



## Lockhart Shire is full of community spirit

SEVERAL years ago rural Australia was in the grip of a devastating drought.

It's hard to imagine this when we look at the countryside now.

The rural industry was on its knees, and small towns like Lockhart in southern NSW were truly suffering from the flow on effect of farmers who had very little money to spend.

Depression and suicide were a very real concern as farmers and related business owners battled year after year to keep their businesses afloat.

It was in this climate that the National Farm Art Sculpture Award was born. In an effort to divert farmers and rural workers from the plight of drought, the committee of the Spirit of the Land Festival created an art form which relied on the scraps that many farmers had lying around, encouraging them to weld bits and pieces together to create a sculpture.

The first of these sculptures were a stunning tribute to farmer's typical ingenuity, and the committee was startled at the pieces which were exhibited.

And now, seven years on, these amazing art works attract visitors from across Australia.

They have developed into sculptures worth tens of thousands of dollars, highly sought after pieces, which have even been commissioned by corporate bodies.

Each year the winning entry in the National Farm Art Sculpture Award has become part of the Lockhart Shire's sculpture collection, and can be found scattered around the township of Lockhart.

Until now! In an effort to continue to attract those sculptures of the highest calibre into the award, the main sponsors, the Lockhart Shire Council, have change the award



Lockhart Shire Council

conditions. It will no longer be an acquisition prize and mandatory for the winning sculpture to become the property of the council.

So those artists reluctant to register for the award because of their high price tag of their works are now able to be entered, with the only criteria placed on the winning sculpture – it remains on exhibition in Lockhart for a period of twelve months.

With Lockhart fast becoming the Farm Art capital of Australia, what better place to have your art work displayed for the tourists who visit throughout the year.

Many Lockhart residents were disappointed however that the Shire's sculpture collection would no longer be growing.

Fortunately, the Lockhart Community and District Bendigo Bank felt the same way, and in an amazing show of support and generosity, they have pledged to purchase a sculpture from the exhibits, to be given to the Lockhart Shire.

This will certainly promote tourism in the Shire, and boost local businesses and all the towns of Lockhart Shire, as the collection continues to grow.

So even if you have visited Lockhart before, and been amazed with these fantastic pieces of Farm Art Sculpture, come back again, because there will continue to be new ones to delight the traveller for many years to come.

## Enjoy a day trip to Coolamon

COOLAMON and the Shire's smaller towns of Ardlethan, Beckom, Ganmain, Marrar and Matong exude history, character and charm.

The best in country hospitality is available when you visit the cafes, antique and gift stores, museums and craft outlets that are sprinkled throughout the shire. Beautifully presented parks provide ideal picnic or rest stops and our caravan parks are just a stone's throw from quality recreational clubs and

shopping.

The simple things like finding car parking with ease and smiling faces provide the icing on the cake to this authentic, unpretentious rural experience.

The event calendar in Coolamon Shire is not unlike that of a major regional centre.

From rodeos and traditional agricultural shows to a family New Years Eve Street party and major cultural festival Coolamon Shire has an event

most weekends.

During the winter and spring period visitors to Coolamon Shire are encouraged to attend the Ganmain Show, the Coolamon Rodeo, Capture Coolamon Shire – a photography competition, the Coolamon Scarecrow Festival, the annual NYE street party and much more.

Plan a day trip to Coolamon Shire by visiting [www.coolamonshire.com.au](http://www.coolamonshire.com.au) or follow us on Facebook.



## Lockhart Shire Council

*Adventure starts with you in the Lockhart Shire!*



### Coming events include

- The Rock Markets 25 August 9am-1pm.
- National Picolight Fly-in, Milbrulong 12-15 September
- Picnic Races 11 October
- Spirit of the Land Festival 12 & 13 October

*You will be surprised at the hidden treasures you discover when you visit the Lockhart Shire!*

For more information visit [www.lockharttourism.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lockharttourism.nsw.gov.au)

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Coolamon shire council

*big enough to serve small enough to care*

## COOLAMON SHIRE COUNCIL WELCOMES YOU TO EXPERIENCE COOLAMON SHIRE EVENTS!

Take the time this spring to visit Coolamon Shire and enjoy one of the many great festivals and events.

Ganmain Show - Saturday August 24

Heritage Express Steam Train Rides - Friday August 30 & Saturday August 31

Ardlethan Lions Club Fathers Day Market - Saturday August 31

Coolamon Scarecrow Festival - Sunday October 6

Coolamon/Ganmain Hospital Fete - Saturday October 12

Ganmain Hall Markets - Saturday October 19

Capture Coolamon Shire Opening Night - Friday November 1



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



Coolamon Shire Council is a supporter of Local Government Week