



Attractions of Coonabarabran and the Warrumbungle Region

While you are visiting Coonabarabran and the Warrumbungle Shire take some time to explore our area.

Coonabarabran is a small rural community of about 3,000 people and the major centre for the Warrumbungle Shire which has a population of about 11,000. Our shire takes in the townships of Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah, Dunedoo and Mendooran – each with their own special features and personalities. The Shire is unique in that it features three very special national parks – The Warrumbungles, The Pilliga and Coolah Tops and Coonabarabran is the Astronomy Capital of Australia.



Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre

Open each day 9am to 5pm

Phone: 1800 242 881

Website: www.warrumbungleregion.com.

Located on the southern approach to town, set in spacious grounds with plenty of parking, clean public toilets and free electric bbq's. The Centre provides information about accommodation, attractions and events in the Warrumbungle Shire and a comprehensive brochure display to assist you with your travel plans. Gifts and souvenirs and espresso coffee available.

Warrumbungle National Park

Visitor Centre open each day 9am – 4pm; park open 24hrs.

Phone: 02 6825 4364 website: www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

*The spectacular skyline of the Warrumbungles invites you to explore further. Located 36kms west of Coonabarabran – sealed road, the park has a 42km network of walking tracks to suit all interests and abilities; easy walks to lookouts provide panoramic views of The Breadknife and Grand High Tops. Excellent camping facilities with powered sites at Camp Blackman, hot showers, picnic areas, electric bbq and lots of wildlife. The Visitor Centre has an interpretive display and gift shop with maps, books and a great gift range and a self serve espresso coffee machine. Book onto a Discovery Tour to take a closer look, guided by local experts. **Entry: Day Fee of \$7 per car, camping extra.***



Siding Spring Observatory & Exploratory Centre

Exploratory open weekdays 9.30am – 4pm; weekends 10am-4pm

Phone: 02 6842 6211 website: www.sidingspringexploratory.com.au



Siding Spring is 27kms west of Coonabarabran on the Timor Road, follow the tourism signs towards the Warrumbungle National Park. The site houses 11 telescopes including the 3.9m AAO which is the largest optical astronomy research centre in Australia and at the cutting edge of astronomy research.

Because this is a research instrument, the facility is NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NIGHT. A day visit to Siding Spring will give the visitor an understanding of the universe and the hands on exhibition in the Exploratory Centre is a great way to learn amazing facts about the universe. Spend time in the giftshop for that special astronomy souvenir and be sure to go to the Visitors Gallery in the 3.9 AAO telescope, there's a cafeteria on site selling snacks and light lunches.

Entry: Adults \$5.50, Family \$13.50, Conc \$4.50.

Open Day in October each year;

Tours: Pre-booked Tours of Siding Spring are operated by Warrumbungle Discovery, Join a Discovery Tour in Autumn, Winter, Spring holidays

– ring the Warrumbungle Discovery Co-ordinator on 6825 4364 for details.

*For more information on our attractions and what the shire offers
go to www.warrumbungleregion.com.au*

Crystal Kingdom

Open daily 8am – 5pm

Phone: 02 6842 1927 website: www.crystalkingdom.com.au

Mind the dinosaur at the front door as you enter.

The Minerals of the Warrumbungles is a unique display of local minerals and fossils. The exhibition shows the impact of the various ages on the landscape. The display include the worlds most colourful Zeolite Crystals and gemstones. The 'Crystal Shop' has specimens, jewellery and Rosie's Beads for sale.

Entry: Free

Guided tours by appointment – call above number



Pilliga Pottery

Open daily 9am to 6pm

Phone: 02 6842 2239

website: www.pilligapottery.com.au



Nestled on the edge of the Pilliga Forest, a visit to Pilliga Pottery is a unique experience. You will travel through an amazing landscape dotted with banksias, tea-trees, wallabies, emus and arrive at a complex featuring mudbrick and straw bale building, a traditional Tyrolean style school house and beautiful gardens. The hand thrown pots feature a specialized technique of glazing that reflects images of the landscape and nature. The Blue Wren Café serves Devonshire Teas and the Wood Fired Pizzas are a speciality; Pilliga Pottery also offers unique B & B accommodation, horseriding, Barkala Bird Tours, pottery workshops and residential German classes – pre-booking essential. Check website for details. Located 35kms north of Coonabarabran with a 10km unsealed drive off the Newell H/way

Entry: Free

Pre-Booking required for Horse Riding, Workshops, Accommodation and Barkala Bird Tours (\$50 per person, reduced rates for groups).

Warrumbungle Observatory

Open each evening from sunset - bookings essential

Phone: 0488 425 112 website: www.tenbyobservatory.com

This is your opportunity to explore the night skies and learn about Astronomy at a private observatory. View celestial objects through modern, powerful telescopes with Peter Starr – yes that's his real name. Be sure to wear warm clothing – our nights cool off even in summer. Located 9kms from Coonabarabran on the way to Siding Spring Observatory.

Prices: Adults \$15, Seniors \$12.50, School students \$5, Family (2A2C) \$35



Wineries

The Warrumbungle Region has become a vine growing region. With cool nights we offer a great variety of wines including Chardonnays, Shiraz, Reisling, Rose and Cabernet Sauvignon. Check out with the individual wineries to see their speciality. Each winery has tastings and cellar door sales

Coonandry

Open weekends – 10am-5pm

Phone: 02 6842 1649

Dandry Road

Wattagan Estate

Open Fri – Mon – 10am-5pm

Phone: 02 6842 2456

Oxley H/way (north)

Warrumbungle Wines

No cellar door -call ahead

Phone: 02 6842 1228

Oxley H/way (north)

Discover a little more in our area ...

The Australian Museum **Diprotodon Exhibition** – in the Visitor Centre – open daily 9-5 - FREE

Whirl through space – virtually - on the **Worlds Largest Virtual Solar System Drive** – collect a brochure at the Visitor Centre and end your journey at the sun – this time all roads lead to Siding Spring Observatory

Newcastle Hats factory outlet in Coonabarabran stock a wide range of hats made on the premises.

Looking for a picnic spot or space for the kids to run off that pent up energy? Try one of our parks – **Neilson Park** – John Street or **David Bell Park** in Robertson Street

Watch staff from **The Wool Studio** transform fleece into a finished garment. Purchase handspun and knitted products,

The **Pilliga Discovery Centre** at Baradine...open daily 9 – 5pm – FREE

Take a **Bird Drive through the Pilliga** – maps at Visitor Centres

Visit **The Sandstone Caves** in the Pilliga Nature Reserve or **The Salt Caves** – maps at Visitor Centres

Spend a little more time and visit our small towns...**Binnaway** – a former steam rail centre; **Mendooran** – the Mural town; **Dunedoo** - come when the Bush Poetry Comp is on; **Coolah** and The Coolah Tops National Park and **Pandora Gallery** at Coolah – open weekdays; **Baradine** – the gateway to the vast Pilliga

Come for our local shows, festivals and horse races or in November for the Warrumbungle Crooked Mountain Concert

But while you're here now - take a stroll down town & check out our great coffee & gift shops

Further information in Warrumbungle Region at www.warrumbungleregion.com.au