

THE

Gwydir NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWS

FOR THE GWYDIR SHIRE AND SURROUNDS

Free

July 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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Freecall **1800 952 264**

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Bingara NSW 2404

Warialda

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Bingara Orange Festival Celebrated as Another Outstanding Success



Photo Credit: Kim Miller Photography

The Bingara Orange Festival has once again been celebrated as a wonderful success, with strong crowds gathering in Bingara to enjoy a day of entertainment, community spirit, market stalls and festival traditions.

This year's event brought Maitland and Finch Streets to life. Around 80 stallholders offered a wide variety of food, products, handmade items, local goods and community displays. The large number of stallholders created a vibrant market atmosphere and provided plenty for festivalgoers to enjoy throughout the day.

Chair of the Bingara Special Events Committee, Cr Scot Crispin, said the strong support from stallholders helped make the

event feel bigger and more vibrant than ever.

"The market stalls were fantastic, and it was wonderful to see Maitland and Finch Streets so full of colour, activity and people supporting local and visiting stallholders," Cr Crispin said.

The entertainment program was a major highlight, with performances from the Men's Choir, Bingara Preschool, Bingara Central School, Local Vocals, Memphis Moovers, Djembe Jammers, Cirque Um Navigate and the Australian Army Band. Together, the performers created a lively and welcoming atmosphere across the festival precinct.

Hugh Whitfield also played an important



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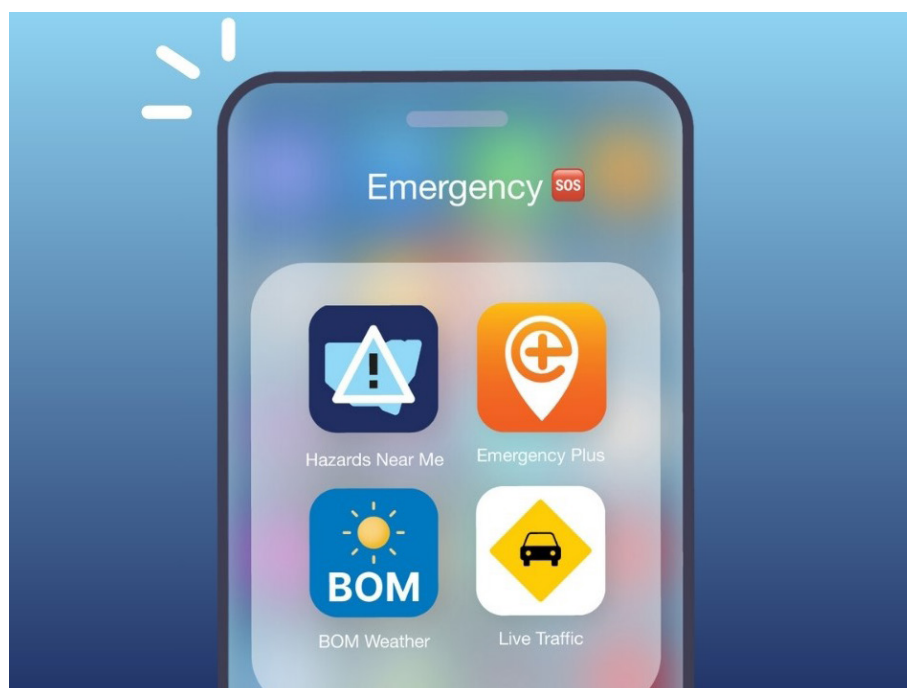
Next issue: The **Gwydir News** will be published on Thursday 20 August. **Plan your advertising now**—booking and material deadline for the next issue is Monday 10 August. Email gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au



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2026 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

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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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.

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role in the success of the day, keeping the entertainment program running smoothly and helping maintain the energy and flow of the event.

"The entertainment was outstanding throughout the day, and Hugh did an amazing job keeping everything moving smoothly," Cr Crispin said.

The festival parade was another standout feature, drawing plenty of attention from the crowd. Colourful floats, beautifully presented classic cars and enthusiastic participants made for a spectacular display through Bingara. The Australian Army Band and the Manilla Pipe Band added to the occasion, providing music and atmosphere throughout the parade.

"The parade is always one of the highlights of the Orange Festival, and this year was no exception," Cr Crispin said.

Gwydir Shire Council staff played a key role in the delivery of the festival, with teams working across planning, logistics, presentation, traffic management, safety and event management. The organising team worked tirelessly in the lead-up to the event and throughout the day to ensure the festival ran smoothly.

"None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Gwydir Shire Council staff, the Bingara Special Events Committee and the volunteers who worked behind the scenes," Cr Crispin said.

The Bingara Special Events Committee and local volunteers also gave countless hours to help organise and deliver the festival, including supporting the much-loved fresh orange juice stall. Their contribution reflects the strong community spirit that continues to make the Bingara Orange Festival such a special event.

Planning is already underway for next year's Orange Festival, with organisers looking forward to building on the success of this year's event and continuing this much-loved community tradition.

"Everyone involved should feel immensely proud of what was achieved together," Cr Crispin said.

"Here's to next year's Orange Festival."



Photo Credit: Kim Miller Photography



Photo Credit: Kim Miller Photography



Photo Credit: Kim Miller Photography

Young hands continue a treasured local tradition

Bingara's annual Orange Picking tradition once again brought generations of the community together on Friday 4 July, with local schoolchildren harvesting fruit from the town's iconic memorial orange trees ahead of the Orange Festival.

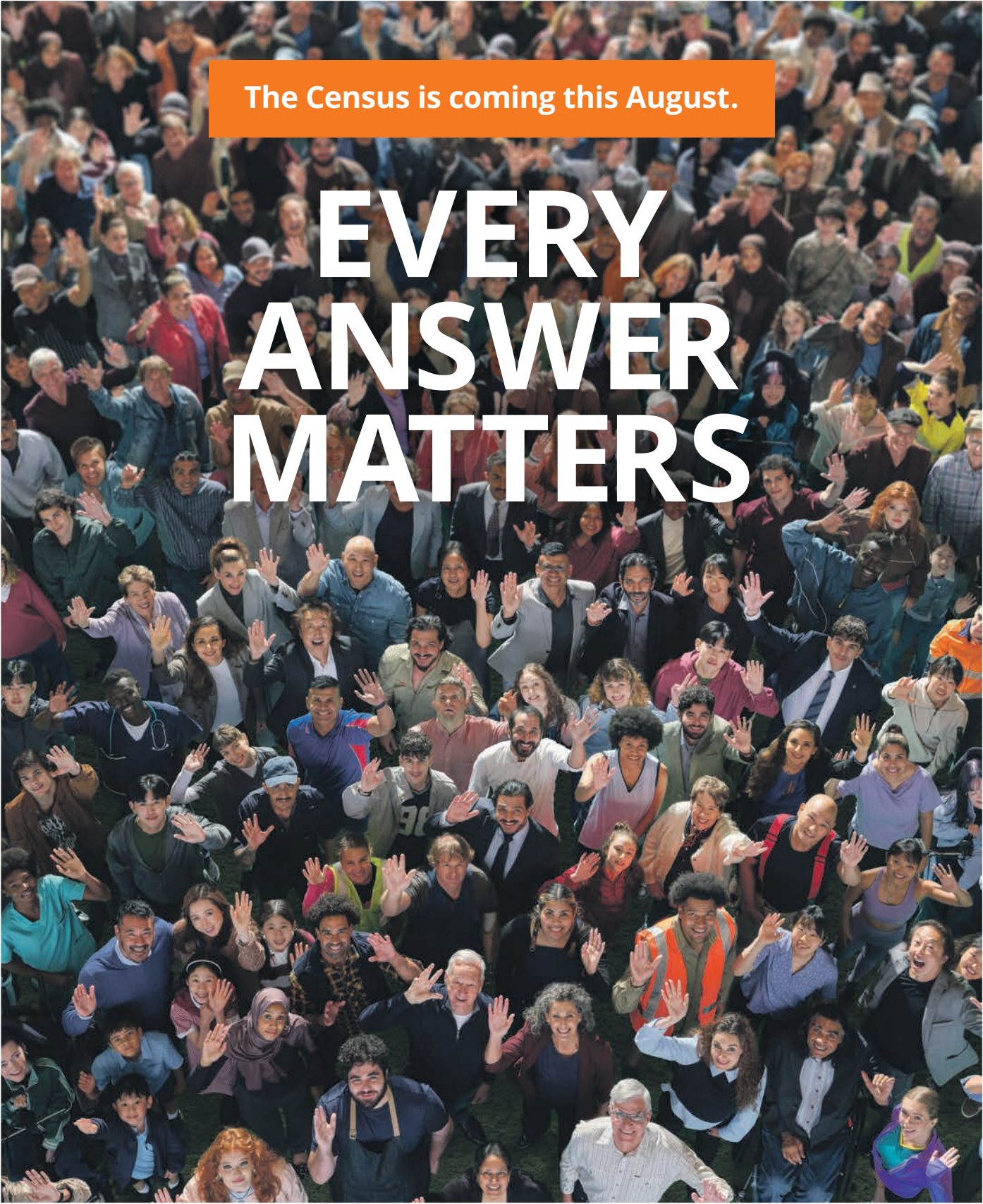
For many Bingara families, the Orange Picking is far more than a community event. The Finch Street orange trees stand as a living memorial to the town's fallen servicemen and women, with local children proudly continuing a tradition passed from one generation to the next.

The annual event also retained one of its lighter traditions, with Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan presenting a \$50 prize for the biggest orange harvested on the day.



This year's festival celebrations also put Bingara in the national spotlight, with a live cross to the Seven Network's Sunrise program. The appearance was made possible through the efforts of Bingara-born journalist and festival master of ceremonies Hugh Whitfeld, providing an opportunity to showcase the town and its much-loved festival to viewers across Australia.

From the harvesting of the memorial trees on Friday to the crowds filling the streets on Saturday, the weekend continued a tradition that brings together remembrance, community and country hospitality in a uniquely Bingara way.



The Census is coming this August.

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Census

Authorised by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra



From the Mayor

Census 2026—Have Your Say for Gwydir Shire's Future

Tuesday 11 August 2026, marks the day of the next Australian Census. The Census will provide an important snapshot of our community that only takes place every five years.

According to the 2021 Census, Gwydir Shire had a population of 4,910 people. The Census also showed that 50.2% of our residents were female and 49.8% male, 85.9% of residents were born in Australia, 48.2% of our population was employed, and 34.6% of residents reported living with one or more health conditions.

I am confident that our Shire has continued to grow and evolve over the past five years, but we need your help to ensure that growth is accurately reflected.

The Census is much more than a statistical exercise. The information collected helps all levels of government make decisions about funding, services, infrastructure, housing, healthcare, education and community programs. Census data is also used when Councils apply for grants and advocate for funding on behalf of their communities.

Every person counted helps build a clearer picture of Gwydir Shire and strengthens our case for the resources and services our residents need. Growth matters, and accurate information helps ensure our community receives its fair share of funding and support.

I encourage everyone to complete their Census form carefully and accurately when it arrives. The questions are not about being nosy, they are about gathering the information needed to help communities like ours plan for the future, and secure essential services.

If you do not receive Census information or require

assistance completing your form, please reach out for help.

Together, let's make sure Gwydir Shire is counted.

Thomson Cup 2026

On Friday 19 June 2026, Bingara Central School held its annual Thomson Cup Athletics Carnival. This year, I was privileged to be invited as one of the March judges, alongside John Gill and John Sullivan, and together we had the honour of following the students from the school to Gwydir Oval via Maitland Street.

It was a wonderful experience, and one that brought back many fond memories of my own school days. Like many former students, I remember spending weeks practising the March on the school oval under the watchful eye of the ever-passionate Mr Chuck Peterson. His voice on the megaphone calling "left, right, left, right" echoed through our minds day after day as we prepared for the big event. I can also remember the embarrassment of having my name called out more than once for being out of step!

The Thomson Cup Athletics Carnival, named after a local bank manager of the time, began in the early 1950s and has remained one of the highlights of the school year ever since. The tradition continues today, beginning with the Annual March through town. Students proudly make their way from the school along Finch Street, Maitland Street and Cunningham Street before arriving at Gwydir Oval, all eager to represent their house and compete for the perpetual trophy.

As the March made its way through town, I heard visitors commenting, "Does this happen every year?" and "How good is this?" Their reactions reminded me just how special this tradition is and how unique our community remains.

Gwydir Shire Council proudly supports this event each year by assisting with traffic management to ensure the safety of all students and spectators. It is a great example of our community working together to preserve traditions that have been part of Bingara's identity for generations.

The students embraced the occasion with enthusiasm, proudly dressed in their house colours, while the teachers showed just as much excitement as they marched alongside them. It was wonderful to see the school spirit on display.

Originally, the competition featured four houses: Patterson (Yellow), Lawson (Red), Kendal (Green) and Gordon (Blue). In 1996, these were condensed into three houses and renamed Bradman (Yellow), Fraser (Red) and Laver (Green), which remain in place today.

Congratulations to Fraser House, who took out this year's March Trophy.

What makes me most proud is seeing the spirit of participation and encouragement among the students. In particular, it was heartwarming to watch the older students helping and supporting the younger children so that everyone could be involved. These are the moments

that showcase the strength of our community and remind us why traditions such as the Thomson Cup remain so important.

Long may this wonderful Bingara tradition continue.

Caravaners Visit to Warialda

Recently a Tag Along group of caravaners visited Warialda. We believe the 100 or so caravaners injected an estimated \$30,000 into the Warialda and surrounding economy. This is so very much appreciated by our community. The reports from the caravaners were extremely positive. They were overwhelmed with the friendliness and cleanliness of our community and generally, how welcomed they were made to feel.

Thank you to all the businesses that went that extra mile to make a lasting impression and to the locals for rolling out the red carpet to our visitors. A great reflection on our community!

We were visited by people from all around Australia and they will go away and share the positive experience with others so the flow on effect will continue.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the visit run so smoothly but special thanks to Dave Coulton for your help with the showground, Allan and Fiona Austin with the Caravan Park and Council staff for putting together the Welcome to Warialda Booklets.

The 100 or so caravaners asked for their thanks to be passed onto Warialda for making them feel so welcome over the three days.

I am positive we will see the Tag Along Tour again in the future.



Warialda Golf and Bowling Club - Caravaners.

ALGA National General Assembly – Canberra

Once again, I had the privilege of attending the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly in Canberra. It was wonderful to attend alongside fellow Councillors Cr Rachael Sherman, Cr Ravi Gill, Cr Scot Crispin, Cr Adrian Willmot and Cr Sarah Crump, together with our General Manager Leeah Daley, Director of Finance Helen Thomas and Director of Business and Strategy Justin

Hellmuth.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity not only to learn about the challenges and opportunities facing local government across Australia, but also to spend valuable time with fellow councillors and staff. Building strong working relationships within our own team is just as important as networking with other Councils, sharing ideas and learning from one another.

The National General Assembly is the largest gathering of local government representatives in Australia and provides Councils with a united voice to advocate for the issues that matter most to our communities.

One of the key discussions this year centred around the "Fairer Funding Now" campaign. On behalf of Australia's 538 councils, ALGA has called on the Federal Government to address the growing financial pressures facing local government by providing fairer, untied funding.

This issue is especially important for rural, regional and remote Councils like Gwydir. We continue to maintain extensive road networks and provide essential community services and infrastructure across large geographic areas with a relatively small ratepayer base. Without sustainable funding, it becomes increasingly difficult for councils across Australia to continue delivering the services our communities rely on every day.

I was honoured to attend a reception at Parliament House with Mayors and Council representatives from across the country. We heard from Federal Ministers including Clare O'Neil, Minister for Housing and Homelessness; Murray Watt, Minister for the Environment and Water; Catherine King, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; and Kristy McBain, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories and Minister for Emergency Management.

One announcement of particular interest was the Australian Government's \$2 billion Local Infrastructure Fund, which aims to unlock housing developments by funding essential enabling infrastructure such as roads, bridges, stormwater, water, sewerage, power and transport connections. Importantly, \$500 million has been reserved specifically for regional Australia. The program is expected to support the delivery of up to 65,000 new homes nationwide, with the first funding round anticipated to open later this year.

While many of these programs are targeted at addressing Australia's housing shortage, they also present opportunities for regional councils to advocate for investment that supports future growth. Conferences such as the National General Assembly ensure that councils like Gwydir have a seat at the table, our voices are heard, and we continue to champion the needs of our rural communities.

It was a worthwhile few days representing the people of Gwydir Shire, and I look forward to continuing to advocate for fair funding and opportunities that will benefit our community now and into the future.



Inverell Mayor - Kate Dight, Gwydir Mayor - Tiffany Galvin, Hon Catherine King MP, Moree Mayor - Susannah Pearce, and Narrabri Mayor - Darrell Tiemens.

While in Canberra for the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly this week, I met with the Federal Minister for Communications' Office at Parliament House, alongside General Manager Leeah Daley and Director of Business and Strategy Justin Hellmuth.

This followed an earlier meeting this year with the Minister's Office and our State Member for Northern Tablelands, Brendan Moylan MP. We were pleased to follow up on those discussions and continue advocating for improved telecommunications outcomes across Gwydir Shire.

Council raised the ongoing mobile and internet coverage challenges experienced by our communities and pushed for practical solutions to improve connectivity, resilience and service options.

Importantly, we now have an open dialogue with the Minister's Office, which Council will continue to utilise as we push for stronger ministerial support for Gwydir Shire's communication needs.

Council made it clear that Gwydir is ready to be more than a voice asking for better coverage. We want to be part of the solution. We are actively exploring innovative ways to improve regional connectivity and have advocated for Gwydir to be considered as a trial location for new technologies and practical approaches that could help solve long-standing communication issues in rural Australia.

Our Shire has the right conditions for this kind of work:

dispersed communities, long distances, agricultural demand, emergency service reliance and known coverage gaps. That makes Gwydir a strong candidate to help prove solutions that could benefit rural communities well beyond our own boundaries.

Council will continue to pursue every opportunity to improve communications infrastructure, so our residents, businesses, farmers and emergency services have the reliable connectivity they need.



Mayor Tiffany Galvin, Daniel Goodman - Advisor in the Office of the Hon Anika Wells MP, Justin Hellmuth - Director of Business and Strategy and Leeah Daley - General Manager.

Sam Kennedy

I was delighted to catch up with Sam Kennedy recently in Canberra. Along with my fellow Councillors, I was fortunate to attend the Australian War Memorial Last Post Ceremony.

Sam is a member of the Band of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and regularly sounds the Last Post at this ceremony, either as a civilian musician or as part of his Army Band role, as required.

Sam attended St Mary's Catholic School, Bingara Central School and Wialda High School. He has represented our towns on many occasions, playing on ANZAC Day from a young age. He also toured with the NW Country Schools Band for many years, as well as being a member of the Hunter Central Coast Wind Ensemble, performing in Salzburg, Vienna and Paris.

Sam obtained his Bachelor of Music at the University of Newcastle and spent several years attached to the Upper Hunter Conservatorium as a music consultant, visiting schools throughout the Upper Hunter area. He then pursued a career with the Australian Defence Force. Sam's passion for music, and his deep respect for military traditions, has led him to many places—regionally, nationally and internationally. One such occasion was in 2025, where he was the bugler for the National ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Canberra.

Each time I hear Sam on his trumpet or his bugle, I am proud to know him personally. I also love the fact that his beginnings were within our Gwydir Shire!



Sam Kennedy, Volunteer Bugler for the Australian War Memorial and Gwydir Councillors.

County of Burnett CWA Celebrates 70 Years

On Saturday 27 June 2026, General Manager Leeah Daley and I were honoured to attend a luncheon at the Warialda Showground celebrating the 70th Birthday of the County of Burnett CWA Branch. It was a wonderful afternoon shared with a remarkable group of women whose dedication to their community has spanned generations.

The weather was kind, the meal was delicious, and the hall looked absolutely beautiful thanks to the wonderful decorating by Kerry McDonald. More importantly, it was a lovely opportunity for past and present members to come together, share stories, reminisce about the branch's rich history, and celebrate the friendships that have been built over seven decades.

The history of the branch is an inspiring one. It all began in July 1953 when Lucy Conway of "Worungil" invited 22 local women into her home with the vision of forming a group dedicated to charitable work. That meeting led to the formation of the Warialda sub-branch auxiliary before the County of Burnett Branch was officially established on 21 June 1956. Lucy Conway became the inaugural President,

supported by Secretary Mary McDonald and Treasurer Jean Bromfield.

Since those early days, the women of the County of Burnett CWA have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others. Through countless fundraising events—including sports days, fashion parades, May Balls, garden parties, Melbourne Cup luncheons, gala days, High Teas and catering for community events—they have raised funds for an extraordinary range of causes. One of their most lasting achievements was fully funding the Warialda Children's Wading Pool, an incredible accomplishment that provided generations of local children with a place to enjoy and created memories that continue to this day. Their generosity has supported Warialda Homes for the Aged, the Warialda Children's Wading Pool, Girl Guides, local schools, the Show Society, hospital services, palliative care, scholarships, medical research and many other worthwhile community projects.

Listening to the stories shared throughout the afternoon, it became clear that the true strength of the CWA has always been its people. The friendships formed, the willingness to volunteer, and the quiet commitment to helping others have created a lasting legacy that continues to benefit our communities today.

On behalf of Gwydir Shire Council, I congratulate every past and present member of the County of Burnett CWA on reaching this wonderful milestone. Your 70 years of service, compassion and community spirit are something to be incredibly proud of. Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do, to make our region a stronger, kinder and more connected place. Here's to many more years of friendship, service and community spirit.



Pam Ramsey and Cheryl Moor.

Gwydir Libraries

Gwydir Libraries are autism and dementia-friendly libraries.

We provide safe, welcoming, and accessible spaces for people with autism or cognitive decline, and for their families and carers.

Key features of a dementia-friendly library:

- **Inclusive collections:** Borrow kits with photobooks, puzzles, and sensory items that encourage conversation, support memory and stimulate the mind. Books on brain-healthy living and personal dementia stories are also available.
- **Regional support:** Bingara and Warialda libraries are part of the Central Northern Regional Library network, recognised as a Dementia Australia Community Group.
- **Home Library Service:** If visiting a branch is difficult, Gwydir Shire's Home Library Service can deliver library resources to your home.

Autism resources are available for loan.

Gwydir Libraries also offer autism spectrum disorder (ASD) support materials to encourage inclusion, learning and play.

Available resources include:

- **ASD Support Collection:** A collection of specialty toys, resources, and therapeutic equipment to support children with autism and encourage inclusive participation.
- Resources to assist in caring for someone with autism.

Orange Picking, Orange Festival and our Willoughby Friendship

Wow... what can I say? What an incredible weekend! It is certainly one I will remember for a very long time.

We couldn't have asked for better weather, and from the moment the weekend began it was wonderful to see Bingara buzzing with visitors, locals and former residents all coming together to celebrate what makes our community so special.

The weekend began with one of Bingara's most treasured traditions—our annual Orange Picking. It was a pleasure to welcome Brendan Moylan MP, Member for Northern Tablelands, my fellow councillors, Hugh Whitfeld, members of the Bingara RSL Sub-Branch, the dedicated teachers and staff, and of course the wonderful students of Bingara Central School and children of Bingara Preschool.

As a proud former student of Bingara Central School, Orange Picking always holds a special place in my heart. My last orange picking as a student was in 1985, and since then I have had the privilege of watching my own children, family and friends enjoy the very same tradition. It is wonderful to see another generation creating memories that they too will carry with them for years to come.

The orange trees are so much more than fruit trees. They are

living memorials, planted in honour of our fallen soldiers, reminding us of the sacrifices made and the remarkable community that continues to preserve this tradition. It is something truly unique.

One of the things I love most is that our entire community becomes the "Orange Police" throughout the year, making sure nobody picks the fruit before the official day. I don't think many towns could say that, and it speaks volumes about the respect and pride our community has for this tradition.

A sincere thank you must also go to our amazing Gwydir Shire Council staff, who work year-round caring for the trees, so they are healthy and ready for this very special occasion.

From Orange Picking we moved straight into another fantastic Bingara Orange Festival, and what a festival it was!

With record crowds, more than 80 market stalls, outstanding entertainment, fantastic food and beautiful weather across the entire weekend, Bingara was alive with excitement. Our local businesses were busy, accommodation was full, and the feedback from visitors was overwhelmingly positive.

One of the highlights for me was seeing everyone embrace the orange spirit. From orange clothing to beautifully decorated shopfronts and businesses, our whole town joined in the celebrations. It was also wonderful to see so many former residents returning home to reconnect with family and friends, proving once again that the Orange Festival is just as much about community as it is about oranges.

As I said during the official opening, when I look down our beautiful avenue of orange trees planted in memory of our fallen soldiers, I am reminded why this festival began. What started as a day of remembrance has grown into an incredible weekend celebrating our history, our people and our community spirit, while never forgetting those who inspired it all.

A huge thank you goes to the Orange Festival Committee, Council staff, our volunteers, sponsors, performers, stallholders and everyone who contributed to making this year's festival such a success. Events like this simply could not happen without the countless hours of work from so many dedicated people.

A special thank you also goes to Hugh Whitfeld for once again returning to MC the festival. Hugh does an outstanding job every year, and we sincerely appreciate everything he does to promote our festival. Having the opportunity to cross live to *Weekend Sunrise* was wonderful exposure for Bingara and our Orange Festival and something we are incredibly grateful for.

Another highlight of the weekend was welcoming Mayor Tanya Taylor and her fellow Councillors from Willoughby Council back to Bingara. Our Sister City relationship has now been going strong for 31 years and continues to be one of the most unique and valuable partnerships between Councils anywhere in New South Wales.

It was also wonderful to welcome eight students from Willoughby and eight students from across the Gwydir Shire as part of our annual student exchange programme. During their week together the students experienced farm life at North Star, horse riding, visits to Myall Creek Memorial, Cranky Rock, Orange Picking, the Orange Festival, a pizza-making night and a Q&A evening at my home. Most importantly, they formed friendships that will last a lifetime before our Gwydir students travel to Willoughby later this year for their city experience during the Spring Fair.

The exchange is far more than just a student programme. It provides opportunities for both Councils to share ideas, strengthen relationships and continue learning from one another while building lasting friendships between our communities.

Weekends like this remind me just how fortunate we are to live in the Gwydir Shire. We have incredible volunteers, dedicated staff, hardworking businesses, wonderful community groups and people who always step up to make our events something truly special.

To everyone who attended, volunteered, organised, performed, sponsored or simply came along to support our community—thank you. You should all be incredibly proud.

What a weekend it was, and already I'm looking forward to doing it all again next year.

Gwydir Shire Staff

I can't express enough how fortunate we are, as a whole Shire, to have such an incredible team of staff working across Gwydir. Their dedication, professionalism and willingness to go the extra mile is something we should all be proud of.

Our annual Orange Festival was another wonderful example of this. While some people might say, "They're just doing the job they're paid to do," the reality is that our staff consistently go well above and beyond. They don't simply do their jobs; they take pride in making every event a success and ensure that residents and visitors alike have a memorable experience.

Throughout the weekend I received countless positive comments from stallholders, visitors and community members. They spoke about how well organised the festival was, how smoothly everything ran, and how there were virtually no issues throughout the day.

Whether they were directing traffic, setting up and packing down, assisting exhibitors, coordinating the event or simply greeting people with a smile, our staff represented Gwydir Shire with professionalism and genuine warmth.

One comment that particularly stood out to me came from a visitor who said, "**Your staff are so friendly. They smile, and nothing is ever a problem.**" Hearing feedback like that makes me incredibly proud—not only of our staff, but of the wonderful community we call home.

Events like the Orange Festival are successful because so many people work together behind the scenes. Our staff play a huge role in making that happen, and their commitment often goes unnoticed.

To every member of our Gwydir Shire team, thank you. Your hard work, enthusiasm and dedication do not go unnoticed, and our community is incredibly fortunate to have you. You should all be very proud of the difference you make.

Getting to Know Council

Over the coming editions of *The Gwydir News*, I look forward to giving our community an insight into our Councillors and Executive Staff.

This will be a chance to learn more about the people helping guide and support Gwydir Shire, the work they do, and the role they play in serving our community.

Cr Scot Crispin

Interests: My interests are always changing. I have always enjoyed hands-on, crafty activities and fishing. Combining the two is the ultimate hobby. I am currently enjoying using my new laser engraver to create custom products for people. I also enjoy making custom spinnerbaits and lures for fishing.

Why you chose to be a Councillor: I chose to be a Councillor because I love the Gwydir Shire and wanted to be more involved.

What you are proud of: Lots of things! On a personal level, I'm proud to be involved in the Bingara Lions Club and helping make the community a better place. On a higher level, I am proud of our community and how it is growing but still staying friendly and welcoming.

What you would like to see achieved during your term: I would like to see more communication between the community and the Council. Not just the Council communicating with the community, but more people being actively involved in what's happening in the Shire.



Cr Scot Crispin.

Cr Ravi Gill

Why you chose to be a Councillor: I care about accountability and transparency, and I want to help make sure the community is heard and kept informed.

What you are proud of: I am very pleased that our Shire has such generous people who understand, accept, and welcome new people into the community, and who give others a chance to have a go.

What you would like to see achieved during your term:

- I want to serve a term with clearer public reporting and accessible explanations of decisions.
- Make community engagement routine and meaningful, so people's concerns are heard early and influence outcomes.
- Support creating low barrier ways for every resident to contribute.
- Protect and enhance local services and infrastructure that matter to everyday life—roads, water, community facilities and prioritise projects that deliver clear community benefit.
- Encourage local economic and community opportunities, backing small business, local jobs, and events that bring people together.

I will measure success by whether people feel informed and involved, whether new-comers find it easy to join community life, and whether Council decisions are clearly explained and deliver visible benefits.



Cr Ravi Gill.

Cr Sarah Crump

Interests: I care about what helps families and small communities like ours thrive, which includes reliable services, strong connections and vibrant, well-supported towns.

As a mum and small business owner, I'm drawn to anything that helps kids, families, small businesses and the wider community thrive. And honestly, nothing makes me more proud than seeing what our communities can achieve when

people pull together.

Why you chose to be a Councillor: Back in 2016 when the NSW Government was pushing forced Council amalgamations, I said, half joking but half serious, that one day I'd run for Council. I've always believed that local government should stay local. Decisions about our Shire should be made by people who live here, understand here and care about here.

I'm not in favour of forced amalgamations for Gwydir or any other rural shire. I genuinely believe that if local government received fair and adequate funding from state and federal governments, councils wouldn't be pushed toward mergers in the first place.

Standing for Council in 2024 was my chance to put that belief into action and help to protect our identity and make sure our community keeps its voice.

What you are proud of: I'm proud of the way people in Gwydir look out for each other. There's a real generosity here, and when people get behind something, our communities can achieve a lot. Being able to call the Gwydir Shire home and to hear people from other areas saying they wished they lived here too, makes me really proud!

I'm also proud to be a mum! Together with my husband Damien, we try to show our kids that being involved, speaking up and helping shape our community is worthwhile.

What you would like to see achieved during your term:

One of the most important responsibilities we have as Councillors is recognising that the decisions we make today will shape the Gwydir Shire for the future. Good decisions now mean a stronger, more sustainable future for our towns and villages.

During my term, I'd love to see:

- Fairer funding for rural and regional councils so we can remain independent and effective. While our populations may be smaller, rural local government areas play a major role in feeding the country. Our roads may not carry the same volume of traffic as larger council areas, but they carry the heavy vehicles that keep produce moving, yet that responsibility is not properly reflected in the way funding is allocated.
- Supporting initiatives that create opportunities for families, young people and local businesses. Greater access to early childcare has been on my wish list for many years, and although no longer relevant to my circumstances, being able to provide these services is instrumental in keeping young families in our district.
- Making sensible, future-focused decisions that put the Gwydir Shire in the best possible position for the years ahead. I believe the current executive team and the nine elected Councillors are the right people to guide that work at this time.

I am grateful for the opportunity to represent Gwydir Shire.

It means a great deal to me to give back to the place my family and I are proud to call home, and to play a part in its future.



Cr Sarah Crump and Damien Crump and their children.

As always, thank you to everyone who contributes to making Gwydir Shire such a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

If you are curious about a Council matter and would like to see a particular update on a project, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via:

theofficeofthemayor@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

and I will endeavour to provide insights on the matter in the next issue of *The Gwydir News*.

Until next time...

Living the Gwydir Good Life

Cr Tiffany Galvin, Mayor



From the General Manager

Warialda Soldiers' Memorial Hall

Council is continuing to investigate the cracking and structural movement identified at the Warialda Soldiers' Memorial Hall.

A detailed geotechnical assessment has now been completed, including borehole drilling and soil testing around the building. The assessment identified highly reactive clay soils beneath the

site, which are subject to significant movement as moisture conditions change and are considered a likely contributor to the cracking observed throughout the building.

The geotechnical findings have now been provided to structural engineers to determine what options may be available to stabilise and remediate the Hall. Council is currently awaiting this advice, and, at this stage, no decision has been made on a preferred solution.

Council recognises the importance of the Memorial Hall to the Warialda, and wider Gwydir community, and will provide further information once the engineering assessment is complete and Council has a clearer understanding of the practical path forward.

Happy New Financial Year!

As we commence the 2026/2027 financial year, I would like to acknowledge our Finance Team and the work that went into the budget preparation. We continue to play the balancing act between service delivery and long-term sustainability. The only consolation is that we are fighting the same battle as many other rural councils with limited income generation opportunities.

On an extremely positive note, the contracted auditor, on behalf of the Audit Office of NSW has now completed Council's Interim Audit for 2025/2026. The auditor has advised that they will not be issuing an Interim Management Letter this year. This is the first time Council has not received a Letter, and this means we have met every requirement of the audit.

Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R)

Gwydir Shire Council adopted its IP&R documents, including the budget at its Wyallda Council meeting which was held on Thursday 18 June 2026. You can view the adopted documents online at:

<https://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au/Council/Governance/Integrated-Planning-and-Reporting-IPR>

ALGA National General Assembly—June Canberra

To add to the Mayor's Column there was overwhelming support for increasing the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) to 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue. The general message was that growing responsibilities are not being matched by funding and that cost shifting from other levels of government is becoming unsustainable. Other issues that were discussed and at times debated were:

- **Roads and Enabling Infrastructure:** renewal backlogs, freight route maintenance and funding for bridge upgrades.
- **Workforce and Skills Shortages:** specific areas include Engineering, Planning, Project management, Trades and Environmental health and technical roles.
- **Housing and Planning:** housing availability and affordability was a major concern.
- **Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery:** the need for better disaster recovery processes, the need to reduce red tape and the need for faster access to disaster funding.
- **Telecommunications and Connectivity:** this item was particularly relevant to Gwydir. Reliable connectivity was identified as critical to business, emergency response and community wellbeing.

Engineering Department Update

Fortnight beginning 15 June 2026.

Our teams have been busy across the Shire over the past fortnight, delivering road maintenance, construction progress, and essential water and sewer services. Here's a snapshot of what we've been working on:

Road Construction and Rehabilitation: Crews have now completed work on North Star Road, with a 2km rehabilitation section north of North Star now bitumen sealed. On Croppa Creek Road, the 23km reconstruction project is in its final stages, with formation and surface works approaching completion.

Grading Works: Graders have been active across multiple routes, including Peates, Boundary Creek, Blue Nobby, Hadleigh Siding, Scotts and Kellys Access Roads.

Bitumen: Jetpatching crews have carried out surface repairs on North Star, Elcombe, Baroma Downs, Killarney Gap, Croppa Moree, County Boundary, Wyallda, Old Bora, Bruxner Way and Trevallyn Roads.

Over the past fortnight, the team has completed hydrovac works across multiple sites, installed and adjusted hydrants for NSW Fire Brigade, and carried out plumbing works including new hot water systems at the Living Classroom and maintenance at North Star.

Crews responded to a main break, several service line repairs, and sewer blockages, along with repairs at council facilities including the showground, depot, RFS, preschool and caravan park. Ongoing work also included service locating for surveyors and general maintenance at truck wash facilities, sewer pump stations and the pool.

The Welcome Experience

The Welcome Experience—Essential Worker Attraction Program aims to ensure that essential workers and their families experience a positive, inclusive and well-supported transition to regional communities, benefiting both local employers and the broader community.

Council has collaborated with Moree Plains Shire Council to roll the Welcome Experience across our Shires. The Councils have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU applies from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027, and its purpose is to support the two Councils in achieving the shared goals of the program.

Under the MOU Moree Plains Shire Council will deliver the Program across Gwydir Shire Council Local Government Area with 'Local Connectors' based in Moree. The Local Connectors will serve as the primary points of contact.

The launch of the Program took place at The Living Classroom on Thursday 11 June and was well attended. Attendees represented Councils, both aged care facilities, schools, Bingara Multi-Purpose Facility and various community groups.

A Local Connector attended The Roxy 90th Birthday celebrations and the following day hosted a stall at the Orange Festival. Both events provided the opportunity for the Connector to engage with dozens of people who are interested in moving to our wonderful Shire area.

Let's keep our community clean, safe and beautiful for everyone

A quick reminder to all dog owners about your legal and social responsibilities when out and about:

Scoop the Poop!

By NSW law, if your dog defecates in any public place (like parks, footpaths, or sports ovals) or on someone else's property, you must remove the waste immediately and dispose of it properly.

Keep Dogs Under Effective Control

When in a public place, your dog must be kept under effective control by a competent person. This means they must be on an adequate chain, cord, or leash unless you are in a designated off-leash area. Not having your dog on a lead can attract an on-the-spot fine of \$330.

The Cost of Leaving It

Failing to clean up after your pet is not only a bad

neighbourly move, it's illegal. You could face an on-the-spot fine of \$275, with maximum court penalties reaching \$880.

How You Can Help:

- **Bag it and bin it:** Always carry waste bags with you and drop bagged waste into the nearest public bin or your red-lidded bin at home.
- **Share the space:** Public spaces are shared by all residents, including children and families. Let's make sure everyone can enjoy our parks safely!
- **Report issues:** If you are experiencing ongoing issues with pet waste, report it directly to Council.

Let's do the right thing by our pets and our community.

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



Census

The 2026 Census is happening this August and every answer matters

The next Census is on Tuesday 11 August 2026.

The Census is a snapshot of Australia's people and housing, and tells the story of how we are changing. Census data helps governments, community groups and businesses plan services for individuals, families and communities, where and when they are needed.

Every household and person in Australia on Census night must be included on a Census form, including visitors to Australia, international students and babies.

Instructions on how to complete the Census will be delivered to households from late July. If you know where you'll be on Census night, you can complete your Census as soon as you receive your instructions. You can complete online, by paper, or with help from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The information you provide in the Census is confidential and protected by law. Your information is not shared with anyone, including other government agencies.

In the Census, every answer matters to help us understand what Australia needs now and into the future.

For more information visit www.census.abs.gov.au



Brendan Moylan MP
Member for **NORTHERN TABLELANDS**



Minister Flies the Coop as Bird Flu Detected in NSW

MONDAY, 6 JULY 2026

The NSW Liberals and Nationals have called on the Minister for Regional NSW and Agriculture Tara Moriarty to return to work and do her job, after media reports she intends to take two weeks leave just days after the first confirmed case of H5 bird flu in NSW.

For weeks we've been warned of the significant biosecurity risks posed by H5 bird flu and the frightening impacts it could have on NSW.

Minister Moriarty should be ensuring every effort is focused on containing the disease and protecting producers, not taking annual leave.

There are times when your duty to the state must come first. This is one of those moments.

Shadow Minister for Agriculture Brendan Moylan said our poultry industry, egg producers and regional communities deserve to have their Agriculture Minister on the ground, engaged and overseeing the response to what is one of the most significant biosecurity threats Australia has faced.

"At a time when producers are understandably anxious, the Minister's absence sends the wrong message. It reflects poor judgement at the very moment calm, visible leadership is needed," Mr Moylan said.

Shadow Minister for the Environment Jacqui Munro said H5N1 has caused a deadly, global pandemic for marine birds and wildlife, that is pushing some species, including seals, to the brink of extinction.

"If the same level of disease and death reaches our shores, we risk losing entire populations of native wildlife," Ms Munro said.

"The potential catastrophic impact of H5N1 on Australian native birds and coastal wildlife cannot be overstated. A nationally coordinated response is necessary."

Nobody disputes a Minister's right to take leave, but judgement must be applied. The Liberals and Nationals are urging people, particularly in coastal areas, to be alert to potential outbreaks and report unusual bird deaths or sick wild bird sightings to the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888**.

Pet Ready Plan

Take a few minutes to complete your Pet Ready Plan in three steps:

1 What I will take?

2 How will I transport my pet?

3 Where I will go?



Go to nsw.gov.au/GetReadyNSW



SENATOR THE HON MATT CANAVAN

**Leader of The Nationals
Shadow Minister for Trade, Investment and Tourism Senator for
Queensland**

Labor's failed gun buyback scheme

Labor's proposed national gun buyback scheme has failed its own deadline, with states and territories rejecting to sign up to Labor's unworkable proposal before laws were meant to be passed by 1 July.

The Prime Minister promised agreement by March and legislation by 1 July. In a win for common sense and the country's one million law-abiding firearm owners, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has thankfully failed both.

Leader of The Nationals Matt Canavan said rather than addressing criminals, extremists and illegal firearms, Labor's firearms laws had unfairly targeted law-abiding Australians and was bad policy from the start.

"Labor's proposed national buyback scheme and unworkable laws failed badly, because attacking lawful firearm owners was never the answer to the Bondi terror attack," Senator Canavan said.

"This was confirmed by the interim report of the Royal Commission, which said that no state or federal agency reported that the laws as they stood at the time were insufficient to prevent an attack.

"Labor's laws targeted the wrong people, punished regional communities and did nothing to deal with the real threats from criminals and extremists.

"States and territories have rightly walked away from this unworkable scheme because it went too far. The only thing Labor accomplished was demonising lawful firearm owners."

Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and the Northern Territory have either rejected, declined, or refused to participate in the Albanese Government's attack on lawful firearm owners leaving Anthony Albanese with yet another broken promise. Since the 14 December Bondi attack, Labor has not introduced a single measure to strengthen Australia's counter-terrorism responses. The Prime Minister also initially refused to hold a Royal Commission.

Member for Parkes Jamie Chaffey said Labor had completely missed the mark in their haste to appear to be taking action following the Bondi attack.

"What happened at Bondi was horrific," Mr Chaffey said. "But this legislation without consultation, without consideration and without a thought for the consequences for the close to one million law-abiding gun owners was an outrageous response.

"There are farmers, gun-shop owners, hunters and pest control specialists who are facing losing their livelihood, and sporting shooters who have been left totally confused.

"The states' responses to this latest round of legislation without consultation shows just how wide of the mark Labor is in making gun owners a scapegoat for their own lack of action on antisemitism. And to make matters worse, the Coalition fought hard against this legislation, only to have the voice of regional Australia once again overturned by another dirty deal between Labor and the Greens."

A Shooters Union Australia report, "Misfire – Estimating the impacts of a gun buyback scheme", says despite the government refusing to release costings, industry estimates the scheme would cost up to \$15 billion.

National Rifle Association of Australia executive officer Steve Bingley said firearms policy needs to be built on evidence and proper process.

"A scheme of this scale demands thorough scrutiny, including extensive consultation with affected parties," Mr Bingley said.

"Our licensed target rifle shooters are lawful, compliant participants in a highly regulated sport. They deserve policy that reflects that reality, rather than legislation designed without them in mind."

Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia CEO Tom Kenyon said the Prime Minister's and Premier Minns' haste to deflect attention away from the failure of intelligence and policing has badly damaged the National Firearms Agreement, to the point where it can no longer be considered a national agreement.

"We are very pleased to see states around the country resisting knee-jerk actions and opting instead for rational and thoughtful firearms laws," Mr Kenyon said.

Australian Clay Target Association chairman Michael Kruger-Davis said the association is deeply concerned the government moved to rush through reactive legislation that unfairly impacted law-abiding recreational and sporting shooters.

"The tragic Bondi shooting should not have been used as a catalyst for rushed, reactionary laws that penalise law-abiding recreational and sporting shooters," Mr Kruger-Davis said.



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morning*



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at night*



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1800 633 422



Or connect
via the app



Australian Government

Speak to a registered nurse, 24/7,
for free advice on any non-emergency
health concern.

For more information visit

www.medicare.gov.au/1800



After Losing His Head, R2B2 Is Standing Tall Again

Warialda's much-loved R2B2 is standing tall once again, eight months after a violent storm left the black and yellow roadside icon without his head and his future hanging in the balance.

The storm that swept through Warialda on 26 November 2025 caused extensive damage to R2B2, the town's honey-themed take on the famous Star Wars droid R2D2.

Creator and Warialda High School Principal Shelly Way initially considered consigning the badly damaged sculpture to the rubbish heap, but encouragement from the community and countless hours of assistance from the Warialda Men's Shed helped bring R2B2 back from the brink.

Particular thanks went to Men's Shed member Tony, whom Ms Way jokingly likened to Luke Skywalker for his role in the reconstruction.

Repairing R2B2 proved no small task. Months exposed to the weather had damaged the polystyrene beneath the sculpture's outer shell, requiring weakened material to be removed and extensive repairs completed before the familiar black and yellow droid could be repainted and returned to his position at the entrance to town.

R2B2 was first installed beside the Gwydir Highway in 2022 after an 18-month labour of love by Ms Way. Created during a period of severe drought, the sculpture was born from a desire to give travellers another reason to stop in Warialda and celebrate the town's connection with honey.

Since then, R2B2 has been joined by fellow roadside attraction Bumblebee, a sculpture created with the involvement of Warialda High School students and installed in 2024.

With R2B2 restored, however, Ms Way has no intention of putting down her tools.

Plans are underway for a swarm of giant, three-dimensional illuminated bees designed to appear as though they are flying and flapping their wings high among the trees of a Warialda park.

The ambitious project is already under construction and forms part of Ms Way's continuing efforts to create unusual attractions that encourage visitors to stop, explore and spend time in the town.

Other creations planned for Warialda include Darth Verroader—a black and yellow take on Darth Vader whose name references the destructive varroa mite—and a pair of black and yellow Stormtroopers designed to provide another memorable photo opportunity for visitors.



Warialda's much-loved R2B2 is standing tall once again, eight months after a violent storm left the black and yellow roadside icon without his head and his future hanging in the balance.

Ms Way funds and builds the sculptures in her own time alongside her role as Principal of Warialda High School, motivated by a desire to contribute to the town and create attractions that benefit the wider community rather than seek personal recognition for her work.

R2B2's return comes as preparations continue for this year's Warialda Honey Festival, which has moved from its traditional March date to September to coincide with Warialda Public School's 175th anniversary celebrations.

After surviving drought, years exposed to the elements and even decapitation by a violent storm, R2B2 is back where he belongs—and if Ms Way's plans are anything to go by, Warialda's roadside attractions are about to become even harder to miss.



Time's running out to recognise local people in your community quietly caring for Australia

Across Australia, thousands of landcarers are out in paddocks, parks, coastlines, classrooms, creeks and community spaces doing the work that protects the places and productive landscapes we all rely on.

Most never ask for recognition.

With less than one month remaining until nominations close for the *2026 State and Territory Landcare Awards*, Landcare Australia is calling on communities to shine a light on the local people and groups making a real difference to the health of our land, water and environment.

Who in your community deserves recognition? It could be:

- a farmer improving soil health and biodiversity on their property;
- a volunteer who's spent years restoring a local reserve;
- a landcare, Coastcare, bushcare or rivercare group making a difference;
- a Traditional Owner or First Nations organisation caring for Country;
- a teacher inspiring students through environment projects;
- a young person leading positive change in their community.

From farmers improving soil health and productivity, to volunteers restoring native vegetation, Traditional Owners caring for Country and young people leading environmental projects, these are the kinds of everyday efforts that often happen quietly but make a lasting difference to communities and the environment.

It might also be the neighbour who spends weekends replanting a creek line, the farmer trialling new ways to keep soil healthy, the teacher helping students grow a habitat garden, or the volunteer group that turns up month after month to restore a local reserve.

Many landcarers do this work quietly and consistently, often over many years, so a nomination is a simple but powerful way to say their work matters. The awards celebrate the

people helping create a more resilient future for Australia.

Anyone can put forward a nomination—whether it's for yourself, someone you know, or a group doing great things in your community. **Nominations close Friday, 31 July 2026.**

The State and Territory Landcare Awards are often the first step towards national recognition, with winners progressing to the *2027 National Landcare Awards*. But for many nominees, the greatest reward is knowing their efforts have been seen and valued by the communities they serve.

For more information or to nominate please go to www.landcareaustralia.org.au/awards

If there's someone in your community who is helping protect landscapes, strengthen local connections and leave the environment in better shape for future generations, now is the time to tell their story.

Who can be nominated:

- Volunteers for landcare groups other environmental community groups.
- Sustainable farmers, farming systems groups and primary producer groups.
- Agricultural co-operatives, industry associations.
- Traditional Owners, First Nations organisations and Indigenous land and sea Rangers.
- Landcare groups, networks and other community-led environmental groups.
- Landholders and/or land managers.
- Urban landcare groups including 'Friends of' and bushcare groups.
- Coastcare, Rivercare, Dunecare groups and individuals.
- Environmental community care groups.
- Natural resource management agencies.
- Local government and NGOs.
- Research agencies and academics.
- Junior Landcare (early learning centres, day care centres, primary and secondary schools, Scouts and Girls Guides).
- Young adult groups and individuals.
- Persons who are deceased can be nominated posthumously.

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Nominations Open to Celebrate Women Who Make a Difference

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan is encouraging community members to put forward nominations for the NSW Women of the Year Awards.

There are six categories for the awards which celebrate the incredible work women and girls do to improve the lives of people across their communities.

"We have some remarkable women right across the Northern Tablelands who make extraordinary contributions to the lives of people around them without seeking recognition," Mr Moylan said.

"Whether it is volunteering their time or leading change, these awards provide an opportunity for these girls and women to be formally recognised for the countless hours they put in to making a difference.

"By nominating an outstanding woman in one of the six categories, you can help ensure they receive the thanks they deserve and inspire more people to get involved in their local communities.

"I encourage residents of the Northern Tablelands to put forward those who deserve the recognition."

The six categories are:

- **NSW Premier's Woman of Excellence** - The NSW Premier's Woman of Excellence is a role model who has excelled in her chosen field. In doing so, she effects lasting change and is an inspiration to others.
- **NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year** - A dedicated pillar of her community, the NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year is a role model who promotes economic, cultural and/or

social opportunities for Aboriginal people in NSW. Open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

- **NSW Community Hero** - The NSW Community Hero Award shines a light on the accomplishments of an extraordinary woman who works tirelessly to contribute to the prosperity of those in her local community.
- **NSW Regional Woman of the Year** - The NSW Regional Woman of the Year recognises the accomplishments of an exceptional woman living in regional NSW who inspires and advances her community and contributes to the fabric of her local area. Nominees for the NSW Regional Woman of the Year must reside outside of Newcastle, Wollongong or Greater Sydney.
- **NSW Young Woman of the Year** - The NSW Young Woman of the Year has demonstrated incredible potential or achievement in her chosen field, passion or area of interest. Open to women aged 16-30 years.
- **The Ones to Watch** - Recognises girls and young women aged 7 to 15, who demonstrate a single act or ongoing acts of courage, bravery, strength, determination and/or kindness to help and support those around them.

To view the full eligibility criteria and to nominate, visit: www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/women-nsw/awards-and-events/nsw-women-of-year-awards



Brendan Moylan MP
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

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

ROSS COOPER OPTOMETRIST

2026 Next visits to Warialda

July 29 2026 — Ross Cooper
August 26 2026 — Ross Cooper
October 21 2026 — Kate Darley
November 18 2026 — Kate Darley

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

Goondiwindi (07) 4671 1550

2026 Next visits to Bingara

July 30 2026 — Ross Cooper
August 27 2026 — Ross Cooper
October 20 2026 — Kate Darley
November 17 2026 — Kate Darley

For appointments, contact
Or Medical Services Bingara on
02 6724 1900

Spike, the Echidna. The Story of the Show.

Spike is the story of an echidna, who is stolen from his own nest by a greedy rat and hatches from his egg far away from home. A young girl finds him. She is playing alone in the bush because she is being bullied by other children.

Spike has no spikes yet, and the girl doesn't know what kind of creature he is. She tries to work out where Spike has come from but accidentally puts him in many dangerous situations — in the nest of a crocodile, an emu and a turtle.

Spike feels frightened, rejected, and alone. As the story unfolds, the girl helps Spike discover where he belongs, and he helps her to find her own "spikes" and stand up to the bullies.

Told with shadow theatre, Spike is an interactive experience for the audience, with lively original music by Mal Webb. It is entertaining and fun, as well as a catalyst for a discussion about differences and belonging.

Spike is also about the unique biology of Australian animals, especially the egg-laying echidna.

After the performance there is a demonstration of shadow puppetry techniques, introducing children to an expressive hands-on story-telling medium that is highly accessible to young people.

'Little Wings' puppets. Our story.

Since 2006, Little Wing Puppets have performed their shows to thousands of children in every state and territory of Australia, as well as overseas. They're driven by the love of telling stories that speak to children, make them laugh, and passing on skills so kids can create their own worlds through puppetry.

Artistic Director, Jenny Ellis has been



making and performing with puppets for over twenty years. She has a Post-Graduate Diploma in Puppetry from the Victorian College of the Arts and a Bachelor's degree majoring in Environmental Education.

Jenny trained with Master Puppeteer Richard Bradshaw through the national Jump mentoring program in 2011. She also received a Major Fellowship in 2012 from the Mike Walsh Foundation to research puppetry in Europe and graduated from the Heilkos School of International Theatre Creation in Florence, Italy in 2014.

Little Wing continues to work with a vibrant team of independent artists; writers, directors, designers and composers, to make exceptional shows, that speak to young people and are ready to travel.

Don't be caught off guard in a natural disaster

We have the top four apps you need to be prepared.



Hazards Near Me



Live Traffic NSW



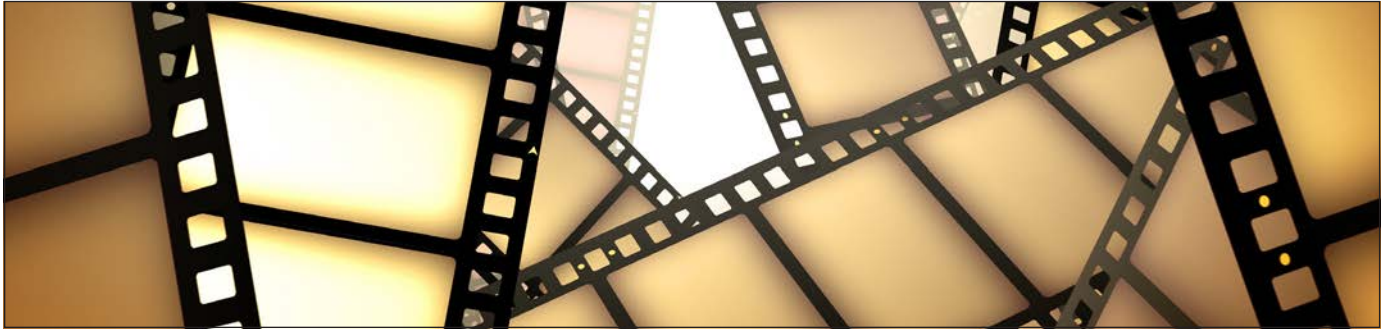
Emergency Plus



BOM Weather

Get Ready NSW
Visit nsw.gov.au/GetReadyNSW
to download these four apps.





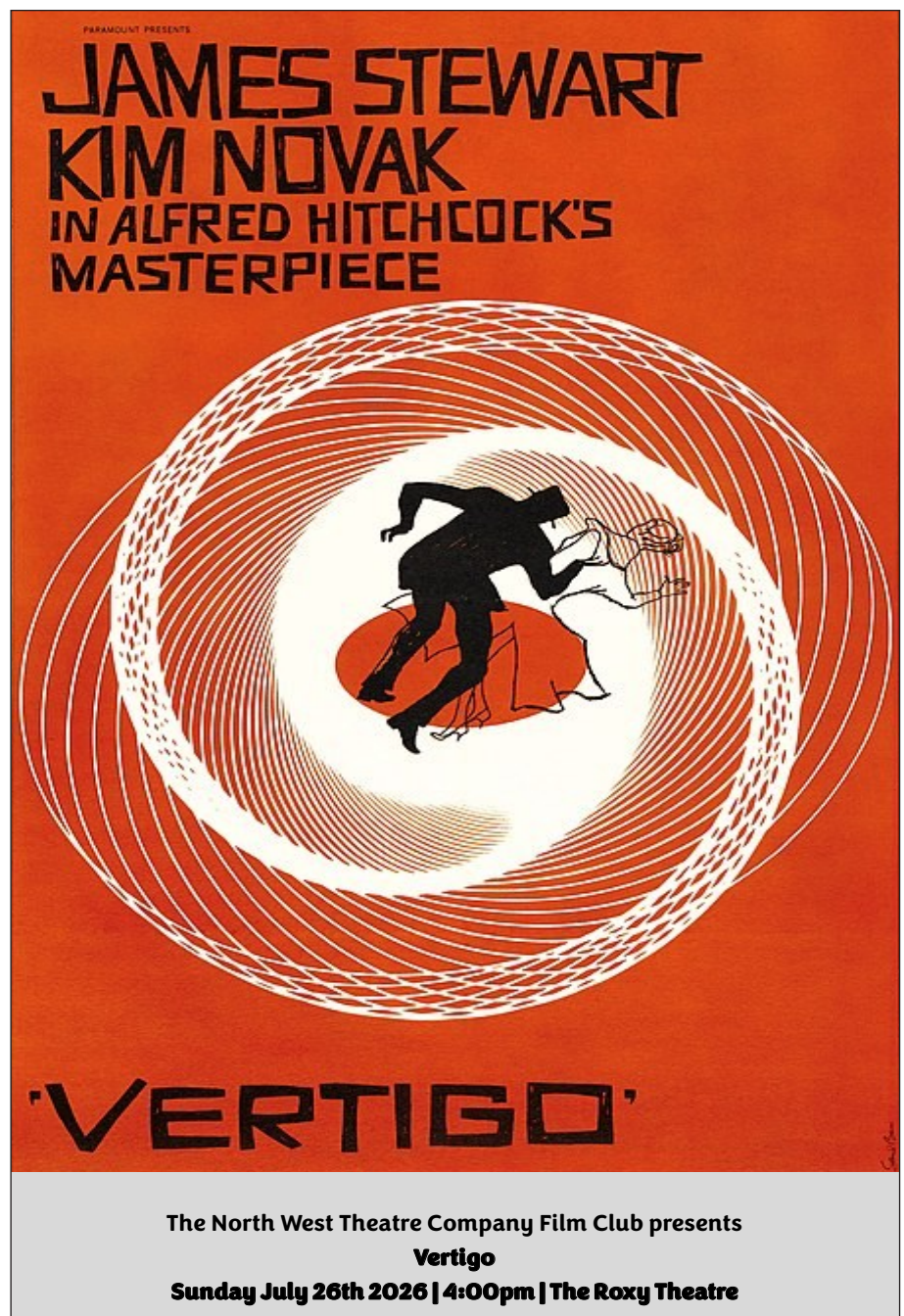
The NWTC Film Club's Feature Film for July is 'Vertigo'

Alfred Hitchcock's psychological thriller, **Vertigo** is the North West Theatre Company Film Club's July film. The story was based on a French novel D'entre Les Morts (From Among the Dead) and is a romantic story of obsession, manipulation and fear.

The film stars James Stewart as a former San Francisco police detective who has retired after an incident in the line of duty caused him to develop an extreme fear of heights, accompanied by vertigo. He is hired as a private investigator to report on the strange behaviour of an acquaintance's wife played by Kim Novak.

Vertigo received mixed reviews on release on the grounds that it was too long and slow, but it has since come to be considered Hitchcock's greatest work and one of the greatest films of all time. James Stewart had never before allowed himself to be so unlikable, Hitchcock had never exposed his own attitudes toward his leading ladies so openly, and Kim Novak gave the performance of her career.

This fascinating film will be shown at the Roxy in Bingara on Sunday 26 July at 4:00pm. **New members are always welcome.**



Learn. Train. Work.

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	Monday 27 July	
Warialda Campus	Thursday 30 July	
Barraba Campus	Monday 17 August	

Provide CPR

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation



1/2-Day Face-to-Face Workshop	9.00AM - 12PM	\$90 F
Warialda Campus	Monday 27 July	
Barraba Campus	Monday 17 August	

High Risk & Industry

Issuing Registered Training Organisation
Community College Northern Inland | RTO 90027

Confined Spaces

RIIWH5202E Enter and work in confined spaces



1-Day In-Campus	9.00AM - 4.30PM	\$310 F
Bingara Campus	Tuesday 21 July	

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.



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.

Which first aid course should I choose?

Our first aid courses are delivered together on the same day.

- **Need CPR certification only?** Enrol in Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- **Need a full first aid qualification?** Enrol in Provide First Aid.
- **Work in childcare, education or an early childhood setting?** Enrol in Provide First Aid in an Education and Care Setting.

Students enrolled in CPR attend the morning session only, while students enrolled in Provide First Aid or Provide First Aid in an Education and Care Setting attend the full day.

First aid certification periods

- **Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)** should be renewed every 12 months.
- **Provide First Aid** should be renewed every 3 years, with CPR refreshed annually.
- **Provide First Aid in an Education and Care Setting** should be renewed every 3 years, with CPR refreshed annually.

Visit www.ccni.nsw.edu.au to Apply or Enrol or freecall 1800 952 264

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

Wialda Campus  Wednesday 29 July

Barraba Campus  Tuesday 18 August

Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG) ♦

SITHGAM022 Provide responsible gambling services

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

Wialda Campus  Thursday 30 July

Barraba Campus  Wednesday 19 August

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

Wialda Campus  Mon 3 - Tue 4 August

Wialda Campus  Tue 13 - Wed 14 October

Same-day Refresher training available - Call Toby on 0438 546 519 to enrol

Forklift

Issuing Registered Training Organisation
Talented Training | RTO 45144

Forklift ♦

TLILIC0003 Licence to operate a forklift truck

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

Wialda Campus  Wed 26 - Thu 27 August

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

Traffic/WHS

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

Wialda Campus  Mon 24 Aug - Wed 26 Aug

Working Under Powerlines ♦

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

1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 4.00PM \$655

Wialda Campus  Monday 31 August

Working Under Powerlines Refresher ♦

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

1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 4.00PM \$580

Wialda Campus  Tuesday 1 September

♦ 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.



Community College Northern Inland Inc. | RTO 90027

For more information or to book
call Toby on 0438 546 519

News from Bingara Central School



From the Principal

P&C Memorial Garden

Our P&C Association, sincerely thank the NSW Government for providing the funding through the Community Veterans Grant that has made this project possible. We are incredibly proud to have partnered with our school to create a space that will remain here for generations of students to come.

This garden is somewhere that students can pause, think and develop an understanding of the values that continue to shape our nation—courage, mateship, resilience and service.

Rather than creating a memorial that simply tells a story, our P&C wanted to create a living space—one that continues to grow, much like the knowledge and understanding of the students who will visit it year after year, complimenting the beautiful orange trees that line our streets of Bingara. The trees are a symbol of our town's history and identity, and it seemed only fitting that they become part of this special place.



Mr Peter Kennedy, President of the Bingara RSL Sub-Branch, declares the Remembering the Fallen Living Memorial Garden open by cutting the ribbon.

Some wonderful pieces of writing, artwork and research are now part of this garden and can be explored by scanning the QR code on the information panel that stands in the garden.

We thank Mr Peter Kennedy, President of the Bingara RSL Sub-Branch, who officially opened the Remembering the Fallen Living Memorial Garden by cutting the ribbon.

Orange Picking Tradition Continues



Orange Picking is one of the most special days on our school calendar. Orange Picking is much more than a tradition unique to Bingara Central School. It is a day that connects us to our history, our community and the values that have shaped generations before us.

We are reminded that the freedoms we enjoy today were not simply given to us. They were earned through the courage, sacrifice and service of

the men and women who served our nation. The opportunity for our students to learn, laugh, grow and take part in traditions like Orange Picking exists because others fought to protect the freedoms we often take for granted. As we celebrate this long-standing tradition, we remember those whose service has allowed communities like ours to continue building memories together.

One of the most remarkable things about Orange Picking is that it is a tradition passed from one generation to the next. Every year, students walk these same streets, carry their orange bags and experience the excitement of the day, just as their parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents once did. We have shared a special story of family connection in our Week 11 Newsletter and encourage you to have a look on our school Facebook page.

Thomson Cup

Despite the cold, windy conditions the Bingara Central School Thomson Cup was a great success. We were thrilled with the excellent participation and sportsmanship shown on the day. The 2026 Thomson Cup winner was... Bradman House! Laver finished Runner-Up with Fraser coming in 3rd place.

Our Age Champions were also presented with their medallions at our recent assembly. Congratulations:

Open Secondary Girl: Mailee S, Open Secondary Boy: Jarrod P
 Senior Secondary Girl: Scarlett S, Senior Secondary Boy: Jai A
 Junior Secondary Girl: Emma G, Junior Secondary Boy: Kash S
 Senior Primary Girl: Eden A, Senior Primary Boy: Lance T
 11 Years Primary Girl: Alexis O, 11 Years Primary Boy: Marley P
 Junior Primary Girl: Sophie L, Junior Primary Boy: Asher M.



North West Science and Engineering Challenge

Stage 3 students attended the North West Science and Engineering Challenge in Narrabri, where they enthusiastically participated in a range of STEM-based activities.

Throughout the day, they demonstrated determination and resilience when tackling challenging tasks, worked collaboratively to solve problems, and represented our school with pride.

A highlight of the day was the Bridge Making team, who constructed a bridge strong enough to withstand the 'Big Chungas' crushing test, taking out first place in their category.

Their outstanding teamwork contributed to an impressive overall result, with Stage 3 finishing the competition in second place.



COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE GWYDIR SHIRE AND SURROUNDS

THE Gwydir
NEWS

Pick up your free copy of
The Gwydir News each
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Bingara

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 Bingara MPS
 Bingara Post Office
 Bingara Returned
 Servicemen's Club
 Bingara Sporting Club
 Bingara Visitor Information Centre
 Liberty Bingara Café
 Shell Garage Bingara
 Touriandi Lodge

Warialda

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

News Update

Warialda Hospital Auxiliary

Warialda Hospital Auxiliary held the AGM on Monday 29 June.

Those elected to executive positions are:

PATRONS: Jean Willmot and Pauline Baker

PRESIDENT: Marilyn Stubbins

VICE PRESIDENTS: Jean Willmot and Pauline Baker

SECRETARY: Judy Lynch

TREASURER: Carmel Gobbert

The meeting was pleased to welcome two new members. If you are new to the town and looking to join a community group, the Hospital Auxiliary is always pleased to welcome new members.

The Auxiliary is paying for an area to be concreted so that patients can use walkers/wheelchairs around the garden safely. Thank you to Mitch Parker and his team of concreters and hopefully this will be completed by the end of July.

It is disappointing that once again our MPS is having to advertise for a permanent Manager. We hope this can be resolved as soon as possible and the MPS will have a Manager who is keen to stay in our great community.

More RNs are expected from India shortly and they will be an asset to the MPS.

The Auxiliary is gearing up for our big fundraiser, the Market Night, which will be held on Saturday 14 November at The Club. Please put the date in your calendar and join us on 14 November. We have gone into recess during the winter months but will start selling raffle tickets again in September.

The next meeting will be Monday 17 August, starting at 2:00pm in the Activities Room at the MPS. You are most welcome to join our enthusiastic team as we strive to make life a little brighter for the patients, doctors and staff of our MPS.

Novice Riders Reminded to Gear Up as New Motorcycle Safety Requirements Roll Out

Transport for NSW is reminding all novice motorcycle riders new protective gear requirements will take effect later this week, as part of an overhaul of the Motorcycle Graduated Licensing Scheme to reduce rider deaths and serious injuries.

From Wednesday 1 July, all NSW learner, provisional P1 and provisional P2 riders will be required to wear approved motorcycle gloves while riding.

Learner riders will also need to wear a high visibility vest or jacket to improve visibility and reduce risk.

Transport for NSW Secretary Josh Murray said these changes, first announced last year, directly respond to rising motorcycle fatalities on NSW roads.

"Every year Transport issues about 27,000 learner motorcycle licences, and around 40 percent of those are to people aged under 25.

"Novice motorcyclists are consistently overrepresented in road trauma, and these new requirements are designed to help better protect them when they're out on the road," Mr Murray said.

"We know gloves can almost halve the risk of hand and wrist injuries, and high-vis gear makes riders far easier for others to see.

"These reforms are just the first stage of a broader package of enhancements aimed at strengthening safety for new riders by improving protective gear use, visibility, and training."

Over the past 20 years, the number of motorcycle licences issued in NSW has risen by more than 65 per cent, reaching over 690,000.

Tragically, the number of young motorcycle riders aged 16–25 who died on NSW roads increased from 12 in 2023 to 17 in 2024 and 21 in 2025 (preliminary).

To further strengthen novice rider safety, the NSW Government has committed to additional reforms. This will include an extended pre-learner course, small group on-road coaching, new online learning modules and knowledge testing.

The rollout of these reforms will occur in stages over several years to allow for system development, program design, and consultation with stakeholders.

For more information visit <https://www.nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/driver-and-rider-licences/rider-licences/gear-requirements-for-learner-and-provisional-riders>

Full Fleet of Tough New Mobile Service NSW Centres Hit the Road



Regional and remote communities across NSW are set to benefit from a major boost in access to government services, with the full fleet of new Service NSW Mobile Service Centres hitting the road in July.

Four tough new four-wheel-drive single-cab utes will replace the existing Mobile Service Centres, which have reached their end of life after covering more than one million kilometres since 2019.

The new fleet will be modified with 'branch in a box' technology – a customer service terminal which can be removed from the vehicle and continue to operate independently – helping ensure continuity of service even if the vehicle has broken down or is undergoing repairs.

The four-wheel drive capability will also make it easier for the Mobile Service Centres to be deployed to communities impacted by natural disasters, where staff play a critical role in the delivery of financial support grants and recovery efforts.

Communities can access all the same services available in a Service Centre, including more than 1,300 NSW Government transactions such as vehicle and driving transactions, applying for a Seniors Card or Working With Children Check as well as accessing support for cost-of-living initiatives.

Mobile Service Centres will continue their existing 9-week circuits, visiting more than 148 regional and remote communities across NSW which are typically more than 30 minutes' drive from the nearest Service Centre.

This includes the "Kangaroo Bus" Mobile Service Centre which visits more than 40 Aboriginal communities and includes Aboriginal Outreach officers from Revenue NSW, NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages and a business specialist from the Business Bureau to help provide tailored and culturally sensitive advice and support.

For more information on upcoming Mobile Service Centre visits, please visit: service.nsw.gov.au/mobile-service-centres

Minister for Customer Services and Digital Government, Jihad Dib said:

"Service NSW Mobile Service Centres play a critical role in providing services to regional and remote communities who might otherwise need to travel hundreds of kilometres to their nearest Service Centre, helping save them time and money."

"This tough new fleet of vehicles with 'branch in a box' technology means less downtime for repairs and a more flexible and reliable service offering for the community."

"Rain, hail or shine the Mobile Service Centres will be out on the road ensuring everyone in the state has access to the services they need."




Census

Get help filling out the Census



Visit census.abs.gov.au for more information.

Bingara Golf Report

by John Gill

June 2026

Monthly Medal

Bingara men's golf held its June Monthly Medal on Sunday, 7 June, with 26 golfers taking part in the 18-hole stroke event.

Results	
Winner	Ron Armstrong (65 nett)
Runner-Up	Jayden Booth (67 nett)
Ball Competition	John Gill (68 nett) Tony Johnson (68 nett) Tom Fullerton (69 nett)
Nearest to Pin	7th/16th Peter Anderson 9th/18th Peter Anderson
Second Best Shot 6th/15th Tee	A Grade (0-18) Merv Hall B Grade (19+) No winner
Bradman Trophy	Marshall Bond
Jackpot Ball	Five balls, Jayden Booth (played on the day)

Scutt Cup

The Scutt Cup was played on Sunday, 14 June, as an 18-hole medley stroke event, with 36 golfers taking part.

Bingara Golf would like to thank Richard and Jenny Scutt for their sponsorship of the 2026 Scutt Cup.

After persevering with the game of golf, Dylan Rampling recorded a popular win with 67 nett. Well done, Dylan — more to come!

Results	
Winner	Dylan Rampling (67 nett)
Runner-Up	Shane Thompson (68 nett)
Ball Competition	Laurie Mensforth (69 nett) Clayton Southwell (69 nett) Marshall Bond (70 nett)
Nearest to Pin	7th/16th Ladies no winner Men Clayton Southwell 9th/18th Mick Phillips
Second Best Shot 6th/15th Tee	A Grade (0-18) Damien Galvin B Grade (19+) Marshall Bond
Ladies Second Best Shot 9th/18th Tee	Heather Jenkinson
Jackpot Ball 2 Balls	Mick Phillips played on the day
Cart Hire	Bingara now has a second Vendi cart for hire; see details at the golf shed.

Bingara Golf

Saturday Stableford Medley event	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

Bingara Golf Course is proudly 100% maintained and presented by volunteer members.



Scutt cup winner Dylan Rampling (right) receives the Scutt cup from Richard Scutt.



Copeton Dam Level

as at
12 July 2026 **60%**

No change from June 2026
Up from 54% in July 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH CLINICS AT COOLATAI, YETMAN AND GRAVESEND

Flu Vaccines will be given if available.

Coolatai - Tuesday 4 August

Yetman - Tuesday 11 August

Gravesend - Tuesday 18 August

Weather and staff permitting.

BINGARA DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monthly meeting will be held on Friday 24 July 2026 commencing 10.30am followed by the AGM 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



CERAMIC BREAK SCULPTURE PARK

Open from
Thurs to Sun
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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS™

What's on

Church Notices

JULY 2026

Friday 17th

Glow Night Youth Disco - 6:00pm to 9:00pm - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara - Ages 13 to 18 - Bus Provided - FREE Event - DJ and music - Food and slushies - Games and prizes - Places are limited, RSVP is required - Contact Tori on 0408 454 813

Friday 17th - Saturday 18th

Upper Horton Campdraft

Saturday 18th

Christmas in July - Warialda Golf and Bowling Club - Live music - Great food - Tickets \$35 adult and \$20 child

Friday 24th

Bingara District Historical Society - Monthly Meeting followed by the AGM commencing 10:30am at the Bingara Museum Complex, 16-20 Maitland St, Bingara

Saturday 25th

Family History Day Workshop - 1:00pm to 3:00pm - Free community event - Bookings are essential - 35 Plunkett Street, Warialda - Call 0427 222 698 to book

Saturday 25th - Sunday 26th

RRR North Star Motorbike Trail Ride

Sunday 26th

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

AUGUST 2026

Tuesday 4th

Community Health Outreach Clinic - Coolatai

Thursday 6th

Spike the Echidna - for primary and pre school students - The Roxy theatre, Bingara - 11:00am - tickets \$10pp - for bookings call Rick on 0428 255 380

Tuesday 11th

Community Health Outreach Clinic - Yetman

Friday 14th

Flanno for a Farmer - Croppa Creek Bowling Club

Saturday 15th

Warialda Junior Rugby League Trivia Night - 5:30pm - Warialda Golf and Bowling Club - \$150 per table (teams of 10) - Smorgasbord available to purchase - Tickets <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1603033>

Monday 17th

Warialda Hospital Auxiliary next meeting starting at 2:00pm in the Activities Room at the Warialda MPS

Tuesday 18th

Community Health Outreach Clinic - Gravesend

Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd

Warialda Campdraft

Saturday 22nd

Bingara Races

Friday 28th

Trivia Night - Hosted by Yetman P&C - Yetman Memorial Hall - Save the Date

Saturday 29th

Rotary Golf Day Warialda

Saturday 29th

Grazing on the Gwydir

Sunday 30th

NWTC Film Club - 'Something's Gotta Give' - 4:00pm - The Roxy Theater, Bingara - New members welcome

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 please contact Margaret Haug (warden) on **0427 529 802**.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISHES WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Bingara Sundays 8:00am

Delngara 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**.