



Narrabri Courier  
16/06/2009  
Page: 1  
General News  
Region: Narrabri NSW  
Circulation: 2737  
Type: Regional  
Size: 363.45 sq.cms  
Frequency: -T-T---

# Narrabri could become 'country science capital'

**Organisers of Science Week activities this year plan a Narrabri 'Science Festival' and to make the event the launch of 'Narrabri - the Science Jewel of the Newell.'**

Narrabri's role as a hub of research in astronomy and agriculture supports the claim to be a 'country science capital' said one of the Science Week organisers, Community

Partnerships Co-ordinator Di Rushton.

"Because of our position on the Newell Highway, and what we have here in Government and private research, Narrabri could become the country 'science capital' " Mrs Rushton said.

The Australia Telescope, the Australian Cotton Research Centre,

and the University of Sydney Plant Breeding Institute are well known.

And there are reportedly more PhD holders in the community per head of population than anywhere else, but private industry is also a force in scientific research and innovation.

"We have Aquatech, which is a national award winner, Namoi Valley

Aquafarm, leaders in aquaculture, Deltapine, part of Monsanto and there are many.

"We are, in fact, a high-tech. hub."

"To start the Science on the Newell project we would begin with a Science Festival here in town during Science Week.

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# ‘Science capital’ plan

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“National Science Week is in August, and we are using the same dates, August 15 to 23 for our Week” said Di.

“We also hope to run some national events including a short film competition Scinema 09.

“If we link up with Scinema they will send through promotional material and we can run the winning films at any

venue at any time.

“We have also applied to link up with other national events to run simultaneously.

“We are using the tentative title ‘the Science Jewel on the Newell - Narrabri Shire.’

“We hope to open the Week with a gala dinner and through the week a series of events will be held which the community and school

students will be invited to attend.

“We hope to cover science for everyone from pre-schoolers to octogenarians.

“And the AT may have an exciting addition to the program” added Mrs Rushton. “The AT has also applied to run the ABC program ‘Science in the Pub’ that week and we hope to run that in a Narrabri pub.”



‘Science Jewel on the Newell’ committee members plan the event. From left to right: Mary Fielder, Kara Rushton, Di Rushton, Di Shann, Trudy Staines, Kate Schwager and Jo Houldsworth.