

November 2025 Edition

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



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Northern Inland (CCNI)

Freecall **1800 952 264**

Bingara

6 Riddell Street
Bingara NSW 2404

Warialda

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Tennis Club Set For A Revamp With Big Funding Boost



Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan with a group from Warialda Public School, and Warialda Tennis Club's Paul Durkin.

Warialda Tennis Club's tired and worn courts will soon be transformed thanks to a grant secured through the Clubgrants Category 3 Fund.

The club netted \$100,534 to revamp the synthetic courts which have sat dormant for several years.

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan met with Warialda Tennis Club's Paul Durkin to announce the successful funding application.

"It is exciting to breathe new life into the Warialda Tennis Club's synthetic courts to give the community a fit for purpose facility," Mr Moylan said.

"With the funding from the Clubgrants program, the club will be able to revamp up to two of the dilapidated synthetic courts

and easily maintain them for years to come.

"Tennis is a sport which can be enjoyed by people of all ages and is a great competitive and social outlet.

"Well done to the Warialda Tennis Club and I look forward to seeing the finished product being enjoyed by the whole community."

Mr Durkin said the aim of getting the tennis courts up to scratch is, so the community's youth have somewhere to go to enjoy the sport.

"We are looking to get the courts, that are currently non-operational, up and running so we can have social tennis as well as lessons for children," he said.

"We would like the courts to be available to be used by local schools and the wider community."

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2025 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

DECEMBER	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 8 DECEMBER
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER

2026 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY

MARCH	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 9 MARCH
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 19 MARCH

APRIL	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 6 APRIL
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 16 APRIL

MAY	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 11 MAY
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 21 MAY

JUNE	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 8 JUNE
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 18 JUNE

JULY	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 6 JULY
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 16 JULY

AUGUST	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 10 AUGUST
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 20 AUGUST

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Text articles should be around 600 words in length.

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From the Mayor

Wow, we are nearing the end of November — this year has certainly flown by! It is hard to believe we are now organising end-of-year school functions and Christmas parties. The next few months will no doubt be a busy time right across the Shire.

Weather

What a month of wild weather we have had! Early extreme heat had us all wondering if we had skipped spring entirely and gone straight into summer. Then came the dry, gusty winds that created challenging and worrying fire conditions. Thankfully, we received some much-needed rain across the Shire — with some areas faring better than others — which helped to green things up again. And just when we thought we could pack the jumpers away, the cold weather returned. The cooler weather was a welcome relief, but we are reminded that hot days are upon us and with that brings unwelcomed guests. Please stay vigilant when outdoors during the warmer months with snakes on the move and the mosquitoes are making themselves known.

Harvest Season

Gwydir Shire Council boasts three caravan parks, North Star, Bingara and Wialda. 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.

HSC Students

Our Year 12 students have now completed their HSC exams and are beginning to plan the next exciting chapter of their lives. We are all incredibly proud of them for their hard work and perseverance. To all our graduates — congratulations! Remember, there are many different pathways to reach your goals. Don't put too much pressure on yourselves; focus on being happy, working hard, and enjoying the journey. Good luck in whatever comes next.

BROC

Deputy Mayor, Cr Sean Coleman and I attended a BROC meeting on 10 October 2025 which was hosted by Moree Plains Shire Council.

This was our AGM, Cr Rob Mackenzie from Goondiwindi Regional Council was re-elected as Chair and Cr Peter Mailler from Moree Plains Shire Council was re-elected as Deputy Chair.

BROC is a change agent for cross border communities. Areas which are currently being investigated and advocated include the continuing construction of the Wild Dog Fence, policing and community safety, and health services access. For example, we are petitioning for medical imaging to be electronically transferred across state borders at the moment such images must be photocopied causing delays and inefficiencies for cross border residents.

Another major topic is the ongoing Inland Rail project. The meeting was presented with an update which outlined Inland Rail's plans to enhance national freight capacity, reduce road congestion and emissions, and improve regional connectivity by linking Melbourne to Brisbane via Parkes, Narromine and Toowoomba. Inland Rail is progressing construction between Beveridge and Parkes, with completion south of Parkes expected by late 2027.

BROC members at a recent Moree meeting.



The next phase north of Narromine is awaiting government approvals and land acquisitions. Design contracts have been awarded for sections between Moree–Camurra, Narromine–Baradine, and the NSW/QLD Border–Gowrie, as well as for the Narrabri to North Star and Narromine to Narrabri routes. Approvals for the 75km Pilliga State Forest section are still pending, with biodiversity and Native Title work continuing. Site investigations between Narromine and Moree are largely complete, and consultations on hydrology and flood impacts will commence in early 2026. Next steps include further community engagement, reinstating Council Consultative Committees and refining hydraulic design solutions.

I would also like to acknowledge the passing of Queensland Cross Border Commissioner, Ian Leavers. Ian was such a strong and passionate advocate who will be greatly missed.

Aged Care Housing Infrastructure

Council's General Manager, Leeah Daley, Chief Financial Officer, Helen Thomas and I took up an invitation to meet with Gilgandra Shire Council staff to explore options to further develop our aged care housing infrastructure. Gilgandra Shire has a similar demographic to our Shire. The possibilities are very exciting however we are reliant on funding to start up. We will develop a plan and investigate all avenues.

Bingara Administration Building

The Bingara Administration Centre site continues to be a hive of activity, with many trades onsite. The monthly update meeting took place on 28 October 2025 with the building contractor. We were taken on a tour of the new building and work is progressing as planned. At the time of writing this report (early November), the following works are in progress; installation of plasterboard walls and ceiling linings, fascias, gutters, concrete paths, boundary fencing, electrical and data ruffin. Tiling, carpentry and rendering of the façade are also taking place.

In the early weeks of November, the commencement of the internal painting and installation of the cabinetry will have taken place. Council staff have undertaken kerb repairs and paving in Maitland Street. Council also commenced work on the carpark earthworks on 10 November 2025 to allow the building contractor to install stormwater drainage, water supply and concrete kerbs.

It was very sad to see Selwyn Smith's home demolished. To honour him, seeds from one of the bottle brushes in his yard are being propagated and when ready will be planted at The Living Classroom.

Survey works for the consolidation of lots has also been completed with the survey plans now awaiting registration by NSW Lands Registry Services. Electrical supply continues to progress albeit slowly and will remain a project risk. The project is now scheduled for completion prior to Christmas, and I look forward to staff being back in the one spot working together.

Carinda House—Roof Replacement

The long-anticipated replacement of the roof on Carinda House is now underway and should be almost complete by the time you are reading this column. Site fencing was erected on 3 November 2025, and the scaffolding installation occurred shortly after. Once scaffolding was erected, the replacement of the roof began. The new roof will hopefully solve the roof leaks which have plagued Carinda for many years.

Australian Koala Foundation (AKF)

During Koala Month, that is October, Cr Rachel Sherman, and I met with Australian Koala Foundation CEO, Deborah Tabart. It is wonderful that AKF has chosen to invest in our Shire. They continue to invest in our Shire through their shopfront in Stephen Street, Wialda and their warehouse and distribution centre in Hall Street, Wialda. AKF also organised planting days along Reedy Creek with Wialda High School students and Wialda Rotary members.

Reaffirming Our Sister City Relationship

This year marked Gwydir Shire Council's 30th anniversary of our Sister City collaboration with Willoughby City Council - a partnership that has grown from strength to strength over three decades. What began as a simple exchange has developed into a deep and enduring friendship between our two communities. Through this wonderful exchange program, both professional and personal bonds have flourished. Over the years, we have seen students, staff and councillors form lifelong friendships, with young people from both city and country gaining the opportunity to broaden their horizons, build connections and experience life from a new perspective.

That same spirit of solidarity and support has been evident in times of challenge. Willoughby City Council has stood beside Gwydir Shire Council during difficult periods, including droughts and other natural disasters, offering practical assistance and heartfelt support - something for which we will always be deeply grateful.

Each year, we proudly welcome our friends from Willoughby to our annual Orange Festival, where councillors, staff and students enjoy the best of country hospitality. In return, we journey to Sydney to take part in their Emerge Festival, celebrating the vitality and diversity of our sister city relationship.

Recently, I received a letter from Mayor Tanya Taylor, reaffirming Willoughby City Council's commitment to this unique partnership and expressing enthusiasm to explore new opportunities to enrich and expand our collaboration. Proposed initiatives include:

- A visit from Willoughby Symphony Orchestra to perform in Gwydir Shire,
- The development of an artist-in-resident exchange programme, and
- The expansion of staff mentoring and exchange programs

to further strengthen our professional connections.

These ideas will ensure that our Sister City relationship continues to thrive and evolve for decades to come. The work we do today ensures that Gwydir remains a place where future generations can grow, belong and thrive.

Donations

As we approach the development of the 2026 Budget, it is now time to consider our annual donations program. Each year, Council supports a wide range of community groups, charitable organisations, schools and sporting teams that make valuable contributions to our community. To ensure Council can give fair and thoughtful consideration to all requests, I encourage all interested groups to submit their letters of request, outlining their needs, proposed projects or activities and the community benefit they deliver. These submissions will help Council to assess and prioritise requests as part of our upcoming budget deliberations for 2026.

Theft

On Wednesday 15 October 2025, all six tyres and wheels were stolen from a Gwydir Shire Council Caterpillar grader located at a Council worksite on Agincourt Road, Coolatai. It is believed this incident occurred between 8:00pm and 10:00pm that evening. When Council staff arrived at the site for work the following morning, they discovered the theft. This is a deeply disappointing and senseless act. Our staff have been working tirelessly to prepare local roads for the harvest season, and actions like this only delay our efforts to ensure safe and reliable access for our community and local industries. I strongly urge anyone who may have witnessed suspicious activity or who has any information about this incident to contact NSW Police or Gwydir Shire Council.

Warialda and Surrounds Australia Day 2026

The Rotary Club of Warialda will be hosting the Warialda and surrounds Australia Day Awards 2026. Nominations for the awards will be made available at the beginning of December 2025. Details can be found on the Rotary Club of Warialda Facebook page and posters will be displayed throughout Warialda, Croppa Creek, Gravesend, Coolatai, North Star, Crooble, Warialda Rail and Yallaroi. Activities will be in line with what has occurred at the previous Warialda and surrounds Australia Day events.

Bingara Australia Day 2026 and Bingara Sports Awards

Nomination forms for the Bingara Australia Day Awards are available on the Gwydir Shire Council and Bingara Facebook pages, Council's website and at the following venues – library, medical centre, IGA, newsagency and Council office. Nominations close at close of business Friday 19 December 2025. If you require further information or need assistance

completing a form, please contact Council on 02 67 24 2000.

Categories include:

- Young Citizen of the Year
- Citizen of the Year
- Volunteer/Volunteer Group of the Year
- Community Event of the Year
- Junior Sportsman of the Year
- Senior Sportsman of the Year
- Sports Team of the Year

The Bingara Special Events Committee, a s355 Committee of Gwydir Shire Council will host the awards. The 2026 celebration is set to be the best yet, as \$10,000 worth of funding was successfully secured through the National Australia Day Council Community Events Grant Program.

Bingara Christmas Concert

The festive season is just around the corner, and I am delighted to attend the Bingara Christmas Concert on Saturday 29 November 2025, at the Gwydir Oval. This much-loved community event promises fun for all ages, with an RFS fun water spray, children's craft, laser tag and a wonderful selection of food stalls. Of course, Santa will also be making a special appearance. We will be treated to a performance by the talented Local Vocals and the Contingency Plan, adding to the cheerful holiday spirit. Entry is by gold coin donation, with festivities kicking off at 7:00pm. Bring your own chairs, picnic rug and drinks—but please, no glass. It is sure to be a fantastic evening celebrating community, music and Christmas joy.

Warialda Christmas Carnival and Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Join us for a magical night filled with festive fun on Friday 5 December 2025 at the Warialda Town Square from 6pm - 10pm. Meet Santa, join the scavenger hunt and watch the Christmas tree light up in a dazzling display! Enjoy amazing performances from talented locals, plus the return of Will Clift and his band. Their high-energy show and incredible vocals wowed the crowd last year and you will not want to miss them again. You might have even heard that Will has collaborated with the likes of Matt Corby on some songs. If you would like to have a stall at this event, visit the Gwydir Shire Council website to download the form. What a fantastic event to close out the year!

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

Grading Works

This month, graders have been active on Agincourt, Innesvale, Melrose Estate, County Boundary, Goat, Elcombe, Caroda, Riverview, Alma and Whitlow Roads.

Slashing Operations

Slashers have cleared vegetation along IB Bore, Memorial and Thornleigh Roads.

Bitumen Jetpatching Repairs

Surface repairs have occurred on Elcombe, Narrabri, Warialda and Killarney Gap Roads.

Water and Sewer Maintenance

Warialda crews completed daily cleaning at treatment sites and handled multiple repairs including sewer blockages, service lines, valves, hydrants, a meter replacement, along with grounds work. Gravesend conducted daily water testing, and all chlorine levels are within the recommended parameters. In Bingara, daily plant operations continued with extensive meter and line repairs,

hydrant and valve fixes, sewer maintenance, grave digging, and various site-specific jobs including work at The Living Classroom, The Roxy Theatre and Bingara Caravan Park. Grounds maintenance was also carried out across key facilities.

Warialda Truck Wash

The facility continues to operate with only one wash bay open as staff continue to work to implement a coagulant dosing system, along with a clarifier system in the settling ponds. These measures are intended to assist with the increased usage the truck wash has seen beyond the original design scope.

County Boundary Road

This project is jointly funded by the Federal Government's Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) Program (\$9.75 million) with Council contributing an additional \$2.44 million. Stage 4 of the project, which is the last 3km section nearest Pallamallawa, has been completed and primer sealed. Minor heavy patching is required before a final seal is placed over the entire 12.3km project, which is scheduled for December 2025. This will mark the end of one of the largest infrastructure projects Gwydir Shire has ever undertaken.

Gwydir Libraries

Celebrate Get Online

Get Online is a national campaign to close the digital divide. It supports people to feel safer and more confident online. Every year in October hundreds of fun, local digital skill events are held in communities across Australia for Get Online Week. Gwydir Shire Council was proud to be part of the Get Online celebrations again this year.

The key focus of the library's technology tutoring is to build digital literacy skills in our community – it involves coaching people in basic tech skills, so they become more confident with technology. Council's librarians aim to give you one-on-one guidance and encourage self-directed learning to help you with technology issues. Due to the popularity of the sessions Gwydir Libraries have extended the sessions until 28 November 2025.

In one of our free sessions, you can expect to:

- Learn to send an email
- Send and reply to messages
- Take photos with your smartphone
- Understand the custom settings for your device
- Download apps
- Access social media.

What a great initiative! Technology is the way of the future, if you are not yet comfortable with technology, I invite all residents and ratepayers to drop by one of our local libraries for some friendly guidance.

Grandparents' Day

Gwydir Libraries celebrated grandparents across the Shire with a visit to the aged care facilities and toy libraries in both Bingara and Warialda on 26 October 2025. Grandparents often act as secondary attachment figures, offering comfort, safety and stability. Not every child has biological grandparents in their lives, but many have chosen grandparents — family friends, neighbours or caring adults who step into that role. At Gwydir Libraries, we proudly celebrate the diversity of family and community structures. Every caring adult who offers love, guidance and wisdom is valued. Biological or chosen, family or community — it is the

connection that counts.

In today's fast-paced world, where families juggle many responsibilities, grandparents and community members provide a reliable source of care and attention. Their patience and understanding allow children to express themselves freely and feel valued, strengthening emotional bonds and their sense of belonging within both family and community. The State Library of NSW provided funding for morning tea, and the sessions allowed parents to take a break.

Below: Grandparents' Day



Living Classroom—Wellness and Interpretive Centre

The Wellness and Interpretive Centre is now almost complete and looks fantastic. The final touches were carried out with the installation of turf and timber screens in late October. On 29 October 2025, Brendan Moylan, MP visited the site to inspect the facility. Council's Building Services Manager, Colin Cuell, led the walkthrough of the new building.

The facility will complement the use of the Living Classroom site by adding an additional learning and meeting space, all while being a standalone function centre. It will be a

valuable asset for Bingara and the Gwydir Shire.

Council is seeking feedback for the direction of The Living Classroom. If you wish to put forward ideas, plans or suggestions, please consider coming along to a workshop at The Living Classroom on Wednesday 10 December 2025 from 4:30pm. Council is seeking workable and viable projects and plans, which can be externally funded and show tangible benefits and outcomes.

Left to right: Brendan Moylan MP, Mayor, Tiffany Galvin and Council's Building Services Manager, Colin Cuell.



The Roxy Turns 90 in 2026

We are celebrating The Roxy turning 90 on Sunday 29 March 2026 with a fun tribute band on Saturday night. The band is called INXSive and will obviously showcase the hits of INXS. On the actual anniversary, being Sunday, the North West Theatre Company will host a screening of Roberta which is the first movie that was shown in the theatre in 1936. Council had approached the Kytherean community however they wish to return to their beloved Roxy for its 95th anniversary in 2031.

Gwydir River Foreshore Project

The area adjacent to the Gwydir River in Bingara is looking fantastic with plantings and preparation for an expanded turfed area. Over the next few weeks though, Council's contractor will be removing part of the new concrete path and installing another wide path in its place. This concrete pathway will enable a crane to access the pontoon and remove it during times of heavy rain events. This is unfortunate but necessary, as the path which had been installed is only 100mm thick and therefore needs replacing.

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.

In the News

Historic Regional Public Preschool Build Officially Underway

Education

Politics

Originally published by STA FM

by **Gerry** | November 17, 2025

<https://www.stafm.com.au/historic-regional-public-preschool-build-officially-underway/>

The largest public preschool construction program in NSW history is now underway in regional NSW, with work set to commence on more than 20 new public preschools before the end of 2025.

This work has been marked with construction beginning on a new public preschool at Bomaderry Public School—one of 10 new public preschools in the Illawarra/Shoalhaven, and 49 across regional NSW, set to open by early 2027.

The historic building program is a key election commitment of the Minns Labor Government to open 100 public preschools across NSW, improving access to affordable, high quality early education for families in areas where it is most needed.

The \$769 million investment will double the number of public preschools in NSW, making it the largest expansion of public early learning in NSW history.

All public preschools will be co-located with local public schools, supporting children's transition into kindergarten and easing pick-up and drop-off for parents with older students at the same school.

The preschools will offer high-quality early education within state-of-the-art learning facilities which will include landscaped outdoor playground areas.

Once complete they will provide places for up to 9,000 additional children to access high quality early education in their local community.

The program to build 100 new public preschools is part of the Minns Labor Government's historic investment in early learning, ensuring that every child across NSW has the best possible start to their education. The investment also includes:

- \$100 million to help community preschools provide more hours and welcome more children;
- \$60 million to build and upgrade 50 preschools at non-government schools;
- \$200 million to support Aboriginal-led early learning;
- \$20 million for capital works at early childhood services in areas of need;

- More than \$29 million for scholarships to increase the number of early childhood workers.

Premier of New South Wales, Chris Minns said:

"Providing the best possible start for our children is one of the most important investments any government can make which is why we're building 100 new public preschools including 49 in regional NSW.

"Families in rural and regional NSW have told us they are struggling to find affordable, high-quality early learning close to home. That's exactly what these new public preschools in the regions will help fix—like this one right here in Bomaderry.

"The former government didn't build a single public preschool in twelve years. We're building one hundred in our first term, that are co-located with public schools so parents can also avoid the double drop off."

Minister for Regional New South Wales Tara Moriarty said:

"This is a significant milestone for the region, with construction beginning on 10 new public preschools across the Illawarra and South Coast.

"These new preschools will ensure families in the region have access to world-class early education closer to home.

"This is a historic investment that will make a huge difference for local communities, and we are proud to see it roll out."

Regional public preschool works commencing construction before the end of 2025:

- Barrack Heights Public Preschool
- Berkeley West Public Preschool
- Bomaderry Public Preschool
- Cringila Public Preschool
- Greenwell Point Public Preschool
- Hayes Park Public Preschool
- Lake Heights Public Preschool
- Sanctuary Point Public Preschool
- Queanbeyan South Public Preschool
- Hillvue Public Preschool
- Moorland Public Preschool
- Tacking Point Public Preschool
- **Warialda Public Preschool**
- Wollongbar Public Preschool
- Booragul Public Preschool
- Nulkaba Public Preschool
- Tenambit Public Preschool
- Tuggerawong Public Preschool
- Weston Public Preschool
- Deniliquin South Public Preschool
- Hanwood Public Preschool
- New Bourke Public School Early Years Transition Centre.

In the News Local Government Health

Positive Water Tests at Warialda

Originally published by STA FM

by **Gerry** | November 10, 2025

<https://www.stafm.com.au/positive-water-tests-at-warialda/>

Recent water testing conducted by Gwydir Shire Council at Warialda has returned promising results.

Since PFAS contamination was detected late last year, Council has been conducting regular testing to ensure the water remains safe.

Four samples taken from the Crane Street bore this year have shown zero PFAS contamination after previously testing positive for PFAS levels in excess of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and was subsequently taken offline.

Last week, Council ran a trial using the bore, in isolation from the town water supply and a further sample taken to ensure infiltration does not occur with changing water levels within the aquifer.

Results from the sample are expected this week and will help Council decide if the bore can return to service.

Furthermore, a hydrogeologist has identified a suitable new bore site, with completion of the bore drilling forecast by the end of the month.

As the Honourable Julie Collins MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) announced earlier this year, the program will see \$36 million in support delivered to regional communities over the next three years.

This investment builds on the Future Drought Fund's Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought Initiative, Networks to Build Drought Resilience program and the Drought Resilience Leaders program.

The program will offer a mix of grants and capacity building activities, including leadership development, across the country. In total, there are three grant elements, each available to specific Local Government Areas (LGAs), as well as National Mentoring and additional capacity building activities.

Natalie Egleton, FRRR's Chief Executive Officer, said that it is important to recognise that remote, rural, and regional communities already possess a strong foundation of resilience, shaped by their experiences with drought and other disasters.

"People in agricultural regions know better than anyone that drought is inevitable – and often isolating. It can also impact the ability of community organisations to support people and provide services during challenging times," Ms Egleton said.

"Through our work with local leaders, we know that communities want to be less reactive and do more to get on the front-foot ahead of the inevitable dry times. Some of the key ways to do this are by building community networks, increasing collaboration, sharing skills and knowledge, or improving community infrastructure, which will look different in every community. That is why the Communities Program is driven from the ground up.

"The aim is for people to be better skilled, informed, connected, and resourced, so that they can draw upon these strengths in times of drought. For community groups, this preparedness work will enable them to have greater capacity and access to the right resources and support that their communities need, when they need them," Ms Egleton said.

Matt Linnegar, ARLF's Chief Executive Officer, said that the Mentoring Initiative is just one part of the support that will be offered through this program.

"At the ARLF, we know that the most powerful resource in any rural community is its people. This program is about bringing these people together—those who have weathered the worst of drought and those preparing for what is ahead—to share knowledge, support, and strength," Mr Linnegar said.

In the News Agriculture Environment

FRRR and ARLF Launch New Drought Preparedness Program


Originally published by STA FM

by **Gerry** | November 11, 2025

<https://www.stafm.com.au/frrr-and-arlf-launch-new-drought-preparedness-program/>

The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF) are pleased to announce the launch of the Future Drought Fund's Communities Program, funded by the Australian Government.

The Future Drought Fund's Communities Program will continue to empower people in agriculture-dependent communities across remote, rural, and regional Australia to prepare for drought by building and maintaining their social resilience.



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

STAFM.COM.AU

Three Meaningful Remembrance Day Activities in Bingara

Steve Kruse

Secretary—Bingara RSL Sub-branch

Honouring Service and Sacrifice in Rural New South Wales

Remembrance Day, observed annually on 11th November, is a significant occasion across Australia, paying tribute to the sacrifices made by men and women in times of war, conflict, and peacekeeping. In Bingara, a town nestled in the northwest of New South Wales, locals took pride in commemorating this day with heartfelt community activities.

Below are the three meaningful Remembrance Day activities that brought Bingara together in reflection and gratitude.

'Drawing to Remember' at the Bingara Memorial Park – 10th November. A School-Led Commemorative Activity.

Bingara Central School played an active role in the Remembrance Day commemorations. Students created drawings with chalk on the footpath, expressing themes of service and peace.

In the lead-up to Remembrance Day, schools often host assemblies where children present their work and learn about the significance of the day from guest speakers, including veterans or members of the Returned Services League (RSL). These activities help instill the importance of remembrance in younger generations.

Remembrance Day Service at the Bingara Memorial Park – 11th November

The day began with a solemn service at the Bingara Memorial Park, where residents gathered to observe a minute's silence at 11am. The service featured readings, the laying of wreaths by community groups, schools, and families and the bugle calls of "The Last Post" and "Rouse". The service provided a quiet moment for reflection, fostering a sense of unity and respect for those who have served.

Community Morning Tea at the Returned Services Club

After the official ceremonies, the Bingara RS Club organised a community morning tea. Locals, veterans, and visitors came together to share stories and enjoy the hospitality of the RS Club.

This relaxed gathering allows people to connect, reflect on the day's meaning, and support the wellbeing of former and current service personnel.

Conclusion

Remembrance Day in Bingara is marked by activities that honour sacrifice, teach the next generation, and strengthen community bonds. Whether standing in quiet reflection at the memorial, participating in school commemorations, or sharing a meal at the RS Club, locals ensure that the spirit of remembrance lives on each year in their town.





Don't dismiss kids' sadness or anger. How to minimise family conflict over the social media ban.

by Catherine Page Jeffery - Lecturer in Media and Communications, University of Sydney

In just over a month Australia's social media ban will begin. From December 10, those under 16 will only be able to see publicly available content on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X and YouTube. They will not be able to have their own accounts.

For example, they could look up Taylor Swift's latest music video on YouTube, but they would not be able to post their own content.

There are no penalties for children who access an account on an age-restricted platform, or for their parents. Platforms face fines of up to A\$49.5 million if they don't take reasonable steps to implement the ban.

While the changes have been welcomed by some safety experts and parent advocates, eSafety acknowledges, "many parents and carers are worried about how under 16s will react to no longer having access to social media accounts".

If you have a child or teen who loves social media, how can you help approach this change, while minimising conflict in your family? What does this mean for platforms designed to engage children?

Social media is already a source of conflict

My research shows young people's social and digital media use is already a major source of conflict for families.

A lot of the tension comes from parents not understanding the important role digital media plays in young people's lives, and young people reacting to "unfair" restrictions imposed by parents.

So conflict around screen time rules and parents' social media restrictions is common. Young people can put a lot of pressure on their parents for devices or access to certain platforms to fit in with their peers ("but all my friends have it").

One of the federal government's rationales for the social media ban is to help parents manage this situation – because people are already finding it hard.

So, potentially, some families may find relief in being able to say "this is just what the government says, this is the law".

Uncertainty ahead

But we still don't really know what's going to happen come December 10. Some of the criticism of the ban has been that young people will find a way around it, such as by using a VPN (which can mask location and identity). Experts are also concerned about the reliability and privacy implications of age verification technology.

Meanwhile, some parents may also help their children circumvent the restrictions. If a lot of parents in a friendship group are helping their children get around the ban, this could in turn create pressures on other parents and lead to

conflict or resentment in families.

Parents need to remember there is no blanket right or wrong answer. All families and kids are different and it's important to make decisions based on your family values and your child's maturity.

Acknowledge it's hard

Either way, if young people are used to social media and suddenly it's gone, they might be really sad, annoyed or angry. And parents will have to manage the fallout.

We know young people can forge important connections with others over social media. It's not just mindless scrolling, it's a significant way to interact with peers. This is especially important for marginalised young people.

So young people will need to find other ways to connect – and parents should help their kids maintain their social connections.

It's also important parents are not dismissive and acknowledge this may be a difficult time and transition.

Young people tend to respond much better to rules and regulations when they are given a clear rationale and a clear reason. For example,

I know it's hard. It's out of my hands, this is a decision made by the government. We may not like it, but this is the way it is. Can I help you find another way to connect with your friends or participate in these communities?

You may also want to note how time away from social media, where young people may be doomscrolling or exposed to cyberbullying, can be healthy.

Don't assume kids are now 'safe'

One risk of the ban is parents will now think kids are "safe" online. We know children are likely to find other spaces online – and if they don't, their friends will. And the ban only covers certain platforms.

Parents need to keep talking to their children about what they see and do online.

Parents also need to keep providing opportunities for children to develop critical digital literacy skills – this means they can assess what they are reading and seeing and not just taking it on face value. Children also need help to navigate social relationships online as they grow up.

This means children under 16 need ongoing opportunities to explore online spaces with support and guidance. This doesn't necessarily mean parents monitor everything their children do online. But they should show an interest in their children's activities, and be available to help navigate any risks and tricky situations.

2026 Bingara Australia Day Award Nominations

The Bingara Special Events Committee in conjunction with Gwydir Shire Council invite you to nominate citizens for consideration in the below categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Volunteer or Volunteer Team/Group of the Year
- Community Event of the Year
- Junior Sports person (under 18 years of age)
- Senior Sports person
- Sports Team

Nomination forms are available on the Gwydir Shire Council website and at the following venues – library, medical centre, IGA, newsagency and Council office. Nominations close Friday 19 December 2025.



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



GWYDIR
SHIRE COUNCIL

Warialda Service NSW

NEW OPENING HOURS

**Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday**

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

Tuesday - Closed



**Rural
Road Safety
Month**
September 2025



IT'S TIME TO STEP UP

Every time you use the road, you hold lives in your hands.

NSF Australian Road Safety Foundation



BUZZ CARE

We are a hard working family business, based in Wyallda, with a proven track record of delivering high quality carpet, upholstery and other specialist cleaning services. We choose to provide care and excellence for all our clients, small and large.

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Carpets, upholstery, stone, tiles, vinyl, leather, windows, bathrooms, car seats, patios—you name it and we will do all we can to help you and give you honest, thoughtful advice so that you get good value for money. Buzz Care is solution-focused and prepared with the equipment, know-how and caring mindset to meet the cleaning needs of residential and commercial clients alike. We are fully GST compliant, and have public liability coverage, NSW Police checks and Working With Children checks for your peace of mind. And yes, Buzz Care travels to farm properties.



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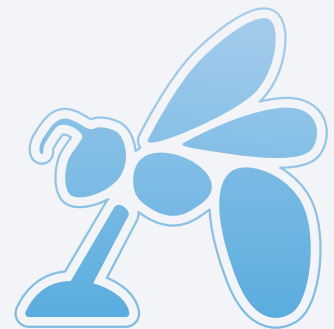
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Hart Rural Agencies – Your Local Partners in Agribusiness

At Hart Rural Agencies, we pride ourselves on being more than just a rural service provider we're part of the community. With branches in Barraba, Manilla and Bingara, our team brings together decades of local knowledge, experience and passion to support our clients across every facet of rural life. Whether you're buying or selling livestock, managing your property, improving your crops, or sourcing farm supplies, Hart Rural is here to help every step of the way.

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Our livestock team offers extensive expertise in marketing and selling all classes of livestock through various selling platforms, including AuctionsPlus, paddock sales, and local saleyards.

We also assist clients with agistment opportunities, helping match producers with available feed and grazing options across the region. We work closely with clients to ensure their stock achieves the best possible results, providing honest advice and reliable service built on strong relationships.

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Our agronomy department provides tailored, on-the-ground advice to help farmers maximise productivity and profitability. From pasture management to crop planning and nutrition, our experienced agronomists deliver practical solutions suited to local conditions. We also offer contract farming services, working alongside producers to plan, manage and deliver cropping programs from start to finish. At Hart Rural, we partner with growers to ensure every season is a success.

Real Estate

Our real estate team specialises in rural and residential property sales. With deep local knowledge and a strong client network, we deliver results while maintaining a personal and professional approach. Whether you're buying or selling, Hart Rural Real Estate is committed to achieving the best outcome for you.

Merchandise

Our merchandise stores are fully stocked with everything you need to keep your farm running smoothly – from animal health and fencing supplies to hardware, water fittings, and everyday essentials. With competitive pricing and friendly, knowledgeable staff, we make it easy to get the right gear when you need it.

M&M Stockyards

In addition to our rural services, we proudly operate M&M Stockyards, our own manufacturing arm, specialising in the design and construction of quality custom steel stockyards and handling systems. Built locally and made to last, M&M Stockyards reflects our commitment to supporting Australian producers with reliable, practical, and innovative solutions.

Working Together to Create Agri- Success



Charlie Hart - Livestock Specialist - 0428 658 457
Rudi Hart - Livestock Sales & Mustering Services - 0499 821 600
Tessa Archer - Livestock Specialist - 0427 821 006
Jarrold Hannaford - Livestock Sales & Mustering Services - 0427 107 934
Luke George - Mustering Services & Agistment - 0429 922 167
Finn Hart - Mustering Services & Agistment - 0487 821 602



Charlie Hart - Rural Property Sales - 0428 658 457
Tessa Archer - Rural Property Sales - 0427 821 006
Rebecca Edwards - Real Estate Sales & Property Management - 0477 050 047



Brent Johnson - Agronomist - 0427 821 460



Chris Beard - Merchandise Manager - 0484 821 006



Heather Moran - Animal Health Specialist - 0477 241 170



Merchandise Team - 02 6742 1170



M&M Stockyards - Chris Paull - Manager - 02 6785 1977

Working Together to Create Agri- Success



Save the Koala shop Open to 9pm on December 5 with 20% off storewide for one day only!

Christmas is just around the corner, and Warialda is getting ready to sparkle! On December 5th, 2025, the town will come alive with the annual Christmas Festival and tree lighting—a night filled with twinkling lights, good company, and plenty of festive cheer.

Just a short stroll from the main action, the **Save the Koala** Shop on Stephen Street, will be part of the fun with a special all-day Christmas shopping event. The shop will be open from 9am right through to 9pm—that's twelve hours of festive shopping, laughter, and community spirit—all in support of our beloved koalas.

To make the day even more exciting, everything in store will be 20% off for one day only—the perfect chance to get a head start on your Christmas shopping! Whether you visit before the festival begins or pop in after the tree lighting, the team from the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) would love to see you.

"We've got so many exciting new arrivals this year that we decided to keep the doors open for late-night shopping," says AKF Chair Deborah Tabart OAM. "There's just too much to love to fit on one table!"

The **Save the Koala** Shop is bursting with beautiful Australian-made gifts and homewares, from practical pieces to feel-good favourites. There's truly something for everyone—and the best part is that every purchase supports the AKF's work to protect koalas and their habitats.

The 2025 Christmas range includes gorgeous collections from some of Australia's most loved designers and brands, such as:

- **Nathan Ferlazzo** – Stunning illustrations of Australian wildlife that blend fine art with conservation.
- **La La Land** – Bright, bold, and wonderfully quirky designs that bring a splash of fun to any celebration.
- **Banksia Glen** – A relaxed new range inspired by the Aussie summer, full of natural tones and coastal charm.
- **Buttonworks** – Beautiful handcrafted timber gifts made with care by a family of passionate wood makers.

From toys and stationery to artwork and homewares, you'll find something for everyone on your list—and you'll be helping to protect one of Australia's most loved animals at the same time.

If you're after a gift that truly gives back, the AKF also offers symbolic gifts like Adopt-A-Koala and Plant-A-Tree or Donate in someone's name. These thoughtful presents are perfect for animal and nature lovers and come with a certificate, so they're ready to pop under the tree.

\$850,000 worth of free grain and bait on offer in statewide offensive on feral pigs

The Minns Labor Government is encouraging landholders across NSW to take advantage of \$850,000 worth of free grain and bait on offer as part of a statewide crackdown on feral pigs.

The support is part of the Minn Government's plans to strengthen and build the state's primary industries sector and is available through the Government's Local Land Services.

Funding is part of the Government's Feral Pig and Pest Program with funding from the State's more than \$1 billion biosecurity budget. It is the third year the Government has provided free grain and bait to landholders as part of the program.

Since July 2023, the NSW Government has committed more than \$40 million to initiatives aimed at supporting landholders to control feral pig and pest animal populations.

This funding has led to the removal of some 223,000 feral pigs and the supply of more than 475,000 kilograms of bait to landholders.

The cost to farmers of grain for feral pig trapping and baiting can be significant, but landholders in NSW can now receive these supplies for free while supplies last.

Local Land Services Feral Pig Coordinator Bec Gray said:

"When it comes to feral pigs and pest animal control, unfortunately there's no silver bullet, which is why we need to support the use of multiple control methods, such as baiting, trapping and shooting.

"Feral pigs don't respect fences or boundaries. They move across landscapes and cause widespread damage. That's why we're encouraging landholders to team up, plan strategically and use the free bait and grain available across all 11 Local Land Services regions."

"This isn't just about individual properties, it's about community-wide action. The more unified the response, the greater the success."

Feral pigs pose a major threat to agriculture, native ecosystems and biosecurity. They damage crops and pastures, prey on livestock and degrade natural habitats.

Minister for Agriculture and Regional NSW, Tara Moriarty

said:

"Feral pigs are wreaking havoc on our landscapes, threatening biodiversity, damaging crops and undermining biosecurity.

"With free grain and bait being offered across the state, we're backing our farmers and regional communities with real, practical support.

"Increasing access to baiting and trapping resources gives landholders the tools they need, meaning greater impact on the ground and fewer pigs out there causing damage."

On-farm baiting and trapping programs are critical to reducing the impacts of feral pigs and should be used in conjunction with other control methods, such as aerial and ground shooting.

Landholders interested in accessing free grain and bait and seeking tailored advice on pest control options can contact their closest Local Land Services office on 1300 795 299.

Local Land Services' 11 regions are Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, North West, Northern Tablelands, Riverina, South East and Western.

To find your Local Land Services region, visit
www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/local-land-services/lls-regions

Local Land Services



Have you seen Sambar deer on your property?

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.



LT0698



Looking after your child's teeth is an important part of looking after their overall health

Free dental care is available for eligible children under 18 at most private dentists and all public dental clinics through the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS).



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



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Goondiwindi (07) 4671 1550

Next visits to Warialda
November 26

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

Next visits to Bingara
November 27

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



CARINDA UPDATE

A big thank you to all those who joined with Carinda members, on Saturday October 25th, to celebrate 48 years of volunteering in the Carinda Shop and working to maintain the historic 1880's building.

Visitors were able to enjoy a delicious morning tea, marvel at the workmanship involved in the making of the beautiful patchwork quilts on display in the Stump Room and the ladies who demonstrated crafts that included; macramé with Betsy, crocheting with Judy, stump work with Dulcie, spinning with Sheena and felting with Rosemary.

Visitors also wandered through the upstairs museum and the Shop where special handmade items were purchased.

The special birthday cake, made by Jeanette, was cut by Pam and Clem. These two wonderful ladies, now both in their 90's, were part of the original Warialda residents who banded together to raise the money to purchase Carinda in 1977. They also still help out on the monthly roster for the Shop!

During the first two weeks of November Carinda will be closed as Gwydir Shire will be replacing the 140-year-old roof with a new one. Members are very grateful to Gwydir Shire for organising the replacement of the old roof and apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Once the building works have been completed, Carinda will be opened for business just in time for the Christmas shopping.

Towards the end of November, the new Gazebo will be built in the front garden. This should not cause any inconvenience as the Sydney firm will have the Gazebo up in less than a day.

Carinda ladies are looking forward to seeing the new roof and the Gazebo finally come to fruition and will welcome everyone to the shop mid-November.

There will be beautiful items to purchase and delicious items from Jeanette's kitchen will once again be on offer.



Colleen Power and Jenny Devlin ready to help visitors with delicious morning tea choice



Sue Smith with one of her beautiful quilts on display!



Clem Bower and Pam Ramsay cutting the birthday cake



Bingara CWA Branch Revived, Carrying Forward a Century of Community Spirit

by Kerriane Anderson
President—Bingara Branch of CWA of NSW

The Bingara branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) has entered a new chapter, with a dedicated group of local women stepping forward to revive the branch after it went into recess late last year. The group is now active once again, continuing a legacy of service, connection and community that began in Bingara more than a century ago.

The CWA has deep roots in our district. The organisation was founded in 1922 by Grace Emily Munro of Keera Station, who recognised the urgent need for better health and wellbeing support for women and children living in rural and remote communities. Her vision grew into one of the most significant women's organisations in Australia, and the Bingara branch has remained a meaningful part of that history.

In October 2024, the branch entered recess when the previous executive committee completed their term and no new nominations were received. As is being experienced across many CWA branches nationally, attracting younger members has been an ongoing challenge.

However, one local resident was not willing to see the Bingara branch fade away.

"I saw a post on the Bingara Notice Board calling for community members to come together and form a new branch," said current President, Kerriane Anderson. "I immediately thought of Grace Munro and knew I could not allow this great organisation to be gone from the very town of its inception."

With support from like-minded residents and returning former members, the branch was re-formed, bringing new energy, new ideas and a renewed sense of purpose. The current executive committee includes:

President: Kerriane Anderson

Secretary: Bev Houghton

Treasurer: Roxene Dennis

"Each member is valued and each member is unique," Kerriane said. "Everyone brings their own skills — and their smiles."

The response from the community has been enthusiastic. Fundraisers, raffles and local events have seen strong support, particularly the much-loved monthly morning tea fundraiser, held on the last Friday of each month. For \$5, local businesses and offices can enjoy a box of homemade treats, baked and delivered by CWA members. These morning teas have quickly become one of the branch's signature activities.

The Bingara CWA has also been visible at major local events including the Bingara Orange Festival and Grazing on the Gwydir, and will have a stall at the upcoming Christmas

One of the first updates of the new refreshed Bingara CWA Branch—our park sign got a facelift: time, paint and work generously donated by Jeremy.





Carnival. A craft and social afternoon is also held on the last Sunday of the month, encouraging creativity, laughter and friendship.

For Kerrianne, the meaning of the CWA remains deeply personal.

"The CWA brings women together — young and old — to support one another, contribute to the community and build genuine friendships. I would be devastated to think a little town like ours would be without a CWA branch."

New Members Welcome

The Bingara CWA meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1:00pm at the Senior Citizens Rooms.

New members are warmly welcomed — you do not need to be a baker, craft expert, or scone-maker to join.

"Come along, bring your good cheer, and fit right in with a great bunch who love to laugh — even when the jokes are on us," Kerrianne said.

Those interested in joining can speak with any member of the branch, message the group directly, or simply come along to a meeting or social day.

As the Bingara CWA looks to the future, the Branch Motto offers fitting guidance:

"Begin each day with a positive attitude and a grateful heart.

Be that light in the tunnel,

A light that shines in the face of adversity."

A legacy of care continues — right where it began.

Warialda CWA Branch

Warialda CWA has had its annual general meeting recently and some changes have been made.

We now have Mrs Megan McRae as President; Mrs Libby Cotter as Secretary and Publicity; Mrs Cecile Egan has returned as Treasurer. Other roles have been filled: Agriculture and Environment Officer is Mrs Egan; Cultural and International is Mrs Clem Bower; Handicraft, Mrs Janice Wilkins. As the OP SHOP is doing well, we have a new office, Opshop Manager and that is Mrs Anne Wild. We do not have a Cookery Officer as yet but the role is filled, when needed, by any of us.

Our Christmas Lunch will be at our rooms on 27th November

following our monthly meeting at 10:00am. It will be our last meeting until next year.

In celebration of our second year of operation, we are having a sale of \$2 a bag. So come in and fill your bag up with whatever from our shop and pay \$2!!! Some people have already taken up on this wonderful offer and walked out with some great bargains. This is continuing until the end of November.

CWA Gwydir Group, which involves 13 branches in the area, will be celebrating its 100 years of service to the community in 2026. So be prepared to join in celebrations for that. Warialda will be celebrating its centenary in 2028, what an achievement for an organisation.

We would like to remind those that are members who haven't paid their fees, please do so as soon as possible. If anyone is interested in joining our great association, please do not hesitate in contacting a member, or come to the shop which is open Friday and Saturday mornings from 9.30am to 1.30pm. Our arms are open and we are warm and friendly with the kettle always hot.

Libby Cotter

Secretary—Warialda Branch of CWA of NSW

Don't leave yourself exposed.

Always set up multi-factor authentication.

What are you risking online?



Act Now. Stay Secure.

actnowstaysecure.gov.au



Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Capital Hill, Canberra.

Finding the Best Value When Buying New Appliances

With summer approaching, many of us start thinking about upgrading our home appliances — whether it's a more efficient fridge, a quieter washing machine, or an air conditioner that can handle the heat. But with so many options out there, how do you know which one truly offers the best value for your home and budget?

1. Look Beyond the Price Tag

It's easy to be tempted by the lowest price, but cheaper appliances often use more energy or don't last as long. Paying a little extra upfront for a reliable, energy-efficient model can save you hundreds of dollars in power bills over its lifetime.

2. Understand Energy Star Ratings

Those little stars on appliance labels aren't just decoration — they're the key to comparing efficiency.

The more stars, the less energy the appliance uses.

For example, upgrading from a 2-star to a 4-star fridge can save around 30% in electricity costs each year.

Always check the annual energy consumption (kWh) listed on the label to see what it will really cost to run.

3. Choose the Right Size for Your Needs

Bigger isn't always better. An oversized fridge, washer, or air conditioner will use more energy than you actually need. Match the capacity of your appliance to the size of your household — it's one of the easiest ways to save money without sacrificing comfort.

4. Consider the Whole-of-Life Cost

Think long term. Factor in electricity use, maintenance, and potential repairs. A higher-quality machine might last 10–15 years, while a budget model could struggle after just a few.

5. Watch for Seasonal Sales

Spring and early summer often bring big sales events. If you've done your research ahead of time, you'll know exactly what model and energy rating to look for when prices drop.

When you buy smart, you're not just getting an appliance — you're investing in lower bills, less waste, and a more comfortable home for years to come.

Next month: Adam shares simple maintenance tips to keep your appliances running like new — saving you money and extending their life.

— Adam Stone

Next month: Adam shares simple maintenance tips to keep your appliances running like new — saving you money and extending their life.



Thanks to all.

I have received so many prayers, flowers, cards, well wishes, and visits whilst in hospital, I wish to thank each and everyone.

It was really overwhelming and it helped me to get well.

My second family "the op shop" was a source of much love and encouragement.

The Bingara Hospital and MPS, wow, I could not have had better care from the staff of this great facility we are so fortunate to have in Bingara.

The nursing staff, what treasures! They treated me with loving care and dignity, I cannot praise them enough, they were so professional and helpful.

A special thanks to the catering staff.

I hope to be here for a bit longer (God willing).

Thank you.

Love

Nancy MacInnes



**Take care around animals
on country roads**



transport.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety



The LOST KING

The Lost King is the North West Theatre Company's film for November. This is our last film for 2025. The selection committee has selected the films for 2026 and we will be announcing the programme as part of the introduction to the November film.

The Lost King is a 2022 British biographical film directed by Stephen Frears and written by Steve Coogan and Jeff Pope. The film is based on the 2013 book *The Kings Grave: The Search for Richard III* by Philippa Langley and Michael Jones. It is a dramatisation of the story of Philippa Langley (played by Sally Hawkins), the woman who initiated the search to find King Richard III's remains under a car park in Leicester, and her treatment by the University of Leicester in the claiming of credit for the discovery. Coogan and Harry Lloyd also feature in the cast.

The film was produced by Pathé, Baby Cow, BBC Film and Ingenious Media and distributed by Pathé in France and Switzerland as a standalone distributor and by Warner Bros in the UK. The film premiered at the 47th Toronto International Film Festival on 10 September 2022 and was released in the UK in October 2022. The Lost King received generally positive reviews from critics, although part of the film was later ruled to be defamatory in its depiction of Richard Taylor, with a settlement being reached out of court in 2025, and there have been critiques of its framing or veracity.

The Lost King will be shown at the Roxy Theatre on Sunday 30 November commencing at 4pm. **New Film Club members are always welcome.**



The North West Theatre Company Film Club presents

The LOST KING

Sunday November 30th 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.



Sharna Aitken Named Finalist in National Student of the Year Awards

CCNI is celebrating a remarkable achievement this week, with local student Sharna Aitken announced as a Finalist in the **2025 Community Education Australia Student of the Year Award**.

The national award recognises adult learners who have demonstrated outstanding commitment, resilience and personal growth through community education programs.

Sharna's journey has been described by her trainer, Ean Muhs, as one of "determination, courage and genuine transformation. Sharna is the kind of student every educator hopes to support," Mr Muhs said.

"She brings a quiet determination to her study, asks thoughtful questions, and approaches every task with a willingness to learn. Watching her confidence grow has been a privilege."

Sharna's nomination highlighted not only her academic progress but also her personal resilience and commitment to her workplace, community and fellow learners.

Sharna now progresses to the final round of judging, with the winner announced at an Awards ceremony on Tuesday 25th November, 2025 at Sydney's Marriott Hotel.

CCNI CEO Mel Squires, said Sharna's recognition is a proud moment for the College.

"To see one of our local learners recognised as a national finalist is incredibly special. I'm honoured to accompany Sharna to the Awards ceremony, taking with us the support of all seven CCNI campuses and the wider Northern Inland community."

"Sharna represents everything community education stands for — empowerment, second chances, and the belief that learning can change lives."



Scan the QR code to send a message of support to Sharna.



Courses in the Gwydir

Welding 101

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

This is a very practical course where students will practise different welds in a controlled environment under the expert guidance of an experienced trainer. This is a great, non-accredited starter course for anyone interested in gaining skills for employment in the rural or construction sectors.

6 x Weekly Face-to-Face Workshops 6.00PM - 9.00PM \$450

Warialda Campus



Thursday 27 February 2026



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



Monday 24 November



♦ 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.

Apply online at www.ccn.nsw.edu.au

First Aid

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

Provide First Aid

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation
HLTAID010 Provide basic emergency life support
HLTAID011 Provide first aid



1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 4.30PM \$190 F

Bingara Campus Thursday 27 November

Provide CPR

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation



1/2-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 12PM \$90 F

Bingara Campus Thursday 27 November

Wialda Campus Tuesday 2 December



F This training is subsidised by the NSW Government. Eligibility rules apply. Fully subsidised training may be available for eligible students (subject to funding available at the time of application). Contact us to discuss course fees and eligibility.

Courses with the Nationally Recognised Training logo are accredited and comply with a national standard. These course are recognised by employers and educational institutions Australia-wide.



Hospitality

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

Food Handling (Level 1)

SITXFSA005 Use hygienic practices for food safety



1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 3.00PM \$160 F

Barraba Campus Tuesday 25 November

Wialda Campus Friday 5 December

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

Barraba Campus Tue 25 Nov - Wed 26 Nov

High Risk & Industry

Issuing Registered Training Organisation
Community College Northern Inland | RTO 90027

Confined Spaces

RRIWHS202E Enter and work in confined spaces



1-Day In-Campus 9.00AM - 4.30PM \$310 F

Bingara Campus Tuesday 2 December



CCNI COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NORTHERN INLAND

Community College Northern Inland Inc. | RTO 90027

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News from Warialda Public School



From the Principal

Aurora College

A huge congratulations to Ollie Wilson, who has been offered a place in Aurora College's Opportunity Class for 2026, due to his excellent academic achievement and success in placement exams he completed earlier this year.

Oliver will access this unique learning experience at Warialda Public School, with Mathematics, Science and Digital Technologies as his OC Aurora subjects. This is an exciting opportunity for Ollie and we look forward to helping him succeed in this learning journey starting 2026!



Ollie Wilson—ready to take his place in Aurora College's Opportunity Class for 2026.



Day for Daniel at Warialda Public School.

Day for Daniel

On Friday, 31st October, WPS was a sea of red instead of our usual yellow as we participated in Day for Daniel. Together, we raised over \$300 for this very important cause.

Grandparents Day

On Wednesday, 5th November, our school hosted Grandparents and Grand-friends Day! The morning featured a fun-filled 'Warialda & Beyond' trivia, with categories ranging from knowing our WPS students to fascinating teacher facts — plus a few questions about Warialda's history and local landmarks! We loved seeing so many join us for this special day.



Farewell to Jenni Williams

After 15 wonderful years as part of the WPS administration team, Jenni is beginning her next exciting chapter. We are so grateful for her dedication, hard work, and the care she has shown to our students, staff, and families over the years.

While we'll certainly miss seeing her in the office each day, we're delighted that we'll still see her around the school — this time in her very special role as a grandparent!



Thank you, Jenni, for everything you have done for our school. We wish you all the very best for this next chapter!

SAVE THE DATE - Twilight Concert

Get ready for a magical evening at the WPS Twilight Concert on Friday, 12th December, starting at 6:00pm!

This year's theme is Disney & Beyond — a celebration of music, magic, and imagination. Come along and see our talented students perform to some much-loved Disney classics!

Bring your family, picnic rugs, and plenty of Disney spirit for an unforgettable night under the stars!

More information will be available soon via our WPS Facebook page — stay tuned!



COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE GWYDIR SHIRE AND SURROUNDS

THE Gwydir
NEWS

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

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Bingara Central School
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Bingara Sporting Club
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Liberty Bingara Café
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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

Growing at Gravo: Collaborative Learning Groups Thrive

During Terms 2 and 3, students at Gravo took part in an exciting Collaborative Learning Groups program, held every Friday. Students rotated through three hands-on learning experiences — Leatherwork, Gardening, and Cooking — designed to build practical skills, teamwork, and creativity.

In Leatherwork, students crafted a variety of items including belts and keyrings, learning the art of working with materials to produce quality handmade products.

The Cooking group became a highlight of every Friday, as students prepared delicious meals for the whole school community to share at lunchtime. These shared lunches not only filled the air with wonderful aromas but also encouraged a strong sense of community and cooperation.



Meanwhile, in Gardening, under the guidance of Mrs Kay Rolfe, students prepared garden beds, planted new seeds, and nurtured the growing plants. Their dedication has paid off — as the saying goes, *"we now reap what we sow."* The gardens are now flourishing and full of fresh produce, which is available for purchase by members of our school and local community.

The Collaborative Learning Groups have been a rewarding experience for all involved, helping students grow in confidence, skill, and connection — both with each other and with the environment around them.

Touch Success: Gravo Creek Shines on the Field

Gravo Creek had an outstanding season in the Small Schools Touch Knockout, showcasing incredible skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the competition.

The team played three strong games leading up to the state finals in Sydney, winning each one convincingly while displaying excellent sportsmanship and team spirit.

Once in Sydney, Gravo Creek faced a tough pool of competition but rose to the challenge, playing every match with heart and commitment. After a series of impressive performances, the team proudly finished 3rd overall, losing only one game in the entire series — to Illabo, who went on to claim the championship title for the second year in a row.

A huge congratulations to Illabo on their well-deserved win, and to all the Small Schools Knockout organisers for running such a fantastic and well-supported event.

Well done, Gravo Creek, for an amazing season filled with skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship — you've done your school and community proud!



Gravo Riders Shine at ISHE in Tamworth

A contingent of four keen horse riders proudly represented Gravesend Public School at the Interschools Horse Extravaganza (ISHE) in Tamworth, competing under our school motto — *"Always Our Best."*

Cybelle took part in the Combined Training and Showjumping events, stepping up to a new horse and higher jumping division. While just out of the ribbons this time, she showed great progress and determination — a combination to watch

out for next year!

Meanwhile, Dougal, Lottie, and Cate competed in the Working Horse Classes, Sporting, and Campdrafting, with some truly impressive results:

- **Dougal** – 10th overall in the *Working Horse Challenge*.
- **Lottie** – 8th overall in the *Working Horse Challenge* and 3rd overall in the *9-Year-Old Sporting*.
- **Cate** – 4th overall in the *Working Horse Challenge*, 2nd overall on Nandeye Nightingale in *Sporting*, 4th overall on Indiana Style in *Sporting*, 3rd on Indiana Style in *Campdraft*, and 4th on Nandeye Nightingale.

The ISHE is an incredibly well-run event that attracts riders from near and far, offering an outstanding opportunity for students to compete, learn, and showcase their horsemanship at a high level.

Congratulations to all our riders for their hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship — you've made Gravesend Public School proud!



The Living Classroom Workshop



The Living Classroom | Wednesday 10 December 2025 | 4:30pm

Gwydir Shire Council is seeking feedback for the direction of The Living Classroom, Bingara. If you wish to put forward ideas, plans or suggestions, please consider coming along the workshop. Council is seeking workable and viable projects and plans, which can be externally funded and show tangible benefits and outcomes.



G W Y D I R
SHIRE COUNCIL

SPORT

Bingara Garden Club

Bingara Garden Club Drive-by Encouragement Award

The October winners of the Bingara Garden Club Drive-by Encouragement Award are John and Gay Raymond of 22 White Street, Bingara. From the roadway, the elevated house and garden presents as a well organised minimalist concept. A large tree with novel seating underneath provides welcome shade. At the garden front, long rows of agapanthus are now just starting to bud. Planted within the lawn are four Dancing in the Dark crepe myrtles in leaf but not yet flowering. Along the side boundary, a garden bed hosts flowering gazanias and a number of white iceberg roses. At the front of the house half a dozen well spaced yellow roses of the same variety are in full bloom. The garden has a smattering of pot plants and numerous ornaments.



Bingara Christmas Concert
Saturday 29 November 2025

THE
CONTINGENCY
PLAN

RFS Fun Water Spray | Children's
Craft | Laser Tag | Food Stalls | Santa
Performance by "Local Vocals"
Gold coin donation | 7pm Start

BYO Chairs, Picnic Rug and Drinks
NO GLASS




Warialda Christmas
Carnival and Lighting
of the Christmas Tree

Will Clift | Face Painting
Market and Food Stalls
Bauble Hunt | Santa Visit
Local Performances

Warialda Town Square and part of Hope Street
Friday 5 December 2025 | 6pm - 10pm




Bingara Golf Report

by John Gill

October/November

Bingara Golf has held a number of events during October and November, with good fields in all events.

Northcott Shoot Out - 5th October

Winner Anthony Colvin

Runner Up Col Whitfield

Thank you Robert and Judy Northcott for sponsoring the event.

Men's Monthly Medal Stroke Event - 19th October

Winner Chris Morrissey - 63 nett

Runner Up Garry Hincksman - 65 nett

Cox Plate Bisque par Medley Event - 26th October

Winner Peter Houlahan + 11

Runner Up Halie Reynolds + 9

Thank you, Tim and Patsy Cox for sponsoring the event.

Men's Monthly Medal Stroke Event - 2nd November

Winner Peter Houlahan - 60 nett

Runner Up Clayton Southwell - 63 nett

4 BBB Championship 18 Hole Event - 9th November

Winners Ron Armstrong / Danny Capel
gross score 33

Runner Up Shane Thomson / Anthony Colvin
gross score 32

Nett Winners Peter Houlahan / John Robinson
46 nett

Runners Up Robert Northcott / Cameron
Maisey 43 nett

Bingara Golf Events

Saturday Mixed Golf 12:00pm / 12:30pm tee

Sunday Golf 12:00pm / 12:30pm tee

Tuesday Ladies Golf Contact 0428 241 415

**Thursday 9 Hole
Chook Run** 2:00pm tee

Cart Hire Vendi cart hire - see front of club
for details

35 days to Christmas

Plan your holiday greetings and ad campaigns now

Scan the code to send a message

PUBLIC NOTICES

Spot the Crochet Christmas Tree

Spot the **Crochet Christmas Tree with a Number** in the Bingara shop windows. Complete the entry form and return it to either Bingara Wattle Arts & Crafts, Bingara Newsagency, Op Shop or Library by Wednesday 17th December. The most correct entries will win a prize.

Go on have a go—it will be a lot of fun for everyone. Thirty-three shops are participating! Don't forget to put your name and phone number on your entry form.



Copeton Dam Level

as at
16 November 2025

81%



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 20th 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 21st November
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!

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



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What's on

NOVEMBER 2025

Friday 21st

Bingara District Historical Society - General Meeting - 10:30am at the Museum complex, Maitland Street, Bingara - New members are most welcome

Saturday 29th

Bingara Christmas Concert - 7:00pm - Gold coin donation - Gwydir Oval, Bingara - Children's craft, laser tag, food stalls, Santa visit and a performance by 'Local Vocals' - BYO chairs, picnic rugs and drinks (no glass)

Sunday 30th

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

DECEMBER 2025

Tuesday 2nd

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

Friday 5th

Warialda Christmas Carnival and Lighting of the Christmas Tree - 6:00pm to 10:00pm - Warialda Town Square - Face painting, market and food stalls, bauble hunt, Santa visit and performances by Will Clift

Saturday 6th

Annual Community Gathering - Gravesend Recreation Ground - Pop up shop at 12:00pm - Party from 5:00pm - Raffles, 2024 and 2025 Fishing Club Awards and yabbie races - BYO drinks - BBQ available

Saturday 6th - Sunday 7th

The Gingerbread House Events - Saturday 6th (Adults only) - Sunday 7th (Family fun) - More info to come

Friday 12th

Twilight Concert at Warialda Public School

Sunday 14th

Crooble Carols

Tuesday 16th

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

Wednesday 17th

Bingara Library hosts 'Storytime' at the Bingara Toy Library - 10:30am - Everyone is welcome

Sunday 21st

Warialda Town Christmas Carols

Tuesday 30th - Thursday 1st

Upper Horton Campdraft and Rodeo

JANUARY 2026

Monday 26th

Australia Day Breakfast and Awards Ceremony - Bingara Pool

Monday 26th

Australia Day Breakfast and Awards Ceremony - Warialda Showgrounds

Saturday 31st - Sunday 1st

Trip of a Lifetime - NWTC Performance - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara

FEBRUARY 2026

Saturday 7th - Sunday 8th

Trip of a Lifetime - NWTC Performance - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara

Saturday 7th

The Land Sydney Royal Agshows NSW Young Women Competition - Zone 4 Finals

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.