

**COMEON
INLAND**

Gunnedah



Regional
Development
Australia
NORTHERN INLAND NSW



Shire of
Gunnedah
Land of Opportunity



**COME ON
INLAND**



Children's playground in Gunnedah

Gunnedah is known as the Koala Capital of the World. It is home to one of Australia's largest mainland population of koalas. The sight of koalas in their natural habitat delights visitors and locals alike.



Gunnedah's Bicentennial Creative Arts Centre Gallery

Australia's iconic poet Dorothea Mackellar [1885-1968] was inspired by the Gunnedah district having spent a great deal of time on her brothers' local properties.

Dorothea Mackellar [1885-1968], Australians most loved poet spent a great deal of time on her brothers' local properties from 1905 [the year she wrote her best-known work, 'My Country', which is thought to have been inspired, in part, by the local landscape] until the late 1930s. Each year school children are encouraged to submit poetry for the Dorothea Mackellar National Poetry Competition for Schools.

The Gunn-e-darr people of the Kamilaroi tribe inhabited the area before European settlement. They associated the future townsite with a sizeable outcrop of white stone where the public school now stands in Bloomfield St. Towards the end of the 18th century the Gunn-e-darr people were led by a legendary warrior named Cumbo Gunnerah or Red Kangaroo, who became the subject of a 1953 novel by Ion Idriess titled 'The Red Chief'.

The first European in the area was the explorer and surveyor John Oxley who passed through the nearby Mullaley area in 1818 on his way to the coast to where he named, Port Macquarie. Alan Cunningham passed to the north in 1827, en route to the Darling Downs. He was followed by Thomas Mitchell in 1831. The future town site arose out of what was originally a principal crossing-place for teamsters on the Namoi River. White settlement began in the mid or late 1830s when John Johnston established the Bulomin run on the Namoi River, building his homestead and woolshed by the riverbank. Consequently the area

was known as 'The Woolshed' until about 1860. The property was later renamed the 'Gunnedah'.

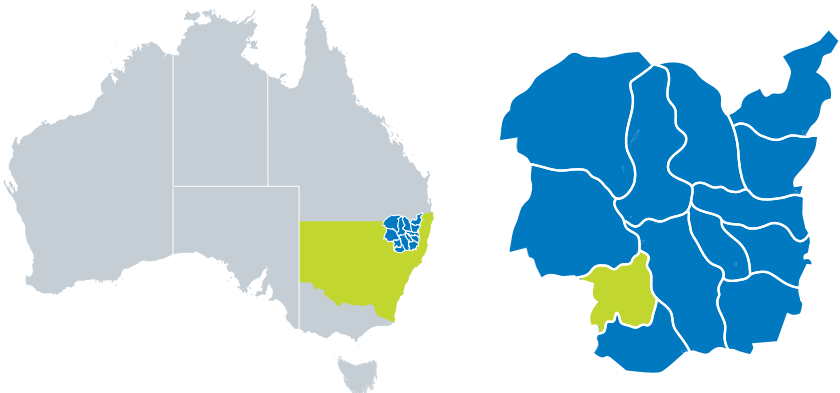
Other squatters followed Johnston. A survey of the town site was carried out in 1854 and the first land sales took place in 1857, following Gunnedah's gazettal in 1856. The soil proved arable and wheat growing soon commenced. In 1866 the population was recorded as about 300. At that time bushranger 'Thunderbolt' [alias Fred Ward] robbed the patrons of the Carroll Hotel and then settled in for a party, which was broken up by a party of mounted troopers. A gun battle ensued and Ward escaped though some horses and property he had stolen were recovered.

The railway arrived in 1879 and the town subsequently became the commercial centre of the northwest and began to expand. Cohen's Bridge was built over the Namoi in 1884 and the town became a municipality in 1885 with a population of about 1000.

Attempts to establish coalmining proved unsuccessful until the Gunnedah Colliery was established in 1900. New discoveries in 1978 greatly expanded operations. Also of some interest is the fact that Italian POWs worked on local farms in the Second World War.

AgQuip, the largest agricultural machinery field day in the Southern Hemisphere, is held each year in August. It attracts

Gunnedah: Koala Capital of the World



Gunnedah at night

QUICK FACTS

Population: 12 066

Median House Price: \$270 000

Climate: Temperatures range between 17 - 33°C in Summer and 3 - 17°C in Winter.

Average annual rainfall: 600mm

Elevation: 264m above sea level

436km north of Sydney and 651km south of Brisbane

Known for: Koalas, surrounding National Parks, Sport, Dorothea Mackellar, The Red Chief, Art, AgQuip

around 100 000 visitors from many states and overseas for the three days. The Lake Keepit Sailing Regatta is held in June and the Tomato Festival in January. The town's markets occur on the third Saturday of the month at Wolsely Park in Conadilly St.

Gunnedah Shire is a truly diverse agricultural area supporting both winter and summer cropping, cattle, sheep and pigs. It is the largest industry in the Shire, utilising an area of approximately 402 500 hectares, including about 117 300 hectares of cropping.

Wheat is still the most widely grown crop followed by sorghum, barley, maize and sunflowers. Cotton is also a significant summer crop with the quality of cotton grown in the area equivalent to the best in the world. This natural fibre crop injects over \$35 million into the local economy. Cotton gins are established at both Bogabri and Carroll. Other important crops include oats, canola, soybeans, mung beans, chickpeas and safflowers.

With sales every Tuesday, Gunnedah Saleyards is one of the largest in NSW with about 120 000 head of cattle sold annually.

LOCATION

Gunnedah is located in the Namoi Valley, at the intersection of the Oxley and Kamilaroi Hwys. Gunnedah is 436 km north west of Sydney, and only 78 km west of Tamworth.

TRANSPORT

By road: 436km north west of Sydney and 651km south of Brisbane

By rail: Daily passenger train to Sydney 6.5 hrs.

By air: No commercial air services, but charter services are available from Gunnedah Airport. However, daily flights to Sydney and Brisbane are available from Tamworth, which is 50 minutes by car.

● EMPLOYMENT

Gunnedah is a progressive, growing community with employment opportunities available across a gamut of industries. Situated in the Namoi Valley, Gunnedah Shire is the heart of the agriculturally rich and diversely productive Liverpool Plains so opportunities in both agriculture and agribusiness abound. The mining industry has brought a new vibrancy to the community. Employment opportunities can also be found in industries such as hospitality, health, education, retail, trades, community and professional services.

● HOUSING

Houses in Gunnedah are both a great investment and a great lifestyle choice. You can find gorgeous traditional farm homesteads with acres of agricultural land and beautiful federation style homes in the centre of town. If you prefer modern architecture then Gunnedah also has plenty of properties to choose from with new building approvals increasing in recent years. If your dream home hasn't been built yet there are plenty of choices for a place to build. Investing in property in Gunnedah is also a great option. Median house and unit prices are still comparatively low and rental returns are currently sitting above the national average. With an adequate supply of excellent quality, underground water, Gunnedah's gardens are always a picture!

● EDUCATION

A high standard of education is available in Gunnedah Shire with a choice of either public or independent schooling. Gunnedah's children are catered for locally from early childhood through to primary and secondary schooling, with some tertiary options. In addition to a variety of early child care facilities, Gunnedah Township boasts a choice of three preschools, two public primary schools, one Catholic primary school, one public secondary school, one Catholic secondary school and a Christian Community school [K-6], and importantly, a special needs school for students [K-12] with physical and intellectual disabilities.

● HEALTH

Residents of Gunnedah Shire are well taken care of when it comes to health and other necessary support services. Gunnedah has a modern hospital that provides a world-class standard of surgical, maternity and general medical care. The Shire is also well served by general practitioners, allied health professionals and dentists, with many housed in our new state of the art Rural Health Centre.

Gunnedah's aged care facilities have some of the most comfortable and modern amenities in all of NSW and can cater for all levels of need. Services for the disabled in Gunnedah include employment and residential programs and there is also a respite service that provides full-time carers with a well deserved rest.

● LIFESTYLE

Gunnedah residents are spoilt for choice when it comes to lifestyle! With galleries and museums for everything, from art to transport, Gunnedah is home to a thriving cultural scene. The modern theatre complex not only houses the cinema complex, but also attracts many theatrical and musical performances. All of these activities have stimulated strong art, musical and dramatic societies.

For those seeking more active pursuits, there are many sporting activities to choose from. Gunnedah has an 18-hole golf course, a heated swimming complex, world-class gymnasium and numerous well-maintained ovals and playing fields. Gunnedah is well recognized in the region as a town which has excellent Sporting Facilities and caters for the majority of sports.

● ENVIRONMENT

Gunnedah is situated on the south eastern edge of the Nandewar Ranges, from which it is believed Dorethea Mackellar took inspiration in her poem "My Country" and "a land of sweeping plains...". Changing with the seasons and the crops planted, Gunnedah's scenery is a canvas of shifting colours. Keepit Dam not only provides irrigation water for farmers, it is also a mecca for watersports and for those who enjoy camping .

An ideal place as a 'home base' for day trips, Gunnedah is surrounded by national parks in neighbouring shires, including: Mount Kaputar National Park (approx. 120km north), the Pilliga Nature Reserve (approx. 130km west) and Coolah Tops National Park (approx. 125km south).

Watersports at Lake Keepit





A land of
sweeping plains...

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COMEON INLAND

Considering a move inland? Come On Inland is a project by Regional Development Australia Northern Inland designed to assist your family or business move to a stunning region of NSW with unique opportunities.



www.comeoninland.com.au

www.gunnedah.nsw.gov.au

www.infogunnedah.com.au

