

WELCOME

its fun country

If you're looking for a place blessed with sunny days, bright blue skies and starry nights across all four seasons, then Sun Country on the Murray is one of the best year-round holiday locations you'll find anywhere.

270km north of Melbourne, our stunning slice of Murray River paradise is a much-loved tourist destination for admirers of the great outdoors and good old-fashioned country hospitality.

The atmosphere is warm, relaxed and genuine - it's a place to rest, unwind and reconnect with the lost art of slowing down.

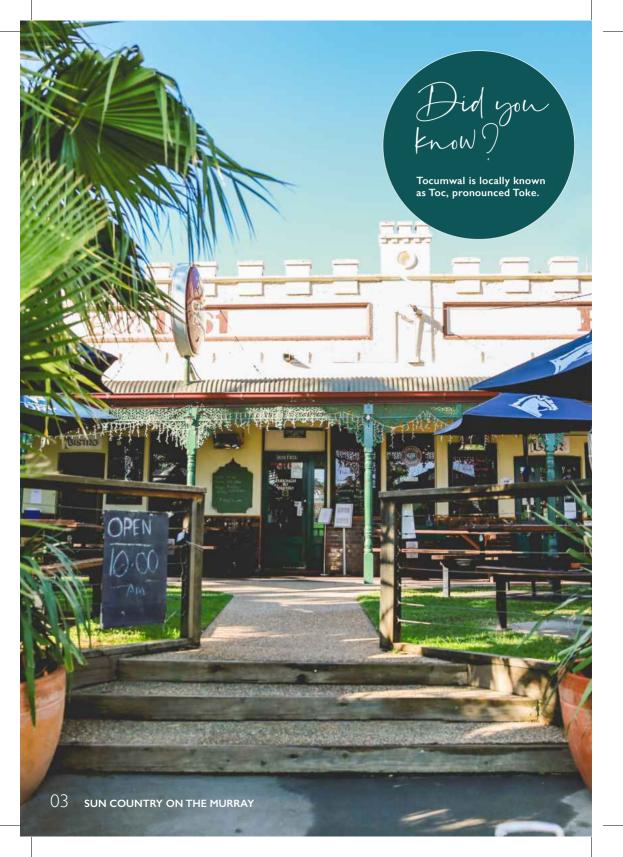
Here you'll find koalas, kangaroos and native turtles in their natural habitat, which has also been home to the Ulupna and Bangerang tribes for thousands of years.

The Murray River and surrounding floodplains were once used by local Indigenous people for food, shelter and materials and is an important spiritual place. Culturally significant Aboriginal sites are protected within the Berrigan Shire including the Blowhole in Tocumwal and Boat Rock Reserve between Berrigan and Savernake, a unique site containing ancient engineering with identified water catchments.

In Sun Country, a long list of simple pleasures and adventure awaits - swimming in the river, camping, fishing for Murray cod, canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, water-skiing and aerobatics. And despite the absence of mountainous terrain, mountain bike riding is also popular with our rugged and challenging bush tracks providing fun and fitness for many.

You'll find many precious gems hidden beyond our riverbanks - from secluded sandy beaches, backroad trails, walking tracks, weekend markets, street art, historic buildings and antiques - to the most stunning sunrises and sunsets you could ever hope to see.

Stop off for an hour, a day, a weekend or an extended holiday and get to know our stunning Sun Country for yourself.



Welcometo

TOCUMWAL

Tocumwal is one of our region's most popular destinations for lovers of the great outdoors - boasting a swag of entertainment opportunities including camping, the mighty Murray River, water sports, bushwalking and aerobatic adventures.

It's one of few towns nestled along the Murray that has its main street truly oriented along the river, without a twin-town based on the Victorian side of the border. It's all about the Murray River here at Toc and it's what keeps our many visitors coming back, year after year. It's so easy to find a quiet riverbank, sit for a while and watch the world go by - Tocumwal is your quintessential down-time destination.

Steeped in unique WW2 history, Tocumwal's rich heritage is also a major drawcard to travellers. Our character-filled main street and historic building facades date back to the 1860s, and we are home to what was the largest military aerodrome in the Southern Hemisphere during WW2 – you'll be fascinated by the war history here.

Through our strong connection with aviation, our township has become a renowned worldwide destination for gliding, and our airfield hosts many aerobatic events throughout the calendar year.

Our newly installed splash park also incorporates our war-time aviation history and is a unique play space unlike anything else in Australia.

Tocumwal is incredibly popular with campers who flock to the shores of our sandy river beaches all year round. Our picturesque foreshore is just one of 25 tranquil beach sites in the area and is a favourite gathering space for locals and visitors alike. Keep a look out for the illustrious 'Big Cod' on display at our foreshore park - a cheeky nod to what this area is most famous for.

Tocumwal is also your ideal launching pad to explore the wider region; enjoy exceptional food and wine,

water sports, flying adventures, bushwalking and camping, or visit museums on your hunt for antiques and collectables.

Be sure to make time to explore the natural beauty of our area with a walk, jog or cycle along the WWII WAAAF Memorial Creek Walk, and to get active with friends on our championship 2x18-hole golf course or brand-new bowling greens.

Camp at one of Tocumwal's famed 25 beach sites, including Town Beach.

Attend an airshow or take adventure flights along with glider flights at the Tocumwal Historic Aerodrome.

Mild2Wild Rod and Custom - awesome display of cruising custom cars along the banks of the Murray River (March long weekend - biennial).

Check out the local street art, including 'The Big Cod' and the murals of Tocumwal on the facade of the IGA supermarket, the foreshore, and in the Railway Station museum.

Play a round or two at picturesque Tocumwal Golf Club.

Pick up a treasure at the Tocumwal Foreshore Market.

Visit Tocumwal Historic Aerodrome, home to historic war-time hangers and fascinating WWII history in the region.

Enjoy a picnic or BBQ lunch at Thompsons Beach before settling in for an afternoon of swimming, fishing, water-skiing, canoeing, beach volleyball or cricket. 05 SUN COUNTRY ON THE MURRAY

Welcome to

COBRAM-BAROOGA

Nestled either side of the mighty Murray River, in the heart of Victoria's Food Bowl and home to championship golf courses, you'll find something for everyone in the twin towns of Cobram Barooga.

Boasting some of the most picturesque sections of the Murray, holiday makers flock to our sandy inland beaches for camping, swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking and water skiing.

Feel yourself unwind as you explore our stunning natural environment by foot, bike or boat. No matter which way you choose to experience all that Cobram Barooga has to offer, we guarantee you'll be captivated by our relaxed lifestyle and fall in love with this unique holiday destination.

One of Australia's largest inland beaches, Thompsons Beach is located just out of Cobram and is a popular destination for families to relax and play. This expansive sandy beach stretches around a stunning bend in the river and is shaded by towering gums.

From there you can take a stroll across the purposebuilt bridge to Quinn Island Wetlands Sanctuary - a 40-hectare island formed by a bend in the Murray. Follow the well-formed trail as it winds its way through an enchanting river red gum and silver wattle forest, keeping an eye out for the many native birds and animals that call this place home.

Our famous championship golf courses are an unmissable experience for the travelling novice or pro. The Old Course is considered one of the best along the Murray, while the more modern links-style West Course will challenge any player.

Cobram Barooga is also the ideal starting point to explore the Murray Farm Gate Trail with many of the attractions within a 20-minute drive, including the Cobram Provedore, Byramine Homestead and the Big Strawberry.

If you're a foodie you'll delight in touring our rich region at your own pace, stopping off to sample unique produce along the way, including fresh fruit and vegetables, cheeses and olives, boutique wines and craft beers.

Camp at Quicks or Scotts Beach or one of the many other free campgrounds on the banks of the Murray. A booking fee applies through NSW Parks and Wildlife at: https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/campingand-accommodation.

The Barooga Adventure Park is a playground for all ages with the flying fox and climbing frame suited to the older ones and the splash park great for water play for the young.

Take a stroll through the beautiful Barooga Botanical Gardens and witness the huge 70-year-old palms, ancient pines and the spectacular colour and fragrance of the rose garden from spring through to autumn.

Go bushwalking along the Murray River Walk and spot native flora and fauna, including the Bullanginya walking track.

Bullanginya Dreaming Night Light Journey - coming

Bullanginya Dreaming will transform the riverside walk with a series of vibrant multimedia installations that engage and immerse visitors with a showcase of art, community and culture. This unique sensory experience aims to connect visitors and the wider Cobram Barooga community to the rich culture of our region.

COUNTRY CLUB HOTEL-BAR . DINING ACCOMMODATION real country life in action at the Finley Saleyards MOTEL & VACANCY DEDUNCAN'S 07 SUN COUNTRY ON THE MURRAY

Welcome to

FINLEY

Located at the junction of two major highways, and the longest irrigation channel in Australia, Finely is an oasis for travellers to rest and explore for a few hours - or a few days.

The second largest town in the Berrigan Shire, Finley is an integral part of the famous Riverina Food Bowl that helps feed our nation, where you'll find a thriving business district, an eclectic mix of shopping opportunities and an abundance of events and attractions.

Finley is a little town with a big heart that keeps visitors coming back for more.

The artificially constructed Finley Lake tells the tale of a fertile irrigated farming district and it's where you'll often find locals enjoying a spot of fishing or water sports. Take a stroll or a bike ride around the 1.9km track that follows the perimeter of the lake and enjoy a picnic or barbeque on the landscaped foreshores while the kids keep entertained in the gardens and playgrounds.

If you have a love for history, Finley has you covered with a number of museums and heritage sites open free to the public year-round. Most are volunteer run and donations are always welcome.

Step back in time at the Finley Historical Museum and Log Cabin as you walk through the McAllister Homestead and the original Myrtle Park School built in 1896. Then move on to the Heritage Museum and enjoy its marvellous collection of machinery and memorabilia.

Finley Station is now one of the few pioneer buildings still standing and houses the Finley Pioneer Railway Museum, containing artefacts and real-life railway stories.

The newest tourist attraction is the Foundry Museum, which explores the town's rich manufacturing history and is a celebration of the long association local business JT & EN Close has had with the district community. Much of the original machinery and equipment is on display, dating back more than 126 years.

If golf's more your game, why not tee off at Finley Golf Club. Players of all skill levels will revel in the pristine conditions without the worry of crowds.

Or, head to the Finley Bowling Club or Returned Soldiers Club for a drink and a meal, with plenty of friendly locals to show you some good old-fashioned Finley hospitality. You can also enjoy a game of bowls at Finley Bowling Club.

Experience the loud, fast-paced entertainment of the famous Annual Tractor Pull at the Finley showground in February.

Seek out some of the great murals springing up in Finley including the Ram on the Tuppal Hotel and the Clydesdales at the Finley Bowling Club.

Let the kids test their skills at the skate park and along the way pause to look at the Aboriginal artwork, including the Canoe Tree, in Rotary Park.

Enjoy a BBQ under the shade of the trees at Memorial Park, while the little ones are entertained at the playground and the big kids play a game of cricket or footy on the expansive lush green grass.

Witness firsthand all the bull-bucking action of the Finley Rodeo at the Finley Showgrounds in January.



We come to

BERRIGAN

Berrigan is a peaceful country town, not far from Tocumwal, where historic buildings line the charming main street, and vast agricultural lands stretch as far as the eye can see.

Ask a local what they love most about their beloved hometown, and they'll say you won't find a more caring community anywhere.

Ask an ex-pat what they miss most, and it's hands down the rolling fields of canola in the springtime.

Nothing beats a road trip, or a slow Sunday drive through the farmland around Berrigan in early spring, when the winter crop of canola explodes into full golden bloom, painting the landscape a vibrant yellow.

It's the perfect 'slow' antidote to our fast-paced life – and a nature immersion that the whole family will love.

In the township itself, you'll be treated to country hospitality at its finest.

Stop off for a coffee, lunch or a sweet treat at one of our boutique eateries in town, before taking a gentle wander along Chanter Street where you'll find an eclectic collection of new and second-hand clothes, books, bric-abrac, treasures, arts, crafts and photography. While you're there, be sure to take some time to read the interpretive plaques that reveal the heritage highlights of our town, including the old post office building, Federal Hotel, Memorial Hall and Heritage Museum.

Berrigan lays claim to the first rural fire service in Australia and today our community continues to thrive on that same spirit of volunteering. Our local swimming pool is thought to be one of only a handful in the nation that is free to the public, thanks to our townsfolk raising the funds each year to keep it open.

While you're in the neighbourhood, be sure to visit the Berrigan Government Nature Reserve Tank Paddock - a scenic walking track through a regenerated Indigenous landscape, and a peaceful spot to take a stroll.

And if you love horseracing, you'll be right at home here. Races have been run in Berrigan since the 1890s, and these days people travel from far and wide each year to attend our three country race meets - The Berrigan Gold Cup, Members & Patrons Day and the Finley Autumn Cup Day.

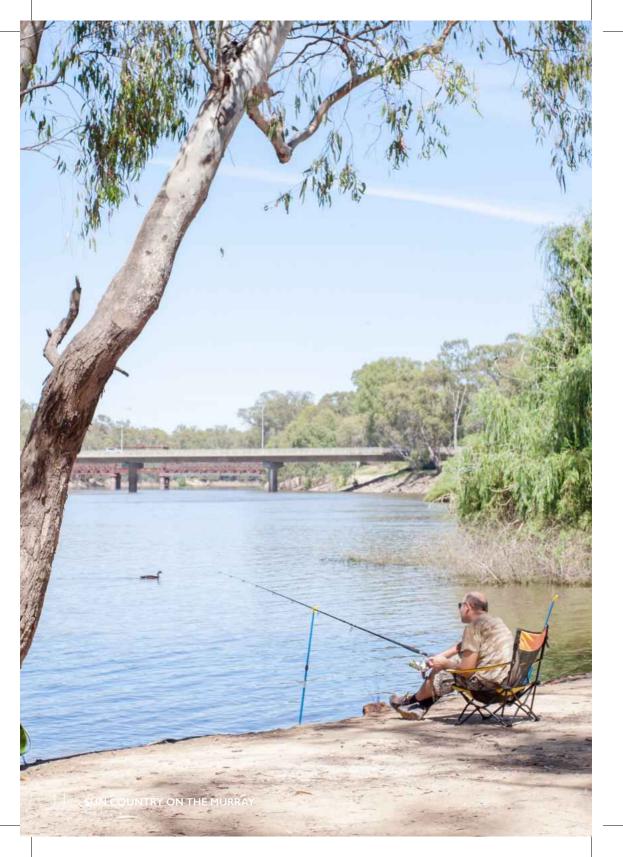
Visit the Berrigan Nature Reserve Tank Paddock - a walking trail situated on the eastern side of town featuring wetlands, bird hides & interpretative signs.

Drop into the Berrigan Community Sports Club and enjoy a game of golf on the 18-hole course, or access the bowling greens, tennis and squash courts.

The largest planting of Sumo Mandarins in Australia is produced by Mowbray Farms here on the sandhills of Berrigan. It's a mandarin that smells and tastes divine and is super juicy but with no drips and no pips. Keep a look out for them in your local supermarket!

Discover the history of Berrigan with a stroll along the Berrigan Heritage Walk which identifies 20 places of interest around the town.

Visit 'The Drop' where the Mulwala Canal crosses the road about halfway between Berrigan and Barooga. This is part of a large water-flow control system which allows water to divert from Mulwala Canal into Berrigan Channel. It is also Australia's first hydroelectric power station built on an irrigation canal.



Water, Water everywhere

FISHING, SKIING, **CAMPING, SWIMMING**

The mighty Murray River, one of the world's longest navigable rivers, is famous for water activities of all descriptions.

With a backdrop of river red gums forest, abundant wildlife and more than 100 unique sandy beaches. Sun Country offers a riverside playground for camping, bushwalking, cycling, fishing, swimming, bird watching, canoeing, water skiing and boating.

A trip to our region would not be complete without a spot of fishing. Our local rivers and lakes are brimming with prized catches like Yellowbelly, Redfin or Silver Perch – and if you're lucky enough to hook one you'll not only experience the thrill of Murray River fishing, but have dinner sorted as well!

Whether you're an experienced angler trying to secure an illustrious Murray cod or cray, or a casual fisherman just looking to relax or teach the kids the art of casting, we have an abundance of popular fishing spots to throw in a line from a riverbank, creek or tinny.

If you want to truly feel at one with the water, climb aboard a canoe, kayak or stand-up paddle board and fully experience the peace and tranquillity as you take in the stunning bushland and spot for native animals and bird species. You'll find more than a day's worth of adventure on the Murray, so make sure you take the time to stop off along the way.

If you'd prefer something with a bit more adrenaline, then hold onto your hats because here in the Sun Country we have a water-skiing playground just ready and waiting for you! Our hot, dry climate and expansive water provides the perfect conditions for beginners to learn the ropes and novices to hone their skills as the minutes turn into hours of fun for the whole family.

And after all that action you're going to need somewhere to rest your head. Trust us when we say you haven't experienced camping until you've spent a night under the stars here in our region. Our big skies are the perfect backdrop for toasting marshmallows around a fire, surrounded by towering river red gums, and watching the sun fall and rise over the sandy banks of the Murray River.

There's nothing better than camping on the riverbank, with the ski boat, kayak or fishing rod resting at your doorstep, where activities can happen at a moment's notice.

So, whether you prefer bush camping or the facilities of a caravan park, we have the perfect piece of paradise to bring your mates or your family for a holiday you'll never forget.

Our Top Six Camp Sites:

Horseshoe Lagoon, Cobram - boat ramp, barbecue and toilet facilities

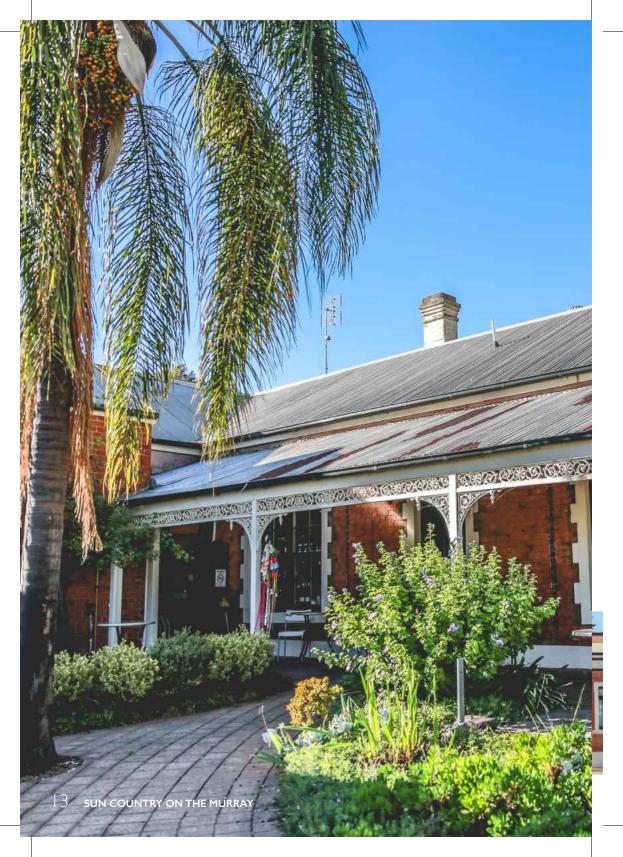
Quicks Beach, Barooga - toilet facilities

Wattle Tree Beach, Barooga - no facilities

Town Beach, Tocumwal - boat ramp, toilet facilities

Big Toms Beach, Cobram - toilet facilities

Pumps Beach, Sonnermans Traveling Stock Route, Tocumwal – boat ramp



all that cool old Auft

BUILDINGS + MUSEUMS

TOCUMWAL AVIATION MUSEUM, CLOSE'S FOUNDRY (FEATURING GRAEME CLOSE)

Tocumwal Aviation Museum and Close's Foundry at Finley tell the wonderful stories of yesteryear and are well supported by the Berrigan Heritage, Finley Log Cabin and Tocumwal Railway museums - all run by local volunteers.

If you're into classic collectables you can also visit Chrysties Museum. Set on 1.8 hectares, this collector's paradise is made up of classic cars and trucks, caravans. tractors and collectables. You can lose hours in this place. which has been carefully curated by George Chrystie over a lifetime working in the logging industry and racing speedway cars.

You can view the historic Cobram Log Cabin, which has a history harking back to the Yarrawonga district around 1875. Originally built by the Toms family, it was moved to Cobram in 1977. War history across our area is significant and includes a Royal Australian Air Force Historical site, where some of the building remains on the road between Tocumwal and Barooga. What is now a peaceful farming property was once a busy war-time hospital during the Second World War and is worth a visit to understand the important role it played in the war effort here on home soil.

Must-Visit Attractions

Berrigan Heritage Museum open 9 to 11am Wednesdays.

The impressive Finley Log Cabin - open on weekends.

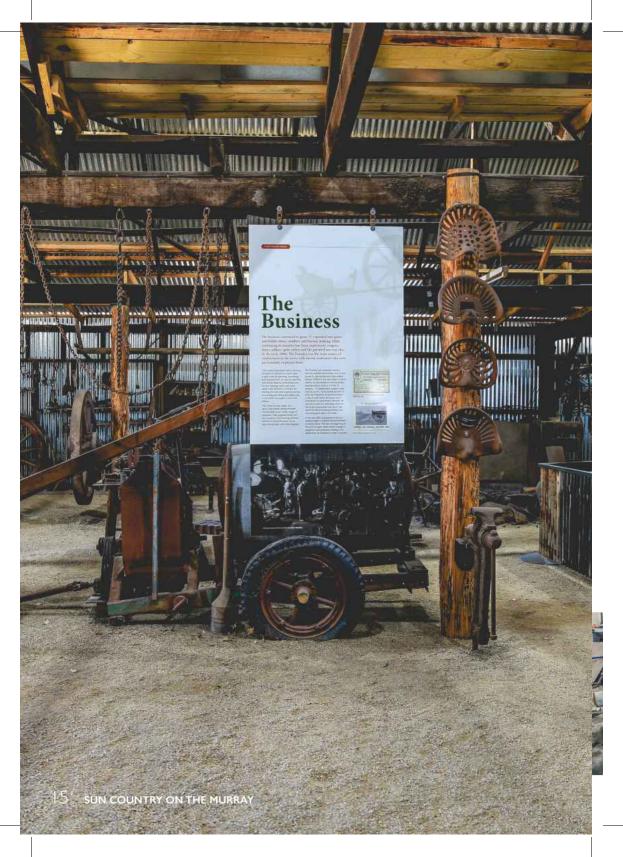
Tocumwal Railway Museum - by appointment.

The Tocumwal Aviation Museum - Open 10am to 4bm. 7 days a week

The stunning WAAAF Creek Walk - celebrating the role of Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force during World War Two

The interpretive board in Hayes Park Berrigan and discover the "firsts" for which the town is famous.





Closes

125 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

Graeme Close's great grandfather John Thomas (JT) Close moved to the Finley area in 1893 to start his blacksmith business in the main street. The engineering business has been in the family for five generations and still operates on the same site to this day.

Graeme, who took over the family business in 2017, has worked tirelessly to preserve the 127-year-old-history of his family business and ensure the proper recognition of the work his grandfather did for the town.

During his time in Finley, JT Close was instrumental in establishing the Soldier Settlement in 1913, pushed to get a channel built from Yarrawonga for irrigation water and extended the railway line from Berrigan.

He was also involved in building the Catholic Church, the School of the Art, the Masonic Temple, Presbyterian Church and Bush Nursing Hospital and established both farms and housing in the area.

IT was undoubtedly a founding father of Finley, and Graeme is passionate about the role he is playing as custodian of his great grandfather's story and legacy.

"He had the foresight to see what Finley could end up being," Graeme says.

IT Close came from humble beginnings to establish himself as one of the region's biggest merchants, and at one stage employed up to 60 people at the original Finley Foundry.

What started as a foundry, moved quickly with the times through the horse-drawn-wagons and farming implements. to graders, channel equipment and, in more recent years, feeders for stock during drought.

"We moved from wagons, to the one-way disc ... into irrigation, steel, concrete and aluminium for irrigation, ute trays and trailers... it's all come through the cycles," Graeme says.

"We've adapted to what's been happening, but we've also, always had a good name and reputation."

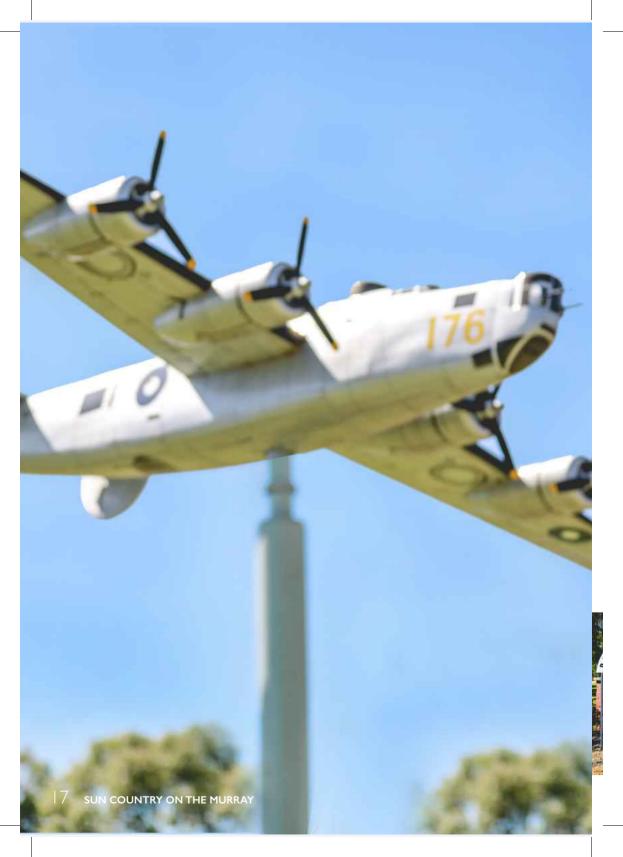
Graeme has worked in the business most of his life and for more than 10 years toiled away at the monumental task of ordering the mountain of history that was kept at the original site for more than 125 years.

"It was all kept in the dirt on the engine room floor... preserved by the dust," laughs Graeme.

Graeme's persistence in securing local government funding, and a substantial grant through Heritage NSW, saw the restoration of the workshop and historic items, and painstaking sorting of the archives - with support from local volunteers.

An 18-month-long labour of love saw the official Close's Museum open to the public in October 2019, welcoming visitors from far and wide to witness a very large slice of Finley's manufacturing and engineering history – all on the original site.





Bob Brown

CUSTODIAN OF LOCAL HISTORY

Despite not being born and bred in Tocumwal, Bob Brown is a custodian of our local aviation history.

Bob is essentially the gatekeeper of hundreds of first-hand accounts from WWII veterans with one thing in common... the Tocumwal Historic Aerodrome.

An impressive collection of war-time photographs and aviation stories is currently housed at the Tocumwal Information Centre, the Golf Club, and the old Bowls Club, with a new permanent home as part of the Tocumwal Aviation Museum.

The aerodrome site holds a significant place in Australian war-time history – much of which is unknown to many – and is something Bob Brown has dedicated the later part of his life to.

"Visitors and locals are absolutely flabbergasted about the impact this history had on the little village of Tocumwal... it's unimaginable," Bob says.

This impact included the arrival of 7000 Americans in 1942, around the time of the Japanese bombing of Darwin and attack on Pearl Harbour.

As preparations were being made for an enemy invasion, Tocumwal was chosen as a heavy bomber base for the US Air Force, and in just four months four runways and 608 buildings were built, including seven giant airplane hangars and a 200-bed hospital.

Despite all the work to establish the McIntyre Field base, the successful Battle of the Coral Sea halted the Japanese, which resulted in a change of plans and the base was relocated to Townsville.

After the Americans left, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) took over the aerodrome from November 1942 to October 1960, and at its peak operating 54 Liberator bombers with 5,000 RAAF servicemen and 400 WAAAF service women undertaking paratrooper training.

What happened next according to Bob was a 'tragedy' and an enormous amount of history was lost. Planes were flown in from all over Australia to the aerodrome site, where they were destroyed for components, smelted down for valuable aluminium and importantly, kept out of enemy hands.

Bob moved to the region in 1989 and has spent his retirement researching the archives, interviewing war veterans and sharing his findings with visitors to Tocumwal and anyone keen to learn more.

At 91 years young, Bob's passion for sharing these stories has not waned and he is determined for more people to learn and appreciate an important chapter in Australia's war-time history.

You can see this local war-time history in action at the Tocumwal Golf and Bowls Club, where a $\frac{1}{4}$ scale replica B24 Liberator bomber was pole mounted in 2010, and there's also a representation of a Liberator water bombing in the splash park for families to absorb history while they play.

Take in the full story of our local aviation history at the recently opened Tocumwal Aviation Museum, also home to the biennial Tocumwal Air Show. This impressive collection showcases our significant and secret wartime history and celebrates a centenary of aviation at Tocumwal.





The Tocumwal Aviation Museum is an impressive collection of local civilian and military aviation history and heritage that has been carefully curated by founders Matt and Karen Henderson. The Henderson's have a passion to engage, educate, entertain and inspire locals and visitors to the region to embrace and appreciate Tocumwal's unique contribution to the war effort here in Australia.

Their mission is to collect, preserve, study and exhibit artefacts, archival materials and works of art related to Australia's military and civilian aviation heritage and you can see it all on display at Tocumwal, with a nod to modern day aviators.

The Tocumwal Aviation Museum is an engaging new tourism attraction, where you can discover the significant and once top secret wartime history and the heritage of a century of aviation at Tocumwal. You'll be amazed at the history here, which dates back to 1919, the year of the first reported aeroplane sighting and landing at Tocumwal. The Henderson's are proud of the collection, which covers the earliest flying activities from Hawkins' Paddock in the 1920s and 30s through World War II events to the present day.

If the sun is shining, which is most of the time in our region, enjoy the stunning Beaufort Gardens, created in memory of Captain Roger Miller who had a long affiliation with aviation in the region, including an uncle who was a crew member on a Bristol Beaufort Bomber during World War II.

Frequent flyers to the Tocumwal Historic Aerodrome Site might consider an annual membership to the museum, which is open seven days from 10am to 4pm, and also includes the fantastic Drome Cafe.

To complement this incredible collection, the Henderson's and a hard-working committee have created a popular biennial air show that has so far attracted more than 5000 visitors since its inaugural event in 2019. Despite a COVID-interrupted event in 2021, another 5000 plus aviation fans turned out in April 2022 and plans are well underway for the 2023 Tocumwal Air Show to be held in September the 17th as a major showcase for the significant aviation heritage of Tocumwal



MAAAF

CREEK WALK



The Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) Creek Walk was created to honour and celebrate the women of this story and spark curiosity about a lesser known chapter of Australian history and its connection to the local area. The WAAAF Creek Walk is located in picturesque Tocumwal and is set under a stunning canopy of trees. Originally, the track became a well worn pathway as it was the shortest route for the WAAAF and RAAF personnel to take as they made their way into the Tocumwal township. Nowadays the walkway is dotted with interpretive signs that tells stories from bygone era. This serene location harks back to another world, where conflict was a clear and present danger in the Berrigan Shire during the days of the Second World War.

Walking Tracks - an unofficial visitor's guide

- Spine Path, along the levee bank at Tocumwal
- Tank Paddock walk in Berrigan
- Finley Lake walking track
- Riverwalk linking Barooga to Cobram





The chic architecture of the region marries well with the locals' love for second-hand anything and you'll find an enviable collection of opportunity shops in the following locations that will more than fill a day or two of hunting for treasures:

Tocumwal:

- Tocumwal Rotary Op Shop 15 Murray Street.
 Hours:Thursday and Friday (10am-1pm) Saturday (9am-1pm)
- Tocumwal Community Op Shop 18 Murray Street.
 Hours: Monday Friday (9am-2.30pm) Saturday (9am-1pm) Sunday (closed)
- Hunters Haven Anglican Op Shop 18 Murray Street. Hours: Monday - Friday (9am-4pm) Saturday (9am-12.30pm) Sunday (closed)

Finley:

- Finley Hospital Opp Shop 179 Murray Street. Hours: Monday - Friday (9.30am-4pm) Saturday (9.30-3.30pm) Sunday (closed)
- Finley Secondhand Shop 12 Endeavor Street. Hours: Wednesday (9am-1pm) Thursday (9am-2pm) Friday (9am-4pm)
- Shabby 2 Chic Op Shop 70 Pinnuck Street. Hours: Monday-Friday (10am-1pm) Saturday (9.30am-12pm) Sunday (closed)

Berrigan:

 Red Cross - 63 Chanter Street. Hours: Monday-Friday (9.30am-3.30pm) Saturday (10.30-12.30pm) Sunday (closed)

Cohram

- Pals Op Shop 96 Broadway Street. Hours: Monday-Friday (9am-4pm) Saturday (9am-12.30) Sunday (closed)
- Youth Op Shop 14 Jordan Street. Hours: Monday-Friday (9am – 4pm) Saturday (9am-12pm) Sunday (closed)
- Youth Op Shop 38 Bank Street. Hours: Monday-Friday (9.30am-4pm) Saturday (9am-12pm) Sunday (closed)
- Vinnies Op Shop 29 Main Street. Hours: Monday-Friday (10am-5pm) Saturday (10am-5pm) Sunday (closed)
- Cobram Uniting Church Uniting Church 4 Hay Ave. Hours: Wednesday-Friday (9.30am-Ipm) Saturday (9.30am-I2.30pm)

Yarrawonga:

 Yarrawonga Community Op Shop - 51 Benalla-Yarrawonga Road. Hours: Monday-Friday (9.30am-4.30pm) Saturday (9am-12.30pm)
 Sunday (closed)







daytrip

ADVENTURES

Nature-based Day Trip:

- · Barooga Botanical Gardens, with its ancient palm trees and pines
- Berrigan Nature Reserve Tank Paddock, a haven for birdlife, including walking trail, wetlands, bird hides and interpretative signage
- · Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force Creek Walk, takes in significant WWII history, and includes a stunning canopy of trees, in a quiet and reflective natural setting
- · Spine Path Track, along the Tocumwal levee bank
- · Finley Lake Path

Parks and Playgrounds Day Trip:

- · Tocumwal and Barooga Splash Parks
- Tocumwal Foreshore Park set along the Murray
- Kennedy Park at Thompson's Beach (Cobram Barooga)
- Berrigan Apex Park
- · Finley Skate Park, located in Rotary Park.
- · Barooga Adventure Park, which includes a flying fox and climbing frame

Heritage and History Day Trip:

- The Berrigan Heritage Walk, including 20 places of interest, the old post office building, Federal Hotel, Memorial Hall and Heritage Museum
- · Close's Foundry Museum in Finley, showcasing 125 years of settlement, irrigation and railway-era history
- · Finley Historical Museum and Log Cabin, including the McAllister Homestead and the original Myrtle Park School built in 1896
- · Finley Station is also impressive as one of the few pioneer buildings still standing.
- Tocumwal Aviation Museum includes an impressive collection of WW2 aviation history
- Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force Creek Walk, which commemorates and celebrates the contribution of women and their WWII story.

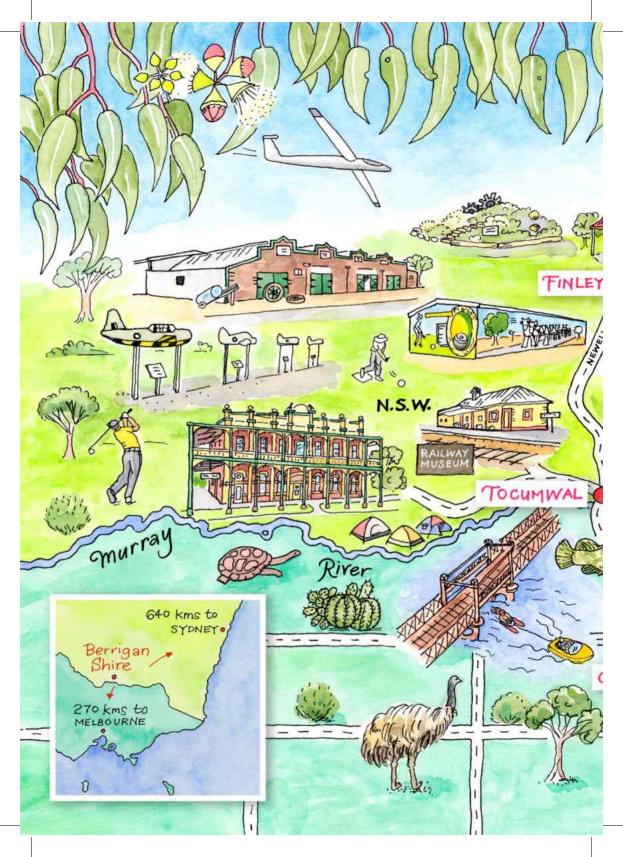


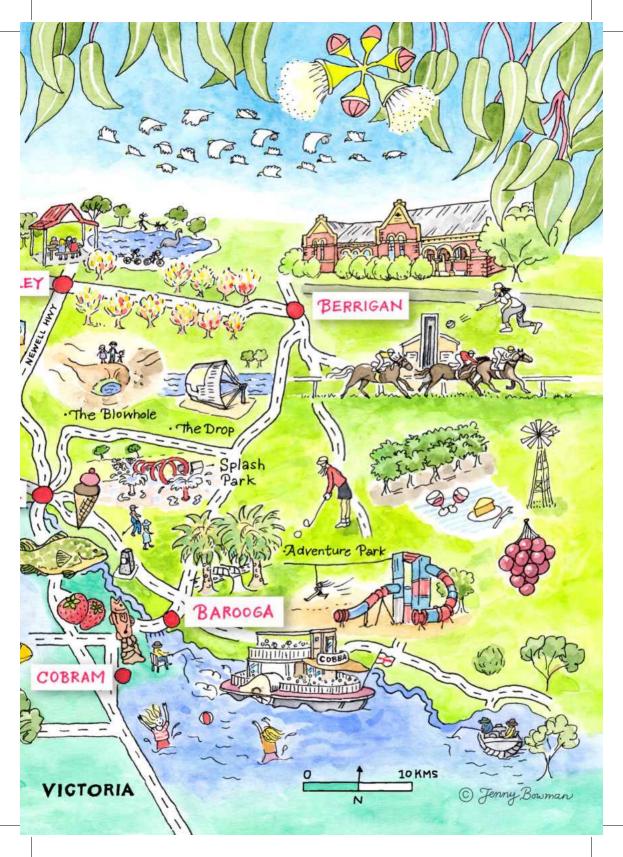
Cultural Day Trib:

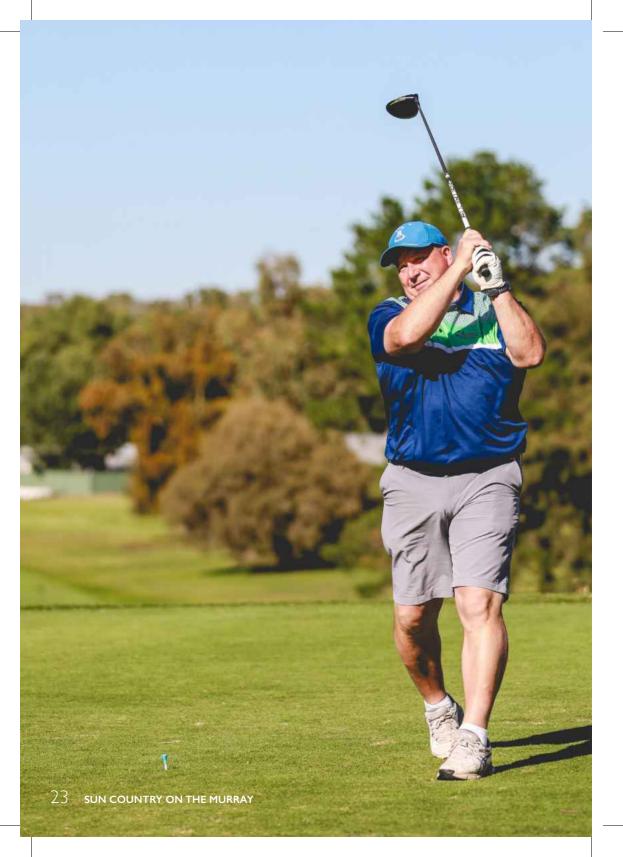
- · The Murray River and surrounding floodplains were once used for food, shelter and materials and are an important spiritual place for Bangerang and Pangerang First Nations people
- · Culturally significant sites include the Blowhole in Tocumwal and Boat Rock Reserve between Berrigan and Savernake - a unique site containing ancient engineering with identified water catchments

Golfing Experience Day Trip (s):

- · Cobram Barooga Golf Club: 36 holes (including the 18-hole Old Course)
- · Tocumwal Golf and Bowls Club: 36 holes (including two synthetic greens)
- Finley Golf Club: 18 holes
- Berrigan Community Golf and Bowls Club: 18 holes
- The Bunker, located at the Barooga Sporties, home to an indoor multi-sport simulator, where you can practise your swing in all weather conditions







GOLFING + BOWLING

Searching for the ultimate golfer's paradise? You'll find it

Our shire (unofficially) lays claim to the title of most golf holes per capita in Australia – boasting 126 holes spread across a region with a population of just 8750 people (including mini golf).

Whether your preference is for a competitive smack or a social round with friends, you'll find a huge variety of experiences on offer across our region for both the novice and pro.

Cobram Barooga Golf Club's championship-standard golf course is the perfect destination to indulge your favourite pastime. The Old Course is regarded as one of the best 18- hole courses along the Murray, and its tree-lined fairways and small greens are a 'must play' for the travelling golfer. The West Course, also 18 holes, offers a beautiful contrast with its wider, sloping fairways, larger greens and strategically placed hazards.

At Tocumwal, golf is on the menu 365 days a year, also offering 36 sensational holes of play. Both the Presidents and Captains courses are immaculately presented 18-hole circuits, with excellent quick greens and gently undulating fairways.

Berrigan and Finley each offer 18-hole, fully watered golf courses with wide fairways in natural bush settings to suit players of all abilities. Both destinations provide the perfect platform for a competitive swing, or a relaxing, social round of golf away from the crowds and without the inconvenience of obtaining a tee time.

Our well-maintained bowling greens, located at Tocumwal, Berrigan, Barooga and Finley, are the beating heart of our community where new and old friends meet and long held competitive streaks are rekindled for a regular game or

Ideally located across the region, for all community members to stay social and active, our bowling greens are where friendships are forged, problems are shared, and memories are cherished.

New members are always welcome on the greens, where you'll meet many of our friendly locals. Come along for a chat and a roll!

What's new:

For golf lovers of all ages and abilities our region now has a mini golf course, located at the Barooga Sporties. The Sporties Mini Golf is open seven days a week and includes one of the region's best 18-hole mini-golf courses. Bookings are not required at this popular, local attraction which provides hours of golfing entertainment and challenges for all ages. The mini course boasts extensive landscaping and each hole is individually crafted, which provides entertainment for all skill levels, including keen golfers. Put your golfing skills to the test at the Sporties Mini Golf open Sunday through to Thursday from 9am-6pm and from 9am-9pm Friday and Saturday. The kids are well and truly catered for with the course open seven days a week during school holidays from 9am-9pm with the last tee off one hour before close.

The Sporties now also boasts The Bunker - home to four state-of-the-art multi-sport simulators. Perfect for ages 8 through to 80, these simulators offer 30 play sports and games and are truly a unique and ideal experience if the weather has you heading indoors while visiting. All members of the family can enjoy some fun while practising their favourite sport, or competing against mates, with easily adjustable settings for all abilities and levels of difficulty.

Cobram Barooga Golf Club: 36 holes

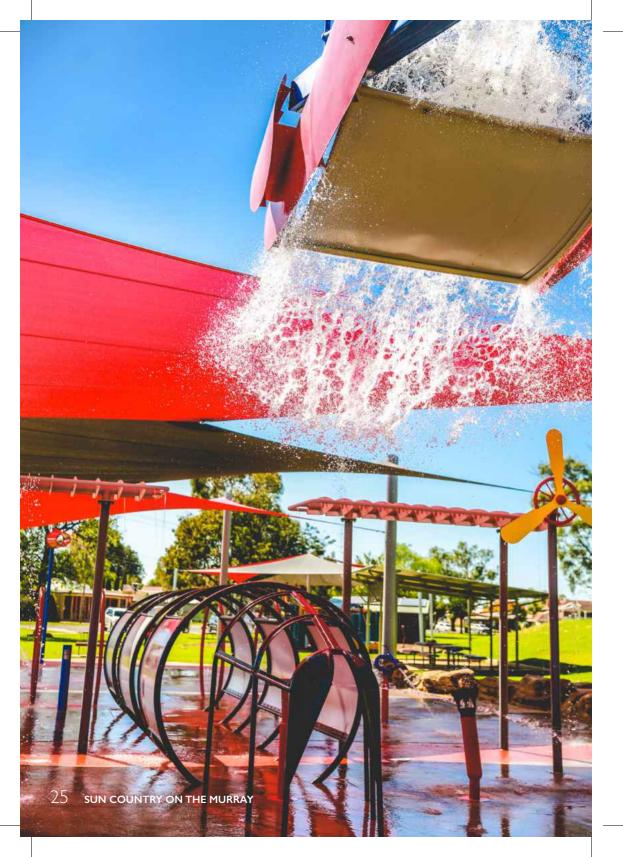
Barooga Sports Bowls Club: Two Tiger Turf carpet Tocumwal Golf and Bowls Club: 36 holes and two synthetic greens

Finley Golf Club: 18 holes

Finley Bowling Club: Two tifdwarf grass

Finley RS Bowls Club: Two tifdwarf grass

Berrigan Community Golf and Bowls Club: 18 holes and two tifdwarf grass greens.



keeping kid happy

PLAYGROUNDS + PARKS

Every parent knows if the kids are happy... everyone is happy! That's why here in Sun Country we have an endless array of parks, gardens, playgrounds, splash parks and wide-open spaces for the kids to run wild and free. Our region is a place to find hours of no-cost entertainment... where the entire family can enjoy their time!

Whether you are travelling through and just need a peaceful park to stop for a bite to eat and a stretch of the legs, or a safe and secure playground to let the little kids burn off some steam, we have it all.

Older children will love ripping it up at the many skate parks across our region, or playing kick to kick and hitting for six in our expansive gardens. While in the warmer months, our splash parks at both Tocumwal and Barooga will have children of all ages squealing with delight.

Watch our showgrounds come to life throughout the year, with a variety of family friendly events, festivals and markets, and experience the authentic country charm and hospitality for which our region is famous.

Your little adventurers will love exploring our many bush tracks and trails, as they spot for native wildlife and get lost in the beauty of mother nature.

Make Sun Country the destination for your next family holiday - where magical memories are made.

Please note: for the safety of all our residents and visitors, parks and gardens within the Berrigan Shire are alcohol free areas unless a permit has been obtained from Council prior to a social event.

Facilities

Tocumwal

Tocumwal Splashpark

Library Park: 57-67 Deniliquin Rd

Foreshore Park: Deniliquin Rd & Anzac Ave

Cobram Barooga

Barooga Adventure Playground and Splashbad: Golf Course Road

Barooga Library Park: Golf Course Road

Barooga Community Botanical Gardens: Nangunia St

Mivo Park and the Don Campbell Rose Garden: 67

Punt Road, Cobram

Kennedy Park/Thompsons Beach

Cobram Federation Park Play Space

Berrigan

Abex Park: 36-38 Chanter St Hayes Park: Riverina Highway

Finley

Railway Park: I Malone Mews Finley Showgrounds: Newell Hwy Memorial Park: Berrigan Rd

Mary Lawson Way Side Rest: Newell Hwy Rotary Park and Canoe Tree: Denison St



calendar of **EVENTS**

Sun Country is home to a diverse and eclectic collection of boutique events, festivals and markets that deliver unforgettable country-life experiences to visitors from near and far. Our calendar of events is a celebration of our region's colourful characters and unique rural attributes, bringing to life the very values and experiences we hold dear.

From rodeos, tractor pulls, horse races and agricultural shows to fishing classics, craft fairs, fresh produce markets and art festivals, there is an event to tickle every taste and fancy. So, go on, take a step off the beaten track to explore our beautiful countryside and experience some unforgettable moments with us.

January

Australia Day celebrations (various locations) Finley Professional Bull Riders/Rodeo

February

Finley Apex Tractor Pull

March

Tocumwal Murray River Rod Run (biennially) Berrigan Race Day Finley Autumn Gold Cup at the Berrigan Race Club

Abril

Tocumwal Cobram & District Art Show Tocumwal Easter Race Day River Beaches Festival

May

Finley B&S Ball PGA Traineeship Championships

September

Tocumwal Airshow (biennially) Berrigan Race Day Finley Show

October

Finley, Jerilderie & Berrigan Outback Golf Challenge Berrigan Agricultural Show **Cobram Agricultural Show**

November

Berrigan Gold Cup Races (Derby Day) Massive Murray Paddle - 5-day canoe race Yarrawonga - Swan Hill Strawberry Fields Music Festival (Tocumwal)

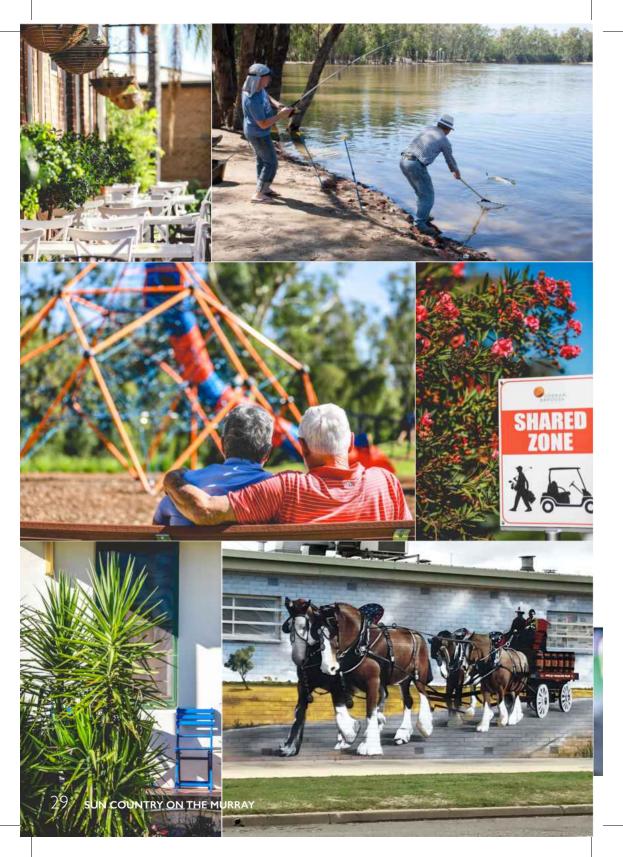
December

Berrigan Street Christmas Party Night Market Finley Extravaganza & Carols Tocumwal Carols on the Riverbank Barooga Carols by Candlelight









pronot to gay

WE'RE FROM THE COUNTRY

Dear Country Life,

We thank you for our connection to the land and the endless opportunities to be immersed in it around every bend. For our closeness to Mother Nature – in all her fierceness and friendliness - and the many lessons of respect and gratitude she has taught us over the years.

Whether it's a river to cool off in, an ancient, towering tree to find shade under, or crop-filled paddocks to check over, we will be forever grateful for your natural playground and life-giving sunshine. We love your bright-blue, expansive horizons, and the humbling experience of dissolving under an undiluted, stardrenched sky.

For many locals it's this closeness with nature and the endless, warm and sunny days that keep us tethered to the rural life, but it's also community connectedness and a comradery that sustains us through both good times and life's challenges. Yes, everyone knows everyone here, but this also means that someone is always looking out for you.

Despite being a little off the beaten track, the sense of closeness and belonging you provide means we never feel isolated here. Living a rural life also means a warm welcome by name at the local bakery or coffee shop, and an openness and warmth offered to all.

There's also a closeness of community and a genuine care for fellow humans here that's harder to find in the suburbs. Not to mention a level of friendliness that just comes with the territory.

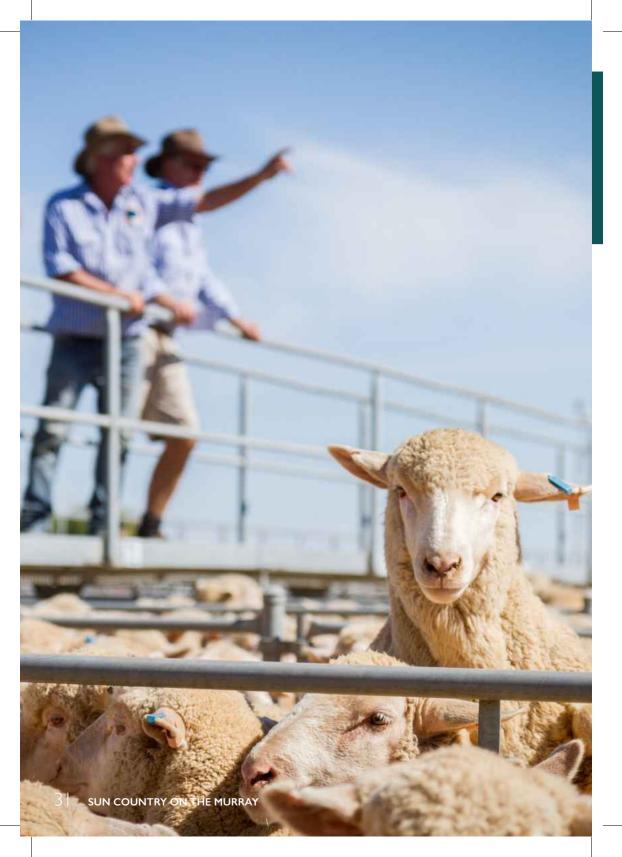
And when the chips are down and challenges knock at your front door, the support, kindness and generosity of country folk is what sustains us and ensures the good times taste just that little bit sweeter. We also understand and accept the expectation that living here means we rally with a kindness and unrivalled generosity of spirit to support our neighbours without reservation, because this is just what country people do.

Your rural way of life has taught us that it's cool to be kind, and cool to live life at a slower pace. A pace where life can be fully lived and there's time to enjoy the good things in life: homegrown food and produce, lazy days by the river, community gatherings and picnics in the paddock.

This is why we love living the rural life and we've asked a few locals to share why they love living in the country.

The Locals xo





five minutes with a local:

JANE HARRIS + CATHERINE HEALY

FINLEY THROUGH AND THROUGH



"For us Finley is just home... a place where we feel belonging and a strong sense of connection."

Finley's McNamara sisters, Jane Harris and Catherine Healy have always felt the pull of a quieter, rural lifestyle. Despite moving away for study, travel and work, the sisters have always had rural blood running through their veins.

Along with the practicalities of having family around to help bring up their own children, Jane and Catherine were also drawn back home as a place of comfort, community and connectedness.

"For us Finley is just home... a place where we feel belonging and a strong sense of connection," Catherine says.

Growing up in and around the sale yards and the Finley Football Netball Club - Go the Cats! - the sisters enjoyed your typical rural childhood playing tennis, learning music and swimming at the local pool.

Upon leaving, Catherine trained as a social worker, Jane in Management and Human Resource Management and while they both loved 'seeing the world' they yearned for home.

"I worked in big cities and also overseas in London, but always had the calling to come back home," says Jane.

You could describe Finley as remote, but Catherine strongly believes the region is not isolated.

"We are in a great place here because we are not that isolated. In a few hours you're in Melbourne, or within an hour you can be in Shepparton or Albury - where you can jump on a plane if you need," Catherine says.

Family is also a huge bonus for the girls, with loads of relatives close by, as well as school friends who are also bringing up their own families.

The biggest attraction though is the sense of community and connectedness.

"We are all so connected here and it's easy to become involved in the community," Catherine says.

So, what does one do with their skills when they move from Notting Hill in London to a farm in the Riverina? Jane pondered this question when she moved back in 2007 and started her consulting business from home.

Once her children started school, lane felt the need to branch out and hatched a plan to start a co-working space in Finley.

Located in the town library, the Finley Work Space is backed by the Finley Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture and supported by Berrigan Shire Council.

"I used to travel to Deniliquin and use their co-working space, which was fabulous, and could see a real need here," lane says.

The Finley Work Space is available 24/7 and has evolved into a space for workshops, growth and learning.

"It is a place where people can thrive in their own business.....an environment in which we can connect with other professionals," Jane says.

lane believes it only adds to the many wonderful lifestyle choices that already exist across the region.

Catherine agrees there are so many wonderful reasons for living here, "where you have the time to create space for work as well as creativity and passions".

"We have more than adequate services and facilities for families here; early childhood learning, schools, health care, sporting facilities and art groups ... we are really very lucky," she says.



five minutes with a local: JENNY CONGDON

WOODSTOCK... MORETHAN JUST A FARM



"Everything I need is here...the farm is what holds me here, as well as the close and caring community."

Woodstock has been a working farm since the late 1800s, but to lenny Congdon, who grew up there, it is much more than just a farm.

Jenny's grandfather claimed a small parcel of land, known as Woodstock Estate, from the Tocumwal Pastoral Company following the Great Depression, which has been in the family ever since.

When Jenny and husband Bob moved to Woodstock 25 years ago, they were keen to take on organic farming, which put them at the forefront of this relatively 'new' practice.

Woodstock was certified organic in the early 1990s and is managed from a holistic approach with regenerative agriculture practices.

"We were a bit keen to do organic farming on the land... but it was seen as very weird and not cool to do... no one else in the district was doing it," Jenny says.

Despite doubts and fear of the unknown, the Congdon's stuck with their plan and Woodstock is still organic to this day, integrating sheep, cattle and crops across 2000 acres.

Jenny's eldest son and daughter-in-law, lan and Courtney started their stoneground flour business in 2016 as a way of becoming involved in the family farm.

With a background in environmental science, the couple was inspired to "work on the land and saw farming as a means for environmental restoration and community building". With a passion for provenance, the young couple bought a small mill and began visiting markets in Melbourne with their organic flour, which quickly grew in popularity.

"People just loved it because they were able to watch the flour being milled before they bought it," Jenny says.

The couple then upgraded to a larger stone mill from America, which keeps all the husk and goodness from the original organic grain and has become a much sought-after product.

Woodstock Flour is now widely used by well-known artisan bakeries across the state including Red Beard in Trentham, Tivoli Road Bakery in South Yarra and locally at the Blue Door Café in Berrigan and at Rich Glen Olive Estate in Yarrawonga.

The flour is reputed to help bread rise quicker, and simply just does a better job than inferior quality flours. The flour mill at Woodstock has undoubtedly injected new life into this fourth-generation family farm and strengthened its longevity and sustainability for the future.

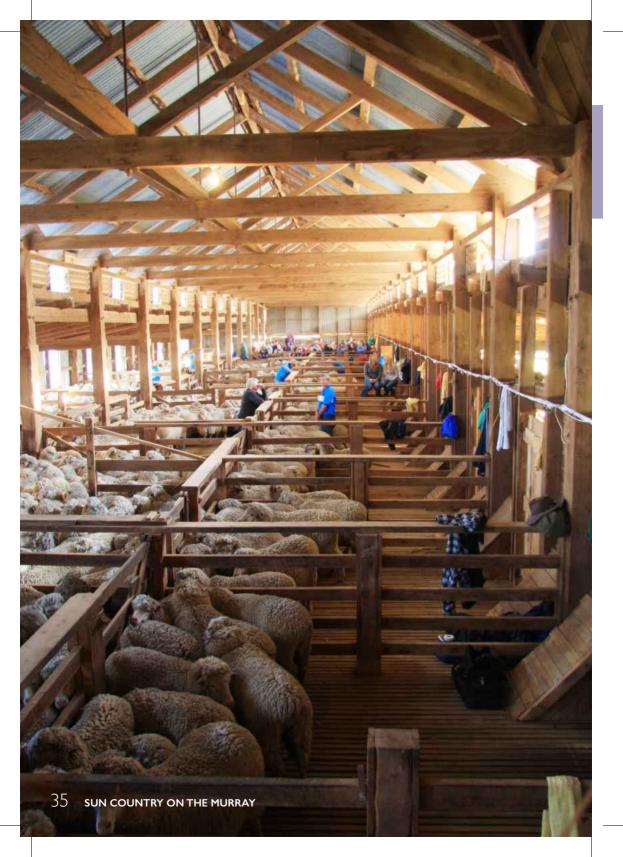
"Our boys now see that it is possible to run the mill and grow grain... we can actually have a smaller amount of land that supports the two of them," Jenny says.

"We now feel there is a very good chance our kids will keep going with the farm, which is so special to so many of us in the family."

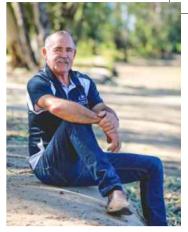
Jenny loves the rural lifestyle at Woodstock, as well as the sense of community across the district.

"Everything I need is here... the farm is what holds me here, as well as the close and caring community," Jenny says.

"There's a closeness of community here and people genuinely care about you. People down the street are interested in you, and if you've got a flat tyre someone will always come and help you. The weather is also pretty good... and you don't always get that in other areas," she says.



five minutes with a local: MARK BALDWIN SHEARING ROYALTY



"We have four nice seasons here... we've got the river and we're not too far from the city."

Tocumwal's Mark Baldwin is a living legend when it comes to shearing in the district and does not shy away from the title of 'shearing royalty'.

A fourth-generation shearer, Mark followed in his great grandfather's steps who began shearing in the 1920s. He has been a member of Sports Shear Australia since 1987 and a judge for more than 20 years.

During his 35-year-long stint in the shearing shed, Mark worked alongside many family members who all turned their hand to the shears, with the penning up, roustabouting, wool pressing and classing or cooking.

Back in the day – when Australia was still riding on the sheep's back - shearing was big business for Mark who ran a shearing team of 60.

Our region is steeped in shearing history that dates back more than 125 years. We made headlines across the country in 2010 following the restoration of the legendary North Tuppal Woolshed - located between Tocumwal and Deniliquin.

Commissioned in 1900, North Tuppal once housed 72 shearing stands - most sheds are lucky to have six and in its heyday would shear up to 270,000 sheep in a calendar year.

Mark and a band of local volunteers began an 18-month restoration and passion project at North Tuppal that culminated in a weekend fundraising event for Sports Shear Australia to support its competing teams.

Organisers had hoped for a few thousand people across the weekend. They ended up with 15,000 and ran out of scones. The two-day event hosted 3000 nearby school children and farming folk from all over Australia. It also raised a substantial trust fund to keep Sports Shear running, which is something Mark is very passionate about. "It was an amazing legacy for shearing and also showed the incredible community support we have here," Mark says.

Volunteers from across the shire supplied and restocked food for the thousands who came to catch a glimpse of the historic shearing shed.

During the event 58 machine shearers and 14 blade shearers were in action and a re-enactment of the famous Shearing of the Rams painting by Tom Roberts (1888-90) also took place.

The success of the event revealed the fascination still held by many for the humble shearing shed, and of the nostalgia for a bygone era. It also highlighted the importance of community.

Mark believes people are attracted to our region not only for the lifestyle, but also because of this extraordinary level of community support and spirit.

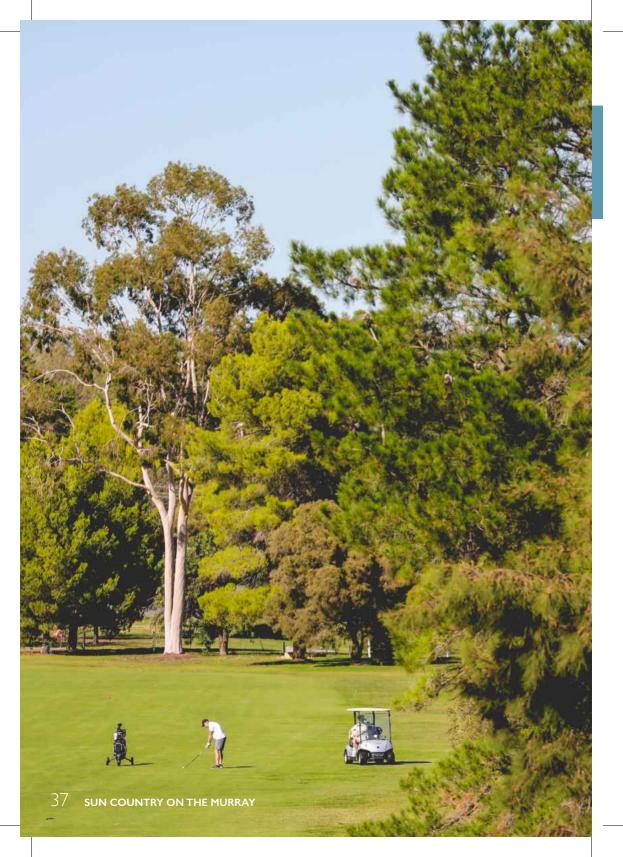
"If you're part of the community and people see you having a fair dinkum go... and it's not for yourself... that's when people come forward and lend a hand," Mark says.

"We have four nice seasons here... we've got the river here and we're not too far from the city. And if you need to fly you can drive to Albury and go anywhere in Australia," Mark says.

He credits the facilities available in Tocumwal as a major drawcard for many, including the clubs, access to golf courses and bowling greens.

"You can just have a nice, quieter and peaceful life here... it's always a welcoming place to come back to.

"We are very lucky to live in this part of the world," he says.



five minutes with a local": **STEVE GEDDES** BAROOGA'S NUMBER ONE GOLF FAN!



"I've played with everyone from the 19-year-old club champion to golfers in their 80s who still love having a hit... there's a place here for everyone and I just love it."

Steve Geddes' love affair with our region started with a golf trip to Tocumwal 25 years ago and he still travels north to the Murray River every month to unwind and recharge from life's hectic pace.

Despite being a member at Victoria's coveted Long Island and The National golf courses, Steve simply loves playing golf here, where he prefers the weather and local hospitality.

"The locals bend over backwards to make sure your experience is a good one, and that's why I love coming up here," Steve says.

"The courses in Cobram Barooga and Tocumwal are really nice.... and there's plenty of choice all along the Murray River," he says.

Steve has been a long time, regular weekend visitor, either solo or with family and friends.

"Socially the golf is fantastic, with opportunity for partners and children to become involved.

"It's a very family friendly environment... there's something for everyone here: sport, recreation and great places to eat breakfast... which my son loves," he says.

When asked the major benefits of spending his downtime in the region, Steve credits golf for allowing him to still be involved in sport, while socialising, and the opportunity to slow down.

"In today's society of work pressures and stresses, coming up here is a really good outlet for me to combine sport and recreation... for me it offers both competitiveness and fun."

Retiring to the region is a strong possibility for Steve, who is based in Langwarrin (one hour south of Melbourne) and has worked as a manager for Telstra for 30 years.

Steve has been a member at Cobram Barooga Golf Club for many years now, on top of his city-based membership, due to the affordability and the casual and relaxed approach.

He has even embraced the local approach and is happy to go a 'round' with anyone.

"The networking opportunities up here on the golf course are great... just meeting and talking to people from all walks of life," Steve says.

"I've played with everyone from the 19-year-old club champion to golfers in their 80s who still love having a hit... there's a place here for everyone and I just love it," he says.

When asked why he continues to make the four-hour trip north to the Murray River, Steve explains it's the variety of the lifestyle that keeps him coming back.

"There are so many different things to see... there's the Big Strawberry, wineries at Rutherglen, and other towns to visit along the Murray like Echuca Moama," Steve says.

"I just love the super laid back, relaxing lifestyle.... but there's also enough to keep you occupied.

"If you want to just chill out and do nothing, you can do that. Or you can jump on a paddleboat, do some sightseeing or play golf until your heart's content.

"It's a place where I can come and just chill out... my son Damen loves swimming in the Murray and there's nothing better than cooling off at Thompsons Beach after a long day on the golf course," he says.



ngeful CONTACTS

Police, Fire and Ambulance Emergency - 000 NSW Parks and Wildlife - 1300 072 757 Parks Victoria - 13 19 63 Police non emergency (NSW and VIC) 131 444 Injured Wildlife - Koonoomoo Wildlife Sanctuary - 0417 560 910 SES (NSW and VIC) - 132 500

HOSPITALS

Cobram Hospital - Cobram District Health 24 - 32 Broadway St, Cobram T 03 5871 0777

Berrigan Hospital - Berrigan Multipurpose Service 39 Memorial Dr, Berrigan T 03 5888 5300

Finley Hospital 20 - 22 Dawe St, Finley T 03 5883 9100

Tocumwal Hospital - Tocumwal Multipurpose Service 6 - 12 Adams St, Tocumwal T 03 5874 2166

PHARMACY

There are pharmacies in every town. A pharmacy is available on Sundays in Cobram between I Iam and Noon.

POLICE

Barooga Police Station I Golf Course St, Barooga T 03 5873 4760 Not open 24 hours

Cobram Police Station 32 William St, Cobram T 03 5871 1977 Not open 24 hours

Berrigan Police Station 94 Jerilderie St, Berrigan T 03 5885 2305 Not open 24 hours

Finley Police Station 215 - 221 Murray St, Finley T 03 5883 1044 Not open 24 hours

Tocumwal Police Station 66 - 78 Deniliquin St, Tocumwal T 03 5874 9399 Not open 24 hours

DISTANCE CHART

	Tocumwal	Cobram/ Barooga	Finley	Berrigan	Melbourne
Tocumwal		18 kms	22 kms	37 Kms	270 Kms
Cobram/Barooga			41 kms	32 Kms	280 kms
Finley				24 kms	288 Kms
Berrigan					294 Kms
Melbourne					

WEATHER OVERVIEW

Month	High/Low	Rain
January	32° / 16°	3 days
February	32° / 16°	
March		
April	23° / 10°	
May		
June		
July		
August		
September	19° / 6	
October	23° / 9°	
November	27° / 12°	
December	30° / 14°	3 days



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The Berrigan Shire Visitor **Information Centre at Tocumwal**

Shop 3, 2 Deniliquin Rd Ph. 0447 333 114

Email: tourism@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au Open: 7 days a week

Tocumwal Accredited Visitor Information Centre

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