



Gilgandra

Gilgandra is an oasis of quiet country comfort and hospitality. Gilgandra is set on the banks of the Castlereagh River, and is Aboriginal word for long waterhole.

The famous 1915 *Coo-ee March* is commemorated each October with a Festival. 35 men from the Gilgandra District set off to march to Sydney to enlist in the Army. At each town along their journey the men shouted the old bush call "Coo-

ee - come join us". By the time they reached Sydney the numbers has swelled to 351 recruits.

The Cooee March memorial is a stone cairn marking the spot in Bridge Street, Gilgandra where local men commenced the *Coo-ee March* on 10 October 1915.

A nearby wall mural contributes to the memorial. Recruitment marches like this were called *Snowball marches*, and sprang up elsewhere in NSW following the example of the Cooee March. The men assembled here





in October 1915 to begin their recruitment drive by themselves marching to Sydney.

Parramatta & District Historical Society members visited the Coo-ee Heritage and



Visitor Information Centre during their trip to Gilgandra. On display in the centre are significant artefacts from the march, including the flag carried by the marchers.

There are photographs and the Coo-ee Honour Wall, a moving insight into the men's lives.

In the community plaza is the Coo-ee Digger, a bronze sculpture made by Brett Garling, a leading Australian sculptor.

"Coo-ee" is the famous Australian attention-getting call. The word "coo-ee" originates from the Dharug language of the original inhabitants of the Sydney area. It means "come here", and has now become widely used in Australia as a call over distance.

Parramatta & District Historical Society members conduct tours from time to time exploring historic sites throughout New South Wales.

Photographs showing some of the Coo-ee March exhibits in the Visitor Information Centre



John Macarthur's *Hambledon Cottage* HOUSE MUSEUM

**NOW OPEN
FOR
WEEKEND
TOURS!**



DISCOVER REAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORY where it happened!

The Guides from Parramatta & District Historical Society welcome you to their beautiful historic cottage.

Weekend tours re-commence from Saturday October 17 & Sunday October 18, then every weekend up to and including Sunday 20 December, when it will close, re-opening on Saturday 2 January 2021.

Groups may apply for guided tours during the week if more than 15 persons are coming.

Opening hours from 11am, with the last tour at 3pm.

Hambledon Cottage is COVID compliant, with hand hygiene, temperature checks and recording of contact details. A mask must be worn whilst in Hambledon Cottage – visitors should bring their own mask or purchase one on site.

**JOHN MACARTHUR'S HAMBLEDON COTTAGE
HOUSE MUSEUM**

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