

PLACES TO GO

THINGS TO DO

In and Around Bingara

Bingara Historical Society Museum

The town's local history museum, 16 Maitland St, is the Post Office Hotel and a number of other surrounding buildings. The Post Office Hotel is thought to be the town's first inn and certainly the oldest surviving structure in town. It was built in 1860 of pit-sawn and hand-adzed slabs of cypress on a log floor



Bingara District Historical Society

and retains its original roof of imported puddling iron. It was occupied continuously from 1860-1970 although after World War I it was a private home. As a museum it has been preserved as an historic private home.

The museum also includes a working smithy where Captain Thunderbolt regularly had his horse shod; the small Boondi school; as well as gems, minerals, photographs and furniture. It is open from 9.00 am - 1.00 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and other times by appointment.

Roxy Theatre Complex



With its beautifully preserved art deco facade, the 1936 Roxy Theatre is the architectural highlight of the town. The story, told in great detail at <http://www.roxybingara.com.au/roxy-history>, is of three young men from Kythera - Peter Feros, Emanuel Aroney and George Psaltis - who arrived in Bingara in the 1920s, set up a cafe and, by 1936, were ready to build "a brand new modern café that would seat 140 patrons; three independent shops facing the main street that could be leased to ensure the financial viability of the building; a guesthouse to accommodate Roxy patrons, and at its heart, a cinema that would be 'the most modern theatre outside of the city.'" Sadly there was another cinema in town and the competition was so fierce, and the debts so huge, that by September, 1936 the three partners were declared bankrupt. They had built an iconic building only to see their dreams shattered by savage competition. The Roxy Theatre continued to operate, but not with the Greeks running it, until 1958 when it closed. In 1999 the Bingara Shire Council purchased the complex and began to restore all the components. It was reopened in 2004 and today "operates as a multipurpose cinema, performing arts venue and function centre that includes a variety of conferences, seminars, weddings and private functions. It also houses the Bingara Tourist Information Centre and is open to the general public for tours. Above all, it belongs to the community and is accessed by the community for numerous events and activities." In 2009 the local shire received a \$750,000 grant to restore the Roxy Cafe. Today it is a museum celebrating Greek immigration to rural Australia. It was officially opened in 2011. Check out the entire site at <http://www.roxybingara.com.au>. Tours of the building are at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm. -

Bingara Soundtrail

Download BINGARA SOUNDTRAIL >>

Sonic tour-de-force with stories for everyone. (free from App Store and Google Play) *Bring headphones or earphones for private listening.*

The Soundtrail tells of Bingara's history, in particular the Orange Trees and the experiences of living through war both at the front and at home in Bingara.

Local residents who have given their stories include Brian Hughes, Jean O'Brien, Pat Brown and Joan Bull. Joan Bull tells of her visit to Sydney at the beginning of WWII to farewell her brother who had enlisted with the Light Horse Regiment. She describes the spectacle of seeing the Queen Mary liner and expresses her fear of not knowing if she will see her brother again.

Beautifully produced by award-winning sound producers, the Bingara Soundtrails are a living, breathing doorway into the voices, sounds, and music of the people of Bingara. It includes performances by local artists including Jamie Wilson. Jamie took the words of a poem found in the George Bateman journal and created an amazing song.

Heritage Buildings

It is worthwhile walking down the main street not because the buildings are particularly impressive but because Bingara is a fine example of how a small town can put its best foot forward. Most of the buildings date from the 1880s and 1890s and the obvious highlight is the redecorated Roxy Theatre, an art deco wonderland dating from 1936. The brick Court House and lock-up keeper's residence were erected in 1879. The courthouse has an interesting decorative element on the facade. Other heritage buildings include the 1882 police station and residence, the Royal Mail Booking Office (1882) - next to the ambulance station in Maitland St - the Anglican Church (1889), the Bingara Central primary school (1899), St Andrews Presbyterian (now Uniting) Church (1904) on Cunningham Street, St Mary's Catholic Church (1906) and the Imperial Hotel (built as the Gwydir prior to 1889) which has some particularly attractive lacework on the upstairs balcony.

The Living Classroom (TLC)

Bingara's Living Classroom is pivotal to Bingara's own regeneration. While being situated at the heart of one of Australia's most productive agricultural



and educational regions, Bingara exists on a knife-edge like so many other rural towns.

TLC is key to the four pillars of Bingara's future economic prosperity ~ agribusiness, education, tourism and conferencing. It will create a visually beautiful and natural wonderland which showcases and demonstrate the future and wonder of food ~ from the soil up to paddock, to our plates and then back again. It aims to provide inspiration and know-how for the next generation of farmers and the regeneration of rural communities.

To fulfill this purpose 150 hectares of degraded town Common, located on the outskirts of Bingara are to be fully regenerated into a highly productive forest of food by combining a wide range of complementary agricultural activities with horticulture, aquaculture and forestry. The synergy between these activities is key to nutrition, productivity, profitability, health and the natural environment.

This work is an exercise in broad collaboration and integration, being designed and created by the collective efforts of the many participants of the modern food system as well as harnessing the best knowledge from traditional through to scientific and other contemporary farming methods.

ACC Tours to TLC will be in groups of up to 50

All Nations Stamper Battery

The All Nations Gold Mine, at the southern end of town, was established around 1860 and continued to operate until 1948. It was the last gold mine in the district to close. It developed into a large underground mine, operating at four levels in two shafts (the deepest being 100 m). It is situated at the top of Hill Street. All that remains is the ten-headed stamper battery.

Batterham Lookout

The Batterham Lookout (259 m) is located on the outskirts of town just off the

Keera Road. The road to the lookout is very steep. There are picnic-barbecue facilities and excellent views of the town and river valley.

Bingara Sporting Club

The Directors and Staff are delighted to welcome members, new members and visitors to our Club. We are open every day of the week for your enjoyment.

- Monday to Tuesday – 4pm to 8pm | Wednesday to Saturday – 12pm to 12am | Sunday – 12pm to 8pm

Restaurant

Chinese and Australian meals. Eat In & Take Away. Visitors are welcome.

- Lunch.....Wednesday to Sunday – 11.30am to 2.30pm
- Dinner.....7 days – 6pm – 8.30pm.

Sporting Facilities

At the Bingara Sporting Club, we have a wide range of sporting facilities that will suit anyone's interests. Indoors we have a 24 hour Fitness Centre and outdoors we boast an exquisite golf course, 2 bowling greens and 8 clay tennis courts.

All outdoor facilities are available for use all day, every day. If the Club is not open simply place your green fees in the honesty box at the entrance to the golf course, with your name and sport written on the envelope.

Welcome to Bingara Returned Services League

Nestled close to the banks of the Gwydir River and situated within walking distance from all accommodation, we would like to invite you to come and experience all that we have to offer.

We may look like a little Club, but we have a Big heart!

Dining

Gwydir Grill, the steak specialist, has a reputation for not only providing the biggest, but the best steak in town. We provide gorgeous home cooked meals and have specials available throughout the week, starting at \$9.50.

Opening Hours

Gwydir Grill is open for lunch and dinner every day except Monday.

Lunch runs from 12.00 – 2.00pm and dinner is from 6.00pm – 8.00pm.

Gwydir Grill Weekly Specials

- Wednesday Night – Chicken Schnitty Night – \$9.50
- Friday Night – Gourmet Burger Night – \$9.50
- Saturday Night – Curry Night – \$9.50
- Sunday – Roast of the Day – \$13.50

Bookings are essential! **BOOK ONLINE!**

Raffles Bonanza

- **Wednesday Community raffle.** Tickets go on sale from 6.30pm and all proceeds go to help support the locally based Bingara SES.
- **Friday Night.** Tickets go on sale from 7.00pm.
- **Sunday's Mega Market Day Raffle.** Tickets go on sale from 1.00pm
- **Every Sunday afternoon Mighty Mouse Jackpots.** Put your name on the back of your raffle tickets for a second chance to win!

Happy Hour

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

- Schooners – \$4.00
- House Wine- \$3.00

Bingo

Bingo is great fun for young and old. Held every Tuesday, Thursday and most Saturdays from:

- 11.30am to 12.30pm and
- 1.30pm to 2.00pm.

Bingo prizes include everyday grocery items, club cash and meat trays.

Play "Bingo Rewards" every afternoon Bingo session – Bingo Rewards sheet is only 50c.

The Imperial Hotel and Motel

Dining

The Imperial Coffee Lounge is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, serving cafe style food and large traditional hotel meals.

8.00am - 10.00am

11.30am - 2.30pm

6.30pm - 8.30pm (Mon to Sat)

Closed Sunday & public hols.

Coffee & Cake

The coffee shop offers a great range of hot and cold drinks and decadent cakes ALL day for those who just want a snack and a catch up with friends.

Merlo coffee is their coffee of choice, because after extensive testing that is what the locals prefer.

Menu

The Imperial has a standard menu which changes seldom - if it aint broke don't try and fix it! However, they also have fantastic daily blackboard specials.

Other Area Attractions

Myall Creek Memorial and Myall Creek Massacre

The Myall Creek Massacre Memorial site is located 24 km north-east of Bingara via the Fossickers Way and the Delunga-Ashford Road. It was opened on June 10, 2000 and, although a very simple monument positioned on the hill above where the massacre took place, it is a powerful reminder of the early, bloody history of Australia. The location is quite haunting and the memorial stones create a strong and haunting impression of the events of 1838. "The Memorial consists of a large granite boulder with a plaque, erected on a hill overlooking the site of the massacre at Myall Creek. The path winding up to the monument has seven smaller rocks each containing some of the story, with a seat opposite each rock ... The Memorial brought together the descendants of the victims, survivors and perpetrators of the violence in an act of reconciliation which had implications for the whole community. On 10th June each year a commemoration ceremony is held at the site." I wrote at great length about the massacre in my book *Blood on the Wattle* and it remains a careful account of exactly what happened. Here is a truncated version: In 1838 eleven white men rounded up and murdered at least 28 Aboriginal men, women and children at Myall Creek. The murderers later claimed that the Aborigines had been involved in cattle rustling but there was no evidence to this effect. Indeed they had been a peaceful group who had had good relations with the locals and particularly with the shepherd who eventually reported the massacre to the authorities. The members of the posse eventually confessed, asserting, that they thought killing Aborigines was not illegal. They believed they were acting heroically and with community support and public response to their punishment indicated that this was indeed the case. Eleven were initially tried in the Supreme Court in Sydney on 15 November, 1838. The evidence was overwhelming but it took the jury only 15 minutes to acquit the men. Governor Gipps was so outraged by this obvious flaunting of the law that he demanded they be retried. Seven were

retrieved and hung on 18 December, 1838; this being the first time whites had been punished for such crimes. It has become famous because it is one of the very few incidents in early Australian history where we have an accurate record of events. The unintended consequence was that the frontier went silent. The killings continued but they were never reported.

Myall Creek Soundtrail

Download MYALL CREEK SOUNDTRAIL >>

‘The path to the future passes through the past.’

Located at the Myall Creek Memorial site on the Bingara to Delungra Road.

For more information about the significance of what happened at Myall Creek,

Fossicking

It is claimed that gold, jasper, garnets, sapphires, petrified wood, fossils and tourmalines can still be found in the district with Whitlow Road, Borah Creek, Keera Road and Ruby Hill all being popular places. The local Visitor Information Centre can help suggest suitable places.



Upper Bingara

Upper Bingara was the biggest of the two settlements that occurred in the district after the discovery of gold in the 1850s. It developed more quickly than Bingara, but also faded quickly when the rich gold yields diminished in the 1870s. Bingara then became the preferred site for a town.

Upper Bingara once thrived, with shops, two hotels, a dance hall, a racecourse, gold mines and processing plants. It is hard to believe that what remains is little more than numbered triangles marking the sites on the side of the road, which pay testimony to its industrious past.

Still there, is **Three Creeks Goldmine**, a privately operated reef working mine which will take you back in time to the mine in 1881. Bingara is famous for its quality gold and crystals, which are still being found today.

It is estimated there were up to 500 Chinese mining in the Bingara district, particularly at Upper Bingara.

Although it is known that they built a Joss House, the only real evidence of their presence is their cemetery and some scattered mine workings and water races.

The Chinese were very thorough and systematic miners. Pictured left is only one of several stacks of stones that can be found at Upper Bingara.

The Chinese cemetery is still enclosed by a post and rail fence. The area was probably cleared of trees, but they have since grown back.

Only two headstones remain in the European cemetery, both belonging to babies. They stand as a stark reminder of the harsh life experienced by families on our early goldfields.

Visit the Bingara Visitor Information Centre for Information & directions.

Upper Bingara's Grass Trees

Upper Bingara has a wonderful history, but little remains to be seen. However it is definitely worth the trip out to see the spectacular **Grass trees** which are about midway between the old village and the Barraba end of the Barraba Road loop. Here the grass trees are giants, some as tall as 3 metres to the leaf base and with a spear flower up to 4 metres higher. Incredible when you think that they only grow a metre every 100 years? They can live to be 1,000 years old? [View great photos on the Geological/Natural Wonders Page.](#)

It's a great place for photos and for taking visitors, but please don't damage them, after all, they have stood watch there for centuries...and we should always respect our elders. Please also note that the Grass Trees are on private property... so please leave nothing but footprints and take away only memories and photographs.



Three Creeks Gold Mine

A working Gold Mine that lets you to step back in time to the old mining days.

Learn the history of the mining site and browse through the artifacts displayed in the museum. Have a look at the display of jewellery, gold, garnets, crystals and rock minerals, all of which are for sale.

There are several spots to fossick and participation is not governed by age, everyone gets to enjoy the thrill of the hunt! You can try your hand at gold panning, panning for garnets or sieve for perfectly formed quartz crystals.

You keep what you find!

Of historical interest at the site is Lady Morgan Reef and the following mines: Edwards, Porter and Wakeley's, Hanton's, Neal's and Miller's Shaft.

Check out http://www.bingara.com.au/files/uploaded/file/2014_files/3creeks_Goldmine_Flyer.pdf for more details.



Rocky Creek

Located 37 km south-west along the road to Narrabri is Rocky Creek Gorge and 'Glacial Area'. It is a site a picturesque site where glaciation took place some 290 million years ago during the Carboniferous Period. If you look at the landscape around the creek carefully you will notice it is made up of many different sizes and types of stones, all cemented together in a matrix of finer gravels, sand and clay. It is a fluvio-glacial conglomerate formed when the material carried by the glacier is deposited as the glacier retreats. The pools are ideal for swimming and the area has limited camping and picnic facilities. There is a more detailed information leaflet available at the Visitor Information Centre in Bingara.



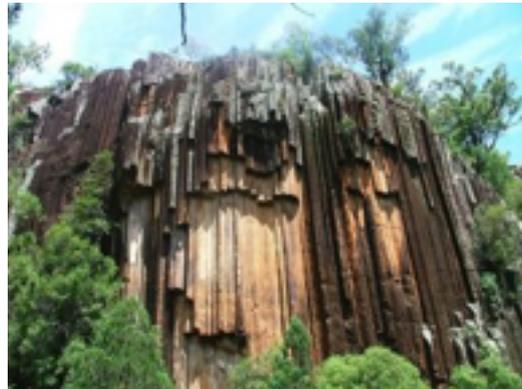
Sawn Rocks

Located in the northern section of Mt Kaputar National Park and is undoubtedly the most iconic reminder of Kaputar's volcanic past.

The forty (40) metre high towering wall of pentagonal basalt pipes is the sheered off remains of a basalt lava flow from the Nandewar Volcano which dominated the area 21 million years ago.

It is an unusual phenomenon which is the result of the slow and even cooling of molten rock which enabled individual crystals within the rock to align perfectly with each other.

While this type of five-sided (pentagonal) 'organ piping' is not rare to lava flows, it is exceptionally rare to find them so perfectly formed and preserved and is recognised as being one of the best examples of columnar jointing in Australia.



Sawn Rocks is located 64km out of Bingara. The road from Narrabri to Bingara is one of the most picturesque in the region making it a most enjoyable short cut through to Inverell. **You will drive past the Rocky Creek Glacial Area on your way to and from Bingara so make sure you make the time to stop off.**

http://www.bingara.nsw.gov.au/files/uploaded/file/Sawn_Rocks_Leaflet.pdf

Bingara – The Inland Fishing Capital of Australia

Anglers visiting Bingara have access to some of the best freshwater fishing in the state, whether they throw a line in from the banks or head up river in their boat. Bingara's fishing paradise is probably one of the best kept secrets in the angling world.



Thanks to more than 20 years of restocking by the local Hatchery, the Gwydir and Horton rivers have great populations of Murray cod and Yellow Belly (golden perch).

There is easy access onto the river upstream from the town for a distance of some 10km.

Copeton Dam, constructed on the headwaters of the Gwydir River, has extensive shorelines, many boat ramps and camping spots. Below the dam, trout and redfin issue the challenge to the keen angler.

A small group of concerned fishers, including Phil Forster and Merv Riley, planned and built the Bingara Angler's Club Hatchery at Bingara, northern NSW, in the early 1980s with significant support from the local council and community. Their aim was to produce Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch, which had declined dramatically in the Gwydir River following the construction of Copeton Dam. The regular stocking of these waters, using fingerlings from local hatcheries has contributed significantly to the conservation of Murray cod by returning the species to a part of its original distribution where it had declined significantly. These northern rivers now support one of the best Murray cod fisheries in Australia.