

Welcome

to the first edition of the Gwydir Shire community newsletter. This newsletter is designed to bring the latest information from the Gwydir Shire Council to the residents of the shire.

The newsletter will be sent out through the mail to householders and will also be available in selected businesses throughout the shire.

Gwydir Shire Councillors

Mayor Cr John Coulton,

Deputy Mayor

Cr Catherine Egan,

Cr Robert Tremain,

Cr David Rose,

Cr Angela Doering,

Cr Rod King,

Cr Peter Pankhurst.

Cr Peter Caskey has

recently resigned and a

by-election will be held on Saturday 5th December, '09.

Bingara to Narrabri Road is now completely sealed

The shortest sealed route between Melbourne and Brisbane or Adelaide and Brisbane is now through Bingara and Warialda via the Narrabri to Bingara Road! Tell your friends to enjoy the scenic route and avoid the trucks.

Contact the Council

Bingara Office:

33 Maitland St Bingara NSW 2404
Phone 02 6724 2000 • Fax 02 6724 1771
Email mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Warialda Office:

54 hope St Warialda NSW 2402
Phone 02 6729 3000 • Fax 02 6729 1400
Email mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Postal address:

Locked bag 5 Bingara NSW 2404

Websites:

Gwydir Shire: www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au
Bingara: www.bingara.com.au
Warialda: www.warialdansw.com.au

General Manager

Mr Max Eastcott is available by appointment

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY SERVICES

Bingara Water & Sewerage

Water: 0428 241 909 Sewer: 0427 241 599

Warialda Water & Sewerage:

Phone: 0428 291 206

Roads & Bridges

Bingara: 0427 241 511
Warialda: 0428 291 951

Stock, Dogs, Common

phone: (Ranger) 0428 241 783

Fire, Police, Ambulance 000

Waste Collection Services

Council wishes to advise the residents of the Gwydir Shire of a resolution made by Council at the Special Ordinary Meeting held on the 29th June 2009 to expand the kerbside garbage collection services for both Domestic and Recyclable wastes.

The following proposed kerbside garbage collection routes are to be discussed at the Community Meetings to be held in October:

Elcombe Rd, Bingara - Bandalong St west along Elcombe Rd to Kings Rd

Bora Rd, Bingara - Copeton Dam Rd south along Bora Rd to Spring St

Cobbadah Rd, Bingara - South St south along Cobbadah Rd approximately 3km south of the Bingara township

Bingara Rd & Gwydir Highway

Warialda – All properties between Warialda to Warialda Rail

Village of Croppa Creek – The area encompassing Buckie Rd south to Brigalow St, Railway St west to Belford St and including the Croppa Creek School, Hall and Bowling Club to the north-east of the main village.

The services will be provided in accordance with the draft Gwydir Shire Council Waste & Recycling Collection Policy (now being advertised for comment) and Council adopted

Management Plan 2009/2010. These documents can be viewed on the website: www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Warialda Waste Closing Times

Council wishes to advise the residents of Warialda that the Warialda Waste Facility will be opened and closed daily from Monday 2nd November 2009. Initially the Waste Facility opening hours will be: 7:00am to 5:00pm - Monday to Sunday

Replacement Wheelie Bins

As a part of the Gwydir Shire Councils adopted 2009/2010 to 2011/2012 Management Plan all replacement wheelie bins, whether domestic or commercial, would be purchased from Council by residents. The cost of purchasing a wheelie bin from Council is \$71.50 effective from the 1st July 2009.

All new waste collection services will continue to be provided with the first set of wheelie bins free of charge. Where bin components are broken by normal wear and tear (typically lid hinge pins, lids or wheels and axles), such components will be replaced by Council at no cost. Only wheelie bins damaged through the negligence of the Contractor will be repaired or replaced by Council after determination on inspection.

For further information please call Council's Environmental Services Department on 67293000

Letter from the Mayor

Dear Resident

Gwydir Shire Council will once again hold its next round of Community Meetings this month.

The October community meetings will this time be held at the larger centres Warialda, Bingara, Upper Horton, Coolatai, North Star, Croppa Creek and Gravesend.

In the past the meetings have been spread out over a two week period involving extensive travel on behalf of dedicated Councillors and participating staff.

At times the number of residents attending some of the meetings has been very poor, and it is felt that there could be a better use of time and resources.

Council has decided to trial an alternative meeting cycle in the hope of engaging the surrounding communities and encourage wider community participation at these larger centers.

It is proposed to hold the meetings from 6.00pm and invite residents attending the meetings to join the Councillors and staff in a sausage sizzle and drinks from 7.30pm.

The meeting cycle dates are:

Bingara at the Roxy Tuesday 20th October 2009 at 6pm

Warialda Memorial Hall Wednesday 21st October 2009 at 6 pm

Upper Horton Club Thursday 22nd October 2009 at 6 pm

Coolatai Hall Monday 26th October 2009 at 6 pm

North Star Club Tuesday 27th October 2009 at 6 pm

Gravesend Hall Wednesday 28th October 2009 at 6 pm

These meetings will also be advertised as usual throughout the Shire via the local Newspapers and Radio.

I encourage you to attend and have your say at these upcoming meetings, your valuable input can assist Council to determine its focus and help our Shire to be the best that it can be.

Yours sincerely

Cr John Coulton
Mayor

Gwydir Shire By-Election

Gwydir Shire Council would like to advise that a By-Election will be held on Saturday 5th December 2009 run by the Electoral Commission.

Residents of Gwydir Shire will need to vote to elect a replacement Councillor due to a recent resignation.

Further information will be advertised regarding the By-Election as it draws closer.

If you are unsure as to whether you are on the roll or have changed address recently, please contact the Electoral Commission to update your details and support your democratic right to vote.

Warialda Tourist Office



The Warialda Tourist Office is at lock up stage.

The building is designed and located for maximum impact. On completion Warialda will have a unique and iconic building. The external wall construction is sandstone finish timbercrete blockwork, this was chosen to reflect the natural attributes of the Warialda area. Council is negotiating with the RTA to construct the new Warialda Town Entry Signs from the same material. The Chamber of Commerce was successful in obtaining \$5000 funding to contribute to the cost of town signage.

The main objective of the Tourist Information Centre will be to capture travellers on the Gwydir Highway that normally travel through Warialda without stopping. Council staff will be working closely with Warialda and surrounding businesses and the Chamber of Commerce to implement promotion and marketing initiatives at the Tourist Information Centre to entice travellers to experience what Warialda and district have to offer.

In addition to local displays and promotional material the centre will house the Warialda RSL Sub Branch Memorabilia. These priceless pieces of Warialda History will be circulated in informative displays and will be a resource for both travellers and locals. Watch for details on the opening of the Centre.

VOLUNTEERS

The Warialda Tourist Office will be open 7 days a week. To assist with these increased opening hours Council will be looking for community volunteers. So if you have a little spare time, like meeting people and are passionate about your area, we need you. Training and volunteer recognition programs will be provided. If interested contact Mandy 02 67290047 or Sara 02 67290046

Plan your asbestos disposal at the Landfill sites

Unauthorised disposal of asbestos at Council's Landfill sites is illegal and must cease immediately.

Residents needing to dispose of asbestos containing materials are required to dampen the material and double wrap it in plastic before delivering it to the Council landfill for deposition in the asbestos pits set aside specifically for the purpose. The disposal must be carried out under the supervision of the Council.

Therefore, prior arrangements must be made with Council for the safe disposal of asbestos to occur. As Council's Landfill sites are not as yet permanently attended this means that the arrangements for the disposal of asbestos material will also need to be made well in advance (several days), so that Council can arrange for the appropriate equipment to be on site at the time of disposal to complete the required covering procedures.

There is a fee for the disposal of asbestos. There is a minimum domestic fee of \$125.00 with \$210.00 being charged per cubic metre thereafter, commercial disposal of asbestos is a straight \$495.00 per cubic meter. The term 'Bonded' is used to refer

to asbestos-containing materials in which the asbestos is firmly bound in the matrix of the material. These materials are unlikely to release measurable levels of asbestos fibre into the airborne environment if they are left undisturbed. Therefore, they generally pose a lower risk to health.

Examples of bonded asbestos-containing materials include: asbestos cement products (flat and corrugated sheeting used in walls, ceilings and roofs, moulded items such as downpipes) & vinyl floor coverings. Bonded Asbestos is a common form of asbestos that is regularly encountered by members of the community and likely to be disposed of at Landfill sites.

A handy guide "Fibro & Asbestos: a renovator and homeowner's guide" can be found on the website http://www.nsw.gov.au/fibro/Fibro_Asbestos.pdf and the Department of Environment and Conservation's brochure "safely disposing of asbestos waste from your home" is also available from Council offices.

The following list shows approximate dates when some commonly used products ceased to be manufactured with asbestos fibre. Asbestos was slowly phased out and some

products manufactured around these dates may contain from 3-5 per cent asbestos:

Hardiflex	1981
Hardiplank	1981
Villaboard	1981
Versilux	1982
Harditherm	1984
Compressed	1984
Drain Pipe	1984
Super Six	1985
Highline	1985
Shadowline	1985
Coverline	1985
Roofing Accessories	1985
Pressure Pipe	1987

Remember to plan for the disposal of asbestos material; it may take several days before Council can provide an attendant and equipment at the Landfill site for the appropriate disposal of the asbestos material. So, always contact the Council/Landfill Attendant beforehand to find out when asbestos can be accepted and any requirements for delivering asbestos to the landfill.

Don't risk a \$5,000.00 fine or prosecution with penalties up to \$1 million as the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW and Councils can issue hefty fines for disposing of asbestos waste illegally.

Services provided for the Community

TOURIST OFFICES

BINGARA

The Roxy, 74 Maitland Street Bingara
Phone 02 6724 0066 or 1300 659 919
Fax 02 6724 1726
Email bingaratourism@gwydir.nsw.gov.au
website: www.bingara.com.au

WARIALDA

Heritage Centre, Hope St Warialda
Phone 02 6729 0046 Fax 02 6729 1020
Email warialdatourism@gwydir.nsw.gov.au
website: www.warialdansw.com.au

CARAVAN PARKS

Bingara 0427 241 300 **Warialda** 0427 291 008

RTA hotline: 132213

Home & Community Care

Bingara ph: 6724 1948
Warialda ph: 6729 1889

Centrelink Agency

Youth Services phone: 6724 2071

Youth Centre phone: 0408 454 813

Neighbourhood Centre ph: 02 6724 2071

Early Intervention Family Services

Phone: 0428 241 333

Bingara Pre School phone: 6724 1105

Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit

(mobile pre school) phone: 02 4676 3235

TOY LIBRARY

Bingara ph: 6724 0133 **Warialda** ph: 6729 1064

SWIMMING POOLS

Bingara 6724 1138 **Warialda** 6729 1253

NOXIOUS WEEDS CONTROL

Bingara 0427 240 061 **Warialda** 0427 291 012

CRANKY ROCK Nature Reserve 02 6729 1402

ROXY Theatre 0427 241 582

WOW Gym phone: 02 6729 0188

LIBRARY

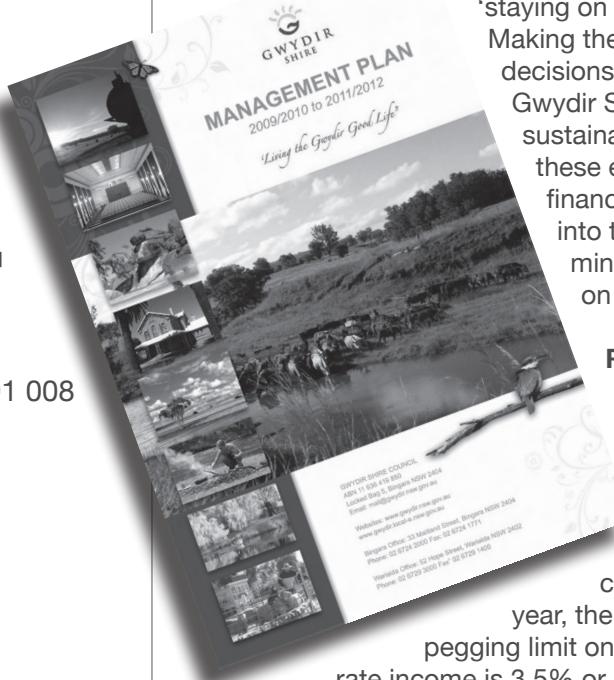
Bingara 02 6724 2064 **Warialda** 02 6729 1105

MEDICAL CENTRES

Bingara ph: 6724 1900 **Warialda** ph: 6729 1520

Gwydir Shire Council 2009-2010 to 2011-2012 Management Plan

ADOPTED VERSION



Our major challenge is 'staying on the horse'! Making the hard and right decisions will ensure Gwydir Shire Council's sustainability through these extremely difficult financial times and into the future whilst minimising the effects on our community.

Rate pegging limit – the NSW Government has set the maximum permissible increase at 3.5%. For this coming financial

year, the allowable rate-pegging limit on the Council's total rate income is 3.5% or \$ 165,355.04.

This increase was immediately consumed by the increased levy under the Benefits' Scheme Superannuation Levy (\$220,000) and the need to conduct an unexpected by-election (\$65,000).

In spite of these costs, the Council again will only take the maximum permissible increase allowed as failure to do so will directly affect Council's capacity to be as sustainable as practicable.

It is important to note that rates are not a fee for service. It is a tax. The many fixed costs within the Council's General Fund, Water Fund and Sewerage Fund are factored into this draft Plan. These costs cover areas such as wage and salary increases, the increase in Council's employer contributions to superannuation, insurance premiums that continue to increase dramatically, reduced investment income due to the global economic crisis and significant increases in charges levied upon Council from other levels of Government for things such as Valuer General fees and by-election costs.

It is interesting to note that the Consumer Price Index has increased faster in the last twelve months (3.7 per cent) compared to the previous 12-month period. The Council's costs escalate well above the CPI yet the State Government believe that 3.5% is adequate to meet our community's expectations.

The full Management Plan can be downloaded from our website www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au

DISCOVER GWYDIR

Gwydir Shire contains many different places, each unique. All are valued for what they contribute to the Shire's character and identity.

The Shire includes Bingara, Warialda, Warialda Rail, Gravesend, North Star, Croppa Creek, Crooble, Coolatai, Rocky Creek, Upper Horton and Yallaroi. Council aims to showcase each area through this newsletter.

In this first edition discover the hidden treasure and heart of Horton...

Upcoming Events

Saturday 17 October– last round of the Northern Inland Pony Express series. This is a four hour enduro ride with two riders and two bikes of any capacity. The day will hold a second hand bike trade/sale and a ‘pig on the spit’ feast.

Sunday 1 November –
Seafood Luncheon and Calcutta

New Year – Rodeo and Campdraft

For information contact the Club after 5.30 pm on (02) 6782 7249 or Baden McDouall AH on (02) 6724 7144.



The Horton Valley is extremely picturesque with many great photo opportunities. The Horton River and its tributaries are crystal clear with abundant water animals and fish.

You can discover and hear many different birds including the majestic wedge tail eagle. In addition, there are a number of geological sites marked. Information for these sites is available from the Bingara Tourist Information Centre.

Relax at the picnic facilities at the Glacial Area or, in the village of Upper Horton, enjoy the comfort and facilities of the licensed Sports Club.

The club holds cricket and twilight tennis competitions, campdrafting, rodeos (both open and junior), dog trials and motorcycle pony express events. It's also a great place for a cold beer and a chat with the locals. Club President, Baden McDouall

said ‘the Club and Showground Trust enjoy a great partnership with Gwydir Shire Council. Projects underway, with Council support, are a new playground area for the kids, ten powered caravan sites, a toilet and shower amenities block on the sportsground and pending funding approval it looks like we will have a new broadcast box. We couldn’t be happier at Horton!’



The New Year’s Eve Rodeo at Upper Horton sportsground is one of the most exciting on the circuit. This too, receives ongoing support by Council. Horton is world renowned for producing some of Australia’s toughest cowboys, including Peter, David and Logan Kelly.





The 'Living Healthy in the Gwydir' campaign is a youth developed program run by the youth of the Gwydir Shire. This project has been funded by G.S.C YAPA (Youth Action and Policy Association) and is encouraging the message of living a healthy lifestyle throughout the Gwydir community and beyond.

You'll find the 'Living Healthy in the Gwydir' stall at the Warialda Honey Festival. You will also find us dressed as an Apple, Orange, Banana and Grape characters walking around the street handing

out free fruit and promoting healthy living at the Warialda Honey festival, be sure to grab a balloon and some free fresh fruit. Then make your way over to our stall for a complimentary healthy lifestyles booklet or to buy a healthy smoothie or salad and show your support for this fantastic YAPA Funded Youth Campaign. If you can't wait for the Honey Festival you can try this recipe for a healthy snack.

Pink Flamingo Smoothie

1 frozen banana
1/2 cup fresh strawberries
3/4 cup pineapple juice

Method: Place all ingredients in a blender/food processor and combine until smooth. Garnish with a strawberry and serve. Makes 1 cup



Visit the Gwydir Shire stall at the Warialda Honey Festival

We will be at the festival on **21st November** to promote the shire to all the visitors who will be in Warialda for the festival. Our stall was very well attended at WAITE earlier this month with a lot of interest in our local attractions



What's On at the Roxy

IS ANYBODY THERE?

MON 19TH OCT 11:30am, (M) 95 Mins

Michael Caine plays a retired magician who begrudgingly takes up residence in a guest home.

CHARLIE AND BOOTS

SATURDAY 24TH OCT 5:00pm

Charlie and Boots, the film starring Paul Hogan and Shane Jacobson shot at The Roxy. Bookings essential. Bingara Tourist Information Centre phone: 67 24 0066. Tickets: Adults \$22.50, conc. \$20, child \$12.50.



A Musical Tale - Live on stage WEDNESDAY 21ST OCT 11:30am

The original Jungle Book tells the story of Mowgli, found in the wilderness and raised by wolves. In The Jungle Book A Musical Tale we find Mowgli in his early twenties, as he returns to the jungle to see his animal mentors. Captivatingly told through music and song. Suitable for children 4 -12, which can be enjoyed by the whole family. All tickets \$10. Buy now or at the door.

ALAN CUNNINGHAM TRAIL



Did you know that Alan Cunningham travelled through our Council

area in his forward and return journey when he discovered the Darling Downs? A small group of fabulous Gwydir volunteers are working through his log which requires considerable effort as the majority of the log would have been written in ink whilst on horse back.

Cunningham's journeys cover the breadth of our shire from the North to the South. Current research has determined that a number of the sites that Cunningham describes are on public land.

As a botanist Cunningham also described in detail the unique flora of our area. Council hopes to develop the Cunningham Trail through our shire area with an eco tourism focus. Gwydir will contact other local government areas along the route that was taken by Cunningham from the Hunter to Darling Downs in the hope of making the Cunningham Trail a regional attraction.



GWYDIR BIRDS

Did you know that Gwydir Shire Council has abundant and unique bird

life? Bird watchers regularly visit Gwydir Shire Council to observe our birds. Bird Watching is a potential tourism market that Council is currently researching for promotion in addition to the significant eco tourism attributes of our area such as Cranky Rock, Glacial Area, Stonehenge, Molroy and the unique flora of our area.

We have a resident bird watcher who is interested in starting a Gwydir Bird Watching Group. For more details contact Mandy Pilon on 02 67290047 or Sara Marle on 02 67290046