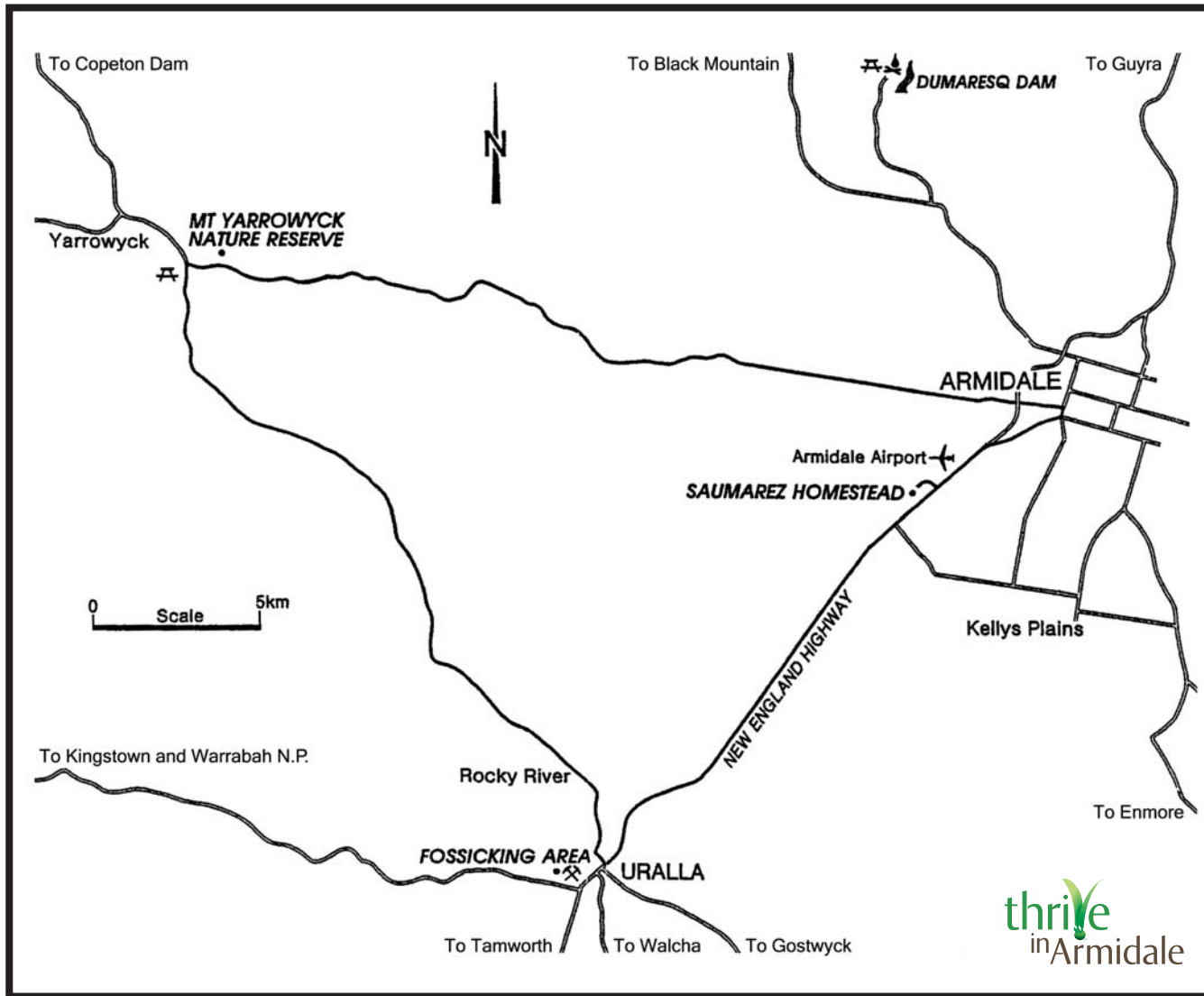


# scenic drive 5

Aboriginal Culture  
and Heritage



thrive  
in Armidale

## 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

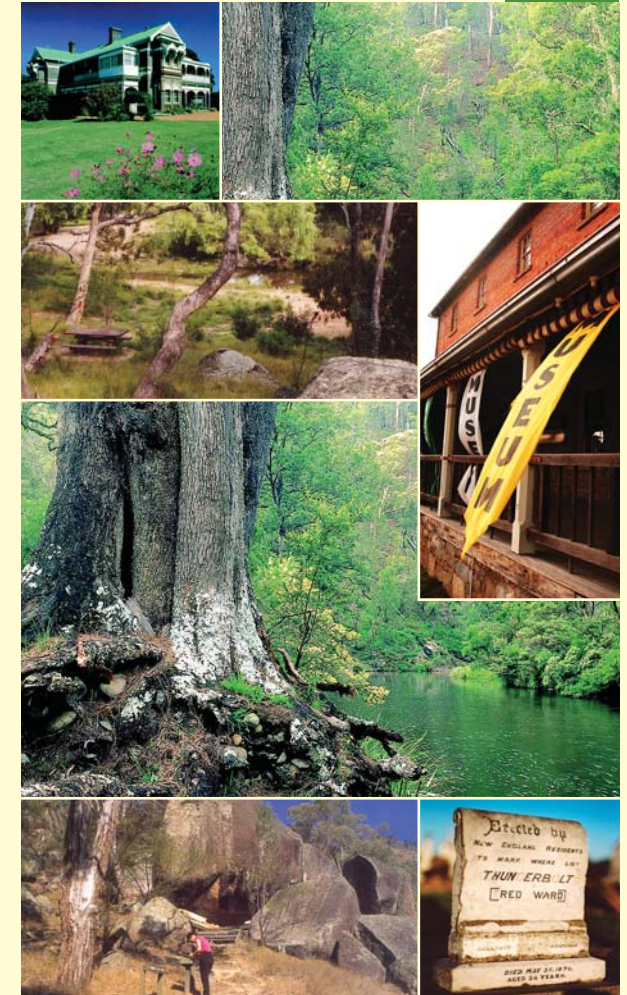
## Uralla Visitor Information Centre

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 99km (7.5km unsealed)

Mount Yarowycck Nature Reserve,  
Rocky River, Mount Mutton, Uralla  
& Saumarez Homestead

## ARMIDALE TO MOUNT YARROWYCK

Commencing at the Visitor Information Centre, turn right into Dumaresq Street traveling west to Niagara Street (1.8km). Turn left into Niagara Street and continue to head south. Just pass the Drummond School crossing turn right into McLennan Street and left at the railway underpass, where McLennan Street becomes Miller Street. Continue to head south and turn right into Bundarra Road.

Head west along the Bundarra Road for approximately 9.7km, crossing part of the Great Dividing Range. This range runs parallel with the East Coast of Australia, dividing eastern and western streams and rivers.

Travel another 13km approximately and cross the **Boorolong Creek**, which is a popular picnic and fishing spot and a great location for catching Craybob. Travel another 5.4km to the Uralla/Bundarra Road. Turn right and continue for 1km to the **Mount Yarrowyck Nature Reserve** on the right.

## MOUNT YARROWYCK NATURE RESERVE

Mount Yarrowyck is located within the traditional territory (tauri) of the main Aboriginal tribe of the New England Tablelands – the **Anaiwan**.

A 3km return walk along the marked trail leads to the **Rock Art Site**. Paintings are located under the overhang created by a group of massive granite boulders. Typical of the Aboriginal rock art found throughout the New England ranges, they reveal a combination of circles and bird tracks painted in red ochre. It is with the generous co-operation of the local Aboriginal Land Council that this important landmark of the Anaiwan people's cultural heritage has been preserved and opened for public visits.

The picnic site near the car park has barbecues, picnic tables and toilet facilities. After exploring the Mount Yarrowyck Nature Reserve and Rock Art Site, turn left onto the Uralla/Bundarra Road (Thunderbolts Way).

## MOUNT YARROWYCK TO ROCKY RIVER

Heading south for a further 3km, the road crosses the **Gwydir River**. To gain access to the riverside picnic area,

cross the Gwydir Bridge and take the first turn to the right (300m). A short drive takes you to the Old Gwydir Bridge, which is an ideal family picnic location, with swimming in the river in the summer. 13km further south is the small township of Rocky River.

In 1863, **Rocky River** was one of the richest alluvial goldfields in NSW. At first a tent town, Rocky River soon flourished, becoming home to 5000 miners and their families. Many Chinese miners, often discouraged on the Victorian Goldfields, made the long trek here, some on foot, to seek their fortunes. Most of the buildings are now gone with only the Public School and St John's Church remaining as a reminder of a once thriving town.

## ROCKY RIVER TO URALLA

Travel 3.5km along Thunderbolts Way heading towards Uralla you will see the entrance to the **Barnes Vincent Lookout**. The lookout is 600m along a dirt road and provides a view of the historic old gold town of Uralla. The remains of mine shafts and water races can be seen from the lookout, which has been declared a reservation of geographical and historical significance. Over 500 shafts have been identified and great care must be taken walking near these sites. Gold was first worked here in river gravels and in 1856 deep lead mining gave access to further deposits in the underlying gravels.

Return back to Thunderbolts Way and turn right to take you into Uralla. Once a bustling gold mining town, **Uralla** is now home to many of the region's finest art and crafts people. Along the main street of Uralla there are many historic shops specialising in handmade pottery, jewellery, furniture and curios.

Uralla is probably best known as the location for many of the exploits of the notorious bushranger **Thunderbolt**. His career began as a horse thief, which led to a ten-year prison sentence in Cockatoo Island Prison in Sydney Harbour. After escaping, he turned to bushranging in the Hunter and New England Districts, robbing some 25 coaches, raiding many farms, hotels and stores until Constable Walker finally shot him in 1870. Thunderbolt is buried in the old Uralla Cemetery. Thunderbolt's rock is just south of Uralla on the New England Highway.

A monument of Thunderbolt has been erected in the main street as a reminder of one of Australia's most notorious bushrangers. His life and times are depicted in the exhibits displayed in the **McCrossin's Mill Museum**.

A **fossicking area** has been set aside on the western outskirts of Uralla. The area has great picnic facilities and panning can still produce gold, small sapphires and zircons.

Call into the Uralla Visitor Information Centre for further information on the historic town of Uralla.

## URALLA TO SAUMAREZ HOMESTEAD

Follow the New England Highway north towards Armidale. On the right is the **CSIRO Pastoral Research Laboratory and Field Station**. Research and field experiments are carried out here on improving pasture and grazing lands, and quality and yield improvements in the production of wool and meat.

Continue north towards Armidale via the New England Highway. Turn left into the **Armidale Airport**, and follow the National Trust signs for approximately 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.*

Return to Armidale to complete the scenic drive.