



# friendship force

## CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Changing the Way You See the World

# The Ambassador

## President's Message

*Dave Burns*



Hi everybody! Well it looks like spring has finally arrived. Just think, no more “snow days”, shoveling snow, slipping on ice, and otherwise staring out the window waiting to just walk out the door and enjoy the day. Now it’s time to start cleaning up the debris and damage from those past long months, planting flowers and seeds, and probably most importantly dealing with allergies! But here we are and we should all appreciate the fact that we are still here to enjoy it, good or bad. With that said, everybody please enjoy the flowers, bird calls, and all the good things that spring brings us.

Of course this spring brings Friendship Force Central Virginia (FFCV) something special and that is the inbound group from Blue Mountain, Australia that will we will be hosting in just a couple of weeks. Many of you do not know what goes into preparing for an inbound, but it is not easy and all of us need to thank Bob and Dee Schwagerl for all the work and effort they have put forth in coordinating this visit. More will be said about this in the future, but being an ED is not an easy job and their work is always underappreciated, but I’m sure all of us, by the end of this inbound, will be tipping our hats to them. That said, there are also a lot of others working behind the scene, if you will, who are doing a lot of work to put the inbound together. Among those who need special recognition are Peggy Colville, Leroy Moyer, Deborah Winslow, my wife Linda, and Margaret Dryer, who are all helping Bob & Dee to put this together.

**May, 2014**  
**Volume XXIII, No. 3**

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**Mark These Dates!**

Australian Inbound	May 11-17
Australian Farewell – Dryers House	May 17
JAG Graduation	May 22
BOD Meeting (?)	June 10
Carysbrook Play	June 14
BOD Meeting (?)	July 8
Picnic	July 12
FF World Conference and NZ/Australian Outbound	Oct .14-31
Christmas Party	Dec. 13

Speaking of Margaret Dryer, I hope all of you understand that the Farewell Dinner Party scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> at Margaret and Mark Dryer’s house is also our bi-monthly general membership meeting

which means everybody in FFCV is invited to attend, whether or not you are involved in the inbound. The price of admission is quite cheap; simply bring a dish of something that can be shared with everybody and a bottle or two of wine or whatever you want to drink. Simple as that! Just be prepared to have a good time and be ready to spend time with our Australian Ambassadors and fellow FFCV members.

The Farewell Dinner Party is also an excellent time to invite others who might be interested in FFCV and I urge you to bring along any guests you may know who may be interested in our club. The only requirement is that you please notify Margaret in advance so she has an idea of how many folks she will have roaming around her house. Again, admission is limited to a dish and whatever anybody wants to drink.

Aside from the inbound, I just want to say, I think FFCV is heading in the right direction and we are getting back to my pledge to make this a “fun” organization. So far we have had a couple of really good social get-togethers (thanks Peggy, Willow and others) and we have some interesting things to do in the future. Of course, the key to making our social events successful is participation by the membership and to this point things look pretty good. If you can participate in any of social events please do, and as I have said so many times please invite others who might be interested to join us.

In closing I just want to say thanks to all of you who are supporting FFCV and actively participating in our events, whatever they may be. I would also like to mention that since the beginning of the year we have had several members who have suffered or are still dealing with physical or medical issues. There is no need to go into details on any particular members but I want all of you who are dealing with these problems to know that you are in my and the FFCV members' thoughts and prayers

## **The Aussi's are Coming!!!**

*Bob and Dee Schwagerl*

We as a club are almost out of time. The Australians will be arriving to us on Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. It is in joining in the exchange process that defines our involvement and commitment to the principals of Friendship Force. In the Friendship Force Pledge we state our “mission is to be friends to the world”. The world isn't done all at once but it can begin with a week of participating and sharing in the many activities outlined in the program below.

Please also refer to the Activity Reservation Form. Highlights include the Keswick Winery Tour, Bus trip and admittance to Yorktown and Jamestown for only \$10.00! And finally we hope the entire club will attend the farewell pot luck dinner at Mark & Margaret Dryer's.

Don't wait to mail in the form, call Dee Schwagerl (434-984-1490) call NOW to reserve a spot in one or more of the activities. We need everyone, especially you!

As always, any questions? Give Bob or Dee a call 434-984-1490

## **Outbound: New Zealand/Australia**

*Dave Burns*

Although we are still several months away from this occurring, both I and the EDs in New Plymouth, NZ and Tamworth, AU are in contact and the EDs there, Margaret Emo and Christine McDonald, respectively, are working out our itineraries and schedule. As it stands, Linda and I, Bob and Dee Schwagerl, and Al and Peggy Colville plan on attending the FFI World Conference in Auckland, NZ then going on to New Plymouth and Tamworth. Others who want to become ambassadors on the trip include Pam and Paul Hokinson, Mary Ann and Barry Doucette, Deb Winslow, Linda Gehle, and four others from California. The plan is to go to New Plymouth after the World Conference, roughly 17-24 October and then Tamworth 24-31 October, though dates may change a bit. I also am in contact with an AU/NZ travel specialist to see what sort of deals we can get for internal travel. If anybody else is interested please contact me, who will be the ED on this trip..

Remember, this is in conjunction with the FFI World Conference in Auckland, and while anyone going on this Outbound does not have to attend the Conference or vice versa anyone who wants to go to the Conference should sign-up for it as soon as they can. Registration can be found here:

<http://www.cvent.com/events/friendship-force-world-conference-2014/event-summary-b33559b2107847c69cfe2e3656806eec.aspx>

At the end of the Ambassador there is a description of New Plymouth and Tamworth areas. If you are considering making this trip, these might just help you decide to join us for a great exchange!

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## **Inbound, Alabama**

*Dave Burns*

This trip is still in the formative stage but something we will all have to work on. The Huntsville club really wants to visit us and has requested we host them for at least five days in September. In return, they would like for us to visit them next year which might be a very good deal. Monica Notaro has volunteered to head up this inbound, and will be working with the Huntsville club over the next couple of months. We will really need to step forward on this one as they have a large group, which we will limit to 20, to visit us during this inbound. Needless to say, we are going to need hosts and Monica and I will be beating the bushes to come up with those of you willing to do so, and of course an itinerary for the week. While this is not exactly getting to know and understand other cultures and foreign languages it is an ideal way to meet other like minded folks who are our FF brothers and sisters. Please help if you can.

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## **Leadership Conference Report**

*Dale Walden*

On April 5, along with Dee and Bob Schwagerel, I attended the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Club Officers Conference in Harrisburg PA. In attendance were 9 representatives of the 12 regional

clubs. The conference was led by Pallie Savoie who handles programs for USA, UK, and the Middle East.

Discussions were focused on club development, new exchange ideas for our region and their development, club policy, resource sharing, and planning for future Regional Leadership Meetings.

To sum it up, Atlanta seeks more grass roots participation in creating "Global Themed Exchanges" such as : Ecco/Environment, Food/Wine, Learn a Language, and Action Themed Exchanges, such as hiking, bicycling, rafting. To attract younger members who still work, 1-3 night weekend exchanges are encouraged. All clubs are urged to develop and set up national exchanges on their own, give them catchy names and then provide Atlanta with information such as : length of the exchange, the EDs, a list of ambassadors, a list of hosts and all contact information. Atlanta will give a number to the exchange, promote and advertise the exchange review applications, collect funds and distribute them to the host club or clubs. Atlanta will forgo fees for 1 to 3 night exchanges and charge \$50.00 for a 7 night exchange.

Our region was urged to set up multi-club themed exchanges----as an example, we, FF of Central Virginia, FF of Richmond and FF of Charleston WV could do a "America's Conflict" Civil War exchange.

We thank the FF of Grater Harrisburg for graciously hosting us for several days prior to the meeting The next Regional Club Officers Conference for our area, will be held in May 2015 in Exeter NH.

### **... and Still Another Opportunity**

*Mary Ann Doucette*

*Ed note: this appeared in the last newsletter but deserves repeating.*

For anyone wishing to honor and help our brave military men and women who have served or are serving our country, there are many opportunities available.

With the VA Charlottesville Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) at Pantops, you can become a volunteer. You may come when you choose – any day Monday thru Friday 10A.M. to 4 P.M. Come as often or as little as your time permits. You will be required to attend a 4 hour training course in Richmond and then return 1 time to get your credentials. Then you're ready to sign up and go to work. Most needed are volunteers willing to make reminder calls for appointments. The Veterans really appreciate our calls.

You can also save grocery coupons to send to military families overseas. The Albemarle Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution have adopted a base in Japan. The PX honors the coupons for 6 months beyond the expiration date. Bring them to a meeting or send to Mary Ann Doucette. This is called "Project Patriot".

The Albemarle Chapter DAR also collects toiletry items e.g. toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, shampoo, small hand lotion and small hand soap. We make up toiletry kits for the Veterans and they

are distributed several times during the year at the Clinic. Many of our local veterans are homeless and really appreciate these gifts. If you wish to donate items contact Mary Ann Doucette.

There are many ways to thank our Veterans and those currently serving our Country. A hand made thank you card placed in these toiletry bags is also a nice contribution. We welcome your participation in any of these projects!

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## **2014 Membership Dues**

*Dave Burns*

If you haven't yet renewed your membership in FFCV for 2014, please do that now. We have a great year ahead of us with opportunities to participate in both inbound and outbound exchanges along with social programs that will be both fun and interesting.

Dues for 2014 are \$32 for a single and \$60 for a couple. It will help us if you complete a membership renewal form so we can verify all the important information (phone, email, address, etc.) on our records. Click [here](#) to get to the application or pick one up at our next meeting. Send the application and dues to our Treasurer, David Lea, 139 Stribling Ave., Charlottesville, VA 22903 or bring it to the luncheon.

Don't miss out on the fun! Renew your membership now!

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## **Social and Program Committees**

*Peggy Colville and Al Colville*

On May 17th at the Farewell dinner for the Inbound Exchange at the Dryer's home, we will hold a short membership meeting to discuss some of our future plans.

Then come join us on June 14th at 7pm at the Carysbrook Performing Arts center for a night at the theater. Deborah Winslow will be our organizer for this event. Her telephone number is 434-825-5502 if you have any questions. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Tickets can be purchased on line at <http://www.carysbrook.org/>. A survey will be sent out soon to gauge your interest.

In this show, a local playwright has written about our neck of the woods. Here are the details:

**Langoom Productions present**

**Pinching Petunias**

*On July 3, 1965, Stewart Stanfield, a sixty-four-year old from Brooklyn, steps from an abandoned trailer at the Peach Grove Trailer Court in Crozet, Virginia suffering from a hangover. As the morning unfolds, his sobering encounters with a precocious twelve-year-old, an overly friendly neighbor, and a hot-tempered*

*mechanic lead him to a chance meeting with fifty-nine-year old Estelle Purvis. Will love bloom this late in the game for these two strangers or will Estelle's stubborn streak keep her root bound in her ways? "Pinching Petunias," a new comedy by Scottsville native Langden Mason, is a funny, heartwarming story of North meeting South in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.*

July 12th will be the date for our Annual Summer Picnic to be held at the Colville's at Lake Monticello. This will be a great opportunity for you to invite proposed members. Your admission to this event will be a side dish and the alcoholic beverage of your choice. The FFCV will provide the main dish and soft drinks.

In August, we are planning on having a "Mystery Dinner" – Peggy Colville will be explaining this activity as we get closer to the date.

September – At our membership meeting, we plan to have a discussion on Safety and Security considerations while we are at home and while we are traveling, especially in foreign countries. Date, time and place TBA

October 4th – Wine Tasting trip.

November – Membership meeting plans have not been finalized at this time.

December 13th – will be our Annual Christmas Dinner – location to be announced.

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## **Fund Raising**

*Dale Walden, Chair*

We thank our club volunteers, Dave and Linda Burns, Deborah Winslow for participating in " the Monticello Wine Festival". On MAY 30, we need 4 more volunteers (total of 8) to tend the 'bottled beer and wine stand' at the nTello Pavilion for Fridays After Five. Don't stay home, get out, have some fun, meet new people and help our club raise some funds! Please call or Email me at [dalewalden@comcast.net](mailto:dalewalden@comcast.net)!

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## **JAG School**

*Linda Burns, Chair*

This is a busy time of year for the JAG students. We have two graduations coming up this month, the first on May 8th for our student, Elena from Moldova. She is sponsored by Patricia Sclater, who said she has had a delightful time with her student. Patty will be gone for graduation, but plans to see her before graduation and Dave will be attending the graduation ceremonies. Our next graduation is on

May 22 for the 10-month students. If you have not confirmed your attendance to the graduation, please do so ASAP. We need to get car passes for all who are attending. It gets pretty crowded.

To those of you who have not been sponsors to our JAG program, please think about it for the next incoming students. Dave & I have sponsored, so far, a single male from Tunisia, a single male from Armenia, and a family from Egypt. I cannot tell you how meaningful it has been to us. We are still in contact with all of them. Our Armenian student actually is best friends with a family in Massachusetts that Dave had known and dated his daughter in high school! What a small world.

The whole idea of the JAG program is to share our culture with them and for them to share their culture with us (the FFCV motto).

I do not know, as of now, who we are going to have in July. But it could be a single male, a single female, a husband and wife, or a family. They could be from Egypt, Japan, Moldova, Turkey, Israel, Kuwait, Thailand, or other countries. Remember, we do not host. We are SPONSORS that give these students, and possibly families, a day of sightseeing in C'ville, a dinner, a movie, a picnic in the park, whatever. Just time to be together and share cultures and give them a little time away from the grueling course they are going thru.

Keep it in mind and think about if you would be interested and who you would be interested in sponsoring. More information to follow.

If you are interested, please contact me via email: [toeheadva@yahoo.com](mailto:toeheadva@yahoo.com), or phone me at: 434-589-8724.

## **Outreach Committee**

*Nancy Moore, Chair*

Several of our members have had medical challenges during the past few months. As suggested at the most recent Board Meeting, phone calls are now being made to ill members. Cards continue to be sent on behalf of the membership. In several cases, an email has been sent when the ill party was not available.

Thanks to those of you who have alerted us to members who may need our support and assistance.

Please contact me if you become aware that one of our members needs our help –  
Phone: 434-978-7966; email [nancymoore85@yahoo.com](mailto:nancymoore85@yahoo.com)

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## **Do You Want to Go On an Outbound Exchange?**

Many members aren't able to participate on our club's outbound exchange but would still like to enjoy this great benefit of membership. It is easy to do. Most exchanges sponsored by other clubs have space available for members of other clubs to join them. Several members of our club have done this and can report excellent experiences. If you are interested, here is what you do:

1. Select an exchange from the many that are available and posted, even those originating in another country. Click [here](#) to get to a page where you can explore many of the exchanges available to you.
2. Contact the Exchange Director to check for space available and whether they are interested in your joining the exchange
3. Complete the Ambassador Application and send it with a deposit to the ED. If the ED is doing their job, they will also request a recommendation from our club president. Click [here](#) and select Exchange Documents to access the Ambassador Application and other documents.

## Member News



### **Going to Volunteer at our Fundraising Events?**

Get your uniform - White Woman's Short Sleeve FFCV shirt - brand new size Medium (more like a size 12 dress top) Bargain priced at \$15. Write [mollyanthony087@gmail.com](mailto:mollyanthony087@gmail.com) for pick-up



*Do you need a name tag or business cards?*

Drop an email to Walt  
([walt.oconnell@gmail.com](mailto:walt.oconnell@gmail.com))  
and let him know what you need.

The minutes of the BOD meetings and copies of the Ambassador Newsletter are available on our Web site, [www.ffcavenue.org](http://www.ffcavenue.org)



## 2014 Calendar Meetings and Events

May	8	JAG School Basic Students Graduation, JAG School
	11-17	Australian Inbound
	17	Farewell Party at Dryers
	20	BOD Meeting at Schwagerls' 10:00 AM
	22	JAG School Graduate Course Graduation, JAG School
June	10	BOD Meeting (TBD)
	14	Carysbrook Performing Arts Center play "Pinching Petunias"
July	5	Newsletter Input to Walt
	8	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	12	Bi-Monthly General Membership Meeting and Picnic
	TBD	JAG School Graduate Course Students Arrive, Meet and Greet
August	12	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	TBD	Mystery Dinner
September	6	Newsletter Input to Walt
	9	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	13	Bi-Monthly General Membership Meeting with Safety and Security Program
October	4	Wine Tasting
	14	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	14-16	Friendship Force International Conference, Auckland, NZ
	17-31	Outbound New Plymouth, NZ and Tamworth, Australia
November	1	2015 Newsletter Inputs/2015 BOD Slate sent to Walt
	11	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	18	Annual General Membership Meeting/Election of BOD
December	9	BOD Meeting 3:00 pm (TBD)
	13	FFCV Christmas Party

## Show Your Club Logo with Custom Merchandise



You now have the ability to purchase quality merchandise with our club logo *embroidered* on it from Queensboro. Some of us have purchased this merchandise in the past and have found it to be very good quality.

We have our own “store front” that uses our approved logo and ordering products through it is quite easy. Go to <http://ffcv.gbstores.com> and to see the selection of products. To make a purchase, set up an account and then select from the products available, specifying your size and color preference.



A flat fee of \$6.50 per order applies regardless of the order size so team up with a friend and consolidate your orders.

Queensboro offers many more products than we have placed in our store front. If you are looking for something in particular you can view their entire site at <http://www.queensboro.com>. You can order directly from that site but you won't have access to our logo. If you see an item you would like with the logo, let Walt know ([walt.oconnell@gmail.com](mailto:walt.oconnell@gmail.com), 434-591-0532) and he will add it to the store front.

BLUE MOUNTAIN AUSTRALIA  
ACTIVITY RESERVATION FORM

A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED FOR THE EXCHANGE AND REQUIRE ADVANCE REGISTRATIONS AND DEPOSITS. PLEASE INDICATE BELOW THE ACTIVITY IN WHICH YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE AND RETURN THIS RESERVATION WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

Dolores Schwagerl  
Inbound Treasurer  
P. O. Box 418  
Keswick, Virginia 22947

**PLEASE CONTACT DEE SCHWAGERL WITH YOUR RESERVATIONS**  
**434-984-1490**

Date	Event	Cost pp	# Attending	Total Cost
Monday, May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mayoral Reception	n/c		n/c
Tuesday, May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Tour Frontier Museum	\$8		
	Box Lunch	\$10		
Wednesday, May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Tour Monticello	\$24 *		
	Box lunch	\$10		
	Keswick Winery Tour & Tasting	\$10		
Thursday, May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Bus Tour Jamestown & Yorktown	\$10		
Friday, May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Tour Montpelier	\$34**		
Saturday May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Farewell Pot Luck Dinner	Bring a dish***		
<b>Total Enclosed</b>				<b>\$</b>

\*residents of Albemarle and Charlottesville have free admittance.

\*\* Hosts driving their guests and not touring the house are at no charge.

\*\*\* Please fill in the number attending, do not include guests.

Name(s) : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## **BOD Meeting Summaries**

*Margaret Dryer*

President Burns called the meeting to order at the Schwagerl residence. The Treasurer Lea reported a balance of \$5,478.03. The minutes of the January & February meeting were adopted. Unpaid members will be contacted with a "gentle reminder" to pay their dues. The bi-monthly meeting is being held at Shadwell's restaurant on Pantops at noon on Saturday, March 15. The program for the afternoon will be a private guided tour of the KLUGE-Ruhe Aboriginal Museum at 2:00 pm. Plans for events for the year are being researched and will be published in the Ambassador. The Jag students will be graduating in May and the committee is working to give them a farewell party. Preparations for the Australian Inbound are well underway. The Regional Leadership Conference will be held Harrisburg, PA in March. Dale Walden chair of the FFCV Brochure Committee suggested that we use the FFI brochure and add an identifying label on it. The next meeting will be held at the Burns' home on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

President Burns called the meeting to order at the Shwagerl residence, a quorum was present and the minutes of the March meeting were adopted. In the absence of the treasurer there was no report. The Social Committee is planning an outing on June 14 to the Carysbrook Performing Arts Center. There have been a number of new and returning members reported by the president. The fundraising committee reported a successful event at the Pavilion on April 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a party for the JAG graduating students in May (possibly on Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>). The inbound from Blue Mountain, Australia is well into completion, further information will appear in the May Ambassador. Vice President Walden synopses of the Regional Leadership Conference. One of the issues from the meeting was that FFI is looking at the Clubs within the region to work together and to take more responsibility for exchanges etc. The next Bi-Monthly Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Farewell Dinner at the Dryer residence on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. The next board meeting will be on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the Schwagerl residence in Keswick.

## New Plymouth, New Zealand

New Plymouth is the major city of the [Taranaki Region](#) on the west coast of the [North Island](#) of [New Zealand](#). It is named after [Plymouth](#), [Devon](#), England, from where the first [English](#) settlers migrated.

New Plymouth District has a reputation as an events centre, with major festivals (the annual TSB Bank Festival of Lights, Taranaki Powerco Garden Spectacular, WOMAD and the biennial Taranaki Arts Festival), sports fixtures (including international rugby, surfing, cricket and tennis matches, and the annual ITU World Cup Triathlon) and concerts (from Sir Elton John, Jack Johnson, R.E.M, John Farnham and Fleetwood Mac).



With its rich volcanic soil, the city is well known for its gardens. Chief among them are the 52 ha Pukekura Park in the centre of the city (named a Garden of National Significance), and Pukeiti, a rhododendron garden of international significance high on the Pouakai Range.

Pukekura Park is also the home of the TSB Bank Festival of Lights, which runs for free every year from mid-December to early February. It has daytime and night time programmes of events for people of all ages, and the festival itself transforms the park into an illuminated wonderland every evening.

Next to the foreshore in the central city is Puke Ariki – the world's first purpose-built, fully integrated museum, library and information centre which tells the stories of Taranaki in a variety of interactive media.

Nearby is the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, a contemporary art museum and the home of the collection of film maker and kinetic artist Len Lye. Plans are in place to house Lye's collection in a purpose-built centre next to the gallery, making New Plymouth the world centre for Len Lye.

The Coastal Walkway is a 11 km path that forms an expansive sea-edge promenade stretching almost the entire length of the city, from the Bell Block mouth in the east to Port Taranaki in the west. The pathway includes the iconic Te Rewa Rewa Bridge and is ideal for walking, running, cycling or skating, or simply enjoying the view of the dramatic west coast.[18] It has won numerous awards, including the Cycle Friendly Award in 2008 for the best New Zealand cycle facility.



Right next to the Coastal Walkway is the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre, with indoor and outdoor pools, a diving pool, wave machine, hydrosides, spa, sauna and gym.

Mount Taranaki/Egmont provides recreation opportunities, from skiing and snowboarding to rock climbing and alpine walks. The North Egmont Visitors Centre is 20 minutes' drive from central New Plymouth.

Taranaki is known as big wave territory with some of the country's best surfing spots found off this coastline.

The region has 20 golf courses, ranging from nine-hole country courses where you have to move the sheep, through to Ngamotu Links—consistently rated one of the best golf courses in New Zealand. All 20 golf courses are within an hour's drive of each other.

New Plymouth won the Top Town award from North and South Magazine in 2008 (judged "the best place in New Zealand to live, love, work and raise a family").

## **Tamworth, Australia**

Tamworth is a city in the New England region of New South Wales, Australia. Straddling the Peel River, Tamworth is the major regional centre for the New England region and is in the local government area of Tamworth Regional Council. The city is located midway between Brisbane and Sydney, the two largest cities on the Australian east coast.

Australia's country music capital, Tamworth is best known for its annual country music festival in January. The town is also home to several good museums and galleries as well as many buildings dating back to the 1860s and '70s.

Around Tamworth are several quaint country towns well worth a visit. To the north, in the heart of the Nandewar Ranges on Fossickers Way, Barraba is popular with birdwatchers. The small town of Nundle has evolved from its gold-mining town heritage into a destination offering smart accommodation and dining.



At Quirindi, you can admire the spectacular sunflower fields from December to March; see koalas in the wild around the town of Gunnedah or at Waterways Wildlife Park.

Tamworth is known as the country music capital of Australia. It hosts one of the world's biggest music events, the annual 10-day Tamworth Country Music Festival.

In town, you'll see the Hands of Fame Park, which contains the handprints of more than 300 country music stars, and the mighty 12-metre-high Golden Guitar. Check out the memorabilia at the Big Golden Guitar Tourist Centre.

Tamworth is also a year-round sporting and entertainment hub with state-of-the-art venues and a busy events calendar. Don't miss the National Professional Rodeo in January and Hats Off to Country Festival in July.

This part of Country NSW has a strong agricultural focus with sheep, beef, poultry, grains and dairy are all farmed here, as well as newer agricultural ventures, such as vineyards, olive groves, nuts, fish farming, honey, hydroponics and delicious berries. The top-quality food and wine means that many local Tamworth restaurants serve up noteworthy goodies.

In the wider Tamworth area, you'll find an abundance of great nature experiences, such as national parks, State parks, boating, fishing, water sports, horse riding, bird watching and fossicking.

**Australian Country Music Hall of Fame – Tamworth:** The Australian Country Music Hall of Fame features an unmatched collection of memorabilia from Australian Country music artists. Displaying clothing, musical instruments and other collectibles from the earliest pioneers of Australian country music (Smoky Dawson, Buddy Williams, Slim Dusty, Tex Morton and more) right through to current artists (Beccy Cole, Troy Cassar-Daley and more). There is also historic material on DVD that you are able to watch.

**Big Golden Guitar Tourist Centre:** Australia's Big Golden Guitar Tourist Centre, situated on the New England Highway in Tamworth, New South Wales, is open seven days a week. The Centre caters for all visitors with one of the city's most interesting and unique attractions being the 'The Gallery of Stars' Wax Museum. Visitors can relax with food and refreshments in the Golden Guitar Coffee Shop, browse through hundreds of Australian country music CDs, videos and cassettes, Tamworth Country Music Capital souvenirs and gift items. It is the perfect place to stop as you arrive in Tamworth, a place to refresh and relax. If you are just passing through, you will have pleasant and interesting break. If you are staying a while, they can provide you with all the information you need about Tamworth and district amenities, facilities and attractions.



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**Calala Cottage Museum:** Calala Cottage is a historic cottage built in 1875 by Phillip Gidley King, Superintendent of Peel River Land and Minerals Co. as part of the Australian Agricultural Company Co and now exhibiting Tamworth and Region's history. Also includes the oldest standing building in Tamworth, an original slab hut, used by the AA Company shepherds, a one-teacher schoolhouse, blacksmith's shop and various displays.

**Capitol Theatre Tamworth:** The Capitol Theatre Tamworth is a 402 seat purpose built proscenium arch theatre which is located in the newly built Centrepoint Shopping Complex. Theatre and Production Consultant, Richard Stuart was engaged to plan and oversee the fit-out of the theatre. With a hydraulic orchestra pit lift, automated winch flying system and well equipped sound and lighting rigs the Capitol Theatre is a great new performing arts venue. The Capitol Theatre Tamworth is a regular stop on the national touring circuit and a well occupied theatre for local and regional events and productions.

**Manilla Heritage Museum:** The Manilla Heritage Museum in Royce Cottage is located at the Manilla Visitor Information Centre preserving the Manilla community collection of antiques, family history, and also has interesting and intriguing historical displays.

The museum is the only Australian site apart from the National Museum of Australia documenting the ground breaking platypus research Harry Burrell did in Manilla in the 1920's.

**Nowendoc National Park:** Beautiful Nowendoc National Park sits in rugged escarpment terrain in the NSW Northern Tablelands, 70km south of Walcha. Boasting spectacular diverse scenery, including moist eucalypt forest with rainforest hugging the creek lines, the park offers ample opportunity for quiet recreation. Experience bushwalking amongst wildflowers and visit nearby canyons and waterfalls. Enjoy birdwatching and have a picnic or take a dip. The park's creeks run throughout the year, though winter swimming is only for the brave. Accessible only by 4WD, Nowendoc National Park protects a range of threatened plants and animals and is also known for its pastoral and Aboriginal heritage. Campers seeking solitude will love the tranquil surroundings of Jacky Barkers campground, where you'll find picnic tables and other facilities.

**Tamworth Regional Gallery:** Tamworth Regional Gallery was established in 1919 and is one of the oldest galleries in NSW. The Gallery moved to its new purpose built facility in 2004 that houses two gallery spaces, and a gallery shop. The Gallery has regular changing exhibitions of national and local significance.

**Walk A Country Mile Museum:** The award winning Walk a Country Mile interpretive museum is located in the Tamworth Visitor Information Centre and narrates the story, music and artists that have shaped Australian Country Music. The interactive displays provide a unique understanding of Australian heritage, with documentation of historic events through the lyrics of country music. In one great location you will discover Australian country music's rich history, culture and folklore.