

Charlotte Celebrates Rural Women

Warialda High School student, Charlotte Lockyer, can add the title of *Country to Canberra 2021 Leadership Competition* finalist to her list of achievements after making the cut in the prestigious annual competition. In a pool of thousands of entries, Charlotte's piece was one of forty national finalists, just seven of which were from New South Wales.

Asked to respond to the topic *Courage to Challenge: what is the role of rural women in driving change in their communities?*, Charlotte took on the task with ease by exemplifying the strong examples of women surrounding her.

"I hope people start thinking more about the people in smaller jobs and behind the scenes and the way everyone contributes to make the community better," said Charlotte.

"Drawing from the inspirational figures in the Warialda community and acknowledging those quiet heroes who just get on with helping others and expecting nothing in return, Charlotte's writing captures the women whose work and legacy is the heart of our region," said Warialda High School English teacher, Kathryn Latham. "Well done, Charlotte."

The competitive program was judged by *Country to Canberra* volunteers and a selection panel, with Charlotte found to have demonstrated an excellent understanding of the topic and to have delivered them in an inspiring and powerful way.

Country to Canberra aims to empower young rural women (between 13-18) living in regional, rural and remote Australia to pursue leadership opportunities at school and within their community, by providing skill-building, networking and education opportunities, and by inspiring self-belief.



Charlotte Lockyer with mother and inspiration, Terri Hickman

The role of rural woman in driving change within their communities

by Charlotte Lockyer

When thinking about rural communities, the first thing that comes to mind are the men who sustain their communities.

This is because society is conditioned to view men in primary roles, but what about the people that support those men? What about the women? The wives, the mothers, the girlfriends, the sisters, the daughters, and the friends? They are the people who become the mothers, health-care workers, business owners and the fundraisers; everyone's biggest support. They are the people who, not only support the men,

but their whole community. These women are the backbone of their communities. These women are the backbone of my community.

There are many inspirational women within my community, so many that it would be impossible to name them all. However, the most inspiring to me is my mother, Terri. She is not just inspiring because she is my mother (although I am biased), she is inspirational because of her spirit. The way she can single-handedly run two businesses, a farm, while simultaneously

raising myself and my two sisters, just leaves me in awe.

Why should just one moment make a person inspiring? Sure, one moment can stand out, but to me, a person is inspiring for the little things that they do. It's all the long-distance sport trainings, going above and beyond for students and waving and saying hello when they feel like doing anything but. All these things might not seem like much, but they can be everything. It's all the little things that can have the most impact.

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It's all the little things that make a change because a change doesn't happen overnight. That is what rural women do, that is how they drive change, by doing all the little things that can inspire change.

Rural women are the quiet achievers who strive for change but not recognition. These women are the people behind the scenes that run the businesses, volunteer for community organisations, and provide a sense of leadership. It's surprising the number of women that work behind the scenes. Michelle Obama once said, "there is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish", this became especially apparent during the past five years when many communities suffered through a series of natural disasters that depleted the resources of many rural communities. Both men and women rallied together to support these communities, but it was the women especially that united to create Buy from the Bush. Buy from the Bush is

an innovative platform for rural businesses that are predominantly female owned and run, the platform is used to showcase and support a range of small businesses. The support of these businesses was, and still is, crucial to the rural families that rely on these funds to supplement the income lost due to the drought, fire and flood. That is how they drive change, that is how we drive change, by banding together and supporting each other no matter what life throws at us.

Rural women don't necessarily set out to change their communities. Most of the time the change is subtle, happening over time, without conscious thought, by little acts. You don't just have to be a man or a person in power to drive change, you can be a single mother, an office administrator, a small business owner or a rural doctor. As Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody sang '... power and privilege cannot move a people... from little things big things grow'

Charlotte Lockyer



Chamber facade will remain

Progress is being made on the Bingara Council Chamber building with builders compiling complete costings and details on the scope of work required. This will then be handed on to the insurance company in order to determine the extent of the claim, with a design firm also engaged to complete designs for the internal space.

It is recognized that the heritage façade is an important feature of the Bingara streetscape and as such will be retained. The footprint of the building will also remain the same, with a redesign of the interior space for the most efficient use that will see the building service the Council well into the future.

Gwydir Shire Council General Manager, Max Eastcott, has confirmed that all contractors used in the process will be fully vaccinated and also require a COVID-19 test before coming to Bingara to commence works.

A reminder that administration and customer service staff are now located in the old Bingara Visitor Information Centre, next to the Roxy Theatre on Mailtand Street, where the usual provision of service is happily being provided. Payments or enquires that were previously made at the front counter can be handled at this location. The Bingara VIC is now operating out of the Old Bingara Courthouse, on the corner of Finch Street.

The Warialda Council office remains open for normal operating hours – 8am–3pm.

For all telephone enquiries please call **02 6724 2000**.

Attachments not worth the risk

Attaching signs and other advertising material to power poles may seem like free advertising, but the risks could be costly, warns energy distributor Essential Energy.

Operations Manager for Northern Tablelands, Mark Summers, said "Anyone attempting to attach signs such as advertising material or other items to power poles is putting themselves at risk of serious injury or death as a result of potential exposure to electrical current. It's just not worth the risk."

Mark said that attachments to power poles can also risk public safety and network reliability by causing damage to the pole

or covering critical safety signage like pole identification numbers and defect notices.

"Not only are these illegal attachments dangerous to whoever's putting them up, they're an ongoing danger too. Illegal signage could also become a danger to the owners' wallets, as Essential Energy has the right to bill for the cost of safe removal from its network," Mark said.

"When an unplanned outage occurs, if there's illegal pole attachments in place they need to be removed by Essential Energy's crews before they can begin restoring power, which means a longer outage for everyone."

"If community members spot any illegal signs or advertising material attached to our power poles, we'd like to remind them to never attempt to remove it themselves, but to report it to Essential Energy so that our crews can remove it safely," Mark said.

Under the NSW Electricity Supply Act 1995 and the NSW Graffiti Control Act 2008, it is illegal to attach signs and advertising material to power poles.

Essential Energy's number one priority is the safety of the public and its infrastructure.

If you notice an illegal sign or piece of advertising material attached to the network, please report it by calling **13 23 91** or visiting essentialenergy.com.au/powerpoleattachments

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Deadlines for submissions:
1st each month



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COLLEGE CHAT

with Jannette Tan

Bingara and Warialda Community College

I hope you are all happy we are out of some form of lockdown; fingers crossed and have had a great school holidays.

I'm going fishing, no not really for fish, but for what you are interested in.

In Warialda, we are just finishing up a Community Services Skill set which will continue into the full qualification of *Certificate 3 in Community Services*.

This will be the first time a full qualification will be held in Warialda. Well done, everyone.

This aim of this qualification is to get people a job in the following fields:

- Community Care Worker
- Residential Support Worker
- Indigenous youth/ support worker
- Youth Support Worker
- Support roles in the community services and health industry
- Aboriginal Community Development Worker
- Support Worker (Community Services)
- Recreational Activities Officer.

I am also taking expressions of Interest for Individual Support Ageing and Disability for Bingara.

So, if you or anyone you know may be interested in any of these classes, or any others, give me a call.

Term 4 consists of Welding, Basic Horticulture, White card, RSA, RCG, First Aid, Leatherwork, Card making, Food Handling, Photography workshop, Woodwork, Basic Vehicle Maintenance, Get Digital and Digital Skills.

Pop down to the new Campus in Warialda, our flyer is printed on the door.

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

Myall Creek damage saddens Friends

The Friends of Myall Creek Committee has been joined by a broad representation of its supporters and stakeholders to condemn a recent incident of vandalism at the Myall Creek Memorial near Bingara, NSW.

The committee was formed in 1998 to raise awareness of the Myall Creek massacre to better understand the truth of our shared history. Their work to highlight this unique story in our nation's history was recognised by the unveiling of the Memorial in 2000. Throughout this time a broad section of visitors and school groups continue to travel from far and wide to attend the annual solemn Memorial. The NSW and National Heritage listed site honours the violent and unprovoked massacre of at least 28 Wirrayaraay women, children and old men on the evening of June 10, 1838.

Vandals have damaged areas connected to the new sections of the Memorial site, damaging and removing several items connected to the amphitheatre, one of three water tanks built to provide essential water to the bush garden. The newly built section was part of a Create NSW grant that was launched in a COVID safe way in February 2021. A plaque situated along the Memorial Walk has also been vandalised, but it remains unknown if this was done by the same perpetrator/s.

A number of these items have already been repaired by our partner Gwydir Shire Council, who has acted quickly on this.

Northern Tablelands MP, Adam Marshall condemned the senseless act of vandalism.

"More than 20 years of hard work has gone into transforming the Myall Creek Memorial site into a place of cultural healing and reflection," Mr Marshall said. "Unnecessary acts like this do little to support the message of reconciliation the site was established to achieve. I hope those who caused damage take a good hard look at themselves and do the right thing by handing themselves into NSW Police. I am committed to working with the Friends of the Myall Creek Memorial Committee to making the site a safe and welcoming space for all."

Aunty Sue Blacklock a founding member and life member of the Friends of Myall Creek Memorial Committee, as well as a direct descendant of the survivors of the massacre, said she was disappointed by the news.

"We are just saddened by what was done at the Memorial."



One of the vandalised sections of the Myall Creek Memorial site

The committee is also upset by the incident and it has particularly effected all of the Aboriginal members.

Founding and current committee member, Marilyn Isaacs, who is also a direct descendant of the survivors of the massacre, has also been saddened by the incident.

"We've had the plaques along the Memorial Walk damaged before. With the new additions to the Memorial only being developed seven months ago, we need more security for the site. This place is about reconciliation. I just feel sorry for these people."

Any fair-minded human being would not defend the actions of those responsible. Over the last 20 years the committee had prided itself on the relationships they have built with Gwydir Shire Council and community organisations in Bingara and Myall Creek who have always supported the annual Memorial gathering along with other businesses in the New England region.

The committee would also like to draw the public's attention to social media posts that has included some inaccuracies concerning the incident.

It is understood that the damage out at the site took place before September 3, 2021, we call on members of the public to do the right and honourable thing and report any suspicious activity they may have observed at the site. Should any members of the public have information that may assist Police with their investigation of the matter, please call Crime stoppers on **1800 333 000** or nsw.crimestoppers.com.au



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.

COMMUNITY OP SHOP GIVES BACK FOUR TIMES OVER

Another day another donation, or so it seems for the Bingara Community Op Shop. The charitable organisation held a morning tea morning in the first week of October to present cheques to a further four community groups.

On hand to receive their donations were CWA representative Margaret Foster who was presented with a cheque for \$2000 by volunteer Janice Hawkins.

Mrs Foster says that the donation is very welcome after the tough conditions to be fundraising against throughout 2021.

"There really haven't been any opportunities for us to get much fundraising done this year with so many restrictions," she said.

"This will go towards the scholarship the branch provides for Year six students at Bingara Central School who will continue on at the school into year seven."

Suzy Webber, representing Bingara Preschool, also received a donation of \$2000, from volunteer, Anne Withers.

Will Shoneville presented \$1000 donation to Jennifer Brown on behalf of Friends of Touriandi with a further \$1000 received by Sue Mack of Bingara Multi-Purpose Centre, from volunteer Di Richardson.



Clockwise from Top Left: Presentations to Friends of Touriandi, Bingara Preschool, Bingara MPS and Gwydir CWA



BINGARA CWA LOOKING FORWARD TO CENTENARY

Preparations are underway in Bingara for a celebration of the town's CWA branch's Centenary. The weekend-long event will be held in March and is expected to attract visitors into the thousands.

The GEM Weekend, named after founder Grace Emily Munro, will involve a self-guided tour to Gragin, where Grace was born and a viewing of Bingara's CWA monument placed to celebrate the 100 years.

Attendees will be able to visit the Women's Club in Riddell Street, which was the first Maternity Hospital in Bingara, which was also started by Grace.

"We have some of the original documents from that building, which is very exciting," said CWA Branch representative, Margaret Foster

A main event will take place at Keera Station on the Sunday.

Branch members are already deep into planning and organizing to cater to the large number of people that will need accommodation and meals and are looking to involve surrounding towns.



Gwydir CWA Branch representative, Margaret Foster has a big few months of planning ahead for next year's branch centenary



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REGISTRAR JOINS WARIALDA FAMILY PRACTICE

Warialda Family Practice has recently welcomed the addition of country born and bred Registrar, Dr Russell Hooper.

Hailing from Somerton, Dr Hooper completed his schooling in Tamworth before embarking on study with the University of New England in Armidale.



For the past five years Dr Hooper has completed practical training through Tamworth Base Hospital across a full-range departments, including Emergency.

Arriving in Warialda in August, Dr Hooper started his six-month placement, where he is currently under the supervision of Family Practice staff until February.

The clinic is extremely grateful for the extra set of hands at this very busy time with COVID-19 vaccinations at a peak during Dr Hooper's arrival.

Unfortunately, the restrictions in place mean that Dr Hooper is unable to get involved in his passion for sport., with all competition in his favoured fields of netball, basketball and touch football, amongst other, on hold.

At one stage the Practice was administering 150 Pfizer vaccinations per day, in addition to its Astra Zeneca clinic. Dr Di Coote says that thanks to the additional vaccination hubs provided by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, thankfully things have settled down to a more manageable pace.

PETER KING MEGA FUNDRAISING RAFFLE



Local 17 year old boy, Peter King, was injured in a tragic welding accident in mid-July of this year. 80% of Peter's body was badly burnt and as a result he has undergone several operations. Along with physiotherapy and rehabilitation. Peter will further surgery in the future.

Lee-Anne Turner, Kristy Turner and Jane Wood have rallied together to organised donation buckets around town, with all funds raised going directly into a donations bank account created for Peter. Lee-Anne and Kristy have also been busy coordinating a Mega Raffle Fundraiser to assist with Peter's ongoing recovery.

Lee-Anne commented on Peter's fighting spirting and his willpower to get better.

"Peter is now fully grafted and is determined to be home by Christmas," she said.

She went onto discuss the funds raised so far and provided more detail around the Mega Raffle to be drawn on the 23rd October 2021.

"So far we have raised approximately \$11,300 to go towards Peter's ongoing treatments and travel expenses. Kristy and I have been fortunate to obtain 29 fantastic prizes for the Mega Raffle from Moree Business Houses, which are displayed in the window front beside the Warialda Bakery. Some of the prizes available are a 32 inch TV, gold earrings, beauty pack and a Rockwell mitre, saw just to name a few," said Leanne.

The Mega Raffle will be drawn outside the prizes window display near the Bakery, with a Cake Stall to be held on the same day to raise additional funds. Tickets for the raffle are available at the Country Dust Café, Pally Pub, Warialda Council Building, Warialda Bakery, Commercial Hotel Warialda, Warialda Pharmacy and Warialda Newsagency. The cost of a ticket is \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5.

The ladies organising the raffle hope to have another fundraiser similar to the Mega Raffle later in the year.

"We hope to approach the Business Houses in Warialda to see if they would be interested in donating prizes for another raffle later in the year. We have been overwhelmed with the amount of support received for Peter and hope to continue to be of assistance to Peter in the future and raffles are a great way of doing that," said Lee-Anne.



TOURIANDI A HIVE OF ACTIVITY

...Submitted by Touriandi Lodge



We have been keeping very busy at Touriandi and we would like to share what we have been doing with you, the community.

June was a very busy month for the residents. The Orange Festival kept us on our toes. From orange picking to being part of the parade. We also had our own in-house orange festival and morning tea, with Tony and Helen Cornish entertaining us.

To celebrate the Tokyo Olympics, we held our own Touriandi games. Balloon tennis, volleyball and quoits were some of the games we played. The competition was fierce. The Jacaranda lounge resembled an Olympic stadium.

Touriandi also celebrated many birthdays and special days during the month, which included Daffodil and Senior Citizen Day.

Willow Wing has been taking advantage of the warm days and we have been enjoying eating our lunch in the sunshine.

The lifestyle staff have been exercising their Barbeque skills and we were treated to a lovely lunch. Besides our barbeque days, we have also enjoyed a Chinese and Pizza luncheon.

We have so many creative residents who have been busy making farm animals and daffodils! We are also fortunate to have a musical resident amongst us. We are having a lot of fun having singalongs around the piano.

Bingo, Uno, Scrabble and Rummy-o are popular and just some of the fun activities we have been keeping up with. In addition, we have been on scenic drives and library trips.

We are all looking forward to Spring and the warmer weather so we can venture out into our lovely garden.

If you have ever considered volunteering in the community then we would love to hear from you as we have an array of opportunities around Touriandi Lodge, just send a message to reception@touriandilodge.com.au or phone on 6724 2199.



Above, and left: activities at the Lodge are well attended, including Daffodil Day, Orange Festival activities, birthdays, barbeques and music

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Come along and meet the candidates who have nominated for the upcoming Local Government Elections.

Roxy Complex, Bingara, 7pm
Tuesday 16th November, 2021

Warialda Memorial Hall, 7pm
Thursday 18th November, 2021

Times may be subject to change.

NOTE: Only fully vaccinated residents may attend, in-line with current NSW Government's Health restrictions.

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McGRATH FOUNDATION REMINDS WOMEN: YOU ARE IN CONTROL OF YOUR BREAST HEALTH THIS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

This Breast Cancer Awareness Month the McGrath Foundation is reminding women in Australia they are in control of their own breast health and encouraging them to make this the moment to master the simple three step approach to breast checking, 'Look, Feel, Learn'.

"With everything going on at the moment, including temporary closures of some screening services, it's easy to become overwhelmed or worried. But it's important to remember many breast cancers are self-detected, meaning women, and men too, can still be in control of their breast health, even in these unpredictable times," said McGrath Foundation CEO, Holly Masters.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data shows more than two thirds of breast cancers in women aged 40 and over are detected outside of the national screening program, so there's never been a better time to "get to know your pair".

"At the McGrath Foundation we say, 'if you grow them, know them'. This Breast Cancer Awareness Month we encourage women to learn how to check your breasts, and most importantly, to seek medical attention if you notice anything unusual."

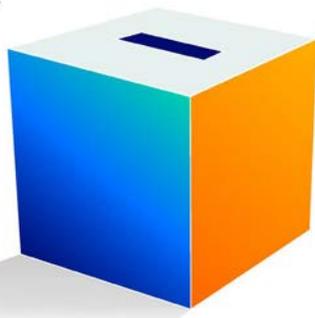


Election workers wanted

Apply to work at your local council election

Local council elections take place on 4 December 2021. We are looking for people to work at these elections. Working at the election is a good way to earn some money, learn new skills and help your community have their say.

To find out more visit elections.nsw.gov.au



"Early detection of breast cancer while it is still small and confined to the breast provides the best chance for treatment to be effective. It's so important that if you find a lump or notice any changes to your breasts that you seek medical attention straight away. Don't wait for lockdowns or the pandemic to be over," Holly continued.

"We encourage everyone who is eligible to attend their regular breast screening when they are able to, but in the meantime, or for younger women, the power is literally in your hands; now is the time to make self-checking a regular habit," Holly said.

Symptoms to look for are lumps, pain, thickening of the skin, redness, inverted nipples, dimples, skin sores and nipple crust or discharge.

How to 'Look, Feel, Learn'

Part of good breast health understanding means getting to know your breasts, so you know what's normal for you.

Starting on October 1st, the McGrath Foundation is asking everyone to follow this simple process, developed by its McGrath Breast Care Nurses, and to repeat it once a month.

The more you examine your breasts, the more you will learn about them and the easier it will become for you to tell if something has changed.

Look - at the shape and appearance of your breasts and nipples in the mirror with your hands by your sides. Raise your arms above your head and have another look.

Feel - all of your breasts and nipples, looking for anything that isn't normal for you. Feel from your collarbone to below the bra-line and under your armpit too.

Learn - what is normal for you! Breasts come in all different shapes and sizes, so get to know your normal. See your Doctor if you notice any changes.

Examine yourself several days after your period ends, when your breasts are least likely to be swollen and tender. If you are no longer having periods, choose a day that's easy to remember, like the first or last day of the month.

Many people are surprised to learn that in addition to the 19,866 women, 164 men are also expected to be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. So it's also important for men to be breast aware.

For more information on breast health understanding visit: mcgrathfoundation.com.au/breastawareness

CALL FOR PROTECTION OF FARMLAND IN RACE TO NET ZERO

NSW Farmers has called for the clear protection of agricultural land as the state moves to slash emissions by 2030.

While moves to increase private sector investment, grow the economy and lower power prices were welcomed, NSW Farmers Vice President, Xavier Martin, said the protection of prime agricultural land had to be a fundamental part of the plan.

“As they say, they’re not making any more dirt, and we need to ensure that prime agricultural land is protected because once you dig it up or pave over it, it’s gone forever,” Mr Martin said.

“We are not against development; we are simply asking for the right development in the right place. The Liverpool Plains is a clear example of where the interests of agriculture and mining come into conflict – it is critical the NSW Government work to protect against the loss and fragmentation of valuable farmland.”

Attracting investment into the state – especially into the agriculture sector – would be welcome news for farmers looking to innovate and grow their businesses this decade, Mr Martin said. However, he warned that there were still concerns about the placement of large-scale renewable energy and transmission installations.

“We remain concerned about regional renewable energy zones – there is clearly scope for this sort of infrastructure, but we must ensure it does not displace food and fibre from quality land,” Mr Martin said.

“A short-term cash grab may be enticing to some producers, but that will have the larger effect of reducing our farmgate output, and a loss of land that can never be recovered.”

Mr Martin said he was “cautiously optimistic” about the plan, which promised to double the economy and halve emissions by 2030, but food security had to be a key consideration.

“It is ambitious, and we’ll need continued research and development investment to make some of these emissions-reduction technologies a reality,” Mr Martin said.

“It’s promising to see the government take a ‘technology not taxes’ approach, as a big part of this will be access to new markets and technologies.

“NSW Farmers welcomes the Minister’s commitment to action that is based on science and economics – not ideology.”

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Proud to be your representative in NSW



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

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Email: northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.adammarshall.com.au

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



Country Education Foundation assistance opportunity

The Country Education Foundation of Gwydir provides some financial assistance to students between the age of 16 and 25 years who have lived or been schooled in the Gwydir local government area and can demonstrate financial need. This assistance can greatly assist students from our region who are often disadvantaged.

The funding can assist students with relocating, purchase of textbooks, tools, work equipment, fuel, transport, laptops, internet access and accommodation. Eligible students may be studying through TAFE, university or any tertiary institution.

CEF Gwydir is a community based not-for-profit organisation with a passion for seeing rural and regional youth succeed. We are committed to assist school leavers to access the services and resources they need to fulfil their personal potential and contribute fully to the communities in which they live and broader Australian society.

The financial assistance provided can help our regional youth achieve their goals.

All of our income is derived from fundraising, the private sector and working with philanthropic and education partners.

Applications for 2022 will 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**.



OFF THE LEASH: NEW PARK READY FOR DOGS OF WARIALDA



Dog owners in Warialda can now get out and about for leash-free exercise more safely with their furry friends after completion of fencing at the town's dog park.

Opposite Nicholson Oval, the project was a COVID-19 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, funded by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

Warialda resident, Amy Beutel, thinks that the newly fenced Triangle Dog Park in Warialda is a fantastic facility for dogs and their owners.

"I think the fenced dog park is an amazing space that will provide a safe area to let dogs run around freely in a large secure environment," said Amy.

She went onto say that the dog park will be a great place for people and their furry friends to catch up.

"It will be an opportunity for dogs to interact with each other and also for people to socialise with one another while using the facility."

The dog park will soon receive a human/dog watering station, ensuring that dogs and their owners will have easy access to hydration.

Administration work has begun on fencing the off-leash area at All Nations Hill in Bingara. Once work is completed here, fencing of the dog park in Gravesend will get underway.

Above: Warialda's Amy Beutel enjoys some safe off-leash time with canine friend, Shiloh

THE INVERELL CWA OF NSW MEDICAL EDUCATION GRANT

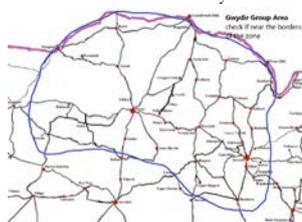


This grant is open to all students in any area of the health sciences who are commencing their 2nd or subsequent year of study at an Australian Tertiary Institution (University or College).

Applicants must agree to undertake work experience in a rural area and have their principal place of residence within the boundaries of the CWA of NSW Gwydir Group.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2022 GRANT ARE NOW OPEN

and close with the Gwydir Group Secretary on 31st January 2022



This map provides a general guide to the localities covered by the CWA of NSW Gwydir Group. Please enquire about your specific locality.

Application forms are available by emailing a request to the CWA Gwydir Group Secretary gwydircwa@gmail.com

COMMUNITY HUB ALMOST READY

Refurbishment of 47 Hope Street, Warialda is nearing completion, twelve months on since its purchase from the NSW Government by Gwydir Shire Council – check! For a 'peppercorn' amount of \$1. The agreement was struck with the promise that the building would be converted into the Warialda Youth Hub.

In addition, the Gwydir Youth Council will now have a permanent space to claim as their own. The Shire's youth, aged between 12–25 years will be able to access the space for socialization, skill training and as a homework and study centre.

"The repurposing of the former Soil Conservation Office in Warialda into a Youth Hub has revitalised the building. This facility will play an increasingly important role in the future training and development of the Shire's Youth," said Gwydir Shire Mayor, John Coulton.

AUSSIE BACKYARD BIRD COUNT CAPTURES DETAILS OF SMALL BIRD DECLINE



A record participation in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count may have revealed a disturbing trend in small bird decline in urban gardens across the country.

BirdLife Australia are now asking for Australians to play a part in the Bird Count this year to determine if these trends are ongoing.

The Count is in its eighth year and takes contributions of more than 100,000 citizen scientists to create a snapshot of the state of Australia's backyard birds and the population of different species.

The results from previous Aussie Backyard Bird Counts year-on-year have revealed a loss of many of our once common small garden birds, such as the Superb Fairy-Wren, Silvereve and Willie Wagtail.

Superb Fairy-Wrens (and the similar Splendid Fairy-wren in Perth) have seen a significant drop off in reporting rates in cities such as Melbourne, Perth, Hobart and Sydney over the past seven years of the Bird Count.

"In Melbourne and Perth, the reporting rates of fairy-wrens have almost halved over this time," BirdLife Australia's National Public Affairs Manager, Sean Dooley, said.

"These much-loved birds are usually found in suburbs that have corridors of native bushland close by so their rapid disappearance, along with a number of other small bush birds, is cause for grave concern."

Reports of the Willie Wagtail have reduced by about half since 2014 in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Darwin, with Perth being the only city to see an increase in the reports of Willie Wagtails.

Over the past seven years Backyard Bird Counters have spotted Silvereyes less often, with a drop off of more than half in reported sightings in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane and significant declines in other capital cities.

"Superb Fairy-wrens and Silvereyes do much better where there are numerous dense plants and a thicker understorey in our gardens, while Willie Wagtails like more open woodland type parks and gardens."

"Smaller bush birds are most likely losing out in urban areas due to the loss of richness and diversity of habitat as urban sprawl and infill development, decreasing wild urban spaces. With fewer bushy gardens for these small birds to retreat to, we are losing them entirely from our cities.

"The downward trend may also be exacerbated by the rise of larger and more aggressive birds, in particular the Noisy Miner which can drive away smaller birds," Sean Dooley said.

Participation in this year's Count will enable bird experts to determine if these trends are continuing for declining species and can help BirdLife Australia to determine the reasons for the declines.

"With more Counters taking part every year, the picture we are building becomes more accurate and reliable. More Counters in rural areas will also allow us to compare how birds are faring in the city as compared to out in the bush and the rest of the country."

"The more counts that come in, the more confident we can be in what is happening and be able to take action to fix what's causing these losses.

"The Count is an excellent opportunity for those still under restrictions in Victoria and New South Wales to use their time at home to help our native birds," Mr Dooley said.

Participants can also help bird experts to see if the two most commonly recorded birds are still Rainbow Lorikeet and Noisy Miner. These birds have been dominant in previous years, after benefitting from decades of native tree planting in city parks and gardens.

Their success may be coming at a cost to other smaller or shyer birds which are pushed out by these bolder birds.

For more information on the Aussie Backyard Bird Count go to www.aussiebirdcount.org.au



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Flood support for local primary industries

Primary producers in the Parkes electorate who were impacted by the severe storms and floods in February and March this year can now apply for assistance through the \$80 million Storm and Flood Industry Recovery Program.

The floods and storms had a devastating impact on the agricultural industry in the Parkes electorate, and this program will help primary producers get back on track, while also providing a flow-on effect to other businesses and communities that rely on these industries to remain viable into the future.

The joint Commonwealth-NSW Government funding includes Supply Chain Support grants of between \$30,000 and \$100,000 for farmers to help aid their recovery by funding the cost of repairing damaged infrastructure, replacing lost livestock, and accessing vet or pest management advice.



For more information and to apply, visit: www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw/regional-recovery-programs/storm-and-flood-recovery/storm-and-flood-industry-recovery-program. Further information on disaster assistance is available on the Australian Government's Disaster Assist website at www.disasterassist.gov.au/

Essential funding supports grassroots communities

Essential Energy has provided two local heroes and grassroots organisations which support communities with funding of up to \$2,500 through its Community Choices Program.

In May, Essential Energy asked the community to help decide which local organisations needed a bit of 'empowering.' The popular program saw 20% more votes this year compared with 2020, showing locals are eager to support these groups. This year Essential Energy was able to provide \$175,000 in support right across New South Wales and parts of southern Queensland.

Essential Energy's Community Relations Manager Northern, Bronya Pressler said "We're thrilled with this opportunity to give back to the communities that we live and work in with our third annual Community Choices Program, as we've seen the difference a little extra funding can make."

"Pleasingly, 75% of nominations were from new groups who heard about the program and decided to put their requests for extra support to the wider community," she said.

"Locally we've been able to support the Inverell Public School P & C (\$1,000), and the Warialda School P & C Association (\$600) who each give so much back to their communities."

Bronya acknowledged that many areas have been doing it tough this year due the continuing impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) health pandemic and major flooding in some areas

"The last 12 months have been challenging for so many of the communities across our footprint. We understand how important these organisations within these communities are and we hope this Community Choices funding helps them continue to support our customers in these areas." Bronya said.

The entire process, from nominating to voting, was completed online, meaning people could participate while still complying with COVID-19 restrictions.

The program has supported a total of 120 community groups in 2021. For a full list of grant recipients, please visit essentialenergy.com.au/choices.

KEEPING THE MICE FROM THE DOOR IN NEW ENGLAND



Mice numbers in Australia could rise again, depending on rainfall, as the weather warms in coming months.

Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce said there were several options for farmers impacted by the mouse infestation.

Mr Joyce said, "Since January this year, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority has issued seven emergency use permits to support mouse control."

"Farmers can also access tax concessions. They may be able to claim an immediate deduction for capital expenditure on fodder storage assets, such as silos and hay sheds," Mr Joyce said.

"On a broader level, the Farm Household Allowance is available to affected farmers."

"I also encourage the use the MouseAlert app which can help notify farmers about changes in mouse activity," Mr. Joyce said.

Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, David Littleproud, said following good rain we are looking at a bumper harvest, and unfortunately these conditions are perfect for mice.

"Taking action early will be key in keeping mouse numbers down. It's important that farmers get out into the paddocks to look for damage or other signs such as active burrows, and to act at the first signs of activity."

"The Grains Research and Development Corporation also produces material and information to help with mouse management, including printable chew cards for monitoring mouse activity," Mr Littleproud said.

"But remember there is support available for farmers who have had their businesses impacted by mice.

"The first port of call for impacted farmers is the relevant state and territory authorities who have been on the frontline of the on-the-ground management of these infestations, and this hasn't changed," Mr Littleproud said.

To find out more, visit www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/mouse-infestation

Support for Apprentices Expands

The Liberal and Nationals Government will continue to secure Australia's economic recovery by expanding support to help apprentices finish their training, protecting the skills pipeline delivered under the government's successful Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements program.

The \$3.9 billion program will extend support into the second and third year of an eligible Australian Apprenticeship through the \$716 million Completing Apprenticeship Commencements program.

Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, Barnaby

Joyce said the coalition Government is protecting the pipeline of apprentices, so they become the skilled workforce of tomorrow.

'This will give employers the confidence to retain an apprentice in their second and third years of training right through to completion,' Mr Joyce said.

'Securing the skilled workforce of tomorrow through the Completing Apprenticeship Commencements program is in addition to a record \$6.4 billion investment in skills this financial year, including a \$500 million expansion of the JobTrainer Fund, which recently hit more than 230,000 course enrolments.'

Under the new changes from next month, eligible employers will receive a 10 per cent wage subsidy in the second year of an eligible apprenticeship, and five per cent in the third year.

The Coalition's investment is expected to continue to support the 270,000 anticipated commencements under the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements program from October 2020 to March 2022.

Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business, Stuart Robert, said the new Completing Apprenticeship Commencements program will help maintain a pipeline of skilled workers right across the economy with 348,200 Australians training as at June 2021, 30 per cent more than the previous 12 months.

'While other countries shed their apprentice workforces, our highly successful Boosting Apprenticeship Commencement program saw new apprenticeships increase 141.5 per cent year on year.'

For further information on how to apply for the program, including information on eligibility, visit www.dese.gov.au/boosting-apprenticeship-commencements or contact an Australian Apprenticeship Support Network provider.

Warialda Hospital Auxiliary Update

Unfortunately, Warialda Hospital Auxiliary has been unable to hold its AGM due to Government Health restrictions relevant to COVID-19. After advice from head office in Sydney, members were contacted, and an agreement was made that executive positions would remain the same for the 2021-2022 year.

As such, the executive that will continue are:

Patrons – Margaret Keath and Noelle Hatcher, President – Marilyn Stubbins, Vice Presidents – Jean Willmott and Pauline Baker, Secretary – Mitzy Anderson, Assistant Secretary – Judy Lynch and Treasurer – Carmel Gobbert.

The Auxiliary has not been able to sell tickets in its raffle of a hedge trimmer and a blower for some time now but will commence selling again on Friday 15 and 29 October and Friday 12 and 26 November. A monster street stall is also set to be held on 26 November, so please put it in your calendar to either contribute items for sale or purchase some of the goodies which will be on offer.

The street stall will replace Market Night which was booked for October 23 at the Golf and Bowling Club. At this stage it does not appear that a big crowd could be in attendance on that date, hence the regrettable decision to cancel for the second year in a row. All being well, it is hoped 2022 will be a goer.

On a happier note, our patron Noelle celebrated her 100th birthday on September 12. Marilyn and Mitzy were able to present Noelle with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and best wishes from all the Auxiliary members. Noelle's secret for such a long life – good healthy food and lots of walking!

Like many organisations and work places, Auxiliary members have to be fully vaccinated before participating in fundraising events.

So, please support the ladies selling tickets in the great gardener's raffle and the street stall on November 26. The Auxiliary is always grateful for contributions of cakes, slices, biscuits, sweets, jams, pickles and also hand made gifts for Christmas.

All money raised by the Auxiliary supports the patients, doctors and staff at our MPS.



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SPORTSMAN'S HOTEL GETS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR



Proprietor, Shannon Storey is looking forward to getting to know the locals as she settles in to the Sportsman's Hotel, Bingara

Just three weeks after opening in September, Bingara's Sportsman's Hotel is booming.

New proprietors, Shannon Storey, and business partner, Daniel Walton, come to town both having had experience in the hotel industry. Originally from central Queensland, Shannon says that she fell in love with Bingara after visiting the town.

"It just reminds me of home. I'm from a small country town as well. People are friendly and everyone's polite and welcoming, it's just easy."

The premises has already undergone a major tidy-up and deep-clean. The overhaul has seen the reopening of the Hotel's kitchen, which will be serving up meals seven days per week.

In addition, the Sportsman's is now part of the Bottlemart family, with plans to complete a shopfront for customers to allow for browsing.

The kitchen has just opened with dinner every night from 5:30pm. Lunch and breakfast will also be served with hours of trade in the process of being finalised.

With plans for the café to open shortly, the business is on the look out for staff, particularly someone with experience making coffee. Anyone looking for work should approach Shannon at the bar.

"We've got plans for a shed out the back, so it won't matter if it's raining or not, you'll be able to sit out there," said Shannon. It is hoped that, in time, the space will accommodate live music.

Despite some initial COVID-19 hiccups getting here, it has been a pleasing start with the Hotel being well patronised both throughout the week and on weekends.

NURSERY BLOOMS



Spring has sprung and The Living Classroom Nursery is now officially open.

From 9:00am-2:00pm Saturdays or 9:00am-4:00pm Thursdays, customers are able to call in to see what the latest seasonal offerings are at the nursery.

Jam packed with seedlings and tube stock ready to go, there is something for everyone with decorative flowers, shrubs and succulents, food plants, natives and exotics, all at reasonable prices.

Eftpos sales only.

AG VISA WILL BE A BOON FOR NEW ENGLAND

Farmers and primary producers in New England are a step closer to benefitting from the Liberal and National Government's new Australian Agriculture Worker Visa.

The Government amended the Migration Regulations on 30 September 2021 to create the Australian Agriculture Worker Visa (Ag Visa) and continue along the pathway of providing an agriculture visa that will help secure the future of rural and regional Australia.

This historic announcement that the Ag Visa is now law ensures the visa will help secure the long-term labour force our farmers in New England need.

Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce said the Agriculture Visa will also create a pathway to permanent residency for those workers who will help secure the future of our region.

"We promised this visa and here it is. The creation of the Ag Visa under the Migration Regulations is a landmark moment for the sector and delivers on our promise to have it in place this year," Deputy Prime Minister Joyce said.

"The visa will be available to seasonal workers, skilled and semiskilled workers."

"And it's not just those on the farm that benefit, the fisheries, forestry and agricultural processing sectors will also get access to workers under this visa."

"We now have a visa that will give New England a long term, reliable workforce for our agricultural industries.

"The Liberals and Nationals will always stand up for regional and rural Australia, and with this Agriculture Visa we have again delivered."

Today's regulation provides a new Australian Agriculture Worker stream which will provide for the entry and temporary stay of workers across primary industries sectors.

This provides the pathway for workers to arrive with first worker arrivals once partner country negotiations are complete. Any workers will also need to meet necessary Federal and State quarantine requirements.

GOVERNOR OF NSW AWARDS LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

Her Excellency, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales, as Patron of The Order of Australia Association NSW Branch, has presented Abbie Kent from Warialda High School with a Youth Community Service Award for exceptional service or engagement with their local community, or to Australia in general.

Abbie was one of 25 students who participated in an investiture presentation conducted by Zoom with the Governor on Thursday 23 September. Award recipients also received a trophy and certificate of commendation from the Governor.

Conducted by the Order of Australia Association (NSW) Branch, students across the state were nominated by their school principal as being exemplary community role models before a selection panel determined the final Award recipients.

Service ranges from local initiatives such as education, health and welfare for disadvantaged or underprivileged communities, to international initiatives in a host of community development activities such as education, health, sanitation and infrastructure projects. The Award is not for academic or sporting achievements.

The citation read:

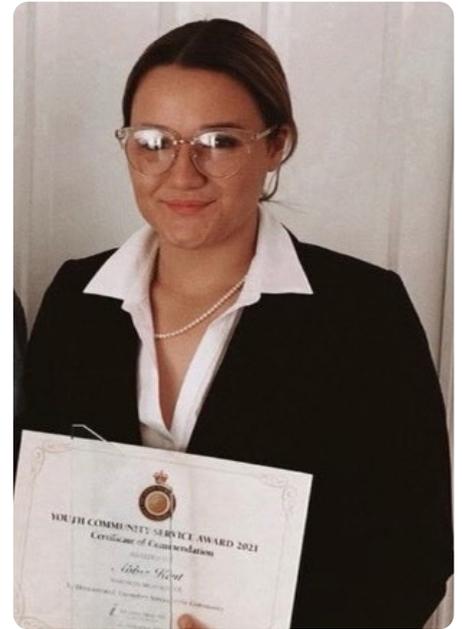
Abbie is a member of the SRC Executive at Warialda High School with a passion for community involvement and service. She is a member of the Gwydir Shire Youth Council and has been involved in organising and running many activities for youth

support. She is a very strong advocate for human rights, particularly for indigenous people, serving on the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group for the last 7 years and has supported the Black Lives Matter movement, Reconciliation Week, Sorry Day and NAIDOC Week activities for several years. She is an active supporter of the Human Rights and Women's Rights movements and was a semi-finalist in the Rotary Speech contest, with a well-received address on Human Trafficking. Abbie is also an accomplished sportswoman, playing Group 19 Rugby League, Country NSW Rugby Union and has been an active rider at Warialda Pony Club since she was a small child. She is a member of the Warialda Show Society, was 2021 Warialda Junior Show Girl, and was honoured with selection as a NSW Rural Youth Ambassador, a leadership and student agency initiative of the Country Education Partnership

Order of Australia Association (NSW) Branch Chairman, Jim Mein AM, congratulated Abbie saying she is an exemplary community role model.

"Abbie is one of 25 high school students recognised today to have selflessly volunteered their time to a wide range of organisations and for many very worthy causes while busily preparing for their Higher School Certificates," said Mr Mein.

"After the 2020 COVID hiatus, the Award resumed this year and student nominees again admirably demonstrated the sense of community commitment and service



Abbie Kent of Warialda High School has been recognised with a Youth Community Service Award

that had epitomised previous recipients of the Award.

"Abbie has contributed beyond the norm and her actions have inspired her fellow students. Abbie is a beacon of inspiration for others to follow," he added.

"Abbie did not seek recognition for her actions, but we honour her with the highest recognition available to NSW high school students," he said.

The Award was initiated by the late Dr John Lincoln AM, in 1992 and was Convened by him until his death in 2011, aged 95.

Gwydir Tourism Back on the Airwaves

Gwydir Shire Visitor Information staff have resumed a fortnightly radio segment with Inverell radio station, STAR-FM, over the past month. The segment has been revived after a hiatus in recent years, with host Gerry Taveira catching up with local tourist officer, Jenny Mead.

She says that the chance to bring the radio spot back to life is too good to pass up. Once called *Beautiful Bingara*, the segment will be now *Glorious Gwydir* to incorporate the happenings across the whole of the Shire.

"It's an opportunity for us to get the message out to the wider public and spread the word about all the good things happening here in the Gwydir Shire and share the reasons visitors should consider heading to our region," she said.

Going live-to-air for a few minutes on a fortnightly Friday morning from 8:00am, Jenny will share news of major events and happenings that might be of interest to listeners from outside the Shire.



If your organisations or community group has an event that they would like publicised and promoted please call in to see staff at the Warialda Visitor Information Centre, Jenny at the Bingara VIC, or via email: btourism@gwydir.nsw.gov.au.

To be included, all submissions must be received by lunch time on Thursday.



Inland Rail construction on track

The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) has engaged global leaders in sustainable solutions for infrastructure to deliver the Inland Rail Southern Civil Works Program valued at more than \$1.2 billion.

The program will comprise a 50-50 joint venture between ACCIONA and CPB Contractors Joint Venture (ACACPB JV), who have been appointed as the preferred proponents to work with ARTC on the Southern Civil Works Program.

“Inland Rail, from construction through to its delivery, is a nation building project. It is the catalyst for thousands of regional jobs and will ultimately change the way freight is moved around the country,” Mrs Pickering said.

“We will need a large local workforce to support this part of the project with an estimated 7,500 workers needed in NSW at the peak of construction in 2023-24.

“ACACPB JV will soon be seeking partnerships with businesses and skilled operators that can support project delivery

such as transport operators, fencing, quarries, earthworks and electrical companies.

“This appointment, at this time, also allows us to maximise local jobs and procurement”, Mrs Pickering said.

“Major construction will not start until statutory approvals have been received from the New South Wales and Australian governments, but the appointment of a preferred proponent now tells local businesses to get ‘Inland Rail ready’ and start talking with ACACPB JV about what the future looks like,” she said.

“The civil works undertaken in this crucial program will include approximately 306 kilometres of new track formation comprising of bulk earthworks, drainage, bridge and viaduct structures, as well as materials and logistics management. With all of this comes the requirement for a large local workforce and suppliers to support the delivery and invest money back into the local economy.”

Construction started over 100 days ago on the Inland Rail section between North Star and Narrabri, south of Moree.

Currently the COVID situation is being navigated and work is progressing towards completing this section so that the grain harvest from Moree can be transported to the port and construction can move north of Moree towards North Star.

For information on Inland Rail tenders and market opportunities visit inlandrail.artc.com.au/opportunities/suppliers/ or register your interest on the ICN Gateway.

A section of the Narrabri to North Star Inland Rail construction



Noeline Celebrates 100 Years Young

Staff and residents of Warialda’s Naroo celebrated Noeline Hatcher’s 100th birthday in September as she awoke to a flood of flowers and cards.

As Noeline’s family were sadly unable to come and visit for her birthday, (due to being stuck in lockdown in other areas of the country), the staff and residents were more than happy to help her celebrate such a huge milestone.

Her family had all her presents posted for her special day. Some of her presents included a framed card and message from the Queen, Prime Minister Scott Morrison, the Governor General, a certificate from NSW Premier Gladys Berijiklian and a card from Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton.

Special mention to the *Wazza - What’s On* Facebook group for organising the delivery of 100 handwritten cards for the occasion.

As requested by Noeline, she celebrated with a barbecue lunch followed by music and dancing, with a fabulous time had by all.



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Royal Flying Doctor Service Vaccination Hubs Prove Popular

Royal Flying Doctor Service Vaccination Pop-Up Clinics kicked off across the region late last month with North Star Sporting Club becoming the first of the local vaccination venues as part of a nine-stop blitz.

Over the following three days, residents of the towns of Wialda, Bingara and Upper Horton also took advantage of the Pfizer walk-in clinics at each centre.

Around 550 people were vaccinated across the region during the flying visits: 48 in North Star, 222 in Wialda, 174 in Bingara and 106 at Upper Horton.

MP for Parkes Mark Coulton has worked with the RFDS to help bring vaccination clinics to a number of the towns in his electorate.

"I'm thrilled that the RFDS has been able to provide this opportunity for so many communities in the Parkes electorate."

"With COVID-19 now in the regions, it's more important than ever to get vaccinated to protect ourselves, our loved ones and our communities," he said.

The RFDS will return to the same sites, three weeks from the first visits in October.

FALL ARMYWORM PLANS SPRING INTO ACTION WITH LOCAL DETECTION

Producers across the region are on the lookout for fall armyworm following detection of the pest in a maize crop at Croppa Creek, Agriculture Minister and Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall, has announced.

"The pheromone trap surveillance system deployed by NSW DPI and Local Land Services (LLS) and in-crop inspections by growers and advisers are the first actions of an effective pest management plan," Mr Marshall said.

"Regular monitoring, particularly in maize and sorghum crops is critical. Growers and advisers should look for early signs of crop damage, such as windowing and shot holes in leaves."

Mr Marshall said landholders were the first line of defence against fall armyworm.

"Vigilant landholders who are actively looking for signs of fall armyworm are helping to widen the reach of our trapping network, making sure we detect any new cases as soon as possible," he said.

Small larvae are difficult to identify and growers are encouraged to keep suspect larvae on host crop leaves until they can be more easily identified by clear photographs of the head and tail sections.

Mr Marshall said images could be emailed with your name, location, crop type and phone number to fallarmyworm@dpi.nsw.gov.au

"Regular monitoring is critical in optimising control costs," Mr Marshall said.

"Early detection and spraying fall armyworm with selective insecticides when they reach threshold levels will deliver the best results.

"It's important to target larvae before they bury themselves in leaf whorls and ears of maize.

"Fall armyworm has developed very high resistance to synthetic pyrethroids and growers are strongly advised to avoid these chemicals as they are ineffective in controlling the pest and destroy beneficial insect populations.

Information on economic thresholds for fall armyworm populations is available online at www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Fall-Armworm-Continuity-Plan-2.pdf

More information on identification, control options and resistance management is available on NSW DPI www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/insect-pests-and-plant-diseases/fall-armyworm and LLS websites.

Farmers should contact LLS for advice on fall armyworm management.



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North West Theatre Company Film Club

MOVIE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Rick Hutton - NWTC Publicity Officer

WITNESS

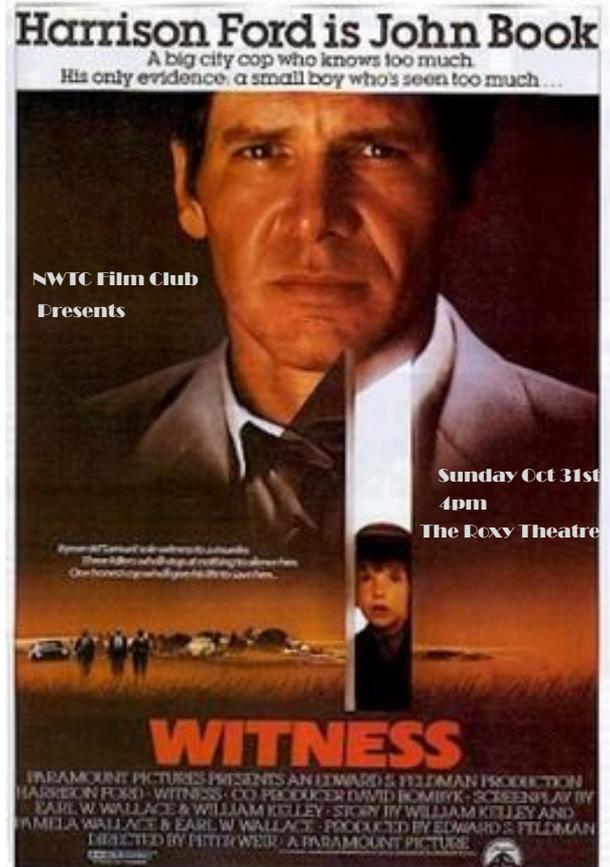
The North-West Theatre Company's October offering is 'Witness'. This film is a 1985 American neo-noir crime drama film directed by Australian Peter Weir and starring Harrison Ford, Kelly McGillis, and Lukas Haas. Jan Rubeš, Danny Glover, Josef Sommer, Alexander Godunov, Patti LuPone, and Viggo Mortensen appear in supporting roles.

The screenplay by William Kelley, Pamela Wallace, and Earl W. Wallace focuses on a detective protecting a young Amish boy who becomes a target after he witnesses a murder in Philadelphia.

At the 58th Academy Awards the film earned eight nominations, including Best Picture and Best Actor for Ford, winning Best Original Screenplay and Best Film Editing.

It was also nominated for seven BAFTA Awards, winning one for Maurice Jarre's score, and six Golden Globe Awards. William Kelley and Earl W. Wallace won the Writers Guild of America Award for Best Original Screenplay and the 1986 Edgar Award for Best Motion Picture Screenplay presented by the Mystery Writers of America.

'Witness' is a fascinating journey through two cultures, the American crime base and its legal defenders, and the ultra-conservative Amish culture that exists within it.



Oliver rescheduled for more in 2022

After several months of rehearsals, the cast and crew of the North-West Theatre Company's *Oliver* were all set for opening night at the Roxy Theatre in Bingara on 14 August when the COVID-19 lockdown was announced.

Given just a couple of hours' notice, it is needless to say, not only were those involved with the production devastated, so too were patrons who were looking forward to the latest show at The Roxy Theatre.

"All ticket holders for opening night were contacted just in time and ticket holders for the other four productions were contacted in due

course," said North West Theatre Company representative Robyn Phillips. "Many theatre goers opted to 'hold' their spots for the rescheduled production and refunds were given when requested."

The rescheduled dates for *Oliver* have been announced as the weekends of 19 and 20 March and 26 and 27 March 2022.

The North-West Theatre Company say they are looking forward bringing the performance to the stage and to a fresh start for The Roxy in the new year.



Above: Cast of the North West Theatre Company production of Oliver are excited to be bringing the story to life on rescheduled dates in 2022

SCULPTURE SPECTACULAR: PHOENIX RISES



Above: The impressive Phoenix sculpture created by Tony Gomez, with assistance of Kai Stamer stands proud at The Living Classroom. Image Credit: Amber Hall

Vision 2020, The Living Classroom and The Carbon Farm hosted an evening event to celebrate the spring equinox and full moon on 21 September. The spring equinox marks the time when there are the same number of daylight hours as night and is generally regarded throughout the world as the start of Spring – a time of rebirth, regrowth, regeneration.

Meeting at the stone circle on The Carbon Farm for a unique sunset viewing the group then moved down to the classroom-area to meet the Phoenix, a 15ft high sculpture of local artist Tony Gomez.

For the highlight of the evening, the bird was filled with flammable material before being perched on its nest – a slow-burning fire basket, then set alight.

The concept of the artwork is two-fold and based on the Native American philosophy that within in their camps and decision-making areas they would keep a small fire burning to remind them that when they took decisions they should be thinking about their children and subsequent generations.

The second part is the burning, cleansing, restarting that ties in well with the regenerative basis of the Pulse Festival.

The groups hope that the sculpture, now a permanent fixture, will become iconic with Bingara, The Living Classroom and with the Pulse of the Earth Festival.

The night proved to be a magical, outdoor event and an opportunity to trial some special events for Pulse of the Earth Festival 2022.

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6.30PM DOORS - MUSIC 7PM

special guest
Ashleigh Dallas

TICKETS WWW.AMBERLAWRENCE.COM.AU/TOUR



WARIALDA PUBLIC SCHOOL

We were delighted to welcome our students and staff back to site! After four weeks of remote learning, it was an absolutely awesome outcome to be able to bring our students back to face-to-face learning for a week before starting holidays.

On behalf of my team, I wanted to congratulate our students for their efforts over those weeks in engaging with the work provided. The quality of the work being returned to school was extremely impressive and our students should be proud of this. I also wanted to again thank our teachers for their adaptability and enthusiasm. They are an amazing group of professionals determined to give the best opportunities to students.

I have previously shared information about COVID vaccinations now being available right here in Warialda for our students who are 12 years or older. We sincerely thank the team at the Warialda Family Practice for making this possible! My team are in the final processes of making sure they are all vaccinated with the Department of Education mandating that all school staff are vaccinated by a specified date. We're all on track!

Our students have returned to school under Level 3 restrictions with the expectation that unless a student is unwell, they are on-site and participating in face-to-face learning. Parents are urged to reach out to the school if their child is not attending due to illness so that our rolls accurately reflect their absence. Unfortunately, Level 3 restrictions do not allow for parents to attend our site. We respectfully ask that parents drop students off at the front gate and allow students to walk in by themselves. In the instance that you must urgently come onto site, please use the QR Code and ensure that you have a mask on (unless an exemption applies). Please believe me when I say that we'd absolutely love for you all to be able

to come and go as you please!! It will happen again one day, I'm sure!

In relation to regular or special events that are on hold for the time being - these include: SRE (scripture), transition (Kinder and high school) and assemblies.

Please be advised that all PSSA Sport (Representative and Knockouts) has now been cancelled for the remainder of 2021. For those students who had earned representation in North West teams, these talented individuals will all receive their full North West 'kit' in the second half of Term 4. We will present these uniforms when they arrive.

In relation to the Knockout events, whilst it is terribly disappointing, it is a decision beyond our control and consistent with that made relating to community sport.

There are many exciting events scheduled for our children this Term. Each Thursday, Brad Field from the NRL will be visiting WPS to conduct skills sessions with all students K-6. This is being made possible thanks to the Sporting Schools Grant. Other events such as Intensive Swimming, Water Day, Year 6 Farewell and Presentation Day are all scheduled as well.

Dan van Velthuisen - Principal



ABOVE: Warialda Public School's Rescheduled Book Fair



Warialda High School

2021 ATHLETICS CARNIVAL WINNERS

- 12 Years Girls** Indika Gallen, runner-up - Ruby Reading
- 13 Years Girls** Ellie Michel, runner-up - Georgina Caslick
- 13 Years Boys** Samuel Hal, runner-up - Myles Beel
- 14 Years Girls** Lisa Digby/Lucille Reading, runner-up - Lola Barwick
- 14 Years Boys** Vashtan Gallen, runner-up - Thomas Bell/Lachlan Hawkins
- 15 Years Girls** Lorelai Piovesan, runners-up - Jasmin Briggs/Eliza Warby
- 15 Years Boys** Rowdy Laidlaw-Hodge, runner-up - Sam Durkin
- 16 Years Girls** Paige Hall, runner-up - Lucy Lockyer
- 16 Years Boys** Caleb Withers, runner-up - Denzel Munro-Johnson
- 17+ Girls** Courtney Barwick, runner-up - Rachel Coulton
- 17+ Boys** Western Mitchell, runner-up - Alexander Smith



NEW STAFF MEMBER

Meet Rebecca Anderson who is reliving Head Teacher, Maths. Rebecca is originally from Kempsey and attended University in Armidale. The last 5 1/2 years, Rebecca has been teaching at Narrabri high School. Rebecca thought it was time for a change of scenery, moving closer to family. She looks forward to her time here at Warialda High School.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Congratulations to Mrs Katherine Pinkerton who has gained her youth work qualifications and is now the Student Support Officer, replacing Tracy Carlos for Term 4 and Term 1 next yeay. We know what a wonderful job she'll do supporting all students in this role.



Bingara Central School

POETRY WRITTEN BY
YEAR 5 STUDENTS

The Gwydir River – By Morgan W

As we go down the hill -

I fill with excitement and joy. One glimpse at the river, and I know we are there.

I put down the window, and hear the sound of the birds singing, in the distance.

The river flowing with all it's heart beats, I see the fish jump with joy,

and taste the scrumptious food - sizzling on the barbecue.

When I go in the water, I feel the coldness running up my veins.

As I sleep under the glowing stars, I feel the fresh air blowing everywhere - Lightly kissing my face.

Then in the morning I wake, by Molly [my dog] slobbering all over my face,

Her excitement brimming, She jumps up and does a little boogie dance.

Darlington Beach – By Sean M

Where wildlife lives
Where you and me come to stay
Activities to occupy us
Fun in every way

Where I stay in a caravan
And you sleep in a tent
While watching kids on the bikes Do daredevil stunts

I hear the beach in the distance
While you're eating a snack
We go down to have a surf
When it's very packed.

Beautiful – By Ruby M

Beautiful,
The small school and children,
The short orange trees holding fruits.

Beautiful,
The happy sounds of laughing children, The chirping of birds up high.

Beautiful,
The scent of sweet oranges all over town, the multi-coloured flowers in the gardens.

Beautiful,
The juicy, tangy fruit on my tongue
The orange exploding with flavour.

Beautiful,
The bumpy, smooth skin on the orange,
The freshly cut grass underneath my feet.

Everything is just, Beautiful.

Grandma's House – By Scarlett S

I can hear the TV static,
As we walk away to the veranda.

The sun beams onto the veranda, through the glass onto the table.

The shuffling of cards as I sit down, is overtaken by the oven timer going off.

As I get closer to the kitchen, the beep of the oven gets louder and louder.

The oven door opens, the smell of freshly baked goods quickly fills the house.

I bite into a cookie, chocolate oozes out - the cookie melts in my mouth.

I feel warm inside,
I have this happy sense.

As I walk out the door,
I see the smile on my grandmas face - the feeling that we both had a great day.

REMINDER: SCHOOL PICK UP AND DROP OFF POINTS

All primary students must be dropped off at the front gate to walk around the back way to line up under the hayshed.

Pick up points: Kindergarten - Year 2 will exit out the infants room gate on Finch Street.

Year 3 - Year 6 will exit the school using the gate at the primary playground on Finch Street.

Year 7 - Year 12 will leave via the Riddell Street gate near Keera Street and the gate near the bike racks.



YEAR 1

Despite the lockdown, Year 1 were busier than ever learning from home. Zooms, work packs and Seesaw kept us all super busy and engaged with our learning. I congratulate all of the Year 1 students on their amazing effort during this time. They have shown that they can do anything.

Anna Southwell – Classroom Teacher

ABOVE: Maths by chocolate for Year One student Finn Miller during lockdown in September



Did you know?

According to a Monash University study, 76 per cent of respondents agreed that teachers in Australia cared for the wellbeing of their students. The increase in public appreciation of teachers' work was a direct result of COVID-19 and the shift to remote learning. Australian families reported merit in exploring more flexible learning arrangements into the future.

There are approximately 288,294 teachers working with close to four million students in 9,542 schools across Australia. Teachers play a vital role in the community and they have far-reaching influence.

For more information and to download a copy of the report, please visit: <https://www.monash.edu/thank-your-teacher>

GET READY' FOR BUSH FIRE SEASON

Communities, including the Gwydir Shire, are being urged to 'Get Ready' for the upcoming bush fire season, with the NSW Government and NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) reminding people to prepare their homes and ensure their bush fire plan is up to date.

Emergency Services Minister, David Elliott, said now is not the time to be complacent, as we see significant grass growth across the state after a wetter-than-average winter.

"It is important that everyone takes the time to prepare their properties. The RFS does incredible work not only protecting our communities in times of emergency, but also providing tools and advice to assist people with preparation," Mr Elliott said.

"From today, the launch of the Rural Boundary Clearing Code will allow eligible rural landowners to take an additional step to mitigate their risk of bush fire."

"Our emergency services stand ready to protect communities across NSW, but every land owner needs to play their part."

NSW RFS Commissioner, Rob Rogers AFSM, said it only takes a few minutes to make a plan that will give your property and your family the best chance of survival should you be threatened by bush fire.

"We are particularly concerned about the risk of grass and crop fires

this year. These sorts of fires can spread very quickly are very difficult to control," Commissioner Rogers said.

"This year our brigades are holding over 400 *Get Ready* events online to help guide landowners in their preparation journeys. We urge all communities to take advantage of this valuable information and take the time to prepare. Please don't wait until it's too late," Commissioner Rogers said.

The top four tips to getting ready for bushfire season are:

- Discuss what to do if a bushfire threatens your home;
- Prepare your home and get it ready for bushfire season;
- Know the bushfire alert levels; and
- Keep all the bushfire information numbers, websites and the **Fires Near Me** app handy.

The NSW Government has committed more than \$480 million over four years in response to the independent NSW Bushfire Inquiry to fund fleet upgrades, emergency control centres, firefighting aircraft, drones, protective clothing, strategic fire trails, and bushfire research.

Details of *Get Ready Weekend* activities are available here and to discover how fireproof your Bush Fire Survival Plan is, visit myfireplan.com.au/



DISCUSS PREPARE KNOW KEEP

GET READY FOR A BUSH FIRE

Do you have a bushfire survival plan?

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

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

COULTON'S CATCH UP



AG VISA A WIN FOR OUR FARMERS

Regional Australia is a step closer to welcoming the next generation of migrants to secure its future, with the Liberal and National Government's historic new Australian Agriculture Worker Visa now in place.

The creation of this visa is a landmark moment for the sector and will help secure the long-term labour force our farmers in the Parkes electorate need. The Nationals will always stand up for regional and rural Australia, and with this Agriculture Visa we have again delivered.

The visa will be available to seasonal workers, skilled and semi-skilled workers. Further details and a fact sheet are available at <https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-people/international-labour-mobility/australian-agriculture-visa>

GRANTS ON OFFER TO PROTECT OUR HERITAGE SITES

The fourth round of the Australian Heritage Grants is now open, with \$5.3 million available for projects that protect Australia's rich tapestry of spectacular cultural, natural and historic heritage sites.

The Parkes electorate is home to a number of National Heritage Listed sites that are eligible for these grants, including the Brewarrina Aboriginal Fish Traps (Baiame's Ngunnhu), the City of Broken Hill, Moree Baths and Swimming Pool, Myall Creek Massacre and Memorial Site, and the Warrumbungle National Park.

Each of these remarkable places helps to tell the story of our rich heritage and I encourage site owners, managers and support organisations to apply for grants of between \$25,000 and \$400,000 to ensure these sites can remain for future generations.

Applications for the 2021-22 grant round are open until 28 October 2021. To find out more and apply, visit: <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/australian-heritage-grants-2021-2022>

SUPPORTING YOUR MATE... AND WHAT DO I DO IF THEY SAY YES? with Letitia Cross



RURAL ADVERSITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

While the conversation with someone struggling mentally can be daunting, one of the things that I find makes it easier is knowing where the help is that I can point people towards. Having this information means that I don't have to take responsibility for their troubles and I am encouraging them to contact people with more knowledge and tools than me, who can then step in and provide the mental health assistance they may need.

Even though this can be scary I want you to think about getting someone to help a little bit like changing a tyre...

- Some days we blow a tyre and we can sort that out ourselves.
- Some days though, the wheel nuts are a bit tight and we might need to ask a friend to help us loosen them.
- And some days the studs are broken and we need to go to someone with specialist knowledge or tooling that can help us with that, like a mechanic.

Now our mental health is the same ...

- Some days, maybe our work/life balance is out and we can sort that out ourselves.

- Some days, we might need to talk to our mate, just to get it off our chest.
- But some days, we might need to see someone who has more knowledge than us to help us sort out an issue.

Four of these options are:

GP – is a great confidential first point of call. They can rule out any underlying physical issue. GPs can link you to specialist services (counsellors, psychologists etc.). They can also do a confidential Mental Health Treatment Plan which gives you access a number of sessions with a mental health professional at minimal to no cost each year.

Specialists Services (Counsellors, Psychologists or Social Workers) – they work around talk therapy. You can deal with a whole range of issues - financial, relationship, gambling or just being overwhelmed. They may deal with the symptoms that are affecting you or maybe the underlying issue; whichever way, their job is to walk beside you to help you find the right answers for you. The key is not waiting until you have developed an illness but actually going to someone when things are starting to get on top of you.

Helplines – these can be either phone or video support. Some you might be familiar with are: Lifeline **13 11 14**, Beyond Blue Support Service **1300 224 636**, MensLine **1300 789 978**, NSW Mental Health Line **1800 011 511**, Suicide Call back Service **1300 659 467**, Black Dog Institute – www.blackdoginstitute.org.au.

These are all great evidence-based resources that can help.

RAMHP – It's us... remember we are local, practical people who can provide information or advice on the right sort of help for you or someone you are worried about. www.ramhp.com.au or **0477 343 628**

So, now you have four great options, I hope that you will encourage someone to seek help when they are struggling.

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.

Email: editor@thegwydirnews.com.au

OCTOBER 2021

- 13th** Bingara Show Society AGM – 7:00pm
Bingara Sports Club
- 14th** Warialda Primary School – School Photos
- 16th** Warialda Christmas Carnival Trivia Night
- 17th** Warialda Men's Golf –
George Rose Memorial 4BBB Stableford
- 20th** Warialda Golf and Bowling Club AGM – 6:30pm
- 21st** Warialda Historical Society AGM and ordinary
meeting – 5:30pm, Warialda Museum,
12 Plunkett Street, Warialda
- 23rd** Bingara Lions Markets – from 8:30am,
Maitland Street, Bingara
- 23rd** Gwydir and Barraba Rugby Union Football Clubs
Presentation Night - Bingara RSL
- 18th–24th** Get Online Week – local libraries
- 29–30th** Barraba Rotary Campdraft
- 31st** NW Film Club – *'Witness'*, Roxy Theatre, Bingara

NOVEMBER 2021

- 5th–7th** Bingara Show Society Campdraft (rescheduled)
Bingara Show Ground
- 16th** Meet the Candidates Night - Roxy Theatre Complex
- 18th** Meet the Candidates Night - Warialda Town Hall
- 20th** Amber Lawrence, all ages concert
The Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 26th** Warialda Hospital Auxillary
- 27th** Warialda Be Creative Challenge – 5:00pm
- 27th** Bingara Lions Markets – from 8:30am,
Maitland Street, Bingara
- 27th** Carinda Christmas Markets – 6:00pm–9:00pm
Carinda House, Warialda
- 28th** NW Film Club – *'Ladies in Black'*,
Roxy Theatre, Bingara

DECEMBER 2021

- 3rd** Bingara Christmas Carnival
- 4th** Local Government Elections – various locations
- 11th** Warialda Christmas Carnival
- 12th** Bingara Hospital's Carols by Candlelight

- 18th** Moree Summer Races – Moree Race Club
- 19th** Bingara Lions Markets – from 8:30am
Maitland Street, Bingara
- 19th** Santa Visit – Bingara RSL Club

SAVE THE DATE

- 19, 20, 26 & 27th March** Oliver – North West Theatre Company
Roxy Theatre, 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

Please note all details are accurate at the time of publication, however may be subject to change.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL

Applications are sought from interested people who wish to occupy a Warialda Aged Care Unit in Plunkett Street, Warialda.

This unit consists of one bedroom, bathroom, sitting area, kitchen and laundry, all unfurnished.

Please obtain an Application form from the Warialda or Bingara Offices of Gwydir Shire Council or the Warialda or Bingara CHSP (formerly HACC) offices.

Applications close Friday 29 October 2021.

Assessment is made on need as determined from the information supplied in the application form and interview.

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MEETING NOTICE

WARIALDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM
5:30pm, Thursday 21st October, 2021
Warialda Museum
12 Plunkett Street, Warialda
All members and interested community members invited to attend

GARAGE SALE
95 MARKET STREET, WARIALDA
10:00am, Saturday, 23rd October, 2021

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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
Reverend 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 9am.
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 on 10th September 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.

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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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\$315,000 WARIALDA GOLF AND BOWLING CLUB RENOVATIONS OPEN



After a long day on the golf course or the bowling green, local sports lovers will retire in comfort to the newly refurbished Warialda Golf and Bowling Club, with Northern Tablelands MP, Adam Marshall, last Friday night joining Club Chairman Matthew Williams to officially open the \$315,000 State Government-funded clubhouse upgrade.

The project was funded last year through the State Government's Drought Support Package. Gwydir Shire Council also provided \$15,000 for the upgrade.

Mr Marshall said the refurbishment would assist to support the club's future economic viability.

"Without a doubt, the work undertaken by contractor Meader Construction has brightened the club and made it into a vibrant and modern sport and function facility," Mr Marshall said. "The last five years have been incredibly tough financially for small volunteer run clubs, with the drought drying up household incomes which would normally be spent on playing sport, memberships or going out for a meal.

"The new industrial kitchen with modern gas cooktops and stainless steel benches will accommodate functions like birthdays and community celebrations, while continuing to support Charlie's Kitchen - the local delicious Chinese restaurant.

Modifications have created a new board room, additional storage space, a children's play area and modernised amenities.

"I congratulate the board and Gwydir Shire Council for taking this proactive step towards securing the long-term financial viability of the club." "I encourage the Warialda community to formalise their memberships, support the club and work to ensure it remains a vibrant part of the Gwydir Shire."

Gwydir Shire Mayor John Coulton, left, Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall and Club Board Chairman Matthew Williams officially open the renovated space

VETS VOTE TO INVITE WOMEN

Warialda Veterens Golf members recently voted that any ladies of veteran age (over 50 years), are invited to be part of their regular Friday afternoon 12-hole competition.

Soon after the decision was made, they were joined by Ladies Vet, Lesa Dawson.

PHYSICAL CULTURE CHAMPIONS

Lea's School of Physical Culture Club Championships were held in Warialda on September 19. The following were division champions.

Preschoolers who performed: Warialda - Tori McClymont, Clairabelle Harrison and Kaylee Rogers. Bingara - Maggie Cameron, Shia-lee Kerrigan, Lani Andrews, Olympia Peterson and Chloe Foster.

Tiny Tots: Warialda - 1st Ruby Hodges

Participation - Miaah Brazil, Ivy Smith and Mia-Rose Bussell

Bingara - 1st Abbi O'Grady

Teeny Boppers, 8 - 9 Years: Warialda - 1st Lauren Moxey, Bingara - 1st Jessica Smith

Teeny Boppers, 10-12 years: Bingara - 1st Aylah Mounter, Bloomfield

Teen: Warialda - 1st Lilly Brice, Bingara - 1st Blair Johnson

Ladies: Warialda - 1st Sarah-Jane Turner, Bingara - 1st Emma Smith

Seniors: Bingara - Karys Smith

Club Champions: Warialda - Lauren Moxey, Bingara - Blaire Johnson

Marching Champions: Warialda Poppie McClymont and Lilly Brice, Bingara - Abbie O'Grady and Zoe Allen

Principal's Award: Warialda - Anastasia Moore, Bingara - Summer Rowleson.



Lauren Moxey, Warialda, and Blaire Johnson, Bingara, were awarded Club Champions at last month's Physical Culture Presentation

Be Creative

CHALLENGE

by 27th
November
2021

Help Warialda become an inspiring, creative & exciting place for visitors and residents.

Build, knit, sew, sculpt, nail, paint, hang, bend, weld, tie, drill, glue or colour, and put them on display for the whole world to see.

Enquiries to Shelly Way, Warialda High School (02) 6729 1000

GWYDIR RESIDENTS KEEN TO DIVE INTO THE 2021 POOL SEASON



Above: Bingara Pool joins Warialda in utilising blankets overnight to improve water temperatures.

Gwydir Shire Council have recently announced that entry to Council run swimming pools will once again be free for residents and rate payers for the 2021/2022 season. The news has been met with delight, and locals have taken to social media to express their praise for this Council initiative.

This will be the third year in a row that Council has waived entry fees for its residents and ratepayers. The initiative was first introduced in 2018 following the prolonged drought and heat wave conditions across the region, which saw temperatures reach well into the forties for much of the summer. Last season the trial was extended so that every day was free entry.

Gwydir Shire Council Mayor, Cr John Coulton said, 'The Heat and Dry Scheme proved to be an incredibly popular program and Council is excited to be able to offer it again. It is important to Council that our community fully utilises and enjoys our wonderful centres for the whole of the 2021/2022 season'.

Gwydir Shire Council maintains swimming pools in the towns of Bingara and Warialda ensuring residents from across the Shire can take full advantage of the facilities.

Further adding to the appeal of the centres is the recent upgrades to the Warialda pool facility which has seen the installation of a heating system, all access amenities, a new chemical tank and dosing pump, and a full upgrade of the site's electricals and plumbing. Further upgrades to the Warialda pool are currently in planning.

In Bingara, the community will continue to enjoy the new 25m swimming pool, all-access amenities, and splash park. Further upgrades to the Warialda pool are currently in planning. Heating blankets are being placed on the pool every night to ensure the optimum temperature.

The 2021/2022 swimming season opened on the long weekend in Saturday 2nd October and both pools are open every day (except Christmas Day and Boxing Day) from 11am to 6pm to Easter 2022.

WARIALDA'S MOST PASSIONATE BUNNIES SUPPORTER

Doug Hodge, picture right, Warialda's most devoted South Sydney Rabbitohs supporter, has red and green blood pumping through his veins.

So passionate about the NRL team is he that for many years his home and castle has been a fixture of the red, green and the white.

It was not to be this season, with the team narrowly beaten in a tight grandfinal match by the Penrith Panthers recently, but as they say, "there's always next year."



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