

*your guide to the*

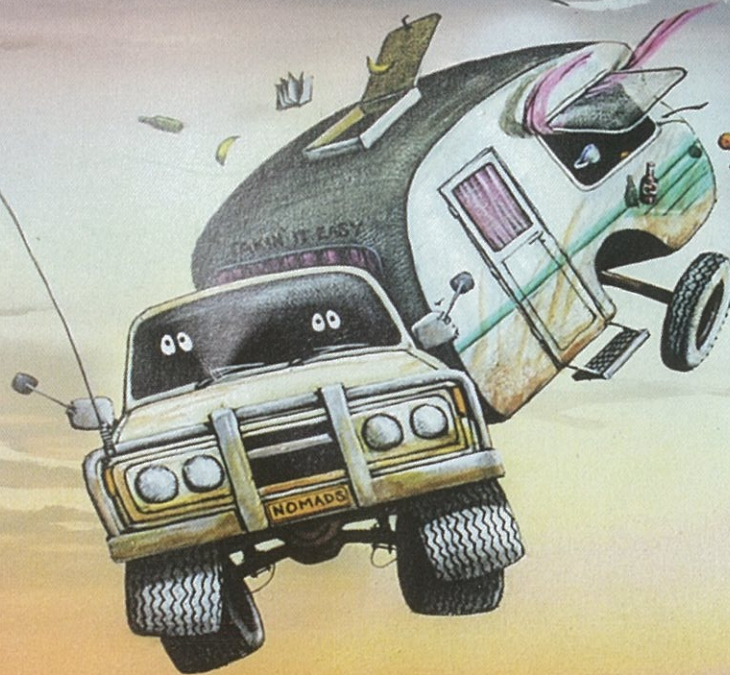
# WALGETT REGION

# LIGHTNING RIDGE

*adventure lives here!*



L/RIDGE WALGETT  
CRYON CARINDA  
COLLARENEBRI  
BURREN JUNCTION



John Murray

# GETTING HERE...



## *by plane*

Commercial flights run from Sydney to Dubbo and return daily. From Dubbo there is the option to join the daily bus service or hire a car to complete the journey.

There is also an airstrip at Walgett and Lightning Ridge airports for chartered flights or landing of a private plane. For further information please contact the Visitor Information Centres.

## *by bus*

NSW TrainLink runs a daily bus service from Lightning Ridge to Dubbo with an early morning departure time and a return service departing Dubbo at 2:20pm. For current timetable information and bookings: phone **13 22 32** or visit: [www.nswtrainlink.info](http://www.nswtrainlink.info)

Coach QLD, in partnership with Greyhound Australia, runs a bus service from Brisbane to Toowoomba and then onto Lightning Ridge on Mondays and Thursdays with return services on Tuesdays and Fridays. For current timetable information and bookings: phone **1300 473 946** or visit: [www.greyhound.com.au](http://www.greyhound.com.au)

## *by train*

NSW TrainLink runs a daily train service from Sydney to Dubbo leaving Sydney Central station at around 7am, connecting with a coach service departing at 2:20pm to Walgett and onto Lightning Ridge. For current timetable information and bookings: phone **13 22 32** or visit: [www.nswtrainlink.info](http://www.nswtrainlink.info)

## *by car*

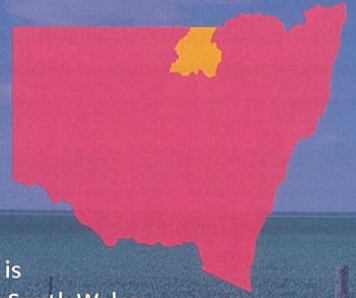
Road touring is one of the best ways to travel as it gives you maximum flexibility. You can stop when and where you please and take advantage of unexpected discoveries. Hire cars, camper vans and even camper trailers can be booked and picked up from all capital cities and larger country towns.

**The Walgett Region is located approximately 650km from Sydney, 700km from Canberra, 700km from Brisbane, 300km from Dubbo and 900km north east of Broken Hill. Pick up a copy of our Maps & Directory insert to assist you in the planning of your road tour.**

### *What's the latest in Lightning Ridge & Walgett Region?*

For current travel deals, upcoming event information and touristy tales in general, visit:

[www.lightningridgewalgettregion.com.au](http://www.lightningridgewalgettregion.com.au)



The Walgett Region covers 22,000 square kilometres and is located in north western New South Wales, near the southern boundary of Queensland.

Summers are warm to hot with temperatures reaching into the high 40's while winters are mild. When it turns cold down south the Walgett Region is the perfect place to escape for fine and warm days.



## VISITOR INFORMATION

The Visitor Information Centres should be the first stop for visitors to the region. You will find friendly and helpful advice on the regions attractions, what to see and do in the area, accommodation options, local event information and tickets, internet access and public amenities. They also stock an exciting range of gourmet products, gifts and souvenirs.

### *Lightning Ridge*

Lions Park - Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge NSW 2834

Tel: **02 6829 1670**

PEAK TOURIST SEASON - 7 days 9am-5pm

OFF PEAK TOURIST SEASON - Mon-Fri 9am-5pm | Sat-Sun 9am-1pm

[www.lightningridgeinfo.com.au](http://www.lightningridgeinfo.com.au)

### *Walgett*

88 Fox Street, Walgett NSW 2832

Tel: **02 6828 6139**

OPEN - Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

PLUS PEAK TOURIST SEASON - Sat 10am-1pm

### *Collarenebri*

Cnr Wilson & Herbert Streets, Collarenebri NSW 2833

Tel: **02 6756 2104**

OPEN - Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm

[www.lightningridgewalgettregion.com.au](http://www.lightningridgewalgettregion.com.au)

Connect...



[facebook.com/LightningRidgeWalgettRegion](https://facebook.com/LightningRidgeWalgettRegion)



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[twitter.com/LightningRidgeWalgettRegion](https://twitter.com/LightningRidgeWalgettRegion)



[youtube.com/LightningRidgeWalgettRegion](https://youtube.com/LightningRidgeWalgettRegion)

# WELCOME!

*Visit the Walgett Region & Lightning Ridge  
for adventure and something out of the ordinary!*

Situated on the edge of the outback in north west New South Wales, the Walgett Region includes Lightning Ridge, home of the black opal, and the nearby opal fields of Grawin, Glengarry and Sheeppark where you can experience friendly bush pub hospitality. Experience camping under the clear, starry skies in Walgett, or try your luck at landing a famous Murray Cod in Collarenebri.

In the Walgett Region you will find an abundance of wildlife, rich artistic communities, a unique landscape and traditional aboriginal culture.

After a long day of outback touring and adventure there is no better place to relax and unwind than one of the artesian bore baths. If you time it right, you may even get to watch a spectacular sunset, typical of Outback New South Wales.

*The Walgett Region provides endless experiences and attractions aplenty! You will leave with unique stories and maybe even your own rare black opal!*

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Queensland

New South Wales

Victoria

*With a diverse range of experiences and unique attractions, Outback New South Wales is the perfect place to take a touring holiday.*

For more information on Outback Touring turn to page 5.



# Lightning Ridge EASTER FESTIVAL



- \* LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- \* BIG DIG - Your chance to dig for opals worth thousands of dollars!
- \* LITTLE DIG - Great techie prizes for the kids!
- \* HORSE RACES \* FIREWORKS
- \* FLOAT PARADE \* CARNIVAL RIDES
- \* NOVELTY STREET RACES
- \* STRENGTH & ENDURANCE CHALLENGES
- \* BUSKERS & STREET STALLS BY DAY, LIVE MUSIC AT NIGHT!



**A whole weekend of fun for everyone!**

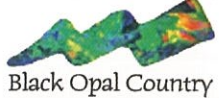
**Thousands of dollars worth of prizes!**

**ENQUIRIES:**

Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre  
02 6829 1670  
[www.lightningridgeinfo.com.au](http://www.lightningridgeinfo.com.au)

**Book accommodation early to avoid disappointment**

Lightning Ridge  
Tourism Association



LIGHTNING RIDGE  
RACE CLUB

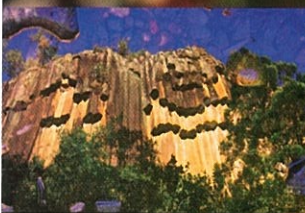
**A LITTLE BIT CRAZY**



# Narrabri Shire

HEART OF NORTH WEST NSW

*Come for the day, stay for a week...  
explore, discover, relax and enjoy.*



Narrabri  
Wee Waa  
Boggabri

[www.visitnarrabri.com.au](http://www.visitnarrabri.com.au) 1800 659 931

# EVENT CALENDAR

## JANUARY

**Australia Day Celebrations**  
LIGHTNING RIDGE & WALGETT

## MARCH

**Colly Mud Trials**  
COLLARENEBRI

**Burren Junction Carp Muster**  
BURREN JUNCTION

**Outdoor Markets**  
WALGETT

## APRIL

### *Easter Festival*

#### LIGHTNING RIDGE

- Float Parade
- Miners Challenge
- Big & Little Dig
- Buskers
- Street Stalls
- Horse Races



## MAY

**Walgett District Show**  
WALGETT

## JUNE

**Rowena Cracker Night**  
ROWENA

**PJ O'Brien Memorial Horse Race Meeting**  
WALGETT

## JULY

**Carinda Horse Race Meeting**  
CARINDA

**Outdoor Markets**  
WALGETT

### *Opal Festival*

#### LIGHTNING RIDGE

- Opal Queen Ball
- Opal & Gem Expo
- IOJDAA Trade Show
- IOJDAA Awards Dinner



## AUGUST

**Grawn Show**  
GRAWN OPAL FIELDS

**Bushman's Carnival Rodeo & Campdraft**  
WALGETT

### *Bulldust to Bitumen Festival*

#### WALGETT

- Dinner Under the Stars
- Big Day Out
- Markets
- High Tea
- Kids Activities



Drop in at the Visitor Information Centres for further event info...



*Lightning Ridge Markets*  
Every Sunday 7.30am - 12noon

*Walgett Outdoor Markets*  
Once a quarter



## SEPTEMBER

**Collarenebri Horse Races**  
COLLARENEBRI

**Cubbaroo Campdraft**  
BURREN JUNCTION

**Come by Chance Picnic Races**  
COME BY CHANCE

**Outdoor Markets**  
WALGETT

## OCTOBER

**ARTtober**  
LIGHTNING RIDGE

**Oktoberfest**  
ROWENA

## NOVEMBER

**Potch Queen Ball**  
LIGHTNING RIDGE

## DECEMBER

**Carols in the Park**  
WALGETT

**Outdoor Markets**  
WALGETT

# WHERE TO FROM HERE?

*Outback New South Wales is made for touring holidays...*

With a diverse range of experiences and unique attractions, **Outback New South Wales is the perfect place to take a touring holiday. The Walgett Region is a highlight of this incredible touring experience. Whether you choose to make it your final destination or just one stop along the way, there are a number of routes you can take to get here and leave by, the most prominent tours being the Kamilaroi Highway, the Darling River Run and the Great Inland Way.**

## *Kamilaroi Highway*

Starting at Willow Tree, south of Tamworth, and running straight out to the Back o' Bourke, the Kamilaroi Highway offers the most direct route from the Great Dividing Range to the outback. Named after the traditional owners of the land, the sealed highway takes you through the agricultural heartland of New South Wales where everything from wheat and cotton to sunflowers and sorghum is grown, past the rugged mountain ranges of the Nandewars and Mt Kaputar to the sunburnt plains of the outback grazing runs. Along the way, the Kamilaroi's iconic towns give you every excuse to extend your journey with each one presenting a unique experience of life in Outback New South Wales. At Werris Creek, near Quirindi, you can immerse yourself in the history of the railways that opened up the north west. In Gunnedah, keep an eye out for the urban koalas that regularly roam the streets. In Narrabri, learn how the Australian cotton industry is leading the world by developing more sustainable practices. In Lightning Ridge, you'll love all the quirky attractions and the equally colourful opal miners. In Brewarrina, step into the Aboriginal Dreamtime at one of the oldest man-made structures on earth, and in Bourke, relive the glory days of the Darling River trade on an old paddle steamer.

Extending a warm welcome, you will find a host of accommodation operators offering historic homestead farm stays, luxury B&Bs, affordably-priced motels, traditional country pubs, rustic bush cabins, well-serviced caravan parks and peaceful caravan spots on the riverbank.

For more information visit: [www.kamilaroihighway.com.au](http://www.kamilaroihighway.com.au)



[facebook.com/KamilaroiHighway](https://www.facebook.com/KamilaroiHighway)

For more information, tour brochures and maps drop into the *Lightning Ridge or Walgett Visitor Information Centres.*



## *Darling River Run*

The Darling River Run is an adventure along Australia's longest river system. Part of the Murray-Darling basin, the Darling River makes its journey south west across the state to Wentworth on the New South Wales - Victoria border where it joins the mighty Murray. It is fed primarily from the summer rains of southern Queensland and is steeped in both European and Indigenous historical, spiritual and living culture.

Starting in Walgett, you will head west following the Barwon River to where the Darling River begins at the confluence of the Culgoa and Barwon Rivers. The easy-to-follow route will then take you 730km down this iconic waterway. Highlights include exploring the natural beauty and rich Indigenous culture of some of the most remote National Parks in New South Wales, enjoying the laidback atmosphere of iconic outback towns including Bourke, Louth, Tilpa and Wilcannia and learning about pioneering pastoralists and their lives on the land, before your journey concludes in Wentworth. It is recommended that you take four days to complete this journey in order to make the most of short side trips to see Lightning Ridge's famous black opal fields, the etched dunes of Mungo National Park and Broken Hill's historic beauty.

Regardless of whether you do the whole run or just part of it, you will experience some of the best flora, fauna and landscapes, not to mention some of the most unforgettable characters to be found anywhere in Australia.

For more information visit: [www.visitoutbacknsw.com](http://www.visitoutbacknsw.com)



[facebook.com/DarlingRiverRun](https://www.facebook.com/DarlingRiverRun)



## Great Inland Way

One of Australia's great drives, the Great Inland Way is a 2,600km journey of a lifetime. This fully-sealed route leads from one natural treasure to another as it weaves its way from Sydney, through the rugged Blue Mountains and on through the rolling hills of crops and vineyards, over the wide-open roads of the outback up through Queensland's Central Highlands to Cairns, Cooktown and the pristine tropical playground of the Great Barrier Reef.

Once you reach Dubbo, explore the world renowned Taronga Western Plains Zoo, an African safari right in the middle of New South Wales. Turn off the Newell Highway at Gilgandra, home to the Coo-ee Heritage Centre, and follow the Castlereagh River through the picturesque towns of Gulargambone, gateway to the Warrumbungle National Park and Siding Spring Observatory; and Coonamble, where you can participate in a genuine Australian Cattle Drive.

At Walgett you enter Great Artesian Basin country where ancient therapeutic water flows out of the ground at about 40°C at several locations nearby including Lightning Ridge and Burren Junction. It is well worth spending a few days in 'the Ridge' – a frontier town with character (and characters) and home of Australia's national gem – the prized black opal.

Don't miss a gem of a country pub and the quaint general store at Hebel just across the Queensland border, before heading a few kilometres up the road to Dirranbandi, last stop on the south-west rail line and home to the famed Cubbie Station. Next is St George, but not before you take a small detour to the iconic Nindigully Hotel – a classic friendly outback Queensland pub with giant burgers! Continue north through Queensland, passing iconic destinations like Roma, Injune, Emerald, Charters Towers and finally Cairns and Cooktown.

Camping or accommodated, both are equally catered for. There are luxurious lodgings, secluded hideaways, first-class B&Bs, and the chance to get off the beaten track. With literally something for everyone, you'll soon appreciate why the Great Inland Way is considered the 'Australian drive of all drives'.

For more information visit: [www.outbacknow.com.au](http://www.outbacknow.com.au)



[facebook.com/GreatInlandWay](https://www.facebook.com/GreatInlandWay)



*Try your hand at a classic outback wave to passing drivers - which can be anything from raising a finger from the steering wheel to tipping your hat!*

## Outback Touring

The long distances between towns and extreme weather conditions mean that you should be well prepared when touring Outback New South Wales.

- Check the road and weather conditions before you embark on your tour by contacting the local Visitor Information Centres. Drive according to the conditions of the road and beware that they could change suddenly, particularly if you are travelling on unsealed roads.
- Confirm trip distances and plan ahead to ensure you have adequate fuel, water and other essentials.
- A complete first aid kit is essential. It is also highly recommended that you carry spare parts such as tyres, fuses and fan belts and a UHF radio or satellite telephone as mobile telephone service is not reliable in remote areas.
- Slow down when passing other vehicles or approaching livestock or wildlife and avoid travelling at night when animals are most active.
- Take a break every two hours and share the driving.

## St George and surrounds Experience the Balonne Shire

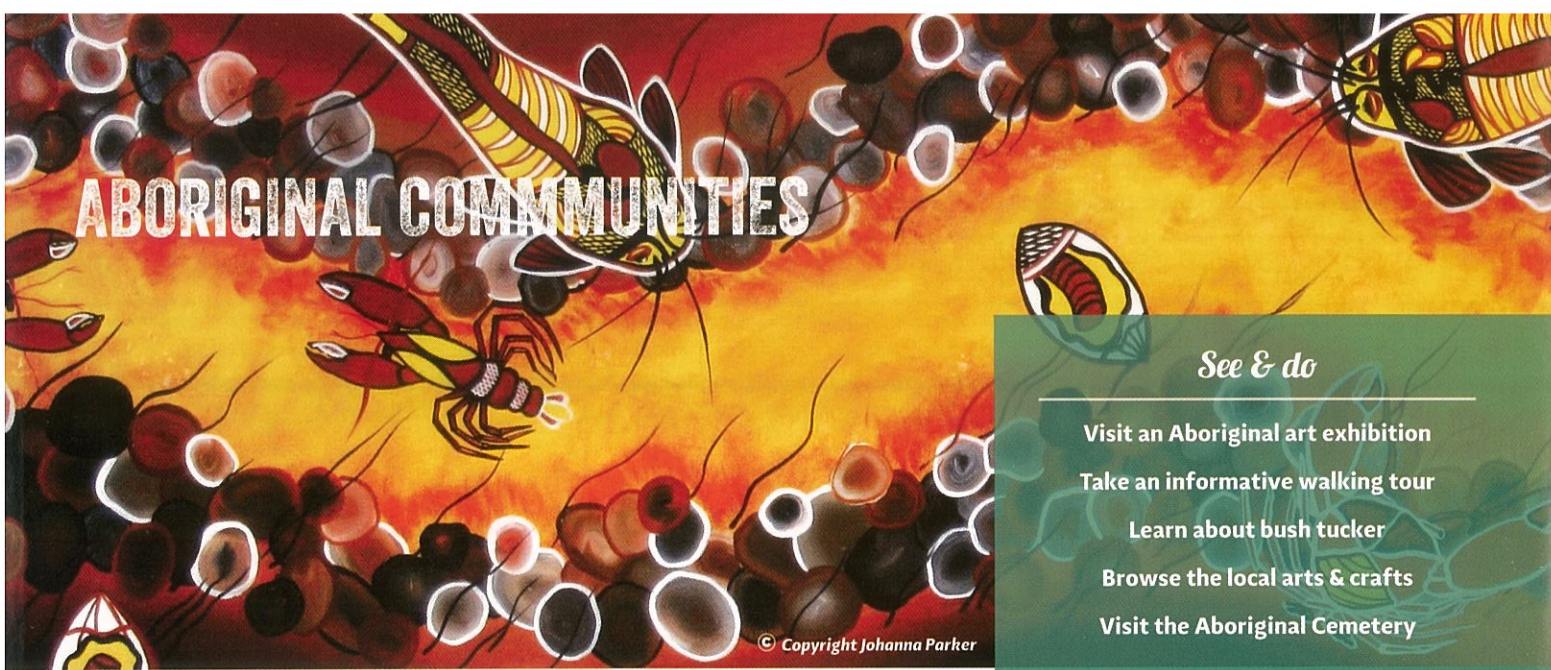
### MUST-DOS:

- Throw a line in at Dirranbandi in search of the great Murray cod
- Enjoy free wine tasting at Riversands Winery
- Take a stroll along the Wallam Creek walkway in Bollon
- Enjoy a Sandytown River Cruise along the Balonne River
- Retrace Hebel's intriguing history at the Hebel Historical Circle



St George | Dirranbandi | Hebel Bollon | Nindigully | Thallon | Mungindi  
[www.balonne.qld.gov.au](http://www.balonne.qld.gov.au)  
 (07) 4620 8877

# ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES



© Copyright Johanna Parker

## *Dynamic Aboriginal communities and culture hold a special place in the region.*

The Walgett Region extends over land traditionally occupied by the Gamilaraay, Yuwalarraay, Ngiyambaa, and Wayilwan (Weilwon) people. The Gamilaraay people lived around Walgett and Collarenebri and in the eastern areas of the shire. The Yuwalarraay lands include the Narran Lakes and the area north around Lightning Ridge, the Ngiyambaa people lived to the west extending across to Brewarrina and Bourke while the Wayilwan were located to the south and south west, along the Macquarie River corridor.

The original landscape provided gunimaa (home) for people, plants and animals with Aboriginal settlement in the area dating back some 40,000 years. Significant occupation sites have been found around the region. Dharriwaa (Narran Lakes Wetland), the Barwon and Namoi Rivers along with the many warrumbul (water course or overflow channel) were all important meeting places for the Aboriginal communities - used for the purposes of fishing, hunting, gathering, recreation and ceremony.



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## *See & do*

- Visit an Aboriginal art exhibition
- Take an informative walking tour
- Learn about bush tucker
- Browse the local arts & crafts
- Visit the Aboriginal Cemetery

## *Art & Culture*

Aboriginal art and culture in the Walgett Region has a strong connection across all of the various townships and communities.

There are many established and emerging artists working across a wide variety of artistic mediums from creating traditional tools, carving emu eggs and traditional dance, to painting, weaving and making contemporary music.

Inspiration for artists in the region is drawn from their ancient ancestors mark making in the ground, tree carvings and traditional stories, that have been passed down through generations of strong local Aboriginal heritage. The region has a rich art and cultural life that can be discovered by visiting the various community cafes, galleries and exhibiton spaces.

For more information about where to buy Aboriginal arts and crafts and for a current exhibitions list, contact or visit:

**Walgett Visitor Information Centre**  
88 Fox Street, Walgett  
02 6828 6139

**Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre**  
Lions Park, Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge  
02 6829 1670

*The Aboriginal communities of the Walgett Region are proud people with a continued connection to their culture and a commitment to its future. Experience and learn about their culture by visiting the following locations:*



## | WALGETT

**Dharriwaa Elders Group Cultural Exhibition Centre**

The centre is a keeping place, cultural education hub and meeting place for Aboriginal Elders. It houses an extensive collection as a result of Elders' community development work maintaining Aboriginal cultural values of Walgett and surrounding lands and waters.

The centre displays both permanent and temporary exhibitions and local Aboriginal arts & crafts for sale including paintings, carved emu eggs, wooden items and jewellery. *'Memories of Living Outside Walgett'* is a permanent exhibition at the centre and documents the memories of Elders who lived in the tin camps of the Walgett Aboriginal Station, Namoi Riverbank and Montkeila Bend between the 1920's and 1970's. *'Tough but happy times'* is another permanent exhibition produced by the group - located at the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service's Euragai Goondi - it remembers Walgett's Camping Ground community. The centre and exhibitions are open: Mon-Fri 10am-1pm. **47 Fox Street, Walgett** | [www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au](http://www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au)

## | WALGETT

**Norman 'Tracker' Walford Way**

Located along the southern foreshore of the Namoi River, this 1.5km walk is in memory of Norman Walford who was employed as an Aboriginal tracker from 1948 to 1973. Skilled in bush craft, Aboriginal trackers were an integral part of the NSW Police Force employed to track criminals, recover lost and stolen stock and search for people lost in the bush. The walk along the riverbank is sealed and suitable for both pedestrians and cyclists, passing bird attracting lagoons, scar trees and a mural commemorating Tracker Walford. Ask at the Visitor Information Centre for more information.

## | WALGETT

**Walking Tracks**

The Dharriwaa Elders Group offer a unique introduction to the wonders of Baayaamii's creation and Walgett's rich heritage with a series of 16 interpretive signs erected along the Tracker Walford Walkway and another walking track that follows the Namoi River, through historically significant and environmentally interesting locations. The signs identify local native vegetation, birds and animals, fish and reptiles, the Namoi River itself and Walgett's artesian waters. Other information is also provided about Walgett Aboriginal entertainers, Aboriginal servicemen and women, Aboriginal police trackers, the Freedom Ride and the Aboriginal river communities of Namoi, Montkeila Bend and the old Brewery. For more information and maps visit:

**47 Fox Street, Walgett** | [www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au](http://www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au)

## | WALGETT

**Café 64 Art Gallery**

Located in the Walgett town centre - take a break, get a bite to eat and take in the current exhibition of locally-produced Aboriginal art for sale. **64 Wee Waa Street, Walgett**

## | LIGHTNING RIDGE

**Bush Tucker & Medicine Garden**

Stretch your legs after a long drive at the IBC Gem Gardens, conveniently located next door to the Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre. The cultural mural and bush tucker and bush medicine section of the garden highlights how the local Yuwalaray people lived in the area before European settlement.

**Narran Lakes Nature Reserve**

This remote site is both environmentally and culturally significant. It is an internationally recognised wetland due to its rarity and significance for waterbirds such as the straw-necked ibis, spoonbills and cormorants and their breeding. It is also an important drought refuge for waterbirds and supports threatened species such as the brolga, magpie goose and Australian Bittern. It also provides an important habitat for a variety of plants, native fish, mammals, amphibians and reptiles. Dharriwaa (Narran Lakes) has a creation story and has always been a meeting place for many Aboriginal Nations. Due to its remoteness and sensitivity the reserve is only open to the public on special tour days run by the Narran Lakes Co-Management Committee. Enquire at the Walgett Visitor Information Centre.

## | COLLARENEBRI

**Collymogle Carved Trees**

For thousands of years Aboriginal communities marked important ceremonial sites by carving expressive and ornate designs into the trunks of trees. In the Gamilaraay area these elaborate cultural expressions served as powerful symbols for boys being ushered into manhood at elaborate ceremonies called Bora. Collymogle in north-west New South Wales, is the site of around 60 surviving carved trees - the greatest cluster remaining in the state. The carved trees were removed from their original site on Banaway Bora Ground in the early 1940's - a significant site used for ceremonial occasions. They are now housed in a shelter at the turn off to Collymogle Station.

## | COLLARENEBRI

**Rock Pool**

Situated on the weir at Collarenebri, the rocks had been arranged to help Aboriginal people catch fish.

## | COLLARENEBRI

**Aboriginal Cemetery**

Visit the glass graves at the Aboriginal Cemetery on the edge of town. The framed plots are adorned with colourful shattered glass placed around the graves in characteristic designs as a celebration of love and death that is unique to the local Aboriginal culture.

**Devils Hole**

At this particular site on the river, known as Devils Hole, Gamilaraay Elders have told of creation stories linking the location to the Aboriginal fish traps downstream at Brewarrina.

**Bundabreena Falls**

A significant site of volcanic rock and rock scarring where Aboriginal people sharpened their tools. It holds sacred memories, traditions and stories of traditional Aboriginal people.

**Arrange a tour...**

**An arranged tour with a local guide or an Elder of the Collarenebri Aboriginal community who knows the history of these remarkable sites, will share a unique cultural experience and tell stories of how precious they are to the Aboriginal people.**

**Phone the Walgett Visitor Information Centre on 02 6828 6139 for up to date information on accessing these sites.**

# ADVENTURE LIVES HERE



## Great Outdoors

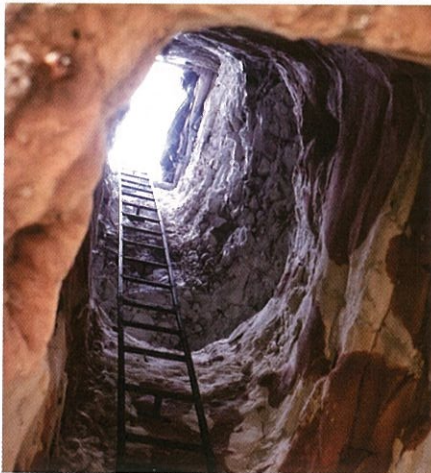
From the fertile black soil plains that support farming and grazing to the rocky red ironstone ridges where Australia's national gemstone, the opal, can be found, the landscapes of the Walgett Region epitomise the legendary Australian outback and with that there are many adventures to be had.

The sheer size of our clear skies has to be seen to be believed. Rise with the sun to enjoy the calm, peaceful pastels of dawn before you get the blood pumping with a hike along the banks of one of our rivers amid the stately eucalypts. Later in the day, relax in a hot artesian bath and savour the vibrant crimsons and golds of our glorious sunsets.

On the water, the Region offers many adventure-packed opportunities, from seasonal kayaking tours in the Macquarie Marshes, water skiing at Collarenebri and for the kids - the Water Theme Park and Olympic Diving Pool in Lightning Ridge.

Underground, take a tour down an opal mine and see opal at its source or fossick for your very own fortune in the piles of mullock on the surface. Or in the mud, why not drive a buggy in the Colly Mud Trials held in March each year in Collarenebri.

When it comes to exploring the outback you will not come across anything quite like the Lightning Ridge Car Door Tours. Coloured car doors instead of street signs, strung up in trees and leaning against old posts, direct you down winding dirt roads past miners' shanties and camps and places like Lunatic Hill!



## See & do

Camp under the stars

Fossick for black opal

Cool off at the Water Theme Park

Catch a giant Murray Cod

Experience an outback sunset

## Artesian Springs

The artesian springs or "bore baths", as the locals like to call them, are outback Australia's unique version of hot springs. Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Burren Junction are among a string of towns across western New South Wales where you can enjoy the naturally hot waters of the Great Artesian Basin in public bore baths.

Approximately 2 million years old, the Great Artesian Basin is an underground reservoir of fresh water that stretches over a fifth of the entire continent, making it the largest and deepest in the world. It is the only reliable source of fresh water in many arid and semi-arid regions of Queensland, the Northern Territory, South Australia and New South Wales. The natural pressure created by geothermal heat forces the water up to ground level from over a kilometre below the earth's surface without pumping.

While water from the Great Artesian Basin is used domestically throughout the region and for livestock purposes, people who enjoy its therapeutic qualities also frequent the bore baths. The mineral rich water, which contains sodium, magnesium, calcium, iron and silica, reputedly relieves aching muscles, eases joint pain and rejuvenates the skin. It is a soothing and revitalizing experience that is guaranteed to engender a state of deep relaxation - the perfect way to end a long day of outback touring and adventure!

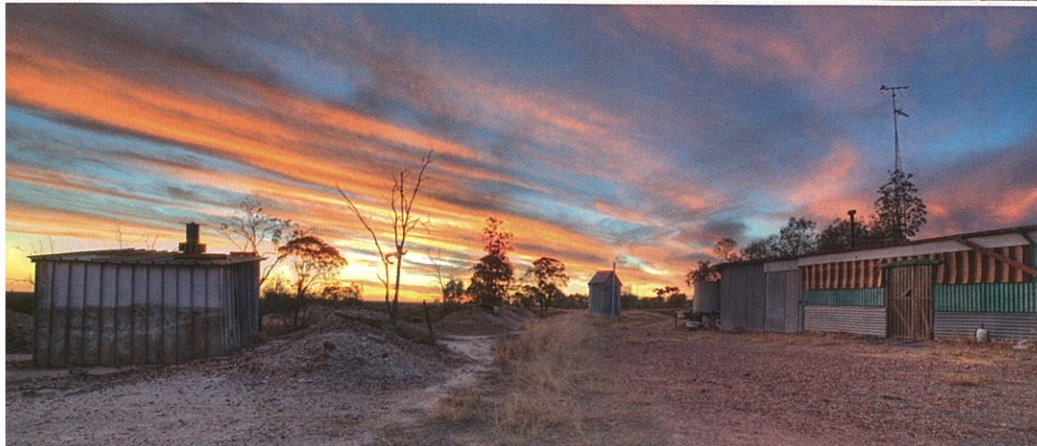
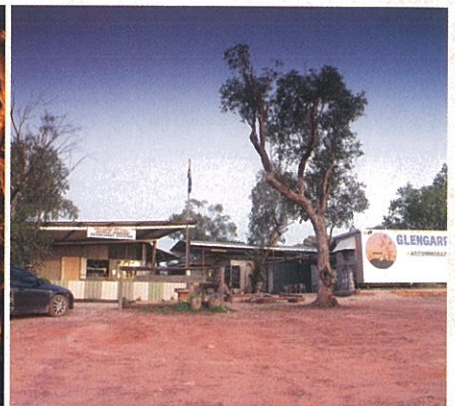
If you happen to visit during the warmer summer months, you might be lucky enough to witness one of Lightning Ridge's spectacular electrical storms that light up the inky night sky as if it were day, but be warned - the extreme summer temperatures are not for the faint hearted!

### Outback Pubs

The outback pub is an Australian icon and there's no shortage of them in the Walgett Region. From the simple, honest charm of pubs like the Carinda Hotel, where David Bowie filmed his 'Let's Dance' film clip or the Rowena Village Inn and the Junction City Hotel where you might find cattle greeting you at the door!

The bush pubs of the opal fields - the Glengarry Hilton, the Club in the Scrub and Sheeppark Inn - are a must stop when visiting the region. All are truly unique, a little odd, but friendly and a whole lot of fun! Spend a night out singing karaoke with the colourful locals or plan your visit around Anzac Day at the Sheeppark Inn. You are sure to leave with some great stories from your visit.

For the not-so-outback, head to the air-conditioned comfort of the Walgett District Sporting Club and the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club and unwind over an ice cold beer and a bistro meal. There's a place to suit everyone.



## Camping & Caravaning

For the true outback experience, nothing beats the sense of freedom and adventure of camping out or stopping overnight at one of the region's free road side camping spots.

After a long day driving or exploring sit back and take in the breathtaking sunsets, star gaze over a camp dinner and wake to clear open skies.

There are primitive free camping grounds in Walgett at Alex Travallion Park, along the river bank in Collarenebri and at the bore baths in Burren Junction, which are all RV friendly providing amenities such as toilets, barbeques and dump points. The Walgett Showground offers powered sites at a small fee - enquire at the Visitor Information Centre. Lightning Ridge has a number of centrally located camping and caravan parks with modern facilities and spacious drive-through campsites.

*After a long day driving or exploring the region, sit back and take in the breathtaking sunsets, stargaze over a camp dinner and wake to clear open skies.*

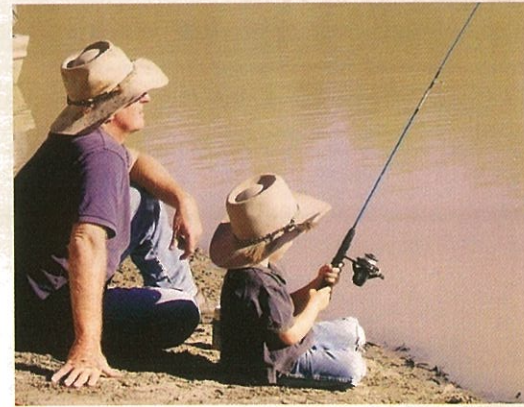
## Fishing

Throw a line in and try your luck at catching a Yellow Belly, Golden Perch, Freshwater Catfish, Bony Bream or the sought after Murray Cod. If nothing else is biting, you will almost certainly catch a European Carp!

There are plenty of fishing spots along the regions Barwon and Namoi Rivers and Collarenebri itself is regarded as one of Australia's best inland fishing locations. If you're camping along the river bank what could be more perfect than catching some yabbies for a camp dinner!

You can pick up a brochure from one of the Visitor Information Centres or ask a local about the fishing hot spots. Fishing licenses, equipment and further information about where to drop a line can be obtained from Supersave in Lightning Ridge or Hunt Camp Fish in Walgett.

The Burren Junction Carp Muster is held in March each year and in August the Walgett Bulldust to Bitumen Festival also plays host to a fishing competition as part of its week long event schedule.



## Horse racing

Venture out to the quaint town of Come-By-Chance for the picnic races or back a winner at the Collarenebri Races, both held during September each year. There are also race days in Walgett, in June and Carinda in July.

Or for something a little different, join the colourful crowd who flock to the Lightning Ridge Horse Races during the Easter Festival - where all dress attire goes! The finest suits and best dressed ladies are wonderfully mixed with thongs and shorts. On a visit to the opal fields you might just stumble across a very competitive day of yabbie racing!



## Wildlife

Wildlife such as kangaroos, wallabies and emus frequent the plains, while egrets, pelicans and ducks are among the many species of bird that can be spotted around the regions rivers and wetlands. Indeed, with recorded sightings of over 160 species of birds, the Walgett Region is a veritable bird-watchers paradise! The gregarious Red-tailed Black Cockatoo can often be seen around Walgett, while the Major Mitchell is frequently observed in the heavily wooded ridges in the district.

The nearby Macquarie Marshes, which can be accessed via Carinda, is one of the largest semi-permanent wetlands in inland Australia. It is recognized as a major colonial waterbird nesting site with recorded sightings of well over 20 species of birds. A wildlife observatory platform can be accessed via the Gibson Way at Terrigal Creek with the best visiting times being early morning or late afternoon for maximum wildlife viewing.

Visit the Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve on the October long weekend Discovery Tour run by The National Parks and Wildlife Service. Alternatively, find out about guided kayaking and walking tours by Marsh Meanders. For up to date seasonal information contact the Walgett Visitor Information Centre.

*With an abundance of wildlife, the Walgett Region is not only a bird watchers paradise but will keep you very entertained - spotting emus and kangaroos on your travels...*

## WALGETT - HUNT - CAMP - FISH

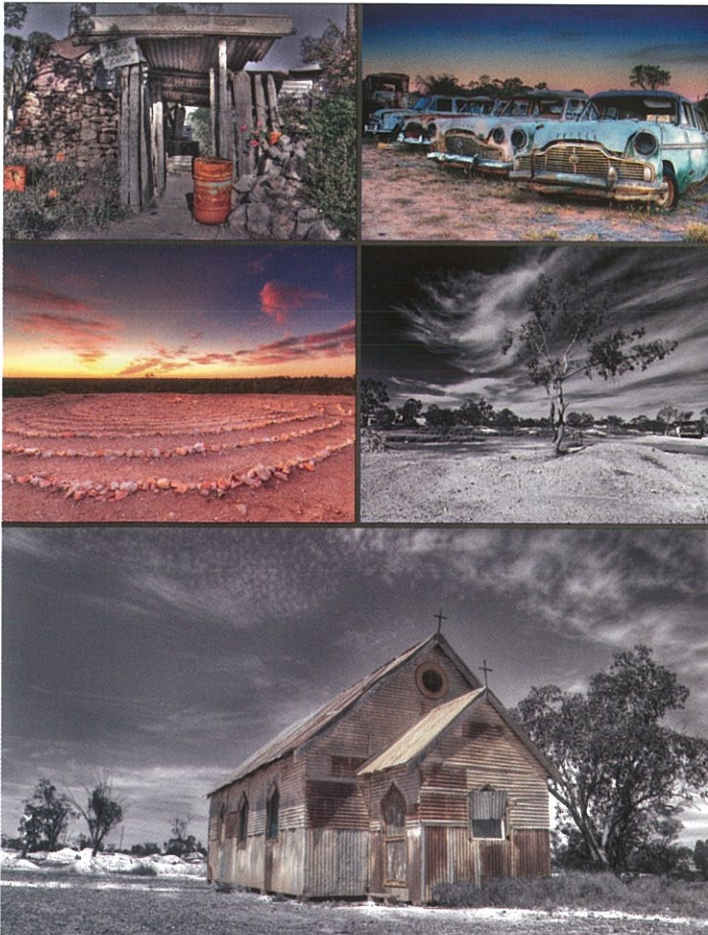


### HUNT-CAMP-FISH

For everything hunting, camping and fishing! Offering a huge range of guns, ammo, bait, tackle, tents, swags and torches to name a few. Great brands such as OzTrail, LedLenser, Panorama, Seiko and more.

T: **02 6828 2508** : Cnr Fox & Euroka Streets, Walgett  
[www.walgetthuntcampfish.com.au](http://www.walgetthuntcampfish.com.au)

SHOP



### PHOTOGRAPHY BY VIKI MURRAY

VISIT

As a long-term local photographer, Viki Murray has truly captured the personality of Lightning Ridge in her own unique photographic style.

Her Vikimages range includes black and white and colour landscapes of the area, funky still life works, rustic outback imagery and some retro illustrative works on recycled timber.

A traveller at heart, there is also a sprinkling of images sampled from her trips to different parts of Asia. From prints to books and cards, her works are quirky, eclectic, rustic and retro all rolled into one. Viki has a permanent display at the John Murray Art Gallery.

FREE entry - Open 7 days  
 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm | Sat & Sun 9am-2pm



[www.facebook.com/Vikimages](http://www.facebook.com/Vikimages)

T: **02 6829 1130** : 8 Opal Street, Lightning Ridge  
 E: [info@johnmurrayart.com.au](mailto:info@johnmurrayart.com.au)  
[www.johnmurrayart.com.au](http://www.johnmurrayart.com.au)

# LIGHTNING RIDGE

*fascinating, friendly & a whole lot of fun!*



When you make a pilgrimage to Lightning Ridge, home of the black opal, the rarest and most valuable form of Australia's national gemstone, you will find a charismatic town that does not know its actual population and is inhabited by people of approximately 50 different nationalities. The Ridge, as it is affectionately known, may be the black opal capital of the world, but its reputation for eccentricity is also well-earned – the kind that truly envelopes any visitor.

Lightning Ridge is a town full of vibrancy with endless experiences on offer and attractions aplenty! From self-guided car door tours, an impressive Olympic Pool and Water Theme Park, art galleries, artesian bore baths, and unique people (just to name a few).

There's something about Lightning Ridge that makes everything seem possible. Perhaps that's why so many of the people who now call the the Ridge home were once holiday makers themselves. Many people originally only plan to stay a day and end up staying a lifetime!



## See & do

Sunset at Nettleton's First Shaft

Attend one of the festivals

Cool off at the Water Theme Park

Visit an art gallery

Fossick for black opal

## Specking, Fossicking, Noodling

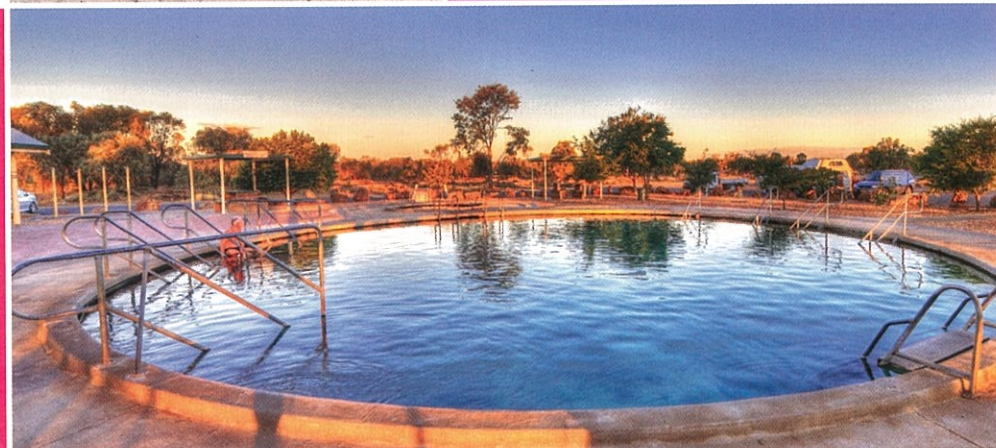
Call it whatever you like, it all means looking for opal and as the locals will tell you, there are few things more exciting than the first glimpse of colour that appears as you scratch through the seemingly endless piles of white opal dirt. It is worth remembering though that you can't walk up to any pile of mullock and start fossicking - if the area is subject to registered claim, you need to get the claimholder's permission. If you are keen to try your luck you can head to the free fossicking heap at the Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre or ask inside for other locations.

## Cool off and relax

Favourites of many who visit Lightning Ridge are the aquatic attractions! The Olympic Diving Pool & Water Theme Park are an oasis in the middle of the outback and hours of fun with wave pools, beach volleyball courts and slides. For relaxation after a long day of touring visit the Artesian Bore Baths.

## Don't miss...

**ARTtober in Lightning Ridge - an annual celebration of the rich art community.** Collect an event guide & map from the Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre and take yourself on a tour of the temporary exhibition spaces that pop up all over town and on the opal fields exhibiting the exciting work of local artists & creatives.



## Artists & Galleries

The unique beauty of the landscape at Lightning Ridge is inspiration for a host of local artists. From photography, paintings, sculpture and ceramics to Aboriginal art and carvings - staff at the Visitor Information Centre will be only too happy to point you in the direction of local artists, artisans and creatives, and the galleries and spaces where their collections are on display.

The Gallery, 2834 Studios and A Quiet Man's Place are all local galleries with free admission and throughout the year the Ridge ArtSpace hosts exhibitions of both local and visiting artists.

Visit the John Murray Art Gallery on Opal Street for a whimsical, photo-realistic perspective on life in the outback.

The rest area 10km out of town on the Castlereagh Highway is also well worth a stop. Here you will find Stanley the Emu - the 18 metre high creation of John Murray, built in collaboration with the local community. The sculpture was created from donated scrap metal including three volkswagen bodies and a pair of satellite dishes. It is quite the welcome to town!

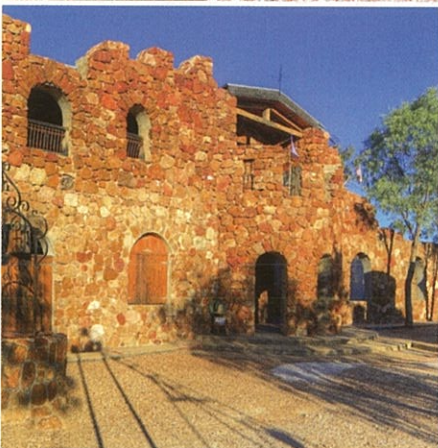
## Creative Attractions

The rugged look of the town belies a surprisingly diverse range of quirky and creative attractions. Amigos' Castle is a huge gothic style castle that a local man has been single-handedly building since he began to tire from opal mining in 1985.

Chambers of the Black Hand, is an underground, interactive work of art. Ron Canlin has completed over 500 carvings to date using tools ranging from a jackhammer and mining picks to cutlery from his kitchen!

When it comes to Australian bush architecture the Bottle House is an intriguing example - originally a miner's camp it now houses an astonishing collection of artifacts. The Can House built in the 1970s and located near Nettletons First Shaft Lookout is also a must visit. Short of building materials, early miners built their shelters out of whatever they could get their hands on - in this case, old beer cans! Here you will also experience a very subtle surprise - the 6 Mile Circle - a maze perfectly measured out on the ground marked with rocks.

Meet the only black opal mining cactus farmers in the world at Bevan's Cactus nursery for the largest display of old and rare cactus in the southern hemisphere.



## Car Door Tours

The Car Door Tour is Lightning Ridge's version of the self-drive tour. There are four different tours and each one is marked by colour-coded and numbered doors. You'll find the car doors strung up in trees or leaning in easily visible places, directing you down winding dirt roads and giving you a taste of what it's like to live and work on the opal fields.

Organised tours are a great way to get an overview of town, but a Car Door Tour will give you an impression of the Ridge's quirks. Pick up a copy of the Car Door Tours map at the Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre and make sure you watch out for wildlife while you're driving around!





## Easter Festival

Held annually over the Easter long weekend, the Easter Festival showcases all that Lightning Ridge has to offer and more. As well as discovering the mystery of the magnificent black opal, enjoying local tours, attractions, galleries and shops that are open all year round, be entertained by street buskers, novelty events, market stalls and a carnival, as well as some special events:

- The Big Dig sees contestants madly fossick in piles of opal dirt to locate over \$10,000 worth of opal.
- The Little Dig for kids with over \$3,000 worth of prizes.
- The Miners Rickshaw Challenge where visitors can compete with locals side by side against the clock to see who has the stamina to complete the course in the quickest time.
- The annual meeting of the Lightning Ridge Race Club with fashions on the field, TAB facilities, entertainment and on course food and refreshments.
- A spectacular fireworks display.
- Annual float parade with participation by local businesses, individuals and often visitors.

For more information, visit the Lightning Ridge Visitor Information website: [www.lightningridgeinfo.com.au](http://www.lightningridgeinfo.com.au) or phone **02 6829 1670**.

## Opal Festival

The Lightning Ridge Opal Festival is a four day event held over the last week in July each year incorporating the popular Opal Queen Ball, Opal & Gem Expo, International Opal Jewellery Trade Show and, biannually, the International Opal Jewellery Design Awards. Attracting over 4,000 visitors to town, including jewellers, opal buyers and wholesalers, miners, lapidary and rock enthusiasts and tourists, the Opal Festival is a melting pot of information, magnificent jewellery, collectables and great deals.

For more information, visit the Lightning Ridge Visitor Information website: [www.lightningridgeinfo.com.au](http://www.lightningridgeinfo.com.au) or phone **02 6829 1670**.

If you are planning to visit Lightning Ridge at Easter or during the Opal Festival in July, it's best to make your arrangements early as accommodation, including caravan parks and camping grounds book out months in advance.

If you miss out on accommodation during these busy times, contact the Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre or alternatively, you can stay elsewhere in the Walgett Region and make day trips to Lightning Ridge.

*Tune in to... Opal FM community radio FM 89.7*







### Step back in time...

Explore the Historical Society Miners Hut built in 1932 by Albert Spencer when he struck opal. Walk through the front door onto dirt floors then follow the cat's footprints in concrete into the kitchen. The bark dividing walls and kerosene tin chimney are typical of early Ridge architecture. It is bulging with memorabilia, local history displays, books and handcrafts for sale.

Behind the miners hut you will find Heritage Cottage, a relocated and refurbished 1915 nurses cottage - a tribute to all bush nurses. Entry is by donation.

Cooper's Cottage is also a great historical stop - authentically illustrating the living conditions of the mining pioneer. Built in 1916 it was the home of Bert Cooper, one of the areas earliest residents.

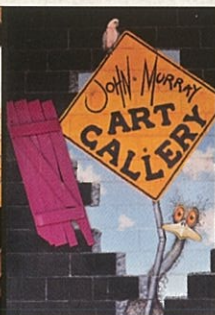


### LIGHTNING RIDGE DISTRICT BOWLING CLUB

Centrally located, boasting modern conference facilities, superb dining and top entertainment. With full Keno & TAB facilities, relax in one of our many bars and enjoy a cold one in air-conditioned comfort. We look forward to meeting you soon.

T: **02 6829 0408** : 1 Agate Street, Lightning Ridge  
[www.lrbc.com.au](http://www.lrbc.com.au)

ENTERTAIN



### JOHN MURRAY ART GALLERY

The colour and humour of the outback comes alive once inside the John Murray Art Gallery in Lightning Ridge...

John Murray is well known for his ability to realistically capture the arid beauty of Lightning Ridge and beyond, peppered with his unique sense of bush wit & whimsy.

Established in 1992 to showcase his vibrant original acrylic paintings, John's world-class gallery has retained its rustic roots and Australia's leading outback artist continues to lure people from all over the country to see his endearing outback art first hand.

Stunning large original works are a feature, as well as a vast array of prints, posters, gift cards and quality souvenirs. No visit to Lightning Ridge is complete without some time spent wandering inside the gallery.

The friendly, relaxed and welcoming atmosphere invites you to stay a while and absorb the beauty of the outback on display.

FREE entry. Open 7 days  
 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm | Sat & Sun 9am-2pm

*Art that makes you smile!*

T: **02 6829 1130** : 8 Opal Street, Lightning Ridge  
 E: [info@johnmurrayart.com.au](mailto:info@johnmurrayart.com.au) : [www.johnmurrayart.com.au](http://www.johnmurrayart.com.au)



[www.facebook.com/JohnMurrayArt](https://www.facebook.com/JohnMurrayArt)



VISIT



# OPALS

*Australia's national gemstone...*



## See & do

**Fossick for black opal**

**Visit an opal shop**

**Plan a visit for the Opal Festival**

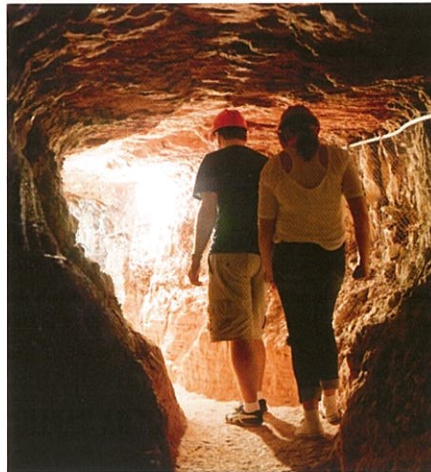
**Join an underground mine tour**

**Discover opalised fossils**

Australia is the world's main producer of precious opal, one of the most spectacular of gemstones. Opal is found at several locations around the margins of Australia's Great Artesian Basin, with Australian opal regarded as the world's finest. Not surprisingly, opal is celebrated as Australia's National Gemstone.

The opal fields of Lightning Ridge, Grawin, Glengarry and Sheeppark have become particularly famous as the largest known deposits of black opal in the world. Black opal is the rarest and most valuable type of opal, with a dark body tone that increases the vibrancy of the colours of the stone.

In the Lightning Ridge area, opal is usually mined by underground methods. A vertical shaft of a metre in diameter is sunk, generally to between 5 and 25 metres deep, to intersect levels hoped to contain opal. The miner then digs horizontal tunnels or drives into the opal level. Shafts were once sunk by hand using picks, shovels and other tools; today they are made using a mechanical Calweld drill. Since the late 1980s, many opal miners have further increased their efficiency by using an auger drill to prospect for areas likely to produce opal, before deciding where to sink a shaft. Once the opal bearing potential of an area has been established, the 'opal dirt' (clay and/or sandstone thought to contain opal) is removed using a jackhammer or hydraulic digging machine, then taken above ground using either an automatic hoist or a blower. The blower is a machine that sucks opal dug from the mine face, through a pipe along the drive, then up the shaft. The opal dirt is then usually tumbled or 'washed' in water for several hours in a modified cement mixer known as an agitator. The resulting hard tailings are sorted with keen eyes searching for a hint of colour.



Opal mining at Lightning Ridge is still the domain of the individual miner or small partnerships. It involves hard work, but despite this, people continue to be attracted to Lightning Ridge from all over the world by the opportunity to search for treasure, be master of their own destiny and – just maybe – strike it rich!

For more insight into opal mining, a number of tours in Lightning Ridge offer educational underground experiences, including excellent bus tours and the Walk-In Mine, Chambers of the Black Hand and the Big Opal.

Did you know that Lightning Ridge is the richest dinosaur site in NSW? What's more, the fossils are opalised – bones and shells, teeth and pinecones transformed into opal. The opalised fossils of the Walgett Region are among the most rare and precious of Australia's national treasures.

110 million years ago, Lightning Ridge was a forested floodplain near an inland sea. It was home to dinosaurs, plesiosaurs and pterosaurs, fish, turtles and crocodiles, birds and mammals, yabbies and snails. Their remains sank into fine mud in ancient streams and billabongs, and after millions of years, were transformed into opal.

You can see rare opalised fossils at the Australian Opal Centre in Lightning Ridge. This incredible national collection has been assembled and donated to the nation by the opal miners and residents of the Australian opal fields.



Fossicking for opal

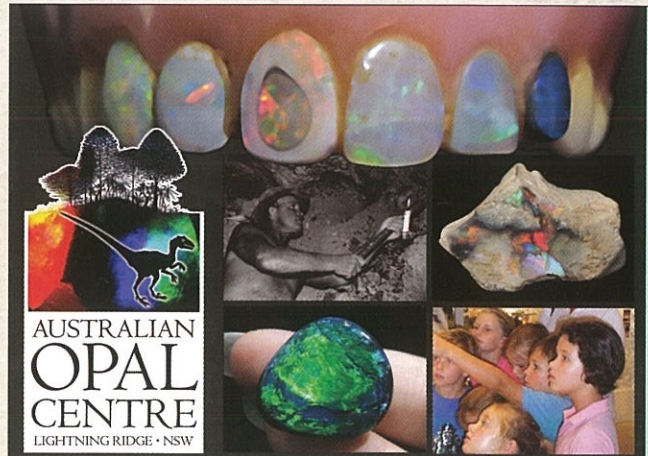


**WALK IN MINE**

Take a trip underground and experience for yourself an opal mine or view a fascinating film of the Lightning Ridge characters and their lifestyles at the 'Ridge'. Try your hand at fossicking for your own opal and visit our showroom for opal/jewellery & souvenirs at the best prices. All day self-guided tours, bookings not required.

T: **02 6829 0473**  
**Lot 45, Angledool Road, Lightning Ridge**  
 E: [info@walkinmine.com.au](mailto:info@walkinmine.com.au)  
[www.walkinmine.com.au](http://www.walkinmine.com.au)

SEE & DO



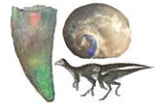
AUSTRALIAN  
**OPAL**  
 CENTRE  
 LIGHTNING RIDGE • NSW

SEE & DO

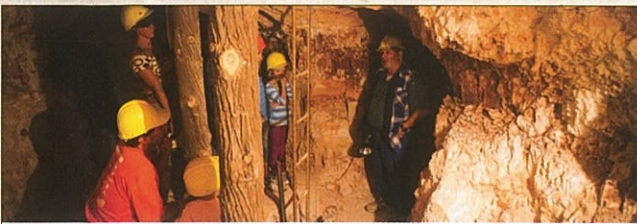
**AUSTRALIAN OPAL CENTRE**

Visiting Lightning Ridge? The Australian Opal Centre is Australia's most exciting new treasure trove, learning centre, architectural masterpiece and international tourist attraction. It's a visionary, not-for-profit peoples' project and it's happening now. See national treasures ranging from the sublime (priceless opalised fossils from the Age of Dinosaurs) to the riotous (Harold Hodges' opal teeth. Yes - he did wear them!) Check out the Big Hole, soon to house the AOC's extraordinary new underground building.

*Join. Give. Shop. Wonder. Learn. Make history.*



T: **02 6829 1667** : **3/11 Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge**  
 E: [contact@australianopalcentre.com](mailto:contact@australianopalcentre.com)  
[www.australianopalcentre.com.au](http://www.australianopalcentre.com.au)



**BIG OPAL TOURS**

Visit a genuine working opal mine! Open 7 days, 8.30am-4pm. Explore the mine using our self-guided tours, visit the above ground opal & souvenir shop, fossick for your very own opal and learn about the opal history of Lightning Ridge.

T: **02 6829 0247** : **Three Mile Road, Lightning Ridge**

SEE & DO

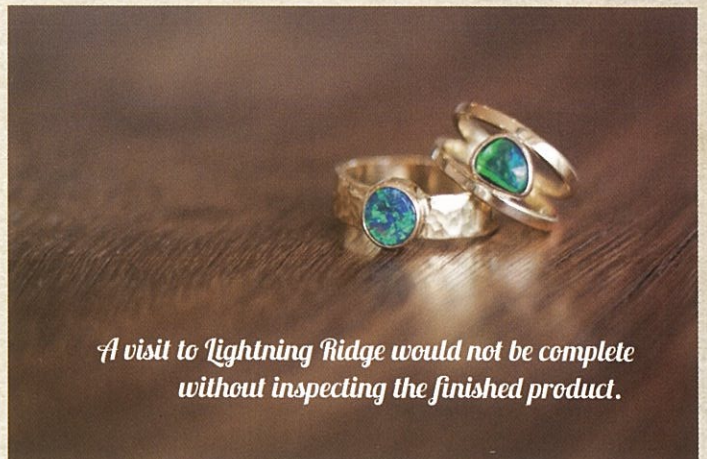


**OUTBACK OPAL TOURS**

Tour with the best! Offering a range of tours of Lightning Ridge attractions. With extensive local knowledge our guides will take you off the beaten track. Experience the unique lifestyle, chat to a miner, watch opals being cut and crafted and explore a real mine! Ask about our Grawin, Glengarry, Sheeppark (3 pubs) tour & our sunset tour. Town tours run twice daily.

T: **02 6829 4110** : E: [outbackopaltours@hotmail.com](mailto:outbackopaltours@hotmail.com)  
[www.outbackopaltours.com.au](http://www.outbackopaltours.com.au)

SEE & DO



*A visit to Lightning Ridge would not be complete without inspecting the finished product.*

A visit to Lightning Ridge would not be complete without inspecting the finished product. With more than 10 local opal retailers, there are plenty of opportunities to see the locally-mined gemstone finished and set, and to purchase opal at opal field prices.

Opal cutting is the process of transforming rough stones into spectacular finished gemstones. Ask at the Visitor Information Centre if there are any opportunities to see opal cutting in progress during your visit.

At the Australian Opal Centre showroom on Morilla Street, you can learn about opal, watch footage of opal mining, and see rare 105 million-year-old opalised fossils, relics of opal mining heritage and examples of opal from around the world.

Opal fossicking areas are available at Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre and at several accommodation houses and attractions. Opal is hard to find but every year, lucky visitors find their own opal to take home and treasure forever.



### PETER'S OPALS

When in Lightning Ridge, Peter's Opals is the opal shop the locals recommend.

Peter has on offer, a fabulous range of set and unset opals available to suit all budgets and styles.

For great service and knowledge of opals, pop in for a browse.

T: **02 6829 2268**

Cnr Opal & Harlequin Streets,  
Lightning Ridge

SHOP



SHOP



SEE



### KANGAROO HILL COMPLEX

A life of collection has led to this quirky Lightning Ridge icon. A fabulous display of fossils, minerals, shells, bottles & antiques will have you captivated for hours as will the free fossicking heap outside.

Open Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm

You will find us by taking the Red Car Door Tour.

T: **02 6829 0155**

Red Car Door Tour, Lightning Ridge



### LOST SEA OPALS

*Creating fine jewellery to treasure forever!*

*Guaranteed quality*

*Attention to detail*

*Friendly service*

T: **02 6829 0066** : 2 Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge

[www.LostSeaOpals.com.au](http://www.LostSeaOpals.com.au)



**DOWN TO EARTH OPALS**  
Est. 1991

*Opal* like you've never seen before ... and more

**OPEN 7 DAYS**  
[www.downtoearthopals.com.au](http://www.downtoearthopals.com.au)

Local pottery  
Split black opal nobby

### DOWN TO EARTH OPALS

Make your selection from one of the best collections of solid Lightning Ridge opal in Australia.

Down to Earth Opals specialises in Lightning Ridge opal and one-of-a-kind jewellery pieces. Established in 1991, we are famous for beautiful opal products, a wonderful range, great prices, high standards and friendly, knowledgeable staff. Our selection of freeform and carved opals is second to none.

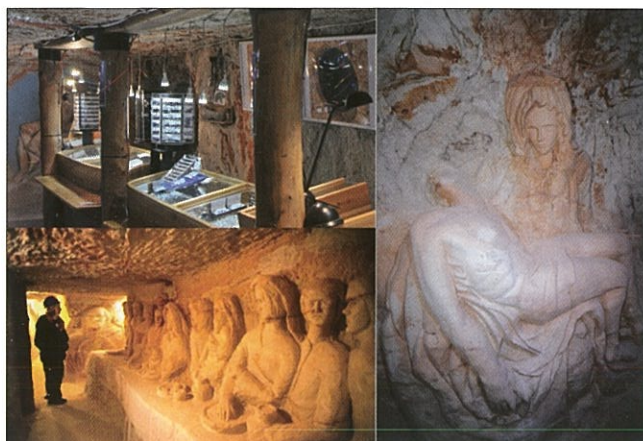
Opal is our passion and every opal is unique! We guarantee beauty and value in every price range, from budget souvenirs to bespoke designer opal jewellery.

You'll love browsing our relaxed gallery of exquisite opal and handmade jewels, rough opal specimens, local pottery, contemporary Aboriginal art, gifts and fashion jewellery.



T: **02 6829 2616** : 11 Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge  
E: [info@downtoearthopals.com.au](mailto:info@downtoearthopals.com.au)  
[www.downtoearthopals.com.au](http://www.downtoearthopals.com.au)

SHOP



### CHAMBERS OF THE BLACK HAND

Forty feet underground, Chambers of the Black Hand is both a collection of sculptures, hand carvings, paintings and an informative and entertaining tour of an opal mine which is over 100 years old - worked since the early days of opal mining in The Ridge. All our guides are very passionate about opal and mining and love to share some tales.

You will also find the only underground opal shop! Tours run daily at 10am - please check our website or phone for further information. Courtesy bus available.

T: **02 6829 0221**  
Three Mile Road, Lightning Ridge  
E: [chambersoftheblackhand@bigpond.com](mailto:chambersoftheblackhand@bigpond.com)  
[www.chambersoftheblackhand.com.au](http://www.chambersoftheblackhand.com.au)

SEE & SHOP



### OPAL BIN

Opals are our passion! We are specialists in solid Lightning Ridge opals, mining every piece we sell. In store you will find solid opals cut, polished and hand crafted into custom designed jewellery pieces in silver or gold as well as unique opal carvings - quality opals at unbeatable prices.

T: **02 6829 4110** : 47 Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge  
E: [info@classicopals.com.au](mailto:info@classicopals.com.au)  
[www.classicopals.com.au](http://www.classicopals.com.au)

SHOP



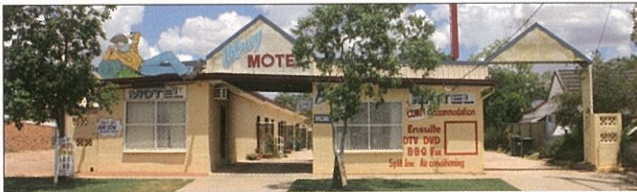
### BEVAN'S BLACK OPAL & CACTUS NURSERY

The largest display of old and rare cactus in the southern hemisphere, this garden is a labour of love and well worth a visit! Meet the only black opal mining cactus farmers in the world! Our black opal collection ranges from the rare black gem opal, crystal opal, grey opal and white opal - to the finest quality doublets, triplets and mosaics. Open 7 days 9am-5pm.

T: **02 6829 0429** : **0407 392 778**  
Blue Car Door 7, Lightning Ridge : [www.bevanscactus.com](http://www.bevanscactus.com)

SEE & SHOP





STAY

### BLUEY MOTEL

A home away from home for the weary traveller. Friendly, family owned motel in the heart of Lightning Ridge, offering single & double or twin share rooms, off-street parking, BBQ areas, guest laundry, air con and free wifi to all rooms.

T: **02 6829 0380** : 32 Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge  
E: info@blueymotel.com.au  
[www.blueymotel.com.au](http://www.blueymotel.com.au)

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STAY

### SONJA'S BED & BREAKFAST

Your home away from home - offering comfortable 3.5 star, self-contained suites in the heart of Lightning Ridge. Private entrances, off-street parking, bird attracting trees in BBQ and camp kitchen area, walking distance to shops, meals available.

T: **02 6829 2010** : 60 Butterfly Avenue, Lightning Ridge  
E: info@sonjasbedandbreakfast.com  
[www.sonjasbedandbreakfast.com](http://www.sonjasbedandbreakfast.com)

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STAY

### CROCODILE CARAVAN PARK

Family owned & operated park, offering ensuite and standard cabins, on-site vans and powered sites. Swimming pool, camp kitchen, laundry facilities, clean amenities, disabled shower and toilet, 24hr video surveillance, LP gas refills & pets on approval.

T: **02 6829 0437** : 5 Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge  
E: deb@crocodilecaravanpark.com.au  
[www.crocodilecaravanpark.com.au](http://www.crocodilecaravanpark.com.au)

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STAY

### WALLANGULLA MOTEL

Great service, style & affordability, makes the Wallangulla Motel the best place to stay whilst enjoying your visit to Lightning Ridge. Centrally located, opposite the Bowling Club.

T: **02 6829 0542** : Cnr Morilla & Agate Streets, Lightning Ridge  
[www.wallangulla.com](http://www.wallangulla.com)

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STAY

### OPAL CARAVAN PARK

OPPOSITE THE ARTESIAN BORE BATHS IN LIGHTNING RIDGE

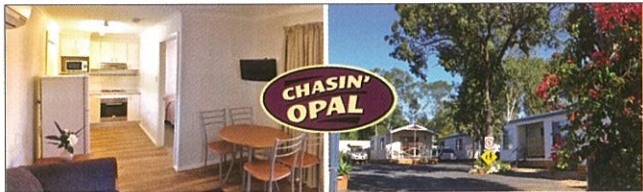


### OPAL CARAVAN PARK

Enjoy your visit in a quiet bushland setting. Only 3 minutes from the centre of Lightning Ridge, conveniently located opposite the Artesian Bore Baths. The perfect base from which to explore all that Lightning Ridge has to offer. Featuring modern facilities - spacious drive-through powered sites, self-contained cabins and ensuite caravan/camping sites - this outback accommodation venue is bound to delight. Other features include 2 camp kitchens, BBQs and fire pit, heated inground swimming pool, courtesy bus and free wifi throughout the park. We are also pet friendly with free doggy day care!

T: **02 6829 4884** : 142 Pandora Street, Lightning Ridge  
E: enquiries@opalcaravanpark.com.au  
[www.opalcaravanpark.com.au](http://www.opalcaravanpark.com.au)

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STAY

### CHASIN' OPAL HOLIDAY PARK

Boutique cabin park, centrally located, walking distance to bowling club and main shopping centre. Modern 1 & 2 bedroom cabins at the best value rates in town. We can easily organise tour bookings. A warm and friendly welcome awaits you.

T: **02 6829 0448** : 10 Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge  
E: info@chasinopal.com.au  
[www.chasinopal.com.au](http://www.chasinopal.com.au)

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EAT

### MORILLAS CAFE

Open 7 days a week till 4pm for the best coffee in town! You will also find great breakfast and lunch menus, muffins, delicious cakes, freshly made sandwiches and wraps, and cold drinks, all served with friendly service in a great central location.

T: **02 6829 0009** : 2 Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge

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**FOSSICKERS COTTAGES**

**Opal Cottage** offers comfortable one bedroom accommodation, well established gardens, overlooking the old town opal fields with viewsto the west for beautiful sunsets. **Harlequin Cottage** offers two bedrooms, a large fenced front lawn for kids and pets. Both centrally located. Bookings via Lost Sea Opals.

T: **02 6829 0066** : 2 Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge  
[www.FossickersCottages.com](http://www.FossickersCottages.com)

STAY

Icons: Home, P, Wi-Fi, Signal



**TRILBY STATION**

Take a break... stay a while... we want you to experience what is our backyard. Recapture the spirit of the wide open spaces, as you take a peak at our 320,000 acre station with a 'mud map' in your hand. Throw a line in and fish for cod or yellow-belly, boil your yabbies on an open fire and eat them fresh, walk with the wildlife, smell the bush and canoe the majestic Darling River. We offer self-contained cottages, shearers bunk house, powered van sites, secluded river camp sites and delicious country style meals.

**02 6874 7420** : 'Trilby Station', Louth via Bourke  
 E: [trilystation@bigpond.com](mailto:trilystation@bigpond.com)  
[www.trilystation.com.au](http://www.trilystation.com.au)

STAY

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[www.trilystation.com.au](http://www.trilystation.com.au)

STAY

Icons: Home, P, Wi-Fi, Signal

# Outback Beds

*'stay in the outback with friends'*



**OUTBACK BEDS**

Staying with the Outback Beds network allows you to experience working sheep and cattle stations, B&Bs, self catering cottages, opal mining communities, heritage indulgence, tranquil river campsites, family farm stays and inspiring eco-architecture. You'll find a great place to stay in a place you'll never forget.

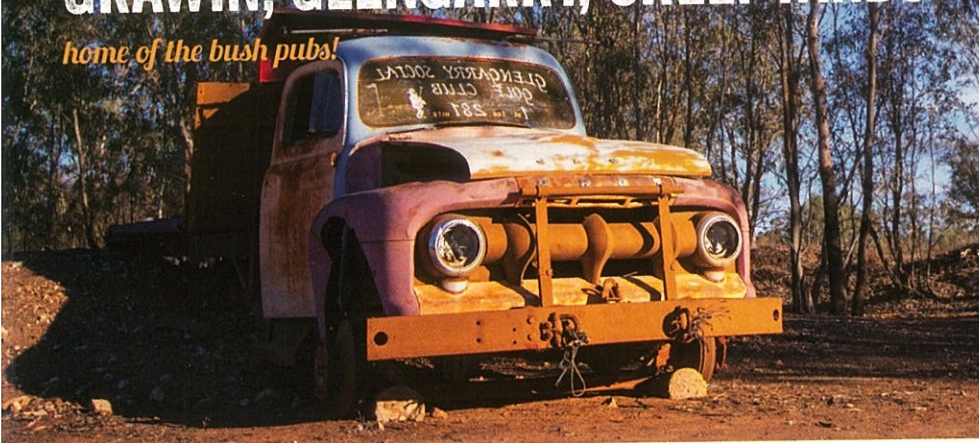
T: **1800 005 298** : [www.outbackbeds.com.au](http://www.outbackbeds.com.au)



**RING US FOR  
YOUR FREE  
OUTBACK MAP**

# GRAWIN, GLENGARRY, SHEEPYARDS

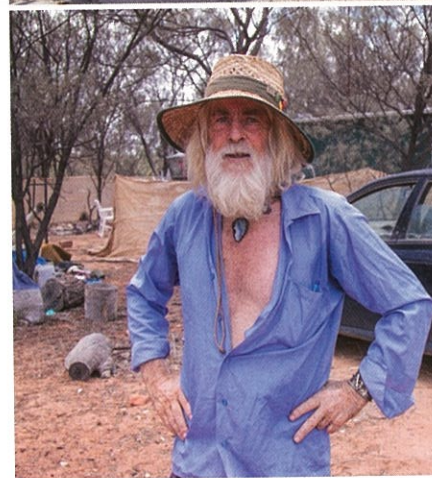
*home of the bush pubs!*



Located approximately 70 kilometres west of Lightning Ridge, Grawin, Glengarry and Sheepyards offer an unrivalled opportunity to see how life is lived on a frontier-style opal field. No visit to the Lightning Ridge and Walgett Region would be complete without a visit to these outlying opal mining fields.

Opal was first discovered at Glengarry in 1905, but it was the discovery of opal at Hammond Hill that saw the establishment of Grawin in 1908. Further discoveries at Richards Hill in 1920 bolstered the unofficial village. Ever since the first discovery of opal in the area, people seeking their fortune have come and gone in waves with each new strike, which makes for a community of colourful characters.

Enjoy getting to know the men and women who live on the final frontier of high hopes, tall tales and long beards at one of the three bush pubs located on the opal fields. The Sheepyard Inn, the Club in the Scrub and the Glengarry Hilton all offer a unique outback experience that will keep you intrigued for hours.



## See & do

- Take an Orange Car Door Tour
- Visit Sweeny's Arts & Crafts
- Stop at the war memorial
- Have a round of golf
- Visit a bush pub

You can also visit Sweeny's Arts and Crafts to purchase locally made products as well as teeing off on a golf course with a difference!

Grawin, Glengarry and the Sheepyards can be accessed via the small village of Cumborah. The road is sealed up to the Grawin turn off and the gravel mining roads are in reasonable condition. When driven at the right speed they are suitable for caravans and other large vehicles. It is worth remembering though, that this is a restricted mining area - so best to stick to the main areas.

Amongst the shanties, old caravans and piles of mullock you will find the beautiful Sheepyard and Community War Memorial, built by miners - many of which were Vietnam Vets. On Anzac day, hundreds of war veterans, locals and visitors flock to the Sheepyard for the moving Anzac Day service.







VISIT

### THE CLUB IN THE SCRUB

Have a yarn with the miners, or laughs in the games room over table tennis, snooker and darts. Check out the wildlife on our golf course while you sip a refreshing ale. Bistro Thursday to Saturday nights and Sunday lunch. Fresh sandwiches available daily. Free camping, golf course, Tuesday night bingo and Saturday night entertainment. Open 10am-late.

T: **02 6829 3810** : Grawin Opal Fields



VISIT

### GLENGARRY HILTON

Nestled in the heart of the infamous Glengarry Opal field. Nothing like the Sydney Hilton but with lots more atmosphere, this unique pub & its inhabitants will keep you intrigued for hours. Backpacker style air-conditioned accommodation, meals & snacks available everyday. Joker Jackpot Thursday night. Open 11am till late.

T: **02 6829 3983** : Glengarry Opal Fields



VISIT

### SHEEPYARD INN

A truly unique bush pub! Offering a true outback experience. Visit us for a cold beer, cooked meal & a great yarn with local miners & other characters. Groceries, gas & local tourist info available, free camp area with shower and toilets. Tour groups welcome. Open 7 days 10am till late.

Opal cutting demonstrations. Pool comp Wednesday night

T: **02 6829 3932** : Sheepridge Opal Fields



# WALGETT

*where two rivers meet...*



## See & do

- Follow an informative walking track
- Learn about paddle steamers
- Enjoy a coffee in the town centre
- Setup camp for a night under the stars
- Find our Chickpea Cook Book at the VIC

Walgett is located beside the Namoi River near its junction with the Barwon River – *where two rivers meet*. Offering friendly outback hospitality, country charm and the facilities of a larger town, there are three exciting tourist routes that include Walgett on their itineraries – the Kamilaroi Highway, the Darling River Run and the Great Inland Way.

As the gateway to black opal country, Walgett is the perfect place to take a relaxing break for a night or two, before venturing on to Lightning Ridge, only 76km away, or the smaller opal fields of Grawin, Glengarry and Sheepyards to the north west. Stay at one of the local accommodation houses in the town centre, cabins by the river or for a night under the stars, at one of the camping / caravan spots – Alex Trevallion Park (free) or the Walgett Showground.

Step back in time at the Historical Society's Museum and learn about the paddle steamers, which between 1861 and 1910, transported wool, timber, food supplies and livestock along the Darling River system. You will also learn about Mr Frederick York Wolseley of Euroka Station, who invented the world's first successful shearing machine!



The Barwon and Namoi rivers provide an ideal spot to relax, fishing rod in hand. Murray Cod and Yellow-Belly are popular catches! There are also some fantastic Aboriginal walking tracks where you can learn about native vegetation, birds and animals, fish and reptiles, Walgett's artesian waters, and the Aboriginal river communities.

Drop in at the Walgett Visitor Information Centre or call 02 6828 6139 for more information and maps.

Walgett serves as a hub for the surrounding agricultural properties with a focus on irrigated cotton, wool, beef cattle, fat lambs and farming including faba beans, barley, chick peas and its biggest industry – wheat. Agriculture is the backbone of the region, and in good times, the area is a land of agricultural abundance. In the not-so-good times the community displays resilience and determination particularly through flood, fire and extended periods of severe drought.

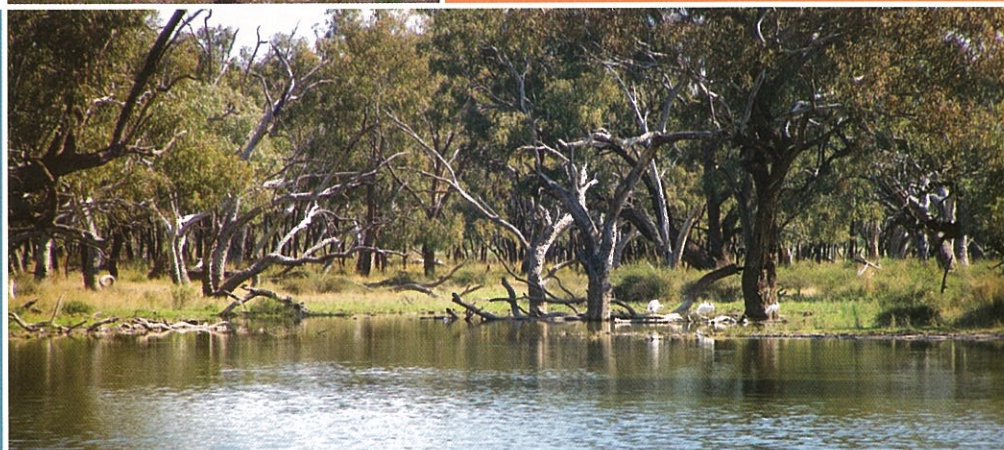
## Don't miss...

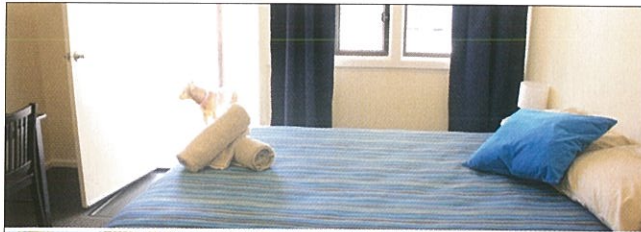
### The Walgett Bulldust to Bitumen Festival – held annually in August!

Join us for such events as the Dinner Under the Stars, High Tea, Big Day Out and the Carp Bash. Contact the Walgett Visitor Information Centre for festival information.

## Did you know...

Walgett is one of the biggest producers of chickpeas in the southern hemisphere.





### THE BARWON INN

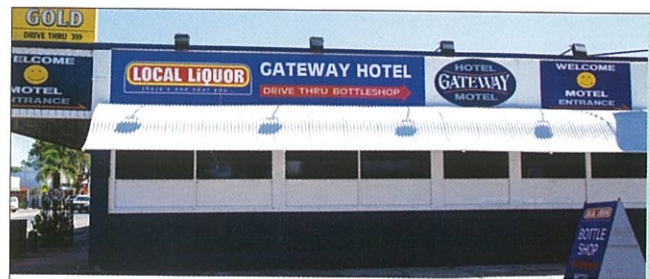
*Relax and enjoy yourself at the end of a busy day.*

The Barwon Inn is situated 7 km out of Walgett, set amongst 138 acres of bush land and bounded by The Barwon River making it an ideal fishing spot!

Considered the quietest accommodation option in Walgett offering 18 log cabin style motel rooms with ensuites. The bistro and bar are open for dinner Monday to Thursday and breakfast daily. Ample parking and space to accommodate large vehicles.

T: **02 6828 1154** : Kamilaroi Highway, Walgett  
[www.thebarwoninn.com.au](http://www.thebarwoninn.com.au)

STAY



### GATEWAY BOTTLESHOP & WINE CELLAR

Visit the Gateway Bottleshop and Wine Cellar for the convenience of **Drive Thru** or come in and browse.

You will find a huge range of beer, cider and spirits at competitive prices. We also stock an extensive range of **local and imported beers**.

Our **wine cellar** hosts the region's most extensive range. Plus we also stock a range of frozen-ready to heat meals.

T: **02 6828 1563** : 65 Fox Street, Walgett  
 E: [enquiries@gatewaywalgett.com.au](mailto:enquiries@gatewaywalgett.com.au)  
[www.gatewaywalgett.com.au](http://www.gatewaywalgett.com.au)

SHOP



### GATEWAY MOTEL & WINE BAR

Recently refurbished motel accommodation in the heart of the Walgett CBD. Our air conditioned rooms are well appointed with secure parking. Relax in our newly opened, air conditioned, motel guest lounge & wine bar.

T: **02 6828 1563** : 65 Fox Street, Walgett  
[www.gatewaywalgett.com.au](http://www.gatewaywalgett.com.au)

STAY



### HON DOO CHINESE RESTAURANT

Open 7 days a week.

Fully licenced dine in Chinese restaurant where you will find all your favourite dishes! Takeaway also available.

Mon-Sat 11am-2.30pm & 5pm-9.30pm  
 Sun 5pm-9.30pm

T: **02 6828 1446** : 68 Wee Waa Street, Walgett

EAT



### WALGETT NEWSAGENT

The newsagent with so much more!  
 A huge range of magazines, stationery, gifts and souvenirs.

You will also find coffee, hot food, lunch options, frozen meals and home-made gelato - a favourite with the locals!

T: **02 6828 2508**  
 Cnr Fox & Euroka Streets, Walgett

SHOP



### STONE'S THROW

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 ANTIQUES, HOMEWARES, JEWELLERY  
 & KIDS COLLECTIONS

T: **02 6828 3359** : 56C Fox Street, Walgett  
 E: [katie@astonesthrow.com.au](mailto:katie@astonesthrow.com.au)  
[www.astonesthrow.com.au](http://www.astonesthrow.com.au)

SHOP



# COLLARENEBRI

*home of the Murray Cod!*

Located 70 kilometres from Walgett on the Barwon River, Collarenebri is regarded as one of Australia's best inland fishing locations. Ask a local about the fishing hot spots or call in at the Walgett Visitor Information Centre for a fishing brochure.

Head down to the riverbank with a picnic, throw a line in under the shade of an ancient coolibah tree and await the fish biting. If you don't catch a Golden Perch, Bony Bream, Yellow Belly or mighty Murray Cod, you will almost certainly catch a European Carp!

The Barwon River at Collarenebri is renowned for its plentiful water supply and is a sanctuary for other forms of recreation during the long hot summers. A boat ramp located near the Rocky Ford Bridge, provides access for water skiing and jet skis. Set up camp in one of the many secluded and free camping sites along the river and settle in for a relaxing evening under the stars.

Another stop for visitors should be the glass graves at the Aboriginal Cemetery on the edge of town. The framed plots are adorned with colourful shattered glass that is placed around the graves in characteristic designs in a celebration of love and death - unique to the local Aboriginal culture.

Arrange a tour with a local guide or Elder who will share their extensive knowledge of the history and cultural significance of the cemetery, along with other sites such as Devils Hole, the Rock Pools and Bundabreena Falls. Phone the Walgett Visitor Information Centre on 02 6828 6139 for up to date information on accessing these sites and tours.



## See & do

- Throw a line in for a Murray Cod
- Camp by the river bank
- Visit the Aboriginal Cemetery
- Back a winner at the races
- Take part in the Collie Mud Trials

If it's adventure you're looking for in Collarenebri, take part in the Collie Mud Trials held in March each year. Another event not to be missed are the Collarenebri Horse Races which draw a huge crowd of local race goers and visitors - held each year in September.

*Regarded as one of Australia's best inland fishing locations!*

# WALGETT REGION

*villages and townships*

## CUMBORAH

To the northwest of Walgett surrounded by mulga and cypress scrubland, lies Cumborah - once a thriving epicentre for local graziers, their families and employees. Since it was proclaimed in 1892, services such as a police station, post office and school have come and gone. Today a small community of residents remains, enjoying a quiet lifestyle with a warm sense of community.

The road passing thru the village is the gateway to the opal fields of Grawin, Glengarry and Sheeppyards.

## ROWENA

North east of Walgett on the wide open plains, lies Rowena, a small village and meeting place for the surrounding agricultural communities. Farming in this areas consists of both dryland and irrigated cropping as well as the grazing of cattle and sheep.

This charming village was originally a prominent railway siding with a wheat stack and a hotel, which like many pubs burnt down. Today a thriving small school and pub, general store and post office (all rolled into one) services the community.

In October the school hosts a fantastic Oktoberfest event - its not to be missed and a favourite among the locals. Cracker Night also draws a huge crowd of over 1,000 people from the region and is guaranteed fun for the whole family.



## CARINDA

Located 85 kilometres south of Walgett, Carinda is a historical pioneering village on the Marthaguy Creek. It was settled in the mid 1800s when the area's excellent potential for grazing stock was recognised. One of these was Thomas McNamara who acquired 16,000 acres of land, which became known as Carinda Station. He built a dwelling on the nearby Marthaguy Creek where he ran a hotel and store around which the small village grew. In 1908 the Carinda Bore was sunk enabling people to move away from the Creek and second settlement, known then as Top End, sprang up where Carinda is situated today.

Among the attractions of present day Carinda are a 12-hole golf course and the local hotel, which was the focal point of the video clip filmed in the town for David Bowie's 1983 single, "Let's Dance." It is still renowned as a place to enjoy the friendly company of the local people while relaxing with a cold beer and pub meal.

Carinda hosts a race meeting every July and it is fast becoming a major social event in Western NSW. Caravan and Camping facilities are available at the Race Track and nearby sports ground.

The nearby Cuddie Springs is an important archaeological and paleontological site located between the Marra Creek and the Macquarie River. It is a shallow basin in the middle of an ancient lake that irregularly held water where animal bones and stone artifacts accumulated. In 1876, the Yeomans family, who owned the property, discovered the bones of some large prehistoric animals during the construction of a well.

The site has since been the subject of several scientific excavations, including most recently one led by Dr Judith Field whose research uncovered evidence of the coexistence of humans and large prehistoric animals known as megafauna 30,000 years ago. It is the only site in Australia to provide such evidence of this.

### MACQUARIE MARSHES

Carinda is the gateway to the Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve - located along the lower Macquarie River. The Macquarie Marshes are one the largest remaining semi-permanent wetlands in south eastern Australia. They extend over an area of almost 20,000 hectares; however the reserve itself covers only a small part of the marsh area. The rest is private agricultural holdings, utilized for the grazing of cattle, sheep and cropping. The reserve is managed by the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service and contains a wide range of vegetation types primarily determined by the frequency and duration of flooding. They are also recognised as one of the major colonial water bird nesting areas in Australia.

The best way to experience this spectacular wetland is on the Discovery Weekend run every October long weekend or by touring with Marsh Meanders, a privately owned enterprise that offers a range of kayaking (seasonal) and walking tours for all age groups. For further information, contact: Carrolyn Fisher Ph: 02 6824 2972 or Narelle Sinclair Ph: 02 6824 2070. Or visit the Wildlife Observation Platform constructed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service on the Gibson Way at Terrigal Creek. It is best to visit early in the morning or late afternoon when the largest variety of wildlife is visible.

## BURREN JUNCTION

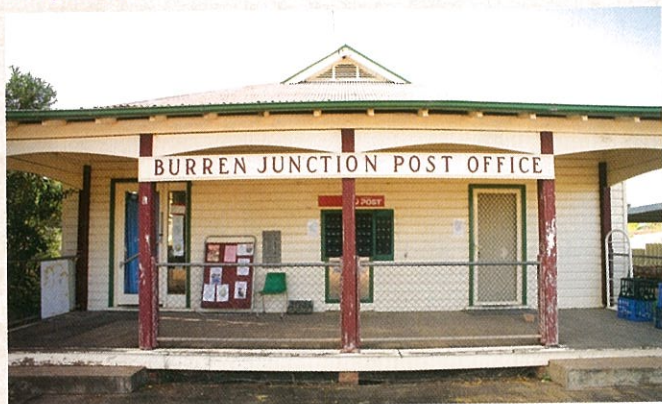
Heading directly east from Walgett the plains stretch endlessly to the horizon. Take the time to imagine the local Kamilaroi Aboriginal people roaming the area happily for some 40,000 years - catching yabbies and mussels in the creeks and hunting the native animals for their food.

92km from Walgett you will stumble upon Burren Junction - one of the real delights of driving the Kamilaroi Highway. Just on the other side of town you will find a side road (RV friendly) leading to the famous bore baths which are usually surrounded by a clutch of caravans. Pull up under a tree, put your swimmers on and lower yourself into the healing thermal waters pumped from the Great Artesian Basin for a true aussie outback spa experience.

The area east of Burren Junction was first settled by Europeans in the 1830's, when they pushed further and further west looking for suitable grazing country for their stock - and boy did they find it! The soil in the Burren Junction area is as fertile as would be found anywhere in Australia and eventually the familiar sight of sheep and cattle grazing was joined by fields of wheat. Burren Junction grew when the railway forged out west and in its hey day, the township bustled with a daily goods and passenger train from Sydney as well as a court house, hospital, bank, bakery, butcher, several stock and station agents and a school of 150 kids.

Today, only the streets of Burren Junction (named after British war victories) and very few old buildings remain. Agricultural industries of wheat, sheep and cattle now sustain the surrounding community and with the expansion of the cotton industry, now much of the country is dedicated to the production of cotton. The welcoming community spirit is still well and truly alive. Drop into The Junction City Hotel which draws a great crowd - with regular entertainment, cabin accommodation and hearty meals, you may even be greeted at the door by some inquisitive cattle! Or plan a visit around one of the local events. The Burren Junction Carp Muster hosted by the fishing club in March, is great fun for the whole family, the Burren Junction Gyro-copter Muster is held in June and the Burren Junction Campdraft in September.

*One of the real delights of driving the Kamilaroi Highway - where the welcoming community spirit is still well and truly alive.*



## CRYON

Cryon is a small hamlet in the open plains, 52km east of Walgett. When the railway reached the settlement in 1905 it was a thriving hub and for quite some years, was the loading point for cattle from south west Queensland that were being railed to the Sydney market. Located on the Kamilaroi Highway between Walgett and Burren Junction, you will pass thru this quiet locality on your way to larger centres and see just a few buildings and the wheat silos that remain here today, along with fields of wheat and grazing stock.

## COME BY CHANCE

The quaint yet unusually named village of Come-By-Chance, located on the Baradine Creek, was given its name after a property purchased in the name of William Colless in 1862 - reflecting his surprise that he was able to purchase a sheep station in the district.

The Colless family came to own the post office, hotel, police station, blacksmith shop, cemetery and other building blocks in what was reputedly the only privately owned village in the Southern Hemisphere. Come by Chance has always been a central meeting place for surrounding station owners. Today, the community hall / general store provides the focus for entertainment. You will find it open from 10am-8pm on weekdays (with the exception of Tuesday) and 11am-6pm on weekends. This quiet village comes to life for one particular weekend every September, when the annual Picnic Races are held. Crowds flock to the trackside to cheer home a winner in the Come By Chance Picnic Cup (1,400m). Since the inaugural race day was held in 1947, the races have become an institution, attracting thousands of people from far and wide.



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WALGETT VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE | 88 Fox Street | PO BOX 31 | Walgett NSW 2832 | [www.lightningridgewalgettregion.com.au](http://www.lightningridgewalgettregion.com.au)

WALGETT

# BILLBOAST TO BITUMEN

# FESTIVAL

FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST

SAVE THE DATE & join us!

Book early to avoid missing out! Register your interest at the Walgett Visitor Information Centre and be the first to receive the complete guide to Festival Events + early bird bookings!



TAKING PLACE DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST. JOIN US FOR SOME EXCITING EVENTS!

**HIGH TEA + WINE WITH WORDS DINNER UNDER THE STARS**  
**CHICKPEA COOKING CARP BASH PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**  
**ART, CRAFT & CURIO WASTE-TO-ART COMPETITIONS**  
**BIG DAY OUT RUN FOR FUN MARKETS**  
**THE WALGETT VOICE SINGING COMPETITION**  
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For further information contact Walgett Visitor Information Centre: 02 6828 6139





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