

THARAWONGA CONTINUES TO SERVICE OUTLYING COMMUNITIES



Above, left: Tharawonga Service Director, Emma Read, with Maggie Uebergang, and right: Lucy Uebergang taking orders for the preschool cafe



A mobile preschool that offers non-profit, caring and friendly childhood, play-based education to families across five small communities in the Gwydir Shire that runs weekly may sound too good to be true, but Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit provides all this in our own backyard and is currently nearing it's 30th year.

Tharawonga is classified as a long day care service and opens its travelling doors to children between the ages of 2 - 6 years.

Children of North Star, Croppa Creek, Yetman, Gravesend and Yallaro continue to benefit from the fun, early learning service provided by educators that are invested in providing opportunities to children, no matter where they live.

Young people are offered experiences that nurture childhood development, skills and social opportunities. A quality start to education is essential and Tharawonga Director, Emma Read, says that the service can help parents reach the 15 hours per week of early childhood education recommended by the NSW State Government's Start Strong for Community Preschool's program.

"At Tharawonga, the idea is to offer the same access to early childhood experiences as any regular preschool service," Emma said.

The days are full of action with a vast range of activities on offer on any one day. Tharawonga's vehicles are loaded up at the start of each week with all manner of toys, craft supplies and equipment that would be utilised in any other preschool or day care service.

"Mobile services are very organised. You've got to be because if you don't have the things that you need, there is no going back," she said.

In the past month the service has undergone an accreditation assessment – the first of its kind for providers such as this across NSW. Whilst the process was rigorous Tharawonga Director, Emma Read, says that expectations of accreditation are already met each day in order to offer their program to the region's young people.

"We had a couple of periods of disruption over the past years due to COVID-19. During this time we created packs of things the children could do at home with their families, mostly via email, to provide that opportunity," she said.

Amongst the activities offered were packets of seed that were sent home. Following simple instructions, children were able to grow plants such as broccoli and send in photos to staff.

Back in the community halls that allow the service to operate, children paint, play, read, ride and interact with each other and staff, before it is time to pack the whole lot up and start again in a new place, on another day.

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MAYORAL COLUMN



Earlier this year Gwydir Shire Council's customer service centre in Warialda was relocated from the Council building in Hope Street where it was housed for many years, to the Visitor Information Centre located on the corner of Geddes Street and Holden Street.

This move was initiated by Council to allow for a more efficient use of staff resources and to facilitate an increase in Service NSW hours from three days a week, to five days later in the year.

I am pleased to announce that as of the 1 June these changes have taken affect, with the agency now open two additional half days each week, on Monday and Thursday mornings.

This increase in hours is excellent news for residents, providing greater convenience and access to this service.

I am also pleased to announce that Gwydir Shire has been selected as one of six LGAs across NSW identified for the Regional Drought Resilience Planning pilot program.

As part of this program Gwydir Shire Council is working with the University of New England (UNE) to host a series of workshops in the towns and villages within the Gwydir Shire, starting next week.

Seven workshops in total will be held, with the aim of harnessing the knowledge and experience of our community in relation to drought mitigation and preparedness.

The information gathered will be used to develop a drought resilience plan for our Shire. The plan will identify strategies to help future proof our community against rising temperatures and reoccurring drought conditions across the board, from farming practices and urban design to social planning.

Through this process we are hoping to identify practical and effective ways to help our community get through the tough times.

I urge as many people as possible to attend these workshops so we can be more resilient and better prepared for drought conditions in the future.

The 2022/2023 Council budget is now on display and will be reconsidered and adopted at the June meeting of Council. It is during this display period that residents have an opportunity to make comment. If you would like to view the budget, please visit Council's website. If you would like to provide feedback, please do so in writing before 24 June 2022.

Finally, delegates from Gwydir Shire Council will be attending the Australian Local Government Conference in Canberra this month, providing excellent opportunity to speak to Federal politicians about various concerns that may arise.

Until the next edition, keep warm

Cr John Coulton



COLLEGE CHAT

with Jannette Tan

Bingara and Warialda Community College

JUNE 2022

Winter has finally hit. We hope everyone has the fire going and is staying nice and warm.

#Get Digital/Be Connected

A class just for you if you are having trouble navigating your mobile phone, tablet or laptop.

Running for three hours, once a week for eight weeks, our trainer will help you navigate your mobile phone, tablet or laptop and help you get rid of your bugbears.

Digital Skills

Do you need a better and clearer understanding of how to use those pesky laptops or computers? This is the next stage from the **Get Digital** class if you are wanting to learn a little bit more about Microsoft Office.

Digital Skills runs for three hours a day, once a week for eight weeks. In those weeks you will cover the topics:

- Navigating Windows 10 and Introduction to Microsoft Word
- Introduction to Microsoft Excel and Introduction to the Cloud
- Introduction to Microsoft Power Point and Use, Communicate and Search securely on the Internet

If this is something you, a friend or family member may be interested in please phone us or call in to one of our campuses.

Please let us know if there is anything you are interested in and we will see what we can arrange for you.

Cheers, Jannette

Coordinator Community College Warialda and Bingara

Ph 0438 546 519 Monday-Friday, 8:30am – 5:00pm or visit our website: www.communitycollegeni.nsw.edu.au/ RTO 90027

ORANGE POLICE REMINDER
Please don't pick the oranges

The oranges are an important community memorial for the residents and students of Bingara. Planted as a memorial to the town's fallen War Veterans, the annual harvest of the trees happens on only one day per year. The respect, self-discipline and pride in this unique memorial have been carried out since the 1960's. Please wait until Orange picking day on Friday July 1

MARK COULTON APPOINTED NATIONALS' CHIEF WHIP

Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton has been appointed as the National Party's Chief Whip. The appointment comes following the announcement of the Coalition's shadow ministry on Sunday.

Having served as a Member of Parliament for more than 14 years, Mr Coulton brings a wealth of experience to the role of Chief Whip – a position he previously held for two terms, from 2010 to 2016.

"This is an important role, particularly as the Nationals now find themselves in opposition," Mr Coulton said.

"I believe my experience as the longest-serving Nationals member in the House of Representatives will be useful to help the Party continue to be the strong voice for regional Australia."

Mr Coulton has held a number of different roles since he was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2007. Most recently, he served as the Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government from February 2020 until July 2021.

He was previously the Minister for Regional Services, Decentralisation and Local Government, and Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment. Mr Coulton also held the position of Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives from 2016 to 2018.

As Nationals' Chief Whip, Mr Coulton will be responsible for organising the National Party members in the House of Representatives.

EISTEDDFOD SUCCESS



Warialda Primary School Choir made the journey to Inverell to take part in their annual Eisteddfod during the last week of May. This event brings talented groups and individuals together from across the region to perform.

Showing courage to walk onto the stage and perform, the Choir sang beautifully. The Choir won over the highly astute panel of judges to be awarded their highest ever score of 90 points. Not only did the group win high praise, but they also claimed first place. Congratulations to all the Warialda Public School Choir members and teacher, Mrs Amy McIntosh.

Above: Warialda Public School 2022 Choir. Cate Barnett, Ruby Barwick, Matilda Brooks, Ava Brown, Katie-Lee Churchland, Isy Diprose, Imogen Falkenberg, Anastasia Moore, Ellie Prescott, Charlie Trigger, Indianna Turner, Lily-Ann Turner, Phoebe Warren, Harriet Warrener, Regan Warrener, Nevaeh Wood, Millie Taylor, Shianne Woodward, Ruby-Lee Austin, Emily Steward, Abigale Clark, Darci Ford, Matilda McCudden, Ivy Taylor, Claire Barnett, Lauren Moxey, Roxy Tu, Ada van Velthuizen and Henry Turnbull.

WHAT IS AN IP&R DOCUMENT AND WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework changed the way Councils in NSW planned, documented and reported on their plans for the future. The Framework came into practice in 2009 and many councils have refined the way they create and review these plans over the subsequent years.

It is intended that the IP&R Framework begins with the community's, not Council's, aspirations for a period of at least 10 years and include plans that set out a vision and goals and strategic actions to achieve them. It also involves a reporting structure to communicate progress to Council and the community as well as a structured timeline for review to ensure the goals and actions are still relevant.

The Operational Plan clearly states the projects that will be delivered by each of Council's services and capital works projects that are scheduled.

"These documents are created from the Community Strategic Plan which is a plan created by you, the community," said Gwydir Shire Council's IP&R and Governance Officer, Casey McClymont.

"This Plan is your opportunity to provide input into the future of Gwydir Shire and work alongside Council and other relevant organisations to contribute to achieve the communities vision "Gwydir Country – Fresh air, Innovation, Opportunity and Resilience."

Gwydir Shire Council's IP&R documents are now available to view online at: <https://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au/Council/Governance/Integrated-Planning-and-Reporting-Draft-Documents>

Available to access are :

- Draft Community Strategic Plan 2017 - 2027
- Draft Operational Plan – 2022 - 2023
- Draft Fees and Charges – 2022 – 2023
- Draft 2022 – 2023 Budget

The documents are also available to access at local regional libraries.

HAPPY DAYS FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 1ST - SATURDAY 2ND JULY 2022

FRIDAY 1ST ORANGE PICKING CEREMONY


FRIDAY EVENING / 'GREASE' SCREENING AT THE ROXY

SATURDAY 2ND ORANGE FESTIVAL

THE ZEPHYR PROJECT / VINTAGE CAR DISPLAYS / MARKET STALLS / MOVIE SCREENINGS RETRO FASHIONS /
KIDS ENTERTAINMENT DANCE DEMONSTRATIONS / MEMPHIS MOVERS / SATURDAY EVENING /
BINGARA RSL CLUB / 50'S DANCE HALL WITH DJ GRIZZLY ADAMS



FOR FURTHER EVENT DETAILS, LOCAL ATTRACTIONS AND ACCOMMODATION CALL BINGARA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE ON 02 6724 0066 OR VISIT WWW.BINGARA.COM.AU

 BINGARA NSW Call Georgia 0491 272 614 or gstanderwick@gwyir.nsw.gov.au

Celebrating the good times of yesteryear!



Countdown on to Happy Days Orange Festival

The countdown is on for the 2022 Regional Australia Bank, Bingara Happy Days Orange Festival.

This year's event will have festival goers dancing in the street as it again takes on the "Happy Days" theme, celebrating the nostalgia and music of the 50s and 60s.

The weekend of events commences on Friday 1st July at 12:00pm, with the annual Orange Picking Ceremony on Finch Street, in front of the Bingara RSL Club.

Despite a few setbacks with pest management after a wetter than usual summer, the trees have produced a bumper crop of fruit which are sure to meet the approval of even the most discerning orange connoisseur.

The 'Orange Police' (aka Bingara Central School students) have done a fantastic job of keeping the oranges safe and secure for the picking, and have recently placed signs on each of the trees informing visitors of the sacred Orange Picking tradition.

On Friday night the fun and frivolity will kick off with a special screening of *Stand By Me* at the Roxy Theatre, with all funds raised going towards the 2023 festival.

The fundraiser will be a night the whole family can enjoy with 50s fun for everyone! The Roxy café next door will be serving retro diner classics such as milkshakes and burgers, and participants are encouraged to sing and dance along during this nostalgic film classic.

For those who really want to get into the spirit of the evening, there will be prizes for the best dressed, so don your leather jackets, poodle skirts or jeans with turned up cuffs.

On Saturday, the retro fun continues with vintage car displays, screenings of 50s and 60s documentaries and TV shows in the historic Roxy Theatre. There will be Rock 'n' Roll music to get your toes tapping with performances by *The Zephyr Project* and *Memphis Mover's*, as well as kid's rides and entertainment, and Rock 'n' Roll dance demonstrations.



For those with a pelvis like Elvis, don't miss the Orange Festival hula hoop competition. There are three age categories: tiny tots 5 - 11 years, teeny boppers 12 - 16 years and the rocking bodgies 17 - 97yrs. The competition kicks off at 12:30pm on the main stage.

Following the festival, the Bingara RSL Club will be hosting a 50s and 60s Dance Hall from 7.00pm until late with legendary retro DJ Grizzly Adams, as well as dance demonstrations and instruction from the New England Rockabilly Rockers. Even if you have two left feet, Grizzly guarantees he will get you rocking.

It is sure to be a great weekend in Bingara so ring your friends, ring your family, and make sure they make it to Bingara for the Regional Australia Bank, Bingara Happy Days Orange Festival weekend.

For more information, please contact Georgia Standerwick on **0491 272 614**. For stalls, please contact Jen Mead at the Bingara Visitor Information Centre on **6724 0066** or **0400 826 551**.





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GWYDIR AND INVERELL RESIDENTS URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLANNING



Regional Drought Resilience Planning will begin in the Gwydir and Inverell Local Government Areas (LGA) shortly.

Selected as one of six LGAs across NSW identified for the Regional Drought Resilience Planning pilot program, Gwydir and Inverell Councils will be working with the University of New England (UNE) to host a series of workshops in the towns and villages within the Gwydir and Inverell regions.

Fourteen workshops in total will be held, with the aim of harnessing the knowledge and experience of locals in relation to drought mitigation and preparedness.

The information gathered will be used to develop a drought resilience plan for the Gwydir and Inverell communities. The plan will identify strategies to help future proof these communities against rising temperatures and reoccurring drought conditions across the board, from farming practices and urban design to social planning.

General Manager of Gwydir Shire Council, Max Eastcott, said the program would provide the Gwydir community with important insight in terms of drought resilience and planning.

“Through this process we are hoping to identify practical and effective ways to help our community get through the tough times”, Mr Eastcott said.

“This initiative will allow us to better understand how our community as a whole can be more resilient and better prepared for future drought conditions.”

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program is being delivered as part of the Future Ready Regions Strategy, with joint funding from the Commonwealth Government’s Future Drought Fund and NSW

Government’s Regional Growth Fund.

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program aims to empower regional communities to plan for the future by working with local councils, NSW Government agencies, communities and industries to become more resilient against the impacts of drought and other challenges.

Gwydir and Inverell Councils are urging residents from all backgrounds and vocations to participate in the workshops.

General Manager of Inverell Shire Council, Paul Henry, said that drought is an issue that effects the whole community, and this planning will take a whole of community approach to reducing our vulnerability.

“We want to hear your experiences of the past drought, the challenges that were faced and any ideas you have that will help build resilience in our community to combat the effects of drought in the future”, said Mr Henry.

The workshops will be held at the following locations within the Gwydir and Inverell Shires:

Tuesday 14 June

9.00am – 11.00am | North Star | The Vicarage Cafe
1.30pm – 3.30pm | Yetman | Yetman Hall

Wednesday 15 June

9.00am – 11.00am | Croppa Creek | Croppa Creek Bowling Club
1.30pm – 3.30pm | Gravesend | Gravesend Club

Thursday 16 June

9.00am – 11.00am | Warialda | Warialda Soldiers Memorial Hall
1.30pm – 3.30pm | Coolatai | The Wallaroo Hotel

Friday 17 June

9.00am – 11.00am | Bingara | The Living Classroom
1.30pm – 3.30pm | Upper Horton | The Upper Horton Sports Club

Monday 20 June

9.00am – 11.00am | Tingha | Tingha Town Hall
1.30pm – 3.30pm | Ashford | Ashford Bowling Club

Tuesday 21 June

9.00am – 11.00am | Delungra | Delungra Multi-Purpose Hall
1.30pm – 3.30pm | Inverell | Inverell Town Hall Annexe

For more information or to register for a workshop visit:

<https://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au/Council/Gwydir-and-Inverell-Community-Drought-Resilience-Planning-Workshops>



COOPER & SMITH OPTOMETRISTS

Moree and Goondiwindi

Next visit to Warialda is on Wednesday 29th June

For appointments, contact the Warialda Medical Centre on 6729 1520

Next visit to Bingara is on Thursday 30th June

For appointments, contact the Bingara Medical Centre on 6724 1900

Drought resilience

Our region is experiencing more frequent and intense droughts. Community input is essential to build local and regional drought resilience.



Gwydir and Inverell Shire Councils are currently working with the University of New England (Armidale) to develop a drought resilience plan for the Gwydir and Inverell communities to help future proof our region against rising temperatures and recurring drought conditions.



Big business comes early for the Smith children



For many, there were some long days during COVID-19 lockdowns throughout 2020-21 with plenty of time to think and spend together as families. When COVID-19 isolation struck the Smith family again in January this year, the idea of a handmade candle business was tossed about, and The Silter Shop was borne.

With a lot of help from Mum, Jackie and Dad, Tom, the three Smith children got their small business underway with a range of collections including Black and White Minimalist, Chic and Special Occasion.

Run straight from their Warialda home, the range of scents has something for everyone with Japanese Honeysuckle, Champagne and Strawberries and French Pear proving popular, or perhaps Australian Bush or Coconut and Lime is more your style.

Jackie says it has been a fabulous opportunity for the family to learn a lot of lessons and have a whole lot of fun doing it.

So.... Why Silter for the name?

“Silter is an anagram, made up of words that are significant to our kids. I personally feel Silter Shop happens to be quite catchy,” said Jackie.

The children have also added their own personal choices to the growing range of collections. Tex loves Tie-Dye, so with that in mind he had the idea to create Tex-Dye, scented with his favourite Very Vanilla fragrance.

“Ivy’s life is full of colour, she amazes me each and every day with her outlook on life and her way with words is truly a gift. So, in true rainbow-girl style, she has created a range of neon candles in a stylish black tin with the youthful fragrance of bubble gum,” said Jackie.

“Tate... what can I say, he enjoys keeping us entertained at all times - you sure do know he’s around. He’s a colourful character and has many layers, just like his candle - Tate’s Tri-Coloured,” she added.

Visit the Silter Shop on Facebook or via <https://siltershop.com>

Top: The Smith children, Ivy, Tex and Tate have created a creative and professional business with the help of family, all from their Warialda home. Above: an example of the handmade candles available

TEDDY BEARS IN THE PARK



Auggie Standerwick enjoys a morning at the park with dozens of teddy bears, donated by Bingara Community Op Shop. The morning was hosted by Bingara Librarian, Gail Phillpott

A drop in temperature didn't deter the enthusiasm of the children that attended the Bingara Library Teddy Bear's Picnic in the park.

Dozens of teddy bears lay in wait for their small companions, ready to enjoy a story on the picnic rug, climb on the play equipment and have a swing.

"Thanks to a donation from the Bingara Community Op Shop, the children were treated to the sight of bears everywhere in their local park. At the end of the morning, they each chose one special bear to take home and keep," said Bingara Librarian, Gail Phillpott.

"We had a great time and even had someone travelling past stop to join us for a short time."

WARIALDA HOSPITAL AUXILIARY UPDATE



Warialda Hospital Auxiliary volunteers and Warialda Hospital staff with a fountain donated by the Auxiliary. The fountain resides in grounds of the hospital gardens

Warialda Hospital Auxiliary conducted a very successful Street Stall on election day, 21 May, raising over \$1700. All money raised by the Auxiliary continues to be used to purchase equipment, items for the benefit of patients, doctors and medical staff at Warialda MPS.

The Auxiliary extends its congratulation to Steve Goodworth, who won their most recent raffle of \$350 vouchers to spend in local businesses.

A Garden Party is being planned to be held in the beautiful garden of Carmel and Roger Gobbert, Long Street Warialda, on Saturday October 29. More details will be available closer to the date.

The popular Market Night has been booked for Saturday November 12 at Warialda Golf and Bowling Club. This night has had to be cancelled for the last two years, so Auxiliary members are hopeful that this year's Market Night will proceed.

The next raffle will be a package of bed linen worth over \$300. Members will commence selling tickets in early June alongside the always popular 100 Club numbers.

Warialda and district residents are very supportive of the initiatives of the Hospital Auxiliary and the Auxiliary members are appreciative of this support.

"Let us hold high the lamp of service for the welfare of our hospitals."

Power prices pressure farmers



The state's peak farming body has asked the NSW Government to invest in small scale on-farm renewables to ease cost pressures for food producers.

The cost of electricity has nearly tripled in the past decade, according to Reg Kidd from the NSW Farmers Energy Transition Working Group, who said regional and rural users already paid 25 per cent more than urban users.

"This is a huge cost for country people, but it's especially felt by those high energy users such as intensive livestock producers," Mr Kidd said.

"Many farm businesses are seeking efficiencies and certainty of energy supply by installing solar or other renewable generation, backed up by batteries, and while the costs of these are gradually reducing, they are still a major infrastructure investment to meet business rather than residential requirements."

"NSW Farmers is asking the state government for investment in farm businesses, including subsidies and low interest loans, to install renewable energy generation and storage."

"For primary producers, Energy Sustainability Rebates have the potential to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions," Mr Kidd said. With food being a major output of agricultural operation, all Australians had a stake in ensuring farms could transition to clean, affordable and reliable energy.

"Without reliable energy supply the fresh product can quickly spoil and result in shortages," Mr Kidd said.

"By installing renewable energy systems primary producers increase certainty across their business operations and contribute to economy-wide carbon emission reduction targets."

"Decision makers serious about these targets should support farmers investing in energy efficient or own-generation technology, which will also improve reliability of local electricity supply."

GROWING NUMBERS HIGHLIGHT CHANGING ATTITUDE TO WATER RULES

NSW continues to add to its tally of water law compliance with 1233 enforcement actions taken since the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) began public reporting of data in 2019.

Cumulative quarterly reporting figures show that NRAR has carried out an average of 112 enforcement actions in each quarter, across the state, since mid-2019.

NRAR Chief Regulatory Officer Grant Barnes said quarterly figures for January to March this year highlighted changing attitudes to complying with water laws in NSW.

It comes as only one investigation for the Gwydir Local Government Area was received and finalised, with no formal notices, penalty infringements or statutory notices issued.

“We’ve been very successful in encouraging a shift towards voluntary compliance among the state’s water users,” Mr Barnes said.

“Part of that has been actively enforcing the law, we have more than 4000 completed investigations under our belt, but part has also been in our commitment to transparent reporting,” Mr Barnes said.

“We put forward our enforcement figures every quarter for people to see what we do,” he said.

“For example, our busiest year in terms of enforcement actions was 2020 when there were 563 actions resulting in either fines, directions to stop or carry out work, or formal warnings.”

“This was boosted by the introduction of satellite surveillance and other technology to NRAR’s compliance monitoring tools around that time.”

“This quarter’s enforcement action numbers are lower than some periods in previous years due in part to our proactive approach. We’re more proactive to raise awareness

of the rules and intervene early to prevent ongoing harm.”

The online reporting tool allows users to see the numbers at state, regional and local scale.

State-wide statistics for the first three months of 2022 included:

- 2589 property inspections, including both desktop audits and onsite visits
- 44 enforcement actions, including 11 penalty infringement notices, 23 formal warnings and 10 directions to carry out remedial work or stop work
- 265 investigations were finalised
- 15 prosecutions active in court

View how NRAR is enforcing NSW water laws, with regional or LGA breakdowns at: <https://www.nrar.nsw.gov.au/progress-and-outcomes/qrt-reports/regional-compliance-breakdown>

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Phone: 02 6762 6002

Mail: PO Box 77, Armidale NSW 2350

Email: northern@tablelands.parliament.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.adammarshall.com.au

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VOLUNTEERS KEEP THE WHEELS TURNING



Kelly Skelton is known amongst the Warialda community for her can do attitude at the Service NSW agency in Warialda. It is well known that Kelly will go above and beyond her normal duties to assist customers where possible but what you may not realise is that Kelly is also involved with a number of volunteering commitments and has been for many years.

Kelly is always the first to put her hand up and say, "I'll help!", a gesture that doesn't go unnoticed. She has helped with a number of sporting teams in her time including Senior League Tag and she previously coached Junior Rugby League for two years. The role of coaching a sporting team is no small feat and is a huge commitment for anyone.

For many years Kelly has designed and created posters for Carinda House which are distributed throughout Warialda and on social media. Kelly's creative skills are certainly appreciated.

More recently, Kelly joined the Warialda Jockey Club to help organise Fashions on the Field, the yabbies races and Facebook promotion of the event. These roles were taken on with professionalism and her hard work ensured the day was a success.

Kelly says it is important for youth in the area to be on a committee which interests them to ensure the longevity of events in the future.

"A lot of local committees have run smoothly and brilliantly for many years by the same people and while that is fantastic, I really feel younger people need to get involved with committees and learn from people who have years of experience in the field. If younger people do not get involved now, who will be running the major events in Warialda like the Show and the Races in 20 years' time?" she questions.

When asked about why she is involved with so many areas, her response was very simple.

"I really enjoy being involved with events and seeing the hard work come together. It is nice to be a part of something that brings so much joy to the community and I really encourage anyone wanting to make a difference in their community to volunteer".

Kelly hopes to remain an active volunteer and while it is difficult to juggle working full time and raising teenagers, she says she would like to continue to volunteer and support the Warialda district whenever she can.

Thank you to all volunteers across the Gwydir Shire, this week and every week.



Depending on where you source your information from, the collective noun for a group of volunteers is a cache, an army or a constellation. Whatever the case, the volunteers of Bingara Historical Society are a busy bunch with a driving passion behind them.

The Gwydir News caught up with two of the group this National Volunteer Week (May 16-22) to find out why they love what they do.

About five years ago, both Lynne Clarke and Ted Sparke were drawn to become members of the Historical Society, each with a different agenda.

For Ms Clarke, it was the lure of rocks, having heard about the amazing and expansive collection housed within the Bingara Museum. Her curiosity for all things gems and minerals was more than satisfied when she walked through the doors for the first time.

"I really love gemstones, so I was blown away by the whole building of rocks. To be able to learn about them. For a little town it is unbelievable, there is so much stuff in there. I thought it was unbelievable - I was in heaven," said Ms Clarke.

A curious mind and a passion for research tempted Mr Sparke through the doors for his first Wednesday meeting, a commitment he has continued as often as he can ever since.

Having been tasked with cataloguing the Society's expansive photo collection, Mr Sparke has thrived on unearthing treasures and connecting the dots that have sometimes been missed.

"I just enjoy research and looking and digging into the history of people. And, the good company," he said.

With an investigative mind, Mr Sparke, along with other Historical Society members, gets down to business most weeks in the comfort of the office space and storage building, constructed in the past few years, thanks to the NSW State Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund (Round 2).

"There just seems to be something about Bingara," said Mr Sparke. "You go to some other places and they're just bland."

"I think Ted said it all, really. You could never call Bingara bland," said Ms Clarke.

Above, left: Ms Kelly Skelton has been a pivotal part of the Warialda community for years, volunteering for numerous committees, most recently at the Warialda Races

Above, right: Mr Ted Sparke with Ms Lynne Clarke, two of the enthusiastic volunteers of the Bingara Historical Society

Bingara gives back and boosts flood relief by \$40,000 and a whole lot of good will



Students of Bingara Central School's Leadership Group, together with Qynn and Caoimhe Stamer and Bingara Lions Club President Scot Crispin, presented a cheque for \$40,000 to Byron Bay Rudolf Steiner School students from the Bangalow and Mullumbimby communities during the school student's visit to The Living Classroom recently

After the devastating floods that occurred in Northern New South Wales, members of the Bingara Lions Club, Vision 2020, Bingara Community Op Shop and Gwydir Shire Council decided to give back to the communities that supported the Bingara community so staunchly during the crippling drought.

"Initially, collection tins were distributed among shops in town to ensure people were aware of the support we were trying to arrange," said Bingara Lions Club President, Scot Crispin.

"These tins were quick to raise funds and the QR code donation system on posters around town was successful, but the committee decided we needed to do more."

The idea of the Big Heart Barbecue was born on a Friday evening with Gwydir Oval booked, performers arranged, and food organised.

"The groups wanted to create something substantial and discussed the idea of fireworks," said Mr Crispin.

Entertainers Larry and Nat donated their time and talent and played some wonderful tunes as locals and visitors alike and Bingara SES

provided a great display of their equipment. The Bingara Lions cooked a delicious barbecue, with meat graciously donated by Damien and the team at Meat on Maitland.

The always amazing Op Shop team collected donations while more entertainment was on display by fire twirlers.

Finally, Holy Smoke's team wowed the crowd with possibly one of the biggest fireworks shows ever set-off over the town of Bingara. The night added over \$3000 to the fundraising efforts.

Donations from the Bingara Lions, Vision 2020, the Bingara RSL, Bingara Community Op Shop, Gwydir Shire Council, Bingara Sporting Club, Bingara Central School and many individuals were added to the fundraising efforts, which has now wrapped up.

"Overall, around \$40,000 has been raised by the amazing community-minded people of Bingara," said Mr Crispin.

Once all of the donations are finalised, this money will be given to the Bangalow Lions Club, who will distribute it around the Bangalow and Mullumbimby districts.

In addition to financial contributions, to help farmers feed their stock Mr Ron Thorp of Inverell humbly donated 120 bales of hay. Mr Steve Adams donated his time, ute and trailer to deliver this to Bangalow.

Students from Bingara Central School have held a number of fundraising activities to contribute to the donations. A gumboots and bright shirt multi-day was a fun start, followed up with a special barbecue lunch.

Children from the school also wrote letters to the students of schools that helped them during the drought. Returning the gesture was a rewarding and thoughtful experience.

"The committee would like to thank everybody that supported the fundraising efforts. We all feel very proud to have been part of it and extremely in awe of the generosity given. It just goes to show what our small community can do and that what goes around, comes around," said Mr Crispin.



MAYOR PUSHING COUNTRY HEALTH OUTCOMES TO THE TOP

Following the tabling in Parliament of the Legislative Council Inquiry into Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW on 5 May 2022, the Country Mayors Association of NSW organised a Rural Health Forum in Sydney on 6 May 2022. Councillors Egan and Galvin attended together with the Mayor, Cr Coulton.

"The forum was well attended and the presenters included the Hon. Minister Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Regional Health and Minister for Mental Health, Mr Ryan Park, Shadow Minister for Health and Mental Health, Mr Richard Colbran, Chief Executive Officer, Rural Doctors Network, and Adjunct Professor, Ruth Stewart, National Rural Health Commissioner of Australia, who were excellent," said Mayor Cr Coulton.

The Mayor went on to state that it was refreshing to hear that both Minister Taylor and Shadow Minister Ryan agreed that it was of the utmost importance that the consideration and debate on this very important matter of Regional and Rural Health should be approached on a bipartisan basis and should be brought before Parliament as early as possible.

The Mayor noted that the Inquiry found what everybody in regional and rural NSW knows, that health and hospital services in country NSW are below standard when compared to the service levels experienced by those residing in metropolitan areas.

Gwydir's Mayor, Cr John Coulton, is urging all regional and rural councils to get behind the efforts of the Country Mayors Association of NSW in its efforts to ensure that all 44 recommendations of the Inquiry are adopted by Parliament, by writing to the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, requesting favourable outcomes, by adopting the Inquiry's recommendations that will ensure a marked improvement in the delivery of all aspects of health care to country NSW residents.

This is our opportunity to redress the deficiencies in regional and rural health delivery.

"We cannot let our communities down," said Cr Coulton, in conclusion.

News from Carinda



Enjoying each other's company and the delicious morning tea provided by Carinda members

It has been a busy and rewarding time for members of Carinda House, starting with Mother's Day celebrations in the grounds. A Devonshire Tea was held on April 30 and with perfect weather many mothers, along with their families and friends, enjoyed each other's company in the pleasant surroundings.

On Thursday May 19, Carinda members, together with ladies of Warialda CWA, held their Biggest Morning Tea for Cancer Research. Once again, the weather was all that could be hoped for, and the garden setting was delightful. Warialda business houses and schools were able to support the morning tea by collecting their scones and damper on Tuesday May 17, raising \$1150 for cancer research through the efforts of Carinda and Warialda CWA ladies.

Carinda was delighted to welcome three senior music students from Warialda High School who entertained the gathering.

"Congratulations to the students and teacher, Ms Maddison Rose – you certainly did yourselves and your school proud," said Carinda House member, Ms Marilyn Stubbins.

Guest speaker, Kelly Foran of Friendly Faces Helping Hands, spoke about her foundation which aims to provide help and information to families who find themselves in a medical emergency situation far from home. Kelly and her family have been through some stressful medical situations and was able to share some of her experiences on the morning.

Chris Connors also spoke to the gathering, reminding guests about the importance of following up on medical irregularities noticed having regular mammograms and bowel cancer testing. In 2021, Carinda House donated \$1000 to Friendly Faces Helping Hands.

Ms Albert informed the gathering that during National Volunteer Week, local State Member for New England, Adam Marshall MP, had put forward Carinda Volunteers for an award alongside other volunteer groups from his electorate.

Many Carinda members were also rewarded for their entries in the Warialda Show.

Carinda volunteers have been active in the Warialda community for almost 45 years now and the historic [c1880s] building is lovingly maintained by its members, with support from Gwydir Shire Council. The Carinda Craft Shop is well supported by local artisans with their quality items and is open Monday - Friday 10:00am - 2:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am - 12:00pm.

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KNOW YOUR DRONE

As prices have come down, the increase in use of drones in a recreational capacity has surged, along with complaints about safety and privacy breaches. It has been noted in local townships that drones have been hovering over residential dwellings at a particularly low height, breaching the rules of flying in populous areas.

Operators of drones are required by law, to abide by regulations regarding the use of their drone and are limited in where and how they may operate.

Amongst other safety rules operators must always fly their drone in visual line-of-sight (flying only during the day), avoid flying through cloud, fog or smoke and be able to always see the drone with their own eyes – not by using goggles, binoculars or another device.

A drone must not fly higher than 120 m (400 ft) above ground, closer than 30 m to people – other than those helping to control or navigate your drone, over or above people at any time or height or near emergency operations.

A full list of safety rules can be found at <https://www.casa.gov.au/drones/drone-rules/drone-safety-rules>. Breaking the rules can result in operational restrictions, fines or jail.

Meanwhile, the Australian Government has agreed to defer mandatory recreational drone registration and operator accreditation until 1 July 2023.



Registration for recreational operators was scheduled to commence in mid-2022, with the decision to delay registration following the introduction of registration for commercial and excluded category operators on 30 September 2020.

The new rules for recreational drones will require operators to gain accreditation by watching an online video and successfully answering a short quiz to demonstrate they understand the drone safety rules.

The new registration and accreditation requirements will apply to all drones operated recreationally that weigh more than 250 grams.

In addition, CASA has a verified list of drone-related applications, the latest of which is ScaleFlyt, developed by IT specialist, Thales.

CASA-verified apps provide customised, location-based information along with easy-to-use maps that display where you can and can't fly your drone in accordance with aviation legislation.

Before taking flight, drone operators are encouraged to check a CASA-verified drone safety app to access accurate information about where they can and can't fly.

To view all CASA-verified apps visit: <https://www.casa.gov.au/drones/safety-apps>, to subscribe to the latest news and safety information about drones and remotely piloted aircraft visit: <https://updates.communication.casa.gov.au/casa-drone-mailing-list>



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WARIALDA HACCC ROOMS HOPE STREET

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includes: 2 days of lessons by Paula Lennon Goondiwindi
Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided.

Textbook: 'Play Bridge, A Workbook For The Absolute Beginner' by Joan Butts, \$20 from Paula.

What is Bridge?
Bridge is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. It is played by four players in two competing partnerships.

Why play Bridge?
Bridge is a social game that improves logic, reasoning, quick thinking, patience, concentration and partnership skills.

Suitable for any age group, from 12 to 90+ years!
Millions of people play bridge worldwide in clubs, tournaments, online and with friends at home, making it the world's most popular card game.

"Bridge is the most entertaining and intelligent game the wit of man has so far devised."
— W. Somerset Maugham

Enrol Contact Ann Willis 0428291902



ENROLMENTS CLOSE 13TH JULY 2022

DRIVE-BY WINNERS

Cecily and Ed Shipway of 34a Heber Street, Bingara (pictured below) were awarded the Bingara Garden Club's Drive-By Encouragement Award for May 2022 for their garden, nestled against a hedge of tallish shrubs and fronted by a row of developing *Photinia* Red Robins.

Flowering, potted plants are visible close to the house. An irregular shaped garden close to Cecily and Ed's home has a charming combination of an arch with a lovely pink climbing rose close to mauve flowering plectranthus together with other small shrubs. Two other smaller plots with roses surrounded by lawn lead to the roadway.

The autumn coloured leaves of crepe myrtles and others, together with some citrus, make this an enticing garden that is responding to the love and good weather.



POLICE DESTROY THOUSANDS OF FIREARMS

More than three tonnes of firearms will be destroyed this month – melted down into steel and produced into other items – after being seized and gathered by police across the state.

The haul of 2809 firearms (totalling 3228kg) have come into police possession after being seized through criminal investigations, located as abandoned property, and surrendered.

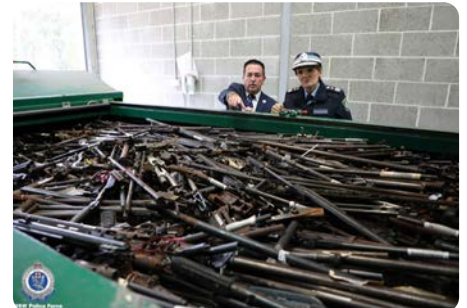
Among the items to be destroyed are pistols, rifles, shotguns, military firearms, home-made firearms, airsoft, gel blasters, air pistols and air rifles.

Police Commissioner, Karen Webb, said every firearm destroyed is a win for police and the community.

"We've all seen the harm that is caused by the unlawful use of firearms and the fear it can cause within the broader community," Commissioner Webb said.

"Some of these items are collected through long term, complex criminal investigations and others are located through isolated search warrants and police incidents."

"By destroying these weapons, we prevent any that are kept for legitimate purposes falling into the wrong hands and used in other crimes."



Each week, hundreds of firearms are collected by police in Police Area Commands, Police Districts and specialist Commands and sent to the NSW Police Weapons and Ordnance Disposal Unit. Each item is then audited and processed for destruction.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Police, Paul Toole, said police continued to crack down on illegal criminal activity which regularly involved the seizures of firearms, ammunition and other weapons.

"We know the vast majority of those in our community possess firearms for a valid reason – and then there are those who use these weapons to inflict fear and cause serious harm to others," Mr Toole said.

"Police across the state are committed to getting those weapons off our street to keep our community safe."

NSW CUSTOMERS HAVE THEIR SAY ON DIGITAL IDENTITY

Customers are helping to shape the future of digital identity and digital government in NSW by joining the conversation through Have Your Say community consultations.

Executive Director of Identity.NSW Lenka Bradovkova said collaborating with customers was the best way to ensure the Digital Identity program made a real impact in people's lives.

"The NSW Government is aiming to be the most customer-centric government by 2030, and customers have been very clear with us on their priorities," Ms Bradovkova said.

"These surveys help us learn what programs our customers are currently engaging with, with nearly half of all respondents already

using some form of digital identity or credential, and about 80 per cent of those using the NSW government's Digital Driver Licence, COVID-19 vaccination certificate and the Dine & Discover NSW vouchers.

"The Have Your Say consultations on digital identity and verifiable credentials has received more than 6,300 unique responses, including 2,700 survey responses.

"Customers have expressed their interest in a range of future possibilities including digital birth certificates or educational credentials being part of the digital solution."

Ms Bradovkova said the Have Your Say consultations were instrumental in understanding what the key priorities of the state's customers were when they consider

using a Digital Identity or credential.

"It is clear in the results that when using or sharing their identity digitally our customers value having control of their own information. They want to be in charge of what information they share and when they share it," Ms Bradovkova said.

"The survey also reinforced customers want to be given the option to opt-in to the program, with ongoing consent required each time they choose to share information.

"Privacy, cyber security and fraud prevention are seen as the most important benefits for customers."

To Have Your Say as part of the Digital Identity conversation closing 30 June, please visit: www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/digital-identity

VICARAGE CAFE CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR



Although not without its challenges, the past 12 months have been a resounding success for North Star business the Vicarage Café.

Whilst the Café's first birthday passed with little fanfare thanks to a long and protracted sewing program, the occasion was quite a remarkable one for co-owners James Hardcastle and Simon Doolin.

Reflecting on the milestone, Mr Hardcastle modestly says that the venue is all that they hoped it would become. In fact, that the Café has become the heart of the small town, offering great food and quality coffee to locals and those traveling through and offering a social hub for all.

Despite the good start, the business hit a hurdle shortly after opening with COVID-19 lockdowns once again taking their toll.

"North Star is a good meeting place for people to meet between Moree and Goondiwindi, so when that hit, it took its toll and everything went flat. Queensland patrons couldn't come and see us. Once the borders re-opened, we started to get the traffic through again."

Gifts and artwork make an appearance inside the venue with an entire fresh range of new season Louenhide handbags about to land, along with food products such as honey and salad dressings. North Star local Kelly Prosser's handmade belts make an appearance alongside the photographic work of Angela McMaster.

Also featuring in the space is another successful North Star business, Beauty by Jen. Having been part of the venture since the beginning, clients travel from around the district and across the border for a luxury experience.

Not content with farming and a hospitality venture, the duo has recently acquired the North Star Caravan Park with hopes it can also be reinvigorated, attracting more people to town.

"We are going to try and do some landscaping there and get the bathrooms done up, then connect it through the Vicarage and bring customers in. We are hoping to beautify North Star a little bit more," said Mr Hardcastle. "We are always thinking - what can we do nex?"

Meanwhile, the Café continues to be open seven days per week, with a new menu. Given the business holds a liquor license, the opening of Thursday and Friday evenings is currently being canvased.

"It would be great to do something like having some cheese and biscuits of an evening available," said Mr Hardcastle.

Having operated through one harvest season, offering take home

and harvest meals which proved popular, Mr Hardcastle says they will certainly be providing that service again. In addition, the space is available as a venue for hire and offers a catering service.

Plans for the future include extending the already generous children's playground with a slide and cubby house, which will be surrounded by a fence for additional safety.

Mr Hardcastle says that in addition to truckies and caravanners, the support of families and young people, calling in after school, grabbing a milkshake and enjoying the space has been essential to the Café's success.

"Simon and I have been here all our lives. Our Grandparents were great friends, our parents are best friends, Simon and I are best friends, and our children are best friends. It's really a pretty special relationship," said Mr Hardcastle. "It's pretty fantastic."



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HIGH TEA, HATS AND HARMONY

Wanting to gather again after months of disruption, the members of the Presbyterian Women's Association (PWA) welcomed visitors to their unique event, the Mad Hatters' High Tea with Harmony.

Held on a Friday in April at St Stephen's Presbyterian Church Hall, Warialda, the PWA decided to step out and invite the community to find a hat, any hat, to wear and come enjoy the delicious high tea amongst friends.

An amazing room full of hats from both today and yesteryear was on display. Clem Bower explained how hats have moved in and out of fashion through history, once being a necessity for any self-respecting woman – the mob caps of married women and servants in the Georgian period, the elaborate hats (almost headdresses) of the French court and Edwardian times. The trilbies, turbans, toques, pillboxes, the wide brimmed hats of more recent times and fascinators – a favourite of race meetings and weddings.

Ms Bower displayed a table covered in her own hats worn throughout her lifetime, still in beautiful pristine condition.

One visitor wore her 'going away hat', which matched a pink outfit that she had worn after her wedding many years ago.

A special treat was provided by the senior students of Warialda High School who generously gave a youthful touch to the gathering as they rehearsed songs for their upcoming HSC exams.

Relieving Deputy Principal, Kate La Fontaine, accompanied music teacher, Maddison Rose and students. Performing during the morning was Natalie Tu singing *Can't Take my Eyes Off You*, Chloe Colley singing *Send in the Clowns* and Jack Digby who presented *Without You (For the Country)*.

PWA President, Phyllis Pike, graciously thanked the students for their efforts and great music, as well as all visitors who attended.



SHUTTERBUGS SPREAD THEIR WINGS OVER NORTH WEST



Members of the Barraba Shutterbugs group at Bingara's 'Fairy Tree' following their workshop and lunch. Image Credit: Brenda McColl

The Barraba Shutterbug group has been travelling wider afield over the past few months, visiting Manilla in April and Bingara in May. The group was joined by some of their growing Manilla members for the outings.

The Manilla Railway Viaduct proved an interesting subject to photograph, with its architectural design providing many focal points. The group then ventured to Manilla Weir where the water was flowing well after recent rain. The more experienced photographers were happy to provide advice and support to those less experienced with their cameras.

A two-hour Landscape Composition and Post Editing workshop at The Living Classroom, Bingara was hosted by Amber, of Amber L Hall Photography. Amber's nomadic lifestyle has enabled her to travel freely and camp where life takes her.

Amber uses drones, DSLR cameras and mobile phones to capture her images. Her love of nature and its simplicity shines through in her work.

The Shutterbugs say they felt privileged to tap into Amber's knowledge and to now feature on her website. Rick Hutton accompanied Amber for the workshop, providing an enlightening telling of the purpose and history of The Living Classroom.

The Roxy Theatre Cafe proved to be a perfect venue to discuss photographic editing and ask questions after the session.

Following the workshop, the visitors ventured down to the Gwydir River for lunch and some further photography practice.

The group encourage anyone with an interest in photography, no matter what skill level, to join them. There is an informal meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 3:30pm at the Claypan Gallery, 74 Queen Street, Barraba. Visit the Barraba Shutterbugs Facebook to keep up to date with what the group are up to.

Record infrastructure funding for aged care in Warialda



Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton (second from right) recently visited Naroo Frail Aged Hostel in Warialda and met with Maintenance Manager Mick Baxter, Senior Administration Officer Sarah Butler and Manager Sharon Baker to hear about their plans to upgrade the outdoor space

Residents of Naroo Frail Aged Hostel will soon be able to enjoy more time outdoors, thanks to more than \$493,215 in capital grant funding from the Australian Government.

Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton recently visited Naroo and said the injection of funds will be used for significant infrastructure improvements to the outdoor space at the aged care facility.

“Our elderly people deserve access to quality aged care services, and I’m pleased this funding will ensure aged care residents in Warialda will be able to live in greater comfort,” Mr Coulton said.

“Naroo is particularly close to my heart, as my father spent many years on the board before becoming a resident himself, so I know just how important it is to ensure our loved ones can access suitable care as they get older.”

“This funding represents more than just bricks and mortar; it’s about reinforcing the future of care for seniors in the Gwydir Shire. It offers peace-of-mind and security not only for those already in care and their families but also local residents who are carefully considering the next phase of their life.”

Naroo Manager Sharon Baker welcomed this funding, and said it will be used to undertake a makeover of the gardens, creating a more accessible, shaded outdoor space for the residents to enjoy.

“The project will open up the lounge room and the activities room to the gardens with new doors and windows, while sun shading and planting throughout the gardens will

improve the outdoor space for all residents,” Ms Baker said.

“This will provide a safe and comfortable space for residents to enjoy with their family and friends.”

Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services Richard Colbeck said the investment reflects the Coalition Government’s commitment to greater respect, care and dignity for senior Australians no matter where they live.

“Investing in aged care infrastructure means we can improve the quality and safety of residential aged care from the ground up,” Minister Colbeck said.

“Safe, secure and comfortable residential care homes, designed around the needs of residents, provide the foundation for our five-pillar, five-year aged care reform plan.”

The funding was provided through the 2020 Aged Care Approvals Round (ACAR). The conclusion of the 2020 ACAR marks the start of a transition period to a new system as the Federal Government continues to respond to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

The Government will continue to invest in aged care infrastructure for groups most in need, including First Nations people and people living in regional and remote areas.

More information about the 2020 ACAR outcomes, including details of the successful providers is available at: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/2020-aged-care-approvals-round-acar>



FIRE-BREAK WORKS UNDERWAY IN WARIALDA

The long awaited construction of the Asset Protection Zone (APZ) around Warialda was set to commence on Monday 29 May 2022.

NSW Rural Fire Service are bringing in their Mitigation Machinery Crews from throughout NSW to deliver this important project. The Soil Conservation Service also has contractors on site in Warialda working on the same project.

“The establishment of this APZ is exciting for the community of Warialda and the delivery of this project will strengthen this towns bushfire resilience prior to the next season and for seasons to come,” said Shellie Smyth, Manager Community Risk for NSW Rural Fire Service.

“We have our Mitigation Teams Machinery Operators and generalised crews moving into Warialda over the next few days to complete the works.”

NSW Rural Fire Service will be working on Council and private land blocks with Soil Conservation Service working on public lands.

The project will continue over the next month and aims to offer increased protection from bushfire to the township.

Jointly funded by the NSW RFS and Crown Lands, it is hoped that Warialda residents can rest easier in future bushfire events.

WARIALDA SHOW DELIGHTS

Contributed by Dave Coulton, Secretary, Warialda P&A Association Inc

A most successful 2022 Warialda Show was conducted on 5 – 7 May under wonderful June weather conditions, with rain recorded only a couple of days prior to the Show.

Unfortunately, due to the unavailability of the required number of cattle, the camp draft had to be called off.

Stud cattle had some 70 entries with prime cattle entries around 50 and a good lot of prime lambs were also on display. Entries in all the pavilion events were excellent with similar entries, or in some cases, more than the 2021 Show.

Wool entries were down a bit from last year, but the quality was excellent. Poultry numbers were also excellent and yard dog trials were

again well supported. A great number of trade displays were also in attendance.

A crowd favourite, were the 17 entries in the 'Bash 'em Up' Demolition Derby, all vying for the \$300 purse.

The rodeo had an added attraction this year with the introduction of Bronc Riding in both the Bareback and Saddle divisions.

In the ring, hack sports and show jumping were well supported and it was great to see the return this year of dressage.

Entertainment could not have been better with *Roof Top Express's* Dave Manchon and team delighting the audience with their humour, skill and ability, even though the

bison was a bit cranky on Saturday night.

Children, both young and old, enjoyed the challenge of climbing the rock wall and audiences were captivated by the inclusion of the circus, which has been rebooked for 2023.

Sideshow numbers were down on last year but were again a great edition to the Show and the fireworks display was outstanding.

The opening of the Show was performed by Mr Peter Petty, former Mayor of Tenterfield Shire and long-time President of Tenterfield Show Society.

The Royal Agriculture Society Young Woman competition was presented to Rachel Coulton, who will now go on to represent Warialda at the Zone 4 trials in February 2023.

Special thanks go to the many sponsors and advertisers, as without their assistance it would be very difficult to run such a diverse schedule of events and entertainment.

Major sponsorships were received from the Federal Government's Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), NSW State Government's Country Shows Support Program (CSSP), ARTC – Inland Rail and Paul Kelly of Moree Real Estate.



Top: Naroo resident's enjoy a day out, including a pit-stop for some show treats

Top: Inspection of the vehicles after the excitement of the Demolition Derby

Above: Roof Top Express's Dave Manchon demonstrating the skills of his horses, a crowd favourite of the weekend

Above: Entries in the Warialda Art Showcase were once again at a high standard and enjoyed by visitors

Bingara looking to 2023

You can't help bad luck, as the saying goes, but the disappointment that three untimely days of rain can bring couldn't be measured as the Bingara Show Society was forced to cancel it's 2022 Show.

The annual calendar highlight faced the challenge of 80mm rain in the days leading up to the event, leaving the grounds water-laden and unsafe to continue.

Bingara Show Society President, Damien Crump, said the decision was a heavy one.

"It is with great regret that the committee was forced to cancel all events of the 2022 Bingara Show," he said.

"The committee and all involved had put in a tremendous amount of effort in preparation for a great weekend and was disappointed to have to make a last-minute decision."

"We would like to thank our sponsors for their unwavering support. Their commitment to us over the years is truly appreciated. We look forward to a big year in 2023," said Mr Crump.



NANDEWAR ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES IS NOW HOSTING A POP-UP CLINIC AT THE BARRABA SHOWGROUND

9:00am – 4:00pm **EVERY WEDNESDAY**

- Vaccinations
- Health checks
- Ultrasounds
- Microchipping
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Bookings are essential.

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Felicity Urquhart and Josh Cunningham just around the corner on their 'Wanna Go There' tour

Two of the finest stalwarts of the Australian music scene, 13 x Golden Guitar-winning country sweetheart Felicity Urquhart and 4 x ARIA award winning Josh Cunningham (The Waifs), are taking the much-acclaimed album *The Song Club* on the road for their 'Wanna Go There' tour.

After being invited to join Song Club, a loose collective of musicians whose task is to write a song to a brief within a week, both Urquhart and Cunningham found in each other musical and song writing partners, and through the process, they also fell in love. In 2021, they released *The Song Club*, which debuted at #1 on the ARIA Country Albums chart and #10 on the ARIA Album chart.

The widely lauded album has also earned 4 x Golden Guitar nominations (Alt Country Album of the Year, Country Music Capital News Group / Duo of the Year, CMT Video of the Year, Toyota Album of the Year), and now the pair are keen to take their joyous, harmony-laden sound to stages and audiences all over the country to celebrate.

Urquhart and Cunningham, like all musicians, have felt the squeeze of lockdowns and cancelled gigs over the last two years and they are both keen to take to the stage again, and to take back what they have lost...and more.

"Over this past year I have felt increasingly grateful for the fact that Felicity and I were able to release our album and get three weeks of touring in before the world got put on hold," Cunningham says.

"My passion and enthusiasm for sharing our music has only burned hotter and brighter over the long months of forced inactivity and now that we are about to hit the road again, grateful doesn't even begin to describe how I feel."

"I've been wanting to play this album live for people since we recorded it. I feel more grateful than ever to play live shows with Josh. It gives me renewed passion to share in the joy and pass it on," Urquhart explains.

Over the course of the last three decades, both Urquhart and Cunningham have built their profiles through music and touring. Urquhart has been a constant presence on the country music scene since she was a teenager, hosting ABC's national radio show *Saturday Night Country* for over 10 years, as well as presenting Channel 7's Sydney Weekender.

After a chance meeting in Broome in 1992, Cunningham co-founded The Waifs and has been a member of the band ever since. A sought-after session musician playing in Missy Higgins' band, Cunningham has also penned songs for Sara Storer, and toured with artists such as Bob Dylan and Keith Urban.

Urquhart and Cunningham's long and enduring careers make them perfectly placed to join forces and paint a uniquely beautiful sound that is both honest and emotional.

The Song Club has been described by Andrew McMillan

(The Australian) as having "beautifully captured the new harmony they have found together."

Phil Stafford (The Australian) goes further in saying "the pairs voices mesh seamlessly...their lyrics weave their stories, most of which are sharply poetic".

They are excited to take these songs on the road to share with their fans and will be joined on selected dates by special guests including Golden Guitar nominee Raechel Whitchurch, Robyn Martin and Quarry Hillbillies.

The Song Club has demonstrated what a perfect match Felicity Urquhart and Josh Cunningham are, and their music has clearly resonated with audiences everywhere.

Wanna Go There?? Tickets are on sale now via the link: <https://www.felicityurquhart.com/tour-dates/>

FELICITY URQUHART & JOSH CUNNINGHAM
OF THE WAIFS

JUNE 18, 7PM
ROXY THEATRE BINGARA
WITH SPECIAL GUEST **RAECHEL WHITCHURCH**

DOORS 6.30PM. TICKETS: [felicityurquhart.com](https://www.felicityurquhart.com) | [joshcunningham.com](https://www.joshcunningham.com)

North West Theatre Company Film Club

MOVIE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Ros Moulton - NWTC Film Club

SALMON FISHING IN YEMEN

The North West Theatre Company Film Club's June movie is *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*, a 2011 British romantic comedy-drama directed by Lasse Hallström and starring Ewan McGregor, Emily Blunt, Kristin Scott Thomas and Amr Waked and based on the 2007 novel of the same name by Paul Torday.

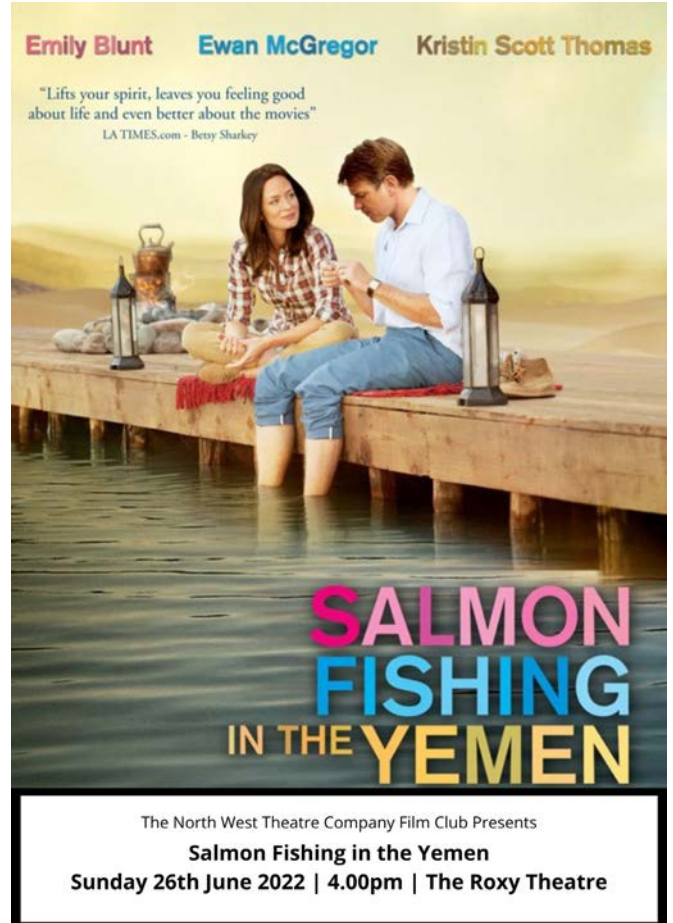
Fisheries expert Alfred Jones (Ewan McGregor) receives an email from financial adviser Harriet Chetwode - Talbot (Emily Blunt), seeking advice on a project to bring salmon fishing to the Yemen - a project being bankrolled by a wealthy Yemeni sheikh and supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Alfred dismisses the project as fundamentally unfeasible because Yemen cannot provide the necessary environment for salmon.

Meanwhile, the British Prime Minister's press secretary, Patricia Maxwell (Kristin Scott Thomas), suggests the salmon fishing story to the Prime Minister's office as a positive story to help improve relations between Britain and the Islamic world.

Harriet arranges for Alfred to meet the Sheikh (Amr Waked) at his estate in the Scottish Highlands. The Sheikh is excited to meet Alfred as he is the inventor of the 'Woolly Jones' fishing fly. While the Sheikh acknowledges that the project may sound crazy, he still believes that fishing is a noble pursuit that promotes harmony and requires immense faith.

The film was shot on location in London, Scotland and Morocco and premiered at the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival. It earned over \$34 million and received generally favourable reviews from critics with the consensus stating: "Quirky and a little reserved, *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* is nonetheless a charming little romantic drama sold by some strong central performances."

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen shows on Sunday June 26 at the Roxy, Bingara at 4:00pm. New members are welcome, with membership for this and the remaining five films for the year is \$36.



Bingara CWA accepts donation

The Bingara District Historical Society is grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity of the Bingara CWA branch in their recent donation of the *Gordon Girls* written by Jillian Oppenheimer (2003) and *The Women who Changed Country Australia* written by Liz Harfull (2022).



The book celebrates 100 years of the Country Women's Association of New South Wales.

The addition of these two informative books will enhance the research capabilities of the Bingara Museum and prove useful as a source of information to assist with future research requests.

Bingara CWA's Judy Chaffey (left) and Margaret Foster (right) were on hand to present Judi Peterson (centre) of Bingara District Historical Society with new book donations



Last call for collections

Bingara Historical Society is putting out a last call for collections to be showcased in their up-coming publication *Bingara Collections: Visual Treasures*.

Co-ordinator Lynne Clarke says the project has been coming along nicely and is soon to be wrapped up. For months now, the methodical process of photographing individual pieces in each collection has been taking place with the result to be curated into a coffee table-style book.

The group hope to see their hard work come to life towards the end of the year, just in time for purchase as the perfect Christmas gift.

Anyone that would like to have their very own collection included should contact Ms Clarke on 6724 1538.

LOCAL AUTHORS BRINGS ROCK'N'ROLL TO LIFE

This year's Bingara Orange Festival on Saturday 2 July will feature a book publication and book launch with a central theme of R 'n' R. Cantella tells the story a station property and its sixteen year old heir apparent Floyd Vallis who, to the dismay of his estranged parents, turns his back upon his heritage to become a national R 'n' R star.

Cantella's historical fiction is interwoven with real people, times, places and events and this allows the book to recreate and capture the 1950s conduct of baby boomers who were stimulated by R 'n' R's music and revolted against societal and parental control.

It was a wild, turbulent time marked by widespread adverse publicity as the Establishment resisted demands for new found freedoms unknown to their generation, who were rigidly constrained by the Great Depression and war. Time payments, jeans, portable transistor radios, record players, new model cars and motor bikes were all part of the heady mix. Outlandish clothes were worn by "Bodgies" and "Widgies" and this exclusive youth movement was fanned by controversial and larger than life performers like Elvis Presley, Little Richard, Buddy Holly, Chuck Berry and others whom devotees admired and sought to emulate.

Ray Roberts, Australia's leading entrepreneur and promoter imports a bevy of overseas stars and their raucous, flamboyant behaviour brands Sydney as the epicentre of Australia's R 'n' R culture.

Roberts grooms Floyd to overnight success as a R 'n' R performer and Floyd remains Australia's leading exponent for R 'n' R's duration. Floyd's career plays out in an environment where he falls heavily for Robert's beautiful illegitimate daughter, talented jazz singer Linda Carroll. However, Linda's talent leads her to international success in America.

Floyd sustains injuries in a late night car accident and his parents rush to his side in Sydney. As he recuperates, Floyd returns to convalesce with his reunited parents at Cantella. There, he meets Carmel an attractive unspoilt, freshly scrubbed country girl who makes him uneasy about the extent of his own conversion. A romance develops but there are complications.

By 1959 R 'n' R is a spent force and Floyd Valentine's entertainment career may be over as he contemplates the possibility of life without fame. Extraneous circumstances develop that prompts Floyd to choose between the two very different women



in his life. In addition, he must also decide whether his lifestyle allegiances lie with the excitement and glamour of the entertainment world, or with Cantella, the family dynasty and sense of place created by his forebears.

The Cantella book launch will be by open invitation on Saturday 2 July at the Bingara Community Centre at 1:30 pm. Books will also be available for sale from the street stall.

Free wellness workshop



The Rabobank held a Women's Wealth Wellness Workshop at the Warialda Golf and Bowling Club on Thursday 12 May which provided great insight for those ladies in attendance into the world of financial planning.

Zoe Lamont from Verve Super conducted the seminar and encouraged participants to consider their financial goals and work out a plan to best achieve them.

The workshop concentrated on reflecting on your financial purpose and vision for the decade ahead, developing powerful goals, aligning your money to your mission and creating a practical plan for your next phase. Zoe also highlighted how important it is for women to take time out of their busy lives to focus on themselves, reflect on their values and also net worth.

Overall, the workshop was a really informative way to start thinking smart about money and investing in women's financial future.

BEEP BEEP

Warialda Town Hall played hosted to the fabulous Windmill Theatre Company production, BEEP, during May, with over 200 school children travelling from across the region to attend.

Entertaining and engaging, BEEP was a tale of unexpected friendship, finding where you fit and learning to mix it up a little.

A colourful set, music and fun puppetry kept the young audience engrossed as they learnt about what happened when someone new comes to town.



Top: BEEP performers with Warialda Public School's Anna Barwick, and left: School and Preschool students from across the region came to the Warialda Town Hall to see the live theatre performance



WARIALDA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Congratulations to all of our Year 3 and 5 students who worked hard to complete their NAPLAN assessments.

I personally oversaw the process and was so impressed by the way in which students applied themselves during these assessments. They demonstrated great maturity and attention to detail as they attended to each item. I'm unable to confirm when the results will be returned to us but will be sure to pass these on as soon as they are available.

We have had some difficult times recently with COVID-19 and other illnesses. I wanted to thank our staff and school community for your ability to be flexible and for your understanding. Each day was a jigsaw to put together ensuring that student learning remains at the front of all decisions made.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

At the conclusion of the tender process,

Big Child Care has been awarded the license to operate a Before and After School Care service from our site. This service will also include Vacation Care.

I would describe this news as a 'game changer' for many families who have been absolutely desperate for a service like this to be available in our town.

We are delighted to announce that Big Child Care are working towards starting this service from the first day of Term three. More information will follow.

STATE BASKETBALL

Students, Kingy and Banjo limbered up in readiness to take on the best from New South Wales when they represented North West at the State Basketball Championships at the end of May.

Kingy and Banjo are passionate about basketball and have some incredible skills. Off the court, Banjo has been rubbing shoulders with Olympian - Nick Kay.



Warialda Public School's Banjo with Olympic Basketballer Nick Kay at the State Basketball Championships held in Tamworth recently

Great work boys.

DAN VAN VELTHUIZEN - PRINCIPAL



BINGARA CENTRAL SCHOOL

On Thursday 26 May, the Under 16 boys and girls touch team travelled to Inverell to compete in the annual North West and Northern Central Schools Touch Competition.

The boys started strongly with convincing wins against Woodenbong (6 - 2) and Bundarra (6 - 0). They came up against some strong opposition in the remaining games and fought tirelessly going down 5 - 3 to Walcha and Barraba and 7 - 2 to Guyra, who had not had a try scored against them all day. In their final game, the boys finished with a 2 all draw against Ashford to finish equal 3rd for the day. Considering the boys were significantly younger than their opposition, they worked exceptionally hard for each other and should be proud of their efforts.

The girls had an outstanding day, going undefeated for the entire day. They had convincing wins over Woodenbong (7 - 0), Barraba (4 - 1), Walcha (2 - 0), Ashford (5 - 0).

It was a top of the table clash in the final game against Bundarra, with the girls out on their feet, they fought hard and came away with a 2 all draw. The girls should be exceptionally proud of their efforts, considering they had only one sub for the entire day. They finished equal first on the day and have qualified for the Central Schools Finals to be held in Dubbo on Friday 2nd September. CONGRATULATIONS GIRLS and good luck in the finals.

It was a pleasure to take the students away, who played in the right



spirit of the game and represented Bingara Central School with pride. A huge thank you to Mrs Boyle who kept our students well hydrated, cheered on our students and was a great support. Congratulations to all students.

We would like to wish the Opens Girls all the best for their Touch competition and look forward to reporting on this in the near future.

MR AND MRS MILL

RUGBY UNION - PRIMARY

Hamish B and Sam D trialed for Northern Zone Rugby Union on Monday in Armidale. Congratulations to both boys on being selected in the Northern squad to attend the North West development and selection day.

BROOKE WALL - PRINCIPAL



Warialda High School

NICOLA IS A FINALIST!

We are thrilled to share that Nicola Briggs, pictured right, is a 2022 NSW Training Awards New England Region finalist. Nicola is completing a School Based Cert III in Education Support. Nicola is doing her traineeship at Moree East Public School via an Elsa Dixon Program scholarship. Congratulations to Nicola, and we wish her the best of luck.



Nutbush City with staff present mustered from all parts of the school, the classrooms, the staff rooms, the office, the shed - there was nowhere to hide! They quickly scattered to their checkpoints and students made their way around the track in style. 75 participants completed at least two laps of the course. There were 47 boys and 28 girls - 23 tropical green Kakadu reps, Kosciusko were out in force with 28 competitors from the ice-blue summit and there were 24 from Uluru's red centre. First home was Vashtan Gallen in the boys' event, and first girl line honours went to Philippa Schoupp.

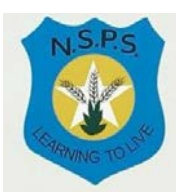
Age race winners: 12 Girls: Emily George, 13 Boys: Riley Burley, 13 Girls: Indika Gallen, 14 Boys: Os van Velthuisen, 14 Girls: Zayleah Schutt, 15 Boys: Vashtan Gallen, 15 Girls: Philippa Schoupp, 16 Boys: Angus Digby, 16 Girls: Jasmin Briggs, 17+ Boys: Daemon Fohmsbee, 17+ Girls: Lacey Cooper.

MARTIN BOWER - SCHOOL-BASED APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINEESHIP CO-ORDINATOR

CROSS COUNTY

The 2022 Cross Country bush bash started with a unique Warialda warm-up dance to

NORTH STAR PUBLIC SCHOOL



WHAT'S ON IN K-2

'Where did I come from? Where did I go?' to Inverell Eisteddfod, watch us glow. K2 performed at Inverell Town Hall in front of people from far and wide. The adjudicator was very impressed with our dancing, costumes, hair and choreography. We waited and watched feeling nervous, excited, and worried. Comments from the children were "Would I mess up?", "I might fall off the stage", "I hope they like us". It was our turn, and it went by so fast and as soon as it was over we wanted to do it again. We will have more opportunities through the year to perform again.

This week we are reading 'The March of the Ants' and learning about planning in our writing and planning our days. The story follows the littlest ant that decides to bring a book on the expedition rather than something that the other ants think is useful.

MRS PRITCHARD AND MRS TAYLOR



Inverell Eisteddfod was a great opportunity for students to experience performing in front of a crowd

GRANDPARENTS DAY 2022

Thank you to all our wonderful grandparents for spending the day in our beautiful school. We loved having you here, showing you our classrooms and how clever we are at dancing, reading and writing. Thank you for helping us in the Egg Drop STEM Challenge. Some eggs survived the big drop! Thank you to our parents and Mr Mills for coming along too.



Top, and above: North Star Public School students with family on Grandparents Day, held in the first week of June

COULTON'S CATCH UP



BACK TO BUSINESS

With the election campaign now over, it's back to business as usual for me, meeting with constituents and attending various events across the electorate.

I have enjoyed spending time catching up on work in my offices in Dubbo and Broken Hill. It was great to bring all my staff together in Broken Hill for a planning day and debrief following a very busy few months. I'm incredibly lucky to have such a hard-working and dedicated team behind me, and together we're looking forward to continuing our work trying to get the best outcomes for the people of the Parkes electorate.

FUTURE OF CUCS SECURED

Wonderful news this week that the Coalition Government will provide the Country Universities Centre (CUC) Far West and CUC North West with a further four years of funding.

Both centres in the Parkes electorate have been a success since they were established,

with hundreds of students in Broken Hill, Narrabri and Moree taking the opportunity to further their education, without having to leave their towns, friends and families.

This funding will allow the CUCs to continue to offer our students the opportunity to study while remaining at home, where their skills can boost their local communities and economies.

With the Broken Hill, Narrabri and Moree regions expected to experience significant growth over the coming years as a result of new industries and the Inland Rail, it's vital that local people have the opportunity to gain the skills needed to take advantage of these opportunities. The CUCs are playing an important role in upskilling locals, many of whom are working and raising families and would not otherwise be able to undertake tertiary education.



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



Living in the Warialda area and thinking about being a RFS volunteer?

Warialda Rural Fire Brigade needs new members.

Please contact Eddie on 0427 011 770 or
Carl on 0417 718 090 for more information or visit
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/volunteering-with-the-rfs

CARING FOR CARERS

.... with Letitia Cross

Anyone, at any time, can become a Carer. While many don't use the word 'carer' to describe themselves, it is an individual who provides care and support to a family member or friend who lives with a disability, mental illness, alcohol or drug dependency, chronic condition, terminal illness or who is frail due to age. The 2.65 million carers around the country come from all walks of life, cultural backgrounds and age groups. They work quietly and lovingly without fanfare making an incredible contribution to the lives of many.

As a carer, I have gained great satisfaction in helping improve the quality of life for someone who needed me, deepening an important relationship and serving my family and friends by shouldering a burden when others couldn't. While this was a privilege and incredibly rewarding, it was extremely demanding taking a lot of personal time, energy and resources. Without the right support, caring can affect your health and wellbeing, while limiting our ability to participate in family life, paid work and social activities.

We know:

- Nearly half of the carers report high to very high levels of psychological distress.
- Carers often do not have the time or

energy to prioritise their own health. Nearly 2 in 3 carers have a chronic health condition, compared to 1 in 3 Australians overall.

- More than half of the carers are socially isolated.
 - Nearly 2 in 3 carers have less than 10 hours per week to themselves.
 - 1 in 4 carers leave a paid job to care, and 1 in 3 had reduced their working hours.
 - Half of the carers have experienced financial stress in the past 12 months.
- * Carers NSW 2020 National Carer Survey, 2018 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (ABS)

SO, WHO CARES FOR THE CARER?

Being a carer takes a toll both physically and emotionally, so it's important to invest in looking after ourselves or provide the support carers need through:

Personally

- Eating well and sleeping well – don't work from an empty tank.
- Learning skills to pro-actively manage stress.
- Finding time to exercise – getting out creates mental and physical benefits.
- Ask for help or say yes to respite – park the guilt. It is ok to accept help, take regular breaks caring is often a marathon not a sprint.
- Join a support group (online/in-person) – talking to someone in a similar situation can

be powerful.

- Keeping up our own social connections.

As a community supporting a carer

- Create a network of considerate and supportive people around the carer.
- Volunteer to help with respite - an hour, a morning or a day can mean so much.
- Be a shoulder to lean on – listen not to fix, but hear their story and share the journey.
- Pick up the phone, check in, see how carer's are travelling – early support and encouragement to help when a carer struggles is key.
- Just be there.

WHERE CAN CARERS GET SUPPORT?

- Carers NSW www.carersnsw.org.au / 1800 242 636
- One Door Mental Health Carer Services www.onedoor.org.au / 02 6721 4197
- Young Carers: www.youngcarersnsw.org.au

Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) - contact me, your local RAMHP Coordinator, on 0477 343 628 or email Letitia.Cross@health.nsw.gov.au or head to the RAMHP website for information and helpful resources – www.ramhp.com.au

Upper Bingara book launch

The official book launch of *Gold & An Old Bush School Upper Bingara 1852 - 1965*, by author, Elizabeth Adams avoided ominous skies to be hosted in the grounds of the Bingara District Historical Society.

Ms Adams interesting and informative book depicts not only the history of the early gold rush, but the impact it had on the area now known as Upper Bingara.

It highlights the trials that the teachers endured in teaching at a one teacher school in an isolated area as well as the close-knit family ties that were forged whilst teachers, students and their families lived in the Upper Bingara area.

This event was well attended by previous teachers and students, along with their extended families and friends.

"Visitors took the time to return to Bingara from all over the state, to reminisce and to celebrate the release of this important piece of local literature," said Bingara Historical Society President, Judi Peterson.



"Our thanks go to Gwydir Shire Council, Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service and Bingara Lions Club, along with the Bingara Now and Then Facebook page. We are grateful for the support from these groups that allowed the event to be successful."

Copies of the book are for sale at Bingara Newsagency, Visitor Information Centre, Bingara Museum and are also available for loan at Bingara Library.



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

JUNE 2022

- 20th** Bingara Community Op Shop meeting
- 23 - 24th** Carbon Information Workshop - Northern Slopes Landcare, Bingara
- 25th** Lions Markets - from 8:30am, Maitland Street, Bingara
- 26th** Honour Your Heart walk - 9:30am for 10:00am start, Warialda Recreation Ground
- 27th** NWTC Film Club - *Salmon Fishing in Yemen*, 4:00pm, Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 30th** Gwydir Shire Council meeting - 9:00am, Roxy Theatre Conference Room, Bingara
- Note change of date

JULY 2022

- 1 - 2nd** Orange Festival, Bingara
- 2nd** Gwydir Rugby Club - Ladies Day, Barraba Rugby Ground, from 2:00pm
- 16th** *Unleash the Black Dog Ball* - Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 16 - 17th** Beginner Bridge course - Warialda HACC rooms, Hope Street, Warialda
- 23rd** Lions Markets - from 8:30am, Maitland Street, Bingara
- 27th** *This is Eden* - Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 28th** Gwydir Shire Council meeting - 9:00am, location TBC
- 30th** North Star Trail Ride
- 30th** Warialda High School 50 Year Celebration - Various celebrations from 10:00am,
- 30 - 31st** Gwydir River Muster Dogs - Working Dog Auction and Dog Trial,
- 31st** NWTC Film Club - *The Third Man*, 4:00pm, Roxy Theatre, Bingara

AUGUST 2022

- 6th** Bingara Jockey Club Ball - Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 12 - 14th** Warialda Campdraft
- 27th** Bingara Races
- 27th** Lions Markets - from 8:30am, Maitland Street, Bingara
- 28th** NWTC Film Club - *The Big Chill*, 4:00pm, Roxy Theatre, Bingara

SAVE THE DATE

- 17 Sept** Warialda Honey Festival
- 29 Oct** Warialda Hospital Auxiliary Garden Party
- 12 Nov** Warialda Hospital Auxiliary Market Night

EACH WEEK/ MONTH

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

First Friday Each Month Crafting Day - North star CWA Room
From: 10:00am. Bring in a project.

POSITION VACANT
Gwydir News Administrator

Position Vacant

Gwydir Shire Council is currently seeking expressions of interest from motivated, creative, and outgoing individuals for the role of Gwydir News Administrator.

In this role, you will be responsible for building relationships with the community and advertisers to achieve sales targets and cover news stories across the towns and villages within the Gwydir Shire. You will also be responsible for layout and desktop publishing, distribution, and updating the Gwydir News website and Facebook page.

If you thrive by working collaboratively and are passionate about local issues, we would love to hear from you.

contact us today

For more information please contact Georgia Standerwick on 0491 272 614 or to apply visit www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au

FREE FLU SHOTS FOR ALL IN JUNE



A free flu jab will be available to all NSW residents in a month-long blitz from June 1 in an effort to combat this year's expected severe influenza season.

With a sharp increase in flu cases already, the NSW Government will fund flu vaccinations at GPs and pharmacies until June 30.

Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant said there were 1,140 cases of respiratory illness notified this week, compared with 766 in the previous week and 150 presentations and admissions to hospitals.

"We strongly urge everyone over six months of age to get a flu shot as soon as possible to protect themselves and their loved ones, as the virus is easily spread and potentially deadly," Dr Chant said.

"This is particularly important for those in high-risk groups, such as the elderly and children aged six months to five years. If you live in an aged or disability care facility, are aged over 65 or are immunocompromised, now is the time to book in."

"We also recommend a COVID-19 winter booster if you are eligible, as both flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be given at the same time."

The Commonwealth Government provides vaccines for vulnerable populations, and funds GPs through the MBS to administer vaccines. However, as COVID-19 has taught us, the role of pharmacies is crucial and the NSW Government is funding community pharmacies to deliver influenza vaccinations this June.

NSW Health has also permitted pharmacies to administer flu vaccines to children aged five years old, reduced from 10 years, making it easier for families to be vaccinated together. GPs will be reimbursed for any flu stock they have already purchased that is used in the month of June for this vaccination program.

The Commonwealth Government provides free flu vaccine for those considered to be at higher risk of severe illness from the flu, including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from six months of age
- Children from six months to under five years of age
- People with serious health conditions (including severe asthma, diabetes, cancer, immune disorders, obesity, kidney, heart, lung or liver disease)
- Pregnant women
- People aged 65 and over.

Other protective measures individuals can take include staying at home if sick and washing your hands. Find out more about how to protect yourself from the flu at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/health/influenza>



Winter pool maintenance essential

A local pool service with expert knowledge and over 30 years' experience is on your doorstep with Narrabri Pool and Spa Service now offering swimming pool care and maintenance to Gwydir residents.

Narrabri Pool and Spa Services recognise the need for exceptional customer service and reliability when it comes to looking after your pool.

Offering a full range of services for residential pool owners, the team can organise maintenance to suit your needs, equipment, service calls or chemicals.

With the much of the winter months still to come, now is a great time to pay attention to some of the jobs that you have been putting off as well as maintaining regular checks.

The cooler weather provides the perfect opportunity to look at the health of the water and make any adjustments that might be needed.

Equipment checks are also an essential part of healthy pool operation. Narrabri Pool and Spa Services can assist with equipment inspection and offer an Equipment Check and Balance that tests chemical levels, inspects all pumps, filters and plumbing and checks baskets, skimmers and filters.

There is an opportunity to avoid the cost of travel when multiple bookings are made for the same day.

Your pool is a valuable asset, adding thousands of dollars to the value of your home. Ensure its health and that of your family by organising professional attention, either regular or casual, with Narrabri Pool and Spa Services.

Maintain your pool this Winter



Narrabri Pool and Spa Services offers a wide range of pool services across the northwest. Travel to the Gwydir region by appointment

- Holiday Pool Care
- Equipment Maintenance
- Salt Water Systems
- Chemicals supplied
- Cleaning
- Pool Chemistry

02 6795 3096

www.narrabripools.com



PHONE TOWER CAMPAIGN DELIVERS RESULTS: UPPER HORTON SET TO RECEIVE COVERAGE IMPROVEMENT

Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce is ticking off another achievement.

Mr Joyce said one of his long-held passions for New England is to reduce the number of mobile phone black spots.

“All too often, hills and valleys, which significantly contribute to the appeal of New England, play havoc with mobile and internet connections, leaving some centres without everyday communications,” Mr Joyce said.

“In particular, the community of Upper Horton has conducted a passionate campaign for improved mobile phone services, and I have fought hard on their behalf.”

“As a result, I am pleased to announce that under Round 2 of the Regional Connectivity Program (RCP), Upper Horton is to receive a welcome improvement to its mobile phone coverage,” Mr Joyce said.

The project will deploy a new Telstra small cell mobile site, providing improved handheld coverage. The Federal Government contribution towards the project will be \$261,300.

Minister for Regional Communications, Bridget McKenzie said the project forms part of the Coalition Government’s continuing roll-out of the \$257 million RCP.

“I acknowledge the support provided by Telstra’s Northern NSW Regional General, Michael Marom and the efforts of Mr Arthur McDouall and his Tower Action Committee which gathered over 600 signatures for improved communication services.”

“Since becoming the Member for New England, 51 mobile phone base stations have been secured for the electorate. This is the 52nd.”

Mr Joyce added that upon being re-elected he would continue lobbying for even more phone towers, so as far as possible, New England communication black spots are reduced or completely eliminated.



Telstra’s Northern NSW Regional General Manager, Mike Marom with MP Barnaby Joyce at a recently commissioned Northern NSW phone tower

NOTICE

LEGACY STREET STALL, MAY 2022, RAFFLE WINNERS:

1st prize \$100.00

Meat voucher: Mr Bob Cummins

1st prize \$100.00 gift voucher: Mrs Sue Rampling

1st prize Trailer load of wood: Mrs Narelle Wilson

COPETON DAM LEVELS

Percent Full: 99.20%

Current Volume: 1,332,519 megalitres

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

Inverell Uniting Church’s services are 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. All welcome.

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His faithful love continues forever.

PSALMS: 107 . 1

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Friendly competition all for a good cause



Bingara bowlers and golfers got right to it on a sunny Saturday in May for the great cause of raising funds for flood affected residents of the North Coast.

Over 50 participants took to the greens and the golf course for a day of fun and friendly competition.

Results for bowlers on the day were:

John Pankhurst and Peter Conroy draw with Col Roberg and David Childs, 14 shots all; Carol Rattray, John Robinson and Col Whitfield draw with Irene Edwards, Gail Galvin and Don Mack, 14 shots all; Andy Wadley, Kerry O'Bryan and Paul Bond defeated Kylie Bond, Greg Zampa and Trevor Galvin, 23 shots to 8; Mark Everitt, Robert Mack and Jim Henderson defeated Vicki Zampa, Gay Mack and Garry O'Neile, 20 shots to 9; Shirley Witt, John Herring and Graeme Mack defeated Debra Mack, Bev Roberg and Kevin Mack, 23 shots to 18.

Organisers would like to thank those that turned out, raising over \$560 to contribute towards donations.

More recently, on May 28, Bingara Bowling Club hosted the Open Triples Carnival.

An exception roll-up of 26 teams from Inverell Sporties, RSM, Warialda, Bingara, Moree, Barraba and Delungra travelled to take part in the event.

Winners on the day were Bingara's Col Roberg, David Childs and Bev Roberg, 2nd was Phil Ross's team from Inverell RSM with 3rd place going to Don Mack, John Pankhurst and Gay Mack, also of Bingara.

WARIALDA OZTAG PLAYS JUNIOR STATE CUP AT COFFS HARBOUR



Warialda Oztag travelled to Coffs Harbour on the first weekend in June to take part in the 2022 NSW Oztag Junior State Cup.

A dry weekend offered the four participating teams the best possible start. Taking part in the tournament were: Under 10 Girls, Under 10 Boys, Under 12 Girls and Under 12 Boys. In all, over 280 teams competed in the competition with each Warialda team playing up to seven games.

The Girls Under 10s had some close games, as did the Under 10s Boys with many tries being scored between them.

The Warialda Oz Tag committee recognise and thank their Coffs Harbour friends who helped assist by supplying players to all the boys to field a team.

The Under 12s teams all played amazingly, showing great sportsmanship and should be very proud of how they played over the weekend.

Unfortunately, the Boys Under 12s played with only nine players.

Special moment goes to Katelyn Orchard who stepped down from the girls' team to help out scoring a wonderful try again against Camden on day two, according to a Warialda Oztag representative.

"We as a committee would like to thank all players, parents and coaching staff for a wonderful weekend," they said.



Warialda OzTag representative teams, clockwise from top left: U 12 years Girls, U12 years Boys, U 10 years Girls and U 10 years Boys teams that took part in the NSW Oztag Junior State Cup held in Coffs Harbour recently

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