THE RIVERINA

THE RIVERINA is a state of mind. If an individual claims to live in the Riverina, then he or she lives in the Riverina. Our map is only one of many possible versions. Our Riverina begins on the Southwest Slopes and the alpine shoulders east of **Cootamundra**, **Gundagai**, **Tumut** and **Tumbarumba**. At **Wagga Wagga** it leaves the slopes behind and incorporates the riverine plains as far west as **Balranald**. Between the slopes and **Balranald**, it includes all the land between the Murray River and the Murrumbidgee–Lachlan watershed.

This region was occupied by a number of Aboriginal groups, the largest of which is often said to have been the Wiradjuri, but it is possible that the large area attributed to them contained a number of other groups of which Europeans remained ignorant. Our knowledge of Aboriginal occupation is scanty, a fact reflected by the observations of Charles Sturt on his expedition down the Murrumbidgee River in 1829–30. He was mystified that the slopes, so richly endowed with water and other resources for Aboriginal life, were so thinly occupied. Recent scholarship has thrown some light on Aboriginal history further westward on the plains in the **Narrandera** district, particularly about Aboriginal reaction to European settlement.

The Riverina had already attracted settlement at **Gundagai** when Sturt travelled down the river. In the next three years squatters moved from Gundagai southward up the **Tumut** valley and westward down the Murrumbidgee River to **Wagga Wagga**. With two or three exceptions, the squatters remained bluffed for some years by the plains beyond. New pastoralists turned southward instead, across the Murray River into the Port Phillip District. The occupation of the riverine plain west to **Balranald** occurred in the mid- and late 1840s. These founding squatters were remarkably homogeneous. They came mostly from the one place, the southern half of the Cumberland Plain (see Sydney); emancipists and native born were prominent among them; one-third of their ranks and retinues was Roman Catholic.

In the mid-1850s the goldminers entering the **Tumut**, **Tumbarumba** and **Adelong** valleys of the eastern Riverina were neither mining novices nor a random collection of individuals: they came with mining experience and prior associations on the founding goldfields of New South Wales and Victoria. Only that cohesion could have made possible the rapid creation of the extensive system of water races on these riverine goldfields.

The same cohesion of shared experience characterised yet a third group to enter the Riverina, the Victorian squatters of the 1850s. Well to the west of the recently arrived miners, these squatters established a virtual Victorian enclave based on the line of the Murray River. They were partly escaping from economic and social pressures on their Victorian leaseholds; partly, like some of the squatters from **Sydney** already there, they were conforming to the logistical fact that transport to **Melbourne** was cheaper than that to Sydney. And again, there is an enduring legacy: districts such as Barham in the southwest of the riverine plain remain at heart Victorian provinces. For the same logistical reason, this was a fate that for long promised to overtake the entire Riverina.

To complicate that destiny, South Australia entered the scene: firstly in the 1850s with riverboats drawing Riverina trade westward at the expense of both **Sydney** and **Melbourne**; secondly in the late 1860s with a distinctive group of farmers in search of new agricultural land. First-generation Australian-born Germans, they settled at **Walla Walla** and Jindera

near **Albury**; introduced into the Riverina the first intensive farming; and put their Lutheran stamp on various parts of the eastern region. Several generations referred to South Australia as the 'Fatherland'.

In the late nineteenth century, a second cohesive group of farmers, this time from Victoria, began entering the Riverina. Here they sought space to exercise their skills at wheat farming, made possible by the retreat of the pastoral stations and economically viable by New South Wales railway construction. The railways settled the destiny of the Riverina by anchoring most of the region to **Sydney**, but nevertheless the farmers gave the Riverina a Victorian cast by playing Australian Rules football.
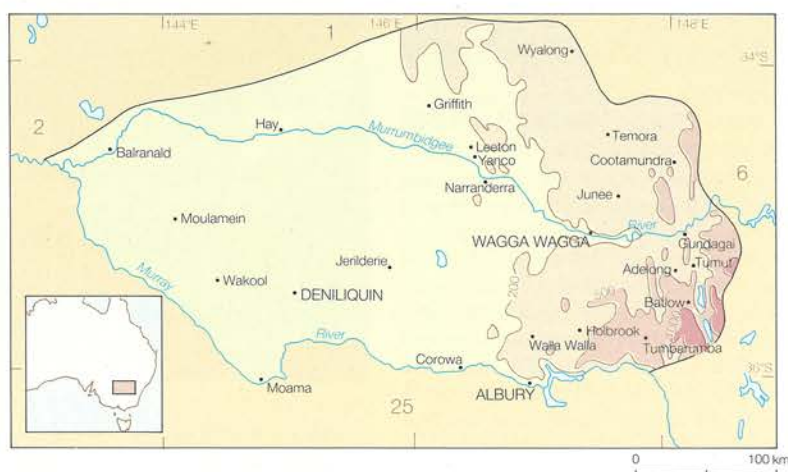
The parade of distinctive groups continued well into the twentieth century. First in the century came the Italians, attracted to the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, the creation of which spread closer settlement possibilities westward on plains that had hitherto remained largely a pastoral preserve. New towns rose rapidly at **Griffith** and **Leeton** to service the increased rural populations. World War II brought to the Riverina a wide network of army and air force camps that resulted after the war in continuing military bases around **Wagga Wagga**, each contributing its own distinctive grouping to the social structure. Peace brought the region an academic community with the founding of tertiary education centred at Wagga Wagga. After the war the military base at Bonegilla (see Wodonga) was transformed into an immigrant transit camp and a number of the migrants chose nearby **Albury** as a more permanent home. They are partly responsible for a cosmopolitan air that touches Albury and to a lesser extent Wagga Wagga. Striking similarities of intention marked new arrivals when irrigation later extended across the riverine plain to **Finley**, Berrigan, **Deniliquin**, **Wakool** and Coleambally.

To portray Riverina history as involving a succession of homogeneous groups, however, obscures the many exceptions to the rule. Elsewhere, these people might well constitute the story to be told. It is simply that the groups mentioned characterise the Riverina, differentiating it from other places. Theirs are the legacies: the homesteads still held by the founding family; Australian Rules and Rugby League flourishing side by side; children who do not need a historian to tell them that their forebears drowned in the great **Gundagai** flood in 1852; the vineyards around **Griffith** and the other irrigated crops beyond; a Catholic teaching order which from **Wagga Wagga** opened schools from Queensland to Western Australia; the grain terminals across the Riverina; a Lutheran secondary school at **Walla Walla**; military installations sitting unobtrusively in the countryside; and the arterial interstate highways conforming generally to intercolonial stock routes opened 150 years ago. The legacies give the Riverina its texture.

David Denholm

SUGGESTED READING

G.L. Buxton, *The Riverina 1861–91: an Australian regional study*, Melbourne 1967.
K. Swan, *A history of Wagga Wagga*, Wagga Wagga 1970.
R.M. Younger, *Australia's great river*, Swan Hill 1976.

ADELONG [35°18′S 148°05′E]

Popn: 286 (1861), 1866 (1911), 819 (1933), 806 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'river on a plain' or 'along the way'. Adelong Creek station estab in 1848. Gold discov in 1853. Tent town of about 5000 after rush in 1855. Anglican parish estab in 1855. Town founded in 1856. Rich reef and alluvial gold discov by William Williams on Mt Charcoal in 1857, led to more intensive settlement and approx 20 000 diggers, including about 3000 in Chinatown. A number of major mines and large batteries were estab in the 1860s: ruins of Ritchie's battery remain. St James' Roman Catholic church built 1862–68; Methodist church in 1866. Courthouse (now police station) built in 1874. Gibraltar mine closed in 1915. Much of main street classified by Nat T.

ALBURY [36°03′S 146°57′E]

Popn: 442 (1851), 5862 (1911), 14 412 (1947), 27 403 (1971), 35 072 (1981). Surveyed as Bungambrewatha in 1839, but quickly renamed Albury before gazetted, probably after village in England. Explorers Hamilton Hume and William Hovell crossed **Murray River** here in 1824. First runs in district taken up in 1834–35. Increasing traffic from **Sydney** to **Melbourne** led to development of village at river crossing. Police post estab in 1838. Township surveyed and gazetted in 1839. Punt service estab on river in the 1840s. Customs post estab on separation of Vic from NSW in 1850. First riverboat reached here in 1855, first one built here in 1858. *Albury Border Post* newspaper estab in 1856. Became a municipality in 1859. St Matthew's Anglican church opened in 1859; courthouse (RNE) in 1860; Turks Head Inn (now museum, RNE) c1860–70. Bridge over Murray R opened in 1861. Post office (RNE) built in 1875. Rlwy station (RNE) built in 1881 when line from Sydney opened: link with Vic opened in 1883. Former telegraph office (RNE, now technical college) built in 1885. Local doctor used X-rays to treat cancer in 1896, the yr they were discov. Former town hall (RNE) built in 1907. Proclaimed a city in 1946. City centre redeveloped in the 1960s; Civic Theatre opened in 1964. Together with **Wodonga**, declared a growth centre with participation of federal, Vic and NSW govts: Albury–Wodonga growth centre set up in 1973 and Albury–Wodonga Development Corporation estab in 1974. Major paper pulp mill opened in 1980.

BALRANALD [34°38′S 143°35′E]

Popn: 637 (1891), 1442 (1981). Name means 'village of the Ranalds', a branch of family of first lands commissioner Macdonald. Explorers Charles Sturt and Thomas Mitchell in area in 1830 and 1836 respectively. Runs in district taken up from c1840; first permanent settler at town site in 1847. Post office and police station opened c1850. Town laid out and gazetted in 1851, became centre for pastoral industry and potential river port when steam navigation developed on the Murray–Murrumbidgee river system. Robert O'Hara Burke and William Wills passed through on their way north in 1860. River trade peaked in the 1870s. Post office (RNE) built in 1871. Municipality from 1882 until merged with shire in 1957. First bridge over

Looking up Dean Street to the war memorial at Albury. Unveiled in 1925, the 30-metre memorial stands 90 metres above the city. Photograph by Ray Joyce.
WELDON TRANNIES

Murrumbidgee River opened in 1880. Courthouse (RNE) built in 1888. Rlwy opened in 1926, finally putting an end to river trade.

BATLOW [35°30′S 148°11′E]

Popn: 384 (1911), 1448 (1966), 1354 (1981). Town named in 1889 after squatting run; previously known as Reedy Flat. Hamilton Hume and William Hovell passed through district on way south in 1824. Thomas Boyd settled at Windowie in the 1830s. Alluvial goldfield discov in 1853 and township grew as supply base. Paddy's River Dam built by Chinese miners, several mines opened. Clash between European and Chinese miners at Hooligan's Point. First orchard and hops planted in 1855. Timber mill opened in 1880. Fruit growing, especially apples, began in the late 19th cent; about 5000 trees planted by 1900. Major district orchards cleared and developed 1908–15. Town proclaimed in 1910. Bago State Forest declared in 1917, had been a timber reserve since 1878. Soldier settlement at Kunama after World War I, not very successful. Rlwy opened in 1923. First coolstores in NSW opened here in 1923, co-operative packing sheds and coolstore in 1927. Cider manufacturing began in the 1930s. Fruit and vegetables dehydrated for Aust and US forces during World War II, turned to canning and freezing after war. Major softwood plantations developed since World War II. Asparagus growing began in district in the 1950s. Post-World War II soldier settlement more successful despite name of Willigobung. New cannery estab in 1967. By 1982 had Aust's largest apple-handling facility which could store 13 700 tonnes of fruit. Quartzville, also known as Laurel Hill, to south once a mining town of about 2000 people.

COOTAMUNDRA [34°38′S 148°03′E]

Popn: 237 (1871), 3352 (1911), 6540 (1981). Name: Aborig *gooramundra* = 'turtles', 'swamps' or 'low-lying'. Originally surveyed as village of Cootamundry and marked as such on official maps until 1952. Cootamondra station settled in the 1830s. Village estab around station c1860; survey plan approved in 1861; first lots sold in 1862–63. Roman Catholic church, first church in town, built in 1870. Rlwy opened in 1877. Post office (RNE) built c1880. Declared a municipality in 1884. Eight killed and 40 injured in crash of Melbourne–Sydney express train in 1885. Gas works estab in 1892. Oldest country golf club in NSW estab here in 1895. Cricketer Don Bradman born here in 1908. Cereal mills estab in the 1940s.

COROWA [35°59′S 146°25′E]

Popn: 189 (1871), 2272 (1911), 3045 (1954), 2593 (1961), 3390 (1981). Name: Aborig *currawa* = 'pine trees'. First European settlers in district in 1838. Township gazetted in 1859, grew as river crossing and port. Large-scale wine making in district began with purchase of Haffner's vineyard by Dr Lindeman in 1872; Corowa Winery originally built by him in 1877. Some gold found in area from 1876. Popn doubled 1881–91. Rlwy opened in 1892. Border Federation League meeting in courthouse in 1893 important in federation process. Prime minister and three state premiers met here in 1902 to

One of the crucial early meetings to discuss federation was held in this courthouse at Corowa, a border town on the New South Wales side of the Murray River, in 1893. Today, Corowa's mainstays are tourism and wine making. Lindeman's winery has been operating here since the late 1870s. Photograph by Ray Joyce.
WELDON TRANNIES

set up joint royal commission which led to River Murray Agreement in 1915. Proclaimed a municipality in 1903. Corurgan Irrigation Scheme between here and Berrigan opened in 1969; part of a larger 1912–20 proposal for the Bungowannah scheme. Myxomatosis successfully introduced just outside town in 1950 after earlier failures; important step in controlling rabbits in Aust.

DENILIQUIN [35°32′S 145°00′E]

Popn: 155 (1856), 1118 (1871), 4704 (1954), 7354 (1981). Named after Aborig chief and famed wrestler Denilakoon. Known as Sandhills until Ben Boyd took up land in 1842 and named run Denilakoon. Edward R named by John Howe on overlanding expedition in 1840; river traced to junction with Wakool R by Augustus Morris in 1842 and his reports led to land scramble in district that yr. Inn estab near Denilakoon woolshed in 1847; village followed. Punt across river estab in 1847 on early stock route. Town site surveyed in 1848, first lots sold in 1851. Merino wool became important in district in the 1850s. First school opened in 1856. Working Men's Hospital and Benevolent Institution founded in 1859. Bridge opened in 1861. Some subdivision for agric holdings followed the Robertson land acts of 1861. Became important stock selling centre in the 1860s. First industry was brewery in 1866, closed in 1952. Municipality gazetted in 1869. Flour mill built in 1872. Private rlwy from **Moama** opened in 1876; taken over by Vic govt in 1923. Town hall built in 1876. Reticulated water scheme begun in 1882. Gas lighting introduced and courthouse completed in 1887. Wheat growing increasingly significant from c1890 as subdivision progressed. Frozen meat plant opened in 1895, closed in 1918. Electricity-generating station estab in 1909. District office of NSW Irrigation Commission opened in 1925 to supervise private pumping. **Wakool** irrigation scheme completed in 1938, the Deniboota, Berriquin and Denimein schemes in the 1940s. Fat lamb raising increased from the 1930s, also dairying to east of town. Serious

bushfires on Black Friday 1939. Pilots' training school estab in 1941. Levee banks built after last serious flood in 1956 to protect town. Rice mill opened in 1970.

GRIFFITH [34°17′S 146°04′E]

Popn: 2468 (1933), 7696 (1961), 13 187 (1981). Named after Arthur Griffith, former NSW minister for public works. Cocoparra Range sighted by John Oxley expedition of 1817. Squatters on the lower Murrumbidgee River in the 1840s. Area around town part of Kooba run in the 1860s, subdivided by selectors in 1884. First urban settlement known as Bagtown, a hessian camp where people lived while town was being built. Town designed and laid out by Walter Burley Griffin on commission from NSW Water Resources Commission in 1914, but design later amended. Town followed establishment of Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and building of Burrinjuck Dam on Murrumbidgee R in 1907–12; town proclaimed in 1916 when canals reached district. First vines in district planted in 1912 before irrigation, further important plantings in the 1910–30 period. Penfolds built winery in 1913, McWilliams in 1917. Soldier settlement in area after both World War I and World War II. Rlwy opened in 1922. Growing Italian community built St Mary's Church in 1939. Donald Mackay, anti-drug campaigner, disappeared in 1977: murder verdict returned by inquiry in 1984, linked to large-scale growing of marijuana in area by 'Griffith mafiosi'.

Orchards and vineyards at Griffith in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. The town was designed by Walter Burley Griffin in 1914 and established after the building of the Burrinjuck Dam 1907–12. Photograph by Ray Joyce, 1982.

WELDON TRANNIES

GUNDAGAI [35°04′S 148°07′E]

Popn: 397 (1851), 1008 (1871), 787 (1881), 1921 (1911), 1255 (1933), 2308 (1981). Name: Aborig *gundabandoobingee* = 'cut sinews behind knee with tomahawk' or 'going upstream'. Locally called Gundy. First European settlers c1826 at Willie Ploma station. Charles Sturt passed town site in 1829 on exploration of Murrumbidgee River. Village on road to **Melbourne**; gazetted in 1838, surveyed in 1840. Post office estab by 1843. Original village destroyed by floods in 1852 when over 80 of the 250 inhabitants drowned and 71 buildings destroyed. Township rebuilt on hill slopes. Francis Cadell's steamer *Albury* reached here in 1858 after 3000 km trip from **Goolwa**, SA. Courthouse built in 1859. Bushranger Ben Hall and his gang held up mail coach in 1864; Capt Moonlite had shoot-out with police in 1879. First bridge over Murrumbidgee R built in 1867. Gold finds near town in the 1860s and again in 1894. Rlwy opened in 1886. Proclaimed a municipality in 1889. 'Dog on Tuckerbox' monument to local pioneers set up in 1932, inspired by popular song. Soldier settlement at Nangus in 1948. Serious flooding in 1950.

HAY [34°30′S 144°51′E]

Popn: 172 (1861), 2073 (1881), 3134 (1961), 2952 (1966), 3208 (1971), 2958 (1981). Named in 1859 after John Hay, district member of parliament in the 1850s. Formerly known as Lang's Crossing after early settlers. Charles Sturt passed site in 1829 on expedition down the Murrumbidgee River. Store opened by river-steamer captain Francis Cadell in 1858. Town site surveyed on southwest corner of Illilawa run in 1859 and proclaimed as Hay. Hay became port for Lachlan squatting district, while Hay South on opposite bank became port for Murrumbidgee squatting or pastoral district. Finch's Public House built in 1862 as coach and drovers' stopover; replaced by replica after being burned down in 1903, delicensed in 1942. Hay proclaimed a municipality in 1872. Former gaol complex (RNE) built in 1879, closed in 1974. Rlwy opened in 1882, station RNE. Courthouse (RNE) built in 1892. Hay Irrigation Trust estab in 1892. Hay Weir completed and first winery in district opened in 1982.

HOLBROOK [35°42′S 147°20′E]

Popn: 180 (1881), 983 (1933), 1210 (1954), 1071 (1971), 1276 (1981). First named Germanton after J.B. Pabst, German employee of W.H. Dutton and first inn licensee. Renamed in 1914–15 after Lieut N. Holbrook, VC, during wave of anti-German feeling. Hamilton Hume and William Hovell passed nearby on their 1824 expedition. First district leases granted in 1836–37. Woolpack Inn opened in 1838. Part of 'the German's' run set aside as town reserve in 1848; Ten Mile Creek gazetted in 1848. Post office opened in 1857. Germanton surveyed and first land sales in 1858: name locally changed from Ten Mile Creek to Germanton then, officially changed in 1875–76. Yarra Yarra homestead 9km to east, built c1866–71. School opened in 1868. Staging post on Old Sydney Rd until rlwy to **Melbourne** diverted traffic in 1883. Branch rlwy to town opened in 1902, closed in 1975. Major bushfires in district in 1915. Soldier settlement in district after World War II.

JERILDERIE [35°20′S 145°46′E]

Popn: 170 (1871), 989 (1911), 803 (1947), 1075 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'reedy place'. District occupied by pastoralists in the 1840s. Mary's Creek run surrounded town site; split into Jerilderie North and South in 1852. Govt survey of 1852 reserved part of Jerilderie South for village. Village began in 1858 when John Caractacus Powell built home, store and hotel on creek within reserve. Rival govt settlement estab 3.2 km away in 1859 when William Davidson set up hotel. River-steamer captain Francis Cadell built store between two and this became police barracks site. Village gazetted and first land sale took place in 1865. Sheep supplanted cattle from c1865 and town supplied labour for fencing and other activities. Public school built in 1868, courthouse in 1869. First wheat in district harvested in 1873. Selectors settled in district from c1876. Kelly gang raided bank and held town of 300 hostage in 1879. Flour mill and rlwy opened in 1884. Became a municipality in 1889, amalgamated with shire in 1918. Selectors largely unsuccessful and properties had mainly reverted to large holdings by 1901–02. Town declined as result.

JUNEE [34°50′S 147°37′E]

Popn: 538 (1881), 1682 (1891), 3606 (1911), 4213 (1933), 3772 (1971), 3993 (1981). Village called Jewnee gazetted in 1863, later called Old Junee. Rlwy station (RNE) built in 1881; town called Loftus gazetted at rlwy junction to east in 1883, renamed Junee in 1885, became important rlwy junction and depot on line from **Sydney** to **Melbourne**. Declared municipality in 1886, merged with shire in 1981. Courthouse (RNE) built in 1890; Loftus Hotel (RNE) in 1896.

Junee rose to importance as a railway junction and the town economy is still largely dependent on the railway. Photograph by Adrian Young, 1981.

LEETON [34°33′S 146°26′E]

Popn: 2793 (1933), 5148 (1954), 6498 (1981). Named after C.A. Lee, minister for public works who instigated project for Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA). Town, oldest in MIA, designed by Walter Burley Griffin in 1912 when first water supplied to scheme. First buildings were irrigation trust offices. Cannery estab in 1914. Rlwy opened in 1922. Local govt run by Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission until shires created in 1928. Agric research station estab in 1928 for rice research; became Leeton Experiment Farm in the 1940s. Cannery became a co-operative (Leetona) in 1935: estab British Empire record in 1940 by canning 419 609 cans of peaches in a day. First rice mill in MIA opened here in 1951, now also headquarters for Rice Marketing Board.

MOAMA [36°05′S 144°46′E]

Popn: 144 (1861), 1204 (1881), 716 (1891), 928 (1901), 662 (1947), 1507 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'dead'. Earlier called Maiden's Punt, renamed in 1851. Troopers stationed here from 1842. James Maiden took up Perricoota station on Murray River in 1843, property divided for selection in 1875. In 1911 Watson brothers developed irrigation on run and planted large citrus grove. Maiden's punt across Murray R estab in 1846, saw beginnings of trade between NSW and Vic when large cattle market supplied Vic goldfields 1851–56. Town of shacks and humpies followed opening of Maiden's punt: town site reserved in 1848, post office estab then; township gazetted in 1851, became a municipality in 1890, merged with shire in 1953. **Echuca** became dominant from c1856 after Henry Hopwood estab rival punt and inn on Vic bank. Flood nearly destroyed settlement in 1867, and buildings removed to higher ground as result. Maloga Christian mission settlement estab to north in 1874: 50 Aborigs of district moved to station 1876–85, hospital built. Cumeroogunga station also developed as Aborig station from 1883, enlarged in 1900. Small farms given to Aborig families to work in 1898, but most of land leased to Europeans by 1919 and Aborigs working elsewhere. Conditions deteriorated and many left c1939, but station continued until 1953. Land again farmed by Aborigs through Cumeroogunga Pty Ltd in the 1960s–70s. Private rlwy from **Deniliquin** opened in 1876; taken over by Vic govt and joined to Vic system at Echuca in 1923 when line to **Moulamein** built.

MOULAMEIN [35°04′S 144°04′E]

Popn: 120 (1881), 514 (1954), 396 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'meeting of the waters', that is, junction of Edward R and Billabong Creek. District stations taken up in the 1840s, including Mooloomoon in 1848. Town police records date from 1845; town surveyed 1851, although inn, courthouse, post office and some homes already existing. Important port during riversteamer period from 1864. Selection in district in the 1870s. Shearers' Union estab in district in 1894. Town at lowest ebb c1920 after drought and rabbit plagues. Rlwy opened in 1926, brought revival along with subdivision of large estates.

NARRANDERA [34°44′S 146°34′E]

Popn: 142 (1871), 1142 (1881), 2888 (1911), 4119 (1933), 5013 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'place of lizards'. Charles Sturt first European in area in 1829. Narrandera station taken up by 1848. Town surveyed in 1859–60, first subdivision of town blocks in 1860, village proclaimed in 1863. Selection in district encouraged by 1861 land act. Royal Mail Hotel built in 1868. Lock-up and St

As in most Australian country towns, Temora's houses are single-storeyed, while commercial buildings at the centre of town have more storeys to conserve space. Photograph by Steven Dunbar, 1982.

Thomas' Anglican church built in 1879. Rlwy opened in 1881. District hospital built c1883. Most important town in the Riverina from the 1870s to 1914 when it was a rail junction and steamer port. Declared a municipality in 1885, merged with shire in 1960. Chilling works operating by 1890 and meat sent to **Sydney**. In 1899 became second country town in NSW to have sewerage. Courthouse (RNE) built in 1900. Air training school estab in 1939 for World War II needs. Fisheries Research Station estab in 1962.

TEMORA [34°26′S 147°33′E]

Popn: 3254 (1881), 915 (1891), 3561 (1911), 4567 (1954), 4350 (1981). Name: Aborig, meaning uncertain. District runs taken up from the 1830s; Temora run taken up and named in 1847. Gold discov in 1869 leading to 'false' rush. New discovery in 1879: goldfield proclaimed in 1880, goldmining reached its peak in 1881 when half state's yield came from Temora field. Town site selected and subdivided, town proclaimed and school opened in 1880. Major subdivision of large runs for selection in the 1880s. Hospital built in 1883. Municipal council formed in 1890. Rlwy opened in 1893. Courthouse opened in 1902. Cattle saleyards and butter factory opened in 1912. Bulk wheat terminal built in 1970, improved in 1978.

TUMBARUMBA [35°46′S 148°03′E]

Popn: 138 (1871), 1511 (1961), 1392 (1971), 1536 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'hollow sounding ground'. William Hovell and Hamilton Hume passed through area in 1824. Graziers in district in 1836; first town settler perhaps in 1841. Town site reserved in 1847. Gold discov in the 1850s, leading to town growth. Township surveyed in 1859, lots sold in 1860. Large numbers of Chinese miners in area during the 1850s. Other gold diggings in the 1860s near Paddy's River Dam to northeast. Courthouse and police station (RNE) built in the 1880s. District hospital opened in 1919. Rlwy opened in 1919, closed in the mid-1970s. Forestry industry prospered with opening of pulp mill at **Albury** in 1980.

TUMUT [35°17′S 148°14′E]

Popn: 64 (1851), 787 (1881), 2725 (1947), 5816 (1981). Name: Aborig *doomut* = 'camping ground' or 'resting place by river'. Tumut R reached by Hamilton Hume and William Hovell in 1824. First European settlement along river in 1828. Bridge built in 1847 and hamlets on either side of river consolidated into one settlement. Town site surveyed in 1848. All Saints Anglican church built 1875–82; Oriental Hotel c1876, court-

house in the 1880s (all RNE). Became a municipality in 1887, merged with shire in 1928. Rlwy opened in 1903. Prospered while western sections of Snowy Mountains Scheme being built in the 1950s–60s. Timber industry important, but in recession in the early 1980s. Blowering Dam to south of town completed in 1968, trout farm estab in 1971. Aust Ken Warby set world water speed record on Blowering Reservoir in 1978, reaching 510 km/h.

WAGGA WAGGA   [35°07′S 147°23′E]

Popn: 221 (1851), 1858 (1871), 4596 (1891), 7446 (1911), 22 092 (1961), 36 837 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'many crows'. Early explorers in district were Charles Sturt in 1829–30 and Thomas Mitchell in 1836. First European settlers in district in 1832, many grazing runs taken up in the 1830s. First crops in district in 1846. Village surveyed, police post and court of petty sessions estab in 1847. Proclaimed town and first lots sold in 1849. Punt service across Murrumbidgee River begun in 1850. Became important centre for stock sales in the 1850s, town growth followed. First river-steamer, Francis Cadell's *Albury*, reached here in 1858. Newtown surveyed in 1858, grew quickly. Telegraph service and bridge across river opened in 1862. Bushranger Dan Morgan terrorised district 1863–65. Renewed growth after subdivision of large runs and land selection in district in the 1860s: wheat became main industry in the 1860s–70s. Declared a borough in 1867. Some grape vines planted in the 1870s. Rlwy to North Wagga Wagga opened in 1878; rlwy station (RNE) built in 1879 when line into town proper opened. Town hall built in 1881, yr of first gas supply. St Michael's Roman Catholic cathedral (RNE) built 1885–87; second stage in 1922–25 after diocese created and cathedral status gained in 1918. Post office (RNE) built 1886–88. Police station (RNE) built in the 1880s.

Wagga Wagga's Civic Theatre opened in 1963. At the time it was the fastest growing provincial city in New South Wales. By the late 1960s it had a college of advanced education and had become the main state government centre for the Riverina region. Wagga is now served by natural gas with the gas tank in the background used as a back-up. Photograph by Peter Spearritt, 1986.

Aust general Thomas Blamey born at Lake Albert in 1884. Experimental farm estab in 1892. District resumptions by govt for closer settlement in the 1920s. Airport and base hospital opened in 1938, RAAF base estab in 1940, Kapooka army base in 1941. Proclaimed a city in 1946. Teachers' College opened in 1947, part of Riverina CAE since 1972. Major bushfire in area in 1951–52. Most rapidly growing provincial city of NSW in the early 1960s and regional centre for Riverina.

WAKOOL   [35°28′S 144°26′E]

Popn: 172 (1861), 3134 (1961), 2952 (1966), 3208 (1971), 2958 (1981). Name: Aborig, meaning uncertain, given to Wakool R by Augustus Morris when he explored it in 1842. Runs in district taken up from 1843. Area surveyed in 1867. Closer settlement in the 1890s, again after 1923 Border Rlwys Agreement. Wakool station on **Moulamein** rlwy opened in 1926. Wakool Irrigation Scheme began with construction of Stevens Weir on Edward R in 1933; constituted in 1939. Experimental rice crop grown in district in 1942 with much of labour coming from Italian prisoners of war. Soldier settlement in area in 1945.

WALLA WALLA   [35°45′S 146°55′E]

Popn: 958 (1911), 380 (1947), 405 (1954), 547 (1961), 403 (1966), 593 (1981). District settled in 1868 by group of 56 Lutherans who travelled from Barossa Valley (SA) in 14 covered wagons in search of suitable land. Township founded in 1869. First Lutheran church built in 1872, new Zion Church in 1924. Original mud school built in 1875. Jindera to south similarly settled by Germans in the 1860s. Pioneer museum includes 19th cent store.

WYALONG   [33°55′S 147°16′E]

Popn (Wyalong and West Wyalong): 1515 (1901), 3426 (1933), 2977 (1961), 3778 (1981). Gold discov in 1893 on Neeld family property, bringing some 10 000 diggers to area in gold rush. Most productive field in NSW in 1899, but mining had almost ceased by 1914. Town of Wyalong surveyed in 1894, but West Wyalong grew larger because nearer mines and had better water supply. Wyalong became a municipality in 1899, amalgamated with shire in 1935. Rlwy opened in 1903, saleyards in 1928, aerodrome in 1949.

YANCO   [34°36′S 146°26′E]

Popn: 331 (1911), 824 (1947), 1075 (1981). Yanko station taken up by the 1840s. Rlwy opened in 1882 and township grew around station. Successful use of irrigation on 16 000 ha of North Yanco estate by Samuel McCaughey encouraged further development. Yanco Experimental Farm estab in 1908, school in 1909. Irrigation commenced in district as part of Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme in 1912. Power station operated 1912–58. Bacon factory and abattoirs estab in 1915. Agric high school estab in 1922. Bulk wheat shipping facilities estab in 1951, new grain silos built in 1980.