

March 2026 Edition

gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au

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



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Community College
Northern Inland (CCNI)

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Feral Pigs Run Riot While The Government Runs Another Review

Brendan Moylan

Shadow Minister for Agriculture



I almost have to laugh.

The Minns Labor Government has announced... wait for it... a "review" into feral pigs.

Because obviously what millions of 100-kilo breeding machines tearing up regional NSW really fear is a discussion paper in Macquarie Street.

Last week I drove from Armidale to Moree at night, about 250 kilometres of quality agricultural country. Between Bundarra and Bingara alone I counted 21 deer.

Across the full trip? Nine foxes and at least 50 pigs.

Between Bingara and Gravesend the pigs were so thick in places they were impossible to count, as dad used to say in the yards at home, I'm a shocking counter.

And I'll admit: this wasn't a departmental survey or a funded monitoring program. It was just me looking out the windscreen into the beam of the driving lights.

If that's what you see on a single trip,

imagine what's out there breeding unchecked.

While the government congratulates itself on "coordination frameworks" and "strategic reviews," pigs are multiplying at a rate that would make Treasury blush.

They're tearing up crops, destroying pastures, fouling waterways and creating serious biosecurity risks and regional communities are left to carry the cost.

But don't worry, the Minister has announced a review.

At this point, the only thing growing faster than the feral pig population is the stack of government paperwork about them.

Farmers and regional communities don't need another consultation session in Sydney. We need helicopters in the air, targeted, coordinated aerial shooting and drastically expanded baiting programs.

We need serious funding and sustained operations that actually reduce numbers, not just manage headlines.

Here's a simple benchmark for success: **fewer pigs on the ground and fewer government media releases.**

This problem is out of control. The government's response is not good enough.

We don't need more reviews.

We need real action, and a lot more dead pigs.

Next issue: The *Gwydir News* will be published on Thursday 16th April. **Plan your advertising now**—booking and material deadline for the next issue is Monday 6th April. Email gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au



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2026 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

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
SEPTEMBER	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 5 OCTOBER
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER
NOVEMBER	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER
DECEMBER	COPY DUE DATE	MONDAY 7 DECEMBER
	PUBLISH DATE	THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER

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Do you have some news, an article or other content that you'd like to contribute to The Gwydir News?

Submission Guidelines

The Gwydir News welcomes submissions for publishing in print. Please read the guidelines below and email your submission to gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au

Text | Text submissions should be emailed in Word or Word-compatible file format.

Text articles should be around 600 words in length.

Images | High quality images will be accepted in most formats including .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .eps etc. We are unable to publish images that have been scanned, copied or downloaded from the Internet. If you are using images that belong to someone else, please provide details and ensure you have written permission regarding their use.

To maintain quality, images should be emailed as attachments to gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au

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



From the Mayor

Who can believe we are in March already? The weather has been relentless, with extreme heat and still no rain, and unfortunately none in sight from what I'm being told. I've spoken to many people who say they've checked every weather map possible and the outlook isn't promising.

It is very concerning. Let's hope the weather forecasters have it wrong and the skies open soon to give us some much-needed rain. At this rate, winter isn't looking good with conditions so dry and many already needing to feed stock or destock.

We are also facing uncertain times globally with what is happening in the Middle East. People are understandably worried as fuel prices rise and there are already concerns about shortages. During times like this, it's important to remember to support one another and show kindness. As the saying goes, *"In difficult times, the strength of a community is measured by how well it stands together."*

Once again, I keep repeating how lucky we are to live in this amazing Shire where people support each other and always dig deep when it matters. We can never say we are bored in our communities because there is always something happening that brings people together and gives us the chance to show our support.

Gravesend Long Lunch

Thank you for a fantastic day, Gravesend Public School P&C!

How lucky are we to live in the amazing Gwydir Shire, where people truly dig deep and support one another. The committee has worked tirelessly for months to put together this wonderful event that our community looks forward to every two years.

The setting was amazing, the food was beautiful, the entertainment was great, the company was lovely, and everyone still managed to enjoy themselves despite the extreme heat.

Thanks to the incredible effort of the committee and the generosity of the community, funds were raised to help provide an extra teacher for these wonderful kids.

I'm so proud to live in this Shire. The support from both past and present parents to make this happen is simply amazing. What a wonderful community we have!

Mason Daley COD Classic Fishing Weekend

At the time of writing this column, we have the Mason Daley COD Classic Fishing Weekend coming up.

This is a fantastic event where people from all walks of life come together—young and old, kids, ladies, men, mothers and fathers—to enjoy fishing, camping and sharing stories about who caught the biggest fish.

This is all while remembering our beautiful Mase who just loved to fish and enjoy the great outdoors.

The event raises funds for conservation, helping to restock our river system with fingerlings and supports environmental initiatives.

Over the last three years this event has grown significantly and now extends along the Gwydir River from below Copeton Dam (east of Gravesend), through to the Boolaroo Bridge (north of Moree). So many people get behind this event and the support from sponsors has been incredible, with some amazing prizes up for grabs.

Bingara Show

We also have the Bingara Show on 21 March 2026, which is shaping up to be another fantastic day for the community. The hardworking committee put in countless volunteer hours to make this an enjoyable event for the whole family.

Country shows are always special in small communities, bringing people together while also helping boost the local economy.

As I often say, "Great communities don't just happen—they are built together through shared vision, hard work and a commitment to a better future."

April is already looking even busier, with so much happening right across the Shire. We look forward to sharing more of these exciting events in our next issue.

BROC (Border Regional Organisation of Councils) Meeting

On 13 February 2026, Cr Sean Coleman and I attended the BROC Meeting in Tenterfield. This meeting brings together councillor representatives from shires on both sides of the New South Wales–Queensland border.

We were also fortunate to have the Queensland Cross-Border Commissioner, Mr Bob Gee APM, and the New South Wales Cross-Border Commissioner, Kalina Koloff, in attendance. Both commissioners provided updates on cross-border matters. Key points that may be of interest to Gwydir residents are outlined below.

Mr Bob Gee APM, Queensland Cross Border Commissioner Update:

- Focus on embedding cross-border issues in both state and national disaster management doctrine.



- Health and community issues—Ongoing problems for residents accessing services across borders, especially for oncology and palliative patients.
- Challenges with ambulance transport and restrictions on carrying certain medications and patients across state lines.
- State-based nuances around allied health record access—progressing toward more unified electronic health records, but some barriers remain.

Kalina Koloff New South Wales Cross-Border Commissioner Update:

- Ongoing work on integrated transport plans that include cross-border considerations, and an invitation for councils to participate in consultations.
- Issues raised around vehicle inspection logistics for border residents and lack of reciprocal recognition for heavy vehicle inspections.
- Update on progress and ongoing barriers in mutual recognition frameworks for trades and professional licensing between states.

Northern Tablelands Regional Organisation of Councils

On 18 March 2026 the Mayors and General Managers of Armidale, Inverell, Glen Innes, Moree Plains, Walcha, and Brendan Moylan MP met with Leeah and me at The Living Classroom to form the Northern Tablelands Regional Organisation of Councils. Uralla Shire Council is also a

member, but their representatives were unable to attend.

This forum and partnership have been things I've been thinking about since we were first elected. I remember raising the idea of how we could better support one another across our Shires—because while our communities are different, the challenges we face are very much the same.

We're all dealing with infrastructure pressures, housing, workforce shortages, community expectations, compliance, funding constraints—and we're all trying to do the very best for our communities with what we have.

Sometimes in local government, it can feel like we're standing alone. And being Mayor, at times, can be a little lonely. But what I've truly valued over this term is the friendships and support we've built with each other.

I genuinely feel we've become each other's cheerleaders.

As Henry Ford said:

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

This meeting was the beginning.

We will continue to meet quarterly, continue sharing ideas, continue picking up the phone to one another, and continue backing each other in tough times—that's progress.

And if we can collaborate, advocate together where needed, and learn from each other's wins and mistakes—that's success.

We will always represent our own Councils first and foremost, but there is real strength in presenting a united regional voice when it matters.



Members of the newly formed Northern Tablelands Regional Organisation of Councils—creating success through collaboration, advocacy and mutual learning.

Gwydir Libraries - Summer Holiday Activities

Warialda Library Delivers Space Themed Storytime at Tharawonga Mobile Preschool

Our staff visited Tharawonga Mobile Preschool at St Joseph's Primary School on Friday 20 February 2026. Library Officer, Charlotte Lockyer shared with the preschoolers the picture book 'My Dad and the Toot That Shook the Galaxy' by Matt Coyne.

Everyone then enjoyed a craft activity, where children created colourful spaceships and imaginative alien characters.

This outreach initiative supports early literacy and encourages a love of reading among young learners.



Library Officer, Charlotte Lockyer delivered a space-themed Storytime at Tharawonga Mobile Preschool.

Bingara Library Launches "1000 Books Before School" at Toy Library and Library Storytime

Our staff have expanded access to children's books through our local toy library as part of its '1000 Books Before School' early literacy initiative. Our families can now borrow books directly from the toy library, making it easier to support daily reading habits at home.

The program strengthens partnerships with local preschools, playgroups and toy libraries, offering engaging, play based learning opportunities for families with young children.

General Manager's Residence – Rosehill Drive, Bingara

Our staff are in the process of carrying out renovations to the General Manager's residence in Rosehill Drive, Bingara. Following the departure of the former General Manager it was decided that the house would require renovations, and with it being temporarily vacant, this presented a perfect opportunity to carry out works. Since the dwellings... initial construction, the house has received only minor maintenance and was in desperate need of refreshing and modernisation.

The proposed refurbishment work includes:

- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Ensuite
- Laundry
- Floor coverings
- Painting (internal and external)
- Roof cleaning and installation of gutter guards
- Removal of overhanging trees
- Replacement of failing retaining wall
- Replacement of damaged awning to entertaining area
- Lighting and electrical.

Bingara Administration Centre

The construction of the Bingara Administration Centre is nearing completion, with internal works all but complete, and external works substantially completed.

Work completed since the last update:

- Tiling (internal and external)
- Stormwater drainage
- Lighting, electrical, data and mechanical services installation
- Painting (internal and external)
- External concrete works
- Asphalt to carpark
- Boundary security fencing
- Cabinetry.

Lighting, electrical and mechanical service installations have been commissioned using the onsite generator, which moving forward will supply electricity to the new building during mains power outages. At the time of writing this,



Construction of the Bingara Administration Centre is nearing completion, with internal works all but complete, and external works substantially completed.



mains power is due to be connected to the site on 8 March 2026. The Principal Certifier is due to conduct a preliminary inspection on 9 March 2026 for the issue of an occupation certificate for the facility. Pending any additional work required, the building should be ready for occupation in the near future.

It was so great to show over 70 people through the new building last week. People were so happy with the space. It will be an amazing place to work and is a fantastic asset for our Shire.

Warialda Toy Library

The facility has been actively engaging with and supporting local home-schooling families within our community. This support extends beyond toy borrowing, with families participating in organised activities and accessing assistance (educational and developmental resources).

Currently, more than 50% of attendance consists of home-schooling families. This highlights the important role the Toy Library plays as both a learning hub and a social connection point. For many of these families, the Toy Library provides valuable opportunities

for collaborative learning, peer interaction, and access to resources that may otherwise be difficult to obtain locally.

Tresillian 4u – Inverell Partnership

Tresillian 4U continues to provide ongoing and valued support to families attending the Warialda and Bingara Toy Library. The service visited both libraries throughout February and will be back at both venues in March. Families had the opportunity to access free health checks, ask questions, and receive individual guidance in a welcoming and familiar environment. Support can be provided on a variety of areas including toddler behaviour, sleep difficulties, nutrition, breastfeeding and mental health.

It has been particularly encouraging to see an increase in attendance, with more families engaging in the service and seeking follow-up support. This demonstrates the importance of providing accessible, local services that reduce barriers for rural and regional families.

The partnership between Tresillian 4U and the Toy Libraries allows families to connect with trusted professionals,

while also building peer support networks within our community. By hosting these visits locally, the service is helping families feel more comfortable seeking advice and support in the early years of parenting.

Day Care

Our Day Care service continues to attract strong interest from local families, highlighting the valuable role these centres play in supporting children's early learning while providing essential childcare for the community.

Demand for places at the Warialda venue remains steady. The service continues to receive a consistent number of expressions of interest from families seeking enrolment when positions become available, demonstrating ongoing community awareness of—and confidence in—the service.

In Bingara, demand for places continues to exceed current capacity. The centre has received several expressions of interest for future enrolments, and the waiting list remains strong across all days.

A key factor influencing the service's ability to respond to this demand is staffing capacity. Recruitment efforts are continuing, with positions currently being advertised. Increasing staffing levels will allow the service to meet regulatory educator-to-child ratios and create opportunities for more children to be enrolled. If you know someone who may be interested in becoming an educator, we encourage them to visit our website to view the available opportunities in this area.

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



Croppa Creek Road Upgrade

Works are continuing on the Croppa Creek Road upgrade, with our crews having commenced pavement overlay works at the southern end of the project. These works cover approximately eight kilometres and represent the final stage in upgrading this key freight route. Most of the road was stabilised in 2025, with overlay

now being applied in sections where existing pavement thickness was identified as inadequate. The project remains on track for completion prior to 30 June 2026.

Warialda Road (Heavy Vehicle Bypass to Oregon Road Intersection) – Investigation

On Wednesday 25 February 2026, excavation and inspection works were undertaken as part of the Warialda Road rehabilitation (between the Heavy Vehicle Bypass and the Oregon Road intersection). Two test excavations were completed at locations where pavement defects had developed within the section of road constructed by Stabilised Pavements of Australia in mid 2025.

These works were carried out jointly by our staff and a representative from Stabilised Pavements of Australia to inspect the pavement and subgrade layers beneath the defects and identify the underlying causes of pavement shoving. Each excavation was reinstated following inspection, pending any further required actions.

Maintenance Grading and Resheeting

During the month of February, scheduled maintenance grading and resheeting works were undertaken to improve road surface conditions and ensure continued accessibility across the following rural routes:

- Gragin Road
- Gravesend Road
- Gournama Road
- Currangandi Road
- Trevallyn Road
- Horseshoe Bend Road
- Gineroi Road
- Wilson Road
- Mt Jerrybang Road
- Riverstone Road
- The Glen Road
- Bereen Road
- Cumble Road

Slashing

Slashing activities were carried out throughout February to manage roadside vegetation, enhance visibility and reduce fire risk. The following roads were serviced:

- North Star Road
- Upper Horton Road
- Bruxner Way
- Yallaroi Road
- Killarney Gap Road
- Getta Getta Road
- IB Bore Road

Waste Facilities

All waste facilities remain operational. Bingara and Warialda Landfills are operating normally, with scrap steel processing and shredding activities ongoing. Smaller sites at Coolatai, North Star, Croppa Creek, and Upper Horton remain tidy, however security and access upgrades are required.

Security issues, including nonfunctional padlocks, vandalism, and offline cameras, are present at several sites, with replacement padlocks scheduled for mid March and broader upgrades under review.

Illegal dumping continues at Warialda Rail, Gravesend and Upper Horton, requiring regular cleanup.

At Bingara, a connectivity upgrade is being sourced.

At Upper Horton, a new waste cell is expected to come online shortly, with the existing cell to be capped.

Water Restrictions

Ongoing hot weather continues to place pressure on our town water supplies. Pump usage and reservoir levels are being closely monitored.

The following water restrictions will remain in place until further notice.

Level 3 restrictions – Warialda, Gravesend and North Star:

- Fixed sprinklers may only be used between 8:00pm and 10:00pm on an odds and evens system.
- Even street numbered houses may use their sprinklers from 8:00pm to 10:00pm Monday and Wednesday.
- Odd street numbered houses may use their sprinklers from 8:00pm to 10:00pm Thursday and Saturday.
- Use of handheld hoses is permitted by residents at any time of the day, however the most effective use is after 8:00pm and before 10:00am.

Level 1 restrictions - Bingara:

- The use of sprinklers is prohibited between 10:00am and 5:00pm.
- Use of handheld hoses is permitted for watering at any time of the day, however the most effective use is after 8:00pm and before 10:00am.

We thank you for your support and understanding during this time.

In Warialda, a test bore has been drilled as part of Council's



investigations into additional groundwater sources to support the town water supply. Test bores are used to assess groundwater availability, yield and water quality before any decision is made about longer term use.

A holding pond for the pump test water has now been constructed and a security fence installed. All preparatory works are complete. At the time of writing this, a 72-hour pump test of the new bore is scheduled for the second week in March.

Funded Projects

Works awarded to Alliance Automation under the (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water) DCCEEW funded Advanced Operational Support Program for the supply and installation of online turbidity meters at the Bingara Water Treatment Plant are currently in the preliminary design phase. The project remains on track for completion by May 2026. Once installed, the sensors will integrate with Council's existing telemetry system, enabling real time remote monitoring of water quality across the network.

Separately, further funding provided by DCCEEW through the Safe and Secure Water Program is supporting the preliminary documentation for a suitable water treatment plant at Gravesend. Progress continues on the concept design and preparation of tender documentation, with completion scheduled for later this financial year. Subject to a successful Section 60 application, a further funding application will then be made for the detailed design and construction of the plant.

Warialda Truck Wash

The truck wash facility was used by 136 trucks during February, with an average wash down time of 55 minutes. Total water used for the month was estimated at 1,066kL. The estimated income for the reporting period of February is \$13,950.00 less monitoring fees and expenses.

The Living Classroom (TLC)

TLC is fast becoming a very busy place. The cabins are now available to book through our new booking system. The entire complex has been booked out for a wedding, staff workshops, birthday parties and quilters' retreat. TLC will again be the home for this month's Quantum Leap Subtle Energy workshops and events.

The Roxy

We were granted funding from the NSW Government Community Local Infrastructure Recovery Package (CLIRP) and the Stronger Country Communities Fund to repair the theatre's parapet/facade and to improve the storm water drainage systems.

We have engaged an external contractor. This contractor will commence works on 30 March 2026 and expect to be completed by end June 2026. Pylons and supporting posts will need to be installed on the main street for the parapet and awning works. During the works temporary footpath access will be set up.

The Roxy turns 90

On Sunday 29 March 2026, The Roxy turns 90. To celebrate the NWTC Film Club will screen 'Roberta' which was the first movie played at The Roxy. Further celebrations will be incorporated into the Orange Festival weekend with the Australian Army Band Newcastle performing on Friday 3 July 2026.

Roxy Café

It is very disappointing that the Café remains closed, however please be assured that our staff are working at finding the right business to move in and reopen the doors.

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.

Leeah Daley

General Manager
Gwydir Shire Council

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Warialda Events Committee

**Would you like to be a
volunteer on the committee?**

Send your EOI to:
mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Closing date:
Friday 10 April 2026

Formation Meeting:
Thursday 16 April 2026



G W Y D I R S H I R E C O U N C I L





Brendan Moylan MP
Member for **NORTHERN TABLELANDS**



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST ACT ON FUEL SHORTAGES

WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH 2026



Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan has again urged the Federal Government to stop denying there is a fuel supply problem and start addressing it.

Fuel prices across the region have skyrocketed and many independent fuel suppliers are experiencing long periods without anything in their tanks.

“Diesel in Armidale has now reached \$3.39 per litre and regionally based independent fuel suppliers warn the situation is likely to get worse,” Mr Moylan said.

“Despite this, Federal Energy Minister Chris Bowen continues to claim there is no problem.

“At the same time, the NSW Minister for Agriculture and Regional NSW, Tara Moriarty, admitted on Monday during budget estimates she had not even contacted her federal counterparts about the growing fuel supply crisis affecting regional communities.”

Mr Moylan has been approached by numerous independent

distributors, who supply fuel to smaller towns across regional NSW, who say they are being refused diesel by the major wholesalers.

“This crisis is unfolding just as farmers prepare to plant winter crops and cotton picking across northern NSW is due to start in the coming weeks, industries that depend entirely on reliable diesel supply,” he said.

“The Federal Government has the power to act but so far has done little to ease the pain.

“If wholesalers are deliberately squeezing out independent suppliers and regional communities are being forced to pay the price, it would represent a serious failure of competition law enforcement.

“Regional NSW should not be left to deal with fuel shortages or opportunistic wholesale prices while governments in Sydney and Canberra pretend nothing is wrong.”

Know the warnings for bushfires, floods and storms.



Get Ready NSW



In the News

Joyce Defends Absence from Electorate

Politics

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | March 13, 2026

<https://www.stafm.com.au/joyce-defends-absence-from-electorate/>

New England MP Barnaby Joyce has defended his time spent away from the electorate saying he's trying to defend Australia from the current climate policy that he says is too dangerous.

Mr Joyce has been in South Australia, Victoria, QLD and in Albury in recent weeks, explaining why he wants to eliminate the government's climate policy.

One Nation's high-profile recruit says he was expecting these attacks from other parties but will continue to work hard for all Australians and focus on pushing the need to abandon Net Zero policies.

He says his work diary is full and is trying to get himself and One Nation into a position of strength.

In the News

2026 Volunteer Grants Expressions of Interest Open

Arts & Culture

Community

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | March 11, 2026

<https://www.stafm.com.au/volunteer-grants-program2026-volunteer-grants-1000-to-5000-expressions-of-interest-open/>

Expressions of interest are now open for the Australian Government Volunteer Grants Program which provides funding for organisations that increase participation in volunteering and focus on the inclusion of vulnerable people.

The Volunteer Grants program is an initiative established to support local volunteers, ensuring they can continue their valuable work in the community safely and appropriately.

Grants of between \$1000 to \$5000 are available to not-for-profit organisations including local CWA branches, local Ag Show canteens, State Emergency Service and local sporting groups to purchase mobile phones, computers, software, electronic audio and visual equipment and internet service fees.

The 2025–26 Volunteer Grants will open for expressions

of interest through Federal Members of Parliament (MP). Organisations are advised to read the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and contact their local Federal MP for details on how to submit an expression of interest.

Organisations nominated by their MP will be invited by the Department of Social Services to fill out an application form in May 2026.

To find out more visit <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/news/2025-26-volunteer-grants-round>

Expressions of Interest close Friday 27 March.

In the News

Joyce Pushes to Wipe Out Climate Policy

Environment

Politics

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | March 10, 2026

<https://www.stafm.com.au/joyce-pushes-to-wipeout-climate-policy/>

New England MP Barnaby Joyce says he wants to get rid of the Government's climate policy stressing it's destroying the country.

Mr Joyce says the impact of renewable energy projects and closure of the oil refineries in Australia is having a detrimental effect on the country.

The former Deputy Prime Minister says the Safe Guard mechanism policy, in which Mr Joyce believes put refineries out of business causing a major problem, adding now facing fuel uncertainty caused by the Middle East Crisis, the country doesn't have the ability to process fuel and build stocks. Mr Joyce says the climate policy needs to be scrapped now to better Australia's future.

In the News

NSW Government Drought Response a Good Start

Agriculture

Rural

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | March 10, 2026

<https://www.stafm.com.au/nsw-government-drought-response-a-good-start/>

The NSW Government has announced an expansion of their Drought Plan and while welcome, more needs to be done,

according to Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA) Chairman, Mayor Rick Firman OAM (of Temora Shire). “Our farmers in south-west NSW are struggling and they need support with fodder and water freight costs. Keeping core livestock alive is a priority and simply enabling bigger debts is short on insight,” he said.

“I have written to NSW Agriculture Minister the Hon Tara Moriarty on behalf of the CMA Board and our 89 Members to thank her and our State Government for the recently announced expansion of the NSW drought plan. Our rural, remote and regional drought affected members will be relieved to see the Government’s response. We are hoping that the support announced is a sign of growing awareness in Macquarie Street of the impacts of the drought,” Mayor Firman said.

“The decision to double the Drought Ready and Resilient Fund loan amount to \$500,000 and establish the new \$100,000 Drought Relief Loan provides a critical financial safety net for our primary producers. However, it must be noted that most affected farmers and graziers are already carrying significant debt.”

“Additional funding for the NSW Rural Financial Counselling Service and the extension of the Drought Adoption Officer Program are vital steps in ensuring farmers have the technical and financial advice and support required to navigate these challenging dry conditions.”

“The cost of transporting fodder and water remains a financial burden for landholders. The CMA believes that direct subsidies are essential to maintain livestock welfare and farm viability as local supplies diminish,” said Mayor Firman. “I have also advised Minister Moriarty that the feral animal focus needs to broaden. Targeted funding for pigs and deer is positive but rabbit populations continue to place immense pressure on degraded pastures. In some areas, it’s a case of protecting what little ground cover remains.”

Mayor Firman is a member of the Premier’s Remote, Rural and Regional Advisory Committee (PRRRAC) and announced that it has established a Drought and Water Working Party. “One of our goals is to work collaboratively with the Minister and her Department on the development of initiatives that support not just our farmers, but the rural businesses and communities that depend on their success, while they battle the economic and social impacts of drought.”

“Minister Moriarty’s Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has forecast that drought conditions in Riverina and Murray regions should ease by the end of April but those conditions are expected to move to western, central and northern NSW regions. So, we need to be constantly vigilant to ensure that responses to the drought are timely, effective and provide the support that our remote, rural and regional communities need,” Mayor Firman said.

Media Release: Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA)

In the News

Health Politics

Over 100 Short-Term Closure Orders Issued to Illegal Tobacconists as Tobacco Excise Increases

Originally published by STA FM

by Gerry | March 5, 2026

<https://www.stafm.com.au/over-100-short-term-closure-orders-issued-to-illegal-tobacconists-as-tobacco-excise-increases/>

NSW Health Inspectors have now issued 105 short-term closure orders since new laws strengthening tobacco and vaping control efforts came into effect in November 2025.

This milestone came ahead of a further increase to the federal tobacco excise, driving concerns this will push more people to illicit market tobacco as the cost disparity between illegal and legal tobacco continues to grow.

Under the November 2025 laws, NSW Health supported by NSW Police make short-term closure orders of up to 90 days for premises selling illicit tobacco, illegal vaping goods, or selling tobacco without a licence.

In 10 days, 30 more stores across Hunter New England, Murrumbidgee, Nepean Blue Mountains, Northern Sydney, Sydney, South Eastern Sydney, South Western Sydney, Western Sydney, Illawarra Shoalhaven, and Western NSW Local Health Districts have been shut down immediately for 90 days.

NSW Health inspectors seized approximately 700,000 illicit cigarettes and 3,900 illicit vapes while implementing the Closure Order at these 30 premises.

Further investigations will follow and additional enforcement action, including prosecution, may take place.

A NSW Local Court can issue a long-term closure order of up to one year if it is satisfied that illicit tobacco or illegal vaping goods have been or are likely to be sold, or if tobacco or non-tobacco smoking products are sold or are likely to be sold without a licence.



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

medicare

Medicare's got the bill

With increased government funding, more GPs are making bulk billing more accessible for all Australians.

medicare

Bulk Billing
Practice



Australian Government

To find a bulk billing GP near you visit
health.gov.au/bulkbilling



Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

Bingara Easter Market To Join Easter Fish Weekend



Photo: Local Bingara five-piece band A Little Something will perform at the Bingara Easter Market Bush Stage on Easter Sunday. L-R: Stefan West, Jymari Robinson, Joe Lanagan, Haylie Reynolds and Pete Honey. Image: Beverley Callow.

Following the earlier community call-out inviting residents to help create a new Easter market for Bingara, plans are now taking shape for the inaugural Bingara Easter Market, to be held alongside the town's Easter Fish weekend.

The market will take place on Easter Sunday, 5 April, from 10am to 2pm at the new covered basketball courts on Cunningham Street, providing a central location close to the playground and town amenities.

Organised by a small committee of dedicated and experienced local volunteers, the event aims to create a relaxed country market atmosphere in the heart of Bingara, bringing together locals and visitors for a morning of stalls, music and community activity.

Visitors can browse a variety of stalls offering plants, flowers, jewellery, pottery, handmade crafts, jams and preserves, toys, essential oils, books and other locally produced goods, as well as local photography and gold prospecting experiences.

Food and coffee will be available, and visitors will also be able to enjoy local live music performances throughout the day, helping create a relaxed country market atmosphere. At lunchtime the Bingara Easter Market Bush Stage will host an open-mic session for performers. Anyone interested in sharing a song, bush poem or performance is invited to come early and add their name to the blackboard.

Later in the afternoon the stage will feature live music from

local Bingara five-piece band A Little Something.

Positioned close to the children's playground, the event will include face painting for kids, a sausage sizzle by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Support Group, and colouring activities run by the Rural Fire Service, making it an easy outing for families. The venue also offers clean amenities and plenty of parking, making the covered courts an ideal location for the gathering.

Organisers say the aim is to create a welcoming Easter gathering that highlights Bingara's friendly small-town spirit and growing arts and music scene, while giving locals and visitors another opportunity to spend time together in the rural village.

Market President Jason Marriott said the committee is grateful for the support of the local community and council.

"We're incredibly fortunate that Gwydir Shire Council is supporting this event. Community markets like this help bring people together and contribute to the vibrancy of small country towns," he said.

The Bingara Easter Market will run from 10am to 2pm on Easter Sunday, 5 April 2026.

Stallholder applications are still being accepted. Anyone interested in taking part can contact the organisers at bingaramarket@gmail.com



Australian Government

Smaller deposits for more first home buyers

With no income caps and a wider range of eligible properties, the expanded **Australian Government 5% Deposit Scheme** is helping put home ownership back in reach for first home buyers.

To learn more visit

firsthomebuyers.gov.au



Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra



ANZAC Day At Yallaroi With A '70 Year Salute'

by Marion Fitzgerald and Lee-Ann Thompson

The well attended ANZAC Day Service at the Yallaroi Hall will, this year, pay a special tribute to the 22 WWII Servicemen who settled Yallaroi in August 1957.

After serving their country in the deserts of Egypt and Tobruk, in the jungles of New Guinea, Bougainville and Borneo, on their home-soil at Darwin and imprisoned in POW camps in Greece, Germany and Italy—each of the 22 Settlers were to realise their long-held dream of owning their own farming blocks when they were notified of their successful application to settle the newly surveyed “Yallaroi Station”.

This year marks 70 years since old “Yallaroi Station”, along with “Murgo Station” at Croppa Creek, was purchased by the government to make them available to WWII ex-Servicemen under the *War Service Settlement Scheme*. It was a significant announcement, for it would be the last government move to make rural land available to ex-servicemen under the popular “Ballot System” which reignited Australia’s growth in agriculture after WWI and WWII.

Once a large Merino pastoral station owned by the Henry Dangar family, the 22 new Settlers on the 26,000 acres of Yallaroi were confronted with open rolling plains of Mitchell grass, with just a small surveyor’s peg or a notch in a tree to mark their boundaries.

Their wives and 40 young children accompanied them, quickly forming a ‘tight-knit community’. They lived in makeshift dwellings, tents and sheds with black dirt roads and unpredictable creek crossings greeting them in every direction. It would be another four years before they would have the luxury of a telephone and another seven years before electricity would come to the district.

The Settlers’ arrival on Yallaroi, and their subsequent needs, was a ‘boom-time’ for the town of Warialda. McGregors sourced stock for their fat-lamb and cattle enterprises. Roger Moore ensured new Holden utilities and cars were the desired mode of transport, Col Pyrke’s General Store (now IGA) catered for the household—groceries, hardware, clothing, as did Hong Yuens across the street. The Yallaroi Shire Council (as it was named then) incurred a surge in local employment that would last for decades to build slabs, then bridges and seal roads to keep up with the progress made by the 22 Settlers in transitioning the Yallaroi grazing plains into a prime-wheat growing district.

This special ‘pictorial’ ANZAC Day ‘Salute’ to the 22 Settlers is an open invitation to everyone who would like to re-visit, or learn about, the rich history of the Yallaroi Settlers’ Era. 8.30am ANZAC Day at the Yallaroi Hall (pictured), followed by morning tea.



YALLAROI 2026 ANZAC Day Service and 70 Year Salute to War Service Settlement on Yallaroi

Saturday 25th April 2026 from
8.30am ANZAC Service in the Yallaroi Hall
and at Memorial Rock
9.30am Morning Tea (bring a plate if you are able)

This is an opportunity to learn about Yallaroi’s extensive War Service history and its rich agricultural growth, and to get together with families of the Settlers, friends from the district and local business supporters.

Enhancing farm dams

Field day and workshop

15 APRIL 2026, 9am - 3pm

The Living Classroom, 1A Narrabri Rd, Bingara

Join us at our demonstration site and learn how enhancing farm dams can:

- Improve water quality.
- Increase livestock production.
- Increase biodiversity and habitat.
- Reduce evaporation and silt run-off.

Want to help at the site?

A working bee will be held on
30 March, 9am - 12pm.

Contact Janelle on 0408 659 587 or
email janelle.schafer@scu.edu.au



Bookings are essential for the field day and workshop.

Please RSVP by 8 April for catering.
Register via the QR code or visit
enhancingfarmdams.eventbrite.com.au



The project is an initiative of the Lismore Node of the SQNNSW Hub.
The Hub receives funding from the Federal Government's Future Drought Fund.



COMMUNITY HALF-DAY WORKSHOP

An Introduction to *Subtle Energy*

Saturday, 21 March 2026 | 9:30am – 1:00pm
The Living Classroom, Killarney Gap Road, Bingara

We are all energy. The places we live, work, and gather carry it, too. Join internationally respected geomancer **Dr Patrick MacManaway** for a relaxed and practical morning exploring how subtle energy influences people, homes, land, and community.

- Explore why some places feel **uplifting** and others **draining**
- Learn simple ways to bring **greater harmony** to everyday life
- Enjoy simple, hands-on experiences — **no prior knowledge needed.**

This is a welcoming community gathering. Come for curiosity, conversation, and morning tea. Leave with fresh insight and practical tools.

\$35 per person | Families welcome | Morning tea included

Register: www.quantumleapsubtleenergy.com.au/workshops

Enquiries welcome: Garry McDouall, 0428 834 281



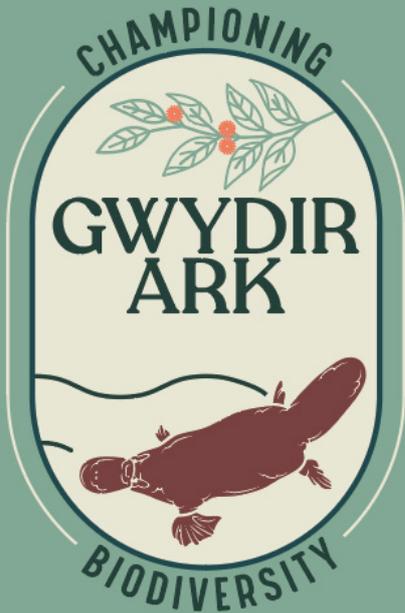
BECOME AN ON-CALL FIREFIGHTER AT FIRE AND RESCUE NSW

- ✓ Help your community
- ✓ Learn new skills
- ✓ Get paid an hourly rate



🔍 FRNSW On-Call Recruitment





NATURE WALK GAP CREEK ROAD

- WHEN:** Saturday 11th April 2026, 9:00am.
- WHERE:** Meet Cunningham Park (near the skatepark) to carpool about 30 minutes out of town.
- WHAT:** An easy - medium firetrail walk, approximately 6km return.
- BRING:** Sturdy footwear, hat, water, snacks. Cuppa options provided at end of walk
- RSVP:** gwydir.ark@gmail.com or call 0438 353 682.

Make the most of your land.

Local Land Services can support you with improving productivity, controlling pests, boosting biodiversity and much more.

Explore our events and services near you.



1300 795 299
nsw.gov.au/lls





The NWTC Film Club's Feature Film for March is 'Roberta'

The film for March is an oldie but a goodie. The Roxy celebrates its 90th anniversary this year and in commemoration, we are showing the very first film shown at the Roxy when it opened in 1936 – Roberta.

Roberta is a 1935 American musical film starring Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers and Irene Dunn. The film also features Randolph Scott, Helen Westley, Victor Varconi and Claire Dodd.

The film was an adaptation of the Broadway musical and tells the story of John Kent (Randolph Scott) a former star football player at Harvard visiting Paris with his bandleader friend Huck (Fred Astaire) when John suddenly inherits his aunt's fashionable dress shop, "Roberta".

Although clueless about the fashion world, John and Huck get help from designer Stephanie (Irene Dunn) and the fiery Countess Scharwenka (Ginger Rogers), whom Huck recognises as his small town sweetheart, Lizzie. But when John's snooty ex, Sophie (Claire Dodd) shows up, he must consider his new feelings for Stephanie.

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers supply some fantastic dance numbers to old favourites including 'Smoke Gets in Your Eyes' and 'I'll be Hard to Handle'. The film's soundtrack also includes 'Yesterdays', 'The Touch of Your Hand' and 'Let's Begin' which have become staples in musical theatre.

The film's score was composed by Jerome Kern who is known for his

sophisticated and tuneful music.

The film was directed by William A Seiter and will be shown at the Roxy theatre in Bingara at 4pm on Sunday 29th March 2026. **New members welcome.**



**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

Agriculture/WHS

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

Chemical User ♦

AHCCHM307 Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases
AHCCHM304 Transport and store chemicals
Same-day Refresher training available - Call 0438 546 519 to enrol

2 Day Face-to-Face Workshop	9.00AM - 4.00PM	\$435
Warialda Campus	Wed 10 - Thur 11 June	

WHS & Traffic

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

Traffic Controller Combined Skill Set ♦

This training delivers two skill sets:
RIISS00054 Traffic controller
RIISS00055 Traffic management implementer

3 Days In-Campus	8.30AM - 4.00PM	\$755
Warialda Campus	Mon 30 March - Wed 1 April	

Working Under Powerlines ♦

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

1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop	8.30AM - 4.00PM	\$655
Warialda Campus	Wednesday 8 April	

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 - 5.00PM	\$320
Warialda Campus	Tuesday 26 May	

Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG) ♦

SITHGAM022 Provide responsible gambling services

1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop	9.00AM - 4.00PM	\$235
Barraba Campus	Thursday 30 April	
Warialda Campus	Wednesday 27 May	

♦ **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.

Visit www.ccni.nsw.edu.au to Apply or Enrol or Call Toby on 0438 546 519

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	Tuesday 24 March	
Warialda Campus	Tuesday 21 April	
Barraba Campus	Monday 27 April	
Bingara Campus	Tuesday 12 May	

Provide CPR		
HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation		
½-Day Face-to-Face Workshop	9.00AM - 12PM	\$90 F
Bingara Campus	Tuesday 24 March	
Warialda Campus	Tuesday 21 April	
Barraba Campus	Monday 27 April	
Bingara Campus	Tuesday 12 May	

Hospitality

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

Food Handling (Level 1)		
SITXFSA005 Use hygienic practices for food safety		
1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop	9.00AM - 3.00PM	\$160 F
Bingara Campus	Friday 24 April	
Barraba Campus	Monday 25 May	

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	Mon 25 May - Tue 26 May	

Barista Skills

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

Introduction to Barista Skills		
Enrol in this non-accredited training to develop your confidence around kitchen equipment, customer service, and of course, making coffee!		
1-Day In-Campus	9.00AM - 4.00PM	\$180 F
Bingara Campus	Thursday 16 April	

High Risk & Industry

Issuing Registered Training Organisation
Community College Northern Inland | RTO 90027

Work Safely at Heights		
RIIWHS204E Work safely at heights		
1-Day In-Campus	9.00AM - 4.30PM	\$260 F
Warialda Campus	Monday 20 April	

Confined Spaces		
RIIWHS202E Enter and work in confined spaces		
1-Day In-Campus	9.00AM - 4.30PM	\$310 F
Bingara Campus	Tuesday 28 April	

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.		
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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.



News from Bingara Central School



From the Principal

Swimming Success

What a fantastic evening our twilight swimming carnival was this year. The fierce but friendly rivalry between Bradman, Laver and Fraser has continued once again and it was pleasing to see so many students participating to gain points for their houses. We are proud of your achievements.

Congratulations to our 2026 Swimming Age Champions: Sophie L, Reeve P, Alexis O, Matilda G, Koen S, Ivy M, Kash S, Morgan W, Scarlett S, Nicola B, Mailee S and Addison D.

Well done to King of the Pool - Kash S, Queen of the Pool - Ruby G and Bingara Gift Champions - Reeve P and Matilda G.

Special mention to our record breakers who delighted us with their fabulous swimming: Billy K, Maggie C, Summer R, Willow R, Reeve P, Sophie L, Timothy C, Solomon P, Koen S, Kash S, Scarlett S, Ruby M, Jarrod P and Jack C.

For the first time since 2014, Bradman claimed the trophy. After a fantastic evening of swimming, some amazingly



Bingara Central School's spectacular twilight swimming carnival!

competitive races and outstanding participation, the team were victorious by just a handful of points.

Following a very strong showing at the Inverell Zone Carnival, BCS has a large contingent participating at the NW Regional Swimming Carnival. We look forward to seeing how all their hard work pays off.

BCS Grows In All Directions

This month, the Department of Education celebrated our growth in enrolments, our strong student outcomes and the positive culture that defines Bingara Central School. Please enjoy the article which was published below.

Bingara Central School, about a hundred kilometres south-east of Moree, is growing in three directions at once.

In the past two years, secondary enrolments have risen 48 per cent, academic results have grown from Kindergarten to Year 12, while wellbeing survey scores are high. Principal Brooke Wall says it has taken a whole school community effort.

"The quality of our teachers, administrative and support staff is amazing and creates such a positive culture in the school and the

community," she said.

"Our staff and parents are the children's biggest supporters and that combination of support at home and at school is the foundation for our great results, the wellbeing of our students and the driver of local families choosing to send their children to their local school."

Senior students have been scoring in the top two bands of the HSC, and more than 70 percent of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students are achieving strongly or exceeding standards in writing.

The school's transition program from infants to Year 3 has seen 82 per cent achieving at or above the expected level in NAPLAN testing for writing.

"When a child can read well, the whole curriculum opens up. Science becomes a world of wonder, maths becomes a tool to fix all sorts of challenges, and history's a journey to people and places far beyond personal experience," Ms Wall said.

"Strong literacy creates what we hope every child becomes – a curious, creative thinker."

The school's transition programs have also had outstanding results for Year 7, with 95 per cent of students stating they feel settled and supported in the new secondary environment.

The school continues to receive outstanding support from local families, reflected in testimonials from parents:

“As a parent, I am proud to commend Bingara Central School for its outstanding professionalism and commitment to excellence. I am sincerely grateful for the dedication, passion, and high standards that the entire Bingara Central School team brings to our community.”

“They say it takes a village to raise a child, and Bingara Central School truly reflects this. It is not just a school but a connected, supportive and community-focused environment with strong traditions and deep connections to the local community. I attended Bingara Central School and have chosen it as the place for my children.”

Ms Wall also has strong ties to the community and school. Her family settled in the Bingara area in convict days, running a racecourse and Cobb and Co stay-over and bar. She said connection to the community is what drives the school’s success.

“Our grounding in the community, and our teachers’ consistency, clarity and care turn great teaching into lasting learning and make our school a place where we all belong,” she said.



Australian Government
**Department of Climate Change, Energy,
 the Environment and Water**

Restoring Our Rivers 2026 Expressions of Interest – Northern Basin

Reference: ATM_2026_5959

More Information

Open: 5 March to 30 April 2026

How to apply:

Visit AusTender tenders.gov.au/atm – search “Northern Basin”

Read the Approach to Market documents and submit your response.

Details:

dceew.gov.au/voluntary-water-purchasing-450gl

Support:

help.tenders.gov.au | watertenders@dceew.gov.au

The Australian Government is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from surface water owners interested in selling water rights in the northern Murray–Darling Basin.

The EOI is part of exploring options for water recovery across the Basin to complete the 450 GL target by December 2027.

This EOI will help the government understand interest from willing sellers, locations, volumes and indicative prices to guide the design of any future purchasing program.

Responses are not binding offers. However, only respondents to this EOI can be considered for any future tender, should a purchase program proceed.

Eligible catchments

NSW: Border Rivers, Gwydir, Namoi, Macquarie–Castlereagh, Barwon–Darling, Intersecting Streams

QLD: Condamine–Balonne, Border Rivers

News from Warialda Public School



From the Principal

Warialda Public Preschool

It is officially underway! Whilst the machines roar into action with the Government allocating and building a public Preschool at WPS, so too do our students with their farm building operation that happens during break times. I love the way that we can cater to all our students' passions and creativity! Need more info on our preschool?

Scan the QR code to see where we are at and stayed tuned for regular updates in our newsletter.



Inverell Zone Swimming Carnival

We had 37 students make the journey to Inverell to compete in the Inverell



Zone Swimming Carnival. Against tough competition and some brilliant PB's achieved, we had some outstanding results:

- **Junior Boy Champion:** George Durkin
- **11yr Girl Runner Up:** Harriet Warby
- **11 Year Boy Runner Up:** Reid Rose
- **11 yr Boy Champion:** Harry Durkin
- **Senior Girl Runner Up:** Lilly-Ann Turner
- **Senior Boy Champion:** Dexter Brooks
- **Fastest Junior Boy 50m Freestyle:** George Durkin
- **Fastest Senior Boy 50m Freestyle:** Harry Durkin

A huge congratulations to all!

24 students are heading to Armidale to compete for a position in the North West PSSA Swimming Team for 2026. All of these students have been putting in huge amounts of effort in the pool, training hard of an afternoon. Our relay teams have headed down to the pool in their lunch break, to train with each other at our awesome Warialda Pool (thanks Grant and Kim for being wonderful hosts!) A huge thanks to Mrs Durkin and Mrs Coote for training these students and giving them this extra opportunity. We know that they will do their very best and represent WPS beautifully!

League Stars

We welcomed the 'League Stars' to our school to inspire and teach our students about the importance of Respect!

Through fun, games and real life stories, our students learnt what respect means,



“looks like”, the kind of behaviours that are appropriate (and in some cases inappropriate) in different situations, and the benefits for self (respect for oneself) and others when respect is shown and/or received. Behaving in respectful ways, using respectful language and taking action and responding in situations by showing respect were all a part of this brilliant learning experience!

A huge **thank you** to NRL Stars Dean Whare and Joseph Paulo for travelling to Warialda to teach and inspire our students—we loved having you visit!

Student Representative Council

Student Voice is important to us at Warialda Public School! The ideas, insight and suggestions that our amazing students come up with is heart-warming. Whether it be standing up at assembly and making an announcement to say that 'they are running some parachute games' for the younger students at recess time, to making suggestions on whole school fundraisers to benefit those who are disadvantaged or sick. Even listening to our younger students, to make sure they too are also heard! Congratulations to our 2026 Student Representative Council, who were elected by their peers, and are also a part of our WPS voice!

What a wonderful start to 2026! We love our school!
#WeAreWPS #WPSStrong #ThatWPSFeeling



IN AID OF THE BARAC FAMILY

A very successful fundraising event was held on the 21st February, Bringing our community together to show friendship, care and support.

A huge thank you goes to Bingara Sporting Club for hosting the evening, our incredibly generous sponsors for their donations, the volunteers who worked so hard to bring the event together, and the community who showed such wonderful support.

Through everyone's combined efforts, just short of \$20,000 was raised.

We send our warmest wishes and love to the Barac Family from your community.

March Update

There has been plenty happening at Touriandi Lodge over the past few months, with residents and staff enjoying a range of activities and special moments together.



Our lifestyle program continues to keep residents active and engaged with regular games, crafts, music, and social gatherings. These activities provide a great opportunity for residents to spend time together, keep their minds active, and most importantly have a bit of fun. From morning teas and craft sessions to group games and music afternoons, there is always something happening around the lodge.

One of the highlights recently has been visits from local school children. Our residents absolutely love these visits, and it is wonderful to see the friendships that develop between the younger and older generations. Whether they are chatting, sharing stories, or joining in activities together, these visits always bring plenty of smiles and laughter and are something everyone looks forward to.

Residents have also been enjoying regular bus outings around the local area. These daily trips are a favourite for many, giving residents the opportunity to get out and about, enjoy the scenery, and stay connected with the community. Whether it's a drive around town, a visit to a local spot, or simply getting out for some fresh air, these outings are always a highlight of the day.

Our residents have been busy preparing entries for the upcoming Bingara Show on the 21st and 22nd of March. There has been plenty of creativity on display as residents work on crafts and other items, they are excited to exhibit. It's always a wonderful opportunity for our residents to be involved in a much-loved local event and to showcase their hard work.

With Easter just around the corner, we are also currently running our Easter raffle to be drawn on the 2nd of April. We appreciate the ongoing support from the community and

look forward to sharing the excitement when the winners are announced.

Staying connected with our local community is very important to us. We are always grateful for the support we receive from families, volunteers, and local groups who take the time to visit and spend time with our residents. These connections help keep our residents engaged with the wider community and mean a great deal to everyone here.

Our dedicated staff continue to provide compassionate care and support to our residents each and every day. Their commitment helps ensure Touriandi Lodge remains a safe, welcoming, and comfortable environment for everyone who calls it home.

As always, we welcome visits from members of the community and are happy to provide information to anyone wanting to learn more about our facility, respite care options, or future residential care.

We look forward to sharing more updates with the community in the coming months.

ROSS COOPER OPTOMETRIST

Goondiwindi
(07) 4671 1550

2026 Next visits to Warialda

April 22nd 2026 — Kate Darley
May 27th 2026 — Ross Cooper
June 24th 2026 — Ross Cooper
July 29th 2026 — Ross Cooper

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

2026 Next visits to Bingara

April 21st 2026 — Kate Darley
May 28th 2026 — Ross Cooper
June 25th 2026 — Ross Cooper
July 30th 2026 — Ross Cooper

For appointments, contact
Or Medical Services Bingara
(previously Bingara Medical
Centre) on **02 6724 1900**



Warialda CWA Kicks Off the Year with Improvements and Community Invitation

by **Libby Cotter**
Secretary

Warialda Branch of CWA of NSW

Warialda CWA had its first meeting of the year recently and had quite a bit to get through.

The main bits were the replacement of the back veranda and a new ramp where a car can drive in and deposit a person with disabilities.

We are conducting a Mothers Day raffle which will be drawn on 2nd of May. We will also be out on the street on 18th April and 1st of May, so look out for us and see the lovely prizes (3) for \$2 a ticket.

Tickets are also available at the Op Shop on Friday and Saturday mornings.

If any lady is interested in coming along to one of our meetings, please do so. Just rock in and have a cuppa with us. Our meetings are held on the **fourth Thursday of the month** from 9:30am for a 10:00am start. We would love to welcome new members of the community to our small but busy branch.

BINGARA

Garden Club

ENCOURAGEMENT DRIVE-BY AWARD

February 2026

The Bingara Garden Club Encouragement Drive-By Award for Section B looked at late summer gardens feeling the strain of prolonged heat. At 43 West Street we found a real gem hidden away in a quiet spot.

The bright flowering dahlias, catmint, potted crepe myrtles, lamb's ears and other perennials are a refreshing pop of colour behind the front fence. This garden is in the lee of established trees on the Western side that bring relief from the hot afternoon sun. The well-tended lawn with young shrubs is enhanced by flowering annual vincas. A large magnolia, together with other potted plants on the verandah combine to deliver an overall eye-catching garden; which we were informed is only six months old!

Well done and congratulations Rachel and Anthony!



Brendan Moylan MP
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

- Suite 1, 175 Rusden Street Armidale NSW 2350
- Suites 2-6, 161 Balo Street Moree NSW 2400
- 02 6772 5552 (Armidale)
- 02 6752 5002 (Moree)
- PO Box 77, Armidale NSW 2350
- www.brendanmoylan.com.au
- northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au
- brendanmoylanmp
- brendanmoylanmp

SPORT

Warialda Wombats Ready For 2026 Season

by Toby Cooper

The Warialda Wombats Rugby League Club is gearing up for an exciting 2026 campaign after a strong pre-season which included solid training numbers and plenty of commitment from players.

The Wombats will officially open their 2026 Group 19 Rugby League season with an away game against Glen Innes on Saturday the 11th of April, before returning home the following weekend to Jim Payne Oval to take on the defending premiers, the Inverell Hawks. The club is also hoping to host a trial match against the Moree Boars on Friday night, March 20, with the trial yet to be confirmed at time of writing.

The Wombats who are proudly supported by their major sponsor The Royal Hotel will field two teams in 2026—A Grade and Ladies League Tag. The A Grade side will be coached by Anthony Dunn, while Brendon Stevens will lead the Ladies League Tag team, with both coaches bringing strong leadership and commitment to the club.

“There is plenty of optimism around the squad this season, with several local players returning to the team along with a group of talented young players eager to make their mark in the famous red and black jersey,” added Wombats President Nathan Beel.

“Pre-season training has been tough, but the impressive turnouts and big effort put in by both our sides has been encouraging for the season ahead.

The Warialda Wombats have dedicated their 2026 season to one of their champion supporters Leighton Stevens who tragically passed away in October last year at just 11 years of age. Leighton lived for his weekends following and supporting his beloved Wombats, he adored every player and never missed a chance to run on the kicking tee. Leighton is sorely missed and will forever be a part of the Wombat family.

Important dates to note for 2026 include the following home games:

Saturday 9th May – Ladies Day v Barraba Bulldogs (Subject to Change)

Saturday 30th May – Mental Health Round v Glen Innes Magpies

Saturday 27th June – Indigenous Round v Narwan Eels

Saturday 11th July – Old Boys Day v Tingha Tigers

Saturday 25th July – Sponsor’s Day v Guyra Super Spuds.

The club’s goal for 2026 is to have a strong, injury-free season and for both teams to push for a spot in the finals. The Warialda Wombats Rugby League Club looks forward to your support across the season from the mighty Jim Payne Oval.



SPORT

Warialda Touch Football Season Concludes With Thrilling Grand Finals

by Toby Cooper

The 2025/2026 Warialda Mixed Touch Football season wrapped up with two entertaining Grand Final matches played in tough conditions on Monday the 9th of March.

In the B Grade final, Coote & Co defeated Rollings Construction 4–3 in a dramatic extra-time drop-off. Grant Macey delivered a standout performance and was named Player of the Final for his efforts in Coote & Co's thrilling win.

The A Grade Grand Final saw Egan Plumbing defend their title after a hard fought 5–0 victory over Haywire, with Egan Plumbing's Tom Bell awarded Player of the Final.

Season honours were also presented on the night, with Darci Ford from Lights Out awarded the MVP Female, while Haywire's Darcy Mitchell received the MVP Male after an outstanding season.

The Warialda Touch Football Association committee thanked all teams, players, referees and supporters for their involvement in another successful season. Details for the upcoming Annual General Meeting will be posted on the association's Facebook page in the coming weeks.



A Grade winners Egan Plumbing.



B Grade winners Coote & Co.



WTFA President Justin Moxey with Female MVP Darci Ford.



WTFA President Justin Moxey with Male MVP Darcy Mitchell.

SPORT

Bingara Golf Report

by John Gill



February 2026

On Sunday 15th February Bingara golfers travelled to Warialda for the first of two rounds for the 2026 David Rose Cup. Forty-five golfers took part on the day.

Point Score	Warialda 29.8 pts; Bingara 25.5 pts Warialda lead by 4.3 points
Players of the Day	Warialda - Rodney Irland 41 pts Bingara - Mick Phillips 33 pts
Ballcomp and Pin Shots	Bingara did not feature in these events
Lucky Draw Player	Laurie Mensforth Bingara

Round two of the David Rose Cup will be played at Bingara on 15th November 2026. Congratulations to all involved with the Warialda golf course—a lot of work is happening. Well done!

Dawson Cup

On Sunday 22nd February the Dawson Cup, a Stableford event, was played, with 21 golfers taking part.

Winner	Damien Galvin - 41 pts
Runner Up	Brock Galvin - 34 pts

March Monthly Medal

On Sunday 1st March the Men's March Monthly Medal was played with 26 golfers taking part.

Winner	Merv Hall - 65 nett
Runner Up	Mick Walton - 66 nett

Mixed Foursomes Championship

On Sunday 8th March a Mixed Foursomes Championship was played with 11 pairs taking part.

Winners	Tania Doyle / Ron Armstrong - Gross score 117
Nett Winners	Judy / Merv Hall 96 3/4

Men's April Events - Subject to Change

Single Stableford	April 5 th
Monthly Medal	April 12 th
Bingara Mixed Open 4 B.B.B.	April 18 th
Bingara Mens Open	April 19 th
Brownies Cross Country	April 26 th

Bingara Golf Events

Saturday Single Stableford Medley	12:00pm / 12:30pm Tee
Sunday Golf	12:00pm / 12:30pm Tee
Tuesday Ladies Golf	Contact 0428 241 415
Thursday 9 Hole Chook Run	1:30pm / 2:00pm Tee

Cart Hire:

Vendi cart hire available. See front of club for details. Please pay green fees.



Above: Mixed foursomes championship winners Tania Doyle and Ron Armstrong.



Above: Damien Galvin celebrating his win of the Dawson Cup.

Warialda Takes Early Lead in 2026 David Rose Cup

by Toby Cooper



From Left to Right: Warialda Men's Golf President Sam Dight, Mick Phillips, Rodney Ireland & Stephen Pfeffer

Golfers from Bingara travelled to Warialda on Sunday the 15th of February for the opening leg of the 2026 David Rose Cup. A strong field of 41 players teed off in the friendly inter-club contest, with golfers enjoying perfect conditions for the first round of competition.

At the completion of round one, Warialda holds the early advantage, finishing with a team average of 29.8 to Bingara's 25.5, giving Warialda a 4.3-point lead heading into the return match later in the year.

Best performances for the day came from Rodney Ireland (Warialda) with an excellent score of 41 points, while Mick Phillips (Bingara) led the Bingara contingent with 33 points. The mystery draw prize went to Laurie Mensforth from Bingara, who happily took home the honours.

The second and deciding round of the 2026 David Rose Cup will be played at Bingara on the 15th of November, where Bingara will need a dominant victory if they are to reclaim the cup back from Warialda.

Community Recycling Stations

The right place for your small problem waste

It's FREE to drop off:

- Household batteries
- Smoke detectors
- Fluoro globes (no fluorescent tubes)
- Mobile phones
- Electronic waste
- Ink cartridges
- Eye glasses
- X-rays

Collection of these items will vary by location.

To find your nearest Community Recycling Station and the items accepted, visit nirw.org.au/projects/community-recycling-stations or contact your local Council

Bingara BUSH BASH

Annual Tennis Tournament 90th Anniversary

6 - 8 June 2026

Watch this space for further information.

ACRES Speedway Team News



Above: Brooklyn 1st place at Gatton on December 13th.
Photo Courtesy Shaq's Speedway Pics



Above: Brooklyn #69 mixes it with the Super Productions at Gatton.

The ACRES Speedway Team has had mixed results so far since our racing season started on 25th October last year.

On her first outing at Tamworth, whilst running in 2nd place, Brooklyn hit a rut in the track, blew a front outside tyre and hit the fence. Although it was not a hard hit, it was enough to shatter the steering rack and that put paid to her night.

Two weeks later we were off the Gatton, a track which doesn't usually run the NSW RSA cars but have now included the Super Production and Fast Fours in their line-up. Because they did not get enough nominations for each class, the two classes were combined. Whilst the Fast Fours are way out-powered by the Super Prods, they still put on a good show and points were awarded separately for the two sections. Unfortunately, after only two heat races, rain caused the meeting to be abandoned.

The next meeting was at Narrabri on December 6th and Brooklyn was lucky to finish the Feature race in second place, earning a podium spot and Trophy.

Then, it was back to Gatton the following week. Brooklyn was flying on a beautifully-prepared track and surprised everyone by finishing ahead of one of the far more powerful Super Productions and placing fourth in the Feature race but first of the Fast Fours. Another podium and trophy.

Off to Dubbo on January 10th, a track we had not raced before. The night was a disaster. In her second Heat race, the centre of the front outside wheel was torn out ending that race and in the Feature, all four wheel studs on the same side broke and another wheel lost. In all our three seasons of racing, we have never broken wheels but this night, we broke two.

Undeterred, we were off to Tamworth again the following week and although Brooklyn didn't feature in the placings, she had a successful night's racing and finished fifth in the Final.

Gilgandra held a 2-night meeting on the Australia Day weekend and we were there. Brooklyn had never raced there before and we were really looking forward to it as the track had recently been awarded a grant and improvements made to bring it up to a 5-star standard. And sure enough, the venue and track were excellent. However, that didn't help us. We had a woeful two nights with Brooklyn finishing only one race out of the eight over the two nights. The Mirage had all sorts of dramas with a broken engine mount, broken CV Shafts and finally, in the Feature race on the second night, an electrical fault killed all the power.

With all those problems sorted, we headed to Gunnedah on February 7th and our rotten luck continued. It was a repeat of Tamworth back in October. After 5 laps in her first Heat race, Brooklyn slammed the wall, broke another steering rack and put paid to our night's racing. We are fast running out of spare steering racks.

Tamworth was next on February 28th and finally, we had a good night's racing. The night wasn't completely without problems. One of the fuel injectors faulted in the first race but with that replaced the rest of the racing was trouble free and although she didn't place, Brooklyn drove very well and was right in the midst of the action.

Our next meeting will be at Gilgandra on the 21st and hopefully we have a better run than the last time.

Because of all the dramas we were having, we chose not to travel the 9 hours to Moruya for the NSW Fast Fours' State Title on March 7th and as it turned out, we made the right decision. Unfortunately for all those who did travel the long distance, the meeting was abandoned before the racing started. When a new date is announced, we will decide whether to go or not depending on how our racing is going at the time.

Rick Turner

PUBLIC NOTICES



**PUBLIC NOTICE
1080 FOX BAITING**

Forestry Corporation of NSW will be carrying out 1080 fox baiting in the following State forests between 23 March 2026 – 3 May 2026:

- Benbraggie State Forest
- Bingara State Forest
- Parkhurst State Forest
- Severn State Forest
- Strathmore State Forest
- Yetman State Forest

Warning signs will be displayed along the targeted routes.

Adjoining property holders and visitors to these forests are advised to keep children and animals under close supervision during this time.

Contact FCNSW at:
westernlandaccess@fcnsw.com.au
should you require any further information regarding this program.



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**UNLEASH THE GWYDIR
BLACK TIE BALL**

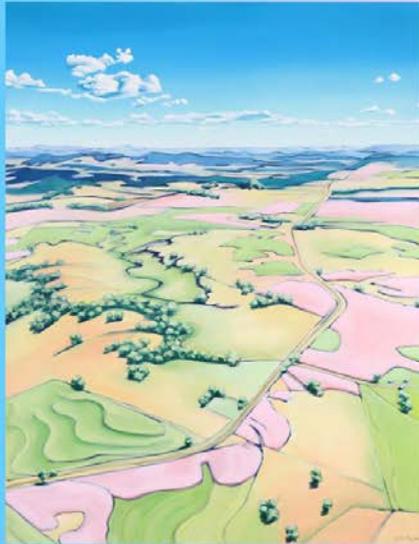
This years Unleash the Gwydir, Black Tie Ball will be held at the Roxy Theatre, Bingara on Saturday 10 October, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ceramic Break Sculpture Park presents.....

Opening April 12th from 12-5 pm

Featuring artists Matthew Da Silva, Anne Hazelwood, Juli Hutchings, Graham Mackie, Jude McBean, Bruce Zietsche and many more...



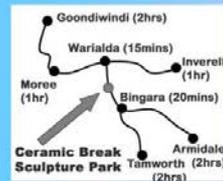
Grain, oil on canvas, 79 x 103cm, \$1400.00. Jude McBean



River Valley, 75 x 60 cm, acrylic on canvas, \$1800.00. Graham Mackie



Just Add Water, mixed paper, 59 x 44cm, \$1500.00. Juli Hutchings



Lunch and light refreshment provided.
Entry by gold coin donation. Bring your own utensils to enter the Green Prize raffle to win a beautiful plant.

Exhibition continues through

2535 Allan Cunningham Road,
Warialda, NSW, 2402
0417 841 741

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



Copeton Dam Level

as at
16 March 2026

62%

Down from 64% February 2026
Up from 51% in March 2025



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 16th April. **Book ads by Monday 6th April** at email:
gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au

PUBLIC NOTICES

**COMMUNITY HEALTH
OUTREACH CLINICS AT
COOLATAI, YETMAN AND
GRAVESEND**

Coolatai - Tuesday 7th April
Yetman - Tuesday 14th April
Gravesend - Tuesday 21st April
 Footcare Nurse will be in attendance
 Flu Vaccines will be given if available

**BINGARA DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Monthly meeting will be held on Friday 20th
 March 2026 commencing 10.30am at the
 Bingara Museum Complex,
 16-20 Maitland Street, Bingara.
New members are welcome.
 Judi Peterson | Secretary BDHS

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

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.

MARCH 2026

- Friday 20th** Bingara District Historical Society - Monthly meeting to commence at 10:30am at the Bingara Museum Complex, 16-20 Maitland Street. New members welcome.
- Saturday 21st** An Introduction to Subtle Energy - Community Half-Day Workshop - The Living Classroom, Killarney Gap Road, Bingara from 9:30am to 1:00pm - \$35pp - Register at www.quantumleapsubtleenergy.com.au/workshops or call 0428 834 281
- Saturday 21st - Sunday 22nd** Bingara Show
- Friday 28th** Croppa Creek Crows Rugby Gala Day
- Saturday 29th** 90 Years of the Roxy - Playing the first movie ever screened at the Roxy Theatre, Bingara - 'Roberta' - 4:00pm - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara - New members welcome

APRIL 2026

- Friday 3rd - Monday 6th** Bingara Anglers' Club Easterfish
- Tuesday 7th** Community Health Outreach Clinic - Coolatai
- Saturday 11th** Warialda Races
- Saturday 11th** Gwydir Ark Nature Walk - Gap Creek Road - 9:00am - Meet Cunningham Park (near the skatepark) to carpool about 30 minutes out of town - RSVP gwydir.ark@gmail.com or call 0438 353 682
- Sunday 12th** Ceramic Break Sculpture Park - Exhibition opens Sunday April 12th from 12-5pm. Entry by gold coin donation. Lunch and light refreshment provided.
- Tuesday 14th** Community Health Outreach Clinic - Yetman
- Wednesday 15th - Sunday 19th** Bingara Country Music Festival
- Tuesday 21st** Community Health Outreach Clinic - Gravesend
- Saturday 25th** Yallaroi 2026 ANZAC Day Service and 70-Year Salute to War Service Settlement on Yallaroi - 8:30am ANZAC Service in the Yallaroi Hall and at Memorial Rock - 9:30am Morning tea (bring a plate if you are able)
- Saturday 25th** ANZAC Day Services
- Sunday 26th** NWTFC Film Club - 'The Teacher Who Promised The Sea' - 4:00pm - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara - New members welcome

MAY 2026

- Thursday 7th - Saturday 9th** Warialda Show
- Saturday 9th** Rovers - Performance - Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th** Coolatai Vintage Tractor Pull
- Saturday 20th** National Simultaneous Storytime