

# regeneration

## Bingara and District – Community Vision

FEBRUARY 2006

Bingara and District  
**VISION** 20  
20

  
**GWYDIR**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

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# INTRODUCTION



Our VISION for Bingara and District for the year 2020 has been created by the whole community. It seeks to inspire and embrace everybody.

Our VISION seeks to build on the strengths of the town and district in 2005, and to preserve and enhance those things our community values.

Our VISION is built around the theme of 'REGENERATION'. It details the future of each major asset – our people, our infrastructure and our environment.

Our VISION aims to take Bingara and District residents on a journey into the future.

Visions are sometimes associated with something unreal or imaginary; a creation of fancy. However, in this case its definition is 'To Dream'. We cannot know or predict with any certainty the future but we can work towards creating the future that we want.

To share this journey, we have taken a ride to the Bingara of our future – to the year 2020.

# OUR VISION SUMMARY

In the year 2020, Bingara and its surrounding District:

- is vibrant, exciting, energetic and prosperous.
- is a positive and fun place to live.
- is a healthy place to live.
- has a clear sense of identity.
- is an integral part of the geographic and governmental area in which we live, but is strong enough to stand – alone.
- has retained and enhanced those qualities that our community values.
- is recognised nationally as a model for rural town and district achievement.

Our success is based on ‘self help’ – driven by our community and implemented by partnerships with industry and the various levels of Government.

- We have developed two major industries:
  1. Tourism
  2. Regional Conferencing.
- Our population growth continues to be strong.
- We are a test case for rural recovery.
- We continue to look ahead, and are actively reviewing VISION 2035.

# REGENERATION IS OUR THEME

The community recognises that:

- Our climate
- Our geography
- Our central position
- Our rural/urban mix
- Our relatively small size and
- Our amazing community spirit
- ...gives us a competitive advantage.



In addition to these advantages, we have a strong and unifying theme.

## We are a national leader in regenerative living

'Regeneration' is a way of life and is fundamental to all our decisions. We do not just sustain our resource base, but we continue to improve and grow. Our people are healthier, happier and better educated, our environment is pristine, our buildings and community infrastructure are well designed and energy and water efficient, our agriculture has healthy soils and "treads lightly on the land."

With our focus on Regeneration, we have shown the rest of Australia just what can be done. As a leader in this field, we are a destination for education, tourism and conferencing. Government and Industry have strongly supported and encouraged us, and key operatives have relocated to Bingara.



OUR VISION IN DETAIL

regeneration  
is the name  
of our game

# REGENERATED WATERWAYS

## I. Fresh water fishing, fish management and the Hatchery



In 2020 Bingara and District is recognised as one of the most important freshwater fishing centres in Australia.

In 2020 Bingara and District is recognised as one of the most important freshwater fishing centres in Australia. In 2005 Bingara had established a highly regarded fish hatchery. The hatchery had been built up over a number of years by the Bingara Anglers Club Hatchery Committee, who continue to drive progress.

In conjunction with both Federal and State Departments of Fisheries, and in collaboration with all landholders (private and public) the Gwydir River below Copeton and all of its tributaries have been managed to optimise the potential for fish breeding (recognising that fish health is a leading environmental indicator). Stream design (including weirs if appropriate), stream temperature monitoring (for water flowing from the dam), stream bank rehabilitation, and fish management and restocking, have formed part of the process.

The Hatchery has been expanded. The expansion links with the permanent stream system flowing through Bingara Farm Gardens (see below). A chain of breeding ponds has been designed to be functional, but also established with tourism in mind. The ponds encompass a fresh fish farm and the produce is marketed locally as part of the 'local produce' image. The buildings are unique, but sympathetic to the other buildings on the farm. The project is an educational centre for inland fresh water fish management and encompasses a glassed wall with artificial riverbank background, displaying inland fish and aquatic life.

Improved river design and increased restocking have seen an expansion in fresh water fish numbers and the District has become a major destination for recreational fishing enthusiasts.

# REGENERATED WATERWAYS

## 2. Riverbank Environment



The Gwydir River at the Northern end of Maitland Street is landscaped with shade trees above flood level, stabilised grassy banks, and has attractive, but low environmental impact, tourist facilities.

Maitland Street is landscaped from All Nations Hill through to its northern end, with an avenue of trees opening to the park and the river:

There are maintained riverside walkways to both the East and West of this park, with the banks of the River and the river itself being enhanced by the work done for Inland fishing.

Horses are recognised as an important tourist attraction, but are no longer allowed on the landscaped areas. They are ranged through other public/leased areas to ensure suitable grazing.

There are several designated camping sites on public land between Bingara and Keera, with well maintained but low environmental impact facilities.

The area to the south of the bridge at the junction of Halls Creek is attractively landscaped and tourist facilities provided. These link through to the pool, the Multi Purpose Centre and the grounds of Touriandi.

# REGENERATED WATERWAYS

## 2. River Events



'Blues on the Riverbank' has become a significant Regional Festival, attracting several thousand people for a full weekend of activities.

'Easterfish' continues to be a major celebration of the District's fishing

'The Bingara Descent', a competitive event for a variety of boats and rafts now takes place over a weekend in the summer months. River flow is coordinated for this weekend to ensure a predictable level of water in the river.



# REGENERATED AGRICULTURE

## I. Bingara Farm Gardens



The Common, now known as Bingara Farm Gardens, resembles a luxurious and productive garden and provides a major enhancement to the town environment.

Bingara Farm Gardens, an area of 150 hectares is now an 'agricultural oasis' producing a multitude of products. The farm is designed utilising the best of lessons from Permaculture, Biological Farming and Traditional Farming and is at the forefront of Agricultural design. Enterprises are 'stacked' so that each complements the other. The project utilises both plants and animals.

Buildings on the site are unique structures utilising environmentally effective materials designed for maximum efficiency and aesthetic appeal.

The project is designed for maximum water efficiency, and largely utilises 'grey' or recycled water which is pumped to the back of the Garden, filtered through a natural waterway to

then meander through the site as a permanent stream (utilising the north facing slope) to emerge and link with the hatchery (see above). There is the opportunity to 'shandy' fresh water as the town now has a second Reservoir.

Bingara Farm Gardens is a Community Project, involving all who want to participate, from Pre-schoolers to seniors. It plays a major role in bringing the urban and rural populations together. It is cooperative, well organised and managed. It provides a teaching environment and is a major tourist attraction. The project is commercial, and provides employment opportunities.

The majority of the town's green waste is turned into compost on site, and utilised on the farm.

Bingara has largely achieved its goal of being self-sufficient in fresh produce, which is grown organically, and markets (through local retailers), a range of fresh and processed product under the label 'Bingara Organics'. This complements other locally produced branded product.

As a promotion for the District's strong stud cattle industry, each stud agists a top quality cow & calf so that there is a display of cattle representing every breed. Additional promotional material is included in the buildings on site.

Bingara Farm Gardens is unique in Australia – the whole process – from design through to management has been facilitated by the community which continues to own the project (various partnerships with industry and government having assisted the project where appropriate).

# REGENERATED AGRICULTURE

## 2. District Agriculture



There are a number of farmers throughout the district who are applying lessons learnt at Bingara Farm Gardens, and who are extending educational lessons to broader scale farming.

The District's farming population has taken to "farming with nature" with enthusiasm; most belong to an active Landcare Group, and there is community driven catchment plans for each catchment and sub catchment in the Gwydir Shire.

The Gwydir Shire heavily promotes the diversity, excellence and prosperity of its farming base, and is strongly focused on the positive. Such is the reputation of the district that there are now numerous challenging employment opportunities in Agriculture, and a ready flow of applicants.



## REGENERATED FORESTS AND PARKLANDS



The Bingara community has worked closely with National Parks to develop and promote the wealth of park resources within the District. In particular, the District is unique in having a wide variety of small parks, each with its special geography, flora & fauna.

The forest areas to the East (Bingara State Forest), to the West (Benbraggie, Derra Derra and Kaputar), and to the north (Morley, Stonehenge, Warialda State Forest and Warialda Nature Reserve), are well managed, accessible (with extensive walking trails), and promoted as tourist attractions for their natural attributes including extensive plant and animal biodiversity. The Bingara State Forest follows the Peel Fault, an ancient geological structure that has produced extrusions of rare minerals – and this geological history forms part of the Forest's tourist and educational experience.

There is collaboration with private landholders to the South of the Bingara State Forest to promote the unique stand of Xanthorrhoea (grass trees) (the oldest and biggest examples of the species in Australia), and in the Derra Derra National Park to promote the unique dryland rain forest.

A managed cypress pine woodland project has been formed to create a buffer zone around selected forest areas, and to provide a future timber resource. A small sawmill operates locally, and by 2020 is processing sufficient locally grown timber to service at least District requirements.

The District Forest & Parklands are now a major tourist attraction. The local community has strong 'ownership' of this resource, and heavily utilise the parks themselves for recreation.



# REGENERATED URBAN DESIGN

## I. Town Planning



The urban plan, completed during 2006, set the framework, and in 2020 Bingara is recognised as a model small town in NSW. Urban planning is focused on the townscape being attractive, innovative and unique. As a result of a continuing education process building design is energy and water efficient.

Bingara has taken advantage of one of its major assets, water (an increasingly valued commodity in Australia) to preserve the 'oasis' appeal of the town and surrounds. An equitable pricing mechanism combined with community support for 'best practice' environmental management encourages the responsible and effective use of water.

The town water supply is improved by the installation of a second reservoir. Water quality is enhanced by state of the art filtration and energising systems so that Bingara water fits the overall image of the town – clean, healthy and sparkling.

All treated sewage, all grey water and much of the stormwater runoff is captured and recycled, and this is integral to the town's regenerative program.

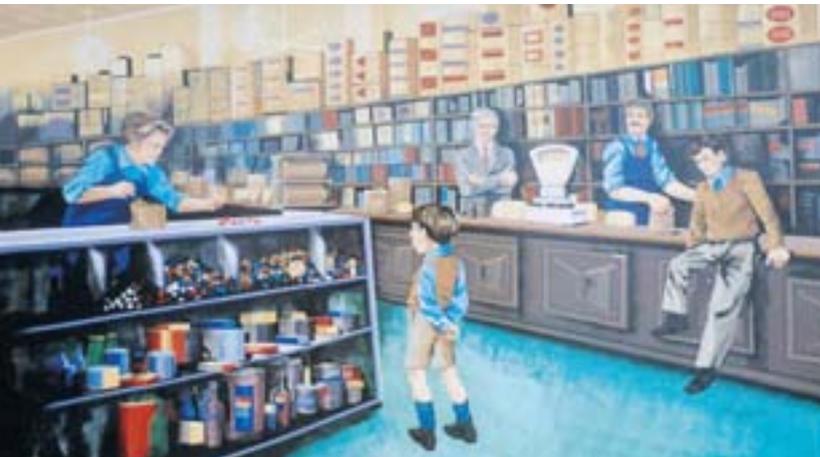
Bingara and Upper Horton waste depots lead the way in recycling – all material that can be composted is processed at Bingara Farm Gardens. All other recyclable material is segregated and effectively utilised.

Bingara has taken advantage of improved efficiency in solar power generation to generate a substantial proportion of its electricity requirements, with a significant reduction in cost and increased reliability.

**Bingara has taken advantage of one of its major assets, water.**

# REGENERATED URBAN DESIGN

## 2. Retail & Main Street



The main street retains its essential characteristics. Appropriate heritage colours are coordinated, restorations completed, and the awnings replaced, to present a sense of cohesion to the town.

Sufficient car parking is provided close to the town centre to take the pressure off the main street, without detracting from its busy appearance. There is parking for long vehicles to cater for the much – increased level of caravan and mobile home tourists.

Interesting, smaller retail outlets giving character, pleasure and variety to the retail experience. Local produce (including product from Bingara Farm Gardens), and a wide range of crafts are on sale. People from the surrounding towns come to Bingara to shop and for a day out.

The major retail outlets – supermarket, hardware, farm supplies etc have benefited from population growth, tourism and a strong community commitment to shop locally – turnover has doubled in real terms (from the levels of 2005), thus entrenching the viability of these businesses and enabling them to be competitive in pricing and variety.

# REGENERATED URBAN DESIGN

## 2. Retail & Main Street continued



The Council Depot has been relocated to the planned industrial area, the 2005 site decontaminated and redeveloped as a combination of medium density housing and tourist accommodation. This site is linked to the main street through an arcade forming part of the former Adams garage site.

The front of this site is a spacious library with an extensive array of reference books as well as fiction. The reference library for Bingara's acknowledged areas of expertise are second to none. Behind the library, and a part of the facility is the technical and communication centre – both readily available to all citizens.

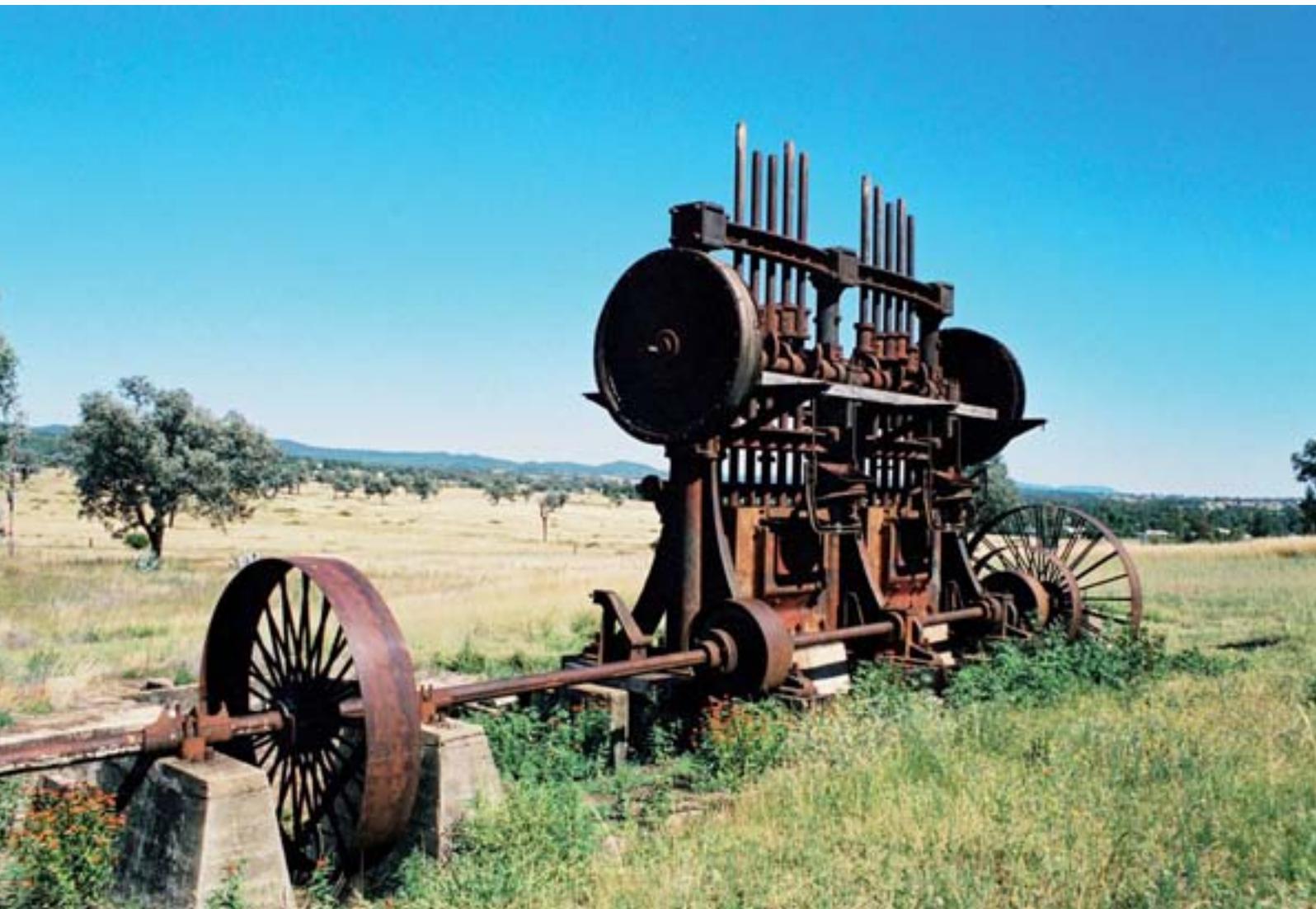
The town boasts a number of restaurants and coffee shops, which utilise the street and give a cosmopolitan feel to the town. There are special facilities designed for the young to 'hang out'.

There is a **purpose built child minding facility** catering for both long day care (to enable mothers to participate in the workforce) and shorter stays – to cover shoppers, participation in the range of community activities, or just respite. This centre boasts innovative play equipment.

There is a **heavy vehicle by-pass** to the main street running to the east of Maitland Street with parking and pedestrian access through to Maitland Street.

# REGENERATED URBAN DESIGN

## 3. Other Developments



**All Nations Hill** is landscaped and terraced down to the Barraba Road so that it is obvious as vehicles approach from the South. There are vantage points giving a view down Maitland Street to the River. An open air 'museum', which celebrates Bingara's mining past sits alongside the Stamping Battery. A section of the reef has been exposed, and a mine-shaft is visible under glass with appropriate lighting. An avenue of trees leads down to the cemetery, which is also surrounded by trees and to its north there is the luxuriant growth of the Bingara Farm Gardens.

# REGENERATED COMMUNITY

## I. Education



### a. The Bingara Learning Centre

Bingara Central School retains its identity and is part of the integrated Bingara Learning Centre (which is in turn part of the Gwydir Learning Region).

Population growth and population balance (see below) means that the 40% increase in population is reflected in an equal number of school-aged children. The school now has in excess of 300 pupils and is renowned for the excellence of its education. Bingara is a sought after destination for teachers, and there is plenty of competition for vacant positions.

The school has offered year 11 and 12 course options since 2008. It has done so in an innovative fashion by campus sharing with Warialda (and/or with other towns) and with Distance Education (where appropriate) so that each campus teaches the subjects which they do best. There is an influx of students to Bingara, from beyond the District, for at least half the week.

The Bingara community is proud of Bingara Central School as it offers superior and comprehensive education. As a result the majority of students stay to complete their secondary education.

However, the Bingara Learning Centre is more than the school. It offers a range of TAFE and University subjects. Amongst the subjects which Bingara does very well, are those allied to the town and district's acknowledged areas of expertise – regenerative urban and rural living, aquatic management, the arts, technology, tourism and hospitality, nursing and aged care.

The Learning Centre is also active in Adult education, where Bingara residents of all ages have a high level of participation. Adult education has become a major drawcard from other regional centres.

# REGENERATED COMMUNITY

## I. Education continued



### a. The Bingara Learning Centre continued

The facilities of the Bingara Learning Centre are integrated with the Technology Centre, Bingara Farm Gardens, the Hatchery and the ROXY. As an example, the ROXY is at the forefront of the Region in offering educational programs, work experience and training opportunities to students in a variety of fields including drama, film and multi media.

There is a strong and continuing emphasis within the town and district to provide employment opportunities to the young, thus giving practical experience to complement the Learning Centre.

A focus for the Learning Centre is financial and investment planning, so that retirees can play a more active role in managing their investment assets. The farming community is focused on off-farm investments to spread their financial exposure.

Retirees have an active role in the Learning Centre, both as students and mentors.

Bingara has become the rural destination of choice to expose urban school children to a country experience, and there is a regular exchange with 'buddy' schools in the major cities.

As a consequence of all this, Bingara has reversed its 2005 position from being a community of low average education level, to being one of the best educated in the country.

### b. The Technology and Communications Centre.

With the assistance of both a major telecommunications company and a major computer company Bingara has a state of the art technology and communications centre. The centre is linked with the expanded Library.

In addition to being heavily utilised by the Learning Centre and the community generally, it fulfils an important role by enhancing conferencing facilities.

The Bingara population is very technology literate.

# REGENERATED COMMUNITY

## 2. Health and Aged Care



**The Multi Purpose Centre (MPC)** was completed in 2010 and offers state of the art facilities designed specifically for the community it services. There are a number of visiting specialists, including dental, and there is a mobile surgery to cater for elective and non-urgent procedures.

**Touriandi Lodge** continues to be managed by the community, and has expanded and enhanced its facilities to accommodate both the increased number of aged residents, and their higher lifestyle expectations. There is seamless interaction between Touriandi, and other health care providers.

**Aged care** in all its facets has become a major employer in the District, and training in this area has become integral to the Bingara Learning Region.

In conjunction with the Medical Centre (which has expanded its number of Doctors in line with the increase in permanent and tourist population) Bingara has reversed the perception that rural

towns offer an inferior standard of medical care to their urban counterparts – in fact, the level of caring is demonstrably superior.

As part of a growing awareness of healthy living, there is a **strong culture of preventative health** – both physical and mental. The excellent sporting facilities for all ages (which include a fully equipped and staffed gymnasium with **hydrotherapy pool**), the opportunities to lead a positive, busy and fulfilling life, the strong sense of community (which includes supporting the majority of the aged and infirm population in their own homes) means that the medical facilities easily cope with requirements.

There are no waiting lists –  
in marked contrast to most  
urban and coastal areas.

# REGENERATED COMMUNITY

## 3. Sport and Recreation



Bingara and District continues to have excellent, well-maintained and affordable sporting facilities. The volunteer ethic is alive and well, and the community takes pride in the appearance of the facilities. The community driven Sports Council has been reformed, liaises with each of the sports, and advises Council on priorities and requirements.

In all areas of sport (including those more traditionally the domain of older members of the community – golf and bowls for example) there has been an effort to involve the young. In particular, there has been an emphasis on sport for girls, and they are now involved across the spectrum – cricket, basketball, netball and touch football for example.

There are adequate numbers in each sport for representative teams, and there is active inter-town competition, with the Bingara community actively supporting its teams, and with the teams being very competitive.

The town charges tourists and conference attendees a competitive rate for use of sporting facilities (which include organised equipment hire) and the funds raised assist in maintenance and affordability for residents.

Bingara continues to host major sporting events including All Schools Carnivals, Senior Golf week (now happening twice a year), Regional, State and National events. The Bingara Show and Annual Race carnival continue to be successful social and sporting events.

# REGENERATED COMMUNITY

## 3. Sport and Recreation continued



The Gwydir Shire is renowned for its horse sports, and is one of the few remaining areas in rural NSW where it is possible to be involved in or exposed to such a range of activities. The calendar of events throughout the Shire is extensive and promoted internally and to the tourist population – pony club, trail riding, rodeo, show competition, polocrosse, eventing, carriage riding etc. The facilities of the showground (including rodeo facilities) are excellent.



There are still a number of farms in the district using horses, and there is an organised series of trail rides enabling the spectacular scenery of the district to be fully explored.



There is a designated BMX course and a designated motor – cross course, both supervised by rostered parents, and a skateboard area. There are fun days in each of these areas, including inter town competition.

# REGENERATED COMMUNITY

## 4. Culture and the 'Roxy'



In 2020 the ROXY remains the jewel in Bingara's cultural crown, and is heavily utilised by the community as well as being highly regarded regionally.

The ROXY is a major tourist drawcard frequented by large numbers of tour groups as well as individual tourists. Visitors to the ROXY can expect to be taken back to 1936 through an interactive visual presentation that includes footage from the period incorporating newsreels and serials.

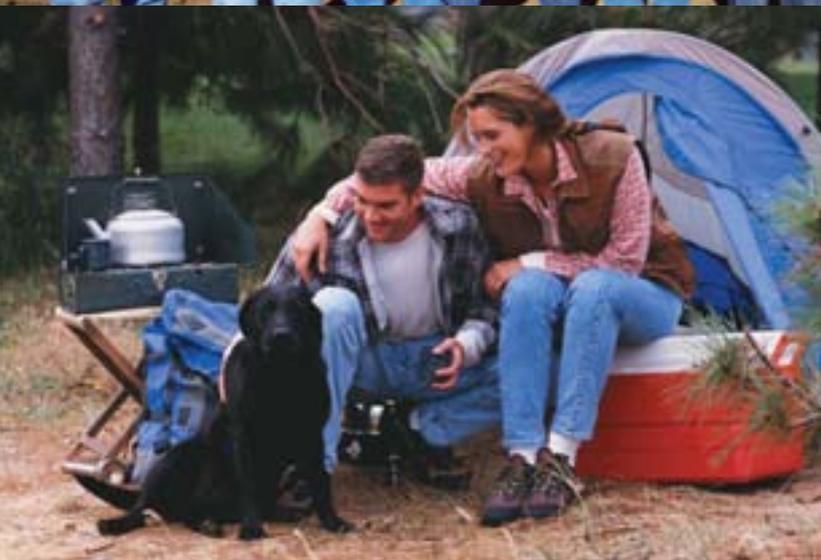
The complex now boasts a restaurant/wine bar/art gallery with the ability to cater for functions and conferences. By balancing functions, conferencing and entertainment the theatre is fully utilised and profitable.

The community continues to benefit from the wide range of cultural activities undertaken by the ROXY. The vital role that such activities play in stimulating and entertaining is now part of the fabric of our society.

The ROXY has provided the focus for dynamic cultural change. A number of artists have been attracted to the area and now live and work locally. As a result, exhibitions, markets and displays are a regular feature, and several private galleries have emerged.

# REGENERATED COMMUNITY

## 5. District and Villages



The Bingara District and the village of Upper Horton have benefited from the growth in rural tourism, and the growth in agricultural employment, and its population has steadily increased as a result.

Upper Horton offers superior sporting facilities for Rodeo, Campdrafting, Cricket and Tennis. It has an enthusiastic community driven Management Committee, which has ensured that the village community has prospered.

The road between Upper Horton and the Bingara/Narrabri Road is now sealed, offering good access on all major tourist routes. Upper Horton has a highly regarded camping and caravan park, which links with the Sports Club and helps underwrite its prosperity.

The Sports Club is profitable, well maintained and continues as a hub for the community. It is a centre for meetings, youth groups, adult education (including training for the agricultural industry) and for social events.

The District has become an integrated tourist destination – the village camping facilities combine with interesting farm stay opportunities to encourage tourists to stay in the area for longer.

# REGENERATED ROAD NETWORK



Access to Bingara is now easy  
from ALL directions

Newell Highway traffic is attracted to the alternative (and shortest) route to Brisbane and the Gold Coast (via Bingara and Warialda) from central NSW, South Australia and Victoria. In recognition of its increased importance, Gwydir Shire has substantially upgraded the road north of Warialda so that it provides the 'north central route' of equivalent standard to its competition.

In a collaborative venture with the Narrabri Shire, the Narrabri/Bingara Road, now renamed to reflect its special features (for example, its volcanic origins) is sealed (2008) and by 2020 is virtually all weather. The road is promoted for its spectacular scenery (through the middle of the highest remnant volcanic area in Australia, leading to picturesque valleys and rivers), and has accessible and serviced facilities. There are a number of designated tourist stops with composting toilets, rubbish disposal facilities, barbecues, GPS linked educational displays etc – all kept in immaculate order by locals who have tendered for the role. Sawn Rocks, Killarney Gap (with a scenic walk to the North), the Glacial Area, the Horton River (shell formations), and the top of the hill to west of Bingara (with spectacular views to the North) are each unique. The tourist population of both Bingara and Narrabri has increased as a result – with visitors spending the night in Bingara before a leisurely trip to Narrabri (or vice versa).

The road to Moree through Gravesend, and the road to Armidale are now sealed.

The Fossickers Way concept has been heavily promoted, with the result that an increased proportion of New England Highway traffic travels directly north.

In 2006 Bingara became the first tourist region in Australia to utilise GPS based tourist site descriptions and interactive automobile technology.

# OUTCOMES

## I. Tourism



There is a 'wow' factor on entering Bingara from any direction. Welcome signs and 'town gates' let visitors know that they have arrived at a special place, and encourage them to stop and discover more.

The tourist or visiting population has increased fourfold and now represents around 25,000 people per year.

The North West Region is heavily promoted as a tourist destination, with the result that Bingara is the base from which to explore a much wider area.

Bingara is a special tourist destination – it has preserved and enhanced its attractiveness – the 'oasis' appearance; the river environment; an enthusiastic and welcoming community who 'sell' it well to visitors; and a 'rural village' atmosphere. The major areas of new 'industry' identified above are consistent with a clean, green, rural image and are major tourist drawcards.

There is a 'wow' factor on entering Bingara from any direction. Welcome signs and 'town gates' let visitors know that they have arrived at a special place, and encourage them to stop and discover more.

Our treasured Festivals and Events continue – the Orange Picking Festival, Anzac Day celebrations, Australia Day celebrations, Easterfish, Blues on the Riverbank etc. In addition, the community continues to be inventive and skilled in creating events linked to our District's strengths and attractions.

Bingara is known as a 'happening' place.

Bingara progressively planned its increase in accommodation to cater for planned increases in its visitor population. Whilst accommodation is mainly provided by private sector initiatives, Gwydir Shire Council has recognised the 'chicken and egg' challenge in providing a critical mass of accommodation. It has strategically underwritten accommodation development.

# OUTCOMES

## I. Tourism continued



Bingara continues to actively promote itself through all avenues of media. This is done both as Bingara and District and under the overall umbrella of the Gwydir Shire. Promotions are targeted to specific user groups. Promotions under the Gwydir banner promote the synergy between the towns and villages in the region. Bingara is promoted as a destination, a place from which to explore the whole Shire.

Strategic alliances have been entered into with other tourist destinations – both within and without the Gwydir Shire for mutual promotion. For example, New England Highway traffic may overnight in Nundle, with the next night in Bingara or vice versa.

Accommodation options are varied from bed and breakfast, farm stays to motel and hotel accommodation. There has been an emphasis on developments which are attuned to our Theme.

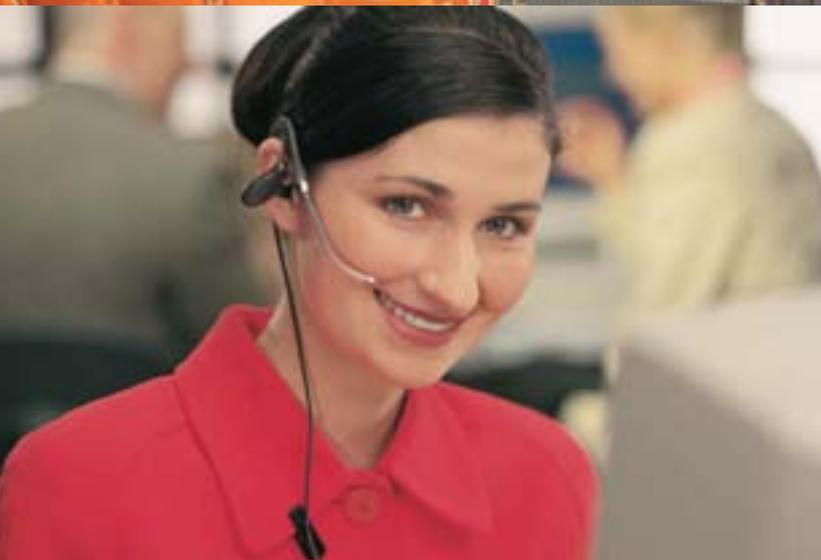
The Tourist Information Centre has been substantially upgraded and there is ample parking for cars and recreational vehicles. It has an interactive display featuring the attractions and history of the town and district.



Bingara is known as a 'happening' place.

# OUTCOMES

## 2. Regional Conferencing



Bingara has taken full advantage of its position at the centre of the New England/North West to be **the** place for regional meetings and conferences. Bingara is actively promoting its conferencing capabilities throughout the region. It offers attractive accommodation, conference catering and packaged activities including use of sporting facilities; in fact all that would be expected of any world class conference facility.

A single call to the Bingara Conference Centre is all that is required; all organisation is done locally.

Bingara is renowned throughout Australia as the ideal location to host conferences and learning experiences in its acknowledged areas of expertise – rural and urban REGENERATION, inland fishing, film, drama, multi media etc.

Bingara is at the forefront of organising such conferences as part of its own learning experience.

The theme 'Centre of the North West, Centre of Excellence' will have been enhanced by several attractively designed and strategically placed location maps.

A single call to the  
Bingara Conference Centre  
is all that is required;  
all organisation is done locally.

# OUTCOMES

## 3. Population Growth and Character



Bingara township has achieved its target of 2.5% pa population growth in the 15 years to 2020, and now has 2000 people in the town, an increase of 700 over the levels of 2005. The district population has increased (but at the lesser rate of 1% pa) to be 865 people, an increase of 100 on 2005 levels.

The community identified in 2005 that, whilst Bingara would continue to be a very attractive place for retirees, the population mix in 2020 would be similar to that in 2005.

Bingara remains a small but progressive rural town.

There is low crime (with community service a preferred method of punishment) and safety (zero tolerance for drugs).

There is a strong sense of community and volunteer involvement across all age groups (it is easy to become known in Bingara through the wide range of volunteer based organisations).

There is equal opportunity to all regardless of background and position.

The young are respected as citizens, the aged as individuals.

There is a strong sense of 'looking after our own'.

There is the ability to work together to accomplish amazing things.

There is a strong desire for learning

The community is overwhelmingly positive, and celebrates achievement.

Continuing exposure to people from a wide variety of other countries through the success of backpacker and other tourism has led the community to demand that the population mix be more multicultural, and the community has been proactive and successful in encouraging people of other nationalities.

The Myall Creek memorial has been developed into a centre to celebrate the heritage of the Gamilaraay people. The Myall Creek Anniversary, an annual event supported by the community, includes films and live performances at the ROXY that recognise and reflect indigenous culture.

**Bingara township has achieved its target of 2.5% pa population growth in the 15 years to 2020**

# OUTCOMES

## 4. Industry



The culture which has developed in the community, to 'shop locally' extends to all other industry, with the Shire taking the lead in outsourcing work and preferring local tenders.

The town and district has put most of its expansionary efforts into the areas in which it has a natural and competitive advantage and has achieved strong growth in tourism, in conferencing and in education. The result of this, however, has been a strong increase in demand for service industries.

The industrial park houses a range of service industries, which includes the Shire Depot. Industries strongly complement each other and share resources.

Population increase has meant a healthy building industry, growing steadily – and there is support through the regional saw mill, a concrete batching plant and equipment hire. The equipment owned by the community, most of which is controlled by the Shire, is fully utilised so that there is no need for equipment duplication and minimal need for outside contractors.

The town's dynamics are such that new residents have either relocated existing businesses, or brought new business ideas with them. These may be 'industrial' in nature or they may be technology based (excellent communications and technology will mean many businesses can be run from Bingara).

In addition, several new industries will be established which resulted from the community identifying the opportunity, and being proactive in attracting the required resources.

# OUTCOMES

## 5. Council



The Gwydir Shire Council has successfully resisted State Government pressure for further amalgamations, and is now held up as a model for successful Local Government.

The Vision, continually developed and refined by the Community and Council, underpins all Council Decisions. Rolling five-year plans are developed by the community and Council and have clear goals and timelines for achievement. The community and local government drive the planning process – it is not driven by State and Federal Government priorities.

The Council has excellent communications with the community. Community members and Council staff feel included as productive partners.

Such is the effectiveness of Council and the respect afforded to our elected Councillors that local government elections continue to attract good candidates who campaign keenly on local issues.



dare to dream

# VISION 20/20 – MODEL FOR REGENERATION, BINGARA & DISTRICT

## MODEL FOR REGENERATION

