

Gwydir Property Boom: Rural, Residential, Rentals Outstrip Demand



From Left: Ann Reardon (JA Mcgregor Livestock and Property), Cr Catherine Egan, Amanda Coddington (CountrySide Property Group) and Joelle Thompson (Ray White) on the site of the Bingara blocks, 20 of which have been sold in the first month of listing

A property sales boom is currently playing out in the Gwydir Shire. Fierce demand for housing in the regions continues unabated and this demand has translated to record sales for the Gwydir property market.

The boom which has seen unprecedented property prices and a high turnover of listings, is showing no signs of slowing, with properties in some cases selling within days of hitting the market. All this as Australia's Reserve Bank chose in it's latest meeting to keep the nation's cash rate at the record low rate of .01 percent for the twelfth month in a row.

Gwydir Shire Council recently listed 22 blocks of land for sale. In just four weeks 20 of those 22 blocks went under contract.

Damien Crump, of Crump Stock and Station Agency, specialises in rural property sales and has seen a similar trend. In this financial year, the agency has sold two rural properties, with another three going under contract in recent weeks.

"Interestingly, these properties have all had two or more parties making offers, with one selling above listing price," said Mr Crump.

The Gwydir Shire is now home to four real estate and rural property agencies after CountrySide Property Group recently entered the market in September this year. Despite the competition, it seems there is plenty of business to go around with all four businesses experiencing record sales.

CountrySide Property Group Director, Amanda Coddington, has been delighted with their success so far and has sold ten properties since establishing her business a little over six weeks ago.

Quarterly data prepared by international property information and analytics specialists CoreLogic indicates Australia's regional housing market has far outpaced price growth across capital cities. In the past 12 months, residential property prices in rural areas have jumped 13 per cent compared with a 6.4 per cent gain in capital cities.

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FROM THE MAYOR



Unfortunately, COVID-19 prevented the Local Government Elections going ahead as scheduled in September. The election is now set to take place on 4 December 2021. I wish all the candidates who have nominated the best of luck and every success for the future.

Our Year 12 students are now starting arguable the most important exams of their life. These students have faced constant change for the better part of the last two years due to COVID-19. The students deserve praise for adjusting to these challenging times so well. I wish all students who are undertaking the HSC exams the very best and good luck with their future endeavours.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Gwydir community in keeping our Council area COVID-19 free (so far). Each and everyone of you has played an important part in following the rules, which in turn has meant our Shire has never had a positive COVID-19 result to date.

The past few months have seen a lot of major events being postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19, which has been trying times for all committees and organisers. I congratulate you on your efforts in adapting to the changes. With the state now opening back up and more freedoms becoming available I look forward to attending events like the Christmas Carnivals in Bingara and Warialda and catching up with you all.

MAYOR JOHN COULTON

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CoreLogic research director, Tim Lawless, said the strong demand for regional property through the COVID-19 era could partly be explained by the popularity of remote and flexible working arrangements as well as the heightened desire for lifestyle-oriented dwellings and holiday homes.

This sentiment is shared by Ms Coddington who has found the majority interest for properties is from out of town, particularly Sydney and Melbourne, with buyers looking to secure that dream home in an idyllic location.

"I think that a lot of people are relocating to smaller towns now that the country has been shaken up by all of the lockdowns and people being confined to their homes," said Ms Coddington. Affordability also played a big role in attracting buyers into the regions," she said.

Ann Reardon of JA McGregor Liestock and Property agrees, stating that there is a big attraction in getting out of the larger centres.

"Demand for property remains high particularly from COVID refugees who are keen to escape intensive city living and lockdowns and looking for a more relaxed lifestyle," she said.

"Regional towns are an attractive option for buyers who are currently selling their properties at premium rates in bigger centres."

In the rural sector, the interest has been more widespread with inquiries coming from parties based in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales. However, Mr Crump said he is also seeing a number of next generation or succession farmers moving back to the area, something which he sees as a positive for the future of the district.

While surging property values were good news for homeowners, affordability was being stretched for those who don't own a roof over their head.

Ray White Rural Bingara agent, Joelle Thompson, has been inundated with enquiries for rental properties, however, lacks the supply to meet the demand.

"We have several calls each week from families looking for rental properties, but we have very few listings and they are generally too small to accommodate a family," said Ms Thompson.

Ms Thompson attributes the rental supply shortage partly to the nature of the recent sales across the Shire.

"Most of the recent properties sold have been purchased as owner occupier, with very few purchased as investment properties. This has meant there just isn't the number of rental properties to meet the demand," she said.

With NSW travel restrictions eased as of November 1 it is anyone's guess as to what the market will do next. Ms Coddington predicts this might signal good news for investors as visitors to the regions return.

"I am hoping that this will also encourage more investors to look at purchasing out our way in an effort to boost their portfolios while giving the residents of Bingara more options for rental properties."

Ms Reardon agrees that the good news looks to be here to stay.

"This trend is so far showing no sign of slowing down and available properties are becoming increasingly harder to source. The demand for the recently released house blocks in Bingara is an example and certainly points toward a bright future for the Shire."

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Australian Government

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COLLEGE CHAT

with Jannette Tan

Bingara and Warialda Community College

Community College have some amazing news; we now have an administration assistant on site in Bingara.

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

The good news: Bingara campus will then be open 5 days a week for your convenience. Pop in, say hello and let Kelsey know what training you may be interested in doing 2022. I am currently working on our 2022 flyer so please share your interests.

What else is going on....

Our Individual Support class is just about to wrap up for 2021 and we would like to congratulate all our students for the hard work they have put in throughout the year.

We are taking expressions of interest for Certificate III Individual Support Ageing class for 2022. This Individual Support class will hopefully run two days per week instead of the usual one day per week in Bingara.

The Aged Care Industry is the biggest growing industry in Australia and there is always work out there for those who want it. If you are interested in a change of career, please give us a call.

Classes we have coming up:

- RSA & RCG 18, 19 November: Bingara
- White Card 25 November: Bingara
- Safely Access the Rail Corridor 26 November: Warialda
- Forklift 6-8 December: Warialda

Cheers, Jannette
Coordinator Community College, Gwydir
Shire Warialda and Bingara

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

Council's Bingara Office Update

The Bingara Administrative Office remains closed as the full extent of the required work to address the mould problem is determined.

Apart from the damage caused by past storm events it is now apparent that the buildings Damp Proof Course (DPC) has failed in some locations, which has contributed to the mould issue.

Additional inspections have been carried out recently with the Council's insurers, another hygienist, and another building consultant to further evaluate the extent of building damage.

During the inspection, a number of moisture readings were taken both inside and outside of the building. Moisture levels taken on the exterior brickwork revealed high moisture levels in the brickwork both above and below the DPC.

The Damp Proof Course is meant to be an impermeable membrane laid between courses of external brickwork below the internal floor level to prevent rising damp. Most DPC used now is a PVC type material, however earlier types of DPC used included lead and bitumen impregnated sand or other material.

Unfortunately, some types of the older DPC can naturally break down over time.

In the case of the Bingara Administrative Office, it appears that the DPC used is some type of bitumen impregnated materials in the original section of the building, with lead used in a small section at the rear, which has been added some time in the past.

In order to repair and redevelop the internal office space, the problem with the DPC must be rectified or the problem will persist.

Once the report from the most recent building inspection is received the Council will be able to determine the best way forward, which may be to gut the building and do an internal fit out after fixing the Damp Proof Course or actually constructing a new building on the site or another location. Obviously the first of these options is the preferred way forward.

For all telephone enquiries please call **02 6724 2000**. The Warialda office remains unaffected.

CWA SUPRISE VISITOR



The Country Womens Association's Gwydir Group, recently enjoyed the company of Barnaby Joyce, Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Member for New England, when he stopped by Bingara's CWA Memorial. Mr Joyce paid his respects to all the good work that the Country Women's Association has done in Bingara over the past 99 years.

The group, represented by members Carolyn McMullen, Iris Barry and Marg Foster, say that Mr Joyce is looking forward to the centenary celebrations in 2022 when CWA Gwydir Group, NSW will celebrate on 12 and 13 March 2022 with their Grace Emily Munro (G.E.M.) weekend.

The weekend will include self-drive activities on the Saturday, with an official commemoration on Sunday. Gwydir Group publicity officer, Iris Barry, says it will be a weekend full of festivities celebrating the amazing milestones of CWA.

Pictured, from left: Mrs Carolyn McMullen (Gwydir Group Centenary committee member), Mrs Iris Barry (Gwydir Group publicity officer), The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP and Mrs Marg Foster (Bingara Branch President and Gwydir Group Centenary committee member)

WANTED

CWA Bingara history...

Have you, your mother, grandmother or someone

you know had association with Bingara CWA,

The Womens' Club, Baby Centre, Functions

or other events.

Do you have any old photos, items or stories?

We would love to hear from you.

Contact: Marg Foster 02 67236686

or email bingaracwa@gmail.com





Australian Government

EMPLOYER SUPER OBLIGATIONS ARE CHANGING.

Multiple super accounts are costing Australians millions in fees and insurance premiums so the Australian Government is changing the system. From 1 November, an employee's super account will follow them when they change jobs. If an employee doesn't choose a super fund, employers must use the ATO portal to request details of the new employee's existing super fund. For more information on what to do, visit yoursuper.gov.au

Your Future. Your Super.

GIRLS SMASH FUNDRAISING GOAL



Above: Ruby Latham, Zoe Allen and Blaire Johnson in the spirit of the day, Below: Tamiya McClymont (second from left), and friends

Bingara again turned pink in the last week of October in a bid to raise awareness for breast cancer and to raise funds for Community Comfort. The initiative was the idea of Blair Johnson, Zoe Allen and Tamiya McClymont, three local students whose families have all been touched by breast cancer in some way.

Despite COVID-19 again interrupting their grander plans, the girls successfully smashed their targets and beat last year's total considerably by raising a whopping \$2402.45, and it was all thanks to members of the community.

A pink day at Bingara Central School, a monster raffle and buckets spread throughout business houses in town were all well supported. It is safe to say the trio should be proud of their achievement.

Mother of Blaire and breast cancer survivor, Kylie Johnson, is also passionate about awareness and spoke to the Gwydir News about the importance of listening to one's body for early signs.

"Early detection is vital when screening for cancer. It won't prevent the cancer, but it allows for less invasive and more successful treatment," she said.

"Unfortunately, we are seeing men and women being diagnosed with all types of cancer at an earlier age - earlier than the ages recommended for regular screening processes."

On what to be on the lookout for, Kylie says to be open-minded as to what a change might be.

"Breast Cancer is not always a lump. It can present with many different symptoms including being itchy, redness, soreness, nipple changes or discharge and thickening of skin. So many symptoms it's easy to fob off as something else."

"I encourage all of my peers to commence their own regular body checks and see your GP if you find something that's not normal for you. And if you're told everything is ok and those symptoms keep persisting, go back and investigate further," she concluded.

Prize and sponsors:
 Meat on Maitland hamper – Sasha Cobcroft, Visitor Information Centre hamper – Sasha Cobcroft, Clover and Co. Hamper donated by Kolah McClymont and Casey Grills – Paul Turnbull, Maxies Mummy Designs hamper – June Walker, Ceramic Straightening Brush donated by Pally Styles – A Steel, Sportsmans Hotel voucher – Alice Patterson, Bingara IGA & Hardware hamper – Leanne Riley, Sachi bag donated by Dewberry Lane – Emma Pleffer, Pally Styles hair voucher – Fernando, one month Gwydir Fitness Centre gym membership – Tamiya McClymont, Sportsmans Hotel voucher – Harrison Tevaga, Imperial Hotel voucher – Stan Fletcher, Bingara Newsagency candle and health diary – Tim Ferris, Imperial Hotel voucher – Tash Cooper, Meat on Maitland voucher – Nicola Barac, Imperial Hotel voucher – Robyn Gasson, Succulent pot donated by Cobbadah Flowers – Rebecca Collins, Ceramic Mug donated by Bingara Pharmacy – Tammy Hall.

The girls would like to thank everyone who donated funds or prizes and those who purchased tickets.



HARVEST SEASON IS HERE



Please be mindful that at this time of year there will be increased numbers of heavy vehicles and large farm machinery on our local roads.

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WARIALDA ALL SET TO LIGHT UP THIS CHRISTMAS

The Warialda District Chamber is working hard to make this years Christmas season even more merry and bright, raising funds to purchase a six-metre Christmas tree which, will be placed in the main street precinct.

Over the last two months, the Chambers has been busily fundraising to reach their goal of \$12,000 to cover the cost of the commercial all-weather tree which comes fully decorated from Sydney. The Chamber has exceeded their fundraising expectations raising well over \$13,000, allowing extra funds to be spent on lights and decorations for the Hope Street and Stephens Street intersection.

The main aim of the initiative is to bring joy to the children of the town and Chamber President, Tom Smith, says the initiative is all about making memories for the kids.

“There is nothing better than seeing their faces light up with smiles.”

Adding to the Christmas spirit, the annual Warialda Christmas Carnival, hosted by the Warialda Christmas Carnival Committee, will take place on Saturday 11 December at the Warialda Recreation Ground. The event will feature market and food stalls, kid’s activities, and entertainment provided by Melanie Dyer. Mel has had an exciting year with an APRA nomination and the release of a new single ‘Run Out of Road’ which visitors to the carnival will be lucky enough to hear performed live at the Christmas Carnival. The evening kicks off at 5:00pm with Mel taking to the stage at 7:45pm.

The committee have worked tirelessly all year to raise funds and to ensure the event is a success and are looking forward to the community enjoying a relaxed family night under the stars. Attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket and chairs.

The Christmas tree program is just one of many initiatives the Warialda Chamber has been working on over the last twelve months with issues such as street beautification, empty shops, and lack of childcare at the top of their agenda.

The Chamber aims to continue their good work into 2022 and hope to see continue support for the group, with the Chamber’s Annual General Meeting taking place on Thursday 25 November at the Warialda Golf and Bowling Club from 6.30pm.



MORE FUNDING AVAILABLE TO GROW STRONGER COMMUNITIES



The Liberal and Nationals Government is providing a further \$22.7 million in funding for small-scale upgrades and new equipment that communities across Australia need and deserve.

Under Round 7 of the Stronger Communities Program (SCP), local governing bodies and community groups can now nominate projects for grants of up to \$20,000.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Barnaby Joyce, said the Government is continuing to deliver for Australians in all corners of the country.

“We are funding projects, services and infrastructure upgrades that improve our communities and provide them with a platform from which to grow, regardless of their location,” the Deputy Prime Minister said.

“Investments under the Stronger Communities Program deliver the small things that make a big difference, like a new pie oven for a local sports club or new learning resources for community education programs.”

“These types of investments bring people together by strengthening social connections, building community participation and delivering a brighter and more vibrant future for communities.”

“The projects also support jobs and economic opportunities that boost local economies, which is so important in our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“I strongly encourage interested organisations to contact their local member about projects important to them and their community.”

The SCP provides each of the 151 Federal electorates with \$150,000 to fund projects that strengthen the fabric of local communities and bring people together.

This latest funding injection will support up to 20 projects in each electorate.

Through the SCP, the Government has provided more than \$135 million for community-building projects and initiatives, including improvements to surf life saving facilities at Coogee Beach and new equipment for local State Emergency Service and rural fire brigades.

Applications for Round 7 are now open. Interested organisations should contact their local Federal Member of Parliament for more information, or visit: business.gov.au/scp



THE NATIONALS *for Regional Australia*

Mark COULTON MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PARKES

FUNDS ON OFFER TO GROW STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Eligible organisations in the Parkes electorate can now apply for their share of \$150,000 under a new round of the popular Stronger Communities Programme.

The Federal Coalition Government will fund up to 20 community infrastructure projects in the electorate, with grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000.

Please complete and submit a proposal form, accessible via my website at markcoulton.com.au/SCP by 5pm AEDT Friday 3 December 2021.



Contact
Mark Coulton
by scanning here

-  MarkCoultonMP
-  markcoulton.com.au
-  mark.coulton.mp@aph.gov.au

Carinda reopens after long break



After a very topsy-turvy few months Warialda locals and visitors will be pleased to note that Carinda House returned to usual trading, Monday through Saturday, from Monday November 1. Shop hours are: **Monday - Friday 10:00am - 2:00pm and Saturday 9:00am - 12:00pm.**

Carinda offers home-baked cakes, slices and biscuits, delicious homemade pickles and relish, as well as local honey for sale.

There is a wide range of beautifully handmade items from local artisans – artwork, knitted and crocheted items, patchwork, bird houses and wooden utensils, just to name a few. You will be sure to find that unique handmade gift on the shelves.

The popular *Twilight Christmas Markets* were set to go ahead later this month, however, a last minute decision has been made to cancel this event. The committee is disappointed to announce this decision.

Order Christmas hams, chooks, turkeys, fresh prawns, seafood and lots more
Christmas order forms out now



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BYPASS UNDERWAY

After successful negotiations with the Gomerai People and Moree Aboriginal Land Council, construction of the Warialda High Productivity Vehicle Route recommenced in July.

Following clearing of the new road corridor, a network of surface and sub surface drains was created to relieve groundwater infiltration and create a suitable base to construct the new road on.

Bulk earthworks are underway, to create permanent drains either side of the new road and shaping the existing surface, ready for the importation of road base.

In the coming months, new pavement courses will be laid and the missing link tied in with already completed construction.

The project is jointly funded by the State and Federal Governments and Gwydir Shire Council. Once complete, road trains will be able to travel from the northern part of Gwydir Shire Council onto the Gwydir Highway without detouring via Moree and heavy vehicles will be removed from the Warialda CBD.

The project has a targeted completion date of February 2022 and is progressing well..

Weekly updates with drone flyovers will be posted on Council's Facebook page to keep the community updated.



ANOTHER SIX REASONS TO DINE AND DISCOVER IN NSW

Great news! The NSW Government has extended Dine and Discover NSW to encourage the community to get out and about, supporting dining, arts, and tourism businesses, which have been impacted by COVID-19.

In addition, the NSW Government will be issuing another 6 x \$25 vouchers to residents throughout the state, with every NSW resident aged 18 and over eligible for the vouchers worth \$150 in total.

The program has been very popular, and it has been reported that most participants spend an average of \$40 when using the vouchers. Owner of the Bingara Imperial Hotel, Erik Ozols, had much praise for the initiative. "The Dine and Discover vouchers have been sensational and have provided a much-needed boost for our business during these COVID times," said Mr Ozols.

With the extension of the vouchers, there have been some new changes to the program. The vouchers can now be used to purchase takeaway, and restrictions on when the dining vouchers can be used are now in place, limiting their use to Mondays through to Thursdays to encourage patrons to use the vouchers outside of peak days.

For those businesses who have been slow to register, it's not too late and are urged to visit the Service NSW website to take advantage of this initiative.



Daniel Walton and Tess Towers of the Sportsmans Hotel

TGA APPROVES BOOSTER DOSES OF THE PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE



The Therapeutic Goods Administration approval of a booster dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine means that the vaccine has been found safe and effective to boost protection for individuals aged 18 years and older through a third booster dose provided at least six months after the completion of a COVID-19 vaccine primary course of two doses.

The primary course can be of any of the COVID-19 vaccine registered for use in Australia.

Importantly, the medical advice is that people remain fully vaccinated with two doses of TGA approved COVID-19 vaccines and the commencement of booster doses will provide additional protection and peace of mind for Australians.

As with all COVID-19 vaccines, final advice on the roll out of boosters will be provided to the Government by the Australian Technical

Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

Subject to final ATAGI advice, it is expected that a general population booster program will commence no later than 8 November with original priority groups, including people in aged care and disability care settings, to be offered the option to receive a booster as a priority.

The Government also expects that Moderna will shortly apply to the TGA for registration of booster doses for their vaccine.

Since 11 October, Australians who are severely immunocompromised have been able to receive a third COVID-19 vaccine dose to boost their protection against COVID-19 to the highest level.

The TGA and the expert medical body ATAGI have been closely monitoring local and international data about the frequency and severity of COVID-19 infection in fully vaccinated individuals to inform booster strategies.

The TGA approval follows careful evaluation of the available data supporting safety and efficacy by the TGA.

The TGA's decision was also informed by expert advice from the Advisory Committee on Vaccines, an independent committee with scientific, clinical and consumer representation.

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FLOOD RECOVERY OFFICER READY TO HELP

The Rural Recovery Support Service, managed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and funded by Resilience NSW, provides assistance to rural landholders and primary producers who have been impacted by the recent floods.

Melissa Bowman from Barraba has recently commenced work as the Flood Recovery Officer for Gwydir.

Melissa will assist those affected by floods and provide advice regarding grants and support services which may be available. Presently, there are grants accessible through Rural Assistance Authority and Rural Aid that may benefit those who have had flood damage - whether it be fences, contour banks, roads, dams, erosion or crops.

Melissa is here to provide information and referrals to support your recovery journey and can be contacted on **0457 467 973** or at melissa.bowman@dpi.nsw.gov.au.



Need help after the floods?

DPI's Rural Recovery Support Service works with primary producers, rural landholders and communities across NSW to support your recovery after disasters or adverse events.

In the Gwydir region, Mel Bowman can provide practical and personal support to help you manage your recovery, link you with services, assist you in decision making and future planning.



Please contact

Mel Bowman
Tel. 0457 467 973
E: melissa.bowman@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Gwydir region

flood.recovery@dpi.nsw.gov.au

MEGA RAFFLES DRAWN AS FAMILY GIVE THANKS FOR SUPPORT



Last month the Gwydir News ran a story regarding a Mega Raffle to raise funds for local boy Peter King, who suffered severe burns to his body in a welding accident in July 2021.

On Saturday 23 October, Cecily Slater, Kay Osmond, Pauline Baker, Col Moodie, Di Moodie, Kristie Turner, Trinity Turner, Rose Hankey, Michael Hankey, Lindon Hankey, Simon Hankey, Hannah Hankey, Marlene Howard, Braxton Turner, Darby Turner and Lee-anne Turner came together for the drawing of the raffle.

The Mega Raffle consisted of 29 prizes donated by Moree business houses and a very large cake stall donated by Warialda friends and the Hankey family from Moree. The efforts of the day helped bring the total funds raised to \$13,827, an additional \$2,500 since last month.

Peter was joined by his parents, Jamie and Tina Ogilvie, and his brother, Jake Ogilvie for the duration of the morning. Peter has already reached his goal of being home by Christmas, getting in early. He is undergoing physiotherapy and has surprised everyone by reaching significant milestones well ahead of schedule.

There is set to be a cake stall and another raffle with prizes donated by Warialda business houses at the Warialda Christmas Carnival on 11 December 2021 at the Warialda Recreation Ground to raise extra funds for Peter's ongoing treatment costs.

Peter King, with mate, Jai Turner, with the very important job of drawing the raffles

What have you been thinking about lately?

As restrictions ease, the State Library of NSW wants you to share your thoughts, feelings and experiences with #TheDiaryFiles, their online community diary.

This is an opportunity to write about the things that matter to you, your observations of people and places around you, or the simple routines of your day. Reflect on what's happening in your backyard, in your community and beyond.

Write 20 words or 500, submit anonymously or using your name. It can be a poem, a letter, song lyrics, a short



story - it's totally up to you!

Your entry will become part of #TheDiaryFiles, and a permanent record of these times.

Start writing here:
<https://diaryfiles.sl.nsw.gov.au/>

The Diary Files is proudly supported by @ABCSydney.

Warialda Preschool growing cubby inspiration



Above: A concept design for the Warialda Preschool's new cubby house, thanks to their Help Us Grow raffles

Warialda Preschool Committee organised and held a successful Help Us Grow Raffle via Facebook on Friday 8 October. The Help Us Grow project is all about raising funds to go towards outdoor improvements at the Warialda Preschool.

Event coordinator, Hannah Landrigan, said she was incredibly impressed with the involvement and support of the local community.

"We are very grateful that a number of businesses from Warialda, Moree and Inverell contributed and donated prizes for the raffle which enabled us to raise \$2,000 to go towards the upgrades," she said.

Laura Lockhart Photography, Inverell Carpet Court, Terrace Hair Inverell, Grainland Moree and Agri-Ware Moree are just a select few of the local businesses that donated major prizes for the *Help Us Grow* raffles.

Hannah went on to say that the funds will be put towards building a wooden tee-pee cubby house with decking and gardens which will enrich the lives of the preschool children for many years to come.

"The building work will be undertaken by local contractors and is set to get underway in the Christmas holidays," she said.

The committee intend to hold additional events to raise further funds for Warialda Preschool in the future.

"We are crossing all our fingers to hopefully have a *Help Us Grow* Gala in the next year."

"We had plans to hold the event this year but unfortunately had to postpone due to COVID-19 restrictions," said Hannah.

Despite the set-back, the Warialda Preschool Committee aim to hold an art auction on 27 November 2021 at White Sage Café and Juice Bar.

"We will have work from a local artist, photos and beautiful artwork from our children at the preschool which will all be auctioned off to help fund the Cubby House Project," said Hannah.

More details about the art auction will be available on Facebook closer to the date. *Stay tuned!*

\$150 MILLION NEW PROGRAM FOR NEGLECTED UNSEALED ROADS

Critical rural and regional road links will be made safer and more productive thanks to a new \$150 million Remote Roads Upgrade Pilot Program launched by the Australian Government this month.

The trial program will target unsealed roads throughout remote Australia, many of which haven't been upgraded since the Great Depression.

Councils will be offered between 80 per cent and 100 per cent of funding to upgrade unsealed roads and improve safety with works including resurfacing, removing dangerous corners and managing vegetation.

Federal Member for Parkes, Mark Coulton, says the program will make a real difference to communities in the Parkes electorate, with the funding to be used to upgrade key rural roads to improve local access, address safety risks and support flow-on economic development.

Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Barnaby Joyce, said regional towns are the lifeblood of the nation, and every Australian deserves safe and efficient roads regardless of where they live.

"This is not about sealing roads; it is about making them safer. This new funding will support our existing record investment under the Government's 10-year, \$110 billion nationwide infrastructure plan."



Vote COVID-safe

NSW local council elections

Saturday 4 December



If you're voting in person at the NSW local council elections, help us stay COVID-safe.

Wear a mask; bring your own pen or use one of the single use pens available; check in using the Service NSW app; maintain physical distance and hand-sanitise when arriving and departing.

Find out more about our COVID-safety measures



Visit elections.nsw.gov.au

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Need assistance?

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COVID-19 measures will apply. Make sure you check the latest NSW Health advice.

WARIALDA SPOOKS WITH HALLOWEEN DISCO

The Warialda Christmas Carnival Committee held a Halloween Disco for primary school-aged children on Saturday 30 October 2021 at the Warialda Golf and Bowling Club.

Natasha Price, Elisha Hayes, Abby Fenton and Chloe Rose came together to organise a great night out for the kids of Warialda. Natasha said the aim of the night was for the kids to just have fun!

“COVID-19 has meant little has happened in the way of excitement the past couple of months, so the committee decided to go all out with decorations, prizes, cupcakes, games and of course, lollies,” said Natasha.

She went on to say that children were encouraged to come dressed in their spookiest costume with the hopes of taking out the Best Dressed title.

“It was great to see so many kids in attendance and getting into the Halloween spirit with some really creative outfits,” said Natasha.

The Warialda Christmas Carnival Committee will also be organising the Warialda Christmas Carnival in conjunction with Gwydir Shire Council on 11 December 2021 at the Warialda Recreation Ground. This is also set to be another great night out for children and families.



Top Right: Izabel Smith, Holly Whalan, Scarlett Nieddu and Scarlett Smith

Right: Magnificent Maleficent, Melissa Wilson



FARM PLANNING WORKSHOP

TUESDAY 14TH & WEDNESDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2021
THE LIVING CLASSROOM, BINGARA

Presented by
Kim Deans
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- Apply a whole farm planning design process and principles to two case study sites
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- Gain confidence and skills to apply to your own farm design

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

THE CARBON FARM

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

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

BINGARA GARDEN CLUB DRIVE-BY ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

Judy and Trevor Abra's colourful and well-maintained garden at 95 Cunningham Street, Bingara provides a positive welcome to travellers coming to town on the Narrabri Road. This attractive garden has two areas of floral concentration in which hippeastrums, gazanias, marguerita daisies, baby pink roses, watsonias and gerberas flourish.

These areas are supported by Japanese maple and emu bush. Bird of paradise flowers supplement with their striking structure and colour. Typical of many gardens and streets in town during this wonderful spring season are the stunning native bottlebrushes in the Abra's garden - very welcoming. Congratulations!



CountrySide Halloween Competition proves popular

CountrySide Property Group would like to say a big thank you to the Bingara community that got involved in its *Halloween Costume Competition* this year. It was such a fantastic night seeing so many of the families getting involved and dressed up for the trick or treating.

The competition was held on their Facebook page, where the photo with the most likes or reactions won first prize, then of course, there were second and third prizes for those who came closest, finishing

at 10:00pm on Halloween night itself.

“Congratulations to all our winners!” said Ms Coddington.

“First place went to the Rowleson family, close behind Mandy Alley took second prize, with third place a tie, going to both Megs Stammer and Kylie Johnson.

“Thank you all, once again. We are already looking forward to Halloween 2022”.



Top Left: Rowleson children, Daniel, Summer and Nathan took out first prize in the CountrySide Property Group Halloween Competition

Far Left: Qynn Stamer as Harley Quinn, Left: Blair Johnson

Above: Mailee in Bingara, and Sophie haunting Upper Horton



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CHSP's haunted morning



Bingara CHSP got in the spirit, hosting a Halloween morning tea at their Maitland Street centre

CANDIDATES FINALISED FOR DECEMBER ELECTION

Candidates have been finalised for the upcoming Local Government elections to be held on Saturday 4 December.

Candidates are displayed in order of receipt of nomination.

- Christopher MATTHEWS
- James MOORE
- Catherine EGAN
- Geoffrey Kingsford SMITH
- John COULTON
- David COULTON
- Marilyn DIXON
- Tiffany GALVIN
- Frances YOUNG
- James MULLIGAN

Gardens that Work with Nature



Above: Red-browed Finch (Image Credit: Louise Butler)

Very few things bring as much pleasure as watching small birds such as finches and wrens building their nests and raising their young in a garden. It brings home the importance of gardens for providing habitat and food for many of our native animals and insects. Gardens and being close to nature have been shown to benefit mental health and this was particularly evident during our recent lockdowns.

David Karoly, Chief Research Scientist from the CSIRO Climate Science Centre, recently said that gardeners can play a role in preserving our environment and helping avert climate change. Many Australian soils are up to 90% depleted of organic matter and farmers and gardeners can make a big difference.

“Every tonne of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere and put into soils reduces global warming significantly,” he said.

So, gardeners can have a positive impact! Every time they add compost, mulch, worm castings and green manures to the soil they are returning carbon to it.

Gwydir Ark and Northern Slopes Landcare would like to invite all gardeners and potential gardeners to attend a workshop on simple ways you can improve the health of your garden. We will be looking at creating resilient gardens in our harsh climate, soil health, planting for biodiversity and some of the principles of permaculture.

The workshop will be at The Living Classroom on Tuesday 7 December starting at 9:00am. See advertisement for all the details on how to book your place. We look forward to welcoming you there.

Gwydir Ark invites you to:

GARDENS THAT WORK WITH NATURE

Simple Ways to Improve the health of your garden

Soil Health - What is really meant by this, why is it so important and how can we improve it?

Resilient Gardens

The importance of Native plants for biodiversity

What is Permaculture?

Plant me Instead

THE LIVING CLASSROOM, BINGARA
TUESDAY, 7TH DEC 2021, 9AM-1PM

TO BOOK GO TO STICKYTICKETS.COM.AU OR CONTACT SHELLEY AT NORTHERN SLOPES LANDCARE ASSOCIATION ON 02 6724 2052 OR ADMIN@NSLA.NET.AU TICKETS \$5 EACH. MORNING TEA PROVIDED







Northern Slopes Landcare Association Inc.

NSW Local Land Services

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

Landcare

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Australian Government
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

THINK TWICE ABOUT ASBESTOS

ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK
November 22-28 2021



‘TREE TROFF’ DRINKER FOR GWYDIR ARK

Although dams are full at the moment there will come a time again when our wildlife, and particularly our threatened species, will need some help with water. As a result, Bingara’s Gwydir Ark group recently applied for funding in *Water for Wildlife*, a scheme run by WIRES.

Eight hundred arboreal drinkers were provided free of charge to recipients in fire and drought affected areas, and in areas where drinkers will support wildlife recovery or minimise risk for wildlife in future emergencies. The aim was to have all drinkers installed before summer 2021, to benefit wildlife during our hottest months. The drinkers were funded by WIRES, in consultation with Rob Friend of Gunnedah who came up with the original *Blinky Drinker* concept featured on *The Magical Land of Oz* episode of *Koalas*.

WIRES began working with the University of Sydney in 2020 and found that koalas used supplemented water extensively, even during cooler months. Time spent drinking varied with season and depended on days since last rain and temperature. The more days without rain, the more time koalas spent drinking. When temperature was high, visits to water stations were more frequent, indicating that in hot weather koalas need regular access to free water.

Arboreal drinkers were also regularly visited by other native animals including: sugar gliders, squirrel gliders, feathertail gliders, brushtail possums, tree frogs, geckos, pythons, and a variety of birds including eastern rosellas, galahs, cockatoos, butcher birds, kites, apostle birds and magpies.

“When the drinker, called a *Tree Troff* arrived, it was a bit daunting as there was a large number of components and 20 pages of

instructions on putting it together including links to videos!” said Gwydir Ark member, Ros Moulton.

“However, the Gwydir Ark men were up to the task of assembly and a number of Gwydir Ark volunteers recently spent a very pleasant Sunday afternoon putting up the drinker at The Living Classroom.”

“It was quite a project as the drinker needed to be located high up in a suitable tree. It was also important to check for tiger pear and boxthorn around the tree that might impede animal access.”

The site selected for the drinker adjoins both the koala food trees, planted by Gwydir Ark, and the Landcare trees planted as part of the Biolinks project. It provides a further asset in a corridor for wildlife and is an example of another co-operation between Landcare, Gwydir Ark and The Living Classroom. In addition, data gathered regarding birds and animals visiting the *Tree Troff* drinker will be included into wildlife research conducted by Sydney University.

Tree Troff drinkers are still available through WIRES, but there are also locally made drinkers available for residents of Gwydir Shire designed by John Hodge of Warialda. The establishment of these drinkers at Warialda has made a huge difference for koalas through the recent prolonged drought and one was installed last year in the Carbon Farm at The Living Classroom.

Enquiries for local drinkers can be made by contacting Northern Slopes Landcare at Bingara on **6724 2052**.



The Tree Troff drinker, installed by Gwydir Ark at The Living Classroom, Bingara

ATTENTION FARMERS & MANAGERS
WANT TO MAXIMISE YOUR EARNING POTENTIAL
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This initiative made possible by the NSL Landcare Program
Funded by Local Land Services and Landcare NSW Inc.
Supported by the NSW Government.

Penmy Kelly Ph. 0458 353 682
Northern Slopes Landcare

Major economic loss due to farm worker shortage

The state's agricultural worker shortage has wiped hundreds of millions of dollars from projected harvest income as farmers desperately plead for access to labour.

NSW Farmers President, James Jackson, said reports of the state securing more farm workers would be welcomed if they came to fruition, but he warned the time for talk had passed.

"We're getting into a pretty tough spot with a lot of crops. We need up to 16,000 farm workers and we need them now – not in two - or three-months' time," Mr Jackson said.

"NSW Farmers has been warning of labour shortages since the pandemic started and while you'd think our state and federal governments had learned the lesson last year, here we are again."

"Provided these reported workers arrive in the right place at the right time, there'll be a lot of relief on farms right across the state, because we're hearing reports of great crops starting to go to rot."

The state's grain harvest was forecast to be worth \$6 billion to the state economy, but the horticulture harvest forecast had been revised down from \$2.3 billion to between \$1.9 and \$2 billion due to the worker shortfall.

Before COVID, many family horticulture businesses could put a simple sign on the gate and be flooded by workers wanting to help them pick the crop. Mr Jackson said COVID has changed that, and the state and federal governments needed to urgently support small to medium farming families to get navigate the complex red tape around the Pacific Labour Scheme.

"If our farmers can get on with their harvest, it will pour billions of much-needed dollars into our economy, and start balancing the books after COVID," Mr Jackson said.

"We welcome the attention on agriculture, but ultimately we need less talk and more action, we need to be able to get the workers to where they're needed, and as Deputy Premier, Paul Toole, said, we need workers on farm in the next week."

"It is imperative our state and federal governments work together because any more bureaucratic inertia will see fruit and vegies rot, and food prices increase!"

Thinking about a sea or tree change? Think about the risk

New Suncorp research has found 27 per cent of Australians have moved or considered relocating during COVID. And although experts are predicting more cyclones, fires and floods this summer, half failed to consider the impacts of natural disasters.

The inaugural Suncorp Resilient Home Report found lifestyle factors (closeness to family and friends, climate, escaping the rat race) were the main drivers of Australians seeking to relocate to another state or region.

Alarmingly, almost half (46 per cent) said they didn't take into consideration the increasing risks of extreme weather when deciding on where to live, and even more (52 per cent) didn't consider the impacts when selecting the type of home to live in.

"As an insurer, we're on the frontline helping people and communities most impacted by weather disasters," said Bernadette Norrie, Suncorp Insurance Executive Manager. "It's not just property damage that Aussies face in the wake of a natural disaster, it's the mental toll of severe weather events that many people fail to realise and properly consider."

"Once a disaster strikes, the lives of those affected can be upended completely. Many families can be displaced from their homes while repairs happen, people lose irreplaceable possessions, and are left with the emotional scars of what they've endured."

"Identifying the natural hazards of where you plan to live as well as the type of structure that can best defend your family against a bushfire, flood or storm needs to be an essential part of property research," Ms Norrie said.

The Suncorp Resilient Home Report revealed over half of Australians (52 per cent) believe they live in an area with some form of risk – the most common being severe storms (30 per cent) followed by bushfires (29 per cent).

"Getting ready for extreme weather is more than just checking gutters for leaves and trees and tying down backyard furniture, it's about making your home more resilient, so you are better protected from the impacts of Mother Nature." Ms Norrie said.

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THANK YOU

On behalf of myself and family, I would like to thank family, friends, staff, Kevin Hanson, Nedine Young, Bingara Sporting Club and Fletcher's Funerals for all their messages, cards, flowers and support. Also, a big thank you goes to ambulance officers, police officers and fire brigade staff, that provided me support and comfort. Thank you to the Medical Centre – doctors and nurses, for all Kevin's care over the years.

A huge thank you to everyone,

Maria Dixon and family

BARENBRUG AND MCGREGORS SUPPORT COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION



A decision to enter a Barenbrug competition to win \$5000 that would support an important local charity was too good to pass up for McGregor Gourlay's Bingara branch manager, Leonie Southwell.

Leonie entered the company's Road to Pasture Success, autumn campaign and recently discovered she had won, nominating the Country Education Foundation (CEF) as her preferred recipient. Leonie, along with CEF representative, Robyn Phillips, were on hand to receive the cheque prize from Barenbrug's Nat Brazel at the most recent Council meeting on October 28.

The Country Education Foundation provides financial assistance to students aged between 16 and 25 years that go on to further education through TAFE, University or any tertiary institution. The funding can assist students with relocating, purchase of textbooks, tools, work equipment, fuel, transport, laptops, internet access or accommodation. Students must be Gwydir residents, demonstrate a financial need and show an aptitude to their studies. Assistance provided is tailored and unique to each applicant.

Receipt of funding from the Gwydir Country Education Foundation can also open up opportunities for further support from other sources.

Leonie spoke of her gratitude for the scholarship that her daughter received last year. Studying at university in Brisbane, the financial support meant she was able to purchase a laptop to assist with her education.

"After Jessie received her scholarship and I saw the opportunity to enter this competition, it was just the first thing that came to mind; to give this to the CEF, because they have had such a tough time fundraising this year," she said.

"Whilst Jessie got a little bit, it's nice to give some back."

Barenbrug, formerly known as Heritage Seeds, has been in Australia since 1991 and has a rich history throughout regional NSW, including involvement with McGregor Gourlay.

"A big piece of the international business is making life beautiful and giving back to the community, so this is just another way that we can do this. Especially during COVID, (to give) to small communities and foundations," said Barenbrug's Nat Brazel.

"It's really nice for this to go to a really unique and small community, we are very fortunate that it could go to such a beautiful area."

Mayor John Coulton was joined by other Councillors in commending Leonie's generous and community-minded attitude and in thanking Barenbrug's support of the Gwydir community.

Applications for 2022 opened on 1 October and will close on 31 December 2021. Late applications cannot be considered.

For further information contact Robyn on **0409 770 994**.

Robyn Phillips (Country Education Foundation), Leonie Southwell (McGregor Gourlay) and Nat Brazel (Barenbrug) at the presentation of the prize cheque

Inverell Bull Incident Rescue

At 11:35am on 27 October the Westpac Rescue Helicopter was tasked by New South Wales Ambulance to a report of a person being crushed by a bull on a property at Inverell.

Local NSW Ambulance Paramedics initially treated the 44 year-old male who was crushed by the 1200kg bull and a steel post on scene before meeting with the helicopter and the Helicopter Critical Care Medical Team at Inverell Hospital.

The gentleman was further stabilised for flight and airlifted to the Gold Coast University Hospital in a serious condition, suffering pelvic injuries, for further medical treatment.



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Damien Crump 0400 757 888

North West Theatre Company Film Club

MOVIE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Rick Hutton - NWTC Publicity Officer

LADIES IN BLACK

In the summer of 1959, Lisa, a shy schoolgirl, takes a job in Sydney's prestigious department store Goode's. There, her life is changed forever when she meets the 'ladies in black'.

Ladies in Black is a 2018 Australian comedy-drama film, starring Angourie Rice, Rachael Taylor, Julia Ormond, Ryan Corr and Shane Jacobson. The film is based on the 1993 novel *The Women in Black* by Madeleine St John and tells the story of a group of department store employees in Sydney. The film was released on 20 September 2018.

Lisa is hired as a new assistant at Goode's department store in Sydney during the 1959 Christmas season. She makes friends with Fay, who is initially wary of immigrants, Patty, who seeks more attention from her husband, and Magda, an immigrant from Slovenia who introduces her to her other European friends.

Ladies in Black was twenty years in the making, with writer-director Bruce Beresford attached to the project. Beresford and novelist Madeleine St John, who wrote the book of which the film is an adaptation, were university friends, and Beresford had promised to one day adapt her novel into film since first reading it around its original publication. In October 2017, the cast was announced, with principal production commencing that month in Sydney, Australia.

Ladies in Black received generally positive reviews from critics. In *Rotten Tomatoes*, the film has an approval rating of 88%. The website's critics consensus reads: "*Ladies in Black* gleans socially relevant observations from Australian history with entertaining flair, embroidering a tale that touches on immigration and female empowerment with a fashionable pizzazz."

Neil Young of *The Hollywood Reporter* said of the film, "*Ladies in Black* quietly but effectively points out the seldom-stressed positives of immigration and integration, and thus deserves attention far beyond its own native shores."

Jake Wilson in *The Sydney Morning Herald* says the period details "carry the



authority of first-hand experience". Australian film critic David Stratton, writing for *The Australian*, wrote "*Ladies in Black* may be seen mistakenly as lightweight or slight; it isn't. It brims with subtext and nuance and at the same time succeeds in being a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment."

A great Aussie film to be featured at the Roxy by the NWTC Film Club. Showtime is 4:00pm Sunday November 28.

Connections to Bingara for newly graduated pilot

Chace Camden Eldridge celebrated with his family at the end of September, following his graduation as a commercial pilot. The graduation ceremony at the Qantas Pilot Academy in Toowoomba saw Chace being awarded the Wings Trophy for the highest standard of flying and awarded the trophy of highest honour for his QC05 cohort, the Dux award.

Chace is the great grandson of Gordon Fletcher and the late June Fletcher, of Bingara. He is the grandson of Maree and Peter Camden, formerly of Bingara and the son of Kate and Michael Eldridge.

Prior to being accepted into the Qantas Group Pilot Academy flight training program as a final year aviation student at Griffith University, Chace was awarded the inaugural H.C. Brinsmead Scholarship funded by the Archerfield Airport Corporation, reflecting values of commitment and teamwork in the establishment of CASA.

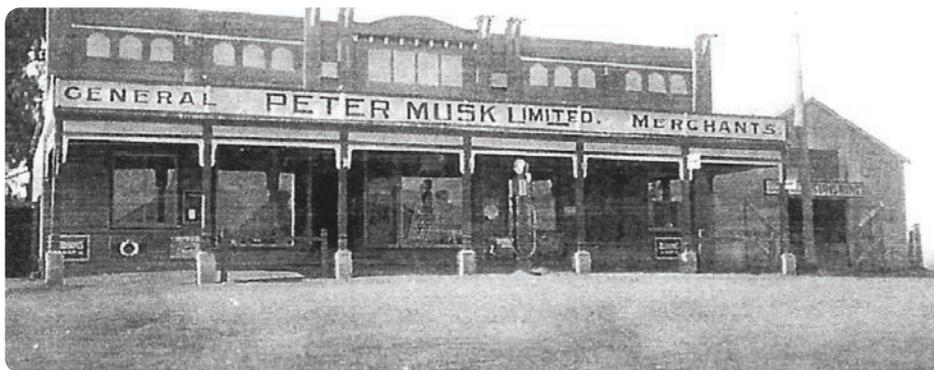
Chace was also honoured by his former St John's Anglican College with the Principal's Award of 'Old Collegian of the Year' for 2021.

Chace is now looking forward to a promising career in aviation.



Chace Eldridge graduated as a commercial pilot from the Qantas pilot academy in Toowoomba, with the highest honours

GRAVESEND HISTORY



Peter Musk Limited, General Merchant traded through the early 1900s and headstone of Peter Musk, resting in Warialda Cemetery

Peter Musk Limited – General Merchants store was built around 1902, around the time of the railway construction. Mr and Mrs Musk began trading prior to the store being built as Peter, originally of Labanon, was a hawker, supplying goods to the area by horse transport.

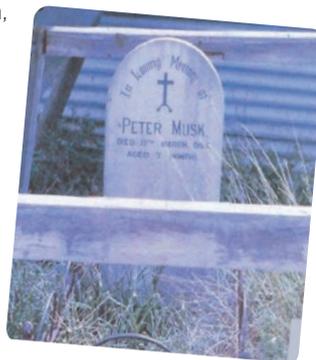
In 1905, Mr Musk applied for and was granted a publican's license for the Gravesend Hotel. The Hotel remained in the Musk family and was run by son Edmund, when it was burned down by fire that started in the bar on 2 February, 1947.

Peter Musk, son of Peter and Jessie Musk, died on 13 March, 1908 at the age of 7 months old and was buried next door to the store. Some years later in 1913 Peter Musk (senior) passed of a heart attack before being buried at Warialda cemetery.

The estate carried on until 1921.

The store had a few owners with Charles Henry Floyd & Son managing the hardware section and Bill Wilks the drapery department. Tom Bickley was the grocery buyer, with Len Guest the bookkeeper and Bred Byrne the carter.

Some years later the store was taken over by Col Pyrke.



Pat on the back for Gwydir Shire

Many visitors to Gwydir Shire remark on how they enjoy their stay, but owners of Lemon Gum Cottage in Bingara recently had guests who were particularly impressed by the Shire.

The vaccinated visitors from the Northern Rivers region wrote in the visitors' book:

"Your cottage is idyllic! Bingara is tops! Gwydir Shire is now a little bit known to me. Love the place. Thank you."

Ros Moulton, owner of Lemon Gum Cottage, says that they often get positive comments and feedback about Bingara and the general area.

"These visitors were particularly complimentary," she said. "We had drinks with them one evening and they remarked on the amount and quality of new infrastructure around the Shire."

Ros went on to say that they particularly liked the pontoon and sandstone blocks on the river and that the footpaths, showground and Gwydir Oval looked in very good repair.

"Gwydir Shire Council doesn't get much recognition for how they maintain the place so I thought I should give them a pat on the back from our visitors," concluded Ros.



Warialda High School

FAREWELL YEAR 12 2021

It has been a tumultuous two years for the class of 2021. We now know how remarkable and resilient these wonderful young people are and these qualities will serve them well in their future.

Congratulations and farewell to the class of 2021 Jade Baker, Courtney Barwick, Brock Byers, Rachel Coulton, Charlie Dawson, Lucy Doney-Tonks, Abbiegail Dunicliff, Brittany Ford, Phillip Forster, Cassidy Hobday, Mardi Klingner, Byron La Fontaine, Charlotte Lockyer, Grace Lockyer, Benjamin Perry, Alexander Smith, Lachlan Wood and Jackie Woodward.



Year 12 student Ben Perry

We look forward to sharing further information regarding the Year Twelve Award Ceremonies and others in the next edition of the *Gwydir News*.

WARIALDA HIGH SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2022

Congratulations to Captains Western Mitchell and Lucy Lockyer, and Vice Captains Jack Digby and Nicola Briggs, pictured left, who have been voted by their peers to lead the student body for 2022.

The incoming captains look forward to making a difference and inspiring younger students to contribute positively to the tone of our school. Badging took place during the Year 12 Graduation assembly on October 28. Due to restrictions, the ceremony was live streamed via the school Facebook page for parents, carers and community to view.



WARIALDA PUBLIC SCHOOL

The school community was a sea of red recently, as we again participated in a *Day for Daniel*. This occasion is celebrated by thousands of schools across Australia as a



way of supporting the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. This Foundation make their sole purpose to promote child safety - indeed an incredibly important cause. Thank you to staff and students for again throwing your weight behind this event.

At this time of year, our local area notices a significant increase in the number of trucks and machines moving about due to harvest. With that in mind, it would be a good time to chat with your children about road safety. We have a number of students riding their bikes to and from school and some gentle reminders about keeping safe on the road is probably timely.

A special shout out to Mr Mac, who helped students create some amazing leatherwork.

Items ranged from a whip, pouches, belts and many more.

Parents are reminded that the Mortimer Apparel online store is open until 19 November.





Bingara Central School

KINDERGARTEN GETS SPOOKY



Halloween saw a spooky kind of day in transition! We were dressed up in our spookiest costumes, listened to some Halloween stories and learnt some monster moves to dance with. We decorated our own trick or treat bags and went trick or treating in Miss Schmidt's room

THANK YOU TEACHERS

In celebration of World Teachers' Day on 29 October, we recognised teachers for their continuous work throughout the year, both online and in the classroom.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, the teachers at Bingara Central School were the forefront of educational delivery during learning from home and once again this year have been at the heart of education recovery, as students returned back into the classroom

The school is proud to have the calibre of staff that deliver a full curriculum from the early years of learning all the way through to HSC graduates. Principal, Brooke Wall,



Above: Peyton with her prize winning Legacy Poster Competition entry

Left: The kindergarten room was a frightening sight for Halloween

thanked staff for their ongoing leadership and support for students and the wider community.

Summer Skills Program

A NSW Government Program is calling all school leavers and young people aged 16 – 24 years with an opportunity to boost your skills this summer with a range of free training courses.

The initiative provides access to fee-free, industry aligned courses for young people and offers the chance to gain the training needed to gain work in vibrant growth sectors such as hospitality, construction or agriculture. If that's not for you the business, information technology or hospitality might get you the skills required for a workplace.

Applicants must be living or working in NSW and be an Australian or New Zealand citizen.

Enrolments are open now with participants required to be registered by 31 December, 2021. For further information and to explore courses, visit: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/skills-initiatives/summer-skills>



THARAWONGA MOBILE RESOURCE UNIT

NOW TAKING ENROLMENTS FOR 2022

We are a mobile service delivering a fun and educational program for children aged 2-6 years in rural districts.

- Monday** - Yetman 8.30am - 3.00pm
- Tuesday** - North Star 9.00am - 3.30pm
- Wednesday** - Yallaroi 8.30am - 2.30pm
- Thursday** - Gravesend 8.30am - 3.30pm
- Friday** - Croppa Creek 8.30am - 3.00pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT EMMA READ ON MOBILE - 0428 291 208





Warialda RFS announces new Captain



The end of 2021 has seen changes at Warialda Rural Fire Service with the team introducing Warialda Rail's Eddie Burn as their new Captain. The changing of the guard comes about as former Captain, Bill Farrer, moves on after a number of years of service, to the Bundarra RFS.

Mr Burn is passionate about his community and the Rural Fire Service and is encouraging anyone who might be interested to apply to become a volunteer with the organisation.

"We cater for everyone, from juniors onwards and have opportunities to train locally," he said.

"Unfortunately, with COVID, our scheduled events was disrupted, however, just recently we had a meeting at Gragin, which was very well attended."

NSW RFS volunteers are ready to respond to emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round, attending a range of incidents from bush and grass fires to house and structure fires, road accidents and assisting at other events like floods, storms and searches.

Despite the wetter than average year, there is still concern regarding the coming fire season. In the last week of October the

Warialda RFS was called to a grass fire that started as a result of sparks from a grinder.

"There is so much grass and so much fuel," says Mr Burn.

"The grass will dry off with the hot summer days and create quite a fuel load."

Volunteering with the NSW RFS offers you the opportunity to learn new and valuable skills that will not only assist you in your voluntary role but in day to day life and even your workplace. It is also an opportunity to meet people you wouldn't normally meet. For many members, it is also about being part of a wonderful tradition and an organisation with a very proud history.

For further information visit: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au. If you think the RFS is right for you then contact your local Rural Fire Service station or Mr Burn on **0427 011 770**.

Left: Newly appointed Warialda RFS Fire Captain, Mr Eddie Burn

DISCUSS PREPARE KNOW KEEP

GET READY FOR A BUSH FIRE

Do you have a bushfire survival plan?

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

COULTON'S CATCH UP



PROOF OF VACCINATION

My office has been fielding a number of enquiries from constituents unsure how to access proof of their COVID-19 vaccination. There are two ways to show proof of your vaccination:

- Your COVID-19 digital certificate which only shows proof of your COVID-19 vaccinations. You can add this to a digital wallet (the digital certificate will be available once you're fully vaccinated).
- Your immunisation history statement which lists your COVID-19 vaccinations and

all other vaccinations you have received.

The easiest way for you to get proof of your COVID-19 vaccination is online. You can go to the *Services Australia* website to find out how to get proof using your Medicare online account through *myGov* or the *Express Plus* mobile app. Find out how to create a *myGov* account and link it to Medicare; and find the easiest way to get proof if you're not eligible for Medicare.

If you can't get proof online, your vaccination provider can print your immunisation history statement for you. You can also call the Australian Immunisation Register on **1800 653 809** and ask for your statement to be posted to you. It can take up to 14 days to arrive in the post. Learn more about how to get proof at servicesaustralia.gov.au/covidvaccineproof

PROTECTING REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

It was a big week in Parliament when the Coalition Government announced its plan to achieve a net zero emissions target by 2050, following the Nationals' support.

As a result of our negotiations, we have been able to secure a better outcome for regional Australia. We've got a range of

support, protections and safeguards in place to ensure the goal of net zero does not negatively impact the communities we represent, particularly the mining and agricultural industries.

By coming to the table on this plan, the Nationals have made sure that those we represent are now in a stronger position – that farmers, miners and regional towns are in a stronger position than they otherwise would be had the Nationals not gone in to negotiate on their behalf.

We're ensuring the Coalition's plan to achieve the goal of net zero emissions by 2050 will create jobs, deliver better access to health services; reduce cost of living pressures; provide better infrastructure and roads; and protect our lifestyle. Regional Australia is central to our plan. It will not shut down coal or gas production or require displacement of productive agricultural land.

Our technology-driven plan sets out a credible pathway to net zero by 2050, while preserving our existing industries, establishing Australia as a leader in emerging low emissions technologies and positioning our regions to prosper.



HAVE YOU EVER BEEN LONELY? with *Letitia Cross*

Have you ever been lonely?

Felt removed from everyone?

Found yourself in a crowded room, but caught yourself feeling still totally alone?

Well, the good news is you are not alone! Recent research has shown that 1 in 3 Australians are facing loneliness and that loneliness and social isolation are harmful to our physical and mental health.

Human beings are social creatures and thrive on meaningful connections. So the COVID-19 pandemic remains challenging to us on many levels. The need to stay away from others and, where possible, primarily stay at home, has arguably been one of the hardest things around COVID-19. This is particularly pronounced for those who live alone.

Loneliness is more than an emotional experience, it can impact all parts of your life. Loneliness is also not about the number of people you know, but the quality of connection to those people. It

can be particularly tricky when we are so 'connected' with technology these days, to actually make the time and invest in real relationships that nurture and support us.

So why are social connections so important?

Humans have a need for connections and relationships. Having strong social connections with friends, family and the wider community is an essential ingredient for a productive and fulfilling life. This is also vital to good mental health.

Quality, engaged time with other people will boost your mood and ward off feelings of loneliness.

Here are some other tips to consider:

- Make a call... who haven't you talked to lately that you miss in your life? Call, FaceTime or Zoom them.
- Organise a catch-up and keep your social connections strong ... sometimes

starting small isn't so overwhelming, so start with one friend.

- Get involved in local events or volunteer – it's a great way to feel part of a community.
- Find other connections... Say 'hi' to your neighbour, smile at strangers and start conversations with people you haven't connected with before.
- Become a member of a club... in person or online because it will allow you to meet new people, learn new skills, and keep mentally agile.

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

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



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

NOVEMBER 2021

- 11th Remembrance Day
- 16th Meet the Candidates Night - Roxy Theatre Complex
- 18th Meet the Candidates Night - Warialda Town Hall
- 20th Bingara U3A AGM - 11:30am, Imperial Hotel, Bingara
- 20th Amber Lawrence, all ages concert - The Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 20 - 21st Bingara Show Society Stockman's Challenge - Bingara
- 22 - 28th National Asbestos Awareness Week
- 25th Warialda District Chamber - AGM, 6:30pm, Warialda Golf and Bowling Club
- 26th Warialda Hospital Auxillary Street Stall
- 27th Warialda Be Creative Challenge - 5:00pm
- 27th Bingara Lions Markets TBC
- 27th Bingara Sporting Club 70th Birthday - from 9:15am, morning tea, barbeque and bowls
- 27th Carinda Christmas Markets - CANCELLED
- 28th NW Film Club - 'Ladies in Black', Roxy Theatre, Bingara

DECEMBER 2021

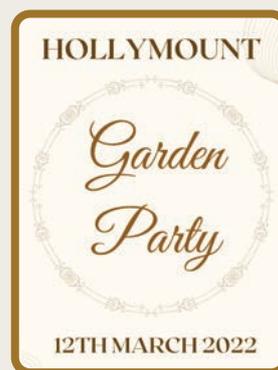
- 1st - 2nd Carbon Information Workshop (Northern Slopes Landcare) - Bingara
- 3rd Bingara Christmas Carnival
- 4th Barney's Day - Bingara Sporting Club
- 4th Local Government Elections - various locations
- 5th Clinic/ Meet for Developing Swimmers - 9:30am Warialda Swimming Pool. Please pre-book
- 7th Gardens That Work With Nature (Northern Slopes Landcare) - 9:00am - 1:00pm The Living Classroom, Bingara
- 11th Warialda Christmas Carnival - Warialda Recreation Ground
- 12th Bingara Hospital's Carols by Candlelight
- 14th Warialda High School Presentation Day - Live Stream
- 18th Moree Summer Races - Moree Race Club
- 19th Bingara Lions Markets - TBC
- 19th Santa Visit - Bingara RSL Club
- 26th Jan Australia Day Celebrations - various locations
- 8th Feb Warialda High Year 7, 11 & 12 return to school

SAVE THE DATE

- 9th Feb Warialda High Year 8, 9, 10 return to school
- 12th March Hollymount Garden Party - Fundraiser - 11:00am, Holymount, Warialda Rail
- 19, 20, 26 & 27th March *Oliver* - North West Theatre Company Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 26 - 27 Mar Golf and Bowling weekend - Bingara
- July, 2022 'Unleash the Black Dog' Ball

EACH WEEK

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



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CHURCH IS FOR ALL IN OUR COMMUNITY

.... Rev. Steve Cimarosti, Vicar Warialda Anglican Church

Is it right for a church (or a society) to judge other people based on their medical history; whether they have been vaccinated or not?

I personally believe that modern medicine (including vaccination) is a wonderful gift from God. God gives it to us for the benefit of ourselves and for those around us. My family is vaccinated for many diseases, and my wife and I are both double-Pfizer-jabbed. But we live in a very diverse society, and not everyone shares my view on this...

Some might say: "well, everyone should just get vaccinated, and that's that." But what does this communicate and mean for those who cannot or will not get vaccinated (for whatever reason)? It seems to me that we must never get to the point where we are setting up a second 'lesser' class of people, based on their medical history (or on any trait). We seem to be 'playing with fire' in this regard; creating a whole class of people who cannot live freely in society without restriction or stigma.

Jesus lived in a time where this was the norm: people were stigmatised and excluded from society on the basis of their medical status. The blind, the lame, the crippled were seen as 'dirty', 'other', 'unsafe', or simply 'not like us'... But Jesus actively worked against this:

He spoke to the people whom others ignored.

He ministered to those whom others thought were 'too far gone'.

He rebuked religious people (like me) for not caring for them.

He continually broke down walls that divided people, and He constantly pushed toward what united us - that we are all God's creatures, created in His image, made for a loving relationship with Him, and with others.

Last month, the government required us to check vaccination status at the door and turn away people if they were unvaccinated. This requirement meant that it was illegal for some 42% of people in our community to attend church. Rather than restrict and stigmatise people based on vaccination, our church wanted to follow the same kind of care and love for others that Jesus shows, so we decided to postpone meeting whilst it was illegal for some to attend. This was a great sadness and inconvenience for most of our regular parishioners, but it is important for us to echo Jesus' commitment to ALL in our community and say (in both our words and actions): "No matter who you are, if you come to Jesus, He will not turn you away, and neither will we..."

Jesus never put any requirements to come to Him, He just said 'come'. For Jesus' church, it should be exactly the same. Perhaps you've never been to church, or at least not for a long time... Please hear it again: No matter who you are, Church is for everyone in our community, you are welcome, we love you, and we would love to see you flourish in your relationship with God, and with others.

Warialda Anglican meets every Sunday at 9:30am.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Church Notices

ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Warialda: Every Sunday 9:30am

Coolatai: First Sunday each month, 3:30pm

Reverend Steve Cimarosti: **06729 1501**

steve@warialdaanglican.org.au

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parishes Weekend Mass Schedules

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

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

Bingara: Every Sunday - 8:00am

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

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

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

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

Inverell Uniting Church's services are also livestreamed at 9:00am on the Inverell Uniting Church Family private Facebook Group. These services are also recorded for later viewing - please search and join.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - Services hoping to resume inline with lockdown restrictions lifting.

Bingara: Scots Presbyterian Church is open for worship at 10:00am every Sunday. Sunday School to be held each week.

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

For the love of money is the root of all evil... 1 Timothy 6. 10

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



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ANGLERS URGED TO DROP IN A LINE FOR RECREATIONAL FISHING TRUST FUNDING



Member for Northern Tablelands and Minister for Agriculture, Adam Marshall, is urging the region's passionate fishers to 'cast' their applications for the latest round of Recreational Fishing Trust grants, in the hope of landing funding for projects to promote fishing across the region's waterways.

"Just like catching an elusive Copeton Dam Murray Cod, applying for a Recreational Fishing Trust grants does require work, but when it's hooked, it's worth it," Mr Marshall said.

"With the grants now open I want to see as many of our local anglers take up this chance to promote a pastime I know they are already very involved in.

"The grants cover projects for enhancing recreational fishing, new facilities and access to local spots to wet a line, education including fishing workshops, as well as essential recreational research.

"I expect with COVID-19 restrictions relaxing we will see hundreds of keen anglers out on local dams or walking local rivers and streams, and so what better time to be improving access and facilities than now."

Mr Marshall encouraged fishers to get their applications in to the NSW Department of Primary Industries before Friday, 3 December 2021.

"Every year, anglers pay their licence fees which are then reinvested back into projects like this, so if you've got an idea, please get it in as soon as possible," he said.

"In the last funding round, more than \$17 million was distributed across NSW for fishing projects, fish aggregating devices, stockings, offshore artificial reefs, habitat restoration projects, as well as education programs."

Grants are available for both large projects, valued at more than \$10,000 in funding, and small projects involving less than \$10,000. Joint saltwater and freshwater projects are also encouraged.

Funding guidelines and application forms for the next round of the Recreational Fishing Trusts grants are available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Minister for Agriculture and Member for Northern Tablelands, Adam Marshall, is urging the region's anglers to apply for funding in the latest round of the Recreational Fishing Trust

Warialda Golfers Cha Cha Cha thanks to sponsorship

Contributed by Thomas Kilner

Warialda Men's Golf 'Cha-Cha-Cha' had massive prize money on offer, similar to the Players' Championships, due to the very generous sponsorship from Reardon, Smith and Kilner. The winners, receiving the large paycheck were John McDonald, Harold Rose and Geoff Hague.

The runner-up position was filled by Clem Gordon, Richard Gray and their 'drawn from the hat' swinging partner. In third place were the sponsors, Billy Reardon, David Smith and Tom Kilner.

Popular mystery ball draw rule: you can win a nearest the pin prize and still be eligible for the mystery draw. On Sunday 31 October, Mark Smith, David Coulton and Rhys Aleckson achieved a feat that will probably never be repeated. Rhys won the A-grade pin shot on the third, Dave won the all-in fifth and Captain Shark won the B-grade ninth and their card came out as the mystery ball winners.

Craig Lockhart defeated Don Stevenson in the B-grade Matchplay Final, meaning he will meet Wade Turner, the A-grade winner, to play for the prestigious Gobbert Shield. The winner will be announced the Matchplay Champion of the Club on Presentation Night.

This week's 'some old, some new, but all funny and true!' quote is from American professional baseball player Chris Codiroli:

"My handicap? Woods and irons."



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CLUB FOURSOME CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

Contributed by Tex Wright



Peter carried Damo on the day, I'm told, to take out the Club Foursomes Championship with a great result of 115. Cameron Maisey was also lucky to have Merv 'the Fox' Hall on his team on Sunday where they combined well to win the 4BBB Club Championship with a great 27 scratch points.

Richard Scutt and young Marshall Bond took out the Nett on a countback with 43 points.

Saturday 13 November is the Mixed Foursomes Championship and 14 November sees Bingara travelling to Warialda for Rose Cup Day whilst the Monthly Medal is on 21 November.

Coming up after this is a Single Stableford on 28 November. Happy Golfing.

FULLERTON TAKES OUT BINGARA'S COX PLATE



Bingara Golf Club held its annual Cox Plate on Sunday 24 October. The event coincides each year with the Melbourne Cox Plate horse race and is sponsored by local golfer, Tim Cox.

The winner of the bisque vs par event, Lloyd Fullerton, took out the competition on a plus 8. Mr Fullerton was presented with his Cox Plate trophy at the Sporting Club after the round.

Selah Yoga retreat soothes the soul



Recently, a group of ladies from the region headed north to Gymea Eco Retreat in Uki, at the base of Mount Warning, for a week of yoga, spa treatments and bush walking hosted by our local yoga teacher, Kaz from Selah Yoga.

"We were just so very lucky to be able to have this week away after all the chaos of the past 18 months. There were numerous times when I thought we would get caught in a lockdown or with some kind of COVID issue that would stop us from being able to get away," said Kaz.

"There were so many highlights from the week, but I know that everyone loved the Coconut Body Wrap, lunch at Mavises Kitchen was superb with all their locally grown produce and the early morning yoga class overlooking Mount Warning was pretty special too.

"It was so nice to just to sit and read by the gorgeous magnesium pool and there was lots of laughter and smiles to be had."

Add in the delicious culinary skills of Laura Swan from Swan Fine Foods and you have yourself a nourishing time out from the busy reality of life.

"The next retreat to Uki is in March next year, so I'm excited to take another group away to experience life in a slower lane for a while," said Kaz.

There are still a couple of spaces left, if you would like to getaway. Get more info via www.selah.com.au

Above: The amazing location of Gymea Eco Retreat and Spa, Uki
Below left: Nourishing food was on the menu for the weekend, and Right: Attendees enjoying each others company throughout the retreat



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