

NATURE + ADVENTURE

be elevated





GRANITE BELT A QUEENSLAND HIGHLIGHT
LONELY PLANET

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Granite Belt Wine



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Strange Bird
Granite Belt Wine Country

BE PREPARED

Before you embark on a nature and adventure experience by be prepared. Contact the RACQ to enquire about local road conditions and river heights. Weather forecasts are available from the Bureau of Meteorology.

DISCLAIMER

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Granite Belt is a premium food and wine destination surrounded by stunning national parks and prehistoric granite formations. Located on the Queensland and New South Wales border, it is only a 3 hour drive from Brisbane and the Gold Coast or a 30-minute flight.

Nature and adventure activities abound. Climb unique granite mountains and experience elevation, catch an elusive Murray Cod in our picturesque dams and rivers, play a game of golf with our resident kangaroos, go 4wd driving in rugged gorge country, and see fields of flowers in spring.

SMALL BUT DIVERSE

Stretching just 60kms from north to south and roughly half as wide, the Granite Belt is small but diverse. Dotted along the New England Highway are our villages and hamlets, with Stanthorpe, the main central town. Through the region, country lanes wind through vineyards, orchards and the namesake granite boulders which dot the landscape like crazy marbles. If it's a tranquil escape from reality, a gourmand's indulgence or an adrenaline charged adventure you're in need of the Granite Belt has something to offer you.

LIFE BY THE SEASONS

Sitting high on the Great Dividing Range, more than 1000m above sea level, creates a region of four seasons and a climate a world away from Queensland counterparts. It can even snow. The seasons guide life in the Granite Belt and the experiences it reaps.

be elevated

It is beautiful country; rugged and diverse, dotted with precariously balancing prehistoric granite boulders, fertile soil, big sky panoramas, meandering creeks, gourmet produce and award winning boutique wineries.



elevated experiences

GIRRAWEE NATIONAL PARK

STUNNING NATIONAL PARKS

The Granite Belt owes its name to a very literal belt of igneous granite rock that runs through the region. Once the site of active underground volcanos, millions of years and the elements have left a remarkable ancient landscape of hardened molten magma granite outcrops that protrude from the hillside and look like crazy marbles dropped from a high. They stand guard over the bush with its abundant wildlife, beautiful flora, twisting creeks and rivers. The Granite Belt region is blessed with two national parks - Girraween and Sundown National Parks, and another four are within an hour's drive; Bald Rock, Boonoo Boonoo, Basket Swamp, and Main Range (Queen Mary Falls).

PRECARIOUSLY BALANCING BOULDERS + 360° VIEWS

Scale the prehistoric granites, formed about 250 million years ago from magma at **Girraween National Park**. The granite creates spectacular precariously balancing boulders, clear streams and tumbling cascades. Nearly 20kms of defined walking tracks, ranging from 20 minutes to six hour hikes, that wind their way throughout the park and lead to impressive features including The Pyramid, The Sphinx, Turtle Rock, Castle Rock, Dr Robert's Waterhole, Underground Creek and Mt Norman. The area is also home to iconic Australian animals including platypus, echidnas, kangaroos, koalas and even wombats, and 700 or so plant species.

BRILLIANT RED GORGES + 4WD DRIVING ADVENTURES

The great untamed **Sundown National Park** offers excellent 4wd driving from sedate tracks to those that will test even the most experienced driver. On foot you can also explore the impressive Red Rock Falls, Mt Lofty, and Red Rock Gorge.

The Severn River and its tributaries, and remains of pastoral and mining heritage can be discovered via maintained walking tracks, challenging remote walks or the 4wd driving track. More than 150 species of birds have been recorded in the park, making it the perfect location for bird-watching enthusiasts.

LARGEST EXPOSED GRANITE ROCK

Seen Uluru and Mt Augustus, now discover the largest exposed granite rock formation in the southern hemisphere, and the fourth largest monolith in Australia.

Bald Rock, located in **Bald Rock National Park** (New South Wales) and adjoining Girraween National Park, rises to 1277m above sea level and towers about 200m above of the surrounding bushland. The awesome granite dome, 750m long and 500m wide, is water streaked, creating a striking view on any day. From the top you are rewarded sweeping views all the way north to Mt Lindesay.

CASCADING FALLS

Only 8km east of Bald Rock, **Boonoo Boonoo National Park** protects one of the region's few remaining natural river landscapes and is home to the inspiring Boonoo Boonoo Falls, the highest in the region at 210m. An impressive trio of falls can also be found at the southern end of the **Main Range National Park**, a Gondwana Rainforest of Australia World Heritage Area. The beautiful Queen Mary Falls display a sheer 40m drop of spring water flowing all year round. On the way visit Browns Falls and Daggs Falls.

GIRRAWEE NATIONAL PARK

Girraween (an Aboriginal word meaning 'place of flowers') offers outdoor adventure experiences suitable for all ages and interest.

Located just off the New England Highway, 25km south of Stanthorpe, on the Queensland/New South Wales border, Girraween is paradise for bushwalkers and explorers with scenic walks, wildlife viewing, camping and picnics.

At an average elevation of 900m above sea level, the 11 800ha national park is defined by its spectacular granite outcrops and boulders which dominate the landscape.

THINGS TO DO

With massive granite rock formations and balancing tors, wildflowers in spring and eucalypt forests, it is a nature lovers dream.

Children will love scrambling over the boulders and waterworn creek beds while adults interested in nature may spot more than 170 bird species in the park.

Challenge yourself to a sunrise Pyramid climb... and why not pack a breakfast to enjoy when you get to the top! Afterwards take a swim in the natural rock pools.

Girraween National Park is also a photographer's paradise.

FLORA + FAUNA

The park has abundant fauna. Some inhabitants are rarely seen elsewhere in Queensland such as the common wombat, spotted-tailed quoll, superb lyrebird and the turquoise parrot. Don't expect to see them often - they like hiding in the park too!

The area is also noted for its diverse flora. In spring, more than 700 species of wildflowers bloom, hence

the name "place of flowers". The area is the only place where the Wallangarra whitegums grow naturally.

ROCK CLIMBING

Girraween National Park contains many fine examples of granite slab and face climbing for **PROFESSIONALS ONLY**. It is said that it has been climbed by rock climbing legend Rob Staszewski in the early 1980's.

Be careful. The granite can become dangerously slippery and in many places there is limited natural protection.

(Please Note: Rock Climbing is NOT recommended by DERM or GBWT, and participants undertake climbing activities at their own risk!)

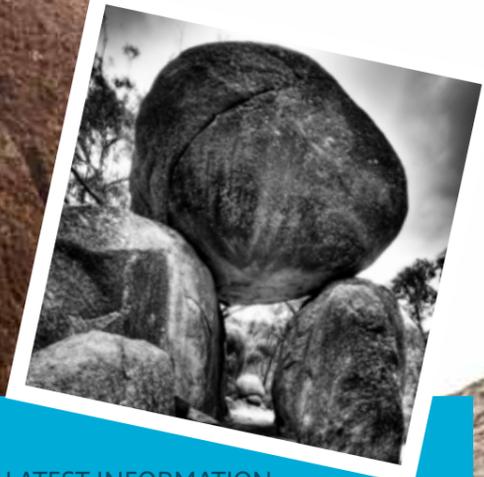
FACILITIES

The park has excellent visitor information displays, walking tracks and facilities, including showers. Bald Rock Creek Day-Use Area has bbqs, picnic tables and toilets. There are also disabled facilities in the day-use area, including car parks, toilets and walking tracks.

CAMPING

Camping areas are located at Castle Rock and Bald Rock Creek with amenities; toilets, hot showers, laundry tub and running water. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) suggests that campers book in beforehand especially if it is a long weekend or school holidays. The Castle Rock camping area amenities block has wheelchair access.

For those reluctant to spend the night in a tent, the park is surrounded by quality accommodation and there are a number of wineries nearby too.



LATEST INFORMATION

For the most up-to-date information on national parks visit www.derm.qld.gov.au (Queensland) or for NSW parks visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

PERMITS

Most national parks operate a permit system and fees apply.

TRACK STANDARD

The track standard classifications are based on Australian Standards. Please note that while each track is classified according to its most difficult section, other sections may be easier.

Class 2 Track

Easy, level track, suitable for all fitness levels.

Class 3 Track

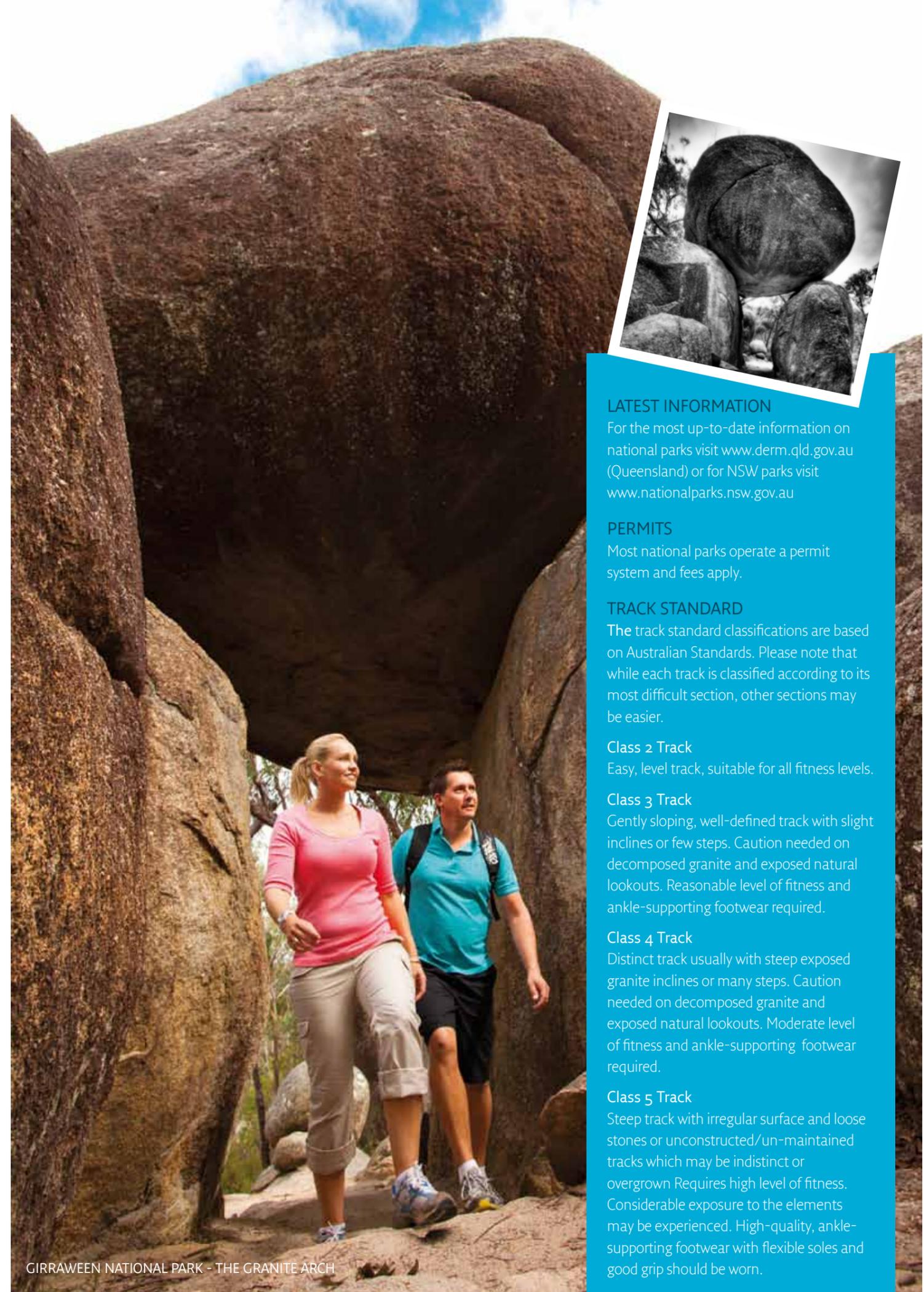
Gently sloping, well-defined track with slight inclines or few steps. Caution needed on decomposed granite and exposed natural lookouts. Reasonable level of fitness and ankle-supporting footwear required.

Class 4 Track

Distinct track usually with steep exposed granite inclines or many steps. Caution needed on decomposed granite and exposed natural lookouts. Moderate level of fitness and ankle-supporting footwear required.

Class 5 Track

Steep track with irregular surface and loose stones or unconstructed/un-maintained tracks which may be indistinct or overgrown. Requires high level of fitness. Considerable exposure to the elements may be experienced. High-quality, ankle-supporting footwear with flexible soles and good grip should be worn.



GIRRAWEE NATIONAL PARK - THE GRANITE ARCH

GIRRAWEE NATIONAL PARK

CLIMATE + BEST TIME TO VISIT

Summer temperatures are not extreme, with maximums seldom above 30 degrees. Winter is cold, with average daily temperatures 3-15 degrees - snow sometimes falls on Girraween. Bring warm clothing at any time. Average rainfall is about 850mm. Most rain falls in summer and early autumn. Spring is the best time to visit. Wildflowers are most spectacular in September/October, but bloom from late July to summer.

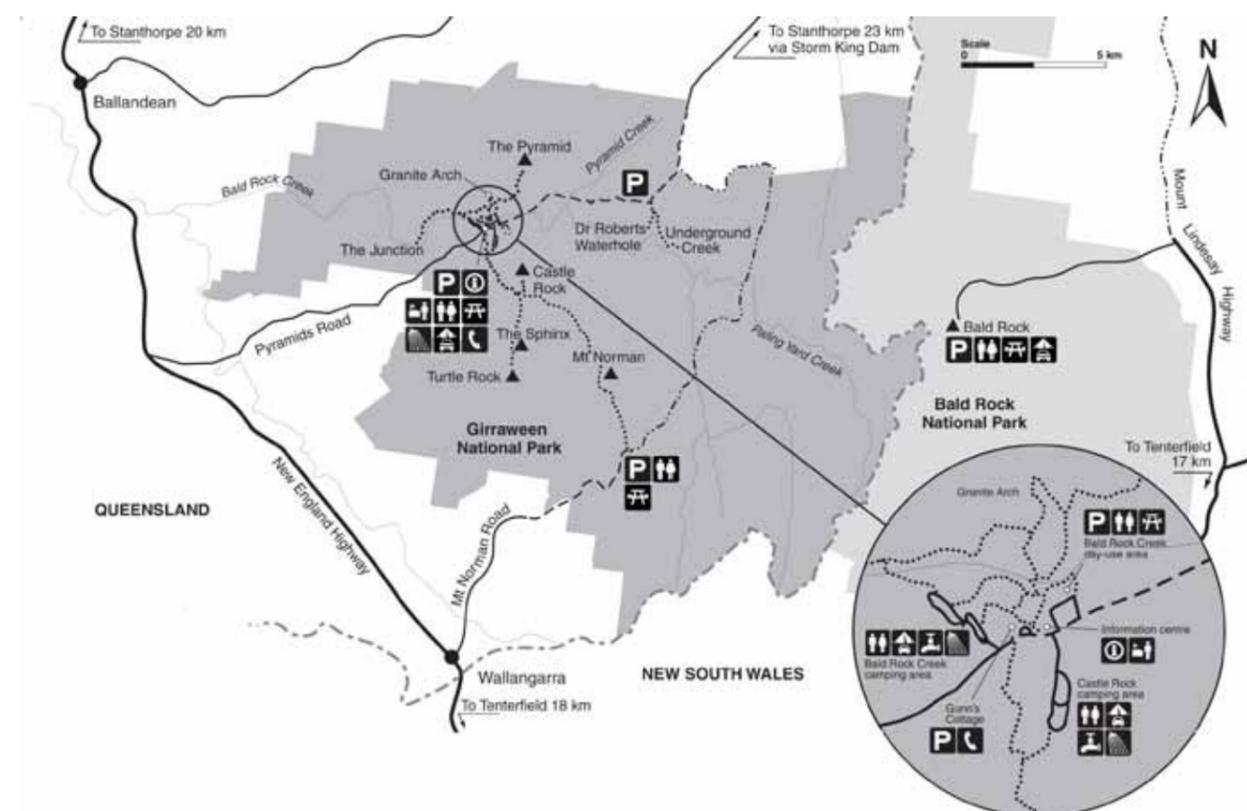
GETTING HERE

Girraween is approximately 260km by road southwest from Brisbane. Access to the park is easy. Travel 25km south of Stanthorpe on the New England Highway and turn left into Pyramids Road (sealed). Travel along Pyramids Road for 9km and follow the signs to either Castle Rock Camp Ground, Bald Rock Creek Camp Ground or the nearby Bald Rock Creek Day-Use Area 100m further along Pyramids Road. The roads are decomposed granite with an easy 4wd-only track leading past locally named Twin Peaks and Billy Goat Hill, crossing Paling Yard and Racecourse Creeks, to the Mt Norman Day-Use Area and eventually out of the park and into Wallangarra.

Note: The road from Pyramids Road through to Mt Norman Day-Use Area is currently closed. The road from Wallangarra to the Mt Norman Day-Use Area is open and accessible by 2wd vehicles.

FURTHER INFORMATION + BOOKINGS

The Ranger t: +61 7 4684 5157 or Bookings: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)



GIRRAWEE NATIONAL PARK WALKING TRACKS

Girraween offers nearly 20kms of walking trails. Before starting a journey be prepared with appropriate clothing and water. The granite rock offers good grip only in dry weather and is extremely slippery in wet conditions.

WALKS FROM BALD ROCK CREEK CAMPING AREA OR DAY-USE AREA (NORTHERN TRACKS)

WYBERBA WALK

Stroll beside the peaceful waters of Bald Rock Creek for views of The Pyramid and spring wildflower displays. Glimpse wrens, thornbills and bowerbirds; or even a short-necked Bell's turtle during the warmer part of the day.

Distance: 200m

Time suggested: 15 min return

Difficulty: Class 2

GRANITE ARCH

If time is limited, or if you prefer an easy stroll, this circuit track is ideal. Cross Bald Rock Creek and wind through blackbutt and stringybark forest to Girraween's very own natural stone archway.

Distance: 1.4kms circuit

Time suggested: 30 min return

Difficulty: Class 3

BALD ROCK CREEK CIRCUIT

This circuit is ideal for a sample of Girraween's finest features. Cross Bald Rock Creek and follow it downstream along The Junction Track until it meets the track from the camping area. Use the stepping stones to cross the creek again and return to the day-use area.

Distance: 4kms circuit

Time suggested: 1 hour return

Difficulty: Class 3

THE JUNCTION

An easy walk along the northern bank of Bald Rock Creek downstream to its junction with Ramsay Creek. In dry seasons, these creeks may not run. A must for wildflower lovers, this track is scattered in spring with superb wildflower displays. Flowering shrubs fringing the creek provide nectar for honeyeaters and parrots. Superb fairy-wrens, red-browed firetails and thornbills move through creek bank thickets seeking insects.

Distance + Time: 5 km (2 hours return) from the Bald Rock Creek Day-Use Area or 3.7km (1.5-2 hour return) from the Bald Rock Creek Camping Area.

Difficulty: Class 3

THE PYRAMID

Leave the Granite Arch track and weave steadily uphill through eucalypt forests, past rocky outcrops and grassy flats to the base of this massive granite dome. This is a good place to rest and enjoy the view of the surrounding bush before starting the steep climb up the bare rock face. As the climb up the massive boulder is quite steep and demanding, only people with a reasonable level of fitness should tackle this popular walk. Painted markers on the rock show you the way. Your reward is a magnificent view over Second Pyramid, Castle Rock, the park campgrounds, former orchards and adjoining Bald Rock National Park.

Distance: 3.4kms

Time suggested: 1.5-2 hour return

Difficulty: Class 3 + 4

THE SECOND PYRAMID

PROFESSIONAL ROCK CLIMBERS ONLY.

There is NO FORMAL walking track to the Second Pyramid, it requires professional rock climbing skills.

(Please Note: Rock Climbing is NOT recommended by DERM or GBWT, and participants undertake climbing activities at their own risk!)

WALKS FROM PYRAMIDS ROAD (SOUTHERN TRACKS)

CASTLE ROCK

The Castle Rock track features breathtaking 360 degree panoramic views. The walk varies from gentle to moderate gradients until a steep climb over exposed granite rocks to the summit. Black cypress, stringybarks and orange gums grow in woodlands on rocky ridges. Yellow box and brown gums provide shade and good bird-watching.

Distance: 5.2kms return

Time suggested: 1.5-2 hours

Difficulty: Class 3 + 4

GIRRAWEE NATIONAL PARK WALKING TRACKS

THE SPHINX AND TURTLE ROCK

Branch off before Castle Rock and take an easy walk along a ridge top with some granite slabs. The Sphinx is a granite pinnacle bearing a large balancing tor, while Turtle Rock is a monolith resembling a turtle's back.

Distance: 7.4kms return

Time suggested: 3-4 hours

Difficulty: Class 3 + 4

MT NORMAN TRACK

Continue past Castle Rock and trek to the rocky slabs below Mt Norman, where the gradient varies from gentle to moderate. See the Eye of the Needle on Mount Norman's northern face. The track ends at the base of the Mt Norman monolith. The final approach to the summit is steep and rock climbing experience is needed to reach the absolute top. Do not attempt to rock climb alone.

Alternative Route from Mt Norman Day-Use Area

The walk through rock gardens and stands of graceful Wallangarra white gums on the southern face of Mt Norman is gently sloping, but has some steep sections. Look south for picturesque views of South, Middle and West Bald Rocks. The track ends at the base of the Mt Norman monolith. The final approach to the summit is steep and rock climbing experience is needed to reach the absolute top. Do not attempt to rock climb alone. Remember: take water, as it is not available at the Mt Norman day-use area.

Distance + Time: 10kms (4-5 hours) return or 4kms (1.5-2 hours) via the Mt Norman Day-Use Area

Difficulty: Class 3 + 4. To final summit Class 5.

EASTERN TRACKS

DR ROBERTS WATERHOLE

This track starts at a small car park off Pyramids Road, 4kms east of the Girraween National Park Visitor Centre. At 300m the track splits into two – the left will take you to Underground Creek. The right is a gentle slopping path to the waterhole, named after Dr Spencer Roberts who was fundamental in the creation of the park. It forms a part of Bald Rock Creek and is home to turtles, eastern water dragons and platypus.

Distance: 1.2kms return from Dr Robert's Car Park

Time suggested: 30 mins

Difficulty: Class 2 + 3

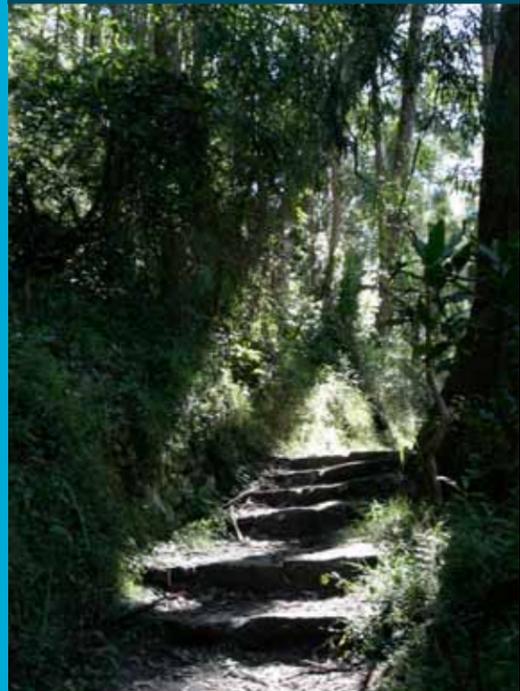
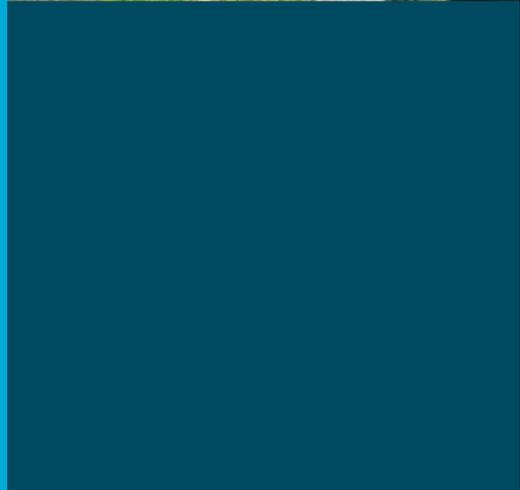
UNDERGROUND CREEK

Underground Creek was formed when overhanging rock collapsed into the creek forming a series of little caves. Inside the caves water has created interesting weathering patterns in the rock. The whole area is worth exploring including the above rock falls.

Distance: 2.8 km return from Dr Robert's Car Park

Time suggested: 1-1.5 hour return

Difficulty: Class 2 + 3



BALD ROCK NATIONAL PARK

(NSW - adjacent to Girraween National Park)

The water-streaked dome of Bald Rock is the largest exposed granite rock in the southern Hemisphere at 750m long, 500m wide and 200m high.

A marked trail leads up the smooth granite face to the summit where visitors can experience expansive views all the way to Mt Lindsay. Over the millennia, sun, wind, water and ice have sculptured this striking granite landscape into incredible forms and created an oasis for many varieties of flora and fauna.

A number of walks make the most of the park's granite landscape - including the track to the summit, which includes canyons, stone arches and panoramic views.

Granite domes, wildflowers and other natural features make Bald Rock National Park an outstanding area for photography. Independent walkers will find photographic subjects throughout the park. Bald Rock itself is very photogenic, with its many huge balancing rocks and panoramic views from its summit. If you're interested in nature photography, come in late August and October, when the park's wildflowers are in abundance and animals are active.

FLORA + FAUNA

Bald Rock National Park conserves a range of plant communities including tall moist forest, gully open forest, grassy open forest, woodland, heath and sedgeland. It now protects a significant part of the far Northern Tablelands bio-region and offers a range of recreational opportunities.

The grey kangaroo and the red-necked wallaby are the most common in Bald Rock. The shaggy-coated swamp wallaby is often seen in the moist gullies, and small numbers of wallaroos live in and around the rocky outcrops. You may see Greater gliders around the camping area at night.

Other nocturnal tree-dwelling mammals include brush-tailed possums, ring-tailed possums, sugar gliders, and feather-tailed gliders. Echidnas, tiger quolls, and the odd wombat are also known to live here.

More than 100 bird species have been recorded at Bald Rock National Park, and those often seen include crimson rosellas, eastern rosellas, pied currawongs, kookaburras, satin bowerbirds, yellow tailed thornbills and grey fantails. Wedge-tailed eagles and black-shouldered kites are often seen soaring in the thermal up-draughts above Bald Rock. The noisy yellow-tailed black-cockatoo and glossy black-cockatoo are sometimes encountered.

The red-bellied black snake is the most common snake, but the tiger snake is also seen sometimes. Both White's skink and the Cunningham skink are common. The leaf-tailed gecko is also found among rocks, in rock crevices, or on tree trunks, where its natural colouring serves as camouflage.

HISTORY

Sacred Aboriginal hunting grounds, the park was first discovered by Europeans in 1827 when explorer Allan Cunningham passed through it on his return from the southern Darling Downs to Segenhoe Station in the Hunter Valley.

BALD ROCK NATIONAL PARK

HISTORY cont...

The area that now makes up Bald Rock National Park has been used for many purposes including public recreation, agriculture and scattered logging. An abandoned mine-shaft near the eastern side of Bald Rock indicates early mineral interest in the area. A 200ha area to the east of Bald Rock was set aside for a possible sanatorium in 1917, when high altitude and fresh mountain air was thought to benefit people suffering from tuberculosis.

CAMPING + FACILITIES

The Bald Rock camping area is located at the end of the 6km park access road, off the paved Mt Lindesay (Woodenbong) Road. From here, you can walk to Bald Rock summit, Little Bald Rock, or north to a viewing area beside the Queensland border.

Facilities include picnic tables, wood bbqs, non-flush toilets. Creek water is available from taps. No bookings are taken for the campground - camping is on a first come, first served basis. A self-registration system also applies.

CLIMATE + BEST TIME TO VISIT

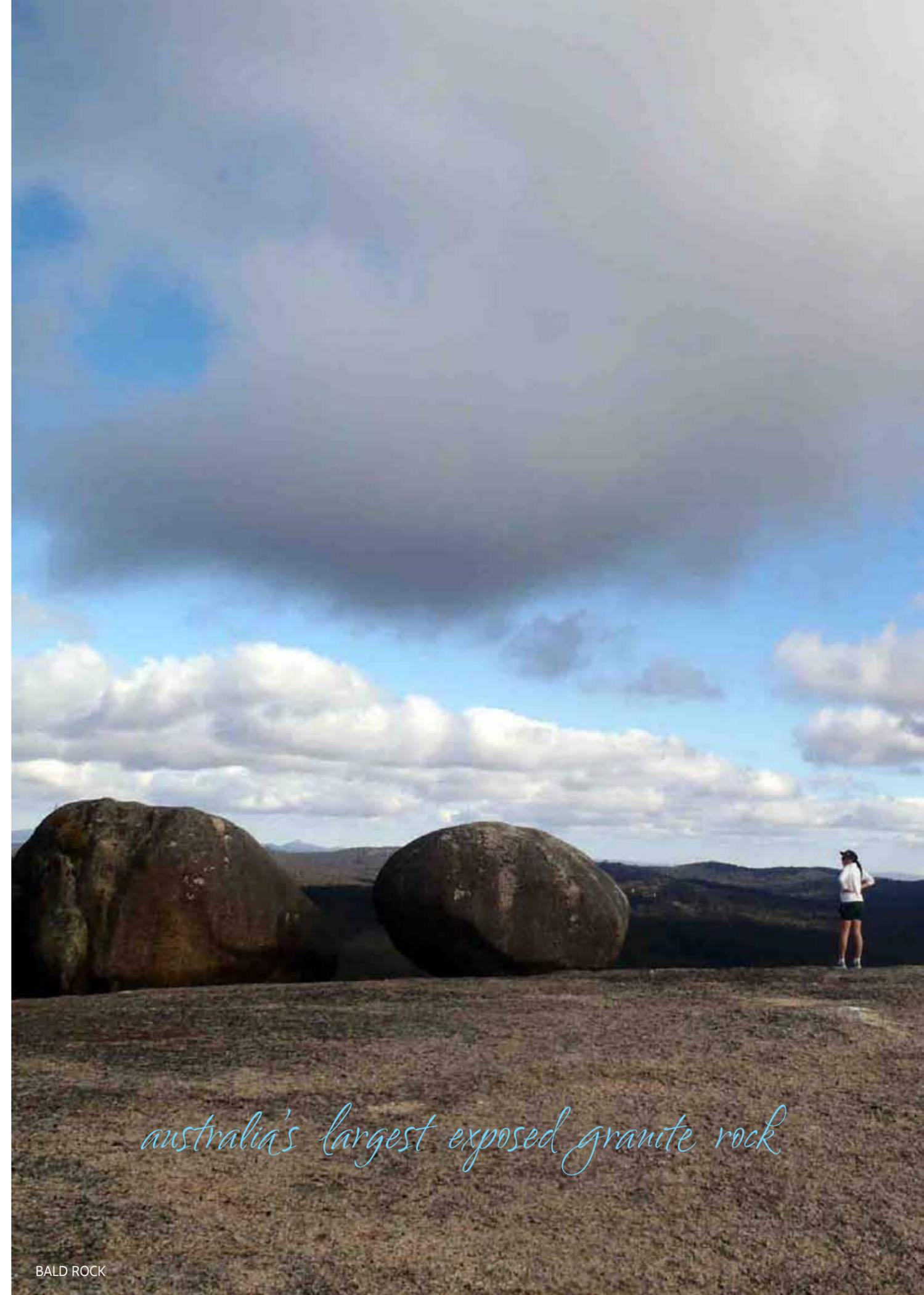
Bald Rock is good to visit any time of the year. During the colder months the air is very clear and the view from the summit is excellent. September to October usually produces displays of wildflowers, and the park's wildlife is active and easy to see. This is the best time for nature study and wildlife photography.

GETTING HERE

Bald Rock is 39kms from Stanthorpe via the old Mt Lindesay Highway, which is mostly decomposed granite. You can also take the sealed road to Amosfield from Stanthorpe. From Amosfield turn south and follow the Woodenbong Road towards Tenterfield. This section of the Woodenbong Road is unsealed, but is well maintained. Continue south, crossing Mursons Creek and then Jenner Creek continue along until you see the access road into Bald Rock National Park on the right. This road is unpaved in sections.

FURTHER INFORMATION + BOOKINGS

The Ranger t: +61 2 6732 5133



australia's largest exposed granite rock

BALD ROCK NATIONAL PARK WALKING TRACKS

BUNGOONA WALK

The Bungoona Walk begins near the picnic area and leads to the eastern side of Bald Rock, where a marked track across the Bald Rock saddle leads to the 1277m-high summit. The walk has signs along the way that describe its geological, botanical, and natural features.

Distance: 3kms

Time suggested: 2 hours 30 minutes

Difficulty: Medium

LITTLE BALD ROCK WALK

This walk begins at the picnic area and follows the Border Link Trail along the base of the north face of Bald Rock and through tall moist forest, comprised of broad-leaved messmate, mountain gum and New England blackbutt. The Border Link Trail leads to the NSW-Queensland Border Trail. Turn south at the sign on the border and continue on to Little Bald Rock, a high granite dome on the eastern side of the trail 2.5 km south of Bald Rock. You'll see extensive views into Girraween National Park (Queensland) along the way. Return the way you came.

Distance: 7kms

Time suggested: 4 hours

Difficulty: Medium

NORTHERN VIEWING AREA WALK

This walk begins at the northern end of the Bald Rock camping area by way of the Bookookoorara Fire Trail. It passes through the Bookookoorara Creek swamplands and then rises through an area of woodland to the upper reaches of Fairy Valley, an interesting bird watching location.

From there the New South Wales-Queensland Border Trail rises steeply to the north to a high natural rock outcrop, where you'll see a sign to the viewing site on the eastern side of the trail. Across a concave amphitheatre of forest and woodland, you'll be able to see a fine profile of Bald Rock.

The view also takes in some of the granite domes of Girraween National Park, including Mount Norman, South Bald Rock and West Bald Rock. In October you can see many flowering rock lilies (*Dendrobium speciosum*) around the viewing site and on rock outcrops along the way.

Distance: 10kms

Time suggested: 6 hours

Difficulty: Hard

SUNDOWN NATIONAL PARK

High, remote and rough, Sundown National Park, south west of Stanthorpe, entices both self-sufficient campers, and experienced 4wd drivers and bushwalkers. It's rugged wilderness has spectacular steep-sided gorges, sharp ridges and peaks of over 1000m that rise above the Severn River. Sundown is a great place to get away from it all.

FLORA + FAUNA

The vegetation changes across the park. Eucalypt forests of yellow box, brown box, stringybark and Tenterfield woollybutt grow on the higher northern slopes. While in the south, there are woodlands of Caley's and silver-leaved ironbark, tumble-down red gum, white box and cypress pine. Wilga, native willow and ooline also grow at the southern end but are usually associated with drier inland areas.

Throughout the park, kurrajongs, red ash and larger wattles grow over an understorey of hop bush, dead finish and peach bush. Steep-sided gorges shelter vine scrubs in which figs, stinging trees, pittosporums and numerous vines are common. Donkey, waxlip,

greenhood, spotted hyacinth and other ground orchids flower in spring. Cymbidium orchids are widespread and king orchids can be found on rock faces in the gorges. River red gum, river oak, tea tree and bottle brush grow along the river.

A bird watches delight, more than 150 species of birds can be found. Spotted bowerbirds, red-capped robins, spiny-cheeked and striped honeyeaters, and red-winged parrots inhabit the drier southern areas. Black ducks, wood ducks, herons, cormorants and tiny azure kingfishers live along the river. Superb lyrebirds inhabit suitable areas in the park.

Wallaroos are common in the steep rocky country while eastern grey kangaroos can be seen in less sloping habitats. Other macropods include red-necked and swamp wallabies. Once common, brush-tailed rock-wallabies survive in small colonies in the northern end of the park, including near Nundubbermere Falls. Marsupial mice, gliders and possums can also be seen.



FOR A PEACEFUL ESCAPE AMONG THE
WILDLIFE, WHILE GIVING THE 4X4 A SOLID
WORK - SUNDOWN NATIONAL PARK.
JOHN MCCANN, 4 X4 AUSTRALIA MAGAZINE

SUNDOWN NATIONAL PARK WALKING TRACKS

SOUTHERN ENTRANCE WALKS

These walks start from The Broadwater campground at the park's southern entrance. Some are along rough, unconstructed trails.

PERMANENT WATERHOLE

Follow the walking track from the information hut to Permanent Waterhole. This waterhole is permanent even in the driest times and is approximately 5m deep, making it perfect for swimming. From the rock cliffs near the mouth of Ooline Creek, tiny azure kingfishers may be seen; and at dawn or dusk, platypus often surface as they feed.

Distance: 2kms return

Time suggested: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy. Class 3

OOLINE CREEK

Follow the track to Permanent Waterhole and then turn left at the bottom of the rock steps leading down into Ooline Creek. This creek is named after a vulnerable tree species which grows in the gorge and around Permanent Waterhole. Ooline is a medium to large tree with bright green leaves and rough tile-patterned bark. It has rainforest origins, dating back to the Pleistocene Era (1.6 million to 10 000 years ago) when most of Australia was much wetter than it is today. Small areas of dry rainforest also occur in the gorge. You can walk up the creek for approximately 1.5km to the rock pool. Caution: There are leeches in this pool. To continue further up the creek, you need to climb around the right side of the rock pool. Use care if the rocks are wet as they can be very slippery. Further up, the gorge again narrows and it is possible to scramble around the left hand side. Soon after this the gorge ends.

Distance: 4kms return

Time suggested: 3-4 hours

Difficulty: Class 5

WESTERN CIRCUIT

The Western Circuit takes you away from the river to the more open high ground. Follow the Permanent Waterhole track for 20m and then turn off to the left. The track leads around the hill above the campground before crossing a small creek and climbing up to the western boundary of the park. Look for woodland birds such as spiny-cheeked, yellow-faced and fuscous honeyeaters, and golden whistlers which favour this area. Extensive views to the south and west, and up into the main valley of the park, can be experienced from the high open ground. The track then takes walkers down to the open flats, where turquoise parrots and diamond firetails may be seen, and back to the campground.

Distance: 4.5kms return

Time suggested: 1.5 hours

Difficulty: Class 3

HISTORY

Sundown National Park was once part of Glenlyon, Mingoola, Nundubbermere and Ballandean stations. In the late 1800s these holdings were subdivided into smaller leasehold blocks. Much of the area was cleared for grazing, but although fine grade wool was produced, the properties were not economic. Reminders of early farming, including salt-troughs and yards can be seen.

Mining of mineral deposits—principally tin, copper and arsenic—occurred sporadically at Sundown from the 1870s. While rich pockets of ore were found and more than 70 men employed for a short time, deposits were mainly low grade. Remains of mining activity can be seen from the 4wd track.

CAMPING + FACILITIES

Camp at one of five camping areas (three accessible by 4wdrive only) or hike in to a secluded bush camp. Camping areas at The Broadwater and Nundubbermere Falls can be accessed by conventional vehicles, while a rough 4wd track leads to camping areas at Red Rock Gorge, Reedy Waterhole and Burrows Waterhole. All camping areas, except Red Rock Gorge, are on the Severn River.

Bush camping is permitted in all areas of the park. Bushwalkers can park vehicles just inside the park's north-eastern entrance; at The Broadwater campground (between sites 12 and 13); and at Nundubbermere Falls.

Camping permits are required for both car-based camping and bush camping and fees apply.

CLIMATE + BEST TIME TO VISIT

Sundown National Park has more in common with cooler southern climates. In summer, daytime temperatures can exceed 40 °C. The cooler months of the year, from April to September, are the best times to visit.

GETTING HERE

Sundown is 250km (3-4 hours drive) south-west of Brisbane via Stanthorpe and 70km north-west of Tenterfield on the Queensland-New South Wales border.

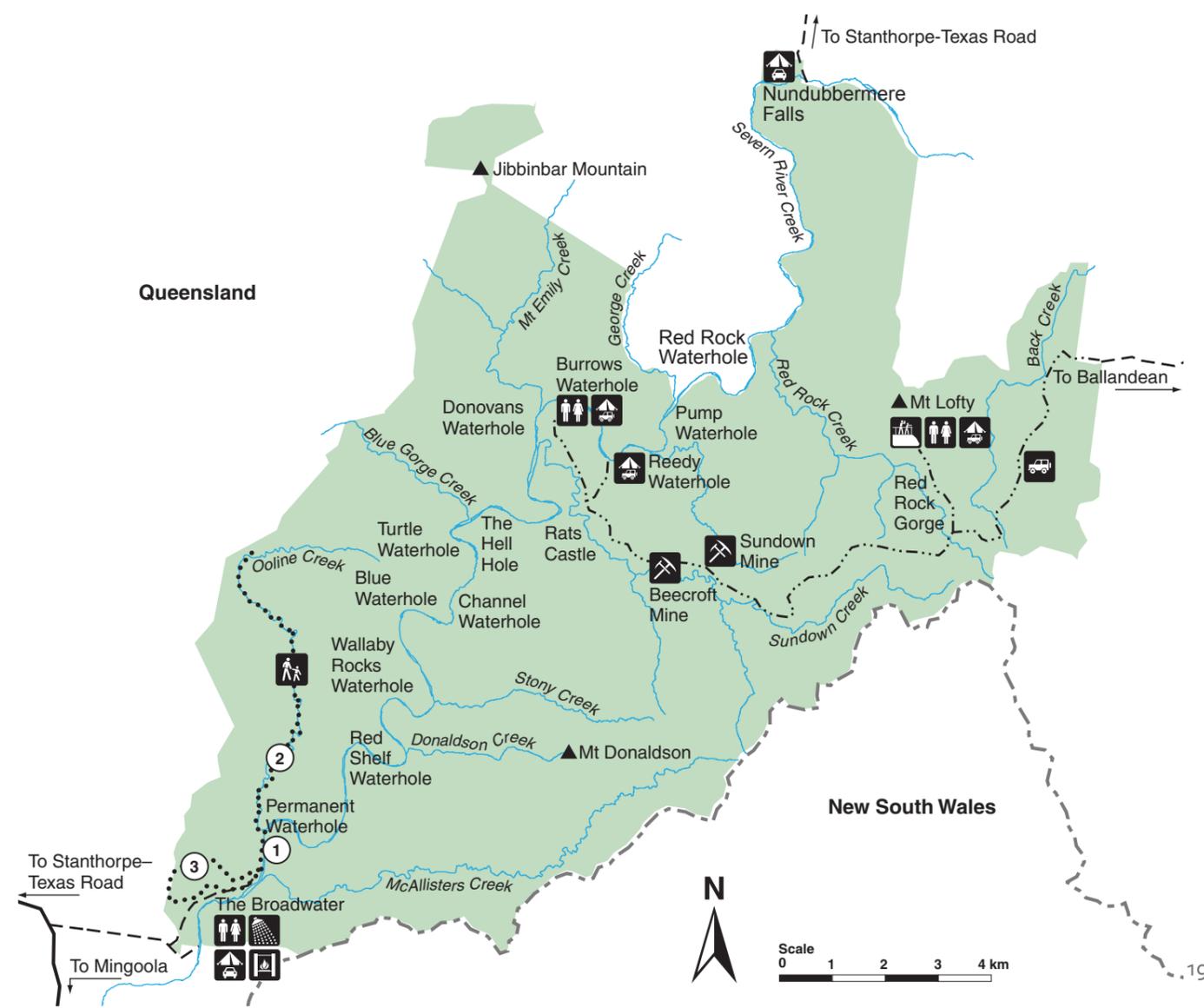
The Broadwater campground at the southern end of the park can be reached by conventional vehicle from Stanthorpe along 76km of bitumen road via Texas Road (62km) and the Glenlyon Dam Road (14km), followed by 4km of good gravel road (Permanents Road).

From Ballandean, travel the 16km of gravel via Curr Road and Sundown Road to the park's eastern boundary (and 4WD entrance). A rough 4wd track leads 20km to camp sites along the Severn River. The drive takes about 2 hours. Towing trailers or campers is not recommended due to the rough, steep and narrow road.

To reach Nundubbermere Falls travel 8km along the Texas Road from Stanthorpe, then 20km along Nundubbermere Road and then a further 4km along Falls Road to the park entrance.

FURTHER INFORMATION + BOOKINGS

t: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)



SUNDOWN NATIONAL PARK WALKING TRACKS

SOUTHERN ENTRANCE WALKS cont...

These walks are longer and more difficult. Only fit and experienced walkers who are well prepared should attempt these walks.

BLUE GORGE-OOLINE CREEK CIRCUIT

Follow Ooline Creek to the north-west boundary of the park and then walk north-west along the firebreak to Blue Gorge Creek. Proceed along the creek to the top of the gorge. From here you can either follow the gorge or go along either side spur to the river before returning to the campground. The section along the western firebreak passes through woodland communities such as narrow-leaved red ironbark, Caley's ironbark and grey and yellow box woodlands.

Distance : 30kms return
Time suggested: 2-3 days
Difficulty: Class 5

SEVERN RIVER

The Severn River runs through the park as a series of long waterholes separated by short stretches of rapids. Beyond Permanent Waterhole the hills rise steeply from the river on both sides. A long day walk upstream enables visitors to see Mount Donaldson Creek gorge and the cliffs above the river.

Distance : 12kms return
Time suggested: 1 day
Difficulty: Class 5

MCALLISTERS CREEK

Depending on the river height a day walk along McAllisters Creek is recommended. Cross the river at the lower end of Broadwater Waterhole or at the rapids upstream, and follow the walking track east into the mouth of McAllisters Creek, opposite the information hut. McAllisters Creek narrows down into a gorge with cascades and two main waterfalls, Split Rock Falls and Double Falls. The section between the two waterfalls is picturesque with steep cliff sides and dry rainforest vegetation. Care must be taken with climbing around Split Rock Falls.

Distance : 10kms return
Time suggested: 4-6 hours
Difficulty: Class 5

MOUNT DONALDSON CIRCUIT

This walk takes you up McAllisters Creek past Double Falls onto the southern slopes of Mount Donaldson and finally the summit. Experience the magnificent views across the park and down into the gorge of Stony Creek. Continue westward along the spur to the river before following it back to the campground

Distance : 24kms return
Time suggested: 2-3 days return
Difficulty: Class 5



RED ROCK FALLS LOOKOUT

SUNDOWN NATIONAL PARK WALKING TRACKS - NORTH-EASTERN ENTRANCE WALKS

RED ROCK GORGE LOOKOUT TRACK

From the Red Rock Gorge camping area, a graded track leads to a lookout providing spectacular views of Red Rock Gorge. Peregrine falcons inhabit this area. There is a show of granite belt wildflowers, including sago flower, in the spring.

Distance : 500m return
Time suggested: 15 mins
Difficulty: Class 3

RED ROCK GORGE

Park your car at the north-eastern entrance and walk along the old 4WD track across Back Creek until it meets the main vehicle track. Continue along the main vehicle track to the Red Rock Gorge camping area at the top of the gorge. Follow the graded track to the lookout over Red Rock Gorge.

Distance : 15kms return
Time suggested: 5 hours
Difficulty: Class 4

MOUNT LOFTY CIRCUIT

To reach the summit of Mount Lofty follow the old 4WD track across Back Creek then up the firebreak. Continue north to the Severn River and follow it back downstream to Red Rock Creek. Follow the creek to Red Rock Falls and then walk back along the vehicle track to the park entrance.

This walk takes you through a variety of habitats, such as grey box forest on the flats, stringybark and yellow box on the hills and riverine vegetation including red gums, tea tree and bottle brush (*Melaleuca viminalis*).

Distance : 32km return
Time suggested: 2-3 days
Difficulty: Class 5

BURROWS WATERHOLE TO RATS CASTLE

From the camping area at Burrows Waterhole, follow the old 14-wire laced fence parallel to the river until you reach Sundown Creek. Cross the creek and continue walking up the spur to Rats Castle. This vantage point provides wonderful views of the river valley. The walk takes visitors through typical silver-leaved ironbark and white cypress pine woodland.

Distance : 6km return
Time suggested: 3 hours
Difficulty: Class 5



BOONOO BOONOO NATIONAL PARK

(NSW - adjacent to Bald Rock National Park)

Boonoo Boonoo (pronounced 'bunna bunoo', a local Aboriginal term for big rocks) has spectacular river and gorge scenery.

Experience Boonoo Boonoo Falls, one of the largest falls in the region for a lookout platform. They cascade over the eastern edge of the New England Tableland, crashing 210m into the rainforest and gorges below. Swim and camp beside the river. Discover the region's history by visiting Morgan's Gully where an old goldfield attracted miners in the 1890's.

FLORA + FAUNA

Boonoo Boonoo offers a variety of vegetation types. A rainforest area is located in the north-east gullies of the park and can also be found at the base of Boonoo Boonoo Falls. Grassy woodlands cover the well-drained valley slopes and alluvial flats including the rare *Allocasuarina rupicola*. Dry eucalypt forest is the main vegetation type, covering about 80 per cent of the park.

Spring is wildflower season - boronia, banksia, grevillea and a profusion of other flowering plants brighten the woodlands of this granite country.

The vulnerable brush-tailed rock wallaby is one of the most interesting animals of Boonoo Boonoo National Park. It is found in small numbers around the rock outcrops of the Boonoo Boonoo Falls.

The grey kangaroo, wallaroo, swamp wallaby and red-necked wallaby are all found through the park, and the brush tailed possum, ringtail possum, and the sugar glider are sometimes seen by campers in the trees around the Cypress Pine Camping Area. The common wombat is found in small numbers in the remote north-west of the park. Platypus may be seen along the river

Glossy black cockatoos, brightly coloured eastern and crimson rosellas and the yellow-tailed black cockatoo are fairly common. The smaller species, such as the eastern yellow robin and the New Holland honeyeater are often seen in the quieter parts of the park. The colourful superb blue wren is often seen in the woodlands and heaths.

Boonoo Boonoo National Park is home to a variety of reptiles that use its rocky outcrops for basking during the day and protection at night. Along the creeks and swamps you may see the red bellied black snake or the tiger snake, especially when they are out basking on the rocks. Frogs are common in wetter areas.

HISTORY

Following the settlement of the Tenterfield in the 1840s, the Woodenbong Road/Mount Lindesay Highway, was the main link between Sydney and Brisbane. The area was soon recognised for its suitability for bush grazing and several large holdings were established. Gold was discovered in the late nineteenth century in Morgans Gully and Ropers Gully, and the village of Boonoo Boonoo flourished as a result. The village was abandoned long ago, but its remains can still be seen on the eastern side of the Woodenbong Road near Resurrection Creek.

Boonoo Boonoo Falls became accessible at about the turn of the 19th century. It took nearly twenty years for the former Fauna Protection Panel to dedicate the Boonoo Boonoo National Park. Two parcels of land totalling 1 345ha were gazetted as the nucleus of the park in 1982. Since then various additions have been made and the park now has an area of 4377ha.



BOONOO BOONOO NATIONAL PARK

(NSW - adjacent to Bald Rock National Park)

SWIMMING

There are numerous waterholes in the Boonoo Boonoo River. A popular swimming area is the large pool above the Boonoo Boonoo Falls which is accessible via a walking track from the picnic area. Be aware - the Boonoo Boonoo River is cold and there are submerged rocks and logs.

CAMPING + FACILITIES

There is a picnic galley with tables and gas barbecues at the **Boonoo Boonoo Falls Picnic Area**, the most popular visitor destination in the park. Wood fireplaces and tables are also provided. Firewood is supplied, but visitors are encouraged to bring a gas cooker if possible. A non flush toilet and drinking water are available.

A wood fireplace and table are provided at **Morgans Gully**, located beside the Boonoo Boonoo River, just off the park access road about 1 km from the park entrance. An old gold mining site, the area attracted many European and Asian miners in the 1880s. It yielded little gold and by 1905 mining had ceased. Relics of the mining era still remain and two steel pressure cylinders associated with the gold extraction process can be seen between Morgans Gully and the park access road.

There are 15 camp sites at **Cypress Pine** which is located on the main park access road. It is accessed by an unsealed road that is suitable for 2WD vehicles. Facilities include picnic tables, wood bbqs, gas/electric bbqs, non-flush toilets and drinking water. Camping fees apply. No bookings are taken for the campground - first come, first served basis.

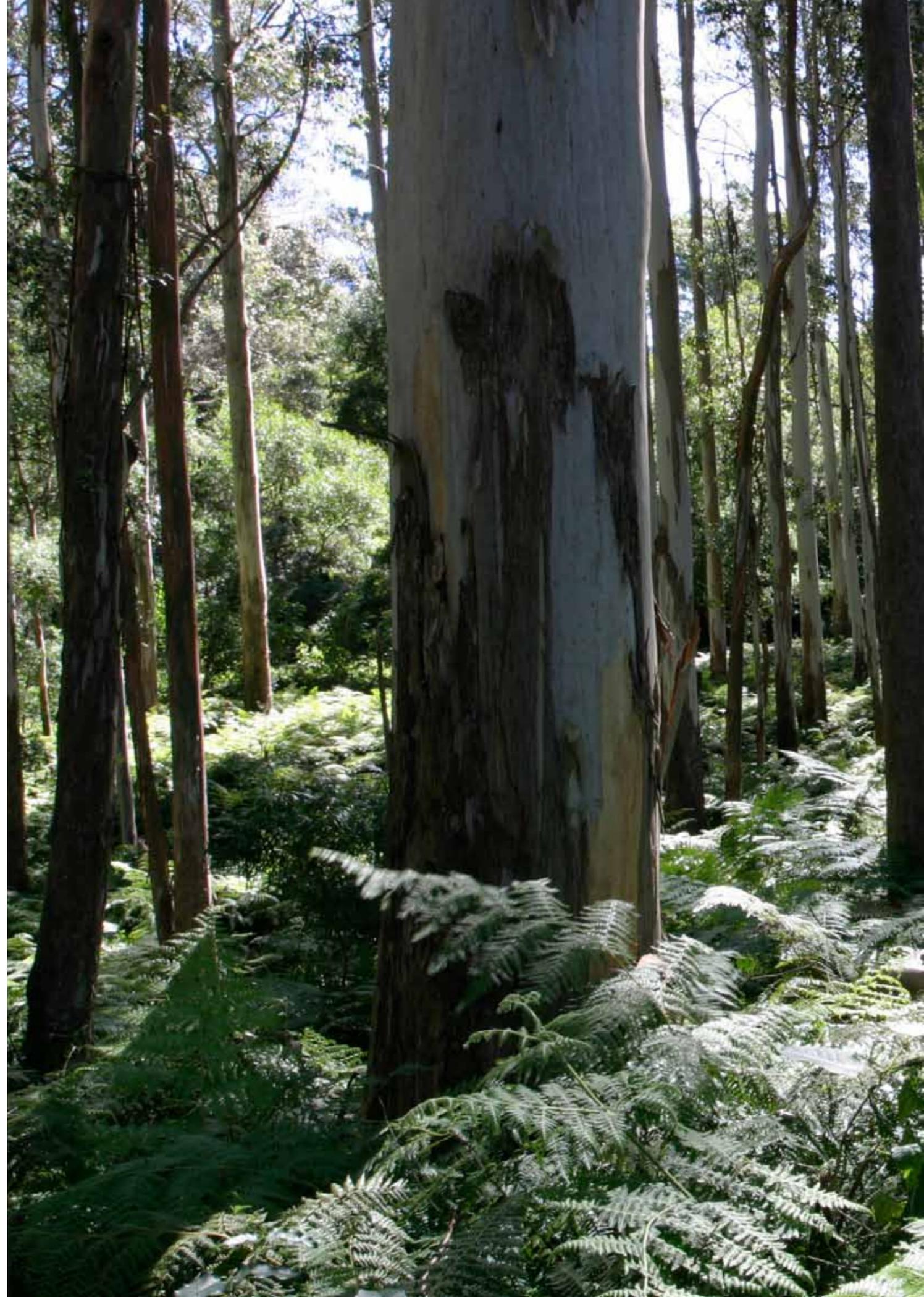
For those after a little more comfort the national park also offers a cabin. Robinsons Cabin sleeps six and has two bedrooms, a lounge and dining room, as well as kitchen and bathroom facilities including a flush toilet and hot shower. There is a generator for lighting and power.

GETTING HERE

From Stanthorpe take the road to Amosfield, then turn south towards Tenterfield along the Woodenbong Road. Between Amosfield and Bald Rock National Park the road is unsealed. Continue south past Bald Rock for a further 7 km to the Bonnoo Boonoo National Park/Boonoo Boonoo Falls turn off. Follow this road for 4 km to the park boundary. The 9 km park access road is unsealed and ends at the Boonoo Boonoo Falls Picnic Area.

FURTHER INFORMATION + BOOKINGS

The Ranger t: +61 2 6736 4298



BOONOO BOONOO NATIONAL PARK WALKING TRACKS

MORGANS GULLY

Morgans Gully is not a formal walk as much of the site is exposed granite rock. The area is an old goldfield that came to prominence towards the end of the last century. Little gold was extracted and by 1905 mining ceased. The eastern end of the gully contains a hand-dug water race where gold bearing gravels were washed and two old pressure cylinders used in the gold extraction process are located in the woodland a little further east. The tributary creek flowing through Morgans Gully drops over a small waterfall as it flows into a beautiful part of the Boonoo Boonoo River.

Difficulty: Medium to difficult

BOONOO BOONOO FALLS WALKING TRACK

The walk begins at the Boonoo Boonoo Falls Picnic Area and follows a sealed track to a viewing platform overlooking the falls. The track follows the southern side of the Boonoo Boonoo Gorge through forest and woodland, where you'll see interesting displays of native wildflowers in spring. At the base of the gorge, 210 m below the escarpment, an area of rainforest is fed by the constant spray of the falls. Local legend has it that the famous poet Andrew Barton 'Banjo' Patterson courted Alice Walker, daughter of the owner of Tenterfield Station, at the falls lookout. From this track you can also get to a swimming area in the Boonoo Boonoo River, above the falls. The picnic area has a cooking galley with gas barbecues and tables and wood fireplaces are also scattered around the area. Toilets are provided.

Distance: 300m

Time suggested: 30 minutes

Difficulty: Easy

MOUNT PRENTICE WALK

Start the walk at the cattle yards on the park access road. The track shortly crosses the Boonoo Boonoo River, then continues north-west through forest and woodland. You'll cross numerous rock outcrops as well as several small creeks before arriving at the eastern face of Mount Prentice. The ascent of Mount Prentice is steep in places but the view from the summit is ample reward. You'll have views in all directions, with Cunninghams Gap, Mount Lindesay and Mount Barney to the north-west. You can see Bald Rock to the west. When returning from Mount Prentice most walking groups follow the upper reaches of Branch Swamp Creek north-east before turning south to the cattle yards where the walk ends.

Distance: 8km

Time suggested: 8 hours

Difficulty: Hard

There are also interesting walks along the Boonoo Boonoo River.

BASKET SWAP NATIONAL PARK

(NSW. Also includes the Boonoo Boonoo State Forest)

Basket Swamp National Park is an important wetland of heaths and sedges. The 2800ha park cleans, stores and slowly releases water throughout the year into local creeks that run into the coastal Clarence River system.

This is a woodland park without facilities that would suit self-reliant bushwalkers. It includes Timbarra Trig Lookout (limited access) (1163m) and gives access to nearby Basket Swamp Falls and the sacred Woolloomoolni Aboriginal Place.

The park is part of the former Jukambal tribal grounds, and lies within the area covered by the Moombahlene Aboriginal Land Council. The adjoining Woolloomoolni Aboriginal Place holds great significance to local Aboriginal people.

FLORA + FAUNA

Basket swamp has ten rare plant species and a further twenty six species of significance. Major vegetation communities include the - Blackbutt-Stringybark Shrubby and Grassy, Tea-tree Riparian Scrub, Tea-tree Rock Outcrop Heaths and Shrublands, Coachwood-Brushbox, Messmate-Blackbutt and Heathy Sedgeland.

The park supports a multitude of wildlife, including the endangered brush-tailed rock wallaby and the vulnerable spotted-tailed quoll. The eastern grey kangaroo, red-necked wallaby, and swamp wallaby are all quite common, and the wallaroo is sometimes observed. Other fauna includes the echidna, koala and the rufous bettong. It also provides potentially high-quality habitat and refuge for the vulnerable glossy black cockatoo, sooty owl and powerful owl. Numerous snakes and lizards are seen in the park. These include the red-bellied black snake and the brown snake, as well as several species of skink.

HISTORY

Within a 370ha reserve is sacred and protected Woolloomoolni, an impressive stone outcrop

with one mushroom-shaped rock protruding above the other boulders (1040m above sea-level at its peak). A spot of great natural beauty it is a designated sacred site of the Bundjalung people. Woolloomoolni was a 'wuyangali', a clever man with special rights to this centre of spiritual power. His spirit is reputed to have returned to the site upon his death, rendering it approachable for others.

Thomas Hewitt was the first European to discover the area while travelling from Glen Innes and named the rock Wellington's Lookout (also known as Mount Wellington or Wellington's Rock) because of the rock's resemblance to the hat worn by Wellington at the battle of Waterloo. A dry weather road comes to within 3km of the site with a 4wd track leading the remainder of the way. A map is indispensable.

CAMPING + FACILITIES

Limited camping facilities are available on the outskirts of the park. The Bark Hut picnic and camping area offers sheltered eating areas, walk-in camping spots, plus toilets and showers.

A low key camping/picnic area, known as the Basket Swamp Picnic Area (actually located in the adjoining Boonoo State Forest) has a toilet, tables and fireplace. Beyond the Basket Swamp Picnic Area, a gravel track leads to Basket Swamp Falls, also within the Boonoo State Forest.

CLIMATE + BEST TIME TO VISIT

Basket Swamp is good to visit any time of the year. During the colder months the air is very clear and the view from the summit is excellent. September to October usually produces displays of wildflowers.

GETTING HERE

Basket Swamp is located 14km north-east of Tenterfield off the Mt Lindesay (Woodenbong) Road (partly unpaved) with access by dirt tracks; 4wd required in some parts of the park.

MAIN RANGE NATIONAL PARK

(Incorporating the Queen Mary Falls)

Impressive mountain peaks, escarpments and ridges offer breathtaking views in this Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area. Main Range National Park covers 29 730ha, with the southern area of the park providing the spectacular Queen Mary Falls.

QUEEN MARY FALLS

Bush walking is one of the many pleasurable experiences around the beautiful Queen Mary Falls. Once named Upper Daggs Falls, Queen Mary Falls are a beautiful sheer 40m drop of spring water flowing all year round, surrounded by bush orchids, native ferns, and flowers that show their beauty in the springtime.

The walk takes you down to the foot of the falls where you find absolute peace and tranquillity. Queen Mary Falls are actually the top tier of three waterfalls situated in the mountains behind the small town of Killarney. It was once said by the locals that Queen Mary Falls were actually named after Queen Mary herself, who as a child travelled on horseback to see these magnificent waterfalls but there is little proof.

near-by attractions

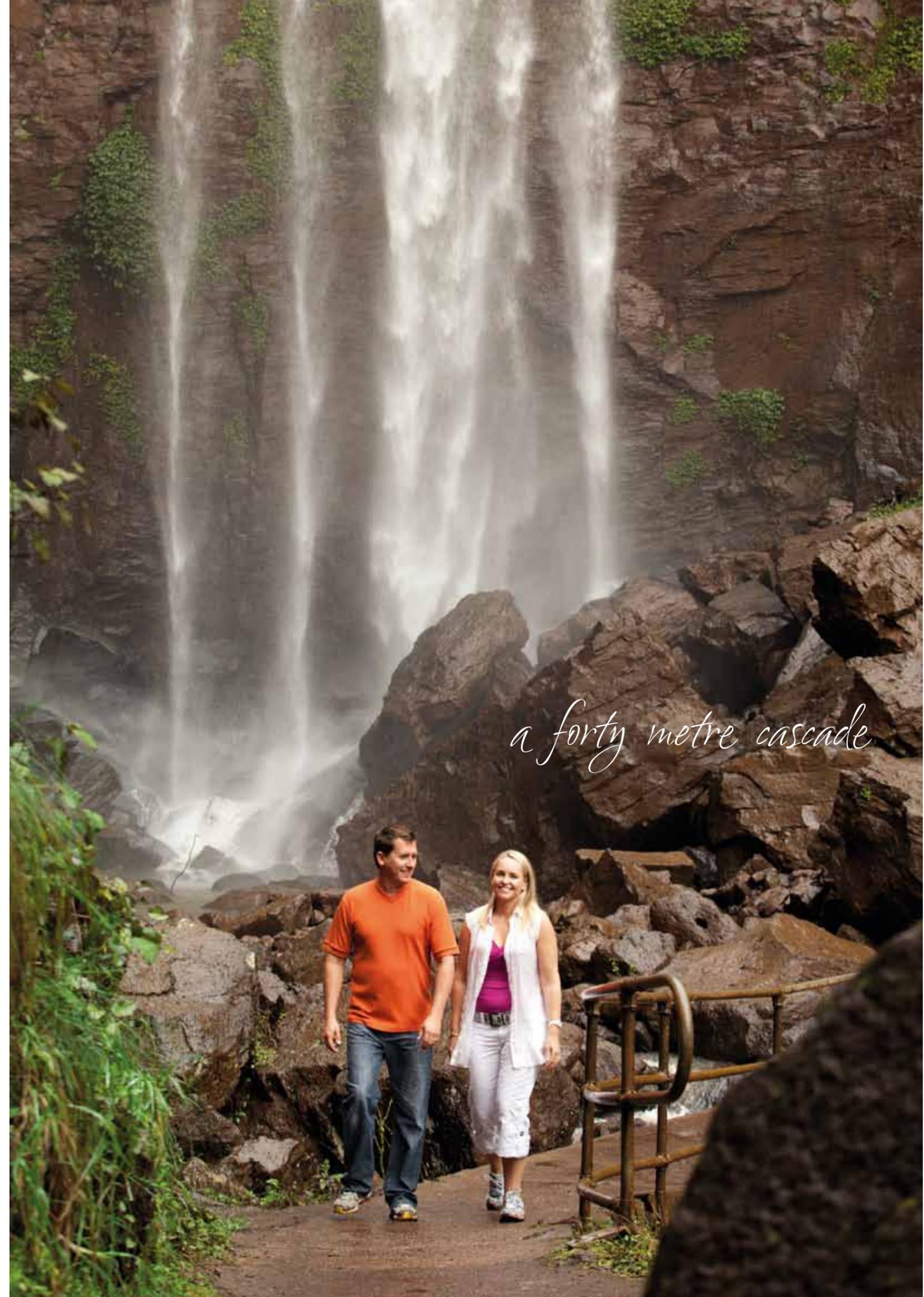
Located just outside the national park are the Killarney Falls including Brown Falls and Dagg Falls.

BROWN FALLS

The beautiful Browns Falls are at the bottom of the range leading up to Queen Mary Falls. There is a 20 minute walk in from the road near Browns Falls picnic area which is well worth the walk. A short adventure along the creek, a little rock hopping, and you feel as if you are in an unknown wilderness.

DAGGS FALLS

Daggs Falls can be seen from a platform lookout about 3km below Queen Mary Falls, and are just as spectacular as Queen Mary Falls. The falls are easily accessible, directly on the road side. An abundance of native birds frequent the gorge and the surrounding bushland. The Australian King Parrots and Crimson Rosellas can be hand fed at the caravan park. Facilities include picnic tables, wood bbqs, gas/electric bbqs, non-flush toilets and drinking water. Camping fees apply. No bookings are taken for the campground - first come, first served basis.



a forty metre cascade



*challenge numerous
river crossings*

14 RIVER CROSSING TRACK

4WD ONLY

For the 4wdrivers there is a must do drive which starts at Killarney (about 30 minutes drive from Stanthorpe) called the 14 River Crossing Track. It's name explains it all - but it is also a great way to see some dramatic scenery and experience our diverse range of flora and fauna.

There are also private 4wd tracks west of Spicers Gap in Goomburra and Dalveen. Always gain permission before entering private property.

CARRS LOOKOUT

2WD

Alternatively, a short drive towards Bonah takes you to Carrs Lookout providing beautiful views of the head valley with Mt Superbus, Mt Wilson and Mt Barney in the background.

MOSS GARDENS

2WD

A little further on is the Moss Gardens, showing trees draped with different types of moss, and rocks covered in what looks a lot like green velvet, and quite often surrounded by a gentle mountain mist. There is a walk which takes you past a 100 year old rabbit proof fence. The walk is very steep and rocky but the view at the end is spectacular.

QUEEN MARY FALLS WALK TRACKS

QUEEN MARY CLIFF WALK

This walk takes you to the top of Queen Mary Falls, which is part of the headwaters of one of Australia's longest river systems, the Murray-Darling.

Distance: 400m return

Time suggested: 20 minutes

Difficulty: Easy Class 2

QUEEN MARY FALLS CIRCUIT

The circuit takes you from eucalypt-covered ridge top to the rainforest gorge. From the Queen Mary Falls lookout, watch Spring Creek plunge over the 40m Queen Mary Falls to continue its twisting journey down the valley floor to join the Condamine River's upper reaches. Continue on the track to view the falls from creek level.

Distance: 2kms return

Time suggested: 40 minutes

Difficulty: Easy to Medium Class 3

MAIN RANGE NATIONAL PARK

(Incorporating the Queen Mary Falls)

FLORA + FAUNA

The flora of the Queen Mary Falls area is extremely significant with more than 1700 species of flowering plants.

Birdlife is abundant in the area. Twilight is the best for viewing native mammals including bandicoots, kangaroos and sugar gliders.

CAMPING + FACILITIES

The national park's picnic area, set amongst eucalyptforest, is for day-use only and offers tables, wood-fired bbqs and free electric bbqs, toilets and tap-water. Boil or chemically treat all tap-water before drinking. Please supply your own firewood.

Located opposite the picnic area is a private caravan park and shop/kiosk.

CLIMATE + BEST TIME TO VISIT

Queen Mary Falls flows all year, however it is most spectacular after a large rain fall (check road conditions before embarking).

GETTING HERE

Queen Mary Falls is located at the south-west end of the national park 11 km east of Killarney on the Killarney-Boonah Road. If you are coming from Brisbane it is located 64km south-west of Boonah via The Head Road and the Teviot Range. The approach from Boonah is very steep and should be travelled with care. It is unsuitable for caravans.

Killarney is 88kms from Stanthorpe via Warwick or a scenic drive is via Mt Lindesay Road (unsealed in parts) and Liston.

FURTHER INFORMATION + BOOKINGS

The Ranger t: +61 7 4666 1133

Bookings: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

PASSCHENDAELE STATE FOREST

The Passchendaele State Forest covers an area of about 5400ha and is located near Amiens.

It consists of an undulating to steep pine plantation and eucalypt forest that is scattered stunning granite formations. In spring, yellow exotic coreopsis flowers line the roads through the forest.

Within the forest are important geological formations and the famous Swiper's Gully fossicking site. Fossicking is still permitted (please see our fossicking section for details).

The forest is regularly used for orienteering and mountain bike riding as it contains a good track network as well as areas of detailed granite rocks, which require careful navigation.

You can follow the remains of the old railway line which was opened by the Prince of Wales in 1919.

FLORA + FAUNA

You are likely to meet kangaroos, wallabies and beautiful bird life in the forest.

CAMPING + FACILITIES

No camping is allowed in the forest.

GETTING HERE

From Stanthorpe, take the Texas Road and follow westwards until you pass under the Stanthorpe by-pass and then take Amiens Road to the right. Proceed 12.5km towards Amiens and then take Baupame Road to the right, at the top of a hill. Follow for 7.5km to the Passchendaele Forest Station on the left and park as directed. Approximately 25 minutes from Stanthorpe.

Note: Currently there are many washouts on tracks in some areas following on from the 2011 floods. Vehicle access is not possible in some areas even for 4wd's.



take a horse ride

TOP TIP

To really enjoy the forest - see it on horseback! Speak to the Visitor Information Centre about horse trail rides.

go orienteering

BULLECOURT BOULDER BOUNDERS

The Bullecourt Boulder Benders Orienteering Club conducts a monthly program of orienteering events from February through to October. The club has hosted a number of national and international orienteering events. All events are open to the public and a range of courses are available to suit all ages and levels of skill.

Instruction on the basic map reading and navigational skills are also available at all events, plus coaching and technical training sessions are on offer throughout the year.

MOUNT MARLEY LOOKOUT

High above the town, Mt Marley Lookout gives commanding views of the district. To get there, drive up Lock Street, opposite the Stanthorpe Plaza and follow the signs. On the way make sure you stop at the historic Soldiers Memorial.

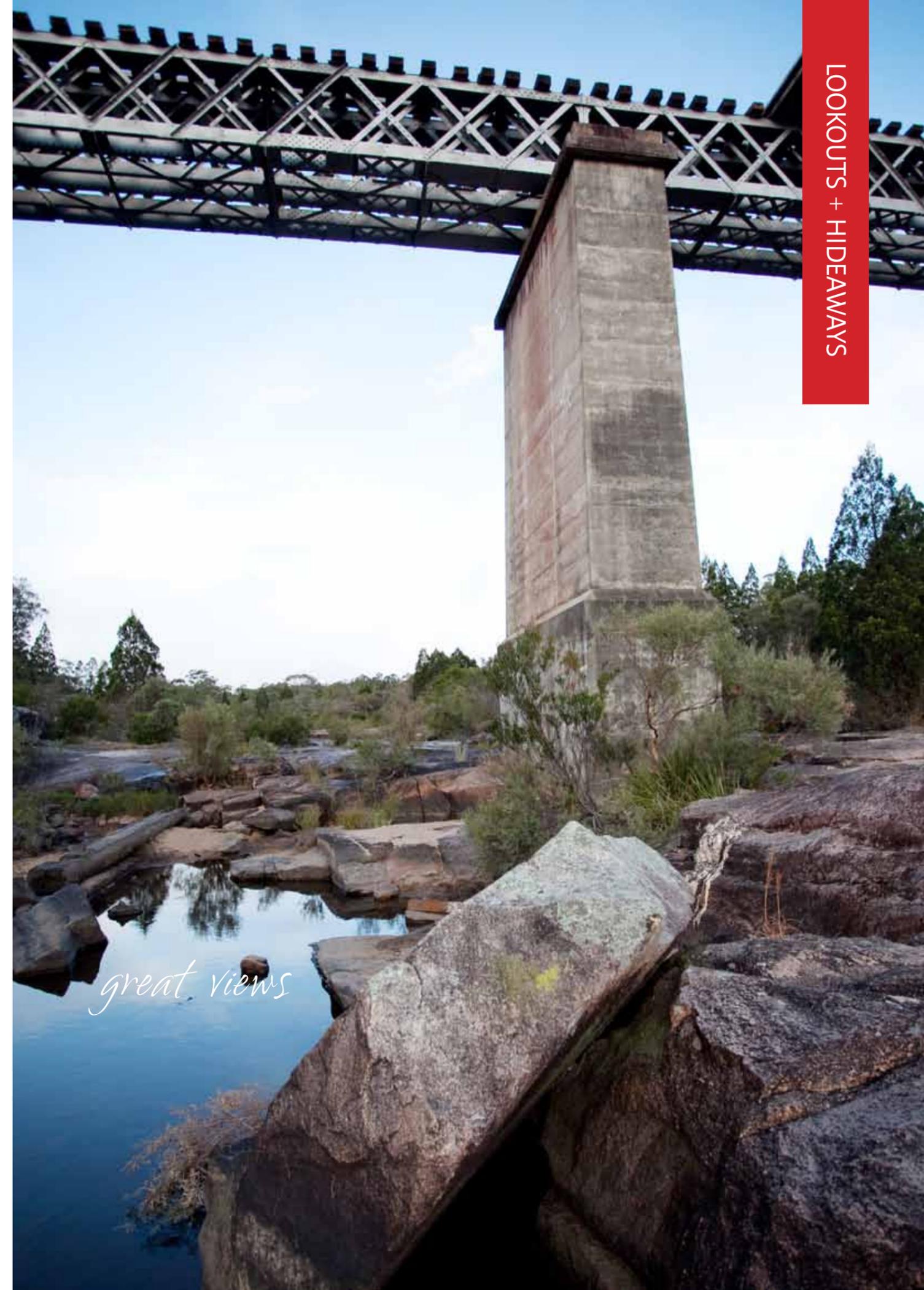
Picnic facilities are located at the top. If you are here in winter, expect plenty of smoke in the air, from all the chimneys, as everybody has wood fires!

RED BRIDGE

Just to confuse you Red Bridge is white! But this famous historic railway bridge, located at the end of Anzac Street in Stanthorpe, was once red. Built in 1885, the work carried out to build this bridge was done without the use of modern equipment. Explosives loosened the rock, but manpower and horse drawn drays removed the rock which was used for the large amount of banking required. The concrete piers were constructed using temporary staging of timber.

Stores, shanties and hotels catering for the large numbers of workers followed the construction of the line. Many who came to work as bridge carpenters and sleeper cutters stayed to take up farming selections.

Red Bridge spans Quart Pot Creek and is a favourite place for children to play along the river (supervised) and clamber over low level rocks.



great views

*don't get pyramids
confusion*

THE REGION OF TWO PYRAMIDS

OUR 'EGYPTIAN' PYRAMID

Henty Estate/Aussie Vineyards
Jacobson Road Ballandean

The pyramid is the result of a chance remark by local Peter Watters to, the then owner of the property, Stuart Moreland. Peter said "What are we going to do with all these rocks?" Stuart replied "Build a pyramid!"

His subsequent instructions were "The pyramid has to be 30m square at the base and 15m high". It actually stands 17.5ms high and contains 7500 tonnes of rock.

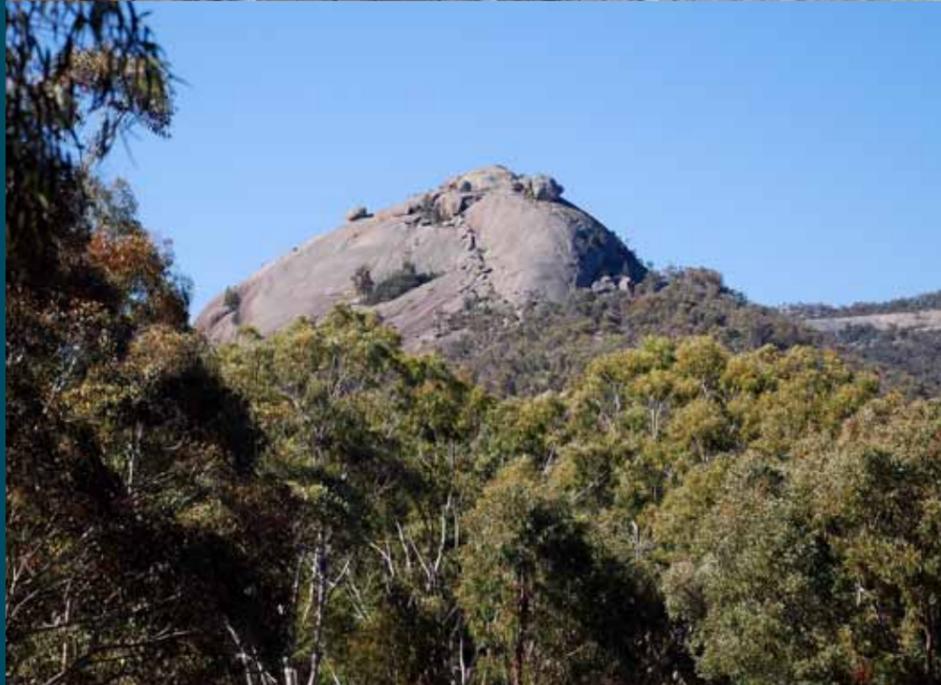
It was built by a Mr Ken Stubberfield using an excavator and dump truck. It took eight months.

Note: located on private property but clearly visible from the road.

PYRAMID ROCK FORMATION IN GIRRAWEE NATIONAL PARK

This Pyramid is one of Girraween National Parks famous rock formations. A climb to the summit of the "The Pyramid" will reward you with magnificent views and the Balancing rock.

You need a good level of fitness to climb this rock....after some 440 stairs you need to climb a steep exposed rock face. Do NOT attempt this in wet conditions.



OUR HIGHEST POINTS

The Summit	924 m
Mt Marlay.....	919 m
Mt Norman.....	1267 m
Mt Malakoff	770 m
Mt Sugarloaf	1086 m

SPECIAL ROCK FORMATIONS

- The Pyramid - Girraween National Park
- The Sphinx and Turtle Rocks - Girraween National Park
- Mt Norman and Eye of the Needle - Girraween National Park
- Granite Arch - Girraween National Park
- Castle Rock - Girraween National Park
- Turtle Rock - Girraween National Park
- Red Rock Gorge - Sundown National Park
- Rats Castle - Sundown National Park
- Donnelley s Castle - Pozieres

DONNELLY'S CASTLE

Discover our famous granite boulders and be elevated without hours of climbing at Donnelly's Castle, near Pozieres.

It's only a 200m walk to the top providing breathtaking views over the valley.

Surrounded by caves, legend tells us this was a hide-out of the famous bushranger Thunderbolt!

HISTORY

Frederick Wordsworth Ward (Captain Thunderbolt) (1835-1870) was an Australian bushranger who roamed the New England Tablelands during the 1800s. He has a reputation as the "gentleman bushranger" and was renowned for his lengthy survival, being the longest roaming bushranger in Australian history.

FACILITIES

There is a car park, picnic facilities, a small shaded area and public toilet.

GETTING HERE

Donnelly's Castle is located at the end of Donnelly's Castle Road, just off Amiens Road. Pozieres, about a 15-20 minute drive from Stanthorpe.

*the thunderbolt
adventure continues*

THUNDERBOLT'S HIDEOUT

Located between Stanthorpe and Tenterfield on the Mt Lindsay Road is another hideout of the notorious bush-ranger Captain Thunderbolt.

There is a path to the hideout, about 300m from the parking area. Large granite boulders form two caves. It is believed that the bushranger Frederick Ward ('Thunderbolt') used the caves because the location offers an ideal vantage point and attacks on the north-south road can be planned easily.

second line of defence

THE BRISBANE LINE

Located only 1km from Thunderbolt's hideout is a significant part of World War II history. A cement wall and upright posts are remnants of the Brisbane Line fortifications from World War II established as Australia's second line of defence in case of an invasion from the north. They look simple but were effective tank traps. In the course of the war there were up to 10 000 troops stationed in the area.

be amazed

THE GRANITE BELT MAZE

Get lost in the Granite Belt maze as many times as you wish and experience the tranquillity as you wander around the gardens and frog ponds. While you're there play a game of jumbo chess or mini golf.

STORM KING DAM

Located south east of Stanthorpe, Storm King Dam rests in a picturesque rural setting with many water birds (including pelicans) and is an ideal spot for picnics, swimming, sailing, water skiing and fishing. Fish species include Golden Perch, Murray Cod, Silver Perch, Jew and River Black fish.

FACILITIES

Storm King Dam offers excellent facilities including toilets, picnic tables, wood bbqs, jetty, shaded areas, boat ramp, swimming area and playground. Please note that camping is not permitted. However, there is a recreational/youth camp available for large group bookings, the Sommerville Tourist Park offers accommodation, camping and small boat hire, or nearby is Storm King Cottage.

GETTING HERE

Storm King Dam is situated 10kms southeast of Stanthorpe on the Sugarloaf Road to Eukey.

GLENLYON DAM

Further afield, 90kms from Stanthorpe towards Texas, is Glenlyon Dam, Glenlyon. It is ideal for wildlife viewing and many water sports such as skiing, sailing and fishing. Fish species in the dam include Golden Perch, Murray Cod, Silver Perch, Jew and Spangled Perch.

FACILITIES

Camping sites, cabins and caravans are available at the Glenlyon Dam Tourist Park located at the waters edge. Facilities include a kiosk that sells bait, a boat ramp, a picnic area with tables and wood bbqs (wood available), drinking water, public phone, tennis court, playground toilets, showers and boat hire. Fishing permits are available on site.

GETTING HERE

Glenlyon Dam is situated approximately 40kms south east of Texas and 90kms west of Stanthorpe along the road to Texas.



water water water

fishing - x marks the spot

A restocking program has enabled the keen fisherman the pleasure of a spot of fishing in the local waterways.

QUART POT CREEK

Try your luck in front of the Visitor Information Centre or near the Granite Street weir.

SEVERN RIVER

15km south of Stanthorpe with picnic and bbq areas. Offers great spot to cast a line off the banks (spinning lures are popular, however watch the scrub and bushes along the banks). Queens Waterhole, 5kms west of Ballandean is the only fishing reserve (fishing NOT allowed), otherwise access to most of the river is through private property so before you set off make sure you have the landowners permission! Sundown National Park also provides access to the Severn River.

STORM KING DAM

15km south east of Stanthorpe on Sugarloaf Road. You need a fishing and boating permit for this dam. Summer is one of the most productive times to fish Storm King. Bait fishing is popular with worms, crayfish and shrimp being the baits of choice. Trolling lures have also been successful.

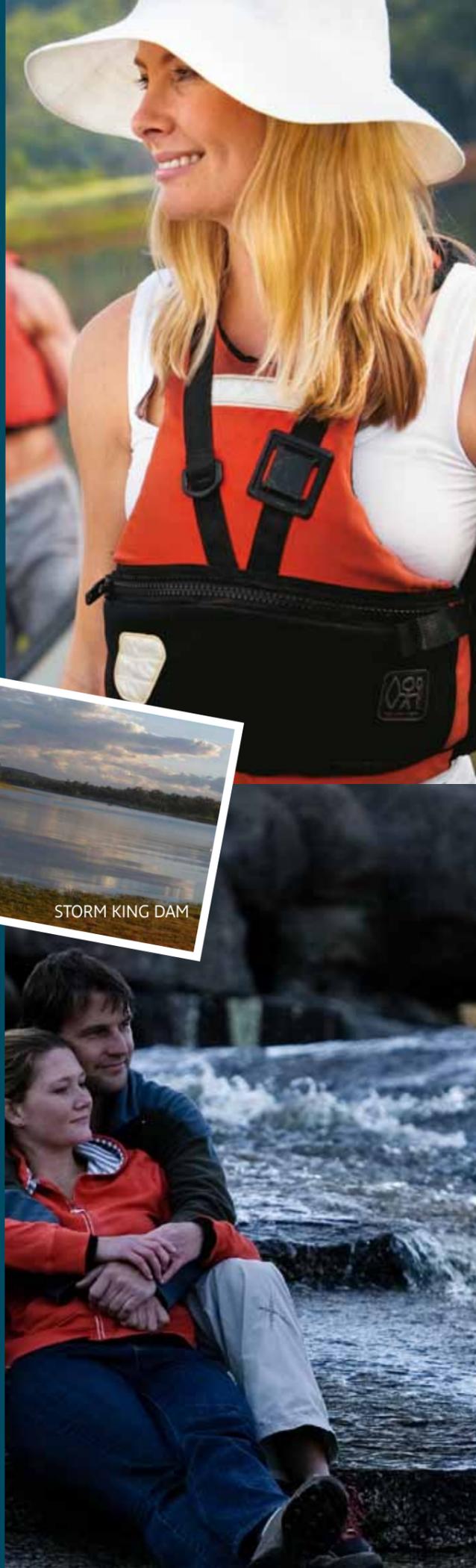
GLENLYON DAM

90km west of Stanthorpe towards Texas. One of Queensland's well known freshwater destinations. A 1800ha lake holding 254 000 ML of water at an average depth of 4.3m. Golden Perch dominate catches here, but it is the chance of tangling with a big Murray Cod. A permit (SIP) is required to fish here. Boating restrictions near the dam wall. Note: Use caution when navigating as there are large areas of standing timber and submerged logs in the upper reaches of feeder creeks.

NOTE: Local tackle and camping stores can provide you with a fishing permit. There is a total closure on catching Murray Cod from 1 September - 30 November.



STORM KING DAM



WATERFALLS

In the Granite Belt and surrounding region you can be mesmerised by falling water.

UNDERCLIFFE FALLS

Undercliffe Falls is a waterfall located on the Bookookoorara Creek in northeast New South Wales, 27kms east of Stanthorpe via Liston.

The falls descend 150m, over a 30m wide rock face into a deep pool ideal for swimming in summer. There are also a number of swimming pools located above the falls. You can take a walk track through eucalypt forest across Bookookoorara Creek to Bookookoorara State Forest returning as a circuit back to the creek.

Access the falls from Mt Lindesay Road. At Liston head to Undercliffe and Rivertree. When you come to the fork veer left and after 4km there is a right turn signposted for Undercliffe Falls.

RED ROCK GORGE FALLS

Red Rock Gorge Falls are set in the rugged Sundown National Park and after rainfall plummet 100m. If not running the lookout still provided a beautiful view.

From Ballandean, travel the 16 km of gravel via Curr Road and Sundown Road to the park's eastern boundary (and 4WD entrance). A rough 4WD track leads 20 km to camp sites along the Severn River. The drive takes about 2 hours. Towing trailers or campers is not recommended due to the rough, steep and narrow road.

From the Red Rock Gorge camping area, a graded track leads to a lookout providing spectacular views of Red Rock Gorge.

Please see Sundown National Park for further access details.

NUNDUBBERMERE FALLS

Nundubbermere Falls are located in the Sundown National Park on the Severn River.

Though not as high as most, they are still spectacular after large rainfall and are surrounded by red cliffs and small caves.

To get to the falls, travel along Texas Road to Nundubbermere Road. Turn left onto Nundubbermer Rd and follow for 25kms (cross the dog fence), pass Bendee Lane on the right. Continue till you come to 'Pearsby' property on your right. Opposite here, go through the gate into Falls Road (note: gravel road). Go through three gates - the last gate is sign-posted "Sundown National Park and Nundubbermere Falls". Continue along until you reach the top of the falls. There is a small track down to the weir. For further information see Sundown National Park.

BOONOO BOONOO FALLS

Boonoo Boonoo Falls are magnificent, plummeting 210m into the gorge below.

Above the falls are delightful pools surrounded by forest. A graded walking trail descends from the main parking area to a viewing platform which affords impressive views of the falls and the sheer granite cliffs. The Falls Lookout is associated with Banjo Paterson's courtship and marriage.

From Stanthorpe take the road to Amosfield, then turn south towards Tenterfield along the Woodenbong Road. Between Amosfield and Bald Rock National Park the road is unsealed. Continue south past Bald Rock for a further 7 km to the Bonnoo Boonoo National Park/Boonoo Boonoo Falls turn off. Follow this road for 4 km to the park boundary. The 9 km park access road is unsealed and ends at the Boonoo Boonoo Falls Picnic Area.



QUART POT CREEK

TUMBLING CREEKS

QUART POT CREEK

Quart Pot Creek runs through the town of Stanthorpe. It is beautifully landscaped and lined with 5.5kms of concrete walking paths linking one end of town to the Red Bridge. In the 1870s the town/area was named Quart Pot Creek before it was renamed Stanthorpe after the discovery of tin. Stanthorpe literally means 'tintown', as Stannum is Latin for 'tin' and thorpe is Middle English for 'village'.

Feed the ducks, swim, or just relax under the shade of a tree. It is also the perfect place for a picnic of fresh local produce from the region. If you have children, Kidspace, which is near the visitor information centre, is a good spot to have a quiet break and offers a Brass Monkey themed playground.

SWIMMING POOL

Do you prefer your water to be more the man-made variety?

The Stanthorpe Swimming Pool in Talc Street in Wee, Stanthorpe is a eight lane 50m pool. There is also a wading pool for the little ones.

It is open from October to March each year. Though open over our summer months, should it get a bit chilly the pool has conventional heating plus solar assistance. So you can stay the whole day there is a kiosk on site.



PUSH POWER

Touring cyclists have long enjoyed the safe, low-traffic country roads that run the length of the region and two cycling trails have been developed along these roads. You will find accommodation, wineries, attractions, cafés and camping grounds available throughout your journey.

Set your own pace and take the time to experience the sights, tastes, smells and stories of this stunning region. Your memories will be unforgettable. For a shorter, more relaxed approach walk or cycle along Stanthorpe's Quart Pot Creek that unwinds amid deciduous gardens and picnic areas.

MOTOR POWER

Do you prefer a bit more power? Why don't you join one of our great trailbike and dirt bike event held each year (weather permitting).

The Greenlands Motorcycle Dirt Bike Ride is among the largest and most successful motorcycle ride held in Australia each year. This multi-award winning annual not-for-profit recreational motorcycle event have been run by the Greenlands State School P&C Association since 2005 and is held on over 8000 acres of bushland just west of Stanthorpe.

Another famous event is the Rivertree Trailbike Ride. Held in November each year the event is open to trail bike riders, young and old. It offers superb trailbike riding peewees, novices and open riders passing through stunning scenery in the rolling hills of the Great Divide, just east of Stanthorpe. This is high country at its best! Organised by St Joseph's Stanthorpe, the event includes free camping with hot showers and toilet facilities plus onsite catering.



*go for a ride with
the local cycle club*

CYCLING TRAILS

Stanthorpe to Ballandean Estate and return via Mt Tully Road - 71km.

An undulating ride with some hard climbing through timbered grazing country along the edge of Storm King Dam to Ballandean Estate.

Stanthorpe, Bapaume, Glen Aplin and return - 84km.

An undulating ride through fruit and vegetable growing areas, and state forest. Can be shortened to 58km.

Coming Soon - new cycle trail from Stanthorpe to Ballandean!

STANTHORPE CYLCE GROUP

The Stanthorpe Cycle Group meets almost every Sunday morning at different times (between 6am-7am) depending on the season in the Stanthorpe Plaza car park. A typical ride would be 40 to 60km, averaging about 20 to 22 kph. But it's not all hard work - they always stop for a coffee and cake along the way, getting back to Stanthorpe 3 to 4 hours later. Anyone welcome to join - bring water, a bicycle pump, spare tyre and whatever tools you think you might need.

FOSSICKING + PANNING

If you like fossicking for gemstones you may just strike it lucky in the Granite Belt.

Historians record that Stanthorpe is the only town on the Downs which owes its birth to minerals and not agriculture. By 1872 the area was experiencing a mining rush, which gave Stanthorpe its name: stannum is Latin for tin and thorp is English for village.

The rush brought people from many countries, and for a time became the largest alluvial tin mining and mineral field in Queensland. Gold, silver, copper, wolfram, arsenic and other important minerals were also found.

The best place to go fossicking now is Swiper's Gully in Passchendaele State Forest. It is open to the public but you will need a fossicker's licence from the Stanthorpe Visitor Information Centre.

Gem quality topaz and other gemstones and mineral are found in shallow alluvial gravels in Swiper's Gully. The topaz is commonly colourless but pale blue; yellow and green (rare) have been found. Generally the stones are waterworn but crystals with well-developed faces are not uncommon. You can also find quartz varieties rock crystal (clear) and smoky quartz along with rare garnet and zircon, and fragments of cassiterite.

The boundary of the site is clearly marked with brightly coloured pegs. Digging is permitted with hand tools only. Make sure you bring your own water as it is not readily available.

try your luck

FOSSICKING + PANNING FOR KIDS

The Top of the Town Tourist Park offers fossicking for kids without having to spend hours in the sun. They are guaranteed to strike it lucky!

TOP MINERALS

Silver
Wolfram
Molybdenum
Tin
Copper
Cairngorm
Arsenic
Zircon
Limestone
Sapphire
Granite
Jasper
Quartz
Crystals
Diamond
- Clear
Garnet
- Smokey
Beryl
- Citrine
Spinel
- Rose
Agate
- Amethyst
Chalcedony
Topaz

a field of flowers



AZJURE

A REGION OF FOUR SEASONS

The Granite Belt experiences four seasons (vastly different from the rest of Queensland), and in response our flora, flowers and gardens are constantly changing.

In spring the region comes alive with fields of poppies, flowers and unique wildflowers. Our orchards are also a blaze with fruit blossom. In summer the paddocks are full of produce. In autumn experience stunning shades of auburn and orange. This leads to the stark contrast of winter where our beautiful deciduous trees are bare. Morning mist and frosts are a common occurrence at this time of year.

The cooler climate and granite soils enables English-style gardens, where wisteria, roses, hydrangeas and camellias bloom profusely, and Stanthorpe parks are dotted with the magnificent colours of the deciduous oaks.

The Granite Belt is home to several successful lavender farms which offer a visual feast of colour between November and April. These lavender farms are open to the public offering various visitor services as well as producing lavender of some renown.

And finally for the ultimate natural garden experience... take a walking trail through the Granite Belt's national parks.



VINEYARD COTTAGES

WILDFLOWERS

In the Granite Belt spectacular wildflowers displays emerge from among granite rocks and boulders in spring.

The region has over 800 different flowering plant species, with close to 50 listed in the Nature Conservation Act as endangered, vulnerable or rare species. Many are endemic to the area, meaning they are confined to a certain location or region and do not occur naturally anywhere else.

To learn more about our wildflowers get a copy of Wildflowers of the Granite Belt 1st and 2nd edition. They are photographic guides to some of the diverse wildflower species you may encounter in the region. There are also additional publications on wildflowers of specific areas, for example Girraween National Park. Books can be purchased from the Stanthorpe Visitor Information Centre or downloaded at www.granitenet.com.au - see Rare Wildflower Consortium.

Want to know more about our local wildflowers - contact the Granite Belt's Rare Wildflower Consortium. The consortium is a group of wildflower enthusiasts who share a common aim to identify, assist in managing and ultimately preserving many of the wildflower species unique to the Granite Belt.



*take a
wildflower walk
with a local expert*

RARE WILDFLOWER CONSORTIUM

The Granite Belt Rare Wildflower Consortium host at least three FREE wildflower walks each spring as part of the Primavera Festival. Anyone of reasonable fitness is able to join these local experts and get first hand knowledge of the local flora. See the Stanthorpe Visitor Information Centre for details.

GIRRAWEE NATIONAL PARK

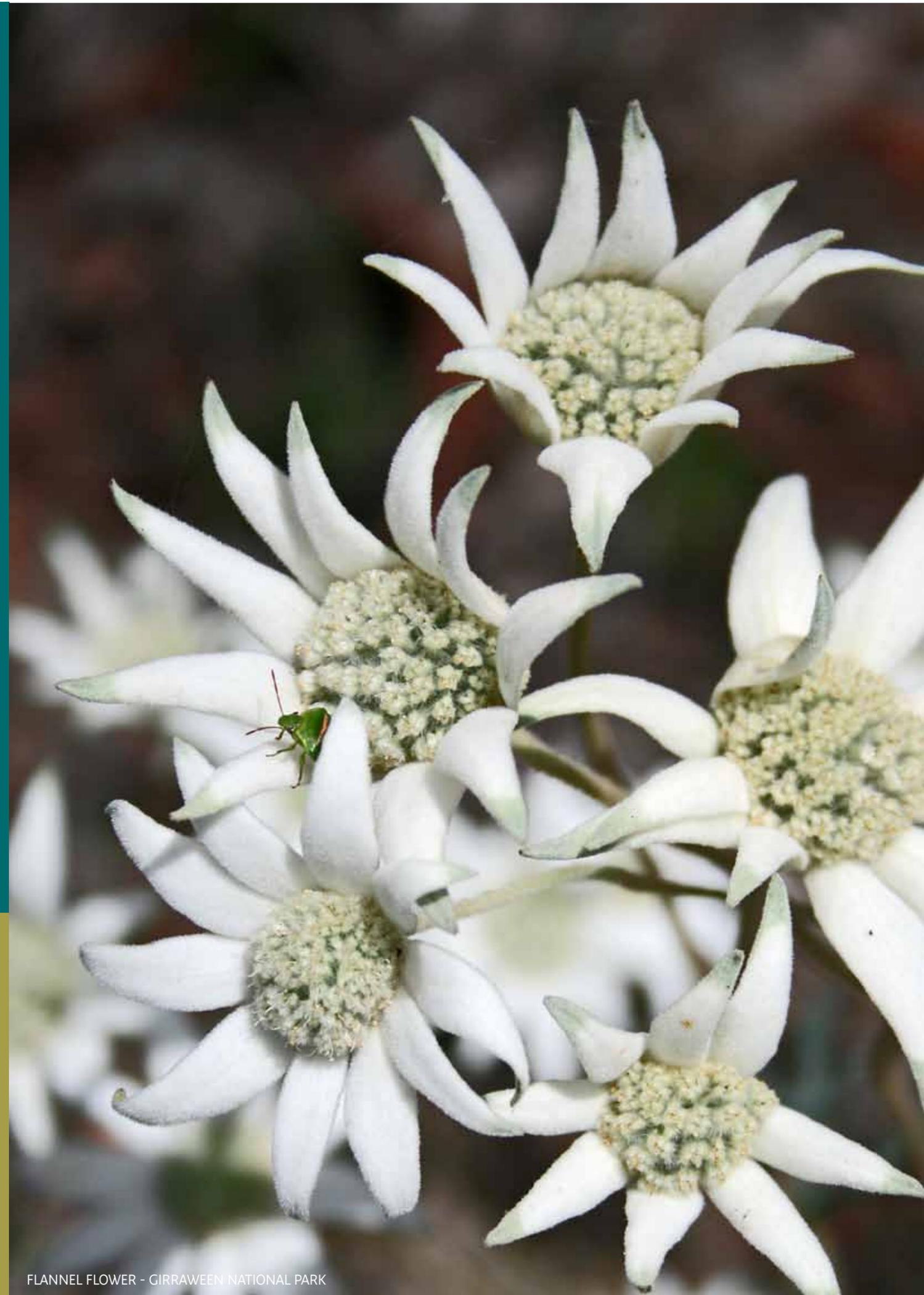
During spring and some school holidays, ranger-led activities area are available. Please contact Contact the Girraween National Park Visitor Information Centre for details.

discover our popular and unique varieties

POPULAR FLORA VARIETIES

Apple Box — *Eucalyptus bridgesiana*
Narrow Leaf Peppermint — *Eucalyptus radiata*
Wallangarra White Gum — *Eucalyptus scoparia*
White Sally Wattle — *Acacia floribunda*
Black Flowering Grevillia — *Grevillia scortechinii*
Narrow Leaf Spider Flowers — *Grevillia linearifolia*
Wallangarra Wattle — *Acacia adunca*
Wyberba Wattle — *Acacia pubifolia*
Fringed Wattle — *Acacia fimbriata*
Narrow Leaf Paperbark — *Malaleuca alternifolia*
Narrow Leaf Bottlebrush — *Callistemon linearis*

King Orchid - *Dendrobium speciosum*
Granite donkey orchid - *Diuris chrysantha*
Wild iris - *Patersonia glabrata*
Fringed lily - *Thysanotus tuberosus*
Flannel flower - *Actinotus helianthi*
Ground Orchids — *Diuris*
Greenhood — *Pterostylis*
King Orchids
Fringed Violet
Snake Iris
Golden Rice Flower
Flannel Flowers



FLANNEL FLOWER - GIRRAWEE NATIONAL PARK

LAVENDER

The soil and climate of the Granite Belt is well suited to the growing of lavender. Within and surrounding the region we have a number of award-winning producers.

Lavender is grown mainly for the dried flower market or for gift products such as soaps, oils, creams, candles, medical remedies and more. There are more than ten varieties of lavender grown in the region including:

Angustifolia (English Lavender)- small plant that require dry air, cold winters and hot summers. The flowers have intense blue/purple colour with a sweet smell. These lavenders can be used for culinary purposes or for the manufacture of perfume grade oil.

Intermedia - a hybrid of English lavenders but are larger, more robust, have natural camphor (which is desirable for the linen cupboard) and great oil production (referred to as Lavandin oil).

Dentata (French Lavender) - are more resistant to humid conditions but can be killed by severe frost. They are called dentata as a reference to the tooth-like edges of the leaves. Grown for their beautiful flowers and long-term colour, but their perfume is not their most desirable quality.

Stoechas (Italian Lavender.) - upright plants with the petals at the top of the flower that are often referred to as “butterfly wings”. These plants will also stand more humidity and again are best in the garden as they have little commercial value.

Lavender harvesting begins in mid November and takes approximately one month. It is only carried out during the cooler parts of the day, hung to dry for a week to ten days then packaged/ stripped for later use.



ALOOMBA LAVENDER

*learn more
about lavender*

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Coaches and larger groups visiting our lavender farms are welcome to join a 30 to 40 min talk from the experts on the various aspects of lavender before they access the gift shop.

There is no charge for entry to the farm or for the talk.

GARDENS + POPPY FIELDS

Called the Granite Belt because of the rich granite soil, the land and four-seasons climate combines to deliver magnificent (despite the at times harsh winters) traditional English and native gardens, and high-yield orchards and vineyards.

Spring is the time to see our gardens at their best. During spring we also celebrate November Poppy Month in the Granite Belt. This is when we remember those who sacrificed their lives in battle with beautiful fields of red poppies (speak to the Visitor Information Centre for locations). Garden and Defence enthusiasts come in their droves to witness poppies in bloom. Our poppies are also becoming very popular for deployment images for Defence families. This is an extremely worthwhile cause supported by OpAustralia.

A number of beautiful gardens are often in the Australian Open Garden Scheme in and around Stanthorpe throughout the year. Check their calendar to see who is showing this year.

Or to learn more about our gardens you can contact the Stanthorpe Garden Club. The club meets on the third Sunday of each month. Visitors are welcome.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

There is no excuse not to get outdoors and play in the Granite Belt with a wide range of parks and playgrounds. Make sure you stock on our great local produce and enjoy a picnic.

Taking in the spirit of our European heritage you can also chill out in our Piazza. Here you can learn the story Roll up Tree. As early as 1872 people rolled-up under the tree in the town centre to exchange news, to collect their mail and to read advertisements which were posted on the tree. The original tree was a towering eucalypt that stood close to this site in Stanthorpe's early tin mining days. At a meeting in 1875 an effigy of the local Member of Parliament was burned under the tree. The fire killed the tree. The modern tree was constructed by Patricia Sheehan and John Ireland in conjunction with local youth. The metal leaves on the tree are inscribed with family names of the time.



QUART POT CREEK

on your deck

SKATEBOARDING

A skateboarding area is available for teenagers and big kids at heart in Talc Street, Stanthorpe, almost opposite the YMCA. It contains different heights of bowls and transitions, wedge banks, rails, blocks and specially designed to fit into the area. A good ride for skater enthusiasts!



PLAYGROUNDS + BBQ AREAS

Weeroona Park and surround art, library and swimming pool complex is situated in Marsh Street, Stanthorpe and offers a playground, shelter, a number of picnic tables, toilets and seating.

There are numerous picnic areas along Quart Pot Creek. Apex Park, off Folkestone Street has a playground with seating, toilets and shelter. One of the best playgrounds (including a basketball hoop) and bbq areas can be found at Kilpa Park (Kidspace) in Kilpa Street, Stanthorpe. Also along Quart Pot Creek is Lions Park located opposite the Visitor Information Centre offers BBQ, playground and shelter. Rotary Park is located next to the Visitor Information Centre on Leslie Parade and also offers BBQ, playground and shelter. Further up the creek near the Granite Street Weir is Heritage Park. It has some seating and picnic table options. The ducks love Heritage Park plus it is only a short distance to Red Bridge.

REST STOPS

As you enter Stanthorpe from the south you may wish to stop at the Lions Park on Wallangarra Road (just off the New England Highway). It has pull-over parking, toilets, bbqs and tables. Further south, next to our famous fruitosaurus in Ballandean enjoy toilet and picnic facilities.

Coming from their north, there is a beautiful shaded area with picnic tables and toilets at Brock Park (just after the Stanthorpe Heritage Museum) off High Street. Further north in Dalveen is the Jim Mitchell Park - a great place to rest as you check out the hamlet of Dalveen.



ROLL UP TREE

WILDLIFE

The Granite Belt is ideal for spotting and enjoy some of Australia's unique wildlife. This includes wombat, echidna's, possums, kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, bogon moths, lizards, snakes (yes, be careful), wallaroos, geckos, and even the rare platypus.

Should you see a hurt wild animal the Granite Belt Wildlife Carers may be able to assist. Contact the Visitor Information Centre for details.

Please remember not to touch or scare our unique wildlife.

FARM LIFE

This is traditionally sheep and cattle country. You can visit sheep and cattle properties that have been established for generations or a dairy where you can witness the morning milking (if you get up early!). Or if you really want to see the action why don't you attend one of the local cattle sales.

But the Granite Belt certainly has more to offer if you are after a farm animal experience, from donkeys, horses, ponies, goats, alpacas, ducks, geese and chickens, and most establishments have a resident cat and farm dog.

To protect our farm animals there is 90km of dog proof fencing, called the Dingo Spur Fence, which was designed to stop the migration of wild dogs into the wool producing grazing lands in the west of the shire. There is also an old rabbit fence through the northern end of our region.

LAW LIFE

The Granite Belt offers the unique opportunity to see Australia's only privately-owned working dogs training kennel open to the public for action and training demonstrations. Get up close and personal while seated behind a safety fence and see the dogs in an experience like no other.

Be captivated as you see the dogs training for future arrest scenarios, controlling suspects, finding hidden scent, working around agility equipment, developing their bite skills, and barking on command. It's an hour of entertainment you will never forget! Live training content changes from week to week as different dogs start and finish their training.



MILKING

Get up early to experience milking a cow at the Granite Belt Dairy

KANGAROO SPOTTING

Brunckhorst Ave & Moss Court
Kangaroos often congregate here, particularly at sunset.

Stanthorpe Golf Club
Play an game of golf and get to see kangaroos too.

DUCKS SPOTTING

Quart Pot Creek
Meet our local ducks and view an array of wildlife, particularly at the Bird Sanctuary at the YMCA end of the creek.



YOGA + MEDITATION

It is a long-held practice for city dwellers to 'head for the hills to relax and rejuvenate. The Granite Belt's outdoors offers the ultimate destination to revive inside and out.

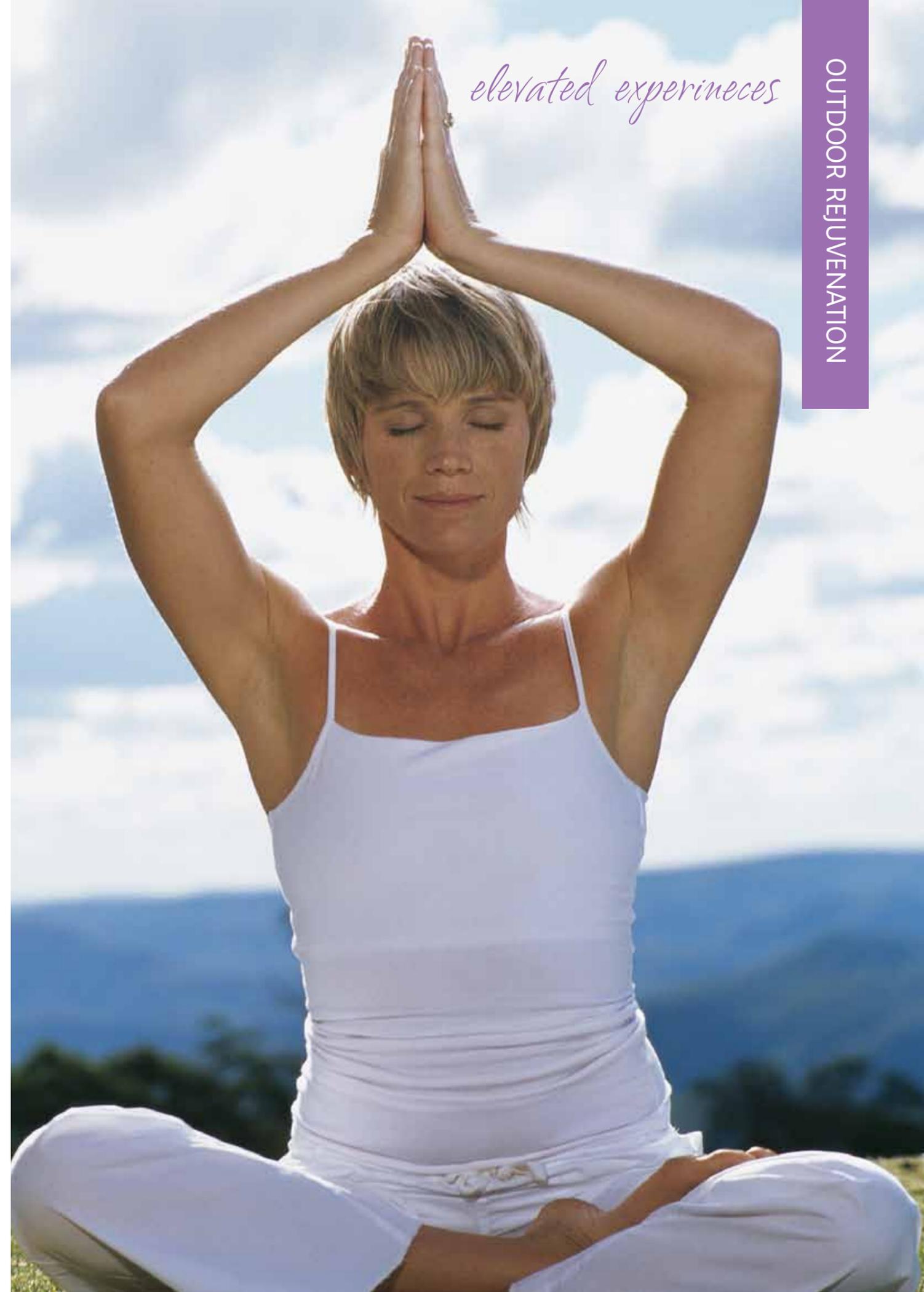
Go on a yoga and wellbeing retreat and rejuvenate your mind, body and soul. Enjoy a relaxing, engaging, informative day and be gently guided through techniques and tips to incorporate relaxation and wellbeing into your daily life.

In peaceful and natural surrounds of the Granite Belt try meditation, pranayama, chanting, relaxations workshops to assist in awakening and re-energising the spirit. Classes are designed with options for all levels of practice - from beginner to the more advanced practitioner. Be soothed and strengthened. You'll emerge a different person!

Don't feel like going anywhere - get them to come to you. A number of our accommodation properties offer yoga and meditation services and have onsite spa and sauna facilities. It is the ultimate way to relax after a day of nature and adventure activities.

elevated experineces

OUTDOOR REJUVENATION



RODEO + RACING

STANTHORPE RODEO

The Stanthorpe Rodeo is held in March each year. When it comes to action sports - rodeo has it all. Human and animal, movement and sound, thrills and spills, dirt at the Stanthorpe showgrounds. So get your boots and hat on, and experience a real country day out.

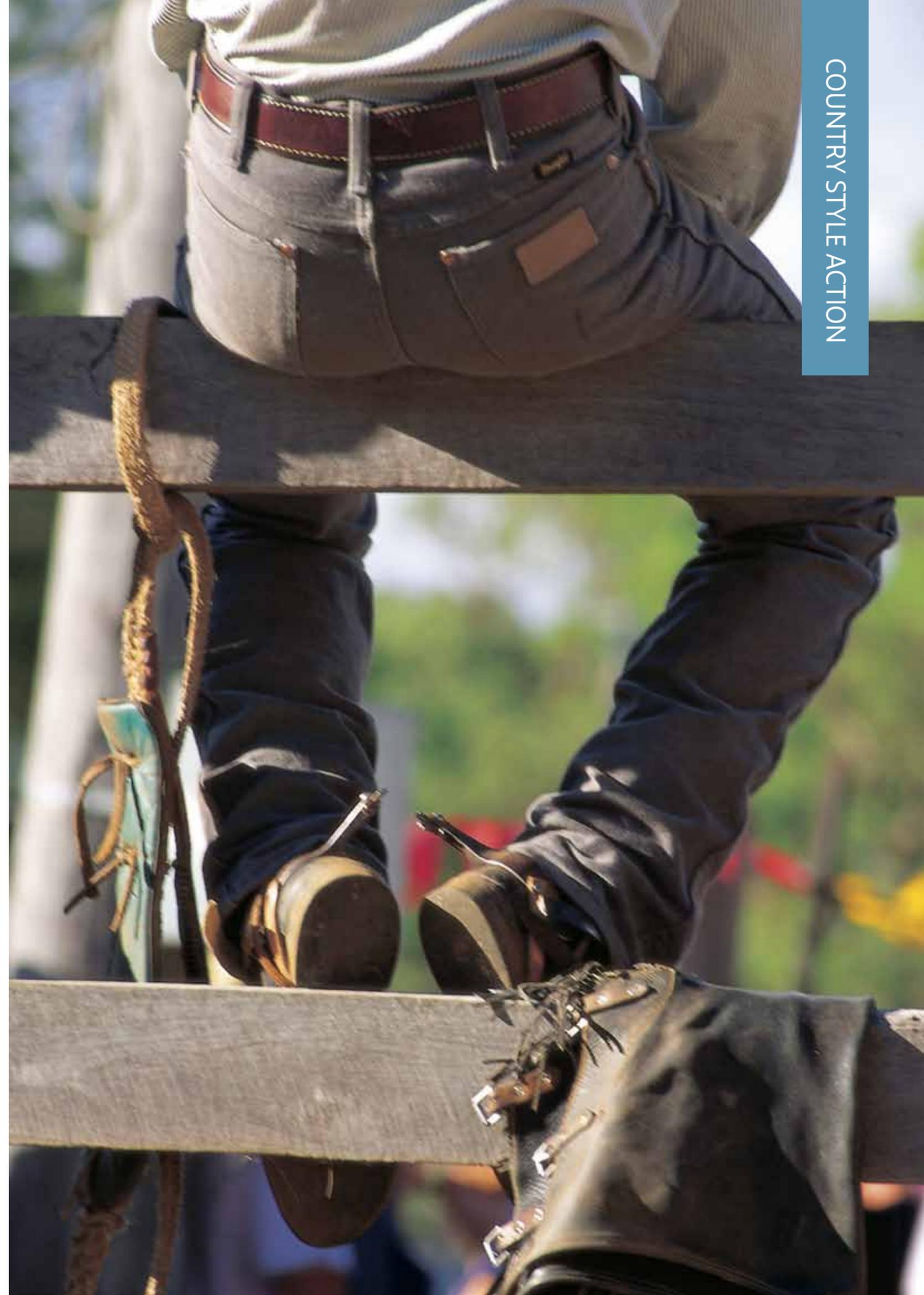
STANTHORPE CAMPDRAFT

The annual Stanthorpe Campdraft is also held in March. Witness man and horse working at their very best. The Stanthorpe Show Campdraft Committee also host two practice campdrafts through the year in preparation for the big weekend. Here potential competitors new to the sport can try out their new found skills under the guidance and instruction of seasoned campdrafters.

CARNELL RACEWAY

The Carnell Raceway, located on Rifle Range Road just out of Stanthorpe holds a weekend meet per month for either Drag races, Super Modard Bikes, Touring cars and more. It promises you thrills and excitement, and of course make sure you take your ear plugs! For further information contact the Stanthorpe Visitor Information Centre.

*don't miss the thrills + spills of
campdrafting and rodeo*



GOLF, BOWLS OR CROQUET

The Stanthorpe Sports and Country Club has an excellent 9 hole golf and 14 tee golf course with irrigated bent grass. It is open daily from 8am-6pm. But beware - you will have to share the course with the resident kangaroos. Didn't bring you clubs - the club also offers club hire, plus cart and motorised buggies.

Bowls more your pace - enjoy the club offers two bowls rinks with good sand ditches and shaded seating areas. The Summit Bowls Club also offers two excellent greens, plus a range of facilities.

The club also operates a full size croquet rink and is home to the Croquet Club of Stanthorpe. Gateball is now also being played.

TENNIS + SQUASH

Play tennis either during the day or under lights at the Stanthorpe Tennis Club in McGregor Park, Lock Street, Stanthorpe. There are ten surfaces available.

Stanthorpe has also has squash courts that are open to the public. They are located at 41 Railway Street. Bookings essential. The Stanthorpe Squash Racquets Association was one of the first Squash clubs in Queensland. Free coaching for those new to the sport is available on Tuesday nights.

your one-stop-shop to fitness + wellbeing

STANTHORPE YMCA

The Stanthorpe YMCA in Talc Street offers a range of programs designed for people of all ages and abilities including Tai Chi, step/pump, fitness camp, yoga, pilates, dance, spinning, lifestyles programs plus a fully equipped gym.

It also offers a range recreation and leisure activities; from art classes to gymnastics, indoor and outdoor sport, and community events.



take a golf clinic

JUNIOR GOLF CLINICS

The Stanthorpe Golf Club offers junior golf clinics most Friday afternoons. It's a great way to get your children outdoors and interested in the fantastic sport of golf. They may just become the next Tiger Woods!



have a designated driver

Many of our events offer complimentary shuttle buses. Ask about these services when you book your tickets. Alternatively, organise a taxi - for Stanthorpe Cabs call 13 22 27.

What about your own personal driver?

The best way to experience our wine region is to take a tour - and make someone else the designated driver. For more information or bookings see the Stanthorpe Visitor Information Centre.

get off the beaten track

OLD STANTHORPE ROAD

Keen to take the road less travelled? When driving between Stanthorpe and Warwick take the Old Stanthorpe Road. It has some gravel but provided a great chance to see some gorgeous scenery. For directions speak to a Visitor Consultant.



GETTING HERE

The Granite Belt and its central town, Stanthorpe, are easily accessible and only a short 2.5-3 hour drive from Brisbane or the Gold Coast. Similarly accessible for travellers from northern New South Wales - Stanthorpe is approximately three hours drive north of Armidale on the New England Highway. The southern end of the Granite Belt region rests the town of Wallangarra, located on the Queensland/New South Wales border.

SELF DRIVE

If you want to plan your drive to the Granite Belt, you can use a number of online travel planning services, or visit RACQ. If you have time take the scenic routes to the Granite Belt - see www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au for details.

Take the Australian Country Way Tourist Drive from?

BY AIR

Fly from Interstate or International via Brisbane or Coolangatta (Gold Coast) airports, and the transfer by coach or car. Alternatively air charter services are available - Flight One offers 30 minute flights from Brisbane's Archerfield Airport and Stanthorpe Aerodrome just 6km north of the town centre. You'll be met by a tour operator on arrival. Stanthorpe Aerodrome has no landing charges.

BY BUS/COACH

Experience the freedom of travelling by coach. Several of our tour operators pick up and deliver from Brisbane.

Crisps Coaches operate regular daily services from and to Brisbane's Roma Street Transit Station or you can organise a charter service for groups as small as four.

Greyhound Australia connects Stanthorpe to the rest of Australia.

TOURS

Exploring the Granite Belt's stunning natural scenery, winding country lanes, boutique wineries, fabulous food providers and unique attractions is often best done in the company of local experts who know all the secrets of this beautiful region.

Tours can be tailor-made based on your wine passion or food tastes. Granite Highlands Maxi Tours and Fillippos Tours offer a range of tour options, and Crisp Coaches specialise in group charters of all sizes and for all interests. For the ultimate tour take to the air with Flight One. Or, twice a year, join the Winelander for a train trip of wine and food indulgence.

TOURIST DRIVES, TRAILS + ITINERARIES

Alternatively enjoy the freedom of doing your own thing. With so much to see and do, it can be hard to know where to start! To make it easy and to get the most out of your stay we have put developed suggested itineraries, trails and tourist drives.

Follow the famous Strange Bird Alternative Wine Trail, the Food Trail that celebrates Nude Food, or our four historic tourist drives. If you are after a more personalised itinerary speak to our friendly and knowledgeable staff at the Stanthorpe Visitor Information Centre. Need more inspiration - see our website must dos.



Before you visit

Plan your trip, book real-time rates in accommodation, learn about Granite Belt wine, get the latest information on events, download maps and itineraries, and get Last Minute and Hot Deals – all online!

www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au

When you arrive

Stop at the accredited Stanthorpe Visitor Information Centre for practical advice to make your visit a great travel experience. It's free.

Our friendly visitor consultants can assist you with accommodation and tour bookings, as well as further information on the Granite Belt.

You can also browse the Granite Belt Pantry for delectable local produce.

28 Leslie Parade, Stanthorpe QLD 4380
T: 1800 SO COOL or (07) 46
E: info@granitebeltwinecountry.com.au
Open Daily 9am - 5pm



CLIMATE

Soaring altitude creates a region of four seasons and a climate a world away from Queensland counterparts. Warm in summer, but rarely exceed 30 degrees; and breathtakingly chilly in winter. Yes, it can even snow.

Layer dressing is the key, as even in winter, from below zero overnight our sunny days can warm up to almost 20 degrees. And always bring a jacket for the evenings.

SPRING - PRIMAVERA

7.8 - 22.3 Celsius

It is also a visual feast of apple blossoms and wild flowers. Spring is our season of celebration with Primavera (Italian for spring) gastronomic and cultural events, and new wine vintage releases.

SUMMER

14.6 - 28.8 Celsius

In summer, the paddocks are full of produce; stone fruit and berries the favourite. Summer is also the time to explore the great outdoors trekking through our national parks or water-sports on rivers and Storm King Dam.

AUTUMN - VINTAGE

8.8 - 21.9 Celsius

Fall in love with autumn and its rich colours, as the deciduous landscape turns golden. Autumn is harvest time - pick your own apples or watch vineyards bringing in grapes.

WINTER - BRASS MONKEY

1.8 - 17.2 Celsius

Winter is colloquially our Brass Monkey Season; frosty mornings, crisp clear days, Christmas in Winter dinners and cold nights by roaring open fires.





www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au

