

# The Long Paddock Touring Route Cobb Highway NSW

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Encompassing The Murray, Deniliquin, Conargo,  
Hay and Central Darling Regions

2nd Edition



**TheLongPaddock**  
Cobb Highway Touring Route

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



Ivanhoe



Wilcannia



Booligal



Hay



Booroorban



Wanganella



Deniliquin



Echuca / Moama



Mathoura



Echuca / Moama

Mathoura

Deniliquin

Pretty Pine

Wanganella

39km

34km

18km

27km



## Welcome

Welcome to The Long Paddock - Cobb Highway Touring Route which 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.

This visitors' guide contains information on each of the major towns and villages through which the touring route passes. It is divided into colour coded sections so you can easily find each region on the route, historical information on the towns and villages, accommodation options, attractions and places to eat and drink. As you travel along the touring route look for The Long Paddock Visitors Site road signs - these indicate the location of the 47 Long Paddock information panels located along the route and within the towns. They tell the history of the region in words and images and are a great way to get to know the area. They also indicate the location of our eleven amazing sculptures - take a moment to stop and grab a photo with these stunning artworks.

Each region is home to one of the five major rivers in central NSW - The Darling, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, Edward and Murray. The rivers provide a great place to stop and rest and throw a line in or for the more adventurous, have a water ski or canoe trip.

If you really want to get a feel for the area pick up The Long Paddock audio tour CD (available for purchase at the Mathoura, Deniliquin and Hay Visitor Information Centres). The tour will guide you across the route at your own pace and let you in on some local knowledge and a few tall tales.

We hope you enjoy your stay while you *drive the drivers dream!*

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The Long Paddock would like to acknowledge all of the traditional land owners, some of whom played an important role in the development of the stock route.

Thanks for visiting! When you visit The Long Paddock you help to keep our towns and villages thriving.

Boorooban

Hay

Booligal

Ivanhoe

Wilcannia

36km

49km

72km

131km

182km

# The Long Paddock

The modern Cobb Highway follows part of the great network of stock routes that became known as "The Long Paddock" - a historic web of tracks and trails linking stock-breeding areas of inland NSW and Queensland with emerging markets in Victoria. It also provided an escape route from drought when the seasons failed. The Long Paddock is still a working stock route which provides us with a link to times and landscapes that are long since altered.



## The History of The Long Paddock

As their flocks increased in numbers the early NSW graziers began looking for markets other than Sydney. In 1824 Hume and Hovell blazed a trail south to the eventual site of Melbourne which, by 1836 was growing rapidly. Adelaide was founded at about the same time and both settlements needed food while their agricultural industries were establishing.

The rivers were vital to the early overlanders. Travelling stock cannot go more than two days without water so the early stock routes followed the streams which were the only reliable water source. Those bound for Adelaide had several choices. The Darling rises in Queensland, joining the Murray near Mildura. The Lachlan, rising near Crookwell NSW, flows into the Murrumbidgee which could be followed from the Monaro region, beyond Canberra. In fact, most of the settled areas west of the Great Divide could easily access these western-flowing rivers.

The overlanders were looking for more than markets. Crossing the continent, they examined the potential of the vast areas of unsettled land through which they travelled. Many either relocated or expanded to places which had

caught their eye. By 1840 most of the eastern Riverina was settled, squatters taking up vast runs which they stocked with sheep and cattle. The first station established on what is now the Cobb Highway was Moira, between Moama and Mathoura, taken up by Henry Sayer Lewes, in August 1842. In 1851 gold was discovered in Victoria. Men (and a handful of women) flocked to the diggings from all over the world. Very few were vegetarians and the demand for fresh meat (there was no refrigeration then) sent stock prices soaring. Men like James Maiden, who had an inn and punt at what is now Moama, bought whole herds of stock and drove them to the goldfields.

Deniliquin, originally a station owned by Benjamin Boyd's Royal Bank, became a natural congregating point for south-bound stock. From 1847 it had a punt - vital for crossing sheep over the Edward River. It was not long before Deniliquin became an important livestock selling centre, eclipsing Moama. Mobs from as far away as northern NSW and even Queensland began streaming through the town, often changing hands for their final journey south. The legend of The Long Paddock had begun.

## The Long Paddock Information Panels

The information panels are located at significant sites along the Cobb Highway. They are a wonderful mixture of truths, tales and images! To really experience the drovers' dream stop at each panel and become part of The Long Paddock. Watch for The Long Paddock Visitor Site signs telling you when the next sign is coming up.

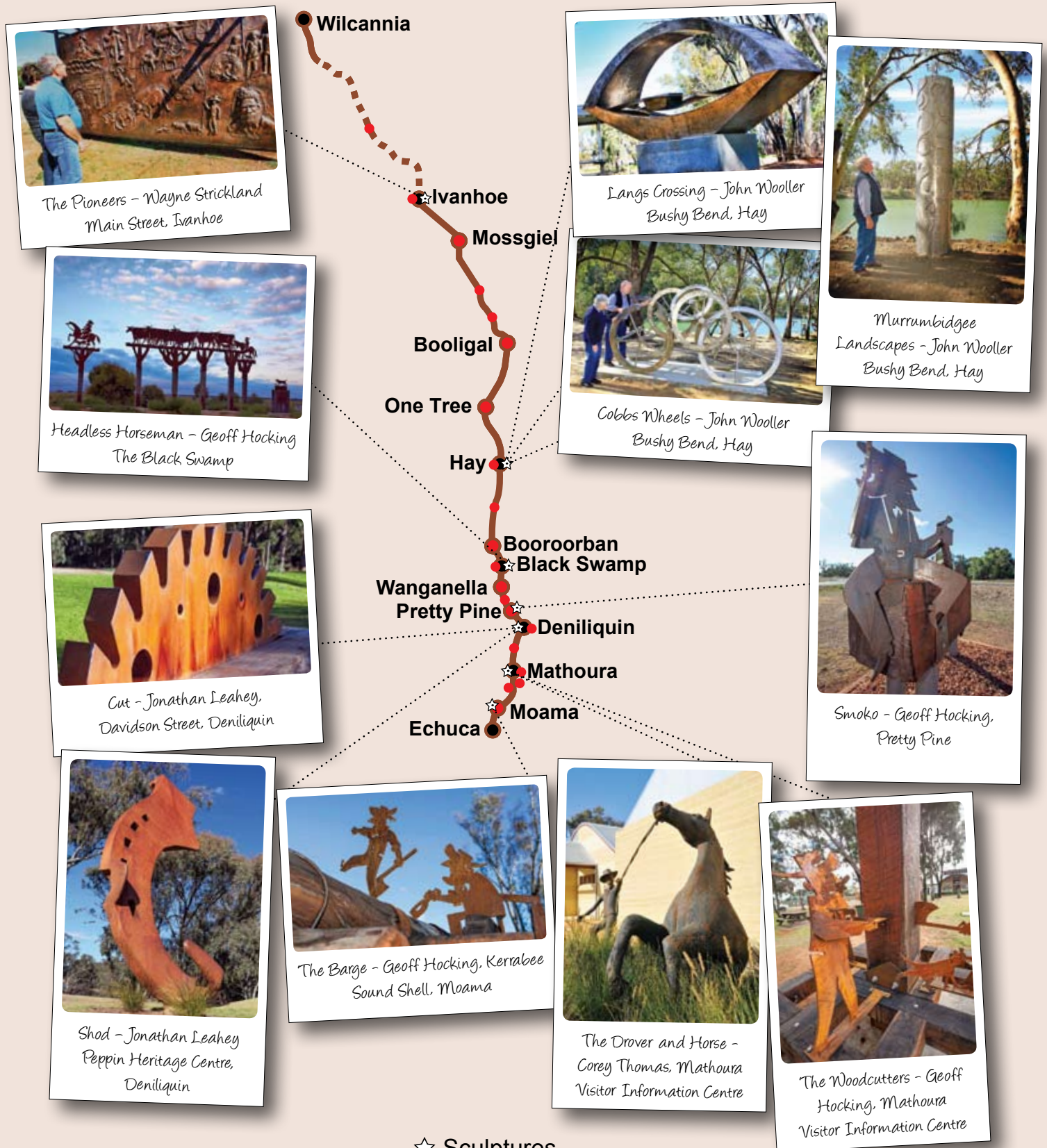


Information panels  
Become part of the Long Paddock



# Sculptures of The Long Paddock

The Long Paddock boasts eleven major public artworks that tell our story. Over 600km - the sculptures make the largest art gallery in the world!





# Itineraries

## Heritage

### INTRO

*The Long Paddock offers a wealth of history - from pastoral and social heritage through to natural history. If history is 'your thing', you'll find a museum and heritage walk in almost every town! Make sure you pick up a copy of The Long Paddock Audio CD - this will provide you with a great overview of significant historical sites and the folklore of The Long Paddock.*

### DAY 1

- Visit the Echuca Wharf and take a ride (and lunch!) on a paddlesteamer
- Wander through 'Old Moama', down Chanter Street then head north to Mathoura to view the display at the Visitor Information Centre

### DAY 2

- Visit the Peppin Heritage Centre, then head to the Edward River to take the Long Paddock walk
- Take the town heritage walk then visit the Pioneer Steam Museum

### DAY 3

- Visit the Peppin Ram Memorial at Wanganella, while you are there read about the history of the Cobb & Co
- View the Headless Horseman Sculpture at the Black Swamp and stop at the historic Boorooban Pub
- Start your tour of Hay's five museums with a visit to Shear Outback; The Australian Shearer's Hall of Fame
- Follow this with a visit to Bishop's Lodge Historic House
- Finish your afternoon by exploring the town via the Heritage Walk

### DAY 4

- Visit The Hay Gaol then experience the Hay Internment & Prisoner of War Camps Interpretive Centre, housed at Hay's historic railway station
- Learn more about Hay's war time contribution at the Hay War Memorial High School Museum in Pine Street

### DAY 5

- Head north to the One Tree Hotel - a former Cobb & Co Changing Station and view the giant Theodolite - a memorial to explorer and surveyor John Oxley at Booligal
- Take the Ivanhoe town heritage walk and stop and see The Long Paddock mural - 'The Pioneers', which provides a great visual depiction of the history of Ivanhoe

### DAY 6

- Make your way to the Athenaeum Library (1883) now the town's Pioneer Museum while visiting the beautiful sandstone buildings in Wilcannia

**Love your history and want to keep going?**  
*Check out the amazing historical opal field at White Cliffs and the beautifully restored colonial buildings at Milparinka. Head onto Bourke to check out the 'Back of Bourke' Exhibition Centre.*

## Nature, fishing and birdwatching

### INTRO

*The Long Paddock boasts some of the best fishing, bird watching and untouched nature in Australia. With the route crossing five of Australia's most significant rivers - The Murray, The Edward, The Murrumbidgee, The Lachlan and The Darling. This is great country for enjoying nature at its best.*

### DAY 1

- What could be better than fishing the Mighty Murray? • If you love your fishing, the best experiences are to be had downstream towards Torrumbarry or upstream at the Barmah and Moira Forests
- Head north to Mathoura and the Murray Valley National Parks where you can hike, cycle or drive through the park — camp overnight or have a picnic by the river
- Take some time to view the amazing bird life at the Reeds Bed Bird Hide and visit the Moira Wetlands

### DAY 2

- Head to Deniliquin where the Edward River is famous Australia wide for its fishing, in particular as home to the Murray Cod
- Wander to the Island Sanctuary for some great birding — keep an eye out for platypus as you go
- Ask about a bird watching tour at the Deniliquin Visitor Information Centre

### DAY 3

- Heading north you will cross The Billabong Creek at Wanganella - it is said to be the longest 'creek' in Australia, and fishermen will delight in finding the elusive Murray Cod here
- There are some good birding spots along the Cobb Highway as you head north. In wet years, many birds are attracted to the Black Swamp between Deniliquin and Hay. The area is also home to the rare and endangered Plains Wanderer
- Head north to Hay where you can throw a line in mighty Murrumbidgee - the best times of year to fish are the Autumn months.
- Head north for a short trip to the Sunset Viewing Area. An information panel explains the flora of the region and you can view the sunset from the flattest place in the southern hemisphere
- Why not make a day trip to Balranald and the historic Yanga National Park that offers great hiking and cycling and all that Yanga Lake has to offer

### DAY 4

- The Lachlan River at Booligal is a popular fishing spot with large cod, perch and catfish to be had
- Stop in at Booligal Station National Park for a break, the nearby wetland is home to a large ibis rookery of national significance

### DAY 5

- From Ivanhoe why not head to Mungo National Park for a true outback nature experience
- Or continue on The Long Paddock to Wilcannia where the Darling River provides some great fishing spots

### Planning to continue your adventure?

*Why not follow the Darling River Run north — check out Tilpa, Louth, Bourke & finish with the 40,000 year old Aboriginal Fish Traps in Brewarrina?*





## Food, Wine, Great Outback Pubs & Grub

### INTRO

*Discover the perfect picnic spot, bush tucker, quirky pubs and great country fare that The Long Paddock has on offer....*

### DAY 1

- If you're in Echuca on the 1st, 3rd or 5th Saturday of the month, make sure you drop into the Farmer's Market
- Echuca Moama has earned a solid reputation for its food and wines and you can experience its many wonders along the Food and Wine Trail
- Take your taste buds on a culinary tour of the Backroads Trail (grab a brochure from the Mathoura Visitor Centre)- you'll find an amazing array of delicious delights including mead, avocados, wines, honey, olives and citrus fruit - and even English-style pork pies and haggis

### DAY 2

- The Mathoura Visitor & Business Centre invites people to taste the many local wines that are on sale within the Centre. Just down the road from the Visitor's Centre, you'll find fresh farm produce in season during the winter months at the Redgum Mandarin Stall on the Cobb Highway
- Head north to Deniliquin - no shortage of country pubs here! Why not head out to Warragoon for an on farm dining experience at the Long Table Cafe

### DAY 3

- A great place for breakfast in Deniliquin is The Crossing Café which works in partnership with local suppliers to bring you superbly fresh produce. Drop into the Visitor Information Centre just next door to the café and choose from some of the amazing home made jams and relishes - all from local produce
- Head out to Conargo for lunch at the famous Conargo Pub before stopping in at Clancy's of Conargo Winery where visitors can enjoy cellar door tasting's and winery tours
- Head north to the historic Royal Mail Hotel at Booroorban

### DAY 4

- In Hay you'll find a wide variety of fruit and vegetables all locally grown, picked and packaged - drop into the Visitor Information Centre in Moppett Street to enquire about tours through the Market Garden areas of Hay
- There are an array of country hotels in Hay, all of which are located within walking distance of the main street
- Stay overnight at the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel in Booligal. Here you'll find a cold beer, friendly locals and a place to rest your head for the night

### DAY 5

- Visit Wilcannia and be sure to stop in at the Ivanhoe Pub on your way through town
- At White Cliffs dine underground for a truly unique experience

### Still Hungry... fancy a drink?

*If you feel like continuing your food, wine & outback grub tour there are plenty of other gastronomic delights waiting for you further down the track! Travelling further north? Why not follow the Darling River Run and catch your own dinner at Trilby Station near Louth, where you can fish for cod or yabbies for your own outback BBQ. Head to Tilpa for a cold one in the famous Royal Hotel.*

## Arts & Culture

### INTRO

*You will be delighted at the rich and diverse arts and cultural heritage of this region. Explore the Sculptures and discover local artisans, open studio programs and indigenous arts - you'll find your fill of arts along The Long Paddock!*

### DAY 1

- Pick up a local Arts & Culture Tour Itinerary from the Echuca Moama Visitor Information Centre. Visit 'The Barge' by Geoff Hocking and on your way out of Moama, visit the hand carved sculpture of James Maiden at the Moama Adventure Playpark
- Admire original Redgum craft in the Mathoura Visitor Information Centre and view The Long Paddock sculptures, 'The Drover and Horse' by Corey Thomas and 'The Woodcutters' by Geoff Hocking
- In Deni check out Transmute the mosaic ute and see The Long Paddock sculptures "Shod" and "Cut" by Jonathan Leahey
- Visit the Peppin Heritage Centre Gallery Space, where a variety of temporary exhibitions are on display throughout the year

### DAY 2

- Head to 'East Tolans' to view the amazing sculpture garden (check with Visitor Information Centre staff first)
- Visit the Peppin Ram memorial at Wanganella
- Head north and you'll see the amazing Long Paddock 'Headless Horseman' sculptural installation by Geoff Hocking

### DAY 3

- In Hay start the day by seeing if you can 'get lost' in the 'Round-Up Maze' at Shear Outback!
- Drop into the Visiting Exhibitions Gallery while you are here
- Explore the sculptural trail by artist John Wooller (located at the southern end of town). While you are here, take a look at the Warakirri Murals under the bridge
- Visit the Chris McClelland gallery and view his internationally award winning art

### DAY 4

- Head to Ivanhoe to see 'The Pioneers', a spectacular three dimensional mural by Wayne Strickland that documents the history of the Ivanhoe district
- In Wilcannia you'll find an amazing treasure trove of traditional indigenous craftspeople - it's well worth exploring this area and a great way to finish your arts tour of The Long Paddock!

### Want more?

*To continue your arts exploration, we recommend you travel westwards to Broken Hill... known for its outstanding Outback artists, rich indigenous culture and amazing Sculpture Symposium or Bourke which has a rich artist community.*

