

Speech Pathology Program a Gift



Jonathon Stilts, Meagan Pitt, and Shirlee Franks from Central Northern Regional Library, Gail Philpott of Bingara Library and Speech Pathologist, Kelly Makepeace



Guest of honour, Alice Trigger, with one of the books from the Collection

On Wednesday December 1, Bingara Library launched a new Speech Language Pathology Collection of books, thanks to the very generous donation of \$3000 from the Bingara Community Op Shop.

Speech Pathologist, Kelly Makepeace, says the project has been revived from an original concept that came from Gail, when she was a librarian at the Moree Library.

"I had just graduated as a speech pathologist and was yearning to get my teeth into a project that combined the library resources with my knowledge of speech development," she said.

The Speech Language Pathology Collection is a resource for both parents and educators in the community to use either at home or in their classroom. It is also for library branch staff to utilise during story time.

"We have put together milestone targets for each age, ranging from 0-8 years, that really clearly define the developmental milestones that children need to learn in order to be able to communicate effectively and succeed at school," said Kelly.

Inside each book there is a list of the language and speech targets for each particular book as well as activities that can be done to reinforce the milestones from the book.

A QR code can be found inside the cover, which is linked to the Central Northern Regional Library website, where a video of how to get the most out of the system is available.

Gwydir Shire Councillor, Catherine Egan, thanked librarian Gail Philpott for her dedication and commitment to the library and its wide community and went on to praise the project.

"It has (the Op Shop) been the most successful community function that has ever taken place. They have been so generous in their donations to so many community groups and in giving back," she said.

Volunteer, Terri Schoneville, responded, explaining that their donation was to be used for something that supported early language and literacy development.

"As an ex early childhood teacher," she said, "books are the most important thing to me."

Librarian, Gail Philpott, says she is excited to be able to revive the program and bring the resource to the next generation of children in the Shire.

The books are available in the Bingara Library, now, ready for borrowing.

A launch of the program for the Warialda branch will be held in February, 2022.



Gwydir Chartered Accountants

We offer a wide range of tax and accounting services including:

- Farm & Agribusiness Accounting
- Tax Planning
- Cashflow Forecasting
- Xero Setup, Support & Bookkeeping Review
- Income Tax Returns
- BASs & Management Accounting
- Comprehensive Tax Advice
- Succession Planning

Simon Groth, CA
36 Maitland St, Bingara
Ph (02) 67 241 658
simon@gwydirca.com.au



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS®
AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND

WARIALDA SUPPORTED BY LOCALS FOR NEARLY 45 YEARS



Carinda members have been busy since normal opening hours commenced in November. The shop has a great display of quality handmade gifts for sale – and might just have that something you are needing for someone special at Christmas.

The Christmas launch saw lots of visitors on Saturday November 27 and many patrons were able to enjoy the delicious cooking from Jeanette's kitchen.

Jeanette will have extra Christmas cakes and puddings on sale in the shop, so if you missed out you will still be able to purchase your Christmas goodies.

Carinda opened for late night shopping on December 2 and was well patronised by those who came to support the talented, local artisans and handicraft people of Warialda and district. Customers were delighted in the amazing variety of items to choose from.

Carinda will be closed for business on December 24, and will be reopening on Monday January 17 for a vibrant 2022.

The volunteers at Carinda would like to wish the community a happy and joyous Christmas, and an even better, brighter new year.

Carinda has been well supported since reopening after COVID-19 restrictions. Volunteers will return on January 17 after breaking over the holiday period

AUSTRALIA DAY 2022 NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Australia Day, 2022 is fast approaching and the Bingara Special Events Committee is calling for nominations for the 2021 Local Bingara Citizen of the Year Awards.

The four Award Categories for 2021 are: -

A) Citizen of the Year:

Open to persons 26 years or older on January 26, 2022.

B) Young Citizen of the Year:

Open to persons 16 years to 25 years of age on January 26, 2022.

C) Volunteer or Volunteer Team/Group of the Year.

D) Community Event of the Year.

Nomination forms and guidelines are available from Bingara Visitor Information Centre, currently located in The Old Courthouse Art Gallery, at the corner of Maitland and Finch Street, Bingara – not at the Roxy Complex.

- Do you know someone who is a volunteer, who has undertaken countless volunteer hours for a service organisation, a local sporting or community group or an educational facility?
- Someone whose efforts mainly benefit the community or the individual?
- Did they overcome obstacles or make sacrifices?
- Were their achievements the work of an individual or a team?
- Are they someone who goes beyond normal employment duties?

- Do you know someone who has an outstanding achievement in their work or studies?
 - Do they demonstrate leadership, innovation, and creativity?
 - What are their future goals and the likely impact of their work?
 - Would they have the availability and commitment to promote community pride and active citizenship throughout the year of the recipient's appointment?
 - Have they received assistance from council, government, or other grants?
- Fully completed nomination forms can be

delivered to Bingara Visitor Information Centre, or posted to Locked Bag 5, Bingara, to be received NO LATER THAN close of business, **4:30pm, Friday January 14, 2022.**

Winners will be announced on Australia Day, Wednesday 26 January 2022, during the local Bingara Award ceremony to be held in the Roxy Theatre.

For more information on how you can nominate a member of your local community for the Local Bingara Citizen of the Year Awards, please contact Jen Mead, Tourist Officer, at Bingara Visitor Information Centre on **67240066.**

AUSTRALIA DAY 2022
NOMINATIONS
NOW OPEN



WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON AUSTRALIA DAY, WEDNESDAY 26TH JANUARY 2022, AT THE BINGARA AWARD CEREMONY HELD IN THE ROXY THEATRE.

BINGARA SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE IS CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2021 LOCAL BINGARA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

1. **Citizen of the Year (over 26)**
2. **Young Citizen of the Year (16-25)**
3. **Volunteer or Volunteer Group of the year**
4. **Community Event of the Year**

Nomination forms and guidelines can be collected from and returned to the Bingara Visitor Information Centre (in the old Court House, Cnr Maitland & Finch St), or posted to Locked Bag 5, Bingara 2404. Nominations to be received NO LATER THAN close of business (4.30 pm) Friday January 14th, 2022.





GOOD NEWS. WE'RE INVESTING IN SNOWY 2.0, WHICH MEANS MORE JOBS FOR REGIONAL NSW.

↘ And more support for
renewable energy.

FIND OUT MORE AT
[POSITIVEENERGY.GOV.AU](https://www.positiveenergy.gov.au)



Australian Government

AUSTRALIA'S
MAKING
POSITIVE
ENERGY

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.



COLLEGE CHAT

with Jannette Tan

Bingara and Warialda Community College

Wow, what an exciting month we have had at both campuses. So much to tell, not enough space.

We would like to offer our congratulations to our Certificate III Individual Support Ageing class in Bingara. We have had 11 students complete their studies in 2021, with a few continuing into next year. We wish you all the best in your new careers.

If anyone is interested in a career in Individual Support Ageing, we have a new class starting in February 2022. Please give us a call at the college.

We have amazing news; we now have an administration assistant in Warialda.

Melissa is currently training with me, before starting her Certificate III in Business Administration. Melissa will eventually be working on the days the college is currently closed.

Warialda campus will then be open five days per week for your convenience. So, pop in and say hello to Melissa and let her know what training you may be interested in doing in 2022.

We would like to wish all our students, their families, our trainers and staff, a very Merry Christmas and safe and Happy New Year. Thank you for supporting your local College.

The Community College will be closed from December 20 and will reopen, bright eyed and bushy-tailed, for a fabulous new year on January 10 2022.

Visit our website to see what up and coming classes we have and keep an eye out for our Term 1 2022 flyer in your mailbox.

Ph 0438 546 519 Monday-Friday,
8.30am-5:00pm or visit our website:
www.communitycollegeni.nsw.edu.au/
RTO 90027

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIAN MEN BATTLING PROSTATE CANCER

From November, Australian men with prostate cancer will have access to a new medication at an affordable price, thanks to the Morrison Joyce Government.

Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, said the announcement was a further sign that the Government's commitment to ensuring Australians can access affordable medicines, when they need them, remains rock solid.

"Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer diagnosed in men in Australia and the third most common cause of cancer death," Mr Joyce said.

"One in six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer by the age of 85. It is more common in older men, with more than 63 per cent of cases diagnosed in men over 65 years of age."

"From November 1, as we mark the start of Movember, Nubeqa® (darolutamide) will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for the first time for patients with non-metastatic castration resistant carcinoma of the prostate."

"Without PBS subsidy, around 1,000 patients may pay more than \$40,000 per year for treatment. Instead, they will pay a maximum of \$41.30 per script or \$6.60 with a concession card."

This PBS listing has been recommended by the independent Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

Minister for Health and Aged Care, Greg Hunt, echoed the Deputy Prime Minister, saying medication, alongside early detection can save lives and protect lives.

"It is estimated that around 18,000 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in Australia this year alone," Minister Hunt said.

"Early detection and treatment can significantly improve prostate cancer survival. I encourage men over 50 to learn the symptoms of prostate cancer and if they have any concerns, talk to their GP."

"Since 2013, the Coalition Government had approved more than 2,700 new or amended listings on the PBS. This represents an average of around 30 listings or amendments per month – or one each day at an overall investment by the Government of \$13.9 billion."

VOTES ARE IN WITH THE COUNT CONTINUING

Voting for the 2021 Local Government Council Elections is now complete and the onerous task of counting the votes is underway.

A summary of the first preference votes for the Gwydir Shire currently has John Coulton sitting in the lead with 20.63%, followed by Tiffany Galvin with 15.39%, closely followed by Chris Matthews with 13.14% of the votes.

The final results will not be clear for some time, with the distribution of preferences performed by the computer count system to determine the elected candidates. An official announcement is expected shortly before Christmas.

Pre-poll voting proved to be very popular with voters this year with approximately 25% of votes pre-poll. This resulted in a significant reduction of people voting on the Saturday, easing the normal election

day crowds. Postal votes were also a popular method of voting.

Local Government Minister, Shelley Hancock, said the eligibility criteria for pre-poll voting was more relaxed this year to ease election day crowds.

One of the measures taken to ensure COVID-safe elections this year was the relaxing of eligibility criteria to vote during the pre-poll voting period," Mrs Hancock said.

"This meant that voting did not occur on a single day but over an election period of 12 days, including election day, to help with social distancing at polling places."

A complete summary of the first preference votes for the Gwydir Shire can be found on the NSW Electoral Commission website by visiting <https://vtr.elections.nsw.gov.au/LG2101/results>

Perfect conditions as Copeton Dam sits around 100% capacity



Copeton Dam reached 100% on November 24 after heavy rainfall reached the catchment

Reflections Holiday Park at Copeton Waters has enjoyed a fantastic reopening to visitors from far and wide since the reopening of NSW travel restrictions, with the dam reaching capacity over the last few weeks.

Reflections Copeton Waters Manager, Paul Irwin, said now was a great time to be visiting Copeton with dam levels high and the fishing at its absolute finest.

“We are going gangbusters here at the moment,” Mr Irwin said.

“Greater Sydney has opened up and people are rebooking their long-awaited holidays with us again. We are seeing lots of families, boating enthusiasts and people who just love to fish. There’s still plenty of availability

for powered sites and bush camping.”

Guest Services Officer, Paige Hobday, said a recent fishing competition saw almost one hundred fishing enthusiasts from casual family groups to the serious anglers, coming in from Armidale and Glen Innes.

“It was great to see everyone’s excitement as they came back to support this great inland park,” Miss Hobday said.

Mr Irwin said there was nothing like waking up to the stillness of Copeton and enjoying the birdsong with a cuppa in hand.

“Our Park is also full of kangaroos, emus and deer, which is a real delight for city siders who want to experience the Australian landscape in a holiday setting.

The white deer are particularly cool!”

The Copeton Kiosk is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm, seven days a week with hot food, refreshments, and basic grocery items available. Bait, lures, and lines as well as a range of fishing clothing and camping items are also available.

Mr Irwin said outdoor sports were the go at Copeton, with activities like hiking, fishing, fossicking for gold and mountain biking popular with guests and sporting groups.

The BMX track was humming with activity when the Inverell Mountain Bike Club held their 6-hour Copeton Ride there on Sunday 21 November.

Reflections Holiday Parks CEO, Nick Baker, said Copeton was known far and wide for its fishing and he couldn’t wait to get out to the park to cast a line in.

“What’s great about Copeton is that there is so much for you to do out there in the fresh air with your friends and family,” Mr Baker said.

“We know people are eager to get out and have some fun and we think a discounted holiday at Copeton enjoying one of the best locations this State has to offer, is the perfect way to boost people’s spirits and boost local economies.”

Bookings for Copeton Waters can be made by calling the park direct on **02 6723 6269**.

For more information about all Reflections Holiday Parks and current deals or to book online, visit:

www.reflectionsholidayparks.com.au.



OFFICIAL ADVICE

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is easy at one of more than 10,000 locations in Australia.

Book now australia.gov.au

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

WHILE THEY SLEPT OFFERING STYLISH SOLUTIONS

When Warialda's Louise Cimarosti set out to find a hobby, she wasn't expecting the quest to turn into a business opportunity. What started as a search for something that she could enjoy in her down time has evolved into a successful side-hustle for the busy mum and maker.

Run from her home studio in Warialda, *While They Slept* is an online outlet for handmade clothing, headbands and home of *Strappy*, the latest product to be introduced to Louise's Etsy store. Launched three years ago, as a result of others asking her to make things for them, the business has since taken off. *While They Slept* now has a loyal following on social media where Louise displays many of the designs she has been working on.

Only taking up sewing after having her first son almost five years ago, Louise is self-taught, following patterns and learning from YouTube. It has since become the hobby she was looking for, and provides a great source of enjoyment, with the challenge of trying out new patterns becoming quite the creative outlet.

"People were interested in the things that I had made for my son, so I started making things for other people too. It began with kids' clothes and then I fell in love with working with wool. I take woolen blankets and turn them into coats and vests and other things. So, *While They Slept* was borne out of that," said Louise.

Upcycling items out of wool and giving them a new life in the form of vests, capes and capelets has become a trademark of *While They Slept*. This unique approach, as well as attention to detail, such as pattern matching and feature buttons on her pieces, set the brand apart from others in the market.

Not stopping at clothing, Louise took to solving another problem she had - the dreaded task of carrying a toddler's balance bike home. Recently she created *Strappy* (pictured right), which, just as it sounds, is a strap designed to fit over each end of a balance bike to allow it to be carried. Parents no longer need to be stranded at the park with a child and a bike to get home, with *Strappy* allowing the bike to be carried either over the shoulder or pram.

"It's been really exciting and very popular. I had seen something similar before, and I sourced some raw materials and created something that suited us. I just made it for myself to start with and felt like this might be useful for other people. And, it has been," she said.

The latest *Strappy* release in three colours almost sold out overnight.

Louise is part of various online community groups that have allowed her to advertise widely, and sells most of her products through her Instagram page. It is there she gives a behind the scenes look at her life as a mother, small business owner and Christian Minister's wife.



"On the Instagram page I share a bit about our life and what it looks like to be a mum that runs a small business. If people want to have an eye into that then they are welcome to follow along."

Big on sourcing recycled materials and embracing locally made, it has been a highlight for Louise that her customers are enthusiastic on supporting her small business in the same way.

With two boys and another baby on the way, it may be time to slow down for a minute, however Louise intends to keep up with sewing as time allows.

With quality products and an abundance of 5-star reviews it's not hard to see why *While They Slept* has hit the mark with its shoppers. Follow *While They Slept* on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/while_they_slept/



Above: Self-taught sewer, Louise Cimarosti, creates stylish upcycled garments, often working with wool
Top: *Strappy* came about as a solution to a common problem - being left to carry the balance bike home



GENEROUS SUPPORT BRINGS CHRISTMAS TO LIFE IN WARIALDA

Warialda's Chamber of Commerce has been busy behind the scenes for sometime, with the fruits of their labour now on show for all to see. As the festive season began, the Chamber was able to unveil their brand new purchase, a sizeable Christmas tree, which has taken centre stage in front of the Warialda Police Station in Stephen Street.

"We received an overwhelming response to the call out for donations to purchase the tree," said Warialda Chamber of Commerce Secretary, Laura Cush.

"After last year, and not having a substantial contribution, it was high priority to provide a Christmas tree the community would be proud of which we are excited to say we have achieved that."

The response from the community has been very positive and the Chamber would like to thank the generous sponsors (decorating the tree, below) who have made this happen for the community.



ADVERTISEMENT



Proud to be your representative in NSW



Adam Marshall MP

your Member for Northern Tablelands
Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW

Armidale office: Suite 1, 175 Rusden Street, Armidale NSW 2350
Phone: 02 6772 5552

Moree office: Suites 2-6, 161 Balo Street, Moree NSW 2400
Phone: 02 6752 5002

Mail: PO Box 77, Armidale NSW 2350

Email: northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.adammarshall.com.au

Authorised by Adam Marshall MP, Member for Northern Tablelands. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



DEMENTIA SESSION PROVIDES INSIGHT

Dementia is the second leading cause of death of Australians. With that alarming statistic, Dementia information sessions like the one held at the Warialda Town Hall in November, are more important than ever before.

Naroo Aged Care Manager, Sharon Baker, and Nick Seeman for Dementia Training Australia hosted the information evening for a small group of community members who have a particular interest in the disease.

Topics discussed were mainly educational and were guided by community questions. Sharon spoke about the Dementia Friendly Communities Committee and the changes that have been implemented at Naroo Hostel. Nick directed attendees to useful resources and support specific to the needs of those present.

Nick is also an architect, specialising in design of facilities that are appropriate

for those suffering from dementia. Nick will be heavily involved with the additions and alterations happening at Naroo in the months to come. Naroo has been fortunate enough to receive a Residential Care Grant of \$493,215 which will go towards indoor and outdoor improvements at the facility. Early stages of design are currently underway, and developments will be purpose built for those who are suffering from dementia.

Staff at Naroo have undergone dementia tailored training and courses recently to equip them to deal and care for residents in the Dementia Ward. There have been some changes at Naroo to enhance residents' quality of life by providing some freedoms which traditionally have not been seen in aged-care centres. For example, rather than having a "Staff Only" Kitchen there is an all-inclusive kitchen space that residents can share and access under supervision to create a more home-like feel.

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety recommends that by allowing residents to have a greater range of

movement not only improves quality of life but there is also a reduction in some behavioural type issues. Sharon said she has seen a positive shift since this freedom strategy has been implemented.

"The Naroo team has seen a massive increase in positive behavioural changes and reduced aggression which is increasing residents' quality of life just by allowing residents to have enhanced freedoms," she said.

The team meet weekly to discuss how the changes are going and what other improvements can be made moving forward to make the environment more home like, as opposed to a facility feel.

Naroo is always on the lookout for volunteers, so to help or learn more, please speak to Sharon who has a true passion for bettering the lives of those and their families who suffer from Dementia and manages the Disability Access Committee and Dementia Friendly Communities in Warialda. These committees have a strong focus on providing support to the community that may be suffering from an illness or disability.

NORTH WEST SLOPES & PLAINS

Drought Resilience Leaders Development Program

Do you have what it takes to lead your community on drought resilience?

Do you want to join a network of people making change in their communities, forward thinkers to learn how to get the job done?

The Australian Rural Leadership Foundation is inviting people from North West Slopes and Plains in New South Wales to join the Drought Resilience Leaders Development Program.

This is a unique opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge, mindset and networks to lead your community into the future.

Learn how to influence change, explore issues such as climate science and develop advanced problem-solving skills. Completion of the program could also lead to future funding for local drought resilience projects.

Session 1

13-16 February 2022
3 ½ days in person

Themes

Self-awareness, adaptive leadership, change theory, personal and community resilience

Session 2

10-11 March 2022
2 days virtual

Themes

Climate science, problem-solving, creativity, mental and physical wellbeing

Session 3

28-30 March 2022
3 days in person

Themes

Scenario planning, influence, network leadership

If you are committed to the resilience of your community then apply today!

The program is open to all community members - business owners, volunteers, people working in local government, community and health services and agriculture. Our goal is to bring people together from across the region to learn and grow together.

Don't miss out. Applications closing soon. Numbers are limited.

There is no charge to participate in the program funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund. Participants will need to pay for travel costs and some meals but at the end of the program they will be able to claim up to \$500 to cover up to 50 per cent of any travel costs incurred.

Bingara Bungalow ready to share with visitors



A strong sense of country connection and a search for the perfect getaway has lead Tamworth-based Kristy Reading to make Bingara her home away from home. Earlier this year she purchased a quaint house in a quiet street of the town and is now hoping to share that with others.

Kristy says she had been hoping to buy a property for some time now, particularly in small communities in the New England and North West and the project has combined many of her interests: travel, regional areas and renovating.

She was looking for something that needed some love. This property has beautiful bones and really lovely detailing, which have been well cared for over the years. Conveniently located, just an hour and a half up the road from Tamworth, the town was also perfectly located as somewhere that could be enjoyed as a small little getaway.

“Being Tamworth-based, I have spent a bit of time in Bingara, travelling through and stopping over the years. I’ve always really loved Bingara. I love the river, the main street, the community. It has always had a really lovely feel about it, so it was always near the top of my list.”

Initially the property was purchased for Kristy and her partner to renovate, spend a bit of time with on weekends and share with family and friends.

“All of a sudden, the people that we met were really kind to us, they showed this real interest in what we were doing. I fell even more in love with the Bingara community and after a while I thought maybe we could think about sharing this with other people.” Once the renovations started to take shape Kristy started to think more about it.

She hopes that by opening the house up as an Airbnb venture it will bring people to Bingara to spend some time here, spend some money in the town and be an introduction to people that may not have spent much time here before. The project has become about giving back.

“With years of drought and COVID-19, businesses have been impacted, communities have been impacted and tourism has been

impacted. I thought this could be a really great way to give back and provide a bit of interest.”

“We just wanted to help celebrate (the town) and help show others that it’s a nice little town, with really nice people.”

With finishing touches in the kitchen and bathroom coming along, the project is on the home stretch. Since starting in July, Kristy and her partner have visited Bingara every weekend, apart from the five weeks of lockdown.

“It has been a lot of work, but it has been rewarding and that’s what keeps you going,” she said. “If we don’t have bookings, that’s fine as well given that was the intended purpose. We still plan to spend time in the property ourselves.”

Kristy still intends to spend a good portion of time enjoying the space herself.

“My heart is really in regional areas, and I hope that by opening the doors to this property we can maybe help other people understand and realise all that regional areas have to offer.”

She says that Airbnb is an accessible platform for a lot of people, making it the avenue they have chosen to open the accommodation for reservations with the first guests booked for Christmas.

“We hope that it will open up options for people that might be looking for something a bit different.” As Kristy said, there is a lot of really hidden gems out there.

Keep up to date with Bingara Bungalow on Instagram, [@bingarabungalow](#), or to book search Bingara Bungalow on Airbnb.

Above: Passion project of Kristy Reading, Bingara Bungalow is now live on Airbnb



**Introducing a new local Bingara
Real Estate Agency**

**Professionals in Sales & Property
Management with great Competitive Rates.**

**Contact us today for more
information...**

**Phone: 02 6703 2900
Amanda Coddington: 0407 181 753
www.countrysidepropertygroup.com.au**

Potential Denied, Janelle hopes Blue Tree will Inspire Youth

A new blue tree has sprouted in Warialda's Apollo Street, thanks to the creativity of resident, Janelle Smith, who got to work as part of the town's Be Creative initiative.

Janelle was inspired by the Blue Tree Project, which aims to encourage people to start the difficult conversations around mental health and open up if they are suffering from depression or anxiety.

"We have the blue tree in our front garden which I've called Potential Denied. I have been a teacher, a mother, a grandmother and an aunt. As such, and because of my sons' friends – and friends' children, I've had a lot to do with kids and younger adults," said Janelle.

"To me it seems important to look beyond the person we see and to have some inkling of the potential inside that person – something we don't always see."

A favourite Bible verse of Janelle's is: *"Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."* (1 Samuel 16:7)

"It saddens me when I see that potential denied – a precious nephew lost to suicide, never to become the loving father he could have been, someone's lovable kid imprisoned because his potential has been sacrificed to drug addiction and crime, or alcohol destroying the personality and family of another precious son or daughter or friend," she said.

"Lives cut short by premature death or limited by an abusive relationship or a cruel illness – to me, it is all potential denied."

Scrap metal from Warialda High School's old air-conditioning ducts was utilised for the structure and construction was completed with the assistance of the Warialda Men's Shed.

So committed to the blue tree was Janelle that she managed to source the correct paint code in order for hers to match others in the project.

Janelle says there is significance in the leaves on the tree being shaped as teardrops.

"These teardrops fall into, and ripple, through many, many lives. Hence, the tree



Above: The blue tree sits proudly in Apollo Street, Warialda, hoping to engage children as they walk past on their way to school

in our front garden, which has been placed so the kids across the road at the local high school can give serious thought to their own potential as they pass by it on their way to and from school."

The Blue Tree project has been growing throughout Australia since the first tree was painted in Western Australia in 2019.

Need a hand?

If you or someone you know needs help, call:

Emergency on 000 (or 112 from a mobile phone)

Lifeline on 13 11 14

Veterans and Veterans Families

Counselling Service 1800 011 046

Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800

MensLine Australia on

1300 789 978

Suicide Call Back Service on

1300 659 467

Beyond Blue on 1300 22 46 36

Headspace on 1800 650 890

YOUNG PENPALS AT WARIALDA LIBRARY

A heart-warming initiative of Warialda Library has introduced some of the town's children to the art of letter writing. Started during the first COVID-19 lockdown last year, a program aimed at maintaining a connection with others matched young after school attendees with residents of Naroo.

At least once per month, children take pen to paper to write to the residents who in turn return the favour.

"The kids get so excited to get their letters in the mail. They absolutely love it and are always in a big rush to write back. Sometimes I have to calm the kids down or they would be writing letters every single day," said Warialda librarian, Helen Seage.

"The residents love to read the letters they receive too. A couple of them even have pictures up on their walls that the kids have sent them. The kids that aren't up to writing letters on their own, just draw pictures. They are able to tell a story in their pictures."

It's not just the children that enjoy it, so too do the residents. The experience has proved mutually beneficial allowing some young people who don't have any grandparents the chance to forge an important relationship. For the older generation, it has opened a new connection and opportunity to get back to the art of letter writing.

To add a bit of festive cheer for their last correspondence of the year, the children recently sent Christmas cards.



Enthusiastic letter writers and receivers, Ruby and Evelyn Hodge, at Warialda Library

Creative spirit not dampened by weather

A creative idea, inspired by a book on finding purpose, led Warialda High School Principal, Shelly Way, to come up with a concept that would involve the entire community.

“Ever since I came to town, I wanted to help it grow. I wanted to create something that will keep adding to the town,” said Shelly.

“When I got here, the drought was extensive, and I wanted to do something to help drought-proof the town. I know that the only way to do that is to have more money in the town. I wanted to see what I could do to help get that money in the town, without relying on rainfall.”

“I got in touch with Council, and they were onboard with it, so I decided to create the challenge and see if anyone wanted to be part of it.”

Lockdown provided the perfect opportunity to get creative, and Shelly figured that if that was the case for her, then it was probably the case for others too; that if she was chasing purpose then there mustn't be alone. And so began the Be Creative challenge.

In the end it was not just individuals participating, but community groups including the Warialda CWA and the Men's Shed, too. In fact, it is one of the Men's Shed's pieces that has become a talking point around town, with a minion (the first of three to be completed) now standing proudly outside their shed, on the highway heading out towards Ashford.

The challenge was also successful in creating community spirit, with people that were unknown to Shelly and the school getting involved and feeling supported in participating.

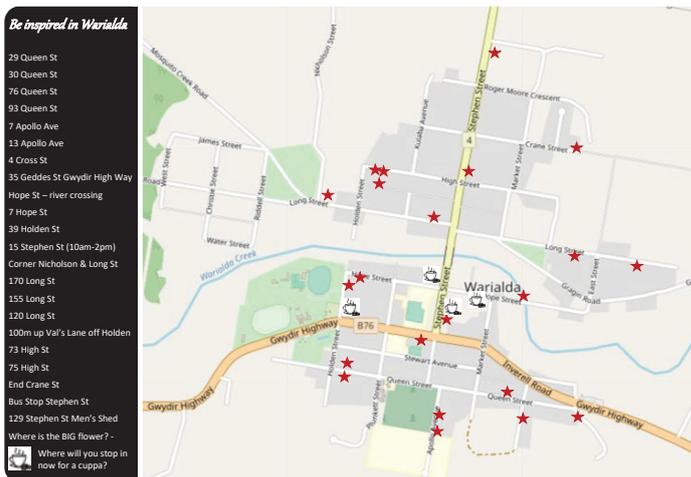
“The whole challenge went well. We had quite a few entries, as well as bits and piece already around town, so the whole thing adds up to quite a bit.”

Whilst there were plans for Warialda High School students to be involved, COVID-19 restrictions and re-roofing of the schools there was not the space to be able to do what they wanted to do for large sculptures.

After three months of planning, painting and construction participants came together to celebrate with a barbeque at the

Warialda Recreation Ground, on the last weekend in November. Shelly hopes the challenge will continue far into the future.

“The long-term plan is to do this every year, and have the kids and the community involved, hopefully timing it to coincide with the town's Honey Festival.”



Thrive by Five Campaign endorsed by Council

This month, Gwydir Shire Council passed a motion to support *Thrive by Five*, an initiative of the Minderoo Foundation, aimed at making the early learning childcare system high quality and universally accessible.

During the first five years of life, the human brain develops to 90% of an adult's size. This makes the early years critical for lifelong learning and wellbeing. Early learning can help give children the best start in life, impacting on their future health, wellbeing, working potential and social participation.

Thrive by Five CEO, Jay Weatherill, last month told a Senate Committee hearing that a generation is at risk of being left behind if Australian governments don't address the long-term impacts of COVID-19 outbreaks and restrictions on their development and wellbeing.

Mr Weatherill will ask Federal and State Governments to:

- Provide opportunities for children who were unable to access their full 600-hour entitlement of preschool in 2021 by allowing them to make up gap hours in early learning and care, and then providing additional support in the first years of primary school;
- Remove the activity test and all gap fees to ensure that all children can access preschool next year;
- Expand the new agreement between the Federal Government and State Governments to provide universal, high quality early learning for all three-year olds, in addition to four year-olds in Australia; and
- Add 'children and COVID-19' as a standing item to the National Cabinet agenda.



"An essential part of our economic and social recovery from COVID-19 must be ensuring our children under five can catch up and get the best possible start in life.

"Affordable, high quality and accessible early learning and care is the answer. It's what this generation deserves, and the benefits flow on to the financial security of families, increasing women's workforce participation and driving our economy," Mr Weatherill said.

Mayor, John Coulton, recommended that Gwydir Shire Council support the campaign, calling on all parties to commit to support a high quality, universally accessible and affordable early learning system that creates a brighter future for children.

"Gwydir Shire is well served by its existing preschools, but better resourcing would always be welcomed," he said.

MORE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, has welcomed funding to support tertiary students to move to the local area next year through the Australian Government's Destination Australia program.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the funding would enable scholarships to be offered through the University of New England (UNE).

"The Destination Australia scholarships, worth up to \$15,000 per student, will help UNE encourage and support more students to move to New England," Mr Joyce said.

"These scholarships not only help to support students financially, attracting more students has flow-on economic benefits that will benefit local businesses and our regional economy."

Minister for Education and Youth, Alan Tudge, said Round 3 of the scholarships would provide students with up to \$15,000 to take up a tertiary education opportunity in a regional community or campus.

"Round 3 will be delivered through 28 tertiary education providers across 74 regional campuses, giving a further 383 students who enrol in qualifications from Certificate IV through to PhD the opportunity to experience a world-class tertiary education.

"We will also continue to deliver over \$13 million in support to 800 ongoing scholarship holders studying at our world-class regional higher education providers."

Minister for Regionalisation, Regional Communications and Regional Education, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, said the Destination Australia scholarships provide an extra incentive for students to consider living, working and studying in the regions.

"The Liberal and Nationals Government is committed to supporting growth in our regional tertiary education providers as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, by encouraging students to consider their study options outside of our capital cities," Minister McKenzie said.

"Students who move to our regions get to experience a great lifestyle, and a world-class education, while supporting the communities they live, work and study in."

The Liberal and Nationals Government has invested more than \$1 billion in regional and remote education since 2016, including \$93.7 million for the Destination Australia scholarships.

For more information, visit www.dese.gov.au/destination-australia

COMMEMERATIVE CERTIFICATES WELCOME SHIRE'S YOUNGEST



Bingara Toy Library held its most recent Commemorative Birth Certificate Ceremony to welcome some of the Shire's youngest citizens in the first week of December. Present to receive the certificates from Gwydir Shire Councillor Catherine Egan, was Jade Hellmuth and daughter Piper (pictured above), Emma Wilkins with Mackenzie, Edith Estioco with Harrison and Stephanie Cox with Ruby.

Unable to attend on the day, but with certificates to collect were Sarah Crump with twins Audrey and Isabelle, and son, Joseph, Georgia Standerwick with August, Katie Booth with Reuben and Mel Cross with Oliver.

Swimmers make a splash at Warialda Pool Party



Top: Children enjoy the inflatable course at the Warialda Pool Party
 Botton, left: Whitney Sherman, and Bottom, right: Amiya and Clairabelle

Recovery, Regeneration and Resilience

Northern Slopes Landcare Association is excited to support The Carbon Farm, Bingara in the delivery of their Recovery, Regeneration and Resilience project.

The Carbon Farm is associated with The Living Classroom, an 'environmental wonderland' at the edge of town, devoted to all things regenerative. The facilities provide a site for farmers, researchers, all levels of education, and visitors from all walks of life to participate in, to see and to consider the many and varied options for soil management, water use efficiency, carbon capture and much more. Learn more about the Carbon Farm

<https://youtu.be/8IOeEDuuxMY>

Northern Slopes Landcare Association will be supporting The Carbon Farm delivering the following workshops and tour over the next 18 months

- Kim Deans Property Planning Workshop 24-25 February 2022 – Book Via Sticky Tickets <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/A430G>
- Carbon Cooperative farmers – Bus Tour
- Biodiversity and Multi Species Workshop
- Bio-Char and Composting Workshop
- Soil Balance and Soil Health Workshop

For further enquiries please contact Penny Kelly on **0438 353 682**.

This project is supported by Starfish Enterprises Network Limited, The Carbon Farm and Northern Slopes Landcare Association and Gwydir Shire Council through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

ATTENTION FARMERS & MANAGERS
 WANT TO MAXIMISE YOUR EARNING POTENTIAL
 FROM ON FARM CARBON?

CARBON INFORMATION WORKSHOP

Join Carbon Trade Specialist Louisa Kiely in this 2-Day Workshop
BINGARA
NEW DATE - 3rd & 4th February 2022







YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED
 Carbon Farming - What is it?
 How to Start A Carbon project & How your farm can participate?
 The Carbon Markets Explained & Why you should know how they work!
 Unlock Carbon Credits on Farm, Support the Environment & Earn Extra Revenue

NSLA Members \$75 Non-Members \$150 Morning Tea & Lunch Provided
 Bookings Via Sticky Tickets <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/DXSZX>

This initiative made possible by the NSW Landcare Program
 A collaboration of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW Inc
 supported by the NSW Government

Penny Kelly Ph. 0438 353 682
 Northern Slopes Landcare

No Nonsense when it comes to Sunscreen



With summer fast approaching, and daily UV radiation levels already reaching dangerously high levels across Australia, Dermatologist, Dr Philip Tong, and Cancer Council's Skin Cancer Prevention Manager, Liz King, debunk five of the most widely talked about sunscreen myths.

Dermatologist Dr Tong explains that there are two types of sunscreen ingredients that work in two different ways:

Sunscreens with absorbing ingredients, which work to absorb nearly all of the UV radiation to protect your skin

Sunscreens with scattering ingredients, which reflect or scatter most of the UV radiation away from your skin. Some sunscreens use ingredients which both absorb and scatter UV radiation.

Council's Skin Cancer Prevention Manager, Liz King, says, "I often get asked what the best sunscreen is to use and knowing all sunscreens in Australia meet our high regulatory standards, my advice is always to use the sunscreen you like, and to do your best to make it a regular habit."

There are lots of common misconceptions when it comes to sunscreen, so we wanted to debunk five of the most common sunscreen myths that we hear and see."

1. Sunscreen alone is enough to protect me

"Sunscreen is not a suit of armour. It is an important sun protection measure but should always be used with other sun protection measures: using shade and wearing protective clothing, hats and sunglasses. Whether you use an SPF30 or SPF50+ comes down to personal choice but we always recommend SPF30 or above. An Australian study found that 80% of people don't apply enough sunscreen when they use it, so for sunscreen to work you need to ensure you apply enough to provide good coverage on all exposed skin and reapply regularly," Ms King says.

2. My makeup has SPF, so I'm covered

Cosmetics which contain sunscreen are not considered to be a therapeutic product and are therefore not regulated in Australia. They vary in how much SPF protection they provide but it can often be very little, and therefore should not be relied on to protect your skin from the sun.

If you plan to wear sunscreen and moisturisers or cosmetics, it's best to apply your sunscreen first – on dry, clean skin. This will allow the sunscreen to disperse effectively. And just like sunscreen, the SPF in cosmetics reduces with time, so remember to reapply sunscreen when you are outdoors.

3. Natural sunscreens are better for me

Recipes for homemade sunscreens are easily found and promoted online, often by individuals without any specific health expertise. These recipes frequently contain coconut or vegetable oils, essential oils, shea butter, beeswax and zinc and may market themselves as organic or natural.

Cancer Council does not recommend making or using homemade sunscreen. Instead, leave sunscreen manufacture to the experts so you know that what you're using is safe and effective.

4. It's cold or cloudy today, so I don't need it

You can get UV radiation damage from the sun on windy, cloudy and cool days. Sun damage is caused by UV radiation, not temperature. A cool or overcast day in summer can have similar UV levels to a warm, sunny day. If it's windy and you get a red face, it's likely to be sunburn. There's no such thing as 'windburn'.

Sun damage is also possible on cloudy days, as UV radiation can penetrate some clouds, and may even be more intense due to reflection off the clouds.

5. A bit of vitamin D is good for me and my skin

Dr Tong says, "When UV levels are three or above, most people need just a few minutes of sun exposure – such as walking from the office to get lunch, or hanging the washing on the line – to get enough vitamin D. When you are outdoors for more than a few minutes, a combination of sun protection measures is recommended to reduce the risk of skin cancer. In fact, studies have

shown daily sunscreen use, coupled with other sun protection measures when outdoors does not compromise the synthesis of vitamin D in healthy people."

Tips on finding a safe and effective sunscreen:

Broad spectrum means that the sunscreen provides protection against both UVA and UVB rays and that is SPF30 or higher.

For a full body application, apply at least seven teaspoons of sunscreen 20 minutes before heading outdoors. Reapply every two hours after your last application.

Choose a sunscreen you find easy to apply, that way you will use it regularly.

WARIALDA CWA PREPARES FOR CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



Warialda CWA has produced a display to be placed at the CWA Hall in Stephen Street, as part of their preparations for the

CWA centenary celebrations in 2022. The piece was originally intended to be part of the town's Be Creative Challenge, but weather and time delayed the completion.

The display is two-sided, with one side looking back at CWA history, the other shows a Garden of Remembrance.

The branch is seeking assistance from the district to add the names of ladies to the garden. The Warialda Rail branch was formed in 1922, with the Warialda Branch, commencing in 1928. If your mother, grandmother, great grandmother or other female relative was one of these ladies, please contact A. Allen so that arrangements can be made to add their name to the garden.

Ladies who were members of the Warialda Younger Set are also invited to add their names to the garden.

If anyone knows the location of the CWA Rest Home, which operated from 1930s to the 1950s, the Warialda CWA would welcome further information about it.

Roving Trapper Wild Dog Program off to a successful start



Trapper Brian Campion and landholder Michael Grabham with the male wild dog that was trapped in the Gwydir Shire

Landholders north of Coolatai are ecstatic after a coordinated approach led to the trapping of two elusive wild dogs which had caused extensive damage preying on lambs and ewes in the area.

North West Local Land Services worked with the recently formed Kurrajong Bridge Wild Dog Group and Northern Slopes Landcare to deploy a wild dog trapper and control the animals which had been in the area for around 12 months.

North West Local Land Services Biosecurity Officer, David Lindsay, said this is the first female dog that has been controlled in the area in all of his 30 years' experience.

"The cooperation from landholders in the Kurrajong Bridge Wild Dog Group was crucial to the success of this control program," Mr Lindsay said.

"By working together, the group has been able to quickly react to wild dog attacks and start their on-ground control over a broader area, giving themselves every chance of controlling the predators."

Landholder Michael Grabham said on his holding alone the dogs had killed about 200 sheep – around 50 ewes and 150 lambs.

"The disruption from the dogs also caused mismothering, leading to further lamb losses in some mobs. We only weaned 53 per cent of one mob that was scanned 100 per cent in lamb, whereas all other mobs weaned high 90 per cent," Mr Grabham said.

"I was camping out with the sheep where the dogs were known to be, spotlighting and shooting on a regular basis. It wasn't until we joined together to form a coordinated group that we implemented on-ground baiting programs and installed monitoring cameras."

"The monitoring cameras helped us to understand the movements of the animal over time and we were able to pass this information onto the trapper. It certainly helps to have an experienced trapper."

Deployed on Monday, the trapper had the first dog by daylight on Thursday, and a second female dog by Friday morning, showing the experience of the trapper, Brian Campion.

Mr Grabham is aware of at least one more dog that has been caught on camera and is still in the area.

"This is a problem for all stock owners. The more people working in a control program, the more sets of eyes there are out there looking, and the more effective the control program will be," Mr Grabham said.

North West Local Land Services strongly encourages any landholder not undertaking any forms of control for pest animals such as wild dogs to join their nearest pest management group as soon as possible.

To speak to your local Biosecurity Officer to become involved or find out more about your pest animal control options contact David Lindsay, Senior Biosecurity Officer, North West Local Land Services on **0427 291 883**.



Marlina Farris, with husband, Andrew, after her Citizenship Ceremony

Gwydir Shire congratulates newest citizen

The Gwydir Shire's newest citizen was welcomed at a ceremony held on 25 November, the first Citizenship Ceremony since COVID-19 lockdown restrictions this year.

After extended delays due to COVID-19, Marlina Farris was officially made an Australian Citizen in a small ceremony held at Bingara's Roxy Theatre.

Mayor John Coulton presided over the service, acknowledging that Marlina, originally from America, had chosen to become an Australian citizen and, as a result, to take on the values of this country.

"Citizenship is a common bond that unites all Australians," said Cr Coulton. Our rich heritage stems from the contributions made by all of us. The culture and traditions that migrants bring to Australia, including their language and religion, contribute to making Australia a vibrant community. We have built a nation in which people can bring all that they are to Australia. We are free to express and share our cultural heritage within the law. And we can all participate, contribute and belong as Australians," he said

Making the pledge on the day was the final step in becoming a citizen.

Further citizenship ceremonies are planned for 2022 as restrictions continue to ease.



26 Junction Street takes out Encouragement Award

After elimination of two other colourful and somewhat slightly wild gardens, the Bingara Garden Club Encouragement Award for November 2021 was won by Joan Morris of 26 Junction Street, Bingara (pictured above). Joan's garden reflects her desire for an orderly lifestyle.

The colourful display of roses at the top corner of the garden is beautifully highlighted by the background of the gold-leaved shrub and the tall lime gold tree, originally purchased from Toowoomba. A bed of lilliums in heavy bud wait to unfurl their colours.

Bright yellow and orange gazanias and pink and mauve petunias spill from the round garden bed, with its standard roses and pink flamingos, to the white fence. A cycad and red geraniums in white pots grace the front and side of the house, the lawn is neat with trimmed edges. A tall glossy camellia in the bottom front corner has a bird bath tucked underneath, while a Robyn Gordon Grevillea, beloved by the birds, shelters some dwarf nandinas.

Colourful flowering roses run along the side fence and lead the eye from front to back. The garden is a great credit to the spirit and love of the gardener.



Licensed Stock & Station Agent and Auctioneer

- * Livestock sales with guaranteed prompt payment
- * Rural property sales
- * Auction clearing sales, on-site or online
- * Machinery sales, online
- * Property appraisals
- * Merchandise & chemical quotes available
- * **Locally owned and operated family business**

Damien Crump 0400 757 888

Springer Spaniel sniffs out wicked weed at Croppa Creek



Weed-detecting Springer Spaniel 'Connor' with handler Claire Chiotti and NSW Department of Primary Industries State Priority Weeds Coordinator Charles Mifsud

The services of a scent-detector dog have been enlisted to help landholders and the NSW Government tackle parthenium weed in the Croppa Creek region, Member for Northern Tablelands and Minister for Agriculture, Adam Marshall, announced today.

Mr Marshall said 'Connor' had already proved his worth sniffing out hard-to-find weeds in the upper Hunter, Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions.

"While Connor is an adorable addition to our arsenal in the fight against weeds, the fight against Parthenium is a serious business," Mr Marshall said. "This invasive weed can grow – and quickly – in most parts of the state and it's vitally important we find these plants before they flourish and set seed in summer."

"Parthenium is dangerous to grazing animals and reduces crop and land values, so it's critical we get on top of this issue, which is why the NSW Government supports this program in collaboration with its other management programs."

Anyone who suspects parthenium weed should call the NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline 1800 680 244 or their local council, who will be able to identify any suspected sightings of the weed and provide assistance in its management.

Mr Marshall said the initiative followed record funding from the NSW Government on biosecurity. "I've said it before, and I'll say it again; biosecurity is our number one agricultural priority," Mr Marshall said.

"Just last month, I opened our new \$3 million Biosecurity State Co-ordination Centre. Days before that we announced a record \$24.2 million funding boost to help farmers manage the state's worst weeds."

"Parthenium is one of the high-risk weeds that continues to put pressure on agriculture, but is equally under intense scrutiny and management from the NSW Government's biosecurity teams."

NSW DPI continues to coordinate statewide surveillance of known high-risk areas in collaboration with local councils, weed control authorities and Local Land Services. Information about parthenium weed is available from the NSW DPI website.

Warialda Hospital Auxiliary looking ahead to a brighter 2022

Warialda Hospital Auxiliary ended the year on a high, with a very successful street stall on Friday November 26. 2020 - 21 have not been good years for fundraising for the Hospital Auxiliary so, to end 2021 on a positive was uplifting.

Thanks go to all of the wonderful cooks who supported the stall and to the people of Warialda and district who stopped to buy goods on the day.

Rachel Bourne was the lucky winner of the gardener's dream prize of a blower and hedge trimmer. Congratulations Rachel.

Hospital Auxiliary members will enjoy a morning tea together on Tuesday December 14 where the 80th Birthday of the Warialda

Branch will be celebrated. Over the last 80 years Auxiliary members have worked hard to raise funds for the betterment of patients and staff at Warialda MPS. Members look forward to a better year in 2022.

Members also look forward to the extension of the activities room being completed, and to the installation of the fountain in the hospital garden. The solar powered fountain was purchased by Dot Leader, in memory of her husband George, for the wonderful care he received as a patient at the MPS.

The Hospital Auxiliary is always looking to new members to come along to our meetings. So, if you are newly retired, new to the town, and have a few hours of spare time you will be warmly welcomed. The first meeting for 2022 will be on Monday February 21 commencing at 2:00pm in the activities room at the MPS. Afternoon tea will conclude the meeting.

The Auxiliary wishes everyone a peaceful, happy Christmas spent with family and loved ones and good health for the new year.

SOMETIMES CHRISTMAS DOESN'T FEEL SO JOLLY

... with Letitia Cross



We know rural communities have been through a really big few years. We survived the biggest drought most of us have experienced, a mouse plague, fires, a pandemic and to top it off, some flooding. It has been exhausting for most of us, taking a toll on many people financially, physically and mentally. Most of us hold a lot of stress and worry about what the future entails.

On top of this, Christmas can be a time of mixed emotions for many, because there is often a lot of mixed feelings around family.

Many people carry pain, judgements or trauma from their childhood. Families may be separated, disconnected or dysfunctional. And other families are

deeply impacted by grief for people lost to them, for those that should be there and recognition for another year passed without the presence of a loved one.

But when we consider the levels of stress coming into this festive season, it is understandable that it can leave us feeling drained, unsettled and unwilling to face the next month. So this year, I thought it might be good to focus on suggestions you can take control of and implement to bring some of the Christmas sparkle back leading up to Christmas.

Take the pressure off – sometimes realising that picture-perfect Christmases only exist on postcards and in movies means that you can settle back and just enjoy your own particular style of Christmas.

Don't try to keep up with the Jones's – the grass is only greener on the other side of the fence because it is fertilised with BS. Remember that Mr and Mrs Jones spruiking down the street or on social media are all giving you a snapshot, not the reality.

Keep up with social connections – now is time to spend time with family and friends that you hold close to your heart. Arrange to have a cuppa with a neighbour or pick up the phone or check in with someone who you know who may be doing it tough.

Volunteer – when we give, we always seem to get so much more returned to us. There is a lot of great work happening across communities by individuals, volunteers, community groups and organisations. It is often the strength and spirit of our rural communities which is built through the tough times, but then provide us with support every other day.

Give a gift of hope for Christmas – make a donation, this doesn't have to be much, just a consideration of others who may be going through difficult times and that giving can make us feel better.

Take a break – breathe, connect and explore locally. Rather than just the big-ticket holidays, take a day or a morning to explore our regional area.

Make someone's day with a random act of kindness – check www.randomactofkindness.org for ideas on how you can make a difference.

Want to know more, contact me your local Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) Coordinator on **0477 343 628** www.ramhp.com.au or email: Letitia.Cross@health.nsw.gov.au

I can help link you to information, resources and services in our area.



ramhp

RURAL ADVERSITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

IN MEMORY OF JOAN BULL OAM, 104 YEARS OF LIFE WELL LIVED

Joan Bull – originally Joan King, Joany to all the fantastic staff at Moonbi House, always Mum to her six children, or to us, her 17 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren and to countless others, Ma Bull.

In a 104 year life cut short on November 23, Ma Bull accomplished and experienced more than most and I would like to relate just some of her story with you.

Ma Bull was born on 10 November 1917, in Drummoyne where her grandfather, Dr Frank Sturges, operated a medical practice, having previously practiced in, among other towns, Bingara. Ma was the second born child of four, and eldest daughter of Royce and Sibyl King. Roy and Sibyl (Nanny and Poppa) at the time operated the property *Eungai*, which was a portion of *Eulourie* – the property originally taken up by the King family in 1848. Norman was their eldest son, then Ma, followed sometime later by Aunty Sheila and Richard.

Their time on *Eungai* was cut short in 1918, as Roy had an horrific accident with a chaff cutter which resulted in his leg being terribly wounded, a year in the Scottish Hospital in Sydney, and ultimately necessitated the sale of *Eungai*.

A move to Sydney resulted and Ma Bull's early years were spent first at Mosman, Willoughby and then Roseville, where she spent her primary school years at Roseville Public School. Undoubtedly, she most enjoyed her time outside the classroom, spending many hours doing singing lessons, artwork or at the beach with friends and family. In her own words - "*I was no scholar, but I know I could have done better*".

Her higher schooling was at Loreto Kirribilli, where she really excelled in what was to become one of her great life passions – her artwork, especially painting under the guidance of the very special Mother Collette. Up until her last week, and I guess not surprisingly, she was the oldest living former Loreto student, a treasure of which the Loreto community and our family are extremely proud. Four generations of Ma's family have now been educated at Loreto with Bec and Dave Kingston's girls currently enrolled.

During her younger years, Ma and her family longed to be back in the country and spent much of their weekends and holidays either camping out in the bush or visiting friends back in Bingara, and in particular, the Horton. So it was with great delight for Ma and her family that they purchased Wendouree at Bingara in the 1930s. This precipitated the start of Ma's next chapter of a life packed to the brim. Her young adult years were filled with horse riding, debuts, balls, various sports and friends.

This time also saw the blossoming of a friendship that ultimately led to falling in love with and marriage to Wilson Bull, or Pa, and the start of their life together at *Cooringoora*. Pa was an outstanding cricketer, lover of racing, and family man – all pursuits that sat well with Ma. The complete love of her life, Ma would often talk about how she was spoilt her whole life but never more than by Pa.

They were married on June 7 1938 and wasted no time in starting a

family. They had a little girl called Jennifer, 6 months later. They were even away on holidays in Forster. I'm sure plenty of eyebrows were raised but the fact that Jennifer was born in January 1939 at less than 4 pounds, her first cot being a cardboard shoebox and being fed through an eyedropper, meant that any wagging tongues were set straight. Going on to have five more children over the next 14 years, Angela in 1940, Charles in 1943, Michael in 1946, Cathy (Taff) in 1951 and Margie in 1953.



Joan Bull, lovingly remembered

Ma and Pa Bull had set down the foundations of a sprawling family that now includes close to 40 great-grandchildren!

Ma's whole adult life included some sort of community service and the first instance was in 1937 when, upon raising the most money in a bid to build Nurses' quarters at the Bingara Hospital, she was crowned Queen and subsequently asked to officially open the quarters once completed. She was extremely proud of this achievement.

Community needs were Ma's primary driver. Along with her mother and father and the Munro family at Keera, Ma was instrumental in establishing the Far West Children's Health Clinic to assist young mothers in Bingara. She went on to spend nearly 30 years as President of this committee.

Ma was heavily involved in the operation of the Bingara Pony Club, being it's inaugural Camp Supervisor. This was the commencement of the Bull family's multi-generation involvement in the Bingara Pony Club, which, with Edward's children still attending, continues today.

Ma Bull also performed vital roles with Legacy and the Bingara Hospital Auxiliary, raising funds for the less fortunate, the families of servicemen and women and new equipment for people needing extra health care.

Although life for Ma presented mostly opportunity and delight – she knew sadness and in a life of 104 years, you are going to farewell many of those close to you but the loss of Ma and Pa's son Michael suddenly at the age of 22 was as tough a time as any in her life. With the loss of Pa Bull in 1981 at the age of 70, she understandably, also grieved heavily.

Her sister, Aunty Sheila, was always Ma's right-hand girl and after Pa's death they became inseparable. They lived together, travelled the world together and were each other's leaning post until Aunty Sheila's death in 1997 – a sorrow that lasted a long time for Ma.

History, be it family or community, was also a special interest for Ma. Ma played big roles in putting together family history books, doing exhaustive research on family trees with both the King and Bull families. Both families, having a long history in the Bingara district, have had family reunions – the Bull family in 1980 and the King family in 1981 – due, in large part, to Ma's efforts.

She was President of the Bingara Historical Society for many years, moving on to become a life member and patron of this group. This then led to Chairmanship of the Bingara Bi-Centenary Committee in 1988 – a tireless effort put in by Ma, but one she described as easy because she loved doing it. The cream being, maybe, that she had the opportunity to meet with Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. She was also able to attend the arrival of Prince Chales and Princess Diana at the Sydney Opera House – a cherished memory for Ma.

She was always amazed with the recognition for her service which extended from life memberships to patronages, and ultimately to her most proud and outstanding recognition – her acceptance into the Order of Australia, an undoubtedly elite level of recognition of community service – Joan Bull OAM – an accolade so richly deserved.

Without doubt Ma Bull's great passion was her artwork – from drawing to watercolours, oils to porcelain painting, and doll-making, she did the lot. She painted many, many fine works on all mediums, and I'm sure each and every member of the family has had the pleasure of an artwork of some description. Her services to the art community, including a stint as President of the Bingara Art Group, extended until well into her 90s, teaching mostly china painting to many in the Bingara district. Only failing eyesight ended this, her great pastime.

Ma was a soft touch and had a lifelong love for animals, be it for their company or for their ability to turn a bit of cash. At *Cooringoora* she always kept pigs, chooks or turkeys to earn a few dollars on the side. There was always an 'inside' dog or cat as well and these – be it Jonno, her Jack Russell, Sooki, the Siamese cat (who JJ, Edward and I as kids had a running battle with) or the imaginatively named Pussy – they were always fiercely loyal to Ma as was she to them. With Miss Laurel Brooks living next door to Ma there was never need to look too far for a replacement when inevitably these companions were outlived by her.

Always quick of wit and with a sharp memory, Ma had a trove of one-liners, always delivered deadpan. I don't think Taff Hallman will mind if I share one from Ma's 95th birthday celebrations where the great-grandkids were dancing to *Gangnam Style* and Taff joined them, struggling to get down low to bust her moves - Ma was watching quietly and then shared a timely story with us all. Ma was very pregnant and visiting her parents at *Wendouree*, and being a very keen gardener, she was trying to bend down and pick a weed out of the garden, when Isaac Kelly, a long-time offsider of her father's, advised her "Miss Joan, a full sack don't bend"!

There was no need for Ma to explain the link she was making between the two situations.

No matter the long list of achievements or awards received by Ma, she always remained gracious, warm and understated and she was admired for this especially in her beloved Bingara. In recent times the true value to Ma's beloved Bingara community has been realised by the countless tributes to her from Bingara people – people who have been touched by her kindness, helped by her charity or just impressed by her gentle, hard working and tireless spirit.

In concluding, I would like to take a short quote from Ma Bull's memoirs, which she completed in the year 2000 at the age of 83, I guess not knowing she would be around for another 21 years.

If I could address you, Ma, my overwhelming emotion is PRIDE – that I am a small part of your century and a bit legacy.

Eulogy for Joan Bull, as read by her grandson, Ben Monie, at her funeral on November 30

QUEENSLAND BORDER REOPENS

After almost two years, entry to Queensland is finally open for those wishing to travel to the sunshine-state. On December 6, Queensland Premier, Anastasia Palaszczuk, announced that she would be reopening the border four days earlier than planned after vaccination targets were reached.

As of Monday, December 13, the border will be open to all interstate travelers, with no quarantine required for fully vaccinated visitors. Anyone crossing the border will be required to return a negative COVID-19 test 72 hours before arrival.

Anyone arriving from a hotspot will also need to take a second test five days after entering the state.

For vaccinated border residents a border pass, that will be valid for 14 days, will be able to be obtained that will allow them to move freely across the border without the need for a PCR test.

All travel details: <https://www.qld.gov.au/border-pass>

FARM PLANNING WORKSHOP

NEW DATE - THURSDAY 24TH & FRIDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2022
THE LIVING CLASSROOM, BINGARA

Presented by
Kim Deans
 Regenerative Agriculture Educator

- Apply a whole farm planning design process and principles to two case study sites
- Learn how to design for resilience to climate extremes, optimise natural resources and economic potential
- Gain confidence and skills to apply to your own farm design

2-Day Workshop \$390pp
 Morning Tea & Lunch Included

THE CARBON FARM

"This event will be run under NSW Health Orders".
 Book via Sticky Tickets
<https://www.stickytickets.com.au/A430G>

For Further Information Contact:
 Penny Kelly, Northern Slopes Landcare Assoc. Ph. 0438 353 682

'This project is supported by Starfish Enterprises Network Limited, The Carbon Farm and Northern Slopes Landcare Association through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program'.

Looking back in time... the 1864 Flood, Gineroi

The reality of living in a country of climate extremes, of droughts and flooding rains, is one that has been experienced by generations long before ours. We thought now was a good opportunity to look back on an earlier time when the region experienced extreme weather. This excerpt from the was brought to our attention by Mrs Kerry Coulton.

The 1864 Flood

The Lanagans survived a terrifying experience in 1864, when a sudden flood swept through their house. Rain had fallen in torrents in the days before 11 February, with continual heavy showers and great claps of thunder.

At the Gineroi homestead were A.A. Adams and his family. In huts nearby were Henry Tufrey and a Johnson with his wife and two children. Mr Whelan and his wife sheltered beneath a tilted cart.

The Lanagans were in a house a mile further down the river. They bedded down for the night – Thomas, Jane, young Tom, John, another brother and Mary. Also in the house were Holmes, Joe Moss the Blacksmith and his brother and Cassidy, the man they called 'the German'.

Flood-waters hit the house a few hours before dawn. The family awake to the sound of water rushing through their rooms. All rushed outside. They found themselves surrounded by flood-waters, with no hope of getting away.

150 cattle in a yard nearby were milling around making a great noise. They were turned out and headed for the nearest dry land, about a quarter of a mile away. All but two or three made it.

It was decided that the house would soon collapse under the pressure of the water. All hands made for the stockyards on higher ground and climbed onto the fence. However, within a few hours the water reached the fourth rail and the party became alarmed. Only four could swim. Some move had to be made to save the lives of the others.

The men moved the pine caps from the top of the yards. These were placed side by side and laced together with lengths of rope and some torn strips of blankets. Jane, Mary, young Tom and John were placed on the raft. The other brother and the Moss men decided to swim. They would try to push the raft to safety. Holmes and Cassidy stayed at the stockyard. They climbed to higher ground, onto the gallows over its gateway.

The raft drifted about a quarter mile and struck a tree. Young Tom caught a branch, thinking to slow the raft to give the swimmers a rest. The raft passed quickly under him leaving him stranded in the tree.

Soon afterwards, the raft was caught in a strong current and swept into the main stream. It struck an apple tree toppling 12-year-old John from his perch. He grabbed a limb and struggled to safety on a branch. Later he looped a handkerchief through his belt and tied himself to a branch, lest he fall asleep and drop.

The rest of the party was swept down stream at a rapid pace. At the 'Island' near the junction of Oakey Creek, a lot of drift timber had collected against trees. The swimmers put the whole of their weight on the back of the raft, and it shot onto the drift. The water was about 40feet deep.

The party found they could walk on the timber if they took care to avoid snakes and other vermin. When the water began to drop, parts of the driftwood broke up and caused further alarm. By cooee-ing, the group found that all were safe. They remained in their positions from 11am on February 12, until after lunchtime the next day.

Back at the homestead, the house was soon flooded. Some possessions were moved to the school house and everyone sheltered there. The Johnsons and the Tufreys were rescued from their huts. The Wenham's cart was swept away, together with all their money in a band box.

Eleven valuable Mudgee rams were in a nearby paddock with the horses. Some managed to open the rails. The horses escaped but the sheep drowned. Suddenly the corn shed was swept away with a great crash, terrifying the Adams children who thought that the house and everything had gone. The fowls floated away on top of the shed.

Rescue

Next day, the station men tried to get to the Lanagans. Mr Ridley, Alfred, Cheeseman, Walter Redhead, and Bill Moss tried swimming out, without success. Bill Moss wept in frustration, as his brothers were among those marooned.

By the 13th, a raft had been built and floated on drinking casks. On it, the Lanagan party were brought to safety, first those on the stockyards, then the boys in the tree and finally those on the drift. They looked like people from a ship-wreck, the women still in dressing-gowns thrown over their nightgowns. Some of the men had no trousers, just a blanket and a shirt. All were hungry, not having eaten since before the ordeal began.

Afterwards, the Lanagan house still stood, encased in solid mud which held it in place. The Wenhams found their money in a cultivation paddock. Some of the notes were not recognizable; the bank cashed any that showed a number. Henry Tufrey's desk was found at Oakey Creek and his watch and chain were found buried in the sand nearby.

Keera Street in Flood, 1955



Wade's house on Keera Street, Bingara, during flooding in 1955

North West Theatre Company Film Club MOVIE OF THE MONTH

The selection committee for the North-West Theatre Company's popular Film Club has just published its program for 2022 and as usual it includes a variety of really good and entertaining films.

As usual, the 2022 season of great movies runs from February to November inclusive, with the bonus mystery movie in December. Each film shown on the big screen at the Roxy begins at 4:00pm on the last Sunday of the month.

So... why not join the *Film Club*? The program for 2022 is an outstanding mix of the old and the new, the odd and the interesting and the funny and the serious.

Starting in February we have the epic *Gandhi* (1992), followed by the Australian comedy *Rams* (2020), Master Cheng (2019 with subtitles), the musical *West Side Story* (1961), *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* (2011),

the classic thriller *The Third Man* (1949), *The Big Chill* (1983), the thriller *The Day of the Jackal* (1973), the Oscar winning *Green Book* (2018), *The Book Thief* (2013) and in December the surprise President's Pick.

Each film is introduced prior to screening and members are encouraged to stay back afterwards for a glass of wine and a snack.

It's easy to join. The \$60 membership fee - unchanged since the club began operating in mid-2011 - can either be paid by EFT at the Bingara Visitor Information Centre (VIC), or at the Roxy Theatre before each film is screened.

For regular or new members, it would assist if you would renew your membership before the first screening for the year. *Gandhi* is a long film, so we need to start on time! Of course, membership can be taken out at any time throughout the year, reducing



by \$6 each month. If you wish to pay by EFT, please email Ros Moulton prmoulton@bigpond.com for details.

If you are short of inspiration for Christmas presents, we also offer gift memberships, available from the Bingara VIC.

See you at the movies!

Art Class surprise as creativity takes off



Above: Daina Saunders working in charcoal, and right: Artists at work during art classes held at Bingara's Neighbourhood Centre each Tuesday morning

Tuesday morning, with a relaxing setting and some gentle guidance, has seen participants attending Bingara Neighbourhood Centre, (formerly Seniors Room), for a creative art experience.

Classes are being held each week with artist of over 30 years, Andrea Faiers, overseeing and encouraging those that attend to explore whatever medium they choose. Andrea is based in Inverell and has an art shop in Otho Street, where she also runs classes.

She is encouraging anyone, from beginners, all the way through to artists that want to learn techniques to come along and have a go.

"I teach all mediums. Come along, it's very relaxed. I bring supplies and you can work on whatever you want," said Andrea. "It's all about bringing out your own individual creativity and not steering anyone in a particular direction."

Most of those that have been attending have little to no experience, yet have been enjoying finding a new hobby to be involved in.

Not since high school has attendee, Diana Saunders, delved into the visual arts, but now seemed as good a time as any.

"It's just lovely to immerse in something and time just flashes by. I'm really enjoying it. I've had a canvas for about five years, and it was just something that I wanted to start exploring again. Everyone can do it," says Diana.

There are works being completed in acrylic, pencil and charcoal. Pictures of fish, people, landscapes and still life.

Classes are held each Tuesday morning, 10:00am - 12:00pm, cost is \$30.





St Joseph's Primary School

It is with great excitement that St Joseph's Primary School can announce the appointment of our new staff members for 2022.

Shayne Smith has been appointed as permanent class teacher and Leader of Pedagogy at St Joseph's Warialda. Shayne and his wife Chloe, both experienced teachers at Catholic schools in Sydney, are relocating to the district. Chloe will be working at Holy Trinity. Shayne is keen to build up the school's STEM resources to include Lego Mindstorm and Spheros.

Shayne has a deep passion for learning and believes that all students can achieve success by focusing on their learning goals. When he's not teaching, he's either playing or coaching in a variety of sports, hockey and cricket, and he has had the privilege to play for state and country.

The school is also excited to announce the appointment of Kahlia Whalan as their Aboriginal Education Assistant. Kahlia has been working with indigenous students to identify a space on our playground for a reconciliation and reflection garden. She has been helping the children design and paint tapping sticks using traditional aboriginal symbols.

Enquiries for enrolments in 2022 can be made by contacting the office on **6729 1328** or by email **waradmin@arm.catholic.edu.au**

Merry Christmas to you and God bless you and your family with peace and joy for the year to come.



WARIALDA HIGH SCHOOL



ABOVE: Warialda High School Rotary Public Speaking Cluster finalists, Lucy, Abbie and Bella

ROTARY PUBLIC SPEAKING CLUSTER FINAL

There were six finalists, three from McIntyre High and our three girls at the final held recently at the Sculpture Park. Lucy, Abbie and Bella spoke well on the day and gained valuable experience and advice.

The winners on the day were Abbie Kent with her speech on Human Trafficking and Bella O'Brien from McIntyre High who spoke on the importance of teaching Aboriginal language in schools.

Congratulations to all the girls and especially Abbie who now goes onto the next level held in Moree next February.

YEARS 7 AND 10 IMMUNISATIONS

Hunter New England Health have advised that all school vaccinations have been cancelled until 2022. Therefore, parents/ carers need to book in with their local GP for subsequent vaccinations and catch-up vaccinations.

THE BURGERS ARE BETTER AT.....YEAR 8 FOOD TECH!



After weeks in the planning, Year 8 Food Technology have finally cooked their own special burgers to order, now that we have our Hospitality room back.

Mrs Karen Whitton
- Food Technology Teacher



WARIALDA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Scripture has wrapped up for 2021.

We are extremely fortunate to have some lovely SRE staff who have lead this program at WPS. Many thanks to Father Thaddeus, Jim Perrett and Steve and Louise Cimarosti. We look forward to a less disrupted 2022.

Congratulations to Karen Rose and Holly Smith, who have just completed their placements at Warialda Public School. Karen has now completed her degree and will commence teaching at WPS in 2022. We are delighted to add another quality person to our team.

Congratulations to our students who have been toiling away in ICAS tests. The final ICAS assessment, Writing, has taken place. We look forward to sharing news of results as they become available.

Over recent years, there has been an ever-increasing need for society to be more conscious of issues relating to online safety. As a parent, this is an area I struggle with as I try to grapple with how much freedom to give my children in relation to technology. My main issue is that my generation grew up without mobile phones, tablets or computers. It simply wasn't an issue for us. If you are a bit like me and are not sure about the 'online world' but you want to support your child, a great source of information can be found by visiting the E Safety Commissioners website at:

www.esafety.gov.au/parents

The final instalment of the Busy Bee transition program for 2021 has been held. At the start of 2021, we made the strategic decision to overhaul this program to commence almost immediately ensuring that prospective students have many more opportunities to visit our site. This program has been highly successful with teachers being able to establish strong relationships with our incoming kindergarten cohort. Our newest little people have also developed an understanding of school routines and are absolutely ready to join us in 2022. We extend our sincere appreciation to Naomi Cole and Peta Jeffree who have coordinated this brilliant experience.

Dan van Velthuisen – Principal



Bingara Central School

CONGRATULATIONS MISS MEAD!

With our school expanding with new enrolments, we

have been successful this year in gaining the approval for the establishment of a specialist support classroom.

We are pleased to announce that Miss Michelle Mead has finally been made permanent as the teacher of this classroom. She has been an asset to our school as the teacher of our Intensive Literacy and Numeracy Class for the past four years. I know that our parents are extremely excited for their children to now have the consistency in their education with the appointment of Miss Mead to this position. The students and Miss Mandy were certainly excited when they were told the news!



Above: Miss Mead (back right), pictured with Miss Mandy (back left) and students from the Intensive Literacy and Numeracy Class

INDONESIAN BINGO

Students learn best when they are having fun. While teachers can't spend all day playing games, games do play an important role in reinforcing new information and are an essential component to teaching a language. Indonesian Bingo is perfect for consolidating learning of Indonesian words in a fun and light-hearted way.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Christmas festivities are well underway in Stage 5 Food Technology. Students have started to make a gingerbread house, having designed their own templates and made the house shapes using a fantastic gingerbread recipe. This is a fantastic and fun activity for families and kids to do during the Christmas period. The class will continue constructing their house with icing and starting the decorating process.



Above: Tayah starts the process of her gingerbread house, a process which will be undertaken over several weeks

TRANSITION

At transition during week 8, students received their 'BCS Gritters in Training' shirts. They also practiced their fine motor, pencil and scissor grip and making new friends.



Bingara Transition group, the 'BCS Gritters', who will commence Kindergarten in 2022

COULTON'S CATCH UP



FLOOD ASSISTANCE FOR MORE AREAS

Recently, I was able to visit Gunnedah and Narrabri to assess some of the damage caused by major floods that have devastated both towns. Both communities are now facing a massive clean-up, after floodwaters inundated homes, damaged roads, bridges and sporting fields and wiped out crops.

The recovery effort will hopefully be made a little easier with disaster assistance made available to a total of 16 Local Government Areas in the Parkes electorate, including the Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Cobar, Coonamble, Dubbo, Gilgandra, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Narrabri, Narromine, Walgett, Warren and Warrumbungle Shires.

Assistance is being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), and will help councils, residents, primary producers, small businesses and community groups recover from the severe weather events and flooding that has occurred from Tuesday 9 November 2021.

For information on personal hardship and distress assistance, contact Service NSW on **13 77 88**. To apply for a concessional loan or grant, contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on **1800 678 593** or visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au

Applications are now open for a second round of the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program, with a further \$50 million available for priority flood mitigation infrastructure projects across the country. I urge local governments in the Parkes electorate to bring forward projects that will benefit their communities to the NSW Government for consideration. The program guidelines and application form are available at recovery.gov.au.

MORE FUNDING TO BOOST DROUGHT RESILIENCE

I encourage farmers and eligible organisations in the Parkes electorate to apply for a share of \$23 million to trial and demonstrate land management practices that support drought resilience.

The Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes Program is the latest opportunity from the Liberal and Nationals Government's \$5 billion Future Drought Fund. We're looking for projects that will show that existing land management practices can be effectively applied at scale, for other farmers to learn and apply on their own farms.

The grants process is open until 11 January 2022. Grants of \$500,000 to \$1 million (GST exclusive) are available. For more information and to apply, visit: www.communitygrants.gov.au

SUPPORTING LIVE MUSIC

Live music venues across the Parkes electorate have another opportunity to apply for funding, with round four of the Live Music Australia program now open.

The \$20 million program is designed to bring more original live music to communities by providing funding to small-to-medium venues across the country.

I encourage venues across the Parkes electorate to throw their hat in the ring for funding. For more information about the Live Music Australia program, visit <https://www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/live-music-australia>

CALLING FOR INNOVATIVE IDEAS TO HELP FILL LOCAL JOBS

Organisations in the Parkes electorate have the opportunity to submit their innovative proposals on how to connect job seekers to training and job opportunities that meet local employer demand as the economic recovery from COVID-19 continues.

The Local Recovery Fund is a key component of the Federal Government's \$276 million Local Jobs Program, which was expanded in this year's Federal Budget .

There is no one-size-fits-all answer to the challenges brought on by the pandemic.

To submit a response, visit: <https://www.tenders.gov.au/Atm/Show/5287ddb-d-4fcf-497a-9233-6cc4d46f632d>

Wishing you a very merry Christmas with loved ones and a safe and happy New Year

Mark COULTON MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PARKES

THE NATIONALS for Regional Australia

Dubbo: 📍 3/153 Brisbane Street, Dubbo NSW 2830 📞 02 6882 0999 🌐 markcoultton.com.au
Moree: 📍 69 Heber Street, Moree NSW 2400 📞 02 6751 1251 📧 mark.coultton.mp@aph.gov.au
Broken Hill: 📍 275 Argent Street, Broken Hill NSW 2880 📞 08 8087 7649 🌐 markcoulttonmp

Authorised by Mark Coultton MP, National Party of Australia, 3/153 Brisbane St, Dubbo NSW 2830.

VOLUNTEERS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS NEED FOR RFS

Looking to help, but not sure you want to be on the front line? The Rural Fire Service is seeking volunteers of all descriptions in a bid to bolster numbers and keep the community safe.

Newly appointed Warialda Fire Captain, Eddie Burn, says that it is important to get the message out that the RFS is not just for firefighters.

“You don’t have to fight a fire to be a volunteer. Support staff are just so important, there are so many different sections that you can be part of,” he said.

“We need people to back us up. We need everything from cooks to caterers, people that can assist with logistics, communications and radio operations.”

“There are always opportunities to start at the bottom and work your way up,” said Mr Burn. “I want people to know that they can come in and be part of the team, without having to fight a fire. We need these people as much as we need firefighters, possibly more.”

Whether it is one day per week or one day per month, there will be a place for you. As a new volunteer you will be supplied with a uniform and required to commit to just a weekend of training to get started.

Basic training is essential and can be done locally, with training held across RFS stations and communities around the region, even getting out smaller locations such as Gragin Peak and the like.

Mr Burn would like to remind anyone thinking of becoming a volunteer that everything is paid for, there are no out-of-pocket expenses. To find out more information please contact your local RFS branch.



Warialda Rural Fire Service Captain Eddie Burn is calling out for new members

DISCUSS PREPARE KNOW KEEP

GET READY FOR A BUSH FIRE

Do you have a bushfire survival plan?

What will you do to keep family safe? It is time to act NOW.

**For more information please contact Bill on 0437 370 854
or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au**



WHAT'S ON!

Do you have an upcoming event, meeting or save the date you would like to list? Inclusion is free and available for all non-profit organisations and community events. AGM notices welcome. Please note all details are accurate at the time of publication, however may be subject to change.

Email: editor@thegwydirnews.com.au

DECEMBER 2021

- 16th** Bingara Garden Club meeting - 10:00am, Bingara Neighbourhood Centre
- 18th** Moree Summer Races - Moree Race Club
- 18th** Upper Horton Sports Club - Members Christmas party - 6:00pm
- 19th** Bingara Lions Markets - TBC
- 19th** Santa Visit - Bingara RSL Club
- 30 - 1st Jan** Upper Horton Campdraft - Upper Horton Sports Grounds

JANUARY 2022

- 1st** Jackpost Junior Rodeo - Upper Horton Sports Grounds
- 26th** Australia Day - various locations

FEBRUARY 2022

- 8th** Warialda High Year 7, 11 and 12 return to school
- 9th** Warialda High Years 8, 9, 10 return to school
- 21st** Warialda Hospital Auxiliary meeting - 2:00pm, Activities Room, Warialda MPS

SAVE THE DATE

- 12th March** Hollymount Garden Party - Fundraiser - 11:00am, Hollymount, Warialda Rail
- 19, 20, 26 & 27 March** *Oliver* - North West Theatre Company Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 26-27 Mar** Golf and Bowling weekend - Bingara
- July 2022** 'Unleash the Black Dog' Ball

EACH WEEK

- Every Monday** U3A Balance 'n' Bones 8:00am-9:00am, Bingara Community College
- Every Thursday** Casual Tennis 8:30am - \$5.00, All ages Bingara Tennis Courts
- Every Saturday** U3A - Pilates 10:00am-11:00am, Gwydir Health Hub

FOR SALE

2011 AVAN CRUISELINE ID CARAVAN - \$12, 500

- Good condition
 - Double Bed + 1 Single
 - Fully fitted out with good storage
 - Annex
 - Easy to put up and down
 - Easy towing
 - Registered until May 2022
- Phone: **02 6724 1538**

Anne Jex

21.2.1933 - 20.11.2021

The family of Anne Jex would like to advise of the recent passing on former Bingara resident, Anne Jex.

Anne grew up in Binagara and, since moving, had retained an interest in the town and it's happenings. She was a long-time subscriber to the Bingara Advocate (since the 1960s), and later, the Gwydir News.

Anne will be dearly missed by family and friends.

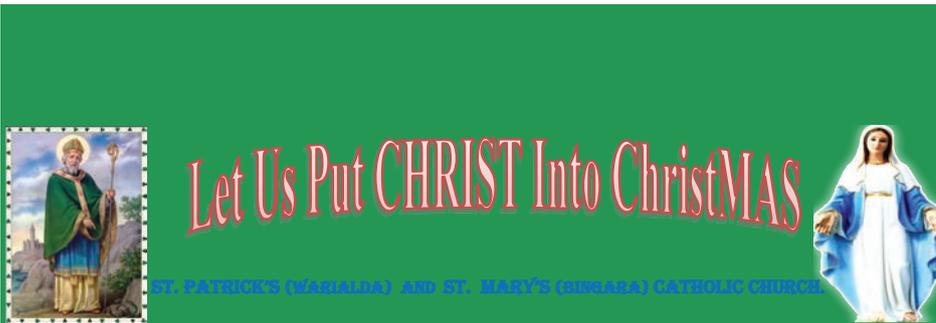
Re: David James MCGRATH NSW 794 of 2020/6

"On 19 March 2020, GG Woodgate was appointed Trustee of the bankrupt estate of **David James McGrath**.

A first and final dividend will be declared on 23 December 2021. If you may be a creditor of **David McGrath**, please contact Anitra Yu, of Woodgate & Co. on **(02) 9233 6088** to submit your claim in the bankrupt estate.

All submissions must be made by Monday, 20 December 2021.

If you fail to submit your proof of debt by that date, your claim will be excluded and a dividend will be paid without having regard to it."



The Parishioners of St Patrick's Parish Warialda and St Mary's Parish Bingara, would like to wish everyone all the joys and blessings of the beautiful season of Christmas. May the spirit of Christmas bring you and your family happiness, hope, and love. May this season of love warm your home and brighten your way. We welcome families to join us in celebrating Christmas, the joyful ceremonies marking Christ's birthday. Our Mass schedules are as follows:



- December 24th Vigil Mass ~ Bingara @ 5.30pm
~ Warialda @ 7pm**
- December 25th Christmas Day ~ Delungra @ 10am**
- December 26th Sunday Mass ~ Bingara @ 8am & Warialda @ 10am**

We pray that the light of Christ will brighten up lives all over the world
Merry Christmas and Greater New Year!!!

Charles Allen (Chairman Warialda PPC) Lee Loudon (Chairperson Bingara PPC) Fr Thaddeus Ike (Parish Priest/Admin.)

Church Notices

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Bingara: Worship at St. John's Anglican Parish, Bingara – Sunday 9:30am

Warialda: St Simon and St Jude Anglican Church, Warialda - Every Sunday - 9:30am

Coolatai: First Sunday each month - 3:30pm

Minister, Steve Cimarosti, can be contacted on 6729 1501

CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISHES WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULES

Warialda: Saturday – 6:00pm, 4th weekend – 10:00am

Delungra: Sundays – 10:00am, 4th weekend – 6:00pm

Bingara: Every Sunday – 8:00am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Warialda: 1st and 3rd weeks, Mass 9:00am.

Bingara: 2nd and 4th weeks, Rosary 9:30am/Mass 10:00am

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Thanksgiving and Family Mass: By appointment (02) 6729 1116

UNITING CHURCH

To join Reverend Jean's phone service on Sundays at 11:30am, please call her or text your number to 0407 625 410.

Inverell Uniting Church's services are also livestreamed 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 to be held each week.

Warialda: St Stephen's Presbyterian Church has weekly worship services each Sunday at 10:00am. Observation of strict social distancing and masks is mandatory. All welcome.

Even so faith, is has not works, is dead, being alone. James 2. 17

**M. R. Anderson
Contract Tank
Cleaning**

Have your rain water tank professionally cleaned with minimal loss of precious water

Contact Michael
P: 02 67241241
M: 0428 672 414



**WARIALDA
NEWSAGENCY**

Stationary - Cards
Giftware - Online Lotto
Magazines

Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm (5:30 Mon)
Sat 9-11am
Phone: 6729 1049

**WE
WARIALDA
ELECTRICAL**

Ivan and Debbie Cooper
Domestic, Rural, Industrial and
Commercial Services

Country Energy authorised contractor
Ph: 6729 1608 or
Fax: 6729 1977
Mobile: 0429 061 691
Lic. No. 83877C



**BW WELDING
SERVICES**

0409 365 153

**FOR ALL YOUR
WELDING NEEDS**

A.C. & H.J. ROSE

12 Ton Excavator - Backhoe
Tipper Trucks - Bobcat

Experiences operators and drivers
Also... gravel, loam, sand, & shale available

Phone: 6729 1079 • 0428 851 599

**Alan Bilsborough
Mechanical Repairs**

Automotive Air-conditioning
Service and Repairs
Rego checks on
light & heavy vehicles



BARRABA ROAD,
BINGARA
Lic No. 032813
Ph: 6724 1789
Mob: 0427 460 490

Weekdays 9am-5pm



**CAMERON
BUILDERS**

ALL SCOPES OF WORK

- RENOVATIONS • EXTENSIONS
- NEW HOMES • DECKS-STAIRS
- INSURANCE WORK

Mobile. 0413 497 708
NSW Licence #259682C

**ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTOR**

Domestic and rural

Mike Mitchell

Phone 0459 026 755
Lic No. 474 32C

ALLEN EVANS

Accredited wild game harvester

Fig • Deer • Kangaroos

0438 755 029

pinhead@hotmail.com

Covered for public liability



ARC

LICENCED TO INSTALL SPLIT AIR CONDITIONING

For all your electrical services

HAYES ELECTRICAL INSTALATIONS

Electrical contractors

Phone (02) 6724 1409 Mobile 0427 293 159

Servicing the Bingara district for over 40 years

Lic. No. EC 38946




EACH WEEK	Every Saturday	U3A - Pilates 10:00am-11:00am, Gwydir Health Hub	Every Monday	U3A Balance 'n' Bones 8:00am-9:00am, Bingara Community College
------------------	----------------	---	--------------	--

Claude Nichols Communications

- Television Installation
- Supplier of Television Aerials, Amplifiers, Cables and Sockets
- Video/ DVD Tune & Installation
- Digital Decoder Instalation
- Unrestricted telephone Outlet Cabling

Mobile: 0427 506 689

Ellie Skinner
Book Keeping & Secretarial

Over 25 Years Experience
Ph: 0428 232256

- Account Payable & receivable
- Wages
- Budgeting

SKIN CANCER CHECKS

Full body or spot check
On-site for larger employment groups or corporations (eg. councils) by arrangement

TAMWORTH
Dr Edward Or 6766 8000
No referral necessary



TURNER'S STEEL WARIALDA
MANUFACTURERS OF

- *GRIDS
- *FEED BINS *HAY RACKS
- *LOADING RAMPS
- *CATTLE, SHEEP AND HORSE PANELS
- *SUPPLIERS OF STEEL

Standard or customised
Contact Lee-Anne on 0428 420 002

Peter Fletcher
LICENSED TRADE PAINTER

- New Homes
- Repaints
- Roof Spraying

P. 6724 1630
M. 0428 688678
Lic. No. 81069




Bizclean Monthly Wash

Need a minimum of 5 to fill machine.
Quilts & Doonas washed 4th week
Horse rugs & swags 2nd week

Ph: 02 6729 1800



Bingara Veterinary Clinic
35a Maitland Street, Bingara

Health care for small and large animals
9am to 5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Closed Wednesday
Emergency after hours service from Barraba

Ph/ Fax: 6724 1000



WILLIAMS TREE SERVICE

FOR ALL YOUR TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL NEEDS. NO TREE TOO BIG OR SMALL. FULLY INSURED

0477 071 835

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

- Fabric Upholstery
- Leather Furniture Cleaning
- Tile & Grout Steam Cleaning
- 25 Years Experience

Steve Adams
0412 961 446



Grain, Gravel, Sand Fertilizer Cartage
Truck with Pig and Dog trailers available

CALCO ENTERPRISES
Baden McDouall Gav King
0427 247 144 0427 834 210

HIGHWAY SERVICE CENTRE
WARIALDA

On the highway corner
Dyno Tuning Wheel Alignment
Mechanical Repairs



6729 0158

YOUR LOCAL SOLICITOR

JANELLE MACK

27 MAITLAND ST,
BINGARA
OPEN 9AM - 3PM
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY
& THURSDAY
OR BY APPOINTMENT
PH: 6724 1882 FAX: 6724 1883
A/H: 6724 1436



WARIALDA SANDS
46 Gragin Road
Prompt supplies of sand, gravel or loam
Phone: 6729 1479
Mobile: 0427 665 676

ANDERSON
Electrical & Air-Conditioning
Mitch Anderson
0447 506 236
mitchanderson06@gmail.com
Electrical
Domestic - Commercial - Rural - Industrial
Air-Conditioning
Installation - Maintenance - Repairs
Refrigeration
Licence No. 271539C | ARC.L 100645

Peter Moodie Electrical
0412 914 240 - 1300 326 821
Licence No 80882C
13321 Gwydir Hwy, Warialda





Warialda Lions Club
welcomes new members.
Meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of
each month at the Warialda Golf &
Bowling Club. Optional dinner at 6pm
followed by meeting at 7pm.
For further information contact
Dwight Johnson 0407 417 464



**NORTH WEST
PETROLEUM**

For all your bulk on-farm fuel and lubricants
Regos & Mechanical Repairs
Farm Produce etc
Batteries for cars, trucks, Tractors & Bikes
Bait & Ice

Ph: 6724 8484
Fax: 6724 8550
26 Inverell Street, Delungra
Brian Leadbeater: 0428 637 091




**GWYDIR
VISITING
VETS**
0488 297 429

Mixed animal veterinary service with full
hospital and surgical facilities including: digital
x-ray, in-house pathology and ultrasound.
Local A/H service for clients.
Ph Kate 0488297429.

GWYDIR FREIGHT & STORAGE
WARIALDA
0427 472 250

FREIGHT FORWARDING & DISTRIBUTION
STORAGE UNITS, WAREHOUSING & INTERNAL STORAGE FOR MOTOR BIKES
YARD SPACE FOR BOATS, CARAVANS, MOTOR VEHICLES
UPSTAIRS OFFICE/STUDIO SPACE

WARIALDA SWIMMING CLUB SPLASHES INTO THE SEASON



Warialda Swimming Club has experienced a boost in numbers this season and continues to welcome new members

The Warialda Swimming Club is experiencing a resurgence of interest with an influx of new members and new fish coming through the ranks.

New swimmers as young as five have been attending Swimming Club nights, which will continue to be held every Wednesday until

just before Christmas. Club will then return at the commencement of the 2022 school term in February.

Swimming Club is a great opportunity for swimmers to gain exposure to the racing environment. Each week they can race any or all of the strokes, with their times recorded.

Swimmers will receive participation points in a pointscore and then extra points each time they record a better time, so they are actually racing their own times each week, rather than racing each other.

Each stroke is raced in both 25 metres and 50 metres to accommodate all swimming levels, as well as a feature race every week, which will alternate between a 100 metre Freestyle event and another 100 metre or 200 metre event. Afterwards a BBQ is held, so you won't even need to worry about cooking dinner on Club nights!

Entry to the pool continues to be free for Gwydir Shire residents, however all swimmers will need to become members of the Club for insurance purposes. Parents' memberships are less than \$25 and then Swimmers' memberships for the 2021-2022 season range from \$62 to \$80. This fee covers insurance as well as affiliation with Swimming NSW.

For further information, contact the Warialda Swimming Club through their Facebook page.

GOLF NEWS

Contributed by Thomas Kilner and Tex Wright

The Dave Rose Cup made its way back to Bingara after 24 players visited Warialda Golf Course to take on their lads on Sunday.

Warialda presented a lovely bit of weather on the day and the course was tough but in good condition for a round of friendly but competitive golf. D Smith of Warialda had a great 38 points to win the day, whilst Dave Brown his a fantastic 36 points for Bingara.

Warialda's Captain Shark had his calculator in overdrive trying to add the scores up in their favour, but the bottom line was that the Bingara boys were just too good.

Bingara started the day with a 3.8 point lead and Warialda were out to give Bingara a lesson. Warialda won the day but only by 2.8 points, allowing Bingara to win by just 1 point. A great result on all fronts.

It now stands with both clubs holding the trophy four times each since the Cup's inception in 2014.

Of the 24 who travelled from Bingara, 12 were regular Sunday golfers and 12 were Thursday hackers. The hackers were victorious over their Sunday counterparts by 13 points. This was celebrated by Magoo and Slim quite boisterously.

Your reason for NOT getting out on the golf course:

'Thomas's wife asked why he wasn't going to golf. Thomas said "I usually play with Dave but would you like to play with someone who miscounts, moves his ball when you aren't looking and also dodges the shout?"

His wife said "No, of course not!" Thomas replied: "Neither does Dave."



The Gwydir News would like to thank its readers for their support during 2022

MERRY
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

NORTH STAR SHINES AT PONY CLUB NATIONALS



NSW junior Tetrathlon team Tom Ryan, Alex Gould, Jack Doolin and Matthew Kerridge. Photo Credit: Jakki Tanner

Local riders, Jack and Sam Doolin, of North Star Pony Club, represented NSW at the recent Pony Club Nationals Hub held at Kootingal in November

Jack rode his horse, Warrego Jetson, competing in the Junior combined training and Tetrathlon teams. Sam rode Miss Shutterbug, in the sub junior Show jumping and Tetrathlon teams. Performances were recorded and submitted for judging by Pony Club Australia in what became a virtual competition between the states to allow the competition to go ahead, despite the current COVID-19 situation.

"The children have been working towards qualifying, and training towards competing since the last nationals in Sydney back in 2019, so it was fantastic to be able to compete," said Sandy Doolin.

The original competition was supposed to be held at Benalla, Victoria, in the September school holidays however lockdown there and border closures made that impossible.

JUNIOR REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations go to Bingara's Karys Smith, who was recently named 2021 Junior Club Referee of the Year for the Bingara Bullets.

Earlier this year, Karys and fellow Bingara Referee, Shaylah, were represented on a jersey showcasing female referees of the game worn by elite match officials in the NRL's Women In League Round.

Bingara Bullets representative, Casey McClymont, says the Club is very proud of Karys' achievements.

"As a Club, we would like to congratulate Karys on being named Referee of the Year. This is recognition for all her hard work in the game."

Karys has been playing and involved with the Club since she was around 11 years old and has been refereeing for the last couple of seasons. She is qualified to referee all ages, but says she particularly enjoys overseeing the games of younger children.

Right: Karys Smith who has been named Bingara Minor League Referee of the Year



BINGARA BOWLERS CELEBRATE 70TH BIRTHDAY



Bingara Bowling greens hosted over 20 teams for their 70th Birthday competition

On November 27 the Bingara Bowls Club celebrated its 70th birthday, with 20 teams competing on the day.

Clubs from Ashford, Warialda, Barraba, Manilla, Inverell RSM and Bingara all fielded teams with Bingara playing with an impressive ten teams. It was a great day of bowls for the most part with a sunny start, however heavy rain came in during the afternoon, stopping play close to the end of the day.

Bowlers enjoyed great company, with a barbeque lunch held at the Sporting Club offering a break from the heat during the middle of the day..

Winner on the day was RSM 3, with runners-up being Stuart Dixon's Bingara President's Team Ashford came in third.

Saturday December 4 was once again Barney's Day, held annually to raise money for cancer. This year the Galvin family and the Bingara Sporting Club recognised 25 years of hosting the day.

There were 54 bowlers playing on the day, with the winners being Mark Wadley, Graham Galvin and David Childs. Runners-up were Adam Reading, Tim McManus and Brock Galvin.

To receive your monthly digital copy of The Gwydir News delivered FREE to your inbox every month contact us at: editor@thegwydirnews.com.au or phone 0436 934 099.