

UPPER HORTON BUCKS COVID WOES



Competitors in the ladies section line up to compete at the Upper Horton Campdraft after the event was held for the first time in four years

Order has been restored in Upper Horton with the village hosting its rodeo and campdraft once again. After years of disruption due to drought and COVID-19, the event was held over the New Year's weekend with over 1200 excited eventgoers supporting the much-anticipated occasion.

With an impressive number of registered campdraft entrants, the three-day weekend was always set to be jam-packed with action. A full program was on offer and was scheduled to ensure compliance with number limitations. The easing of border restrictions in recent weeks allowed competitors to travel from further afield bringing a boost to numbers.

In the end, it was Brett Smyth of Bendemeer who took out the Open Campdraft event.

Event President David Kelly told The Gwydir News that it was a relief to get the weekend underway after a four year break.

"We hadn't run since 2017/18, with the drought and then COVID-19. It's green and the grounds have never looked better," he said.

A highlight event on New Year's Eve was the CL Squires and Co APRA affiliated, Extreme Broncs competition. The Horton Valley's 'Big Valley Blowout' was the final event of the year for Xtreme Broncs Australia.

A total of 35 competitors, with a strong NSW contingent and some from as far away as Mt Isa, made the trip to vie for the title. Champions Brad Pierce, the Knight Brothers, Heath Chalmers, Josh Barnett, Greg Hamilton, Tony Caldwell, Tim Hammond and Jack McKenzie were joined by hot rookies Sam Weston, Clint Read, Jayden Blacker and Lachie Sheppard for the competition.

The quality of entrants was a talking point with the local Gill brothers back home and two of Australia's greatest, Rhys Angland and Glen Kent, coming out of retirement for the weekend, with six Australian

champion broncs bucked on the night.

With \$5,000 on the line there was fierce competition, however Greg Hamilton from Augathella, Queensland was too good on the night, taking out the title.

An audience highlight was the Edwards Livestock Junior Rodeo.

continued page 2....



We offer a wide range of tax and accounting services including:

- Farm & Agribusiness Accounting
- Tax Planning
- Cashflow Forecasting
- Xero Setup, Support & Bookkeeping Review
- Income Tax Returns
- BASs & Management Accounting
- Comprehensive Tax Advice
- Succession Planning

Simon Groth, CA
 36 Maitland St, Bingara
 Ph (02) 67 241 658
 simon@gwydirca.com.au





COLLEGE CHAT

with Jannette Tan

Bingara and Warialda Community College

I hope you have all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are all back and ready for an exciting new year, with exciting plans for both campuses in Term 1. The Bingara Campus is now open five days per week.

- Certificate III in Business Administration
- Certificate III Individual Support Ageing.
- First Aid: HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation; HLTAID010 Provide basic emergency life support; and HLTAID011 Provide first aid, HLTAID012 Provide first aid in an education and care setting.
- Woodwork for Beginners, Introduction to Welding.
- RSA/RCG, Food Handling and Barista.
- Chemical User, Traffic Control, Working Under Powerlines, White Card, Safely Access the Rail Corridor, and Chainsaw.
- Tech Savvy Seniors, Get Digital and Digital Skills.
- Leatherwork, Needlecraft and Resin-making.

With all these wonderful classes organised, I am certain it will keep you all out of mischief for Term 1.

Let me know if you have any ideas or requests for Term 2.

All our classes are starting early February so get in quick to save a spot. With some of our classes, there is funding available for eligible students.

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

..... from page 1

Local poddy riders took to centre stage on New Year's Day.

"A huge shout out to our major sponsor, CL Squires and Co for all their support."

"We are so grateful to Gwydir Shire Council who assisted with everything we asked for, whatever we needed, which changed often as the restrictions did," said Mr Kelly.

"And, to the community that all pitched in,

it's got the Club back on the ground. We all did it for the Horton Sports Club. It's been battling without any events for the past couple of years."

"It was just great for everyone to be able to get out and enjoy themselves," said Mr Kelly.

Just like that, 2022 is underway and the committee is looking forward and planning for their mid-year draft.

KNOW THE SIGNS: NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO HELP PEOPLE IN NEW ENGLAND TO BETTER UNDERSTAND EMERGENCY WARNINGS

The Australian Government has launched a \$2 million national campaign to ensure Australians impacted by bushfires and other natural hazards better understand what to do when they receive a warning message.

The education campaign will initially appear on social and digital channels, with local agencies targeting key audiences, providing information on the three levels of warnings and the high-level actions the public need to take to stay safe.

The three warning categories are:

- Advice: An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

- Watch and Act: There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.

- Emergency Warning: An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce said the Australian Warning System is now in place to alert the local community of bushfires and will extend over time to include floods, storms, cyclones, extreme heat and severe weather events.

"The campaign will ensure that we all have a clear understanding of what we need to do when we see an emergency warning message, regardless of where we're living, working or holidaying. This will potentially save lives."

"I commend our local fire and emergency service agencies who have worked with their counterparts in other jurisdictions to make this life-saving initiative happen."

Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience, Senator Bridget McKenzie said the education campaign is in response to a recommendation from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.

"The Royal Commission recommended that state and territory governments urgently implement the Australian Warning System accompanied by a national education campaign to improve public understanding of the warning system," Minister McKenzie said.

"The Australian Warning System provides nationally consistent emergency warnings through three warning levels: Advice – Watch and Act – Emergency Warning.

"Support from the Australian Government for this national education campaign will help to improve public awareness and understanding of emergency warnings throughout the country."

The \$2 million contribution from the Australian Government for this awareness and education campaign complements the work being done by hazard management agencies in each state and territory to embed the Australian Warning System into their operations, including training, technology platforms and communications.

For more information visit:

www.knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/australian-warning-system/



GOOD NEWS. WE'RE INVESTING IN SNOWY 2.0, WHICH MEANS MORE JOBS FOR REGIONAL NSW.

And more support for
renewable energy.

FIND OUT MORE AT
[POSITIVEENERGY.GOV.AU](https://www.positiveenergy.gov.au)



Australian Government

AUSTRALIA'S
MAKING
POSITIVE
ENERGY

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

From Mt Larcombe to downtown Bingara

Contributed by Jan Rose



BEFORE BINGARA

Originating from a farm purchase in 1942, the Lucke family at Mt Larcomb in Queensland progressively established an intensive livestock industry based on poultry and pigs from the 1960s onward.

The four brothers, including Alec, inherited the enterprise located on 160 acres of fertile, scrubby soil of volcanic origin (terra rosa), formed from limestone. In 1968, Heather joined the other three family units. On her first farm visit Alec remarked, *'We are about to enter the valley of plenty'*. Heather coyly asked, *'Of what?'* *'Work!'* was the reply.

Over a ten-week cycle, flocks of 10,000 chickens were raised over water pits and between batches, the sheds were hosed out and the slurry pumped away. At one stage, for an extended period, day-old chicks were transported from Tamworth to Mt Larcomb, to be grown, processed in the farm abattoir then dispatched to places such as Rockhampton, Mackay and Gladstone. In Cairns, the product was sold to Coles for \$1 per kilo.

Triple deck loads of pork were sent to Nolan Meat's Gympie Abattoir each week. This was an intensive livestock operation demanding close family co-operation and interdependence, alongside rearing of families and the resilience to cope with variability of commodity prices, droughts and unpredictable markets. In those years the Lucke families could be labelled 'economic generators' and pioneers of today's 'paddock to plate'.

IT WAS TIME!

The brothers began thinking of retirement and change in 2006, with the children growing up and some leaving the nest.

WHERE TO NOW?

The family farm, the source of so many challenges and experiences, the host to so much knowledge, was sold. Alec and Heather took long drives to various possible retirement venues, driving into NSW and Singleton where their son was working, through the Hunter and into north-west NSW. It was time to buy a house, but where? On crossing the bridge into Bingara, they observed the beautiful river. Water - a certainty at last! A very welcoming real estate agent, Judy Northcott, pointed them to 27 Riddell Street, an address which Heather had already admired online.

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

The house had been the site of the Flour Mill in Bingara in the 1880s. In 1937, an architecturally designed house was built there by Frank

and Di King from which, in 1938, Joan Bull dressed and left for her wedding to Wilson Bull. November 2021 has seen the passing of Joan at the grand age of 104. Later owners were Margaret Delaney, Phillip Maltby and Ted and Helen Jack.

The house in 2007 was old, of course, and in need of major repairs. Foundations needed restumping but, reminiscent of an earlier era, it cried out for some TLC. The garden was no longer viable - some scattered roses, several trees including Himalayan cedars, poor drainage, scant evidence of buffalo lawn and underground sprinklers. Alec and Heather decided to preserve what they could and were successful with a few of the original roses.

WHAT TO DO NOW?

Heather and Alec came with several ideas - they wanted a garden with very little lawn to mow - they would like to be self-sufficient with fruit and vegetables. Heather had a special interest in and love for birds, frogs and insects and their protection and encouragement in their new garden. They both came equipped with many life skills, certainly loving beautiful flowers and ready for the challenges they would inevitably face.

Curiosity became their master as they investigated the soil in this garden. Gwydir Shire Council assisted with soil-testing and it was found that there was some arsenic contamination of the soil which was also deficient in nitrogen, high in phosphorus and salt and low in calcium.

Every effort has been made to build up and improve soil quality - loads of mulch from the Tip and truckloads from ETS Power providers as well as blood and bone, gypsum, seasol, seaweed and mushroom compost. Garden trimmings are mulched and added as cover to the soil. For the fruit trees Alec built brick casings and then imported Warialda soil and the trees are flourishing - drainage was corrected and now navel oranges, mandarins, guavas, peaches, apricots, mariposa and European plums, mangos, pears and columnar apples are happily protected with fruit fly netting.

GARDEN ROOMS

The Lucke's extensive garden today has several 'rooms' which are defined by various structures - there is a large ornamental grape trellis enhancing the front entrance, a gabian wall with trellis over top on the Cunningham Street side, a firepit area with ornamentals, the raised and covered vegetable beds, an area of circular ponds with resident tadpoles and the magnificent roses growing along the back verandah to name a few.

They have a special interest in Eremophila - the grey leaf grafted onto a hardy root stock which grow prolifically along a verandah wall.

A gardener's job is never done and Heather and Alec have a few little 'projects' going on such as the jujube tree (Chinese date), the mysterious lily plant with the flowers still not open, the prostrate wattle and the latest project, the beautiful fence, a great credit to Alec's determination and resilience.

Well done to Heather and Alec for a joint project, thoughtfully and lovingly developed, and now the regular provider of beautiful flowers to be arranged and given to Touriandi residents for their birthdays.





Winning image of the Harvesting the Golden Triangle photo competition , taken by Lachlan Wolfgang-Hicks

Croppa Creek Store had an overwhelming response to their Harvesting the Golden Triangle competition with a host of images portraying the experience of this year's storm-charged harvest.

As they say, a picture paints a thousand words and this one sums up the 2021 harvest to a tee. The competition showcased the incredible

highs, lows and beauty of harvest across the Golden Triangle. The winning image will be on display in the Croppa Creek Store for all to take a closer look.

The 2021 competition was the Store's inaugural event in what they are anticipating will become an annual one.



Australian Government

OFFICIAL ADVICE

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is easy at one of more than 10,000 locations in Australia.

Book now australia.gov.au

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

COOLATAI BLEATS PRAISES OF GOAT GRAZING FIRE MITIGATION TRIAL



Meeting one of NSW RFS' new elite goat hazard reduction brigades are NSW RFS Director Jayson McKellar, left, Senior Natural Resource Management Officer Crown Lands Vicky Lyons, Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall, NSW RFS Chief Superintendent Heath Stimson, Valleyview Farm Goats Operations Manager Vlad Vlasoff, NSW RFS Inspector Scott Mack, NSW RFS Superintendent Paul Whiteley and Valleyview Farm Goats Director Victoria Vlasoff, right.

COOLATAI is the latest community to 'bleat' the praises of a unique new fire mitigation trial, with Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall this week joining NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) crews to meet one of the State's elite goat hazard reduction brigades.

Mr Marshall said the 50-strong herd had been hired as a result of a recommendation of the Independent Bushfire Inquiry into the Black Summer bushfires of 2019/20.

"As the smoke cleared after the Black Summer bushfires, it was clear to everyone a new approach to fire mitigation was required in NSW," Mr Marshall said.

"As a result, NSW RFS has been trialling herds of goats as a way of knocking-down heavy vegetation in areas that are difficult to clear through traditional hazard reduction techniques."

"The supervised goats, which are from Tamworth, have moved into Coolatai where they are strip grazing a 2.3 hectare block of Crown Land on the western edge of the village," he said.

Victoria Vlasoff of Valleyview Farm Goats, says she came to goat farming later in life as a change of career, having previously been a teacher.

Along with husband Vlad and the couples children, she works with their goats in cells

to clear an area over a six to eight week period, checking on them daily to ensure that they remain in their allocated space and keep neighbourly relations at peace.

"These kids are definitely not working on an empty stomach with estimates they will chew through approximately a quarter of a hectare of dense vegetation in two weeks, and medium density vegetation in one week."

"If you think about the rugged terrain of our region this novel solution for managing vegetation is just the thing for protecting people's lives and property, and the best thing is it can be implemented rain, hail or shine, 365 days a year."

The goat trial at Coolatai has been a joint initiative between the NSW RFS Community Risk Team at North Western Area Command, Crown Lands (Land Manager) and Local Land Services (Land Manager).

While in the area the RFS hopes to slash on an asset protection zone on an area of about 2.2 hectares behind a residence on the western side of the village.

The NSW Government has committed almost half-a-billion dollars in response to the Inquiry, which includes almost \$38 million for additional mitigation crews to deliver greater hazard reduction, with a total of 176,499 hectares treated in 2020-2021.

\$50,000 GRANTS FOR NEW ENGLAND PRIMARY PRODUCERS IMPACTED BY NSW FLOODS

Primary producers in New England that have been impacted by the November floods will have access to grants of up to \$50,000.

Assistance is being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce said New England local farmers have been hit especially hard by this severe weather event across regional NSW.

"Eligible primary producers will now have access to grants of up to \$50,000 to help them get back on their feet.

"In regions like New England we've seen farming communities dealt another cruel blow after years of compounding disasters," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

The Australian and New South Wales Governments are jointly committing more than \$80 million to make assistance immediately available for eligible local New England primary producers.

New England primary producers will be able to access grants for recovery and reinstatement activities, including salvaging crops and repairing damaged farm infrastructure and equipment.

"These grants will enable eligible primary production enterprises to access \$10,000 up-front to help with initial recovery costs, and a further \$40,000 to continue repairing the damage to their property, if required," Mr Joyce said.

"I encourage farmers impacted by the recent flooding to apply so they can get back to operating as soon as possible."

For information on personal hardship and distress assistance, contact Service NSW on **13 77 88**.

To find out more and apply for a primary producer grant, visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/disaster-recovery-grants



PINK FUNDRAISER CHEQUE ACCEPTED WITH GRATITUDE

Proud Principal of Bingara Central School, Brooke Wall was on hand when students Tamiya McClymont, Blair Johnson and Zoe Allen presented Cr Catherine Egan of Bingara Community Comfort with a cheque for \$2402.45. The sizeable total came from fundraising efforts at school and business houses earlier in late 2021.

From left: Tamiya McClymont, Cr Catherine Egan, Blaire Johnson, Zoe Allen and Bingara Central School Principal Brooke Wall



The North West Theatre Company will be hosting a trivia night on Saturday February 12, to be held at the Roxy Theatre, Bingara.

The Company is inviting everyone to come along as a team of 6 - 10, and is encouraging you to give yourselves a great name, and to dress up to match.

There will be prizes on offer throughout the night.

Tickets (\$10 per person) are available at the Bingara Visitor Information Centre.

Team numbers are limited, so get in soon!

NWTC's first movie for the season, *Ghandi*, will be screened on February 27.

ADVERTISEMENT



Proud to be your representative in NSW



Adam Marshall MP

your Member for Northern Tablelands
Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW

Armidale office: Suite 1, 175 Rusden Street, Armidale NSW 2350

Phone: 02 6772 5552

Mail: PO Box 77, Armidale NSW 2350

Email: northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.adammarshall.com.au

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



Bingara Australia Day plans set to bring community together



Bingara Special Events Committee would like to invite the community to join together with committee members and Australia Day Guest race caller extraordinaire, esteemed radio announcer Greg Kachel, in celebrating Australia Day 2022 at the local Awards Ceremony and community breakfast barbeque.

Australia Day Guest, Greg Kachel, is no stranger to Bingara. He was born and educated in Inverell, and after spending four years at the Department of Motor Transport in Sydney, returned in 1976 to take up a trainee announcer's position with Radio 2NZ.

In 1987, he was appointed General Manager, a position he held for more than 30 years. In that time he oversaw the establishment of 2NZ's sister station GEM-FM in the early 90s.

During these years, Greg became well recognised throughout the region, donating his time to compere events and assisting community groups with publicity. He provided commentary on rugby league and Bingara Cup race meetings, even the infamous Bingara Duck Race.

In 2008, Greg took on the role of chief-of-staff for now-retired NSW National Party Federal Senator John (Wacka) Williams.

Greg semi-retired in June 2019, although he now calls horse racing for Sky Channel.

For his service to the Inverell community, Greg was named Citizen of the Year in 1992, proudly carried the Olympic torch in 2000 and is a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow. The Paul Harris Fellow is a recognition which acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name to the Rotary Foundation.

It has been said that Greg is one of bush racing's biggest assets - behind the microphone as well as away from it.

The local Awards Ceremony, hosted by the Special Events Committee, will be held in the Roxy Theatre on Wednesday, January 26 starting at 8:00am with a community breakfast barbeque which will be prepared by the Lions Club of Bingara.

The breakfast will be followed by the formal part of the morning with the introduction of the flag bearing party and the Welcome to Country, to be delivered by Bingara Central School Secondary and Primary Captains and Vice-Captains in their first official role for 2022.

The morning's program will also include the Prayer to the Nation, introduction of the Australia Day Guest who will be invited to deliver the Australia Day address, presentation of the Awards in the categories for Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Volunteer or Volunteer Group of the Year and Community Event of the Year.

The morning will conclude with a pin presentation and gift to the Australia Day Guest on behalf of the community.

At this stage, those attending the Australia Day Breakfast and Awards Ceremony will be required to QR Code sign in and masks must be worn in line with government regulations.

For more information on how you can nominate a member of the local community for the Local Bingara Citizen of the Year Awards or the community breakfast and Awards Ceremony, contact Jen Mead, Tourist Officer at Bingara Visitor Information Centre or call **6724 0066** during business hours.

Greg Kachel,, former radio announcer and race caller, has been announced as Bingara's Australia Day guest



Part Time Employment Opportunity.
Coordinator
16 hours/week Temporary Part Time to 30 June 2023.

An opportunity exists to join Northern Slopes Landcare Association (NSLA) as a **Coordinator** for 16 hours per week. Wages commensurate with age and experience.

Selection Criteria includes

- Demonstrated well developed written and oral communication skills, including a high level of competence in the use of Outlook, Word, Excel, and the internet.
- Sound understanding of natural resource management issues in the region and empathy with the local community
- Demonstrated ability to work with and develop community groups, including group facilitation, action planning and mediation skills
- Demonstrated Grant Writing skills
- Demonstrated ability to work with minimum supervision, use initiative and work as part of a team or network
- Ability and willingness to work outside office hours on occasion to contact landholders and attend community group meetings
- Current Drivers Licence

To receive a full position description and selection criteria,
phone Shelley McDouall, Office Manager, Northern Slopes Landcare Association,
0474 887 982, or email admin@nsla.net.au

Applications close COB Wednesday 19th January, 2022

Applications addressing the selection criteria should be emailed to admin@nsla.net.au

Warialda Australia Day Ambassador announced

The announcement has been made; Mr John Harper will be Warialda's Australia Day ambassador for 2022. Mr Harper is a wheat and sheep farmer from Stockinbingal, southern NSW, who, in 2006, began *Mate helping Mate* in the north-east Riverina.

John had recognised that as a consequence of the continuing drought and being rural or regional, many of his neighbours were becoming isolated or socially withdrawn. Having experienced depression, John understood that this isolation and withdrawal placed people at risk of developing a mental illness.

Mate helping Mate is based on social and creative self-help strategies for managing difficult times and revolves around the benefits of mateship and a sense of community. John has a unique visual method of presenting his information that appeals to a broad audience and has enabled people to understand the concepts of mental wellbeing John wishes to impart. For example, John uses the visual aid of a slippery dip to explain the 'slide into depression'.

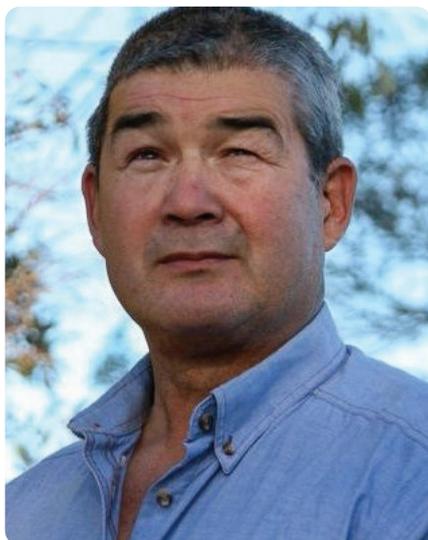
From 2007 to the present, John has given a lot of his time voluntarily to speak at rural mental health, drought and general agribusiness events. Organisations such as WorkCover NSW, YWCA of NSW and Centacare have also sponsored John to speak and present at events.

Mate helping Mate has proved so successful and engaging that John is busily speaking across eastern Australia. The program has been widely promoted and supported by media, resulting in John being a finalist in the NSW Australian of the Year (Local Hero) for 2009, a Pride of Australia medal (Community Spirit) 2008 and with being honoured by Rotary with a Paul Harris Fellow even though not a Rotarian.

John is convinced that ultimately everybody wants to be happy and enjoy their life. Mateship, family and community are paramount in achieving this goal and John is focused in promoting awareness and action in these specific areas.

According to John, mates, family and the community should enjoy the good times together and care about the individuals during the bad. It is a simple concept, it is the Australian way and it is John Harper's way.

Festivities are set to get underway from 7:30am for breakfast, at the Warialda Show Ground. All welcome.



Mate Helping a Mate founder, Mr John Harper, will be this year's ambassador for Australia Day in Warialda

BACK TO UPPER BINGARA WEEKEND COMING, MAY 2022

Organisers are claiming the dates of 21 and 22 May as a plan to host a 'Back to Upper Bingara' weekend gathers momentum.

Currently, a small committee has formed to get preparations underway for an event which hopes to be packed to the brim with reunions, presentations and recollections.

Mr Philip Young says that whilst in the early stages of planning, he is confident that the weekend will come together with the support of community members past and present.

"We have consent to use the hall and are hoping to have the cooperation of bus services and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service volunteers to assist in the running of the weekend."

"There will be an Ecumenical church service hosted by the Anglican Bishop of Armidale, Rev. Rod Chiswell, on the Sunday morning that everyone will be welcomed to."

"A Withers family reunion of sorts will be held, along with a recreation of some Empire Day Games, bonfire and a book launch."

In addition, there will be a presentation of the radio play, 'Under the Stringy Bark', in which the author (Prof. Will Christie of 'Under the Mulga Wood') has given consent for names to be changed to characters of past Upper Bingara residents.

Further information will become available as plans are formalised.

SAVE THE DATE!
ROVING TRAPPER WORKSHOP SERIES

Featuring professional pest animal trapper Mark Lamb

FEBRUARY 21, 2022 DELUNGRA
MARCH 1, 2022 GULF CREEK
MARCH 2, GRAVESEND

ALL EVENTS WILL BE RUN UNDER NSW HEALTH ORDERS

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT SHELLEY ON 02 6724 2052

Logos for Southern Blue Landcare, NSW Local Land Services, and Landcare NSW are visible at the bottom.

THE NSW ELECTORAL COMMISSION CONFIRMS COUNCILLORS AFTER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS



Cr Catherine Egan



Cr David Coulton



Cr Marilyn Dixon OAM



Cr Jim Moore



Cr John Coulton



CR Geoff Smith



Cr Chris Matthews



Cr Lyndon Mulligan



CR Tiffany Galvin

Gwydir Shire Councillors elected to serve the community have been declared after preference distribution was finalised following Local Government Elections held in December.

Nine Councillors were elected from ten candidates to serve the next term, with two new faces joining seven returning representatives.

The Gwydir Shire Councillors, as declared by the NSW Electoral Commission on December 21 are:

- Tiffany GALVIN
- John COULTON
- Chris MATTHEWS
- Marilyn DIXON
- David COULTON
- Jim (Curly) MOORE
- Catherine EGAN
- Lyndon MULLIGAN
- Geoffrey SMITH

The final tally of first preference votes recorded were: John Coulton 617,

Tiffany Galvin 449, Chris Matthews 381, Marilyn Dixon 293, David Coulton 262, Lyndon Mulligan 245, Jim Moore 236, Catherine Egan 200, Geoffrey Smith 173 and Frances Young 84.

There were 3,771 residential and non-residential electors enrolled in the Gwydir Shire, with 3,073 total votes/ballot papers.

Elected Councillors will now attend the next scheduled Gwydir Shire Council meeting on Tuesday January 11 when the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be decided.

FARMING FAMILY EXPANDS LUXURY ACCOMMODATION TO KEEP UP WITH DEMAND FROM AUSTRALIAN TRAVELLERS



Above: Faraway Domes set on an escarpment in the countryside of Northern New South Wales

Following the success of its booked-out accommodation, established to diversify the farming operation during the drought, Faraway Domes is opening a new five-star dome.

Bookings are now open for the much-anticipated new dome, which is set on the Munsie's 9,000 acre mixed farming operation, in the New South Wales region of Warialda .

The new luxury geodesic dome includes a fire pit, king size bed, private plunge pool and an outdoor bath overlooking some of the most spectacular views of outback Australia.

The award-winning retreat has been dubbed as 'one of Australia's most unique experiences' with capacity rates currently at an all-time high from travellers wanting to explore regional Australia in style.

Guests will feel the luxury of seclusion on 9,000 acres of Australian bushland. The additional dome is perfect for couples wanting to visit with friends, with the option of renting out both domes at the same time.

The deluxe eco-retreat was created with comfort and luxury in mind, with each dome featuring air-conditioning, an ensuite, a fully functional kitchen and an elevated private deck to enjoy

uninterrupted views of outback Australia. Guests also have the option to book an in-dome massage or beauty treatment during their stay.

Faraway Domes is co-owned by Jaime and Belinda Munsie, who first launched the luxury retreat in 2018 during the worst drought on record to safeguard the future of their farming enterprise.

After taking out the best New Tourism Business at the prestigious NSW Tourism Awards in 2019, Belinda said it is an exciting time to expand *Faraway Domes* with so much to offer to those looking for a private retreat as their next getaway.

"It's been so rewarding to see how many people want to travel to outback Australia and experience what we have to offer, while enjoying first class comfort."

"We've had guests stay from all over Australia and around the globe including Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Canberra as well as Canada, the UK, China, USA and Switzerland," said Belinda.

She believes now is the perfect time for the business to expand its offerings to meet the high demand for luxury holiday experiences in regional Australia.

"With occupancy rates currently at 86%, things are slowly getting back to normal after COVID-19 lockdowns, so we're hoping more travellers can get out to experience why regional and rural Australia is so unique," she said.

Faraway Domes CEO and daughter of Belinda and Jaime, Kate Munsie, said the family business is thrilled to be able to share the experience with more guests.

"There really is nothing else like it. Our wildlife, birdlife, views, walking trails and the astonishing landscape draws guests back on repeat visits."

"For people who love the outdoors and enjoy a touch of bush luxury, a stay at *Faraway Domes* is a must," said Kate.

Faraway Domes offers accommodation from \$485 per night, twin-share. Visit www.farawaydomes.com for more information.



Left: An outdoor plunge pool with exceptional views on site at Faraway Domes

FESTIVE SEASON BRINGS JOY ACROSS THE REGION AFTER TOUGH YEAR FOR MANY

CROPPA CHRISTMAS

Members and visitor of Croppa Creek Bowling Club came together in mid-December to remember the challenging year that was and celebrate the festive season together.

Life Memberships were presented at the party to three loyal and long-standing members that have continuously supported and assisted the Club in every way possible. Congratulations to those members; Val Campbell, Lorraine Dorrington and Clyde Gardner.

“Thank you to our wonderful community for helping us pull off another great Christmas Party. It has been a whirlwind of a year we’ve all had, and we still managed to enjoy ourselves and be grateful for everyone around us,” said Club Secretary, Taylor Pankhurst.

“Thank you to all our supporting members for being part of the Croppa Creek Bowling Club. We hope everyone stays safe during the holidays.”

Coolatai shares in the festive Spirit



Santa had a very busy led up to Christmas, visiting many of the towns and villages within Gwydir Shire.

An appearance was made at the Coolatai Christmas Tree on Saturday 18 December in the local fire truck. Children were full of excitement and participated in a number of activities including *Best Dressed Wheels*. This event consisted of the most decorated scooter, bike or roller-skates. There was also a hotly contested prize on offer for the Most Festive-inspired Outfit.

Parents happily snapped up the opportunity to get a photo with Santa, after all, he only makes an appearance once a year. Locals said it was an enjoyable evening and commented on how lovely it was that everyone could come together to share a nice meal.

The successful event was organised by Hannah Landrigan and Kirsty Durkin.



Top: Even the adults celebrated with Santa
Above: Coolatai's pets had all been nice and came with their wish lists for Santa too



Introducing a new local Bingara
Real Estate Agency

Professionals in Sales & Property
Management with great Competitive Rates.

Contact us today for more
information...

Phone: 02 6703 2900
Amanda Coddington: 0407 181 753
www.countrysidpropertygroup.com.au

WARIALDA PUTS ON A CRACKA OF A NIGHT



The Warialda Christmas Carnival Committee and Gwydir Shire Council successfully hosted the Warialda Christmas Carnival on Saturday 11 December at the Warialda Recreation Ground.

There was something for everyone at the Christmas Carnival with children particularly enjoying the inflatable amusement devices

provided by the Salvation Army and the petting zoo arranged by Ashley Gooda was also very popular.

Attendees were able to get a hold of some last-minute gifts for Christmas with an array of market and food stall holders set up for the occasion.

Melanie Dyer, Jackson James, Kyla Bell and Warialda Preschool entertained the crowd for the duration of the evening.

Thank you to Dave Conway for coming onboard to be the MC and ensuring everything ran to schedule this year.

Santa managed to take time out of his busy roster to meet and greet the kids with a bag of lollies. He even had time for photos.

COVID-19 regulations were in force. Thank you to the volunteers, Gwydir Shire Council staff and members of the Gwydir Youth Council who assisted attendees with check-in. This is quite a time-consuming task. Bring on the day where there are no COVID-19 check-ins.

A special mention to the Warialda Christmas Carnival Committee: Natasha Price, Elisha Hayes, Chloe Rose and Abby Fenton, without whom, the Christmas Carnival would not have happened. Their hard work went unseen for months prior to prepare for the event and the committee delivered a fantastic evening enjoyed by all in attendance.

Estimates indicated there was approximately 500 people who came along to the event.

Left: Tate Smith with Courtney Barwick and Hudson Egan enjoyed a fantastic summer evening at the Warialda Recreation Ground



Bingara makes last-minute move to ensure festivities went ahead

The Bingara Christmas Carnival was held Friday, December 3, at the town's Returned Services Club. A decision was made by the Bingara Special Events Committee earlier in the week to relocate the event from the Gwydir Oval due to persistent soggy ground underfoot. Unfortunately, stallholders were unable to attend, however, entertainment went ahead in the RSL function room.

Despite not being able to be held outdoors, the evening was a success thanks to the RSL team making a fantastic effort to accommodate the many attendees and families. Around 250 - 300 people joining in the celebrations over the course of the evening.

Children went wild for the arrival of Santa, who, from his Christmas chair joined the children in singing some carols before it was time for photos to be taken and lollies to be handed out.

Santa then got up to do some boot-scooting with the local Line Dancers during their demonstration. After a short pause for raffles, the remainder of the evening kicked on with Moree band *The Contingency Plan* entertaining many late into the night.

"Many thanks to the Special Events Committee members for making the most of an unfortunate situation and putting on a winner evening," said Gwydir Shire Council's Nic Hutton.

"Thanks also to the RSL Board and Vanessa's team for stepping up to look after the silly-season crowd, and to Santa of course. Not exactly the Christmas Carnival that was planned but the contingency was still a wonderful, festive night out!"

Top Left: Santa found William, Joseph and Thomas Crump at the Bingara RSL

Bottom Left: Santa joined the kids for some Christmas carols before taking time to have photographs

Gardens that Work with Nature offers tips to green thumbs and those that want to be



The Living Classroom's Amber Hall delivers practical gardening tips to Gwydir gardeners

Gwydir Ark group partnered with Northern Slopes Landcare recently to host a 'Gardens that work with Nature' workshop. Held at Bingara's The Living Classroom, the day attracted visitors from as far as Barraba, Moree and Inverell and was very well received by all.

Attendees were guided around The Living Classroom's gardens and greenhouse by Amber Hall, and shown best practice techniques for re-potting plants, planting out plants, and how to maintain and improve soil health for healthier plants and more nutrient rich produce.

you don't know," said one attendee.

Rick Hutton from The Living Classroom discussed the merits and principles of permaculture, explaining how some of the garden beds on display around The Living Classroom were designed and the reasoning behind them.

Peter Dawson from North West Local Land Services raised awareness on the need to consider how you dispose of excess or no longer wanted plants from your garden; the need to be conscious that some introduced species are prone to causing problems both to livestock and the natural landscape if they escape the confines of the garden.

Plants such as Harrisia Cactus and Tiger Pear are prime examples of garden 'escapees'. Such plants have become established in the region and are now a major pest, being classed as priority weeds.

"Amber's section on soil health and the relationship to plant health was fascinating. You don't know what

With delicious catering from Friends of Touriandi, there was much enthusiasm for the day to be repeated. Keep your eye out in the New Year for details on the next event.

FARM PLANNING WORKSHOP
 NEW DATE - THURSDAY 24TH & FRIDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2022
 THE LIVING CLASSROOM, BINGARA
 Presented by **Kim Deans**
 Regenerative Agriculture Educator

- Apply a whole farm planning design process and principles to two case study sites
- Learn how to design for resilience to climate extremes, optimise natural resources and economic potential
- Gain confidence and skills to apply to your own farm design

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

"This event will be run under NSW Health Orders".
 Book via Sticky Tickets
<https://www.stickytickets.com.au/A4306>

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

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

Naroo paints a treasure hunt



Residents at Naroo spent a busy period painting rocks, joining a trend across Australia which sees the colourful creations hidden in public spaces for children to find.

The treasures from Naroo were placed throughout All-Abilities Park for children to locate and keep.

According to Naroo staff member Lara Mitchell, residents thoroughly enjoy coming up with activities for the children in the community.

As a token of thanks, the residents would love to hear about which rock you might have found, perhaps in a letter that tells them all about your quest?

BINGARA PRESCHOOL GRADUATE CLASS OF 2021

Bingara Preschoolers said goodbye to 2021 with a fabulous day of celebration. Sixteen children graduated from the preschool and will commence at Bingara Central School from Friday February 4, following their Best Start interviews.

Preschool Director, Charmaine Reading, said that staff wanted

to make the day as special as possible, given the challenging year and limitations on family interactions throughout.

Formal photos started a fun-filled day, with games and dancing following. Children enjoyed party food at a specially decorated table where each of them found a framed

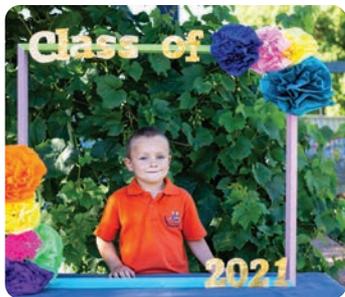
photograph of themselves hanging from above.

The Preschool class has been transitioning each Friday throughout 2021, as BCS 'Gritters', to be ready for Kindergarten.

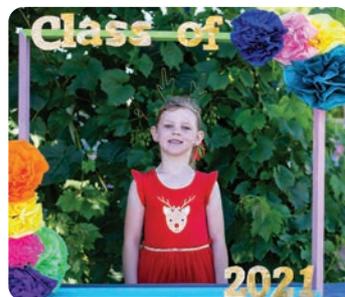
The Gwydir News asked each child to nominate their favourite thing about preschool.



Connor: Taking photos



Campbell: Digging dams and the slide



Mia: Everything!



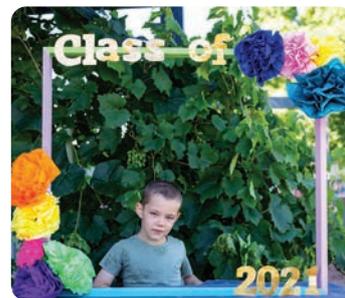
Summer: Playing with playdough



Jackson: Playing with friends



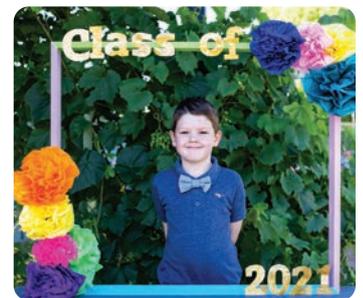
Shai-Lea: Riding the bikes



Roman: Playing with friends



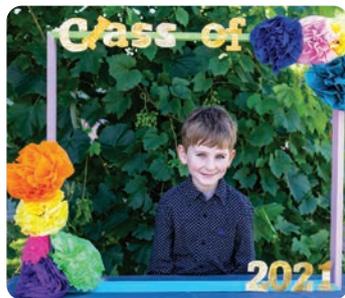
Sophie: Riding the bikes



Reeve: Playing with all my friends



Anna: Drawing



Jacob: Playing on the playground



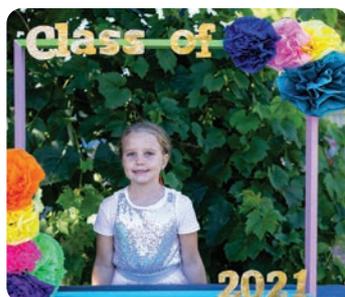
Lani: Playing with water, sand and slime



Chloe: Getting messy



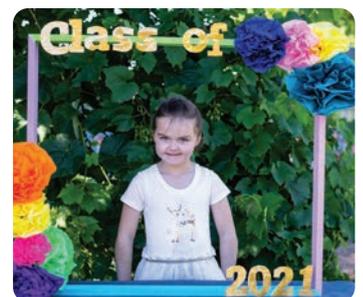
Braxton: Playing with friends and Reeve



Willow M: Slime!



Alora: Sliding to the bottom of the pole



Willow R: Playing in the sandpit

Moree Portrait Prize Winners Announced

The people have spoken and the Moree Portrait Prize People's Choice votes have been counted with Amy Canfield taking home the final award of the exhibition.

Over 350 votes were cast in the ballot with a \$500 prize courtesy of C&W Financial Services.

BAMM Acting Director Kate Tuart said that while there was a group of about five artworks that pulled ahead in the counting, Ms Canfield's painting, 'Perspective', was a clear winner.

Ms Tuart also commended Nicole Fitzgerald's portrait 'Our Little Queen of the Cloth' who received the second highest vote count.

The winning artwork is a unique self-portrait explained Ms Tuart.

"As the title suggests, the point of view is actually from the perspective of one of the portrait's subjects. The focus of the portrait, Ms Canfield, is seen from the perspective of someone looking down at her from above at a picnic."

"It's also hyper realistic, which is not often a style we often see here at BAMM, and small elements hint at the time period it was painted – a mask quickly being pulled below the chin for a photo during an outdoor picnic."

The artist, Ms Canfield, described the artwork as a painstaking process that took around 75 hours. The purpose was to capture the small joys that have been experienced in the past 12+ months, despite the hardship, with Ms Canfield saying it is 'all a matter of perspective.'

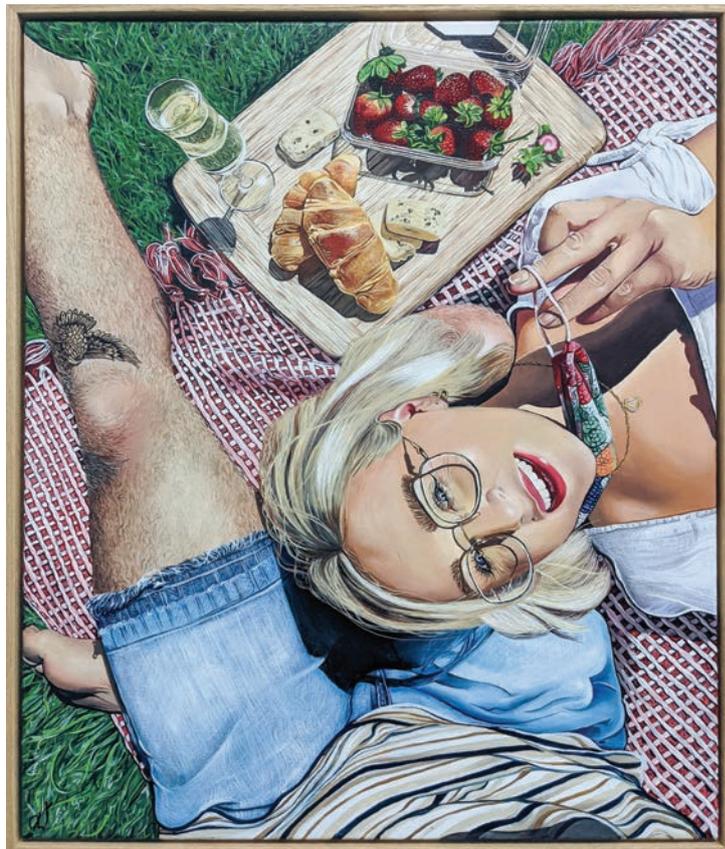
In 2022, Ms Canfield is looking to pursue a career in art more seriously and thanks BAMM and C&W Financial Services for the boost in confidence and resources that this prize offers.

Michael Picone, Managing Partner of C&W Financial Services and sponsor of the People's Choice Prize, applauded Ms Canfield on her artwork and congratulated all entrants to the exhibition for their efforts.

This is not the first time Ms Canfield has received recognition for her work, having taken out the People's Choice Award during the inaugural Moree Portrait Prize in 2017 and awarded the Grand Prize by guest judge and artist, Brenda Runnegar in 2018.

The People's Choice announcement followed last month's Awards Presentation Night when Bank Art Museum Moree announced Steven Jones as the \$5,000 Australian Food & Fibre Grand Prize Winner of the 2021 Moree Portrait Prize.

With over 190 entries this year, the exhibition itself was a huge success with \$7,500 awarded to artists across seven categories.



Moree Portrait Prize Peoples Choice winner, 'Perspective' by Amy Canfield

Along with talent from the Moree Plains Shire, the exhibition saw artworks by artists from Lightning Ridge to as far as Broome showcasing their works at BAMM and compete for the winning title.

This year, Bank Art Museum Moree (BAMM) invited a panel of judges to review and choose the winning artworks, comprising of Toby Osmond, Gallery Director of Yaama Ganu; Lizzie Von Gavel, an Artist, Art teacher and board member of the Moree Cultural Art Foundation; and special guest Bruce Tindale, an Artist, Arts Consultant and former Director of BAMM.

BAMM would like to thank their major sponsor, Australian Food & Fibre, for their support of the \$5,000 Grand Prize, which was awarded to Inverell artist, Stephen Jones for his enticing painting 'Mystery'. This artwork had instant appeal to judges and audiences alike, drawing them in to the sitter's thoughtful gaze and dappled style.

The Moree Portrait Prize has grown dramatically since its first year in 2017, when all categories were able to be displayed in the ground floor gallery. During the 2021 exhibition, artworks filled the entire building with over 190 works on display. Despite this, it seems Ms Canfield's style still captures and holds the attention of many locals and visitors to BAMM.

In 2022, BAMM hopes to see the calibre of the Moree Portrait Prize grow even further. Ms Tuart says the exhibition has now run for four years, with many artists entering year after year.

"In 2022, we expect the quality to continue growing as word spreads around the prestige of the prize, and our local adult and Under 18s artists see the value of art as a form of expression and a skill to be developed," she said.

BREATHE BETTER, SLEEP BETTER
6 in 1 Ultrasonic Atomizer
Specifically designed well-being device for the who family without the use of essential oils
 * SAFE FOR BABIES AND CHILDREN *
 * NO HEAT OR CONDENSATION *
 * NO BACTERIA *

WARIALDA PHARMACY
 6729 1511 HOPE STREET



WARIALDA HIGH SCHOOL



FINALLY A FORMAL

"This resilient group have weathered the storm of two years of endless disruptions to complete their HSC. Congratulations on your success Year 12 2021. Your graduation was delayed, shrouded in rules but you made it! Thank you to Nikki Rose Photography for capturing this special moment," said Year Advisor, Nicole Simmons.

*Warialda High School Class of 2021 celebrated with a formal to mark the end of their 13 years of schooling
Back row: Lucy Doney-Tonks, Rachel Coulton, Byron La Fontaine, Lachlan Wood, Ben Perry, Alex Smith, Brock Byers
Front row: Jacqui Woodward, Courtney Barwick, Grace Lockyer, Charlotte Lockyer, Jade Baker, Brittney Ford, Abigail Dunicliff, Cassie Hobday and Mardie Clingner*



WARIALDA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Congratulations to the newly inducted 2022 student leaders. New Prefects are Sam Lyons and Holly Whalan; Vice Captains are Tyler Campbell and Annie Ramsay and 2022 Captains are Kingston Hall and Lucy Kelly.

Sporting Houses will be lead by Harrison Brooks, Mason Nieduu, Darcy Hawkins, Alec Michel, Elsie Taylor, Ava Brown, Millie Taylor and Whitney-Eve Sherman.

I applaud every student who participated in the process.

Dan van Velthuisen - Principal



Bingara Central School

Brooke Wall - Principal

CATTLE CLUB SUCCESS

Bingara Central School Cattle Club students were eager to participate in the Northern Schools Prime Cattle Competition earlier this year. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the students couldn't attend on site and so, the cattle were sent to Inverell to be judged instead. We are pleased to announce that they were awarded the following awards: Champion Heavyweight Hook and Reserve Champion Hook.



FAREWELL MR COOMBES

After 10 years, Mr Rob Coombes has hang up his hat as the school's General Assistant and Farm Assistant. Since 2011, when he came in to relieve Mr Grinner so that he could go on holidays, Mr Coombes has been a part of the school community.

It didn't matter what he was asked to assist with by the multitude of staff members, he just found the time in his day to get the job done. We would refer to ourselves as his other 30 wives when we were asking for furniture to be moved with the upgrades to all the classrooms, or when Ms Coddington was making changes to the library to suit the needs of our students.

He has been the right-hand man to Mr McGowan and Mr Mill, as well as all the students who have undertaken Mandatory Technology, Agricultural Science and Primary Industries over the years. He was well respected by all the students and calmly worked in with classes to assist with their development of agricultural knowledge. Mr Coombes is one of the best in his field and will be sorely missed, however, the enterprise of his farm is calling him now that we are in much more prosperous times. 'Coombsey' will always be a part of our day since we have immortalised him in a mural which sits overlooking the Ag plot at Bingara Central School.

Bingara Central School students in their new Cattle Club work shirts and parade shirts, with prize ribbons from their recent successes



JANUARY BACK IN TIME... WARIALDA STANDARD

MON JANUARY 4, 1932

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Pickles may be kept from becoming mouldy by laying a bag of mustard on the top of the pickle-jar.

Water in which potatoes have been boiled is the best thing with which to sponge and revive a silk dress.

Dust clings to the buttons in upholstered furniture. Try dispelling it with a bicycle pump. It is most efficacious.

A very little glycerine smeared around the glass stoppers of bottles will keep them from sticking for a long time.

Knives can be cleaned in half the usual time if the knife-board lie thoroughly warmed - in front of the fire before being used.

When boiling a ham, leave it in the water in which it has been boiled until it is quite cold. This will make it juicy and tender.

To make plants grow quickly and well, water them once a week with warm water to which has been added a few drops of ammonia.

When making boiling starch, stir a candle in it for a few minutes; this prevents the iron from sticking, and also produces a good gloss.

If you boil hooks and eyes in strong soda water before sewing them on garments, it will prevent them iron moulding in the wash.

To clean decanters, mix half a gill of vinegar with a handful of salt. Put a little in each decanter and shake well. Rinse in clear water.

Steel table knives should never be used in the kitchen for if anything greasy is stirred with them, they immediately become blunt.

To prevent moth's attacking furniture, soak pieces of cotton wool in turpentine, and stuff it into the corners of chairs and sofas.

A little salt should be added to the sugar used for cooking fruit. It improves the flavour, and rather less sugar is required.

Methylated spirits will clean spectacles and make them beautifully clear. Rub them with a clean cloth dipped in the spirit, dry them, then polish with a clean chamois leather.

To destroy the smell of paint, place a pailful of cold water in the room. Change the water

night and morning and when possible, add a handful of hay to the water in each pail.

A particle in the eye may be quickly removed by one drop of castor-oil dropped into the corner, but if the foreign subject should be mortar or lime the eye must be bathed with a weak solution of water and vinegar.

If new enamel saucepans are placed in a pan of warm water, allowed to come to the boil, and then to cool, you will find that they will last much longer without cracking or burning than if they are used straight away.

Paint marks on glass may be removed by rubbing with a paste of whitening and ammonia, thinned with water to the consistency of cream. Leave the paste on, and when it is dry, wash off with soap and warm water.

effort and is as well beaten as if whipped for ten minutes.

To avoid spending endless valuable time searching for buttons in your button-box, take a wire hair-pin and simply straighten it out. Then shape the wire in a circle and bend each end back after stringing a certain set of buttons on the hair-pin and hook one end through the other. It takes but a minute and you have each set of buttons at your fingers' ends. They cannot slip off, and your button-box will always be neat.

KALOONA NEWS

Koloona kiddies had their usual Christmas Tree festival. Santa Claus was given an uproarious reception on arrival, and soon disposed of the books and toys with which the Christmas Tree was loaded, each and every child in the district getting a present.

After the tree was stripped, the teacher (Mr. W. B. Father) presented the certificates won at the Primary Final Examination on 10th November. Five children sat, and four, viz., Nancy Kent, Edward Taylor, Reg Reddett and George Johnson, passed; and Syd. Kent, jr. was awarded a pass sanctioned by the Inspector. This made the highly creditable pass of 100 per cent, which reflects the greatest credit on the ability of the teacher and also on the aptitude and intelligence of the pupils.

The children then had dancing and games, till supper time, when they were regaled with a fine spread to which they did full justice.

Later the elders took possession of the floor and had a jolly time, the music being supplied voluntarily by Mrs Cecil O'Brien and Misses Hannah and Freda Kent. A waltz for a box of chocolates, presented by Mr H. C. Stock, was won by Miss Rheta Kent and Mr F. McGrath. A jolly evening was spent and the whole function had a real Xmas spirit about it.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnson are receiving congratulations on the safe arrival of a bonny baby girl.

The elections passed off quietly - in fact it was too hot to behave otherwise.

...THE WISE HOUSEWIFE WILL TREAT ALL OF THE TAPS IN THIS WAY....

When dusting, soak the duster in paraffin, then wring out and dry in the air. There will be no unpleasant smell, and the duster will gather up the dust easily and give a brilliant polish to mirrors and the picture glasses.

When only half the contents of a tin can has been used, never leave the remainder in the can. Turn it out into a glass or earthen vessel. The action of the air and the acid of the tin produce a poisonous condition in canned foods.

The kitchen tap is responsible for much broken crockery. Hurry in rinsing a teapot or jug and the mischief is done. Fit onto the tap, a small piece of rubber tubing and the accidents will be prevented. The wise housewife will treat all the taps of the house in this way.

To beat an egg quickly, break the egg into an ordinary glass tumbler. Place a piece of clean tissue paper on top. Hold it firmly down all round and keep out the air. Place the other hand on the top of the paper and shake the tumbler vigorously two or three times: the egg is then ready for use without further

..... **BINGARA ADVOCATE**

WED JANUARY 12, 1972

Price 7c

STORM CAUSES DAMAGE

A severe electrical and wind storm of almost cyclonic force swept parts of Bingara on Friday evening last, uprooting trees and unroofing houses and causing widespread damage in its wake.

Bingara Shire Council workmen have been helping to clean up the debris after the storm. Near the business centre in Maitland Street, a house occupied by Mr and Mrs Bede Ritter and family had its roof blown off and galvanized iron scattered across the road, causing damage to the home of Mr and Mrs Dixon.

Water poured into the Ritter house, ruining valuable furniture and carpets.

The family was given shelter by neighbours, Mr and Mrs T. P. Hayes.

Nearby in Cunningham Street, the roof of the Lapidary Club's brick building and workshop was lifted bodily off and the building was badly damaged.

Clifton's Garage also lost a large sign and the Bingara Shire Council's flag pole was bent over by the force of the wind.

In Junction Street, a crane was needed to remove a tree from the back yard of Miss J. Eipper.

Other sections of the town suffered losses to out-buildings and chimneys.

By contrast, a partly demolished house in Finch Street was left unscathed, as were several old residences in Maitland Street. Roads and town streets also suffered considerable storm damage.

However, major repairs will have to await the return from annual holidays of Council's staff gang.

GOOD PROGRESS WITH WHEAT HARVEST

Wheat harvest in the Bingara-Delunga area in the other portion of the Ashford Shire is mostly completed, but wet weather has delayed harvesting close to Inverell.

This was reported by the Inverell district agronomist, Mr P. G. Wallens, in his monthly report.

"Premium wheat was stripped from crops in the western and northern portion of the district, but the later-harvested wheat in the areas around Inverell and further east will be of lower quality," he said.

"Average yields of wheat seem to be around five to six bags per acre.

"The majority of the barley crop has been harvested in the district.

"Yields averaged about six bags per acre.

"The variety Prior seems to have yielded better than Clipper in some cases, but Clipper has produced better malting quality grain on the whole.

"Generally, the malting quality of the barley is lower than normal, but 85 percent of samples are being accepted.

Summer Crops

"Most sorghum and sun show moisture stress, but have gone well in response to recent rains.

"Some crops in the Yetman-Bonshaw area have shown moisture stress, but summer crops generally look good.

"Sunflower sowing continued throughout the month and some crops are only just emerging.

"Some of the more advanced sunflower crops in the Bingara-Delunga area are starting to lose their flower petals.

"The more advanced sunflower crops in the district are about one foot to 18 inches high.

"Some are still in the seedling stage.

"Prospects at the moment look good for both sorghum and sunflowers.

"A large acreage has been sown down to mung beans this summer.

"Most sowings have been made and some crops are up to six inches high.

"Most crops germinated and established without problems and are growing well.

"Cowpea and a small acreage of maize in the district are also responding well to recent rains.

"Fodder sorghum and pearl millet crops have been sown and are growing well.

"A popular practice has been to include a few pounds of cowpeas in a mixture with the millet or fodder sorghum.

"Rain during the month freshened both

natural and sown species.

"Even though there is a lot of pasture gone to seed, there is still a large body of green feed coming on.

"Not a great deal of haymaking activity took place during the month as most lucerne crops were putting on growth after the dry spell during October/November.

"Some hay was cut from irrigated lucerne crops along the Gwydir and McIntyre rivers.

"Summer weeds, mainly thornapple and wild gooseberry, are causing concern in summer crops throughout the district.

"Due to the poor season prior to the last wheat sowing, black oats have been a big problem in cereal crops.

"The cutworm infestation seems to have lessened a great deal.

"Newly emerging crops are not being damaged to the extent that they were during October/November.

"The recent wet weather may have something to do with this.

"Green vegetable bug and Rutherglen bug are present in sunflower crops in the district, but as yet only a small number of crops in the western portion of the district have had to be sprayed.

"Sorghum midge is not yet present in the district.

"Fire danger is moderate.

"Stock are generally in good condition and water supplies are adequate," Mr Wallens said.



COULTON'S CATCH UP



FUNDS ON OFFER TO BUILD BETTER REGIONS

I encourage local councils and community organisations in the Parkes electorate to apply for Round 6 of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF), with a total of \$250 million in funding available for new infrastructure and community projects to be funded and delivered from next year.

Under the last round, we secured more than \$11 million for the Parkes electorate, including \$8.7 million for Broken Hill City Council to build a new library and cultural hub in the CBD, \$2.1 million for a new kitchen and laundry at Coinda

Coonabarabran nursing home, and \$329,514 for Gilgandra Shire Council's Mill on Miller Street project.

Our Government has a strong track record of delivering projects that are important to regional Australians and I look forward to seeing what exciting applications come in this time.

Projects will be funded under two streams:

- Infrastructure Projects Stream: <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/building-better-regions-fund-infrastructure-projects-stream-round-6>
- Community Investments Stream: <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/building-better-regions-fund-community-investments-stream-round-6>

Applications close on Thursday 10 February 2022.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

A second round of the Regional Connectivity Program is now open, with up to \$112 million available to improve internet accessibility in our regional, rural and remote communities.

This is a program that I am particularly passionate about, having established it as the former Regional Communications Minister to deliver place-based solutions to digital connectivity issues in our regions.

A number of communities in the Parkes electorate are already set to benefit from Round 1 of the program, through the investment of new and improved mobile voice and data coverage, fixed wireless and fibre broadband service, and improved backhaul capacity.

I urge telecommunications providers to work with regional communities, development organisations and state and local governments to submit an application to provide an innovative approach to ensure we fill the gaps in blackspot areas across the Parkes electorate. Interested parties have until 27 January 2022 to submit applications to the competitive assessment process.

To apply, and for more information, visit the Department's website at <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-technology-communications/internet/regional-connectivity-program>.

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | SUNDAY FEBRUARY 27 4:00PM | | SUNDAY JULY 31 4:00PM |
| | SUNDAY APRIL 3 4:00PM | | SUNDAY AUGUST 28 4:00PM |
| | SUNDAY APRIL 24 4:00PM | | SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25 4:00PM |
| | SUNDAY MAY 29 4:00PM | | SUNDAY OCTOBER 30 4:00PM |
| | SUNDAY JUNE 27 4:00PM | | SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27 4:00PM |

VISION 2020 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN OPEN



Bingara's Vision 2020 have drafted a new strategic plan for their work as the progress society of Bingara and the surrounding district. Consisting of their vision, as well as the organisation's mission and goals, the plan is now open for consultation and feedback from the community.

According to Vision 2020 Chairperson Garry McDouall, Vision 2020 formed in 2005 as a progress society for the Bingara district.

"Across 15 years we have worked with other community stakeholders to support the achievement of some terrific whole of community

outcomes, not the least of which included staving off the break up and or amalgamation of the Gwydir Shire," Mr McDouall said.

Mr McDouall went on to say that the work of Vision 2020 and many other community-based organisations would not be possible without the support of Gwydir Shire Council, which in Mr. McDouall's opinion, is essential for Vision 2020 and the Bingara district at large to continue to flourish into the future.

With goals focusing on agriculture, education, representation in the community and the visitor economy, Vision 2020 hope to see the town remain as a leader in regenerative techniques, offering attractive education options and its population growth continuing.

Vision 2020 will be consulting on their draft strategic plan until February 16 2022, and invite feedback from interested stakeholders. The plan will be presented for adoption to the organisation's members and guests at their AGM on February 16, to which all Bingara district community members are invited.

For further information, please contact Garry McDouall on **0428 834 281**.

GET READY FOR A BUSH FIRE

Do you have a bushfire survival plan?

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



WHAT'S ON!

Do you have an upcoming event, meeting or save the date you would like to list? Inclusion is free and available for all non-profit organisations and community events. AGM notices welcome. Please note all details are accurate at the time of publication, however may be subject to change.

Email: editor@thegwydirnews.com.au

JANUARY 2022

- 21st Bingara Minor League, committee meeting - 6:00pm Bingara Sporting Club
- 26th Australia Day - various locations

FEBRUARY 2022

- 8th Warialda High Year 7, 11 and 12 return to school
- 9th Warialda High Years 8, 9, 10 return to school
- 12th North West Theatre Company Trivia Night - 6:30pm - 9:30pm, Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 16th Bingara Vision 2020 AGM
- 21st Warialda Hospital Auxiliary meeting - 2:00pm, Activities Room, Warialda MPS
- 27th NW Film Club, 'Ghandi' - 4:00pm, Roxy Theatre, Bingara

MARCH 2022

- 12th Hollymount Garden Party - Fundraiser - 11:00am, Holymount, Warialda Rail
- 19, 20, 26 & 27th *Oliver* - North West Theatre Company Roxy Theatre, Bingara
- 26-27th Golf and Bowling weekend - Bingara

SAVE THE DATE

- 2nd April Warialda Races - Warialda Race Course
- 9th April Bingara Jockey Club Ball
- 21 - 22 May *Back to Upper Bingara* weekend - Upper Bingara
- 9th July '*Unleash the Black Dog*' Ball

EACH WEEK

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

KEEP IN TOUCH

@gwydirnews

Subscriptions and Enquiries:
editor@thegwydirnews.com.au

Advertising:
sales@thegwydirnews.com.au

Postal Address:
Locked Bag 5, Bingara, NSW, 2404

Telephone: **0436 934 099**

Distribution: **14 February, 14 March, 11 April**

Deadlines for submissions:
1st each month

CLEARING SALE

**Saturday 29th January 2022
10am Start.**

**"Araluen" 83 Kellys Access Road
Pallal (Via Bingara) Nsw, 2404.
Property Sold.**



1945 Ford Army Jeep (going, not reg.) approx. 29,000 miles. Warwick Cattle Crush Hydraulic Exotic cattle crush, with hydraulic squeeze, chin bar, entrance & vet gate. Never used. Honda Fourtrax 2 x 4 quad. Honda Fourtrax 2 x 4 quad (23,550km). Suzuki 185 motor bike. John Shearer 23 tyne trash worker, Gyral combine. Jetstream Machinery feed mixer with scales. New Holland 258 dual hydraulic roller bar twin hay rake. New Holland 492 mower conditioner. New Holland 471 hay elevator. David Shearer 40ft hydraulic lift harrows. Volvo N1023 boggie drive cab chassis (not reg). F700 truck (not reg). Allbulk Jetstream 2 bin grouper, 10,000L (approx.) steel water tank. Fibre glass water tank on trailer. Stick rake for 7ft blade. Shell G918 wool press. BHB Electric single phase wool press. Cattle panels. Creep feeder panels. Sheep feeder. Sheep drafting race. Adjustable sheep loading ramp. Sheep drenching race. 3 x HE round cattle feeders. Numerous feed troughs. Quantity of lick drums & dry lick troughs. Square hay feeders. Cattle rail. Sunbeam overhead shearing gear & down tubes. 14ft saucer field bins. Electric pencil auger. 12ft overhead shed auger. 4 x 50 overhead auger. Peerless PTO roller mill. Hart uni-flow grain separator (electric). 3 phase blower/dryer on trailer. 2t feed bin. Honda Max PVC - molasses gear pump. Large quantity of secondhand steel post mostly 9-hole Waratahs. Migomag 260CE with speed feeder 250 mig welder. Pipe curver. Steel stock crate to fit 20ft tray with 2 ft extension. Old timber stock crate. Small crate. Fire trailer. Various polly pipe. Antique drill press. Old sorghum fingers. Roller doors. HD rio mesh. Various farm gates. Various pumps. Round wool table. Wooden wool table. Bull bar (Holden Rodeo). Steel windlass. Gas scare guns. Assortment of fencing gear. 10 stall calf feeder. Bathtubs. Grader blade/drag bucket. Buzacotte & Co gates. Horse drawn ploughs (Wiard plough Co.). Water carts. Irrigation pipe trailer. Numerous of box trailers. Grain feeders. Truck gates. Various workshop tools. Drum bloat oil. Industrial vacuum cleaner. Wooden split posts. Cattle grids. Fuel Tanks

TERMS: Operating under a bid card system - ID required, Cash or approved cheque on day of sale. Eftpos facilities available (surcharge applies). GST will be added to applicable items. Phone bidding possible on the day.

DIRECTIONS: Approx 20km west of Bingara on Narrabri road, Boundary Creek Rd approx. 3km to Kellys Access Road. Signs and flags will be out on sale day.

PHOTOS: Available on www.crumpagency.com.au.

CONTACT AGENT: Damien Crump: 0400 757 888. Outside vendors welcome.



WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER VOLUNTEERS GREATFUL FOR SUPPORT

Volunteers spent their New Year's Day public holiday on January 3 collecting and collating bottle and cans for the Bingara branch of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Volunteer group, from sites throughout Bingara. The collections are an important part of their fundraising efforts which contribute towards the service offered to towns, small and large, throughout northern NSW.

President of the Bingara volunteer group, Geoff Lewis (pictured above), says the small but important aspect of their fundraising has been impacted this year, not only by COVID-19, but by the closure of riverside camping during flooding events on a number of occasions throughout 2021.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the group can contact Geoff on **0407 238 005**.

CERAMIC BREAK SCULPTURE PARK

Open by appointment only
December 20 - March 1

Ph: 6729 4147

kerry@cbreaksculpturepark.com.au
www.cbbreaksculpturepark.com.au

WE NOW ACCEPT ONLINE PAYMENTS

Visit our website
www.gwydirshire.nsw.gov.au

COPETON DAM LEVELS

Percent Full: 97.0%

Current Volume: 1,303,292 megalitres

07.01.22

Church Notices

ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Warialda: St Simon and St Jude Anglican Church, Warialda - Every Sunday - 9:30am

Coolatai: First Sunday each month - 3:30pm

Minister Steve Cimarosti, can be contacted on **6729 1501**

CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISHES WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULES

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

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

Bingara: Every Sunday - 8:00am

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

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

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

UNITING CHURCH

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

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful; He cannot deny Himself. 2 Timothy 3.12

**M. R. Anderson
Contract Tank
Cleaning**

Have your rain water tank professionally cleaned with minimal loss of precious water



Contact Michael
P: 02 67241241
M: 0428 672 414

**WARIALDA
NEWSAGENCY**

Stationary - Cards
Giftware - Online Lotto
Magazines

Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm (5:30 Mon)
Sat 9-11am
Phone: 6729 1049

**WE
WARIALDA
ELECTRICAL**

Ivan and Debbie Cooper
Domestic, Rural, Industrial and
Commercial Services

Country Energy authorised contractor
Ph: 6729 1608 or
Fax: 6729 1977
Mobile: 0429 061 691
Lic. No. 83877C



**BW WELDING
SERVICES**

0409 365 153

**FOR ALL YOUR
WELDING NEEDS**

A.C. & H.J. ROSE

12 Ton Excavator - Backhoe
Tipper Trucks - Bobcat

Experiences operators and drivers
Also... gravel, loam, sand, & shale available

Phone: 6729 1079 • 0428 851 599

**Alan Bilsborough
Mechanical Repairs**

Automotive Air-conditioning
Service and Repairs
Rego checks on
light & heavy vehicles



BARRABA ROAD,
BINGARA
Lic No. 032813
Ph: 6724 1789
Mob: 0427 460 490
Weekdays 9am-5pm



**CAMERON
BUILDERS**

ALL SCOPES OF WORK

- RENOVATIONS • EXTENSIONS
- NEW HOMES • DECKS-STAIRS
- INSURANCE WORK

Mobile. 0413 497 708
NSW Licence #259682C

**ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTOR**

Domestic and rural

Mike Mitchell

Phone 0459 026 755
Lic No. 474 32C

ALLEN EVANS

Accredited wild game harvester

Fig • Deer • Kangaroos

0438 755 029

pinhead@hotmail.com

Covered for public liability



ARC

LICENCED TO INSTALL SPLIT AIR CONDITIONING

For all your electrical services

HAYES ELECTRICAL INSTALATIONS

Electrical contractors

Phone (02) 6724 1409 Mobile 0427 293 159

Servicing the Bingara district for over 40 years

Lic. No. EC 38946




| | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|---|--------------|--|
| 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 |
|------------------|----------------|---|--------------|--|

Claude Nichols Communications

- Television Installation
- Supplier of Television Aerials, Amplifiers, Cables and Sockets
- Video/ DVD Tune & Installation
- Digital Decoder Instalation
- Unrestricted telephone Outlet Cabling

Mobile: 0427 506 689

Ellie Skinner
 Book Keeping & Secretarial
 Over 25 Years Experience
 Ph: 0428 232256

- Account Payable & receivable
- Wages
- Budgeting

SKIN CANCER CHECKS

Full body or spot check
 On-site for larger employment groups or corporations (eg. councils) by arrangement
TAMWORTH
 Dr Edward Or 6766 8000
 No referral necessary

TURNER'S STEEL WARIALDA
 MANUFACTURERS OF

- *GRIDS
- *FEED BINS *HAY RACKS
- *LOADING RAMPS
- *CATTLE, SHEEP AND HORSE PANELS
- *SUPPLIERS OF STEEL

Standard or customised
 Contact Lee-Anne on 0428 420 002

Peter Fletcher
LICENSED TRADE PAINTER

- New Homes
- Repaints
- Roof Spraying

P. 6724 1630
 M. 0428 688 678
 Lic. No. 81069

Bizclean Mats & HYGIENE SERVICES

Bizclean Monthly Wash

Need a minimum of 5 to fill machine.
 Quilts & Doonas washed 4th week
 Horse rugs & swags 2nd week
 Ph: 02 6729 1800

BW WELDING SERVICES

0409 365 153

FOR ALL YOUR WELDING NEEDS

WILLIAMS TREE SERVICE

FOR ALL YOUR TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL NEEDS. NO TREE TOO BIG OR SMALL. FULLY INSURED

0477 071 835

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

- Fabric Upholstery
- Leather Furniture Cleaning
- Tile & Grout Steam Cleaning
- 25 Years Experience

Steve Adams
0412 961 446

GWYDIR VISITING VETS
 0488 297 429

Mixed animal veterinary service with full hospital and surgical facilities including: digital x-ray, in-house pathology and ultrasound.
 Local A/H service for clients.
 Ph Kate 0488297429.

HIGHWAY SERVICE CENTRE
 WARIALDA
 On the highway corner
 Dyno Tuning Wheel Alignment
 Mechanical Repairs

6729 0158

YOUR LOCAL SOLICITOR

JANELLE MACK

27 MAITLAND ST,
BINGARA
OPEN 9AM - 3PM
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY
& THURSDAY
OR BY APPOINTMENT
PH: 6724 1882 FAX: 6724 1883
A/H: 6724 1436



WARIALDA SANDS
46 Gragin Road
Prompt supplies of sand, gravel or loam
Phone: 6729 1479
Mobile: 0427 665 676

ANDERSON
Electrical & Air-Conditioning
Mitch Anderson
0447 506 236
mitchanderson06@gmail.com
Electrical
Domestic - Commercial - Rural - Industrial
Air-Conditioning
Installation - Maintenance - Repairs
Refrigeration
Licence No. 271539C | ARC.L 100645

Peter Moodie Electrical
0412 914 240 - 1300 326 821
Licence No 80882C
13321 Gwydir Hwy, Warialda





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



**NORTH WEST
PETROLEUM**

For all your bulk on-farm fuel and lubricants
Regos & Mechanical Repairs
Farm Produce etc
Batteries for cars, trucks, Tractors & Bikes
Bait & Ice

Ph: 6724 8484
Fax: 6724 8550
26 Inverell Street, Delungra
Brian Leadbeater: 0428 637 091




**GWYDIR
VISITING
VETS**
0488 297 429

Mixed animal veterinary service with full
hospital and surgical facilities including: digital
x-ray, in-house pathology and ultrasound.
Local A/H service for clients.
Ph Kate 0488297429.

GWYDIR FREIGHT & STORAGE
WARIALDA
0427 472 250

FREIGHT FORWARDING & DISTRIBUTION
STORAGE UNITS, WAREHOUSING & INTERNAL STORAGE FOR MOTOR BIKES
YARD SPACE FOR BOATS, CARAVANS, MOTOR VEHICLES
UPSTAIRS OFFICE/STUDIO SPACE

\$500,000 AMENITIES BUILDING TO TAKE A 'GRAND-STAND' AT NICHOLSON OVAL



THE home of sport in Warialda will make a 'grand-stand' in 2022 with a \$496,649 State Government grant allowing Gwydir Shire Council to replace the outdated existing amenities building with a modern clubhouse and seating.

Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall joined Nicholson Oval user groups to deliver the news ahead of Christmas.

"Forget the new ball, it's the new clubhouse Warialda's cricketers will most look forward to when they take to the field for summer 2022/23," Mr Marshall said.

"This is a huge announcement for Nicholson Oval, which is currently the home of Warialda Junior Rugby League, Warialda Junior Cricket, some senior cricket and Warialda Public and Warialda High School sporting events."

"The old amenities are not fit for purpose with limited provisions for female participation in sport and minimal access for members of the community with a disability."

"These funds will be used to construct a clubhouse with the lot - public amenities, home and away dressing sheds with facilities for both male and female sporting teams, a clubhouse, store room and canteen."

"The facility will also incorporate new tiered seating and an accessible ramp from the upper level to the sporting fields."

"This building complements the new amenities and bar at Gwydir Oval in Bingara, which was also built using State Government funding."

"Having first class facilities will ensure the ongoing viability of junior and female participation and create capacity for additional use through the introduction of new and expanded sport competitions."

Gwydir Shire Council's Building Services Manager Colin Cuell said the replacement amenities building would secure council's commitment to supporting the development of junior and senior sport in Warialda.

"We acknowledge and cherish the growing participation of females in sports such as cricket and league, both of which are represented at Nicholson Oval and we aim to provide suitable facilities for all participants," Mr Cuell said.

"The provision of new facilities will not only ensure fit for purpose facilities for the participants of sport, but also for the many dedicated parents, family members and other volunteers who are the backbone of sporting groups in regional communities."

"We anticipate the build will take around six months, from date of commencement, and Council is proud the project will utilise Council Building Services' staff along with various local contractors from Gwydir Shire and surrounding local government areas."

\$496,649 delivers new grandstand and amenities building for the home of sport in Warialda Nicholson Oval, with Gwydir Shire Council Projects Manager Carl Tooley, left, Warialda Junior League Representative Lachlan Hall, Warialda Senior Cricket Representative Phil Whalan, Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall, Warialda High School PE teacher Dale Beattie and students Nathan Tooley, Os Van Velthuizan, Sam Hall

ACTIVE POOLS YOUTH PROGRAM COMING SOON



Teens are set to benefit from the upcoming Active Pools Youth Program which will get underway this February

This summer, Gwydir Shire Council pools are partnering with NSW Office of Sports to get kids moving with the Active Pools Youth Program. The Shire was recently announced as one of 16 locations selected from across the Western Region.

The program aims to provide young people with an opportunity to participate in a range of free, land and water-based activities. Each participant receives 16 sessions, over 8 weeks, of structured fun and games at their local pool.

Participants will need to be 12 - 16 years old and reside in the Gwydir Shire, while the one-hour sessions will offer activities including touch football, soccer, volleyball, handball, cricket and water polo.

The program aims to keep teenagers active and connected with friends over summer. The Active Pools Youth program is designed to keep kids and teens happy and healthy through fun, engaging and social activities at their local pool.

The sessions will run over eight weeks, commencing on 2 February 2022, every Wednesday at 4:30pm and Saturday at 11:00am and be run by the Warialda and Bingara Swimming Clubs. Each session will also be followed by a sausage sizzle.

To register now and secure your place, visit:

<https://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au/Venues/Gwydir-Swimming-Pools/Active-Pools-Youth-Program>

Gravesend Fishing Club Awards

The first Christmas Party and Annual Presentation event for the new committee of the Gravesend Fishing Club was held at the Gravesend Hotel on the weekend before Christmas.



Above: Sallisah Stokes was awarded Gravesend Fishing Club Carp Catcher of the Year title at the Club's presentation held in December

The afternoon started with a general meeting, followed by an awards presentation.

The hotly contested Annual Bedrock Bowls competition was won by Sallisah Stokes (pictured) after she took out the Junior Girls' section and went on to beat her brother and the adults. Sallisah's success followed her award as the Club Carp Catcher of the Year.

Lots of fun was had by all who came along.

The Awards were as follows:
 Reg Bottrell Perpetual Trophy -
 Largest Catfish - Ron Barber
 Max Turner Perpetual Trophy -
 Largest Yellowbelly - Brock Brazel
 Pat Newton Perpetual Trophy -
 Most Cod - Ron Barber
 George Quinn Perpetual Trophy -
 Largest Fish - Tom McBeath
 Delma Bottrell Perpetual Trophy -
 Largest Carp - Ron Barber
 Milton Sweedman Perpetual Trophy -
 Angler of the Year - Ron Barber

Carp Catcher of the Year - Sallisah Stokes
 Largest Cod - Junior - Lewis Stokes
 Phillip Bell Perpetual Trophy -
 Junior Angler of the Year - Lerroi Stokes

The Gravesend Fishing Club now have a Facebook page to share information for anyone wanting further information.



Above: Mr Ken Bell presented Lerroi Stokes with the Phillip Bell Memorial Trophy for Junior Angler of the Year

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