

April 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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Gun buyback fails to make it out of the holster

Jamie Chaffey MP

Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories
Shadow Assistant Minister for Resources

The Albanese Government's national gun buyback scheme has failed to clear its first hurdle, with the majority of states and territories refusing to sign up before the March 2026 deadline.

Federal Member for Parkes Jamie Chaffey says state and territory governments saw the reforms for what they were – changes with far-reaching consequences that had been made without any consultation.

"Both the New South Wales and Federal Labor governments charged into these reforms boots-and-all following the horrific events at Bondi on 14 December," Mr Chaffey said.

"It was not a considered or an effective response. It was a desperate attempt to be seen to be doing something.

"These changes were rushed through without any consultation with gun owners, and they have had huge consequences for farmers, for sports shooters and for gun-shop owners. There is no word of compensation or any other measures of support to ease the desperate situation of gun shop owners and pistol clubs.

"It is just common sense that there should be fair compensation at market value for the firearms, ammunition, accessories and special equipment that are handed in. There also needs to be support packages for firearm suppliers to ensure their doors can

remain open. Funds need to be available to sporting gun clubs for the upgrade of facilities to deal with the increase in membership necessary due to changes in the regulations.

"And the government needs to consult with all of these bodies to ensure the compensation and support is adequate and appropriate. Just throwing crumbs out to these people and organisations who are so deeply impacted is not enough.

"Two men did the shooting at Bondi Beach, but hundreds of thousands are paying the price.

"To make matters worse, the Labor Government has not introduced a single measure to strengthen our counter-terrorism responses. There was a huge delay on calling a Royal Commission – an outright refusal at first – and then after it was announced, special advisor to the Antisemitism Royal Commission, Dennis Richardson, retired.

"This response to a tragic event has been a series of misfires, and I am sorely disappointed on behalf of not only people in my own electorate of Parkes, but all Australians, who deserve better.

"The mishandling of this has only been confirmed by the states and territories who have walked away from the gun buyback. Instead of finding a way forward, we are left with no direction at all."

Next issue: The **Gwydir News** will be published on Thursday 21st May. **Plan your advertising now**—booking and material deadline for the next issue is Monday 11th May. Email gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au



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2026 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

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

How to get your article published in The Gwydir News

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

Submission Guidelines

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

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

Text articles should be around 600 words in length.

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

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

Flyers | Flyers in .pdf format can be accepted however please consider the layout and design of your flyer elements including text. An A4 flyer, when reduced to a quarter page ad will result in illegible text.

Costs | The Gwydir News supports not-for-profit organisations with reduced pricing or (occasional) free editorial space. If you are submitting content on a regular basis, or you are a business or organisation that receives income, you will need to book a paid ad to support submission of your article.

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



"In small communities, no one stands alone — a simple 'Are you OK?' can carry more strength than we realise."

From the Mayor

Another month is nearly gone already—2026 is certainly flying by.

Easter has come and gone once again, and I hope everyone found some time to enjoy quality moments with family and friends over the break. Whether it was throwing a line in during the Easterfish Competition, heading off camping, visiting loved ones, or simply slowing down and spending time together, these moments are what make our community so special.

Our school students have wrapped up their first term for the year and, I'm sure, made the most of their Easter holidays. With Term 2 just around the corner, many are looking forward to pulling on their boots and getting back into winter sports.

There's plenty of excitement building locally, with the Warialda Wombats gearing up for the start of their season. We wish all players, volunteers, and supporters the very best for the months ahead.

Across the Shire, it has been another busy period. However, like many of you, I am increasingly concerned about the ongoing dry conditions. With little to no rain in sight, dams are dropping, and paddocks are turning from green to dust. The thought of heading into a dry winter is confronting, especially with memories of the severe drought we faced several years ago still fresh in our minds.

It was so heartwarming for our Shire to see Aussie Hay Runners roll in over Easter. They are a remarkable group who really boost our spirits and have done so many times now. THANK YOU!

During times like this, it's more important than ever that we look out for one another. A simple check-in can make a world of difference.

"In small communities, no one stands alone — a simple 'Are you OK?' can carry more strength than we realise."

Please remember to reach out to neighbours, friends, and family. Support doesn't have to be 'big' — often it's the small gestures that mean the most.

As this edition goes to print, we will also be preparing to gather across the Shire for ANZAC Day services.

This is a time for reflection, gratitude, and remembrance as we honour the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served our country.

From the early dawn services to the marches and community gatherings that follow, ANZAC Day holds a special place in our communities. It is heartening to see people of all ages come together each year to pay their respects, ensuring that the spirit of the ANZACS continues to live on.

I encourage everyone, where possible, to attend a local service and take a moment to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy today because of those who came before us.

Thank you, as always, for the resilience, kindness, and community spirit you continue to show. It is what makes Gwydir Shire such a special place to call home.

Easterfish Competition

The Bingara Anglers Club has been busy in recent months, completing native fish restocking before rolling straight into the annual Easterfish Competition. Over the Easter weekend, nearly 300 anglers fished the Gwydir River, Copeton Dam and Horton River from Friday to Sunday, all chasing the biggest catch. While numbers were slightly down and the fishing was mostly quiet, more than 400 fish were still weighed in. Despite challenges like fuel costs and patchy phone service, great weather helped deliver another successful Easterfish. Congratulations to all the hardworking volunteers who make this event possible. Your dedication, effort, and commitment do



not go unnoticed, and the community truly appreciates everything you do to deliver such a well-organised event each year. We're already looking forward to the next one!

On Easter Sunday volunteers organised a Market Day at the Gwydir Oval. This event was very successful with many enjoying the entertainment, catching up with friends and buying something unique from a stall or two. Thank you to the volunteers who made this happen. I am looking forward to attending the Bingara Easter Markets 2027!

Warialda Races

Sadly, I couldn't attend this year as I was away celebrating the birth of my grandson—a very special reason to miss it.

By all accounts, the Warialda Races on 11 April 2026 were a fantastic day out, blessed with perfect weather that made the whole event even more enjoyable.

From what I hear, the fashion on display added a real sense of occasion, with racegoers bringing style and flair to the day. It was especially great to see the wider community getting involved, with local businesses contributing creative and eye-catching window displays that added to the race spirit.

A special thank you goes to all the volunteers at the Warialda Jockey Club who made this event possible—your tireless hours and dedication do not go unnoticed, and the community truly appreciates everything you do. Congratulations on delivering a welcoming event that showcased the very best of the Warialda community.

Warialda Soldiers' Memorial Hall

On 27 March 2026, Council closed the Warialda Soldiers' Memorial Hall due to cracking in the external walls. A geotechnical engineer has been engaged to assess the building and identify required repairs, with a site

inspection scheduled for 23 April 2026. Council staff are monitoring the cracks and have recorded no significant movement to date. The Hall remains closed for bookings and the Hall Street footpath is partially closed while assessments continue.

Bingara New Administration Building

I am beyond excited about this new building—what an incredible asset for our Shire.

The hard work and determination behind this project are something we should all celebrate. The previous Council approved the project, and the current Council has seen it through to completion. Along the way, there were many doubters in the community, especially when the difficult decision was made to demolish the original building due to widespread black mould that was impacting staff health.

Importantly, we preserved the façade, which blends beautifully with the new design. The result is a state-of-the-art facility that will be the envy of many. The façade insignia and wording will be painted in the original colour in the coming months.

We explored many plans, returned to the drawing board more than once, and ultimately delivered the remarkable building the community sees today. Hopefully, staff will be fully moved in by the time this goes to print.

This is a true achievement we can all be proud of—staff, elected councillors, and builders working together to make it happen. We were fortunate to work with an outstanding building team, led by Shay Brennan, who made the process smooth and delivered an exceptional result.

Special recognition must also go to our outdoor staff. The gardens are absolutely breathtaking and have been created with immense pride and care.

Every time I walk through the building and show others around, I

get goosebumps—and even a tear in my eye. To have achieved all of this with less than 1% over budget, and without any government subsidies, is simply remarkable. The building will be officially opened on 15 May 2026.

ALGWA Conference

Cr Sarah Crump and I recently attended the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) Conference in Blacktown, held at The Colebee within Narrungingy Reserve, Doonside. The venue provided a wonderful setting, and we had the opportunity to enjoy a walk through the beautiful surrounding gardens.

The conference was well attended, bringing together councillors from across Australia. We were warmly welcomed by Blacktown City Council, whose hospitality helped create a positive and engaging atmosphere throughout the event.

The event was expertly hosted by Sandra Sully (News Anchor, Journalist, MC and Host). We heard from Ron Hoenig, Minister for Local Government, who spoke about the new Code of Meeting Practice and its implications for councils.

A highlight of the program was a LinkedIn Masterclass delivered by Lucy Bingle, offering practical insights into building a professional online presence.

We also heard from Jodie Harrison, NSW Minister for Women, who shared perspectives on leadership and opportunities for women in government.

The conference featured a valuable panel discussion with Phyllis Miller OAM, Darriea Turley AM, and Darcy Byrne, President of LGNSW. The panel explored the vision for women in local government, highlighting progress, ongoing challenges, and the importance of strong leadership and mentorship.

The Australian Local Government Women's Association continues to play a vital role in supporting,



Mayor Tiffany Galvin, Sandra Sully and Councillor Sarah Crump

promoting, and connecting women in local government across Australia. Through conferences like this, ALGWA provides opportunities for professional development, networking, and the sharing of ideas to strengthen representation and leadership at the local level.

Overall, the conference was an inspiring and informative experience, reinforcing the importance of collaboration and continued advocacy for women in local government.

Update On General Manager Position

In line with standard protocol, the

General Manager position has now been formally advertised. This process is being undertaken in partnership with LGNSW to ensure a thorough and transparent recruitment process.

Gwydir Libraries in Bingara and Warialda

Do you enjoy reading and spending time with likeminded people? Are you interested in joining a book club, or know a group that has not yet registered with us? Book clubs operate across the Gwydir Shire—contact your local library to register your interest in joining or starting one.

Book clubs are a wonderful way to

share your love of reading with friends. Central Northern Regional Library Service offers a range of resources, including book club sets (available for loan), reading lists, and helpful links to support book selection and group setup.

Groups can meet at the library, a member's home, a local hotel, or a café—the choice is yours.

Getting started

- Join at your local library
- Nominate a guarantor (must be a library member)
- Provide contact details for all club members
- Your club will be issued a library card, held at the library.

Borrowing

- Book club sets are loaned for four weeks
- Only book club sets may be borrowed on the club card
- Standard library membership conditions apply
- A maximum of two book club sets may be reserved at a time
- Ebook versions are available through the library website e-resource section.

Contact

Bingara Branch (02) 6724 2064 or 0439 621 400

Warialda Branch (02) 6729 3038 or 0460 006 845

National Volunteer Week will be held from 18–24 May 2026, celebrating the theme *Your Year to Volunteer* and recognising the important role volunteers play in our communities.

Volunteering is a great way to boost wellbeing, connect with others, and make a meaningful difference. As a library volunteer, you can support programs for seniors and children, learn new skills, and be part of a friendly, welcoming team.

Bingara and Warialda Libraries are currently looking for volunteers to help with senior and children's programs.

To find out more, contact your local library.

Gwydir CEF Boot Bash Boosts Awareness

Country Education Foundation Australia (CEFA) hosts its annual Boot Bash fundraiser in March each year, raising funds and awareness of the outstanding support its local CEF committees provide to rural students leaving high school and accessing further education, training, and career opportunities.

The Gwydir branch of CEFA was established in 2012 and provides school leavers from Warialda High and Bingara Central Schools with financial support to assist them with the significant costs associated with pursuing further education, including enrolment fees, accommodation, relocation expenses, learning materials and general living costs. In the last five years alone, Gwydir CEF has paid more than \$140,000 to local recipients.

The Annual Boot Bash is a fun campaign that encourages students to ‘wear their boots to school’ and staff to ‘wear their boots to work’ and make a small donation towards Gwydir CEF. This year our local Councillors took the opportunity to show their community spirit and wear their boots to the March Council Meeting.

This year’s goal was to raise \$500 but with the impressive increase in participation a total of \$995 has been collected.

Special thanks go to Shire councillors and staff, Warialda Public School, Bingara Central School, Warialda High School, Tharawonga Mobile Preschool, and Warialda MPS for participating in the 2026 Boot Bash.

Enough is Enough—Lack of Telstra Service Affecting the Lives of Gwydir Shire Residents

It is deeply disappointing that in this day and age we are still having to raise serious concerns about the lack of



Gwydir Shire Councillors wearing their shoes during Boot Bash

reliable mobile service across our shire. This is not a new issue—I have raised it time and time again, yet little has changed.

Over the Easter weekend, Bingara hosted its annual Easterfish Competition. Volunteers dedicated countless hours to make it a success, only for the experience to be dampened by poor mobile coverage. Participants were unable to upload their catches on the event app due to limited or no service.

The same issue occurred last month in Gravesend during the Mason Daley Cod Classic weekend. Each time we raise these concerns, we are told by Telstra that the problem is due to congestion—too many people trying to use the network at once.

Quite frankly, that explanation is no longer acceptable.

If this were happening on Pitt Street in Sydney or in the heart of Canberra, I have no doubt swift action would be taken. Our communities deserve the same level of service and attention.

My greatest concern is the potential for a serious emergency where communication failure could lead to

tragic consequences. That risk is simply too great to ignore.

Let me be clear: this is not a Local Government or State Government responsibility—yet we are the ones continuing to push for solutions. We have made every effort to work constructively with Telstra rather than simply complain, but progress has been extremely limited.

We were promised that the tower in southern Bingara would be upgraded before the end of 2025. That commitment has not been met.

While it is encouraging to see that upgrades are underway in Warialda this week, much more needs to be done across the entire Shire.

Please know that I hear your concerns and share your frustration. I remain committed to advocating on behalf of our community.

As a next step, I will be formally requesting a meeting with the Federal Minister for Communications the Hon Anika Wells, alongside General Manager Leeah Daley, to demand meaningful and urgent action.

I have also raised these concerns at a

Country Mayors' Meeting at Parliament House in Sydney, as well as with the Shadow Minister.

Enough is enough—our communities deserve better.

The Roxy

Over the coming weeks you will notice works being undertaken on the front of The Roxy. A steel support structure will be constructed to support the parapet; sections of roofing and guttering will be replaced and the stormwater drainage system project completed.

Bingara Riverfront Project

The riverfront is looking incredible, and the project is almost complete. At the end of this month the access road works will be completed and updated signage installed. It is great that the new turf has had time to establish before we get the winter's frosts.

Louisa Gilmour

Congratulations to Louisa Gilmour on being crowned the 2026 Acciona Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman.

After winning the Zone 4 title at the finals in Warialda back in February, Louisa went on to represent the region with pride at the Sydney Royal Show. Following a busy and rewarding few months, she was officially named the overall winner on Saturday 5 April.

Louisa has made her community incredibly proud, and we wish her continued success over the next 12 months as she takes on this exciting role alongside her growing film-making career.



2026 Acciona Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Runner-Up Madison Luke (left) and Winner Louisa Gilmour (right).

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

Gwydir Shire Council Office Hours and Service Provisions for ANZAC Day 2026

All Administration Offices – including Customer Service Offices will be closed on Monday 27 April 2026 for the ANZAC Day Public Holiday. For more details, please visit:

<https://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/advertisement-easter-and-anzac-day-2026.docx>



Proposed Road Closure - Pallal Road, Pallal

Notice of proposed road closure under Section 38B *Roads Act 1993*

In pursuance of the provisions of the *Roads Act 1993*, notice is hereby given that Gwydir Shire Council proposes to close the council public road described in **Schedule 1** below. Upon closure of the road, Council intends to give the land to the adjoining landowner in compensation for land acquired in accordance with Section 44 of the *Roads Act 1993*.

Any person is entitled to make submissions to Council with respect to the closing of the road. All interested persons are invited to make submissions concerning the proposal. Submissions can be made to Council's agent until 5pm Friday 13 May 2026:

- by mail addressed to the General Manager, Gwydir Shire Council, Locked Bag 5, Bingara, NSW, 2404; or
- by email to enquiries@landsas.com.au

Please note that under the provisions of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, such submissions may be referred to third parties for consideration. Once the submission period is completed, Gwydir Shire Council will consider all duly made submissions before deciding whether to continue with the road closure proposal.

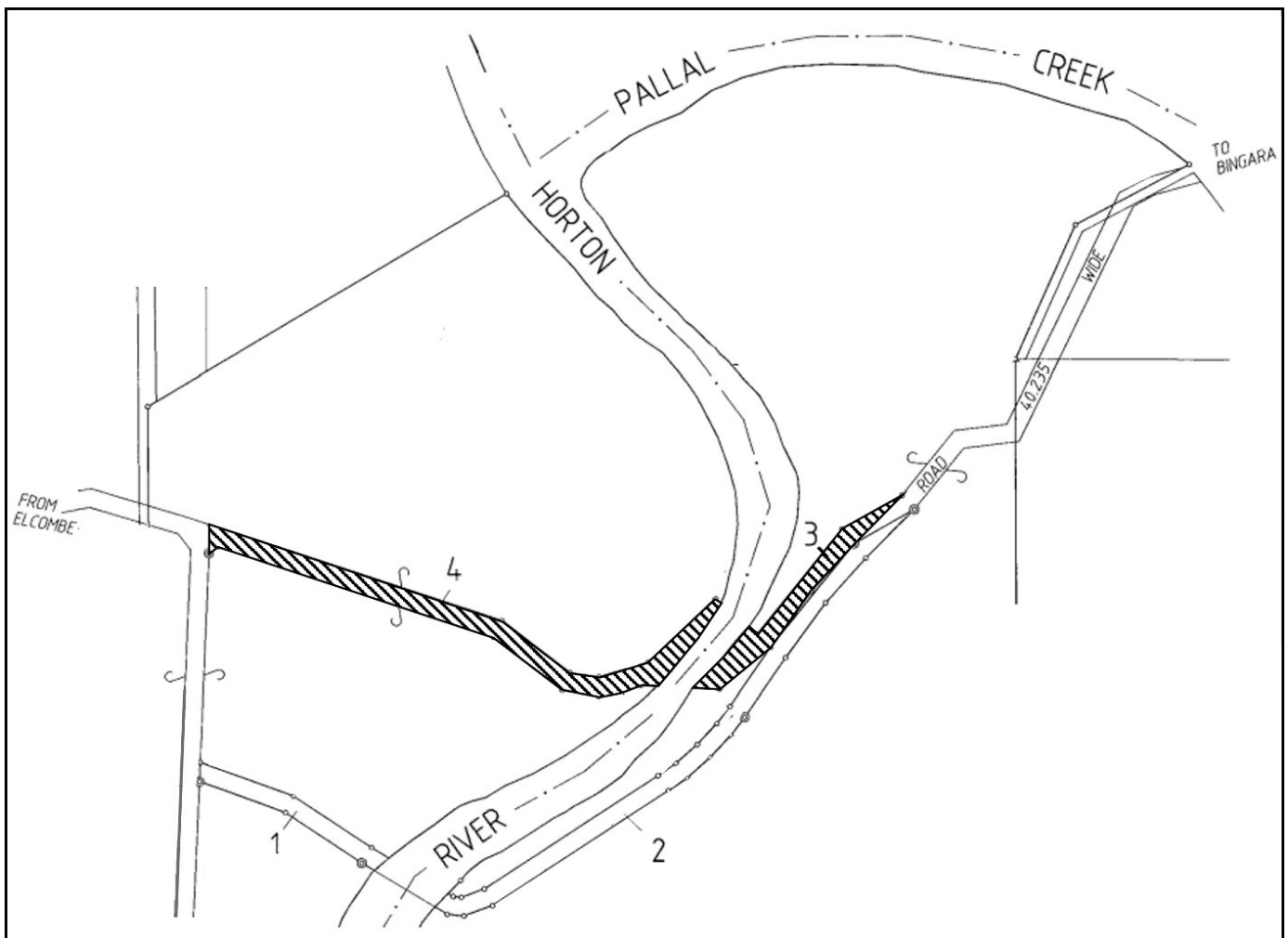
For enquiries, please contact Alex Eddy at Gwydir Shire Council on 0409 094 432.

General Manager
Gwydir Shire Council

Schedule 1

Part of Pallal Road, Pallal being Lots 3 & 4 DP 1141054 shown hatched in the diagram below.

Submissions close 5.00pm Friday 13 May 2026



ANZAC DAY AROUND THE GWYDIR SHIRE

Saturday 25 April 2026

Warialda

Dawn Service to be held in Captain Cook Park at 6:00am

March in Hope Street at 10:30am

Wreath Laying Ceremony at Warialda Memorial Hall at 11:00am

Commemorative Service at Warialda Town Square at 11:15am

North Star

Assemble at ANZAC Park at 10:45am for an 11:00am Service

Followed by lunch at the North Star Sporting Club

Bingara

Dawn Service in the Memorial Garden at 6:00am

Gunfire Breakfast at the Bingara RSL Club at 6:30am

March from the corner of Cunningham and Maitland Streets at 10:30am

Service in Memorial Garden at 11:00am

Followed by lunch at the Bingara RSL Club

Gravesend

Assemble at Moffett Park at 8:45am to March at 9:00am to the Cenotaph

Service commences at the finalisation of the March

Followed by morning tea at the Old RSL Club House

Yallaroi Hall

ANZAC Service in the Yallaroi Hall and at Memorial Rock from 8:30am

Followed by Morning Tea (Bring a plate if you are able)

Upper Horton

Dawn Service to be held at Upper Horton Sports Club at 6:00am

Followed by a Gunfire Breakfast at the Club



Brendan Moylan MP
Member for **NORTHERN TABLELANDS**



Minister Silent As Fertiliser Shortage Looms

WEDNESDAY, 8 APRIL 2026

The NSW Nationals and Liberals have ramped up calls for the Minns Labor Government to urgently implement a strategy to support the agricultural sector amid the rapidly escalating fertiliser crisis.

The state's entire food chain is under enormous threat with price hikes and limited supply due to war-related supply disruptions, but the Minns Labor Government and the NSW Minister for Agriculture is nowhere to be seen.

Last month, Shadow Minister for Agriculture Brendan Moylan urged the Minns Labor Government to secure supply of fuel and fertiliser for farmers and regional communities; his calls fell on deaf ears.

"The fertiliser shortage is a huge problem for our grain growers across NSW, yet Tara Moriarty and the Minns Labor Government have been silent on what they are doing to help," Mr Moylan said.

"When growers cut fertiliser rates, yields inevitably fall. That means less grain, less feed for livestock and ultimately higher costs flowing through the entire food chain.

"So far there's been no action, no strategy and no financial or logistical support made available to farmers who are not only struggling with sourcing fertiliser but drought as well."

Mr Moylan added, "If growers cannot access fertiliser at affordable prices, production will fall. It's as simple as that."

"And when production falls, everyone pays the price."

NSW Nationals Leader and Shadow Minister for Regional NSW Gurmeh Singh said right now farmers are facing serious uncertainty.

"Farms, orchards, and vineyards all need fertilisers to keep their plants fed, and the state fed, as we move through the cooler months into spring," Mr Singh said.

"Some fertilisers have already run out with no new supplies on the horizon. Tara Moriarty and the Minns Labor Government must treat fertiliser supply with the same seriousness as fuel and energy security."

"In a cost-of-living crisis, the last thing we need is more expensive fresh food."

The NSW Government Needs To Start Supporting Our Farmers

MONDAY, 13 APRIL 2026

Conditions have deteriorated rapidly since the beginning of the year and the impact is being felt across the Northern Tablelands. There's no sign of improvement in the near future with the current forecast looking very grim until at least November.

I have been banging on doors and doing everything I can to get the government to realise the seriousness of the problem. I have made more than 30 representations to the Minister for Agriculture but this city-centric government has not responded. The southern part of the state has been in drought for two years and they have failed to provide any relief in the form of grants and subsidies. All that has been provided are loans and no one wants to take on more debt. Add in the ongoing fuel crisis and fertiliser shortages and the outlook for the rural sector is ominous.

I will continue to push the government to stand up and support our farmers and regional communities. It is time for the government to act without delay before the situation escalates into another devastating drought with lasting impacts on farmers, families and regional economies. They cannot continue to neglect the needs of regional and rural NSW.

Beyond Blue supports Australians through uncertainty and impacts of global conflict

Beyond Blue is reminding people support is available following the Prime Minister's national address about the local impacts of conflict in the Middle East.



Beyond Blue is supporting Australians who may be feeling unsettled as fuel shortages add to a growing sense of uncertainty and ongoing cost of living pressures.

Beyond Blue CEO Georgie Harman AO said **Beyond Blue** was encouraging people to support each other and to contact its free, 24/7 **Beyond Blue** Support Service whenever they needed to. **Beyond Blue** is also linking people to the National Debt Helpline where useful, and offering support to small businesses via its NewAccess for Small Business program (NASBO).

"For the past month, the **Beyond Blue** Support Service has been fielding calls from people who are worried, not just about fuel and what they're seeing on the news, but also about loved ones in war zones. Australia is a multicultural society so these conflicts might be geographically remote, but they are very much unfolding in our hearts and homes."

"This is a time of significant uncertainty, and we want people to know we're here. Although we can't control what happens in the global context, we can control how we respond, individually and together. Australians have shown time and again that when we stay connected, look out for one another and focus on what matters we can manage stress, reduce anxiety and create a sense of stability."

Beyond Blue Clinical Psychologist, Dr Luke Martin said periods of uncertainty and scarcity could have powerful effects on how people think, feel and act, especially when pressures are already high.

"When essentials like fuel feel uncertain, it can start to dominate our attention and create a sense of urgency," Dr Martin said.

"People may notice they're thinking more about what could go wrong, or they might start questioning others, or feel more tense. These are common responses when predictability and control feel shaky."

Dr Martin said that while people could not control the external situation, they could control how they chose to

respond.

"Simply understanding and naming what's happening for you can help reduce anxiety: 'It makes sense I'm feeling on edge right now' or 'when things feel uncertain our brain is looking for ways to regain control!'"

Dr Martin suggests that finding small ways to regain a sense of control can make a meaningful difference, including:

- Focusing on what's needed today or this week, rather than trying to solve what might happen months from now.
- Make simple, practical plans, like thinking through your own fuel use or basic budgeting, without over-preparing.
- Sticking to familiar routines where possible can help create a sense of normality and stability.
- Pause before acting and check in with yourself: 'do I need this right now, or am I trying to regain control?'
- Respond with your personal values and let your actions reflect how you want to show up for your community.

Beyond Blue's free, confidential Support Service is available 24/7 on 1300 22 46 36, or via webchat or email at [beyondblue.org.au/get-support](https://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support).

Small business owners who are interested in support can visit www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/newaccess-mental-health-coaching/small-business-owners or call (03) 9250 8305.

About Beyond Blue

Beyond Blue provides mental health information, support and advice to help everyone feel better earlier and stay well. Last year more than 300,000 people contacted **Beyond Blue's** free, confidential, 24/7 Support Service. Call 1300 224 636 or visit www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support

Bingara Easter Market Draws Strong Crowd And Community Praise

by Beverley Callow

The Bingara Easter Market was met with strong community support on Sunday, with organisers describing the day as a wonderful success for the town.

People began arriving from around 9.30am, well before the official start, creating an early buzz around the market precinct. With 28 stalls on site and a steady flow of visitors, the committee estimates that over 400 people attended the market through the day.

The market drew locals and visitors alike, including patrons attending the Easterfish 2026 festivities, and was met with clear excitement and approval from those who came along. The atmosphere throughout the day reflected exactly what the committee had hoped to create—a welcoming community event that brought people together while also supporting local activity in town.

One of the clearest signs of the market's success came early in the day, when the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service food stall sold out by 11.30am. With food running out so quickly, many visitors headed into town to find lunch, which in turn benefited Bingara's cafés and businesses—an outcome the market committee had anticipated and hoped for from the beginning.

A major highlight of the day was the Bush Stage, which provided live entertainment throughout the market. The musicians created a lively, generous and distinctly local atmosphere, adding warmth and character to the event from start to finish. Their contribution was widely appreciated, and organisers say they would love to see local venues and event organisers reach out and book these performers for

future events.

The success of the Bush Stage also served as a reminder of how important music and the arts remain in community life. At a time when daily life can feel weighed down by many concerns, live performance has a unique ability to lift the mood, bring people together and create a shared sense of enjoyment and connection.

A spokesperson for the Bingara Market Committee said the response from the public had been deeply encouraging.

“We were absolutely thrilled with the response to the Bingara Easter Market. From the early crowd arriving before opening, to the strong support for our stallholders, musicians and fundraising efforts, the day exceeded our expectations. It was wonderful to see the community come together in such a positive way, and to see the flow-on benefit into local cafés and businesses as well. We're incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make the day such a success.”

The Bingara Market Committee has expressed its sincere gratitude to the people of Bingara and the surrounding districts, the stallholders, and the musicians who travelled from afar to be part of the day. Thanks also go to Gwydir Shire Council for providing the venue, Stefan West for exceptional audio support, and Col and Bree from the Pally Bush Markets for their guidance and encouragement.

Following the strong response to Sunday's event, the Bingara Market team is already looking ahead. With more exciting events planned for later this year, registrations will be opening soon for food vendors, musicians, and arts and crafts makers interested in being involved.







Community gathers in style at Gravesend Long Lunch

The Gravesend community came together during March for the popular annual **Gravesend Long Lunch**, with locals and visitors enjoying a relaxed afternoon of good food, entertainment and connection while supporting Gravesend Public School.

Held at the Gravesend Recreation Grounds, the event once again drew strong support from across the district, bringing together past and present students, families, staff and friends of the school. The Long Lunch has become a much-loved fixture on the local calendar and plays an important role in strengthening community ties.

Organised by the Gravesend Public School P&C, the fundraiser helps provide additional learning opportunities and resources for students. In recent years, money raised through the event has contributed to projects including improvements to school facilities, support for excursions and assistance with staffing.

Guests enjoyed a three-course meal prepared by Relish Catering, with live entertainment adding to the friendly country atmosphere throughout the afternoon.

Events like the Gravesend Long Lunch highlight the strong community spirit that continues to support small rural schools and the important role they play at the heart of village life.





Community Volunteer Expo

- share information about volunteer roles and opportunities
- build links with other community organisations
- strengthen your presence in the Moree community

Participation as an exhibitor is free, however registration is essential.

Supporting volunteering across New South Wales

The Moree Volunteering Connection Hub project is supported by The Centre for Volunteering, the peak body for volunteering in New South Wales. The Centre for Volunteering works with communities, organisations and volunteer managers across the state to strengthen volunteering participation and support best practice in volunteer involvement.

Through this support, CCNI is working locally in Moree to help connect volunteers with organisations and strengthen community participation across the region. Community College Northern Inland supports training and a range of community programs across the Northern Inland region.

Moree Community Volunteer Expo Bringing Local Organisations Together During National Volunteer Week

People across Moree who are thinking about volunteering—or organisations looking to connect with new volunteers—are invited to attend the Moree Community Volunteer Expo at Community College Northern Inland’s Moree Campus on Thursday 21 May from 9am to 12pm.

Held during National Volunteer Week (18–24 May 2026), the Expo will bring local organisations together in one place, making it easy for community members to explore volunteering opportunities and learn how they can get involved locally.

Visitors are encouraged to drop in, enjoy a relaxed morning tea, and speak directly with organisations working across the Moree region in areas such as community support, emergency services, arts and culture, youth programs and social services.

No previous volunteering experience is needed—just an interest in supporting your local community.

Supporting stronger community connections in Moree

The Expo is part of the Moree

Volunteering Connection Hub project, an initiative based at CCNI’s Moree Campus that aims to strengthen connections between volunteers and organisations across the Moree Plains.

Alongside the Expo event, the Hub supports organisations and community groups that involve volunteers, or would like to grow volunteer participation in their activities, by connecting them with resources, information and local opportunities for collaboration.

By bringing people and organisations together, the project helps build stronger community networks and makes it easier for volunteers to find meaningful ways to contribute locally.

Organisations invited to take part

Local organisations and community groups who involve volunteers are encouraged to participate in the Expo as exhibitors. Taking part is a great opportunity to:

- promote your organisation and the work you do
- connect with people interested in volunteering locally

National Volunteer Week

18-24 MAY 2026

YOUR YEAR TO VOLUNTEER

Moree Community Volunteer Expo

CCNI | Moree Campus
53 Greenbah Road, Moree
Thursday 21 May 2026
9:00am – 12:00pm
Morning tea provided
Free to attend

For more information or to register as an organisation, contact the Moree Campus on (02) 6751 1430.

Enjoy Farm Fresh Goodness At Moree On A Plate

by Georgina Poole

Moree's black soil plains are part of Australian society's beating heart.

It's where the wheat is grown that fills pantrys with pasta, bread, noodles, and biscuits, and where cotton clothing is born.

A region rich in agricultural production, helping feed and clothe the world, the Moree community enjoys a great appreciation for fresh produce and seasonal-based recipes, with the success of the Moree on a Plate Food and Wine Festival—now in its 22nd year—a testament to this recognition.

For almost two decades Moree on a Plate has celebrated talent from across the Moree community and beyond, with regional producers and food innovators remaining a firm priority of the festival.

And come Saturday, May 9, producers will once again have the opportunity to showcase and promote the exciting food and artisan offerings from across the region, and beyond.

Expressions of Interest are currently being sought by producers, food and beverage vendors, and artisans for this year's festival, which provides a valuable opportunity for producers and creatives.

Established to showcase and promote the quality produce of the North-West Plains, Moree on a Plate President, Rebecca McMillan, was thrilled the region continued to enjoy a strong 'gate to plate' culture.

"We are so lucky to know our farmers, see first-hand the provenance of our food, and be assured that it is produced safely, ethically, and tastes the best."

From olives to pecans, oranges to honey, there are vibrant industries developing across the district, all thriving from the rich black soil plains that cemented Moree as a cropping, grazing and cotton heartland.

Having recently enjoyed a string of favourable seasons, agriculture in the region is booming, with cotton currently being picked.

And Rebecca believed the festival not only helped build pride in the agricultural sector, but may inspire other agri and food innovators from across the North-West.

"Over the years there have been so many boutique industries established across the region, from lavender to native bush foods, and we want to help provoke thought and encourage our local land holders to see how they too can value add on their own properties, for sustainability not only of their business, but for environmental outcomes also."

Dick Estens of Grove Juice is a long-term supporter of the



Photo: Local producers looking forward to Moree on a Plate—Susie Long of Pally Pecans, Emily Hunt of Brooker Trading Co, Dick Estens of Grove Juice and Tammy Sapphalakvoi and Kevin Cheong with daughter Ella of Chill Out Cafe.

festival as a stall holder and sponsor, and as a local cotton and orange producer, knows first-hand the strength of agriculture in the region.

"Out here on these black soil plains, if you put it in the ground it will grow."

"We're always happy to be involved in Moree on a Plate, the more we can educate audiences about where their food comes from, and share our fresh food story, the better, and Moree on a Plate is the perfect platform for this."

Pallamallawa couple Rob and Susie Long are also long-time exhibitors at the Moree on a Plate Festival.

It was almost 30 years ago when they first started nutting out ways to capitalise on their then-newly purchased parcel of land on the fertile banks of the Gwydir River.

While not vast enough for broadacre farming, but boasting rich alluvial black soils, the intensive farming industry of pecans was calling.

"We had a young family and were both working so needed a realistic, reasonably low maintenance industry, and trees,



Photo: Susie and Rob Long at their Pally Pecan Moree on a Plate Stall. (Photograph Jasmin Morrison)

being a permanent crop, really appealed to us," Susie explained.

Their venture proved a great success, and Susie is proud to be supplying a locally grown product high in quality, and goodness.

"Pecans are such a natural, healthy food and in recent years the clean eating and wholefood movement, plus the swing against highly processed food has really reinforced the industry and been hugely advantageous."

The Long's 'Pally Pecans' range includes raw kernels and flavoured kernels including Honey Roasted, Maple Cinnamon and Lime and Chilli.

A rich diversity of flavours will also be on offer at Moree on a Plate, reflective of the various cultures immersed within the community.

Tammy Sapphalakvoi and Kevin Cheong from 'Chill Out Café' will have a stall at Moree on a Plate again this year with their sell out Asian street food.

The couple has called Moree home for almost five years, after friends encouraged them to make the move.

"We were living in Sydney and the girls at Relaxing Café and Ma Ma Chim kept telling us how great Moree was, but we really didn't take it seriously," Tammy said.

Then Covid hit, with Kevin stood down from his job at the Star Casino.

"We packed up our life and headed to Moree and haven't looked back. Our new life here has definitely exceeded our expectations—the people, the lifestyle—there's no way we could live back in the city now!"

Tammy is originally from Thailand, with Kevin from Malaysia, and both said the opportunity to raise their children out of the city in a small community was also largely behind their decision.

"We love the freedom they have here, away from crowds, and everyone is just so nice—we've felt welcomed from day one and we have a great network of friends and support here."

The couple runs 'Chill Out Café' in the Relaxing Café, selling Asian street food, and said their stall at Moree on a Plate is always a sell-out.

"As soon as the crowds start to arrive we always get excited—it's huge, and a great way to sell our products, promote our business and contribute to a fantastic community event."

"We're so excited for this year's festival and can't wait to help showcase new and exciting dishes to visitors," Tammy said.

The major sponsor of this year's festival is Port of Newcastle, with Corporate Affairs Manager, Lucas Coleman, proud that the organisation is associated with such a premier food and wine festival.

"It's fantastic to support an event that is showcasing local producers and sharing the message of provenance awareness, now more than ever people are vested in where their food comes from, and we can happily, and proudly, teach them, show them, and even introduce them to the people responsible for feeding the nation."

Moree on a Plate President, Rebecca McMillan thanked Lucas and Dick for their very generous sponsorship.

"Without local sponsorship our festival simply wouldn't be, and we are so grateful to Port of Newcastle and Grove Juice—we feel greatly honoured that organisations of this calibre share our vision and are committed to the ongoing success of Moree on a Plate."

MOREE ON A PLATE FESTIVAL

Date: Saturday May 9 2026

Location: The Moree Racecourse
Boggabilla Rd, Moree, NSW 2400

Price: Gate Entry \$2

Time: 10:00am till 3:00pm

To lodge a producer EOI see:

www.moreeonaplate.com.au



RFS

Bush Fire Danger Period extended for Narrabri, Gwydir & Moree Plains LGAs

While the official Bush Fire Danger Period concluded at midnight on 31 March for most of New South Wales, it will remain in place for the Narrabri, Moree Plains and Gwydir Local Government Areas (LGA) until midnight on 30 April due to local conditions.

Despite the easing of restrictions across much of the state, residents in the Narrabri, Moree Plains and Gwydir areas are reminded that the Bush Fire Danger Period remains in force and fire permits are still required for any burning activities.

Superintendent Scott Mack said the extension reflects ongoing risk in local areas and it is important the community continues to follow all requirements.

“While many parts of NSW are moving out of the Bush Fire Danger Period, conditions in our area mean restrictions must remain in place for longer,” Superintendent Mack said.

“Fire permits are still required, and no burning should be undertaken without approval from your local fire authority.”

Superintendent Mack said landholders should continue to take a cautious and well-prepared approach to any burning activities.

“Before lighting any fire, ensure you have the appropriate permit, check the weather conditions carefully, and have sufficient resources on hand to manage the burn safely,” Superintendent Mack said.

“All burns must be notified to your neighbours and your local fire authority at least 24 hours in advance, which can be done using the RFS online notification tool.”

As conditions allow, hazard reduction activities will also continue across the state to reduce fuel loads and lower the risk of future bush fires.

Superintendent Mack said the extension of the Bush Fire Danger Period is a reminder that the risk of fire does not end with the close of the season elsewhere.

“Fires can and do occur outside the traditional bush fire season,” he said.

“Now is also a good time for residents to review their bush

fire survival plan and ensure their property is prepared.”

Residents planning to burn off can apply for a permit and notify their local brigade using the online tool at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify



fire.nsw.gov.au/batteries



Leave battery repairs, servicing, and installation to certified professionals. Many incidents happen when batteries are modified or used in DIY projects. It's simply not worth the risk.

Regions Saved In Firefight Backflip

by Josh Hanrahan

A plan to halve the number of firefighters on trucks in rural areas has been ditched in an 11th-hour backflip by the Minns government, after fireys had raised concerns the proposal could cost lives.

The Fire Brigade Employees Union (FBEU) labelled the decision as “sanity prevailing” in a note to members following urgent talks with Emergency Services Minister Jihad Dib.

The controversial plan to cut the number of firefighters required to attend a blaze in some rural areas from four to two was reignited last week, when Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) wrote to the FBEU to inform them it intended to go ahead with what has been dubbed the “tanker strategy”.

That was despite *The Daily Telegraph* last year writing about the concerns of fireys over the proposal, and their warning that “lives will be lost”.

Under the guidelines of the proposal, regional towns would be given smaller “tankers” - instead of trucks - allowing them to deploy to fires with fewer firefighters.

But this would also mean that brave fireys would be told not to go into burning buildings to rescue people until backup arrived, which in some areas could be an hour away.

“What they are going to do... is going to cost lives for both firefighters and the community,” a firefighter warned last year.

But days after FRNSW sent a letter to the FBEU outlining how the tanker strategy would help it “enhance operational efficiency and long-term financial sustainability”, Mr Dib was forced to step in.

FBEU state secretary Leighton Drury said following conversations with the minister, the union had now been told FRNSW would be looking at alternative “solutions”.

“Some sanity has prevailed, as the minister has asked the department to continue discussions on finding better solutions to the budget overrun challenges,” Mr Drury wrote in a note to members.

“The department has since written to the FBEU confirming that implementation is paused to allow this to occur.”

Under the initial proposal of the tanker strategy, 10 regional towns were to be the test cases—Bingara, Dungog, Walgett, Balranald, Barham, Batlow,

Berrigan, Boggabri, Bombala and Warren, in addition to Peak

Hill where the scheme was first trialled under the previous Liberal government.

Despite FRNSW abandoning its plans at the 11th hour, Mr Dib refused to permanently rule out the strategy for the future - and said he hoped more people in rural areas would join their local fire brigades.

“Fire and Rescue NSW is considering a range of measures to address recruitment challenges, particularly in the regions,” Mr Dib said



Charge big batteries outside living areas. Never block your exits.

fire.nsw.gov.au/batteries

FIRE + RESCUE NSW GOVERNMENT

Keep charging areas clear so you can get out quickly if something goes wrong. Charge on hard, non-flammable surfaces like concrete or tiles — never on beds, sofas, or carpets.

Brendan Moylan MP
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

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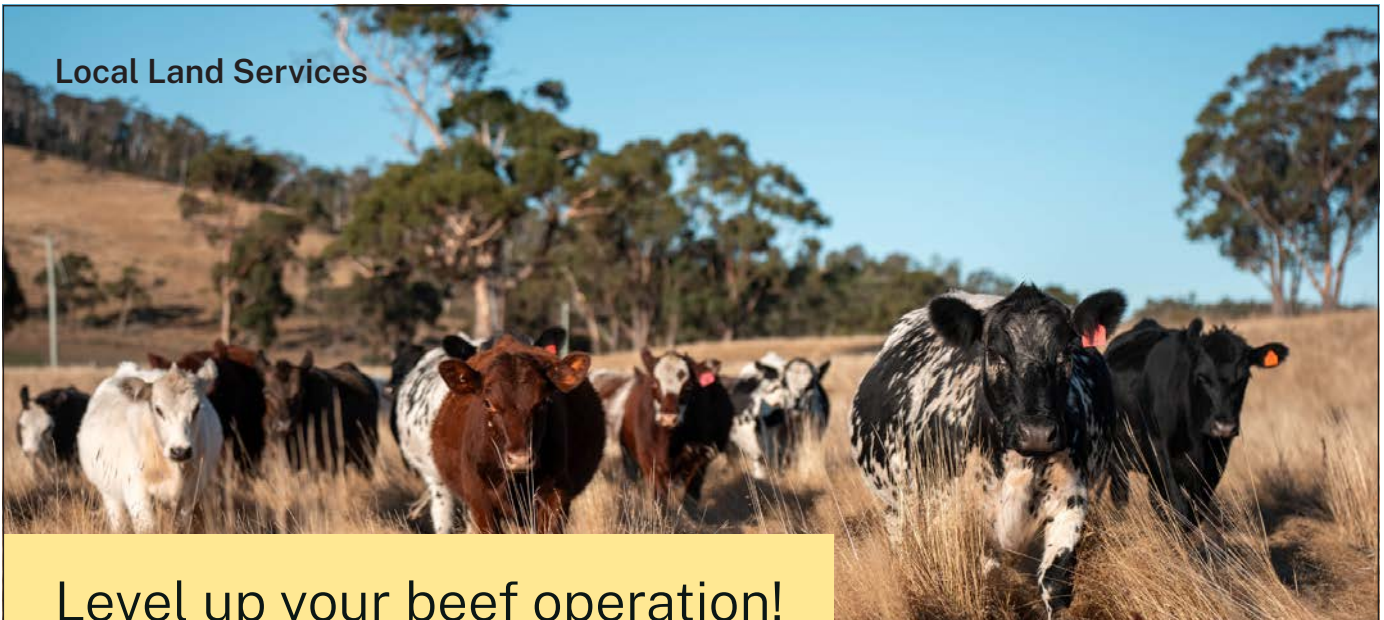
Suites 2-6, 161 Balo Street
Moree NSW 2400

02 6752 5002 (Moree)

www.brendanmoylan.com.au

brendanmoylanmp

Authorised by Brendan Moylan MP, Member for Northern Tablelands. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



Local Land Services

Level up your beef operation!

North West Local Land Services is hosting the 2026 North West Beef Producers Forum this May.

Stay productive with an update from global market analyst Simon Quilty, tailored seasonal forecasts, advice on confinement feeding and new ag technologies, as well as insights into supply chain requirements.



13 May 2025
Tamworth Jockey Club

Scan to register or call
1300 795 299





The NWTC Film Club's Feature Film for April is 'The Teacher who Promised the Sea'

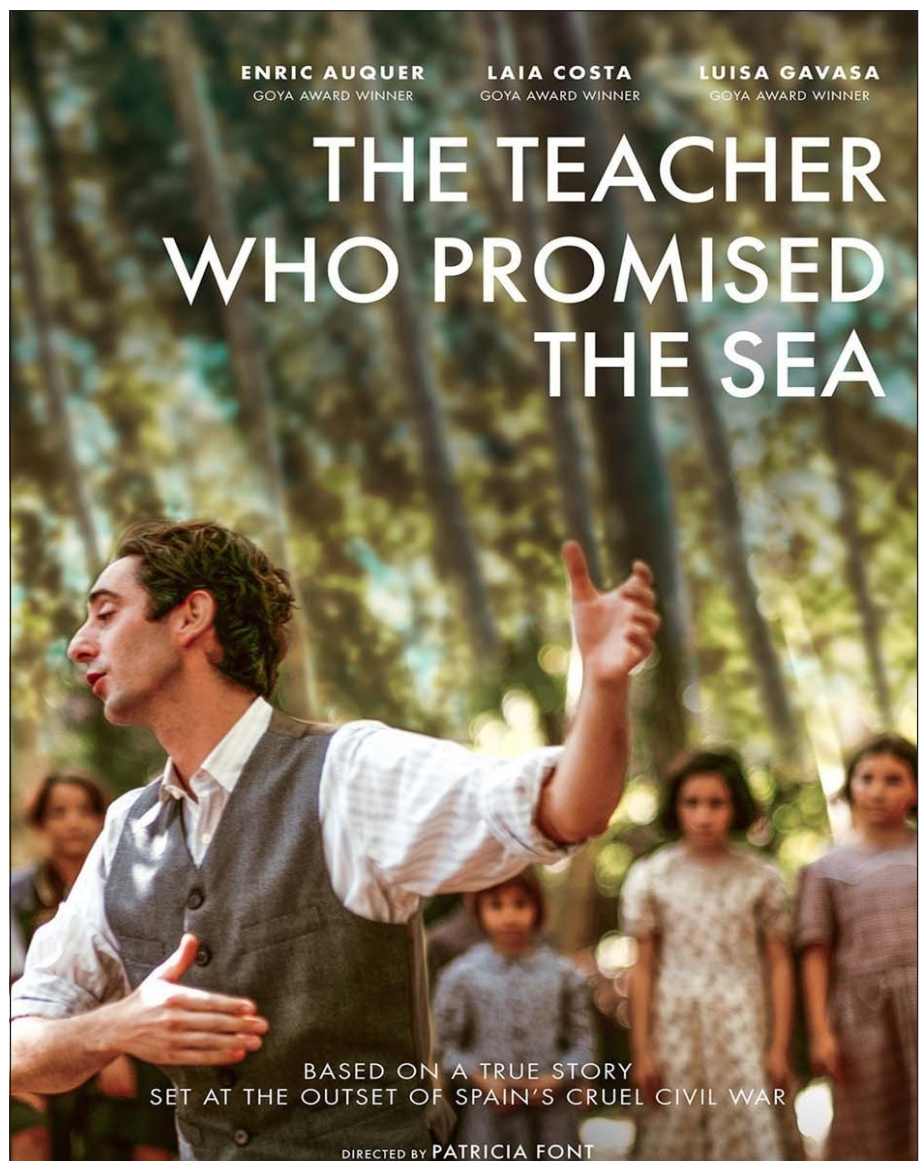
The movie chosen for April is **The Teacher who Promised the Sea**—a 2023 Spanish historical drama.

Inspired by a true story, the film follows Ariadna, who joins her grandfather in his quest to find the remains of his father, lost during the Spanish Civil War (1936 – 1939). Their search leads them to Burgos, a village in northern Spain, where a mass grave is being excavated.

There, Ariadna learns about Antoni Benaiges, a young teacher from Tarragona appointed as the new schoolmaster of a small, isolated village in the province of Burgos. With an innovative approach, he soon wins over his reluctant pupils, a group between the ages of six and twelve who are used to being instructed by the strict local priest. Antoni used an innovative teaching method to inspire his students, making a heartfelt promise to take them to the sea. He transforms their lives on the eve of the Spanish Civil War, but it places him in the crossfire of local authorities.

The film is directed by Patricia Font with the main cast of Enric Auquer (as teacher Antoni Benaiges) and Laia Costa as Ariadna.

The film shows at the Roxy on Sunday 26th April at 4.00pm. **New members welcome.**



The North West Theatre Company Film Club presents
The Teacher Who Promised the Sea
Sunday April 26th 2026 | 4:00pm | The Roxy Theatre

**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

2 Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 4.00PM \$435

Warialda Campus Wed 10 - Thur 11 June

Chemical User Refresher Training ♦

AHCCHM307 Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases
AHCCHM304 Transport and store chemicals

1 Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 4.00PM \$365

Warialda Campus Thur 14 May

WHS & Traffic

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

Chainsaw - Operate and Maintain ♦

AHCMOM213 Operate and maintain chainsaws
Learn the skills and knowledge required to safely operate a hand-held chainsaw and maintain it in working condition.

2 Day Workshop 8.30AM - 4.00PM \$670

Warialda Campus Tue 7 July - Wed 8 July

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.cni.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**

Warialda Campus  Tuesday 21 April

Barraba Campus  Monday 4 May

Bingara Campus  Tuesday 12 May

Provide CPR

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation



½-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 12PM \$90 **F**

Warialda Campus  Tuesday 21 April

Barraba Campus  Monday 4 May

Bingara Campus  Tuesday 12 May

Provide First Aid in an Education and Care Setting

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation
HLTAID010 Provide basic emergency life support
HLTAID011 Provide first aid
HLTAID012 Provide first aid in an education and care setting



1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 5.30PM \$210 **F**

Warialda Campus  Tuesday 21 April

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation expires one (1) year from the date of attainment.
HLTAID010 Provide basic emergency life support expires three (3) years from the date of attainment.
HLTAID011 Provide first aid expires three (3) years from the date of attainment.

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



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.

High Risk & Industry


Issuing Registered Training Organisation
Community College Northern Inland | RTO 90027

Work Safely at Heights

RIIWH204E Work safely at heights



1-Day In-Campus 9.00AM - 4.30PM \$260 **F**


Warialda Campus  Monday 20 April

Confined Spaces

RIIWH202E Enter and work in confined spaces



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

Bingara Campus  Tuesday 2 June

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

Barraba Campus  Mon 25 May - Tue 26 May



News from Gravesend Public School



From the Principal

Standout Events: Gravesend Long Lunch and Mason Daley Memorial Cod Classic

This term has begun with many wonderful events and achievements for Gravesend Public School and our wider community.

Two standout highlights were the *Gravesend Long Lunch* and the *Mason Daley Memorial Cod Classic*. Both events attracted large crowds, provided fantastic entertainment, raised funds for worthy causes, and showcased the strong sense of community that makes our school so special. Congratulations to everyone involved in making these events such a success.

Sporting Achievements

In sport, our students have demonstrated outstanding effort and talent. We are proud to share that seven of our swimmers qualified for zone, with six progressing through to the regional level—an incredible achievement for our small but mighty school. Additionally, Cate represented our school in tennis at the regional



level and is currently first reserve for state selection. Well done to all students for their dedication and sportsmanship.

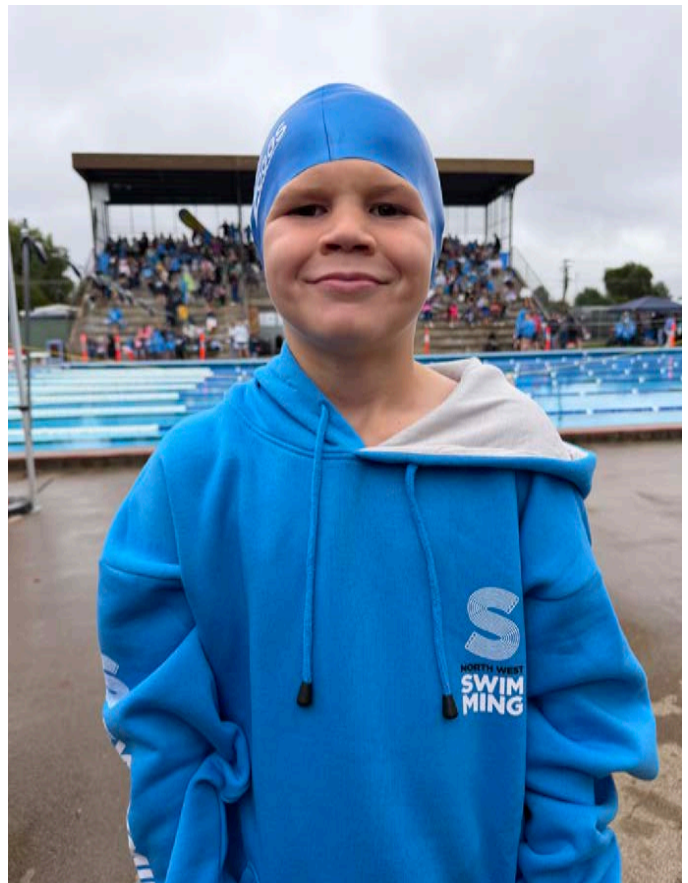
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Our students have also been actively engaged in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). As part of the STEM Small Schools Alliance, students and staff had the exciting opportunity to learn how to create a podcast, guided by guest presenter Tim Cassell, Digital Learning Advisor. This experience has sparked great enthusiasm, and we look forward to seeing how students build on these new skills.

Newest Gravo Kids Settling In

We are also delighted with how well our new Kindergarten students have settled into school life. They have made a magnificent start to the year and have quickly become valued members of the Gravesend Public School community.

It has truly been a fantastic start to the term, and we look forward to many more achievements and opportunities ahead.



News from Warialda Public School



From the Principal

Warialda Public School Kindergarten Transition

We are excited to invite all our new 2027 Kindergarten families to join us as we begin our Busy-Bee transition program starting in Term 3. Save the date! To support you and your child through this important milestone, we warmly welcome you to our Parent Information Evening on Wednesday, 12th August at 6.00pm. This will be a great opportunity to meet our staff, learn about our school community, and ask any questions you may have. For more details or any inquiries, please don't hesitate to contact the school office on 6729 1131. We're here to support you every step of the way.

We can't wait to welcome your family into our school community for Kindergarten in 2027.

Hockey Super Star!

Henry Turnbull certainly racked up the kilometres today on the hockey field, demonstrating his hockey skills and great sportsmanship.

A huge congratulations to Henry, as he



has earned himself a place in the NW PSSA Hockey team and will go on to play in the State championships in May.

For the past few weeks, potter extraordinaire, Trina from AntHill Pottery has been to WPS to teach our Years 3-6 students the art of making and creating with clay. The students have got their creativity on for the day. With amazing creations emerging (think animals, vessels, fruit and so much more!), we can't wait to see what the finished product looks like! We are so lucky to be able to provide this wonderful, creative learning experience for our students and we can't wait to see the finished results!

Well done to all our WPS AFL representatives who not only played well, but demonstrated wonderful sportsmanship and great manners on the trials day at Inverell last week. Amongst all the students from across the region who were competing for a place on the NW Team, Reid Rose, Harry Durkin, Beau Robertson, Ziggy Hall and Logan Hollands, along with first reserve, Parker Law, were selected! They will now be a part of the NW PSSA AFL Team who will go on to compete in the AFL State Championships in May.

Warialda Public Preschool



Keep in Touch

You can find more information about the project at edu.nsw.link/WarialdaPublicPreschool or by scanning the QR code.

If you would like to sign up to receive ongoing updates about this project directly to your email, please visit edu.nsw.link/WarialdaPublicPreschool-SignUp or scan the QR code.

Leadership

It was a privilege for our School Captains, Vice Captains and prefects to be acknowledged with a special letter and message, in their important role as leaders here at Warialda Public school, by Mr Brendan Moylan. Being a leader is more than wearing a badge, and these six students are a wonderful example of great leaders. Dexter Brooks, Edie Wilson, Faith Turner, Jimmy Wright, Poppie McClymont are all

wonderful ambassadors for our school, leading by example, having a red hot go and caring for those around them—what a great leadership team!



Inverell Zone Rugby League Trials

It was a day of face-paced competition and plenty of determination, as 13 girls and boys competed for a coveted position on the Inverell Zone Rugby League Team in Inverell. A huge congratulations to our 6 girls, Harrit Warby, Bridie Davis, Abigale Clark, Sallisah Stokes, Ariel Tritton and Indianna Turner, who were picked for the Girls Inverell Zone PSSA Rugby League side. We also would like to congratulate Liam Brazel, Jimmy Wright, Dexter Brooks, Logan Holland and Beau Robertson being selected in the Boys Rigby League side! It was hotly contested, and we are proud of all our students who turned up and gave it their absolute all!!! Impressive!!

Tracey Digby
Principal

Warialda Public School

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION

WPS Busy-Bee Program

Our Busy-Bee Program will commence in Term 3. Please use the QR code below to enrol your child for the 2027 school year.

TERM 3 DATES:

- ✓ Wednesday 12th August: Parent Information Evening 6pm in the school library
- ✓ Friday 14th August: Busy Bee Session 9am-11am
- ✓ Friday 28th August: Busy Bee Session 9am-11am
- ✓ Friday 11th September: Busy Bee Session 9am-11am

Remember to bring a water bottle, a hat and some fruit!

ENROL NOW

- ☎ (02) 67291 131
- ✉ warialda-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
- 📍 Hope Street, Warialda 2402

ENROL HERE

Carinda Update

The AGM of Warialda Cultural Community Centre - Carinda House - was held on Thursday 12th March with a large number of members attending.

The Executive for 2026 is as follows: **President** Margaret Haug; **Vice Presidents** Lanna Hockley and Sue Smith; **Treasurer** Carmel Stevenson; **Assistant Treasurer** Betsy Jeffery; **Secretary** Marilyn Stubbins; **Shop Steward** Sue Smith; **Publicity Officers** Betsy Jeffery and Marilyn Stubbins.

All members expressed thanks to Gwydir Shire for their help with the replacement of the 120-year old roof. The old building has certainly been given a new lease of life!

Work is progressing on the new Gazebo. Many thanks to Paul for digging out the inside area so that it will be ready for the brick flooring to be laid. Work is also progressing on the seating which will go on the inside of the Gazebo.

Carinda is hopeful of having all work completed in time for the Annual Biggest Morning Tea—raising money for Cancer Research. Carinda is registered with the Cancer Council and our date has been set as Thursday 21st May. Business houses and schools can contribute by purchasing morning tea on Tuesday 19th May. In 2025, Warialda raised over \$2,000 for Cancer Research.

So put Thursday 21st May into your calendar! Come along with family and friends; enjoy a delicious morning tea; the guest speaker will be a Cancer/Palliative Care Social Worker from Hunter New England Health.

The Carinda Shop is stocked with unique handmade items from baby gifts to something for that special someone. Delicious treats from Jeannette's Kitchen are a definite favourite with locals and visitors.

If you are having a dinner party or BBQ lunch at home, Carinda has crockery and cutlery for hire at a very modest price. Just call in and talk to one of the friendly volunteers or call Marilyn on 0456 863 848.

The Tuesday Craft Group continues to grow. Just bring along your chosen craft from 10.00am to 12.00pm and enjoy the company of like minded ladies—good company, a fun morning followed by a cuppa!

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



Please join us at Carinda House for the Biggest Morning Tea!

Thursday, 21 May
10.00am – 12.00pm

\$10 per person
Raffle and Lucky
Door Prize





Warialda CWA 'Chicks With Attitude'

by **Libby Cotter**

Secretary

Warialda Branch of CWA of NSW

We had a great meeting on Thursday 23rd March.

Mrs Clem Bower gave us some interesting facts about Sister Kenny who was born in Warialda and lived a full life treating people with polio.

Mrs Cecile Egan came forward with information about the Glossy Black Cockatoo which is our native animal of study for this year.

Congratulations to our branch member, Ms Jeanette Sanderson who won or became runner-up in five of our ten challenges at the annual Gwydir Group competition held at Delungra in March. This means that Jeanette will have to do it all again for the state competition held at Forster in May at our annual conference. We wish her well as there is some tough competition. As in previous years, Jeanette has shown that she is capable of winning at state level as well over the years.

A trip to Fiji is available for anyone who would like to learn their craft and cooking. This is in August. Contact Mrs Carolyn McMullen on 0412 279 109. There are limited seats available.

ANZAC Day is fast approaching and CWA Warialda has been asked by the RSL to cater for the veterans and partners after the service at midday. At the time of preparing this for print we are not sure of the venue owing to the condition of the Memorial Hall.

Our next meeting is on 23rd of April at 9.30 for 10.00am.

Please come along and join us in a cuppa and morning tea.

We are not cranky women, just chicks with attitude!

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**

Bingara BUSH BASH

Annual Tennis Tournament
90th Anniversary

6 - 8 June 2026

Watch this space for further
information.

GARDENING

BINGARA

Garden Club

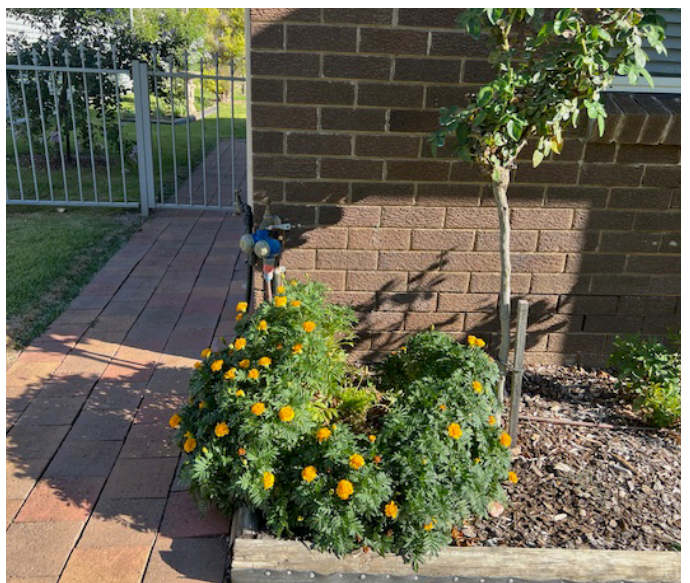
ENCOURAGEMENT DRIVE-BY AWARD

March 2026

During the ongoing rain drought in Bingara recently, it was heartwarming to be welcomed to the home of John and Anne Robinson at 28 Gwydir Street. Here, opposite a very barren golf course, we were presented with a well-tended and GREEN lawn with colourful plantings. Retirees, Anne and John, built on what garden was there, and a point of interest was an unassuming Japanese Fringe shrub—an amazing plant with smatterings of tiny pink flowers year round then an explosion of pink in spring.

Strong prunings of white crepe myrtles resulted in good blooms and height.

Chicago Peace (glorious pink), Mr Lincoln, Iceberg and white patio roses as well as pale mauve crepe myrtles in a side garden added quiet colour. Alyssum and marigolds with pots and ornaments completed a relaxed version of minimal plantings in an easy care garden in Area C in Bingara! **Well done!**



SPORT

Wombats Pipped Late By Glen Innes In Round One Clash

by Toby Cooper

Photos courtesy of Kristy Johnson

The Warialda Wombats opened their 2026 Group 19 Rugby League campaign on the road against the Glen Innes Magpies last Saturday, with both the A-Grade and Ladies League Tag sides showing plenty of courage in a tough round one encounter.

In Ladies League Tag, the Wombats went down 60–0, but the effort never dropped, with the ladies competing right through to the final whistle. Jyppsee Stevens was recognised for her performance, earning Players Player honours as well as 1 coaching point, while Paige Hall led the voting with 3 points and Chloe Rose collected 2.

The A-Grade side produced a strong performance in their first competitive outing of the season. With the game still in the balance late, Glen Innes managed to edge ahead in the final five minutes, handing the Wombats a narrow 30–26 highlighted by try scoring doubles to Darcy and Maverick Mitchell. Liam Cleal was named Players Player for his efforts, while John Armstrong 3 points, Dom Dunn 2 points, and Tiger Rawlings along with Western Mitchell 1 point each were also recognised for their contributions.

The Warialda Wombats Rugby League Club would again like to acknowledge all sponsors for their support in 2026, with a special mention to their major sponsor The Royal Hotel. The Wombats also extended a huge thank you to all their supporters who made the trip to Glen Innes, and they look forward to seeing you at the next round.

With a bye scheduled next weekend, the Wombats will regroup before returning to action on Anzac Day, Saturday 25th April, when they travel to Guyra to take on the Super Spuds.

Following the late withdrawal of the Narwan Eels, the 2026

Group 19 draw has been revised. As a result, the Warialda Wombats now must wait until Saturday the 9th May to play their first home game, when they host the Barraba Bulldogs.



SPORT

Bingara Golf Report

by John Gill

March 2026

Bingara golf has not held any major events over the past month.

Events Coming Up

Bingara Open Weekend	
Saturday 18 April 2026 Mixed Open 4 B.B.B. Stableford Event	11:30am / 12pm Tee Off
Sunday 19 April 2026 Mens Open Stroke Event, Shotgun or Running Start	9:30am / 10am Tee Off
Enquiries: Cameron Maisey - 0427 131 165	

May Events

Bingara Open Weekend	
Single Stableford	Sunday 3 May 2026
Monthly Medal Stroke Event	Tuesday 12 May 2026
Men's championship played over four rounds of 18 hole stroke each round - over two weekends	
Round One	Saturday 16 May 2026
Round Two	Sunday 17 May 2026
Round Three	Saturday 23 May 2026
Round Four	Sunday 24 May 2026

Green Fees

While it's good to see social golfers on the course, what's not so good is the non-payment of green fees.

There is an honesty box located adjacent to the main entrance to the golf course for cash payment, or vendi machine near front sliding doors, or at the club when open from 3:30pm daily or 12pm weekends.

The course is maintained by volunteers. Please show your appreciation of the work they do for you by paying green fees.

Bingara Golf Events	
Saturday Stableford Medley Event	12pm / 12:30pm Tee
Sunday Golf	12pm / 12:30pm Tee
Tuesday Ladies Golf	Call 0428 241 415
Thursday Chook Run	1:30pm / 2pm Tee

Warialda Men's Golf March Results

by Toby Cooper



The Warialda Men's Golf Club has made a solid start to its winter competition, building momentum as the season progresses into a busy schedule of championship events.

The club launched their new season on the 1st of March with an 18-hole Individual Stableford sponsored by Warialda Electrical, it was Anthony Buff with 38 points in B Grade, and Tom Kilner 35 points in A grade who collected wins.

This was followed on the 8th of March by the Bindaree Beef sponsored 27 Hole Foursomes, where Wade Turner and Brendan Dawson combined strongly to take out the win, with Dave Coulton and Don Stevenson roaring home with 48 points to win the prestigious George Rose Memorial 4BBB Stableford sponsored by the Lindsay family on Sunday the 15th.

Rodney Ireland held off Anthony Buff for top honours in the Blu Print Inverell Individual Stableford on Sunday the 22nd, while Don Stevenson continued his red-hot form with a 69 nett to claim the March Monthly Mug sponsored by Layton Structural & Edgewood Trophies & Engraving, in conjunction with the daily sponsor Inverell H Hardware.

Matt Jones took the win on Easter Sunday, while Sam Dight and Wade Turner reigned in Easter Monday's 4BBB Multiplier.

Looking ahead, this weekend is the 2026 Bingara Open, followed by the Darrell "Dag's" Cleal Memorial 4 Person Ambrose Golf Day on Anzac Day, and an 18 Hole Individual Stroke - April Monthly Mug on Sunday 26th April.

Anyone interested in playing competition on Sunday is encouraged to speak to one of the committee members, who will be happy to guide them on how to get involved.

Know the warnings for bushfires, floods and storms

Get Ready NSW

Enhancing farm dams

Field day and workshop

3 JUNE 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.

For more information about this project or this workshop, contact Janelle on 0408 659 587 or email janelle.schafer@scu.edu.au



Bookings are essential.

Please RSVP by 25 May 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.



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:

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

Support:

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

Copeton Dam Level

as at
13 April 2026

61%

Down from 62% March 2026
Up from 52% in April 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 21st May. **Book ads by**

Monday 11th May at email:

gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au

PUBLIC NOTICES

COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH CLINICS AT COOLATAI, YETMAN AND GRAVESEND

Gravesend - Tuesday 21st April
Footcare Nurse will be in attendance
Flu Vaccines will be given if available
Then (weather and staff permitting):

Coolatai - Tuesday 2nd June
Yetman - Tuesday 9th June
Gravesend - Tuesday 16th June

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 DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monthly meeting will be held on Friday 17th April 2026 commencing 10.30am at the Bingara Museum Complex, 16-20 Maitland Street, Bingara.

New members are welcome.
Judi Peterson | Secretary BDHS



BINGARA
Garden Club

THE BINGARA GARDEN CLUB HOLDS MONTHLY MEETINGS AT THE BINGARA SPORTING CLUB AT 10AM ON THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Aspiring members are welcome.

FEATURED BUSINESSES



CERAMIC BREAK SCULPTURE PARK

Open from
Thurs to Sun
10.00am to 5.00pm
and by appointment

Phone **0417 841 741**

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



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- Business Planning
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Locally owned and operated in the Gwydir Shire

(02) 6724 1658

admin@gwydirca.com.au



What's on

APRIL 2026

Wednesday 15th - Sunday 19th Bingara Country Music Festival
Thursday 16th Red Carpet Formal Trivia Night - Dress in your formal best and join us for a fun night of trivia - Contact Tori to book tickets on 0408 454 813
Friday 17th Bingara District Historical Society - Monthly Meeting commencing 10:30am at the Bingara Museum Complex, 16-20 Maitland St, Bingara
Tuesday 21st Community Health Outreach Clinic - Gravesend
Saturday 25th **Bingara ANZAC Day Service** | 6:00am - Dawn Service in Memorial Garden | 6:30am - Gunfire Breakfast at the Bingara RSL Club | 10:30am - ANZAC March (corner of Cunningham and Maitland Street) | 11:00am - Memorial Service in Memorial Garden - followed by ANZAC Day Lunch at the Bingara RSL Club
Saturday 25th **Gravesend ANZAC Day Service** | Assemble at 8:45am at Moffet Park to march to the Cenotaph | Followed by Morning Tea at the Old RSL Club House - All welcome
Saturday 25th **North Star ANZAC Day Service** | Memorial Park - Assemble 10:45am for an 11:00am Service | Followed by Lunch at the North Star Sporting Club
Saturday 25th **Upper Horton ANZAC Day Service** | Dawn Service at Upper Horton Sports Club at 6:00am | Followed by a Gunfire Breakfast at the Club
Saturday 25th **Warialda ANZAC Day Service** | 6:00am - Dawn Service at Captain Cook Park | 6:30am Gunfire Breakfast at the Warialda Golf and Bowling Club | 10:30am ANZAC March in Hope Street | 11:00am Wreath Laying Ceremony at Warialda Memorial Hall | 11:15am Commemorative Service at Warialda Memorial Hall
Saturday 25th **Yallaroi 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)
Sunday 26th NWTC Film Club - 'The Teacher Who Promised The Sea' - 4:00pm - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara - New members welcome

MAY 2026

Saturday 2nd - Sunday 3rd Warialda RC Model Aircraft Fun Fly
Thursday 7th - Saturday 9th Warialda Show
Saturday 9th Rovers - Performance - Roxy Theatre, Bingara
Sunday 10th Mother's Day
Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th Coolatai Vintage Tractor Pull
Tuesday 19th Australia's Biggest Morning Tea hosted by Carinda House (phone event) - RSVP by 15th May to (02) 6729 1580 - Scones and Damper available - \$5pp - Pick up 10:00am or delivery on request
Thursday 21st Australia's Biggest Morning Tea hosted by Carinda House - Garden Party - 10:00am start - \$10pp - Lucky door prize, raffles and a guest speaker - 15 Stephen Street, Warialda

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, Services Sundays 9.30 am All welcome. For information contact Margaret Haug (warden) on 0427 529 802

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

Delngra 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**.