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History of Blayney and Villages

Blayney is approximately 3.5 hours from Sydney and Canberra, 30 minutes from Bathurst and 20 minutes from Orange – an ideal location for a weekend getaway. Many of the villages within Blayney Shire boast award winning restaurants, arts and antiques, museums, boutique shops, hotels, wine tasting or accommodation enhancing their charm. Central New South Wales is the heart of a dynamic food and cool climate wine region, a centre for truffle production and home to a vibrant community of local artists.

Orange360 Towns and Villages Guide

Historic Blayney Heritage Walk Flyer

Please click-on the village name below for further details of each town or village:

Barry
Carcoar
Lyndhurst
Mandurama
Millthorpe
Neville
Newbridge

Blayney



The site of Blayney, near the headwaters of the Belubula River, was originally home to the Mucare clan of Wiradjuri people, who were greatly impacted by the arrival of convict overseers with herds of cattle and sheep during the 1820s, which were pastured under license. At about the same time, government surveyors were at work mapping the area. During this time, the name Kings Plains was given to the ground around the Belubula River where a site for a new settlement was surveyed in 1843 and proclaimed as Blayney. However, it wasn't until the construction of the railway through Blayney in 1876 that the town grew. Many of its significant buildings were erected after this time, and reliable and faster transport enabled the establishment of many more businesses.

Various industries have been operational in the town since the 1870s, including flour and chicory mills, a copper mine, meat processing works, a butter factory, pet food production, and a large cold storage facility. In addition, recreational facilities, including parks, a showground, sporting ovals, an indoor pool and an equestrian centre were added during the 20th century for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Visitors and residents are encouraged to take the Blayney heritage walk - a self-guided walking tour through Blayney to see its historic buildings, churches and parks.

Download the Blayney brochure

Download the Blayney Heritage Walk brochure

Visit the Orange360 Blayney page here

Barry

The site of Barry village was aset side in 1861, and a school was established the following year. A post office and two churches were erected; stores and a blacksmith business were established. Local agricultural workers took up residence in surrounding streets. Initially called Five Islands, it was in the 1890s that the name Barry came into use. As the streets or Barry are named after clergy or bishops (Barber, Marsden, Hale, Moorhouse, Pearson, Sawyer, Selwyn, Staunton and Turner) it is likely that the name or Barry came from the surname of Bishop Alfred Barry, the third Church of England Bishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia.

Today, all of Barry's public buildings, except St. James Anglican Church, have closed or been re-purposed. The former school is now the local Community Centre. Its village retains much of its original charm with many of its side roads still unsealed.

Carcoar



The historic village of Carcoar is nestled in a small sheltered valley beside the meandering Belubula River. Gazetted in 1839 and classified by the National Trust it is the third oldest settlement west of the Blue Mountains and has a picture book quality reminiscent of old England.

The best way to appreciate its treasures is to take a walk through the village where residents have lovingly restored and preserved many of the fine old buildings from the towns heyday in the late nineteenth century.

Stroll around the tree lined streets and view magnificent public buildings, churches and historic homes. Visit the railway station for a bird's eye view of the village. Have a relaxing picnic on the banks of the Belubula River. An interesting range of museums as well as craft, pottery and antique shops, cafes, a nursery and hotel all combine to make the village a popular tourist attraction.

Carcoar is indeed one of Australia's historic gems.

In 2022 Carcoar was named the Top Tourism Town of NSW for a population under 1,500.

Download the Carcoar brochure

Visit the Orange360 Carcoar page here

Lyndhurst



Today, it is difficult to imagine that Lyndhurst was once on a short-list of sites for the national capital, however, owing to the changing nature of the mining industry, the town has undergone many changes in fortune both ups and downs.
As the closest centre to the rich Lyndhurst Goldfields, also now known as the Junction Reefs, the town prospered during the late 1800's and at one stage boasted three banks, three general stores, a cinema, a pub, professional photographer, farrier, baker, fruit shop, butcher, three garages, railway station, a memorial hall and showground.

The fourth Prime Minister of Australia, George Reid, described Lyndhurst as "*a magnificent location for the capital*". It already had a large dam on the nearby Belubula River that could easily service the capital.

But it wasn't to be, with Canberra chosen. Although it is a shadow of its former self; Lyndhurst owes a lot to the existence of a large mining company at the Junction Reefs site. The Royal Hotel is still thriving with another popular spot in the town being the Lyndhurst Post Office and Takeaway in the old bakery building. Lyndhurst also