central nsw museums

Visiting the museums and historic sites of Orange, Cabonne and Blayney provides an opportunity to experience the rural lifestyle and mining history of the region. Each museum offers a unique experience.

Explore local landscapes, discover one of the many cafes and cellar doors, listen to stories of bygone years the region has to offer.

www.centralnswmuseums.com.au

Blayney

The Viv Kable Museum

Open Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 11am-1pm/2pm-5pm, Friday 2pm-6pm, Saturday 10am-12pm
Phone 02 6368 2581

Located in the Blayney Shire Library, Adelaide Street, the Viv Kable Collection displays rural and domestic tools and implements from yesteryear. Many documents and items associated with the development of Blayney are also on display. A unique feature of the collection is the catalogue compiled by Mr Viv Kable which can be accessed through the History Resource database at the Library.

Visitor information is available at ‘The Cottage’, Blayney Council’s Tourist and Community Information Centre located in Adelaide Street.

Byng

Settled in the 1830s by Cornish Methodist families, it was known as the Cornish Settlement and then as Carangara. In 1854 the village reserve was approved by Governor Fitzroy and became known as the Parish of Byng, Bathurst County. Byng was named after Admiral John Byng who was executed for treason in 1757.

The Wesleyan Chapel, which is located on the site of the original church of 1842, is still in use today. Opposite is the historic cemetery with graves of pioneers of the district.

Cadia

Mining and mineral exploration has been a feature of the history and landscape at Cadia since the 1860s, alongside grazing and agriculture. The old Cadia Village is now part of the Newcrest Cadia Valley Operations.

Orange Visitor Information Centre 1800 069 466
Canowindra

Canowindra Historical Museum
Open Sundays 2pm-4pm, or by appointment
Phone 02 6344 1707
Admission applies
The Museum located in Gaskill Street depicts the development of Canowindra from the 1840s as a frontier village on the Belubula River to its growth as an important rural centre. A pre-1901 Pioneers Wall and Citizens Pathway lead into the museum from heritage listed Gaskill Street and interpretative signs tell Canowindra’s railway story. Outbuildings display horse drawn vehicles, vintage farm machinery, specially featuring lucerne, Canowindra’s ‘green gold’, a woolshed, a schoolroom and an authentic slab hut.
The main buildings house a complete dental surgery, displays of wedding gowns, household memorabilia, bushranger exploits, photos of floods, pioneer families and Canowindra’s early streetscape: a nostalgic experience for all.

Age of Fishes Museum
Open 7 days 10am-4pm
Phone 02 6344 1008  www.ageoffishes.com.au
The Museum situated in Gaskill Street is a Natural History and Science Museum showcasing Canowindra’s fish fossils. These date back in time 360 million years when 3,000 fish died during a drought at Canowindra, and give us a glimpse into life during the Devonian Period—the ‘Age of Fishes’. The fossilised remains are both rare and unique.

Carcoar

Stoke Stable
Open Thursday to Monday 10am-5pm, Admission by donation
Built by convict labour (c. 1849) in Naylor Street—and possibly the oldest building in Carcoar—“Stoke Stable” is the home of the Carcoar Historical Society Museum. The Museum displays historical photos and memorabilia reflecting the residential, industrial and agricultural history of the local area.

Carcoar Hospital Museum
Open by appointment—Phone 02 6367 3056 or 02 6367 5068
The original building located in Eulamore Street is one of the earliest colonial hospital buildings in Australia and built to the design of architect Edward Gell. The museum has a male ward with small adjoining private ward, drawing room, surgeon’s operating room, lobbies and verandah.

Carmanhurst Room
Open by appointment—Phone 02 6367 3149
Located in the School of Arts, Icely Street, in what used to be the projectionist’s room, a collection of war memorabilia is on display. This collection is managed by the Lyndhurst Branch of the RSL.

The Court House
Open weekends, public holidays or by appointment
Phone 02 6367 4155
Situated in Icely Street, built in 1882 and designed by the Government architect James Barnet, the Carcoar Courthouse replaced one designed by Edmund Blackett. The current courthouse ceased operation in the 1950s and became the headquarters of the local historical society in 1994.

Eugowra

Eugowra Historical Society Museum
Open Wednesday to Sunday each week from 10am-4pm
Phone 02 6859 2820 or 02 6859 2218
Coach groups welcome by appointment
The Museum located in Pye Street has a fascinating collection of local history items with the main themes of display being military, bushrangers, Aboriginal heritage and town and district history.

Eugowra is well known as the scene of the biggest gold escort robbery at Escort Rock, when bushrangers Frank Gardiner, Ben Hall, John Gilbert and their gang held up the coach carrying £14,000 worth of gold and cash from the Forbes gold fields on its way to the bank in Orange. Eugowra has many places of interest, visit the Fat Lamb Hotel or take a trip to the Lavender Farm.
**Lucknow**

Orange Visitor Information Centre 1800 069 466

The Lucknow heritage walking trail and interpretative signage provides an image of the gold rush and local history of the town. Lucknow is the site of the Wentworth Goldfields, relics such as the Wentworth and Reform poppet heads still remain. Discover the Miner’s Walk along Frederick’s Valley Creek adjacent to the Wentworth Main Mine. Orange City Council is currently developing the Wentworth Main Mine Site as a tourism and educational facility.

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**Manildra**

Situated 20km south west of Molong on the banks of the Mandagery Creek, Manildra is a small village and home to the largest flour mill in the southern hemisphere.

The Amusu Theatre is one of Australia’s oldest operating picture theatres. It was established in 1923 as a travelling picture show. The theatre still offers visitors and community members the opportunity to view new release films.

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**Millthorpe**

Stroll the historic streets of Millthorpe or relax and unwind in one of the cafes or hotels.

**Golden Memories Museum**

Open weekends & school holidays 10am-5pm
Phone 02 6366 3980 Email millthorpmuseum@gmail.com
Admission applies
Groups welcome — catering is also available

Take a step back in time and explore the rich social, mining and agricultural history of the district. The museum situated in Park Street has a Wiradjuri display, interactive schoolroom, a collection of tractors and a 13 tonne Claydon Shuttleworth steam traction engine. The Museum of Rural Technology tracks the development of machinery and its local use for pea picking, potato cropping and farming in the district. Most of the machinery has been made operational for the museum environment.

Visitors can also enjoy local craft and produce from the Jacoba Craft Cottage.
Molong

Situated 32km north west from Orange, the main street of Molong is classified by the National Trust. Molong has many beautiful historic buildings scattered throughout the town.

The Molong Historical Museum

Phone 02 6360 4799
Located at 20 Riddell Street, the museum building was constructed in 1856 as the Golden Fleece Hotel. The museum displays an extensive collection of local history and heritage items. Discover the story of child migration and Molong’s Fairbridge Farm—from 1938 to the 1970s many British children found a new home and new education opportunities in Molong.

Yuranigh’s Grave

5km east of Molong on the Mitchell Highway is Yuranigh’s Grave; Yuranigh was an Aboriginal guide to Thomas Mitchell. Described by Mitchell as “guide, companion and friend”, Yuranigh accompanied him on his expedition to Queensland in 1845. When Mitchell heard of his death, he paid for the headstone on his grave. Yuranigh was buried according to aboriginal custom with carved trees at each corner of his grave, which indicated he was a man of special honour.

Ophir

Orange Visitor Information Centre 1800 069 466
Set amongst rugged hills and streams the Ophir Recreation Reserve includes the site of the original village of Ophir as well as the Ophir Goldfield where Australia’s first payable gold was found in 1851. Walking trails, the historic cemetery, camping areas, gold panning and fossicking invite exploration of this scenic and historic site. The reserve is open daily.

Mount Canobolas

Orange Visitor Information Centre 1800 069 466
Mount Canobolas is the highest peak westwards until Africa, rising to 1395m above sea level. On a clear day the summit is visible from 150km away. Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area hosts many picnic areas and walking tracks. On your way to Mount Canobolas is Lake Canobolas, offering picnic and BBQ facilities, a walking trail and children’s playground.

Orange

Orange Visitor Information Centre 1800 069 466
There are many places of historic interest in Orange. The City’s heritage walks & drives provide a sample of the City’s renowned Federation and Victorian architecture. The many parks and gardens, in particular Cook Park and the Orange Botanic Gardens, provide a stunning display of ever changing colour. Visit Banjo Paterson Park, the site of Banjo’s birthplace or Chinamen’s Bend Cemetery a pioneer cemetery originating in the 1820s.

Orange has a long history of producing a wide range of seasonal produce, discover the many cellar doors and restaurants in Orange and the surrounding district.
Yeoval

75km from Orange, the village of Yeoval sits on the cross roads of Molong, Dubbo and Wellington. Banjo Paterson spent his first seven years of childhood in the village. If you're driving from Cumnock to Yeoval keep your eyes out for the bikes in the trees, part of the Mulga Bill Festival held in Yeoval each year. The festival celebrates Banjo Paterson's childhood in Yeoval with a bike ride from Cumnock to Yeoval.

Yeoval Historical Society Museum

Open 10am-2pm, 1st and 3rd Saturday mornings of the month, or by request anytime
Phone 02 6846 4478
Admission applies

The museum located in Forbes Street opened in 2006, the building has a long history of use as a saddler and boot-maker's shop with adjacent cottage. Discover the social history of the area.