



Our fascinating past

The journey of discovery by explorer Allan Cunningham in 1827 ended the pristine era of indigenous people in the Bingara district. Gold was discovered in 1852, and soon hundreds of settlers were making their way into the area. By the 1880's copper and diamonds were added to the mix.

Bingara's diamonds are the hardest naturally occurring gems in the world. Sorted and deposited by an ancient river, the search goes on to find the source.

All Nations Hill Stamper Battery



The All Nations gold mine (established 1860), is on the hill at the southern end of town. It was the last of the boom gold mines to close (in 1948). It developed into a large underground mine, operating at four levels in two shafts (the deepest being 100m). The ten-headed stamper battery remains.

Bingara Historical Society Museum

The Museum is located in Maitland St. The original building was the Post Office Hotel (1860). It is constructed from pit sawn and hand adzed local cypress timber, and features a puddled iron roof.

An extensive rock collection, an original one-teacher school building, the first blacksmith shop, and a collection of historical machinery are all featured within the grounds. Sir Henry Parkes, the 'Father of Federation', and Fred Ward, the notorious bushranger 'Thunderbolt', were among the characters who had dealings with the Post Office Hotel.

Our painted History

Bingara has streetscape murals reflecting its rich history. An information sheet is available from the Visitor Information Centre.



The Myall Creek Massacre

In 1838, an infamous massacre occurred at Myall Creek Station, 20 kms north-east of Bingara. Twenty-eight aboriginal women, children, and old men were murdered. The Myall Creek massacre marked the first time in Australian history where white men were tried for capital crimes against aborigines. Seven men were hanged.

An annual 'Friends of Myall Creek' Memorial Service attracts people from all over the country, and is held every June long weekend. In 2008, the site was listed on the National Heritage List, and in 2010 was also listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. Myall Creek is now one of Australia's most important centres for reconciliation.

Heritage Buildings

The brick courthouse and lock-up keeper's residence were erected in 1879. The courthouse has been restored as an excellent public library. Other heritage buildings include

the Police Station and Residence (1882), the Anglican Church (1889), St Andrew's Presbyterian (now Uniting) Church (1904), St Mary's Catholic Church (1906), and the Gwydir Inn (1879)(changed to the Imperial Hotel in 1889).

The Country Women's Association

Bingara played an important part in the history of the Country Women's' Association (the CWA). The founding President in 1922 was Mrs Grace Munro from Keera Station. She believed passionately that a better life for country women could be provided 'for women, through women and by women'

The Orange Trees - A Living Memorial

The orange trees lining Finch Street are a unique feature of Bingara. Planted in the 1950's as a living memorial to Bingara's fallen in both World Wars, the trees have become a symbol of community pride.

The oranges remain untouched until one day in winter when, following a ceremony held outside the RSL Club, the town's children rush to pick them.





Our exciting future

We have a Vision for the future of Bingara and its surrounds. This can be viewed on the Bingara website.

We recognised that whilst we cannot know or predict the future with any certainty, we can work towards creating the future we want.

Since we created our vision in 2006, our achievements have been extraordinary - new roads, new hospital, new watersupply system, restoration of the Roxy Cafe and museum, award winning townscape design to name a few.

We recognise that the future will be very different from the past, and we look for the opportunities in change, rather than to be threatened by it.

This long list of positive changes has been achieved by many partnerships within the community, and between community groups, Gwydir Shire Council and State and Federal governments.

We are creating the future that we want!



BINGARA CENTRAL SCHOOL

PRIDE • HONESTY • RESPECT

Our school has a proud, 150 year tradition, of providing quality public education to the young people of the Bingara community.

From Kindergarten to Year 12 we offer a comprehensive curriculum with strong emphasis on numeracy and literacy, sport and the arts. Our senior students are able to access both academic and vocational pathways.

A proud member of the Gwydir Learning Region and the Gwydir Community of Schools



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The Living Classroom is turning 150 hectares of little used town common into a food production wonderland. It is combining many agricultural activities with horticulture, aquaculture and forestry.

The Living Classroom is focused on quality food and the links between soil health, plant and animal health, and human health. The site is for the casual visitor and for those who wish to learn. A beautiful place to wander around, soak up nature, be inspired, or to 'get down and dirty'.

Bingara is utilising The Living Classroom to become a 'closed loop' community – self sufficient in food and recycling all compostable waste (including treated sewage).

The project is a model for regeneration of agriculture and for rural communities. It will enable us to prosper in a rapidly changing world.

The illustration above is an aerial view of the most intensive part of the project. Full details can be viewed on the website www.thelivingclassroom.com.au



The Gwydir Learning Region

(GLR) is a cooperative venture between the Gwydir Shire Council, TAFE, the Gwydir community of schools, Community Colleges and a number of universities, including the University of New England. Winner of the national 2006 NSW Training Initiative Award, the GLR caters for all ages and competencies with a focus on individual learning rather than one size fits all.

Three trade training centres in the Shire give students access to state of the art facilities in Hospitality (located behind the Roxy café), Primary Industries (part of the Living Classroom) and Automotive Services (at Warialda).

Upper Gwydir Landcare

working in the community



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