



The Long Paddock boasts 11 major public artworks and 47 information panels that tell our story. Stretching over 600km, the sculptures make the world's largest art gallery!



## THE COBB HIGHWAY

ENCOMPASSING THE MURRAY, DENILIQIN, CONARGO, HAY & CENTRAL DARLING REGIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES



### Visitor Information Centres

#### Echuca Moama Visitor Information Centre

Shop 1/41 Murray Esplanade, Echuca VIC 3564  
Phone: 1800 804 446  
[visitechucamoama.com.au](http://visitechucamoama.com.au)

#### Mathoura Visitor Information Centre

23 Moama St (Cobb Hwy), Mathoura NSW 2710  
Phone: 1300 087 004  
[visitrivercountry.com.au](http://visitrivercountry.com.au)

#### Deniliquin Visitor Information Centre

295 George Street, Deniliquin NSW 2710  
Freecall: 1800 650 712  
[visitdeni.com](http://visitdeni.com)

#### Hay Visitor Information Centre

407 Moppett Street, Hay NSW 2711  
Phone: 02 6993 4045  
Email: [visithay@hay.nsw.gov.au](mailto:visithay@hay.nsw.gov.au)  
[visithay.com.au](http://visithay.com.au)



### The Long Paddock

The modern Cobb Highway follows part of the great network of stock routes that became known as "The Long Paddock" - a historic web of tracks and trails linking stock-breeding areas of inland NSW and Queensland with emerging markets in Victoria. It also provided an escape route from drought when the seasons failed. The Long Paddock is still a working stock route which provides us with a link to times and landscapes that are long since altered.

### History of The Long Paddock

As their flocks increased in numbers the early NSW graziers began looking for markets other than Sydney. In 1824 Hume and Hovell blazed a trail south to the eventual site of Melbourne, which by 1836 was growing rapidly. Adelaide was founded at about the same time and both settlements needed food while their agricultural industries were establishing.

The rivers were vital to the early overlanders. Travelling stock cannot go more than two days without water so the early stock routes followed the streams which were the only reliable water source. Those bound for Adelaide had several choices. The Darling rises in Queensland, joining the Murray near Mildura. The Lachlan, rising near Crookwell NSW, flows into the Murrumbidgee which could be followed from the Monaro region, beyond Canberra. In fact, most of the settled areas west of the Great Divide could easily access these western-flowing rivers.



The overlanders were looking for more than markets. Crossing the continent, they examined the potential of the vast areas of seemingly unsettled land through which they travelled. Many either relocated or expanded to places which had caught their eye. By 1840 most of the eastern Riverina was settled, squatters taking up vast runs which they stocked with sheep and cattle. The first station established on what is now the Cobb Highway was Moira, between Moama and Mathoura, taken up by Henry Sayer Lewes, in August 1842.

In 1851 gold was discovered in Victoria. Men (and a handful of women) flocked to the diggings from all over the world. Very few were vegetarians and the demand for fresh meat (there was no refrigeration then) sent stock prices soaring. Men like James Maiden, who had an inn and punt at what is now Moama, bought whole herds of stock and drove them to the goldfields.

Deniliquin, originally a station owned by Benjamin Boyd's Royal Bank, became a natural congregating point for south-bound stock. From 1847 it had a punt - vital for crossing sheep over the Edward River. It was not long before Deniliquin became an important livestock selling centre, eclipsing Moama. Mobs from as far away as northern NSW and even Queensland began streaming through the town, often changing hands for their final journey south. The legend of The Long Paddock had begun.

### Sculptures of The Long Paddock





## Murray Region

### Echuca-Moama

Moama, established in 1845 by James Maiden – ex-convict, punt owner, station manager, stock dealer, publican and postmaster – became a market, providing meat for miners at the Bendigo diggings. It was known then as Maiden’s Punt. Big deals took place in Maiden’s Junction Inn and for a time it was the busiest stock market in Australia.

### Mathoura

As the overlanders trekked Queensland cattle and sheep to Adelaide and Melbourne markets, the runs they passed through soon began to sprout services and settlements. Mathoura Station was one such run. It was taken up by Peter Stuckey in 1842 and comprised 60,000 acres. Around 1853 a Yorkshireman named William Carter took over a rough pub known as Ward’s Inn.

#### Highlights:

- Port of Echuca Discovery Centre – Step back in time and explore the legend of Australia’s pioneering spirit. Discover the historic Echuca Wharf, working steam exhibits, and interactive displays, and enjoy a one-hour paddle steamer cruise on the Murray River.
- Reed Beds Bird Hide, Mathoura – A paradise for birdwatchers, where you can spot egrets, swamphens, and yellow rosellas along the picturesque boardwalk.
- Gulpa Creek Walk – A peaceful five-kilometre walk or bike ride among majestic river red gums, with stunning birdlife and beautiful reflections on the creek. Canoeing and kayaking are also popular here.
- The Long Paddock Sculptural Trail – Follow the creative and thought-provoking sculptures along this historic stock route, telling the stories of the people, landscapes, and history of the region.
- Moama Five Mile Mountain Bike Trail – A must for cycling enthusiasts, with a range of tracks winding through beautiful river country.
- Mathoura Heritage Trail – Wander through Mathoura’s past with historic sites, murals, and stories of timber milling, bushrangers, and pioneering families.

#### Don’t miss:

- Guided Tours at the Port of Echuca – Join expert guides to hear fascinating tales of Echuca’s bustling river trade and paddle steamer history.
- Canoeing or kayaking on Gulpa Creek – A serene way to experience the natural beauty of the Murray Valley Regional Park.
- Explore Moama’s Horseshoe Lagoon – A stunning wetland area with a scenic boardwalk, rich with birdlife and Indigenous cultural significance.
- Be captivated by the stunning large-scale murals on the Moama and Mathoura water towers, part of the River Country Art Trail, a vibrant outdoor gallery celebrating local heritage and the natural environment.
- Stop for lunch at The Timbercutter Restaurant in Mathoura – Enjoy a delicious meal in a charming setting, surrounded by the beauty of Mathoura’s river red gum country.

#### Sculptures:

##### 1. The River Barge

**Artist:** Geoff Hocking  
**Location:** Blair Street, Moama

##### 2. The Drover and Horse

**Artist:** Corey Thomas  
**Location:** Mathoura Visitor Information Centre, Mathoura

##### 3. The Woodcutters

**Artist:** Geoff Hocking  
**Location:** Mathoura Visitor Information Centre, Mathoura



## Deniliquin Region

Deniliquin is a short fifty minutes’ drive north of Echuca Moama, sits on the banks of the beautiful Edward River and is a fantastic holiday destination for the whole family. The town has excellent accommodation options with three holiday parks on the river, farm stay experiences and clean, comfortable motels. For lovers of the outdoors, there are plenty of camping areas along the river where uninterrupted starry skies come free.

Take in the Edward River bliss by boat, float, canoe, ski, or fish for the mighty Murray cod. Houseboats and pontoons are available for hire through local businesses.

Meander along the river through the mighty river red gums in the Murray Valley Regional Park, enjoy a picnic or BBQ on one of the many sandy river beaches, or in the famous Waring Gardens beside our CBD living lagoon system.

Deniliquin offers walking, bicycle, and mountain bike trails, through the Island Sanctuary and Regional Park where you can see an abundance of native birds and wildlife. Visit the friendly staff at the Visitor Information Centre for local insight, must-do recommendations and a taste of art and history.

Deniliquin and our surrounding villages of Blighty, Conargo, Pretty Pine, Wanganella, Boorooban and Mayrung are all RV friendly. Deniliquin is also the home of the world famous ‘Deni Ute Muster’ and has a vibrant arts and cultural event calendar.

#### Highlights:

- Waterski, canoe, float, swim, or fish in and around the Edward River’s sandy beaches.
- Relax with a round of golf at the picturesque 18-hole course with manicured greens and an abundance of native wildlife.
- Travel back in time at The Depot – Historic Vehicle and Memorabilia Collection.
- Take the Beach-to-Beach cycle and walking path from McLean Beach to the Island Sanctuary, home to a large array of birdlife and wildlife.

#### Don’t miss:

- The Ute on a Pole and ‘Reutilise’ metal sculptures and be sure to visit the Ute Muster HQ Museum.
- Stroll through the Island Sanctuary into the Murray Valley Regional Park with a rest stop on the sands of Willoughby’s Beach.
- Marvel at the Water Tower mural by acclaimed artist Cam Scale in Scott’s Park.
- Peppin Heritage Centre.
- Deniliquin & District Historic Society Museum.

#### Sculptures:

##### 4. Shod

**Artist:** Jonathan Leahey  
**Location:** Next to the Visitors Centre

##### 5. Reutilise

**Artist:** Stuart Taylor  
**Location:** Next to the Visitors Centre

##### 6. Cut

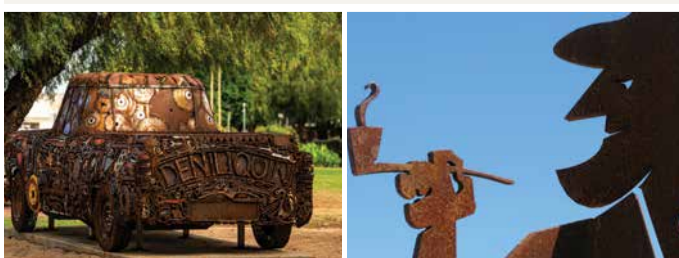
**Artist:** Jonathan Leahey  
**Location:** Davidson Street

##### 7. Smoko

**Artist:** Geoff Hocking  
**Location:** Pretty Pine Hotel, 13 minutes from Deniliquin

##### 8. Headless Horseman

**Artist:** Geoff Hocking  
**Location:** Black Swamp on the Hay Plains, 45 minutes from Deniliquin



## Hay Region

Over centuries poets and artists have attempted to capture the spirit of the plains, but only a visit to Hay will give visitors the real experience – the unique landscape, the diversity of attractions, the richness of our cultural heritage and the warmth of true country hospitality.

The township of Hay began as Lang’s Crossing, a crossing-place on the Murrumbidgee River for stock being driven south to markets in Victoria during the gold rushes of the 1850s. The site was eventually surveyed in 1859 and was named Hay after a prominent politician of the day, John Hay.

During its earliest days Hay’s economy was linked to the navigation of the Murrumbidgee by steamboats, and the town became an important river port. The Hay district was also extensively serviced by horse and bullock wagons.

Hay’s population makes full use of its 327 ‘fine days’ a year and has a full calendar of special events covering the entire district. For all the details on what to see and do in Hay visit the friendly local staff at the Hay Visitor Information Centre located in Moppett Street, where you can also hire a free bike to explore the town.

Shear Outback offers visitors a glimpse into the Australian shearing industry. There are daily shearing demonstrations, a café, maze and retail shop.

Visit the 1888 Bishop’s Lodge Historic House made of iron and see how the building was made to withstand the heat of Hay’s summers.

Hay Gaol Museum was built in 1878 and has been everything from an institute for girls to a maternity hospital and now has many unique and rare treasures within its walls.

#### Highlights:

- Sunset on the vast Hay plain. On a clear night, this is the perfect place to star-gaze.
- Visit Shear Outback for tall tales and true about the Australian shearing industry.
- Hay Water Tower Art.
- Learn about the chequered history of the Hay Gaol, built in 1878.

#### Don’t miss:

- The Long Paddock Sculptural Trail & Bidgee Riverside Trail at Bushy Bend.
- The Dunera Museum at Hay Railway Station, where you can learn about Hay’s World War II Internment and POW Camps.
- Mrs McGrath Sculpture (located in Witcombe Place). During the 1920s and 1930s Mrs McGrath helped drovers move sheep across the bridge over the Murrumbidgee River in Hay with the help of her pet sheep.

#### Sculptures:

##### 9. Langs Crossing

**Artist:** John Wooller  
**Location:** Bushy Bend, Hay

##### 10. Murrumbidgee Landscapes

**Artist:** John Wooller  
**Location:** Bushy Bend, Hay

##### 11. Cobbs Wheels

**Artist:** John Wooller  
**Location:** Bushy Bend, Hay

