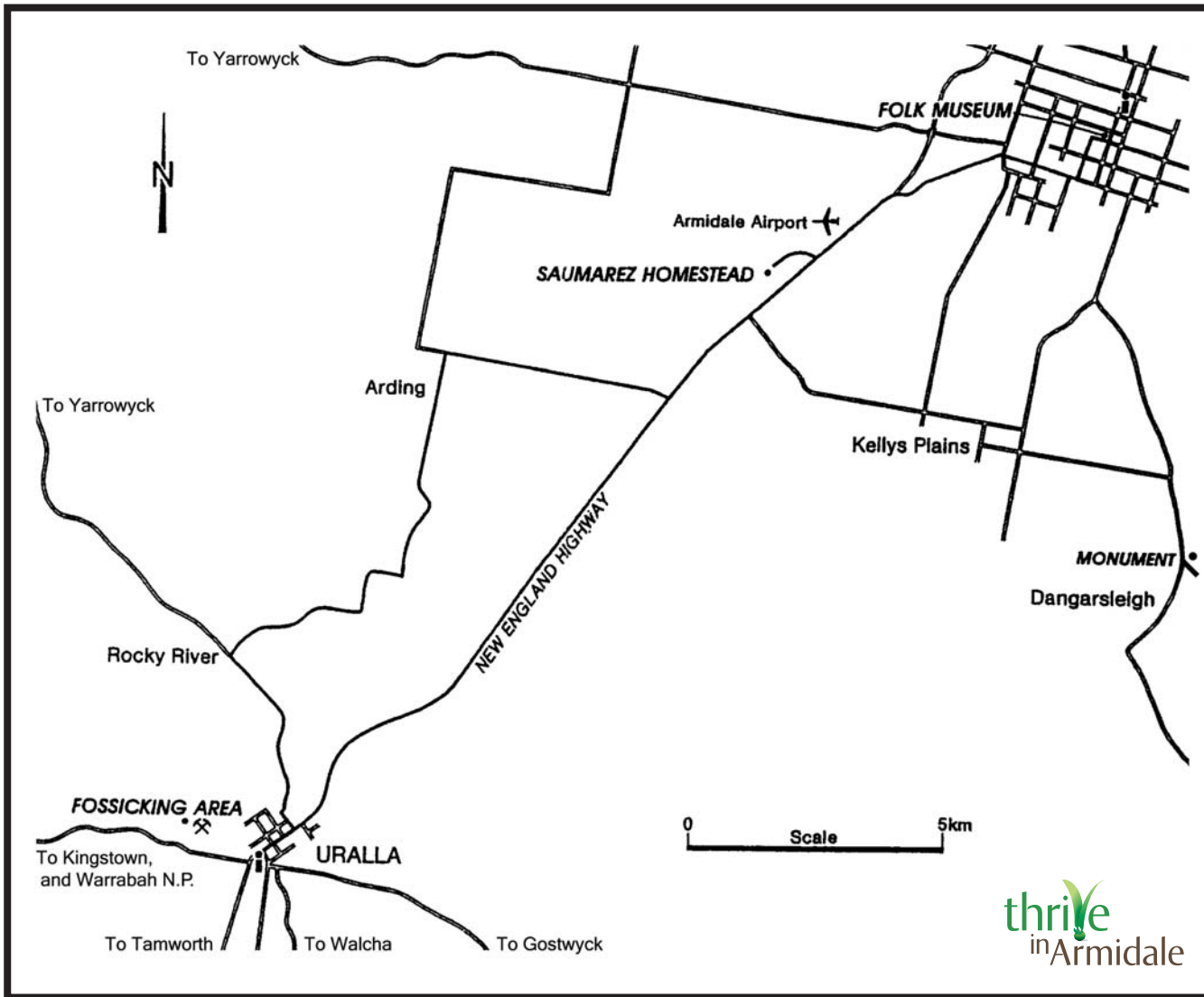


# scenic drive 3

Miners, Bushrangers  
and Farmers



thrive  
inArmidale

## Armidale Visitor Information Centre

82 Marsh Street  
Armidale NSW 2350  
Phone: (02) 6772 4655  
Email: armvisit@bigpond.net.au  
www.armidaletourism.com.au

## Guyra Visitor Information

Guyra Shire Council  
158 Bradley Street  
Guyra NSW 2365  
Phone: (02) 6779 1577  
Em: tourism@guyra.nsw.gov.au  
www.guyra.nsw.gov.au

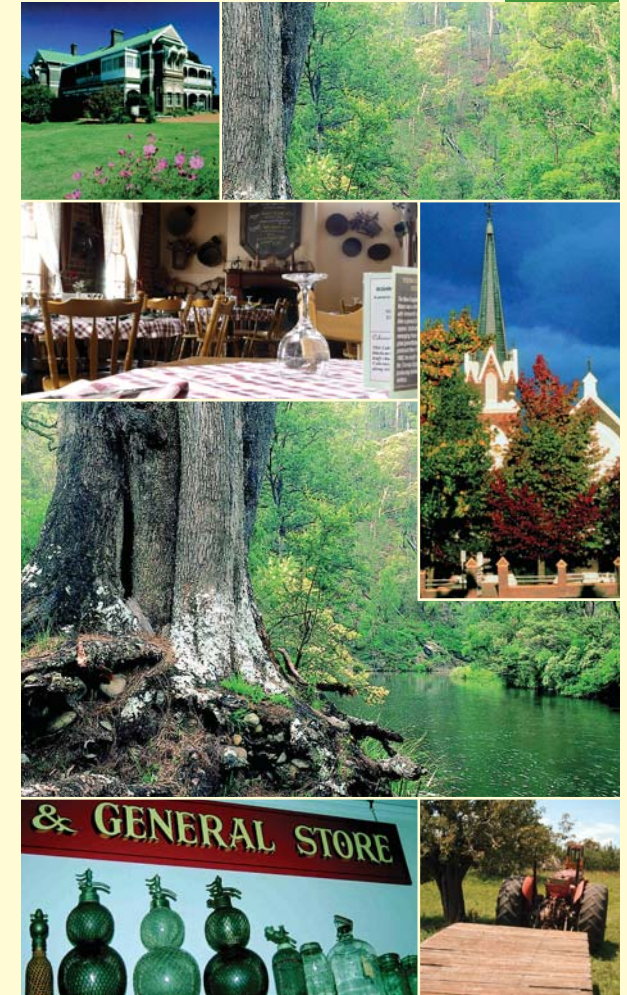
## Uralla Visitor Information Centre

104 Bridge Street  
Uralla NSW 2358  
Phone: (02) 6778 4496  
Email: visit@uralla.com  
www.uralla.com

## Walcha Visitor Information Centre

Fitzroy Street  
Walcha NSW 2354  
Phone: (02) 6774 2460  
Em: council@walcha.nsw.gov.au  
www.walchansw.com.au

Drop into the Armidale, Uralla and Walcha Visitor Information Centres  
or Guyra Council for more information on the beautiful New England region.



Half/Full Day Tour

47km

Armidale Folk Museum,  
Arding, Rocky River, Uralla  
& Saumarez Homestead

## ARMIDALE FOLK MUSEUM

Commencing at the Visitor Information Centre, turn right into Dumaresq Street then left at the roundabout and travel south up Faulkner Street, passing the **Armidale Mall**. On the right, at the corner of Faulkner and Rusden Streets is the **Armidale Folk Museum**. Housed in the former School of the Arts and Mechanics Institute (c. 1863) the Museum houses a comprehensive collection of memorabilia and photographs.

*Open daily 1pm to 4pm.*

## ARMIDALE TO ARDING

At the Folk Museum corner, turn right into Rusden Street, passing the restored **Town Hall** and **Civic Administration Building** of Armidale Dumaresq Council. Turn left at the roundabout into Dangar Street. Follow Dangar Street south to the second roundabout, passing the **Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals**, **Armidale City Public School** and the **Conservatorium of Music** (old Teachers College). Turn right at the roundabout just over the railway overhead bridge, following the signs to Tamworth.

Continue west along Kentucky Street/Uralla Road, until the New England Highway roundabout entrance (6km). At the roundabout, turn left and travel south on the New England Highway for approximately 6km to the turn off to Arding on the right.

Some of this country gave the district its reputation for fine wool production. When Henry Arding Thomas first opened up the area of Arding in the 1850's, the farms here provided produce to the workers on the nearby Rocky River Gold Fields.

The area has since become better known for its orchards apples, pears and stone fruit, also hobby farms and more recently, for experimental farming practices such as Ostrich farming. The spring and autumn colours of trees and bushes makes this area a popular drive for visitors, especially those with a keen eye for a good photograph.

Continue along the Arding Road for 4.5km. Turn left into Hawthorn Drive, heading towards Uralla. Approximately

600m along Hawthorn Drive fresh fruit can be purchased at Greenhill Orchards. Continue on passing the Arding Uniting Church and Hall.

## ARDING TO ROCKY RIVER

Turn right at the T intersection into Rocky River Road. **Rocky River**, in the 1860's was once a thriving goldfield town – home to over 5000 miners and their families, many of whom later bought land in the Armidale area and settled as land owners and farmers.

Starting as a tent town, Rocky River in its hey-day supported 20 hotels, numerous boarding houses, stores, schools and churches. Today, only the Public School and St. John's Church remain of the once thriving township. Many of the miners attracted to the Rocky River Gold Fields were Chinese, some of whom had made the long trek on foot from the Victorian Gold Fields.

Mining in the region eventually shifted from the alluvial diggings to deep lead mining and evidence of this can be seen at **Mt Jones** and **Mt Mutton** – both areas having been declared of geological and historical significance. Over 500 shafts have been identified in the area.

## ROCKY RIVER TO URALLA

The tour continues to **Uralla**, (Thunderbolt Country). Also once a thriving gold town, these days Uralla is best remembered as the haunt of the notorious Bushranger, Captain Thunderbolt, whose life and exploits are depicted in **McCrossin's Mill Museum**.

Uralla has a population of around 2,300 and a relaxed atmosphere has replaced the heady fervour of the days of the gold rush. The town offers some fine craft and antique shops, tearooms and coffeehouses. A living tribute to the gold era can be found at the **fossicking area** just out of town – open to the public and equipped with picnic facilities. Panning can still produce gold, small sapphires and zircons.

Call into the Uralla Visitor Information Centre for further information on this unique historical township.

## URALLA TO SAUMAREZ HOMESTEAD

Travel back north towards Armidale via the New England Highway. Turn left into the *Armidale Airport*, and follow the National Trust signs for 3km to **Saumarez Homestead**.

Taken up by Henry Dumaresq in 1835, Saumarez was one of the first properties settled in the region. Francis White acquired the property in 1874. The family lived in the old single-storey brick house (still standing) until 1888, when the first section of the present two-storey building was built.

Francis White's grandchildren presented the homestead, which still contains the White family's furniture and memorabilia, to the National Trust in the early 1980's.

**Saumarez is closed from June to September and inspection of the Homestead is by guided tour only.**

*Guided tours run: Weekdays 10.30am and 2pm. Weekends and Public Holidays 10.30am, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm.*

## SAUMAREZ HOMESTEAD TO ARMIDALE

Leaving Saumarez, turn left onto the New England Highway and then right at the roundabout to return to Armidale. There is another heritage building on the right called **Old Bishops Court**, which is opposite the **New England Girls School (NEGS)**. Further along Kentucky Street the **Armidale Arboretum** can be seen on the right and **Armidale High School** on the left.

Continue travelling to the roundabout, turning left into Dangar Street. Follow Dangar Street until the second roundabout. Turn right into Rusden Street and left into Faulkner at the next intersection. Follow Faulkner Street north passing the town centre to the roundabout. Turn right into Dumaresq Street to the starting point at the Armidale Visitor Information Centre.