

M I C H A E L

R E I D



SEE DO HEAR EAT
M U R R U R U N D I

SEE DO HEAR EAT
MURRURUNDI

We acknowledge the traditional owners of Murrurundi land,
the Kamilaroi and Wanaruah people.

SEE DO HEAR EAT
MURRURUNDI

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Having established successful galleries in Surry Hills (Sydney) and Berlin (Germany), Michael Reid and his partner Nellie Dawes completed their axis of art by establishing a presence in a rural town with fewer than 1000 permanent residents.

Michael Reid Murrurundi
Boyd Street, Murrurundi,
The Upper Hunter, NSW 2338
Open: Fri-Sun, 11-5pm
02 6545 6767





WHY MICHAEL REID MURRURUNDI?

First, per head of population, there are more art and craft galleries in Murrurundi than in Paris. Paint stains are fashionable in Murrurundi. Welding scars are a source of pride among its townsfolk.

Second, in Murrurundi you can pat a pony at the pub. In fact, almost every vista includes horses and cattle, plus the occasional deer, kangaroo and wallaby. It's important, though, to take your eyes off the magnificent views every now and then, if only to check that you're not about to step in manure.

Lastly, Murrurundi offers a family connection in historic Bobadil House.

BOBADIL HOUSE (1841 - 1842)

One of the oldest-surviving buildings in town, Bobadil House was built of local sandstone as a Cobb & Co. stagecoach post by the colonial surveyor Henry Dangar. It was known briefly as the Woolpack Inn, before being renamed the White Swan Inn.

In the 1890s, Bobadil House was remodelled and converted to a private home for landholder John Sevil and his wife and 11 children. John Sevil's great-great-grand-daughter, Nellie [Sevil] Dawes is its current custodian.

Travellers on the New England Highway may catch glimpses of the two-storey, late-Georgian residence set in a 4.5-hectare garden. It shelters behind towering hedges and lines of London plane trees. Dormant agapanthus, iris, rosemary and hibiscus plants were coaxed to grow and flower again, having been lost to the bush for over two decades.





Plantings of acanthus, periwinkles, hellebores, hollyhocks, violets and Japanese anemones have thrived. A thicket of self-seeded robinia, alder and golden elm trees lends a sense of mystery, while an enormous river red gum anchors the garden in place.

The restoration of the buildings and garden that began in 2006 has been a labour of love. Over two years, 80 truckloads of privet and blackberry bushes were removed from the old garden, revealing the sandstone ruins of a convict cellblock. Michael and Nellie saw potential in the ruins, and established a gallery there as an incubator for emerging artists and to complement their galleries in Sydney and Berlin.

A decade later, the garden and the gallery are thriving. Leading Australian artists such as Adam Cullen, David Bromley, Noel McKenna, Robert Jacks, Chris Langlois, Paul Ryan, Lucy Vader and Sally Gabori have all mounted solo exhibitions in Murrurundi. The garden, as an extension of the gallery, is used for exhibition openings, the presentation of sculpture, education days, Spring & Autumn Market Days, and the annual December Berlin Beach Club – a knees-up held on three consecutive Fridays leading up to Christmas.

NEW MURRURUNI GALLERY

In late 2017, Michael Reid Murrurundi expanded into a new exhibition space constructed adjacent to the original gallery. Drawing on the history of Bobadil House as a working colonial inn, the Sydney-and Scone-based architects Dods & Zuccon conceived the new gallery as a large agricultural 'out-building' designed to complement the existing late-Georgian sandstone structures.

The new exhibition space looks like a woolshed. In terms of its scale, the materials used, and features such as large steel sliding doors, it will appear as a working out-building of Bobadil House.

The optical illusion is all on the exterior, though. Inside, visitors will find an open and modern exhibition space of 162 square metres dedicated to art. With no interior walls dividing the space, exhibitions can be viewed in one sweep. It is one of the few art galleries built in regional New South Wales within the past decade.





Dods & Zuccon have worked on every detail of the building: from a cantilevered deck off the exhibition space that offers views to the garden, to the heavy-duty insulation against Murrurundi's extreme temperatures. Big, open and minimal, this seemingly simple construction required a great deal of thought and talent.

Another less obvious signature to the gallery is a 150-square-metre roof deck, fully hidden from view at ground level. At a height of 4.5 metres, the platform is accessed from an industrial staircase at one end of the building. Designed as a communal space from which to view the garden at Bobadil House while sipping on a coffee from the coffeehouse, the roof deck will also be used for collector drinks parties and other events.

With the addition of the new gallery, the old gallery housed in the former convict cellblock will be turned over to our coffeehouse and retail space. Over the last two years, the Murrurundi gallery has expanded its own retail brand, Big Brown Dog. With online sales booming and the range of Big Brown Dog products constantly expanding to include everything from candles to clothing, more space is needed in Murrurundi.

HOW AND WHY TO GET THERE

The journey by road (four hours) or by rail to Murrurundi from Sydney is picturesque. When you see horses galloping in the green paddocks of stud farms such as Emirates Park, you are almost there. Or if you travel an hour south from Tamworth, as the New England Highway winds down the Liverpool Range to a 60 km per hour zone, slow down, wind down the window and take a deep breath.

To find the Michael Reid Murrurundi gallery, turn off the New England Highway and park on the verge, a little way down Boyd Street. Open (and close) the gate and follow the gravel path to the gallery forecourt. You may be greeted by Stoker, Michael and Nellie's chocolate Labrador and the name-muse of the Big Brown Dog coffeehouse.

Nestled among hills, the township of Murrurundi is packed with fascinating stories and scenes. Its character was forged by a history of bushrangers such as Ben Hall and the frontier cycle of booms and busts.

"... the plains over the range had seemed to her wild and uncivilised, almost a legendary place; bushrangers had ridden there, hiding in the unexpected hills and valleys of the range, so that her uncles, riding north to Bukkulla, had always gone armed, and tales of Thunderbolt had haunted the valley with excitement and alarm."

(Judith Wright, *The Generations of Men*, 1959)

Murrurundi was the last stop on the train line in the late 1800s. Cobb & Co. stagecoaches offered the only public transport north over the Liverpool Range. You can still experience the bumpy intimacy of a stagecoach ride in Murrurundi – the Royal Hotel has a horse-drawn Cobb & Co. carriage that comes into service for festivals such as the King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge.

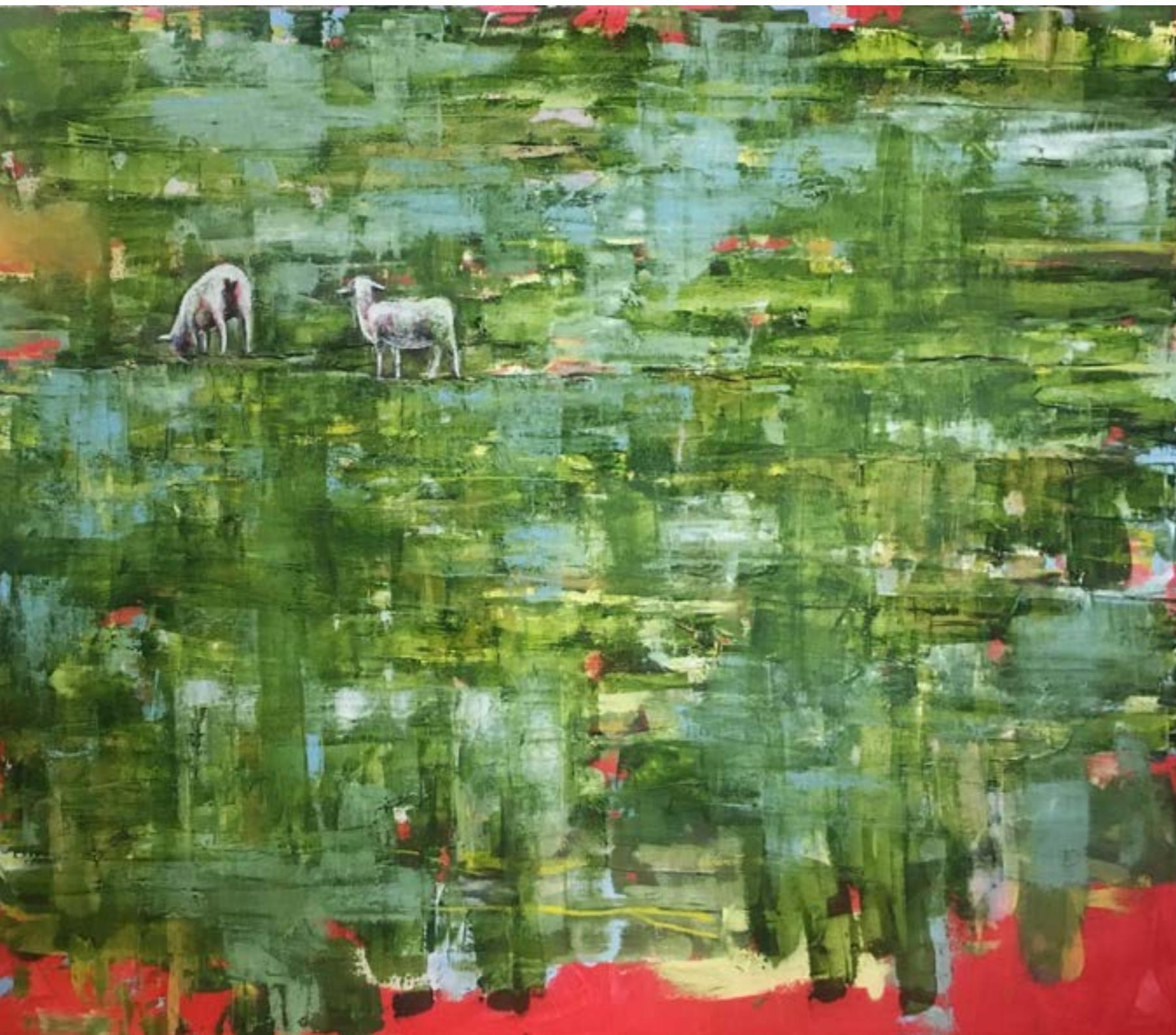


It is a town whose character was forged in a history of bushrangers such as Ben Hall, and the frontier cycle of booms and busts.

The discovery of oil-shale rock, mined from the late 1800s until the end of World War I, provided the boom that put Murrurundi firmly on the map. Today, the town is sustained by quality beef and horse studs. Many of Murrurundi's historic structures have been preserved or restored. A generous army of volunteers maintains heritage and natural attractions such as the Pioneer Cottage, Paradise Park and the Memorial Rose Garden.

Murrurundi is rich in history and community. Long-time residents and much-loved 'blow-ins' have built on the frontier spirit and grown 'Murra' into a thriving centre for arts and culture and a must-visit for anyone travelling through the beautiful Upper Hunter region. Come for the landscape, and stay for the hospitality and vibrant arts culture. Stay up late arguing art and architecture at the pub, or just gazing into an open fire.





Lucy Vader, *The flexible perspective of perception*, 2016

S E E
+ D O



Visitor Information Centre

Visit: 113 Mayne Street

Call: 02 6546 6446

SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

Many of Murrurundi's attractions are on Mayne Street, which doubles as the New England Highway.

Stop for a pit-stop and a good-quality brew at many of the cafes that line the street. Exploring the streets set back from the highway will reveal old sandstone churches, convents, gaols and court houses.

Murrurundi may be small, but it has all the old-fashioned essential services that make for a self-reliant town: train station, newsagency, library, hospital, doctor's clinic, pharmacy and even a public payphone. Three old hotels – the *Royal*, the *White Hart* and the *Railway* – all offer hearty pub meals and beer gardens. It's an easy tour around town to visit each of them. (Remember: one drink per pub is a 'heritage hotel trail'; two drinks is a 'pub crawl'.)

You can also get a drink, a Chinese meal and a game of bowls at the *Murrurundi Bowling Club*, the only venue to still house one-armed bandits (poker machines).

For self-improvement, there are a number of beauty salons and massage therapists, yoga classes, horse-riding stables, and art and craft workshops.



Murrurundi may be small, but it has all the old-fashioned essential services that make for a self-reliant town.



Be a *sport* and watch cricket and Rugby League football (go, the Mavericks!) played at Wilson Memorial Oval, in the centre of town opposite the Visitor Information Centre. Behind the oval are tennis courts, the public swimming pool and Rosedale, a centre for equine activities on many weekends of the year. Drop by to watch pony clubs, barrel-racing or the town's biggest event, the annual King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge.

Play a round at *Murrurundi Golf Course* only a few minutes out of town on Pages River Road. The putting 'greens' may be sandy brown (you rake them), but there is a tee-off on a small cliff that offers the promise of a record drive. When the only spectators are kangaroos and the greens fee is \$5, there's not much to complain about. Remember to BYO refreshments, as the club house is open only for functions.

A few minutes further down the road, have a picnic at *Paradise Park*. If you are wearing sensible shoes, try the steep walk through the rock formation the *Eye of the Needle*, finishing at a dramatic clifftop view of the town. Take parasols and pose for Picnic at Hanging Rock photos. After visiting the Eye of the Needle lookout, you have the option of an additional hour-long walk following the clifftops via a well-kept path, with the vista of Murrurundi the whole way. This new circular path brings you back out at Paradise Park.

The less energetic should start at the *Visitor Information Centre* (VIC). In the middle of town at 113 Mayne Street, open almost every day and staffed largely by volunteers, the centre provides tourism information, sells local crafts and produce, and houses

the *Community Technology Centre*, which offers WiFi and computer access. You can call them on (02) 6546 6446 to find out what's going on around town. A number of attractions are a very short walk from the VIC, including the Murrurundi Museum, Pioneer Cottage, the RSL Memorial Hall, and the Wilson Memorial Oval and Rosedale sports arena.

Murrurundi Museum is in the former Literary Institute (1913). The stocks out front are a reminder of the town's first police station, erected on this site in 1840 when law-breakers could opt for a few hours' humiliation in the stocks in lieu of paying a fine. Run by the good people of the Murrurundi and District Historical Society, the museum is open weekends from 10am to 1pm, but an enquiry at the VIC in advance can get you a private tour. Opposite the museum is the old *Methodist Church* (1890), built of locally made bricks, and the *RSAILA Hall* (1897), which became the RSL Memorial Hall after World War II. The memorial rose garden was opened in 2012.

Volunteers run and maintain the *Pioneer Heritage Cottage* (1889), a time capsule of pioneer life and the challenges of raising six children in an old slab cottage. Originally built on the 'Alston' property at Timor, the building was restored, relocated to the current site, and donated to Murrurundi in 1996 by a descendant of one of those six children. Check with the VIC for opening times and try to book one of the free tours run by devoted caretaking twins Carmel and Gwen. Donations towards the cottage's upkeep are accepted at the nearby wishing well.



Further north is *The Royal Hotel* (1860) on the corner of Mayne and Murrulla streets. A changing depot for Cobb & Co. until 1867, the rear of the building still has the old sandstone stables (1860).

Continue up Murulla Street to view the old *gaol and courthouse* (1860) built on the site of the original 1842 courthouse. The sergeant's residence (1890s) is at the southern end of the town. Find your way south to Mount Street and *St Paul's Anglican Church* (1870s), designed by noted colonial architect J. Horbury Hunt and built of local sandstone. The building was commissioned by the White family. (A descendant was the Nobel-prize winning novelist Patrick White.). Services are held in the church and you can find the times on their Facebook page.

Bushrangers are a part of Murrurundi's history. Ex-convict Benjamin Hall, father of one of Australia's best-known bushrangers, Ben Hall, purchased the first block of land in Haydonton (the original name of the southern part of Murrurundi). The Hall family's original slab cottage (1842), where Ben spent much of his early childhood, was located near the corner of Mayne and Adelaide streets. Also on Hall's original block is 'Rosebank' (1889), at the corner of Adelaide and Liverpool streets.

You can find the grave of Ben's mother Eliza Hall (d. 1869) in the cemetery behind *St Joseph's Church* (1860) in Polding Street. A small wooden chapel (1841) was replaced by the existing sandstone church, where services are still held. The cemetery also contains the tombs of town founders Peter Haydon (d. 1842) and Thomas Haydon (d. 1855).

Also in Polding Street is *Murrurundi House* (1880), a stately two-storey structure built as a convent for the Sisters of Mercy. Next-door is an old Catholic school. The buildings are now privately owned but can be admired from the road.

Trainspotters will want to visit *Murrurundi Railway Station* (1872) in Victoria Street. A high pedestrian overpass offers views of the trains. The train is worth considering for a scenic journey to and from Murrurundi. You will find information about the daily service at nswtrainlink.info.





Adam Cullen (1965–2012), *Bull*, 2010





Danielle Tooley, *Little Hartley*, 2015



TAKE ME DOWN TO THE RIVER

Another way to explore Murrurundi is to follow the Pages River. Upstream, it is the source of the town's water. The river has at times been a gushing torrent, flooding Mayne Street; at other times, it disappears beneath the riverbed, invisible but still flowing on to join the Hunter River.

Determined trekkers can follow the river, with public land on one side or the other, as it snakes through the town. Speaking of S-shaped slitherers, do watch where you tread and wear sensible shoes, as there may be poisonous snakes about.

The best places to view the river are at either the Swinging Bridge on Murulla Street or Arnold's Bridge on the New England Highway. From Arnold's Bridge, wander over to the riverbank for a closer look at the dozen or so colourful metal banners erected by the community and bearing designs of local flora and fauna.



S H O P
S T A Y
+

▲ Michael Reid Murrurundi

Browse through a curated selection of local and sustainably sourced Australian products at our gallery shop.

BOBADIL HOUSE SPRING AND AUTUMN MARKETS

We live in an increasingly transactional world – a world of frictionless e-commerce. I say this sitting at my desk wearing my just-delivered, Rick Shaw, Stingray Cowboy boots from Austin, Texas. They are so kickass.

Online buying allows us to reach out to anywhere, and to buy with increasing confidence and convenience. All good, all power, to the web, I say. But just as we move increasingly online in our buying habits, we have a growing need to come together as people – to see, feel and experience the real world, in an honest and more authentic buying experience, where we actually meet the people who produce the items and products that are of interest to us.

It is hardly surprising, then, that growing retail web dominance has in fact seen a spectacular parallel growth of specialist, handmade produce markets. It is with this in mind that my colleagues and I are working hard to establish market days at Bobadil House, Murrurundi.

My art gallery at Murrurundi is situated in the beautiful grounds of historic Bobadil House. Bobadil House is one of the oldest-surviving buildings in Murrurundi. Built of local sandstone in 1843 as the Woolpack Inn, it was constructed for the surveyor Henry Dangar. The markets are held behind the gallery in the Bobadil House Horse Paddock, which many years ago was used for accommodating the stagecoach horses.

The Bobadil House Markets showcase a carefully selected range of talented stallholders who offer for sale quality, handmade, local-ish goods and fresh produce. Parking is available on Little Street, with entry via the double gates, and on Boyd Street, with entry through the gallery precinct (head to the Horse Paddock). The market and gallery are connected, and access between the two is signposted.

To experience the great joy of a fine day out shared with others in our beautiful region, come along to the Bobadil House Spring and Autumn Markets.



Little Street, Murrurundi
Spring and Autumn, 10am to 3pm
(02) 6546 6767

michaelreidmurrurundi.com.au/visit/market-day

SHOPS

Throughout the town, small shops offer handicrafts, clothing, furnishings and homewares, along with an eclectic assortment of pre-loved and upcycled goods and original creations. They are not all open every day, but most are open on weekends.

Emporium on Mayne

Situated in the old Post Office (60 Mayne Street Murrurundi). Selection of gems, fossils and patchwork quilt supplies.

89 Mayne St, Murrurundi
0419 642 461

Chameleon Upholstery

Upholstery workshop with a wide selection of fabrics

40 Mayne St, Murrurundi
0438 251 285

Araluen Canvas Goods

Made-to-order saddlery, canvas horse and dog rugs

8 Mayne St, Murrurundi
0459 545 011

Michael Reid Murrurundi ►

Rotating art exhibitions, plus an Art Shop selling books, homewares, honey, linens and accessories (everything from beard oil to elephant-grass baskets). A selection of curated, interesting, handmade and localish products is also available through the online store.

Boyd Street
Open: Fri–Sun, 11–5pm
michaelreidmurrurundi.com.au/shop



Darcy & The Fox

Studio of the award-winning photographer and best-selling author and painter David Darcey.

37 Mayne St, Murrurundi
0405 817 174

Boho Banjo

Wearable art created by textile artist Pearl Moon

69 Mayne St, Murrurundi
0431 566 021
pearlmoon.com

Jute and Honey Upholstery

Upcycled furniture, homewares and décor with a retro country charm.

147 Mayne St (opposite the Royal Hotel),
Murrurundi
(02) 65456036
[Facebook](#)

Chicken in the Window

Jewellery, sculpture and other original, heavy-metal and cutting-edge artworks plus take away coffee.

New England Highway (the north end of town),
Murrurundi
(02) 65466270
chicken-in-the-window.com
Follow them on [Facebook](#) to find out about pop-up live music events and other entertainment.

Dooley's

Murrurundi's general store first opened in 1872. The current building dates from 1905. It has a classic grocery range and bottle shop, assorted gifts and homewares, and a new take-away chicken shop.

60 Mayne Street, Murrurundi
Open: Mon-Sat, and Sunday Mornings

King's Collectables

Quirky and extensive range of collectables from beer steins to novelty salt and pepper shakers (ask to see the adults-only cupboard).

107 Mayne St (the pink house), Murrurundi
0403001723

Adawn

Jewellery, clothes, and homeware

69 Mayne St, Murrurundi
0438 464 141
Visit them on [Facebook](#)

Stone & Co. Vintage Interiors

Vintage furnishings and homewares.

Corner of Hayden & Adelaide Streets, Murrurundi
(02) 6546 6874
stoneandco.com.au



Michael Reid
Murrurundi proudly
produces a range of
local and sustainably
sourced Australian
products.

STAY

Graze Willow Tree Inn

A range of excellent accommodation options 15 minutes drive north of Murrurundi.

18 New England Highway, Willow Tree
(02) 6747 7711
grazewillowtree.com.au

Murrurundi Motel

16 Mayne Street, Murrurundi
(02) 6546 6082
www.murrurundimotel.com.au

Pagers River B & B

149 Mayne Street Murrurundi
(02) 6546 6730
isomorphic.com.au/murrurundi

White Hart Hotel

81 Karalee Row, Murrurundi
(02) 6546 6242

Montana Cottage

An 1880s cottage with three bedrooms, self-catering. Pets accommodated by arrangement.

18 Adelaide St, Murrurundi
0427 676 782

Valley View Motel

244 New England Highway, Murrurundi
(02) 6546 6044
valleyviewmotel.com.au

Railway Hotel

48 Haydon Street, Murrurundi
(02) 6546 6220
railwayhotelmurrurundi.com.au

Runnymede Cottage B & B

81 Karalee Row, Murrurundi
(02) 6546 6001





Sophie Gralton, *Girl in Strident Pink (Imaginary Pony 4)*, 2015

E A T
+
D R I N K



▲ The Cottage (Scone)

Savour each bite at Upper Hunter's newest restaurant, *The Cottage*

Big Brown Dog coffeehouse

The Big Brown Dog Coffeehouse, situated in the scenic garden of the Michael Reid Murrurundi gallery, offers Nicaraguan, Ethiopian and Colombian coffees specially blended to form a well-rounded and full-bodied brew. There is also a range of coffee-related products available. Visitors may be greeted by Stoker, our big chocolate-brown Labrador and name-muse for the coffeehouse.

Michael Reid Murrurundi

Boyd Street, Murrurundi

(02) 6546 6767

michaelreidmurrurundi.com.au

Graze Restaurant and Bistro (Willow Tree)

They serve their own prized herd. In the middle of the restaurant is a viewing tank of hanging meat being aged. (Vegetarians are catered for, but mention it when you book).

Willow Tree Inn

18 New England Highway, Willow Tree

(02) 6747 7711

grazewillowtree.com.au

The Cottage (Scone)

This grandly proportioned, quaint cottage on Scone's main street has been home to many things since the 1860s: a private hospital, the Kyeema Guest House and, more recently, the Pastoral Lands Board. Lovingly restored by Sydney businessman and local landowner Michael Crouch and his wife Shanny, The Cottage is now home to one of the Upper Hunter's best restaurants.

The Cottage received the Best Regional Steakhouse Restaurant award in New South Wales in 2016 and 2017.

196 Kelly Street, Scone

(02) 6545 1215

thecottagescone.com





Take a Break

Good spot to sit, inside or out, for breakfast and lunch, and handy to many attractions.

113 Mayne Street, Murrurundi
(02) 6546 6528

Nellibelle's Cakes and Bakes

This charming spot is open all day for snacks and meals.

132 Mayne Street, Murrurundi
0437 144 555
[Facebook](#)

The Plains Pantry (Willow Tree)

6 Cadell Street, Willow Tree
(02) 6747 1348
[Facebook](#)

The Pubs

The Royal Hotel, Railway Hotel and White Hart Hotel offer lunch and dinner most days.

Haydon Hall

Gallery, shop and café (open Thursday to Sunday 11am to 5pm).

66 Mayne Street, Murrurundi
(02) 6546 6969
haydonhall.com.au

A R O U N D M U R R U R U N D I

North, South, East and West

Hikes, views, fields of sunflowers, shops
and restaurants around Murrurundi

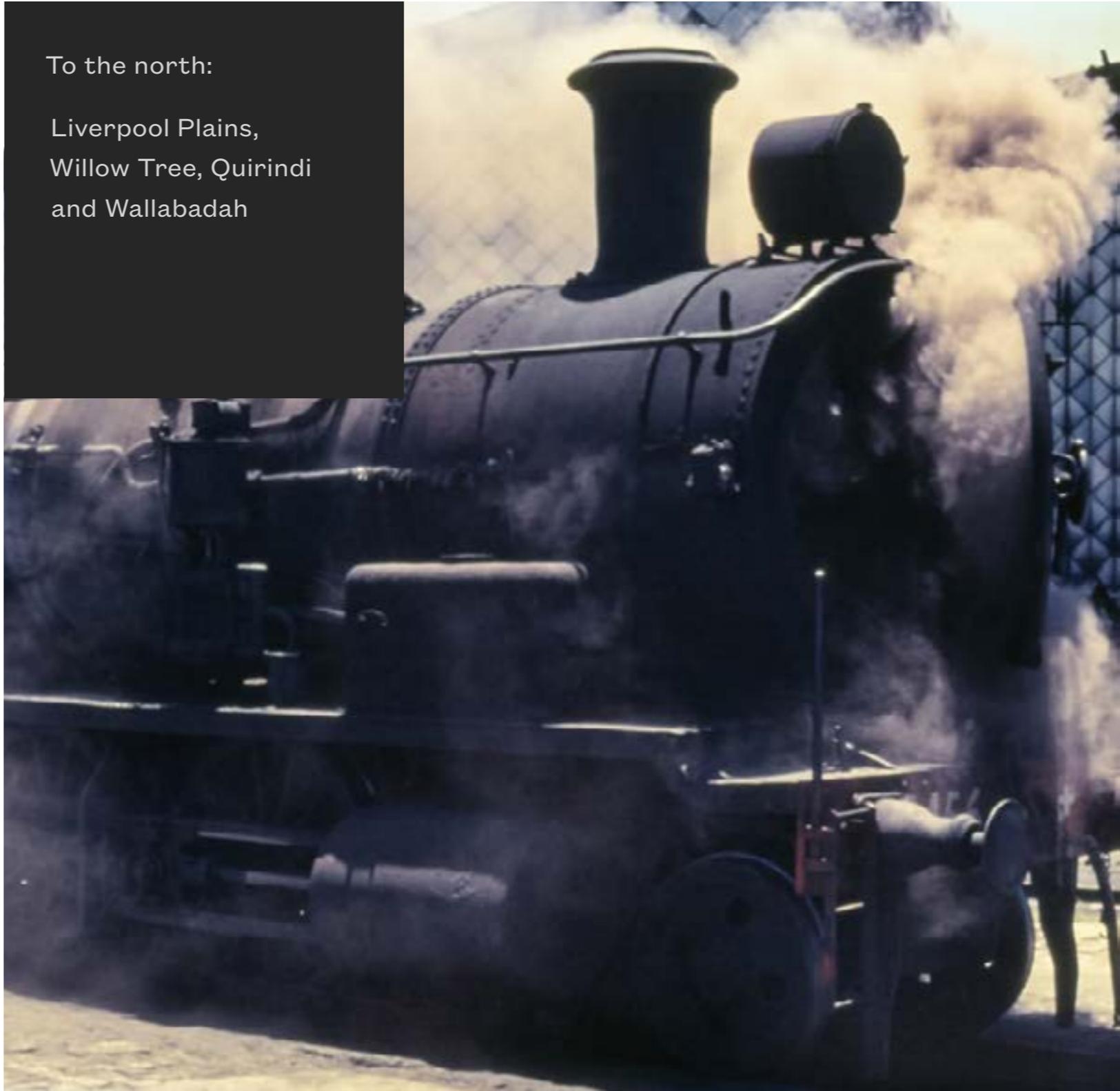


NORTH

A short drive north from Murrurundi is the Liverpool Plains, where sunflowers, sorghum, corn and wheat produce colourful mosaics in the pastures.

Willow Tree is a pretty little village with arts and antique shops just 18 kilometres north of Murrurundi on the New England Highway. The Willow Tree Inn, Graze Restaurant and on-site accommodation are all recommended.

Just after Willow Tree is the turn-off to Quirindi, home to a number of rural heritage museums including the Australian Railway Monument and Rail Journeys Museum. There is a good view of the region from Who'd A Thought It Lookout. (The sign alone is a photo opportunity.)



To the north:
Liverpool Plains,
Willow Tree, Quirindi
and Wallabadah



Return to the New England Highway via Wallabadah and visit the First and Second Fleet Memorial Gardens. (The storyboards include not only the names of every person in the fleet, but also how many dogs, goats, sheep and cattle were transported.)

Near Wallabadah is one of the largest undisturbed areas of white box forest left in Australia, a reminder of what the area looked like before European settlement.

visitquirindi.com.au



An easy drive (45–60 minutes) north on the New England Highway and east on the Fossickers Way is Nundle. With a population of just 300 people, this charming village offers much for its size. The Nundle Woollen Mill, opened in 2001, attracts more than 30,000 visitors annually to see its vintage wool-spinning machinery, buy its pure-wool yarn and browse its extensive selection of wool fashions.

Kerry Swain of Cottage on the Hill's patchwork barn hosts regular quilting retreats, as well as the Annual Outdoor Quilt Airing (May) and Girls' Day in the Country quilting weekend (March). Odgers and McClelland Exchange Stores, opened in 1891, is the oldest-surviving retail premises in Nundle. The timber and iron general merchants building is stocked with goods inspired by original handwritten ledgers, enamelware, cast-iron cookware, gardening tools, natural brushwork, bulk leaf tea, and soap cut from the slab.

Other village favourites are Mount Misery Gold Mine Cafe, Nundle Art Gallery, Sacs boutique, Jenkins Street Antiques and Fine China, Ratters Flat Antiques, Nundle Country Traders, and the secondhand store The Old Church Boutique.

Locally grown and cooked food attracts visitors throughout the year, with the weekend Nundle Craft a bustling hub of seasonal vegetables, preserves and plants. Arc-En-Ciel Trout Farm at Hanging Rock is open three days a week, while its trout are on the menu at The Peel Inn and available at Nundle Friendly Grocer and Cafe Nundle. The annual Nundle Country Picnic is a showcase of local produce, with food prepared by Nundle and District Lions Club volunteers, and produce from Nundle Public School Kitchen Garden.



SOUTH

Approaching Murrurundi from the south, near Wingen, is the turn-off to Burning Mountain Nature Reserve, site of an underground coal seam that has been on fire for thousands of years. The walk takes about an hour and offers amazing views (but not romantic, marriage proposal-type views, as it's hot and smells of sulphur). The Wingen Hotel has lots of character and offers generous pub meals with expansive views from the veranda.

Between Murrurundi and Wingen is Bickham, which appears in the family history of Judith Wright, one of Australia's most famous poets:

“She thought of the prosperous days, when at harvest the vineyard had swarmed with cheerful workers, cutting the grapes, loading them and bringing them in; all now seemed mean and cheerless in comparison with those shining harvest-times of her remembrance.”

(Judith Wright, *The Generations of Men*, 1959)

To the south:

Wingen, Bickham and
Burning Mountain



EAST

In *Blandford*, admire the ivy-covered St Luke's Anglican Church (1880). From Blandford, travel to Timor for fascinating rock formations and native plants such as 'black boys'. Timor has an attractive little timber church (1883) built of pit-sawn timber. Nearby are the Timor Caves, a series of subterranean limestone caverns.

Three kilometres along Timor Road from Blandford, take Scott's Creek Road to the left and head north for a further 16 kilometres to *Wallabadah Rock*, the plug of an extinct volcano. The rock covers about 60 hectares and rises about 959 metres above sea level.

To the east:

Blandford, Timor and
Wallabadah Rock



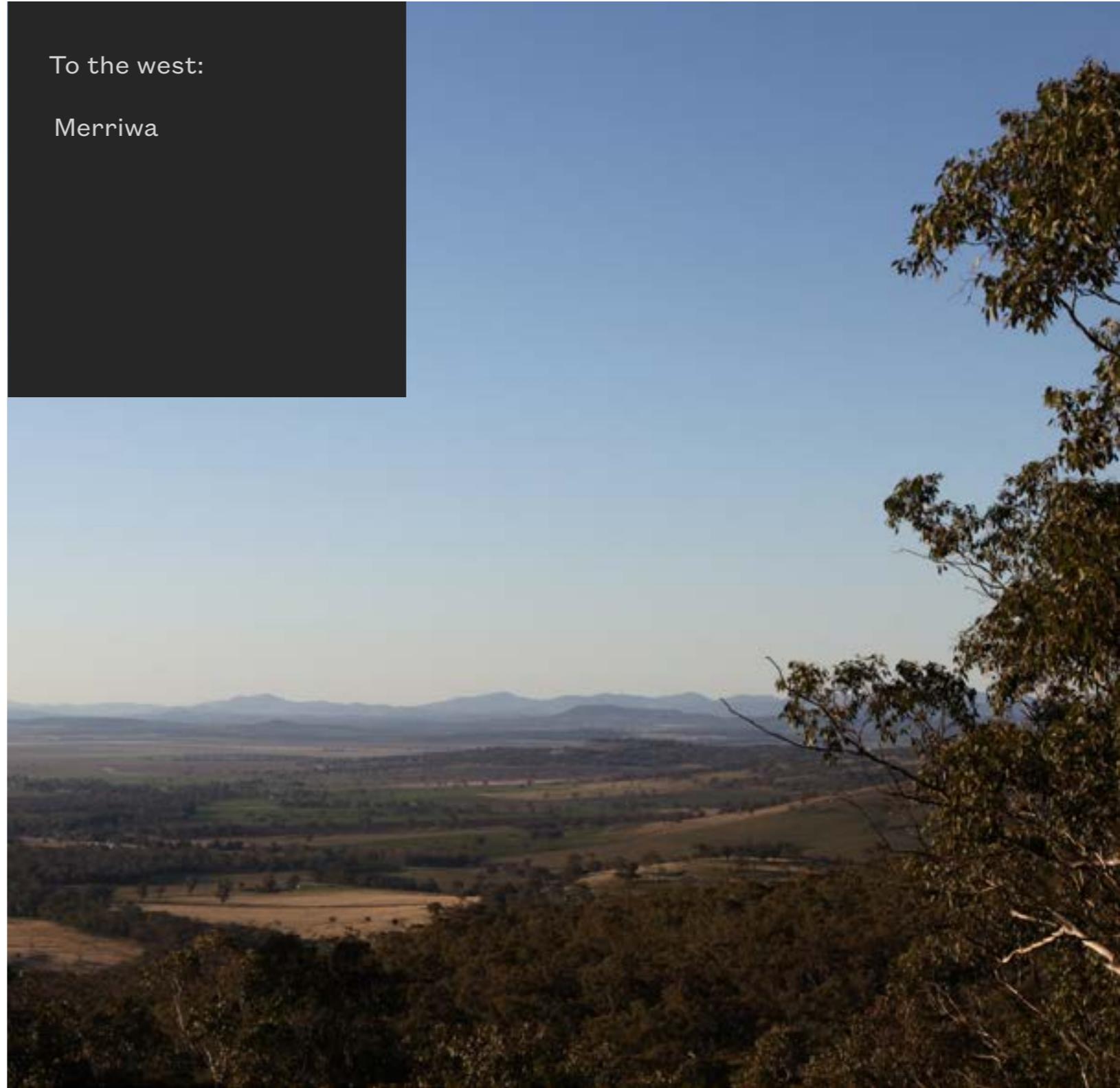
WEST

West of Murrurundi is *Merriwa* (home of the Festival of the Fleeces, held each year in June). It's worth making the 100-kilometre trip via Scone to spend a couple of hours strolling around the town to see its beautiful historic buildings and other attractions. Nearby are Goulburn River National Park and the Battery Picnic Area with a rock formation made of cooled lava columns clustered along a cliff-face.

merriwa.nsw.au

To the west:

Merriwa





W H E N
T O
C O M E

Plenty to experience

With events all year round, Murrurundi
is a great holiday spot

Murrurundi and District Arts Council

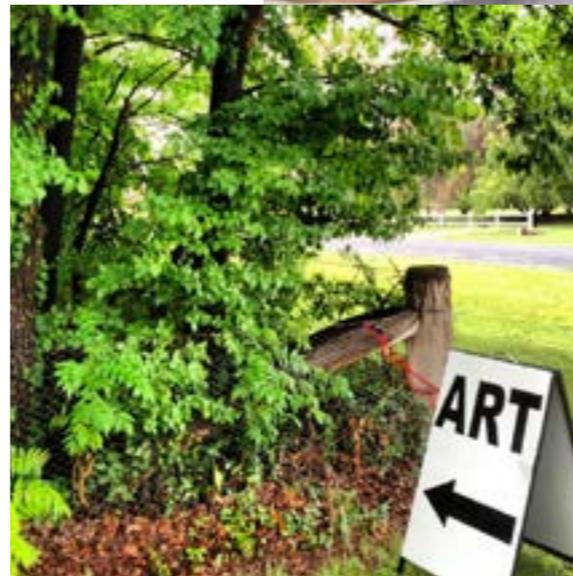
The active Murrurundi and District Arts Council encourages and nurtures artistic pursuits.

The Council runs biennial and annual events, such as the Murrurundi Art Prize (every May), Murrurundi Photographic Prize (every September), and Opera (every second November).

For those who want to get their hands dirty (or at least stained), it also runs art workshops with visiting and local artists.

Follow their activities at murrurundi.nsw.au

Denise Faulkner, *One Lump or Two*, 2016



Look out for annual events:
Murrurundi Art Prize (May),
Murrurundi Photographic
Prize (September),
and Opera (every second
November)



**Tamworth Country Music Festival:
19 to 28 January 201**

One of the biggest Country Music festivals in the world.

tcmf.com.au

**King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge:
22 to 25 February 2018**

See champions ride bareback and cross-country, handle stock, change a horseshoe, boil a billy, and pack a saddle in this prestigious competition of traditional bush skills. Campdraft, bush poetry, markets and food. Camping is available. The finals on Sunday include a wild-horse catch.

Rosedale, Murrurundi
kingoftheranges.com.au

**Working Dog Trials:
March 2018**

This fascinating battle of the wills between sheep, sheepdogs and trainers has been played out in Murrurundi for over 100 years. A surprisingly suspenseful spectator sport.

Wilson Memorial Oval, Murrurundi
nwsheepdogworkers.org.au

**Taste of Tamworth Festival:
6 to 15 April 2018**

The Taste Tamworth Festival is the region's premier annual food event, highlighting growers, makers, chefs and diners. The 10 days of events include the Taste Pop-up Bar, Taste in the Park, The Long Lunch and a Farm Gate Trail.

aroundyou.com.au/whats-on/events/taste-tamworth-festival-2017



Scone and Upper Hunter Horse Festival: 4 to 14 May 2018

Ten days of equine activities. The Horse Parade closes the New England Highway.

sconehorsefestival.com

Darley Scone Cup Race Day: 11 May 2018

Horse racing is a popular sport in the Upper Hunter, with regular meets. A highlight is the Scone Cup. A local half-holiday is held on the Friday, and people come in busloads to the picturesque race club.

sconeraceclub.com.au

Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces: June 2018

A flock of sheep in red socks leads the opening parade on the Saturday in this weekend celebration of wool and country life.

upperhuntercountry.com

Aberdeen Highland Games: first weekend in July, 2018

See the parade of marching bands, highland dancing, strong-man events with the Tartan Warriors, tug-of-war, egg tosses, three-legged races and the Kilted Dash. Many stalls with a Scottish flavour. Wear your tartan with pride.

aberdeenhIGHLANDGAMES.COM

Junior Stockman's Challenge: August 2018

Run by the Murrurundi Pony Club, which has monthly events at Rosedale, Murrurundi.

Australia Day: 26 January
Anzac Day: 25 April
Beersheba Day: 31 October

The Murrurundi Troop of the 12th Australian Light Horse mount up regularly for public events including the annual commemoration of the Battle of Beersheba on 31 October 1917, the greatest horse charge of WWI.

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(02) 65 466 767
michaelreid.com.au
infomurra@michaelreid.com.au
Open 11am to 5pm. Friday to Sunday

Useful Links

upperhuntercountry.com

murrurundi.nsw.au

michaelreidmurrurundi.com.au



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MURRURUNDI

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visitnsw.com

Aberdeen Highland Games

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