



Connecting Urban and Rural Learning Initiatives

Small Town Libraries



Central Northern Regional
Library's

Multipurpose
Facilities

Kootingal (Tamworth)
Population **2,313** (2021 Census)
Distance from Tamworth **13km**

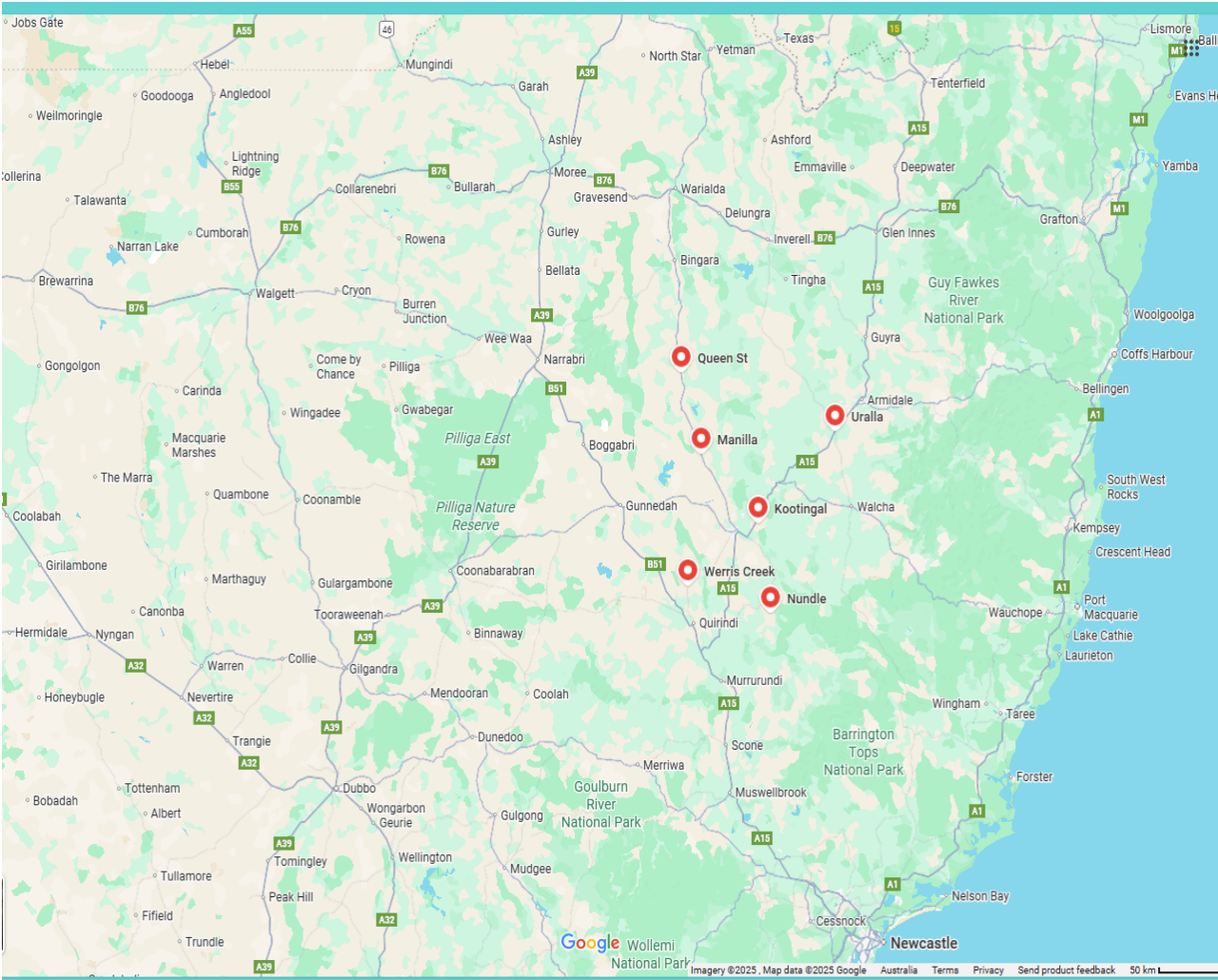
Nundle (Tamworth)
Population **486** (2021 Census)
Distance from Tamworth **61 km**

Werris Creek (Liverpool Plains Shire)
Population **1,478**
Distance from Tamworth **44 km**

Uralla (Uralla Shire)
Population **5,971** (2021 Census)
Distance from Tamworth **88 km**

Manilla (Tamworth)
Population **2,386**
Distance from Tamworth **44.5 km**

Barraba (Queen St) (Tamworth)
Population **1,329**
Distance from Tamworth **90km**



Kootingal

Part of Tamworth Regional Council

Population **2,313**

Distance from Tamworth **13 km**

- Library
 - Council Customer Services
 - Meeting Room
 - Community Hall
-
- Prior to 2024 this library was located in a small room (88 sq metres) in the foyer of the Memorial Hall
 - In 2024 a new 295 sq metre extension for a library and meeting room was built.
 - The hall was reinstated to original condition. It has been repainted and has a sprung dance floor and new accessible toilets and changerooms



- There are two small service desks (modern pods) at the library – one for Council customer service and one for library assistance. Library staff practice a “roving reference model” and move about the floorspace offering help to clients.
- Open 17 hours a week –extended staffed hours are currently being trialled (30 hours pw)
- This library is being setup for after-hours access by swipe (similar to a 24/7 gym)



Kootingal Library Operating Hours

Monday	10am - 5pm
Tuesday	10am - 6pm
Wednesday	10am - 5pm
Thursday	1pm - 5pm
Friday	1pm - 5pm
Saturday	10am - 12pm
Sunday	closed

cnl.nsw.gov.au

Kootingal Library Celebration Week!

Monday 20 - Friday 24 Jan

Movie: The Wild Robot

Family movie rated PG about Roz the robot learning to survive on a deserted island.
- Monday 2pm - 3.45pm

Teddy Bear's Picnic and Teddy Sleepover

Bring your Teddy to Story Time then leave it at the library and watch their night of adventure on our Facebook page!
Free, but booking required for catering numbers.
- Storytime Picnic Tuesday 2pm
- Pick up Teddy Wednesday 10am

Aleyce Simmonds Musical Story Time

Golden Guitar winner Aleyce Simmonds performs a special musical story time for children.
- Wednesday 10am

Kootingal Craft Group Open Day

Meet the group and bring your own craft project to work on in the company of friendly crafters!
- Wednesday 11am

Macroscopic, 3D Printing, Rubik's Cube Solver

Zoom in to reveal the hidden details of everyday objects, see our 3D Printer create souvenir Golden Guitars, and have your scrambled Rubik's Cube solved before your eyes by our robot!
- Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Sphero Obstacle Course

Ages 8 to adult can try and beat their friends to steer a Sphero robot the fastest around our obstacle course.
- Thursday 2pm

Vex: Capture The Flag

Ages 8 to adult should prepare for an action-packed challenge as they navigate obstacles, outmanoeuvre opponents and work as a team to capture the flag.
- Friday 2pm

Bike Repair Station

Bring your bike to Kootingal Library where we will show you how to use our permanent Bike Repair Station.
- Friday 4pm





Learning Activities

- Tech Savvy Seniors (10-week course)
- Preschool Storytime weekly
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- School Holiday STEM activities (macroscope, robots, wind tunnel, coding etc)
- Bike repair workshops
- Junior book club
- Adults book group
- Sauerkraut and Kombucha demonstrations
- Movie screening
- 'End of Life' care planning information sessions



Hosted onsite in partnership with other organisations

- Scams awareness (NBN Co)
- Craft (CWA)
- One off ballet workshop for seniors (Australian Ballet)
- Celebrity storytimes
- Livestream Sydney Writer's Festival

Nundle

Part of Tamworth Regional Council

Population **486**

Distance from Tamworth **61 km**

- library
- council customer service
- visitor information outlet
- exhibition space - rocks, gems and minerals
- community garden

Open 20 hours a week

One staff member

Position Description includes cultural development at a local level



Learning Activities

- Book group meets monthly
- Sydney Writers Festival streamed (on an 85inch screen)
- Sydney BAD Crime Writers Festival streamed annually
- Movie nights (intermittent)
- Storytimes (intermittent)
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- School holiday activities (STEM activities presented by regional staff)
- Family history workshops
- First library in Australia to offer a seed library
- Gardening talks, Landcare speakers and sharing excess produce.





What's planned!

The Rock's, Gems and Minerals Collection will be supported with a geology and gemmology book collection, visiting speakers, macroscope availability and live stream events.

Nundle has a strong fossicking community and attracts visitors interested in fossicking. We are currently investigating the idea of loaning fossicking equipment from the library.

Nundle is a gold mining area and has a good local studies collection.



Werris Creek

(Part of Liverpool Plains Shire Council)

Population **1,478**

Distance from Tamworth **44km**

- Library
- Services Australia Agency (Centrelink and Medicare)
- Community Garden
- Open 24 hours p/w
- One staff member





Learning Activities

- Learn from a local program
- Preschool storytimes
- School holiday activities from regional and local staff (STEM workshops)
- Adults book group
- Tech Savvy Seniors (10week program)
- Sydney Writers Festival livestreamed ,
- Sydney Bad Crime Writers Festival livestreamed
- 1000 books before school program

Other

- North and NW Legal Service – make appointments – free - once a month

Uralla

(Uralla Shire Council)

- Population **5971**
 - Distance from Tamworth **88km**
 - Open hours **27** hours
 - Two staff
- Library
 - History Hub
 - Exhibition space/ gallery



Learning Activities

- Preschool storytime
- Author talks
- Adult book groups (2)
- Craft workshops - slow stitching, quilling and Japanese rice bags
- STEM workshops delivered by regional staff
- Lace making exhibition
- Seniors' expo in the library
- Art journaling group



Barraba

(amalgamated into Tamworth in 2004)

Population **1,329**

Distance from Tamworth **90km**

- Council Office
- Service NSW agency (driver tests/ licence renewal etc)
- Library
 - Tech Savvy Seniors 10week course annually
 - After school activities
 - Storytimes (kits rotated in the region with book and extension activities)
 - Adults book group (regional book kits)
 - Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
 - STEM activities delivered by regional library staff in school holidays
 - Regional initiatives such as one book one region
 - Regional Library delivers Adult Learners Week programs such as making sauerkraut, kombucha,
 - Learn to knit sessions are planned
 - NBN Co scams training



Manilla

(amalgamated into Tamworth in 2004)

Population **2,386**

Distance from Tamworth **44.5km**

- Council Office
- Services Australia Agency (Centrelink / Medicare)
- Library
 - Library services provided by Council customer service staff rather than library staff
 - Tech Savvy Seniors (10week course offered annually)
 - After school activities
 - Preschool storytime (irregular)
 - Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
 - Knitting group
 - Adults book group
 - STEM activities delivered by regional library staff in school holidays
 - Regional initiatives such as one book one region
 - Regional Library delivers Adult Learners Week programs such as making sauerkraut and kombucha.



In summary

- It is not one size fits all
- Learning programs are a joint responsibility of the branches and the regional library
- Programs from the regional library are consistent across the region (storytime kits and activities, STEM programs, school holiday activities, book group kits, Tech Savvy Seniors)
- Some small libraries have energetic staff that go above and beyond
- Learning aspirations in the community differ across the region
- Literacy and education levels are an issue in 5 of the 6 small towns
- Strong interest in small communities to learn arts, crafts and practical skills.
- Book groups strong in all small towns
- Not all learning is through programs – self directed learning is supported with resources
- People are given assistance to use technology (incidental learning)

We are only at the tip of the iceberg