C O W R A

NEW RESIDENTS KIT







Emergency Numbers

For an ambulance, police or fire emergency please call 000

Cowra Police Station

(02) 6341 5099 86-88 Brisbane Street, Cowra

Cowra Hospital

(02) 6340 9000 64 Liverpool Street, Cowra

Cowra Fire & Rescue

(02) 6341 1624 124 Kendal Street, Cowra

NSW SES Emergency Service

132 500

Electricity Emergency

13 20 80

NSW Poisons Information Centre

13 11 26

Kids Helpline

1800 551 800

Lifeline

13 11 14



Welcome to Cowra

Cowra is located within beautiful Central NSW on the banks of the Lachlan River. It is approximately one hour from the regional hubs of Bathurst and Orange, two hours from Canberra and four hours from Sydney. The town is situated at the intersection of three state highways; the Mid-Western Highway, the Olympic Highway and the Lachlan Valley Way, making it a central hub for travel, freight and logistics.

Covering 2810 square kilometres, the shire includes a number of small villages which feed into the Cowra township and contribute to the shires' agricultural and cultural growth. These villages include Billimari, Darbys Falls, Gooloogong, Morongla, Noonbinna, Wattamondara, Woodstock and Wyangala.

Cowra is a town with deep historical ties to Japan and is regarded as a centre for peace. Its public identity became a part of World War II history with the Cowra Breakout of 1944. This tragic event in the town's history led Cowra to focus on promoting the values of friendship and reconciliation, something which the town still projects today.

Not only is Cowra a historical town, it is a town with a love for food and wine. It is surrounded by vineyards and grazing-rich farmlands with quality restaurants and cafes, and also includes endless water and camping opportunities with Wyangala Dam only a short drive away.

Cowra is a growing community with a number of primary and high school education options, health centres, sporting clubs, community groups and limitless weekend activities. It is the perfect place to raise a family, study, work or retire.

Experience Cowra and see for yourself why we are a town with history, values and fun.



About Cowra Shire Council

Cowra Council's vision is to be a leading, innovative and creative community, proud of our place in history and offering opportunity with the best of country living. The region enjoys a range of economic, social, educational and health services with a welcoming community that embraces new members from all backgrounds.

We strive to provide, maintain and extend Council services to improve the quality of life for residents throughout the Shire. We aim to actively lead, facilitate and foster sustainable development and wealth generating opportunities through agricultural, industrial, commercial and tourism growth.

Open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm, Cowra Council is here to assist with your council or Cowra related queries. Our Council meetings are held at 5.00pm on the fourth Monday of each month in the Council Chambers.

Business Hours Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Street Address 116 Kendal Street, Cowra

Postal Address

Private Bag 342 Cowra NSW 2794

Email

council@cowra.nsw.gov.au

Council main switch (02) 6340 2000

After Hours Emergency (This includes water/sewer breaks,

trees/spillages on roads)

(02) 6340 2120

or 0419 219 231

After Hours Ranger Service (This includes dog attacks and stock on main roads) (02) 6240 2052

Infrastructure & Operations

Roads

 Sewer Assets

Water

Parks & Gardens

Airport

 Aquatic Centre (02) 6340 2070

Ranger Services (02) 6340 2052

Environmental Services

Planning & Development

Environmental Health

 Building & Regulatory Services (02) 6340 2040

Corporate Services (02) 6340 2006

General Manager/Mayor (02) 6340 2013





The Council civic crest portrays local rock outcrops with an eagle atop to represent 'Cowra Rocks'. This is the site of the river crossing that became known as Cowra or Mulyan – the Aboriginal name for eagle.

Council structure

Cowra elects nine Councillors for a four-year term to direct Council's affairs in line with the Local Government Act 1993. Their decisions direct local policy and the distribution of Council funds. Their responsibility to the shire is to ensure Council's policies and objectives are consistent with its broader vision and obligations to the community.

Councillors are available to listen to resident's concerns and represent those concerns to Council. Each Councillor has areas of particular expertise and interest and they all participate in a number of Council committees and meetings. Individual Councillors can be contacted on any matter through the Council by phoning (02) 6340 2000. Find Cowra's current Councillors on our website under 'Your Council'.

Rates

Council's rating system provides the net funding requirements of Council's programs. Any increase in the rates is reviewed annually after considering the maximum provided under the State Government's rate pegging legislation.

Rates are payable annually and can be paid in full or by quarterly instalments. If paying in full, payment must be made on or before 31 August each year, and quarterly instalment dates are 31st August, 30th November, 28th February and 31st May each year.

More information on Council's rates can be found <u>via the quick link on</u> <u>Council's homepage</u>.

Council Waste and Recycling Services

Cowra Council aims to safely collect, transport, and treat, all household waste in an efficient, cost-effective manner and to return all treated products back into the ecosystem sustainably. Urban residents within the Cowra Shire are eligible to be provided with Council's waste and recycling service.

Calendars with information regarding Cowra and Village/Rural Recycling Collection schedules and the relevant recycling pick-up days for your area are available from Council's Customer Service Centre and the Material Recycling Service Centre.

Cowra Township recycling calendar can be found here.

Cowra Shire Village recycling calendar can be found here.

Please put your bins out the night before and facing the kerb approximately one-metre apart. Do not place near parked cars or low-hanging trees.



Residents should take note that Cowra shopping centres are now plastic bag free and shoppers need to bring their own reusable bags.

Cowra Council's Material Recycling Facility is located on Glen Logan Road.

Opening Hours:

Tuesday through to Friday: 7.30am – 4.00pm Saturday and Sunday: 10.00am to 4.00pm

Village Recycling Stations

Recycling stations for depositing recyclable material only are also located at:

- Gooloogong
 Woodstock
- Wyangala ParkWyangala village
- Wattamondara
- MoronglaNoonbinna

Woodstock Waste Site

This site is open the first and third Sunday of each month between 9.00am and 11.00am

Gooloogong Waste Site

This site is open the first and third Sunday of each month between 1.30pm and 3.30pm.

For more information on Council's waste and recycling please visit our Council website under Council Services or drop into Council.

Council Facilities

Cowra Airport

Open all hours

Airport Road, Cowra. **(02) 6341 1616** After hours **(02) 6342 9256**

www.cowraairport.com.au

The Cowra Airport is a Certified Aerodrome under Federal Regulations.

The Airport also offers fuels Avgas and Jet a1 for aircraft.

Cowra Aquatic Centre

Morning swimming (everyday except Sunday and public holidays): 5.30am-8.00pm

Daytime swimming: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 10.00am-8.00pm.
Tuesday: 10am-6:00pm (early close for swimming club)
Saturday & Sunday: 10.00am-8.00pm

The pool is closed during late autumn and winter. It reopens around the October long weekend.

Taragala Street, Cowra **(02) 6340 2150**

This complex includes a seven lane heated pool and undercover toddlers' wading pool. A surrounding shady grassed area is equipped with barbeques available for get-togethers and birthday parties.

Cowra Civic Centre

12 Darling Street **(02) 6341 1400**

The Cowra Civic Centre is available for hire for weddings, private functions, stage productions, touring artists and concerts. It regularly hosts civic functions and events on Australia Day, Cowra's Festival of International Understanding and special Mayoral Functions, balls and seminars.

The centre includes full disabled access, change rooms behind the stage, temperature control and a professional 84 seat theatrette.

Cowra Library

Monday to Wednesday: 10.00am-5.30pm

Thursday: 10.00am-6.00pm Friday: 10.00am-5.30pm

Saturday: 10.00am-12.30pm

Closed Public Holidays

77 Darling Street **(02) 6340 2180**

www.cwl.nsw.gov.au/about-cwl/cwl-branches/cowra-library

The Cowra Library is a service of Cowra Council.

Cowra Regional Art Gallery

Tuesday to Saturday: 10.00am-4.00pm Sunday: 2.00pm-4.00pm

77 Darling Street **(03) 6340 2190**

www.cowraartgallery.com.au

The Cowra Regional Art Gallery is a cultural facility of Cowra Council and is financially assisted by the NSW Government through Arts NSW.

Cowra Saleyards

Young Road, Cowra **(02) 6342 2654**

Cowra Saleyards is owned and operated by Cowra Council. Sheep and prime lambs are sold every Friday.

Cowra Skate Park

Open during daylight hours.

Located at Col Stinson Park, this sporting complex also includes asphalt and grass netball courts, a modified-size soccer field, amenities and car parking.

Sportsgrounds

River Park

- Twigg Oval
- Holman Oval

Adjacent to the Cowra Aquatic Centre on Taragala Street

- Athletics
- 🟆 Junior rugby league
- Cricket
- Basketball
- Amenities

Edgell Park

- Oliver Oval
- McPherson Oval
- Raudonikis Oval
- Bryant Park

Lachlan Valley Way (Boorowa Road)

- Cricket
- 🟆 Hockey
- 🏆 Touch football
- Soccer
- Amenities

Mulyan Oval

Corner of Bourke & Cooyal Streets

- Junior and senior AFL
- Cricket
- Amenities

Rodwell Oval

Corner of Hood & Bourke Streets

- Cricket
- Amenities

Col Stinson Park

Corner of Macassar Street & Binni Creek Road

- Netball
- Skate park
- Amenities

Sid Kallas Oval

Corner of Young Road & Haigh Street

- Ruby League
- Greyhound Track
- Amenities

Applications to book a sports field can be found on the Council website, under 'Council Services - Parks & Reserves'.



Ranger Services

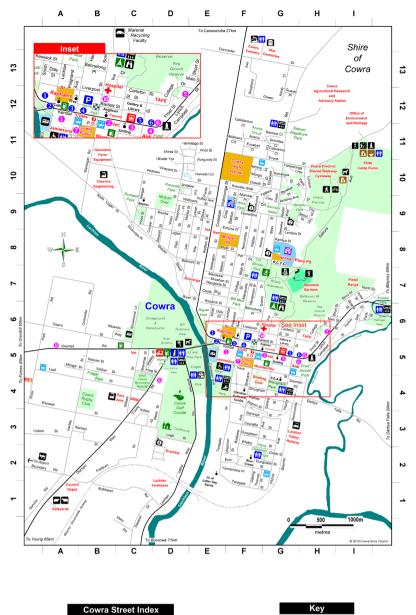
Rangers are employed by Council to enforce laws and local policies. They undertake regular patrols around Cowra and are able to assist in the following areas:

- Pollution, litter and rubbish
- Feral animals
- Abandoned/lost pets
- Noise complaints
- Vandalism
- Stock control
- Abandoned articles such as cars, signs, boats etc
- Car Parking
- ✓ Roads

Cowra Ranger Services can be contacted on (02) 6340 2052, which will be redirected to the Rangers mobile, or by contacting Council on (02) 6340 2041 during normal business hours.

Please keep in mind that Rangers may be in a location that does not receive mobile telephone coverage, and in this instance you should leave a message when prompted and a Ranger will get back to you.

In the event of an emergency you should call Emergency on (000) or in the event of a non-life threatening emergency, you should call Cowra Police on (02) 6341 5099.





Playgrounds

- r layground 11G Acacia Circuit 7G Bellevue Hill Re. 4G Brougham Park 4B Fragar Park 2F Harry Chapman 4D Olympic Park 4E River Park 11G Saburo Nagakui



- Attractions

 2A Airport (off map)

 5G Art Gallery

 4E Aquatic Cortre

 5E Caravan Park

 50 Civic Centre

 50 Civic Centre

 50 Civic Centre

 11 Italian Poly Monument

 5H Italian Friendship Monument

 5H Japaness Gardens

 5G Leash Free Area

 5G Caracter

 5G Caracter

 5G Posse Gardens

 5F Soughture Park

 5D Showground & Racecourse

 5D Visitors Centre & P.O.W. The

Cowra Snapshot



Total population



Median age



Total employed (F/T): 56% Unemployment rate: 6.5%



Median house price: \$266,500 Median rental price: \$260/week



Average summer high: 31°C Average summer low: 16.5°C



Average winter high: 15°C Average winter low: 5°C



Average rainfall

1,194

Number of businesses

2,810

Land area (hectares): 2,810 km²

Our top 5



What we do:

- Managers: 17.9%
 Labourers: 15.5%
 Professionals: 13.5%
 Technicians and trade workers: 13.4%
 Community and personal service workers: 10.8%



Where we work:

- 1. Aged care residential services: 4.5%
- 2. Sheep Farming: 3.3%
- 3. Local Government Administration: 3.1%
- 4. Primary Education: 2.9%
- 5. Supermarket / grocery stores: 2.9%



Our industries:

- 1. Agriculture, forestry and fishing: 17.3%
- 2. Health care and social assistance: 13.5%
 3. Retail trade: 10.7%
- 4. Manufacturing: 8.8%
- 5. Education / training: 8.5%



The History of Cowra

Cowra is located on Wiradjuri Country. The Cowra region is part of the Wiradjuri language group, the largest in NSW which covers most of the state.

The first Europeans to reach the area were led by surveyor and explorer George William Evans who passed near the town site in May 1815 and named the area the Oxley Plains after the surveyor-general and explorer John Oxley. Led by members of the Wiradjuri, Oxley himself then explored the Lachlan River in 1817, which he named after the Governor Lachlan Macquarie.

Early pioneer pastoralists depended on Aboriginal knowledge of the land along the Lachlan when they took up grants in the 1830s, when the likes of Arthur Rankin and James Sloan drove cattle across from Bathurst and became the first European settlers on the Lachlan River. It would take another nineteen years when, in 1849, Cowra was proclaimed a village. The 1861 Cowra Census recorded 117 males, 76 females and a police force of seven officers residing in the village of Cowra.

In 1857, the first school was built. In 1886, the railway reached Cowra from Young. In 1888 the line was extended to Blayney, completing the first cross-country line linking the state's southern and western trunk routes. Cowra was then officially recognised as a shire in 1888.

A large army training camp was established just outside Cowra in 1940 which trained some 70,000 personnel throughout World War II. The following year, a prisoner-of-war (POW) camp was built at the north-eastern outskirts of town. On 5 August, 1944, this camp became the site of the largest mass POW escape in modern military history.

What's Good

You may be new residents to our beautiful town, but that won't stop you from exploring the wonderful attractions and historical sites our shire has on offer!



Cowra Visitor Information Centre

Located on the western side of the Lachlan River Bridge in Olympic Park, the centre is your go-to stop for information on Cowra and the surrounding villages. Out the front of the centre is a rose garden consisting of 107 varieties of roses.

The centre is also home to 'Claire' the local Cowra girl who tells her personal account of the Cowra Breakout through a very informative hologram presentation.

Corner of Mid-Western Highway, Young and Boorowa Road, Cowra (02) 6342 4333

info@cowratourism.com.au www.visitcowra.com.au

The Lachlan Valley Railway Heritage Centre

Opened in 1923, the Cowra Locomotive Depot and roundhouse is located at a central point on the Blayney to Demondrille rail line, the first cross-country line built in NSW. Cowra also served the needs of two branch lines, Eugowra and Grenfell. All operational rail lines in the Cowra area closed between 1991 and 2009.

The Lachlan Valley Railway Society is a non-profit Australian rail preservation society based in Cowra. It was established in 1974 to preserve NSW Government railways, locomotives and rolling stock.

With the closure of the depot in 1985 and railway freight and transport ceasing quickly afterwards, the responsibility of the preservation of the depot was passed to the Lachlan Valley Railway Society which has maintained an important presence at the site since 1977.

The Lachlan Valley Railway Heritage Centre at Cowra Locomotive Depot, is a functioning rail facility where restoration and the maintenance of locomotives and carriages is carried on and preserved.

Open 9.00am-5.00pm 7 days a week. 3 Campbell Street, Cowra (02) 6342 4999 inquiries@lvr.com.au www.lvr.com.au

The Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre

Erected on a five hectare site, Cowra's Japanese Garden is the largest in the southern hemisphere and stands as a symbol of the historical ties between Cowra and Japan. Opened in 1979, the garden was designed by Ken Nakajima - a world renowned figure in traditional Japanese landscape gardening.

Ken Nakajima Place (**02) 6341 2233** Open 7 days a week www.cowragarden.com.au



Cowra Prisoner of War (POW) Camp

The site of Australia's largest mass POW escape, the site now stands as a memorial to the lives lost during the breakout of 1944. The site also stands as a monument to the many Italian POWs in the camp who willingly, and with good grace, did much labour in the area. The site is one of the best interpreted military heritage parklands in Australia.

A map and further information on the site can also be found at Cowra's Visitor Information Centre.



Cowra War Cemeteries

The Cowra Japanese War Cemetery was established to house the remains of all Japanese POWs who died in Australia. The 524 graves also include Japanese nationals who died taking part in air raids in Northern Australia, and Japanese civilians who died in internment camps.

In the adjacent Australian War Cemetery are the graves of the four Australian personnel killed during the breakout and the graves of other Australian service personnel who died as a result of accidents or illness at the Cowra POW Camp and the nearby Cowra Military Training Camp.

In the Cowra general cemetery, there is a monument and graves of 13 Indonesian detainees who died of natural causes in the Cowra POW camp.

Doncaster Drive, Cowra



The World Peace Bell

The World Peace Bell was bestowed upon Cowra in 1992 by the World Peace Bell Association for Cowra's strong links of friendship and reconciliation with Japan. It was Australia's only world peace bell until 2018, and is fitted with an audio system which tells the significance of the bell and its origins.

Darling Street, Cowra



The Cowra Italy Friendship Monument

The Cowra Italy Friendship Monument was officially opened on Australia Day 1997 to celebrate the Italian link to Australia. In particular it was erected in recognition of the Italian 'prisoners of war' and internees held in Cowra during World War II.

Fred Arnold Park Lynch & Kendal Streets, Cowra

Conimbla National Park

A nature reserve situated between Cowra, Gooloogong and Grenfell, there are a number of easy to difficult bushwalks. The park is particularly popular with keen birdwatchers, as over 150 species have been recorded here, including some interesting threatened species, such as the little eagle, glossy black-cockatoo, turquoise parrot and several species of honeyeaters and robins.

There are also a number of other National Parks located nearby to Cowra including the Weddin Mountains National Park near Grenfell, Koorawatha Nature Falls and Reserve in Koorawatha, and the Bendick Murrell National Park near Greenethorpe

Access and more information on Conimbla National Park can be found online at National Parks NSW.



Wyangala Waters State Recreation Area

With a storage capacity of 1,217,000 megalitres, Wyangala Dam holds twice the volume of Sydney Harbour. The dam is situated on the junction of the Lachlan and Abercrombie Rivers about 48 kilometres upstream from Cowra.

The second major dam built for irrigation in NSW, Wyangala Dam helped drive the economic development of the Lachlan Valley as a major food producing region. Today the dam continues to support irrigated agriculture across the valley around Cowra, Forbes, Condobolin and Hillston.

The dam is open all year round and is a perfect spot to pack the camping gear, pop the boat in the water and go for a ski, fish or even just a swim. The dam boasts beautiful hilly views with camping and picnic hotspots, boat ramps and toilet and shower facilities. There are also some magnificent bushwalking treks. Bungalows, cottages, cabins and house boats are available for hire through the park operators.

2891 Reg Hailstone Way, Wyangala **(02) 6345 0877**

wyangalawaters@ reflectionsholiday.com.au www.reflectionsholidayparks. com.au

Education

Early Learning/Day Care Centres

Goodstart Early Learning
2 Binni Creek Road
(02) 6341 2133
cowra@goodstart.org.au

Nurture One North Cowra
Children's Centre
51 Comerford Street
(02) 6341 3622
northcowra@nurtureone.com.au

Cowra Early Childhood Services
Co-Operative Ltd /Carinya Early
Childhood Centre
20 Comerford Street
(02) 6342 3255

Yalbilinga Boori Day Care Centre Legh Street (02) 6342 1300

Primary and Secondary Schools

Cowra Public School Kindergarten to Year 6

Vaux Street (02) 6342 2400 cowra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Mulyan Public School

Kindergarten to Year 6

92-94 Lachlan Street

(02) 6342 2531

mulyan-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Holmwood Public School

Kindergarten to Year 6

Mid Western Highway (Cowra to Bathurst Road)

(02) 6342 2172

holmwood-p.school@det.nsw.edu.

<u>au</u>

Wyangala Dam Public School

Kindergarten to Year 6

Waugoola Road, Wyangala Dam

(02) 6345 0804

wyangala-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Gooloogong Public School

Kindergarten to Year 6

25 King Street, Gooloogong

(02) 6344 8307

gooloogong-p.school@det.nsw.edu.

<u>au</u>

Woodstock Public School

Kindergarten to Year 6

Parkes Street, Woodstock

(02) 6345 0217

woodstock-p.school@det.nsw.edu.

au

St Raphael's Catholic School Kindergarten to Year 12

11-15 Liverpool Street (02) 6342 2940 straphaels@bth.catholic.edu.au

Cowra High School

Year 7 to Year 12

Dowell Street (02) 6342 1766 cowra-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

M.E.T School

Year 3 to Year 12

12 River Park Road

1300 724 024

info@metschool.nsw.edu.au

Holman Place School

Special Education for ages 5-18 years

3 Binni Creek Road

(02) 6342 2301

holmanplac-s.school@det.nsw.edu. au

Cowra Special Needs Services

Early Childhood Intervention and Life Skills Training

Ina Drive

(02) 6341 3575

info@cowraspecialneeds.org.au

Colleges and Vocational Training

TAFE NSW Cowra 27-33 Carleton Street **1300 823 393**

Sureway Employment & Training 1/103 Kendal Street 1300 787 392

Verto 39 Kendal Street **(02) 6341 0200**

Cowra Business Hub

The Hub provides assistance, training, mentoring, business skills, tips and tricks for the Cowra community.

16/59 Kendal Street
1800 961 833
info@cowrabusinesshub.com

U3a Retiree Training

(02) 6342 2028 cowrau3a@yahoo.com.au



Health

Cowra Community Health

Cowra Community Health provides support to the Cowra community through the following health areas:

Community nurse, child and family health, dietician, speech pathology, social workers, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, alcohol & other drug help, sexual assault counselling, audiometry, incontinence advice, diabetic counselling, district nurse, podiatry, mental health services, women's health nurse, Aboriginal maternal and infant health service and Aboriginal health workers.

Cowra Hospital 64 Liverpool Street **(02) 6340 2356**

Aged Care

Weeroona Nursing Home
10 Comerford Street
(02) 6342 3333
weeroona@weeroonaagedcare.
com.au

Cowra Retirement Village
1 Holman Place
(02) 6341 1666
administration@bilyara.org.au

Aged Care Services

BaptistCare Home Services 3/119 Kendal Street (02) 5317 5000

Cowra/Grenfell Meals on Wheels 14 Vaux Street (02) 6342 4165

Cowra Information & Neighbourhood Centre 15 Vaux Street (02) 6340 1100 admin@cinc.org.au

Live Better Shop 6, 119 Kendal Street **1800 580 580**

Cowra Community Transport 15 Vaux Street (02) 6341 2040

Chiropractors

Chiropractic Health & Wellness Centre 135 Kendal Street (02) 6342 5005

Aligned Health & Wellbeing 44 Macquarie Street (02) 6344 1119

Dentists and Orthodontics

Cowra Dental Practice 94 Brisbane Street (02) 6342 2433

Cowra Dental Group 63A Kendal Street (02) 6342 2293

Cowra Adult Dental Clinic - Cowra Hospital 64 Liverpool Street 1300 552 208

Medical Practitioners (GPs), Pathology and Imaging

Medispring Family Medical Centre 96 Brisbane Street (02) 6342 2555

Cowra Medical Associates 165-169 Kendal Street (02) 6341 1400

Douglas Hanly Moir Pathology 165-169 Kendal Street (02) 6341 2511

Cowra Diagnostic Imaging 167-169 Kendal Street (02) 6342 4125

Optometrists

Webster Optometrists 114 Kendal Street (02) 6342 2502

Geoff Day Optometrists 29 Kendal Street (02) 6342 3355

Pharmacies

Zest Pharmacy 111 Kendal Street (02) 6342 2285

(04) 6342 3452

75-77 Kendal Street

Optimal Pharmacy Plus

Physiotherapy

Cowra Physiotherapy & Health Supplies 113 Brisbane Street (02) 6342 3300

Fitzroy Street Physiotherapy Shop 8/119 Kendal Street (02) 6341 2378

Psychologists

Assist Psychology Cowra Hospital 64 Liverpool Street (02) 6340 9000

Kathryn Walker Clinical Psychologist
11 Brougham Street
0403 287 533



Cowra Clubs & Committees

For a full list of local community clubs, art and history clubs, sporting clubs and other local community groups, the Cowra Guardian distributes a yearly Community and Business Guide. This can be collected from the offices of the Cowra Guardian at 100 Darling Street.



Religion

Ignite Church Cowra 11 Brougham Street

St Peter's Presbyterian Church 50 Macquarie Street

St Raphael's Catholic Church 15 Lachlan Street

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Taragala Street

Cowra Uniting Church 75A Darling Street

Cowra Baptist ChurchBourke Street

St Johns Anglican Church 98 Kendal Street

Seventh Day Adventist Church Denman Street