

Coonabarabran

Astronomy capital of Australia

Coonabarabran is the ideal spot for a restful stopover or holiday. Take time to discover the hidden treasures the town and surrounding region has to offer and let the magic of the Warrumbungle region amaze you.



Coonabarabran is located on the Newell Highway, and is roughly halfway between Melbourne and Brisbane. The town is nestled in the foothills of the spectacular Warrumbungle Ranges and has some of the clearest skies in Australia. It is the gateway to the stunning Warrumbungle National Park and is home of the renowned astronomy research facility, Siding Spring Observatory.

Attractions

Warrumbungle National Park

Timor Road / John Renshaw Parkway
ph: 02 6825 4364

Literally translated, 'Warrumbungles' means 'crooked mountains' and it's easy to see why. In December 2006, the Warrumbungle National Park was placed on the National Heritage List in acknowledgement of its significant geological, cultural and biodiversity values.

The craggy, crooked spires of the Warrumbungles were formed by volcanic activity some 13 million years ago. Over time, they have eroded away to reveal the skeleton of an ancient volcano.

The newly refurbished Warrumbungle Visitor Centre provides great opportunities to learn about the development of the park and its indigenous and European history. The Warrumbungles is a place where east meets west and the exhibition shows how habitat and landscape play an important part in the biodiversity of the Australian landscape.

The Warrumbungles is a great place to really experience the outdoors with plenty of opportunities to enjoy bushwalking and see wildlife up close. While many visit to search out the 150 plus bird species, chance meetings with emus, kangaroos and even the occasional goanna that make this place special, what can add to the visit is the calm excitement of viewing a lazy koala stretched along a branch.

Mapped walking trails vary from short walks to panoramic lookouts and overnight hikes. One of the most popular walks in the park is 'The Breadknife, Grand High Tops' trail. Known as one of Australia's Top Ten Great Walks, this 4-6 hour walk takes in the bizarre jagged, rock formation known as 'The Breadknife' with breathtaking views from the High Tops summit. The park has excellent camping facilities from powered sites at Camp Blackman to bush camping. (Please note that Park fees apply and are payable). Park Visitor Centre OPEN 7 days 9am - 4pm, 36km west of Coonabarabran along a sealed road.

Siding Spring Exploratory

Timor Road, ph: 02 6842 6211

Twelve white observatories dot the mountain top overlooking the Warrumbungle Ranges. This is Siding Spring Observatory, Australia's largest centre for optical astronomy research. Renowned amongst astronomers world wide, Siding Spring has made several important discoveries relating to our vast solar system and beyond. Although closed to the public after dark, during the day visitors can enter the Anglo-Australian Telescope, an 8 storey observatory housing the giant 3.9 meter (mirror) telescope which can be seen from a special viewing gallery. There is also a great hands on 'Exploratory

Centre' where visitors can learn fascinating facts about our amazing universe.

There is also a café on site and budding astronomers will love browsing the space age gadgets and souvenirs. OPEN 7 days, Mon - Fri 9:30am - 4pm, Sat, Sun and Public Holidays 10am - 2pm. Located 27km west of Coonabarabran.

Warrumbungle Observatory

'Tenby', Timor Road,

ph: 0488 425 112

Warrumbungle Observatory is owned and operated by Peter Starr, a former manager and observer at Siding Spring Observatory. Gaze at the starry night sky through three computerised telescopes, including a 14 inch telescope which is the largest tourist viewing telescope in Coonabarabran. There are live videos of the moon and the planets and you can even bring your SLR camera to take photos through the telescope. Daytime viewing of the sunspots and prominences of the Sun, and the planets Venus and Jupiter is also available. OPEN 7 days. Please check with Warrumbungle Observatory or Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre for viewing times. Peter is also able to bring his telescopes to you. He has several portable telescopes so that he can bring the stars to your group or function. This includes school groups and presentations to the school curriculum. Prior booking is essential.

Crystal Kingdom

Newell Highway,

ph: 02 6842 1927

web: www.crystalkingdom.com.au

Crystal Kingdom is a fascinating mineral museum, home to the exceptional 'Minerals of the Warrumbungles' Exhibition. This colourful exhibit showcases rare minerals, fossils and crystals and is said to be one of the world's best one-locality collections. Jewellery lovers and fossil-hunters will love browsing the curious fossils, crystals and gemstone jewellery available at the retail outlet, all at very reasonable prices. A guide is also on hand to explain the fascinating origins of the Warrumbungles. Entry is free. OPEN 7 days, 8am - 5pm (closed Christmas Day). 1km north of the clock tower.

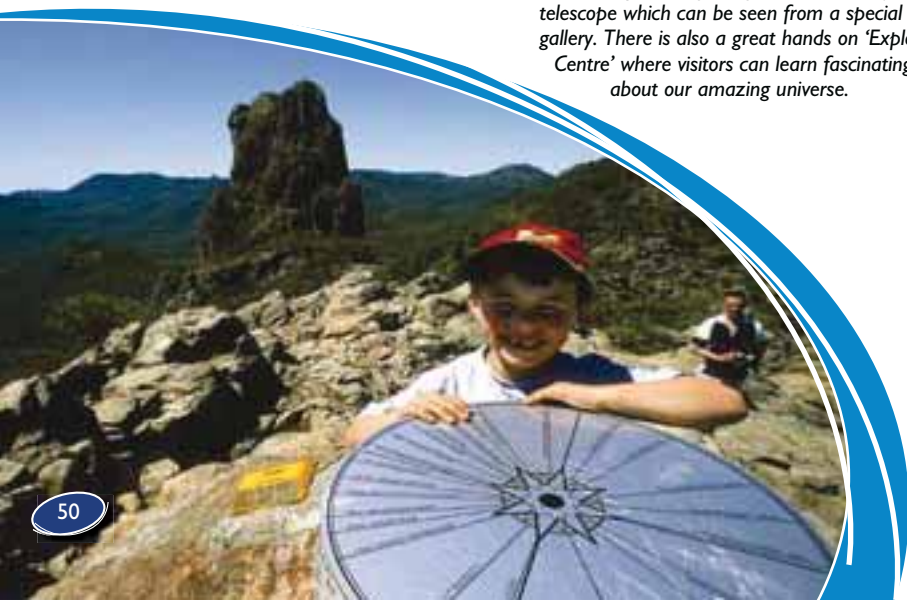
Newcastle Hats

Lot 21 Ulan Street

ph: 02 6842 5014

web: www.newcastlehats.com.au

Newcastle Hats is a working factory that makes cool, comfortable and hardworking hats. A broad range of colours and styles for a variety of uses are available including sports, kids, gardening and travel. Newcastle Hats is the home of the original washable squashable hat. There is even a small range of imported hats and the factory outlet is the only place where factory seconds are available. Group tours of the factory are available with advance booking but members of the public are welcome to visit the factory and view the range. OPEN Mon - Fri 8am - 4:30pm.



Pilliga Pottery

Scenic Drive off Newell Highway

ph: 02 6842 2239

email: pottery@tpg.com.au

web: www.pilligapottery.com.au

Nestled on the edge of the Pilliga Forest, Pilliga Pottery is NSW's most famous bush pottery. The working complex is the only pottery in Australia to use a special technique of applying bright glazes to local clays, producing a stunning leadlight effect that brings the designs to life in a style found nowhere else. Visitors can observe free pottery demonstrations, relax in the friendly ambiance of the Blue Wren Café and surrounding gardens, or browse the huge variety of beautiful and unique pottery, which often feature motifs inspired by the Australian bush. The combined attraction of this stunning pottery, eye-catching architecture and eco-friendly lifestyle has created a marvellous and unexpected cross-cultural oasis that makes a visit to Pilliga Pottery an unforgettable experience for the whole family. Farmstay accommodation available, horse riding, bushwalking and birdwatching tours. OPEN 7 days, 9am – 5pm, or contact us to arrange a time. 34km north of Coonabarabran, last 10km are unsealed.

Art Gallery of C

55 Cassilis Street, ph: 02 6842 1462

Local artist, Claudia Stern operates a delightful gallery in the heart of town. Visit the latest exhibition of works by talented up-and-coming artists and unearth something special for that empty wall space! Works vary and may range from oils, photos, pastels, sketches and watercolour. All works are for sale and entry is free. The Gallery also sells artist quality art supplies and custom framing is available in house. OPEN 7 days, Mon – Fri 12pm – 6pm and Sat – Sun 10am – 4pm. Just around the corner from the Commonwealth Bank.

Wattagan Estate Winery

Oxley Highway, ph: 02 6842 2456

Enjoy the magic of this family owned and operated winery nestled on 12 acres. Wander through the herb gardens and browse a selection of Emu products including pure emu oil, moisturising cream and soaps. Wattagan Estate produces 9 varieties of wine including Chardonnay, Merlot, Bungles Blanc, Bungles Bubbly, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pilliga Port and Pop's Pilliga Piss. They can cater for functions and weddings. Located just 10mins from Coonabarabran on the Oxley Highway, call in and enjoy free wine tasting and cellar door sales. OPEN Fri – Mon 10am – 5pm and other days by appointment.

Timor Valley Estate Vineyard

Lot 40, Timor Road ph: 02 6842 1496

Located just 6km from Coonabarabran on the Timor Rd is the boutique winery of Timor Valley Estate. Positioned on the fertile river flats and nestled in the Warrumbungle Mountain Ranges, this winery offers unique wines including Shiraz and Riesling. The grapes are hand harvested and pruned and the cool nights give the wine an individual character. Cellar door sales and wine tasting is available. OPEN Fri – Tues 10am – 5pm (open 7 days school holidays).

Australian Museum Megafauna Display (Diprotodon)

Newell Highway, ph: 1800 242 881

Housed in Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre are the impressive skeletal remains of a Diprotodon, the largest marsupial to have ever lived. The remains are over 33 000 years old and were found locally in 1979. They are thought to be the best example of their kind in Australia. The exhibition is free and includes information about other significant findings in the region. Guided tours for groups are available with advance notice.

World's Largest Virtual Solar System Drive - Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre,

ph: 1800 242 881

web: www.solarsystemdrive.com

Launch into Coonabarabran, the Astronomy Capital of Australia, and travel through a virtual Solar System 38 million times smaller than outer space.

This cosmic adventure can be experienced along the five major roads that lead to Coonabarabran and Siding Spring Observatory, including the Newell Highway. See huge roadside billboards featuring 3-dimensional fibreglass planets that are scaled in size relative to the 37 metre Anglo-Australian Telescope dome at Siding Spring Observatory, 28 kilometres west of Coonabarabran. The dome represents the Sun in the model and the distance between each planet is also scaled 38 million times smaller than in our real Solar System.

From Pluto, you can hurtle through space towards the Sun, and learn fascinating facts about the universe along the way. The drives start at or near the regional towns of Dubbo, Moree, Tamworth, Gulgong and Merriwa.

Eating Out

Coonabarabran Bakery

67 John Street

ph: 02 6842 1002

Open from 6:30am. Pies, breads, cakes, slices, fresh cut sandwiches daily.

Bowl 'o' Bistro

Edwards Street,

ph: 02 6842 1041

Open 7 days – Full menu. Large groups welcome.

The Lunch Box

56 John Street,

ph: 02 6842 2822

Located opposite post office. Open 7 days. Breakfast meals, eat in or takeaway.

Eat It Café and Takeaway

43 Dalgarno St,

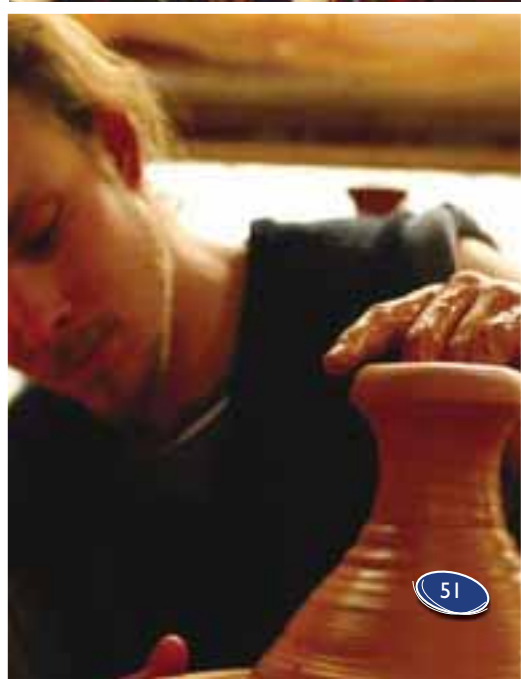
ph: 02 6842 3123

Large selection of takeaway and dine in meals.

Coona Fish Shop

66 John Street, ph: 02 6842 1618

Open 9am till 8pm, 7 days. Fish, chips, burgers, drinks, milkshakes.



Coonabarabran

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Shopping

Chalkies Mens and Ladieswear

38 John St,
ph: 02 6842 1460

Country and city clothing, best in town, mens and ladies.

Accommodation

Coonabarabran offers an excellent range of good value, affordable accommodation. Choose from up to 11 comfy motels as well as hotels, self-contained cabins and cottages, neat caravan parks, farmstays and B&Bs or enjoy camping under a blanket of stars. You're sure to find the perfect place to suit your style and budget.

Acacia Motor Lodge ★★★★★

10 John Street
ph: 02 6842 1922

web: www.acaciatorlodge.com.au
Luxury accommodation, spa units, 200m south of post office.

All Travellers Motor Inn ★★★★★

23-25 John St
ph: 02 6842 1133

Large, comfortable, ground floor units. Auster, pool, parking for trailers. Close to clubs and shops.

Clock Tower Motor Inn ★★★★★

47 Dalgarno Street ph: 02 6842 2444

Large units, all ground floor, quiet location close to shops, restaurants and hotels.

Country Comfort Coonabarabran ★★★★★

376 Oxley Highway
ph: 02 6842 1188

21 newly refurbished rooms, all air-conditioned. Facilities include a swimming pool and a licensed restaurant open 7 days.

Country Gardens Motel ★★★★★

13 John St,
ph: 02 6842 1711

Located one block from town centre. Facilities include pool, BBQ, broadband internet and restaurant.

El Paso Motel ★★★★★

45 Newell Highway,
ph: 02 6842 1722

Budget chain motel. 21 comfortable ground floor units, all air-conditioned.

Close to town. Facilities include a swimming pool.

Matthew Flinders Motor Inn ★★★★★

Newell Highway,
ph: 02 6842 1766

www.matthewflindersmotorinn.com.au

Clean comfortable rooms.

Queen, twin and family rooms available. Peaceful surrounds, ample parking and swimming pool.

Poplars Motor Inn

Newell Highway,
ph: 02 6842 1522

Ground floor, 2 bed room units, licensed restaurant and function room.

Warrumbungle

Mountain Motel ★★★

Timor Road,
ph: 02 6842 1832

Closest motel to national park with self-contained units. Variety of leisure activities available.

Getaway Tourist Park ★★★

Newell Highway,
ph: 02 6842 1773

Ensuite cabins with reverse cycle air-conditioning, powered sites and tent sites.

Other facilities include pool, kiosk and LP Gas on-site, playground and free gas BBQs. Pet friendly.

John Oxley Caravan Park

★★★★ park and ★★★ & ★★★ cabins
15 Newell Highway,
ph: 02 6842 1635

Spacious park with plenty of shade, close to shops and town centre

Warrumbungles Holiday Camp

★★ cabins

Timor Road, ph: 02 6842 3400

Cabins and bunkhouse rooms in a quiet bushland setting. Ideal for groups and families.

Campers and caravans welcome.

Coonabarabran Hotel

80 - 84 John St,
ph: 02 6842 2640

Single, double and family rooms available.

Dining room open 7 days for lunch and dinner.

Imperial Hotel –

Home of Larry the Lizard

70 John Street,
ph: 02 6842 1023

email: impmax@bigpond.net.au
40 hotel rooms air-conditioned throughout.

Bistro open 7 days.

Royal Hotel Coonabarabran

53 - 57 John St,
ph: 02 6842 1816

email: gregstar@tsn.cc

Newly renovated accommodation located in the centre of town. Kitchen open 7 days. Coldest, freshest beer in town.

Innisfail Bed and Breakfast

19 John Street,
ph: 02 6842 3297

Experience country hospitality with full breakfast. B&B in heart of town. Room includes sole use of lounge/dining room.

Overflow Bed and Breakfast

108 Cassilis Street,
ph: 02 6842 1195

This B&B is especially designed for pets travelling with their owners.

Everton Bed and Breakfast

Lot 423 Reservoir St,
ph: 02 6842 2619

Pet friendly family style accommodation.

Warrumbungles Glass House Cottages

★★★★ (emu), ★★★★★ (kookaburra)

Tibuc Road,
ph: 02 6842 1446

Two cottages set in natural bushland. Luxury and comfort in peaceful surroundings.

Tibuc Cabins

'Tibuc', Timor Road,
ph: 02 6842 1740

email: tibuc@aussiebroadband.com.au

Three unique self-contained cabins 16km from Coonabarabran in the Warrumbungle Mountains.

The Old Schoolhouse Farmstay

Pilliga Pottery,

Scenic Drive off the Newell Highway,
ph: 02 6842 2239

email: pottery@tpg.com.au,

web: www.pilligapottery.com.au

Fabulously creative timber structure on stilts.

Sleeps up to 8. Self-catered or breakfast available by arrangement. Horse riding, farm walks, bushwalking and bird watching also available.

Dalyup Farm Stay

River Road,
ph: 02 6842 1929

Three bedroom, self-contained cottage on a 1500 acre, cattle, sheep and pig farm. Pets welcome. Located 8kms from Coonabarabran.

Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre

Newell Hwy

p: 02 6849 2144

Tollfree: 1800 242 881

f: 02 6842 2766

email: coonavic@hwy.com.au

web: www.warrumbungleregion.com.au