

GUIDE TO LIVING AND WORKING IN THE NORTH & NORTH WEST REGION



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Welcome to the North & North West Region. This guide is designed to provide useful information about life and work in our beautiful region, whether you are already living here or considering relocating.

As the President of the North & North West Law Society, I am excited to welcome you to our vibrant legal community. Our region offers a unique and fulfilling place to live and work. Whether you are starting your legal career or are an experienced professional, there is a wealth of opportunity and support here.

We look forward to helping you settle in and thrive. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Our community is here to assist you in any way we can.

Natalie Scanlon

President, North & North West Law Society

nscanlon@countrywidelegal.com.au

02 6761 2507





REGIONAL LAW SOCIETIES

WORKING IN THE NORTH & NORTH WEST REGION

North & North West Law Society Information	5
NSW Young Lawyers	6
Mental Health and Wellbeing	7

ENTERTAINMENT

What's on in the North & North West Region	10
Must See Attractions	12
Community Groups and Engagement Opportunities	13
Tips from Other Early Career Lawyers	14

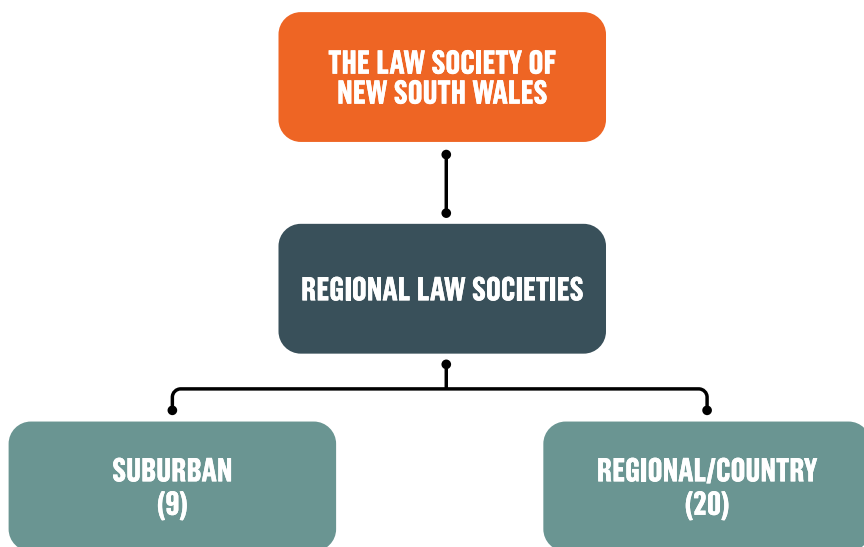
DIRECTORY

North & North West Local and District Court Houses	16
Local Firms	17
Suburban & Regional Law Societies	18
Resources for the North & North West Regions Local Legal Community	18

REGIONAL LAW SOCIETIES

REGIONAL LAW SOCIETIES INFORMATION

The Regional Law Societies (RLS) are professional associations located in each of the 29 regions of New South Wales consisting of both regional and suburban areas. Each RLS focuses on the unique legal needs and challenges faced by its members, facilitating networking events, providing professional development opportunities, and advocating for local legal issues. While each RLS operates as its own independent entity, catering to the specific interest of their respective region, they are connected to the Law Society of NSW, which serves as the overarching professional body for all solicitors in the state. The Law Society establishes statewide standards, regulatory frameworks, and resources that the RLS can utilise, while also providing a platform for regional concerns to be communicated at a broader level. This relationship fosters collaboration, ensuring that the interests of local communities and the legal profession are effectively represented.



Check out page 18 to see the list of the Suburban and Regional Law Societies.

WORKING IN THE NORTH & NORTH WEST REGION

NORTH & NORTH WEST LAW SOCIETY INFORMATION

We are located in the North West and New England region, encompassing an area from Moree in the West to Tenterfield in the North, including Armidale, Tamworth, and Inverell.

As a legal practitioner in this region, you are eligible to join the North & North West Law Society. As a member, you will have access to numerous events where you can earn Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points. The North & North West RLS also hosts various networking and social events throughout the year, providing members with discounts and opportunities to connect, learn, and contribute to the local legal community.

We foster collegiality and a strong sense of community by offering both social and professional events.

Prospective members can look forward to events, such as CPD workshops, guest speaker presentations, networking, and social gatherings.

Events hosted by the North & North West Law Society over the past year:

- **Annual General Meeting (AGM):**
A key event to review the achievements of the past year, discuss the future direction of the RLS, hear updates on activities, and vote for new office bearers.

- **CPD Seminars:**
Educational sessions led by experienced legal professionals covering topics such as Ethics, Costs, Complaints, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Practice Management/Succession Planning.
- **Networking and Social Events:**
These events offer members the opportunity to build professional relationships and connect with others in the legal community.

The North & North West RLS offers a variety of events throughout the year, ensuring there is always something exciting and valuable for members to look forward to!

CURRENT REGIONAL LAW SOCIETY COMMITTEE:

President	Natalie Scanlon
Treasurer	Terry Robinson
Young Lawyers Reps	Richard O'Halloran

If you're interested in joining the North & North West Law Society Committee, please contact the Regional President, Natalie Scanlon.

T: (02 6761 2507) E: nscanlon@countrywidelegal.com.au

NSW YOUNG LAWYERS

NSW Young Lawyers is a Committee of the Law Society of NSW that represents the Law Society and its members on issues and opportunities arising in relation to young lawyers i.e., those within their first five years of practice, or up to 36 years of age.

NSW Young Lawyers supports practitioners in their professional and career development by giving them the opportunity to expand their knowledge, advance their career and contribute to the profession and community.

To be eligible to receive NSW Young Lawyers communications, you must be:

- a member of the Law Society; and
- under 36 years of age; or
- within the first five years of your admission to practice in NSW.

YOUNG LAWYERS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

NSW Young Lawyers is led by the Executive Council. The Executive Council comprises of the Leadership Team and Executive Council.

View the current members of the NSW Young Lawyers Executive Council here:

lawsociety.com.au/YLExecutiveCouncil

Contact NSW Young Lawyers
young.lawyers@lawsociety.com.au

Each year, the NSW Young Lawyers Committee elects a Patron and Charity to support throughout the following year. In 2025, the NSW Young Lawyers Charity and Patron are:

2025 Patron	Lida Kaban, General Counsel, Department of Communities and Justice
2025 Charity	Project Youth

bit.ly/3DULxbE

NSW Young Lawyers has a number of sub-committees each dedicated to a substantive area of law.

Subscribing to a sub-committee is a great way to get involved and meet other early career lawyers.

The sub-committees' activities range from discussing legal developments, preparing submissions to government, producing practice guides, social gatherings, public forums and pro bono activities.

Most sub-committees meet regularly and offer video-conferencing facilities to allow individuals outside of Sydney to attend.

Check out the list of the current sub-committees here.

lawsociety.com.au/YLSC

You can also view upcoming NSW Young Lawyers events on our events page.

lawsociety.com.au/YLEvents

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Practising law can be stressful. The Law Society of NSW has a range of resources to help you take care of your mental health and wellbeing.

STAYING WELL IN THE LAW

The Law Society of NSW runs a Staying Well in the Law (SWITL) program. SWITL covers a range of topics and features a variety of industry experts to highlight and address issues relevant to wellbeing and mental health including:

- Workplace Inclusion
- Importance of sleep
- Vicarious Trauma
- Building Resilience

lawsociety.com.au/SWITL

SOLICITOR OUTREACH SERVICE

The Solicitor Outreach Service is a confidential counselling service for NSW solicitors.

For access to:

- Up to three psychology counselling sessions per financial year.
- 24/7 telephone crisis counselling with a psychologist.

NSW solicitors can call the Solicitor Outreach Service on 1800 592 296.

THE LAW SOCIETY OF NSW MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING WEBSITE

The Law Society of NSW Mental Health & Wellbeing website has a wide range of information on mental health and wellbeing.

lawsociety.com.au/MentalHealth

FURTHER GUIDANCE

The Law Society of NSW offers several avenues for advice and support.

Ethics Committee:

The Law Society of NSW Ethics Committee can provide guidance to solicitors on Ethical issues. Members of the Committee are practicing solicitors from a variety of practice types and geographic areas.

Ethics Assistance Line:

The Law Society of NSW ethics assistance line provides solicitors with practical and confidential guidance to resolve ethical dilemmas and to help avoid complaints from clients or colleagues. This free service is open to all solicitors and operates from 9 AM to 5 PM Monday to Friday. You can reach them at (02) 9926 0114.

To find out more about ethics support, visit the Law Society of NSW website.

lawsociety.com.au/LEthics

Supervised Legal Practice:

The Law Society website offers a wealth of knowledge on successfully completing your Supervised Legal Practice (SLP), including details on remote supervision arrangements.

lawsociety.com.au/SLP





ENTERTAINMENT

WHATS ON IN THE NORTH & NORTH WEST REGION?

Experience the vibrant life of the North & North West region, with a variety of activities and events throughout the year. From outdoor adventures and cultural experiences to lively festivals, there is always something new to explore and enjoy.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR INCLUDE:

Agquipp Rodeo

Experience the excitement of the Agquipp Rodeo at the Gunnedah Showground, featuring bull riding, saddle bronc, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel races, and U18 junior competitions.

loom.ly/N81EgyY

Armidale Farmers Market

Armidale Farmers Markets offers a traditional marketplace for regional producers to sell fresh, seasonal produce. The market promotes sustainability, healthy living, and connects the community with local food creators.

loom.ly/oszkLf8



Armidale Show

The Armidale show features local agriculture, livestock, handicrafts, and more. Held annually at the Armidale Showgrounds, it offers competitive events, family entertainment, and a celebration of the region's rural heritage.

loom.ly/rF96nZO

Glen Innes Show

The Glen Innes Show is a popular three-day event featuring livestock displays, showjumping, a grand parade and fireworks. With a mix of agricultural exhibits, family entertainment, and food stalls, it's a must-visit highlight of the year, it offers something for everyone.

gleninnesshow.com

Narra-bright

Narra-bright is an annual free community event in Narrabri's CBD, featuring vibrant light projections, art installations, music, food, and interactive workshops. Enjoy a magical night filled with family-friendly activities and a celebration of the local community.

loom.ly/qoq6rcg

Narrabri Show

A celebration of the region's agricultural heritage, the Narrabri Show features impressive livestock competitions, local arts and crafts, and a vibrant atmosphere. Enjoy unique attractions, live music, and a variety of food options.

narrabrishow.com

Nundle Woollen Mill tours

Step into history at Nundle Woollen Mill, where traditional machinery turns raw wool into high-quality yarn. Guided tours reveal the fascinating process behind this age-old craft, offering a hands-on experience for all ages.

nundle.store/pages/tours

Tamworth Craft Shed Markets

Held on the first Saturday of each month, the Tamworth Craft Shed Markets feature a variety of handmade crafts, delicious food, and kids' activities. Explore unique stalls and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere at the Craft Centre.

trcci.com.au

Tamworth Country Music Festival

The Tamworth Country Music Festival, held annually in January, is the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. Over 10 days, the city comes alive with performances across venues, pubs, and outdoor stages.

tcmf.com.au

Tamworth Cup

A highly anticipated racing event in Tamworth, offering a fun day of horse racing, fashion, and community spirit.

loom.ly/NcedRXw

Taste Tamworth

A 10-day celebration of food, wine, and local produce, Taste Tamworth highlights the region's growing reputation as a foodie destination, drawing visitors from across New South Wales.

loom.ly/op0ve-U

The Big Chill Music Festival

A dynamic festival in Armidale offering diverse music, local food, craft beer, and interactive activities for all ages, including art installations and family fun.

loom.ly/mdWShKA

The great Nundle Dog Race

A fun and quirky event where working dogs race in events such as the 100m sprint and Doggy High Jump. Enjoy the mayhem as dogs compete for prizes, plus a Best Dressed Dog Fashion Parade and special races for whippets and greyhounds.

loom.ly/PWD-i_8



MUST SEE ATTRACTIONS

The North & North West Region, along with its surrounding areas, offers a rich mix of cultural, natural, and recreational attractions, offering something for everyone to explore and enjoy.

Art and Culture

In towns like Moree and Narrabri, you can discover regional art galleries and cultural centres that highlight both Indigenous and European artistic expressions. These venues often host exhibitions, performances, and events.

Historic Towns

Explore the historic towns of Tamworth (famous for country music) and Gunnedah (known for its agriculture and rural history), where you can stroll through heritage buildings, local museums, and enjoy regional food.

National Parks and Outdoor Adventures

Whether it is hiking in the Warrumbungle National Park, camping by the Namoi River, or exploring the volcanic landscapes of Mount Kaputar, outdoor enthusiasts can find plenty of activities. The region's parks offer a mix of easy walks, multi-day hikes, rock climbing, and stargazing opportunities.

Recreational and Sporting attractions

The region offers a variety of sports, including rugby, cricket, and athletics in Armidale and Tamworth, rodeos and horse racing in Tamworth, swimming in Moree's thermal pools, and motorsports and 4WD off-roading in Coonabarabran. There's something for every sports fan!



COMMUNITY GROUPS & ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Get to know and immerse yourself in the community by joining any of the groups listed below.

Country Women's Association (CWA):

Australia's largest women's organisation, focused on improving the lives of rural women and children through advocacy, community support, and networking. With branches throughout the region, the CWA offers women of all ages opportunities to connect, support each other, and engage in community service. Members participate in fundraising, educational programs, and creative activities while supporting global rural women's initiatives.

cwaofnsw.org.au/

Rotary Club of Gunnedah West

A vibrant service club where members enjoy inspiring guest speakers, fellowship, and community service through hands-on projects and fundraising efforts.

loom.ly/FdJPWU0

Tamworth Football Club

Join the local football community, supporting teams and engaging in social events.

loom.ly/ruiFTJU

Tenterfield Squash Club

A lively community where you can stay fit, meet new friends, and enjoy exciting squash matches in a fun, supportive environment.

loom.ly/0Cgd37U

TIPS FROM OTHER EARLY CAREER LAWYERS

Q. What is the one thing you wished you had known before moving to the region?

- A.**
- Call the senior practitioners with any issues you might be having. They are very accommodating and helpful in the area, and have a great rapport.
 - Country practice can be difficult and diverse, and if things don't go to plan, it can impact you in small towns. I encourage you to lean on your colleagues and have interests outside of work.
 - Look after yourself and your mental health.
 - Get involved in meeting people from a social perspective.

Q. What is the best kept local secret?

- A.**
- In the Eastern Region such as Armidale, Glen Innes, and Tenterfield – you need good heating, cooling is not so much an issue.
 - In the Western Region such as Tamworth, Gunnedah, Narrabri, and Moree - the summers are scorching, you need reverse cycle A/ C and a pool or pool membership. In winter you need insulation and good heating!
 - Tamworth, Armidale, and Moree are all a one-hour flight from Brisbane and Sydney and only a 2-hour flight from Melbourne.

Q. What is your advice for early career lawyers who have recently moved?

- A.**
- Ask If you need assistance, most people are happy to help.
 - The North & North West region is a great place to live and work.

Q. Who do you trust to clean your suit?

- A.**
- Most towns only have one dry cleaner.

Q. What exciting road trips would you recommend in your region?

- A.**
- A trip to Goonoo Goonoo for a staycation is a must.
 - Coffs Harbour is just over two-hours from Armidale and Glen Innes.
 - Newcastle beach is approx. three-hours away from Tamworth.
 - New England National Parks.
 - Trips to Hanging Rock, Nundle, and Scone to explore the bush walks.
 - Moree hot springs.

Q. Where is the best place for a meal?

- A.**
- Lunch at the St Kilda Hotel in Armidale.
 - The Nundle Counter Lunch.
 - The pies from the Pie Mechanic



DIRECTORY

NORTH & NORTH WEST LOCAL AND DISTRICT COURT HOUSES

All Courts in NSW can be contacted by phoning 1300 679 272.

Court Registries at each Local Court will generally only be open when the Court is operating.

Armidale Local & District Court House

- 5 Moore St, Armidale NSW 2350
- 02 6775 4600
- local-court-armidale@justice.nsw.gov.au

Glen Innes Court House

- Grey St, Glen Innes NSW 2370
- 02 6759 2351
- local-court-glen-innes@justice.nsw.gov.au

Gunnedah Local Court House

- 287 Conadilly St, Gunnedah NSW 2380
- 1300 679 272
- local-court-gunnedah@justice.nsw.gov.au

Inverell Court House

- 115-119 Otho St, Inverell NSW 2360
- 1300 679 272
- local-court-inverell@justice.nsw.gov.au

Moree Local Court House

- Frome St, Moree NSW 2400
- 02 6752 1052
- local-court-moree@justice.nsw.gov.au

Narrabri Court House

- 56 Maitland St, Narrabri NSW 2390
- 02 6790 5400
- local-court-narrabri@justice.nsw.gov.au

Tamworth Local Court House

- Corner Marius and Fitzroy Street, 40/42 Fitzroy Street, Tamworth NSW 2340
- 02 6764 5777
- local-court-tamworth@justice.nsw.gov.au

Tenterfield Court House

- 94 Molesworth St, Tenterfield NSW 2372
- 02 6759 2390
- local-court-tenterfield@justice.nsw.gov.au



Who sits where?

Armidale Local & District Court House

- His Honour Magistrate M Richardson

Gunnedah Local Court House

- Her Honour Magistrate T Sia

Tamworth Local Court House

- His Honour Judge I Bourke
- Her Honour Judge J Soars
- His Honour Magistrate M Whelan



LOCAL FIRMS

We have a large number of firms that can be found on the “Find a Lawyer” page of the Law Society of NSW website. This resource allows you to search for legal firms and practitioners by region, providing access to a comprehensive register of lawyers and their current practices.

lawsociety.com.au/localfirms

SUBURBAN AND REGIONAL LAW SOCIETIES

A network of 29 Regional Law Societies ensures the Law Society's work is relevant and accessible to practitioners no matter where you are.

Regional Law Societies (beyond a 32-kilometre radius from the Supreme Court in Sydney):

- Albury & District Law Society
- Blue Mountains Law Society
- Central Coast Law Society
- Central West Law Society
- Clarence River & Coffs Harbour Law Society
- Far North Coast Law Society
- Far South Coast & Monaro Law Society
- Far West Law Society
- Hunter Valley Law Society
- Macarthur Law Society
- Mid-North Coast Law Society
- Nepean Hawkesbury Law Society
- Newcastle Law Society
- North & North West Law Society
- Orana Law Society
- Riverina Law Society
- Shoalhaven & District Law Society
- Southern Tablelands Law Society
- South West Slopes Law Society
- Wollongong & District Law Society

Suburban Law Societies (within a 32-kilometre radius of the Supreme Court in Sydney):

- Bankstown & District Law Society
- City of Sydney Law Society
- Eastern Suburbs Law Society
- Inner West Law Society
- Liverpool & Fairfield Districts Law Society
- Northern Beaches Law Society
- North Metropolitan Law Society
- Parramatta & District Law Society
- St. George-Sutherland Law Society



RESOURCES FOR YOUR REGION'S LEGAL COMMUNITY

The Law Society offers a range of resources to support the diverse legal communities in the regions. For more information, please visit the Regional Law Society page.

lawsociety.com.au/LSResources

AUTHORS

This guide was carefully curated by the passionate and dedicated North & North West Lawyers as part of the North & North West Law Society.

Thank you to the following Lawyers who contributed to this booklet.

NATALIE SCANLON

President,
North & North West Law Society

RICHARD O'HALLORAN

Young Lawyer Representative,
North & North West Law Society

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SCAN QR CODE