

Goin' Bush

Discover your undiscovered in the Queanbeyan-Palerang Region

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Located in the picturesque tablelands between the NSW South Coast, Snowy Mountains and the Southern Highlands, Queanbeyan-Palerang is an area unrivalled in the natural beauty of majestic farmland, lush and wild national parks and early colonial heritage.

Travellers may be forgiven for having unwittingly passed Queanbeyan-Palerang on route to other destinations; the region has remained a well-kept secret, maintaining an aura of mystery that few have uncovered.

However, the secret is now out and Queanbeyan-Palerang is quickly emerging as a destination of superior offerings.

For the discerning traveller, the countryside is unspoilt with stunning farmland and national parks playing host to a multitude of activities and fine produce, steeped in Australia's rich rural heritage.

A Rich Heritage

There is a little place inside everyone where exhilaration arises from an appreciation of our history and Queanbeyan-Palerang has a complex, inspiring past. The Ngarigo, Gundungurra, Ngunnawal and Yuin people originally inhabited

various areas of the region, centring their lives on intimate cultural relationships with the land and its provisions.

The 1820s saw the first European explorers arrive in the region, largely attracted by the profits of sheep grazing, a pursuit well suited to large land parcels and cooler climates. The influx of settlers sweeping across the region saw Braidwood proclaimed a town in 1833, Bungendore in 1837 and Queanbeyan in 1838.

Today, each township is home to well-maintained heritage buildings that uniquely reflect the era of their birth.

A new economic imperative in the post-

depression 1850s, saw the development of the Wool Road between the region and the coast to ease the overland journey for producers. The new route reduced the cost of their product reaching market, opening up the option of joining the shipping lanes into Sydney.

Gold fever overwhelmed the region after small traces were found in Queanbeyan, leading to larger mines being established south of Braidwood, in Araluen and Majors Creek. Thousands of new arrivals from China, Ireland and elsewhere arrived, hoping to strike it rich. From here, the region's rich multicultural future was assured.



¹ Regions were determined using the watershed basis as a template. <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/articles/aiatsis-map-indigenous-australia>

DISCOVER YOUR UNDISCOVERED *continued*



In the 1870s, copper was struck at Foxlow Station in Captains Flat. 'The Flat,' as it is now affectionately known, was rumoured to be named after a white bullock called Captain, who would slip away from the station to graze along the banks of the Molonglo River.

The mines at Captains Flat still stand today, visible to travellers from a viewing platform with spectacular, panoramic views across the township.

The region's romantic history of struggle and hard times would not be complete without some ruthless bushrangers. Settlers were terrorised and murdered, their settlements pillaged and ransacked.

Some of these bushrangers remain household names today. Ben Hall, responsible for Australia's biggest gold robbery, rode the area in 1965. The brutal Clarke Brothers, whose crimes 'were so shocking that they never made their way into bushranger folklore — people just wanted to forget about them,' outmatched the likes of Ned Kelly and Capt Thunderbolt with their crimes.

In 2017, the townsfolk of Braidwood held a re-enactment of the Clarke Brothers' deadly showdown with police in 1867. The commemoration, 150 years after the event, was a means of acknowledging the era and the 'system of the times that worked against poor rural families'.

Chronicling this rich history of the region are the Braidwood and Queanbeyan Museums.

Braidwood Museum - 186 Wallace Street, Braidwood – open Friday to Sunday 11am to 2pm.

Queanbeyan Museum - 10 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan – open Saturday to Sunday 1pm to 4pm

Following this rich heritage, the region is maturing into a contemporary modern tourist mecca, rich with culture that celebrates its past, present and future.

Braidwood today

Travellers are drawn to Braidwood to uncover the dramatic national parks, historic homesteads, boutique shopping

and the amazing freshness and vivacity of the regional produce - served up into fine local cuisine.

As an enchanting country town, steeped in colonial history and rural Australian heritage, the township of Braidwood has been around since its location was selected in 1833. After settlers arrived in the early 1820s, the Government selected a parcel of land including a large section of 'Braidwood Farm,' a piece of land granted to the town's most important settler, Dr Thomas Braidwood Wilson.

The government resumed a section of Wilson's property and consequently named the town after the farm. The historic farm, renamed Mona Farm, exists today under new ownership as a luxurious Estate with heritage accommodation nestled amidst English gardens and farmland. Mona farm is part of the living history that still thrives in Braidwood today.

The first town listed on the NSW state heritage register in 2007, Braidwood is a vivid, bustling example of a historical

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² Re-enactment to look back at capture of Australia's deadliest bushrangers at Braidwood – Bill Brown 10 April 2017 - <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-10/anniversary-of-clarke-bushrangers-capture/8431500> ³ Ibid

streetscape where the original buildings are still open to the public and original settlers' cottages dot the lanes and outlying villages.

Having gone through a boom in agriculture, the 1840s Depression and the rise and decline of the 1850s Gold Rush, Braidwood's prosperity increased, leading to the establishment of fine period buildings, which, like Mona Farm, still remain today.

To bring the town's heritage into the present, the people of Braidwood have delicately restored the precious 19th century buildings and introduced new businesses and reinvigorated the town's traditional businesses to provide a wide range of products and services that embrace and honour the town's heritage.

The town has become home to hobby farmers, artists, writers, poets, historians and creators who are proud of the area's history

Bungendore

As you drive along the Kings Highway from Braidwood towards Canberra,

visitors will arrive in the beautiful village of Bungendore. The town and the nearby Lake George were proposed potential sites for the new national capital in 1901, however, despite not being the crowned capital location, the town's history, charm and location are a winning destination for tourists and locals.

Initially the town was a collection of large sheep and cattle stations but the arrival of rail in 1885 saw rapid growth resulting in the building of churches, schools, a post office and court house.

The first explorer passed through Bungendore in 1824, with a steady influx of settlers to the area as the years past. By 1837, with the introduction of the mail service, Bungendore was declared a town and continues to be a relocation destination for many sea changers, with many of the original farms still operating today.

The town, like Braidwood, has attracted many artists, hobby farmers, small business owners and creatives to its space and is a hotspot for galleries and boutique shopping. It is home to a range of beautiful galleries and boutique cafes...

check out the Bungendore Woodworks Gallery to pick up something unique on your travels.

Queanbeyan

Europeans arrived in 1820, with the first use of land a property named 'Quinbean'; an Aboriginal word for 'clear water'. While searching for the Murrumbidgee River, Joseph Wild, James Vaughan and Charles Throsby Smith came across the present location of Queanbeyan.

They were the first non-indigenous persons to see the present location of Queanbeyan when they discovered the junction of the Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers on December 8, 1820.

Proclaimed as a settlement in 1838, this tiny township grew and became the epicentre of a thriving primary producing district. Nineteenth century churches, public houses and historic buildings can still be seen today.

Canberra's foundation in 1913 changed Queanbeyan significantly. It created new avenues for employment. It boosted building and housing development. And

in 1972, with a population of over 15,000, Queanbeyan was proclaimed a city. It is now one of the fastest growing inland cities in NSW.

The city is home to many art galleries, studios and other creative spaces making Queanbeyan a great spot to stop and visit. As the central hub of business to the region, Queanbeyan is expected to undergo dramatic changes in the future.

Meet the Makers

Engaging experiences and real people; Queanbeyan-Palerang offers visitors the opportunity to experience local life, by helping with the daily tasks on a farmstay, walking the vineyard and chatting to winemakers, taking part in a truffle hunt or picking your own chestnuts or Christmas cherries, getting hands on with a cooking class or learning a few tricks of the trade from craftspeople and artists.

There are a number of galleries throughout Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Braidwood; each with their own unique flair and offerings. If you are interested in exploring the region's galleries yourself, take a peek at the Visit Queanbeyan-Palerang website.

If a farm experience is more of interest, the area is proud to boast eight cool climate wineries, a cherry orchard and chestnut farm. For a fresh, traditionally made cider, there's the opportunity to experience genuine cider made on either single variety or blended apple.

If caring for injured and orphaned wildlife is on the bucket list, visitors can experience a stay at Tiandi Wildlife Sanctuary, or take part in a farming experience at one of the region's numerous farmstays where visitors can experience life on a working farm and enjoy the delicacies of consuming fresh, local produce.

The Great Outdoors

For visitors dreaming of escaping to little-known national parks or unending rolling countryside, the region is a must-see destination. Close to Queanbeyan lies Googong Dam, which is the perfect location for a stroll through nature and the opportunities for bird and wildlife watching, fishing and photography are boundless.

There is also the opportunity to take in the fascinating natural landmark of London

Bridge and the heritage-listed London Bridge Homestead.

For more remote adventures, the region is home to Monga, Deua, Tallaganda, Budawang and Morton National Parks – there is limitless nature to enjoy and explore. Visitors can choose from bike riding in Tallaganda, exploring the Corn Trail on horseback in Monga, or hiking to Pigeon House Mountain from Wog Wog Campground.

One of the region's most spectacular natural phenomena, the monumental Big Hole in Deua National Park, is a moderate hike from the parking lot and a delight for photographers and nature-enthusiasts.

For those less mobile, the wheelchair-friendly Penance Grove walking track in Monga National Park is an accessible, easy way to discover rainforests and Gondwana plants.

There are plenty of campsites throughout the region, with most situated alongside water sources including the Shoalhaven River, Mongarlowe Creek, Deua and Corang Rivers, making visiting the area convenient and comfortable during warmer weather conditions.



Linger Longer

While camping in the great outdoors comes highly recommended in this region, more traditional accommodation is also available.

Affordable motel and serviced apartment accommodation is spread throughout the district or, if your tastes are a little more unique, consider the wide range of B&Bs, guesthouses and farmstays that can offer a truly memorable experience.

A range of itineraries, from day trips to multi-day explorations, are available to help plan your visit and discover the best of the region.

Plan Your Visit

Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Braidwood are the perfect places to visit when travelling within the Canberra Region. The new Visit Queanbeyan-Palerang website offers extensive inspiration for planning your holiday and showcases the range of attractions available.

The region is also home to a huge range of iconic events and festivals where the local spirit and cultures really come to life.

From rodeos, camp drafts, team sorting and local markets to multicultural festivals, Christmas in July celebrations, a Riverside Symphony or an outdoor theatre performance, the Queanbeyan Palerang region is never short of a good time and a spectacular event.

More information about the region, experiences and local events can be found at visitqueanbeyanpalerang.com.au or by calling the Queanbeyan Visitor Information Centre on **02 6285 6307**.



Festival on the river - Queanbeyan



Dancers at Multicultural Festival - Queanbeyan



*Chemical Free 185 Happy
*Locally Farmed hens per
*Fresh fresh fresh hectare!
*We love our chooks

