



Wodonga

A destination for motoring enthusiasts

year-round events



Location

Wodonga sits at the centre of the Melbourne–Sydney–Canberra triangle and in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range. The city is located on the majestic Murray River which forms the border between Victoria and our neighbouring city, Albury in NSW. The region is surrounded by rich agricultural valleys with easy access to nearby snow fields, celebrated wine regions and historic heritage towns and villages. The area is also renowned for its stunning road touring routes that culminates in the Great Alpine Road traversing Victoria's magnificent High Country.

The Albury–Wodonga region is also a major hub for transport, retail and employment, with a rich restaurant and cafe culture. Added to this, the broader North East region is renowned for its incredible range of gourmet produce, outstanding food and wine offerings and an exciting year-round calendar of events. There's also an exciting range of boutique breweries to tempt the tastebuds of event participants and attendees.



Transport

One of Wodonga's strengths as an event destination is its ease of access.

Albury Airport is located just 15 minutes from Wodonga CBD. It offers over 160 direct flights weekly to and from Sydney and Melbourne. Regional Express, QantasLink and Virgin Australia service the airport.

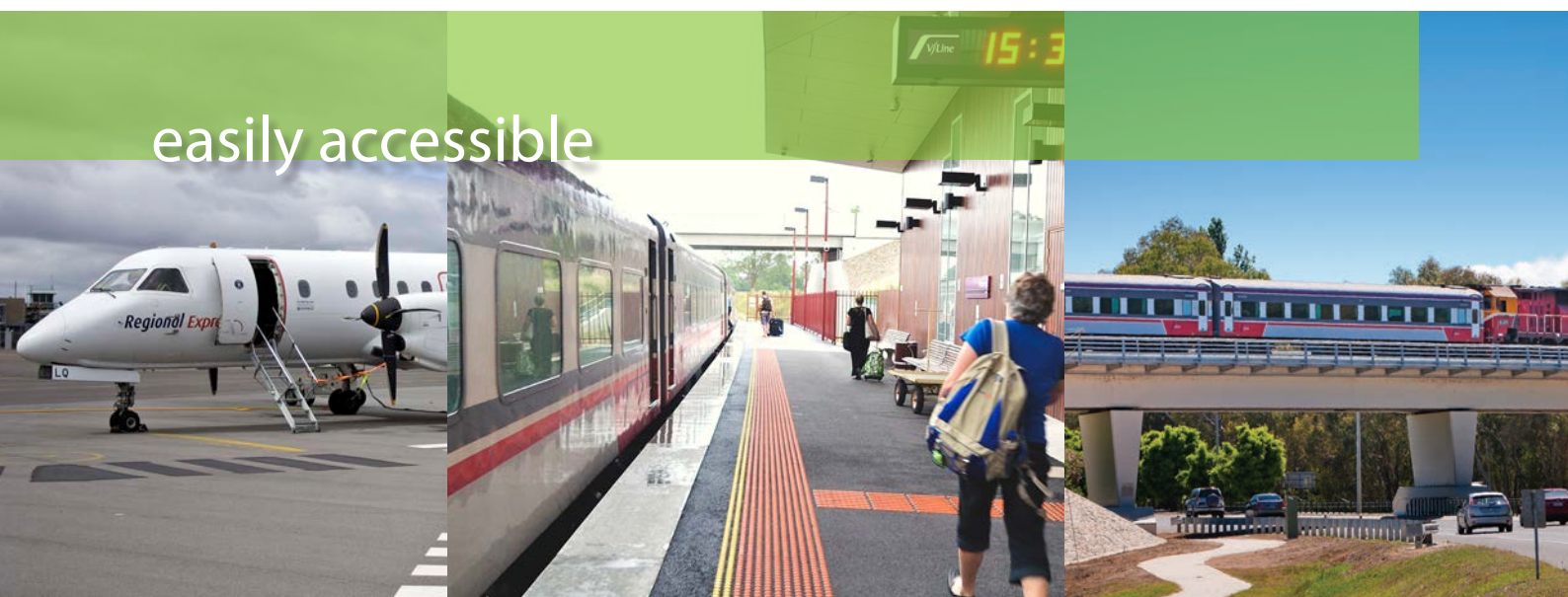
Charter services for corporate groups and individuals are also available to and from Albury Airport through Forest Air and Smartair.

There are also extensive coach and train services between Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney, as well as many other regional centres.

And for car clubs and motoring enthusiasts, Wodonga is strategically located about three hours north of Melbourne and six hours south of Sydney on the Hume Freeway. Canberra is also only 3.5 hours drive away.

| DESTINATION | AIR | ROAD | TRAIN/BUS |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Sydney | One hour | Six hours | 7.5 hours |
| Melbourne | 55 mins | Three hours | 3.5 hours |
| Canberra | Three hours (via Sydney) | 3.5 hours | Four hours |
| Adelaide | Via Melbourne | Nine hours | Via Melbourne |

easily accessible



Population catchment

The combined municipalities of Albury and Wodonga are recognised as Australia's 19th largest city, with a population of more than 95,000 residents.

However, Albury-Wodonga's regional catchment is over 360,000 people, which includes Wangaratta, Wagga, Shepparton, Gundagai, Holbrook, Urana, Deniliquin, Corowa, Bright and Benalla - all within a 200 kilometre radius.



combined municipalities



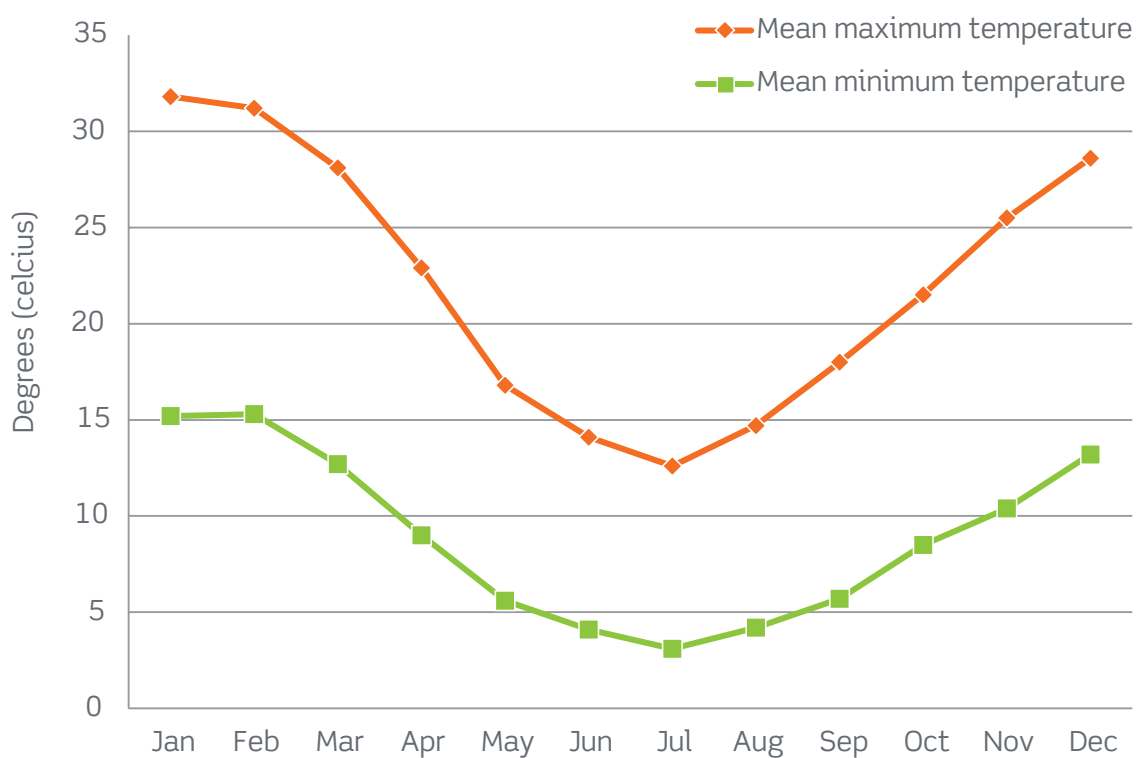
Accommodation

The Albury-Wodonga region offers accommodation to suit every taste and budget, from five-star luxury accommodation to cabins and backpacker options. There are around 5500 beds in the region which provide a 'critical mass' for major events that come to the area.



Climate

The broader Wodonga region has a largely 'Mediterranean climate' which is characterised by warm to hot, dry summers and mild to cool, wet winters. If you're after sunshine, we've got that in spades too with around 240 days per year when you will see the sun shining.



Outdoor activities

- Albury-Wodonga has more than 100kms of bike and walking paths, providing the perfect opportunity to meander by the river or enjoy one of the scenic routes that link the city.
- Picturesque parks and gardens are dotted throughout the community, making an ideal spot to picnic.
- Quality restaurants, coffee shops and taverns offer wonderful food and entertainment for locals and visitors alike.
- The hillsides and parkland reserves provide the ideal bushwalking, bird watching and hiking tracks for the novice as well as the experienced walker. Alternatively, take a stroll along the river's edge and indulge in adventure water activities at Lake Hume.
- The wine areas of Rutherglen, Beechworth, Milawa and King Valley to the south, and Tumbarumba to the north, make for a great wine lovers' experience.
- The historic towns of Beechworth, Yackandandah and Chiltern are close by.

picturesque places



Arts and culture

- Albury-Wodonga is known for its rich cultural life. It is the home of the renowned **Flying Fruit Fly Circus**, which tour locally, nationally and internationally.
- There are also a number of performing arts spaces including **The Cube Wodonga**, **the HotHouse Theatre** and **the Albury Entertainment Centre**.
- The new Murray Arts Museum Albury (**MAMA**) is more than a showcase for art – **MAMA** is an all – encompassing contemporary art experience that balances international touring exhibitions with deep connections to the surrounding regional area and cultural identity.
- Explore local indigenous art outdoors when you experience the **Yindyamarra Sculpture Trail**. Walk or bicycle to view 11 different art sites strategically located along the banks of the river.
- **Bonegilla Migrant Experience** brings to life the stories and experiences of the more than 300,000 post-war migrants who travelled through the centre. It was once made up of 24 blocks having its own churches, banks, sporting fields, cinema, hospital, police station and railway platform. Today, Block 19 is all that remains of the original site.

rich cultural life



Event support and assistance

Wodonga Council can provide many types of assistance to event organisers including, but not limited to:

- Financial assistance through the *Event Attraction Contribution Program*;
- Event advice and guidance for traffic management and road closures (Wodonga Council roads only), building and structural approvals, food safety advice and waste management;
- Event site maintenance;
- Advice on any permits required for your event;
- Marketing and promotional assistance with your event;
- An *Event Management Guide* downloadable from Wodonga Council's website; and,
- A *Venue Guide* downloadable from the website.

professional event advice



Testimonial

Ulysses Motorcycle Club annual general meeting 2015

To whom it may concern,

I was the Director of the 2015 Ulysses AGM event held in Wodonga during March 2015. The event was a week-long activity for the 3000 Ulysses members who visited Wodonga and local municipalities, and concluded on Saturday with a grand parade through the streets of Wodonga. This was then followed by the annual general meeting that culminated in a gala dinner on the Saturday evening.

Without the support of the local community, local businesses and assistance given by Wodonga Council, this event would not have been possible. The councillors and the Events Team at Wodonga Council provided significant guidance and support for the event over an extended period of time. Their guidance in running major events ensured that the co-ordination of all agencies ran seamlessly and the event was an outstanding success.

I have no hesitation in recommending Wodonga Council and its highly skilled Events Team to facilitate your next event.

'Blue' Knowles

Event Director





Gateway Lakes site

Gateway Lakes

Gateway Lakes is a unique major event site, strategically located on the Lincoln Causeway between Albury and Wodonga. The 70,000 square metre grassed site is surrounded by lakes to the south-west with the Murray River just to the north.

The site has its own dedicated power (including three-phase), water and toilet facilities. It is linked to the nearby Gateway Village precinct by a shared bicycle and walking path that provides supporting infrastructure including restaurants, craft shops and an amenities block. Extensive parking is available and there are public transport stops 250m from the main entrance, with excellent access and egress.

It is a perfect site for automotive outdoor events due to its picturesque environs, extensive grass area for vehicle displays, excellent infrastructure and close proximity to the twin cities. It also provides easy access for show 'n' shine vehicles via a sealed entry road.

Previous events

Chryslers on the Murray – annually in March

Chryslers on the Murray is the southern hemisphere's largest annual Chrysler expo and certainly the largest showing of Chrysler cars outside the USA. The show has grown substantially from its humble beginnings in the early 1990s with around 60 cars on show.

The event attracts over 850 Chryslers including Chargers, Valiants, Dodges, Plymouth, PT Cruisers and a range of American Muscle cars.

Chryslers on the Murray takes place at the Gateway Lakes precinct in Wodonga and attracts upwards of 8,000 people over the weekend. It has now grown into a three-day event with the opportunity for owners to do some 'hot' laps and 'go to whoa' sessions at Wodonga TAFE's Motorsports circuit on the Friday before the weekend.

southern hemisphere's largest





Morris Minor 17th National Rally – Easter 2015

The Albury-Wodonga Morris Minor club hosted the 17th National Morris Minor Rally at Wodonga's Gateway Lakes event site during Easter 2015. The rally attracted over 150 Morris Minor vehicles from around Australia including sedans, convertibles, utilities, vans and travellers ('the woody').

Activities included a show 'n' shine at Gateway Lakes, a concourse at Hovell Tree Park in Albury, social drinks, an organised run to Bright followed by an official presentation dinner in the evening at The Cube Wodonga.

show 'n' shine



National Motoring Heritage Day

This is an annual event which is supported by heritage motor vehicle clubs all over Australia. The event sees thousands of vehicles from the oldest veterans to the youngest historic (25-30 years old) cars, trucks, bikes and ex-military vehicles out and about on the nation's roads promoting Australia's motoring heritage to the wider community.

The event is normally held at Gateway Lakes and regularly attracts over 200 heritage vehicles. The day also provides the opportunity for locals and regional visitors to view and savour these classic vehicles from a bygone era.



community charity events



Border Bike Fest – biennially in October

The aim of the Border Bike Fest is to exhibit a range of motorcycles from the early 1900s through to the modern era including vintage, veteran, classic and custom bikes and is designed as a community event to raise money for charity.

The event attracts over 250 bikes stretching from the golden age of motor cycles to current customised machines that really need to be seen. It also now includes a Swap Meet with stall holders selling a range of parts and accessories for the motorbike enthusiast. The Border Bike Fest attracts upwards of 2,500 people to the Gateway Lakes site.



Junction Square

Junction Place is an exciting urban space bringing new life to the former historic railway station and rail yards in central Wodonga. The development of Junction Place has doubled the size of Wodonga's central business district and created new and unique spaces in the city centre, including The Promenade and Junction Square.

Junction Place is regional Australia's largest urban renewal project. The location hosts markets and events, and is home to a number of boutique operators including BeanStation Cafe, Piccolo Pod, Thistle and Fern, Andiamo Street Food, Topolino Gelateria, The Goods Shed Craft Beer Cafe and Wodonga's newest fine dining and chef hatted restaurant - Miss Amelie, with adjoining wine bar - Little Miss.

The main Junction Square area under the old railway gantries has proved to be an extremely popular location for motor car show 'n' shine events. The site is situated in a high profile precinct which is now becoming a hub for events and the community to gather. Vehicular access is easy and there is plenty of parking. There are quality food and coffee providers on site and the area is highly visible to passing traffic.



a central meeting place





Junction Square show'n'shine

Humber and Rootes Group National Rally – May 7 to 11, 2018

The Humber and Rootes Group National Rally was based in Wodonga for five days during May 2018. The highlight of their rally was the wonderful show 'n' shine event held at Junction Square, that gave locals and visitors alike the opportunity to view these classic British vehicles including Humbers, Hillmans, Sunbeams and Singers.

Testimonial

What a delightful place Wodonga is, the ease of access to shops and businesses made moving around the town so easy. Your fantastic civic development at Junction Square was the perfect place to display our cars.

The well cared for parks and gardens and the tree lined streets made the city the most pleasant place to be. Set amongst some of Victoria's most beautiful surrounding countryside full of interesting towns and places to visit led many of our participants to express a desire to return to further explore the area.

Many thanks to you and the council for your fantastic support and assistance.

Roy Strange, Jan Beattie and David Aplin
Rally Organisers



classic vehicle display

Vintage Drivers Club – 60th Anniversary Rally April 28 to May 5, 2018

The Vintage Drivers Club was founded by a small group of enthusiasts in 1958 who appreciated everything associated with veteran, vintage and classic vehicles. The club has since grown to a stage where there are now more than 470 members.

The club marked its 60th anniversary with a week-long tour of Albury-Wodonga and surrounding regions in late April 2018. One of the highlights was the display of these classic vehicles at Junction Square Wodonga and given the site's high profile in the centre of town, event organisers were overwhelmed by the number of locals who came to have a look.

Vehicles toured the scenic back roads of North East Victoria and beyond to take in the Milawa gourmet region, historic Chiltern, the beautiful gold rush town of Beechworth and the sub-alpine village of Mt Beauty. They even passed through the infamous 'Tangam' and for those who don't know, is short for Tangambalanga.



Motorsport Park and 4WD Centre, Wodonga

Wodonga TAFE's Logic Campus features its own motorsport park. The 1.6 kilometre-long circuit has a 300 metre straight, is 11 metres wide and adheres to CAMS industry and safety standards. The circuit is available to hire for such activities as full-on competitive track events, 'go to whoa' sessions or just to have a bit of fun driving around a proper race circuit.

Another feature of the site is a purpose built 4WD facility, located adjacent to the race circuit. This offers 4WD enthusiasts the opportunity to stretch the limits of their vehicles and driving ability in a controlled environment. There are 17 obstacles including a side slope hill with a range of 10 to 20 degrees, 2 water crossings, a river bed crossing, sand traps, a 20 degree vertical hill and several other challenging obstacles to navigate. There are also a number of dedicated recovery points for winch training.

All facilities and buildings surrounding the track are available for use and hire. This includes an automotive workshop complete with hydraulic jacks, dyno machine and wheel-changing bays. There are also conference rooms available for formal meetings, club AGMs, training sessions and presentations. Just imagine viewing your track sessions straight after the event on site!



race circuit for hire



Austin Healey Sprite and Midget National Rally – April 25 to 29, 2018

The Austin Healey Driver's Club Inc held its National Rally in Wodonga in April 2018.

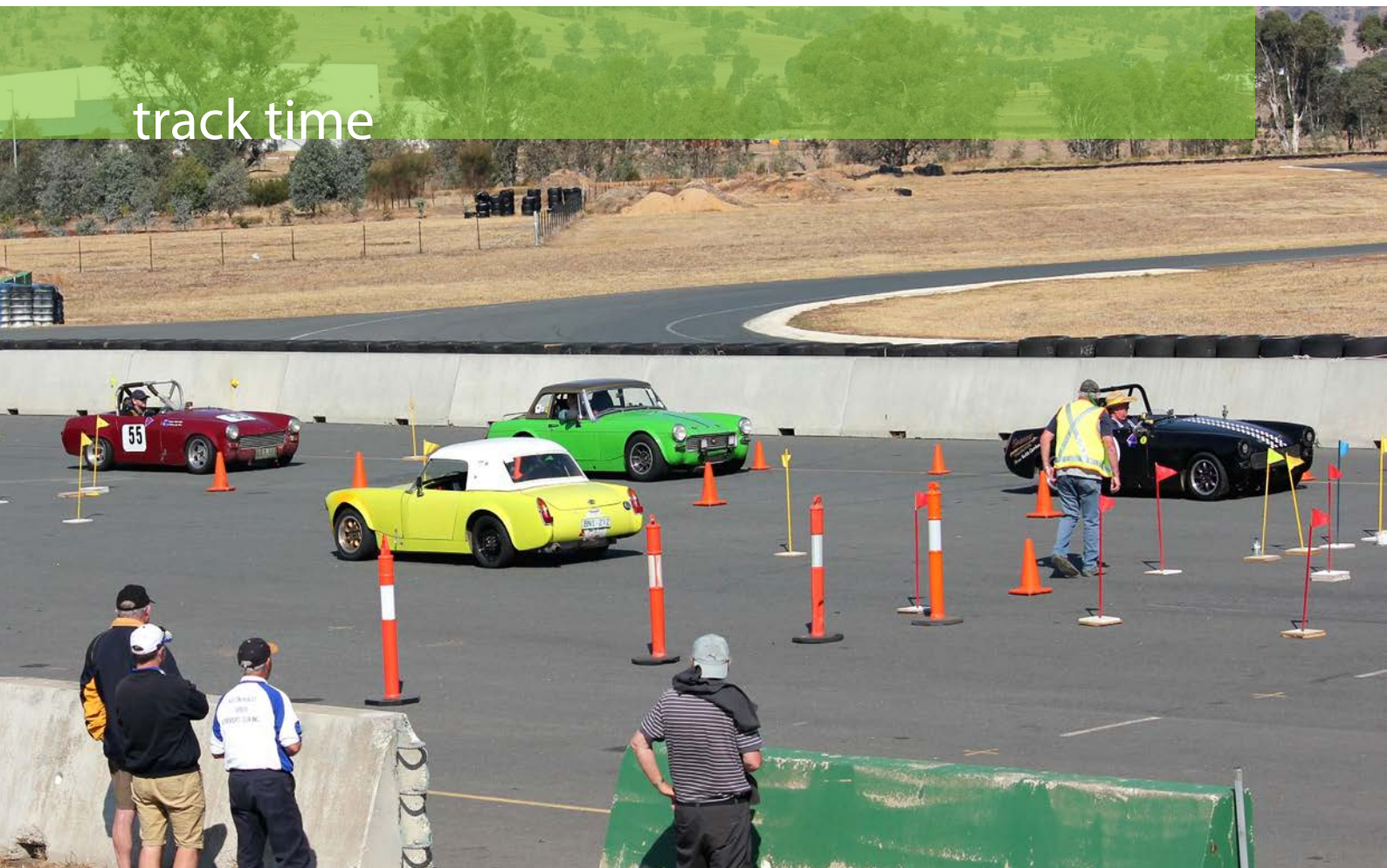
Testimonial

From our point of view we needed to base our event where there was accommodation 'under one roof', accessibility to a suitable, and might I add, relatively affordable motorsport competition venue, great touring roads and places of interest – scenic, historical, local produce. Wodonga certainly fitted these parameters.

Our motorsport component was held at Wodonga TAFE Motorsports facility. On 26th April we ran a Sprint and Regularity event with 37 entrants. On 27th April we ran a Motorkhana event with 30 entrants. Without exception the feedback was positive and given the opportunity, all would I'm sure take up the opportunity to return. The track is twisty and technical which offered challenges our entrants loved and the layout of the tarmac gave us the opportunity to set up and run a Motorkhana event with space to spare.

Greg Corbin
Rally Director

track time





North East vineyards

Touring the region

Wodonga is ideally placed to take in all that the broader North East has to offer, with easy day trips throughout the region. The roads are excellent and the scenery and landscapes are breathtaking, with beautifully preserved historic towns and villages. Throw in the alpine resorts of Mount Hotham, Falls Creek and the majestic Mount Buffalo, and you've got a car-touring region second to none.

The region is also a food and wine lover's dream with farmgate producers, exceptional local produce, renowned restaurants and cafes, farmer's markets and the wine regions of Beechworth, Alpine Valleys, Glenrowan, King Valley and Rutherglen - a gourmet heaven.





beautiful Beechworth

Historic Towns day trip

Beechworth, Yackandandah and Chiltern

An easy day trip starts with a walking tour of Beechworth's beautifully preserved, gold-era streetscapes and a visit to the courthouse dock where Ned Kelly stood before being transferred to Melbourne in 1880. Afterwards, drive on to stunning 'Yack', where the hills are alive with local artists and artisans, crafting unique pieces and gifts for the discerning purchaser.

Come in late March and you'll find yourself in the midst of the annual Yack Folk Festival, which locals will tell you is the best 'little folk festival' in the world.

Onwards to historic Chiltern whose Main Street looks like a real life movie set from 100 years ago. The original gold miners left a wonderful legacy and today's gold hunters can find their treasure buried in the many antique, collectables and bric-a-brac shops that line Main and Conness streets. You'll also find an original 1880s pharmacy that's now operated by the National Trust with tours available.



Rutherglen Wineries Day Trip

With over 20 wineries all within easy reach of each other, the Rutherglen Wine Region is an ideal day trip for any wine lover. Being only a half hour drive from Wodonga, Rutherglen is easily accessible yet still provides plenty of time to choose which wineries you wish to visit.

Rutherglen is renowned for its world-class fortified wines including Muscat and Topaque. It is equally famous for its Rutherglen 'Red', which could either be a smooth Shiraz or a delicious Durif. The region has 5th, 6th and 7th generation winemakers from the original families who settled the area, but these young winemakers are now doing things very differently from their forebears and making wine styles that are very much of the present.

perfect wine lover's day trip



magnificent touring options



Alpine Resorts day trip

Mount Hotham, Falls Creek or Mount Buffalo

The alpine resorts of Falls Creek and Mount Hotham offer a great range of options for skiing, snowboarding and snow sports in the winter months. Mount Buffalo also offers options for family snow play, tobogganing and cross-country skiing.

Equally, these resorts offer a truly magnificent touring option in the non-winter months, with stunning alpine vistas and panoramas that will take your breath away. The roads are all sealed and provide a fantastic environment for car clubs and members to experience Australia's 'rooftop'.



The Mighty Murray day trip

Albury-Wodonga is the gateway to the diverse Murray region that extends westward all the way to Mildura. The region is renowned for its many character-filled towns along the river's banks and the stunning golf courses.

Howlong is the first stop and a great place to unwind under an ancient river gum, as you watch the river flow peacefully by. Further along the river is Corowa, which is the birthplace of Federation. It's also a great spot for fishing, swimming or tubing, which is a definite favourite of the locals in the warmer months. You'll also find the 27-hole Corowa championship golf course just on the edge of town, right on the banks of the Murray.

If you're looking to go a little further for your day trip, then the twin border towns of Yarrawonga and Mulwala offer stunning water views over Lake Mulwala, with the sunset views being particularly spectacular. Rather than retracing your route back to Albury-Wodonga, you could head back along the Murray Valley Highway, via Rutherglen to finish a great touring day.

gateway to the Murray region



The Bandiana Army Museum

If you've had enough of touring the wider region, the Bandiana Army Museum is only a few kms from central Wodonga and is located on the Murray Valley Hwy at the Gaza Ridge Barracks. It is the largest and most diversified army museum in Australia. The 5000 square metre display comprises many stand-alone collections of the highest calibre, all housed under the one roof. The collection covers the Australian Army's involvement from 1863 through to the present day.

Especially for motoring enthusiasts, the vehicle collection is a must see with around 190 vehicles on display. It consists of motor bikes, cars including unique Buick and Holden staff cars, Chevrolet and Dodge trucks, carriages, armoured vehicles and even tanks. There are many significant vehicles on display, which can all be seen up close and personal.

And if that's not enough, there are over 150 weapons including anti-aircraft and field guns, machine guns and pistols. There's also a great display of WW1 and WW2 uniforms plus historic medals and other irreplaceable memorabilia. Allow at least 2-3 hours for your visit.

The Museum shop stocks a range of items to interest everyone and there are free electric barbecues next door in the Memorial Park Gardens for a great spot to gather after your visit.

Hours: Tues, Thurs and Sat 10.00am to 2.00pm

Bookings must be made 24 hours in advance.

Call: Sharon on (02) 6055 2525 to book **Email:** bandiana.museum@defence.gov.au

Closed: Sundays, New Years Day, Easter Friday and Easter Monday, ANZAC Day, Christmas Eve until New Year's Day



unique collection



event destination

The Cube Wodonga

Located in the Wodonga CBA, The Cube Wodonga is a multipurpose, world-class conference and performance space. The spacious auditorium, meeting room, foyer, courtyard, green room and dressing rooms cater for a range of events, both large and small.

All spaces are fitted with state-of-the-art technology and free Wi-Fi. Professional and friendly staff are on hand at all times to ensure your event runs smoothly and the technical team will make sure your event goes according to plan.

The Cube Wodonga can be tailored to suit almost any event. This includes touring bands, theatre shows, local community performances, film screenings, conferences, cocktail functions, exhibitions, launches, trade shows and much, much more.

The auditorium has retractable tiered seating. Within minutes, the venue can go from 410 theatre style to a flat floor mode tailored for live concerts with a standing capacity of up to 1000, expanding to 1500 when incorporating the courtyard space. The space can also be utilised for dinners and presentations for up to 310.

The Cube Wodonga has hosted a number of social functions for automotive clubs including a gala dinner for the Morris Minor 17th National Rally, where guests were treated to a delicious three-course meal.

The external courtyard also has a permanent large LED screen that is available for functions, music events, corporate events and film screenings.





Contact

Wodonga Council is committed to supporting a vibrant calendar of major events which will build upon Wodonga's reputation as a great place to live, work and invest.

Wodonga Council has a proven track record of successfully working with automotive clubs and event promoters to deliver major events for the city.

The council is committed to providing both financial and/or in kind support for appropriate major events as it recognises the crucial economic, social and cultural benefits which can result from its role as host.

Please contact Wodonga Council to discuss your event further.

Miranda Somers

Event Attraction Co-ordinator

Wodonga Council

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