

# Hunter New England Local Health District

## Werris Creek Information Booklet

*March 2016*



**Health**  
Hunter New England  
Local Health District

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## Liverpool Plains Shire



Home of the Kamilaroi people, incorporating Quirindi, Werris Creek, Willow Tree, Premer, Spring Ridge, Currabubula, Wallabadah, Pine Ridge, Mount Parry, Ardglen, Carooka, Walhallow, Tamarang, Colly Blue, Bundella, Yarraman, Blackville, Old Warrah and Piallaway.

Strategically nestled in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, near Sydney, the Central Coast, the Hunter and the Mid-North Coast, Liverpool Plains Shire is the perfect place for that well deserved vacation. A mosaic of colours displayed by the fields of sunflowers, sorghum, canola, corn, Lucerne and wheat provide the perfect backdrop whilst travelling through the picturesque hills, valleys and sweeping plains.

Visit the many great attractions including:

- The award winning Australian Railway Monument and Rail Journeys Museum
- Bird Routes of the Liverpool Plains
- The award winning First and Second Fleet Memorial Gardens
- Who'd A Thought It Lookout
- Quirindi Rural Heritage Village & Museum
- Quirindi Historical Cottage & Museum
- Quipolly Dam & Bird Hide
- Stock Brands of the Liverpool Plains

Take the trip to the Liverpool Plains and see why the locals are so proud of their flourishing communities. Experience the true rural lifestyle, friendly country charm and spoil yourself at our unique specialty shops and eateries – you can't go wrong journeying through the Liverpool Plains.

Be sure to check out the Quirindi Country Drives and Top Attractions brochures.

## Werris Creek

20 km north-east of Quirindi, and again following the path that Mitchell took, is Werris Creek - Australia's first railway town.

As with this entire region, the Werris Creek area is thought to have been formerly occupied by the Kamilaroi Aborigines. The first Europeans were squatters who were in the area by the 1830s and there were a handful of pastoral families occupying the valley by the early 1870s. On the eastern side of the present town site was Summer Hill station which belonged to John Single, after whom the main street is named.



The town developed when a camp of railway workers was set-up to build the northern line from Quirindi to Tamworth. The railway was officially opened to Werris Creek in 1878 and a station was built the following year.

The town's impressive railway station which is the Australian Railway Monument consists of three linked main buildings of two-stories. The Monument promises to be the rail icon of the nation and the perfect location to step on a steam train for a ride. All aboard!

The town is not only what rail historians dream about, it is still the major rail junction for the northern and north western parts of New South Wales and is an important service centre supporting a diversification of agricultural pursuits.

A large grain silo complex is also in operation. If you'd like a break from looking at locomotives, drive to the top of the hill on which the town is situated. The backdrop of rolling hills can be breathtaking in the warm glow of an afternoon. The town's swimming pool is also located on the top of the rise. This community driven project was opened in 1968 and the unusual architectural design has drawn a great deal of praise over the years.



## Getting to Werris Creek from Sydney:

Approximately a 4 hour drive (360kms) from Sydney – Get on to the M1 Freeway and head north following the signs for Newcastle. Follow the M1 to its termination and go straight ahead at the roundabout. At Beresfield, turn left for Maitland onto the New England Highway. Follow the New England Highway to Willow Tree, turn left onto Kamilaroi Highway continue through Quirindi to Werris Creek.

[www.travelmate.com.au/MapMaker/Mapmaker.asp](http://www.travelmate.com.au/MapMaker/Mapmaker.asp) will allow you to obtain printable driving instructions and approximate times between legs of the journey.

## Getting to Werris Creek from Brisbane:

From Brisbane head west towards Ipswich then follow the Cunningham Highway to Warwick. At Warwick, follow the New England Highway South to Tamworth and then to Werris Creek (approx. 8hrs)

## Transport Links:

### By Train

[CityRail](#) offers daily frequent commuter rail services to Newcastle and the lower Hunter. [CountryLink](#) trains link to Quirindi on a daily basis.

### By Coach

[Greyhound Pioneer](#) operate daily between Sydney and the Hunter. [Rover Coaches](#) provide transport to the Hunter Valley Wine Country from throughout the region and Keans Travel Express provides transfers from Sydney to Hunter Valley Wine Country and the Upper Hunter Country.

### By Air

Tamworth Airport has a daily air service to Sydney and Brisbane. Quirindi is approximately 40 minutes drive from Tamworth.

## Health

Construction of the new \$11.2 million Werris Creek Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) health facility was completed in July 2012.

A MPS is a health service facility that provides a mix of services in one location. Werris Creek MPS is a one-stop-shop for health services including acute services, community health, GP services, residential aged care and specialist visiting services. By having all services located together, doctors, nurses and allied health are able to provide more coordinated care to patients.

Werris Creek MPS includes:-

- A range of community health services, provided by local and visiting staff
- Flexible consulting and examination room for use by GP, practice nurse and other visiting health professionals.
- Four low-care hospital beds (including respite and palliative care places)
- A first aid and treatment service
- 12 residential aged care beds
- Home and Community Care (HACC)
- Aboriginal Health Services
- Day centre to provide activities for older people
- Early Childhood Health Clinic
- Telehealth facilities
- Staff accommodation



## Rental or Permanent Accommodation

For a comprehensive listing of Australian rental properties, for sale and information relating to home loans and lending authorities, visit the Realestate.com website at: <http://www.realestate.com.au/> or try these local real estate agencies.

### **Julie Green Real Estate Pty Ltd**

230 George Street  
Quirindi NSW 2343  
Phone: (02) 6746 3133

### **Jim Greenland & Co**

199 George Street  
Quirindi NSW 2343  
Phone: (02) 6746 1044

### **Keith Bell & Son First National Real Estate**

36 Station Street  
Quirindi NSW 2343  
Phone: (02) 6746 1270

### **Davidson Cameron & Co.**

George Street  
Quirindi NSW 2343  
Phone: (02) 6746 2177

Ray White Quirindi  
26 George Street  
Quirindi NSW 2343  
Phone: (02) 6746 1270



## Child Care

### Playgroups

#### **Playgroups**

Playgroup Association of NSW Inc.

Email: [admin@playgroupnsw.com.au](mailto:admin@playgroupnsw.com.au)

Phone: 1800 171 882

### Childcare and Preschool

#### **Werris Creek & District Pre-School**

Dewhurst Street

Werris Creek NSW 2341

Phone: (02) 6768 7004

#### **NewTrain Family Day Care**

Shop 6 Tanya Arcade

63 Maitland Street

Narrabri NSW 2390

Phone: (02) 6792 4022

#### **Family Day Care**

9 day care homes in the Quirindi area

Phone: (02) 6746 3587

#### **Quirindi East Side Child Care Centre**

East Street

Quirindi NSW 2343

Phone: (02) 6746 3015

#### **Quirindi Pre-School**

Allnutt Street

Quirindi NSW 2343

Phone: 6746 1894

Fax: 6746 3266

Email: [gdipreschool@northnet.com.au](mailto:gdipreschool@northnet.com.au)

### Out of School Hours Care

#### **Family Day Care**

9 day care homes in the Quirindi area

Phone: (02) 6746 3587

## Education

A list of primary and secondary schools follows. Click on the links for more information.

### Primary Schools

#### **Werris Creek Public School**

Dewhurst Street  
Werris Creek NSW 2341  
Phone: (02) 6768 7065

#### **St Joseph's Catholic School**

18 Thomas Street  
QUIRINDI NSW 2343

#### **Postal Address:**

St Joseph's Primary School  
PO BOX 309  
QUIRINDI NSW 2343

Phone: (02) 67461033

Fax: (02) 67462606

**Office Email:** [admin@stjosephsquirindi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@stjosephsquirindi.catholic.edu.au)

**Principal Email:** [principal@stjosephsquirindi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@stjosephsquirindi.catholic.edu.au)

<http://www.stjosephsquirindi.nsw.edu.au/school/education/home.asp>

### Secondary Schools

#### **Quirindi High School**

Hill Street  
Quirindi NSW 2343  
Phone: (02) 6746 1177  
Fax: (02) 6746 2648  
Email: [quirindi-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:quirindi-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

## TAFE

Located in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, TAFE NSW New England Institute Quirindi campus provides courses and flexible learning options to meet the needs of the district's rural communities and small businesses.

Quirindi campus also offers courses in retail, aged care, business studies, child studies, information technology (computers) and general & vocational education.

For more information contact the campus.

[http://www.newengland.tafensw.edu.au/services\\_and\\_facilities/campuses/quirindi.aspx](http://www.newengland.tafensw.edu.au/services_and_facilities/campuses/quirindi.aspx)

Quirindi Campus  
Henry and East Streets  
Quirindi NSW 2343  
Phone: (02)6746 4100  
Fax: (02) 6746 4110



## Things to See and Do

### Australian Railway Monument & Rail Journeys Museum

A celebration of Australian history in the first and last railway town in New South Wales, the Australian Railway Monument & Rail Journeys Museum capture the essence of railway life in Australia. Built as a memorial to those who died whilst working to develop our nation's infrastructure, the Australian Railway Monument is a sight to behold. Opened in October 2005, the six evocative structures of the monument are set on the backdrop of the impressive historical Werris Creek Railway Station. Search the name walls of this sobering commemoration and acknowledge those who died on duty.



### Quipolly Dam & Bird Hide

A flora and fauna sanctuary, a "must" for the bird lover! The Liverpool Plains is known for its many and varied bird species such as the Diamond Firetail and Black-chinned Honeyeater. This dam is known worldwide and has a newly constructed Bird Hide on the edge of the dam. The Bird Hide overlooks this pristine flora and fauna sanctuary. According to some sources the dam filled with silt during the 1940's, attributed to the rabbit plagues and developed a habitat which attracts both water and woodland birds. The sanctuary continues upstream along the creek for about 1km.



### Stock Brands of the Liverpool Plains



The centrepiece of the footpaths in the Quirindi Main Street celebrates the earliest known sheep and cattle runs on the Liverpool Plains. The brands are derived from the "Large Stock Brands Directory of NSW", 1954 and the "Sheep Brands & Marks Directory of NSW", 1954.

Evidence suggests that sheep and cattle were moving through the Liverpool Plains in the early 1820's.

Most of the Brands are those not originally associated with the properties but belong to known owners. Brands were required by law after 1866 and there are a number of stories relating to getting cattle inspectors drunk or driving off their horses so that property owners did not have their stock confiscated.

On a more practical note before the days of fencing and when cattle were driven to market, brands were the only way to separate mobs that may have accidentally been drawn together.

Brands or ear tags are mandatory to this day and are becoming more and more digitized and sophisticated. In some instances the classic branding iron has been replaced by a freeze dried brand which removes pigment from the hair follicles of the beast.

### **Who'd-A-Thought It Lookout**

To embrace the full beauty of the area the Whod-A-Thought It Lookout is a must. A full 360 degree expanse offers panoramic views of the town, the Liverpool Plains and the Great Dividing Range. It's the picnic perfect location to watch the sun set and contemplate how the region once supported oceanic coral reefs and beaches and now crops such as sorghum, wheat, cotton, sunflowers, lucerne and corn. The Lookout also has a location compass providing distances to various places of interest as the crow flies.



## Arts and Culture

### The Currabubula Red Cross Art Show

Each year the historic Currabubula Memorial Hall is transformed into an art lover's paradise. The exhibition fills every available space with a wide variety of artworks from across the country and now internationally.

Opening night sees the announcement of the winners of each category with some fine finger food and refreshments on hand to celebrate.

### There's Something for Everybody!

The Currabubula Red Cross Art Show is more than just great art, it's a day out for the whole family to enjoy with handmade silver jewellery, handmade treasures and beautiful woodwork all set in a lovely rural environment.

Bring the family for a great day out and help us support the Australian Red Cross.

### Quirindi Royal Theatre



The Royal Theatre in Quirindi began showing its first films in 1930 to the delight of the local community and the big screen continued to light up for the next 76 years, albeit intermittently. While patronage was patchy at times, it was with great disappointment to the community that the last movie was shown in 2006 by the then owners who had spent considerable time and effort over the years to bring the big screen to Quirindi. In 2008 the Liverpool Plains Shire Council purchased the building with the aim of restoring it to its

former glory and grants from four different funding bodies were obtained to enable the project to proceed.

More than 50 volunteers also donated their time to clean up and paint the theatre to assist in keeping costs within budget. On April 13 2010 the Quirindi Royal Theatre officially opened and the following month the first live theatre performance was staged to a full house. With the assistance of one of the Theatre's former owners, John Mitchell, a group of volunteers was trained to operate the projection equipment and in the first week of September the Theatre resumed screening movies. These are now held every fortnight and on other weekends a variety of events are staged from live theatre to musical performances, school plays and fund raising activities. The Theatre is operated by volunteers and the community has rediscovered a timeless treasure.

Acknowledgment is made to the following funding bodies:

Liverpool Plains Shire Council (\$152,000), State Government (\$155,000), Federal Government \$338,000 and BHP Billiton (\$115,000).

## Churches and Places of Worship

### Anglican Church

Phone: (02) 6768 7619



### Baptist Church

Phone: (02)6762 0968

### Roman Catholic Church

Phone: (02)6768 7447

