

\$670,000 BUSHFIRE PROTECTION ZONE 'DIGS-IN' AROUND WARIALDA



Work on a major bushfire asset protection zone around the Warialda township has commenced. Gwydir Shire Council General Manager Max Eastcott, left, Senior Natural Resource Management Officer Crown Lands Vicky Lyons, NSW Rural Fire Service Namoi Gwydir District Co-ordinator Scott Mack, Gwydir Shire Mayor John Coulton, Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall, behind, NSW Rural Fire Service Manager Community Risk Shellie Smyth and NSW Soil Conservation Service Senior Environment Officer Brett Hanly

WORK is now underway on a \$670,000 State Government-funded program of earth-works to reduce the bushfire risk around Warialda, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall joining Gwydir Shire Mayor John Coulton and representatives of NSW Rural Fire Service to inspect the creation of new fire-breaks and large-scale asset protection zone around the township.

Prompted by the events of the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires, Gwydir Shire Council, supported by Mr Marshall, proactively campaigned to have new fire-breaks installed around the township in an effort to reduce the fire risk.

For a long time, there were concerns about the fire safety of the town and with this in mind, Council sought consultation on the

matter, door-knocking the entire town. During this process there were only two objections to the fire break plans.

Mr Marshall said diggers were now in the process of upgrading more than 28 kilometres of fire trails and creating 49 hectares of fire breaks, known as Asset Protection Zones (APZs).

"In February 2020, Council wrote to me expressing its serious fear that vegetation around Warialda had the potential to fuel a catastrophic fire, should one ignite," Mr Marshall said.

"After lobbying the former Emergency Services Minister and NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner, fire mitigation at Warialda was made a priority."

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MAYORAL COLUMN



I am pleased to advise that the Warialda Heavy Vehicle Bypass project is nearing completion. Weather permitting, it is anticipated that the bitumen seal will be finalised by the end of March, with the bypass to open shortly after this process is complete.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the Council staff involved with this long-term project. I am incredibly proud of the high standard of work completed thus far, with crews often working 12-hour shifts, six days a week to complete these important works. I have no doubt that the result will be of exceptional standard.

At the end of 2021, wet weather meant several road projects had been delayed, however, the recent dry months have been ideal for construction works and crews have managed to make up lost ground.

In the north of the Shire, drainage works are currently being undertaken on the I B Bore Road. Once this process is finalised, Council crews will commence the road build.

In the west, the tender process for upgrades to the Country Boundary Road will commence shortly. Be sure to keep an eye on Council's website if this is a project that may be of interest to you, or someone you know.

The creation of a 28 kilometre long and 40 meters wide fire break around Warialda has also recently commenced. The NSW RFS are currently overseeing the works which will help better protect the town in the event of an out-of-control bush fire.

This project was made possible by a \$670,000 State Government grant, jointly funded by the NSW RFS and Crown Lands.

As a bonus, the green waste from the clearing process will go into making batters for the Warialda Heavy Vehicle Bypass. This will help manage erosion and prevent washing alongside the road.

I am really looking forward to the completion of this project which will enhance the safety of Warialda residents while putting the green waste to good use.



COLLEGE BINGARA AND WARIALDA CHAT Community College

with Jannette Tan

Up and coming classes for the College for the rest of this term:

RSA and RCG - 22 and 23 March

First Aid - 2 April,

Safely Access the Rail Corridor - 5 April,

Chainsaw - 12 April

Have you seen the TV in the front window at the Community College in Warialda?

It is the new Warialda Noticeboard; a place you can let people know what is happening around Warialda especially for those that don't have Facebook or go online. It will be updated weekly. So, pop down anytime and see what's on.

To add a notice, please email: noticeboard2402@yahoo.com, go to the Facebook page or simply tell the lovely staff at the Warialda Community College. Posts will be reviewed by the Noticeboard Editor.

We are currently taking expressions of interest for Certificate III in Community Services. If you or someone you know is interested, please phone or visit one of the campuses.

If you have any thoughts on classes or workshops you would like to see in the Gwydir Shire, please get in contact with us.

Ph 0438 546 519, 6724 1965 or 6729 1487

Monday-Friday, 8.30am - 5:00pm

or visit our website: www.communitycollegeni.nsw.edu.au/RTO 90027



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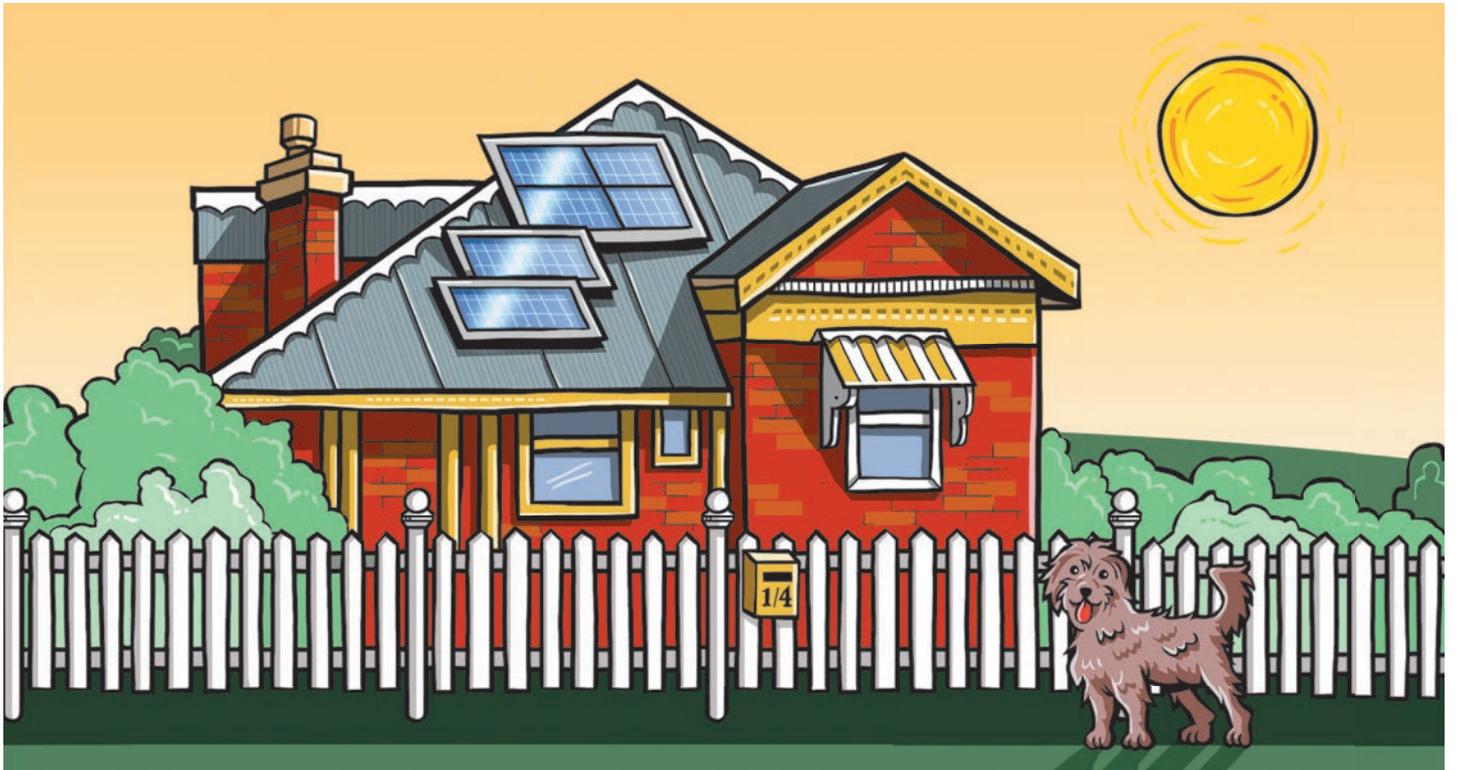
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“We have had a big breakthrough recently after being granted a 40 metre break. The RFS, in conjunction with the Soil Con, will be putting that in place, along with some of the fire trails,” said Gwydir Shire Council Mayor John Coulton.

“Combined with the heavy vehicle bypass that’s almost complete, it gives us a pretty handy break around the town now,” he said.

Mr Marshall says that work has now started on fire trails on the southern side of Warialda this month and RFS Mitigation Crews will establish the firebreaks, with the project to be completed by May.

“The upgrades will bring over 28 kilometres of fire trails to the highest NSW RFS standard, which allows fire trucks to be maneuvered quickly and easily.”

“There will be over 40 new bays for fire trucks to pass and approximately 35 new places for fire trucks to turn around on these fire trails, which will make a huge difference in defending property and saving lives.”

“The new fire breaks will be up to 40 metres wide and fire trails will be upgraded to NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) Category 1 standard.”

“The removal of surrounding vegetation will provide added protection and allow firefighters to do controlled burns and, if needed, provide access and control option during emergency operations to save homes.”

Mr Marshall added the action shows there has been learnings from the devastation of the Black Summer fires.

“I want to thank all agencies and local stakeholders who understood the need and worked together to install these important fire measures to keep the community safe,” he said.

“In particular, I recognise Mayor John Coulton, Councillor Geoff Smith and the Gwydir Shire Council Bushfire Committee for putting together a fire mitigation strategy, which I think could be applied in any community in the State.”

“Warialda residents can rest easier knowing these measures will give them much greater protection from bushfires in future.”

“It is quite ironic. We were hoping to get this work done during the winter or the spring and it was just too wet and just kept raining,” said Mayor Coulton.

“I think any fire that comes at us from the ground, we should be able to halt. I think we’ve done, really, all we are able to do,” said Cr Coulton.

NSW RFS Area North Western Manager Community Risk Shellie Smyth said bushfire preparations were a co-operative effort with local brigades, local government, government agencies and land managers undertaking as much hazard reduction as possible to prepare.

“Our crews are ready to respond to the threat of fire across NSW. But remember, it’s never too late for home and land owners to start preparing their property, or to update and discuss their survival plan,” Ms Smyth said.

The upgraded fire trails and new fire breaks are jointly funded by the NSW RFS and Crown Lands.



RFS teams head to the coast for a great cause

The NSW Rural Fire Service sent a Strike Team from the Namoi Gwydir Zone area to Lismore, departing on Friday March 4, to assist in flood recovery efforts across northern New South Wales.

The team included trucks and volunteers from the Myall Vale, Moree, Ashley and Jacks Creek Brigades and includes Gwydir’s Warialda Brigade Category 6 tanker.

It is expected the teams will be based in Coffs Harbour and travelling each day to Lismore.

Recovery efforts continue to be impacted by ongoing wet weather and stormy conditions.

STUDENT'S RECEIVE RECOGNITION FROM MP



Bingara Central School students, from left: Blaire Johnson, Tamiya McClymont, Zoe Allen and Brooke McKinnon, who were all awarded Community Recognition Statements on behalf of Adam Marshall MP

Four Bingara Central School students have, this month, been presented with their Community Recognition Statement awards.

Principal, Brooke Wall, had the pleasure of awarding the Community Recognition Statements on behalf of Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands.

On 24 November 2021, Adam Marshall MP had the opportunity to deliver at the NSW Legislative Assembly. During this time, he spoke highly of Brooke McKinnon's achievements in Rugby Union and the Breast Cancer Awareness and Fundraising team of Tamiya

McClymont, Zoe Allen and Blaire Johnson.

Community Recognition Statements are a way to officially congratulate or acknowledge the achievements of people or groups in the community or to recognise charity work.

"The efforts that this group of students have put in over some very trying years to strive towards their goals and support their local community deserved to be noted," said Ms Wall.

"Congratulation's girls, we cannot wait to see what you all achieve in 2022!"

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Proud to be your representative in NSW

Adam Marshall MP
your Member for Northern Tablelands
Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW

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Email: northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.adammarshall.com.au

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



Races set to get out of the gate this April

The annual Bill Shutes Anipro Warialda Memorial Cup Race Day is coming up on Saturday, 2 April 2022.

To be held at the Warialda Racecourse, Racecourse Road, Warialda, with something for all the family.

Maddie Rose will be providing music throughout the day and dancing to DJ - Greg 'the Hat' Henry of NOW-FM fame, until late. There will be face painting for the kids and yabbie races will be held throughout the day, so come along and back a winner - either yabbie or horse.

Fashions on the Field is another major feature of any race day. This year there are four main sections: The Vogue, The Vivacious, The Vibrant, The Vintage and then best dressed juniors. Get your outfit sorted as there are great prizes to win from some fantastic sponsors including: Faraway Domes, Mandy Bowman Massage, Country Dust Café, Gwydir Shire Council and Lee Carrow Spelling Farm.

The race program itself hosts six races, with the Warialda Cup held at the fifth. Gates open at 11:00am and bar from 12:00pm, with a kiosk running all day and Lions running their barbeque.

There will be no need to leave after the last race as the feature 'Dash for Cash' will follow race six - pack your running shoes ready for the highlight of the day.

A courtesy bus will run every half hour from 11:00am, with pick up points at The Royal Hotel, The Commercial Hotel, Caravan Park, Sunflower Motel and the Golf and Bowling Club.

Get a group together, sort out your outfits and get your tickets online at [trybooking.com](https://www.trybooking.com) or at the gate on the day.

SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW ENGLAND

Local governments in New England have received their third 2021-22 quarterly payment through the Federal Government's Financial Assistance Grant program. Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, said the funding is untied, allowing councils to spend the grant according to their own local priorities.

"Local governments are vital to building safer and stronger communities," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

"They are an important delivery partner for the Federal Government's economic stimulus packages and play a critical role in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Councils in New England have received their quarterly payments, with Gwydir Shire receiving their third quarter allocation of \$647,133.

Assistant Minister for Local Government Kevin Hogan said a total of \$2.7 billion in untied Federal funding was allocated for local governments in 2021-22.

"The Federal Government prepaid around half of the allocated funding in June 2021, the remainder will be paid through these quarterly payments across the year," Mr Hogan said.

"We know the early payment is a valued support to councils, particularly in regions that have faced the combined impacts of bushfire, drought, floods and COVID-19."

Since 1974-75, the Australian Government has provided local governments with almost \$60 billion in untied funding through the Financial Assistance Grants program.

For more information, visit <https://www.regional.gov.au/local/assistance/index.aspx>

WARIALDA JOCKEY CLUB PRESENTS

Warialda Races

Bill Schutes Anipro Warialda Memorial Cup Race Day

6 Race Event including the Warialda Cup

Fashions on the Field:

- *The Vogue*
- *The Vintage*
- *The Vibrant*
- *The Vivacious*
- *Best Dressed Junior*



Entertainment

Yabby Races

Face Painting

Courtesy Bus

Bar

SATURDAY 2ND APRIL

11:00AM

Better aged care services for seniors

The \$35.3 million multi-purpose services (MPS) program will see 110 aged care sites benefit from minor capital grant projects averaging \$321,000 each.

Across the Parkes electorate, MPS facilities will receive collectively \$2,141,260 as part of the allocations, with Warialda Multi-Purpose Service granted \$107,184.

Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton said the funding represented an essential opportunity for 10 MPS facilities in the Parkes electorate to improve quality care levels.

“This funding is an opportunity for providers to maintain and reinforce the health, safety and well-being of residents – and it offers peace-of-mind for families eager to ensure their loved one receives quality care,” Mr Coulton said.

The work would include simple improvements such as gardens and pathways to major building renovations.

Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services Richard Colbeck, said the grants provide integrated health and aged care for regional or remote areas.

“We know how important it is for older Australians receiving care to maintain social connections and these services will allow people to stay in these communities,” Minister Colbeck said.

Providers of MPS sites will also soon have

the opportunity to expand their services, with 100 new residential care places on offer through a competitive allocation round.

“The grant funding and the MPS places round join the Government’s \$18.3 billion aged care reform package as part of the Government’s comprehensive response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety,” Minister Colbeck said.

“The Royal Commission recommended the MPS program should be maintained and extended, and \$35.3 million in grant funding and a further 100 places in 2022 will do just that.”

The maximum funding available for each individual MPS site is \$600,000, with providers also required to contribute at least 20 per cent of the total project costs. Grant funding will be allocated across the 2021–22 and 2022–23 financial years.

The MPS grants build on the single largest investment in residential aged care infrastructure in Australia’s history, which in July 2021 saw \$150 million in capital grants allocated to residential care services, predominantly in regional and remote Australia.

Outcomes of the MPS grants, including details of the successful providers, can be found at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/mps-program-minor-capital-grant-opportunity-results>

IT’S SHOWTIME



Roll up, roll up! It’s almost time for the 2022 Warialda Show.

The May 5, 6 and 7 event is set to be jam-packed with exhibitions and entertainment. A full pavilion line-up featuring wool, photography, horticulture, preserves, applied arts and more is expected, and this year’s art showcase is set to build on the success of 2021.

A spectacular one hour show from the Rooftop Express Show team will share its production of Australian comedy, awe-inspiring horsemanship and thrilling stunts that are suitable for the entire family.

The Junior and Novice Rodeo will run from 7:30pm on Friday night (May 5) and, of course, all horse events will run as usual.

Get in on the action on the Base Zero rock climbing wall, show your furry friend in the Pet Show, enter the Maiden, Novice and Open categories of the Yard Dog trials and watch the fireworks. A billy-boiling competition and demolition derby, as well as junior and senior Farmer’s Challenge will ensure everyone is catered for.



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TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IN THE GWYDIR SHIRE OVER EASTER

We often forget how lucky we are to live and work where we do. Now that life is returning to a new 'normal', why not take this opportunity to explore your own backyard this Easter? Here are our Top 10 recommendations:

1. CRANKY ROCK

We all know the yarn about Cranky Rock and its dark history, but the beautiful waterways and erosion on the spectacular stone are hard to beat. Escape the heat with an early morning climb to the viewing platform or enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles from the base of the boulder at dusk. Fill in the rest of your time by visiting the lovely cafes and pubs in the Warialda township, whilst admiring Dave Moore's street art and the beautiful clean parks.

Turn off 5 km east of Warialda, Gwydir Highway, **6729 1402**

2. CERAMIC BREAK SCULPTURE PARK

An interesting and a unique place to visit, the park is filled with a variety of different abstract themes and designs. It is not something you would expect to find in the outback area of the Gwydir but boy, aren't we glad it's here.

2535 Allan Cunningham Road, Warialda NSW 2402, **6729 4147**

3. ROCKY CREEK GLACIAL AREA

Water flowing over the rocks is a site for sore eyes, some might say, and makes for a relaxing escape from reality. The 290-million-year-old formation is a glacial remnant and an ecological paradise, providing permanent water to native animals. Be sure to bring your togs and a picnic basket and enjoy the sound of the running water and peaceful chatter of birds in the distance. The area is a picturesque, 30-minute drive west of Bingara on the Killarney Gap Road.

4. EZZY'S CROSSING

Grab your mates, esky, fishing rods and kayaks and head down to Ezzy's Crossing for an afternoon of relaxation. If you fancy staying longer, bring your camping gear and settle in for what is sure to be a well-deserved escape to rural paradise. Ezzy's Crossing is situated 5 minutes east of Gravesend along the Gwydir River, making

it ideal for water activities. It is also home to a massive railway bridge which is sure to be admired by all, especially those that have an interest in history and 'how things used to be built'.

5. THE VICARAGE CAFÉ

A boutique café (below) in the heart of wheat growing country is just what the community of North Star and surrounds needed. North Star locals used to have to drive long distances to satisfy their caffeine needs but now this small café is a hub for coffee, great food, excellent service and a place to catch up with friends. Eat-in or take-away and explore the streets of North Star. Depending on the time of the year, you may be lucky enough to catch a polo match or dirt bike race.

9-11 Edward Street, North Star NSW 2408, **0477 661 076**



6. THREE CREEKS GOLD MINE

Eureka! Keeping the dream of finding that one precious stone is a reality at the Three Creeks Gold Mine. A number of precious and valuable gems have been found in the soil at the mining site over the years which keeps tourists coming back for more. You never know, it could be you that strikes gold next. Learn about the history of the gold mine and browse the array of garnets that are available for purchase.

5890 Upper Bingara Road, Upper Bingara NSW 2404, **6783 2224**

7. CROPPA CREEK STORE

Known for the best burgers in the west!

The Croppa Creek Store is a one stop shop for the local community in the Golden Triangle. Anything from basic machinery parts to a cold six pack at knock off time, this store has it all. While you are there, be sure to check out the Croppa Creek community. The village boasts an excellent bowling green, golf course, as well as a laid-back lifestyle.

6 Buckie Road, Croppa Creek NSW 2411, **6754 5222**

8. GWYDIR RIVER

We all know Bingara is famous for being situated on the beautiful Gwydir River so it comes as no surprise that it makes the Top 10. If you aren't a local you may not be aware of all the opportunities and facilities along the river. Enjoy the recently installed pontoon that is popular amongst school-aged children as it provides easy access to the deeper waters or escape to the one of the many secluded camping sites along the river. You can fish and kayak and not see another person for days if you wish.

9. THE WALLAROO HOTEL

The Wallaroo Hotel, where the steaks are as big as your head (and we aren't even joking)! Locals reckon that the food doesn't get much better than the Wallaroo and the beer isn't colder anywhere else in the world. A tidy country pub with wooden design throughout. Enjoy a cold one on the back deck while the King Parrots call in to say hello. Coolatai is also home to a large recreational area, old churches and tennis courts if you are keen for a match!

16 Warialda Road, Coolatai NSW 2402, **6729 9273**

10. SQUIRT n DIRT

This is one for the adrenaline junkies. Grab your dirt bikes and head out to Squirt n Dirt for a fun filled adventure on the tracks. There is a course to suit everyone, with each track boasting kilometres and kilometres of dirt. Bring your swag and camp the night or for families, there is a house available for hire. Be sure to book ahead though as demand is high around Easter!

1575 Oregon Road, Warialda NSW 2402, **0429 636 189**

To find out more about any of these places, please contact the Visitor Information Centres Bingara, **6724 0066** or Warialda **6729 3037**.

MP BACKS PUSH TO UNLOCK GRAIN EXPORT GROWTH AT NEWCASTLE PORT



An industry push to establish the Port of Newcastle as a leading NSW grain export and receivable terminal has received the full support of Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall, who wants a new container terminal constructed to slash rail freight costs and grow profits for producers in northern NSW.

Mr Marshall said he would be lobbying to have the deeds that govern the operation of the privatised Port of Newcastle changed by the State Government to facilitate the millions of dollars of private investment, which is ready to start constructing a new deep port.

“Our grain growers have a gateway to world markets on their doorstep, but unfair bureaucracy and now redundant rules are keeping the door to Port of Newcastle locked and bolted,” Mr Marshall said.

“Currently Port Commitment Deeds (PCD), which were signed when Port Kembla and Port Botany were privatised by the State Government in 2013, require the State to compensate those two ports if container traffic at the Port of Newcastle exceeds a cap.”

“When the Port of Newcastle was privatised in 2014, another PCD required that port’s operators to reimburse the State Government for any compensation paid to the operators of Kembla and Botany.”

“These provisions have made establishing a container terminal and increasing capacity at the Port of Newcastle financially unviable for the owners – and our grain growers are paying the price.”

“It is my view that legislators must re-look at the PCDs and create an environment which, at least, removes the reimbursement provisions so the Port of Newcastle can operate in a freer market.”

“This would allow the port to pursue expansion plans, without being burdened by ridiculous compensation requirements.”

Mr Marshall said the establishment of a container terminal at Port of Newcastle would go hand-in-glove with the upcoming Moree Special Activation Precinct and freight hub.

“If a key purpose of the SAP is to streamline agricultural freight out of the North West, then it stands to reason steps should be taken to increase access to the most immediate international shipping port,” he said.

“Establishing a container terminal at Port of Newcastle has the potential of cutting the cost of grain rail freight by \$16 to \$22 per tonne – putting huge dollars back in the pockets of growers and the local economy.”

“While there are grain facilities at Newcastle, a container terminal would increase the amount of grain which can be received and stored during record harvests, reducing the need to move product to the far-off Port Kembla at Wollongong.”

“The Port of Newcastle has preliminary designs for the multi-purpose deep-water terminal at Mayfield and the money to proceed, it now needs the legislative framework to make it happen.”

“I fully support the campaign to have the Port of Newcastle released from its shackles and allowed to operate in a more fair and equitable way, which subsequently leads to better results for our farmers and our region.”

BINGARA SHOW SOCIETY STOCKMAN'S CHALLENGE



WHEN: 2nd & 3rd April 2022

WHERE: Bingara Showgrounds



Canteen and bar available

DJ Saturday night



Charity Auction on the Saturday night with all proceeds going to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter

COME ALONG AND ENJOY A GREAT NIGHT OUT



Bingara Stockman's Challenge



Bec Edwards - 0417 257 725





Warialda CWA Branch Roundup

Warialda CWA Branch recently met with a number of important items on the agenda.

The first was to welcome back a long-standing member Mrs Noeline Warby who had spent the previous three months in hospital.

Ms Libby Cotter, formally of Maclean Branch, was welcomed as a transferring member after becoming a resident of Warialda.

After the meeting, branch President Miss Fay Grieve had the pleasure of presenting a certificate to Ms Lucy Lockyer to formally acknowledge her receipt of a Phillip Group Education Grant.

The Sydney-based CWA group provides grants to assist students at various stages of their education. Access to the grants is through application to local CWA branches who, with their local Group, in this case Gwydir, sponsor the applicants and help with the paperwork associated with the grant.

This year marks the Centenary Year of CWA which was founded with an act of NSW parliament in 1922. As Mrs G. E. Munro MBE of 'Keera', Bingara was the founding State President and planted many branches in the North-West region, a celebratory weekend was held on 12 and 13 March. The event was hosted by the Bingara and Gwydir Groups, before the Annual General Conference is to be held in Sydney in May 2022.



Warialda CWA Branch President Miss Fay Grieve with Phillip Group Education Grant recipient Ms Lucy Lockyer

GWYDIR GROUP CWA LAND COOKERY AND HANDICRAFT DAY

Gwydir Group CWA of NSW recently hosted their Land Cookery and Handicraft Day at Yetman Memorial Hall.

Members, judges and guests travelled from across the Gwydir Group area to Yetman to enjoy this wonderful day on the CWA calendar.

Entries were at the highest level within Handicraft and Cookery, with Judges Mrs Mary Hollingsworth (Land Cookery) and Mrs Jann O'Brien (Handicraft) stating entries are at State level right across the spectrum.

Members spoke of their excitement in having their entry going on to be judged at State competition and being part of the Country Women's Association of NSW Centenary Conference.

Awards were won with trophies presented on the morning with Junior member of Yetman Branch, Miss Stevie Read, coming first in baking with her two entries, an orange cake and coconut ices. Mrs Hollingsworth presented her trophy and stated the young member was outstanding in her dedication to competing and her love of CWA and the future of CWA.

The gathering all enjoyed morning tea followed by lunch.



Above: CWA Gwydir Group Cookery Officer Heather Gilmour, Junior member of Yetman Branch, Stevie Read, and Land Cookery State judge, Mrs Mary Hollingsworth



Inverell Veterinary Clinic
Warialda Veterinary Clinic



Mobile Small Animal Services



Having a ruff time getting your four legged friends to the vet?

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Large Animal Services

Our vets are equipped to visit you on farm and provide comprehensive services for your large animal needs.

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Early ultrasound pregnancy testing (ACV PregCHECK ©)
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Nutritional advice
Fertility and Disease investigations
Calving and After Hours Emergency Services



Bingara travelling clinic - Monday
14 March and Monday 28 March

Contact the clinic for more information

RATE PEG CAP CLEARLY INADEQUATE FOR SHIRE

The Independent Pricing Tribunal has handed down its determination on Local Government rate increases for the 2022/23 period and it's not good news according to the new President of Local Government NSW (LGNSW), Cr Darriea Turley.

Each council receiving the minimum rate increase allowed by IPART, including Gwydir Shire Council, will be able to increase rates by just 0.7% over the financial year. The amount by which a council can increase its general income (mainly rates) is capped by the rate peg.

"It (the baseline peg rate) fails to recognise the skyrocketing cost of commodities, as supply chains continue to bite, and NSW begins to emerge from the COVID pandemic," said Cr Turley.

Cr Turley went on to point out the costs of fuel almost doubled

Autumn Outlook: La Niña wanes while potentially wetter-than-average autumn looms

The Bureau of Meteorology's Autumn Climate Outlook for 2022 has been released and details the predicted climate and water conditions for the coming season.

Above-average autumn rainfall is likely for most areas of Australia, except the south-west and north-east.

Autumn is likely to be wetter than normal for much of Queensland and scattered areas of south-eastern Australia, including areas already impacted by summer floods.

While La Niña has led to increased rain in eastern and northern Australia, observations and climate models suggest it is likely at or past its peak and expected to end in mid-autumn 2022.

Autumn days are likely to be warmer than normal for much of the northern half of Australia, coastal Western Australia, and parts of south-eastern Australia, while a small area of eastern New South Wales will likely be cooler than normal.

Across Australia, night-time temperatures are predicted to be higher than normal.

Australia's severe weather season runs from October to April, meaning autumn remains a higher-risk period for storms, fires, floods and tropical cyclones.

Dry conditions in Western Australia mean bushfire risk will remain raised during autumn, while areas of eastern Australia that have been wet in recent months will have below-average fire risk.

There have been five tropical cyclones in the Australian region since the start of the tropical cyclone season in November, including four over the summer. February to March is usually the peak of the tropical cyclone season. With warm waters around northern Australia, further tropical cyclone development remains likely for autumn.

For more details on this and other climate outlooks and summaries, visit the Bureau's website: www.bom.gov.au/climate

during the latter half of 2021 and the fact that IPART has decided to apply the public service wage increase of 1.2% instead of the 2% guaranteed to councils' workers for 2022.

Gwydir Shire will receive just \$58,000 in additional revenue, whereas wage costs alone during the same period will incur \$295,000 in additional costs.

Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall is also demanding a 'better deal for the bush', after the IPART decision, taking to the floor of State Parliament, giving notice of a motion condemning the IPART determination and urging the body urgently review its "paltry" increase figure.

Mr Marshall said small to medium-sized rural councils were being discriminated against and starved of revenue at a time when mandated wage rises are imminent and the cost of operating were sky-rocketing.

Gwydir Shire Mayor John Coulton indicated at the recent Council meeting, that the lowest rate pegging increase in 20 years will be detrimental to the Shire.

Meanwhile, Gwydir Shire Council General Manager, Max Eastcott, says the issue here is not one of inefficient (Council) operations, that it is simply the economic reality of maintaining an effective delivery of services.

"By any reasonable measure the IPART decision is unrealistic and needs to be challenged," said Mr Eastcott.



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ENTRIES CLOSE 24 MARCH, 2022

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EAR, NOSE AND THROAT STAFF SPECIALIST COMMENCES AT TAMWORTH HOSPITAL

Patients living in the New England region can now access ear, nose and throat (ENT) services closer to home, with the commencement of ENT Staff Specialist, Dr Hossein Ghazavi, at Tamworth Hospital.

Hunter New England Local Health District Chief Executive, Michael DiRienzo, said Dr Ghazavi's appointment is welcome news for the local community.

"Recruiting medical specialists in rural and regional areas is a challenge faced by many local health districts, so I'm extremely pleased to inform our community they will now have medical access to state-of-the-art medical care for ear, nose and throat issues closer to home," he said.

"The team at John Hunter Hospital (JHH) in Newcastle had been providing public ENT services via an outreach model of care and virtual care. This approach often resulted in patients having to travel upwards of three hours for face to face assessments and surgeries."

"Staff at both hospitals have been hard-at-work transitioning patients on the JHH ENT waitlist that are living in Tamworth and surrounds. Both current and new patient referrals will be assessed by our outpatient service and referred to Dr Ghazavi if deemed clinically appropriate."

With a national shortage of ENT specialists and many choosing to practise in metropolitan areas, Dr Ghazavi's appointment is also long-

awaited news for staff at Tamworth Hospital.

"Dr Ghazavi will be seeing inpatients and those admitted to Tamworth Hospital via the emergency department, so medical and nursing staff will have greater exposure to these sorts of procedures," Mr DiRienzo said.

"Not only will the community benefit, but it's also a great opportunity for medical and nursing staff to learn and upskill in a specialised area."

Since 2021, Dr Ghazavi has been working as an Otolaryngology Staff Specialist at John Hunter Hospital, however he is excited for this next challenge.

"My colleagues and the Tamworth community have been very welcoming, and I'm looking forward to getting started in this new role," Dr Ghazavi said.

"It's a privilege to be able to make a difference for my patients, help others develop their skills in the public health system and work in a new environment."



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Joint Organisation membership push

After being put on hold during the process of recent Local Government elections, Gwydir Shire is planning to continue on its path to become a member of the New England Joint Organisation.

Gwydir Shire Council General Manager, Max Eastcott, says that the Council's preferred position remains that it is in the best interest of the Gwydir Shire and its residents to become a full voting member of the New England Joint Organisation (NEJO).

"Having become an Associate Member of the NEJO it became more and more clear that Gwydir's transport interests are much more closely aligned to those of the other Council's in the NEJO with both interstate (NSW - QLD) and east-west transport links being the main focus," said Mr Eastcott.

Appropriately, Council had received prior endorsement of the resolution to leave from the Namoi Unlimited with the intention of joining the New England Joint Organisation from both parties.

Going back to December 2020, the Minister for Local Government at the time and State Member for New England MP Adam Marshall were both informed of the decision.

It was resolved at the recent Council meeting held on February 24, that the Minister for Local Government be advised that the Council's preferred position remains that it is in the best interests of Gwydir Shire and its residents to become a full voting member of the New England Joint Organisation.

NSW Rural Young Woman competition representative shines brightly

Local, Clare Mead, represented the Warialda Show Society with grace and poise at the 2022 Zone 4 Sydney Royal Ag Shows NSW Rural Young Woman Competition, (previously known as The Land Showgirl Competition) at Wee Waa Showgrounds on February 19.

With a region that spans as far north as Tenterfield, south to Walcha and almost everywhere in between, the competition included 14 ladies.

Contestants underwent a formal interview process and were again interviewed on stage at an evening event in front of 160 people. Judging is based on general knowledge, current affairs, community involvement and presentation.

“Clare competed against ladies that had 2 - 3 years more life experience than her, but she carried herself well and should be proud of all she has achieved in this competition,” said Nicole Simmons, Warialda P & A NSW Rural Young Woman Competition Coordinator.

“It has been lovely to see Clare’s confidence grow, and it is nice to see that this competition is still as important today as when it first started,” said Nicole.

Former 2017 The Land Showgirl Competition State Finalist, Courtney Loosemore said she would encourage anyone who is interested in personal and professional development to enter the competition, as she believes she has gained many lifelong skills from the competition.

“The competition provides a platform for women to step outside their comfort zone and develop skills in interview practice and public speaking, all while developing a thorough understanding of their region.”

“It forces you to have an opinion on matters and to be able to think quickly on your feet under pressure, which in turn leads to growth and an additional skill set,” said Courtney.

From the area, Emma Bailey from Tamworth Show Society and Lizzy Weber from Walgett Show Society were chosen to represent the zone



Warialda Show Society representative, Clare Mead, competed confidently at the Zone 4 Sydney Royal Easter Show NSW Rural Young Women Competition in Wee Waa

and will go on to compete at the Sydney Easter Royal Show this April.

“Again, congratulations Clare. Your family, friends, the Warialda P & A and broader Warialda community are very proud of your efforts and have enjoyed watching your journey through this experience,” said Nicole and Courtney in mutual agreement.

For any young lady thinking about entering in the NSW Rural Young Woman Competition at this year’s Warialda Show, please contact Nicole Simmons on **0427 846 866** or Courtney Loosemore on **0478 208 944**.

Please remember that you do not have to be living in the Warialda area to enter the competition. You may be away studying or working, however, as long as you have a connection to Warialda, you are more than welcome to enter.

NORTH STAR CLEANS UP

March 6 marked Clean Up Australia Day for 2022 and an opportunity to make a difference in your own backyard.



Over the past three decades, Clean Up Australia has evolved into an organisation that works with community, government and businesses to provide practical solutions to help us all live more sustainably every day of the year.

Congratulations to the North Star Clean Up Australia Day crew who joined together to clean up the area around the tip. Together they collected a skip bin full of escaped plastic, masks, rubber, glass, cans, furniture, cardboard, food stuffs and containers, cans, bottles and metal and green garden waste. They say that the bougainvillea branches were particularly memorable.



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BINGARA ADOPTS MULLUMBIMBY & BANGALOW

Flood Appeal

The wonderful people of Mullumbimby and Bangalow supported our community during the drought and we now have the opportunity to GIVE BACK and do something for them.

DONATE NOW!

Please donate generously to the Vision 2020 flood appeal for the Northern Rivers Region.



DONATE HERE

Look out for Flood Appeal donation jars at various businesses in town.

PHARMACY NOSTALGIA SPARKS MEMORIES



Above right: Bingara Pharmacy staff, including Ron Choice, 1970s,

Above: Bingara Pharmacy staff, including Ron Choice, 1960s,

Right: Joan Bilsborough, Valda Ali (nee Rollings) and Chris Baines (nee Brown) in Bingara Pharmacy, thought to be during the 1960s.



A post on social media created a wave of nostalgia recently when Ms Gaye Doyle shared images of Bingara Pharmacy.

Shared on Facebook group Bingara Then and Now, the images sparked a flurry of conversation about the good old days in the Maitland Street shop. Many commented on their memories of when the shop looked as it does in the photos and the interesting items that were stocked during that time.

The images were taken by Bill Bullough, who was an avid photographer and cared deeply for his Bingara Pharmacy staff.



RURAL WOMEN'S CATCH-UP

NORTH STAR
 FRIDAY 1ST APRIL, 2022, NORTH STAR SPORTING CLUB
 GUEST SPEAKERS - LETITIA CROSS - MENTAL HEALTH & CHRISTINE CONNOR - WOMEN'S HEALTH

COOLATAI
 WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL 2022, COOLATAI COMMUNITY HALL
 GUEST SPEAKER CHRISTINE CONNOR - WOMEN'S HEALTH
 JOIN US FOR A FREE DELICIOUS MORNING TEA FROM 10AM (AEST)

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 OR GO TO WWW.STICKYTICKETS.COM.AU

BINGARA U3A GOES INTO PRINT

In the latest edition of Rodney King's *History of Bingara* presentations, a group of Bingara U3A members enjoyed a potted history of newspapers in Bingara.

According to Mr King, although there were people in the area before gold was discovered, it was that discovery which really got the place going. In 1861, Bingara had a population of 90 with Upper Bingara having 2000. A mere 10 years later, Bingara had a Council and a range of businesses.

In 1884, John Veness started the Bingara Telegraph. He started in newspapers in Tamworth and then Gunnedah and finally Bingara. Mr Veness actually began the Telegraph along with a partner called Wilkens, who according to a Sydney newspaper, left the partnership in 1892 to start a newspaper in Warialda.

John Veness became a big figure in Bingara's history and was involved in the School of Arts, the Hospital, Council and Country Press Association. He was also a JP and the local Coroner. He ran the Bingara Telegraph for a long time before eventually retiring in 1932 due to the loss of his eyesight. He moved to Sydney and died in 1950 aged 91.

In the 1930s there were two papers in Bingara for a time; the Telegraph which was taken over by John's son, Leslie and another set up in competition by Sam Dixon. Sam

also had a background in newspapers, having worked for the Portland Gazette and the Lithgow Mercury. Leslie Veness only ran the Telegraph for two years before selling it to a Mrs Brown of Gravesend. It was last published on October 30, 1935.

Tragically, all records of this paper which chronicled life in Bingara were lost in one of the main street fires in the 1930s.

Sam Dixon ran his newspaper, the Bingara Advocate, until 1961. It was then run by his son Rex until 1979, when it was sold to Rob Lewis. About 10 years later it was again sold, this time to Nancy Capel.

Bingara U3A would like to thank Rod King for providing us with such an entertaining and informative morning. How amazing that Bingara had close to 100 years of weekly newspapers owned by just two families!

Rod's next history session for Bingara U3A is on Wednesday March 16 in the Bingara Citizens and Visitors' Centre at 11:00am. His subjects will include Grace Munro, including the start of the CWA and some things she did that are not well known, as well as Edward Wearne, from the time his family moved to Bingara, his early jobs and his time as Deputy Premier of NSW and Minister for Lands.



EASTER FISH SET TO GO AHEAD THIS APRIL

The annual Bingara Angler's Club Easterfish will go ahead again this Easter long weekend, April 15, 16 and 17.

After last year's success, the Bingara Angler's Club is looking forward to welcoming competitors from across the north-west.

Club Treasurer Donna Walton says it should be a great weekend and they are hoping to see entry numbers continue to increase with the river looking perfect at the moment.

Competition categories will include Longest Cod, Longest Yellowbelly, Longest Catfish, Secret Length, Heaviest European Carp with prizes in Men's, Ladies, Boys and Girls (juniors 16 years and under).

All profits from the Easterfish goes towards the Bingara Anglers Club Murray Cod Hatchery river-restocking program. The Bingara Anglers Club appreciates the support received from sponsors, supporters and the community in promoting and conducting the annual Easterfish Competition.

A raffle will be drawn on Easter Sunday at the Hatchery with tickets available on Friday nights at the Sportsman's Hotel or contact Donna Walton on **0447 048 138**. Great prizes are on offer.

Registrations will be open at the Hatchery from 8:00am Good Friday. The presentation for the event will begin back at the Hatchery from 1:00pm Sunday 17, with barbeque, bar, music and entertainment provided.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE CONVERSATION



A 'Join the Conversation' survey, aimed at ensuring the Gwydir Shire Community Strategic Plan remains on track, has come to a close.

Council wishes to thank all respondents that took the time to complete the survey and have their say.

The Community Strategic Plan is a plan that is created by the community for the community, so this review of the existing plan ensures that what was important to our community then is still relevant today and into the future.

Anyone still wishing to make a suggestion to Council can utilise the digital suggestion box located on Council's website. The *Make a Suggestion* form is a space to share your thoughts and suggestions. Visit: <https://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au/Council/Join-the-Conversation/Make-a-Suggestion>

NEW HEALTHY RIVERS GRANTS FLOWING ACROSS NEW ENGLAND



The Liberals and Nationals Government have announced more successful applicants under the \$20 million Murray–Darling Healthy Rivers Program which assists communities to deliver on-ground projects to improve the health of their local rivers and wetlands, while supporting regional economies.

Minister for Resources and Water Keith Pitt said the Healthy Rivers program empowers people and organisations to work together on practical, on-ground projects that protect the Murray–Darling Basin’s environment and their own stretch of river.

Gwydir Shire Council has been provided \$85,000 which will be used together with First Nations Groups to control weeds and regenerate woodland at the Myall Creek Memorial site.

Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, said New England communities were the big winners from the second round of grants.

“Thanks to the grant funding, people in

New England will get out on the ground and undertake over 100 hectares of erosion control, plant 15,000 native plants, and protect over 20 kilometres of riverbank and riparian zone by installing grazing-exclusion fencing. As a result, more than \$330,000 will be spent directly in our communities in goods and services.”

Minister Pitt said the Healthy Rivers grants are supporting communities right across the Basin, with successful applicants being committed to buying local, boosting regional economies.

“The Healthy Rivers Program is a central part of the Australian Government’s Murray–Darling Communities Investment Package, which is putting communities back at the heart of the Basin Plan.”

The Roxy Theatre Rises Again

The Roxy Theatre in Bingara is well known for its remarkable resurrection which saw the faithfully restored theatre re-open to the public after lying dormant for over forty years. The Roxy’s latest revival feels eerily reminiscent of that time.

Following a tough two years of lockdowns and COVID restrictions, the Roxy Theatre is slowly emerging rejuvenated and revived with an exciting and jam-packed line up of shows and events.

Kicking off this year’s program is the much-anticipated production of *Oliver Twist* presented by the Roxy’s resident theatrical ensemble, the North West Theatre Company (NWTC).

Following a false start in August last year which saw the show’s opening night brought to an abrupt halt by snap lockdowns, the NWTC is delighted to finally bring the production to life.

Producer of *Oliver Twist*, Robyn Phillips, says that after a long time of uncertainty the company is looking forward to finally being able to present the show.

‘So much hard work was put in by the cast and crew, many of whom are young people. It was devastating for the show to be cancelled at the final hour.’

‘Fortunately, our enthusiasm and love for live theatre is stronger than ever. We are eager for the show to see the light of day, and for audiences to finally return to the Roxy.’

Oliver Twist will be presented on the weekends of 19 and 20 March and 26 and 27 March 2022.

Oliver is just one of many enticing and thrilling performance to hit the Roxy stage this year. Highlights include the July performance of *This is Eden*.

Winner of the 2018 Drama Victoria Award, *This is Eden*, is an extraordinary tale of female rebellion and survival. Audiences will be transported back to 1839 to Tasmania’s infamous Cascades Female Factory, where in a solitary cell Mary Ford has been left for dead, ten thousand miles from home. Here she plots escape and

reveals, with biting mockery, the untold tales of her captors.

Later in the year comedy act *Men Like Us* will thrill audiences with their sidesplitting performance.

From the makers of *Women Like Us*, which gained popular acclaim across the country, two of the best comedians in Australia – Lindsay Webb and Dan Willis – explore life as dads, funny-men and actors. This show is hilarious, irreverent, and loveably hysterical!

In May, the Roxy will hit the road with a ‘Roxy on Tour’ production which will see the cabaret show *The Soul* performed live at the Croppa Creek Hall.

This one-hour cabaret is filled with humour, original songs, a belly dance break and even a sneaky strip down to underwear - because what’s cabaret without it? Audiences are taken on a ‘train journey’ as Laura addresses the pressures of perfection, anxiety, and modern life in our technologically fueled world.

The ‘Roxy on Tour’ shows are a way of taking a little slice of the Roxy Theatre to some of the smaller communities in the Gwydir, ensuring all residents in the Shire have access to cultural events despite the vast distances.

The littlest members of the family have not been forgotten with four high quality productions that will excite the imaginations of children and adults alike. In May, Puppets, music, and magic bring life lessons onto the stage with *Beep*. Later in the year, *The Owl’s Apprentice* combines show puppetry and physical comedy in a family friendly tale to show in August and in September the Roxy will be hosting not one, but two sensational kids show *Snow White and the Seven Cool Dudes* and *The Box Show*.

Roxy Management is overjoyed to welcome audiences back to the theatre and remind patrons that attending a Roxy show is a great way to utilise their Dine and Discover vouchers, which can still be used for all Roxy shows up until 30 June, 2022.

The recently launched Parents NSW Vouchers will also be accepted.

For a full program of shows and events visit www.roxybingara.com.au or call the Bingara Visitor Information Centre on 6724 0066.

2022 Roxy Program

Book Online at ww.roxybingara.com.au

Oliver Twist - Live Show

Sat 19th March | Sun 20th March | Sat 26th March | Sun 27th March

Oliver Twist is set to bring a smile to your face and some joy into your heart in these dour times.

Charles' Dickens classic tale about the misery and awakening of the orphan boy Oliver Twist, reveals early 19th Century London at its grubbier. Life is cheap, and orphan boys and girls are cruelly kept at Workhouses where they are expected to work hard for nothing more than crude lodgings and horrible food.



Bingara Jockey Club Ball Saturday 9th April 2022

The Bingara Jockey Club presents a night to remember. Don your best race wear and rock the night away.



Beep - Live Kids Show

Wednesday 18th May 2022

In Mort's Village everything has its place, every day is the same and everyone likes it that way. Until one morning, crash, boom, bang... down comes Beep. Who is this noisy robot girl, and how will she find her home? With gentle storytelling, music and puppetry, Beep tells the story of what happens when someone new comes to town. Audience: ages 2+

The Soul - Croppa Creek Hall

Saturday 28th May 2022



This one-hour cabaret is filled with humour, original songs, a belly dance break and even a sneaky strip down to underwear.

Audiences are taken on a 'train journey' as Laura addresses the pressures of perfection, anxiety, and modern life in our technologically fuelled world.

Following a sell-out Sydney Fringe debut, Laura is thrilled to be bringing her unique blend of wit, charm, and neuroses to the Croppa Creek Hall, Croppa Creek.

North West Theatre Company Inc.

2022 Film Club Program

Rams - Rated PG

Sunday 3rd April, 4.00pm

Master Cheng - Rated PG

Sunday 24th April, 4.00pm

West Side Story - Rated PG

Sunday 29th May, 4.00pm

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen - Rated M

Sunday 27th June, 4.00pm

The Third Man - Rated PG

Sunday 31st July, 4.00pm

The Big Chill - Rated M

Sunday 28th August, 4.00pm

The Day of the Jackal - Rated PG

Sunday 25th September, 4.00pm

Green Book - Rated M

Sunday 30th October, 4.00pm

The Book Thief - The Rated PG

Sunday 27th November, 4.00pm

Mystery Film & Christmas Party

Sunday 11th December, 4.00pm

Film Club Membership 2022: \$60

Enquiries: Bingara Visitor Information

Centre Ph 02 6724 0066 or

Ros Moulton 0412 081 642



UNLEASH THE BLACK DOG BALL

Raising funds for mental health in the Gwydir Shire

Proudly supported by Lions Club Bingara

Unleash the Black Dog Ball

Date: TBC

Let the dog off the chain and enjoy a fabulous night of food music and dancing. The Unleash the Black Dog Ball will benefit the Gwydir Shire by raising funds towards mental health programs around the issues of suicide, depression and mental health.

Bingara Happy Days Orange Festival

Friday 1st July & Saturday 2nd July 2022

The Roxy will join the festivities of the annual Orange Festival with a range of events and movie screenings, or just enjoy a coffee and a meal in the beautifully restored Roxy Cafe.



This is Eden – Live Show

Wednesday 27th July 2022

Be 'transported' back to 1839 to Tasmania's infamous Cascades Female Factory, where in a solitary cell Mary Ford has been left for dead, ten thousand miles from home. Here, she plots escape and reveals, with biting mockery, the untold tales of her captors.

Winner of the 2018 Drama Victoria Award, this is an extraordinary tale of female rebellion and survival that has escaped our nation's history lesson. Nominated for Best Performer at the 2017 Green Room Awards, with two critically acclaimed, sold-out Melbourne seasons and a successful Victorian tour in 2019.



The Owl's Apprentice

Wednesday 3rd August 2022

A young owl named Poot Poot is sent to study at Owl school. On his journey he meets an Echidna, a Wombat, a Kookaburra, a Lyrebird, a Kangaroo, and a Platypus who each share with him their own kind special kind of wisdom. An interactive show for families combining shadow puppetry and physical comedy. Audience: ages 3+



Snow White and the Seven Cool Dudes – Live Kids Show

Thursday 19th September 2022

Snow White is becoming more beautiful every day and the Wicked Queen is not happy, so she has decided to send Snow White away, to get rid of her once and for all.

Meanwhile, the Cool Dudes have decided it's time they started making healthier food choices and doing some exercise – they can't sit around eating junk food and playing video games for hours on end. It's time to get outside and enjoy the day!

During this interactive production, children will enjoy the opportunity of role-play as they are invited to become a variety of characters- including The Cool Dudes- that love to rap! Audience: ages 3+



The Box Show

Wednesday 26th October 2022



In the hands of Junkyard Beats, ordinary household items are transformed into extraordinary musical instruments and unwanted junk comes alive in exciting and surprising ways!

Tag along for a day in the life of a bunch of musical misfits as they reinvigorate the junk that the world has forgotten. The Box Show excites the imagination of children and adults alike.

Men Like Us from The Women Like Us Team

Friday 18th November 2022

Two of the best comedians in Australia – Lindsay Webb and Dan Willis – explore life as dads, funny-men and actors, just like the guys next door you definitely want to live next door to. Hilarious, irreverent, and loveably hysterical!



The Roxy is a unique venue for all occasions BOOK NOW!

From weddings, meetings, conferences and events, the Roxy Theatre makes the perfect venue for any occasion.

For more information contact Nic Hutton on 0467 962 070



For further information or to book online: www.roxybingara.com.au
Email: bingaratourism@gwydir.nsw.gov.au or Ph: 02 6724 0066

North West Theatre Company Film Club MOVIE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Nic Hutton – North West Theatre Company

RAMS - 2020

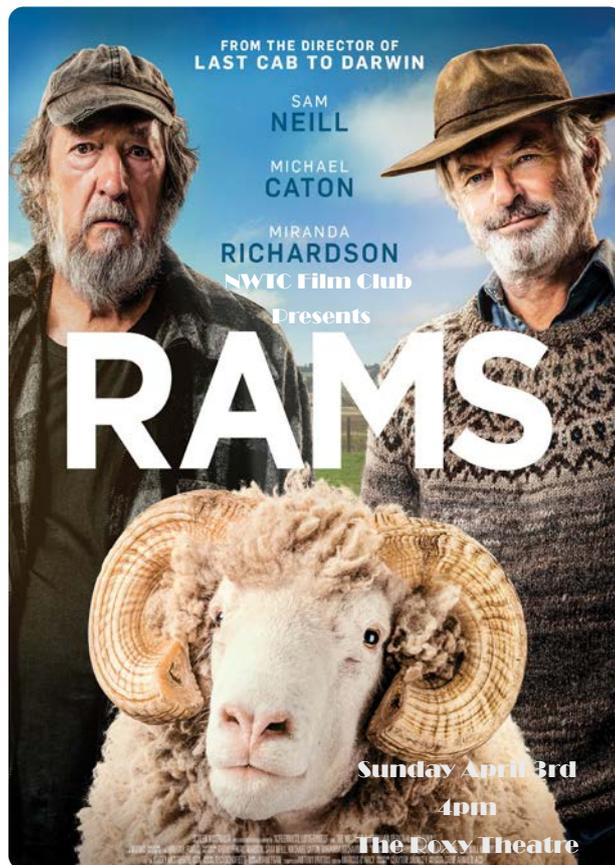
Two estranged brothers must set aside their differences when a rare and lethal illness threatens their respective flocks of sheep in Western Australia.

Pursuing the same goal of rearing the family’s prized woolly bloodline, these two have been butting heads for decades! When disaster strikes both flocks will the brothers get back in step to fight for what tore them apart in the first place?

Like a wolf in sheep’s clothing, ‘Rams’ is a striking drama within a charming comedy. A reinterpretation of the Icelandic film of the same name, ‘Rams’ speaks relatable, family truths through the hilariously stubborn dynamic of two brothers at war.

Starring Michael Caton (*The Castle, Last Cab to Darwin*) and Sam Neill (*Jurassic Park, Hunt for the Wilderpeople*), as well as Ted Taylor (*Packed to the Rafters*), Asher Keddie (*Offspring*) and Miranda Richardson (*The Lord of the Rings*) ‘Rams’ was Australia’s feel-good film of 2020, and a little reminder that differences get put aside when we’re all this together.

Screening at the Roxy Theatre, Bingara, April 3 at 4:00pm.



Do you have a bushfire survival plan?

What will you do to keep family safe? It is time to act NOW.
For more information please contact Eddie on 0427 011 770
or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

I guess you never know exactly how life goes!

Submitted by Nic Hutton – North West Theatre Company

We have been back into rehearsing, getting back to the performance level we were at last year. The set has been built again, and most importantly, tickets are back on sale.

To our delight, most ticket holders from 2021 opted to roll their booking over to the new year.

Thank you to all our supporters for showing so much confidence in our company. We will not let you down.

So, what can you expect from the North West Theatre Company's production of *Oliver Twist*? Ours is a play with a bit of music. We have taken Charles Dickens' classic tale of the orphan boy Oliver Twist to be a short, family focused entertainment.

All of the well known and loved characters are there, Oliver, Dodger, Fagin, Mr Bumble, Bill Sykes to name but a few. And, the familiar places are there too: The Workhouse, Fagin's Lair, The Tavern and the Courthouse.

"*Oliver Twist* has been a delightful experience for me," said Director, Rick Hutton.

"How many Directors can say that they have worked with their cast for more than half a year. Indeed, some of our young players have grown considerably taller in that time. I



The eager cast of Oliver Twist as ready to perform after being halted at the eleventh hour thanks to COVID-19 lock-downs in 2021. Image: Amber Hall

hope they will still fit into their costumes."

And, talking of costumes, our special thanks go to the Bankstown Theatrical Society from where we hired our costumes last August. Very generously they allowed us to keep all the costumes right through to our new dates in March.

If you have not yet booked to see *Oliver Twist*, please do so through the Bingara

Visitor Information Centre on **6724 0066**.

Performances will be on Saturday nights March 19 and 26 at 7:30pm and on Sundays March 20 and 27 as well as matinees at 1:30pm. The cast has also offered to do a special school's performance on Wednesday March 23, to benefit the Country Education Fund.

YOUTH COUNCIL CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

In February, three representatives from the Gwydir Shire Youth Council attended the Youth Council Conference in Goulburn with Gwydir Shire Council Youth Services Officer, Chloe Taylor.

The three-day conference included social workshops, laughter yoga, stalls, a magic show, and the Goulburn Vibefest.

Mental health and social media workshops from key speakers such as Rosie Thomas of Project Rockit (a bullying campaign), Kane Sparks (a Youth engagement and participation specialist), and internationally recognised expert on Childhood Development and Rites of Passage, Dr Arne Rubinstein were also engaging.

Throughout the weekend the group had the opportunity to socialise with the other attendees from different councils, making new friendships and learning about their shared values and wishes for the young people within their communities.

"This was a wonderful experience for our Youth Council members to have the opportunity to participate in, and they have gained more knowledge and skills to help guide them as Youth Councillors in our community," said Ms Taylor.



*Back row: Youth Council member Ben Perry, Gwydir Shire Youth Services officer Chloe Taylor and member Sarah Dennis
Front: member Emily-Kate Rattray*



Warialda High School

DID YOU KNOW?

Over the last three years we have launched some very effective programs with the goal to eliminate distractions during learning time, increase social interaction, minimise negative behaviour and improve learning culture. Last year, Yondr pouches were introduced whereby students keep their mobile phones in a locked pouch for the school day. This eliminates temptation during class time, increases socialising during break times either by playing games, chatting or reading and increases concentration in class.



Our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) program allows teachers and support staff to reward students for good behaviour and encourage students to gain PBL points. Students are rewarded with prizes as they reach levels such as pens, portable charger, torches, football or a take away lunch and many more!

Negative behavioural incidents so far this year compared to last year has reduced by 60%. Over a 3 year period we have slashed negative behaviour incidents to a quarter of what they were. We have also reduced suspensions by 82% since 2018.

SHELLY WAY - PRINCIPAL



OPEN BOYS BASKETBALL

Warialda hosted Macintyre, Inverell and Moree teams for the day to decide who goes to the next level. The sides were fairly evenly matched with all teams level after 2 rounds. After the 3rd round, Moree and Inverell could not be separated and played a straight 10 minute decider, progressing Inverell High School to the next level. Warialda were able to score a win in the earlier games against the overall winning side. A huge thank you to Georgia Chappel from WPS for being our referee all day, Stacey Bell for scoring and Mr Beattie for organising.

All the boys from Warialda played far beyond their level of experience. MVPs were awarded to Darcy Wood 1 point, Western Mitchell 2 points and the 3 points were well earned by Rowdy Laidlaw who progressed to regional trials. Great day!

SAM PITT - COACH



BINGARA CENTRAL SCHOOL

OUR LATEST SCHOOL-BASED TRAINEE

Tammy T is Bingara Central School's latest School Based Trainee. Tammy has secured a traineeship with Hunter New England Health.

This involved Tammy completing a period of work experience and an interview process. Congratulations Tammy!

This will be the start of a busy two years for Tammy. On top of her HSC studies, she must complete one shift each week at the Bingara MPS and study a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance through TAFE. Her TAFE studies require Tammy to engage in online learning outside school hours and to travel to Inverell TAFE for a monthly practical workshop. This will give Tammy a wonderful introduction to a career in nursing.

Tammy joins Sam M and Isaak J who also have School Based Traineeships. Sam has an SBAT in Plumbing and Isaak in Construction, both with Gwydir Shire Council.

Bingara Central School is very grateful to Hunter New England Health and the Bingara community for these wonderful opportunities for our students.



Student, Tammy T, who has recently commenced her school-based traineeship with staff member Mrs Gasson

CONSTRUCTION

Construction of the fence along all streets surrounding the school has begun. The most complex area will be at the front of the school, with the installation of an automatic gate. Parents and students will still have access to a drop off and pick up zone at the front of the school as well as entry to our front office.

The Science lab which was built around 1955 has served Bingara Central School well, however, we (particularly Mr Crispin) are looking forward to providing teaching and learning in a future focused laboratory. Students will now have flexible learning spaces that will cater for the theory, experimentation, testing and collection of data.

BROOKE WALL - PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL SWIMMING CHAMPIONS

PRIMARY

JUNIOR GIRL CHAMPION - Abby R and Faithlyn A

JUNIOR BOY CHAMPION - Chase M

11 YEARS GIRL CHAMPION - Lily M

11 YEARS BOY CHAMPION - Howie G

SENIOR GIRL CHAMPION - Ruby M

SENIOR BOY CHAMPION - Jarrod K

SECONDARY

JUNIOR GIRL CHAMPION - Elle-Grace H

JUNIOR BOY CHAMPION - Liam J

SENIOR GIRL CHAMPION - Blaire J

SENIOR BOY CHAMPION - Brandon T

OPEN GIRL CHAMPION - Brooke McK and Sarah D

OPEN BOY CHAMPION - Darcey P



WARIALDA PUBLIC SCHOOL

SCHOOL SWIMMING CHAMPIONS



Senior Girls 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay team



Junior Girls 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay team

JUNIOR GIRL CHAMPION -
Ellie Presott

JUNIOR BOY CHAMPION - Archie van
Velthuizen

11 YEARS GIRL CHAMPION -
Pippi Rerdon

11 YEARS BOY CHAMPION -
Levi Meader

SENIOR GIRL CHAMPION -
Whitney-Eve Sherman

SENIOR BOY CHAMPION -
Kingston Hall

Congratulations to all students that represented the school at Zone and Regional swimming carnivals. Swimming is a tough sport that requires hours and hours of training and total commitment. From this event, the following students have been selected to represent North West NSW at the State Championships: Ellie Prescott, Whitney-Eve Sherman, Kingston Hall, Archie van Valthuizen, Holly Whalan, Pippi Reardon, Brooklyn Kennedy, Lottie Lewis, Matilda Brooks and Savannah Clark.

MID-SEMESTER REPORT CARDS

Parents will receive the mid-semester Check-In Report Cards on Friday April 1. We're really proud of these reports as they are really informal, yet incredibly informative.

These reports do not contain an A to E grade but rather focus on effort displayed across learning areas. We strongly believe that by providing this information sooner rather than later, parents and staff can work together to support student growth.

The other information in this report card is a statement relating to a student learning goal. In this section, the student writes a goal they are trying to achieve this semester. It's an important inclusion as it allows us to hear the student voice.

To accompany these Check-In's, parents are also invited to attend a meeting with the classroom teacher in the final week of school to discuss the progress made so far in 2022.

MULTIPURPOSE COURT

It has been a delight to see our Multipurpose Court receiving so much use. It genuinely brings a big smile to my face to see students practicing tennis or participating in basketball skills without having to leave the school grounds. My smile is nothing in comparison though, to those on the faces of the students using this great resource.

UNIFORMS

Do you have pre-loved uniforms or even WPS school bags sitting in a cupboard going to waste? There are plenty of people who could benefit from these quality use items. We'd love for you to send these items into school and we'll add them to our cupboard of second-hand clothing.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

We are delighted to welcome Miss Morgan Wilczynski, who joins us at the school in the role of School Counsellor.

DAN VAN VELTHUIZEN - PRINCIPAL



Country Education Foundation assisting career dreams

The Gwydir Country Education Foundation (CEF) recently presented local Bingara students, Miki Stamenkovic and William Johnson with laptops.

Both Miki and William were delighted to receive their computers, which will be an invaluable resource for them during their university studies.

Miki is studying a Bachelor of Information Technology at Griffith University on the Gold Coast Campus, whilst William will complete a Bachelor of Education online via the University of New England.

The donations of the laptops were made possible thanks to The Bingara Op Shop, who kindly contributed one of the laptops and the CEF of Australia, who provided the other.

Top: Miki Stamenkovic with CEF representatives Anthony Francis and Robyn Phillips

Above: William Johnson with CEF representatives Anthony Francis and Robyn Phillips

COULTON'S CATCH UP



PLANTING TREES TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE

Eligible groups and organisations in the Parkes electorate are being invited to put forward their project ideas for an Australian Government grant to plant trees in honour of the legacy of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and her 70 years of service to Australia and the Commonwealth.

The Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee Program is one of a range of national and community events planned by the Australian Government to celebrate The Queen's Jubilee year.

This program is a wonderful opportunity for community groups in the Parkes electorate to play a part in the Jubilee celebrations, while also benefitting the local environment.

Grants from \$2,500 to \$20,000 will be available to a broad range of organisations. A total of \$100,000 is available for up to 10 projects in the Parkes electorate.

Projects that are suitable must include formal commemorative events in 2022 to



mark the Jubilee, plantings of regionally appropriate tree species, and the installation of commemorative signage or plaques.

Organisations shortlisted by the committee will then be invited to complete a formal online application, which must be submitted by 25 March 2022.

Eligible organisations in the Parkes electorate can download an EOI form for submission to my office by 5pm Friday 25 March 2022.

Guidelines and additional information are available at: <https://business.gov.au/ptqj>

LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS BACKED BY NATIONAL BUSHFIRE RECOVERY FUND

The Australian Government has provided funding to local community projects in the Parkes electorate under the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants program, with projects in Narrabri and Gwydir receiving \$1.9 million in support.

The overall program funding was boosted by \$110 million to \$390 million to further support communities around Australia to recover from the 2019-20 bushfires.

As part of the now \$2.2 billion National Bushfire Recovery Fund, the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants program is backing projects which the affected communities have said will best support their ongoing recovery.

The grants will fund a broad range of recovery and resilience projects, from social and community well-being to projects that support local jobs, small businesses and infrastructure.

Local projects funded included:

- Narrabri Shire Council - Narrabri Tourism Precinct New Accessible Amenities Building - \$300,000
- Gwydir Shire Council - The Living Classroom - Emergency Accommodation and Tourism Opportunities - \$850,000
- Gwydir Shire Council - Warialda Emergency Accommodation and Respite Centre - \$750,000

Details of the funded projects are available on the National Recovery and Resilience Agency website at: <https://recovery.gov.au/programs/black-summer-grants>

NEW WEBSITE TO HELP NAVIGATE

CHILDCARE SERVICES

Australian families can compare childcare services and fees following the Government's new website launch: StartingBlocks.gov.au.

Families can visit StartingBlocks.gov.au to find local childcare services, view vacancies, compare costs, and check official quality ratings, including safety.

Thousands of families will be able to see the significant savings they'll make when the higher Child Care Subsidy we introduced comes into effect on 7 March. I encourage all families to visit the website, and I know it will have a special appeal to the 250,000 families across Australia with more than one child aged under six who will get a higher subsidy soon.

On average, families will be better off \$2,260 per year, with families with three children in care saving up to \$370 a week on out-of-pocket costs.

StartingBlocks.gov.au replaces the existing Child Care Finder website and reduces the burden on approved providers of early education and care services, who no longer need to provide their fee and vacancy data separately to Child Care Finder.

REBUILDING OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Local businesses and community groups in the Parkes electorate have the opportunity to apply for a share of \$5.7 million in funding to help our communities recover and grow on the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Applications are now open for the new Rebuilding Regional Communities Program, with grants of up to \$50,000 available for a range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that will help our communities by strengthening social connections, supporting jobs and creating economic opportunities.

This funding will deliver a much-needed boost for communities in the Parkes electorate. I look forward to working with local groups to help secure the funding they need to bounce back strongly and deliver for locals as we continue to recover from the pandemic.

For more information and to apply, visit <https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/src-rebuilding-regional-communities/>

\$247,562 SECURED FOR ALL-WEATHER SPORTS COURTS

A NEW roof to be built over the outdoor netball and basketball court at Bingara's Gwydir Oval will give the community an all-weather space in which to play and train, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall today announcing a \$247,562 State Government Regional Sport Facility Fund grant.

Since 2018, the State Government has provided almost \$700,000 to redevelop amenities and facilities at Gwydir Oval, where the courts are located.

"Unlike most towns in our region, Bingara does not have an indoor multi-purpose hall or undercover space where the community can participate and enjoy sport out of the weather," Mr Marshall said.

"This project will change that through the construction of a large-scale shed with open sides over the existing outdoor netball/basketball court at Gwydir Oval.

"LED lighting will be installed along with four aluminium tiered seating encouraging

spectators and new competitions.

"In addition the cracked, weather worn asphalt will be resurfaced with new line marking for netball and basketball put down.

"Protection from the weather will limit future deterioration of the court surface, line markings and back boards, meaning less costly maintenance and upkeep for Council."

Gwydir Shire Council will contribute around \$91,000 to the project with Council Town Utilities and Plant Manager Andrew Cooper saying the addition of a roof at Gwydir Oval's outdoor courts would benefit the wider community long-term.

"This is a great example of the State Government, through the Regional Sport Facility Fund, working with Council to improve local facilities for the benefit of the whole community," Mr Cooper said.

"The improvement to the facilities will promote and attract local and regional sport encouraging economic stimulus to the area not only during construction, but



A new roof to be built over the outdoor netball/basketball court at Bingara's Gwydir Oval will deliver a space for all-weather play, with Gwydir Shire Council Town Utilities and Plant Manger Andrew Cooper, left, Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall, Deputy Mayor Catherine Egan and Councillor Marilyn Dixon OAM

after completion with sporting participants spending money in the local community.

"Council estimates the project will be completed by November this year. Several quotations from local contractors were obtained for the grant application and these will be revised and engaged to enable the project to move forward."

"The project adds value to Gwydir Oval as a sporting precinct and I am confident the facility will be well utilised by the community."



IT TAKES COURAGE with Letitia Cross



RURAL ADVERSITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The challenge is somewhere along the way we decided that being Australian, and particularly a person from rural Australia, meant we had to be hard, tough, strong and stoic. This physical toughness serves us well. But, we have also been forged in a culture where emotion is equated to weakness, and weakness is punished.

This un-wielding emotional stoicism has left us with a legacy where our rural colleagues, friends and family would rather die, literally, before asking for help when they are struggling with their mental health. Currently, we are losing nine amazing men and women every single day in Australia.

But here is what I know ... it takes courage, real courage and strength to support someone to help or to put your hand up and ask for help when you are struggling mentally. Because the truth is one in five Australians develop a mental illness each year. It is that common. And to say that you won't suffer from a period of poor mental

health is like saying you won't suffer from a period of poor physical health, very unlikely.

The good news is by starting a conversation, parking our own judgement and supporting someone to help, we get to actively change this culture and be a part of the solution. We can each be the change we want to see in our community.

How could I not see this man as tough? The day this strong man met my eye was courage in action, real toughness ... Asking for a hand when he was bogged, made him a man that I looked up to especially because, on that day, I almost lost him forever.

For more information, resources or links to services in our area contact me, Letitia Cross, your local Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) Coordinator, on **0477 343 628** or email Letitia.Cross@health.nsw.gov.au

There he sat. One of the strongest, toughest and best men I know, his head hung low in his hands ... a long exhausted sigh escaped him as he raised his weary, tear-filled eyes to meet my gaze... "But who am I, if I am not tough enough to carry this?"

Growing up in the country is a privilege not afforded to everyone. Space to roam, room to breathe.

We are self-reliant and tough because of the environment, the adversity associated with farming and the geographical isolation.



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

MARCH 2022

- 19 - 20th, 26 - 27th** *'Oliver'* - North West Theatre Company, Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 24th** Gwydir Shire Council meeting - 9:00am, Warialda Council Chambers
- 24th** Bingara Garden Club meeting - 10:00am for 10:30am Bingara Citizens and Visitor's Centre, Trading table and morning tea then proceed view Shirley Witt's garden, 37 Bombelli Street, Bingara. All welcome .

APRIL 2022

- 1st** Rural Women's Catch Up - North Star
- 2nd** Warialda Races - Warialda Race Course
- 2nd - 3rd** Bingara Show Society Stockman's Challenge
- 3rd** NWTC Film Club, *'Rams'* - 4:00pm, Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 3rd** Daylight Savings ends
- 9th** Bingara Jockey Club Ball - Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 15th** Good Friday
- 16th** Easter Saturday
- 17th** Easter Sunday
- 18th** Easter Monday
- 24th** NWTC Film Club - *'Master Cheng'*, 4:00pm, Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 25th** ANZAC Day
- 28th** Gwydir Shire Council meeting - 9:00am, Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 28th - 1st May** Bingara Country Music Festival - Bingara RSL

MAY 2022

- 5 - 7th** Warialda Show - Warialda Showground
- 7th** Moree on a Plate
- 8th** Mother's Day
- 13 - 15th** Bingara Show
- 21 - 22nd** *Back to Upper Bingara* weekend - Upper Bingara

- 29th** NWTC Film Club - *'West Side Story'*, Roxy Theatre, Bingara

SAVE THE DATE

- 8th May** Mother's Day
- 1 - 2nd July** Orange Festival, Bingara
- July TBC** *'Unleash the Black Dog'* Ball

EACH WEEK

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

KEEP IN TOUCH

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DRIVE-BY GARDEN WINNERS

Congratulations to Chris and Fiona Boyle, Bingara Garden Club's Drive-by winners for February 2022. The couple's home on the corner of Cunningham and Link Street's has benefitted from the favourable season to take out the monthly award.

The garden is a living green oasis, thanks to being well-watered. Walking through cool, shaded pathways and arbors to enter the open area at the front of the house, an enormous lemon-scented gum tree catches the eye. Many other well-established trees and shrubs provide relaxing shaded areas and different rooms.

Outdoor furniture and attractive garden ornaments, as well as an ancient bonsai tree, make for a relaxing space in summer.



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.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble."

PSALM 46:1

EASTER
@ **Warialda Anglican**

Good Friday Morning Prayer and pancake breakfast	Friday 10th April, 8:00am
Good Friday Evening Service	Friday 10th April, 6:30pm
Easter Sunday Family Service (holy communion)	Sunday 12th April, 9:30am
Coolatai Easter Service	Sunday 12th April, 3:30pm

Cnr Market St. & Stewart Ave. 6729 1501 www.warialdaanglican.org.au

COOPER & SMITH OPTOMETRISTS
Moree and Goondiwindi

Next visit to Warialda is on Wednesday 30th March
For appointments, contact the Warialda Medical Centre on **6729 1520**

Next visit to Bingara is on Thursday 31st March
For appointments, contact the Bingara Medical Centre on **6724 1900**

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SWITCHED ON: LIGHTING UP THE GWYDIR

Residents may have seen the glow from their houses last week as the final testing of the recently constructed, state-of-the-art lighting was conducted.

After a lengthy delay due to COVID border restrictions between New South Wales and Queensland, the installation of new LED sports field lighting at Nicholson Oval in Warialda, and Gwydir Oval in Bingara, is now complete.

New LED Arena Lighting was also installed at the Bingara Showground which will expand the attractions and events that can be hosted at the ground, especially at Show time.

All three projects will benefit their respective communities and user groups immensely, with both ovals now able to host local and regional night matches and events thanks to the upgrade.

The Gwydir Oval has featured field lighting for many years, with two poles installed in the 1980s and a further two added by the Bingara Football Club in 1993. While the lighting has served the community well for almost 40 years, the light quality, clarity, and reach did not meet the correct Australian Standards for night matches, and only illuminated half of the ground restricting use to one field. The newly installed lighting now illuminates the entire ground and meets the correct specifications and regulatory requirements.

For users of Nicholson Oval in Warialda the lights come as a welcomed addition. Despite being a well-used facility, lights had not previously been installed at the ground, limiting the use of the facility to daytime games only.

The Warialda Sports Council are very excited at the prospect of now being able to host new and expanded sports competitions and events at the facility.

In addition to improved quality and reach, the lighting at all three facilities can be customised via an app, which controls pole selection and lighting levels depending on the desired used. The app also allows users to turn the lights on or off remotely and it is anticipated that this customisation and control will greatly reduce energy costs.

Gwydir Shire Council staff worked closely with Queensland based companies Smartlux Pty Ltd and Precision Sports Lighting and Electrical to deliver these projects which would not have been possible without the assistance of State and Federal Government funding, and a generous donation of \$10,000 by the Warialda Sports Council towards the Nicholson Oval project.

Gwydir Shire Council would like to thank all staff involved in this project, with particular thanks to the Town Utilities and Parks and Gardens staff who were instrumental in the early stages of ground preparation.



From top Nicholson Oval lit up, ready for play. Aerial view of Bingara Showground lighting, Gwydir Oval lit us during testing of the project, Light pole installation is a tricky job. Light heads being fitted before poles are raised at Nicholson Oval



Lily Marshall and Lucy Seddon had a fantastic weekend representing Bingara Pony Club at the State Tetrathlon competition

Tetrathlon Champs

Bingara Pony Club was represented by Lucy Seddon and Lily Marshall at the recent NSW State Tetrathlon, held at Denman.

The girls competed in the individual tetrathlon in the U13 sub junior age group with the best scores over the four sports of showjumping, running, shooting and swimming, deciding the placings.

With fantastic results in their first ever tetrathlon competition, Lucy finished 3rd, (4th run, 5th swim, 6th riding, 6th shooting) whilst Lily Marshall finished 5th (1st riding, 2nd swim, 11th run, 12th shooting) overall.

The girls showed great strength in getting out of their comfort zone for the event, with neither having ever held a laser handgun before the event.

WARIALDA STARLIGHT SUPER SWIMMERS LAP THEIR TARGET

A group of six junior swimmers from Warialda Swimming Club have smashed their fundraising target goal for the Starlight Foundation's Super Swim Challenge.

Ellie Prescott, Whitney Sherman, Holly Whalan, Levi Meader, Cooper Meader and Ruby Hodges combined to swim over 190km between them.

All aged under 12 years, the group's outstanding effort continued out of the pool with \$3,502 raised for the Challenge that will benefit sick children.

The Warialda swimmers started with a modest goal of \$750, meaning they exceeded their expectations by 467%.



Swimming Club ready to cook up a storm



The Warialda Swimming Club is the proud owner of a brand-new barbeque after a generous donation from the Warialda Apex Club.

The previous barbeque was very old and beginning to become a safety hazard, so the Apex Club stepped in to purchase a new one.

Apex President Andrew Woollett said that the Club is always happy to help out the community when needs arise.

"We fundraise throughout the year at various events so that we're then able to give back to community and sporting groups. Apex is a service organisation, so we not only make these types of donations to the community, but we also volunteer at events such as the Show," he said.

Warialda Swimming Club President Sam Prescott has thanked Apex for the generous donation.

"Our member numbers have tripled this past year and it's great to see the Club go from strength to strength. We're excited about the future of the Club with so many little fish coming through, learning to swim and race from a young age," she said.

"Swimming Club is all about providing our members with an opportunity to learn about the competitive aspect of swimming. Each week throughout the season we have club nights where our members race and aim to improve on their times from the previous week."

"We are so grateful to Apex and would also like to thank the Warialda Swim Centre for hosting us, and the Gwydir Shire Council for maintaining such a great facility."

Warialda Swimming Club gratefully received a new barbeque from the Warialda Apex Club recently, allowing them to cater for their ever-growing membership

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