



# Guyra Gazette

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Wednesday April 1, 2026

## Young Tiddas program thrives at local schools

A local initiative is making a big impact in the lives of First Nations girls, thanks to the Young Tiddas Program—an innovative project designed to strengthen cultural connections, support academic growth, and nurture social and emotional wellbeing for students in Years 4 to 7.

This term, six girls from Guyra Central School are participating in the program, joined by a student from Black Mountain Public School. The group has formed strong friendships, shown increased confidence, and developed a proud sense of cultural identity.

Students have engaged in a diverse array of activities, ranging from science experiments to developing footy skills with PCYC. The girls also explored their musical talents with Mad Propa Deadly, participated in tutoring sessions, and enjoyed fun getting-to-know-you exercises. One highlight was the Clapstick Introduction and Design workshop, offering students an opportunity to delve into their culture and creativity.

The term will conclude with a special celebration day to ac-



Tallara Patterson, Mahayley Munro-Davies, Jaearla Landsborough, Lakia Cutmore

knowledge the girls' achievements and hard work. Organisers and participants alike express gratitude to Cass, Tona, and Birrillee, who travel each week to lead activities and sup-

port the program. Their dedication and enthusiasm have made the Young Tiddas Program a positive and meaningful experience for all involved.

With initiatives like Young

Tiddas, schools continue to foster supportive environments that uplift First Nations students, empower future leaders, and celebrate culture within their communities.

### Easter Trading Hours

Good Friday	Closed
Easter Saturday	7.00am – 12.00noon
Easter Sunday	Closed
Easter Monday	Closed

Back to trading as normal on  
Tuesday, 7th April



#### Our Easter specials

Baby Weber BBQ - \$369.00

Foldable 2 seater cafe set - \$199.99

Greendew Tumbling Composter - \$79.00

Euca Laundry Range



### Bishop's Hardware & Building Supplies

61 Ollera Street, Guyra Phone: 6779 2444

www.homehardware.com.au

Facebook - Bishop's Hardware & Building Supplies

# Myles among top young auctioneers at Sydney Royal

The next generation of livestock auctioneers will take centre stage at the Australian Livestock and Property Agents Association (ALPA) NSW Young Auctioneers Competition during the Sydney Royal Easter Show, with ten finalists competing for state honours.

Finalists will take to the rostrum on Thursday, April 2nd from 1pm, where they will be judged on clarity, diction, rhythm, professionalism and their knowledge of livestock in a live auction setting.

Among the finalists is Guyra's Myles Williams of Elders Rural Services, who will be making his Sydney Royal debut.

Born and raised on his family farm in Guyra, Williams developed a passion for the livestock industry early.

"We had cattle and sheep on our farm growing up, and I helped out Dad during the school holidays. I always enjoyed it," he said.

That interest led to a school-based traineeship one day a week,



Myles Williams will compete at the Sydney Royal Easter Show

where he began learning the fundamentals of selling.

Williams now regularly sells cattle and sheep as part of his role and said he feels fortunate to be able to practise his auctioneering skills on the job.

He will line up against a strong field of finalists from across the state, including representatives

from Corowa, Moss Vale, Forbes, Wagga Wagga, Dubbo and Casino.

Run by ALPA, the Young Auctioneers Competition is one of the most prestigious platforms for emerging talent in the livestock industry. In a milestone for the competition, all 2026 NSW finalists are AuctionsPlus accredited

livestock assessors - an industry first that reflects the growing importance of combining traditional auctioneering skills with digital capability.

AuctionsPlus CEO Wyn Snyman said the achievement of all finalists being accredited assessors highlights a shift in the industry.

"It is remarkable to see how deeply this next generation is embedding digital capability into their skillset," he said.

"To see every NSW finalist accredited with AuctionsPlus shows that tomorrow's leaders represent a shift in the industry, where innovation and digital adoption are becoming standard, not optional."

The winner and runner-up of the NSW final will progress to the national competition, competing against top agents from Victoria, South Australia and Queensland. The ultimate prize is the opportunity to represent Australia at the International Livestock Auctioneers Competition at the Calgary Stampede.

## No Bunny Can Top This

The true meaning of Easter is about the love Jesus has for us and the purpose and peace he gives us.

Jesus said of himself, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". Jesus was crucified and raised back to life on the third day, so everyone can have a meaningful relationship with God. Sin broke that relationship, but Jesus repaired it. Because of Jesus' victory over death by his resurrection, we too can experience a new, everlasting life in Heaven.

Not only does Jesus offer us a promise for the future, he also offers everyone hope and joy for today. When the world causes us stress about the cost of living or health concerns, wars and rumours of war, anxiety over safety, heartache, dissatisfaction, fear and many other troubles or negative feelings, Jesus offers us something greater and deeper. He offers us a promise of peace.

Jesus says, "I am leaving you with a gift — peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid."

Whatever happens in life, we can have hope and peace. Jesus' life, death and resurrection mean you are deeply loved, and you are not alone in your struggles. Jesus' promise of peace is constant and everlasting.

When you see all the chocolate easter eggs, remember Easter celebrates hope, grace and new beginnings. We pray that you enjoy the sweetness of the season by sharing in the story of Jesus!

Join us for our Easter Sunday Service at 10am. Come as you are. Everyone is welcome.

Wishing you and your loved ones, a blessed and meaningful Easter.

*Pastors Linden & Kerrie Pollard  
The Chapel*

**gnc  
Community  
garden!**

**PRODUCE SWAP**  
9 AM-12NOON, 1st Sat of each month

- Easter bakery goodness, sourdough breads and a variety of fudges
- The Plant Guys will have great seedlings

**SWAP, BUY OR SELL**  
fresh produce, veggies  
plants & seedlings  
preserves, eggs &  
MORE....

**COME JOIN US**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**  
**EASTER SATURDAY**

Do you want **YOUR OWN STALL?** just ask us  
Guyra Neighbourhood Centre 160 Bradley Street Guyra  
Ph: 67791635 M:0461 266 523

# Guyra to get innovative heated footpath in Bradley St

As winter approaches, residents of Guyra are being urged to keep an eye on their step - but not for frost. Plans have been unveiled for work to commence this week on 'Australia's first solar-powered heated footpath' along Bradley Street.

The ambitious project, will see underground heating coils installed beneath the main shopping strip to keep footpaths frost and snow free during Guyra's famously chilly winters.

Council spokesperson Joe King said the initiative aims to "future-proof" the town against icy mornings.

"Guyra is known as one of the coldest towns in Australia," Mr King said.

"We've embraced that reputation for years, but it's time we made frostbite a thing of the past."

According to preliminary plans, the system would draw power from a new "Lamb Light



Council is encouraging locals to attend a public information session on April 1st, where they will explain the proposal and residents are being urged to bring a sense of humour.

Solar Array" to be installed behind the Big Lamb, with excess energy stored in what council documents describe as a "community warmth battery".

Local business owners have welcomed the proposal.

"If this means people can walk into town without slipping over at 7am, I'm all for it," one said.

"Although I'll miss watching tourists try to scrape ice off their windscreens with loyalty cards."

Funding for this ambitious project will reportedly be sourced from a combination of sustainability grants, a "Frost Relief Levy" of 12 cents per sausage at local barbecues, and a proposed "thermal tourism" campaign.

Not everyone is convinced. One long-time resident has questioned whether heated footpaths might take away from Guyra's identity.

"We've survived this long with ugg boots and common sense," he said.

"What's next - heated seats in the public toilet?"

Installation is scheduled to begin on April 1st, with residents advised to look out for council workers carrying unusually long extension cords.

Happy April Fools' Day, Guyra.

## Unravelling Hope

In 1939, as the world was plunged into World War II, the Golden Age of Comics was born from humanity's deepest hope that somehow, good would triumph over evil.

That longing hasn't gone away. If anything, the mess, wars, and fuel prices of today's world give us plenty of reasons to cry out for something better.

But here's the problem: the hope we search for within ourselves, within culture, entertainment, or recreation, never quite lasts. Even if we enjoy something for a little while, it flickers then fades. Or we simply get bored and start searching for something else. An endless cycle of hopelessness.

Easter offers us something quite different. It points us not to a fictional hero but to a real one: Jesus of Nazareth, who died by crucifixion and, according to eyewitness accounts recorded and circulated while hundreds of witnesses were still alive, rose physically from the dead three days later.

This momentous event changed everything. As journalist Greg Sheridan wrote in 2025,

Easter "imposes a startling, unavoidable binary on everyone who encounters it. Either you believe it's a lie, and Christianity is worthless, or you believe it happened, and Jesus is God."

Secular evidence indicates that the events of Easter really did occur. This means that death has been defeated. It means the wrongs of this world will one day be made right. It means lasting and eternal hope isn't just wishful thinking because it's a promise backed by an empty tomb.

And so, after two thousand years, the question remains as urgent as ever: do you trust in Jesus? His death and resurrection are true, and they're true for everyone. The hope that flows from this is unlike anything this world can manufacture. But to receive it, you must come to him in faith and trust.

All are welcome to join us at Guyra Anglican Church at 9 am on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Wishing you every blessing this Easter.

**Rev Tim Stevens**  
**St James Anglican Church**



Do you have information you want all of Guyra to know about?

Why not use a page in the Gazette ... we can design it for you or insert a flyer you have produced yourself



Our circulation of 1,700 to all 2365 mailing addresses and a number of pick-up locations including Armidale, ensures your event or information reaches your target audience.

Contact us on: 6779 2132  
or email: [advertising@gala.org.au](mailto:advertising@gala.org.au)

Daylight Savings comes to an end this weekend - YAY!!

Enjoy the Easter break and if you are on the road please drive to survive

Wood raffles - great to see local groups out selling raffle tickets

March 27th delivered the coldest daytime temperature in Guyra for the month in more than half a century, with the mercury reaching just 12.2°C.

It marks the lowest March maximum since March 30, 1970, when a top of 9.4°C was recorded.

The unusually cold conditions

followed a severe cold front that moved through in the early hours of the morning, bringing strong westerly winds and 4.6mm of rain.

The combination of rain and persistent cold winds kept temperatures well below average, making it one of the chilliest March days in decades.

Guyra's official weather station is located in the grounds of the Multipurpose Health Service in Sole Street. Recordings are taken by Jeff Martin on behalf of the Bureau of Meteorology.

You can find details of current and historic weather news at <https://www.weatherarmidale.com/guyra.html>

## What's **NOT**

The owner of the dog that mauled my dog on the golf course last Wednesday and made a quick getaway

## JOKE of the week

The end of daylight saving is great...

You get an extra hour of sleep and still somehow wake up tired

### Bureau of Meteorology

## Weather

### WATCH

#### Guyra MPS

Date	Day	Min	Max	Rain
24	Tues	11.0	21.3	0.6
25	Wed	8.1	24.8	0
26	Thurs	9.8	26.2	0
27	Fri	6.7	12.2	4.6
28	Sat	3.1	19.8	0
29	Sun	5.1	21.4	0
30	Mon	8.0	20.7	0

Rain this week	5.2mm
March rainfall	21.2mm
Rainfall YTD	147.2mm
Rainfall last YTD	377.6mm
Ave. rain YTD	297.6mm

Information supplied by Jeff Martin, Observer for Bureau of Meteorology

## End of Bush Fire Danger period

The Bush Fire Danger Period will conclude at midnight tonight for most of NSW, including Armidale, Uralla and Walcha Local Government Areas. Four Local Government Areas, Narrabri, Gwydir, Moree Plains, and Mid-Western, will extend the period until the end of April due to local conditions.

During the season, firefighters from the New England District responded to 190 bush and grass-type fires, which burned approximately 7,625 hectares.

As the Bush Fire Danger Period ends, fire agencies and land managers will begin increasing hazard reduction activities where conditions allow. This work includes planned burns aimed at reducing vegetation and lowering the risk of future bush fires.

Inspector Matthew McKean

said residents should remain cautious when undertaking burn-offs, even once the Bush Fire Danger Period has finished.

"From Wednesday the 1st of April, fire permits will no longer be required in the Armidale, Uralla and Walcha Local Government Areas," Inspector McKean said.

"Where permits are no longer needed, residents must still notify their neighbours and also the local fire authority at least 24 hours before lighting a fire, which can be done easily on the RFS website.

"People should also check whether a Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate is required and ensure they have the equipment and resources needed to safely manage the burn.

"Letting fire authorities know

about planned burning helps avoid unnecessary callouts for local firefighters."

Inspector McKean said the end of the Bush Fire Danger Period should not lead to complacency.

"Fires can still occur outside the declared danger period, particularly during dry or windy conditions," he said.

"Residents should take the opportunity now to prepare their properties and review their bush fire survival plan ahead of the next fire season.

"Your local fire station or Fire Control Centre can provide advice on preparing your home and carrying out hazard reduction safely."

Residents planning to burn off can notify their local brigade using the online burn notification tool at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify)

## What is Easter all about?

Easter for Christians is a very special time when they celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Are they to be pitied, as naive simpletons, who believe a grand hoax?

One would hardly regard intellectuals such as John Lennox and Alistair McGrath, who have taught in the most prestigious universities in the world, as naive simpletons. These men are among many intellectuals, who have come to believe in the LORD Jesus of the Bible.

No serious historian doubts the existence of Jesus of Nazareth. The big question concerns the real historical Jesus. Did He really die on a Roman cross; and did He re-

ally rise from the dead on the Sunday morning?

Many biblical scholars have examined the biblical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus and found it compelling. More than 2.4 billion people in the world profess faith in Jesus Christ. Most of these find great comfort when a loved one dies, who has believed in Jesus. They also have great comfort in the hope of the resurrection.

I am now growing old. I am a retired Presbyterian minister, and I have a sure and certain hope that I will be raised up from the dead on the last day to spend eternity with the LORD Jesus Christ, in the new heaven and earth.

My hope is not built on any righteousness of my own. I do not deserve to be saved from my sins, for there is none righteous, not even one (Romans 3:18). My hope is in the richness of God's love, who so loved this world that He gave His One and only Son to die on a cross to save a wretch like me (John 3:16,17).

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" (John 11:25). My prayer is that you may believe and receive the gift of eternal life.

*Pastor Paul Seiler  
On behalf St Columbas  
Presbyterian Church*

# Guyra Central School celebrates Harmony Day, Leadership Induction, and Yarning Circle opening



Guyra Central School marked Harmony Day on Tuesday, March 24th with a vibrant whole-school celebration highlighting diversity, inclusion, and community spirit.

The event began with an assembly where staff, students, and community members reflected on the importance of everyone belonging. The school also recognised its newest Secondary Leadership Team, with students

receiving their leadership badges and participating in an official Leadership Induction. Relieving Principal Mr Tim Lloyd congratulated all 2026 student leaders, praising their commitment to representing and guiding their peers.

A major highlight of the day was the official opening of Guyra Central School's Yarning Circle. This collaborative project, completed over several years, pro-

vides a special space for all members of the school and wider community to gather, share stories, and connect—honouring Aboriginal heritage, culture, and inclusivity.

The Harmony Day celebrations concluded with a well-attended community BBQ, where families, carers, and local residents were invited to join in and engage with staff and students.

Relieving Principal Mr Tim Lloyd said, "Harmony Day is about celebrating what makes our school and community strong - our diversity and our sense of belonging.

"The leadership induction and opening of the Yarning Circle are wonderful examples of how we support and value every member of our community."

## A Community Message About Jesus

In every season of life, our community gathers around many different stories — stories of resilience, kindness, and the quiet strength that keeps people going even when days feel long. But there is one story that continues to shape hearts and bring hope across generations: the story of Jesus.

Jesus stepped into a world much like ours — full of pressures, uncertainties, and people doing their best to hold life together. He didn't come to the powerful or the polished. He came to ordinary people, everyday families, and those who felt unseen or weighed down. His message was simple yet lifechanging: God sees you, God loves you, and God has not forgot-

ten you.

When Jesus walked among people, He brought compassion where there was shame, healing where there was hurt, and dignity where there had been rejection. He sat with the lonely, welcomed the outsider, and lifted the heads of those who felt they had nothing left to offer. His life reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of grace.

The cross stands as the clearest picture of His love. It tells us that Jesus willingly carried the weight of human brokenness — not to condemn us, but to restore us. He entered into suffering so that no one would ever have to face theirs alone. For anyone in our commu-

nity who is grieving, struggling, or quietly fighting battles others cannot see, the message of Jesus is this: You matter deeply, and you are not alone.

But the story does not end with the cross. Jesus rose again, and with that rising came a hope stronger than fear, stronger than darkness, stronger than anything that tries to break the human spirit. His victory speaks into every corner of our lives: new beginnings are possible, restoration is possible, and even the hardest seasons can give way to light.

We see glimpses of His lifegiving hope right here in our own community. In neighbours who check in on one another, in fami-

lies rebuilding after hardship, in volunteers who give quietly and faithfully, in children whose joy reminds us of simple goodness, in people who keep going even when life has been unkind. These moments echo the heart of Jesus: love in action, hope in motion.

As we reflect on His story, may it breathe fresh courage into your days. Whether your faith is strong, uncertain, or still forming, Jesus extends the same invitation to all: come as you are. Bring your questions, your hopes, your weariness, your dreams. His arms are open, and His love is steady.

*Church of Freedom  
Pastor Sharon Ritchie*

**Meals on Wheels**

Apr 2 Heather Marchant  
 Apr 3 Amar & Shobha Singh  
 Apr 6 Wendy Laidlaw  
 Apr 7 Regional Australia  
 Apr 8 Kath Barry-Leven

**Street Stalls**

April 2 Wig Stall  
 April 9 Hospital Aux.  
 April 10, 11 Freemasons  
 April 16, 17, 18 Lions

**Church Notices**

**St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church** Vigil Mass 6pm Saturday 9am Sunday. Weekday Mass Monday – Friday 9am. **Contact:** 6779 1036

**St. James' Anglican Church** 9am Sunday, followed by morning tea. Doors open from 8:30am. All welcome!  
**Contact:** Rev. Tim Stevens 6779 1111  
**Anglicare Chaplain:** Rev. Daniel Hayes (0428 828 852)

**St. Columba's Presbyterian Church** 9am Sunday followed by morning tea. **Contact:** Session Clerk Howard Schaeffer 0267791067

**The Chapel:** 66 Llangothin Street: Sunday Service: 10am  
 Food Pantry Fridays 9am -12pm  
**Contact:** Pastors Linden & Kerrie Pollard 0455 232 073.

**Seventh-day Adventist Church:** Aboomala Street. Sabbath School 10.00am Saturday Divine Service 11.30am Saturday. **Contact:** Minister Luke Reeves 0410 761 320 Church Clerk 6779 1587

**Uniting Church:** 57 Ollera Street: Regular Sunday Service: 9.30am  
**Contact:** Di Burey 0428 791 742

**Church of Freedom** (Cnr. Boorolong & Nincoola Sts.) Sunday worship: 10am Prayer meeting: Tuesday 6.30pm Bible discussion: Wednesday 6.30pm  
**Pastors:** Jeff & Sharon Ritchie 0421 847 973 Chaplaincy services: Dan McGinty 0409 399 270

**Black Mountain Baptist Church** Service 3pm, second Sunday of the month. **Contact:** Robert Dewhurst Armidale District Baptist Church 0409 723 522

**Service Clubs**

**LIONS CLUB** 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at Guyra Bowling Club, 7pm. Ph: Geoff Reeves 6779 1257  
**ROTARY CLUB** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 6pm at The Blind Chef Ph: Hans Hietbrink 0402 044 891

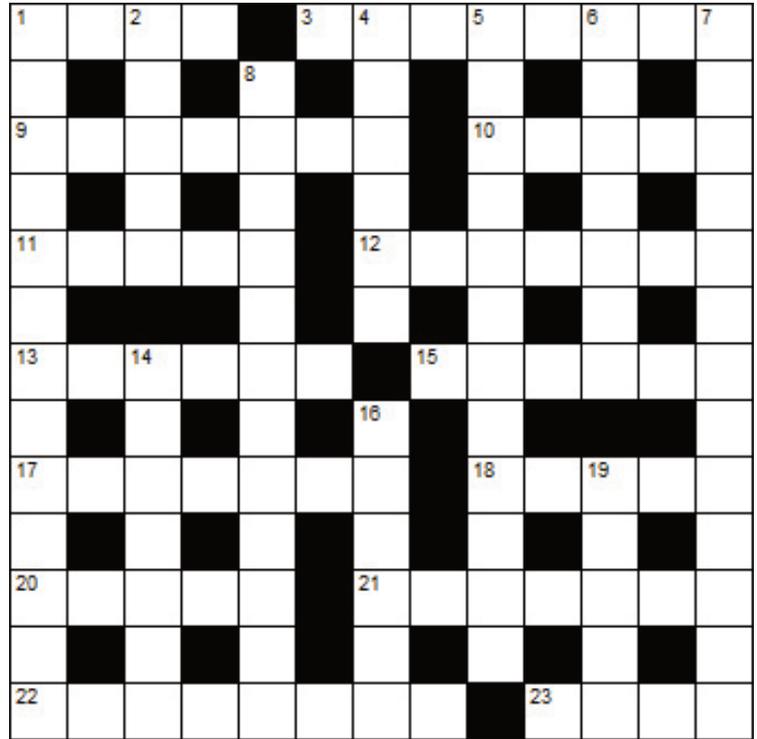
**ACROSS**

- 1 Steals from (4)
- 3 Remaining leftovers (8)
- 9 Agitate; bother (7)
- 10 Coming after (5)
- 11 Not concealed (5)
- 12 Rich sweet roll (7)
- 13 Scrape (anag.) (6)
- 15 Form-fitting garment (6)
- 17 Set apart (7)
- 18 Peak (5)
- 20 Visual representation (5)
- 21 Highest singing voice (7)
- 22 Craving (8)
- 23 Large bodies of water (4)

**DOWN**

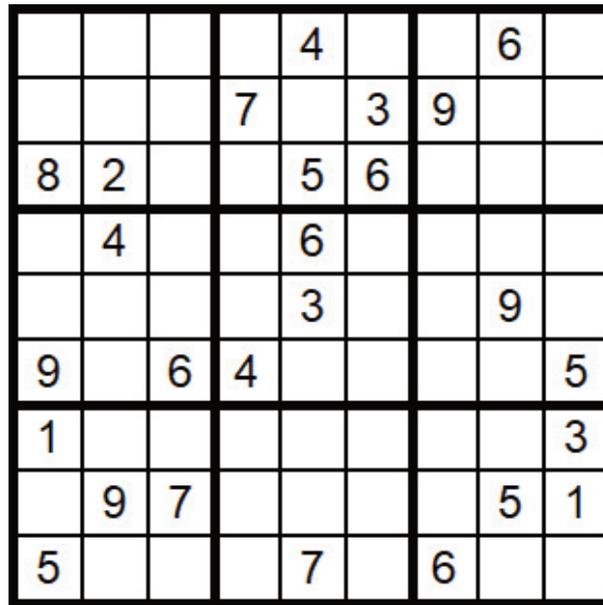
- 1 Property of elements with unstable nuclei (13)
- 2 Moistened meat (5)
- 4 Drink (6)
- 5 Children's toy (12)

**QUICK CROSSWORD**

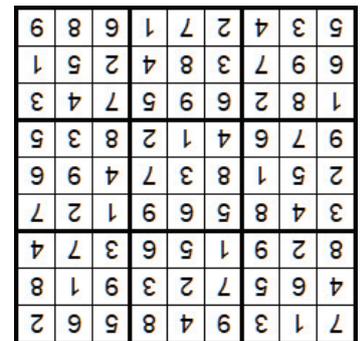


- 6 Observes (7)
- 7 Clandestine (13)
- 8 Underground (12)
- 14 Proportionately (3,4)
- 16 Diminish (6)
- 19 Wipe (5)

**SUDOKU - Hard**



**ACROSS:** 1 Robs 3 Pickings 9 Distrub 10 Later 11 Overt 12 Brioche 13 Capers 15 Corset 17 Isolate 18 Crest 20 Image 21 Soprano 22 Yearning 23 Seas  
**DOWN:** 1 Radioactivity 2 Baste 4 Imbibe 5 Kaleidoscope 6 Notices 7 Surreptitious 8 Subterranean 14 Pro rata 16 Lessen 19 Erase



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**Editor:** Janelle Stewart **Advertising:** Martha Weiderman



## Council Meetings

The next scheduled council meeting is 22 April 2026.

All meetings will be held at 4pm in the Armidale Council Chambers unless stated otherwise. The public is welcome to watch live streaming over YouTube, or attend in person.

## Current opportunities at ARC

Here is a list of all the current opportunities available at ARC.

### Chief Officer Corporate & Community

Closing Date: 11.30pm Sunday 12 April 2026

### Cyber Security Officer

Closing Date: 11.30pm Sunday, 12th April 2026

To find current vacancies, search Armidale Regional Council jobs in your preferred search engine.

## Easter school holiday activity program 2026

Looking for fun, free activities these school holidays? The Easter School Holiday Activity Program 2026 at Guyra LT Starr Memorial Library has something for everyone!

Kids aged 10+ can step into exciting Virtual Reality experiences, while younger children and families can enjoy Chocolate Bingo and get creative with Play-Doh Creatures to take home.

All activities are FREE

- Bookings required
- Participants must be library members
- Children under 10 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.

### What's on:

9 & 15 April | 10.15am – 4.30pm – Virtual Reality (half-hour sessions, ages 10+, parental consent required)  
 10 April | 10.30am – 11.30am – Chocolate Bingo (all ages)  
 16 April | 10.30am – 11.30am & 2.30pm – 3.30pm – Play-Doh Creatures (all ages)

Bookings are essential, so secure your spot early and enjoy a fun-filled Easter break at your local library.



## Free microchipping day for pets

Local pet owners are invited to a free microchipping day at the Armidale Companion Animal Shelter on Saturday 18 April, 11am–2pm. The event offers free microchipping, optional pet registration (standard fees apply), free animal supplies while stocks last, information from animal welfare groups and a BBQ lunch. A great chance to help keep pets safe and identifiable.

## Free Get Grubby Program

Armidale Regional Council is pleased to offer the Get Grubby sustainability education program free of charge to the Armidale region. Delivered by Dirtgirlworld, Get Grubby is a curriculum-aligned program that



supports early learning services, schools and homeschoolers to build environmental awareness through practical, hands-on learning.

The program explores 10 sustainability units, including:

- Reducing, reusing and recycling
- Composting and worm farming
- Saving water and energy
- Growing food
- Spending time outdoors and connecting with nature

By bringing Get Grubby to the region at no cost, Council is supporting local education and encouraging sustainable behaviours from an early age.

To access the free program, please contact [communications@armidale.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communications@armidale.nsw.gov.au) to receive your access link and code.

## In-kind support made simpler for community groups

Community groups and organisations can now more easily access in-kind support from Armidale Regional Council, thanks to a new, simple and transparent application process. In-kind support includes non-cash assistance such as access to council equipment, venue hire help, waste services, technical advice and staff expertise, helping reduce costs and support great local projects and events.

The first in-kind support round is open from Friday 13 March to Monday 4 May. Visit Council's website to learn more and apply.

## Ryanda Street reconstruction underway

Council is delivering the \$1.9 million Ryanda Street Reconstruction in Guyra to improve road safety, drainage, parking and pedestrian access. Works include stormwater upgrades, road reconstruction between Ollera and Tenterden Streets, new parking near the sports field, and a shared path linking to Guyra Central School precinct connectivity. For more information, visit Armidale Regional Council website.

## Water update

As of 1 April 2026, Armidale Region is on level 1 water restrictions.

# Black Mountain Public School – Small Schools Cross Country

On Friday, 27th March 2026 the students at Black Mountain Public School participated in the annual Snow Gums Small Schools Cross Country event at Bald Blair Public School. Although the weather was somewhat windy and cold the students enjoyed the day supporting their peers as they participated in their events. A special congratulations to Unaloto 'Ale – First Senior Boys, Tallara Patterson – 2nd 11 Year Girls, Jamiiek Patterson – 2nd Sub Junior Boys and congratulations to all other competitors. All students represented our school with pride and showed so much enthusiasm. Well done everyone! Thank you to the Bald Blair P&C for catering on the day, and to Bald Blair Public School for organising this event.

Mrs Justine Eddy  
Relieving Principal



## Rural Market Reports

### Guyra Sheep and Lamb sale

**March 24th** – Yarding 6045 which included 3187 Xbred lambs, 240 store lambs, and 2568 sheep.

No market report available

### Armidale Cattle Sale

**March 26th** - 4219 cattle were yarded in Armidale, 275 more than the previous week.

It was a plainer quality yarding with store cows heavily represented for an overall cheaper market as we head towards two short weeks with Easter upcoming. Most major buyers were present.

Young cattle to the trade were limited however the steers ranged from 380c to 440c/kg. The heifers made from 380 to 400c/kg. Feeder steers were considerably cheaper they made from 430c to 480c/kg.

The heifers also cheaper they ranged from 340c to 420c/kg. Young cattle to the restocker were 20c to 25c

cheaper the steers made to 490c/kg while the heifers made to 416c/kg. Grown steers and heifers were 10c to 15c cheaper.

Prime grown steers made to 432c while the prime grown heifers made to 390c/kg. Cows were over 25c cheaper. 2 and 3 score cows to the processor made from 220c to 344c/kg. Prime heavy weight cows ranged from 320c to 360c/kg. Cows going back to the paddock made from 240c to 328c/kg. The best bull reached 372c/kg.

*Hamish Hosegood.*

### Weekly Wool Market

**March 27th** - Some global headwinds have interrupted what was looking like a promising wool market up until three weeks ago. With the logistic costs of moving anything increasing at a rapid rate, the current wool market is under pressure but still performing admirably.

The nations three wool selling centres tried to realign this

week with the Eastern seaboard returning to near normal conditions and the Western region still lagging. Exchange rates played into local currency favour with the Eastern market indicator down 1.5%. When looked at in US dollars it was a 3.5% decline.

In the Northern region the market indicator lost 11 cents on Tuesdays opening and a further 8 cents by Wednesdays close. Merino cardings and pockets around the 20 micron indicator outperformed the rest of the market. 36,140 bales were sold nationally for the week. Passed in rates edged slightly higher than the seasons average and registered 8.9%.

Major buyers included PJ Morris, Techwool and Tianyu with the top 4 Merino fleece buyers registering a large 66% market share between them. Next week's national offering is expected to remain below 40,000 bales. The market will then pause for a one week recess over the Easter period.

## Next round of roadworks underway

From Monday March 30th, delays and slow conditions will affect motorists between Guyra and Armidale as the next round of work on the New England Highway north of Sunnyside Road begins.

Changed traffic conditions will be in place from Monday on the New England Highway about 20 kilometres north of Armidale for maintenance work.

Transport for NSW will carry out the work which includes drainage works, road widening, heavy patching and guardrail installation.

The work will be carried out from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday. Work is expected to be completed by late October 2026, weather permitting.

Lane closures with stop/slow traffic arrangements and a 40km/h speed reduction will be in place for the safety of workers and motorists. Motorists should allow an additional five minutes' travel time.

**For more information on this work visit <https://www.livetraffic.com/incident-details/269373>, download the Live Traffic NSW app or call 132 701.**

# St Marys Easter Hat Parade

St Mary of the Angels enjoyed their annual Easter Hat Parade this week.

The young people impressed with their efforts making it hard to judge.

The winners from each year were:

Locky H, Ryan R, Archie F, Georgie C, Matthew S, Tristan N and Edmond S.



## The Perils of Relying on AI: A Lesson from a local

In the age of AI, tools like ChatGPT can feel like an instant encyclopedia at our fingertips. They provide answers quickly, summarize information, and even craft stories or quizzes. But a recent exchange highlights that AI is only as accurate as the data it draws from and mistakes can propagate easily.

Getting on the bandwagon a while ago, I decided to see if AI might be helpful in creating a quiz about our local history. One of the questions that popped up had me intrigued.

“In 1921, Guyra made national headlines when a young girl went missing. What was her name?”

The answer was Shirley Collins. Who is Shirley Collins, you might ask and so did I.

### Here's the story:

*The Disappearance of Shirley Collins (1921)*

- *Who she was: Shirley Collins was a 4-year-old girl living with her family on a property just outside of Guyra.*

- *The disappearance: On January 27, 1921, Shirley went missing from her home. The country around Guyra is rugged and heavily timbered in parts, and fears quickly grew that she had become lost in the bush.*

- *The search: A huge search party was organised. Hundreds of locals joined in, along with police, trackers, and volunteers from neighbouring towns. Newspapers across Australia followed the story closely.*

- *The discovery: After being missing for four nights, Shirley*

*was found alive by a local farmer and his dog. She was weak, scratched, and hungry but otherwise unharmed. Her survival at such a young age in the bush for that long was considered miraculous.*

- *Aftermath: Shirley became a kind of national symbol of endurance and hope. The story was retold in papers, school readers, and even song. The event was often referred to simply as “The Guyra Mystery.” Shirley later grew up, married, and lived much of her life in the local region.*

There was just one problem. To the best of my knowledge, it wasn't true. As a local, I pointed out that I had never heard of such an event. Upon investigation, it became clear that two separate stories had somehow merged into

one to create this false narrative.

It appears that AI had somehow blended elements of the Guyra Ghost mystery and the story of “Little Boy Lost” and presented them as fact - a perfect example how the model can generate plausible-sounding but highly inaccurate information.

This Guyra example underscores a vital point: AI is a tool, not a truth machine. It can mislead as easily as it can inform, particularly in nuanced or localised topics. Users must remain sceptical, verify carefully, and remember that human knowledge and local expertise are irreplaceable.

Just in case - if you have ever heard of Shirley Collins drop us a line. We'd love to hear from you.

## NRL Gazette Footy Tipping

Happy Gilmore	44	Luigi	36
Mocack	42	Nicko	36
Wayno	40	Birdie	34
Timmy the Tiger	40	Queen B	34
DJ	40	Bundles	34
Dip Stick	38	Farmer Joe	34
Iggman	38	Lilley	32
Fred	38	SuperJeff	30
Winter Wombat	36	Bulldog	30
SK	36		

### Locals Entry Form - Round 6

Tips must be submitted by 4.00pm on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

Name: .....

Phone: .....

Bulldogs	vs	Panthers
Dragons	vs	Sea Eagles
Broncos	vs	Cowboys
Rabbits	vs	Raiders
Sharks	vs	Roosters
Storm	vs	Warriors
Eels	vs	Titans
Tigers	vs	Knights

Bye:  
Dolphins



# Classifieds Trades & Services

## FREE FERTILISER

**CATTLE & HORSE** waste available free for gardeners or whoever can use it. Located at the Showground; pick up and take away.

## MEETING NOTICES

**BEN LOMOND RFS** Annual General Meeting at Ben Lomond Fire Station 6pm on 29th April.

## FOR RENT

**Two x 2 bedroom furnished flats at 165 Bradley Street:**

Flat 2 - \$350 pw  
Flat 4 - \$400 pw  
Ph Roger 0473 656 686

## CLAIM THE DATE

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY,  
12th & 13th June**

**Mini Book Fair 10am - 3pm** at Rotary Hall, 18 Nincoola Street (Cnr. of White Street)  
Mini Book Fairs will also be held on the 2nd weekend of July, August and September

**THURSDAY, 7th MAY**

**Australia's Biggest Morning Tea** will be held at ADRA, Aboomala Street, Guyra

**9 - 12 JULY 2026  
Guyra SnowFest**

Visit [www.guyrasnowfest.com](http://www.guyrasnowfest.com) to subscribe for information.

## COURSES AT NECC

**Forklift Course**  
Thursday & Monday  
16th & 20th April

**Accidental Counsellor**  
Thursday 14th May

**Chemical Course  
Full & Refresher**  
Thursday 21st May

**Bookings essential at  
New England  
Community College**

(RTO#90145)

**Phone: 6779 2132  
E: [admin@gala.org.au](mailto:admin@gala.org.au)**

## EASTER SERVICES

### Guyra Anglican Church

All are welcome to join us at 9am on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

### St Mary of the Angels Catholic Church

Holy Thursday 6pm, Adoration until 7.30pm

Good Friday 3pm, Easter Vigil 7pm  
Easter Sunday 9am

### St. Columba's Presbyterian Church

9am Sunday followed by morning tea.

### The Chapel

Join us for our Easter Sunday Service at 10am.

### Church of Freedom

Sunday worship: 10am Prayer meeting:

## FOOD PANTRY

**Food Pantry at The Chapel  
66 Llangothlin Street, Guyra**

**will be CLOSED  
this EASTER FRIDAY**

Contact: 0455 232 073

## FAVOURITE SHORTS

**Ben Lomond  
Landcare Group  
& High Country  
Theatre Group**



present

**2026 'Favourite Shorts'**  
at Ben Lomond Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> April  
6:30 for 7pm start.

**Adults \$18**

Soup and savoury muffin,  
Tea & coffee at interval  
See [Ticketebo.com.au](http://Ticketebo.com.au) favourite shorts, QR Code or pay at the door.

## MEETING ROOM FOR HIRE

### Conference/Meeting Room

- Reasonable rates
  - Smart Board or Data Projector
  - Catering arranged on request
  - Teams meetings arranged
- Contact: The GALA Centre  
136 Bradley Street, Guyra  
Ph: 6779 2132

E: [admin@gala.org.au](mailto:admin@gala.org.au)

## TRADES & SERVICES

### PLUMBING & GAS FITTING SUPPLIES

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- Septic Systems • LPG Supplier • BOC Agents
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RJ & KA Hammond  
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### USHERS AG SERVICES

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### Guyra

## Carpet Cleaning

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# Gazette's Celebrity Footy Tipping

It was certainly a low scoring round this week, mostly 4 and 6 points with the top score being a 10. A couple of tipsters almost made it to a score of zero!

Celebrity Sue was one of the top scorers with 10 points to see her sprint away with the lead on 42 points.

Even though managing only 6 points, Smokey the Butcher is just 2 points behind on 40. Kim is in 3rd place on 38, followed by Marie on 36.

Rounding out our Celebrities we have Eli and the lovely lads at Fourways on 34 points, our Pharmacist Vu is on

32 points and Soley is keeping the Wooden Spoon position warm with just 26 points.

Happy Gilmore is top of the Locals Leaderboard on 44 points, while Mocack has slipped a bit to 2nd place on 42 points.

Wayno, Timmy the Tiger and DJ have control of 3rd place on 40 points with Dip Stick and Igman following another 2 points behind on 38. Last year's winner, Winter Wombat is loitering in the middle of the field.

Happy tipping everyone!

## Sue's Tips

- Dolphins
- Bulldogs
- Panthers
- Cowboys
- Broncos
- Sharks
- Raiders
- Eels



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**Score: 42**

## Soley's Tips

- Dolphins
- Bulldogs
- Panthers
- Cowboys
- Titans
- Sharks
- Raiders
- Tigers



**Your Rural  
Taxation  
Specialists**

Chartered Accountants

98 Bradley Street, Guyra  
e: csole@soletaxation.com.au  
p: 6779 1267



**Score: 26**

## MCLS' Tips

- Sea Eagles
- Rabbits
- Panthers
- Cowboys
- Broncos
- Sharks
- Raiders
- Eels



## Fourways Service Centre

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6779 1284

**Score: 34**

## Vu's Tips

- Dolphins
- Bulldogs
- Panthers
- Dragons
- Broncos
- Sharks
- Raiders
- Tigers



## Easter Trading

Good Friday - Closed  
Easter Saturday - Closed  
Easter Sunday I - Closed  
Easter Monday - Closed  
Tuesday - 8am - 5.30pm

102 Bradley Street, Guyra 6779 1192



**Score: 32**

## Robert's Tips

- Dolphins
- Bulldogs
- Panthers
- Cowboys
- Broncos
- Warriors
- Raiders
- Tigers



## Easter Trading:

Thursday: 8.00am to 5.30pm  
CLOSED Friday, Saturday  
Sunday & Monday.

**Special This Week:  
Prawns - \$39.99kg**



105 Bradley Street  
6779 1008

**Score: 40**

## Marie's Tips

- Dolphins
- Rabbitohs
- Panthers
- Cowboys
- Broncos
- Warriors
- Knights
- Tigers



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marie@countrywideproperty.net.au



**Score: 36**

## Kim's Tips

- Dolphins
- Bulldogs
- Panthers
- Dragons
- Broncos
- Sharks
- Raiders
- Eels



## Easter Hours

Good Friday: 8am - 1pm  
Saturday: 7am - 1pm  
Sunday - Closed  
Monday: 8am - 1pm  
Call: 0486 012 743



**Kimmy's Kitchen**  
120A Bradley St,

**Score: 38**

## Eli's Tips

- Dolphins
- Bulldogs
- Panthers
- Cowboys
- Broncos
- Sharks
- Raiders
- Eels



## Cr Eli Imad

Contact me:

M. 0404 000 075

E. Elmad@armidale.nsw.gov.au

For strong regional  
representation

**Score: 34**

# Spuds win trial game against Sawtell

The Super Spuds warmed up for the 2026 season with a good trial win at Bellingen last Saturday and now turn their attention to round one of the competition against the Group 19 champions, Inverell.

After waking up in freezing temperatures, Guyra went to Bellingen to face Sawtell and ran into very hot conditions.

The Panthers scored twice before the Spuds had woken up and it was 10-nil, but that was the last time they troubled the scorers.

Robert Sisson scored Guyra's first try just before halftime when he broke a tackle and surged over.

Archie Dowden kicked the goal for a 10-6 score.

In the second half Will Archibald added the second try when he supported a clean break from Jackson Coote and Dowden booted the goal from the sideline to give Guyra a 12-10 lead.

## Hockey

The second grade women's team backed up for our second round of the season playing PLC. Once again we needed to rethink tactics as we faced youth, agility and speed. Our new member Anna Roberts took this all in her stride after 11 years of not playing hockey, casually found her groove and was on the scoreboard in no time putting Guyra ahead.

As the game progressed, be it the heat or fitness, we moved to a divided field of forwards and backs with plenty of space between. Guyra managed to hold PLC out even with a final scramble in defence to keep the score 1-0. I believe Allen's Red Frogs may become our team mascot as they continue to get us through.

The third grade women played ESC this round, arriving slightly nervous knowing this team from last year. In true form the ladies continued to build from our last game with short passes and working the ball up the field especially with the help of our young members (Poppy and Lily) breaking down the ESC strong midfield.

Matt Sisson finished off a scrappy try and Ben Vidler converted soon after to stretch the Guyra lead to 18-10 and, after some back and forth in the dying minutes, that's how the score stayed at the end.

The Spuds were able to give 20 players a run, including some who will form the basis of the reserve grade side.

Earlier the Spudettes found the going tough against Bellingen-Dorrigo in the leaguetag trial, but managed a try to Taylor Waters and a conversion by Alli Burey in what was a steep learning curve for the inexperienced members of the squad.

Training continues this week and next and then Inverell comes to the New Red Hill on April 11 for a huge opening day, which doubles as a 20-year reunion for the 2006 Guyra first grade premiership side.

Jenny Atkin had a few challenges with her foot and ball coordination in our defensive goal allowing our backs and fill in goalie plenty of practise defending penalty corners. Abby Jackson stepped up to play a defensive midfield in her second game of hockey ever and wow she is one to watch this season as she improves each game.

Special mention to Suse Crawford for her goal scoring ability - maybe this will be the motivation needed for sister Jacqui Buntine to sign up and contest for top goal scorer this season. A 3-1 defeat, but our ladies should be proud of this result which was a big improvement on last year when facing ESC.

## Vets Golf

Last Tuesday the Vets played a 4BBB stableford. Robert Moore and Wayne Archibald proved to be a lethal combination scoring 46 points to come in the winners. There were a few teams on 41 but after the countback Don Campbell and Len Stanley were declared runners up. Neil Paine got two NTPs with Don Campbell get-



Robert Sisson was the first try-scorer for the Super Spuds for 2026

ting the 3rd.

Congratulations to our ladies. What a fabulous job they did hosting the three day NEDGA golf tournament. It showcased our golf course, our club and our town in the highest regard. The many positive comments from the many visitors was very encouraging and we thank all that was involved. Great job ladies.

*Drake.*

## Ladies' Golf

Last week the ladies played a Stableford in beautiful sunny weather. We had a small field of eight, which is understandable after a big weekend of golf.

The winner was Leonie Taylor with 41 points. Jenny Rogers was the runner up on a countback from Tina Skipper with 40 points. Nearest the pin winners were; Julie Walker on the 9th hole, and Leonie Taylor on the 18th hole.

This week the ladies are playing in the Guyra Vets Week of Golf. Next week is the 3rd Golf NSW Medal Round.

Happy Easter to our golfers and their families!

*Birdie*

## Sunday Golf

We have a few events coming up in the next few weeks. This includes the first round of the Men versus Women event to be played on Saturday the 11th of April to be run in conjunction with the Molly Sole Medal.

Then on Sunday the 19th of April the Hockey Club will be running a two person Ambrose as a Fundraiser for Cody and Alyssa Patterson to assist them with their sick child.

It would be great to see a huge roll up for the day. There will be Men's, Women's, Junior's and Mixed prizes on offer on what should be a great day.

Also the Semi Final of the Matchplay - we would like to get played as soon as possible.

The matches are Adam Brennan v Ian Taylor and Darrin Towells v Peter Jackson.

In the next few weeks the draw for this year's Matchplay will go up on the board so keep your eyes out for that.

Some other exciting things are in the pipeline for winter. We will keep you all informed through the season.

*HAPPY GOLFING*