



BLAND SHIRE ART AND SCULPTURE TRAIL

SELF-GUIDED



BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL
west wyalong

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BLAND SHIRE ART TRAIL

'West Wyalong' by Russell Drysdale, 1949

Bland Shire is rich in history, culture and art, from the stunning Weethalle Silo art to Mirrool's Horsing Around mural. Not to mention the biggest football in Australia, located in Ungarie and the many murals and sculptures in West Wyalong including a bronze-cast easel standing tall outside Tatts Hotel of a painting by renowned artist Russell Drysdale, depicting West Wyalong's Main Street.

Local artwork is also on display with glass making, painting, drawing, photography, sculpture and many more at different outlets within the Bland Shire.

Visit the West Wyalong Visitor Information Centre for more information or to hear about the latest arts added to the trail.

West Wyalong Visitor Information Centre

2-6 Shire Street, West Wyalong
(02) 6979 0272

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday: 10am to 5pm

Saturday to Sunday: 10am to 3pm

www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au

Cover artwork by Kheely Turner.

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BOOBEROI HILLS/BACK CREEK

Artwork by Kheely Turner.

Wiradjuri word 'Burbirra,' meaning Aboriginal Women drumming. Women would drum on their bundled cloaks and instruments to warn men that Women's Business (Ceremony) was underway in the area. Other hills in the West Wyalong area are associated with Men's Business. Booberoi Hills are a great place for walking, or to ride bicycles, dirt bikes and horses.

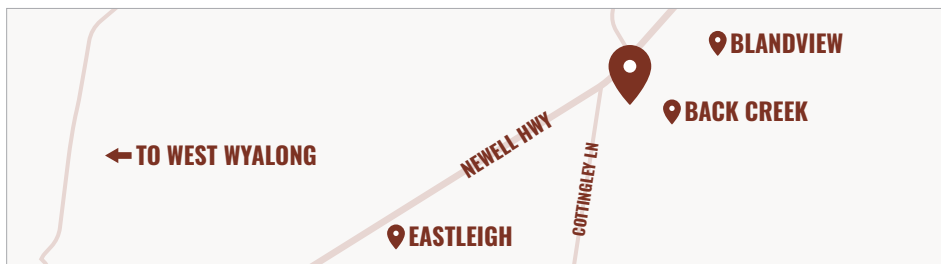
An initiative of the Riverina Local Land Services, West Wyalong Local Aboriginal Land Council and Bland Shire Council, the Re-awakening of Aboriginal Place Names gives communities the opportunity to unlock past stories, preserve traditions and provide a sense of belonging and identity.

 **Re-awakening Aboriginal Place Names: Booberoi Hills Back Creek**

Wiradjuri Name: *Burbirra*
Meaning: *Aboriginal women drumming*



Scan the QR code to read more about this project and listen to the pronunciation of the Wiradjuri name.





MIRROOL

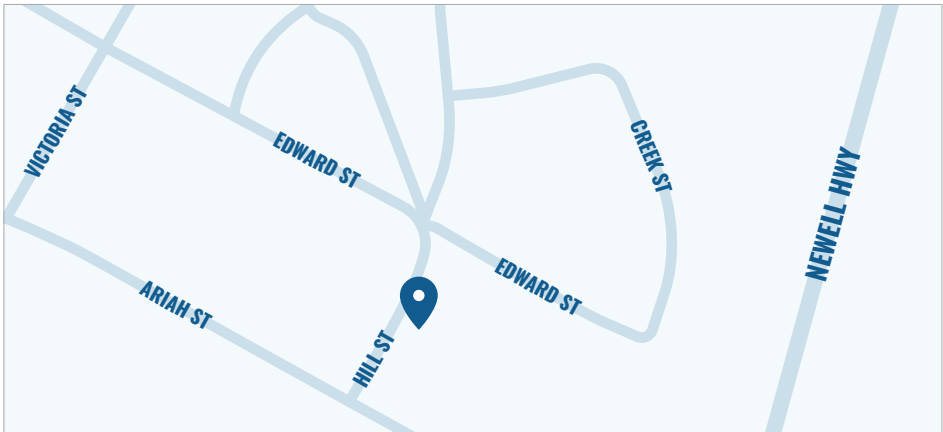
'Horsing Around' Mural in Mirrool.

Mirrool is a vibrant village nestled just off the Newell Highway, 47km south of West Wyalong. The village is best known for the annual Mirrool Silo Kick, a unique and hotly contested competition held every October to kick a football clear over the huge silos.

Call into the charming old-style Mirrool Royal Hotel, meet the locals, learn their nicknames and experience country hospitality at its best. Free camping is available with a small charge to gain access to power and amenities. A dump point is also located in the area.

Horsing Around Mirrool Mural RFS SHED, Hill Street, Mirrool

Zest International artist Anton Pulvirenti has created the *'Horsing Around'* mural in Mirrool. The mural is located on the Rural Fire Service Shed adjacent to Sunshine Park and the historic Royal Hotel. People are encouraged to interact with the mural by posing in front of it to create the illusion that they are trying to escape the bolting horse.






TALLIMBA

Artwork by Kheely Turner.

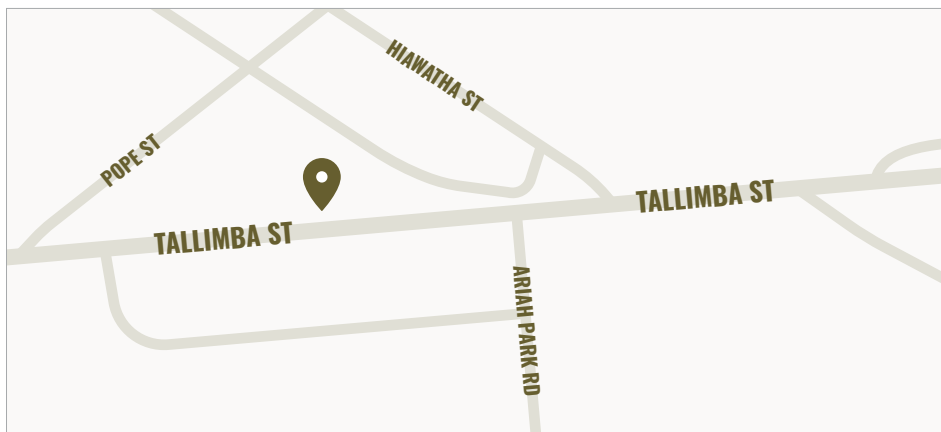
Tallimba is a quaint agricultural village situated 35km south-west of West Wyalong. Surrounded by rich farmland, Tallimba's main focus is sheep grazing and winter cropping.

The community hub is the Tallimba Inn, across from the public park, which has amenities and BBQ facilities.

 **Re-awakening Aboriginal Place Names: Tallimba**
45 Tallimba Street, Tallimba
Wiradjuri Name: *Dhalymbang*
Meaning: *Hard Stone Axe*

An initiative of the Riverina Local Land Services, West Wyalong Local Aboriginal Land Council and Bland Shire Council, the Re-awakening of Aboriginal Place Names gives communities the opportunity to unlock past stories, preserve traditions and provide a sense of belonging and identity.

The signage was painted by the very talented artist Kheely Turner, a proud Wiradjuri and Ngiyampaa woman.





UNGARIE

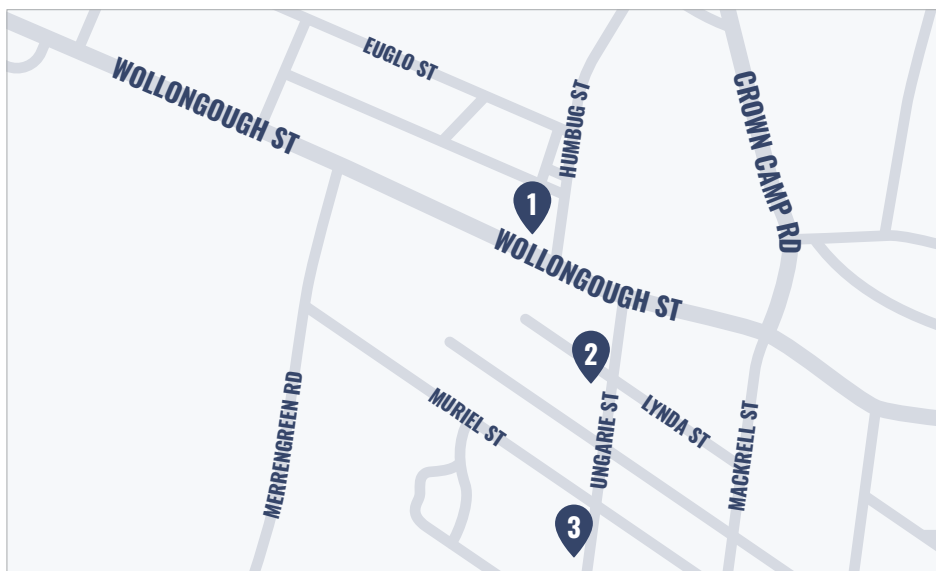
Ungarie Murals by Simon White.

Ungarie is located 42km north-west of West Wyalong on the road to Lake Cargelligo. The major industries of sheep grazing and winter cropping keep the community going.

Ungarie hosts one of the best agricultural shows in September. Camping is available at the Ungarie showgrounds throughout the year.

The showgrounds offer amenities and a dump point.

A delicious meal at the Bowling Club is a must and don't miss out on a chat with the locals at the Ungarie Pub. While admiring all the art, pop into the Ungarie Dugout Room, which is located in the Memorial Hall to see the wonderful mural.



1

Big Footy

Bing Wallder Park

31 Wollongough Street, Ungarie

Australia's Biggest Football stands tall in the Bland Shire village of Ungarie. The 800 kilogram fibreglass replica Sherrin is located in Bing Wallder Park as a permanent tribute to Australia's most famous footballing family—the Danihers. Ungarie born and bred Terry, Anthony, Neale and Chris Daniher are legends of Australian Football and are the only four brothers to step onto the field together in an AFL/VFL premiership match. The construction of the football was led by the Ungarie Advancement Group and the local community. The project was delivered by Bland Shire Council in conjunction with Triple M Rocks Footy.

Re-awakening Aboriginal Place Names:

Ungarie, Bing Wallder Park

31 Wollongough Street, Ungarie

Wiradjuri word: *Yunggaay*

Meaning: *Malleefowl*

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The signage was painted by the very talented artist Kheely Turner a proud Wiradjuri and Ngiyampaa woman.

Ungarie Museum Wall

Bing Wallder Park

31 Wollongough Street, Ungarie

Simon White was asked to paint over a mural that was initially painted in

1988 by the town locals on the Ungarie museum wall. The paint was very faded and flaking away. Simon tried to keep a similar theme to what was there before and in true Simon White style added his artistic touches. (The mural can be seen from inside Bing Wallder Park).

2

Ungarie World Globe

46 Ungarie Street, Ungarie

The rotating Giant Globe in the Ungarie RSL Park was created and meticulously painted by artist Simon White. The globe depicts theatres of war where Ungarie servicemen and women served from the Boer War in 1890 until present day (highlighting the significance of Ungarie in Australia's war history.)

Thanks to the imagination of the local committee and skill of local trades, the globe rotates and also lights up at night to make it a spectacular local attraction.

Ungarie Murals

Ungarie Street, Ungarie

Artist Simon White painted his longest and what he calls his most important murals in Ungarie, NSW. Created for the Ungarie War Memorial Park honouring those who served in wars from the Boer War to current conflicts.

In Simon's own words from his Facebook page: *'The more I paint these people, their expressions and body language are effecting me. It makes me think wow, I've done nothing for my country compared to our ancestors. I'm forever grateful.'*

The mural is more than 60 metres long, and features 46-50 different scenes from the wars.



Henderson Bros Building Mural by Simon White.

3

Henderson Bros Building
50 Ungarie Street, Ungarie

This mural was designed to pay homage to the Henderson Bros, who achieved many great things for the town during WW2 and later. This included selling

cars, and building an engine to bring power to the town.

The brief was to turn this part of the building into a 1950s car showroom.



Big Footy, Bing Wallder Park.



Ungarie World Globe, Ungarie RSL Park.

8



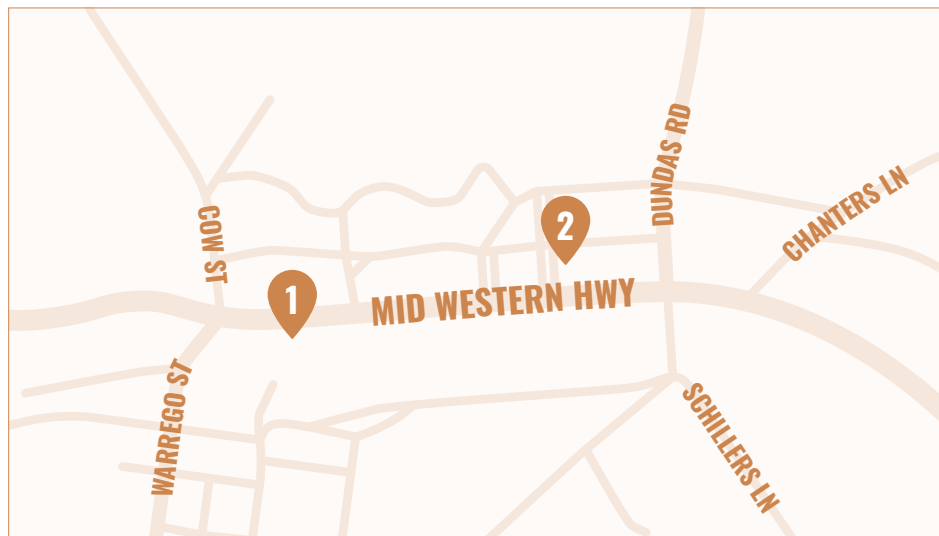
WEETHALLE

Weethalle Silo Art, Mid Western Highway.

Weethalle is located 58km west of West Wyalong on the Mid Western Highway. It is also the town with quirky names like the Weethalle Whistle Stop, Fat Bob and the Blonde and the Road Kill Grillz.

The Weethalle Whistle Stop, located in the former railway station office is a perfect setting for a Devonshire tea and local arts and crafts. Enter the red door

in the main street and you will meet Fat Bob and the Blonde with Fat Bob the Harley Davidson that travels all over Australia and its owner, Heather, who will happily share her travelling stories while you relax on the comfy couches. The Road Kill Grillz is the local café so don't miss the opportunity for a big meal.





Road Kill Grillz Mural.

1

Weethalle Silo Art Mid Western Highway, Weethalle

Grain storage silos right across Australia have long been considered an iconic part of the landscape to those who reside in rural communities. Built in 1930, the original concrete silos in Weethalle have a 2400 tonne capacity and stand at a whopping 21 metres high by 31 metres wide. Located across open parkland on Railway Street, the Main street of Weethalle, the silos provide the perfect canvas for the stunning large scale public art mural that was completed by renowned Melbourne based street artist Heesco in June 2017.

The mural is a tribute to the rich agricultural heritage of the small community of Weethalle and the surrounding Bland Shire communities. While visiting the small Weethalle community why not take advantage of the camping and caravan facilities located at the Weethalle showground and stop over at the iconic Whistlestop Cafe for a delicious coffee and Devonshire Tea.

2

Road Kill Grillz Mural 13-15 Railway Street, Weethalle

The mural on the wall of the Road Kill Grillz was painted by Dev Knighton in 2014. The painting is a picture of their actual 1965 Ford F100 and serves as an attraction, in addition to their unique café name.

Also located in front of the Road Kill Grillz are some sculptures made by Wally Lamont from Rankin Springs. The Chinese Shearer and Sheep, the lady and a gentleman, a scorpion and a Mascot for the Mallee Men (West Wyalong's rugby league team).



1965 Ford F100 at Road Kill Grillz.



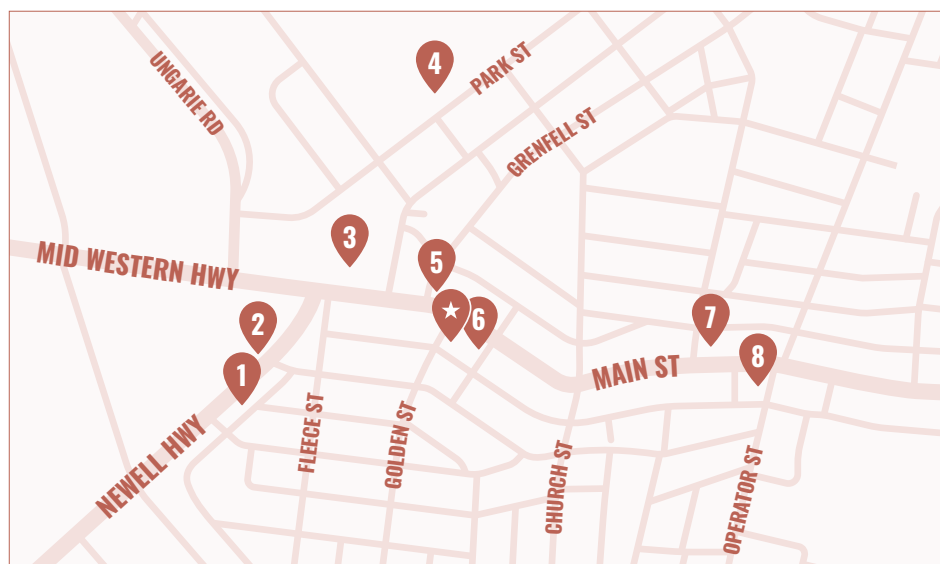
WEST WYALONG


Foyer Art, Bland Shire Council.

Before the discovery of gold in Wyalong, the area was known for sheep grazing and cropping. The town of Wyalong was officially laid out in 1894 to service the new population of up to 10,000 after the discovery of gold by the Neeld family.

However, a settlement to the west called the 'Main Camp' had been developing, boasting the 'White Tank' the only

established water supply for the area. In 1895 West Wyalong was officially laid out with its main feature being the crooked main street that reflects the early days as it follows the original bullock track that curved around trees and gold diggings.



After exploring the art trail, stop in at the Splatter Gallery (marked  on the map page 11) to admire local arts and crafts. As a visitor, you can join into the many art workshops on offer.

While stopping in at the Visitor Information Centre located in the Bland Shire Council building in Shire Street, take a look at the local artwork on display in the Council Chamber foyer. The artworks are on a rotation basis and some art are for sale. You can also press your very own penny by choosing from four art designs or collect all four.

1

Reg Rattey Statue **Reg Rattey Drive, West Wyalong**

Reg Rattey (28th March 1918 – 10th January 1986) was an Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry ‘in the face of the enemy’ that can be awarded to members of the British or Commonwealth armed forces. Reg was born in March 1918 in Barmedman. He went on to be one of only 20 Australians to receive the Victoria Cross for their actions in the Second World War. After the war, Reg ran a farm near West Wyalong.

2

Douglas DC3 Dakota Plane **Lions Park, Newell Highway** **West Wyalong**

Located in Lions Park on the Newell Highway in West Wyalong the DC3 is parked proudly in its final resting place.

Built in 1943 in Oklahoma City, the plane was donated to the West Wyalong Lions Club who made it a striking feature in Lions Park.

2

Bland.... But Not Boring Selfie Frame **Lions Park, Newell Highway,** **West Wyalong**

Bland in NSW has teamed up with Dull in Scotland and Boring in Oregon to form the League of Extraordinary Communities.

In 2012, the town of Boring in Oregon, US, voted to cement a relationship with the Scottish village of Dull in “a pair for the ages”. Bland was accepted into the alliance in 2013 and the League of Extraordinary Communities was formed.

Boring has a population of about 10,000 while Bland Shire has about 5955 people and Dull just 84 at last count. Bland and Boring are both named after early residents of the area – William Bland and William Boring – and Dull is believed to have got its name from the Pictish word for field.

3

Chainsaw Tree Art – **Malleefowl and Wedge Tail Eagle** **McCann Park, Main Street,** **West Wyalong**

The McCann Park Tree Sculpture is a large scale artwork in McCann Park which has added significantly to the Bland Shire’s emerging art trail. One of the world’s best chainsaw carvers, Brandon Kroon from Melbourne has created a spectacular wooden sculpture from a Redgum tree stump in West Wyalong’s McCann Park. The sculpture showcases two local birds, the Wedge Tailed Eagle and the Malleefowl carved out of the very tough timber using a chainsaw.

3

HOPE Sign

**McCann Park, Main Street,
West Wyalong**

Country Hope developed this initiative to bring hope to West Wyalong during the drought. It is a beautiful feature at night when it lights up in different colours. Locals and visitors are encouraged to add their padlock and message to the sign.

4

Skate Park Art

**McAlister Oval, Park Street,
West Wyalong**

The West Wyalong Skate Park is looking a lot more colourful after a fantastic street art mural was painted on the ramp by artist Styles 400.

5

White Tank Mural

**Cnr of Main Street and Grenfell Street,
West Wyalong**

This is an exciting new project on the side of the historic White Tank Hotel that will be painted by Heesco who also painted the Weethalle Silos. The community were involved in the decision making process. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns the painting should be finished by 2022.

6

Big Bull Mural

192 Main Street, West Wyalong

Zest International artist Zac Craig painted the Bland Bull mural on the Splatter Gallery wall in October 2019. People are encouraged to interact with

the mural by posing in front of it to create the illusion they are either being chased or have been thrown off the bull. West Wyalong's Main Street was shaped around an old bullock track.

7

Local Aboriginal Land Council Art **76 Main Street, West Wyalong**

To explore Wiradjuri art and culture, visit the West Wyalong Aboriginal Artefact Shop. Of particular interest is the magical meeting place – the Bai-Yai Room with a full mural and ceiling painted by Gordon Wayne, Dan Goodwin and Graham Nolan representing Aboriginal culture. Darren Cooper painted a mural in the office area and the outside of the building was painted by Pip Parkes and community members.

8

Russell Drysdale Easel Sculpture **85 Main Street, West Wyalong**

One of the most important and distinctive Australian artists of the 20th Century, Sir Russell Drysdale, came to West Wyalong in 1949 with his lawyer friend John Nagle (who was working on a case here).

Drysdale made sketches in court to pass the time. He also made a sketch of Main Street from in front of the Tattersall's Hotel, which became the subject of one of his most powerful paintings 'West Wyalong'. He was inspired to paint while standing outside under the verandah of the hotel at half past six in the evening and with everyone gone home for tea recalls how deserted the street was with the exception of a light coming from the shop at the bottom of the street.



Top: DC3 & Bland Far From Dull and Boring, Lions Park. **Middle Top:** Reg Rattey image by Lorraine Williams (L). Chainsaw Tree Art –Malleefowl and Wedge Tail Eagle, McCann Park (R). **Middle Bottom:** Big Bull Mural Main St (L), Russell Drysdale Easel (R). **Bottom:** HOPE Sign, McCann Park, West Wyalong.



WYALONG

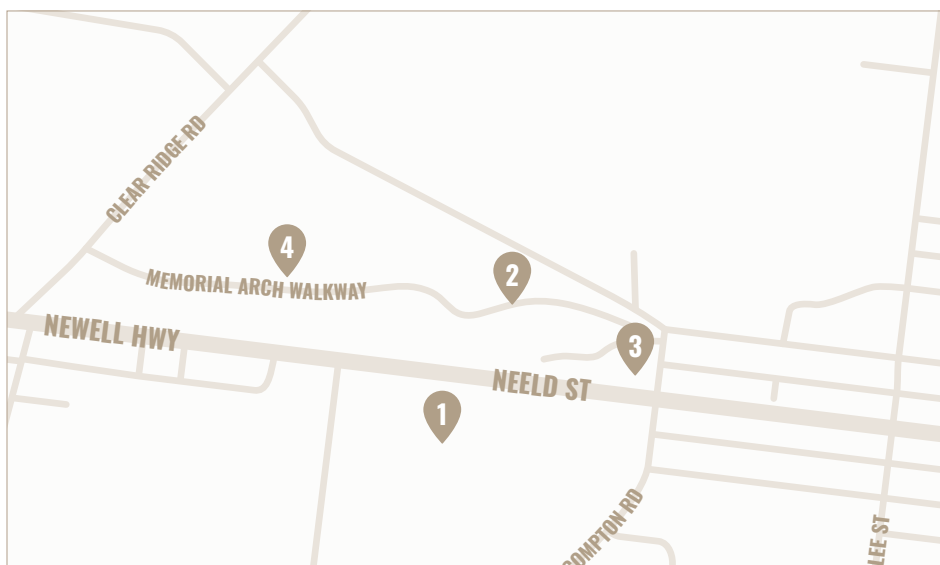
True Blue Poppet Head, Coinda Reserve.

Although Wyalong is known for its gold discovery, it was a major sheep grazing region from the mid 1800's. It was only when the Neeld family discovered gold that the town of Wyalong and later West Wyalong developed into a centralised settlement from 1894.

Gold mining is still active in the Bland Shire today with Cowal Gold Operations near Lake Cowal.

Read about the gold history on the provided panels in Coinda Reserve or take a walk to the Memorial Arch Way and The Wetlands.

Pop into the Hot Glass Gallery located in Neeld Street where Elaine creates one of a kind hand-made glass art pieces.



1

Yindyamarra

The Wetlands, Neeld Street, Wyalong

Bland Shire Council developed the Yindyamarra Display in conjunction with the West Wyalong Local Aboriginal Land Council utilising funding from the Stronger Country Communities grant through NSW Government and the Country Arts Support Program - Create NSW.

The stunning collection stands permanently at The Wetlands and features a number of significant indigenous artefacts and symbols which were all painted by local artists and students. The lead artist was West Wyalong's Kheely Turner from Bundyi Yadhah who painted the life size Kangaroo and her Joey, the Malleefowl and the Lace Monitor in true Aboriginal style.

Indigenous students from Ungarie Central School with the help of Jon Juda, painted many of the artefacts on display. Meanwhile, a number of local students from Wyalong Public School have their handprints set in concrete on the slab surrounding the exhibition.

The Yindyamarra display was officially opened by Bland Shire Council Deputy Mayor Rodney Crowe and New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council Wiradjuri Region Councillor Leeanne Hampton and was followed by a brilliant performance on the didgeridoo from Charlie Dodds.

2

Mirri Ngurang Dog Park Laser-Cut

Cooinda Reserve,
Neeld Street, Wyalong

The Bland Shire has a new tourism and cultural attraction following the official opening of Mirri Ngurang Dog Park during NAIDOC Week. Mirri Ngurang is both for locals of Bland Shire as well as for travellers and visitors who would like to exercise their dogs and simply give them a break from the tedium of their journey. On the fence are some laser cut dog images. Can you guess the dog breed on the fence?

Eucalyptus Distillery

Cooinda Reserve,
Neeld Street, Wyalong

Parts of an old eucalyptus distillery are on display at Cooinda Reserve. Eucalyptus polybractea or Blue Mallee occurs in 2 distinct areas. One is near Bendigo in Victoria while the other consists of extensive stands around the West Wyalong region. Oil from the Blue Mallee has been produced in the West Wyalong district since the early 1900's.

The First botanical specimen of Blue Mallee from West Wyalong was received and distilled in the Museum of Applied Arts in 1900. Commercial production in West Wyalong began in 1907 by the firm Gillard Gordon. Eucalyptus oil can be produced from many eucalypts; however oil from the Blue Mallee has the richest commercial source of cineol in the world, with very high levels of up to 91%.

Excavator Bucket Cooinda Reserve, Neeld Street, Wyalong

The Liebherr 994B Excavator Bucket was donated to Bland Shire Council by Evolution Mining's Cowl Gold Operation in 2020, as a permanent reminder of the mine's contribution to the people of the Bland Shire. The Cowl Gold Operation is located 40km north-east of West Wyalong and sits within the Bland, Lachlan and Forbes Shires on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people. This bucket was fitted to EXC302—a 294t mining Backhoe Excavator.

- Weight: 24t
- Height: 3.2m
- Length: 3.2m
- Bucket capacity: 18m³
- Made of: BISALLOY 80, a high tensile and abrasion resistance steel.

The bucket operated at Evolution Mining's Cowl Gold Operation from 2005 to 2018 and was used for 50,000 hours of digging before coming to rest in Cooinda Reserve.

True Blue Poppet Head Cooinda Reserve, Neeld Street, Wyalong

The original True Blue mine was located underneath the motel of that name, True Blue Motel in Main Street, Wyalong. The mine was operational from January 1894, ceasing production in 1920.

The mine-shaft head was recreated in Cooinda Bushland Reserve on the town's centenary together with a replica of a miner's hut. The first bark hut was erected in Wyalong in 1893 in the middle of what is now Neeld

Street. After selecting 2,500 acres of land in the district, the hut was built by George Neeld who was soon joined by his brothers Joseph, Ernest, Harry and his father Fred Neeld – one of the early colonists who later became a pioneer of the Wyalong goldfields.

In recognition of its significance to the history of the district, a replica of 'Neeld's Hut' was reconstructed as part of the Wyalong Centenary celebrations in 1994.

Replica Malleefowl Nest Cooinda Reserve, Neeld Street, Wyalong

The Malleefowl is listed as vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, with only a handful of known populations remaining in the Riverina region.

Seldom a visitor would see a Malleefowl or come across its nest in the wild. The male is mostly responsible for building the nest. Information panels explain the life cycle of a Malleefowl.

Junk Art Sculptures Cooinda Reserve, Neeld Street, Wyalong

Junk Art Sculptures dot the walking track at Cooinda Reserve. They have been made by various artists. Information panels explain the artwork and name the artist.





Yindyamarra Display, Coinda Reserve.

3

Re-awakening Aboriginal Place Names: Coinda Reserve, Need Street, Wyalong

Wiradjuri name: *Waaylang*
 Meaning: *Hard Shelled Nut.*

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The signage was painted by the very talented artist Kheely Turner, a proud Wiradjuri and Ngiyampaa woman.



Re-awakening Aboriginal Place Names Sign.

4

Memorial Arch Walkway
 Clear Ridge Road or Coinda Reserve entry, Wyalong

The Memorial Walk consists of an avenue of trees planted by the West Wyalong RSL Sub-branch that leads through a memorial arch over a bicycle/walking path to the centre that represents the tri-service of the Australian Defence Force; Army, Navy, Air-Force and Medical in metal cut-outs. Surrounding the cut-outs is a wall lined with the names of the men and women who served their country in time of need, some paying the supreme sacrifice. Lest we forget



Excavator Bucket, Coinda Reserve.



Top: Memorial Walk, Coinda Reserve. **Middle:** Junk Art Sculptures (L) and Eucalyptus Distillery (R), Coinda Reserve. **Bottom:** Replica Malleefowl Nest, Coinda Reserve.



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WEST WYALONG VISITOR
INFORMATION CENTRE
2-6 Shire Street, West Wyalong

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