

Warialda doctors dubbed 'Local Legends'

As part of McGregor Gourlay's 120 year celebrations late last year, the company launched the McGregor Gourlay Local Legends campaign, an initiative to give thanks to the people in the community who go above and beyond for their town.

Josh McGregor, great grandson of J.A. McGregor and General Manager of McGregor Gourlay said the company prides itself on being at the forefront of agriculture, and they could not have achieved 120 years of business without the loyalty and support of those in its communities.

"McGregor Gourlay hasn't lasted 120 years on the back of a bunch of buildings and vehicles," he said.

"It's lasted 120 years on the back of its people and that's because their people are part of the community.

"The Local Legends campaign is about recognising those people who are the backbone of the community, who've helped us become who we are," he said.

Warialda's very own Dr Clem Gordon was one of the five finalists from 70 nominations received for the Local Legend awards. The McGregor Gourlay team were thrilled that Clem was recognised along with his wife Dr Di Coote for all they have



LOCAL LEGENDS: Dr Di Coote and Dr Clem Gordon accept the \$1000, presented by McGregor Gourlay's Norma Menzies and Gary Smith.

done for the Warialda community and in thanks for their contribution to the campaign, donated \$1000 to the Warialda Community Aid Fund in their honour.

Providing first class medical care

and support to the rural community has become the life's work of Clem and Di and their capable staff at the Warialda Medical Centre. Their commitment to the people of Warialda and district is truly evident

in their 28 years of dedicated service.

While many country towns struggle to find and keep medical practitioners, Warialda has been blessed to have these doctors who have totally embraced and immersed

themselves in country life. This husband and wife team have given new meaning to the term legendary.

Around the clock, both Clem and Di are available at a moment's notice, having likely treated every person within the Warialda community at some point.

"We want to celebrate these local legends," Josh McGregor said.

"These are the people that make our community a great place to live."

The donation, which has gone into Warialda's Community Aid Fund, will help families and individuals in the Gwydir Shire who are dealing with medical issues. The Community Aid Fund began as the 'Nugget Russell Fund', an account which gave support to a young Warialda resident battling cancer, and his family, throughout the course of his treatment. The present fund is in place to assist local residents in need, during times of combined medical and financial hardships.

Through the generosity of suppliers Dow AgroSciences and Pacific Seeds, McGregor Gourlay were able to make the significant contribution to the local fund.

Splash of cash will kick off long awaited pool upgrades

Diving into the Bingara Pool will no longer knock the breath out of your lungs, thanks to a \$229,834 project funded by the NSW Government that promises to keep the water at a balmy 28 degrees throughout the winter months.

With the pool now closed for winter, Member for Northern Tablelands met with swimmers from Bingara Central School recently to announce that major upgrades would soon extend the popular facility's operating season.

"Bingara has produced a promising group of local swimmers, but the local pool is only just treading water," Mr Marshall said.

"The 55-year-old facility has been battling with leaks for years and the region's frigid winters have limited usage to a five month window from mid-October to late March.

"Thanks to a new solar heater and pool blanket, the water will be kept to a comfortable 28 degrees through a longer swim season, giving promising young swimmers a better opportunity to hone their aquatic skills.

"With three students at Bingara

Central School heading for State Championships this year, each additional day of training will give them an upper hand on their competition."

Funding for the project has come from the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund, part of the \$1.3 billion Regional Growth Fund dedicated to improving community amenities in rural and regional areas.

Mr Marshall said that extensive works would resurface the pool to prevent further leaks, while Gwydir Shire Council also planned to convert the 33½ metre pool into a standard 25-metre competition format.

"Council has been battling with leaks for years, yet attempts to plug the many holes have been found to be expensive and temporary," Mr Marshall said.

"A new lining will stop leaks, saving the community thousands of litres of water and driving down running costs, delivering residents a better return on their rates.

"This project will split the existing pool in two, creating a heated 25 and 11 metre pool that will allow

different groups of swimmers to use it for training, lap swimming and taking a casual dip simultaneously."

Gwydir Shire Mayor John Coulton said upgrading the pool was a longstanding priority for council.

"The Bingara Pool is an essential facility for the town, both of our towns are very passionate about swimming, and you need somewhere to be able to learn this vital skill," Cr Coulton said.

"Unfortunately the problems at Bingara Pool are beyond council's means to fix. We've been continuously patching it up, but this will be a long term solution."



Bingara Swimming Club members are excited about the news of an upgraded pool. Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall visited the club's junior members to deliver the good news recently.

What's on at The Mersh...

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