

\$8.1 Million Warialda Bypass opened by NSW Governor General



Gwydir Shire Council Engineering Manager Alex Eddy, State Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall, NSW Governor Margaret Beazley AC QC, Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton, Gwydir Shire Council Mayor John Coulton and General Manager Max Eastcott officially opened the \$8.1 million Warialda heavy vehicle bypass

Construction of Warialda's new \$8.1 million heavy vehicle bypass near the Gwydir has been completed and was officially opened on Thursday May 5 by the NSW Governor General Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC.

The Governor, was joined in Warialda by Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton, State Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall and Gwydir Shire Council Mayor John Coulton.

The 4.1-kilometre road will bypass the intersection of Stephen Street and Gwydir Highway providing a safe and direct route for high productivity freight vehicles travelling from north of Warialda east to Inverell or west to Moree along the Gwydir Highway.

The project resolves a road freight pinch-point at the intersection of Stephen Street in Warialda and the Gwydir Highway, which B-doubles cannot negotiate without crossing the centreline of both roads and road trains are unable to traverse at all.

This intersection is a known point of congestion and a significant hazard for heavy vehicles transporting their goods through Warialda. The bypass will allow heavy vehicles to avoid the intersection, directing trucks to the east of Warialda, over the new bridge on Warialda Creek and onto the Gwydir Highway.

Mr Marshall said the amount of earthmoving done over the life of the project was incredible. "To establish the route of the

bypass, 55,000 cubic metres of material, including rock and vegetation, had to be cut away," he said.

"A portion of what was removed was used to build noise abatement banks on the Warialda side of the roadway.

"15,000 cubic metres of material has been filled and compacted to make the road base, with 10,000 cubic metres removed totally off site. The remaining 30,000 cubic metres has been used for noise retention barriers and the rehabilitation of gravel pits during construction.

"This has been a huge project for a small council to undertake alongside its regular

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MAYORAL COLUMN



Easter is a wonderful, significant time of year for many, and it came at opportune time to enjoy a short break prior to winter, after what has been an incredibly busy start to the year.

It was extraordinary to see the huge numbers of travellers, tourists and those catching up with friends and families visiting our Shire over the Easter break, providing a much-needed boost to our visitor economy following the last few years of COVID-19 lockdowns.

ANZAC Day was another significant event held in April. It is evident that the ANZAC spirit is alive and well, with commemorative services held across the shire and large numbers attending these events, particularly in the smaller villages of Gravesend and Crooble.

I had the pleasure of attending the Crooble ANZAC ceremony and would like to commend the community for an outstanding, well-run, and moving tribute to our fallen soldiers. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the Crooble Hall committee for their fantastic efforts in maintaining the hall, which was looking outstanding.

I am very pleased to announce that the Warialda By-pass is now officially open. It was a pleasure to host the Governor General Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC and other dignitaries to mark this milestone.

The by-pass is an invaluable asset to our transport infrastructure and will help ease congestion on our local road network, ensuring Warialda's roads are safer for all motorists, particularly in the main retail district of Warialda at the Stephen Street and Hope Street intersection.

Local Emergency Services continue assistance in flood impacted areas



A New England police vehicle amidst debris in a Lismore street

Local emergency service staff, including police and the rural fire service volunteers, continue to aid flood ravaged areas along the NSW coast.

Two months after the first of two record-breaking floods impacted much of the Australian east coast, staff and volunteers have returned from shifts aiding victims of

the disasters.

Amongst the work completed, RFS volunteers spent their time clearing debris, using high pressure hoses to clear houses of mud and assisting residents with their housing.

Visiting from the New England Police District, NSW Police Force Rural Crime Prevention Team members provided a high visibility police presence in and around the Richmond area, conducting proactive patrols, supporting farmers and providing information to affected landholders on the available financial recovery grants and fodder.

Other police teams, including staff that service Gwydir Shire, were involved in door knocking, welfare checks and delivery of goods to isolated landholders.



COLLEGE CHAT

with Jannette Tan

Bingara and Warialda Community College

May 2022

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter and great luck in the Bingara Easterfish. After a nice break, it is time to get back to work and study.

There are some great up and coming classes at the Bingara and Warialda Community College for Term 2

May: *Weld Your Own Project* 13 May, *Acrylic Art Classes* 19 May

June: *First Aid* 4 June, *Forklift* 6 June, *White Card* 9 June, *Working at Heights* 29 June, *Confined Spaces* 30 June.

Certificate III Individual Support Disability will be starting in Warialda on 20 June. Please contact us if you know anyone who would like to get into this growing industry.

Do you want a career outside and not to be stuck indoors? Do you like working with your hands? We have the course for you. Pathway to Construction will give a hands-on introduction to the skills that are used in the construction industry. Course commences 19 May.



Should any of these classes be of interest, contact us on **6724 1965** or **6729 1487** and chat to Melissa or myself.

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

HOW TO VOTE FOR

THE NATIONALS
for Regional Australia

Mark COULTON

House of Representatives
Ballot Paper

Electoral Division of Parkes

2 HARDMAN, Derek

3 ROTHWELL, Peter

4 SWINBOURN, Deborah

1 **COULTON, Mark**
THE NATIONALS

5 VAN DER STEEN, Petrus

6 HOWE, Stuart

7 AYOUB, Jack

8 FRAIL, Trish

9 FOX, Benjamin

You **MUST** number
every box to make
your vote count



GETTING IT DONE ✓

for Parkes

Authorised by J Lundy, National Party of Australia – N.S.W,
Level 2, 107 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000



....From page 1

regular road maintenance program. I congratulate all involved for the professionalism and expertise they have put into making this important piece of infrastructure a reality," Mr Marshall said.

Warialda is a vital part of the regional freight network, and these upgrades are forecast to create flow-on economic benefits across the supply chain.

Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton told the Gwydir News that this was an exciting day for Warialda.

"After years in the making, it's wonderful to see this bypass operational and facilitating safer, more productive journeys for our truck drivers and other road users," Mr Coulton said.

"Warialda is a key part of the regional freight network, and this route provides access to the livestock exchange at Inverell, as well as abattoirs and other markets.

"These upgrades will mean local producers can use larger vehicles like road trains and B-triples, cutting transport costs and increasing overall productivity, while improving safety outcomes.

"This is a great example of all three levels of government working together for the benefit of the community. I commend Gwydir Shire Council on its vision and delivery of this important project."

Gwydir Shire Council Mayor John Coulton said the benefits of the bypass for regional producers are significant but will also benefit the wider community.

"These works will ease congestion on our local road network and ensure that Warialda's roads are safer for all motorists, particularly in the main retail district of Warialda."

Construction of the bypass has been made possible thanks to \$3,498,350 in funding from the Australian Government through the Bridges Renewal Program and \$3,043,200 million from the NSW Government under the Restart NSW Fixing Country Roads program, as well as \$5,000 from the Livestock Bulk and Rural Carriers Association, with Gwydir Shire Council contributing the remainder.



Left: The men and women of Gwydir Shire Council who undertook the construction of the bypass. Adam Marshall MP, credited the team for completing the substantial project

Official ballot paper draw reveals candidate order

The official Australian Electoral Commission ballot draw for this month's Federal election has confirmed the eight candidates for the seat of New England and nine vying for the seat of Parkes.

Current members in each of the seats that represent areas of the Gwydir Shire, the Honourable Barnaby Joyce MP and The Honourable Mark Coulton MP, drew the fourth position in each ballot.

The ballot paper order for New England is:

1. Pavlo SAMIOS - Liberal Democratic Party
2. Cindy Anne DUNCAN - United Australia Party
3. Natasha LEDGER - Independent
4. Barnaby JOYCE - National Party of Australia - NSW
5. Matt SHARPHAM - Independent
6. Richard THOMAS - Pauline Hanson's One Nation
7. Carol SPARKS - The Greens NSW
8. Laura HUGHES - Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)

In the Federal seat of Parkes the ballot paper order is:

1. Derek HARDMAN - Indigenous - Aboriginal Party of Australia
2. Peter ROTHWELL - Liberal Democratic Party
3. Deborah SWINBOURN - Pauline Hanson's One Nation
4. Mark COULTON - National Party of Australia - NSW
5. Petrus VAN DER STEEN - United Australia Party
6. Stuart HOWE - Independent
7. Jack AYOUB - Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)
8. Trish FRAIL - The Greens NSW
9. Benjamin FOX - Informed Medical Options Party

JAMES WILSON-MILLER 2022 Guest Speaker

Dhiirranhi ngiyani ganunga WE REMEMBER THEM

Myall Creek Massacre Memorial

2022 ANNUAL GATHERING

Sunday 12th June

9.00am: Morning tea at the Myall Creek hall, Reserve Creek Rd, via Bingara-Delungra Rd.

9.45am: Short walk to the Memorial site for the ceremony, return to the hall around 12pm.

BBQ lunches available to purchase at the hall.

MYALL CREEK MASSACRE MEMORIAL PRECINCT
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myallcreek.org



Do you know how to make your vote count?

Federal election, Saturday, 21 May 2022

It's important that you understand how to vote correctly.

On election day you need to complete two ballot papers:

- a green one for the House of Representatives
- a large white one for the Senate.

On the green ballot paper you are voting for a representative of your local area or electorate in the House of Representatives.

On the white ballot paper you are voting for representatives of your state or territory in the Senate.

Don't worry if you make a mistake. Just ask for another ballot paper and start again.

Green ballot paper – number **every** box in the order of your choice

Sample ballot paper

White ballot paper – you can choose to vote either above or below the line

Sample ballot paper

EITHER

Vote above the line

Number **at least 6 boxes** for parties or groups, in the order of your choice.

OR

Vote below the line

Number **at least 12 boxes** for individual candidates, in the order of your choice.

Your vote will help shape Australia. Practise voting at aec.gov.au

To learn more

aec.gov.au 13 23 26

THE BIG CUT: ADDISON'S HAIR WITH HEART DONATION

Pledging to cut most of your hair for charity is no small commitment but the gesture is so significant. Bingara teenager, Addison Dixon took the plunge last month and had the big chop with the intention of donating her hair to charity.

Addison says she was inspired to make the donation after having her hair trimmed.

"I have been thinking about it for quite a long time. Around the start of last year, I had long hair and when I went to get it cut the hairdresser mentioned the idea. Really, I have been thinking about it since then," said Addison.

When the big day came and the first snip took place, Addison says she was nervous to start with but once she was in the chair, she was ready and just wanted to get started.

Cut by hairdresser, Tina, this was the first time the Pally Styles salon has completed a cut to be donated for a wig.

"It feels nice and it's lighter and it gave a few people a shock," said Addison. "I didn't tell them I was getting it done, so when I walked in to see my grandparents afterwards, they were very surprised."

Addison's chosen charity, Variety - Hair with Heart, will receive the hair which was sent straight through the mail after the cut.

Chopping the minimum 35cm off her natural hair, allows hair to be donated and made into a wig for someone who has lost their hair due to a long-term medical condition, including alopecia.

#hairwithheart and variety the childrens charity do some amazing work, with thanks to people just like Addison. If you are looking to donate hair, there are criteria and a registration process to follow.

Whilst Addison chose to simply donate her hair, there is an opportunity to fundraise along with a contribution. For further



information on Hair with Heart, visit: <https://hairwithheart.variety.org.au/>

Addison Dixon made the brave step to cut her hair for Variety's Hair With Heart, which will see it turned into a wig for someone in need

RURAL WOMEN'S CATCH-UP

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FRIDAY 13TH MAY 2022, 9.30AM
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 JANE BOWER -NEXT RURAL,
 ANDREW FOREMAN - RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE

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 SCAN THE QR CODE

FURTHER QUERIES CONTACT SHELLY ON 6724 2052.
 OR EMAIL ADMIN@NSLA.NET.AU

Logos for sponsors: Landcare, FRRR, HealthWISE, ramhp, and others.

Warialda Hospital Auxiliary news

The Warialda Hospital Auxiliary has been working for over 80 years to raise funds for much-needed items to support patients, doctors, nurses and staff of Warialda Hospital.

Recently, some Auxiliary members were delighted to join staff of the hospital to view the fountain, purchased in memory of the late George Leader, which is now in operation in the hospital garden. The solar powered fountain enhances the garden area and provides a peaceful outlet for patients and family members.

Members are presently selling 100-Club numbers and tickets to win \$350 worth of vouchers at local Warialda business houses. Tickets in the vouchers' raffle are priced at \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5.

The raffle will be drawn at the conclusion of the street stall to be held on election day, Saturday May 21. Donations of cooking, craft items or plants would be much appreciated. Members look forward to a highly profitable street stall.

Also, in the pipeline as a major fundraiser, is a 'Spring Garden Party' planned for Saturday October 29. This grand event is set to be held in the beautiful garden of Carmel and Roger Gobbert in Long Street, Warialda. More details will be available closer to the date, however, it has been requested that Saturday October 29 goes in your diary.

Auxiliary member, Mrs Marilyn Stubbins, says members met on Monday May 2 to discuss the upcoming street-stall, October Garden Party and to establish a date for the popular Market Night.

"No doubt, there will also be items on a 'wish list' from hospital staff to discuss," she said.

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



Applications for Off-farm Efficiency Program funding are open

Individuals and entities in the irrigation, urban and manufacturing sectors across the Murray Darling Basin can apply for funding under the Off-farm Efficiency Program.

The program is a \$1.54 billion Australian Government to upgrade water infrastructure to reduce water losses and increase water available for the environment. Water users and the community will also benefit from increased water reliability and the creation of job opportunities.

Three funding streams are available to potential applicants:

- **state-led streams:** for eligible medium to large scale off-farm initiatives for delivery in partnership with NSW Government
- **grants hub:** for eligible small off-farm projects up to the value of \$5 million
- **feasibility stream:** for eligible proposed projects to conduct preliminary investigations to inform a full-project proposal.

Applications for state-led, grants hub and feasibility streams are open, with all projects to be delivered by June 2024.

How we can help

Water Infrastructure NSW will assist applicants to develop projects for consideration by the Australian Government. All state-led and grants hub applications will require a 'letter of support' from the NSW Government to go with applications to the Australian Government.

If you are interested in applying for funding, Water Infrastructure NSW are keen to hear from you. Visit our website at dpie.nsw.gov.au/off-farm-efficiency-program or email winsw.programs@dpie.nsw.gov.au

NAROO MENU TREATS DEVoured



Nothing goes down a treat like a good meal, just ask the residents of Naroo. Staff have been cooking up an absolute storm in the kitchen with indulgences for Easter and Anzac Day overwhelmingly well received.

Good Friday was a real celebration with residents thoroughly enjoying a lovely, three-course seafood lunch. Entrée's included oyster Kilpatrick, which some resident's got very excited about, and traditional prawn cocktails. Seafood baskets of crab claws, sea scallops, fish, calamary, prawn cutlets and salt and pepper squid followed. For those with room left there was salted caramel ice cream and easter eggs for dessert.

Not yet done, staff and residents backed up for some ANZAC Day baking; freshly cooked ANZAC biscuits were enjoyed by all.

Charles Allen and Warialda Anglican Minister Steve Cimarosti attended facility for a special ANZAC service, laying wreaths along with resident Fergus. Poems were then read by Marg and Pauline.



Top: Naroo residents Marg, left, and Jim, right, savoured their special Good Friday seafood lunch, a treat cooked up in the Naroo kitchen

Above: Rev Steve Cimarosti and Charles Allen visited Naroo for an ANZAC service. They were joined by resident Fergus Walker in laying wreaths during the service

Below: A commemorative ANZAC service was held for all residents within the grounds of Naroo



GRAVESEND ANZAC DAY WELL SUPPORTED



Gravesend community and visitors hosted a successful ANZAC Day with the Gravesend Public School leading the march, which commenced at the 'Club' (previously the RSL Club).

Descendants and family members, some proudly displaying medals, followed on, along with community members, local Fire Brigade and four classic cars.

A commemorative ANZAC Service was held in Anzac Park gathering at the Cenotaph, with the residents and visitors participating in the service and wreaths laid by Gravesend Public School.

Following the service, community members returned to the Gravesend Club for refreshments and a power point presentation of photographs and details of our soldiers and their involvement at war. Other items of interest were also on display.

Gravesend resident Pat Withers, expressed her gratitude to those who turned out for one of the largest services that she could remember in the town.

"I wish to thank everyone who helped in making this wonderful day possible. It has turned out to be a very successful Anzac Day," she said.

ANZAC DAY ACROSS THE GWYDIR SHIRE



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HONOUR YOUR HEART WALK



Natasha Price with her dad Mick Ford and brother Wayne. They've been blown away by the support for a walk to honour their mum and wife and raise money for heart disease research.

Suddenly losing her mother at 57 to heart disease two years ago, Warialda's Natasha Price says the hardest thing has been knowing that her mum had an undiagnosed pre-existing condition.

Natasha's mum, also a long-time Warialda local, Deb Ford had a bout of rheumatic fever when she was a child. Little did she know that it left her with lasting heart damage. The loss of Deb was felt strongly by not only the family, but the Warialda community.

Natasha like her mum Deb, is passionate about organising and supporting community events. Natasha is one of the organisers of the Warialda Christmas Carnival and currently treasurer of the Primary School P&C. She's put her hand up to help on many sporting clubs, in treasurer and secretarial roles. Deb and Natasha started and ran the Warialda Honey Festival for many years before it was taken on by Gwydir Shire Council. They're both known as people who put their hands up when people need help or support.

Since losing her mother suddenly, besides dealing with the loss and supporting family, Natasha has had a recurring feeling that she wanted to bring attention to heart health, potentially helping someone else avoid losing their life and a loved one.

"My mum was also my best friend and partner in so many things, losing her was devastating for me and my family," Natasha said.

"One of the hardest things to accept has been knowing now that her heart had been affected all those years ago and we didn't know.

"There's nothing we can do to bring mum

back, but there is something we can do to save other lives.

"My mum was also a wife and grandmother, aunt and friend to everyone in town."

It was recently that Natasha came across the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, named after the brilliant Australian surgeon who pioneered the heart transplant, and performed the first one on Fiona Coote in 1984. The Institute, founded in 1994, is dedicated to finding cures for deadly heart and blood vessel conditions. The Institute attracts world class researchers with the desire and commitment to find enduring solutions, whilst providing the training ground for the next generation | of cardiovascular researchers.

To support the Institute and raise heart health awareness, Natasha is holding the 'Honour Your Heart Walk' in Warialda in July.

"My mum's maiden name is Honour, so it is the perfect name for our event, as I wanted to hold the event in honour of mum and it reminds us to care for our heart and be proactive about looking after it," Natasha said.

"Since deciding to do this about a month ago, I have been so humbled by the community and individuals' support," Natasha said. "There are local people who approached me to offer cash and raffle donations before I even had a chance to really advertise the Walk.

"Everyone being so willing to support this walk, in honour of my mum makes me realise how much they loved and respected her."

Honour Your Heart will be held on Saturday, July 26. Sign-on is on the day and will start with walkers congregating at the Warialda Recreation Grounds in Holden Street at 9:30 for a 10:00am start. The walk will take supporters on a leisurely and very picturesque five kilometres around Warialda, taking in some of the prettiest aspects.

There will be maps and a short course. The finish is at The Royal Hotel in Hope Street, for a cool refreshment and a chance to take home some of the fabulous raffle prizes and auction items, generously donated by locals.

"I'll also have information there on how to go about having your heart checked, who to contact, what is involved and also any warning signs of issues."

Stay up to date via the Honour Your Heart Facebook page.

Bingara U3A goes down the Silk Road

Contributed by Ros Moulton



At the end of April, a number of U3A members had a memorable trip down the Silk Road as silk-scarf artist and Bingara U3A member, Lyn Daley-Lovett showed us how to make some truly lovely silk scarves.

The scarves start off life as rectangular pieces of white silk, then, with the application of protein dyes and the magic of the microwave, are transformed into beautiful accessories. Lyn showed us some of her work to try to unleash the inner artist in us and then showed us a range of dyes in the most vibrant colours. Some of us were very clear on what colours we wanted to use, others were rather vaguer and more needed a bit of encouragement.

The technique basically involves scrunching up the silk, developing a pattern using drops of dye and poking the dye with your finger to ensure it goes right through the fabric. The clever part of course, was the choice of colours and the development of the pattern so that some colours merged into others and some colours only appeared in a particular place such as the ends of the scarf.

Once the creator is satisfied with the colours and patterns it's into the microwave. After the cooking is the exciting part – what does it look like? Onto the ironing board to fix the dyes and there it is – a beautiful scarf. All were quite different as they were done by different people. Interestingly, two people used the same three colours and came out with totally different scarves. One was very bright in colour and the other was almost pastel.

This was an excellent way to spend a morning. Thanks to Lyn for sharing her time and expertise.

Above: Bingara U3A members with their colourful scarves, created thanks to the expertise of Lyn Daley-Lovett



GOVERNMENT COST OF LIVING PROMO GOES LIVE: SAVINGS UP FOR GRABS

earned dollars back in the pockets of residents and to provide stimulus for local businesses,” Mr Marshall said.

“While many have been around for a while, there are a number of new initiatives that have been introduced more recently to help including the \$50 Stay NSW vouchers, \$250 Parents NSW vouchers and additional Dine and Discover vouchers.

“With the current high price of fuel at the bowser, I encourage everyone who is eligible to access the Regional Seniors Travel Card, which is now in its third year.

“The card can be used to buy fuel at service stations, convenience stores or mixed businesses that operate with a fuel merchant category code, alongside taxi and private bus services.

“Not everyone who is eligible is accessing the rebates and savings available to them and so I implore those who are starting to feel the

pinch to jump online and see what they can claim.”

Mr Marshall also encouraged locals to book an in-person appointment with a Service NSW Savings Specialists, who provide personalised assistance to find which initiatives are best suited to a family’s individual needs.

“On average, Savings Specialists have assisted households to put \$770 back into their bank accounts,” he said.

“My message to local families is simple – do yourself a favour and give the Savings Finder program a go or book an appointment with a Savings Specialist.”

Appointments are available at Service NSW centres or via phone on **13 77 88**.

Locals can explore the full range of options available through Savings Finder, by visiting www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/savings-finder

With families and individuals feeling the pinch due to rising cost of living pressures, Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall has today thrown his support behind a new State Government campaign to promote the many rebates and savings offered through Service NSW.

Mr Marshall said his new Cost of Living flyer would be hitting mailboxes across the electorate, highlighting some of the more popular and new savings currently available to families across the region.

“There are more than 70 programs across government agencies which aim to put hard

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Proud to be your representative in NSW

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Phone: 02 6752 5002

Mail: PO Box 77, Armidale NSW 2350

Email: northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.adammarshall.com.au

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



BARNABY LAUNCHES STRONG BID FOR NEW ENGLAND



Member for New England and Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce has officially launched his bid to retain the seat of New England.

He told supporters he is grateful for the privilege to serve the people of New England and fight for better services and opportunities on their behalf.

“The investments we are making in road upgrades, social infrastructure, education, health and more are all part of our plan to make places like Tamworth, Armidale, Guyra, Inverell, Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Quirindi, and Muswellbrook as strong as possible as quickly as possible,” Mr Joyce said.

“The Coalition Government has delivered for New England and with your blessing, I will continue to make this electorate stronger, wealthier and an even better place to live and work.”

The Federal poll will be conducted on Saturday, 21 May, while pre poll voting commences on Monday, 9 May.

Pre-Poll Venues will be located at: 515 Peel Street, Tamworth; Inland Technology – Unit 2, 383-391 Goonoo Goonoo Road, South Tamworth; Shop 3, 106 Jesse Street, Armidale; Stan Thiess Memorial Centre – Victoria Park, 173 Hill Street, Muswellbrook; 166 Otho Street, Inverell; Glen Innes Town Hall – 265 Grey Street, Glen Innes and Tenterfield Memorial Hall – 96 Molesworth Street, Tenterfield.

Applications for a Postal Vote must be received by 18 May. For further information, please visit www.aec.gov.au/election

BINGARA OFFICE PLANS BEING CONSIDERED

Plans for the new Bingara Administrative Offices of the Gwydir Shire Council are currently being assessed after meetings were held with design consultants.

At present plans are being reviewed to ensure the best outcome for users of the building including staff and members of the public.

It is intended that customer service operations, including Service NSW, will resume out of 35a Maitland Street, which previously house Bingara Veterinary Service.

Gwydir Shire Council General Manager, Max Eastcott, says that this is a fantastic opportunity to ensure that every endeavour is being made to utilise the space to its best potential.

Despite some speculation, it has been confirmed that provision of service from the Bingara office will remain as it was. All Warialda services will continue to operate out of that township.



YOUTH WEEK TREAT

Celebrating young people, Youth Week 2022 was marked with an exciting day of fun and activity. Thanks to funding from Department of Communities and Justice, young people from across the Gwydir Shire came together to spend a full day out in Bingara.



“We had an entire day of free activities that was put on as part of Youth Week. After last year’s colour run in Warialda, this time we chose to offer a horse ride, picnic lunch and activities, with a movie to finish,” said Youth Services Coordinator, Chloe Taylor.

With a courtesy bus running from Warialda, thanks to Bilsborough’s Bus Service, around 30 people enjoyed the day, starting with a 2-hour horse ride along the Gwydir River, thanks to Wades Horses. Whilst many had done this before, for some it was their first horse ride, and with fantastic autumn weather, was a great experience.

Upon their return, a picnic lunch was held by the riverbank, followed by games.

Heading into the evening, attendees were treated to the movie, *Bridge to Terribithia*, at the Roxy Theatre. A treat of popcorn, lollies, chips and a drink were handed out upon arrival.

“Special thanks go to Robyn Philips, for giving up her time to screen the movie for us. The young people that attended finished the day by enjoying a barbeque which was cooked by the Bingara Lions Club,” said Chloe.

“Thank you to everyone that came along and helped to make the day a memorable one for our youth.”

Youth Week started as a NSW government initiative in 1989 and became a national event in 2000 as a joint Australian government, state, territory and local government initiative.

Top: Around 30 young people came from across the Gwydir Shire to take part in Youth Week activities hosted by Gwydir Shire Council

Above: Morgan White enjoyed the ride with Wades Horses before a picnic lunch and movie

Country music festival strums up a crowd



Above left: Runner-up of the John Bancroft Memorial Encouragement Award, Chez Pauola and winner Zac Anthony proved crowd favourites

A strong line-up of music acts and the drawcard of a walk-up competition was enough to entice locals and visitors to the Bingara RSL for the very first Bingara Country Music Festival.

Four days of music included that of ‘Dubby’ Doubleday, Vanessa Sanger, Evan Platschinda, Nick O’Neill, Brian Howard, Trevor Letton, Geoff Clapson, Alan Gum, Rex Baldwin, Rob Breese, Lyn Jerrett, The Mackay Brothers and local couple, Helen and Tony Cornish.

President of the Bingara RSL, Helen Cornish, says the event was more than they could have hoped for with so many visitors that an additional camping area was set up at the Bingara Showground to cope after river camping and the local caravan park reached capacity.

“We had a full backing band for the singers who played all day for the walk-up singers, before it was showtime in the evening,” said Bingara RSL Board member, Helen Cornish.

In honour of John Bancroft, a country music singer himself, well-regarded entertainer and former president of the Bingara RSL, the inaugural John Bancroft

Memorial Encouragement Award was presented to Mr Zac Anthony. The award, which holds a prize of \$500 and one-track recording, recognised the outstanding walk-up talent on show.

“Vanessa Patch from the Club did a terrific job to bring it all together and the board members worked very hard to make the club the right sort of venue to host the festival,” said Helen.

“We had a courtesy bus that ran between the club and camping areas and offered breakfast, as well as free tea and coffee all day. We concentrated on really making people feel welcome, and I think we did it very well.”

The brainchild of entertainer Rob Breese and the management and board of Bingara RSL, the success of the festival means the committee is hopeful that the festival will return again in the near future.



WARIALDA - SERVICE NSW AGENCY

Extended Hours

As of **Wednesday 1 June 2022**, Warialda’s Service NSW Agency will be extending their hours to include half days Mondays and Thursdays! The new hours will be as follows:

Monday & Thursday
9.00am - 12.30pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
9.00am - 12.30pm &
1.30pm - 4.00pm

Thank you for your patience during this transition.

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The sun rises gently and sends shards of golden fingers through the clutter of clouds to the east. Explosions of pinks and purples cause a riot among the heavens. One single and solitary golden shard pierces the air nearby tickling the tips of the moist Eucalyptus trees burnishing them into amber diamonds.

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You looked at her website after hearing about her photography on Facebook... or was it from the Jones' down the road?

Amber L Hall the nomad photographic artist - she was out the night before capturing shots of the night sky and you all went out and watched her compose an amazing shot framed by the old shed. It was lit up with the Milky Way and she captured it! It was amazing!

Imagine if you hadn't taken the opportunity to have this wonderfully talented, nomadic photographic artist stay and take such amazing shots. Imagine how dull your walls would be in comparison. How you wouldn't have fantastic aerial footage to show your family. You wouldn't have these beautiful images to poke and prod your memory.

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WORK STARTS ON \$11.54M SEALING OF IB BORE ROAD AT NORTH STAR

WORK to completely rebuild and bitumen seal the IB Bore Road near North Star has officially commenced, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall recently joined by Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Sam Faraway and Gwydir Shire Mayor John Coulton to inspect and drive the critical northern freight route.

Mr Marshall said IB Bore Road was a key transport route for thousands of tonnes of agricultural produce onto the Newell Highway.

“For broadacre farmers in the north of the golden triangle, IB Bore road is vital for getting product from paddock to market quickly and efficiently,” Mr Marshall said.

“Work is now underway to rebuild and bitumen seal a 20 kilometre section of the road, between North Star and the Newell Highway, to a standard suitable for heavy vehicles.

“Anyone who has travelled this road in its current state knows how rough it is on vehicles and passengers.

“This work will address significant corrugation which has existed for many years and improve the roads durability during wet weather.

“The incredible amount of rain over the past twelve months has significantly delayed the project, however Gwydir Shire Council has now completed drainage works and anticipates earthworks will commence in July, with the first section of bitumen sealing set to start in September.

“With the re-sheeting of Getta Getta Road east of North Star funded and scheduled for later this year, growers are set reap the financial benefits of a high-quality heavy vehicle freight connection feeding to Moree and Goondiwindi.”

Gwydir Shire Mayor John Coulton said the upgrade to IB Bore Road was a welcome improvement for residents who travel this road daily.

“Locals have had to endure substandard road conditions for many years, this development will make their everyday commute much more pleasant,” Cr Coulton said.

The significant project has been jointly-funded by \$9.54 million from the State Government’s Fixing Local Roads program and a further \$2 million from the Federal Government’s Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program.



Inspecting the IB Bore Road, which is about to undergo an \$11.54 million rebuild and bitumen seal, Gwydir Shire Council Works Engineer Jamie Wilson, left, General Manager Max Eastcott, Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall, Regional Roads and Transport Minister Sam Faraway and Mayor John Coulton



NEW ENGLAND DOES HAVE A CHOICE SAYS INDEPENDANT, MAT SHARPHAM

Independent candidate for New England, Matt Sharpham, says he stands for family, freedom and integrity

Matt Sharpham is running as an Independent for New England in the upcoming Federal Election, saying he stands for family, freedom and integrity.

A happily married father of two, Matt says he would like to leave this world as good or better than he came into it – but he believes we have work to do. “I’m the grandson of a WW2 Veteran and want his legacy of freedom to live on.”

Matt believes that people need to contribute to and participate in society, however, their rights to privacy are paramount.

“The last two years have stripped people of these rights and responsibilities - and it’s time for the great Australian way of life to return. There has been far too much Government interference.”

Matt has spent 34 of his 38 years in the New England starting off as an Avionics Engineer, then serving the community for 15 years as Information Communications and Technology Supervisor in the Public Service. He also runs a small business installing Solar Power and Bore Pumps.

He has spent time in Central Africa working with locals voluntarily installing renewable energy and helping build an orphanage and school.

“I have a real passion to help people, and over the last two years, particularly our business owners, have not been heard,” he said.

Matt’s priorities include ending mandates, segregation and restrictions; repairing services for domestic violence and child protection, improving aged care and disability services; sensible policies on energy and environment while increasing industry, manufacturing and jobs; and enabling community engagement.

“The best solutions will come from those with experience - not from Canberra. As an Independent, my only job is to hold the government accountable, and to bring forth the issues of the New England. That’s it. I don’t have any alliances or ties to any parties. You’ll have my attention and all of my attention.”

NSW DPI MANAGES MAJOR PARTHENIUM INFESTATION AT CROPPA CREEK



Thousands of parthenium weed plants, which have now been treated, were hidden in a sorghum crop at Croppa Creek. A team, including the landholder, LLS, Gwydir Shire Council and Moree Plains Shire Council, is led by NSW DPI to manage infestation

Biosecurity specialists are successfully managing a 65-hectare parthenium weed infestation near Croppa Creek after an observant agronomist found the weeds hidden in a sorghum crop and reported it late last year.

Farmer Lyndon Mulligan contacted Gwydir Shire Council and is now working as part of the team, led by NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), which has treated thousands of parthenium weed plants found on the farm with herbicide.

“We have never had parthenium weed on the property and we are all fortunate that parthenium weed is taken seriously in NSW,” Mr Mulligan said.

“As farmers managing this outbreak, we appreciate the specialist support from NSW DPI, Local Land Services, Gwydir Shire Council and Moree Plains Shire Council.

“Parthenium can only be successfully managed and kept out of NSW through the continued cooperation, support and hard work of government and the community.”

NSW DPI State Priority Weeds coordinator, Nicola Dixon, said the source of the infestation could be equipment used to harvest a forage sorghum crop in May 2021.

“The harvest contractor had previously worked in Central Queensland – an area well-known to have widespread parthenium weed infestations,” Ms Dixon said.

“It’s a reminder to ensure machinery and vehicles which have been in Queensland

are cleaned before they are permitted to enter their property.”

Mr Mulligan said the machinery appeared clean during a general inspection.

“In future I will ask more questions before machinery enters the farm and find what checks have been undertaken on equipment from Queensland at the NSW border,” he said.

Growers are urged to ensure equipment from Queensland is free from all plant material, dust, soil and accumulated grease or has been treated with a seed sterilant before entering NSW.

Operators of all machinery, not just grain harvesters, have a legal duty to prevent their equipment from spreading parthenium weed into NSW, which is covered by the General Biosecurity Duty under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015.

The infestation at Croppa Creek is the second found in the area and the 42nd parthenium weed incursion detected in NSW since April 2020, following increased movement of hay and grain into NSW from Queensland during drought.

Incursions of the weed have been traced to hay, grain, vehicles and machinery brought into NSW from Queensland.

NSW has benefited from the program to keep the state parthenium-free since 1982 as NSW DPI continues to coordinate statewide surveillance of known high-risk areas in collaboration with local councils, weed control authorities and LLS.

People who suspect they have seen parthenium weed can call the NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline, **1800 680 244**, or local council for identification and assistance.

Parthenium weed, *Parthenium hysterophorus*, spreads rapidly, is dangerous to grazing animals, can host crop viruses and reduces land values. Contact with the plant or pollen can cause serious allergic reactions in people.

More information about parthenium weed and how to identify the plant at different growth stages is available from the NSW DPI website.

2.1 Million Upgrade of Oregon Road complete

A multi-million dollar upgrade to one of the Gwydir Shire’s most used unsealed roads is now complete, with Northern Tableland MP Adam Marshall, Minister for Regional Roads Sam Faraway and Mayor John Coulton recently inspecting the completed work on Oregon Road.

In 2021 the government contributed \$1,790,525 towards the \$2.1 million project, through round 2 of the NSW Fixing Country Roads program.

Mr Marshall said a 27 kilometres of Oregon Road had been upgraded to provide all-weather access for local traffic and heavy vehicles.

“Oregon Road is the most direct route to Warialda for farmers and families in the highly productive Crooble and Croppa Creek areas,” Mr Marshall said.

“The road has long been in need of improvement, with a lack of gravel resulting in its surface becoming impassable after the smallest rain event.

“Additionally, throughout the drought, council had to cease all maintenance on the road due to a lack of water and this has had a significant impact on the quality of the road base.


“Council has now delivered all-weather access to Oregon Road by re-sheeting the surface with a dust suppressing binder and suitable gravels.

“Long-term, this project will pave the way for permanent road train traffic along Oregon Road, in-line with the planned Warialda High Productivity Vehicle Route.

“All weather access will improve the travel time for freight but most of all make for a smoother and safer ride for locals who live in the area.”

Gwydir Shire Mayor John Coulton said Oregon Road has never looked better and the works had significantly improved the usability of the road.

“The high standard of work completed will ensure motorists can comfortably travel the road in all weather conditions,” Cr Coulton said.



Information Session on Speech Development

SPEECH PATHOLOGIST VISIT

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FEDERAL FUNDING BOOST FOR LOCAL SPORTING EVENTS

In a boost to local sport and the regional economy, Upper Hunter and Gwydir Shire Councils have been awarded Federal Government grants for local sporting events.

Member for New England and Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce said the Upper Hunter Shire Council will receive \$8,250 towards the Lake Glenbawn Off-Road Triathlon, while Gwydir Shire Council will receive \$10,000 for the Bingara Bush Bash Tennis Competition.

Mr Joyce said the allocations come from the Federal Government's Regional Sport Events Fund.

"The initiative is supporting regional sport while also helping to boost local economies by attracting more visitors to regional areas to attend sporting events," Mr Joyce said

"The Lake Glenbawn Off-Road Triathlon, to be held on 6 November, and the Bingara Bush Bash Tennis Competition from 10 to 13 June, will bring the community together, attract visitors and stimulate the local economy after a challenging few years.

"Sport helps strengthen the fabric of community across the New England and the Liberal-Nationals Government is committed to helping people reconnect and celebrate through sport," Mr Joyce said.

Minister for Sport, Richard Colbeck, said the program will have wide-ranging benefits for local communities.

"With funding of up to \$50,000 available to host regional sporting events, the Federal Government is helping to ensure regional communities can bounce back after the devastating effects of the pandemic and recent flooding," Minister Colbeck said.

"We've seen applications for events ranging from 'come and try days' to larger events such as state sporting championships that will engage the broader community and have flow on effects for local businesses," he said.

More information about the Regional Sport Events Fund can be found at https://www.sportaus.gov.au/grants_and_funding/regional-sport-events-fund

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9am-3pm at the
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Additional stalls welcome
[Fee]

Her Excellency visits Warialda High School



Her Excellency, Margaret Beazley AO QC, Governor of NSW, accompanied by her husband, Mr Dennis Wilson, visited Warialda High School and the Warialda Automotive Trade and Training Facility on the afternoon on May 5, following the opening of the Warialda bypass.

Arriving during the school's lunch break, the Governor was met by school Principal Shelley Way, staff and student leaders at the gate, where she was delivered a moving welcome to country.

The Governor and Mr Wilson spent time speaking to students in the playground, discussing what life was like at a rural school in general, the experience of students throughout COVID-19 restrictions and the deep love of sport by many students at the school.

The visit coincided with attendance by Community Health staff, who discussed the importance of their involvement with the school.

An unplanned deviation saw Her Excellency take charge and front the Year 7/8 maths class of Mrs Jan Barnett. It was here she shared

her thoughts on the value of mathematics in future careers including engineering and computing..

Of particular interest during her visit was the school's strength in vocational training programs, it's value to students and subsequent delivery through the Automotive Trade Training facility, amongst other pathways.

During the visit, Her excellency explored the Centre and was delighted to hear of the exceptional services being delivered by Gwydir Shire Council's Kingsley Grills, including learner driver training, truck licensing and practical skills such as mechanics and welding.

Her Excellency, Margaret Beazley AO QC, Governor of NSW, attended Warialda High School and Trade Training facility during her recent visit to the school, speaking to students and staff before enjoying a tour of the facility



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Cricket Found a Fresh Frontier researcher, John Hay with Gwydir Shire Librarian Helen Seage at the launch of his book in Warialda

NEW BOOK CELEBRATES WOMEN IN CRICKET

Warialda resident and researcher, John Hay, has been immersed in the history of Newcastle's pioneering women's cricketers for decades.

While long-time mates, John Hay and George Piggford teamed up quite some time ago to research and write their book, *Cricket Found a Fresh Frontier*, a series of events meant that its publication only took place in 2021.

Mr Hay launched the book, a detailed look at women's cricket, at the Warialda CHSP building on April 6.

It was obvious to those in attendance that Mr Hay is a wealth of knowledge when it

comes to cricket and has a genuine love of the sport.

Mr Piggford wrote about cricket for over half a century, for the Newcastle Herald and later as a freelance journalist.

This is not the first time John and George have worked together, having previously partnered on another book *Runs, Wickets and Reminiscence*, a history of the Newcastle District Cricket Association.

A copy of *Cricket Found a Fresh Frontier* can be purchased from the Warialda Newsagency or Warialda Post Office for \$25.00. Warialda Library also has a copy of the publication.

North West Theatre Company Film Club MOVIE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Rick Hutton – NWTC Publicity Officer

WEST SIDE STORY - MUSICAL GREAT FEATURES AT THE ROXY THIS MAY

The North West Theatre Company Film Club's offer for May is the musical film *West Side Story*. This is a 1961 American musical romantic drama film directed by Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins.

The film is an adaptation of the 1957 Broadway musical of the same title, which in turn was inspired by Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*. It stars Natalie Wood, Richard Beymer, Russ Tamblyn, Rita Moreno, and George Chakiris. The music was composed by Leonard Bernstein, with lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.

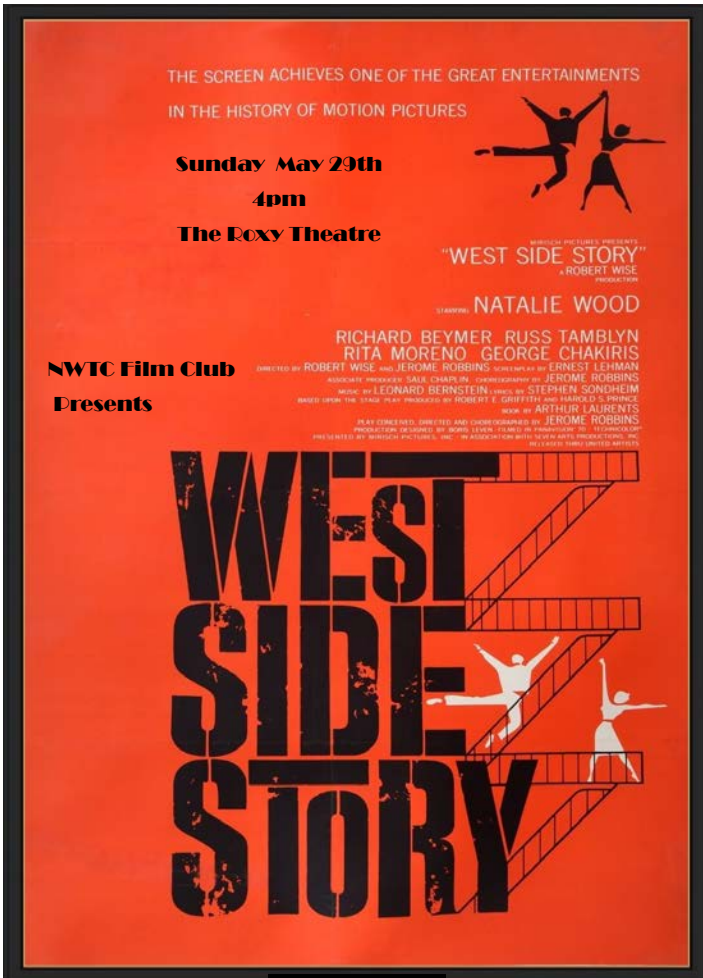
Released on October 18, 1961, the film received high praise from critics and viewers. It was nominated for 11 Academy Awards and won 10, including, becoming the record holder for the most wins for a musical.

West Side Story is regarded as one of the greatest musical films ever made. It holds a 93% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, based on 108 reviews, with an average rating of 8.4/10; the site's critical consensus states: "Buoyed by Robert Wise's dazzling direction, Leonard Bernstein's score, and Stephen Sondheim's lyrics, *West Side Story* remains perhaps the most iconic of all the Shakespeare adaptations to visit the big screen."

Writing in 2004, Roger Ebert included the film in his list of Great Movies':

"So the dancing is remarkable, and several of the songs have proven themselves by becoming standards, and there are moments of startling power and truth. *West Side Story* remains a landmark of musical history," he said.

West Side Story shows at the Roxy on Sunday May 29th at 4:00pm. New members are always welcome.



REGIONAL STAGES ARE COMING ALIVE



Beep performers Kialea - Nadine Williams, Antoine Jelk and Ezra Juanta, will be on stage at Warialda Memorial Hall in May. Image Credit: Sia Duff

The performing arts are coming alive again after two years in COVID dormancy, and the New England North West is about to feel that creative wave.

Arts North West On Tour, along with its community network partners, has launched an exciting schedule of shows for stages across the region.

“Frankly, it feels like a relief to bring live entertainment back to our regional stages,” Arts North West executive director Caroline Downer said.

“There’s a really diverse schedule for 2022 coming up, with poignant dramatic performances, comedy, dance, and some great programs for kids. We’re pretty excited to help bring these shows to the New England North West.”

It starts this April with *Stardust + The Mission*, a moving two-part performance by ABC presenter and performer Joel Carnegie and award winning Gunditjmarra man Tom Molyneux, taking stages in Quirindi, Narrabri, Inverell, Gunnedah and Tamworth.

Stardust is in Joel’s hands, as he tells the story of his grandfather, Col Brain, a professional trumpet/cornet player and bandmaster. Before Col died, he locked up his life’s possessions into a wooden

dresser. Joel relays the story of opening that precious time capsule and what he discovers.

Tom takes over in the second half in *The Mission*, telling the story of his great-great uncle, Gallipoli and Beersheba veteran Allan McDonald, a “Fighting Gunditjmarra” Man of south west Victoria. Though Allan was among one of Australia’s first First Nations Men to enlist, he was denied his soldier’s settlement entitlement, and forced from his land at the Lake Condah Mission. Tom shares this personal family story of war, love, and loss.

These two stories are connected through a shared investigation - to trace the stories from our family ancestors to uncover who we are today.

May brings the anticipated show, *Beep*, to Quirindi, Gunnedah, and Warialda. Tailored to young audiences, this enchanting story follows the story of a noisy robot girl named Beep. Her arrival turns things upside down for village resident, Mort, who is happy with every day the same as the last. Through puppetry, music and engaging storytelling, this acclaimed show is currently in adaptation for ABC Kids, to be released late 2022.

Arts North West’s annual Pocket Production is *The Soul Express: Laura Zarb*. This debut cabaret show sold out the 2019 Sydney Fringe, and will come to halls and stages in Wallabadah, Breeza, Emerald, Boggabri, Bingara, and Guyra this May.

Laura serenades her audiences with her unique blend of wit, neuroses, and charm to address the pressures of perfection, anxiety, and life in our modern, technologically-fuelled world through original tales and tunes.

There’s more to come, with a packed ANWOT calendar including the regional favourite - *Melbourne Comedy Festival Roadshow*, *100 Years of the History of Dance*, *This is Eden*, *The Owl’s Apprentice*, *The Box Show*, and *Men Like Us*, from the wildly popular team behind *Women Like Us*.

To see all the shows, dates, and current booking links, go to artsnw.com.au/artsnorthwestontour

Give your concept a kick-start

Have you got a workshop, project, or creative initiative which needs some funding to give your community an opportunity?

The Country Arts Support Program (CASP) is an annual small grants program funded by Create NSW and managed by Regional Arts Development Organisations. Arts North West is offering grants under the Country Arts Support Program of up to \$3,000 for arts community groups and arts organisations in the New England North

West to support their creative endeavour.

To be eligible to apply, you must be a group, a not-for-profit arts-based organisation on an LGA within the Arts North West footprint: Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Gunnedah Shire, Gwydir Shire, Inverell Shire Council, Liverpool Plains Shire, Moree Plains Shire, Narrabri Shire, Tamworth Regional, Tenterfield Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha Council. Please send any enquires to our Executive Director, Caroline Downer: rado@artsnw.com.au

Guidelines and link to the application are found at: artsnw.com.au/casp-2022

Applications close 30 May 2022.





WARIALDA PUBLIC SCHOOL

We're back in the swing of the new school term and straight back into strong school routines.

Congratulations to all of our students who have been achieving wonderful results in their pursuits beyond our school grounds. Tyler Campbells achieved success by entering his photography in the Moree Show. Claire Barnett was also awarded a prestigious prize for her success at the Bingara Pony Club's Mini Camp, whilst Lucy Kelly achieved enormous success whilst riding at the Moree Show. It is always lovely to celebrate the achievements of our students.

INVERELL ZONE NETBALL TRIALS

Mrs Digby accompanied six talented young ladies to the Inverell Zone Netball trials. Netball is always a hotly contested sport with some extremely skillful participants.



ABOVE: Warialda Public School Cross-Country place-getters have been presented with their certificates and ribbons

All six of the girls were selected in the Possible/ Probables fixture with the following students going on to gain selection in the Inverell Zone Team: Whitney-Eve Sherman, Elsie Taylor, Lilli Lane, Annie Ramsay and Millie Taylor.

WARIALDA PUBLIC SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

On Friday April 29, students participated in the annual cross-country event at the Warialda Recreation Grounds. Cross Country is a grueling sport that is a real test of stamina, fitness and will-power. Our students were incredible showing great sportsmanship for their fellow competitors and determination. Congratulations to all of our students for a great effort. Congratulations to all of our amazing students who participated. Certificated and ribbons have been presented to first, second and third place-getters.

Dan van Velthuisen - Principal



BINGARA CENTRAL SCHOOL



STAGE 5 ENGLISH HEAD BACK TO THE '60S

Stage 5 English have been immersed in '60s culture as they began their study of *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton this term. Kicking it off, Mrs Pleffer and Miss Coddington (pictured above) arrived in costume featuring the two rival social classes present in the novel. The Greasers, Mrs Pleffer, got their name from how they wore their hair - with a TON of hair grease, while the Socs, Miss Coddington, demonstrate their wealth through their clothes and cars.

With Elvis blasting on the jukebox, students engaged in a virtual tour of '60s culture and the setting of the novel. Examining the context surrounding a text is the first step in engaging in critical analysis and Stage 5 are now well on their way.

So why two teachers? This term marks the beginning of an exciting new learning venture in Stage 5 English. Mrs Pleffer and Miss Coddington are thrilled to commence team teaching the Stage 5 cohort for English. Having two experts in the classroom presents opportunities for more diverse and challenging learning experiences, where students have access to even more personalised learning and high quality, differentiated instruction.

Mrs Pleffer and Miss Coddington are eager to engage with Stage 5 students in the study of *The Outsiders* using this innovative approach to teaching and learning at Bingara Central School.

BROOKE WALL - PRINCIPAL



Parent and carer webinars

2022

Safe settings for online devices

Learn how to set up parental controls on devices and apps to keep your children safe online.

eSafety's expert education and training team is running FREE live webinars in May 2022 about how to manage settings on devices and apps. Parents and carers of young people aged 4 to 13 years are invited to join.

Dates: (AEDT)

Tuesday 10 May: 7.30 - 8.30 pm **Thursday 19 May:** 12.30 - 1.30 pm

Tuesday 31 May: 12.30 - 1.30 pm



Register now: esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars



eSafety Commissioner

esafety.gov.au



Warialda High School

HATS OFF TO OUR VOCALISTS

Senior music students Chloe, Natalie and Jack projected magnificently at the Presbyterian ladies' high tea to in April. The church hall was filled with many distinguished and elegant ladies wearing their hats! We thoroughly enjoyed entertaining our community members once again. And, also sampled some very fine sweet and savory treats whilst learning a lot about hat history. An awesome first ever excursion for Miss Rose as a Music Teacher - congratulations!



RURAL YOUTH AMBASSADOR

NSW Rural Youth Ambassadors program
 Congratulation to Isabella MacIntosh, above left, on selection in this years Rural Ambassador program. The program involves, leadership growth and development, discussion groups on addressing challenges within rural and remote communities,

solution development and discussing key areas with governments education sector personnel and key stakeholder groups. We look forward to hearing about Isabella's experiences throughout the year. For more information on this program and other great programs available follow this link - <https://cep.org.au/.../Rural-Youth-Ambassador-Program...>

LAKE KEEPIT TRIP

The Lake Keepit bus left on April 27 with students enjoying some fatastic activities including a mud-run, above, and archery. After two years of COVID-19 and drought before that, it was time to enjoy some fun.

KATE LA FONTAINE - RELIEVING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



Mobile Small Animal Services



Having a ruff time getting your four legged friends to the vet?
 We are now servicing Ashford and Bingara for routine small animal visits such as vaccinations, microchipping, annual health checks and routine consultations.

Large Animal Services

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

Equine Services

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- Bull testing (ACV BullCHECK ©)
- Custom Semen processing and Freezing
- Nutritional advice
- Fertility and Disease investigations
- Calving and After Hours Emergency Services



Bingara travelling clinic -
 Monday 16 May and
 Monday 30 May Contact the clinic for more information

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BEEP

Warialda Memorial Hall | Wednesday 18 May 2022 | 11am

Featuring gorgeous puppetry and gentle storytelling, Beep tells the story of what happens when someone new comes to town.

Ages: 2-7 year olds

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Landholders urged to notify and follow rules of safe burning

Residents and landholders are reminded of the need to notify fire agencies before lighting hazard reductions and pile burns now that the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) has come to a close in NSW.

An online portal provides NSW residents the ability to quickly and easily notify fire services when they're planning to use fire on their property.

Using their mobile phone or desktop computer, residents and landholders can lodge their notification of a planned hazard reduction or burn off 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via the RFS portal.

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Inspector Scott Mack said that by notifying their neighbours and using the online tool at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify, users can help prevent unnecessary emergency calls.

"Over coming months many landholders may take the opportunity to burn off - but it's important they do it safely and let us and their neighbours know.

"While the official BFDP has concluded, landholders still need to make sure they've obtained any required permits and permissions, as well as notifying neighbours and fire authorities 24 hours before lighting up.

"The online tool makes it easier to notify the NSW RFS before

conducting your burn.

"If fire services know about a planned burn, it can help prevent unnecessary responses from local firefighters when we know it is planned and controlled.

By using the online notification tool, landholders will also be notified of any Total Fire Bans or restrictions and if so, will be advised to not proceed with their burn.

NSW RFS Inspector Scott Mack said while landholders are encouraged to reduce fuel loads on their property, it is imperative that it is done so safely and legally.

"Before lighting any fire you need to have adequately prepared fire breaks and have firefighting equipment on hand to ensure the fire does not escape.

"Every landholder has a responsibility to prevent fire spreading from their property and there can be serious consequences for people who light fires and leave them unattended," Inspector Mack said.

To notify of your intent to burn off, use the online burn notification tool at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify. Landholders can still notify the NSW RFS by contacting their local Fire Control Centre.



GET READY FOR A BUSH FIRE

Do you have a bushfire survival plan?

What will you do to keep family safe? It is time to act NOW.
 For more information please contact Bill on 0437 370 854
 or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

COULTON'S CATCH UP



2022 ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

With Australia to head to the polls on Saturday 21 May, the 2022 Federal election campaign is now in full swing. It has been a privilege serving the people of the Parkes electorate for the past 14 years and I'm hoping to be able continue to represent this wonderful part of the country as your local member.

The Parkes electorate is in a really good position at the moment – unemployment levels are at record lows, our agricultural, mining and construction industries remain strong, and our rivers and waterways are full. Progress on the Inland Rail is steaming ahead, bringing endless opportunities for communities right along the route, while the Western Cancer Centre is now a reality and more doctors are training locally.

However, there's still more to be done, and I believe I have the experience to deal with the challenges we face, while seeing through some of the exciting developments coming through in the resources sector. With resources like cobalt and lithium on our doorstep, we are well placed to be the centre for resourcing the new world economy when it comes to renewable technology, and I look forward to seeing these industries develop.

Over the last 14 years I've fought hard to ensure the bush is not left behind, and I plan to continue fighting for our regional areas, making sure we have high quality health services, internet coverage and the infrastructure in place to enable our communities to grow and prosper.

The outlook for the Parkes electorate is incredibly bright, and with your support, we can keep getting it done.

BANKING ON LIVESTOCK AND PASTURE GENETICS

Valuable livestock and seed genetics will be preserved through the Liberal and Nationals Government's \$8.2 million commitment to national genebanks.

Genebanks are a way of future-proofing Australian agriculture, so we can have the best and most innovative way of protecting our breeding lines. They are also a way of securing high value genetic lines in case of an emergency, such as fire, flood or a biosecurity incursion, and are important for research. By having a storage bank of genetic

material, we can leverage co-investment and research to develop breeds and cultivars that will suit our unique environment.

The Coalition Government has committed \$8.2 million over four years from 2022-23 and \$1.6 million each year from 2026-27 to establish a National livestock Genebank and to continue the Australian Pastures Genebank.

GETTING YOUNG FARMERS BACK ON THE LAND

The Liberal and Nationals Government is committed to supporting the long-term economic future of our regions, which is why we are investing \$75 million to help bring young Australians back to the farm.

The Future Farmer Guarantee Scheme pilot will help to address one of the key barriers for people entering agriculture – access to capital. Under the scheme, the Government will guarantee 40 per cent of an eligible new farmer's commercial loan up to a maximum value of \$1 million.

We know our farmers are keen to help the next generation get their start and the government is using every lever we have to encourage young people on the land. Lowering the barriers for future farmers is an investment in the future of our regions.

The Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) will receive \$1.45 million to administer the program which will open 1 January 2023. Funding for the \$75 million guarantee will come from existing RIC appropriations.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO SEEK HELP EARLY



.... with Letitia Cross

ramhp

RURAL ADVERSITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Did you know that one in two Australians will experience a mental illness over their lifetime?

When you're unwell, it's important to seek help sooner rather than later. Early intervention is key. It is much better to reach out for help when things are starting to get on top of us, rather than waiting until we have developed a severe illness.

The earlier we notice a problem and find help, the better chance we have of a quick recovery and we reduce our risk of mental health problems or illness in the future.

So what does seeking help early look like?

A great first step is to see a General Practitioner (GP). Your GP will discuss what changes you've noticed and help in deciding

the best treatment for you.

Alternately you can ring your local RAMHP coordinator and have a chat about your concerns, get some information on mental wellness as well as understanding different options and strategies available when we may be struggling.

In the meantime, there are lots of things you can actively do. These include:

- Taking some time out
- to put the whir in our heads down
- Keeping physically active
- a change of scenery and gets the endorphins pumping
- Focusing on sleeping and eating well
- control what you can

- Talking to family and friends
- lean on your support system

Where to get help now

In an emergency you can call **000** or go to your nearest Emergency Department, just like for an acute physical illness. If you're concerned about your own or someone else's mental health, another option is calling the NSW Mental Health Line **1800 011 511** for advice.

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**



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

MAY 2022

- 12 - 13th** Bingara Legacy Street Stall - Maitland Street, Bingara
- 14 - 15th** Bingara Show - Bingara Showground
- 18th** *Beep* - Warialda Memorial Hall, Warialda
- 19th** Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - Carinda
- 19th** Teddy Bear's Picnic - Cunningham Street Park, Bingara
- 19th** Gwydir Shire Council meeting - 9:00am, Roxy Theatre, Bingara - **Note change of date**
- 21 - 22nd** *Back to Upper Bingara* weekend - various locations
- 21st** Federal Government election
- 21st** *Gold and an Old Bush School* book launch - Bingara, Library, from 10:00am
- 21st** Warialda CWA Rummage Sale - 9:00am - 3:00pm, CWA Rooms, Stephen Street, Warialda
- 26th** Bingara Garden Club meeting and walk through garden of Joan Morris - 10:00am for 10:30am Bingara Neighbourhood Centre
- 27 - 29th** Bingara Campdraft Committee Campdraft
- 28th** *Soul* - Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 29th** NWTC Film Club - *West Side Story*, 4:00pm, Roxy Theatre, Bingara

JUNE 2022

- 3 - 5th** Upper Horton Campdraft - Upper Horton Recreation Ground.
- 12th** Myall Creek Memorial ceremony - 9:00am, Myall Creek Memorial
- 13th** Queens Birthday holiday
- 23rd** Gwydir Shire Council meeting - 9:00am, Roxy Theatre Conference Room, Bingara
- 23 - 24th** Carbon Information Workshop - Northern Slopes Landcare, Bingara
- 27th** NWTC Film Club - *Salmon Fishing in Yemen*, 4:00pm, Roxy Theatre, Bingara

JULY 2022

- 1 - 2nd** Orange Festival, Bingara
- 16th** *Unleash the Black Dog Ball* - Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 27th** *This is Eden* - Roxy Theatre, Bingara

- 28th** Gwydir Shire Council meeting - 9:00am, location TBC
- 30th** North Star Trail Ride
- 31st** NWTC Film Club - *The Third Man*, 4:00pm, Roxy Theatre, Bingara

SAVE THE DATE

- August** Bingara Jockey Club Ball - Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 27 Aug** Bingara Races
- 17 Sept** Warialda Honey Festival

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

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BOM CLIMATE OUTLOOK SUMMARY

- May to July rainfall is likely to be above median across most of Australia (chance of exceeding median is greater than 60%), but below median likely for south-west Western Australia and western Tasmania, with north-western and inland regions very likely to be above median (greater than 80% chance). However, the south-west quarter of WA, and western Tasmania have roughly equal chances of above or below median rainfall (chance of exceeding median is close to 50%).
- Days likely to be warmer than average for northern, western, and south-eastern Australia. May to July maximum temperatures are likely to be above median for the northern tropics, south-west WA, south-east NSW, southern and eastern Victoria and Tasmania (greater than 60% chance). Below median maximum temperatures are likely for much of central WA, the southern NT, SA, southern Queensland, inland NSW, and northern Victoria (chance of exceeding the median is less than 40%).
- Past accuracy for May to July rainfall is moderate to high for most areas of Australia, with low accuracy for small parts of the northern tropics, far eastern Victoria, and southern Tasmania.
- Climate influences include the weakening La Niña, the Indian Ocean Dipole and other localised drivers.



COOPER & SMITH OPTOMETRISTS

Moree and Goondiwindi

Next visit to Warialda is on Wednesday 25th May

For appointments, contact the Warialda Medical Centre on 6729 1520

Next visit to Bingara is on Thursday 26th May

For appointments, contact the Bingara Medical Centre on 6724 1900

COPETON DAM LEVELS

Percent Full: 95.50%

Current Volume: 1,282, 572 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.

But God commendeth His love toward us, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS : 5.8

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



Top: Amanda Hawke and Karen Moxey at the State Open Pairs competition in South Tamworth
Above: Delungra Grade 4 competed in the State Pennant Finals

It has been a busy few months for local bowlers Amanda Hawke and Karen Moxey.

The Delungra Grade 4 pennant competed in the State Pennant Finals on 20-21 March at Foster/Tuncurry.

Delungra had just eight playing members and one non player, who was taken as a reserve. The Club was thankful for generosity of a Tuncurry member, Ruth, who acted as their manager for the tournament. The team played admirably, doing their town proud.

The team lost their first game to Yamba, won against competition favourites and had a narrow loss to Wagga. This result saw Karen and Amanda finishing 3rd in their section.

"We all enjoyed our experience playing in the State Finals," said Karen Moxey.

Amanda Hawke and Karen Moxey then traveled to South Tamworth on April 5 and 6 to compete in the State Open Pairs against a host of quality players. After defeating Towradgi Park in their morning match, Karen and Amanda needed an extra end to polish of their next game against Urunga.

MINI-NUMBERS JACKPOT REACHES \$10,000



Established in 1979, as a sub-committee of the former Yallaroi Shire Council, Warialda Sports Council has contributed immeasurably to the town's sporting community.

The Sports Council was started by a very passionate and dedicated group of sporting enthusiasts with the aim of providing support to local sporting groups and individuals, as well as promoting sport in the area and assisting in the establishment and development of sporting facilities.

Mini numbers continue to be the primary fundraising activity for the Council and is still a huge success with the jackpot recently reaching \$10,000. Tickets can be obtained from Warialda Newsagency and the Royal Hotel. A small investment of \$1.00 provides two chances at winning the jackpot. Representatives from affiliated clubs and organisations volunteer their

time to ensure the draw is conducted each Saturday, with results being posted on the WSC Facebook page.

Funds from Mini Numbers have contributed to local sports people, sponsorship for affiliated clubs and schools, as well as construction and maintenance of sporting facilities including the Recreation Ground Stadium and Nicholson Oval lights and amenities.

Warialda Sports Council have also just donated \$1,000 to each of the following clubs: Warialda Swimming Club, Warialda Pony Club, Warialda Junior League and Warialda Senior League.

The Sports Council has continued its support to the community by providing all affiliated clubs with a perpetual Sportsmanship Award, and the provision of financial assistance to individuals and teams to attend state and national sporting events.

BINGARA PONY CLUB REMEMBERS



Bingara Pony Club held its Mini-Camp and Ian Hart Commemorative Ribbon Day over four days last month.

During the event riders observed a minute's silence in honour of the late Jill Brown, who was widely regarded for her part in the Club.

The Club offers a huge congratulations to the Ian Hart commemorative ribbon day Highest Point Score winners, pictured above with Bev Hart. Claire Barnett, above left,



had a successful day won the Visitor Trophy.

Eva Nelson took home the Bingara Club Trophy. It was Eva's last home camp before becoming an associate so for her to win the Ian Hart shield was a thrill, not just for her, but for all members who have seen her progress to such an excellent young rider.

Members thank Bev Hart for her continued support of our club in memory of her late husband, Ian.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT RACE MEET



Over 300 racegoers passed through the gates on the last Saturday in April for Warialda's annual race day. It was a second attempt at the meet after the initial April 2 date was reluctantly postponed due to wet weather.

The six-race program was highlighted by the Bill Shutes Memorial, 2022 Warialda Cup, won by jockey Brooke Stower riding the Michele Fleming trained Manabar, and the Darren Jones Memorial Sprint.

The winning post of the Warialda Jockey Club was named the 'Barry Hall Memorial Winning Post'. Club President, Andrew Phillips paid tribute to Mr Barry Hall, for his contribution and dedication to the Club.

"We dedicated the post to Barry 'Buddha' Hall, who was an essential part of our organization for the past 25 years," said Warialda Jockey Club President, Andrew Phillips.

Fashions on the Field featured four fun categories, being Vogue, Vivacious, Vibrant and Vintage, with the opportunity to dress-



up and have some fun embraced by many attendees.

The committee would like to thank sponsors of the day for assisting in bringing the event together. The group also offers thanks to those that attended, adding that they do their best to put on an entertaining show for the community and that there are bigger plans for next year to ensure all age groups are catered for.

"We hope people realise that when they come to our race meetings, they are attending an event that everyone can enjoy. We aim to put a day on that people want to come back to," said Mr Phillips.

"Entertainment from Maddison Rose and DJ Henry were popular with the crowd, and next year we would like to build on that. We hope the local community will come and support us."

Clockwise from top left: Hotly contested yabby races always draw a crowd, winner of the Warialda Cup, Manabar, ridden by Brooke Stower, The Barry Hall Memorial Winning Post was named at the Warialda Races, on April 30 and winners of this year's Fashions on the Field categories.



LOCAL STUDENTS RUGBY SUCCESS

Congratulations to Brooke McKinnon (Bingara Central School) and Liliana Reardon, Leilani Tevaga, Rowdy Laidlaw and Os Van Velthuisen (Warialda High School), who have all gained selection in their respective NSWCHS sides.

The boys were selected in the U16s and the girls in U18s sevens after trials in Tuggerah

last term. Sides were named at the completion of the 18s State Championships in Coffs Harbour last week.

With four NSWCHS representatives in this year's program this is a record for Warialda High School and an achievement that rivals that of many far larger sports high schools.

2021 TENNIS OPEN

For entry forms or any further details please contact Jan Miller (02) 6724 1951 or janicemiller6@bigpond.com or visit the Bingara Tourist Information Centre

LONG WEEKEND 12-14TH JUNE