

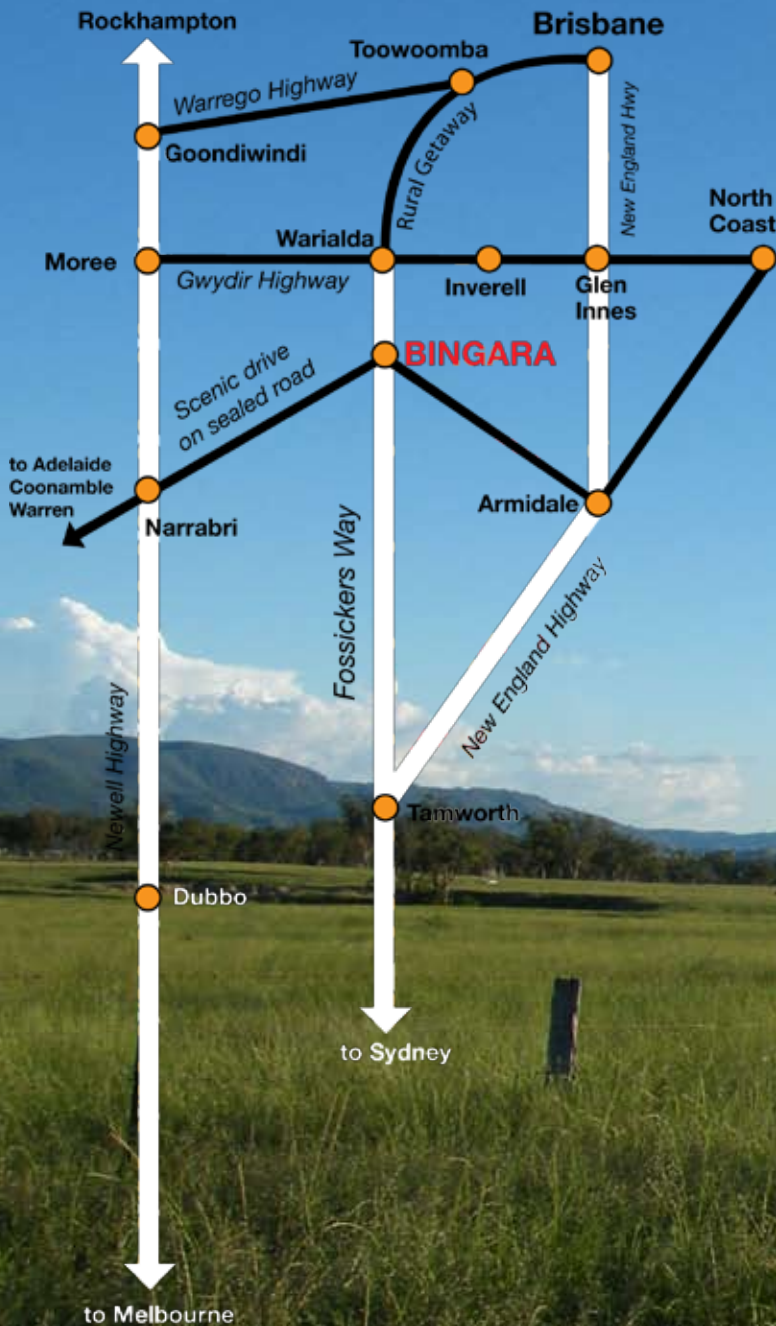
imagine **Bingara**



Bingara and District
VISION 2020



where *are* we?



imagine

For ten thousand years or more, Koori people lived along the shore of the big river they called the Koomar. At a special place, where the mountains meet the plains, there was a shallow river crossing the Gamilaraay tribe called "Bingara". Imagine the importance of that special place for Koori people!

Ironically, in 1827 explorer Allan Cunningham, on his northward journey, came to the same crossing and camped on the north bank. This was the biggest river he was to cross between the Hunter Valley in NSW, and the Darling Downs in Queensland. He named the river the Gwydir, after his benefactor Lord Gwydir of Wales. For many decades, the new settlers in the area just called it the Big River.

Partly responsible for the formation of that ford at Bingara is the Peel Fault, a mighty fracture in the earth's crust, stretching from just south of Wialda almost to Newcastle. Here, 300 million years ago, the ocean edged the ancient Australian land mass. Seashell fossils testify to this.

Edges also exist around Bingara of other features, both natural and human. For example, the territory of coastal birds overlaps that of the inland birds, giving one of the largest populations and variety of birds in the world. Discover these birds using the 'Bird Guides', part of the extensive information available from the Information Centre.



BINGARA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
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...a place at the edge

Within the Bingara district, the grazing lands of the New England Tableland meet the croplands of the North West Slopes and Plains, creating a wide diversity of agricultural activities.

Bingara sits snugly in the middle of a magnificent part of Australia. It is central to a huge range of attractions. These include Copeton Dam, and the volcanic Nandewar Range featuring Mount Kaputar (at 1510m the highest peak in NSW outside the Great Dividing Range).

The many National Parks in the area reflect complex geology, intricate biodiversity, and are mysterious places begging to be investigated.

Bingara is a great place to explore, to relax and to reflect. **Here, you can truly live life at the edge!**

Imagine... 'Australia's best climate!'

Bingara has over 300 days each year when, as the locals would have it ...the weather is 'just perfect'.

Autumn and Spring are especially kind, and even winter days can see a frosty start lead to a magical morning, and a sparkling afternoon.

How to find us?

Bingara is on the Fossicker's Way, the major north-south road along the North West Slopes. It parallels the Newell Highway (which runs along the plains), and the New England Highway (along the tablelands).

An average drive from Sydney takes seven hours, while Brisbane can be reached in a leisurely five hours. The Country Link Rail Coach Service meets the XPT train at Tamworth six days a week. Major regional airports are at Tamworth, Armidale, Narrabri and Moree.

Killarney Gap Road connects the Newell Highway at Narrabri, to Bingara and all points North and East. Fully sealed, and passing over the saddle of the Nandewar volcanoes, and across the Horton Valley, this route is a tourist's delight. In addition to fantastic scenery, this is the shortest sealed route between Brisbane and Melbourne. Motoring is easy, even when towing a caravan.

Consider Bingara as the ideal stop over. You will want to stay longer! Bingara's central location makes it the ideal base to explore the New England North West. It also has a reputation as a centre for conferences, weddings and other functions.