



Cowra Shire Council  
Private Bag 342  
Cowra NSW 2794

Phone: 02 6340 2000  
Fax: 02 6340 2011  
Email: [council@cowra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cowra.nsw.gov.au)  
Internet: [www.cowra.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cowra.nsw.gov.au)

## A REGISTER OF CULTURAL FACILITIES, RESOURCES, ICONS, TREASURES AND HISTORICAL ITEMS IN COWRA SHIRE

Including heritage sites identified in the  
Register of the National Estate, Statutory Listed Items, Cowra Shire Local Environment Plan 1990  
and the 2003 Cowra Shire Heritage Inventory

Developed August 2005 and reviewed annually in accordance with the  
Cowra Cultural Plan  
(Last updated August 2008)

experience the **C** change - the **Cowra** change



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- Register of the National Estate
- Statutory Listed Items
- Cowra Shire LEP 1990 – Amended
- Cowra Shire Heritage Inventory (compiled by Heritage Archaeology in 2003)

# **REGISTER OF CULTURAL FACILITIES, RESOURCES, ICONS, TREASURES & HISTORICAL ITEMS IN COWRA SHIRE**

- **Anglican Church Hall**

- **Australiana Corner**

Australiana Corner sells souvenirs made in Cowra, local pottery, Aboriginal artefacts, Australian wool and sheepskin products, wood gallery and quality Australian made gifts. Tours conducted by Ideal Tours Cowra can be arranged for wine tasting and cellar door tours and town tours.

- **Australian World Peace Bell**

The Australian World Peace Bell was awarded to Cowra for its contribution to the aims of world peace and international understanding and was officially dedicated by His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, Governor of NSW on September 15, 1992. Normally the bell would be sited in the National capital. The original World Peace Bell, cast from medals and coins donated by the member nations of the time, is housed in the forecourt of the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Other countries have contributed towards casting Peace Bells that are situated in countries in Europe, Asia, South America and Japan.

The Australian World Peace Bell weighs 477kgs, is 1060mm high and has a diameter of 600mm. The pavilion housing the bell was constructed with the financial assistance of Cowra Shire Council, the State Government of NSW, St George Bank, the Patricia Fagan Trust, Toyota Australia Ltd, Year 12 Cowra High School 1991, the Rotary Club of Cowra, Mr Dick Smith, Cowra Branch of the NSW Arts Council, Cowra Tourist and Development Corporation and through many hours of work from many volunteers.

The World Peace Bell Association is a non-political, non-sectarian organisation formed to promote peace throughout the world. The Australian Chapter of the World Peace Bell Association, based in Cowra, was formed in December 1989 to oversee the installation of the Bell. It now promotes World Peace Day, usually held the third Tuesday in September, and supports many civic functions held throughout the year in Cowra. Visitors are invited to ring the bell as a reminder of the need for world peace.

- **Bellevue Hill Lookout**

Bellevue Hill is a Fauna Reserve with wallabies, kangaroo's and emu's. At the bottom of the lookout there are playgrounds and free barbecue's with lights that come on a night for an evening barbecue. At the top of the hill, you have a superb view of Cowra, which is nestled beside the meandering Lachlan River.

- **Bicentennial Tapestry – Cowra Civic Centre**

Completed in 1988 as a Bicentennial project.

- **Billimari Hall**

- **Calleen Collection**

The Calleen Collection, housed at the Cowra Art Gallery, is comprised of twenty-eight works of art (prints, paintings and ceramics) acquired between 1977 and 2003 through the prestigious Calleen Acquisition Award. Each year scores of works are entered in The

Cowra Festival Art Awards, with the winner selected for the Calleen Acquisition Award, funded by the Calleen Trust. The Calleen Collection is the legacy of an individual whose generosity and vision provided the impetus, alongside the support and dedication of community residents, for the establishment of the Cowra Art Gallery.

- **Conimbla National Park**

Conimbla National Park offers nature based recreational activities in a natural environment. The activities include bushwalking, bird watching and picnicing. The Wallaby and the Iron Bark walking tracks are both easy grade walks that meander through the different vegetation communities. In spring there is myriad of flowering native plants. A picnic ground with barbecues is located adjacent to Barryreenie Road in the heart of the park. Backpack camping is permitted but all rubbish is to be removed. Fires permitted only outside the fire danger periods.

- **Cowra Art Group Room**

The Cowra Art Group Room is located adjacent to the Cowra Visitors Centre. The room consists of a workshop area, kitchenette and display boards and may be used by visiting groups under special circumstances. The Art Group have a well established facility with a wide range of items for sale including paintings, craft, knitted clothing and jewelry. Also on display is a considerable collection of work from past members, many now deceased which forms a great record of the vast skills of the groups members. Classes are held in the room on a regular basis and new members are always welcome.

- **Cowra Aquatic Centre**  
(including meeting room)

- **Cowra Band Hall**

- **Cowra Ballet Studio**

The Cowra Ballet Studio rooms used to be the Railway Institute and housed pool tables and other recreational items. When State Rail called for tenders for its use, the Woodstock Car Club leased the building and sublet the space to the Ballet School. The Ballet School took over direct lease of the building from State Rail over 25 years ago and have had sole use of the facility for their dance classes ever since.

The building consists of 2 dance studios, a small kitchenette and two toilets (that are also used for excess storage!). Over 80 students are currently enrolled at the ballet school ranging from 3 years of age to more mature ladies. Class fees and fundraising pay for the rates, insurance and up keep of the building, teachers fees and some capital purchases over the years including ballet bars, mirrors, sound system and curtains.

The rooms are used after school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday and all day Saturday. 5 teachers are employed at the school and teach a variety of styles and disciplines.

- **Cowra Bridge Pylons Murals**

Aboriginal Artist Mr Kym Freeman has completed a series of murals on the Cowra Bridge Pylons. Previously a heavily vandalised site, Mr Freeman has incorporated indigenous themes with other aspects of Cowra's history to decorate the pylons. Mr Freeman has also had input from the local youth in the project with both Koori and non-Aboriginal school children placing their hand prints onto the pylons and a number of local schools contributing their ideas and art work into the murals. Since the murals inception, the

pylons have not been vandalised – a testament to the fact that by involving the youth in such projects, they adopt ownership of the site and are more likely to protect it in the future. Funding for the Bridge Pylon Project has come from Cowra Shire Council, Australian Arts Council and the Roads and the Traffic Authority.

- **Cowra Civic Centre**

The Cowra Civic Centre is available for hire for weddings, private functions, stage productions, touring artists and concerts. It houses full sound and lighting equipment and kitchen and bar facilities. It regularly hosts civic functions and events on Australia Day, Cowra's Festival of International Understanding and special Mayoral functions. To hire the Cowra Civic Centre for your next function, please complete the hiring schedule available from Cowra Shire Council.

- **Cowra Cemetery**

The earliest headstones in Cowra Cemetery are dated 4<sup>th</sup> February 1957 (No. 323, Julia Ellen Whitty, aged 6 years; also Patrick whitty died 21<sup>st</sup> March 1960 aged 45 years) and 6<sup>th</sup> November 1860 (No. 1997, William Ousby). The oldest age recorded on a headstone is 101 years (No. 2009, Mary Kennedy died 1889).

- **Cowra Council Meeting Rooms**

Cowra Shire Council's Public Meeting Room is accessed from Kendal Street, just next to the main entrance to the Customer Service Centre. The meeting room is available for hire for meetings and workshops and would best suit use by a small group. To hire this meeting room for your next meeting, please contact Cowra Shire Council on 6340 2000.

- **Cowra Family History Group Room**

The Cowra Family History Group Room is located within the Cowra Library complex and has a considerable depth of resources available to assist members to research their ancestry.

- **Cowra Family Support Services & Reconnect**

- **Cowra Function Centre**

- **Cowra Fun Museum**

Located 4km from the town centre, Cowra Fun Museum offers an extensive collection of War, Rail and Rural memorabilia housed in a 2 acre covered complex. Special features of the museum include a Cowra POW display, 14 working steam engines, a massive model train layout and antique shop.

- **Cowra Gem and Collectors Club**

The Cowra Gem & Collectors Club is a small club of people sharing a common interest in the fields of gem cutting and lapidary and collecting. A large range of display items and equipment are available for viewing and/or use under controlled conditions at their rooms at the Cowra Railway Station. The club also has a large number of display tables for hire by interested groups.

- **Cowra Historical Society Rooms**

The Cowra & District Historical Society rooms are located adjacent to the Cowra Visitors Centre and provide space for preservation, conservation, collection and research activities of the Cowra and District Historical Society and Museum Inc.

- **Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre**

Meeting room

- **Cowra Library**

Cowra Library is located in the former Waugoola Shire Council building in Darling Street opposite the Council Chambers and the Peace Bell. It is a service of Cowra Council and is supported by the Friends of Cowra Library. The Cowra Library is a branch of Central West Libraries, the regional library service located on the Central Tablelands and Western Slopes of New South Wales. Established in 1958 the Library encompasses the Local Government areas of Orange, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra and Forbes. There are branches at Blayney, Canowindra, Cowra, Forbes, Manildra, Molong and Orange. With 20,000 items to borrow, internet access and inter library loans from the extensive holdings of the Central West Libraries, Cowra's library is a vital community resource.

- **Cowra Military and Migrant Camps**

During WWII Cowra was the site of a major training base for tens of thousands of Australian Military personnel. After the war the camp saw the passage of people from all nations' intent on making a new life in Cowra.

- **Cowra Musical and Dramatic Society**

The Cowra M&D is always keen to work with other community groups with a view to increasing the cultural diversity of Cowra. The group has stage platforms, an extensive costume wardrobe, miscellaneous stage props and a spotlight for hire by interested organisations.

- **Cowra Peace Pathway**

Stage 1 of the Cowra Peace Pathway was launched on August 5 2004 as part of the official 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cowra Breakout Commemorations Program as a sign of the community's support for the continuing values of peace and reconciliation. The Pathway consists of a series of engraved pavers (purchased by individuals and companies) that will form part of a path that will lead visitors through the Cowra Rotary Arboretum, located on Binni Creek Road Cowra adjacent to the famous Cowra Japanese Garden. At each end of the Peace Pathway a professionally produced sign and photograph illustrates important events on the road to reconciliation between Cowra and Japan.

- **Cowra Prisoner of War Camp Art Collection**

In the late 1990s, Cowra Shire Council acquired from different sources, the 17 art works that now comprise the Cowra Prisoner of War Camp art collection. All pieces share a common theme of being created by Prisoners of War stationed at the Cowra POW site during its operation between 1941 and 1947. Included in the collection are 12 pencil and chalk drawings on fibreboard, a Japanese POW painting on silk parachute, three small paintings on canvas and two large plywood pieces painted by Italian POWs and recovered from the Catholic Chapel at the camp site when it was disassembled after the War in 1947. All works are currently stored at the Cowra Regional Art Gallery.

- **Cowra Railway Station**

Rooms currently leased by 6 Cowra community groups under control of State Rail NSW. Carpark used for Breast Screen Van. Passenger trains regularly operate with Lachlan Valley Railway.



- **Cowra Regional Art Gallery**

The Cowra Art Gallery is a contemporary art space located in Cowra Shire's cultural precinct, which includes the Cowra Library and the Council Chambers. The Gallery is a cultural facility of Cowra Shire Council and offers an exciting year-round exhibition and program schedule. Admission to the Gallery is free. The Gallery offers visitors the opportunity to view and appreciate works by national and international artists, from emerging artists not seen elsewhere to the acknowledged masters of our day.

Established in September 2000, and originally managed by a voluntary committee of five dedicated community members, the Gallery now has its first full time Director. The Friends of the Cowra Art Gallery (consisting of over 200 members) continue to provide valuable assistance to all Gallery operations as a volunteer labour source at exhibition set ups, pull downs and openings, workshops and with many fundraising functions.

The Gallery's flexible space, with versatile moving panels and state of the art lighting and climate control, allows for the presentation of outstanding touring exhibitions from Australian arts and cultural facilities, as well as specially curated exhibitions that are exciting and provocative. The Gallery offers an active year-round exhibition schedule, gallery talks, workshops, music and film programs that nurtures public understanding of both traditional and non-traditional artistic development and enjoyment. In its relatively short time of operation, the Cowra Art Gallery has established itself as one of the best regional galleries in NSW.

- **Cowra Rose Garden**

The Cowra Rose Garden contains 880 bushes and 130 varieties including the Cowra Rose. The original concept was suggested by Ben Swane of Swane's Nursery. The garden was established jointly by Cowra Shire Council and Cowra Tourist and Development Corporation and their enthusiastic Presidents at the time Cr. Cyril Treasure and Mrs Ngaire Mitchell. Alex Wood from Swane's Nursery designed the garden and 1,000 Swanes' roses were planted in June 1988. The gardens' establishment was supervised by experienced rose grower Bob Marshall. Ngaire Mitchell, Cowra Country Women's Association and the Cowra Garden Club each donated roses for the garden. Cowra Shire Council funded the garden and assumed responsibility for the gardens from the Cowra Tourist and Development Corporation in 1991.

A major restoration in 2001 involved the total reorganization of the garden, the replenishment of soil and some 550 new roses. Cowra Shire Council is particularly pleased that the garden has become such a popular place of interest for both locals and visitors. Many rose enthusiasts use the display to help choose particular varieties for their own garden.

The Cowra Rose, in the North East corner of the garden, is the result of a joint initiative by Cowra Shire Council, The Calleen Trust and Ben Swane in 1998 to celebrate the Cowra sesquicentenary, 150 years of the gazettal of the township of Cowra. A pamphlet on the rose garden with a plan of the beds and varieties is available from the Visitors Centre.

- **Cowra Senior Citizens Centre**

The Cowra Senior Citizens Centre is a wonderful facility offering a large meeting space, kitchen facilities, amenities, heating, cooling etc. for a wide range of community groups. The building is available for use by interested organisations (under special arrangement) and the Senior Citizens Association are always keen to promote the shared use of this facility.

- **Cowra Showground**
- **Cowra Showground Pavilion**
- **Cowra Visitors Centre**
- **Darbys Falls Observatory**

At Darbys Falls Observatory visitors can explore the universe with one of the largest telescopes available to the public, a 500mm Newtonian. Also available are the 400mm, 300mm and 200mm F10 Schmidt-Cassegrain instruments, a 6 inch refractor and a flat screen planetarium. The astronomers will show you around the night sky, pointing out the splendours of the heavens, including the Moon, planets, galaxies, star clusters, Saturn and its spectacular rings, Jupiter and its four moons and nebulae. Open every night conditions permitting.

- **Eagle Sculpture – Olympic Park**  
Original Design – Peter Slattery

Repainted in 2003 by Karin Duce of Mendooran.

- **Engraved Rocks Outside Japanese Garden**

The rock carvings in front of the Japanese Garden were completed by Kenichi Hiratsuka, who upon visiting the Japanese Garden was so impressed he wanted to create something to compliment it. The rock sculpture was created using the philosophy that 'there should be no social, economic, cultural or political distinction. We are all one, one line'. Running due North South, the twelve rocks are linked by one continuous line symbolising peace. Commissioned by Cowra Shire Council in 1987, his work collaborates with the history of each stone, respecting how it has been shaped by nature and man over continuous use and abuse transforming it finally into what he calls a 'fossil of the moment'. The project was completed in collaboration with the Cowra Art Group (who provided accommodation to the visiting sculptor during his stay) and local Service Clubs.

- **Erambie Mission**

Erambie Mission was built on the Cowra Reserve and the area known as 'the Mission' or 'the 32-acres', was declared an Aboriginal Reserve by the Board for the Protection of Aborigines in 1891. Aboriginal families associated with the Cowra district c.1900 were the Murray, Glass and Coe families. Erambie was an unmanaged reserve unlike the stations like 'Warangesda' and 'Brungle' in which the Aborigines Protection Board played a strong bureaucratic role.

- **Europa Park**

Europa Park is a memorial project designed to establish, landscape and interpret the large parkland area at the eastern entrance to Cowra. The park is situated at the entrance of the former Migrant Camp that operated from 1948 until 1955. Approximately 17,000 people are said to have passed through the camp. The park will be a permanent reminder and place of recognition for the families of these migrants who now return to Cowra looking for a glimpse of their past history.

- **Gateway Park on Boorowa Rd**
- **Glen Mortons Art Gallery**

Art Gallery of Rural Traditional Scenes from \$100 to \$2000, also a selection of Poultry paintings framed under glass for kitchens etc. Paintings are sent all over the world. The Studio/Gallery is joined to a very high standard Exhibition Poultry Shed where around 50 - 100 fowls can be viewed.

- **Gordon Andrews Fountain Sculpture**

The Fountain Sculpture was designed by Gordon Andrews and fabricated by the Transfield Sculpture Workshop. It is a free standing sculpture/fountain in a public space adjoining the Cowra Civic Centre. The vertical element is 13ft 6in high fabricated in steel. A 3/4in bore of water is directed vertically to strike a bronze lip which divides the water to each side of the opening. The fountain is mounted on a concrete base finished in local river pebbles which slopes down to a surrounding moat. It is sited on a grass embankment sloping down the street. The pump unit is located separately in a well in the grass area. This piece is a typical example of the type of sculpture which developed in Australia during the 1960s and 70s. This was when traditional ways of seeing sculpture were being challenged due to the forces of abstraction. Steel and metals became popular materials for their aesthetic qualities and as a symbol for the modern age.

- **Heritage Quilt - Cowra Civic Centre**

- **Hotels, Pubs, Clubs & Cafés**

- **landra Castle**

Located on the Young Rd between Cowra and Grenfell, landra Castle is evidence of a prosperous time in Australian History. This impressive property was established by George Henry Greene from 1878-1911. Greene pioneered share farming in NSW in 1892, and soon after the turn of the century, landra produced the largest yield of wheat for that time - 100,000 bags. All the grandeur of yesteryear remains at landra, with the faithful restoration of the homestead by David Morris through the 1970's. landra embodies the iconic, optimistic image of Australia as 'The Lucky Country', appreciated now by the grandeur of the surviving, Edwardian Estate.

- **Italian Altar Panels**

The two altar panels were created in 1946 by Italian Prisoners of War stationed at the Cowra Prisoner of War Camp during WWII. The two altar panels adorned the Catholic Chapel at the camp site. One of the paintings is signed by Pieraccini, ITAL. P.W. 7-9-46, and the other art work is believed to have been painted by a second Italian POW, Vanucci. Each painting is 1870mm in height and 770mm wide. Each painting is on 5mm plywood support with a fitted wooden frame to prevent the plywood from cockling.

When the POW Camp was disassembled in 1947, the altar panels were retrieved the site by the camp chaplains, and handed to the parish priest at St Raphael's Catholic Church. The Italian Altar panels were purchased by Cowra Shire Council in the late 1990's from a local resident who had acquired the art works during a clean out of items in storage at St Raphael's Catholic Church and Presbytery. The works have been stored at the Cowra Art Gallery since its construction in 2000.

The two altar panels have been viewed by Lola Wilkins, Head Curator at the Australian War Memorial and National Gallery of Australia Senior Curator, Australian Prints and Drawings, Roger Butler. Both Curators spoke with much excitement about the art items, and in particular spoke of them being greatly significant to Australian art history due to the figures being in a traditional Italian religious style but the surrounding landscape depicting

Australian flora, landscape and the barbed wire of the POW Camp. It is this fusion of elements that make the altar paintings unique and reflective of a distinct and exceptional style of great relevance to Australian art history.

- **Italiani Di Cowra**

Situated at Mulligan Vineyard, Italiani Di Cowra is a permanent display of photographs depicting Italian Prisoners of War, in and around Cowra during WWII.

- **Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre**

Ken Nakajima created the 4.8 hectare Kaiyushiki (strolling) garden which represents the landscapes of Japan where the hill is the mountain, streams are rivers while ponds are inland lakes and the sea. The Cultural Centre adjoins the Garden and has two galleries featuring an extensive collection of Japanese works of art and artefacts. A third gallery houses rotating exhibitions highlighting the work of talented local artists. The garden also features a working pottery house, tatami room and teahouse and the display/exhibition space, conference facilities and restaurant are available for use by interested organisations.

- **Japanese Garden Convention Centre/Theatrette**

In 2008, the Japanese Garden Pottery House was converted into an 80 seat convention centre, complete with a small stage, and audio visual equipment to make it suitable for use as a theatrette, performance space and convention centre.

- **John Moon Memorial Rotary Arboretum**

Previously known as the Cowra Rotary Arboretum, the John Moon Memorial Rotary Arboretum was established in 1976 at the entrance to the Japanese Garden, as a collection of native specimen trees.

On Saturday 15 July 2006, the Arboretum was officially re-named the John Moon Memorial Rotary Arboretum in honour of local Cowra identity, John Moon who was instrumental in the establishment of the Arboretum in the 1970's.

- **Kalari Cellar Door and Art Gallery**

Kalari is a strong supporter of the local art scene and provide a venue for artists to display their work in the Kalari Art Gallery.

- **Lachlan River**

The Lachlan River was named after Governor Lachlan Macquarie by its European discoverer, Assistance Surveyor George Evans who reached it on 27 May 1815. Wiradjuri people once controlled most of the river that they called Calar. Along its reaches were several local groups who used the river and creeks as tracks along which they travelled to trade and share in ceremonies. The river was a rich source, attracting many birds, animals and fish, and it was a constant theme in Wiradjuri social and spiritual life. The river, now shared with many other, continues to be an important part of the cultural life and history of the Wiradjuri people.

- **Lachlan Valley Railway**

Lachlan Valley Railway operates a unique Railway museum featuring an authentic (circa 1923) Locomotive Depot & Steam Roundhouse. A modest admission fee applies to the museum, with special rates available for large groups. Light refreshments, videos, books and souvenirs can be purchased from the main entry building. BBQ facilities are available on site as are toilets and rest areas. LVR regularly conducts special train trips around the Lachlan

Valley, visiting many of the beautiful and historic towns and villages in the region. For these trips LVR uses restored heritage carriages and locomotives. During the cooler months the steam locomotive is regularly used to haul these trains. LVR also offers a train charter service for business and private functions.

- **Mosaic at Toddlers Pool (Cowra Aquatic Centre)**

In 1998, Cowra Shire Council undertook extensive refurbishments at the Cowra Olympic Pool. One aspect of these refurbishments included the heating and re-tiling of the toddlers pool. Council announced a competition to give all Cowra residents the opportunity to design the artistic mosaic that would be permanently tiled into the floor of the pool. The Mosaic Design Competition attracted over 2000 imaginative entries, the vast majority of which were from Cowra's young people. The result is a bright and attractive tiled toddlers pool that the whole community is extremely proud of, as too is the young Cowra person, Elizabeth Ticehurst who now has her art work permanently displayed at the site.

- **Multipurpose Room of Cowra Library**

The Multipurpose Meeting Room is situated between the Cowra Art Gallery and Cowra Library on Darling St. The Room is available for hire to the public for meetings and workshops, catering for small to large groups. Tea making facilities and amenities are available. To hire the Multipurpose Room for your next meeting, please contact the Cowra Library on 6340 2180.

- **Mural on River Park Reservoir**

The 'River Park Community Art Project' was undertaken in 2002, following funding from the NSW Attorney General's Department 'Beat Graffiti Grants Scheme'. The project provided the opportunity for the Cowra Community (and in particular the youth of Cowra) to use their creativity to transform a highly vandalised water reservoir building into a bright mural of sporting motifs (canvas of 63m X 3m). The mural was designed and executed with the involvement of numerous interest groups, under the guidance of a professional artist. The result is a vibrant artwork that displays the diversity of sport and recreation opportunities in Cowra Shire, in a sequential and active manner.

The project resulted in the strengthening in relationships between many sectors of the Cowra community. Project partners included Cowra Shire Council, Cowra and Canowindra High schools, Cowra TAFE, Cowra Centre for Special Learning (Post School Options), Erambie Aboriginal Corporation, Cowra PCYC, local media (print and radio) and the indigenous and non-indigenous community as a whole.

- **Pardey Collection - Prints**

Print copies made by Family History Group  
Framed prints housed at Art Gallery (Council has the register) and some at McDonalds Cowra.

- **Pardey Collection of Negatives**

The Pardey Collection comprises of an unknown quantity of negatives accumulated by studio photographer George Pardey and retained by successive owners of his business that record the social history of Cowra and district from the late 1880's to the 1960's. It includes an estimated 80,000 negatives including boxes of 35mm negatives and approximately 500 glass plate negatives. Approximately 90% of the collection comprises of images of people including an extensive record of WWII soldiers, guards and post war immigrants. The collection also features a comprehensive account of the major events that have helped shape Cowra as a community, including the Cowra POW Breakout, the

opening of the first Cowra traffic bridge and the construction of Wyangala Dam. The negatives were purchased by Cowra Shire Council in December 2005, off the previous private owner, Don & Julie Collins (Fletchers Photographics) who acquired the collection when they purchased the photography business.

- **Police Citizens Youth Club**

- **POW Theatre (Cowra Visitors Centre)**

Located at the Cowra Visitor Information Centre, the P.O.W. Theatre is a 9 minute hologram that tells an interactive story of the breakout by Japanese Prisoners of War at Cowra during WWII in 1944. The Theatre is a small tin hut that is a replica of those found at the Cowra Prisoner of War Camp during World War II. 'Clare' the hologram is a young woman who tells the story from a local perspective while interacting with original artefacts from the Camp. The presentation is aimed at raising awareness of the historical significance of Cowra in modern military history and in encouraging visitation to other local attractions and locations of historical importance.

- **Presbyterian Church (Original)**

Built in 1861 and situated behind the new Presbyterian Church in Macquarie St

- **Presbyterian Church Hall**

- **Rotary Club of Cowra Time Capsule (2)**

Situated in Olympic Park, buried Year 2000 to be opened again Year 2025. Contains personal treasures and history of residents of Cowra Shire.

- **Sakura Avenue**

When completed Sakura Avenue will feature 2000 cherry trees connecting the Japanese and Cowra War Cemeteries, the POW campsite and Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre.

- **Savoy Cinema**

- **Schools – Cowra High, St Raphael's Central, Mulyan, Cowra Public, Wyangala Dam Public, Gooloogong Public, Holmwood Public, Holman Place Public**

- **Stained Glass Window from Cowra Guide Hall**

- **St Raphael's Church Hall**

- **St Raphael's Heritage Centre**

- **Tiles around the Peace Bell Pavilion**

The tiles decorating the Peace Bell Pavilion and on the wall of the Council building were made by local students, community groups and individuals as part of an arts project organised by the Cowra Arts Council. A number of the original tiles were removed when the Council buildings were redeveloped in 1999/2000. It is hoped that eventually all the tiles will be restored.

- **Wineries & Cellar Doors**

The Mill (function rooms upstairs), Quarry, Mulyan, Chiverton and others

- **Woodstock Showground**

- **Wyangala Dam**

The surface area of the dam is two and a half times the size of Sydney Harbour. The capacity of the dam is 1,217,600 mega litres. The catchment area is 828,800 hectares. The length of the wall is 1,510 metres. Work on the first dam commenced in 1928. A second dam was proposed to increase the storage capacity for irrigation. Work commenced in 1961 and was completed in 1971.

# COMMUNITY WAR MEMORIALS

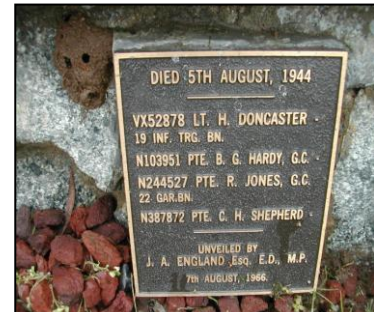
## Cowra Prisoner of War Camp Site

The Cowra Prisoner of War Camp site, operating 1941-1947 was constructed to house largely Italian POWs captured by Allied Forces during WWII but came to house prisoners from a number of countries including Italy, Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, Java and Japan. The first internees (Italians) arrived on 15 October 1941.

The Cowra POW Camp is listed on the State Heritage Register, and acknowledged by the Heritage Council under the NSW Heritage Act as the site of the only land battle fought on Australian soil during WWII and the site of the largest escape of POW's in modern history (the Cowra Breakout in August 1944). The site is recognised as having significant National significance and the camp site itself, and many items associated with the camp featuring highly on the Australian War Memorial's collections database.

### ➤ POW Cairn

The POW Cairn marks the site of the Japanese Breakout at Cowra in 1944. The first plaque tells the story of the Breakout and acknowledges the casualties sustained by the Japanese POW, and Australian Soldiers. The cairn was erected by Cowra Municipal Council Mayor, A.J. Oliver. The second plaque acknowledges the 4 Australian soldiers who died as a result on the Breakout on 5 August 1944. The plaque was unveiled by J.A. England Esq. E.D. M.P. on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1966.



### ➤ POW Camp Italian Memorial

This monument has been erected by the Italian community in Australia to the memory of the Italian Prisoners of War who died in POW camps and to those of all nations who have fallen in times of war. Established 9<sup>th</sup> November 1997 by the Consul General of Italy and Cowra RSL.





### **Cowra Railway War Memorial**

Located on Railway Land adjacent to the Cowra Locomotive Depot (Lachlan Valley Railway) in Campbell St. This war memorial fountain consists of a hand holding a grenade with a sprinkler at its apex, above a large tray with four equidistant spouts and a fish pond at ground level. There are four planting boxes at each corner of the pond with a pebbled area around the perimeter. Two small plaques (one for each World War) with names of rail employees who served in each war are placed at the base of the memorial.



### **Cowra Italy Friendship Monument – Fred Arnold Park**

Unveiled in 1997, the monument commemorates Italians who served on the side of the Allies, Italian POW's in Cowra and Italian and Australian service personnel who died during WWI.



### **Doncaster Memorial**

This Memorial was erected to honour VX52878 Lt. H. (Harry) Doncaster E.M, a brave soldier of the 2/8<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion who was killed near the site in the line of duty on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1944. The Memorial was erected by the 2/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Association and the Cowra Breakout Association. The land was donated by Mary Weingarth.

### **Cowra War Cemetery**

The Cowra War Cemetery contains 27 war graves comprising 26 Australian Army and an officer of the RAF. Buried in Cowra General Cemetery are six WWII Casualties of the Australian Army and one WWI casualty of the same

service. Maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission the Cowra War Cemetery has become a showpiece for modern military cemeteries.

### **Garrison Gates**

Built by the Italians, the gateway marks the entrance to the POW Camp which existed during WWII, built through the assistance of Cowra Shire Council. Through the efforts of the Cowra Sub-branch of the RSL and the Cowra Breakout Association, it is preserved and has been dedicated in commemoration on the Australian Serviceman who gave their lives in subduing the outbreak at the camp in August 1944. Unveiled by A.J. Oliver MBE, President of Cowra Shire Council in August 1992.



### **Japanese War Cemetery**

The only Japanese War Cemetery to be retained in Australia, it contains the remains of those Japanese soldiers who were killed in the Breakout and all Japanese Nationals who died on Australian soil during WWII.

### **Honour Roll – Cowra Services Club**

#### **HMAS Cowra Memorial**

The Memorial to the crew of HMAS, located at the Cenotaph is Brisbane St (Outside the Cowra Services Club) was dedicated on 15 March 2006. HMAS COWRA was one of sixty minesweepers similar to the 'Bangor' class of the Royal Navy built in Australian shipyards under the wartime Commonwealth Government Shipbuilding Program. Twenty were constructed on behalf of the Admiralty, but commissioned and manned by the Royal Australian Navy; thirty-six (including COWRA) were built for the RAN and the remaining four for the Indian Navy.

#### **Lone Pine Park**

Featuring a tree propagated from the seed of the famous Lone Pine in Gallipoli, the park is a direct link between Cowra and the story of the first Anzacs.

#### **Memorial Avenue**

The Boorowa Road and Grenfell Road were selected by the 'Women's Club' of Cowra during 1917 as an ideal location to plant 465 trees in remembrance of all the Australian soldiers from the Cowra district who served their country during the first world War. The variety of trees planted were *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* (Sugar Gum), *Grevillea robusta* (Silky Oak), and *Schinus molle* (Peppercorn Tree). The trees were planted on Arbor Day 1917. All

trees used in the original planting were donated by the Sydney Botanical Gardens. The Avenue was officially opened during 1918 with the deputy premier of NSW and senior military officials present on the day. The Boorowa Road section of the Avenue was located on the road that linked Cowra with Canberra, the site of the National War Memorial.

Each soldier was allocated a tree with a register detailing the event. Unfortunately the trees and the soldiers details were not corresponded in the field which has made it difficult to match the trees up with existing records. Memorial Avenue has been restored with missing trees replaced to once again represent the numbers of soldiers listed on the Honour Roll.

### **Squire Park Bronze Relief**

This sculpture, unveiled as part of the POW Breakout 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations in 1995, remembers the four Australians who died in the Breakout.

### **Lest We Forget Gates**

River Park

### **Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall**

## REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE

<http://www.deh.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl>

- **ANZ Bank**  
125 Kendal St, Cowra, NSW
- **Calare (former)**  
105 Brisbane St, Cowra, NSW
- **Cliefden Caves and Needles Gap Areas**  
Cliefden Caves via Lyndhurst, NSW
- **Conimbla National Park**  
Kangaroooby Rd, Gooloogong, NSW
- **Cowra Courthouse**  
Kendal St, Cowra, NSW
- **Cowra Prisoner of War Camp (former)**  
Evans St, Cowra, NSW
- **Indigenous Place**  
Bungerellingong via Gooloogong, NSW
- **Lachlan River Rail Bridge at Cowra**  
Blayney Harden Railway Line, Cowra, NSW
- **Lachlan River Road Bridge at Cowra (former)**  
Mid Western Hwy, Cowra, NSW
- **Morongla Creek Cemetery**  
Morongla Creek Rd, Morongla Creek via Wattamondara, NSW
- **Woodstock Cemetery Woodland Remnant**  
Woodstock, NSW

# STATUTORY LISTED ITEMS

<http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/>

## **Section 1:**

### **Items listed by the Heritage Council under the NSW Heritage Act**

- **Cowra Prisoner of War Camp Site**  
Evans Street, Cowra 2794
- **Cowra Rail Bridge over Lachlan River**  
Blayney-Harden railway, Cowra 2794
- **Cowra Railway Station and yard group**  
Blayney-Harden Railway, Cowra 2794
- **Woodstock Railway Station**  
Blayney-Harden Railway, Woodstock

## **Section 2:**

### **Items listed by Local Government and State agencies**

- **ANZ Bank (LGOV)**  
125 Kendal St
- **Australian Hotel (LGOV)**  
Smith St
- **Contour Banks (SGOV)**  
Binni Creek Rd
- **Cowra Agricultural Research and Advisory Station (SGOV)**  
Binni Creek Rd
- **Cowra Courthouse (LGOV)**  
Kendal St
- **Cowra Fire Station (SGOV)**  
120 Kendal St
- **Cowra Rail Underbridge (SGOV)**  
Lachlan River
- **Cowra Station and Yard Group (SGOV)**
- **Cowra Steam Mill (LGOV)**  
6 Vaux St
- **Farm Buildings (SGOV)**  
Binni Creek Rd

- **Farrer Barn (LGOV & SGOV)**  
Binni Creek Rd
- **Lachlan River Underbridge (SGOV)**  
Approach Girders to Lattice Bridge
- **Lachlan River Underbridge (SGOV)**  
Lattice Bridge South of Station on Harden Line
- **Swan Ponds Water Supply (SGOV)**
- **Woodstock Station (SGOV)**  
Woodstock

## **COWRA LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 1990 – AMMENDED**

- **The Australian Hotel**  
Corner Bridge/Smith Sts, Cowra 2794
- **Courthouse**  
Corner Brisbane/Kendal Streets, Cowra 2794
- **ANZ Bank**  
Kendal St, Cowra 2794
- **Former Golden Spray Roller Flour Mill**  
Between Lachlan and Macquarie Streets, Cowra 2794
- **Farrer Barn**  
Agricultural Research Station, Cowra 2794
- **POW Camp**  
North Cowra, Cowra 2794

## **COWRA SHIRE HERITAGE INVENTORY**

Compiled in 2003 by Heritage Archaeology  
in conjunction with the Cowra Shire Community Heritage Study

1. ANZ Bank, Kendal Street;
2. Australian Hotel, Smith Street;
3. Farrer Barn – Agricultural Research and Advisory Station, Cowra;
4. Cowra Prisoner of War Campsite, Evans Street;
5. Cowra Courthouse;
6. Cowra Steam Mill (“The Mill”) Vaux Street;
7. Rail Bridge over the Lachlan River, Cowra;
8. Woodstock Railway Station;
9. Cowra Railway Station and Yard Group;
10. Farleigh Homestead;
11. Jerula Homestead Complex, Darby’s Falls Road;
12. Jerula Private Cemetery;
13. Jerula Cottage;
14. Cudgelo Homestead Complex;
15. North Logan Private Cemetery;
16. Morongla Creek Cemetery;
17. Mechanics Institute, Morongla;
18. Gooloogong Hotel (formerly the Commercial Hotel), Gooloogong;
19. Site of St Stephens Church of England and Cemetery, Forbes Road, Gooloogong;
20. Log Cabin Community Hall, Gooloogong;
21. Croote Cottage, Kangaroooby Road, Gooloogong;
22. Original Settlement Site, Lachlan River at Gooloogong;
23. St Peter’s Presbyterian Church, Macquarie Street, Cowra;
24. Mt McDonald Cemetery, off Elliot’s Road, Mt McDonald;
25. Imperial Hotel, Kendal Street, Cowra;
26. Fagan’s Buildings, Kendal Street, Cowra;
27. Cowra Cycle Depot (former) 14 Kendal Street, Cowra;
28. Oxley Building, Kendal Street, Cowra;
29. “Paradise” Macquarie Street, Cowra;
30. Grave of John Grant on Merriganowry;
31. Holman Bridge over the Lachlan River, Gooloogong;
32. Woodstock Cemetery White Box Woodland Remnant;
33. “Glenleigh” Private Cemetery;
34. “Milton”;
35. Woods Flat Gold Mining Area, Woodstock;
36. Royal Hotel, Noyeau Street, Woodstock;
37. Original Street Malachy’s Catholic Church, Gooloogong;
38. Billimari Public Hall
39. St Thomas’ Catholic School, Gooloogong;
40. Catholic Convent (former), Gooloogong;
41. Catholic Presbytery, Forbes Street, Gooloogong;
42. Sheet O’Bark Burial Ground, Mid-Western Highway, Woodstock;
43. Conimbla National Park;
44. Walli Cemetery;
45. Bungerellingong Reserve Cemetery, off Lachlan Valley Way, Gooloogong;
46. Cowra Show Pavilion;
47. Old Grandstand, Cowra Showground;



48. Cowra Jockey Club Entrance Gates, Grenfell Road;
49. Brougham Park Entrance Gates;
50. Horse Stalls, Cowra Showground;
51. Pise Cottage, Warrawong, Forbes Road;
52. Slab Hut, Warrawong, Forbes Road;
53. St Raphael's Brigidine Convent/First Catholic Church Building;
54. Reid Smith Ltd Building, Kendal Street;
55. Solders Flat Cemetery Site;
56. Cliefden Caves and Needles Gap Area;
57. Ilfracombe, Kendal Street;
58. Great Western Hotel (former) Lachlan Street;
59. "Wool Wash" Site, Milton, Holmwood;
60. Italian POW Cottage, Warrawong;
61. War Memorial Hall, Woodstock;
62. Cliefden Homestead;
63. Site of Cobb & Co., Changing Station/Myers Residence, Gooloogong;
64. "Greenshades" Cassidy's Homestead & Barn, Lot 74, Settlement Bridge Road;
65. Neila Homestead and Shearing Shed;
66. Stone Building – Ruin POW Camp Site;
67. Myorie, Lachlan Street, Cowra;
68. Horse Engine – Badgery Road;
69. Iambie Park, Boorowa Road;
70. Pise Cottage – Corner Pitt and Kibbler Streets, Cowra;
71. The Grange, Boorowa Road, Morongla;
72. North Logan Homestead;
73. Great Western Milling Co. Residence - Billimari