



**PRESS RELEASE April 2014**

**Awesome Autumn on The Long Paddock**

As day light saving draws to an end, the cooler weather and sights of Autumn herald the arrival of Easter on The Long Paddock. Viewed as probably the most relaxed and enjoyable of all the holidays, this April sees Easter roll into ANZAC day with plenty of opportunities to get out and explore all that is happening on the touring route.

The packed event calendar kicks off with the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Booligal Sheep Races held on Saturday 12 April . This unique outback event sees the tiny village of Booligal (just 72 km north of Hay) swell to 500 for the annual race day. 100 sheep are raced in 20 heats with the winner taking home the prestigious Booligal Cup and \$500 in prize money. And you do not have to know a farmer to race a sheep, visitors can hire a sheep on the day and be in the running to win. This year new sponsor JBS Weir Australia will be cooking up a storm with lamb chops straight off the barbie. The day raises funds for local and national charities.

One of the biggest events in regional NSW takes place on the Easter long weekend with the Deni Blues and Roots Festival taking over the ute muster site. Thousands of people flock to Deni for this amazing event. With the likes of Elvis Costello and John Mayer headlining the event this is a great opportunity to see world class musicians on your doorstep. Imagine being able to hear Copperhead road (the anthem to many a road trip) live from Steve Earle. This is one not to be missed.

Easter also sees the annual Mathoura Easter Fair kick off in the picturesque township just 30 minutes from Echuca., A good old fashioned fun fair this is your chance to pick up some of the best homemade produce in the state. The annual Picnic Point Duck race is the highlight of Sunday's activities, as 1100 yellow rubber ducks head down the might Murray River vying for \$700 first prize.

Photography lovers are looked after with the incredible Beckett Collection exhibition in Wilcannia. The exhibition is a rare glimpse into the life of Wilcannia in 1957. Dr Jeremy Beckett worked as an anthropologist in Wilcannia in late 1950s. He took photographs of local Aboriginal people and families as they went about their everyday business. His photos also include Wilcannia's musicians- men like Bill Riley and Jimalow Whyman- who were part of a deep seated musical thread which continues today and whose star was undoubtedly Dougie Young.

And of course let's not forget the Bald Archy's. A humorous take on the Archibald prize, the Exhibition at the Peppin Heritage Centre is a fine example of Australia's ability to laugh at itself.

With lots to see and do, The Long Paddock is a great place visit while waiting for the Easter Bunny to arrive.

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## **About the Long Paddock- Cobb Highway Touring Route**

The Long Paddock – Cobb Highway Touring Route follows The Cobb Highway (named for the famous coach company) from Echuca Moama on the Victorian border, through to Wilcannia leading to the iconic outback towns of Bourke, Broken Hill and White Cliffs.

The Long Paddock includes 47 road side information panels, located at various sites of significance along the route. These tell the stories and history of the region in words and images and are a great way to get to know the area.

Five great rivers, major museums, National Parks, Red Gum forests, wetlands and waterways, the flattest, natural open plains on Earth and one of the world's oldest geological landmarks – welcome to The Long Paddock.

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

### **Things to see and do on the way**

#### *Take The Long Paddock touring route*

Visit the 47 information panels tell the story of the Long Paddock in words and images

Stop and take a photo of the 11 large scale public artworks located along the touring route

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

#### *Visit the Back Roads Trail*

Just off the Cobb Highway at Moama – visit paddock to plate producers including Pacedon Pork (traditional English pork products and Barham Avocados

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

#### *Stop at the Murray Valley National Park*

At Moama stop in at the brand new Murray Valley National Park – Mountain Bike Track. Including a skills and pump track this is a must for all bike enthusiast

At Mathoura Stop at the Murray Valley National Park and view the internationally renowned Reed Beds Bird Hide

[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Murray-Valley-National-Park](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Murray-Valley-National-Park)

#### *Drop in to Deniliquin*

Visit the Peppin Heritage Centre in Deniliquin which includes a full replica of an 1880's school room and visiting exhibitions

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



Indulge your taste buds at The Long Table Cafe - an on farm restaurant, showcasing local produce

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

*Capture the amazing sunset the Headless Horseman Sculpture located at the Black Swamp*

Afterwards stop in to the Royal Mail Hotel for a quick drink

*Have a great time in Hay*

Throw a line in the Murrumbidgee River at Hay with some of the best Murray Cod fishing in Australia

Pick up a free bike from the Visitor Information Centre and explore the town

Head out to the historic One Tree Pub to take in the flattest land in the southern hemisphere

[www.hay.nsw.gov.au/visithay.aspx](http://www.hay.nsw.gov.au/visithay.aspx)

