

Wednesday 9 May 2018

GREAT TOURISM PROMOTION FOR NARRANDERA SHIRE

This autumn, Narrandera Shire has received some great exposure for tourism offerings and events across the region.

The May edition of *The Wanderer*, Australia's largest RV Club Magazine, has featured a four page spread highlighting caravan and camping options in Narrandera. In addition, the article covers the wonderful offerings of Grong Grong and the Barellan Clydesdales Good Old Days Weekend, encouraging the Caravan and RV Community, who are about to head off on their winter escape, to stop and explore Narrandera Shire. This article comes after the autumn edition of *Caravanning Australia* double page article promoting Narrandera Shire.

The *Sunday Telegraph Escape* magazine on Sunday 29 April also featured bush tucker offerings and tours with Sandhills Artefacts. The *Escape* magazine currently has a passionate and growing monthly 5.6million national audience across its print and digital assets.

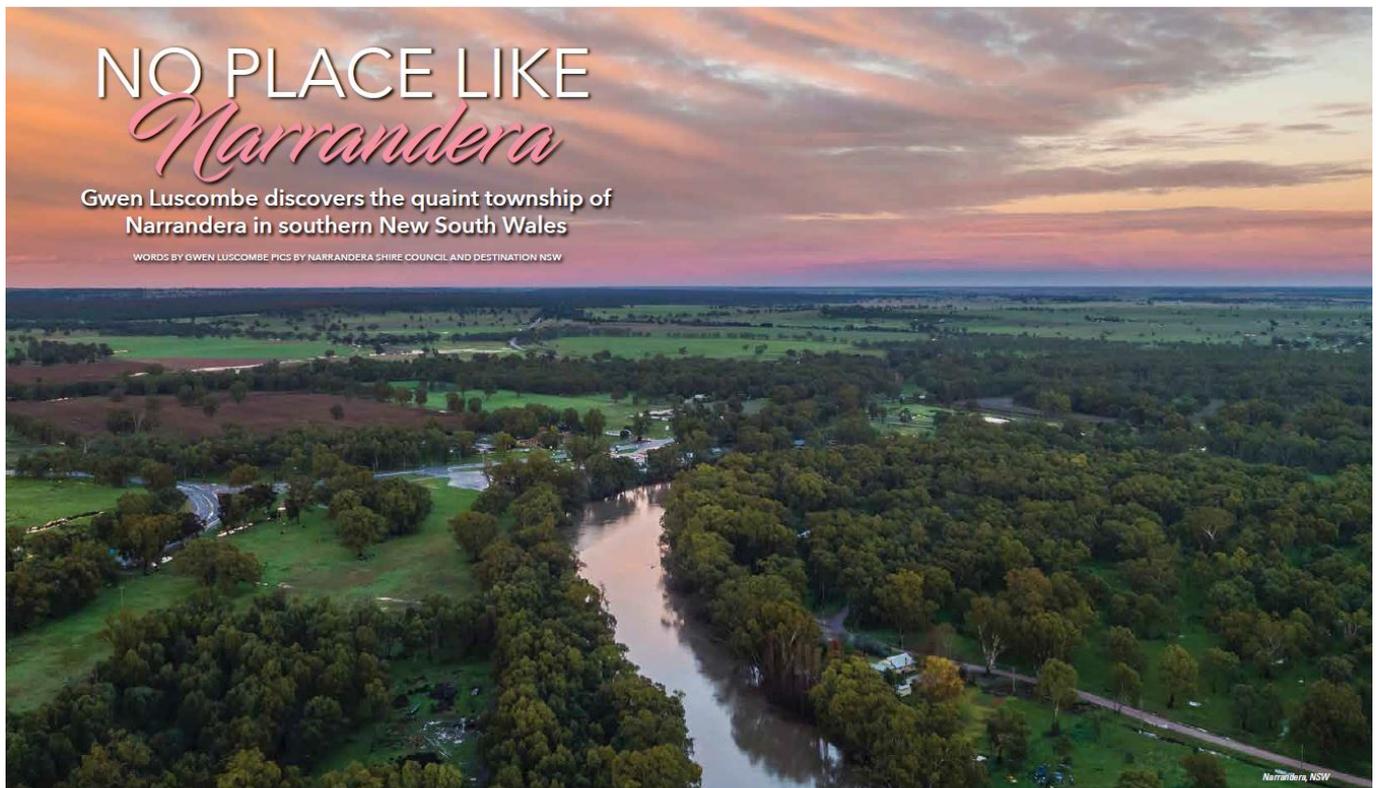
The article was written after Sandhills Artefacts hosted a small group of journalists on 23 September 2017 as part of the Taste Riverina Festival. The group came to the Riverina through Destination NSW and were invited to take part in culinary and cultural experiences from Griffith through to Wagga Wagga, stopping in Narrandera, Coolamon and Junee Shires.

Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka has said, "It's great to see our Shire positively promoted in these publications and we look forward to welcoming more visitors to the area."

Narrandera Shire Council has been working with tourism operators to promote tourism offerings across the Shire and increase overnight visitation to the area. The tour group attendance is an excellent achievement for tourism operators and a fantastic promotional opportunity, highlighting a unique experience available in Narrandera Shire.

1,500 copies of the Narrandera Shire Visitor Guide will be sent to the 2018 Queensland Caravan & Camping Show at the end of the month to further encourage the caravan and camping market to stop in Narrandera Shire.

To view the full *Escape* article visit www.escape.com.au .



NO PLACE LIKE *Narrandera*

Gwen Luscombe discovers the quaint township of Narrandera in southern New South Wales

WORDS BY GWEN LUSCOMBE PICS BY NARRANDERA SHIRE COUNCIL AND DESTINATION NSW

- THE WANDERER MAY 2018 -

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The first page of the Narrandera article in 'The Wanderer' Magazine, May 2018.

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DESTINATION ♦ NSW

JUNEE

At Junee Licorice & Chocolate Factory you can make your own giant chocolate freckle.

PHOTO: DESTINATION NSW

YOU'RE THE VOICE

Food speaks loudest in our inland Riverina district

NAOMI WHITE

ESCAPE ROUTE

RIVERINA

GETTING THERE

Griffith
Fly Regional Express Airlines or drive 570km from Sydney.

Wagga Wagga
Fly Regional Express Airlines or Castrolink or drive 460km from Sydney.

STAYING THERE

Quest Griffith, studio apartments from \$178.
questapartments.com.au

Townhouse Hotel, rooms start from \$115.
townhousewagga.com

TOURING

Sandhills Artefacts bushtucker tour with Michael Lyons, Narrandera.

Visit the Museum Gallery Monday-Saturday, \$5, half-day tours with lunch are \$55 and a full-day tour with lunch is \$120.
sandhillsartefacts.com/index.html

MORE
visitnsw.com

We're a punchy bunch, us New South Welshmen. When it comes to holidays we head for the coast. But a trip to the Riverina reveals there's plenty inland.

The first thing that strikes me about Griffith is how flat it is. As the paddocks of one of the state's biggest food bowls roll out endlessly below – a patchwork of crops and orchards as we fly in, I had a new appreciation for just how big Australia is.

While the town is full of mafia whispers of old, it's the food that speaks the loudest, the area's thriving Italian community serving up a slice of regional fare that's quick to squash outdated childhood memories of country town dining. Chinese restaurants with a ubiquitous "Australian food" page on the menu. Much of the locals' pride is bestowed on Limone, the fine diner run by local born chef Luke Piccolo – a man everyone seems to know. Here, the young gun serves up the family farm's produce in refined takes on rustic Italian.

Just down the road sits another highlight in Zecca Handmade Italian, where Italian (and rural) hospitality plays out in gigantic servings. We push our limits with a gut-busting, melt-in-your-mouth, slow-cooked ragu with tagliatelle, while around us locals tuck into serving-size plates overflowing with lamb.

Like the food, the wine here has been overlooked. While its biggest producer is Casella's (makers of Yellowtail), the smaller producers are worth exploring, such as Calabria Family Wines and McWilliams.

The drive to the region's other "big town", Wagga Wagga, is two hours southeast. But we find a welcome way to break it up with some strategic detouring.

The first stop should be to Coolamon Cheese. While it's on most local menus, a trip to the factory/restaurant is a must for any cheese lover. Here you could happily take your pick from their full menu, but we opt to settle into a few boards of their top picks and are rewarded.

Drive on and you'll find the Junee Licorice & Chocolate Factory. A walk inside the former mill transports us back to childhood as we gleefully stare, mesmerised, as the machines rhythmically coat freeze-dried berries, licorice and nuts in a sheen of chocolate.

Donning a hairnet, we're walked into the back and handed a paper plate, shown a quick demo and given free rein on creating our own giant chocolate freckle. The simplicity of it elicits pure, unadulterated joy.

The area also has a strong Indigenous connection, one proudly explained by Michael Lyons from Sandhill Artefacts, a Wiradjuri Elder who is proud to showcase the thousands of years of indigenous history in the Narrandera shire.

Walking us through the back of his property, his razor-sharp vision sees what's invisible to our untrained eyes – the tiniest of holes shielding witchetty grubs. A brave soul in our group takes a bite of a live one, though her tasting notes ("veiny") puts us off trying for ourselves.

He shows us Koori Beach – an inland beach along the Murrumbidgee River and explains where and how the local people lived on the land, before taking us to greet his wife, who prepared a feast of bush tucker – with a few twists.

Among the many delights are fresh cooked Murray cod, meatballs with bush tomato, spring rolls with emu and a kangaroo curry before finishing with a lemon myrtle cheesecake and a wattleseed ice cream, all delicious.

On to Wagga, where the Thirsty Crow brewery's array of signature brews are a grateful reprieve from the heat, before we head to the region's best-kept secret – The Roundabout Restaurant, hiding quietly inside a Best Western hotel.

The unexpected gem puts out an impressive two-course dinner – for us, crispy-skinned chicken with truffle and risotto and a chocolate fondant encased in a chocolate-dome we delight in melting with a side jug of warm ganache.

It's a fitting end to a region whose many merits have been there all along, just waiting to be discovered.

THE WRITER TRAVELLED AS A GUEST OF DESTINATION NSW

The Sunday Telegraph Escape feature article.

MEDIA RELEASE

END

Precis or Summary: Great Tourism Promotion For Narrandera Shire			
Attachments	The first page of the Narrandera article in 'The Wanderer' Magazine, May 2018. The Sunday Telegraph Escape feature article.	Embargoed: N/A	
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