

sandstone **WONDERS**

SIMPLE PLEASURES, ANCIENT PLACES

BANANA | BARALABA | BILOELA | CRACOW | DULULU | GOOVIGEN
JAMBIN | MOURA | TAROOM | THANGOOL | THEODORE | WOWAN



Banana
SHIRE
SHIRE OF OPPORTUNITY

sandstone
WONDERS

sandstonewonders.com

SIMPLE PLEASURES, ANCIENT PLACES

THE HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS OF BANANA SHIRE WILL FILL YOUR DAYS WITH SOME OF THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF YOUR JOURNEY. HERE, THE SIMPLE PLEASURES OF LIFE ARE EASILY FOUND.

You'll meet locals who'll have you laughing with their cheeky humour

and tell-it-how it-is, no-nonsense approach, and you'll never be short of a willing word from a friendly stranger on the best places to snag a fish, boil a billy, grab a good feed or camp for the night.

Festivals, fishing comps, country races and campdrafts are just a few ways to have fantastic family fun. Everyone gets to kick up some dust and join in the goings-on.

Travel out of the townships and big adventures await. You'll find yourself in the midst of an ancient

world, where sandstone wonders stand like fortresses in the sun, lighting up the landscape below. Rivers and lakes funnel their way over mountain tops and across the plains, their banks shaded by palms that have grown here for a million years and more. Follow them and you'll find peaceful places, far away and hidden from the beaten track.

There's always more to explore, more to discover; more you'll want to remember. Time spent here is measured not by its passing, but by the many pleasures it brings.



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SANDSTONE WONDERS

SPRAWLED ACROSS ALMOST 28,000 KM², THE IMMENSE AND DIVERSE LANDSCAPES OF THE SANDSTONE WONDERS REGION ARE NOTHING SHORT OF AWE-INSPIRING.

Bastions of a world before time, more than 25 mountain ranges make up the area and for its sheer size and scale, it's known as 'the roof of Queensland'.

Gaping valleys and plains rise up to towering cliff tops, interrupted here and there by deep gorges, rocky outcrops and flowing, freshwater streams.

Several ranges are within easy distance of townships along the Dawson Highway and Leichhardt Way, these include:

- Isla Gorge National Park
- Lake Murphy Conservation Park
- Expedition National Park
 - Robinson Gorge

- Lonesome
- Beilba

- Krombit Tops National Park
- Nathan Gorge

Each park features its own unique landmarks. The diversity of flora and fauna is just as impressive as the topographical conditions which differ and change.

parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/pdf/cq-sandstone-belt-vg.pdf

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Being well-informed about where you're heading is vital. Being prepared allows you to get the most out of each experience.

PLANNING TO CAMP?

Camping experiences are available throughout the national parks in the region.

Enjoy social camping areas with facilities provided through to secluded bush camping with nothing but nature for company. Remember to bring everything you need for your style of trip, including extra food, fuel and emergency supplies and communications.

Before you set out, you need to book your campsite and obtain a camping permit.

- Book online at qpws.usedirect.com/qpws/
- Phone 13QGOV (13 74 68). Charges may apply.



VISITOR INFORMATION

RURAL HINTERLAND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Exhibition Avenue, Biloela Qld 4715
P: (07) 4992 2400
E: rhvic@bigpond.com
www.qldheritagepark.com.au

MOURA ADMINISTRATION, TOURISM VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

43 Gillespie Street,
Moura Qld 4718
P: (07) 4992 9500
E: enquiries@banana.qld.gov.au

SAFETY

Many of the parks in the region are remote and have minimum services. You'll need to be self-sufficient and plan ahead for any contingency. If you're adventurous and well prepared you can escape off-the-beaten-track and enjoy everything this ancient and rugged region offers.

For more safety information visit parks.des.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/
To find out about road conditions visit www.131940.qld.gov.au or phone 13 19 40.

Shire council offices and Visitor Information Centres can also provide helpful local advice.

BILOELA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Callide Street,
Biloela Qld 4715
P: (07) 4992 2405
E: biloelainfocentre@bigpond.com

BILOELA CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE

Shire Chambers
62 Valentine Plains Road
Biloela Qld 4715
Hours: 8.00am – 5.00pm, Mon–Fri
P: (07) 4992 9500
E: enquiries@banana.qld.gov.au

TAROOM VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

10 Yaldwyn Street, Taroom
Qld 4420
Hours: 9.00am – 4.00pm, Mon–Fri
P: (07) 4628 6113
E: hottaroom@hotmail.com

THEODORE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

55A The Boulevard,
Theodore Qld 4719
P: (07) 4993 1900
E: theodoreinfocentre@gmail.com



ISLA GORGE NATIONAL PARK

YEAR-ROUND, ISLA GORGE IS AMAZING.

The park offers outstanding experiences with the land covered in evergreen foliage and a backdrop of coloured cliffs and gorges that put on a display as the sunlight shifts throughout the day. In late winter and spring Mother Nature really turns on the charm.

During these months, the bush is bursting with native blooms, attracting honeyeaters and bush animals such as grey kangaroos, whiptail wallabies and Herbert's rock wallabies. Native to this region, the Herbert's rock wallabies are generally hard to spot but graze on the plentiful supply of grasses, flowers and seasonal fruits found across the park.

At Isla Gorge the days are warm and clear and the views from any vantage point are seemingly endless across the distant horizon.

GETTING THERE

Isla Gorge lies between the townships of Theodore in the north and Taroom in the south.

If you're heading south from Theodore follow the Leichhardt Way until you reach the signpost to Isla Gorge Lookout on your right, turn right and follow the road 1.3 km west to the car park.

From Taroom, drive north along the Leichhardt Way. Turn left at the Isla Gorge Lookout signpost and follow west for 1.3 km to the car park.

Detour off onto the Fitzroy Developmental Road to see Lake Murphy or the Chain Lagoons. Both are close to the Leichhardt Way and great spots to camp, bird watch, stretch the legs or cool off.

PARK FEATURES

- Just 1.3 km in from the Leichhardt Way, the bush camping and picnic area is a perfect place to stop and stay.
- Visit the stunning natural viewing area overlooking Gorge Creek and across to Devil's Nest – a large cluster of jagged rocks jutting up from a distant ridge.
- 1.7 km along the Northern Historic Flagged Road, at the north-west end of the park, you'll find Flagstaff Hill parking area. From here you can access the remnants of the 1860s hand-laid 'flagged stone' road, built from great slabs of rock by a crew of just 16 men. The road was used to transport wool from Roma to the Rockhampton port.
- Three amazing Flagstaff Hill drive routes – refer to the maps and directions on page 44-45 of this brochure.

STAY SAFE

- Take care and keep away from cliff edges – they can be deceptive and are often closer than you think. Sandstone is brittle and may crumble unexpectedly.
- For more safety information visit parks.des.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/
- To find out about road conditions visit www.131940.qld.gov.au or phone 13 19 40.

LAKE MURPHY CONSERVATION PARK

LITTLE HAS CHANGED SINCE EXPLORER
DR LUDWIG LEICHHARDT AND HIS PARTY
PASSED THROUGH IN 1844.

A patch of paradise, Lake Murphy Reserve is teeming with wildlife. Waders and other migrating and native waterbirds busy themselves along the banks, while in the wooded parts you'll find koalas and on the plains, emus, grey and red necked wallabies grazing on the grasslands and resting in the shade.

The lake sits beneath Murphy's Range and only flows when nearby

Robinson Creek overflows. A 300 m easy track from the camping ground takes you to the lake where the walking circuit traces the southern end of the shore before meeting Robinson Creek and the red gum forest that leads back to camp.

Take your time. You'll be well rewarded with the sights and sounds of wildlife and beauty of the undisturbed surroundings.

PARK FEATURES

- A diversity of wildlife including koalas, wallabies, emus and native and migrating waterbirds.
- Lake Murphy 4 km walking circuit and rimming red gum forests.

GETTING THERE

In dry conditions the road to the lake is suitable for all vehicle types. Drive 18 km north of Taroom along the Leichhardt Way then turn west into the Fitzroy Developmental Road. Travel 2 km to the Glenhaughton Road turnoff. Turn left and drive 11 km to the park.

STAY SAFE

- Snakes are present in this park. Detour around them. Wear protective footwear and ensure your first aid kit includes equipment for treating snake bites.
- Bring your own drinking water and, if camping, make sure you are self-sufficient.





LONESOME

Tall pillars of sandstone known as 'The Candlesticks' make a majestic site as they ascend from the grassy plains of Lonesome. Until 1972, this was cattle country, now, among the brigalow, bauhinia and bottlebrush, you'll find rustic remnants of those olden times.

Though remote, in dry weather the roads are good for all types of vehicles. Pack the tent and billy and stock up on supplies because once here, you'll want to stay a while. The Dawson River passes through the Arcadia Valley and the bush camping ground sits right against its bank.

The lookout has a picnic shelter along with breathtaking views of the valley. If travelling north from Injune, the lookout turnoff is on the Arcadia Valley Access Road, just before the camping grounds.

SECTION FEATURES

- The Candlesticks monolith forms an impressive sandstone silhouette above the landscape.
- Bush camping by the Dawson River and exploring the bush walks and the native plant life across the valley plains.
- Lonesome Lookout with its breathtaking views of the brigalow-clad valley, water systems and highlands.

STAY SAFE

Cattle still graze in some areas of the park. Please leave gates as you found them.

EXPEDITION NATIONAL PARK

EXPEDITION NATIONAL PARK IS A THREE-IN-ONE SURPRISE PACKAGE.

Divided into distinct sections – Robinson, Lonesome and Beilba, the park spreads out over more than 1000 km², bristling with sharp white orange escarpments and deep floors of ancient native forest that date back 240 million years or more.

Rugged beauty and bush campsites offer experienced trailblazers plenty of 4WD action and challenging hikes. All three sections are laden with WOW factor and the lookouts at Robinson Gorge and Lonesome are truly worth the trip.

The sections are spread out and it's a five to six hour drive to reach Lonesome and Beilba from Robinson Gorge.



ROBINSON GORGE

Covered in open eucalypt forest, the gorge plateau stretches along the landscape for 14 km. Its winding ridge of sheer sandstone wall is like a fortress. A place where, from a great height, you can survey the land below.

Rising to 100 m in some places, bulging sections and overhangs dwarf you. The multi-coloured stone, sometimes deep shades of red, orange and grey, fades in parts to soft creamy hues. Keep your camera close.

Robinson Gorge features three sensational lookouts. Each walk to the lookouts is suitable for experienced bushwalkers who can handle rough ground.

SECTION FEATURES

- North from Starkvale camping area, Robinson Gorge Lookout casts sweeping views over the gorge, cliffs and low lying valley. The walking track also leads down to the gorge where rare flora can be found among the palms and bottlebrush.
- Further south, Shepherds Peak is well worth the hike. The walk through the eucalypts brings you to the ridge top and a spectacular panoramic view across the gorge and beyond.
- Cattle Dip lies at the southern end of the plateau. Starkvale Creek cuts through the gorge and at the lookout the watercourse narrows, squeezing between giant precipices. Along the track you can see the site of Old Shepherd's hut.

STAY SAFE

This park is accessible only to 4WD vehicles during dry periods. In the wet season, this area is a NO GO ZONE. Wet weather can cause some roads to become unsafe or inaccessible, particularly between November and February. However, this can occur at any time following heavy rain. Off road caravans towed by a 4WD can access the Starkvale camping ground.

BEILBA

The most remote section of Expedition, Beilba is a conservation corridor between Dawson River and Baffle Creek. With wild terrain, this section comprises of huge sandstone escarpments, deep gorges and wide-open valleys. This section, like much of Expedition, shares its western border with Carnarvon Range. The Dawson River draws from here, creating two major tributaries, the Don and Dee rivers, as it courses for more than 700 km through the Banana region.

Like other sections of the park, late winter and spring brings vibrant colours and life to the bush as wild flowers reach full bloom. A bush camp located on the Beilba Road is a perfect spot for self-sufficient campers. The road is gravel surface for about 30 km and only accessible to high clearance 4WD vehicles.

SECTION FEATURES

- Dramatic scenery overlooking the park basin and sandstone escarpments from the mountain plateaus.
- In late winter and spring grevilleas, flannel flowers, acacias, and pea flowers bring contrasting colour to the park amongst evergreen brigalow, lancewood and softwood scrub.
- Open woodlands provide habitat to squatter pigeons, while wallaroos are found around the basalt hills in the middle of the park. The wetlands are home to the eastern snapping frog.
- Enjoy the quiet, away-from-it-all woodland camping area.

STAY SAFE

- Gas and coal companies operate in this section, avoid drilling sites. At night from the plateau, the lights from these facilities can be seen on the distant horizon.



KROOMBIT TOPS NATIONAL PARK

OFF-ROAD ADVENTURES BEGIN AT KROOMBIT TOPS. THIS IS THE DOMAIN OF THE HARDENED ALL-TERRAIN TRAVELLER WHO THRIVES ON A CHALLENGE AND ISN'T AFRAID TO TAKE ON THE ROUGH STUFF.



Traversing the park via the Razorback Track and Loop Road will take you across rivers and deep ravines to fantastic heights where the sites and hikes are amid wild country. These tracks less travelled are best left to experienced drivers with high clearance vehicles only suitable in dry conditions.

For campers, there is a choice of three camping grounds, Griffith Creek, Razorback and The Wall. These sites are for self-sufficient types; the only man-made facilities are fire rings dotted about the place. If you're in a conventional car or towing a trailer or caravan, you'll need to access the park via Ubobo via the Dawson Highway near Calliope. The route takes you 70 km along unsealed roads to the Griffith Creek campsite. There are picturesque picnic spots by the creek and it's an easy 100 m walk to the lookout with fantastic views of the Boyne Valley.

PARK FEATURES

- The 1945 crash site of Beautiful Betsy, the ill-fated WWII Liberator bomber. Her story is signposted on the short walk to the site from the Loop Road. High clearance 4WD vehicle required.
- Marble Waterhole on the Razorback Track. High clearance 4WD vehicle required.
- Sub-tropical open rainforest areas and blackbutt forests.
- Lots of wildlife including birds, native animals and the endangered Kroombit tinkertail.

WALKS AND HIKES

The Lookout Walk (Griffith Creek)

100 m return (10 mins). Class 1 (no bushwalking experience required)

Enjoy spectacular views from the eastern escarpment looking over the Boyne Valley.

Escarpment Track (Griffith Creek picnic ground to The Barracks)

13 km or 5 hrs one-way (arrange pick up at other end). Class 3 (some bushwalking experience recommended)

Hike this track along the eastern escarpment through open blackbutt forest with glimpses of the Boyne Valley to the north-east.

Rainforest Walk (Munholme Creek)

300 m return (10 mins). Class 3 (some bushwalking experience recommended)

Discover Kroombit Tops' unusual tropical rainforest along this easy circuit track.



Beautiful Betsy bomber crash site (Loop Road)

700 m return (30 mins). Class 3 (some bushwalking experience recommended).

Visit the final resting place of a WWII Liberator bomber that crashed in 1945 and find out more about this tragic event.

STAY SAFE

- Watch for walkers, horse riders, wildlife and cattle on the roads.
- Mobile phone reception is not available in many areas of the park – carry emergency communication devices such as a UHF radio or an emergency beacon device.

NOW THIS IS FISHING!

FISHING THE RIVERS AND LAKES OF THE REGION ISN'T JUST ABOUT THE BEAUTIES YOU BRING UP FROM THE BOTTOM - THE FAT FRESHWATER CATCH OF BARRA, SARATOGA, COD AND YELLOWBELLY, IT'S ALSO THE THRILL OF THE CHASE.

Going fishing here is the start of big adventures. While you're at it, you'll discover the region and get to know all its parts. You'll travel the length and breadth of the region. Stop into towns to buy bait and extra kit. Talk to the locals, pick up on the tips and traps.

You'll search and find hidden sweet spots along the winding rivers and creeks and quickly discover not all those stories you heard were tall ones. In fact, most of them were true.

At the end of each exploit, you will have plenty of stories to tell your friends with your arms stretched wide and laughing about the one that got away.

You'll shake your head as you relish the moment, a broad smile across your face and almost in disbelief say, 'This is the life'! And the best part of it all, you'll be right.

A FEW TIPS TO GET YOU ON YOUR WAY

- Catch saratoga with casting lures from baby bullies to poppers of white, silver, yellow or light blue. You might also try saratoga with a piece of steak under a float.
- Yellowbelly or golden perch are best caught on baits by bobbing with a yabby, using a lure or a spinnerbait.
- Sleepy cod are docile and can be caught by dangling bait near them.
- Work lures during the day or under moonlight.
- Fish shallow areas during dawn, dusk and night.
- Work deep waters during the day.
- Live baits work well. Collect mussels from lake's edge, dig worms, set bait traps. Use fish baits under a float or off the bottom for saratoga, barramundi and sleepy cod.

WILD FISHING ADVENTURES

Visit our website for a full list of great fishing locations – www.sandstonewonders.com



FISHING COMPETITIONS

With so many well-stocked rivers, creeks and lakes, fishing enthusiasts come from all over Queensland for the great fishing on offer in these parts.

Fishing competitions are a regular feature of the region and families love to get amongst the action at the best fishing and camping adventures going around. The comps raise important funds to buy fingerlings to restock fish reserves. If you fancy your chances at snagging a winner, take your pick of the events or take the time to do the lot.

RECREATIONAL FISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS

For all the do's and don'ts on recreational fishing and where to get your permits, refer to the Queensland Recreational Boating and Fishing Guide available from local bait and fishing shops, online at www.daf.qld.gov.au or download the App from Google Play or the App Store.

Rules for freshwater boating also apply. For more information, call 13 23 80 or check www.msq.qld.gov.au.

Callide Valley Junior Fishing Clinics

Twice a year, Callide Valley Native Fish Stocking Association host junior fishing clinics in Biloela promoting and fostering fishing as a recreational activity for youth. The clinics educate children on safety, knot tying, casting and all aspects of fishing responsibly and are funded by the Department of Fisheries, via Sunfish Qld. Normally held at Callide Dam, the clinics have proven popular. Keep an eye on their website for upcoming events. www.cvnfsa.org.au

Moura Muddy Water Fishing Classic - Easter/Early April

Held at Apex Park on the beautiful Dawson River in Moura, hopeful contenders begin to pour in on Friday

to get their nominations in. It's an early night though with battle lines drawn at 6am the next morning and first weigh-in starting at 7am. The focus is all on family fun with juniors making up more than half of the number of seniors in the game. Excellent camping facilities are available at Apex Park with unpowered sites. Established back in 2003, the comp has released more than 400,000 Barra and Yellowbelly fingerlings (in the main) to restock river supplies.

CONTACTS

Zelma P: (07) 4997 1932 / 0428 971 932
E: m.a.f.s.g@bigpond.com

Taroom Fishing Competition - 2nd weekend in June

Glebe Weir is always great fishing and the Taroom Fishing Competition is a tradition most freshwater fishos refuse to pass up. Some 300 competitors turn out each year for the event. Nominations for all age groups are taken on the Friday night before kick-off at 6.00am Saturday morning. Onsite catering is always handy for those keen to get their energy levels primed and to keep them going while there's action on the water, and a bar to help relax when the hard yards are done. The comp concludes at 12 noon on Sunday. Excellent camping facilities are available at Glebe Weir with powered and unpowered sites. From funds raised since 1987 the Glebe Weir Taroom and District Fishing and Restocking Club have restocked the dam with fingerlings to the tune of 72,600 Silver Perch, 353,000 Golden Perch and 36,350 Sleepy Cod.

CONTACT

Harry P: 0427 361 631

Hooked on Theodore Family Fishing Competition - 3rd weekend in July

The Theodore Family Fishing Competition is back and better than ever! It all kicks off on the Friday night with nominations at the local bowls club and the chance to chat with the locals to get the insider knowledge on the best places to target. There are always heaps of prizes to be won, live music, a bar operating, and food available for purchase throughout the weekend. Limited camping is available onsite at Junction Park, however Theodore Showgrounds has loads of space with both powered and unpowered camping available. All funds raised go towards

making future fishing competitions self-sustainable, upgrades to boating facilities and possible fish restocking programs.

CONTACT

Theodore Chamber of Commerce & Industry

E: theodorechamber@outlook.com

FIND THEM ON FACEBOOK Theodore Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Great Baralaba Saratoga Classic - 2nd weekend in September

Touted as one of Queensland's top inland fishing competitions, the Saratoga Classic falls on the second weekend in September. Attracting 300 plus participants, aged from four years and up, and with rich prizes up for grabs, there's no shortage of willing challengers. It's all friendly rivalry though, and a great excuse for family fun with live entertainment until midnight, markets and festival fare provided by the local P&C. Weigh-in is strictly by 12.00 noon each day and a mobile weigh-in service so contestants, who don't want to leave their post, can weigh-in without having to move. The Baralaba Recreation and Fish Stocking Group tops up fish supplies with about 60,000 fingerlings each year.

CONTACT

Robbie P: 0427 378 432

E: mobileengineers@bigpond.com

Lake Callide Family Fishing Classic - Last weekend in October

Usually held five days before the full moon in October, Biloela's Lake Callide Family Fishing Classic is all about the Barra. Pulling a 116 cm beauty has set the record and got everyone excited for what's to come. It's a 'drag 'em out' tussle that's on for young and old, to see who'll crack the metre at this year's turn out. About 400 fishing fans join the throng, so all-weekend action is guaranteed. Saturday night the mood continues with live music, raffle draws and food, cold beers and drinks. There's free onsite camping for everyone and thanks to the Banana Shire Council, new amenities make this venue top draw. The Callide Valley Native Fish Stocking Association has re-stocked the weir, year in and year out since 1987.

CONTACTS

Kris P: 0417 616 322

Artie P: 0407 319 840

E: the.secretary@cvnfsa.org.au
www.cvnfsa.org.au

OUR WORLD AT YOUR DOOR



TOURING THE SANDSTONE WONDERS REGION WILL TAKE YOU TO PLACES OF VAST BEAUTY. THE MORE TIME YOU TAKE, THE MORE HIDDEN WONDERS YOU WILL DISCOVER.

With so many natural assets – sandstone wonders, gorges, rivers, creeks and lakes, bushland plains and forests, wildlife and wildflowers – there's always the chance of something special and surprising popping up out of the blue. The closer you get to nature, the more likely those encounters will be.

Camping grounds across the region put you right in the thick of our great outdoors and promise you fantastic travels, no matter where you go.

Annual events are often held at local showgrounds and campers, if quick, can usually take advantage of free

camping or low-cost facilities at the site. For details, contact the relevant event coordinator or any of the regional visitor information centres.

A range of alternative camping options are available. However, if you're self-sufficient and carrying extra supplies, you can always find your own special spots off the beaten track.

LOOK ONLINE

Caravanning Queensland

www.caravanqld.com.au/find-a-caravan-park

Find a Campsite

www.findacamp.com.au

WikiCamps Australia

www.wikicamps.com.au

CALL IN OR PHONE

Visitor Information Centres in the area. Refer to the listing in this guide.

LEAVE THEM CLEAN

Please help to care for our precious places & leave them clean as you go.

NATIONAL PARKS

- To camp in national parks, you need to book your campsite and obtain a camping permit.
- Book online at www.qld.gov.au/camping
- Phone 13 Q GOV (13 74 68). Charges may apply, or some sites have a kiosk.

CARAVAN WASTE POINTS

Biloela - Queensland Heritage Park (Exhibition Ave), Visitor Information Centre (Callide St) and Lake Callide Retreat (Lake Callide Drive)

Baralaba - Wooroonah Road (near the showgrounds)

Moura - Bindaree Rd (off the Dawson Hwy)

Taroom - 4 Woolsey St (Near Council Depot)

Theodore - Eastern lane between Sixth and Seventh Ave (near the tennis courts), another dump point at the Theodore Showgrounds

Dululu - Public Toilets, Bryant St

FREE OR LOW-COST CAMPING SITES CLOSE TO TOWNS

Campsite	No. of sites	Max. stay (no. of nights)	Camping fees	Bookings required	Toilets	Showers	Pets	Water available	Camp fires	BBQs	Picnic tables	Swimming	Fishing	Canoeing, Kayaking, Boating, Skiing
Banana - adjacent to Sutherland Hall	3	7			•		•	•						
Baralaba - Neville Hewitt Weir Picnic Area	30	7			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Baralaba Showgrounds	20+		•	•	•	•		•						
Biloela - Queensland Heritage Park*	30	2	•		•	•	•	•		•	•			
Lake Callide Retreat	30	7	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•
Cracow Beach**	6	7					•		•			•	•	•
Cracow Town	3	7		See pub	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Park Cracow	10			See pub	•			•		•				
Dululu Rest Area	15+	7	•		•	•	•		•	•	•		•	
Goovigen Recreation Grounds	6+	7	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Goovigen - Lake Pleasant	2	7					•		•				•	
Moura - Apex Park	60+	7			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Moura - Rotary Park	15	3	•		•		•	•	•	•	•			
Rannes - Don River	5						•		•			•	•	•
Taroom - Chain Lagoons	10						•		•		•		•	
Taroom - Glebe Weir	24	28	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lake Murphy Conservation Park	5	21	•	•	•				•	•	•			
Lawgi Hall	10	7			•		•	•	•		•			
Isla Gorge National Park	10	21	•	•	•			•	•		•			
Theodore - Junction Park	20	7			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Theodore Showgrounds	70	7	•	•	•	•	•	•						
Wowan Showgrounds	12	3	•	•	•	•	•		•					
Kroombit Tops National Park														
Griffith Creek	20+	29	•	•					•					
The Razorback	2	29	•	•					•					
The Wall	3	29	•	•					•					
Expedition National Park														
Starkvale	20	21	•	•					•		•			
Lonesome	2	21	•	•					•		•			
Beilba	2	21	•	•					•		•			

*Office hours are 9.00am - 4.00pm daily. You must book-in prior to 4.00pm to camp.

**This is a camping and water reserve on the national stock route; and part of a working cattle property. Parthenium Weed free area.

Pets permitted: Where permitted, please ensure you clean up after your pets.

Showers: May be cold or hot and may require coins to operate.

Water: May require treating before use.

Barbecues: May be gas, electric or wood and may require coins to operate.

Campfires: Where permitted may have local requirements regarding location of fire, fire restrictions etc

Rubbish: Where refuse bins are not provided, please take your rubbish with you.

GET SET TO BE BOWLED OVER

THERE'S A LOT TO LOVE ABOUT THE BANANA SHIRE AND EVEN MORE TO SEE AND DO.

The people of the region are genuine and open. They tell you how it is, usually with dry wit and a wry smile. You can find yourself chuckling for days over something someone said. It's just that kind of place.

Hard work goes with the territory. Agriculture and mining are the big industries, in that order too. The region was built on the sweat and toil of pioneers, pastoralists, food growers, geologists, engineers and miners.

Talk seems to revolve around the weather, the latest prices at the sales yards or stock markets, and just to break things up, what's good fishing at the time.

The lifestyle is laid back. Family and community orientated, activities centre around fishing and camping, sports and social clubs, festivals and events. The seasons govern what goes on and everything fits around them.

That makes for a busy events calendar with festivals, carnivals and competitions scheduled for between March and October. The locals really know how to celebrate; they've got a lot to be happy about and any weekend take your pick, there's bound to be

something on.

Most events happen in late winter and early spring. In fact, the coming of spring is the biggest event of the lot. Everything is new – native flowers blossom, carpeting the valleys in colour, birds sing, butterflies appear, crops are ripe for the picking and the weather is perfect.

With valleys, rivers and creeks and high mountain ranges, the Sandstone Wonders are not just a fantastic attraction – getting there is half the fun. You can spend days exploring the national parks and waterways. Take your time, no rush.





BANANA: A SENTIMENTAL FAVOURITE

NOSTALGICALLY THE REGION'S CENTRAL POINT, BANANA GREW OUT OF GOLD FEVER DURING THE INFAMOUS BOOM AND BUST ERA OF ROCKHAMPTON'S CANOONA RUSH.

Lasting only 66 days from September to December 1858, on pure speculation, the Canoona rush saw some 2000 hopeful prospectors put digs down in what became the town.

Visitors are always a little baffled by the town's unusual name, particularly as there isn't a single banana tree in sight. A dun-coloured bullock is responsible for that.

A favourite of local stockmen in the 1860s, Banana the bullock, so named for his yellowish colouring, would help herd wild cattle into holding yards. When Banana died, the gully was given the name in honour of his feats.

A replica of Banana proudly stands in the town, a warm reminder of his legacy to those pioneering days.

In 1880, the local government area

Banana Division (later the Shire of Banana) was established with its headquarters in Banana (taking its name from the town). However, following two relocations, Biloela became Shire headquarters in 1946.

A key junction point between the Dawson and Leichhardt Way, from Banana travellers can reach all the wonders of the region in next to no time.

QUICK FACTS

- An historic cemetery stands on a hill behind the town, the tombstones bearing the names of the local pioneering families.
- Moura – 18 km (15 min) via the Dawson Highway West
- Isla Gorge - 94 km (58 min) via A5 and Leichhardt Way
- Banana is home to two TMR Benchmarks; markers for level datum or height above sea level. One can be found outside the school and the other outside the hotel.



MOUNTAIN OF FUN AT BARALABA

OLD FASHIONED VALUES AND FRIENDLY TOWNSFOLK ARE THE HALLMARKS OF BARALABA. THOSE TRAITS AND A STUBBORN STREAK FOR STICKING AROUND.

More than a century of economic upheaval has threatened the town on many an occasion, but Baralaba locals are a stoic lot, steadfast and here to stay. Neighbours working together have kept the town thriving through thick and thin, floods and droughts, booms and busts.

Coal mining first forged the way for other industries to move in, such as beef cattle and crop farming - sorghum, wheat and cotton in the main.

The people are proud of the past. It's ever-present too, preserved in the shop front and building facades, giving the streets a charming yesteryear feel. Pop in for some supplies, morning coffee or treats.

If meeting new people, enjoying a hit of tennis or a cold drink at the local pub is more your pace then Baralaba is the place to be and the locals will welcome you with open arms.

BARALABA HISTORICAL VILLAGE

Local historians, Tinny and Colin Major, have spent three decades creating the Historical Village close to the edge of town. The heritage houses are filled with memorabilia, offering visitors an insightful passage back in time. The Village opens by appointment so you'll need to book ahead.

CONTACT

P: (07) 4998 1163 or 0427 981 235.

MYELLA FARM STAY

The smiling white horse sculpture that greets you at the gate, gives an inkling of what lies ahead at Myella farm. Stocked with beef cattle, cows, chickens and horses, the farm operates as a going concern and guests can quickly find things to do whether it's mustering cattle, milking cows, feeding the chooks or cuddling kangaroos. All in a day's work, hours rush by with new skills to learn, chores to do, animals to meet and farming adventures to discover.

CONTACT

Baralaba-Rannes Road, Baralaba, Queensland 4702

P: (07) 4998 1290

E: myella@bigpond.com

www.myella.com

QUICK FACTS

- The community are developing a 'History Track' around town so you can read about the history of the town as you are exploring it.
- Baralaba Community Centre on the corner of Stopford and Ashfield Streets is a hub for the Dawson River Artists and Baralaba History groups. Open on Wednesdays or by contacting (07) 4998 1383.
- The Baralaba Newsagency is the best source of visitor information.
- The name Baralaba means 'high mountain'.

MAJOR EVENTS

- Baralaba Agricultural Show and Campdraft
- Great Baralaba Saratoga Classic Fishing Competition

NEVILLE HEWITT WEIR PICNIC AREA

Nestled against the Dawson River, you don't have to go far for a good fish. Throw in a line, sit back and it won't be long before you feel that tell-tale tug on the hook. On any day of the week, the Neville Hewitt Weir Picnic Area is a great low-cost spot for camping, boating, fishing or just spending the day with family. You'll find it has everything you need with picnic tables, barbeques, hot showers and potable water.

EXPERIENCE AN OUTBACK LIFESTYLE AT **MYELLA FARM STAY**

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FARM EXPERIENCES HALF DAY TOUR

Learn about the farm, it's history and the animals. Your guide is local to this area and will drive you around the farm. Return to the homestead for lasso and whip cracking lesson, then try to milk a cow in the afternoon.



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Includes:

- 1 x Horse riding tour
- 1 x Farm experiences tour
- 2 x breakfast • 1 x lunch • 2 x dinner



2 DAY AND 3 NIGHT PACKAGE

Sometimes we all need a short break. There is accommodation for all types of travellers, from double ensuites, family rooms and camp sites. Get involved in the farm lifestyle or relax by the pool.

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BILOELA: GATEWAY TO COUNTRY WONDERMENT

EVERYONE SAYS 'G'DAY' WITH A SMILE AND A NOD AS YOU WALK DOWN THE WIDE STREETS OF BILOELA. IT'S FRIENDLY, WARM AND WELCOMING.

Buildings wear the tell-tale signs of progress through the decades. Eclipsing other towns as a regional centre, the township had some help along the way. Just a village in the early 1920s, the State Government set up a display farm close by, hoping the growing populous would develop the town. It did.

However, the post WWII years were the kindest of all, with Biloela becoming home to an ever widening, multi-cultural community, servicing big business, government

and industry bodies, cooperatives and small business as well as the rural and mining sectors that surround it.

Today, Biloela is a busy commercial and tourist hub, though it still retains that relaxed, country feeling.

The Queensland Heritage Park and Spirit of the Land Mural pay homage to the men, women and machinery that over generations, from the First Australians and pioneers to today's farmers and miners, have created a

legacy of prosperity.

Fashioned and built by the hands of those who forged their futures in a new land, rambling homesteads grace hillsides and streetscapes. The heritage listed Greycliffe Homestead can be found on the outskirts of town. The wide verandah and quaint interior have changed little since they were first conceived.

Further out, Kilburnie Homestead still operates as a working concern,



The Biloela Caravan Park is located in quite bushland surroundings on the outskirts, 1 km from the Biloela town centre. Adjacent to the Queensland Heritage Park Tourist Complex. Caravan and Camping Sites, fully self contained Cabins and other accommodation types are available.



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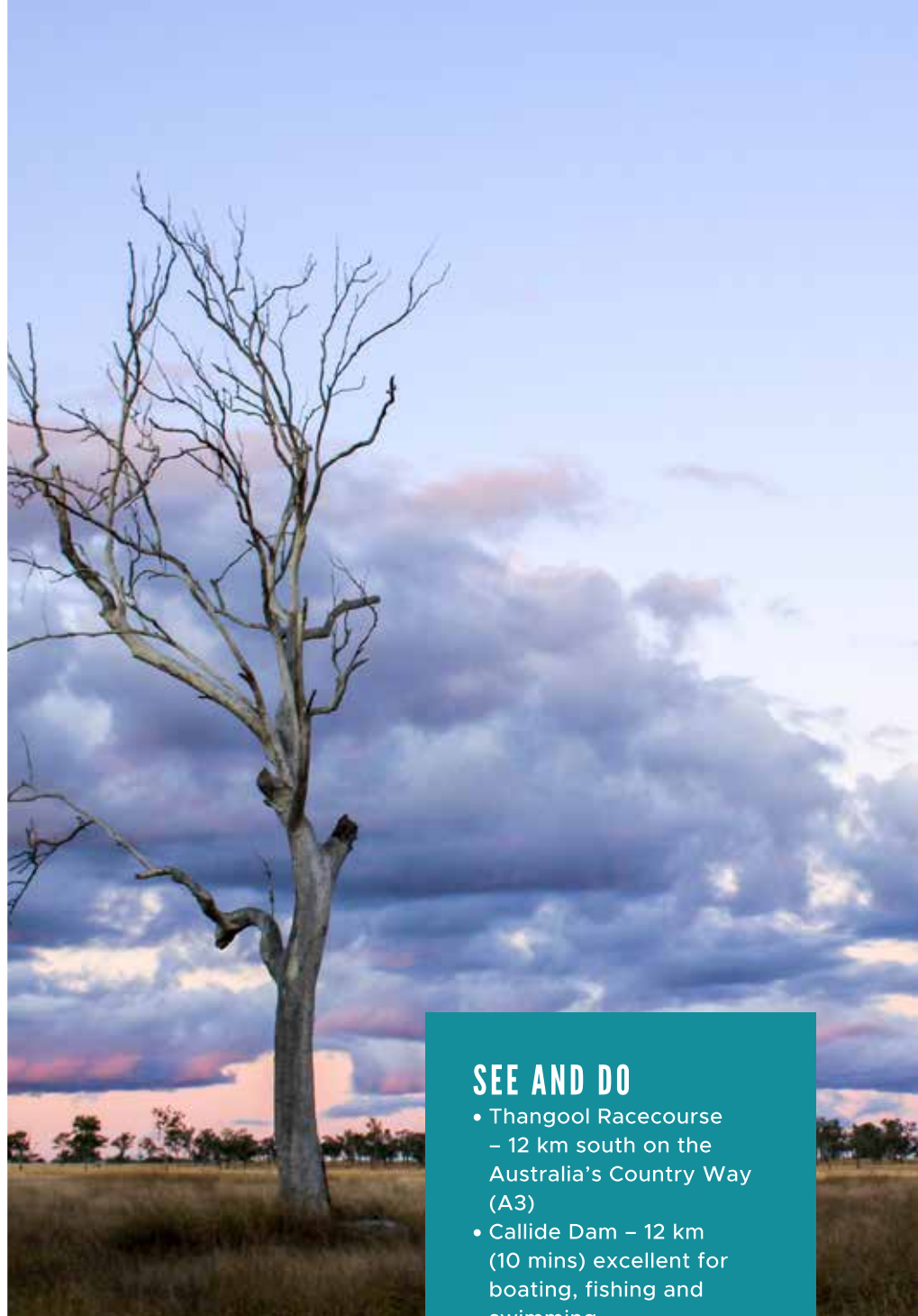


with descendants of the Campbell family continuing to make their mark. In a typical show of country hospitality, for four months each year Kilburnie celebrates its long unbroken history, throwing the doors open for fun weekends of music and nostalgia.

This is just one of many festivals and events that cram the annual calendar, along with frequent exhibitions staged at the Banana Shire Regional Art Gallery. The Shire has a lively arts fraternity and the gallery proudly features the works of local artisans as well as the offerings of others from much further afield.

For those with a hankering for the great outdoors, a short journey leads to a multitude of adventures at Kroombit Tops National Park.

With some roads accessible to conventional vehicles and others built for 4X4 excitement, there's every reason to go exploring. Towering ridges, deep gorges and panoramic vistas spill out across a



wide horizon, resplendent against the ravages of time.

Sunny days were made for family camping, fishing and boating fun, whiling away the days on the banks of the Callide Dam. With all the amenities on hand, this is just the place to stay and play for as long as the fish are biting.

Like a compass, all roads lead from Biloela, reaching into the countryside and out across the region, taking you to the places you want to be. Wherever you choose to venture, from the heart of Biloela you'll find your way to the fun and the fantastic.

SEE AND DO

- Thangool Racecourse – 12 km south on the Australia's Country Way (A3)
- Callide Dam – 12 km (10 mins) excellent for boating, fishing and swimming
- Callide Power Station is located at Callide Dam
- Kroombit Tops National Park - 25 km (20 mins) to the turn off on Valentine Plains Road

MAJOR EVENTS

- Rotary Car, Ute and Bike Show
- Lake Callide Family Fishing Classic
- Callide Valley Agricultural Show
- The Old Wheels in Motion Rally
- Brigalow Arts Festival
- Rotary Arts and Crafts Fair
- Biloela Autofeste



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Explore, discover and relive the past as you browse through the many display areas and the large array of vintage machinery, collectables and memorabilia housed in the "Silo" structure (from Expo '88), the first church, Biloela's original railway station building and displayed on the extensive CDMPC grounds at the rear of the complex.

Sample baked treats served with espresso coffee or fine leaf tea at the Post'n'Rail Cafe as you peruse tourist information at the accredited Rural Hinterland Visitor Information Centre and select a memento, or two, from the souvenir shop on site.

Visiting in July ...

Come Along to the Old Wheels In Motion Rally!!

The Annual Old Wheels in Motion Rally & Swap Meet is held on the third weekend of July each year.

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CRACOW: SIMPLY A CRACK UP!

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ALONG THE THEODORE-
EIDSVOLD ROAD, YOU'LL
FIND CRACOW - A TINY
GHOST TOWN PACKED WITH
SURPRISES.**

There's some dispute as to why pastoralist John Ross named the area Cracow back in 1851. Some say it was in reverence to the Polish who had fought valiantly for independence, while others say it was the sound of a cracking whip.

No matter though, because in 1875 the town became known for gold, as the first prospectors came to try their luck in the fields.

Now the shops are empty but the Cracow Hotel remains full of life.

QUICK FACTS

- Cracow is a 2-hour easy scenic drive from Biloela along sealed roads
- Cracow Beach, just north of town, is a great spot for camping, fishing or lazing the day away. A section of the Dawson River, the beach is a top camping spot to cool off on a summer's day under the shade of rare Livistona palm trees. Livistona palms, commonly known as cabbage palms, are a remnant of the pre-historic era and breeding ground for yellow palm-dart butterflies Cephrenes Tricholopele.

GHOST TOWN COMES ALIVE AT THE CRACOW HOTEL

Cracow Hotel is a genuine Aussie country pub, where the beers are cold and locals spin stories full of laughter. Not a pokie in site. They got ripped out and shot up when the hotel changed hands in 1999 – out of respect for the wives of the gold miners who might have been tempted to blow their dough before flying home.

Looking more like a home than hotel, the entrance to the Cracow pub is somewhat deceiving. Once inside, you enter a time capsule where bric-a-brac and memorabilia stockpiled over decades, garnish the walls and ceilings.

Visitors have been known to spot and even photograph the resident ghost among the saddlery that hangs from the rafters. Clad in her nightgown, the woman resides in Room 1, often venturing out in the wee hours to wander the stairs and corridors.

The adventure doesn't stop there. The accommodation is inspired by the great countries of the world. Choose your room to your favourite theme, enjoy the hospitality, scrawl your name on the bar wall and you're almost a local.

Well that's what Fred will tell you! He works the bar when he isn't too busy organising the year-round schedule for his iconic Fred Brophy Boxing Tent.

Now the only remaining Tent Boxing show in Australia, Fred is the third generation of Fred Brophy's to run the tents. With a troupe of 12 prize fighters, from all walks of life, like his grandfather and father before him, he travels Queensland, offering young contenders the chance to make it big in the ring. The annual boxing calendar kicks off each year around February/March in Kilkivan. Dates and locations can be found on their Facebook page @Fred Brophy's Boxing Troupe.

If you've never been to a ghost town, the Cracow historic walk along its abandoned streets and shopping strip is a fascinating insight into the life and times of yesteryear.



DULULU: LITTLE VILLAGE GATEWAY TO BIG ADVENTURE

THE NORTHERN MOST TOWN IN THE BANANA REGION, DULULU IS A JUNCTION POINT THAT DIVIDES THE TWO SOUTHERN ARTERIALS, AUSTRALIA'S COUNTRY WAY (A3) TO THE EAST AND THE LEICHHARDT WAY (A5) TO THE WEST.

Both highways reveal untold adventures and this rural village is the start of them all – a launching pad to the region and perfect place to stop, rest and make your touring plans.

While you're at it, you can take your pick of camping, fishing and swimming spots.

The Dee River is at the doorstep - try the Dee at the Australia's Country Way (A3) crossing for a close spot to throw a line - and the Don and Lake Victoria not far down the road.

At the rest area in Dululu a plaque bearing the names of early settlers is mounted on a hexagonal shaped rock similar to those found at Mount Scoria near Thangool.

Owners of vast areas of grazing land, these were folks who helped found the region's cattle industry, including the Scot born Leith-Hays brothers who named the Dee and Don rivers.

CAMP AND GO

The Dululu Rest Area is next door to the tennis courts and serviced with toilets and new sheltered picnic facilities. For a small charge, campers can use the powered sites at the rear of the courts, complete with hot showers for a donation.

QUICK FACTS

- Dululu lost its pub to fire in 2015. Keep your eyes peeled for a re-opening in the future.
- Lake Pleasant is 33.9 km (29 min) via Australia's Country Way (A3).
- A prominent feature on the landscape is Red Hill. Dwindling evidence of an ancient volcano.
- The nearby township of Wowan is the local service centre, with roadhouse, hotel, caravan park, craft shop, post office, health centre, churches, police and ambulance station. Tourism attractions include the Wowan Museum and Old Butter Factory.
- Dululu is a local Indigenous word meaning soft.

GOOVIGEN : HERITAGE AND HEARTLAND

GOOVIGEN IS A SMALL RURAL VILLAGE IN THE REGION'S NORTHERN FARMING HEARTLAND.

A short distance north-west of Jambin off the Australia's Country Way (A3), fewer than 300 people live in the town.

The streets are as neat as a pin and the heritage buildings have been either restored to their former glory or updated for present needs.

The corrugated iron Percy Schluter Historical School of Arts Hall is about as quaint as you can get and houses the local history and stories

of its pioneers.

Built in 1929, the building was under threat in 2010, until a group of dedicated history lovers took up the challenge to save the site, turning it into the heritage heart of the town and a significant attraction for visitors. Among interesting displays on the life and times of the pioneer families, you'll find a fabulous collection of old glass bottles. Engel Homestead is also located at the site. P: Gwen – (07) 4996 5146

Golden Park Retreat is the perfect place to spend your Saturday morning. Hosts Rob and Marie really turn it on with billy tea and the best damper you will likely ever

taste. Their garden is a little piece of paradise, filled with antique machinery and beautiful gardens for you to explore. Open Saturday mornings from 9am, bookings essential. P: 0438 106 391

Rich with fields of cotton, cattle and grain, the surrounding area is typically serene. Life beats to the seasonal patterns that bring the sunshine and rain. In fact, most of the talk around here is about the weather, what it's doing and what to expect. Well, the weather and fishing.

Fishing is a big pastime in these parts, with many local creeks about the place, most notably Callide Creek, Lake Victoria and Lake Pleasant a few kilometres further north.

If you're looking for information or a good bite to eat, the friendly locals at Goovigen Hotel Motel, on the Goovigen-Jambin Road offer both... and a tip, Wednesday night is Special Price Night. P: (07) 4996 5308

CAMP AND GO

The Goovigen sport and recreation grounds in Stone Crescent offers great facilities, including powered and unpowered sites and hot showers for a small fee. Drop into the local pub for assistance.

QUICK FACTS

- The School of Arts houses Goovigen's pioneering history and is open by appointment - P: Gwen (07) 4996 5146
- Lake Victoria is 32 km (21min) via Biloela Duaringa Rd and the Burnett Hwy
- Lake Pleasant is 6.4 km (11 min) via Lake Pleasant Rd and Goovigen Connection Rd
- 10 km (8 min) to Jambin
- Goovigen is the local Aboriginal word for Box Tree, a species of Eucalypt.



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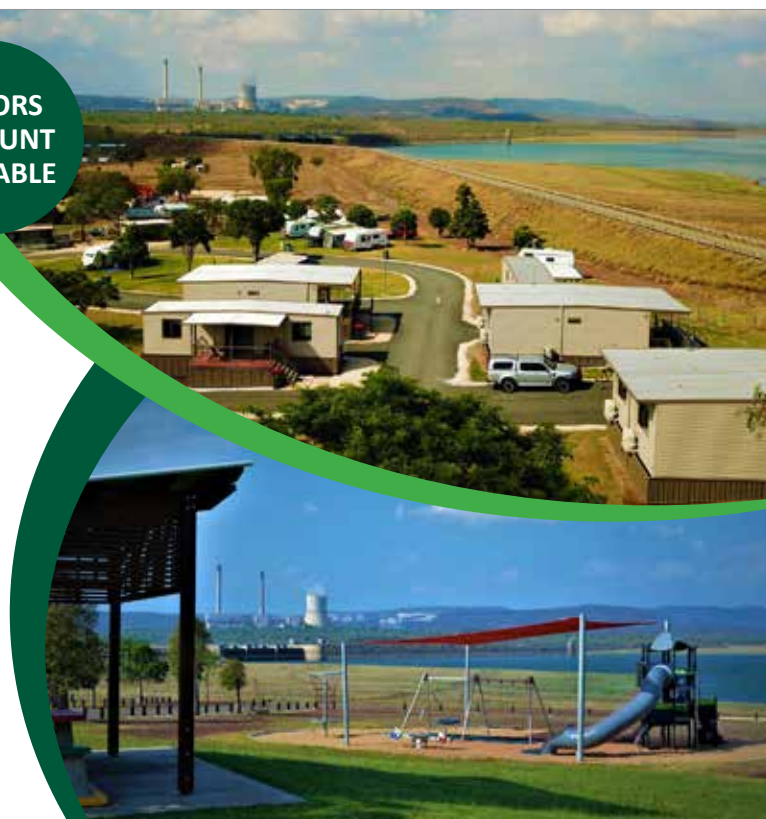
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Taroom Caravan & TOURIST PARK

Taroom Caravan Park is situated close to the heart of the Taroom town centre right on the banks of the Dawson River.

It is in a quiet location with serene views of the local country bushland and easy access to the river where the fishing is often reported as being excellent.

With its dedicated management team, newly refurbished facilities and a prized location, Taroom Caravan Park provides a fresh alternative for accommodation and camping facilities in the Taroom region.



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EMERGENCY CONTACTS IN BILOELA

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Banana Shire Local Disaster Coordination Centre	(07) 4992 9500 www.banana.qld.gov.au
Biloela Fire Brigade	(07) 4992 1744
Biloela Police	(07) 4992 2333
SES	132 500
Biloela Hospital	(07) 4992 7000
Biloela Vet Clinic	(07) 4992 1814
Queensland Ambulance	(07) 4992 4139
Banana Shire Council	(07) 4992 9500

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JAMBIN: LITTLE TOWN WITH A BIG HEART

CAMP AND GO

Jambin Recreation Reserve on the Australia's Country Way (A3) has excellent camping facilities for a donation, which can be left in the honesty box under the hall.

P: (07) 4995 3136

Jambin Hotel Motel on Biloela Road offers free camping and caravan sites for overnight stays. Budget accommodation is also available.

P: (07) 4996 5101

E: jambinhotelmotel@bigpond.com

QUICK FACTS

- Champagne Campdraft - September, Jambin Recreation Reserve.
- Lake Pleasant is 15.5 km (19 min) via Goovigen Connection Rd and Australia's Country Way (A3).
- 21 km (13 min) via Australia's Country Way, Lake Victoria is a great local fishing hole. Only accessible during dry weather.
- Jambin is an Aboriginal word thought to mean echidna.

A RURAL HUB WITH A PUB TO SERVICE WEARY TRAVELLERS, JAMBIN IS ON THE AUSTRALIA'S COUNTRY WAY (A3) JUST SOUTH OF SMOKY CREEK.

Part of the Callide Valley, the town is wedged between the Callide Creek to the west and the highway to the east, making it a picturesque spot to stop.

Callide Creek is a vital tributary of

the Don River, supporting all kinds of farming, cultural and recreational activities.

The creek is also a favourite with fishing buffs and well stocked with local varieties including Saratoga, Golden Perch and Yellowbelly.

For a tiny village Jambin holds some big events.

The King and Queen of CQ Big Boar Competition is held annually (end May, beginning June) and the Champagne Campdraft in September head the billing of local

events. The Events section of this guide has all the details.

A drive along the Argoon-Kilburnie Road will take you to the heritage listed Kilbirnie Homestead. Built in 1884, this beautifully maintained pastoralist's home has been in the Campbell family for four generations and was heritage listed with the Queensland Government in 1992.

The town hit notoriety in 2010 when it featured in the first of three novels by award winning author Christine Bongers. Born and bred in Jambin, Ms Bongers called on childhood memories of the area to write *Dust*, a stirring story of family and neighbour conflict, told through the eyes of a 12-year-old girl.



MOURA: ALL HEART AND COAL

MOURA IS A CENTRAL POINT AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY FOR THE PEOPLE WHO SERVE ITS LOCAL INDUSTRIES – THE FARMERS, GROWERS AND MINERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HELP TO MAKE QUEENSLAND GREAT.

Lying in the heart of the Dawson Valley, 7 km from the Dawson River, its parklands and public facilities, festivals and events, river fishing and water sports attract thousands of visitors each year.

The quality of life rings true here – hard working people who know how to have fun at the end of the week make the most of their surroundings.

For almost six decades, coal mining has been pivotal to the town. There are no mine tours on offer, however entering from either the south or east, the huge open cut pits can be seen from the highway.

You can almost set your watch by the 150th Meridian marker; the intangible line that measures Eastern Standard Time. Located on the east side of town, two large hollowed rocks sit side by side. Look through the holes and line them up, and you're standing in the direct path of the meridian.

Providing there is enough cattle, every fortnight (on Tuesdays), it's non-stop auction action at the cattle sale yards. A spell-binding experience for the uninitiated, things happen fast as a sea of Akubra hats huddle together, their wearers listening intently to the calls and gabble of the auctioneer.

The Moura Coal and Country Museum in Gillespie Street is open by appointment during peak touring season.



MAJOR EVENTS

- Bronze Boots Campdraft
- Coal and Country Festival
- Muddy Water Family Fishing Classic
- Moura RSL Car and Bike Show

QUICK FACTS

- Visitors are welcomed at the Bowls, Tennis and Golf Clubs, Moura RSL and Moura Memorial Swimming Pool.
- Wifi is available from the Visitor Information Centre and Banana Shire Council Customer Service Centre on Gillespie St and at the town Library on McArthur St.
- How did Moura get its name? Early pastoralist Charles Marshall was responsible. He served in the British Army at Moura in Portugal, during the Peninsular Wars. In 1854 he made a claim on a stretch of land on the Dawson and it was finally registered in 1857.
- For further information and a detailed map of Moura, get your hands on a copy of the Official Visitors Guide for Moura, available from most local businesses.



TAROOM: HISTORY TELLS ONLY HALF THE STORY

THE TELL-TALE SIGN THAT YOU'VE ARRIVED IN TAROOM IS THE STEEL WINGS WINDMILL AT THE NORTHERN ENTRY TO TOWN.

Manufactured around the turn of the 20th Century, the windmill is a rare commodity, being only one of two known windmills of its type still in working order.

The landmark says a lot about the town. Taroom is steeped in early European history and built on primary industries – first sheep, now cattle and grain.

The region opened up to settlers in the 1840s with the northern exploits of early explorer Ludwig Leichhardt. The good doctor took a liking to the place while camped by the Dawson River, carving his initials and year date – LL 1844 – into the bark of a coolabah tree. The initials long since gone – in somewhat controversial circumstances – the tree still stands pride of place in the main street, which is as it happens, the Leichhardt Way. A pleasant walk up the hill takes you to Gilbert's Lookout, named after Leichhardt's companion who met a violent end here.

Across town in Yaldwyn Street, Leichhardt Park is the site of Leichhardt's memorial. The park is dedicated to the region's native flora with weeping bottle brush, flaxleaf paperbark, lemon scented gum, swamp mahogany and bloodwood found throughout the grounds. The exception is a single Aleppo Pine, seeded from Lone Pine on the 2 Gallipoli Peninsula.

However, history only tells half the story of the energetic town. Brimming with recreational facilities, Taroom's busy annual calendar highlights the horse and horsemanship with Dawson River Festival events, Taroom race days, Taroom Professional Rodeo and Polocrosse Club competitions.

The Taroom Museum, located at 17 Kelman Street, is open by request and well worth the visit. Admission is \$5/ adult and \$1/child. Please call 0409 663 701 to gain access to the Museum.

QUICK FACTS

- Taroom is a great base for exploring:
 - 15 km to the Chain Lagoons
 - 55 km to Isla Gorge National Park
 - 82 km to Flagstaff Hill and the historical flagged stone road
 - 18 km to Lake Murphy Conservation Park - 54 km to Glebe Weir
 - 120 km to Expedition National Park
- Top fishing spots are right at the doorstep with Dawson River on the edge of town and nearby Glebe Weir and Palm Tree Creek
- Palm Tree Creek is unique and world renowned for its petrified palms
- The Taroom & District Historical Society Museum opens by appointment. Site address 10 Yaldwyn Street, Taroom.
P: 0409 663 701
E: tdhs2014@hotmail.com
- The name Taroom is thought to derive from 'tarum', meaning pomegranate in the language of the local Iman people.

TAROOM POLOCROSSE CARNIVAL

Only fitting to play in the cooler months, the annual Carnival is held on the second weekend of July. For those two days, the Polocrosse Ground is packed with up to 35 teams, 200 competitors, 300 horses, 400 followers and a swag of excited onlookers, all ready and anxious for the games to begin.

Polocrosse is a family sport. Kids and adults all compete over the weekend and according to organisers, the memorable moments are the looks on the faces of the players of the underdogs when they get up and win!

The Carnival is held at 22 Injune Road, two kilometres south-west of Taroom. More information can be found at www.facebook.com/taroom.polocrosse



THANGOOL: HORSES AND HIGH PLACES

THE RAISED GREEN LAWNS OF FORDE PARK RACECOURSE COME ALIVE WITH COLOUR FOR THE RUNNING OF THE THANGOOL CUP.

The track is the largest of the two courses in the region, the other at Taroom, and the Cup is a standout fixture during the Spring racing season in September.

The other seven race days held through the year are also a big attraction for punters who love to see country racing at its best. There's more horse riding action with the Dawes Hall RCI Campdraft, held at Dawes Hall on the Australia's Country Way (A3) on the second weekend in April.

Thangool is a great place to fuel up on a hearty meal and fill up the tank before pushing on to Callide Dam or spectacular natural features such as Kroombit Tops National Park and Mount Scoria – both found in the

vicinity.

Read more about these special places in the Sandstone Wonders and Sandstone Drive sections in this guide.

More than 130 years in the making, Thangool first opened to settlers, who tried it as a sheep run in the 1850s. Soon to fail, beef cattle were introduced and later, dairy and cotton took hold. Based on the success of these industries, a make-shift town sprang up.

Today, the town is home to a sizable squab industry, providing Australia with 60 per cent of its squab supplies.

As you travel through the district, you'll see large paddocks of sorghum, wheat, sunflower, barley and mung bean crops, the mainstays of local food production.

Changes over the years have also seen the town evolve from a busy commercial centre for local industries to what is now the region's transport hub.

CAMP AND GO

The Lawgi Hall is just south of the township on the Australia's Country Way (A3). There are plenty of grass areas to park behind the hall and a donation left in the honour box would be much appreciated. Biloela also has affordable camping ground options available.

QUICK FACTS

- Mount Scoria - 4.5 km (8 min) via Aerodrome Rd and Thangool Lookerbie Rd
- Kroombit Tops National Park via Valentine Plains Road is an unsealed road and for 4WD vehicles only.
- Thangool means Possum in the language of the Gangulu People.
- Lawgi Heritage Park host an open day annually over the Easter Weekend. Further information is in the 'Events' section of this guide.

Fly Corporate operates to and from the recently refurbished airport and on the ground, car hire is available.





THEODORE: THE TOWN THAT WATER BUILT

PERHAPS THE MOST UNIQUE FEATURE OF THEODORE IS ITS PUB. STANDING ON THE BOULEVARD, THE TOWN'S MAIN DRAG, THEODORE HOTEL'S WHITE WEATHERBOARD EXTERIOR OOZES OLD-TIME CHARM.

But this pub, like the rest of the town, has an interesting story to tell – it's the only pub in Queensland owned by an entire community.

The locals took it over in 1949, issuing each resident the equivalent of a 25 cent stake, when plans to build Nathan Dam and 5000 new farming plots fell through.

From its earliest days, the town was a stopping point for travellers and the same is true today. Theodore is a pretty town. Shaped like a point between the Dawson River and Castle Creek, its palm lined streets give a tropical feel to the place.

Neville Hewitt Park surrounds the water tower and is a great spot for a picnic lunch, or if you'd prefer a river view, Rotary Park in Fifth Avenue overlooks Castle Creek.

Next to the Fire Station you'll find Rose's Garden. The creek flats turned garden paradise are the love and labour of local couple, Jeanette and Spencer Rose. While weeding might have given Jeanette 'the willies', the couple's efforts in creating such a masterpiece over the past 20 years were well worth it. Making the gardens the first stop in the town, people come year after year to check on how things have changed. The stroll takes you alongside Castle Creek up to Junction Park.

Housed in an old power house, the Dawson Folk Museum in Second Avenue is a treat for history devotees. If travelling between April and September you will likely find the Museum open between 10.00am and 1.00pm, Tuesday to Thursday. Outside of this, the Museum is open by appointment. Phone Lorraine on 0429 931 264.

CAMP AND GO

48-hour camping is available at Junction Park by the Dawson River along with picnic facilities, and hot showers for a donation.

Theodore Showgrounds offer powered sites for \$20 per night.

A caravan waste point is located off the Boulevard on Seventh Avenue.

QUICK FACTS

- Allan Holmes Senior became the first Chairman of the Board of Directors in 1949
- Dawson Museum is on the corner of Second Avenue and Dawson Parade, Theodore
- Theodore is named after former Queensland Premier, Edward 'Red Ted' Theodore (1919-1925)

WOWAN : HISTORY RALLIES TO THE FORE!

IN ITS HEYDAY, WOWAN WAS THE DAIRY CAPITAL OF THE REGION.

With more than 600 farmers on the job, the Dawson Valley Dairy Cooperative was topped up daily with fresh supplies of full cream milk, ready to ship off to towns and cities as far away as England. Wowan flourished as a result. The population grew and along with it came shops, churches, halls, a school, bowls club and even a golf course. Not bad for a place that started out as a rail camp!

However, in the late 1960's the dairy industry soured. Other agricultural industries moved in, mostly beef cattle and grain, buying up the land and changing the face of commercial operations. The business centre shifted to Moura and Biloela and eventually, many of the locals did too.

But the old butter factory was left standing and today, thanks to its heritage and the humble cow, Wowan is definitely a place you're going to want to visit.

LOCAL HISTORY FINDS ITS SWEET SPOT

Like its exhibits, Wowan Museum has quite a history.

With the site of the old butter factory transformed into a caravan park in the 1980's, the building had long been abandoned when its owners struck on the idea to turn it into a museum, promptly purchasing the original switch board to start its collection.

Soon to outgrow the premises, the huge stock of artefacts found a new home in the old Railway Station, with carriages, sheds and a host of relocated buildings filled to the brim with memorabilia.

With thousands of items handed over from private and public donors, Curator Dot Nutley had her hands full, cataloguing all the pieces. But she knew her stuff and was always excited when the little gems popped up.

Pride of place is the alphabet chart Dot found under a hessian bag, the movie posters featuring such classics as The Lone Wolf and His Lady, Careful, Soft Shoulders and Man About the House and the old Wowan fire truck that lives out front.

Located at Wowan on the Leichhardt Way, you can't miss the museum for its red tin roof. Museum is now open by appointment.

Contact: Fred Eames P:0421 577 273

MYSTERY DRAWS A CROWD

The annual Wowan Observation Turkey Rally draws a crowd for the competitive at heart.

Hosted by the Wowan Progress Association, the rally is held at the Wowan Showgrounds with

nominations opening at 12 noon. Rally starts at 1.00pm sharp with more than twenty five competitors racing to be the first to answer questions and solve the mystery that is the Wowan Observation Turkey Rally.

Once all is done and dusted and everyone has returned to the starting line, prizes are awarded for first, second and third place, and of course, the best themed car. The party then kicks on with music, meals and a bar operating throughout the evening.

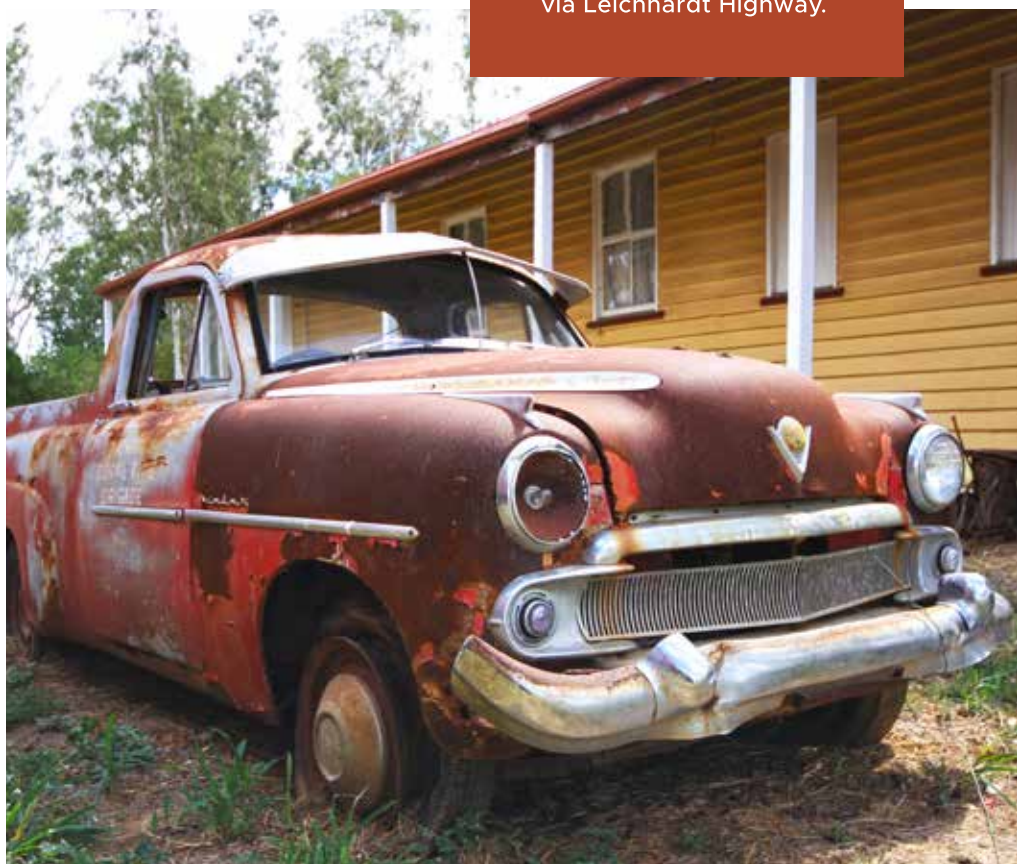
Contact: Wowan and District Progress and Cultural Society Secretary, Joelene Kapernick P: 0429 550 079

CAMP AND GO

Low-cost campsites are available at the Wowan Showground and there is a local commercial caravan park in town.

QUICK FACTS

- The Dee River offers great fishing at Dixalea and Dululu. The Don River is also great at Dumpy Creek.
- Dululu – 10 km (8 min) via Leichhardt Highway.



EXPLORING THE BANANA SHIRE



CALLIDE DAM



ISLA GORGE NATIONAL PARK



MOURA

CARNARVON GORGE NP 233KMS
ROLLESTON 127KMS
EMERALD 264KMS

BLACKDOWN TABLELAND NP 120KMS
EMERALD 211KMS

ROCKHAMPTON 57KMS

MT MORGAN 14KMS

ROCKHAMPTON 65KMS

GLADSTONE 78KMS

CANIA GORGE 46KMS

BRISBANE 551KMS

EIDSVOLD 78KMS

TOOWOOMBA 310KMS

BRISBANE 439KMS

ROMA 226KMS

NATIONAL PARKS

CAMPING GROUNDS

GOOD FISHING SPOTS

MAIN STOCK-UP AND SERVICE CENTRES

0 10 20 30 40 50
kms

BANANA LOOP

BANANA
DRIVE
TRAILS

- MOURA
- APEX PARK
- SIGNIFICANT SITES

131KMS



BARALABA HISTORY LOOP

BANANA
DRIVE
TRAILS

- BARALABA
- BANANA
- BILOELA
- DIXALEA
- WOWAN
- RANNES

225KMS

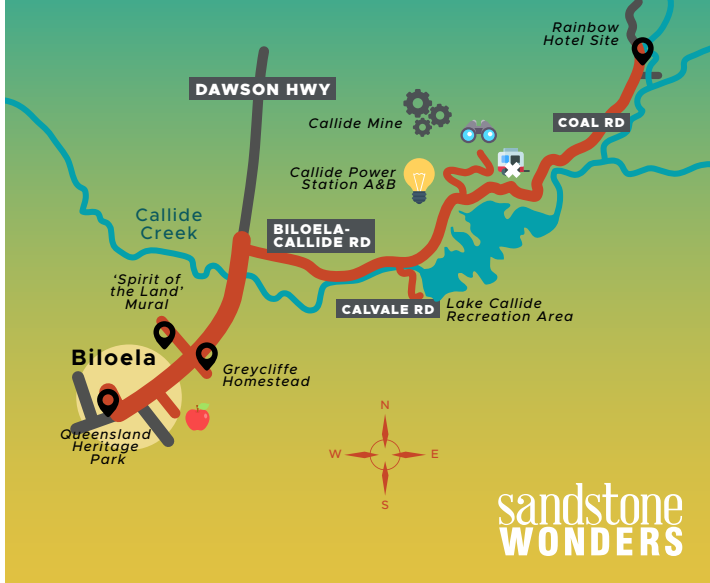


BILOELA BEAUTIES

BANANA
DRIVE
TRAILS

- QUEENSLAND HERITAGE PARK
- LAKE CALLIDE
- HISTORICAL SITES
- SPIRIT OF THE LAND MURAL
- COALFIELDS

58KMS



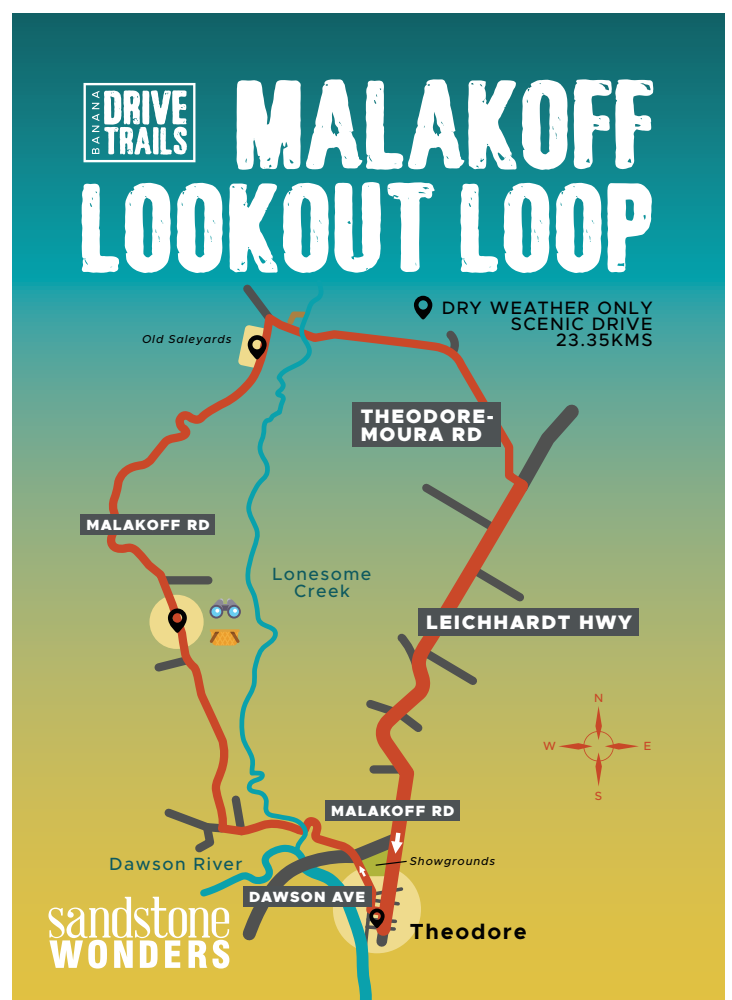
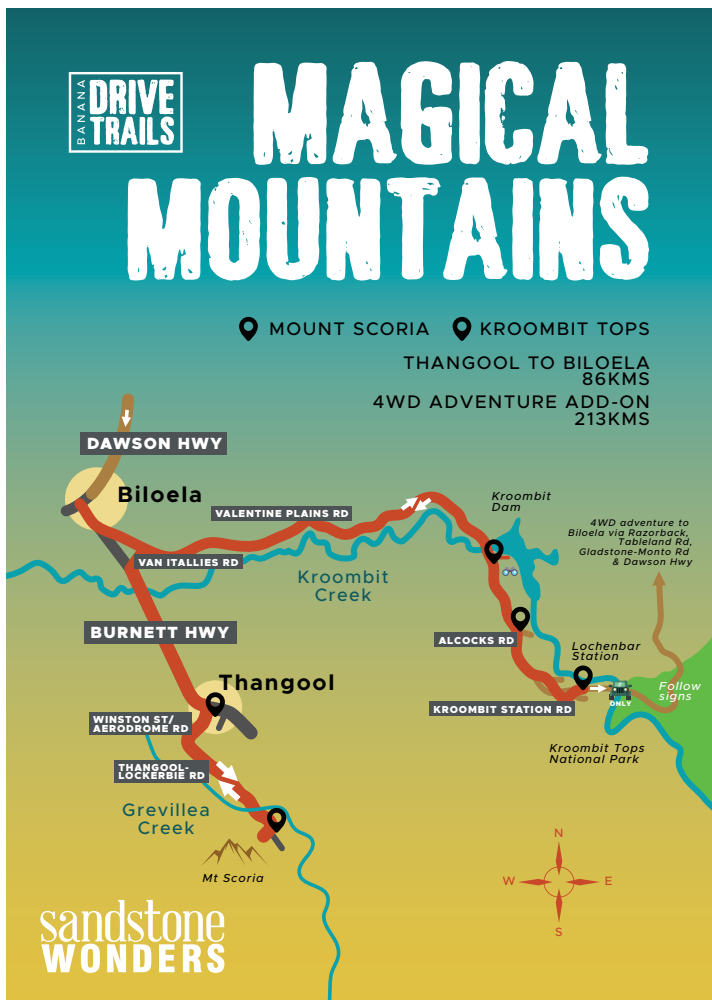
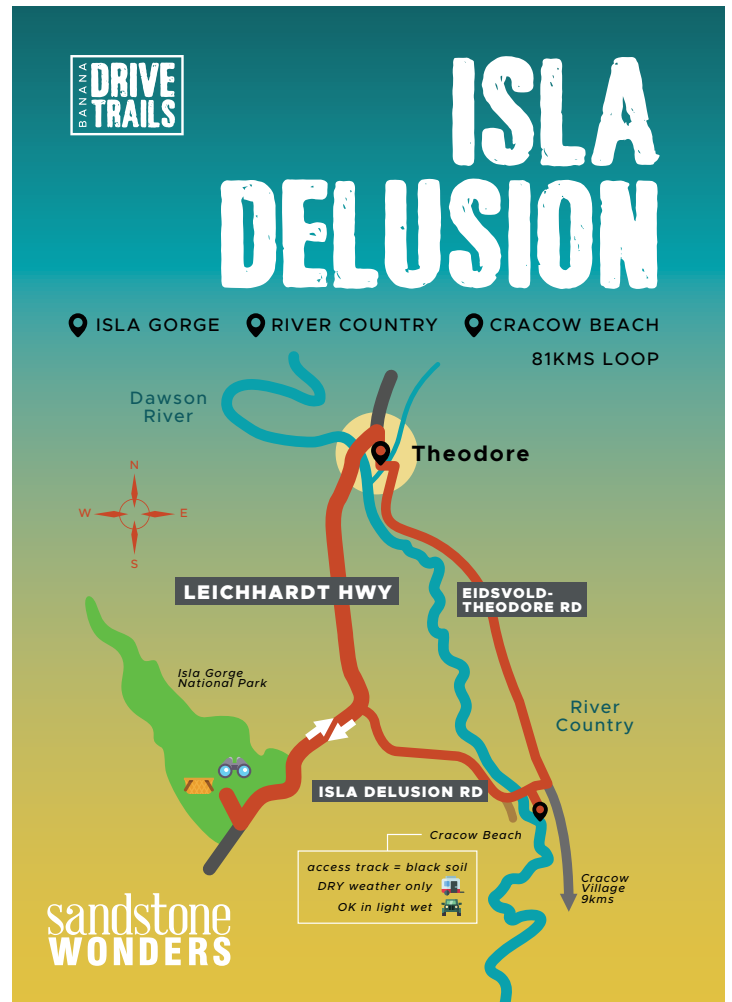
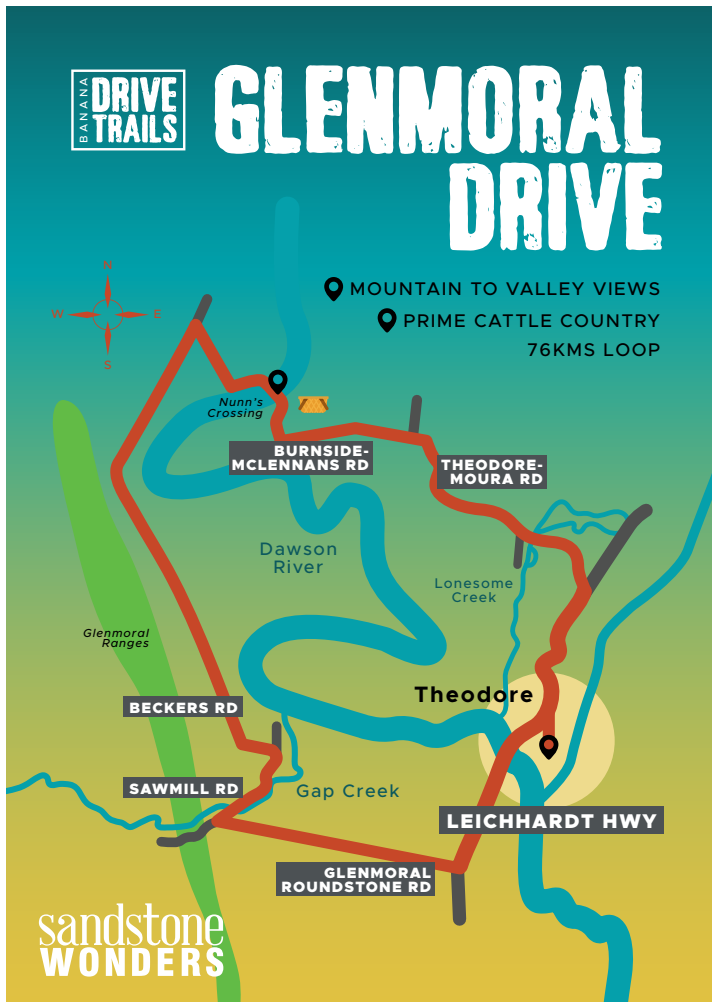
DEFENCE ROAD CRACOW LOOP

BANANA
DRIVE
TRAILS

- HISTORIC BRIDGES
- HAUNTED PUB
- CRACOW BEACH

147KMS





MT RAMSAY & BARALABA LOOP

SCENIC COUNTRYSIDE HISTORIC ICONS
130KMS LOOP



sandstone
WONDERS

HISTORIC FLAGSTAFF RD

FROM THEODORE OR TAROOM

GLENMORAL & ISLA RANGES

ISLA GORGE

150KMS LOOP



sandstone
WONDERS

SHIRE HISTORICAL TRAIL

MUSEUMS
HOMESTEADS
VILLAGES
CRACOW PUB
672KMS
4DAYS

DAY 1
DAY 2
DAY 3
DAY 4



sandstone
WONDERS

SCENIC WAY

COALFIELDS
POWERSTATION
LAKE CALLIDE
75KMS LOOP



sandstone
WONDERS

ROCKHAMPTON TO EMERALD

VIA SANDSTONE WONDERS

ROCKHAMPTON MOUNT MORGAN JAMBIN BILOELA
MOURA ROLLESTON SPRINGSURE EMERALD

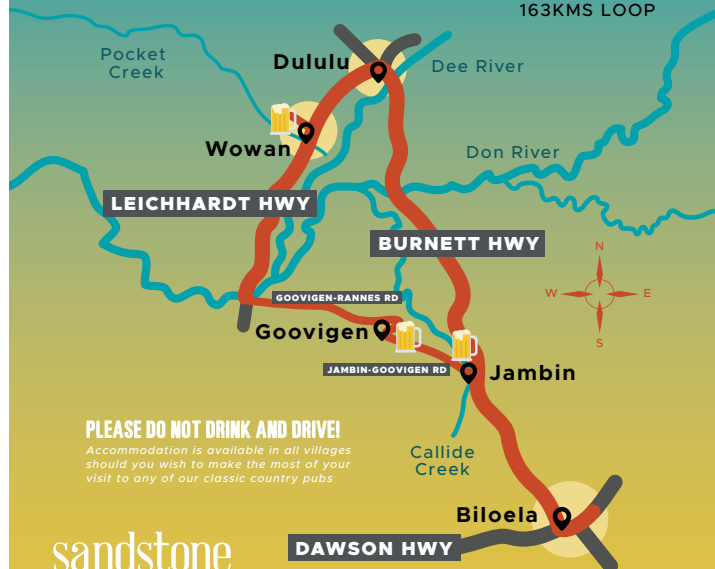


sandstone
WONDERS

BANANA
DRIVE
TRAILS

RURAL VILLAGES

COUNTRY PUBS HISTORIC SITES
163KMS LOOP



PLEASE DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE!

Accommodation is available in all villages
should you wish to make the most of your
visit to any of our classic country pubs

sandstone
WONDERS

BANANA LOOP

131 KM / APPROX 2.5 HRS

Start in Banana at 'Banana' the bullock statue after which the town was named.

Leichhardt Way left onto Dawson Highway and travel 13.6 km. You'll pass Dawson Mine - Australia's first export coal mine. From Dawson Highway, turn left onto Three Chain Road. 400 m along the road, you'll see Queensland Ammonium Nitrate Plant which supplies ammonium nitrate prill for blasting to the mines in the Bowen Basin. Back on the Dawson Highway, 2.4 km further and you'll come across the 150° Meridian site - 150° of longitude from which Eastern Standard Time is measured.

Travel a further 3 km along Dawson Highway to Moura. Left onto Gillespie Street. 500 m down Gillespie St, the Moura Visitor Information Centre and Shire Office is located on the right. From Gillespie St, turn left onto Herzog St and left again onto Theodore Moura Rd. The Grain Silos and large sheds 2.5 km along on your right have the 2nd largest grain storage capacity in Queensland.

Continue a further 470 m along to the Dawson Highway. A Miner's Statue (memorial to the No.4 underground mine disaster in 1986) is located in the median strip on your right in 1 km. A further 7.5 km down the Dawson Highway is Apex River Park - on the Dawson River. A free camp with boat ramp, amenities and the home of the annual Moura Muddy Water Classic Fishing Competition, held annually during Easter weekend.

Head back along the Dawson Highway to Moura 2.3 km and turn right onto Saxelby's Road. Follow it to the end and turn left onto River Road. Follow River Road to its end (approx. 8 km) and it will take you around the Moura Aerodrome where you then cross the Theodore Moura Road.

Turn right onto Theodore Moura Road and follow 36 km to the Leichhardt Way. Turn left onto the Leichhardt Way and follow approximately 43 km and you will see Mount Wiseman on your left, named after William Wiseman, early Land Commissioner, credited with naming Rockhampton in 1858. Continue another 8 km along the Leichhardt Way and turn right onto the Dawson Highway towards Banana.

BANANA
DRIVE
TRAILS

BARALABA HISTORY LOOP



225 KMS (ALLOW 4-6 HRS DEPENDING ON STOPS)

Start in Stopford Street, Baralaba, across the street from Foodworks. Drive south along Stopford Street 200 m and then left onto Dunstan Street.

Approximately 1.8 km along Dunstan Street, turn right onto Moura-Baralaba Road. Follow for 14 km before the road name changes to Baralaba-Banana Road. Follow until you reach Banana. (50 km / 35 min).

BANANA, BILOELA, DIXALEA, WOWAN

From Banana, follow the Dawson Highway to Biloela (46.5 km / 30 mins).

Biloela is the commercial centre of the Shire. If you fancy a coffee or some morning tea, head into Biloela to one of the Cafes or perhaps even a spot of shopping. If you're a bit of a history buff, get along to the Queensland Heritage Park on Exhibition Avenue to explore their heritage displays and historic buildings.

If not heading into Biloela, turn left onto the Burnett Highway just outside of town. Follow to Jambin, approximately 30 km / 25 min and continue through an additional 33 km until you reach Dixalea-Deeford Road.

Turn left onto Dixalea-Deeford Road and you'll notice a historically significant site on the right, a large stone and dedication to the pioneers of Dixalea. Follow approximately 7 km before crossing over the Dee River. The road follows a right hand bend and then left until it meets an intersection with Dee River Road. Turn left onto Dee River Road and continue into Wowan.

Wowan is home to a beautiful and very intriguing Museum. Open by appointment. Contact Fred on 0421 577 273.

WOWAN TO RANNES

Continue along the Leichhardt Way 24 km to Rannes. Rannes does not have a town signpost as it is considered a locality, rather than a town. While it may now be small, it was once a major railway town that once housed the Shire Office.

Approximately 870 m before the Goovigen-Rannes Road turn-off is a dirt road off the right hand side of the Leichhardt Way. This road is suitable for 4WD vehicles only. If you follow the road for a short distance, you will arrive at the bank of the Don River. A great spot to throw in a line.

Continue south along the Leichhardt Way 200 m and you'll see a stone monument on the left hand side of the road. You'll have to look carefully to spot it as it is only small. The monument commemorates the first settlement in the Dawson Valley.

Continue driving a few kilometres then turn right onto the Baralaba Rannes Road and follow for 34 km back to Baralaba.

The Baralaba Hotel in Stopford Street is a great little spot to grab a meal or cold drink to finish the day. The hotel was built in 1927, however, the oldest building in Baralaba is located at the Historical Village and was built in 1911. The village is open by appointment so you'll need to book ahead - phone 4998 1163 or 4998 1351.

BILOELA BEAUTIES



QUEENSLAND HERITAGE PARK - 2 KM

Queensland Heritage Park is the home of local history. You can easily spend a couple of hours wandering through fascinating historic displays and heritage buildings. Scattered around the grounds is a collection of vintage machinery that will both amaze and amuse you. When you're done, take time to absorb all you've seen and learned over a hot cuppa at the Post and Rail Café. You will also find a fantastic array of Visitor information on the sites to see across the area.

- Start from the Woolworths car park, Kariboe Street. Drive 100 m along Kariboe Street and turn left at the traffic lights onto Dawson Highway.
- Travel 1.3 km then turn right into Exhibition Avenue and follow for 200 m. Turn left into the Queensland Heritage Park.

SPIRIT OF THE LAND MURAL - 4.4 KM

The stories of two women and their cultural histories, from prehistory to recent times, are intertwined and retold through the Spirit of the Land Mural. Wrapped around a water reservoir, the 100 m piece captures and puts into context the evolution of nature, culture and humanity.

- From Queensland Heritage Park, turn right onto Exhibition Avenue.
- At the end of the road, turn left onto the Dawson Highway.
- Follow for 1.3 km. If you have kids on board, turn left onto Grevillea St. Melton Park is 200 m along on your right. A great diversion, the play equipment will keep little tykes entertained for hours.
- Back on the Highway travel another 700 m and turn left onto State Farm Road.
- Drive for 300 m and you'll find the 'Spirit of the Land Mural' on your left.

GREYCLIFFE HOMESTEAD - 500 M

Built in the 1860's from materials found on Greycliffe Station, generations of the Nott family lived in the homestead for 100 years. A truly remarkable example of typical pioneer family life, the homestead and its out buildings have seen little change since those early days.

- Head back to the highway and cross the intersection, onto Lawrence St. Greycliffe Homestead is on the corner of Dawson Highway and Lawrence St. The property is now used as headquarters for the local historical society and is open to the public by appointment. Contact the Visitor Information Centre for assistance P: (07) 4992 2405.
- From the Dawson Highway, as you head out of town towards the Callide Dam scenic lookout, you'll find Lions Park on the left.

CALLIDE DAM AND CALLIDE MINE SCENIC LOOKOUT - 17 KM (20 MINS)

**The section of this to the lookout is unsealed road and not suitable for caravans.*

A number of fantastic vantage points along Ian Macauley Way, to the Callide Dam and surrounds lookout, exemplifies the region's industries and resources. The all-important harvested water that supplies agriculture and mining that together drive the region's wealth and growth.

- Follow the Dawson Highway from Biloela to Biloela-Callide Road and turn right.
- Turn left onto Ian Macauley Way (approx. 12 km), immediately after crossing the grid.
- About half way up the hill you'll find the lookout on the right, with views over the dam and parts of the power station.

OLD RAINBOW HOTEL HISTORICAL SITE - 14 KM

The Rainbow Hotel was the largest of three hotels built on the main thoroughfare between Gladstone and Kroombit Station. Built in the early 1850's, the hotel closed in 1902. A sad story, O'Reilly, the owner, had fenced off a small area close to the pub intended for the family plot. However, after his unexpected death, O'Reilly was buried in Gladstone; his wife and son later laid to rest in the twin graves on the site.

- Come back down Ian Macauley Way from the Lookout and turn left onto the Biloela-Callide Road, which now becomes Coal Road.
- Turn left onto Coal Road and travel 14 km. Just past Zangaris Road (on the right) you'll see two boulders mounted one on top of the other, marking the Old Rainbow Hotel site. A plaque explains the history of the hotel and surrounds.

**Note: this is Private Property and for those wanting to explore further, a courtesy visit to the property owner is warranted.*

CALLIDE DAM - 20 KM

- Do a U-turn and head back along Coal Road towards Biloela for 18 km. Turn left at the Callide Dam sign.
- Cross Callide Creek and turn left onto Lake Callide Drive. About 1.5 km along you'll come to the picnic and recreation grounds where you can enjoy a barbecue lunch at one of the sheltered barbecue areas, lapping up the water views.

DEFENCE ROAD CRACOW LOOP



147 KM

The past lives large on this trail with wonderful markers and reminders along the way that capture the region's history from the earliest years of settlement through to today. Both surprising and fun, you'll travel near Banana Shire's largest cattle station; see one of Queensland's oldest race courses, visit ghost towns and cross bridges steeped in war history.

Start at the Theodore Post Office on The Boulevard.

CAMBOON AND HISTORIC BRIDGES

- Travel north along Leichhardt Way for 6 km and turn right onto Castle Creek Road..
- Drive 12.5 km until you reach a T-intersection. Turn right onto Defence Road.
- Travel 30 km down the Defence Road, where along the way you will see four historic stone bridges. These bridges were built by hand in the 1940's by Prisoners of War in mobile internment camps.
- Boam Creek Bridge
- Bridge 2
- Bridge 3
- Oxtrack Creek Bridge
- At the end of the 30 km run, turn left onto the Crowsdale-Camboon Road and drive 1.5 km to the junction.
- Turn right at the 'Hall' sign and drive a further 2 km until you reach the Camboon Campdraft Grounds. The old Camboon School of Arts Hall and bar are well worth a look.

Note: you will cross a grid and go through gates - please close the gates behind you.

CRACOW AND CRACOW PUB

- Head back to the Defence Road.
- Turn left and continue south along the Defence Road for 33 km.
- Turn right onto Eidsvold-Theodore Road.
- Continue 13.25 km and turn left to the Cracow Cemetery – this is a must see.
- Continue along Eidsvold-Theodore Road for 1.75 km to the Cracow Pub. The Pub is legendary and owned by Fred Brophy, it is a hoot to visit and offers the chance to stop for a drink, have a chat with the locals and enjoy a pub meal. The hotel has a resident ghost that haunts the hallways and on occasions has been spotted among the memorabilia that lines the pub walls.
- Take a walk along the main street and delight at the abandoned buildings from yesteryear.
- Head up the hill past the pub to the Gold Mining Museum and feel the mining history of the town.

THEODORE

- Continue along the Eidsvold-Theodore Road for 18.5 km and just over the bridge, turn left onto Isla Delusion Road.
- About 1.9 km along turn left onto a track and follow it to the junction of Delusion Creek and the Dawson River, (mark it in your diary as a future camping and fishing spot. *The track to Cracow Beach is black soil composite - good 4WD ok, NO caravans/campers in wet weather.*
- Head back to the Eidsvold-Theodore Road and continue 41 km north-west and you'll pass the Theodore Airport on your right.
- Continue a further 7 km to return to Theodore.

GLENMORAL DRIVE



76 KM

The stations that lie among the gorges, gullies, plains and ranges of Banana Shire's rich cattle country stretch out from fence lines along the roadside or from higher ground, span across grand vistas as you peer on the valleys below. This is Queensland country.

From Theodore Post Office

- Head south out of town turn left at the Leichhardt Way and cross the Dawson River.
- Travel 9 km towards Taroom and turn right at Glenmoral Roundstone Road. Continue along Glenmoral Roundstone Road for about 6 km. The views of Glenmoral Range and dam are amazing and definitely worth stopping for. Grab your camera while you're at it.
- 4 km the entrance to Glenmoral Gorge is marked by a grid. Cross the grid and turn right at Sawmill Road.
- Follow Sawmill Road for about 3.5 km and turn left at Beckers Road. The views are spectacular and from this point you can get some fantastic photos over the gorge.
- Travel another 2 km where Beckers Road traces the boundary of Dawsonette Station on left. You are travelling parallel to Glenmoral Range.
- Things are about to get hilly so be prepared for blind hills over the next 6 km.

DAWSON VALLEY VIEWS

- On your right you'll find Cliffdale Station and after the next blind hill Burnside Station follows, also on the right. With gorgeous views over Dawson Valley continue travelling along Beckers Road.
- About 3 km on you'll strike Glen Robbie Station on right. From here you'll also have views of Dawson Mine on right.
- Continue for 6 km and Dianne Downs Station is on the left. This is a renowned Droughtmaster Cattle Stud. It's worth noting the mobile phone coverage is good at this point.
- Follow the road and just on 4 km you'll cross a grid. Soon after turn right at Burnside-McLennans Road and continue for another 4 km to Lyndamere Station on the left.

NUNN'S CROSSING

- A short distance will bring you to Nunns Crossing on the Dawson River. With the calming sound of running water and surrounding forests of tea trees, this is an ideal place for a picnic lunch or afternoon tea break and quick dip if the weather is warm.
- Refreshed and back on the road you'll pass a good stand of Bauhinia trees before a sharp bend in the road.
- Continue on for about 2 km and note the Leucaena crop on right. Leucaena is a tree legume introduced from Mexico in 1800's to boost beef production. It is widely used as stock fodder and a substitute for hay.
- In reasonably quick succession, about 2.5 km, the next stations include Woodleigh Station on left (also note Dawson Mine), 2 km on Kucks Farm and then a short distance again and also on your left Ulambie Station.
- At Theodore-Moura Road Junction continue straight ahead. Dawson Mine is to your left. Follow the road for almost 4 km, continue past the old Lonesome Saleyards on right and the turnoff to Malakoff Range.

LONESOME CREEK BRIDGE

- Continue straight ahead to Lonesome Creek Bridge. This spot is beautiful when the summer warmth shrouds the surface with water lilies.
- A little more than 4 km on you'll come to the Leichhardt Way junction. Turn right to Theodore.
- You'll travel by the old Dawson Park Race Track on the right and continue past the old Cheese Factory and Leichhardt Way also on your right.
- Arrive back at Theodore Post Office.

HISTORIC FLAGSTAFF RD



Not suitable for caravans. Drive carefully on the dirt road. Do not attempt in the wet.

FROM THEODORE 150 KM LOOP (APPROX.)

The roads along this drive trail are loose surface and include some gradient near the Flagstaff Section of Isla Gorge National Park. If you're a 4WD enthusiast expect some serious WOW moments! You'll love this path less travelled with its spectacular panoramic views over the Isla Gorge and of Isla Range.

Start from Theodore.

- Drive south along the Leichhardt Way towards Taroom.
- Continue about 8 km and turn right onto Glenmoral Roundstone Road.
- Travel through the Glenmoral Range, picturesque grazing, state forest and national park country, with great panoramic views.
- About 13 km along, turn left at Glenbar Road.
- Drive 4 km and turn right onto Flagstaff Road. Prepare to stop for some fabulous photo opportunities of Isla Range.
- On approaching the top of the range (9 km), slow down or you will miss the turn off to the Historic Flagged Road. Cross the grid into the 'Isla Gorge Reserve' and immediately turn right (over another grid) to enter the carpark area, which is a short distance of 1.6 km. Grab your camera and wander the 200 m from the carpark to the historic flagged road.
- Take the time to read the tremendous feat of the men who built the road and how it still serves to prevent soil erosion to this day.
- Also check out the lookout for spectacular views of the valley and ranges. This is a good spot to have a picnic.
- Return to Flagstaff Road and turn right.
- Follow for about 47 km (stay on the Flagstaff-Waterton Road) until you reach the Leichhardt Way.
- Turn left onto Leichhardt Way and head to the Isla Gorge lookout to take in the spectacular sandstone formations.
- Head back to the Leichhardt Way, turn right and head to Taroom, taking in Chain Lagoons if you have time, or straight to Taroom for an overnighter and relish in the early history of the town.
- OR, turn left and head back to Theodore.

FROM TAROOM 150 KM LOOP (APPROX.)

- Drive north along the Leichhardt Way.
- Watch out for Chain Lagoons on your right a short distance out from Taroom - this is a beautiful spot if the lagoons have had recent rains.
- Continue north along the Leichhardt Way past the Fitzroy Developmental Road for a distance until you see a turnoff to the left for Waterton Road.
- Turn left at Waterton Road and continue for quite a distance (about 47 km) until you see Flagstaff Road off to your right.
- The scenery in this space is spectacular, so take your time and revel in it.
- You will see a sign off to the left identifying Flagstaff Picnic Area.
- Turn left and follow it to the car park/picnic area.
- From here you can walk the historic handlaid Flagstone Road and revel in the view from the lookout across the valley and ranges. This is a great spot for a picnic.
- Head back to Flagstaff Road and turn left.
- At the bottom of the range you will turn left at Glenbar Road.
- After 4 km, you turn right onto Glenmoral Roundstone Road.
- Follow this for about 13 km until you reach the Leichhardt Way.
- Turn right onto the Leichhardt Way and head towards the Isla Gorge National Park.
- At the top of the range, turn right at the entrance and travel to the parking and camping area. It is a short but very rewarding walk to the lookout, where you will see fantastic sandstone outcrops and cliffs all the way into the distance.
- Drive back towards the Leichhardt Way and turn left to head off to Theodore, or turn right and head back to Taroom.

ISLA DELUSION



81 KMS

The Isla Delusion trail takes you to the magnificent heights and sights and of the Sandstone Wonders, then plunges you into the heart of the River Country, where palm forests line the banks of Dawson River, as they have done for millions of years.

Start at Theodore Post Office

- Head out of town and turn left onto the Leichhardt Way
- Cross over the Dawson River and continue along the highway for about 10 km, where you'll see Mt O'Kanagal on the left - off in the distance. Get the camera out because on a clear day, the mountain looks amazing.
- Continue on for another 9 km and Isla Gorge lies directly ahead.
- You'll pass the Isla Delusion Road on the left - take note because you'll be coming back to it after taking in the sights of Isla Gorge.
- Continue along the Leichhardt Way for about 11 km. You'll notice you travelling along the edge of the Isla Gorge National Park.
- Continue on and prepare to SLOW DOWN.
- Turn right at the Isla Gorge Lookout proceed 1.3 km to the lookout.

ISLA GORGE PICNIC AREA AND LOOKOUT

The facilities are ideal for a relaxing picnic lunch and it's only a short and easy 100 m walk to the Gorge Lookout. From the platform you take in sweeping views of the valley, which is characteristically peppered with the rugged ranges and steep plateaus of the Sandstone Wonders. Take photos and take your time to enjoy being on the 'roof of Queensland'.

RIVER COUNTRY

Return to Leichhardt Way and turn left.

- Travel 13 km and turn right onto the Isla-Delusion Road.
- 4.7 km along the road you'll come to Dukes Plains Rd on right continue on for another 7 km and you enter the River Country.
- Drive carefully. You'll come to a sharp bend in the left. Do not enter Birchley's Road on the right as it is a dead end.

CRACOW BEACH

- Continue on for a short distance once through the river crossing and SLOW DOWN so you don't miss the Cracow Beach dirt turnoff on the right. This road is a black soil composite and suitable for caravans or campers ONLY in dry weather. Good 4WD are ok in light wet. This turnoff is not signed but leads to one of the region's great fishing spots and camping areas, where Livistonia Palms cluster along the river bank and Yellow Palm Dart butterflies seem to magically appear from the thickets as water monitors cruise the river surface in search of a feed.
- Head back to Isla Delusion Road and continue along to Eidsvold-Theodore Road.
- Travel across the grid and turn left to Theodore.
- As you travel, about 6 km ahead on the left you'll see a Lone Palm standing tall in a paddock. This palm marks the 1956 the flood level.
- A further 6 km along will reveal Mount Ox to the right and to the left, fabulous views of the mountain ranges and Dawson River.
- Travel 13 km and close to Theodore, you'll notice the black soil river flats, so common to the area. The black soil was favoured by the many Russian immigrants who moved to the region following WWII, as it reminded them of the farmlands they had left behind.
- Continue on for another 4 km back to Theodore Post Office.

MAGICAL MOUNTAINS



THANGOOL TO MOUNT SCORIA 6.5 KM (8 MINS)

Known as the 'Musical Mountain', the rocks found at Mount Scoria are uniquely formed, multisided pillars, naturally formed from the cooling effects of an ancient volcano. The rocks resonate when they are struck, making a humming sound.

- Start at the old Hotel Thangool in Ramsay St, opposite the BP Service Station.
- Turn left into Winston Street and drive 1.5 km. Be careful crossing the narrow one-way bridge just before the race track.
- Turn left onto Thangool-Lookerbie Road and follow for about 5 km.
- After you cross Grevillea Creek, turn right into Mount Scoria.
- Take a short cultural interpretative walk along the track at the base of the mountain and discover its significance to the Gangulu people. Have a picnic lunch at the grounds, while you spot native birds and animals in the surrounding bushland.

MOUNT SCORIA TO KROOMBIT TOPS NATIONAL PARK ENTRANCE AND LOCHENBAR STATION 45 KM (40 MINS)

- From Mount Scoria, head back the way you came to Thangool (note: Winston Street is called Aerodrome Rd when turning right off Thangool-Lookerbie Road to cross over the narrow bridge).
- Once you reach the BP Service station (on your left), turn left onto Burnett Highway and drive for 7.2 km towards Biloela.
- Just after crossing Kroombit Creek, turn right onto Van Itallies Road.
- Travel 1.4 km and turn right onto Valentine Plains Road.
- Approximately 22 km along the road, the surface changes to gravel.
- Continue a further 2 km to Kroombit Dam on your left. About 300 m after you pass through Kroombit Creek, you'll see a turn off on the left that leads to Kroombit Dam Lookout. It is definitely worth the short drive.
- Back on Valentine Plains Road continue along for another 2.7 km, pass over another grid and veer right onto Alcocks Road.
- Follow Alcocks Road for 1.7 km and you'll pass over another grid. Veer right onto Kroombit Station Road and follow to Lochenbar Station.
- **If you do not have a high clearance 4WD – DO NOT VENTURE ANY FURTHER – head back to Biloela. DO NOT ATTEMPT RAZORBACK WITH A CAMPER TRAILER OR FOLLOWING WET WEATHER**

LOCHENBAR STATION TO KROOMBIT TOPS - (4 HOURS)

- If you're in a high clearance 4WD, follow the track further on to Kroombit Tops. This track is known as "Razorback" and has some testing uphill and rocky sections. Choose your path before each section. Some sections will require Low Range 4WD with Lockers on. There are some gates along the way - please close them after entry.
- The track will offer up some unbelievable natural scenery, so take your time and enjoy.
- Once you are through Razorback, the park is very well signed, so take advantage of the natural and historical sites, such as:
 - Beautiful Betsy Bomber Crash Site
 - The Wall
 - Kroombit Tops Lookout - this offers up spectacular views.
- The park has some great picnic and camping sites. Camping permits are available through National Parks website, so if you are planning an overnight, get your permit before you go (phone reception points are available throughout the park, but reception is patchy).

KROOMBIT TOPS TO BILOELA VIA DAWSON HIGHWAY 170 KM (120 MINS)

- Continue through Kroombit National Park and meet up with Tableland Road (follow the sign to Biloela).
- Follow Tableland Road and enjoy the creeks and scenery towards Gladstone-Monto Road.
- At Gladstone-Monto Road, turn left.
- Follow the signs towards the Dawson Highway.
- At the Dawson Highway, turn left and head back to Biloela.

MALAKOFF LOOKOUT LOOP



DRY WEATHER ONLY SCENIC DRIVE 25.35 KM (ALLOW 1-2 HOURS DEPENDING ON STOPS)

- Start outside the Theodore Post Office.
- Head north along The Boulevard and turn left onto Eighth Avenue, then right onto Dawson Avenue.
- Cross the Leichhardt Way to Malakoff Road, keeping the Theodore Showgrounds and water treatment plant on your right.
- Continue along Malakoff Road approximately 1 km before coming to Lonesome Creek. Take caution on the approach and exit to Lonesome Creek.
- Follow Malakoff Road approximately 1 km and follow it around a right-hand bend.
- Another 3.3 km along Malakoff Road you will come to a small pull-off area on your right at Malakoff Lookout. Grab the camera and enjoy the view. Why not pack a picnic to enjoy while you're here.
- On the approach to the Theodore-Moura Road intersection, you will see the old Lonesome Creek Saleyards on your left.
- Turn right onto Theodore-Moura Road, follow for about 200 m and then turn left onto the dirt track just before the bridge. Follow the short track down to the Creekside. There are photographic opportunities here at the waterhole and old bridge.
- Return to the main road and turn left, continuing back to Theodore.
- Turn right at the Leichhardt Way intersection and follow back into Theodore.

MT RAMSAY & BARALABA LOOP

130 KM LOOP (APPROX)

- This scenic drive commences at Banana and showcases the small town of Baralaba, on the banks of the Dawson River.
- The Gangulu people depended on the river and roamed its valley for thousands of years with European influences beginning with the exploration of Ludwig Leichhardt and his party'.
- Today the Dawson and its land is a very important part of modern Baralaba both for agriculture and mining.
- To make the most of your journey, pack a picnic lunch or bbq and be sure to visit the Historical Village (by appointment only, phone 07 4998 1163 or 07 4998 1351).
- The roads along this drive trail are sealed and suitable for all vehicle types. Mobile phone reception is available along the length of the drive, though it can be inconsistent at times. Mobile phone reception in the town of Baralaba is good.

COMMENCE AT BANANA

- Commence at the Banana Service Station (47 km / 32 minutes West of Biloela).
- Turn left out of the Service Station driveway and travel North along the Leichhardt Way (A5) for 600 m.
- Turn left onto Baralaba Banana Road and travel approximately 34 km. On your right you will see Mount Ramsay.
- Continue along the Baralaba-Banana Road a further 14 km until you come to a 'T' intersection.

Continued on next page.

MT RAMSAY & BARALABA LOOP CONTINUED



Continued from previous page.

BARALABA

- At the T intersection, turn left onto Baralaba-Rannes Road and travel 1.5 km. As you drive, you will see the Baralaba Showgrounds and Tennis Centre on your left.
- Turn right into Mimosa Street and travel 350 m.
- Turn left into Benleith Street. The road then turns left into Wooroonah Street. Here you will find the Historical Village on your right. The heritage houses and sheds are filled with memorabilia, offering visitors an insightful passage back in time. Be sure to book ahead, as the Village opens by appointment only.
- Continue down Wooroonah Street, away from the Historical Village then turn right into Dunstan Street. 200 m down Dunstan Street, you will come to an intersection with the Baralaba Hotel on your left (a great place for lunch if you haven't brought a picnic/bbq with you). Turn left at the Hotel onto Stopford Street.
- As you drive along Stopford Street, you will pass the RSL on your left and the new Hospital/medical centre on your right.
- Approximately 500 m from the Baralaba Hotel, turn right at the T intersection and follow the signs left to Neville Hewitt Weir Picnic Area along Bedford Street, approximately 400 m drive. This is a day use and camping area.
- Here you can relax by the Dawson River, have a picnic or bbq. Try a spot of boating or fishing, sometimes the locals are out water skiing which makes for a great spectacle. Each year around September, there is a fishing competition called the Baralaba Saratoga Classic. There is a large field for the kids to run around and have a game of football or cricket. Facilities include drinking water, flushing toilets and showers.
- When you leave the Neville Hewitt Weir Picnic Area, continue right onto along Bedford Street and cross over the old railway line. Immediately turn right into Woollers Road to find the Cemetery 200 m on your left. This small cemetery makes for an interesting stop over.
- Make a U Turn, proceed back to Wooroonah Road and turn right. The showgrounds will be on your left and paid camping is available. Just past the showgrounds you will find a caravan waste point that anyone can use.
- After 700 m you will come to another T intersection, turn right onto the Baralaba-Rannes Road and travel 19 km to Kokotungo. Kokotungo used to be a town in its own right with Railway siding, Post Office, Community Hall, school and shops. Nothing much remains of the town now but the site is marked by a single house on the Baralaba-Rannes Road.
- Proceed through Kokotungo a further 14 km until you reach the T intersection at the Leichhardt Highway (A5).

TO RETURN TO BANANA (45 KM / 30 MINUTES)

- Turn right onto the Leichhardt Highway (A5) and travel 45 km into Banana.

TO TRAVEL TO BILOELA (62 KM / 42 MINUTES)

This is the most picturesque and shortest route to Biloeila.

- Turn left onto the Leichhardt Highway (A5) and travel 3.1 km.
- Turn right onto Goovigen-Rannes Road and travel 19 km. There is a T intersection on this road, turn right here.
- Turn right onto Stanley Street and travel 210 m.
- Turn left at the Goovigen Hotel onto Jambin-Goovigen Road and travel 11 km, following Jambin Goovigen-Road to the Burnett Highway.
- Turn right onto Burnett Highway (A3) and travel 27 km.
- Turn left onto Burnett Highway / Dawson Highway (A3) and travel into Biloeila approximately 2 km.

RURAL VILLAGES



163 KM 2.5 HOURS, ALLOW TIME FOR DIVERSIONS

Slow down at creek crossings. Don't enter flood waters. Don't drink and drive.

A terrific way to experience country life, the rural villages to the north of the shire may seem small but they are the big heart of their community.

As you go, it's exciting to travel over creeks and river crossings and discover spots that look as if you were the first to find them. When you call into any one of the country pubs, a good old yarn with someone you've never met before will probably result in having a laugh, and parting as old friends. And you'll think about that great steak, washed down with a cold ale or two, for ages afterwards, each time reminding you it's the simple pleasures that make life grand - while you're at it, check out the phone number for Golden Park Retreat (in Goovigen) as this really is a gem. You have to call, but an organised visit could see you scoffing on some damper and sipping billy tea (Maree and Robert will see to that).

BILOELA TO JAMBIN - 28 KM

From Biloela

- Head north on the Burnett Highway for 28 km until you reach Jambin. The Jambin Hotel is on the highway.
- Local events at the Jambin Recreation Reserve on the Burnett Highway
 - Last weekend in May, the Champagne Campdraft
 - Weekends are a chance to take to the skies with a scenic glider flight, visit www.cqgliding.org.au
- Spots of interest
 - Monument to early cotton pioneers, 32 km north at the Dixalea-Deeford Road
 - Don River crossing, 22 km north along the highway
 - Jambin Cemetery

JAMBIN TO DULULU - 44.5 KM

Travel north along the Burnett Highway to the junction of the Leichhardt Way and the town of Dululu. The Dululu pub is a famous watering hole for its steaks and heritage ambience. However, restorations to the inside are underway after fire damage in 2015. It's worth swinging past - you might find the pub re-opened. The village has a travellers' rest area and the Dee River meanders along the outskirts of the town. Dululu is the centre of rural farming in the area, including stud cattle, horses, pigs, squab, agriculture, lucerne, grains, eggs, flowers and citrus orchards. Between April and October, a short drive east (2 km) along Mt Morgan Road the local orchard sells the freshest citrus fruit you'll ever find.

DULULU TO WOWAN - 10 KM

From Dululu join the Leichhardt Way and travel south-west to Wowan. Wowan Commercial Hotel is located right next to the Leichhardt Way. Perched on the bank of Pocket Creek, Wowan is rich with native flora and fauna. Take the time to drive around the village. There's some wonderful examples of the well-maintained old weatherboard buildings. Drop into the Wowan Museum, it's a little gem full of local history.

WOWAN TO GOOVIGEN - 39 KM

- Continue a further 24 km south along the Leichardt Way and turn left at Goovigen-Rannes Road. Follow the road through the rural landscapes for 19 km until you reach Goovigen. As you enter this village, nestled amongst numerous agricultural properties, you'll find Engel Homestead and the recently restored Percy Schluter Memorial Historic School of Arts building - now a home for local history, both open to the public by calling 4996 5146.
- At the 'T' junction turn right into Goovigen. A few hundred metres along on your left, you'll find the Goovigen Royal Hotel. Pop in and see John, enjoy a meal and check out their camping site across the road.

GOOVIGEN TO BILOELA - 38 KM

- Turn left onto the Jambin-Goovigen Road next to the Goovigen Hotel and head 10 km south to Jambin.
- Turn right onto the Burnett Highway and continue 28 km south to Biloela.

ROCKHAMPTON TO EMERALD VIA THE SANDSTONE WONDERS



500KM

ROCKHAMPTON TO MOUNT MORGAN 38KM | 40MIN

Australia's Beef Capital, Rockhampton, lies on the banks of the Fitzroy River. Look out for the bull statues situated throughout the city celebrating the breeds grown in the area. The city was built on wealth from colonial pastures and gold mines. That wealth is reflected in the colonial buildings along Quay Street – one of Queensland's finest heritage precincts, crowned by the sandstone and copper dome of the Customs House. The Leichhardt Way winds its way from Rockhampton to Mount Morgan set in the pretty Dee Ranges. Once the largest and richest single gold mine in the world, Mount Morgan, is one of Queensland's historical gems and is only 38 km from Rockhampton. To discover Mount Morgan's treasures, visit the Mount Morgan Visitor Information Centre where locals will share their knowledge of their town and where to stay in a number of accommodation options.

MOUNT MORGAN TO JAMBIN 87KM | 1HR 6MIN

The northernmost town in the Sandstone Wonders, Dululu is a junction point that is a launching pad to the Sandstone Wonders and perfect place to stop, rest and make your touring plans. The 'rest area' located near the tennis courts and public toilets has a sheltered BBQ and picnic area. Behind the courts, overnight facilities, such as power and hot showers, are available for a nominal charge.

Head south on the Burnett Highway until you reach Jambin. The Jambin Hotel is on the highway. Weekends are a chance to take to the skies with a scenic glider flight. Local events at the Jambin Recreation Reserve are listed on our website.

JAMBIN TO BILOELA 30KM | 25MIN

Biloela still retains that relaxed, country feeling. The Queensland Heritage Park and Spirit of the Land Mural pay homage to the men, women and machinery that over generations, have created a legacy of prosperity. The heritage listed Greycliffe Homestead can be found on the outskirts of town. The wide verandah and quaint interior have changed little since they were first conceived. Further out, Kilburnie Homestead still operates as a working concern, with descendants of the Campbell family continuing to make their mark. In a typical show of country hospitality, for four months each year, Kilburnie celebrates its long unbroken history, throwing the doors open for fun weekends of music and nostalgia. Many festivals and events cram the annual calendar. Callide Dam – located 12km east of Biloela, a popular spot for fisherman and families. The dam is well stocked with red claw, barramundi and more and the recreation area offers families a great spot for a BBQ lunch with new amenities and a playground for the kids. Cabins and a camping area provide restful accommodation for those wanting to stay longer.

BILOELA TO MOURA 66KM | 45MIN

Banana, on the junction of the Leichhardt and Dawson Highways, 46 km west of Biloela is strangely no home to plantations of the well-known yellow fruit, instead, the town and the shire owe their name to a much-revered bullock, Banana.

Moura is a central point and vibrant community for the people who serve its local industries – the farmers, growers and miners and their families that help to make Queensland great. Lying in the heart of the Dawson Valley, not far from the Dawson River, its parklands and public facilities, festivals and events, river fishing and water sports attract thousands of visitors each year.

While in Moura visit the Water Tower Memorial, Miners Memorial and the Coal & Country Museum.

MOURA TO ROLLESTON 149KM | 1HR 30MIN

Apex River Park, on the Dawson River is 7.5 km from Moura on the Dawson Highway. The park is a hub for the community and a focal point for annual events such as the Muddy Water Family Fishing Classic. For those who are after free camping facilities, the park has plenty of sites, a boat ramp and amenities.

ROCKHAMPTON TO EMERALD VIA THE SANDSTONE WONDERS



Rolleston, 149 km from Moura along the Dawson Highway, is in the southeast of Queensland's Central Highlands and is the nearest town to the world-renowned Carnarvon Gorge and Carnarvon National Park. Boasting a diverse pastoral history, the township of Rolleston is also famous for the notorious Patrick and James Kenniff – Queensland's last legendary bushrangers.

Today Rolleston lies in the centre of a rich, resourceful and productive valley, bordered by the sandstone cliffs that follow the edges of the Carnarvon, Expedition and Shotover Ranges.

ROLLESTON TO SPRINGSURE 71.6KM | 54MIN

Situated in a delightful valley with spectacular Mount Zamia and Virgin Rock overlooking the town, Springsure is located 66 kilometres south of Emerald on the Gregory Highway section of the Great Inland Way. If you hadn't already guessed, the town was given its name thanks to the springs located in the creek and gullies at the time of settlement. The Visitor Information Centre at the Federation Woolshed in Rich Memorial Park is a good place to begin your stay. The heritage listed Hospital and museum contain many interesting relics.

SPRINGSURE TO EMERALD 67.5KM | 45MIN

En route northwards to Emerald take the opportunity to turn off the highway and visit Fairburn Dam and Lake Maraboon. The lake is stocked with eight different species of fish including barramundi, saratoga, perch, bass and delicious red claw crayfish. Go boating, swimming or just relax at the picnic tables under the shade. If you'd like to spend some time here there's a caravan park, cabins and camping area. Lake Maraboon is Queensland's second largest lake and at peak capacity holds five times the capacity of Sydney Harbour.

Emerald is situated on the intersection of the Capricorn Way and the Gregory Highway section of the Great Inland Way. It is the regional centre and thriving hub for many government facilities including council, education, health and industries including mining, beef cattle, cotton, cropping, sunflowers, citrus, gemstones and tourism. The Botanic Gardens on the banks of the Nogoa River are a must see. The 42 hectares of garden are on both sides of the river and include a rose garden, maze, wedding chapel, sculptures, rainforest and 6 km of walking tracks. Check out the 'big sunflower', building on its reputation as a major sunflower producer Emerald is home to the world's biggest Van Gogh sunflower painting on an easel in Morton Park.

SCENIC WAY

75 KM LOOP

Much like the Dawson Valley, Banana Shire's Callide Valley provides rich coal resources and vital power supplies to Queensland. The Callide Coalfields and Power Station sit side by side- their infrastructure an imposing site against the scenic backdrop of Rainbow Range and in the foreground, the sparkling waters of Lake Callide.

Start from Biloela.

- Travel 34km north-east towards Gladstone along the Dawson Highway.
- Turn right onto Coal Road. Here, you will find spectacular panoramic views of Rainbow Range through to Kroombit Tops National Park and in the foreground, Callide Power Station.
- Travel 24km along Coal Road, turn right onto Ian McCauley Road (not suitable for caravans) and follow the road half way up the hill to the lookout for great views of the Callide Dam and surrounds.
- Do a u-turn and head back to Coal Road, turn right and cross the grid onto Biloela-Callide Road. The Power Station viewing area is located 2.3 km further along at the entrance to Callide B (on your right).
- The Lake Callide Recreation Area turnoff is 2 km further on your left across Callide Creek and left again onto Calvale Road. Continue along Calvale Road 1.3 km to the recreation area. The lake is famous for its big barramundi, redclaw and freshwater cray. However, before you drop a line, you'll first need a Stocked Impoundment Permit from the Queensland Government <https://www.smartservice.qld.gov.au/services/permits/fishing/apply>.
- To return to Biloela, head back to the Biloela-Callide Road, turn left and drive 7.5 km to the Dawson Highway, turn left and head directly to Biloela.



SHIRE HISTORICAL TRAIL



The Banana Shire is littered with Historical features and experiences for you to enjoy. From Museums and Homestead's to Historical Villages and the Cracow Pub, you don't want to miss a thing! Camping spots are available in all the overnight stay locations. For more information on these refer to the Sandstone Wonders Tourist Guide (pages 17-22) or our website www.sandstonewonders.com/camping.

DAY ONE - WOWAN, GOOVIGEN & BILOELA (82 KM/1.5HRS)

Start at the Wowan Museum. Open Mon-Thurs, 9.00am-1.00pm. Spend an hour or two looking through the old relics. There is a lot to see.

Travel south along the Leichhardt Way approximately 24 km and turn left onto Goovigen-Rannes Road. Follow Goovigen-Rannes Road 19 km and you will arrive at the Percy Schluter Memorial School of Arts Hall and Engel Homestead, on the outskirts of Goovigen. Open by appointment only, phone ahead and speak to Gwen on (07) 4996 5146, or pop into the house next to the Church.

Continue 150 m and turn right onto Stanley Street and left onto Goovigen Jambin Road (just after the pub). Continue 10 km and via left at the intersection with Mercers Road. Approximately 1 km further you will meet the Burnett Highway. Turn right and continue to Biloea.

As soon as you arrive in Biloea, turn left onto Exhibition Avenue and 200 m along you will arrive at the Queensland Heritage Park on your left. There are a few historical points of interest to see while in Biloea. These include the Spirit of the Land Mural, Queensland Heritage Park and Greycliffe Homestead.

- Queensland Heritage Park is open from 9.00am-4.00pm daily
- Spirit of the Land Mural on State Farm Road is accessible 24/7
- Greycliffe Homestead is open by appointment only and located at 48 Gladstone Road. Phone (07)4992 1862.

DAY TWO - BARALABA, MOURA & THEODORE (200 KM/2.5HRS)

From Biloea, travel west along the Dawson Highway to Banana. Turn right when you meet the Leichhardt Way. Follow for 500 m before heading left onto the Baralaba-Banana Road. Continue 48 km until you reach an intersection with Baralaba-Rannes Road and turn left.

Follow into Baralaba and turn right onto Wooroonah St. Follow to the Historical Village. The Historical Village opens by appointment only so you will need to book ahead. Phone (07) 4998 1163 or (07) 4998 1351.

Follow Wooroonah St around to Mimosa St and then left onto Baralaba-Rannes Road. Follow 1.5 km and turn right onto the Moura-Baralaba Rd. Continue to follow Moura-Baralaba Rd turning right after 14 km and left a further 3.7 km along. Follow 30 km to Dawson Highway.

Turn right onto Dawson Highway and head to Moura. Turn left into Gillespie Street as you enter the Moura CBD and the Moura Coal and Country Museum will be on your left. The Museum is open Wednesdays and Saturdays (Easter - October) by appointment.

From here follow Gillespie St to the end and turn left over the old railway line and then right onto the Theodore-Moura Road. Turn right and follow approximately 40 km until you reach the Leichhardt Way. Turn right onto the highway and follow into Theodore.

Upon arriving in Theodore, follow 'The Boulevard' through town and turn right at Second Avenue. Follow to the end and turn right again. On your left you will find the DawsonFolk Museum, housed in an old power house. The Museum is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am- 12 noon.

Continued on next page.

SHIRE HISTORICAL TRAIL



Continued from previous page.

DAY THREE - TAROOM & CRACOW (184 KM/3HRS)

Head north along The Boulevard out of town and turn left onto the Leichhardt Way. Follow 94 km to Taroom. Continue to follow the highway veering left and then right into Yaldwyn Street. On the right you will see the Leichhardt Tree. Stop and take a closer look and listen to the story of Ludwig Leichhardt.

Continue up to the intersection with Kelman St and turn left into Kelman St. The Taroom Museum is located approximately 100 m up the road on the left. The Museum opens by appointment. Contact the Taroom District Historical Society on 0409 663 701 to arrange access.

From Taroom, follow the Cracow Rd/Nathan Gorge Road (caution- dirt road) approximately 88 km to Cracow. Turn right onto Fourteenth Avenue and left onto Eidsvold-Theodore Road. Follow the road to the Cracow Pub. The pub is legendary and owned by Fred Brophy; it is a hoot to visit and offers the chance to stop for a drink, have a chat with the locals and, if the kitchen is open, enjoy a pub meal. The pub has a resident ghost that haunts the hallways and on occasions has been spotted among the memorabilia that lines the pub walls.

Take a walk along the main street and delight at the abandoned buildings from yesteryear.

Continue along Third Avenue up the hill to the Cracow Mining Museum. The Museum is open most days, no appointment required. It is also located right next door to the town camping area, a great spot to pull up and rest for the night.

DAY FOUR - CAMBOON & BILOELA (206 KM/2.5HRS)

Head east out of Cracow on the Eidsvold-Theodore Road towards Eidsvold. Turn left onto Defence Road at approximately 15 km.

Travel 33 km along the Defence Road and you will come to a sign pointing right for 'Camboon'. Turn right onto this road, 'Camboon-Crowsdale Road' and drive 1.5 km to the junction.

Turn right at the 'Hall' sign and drive a further 2 km until you reach the Camboon Campdraft Grounds. The old Camboon School of Arts Hall and bar are well worth a look.

If travelling in October, you may be lucky enough to catch the Camboon Campdraft. At other times of the year they hold dog trials and other events, which are always worth a look. Regardless, this is the perfect place to get your billy or thermos out and enjoy a cuppa.

Note: you will cross a grid and go through gates—please close the gates behind you.

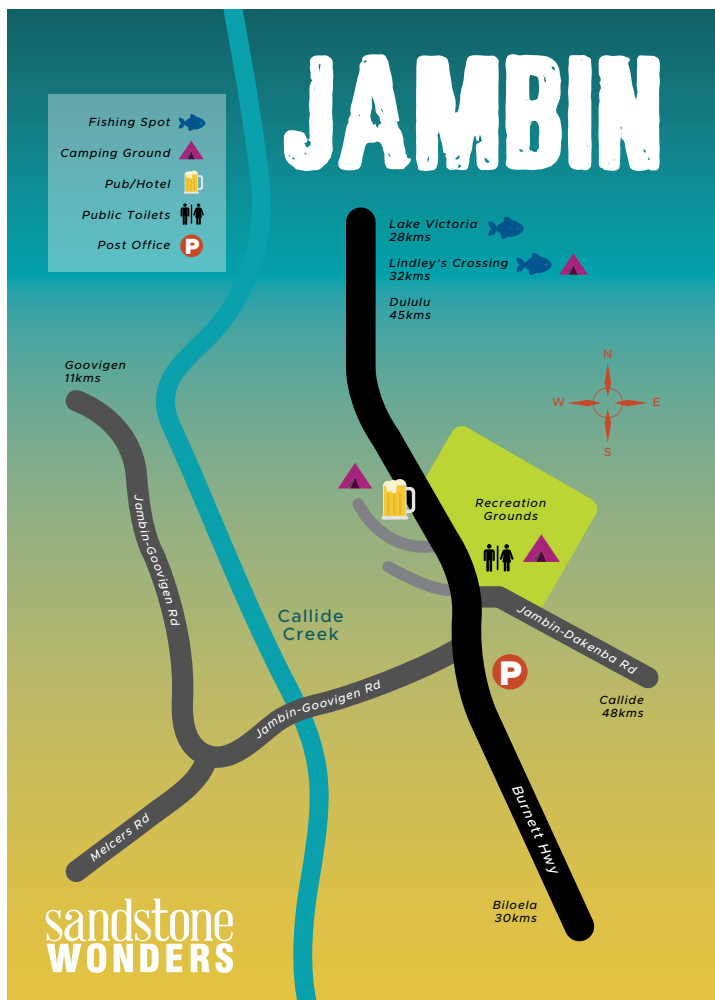
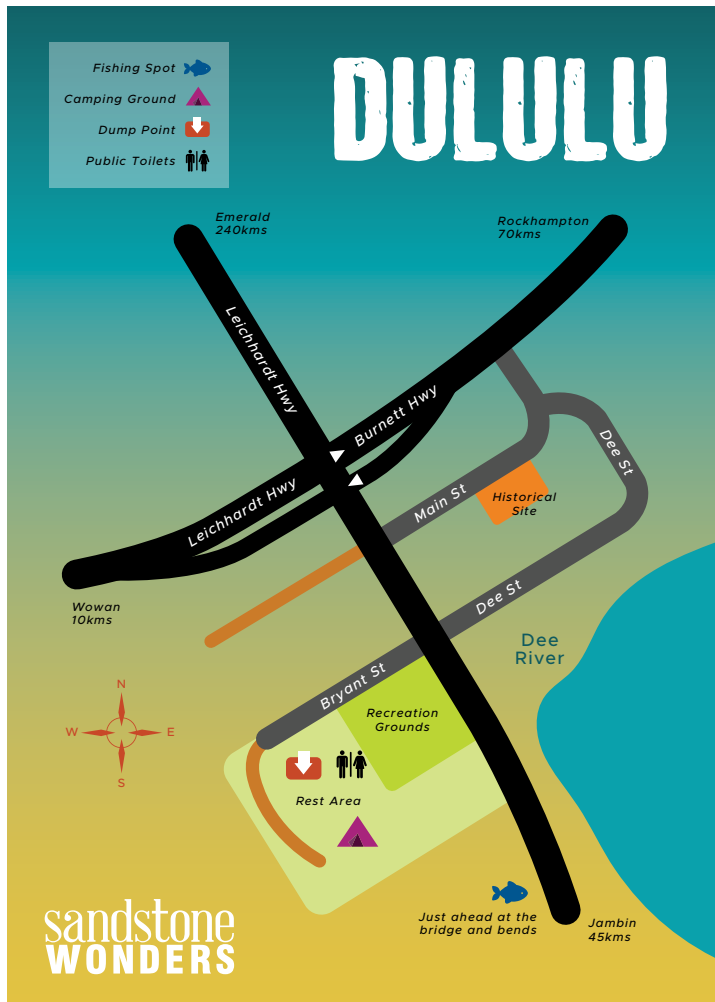
Head back to the Defence Road.

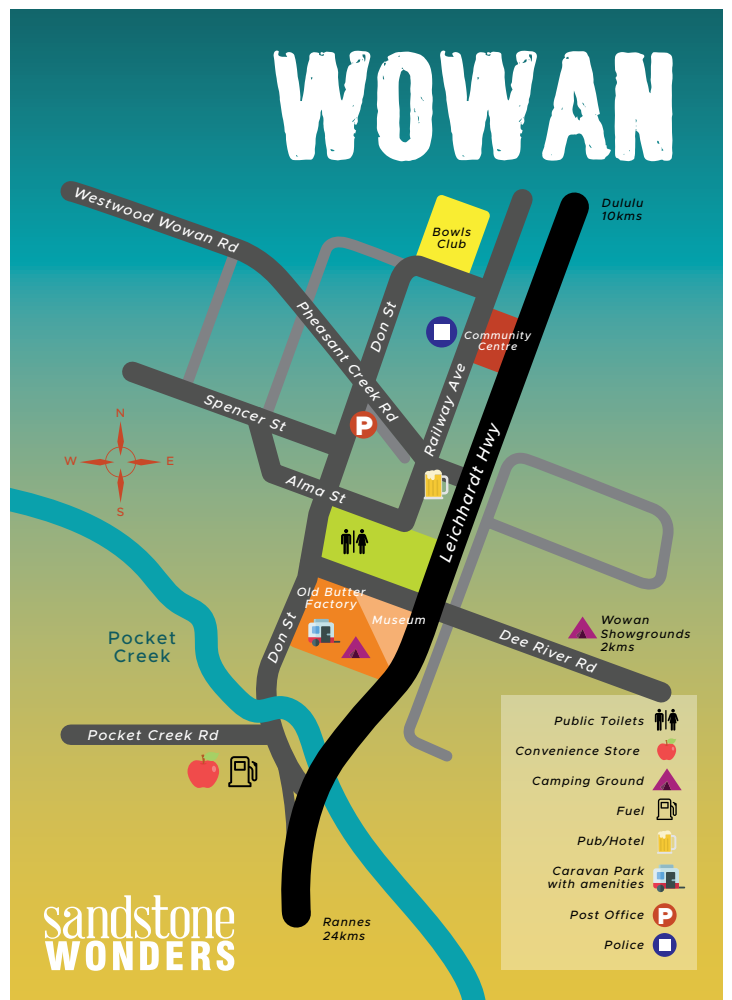
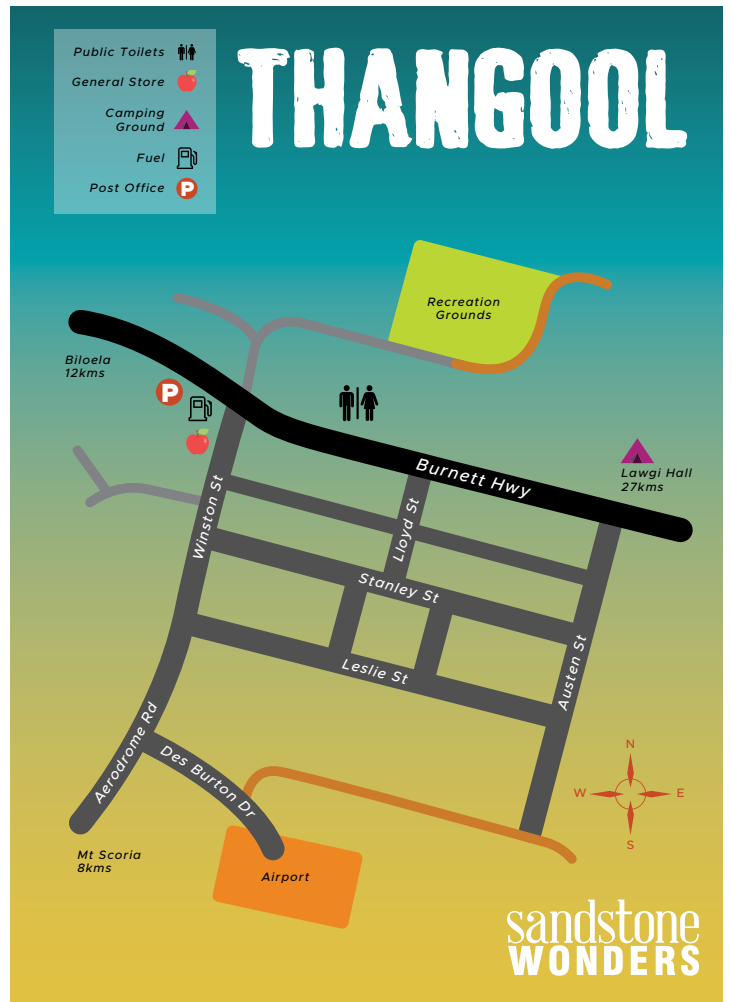
Turn right and continue north along the Defence Road for 36 km until you reach the Leichhardt Way. Along the way, ensure you stop and check out the 4 historic stone bridges. These bridges were built by hand in the 1940's by Prisoners of War in mobile internment camps.

- Oxtrack Creek Bridge
- Bridge 3
- Bridge 2
- Boam Creek Bridge

Turn right onto Leichhardt Way. Follow the highway approximately 85 km back to Biloela via Banana.









HISTORY IN THE MAKING

THE RICH DAWSON AND CALLIDE VALLEYS STRADDLE THE BANANA SHIRE, BRINGING TOGETHER A DEEP HISTORY OF LIFE ON THE LAND. OPENED UP IN THE MID-1840'S BY EXPLORER DR LUDWIG LEICHHARDT, DAIRY AND CATTLE PASTORAL SETTLEMENTS TOOK HOLD IN THE EARLY 1850'S.

In their wake, bloody skirmishes broke out between the pastoralists and local Indigenous clans, the losses great on both sides.

Gold fever came and went on quite a few occasions and the population lifted and fell depending on the finds. Gold mining finally took hold at Cracow in the 1930's and is still operating today, along with coal holdings at Baralaba (since 1916), Moura (since 1960's) and Biloela / Callide (since 1970's).

The railway moved in from Gladstone to Theodore and Biloela after 1920 and more lines were added in the prosperous years of the 1960's.

In 1905, the mooted Dawson River Irrigation Scheme gathered steam. Water harvesting to support ever expanding farming and mining

industries spawned several dam projects, particularly during the mid-20th Century. The Callide Dam opened in 1965, Glebe Weir in 1971 and Neville Hewitt Weir in 1976.

More rail lines were added in the 1960's for coal transportation. Today, an area of 28,577 km², with a current population of about 14,319 (2016 Census). Biloela, with the largest population is the district home, whilst Moura is the next in line. A short way south of Biloela is Thangool, which has the geologically rare Mount Scoria.

Typical of country Queensland, the Shire has seen its fair share of floods and droughts. However, the community remains strong, prosperous and growing despite these setbacks and is writing the next chapter in the Shire's history book.





HOME OF LOCAL HISTORY

Greycliffe Homestead is the closest reminder the region has to home life on a pastoral station in the 1870's.

Owned by William and Sophia Nott, the couple raised their seven children on the station, passing it on down through the generations for 100 years.

Constructed of slabs cut with adze and a pitsaw, the homestead was built from materials found on the property. Rafters were crafted from round bush timber and the original roof covered with handfashioned shingles.

A basic rectangle with a fireplace, Greycliffe was given a make-over at one time with extensions adding two interior bedrooms, the all-sides

verandah with more rooms attached and a stand-alone slab kitchen.

Rooms were sealed with stretched calico and walls decorated with chintz glued directly onto the timber. Well-worn shingles were replaced in the 1920's with a pitched iron roof.

The outer building was also retained and included a blacksmith shop and shed complete with bullock dray and tip dray.

In 1974, when the last of the Nott's passed away, the local Historical Society stepped in to care for the place.

Listed with the Queensland National Trust as an essential element of the National Estate, in 1979 the buildings were moved to Biloela. All survived

with the exception of the slab kitchen.

Now used as Biloela Historical Society headquarters, you can visit the homestead by appointment.

Greycliffe Homestead

By appointment only
48 Gladstone Road, Biloela
P: (07) 4992 3959

NATION ON DISPLAY

The brightly painted 'silo' on Exhibition Avenue in Biloela is a beacon for travellers; like a huge welcome sign, saying 'come on in'. Built to showcase Australia's rich primary industries at Brisbane's World Expo held in 1988, the silo is also the centre piece of the



IN STORE FOR MORE AT MOURA

The Museum at Moura is a great way to spend time learning about the local and industrial history of Moura with plenty of mining memorabilia on display. There are also four Mining Memorials located throughout the town, dedicated to the lives lost in three separate mining disasters which occurred between 1975 and 1994.

Moura Coal and Country Museum

Open by appointment
Gillespie Street, Moura
P: 0419 722 189

While on the history trail, why not take a stroll 'Down Memory Lane'. Recently developed by the Moura Coal and Country Historical Society, 'Down Memory Lane' takes you on a guided history trail around the development of Moura's first town block, before mining came to town. Drop into the Shire Office for more information.

TWO WORLDS, ONE COUNTRY

The Spirit of the Land Mural is an extraordinary dedication to the history of the land.

Coating the cylindrical exterior of one of the town's water reservoirs, the large scale artwork seamlessly pieces together the stories of the surrounding country, from its pre-historic beginnings to early 20th Century times.

Told through the eyes of two women from vastly different cultural perspectives, the mural marks the deep connection we each share with the land and how it shapes our cultures and customs and brings meaning to our lives.

The mural is 100m round and the stories unfold through a series of plaques that line the path.

The Spirit of the Land Mural

State Farm Road, Biloela



Cracow Gold Mine Heritage Centre

Third Avenue, Cracow
Open 7 days

Queensland Heritage Park.

Embracing the Australian spirit, the building throws open the doors to the nation's pioneering history, right through to modern times, with a remarkable collection of photographs and artefacts.

Inside, a circular display showcases snapshots of the past – canvas tents of the roustabout, a blacksmith shop, farmer's fields and plough, dairy, and typical backyard with mum hanging out the washing.

Setting the scene, giant murals are a backdrop to each of the exhibits, creating a complete picture of the times.

Outside, the first Presbyterian Church (circa 1930's) and old

Railway Station (1920's) have more history on show and a unique display of vintage machinery is scattered throughout the grounds. The spacious surroundings also offer travellers a spot to put up camp with plenty of powered and unpowered sites available.

If you're looking for travel information, the expert volunteers at the Rural Hinterland Visitor Information Centre are onsite and ready to help with any enquires you might have.

Queensland Heritage Park

Open daily 9.00am – 4.00pm
11 Exhibition Ave, Biloela

P: (07) 4992 2400

E: qldheritagepark@bigpond.com
www.qldheritagepark.com.au

EVENTS

TRAILBLAZERS

More than 600 competitors and 1500 spectators gather on a local property each year for the thrash it or crash it but keep it coming Theodore Trail Ride. A fundraiser for Theodore State School, the event began in 2010 and it just keeps on getting bigger and better. With a family focus, riders as young as four years old come to try their skills on the hills. A post-challenge obstacle course adds hilarity as riders try their luck flying over logs, rolling barrels and a water course; the antics considered a good laugh at the riders' expense. Then it's movie time, the best part of the day, when everyone can sit back and re-live the action all over again with home movies of their heroic acts. The Student Council and teachers run a coffee shop with real barista coffee and the onsite catering is run by a local cafe.

The event is held at a local cattle property, just outside Theodore, we recommend that you check the Facebook page for regular updates.

Camp and Go

The camping facilities are free with a purpose built caravan with five showers that are reliably piping hot.

Theodore Annual Trail Ride Held annually in August

Check Theodore Trail Facebook page for venue details

E: theodoretrailride@gmail.com
Find them on Facebook @ Theodore Trail Ride



CLASSICS ON SHOW

No matter what your speed, put on those blue suede shoes for some heavy duty fun at Baralaba's Classics by the Dawson Car and Bike Show. In aid of the Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service, the entire community gets behind this full weekend of action, kicking off on Saturday from 11.00am with a tour and barbeque at the Historical Village and livening up after 5.00pm with outdoor dinner, auction and live country and rock 'n' roll entertainment. On Sunday it's all about the classics. Up to 80 cars and bikes of every size, shape and colour are zhooshed up, shining and on display. Fashions on the field are the get-ups of days gone by — the stove pipe

pants, wide skirts and scarves of the 1950's through to paisley flairs, kaftans and rose coloured sunnies from the 1970's. Once you've seen cars and bikes there's market stalls to keep you busy. Entry on the Sunday is a gold coin donation.

Camp and Go

Camping in a shady recreation area at the river's edge is available at Neville Hewitt Weir for the cost of a donation.

Classics by the Dawson Classic Car & Bike Show Last weekend in May (bi-annually)

Baralaba Showground
Wooroonah Road, Baralaba
Find them on Facebook @ Classics by the Dawson



LAWGI HERITAGE PARK

Held annually on Easter Saturday, the Lawgi Heritage Day is one for the whole family. Hosted by Jack Rackham, owner of Lawgi Heritage Park, the property pulls out all the stops for their annual Charity Day.

Admission is by donation and all profits are donated back to local charities. The fun kicks off at 9.00am with working heavy horse displays, horse and cart rides and the chance for the kids to test out the old machinery and see how it all works. There is a blacksmithing shed, plenty of old tractors, farming and household equipment also on display throughout the day. The main event, the Grand Parade begins at 1.00pm and is followed by live entertainment, raffles and more. Food and drinks are available for purchase throughout the day and the ice-cream truck even parks up for the day, ensuring you can keep cool during the festivities.

Camp and Go

Unpowered camping is available onsite. Toilets and showers are available and plenty of room for caravan parking to boot. Contact Jack for further information.

Jack Rackham

P: (07) 4995 1148

Lawgi Heritage Park

Lawgi Plateau
Australia's Country Way (A3)
20km south of Thangool on the Australia's Country Way (A3).

CHARIOTS OF FIRE

Bigger than Ben Hur? Absolutely! His four wheels had nothing on the slick, hot, weird and wonderful vehicles that turn up each year for the Biloela Autofeste...and turn up the heat in the Showground's arena. Competitors in the Burn Out comps lay rubber in doughnut shapes, showing off their prowess at the wheel. Keenly judged for vehicle control, the most smoke made, and the most smoke made in the quickest amount of time, it's minute by minute, action-packed entertainment. However, like the colosseums of old, winning an event rests on the whim of the spectators — thumbs up thumbs down — well, really the level of applause — it's the crowd that decides and they flock in to take part.

The stakes are high with thousands of dollars in prize money on the table, but it's great practice for those who want to play in the big smoke, where they can win up to \$50,000 per comp. Local car wrecker 'Blondie' is the red-hot favourite to take out the barrel racing this year. Biloela champion of the smash 'em up demolition derby with five straight wins, Blondie's the one to beat but so far, no one has come close.

Other events include barrel racing, the Go to Whoa, Show and Shine and a massive Cruise Fest.

The exhibition of 100-plus vehicles — trucks, buses, hot rods, vintage and latest models — is held at the Biloela Showgrounds in Callide Street.

Biloela Autofeste

3rd Saturday in September

11.00am – 6.00pm

Biloela Showground
Cnr Callide Street & Auburn Street, Biloela

Admission \$5
Children under 12 free

P: 0418 786 711

www.sandstonewonders.com

Find them on Facebook @ Callide Valley Auto Club Inc

PARK MARKETS TURN ON THE FRESH AND FUNKY

BILOELA

The third Saturday of every month, the Themis Barimis parklands in Callide Street fills with the clamour of market goers, keen to pick up a bargain. Stalls of all sorts line the parklands, their merchandise splayed out under the shade of bright marquees. This is where you'll find those unexpected gems, the funky hand tooled or crafted specialties, homemade treats, jams and sauces, candles and scents, organic fruit and veg. The fresh morning air, food and produce, sunshine and friendly people all combine to make these markets great.

The important thing to keep in mind is that no two markets are the same. Vendors rotate and change, so there's always the new or different to see or try.



Biloela Markets In The Park

Held the 3rd Saturday of the month

Callide Street, Biloela

Summer time: 8.00am – 2.00pm

Winter time: 9.00am – 2.00pm.

May Market;
dependent on local show
Christmas Market;
2nd Saturday

MOURA

Every other month, Moura gets in on the action too, with its Sunday Country Markets at Lions Park.

Growing in popularity for vendors and locals alike, the Moura Lions Country Markets visitors lap up the casual atmosphere and fun in the park. Run by Moura Lions Club, the barbeque is always a picnic favourite followed with a hot cuppa and sweet jam doughnut. Take your time to mooch from stall to stall and you're bound to discover other kinds of treats that will 'mysteriously' seem to find their way into your shopping bag or boot.

The Moura Lions Country Markets

Held bi-monthly

Lions Park, Bell Street, Moura
Time - 9.00am - 2.00pm

WHERE MUSIC, ART AND HISTORY COMBINE

Built in 1883 by the Campbell family, Kilburnie Homestead is the birthplace of local artist Ruby Campbell. Nowadays, Kilburnie Homestead is an operational cattle station with added history, art and music displays and open days... and perhaps a ghost or two! Open days are normally held monthly during peak tourist season between April and August with the occasional open evening thrown in for good measure. Dates for 2020 are listed below, however dates and themes will change year to year.

Information about the open days is advertised on their Facebook page prior to each event. Make sure you get along to one of the open days for a taste of what's on offer. It truly is an amazing experience unlike any other.



2020 OPEN DAYS

2nd May - 11.00am - 6:00pm, we will be commemorating with an ANZAC exhibition, showing the Campbell family involvement in WWI, WWII and more. There will also be live music, kids activities and Waler Horses.

6th & 7th June - 12:00pm (Sat) - 4:00pm (Sun), we will be hosting markets and music at the Homestead. There will also be kids crafts, guided tours and something special Saturday night. (Camping available)

15th & 16th August - 9:00am (Sat) - 12:00pm (Sun), we are holding an artists retreat. (Glamping available)

16th August - 11:00am - 5:00pm, 'Iron and Fire' blacksmithing display with guest Blacksmith Noel Giles. Also live music, buggy rides, kids activities and more.

Fiona Hayward

P: 0438 093 019

www.historyartmusicickilburnie.strikingly.com

Find them on Facebook @ Kilburnie Homestead

WHEELS IN MOTION TURN ON THE CHARM

If the nation was built on the pioneer spirit, in the 20th Century it was driven by modern machines. In celebration of over 100 years of ingenuity and life on the land, the Old Wheels in Motion Rally and Swap Meet is a chance to see firsthand the machines that forever changed farming, transport and even the family home.

Faithfully restored to working order, the exhibits are as fascinating as they are fun. The strange and the splendid stand together, waiting for you to rediscover as you stroll back in time. From the eclectic displays of rusty iron and immaculate restorations to vintage tractors slogging it out in the 'Drag Queen' tug of war, the rally is a labour of love for the 100's volunteers who make it happen each year on the third weekend in July. Collectors come from all over to display their prize possessions. As expert hobbyists, they're always keen to share stories, explain how things work and show the machines in action.

There's those special pieces too: the newly restored 1928 Reaper and Binder. A highly sophisticated machine for its day, the Reaper and Binder will crop, belt, bundle, tie and dispense an entire oat harvest, all in one go; the Marshall Sons & Co. Thresher which dates back to the 1800's, or the yellow David Brown Taskmaster tractor, a nod to foundation member Mervyn Hill (dec'd), dating back to 1952. These, along with many others take pride of place in the most popular part of the program – the daily Grand Parade – a unique and not to be missed event.

Throughout the grounds, you can also see blacksmiths forging iron over glowing coals, butter and flour being made the old fashioned way and a copper in the laundry, while Pretty Plains, a Garrett engine, is renowned for letting off steam!

Camp and Go

A camping ground adjacent to the Rally site offers easy access to the two-day event. Camper packages are available for those who are quick. Pets by arrangement. To book a package contact the Callide Dawson Machinery Preservation Club.

The Old Wheels in Motion Rally and Swap Meet

3rd weekend in July

Queensland Heritage Park Complex
11 Exhibition Avenue,
Biloela

The Callide Dawson Machinery
Preservation Club Inc.
P: (07) 4992 2400
E: cdmpc@bigpond.com



TAROOM RACE CLUB AHEAD OF ITS TIME

As one of Queensland's oldest racecourses, Taroom race days are a family affair and long held tradition of the town.

People come from everywhere, sporting fashions on the field for the running of the Taroom Cup in September, Christmas races in December and occasional Winter races in June.

With a five-race program, punters can always be assured that the beers run cold, the odds run hot and the horses run like blazes. Then, after the bets are settled and horses are put to bed, celebrations and commiserations kick on through

the night with dinner, music and nonstop fun. Though the track runs anti-clockwise, there's nothing backwards about this race club.

Former trainer and long-time president Graham Rewald raised five jockey sons, one finding success with the Queensland Cup, riding local favourite Latin Myth. A man ahead of the times, back in the mid-1980s Graham also trained Thangool youngster Paula Wilson. The first female jockey to ride in the Taroom Cup, Paula blitzed the field on the back of Winnington, claiming the cup and a place in racing's history books.

Those were heady days. In the same decade the track was home turf to bay gelding Storm Breaker. This

mighty horse, trained by local Billy Cogoll, won 54 races from 112 starts – a legendary effort by anyone's standard.

Race Program

Winter Races – June
Taroom Cup – September
Christmas Races – December

Camp and Go

On race days, free camping is available at the Taroom Racecourse and Chain Lagoons – 15 km north of Taroom.

Dawson Jockey Club
Cracow Road

P: 0417 273 160

E: taroomraces@outlook.com
www.taroomraces.com

Thangool

Thangool is the home of country horse racing within the Banana Shire. The large course and spacious green lawns give an ambience of calm, a contrast to the cut and thrust of colour, suspense and excitement among the spectators, and the jockeys and horses as they stride down the straight towards the winner's post.

Eight race meetings are held each year but the Thangool Cup is one you definitely don't want to miss. Held in September, this is the time to pull out the heels, handbags and hats, the suits and sunnies, and prepare for a great day at the track.

Camp and Go

The Lawgi Hall is also just south of the township on the Australia's Country Way (A3). There are plenty of grass areas to park behind the hall and a donation left in the honour box would be much appreciated. Biloela also has affordable camping ground options available.

Thangool Race Club

Forde Park
Thangool-Lookerbie Road,
Thangool

P: 07 4995 8190

E: admin@thangoolraceclub.com.au
www.thangoolraceclub.com.au
Find them on Facebook @
Thangool Race Club



COAL AND COUNTRY STOKES THE HEAT ON WEEK-LONG FUN

In Moura, they like to do things differently, particularly when it comes to their social celebrations. A mining and rural community through to the core, the Coal and Country Festival is the feature annual event.

Unique in its conception and founded by the local Apex club, the festival began in 1972 when a group of miners decided to see how fast they could shovel a half-a-ton of coal against the clock. In what has become fierce competition, the bin bucket shovelling record now stands at a staggering 29 seconds, but that time is always under threat. The year the record was set, it was as tight as you could get, with three other challengers shovelling under the 30-second mark. Competitors come from across the Bowen Basin to fight it out for the Queensland titles, in single and doubles heats, the winners then heading south to take on the cockroaches (New South Wales) and the Tassie Devils (Tasmania) for the national crown.

The roof bolting competition is also a major attraction on the program. Teams of two match their skills, drilling huge bolts into slabs of concrete, replicating how the shaft was fortified before they shutdown underground mining. Falling in late August, thousands flock into Moura for the raft of events that roll out through the week.

Everyone gets behind the activities too, with school concerts, street parades, a colour fun run, ring-side action at the rodeo, festival food and a Gala Ball to start things off. No Queen or King of coal here. Entrant of the Year is awarded to the man or woman who is most successful at connecting the community through their activities. Moura's country and mining heritage lives large in its community spirit and sits at the heart of Coal and Country festivities.

Camp and Go

Unpowered camping is available at the Moura Apex Park on the Dawson River about 7 km out of town and at Rotary Park in the heart of Moura. Affordable camping grounds are also located in the town.

Coal and Country Festival 4th week in August

Events are held at various locations.

www.sandstonewonders.com

Find them on Facebook @ Moura Coal & Country Festival

P: Maureen 0419 722 189

A PATCH ON THE OTHERS

Beautifully handcrafted goodies for the home are the feature of Rotary's ever-popular Arts and Crafts Market Day. This is a chance to find that little something that no one else has and to hear the story behind it, directly from the artist.

The quality is astonishing. Imitations are strictly forbidden, which is why the crowds keep growing, year after year. Held annually, the market day is one of Biloela Rotary Club's biggest fundraisers, attracting up to 60 exhibitors from the local area and further afield. Entry is \$3 and market goers will be treated to a quilting display on the day. Onsite catering by St Joseph's P&C means you're always assured of a great lunchtime snack or morning / afternoon tea.

The event date and venue doesn't change too much, always scheduled for the end of October at the Biloela Civic Centre in time for early Christmas shoppers.

October

Biloela Civic Centre

96 Rainbow St, Biloela

Helen | P: 0400 741 540

Find them on Facebook

@ Rotary Club of Biloela - Annual Market Day

CELEBRATING ART

Art, in its many forms and for all the ways it inspires us are cause for celebration at the Brigalow Arts Festival. With an aim to encourage everyone to get involved, from near and far, the festival attracts entries from amateurs and budding artists, through to those accomplished in their art form. With a 40+ year history, the Brigalow Arts Festival continues to bring together works of outstanding quality and depth to be displayed, hung and judged, and then admired by up to 1000 visitors throughout the four-week showing.

Exhibits include photography, fine art, textile, sculpture, jewellery and decorative art. The only judged art show held in the Shire, some winners go on to other competitions outside the region – an exciting stepping stone for artistic careers. Held at the very contemporary Regional Art Gallery, the festival is free and accessible to all.

Brigalow Arts Festival - Held annually in October

Weekdays 8.00am – 5.00pm

Banana Shire Regional Art Gallery, 62 Valentine Plains Rd, Biloela

P: (07) 4992 9500

SHOW OF SPEED AND SKILL

There are few things more exciting than a good campdraft and the Banana Shire stages seven. Distinctively Australian, campdrafts are a ritual of the drover, harking back to the mid-1880's and passed down through generations. Hard, fast and unforgiving, good natured gamesmanship between mates around the campfire sparked the now furious national competition that honours the elite in mustering and drafting skills.

Held in townships large and small right across the country, the heats are a crowd favourite as riders and their horses pitch their skills against man, beast and clock. Not a sport for the faint hearted, you have to have plenty of bull dust in your veins to want to try your chances at a title. But stock men, women and children still line up to do just that. Balance, timing and strength are on full show as riders cut one beast, steer or stag away from the herd and guide them into the camp (arena). Suddenly, everything happens at whip cracking speed, horse and rider with only seconds to guide the animal through a course and figure eight s and then through the gates (flags).

Held at showgrounds and recreation reserves, onsite catering and camping are available throughout the meets. The campdrafts are definitely a sight to see and run from March through to the end of September. Held on the 1st, 2nd or 3rd weekend of the month visit www.sandstonewonders.com events calendar for details.



GOLDEN HORSESHOE CAMPDRAFT

March

Taroom Showground
4 Cranmer Street, Taroom QLD 4420
Onsite camping grounds
Find them on Facebook @Taroom
Golden Horseshoe Campdraft

BRONZE BOOTS CAMPDRAFT

July

Moura Recreational Ground,
Master Street, Moura
Onsite camping grounds
Find them on Facebook @
Moura Bronze Boots Campdraft

DAWES HALL RCI

April/May

Dawes Hall, Australia's
Country Way (A3), Thangool
Onsite camping grounds
Find them on Facebook @
Dawes Hall Campdraft

SPINDLES AND SPURS CAMPDRAFT

September

Theodore Showground,
The Boulevard, Theodore
Onsite camping grounds
Find them on Facebook @Theodore
Spindle and Spurs Campdraft

BARALABA CAMPDRAFT

May

Baralaba Showground, Wooroonah
Road, Baralaba
Find the event on Facebook @
Baralaba Show and Campdraft

CAMBOON CAMPDRAFT

September

Camboon Campdraft Ground,
Defence Road, Camboon
Onsite camping grounds
Find them on Facebook @ Camboon
Campdraft

CHAMPAGNE CAMPDRAFT

September

Jambin Recreation Reserve, Australia's Country Way (A3), Jambin
Free onsite camping, unlimited unpowered sites.
Find them on Facebook @ Jambin Champagne Campdraft

HOLD YOUR HORSES

For a district that prizes its horses for work and recreation, rodeos are just a normal part of the life. Around for more than 150 years, the origins of the rodeo date back to the drovers' runs – on stations where wild horses and cattle would be found in the scrub or on the trail, as the teams moved herds over hundreds of miles. Horses had to be broken and cattle reined in.

The all-important skills of the drover were his strength, agility and staying power and accuracy with a rope. The same set of skills are as relevant today as back then. A rider's reputation is on the line when he takes to the ring. Fighting the thrashings of the steer or horse, precious seconds on the clock tick down; with the longest of the stayers receiving the adoration of the crowd. The Australian Professional Rodeo Association (APRA) stages more than 100 competitions across the nation, looking for the grittiest and best.

TAROOM RODEO

Taroom hosts a rodeo each year. If you'd like to know more about the local history of the sport, the book *Stories from The Taroom Rodeo* is a chronicle by Ann Alcock. To order P: 0429 352 357

Last weekend in July

Rodeo Arena, Taroom Showground, 4 Cranmer St, Taroom
Find them on Facebook @Taroom Rodeo Club Inc

Camp and Go

Excellent onsite camping facilities are available at the Taroom Showground for this event.

THEODORE RODEO

Theodore Early Childhood Centre host an annual 'Bulls and Barrels Bonanza' each October and have proven they will only get better each year!

Theodore Showgrounds

127 The Boulevard, Theodore
Find them on Facebook @ Theodore's Xtreme 1 Servo Bulls & Barrels Bonanza.

Camp and Go

Onsite camping is available at the Showgrounds and at Theodore's Junction Park.





sandstone
WONDERS



Sandstone Wonders,
Queensland, Australia



SandstoneWonders

sandstonewonders.com