bingara Administration Building.

Going forward Council will also display the *What's On* poster in shop windows, clubs, pubs, libraries and medical centres, hopefully this helps.

I urge you to contact our media team with your events that are coming up.

#### **Bingara Library**

Author, Christine Sykes travelled to six branches of Central Northern Regional Libraries to talk about her books and life prior to becoming an accomplished author at the age of 70. The tour was to celebrate Central Northern Regional Libraries 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a regional library service.

Twenty-three people attended the presentation followed

Author Christine Sykes sharing her story with patrons at the Bingara Library





by a light luncheon and informal chat with Christine at the Bingara Library on 26 September 2025.

Christine initially felt at a loss when she retired but then she discovered a love of writing. It just goes to show it is never too late to try something new!

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### Regional Australia Bank (RAB) Community Partnership Presentation



Regional Australia Bank presentation to Bingara community

– The Hon Brendan Moylan MP, Mayor Tiffany Galvin and
Regional Australia Bank staff.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend the RAB Community Partnership in Bingara this past month. RAB kindly donated money to several Bingara and Warialda community groups.

Bingara received \$31,220.12 and Warialda received \$42,301.61. What an incredible initiative.

### **Community Happenings**

So many volunteers give so much time, energy and their money to community events and initiatives.

A classic example of how volunteers and community continually come together is the Hunter Rivmasta Warialda Off Road 200 which started in 1990! This year over 70 participants came together on Friday night in readiness for the event but unfortunately were unable to race due to the wet and wild weather. Even though the event did not occur this year the effort of the volunteers is something to be admired. It is also quite remarkable in this day and age that property owners make their land available for the event. Thank you to all involved.

During the school holidays there were so many local children who enjoyed going to Pony Camp. The kids have the absolute best time, and I am sure they are quite

oblivious to the amount of organisation, time, and effort volunteers give to ensure that they are safe and can get to create lifelong friendships and memories. Again, thank you so much to all involved.

Pink Ribbon Day is a fundraiser which is very close to my heart. Please support the day in Warialda by getting breakfast out the front of the newsagency on Friday 24 October 2025. All proceeds will go to breast cancer research.

#### **Disability Parking**

Three additional disability car parks have been constructed adjacent in Bingara at the request of the Gwydir Disability Access Committee.

The next stage is to create and mark additional disability car parks in Warialda. This work is subject to the availability of contractors. It is hoped that all will be completed within the next six months.

In Bingara you will also see bus parking—please be mindful in keeping this clear for the safety of our children getting on and off buses.

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







### From the General Manager

Warialda and Bingara Visitor Information Centres – Volunteers Needed

Are you passionate about our local area?

Would you like to welcome visitors and boast to them how great our Shire is?

Come along for morning tea at Warialda or Bingara Visitor Information Centre to learn more and get involved.

Bingara Visitor Information Centre – Friday 17 October at 10:30 am

Warialda Visitor Information Centre – Thursday 23 October at 10:30 am

### **Medical Services**

Council continues to support the Warialda Family Practice and Bingara Community Practice. While we are doing better than so many other communities, succession planning is a real challenge. Council has reached out to all NSW rural councils to form a lobby group which focusses on attracting GP graduates to our areas.

Last week, the Mayor and I met with Drs Gordon and Coote to hear their thoughts on what needs to change, specifically government policy. Did you know that only 10% or less of medical graduates go into General Practice? This needs to change to address the rural doctor shortage we are currently experiencing.

#### **County Boundary Road Construction**

After more than two years, the final section of County Boundary Road was sealed last week. Locals are thrilled, and I hear the Council team will miss their regular visits from the local koalas as they move on to the next job.

This project involved the construction and bitumen sealing of County Boundary Road from 16.38km to 28.61km north of Mosquito Creek Rd. This section was an unsealed 'missing link' section near Crooble from the Moree Plains Shire Boundary north to Croppa Moree Road intersection.

The project has a budget of \$12.18 million and was jointly funded by the Federal Government's Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) Program (\$9,746 million) with Council contributing \$2.44 million.

### Glacial Area, Killarney Gap Road, Bingara

Maintenance crews completed substantial upgrades to the access road leading to the Glacial Area. These works significantly improved accessibility for caravans,





including the construction of a large turning bay at the end of the road which allows for safer and easier manoeuvring.

In addition, three new caravan campsites were established, providing designated overnight parking facilities for visitors. The onsite toilet amenities have been fully renovated.

#### **Warialda Truck Wash**

The Warialda Truck Wash is currently open. Council has implemented a coagulant dosing system at the truck wash facility along with a clarifier system and the settling ponds. These measures are intended to assist with the increased usage the truck wash has seen beyond usage expected in the design phase.

### Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations

Gwydir Shire Council has recently installed three new Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers across Bingara and Warialda to support the growing demand for EV infrastructure.

Two chargers have been installed in Bingara—one located next to the Roxy Theatre on Cunningham Street, and another at Cunningham Park near the Bingara Swimming Pool. The third charger is in Warialda, situated in the Hall Street carpark behind the Warialda Soldiers Memorial Hall. These are Type 2 chargers, which typically take 2–3 hours to fully charge a vehicle.

The new infrastructure is expected to encourage EV drivers to stop in Bingara and Warialda, giving them the opportunity to visit local shops and food outlets in both towns. This project was partially funded through Round 2 of the NSW Government's EV Destination Charging Grants.

Prior to this installation, the lack of EV charging facilities in the region often led drivers to bypass Gwydir Shire when travelling through NSW.

### **Bingara Riverside Project**

Over the next two months preparations will commence so that native plants can be placed along the riverbank upstream from the new rock wall

Please note that the riverbank area is still closed to the public and remain so until the new turf is established, the plantings are completed and vehicular barriers are installed.

#### In closing

I encourage you to 'Dream It. Share It. Shape It'.

This is your community, and your voice helps shape its future. Get involved.

Transport for NSW

### Free workshop for parents and supervisors of learner drivers



### Helping learner drivers become safer drivers

The two-hour session will offer practical advice about:

- current driving rules and requirements for L and P platers
- how learners benefit from supervised on-road driving
- how you can help make learning to drive a safe and positive experience

5:30pm Tuesday 11 November 2025

The Living Classroom
1 Killarney Gap Road, Bingara

Refreshments will be provided

Call 0428 890 825 or email kmatthews@gwydir.nsw.gov.au for questions or to reserve your place



TOWARDS ZERO

Presented in partnership with the NSW Government





### Warialda Service NSW

### **NEW OPENING HOURS**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9am - 12:30pm and 1:30pm - 4pm Tuesday - Closed











Severe weather doesn't plan, but you can. Protect the people and property you value most by creating your household's emergency plan today. Visit www.ses.nsw.gov.au or scan the QR code to get started.





### Brendan Moylan MP

### Don't Miss a Beat: Defibrillator Grants Now Open

MONDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2025

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan is encouraging sporting clubs, and recreation facilities from across the region to apply for the *Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program*.

The program is aimed at providing a grant of up to \$3,000 for clubs and facilities across NSW to purchase Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

Mr Moylan said it is important sporting organisations are equipped to respond to life-threatening emergencies on and off-the-field.

"Whether you're playing footy at the park or cheering on the sidelines, cardiac arrest can affect anyone at any given time," Mr Moylan said.

"Having a defibrillator on-hand following cardiac arrest can be the difference between life and death.

"A person's chance of survival can double, or even triple, if a defibrillator is used in conjunction with CPR.

"I encourage clubs and organisations to apply for this funding because you never know when you made need a defibrillator."

The Local Sport Defibrillator Program 2025-26 is open to applicants within the bottom five socio-economic indexes for areas determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Eligible postcodes in the Northern Tablelands are: 2347, 2354, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2365, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2390, 2397, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2409, 2410, 2440, 2453, and 2833.

The Minns Labor Government has unfortunately omitted Armidale from the list of eligible postcodes.

For more information and to apply, visit www.sport.nsw.gov. au/grants/local-sport-defibrillator-grant-program#eligible-applicants

Applications are open until 1 December or until funding allocation is exhausted.



Sapphire City Gymnastics received funding to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator from the 2023-24 Local Sport Defibrillator program.

### Sporting Club Upgrades Given the Green Light

TUESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Bingara bowling greens will undergo an overhaul thanks to a grant from the *Community Building Partnership* program.

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan visited the Bingara Sporting Club to deliver the \$18,000 in funding which will see wheelchair access to the green improved, more seating and shade, and repairs to the green's ditch head.

Mr Moylan said the bowling green plays host to competitive and social bowls, and the facilities will now ensure everyone can participate.

"The Bingara Sporting Club is a hub for the whole community and is home to bowls, golf and tennis," he said.

"The sports facilities are maintained entirely by a dedicated group of volunteers who do a fantastic job in ensuring it remains a destination for the entire region.

"The funding from the *Community Building Partnership* program will make sure the club's disabled and elderly members can access the green and there will be somewhere for both spectators and bowls participants to sit.

"It is great to see improvements being made to clubs, like the Bingara Sporting Club, which are the fabric of the

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#### community."

Bingara Bowls Club secretary Don Mack was thankful for the funding and said it eases the financial pressure on the club in keeping the greens updated and maintained.

"Our bowling greens are regarded as the best greens in the northwest and proudly so," he said.

"However, the upkeep over time is very expensive. This funding will cement the upkeep of urgent maintenance required to keep the reputation and standard of our greens all bowlers in our club and north west expect."

Mr Mack said the Bingara Sporting Club's 200 members are proud of the standard of the bowling greens and now even more people will be able to use them.

"We have always encouraged our juniors, bare foot bowlers and other social groups to use our facilities that will

ultimately underpin the future of bowling in Bingara," he said.

We can now finish our shade restoration and upgrade our old heavy seating to a lighter and more user-friendly style seating.

"The funding not only benefits those involved directly within the Bingara community but also visiting clubs throughout the year involved in state competitions our club hosts, as well as travelling bowlers who have their bowls with them when travelling.

"It also means that we now cater for our disabled bowlers with our greens now accessible for their needs.

"We thank Brendan and the state government for securing this funding and believe we can spend it effectively and wisely."





### In the News Environment Politics Moylan: New England REZ Planning – A Dog's Breakfast

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry October 9, 2025

https://www.stafm.com.au/moylan-new-england-rezplanning-a-dogs-breakfast/

Northern Tablelands MP Brendan Moylan has labelled the whole planning process of the New England Renewable Energy Zone a complete dog's breakfast and a mess.

It follows EnergyCo's plan to re-route the transmission corridor from Bayswater Power Station at Muswellbrook to Walcha, with Mr Moylan saying this new route will now impact landowners through the Hunter, Upper Hunter, and New England who he says EnergyCo have failed to properly engage with.

Mr Moylan says this adopted route was subjected to a study 12 months ago, costing the government millions of dollars, and was determined to be not suitable and completely illogical.

He says questions need to be asked of EnergyCo.

### In the News Resealing to Commence on **Region's Highways** as Part of \$37.5M **Initiative**

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry October 2, 2025

OCTOBER 2025

https://www.stafm.com.au/resealing-to-commence-onregions-highways-as-part-of-37-5m-initiative/

Following meetings on Tuesday 30 September 2025 with Transport for NSW and the Ministers office, Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan is pleased several of the electorate's highways will be included in the NSW Government's 10-month spray sealing program.

The Northern Tablelands will share in \$37.5 million put towards more than 470 kilometres of regional roads to improve safety and longevity.

A protective layer of bitumen and aggregate waterproofing will be added to sections of the Gwydir, Carnarvon, Newell, New England and Bruxner Highways.

"The inclusion of Northern Tablelands roads in the spray sealing program is very welcome after a particularly wet winter and an increase in traffic following heavy rain on the coast earlier this year," Mr Moylan said.

"I have been working hard and knocking on doors for our region to get a look-in when it comes to road funding and improvements, so I am glad to see the NSW Government has listened and included our area in these upgrades.

"But there is always more to do.

"Our local council roads need funding and safety improvements, particularly with a bumper harvest season coming up and an increase of heavy vehicles using these connecting routes.

"I am committed to continue advocating for more resources to be directed to our region.

"Motorists in the Northern Tablelands deserve to be able drive on roads which are up to scratch so I will continue to put pressure on the state government to ensure we have safe and functional roads."

### In the News Community **Disability Networking Event in Inverell**

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry October 2, 2025

https://www.stafm.com.au/disability-networking-event-ininverell/

A new speed-networking event called Regional Pathways to Possibility will be held in Inverell on October 28 designed to showcase the wide range of disability supports and services available across Inverell and surrounding regions.

Service providers are encouraged to host a table, while people with disability, family members, carers, support coordinators and anyone interested in learning more about local services are invited to register as an attendee.

From 9.30am on October 28 the doors of The Inverell Club will open to attendees who will spend seven minutes at each table making meaningful connections with each host, before moving on to the next table.

Organisers hope this event will foster stronger partnerships



between service providers and the community — helping people with disability access the supports they need to thrive and live more independently.

In the spirit of giving back, all profits raised from the event will be donated between three local charities ensuring the benefits of this event extend further into the Inverell region.

Attendees who register will go in the draw to win a fabulous lucky door prize, while there will be prizes for the best dressed table and a business card draw.

Service providers interested in booking a table should contact Laini Kirkman at lainik@brighteraccess.com.au

Attendees can register to attend for free via the Eventbrite link here: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/1648899164789? aff=oddtdtcreator

# In the News Raising Awareness This Month about Breast Cancer

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry October 1, 2025

https://www.stafm.com.au/raising-awareness-this-month-about-breast-cancer/

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month with its aim to shine a light on the devastating impact breast cancer has on thousands of Australians each day.

Breast cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia, with 9 people losing their lives to the disease every day.

Every year over 21,000 people in Australia, including around 200 men, will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

The National Breast Cancer Foundation state that although the five-year survival rate has increased from 76% to 92%, and rising, since 1994 thanks to research, there's still progress to be made to stop deaths from breast cancer.

To donate, go to the National Breast Cancer Foundation website https://nbcf.org.au



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

### In the News

Agriculture

### Farmers Fear Price Hikes Following Merger

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | October 1, 2025

https://www.stafm.com.au/raising-awareness-this-month-about-breast-cancer/

NSW Farmers warns the impacts of a new merger between two major farm supply companies must be closely monitored to ensure prices for essential inputs do not skyrocket.

On Thursday the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) approved the acquisition of Delta by Elders, provided Elders divests six Delta stores in Western Australia.

NSW Farmers Vice President Rebecca Reardon said many farmers feared the new merger would reduce competition and drive prices up within the agricultural supplies market.

"We've had a lot of farmers telling us they think this merger will spike prices for critical farm supplies, and could create a monopoly in parts of NSW where Elders and Delta are the only ag suppliers," Mrs Reardon said.

"With input prices and inflation soaring in recent years, having two or three outlets competing for price for the same products has made a real difference when it comes to keeping costs down.

"Now there'll be little chance to shop around, we're really concerned about what this lack of competition will mean for the cost of feeding and clothing the nation."

Mrs Reardon said it was disappointing there was no divestment undertakings in NSW given the concentration of stores in the state, and said it was critical the ACCC monitored how the merger affected farm supply prices in case intervention was necessary.

"Australians need their farmers to feed them, and as farmers we're telling the ACCC they need to protect competition in the farm supply market, otherwise we can see some pretty poor outcomes down the track," Mrs Reardon said.

"Farmers deserve fair prices, be it for agronomy, agency services or ag supplies, and it's important that this merger doesn't put that at risk.

"No doubt the proof will be in the pudding, and how our bills change over the next year or so will say it all."



## Social Media Age Restrictions May Go Further Than You Thought. Here's How.

Australia's eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman Grant, has outlined an updated list of platforms that may fall under the social media age restrictions that will take effect later this year.

While Australians expected platforms such as Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube to be included, this new list demonstrates the legislation's reach is even broader.

Which platforms will be required to restrict access for under 16s?

When the legislation was first introduced, the government explained it would use the definition of social media outlined in Australia's *Social Media Services Online Safety Code*.

The law, which comes into effect on December 10, will restrict people under 16 from holding accounts on many social media platforms.

Recently, the eSafety Commissioner introduced selfassessment guidance for companies to determine whether their platforms would be considered age-restricted.

Under this guidance, companies will be required to restrict access to platform accounts for users under 16 where:

- material is accessible to, or delivered to, Australian users
- · users can post material
- users can link to, or interact with, other users
- online social interaction is the sole, or significant, purpose of the platform.

The eSafety Commissioner has written to an "initial list" of 16 companies (including Facebook, TikTok and YouTube) advising they may fall under the social media definition that requires age restrictions.

The list also named messaging and gaming platforms WhatsApp, Discord and Twitch, alongside software sharing platform GitHub, dating app company Match (which owns Tinder), message board Reddit and image-sharing platform Pinterest, among others.

### What does this mean for platforms designed to engage children?

Lego Play and Roblox were also included. These platforms host games and creative tools used by many children under 16.

Earlier this month, Roblox (which has more than 380 million users globally) committed to new safety measures to address risks posed by online grooming.

The new measures include making children's accounts

private by default and ensuring adults are prevented from engaging with child users without parental consent.

However, Roblox has now been flagged as likely to meet the definition of an age-restricted platform. It may need to block children under 16 from having accounts.

#### Will some platforms be excluded from age restrictions?

The self-assessment guidance also outlines specific circumstances in which social media platforms can be excluded from the restrictions. Under the legislation, services are excluded where the sole or primary purpose is to enable:

- communication by messaging, email, voice or video calling
- · playing online games
- sharing information about products or services
- professional networking or professional development
- supporting education (including between educational institutions and students/parents)
- supporting health (including between healthcare providers and people accessing services).

These exclusions require self-assessment by individual platforms. This is why the eSafety Commissioner has asked companies to make their case, in writing, and provide evidence as to why they believe they should be exempt.

WhatsApp, for example, may argue its primary purpose is communication by messaging. Lego Play may argue it is mainly an educational tool.

Companies will only have a few weeks to make their case for exclusion before the restrictions are in place.

#### What happens next?

In the coming weeks, we will learn more about which platforms will be included—and excluded—from age restrictions. But today's list is only a start. There will likely be others identified through the self-assessment process.

What's not yet clear is what happens when there is conflict over a platform's self-assessment.

The eSafety Commissioner has flagged she is already "bracing for legal challenges" on this point. She explained the focus will first be on platforms with the greatest number of users and, therefore, the highest potential for harm. So Australians may have some clarity about which platforms fall under—or outside—the legislation on December 10. However, some uncertainty is likely to continue well into 2026.



## Rethink Your Online Safety With Cyber Security Awareness Month



Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

This Cyber Security Awareness Month, the NSW Government is reminding everyone to keep information secure and stay safe online by following these three steps:

- 1. Install all software updates to keep your devices secure.
- 2. Use a unique and strong passphrase on every account.
- 3. Always set up multi-factor authentication (MFA).

To mark Cyber Security Awareness Month, **ID Support NSW** hosted an online webinar on 13 October for 'Malware Monday' exploring the rising threat of information stealing malware and sharing practical tips on how to secure your devices.

Beyond 'Malware Monday', information about other ID Support NSW events, as well how to book a local ID Support NSW assistance event, is available at: https://www.nsw.gov.au/id-support-nsw/events

**ID Support NSW** helps keep NSW residents safe online through its identity protection and recovery services. Along with hosting both in-person and online informational events around the state, **ID Support NSW** helps individuals impacted by data breaches, identity theft and fraud.

The NSW Government is committed to the NSW Digital Inclusion Strategy, which is designed to address the challenges faced by vulnerable and disadvantaged

communities when interacting online through community cyber security and privacy training.

Consultation on the strategy revealed more than 80 per cent of respondents had experienced online scams, privacy breaches or harassment, with at-risk groups disproportionally affected.

For more information to help you take these key steps, please see the Act Now Stay Secure website: https://www.actnowstaysecure.gov.au/cybermonth2025

If you have experienced suspicious contact or activity, make a report to ReportCyber here:

https://www.cyber.gov.au/report-and-recover/report

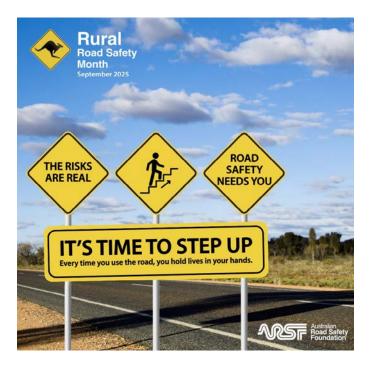
If someone believes their personal information has been stolen, used or accessed without knowledge or consent, contact **ID Support NSW** on 1800 001 040.

According to Jacki Muir, Director ID Support NSW:

"The reality is online safety requires constant vigilance, but with a few simple steps you can stay ahead of cybercriminals.

"Strong passphrases, regularly updating your device, turning on multi-factor authentication and always thinking before you click can keep you safe from those looking to take what is yours.

"This Cyber Security Awareness Month we are urging the public to think about how secure they are online and to revisit any safety protocols that may be out of date."





## Meet the Team! The Australian Koala Foundation Visits Warialda October 28-30

The Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) is coming to Warialda—and the whole community is invited to meet the team behind Australia's leading Koala conservation efforts.

From Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October, members of the Brisbane-based AKF team will be in Warialda, connecting with the local retail and online team from the Save The Koala Shop and hosting a special community event to discuss the AKF's key initiatives—including the very important *Koala Kiss Project*, which aims to protect and connect vital Koala habitat across the Gwydir region.

Join us for an Open Day at Koala Quarters, formerly the Challenge Building, on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October between 10:00am and 2:00pm at 2 Hall Street.

Snacks and a light lunch will be served, and we warmly welcome all community members to drop in, ask questions, and chat with the team.

### The Save The Koala Shop-One Day Only Special!

The Save The Koala Shop on Stephen Street will also be open on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, with a special one-day-only 20% discount storewide.

It's a great chance to support Koala conservation while picking up some thoughtful gifts—and the perfect time to stock up on unique Christmas presents.

Our featured collections include:

- Nathan Ferlazzo Stunning artwork of Australian animals
- La La Land Bold, fun designs
- Banksia Glen Bright, beachy, affordable gifts just in time for the holidays

#### Meet the AKF Team

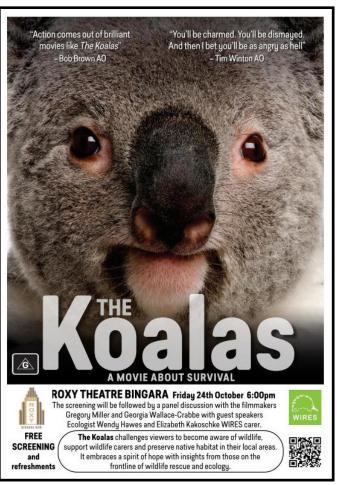
The visiting team includes:

- Deborah Tabart OAM, Chair of the Australian Koala Foundation
- Dr Derek Johnson, Botanist
- Mr Mitchell Peake, GIS Specialist
- Mr Cesar Alvarado, Finance Manager
- Mr Ian Harling, Manager of the AKF Research Station
- Ms Deisy Velandia, AKF Scientist
- Ms Camila Cevallos, AKF Scientist
- Mr Christopher Kwan, Manager of Retail and Online Shops
- And of course, Cilla, the newest (and furriest) member of the team — a golden retriever in training to work alongside Elvis, the AKF's beloved dog ambassador.

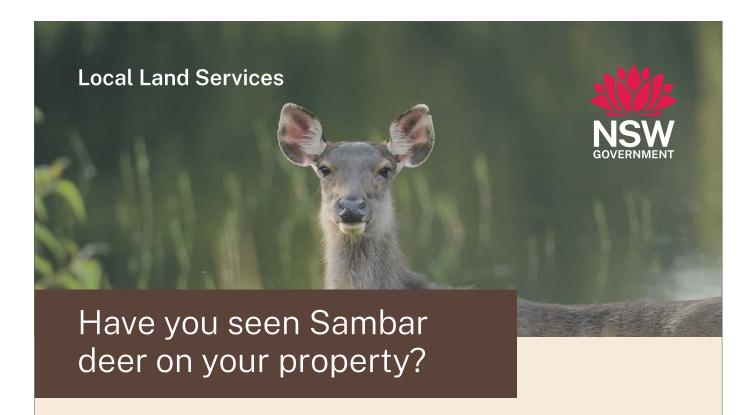
Whether you're a local landholder, a wildlife enthusiast, or simply curious about the AKF's work, we'd love to meet you.

See you at Koala Quarters on Wednesday 29th October!









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

Get to know feral deer species, and report sightings privately on the free FeralScan app or visit **feralscan.org.au Scan the QR code** to learn about species of feral deer and how to report.



### Copeton Dam Level

as at 12 October 2025

**82**%





### Applications Open For Next Round of the Dr William Hunter and Healthy Communities Scholarships

Applications are now open for two long-running \$10,000 scholarships supporting rural health students from the Moree and Gwydir regions.

Supported by HealthWISE and the Gwydir Cotton Growers Association (CGA), the Dr William Hunter and Healthy Communities scholarships provide financial support for local students studying medicine, nursing or allied health.

2024 recipient Madelyn Johnson said the Dr William Hunter scholarship was instrumental in easing her financial burden while completing her medical studies at Charles Sturt University.

"It also boosted my confidence and reaffirmed my commitment to my academic and career goals," she said.

With the shared aim of bringing more health professionals back to the bush, the Dr William Hunter scholarship and a variety of Gwydir CGA scholarships have helped local students complete their studies for the past two decades. Through a partnership between HealthWISE and Gwydir CGA, both scholarships can now be applied for through a single form.

Retired GP and scholarship namesake Dr William Hunter said the need for trained health professionals in rural areas remains urgent.

"We know that students from rural backgrounds are much more likely to return there," he said. "Telehealth helps, but it's no substitute for clinical examination and on-site care."

Occupational therapy student and 2025 Healthy Communities winner James Nolan said his firsthand experience of the difficulties receiving specialised health care in rural communities inspired him to bring more services to the country.

"As Dr Hunter said, it's country students that go out, get degrees and come back. And that's my goal," he said. James has dreams of opening a mobile practice in Moree one day, specialising in neurodiverse paediatrics.

"I hope to make a difference in people's lives, in whatever way I can," he said.

2025 Dr William Hunter encouragement scholarship winner Mikala Bearman is also set on bringing her skills back to the area. Studying counselling, Mikala is the first person in her family to attend university, and hopes her journey inspires others.

"We're proud to support students who want to give back to their communities," said Gwydir CGA committee member Liam Winter. He said the scholarships aim to build a stronger, more viable health sector.





2025 Healthy Communities scholarship winner James Nolan, Gwydir CGA committee member Liam Winter

Applications for both scholarships close on October 31, 2025.
Applicants must be Australian citizens in their second year or above of an undergraduate medical, allied health or nursing degree, at any Australian university, and not currently receiving another

GROWERS ASSOCIATION

scholarship. Successful applicants will complete two rural placements, including one in Moree, Bingara, Warialda or Collarenebri.

To apply, email barwonha@healthwise.org.au or call (02) 6752 7196



### Warialda's Sharna Aitken nominated for CEA Student of the Year by Toby Cooper



CCNI Warialda Campus student, Sharna Aitken, has been nominated for Community Education Australia's 2025 Student of the Year.

Warialda's Sharna Aitken has been nominated for Community Education Australia's 2025 Student of the Year, recognising her outstanding commitment to learning and leadership.

A long-serving team member at Naroo Frail Aged Hostel, Sharna has built her career from the kitchen up—stepping from kitchen operations into study to prepare for a residentfacing role in aged care. While balancing a demanding work roster Sharna has been completing the CHC33021 Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing & Disability) through the Community College Northern Inland's Warialda campus.

Her hard work has already paid off with a promotion to Kitchen Supervisor in 2025, and she continues to apply her growing knowledge to deliver safer, more caring, and more organised practice at Naroo.

Campus Coordinator Toby Cooper says, "Sharna's the student whose efforts lift the room. She learns, applies, improves—and then helps the next person."

Despite the challenges of a longstanding hearing impairment, Sharna shows remarkable positivity and resilience, adapting to study and communication strategies

Trainer Ean Muhs adds: "Even without a working hearing aid for a month, she sat at the front of class, fully engaged and encouraging others."

Beyond her studies and work, Sharna also gives back by



cooking for Warialda Pony Club events—demonstrating her strong sense of community and care for others.

"Being nominated to receive this award is a big step in my journey," says Sharna. "I can't thank CCNI enough for their support and guidance."

Sharna's story is a powerful example of how dedication and learning can change lives—and inspire others across regional NSW.

### Have you studied with us?

### We'd love to hear your story!

Community College Northern Inland (CCNI) is inviting past students to share how learning has made a difference in their lives.

Your story could inspire others to start their own learning journey.



If you'd like to take part in a short interview for publication in The Gwydir News, please contact us at:

(02) 6782 1662 or freecall 1800 952 264



marketing@ccni.nsw.edu.au ->







### Regular dental check-ups are important for your child's health

If your child is aged under 18, and eligible for Medicare, they may get free dental care through the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) at both private and public dental clinics.



Find out if your child is eligible for free dental care at: www.health.nsw.gov.au/cdbs



### ROSS COOPER OPTOMETRIST

Goondiwindi (07) 4671 1550

### **Next visits to Warialda**

- October 29
- November 26

For appointments, contact the Warialda Medical Centre on

02 6729 1520

OCTOBER 2025

### **Next visits to Bingara**

- October 30
- November 27

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





### **COMMUNITY GROUPS**

### It's Carinda's 48<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

On Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, Carinda will celebrate 48 years of volunteering and operating the craft shop for talented artisans in Warialda and surrounding district.

Carinda volunteers will have a busy morning, starting at 10.00am, setting up for morning tea and stations for a number of craft demonstrations. Patrons will be able to watch demonstrations of spinning; macrame; felting; crocheting and knitting.

There will also be a display of patchwork quilting in the Stump Room; a chance to wander upstairs and view the Carinda Museum; view the items on display in the Shop and maybe purchase a unique item for a special person.

As well as all the beautiful handmade items from many talented ladies, Carinda Shop offers wood items from talented men. These include handmade signs from Bob, bird houses from lan, bowls from wood turner Murray and chopping and cheese boards from Ray.

Home baked goodies from Jeanette's kitchen will also be available.

So come along on Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> to the Carinda Birthday Garden Party.

Enjoy watching the craft demonstrations, having morning tea with family and friends—\$10 pp—and purchase a ticket in the \$100 meat raffle.

Carinda is open Monday to Friday 10.00am - 2.00pm and Saturdays 9.00am - 12.00pm.

# Spring Update from Warialda Hospital Auxiliary

Hospital Auxiliary members were pleased to welcome new MPS Manager Nicole. Members look forward to working with her and the staff of our MPS.

The Auxiliary has recently helped with the purchase of two new beds for long stay patients. These beds come at a cost of over \$10,000.

The Auxiliary is currently selling tickets in a raffle of 3 x \$100 gift vouchers—\$100 fuel voucher; \$100 IGA voucher; and \$100 meat voucher—so that purchases such as these costly items can continue.

On Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup> the Annual Market Night will be held at the Warialda Golf and Bowling Club. Patrons will know from previous years, there will be a variety of wonderful items to be won.

Tickets will go on sale from 6.00pm and the draw will commence at 7.30pm.

The Market Night is the major fundraiser for the Auxiliary so come along to the Golf and Bowling Club on Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup>, enjoy a meal with family and friends and support the Hospital Auxiliary as it strives to support the patients, doctors and staff of our hospital.

### **BINGARA BRANCH**

It was with great honour that Bingara CWA Branch accepted the certificate for our nomination of *NSW Volunteer Organisation of the Year*.

Margy, Alison and Roxene, all very passionate members of our group, proudly stepped up to receive this award.

Bingara CWA Branch came out of recession earlier this year and have gone in leaps and bounds to ensure that we can continue the legacy that local lady Mrs Grace Munroe began in 1922.

**Left to right**: Margy Hincksman, Alison Druitt, Roxene Dennis.





### The Simple Appliance Checklist to Keep Your Energy Bills Under Control

As temperatures rise across Australia, so do our energy bills. The good news? A few small habits and checks around the home can make a big difference to your power use — and your wallet.

Here's a simple appliance checklist to help keep your household running efficiently this summer:

#### Fridge and Freezer

- Keep them two-thirds full too empty or too packed makes them work harder.
- · Make sure door seals are tight and clean.
- Position them away from direct sunlight or ovens to reduce energy strain.

#### **Air Conditioner**

- Clean filters monthly dirty filters can increase energy use by up to 30%.
- Set the temperature between 24–26°C for the best balance of comfort and efficiency.
- Close doors and windows when it's running to avoid wasting cool air.

#### **Washing Machine and Dryer**

- Wash in cold water where possible it uses about 80% less energy than hot water.
- Air dry clothes on sunny days instead of using the dryer.
- Clean the lint filter after every use for better airflow and safety.

#### Dishwasher

- Only run when it's full, and choose the eco mode if available.
- Scrape plates instead of rinsing to save hot water.
- Check filters monthly to keep it running smoothly.

#### **Bonus Tip: Standby Power**

Even when switched "off," TVs, microwaves, and chargers can still draw power. Use a power board with an on/off switch or smart plug to cut standby drain — you could save up to \$100 a year.

Small steps like these don't just lower your bills — they help your appliances last longer, keeping your home efficient and your budget in check.

— Adam Stone

**Next month**: Adam shares how to find the best value when buying new appliances — and what those energy star ratings really mean for your wallet.



**Thank you Regional Australia Bank and the customers** who chose to support Moor Street Art with their S3 accounts. This year's cheque was very encouraging and will enable us to get a few more works up about the town and Showground and perhaps sponsor more art.

Please note David Moor does not, and has not, received any reimbursement for his amazing talent which he generously gives freely to our community. The name 'Moor Street Art' is a play on both the artist's name and having more art in the streets to set us apart from the many other places in Australia, put a smile on people's faces and demonstrate the uniqueness of country living.

Please talk to our local RAB branch members if you would also like to contribute. Costs you nothing.

Thanks again. Ann Willis.

#### Thank you all the people, especially Margaret

**Haug**, who have worked volunteering at the Anglican Church Pop-Up Shop, who have helped set-up, run the BBQ, donate and contributed in many other ways. A special thank you for all those from the community who generously donated items for sale. There was a huge variety of amazing items. The fellowship was also great.

Anything that was left over was given to Challenge and other welfare groups. **We have a great town** 

Regards Ann Willis.

"You're never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

– C.S. Lewis



Community College Northern Inland Building strength through education.



### **SCRAPPER**

NWTC Film Club shows a heart-warming British film in October.

Scrapper is a 2023 British comedy drama film written and directed by Charlotte Regan in her feature debut.

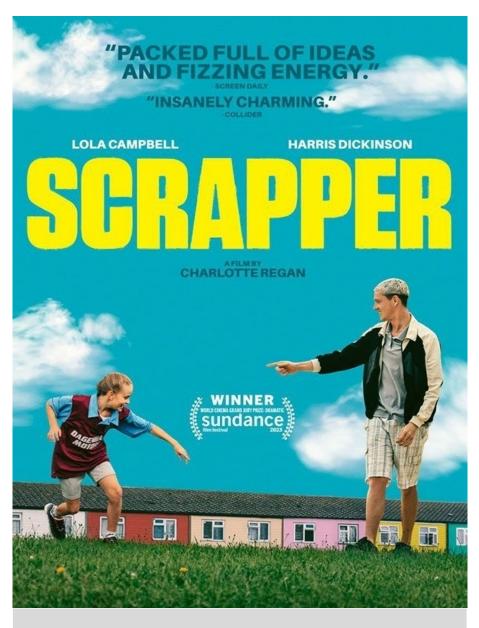
In London, twelve-year-old Georgie has been living alone since her mother Vicky died, pretending to social services that she is being cared for by her uncle. Only her friend Ali knows the truth and helps her steal bikes to support herself. Georgie believes that she is working through the five stages of grief but insists on keeping her home exactly as Vicky left it and comforts herself with a video on her phone of her and her mother.

Georgie's summer holiday is thrown into disarray by the arrival of her estranged father Jason, whom she has never met.

The film premiered at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival, where it won the Grand Jury Prize for the World Cinema Dramatic Competition, and was released in cinemas in the United Kingdom on 25 August 2023.

This is a lovely film and although it does also have mild themes, violence and coarse language, it is well worth seeing and is quite rewarding.

Scrapper will show at the Roxy Theatre in Bingara on Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. **New Film Club members are always welcome**.



The North West Theatre Company Film Club presents

### **SCRAPPER**

Sunday October 26th 2025 | 4:00pm | The Roxy Theatre

**To join the North West Theatre Company**, contact film club coordinator Ros Moulton on 0412 081 642 or nwtheatrecompany@gmail.com, or visit the Bingara Visitor Information Centre to purchase membership for a gift or for yourself. Annual membership costs \$60 with films running from February through to November.

Films are supported by introductory comments and afterwards by a chat with drinks. All members have access to a DVD Library of the films shown by the Film Club.



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

### **Community Media Makers**

**Issuing Registered Training Organisation** Community College Northern Inland | RTO 90027



### Practical media skills to keep local stories alive!

5 x Weekly Face-to-Face Workshops

9.00AM - 1.00PM

#### **Warialda Campus**



Tuesday 11 November | |



Join Community Media Makers and discover how to create stories that inform and connect. This non-accredited hands-on course covers journalism basics, multimedia and social media, newswriting, interviewing and photography. You'll finish ready to contribute to local publications—including the Gwydir News—and help sustain vital community storytelling. Learn about:

#### Making the News: Journalism Foundations (CSO202528)

- · Understand what journalism is and why it matters
- Explore story types news, features, profiles, opinion, reports
- Spot editorial vs advertising
- Avoid gossip and sensationalism
- · Check facts with confidence

#### Media Now: Print, Digital & Social (CSO202529)

- See how news travels print vs social media
- Learn to be timely and accurate
- Cover local stories sport, schools, council, community groups
- · Pick the right platform for your story

### **Newswriting Essentials (CSO202530)**

- Use the 5 W's to shape any story
- Know what makes news "news"
- Write without bias
- · Handle off-the-record info and confidentiality
- · Shift from essay writing to media writing

#### Interviewing with Impact (CSO202531)

- Research and prep for great interviews
- Ask open questions and follow up naturally
- Quote people accurately and fairly
- Record or take notes know the rules
- Put people at ease to get the real story

#### Photography for Storytelling (CSO202532)

- Capture emotion and meaning in photos
- Compose powerful, eye-catching shots
- Move beyond "line-up" pictures
- Shoot for news vs feature stories
- Match photos and stories for impact

### **High Risk & Industry**

**Issuing Registered Training Organisation** Community College Northern Inland | RTO 90027



RIIWHS204E Work safely at heights



1-Day In-Campus

9.00AM - 4.30PM

\$260

**Bingara Campus** 

Tuesday 11 November

#### White Card

CPCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry



1-Day In-Campus

9.00AM - 4.30PM

\$190

**Bingara Campus** 

Thursday 20 November

### **Confined Spaces**

RIIWHS202E Enter and work in confined spaces



1-Day In-Campus

9.00AM - 4.30PM

\$310

**Bingara Campus** 

Tuesday 2 December

### **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

Warialda 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.ccni.nsw.edu.au

### **First Aid**

**Issuing Registered Training Organisation** 

Community College Northern Inland Inc. (RTO 90027)

# Provide First Aid HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation HLTAID010 Provide basic emergency life support HLTAID011 Provide first aid 1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 4.30PM \$190 ( Warialda Campus Tuesday 14 October Barraba Campus Monday 3 November Bingara Campus Thursday 27 November

# Provide CPR HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation 1/2-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

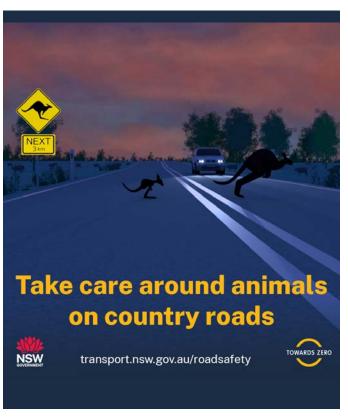
### Hospitality

**Issuing Registered Training Organisation** 

Community College Northern Inland Inc. (RTO 90027)









### News from Bingara Central School



### From the Principal

#### Farewell Year 12

At the conclusion of Term3, we celebrated our graduating Year 12 class with a heartfelt Farewell Assembly. It was a morning filled with pride, joy and a few tears as we looked back on their journey and ahead to the exciting paths before them.

Our Year Adviser shared words of encouragement and gratitude, reminding the students of how far they've come and the strength they carry with them. The graduating class also took the stage, speaking with warmth and wisdom as they reflected on their school years, friendships, challenges, and growth.

Our Year 11 students spoke on behalf of the rest of our students. They paid tribute to Year 12 with words of admiration and best wishes, reminding everyone of the powerful legacy our students leave behind.

As Year 12 step into their next chapter, they do so knowing they are deeply valued members of our school community. We are so proud of the young people they have become, and we can't wait to see the difference they will make in the world.



Bingara Central School Year 12 Bell Ringing

Congratulations, Year 12. This was not goodbye, but a celebration of all you've achieved and all that's still to come!

### Glen Innes Beef Extravaganza Success

The Glen Innes Beef Extravaganza was an incredible event, with our Bingara Central School steer being named the Grand Champion Led Exhibit—the winner of the entire show! The kids performed wonderfully, achieving remarkable success including:

- · Champion Junior Steer;
- · Reserve Champion Heifer;
- Reserve Champion Junior Judge.

The team are absolutely thrilled to have won the **Grand Champion Led Exhibit** or as Mr Mill calls it - The Big Dance. Congratulations to our BCS team for their dedication and hard work.

Special thanks to Mr Mill, Miss Amanda and Mrs Mill for their invaluable support and guidance of the Bingara Central School Cattle Club Team, which played a crucial role in these outstanding achievements.







#### Waltzing the Wilarra

Secondary students were given the exciting opportunity to meet the cast of Waltzing the Wilarra with an impromptu visit this morning. The experience was not only entertaining but also eye-opening, as students were able to gain an appreciation for the story and the cultural messages woven into the production. The cast warmly welcomed questions, creating an engaging Q&A session where students could learn more about the themes of the play and the experiences of those bringing it to life on stage.

During the session, the cast shared personal stories about their backgrounds, highlighting the challenges and pride of growing up in rural communities. They spoke about the journey of travelling with the production and how performing in different places allowed them to share their stories more widely. This gave students valuable insight into the dedication, resilience, and creativity required to pursue a career in the arts, as well as the importance of keeping cultural stories alive through performance.

We thank the cast for their generosity in sharing their experience, not only around working on this show, but on their varied careers and backgrounds. It was inspiring to hear the stories of how they came to be actors and the vastly different paths that brought them to be working together.



### COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE GWYDIR SHIRE AND SURROUNDS



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

### Bingara

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

#### Warialda

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



### News from Gravesend Public School



### What's News @Gravo Public School

### Gravesend Public School Shines in External Validation

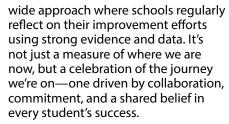
At Gravesend Public School, we've always known we're doing something special—and now it's been officially recognised! Following our recent External Validation process, a panel of independent experts confirmed what our school community already believed: we're kicking goals in all the right areas.

Under the dedicated leadership of Mrs. Todd, and supported by an outstanding team of passionate and skilled staff, Gravesend Public School received glowing feedback across the three overarching domains of Learning, Teaching, and Leading. Out of the 14 elements assessed, we achieved the highest possible rating of 'Excelling' in 10 domains, with the remaining four rated as 'Sustaining and Growing', the second-highest rating.



Throughout the process, we engaged in rich, reflective conversations that highlighted our many achievements—and even suggested we may have underestimated ourselves in a few areas. There's every indication that those four remaining domains are right on the cusp of excellence, too.

External Validation is part of a system-



We're incredibly proud of our progress, and even prouder of the community that makes it all possible.

Well done, Gravo!

### Have Your Say Day: Student Voices Take the Stage

Have Your Say Day at Gravesend Public School was born from a powerful idea raised by our students: public speaking is hard—so let's get better at it. This initiative was developed collaboratively between staff and students to help build confidence and communication skills in a supportive and authentic environment.

Each year, students are given a theme to explore. They research, reflect, and then present their ideas to an audience of peers, staff, and sometimes parents. It's an incredible opportunity for students to find their voice, develop speaking skills, and grow in confidence.





OCTOBER 2025



Have Your Say Day is just one of the many ways Gravesend Public School is building future-ready learners—students who can think deeply, speak clearly, and engage with the world around them.

### Gravo Creek Storms Into NSW Touch Footy Finals

A combined team of students from Gravesend Public School and Croppa Creek Public School—affectionately known as Gravo Creek—has powered its way into the top eight teams in New South Wales in the Small Schools Knock-Out Touch Football competition!

Gravo Creek will head to Penrith on September 23 to face off against the state's best, following a dominant performance in the regional rounds.

The team, formed earlier this year through a joint selection process, showed incredible teamwork, skill, and determination across three hard-fought games—including an impressive 11–3 win over Delungra Public School and a 14–4 victory in the second match.

Gravesend Principal Mrs Jackie Todd said she was proud of the students' efforts and their representation of the community.

"This is a fantastic result for a small team made up of two rural schools," Mrs Todd said.

"The kids have trained hard, supported each other, and represented their communities with pride."

Croppa Creek Principal Mr Michael Sky echoed the praise, noting the wider impact of collaboration:

"By combining our schools, we've been able to give our students opportunities that wouldn't be possible alone. The chance for younger students to be involved and realise their potential is invaluable."

The team has also benefitted from the expertise of Liliana Reardon, whose coaching and experience have been crucial in preparing the players for highlevel competition.

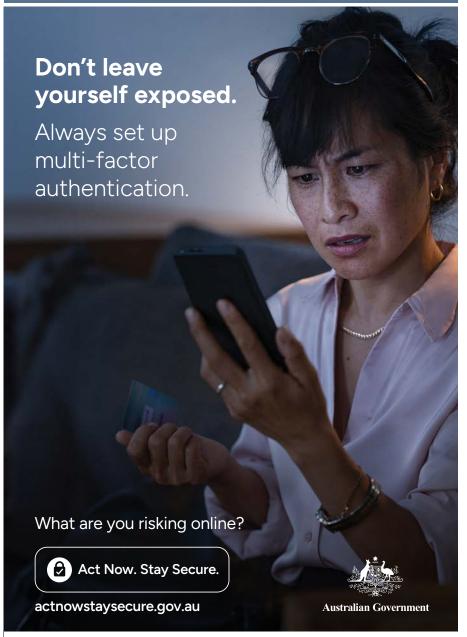
With support from coaches Amber Barnett, Kay Rolfe, and team manager Katie Gillan, Gravo Creek is heading into the State Knockout finals full of confidence.

### What are you risking online?

As technology rapidly advances and we spend more time online, Australians remain vulnerable to cyber attacks.

The Act Now. Stay Secure. campaign is educating Australians on the simple cyber safe actions that everyone can take to protect themselves online.

**Act Now. Stay Secure.** 



Authorised by the Australian Government, Capital Hill, Canberra.



# Grand Final Success in Warialda Student's Graduating Year



PLC Armidale's representative Junior Hockey Team has achieved a remarkable victory, winning the Division One Grand Final in the Independent Girls' Schools Association (IGSA) competition in Sydney last weekend. The IGSA competition attracts more than 110 teams and 1,500 players, with many participating schools more than eight times the size of PLC Armidale.

This was followed by success closer to home on Sunday, with a 2025 Grand Final win in the Armidale Women's Premier League Reserve Grade by the PLC Armidale Soccer Team, captained by Warialda local Grace Pagett.

Grace said it had been an exciting year for PLC Armidale Soccer and she was proud of her team in what has proved to be a victorious graduating year for the full-time boarder.

"We won the Minor and Major Premier League in Division 2," she said.

"As the underdogs, we showed confidence, determination, and great sportsmanship while working as a team to secure our victory, with every girl contributing to our games.

"I'm so grateful that I had the opportunity to lead them as their captain.

"A huge thank you is owed to Ms Maynard and Mr Tuohy, as they helped improve our team through their support and commitment.

"Overall it was a great season ending in a sweet victory."

The PLC Armidale Junior Hockey result was even more significant as PLC Armidale defeated Ascham, who had been

undefeated throughout the season.

The advantage of being part of an all-girls College from PreK to Year 12 was evident in the team's play, with a large proportion of players having already built strong combinations over several years—despite the team being a Junior-Senior squad.

College Principal Mrs Nicola Taylor said the team's achievement was recognised during the official presentations by IGSA Sport Director Matthew Mulroney, who commended PLC Armidale for its commitment to travelling to Sydney and competing in multiple matches over 24 hours.

Head of Sport, Mrs Lucy Donaldson, described the victory as historic on the back of a local win in the weeks prior.

"In my time at PLC Armidale, I can't recall a team winning both the local Under 16 Hockey New England Grand Final and the IGSA Grand Final in the same season," she said.

"To come up against schools many times our size in IGSA and come out on top is truly outstanding."

This triumph in 2025, alongside PLC Armidale's track record of championship wins, marks a proud moment in the College's sporting history and highlights the talent, grit, and teamwork of its young athletes.

In the big weekend of sport, the College also celebrated the Tennis success of Year 10 student Trista Dorrian, who was declared the Northwest region U16S Champion of Champions in Tamworth for the second consecutive year.



# Junior Wombats Celebrate Success at Annual Presentation

by Toby Cooper

The Warialda Wombats Junior Rugby League Football Club held their annual presentation at Nicholson Oval on September 13, celebrating another successful year for players, coaches, and volunteers.

Prior to the presentation morning, three Wombats were recognised by Group 19 at the Junior League Grand Finals also held in Warialda on September 6 for their outstanding sportsmanship. Alice Trigger, Ziggy Hall, and Hugo Barwick each received Group 19 Sportsmanship Awards for their age groups.

Group 19 Secretary Sarah Butler explaining that these awards were based on referees' 3-2-1 points tallies throughout the season, and impressively, Hugo Barwick's tally was the highest recorded by Group 19 in 12 years - a remarkable achievement.

At the Wombats presentation, Thomas Garrett was presented with the Sportsmanship Award, while Sarah Butler, who also serves as Club Secretary, FAO, and Coach was honoured with the Mason Daley Clubman of the Year.

The Telford Rose Memorial Under 16's award went to Harrison Brooks who has played his entire junior career with the Wombats. Harrison's commitment extended beyond playing, as he was also recognised by Group 19 for his contribution as a linesman referee on Grand Final Day.

The Warialda Wombats JRLFC committee extended its sincere thanks to all players, families, and supporters for their commitment throughout the year, and look forward to another strong season in 2026.













# Warialda Pony Club Celebrates Success with Pony Camp and Zone 8 Jamboree

by Toby Cooper

The Warialda Pony Club has celebrated another fantastic year, successfully hosting its annual Pony Camp followed by the Zone 8 Jamboree for 2025.

This year's camp welcomed 18 enthusiastic riders who participated in a wide range of activities — from trick riding and acupuncture demonstrations to camp drafting and dressage. The week was filled with learning, fun, and friendship, culminating in the much-anticipated Gymkhana Day, where several major awards were presented.

In the Purple Troop, the Miller Trophy for Horse and Rider Combination was awarded to Harriet Hollow and Buttercup. Laney Landrigan received the Most Consistent Rider Award, while Tori McClymont was named Most Improved.

The Densley Family Trophy for Horsemanship Displayed During Camp went to Lincoln Partridge, and Dexter Brooks received the Sportsmanship Trophy for his positive attitude throughout camp.

Dormitory Awards were presented to Lincoln Partridge and Miley Landrigan, with Edward Coulton earning the Politeness in the Kitchen Award. The club's top honour, Grand Champion Rider, was awarded to Bella Gobbert, and Matilda Brooks was recognised with the Belinda Basham Trophy for her participation and true Pony Club spirit. Other awards went to Henry Coulton for most improved rider at camp and Emily Partridge who received the most improved rider over the past 12 months.

Following camp, the Warialda Pony Club proudly hosted two days of Zone 8 Jamboree competition. The Warialda team — Matilda and Dexter Brooks, Lincoln, Sophie and Emily Partridge, Isabel Woollett, Henry and Edward Coulton, Ruby Shortt, and Darcie Emery — represented the club with skill and enthusiasm.

A highlight of the weekend was the outstanding performance of the senior riders — Matilda Brooks, Isabel Woollett, Lincoln Partridge, and Ruby Shortt — who placed 2nd in the Highest Point Scoring Senior Team, missing first place by just three points. Warialda was also thrilled to be awarded the Eli Brown Shield for Highest Point Scoring Small Club, an incredible achievement for a dedicated group of riders.

The club also took the opportunity to celebrate and thank long-term contributors, awarding Life Memberships to Leonard Reardon, Walter Reardon, Mardi Coulton, and Kerry Tighe for their years of commitment and service to the club.

The Warialda Pony Club extends their sincere thanks to all volunteers, parents, and supporters who helped make both the 2025 Pony Camp and Jamboree a success.













### **Bingara Golf Report**

by John Gill & Catherine Egan



Ivan Galvin (centre) with Laurie Mensforth and Ron Armstrong—winners of the Galveston Shield.

### 7 / 16 Green Replacement

The 7 / 16 green is starting to take shape after flood damage in October 2022. Seeding of the green took place on Thursday 25 September. Thank you to all involved with the green to this stage, and a special thank you to Steve Stokes.

Steve has given his time and expert knowledge, to Bingara golf in many ways from machinery, course maintenance, and the greens. His service has been invaluable and appreciated by all at Bingara Golf.

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Bingara men's golf played an 18-hole BBB Aggregate event for the Galveston Shield with 13 golfers taking part on the day.

Winners	Count back, Ron Armstrong and Laurie Mensforth - 73 points
Runners-Up	Cameron Maisey and Peter Houlahan - 73 points
Nearest to Pin	7/16 Merv Hall 9/18 Ron Armstrong
Second Best Shot	6/15 Tee A Grade 0/18 Tom Fullerton B Grade 19+ No winner
Jackpot Ball	Les Jenkinson - 2 balls DNP

Thank you, Ivan Galvin, for your sponsorship of the Galveston Shield.



On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September on an exceptionally beautiful spring day, Bingara Lady golfers hosted their Annual Open Day. Visitors from as far away as Guyra and Wee Waa travelled to join players from Inverell, Warialda, Manilla, Barraba and Moree and our local players in what can only be described as a perfect golf day.

The course was given high praise from everyone, manicured to a curated standard by a very hard working band of volunteer men who spent days preparing it. We appreciate these men for their year-round commitment to the club.

After four plus hours enjoying, or not, our golf, we retired to the Club to enjoy a delicious luncheon. Thank you to the ladies who served our food, it received very high praise.

Thank you Merve and helpers for getting all the table duties done so efficiently, the visitors certainly appreciate being able to enjoy the presentation and get back on the road early enough to avoid the kangaroos.

Our Sponsors, Member for Northern Tablelands, Brendan Moylan MP, McGregor Gourlay our local Rural Suppliers, **thank you** for your generous support—without your generosity these days are not possible.

The Open Day gave Bingara players the opportunity to welcome three new players who played their first competition round in some very good company. Very happy ladies enjoyed the day and all agreed they will put it in their diary for 2026.

Gross Winners	Trudi Tokin & Leslie Jefferies
-	
Runners-up	Di Amos & Tanya Girard
Nett Winners	Catherine Egan & Debra Mack
Runners-up	Lesa Dawson & Amanda Buff



### **PUBLIC NOTICES**



### Letters to the Editor

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

Letters should generally be between 300 - 600 words. In all cases the editor reserves the right to edit letters for space, style and content.

The right is reserved to reject any letter—in whole or in part—including those determined potentially libelous. Authors must provide their name, town of residence and telephone number for verification purposes.

Letters should be emailed to:

gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au

### GWYDIR WASTE COLLECTION

TUESDAY: Gravesend, Warialda Rail, North Star, Croppa Creek WEDNESDAY: Bingara

**WEDNESDAY**: Bingara **THURSDAY**: Warialda

GARBAGE: Weekly collection RECYCLING & ORGANICS: Fortnightly, alternating weeks

WASTE HOTLINE 1300 736 719

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 20<sup>th</sup> November. Book ads by Monday 10th November at email:

gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au



### **PUBLIC NOTICES**



### BINGARA DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Bingara District Historical Society
General Monthly Meeting will be held on
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October
starting at 10.30am
at the Museum Complex
16 -20 Maitland Street, Bingara

### **BINGARA SENIOR CITIZENS**

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



### **FEATURED BUSINESSES**



### CERAMIC BREAK SCULPTURE PARK

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# What's

#### **OCTOBER 2025**

Friday 17th Bingara District Historical Society General

Monthly Meeting - 10:30am at the Museum Complex, 16-20 Maitland Street, Bingara

Saturday 18th Sewing and Craft Day - Gravesend RSL

Clubhouse - 10.00am - \$1 entry - Toasties and drinks available for purchase - All skill levels welcome - Bring a project or start something new - Children must be supervised by an adult

The Roxy Table - An unforgettable evening Saturday 18th

of food and fun, 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 - Followed by a discussion with the filmmakers - Book https://www.stickytickets. com.au/zkv3k/the\_koalas\_a\_movie\_about\_

survival/buy-tickets

Saturday 25th Carinda 48th Birthday Garden Party - 10.00am -

> craft demonstrations, patchwork quilt display, gifts for purchase, home baked goodies, meat

raffle, morning tea - \$10pp

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

**NOVEMBER 2025** 

Saturday 1st Haunted Night at the Sportsman's Hotel,

Bingara

Tuesday 4th Melbourne Cup Day

Tuesday 4th Melbourne Cup Day Lunch - Wallaroo Hotel

Coolatai

Tuesday 11th Remembrance Day

Saturday 15th Warialda Hospital Auxiliary Market Night -

> Warialda Golf & Bowling Club - Tickets on sale from 6.00pm - draw commences at 7.30pm

Wednesday 19th Bingara Library hosts Storytime - 10:30am -

Everyone is welcome

Saturday 29th Bingara Christmas Concert

Sunday 30th NWTC Film Club 'The Lost King' - 4:00pm - The

Roxy Theatre, Bingara - New members welcome

### Church **Notices**

#### ANGLICAN CHURCH

Worship at St John's Bingara

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

4<sup>th</sup> weekend 10.00am

### **WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks - Rosary Bingara

9.30am/Mass 10.00am

1st and 3rd weeks - Mass Warialda

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**.