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# Upper Murray Holiday Guide

**Head for the hills for  
fun, festivals and adventure**

**Cracks gather  
for the fray**

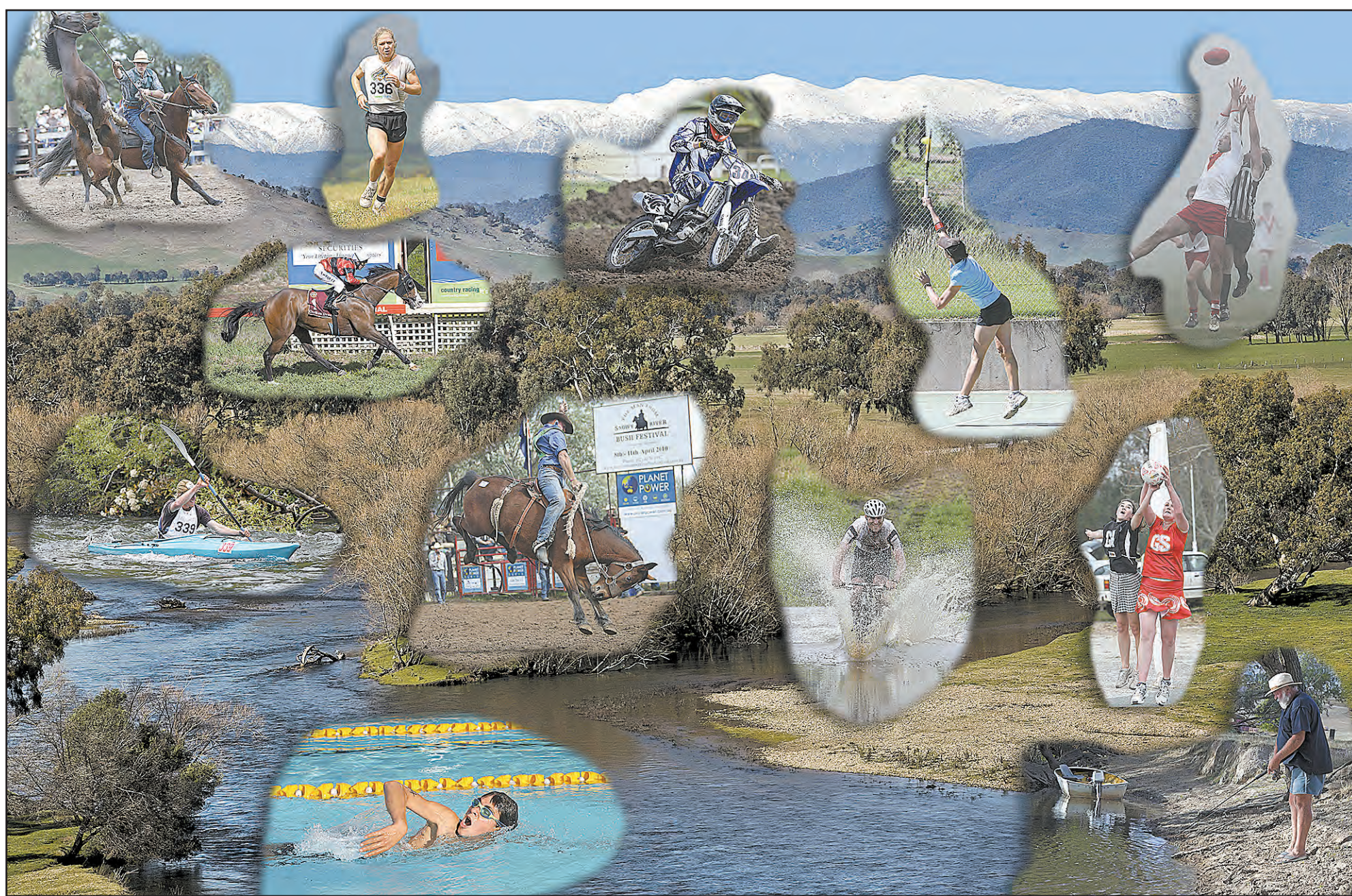
**Man From Snowy River Bush Festival, Corryong  
April 8th-11th, 2021**



**December 2020**



# Head for the hills



Here in the Upper Murray, where Australia's greatest river is born, you'll find a unique adventure playground, just waiting to be discovered.

Historic bridges, lookouts and waterfalls, the crystal clear mighty Murray River and mountain streams - an angler's paradise - the Snowy Mountain Scheme, The Man From Snowy River and the Bush

Festival, Kosciuszko National Park, the best local museum....you'll have to make time to fit it all in!

The area remains virtually the same as when Banjo Paterson visited Jack Riley in 1890 and was moved to immortalise it in his famous poem "The Man From Snowy River".

Today, by taking to the mountains on horseback you can answer the same

call to adventure that led Jack to live out his days here.

There are a number of trail ride operators in the region who can cater for riders of all levels of experience.

The different rides vary from a leisurely hours ride along magnificent forested trails to a ten-day safari, through more remote wilderness areas.

The operators' vast

experience and unique brand of country hospitality ensure an unforgettable trail riding experience.

Another way to escape to the pristine wilderness and unique bushland that make up the Upper Murray is on foot.

The region is home to four National Parks and State Forests, where you can spend an afternoon on a peaceful stroll along any

of the walking trails, or take on something a little more challenging like climbing to the summit of Mount Kosciuszko (Australia's highest mountain) or Burrowa Pine Mountain. (Australia's largest monolith 1½ times the size of Uluru).

Whatever your preference you will find an abundance of native plants and animals and spectacular scenery

beyond compare.

Almost any trail, park or forest that can be seen on foot can also be explored on mountain bike. Enjoy a leisurely ride through the forest or a challenging mountain bike adventure complete with experienced and professional guides.

The Upper Murray is also home to a number of 4WD operators, ready to share their knowledge of the mountains, a picnic lunch and a plethora of yarns and secrets of the region.

Most operators have both tag-along and passenger tours.

If setting off without a guide please check weather conditions and local knowledge on exploring the region at the Corryong Visitor Information Centre or with either Parks Victoria or the NSW National

Parks and Wildlife Service Information Centre at Khancoban.

There are so many ways to enjoy the pristine waters of the Upper Murray region.

Why not take a rafting tour and tackle the rapids of the Murray River in its infancy?

A mountain stream swollen and racing with recent snow melt, this course is known for some of Australia's most challenging rapids.

Experienced rafting operators make it all seem so easy and guarantee an exciting and fun trip.

If you prefer something a little tamer, there are several outlets for canoe and boat hire.

The Upper Murray is an angler's dream with the clear waters of the Murray river and its tributaries being home to a variety of fish.

## A big welcome

The Towong Shire welcomes visitors to the municipality and to the Upper Murray.

We have two main towns, Tallangatta and Corryong and a number of small towns.

We pride ourselves on our clean, green environment.

Corryong holds its famous 'Man from Snowy River Bush Festival' each April, celebrating

the legendary ride which was the subject of Banjo Paterson's famous poem.

We also invite you to check out our new touring route - the Great River Road.

Whether you come here to enjoy the festivals or the magnificent scenery, local people will welcome you warmly.

*Towong Mayor,  
Cr David Wortmann*



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# So much to see and do!



The magnificent view from Farran's Lookout between Corryong and Tintaldra.

Corryong is undoubtedly the jewelled centre piece of the magnificent region known as the Upper Murray. Located just 11kms from the Murray River and in the foothills of the Australian Alps, Corryong and district has something for everyone.

Make the most of your visit to the magnificent Upper Murray by calling into the Corryong Visitor Information Centre to discover more of the attractions this region has to offer.

Ask about the abundance of local natural attractions including Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park. This awesome granite monolith is 1.5 times larger than Uluru and has breathtaking views from its summit should you chose to walk.

Cudgewa Bluff Falls is also within the Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park and is one of the area's best kept secrets. Parking is now approximately 100m from the Falls themselves, however for those with limited mobility a key may be obtained at the Information Centre to give closer access.

Take a drive to Embury's Lookout on top of Mt Mittamatite and take in the view of Corryong with the Australian Alps as your backdrop. Mt Lawson State Park is only a short drive away. Visit Avondale Gardens and while in the area explore the trestle bridges.

For those with an interest in discovering more intimately our natural beauty there is four wheel driving, fishing and canoeing.

Give white water rafting a try with our local accredited operators and visit any open gardens advertised.

Touring throughout the Upper Murray provides unlimited opportunities to explore its local townships and history.

Visit historic Tintaldra, Walwa and Jingellic along the river. Stop for the many photographic opportunities at lookouts along the way. Tour Cudgewa, Nariel and Thowgla and the picturesque Biggara valley. Pack a picnic and find a pleasant location along our many waterways.

A visit to the Man from Snowy River Museum in

Corryong should definitely be included on your itinerary. The Museum features the history of Jack Riley of "Man from Snowy River" fame.

Jack was the head stockman at Tom Groggin Station when he was visited by AB "Banjo" Paterson who penned the now famous poem "The Man from Snowy River" (1890).

Jack Riley is buried in the Corryong Cemetery. The museum also houses a unique collection of ski memorabilia and other local history.

Snowy Hydro's Murray 2 Power Station and Visitor Information Centre is located only five minutes from Khancoban, just off the Alpine Way. Visitors can get a rundown on Snowy Hydro's operations through the real-time screens and the centre carries an extensive range of maps and a variety of products including local produce, books and gifts to purchase.

No matter what time of year you visit, there is bound to be an exciting event waiting for your presence (although you will need to check what impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on them for 2021).

Annual feature events include the Nariel Creek Folk Festival, the Towong Cup, Corryong Machinery Club Rally and the Upper Murray Challenge. The Nariel Creek Folk Festival is normally held over the Christmas/New Year holidays across two venues but has been cancelled for 2020-21.

The Towong Cup race meeting is well known as the "Flemington of the Bush". It is held on the March long weekend.

The Man From Snowy River Bush Festival is held in Corryong in April - a unique Australian bush gathering showcased by The Challenge. The prestigious horse riding test draws skilled stockmen and stockwomen from right across Australia who take part in a series of tests.

The Upper Murray's beauty is only matched in its magnificence by friendly country hospitality.

The Corryong Visitor Information Centre in the main street is open daily between 9am and 5pm (excluding Christmas Day, Good Friday and the morning of Anzac Day).

## • Bar & Pokies Room

### • 9 Hole Golf Course

See notice board for times

### • Public Tennis Courts

## CHOPSTICKS CHINESE RESTAURANT

Tuesday-Sunday (dinner only)

Easter & MFSR Bush Festival: Monday-Sunday (dinner only)

Ph: 02 6076 1133

## The Club Corryong

Phone: 02 6076 1081

'The Club Corryong', Jardine St. & Strzelecki Way, Corryong

Email: [csportco@bigpond.com](mailto:csportco@bigpond.com) / Website: [www.corryongclub.com.au](http://www.corryongclub.com.au)



# The ideal getaway

Corryong



## Costello Rural & Life Plan Strategic Solutions TOWONG CUP SATURDAY 6TH MARCH, 2021



**NOTE: Ticketing and attendance will be subject to coronavirus restrictions that apply at the time**  
**Keep up to date by visiting the Country Racing website**

[country.racing.com.au/towong](http://country.racing.com.au/towong)



Located in the Upper Murray are a number of spectacular parks and reserves.

These natural attractions contain rugged mountain peaks, rocky outcrops and waterfalls and offer spectacular views over the surrounding countryside.

The varied terrain is home to numerous rare species of flora and fauna and provides for a range of recreational activity.

**Burrowa - Pine Mountain National Park** - This Park (18,400 ha) consists of two rugged and contrasting mountains. The park boasts impressive scenery, diverse habitats and significant flora conservation values.

**Bluff Falls** - a spectacular set of waterfalls exists where water cascades off the park plateau, over Cudgewa Bluff and into a tranquil grotto below.

**Bluff Creek Nature Trail** - this short walk (4 kms return) links Bluff Creek visitor area with Bluff Falls. Interpretative panels are located along the way.

**Pine Mountain** - this gigantic rock monolith is 1.5 times as big as Uluru (Ayers Rock). The walk to the top over imposing rock outcrops (12 kms return) is difficult but good views are available after only 1 km.

**The Lookouts Walking Track** - this walk starts at Bluff Falls and climbs past Campbell's Lookout (1.5kms return) to Ross Lookout (6km return). It offers excellent views of the park and surrounding countryside.

**Mt Burrowa** - the highest point in the park (1300m) can be reached via a number of walking tracks, including from Hinces Creek (21 kms return) and from the Cudgewa Bluff Rd (15 kms return). The walk is strenuous but rewarding.

**Bushwalking** - a range of additional walking opportunities are possible and a combination of walking tracks and 4WD tracks may be used to form extended overnight hikes.

**Picnicking and camping** - basic facilities are provided at Bluff Creek, Blue Gum Camp, Hinces Creek and at Pine Mountain.

Four wheel drive and mountain biking - a network of 4WD tracks exists although most

minor tracks are fine weather only and seasonal closures apply.

**Mt Lawson State Park** - This Park (13,150 ha) is known for its steep slopes, cliffs and prominent rocky bluffs. The park contains a range of largely undisturbed natural environments with significant conservation values and walking tracks.

**Mt Lawson Summit** - the highest point (1,041m) in the park provides outstanding views north over the Murray River valley and south to the Victorian Alps.

**Historic Railway Trestle Bridge** - this high, timber bridge over Boggy Creek was built c1915 as part of the disused Wodonga - Cudgewa railway line.

**Picnicking and camping** - basic facilities are located at the Historic Railway Trestle Bridge, Koetong Creek, Mt Lawson summit and the Kurrajongs.

Four wheel driving and mountain biking - a network of vehicle tracks exists although most minor tracks are fine weather only and seasonal closures apply.

**Mt Granya State Park** - This Park (6,140 ha) is a dominant feature in the landscape with its steep, forested slopes rising dramatically above Lake Hume and surrounding valleys. The park features diverse vegetation and spectacular wild-flower displays.

**Mt Granya Summit** - the highest point in the park (870m) provides spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

**Granya Falls** - these seasonal waterfalls, a pleasant destination for day-visitors, are reached after a short walk (1 km return) from Cottontree Creek.

**Scout Hut** - a log hut, constructed by the Granya Scout Group in 1937, is situated on the walking track between Cottontree Creek and Granya Falls.

**Bushwalking** - a variety of walking opportunities are possible on the network of tracks and fire trails.

Four wheel driving and mountain biking - a network of vehicle tracks exists although most minor tracks are fine weather only.

**Jarvis Creek Regional Park** - This Park (2,510 ha) consists of two

prominent, forested ridges that form a broad plateau at their junction. The park contains a diverse range of wildlife and is readily accessible from nearby towns.

**Plateau Road Scenic Drive** - this two-wheel drive, fine weather, gravel road offers a pleasant drive through the park between Jarvis Creek and Georges Creek Roads.

**Picnicking** - basic facilities are located at picnic areas on Plateau Road and at Lightning Creek.

Four wheel driving, mountain biking and horse riding - a network of vehicle tracks exists although most minor tracks are fine weather only.

**Mt Mittamatite Regional Park** - This Park (4,280) is a striking feature in the landscape, its forested slopes rising sharply from the surrounding plains. These steep, rocky slopes shelter a number of rare plant species.

**Mt Mittamatite Summit** - Located on the highest point in the park (1,003m) are radio and aviation communication facilities and a firetower.

**Embry Lookout** - Provides spectacular views of the Kosciuszko Main Range (NSW) in winter and is a popular hangliding location.

**Wabba Wilderness Park** - Wabba Wilderness Park (20,100ha) is important for its high nature conservation values, relatively undisturbed foothills, forests and natural water catchment.

The park provides visitors with opportunities to enjoy some solitude. No public vehicles or animals are permitted. No facilities or signs exist.

**Murray River Reserves** - Located along the Murray River are a number of reserves that provide opportunities for camping, swimming, fishing, canoeing and other passive pursuits.

**Avondale Gardens** - The Avondale Gardens Reserve (22ha) near Shelley is centred on the original homestead site of a former grazing property. The reserve contains an impressive 2ha garden of mainly exotic tree species, first established in the 1950s. Basic picnic facilities are provided. Camping in designated areas.



# Experience a modern wonder

We are lucky to have access to all-year-round activities in the Snowy Mountains, from skiing in the winter, through to fishing, kayaking, bushwalking and water sports in the summer months.

A visit to the sites of the Snowy Scheme is a must for those wanting to experience the best of our region this summer.

As we head into warmer months, it is a perfect opportunity to pay a visit to the Snowy Hydro visitor centres and learn more about Snowy Hydro operations, the Snowy 2.0 project and the history of the iconic Snowy Scheme.

At the Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre and Café in Cooma you can experience the Scheme like never before in the new immersive theatre. The theatre provides a virtual flyover of the mountains and tells the remarkable story of the Snowy Scheme - past, present and future.

You can also check out the scale model of one of Snowy 2.0's tunnel boring machines in the interpretive area. The cafe offers barista-made coffee, lunch items and a range of iced drinks perfect for a warm summer's

day on the Monaro. You can even charge your electric vehicle at the new Chargefox EV charging station located on site.

The Snowy Visitor Information Centre in picturesque Khancoban is a partnership between Snowy Hydro and National Parks and Wildlife Service. It is the perfect place to drop in to get information about local and park information, purchase park passes and check on road closures and weather conditions.

While you're at the centre, you can get a rundown on Snowy Hydro's operations through the real-time screens. The centre carries an extensive range of maps and a variety of products, including local produce, books and gifts to purchase.

While visiting Talbingo be sure to drop into the Talbingo Supermarket located in the centre of town and see the Snowy Hydro display.

There are a number of ways you can plan your visit to the Scheme. For up-to-date information to help plan your trip visit the website at [snowyhydro.com.au/visit](http://snowyhydro.com.au/visit). Alternatively, call 1800 623 776.



## Discover the Scheme

at the Khancoban Visitor Information Centre

**Western entry point to Kosciuszko National Park**

When visiting the beautiful Snowy Valleys region, stop by the Khancoban Visitor Information Centre - a joint initiative of Snowy Hydro and National Parks and Wildlife Service. Learn about Snowy Hydro and the Snowy Scheme, check out a model of Geehi Reservoir, find out the latest national park information, and take home a piece of the Snowy Mountains. We have a wide range of souvenirs and locally-made products to choose from.

### SUMMER OPENING HOURS

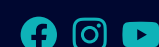
**2 Scammel Street, Khancoban 2642**

Opening hours 9am to 5pm, 7 days-a-week.

Closed 12.30pm to 1pm. Closed Christmas Day.

[snowyhydro.com.au](http://snowyhydro.com.au)

02 6070 8400



**snowyhydro**



# Follow the Great River Road ...



Local fauna features in five public artworks as part of a new touring route in the region - The Great River Road - which starts at Bellbridge on the Hume Dam and wends its way along the mighty Murray River to Khancoban.

Its many wayside stops feature picturesque views of the Murray River, the Upper Murray valley, the surrounding areas and the Snowy Mountains.

The route includes and upgrade of existing wayside stops with new interpretive signage, seating, shelters and landscaping as well as the installation of five large-scale, interactive artwork pieces at key sites along the way.

Award winning sculptor Benjamin Gilbert from the Yackandandah-based Agency of Sculpture was commissioned for the works.

The first of these - a homage to the famous Murray Cod - was unveiled at Tintaldra in December 2018.

The other works reference the natural fauna throughout the area - a flying eagle at Mount Alfred, Bogong Moth at Newmans Lookout, Murray Cod at Tintaldra, Murray Cray at Bringenbrong and the Big Trout at Khancoban.

The new route along the Murray River Road and Murray Valley Highway offers the best touring experience of Australia's greatest River, with the spectacular Snowy Mountains as the backdrop.

The Great River Road experience is designed to be taken as a leisurely trip travelling principally the Murray River road from Bellbridge, just outside

Albury, in the west to Khancoban in the east or vice versa.

Travellers will experience many stops, views and stories and towns along the way.

The Murray Grey cattle had its origin in the Upper Murray and the story is told along the way where you can read how and see where it all began.

The Murray Cray at Bringenbrong marks the spot where local man Graham Middleton began his epic swim of the length of the Murray River in the 1990s to become the first person to conquer Australia's greatest water-way.

While touring the Upper Murray experience the local towns and hospitality. Have a coffee or enjoy a tranquil country pub meal watching the river waters flow by.

See The Man From Snowy River statue and the museum in Corryong - rated among the top 20 in Australia.

There are many things to do in the Upper Murray and its surrounds so call in at the Corryong Visitor Information Centre for more information.

Complementing the Great River Road will be the construction of a new boat ramp at the Tintaldra Reserve.

Towong Shire Council has secured funding for a concrete ramp to be built approximately 40m downstream of the Tintaldra Bridge which will involve the construction of concrete wings and beaching rock to provide protection from erosion.

The development of a trailer and parking space will take place well above the riverbank facing Back Tintaldra Road.





Blue Waterholes is a great base for exploring the Kosciuszko National Park.



## Visit Australia's largest park

Visit Kosciuszko National Park at any time of the year and a world of discovery awaits you.

Autumn is perfect for getting an adrenaline charge before winter on your mountain bike. Boating and fishing activities are also great before the water gets cold again for winter.

Spring is a great time for bushwalking as the wildflowers come into bloom in some areas and the days are not too hot.

In summer there's alpine wildflowers in bloom and a wealth of special student excursions to join including climbing Mt Kosciuszko, bush banquets, learning about conservation and Aboriginal heritage.

In winter stay at the ski resorts at Perisher, Thredbo and Charlotte Pass for skiing and snowboarding adventures in the beauty of the snow-covered mountains.

The Park covers 690,000 hectares (1.5 million acres).

From the summit of Mt Kosciuszko, at 2228 metres, the park drops down through woodlands to plains and river valleys of a few hundred metres altitude.

With such diverse areas, the park supports a potpourri of plant and animal life, including many alpine plants which

are found nowhere else in the world.

The park is also home to rare animals including the mountain pygmy possum, the broad-toothed rat, tiger quolls and the unique vivid yellow and black striped corroboree frog.

You might also see the unusual wingless Kosciuszko grasshopper, known for its ability to change from blue to green, depending on the temperature.

More than 200 species of birds have been sighted in the park - almost 40 per cent of the known bird species in NSW.

The magnificent wedged-tailed eagle is a common sight as are kestrels, emus, cockatoos and magpies. You might even see a lyre bird in the western end of Kosciuszko.

Kosciuszko is a place to go to escape urban pressures and discover scenic ranges, plains and fragile alpine areas.

The park has several short, regularly maintained walking tracks where visitors can begin their discovery of Kosciuszko.

Alternatively, escape to the more remote areas of the park following one of the many management trails.

Take in the views at one of the numerous lookouts scattered throughout the

park.

Try caving. Guided and self-guided tours are available at Yarrangobilly Caves in the northern end of the park.

In addition to its majestic limestone caves, the area boasts a thermal pool where, with water temperatures at 27 degrees Celsius, people swim all year round.

Go canoeing. The Park's fast mountain streams challenge many canoeists. Many of these rivers are part of the hydro-electric scheme, so check if the river is downstream from a dam and for possible dangerous releases from its spillway.

Relax and unwind. The Lower Snowy in the southern end of the park is a great place for the family on a hot summer's day. Picnic by the river's edge and cool off in the water.

Saddle up a horse. Re-live the days of the "Man From Snowy River" and explore the park on horseback.

Horse riding is only permitted in approved areas in order to prevent damage to vegetation and soil stability.

For heritage buffs, scattered throughout the park are huts and the remnants of times past. Start your exploration at Kiandra's Heritage Trail off the Snowy Mountains Highway.

## Campers have many choices



Camping enthusiasts are well catered for in the region with more than 60 caravan parks and camping sites located throughout the Tallangatta area, Upper Murray and into New

South Wales.

A Camping Guide is available at local information centres.

Visitors are advised to take the necessary precautions when camping

out by checking weather conditions in advance and getting the latest information on road conditions and closures.

It is advisable to carry your own firewood for

fires and barbecues at some of the more isolated camp spots. In parks where camp fires are allowed, make sure you completely extinguish them before leaving or going to bed.



## Recharge your batteries



Cool off at Bluff Falls.

The township of Cudgewa, just 10 kilometres from Corryong, is perfect for spending a quiet day unwinding.

Cudgewa has the distinction of having been the largest railhead for beef cattle in Australia in its heyday.

It is at the end of the old railway line from Wodonga. A storyboard at the site tells about the part the railway played in the town's history.

The colourful playground at Cudgewa is a lovely venue for a picnic.

Other attractions in the district include the majestic Bluff Falls picnic area and the Cudgewa Creek, which is well known as a hot fishing spot.



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# Come and find the magic

The Snowy Valleys is blessed by open spaces that beckon - sit back under a shady tree or put on hiking boots and explore the natural beauty of which we are so proud.

Kosciuszko National Park, home of Australia's highest mountain, is to the east. A popular holiday spot in the summer months, many returning travellers have a favourite place to set up camp and seek out adventures.

The Snowy Valleys boasts some of Australia's best trout fishing on the Swampy Plains and Tumut Rivers. Yet to experience the joy of fly-fishing?

Lessons are available from local experts who will guide you to the best fishing spots on crystal clear mountain streams.

It is a perfect time to visit one of our beautiful waterways, perhaps camping at Khancoban with a spot of kayaking or water skiing. Our rivers, creeks and dams are perfectly suited for a range of activities. You might like to cool down under the water of Paddys River Falls, located close to Tumbarumba and accessible by a short walk. Public swimming pools, in Adelong, Batlow, Khancoban, Tumbarumba

and Tumut offer free entry across the summer.

Fresh local produce is abundant and features on the menus of cafes, restaurants and pubs throughout the Snowy Valleys, or you can buy direct from many of our talented producers.

Taste cool climate wines direct from the vineyard in Tumbarumba, or cider from the orchard in Batlow.

The Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail is high on the list of must do activities and part of a growing networks of cycling tracks and trails in the region. The Rail Trail

is 21km (or a 42km round trip for the more energetic) of sealed trail with gentle gradients and sweeping curves. Walk, run, cycle or stroll the trail - you'll love every minute.

For those who like their trails a little less smooth, the mountain bike tracks of the Snowy Valleys are calling. In Tumbarumba and Tumut, tracks for riders from the beginner through to the more advanced are on offer, with a new MTB Skills Park now open at Talbingo.

We can't wait to see you, come find us at [www.visitsnowyvalleys.com.au](http://www.visitsnowyvalleys.com.au).



## Come along to the ultimate bush shindig

The celebration of a culture and history that is uniquely Australian begins when thousands of lovers of all things that celebrate Australia's mountain bush heritage converge on Corryong in April.

The Man From Snowy River Bush Festival is a great weekend of art, music, poetry, horse

competition, entertainment, trade stalls, street parades, markets, historical machinery, ute muster, dog competitions... and fun! Lots of fun!

From the dust busting action of the re-enactment of Banjo's famous poem, the rodeo, unique quality horsemanship or the side busting laughter at the

bush poets or bending your elbow at the bar and having a dance with your best mate to the country rock bands there really is something for everyone.

The highlight of the festival is the \$60,000 Man from Snowy River Challenge which culminates in the action packed and breathtaking

Brumby Catch and Stocksaddle Buckjump which are events not to be missed.

The Man From Snowy River Re-enactment kicks off the festival in a cloud of dust and nail biting action, the rough terrain indicative of the imagery represented in Banjo Paterson's famous poem.

An Australian-themed festival isn't complete without good old bush

poetry. Throw in a great display with some of the best country artists and photographers depicting the Australian bush culture and stroll the market stalls for those special and unique treasures only found in the country.

We know Jack Riley didn't drive a ute but any Australian stockman worth his salt does and the best will be on display at the Ute Muster.

Visitors also have the chance to be part of this legendary weekend by entering the Bush Idol competition and win cash and guitars and the opportunity to perform at the Country Rock Concert on the main stage on Saturday night.

Friday night's Man From Snowy River Rodeo is full of bone jarring excitement of the bull and bronc riding invitational

spectacular.

Other entertainment includes a working cattle or sheep dog competition, kids party in Attree Park in town and the team muster.

The festival is too much fun for just one - better bring a mate!

**Note: At the time of printing, the 2021 festival will be subject to coronavirus restrictions - visit [www.bushfestival.com.au](http://www.bushfestival.com.au) for updates.**



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CLOSED SATURDAY MORNINGS



## Twin towns have much to offer

Proximity to the Murray River makes the twin border towns of Walwa and Jingellic popular among those who enjoying a variety of water sports including canoeing, swimming and fishing.

With a store, hotel and craft shops, bush nursing centre and primary school, Walwa is a small but active community.

The area offers a multitude of activities ranging from canoeing, white-water rafting, bushwalking, horseriding, cycling, fishing and 4-wheel driving. It is also famous as the birth place of the Murray Grey cattle



breed.

Walwa is on the Victorian side of the river. A short drive takes you to Upper Murray Resort and

then across the Murray to Jingellic.

The resort is situated adjacent to the picturesque but tricky nine-hole Walwa

public golf course.

Drop a line in the Murray and you may even catch a champion-sized cod!



# Drop a line in pristine waters

The Upper Murray is an angler's dream with the clear waters of the Murray river and its tributaries being home to a variety of fish. Murray Cod, Trout Cod, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, English Perch (Redfin) Macquarie Perch, Golden Perch (Yellowbelly) and crayfish thrive in the waters of the upper river catchment.

This makes fly fishing and angling some of our best loved outdoor sports and forms of relaxation.

To keep our fish populations sustainable, every waterway has a fishing classification which determines its open fishing season, the number of allowed attended rods, lines and hooks and the legal length and daily bag limit allowance for these fish.

It also determines the type of fishing permitted and penalties exist for illegal fishing.

Fishing requires an appropriate state fishing license which can be purchased online or in Corryong, Tumbarumba, Tallangatta, Khancoban, Dartmouth, Mitta Mitta and Walwa. Fishing from either bank of the Murray River requires a NSW fishing license.

Fishing Licences & Information: Bellbridge Lake Hume Store (6026 2666); Court House Hotel, Bethanga (6026 4044); Hobie's Sports Store, Corryong (6076 1121); Mt Mittamatite Caravan Park, Corryong (6076 2513); Dartmouth Alpine Fishing Shop (6072 4263); Dartmouth Motor Inn (6072 4233); Dartmouth Tavern (6072 4279); Murray Goulburn IGA, Eskdale (6072 0303); Eskdale General Store (6072 0305); Mitta General Store (6072 3591); Tallangatta Hotel (6071 2513); IGA Supermarket, Tallangatta (6071 2201); Walwa General Store (6037 1291).

Competitions: Dartmouth Fishing Cup - June; Lake Hume Classic - November; Khancoban Fishing Competition - October Long Weekend.

Ramp Access: Lake Hume; Bellbridge; Tintaldra; Khancoban, Tallangatta; Dartmouth.



## SNOWY VALLEYS *Come Find Us*





# How Jack became a legend

How did a tailor from Ireland become an Australian legend?

Jack Riley was born in Ireland to Daniel Riley and Anne (nee Murray) in 1841.

He was thirteen when he emigrated to Australia, arriving in Sydney on the Rodney on March 15, 1854.

He later lived with his sister, Mrs Marry Anne Jones, and operated a tailoring business at Omeo. Jack left Omeo to work in the Monaro district for the Pendergast and Freebody families, and at a station called Eulamuna near the border of NSW and Victoria.

He quickly acquired a reputation as a brumby hunter and horse breaker.

In 1884 he was appointed by John Pierce to look after cattle at Tom Groggin, an Upper Murray pastoral run of 20,000 acres.

Jack lived alone in a log cabin on the station for nearly twenty years and drove cattle out of Tom Groggin every summer to graze on the high country.

Riley developed a reputation as a skilful brumby hunter and horse breaker, but these tales would probably be long forgotten if Walter Mitchell had not introduced Riley to Banjo Paterson.

Walter was the father-in-law of the late Elyne Mitchell who wrote the internationally renowned

Silver Brumby series.

Elyne had heard the story about the night Banjo Paterson met Jack Riley many times since she married Tom Mitchell and moved to the Upper Murray over sixty years ago.

Walter took Banjo from the Mitchell homestead at Bringenbrong to Riley's Hut at Tom Groggin in 1890.

A bottle of whisky emerged in the hut that night and it is said that there was none left in the morning.

"Riley just kept talking," Elyne said.

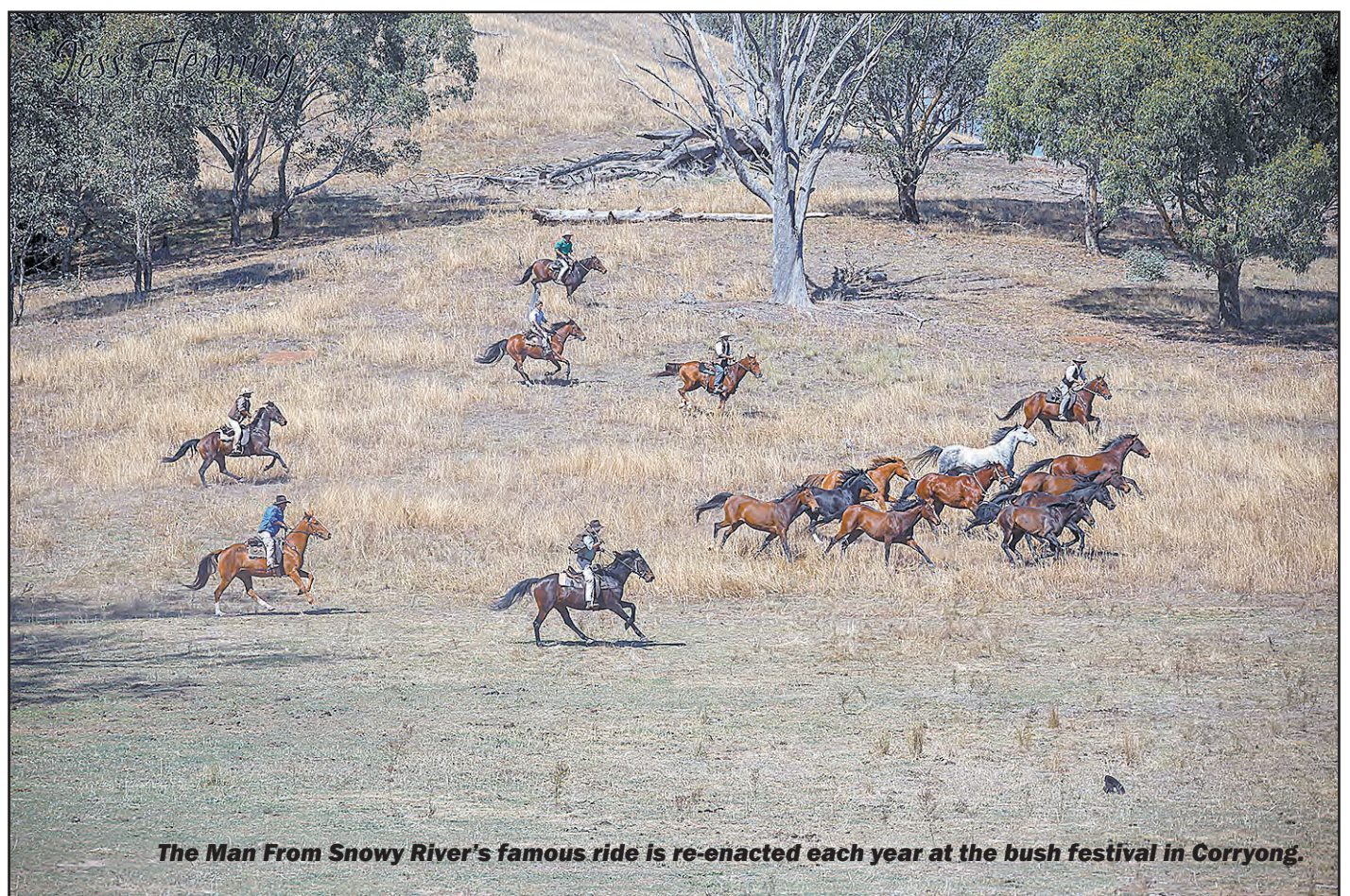
"Those were the days when a person who could tell a good yarn was always popular because there was no wireless and no television."

It is believed Riley's tales included his experience with an escaped thoroughbred stallion which had joined a mob of wild horses.

Riley was among a party of stockmen who attempted to recapture the stallion and was the only rider brave enough to pursue it down a treacherous slope on Mt Leatherhead.

Presumably, the night of Riley's tales about his own exploits and the adventures of other riders, left a lasting impression on the great poet.

Later that year Paterson's "The Man from Snowy River" was



**The Man From Snowy River's famous ride is re-enacted each year at the bush festival in Corryong.**

published in the Bulletin.

In October 1895 Paterson's "The Man from Snowy River and Other Verses" was published.

Riley continued to live on Tom Groggin station until he fell seriously ill in July, 1914.

Respected for the horsemanship of his earlier years, Riley had befriended many people throughout the district.

When news of his declining health reached Corryong, concerned friends organised a party of riders to transport him from his Tom Groggin hut to Corryong Hospital.

Inspired by mateship, they endured rain, snow and treacherous terrain in their endeavour to take the ill, elderly man to safety.

But for Riley, the journey ended in a

deserted mining hut near Hermit and Surveyors' Creek junction where the party sheltered from the snow for the evening.

The Corryong Courier later reported:-

"He seemed to rally a little, and spoke to his friends, but his weakness reassured itself and shortly afterwards, he swayed over, and would have fallen had his mates

not saved him.

"The journey was over as far as old Jack was concerned. The game old heart had ceased to beat, and out there among the great silent trees, with the rain falling softly on the roof of the hut, his spirit went home to its long rest."

Jack Riley was buried at Corryong Cemetery and a granite headstone

has been erected in his memory.

In 1995 the Upper Murray celebrated the centenary of the publication of Paterson's "The Man from Snowy River and Other Verses" with a festival. This has developed into the internationally renowned Man From Snowy River Bush Festival which is held in April each year.

# Was he The Man or a myth?

Excerpts from an article by Gordon Williams in the "Argus" supplement:-

"Up in the cattle country around Kosciusko they will tell you that the hero of Banjo Paterson's 'The Man From Snowy River' was no myth but really lived.

Today, if you wander about the western slopes of Kosciuszko, you will not escape the shade of The Man From Snowy River. He is no pallid wraith, no scrap of wispy ectoplasm, either. He has a name, and a home, and a character; he is still a solid citizen, though he was gathered to his ancestors long ago.

Around Khancoban, Towong, Groggin, and other places where The Man From Snowy spent his little day, the stockmen name him John Riley as both Banjo's inspiration and hero.

You may not tell the cattlemen of the great runs out there that Banjo's poem had no hero - that The Man was a synthesis, a combination of all the characteristics and qualities that Banjo had discovered in the mountain riders.

"No doubt about it," they tell you, "John Riley was Banjo's Man. We can prove it. It happened this way."

Most of the facts were held in the story told me by Mr H Barlee, of Khancoban, who had, as a boy, known Riley, then employed by Mr John Pierce on the Groggin run:

"Pierce, way back in 1930, told me in detail how John came to supply Paterson with the inspiration for his verse," Mr Barlee said.

It appears that Banjo, during a visit to Bringenbrong, was escorted by Peter and Walter Mitchell, two well known graziers, up Kosciuszko way, and, passing through Groggin, the party stayed the night with John Riley at his station hut. There they heard the story of Riley's memorable ride, as a young man, down the slopes and through evil country in chase of horses.

It was this ride - through a thousand hazards that gave birth to Banjo's poem, Mr Pierce contended.

"The Man From Snowy River" appeared soon



**Jack Riley lived in a slab hut "up by Kosciuszko's side".**

after Banjo had heard the story of Riley's ride," says Mr Barlee "and if he did not use John as his hero, at least he used his achievement for his text.

Again, as told by Mr John McInnes, of Towong, Riley was chasing horses

that had "gone wild" from the Groggin homestead. Again all attempts to trap them had failed the outlaws racing for shelter in a patch of venomous scrub country.

Riley had grown tired of failure, so he resolved

that he would head them off by careering through a patch of equally bad territory littered with fallen timber.

He cut-off the outlaws in flight, all right; and then occurred the episode which the stockmen say

Banjo imprisoned in his epic poem:

And he ran them single handed till their sides were white with foam,

He followed like a bloodhound on their track,

Till they halted, cowed and beaten then he turned

their heads for home, And alone and unassisted brought them back,

But his hardy mountain pony, he could scarcely raise a trot,

He was blood from tip to shoulder from the spur."



# See the best bush racing

A day at the races is both a sporting and social occasion in the Upper Murray.

The annual race meeting at the Towong Racecourse, near Corryong, attracts thousands of punters.

Some are caught up in the excitement of the horse racing while others are more intent on relaxing in the picturesque setting under shady 100 year old elm trees.

The racetrack and historic grandstand have undergone major renovations, adding to the amenity.

Towong was one of the locations for the filming of the Phar Lap movie because of the superb old style grandstand which dominates the course.

Over the years, thousands have made the journey to "The Flemington of the Bush", and reportedly among them was legendary

Melbourne gangster Squizzy Taylor.

In the 1920s Squizzy and his gang, who were allegedly hiding out in the area, could not resist the temptation and made off with the day's gate takings!

The Towong Turf Club holds its Cup meeting on the Saturday of the March long weekend in Victoria.

It attracts many expatriots and regular visitors who make the trek to catch up with old friends.

Towong features full on course TAB operations, a strong bookmakers ring and Sky Channel.

There is also a variety of entertainment (check for coronavirus restrictions on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/towongturfclub/>).

On race day buses run to and from Corryong and the other towns in the area.

For more information phone 0427 220 966.



## Khancoban delights

With snow capped mountains framing lush green countryside, the charming township of Khancoban, in Tumbarumba Shire, lies at the south western edge of Kosciuszko National Park on the Alpine Way.

It provides an excellent base for enjoying a wide range of nature based activities.

It is a beautifully landscaped town of trees and parks featuring a superb rose garden - one of the few remaining dedicated rose gardens in Australia.

The Wolgal Aboriginal tribe made their annual pilgrimage into the alpine area to feast on Bogong moths.

Grazing in the valley commenced in the 1830s and soon names such as Sheather, Scammell became synonymous with the area.

By 1960 the Snowy Mountains Authority had purchased land and was establishing the township of Khancoban to house construction workers and their families with the population peaking at around 7,000.

Today, Khancoban remains a maintenance and service township for the Snowy Scheme and tourist destination.

Overlooking the lake and central to many popular trout streams, it provides the ideal location for fishing, boating and

waterskiing or a relaxed game of golf with the kangaroos at the Country Club, which has a nine hole grass green course.

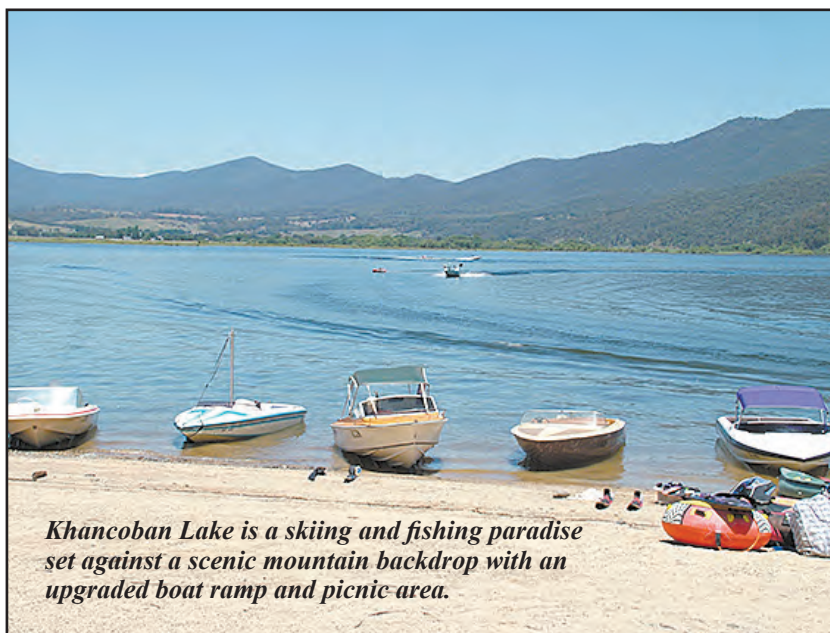
Khancoban townshi offers a wide variety of accommodation to suit all tastes for a relaxing holiday in nature's paradise.

Meals are available seven days a week and a small shopping centre provides most travellers needs.

Nearby Kosciuszko National Park has plant species found nowhere else on earth, as well as rare animal species such as the Corroboree Frog and Mountain Pigmy Possum.

Four distinct seasons provide a changing panorama of scenery and activities.

In summer the boat ramp at Khancoban Pondage is a popular



*Khancoban Lake is a skiing and fishing paradise set against a scenic mountain backdrop with an upgraded boat ramp and picnic area.*

meeting place for locals and lovers of water sports. The picnic and swimming area is the ideal place to chill and relax on a hot day. Year round fishing is available at the pondage.

In winter Khancoban is an ideal base for day trips to the snow fields at Thredbo, or cross country

skiing in the back country.

For more information visit the new website [www.khancoban.com.au](http://www.khancoban.com.au).

### Our towns are RV friendly

Caravans, motorhomes and campervans can be assured that visiting the Towong Shire will be a friendly experience, following official recognition of Corryong and Tallangatta by the Campervan Motorhome Club of Australia.

Towong mayor Cr Aaron Scales said that improving facilities to encourage more caravan, motorhome and campervan visitors was an essential priority.

"The caravan, motor-home and camping industry is the fastest growing domestic tourism sector in Australia in the past 10 years and the Towong Shire is a great destination for RV tourists."



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# Get in the loop



Visitors to the Towong Shire are able to take two leisurely drives that wind their way throughout the municipality.

They can explore and experience picturesque landscape on the Great

River Road which takes in Corryong, Towong, Khancoban, Tintaldra, Pine Mountain, Walwa, Jingellic, Wymah, Talgarno and Bellbridge.

Features of the drive include:-

• Corryong - Man From Snowy River Country and the resting place of the legendary Jack Riley. Great Information Centre and Museum.

• Towong - Historic racetrack where horses

have pounded the turf since 1871. Historic marker of Aboriginal 'Black Mag's' tree.

• Tintaldra - Est. 1864, historic general store and hotel, memorabilia on display. Panoramic views

from Farrans & Embreys Lookouts.

• Clarks Reserve - Wonderful birdlife.

• Pine Mountain - Australia's largest monolith, 1.5 times bigger than Uluru. Enjoy the walk to the summit where you will be rewarded by breathtaking views.

• Walwa - Golf course, great fishing, craft shop and country hotel.

Cottages facilities include panorama views and canoe and bicycle hire.

• Jingellic - Great old country pub on the banks of the Murray.

• Thologolong - Birthplace of the Murray Grey cattle breed.

• Talgarno / Wymah Ferry - Cross to NSW and return to Victoria. 'Toot' your car horn for a ride.

• Bellbridge - Great picnic spots along Lake

Hume. Enjoy the water activities and view the historic Bethanga Bridge.

• A vast range of quaint B&B, guest house, hotel, caravan park or motel accommodation is available along the Great River Road.

The Murray Valley Highway Loop takes in Corryong, Cudgewa, Nariel, Berrigama, Shelley, Koetong, Bullioh, Tallangatta Valley and Tallangatta. This tour can commence from either Tallangatta or Corryong.

Experience the Pure High Country - majestic mountains, inspirational views, fertile valleys and abundant wildlife, flora and fauna.

• Nariel Creek - Recreational reserve and home of Australia's first folk festival, good fishing, swimming and picnic area.

• Cudgewa - Bluff Falls and bushwalking tracks, great country pub (check opening times).

• Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park - the two mountains in this park provide excellent and diverse adventures for bushwalkers, campers, climbers, four-wheel drive enthusiasts, birdwatchers and nature lovers.

• Shelley - Pine plantations, native flora and fauna, Avondale Gardens, group accommodation and historically the highest railway station in Victoria.

• Mt Lawson - Historic rail trestle bridge and picnic grounds.



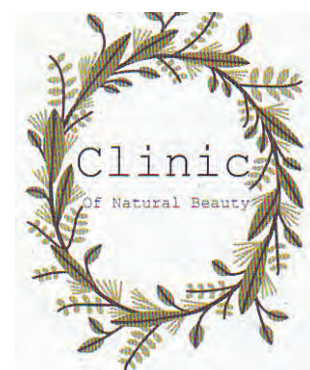
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# Look out for great views



Self-drive visitors are invited to linger and enjoy some of the spectacular views on offer throughout the Towong Shire while discovering much about the area's rich and diverse heritage. Six lookouts and wayside stops have been re-developed to encourage visitors to take a moment

to appreciate the natural beauty and unique history of the Towong Shire.

At the Kurrajong Gap Lookout, located along Kurrajong Gap Road between Bellbridge and Bethanga, stop and admire the rolling hills that surround Lake Hume at the dam wall from a

cantilevered viewing platform.

Attractive informational signs will help visitors discover why the Bethanga Bridge is unique and how the township of Bethanga was established.

Visitors travelling along the Murray River Road will find Farran's

Lookout between Tintaldra and Towong. On a clear winter's day, an inspiring snow-capped view of the Australian Alps is captured from the new viewing platform with signage to assist visitors to identify peaks such as Mount Kosciuszko, Watsons Crag and Mount

Sentinel.

A street map of the 'Old Town' is a great visual aid at the wayside stop overlooking Old Tallangatta along the Murray Valley Highway. Accessible directly from the High Country Rail Trail, visitors can also learn about the important

role the Wodonga to Cudgewa railway line played right up until the late 1970s.

Heading further west along the Murray Valley Highway a view of the new town of Tallangatta and Lake Hume is not to be missed from the Tallangatta Lookout (above). The 'town that moved' was established in the 1950s following the expansion of Lake Hume; which visitors can read all about while they enjoy a

break from their travels.

Those who wish to explore the Mitta Valley can start at its gateway at Lockhart's Gap Lookout. From the time of its earliest settlers, the Mitta Valley has been valued for its rich agricultural land and waterways.

Further into the valley, visitors will also gain a greater appreciation for the Mitta Mitta River and the Dartmouth Dam at the improved facilities at the wayside stop in Eskdale.

## Keep informed

Visitors to the Upper Murray are in for a 'truly local' experience when they call into the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) in Corryong.

The design is a contemporary take on a bushman's hut, capturing the essence of what Corryong and the Upper Murray are renowned for such as the Man from Snowy River and the legends of the High Country.

The effect was created using modern materials with a rustic look and feel and incorporating recycled materials and timber from the bridges that were damaged in floods.

It also adopts a modern approach by embracing technology, such as the use of iPads, to assist in servicing visitor enquiries.

There are further plans to complement the works already completed which include improving safety measures and establishing a thematic arts trail and interpretive walk.

The VIC is also home

to the Man From Snowy River Bush Festival which is held in Corryong each April.

It is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm and only closed Christmas Day, Good Friday and Anzac Day morning.

Volunteers are happy to impart some local knowledge and tell a few tales about the history of the Upper Murray.



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# Take a two feet tour

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The Man From Snowy River Museum in Corryong is a must see attraction!

The museum is filled with thousands of treasures relating to the history of the Upper Murray.

The collection highlights:

- Jim Simpson's POW Rug
- The Mitchell Ski Collection
- Jack Riley Memorabilia
- Plus much more!

The museum is housed in the original 1926 Shire of Upper Murray building, with many outbuildings included from around the district.

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Start outside the Memorial Hall at the corner of Hanson Street and Donaldson Street and end up at the 'Man From Snowy River Museum'.

As early as 1861, John Derbyshire (Acting District Surveyor) sent Arthur F Walker to subdivide country lands at Tintaldra, Cudgewa, Colac Colac and Wabba.

In the same year Derbyshire himself laid out the township of Towong, with the first land being offered for sale on 29th November, 1867.

Both Towong and Tintaldra were vying to be the 'capital' of the Upper

Murray.

However, even in the 1860s, the manager of Watson's Tintaldra Store, Mr Charles Armstrong, wrote in his diary that Corryong was the most natural centre and his judgement was proved correct.

Corryong was surveyed in 1879 by Thomas K Brain and the first land sale took place on 20th June, 1882. Some development had taken place when a Mr Miller transferred his store from Koetong by bullock wagon in 1875.

When he died the following year, Donaldson (who was

managing Watson's Store at Tintaldra) bought the estate and expanded the business.

In the meantime, the Primary School had transferred to its present site (diagonally opposite the Memorial Hall) in 1877 from Hugh Harris' "Hunters Plain" where it was established five years earlier.

This new school was built by Mr William Lloyd and it still stands today, surrounded by new additions.

Donaldson decided that his business would be better served if it was nearer the school, so in 1883 he built a new shop opposite the school.

This shop, which later included the Post Office, was burnt down in 1903 and rebuilt where it stands today as Pioneer Corner at the top of Hanson Street.

The current Shire Offices building was opened on 28th May, 1971 by the then Premier of Victoria, the Hon Rupert Hamer. The Shire Engineer of that time, Mr John Sherring, designed

the building.

80 Hanson Street was, for many years, a doctor's residence. The well-loved Dr Greenham (after whom Greenham Street was named) lived here until the residence and surgery diagonally opposite were completed. That building now houses the Baptist Church.

The land on which the Masonic Lodge was built was purchased from Andrew and James Harris and the lodge opened on 15th October, 1921.

The red roofed house at 104 Hanson Street was built in the 1920s as the Shire Engineer's residence. One of the first to occupy it was Mr Farran, whose name is perpetuated in Farran Street and Farran's Lookout on the road to Tintaldra.

The end of your walk down Hanson Street is the 'Man from Snowy River' Museum. This building was erected in 1926 as the Upper Murray Shire Offices and handed over to the Upper Murray Historical Society in 1971.

The museum houses

an interesting collection of local memorabilia, as well nationally and internationally significant items, and is a must-visit stopover - allow at least an hour to see it all.

The museum is open on a daily basis and varies on the time of year - check the Tourist Information Centres for current times.

Most visitors to Corryong comment on the impressive trees lining the main street, especially in autumn when they display their gold colours.

These liquid ambers are planted all around town. A former shire engineer, John Showers, who had come from the Bright area, was responsible for the planting which started at the museum many years ago. To get back to the starting point walk back via Wheeler Street and see more of the trees that have given this town the reputation for its autumn displays.

There are many other historical buildings within the town including Davis Cottage in the Attree Centre.

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## A colourful history

Set among majestic liquid amber trees in Hanson Street in Corryong is the 'Man from Snowy River' Museum.

The commitment of the local community to carry on the traditions and stories of early settlement through to the post-war years is an experience to behold.

The extensive and unique display is loved by thousands of visitors each year who visit the museum.

It is rated by overseas tourists as one of top ten 'must see' museums in the country.

People from around the world also visit the museum to retrace their heritage as many early European settlers called the Upper Murray area home, and the museum boasts a sizable research room of local records.

The building, which was formerly the Shire Offices, was erected in 1926 and gazetted to the museum in 1971.

The museum houses an interesting collection of local memorabilia, including many nationally significant items.

An authentic bark slab hut as used by the

mountain cattlemen is also being constructed on the site.

An internationally significant item in the museum is Jim Simpson's rug, one of Australia's most precious items of war memorabilia which is housed in the purpose-built cabinet. Mr Simpson knitted the rug, depicting the map of Australia, while he was a prisoner of war during World War II.

The museum is staffed wholly by volunteers and is open on a daily basis. Check the Visitor Information Centre for times.



# Trails have tales to tell

## BICENTENNIAL NATIONAL TRAIL

Once known as the National Horse Trail, this trail from Cooktown in Queensland to Healesville in Victoria, was created to provide people with an opportunity to appreciate and experience the self-reliant lifestyle of the drovers of yesteryear, who once frequented Australian stock routes. The Upper Murray section (in guide book 11) of this 5,330 kilometre recreational trail passes through Khancoban, the Kosciuszko National Park and Tom Groggin. Coincidentally the first man and woman to complete this trail in 1989-90 now live in the Upper Murray.

[www.bicentennialnationaltrail.com.au](http://www.bicentennialnationaltrail.com.au)

## THE HUME AND HOVELL TRACK

Retracing the route taken by the 1824 Hume and Hovell expedition to discover new areas for European Settlement, this 440 kilometre walking trail is marked between Cooma Cottage in Yass and the Hovell Tree in Albury. Narrowly bypassing Tumbarumba, the trail is readily accessed at the Henry Angel Trackhead, five kilometres south of the town. Located beside Burra Creek, this popular camping reserve can be the base for single or multi-day walks. Map 4 of this trail covers the Henry Angel Trackhead to Lankey's Creek section.

[www.humeandhovelltrack.com.au](http://www.humeandhovelltrack.com.au)

## BURROWA-PINE NATIONAL PARK

This 18,400-hectare park features two distinctly different mountains; Mt. Burrowa (Boorgal - its indigenous name) and Pine

Mountain (Yabbarin), which are joined by a narrow ridge. Each mountain has a distinctly different geology, geography and biology. The spectacular Cudgewa Bluff Falls is an easily accessible park highlight. Parks Victoria notes highlight marked walking tracks, ranging in distance from 1.4km to 15km, with varying degrees of difficulty. The Pine Mountain Summit walk, though challenging, is rewarded with amazing views of the Murray River valley.

## MOUNT LAWSON NATIONAL PARK

Largely undisturbed rugged mountain country, this park allows free camping beside the Koetong Creek and at the Kurrajongs, off Murray River Road. The Summit Loop Nature Trail, 1.3km, meanders over and around interesting rocky outcrops and has views overlooking the Murray River. The Flaggy Creek Gorge Walking Track, 14km return, is a rugged track which leads to seasonal waterfalls and rock pools. The Valley View Lookout on this track provides panoramic views.

## MOUNT GRANYA STATE PARK

Open forests of red stringy bark and long-leafed box can be found on the northern slopes of this park, while broad and narrow leaf peppermint dominate the plateau and southern slopes. Several rare plant species exist and more than 110 bird species have been recorded. Free camping is available at the Mt. Granya summit and Cotton Tree Creek, which are connected by a six kilometre walking track. The seasonal Granya Falls is 500 metres from the Cotton Tree Creek camping area.

## MOUNTAIN CREEK NATURE TRAIL

Starting at the corner of Avondale Road and the Murray Valley Highway at Shelley, this 2 km loop trail travels through undulating native bush land, where native wildflowers flourish in Spring. Be sure to listen for birds.

## HARRINGTON TRACK, ALPINE NATIONAL PARK

This 20 km walking and horse riding track from Bunroy Station to Stoney Creek, north of Tom Groggin, was created in 1895 by the Victorian Mines Department to provide access for miners to previously inaccessible reaches of the upper Murray River. It is in remote country and users should be well equipped and experienced. More information can be found in the Harrington Track No.156 leaflet at the Corryong Visitor Information Centre.

Park Notes on all Victorian parks are available at [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

The Friends of Murray Mountain Parks volunteers are dedicated to improving park facilities and welcome new volunteers.

## THE HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL

Retracing the route of the Wodonga to Cudgewa rail branch line, this trail is being progressively developed by Parklands Albury Wodonga. The 42 km section between Wodonga and Old Tallangatta is a sealed or gravelled surface and 22 km between Darbyshire and Shelley is gravelled. Cycling events are held throughout the year.

[www.highcountryrailtrail.org.au](http://www.highcountryrailtrail.org.au)

## KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

Australia's highest mountain, Mt Kosciuszko, with its summit at 2228 metres above sea level, is located in this 690,000-hectare park. The alpine and subalpine environments create many opportunities for lovers of the outdoors across all seasons. The Alpine Way which links one side of the mountains to the other is always open and gives those in the Upper Murray access to the alpine resorts of Thredbo and Perisher. Some trails to check out include:

The Kosciuszko Summit Trail, 14km return from Thredbo, provides walkers with great views over the Upper Murray. In warmer weather, carpets of Summer alpine wildflowers and Australia's only glacial lakes are features of the trail.

The 20 km one way Geehi to Tom Groggin Trail has camping facilities either end.

The 3.8 km return Round Mountain Walk into the Jagungal Wilderness area boasts great views of Mt. Jagungal.

The Gold Seekers Track, a 3km loop track traverses through snow gum woodland near Three Mile Dam, off the Elliot Way. Park passes are required and can be obtained at the National Parks Office in Khancoban

[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

...

DETAILED MAPS AND INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT THE WEBSITES PROVIDED OR FROM OUR VISITOR INFO CENTRES IN TUMBARUMBA, KHANCOBAN, CORRYONG AND TALLANGATTA.



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2019 Challenge winners (from left)  
Travis Bandy, Kieran Davidson and Emma O'Shea.

# The search for legends goes on

They can crack whips, shoe horses, catch brumbies and ride like the Man from Snowy River. And they assemble in Corryong every autumn to battle in the Man from Snowy River Challenge.

The prestigious

horse riding challenge is drawing skilled stockmen and stockwomen from right across Australia.

And if anyone deserves to be known as a legend it is Scott Bandy (pictured above) who has won four of the hard fought titles.

Challenge competitors will take part in demanding tests of skill including a vet and gear check, stock handling, packhorse, bareback obstacle riding, horseshoeing and cross country riding.

Only the top ten competitors will take part in the daring final events - brumby catching and stock saddle buck jumping. These will determine who will leave Corryong with the prestigious Modern Man from Snowy River title, along with over \$60,000 in cash and prizes. The event has gone from strength to strength over the years.

The 2017 Junior and Ladies events featured in a final of their own for the first time with The Ladies Silver Brumby Catch testing the Brumby catching skills of the top three lady riders and a time trial to test the top three junior riders.

All Challenge events take place at the Corryong Showgrounds where many of the entrants and their supporters camp throughout the festival.

The Challenge begins on the Friday and the preliminary rounds are held over two days - vet and gear check, packhorse, stockhandling, horse-shoeing, whipcracking, cross country and bareback obstacle.

The top ten competitors are announced on the Saturday evening and

the finalists are able to celebrate at the Open Air Concert which takes place at the Showgrounds that night.

The seniors finals take place on Sunday. The daring Brumby Catch and Stock Saddle Buckjump are exciting displays of skills - great entertainment for onlookers. The prizes are awarded following completion of the Stock-saddle Buckjump and tallying of the final scores.

Each year the event is hailed as the best ever, as the riders strive to be the best in the land.

A host of local riders also compete, hoping for a home town victory.

Several promising riders have graduated from the junior event to the senior Challenge.

That includes three-time champion John Mitchell from Tooma, surpassing the feat of his brother David who won in 2010 and 2012.

Previous winners of the Challenge have been:-

## Seniors

1995 - Bill Willoughby, Booleroo Centre SA;  
1996 - Scott Bandy, Tumut  
1998 - Ron Connley, Omeo;  
1999 - Joint winners Ron Connley, Omeo and Barry Paton, Tooma NSW;  
2000 - Scott Bandy, Tumut  
2001 - Ben Hall, Goondiwindi Qld;  
2002 - Geoff Willis, Wagga Wagga;  
2003 - Jason Leitch, Scone

## NSW.

2004 - Jason Leitch, Scone  
2005 - Geoff Willis, Wagga Wagga NSW;  
2007 - Sam Baylis, Rowena NSW;  
2007 - Ryan Pendergast;  
2008 - Not held (equine influenza);  
2009 - Morgan Webb, Romsey;  
2010 - David Mitchell, Tooma, NSW;  
2011 - Scott Bandy;  
2012 - David Mitchell;  
2013 - Scott Bandy;  
2014 - Scott Bandy;  
2015 - Bronson Macklinshaw;  
2016 - John Mitchell;  
2017 - John Mitchell;  
2018 - John Mitchell;  
2019: Kieran Davidson

## Juniors

1998 - Jim Laverty, Berrigama Vic.;

1999 - Mark Patterson, Tumut;  
2000 - Jim Laverty, Berrigama;  
2001 - Ryan Pendergast;  
2002 - David Mitchell;  
2003 - David Mitchell;  
2004 - Tyler Pendergast;  
2005 - Rhys Angland;  
2006 - Morgan Webb;  
2007 - John Mitchell;  
2008 - Not held (equine influenza);  
2009 - Daryl Baines;  
2010 - Ben Donahue;  
2011 - Dean Pendergast & William Harrison;  
2012 & 2013 - William Harrison;  
2014 - Nick Roe;  
2015 - Johnny Ward;  
2016 - Kelsie Lupson;  
2017 - Johnny Ward;  
2018 - Travis Bandy

## Women

1995 - Tarina Connley;

1996 - Jocelyn Paton;  
1998 - Jocelyn Paton;  
1999 - Jocelyn Paton;  
2000 - Linda Adams;  
2001 - Jocelyn Paton;  
2002 - Linda Adams;  
2003 - Julie Willoughby;  
2004 - Jess Newton;  
2005 - Megan Nankervis & Sarah Connley;  
2006 - Sarah Connley;  
2007 - Christie O'Connor;  
2008 - No challenge;  
2009 - Christie O'Connor;  
2010 - Christie O'Connor;  
2011 - Malory Nankervis;  
2012 - Kirby Nankervis;  
2013 - Christie O'Connor;  
2014 - Emma O'Shea;  
2015 - Emma O'Shea;  
2016 - Emma O'Shea;  
2017 - Emma O'Shea;  
2018 - Emma O'Shea;  
2019: Emma O'Shea.

2020: Not held (coronavirus pandemic)

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- The Man From Snowy River Challenge Silver Jubilee
- Bush Poetry
- Art and Photography Exhibition

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Four-time Challenge winner Scott Bandy in action in the Brumby Catch.