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## SYDNEY TO GUNDAGAI NSW

A visit to Gundagai is a step back in time. Our first stop on our trip to Victoria in 2005, 370kms south west of Sydney, this is a town rich in history.



We stayed at the Gundagai River Caravan Park and, as the name suggests, it's right at the river. The mighty Murrumbidgee River, in fact, and is situated between the town's 2 historic bridges. The Prince Alfred Bridge, built in 1866, is the longest wooden bridge structure ever built in Australia

and, together with the adjacent railway bridge, built in 1901, has been classified by the National Trust.

This was our campsite on our stay here. As you can see all the sites are grassed and there are plenty of shade trees. There is a huge, modern amenities block, the staff are friendly and very helpful, and the park is well spaced out. There's nothing worse than cramped campgrounds.



Gundagai nestles at the foot of Mt Parnassus in the very beautiful Murrumbidgee Valley and just a few kilometres to the north, in fact you have to pass it on the way in, is Five Mile Creek. This was once a very popular camping spot for teamsters and their wagonloads of supplies but today it is the home of the famous Dog On The Tuckerbox. And no visit to Gundagai is complete without stopping at this icon, this monument to



the mateship between a man and his dog. In the colonial days a dog accompanied each wagon and, besides being a faithful friend, he guarded his master's possessions.

There are many heritage-listed buildings in Gundagai, including

the courthouse that was the scene of the trial of Captain Moonlight, the notorious bushranger, as well as churches and the historic Road to Gundagai Railway Station.

Our stay here was brief but a return visit is not far away. And not just for the fascinating history which includes another famous bushranger, Ben Hall, and the gold rush of the late 1800's, but for the magnificent countryside. The lookout at Mt Parnassus offers spectacular views of the town and the rich and fertile Murrumbidgee river flats.

With so many things to see and do here you might need more than just a couple of days. You could visit the Historical Museum at the rear of the post office or, perhaps, the Gabriel Gallery, featuring work by the internationally famous photographer, Dr. Charles Gabriel. Dr Gabriel was a resident of Gundagai for over 40 years until his death in 1927. The Two-Foot Tour of Historic Gundagai is a 2km stroll that starts at the Tourist Information Centre and passes some of the most interesting buildings in town.

Gundagai is also home to the annual Dog On The Tuckerbox Festival each year in November. 3 days of sporting events, race meetings, and entertainment attract huge numbers of visitors to the town. The state and national Carriage Driving Championships are often held here as well and they're always good fun.

But if you prefer to explore a little further afield there are one-day tours to orchards and vineyards, timber plantations, abandoned gold mines, lakes and rivers, and the Kosciuszko National Park with its many walking trails, waterfalls, caves, superb fishing, and, of course, in the winter, snow sports.

So, whether you're interested in the history or sights of the area or you just want to sit on the riverbank and fish for a few days, come to Gundagai, just 4 hours and a million miles away from the hustle and bustle of Sydney.

You can read about our very brief visit to Gundagai in our journal, *From The Mountains To The Sea*.

