

THE

Gwydir NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWS

FOR THE GWYDIR SHIRE AND SURROUNDS

Free

August 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.



Published by
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Northern Inland (CCNI)

Freecall **1800 952 264**

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Warialda

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Warialda NSW 2402



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Puppet Show brings Imaginations to Life



The North West Theatre Company President Rick Hutton and Puppeteer Jenny Ellis with Spike the Echidna outside the Roxy after the show.

Puppeteer Jenny Ellis returned to Bingara's Roxy Theatre with a full house for her shadow puppet show, Spiky Echidna on Wednesday 5 August.

The founder of Little Wing Puppets, Jenny has now performed at the Roxy four or five times and said returning to the historic theatre was always special.

"I love the space. It's one of the most beautiful theatres in Australia and such an architectural gem," she said. "I feel very honoured to be asked back so many times."

Following the performance, Jenny held a shadow puppetry workshop with students from Bingara Central School, who were invited to imagine, create and perform their own shadow puppet using cardboard, cellophane and bamboo skewers and bring it to life behind a simple screen made of baking paper lit by a desk lamp.

"It's wonderful that this community has been exposed to puppetry over a long period of time," she said. "Each of my shows is quite different, so they are developing a relationship with an art form that many

Next issue: The Gwydir News will be published on Thursday 15 October. **Plan your advertising now**—booking and material deadline for the next issue is Monday 5 October. Email gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au



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2026 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER	NOTICE TO READERS: THERE WILL BE NO SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION OF THE GWYDIR NEWS. WE APOLOGISE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.	
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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Submission Guidelines

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

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

Text articles should be around 600 words in length.

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

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country children might not otherwise experience."

The Bingara performance was hosted by The North West Theatre Company through Arts North West On Tour which has taken Jenny to Gunnedah and Boggabri, with Tamworth and Tenterfield following on the itinerary.

Crowds have been strong throughout the tour, but Bingara achieved a milestone when the Roxy's historic "Full House" sign was brought out from the museum and placed at the theatre entrance.

Jenny said children still respond powerfully to simple handmade puppets, despite growing up surrounded by digital animation and virtual reality.

"They are laughing, sighing, getting angry and becoming outraged at puppets made from cardboard, plastic and fabric," she said.

"The simplicity invites their imaginations to become involved. They're not simply spectators; they become part of the event."



Bingara Central students try their hand at puppeteering during the workshop at the Roxy.

Shadow puppetry also gives children the satisfaction of creating something themselves.

"They can make a puppet within minutes and then bring it to life on stage," Jenny said. "That immediacy is very exciting."

Interview and photos by Beverley Callow

NOTICE TO READERS

There will be no September 2026 edition of *The Gwydir News*.

We apologise for any inconvenience and thank readers for their understanding.

We also thank our contributors, advertisers and readers for their ongoing support of *The Gwydir News* and for helping us share the stories, events and achievements of communities across the Gwydir region.

Letter to the Editor...

I am writing this article to congratulate the community and town of Bingara.

We have been camping down near the river for 10 days. We are loving the friendly people and country hospitality of this beautiful town.

We started off by visiting the Men's shed. What a great bunch of blokes (thanks for the coffee and cake). I met Les the piper there and we had a great chat.

We visited Vinnies Op Shop—again wonderful, friendly people.

The butcher shop—great service excellent meat. Had a good banter.

Information centre—lovely young lady with a smile helped us with great information. Also met Jen, from the information centre, who took us on a tour of the Roxy Theatre. What a beautiful building this is. Jen's knowledge of the history was amazing.

The boys at the Shell servo—great service and humour to go with it.

The checkout staff at IGA—great personalities and very helpful.

Senior Citizens Op Shop and Club—so welcoming and friendly.

It is so refreshing to walk down a street and have people look you in the eye and say "G'day". Thank you to all the people of Bingara for making us feel welcome. You have a great town and community spirit—keep it up!

Bob and Wilma Wright from Ferntree Gully, Melbourne.

**Complete your
Census now.
It's not too late.**



Census night was Tuesday 11 August.

It's compulsory for each household to complete the Census to help plan for Australia's future.
For help, visit census.abs.gov.au or call 1800 181 227.

Every answer matters.



Census



"Great communities are not built by a few people doing everything; they are built by many people doing something."

From the Mayor

Here we are at the start of August—I can't believe how quickly the year is passing.

We can certainly say we have been very lucky with this winter. It has been a relatively mild one, with only a handful of frosts compared to this time last year when everyone was jumping in their cars to go and see the snow. We were lucky enough to receive some good early rain, which made everyone smile and gave us some beautiful green paddocks to look at. Now we really need some follow-up rain to carry us through the warmer months, give our crops the best chance possible and top up our dams before summer arrives. Here's hoping Mother Nature is kind to us and we all enjoy a good season ahead.

Most people across the Shire have now harvested and planted, so we hope the season ahead brings the rainfall needed to support strong crops and productive grazing.

It has been a relatively quiet month since our last edition, but there is plenty happening across Gwydir over the coming months.

At the time of writing this, the Wyallda Junior Rugby League Football Club are preparing for their Trivia Night. I hope everyone had their teams organised and were ready for what promised to be a fantastic night. Events like these are a wonderful way to have fun while supporting our local clubs and, in this case, raising important funds for our little Wombats.

At the end of August, Bingara will host Grazing on The Gwydir, followed next month by the Annual Honey Festival in Wyallda. There are already plenty of stalls registered, along with a fantastic line-up of cars booked in. Following this will be the 175-year celebrations of Wyallda Public School. I encourage everyone to get their tickets and be part of this wonderful milestone. A huge amount of work

has gone into bringing this celebration together, and it will be a wonderful opportunity to reminisce, share stories and memories from our school days, while enjoying a special formal evening with friends and community.

The North Star Motorbike Trail Ride was another great success. The weather was perfect, there was a fantastic roll-up of bikes, and everyone appeared to have a wonderful time. A huge thank you must go to all the volunteers who helped make this event possible. Once again, we are reminded how fortunate we are in Gwydir Shire to have so many people who willingly give their time and energy to support our communities.

Our volunteers are the heartbeat of our Shire. They help create opportunities, bring people together and ensure our communities continue to thrive.

"Great communities are not built by a few people doing everything; they are built by many people doing something."

Census 2026

By the time you are reading this, Census Night will have come and gone, and hopefully everyone across Gwydir Shire has completed their 2026 Census.

The information collected through the Census plays a huge role in determining funding for essential services and infrastructure over the next five years. This includes our roads, hospitals, healthcare, schools, childcare, housing, emergency services and community programs.

Here at Council, we also rely heavily on Census data when applying for grants and advocating for funding on behalf of our communities. If people aren't counted, our Shire's needs may not be fully recognised, making it harder to secure the funding and services we deserve.

I know that some residents didn't initially receive their Census forms, and we worked hard to help people access what they needed so they could complete their Census. Hopefully everyone was able to get their forms and have their say.

Council also did everything we could to spread the word about the importance of the Census. We shared information through my emails, Facebook posts and short videos, all aimed at encouraging as many people as possible to participate.

To make the process easier, assistance was also available at both the Bingara and Wyallda Libraries, where staff were

on hand to help anyone needing support to complete their forms.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete their Census. Every person counted helps strengthen our case for future funding and ensures Gwydir Shire receives the recognition and support our communities deserve.

Telstra Upgrade—Bingara

Telstra commenced upgrade works on the Bingara mobile tower at the Lookout on Monday 28 July. As part of the works, the battery backup system was also repaired, which is a welcome improvement.

While the upgrades were originally expected to take around four days, the works extended through until Monday 3 August. Throughout this time, Telstra kept Council updated with regular emails and text messages, and we did our best to pass this information on to the community through our Facebook page and other communication channels.

I know the outages were frustrating, particularly given the long-standing mobile coverage issues we have experienced across Gwydir Shire. However, I hope these upgrades will make a real difference for our residents. Bingara should now have access to 5G services, following similar upgrades that were completed in Warialda a couple of months ago.

Reliable mobile coverage is something we should all be able to expect, and I will continue advocating for improved coverage in our villages and across the entire Shire to ensure our residents have better and more reliable connectivity.

On 27 July, Australia also conducted the national test of AusAlert, the country's new emergency warning system. AusAlert uses cell broadcast technology to send targeted, near-instant emergency messages to compatible mobile devices during disasters, without relying on traditional SMS messaging.

The system is expected to be fully operational from October 2026 and will provide another important tool to help keep our communities informed and safe during emergencies.

BROC Meeting—Brewarrina

Cr Sean Coleman and I travelled to Brewarrina on 23-24 July to attend the quarterly Border Regional Organisation of Councils (BROC) meeting.

These meetings are always valuable, providing an opportunity for Mayors, Councillors and General Managers from border communities to work together on the issues we all face, including roads, healthcare, emergency services, disaster recovery and regional funding.

We were welcomed by Brewarrina Mayor Tommy Stanton and General Manager Dave Kirkby, who also took us on a tour of the former Brewarrina Correctional Centre. It was encouraging to hear plans to repurpose the facility into a regional youth development centre, creating positive

opportunities for young people across the Orana and North West regions.

The meeting also included an update from Local Government NSW CEO David Reynolds, who spoke about the continued campaign for fairer Federal funding for local government. We also discussed proposed changes to disaster recovery funding, which could have significant impacts on regional councils following natural disasters.

There was also considerable discussion around Inland Rail, with concerns raised about the uncertainty surrounding the project and the impact this continues to have on regional communities. There was strong support from councils to see the remaining sections completed to deliver the long-promised benefits for regional Australia.

These meetings are an important opportunity to ensure regional voices are heard and that councils continue to advocate together for the investment and services our communities deserve.

Our next BROC meeting will be held in St George in October.



From left: Brewarrina General Manager - David Kirkby, Gwydir Councillor - Sean Coleman, Gwydir Mayor - Tiffany Galvin and Brewarrina Mayor - Tommy Stanton.

Public Maps

Gwydir Shire Council's online mapping services provide convenient access to information about our towns, communities, infrastructure and natural environment. Designed for residents, visitors, businesses and property owners, these interactive maps make it easy to locate services, explore local facilities and access property and planning information.

The Public Maps provide residents and visitors with location information relating to accommodation, amenities, dining, tourist attractions and community services. Additionally, infrastructure and planning information is available covering areas like bushfire potential, sewer lines, zoning

and flood data etc.

Visit the public maps tab on Council's website to find out more <https://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au/Council/Public-Map-Info>

EV Charging Stations—Vehicles

Bingara has an EV charging station near the skate park, while Warialda's is located behind the Council office. Council has also supported two grant applications from operators seeking to install fast chargers at the Green Space through Round 4 of the NSW EV Fast Charging Grants program. Assessments were expected to be completed in July, and we are awaiting an announcement.

Struxi Wins Two Awards for Bingara Administration Building

We have some very exciting news to celebrate, with Struxi, the building designers behind our new Bingara Administration Building, winning two awards at the 2026 South West Regional Design Awards last week.

Struxi took out the award for New Commercial Building over \$5 million, as well as the award for Commercial Interiors.

This is a fantastic achievement and recognition of the work that has gone into designing our new Administration Building. It is something we can all be very proud of, and we congratulate the team at Struxi on these major awards.

We now wish them all the very best for the Queensland Design Awards, which will be held in Brisbane on 24 October. Fingers crossed they can bring home another award!

Getting to Know Council

Following last month's introduction to some of our Councillors, this month we continue getting to know more of the people who help guide and support Gwydir Shire. In future editions of *The Gwydir News*, we will introduce additional Councillors and members of our Executive Staff, sharing more about the work they do and the important role they play in serving our community.

Cr Adrian Willmot

Why you chose to be a Councillor: Growing up my neighbour was Mr Gordon Nicholson who was a long term President of the former Yallaroi Shire Council. Mr Nicholson always said that serving the community was one of life's greatest honours. During my life I have found the most rewarding experiences come from being involved and contributing to my communities. Upon returning to Warialda in 2021, I started looking for the areas I could contribute and make positive change. The logical choice was Gwydir Shire Council.

Interests: I have varied interests and find they are always

changing, I love being in the kitchen making another batch of my Gwydir Pantry pickled cucumbers. As the owner of an older house I am always in the middle of a renovation project. Art has always been an interest, I am not artistic, but my walls say I am a collector.

What you are proud of: I am proud to be part of the wider Gwydir community, we are privileged to live in this beautiful part of the world and to have such caring and hardworking communities. I am proud of the work I do with Voice Inc. Voice is a charity founded by Kristy Fleming—a daughter of Warialda working in Cambodia. I am a Board Member and Treasurer of this organisation.

What you would like to see achieved during your term: I would like to see a guaranteed increase in funding for not only Gwydir, but for all councils. Housing for workers and elderly, childcare, and improved roads to service our productive rural sector. We need to ensure that Gwydir is financially robust. I want to build on our existing sectors to make Gwydir a destination to live, do business and to visit, and not just be a drive through on the way to someplace else.



From left: Cr Adrian Willmot and Maria Coote.

Cr Mick Collins

Why you chose to be a Councillor: I enjoy and value being a part of the community and Local Government is something I have always been interested in. Local Council has a key role to play in the day to day lives of the citizens of the Gwydir Shire and I was encouraged by many to stand at the last election. Being part of the Council enables me to give a voice to the citizens of the Gwydir Shire regardless of where they live or what their issue may be, big or small. My role is to be a positive voice, represent responsibly and work towards making the Gwydir Shire even better than what it already is.

Interests: My interests include gardening, Lawn Bowls, being strongly involved in several community organisations—one being the President of the Warialda Golf and Bowling Club—and trying to make a positive difference for our community. I also thoroughly enjoy the role I play as a Regional Manager with NSW Farmers and trying to help our farming families and rural communities.

What you are proud of: I am proud of living in the Gwydir Shire and calling it my home. I am proud to live in a community that punches above its weight and genuinely cares about its people, environment, livability, and future but also as importantly, its history. I am proud of having lived in the Gwydir Shire for 12 years and achieving Australia Day Citizen of the Year, being elected to Council, being President of Warialda Golf and Bowling Club, being a representative in several organisations in the community and for having been a Justice of the Peace for 19 years.

What you would like to see achieved during your term: The most important thing to me is to be able to say sincerely that I have done the best job that I could do, representing the people of Gwydir. I pride myself in taking people's concerns to every council meeting regardless of how big or small.

I would like to see that we concentrate on the needs of our Shire and not necessarily our wants. Value for the ratepayer is vital by maintaining and keeping our services and resources by using the limited dollars we receive wisely.

Improving and maintaining roads and road infrastructure is a focus as well as promoting our beautiful Shire and adding value through tourism and responsible development.

Working towards improvement in the appearance of our towns and villages as well as working towards improved connectivity and communication. Making sure the surrounding villages' voices are important as the voices of the towns and that they are heard, and people know I will



Cr Mick Collins.

take up an issue for them.

I do not confess to having all the answers or being everything to everybody but will always work to achieve that my elected voice will be heard and counts. I take my role as councillor seriously and proudly.

Cr John Bishton

Interests: I enjoy organising events for the community like concerts.

What you are proud of: I am really proud of the Gwydir Shire and just how good it is in delivering local services. The transition to new management after 25 years was seamless, and the successful completion of the new Bingara Administration Building on budget are simply great examples of a well-functioning local government.

What you would like to see achieved during your term: I am looking forward to tackling new issues for the Gwydir including population sustainability and continuing to grow local events like Grazing on the Gwydir, Honey Festival and Orange Festival.



Andrew Fariss, Drew Mcallister and (right) Cr John Bishton.

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

WINNERS & FESTIVAL NEWS



BEST DRESSED LADY & DAUGHTER

Oriah Andrews and Kelsey Andrews

BEST DRESSED FAMILY

Jodie, Annabelle and Megan Crawter

BEST DRESSED BOY

Fin Wilson

BEST WINDOW DISPLAY

Wattle Arts & Craft Shop

BEST FLOAT

Bingara Op Shop

BEST PHOTO OF THE FESTIVAL

Kim Miller

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
who attended the festival!

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL NEWS

The Bingara Special Events Committee raffle will be drawn at the Bingara Christmas Carnival.



From the General Manager

Engineering Department Update

Fortnight Beginning Monday 13 July 2026

Our crews have been hard at work across the Shire over the past fortnight, delivering road improvements and essential water and sewer services to keep our communities connected and supported. Here's a snapshot of what we've been working on:

Road construction works north of North Star are now complete, with the 1.7km heavy patching program successfully sealed. Crews have since moved on to the next section of heavy patching works as part of Council's ongoing road renewal program.

On Croppa Creek Road, final preparation and sealing works have also been completed, delivering another improvement to the local road network.

Grading Works – Graders have been active across multiple routes, including Mungle, Caroda, Hibernia, Peach Tree, Bereen, Trevallyn, and Gragin Roads.

Bitumen – Jetpatching crews have completed repairs on Warialda, Oregon, Mosquito Creek, Gil Gil Creek, Baroma Downs, Langley, Gragin, Adam Scrub, Bruxner Way, Delungra, North Star and Elcombe Roads, along with a number of town streets.

It has been another busy fortnight for the Water & Sewer team across Warialda, Bingara and Gravesend. Major works included three days of hydrovac operations on Plunkett Street, Warialda, where both the water main replacement and sewer manhole replacement have now been completed.

The team also completed nine service line repairs, responded to sewer blockages, carried out hydrant and water supply maintenance, flushed water mains throughout Bingara, undertook sewer inspections, completed treatment plant and pool maintenance, conducted monthly PFAS and sewer sampling, and completed a range of additional maintenance activities across the network.

Water Restrictions – Level 2 water restrictions remain in place for Warialda and Gravesend. WaterWise restrictions continue in Bingara and North Star.

Warialda Tennis Court Resurfacing

Last month, restoration works at the Warialda Tennis Courts were successfully completed by contractor Power Court in partnership with Gwydir Shire Council staff. The project was funded through a ClubGRANTS Category 3 grant secured by the Warialda Tennis Club in November 2025, with additional in-kind support provided by Gwydir Shire Council.

All remaining minor works associated with the project have now been completed, including:

- Repairs to damaged fencing panels.
- Rectification of a drainage issue on the eastern side of the courts.

The completed restoration works have significantly improved the condition and usability of the facility, providing a quality asset for the local community.

Warialda Truck Wash

The truck wash was used by 168 trucks during July, with an average wash time of 65 minutes. Estimated water consumption was 1,074kL, generating approximately \$20,000 in revenue before monitoring fees and operating costs.

Plunkett Street Water Main Replacement

During the July school holiday period, crews completed installation of a new PVC water main in Plunkett Street ahead of planned roadworks. The project included relocating the main and installing new service lines to residential properties.

This renewal replaces ageing asbestos cement infrastructure, improving network reliability, reducing maintenance requirements and supporting the continued delivery of safe and reliable drinking water to the community.

Upper Horton Rural Fire Service Station

The Upper Horton RFS Station continues to progress as planned.

Installation of internal plasterboard linings, painting and

vinyl floor coverings have now been completed. We are awaiting the installation of the kitchen cabinetry and then the fit-off of lighting and electrical works can be completed. The installation of the septic tank and associated drainage works will be undertaken this week.

The project remains on track for completion by the end of September.

Harrisia Cactus Control—Peats Road

Targeted spraying of Harrisia cactus was undertaken along Peats Road as part of Council's ongoing priority weed control program. Harrisia cactus is a significant invasive weed due to its ability to form dense infestations, restrict stock and landholder access, reduce grazing productivity, and create hazards for people, livestock and working animals through its sharp spines. Treatment works were carried out to reduce the biosecurity risk, limit further spread and protect adjoining land from reinfestation.

Baker Street Renaming

Council has completed the formal process to rename White Street in Bingara to Baker Street, with the new road name now approved.

Consultation undertaken as part of the process identified no concerns from affected residents. Relevant emergency services have also been provided with the information required to update their systems and have raised no concerns regarding the final change.

The renaming did not require any changes to existing street numbers, minimising the impact on residents and property owners.

Community Connectivity Kit Report

Council deployed the Community Connectivity Kit during the planned Telstra service outage affecting Bingara in late July 2026.

The kit was positioned in the park adjacent to the Bingara IGA, where it provided the community with access to critical internet connectivity while regular telecommunication services were disrupted. This allowed residents and visitors to access online services and maintain communication throughout the outage.

The Community Connectivity Kit was provided to the Council by the NSW Telco Authority to support community connectivity during outages and emergency events.

During the deployment the kit supported 29 unique connected devices.

The successful deployment demonstrated the value of the kit in supporting community resilience and maintaining access to essential communications during a significant telecommunications disruption.

Gwydir Shire Waste App

You can now access our Council Waste app and report missed collections, bin replacements, repairs or requests for caddies and liners. You can also call the JR Richards Waste Hotline on **1300 736 719** for the following:

- **Missed collections** – Customers should call as soon as possible to arrange a return visit. JR Richards will not return the next day.
- **Bin replacements** – For damaged or broken bins.
- **Repairs** – Including broken wheels or lids.
- **Liners.**

If you require a new or additional bins, or have a bin stolen please contact our Customer Service team.

Gwydir Shire Council has a new waste and recycling app



3 easy steps: How to DOWNLOAD

- 1 Go to App Store or Google Play
- 2 Download "Loopedin Councils"
- 3 Choose Gwydir Shire Council when setting up

✓ Instant bin day reminders ✓ Real-time service alerts ✓ Local news & event updates

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

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Our Libraries

The Bingara and Wialda libraries' continuing services include:

- Writers' Group
- Home Schooling and After School programs
- Community Support Hub
- Storytime
- Holiday activities
- Lego Challenges
- Toddler Duplo sessions
- The Great Gwydir Book Hunt

- Teenage Movie Sessions
- Senior Film Afternoons
- Kanopy tutorials
- Preschool and school visits
- Library Lovers' Month
- Scavenger Hunts
- Be Connected Tutorials (14 seniors registered for sessions this quarter)
- Book Clubs
- STEM Craft Sessions
- Teenage Quiet Room Chill Out
- Visits to and by the residents of local Aged Hostels and Hospitals
- Visits to the Toy Libraries
- Outreach services to Shire villages
- Senior Craft Sessions
- Baby Bounce and Rhyme
- Internet and mobile tutorials – including one-on-one
- Exam supervision
- Play Groups weekly sessions
- Pen Pals
- External study assistance
- Teenage chill out in quiet room and BYOD (bring your own device)
- Home deliveries
- All Abilities Group
- Outreach – Bingara Preschool, Toy Libraries and Tharawonga Mobile Preschool (St Joseph's Primary School, Warialda)
- Assistance regarding development and compliance approvals.

Family Services Inverell make regular use of the Warialda library for supervised visits, providing a safe, neutral, and welcoming environment for families.

The All-Abilities Group continued to thrive, with steady attendance and positive engagement. Participants enjoyed a supportive environment that encourages creativity, social interaction, and personal expression.

Library programs continue to be promoted through in-branch displays, program flyers, word-of-mouth engagement, social media posts, and direct communication with partner organisations, including aged care facilities, preschools, and schools.

Be Connected internet tutorials for seniors continue to be successful, with 18 participants currently enrolled to develop new digital skills each week. Past participants continue to seek assistance as required, and new participants are being supported as demand for digital literacy assistance grows.

Pen Pals Program is a highlight for both the children and Naroo residents that engage in the program. Letters are eagerly exchanged, continuing to bring joy as well as being a meaningful connection and communication tool bridging the gap between the younger and older generations.

Book Club with the residents at Naroo is a continued

enjoyment of literature. Participants engage in lively discussions on topics in their shared reading, promoting critical thinking skills and social connection while engaging in leisure.

Outreach (Tharawonga) Baby Bounce & Rhyme/Storytime – this month saw a fun PJ themed session in collaboration with Tharawonga's 'PJ Week'. Both preschool and library staff wore their 'PJs' alongside the children and engaged in a joyful bedtime story. These sessions promote early literacy foundations and support social and community connections.

Over the next three months, the library services coordinator will visit community groups to review outreach services to ensure programs, resources and service delivery continue to meet community expectations and identified needs.

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 Local Connector visited Gwydir on Thursday and Friday 30 and 31 July. She visited and met with Bingara and Warialda MPS staff, aged hostel staff, Council staff, local schools' staff, business owners, and community members in an effort to promote the program and gain information. Moving forward, three Welcome Experience events are being planned to occur this Spring, Moree Plains and Gwydir Shire staff will host a stall at Agquip during the month of August in Gunnedah.

The Local Connector reports that she has been dealing with four prospective residents since the program commenced last month.

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

IMPORTANT UPDATE

TYRES & COMMERCIAL WASTE DISPOSAL FEES



FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

**FEES APPLY AT
LANDFILLS
ACROSS
GWYDIR SHIRE**

EFTPOS PAYMENT ONLY. ALL PRICES ARE INCLUSIVE OF GST.

From **1 September 2026**, Gwydir Shire Council advises residents, businesses and visitors that fees for the disposal of tyres and commercial waste will apply at landfills across Gwydir Shire.



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

These fees have been carefully considered to ensure Gwydir Shire Council can continue delivering essential services while meeting increasing operational and maintenance costs.



INVESTING IN OUR SHIRE

Revenue generated through these charges helps support the upkeep of important community assets across the Gwydir Shire.



FAIR, TRANSPARENT & VALUE FOR MONEY

We understand that any change in costs can be challenging, and Gwydir Shire Council remains committed to ensuring that fees are fair, transparent, and provide value for the services delivered.



WORKING TOGETHER

Gwydir Shire Council appreciates the community's understanding and ongoing support as we work together to ensure the long-term sustainability of services and infrastructure throughout Gwydir Shire.

TYRES DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL

	per tyre
Motorcycle	\$7
Car / Ute (Non-4WD)	\$12
4WD / Light Truck	\$25
Truck (Up to 16')	\$60
Truck Super Single	\$100
Forklift / Bobcat	\$60
Tractor (Small: Up to 1.5m)	\$208
Tractor (Medium: 1.5 - 2.5m)	\$268
Tractor (Large: Over 2.5m)	\$376
Earthmover / Grader	\$550

COMMERCIAL (INDUSTRIAL/CONSTRUCTION WASTE)

Car	\$19.75
Ute	\$56.20
Trailer (Up to 2.4m)	\$37.45
Trailer (Over 2.4m)	\$56.20
Ute and Trailer (Up to 2.4m)	\$75.90
Ute and Trailer (Over 2.4m)	\$112.30
Heavy vehicles Per M ²	\$149.00
Asbestos & Hazardous Waste (minimum \$91)	\$332.80 m ²
Unsorted and/or Contaminated Waste (minimum \$91)	\$332.80 m ³

MULCH (For Purchase)

	per m ³
Domestic Use (Self Load)	\$15.10
Commercial Use (Self Load)	\$21.30
Loading (in addition to mulch cost)	\$15.10
Delivered	As per Quotation

Note: Tyres with Rim – charge will be 200% of the listed tyre unit rates according to the size and type of tyre.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Gwydir Shire Council on 02 6724 2000 or visit www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au



GWYDIR
SHIRE COUNCIL



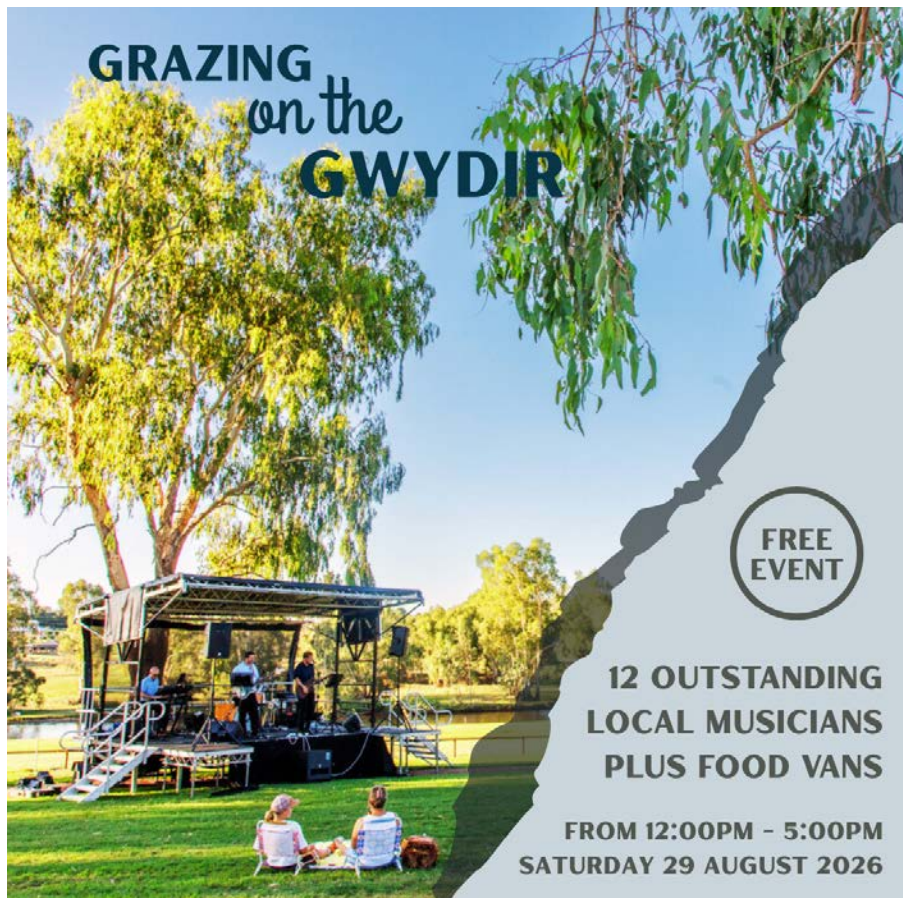
Warialda Honey Festival

Saturday 26 September 2026
10am – 2pm | Warialda Town Square

Featuring:

- Cirque Um Navigate
- Fairy Eyes
- Live music from SixFold
- Classic car display
- Market stalls
- Busy Bee Scavenger Hunt
- Fay Honour and Debbie Ford Busy Bee Award announcement





GRAZING on the GWYDIR

FREE
EVENT

12 OUTSTANDING
LOCAL MUSICIANS
PLUS FOOD VANS

FROM 12:00PM - 5:00PM
SATURDAY 29 AUGUST 2026

The Grazing on the Gwydir entertainment lineup is here!

Get ready for an afternoon of fantastic live music featuring 12 talented local artists.

This year's lineup includes:

- Natalie Baker
- A Little Something – a 5-piece local band featuring Jymari Robinson, Joe Lanagan, Stefan West, Peter Honey and Haylie Reynolds
- Larry and Natalie Taylor
- Tony, Helen and Ben Cornish, with Steve McGarrity

Entertainment Schedule

12:00pm – 12:30pm		Natalie Baker
12:35pm – 1:05pm		A Little Something
1:10pm – 1:40pm		Larry and Natalie
1:45pm – 2:15pm		Tony, Helen, Ben and Steve
2:20pm – 3:10pm		Natalie Baker
3:15pm – 3:45pm		A Little Something
3:50pm – 4:20pm		Larry and Natalie
4:25pm – 5:00pm		Tony, Helen, Ben and Steve

Junction Park, Bingara

Pack a chair, settle in under the trees and soak up an afternoon of live music while enjoying the delicious food and relaxed country atmosphere at **Grazing on the Gwydir**.

Could You Be a Gwydir News Champion?

The Gwydir News has been sharing the stories, events and achievements of communities across the Gwydir region—and we're looking for people who would like to help it continue.

We're putting the call out for a **Gwydir News Champion**—or perhaps more than one.

What that looks like isn't set in stone. You might be someone who loves writing and telling local stories, someone who enjoys photography, a community connector who always knows what's happening around town, or simply someone who believes there is value in keeping local news and information available to our communities.

You might be interested in contributing stories, gathering information, helping behind the scenes or becoming more closely involved with the production of the News.

You don't need to be a journalist. What matters most is an interest in our communities and a willingness to get involved.

At this stage, we're inviting expressions of interest from people who would like to be part of the conversation about the future of *The Gwydir News*.

Whether you have a particular skill to offer, an idea about how you could contribute, or simply want to know more, we'd like to hear from you.

Could you be a Gwydir News Champion?

Get in touch and tell us a little about yourself, your interests and how you might like to be involved.

gwydirnews@ccni.nsw.edu.au



Brendan Moylan MP
Member for **NORTHERN TABLELANDS**



Drought Set to Worsen—MP Calls for Early Assistance

THURSDAY, 13 AUGUST 2026

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan has called on the NSW Government to commence work on preparing assistance packages for primary producers in parts of the Northern Tablelands, citing recent figures predicting intensifying drought in the region as Spring arrives.

The latest NSW drought forecast shows conditions across the New England and North West of NSW are expected to deteriorate significantly, with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) modelling indicating a strong likelihood of drought intensification through to October.

The MP said that during his own travels across the region, he is hearing from producers that conditions are tightening and anticipated to stall growth during the important Spring period.

"Producers across the Northern Tablelands, Gwydir, Inverell and Moree Plains, districts are already reporting tightening conditions, and the forecast confirms what many have been experiencing on the ground: rainfall deficits are deepening, soil moisture is declining, and pasture growth is stalling at a critical point in the season," Mr Moylan said.

"The NSW Combined Drought Indicator shows that more than half of NSW is likely to be in a drought category by late October, with almost all of the Northern Tablelands already shown as Drought Affected (intensifying) and in Drought.

"Most concerning, the Northern Tablelands flagged as one of the regions most likely to shift into Intense Drought by October, with the forecast showing limited chance of meaningful recovery, with below median rainfall the more



likely outcome through spring."

The MP said that it was imperative that proper planning by producers was vital and that part of the response should include appropriate government assistance.

He has written to the NSW Government making a strong case for early intervention through provision of support including freight rebates and financial relief.

"Conditions are deteriorating quickly, and communities and farmers will need support to get through the months ahead," the MP said.

"Early action is essential, waiting until the situation worsens will only increase the cost and impact on regional families and businesses."

"The emerging outlook underscores the need for proper targeted drought assistance for livestock, cropping and mixed farming operations, investment in long term water infrastructure, and coordinated local drought planning with councils and community organisations.

"I have reached out to the NSW Government making a strong case for our primary producers and calling for immediate action to implement drought supports."

For more information on the NSW drought forecast, visit the NSW DPIRD seasonal update page https://www.dpiird.nsw.gov.au/climate_applications/state-seasonal-update

To access information on preparing for and managing drought visit the NSW Drought Hub website at <https://www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au/>



Quiet the head noise

Worried, stressed, or overwhelmed? Check in on your mental health with **free access** to new online self-guided tools. Plus telehealth support from qualified mental health practitioners.

mentalhealthcheckin.gov.au

1800 595 212

8:30am – 5pm weekdays (except public holidays)

medicare

Mental Health Check In



Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

Local Support Drives Award Win

We are incredibly proud, grateful and humbled to announce that BW Welding & Mechanical Services has been awarded **Best Mechanic – Best in the New England 2026**, as voted by the locals through *The New England Times*.

To every single customer who took the time to vote for us, recommend us, support us and trust us with your vehicles—thank you. Your support means more to us than words can express.

When we expanded into mechanical services in February 2025, we had a vision of providing honest, reliable, high-quality workmanship backed by genuine customer service. Since then, our team has grown, our workshop has become busier than we ever imagined, and none of it would have been possible without the incredible support of our community.

This award belongs to our hardworking team, who show up every day committed to delivering the level of service that we guarantee and take great pride in. Their dedication, professionalism and passion are what make this achievement possible.

As a locally owned and operated family business, we look forward to continuing to grow, investing back into our community, and providing the quality service our customers deserve for many years to come.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for believing in us. We are truly honoured to be your Best Mechanic 2026.

Here's to the future and to continuing to look after our amazing community!

Brad & Kel White | BW Welding & Mechanical Services



GET READY WEEKEND

19 & 20 September 2026

PREPARE FOR BUSH FIRE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [RFS.NSW.GOV.AU](https://rfs.nsw.gov.au)

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.



Application for Appointment of Board Members

Myall Creek Public Hall And Recreation Reserve Land Manager

Ever wondered who is responsible for keeping Crown reserves operating?

Countless facilities like showgrounds, local halls and parks are run by Statutory Land Manager Boards, made up of people just like you. People who understand the need and have a desire to manage public land and assets for the benefit of the entire community.

Your role as a Board Member is voluntary, but the rewards of giving something back to the community are priceless.

We are looking for a good mix of people with a variety of skills, however, sound business and financial management skills and objective decision-making expertise would be a distinct advantage.

Don't let this opportunity to do something for yourself and your community pass you by – contact us today.

The Myall Creek Public Hall And Recreation Reserve Land Manager manages the Reserve No. 55752 at Myall Creek notified on 20-Oct-1922 for Public Hall, Reserve No. 54198 at Myall Creek notified on 1-Oct-1920 for Public Recreation. The term of appointment will be for a period not exceeding 5 years.

Application for membership can be made via portal.crownland.nsw.gov.au

All applications are required to be lodged by 16-Sep-2026.

For further information contact Angie Wetzler on 02 6770 3110 or go to www.crownland.nsw.gov.au/reserve-manager

LT1215

WARIALDA ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL

POP-UP SHOP



Plenty of second-hand items, some in near new condition. Quite a lot of 'take it if you can use it' items.

A Car Boot Sale will also be held Saturday 10th in the church grounds. \$10 per car for those who would like to sell their saleable items.

**THURSDAY 8TH
FRIDAY 9TH
SATURDAY 10TH
OCTOBER
9:30AM - 3:00PM
EACH DAY**



ENQUIRIES: MARGARET

0427 529 802



Gwydir Ark Biodiversity Group
June and August meeting notes:

- **PROTECTING** semi-evergreen vine thicket along T Tree Creek.
- **WALKING TRACK** Gold Stamper to The Living Classroom.
- **WATERING** koala and Koala trees and weed control.
- **INDIAN MYNA** disposal chamber, location and times for disposal.

- **EVOLVING** The Living Classroom discussion group with Gwydir Ark Biodiversity Group.

Upcoming meetings and events in 2026:

- **EXCURSION** to Narran Lakes on 10th - 11th September 2026.
- **NEXT MEETING** Tuesday 1st September from 2:00pm to 3:30pm at the Imperial Hotel, Bingara. **All welcome.**

**ROCK
the red**

Rock the Red in honour of
Emmison Poppy Butler

All donations made go to help families of
children who have passed with counselling
and services at this hard time and to fund
more research into SIDS and SUDC.

Approximately 3000 families a year lose
children with no answers

Emmison was a beautiful young lady who
loved life to the fullest ❤️



Scan the QR code
to donate

**Wear Red
During
August**

**RED
NOSE
DAY**

FACTS

Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is the sudden and unexpected death of a child over the age of 12 months which remains unexplained after a thorough investigation, including an autopsy. It is a diagnosis of exclusion.

Every day in Australia, nine babies and young children die suddenly or unexpectedly — more than 3,000 each year. Because SUDC is so rare and there are currently no known preventative measures, continued research is critical. While SIDS numbers have declined following the introduction of risk-reduction measures, there are currently no known measures that can be taken to prevent SUDC.

Red Nose is committed to supporting families as they navigate the complexities of losing a baby or child. The organisation provides bereavement support, counselling programs, online support and other services to help families during an incredibly difficult time.

SARAH

To lose a child is devastating but to lose a perfectly healthy teenager unexpectedly, with no cause, is a pain like no other. You are constantly questioning yourself as to what you could have done. How did you not know? Why couldn't I save her? And then there is the fear for your other children. Will it happen again? How do I explain to Walker the reason his sister is no longer here when there is no reason? Sleep has been non-existent in our house for 11 months now.

As we come up to Emmison's 12-month anniversary on September 26th, nothing is any easier to understand or explain about the nightmare we are living. We have gone through a series of heart tests and doctor visits ourselves and have just petitioned the courts to have Emmi's saved samples sent to the States for genome testing. We are praying for a miracle that we will one day get answers, but the likelihood of that is as rare as SUDC itself.

I just wanted to get people talking and raise more awareness of SUDC. So much is mentioned about SIDS; however, too many children over the age of 12 months pass without a cause, and I believe more knowledge and focus needs to go towards SUDC. I hope we can continue this, possibly every year, to keep Emmison's name alive and continue to raise awareness and funds.

Fay Macartney

1932 - 2026



It is an honour to have been asked to write this article about my courageous, resilient and determined friend, Fay Macartney.

Fay and her husband Keith were a great, loving couple who had a pact. When one of them died, the other was to lead a full and rewarding life. This is what Fay did, ten-fold, all her life.

She gave to her community selflessly and was a member of the CWA, Cancer Council, Hospital Auxiliary, Garden Club, Book Club, Church Council, Bingara Op Shop, Lions Club, Friends of Touriandi and Needle Craft Group. She held positions of office in all these charitable groups and organisations over the years.

When I first came to Bingara, Fay took me under her wing, as was her way, and introduced me to her local CWA branch at Myall Creek, where she held every position available over the years. Roles she took seriously and passionately.

One of the big events she orchestrated annually was the catering for the Myall Creek Memorial weekend. I had never seen so much pumpkin soup!

Fay was a wonderful country cook and those who knew her would know she wasn't the tallest of women. This is why her kitchen was made specially to cater to her height. She was then able to continue to turn out many wonderful cakes, slices and meals etc for any charity, friend or family that was in need.

Another quality Fay had was her dressmaking ability. She made all her own clothes and would help others that wanted to learn to do the same.

Recently, Fay was so delighted that our Bingara CWA Branch was brought out of recession and would be in the capable hands of Kerrienne Anderson. She was able to assist Kerrienne in this transition with her wealth of experience and knowledge.

We will all miss Fay and her "will do, can do" character. She met each day with enthusiasm and a positive, caring and generous attitude.

She was a friend to many, but to me she was a very special friend.

Rest in peace my dear friend.

KerryAnne Thomas

ROSS COOPER OPTOMETRIST

2026 Next visits to Warialda

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

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





The NWTC Film Club's Feature Film for August is 'Something's Gotta Give'

The North West Theatre Company's movie for August is a tribute to Diane Keaton who passed away in 2025.

Diane's career spanned more than 50 years and included roles in more than 50 films and others in which she produced or directed.

Diane received many awards during her career including Academy Award, Golden Globe, Primetime Emmy Award and was nominated for many more including Screen Actors Guild Awards for her work in film and television. Diane was awarded a Golden Globe Award for her role in *Something's Gotta Give*.

Among her many awards and honors, Diane was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Film Institute in 2017.

Something's Gotta Give was released in 2003 and co-stars Jack Nicholson, Keanu Reeves, Frances McDormand, Amanda Peet and Jon Favreau.

The film is a witty romantic comedy about an ageing music executive (Nicholson) and a playwright (Keaton) who clash, surprise each other, and discover unexpected chemistry after an awkward encounter in the Hamptons. Boasting sharp dialogue and mature themes, the film charms with standout performances by Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton, earning critical appraisal and award nominations. A smart, funny and heartfelt movie worth watching.

The film was produced and directed by Nancy Meyers.

The movie will be shown at The Roxy Theatre on Sunday 30 August commencing at 4pm.

New members are always welcome.



A FILM BY NANCY MEYERS Jack & Diane *Something's Gotta Give*



Keanu Reeves Frances McDormand Amanda Peet

The North West Theatre Company Film Club presents
Something's Gotta Give
Sunday August 30th 2026 | 4:00pm | The Roxy Theatre

Sponsors Sought for New Warialda Welcome Board

Warialda Business Chamber is looking to renew the Welcome Board on the Moree Road and needs new sponsors.

The Board is in a sorry state and not very welcoming—sunburnt with a lot of businesses that are no longer operating.

The Welcome Board will also have a completely new purpose guiding visitors and prospective new residents or businesses to investigate our town. The bulk of the board will be a town map marked with different walks and sites to visit. There will be a QR code to direct visitors and residents to a new website being developed by Laura Cush to find out more about the town.

Sponsors will be listed across the bottom of the billboard with discounts for Chamber members. Cost has not been finalised but will be around \$50-\$100 per sponsor. It is hoped that those benefiting from the map will be the first to contribute.

Application forms will be available soon. Contact Ann on 0428 291 902 or ann@bizclean.biz

Cr Adrian Willmot will be distributing annual membership invoices this month or contact Laura at warialdachamber@gmail.com



Above: Warialda's Welcome Board is thought to be in a sorry state and not very welcoming.

Ceramic Break Sculpture Park presents.....

Exhibition opening Sunday September 13th, 12-5 pm.

Featuring artists Jennifer Gill, Rodney Laing, Yvonne Ledingham, Louise Samuels, Sue Smoothy and more.....



Old Lady Forest Gum, 61 x 91 cm, acrylic on canvas, \$900.00. - Louise Samuels



After the Rain, 27 x 20 cm, hand crafted coil pot, \$180.00. - Jennifer Gill



Flinders Ranges 1, 42.5 x 42.5 cm, mixed media. \$120.00. - Rodney Laing



Women's Weekly Knitting Book, 26 x 19.5 cm, mixed media. \$200.00. - Yvonne Ledingham



2535 Allan Cunningham Road
Warialda, NSW, 2402.
0417 841 741
www.cbbreaksculpturepark.com.au
kerry@cbbreaksculpturepark.com.au



Lunch and light refreshment provided.

Entry by gold coin donation.

Bring your own utensils to enter the Green Prize raffle to win a beautiful plant.



Learn. Train. Work.

Hospitality

Issuing Registered Training Organisation
Community College Northern Inland | 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 Thursday 24 September

Barraba Campus Monday 9 November

Warialda Campus Wednesday 26 November

Food Safety Supervisor

SITXFSA005 Use hygienic practices for food safety

SITXFSA006 Participate in safe food handling practices

NSW RTO approval number 71063



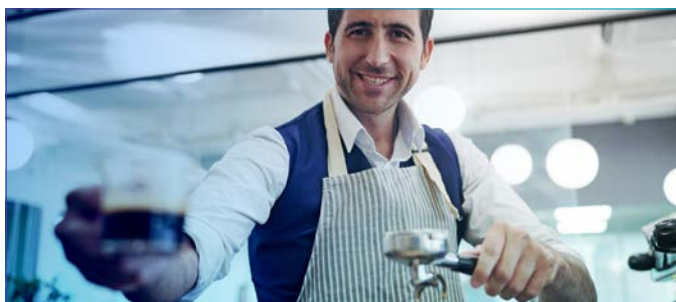
1-Day Face-to-Face Workshop 9.00AM - 3.00PM \$260

Bingara Campus Thur 24 Sep - Fri 25 Sep

Barraba Campus Mon 9 Nov - Tue 10 Nov

Barista Skills

Issuing Registered Training Organisation
Community College Northern Inland | RTO 90027



Introduction to Barista Skills

Enrol in this non-accredited training to develop your confidence around kitchen equipment, customer service, and of course, making coffee!

1-Day In-Campus 9.00AM - 4.00PM \$180 F

Barraba Campus Monday 12 October

Warialda Campus Friday 30 October

First Aid

Issuing Registered Training Organisation
Community College Northern Inland | RTO 90027

Provide First Aid

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation

HLTAID010 Provide basic emergency life support

HLTAID011 Provide first aid



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

Bingara Campus Tuesday 22 September

Warialda Campus Friday 16 October

Barraba Campus Monday 26 October

Provide CPR

HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation



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

Bingara Campus Tuesday 22 September

Warialda Campus Friday 16 October

Barraba Campus Monday 26 October

High Risk & Industry

Issuing Registered Training Organisation
Community College Northern Inland | RTO 90027

Confined Spaces

RIIWHS202E Enter and work in confined spaces



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

Bingara Campus Tuesday 6 October

Work Safely at Heights

RIIWHS204E Work safely at heights



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

Warialda Campus Friday 2 October

Visit www.ccni.nsw.edu.au
to apply or enrol

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

Barraba Campus  Monday 28 September

Wialda Campus  Tuesday 20 October

Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG) ♦

SITHGAM022 Provide responsible gambling services

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

Barraba Campus  Tuesday 29 September

Wialda Campus  Wednesday 21 October

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  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 9.00AM - 4.00PM \$755

Wialda Campus  Tue 3 Nov - Thur 5 Nov

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 | RTO 90027

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.



- ♦ **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.

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

News from Warialda Public School



From the Principal

Public Education Week - Celebrating Warialda Public School

Education Week Pancake Breakfast at WPS

Sunshine dried up the rain and warmed the air as we cooked pancakes on the BBQ, served warm Milos, and made sure no one went hungry. The school was alive with chatter, skipping, and even Nutbush dancing! It was fantastic to welcome parents and family friends to WPS for Education Week—a great morning enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a special event!

Education Week 'Picnic in the Playground' & 'The Amazing Race'

Education Week at WPS was a vibrant celebration of our school community in action! We kicked off with a delicious pancake breakfast, then launched into The Amazing Race—an engaging series of challenges across our school grounds. Students, parents, and families enjoyed a picnic in the playground before racing to collect 10 challenge stamps, with

activities including brain teasers, shooting hoops, bracelet-making, Dash robots, tangrams, frisbee golf, and more. Teams navigated roadblocks like 'traffic congestion' and hunting down Mrs Digby to hand in their completed race forms.

From the 'Pig-chasing retirees' to the 'Gilkison Gang' and all the teams in between, everyone had a blast! Education Week truly showcased why we love where we learn. Warialda Public School = A school that inspires excellence and cares for everyone.

NAIDOC Day Celebrations at Warialda Public School

We had a wonderful NAIDOC Day at Warialda Public School, filled with rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural experiences and joyful learning for all our students. The day featured traditional activities such as damper and Johnny cake making, weaving, traditional games, dance, and art across our school. All students were involved and it was fantastic seeing parents come in and out, sharing in the celebration alongside us.

It was fantastic to see all students involved and engaged throughout the day, and we were especially delighted to welcome parents who came in and out of activities, sharing in the learning and celebration.

A special thank you goes to Shae Duncan from Yulugi Marumali 'Dance to Heal' for her inspiring teaching and storytelling through dance. Shae generously shared her knowledge and culture, guiding students and staff into a deeper understanding of Indigenous traditions. We loved having her at our school and are grateful for the positive impact she made on our students.

NAIDOC Day at WPS was not just a celebration but an opportunity to learn, respect, and embrace Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture as a school family. We look forward to more enriching events like this in the future!

Celebrating 100 days of Kindergarten at WPS!



For our Kindergarten students, it's been a fantastic journey of learning, growing, and making friends! What a great day to celebrate with the most delightful (and sprightly!) '100 year olds' ever!

Our students have achieved so much and embraced all that 'big school' has to offer. Here's to many more days of fun and discovery together! We're here to support you every step of the way.

Tracey Digby
Principal

**COMMUNITY NEWS
FOR THE GWYDIR SHIRE
AND SURROUNDS**

THE
Gwydir
NEWS

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

Bingara

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

Warialda

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





News Update

The Bingara Branch of the CWA has been very busy lately; our monthly morning teas are exceeding all expectations! For those that are unaware, we hold these on the last Friday of each month, delivering to shops and workplaces as well as encouraging takeaways or a cuppa at the Senior Citizens rooms from 9.30am.

The Orange Festival was a great success for us, raising money solely for Breast Cancer Trials. You may have seen CWA of NSW set up on the day.

If any person is interested in becoming a member of our wonderful, thriving branch, please contact the President (Kerriane) by emailing kerrianea@yahoo.com

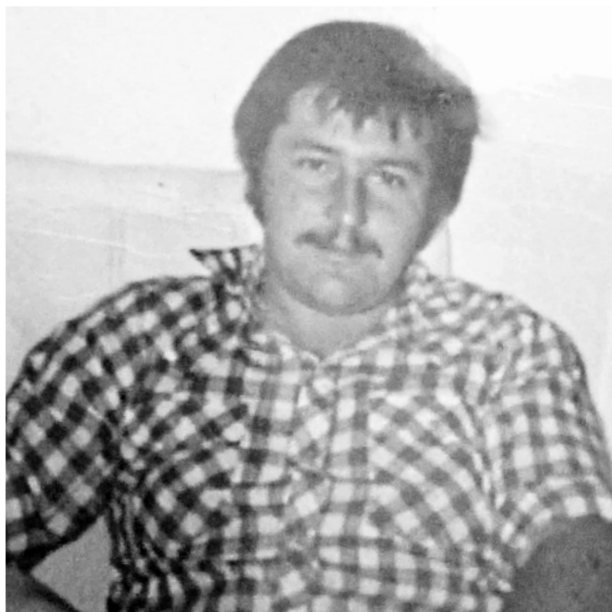
Kerriane has all information and encouragement you will need!

We will be at **Grazing on the Gwydir**, with all our usual baking for sale.

Kerriane Anderson

President - Bingara Branch of CWA of NSW

FUNERAL NOTICE



Christopher Shane Faulkner

30 November 1961 - 5 February 2026

The burial of Chris's ashes in his father's grave will take place at Bingara Cemetery on Saturday, 29 August at 11am, followed by a celebration of his life at the RSL Club.

If attending, please advise numbers by 24 August for catering purposes.

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

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Call healthdirect on
1800 022 222

A nurse will answer your call, ask some questions and connect you with the right care in the right place for your health needs.



ACRES Speedway Team News

by Rick Turner

On May 23 Brooklyn raced at Tamworth and the next day at Gunnedah. Both meetings went well and in Gunnedah, she finished in third place for the Fast Fours' Standard class in the Feature race.

Grafton had sprung a last-minute meeting on May 30 and we couldn't resist. Another good night but no placings on this occasion.

The last meeting for the season was at Tamworth on June 27. The promoters had programmed a special event, a "Rookie Ladies" race. This was for ladies who had not raced before. I quite liked the idea to give someone who'd never experienced speedway racing before a go. Brooklyn nominated her friend, Gabrielle Mittermayer.

When I offered the car to Gabrielle, I hadn't envisaged there'd be three heat races and a Feature race. I thought maybe one or two races, remembering the novelty "Powder Puff" Derbys back in the 70s. Now, with four races, I was a little concerned. Brooklyn was racing too and it was the last night of the season and I wouldn't have wanted her to miss out on any of her races should something happen in the Rookies' races. But, I decided I'd give Gabrielle one race and see how she went before committing to the others.

Gabrielle had never even seen a speedway event until she'd come with us to Grafton, let alone driven a racecar. She lives in Inverell and came around to Brooklyn's place in Warialda on the Friday afternoon, the day before Tamworth. I ran her through all the safety equipment and the lay-out of the car and explained the rules and regulations of speedway racing and the ins and outs of racing a car around a 400-metre dirt track, side by side with several other cars, all intent on being the first across the line at the end of the race. Then she drove the car at a fair pace around the paddock.

Another surprise and worry for me was that there were ten rookie drivers nominated. I had thought maybe five or six. But ten? Scary!

First Heat race and Gabrielle started out of position 4. I was shocked. She drove brilliantly and actually got into the lead before being overtaken by

another lady. She finished second. The second race was one to forget but she still drove very smoothly and stayed out of trouble. The third race was another good one and she finished second again putting her in position 3 for the Feature race.

Meanwhile, Brooklyn had her first race and went really well, placing fifth.

After three races, the rookies were all driving much faster than at the start and Gabrielle had to fight all the way in the Feature race. Again, she actually led for a while but on one lap, coming out of Turn 4 and powering on into the straight, she hit the brake instead of the accelerator, putting her back a couple of places. She finished a close third behind Donna Marshall and Yvette Gordon. All in all, it was a very successful experiment and Gabrielle was ecstatic to finish on the podium.

Brooklyn had a tremendous race in her second outing, leading for several laps until eventually being overtaken by much faster cars. In her Feature, on the last lap, an altercation with another car brought on the yellow lights and the race was declared. She placed fifth.

At the Annual Gunnedah Speedway Club's Presentation Day on July 4, Brooklyn was awarded Competitor of the Year for her dedication to her racing, competing at 20 meetings for



Brooklyn with her Gunnedah Speedway Club "Competitor of the Year" awards.

the season at eight different tracks and placing on the podium five times. It was an honour to receive the award and our thanks to the Club for their recognition of Brooklyn's efforts.

We are now hoping that the Western Sydney Speedway programs the Fast Fours on their Winter series on August 23. If they do, Brooklyn will race at the \$110,000,000 venue. A special privilege to compete at such a prestigious circuit.

Stay tuned!



The Rookies Ladies on the podium at Tamworth: Yvette Gordon, second; Donna Marshall, first; and Gabrielle Mittermayer, third.

Bingara Golf

Report

by John Gill

July 2026

Monthly Medal

Bingara men's golf held its July Monthly Medal on Sunday, 5 July, with 24 golfers taking part in the 18-hole stroke event.

Results

Winner	Shane Thompson (68 nett)
Runner-Up	Dylan Rampling (69 nett)
Ball Competition	Marshall Bond (70 nett) Ron Armstrong (70 nett) Erik Ozols (70 nett)
Nearest to Pin	7th/16th Erik Ozols 9th/18th Dylan Rampling
Second Best Shot 6th/15th Tee	(0-18) Shane Thompson (19+) No winner
Jackpot Ball	Two balls, Dave Armitage
Bradman Trophy	Cody McGarrity

Two-Person Ambrose Championship

The two-person Ambrose Championship was played over 27 holes on Sunday, 26 July, with 11 pairs taking part.

Results

Winners	Shane Thompson Tom Fullerton
Runners-Up	Mick Phillips Dick Oakley
Nett Winners	Dave Armitage Cameron Maisey
Nett Runners-Up	Jayden Booth Clayton Southwell
Nearest to Pin	6th/16th Mick Walton 9th/18th Cameron Maisey
Second Best Shot 6th/15th Tee	All Grades Clayton Southwell
Jackpot Ball	3 Balls - Cameron Maisey

Course Maintenance

Bingara Golf Club has held a number of working bees over recent months, with good attendance at each. Well done and thank you to all involved—your efforts have made a difference to the course.



Shane Thompson and Tom Fullerton - Winners of the 27 hole 2 person Ambrose Championship 2026.



Copeton Dam Level

as at
16 August 2026 **60%**

No change from July 2026
Down from 74% in August 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH CLINICS AT COOLATAI, YETMAN & GRAVESEND

Coolatai - Tuesday 6 October
Yetman - Tuesday 13 October
Gravesend - Tuesday 20 October
 Weather and staff permitting.

BINGARA DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monthly meeting will be held on
 Friday 21 August 2026 commencing 10.30am
 at the Bingara Museum Complex,
 16-20 Maitland Street, Bingara.
New members are welcome.
 Judi Peterson | Secretary BDHS

BINGARA SENIOR CITIZENS

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

BINGARA

Garden Club

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

Aspiring members are welcome.

FEATURED BUSINESSES



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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What's on

AUGUST 2026

Friday 21st

Bingara District Historical Society - Monthly meeting commences 10:30am at the Bingara Museum Complex, 16-20 Maitland Street - New members welcome

Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd

Warialda Campdraft

Tuesday 25th

Warialda Public School Book Fair "Symphony of Stories"

Thursday 27th

Warialda Public School "Rock it Red" Fundraiser Day

Friday 28th

Trivia Night - Hosted by Yetman P&C - Yetman Memorial Hall

Saturday 29th

Rotary Golf Day Warialda - 18 Hole Ambrose - Mixed teams of two - \$40pp includes Morning Tea and Lunch - To book in a team call Curly on 0428 790 005 or Peter on 0447 007 221

Saturday 29th

Grazing on the Gwydir - Junction Park, Gwydir

Sunday 30th

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

SEPTEMBER 2026

Friday 4th

Rusty Pick-ups - Country and Americana Ensemble - 7:00pm - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara

Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th

Coolatai Campdraft

Thursday 10th - Friday 11th

Gwydir Ark Biodiversity Group - Excursion to Narran Lakes - Contact Ali Bigg 0438 353 682

Saturday 12th

Warialda Community Warriors Seasonal Markets featuring Shop of Opportunity Fashion Parade - 7:00am to 2:00pm - 32 Plunkett Street, Warialda

Saturday 12th

Family History Day Workshop - 1:00pm to 3:00pm - 35 Plunkett Street, Warialda

Sunday 13th through Oct

Exhibition opening Sep 13 from 12:00pm to 5:00pm at Ceramic Break Sculpture Park - Featuring works from former Warialda local Yvonne Ledingham plus artworks from Louise Samuels, Jennifer Gill, Rodney Laing, Sue Smoothy and Matthew da Silva - Entry by gold coin donation - Lunch/light refreshment cooked by Rotary Warialda. BYO utensils/plate to get a Green Prize raffle ticket.

Friday 18th

Goldilocks Rocks' Performance - Warialda Public School Hall - Session one 9:30am - Session two 11:30am

Saturday 19th - Sunday 20th

Warialda Off Road 200

Monday 21st - Sunday 27th

Campdraft Nationals - North Star

OCTOBER 2026

Tuesday 6th

Community Health Outreach Clinic - Coolatai

Thursday 8th - Saturday 10th

Warialda Anglican Church Pop-up Shop & Car Boot sale - Sausage sizzle - \$10 Fee per car

Tuesday 13th

Community Health Outreach Clinic - Yetman

Tuesday 20th

Community Health Outreach Clinic - Gravesend

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 9:30am All welcome. For information please contact Margaret Haug (warden) on **0427 529 802**.

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.