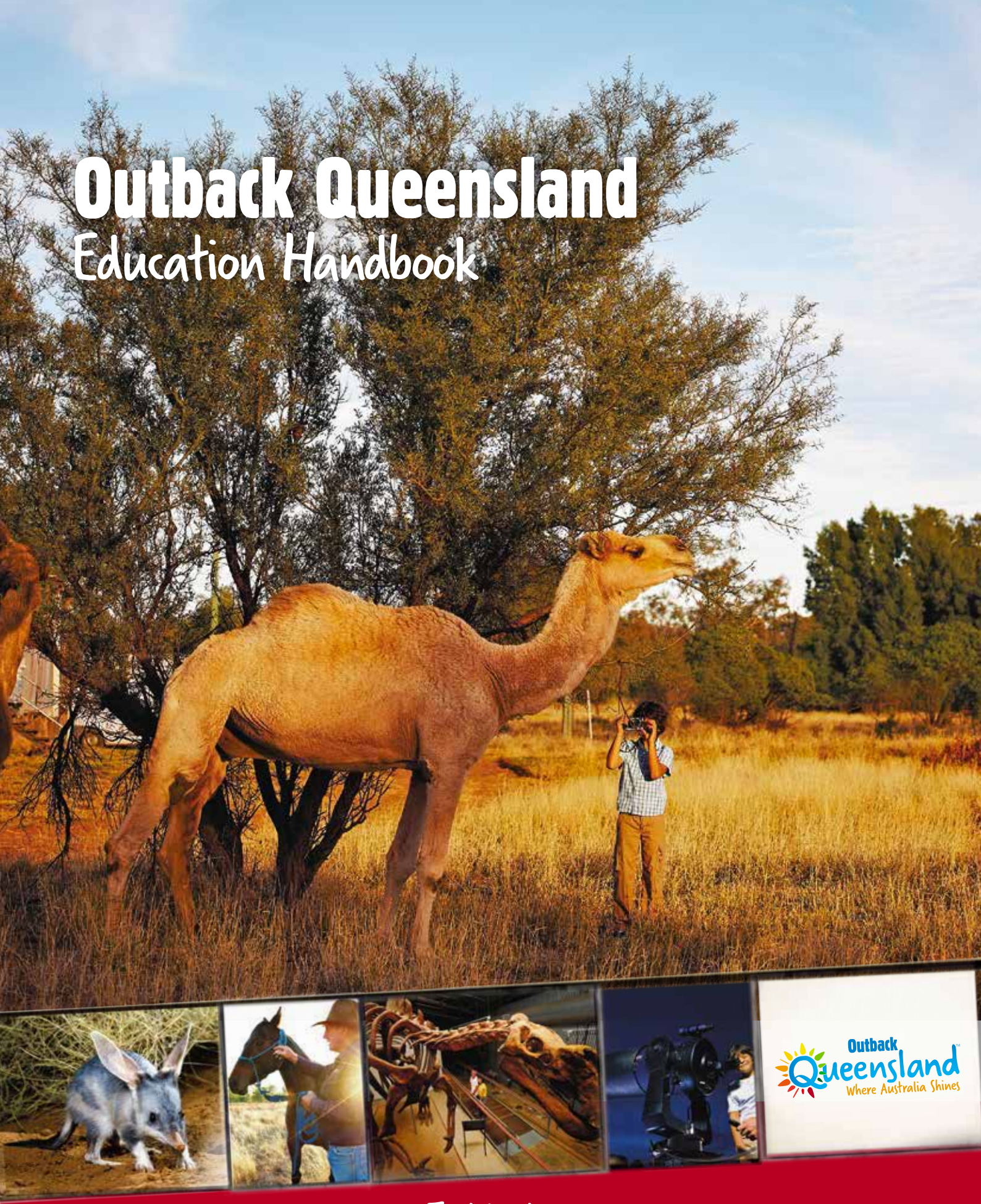
Outback Queensland
Education Handbook

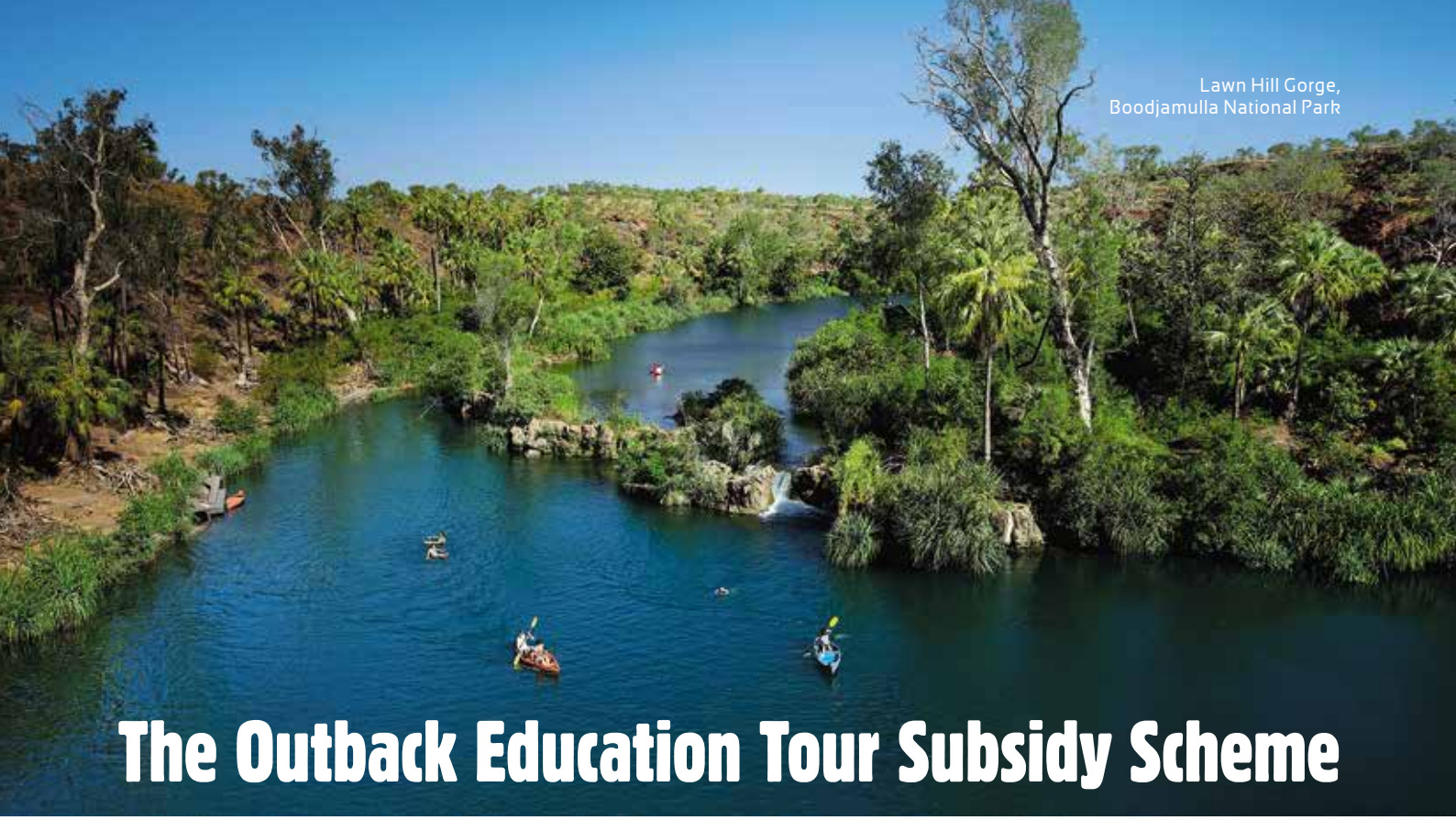


Outback Queensland™
Where Australia Shines

30 Factsheets on:

archaeology, fossils, geology, astronomy, politics, social history, early exploration, gold, opals, rare species and unique landscapes.

outbackeducation.com.au



Lawn Hill Gorge,
Boodjamulla National Park

The Outback Education Tour Subsidy Scheme

The Outback Education Tour Subsidy Scheme has been developed to encourage schools to take Year 5, 6, 7 and 8 Queensland students to visit Outback Queensland, to learn about the history and heritage of our State. This scheme is offered to schools located outside the boundary of Outback Queensland.

"Outback Queensland" is defined as the Local Government Areas of:

Flinders, Richmond, McKinlay, Cloncurry, Mount Isa, Barcaldine, Blackall Tambo, Longreach, Winton, Barcoo, Boulia, Diamantina, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie and Bulloo

This scheme operates as a subsidy which is paid direct to schools after they have met the eligibility requirements for funding. 50% of the subsidy will be paid upon approval of an application and the remaining 50% will be paid upon the receipt of a completed survey after the excursion. The payment is not meant to cover all costs. Funds are allocated to schools on a per student basis at rates varying according to round trip distance travelled. Funds are to be used to reduce the costs for individual students.

The subsidy rates are as follows:

Distance travelled from school (round trip)	Funds allocated per student
500–999 km	$50
1,000–1,499 km	$75
1,500–1,999 km	$100
2,000 km and over	$130

As there is a limited amount of funding, schools are encouraged to apply as early as possible. Each application will be dealt with in order of receipt until funds are exhausted.

Eligibility requirements and Terms and Conditions apply.
Please visit **www.outbackeducation.com.au** for more information and to download the application form.



Welcome to Outback Queensland

Step into a world full of contrast, colour and awe-inspiring diversity. Each topic will introduce you and your students to new adventures – one after the other – as you explore the legendary, ancient and natural hidden treasures that lie inland from our coastal fringe.

You will be surprised, amazed and at times thoroughly amused as Outback Queensland unfolds before you.

As a teacher you can use the information to assist and guide the development of lesson plans that will assist with the Essential Learnings and their Outcomes.

The resources and sources for each topic are designed to enrich your planning, pave the way for further learning opportunities and inspire you and your class to come and experience Queensland's Outback firsthand.

The people out here are warm and friendly and will welcome you at every stop along the way. It's only two hours between most towns and every town has its own remarkable and unique story that is waiting to be told.

Visit any number of learning centres such as the Cosmos Centre and Save the Bilby at Charleville, The Woolscour at Blackall, the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Qantas Founders Museum at Longreach. Travel to the Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park at Winton or dig for other types of buried treasure at mining sites from Mount Isa to Yowah. Climb the red sand hills of Munga-Thirri (Simpson Desert) National Park, scour the river banks of the Channel Country or traverse the pyramid on the northern Savannah range. There is nothing quite like it.

A special thanks to the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority for supplying all of the Australian Curriculum information and links. Many thanks also to the partners of the Outback Education Tour Subsidy Scheme, Tourism and Events Queensland, Outback Queensland Tourism Association, Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and Commonwealth Games and Education Queensland.



Contents

Outback Education Products and Travel Itineraries 06–49

06 **Travel and Safety Information**

07 **Itineraries**

07 **Itinerary 1** – Kangaroo Bus Lines Outback Explorer – Camping Safari

12 **Itinerary 2** – Kangaroo Bus Lines South West Safari Tour – Camping Safari

17 **Itinerary 3** – Blue Bus 5 Day Stars, Stockmen and Sapphires Safari – Accommodated Safari

21 **Itinerary 4** – Outback Aussie Tours Outback Legends and Ancient Giants

25 **Itinerary 5** – Adels Grove Lawn Hill Outback Experience

27 **Itinerary 6** – Mackay Transit Outback Adventure Tour

30 **Itinerary 7** – Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre Combo Itinerary

32 **Itinerary 8** – Winton Shire Council Waltzing with Dinosaurs

36 **Transportation Operators**

36 Queensland Rail Travel

36 Kangaroo Bus Lines

37 Blue Bus

37 Original Tours Queensland

38 Peters Coaches

38 Stonestreet's Coaches

39 Mackay Transit Coaches

40 **Outback Education Products**

40 Adels Grove Camping Park

40 Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum

41 Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre

41 Australian Workers Heritage Centre

42 Bonus Downs Farmstay

42 Charleville Cosmos Centre & Observatory

43 Dig the Tropic Geo-Tourism Trail

43 Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park

44 John Flynn Place Museum & Art Gallery

44 Kilcowera Station

45 Kinnon & Co.

45 Kronosaurus Korner

46 Kunmurri Art Trail Guide

46 The Living Arts Centre

47 Longreach School of Distance Education

47 Outback Aussie Tours M.V. Explorer Cruise

48 Qantas Founders Museum

48 Waltzing Matilda Centre

49 Save the Bilby Fund



Australian Curriculum Factsheets 52–111

52 Factsheet 01
Why have some trees become 'living monuments'?

54 Factsheet 02
Why was Captain Starlight such a successful rogue?

56 Factsheet 03
How did Kidman change from cowboy to national icon?

58 Factsheet 04
How did the Duracks become so rich in such a 'poor' country?

60 Factsheet 05
How was the world's largest mineral deposit discovered?

62 Factsheet 06
Why is the rodeo a popular activity in the Outback?

64 Factsheet 07
Who was the first to shape the Outback?

66 Factsheet 08
Why is water from the Artesian Basin called 'liquid gold'?

68 Factsheet 09
How has mining changed the Outback?

70 Factsheet 10
What are the challenges of opal mining?

72 Factsheet 11
What is so unique about Porcupine Gorge?

74 Factsheet 12
Why is a song about a sheep thief so popular?

76 Factsheet 13
Why do people say Queensland was 'built on a sheep's back'?

78 Factsheet 14
How did Cobb & Co. spin the wheels of opportunity?

80 Factsheet 15
Why did a national airline start in Outback Queensland?

82 Factsheet 16
Why was Australia the first place to develop a flying doctor service?

84 Factsheet 17
Why was Australia the first place to develop a School of the Air?

86 Factsheet 18
Why is the Outback a good place for astronomy?

88 Factsheet 19
Why are dinosaur fossils being found in the Outback?

90 Factsheet 20
When did sea monsters live in the Outback?

92 Factsheet 21
How do we know about dinosaurs?

94 Factsheet 22
Why is life getting tough for bilbies?

96 Factsheet 23
How can we protect the homes of rare species in the Outback?

98 Factsheet 24
What is so special about the Diamantina?

100 Factsheet 25
How do people source energy and other resources in the Outback?

102 Factsheet 26
What are riparian habitats?

104 Factsheet 27
Why is there a national park in a desert?

106 Factsheet 28
What was life like during the 1800s for the pioneer settlers of the Outback?

108 Factsheet 29
How can native plants be used for food and medicine?

110 Factsheet 30
What was the Outback like millions of years ago?

112 Classroom Activity Suggestions

113 Notes

Starlight's Lookout, Longreach. The hideout for the infamous cattle duffer Captain Starlight (Harry Redford)





Contents

Outback Education Products and Travel Itineraries

There's nothing like first-hand experience to reinforce learning. The lesson ideas in this guide are just a glimpse of the fascinating world of knowledge that awaits the inquisitive traveller in Outback Queensland. This section offers teachers a range of detailed excursion itineraries designed to excite and inspire students, through encounters that are both adventurous and enlightening. Outback Queensland is expansive, so each itinerary has been developed to offer unique journeys of discovery that cover highlights along the way. Your chosen itineraries can be adjusted if needed, simply talk to the coach operator for more details.

There's nowhere quite like it. The people, places and wide open spaces of Outback Queensland offer you unique experiences like no other. So go on – adventure out there!



06 Travel and Safety Information

07 Itineraries

07 **Itinerary 1** – Kangaroo Bus Lines
Outback Explorer – Camping Safari

12 **Itinerary 2** – Kangaroo Bus Lines
South West Safari Tour – Camping Safari

17 **Itinerary 3** – Blue Bus
5 Day Stars, Stockmen and Sapphires Safari – Accommodated Safari

21 **Itinerary 4** – Outback Aussie Tours
Outback Legends and Ancient Giants

25 **Itinerary 5** – Adels Grove
Lawn Hill Outback Experience

27 **Itinerary 6** – Mackay Transit
Outback Adventure Tour

30 **Itinerary 7** – Wanpa-rda Matilda
Outback Education Centre Combo Itinerary

32 **Itinerary 8** – Winton Shire Council
Waltzing with Dinosaurs

36 Transportation Operators

36 Queensland Rail Travel
36 Kangaroo Bus Lines
37 Blue Bus
37 Original Tours Queensland
38 Peters Coaches
38 Stonestreet's Coaches
39 Mackay Transit Coaches

40 Outback Education Products

40 Adels Grove Camping Park
40 Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum
41 Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre
41 Australian Workers Heritage Centre
42 Bonus Downs Farmstay
42 Charleville Cosmos Centre & Observatory
43 Dig the Tropic Geo-Tourism Trail
43 Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park
44 John Flynn Place Museum & Art Gallery
44 Kilcowera Station
45 Kinnon & Co.
45 Kronosaurus Korner
46 Kunmurri Art Trail Guide
46 The Living Arts Centre
47 Longreach School of Distance Education
47 Outback Aussie Tours M.V. Explorer Cruise
48 Qantas Founders Museum
48 Waltzing Matilda Centre
49 Save the Bilby Fund

Travel and Safety Information

Travelling in **Outback Queensland** is similar to most road-trips with towns and fuel stops **rarely more than 200 kilometres apart**. Sealed highways and township roads are available throughout the region.

The following information answers some commonly asked questions about travelling in Outback Queensland, however should you have further questions, please speak with your tour organiser or the friendly staff at the Visitor Information Centres (see inside back cover) in the towns you will be visiting.

Medical Facilities

In the same respect as getting fuel, you will find that most towns in Outback Queensland have either hospitals or private health care centres. These towns also have an ambulance service to assist you with any problems. A list of hospitals and private health care clinics can be found at: http://www.health.qld.gov.au/healthservices/byFacility.asp. There are also three Royal Flying Doctor Service bases in Outback Queensland. They are located in Charleville, Longreach and Mount Isa. The Royal Flying Doctor Service provides 24 hour emergency service to victims of illness or accident who are in a serious or potentially life threatening condition.

Mobile Phone Coverage

Longreach, Mount Isa and Charleville have coverage from most networks. Outside of these three towns only the Telstra 3G network is available, usually within a 20km radius of towns. Public phones are available in all towns and satellite phones and UHF radios are recommended for extended travel.

Weather Conditions

Outback summers are hot but much less humid than on the coast and more bearable. Most attractions, facilities and transport are air-conditioned. Storms and heavy rains can occur during summer and minor flooding can cause some towns to become cut off for a few days, but this is all part of the adventure of Outback Queensland. The most temperate weather occurs between the beginning of April and the end of October. It is recommended in all seasons to drink plenty of water regularly and protect your skin from burning. Seek shade when outside, cover up with clothing and wear a sun protective hat, sunglasses and SPF 30+ sunscreen.

Litter

Help us keep Outback Queensland clean for future visitors by properly disposing of your rubbish.

Animals

If you see stock or wild animals near the road, slow down, they have a habit of crossing in front of you! Wild animals like emus and kangaroos can be seen throughout Outback Queensland, especially one hour either side of sunset and sunrise.

Station Properties

Many roads cross station properties and have gates across them. The rule of the Outback is to leave gates in the same way that you find them, ie. if the gate is closed when you get there, close it again after you drive through or, if the gate is open when you arrive, leave it open.

Road Conditions

For current road reports please contact the Visitor Information Centre in the town that you will be visiting. As road conditions cannot be accurately predicted please contact the Visitor Information Centres close to the time of your journey.



Outback Road

Kangaroo Bus Lines
Outback Explorer – Camping Safari

7 Days / 6 Nights ex Brisbane from $965* per student

Australia's colourful heritage comes to life as you travel into the heart of Outback Queensland to **Longreach**. Here the pioneering spirit is retold through the **Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame**, and the **Qantas Founders Museum**. Imagine the dust-covered faces of old drovers as you stare into the crackling flames of a camp fire on **the banks of the Thomson River**. Trace the footsteps of **the infamous Captain Starlight**. And step back in time as you board a **Cobb & Co. coach** for the ride of a lifetime.

Day 1 – Brisbane to Mitchell

Morning:

We begin the day with an early departure from Brisbane en route to Toowoomba. Following a pleasant 1hr 50 min drive, we will enjoy morning tea at Picnic Point, located on the edge of the Great Dividing Range in Toowoomba.

Next we will travel to Miles, where lunch will be provided in a local park. Miles was originally named Dogwood Crossing and was established on a track blazed by the explorer Ludwig Leichhardt in 1884.

Afternoon:

After lunch we continue our journey to our overnight stop at Mitchell, known as the Gateway to Queensland's Outback. The town, on the banks of the Maranoa River, was named in honour of Sir Thomas Mitchell whose exploration of south-west Queensland led to the establishment of several towns in the region. Just out of Mitchell we arrive at Bonus Downs Farmstay and receive a warm welcome from the station hosts. After setting up camp in the shearers quarters, we sit down to a well deserved dinner followed by a campfire and star gazing.

Our campsite: Bonus Downs Farmstay, via Mitchell. Ph: (07) 4623 1573.

(Included Meals: Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)



Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach

Day 2 – Mitchell to Longreach

Journey:

Mitchell to Augathella ..... approx 182km / 2 hrs, 10 mins
Augathella to Blackall ..... approx 219km / 2 hrs, 35 mins
Blackall to Longreach ..... approx 214km / 2 hrs, 30 mins

Morning: We are up early this morning for a hearty campsite breakfast. Everybody chips in to help pack up the campsite and we continue our journey towards our next overnight stop at Longreach.

We will arrive in Augathella for a refreshing morning tea. Augathella, with its fascinating history of bushrangers, bullockies and bullock teams, has some memorable Outback experiences.

Afternoon: Our lunch break is scheduled in Blackall. Famous for many reasons, blade shearer Jack Howe put Blackall on the map in 1892 when he set a world record by shearing 321 sheep in seven hours and 40 minutes. It took 58 years for anyone to match this feat. It's also the home of the Black Stump which marks the original Astro Station established in 1887. Anything west of this point is said to be 'beyond the black stump.'

Early Evening: We will arrive in the legendary town of Longreach late afternoon and set up camp. Campsite dinner tonight, followed by showers and bed.

Our campsite: Longreach Tourist Park, 12 Thrush Road, Longreach.

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)

Day 3 – Sightseeing in and around Longreach

Highlights:

- Longreach School of Distance Education
- Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame
- Outback Aussie Tours – Drover's Sunset Cruise

Morning: We are up early this morning for a hearty campsite breakfast. Today we get the chance to explore Longreach, its pioneering history and its unique Queensland's Outback attractions.

Experience: Longreach School of Distance Education, Sir James Walker Drive, Longreach.

At the Longreach School of Distance Education you will learn how students who live in Queensland's most remote regions go to school. Follow the fascinating history of Distance Education from the way it used to be to what it has become today. A morning tea stop is scheduled after our visit.

Experience: Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, Landsborough Highway, Longreach.

The Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame is the best place in the country to learn about the nation's pioneering history and the great contributions of Australian stockmen and women. See the RM Williams Outback Show featuring Rusty Frame, a true Queensland's Outback character and legend.

Afternoon/Evening: We return to our campsite for lunch.

Experience: Outback Aussie Tours – Drover's Sunset Cruise, Longreach.

View the glorious western landscape upon the deck of the MV *Longreach Explorer*. Keep watch for abundant wildlife on the upper deck while overlooking the timeless waterhole. Be mesmerised by the afterglow, colours and incredible reflections of the coolabahs as the light fades into the starry Outback sky. Savour the flavours of the Outback camp oven cuisine at the Drover's Dinner Camp before sitting back and enjoying bush poetry under the stars. (Maximum capacity 48 passengers)

Our campsite: Longreach Tourist Park, 12 Thrush Road, Longreach.

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)

Day 4 – Sightseeing in and around Winton

Journey: Longreach to Winton .....approx 180km / 2 hr, 10 mins

Highlights:
- Waltzing Matilda Centre and Australian Age of Dinosaurs

Morning: After breakfast, we break camp and make our way to Winton. The town is best known as the place that AB (Banjo) Paterson wrote "Waltzing Matilda" in 1895, whilst staying outside Winton. The first performance of the ballad was reported to be at Winton's North Gregory Hotel on 6 April of the same year. Winton is recognised as the 'home' of Australian bush poetry, hosting the annual Bronze Swagman Award, one of the country's most prestigious literary awards.

Experience: The Waltzing Matilda Centre, Elderslie Street, Winton.

The Centre is dedicated to the nation's favourite unofficial anthem "Waltzing Matilda". The song, penned by Banjo Paterson, embraces Australian culture and the Centre uses technology and interactive displays to interpret the song.

Afternoon: Enjoy a picnic lunch in Winton followed by free time to explore the Opal Walk, Winton's Musical Fence and Arno's Wall.

Experience: Australian Age of Dinosaurs, Landsborough Highway, Winton.

Step back in time about 100 million years, as we travel to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs – home to the world's largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils and the site of the biggest fossil preparation laboratory in the Southern Hemisphere! The world class facility is located on top of a huge mesa plateau called 'The Jump-Up' with huge rocky outcrops, cliffs, canyons and spectacular distance views. We will enjoy tours of the dinosaur collection and fossil preparation laboratory.

Evening: Back to the campsite for dinner and bed.

Our campsite: Longreach Tourist Park, 12 Thrush Road, Longreach. Ph: (07) 4658 2667

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)



Day 5 – Longreach to Barcaldine

Journey: Longreach to Barcaldine.....approx 107km / 1 hr, 15 mins

Highlights:

- Qantas Founders Museum
- Kinnon and Co. Royal Mail Gallop
- Australian Workers Heritage Centre
- Tree of Knowledge Memorial

Morning: After our campsite breakfast, we have the opportunity to experience some of Queensland's Outback adventure activities.

Experience: Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach Airport, Sir Hudson Fysh Drive, Ph: (07) 4658 3737

They say Longreach is where Australia learned to fly. Now find out how at the Qantas Founders Museum. Visit the original 1922 Qantas hangar and explore a range of the original Qantas aircraft, including a decommissioned 747 and 707. Option: Add Wing Walk experience.

Experience: Kinnon and Co. – Royal Mail Gallop, 126 Eagle Street, Longreach.

Experience a ride on a Cobb & Co. Coach, which were the lifeline of Queensland's Outback for communication and transport until motor vehicles arrived in 1924. Visit the Station Store, which was an original Cobb & Co. stop, where you will see a video of the History of the Cobb & Co. as well as get a chance to step on board a horse drawn carriage.

Afternoon: **Experience:** Tree of Knowledge Memorial and Australian Workers Heritage Centre, 94 Ash Street, Barcaldine.

Visiting the Tree of Knowledge Memorial and the Australian Workers Heritage Centre, we pay tribute to our early history. Barcaldine is home to the infamous Shearers' Strike of 1891. The location of the Tree of Knowledge Memorial is known as the place where the Labor Party was formed.

Evening: Enjoy lunch back at camp before packing up and travelling through to Barcaldine.

Our campsite: Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre, Ash Street, Barcaldine.

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)

Day 6 – Barcaldine to Mitchell

Journey: Barcaldine to Blackall.....approx 107km / 1 hr, 15 mins

Blackall to Mitchell.....approx 399km / 4 hrs, 40 mins

Morning: Up early this morning for our campsite breakfast. Today we say goodbye to Barcaldine and begin our journey home.

Afternoon: Stopping for morning tea in Blackall. We continue our journey to Mitchell with a picnic lunch en-route.

Experience: The Great Artesian Spa, 2 Cambridge Street, Mitchell.

The Great Artesian Spa promises a unique Outback experience. There are two large pools of thermal mineralised artesian waters to enjoy. One spa has naturally heated waters from the Great Artesian Basin. The other one is designed for those that prefer a cooler experience.

Early Evening: We arrive at Mitchell for our campsite dinner.

Our campsite: Major Mitchell Caravan Park, Warrego Highway, Mitchell.

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)

Day 7 – Mitchell to Brisbane

Journey: Mitchell to Miles.....approx 228km / 2 hrs, 50 mins

Miles to Toowoomba.....approx 210km / 2 hrs, 40 mins

Toowoomba to Brisbane.....approx 126km / 1 hr, 50 mins

Morning: We enjoy our last campsite breakfast then continue our journey home to Brisbane. We will stop for morning tea en-route to Miles.

Afternoon: We arrive in Miles for a picnic lunch then make our way towards Toowoomba for our afternoon comfort stop.

Late Afternoon: We leave Toowoomba and make our way back to Brisbane arriving early evening.

Tour Inclusions:

- All coach travel in an air-conditioned luxury tour coach with seatbelts
- Coach features: TV, DVD, radio, P.A. and CD player
- Tent accommodation throughout
- Full catering kitchen and caterers for all meals as specified
- Entrance fees to all attractions and experiences as specified

Items not included:

- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Items of a personal nature
- Personal travel insurance

Tour Highlights:

- School of Distance Education, Longreach
- Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach
- Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, Longreach
- Sunset River Cruise, Longreach
- Tree of Knowledge Memorial, Barcaldine
- Australian Workers Heritage Centre, Barcaldine
- Waltzing Matilda Centre
- Kinnon & Co. Royal Mail Gallop, Longreach
- Longreach
- Australian Age of Dinosaurs
- Great Artesian Spa Bath

Relevant Factsheets:

1-4, 7-8, 12, 14-15, 17, 19, 21

BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

Kangaroo Bus Lines
2 Motorway Drive
Burpengary QLD 4505
Phone: 1300 BUS KBL (287 525)
Email: info@kangaroobuslines.com.au

Terms and Conditions: Tour prices are estimates and are based on a minimum group of 25 students with 2 teachers travelling free of charge. Where the group size is less than 25 students, the tour price will increase. Prices are available on application.



Kangaroo Bus Lines
South West Safari Tour – Camping Safari

6 Days / 5 Nights ex Brisbane from $775* per student

Take a journey to the 'natural' **Outback of Queensland's South West**. Be enthralled by the historic sound and light show at **The Big Rig in Roma**. Discover the universe at the Charleville Cosmos Centre and Observatory. Visit the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Centre, home of the **'Save the Bilby'** Fund. Discover the valuable service that **the Royal Flying Doctor Service** delivers to the people of Queensland's Outback. Gain an understanding of how children in remote areas learn through the **School of the Air**. Experience life on a 45,000 hectare working sheep and cattle station. Camp out every night under clear skies, where the stars seem to stretch forever.

Day 1 – Brisbane to Roma

Journey:
Brisbane to Toowoomba ..... approx 126km / 1 hr, 50 mins
Toowoomba to Chinchilla ..... approx 165km / 2 hrs, 10 mins
Chinchilla to Roma ..... approx 186km / 2 hrs. 20 mins

Highlights: The Big Rig

Morning: We begin the day with an early departure from Brisbane en route to Toowoomba. Following a pleasant 1 hr 50 min drive, we will enjoy morning tea at Picnic Point, located on the edge of the Great Dividing Range in Toowoomba. We continue travelling on to Chinchilla, known as the 'Melon Capital' of Australia where 25 percent of Australia's total watermelon crop is produced. Our lunch stop will be at Chinchilla.

Afternoon: After lunch we head towards Roma, known as the cradle of Australia's oil and gas industry, and home to the Big Rig. We arrive in Roma late afternoon and check into our campsite for dinner.

Evening: **Experience:** Big Rig Night Tour, Warrego Highway, Roma. Ph: (07) 4622 4355

History is brought to life at the "Big Rig", the town's major tourist attraction, paying tribute to Roma's oil and gas industry that began back in 1900. Through a theatrical presentation with pyrotechnics, computer lighting and a digitally mastered soundtrack, a night show dramatically recreates this remarkable story of Australia's oil and gas.

Our campsite: Roma Aussie Tourist Park, 6 Bowen Street, Roma. Ph: (07) 4622 6464

(Included Meals: Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)

Day 2 – Roma to Charleville

Journey:
Roma to Morven ..... approx 177km / 2 hrs, 10 mins
Morven to Charleville ..... approx 91km / 1 hr, 15 mins

Highlights:
- Morven Miniature Pioneer Village and Museum
- Bilby Experience

Morning: Breakfast will be at the campsite before we begin our journey to Charleville. If time permits, have a tour at the Roma Salesyards – Tuesday and Saturdays only, but well worth the look! We will stop en route to experience the unique Morven Museum, a must-see collection of handcrafted, perfectly recreated miniature buildings from the bark and slab hut days of early Queensland's Outback settlement, as well as an original kerosene tin hut. Enjoy a picnic lunch while in Morven.

Afternoon: **Experience:** Morven Miniature Pioneering Village and Museum, Albert Street, Morven.

Charleville is the largest town in the south west of Queensland's Outback region where in 1890, Cobb & Co. based their largest coachmaking factory in Australia. We check into our campsite accommodation, then freshen up before dinner.

Evening: Following dinner, head over to the Bilby Experience, Charleville for a special evening visit.

Experience: Bilby Experience, 1 Park Street, Charleville.

Meet with the local Queensland Parks and Wildlife Centre Ranger to hear about the rehabilitation program for Bilbies, and Charleville's role in this. Learn why the Bilby is an endangered species and what efforts are being made to save Australia's Bilby population.

Our campsite: Bailey Bar Caravan Park, 196 King Street, Charleville. Ph: (07) 4654 1744

(Included Meals: Breakfast, Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)

Day 3 – In Charleville

Highlights:

- School of the Air
- Charleville Royal Flying Doctor Base
- Cosmos Centre and Observatory

Morning: We have breakfast at the campsite, before our day's activities. This morning we have a visit to the School of the Air and learn how these vital services have sustained Queensland's Outback communities for generations, then it's on to the Charleville Royal Flying Doctor Base.

Experience: Charleville School of Distance Education, Parry Street, Charleville. Ph: (07) 4654 4172

The Charleville School of Distance Education (incorporating Charleville School of the Air) was established in 1966 in conjunction with the Royal Flying Doctors Service. Teachers conduct daily telephone lessons for prep, primary and secondary children, and the preschoolers have two lessons a week. To assist teachers with daily lessons, families are supplied with a specially designed telephone and headset by the school.

Experience: Charleville Royal Flying Doctor Base, Old Cunnamulla Road, Charleville. Ph: (07) 4654 1233

At the Royal Flying Doctor Service Centre you will discover the valuable service, both past and present, that the doctors deliver to the people of Queensland's Outback. An introductory film introduces you to the service. Extensive displays of past and present equipment provide a fascinating insight into the history of this unique Outback service.

Afternoon: We enjoy a picnic lunch before heading out to the Cosmos Centre and Observatory.

Evening: Following dinner we return to the Cosmos Centre to be guided through the night sky.

Our campsite: Bailey Bar Caravan Park, 196 Kings Street, Charleville.

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)



Roma Sunset



Cosmos Centre, Charleville

Day 4 – Charleville to Cunnamulla

Journey: Charleville to Aldville Station ..... Approx 170km / 2 hrs

Highlights:
- Aldville Station
- Sheep shearing demonstration

Morning: We start the day with a hearty breakfast at our campsite before breaking camp and travelling to Cunnamulla and out to Aldville Station.

Experience: Aldville Station, via Cunnamulla. Ph: (07) 4655 4814

Aldville Station is a 30,000 hectare sheep and cattle station which offers visitors a chance to experience the real Queensland's Outback. Participate in a shearing demonstration and learn about the significance of the wool industry in Australia.

Afternoon/ Evening We enjoy a picnic lunch at the station, before setting up camp in the shearers quarters. You will have some free time to explore, visit the livestock, or try your hand at fishing if you can find a flowing stream or river.

Tonight, we relax by the campfire for a delicious dinner.

Our campsite: Aldville Station, via Cunnamulla.

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)

Day 5 – Cunnamulla to Jondaryan

Journey:
Aldville Station to Bollon ..... 300km / 3 hrs, 15 mins
Bollon to St George ..... approx 113km / 1 hr, 20 mins
St George to Moonie ..... approx 189km / 2 hrs, 15 mins
Moonie to Jondaryan ..... approx 154km / 1 hr, 50 mins

Morning: After breakfast we have an early start leaving Aldville Station behind to commence our trip back east along the Balonne Highway.

Morning tea stop will be at Bollon. On the banks of Wallam Creek, Bollon is the habitat of a large koala population which thrives on the abundant red river gums in the area. More than 110 species of birds have been recorded in the area.

Afternoon: Picnic lunch will be at St George, often referred to as an 'Oasis' or 'the inland fishing capital of Queensland'. St George is situated on the picturesque banks of the mighty Balonne River.

We call in at Moonie for a brief comfort stop, before continuing our journey via Dalby to Jondaryan.

Evening: We arrive at our overnight stop at Jondaryan Woolshed where you get to sleep in the woolshed for the night. Located in the heart of the Darling Downs, Jondaryan Woolshed is of great historical interest, featuring historic buildings, machinery, equipment and collections which have been restored over the past 30 years.

Dinner will be served at our overnight campsite.

Our campsite: Jondaryan Woolshed, Evanslea Road, Jondaryan. Ph: (07) 4692 2229

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)

Day 6 – Jondaryan to Brisbane

Journey: Jondaryan to Brisbane..... approx 168km / 2 hrs, 25 mins

Highlights:
- Jondaryan Woolshed

Morning: After breakfast at camp, enjoy a fun-filled day of activities at the woolshed including demonstrations of blacksmithing, sheep dogs and beekeeping followed by a horse and cart ride and your chance to get up close with the farm animals in the nursery.

Afternoon: After lunch we bid goodbye to Jondaryan Woolshed and begin our journey home to Brisbane. We travel via Toowoomba, Queensland's Garden City, then on to Ipswich, home of 'The Workshops Rail Museum', an interactive campus of the Queensland Museum. Our Queensland's Outback adventure comes to an end as we arrive back in Brisbane.

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)



Woolshed

Tour Inclusions:

- All coach travel in an air-conditioned luxury tour coach with seatbelts
- Coach features: TV, DVD, radio, P.A. and CD player
- Tent accommodation throughout
- Full catering kitchen and caterers for all meals as specified
- Entrance fees to all attractions and experiences as specified

Items not included:

- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Items of a personal nature
- Personal travel insurance

Tour Highlights:

- Big Rig Night Tour, Roma
- Roma Saleyards
- Cosmos Centre and Observatory – Day and Night Tour, Charleville
- School of the Air, Charleville
- Royal Flying Doctor Service, Charleville
- Aldville Station, Cunnamulla
- Jondaryan Woolshed, Jondaryan
- Bilby Experience

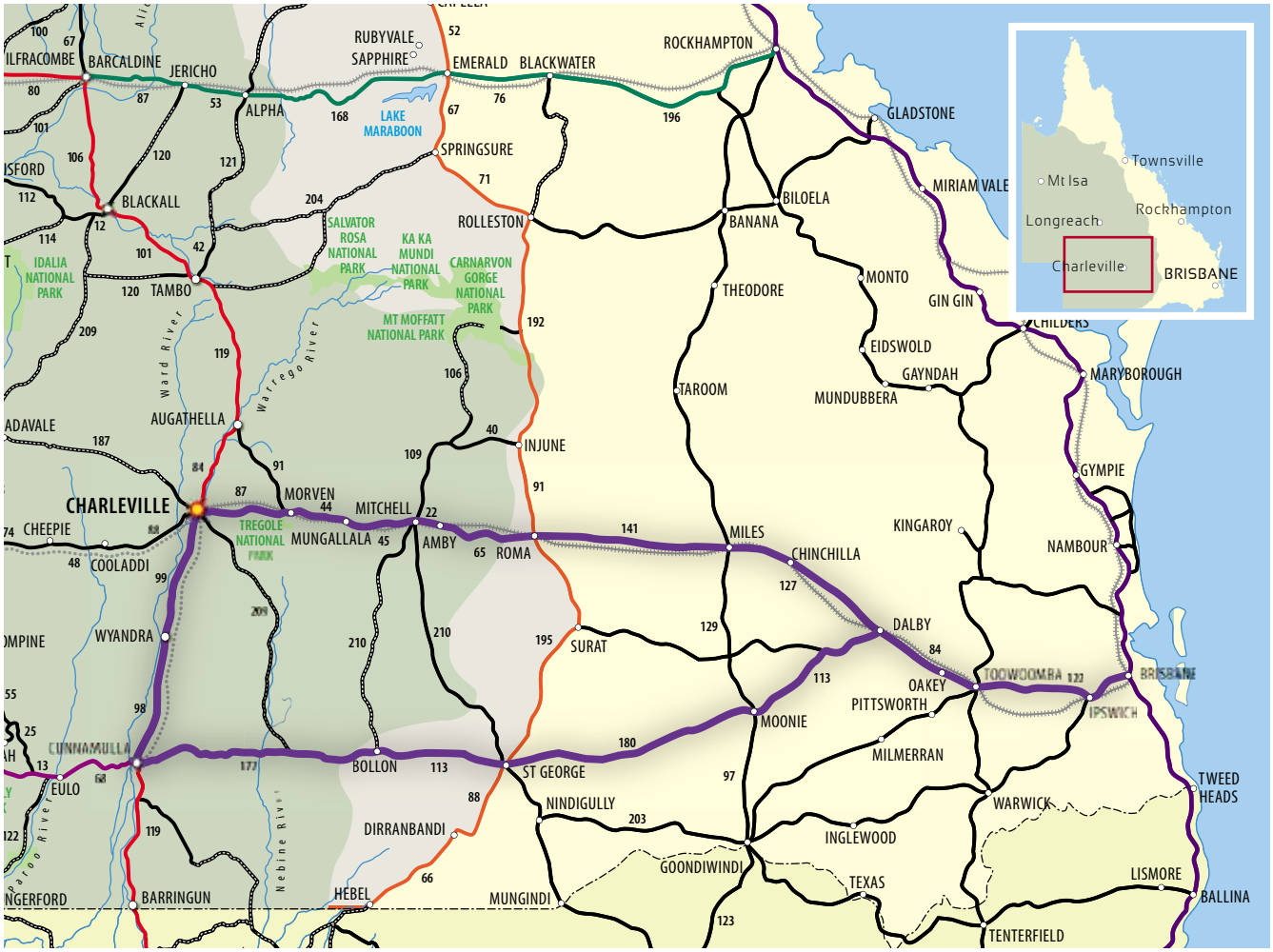
Relevant Factsheets:

4, 8, 16, 18, 22

BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

Kangaroo Bus Lines
2 Motorway Drive
Burpengary QLD 4505
Phone: 1300 BUS KBL (287 525)
Email: info@kangaroobuslines.com.au

Conditions: Tour prices are estimates and are based on a minimum group of 25 students with 2 teachers travelling free of charge. Where the group size is less than 25 students, the tour price will increase. Prices are available on application.



Blue Bus
5 Day Stars, Stockmen and Sapphires Safari – Accommodated Safari

5 Days / 4 Nights ex Brisbane from $700* per student

Head Outback, beyond the **Black Stump**, to the land where explorers, drovers and bushrangers roamed. A place where cattle stations larger than some European countries share space with huge coal mines but the outback hospitality is as intimate and friendly as ever. Follow the footsteps of explorers **Mitchell and Leichhardt** to the birthplaces of the **Australian Labor Party** and **QANTAS**. Marvel at how modern technology is changing education in the bush. See more stars than you can imagine as you sit beside a roaring campfire and try your luck at striking it rich on the gemfields.

Day 1 – Brisbane to Mitchell

Journey:

Brisbane to Toowoomba	approx 135km / 1 ¾ hours
Toowoomba to Miles	approx 125km / 1 ½ hours
Miles to Roma	approx 140km / 1 ¾ hours
Roma to Mitchell	approx 100km / 1 ¼ hours

Highlights:

- Toowoomba

Morning: We depart Brisbane early this morning and climb the Toowoomba Range to Picnic Point for morning tea. We then continue into the Darling Downs where we will see Cotton farming and Coal mining.

Afternoon: We will stop in Miles to have our lunch before continuing to Roma, the home of the Big Rig Oil and Gas Museum. We continue on to our overnight stay at the historic sheep and cattle station, *Bonus Downs*, southwest of Mitchell.

Evening: Bunk down tonight in a shearing shed on a 33,000 acre working cattle and sheep station. We will arrive in time to explore the beautifully restored historic buildings and see a modern working station in operation before dinner. Enjoy a campfire under the stars with damper after dinner.

Accommodation: Bonus Downs, Bollon Rd, Mitchell. www.bonusdowns.webls.net
Ph: (07) 4623 1573

(Included Meals: Dinner)

Students need to bring their morning tea and a packed lunch with their own water bottle for the first day.

Day 2 – Mitchell to Barcaldine

Journey:

Mitchell to Blackall	approx 400km / 4 ½ hours
Blackall to Barcaldine	approx 107km / 1 ¼ hours

Highlights:

- The Black Stump
- Tree of Knowledge
- Australian Workers Heritage Museum

Morning: This morning we will bid farewell to our station hosts and continue northwest to Augathella, the old stamping ground of the notorious Bushrangers, the Kenniff Brothers. We then continue on to Blackall for lunch, the home of the legendary shearer Jackie Howe and the original Black Stump. From here we are travelling "beyond the Black Stump" to Barcaldine.

Afternoon: **Experience:** Australian Workers Heritage Centre and Tree of Knowledge Memorial, 94 Ash St, Barcaldine. Ph: (07) 4651 2422

This afternoon we will arrive in Barcaldine where we will visit the Australian Workers Heritage Centre where we learn about the ordinary workers and their contribution to building the modern nation of Australia. We will also get the opportunity to get our photo taken under the Tree Of Knowledge Memorial, built to commemorate the birthplace of the Australian Labor Party.

Evening: We will then settle in to our accommodation for the next two nights at the Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre.

Accommodation: Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre, Ash St, Barcaldine.
Ph: (07) 4651 2530

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)

Day 3 – Barcaldine and a day trip to Longreach

Journey: Barcaldine to Longreach.....approx 107km / 1 ¼ hours
Longreach to Barcaldine.....approx 107km / 1 ¼ hours

Highlights:

- Stockman's Hall of Fame
- Qantas Founders Museum
- School of the Air

Morning: After a hearty breakfast we make our way to the outback town of Longreach.

Experience: Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, Landsborough Highway, Longreach.
Ph: (07) 4658 2166

The Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame was developed to celebrate the pioneering men and women – such as the Aborigines, explorers, stockmen and others responsible for opening up the outback. Hear their stories and learn about how Australia's unique bush character and resilience was created.

We can enjoy our morning tea on the front lawn of the Centre.

Experience: Longreach School of Distance Education, Sir James Walker Drive, Longreach.
Ph: (07) 4658 4215

We will visit the Longreach School of Distance Education, where we will get an insight into the challenges that students face in remote areas of Australia. We will also see how technology has changed over the years and how important telecommunications are in the outback.

We will have lunch at Anzac Park in Longreach.

Afternoon: **Experience:** Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach Airport, Sir Hudson Fysh Drive, Longreach.
Ph: (07) 4658 3737

This afternoon we visit the Qantas museum. We have the opportunity to explore inside an actual decommissioned Qantas 747 aircraft. We will also visit the museum and learn about the history of our National Carrier and admire the changing fashions of the air hostesses.

We return to Barcaldine to Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre for dinner and a well-earned rest.

Evening: **Accommodation:** Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre, Ash St, Barcaldine.
Ph: (07) 4651 2530

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)



Longreach, Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame



Fossicking for Sapphires

Day 4 – Barcaldine to Lake Maraboon (near Emerald)

Journey:

Barcaldine to Alpha ..... approx 140km / 1 ¾ hours
Alpha to Sapphire ..... approx 145km / 1 ¾ hours
Sapphire to Emerald ..... approx 60 km / 1 hour

Highlights:

- Fossicking for precious Gemstones
- Underground Mine Tour

Morning:

After breakfast we leave Barcaldine and travel east toward Alpha, where we will have morning tea. Alpha has recently been announced as the site of a new enormous Coal Mine. We will then continue to the gemfields area of Sapphire and Rubyvale.

Experience: Miners Heritage, 97 Heritage Rd, Rubyvale. Ph: (07) 4985 4444

At Miners Heritage we will go underground to experience Australia's largest underground sapphire walk-in mine. We will learn how the professional miners find their precious treasures before trying our luck at fossicking for sapphires. We even get to keep any sapphires that we find!

We have our lunch here at Rubyvale.

Afternoon:

We will travel east through the Central Highlands to Emerald, home of the largest Van Gogh canvas painting of *Sunflowers* in the world! We have the opportunity to learn about the history of Emerald in the nearby unique heritage walk. From here we head out to Lake Maraboon on the mighty Fairbairn Dam and our accommodation.

Evening:

Accommodation: Lake Maraboon Discovery Holiday Park. Ph: (07) 4982 3677

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)

Day 5 – Lake Maraboon to Brisbane

Journey:

Lake Maraboon to Roma ..... approx 390km / 4 ½ hours
Roma to Chinchilla ..... approx 187km / 2 hours
Chinchilla to Toowoomba ..... approx 166 km / 2 hours
Toowoomba to Brisbane ..... approx 135km / 1 ¾ hours

Highlights:

- Travel over the Great Dividing Range
- View Bottle trees

Morning:

We depart early this morning after breakfast and head south through Springsure and Rolleston. We then travel over the Great Dividing Range to Roma where we will enjoy a picnic lunch in the park.

Afternoon:

We make our way east to Chinchilla then on to Dalby.

Evening:

We will arrive in time for dinner in Toowoomba. We arrive home to Brisbane this evening at around 9.00pm.

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Dinner)

Tour Inclusions:

- All coach travel in an air-conditioned, seat-belted 53 seat luxury tour coach with TV, DVD, radio, PA, CD player and iPod dock. Two accredited drivers on tour for safety at all times.
- Dormitory style accommodation and shearing shed (sleeping mats provided*)
- Full catering for all meals as specified.
- Entrance fees to all attractions as specified.

Items not included:

- Crockery, cutlery and tea towel
- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Personal items
- Travel Insurance

*This tour may also be done as a full camping safari with all camping equipment supplied. This would reduce the cost per student. Contact us for a quote.

Tour Highlights:

- Toowoomba
- The Black Stump
- Tree of Knowledge
- Australian Workers Heritage Museum
- Stockman's Hall of Fame
- QANTAS Museum
- School of the Air
- Fossicking for precious Gemstones
- Underground Mine Tour
- Travel over the Great Dividing Range
- View Bottle trees

Relevant Factsheets:

1-4, 7, 8, 13-15, 17

BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

Blue Bus
Phone: (07) 3820 7815
Email: info@bluebus.com.au
www.bluebus.com.au

Conditions: Price may vary depending on the size of the group. Contact us for a quote that is specific to your group's needs. Other itineraries are available on request.



Outback Aussie Tours
Outback Legends and Ancient Giants

7 Days / 6 Nights ex Brisbane from $752* per student

Join our Outback Legends and Ancient Giants tour for a true Outback adventure to **Barcaldine**, **Winton** and **Longreach**. What better way to experience these legendary destinations than by rail on **The Spirit of the Outback**, where you can see the landscape up close and take the time to admire its untamed beauty. You'll meet Outback characters, visit sheep and cattle stations, discover stories of our proud heritage and learn about **Australia's famous dinosaur discoveries**.

Day 1 – Brisbane to Barcaldine

Journey:
Overnight on the Spirit of the Outback Queensland Rail Train
Brisbane to Rockhampton ..... approx 638km
Rockhampton to Barcaldine ..... approx 587km

Highlights:
- Spirit of the Outback Rail Journey
- Coastal and outback rail touring
- Onboard activities

Afternoon:
Depart Brisbane early afternoon on the Spirit of the Outback Rail Journey for the start of your Outback Adventure in Western Queensland. This iconic rail experience will travel via coastal Queensland towns of Maryborough and Rockhampton, before heading west via Blackwater and Emerald en-route to Barcaldine. What better way to experience these legendary destinations than by rail on The Spirit of the Outback, where you can see the landscape up close and take the time to admire its untamed beauty. We have the added excitement of an overnight stay aboard the train with plenty of time to spot kangaroos and other wildlife as we travel to Outback Queensland.

Evening:
Spirit of the Outback Rail
Queensland Rail Travel – Group Travel.
Ph: (07) 3235 1308

Please enquire about Edusaver Fares.

Note: Rail fares are not included in this tour price and relevant Edusaver fares will need to be added to this tour itinerary price.

Day 2 – Barcaldine

Highlights:
- Tree of Knowledge evening lights
- Australian Workers Heritage Centre
- Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre
- Radio Theatre – old style cinema with canvas chairs – movie showing

Morning:
You will be met on arrival in Barcaldine mid morning by our Outback Aussie Tours driver/guide, an expert in Outback Queensland and keen to share his local knowledge. Our first stop will be the Australian Workers Heritage Centre, the only national attraction dedicated to celebrating the lives and proud heritage of ordinary working people – telling the stories of the railway workers and blacksmiths, the farmers, nurses and teachers who shaped the nation. We'll relax in the surrounding parklands with an Outback barbeque lunch.

Afternoon:
After lunch we will be met by a representative of the Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre who will teach you some bush games and education activities.

Evening: We'll head back to the Centre to freshen up and have dinner before taking a relaxing walk through town to the famous Tree of Knowledge, just on dusk, so that we can see the impressive light display. If everyone is feeling keen for a movie, we can walk to the famous Barcaldine Radio Theatre Show. We'll sit back in the old style cinema, complete with canvas chairs and watch a latest release movie!

Overnight: Barcaldine.

Day 3 – Barcaldine to Winton

Journey: Barcaldine to Winton ..... 285 km/ 2 hour 4 mins

Highlights:

- Australian Age of Dinosaurs
- Visit to a private grazing property
- Aboriginal guided bush tucker walk and cave art interpretation

Morning: This morning we will be met by our Aboriginal guide who will travel with us to a private grazing property. Here we will meet the graziers and hear their stories of living and working on the land. Our Aboriginal guide will take us on a bush tucker walk through the property and interpret Aboriginal cave art which is located on the site. We'll have morning tea and picnic lunch on the property before reboarding our coach for the drive to Winton.

Hold on to your hats now as we journey into the ancient world of dinosaurs! What better place to learn about Australia's famous dinosaur discoveries and history than at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs! We'll be met by one of their expert guides who will take us on an interpretive tour of the Laboratory, home to the world's largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils. We'll have the opportunity to see staff working on real dinosaur bones and participate in some hands-on activities.

Late Afternoon: We'll travel the short distance to the historic town of Winton, our home for the next two nights. Perhaps a barbeque dinner with the local school tonight and some fun activities.

Overnight: Diamantina Lodge, Winton.

Day 4 – Winton

Highlights:

- Bladensburg National Park
- Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry
- Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton

Morning: Following breakfast we will board our coach for a short drive to the nearby Bladensburg National Park. Bladensburg National Park conserves 84,900ha of Mitchell Grass Downs and Channel Country, including unique birdlife, plants and animals. It encompasses areas of important Indigenous and pastoral heritage. The Koa People consider Bladensburg to be part of their traditional country, and the park is also important to the Maiawali and Karuwali People. We'll meet the park ranger who will share some important stories about the significance of this land and its role as a habitat for native wildlife. A picnic morning tea at Bladensburg National Park.

Afternoon: Winton is the birthplace of Qantas and famous as the town where the song 'Waltzing Matilda' was first penned at the North Gregory Hotel. We'll visit the Waltzing Matilda Centre – the only museum dedicated to a song and watch the sound and light show of the famous Swaggie telling his story.

Evening: Tonight we have a relaxed dinner at our accommodation – maybe a sing-a-long around the pianola at the famous North Gregory Hotel!

Overnight: Diamantina Lodge, Winton.

Day 5 – Winton to Longreach

Highlights:

- Longreach School of Distance Education tour

Morning: Straight after breakfast we will travel across the open plains via majestic mesas to the legendary town of Longreach. We'll join the team at the Longreach School of Distance Education and witness a totally different way of schooling with a tour of the facility. Next we visit the Qantas Founders Museum and get to step inside the 747 and 707 jets on an interpretive tour.

Afternoon: This afternoon, we head out to Camden Park Station, just outside of Longreach for a sheep shearing demonstration. Hear how these third-generation graziers manage their mixed herd of sheep and cattle as well as their hay production business. You'll be given a tour of their historic shearing shed, see their artesian bore in action, hear stories of early Chinese water management and spot local wildlife.

Evening: Tonight we have a relaxed dinner at our accommodation.

Overnight: Longreach.

Day 6 – Longreach

Highlights:

- Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame & Stockman's Show
- M.V. *Longreach Explorer* cruise on the Thomson River
- Red Faces Fun Farewell Dinner

Morning /Afternoon: We enjoy a morning visit to Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame where we discover the inspiring stories of the men, women and children living in and pioneering Outback Queensland. Witness the quintessential Australian character of the Outback Stockman's Show – a tribute to the stockman's skills.

Evening: Tonight we have a relaxed dinner at our accommodation followed by our Outback farewell show. We board the M.V. Longreach Explorer for an afternoon cruise on the majestic Thomson River where you will find out how Longreach was named, hear stories of famous characters like Captain Starlight and discover the indigenous and cultural links.

Overnight: Longreach School of Distance Education.

Day 7 – Longreach - Brisbane

Journey: Longreach to Rockhampton .....Rail Distance: 687km | Travelling Time
Rockhampton to Brisbane .....Rail Distance: 638km | Travelling Time

Highlights:

- Spirit of the Outback Rail Journey
- Coastal & Outback rail touring
- Onboard activities

Morning: We have an early morning departure from Longreach aboard the Spirit of the Outback rail journey for our overnight journey back to Brisbane. Many wonderful memories and new Outback friends will ensure that Outback Queensland has a special place in your heart. Come back soon!

Spirit of the Outback Rail Qld Rail Travel – Group Travel Ph: (07) 3235 1308

Please enquire about Edusaver Fares.

Note: Rail fares are not included in this tour price and relevant Edusaver fares will need to be added to this tour itinerary price.



Winton

Tour Inclusions:

All coach travel; all meals, dormitory style accommodation and activities as indicated; expert commentary with experienced local Savannah guides; all entry fees and transfers.

Tour Highlights:

- Spirit of the Outback Rail Journey
- Coastal & outback rail touring
- Onboard activities
- Tree of Knowledge evening lights
- Australian Workers Heritage Centre
- Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre
- Bush Tucker Walk and Bush Games
- Radio Theatre – old style cinema with canvas chairs – movie showing
- Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum
- Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park
- Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton
- Outback games at Longreach School of Distance Education
- Qantas Founders Museum
- Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame & Stockman's Show
- Longreach School of Distance Education tour
- Afternoon Cruise on the Thomson River
- Evening Red Faces Farewell Event

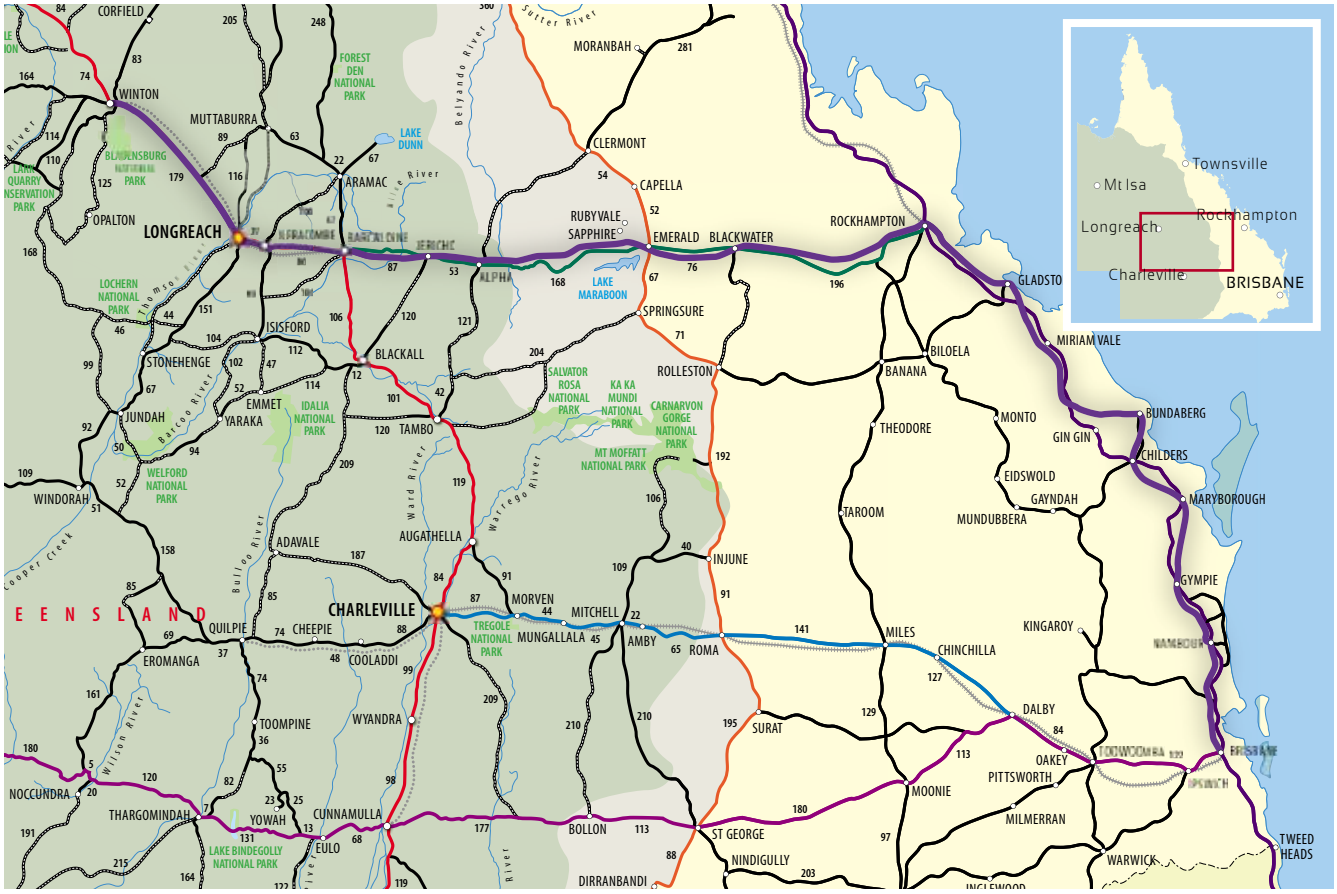
Relevant Factsheets:

1-4, 7-8, 12, 13-17, 19, 21

BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

Outback Aussie Tours
Phone: (07) 4658 3000
Email: info@oat.net.au
www.outbackaussietours.com.au

Conditions: *Pricing is a guide only and will be subject to change pending final itinerary arrangements. One free of charge adult for every 20 paying students. For full terms and conditions please refer to www.outbackaussietours.com.au. Please add applicable Edufare rail fares Brisbane to Barcaldine and Longreach to Brisbane.



Adels Grove
Lawn Hill Outback Experience

4 Days / 3 Nights from $75* per student per day

Explore the Outback with Savannah Guides who will take you into **Boodjamulla National Park** to hike, swim and canoe. Take your students into the **World Heritage Riversleigh Fossil site** for a once in a lifetime experience where they will explore the fossilised remains of ancient animals and the picturesque **Gregory River**.

Day 1 – Burke and Wills to Adels Grove

Journey: Burke and Wills Roadhouse to Adels Grove ..... approx. 145km / 2 hours

Highlights:
- Adels Grove
- Nocturnal Walk
- Camp fire
- Swimming in the spring fed Lawn Hill Creek

Morning: Head into Adels Grove in time for a tasty bite to eat for lunch after your drive.

Afternoon: This afternoon you will enjoy an orientation of Adels Grove, settle into accommodation, time for a swim before dinner.

Evening: Nocturnal walks after dinner by the Adels Grove Savannah Guides, camp fire and supper.

Accommodation: Adels Grove, Boodjamulla Lawn Hill National Park, Queensland

Day 2 – Adels Grove and Boodjamulla Lawn Hill National Park

Highlights:
- Guided walks over viewing Lawn Hill Gorge
- Swimming
- Canoeing – school to provide canoeing instructor
- Ranger Talks

Morning: This morning you and your class will enjoy guided walks to the Island stack, wild dog dreaming and the cascades of Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park including talks by local rangers.

Afternoon: This afternoon you can walk, swim and canoe to the Indarri falls, Duwadarri lookout.

Evening: Nocturnal walks after dinner by our Savannah Guides, camp fire and supper.

Accommodation: Adels Grove, Boodjamulla Lawn Hill National Park, Queensland.

Day 3 – Adels Grove and the World Heritage-Listed Riversleigh Fossil Site

Journey: Adels Grove to Riversleigh Fossil Site ..... approx. 50km / 1 hour

Riversleigh Fossil Site to Adels Grove ..... approx. 50km / 1 hour

Highlights:
- World Heritage-listed Riversleigh Fossil site
- Gregory River
- Local History

Morning: Travel to the World Heritage-listed Riversleigh Fossil site taking in the local history, flora and fauna along the way. On arrival at D Site your Savannah Guide will take you through time and uncover the ancient animals of the Oligo-miocene period (15-20 million years). Then travel to the picturesque Gregory River for morning tea before heading back to Adels Grove.

Afternoon: This afternoon is free time to take a swim, go fishing, filling in camp booklets – information available from Adels Grove. Getting prepared for tonight's activities.

Evening: Tonight we ask the children to put on a concert based on what they have discovered over the last 3 days, using natural props found in the camp ground.

Accommodation: Adels Grove, Boodjamulla Lawn Hill National Park, Queensland.

Day 4 – Adels Grove to Home

Journey: Adels Grove to Home

Morning: After breakfast you will leave Adels Grove (maybe stopping for a swim if there's time!) before departing back for your destination after your unforgettable Outback Adventure.

Tour Inclusions: Please contact Adels Grove for more details.

Tour Highlights:

- Adels Grove
- Nocturnal Walk
- Camp fire
- Swimming in the spring fed Lawn Hill Creek
- Guided walks over viewing Lawn Hill Gorge
- Canoeing – school to provide canoeing instructor
- Ranger Talks
- World Heritage-listed Riversleigh Fossil site
- Gregory River
- Local History

Relevant Factsheets:
7, 19-21, 29, 30

BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

Adels Grove
Phone: (07) 4748 5502
Email: reservations@adelsgrove.com.au
www.adelsgrove.com.au

Conditions: Please contact Adels Grove for more details



Lawn Hill

Mackay Transit
Outback Adventure Tour

5 Days/4 Nights ex Mackay from $798.90* per student.

Day 1

Journey:
Mackay to Moranbah ..... 194km / 2hrs 25 mins
Moranbah to Emerald ..... 224km / 2hrs 50 mins
Emerald to Alpha ..... 169km / 2hrs 10 mins
Alpha to Barcaldine ..... 141km / 1hr 40 mins

Highlights:
- Wanpa-rda Outback Education Centre

Morning:
We depart Mackay on our Outback Adventure! Today we are travelling to Barcaldine with a few comfort stops along the way. Our first stop en-route is morning tea in Moranbah.

Sitting back and enjoying the scenery, we are on our way to Emerald. At Emerald we will stop for a lunch break at the Emerald Centenary of Federation Mosaic Pathway. This feature was built to the honour of Emerald's 100 year Centenary. The children can have a run around in the park, before heading off for the rest of the journey.

Afternoon:
On route to Barcaldine with most of the travelling now behind us, we make a comfort stop in Alpha. Once boarded the coach again we are not far from our destination in Barcaldine. We soon arrive at the Wanpa-rda Outback Education Centre, which will be our Outback home for the next 4 days. Our welcome afternoon tea and team building activity are awaiting us.

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Afternoon Tea; Lunch; Dinner)

Accommodation: Wanpa-rda dormitories

Day 2

Journey:
Barcaldine to Longreach ..... 107km / 1hr 20 mins

Highlights:
- Qantas Founders Museum
- Stockmans Hall of Fame
- Stargazing

Morning:
Today we are heading to Longreach. This morning we will visit the Qantas Founders Museum. Our guided tour will be of the museum and the Boeing 747 aircraft. So much to see and experience.

Afternoon:
After our packed lunch, we head to the Stockman's Hall of Fame. This afternoon we will take part in a tour of the hall and activities. Lots to do and to learn too.

Evening:
We head back to Wanpa-rda for some dinner and dessert. When the night sky is lit up with twinkling stars, we are ready for some stargazing. Our Wanpa-rda teacher is going to take all of the children stargazing. Imagine the Outback and all the stars that will be out!

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Afternoon Tea; Dinner and Dessert)

Accommodation: Wanpa-rda dormitories



Day 3

Journey: Barcaldine to Longreach .....107km / 1hr 20 mins

Highlights:
- School of Long Distance Education
- Royal Mail Gallop
- Harry Redford Tent Show

Morning: We are heading back to Longreach today! One day cannot cover all the beauty available to us, two days can help us understand the drive behind this thriving Outback community. This morning will be a tour of the School of Long Distance Education. They will show us how teaching and school work has changed over the years in the Outback.

After School of the Air, we are going to the Kinnon & Co. Stagecoach Tour! Here the children will climb aboard a live mail gallop. The horses and carts will recreate a 20 min Royal Mail Gallop. This is sure to be outstanding, and give the children an idea of just how the postal system worked for many years in the Outback.

Afternoon: After a lovely packed lunch, and a rest in the park, it's time for some more adventure with the Kinnon & Co. Harry Redford Tent Show. With entertainment from talented stockmen, this is sure to keep the attention of the children. This show is a recreation of Captain Starlight, a notorious cattle thief from the Outback. With stunts and history, what more could you ask for.

Evening: On our way back from Longreach, we stop to take a look around Machinery Mile at Ilfracombe. Back at Barcaldine, why not use some free time to see the Tree of Knowledge.

Wash up for dinner and dessert. Lights out, we have more places to go tomorrow.

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Afternoon Tea; Dinner and Dessert)

Accommodation: Wanpa-rda dormitories

Day 4

Journey: Barcaldine to Blackall.....107km / 1hr 20 mins

Highlights:
- Australian Workers Heritage Centre

Morning: This morning we are going to view the only operational Woolscour left in Australia. This is where the sheep are shorn and the wool is cleaned. The only opportunity for some to visit this historic place, still operating.

Enjoying a packed lunch in the park before heading back to Barcaldine.

Afternoon: What a better way than to spend the afternoon searching for bush tucker? Your teacher at Wanpa-rda will be taking you on a hands-on tour to search for Outback bush tucker. These survival skills, passed down from our ancestors, were imperative to their survival. Do you think you have what it takes?

We will also be able to take part in a tour of the Australian Workers Heritage Centre, just a short walk from the Wanpa-rda Centre. A tour of this amazing centre, set on 2 hectares of beautifully landscaped gardens and billabong, will have you all captivated. There will also be a tour and information on roles and responsibilities of our hard working Aussies, battling against Mother Nature and the hardships faced throughout the years.

Evening: After another fabulous dinner and dessert, it's time to relax and recap on the awesome experiences that have been had over the last 3 days. It's time for a campfire and marshmallow tasting. Then off to bed!

(Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Afternoon Tea; Dinner and Dessert)

Accommodation: Wanpa-rda dormitories

Day 5

Journey: Barcaldine to Blackall107km / 1hr 20 mins

Morning: We hit the road this morning for one last activity before we are homeward bound. Stopping at Rubyvale for lunch and gemstone fossicking.

Afternoon: Departing the Gemfields, our next comfort stop will be in Moranbah. Soon we are home again! What an amazing week, so many stories to tell our friends and family! (Included Meals: Breakfast; Morning Tea; Lunch; Afternoon Tea)

Tour Inclusions:

Please contact Mackay Transit for more details.

Tour Highlights:

- Qantas Founders Museum
- Stockman's Hall of Fame
- Stargazing
- School of Long Distance Education
- Royal Mail Gallop
- Harry Redford Tent Show
- Australian Workers Heritage Centre

Relevant Factsheets:

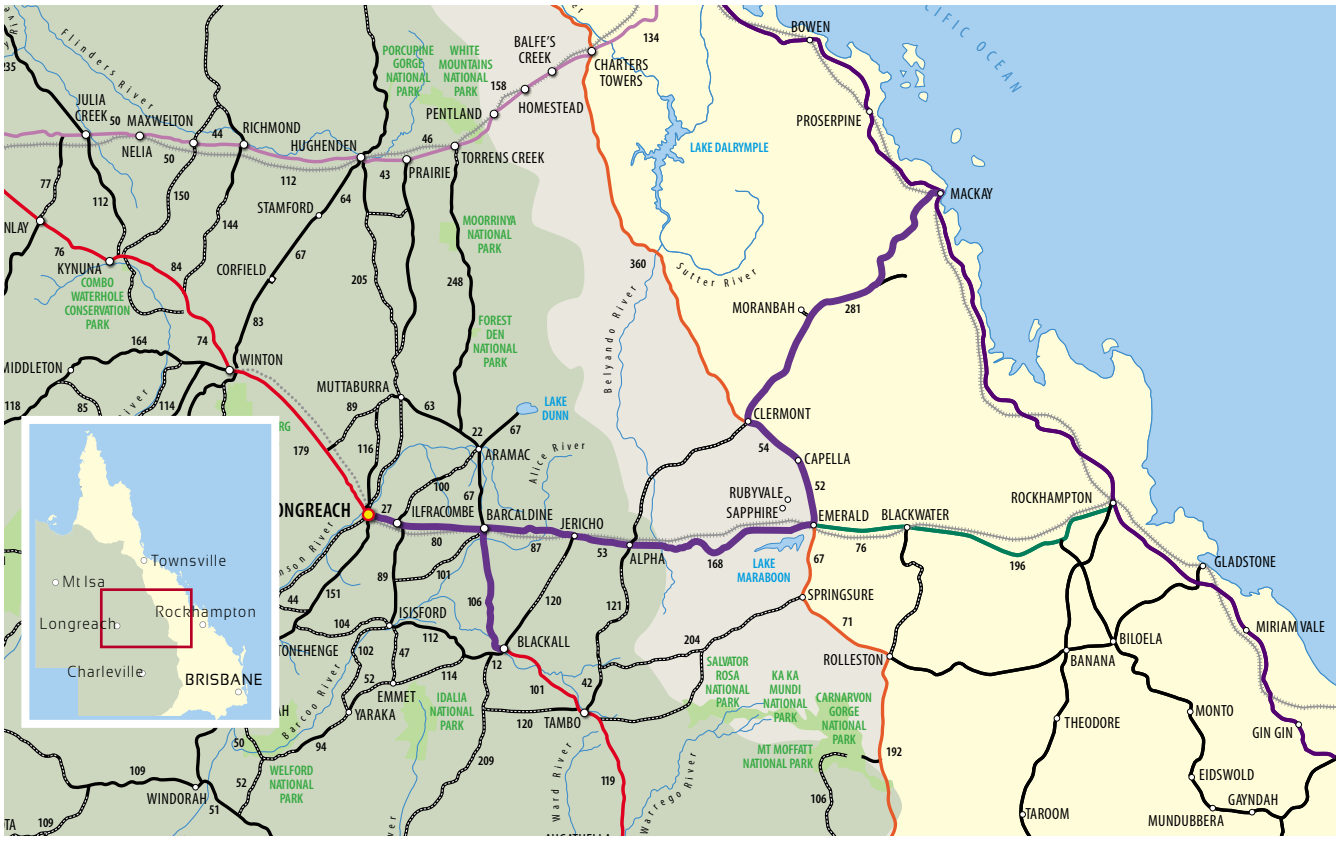
1-4, 7-8, 13-17, 29

BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

Mackay Transit
Phone: (07) 4957 3330
Email: sales@mackaytransit.com.au
www.mackaytransit.com.au

Conditions:

* Coach, Accommodation and Tours subject to availability.
* This itinerary is departing from schools in the 4740, 4750 postcodes
* This price is based on 25 primary school students + 3 Adults (Teachers or support staff) free of charge.



Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre

'Combo" Itinerary – Australian Bushcraft, Survivor Skills and Heritage Themed Activities

5 Days / 4 Nights from $260* per student

The 'Combo' itinerary provided is an example of some of the popular activities undertaken by schools that visit Wanpa-rda to experience a broad spectrum of what the Outback has to offer; one of our many camp itineraries which can be selected based on theme or tailored to suit. Included in this itinerary are some of the '**Survivor**' activities on offer that provide a fundamental base for those interested in **Australian Bushcraft** and **Survival skills**. Heritage themed activities are also present on the itinerary – just a small sample of some of the rich Heritage themed activities and locations which can be experienced on a **Wanpa-rda camp**. And what educational camp would be complete without archery, teambuilding activities and a campfire nurtured from the friction of two sticks, enjoying toasted marshmallows whilst students reflect on their Outback visit to **Australia's Biggest Classroom**!

Day 1 – Your school to Barcaldine

Highlights:
- Teambuilding/leadership session facilitated by the Education Officer at the Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre.

Morning: Arriving by coach? Why not stop in and visit one of the attractions and places of educational significance en-route to "Wanpa-rda Matilda". Discuss your options with our onsite Education Officer.

Afternoon: Arrive at Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre to be greeted by the Education Officer who will welcome you to Barcaldine. You and your students will have time to settle into your dormatory style accommodation, unpack, have showers and a bit of free time to relax after your big drive.

Evening: Dinner and dessert is included for students and teachers. Tonight, the Education Officer will facilitate a team building/leadership session where the students will take part in a variety of activities that will require them to actively practise participating, sharing, helping, listening, respecting, questioning and persuading.

Overnight at the Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre.

Day 2 – Barcaldine

Highlights:
- Australian Workers Heritage Centre
- Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre
- Archery
- Radio Theatre – old style cinema with canvas chairs – movie showing
- Artesian water and location survivor activities including trap making and signalling

Morning /Afternoon: Today you and your students will embark on a full day Location Survivor activity with an all day meal package included for students and teachers.

Students will have the opportunity to take part in one of the Outback's favourite activities, 'crawchie catching'. In a survival situation you probably don't have your equipment on hand, so students will learn about the crawchies' habits along with their habitats to maximise their chances of success. Using only the crude materials provided, students must use their knowledge, creativity and team work to design and construct a trap. Students will then select a location within the artesian bore fed billabong in the beautiful ground of the Australian Workers Heritage Centre where the traps will be left to work for them. Returning at the end of the day, students will then take detailed field notes on the crawchies caught, before releasing them. A discussion will then follow regarding the successes and areas of improvement in terms of trap design and construction.

A survival situation can occur to even the most organised group or individual. When you find yourself in a survival situation the right decisions may save you and the wrong decisions may be your last! After learning the precautions one should take to avoid a survival situation, students are then given an information session detailing the actions they should take in order to provide their best chances of being located. The information session is followed by a fun, hands on activity where students learn the basic techniques of signalling through reflected light. Today's activities will also include archery.

Evening: Tonight after dinner and dessert, you will make your way to the Barcaldine Radio theatre – an old-style movie theatre located a short walk from the Centre. Enjoy a private screening of a recent release movie in a beautiful old hall while sitting in old style canvas seats.

Day 3 – Barcaldine and a day trip to Longreach

Journey:
Barcaldine to Longreach ..... approx 107km / 1 ¼ hours
Longreach to Barcaldine ..... approx 107km / 1 ¼ hours

Highlights: Longreach School of Distance Education • Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame • Qantas Founders Museum

Morning /Afternoon: You simply can't visit Outback Queensland without visiting the famous Stockman's Hall of Fame and Qantas Founders Museum. Today we will be taking a day trip to Longreach to visit these famous educational monuments. All day meal packages are provided by Wanpa-rda. While you're there, you and your students will find out how kids in Queensland's most remote regions take advantage of technology to receive a holistic education through the School of the Air by taking a guided tour of the Longreach Distance Education Centre.

Evening: After today's big adventure, tonight will be a quiet movie night at the centre – or perhaps you would like to organise some night time activities for the students.

Day 4 – Barcaldine

Highlights: Shelter, Fire and Food Survivor activity – campfires and cooking • Survivor story presentation • Campfire with marshmallows

Morning: Outback Queensland can boast many challenges for a survivor. Sweltering heat and freezing nights are real threats, but a little 'know-how' can shelter you from the elements!

This morning, students will look at traditional shelters and how to shelter themselves from the elements – bush style. Where to build shelter, what type of shelter and how to build it are all important lessons learned in this activity. Following an information session, students will plan and construct their own shelter in real life conditions out in the bush, using only the limited materials found in the bush.

Afternoon: This afternoon, you and your students can participate in a 'Food and Fire' exercise. Making and controlling fire in a survival situation is key. Light, warmth, water, food, comfort, safety – the list is endless! But what if the survivor does not have matches or a lighter?

Evening: Tonight's challenge for the students will be sharing their stories with others through dance, drama, songs, poetry, paintings, the written word and technology.

You and your students will also be able to enjoy the true beauty of the campfire under the stars. Toasting marshmallows and spinning yarns around the campfire is an Australian tradition and way of life for the bush.

Day 5 – Barcaldine to your school

Morning: Today is the final day of your school camp and you will be departing Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre, ready to go home and tell your family and friends all about your amazing trip.

Tour Inclusions:

Price includes accommodation, activities and most meals. Price does not include transport to and from Barcaldine and does not include entry into attractions in Longreach. Individual itineraries can be developed to suit school requirements. 1: 10 Supervising Adults accommodated at No Charge in teacher rooms adjoining student dormitories. Separate onsite accommodation is provided for the coach captain free of charge.

Tour Highlights:

- 10% Discount* at Australian Workers Heritage Centre Gift Shop for the duration of your stay (*food / drinks & sale items excluded)
- Teambuilding/leadership session facilitated by the Education Officer at the Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre
- Tree of Knowledge evening lights
- Australian Workers Heritage Centre
- Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre
- Bush Tucker Walk and Bush Games
- Radio Theatre – old style cinema with canvas chairs – movie showing
- Longreach School of Distance Education
- Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame
- Qantas Founders Museum
- Shelter, Fire and Food Survivor activity – campfires and cooking
- Survivor story presentation
- Campfire with marshmallows

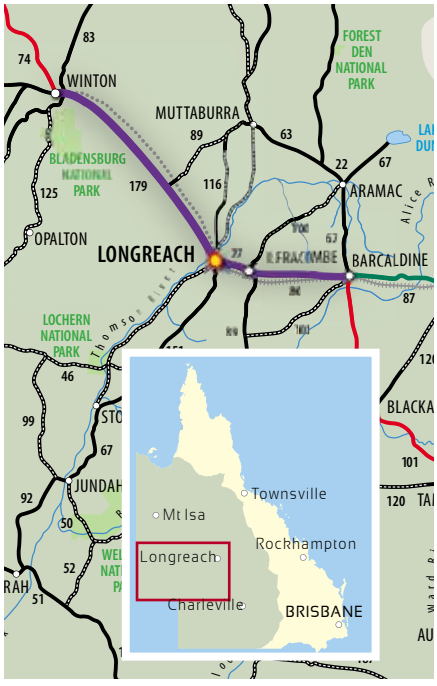
Relevant Factsheets:

1-4, 7-8, 13-17, 29

BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre
Cnr Willows and Ash Streets, Barcaldine
Phone: (07) 4651 2530
Email: the.principal@wanpardaeec.eq.edu.au
www.wanpardaeec.eq.edu.au

Conditions: *Price based on 30 primary aged students, 3 adults and 1 bus driver and are approximate only, please enquire for a quote. Prices apply to Direct School Bookings Only; Other Bookings Price on Application.



Winton Shire Council
Waltzing with Dinosaurs

2 Days / 2 Nights, quotes for each attraction should be obtained upon enquiring with the Visitor Information Centre

Experience **Winton – Dinosaur Capital of Australia**, home of **Waltzing Matilda** and **Queensland's Boulder Opal**. Walk in the footsteps of our ancient past at the **Dinosaur Stampede** at **Lark Quarry Conservation Park**; the world's only known record of a dinosaur stampede and visit **Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum**; housing the world's largest collection of Australian Dinosaurs. Discover the **Waltzing Matilda Centre**, a museum dedicated to our National song and Winton's pioneering past, play a unique **Musical Fence**, marvel at **Arno's Wall**, take a trip into transport history; **Diamantina Heritage Truck and Machinery Museum**, visit the Corfield and Fitzmaurice heritage listed building or sit under the stars at the **Royal Open Air Theatre Museum**.

Day 1 – Winton and a day trip to the Dinosaur Stampede

Journey:

Winton to Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park ..... approx. 110km / 1 ½ – 2 hours

Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park to Winton ..... approx. 110km / 1 ½ – 2 hours

Highlights:

- Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park
- Corfield and Fitzmaurice Building
- Opal Walk and Royal Open Air Theatre Museum

Morning:

9.00am: The Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park is the site of the only recorded dinosaur stampede on the planet. More than 95 million years old, there are 3,300 stampeding footprints immortalised in stone and protected 110km south-west of Winton. This is an iconic National Monument not to be missed. Allow 1 ½ to 2 hours for your journey as it is 110km to the attraction with 55km of it unsealed road.

11.00am: Begin your Dinosaur Stampede experience with an hour long guided tour of the attraction. The tour interprets the Trackways from creation to discovery and display, as well as the surrounding environment and other Cretaceous fossils. Learn about the geological history of the area and how the Trackways were discovered, before proceeding into the Fossil Room to see some of the fossils found locally, from the Cretaceous period – including dinosaur food! Then discover the Trackways for yourself, in the Trackways Viewing Room, where over 3,300 fossilised footprints are on display.

12.00pm: Once you have finished your amazing walk back through time go on the 500m Spinifex walk which offers spectacular views of rolling Mitchell grass downs framed by the characteristic red earth Jump Ups of the Conservation Park then relax at the picnic area while having a bite to eat.

12.45pm: Jump back on the bus for a little down time as you return to Winton.

Afternoon:

2.45pm: Once in town venture to the Corfield and Fitzmaurice Building, opened by partners Corfield and Fitzmaurice in 1878, it was Winton's first general store, serving people of the township and pastoral properties until 1987. Today it houses in part of the building Combo Crafts, which has a great selection of handmade crafts. The remaining part of the building incorporates a mini museum. It consists of the Dinosaur Diorama, an interpretation of the dinosaur stampede found at Lark Quarry Dinosaur Trackways. Also in the Corfield and Fitzmaurice Building is a mini-museum of dinosaur fossils by the Australian Age of Dinosaurs, including the story of 'Elliot', once the largest dinosaur find in Australia, a display about the opal mining industry at Opalton and an historical account of Corfield and Fitzmaurice general store.

3.45pm: Just a hop, skip and a jump from Corfield and Fitzmaurice is the Royal Open Air Theatre Museum and Opal Walk. The Opal Walk is a glimpse of an opal mine with the story of how opal was mined at Opalton and fascinating displays from the life of the opal miners. Once you have finished the walk it will lead out to the Open Air Theatre where you will find the World's Largest Deck Chair and the Open Air Theatre Museum which houses old slides and movie posters from yesteryear as well as old equipment from the theatre that has since been retired.

4.30pm: While in the Main Street, walk down the median strip and admire the replica of the Pelican Waterhole, view the Elderslie St Qantas Cairn, commemorating the registration of Qantas in Winton on the 16th November 1920 and the Waltzing Matilda Centenary Sculpture which was erected in 1995 as part of the 100th anniversary celebrations.

Evening:

5.30pm: Make your way back to your accommodation to freshen up for one of the many options for dinner. The following establishments can cater for your school group:

- The Boulder Opal Motor Inn
- North Gregory Hotel
- Tattersall's Hotel
- Winton Hotel

9.00pm: Venture back to your accommodation for plenty of rest for day two of your Winton experience.

Accommodation: Diamantina Gardens Dormitory.

Contact Winton Visitor Information Centre for bookings and further information

Ph: (07) 4657 1466 Email: vic@matildacentre.com.au

Day 2 – Winton and a day trip to Australian Age of Dinosaurs

Journey:

Winton to Australian Age of Dinosaurs.....approx 24km / ½ – ¾ hour

Australian Age of Dinosaurs to Winton.....approx 24km / ½ – ¾ hour

Highlights:

- Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum
- Waltzing Matilda Centre
- Diamantina Heritage Truck and Machinery Museum
- Royal Open Air Theatre

Morning:

8.45am: Day two of your experience begins with the journey out to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs, home to the world's largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils, including some of our most famous such as Australovenator (Banjo) and Diamantinasaurus (Matilda). Not surprisingly, it's also the site of Australia's largest fossil preparation laboratory. Allow a minimum of half an hour to get out to the jump-up as it is 24km from the town grid.

9.30am: Begin your tour of the preparation laboratory which will include the history of Winton dinosaur discoveries and digs, see staff working on real dinosaur bones with an interpretation of the fascinating geology of the Winton district.



Diamantina Heritage Truck and Machinery Museum

10.00am: Take the 500 metre walking track over to the Reception Centre for morning tea, before starting the guided interpretative tour of the Collection Room at 10.30am, where Australia's largest and most fascinating ancient creatures are on display.

Afternoon:

12.00pm: Enjoy a bite to eat from the Coolibah Café's extensive menu before waltzing through the Waltzing Matilda Centre which is the only museum in the world dedicated to a song; 'Waltzing Matilda' was written by 'Banjo' Paterson whilst holidaying on Dagworth Station in the Winton Shire.

12.45pm: Commence your self guided tour of the Waltzing Matilda Centre with a light and sound show in the Billabong Theatrette; continue on to the 'Home of the Legend'; an interactive display room. The Waltzing Matilda Centre also incorporates the Qantilda Museum, celebrating the achievements and lifestyle of Winton's pioneers. Also housed in the complex is the Outback Regional Gallery and Gallery Foyer, with new exhibitions every six to eight weeks.

2.45pm: After the history packed Waltzing Matilda Centre, experience one of Winton's more eccentric attractions, Arno's Wall. The wall reaches two metres high and extends for at least 70 metres. The wall is constructed of concrete and rock brought from Arno's opal mine at Opalton and studded with rusted lawnmower parts, boat propellers, vintage typewriters and sewing machines and even a couple of complete motorbikes, plus the kitchen sink.

3.15pm: Located on the Winton/Hughenden road is the Diamantina Heritage Truck and Machinery Museum; take a trip into transport history and view fully-restored heritage trucks, tractors and machinery, the museum was officially opened at the Outback Festival in 2007. Just behind the museum is the Musical Fence, designed by percussionist and composer Graeme Leak, which is a wire fence that can be played as a musical instrument and is the first Permanent musical fence installation in the world.

Evening:

5.00pm: Make your way back to your accommodation to freshen up for one of the many options for dinner. The following establishments can cater for your school group:

- The Boulder Opal Motor Inn
- North Gregory Hotel
- Tattersall's Hotel
- Winton Hotel

7.45pm: After dinner, stroll to the Royal Open Air Theatre, located in Elderslie Street and immerse yourself in 'Memories of Yesteryear'; a Nostalgia performance sitting in old canvas seats under the stars.

9.15pm: Your Winton two day experience is now at a close, venture back to your accommodation for a good night's rest before continuing on the next leg of your Outback adventure.

Accommodation: Diamantina Gardens Dormitory.

Contact Winton Visitor Information Centre for bookings and further information

Ph: (07) 4657 1466 Email: vic@matildacentre.com.au



Winton

Tour Inclusions:

Winton's attractions – this itinerary does not include transport or catering.

Tour Highlights:

- Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park
- Corfield and Fitzmaurice Building
- Opal Walk and Royal Open Air Theatre Museum
- Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum
- Waltzing Matilda Centre
- Diamantina Heritage Truck and Machinery Museum
- Royal Open Air Theatre

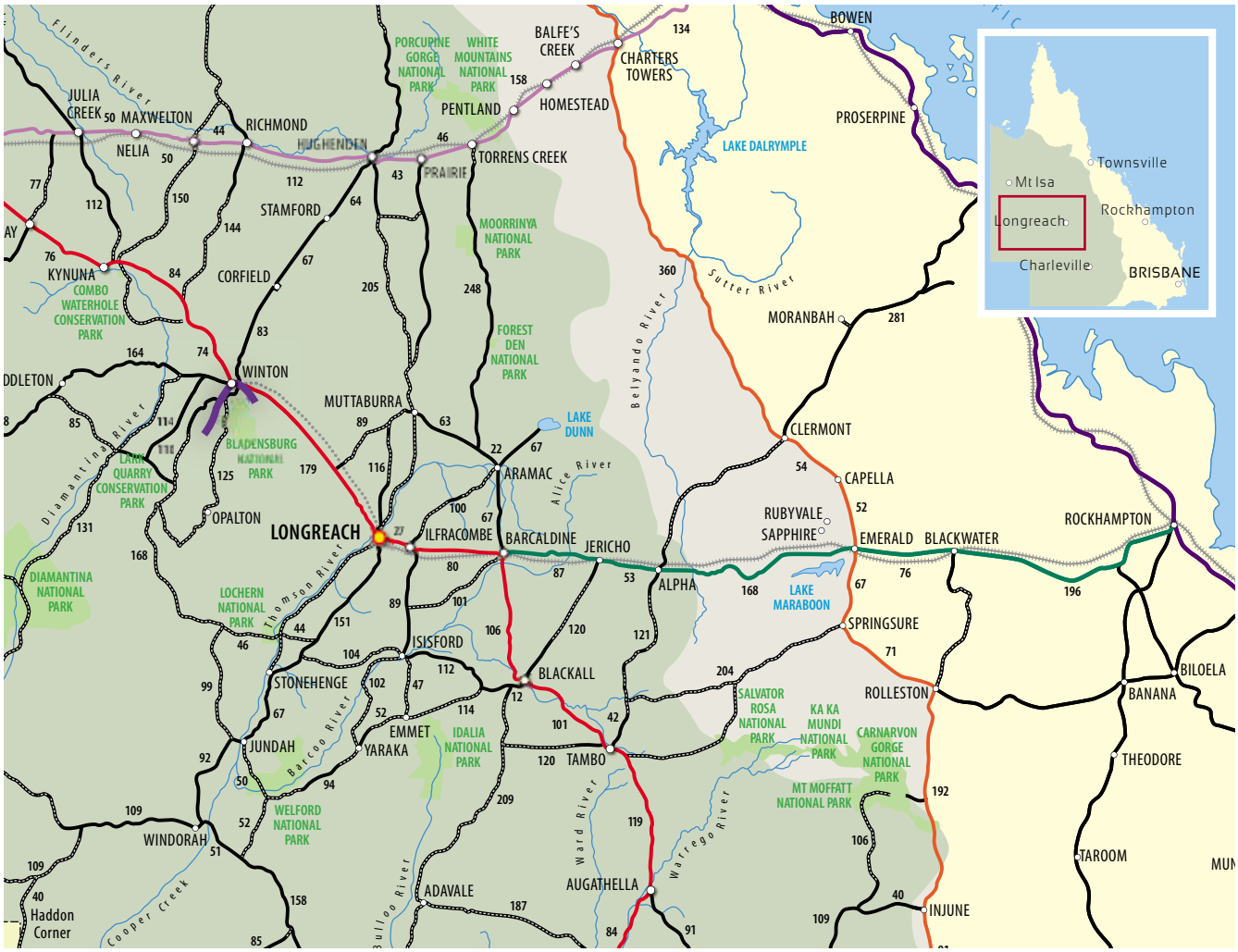
Relevant Factsheets:

4, 7-8, 12, 19-21, 30

BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

Winton Visitor Information Centre
Elderslie Street, Winton
Phone: (07) 4657 1466
Email: vic@matildacentre.com.au
www.experiencewinton.com.au

Conditions: Quotes for each attraction should be obtained upon enquiring with the Visitor Information Centre.



Transportation Operators

Queensland Rail Travel

There's nothing like a school excursion to Outback Queensland on the train to broaden young minds and bring learning to life through new experiences. Receive great discounts when you book your Edusaver excursion with Queensland Rail Travel:

- Up to 70% discount for students
- Up to 50% discount for adults travelling with the group.

In addition to these savings, our dedicated consultants take the hassle out of the planning process by preparing an itinerary that caters to specific ages, interests, curriculums and budgets.

Our consultants can also arrange tours, accommodation, meals, transfers and group admission to major attractions.

The rail network throughout Outback Queensland offers a range of destinations and experiences. There are many interactive, educational experiences easily accessible by rail including the Spirit of the Outback to Longreach where you can discover our pioneering past at the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame or take the Westlander to Charleville to learn about the planets at the Cosmos Centre.



Queensland Rail Travel
P: **1300 735 307**
E: **grouptravel@qr.com.au**
www.queenslandrailtravel.com.au

Terms and Conditions:
available for school groups with a minimum of 10 students. The group must be travelling under the school banner with teachers accompany children at all times. Rates are subject to availability and approval depending on the size of group, travel sector, accommodation type and time of year. An Edusaver fact sheet and full details can be obtained from queenslandrail.com.au

Kangaroo Bus Lines

Kangaroo Bus Lines is a family owned and operated business, which has been servicing South East Queensland for over thirty years.

We pride ourselves on presentation and customer satisfaction. Our coach fleet, one of the most modern in South East Queensland, is complemented by our professional tour drivers who pay careful attention to our passengers' needs.

Our touring coaches are air conditioned and have a comprehensive range of features including reclining seats, panoramic windows, DVD and stereo systems and large luggage compartments. Air-bag suspension ensures a smooth and comfortable ride while seat belts are fitted for added passenger safety. We have a range of vehicles to suit the size and demand of every group. Vehicles range from the 31 seat-belt equipped mini coach to 53, 57 and 65 seat-belt equipped coaches. We have also recently added a fully equipped wheelchair accessible touring coach to our fleet.

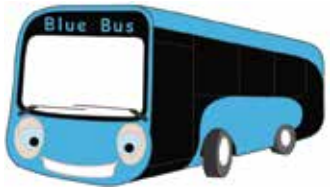
Kangaroo Bus Lines has the knowledge and experience to assist schools in creating memorable tours to various locations Australia wide. A camping safari offers a unique, educational and cost effective way to experience Australia's more distant and remote places of interest. Like all Kangaroo tours, our camping safaris offer flexibility and diversity to ensure your tour objectives are achieved. Let our friendly Tour Department co-ordinate the bookings for all of your accommodation and attractions, making it a hassle free experience. In addition to organised educational activities, our safaris allow your group to experience the natural wonders of the Australian bush.



Kangaroo Bus Lines
2 Motorway Drive, Burpengary 4505
P: **1300 BUS KBL (287 525)** E: **info@kangaroobuslines.com.au**

Transportation Operators

Blue Bus



Blue Bus is a family owned and operated company based on the Bayside in Brisbane. We specialise in school excursions and charters. With an experienced geography/history teacher as one of our travel co-ordinators, we understand what teachers and schools want. We aim to make the planning and organisation of your trip as easy and stress-free as possible. Just one phone call or email to us is all it takes to start getting your trip organised. We'll offer suggestions for your itinerary and we'll tailor the trip to meet your educational outcomes. We'll book the accommodation (if camping, we provide the tents and bedrolls), we'll book the attractions, book flights (if required) and we can even organise your tour souvenirs!



Our Blue Buses are seat belted, have air conditioning and reclining seats and are maintained by mechanics who are sticklers for safety and reliability. We have great sound systems with iPod docks so you can play your own music (to drown out the driver's singing…) and DVD players for when the view out the window is not so interesting. We have great drivers who love their job, have travelled extensively throughout Australia and especially Outback Queensland and haven't forgotten what it's like to be a kid and have fun! They are fully qualified, professional, tolerant and patient and nothing is ever too much trouble on your tour. They will design their commentary with your students in mind and make sure your curriculum objectives are covered. On accommodated tours, we can provide a trailer for extra luggage storage space or for camping safaris, a fully equipped camp kitchen and experienced cook to prepare delicious meals that will have kids wanting to come back for seconds.

Blue Bus
P: **(07) 3820 7815** E: **info@bluebus.com.au**
www.bluebus.com.au

Original Tours Queensland

Original Tours has been respected, trusted and appreciated for almost two decades by primary schools, high schools and universities. The admiration started in its own backyard, Brisbane, and now stretches right across the globe. Whatever your needs, be they local transfers, or tours around the state or country, from the Outback to the snow fields, Original Tours has the expertise in all areas to ensure your tour is both enjoyable and relaxing.

OT Original Tours



Our fleet of coaches range from 24 to 63 seaters. All coaches are fitted with seat belts and have a range of features including air conditioning, reclining coach seats, DVD, large panoramic windows, restroom, large underfloor luggage bins and air bag suspension for a smooth, comfortable ride.

Our well-appointed safari trailers include everything necessary for an Outback adventure from tents, tables and stools, to fully equipped mobile camp kitchens. All of your needs are met while on tour. Our cooks will ensure healthy, tasty meals and any special dietary requirements are taken care of.

At Original Tours our experienced team of coach drivers have extensive knowledge of Outback Queensland. They know the roads like the back of their hand. When needed we employ the expertise of locals with their vast array of home grown knowledge to truly make your students' trip one to remember.

Let us arrange your whole trip from start to finish – whether it is around the corner or around Australia. Let us help you see the history and the heritage of your state.

Original Tours Queensland
P: **(07) 3205 8433** E: **steve@originaltours.com.au**
www.originaltours.com.au

Transportation Operators

Peters Coaches

Peters Coaches is a coach company specialising in extended charters and tours Australia wide. Peters Coaches is the longest serving coach charter company on the Darling Downs and Western Queensland region. We have been operating tours and charters for numerous schools, organisations, companies and groups since our inception in the 1950s with outings and extended tours throughout Queensland, Australia and overseas. We can assist you by tailoring an itinerary to meet your needs.

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY TOUR PACKAGE FOR OUTBACK QUEENSLAND

At present we are able to offer and assist with an incentive from Tourism Queensland and the Education Department – "The Outback Education Tour Subsidy Scheme". This scheme is to encourage schools to take years 5, 6 & 7 Queensland students to visit Queensland's Outback, to learn about our history, heritage, mining and agriculture within our wonderful state. Peters Coaches can offer not only the comfort of travel in our variety of coaches, but also our accredited experienced drivers whom have spent many driving hours and travel in the Outback regions.

Incorporated into our fleet are the Ultimate Touring Coaches – standard features include plush velour reclining seat-belted seats, fully integrated air conditioning, DVD and sound/PA system, onboard rest rooms on selected vehicles, large under floor bin space and courteous, safe and experienced drivers. Currently in our fleet we offer a variety of sizes ranging from 24 Seat-Belted Mini Buses, 31 Seat-Belted Midi Coaches and 50, 54, 60 & 65 Seat-Belted Touring Coaches. Coupled to our mobile kitchens equipped with tents, tables and chairs and hosted by our experienced onboard cook provides not only a safe and informative way to experience Outback Queensland, but an affordable experience for students as well.



Peters Coaches
P: **(07) 4634 0411** E: **info@peterscoaches.com.au / charters@peterscoaches.com.au**
www.peterscoaches.com.au

Stonestreet's Coaches

The Stonestreet family has been involved in the bus and coach industry for more than 40 years. During this time Stonestreet's has listened to their customers and understand their requirements when it comes to bus and coach travel.

Stonestreet's is a Queensland based company with depots in Brisbane, Gladstone, Dalby and Toowoomba, operating a fleet of more than 130 vehicles.

Our tour drivers are carefully hand picked with extensive knowledge of regions travelled. They research each tour and pass on informative, interesting educational commentary to their passengers. And they do it with a smile.

Our fleet is modern, clean and well maintained and ranges with vehicles sizes to suit all groups. We have coaches from 20 seats, right up to a massive 69 seats all with seat belts and air conditioning and some with wheelchair access. We even have 4X4 coaches so we can take your group to even more places in the vast Australian Outback.

Stonestreet's can offer several tour options from camping safaris to dormitory or motel style accommodation, farm or station stays, with or without catering. If you have a destination in mind, Stonestreet's can arrange your tour.

No matter what your budget or requirement, Stonestreet's can tailor make a tour for you.



Stonestreet's Coaches
78 Warwick Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350
P: **(07) 4687 5555** E: **info@stonestreets.com.au**
www.stonestreets.com.au

Transportation Operators

Mackay Transit Coaches

Mackay Transit Coaches has been operating in Mackay and surrounding areas for the past 45 years. For many years we have accomplished customer satisfaction with a professional approach applied throughout the whole process of planning, booking and operating our tours. We pride ourselves on providing a safe and comfortable journey with a modern and efficient Coach fleet.

Some of our Coach features include;

- Climate Control Air-conditioning
- DVD/CD players
- Reclining Coach Seats
- Seatbelts
- Vehicle tracking (real time)
- Large luggage compartments
- Safe and quality vehicles
- Large panoramic windows
- On-board Restroom

Our Coach features are piece of mind that your group will be traveling in comfort with the latest design & state-of-the-art technologies in Coach Transport. Our Coach Drivers are extensively trained to the highest standard so you can be assured safety and satisfaction are guaranteed.

We take the hassle out of your trip with our pre-planned itineraries, leaving you to relax, enjoy and learn about what our amazing QLD outback has to offer. Be assured support from our sales team will make your tour outstanding every step of the way. With so many attractions to visit, why not provide a list of your requirements for a custom built tour? We can organise and manage all the bookings and payments for your tour, so all you have to do is come along and enjoy the adventure!



P: **(07) 4957 3330** E: **sales@mackaytransit.com.au**
www.mackaytransit.com.au



Outback Education Products

Adels Grove Camping Park

Price:
From $75 per student per day

How long should you spend here?
3 – 4 nights

Adels Grove Camping Ground is an eco-sensitive Tourist Park on the spring fed Lawn Hill Creek, located 320km northwest of Mount Isa. A great place for school camps to experience the outback.

The children get to camp in tents, bunkhouse and rooms, have camp fires, hike, swim, canoe, and experience the nocturnal animals and star gaze on guided night walks by our Savannah guides.

Our Savannah guides tour the children to one of Queensland's most scenic National Parks, Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill). Boodjamulla is a place of importance with the local Waanyi people, with over 20km of educational walking tracks and talks from the local rangers.

50km south is the World Heritage Listed Riversleigh Fossil site which contains a 25 million year old collection of creatures that once lived in and around a large rainforest lake. Gulf snapping turtle, freshwater and land crocodiles, flightless birds to name a few.

Bird watching is always rewarding in the Lawn Hill area, with over 120 species of birds there is plenty to keep you going.

The area's fauna, flora and natural landscapes offer a wide variety of experiences for children of all ages.

Fully accommodated with all meals provided.



Adel's Grove Camping Park

Boodjamulla Lawn Hill National Park, QLD 4825

P: **(07) 4748 5502** E: **reservations@adelsgrove.com.au**
www.adelsgrove.com.au

Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum

Half Day Junior Palaeontologist Experience: $20 per student *

3.5 hours (morning or afternoon) *Includes a full tour and all activities

Full day Junior Palaeontologist Experience: $30 per student*

6.5 hours (morning start only)

How long should you spend here?
2 hours (Every hour, on the hour)

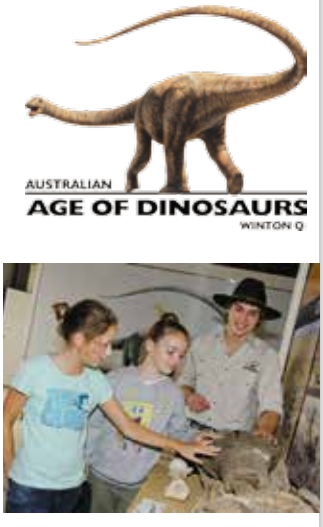
Hands-on, educational, fun and exciting science!
Leap into the world of Australian Dinosaurs at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum (AAOD) situated in Winton Queensland. Students will gain hands-on experience with 95 million year old dinosaur bones while learning about Australian Palaeontology in a fun and safe environment. Our programs are suitable for students from 5 to 17 years of age).

The Educational Tour: In the first part of the tour, students will be taken through the largest and most productive working Laboratory in the Southern Hemisphere to see fossil technicians working on real dinosaur bones. In the second part, students will be introduced to our prepared and assembled dinosaurs in our Collection Room – this tour also includes an interactive theatre display and video clips – that will bring the dinosaurs back to life.

Our Hands-on Activities: We have three hands-on programs for students to enjoy:

- Prep-A-Dino: using air-tools, students will chisel through rock to discover dinosaur bones – a discovery few others have experienced;
- Dig-A-Dino: time to get busy finding and discovering 'Matilda's' leg bones at our very own dig site! and
- Mould-A-Dino: using AAOD's secret recipe, students are able to mould their own souvenir 'Banjo' Claw.

For catering: The Cretaceous Café can also supply morning and afternoon tea, lunches at a small additional cost.



Australian Age of Dinosaurs

1 Dinosaur Drive, Winton

P: **(07) 4657 0079** E: **prepadino@aaod.com.au**
www.australianageofdinosaurs.com

Terms and Conditions: AAOD reserves the right to alter the itinerary where necessary. Some activities are weather permitting. Any dietary requirements must be submitted 1 week prior to arrival. Pricing varies with additional extras.

Outback Education Products

Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre

Price:
$29.50 for adults and $15 for students (ages 5 – 16)

How long should you spend here?
2 – 4 hours

The Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre is Australia's premier Outback heritage destination. In Queensland's central west town of Longreach, the centre provides students with a spectacular Outback Queensland experience and the opportunity to learn about rural heritage and its history and importance to our state.

The Hall of Fame consists of five galleries, a restaurant, café and retail shop. The galleries tell stories of discovery, early Indigenous settlement, early explorations by Europeans, pioneers, Outback sports and Outback properties. Students will have up close and personal experiences as they explore a blacksmithing shop, early settlers hut, wool wagon and many displays where they will get a real understanding of rural history.

The Royal Flying Doctor's exhibit will be a highlight for your students as they learn about the value, purpose, history and role of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Outback Queensland. The Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame also offers a live Outback Stockman's Show, which tells the story of real life stockmen and women who work on the land. The performer is a known horse breaker, drover, bush poet and raconteur as well as one of the last bullockies. The Outback Stockman's Show encompasses the modern day aspects of being a stockman, as well as telling the tales of what it used to be like in the past.



The Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame is an opportunity for your students to learn about Queensland's history through an experience they will remember for years to come.

Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre
Landsborough Highway, Longreach
P: **(07) 4658 2166**
E: **museum@stockmanshalloffame.com.au**
www.stockmanshalloffame.com.au

Australian Workers Heritage Centre

Price:
Free entry for Direct School Booking Students staying in Wanpa-rda Matilda's (AWHC's on-site Outback education centre) accommodation

How long should you spend here?
2 – 3 hours

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre is the nation's only dedicated and ongoing tribute to the rich history, heritage and traditions of all working Australians.

The Heritage Centre is a museum-styled complex which celebrates and tells an important part of our Nation's history through its working life via interactive displays, film, photographs, artifacts and recreated historical work settings. Sited on the grounds of the former Barcaldine State School, many of the original structures have been re-invented into exhibition spaces, including a replica of the Queensland Legislative Assembly. Historical workplaces of yesteryear have been relocated to the Centre from throughout Queensland including a one teacher school, police watch house and even a railway station. Home of the "Young-Un" an enduring legacy – this offspring is the only direct descendent of the heritage-listed "Tree of Knowledge" which is symbolic of the Shearers' Strike of 1891.



Set in over 2 hectares, the Heritage Centre has been designed to provide both a serene setting for the weary traveller as well as a comprehensive hands-on approach to history for the fervent mind. A rich, authentic history lesson beautifully encased in landscaped gardens and botanical diversity surrounding an artesian bore fed billabong creates a cool Outback oasis, with the convenience of picnic, BBQ and playground facilities.

To enhance the authenticity of your National Curriculum history and politics units, contact the Australian Workers Heritage Centre today to plan a tailored tour or quiz tour of the Centre with our onsite education officer who is an Education Queensland qualified teacher.

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre
Ash Street, Barcaldine
P: **(07) 4651 1579** E: **barcy@australianworkersheritagecentre.com.au**
www.australianworkersheritagecentre.com.au

Terms and Conditions:
Valid period 2012 – 2013
Only applies to students staying in Wanpa-rda Matilda's accommodation with a Direct School Booking.

Outback Education Products

Bonus Downs Farmstay

Price:
Please contact Bonus Downs Farmstay for a quote

How long should you spend here?
1 or 2 nights

Bonus Downs Farmstay is an authentic must-do experience for all Queensland children, where students can learn about the history and absorb the atmosphere of the Outback. Bonus Downs homestead was built in 1911 by Sir Samuel McCaughey, one of Queensland's greatest innovative pioneers. The property is located 650kms west of Brisbane or approximately a 7 – 8 hour drive and is situated 1 ½ hours from Roma – bitumen right to the door. On the way out, a visit to the Roma cattle saleyards on a Tuesday or Thursday would be a very educational and unique experience for students. Mitchell is famous for its Artesian Spa which is another must-do experience to learn about our artesian basin.

A greater understanding and appreciation of the history of Bonus Downs is fostered through an all-senses experience – sight, sound, touch and taste – it all combines with a unique experience which leaves one with no choice but to appreciate what has come before them on this unique property. The Connolly's good nature, openness and friendliness is the key to imparting their knowledge and passion for the Bonus Downs experience. Bonus Downs visitors get to reconnect with nature, and engage in the art of conversation.

Bonus Downs can accommodate students in the shearing shed or tents can be put up (sleeping equipment is not provided). There is a well-appointed camp kitchen equipped to accommodate eating requirements.



Bonus Downs Farmstay
Mitchell-Bollon Road, Mitchell
P: **(07) 4623 1573**
E: **bonusdowns@bigpond.com**
www.bonusdowns.webls.net

Terms and Conditions:
Children must be supervised by teachers at all times.

Charleville Cosmos Centre & Observatory

Price:
Observatory Sessions: $16.00
Astronomy By Day: $7.00
Sun Viewing: $7.00

How long should you spend here?
1 – 2 hours

Charleville Centre is a "one stop shop" for students to learn about astronomy.

Observatory: At night in our observatory students view stars, planets and the moon through powerful telescopes. The cosmos guides explain the formation of stars and planets.

Sun Viewing: Students can view the only star in the day time, our Sun. The guides explain the formation of the Sun, it's influence on Earth, sun spot formation and solar flares.

Astronomy By Day: Students have the opportunity to learn more about the Universe, shooting and falling stars (they even have the opportunity of holding a shooting star in their hands), update on the new dwarf planets and how many more are under study.

The Cosmos Centre design the itinerary for your school's visit to ensure the students get the best possible experience. We also have an activity time that involves making moon craters and explaining how they form, a quiz on all things astronomical and a movie on the formation of the Solar System. It's fun and informative.



Cosmos Centre & Observatory
Qantas Drive, Charleville
P: **07 4654 7771**
E: **obguides@bigpond.com**
www.cosmoscentre.com

Terms and Conditions:
Bookings Essential

Outback Education Products

Dig the Tropic Geo-Tourism Trail

Price:
Please contact Outback Queensland Tourism for prices

How long should you spend here?
1 week

Take a Geo Journey through Queensland. The Tropic of Capricorn is one of Earth's major circles of latitude. It lies 23.5 degrees south of the equator and marks the most southerly latitude at which the sun can appear directly overhead at noon. Running through Australia, Chile, Southern Brazil, and South Africa, it links extreme conditions and dramatic landscapes.

Sweeping through Queensland the Tropic of Capricorn reveals a host of geological wonders – from the vast Outback, through Central Queensland, to the stunning Capricorn Coast and the Southern Great Barrier Reef. These contrasting panoramas showcase the results of drastic climate change over an unfathomable time.



Explore the Tropic of Capricorn and discover the secrets of the ages in the treasures atop and layers below. Dig the Tropic provides the perfect opportunity for school groups to learn 'hands on' about the intricate and fascinating history of the region:

- DIG for fossils on a dinosaur dig or prepare a specimen at Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, Winton.
- FIND your very own boulder opals in Opalton and fossick for precious gems on the Sapphire Gemfields.
- EXPLORE ancient limestone caverns at Capricorn Caves, near Rockhampton.
- CLIMB Starlight's Lookout and stand in infamous bushranger's footsteps at Longreach.
- SWIM in the prehistoric waters of the Great Artesian Basin at the Ilfracombe Spa.

Plan your journey online: digthetropic.com.au or visit a local Visitor Information Centre.

Dig the Tropic Geo-Tourism Trail
Outback Queensland Tourism
P: **1800 247 966**
E: **admin@outbackqld.com.au**
www.digthetropic.com.au

Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park

Price:
$5.00 per child as part of school group

How long should you spend here?
At least 1 hour

Visit the Dinosaur Stampede National Monument at Lark Quarry Conservation Park; over three thousand dinosaur tracks mark the site of the only known dinosaur stampede on the Planet. In a remarkable piece of scientific detective work, scientists from the Queensland Museum have pieced together a dramatic tale of hunter and hunted from the footprints left behind.



About 95 million years ago, Western Queensland looked quite different. Rainfall was more than a metre per year, and conifers and ferns were abundant in a flat landscape of creeks and rivers meandering to an inland sea. Back then, a group of perhaps several hundred dinosaurs, some small as chickens (called Coelurosaurs) and some about the size of an emu (called Ornithopods) were grazing at the side of a creek. They suddenly panicked when a five meter-long meat-eating dinosaur appeared. Their footprints scramble away from the big predator in a mad dash to escape!

Now housed inside an expansive modern building 110km southwest of Winton, this amazing window into our dinosaur past is on display year round for everyone to see. The starkly beautiful red earth and spinifex-studded landscape is a dramatic contrast to the moist green world that existed at the time of the dinosaurs! Access to the Stampede is by guided tour and specially trained on-site guides start tours from 9.00am for group bookings daily except Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park
Winton-Jundah Road, Winton
P: **1300 665 115**
E: **manager@matildacentre.com.au**
www.dinosaurtrackways.com.au

Terms and Conditions:
Price valid to December 2014

Outback Education Products

John Flynn Place Museum & Art Gallery

Price:
$2.00 per student;
1 teacher per 10 students will be admitted free of charge

How long should you spend here?
Approximately 1 hour to view the exhibits and work on the activities

John Flynn Place Museum & Art Gallery in Cloncurry, Queensland commemorates the work of John Flynn and the beginnings of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The museum is a four level venue which also celebrates the contribution from Fred McKay and Alfred Traeger.

It was at Cloncurry that the Royal Flying Doctor Service was established in 1928. Flynn's choice of Cloncurry was based on its proximity to the mining camps and scattered pastoralists, all of whom were poorly served by any kind of medical services. At a time when his ideas seemed wild and revolutionary, he developed a scheme which combined aircraft, radios and medicine to provide a mantle of safety for inland people.



John Flynn Place houses an excellent overview of the Flynn legacy. The museum's display moves progressively from an image of Outback conditions at the turn of the century to the history of Flynn himself. It includes some interesting personal memorabilia and explanations of how the whole Flying Doctor system worked in the early days.

The 'Radio Galley' is a tribute to the amazing work of Alfred Traeger, the inventive genius who gave a voice to Outback Australia through the pedal radio. An art collection relating to the early Outback pioneers and the Flying Doctors is on display in the Fred McKay Art Gallery. John Flynn Place also boasts a picturesque garden and an outdoor theatre which regularly screens movies.

John Flynn Place is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm on weekdays and open weekends from May to September from 9.00am to 3.00pm.

John Flynn Place Museum & Art Gallery
Cnr King & Daintree Streets, Cloncurry
P: **(07) 4742 2778** E: **johnflynnplace@cloncurry.qld.gov.au**
www.johnflynnplace.com.au

Terms and Conditions:
Bookings Essential

Kilcowera Station

Price:
Please contact Kilcowera Station for prices

How long should you spend here?
3 – 4 days

Kilcowera is a large unspoilt cattle station in the mulga rangelands of south west Queensland. It offers unique and safe opportunities to view and learn about Australian fauna and flora in its natural environment.



Visitors have exclusive access to the western side of Currawinya National Park, including the magnificent 6000 ha saline Lake Wyara while based at Kilcowera. Other features on the property include walking trails, Cardenyabba Lagoon, Rustlers Roost and Murderers Bore. Guests are also able to learn about the pastoral industry during their stay by doing the Water Run Tour with hosts Greg and Toni Sherwin.

We have 2 camp grounds and also comfortable Shearers Quarters accommodation which includes the fully equipped kitchen and dining room, amenities blocks, basic camp kitchen for campers, BBQs, fireplaces, wood, picnic tables and a laundry. Camp oven cooking is a specialty and we are happy to share our knowledge of this and life on the land with our visitors.



Kilcowera is also a birdwatcher's paradise, so if you like the wide open spaces, a safe and natural environment and a million star sky at night – come and see us at Kilcowera Station!

Kilcowera Station
Thargomindah
P: **(07) 4655 4960**
E: **gtsherwin@bigpond.com**
www.kilcowera.com.au

Outback Education Products

Kinnon & Co.

Price:

Students and support staff $54 per person

How long should you spend here?

1 full day – Kinnon & Co. Value Deal: Royal Mail Gallop (from 7.30am onwards, 20 minute ride, maximum 24 people), Harry Redford Old Time Tent Show (12 noon till 1pm), and afternoon Thomson River Nibbles Cruise (1 hour). (Groups of 24 are rotated through Cobb & Co. and other activities based at The Station Store)

Kinnon & Co. is a family owned and run business in Longreach, Outback Queensland. Through themed tourism products visitors are provided with an opportunity to learn and experience the History and Heritage of the early days of settlement in Australia. *Kinnon & Co. provide an authentic taste of the Australian Outback as it was in days gone by.*

Kinnon & Co. Cobb & Co Stagecoach Tours – The coach is a modified Cobb & Co coach drawn by a team of 4 horses with a passenger carrying capacity of 12. The ride takes students out onto the original mail route used by Cobb & Co between the towns of Longreach and Windorah and on the way home goes via the former "nightcart lanes". Historical points of interest are shown from the early explorer days and the horses reach full gallop to give passengers a feel for how it really was to travel by Cobb & Co. The Stagecoach driver provides a professional and entertaining commentary on Cobb & Co history, flora and fauna and stories of local heritage. Two Stagecoaches available for morning rides.



Kinnon & Co. Old Time Tent Show – A one hour live show reminiscent of the old Australian Tent Shows. Themed around the local cattle duffing legend "Captain Starlight", this story is told through a mix of poetic story, Australian humour, theatre with live animal acts, stockmen and stockhorse comedy acts.

Kinnon & Co. Thomson River Cruises – Afternoon cruises along the Thomson River and its permanent long "reach" of water. Thomson River Cruises consist of two boats, the historic Thomson Belle Paddle Wheeler (maximum 49 passengers) and the refurbished Thomson Princess Riverboat (maximum 34 passengers). Enjoy the peacefulness and serenity of the Thomson River while taking in the informative commentary. Be transported back in time and get a feel for how things used to be for the river traders.
Additional tours: Nogo Working Station Tour, Sunset Dinner Cruise.

Kinnon & Co.

Eagle Street, Longreach

P: **(07) 4658 1776** E: **operations@kinnonandco.com.au**
www.kinnonandco.com.au

Terms and Conditions:
Own transfers required. Booking essential.

Kronosaurus Korner

Price:

Educational Tour of Kronosaurus Korner: $10 per student
Fossil Hunting Site Tour: $15 per student
Combined Tour (Museum and Fossil Hunting): $20 per student

How long should you spend here?

3 – 3.5 hours or longer

Delve back 100 million years ago when Richmond was covered by an ancient inland sea with a trip to Kronosaurus Korner, Australia's premier marine fossil museum. Students will be engaged by hundreds of amazing fossils, including the remains of the Richmond Plesiosaur – the most complete marine reptile fossils in the world, *Kronosaurus* – an enormous predator with banana-sized teeth, *Eromangasaurus* – a long necked shell-eating plesiosaur, Minmi - the diminutive armoured dinosaur and *Cooyoo* – Australia's largest fossil fish. Our Educational Tour of Kronosaurus Korner ranges between 1-1.5 hours in duration; starting with an informative theatre presentation, followed by a guided museum walkthrough by Kronosaurus Korner's resident palaeontologist. Tours can be tailored to suit any year level and can cover a myriad of topics, including palaeoecology, evolution, extinction, fossilisation, fieldwork, fossil preparation and much more. In addition to this service, Kronosaurus Korner also offers field expeditions for school groups to Richmond's infamous fossil hunting sites, **approximately 12km north of town. Students will enjoy discovering previously unseen fossils and learn how palaeontologist remove them from their rocky surroundings. The Fossil Hunting Site Tour lasts between 1-2 hours in duration, but can be extended by appointment. Catering can also be supplied for school groups by the Moonrock Café and Bakery.**





Kronosaurus Korner

91-93 Goldring St, Richmond QLD 4822

P: **(07) 4741 3429** E: **enquiries@kronosauruskorner.com.au**
www.kronosauruskorner.com.au Facebook: **facebook.com.au/kronok**

Outback Education Products

Kunmurri Art Trail Guide

Price:

The Kunmurri Art Trail Guide is free and can be distributed to interested schools





The Kunmurri Art Trail Guide is an A6 sized booklet detailing the art and cultural sites in south and central west Queensland. Providing maps, contact details, websites, opening hours and other useful information it has everything you need to COME TO THE ART! Western Queensland has a rich and diverse artistic community and quality art galleries showcasing unique artwork influenced by this region. The Kunmurri Art Trail is your guide to a unique experience.

Entry to studios and galleries included in the Trail is generally free and groups are welcome (some artists prefer bookings, see details in the Trail guide). Most artists welcome the chance to give visitors a hands on experience in their studios and galleries can provide tours on request.

The Kunmurri Art Trail guide provides information in an easy to follow format with towns listed in alphabetical order so you can hop on and off the Trail at your leisure. Simply consult the guide to find out what's interesting in the area, or plan ahead by choosing the sites you most want to see.

Vast Arts can distribute copies of the Kunmurri Art Trail to any interested schools.

Note: Vast Arts can supply copies of the booklet or it can be downloaded from their website.

Kunmurri Art Trail (Vast Arts Inc)

E: **admin@vastarts.net**
www.vastarts.net

The Living Arts Centre

Price:

$40/night/person which includes self serve continental breakfast

How long should you spend here?

Stays can be 1 night up to longer term





The Living Arts Centre is run by the Blackall Cultural Association and is a facility that accommodates groups from our regional and remote area. The building can accommodate up to 20 people in twin share style rooms. There are also dedicated workshop rooms which can be utilised for group activities and a very attractive covered central courtyard which is a great meeting place and BBQ spot.

The Living Arts Centre has a history of being a hostel for remotely located students and has been refurbished more recently by the Cultural Association to accommodate Arts Groups, Educational Groups and a meeting place for music, art and craft gatherings.

The Living Arts Centre has a large kitchen and dining area and disabled facilities. From this location groups can experience the Blackall Woolscour, Artesian water at the Olympic sized swimming pool, experience the history of Jackie Howe and the Blackall Sculpture Trail which is a unique feature of the town. The Blackall Cultural Association is also available to arrange specific tours to a live cattle sale on a Thursday and a visit to a cattle station or perhaps a camp oven dinner under the stars.

The Living Arts Centre

Rose Street, Blackall QLD 4472

P: **(07) 4657 4392** M: **0427 547 032** E: **blackallcultural@bigpond.com**
www.blackallcultural.org.au Facebook: **Blackall Cultural - Association**

Outback Education Products

Longreach School of Distance Education

Price:

$5 per student and free for teachers part of school group

How long should you spend here?

1.5 hours

Imagine a classroom more than twice the size of Victoria, where the playground is as vast as the Outback and the partnership between home and school is legendary.

Tourism Award Winner.

VISIT one of the largest classrooms in the world.

LEARN how education is delivered 'in the bush'.

OBSERVE a School of The Air lesson in progress.

On any school day from February to December, you can see how technology has overcome the tyranny of distance when it comes to educating isolated children. A guided tour of the Longreach School of Distance Education is truly an eye opener. Displays of students' art, projects and school work throughout the school building provide visitors with a bright, friendly atmosphere during their Outback education experience. Visitors have the chance to observe an on-air lesson in the glass walled 'fishbowl' studio (not available Fridays, Public and School Holidays).

Padded seating is provided in our Tourism room where visitors view an audio-visual presentation that shares a snapshot of the lifestyles of families out on properties and the vibrant interaction between students, home tutors, teachers and staff within the school community. This screening is followed by a guided tour around the school facilities and grounds, a question and answer session in the school library, and finally some time to browse through the extensive range of souvenirs and outback gifts in our Tourism room.

Tours commence at 9.00am and 10.30am. Unique souvenirs are available as a momento of your visit.



Longreach School of Distance Education P&C Tourism

Landsborough Highway, Longreach

P: **(07) 4658 4232** E: **tours1@eq.edu.au**
www.longreacsde.qld.edu.au

Terms and Conditions:
Bookings are required

Outback Aussie Tours M.V Explorer Cruise

Price:

Cruise only $30 per student/
Cruise & Dinner $45 per student
1 x FOC adult per 20 paying students

How long should you spend here?

2 – 3 hours

Enjoy an afternoon of peace and tranquillity gliding along the smooth waters of the coolibah lined Thomson River aboard the Longreach M.V Explorer.

Whilst travelling the expansive waters of the Thomson River, you and your students will enjoy a perfect vantage point to view the numerous species of flora and fauna and the stopover at the turtle rookery.

As you cruise along the expansive waters of the Thomson River, which forms part of the Lake Eyre Basin, you'll learn how Longreach was named, hear stories of early explorers and discover interesting facts about the Channel Country.

Your Captain brings alive the stories of aquatic life, Indigenous links, cultural heritage and famous characters, like Captain Starlight, who all depended on the river for survival.

We are happy to tailor a cruise and commentary to suit your curriculum where time permits. This cruise will be a highlight of your Outback adventure to Longreach.



Outback Aussie Tours

Landsborough Highway, Longreach

P: **(07) 4658 3000**
E: **info@oat.net.au**
www.outbackaussietours.com.au

Terms and Conditions:
Subject to availability and operational conditions. Coach transfers are not included and it would be expected that groups would utilise their own coach.

Outback Education Products

Qantas Founders Museum

Price:
Please contact Qantas Founders Museum for prices

How long should you spend here?
3 – 4 hours

Not everyone knows, but the Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Service (Q.A.N.T.A.S.) had its humble and challenging start in Outback Queensland. Conceived in Cloncurry, born in Winton and brought to fruition in Longreach where a hangar and the country's first purpose built landing field were constructed in the early 1920s, the Qantas Founders Museum in Longreach is dedicated to the history of Australia's airline.

Nowadays, we rarely think about the trials and tribulations that QANTAS went through to get the airline up and flying in the west and overcoming the problems of long distance travel. The museum is a modern World class facility built around the heritage listed original Qantas hangar, combining historical artifacts and multimedia displays for all ages to enjoy.

Open seven days, the museum is totally dedicated to the story of Qantas, the airline that started with an Avro 504K, which could carry just the pilot and two passengers. A replica of the plane is the central exhibit inside the museum and is a graphic reminder of just how simple the plane was.

Enjoy the McGinness café as well as the Founders gift store where you can purchase souvenirs, clothing, jewellery, books and Qantas memorabilia. Open 7 days 9am–5pm (except Christmas Day).



Qantas Founders Museum
Landsborough Highway, Longreach
P: **(07) 4658 3737**
E: **info@qfom.com.au**
www.qfom.com.au

Terms and Conditions:
Subject to availability and operational conditions. Bookings essential. Coach transfers are not included and it would be expected that groups would utilise their own coach.

Waltzing Matilda Centre

Price:
$7.50 per child as part of school group

How long should you spend here?
1.5 – 2 hours

If there is one song that lives in the hearts of all Australians, it's *Waltzing Matilda*. The song, written by A. B. 'Banjo' Paterson in 1895, has played a significant part in defining the Australian character. *Waltzing Matilda* inspires the Australian spirit.

Learn the truth and the myth behind the writing of the song when you visit the Waltzing Matilda Centre in Winton. Find out why the song is as relevant to Australians today as it was 118 years ago.

The Waltzing Matilda Centre is inspired by the song embraced by the Australian people as their unofficial national anthem. The Centre uses today's technology and interactive displays to interpret the song, our history and what it is to be Australian.

The only attraction in the world dedicated to a song; self-guided tours allow you to discover this amazing attraction at your own pace. The introduction to the complex is the Billabong Theatrette where the ghost in the billabong tells his story of the poem, bringing the story to life during an unforgettable audio-visual presentation that touches the hearts of those who see it.

The Centre also incorporates the Qantilda Museum, Home of the Legends Exhibition Room and the Outback Regional Gallery and Foyer, Coolibah Café and the Station Store.



Waltzing Matilda Centre
P: **1300 665 115**
E: **manager@matildacentre.com.au**
www.matildacentre.com.au

Outback Education Products

Save the Bilby Fund

Price:
$10 per student

How long should you spend here?
1 hour – depending on numbers – large groups will require a longer time



The Bilby is one of Australia's most endangered species.

Charleville is the home of the captive breeding programme to ensure the survival of the species. Captive programmes help safeguard against disasters in the wild and provide an environment where bilbies can live without fear of feral animals or habitat damage from livestock.

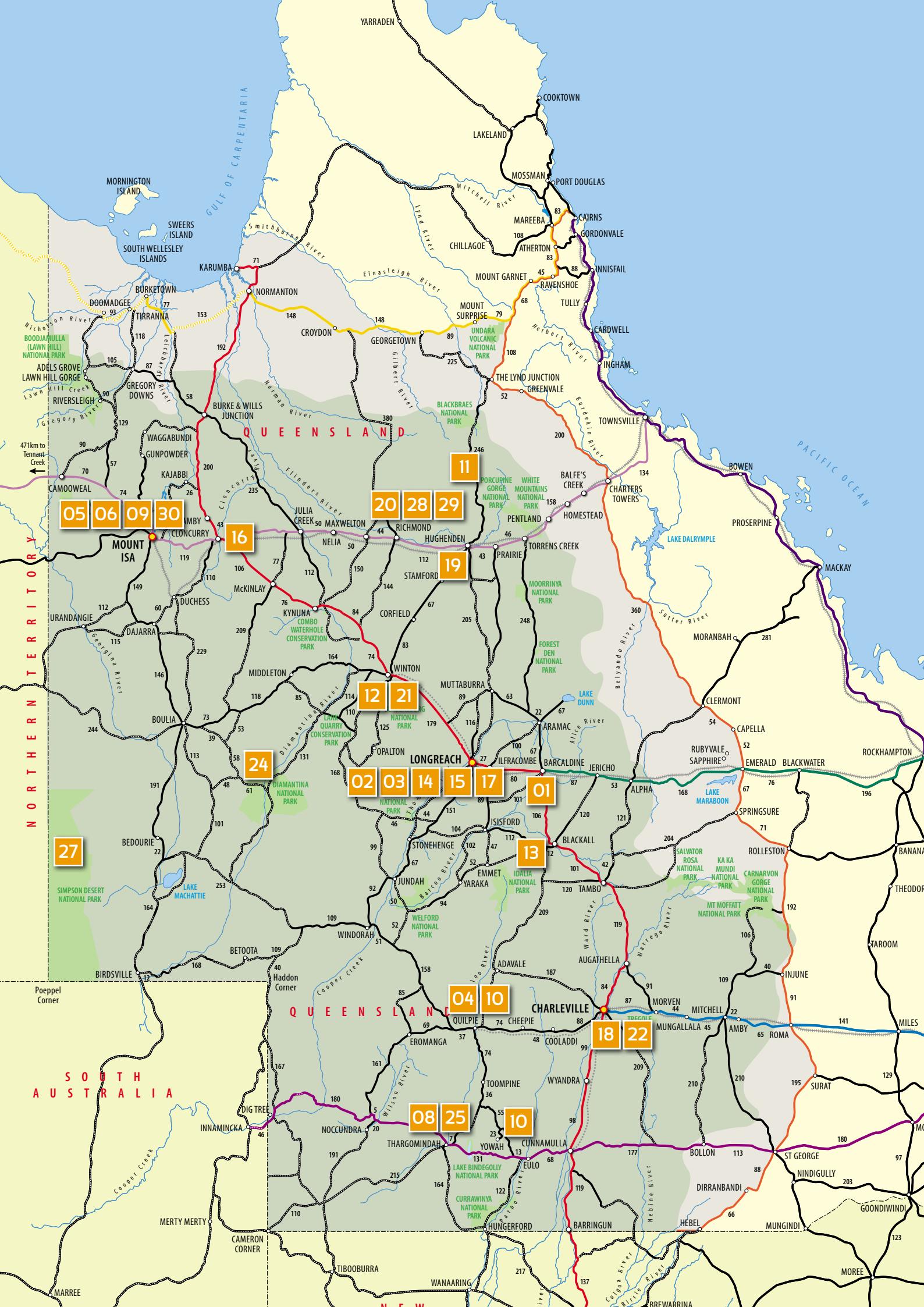
Meet with the bilby guides who will explain the fight to save these delightful marsupials and learn more about their habits and habitat.

You will learn about areas where Bilbies were once abundant, and how over the years they have disappeared from all but a few places. Discover who their predators are and how the captive breeding programme operated, including a release area that has been fenced to keep out predators to ensure their survival . The site was chosen because of its reliable and diverse food supply and it is operated by permanent staff members.

After learning about the Bilbies, you will then have the opportunity to view Bilbies in their breeding compound

P: **(07) 4654 7771** M: **0000000** E: **obguides@bigpond.com**
www.savethebilbyfund.com




YARRADEN
COOKTOWN
LAKELAND
MOSSMAN
PORT DOUGLAS
CAIRNS
GORDONVALE
ATHERTON
INNISFAIL
MAREEBA
CHILLAGOE
MOUNT GARNET
RAVENSHOE
TULLY
CARDWELL
INGHAM
TOWNSVILLE
BOWEN
PROSERPINE
MACKAY
CHARTERS TOWERS
BALFE'S CREEK
HOMESTEAD
PENTLAND
TORRENS CREEK
PRAIRIE
HUGHENDEN
RICHMOND
MAXWELTON
JULIA CREEK
NELIA
CLONCURRY
MOUNT ISA
CAMOOWEAL
471km to Tennant Creek
KAJABBI
GUNPOWDER
WAGGABUNDI
BURKE & WILLS JUNCTION
GREGORY DOWNS
RIVERSLEIGH
ADELS GROVE
LAWN HILL GORGE
BOODJAMULLA (LAWN HILL) NATIONAL PARK
DOOMADGEE
BURKETOWN
TIRRANNA
NORMANTON
KARUMBA
MORNINGTON ISLAND
SWEERS ISLAND
SOUTH WELLESLEY ISLANDS
GULF OF CARPENTARIA
CROYDON
GEORGETOWN
MOUNT SURPRISE
UNDARA VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK
THE LYND JUNCTION
GREENVALE
BLACKBRAES NATIONAL PARK
PORCUPINE GORGE NATIONAL PARK
WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK
LAKE DALRYMPLE
MORANBAH
CLERMONT
CAPELLA
RUBYVALE
SAPPHIRE
EMERALD
BLACKWATER
ROCKHAMPTON
ALPHA
JERICHO
BARCALDINE
ILFRACOMBE
LONGREACH
ARAMAC
LAKE DUNN
MUTTABURRA
WINTON
CORFIELD
STAMFORD
KYNUNA
McKINLAY
DUCHESS
URANDANGIE
DAJARRA
MIDDLETON
BOULIA
OPALTON
MOORRINYA NATIONAL PARK
FOREST DEN NATIONAL PARK
COMBO WATERHOLE CONSERVATION PARK
LAKE QUARRY CONSERVATION PARK
DIAMANTINA NATIONAL PARK
LAKE MACHATTIE
SIMPSON DESERT NATIONAL PARK
BEDOURIE
STONEHENGE
ISISFORD
BLACKALL
SPRINGSURE
LAKE MARABOON
ROLLESTON
SALVATOR ROSA NATIONAL PARK
KA KA MUNDI NATIONAL PARK
CARNARVON GORGE NATIONAL PARK
MT MOFFATT NATIONAL PARK
IDALIA NATIONAL PARK
EMMET
YARAKA
JUNDAH
TAMBO
WELFORD NATIONAL PARK
WINDORAH
BETOOTA
BIRDSVILLE
Poeppel Corner
Haddon Corner
AUGATHELLA
ADAVALE
CHARLEVILLE
MORVEN
MITCHELL
MUNGALLALA
AMBY
ROMA
INJUNE
TAROOM
THEODORE
MILES
SURAT
QUILPIE
CHEEPIE
COOLADDI
EROMANGA
TOOMPINE
WYANDRA
DIG TREE
INNAMINCKA
NOCCUNDRA
THARGOMINDAH
YOWAH
CUNNAMULLA
EULO
LAKE BINDEGOLLY NATIONAL PARK
CURRAWINYA NATIONAL PARK
BOLLON
ST GEORGE
NINDIGULLY
DIRRANBANDI
GOONDIWINDI
HEBEL
MUNGINDI
MOREE
BARRINGUN
HUNGERFORD
MERTY MERTY
CAMERON CORNER
TIBOOBURRA
WANAARING
MARREE
BREWARRINA
NORTHERN TERRITORY
QUEENSLAND
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NEW
PACIFIC OCEAN
Nicholson River
Lawn Hill Creek
Gregory River
Leichhardt River
Norman River
Gilbert River
Einasleigh River
Lynd River
Mitchell River
Smithburne River
Herbert River
Burdekin River
Belyando River
Sutter River
Alice River
Diamantina River
Georgina River
Cloncurry River
Flinders River
Barcoo River
Cooper Creek
Wilson River
Ward River
Warrego River
Nebine River
Culgoa River
Birrie River
Paroo River
Thomson River
05
06
09
30
16
11
20
28
29
19
12
21
24
02
03
14
15
17
01
27
13
04
10
18
22
08
25
10



Contents

Australian Curriculum Factsheets

Outback Queensland offers an incredible array of rural Australian experiences and stretches from Camooweal and the Overlander's Way in the north, Birdsville in the west, Cunnamulla in the south and Hughenden, Barcaldine and Charleville in the east. The region incorporates the Channel Country floodplains, the rolling Mitchell grass downs and ancient spinifex deserts, offering an amazing landscape.

The destination is home to colourful characters, a laid-back culture, rich history and ancient landscapes. Visitors feel the genuine Aussie embrace of a vast network of welcoming communities.

National Parks abound and complement numerous natural, cultural, heritage and Indigenous attractions.

Outback Queensland is synonymous with a real Australian experience that embraces the nation's cultural heritage and pioneering spirit.

52 Factsheet 01
Why have some trees become 'living monuments'?

54 Factsheet 02
Why was Captain Starlight such a successful rogue?

56 Factsheet 03
How did Kidman change from cowboy to national icon?

58 Factsheet 04
How did the Duracks become so rich in such a 'poor' country?

60 Factsheet 05
How was the world's largest mineral deposit discovered?

62 Factsheet 06
Why is the rodeo a popular activity in the Outback?

64 Factsheet 07
Who was the first to shape the Outback?

66 Factsheet 08
Why is water from the Artesian Basin called 'liquid gold'?

68 Factsheet 09
How has mining changed the Outback?

70 Factsheet 10
What are the challenges of opal mining?

72 Factsheet 11
What is so unique about Porcupine Gorge?

74 Factsheet 12
Why is a song about a sheep thief so popular?

76 Factsheet 13
Why do people say Queensland was 'built on a sheep's back'?

78 Factsheet 14
How did Cobb & Co. spin the wheels of opportunity?

80 Factsheet 15
Why did a national airline start in Outback Queensland?

82 Factsheet 16
Why was Australia the first place to develop a flying doctor service?

84 Factsheet 17
Why was Australia the first place to develop a School of the Air?

86 Factsheet 18
Why is the Outback a good place for astronomy?

88 Factsheet 19
Why are dinosaur fossils being found in the Outback?

90 Factsheet 20
When did sea monsters live in the Outback?

92 Factsheet 21
How do we know about dinosaurs?

94 Factsheet 22
Why is life getting tough for bilbies?

96 Factsheet 23
How can we protect the homes of rare species in the Outback?

98 Factsheet 24
What is so special about the Diamantina?

100 Factsheet 25
How do people source energy and other resources in the Outback?

102 Factsheet 26
What are riparian habitats?

104 Factsheet 27
Why is there a national park in a desert?

106 Factsheet 28
What was life like during the 1800s for the pioneer settlers of the Outback?

108 Factsheet 29
How can native plants be used for food and medicine?

110 Factsheet 30
What was the Outback like millions of years ago?

112 Classroom Activity Suggestions

113 Notes



Factsheet 01 – Why have some trees become 'living monuments'?

Quirky fact :

The first meeting of the Australian Labor Party was held under a gum tree in 1891.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK028, ACHGK029, ACHGK030
	History	ACHHK094, ACHH095, ACHHK097
	Science	ACSSU043
6	History	ACHHK116, ACHHK114
	Science	ACSSU094
7	Geography	ACHGK038
	Science	ACSSU112
8	Geography	ACHGK049, ACHGK052, ACHGK056

Background Information

Historic trees are a living but very vulnerable part of our heritage. Even though trees may live for hundreds of years, they eventually die. Trees of cultural and historical importance to Queensland are listed on the Queensland Heritage Register. These trees are connected to milestone events and significant people in history.

The Tree of Knowledge at Barcaldine is perhaps Australia's most famous tree. From early settlement days this majestic ghost gum, a *Eucalyptus Papuana*, attracted special attention becoming popular as a community meeting place. The tree was first known as the 'Alleluia Tree', so called because local members of the Salvation Army congregated to worship under its branches. Bullock drivers who were constantly on the move throughout Western Queensland also used the tree as place to gather and swap yarns and news from along the trails.



Tree of Knowledge, Barcaldine

However, the tree gained its enduring status as a historical landmark in May 1891, when Barcaldine became the centre for the 'Great Shearers' Strike'. Numbers vary, but it is thought that up to 3,000 striking shearers unified under the rebel 'Eureka' flag, to protest against poor working conditions and low wages. Thirteen of their leaders were subsequently arrested and sentenced to three-year terms of imprisonment. From this tumultuous period came the beginnings of what is now the Australian Labor Party.

There were no organised political parties in those days. Instead, politically-minded citizens formed alliances on different issues as they arose. The Labor Party changed this by forcing non-Labor politicians to form political parties to oppose it. The Australian Labor Party was the nation's first political party and is one of the oldest political parties in the western world.

Beside the tree is a monument in the shape of a pair of shears which reads:

Honour the men and women of the Labour movement who congregated in this area and, through their courage, determination and dedication to the principles, ideals and objectives of the labour movement, played a leading role in the formation of the Labor Party and further spearheaded the many reforms that resulted in the vastly improved way of life for the Australian people generally.

Believed to be between 160 and 190 years old, the Tree of Knowledge was poisoned by parties unknown in 2006. The tree was removed and a sapling, propagated from the original, is now growing at the Australian Workers Heritage Centre. Ironically, the Tree of Knowledge also achieved National Heritage listing in 2006. A memorial has been erected to commemorate the history of the Tree of Knowledge and its significance to the Australian Labor Party, Barcaldine and Queensland.

Other Trees

Burke and Wills Dig Tree – Thargomindah
Moonah Creek 'Hanging Tree' – Ardmore Station, Mount Isa
Robber's Tree – Cunnamulla
Sir Sidney Kidman's Tree of Knowledge – Glengyle Station near Birdsville
Tree of Knowledge – Camooweal
Hodgkinson's Marked Tree – Mount Isa

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5/6	Why are trees such an important part of both natural and built environment in the Outback?
		Why are fires and floods so significant in the Outback and how do people respond to them?
	7/8	How do trees tell the stories of the way different people have engaged with these landscapes, including how they exploited or protected them?
History	5/6	Why have trees become symbols of significant events in this area?
		Which historic events from the Outback have national significance?
Science	7	What are the roles of trees in the food chain, and how have human activities affected this?

Points of Interest

Australian Workers Heritage Centre, Barcaldine

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre is the only national attraction dedicated to celebrating the lives and proud heritage of ordinary working people – telling the stories of the railway workers and blacksmiths, the farmers, nurses and teachers who shaped the nation.

Ash Street, Barcaldine QLD 4725

Cost: Fees apply
Hours: 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Saturday
10.00am to 4.00pm Sunday
Phone: (07) 4651 2422
Email: barcy@australianworkersheritagecentre.com.au
Website: www.australianworkersheritagecentre.com.au

- The Barcaldine and District Historical Museum, Barcaldine
- Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Educational Centre, Barcaldine
- Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre, Longreach
- Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach
- Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton
- Visit the Tree of Knowledge Memorial, on Oak Street in Barcaldine

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Barcaldine Shire Council Library
Phone: (07) 4651 1170
Email: barcylib@bigpond.com.au

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
www.ehp.qld.gov.au/heritage/qld-register/index.html

REFERENCES

New South Wales Department of Education
www.cap.nsw.edu.au

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
www.ehp.qld.gov.au/heritage/qld-register/index.html

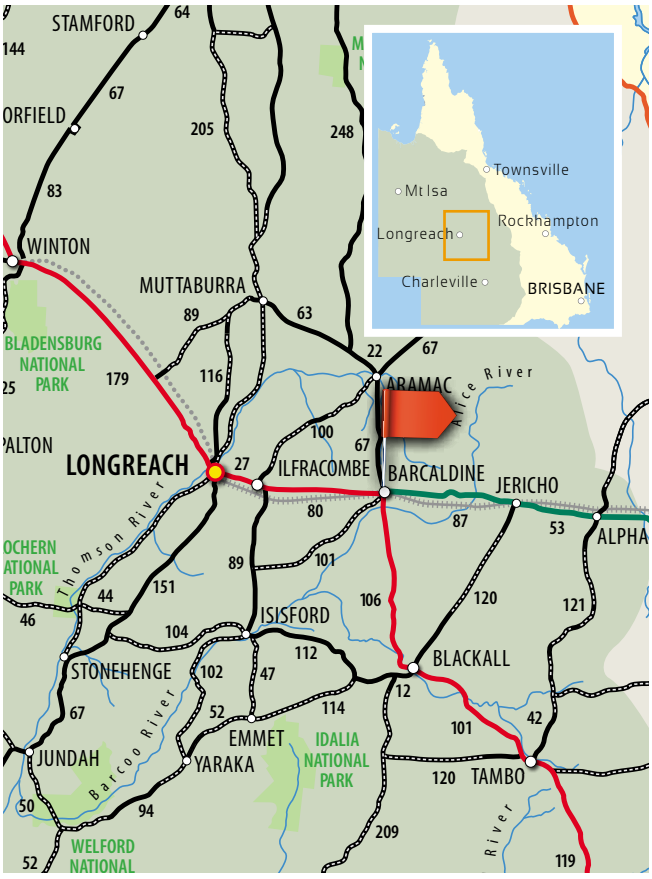
Barcaldine Shire Council
www.barcaldinerc.qld.gov.au

Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national/tree/index.html

FURTHER INFORMATION

Australian Workers Heritage Centre
PO Box 10, Barcaldine QLD 4725
Phone: (07) 4651 2422
Email: barcy@australianworkersheritagecentre.com.au

Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Educational Centre
PO Box 26, Barcaldine QLD 4725
Phone: (07) 4651 2530
Email: the.principal@wanpardaeec.eq.edu.au



Factsheet 02 – Why was Captain Starlight such a successful rogue?

Quirky fact :

Cattle duffing was very common. Many small farmers rounded up stray cattle to stock their own properties, changing brands or branding cleanskins. Most were also respectable members of the community.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK028
	History	ACHHK094
6	History	ACHHK116
7	Geography	ACHGK043
	Science	ACSHE224
8	Geography	ACHGK048

Background Information

Harry Redford's bold exploits as a cattle duffer earned him an enduring place in Queensland's history. The expert bushman and cattle drover turned his handy work to ill-gotten gain when, in 1870 he, along with a small group of hand-picked companions, stole 1,000 head of cattle from Bowen Downs.

At that time, many properties were vast and Bowen Downs at roughly 1,744,000 acres (1 acre = 0.404685 hectare) was one such property. It occurred to the 28 year-old Redford that stock from the property's remote reaches could be stolen without detection. He and his gang erected cattle yards in a secluded area close to the Thomson River. When the yards were ready, they mustered small mobs from the station and when numbers reached about 300, they were driven south to a small holding property owned by Redford's unsuspecting employer.

When the cattle numbered 1,000 plans were made to drive them overland to South Australia, though two of Redford's men refused to go, afraid they would not survive the largely uncharted journey. The mob moved along the Barcoo River and Cooper Creek and down the Strzelecki Track. Cattle were sold along the way and on reaching Adelaide the gang members split up and went their separate ways.

The law eventually did catch up with Redford and his men and they were brought to trial at Roma. Nevertheless, much to the outrage of the courts, all were found innocent by sympathetic juries.

Redford's exploits earned him the nickname *Captain Starlight* – the name of the fictitious central character in Rolfe Boldrewood's Australian classic 'Robbery Under Arms' penned in the early 1880s. Although Redford's criminal exploits made him famous, he was one of the first pioneers of the lower Cooper Creek and was the first to overland cattle down Strzelecki Creek. His skills as a great drover and his cattle drives of the early 1880s were matched only by other legendary Queensland drovers Patrick Durack and Nat Buchanan.



Mustering at sunset

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5/6	How did stockmen deal with the challenges of travelling through this environment with cattle?
	7/8	How did the landscapes and environment influence the way stockmen operated?
History	5/6	What aspects of society made it easy for criminals like Starlight to succeed? Has this changed?
Science	7	How did scientific knowledge (astronomy, geology, biology, physics, chemistry) help these stockmen succeed?

Points of Interest

Redford's most famous legacy in the Longreach district is **'Starlight's Lookout'** also known as Cassidy's Knob. On this hill which rises gently over the surrounding plains, Redford is purported to have placed a man to keep watch while they were gathering cattle from Bowen Downs.

- **The Harry Redford Old Time Tent Show**
  Laugh at the antics of Australia's most famous cattle duffer, Harry Redford or 'Captain Starlight', with live animal acts, stockmen and stockhorse comedy acts. A mix of poetic story and Australian humour to create live theatre, Outback style!

  Kinnon & Co. Store, Eagle Street, Longreach

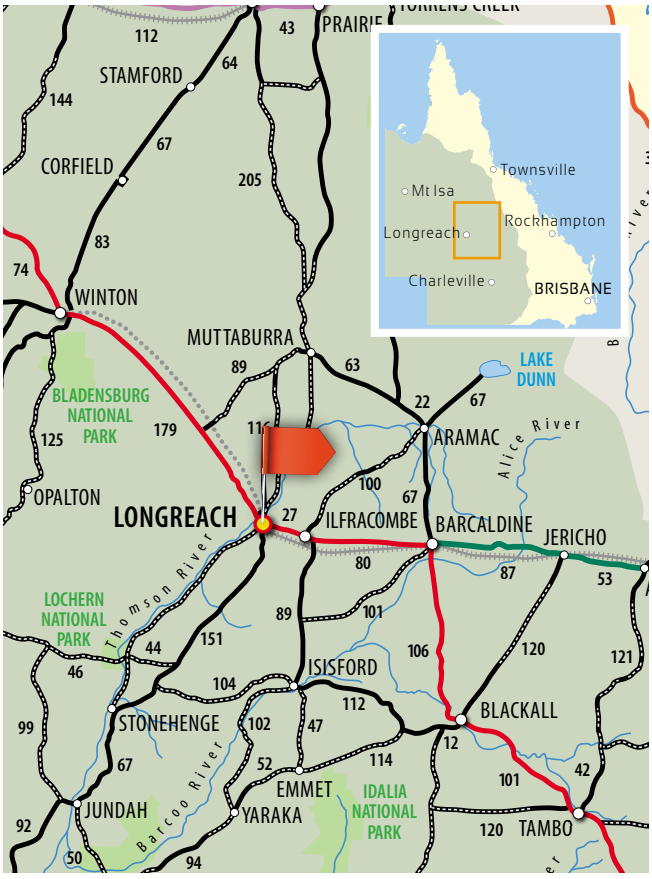
  Email: operations@kinnonandco.com.au
  Phone: (07) 4658 1776
  Website: www.kinnonandco.com.au

- **Thomson River Cruise, Dinner and Sound and Light Show**
  Watch the sun set while cruising on the historic Thomson Belle Paddlewheeler or Thomson Princess Riverboat. Afterwards, on the banks, enjoy bush poetry and a 2 course dinner around the campfire before being immersed in the spirit of Harry Redford in the Starlight's Spectacular Sound and Light Show.

  Eagle Street, Longreach QLD 4730

  Email: operations@kinnonandco.com.au
  Phone: (07) 4658 1776
  Website: www.kinnonandco.com.au

- **Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach**
- **Powerhouse Museum, Longreach**
- **Longreach School of Distance Education, Longreach**



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Music Australia – Musical score and play
www.musicaustralia.org/apps/MA?function=showDetail&currentBibRecord=000042866387&itemSeq=&total=&returnFunction=getACopy&&sessionId=

Sensational Cattle Stealing Case
A Harry Redford Story
Author, Albert H. Sutton
First published in 2002

REFERENCES

Westprint Maps
J. Deckert

Longreach Regional History
www.longreach.net.au/lre_history.html

Savannah Guides
www.sgltd.com.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre
Landsborough Highway, Longreach
QLD 4730
Phone: (07) 4658 2166
Email: museum@stockmanshalloffame.com.au
www.stockmanshalloffame.com.au

Factsheet 03 – How did Kidman change from cowboy to national icon?

Quirky fact :

The Kidman family still operates 19 pastoral stations and remains one of Australia's largest beef producers!

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK029
	History	ACHHK094, ACHHK097
6	History	ACHHK094, ACHHK097
7	Geography	ACHGK040, ACHGK043
	Science	ACSSU222, ACSHE121
8	Geography	ACHGK049, ACHGK051, ACHGK056

Background Information

Pastoralist Sir Sidney Kidman was born in 1857 near Adelaide and educated at private schools until he left home at age 13, with five shillings in his pocket, riding a one-eyed horse he had bought with his savings. He found work with a landless drover who moved his stock throughout the 'corner' country of New South Wales in search of unfenced runs and good feed. During this time Kidman befriended an Aboriginal man known as Billy and it was he who taught Kidman the tracking and bush skills that would found his future. For the rest of his life, Kidman always travelled the back-country with an Aboriginal guide and offsider.

As Kidman matured, he continued to work for pastoralists until he had the money to buy a bullock team. From that time on he worked for himself, at first contracting to cart supplies in the country between the isolated settlements of the northern border regions of South Australia, Victoria and western New South Wales. Then later, when copper was discovered at Cobar in the early 1870s, Kidman opened a butcher shop to service the rapidly expanding district. This enterprise made enough money to establish Kidman as a large squatter. He grew his business by setting up coach services in western New South Wales and Western Australia. He also supplied horses to the British Army in India, and bought and sold cattle.

Kidman married in 1885 and the following year bought his first station south-west of Alice Springs. He began buying a chain of stations stretching from the wet tropics of the Gulf of Carpentaria, south through western Queensland to Broken Hill, and across the border into South Australia. Many stations were located on the great rivers of western Queensland's Channel Country and Corner Country. During the next decade he acquired a second chain of stations which ran from the Fitzroy River and Victoria River Downs in the north to the Flinders Ranges near Adelaide. Dubbed the 'Cattle King', by 1915 Kidman controlled pastoral country almost equal to the area of Victoria and was on his way to becoming a national icon.



Wool press, Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame



Dusk, Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5/6	What environmental challenges did the early settlers have to deal with?
		How has settlement and management of spaces affected these places?
	7/8	Why did Europeans move to such remote places?
		What were the lifestyle challenges they had to address?
		How was their response to the landscape different from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?
History	5/6	What was the contribution of families like the Kidmans, and why were they so successful?
		How did the knowledge of Aboriginal peoples help them succeed?
Science	7	What are the important features of the water cycle in the Outback and how do people use scientific understanding to manage this resource?

Points of Interest

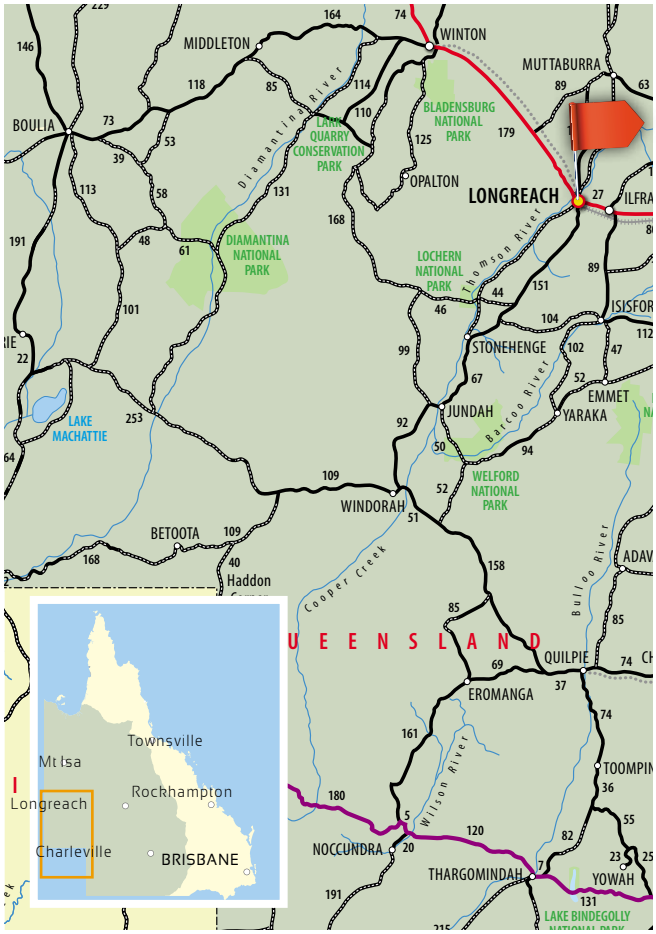
Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre, Longreach

The Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre is Australia's premier outback heritage institution. In Queensland's central western town of Longreach, the centre provides visitors with a spectacular outback experience and there you will find some information on Sidney Kidman.

Landsborough Highway, Longreach QLD 4730

Cost: Entry fee applies
Hours: 9.00am to 5.00pm daily
Phone: (07) 4658 2166
Email: museum@stockmanshalloffame.com.au
Website: www.stockmanshalloffame.com.au

- **Big Red – Munga-Thirri (Simpson Desert) National Park via Birdsville**
- **Diamantina National Park**
- **Burke and Wills Dig Tree, Cameron Corner, via Thargomindah**



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Diamantina Drover
Lyrics by John Williamson
www.lyricsplayground.com/alpha/songs/t/thediamantinadrover.shtml

REFERENCES

S. Kidman & Co Ltd
www.kidman.com.au

Australian Dictionary of Biography
www.adb.anu.edu.au/biography/kidman-sir-sidney-6948

FURTHER INFORMATION

Diamantina National Park Tourism Information
Phone: 1300 794 257
Email: visitors@diamantina.qld.gov.au
www.diamantina.qld.gov.au

Queensland Government, Longreach
Landsborough Highway
PO Box 202, Longreach QLD 4730
Phone: (07) 4652 7333

Factsheet 04 – How did the Duracks become so rich in such a 'poor' country?

Quirky fact :

Eromanga, in the Quilpie Shire, is the furthest town from the sea in Australia!

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK028, ACHGK029
	History	ACHHK094, ACHHK097
6	History	ACHHK116
	Science	ACSSU096
7	Geography	ACHGK043
	Science	ACSSU222, ACSHE121
8	Geography	ACHGK056

Background Information

"Cattle Kings ye call us, then we are Kings in Grass Castles that may be blown away upon a puff of wind" Patrick 'Patsy' Durack, pastoral pioneer, 1878.

Patrick Durack was born in Ireland, the eldest son of eight children. His family, having survived the great famine of the 1840s, emigrated to New South in 1853 in the hope of new prospects and a better life. However, tragedy struck when Durack's father was accidentally killed only weeks after their arrival, leaving the young man to support his large family. Durack worked hard and within two years purchased a small holding near Goulburn, where he continued to build his assets.

By the early 1860s south-west Queensland was opening up and in 1863 the ambitious Durack, along with members of his family, set out with horses and cattle to establish a property in the emerging region. The undertaking almost cost his life. Overwhelmed by drought, all the stock perished and the men survived thanks only to the help of local Aborigines. Despite this initial setback, Durack returned in 1868 to establish Thylungra and Kyabra stations on a tributary of Cooper's Creek. He pegged out claims across 17,000 square miles (44,030 km^2), stocked and then sold them to friends and new settlers. Profits paid for other ventures – a butchery at Roma, holdings at Thargomindah, Adavale and Windorah, and hotels to service the influx of opal miners and Cobb & Co. services. By the close of the 1870s Durack was a wealthy man with substantial business interests in both New South Wales and western Queensland.

Always in pursuit of new opportunities, Durack was keen to explore exciting prospects in the Kimberley district of Western Australia. In 1881 he and a long-time friend launched an expedition to the area. Durack's brother, Michael, travelled ahead by ship with provisions for the mob's arrival. Soon after 7,250 head of breeding cattle and 200 horses began the gruelling 3,000 mile (4,828 km) trek. At a cost of £72,000 the journey was the longest cattle drive of its time, taking the mob almost two-and-a-half years to reach its destination.



Baldy Top Lookout

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5/6	What environmental challenges did the early settlers have to deal with?
		How has settlement and management of spaces affected these places?
	7/8	Why did people move to such remote places?
		What were the lifestyle challenges they had to address?
		How has development of services changed the lifestyle for people?
History	5/6	What was the contribution of families like the Duracks, and why were they so successful?
Science	5/6	How do people in the Outback respond to extreme weather? Provide current examples
	7	What features of the water cycle are most significant in the Outback?
		How do people use science understandings to manage this resource?

Points of Interest

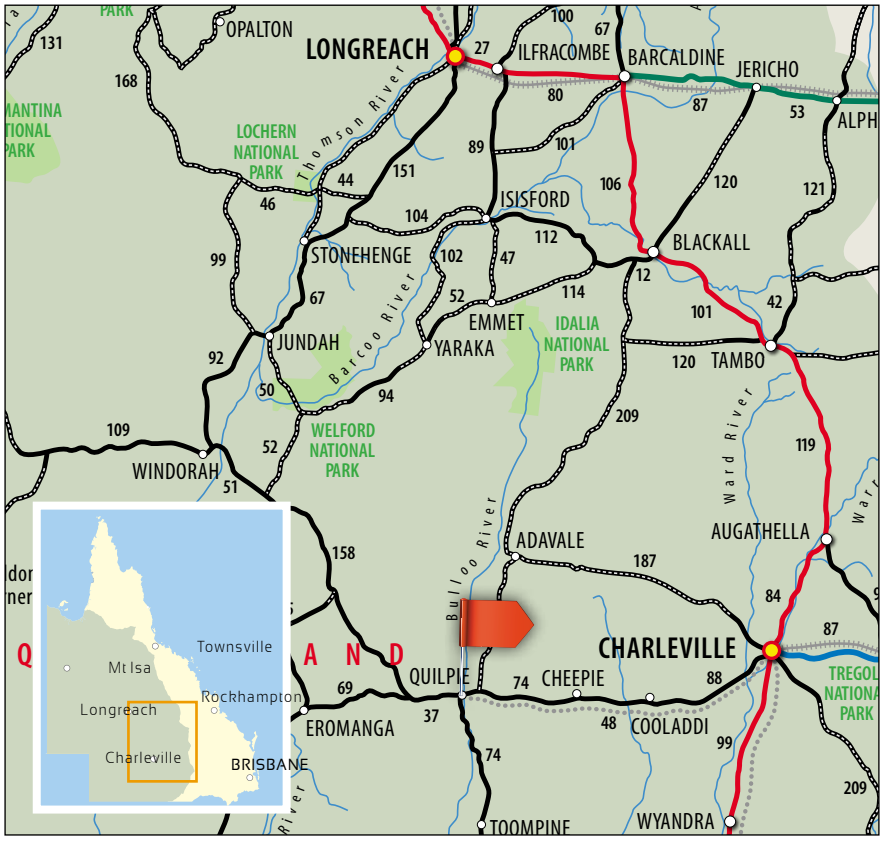
Ray Station, via Quilpie

Experience what life is really like on a working Cattle Station in Outback Queensland

Diamantina Development Road (between Quilpie and Windorah)
Quilpie QLD 4480

Cost: Fees apply
Hours: 7 days by prior arrangement with management
Contact: Sandra and Mark Tully
Phone: (07) 4656 4737
Email: raystation@bigpond.com
Website: www.raystation.com.au

- The Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre, Longreach
- Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach
- Australian Workers Heritage Centre, Barcaldine
- Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton
- Blackall Woolscour, Blackall



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Kings in Grass Castles
Australian biography
Author, Mary Durack
First published 1959
www.amazon.com

Kings in Grass Castles
TV mini series 1998
Available in DVD format
www.amazon.com

REFERENCES

Quilpie Shire Council
www.quilpie.qld.gov.au

Australian Dictionary of Biography
Select Bibliography
M. Durack, Kings in Grass Castles (Lond, 1959).
www.adb.anu.edu.au/biography/durack-patrick-3457

Lure of the Land: a brief history of Quilpie Shire Lesley Jenkins (2001)
www.southwestnrm.org.au/ihub/lure-land-brief-history-quilpie-shire

FURTHER INFORMATION

Quilpie Museum and Visitor Information Centre
51 Brolga St, Quilpie QLD 4480
Phone: (07) 4656 0540
www.quilpie.qld.gov.au
Open weekdays 8.00am – 5.00pm

Factsheet 05 – How was the world's largest mineral deposit discovered?

Quirky fact :

Until becoming a city in 1968, Mount Isa was Queensland's youngest town!

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK028, ACHGK029
	History	ACHHK095, ACHHK097
7	Geography	ACHGK043, ACHGK045, ACHGK047
	Science	ACSSU116, ACSHE121, ACSHE224
8	Geography	ACHGK056, ACHGK045, ACHGK047
	Science	ACSSU153, ACSHE136, ACSHE227

Background Information

John Campbell Miles was the prospector and pastoral worker who discovered the mineral deposits that established the famous Mount Isa Mine. Born in Melbourne in 1883, Miles had a restless and adventurous spirit. As a boy, he ran away from school, initially to work with a bootmaker, but soon moved on, taking up a number of jobs in quick succession, including as a ploughman, miner, carter, railway navvy, wild-pig hunter and windmill repairer. In 1907, at age 24, Miles rode his bicycle 1,500 miles (2,414 kms) from Broken Hill to the Oaks goldfield in north Queensland. His time there, though short and uneventful, would inadvertently lead to his discovery of Australia's greatest mine of the 20th century.

On leaving the Oaks, Miles worked as a farm labourer and spent the next decade drifting from station to station, continuing to fossick to supplement his income. In 1921, he decided to follow up on stories he had heard about gold on a cattle trail in the Northern Territory. Slowly travelling west he reached Camooweal where he met William Simpson of the Native Bee mine, who later became his partner – it was February 1923. Miles' next camp was on the Leichhardt River where he prospected dark, mineralised samples before striking the Black Star lode. During this fossick Miles discovered the rich central lodes that would become the Mount Isa mineral field: the Black Star; Racecourse and Rio Grande.

The find inspired a prospecting boom in the area. Among the new arrivals was William Corbould who, in January 1924, floated Mount Isa Mines Limited. Simpson and Miles each received 500 shares worth nearly £330,000. Sadly, Simpson was accidently killed only a few days later, while Miles continued to prospect in the area for another year. Unable to settle down, Miles maintained his wandering lifestyle and gradually sold his shares. By 1933 he no longer held interests in Mount Isa Mines. Miles died in 1965 and his ashes are buried in under a memorial clock tower in Miles Street, Mount Isa.



Mount Isa miner, Mount Isa Mine

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5/6	How is the mining community different from Outback farming communities?
		How have people influenced and managed this place?
	7/8	What is special about the landform of Mount Isa, and what are the reasons people migrated here?
		What were the challenges for liveability and how have they been managed?
History	5/6	Who were the key people in the development of Mount Isa and what did they do?
Science	7/8	How did the mineral deposits form?
		What science understandings are used in mining and management of this environment?

Points of Interest

Hard Times Mine at Outback at Isa

Explore the history of mining as experienced guides enthral you with their stories of the good times and the hard times that are had working deep under the earth.

Outback at Isa, 19 Marian Street, Mount Isa QLD 4825

Hours: Daily showings
Cost: Fees apply
Phone: (07) 4749 1555 or 1300 659 660
Email: info@outbackatisa.com.au
Website: www.outbackatisa.com.au

- Riversleigh Fossil Centre and Isa Experience Gallery – Outback at Isa, Mount Isa
- Underground Hospital & Museum, Mount Isa

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Mineralogical Society New South Wales
www.minsocnsw.org.au/minsocnewsletters/New%20Talks%2021.3.09/mount%20isa.pdf

Australian Mining
www.miningaustralia.com

REFERENCES

Geoffrey Blainey, Mines in the Spinifex (Sydney, 1960); Australian Dictionary of Biography,Vol.10 (Melbourne, 1986).

Diane Menghetti, James Cook University

Mining-Technology.com
www.mining-technology.com

James Cook University
www.micrrh.jcu.edu.au/Our-Region/mount-isa.html

Outback at Isa
www.outbackatisa.com.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

Outback at Isa
Riversleigh Fossils Interpretive Centre and Mount Isa Tourist Information Centre
19 Marian Street, Mount Isa QLD 4825
Phone: (07) 4749 1555 or 1300 659 660
Email: info@outbackatisa.com.au



Factsheet 06 – Why is the rodeo a popular activity in the Outback?

Quirky fact :

Australia's first Rodeo World Titles were held in Winton in 1958.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK028
6	History	ACHHK116
7	Geography	ACHGK043
	Science	ACSHE120
8	Geography	ACHGK055
	Science	ACSHE135

Background Information

So much of the Outback's life and culture stems from the cattle industry. Pastoral grazing opened up new frontiers and helped to build the nation. Each year towns throughout western Queensland celebrate and pay tribute to the skills and strength of both man and beast when they gather for their local rodeos and musters. Spectators blend with contestants, decked out in uniform check shirts, blue jeans or moleskin trousers, Akubra hats and dusty RM Williams leather boots. Many contestants travel Australia and world-wide testing their opponents as they do the rounds of the circuit, pitching their skills against the best of them.

Queensland stages two of the largest rodeos in the country – the Mount Isa Rotary Rodeo and the Warwick Rodeo. Outback communities everywhere turn up for their show – be it Richmond, Winton, or Cloncurry. In 2008, the Mount Isa Rodeo reached a milestone, celebrating its 50th year. Now the largest rodeo in the southern hemisphere, the week-long festival attracts over 25,000 visitors to the mining town and some of the top local and international competitors in the world, who vie for prize money of more than $200,000. Each ride is fast and furious, only lasting a few seconds before the steer, horse or bull has its way, so the action is always thrilling and competition is fierce.

The Australian Professional Rodeo Association (APRA) was established in New South Wales in 1944 and is the national governing body for the professional side of the sport. The organisation is now based in Queensland on the Darling Downs. The APRA competition calendar runs for 11 months of the year, visiting all Australian states and territories with contestants competing in up to 13 events.



Watching a rodeo in action



Mount Isa Rodeo

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5	How has the environment influenced the choice of leisure activities in the Outback?
	7/8	How do leisure activities affect the liveability of a place? Why is rodeo popular in the Outback?
History	6	Why did the rodeo originally develop and how did it shape the Australian colonies?
Science	7/8	How can science inform decisions about animal ethics?

Points of Interest

Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo, Mount Isa

The Mount Isa Rodeo is the largest rodeo event in the Southern Hemisphere located in the Outback Queensland city of Mount Isa.

Outback at Isa, 19 Marian Street, Mount Isa QLD 4825

Hours: Three-day event held annually on the second weekend of August
Cost: Fees apply
Phone: (07) 4743 2706
Email: enquiries@isarodeo.com.au
Website: www.isarodeo.com.au

- Hard Times Mine, Riversleigh Fossil Centre and Isa Experience Gallery – Outback at Isa, Mount Isa
- Underground Hospital & Museum, Mount Isa

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Australian Rodeo Heritage Centre A.P.R.A.
PO Box 264, Warwick QLD 4370
Phone: (07) 4661 8183
Email: apra@prorodeo.asn.au
www.prorodeo.asn.au/arhc/index.htm

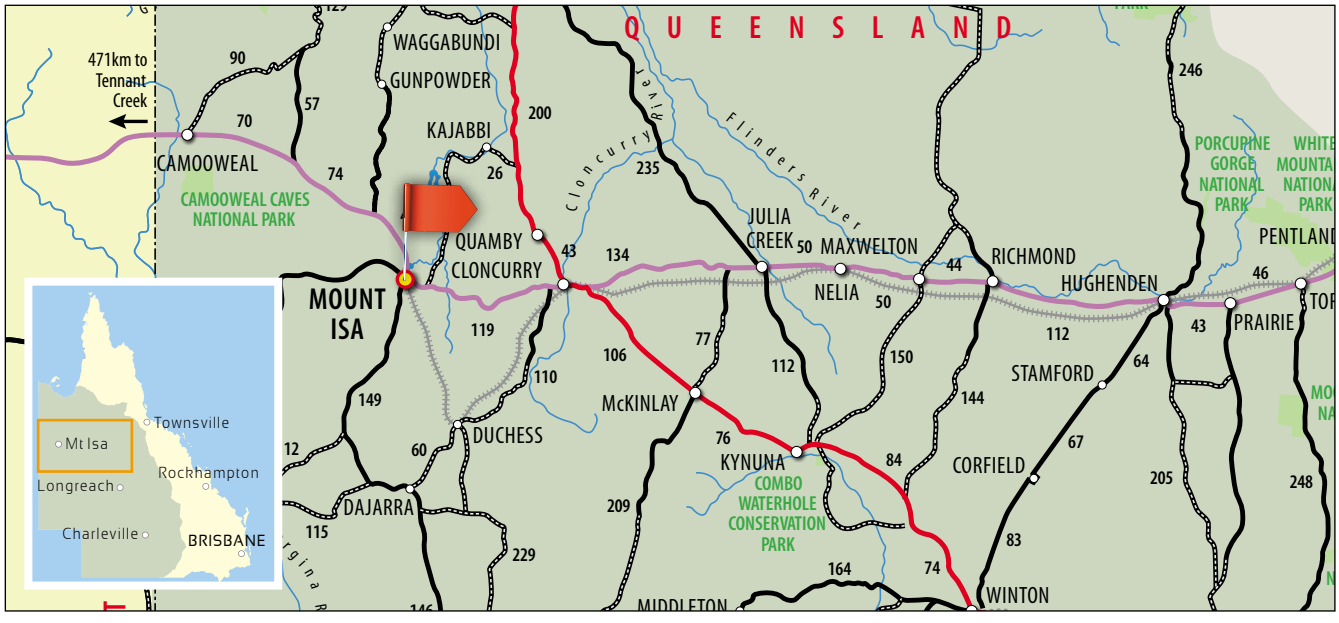
REFERENCES

The Australian Professional Rodeo Association
www.prorodeo.asn.au

ABC Western Queensland
www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2012/08/13/3566541.htm

FURTHER INFORMATION

Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo
Outback at Isa, 19 Marian Street,
Mount Isa QLD Australia 4825
Phone: (07) 4743 2706
Email: enquiries@isarodeo.com.au
www.isarodeo.com.au



Factsheet 07 – Who was the first to shape the Outback?

Quirky fact :

The skeletal frames of gunyahs (stick shelters) can still be found in Outback Queensland.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK027
	History	ACHHK097
	Science	ACSHE082
6	Geography	ACHGK033
	History	ACHHK116
	Science	ACSHE099
7	Geography	ACHGK041
8	Geography	ACHGK049, ACHGK052
	Science	ACSSU153

Background Information

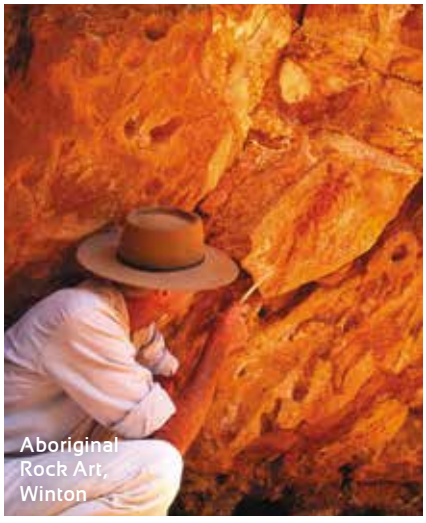
Australia's Aboriginal heritage is one of the oldest in the world. Aboriginal people have occupied Australia from around 40,000 to 60,000 years ago. Prior to European arrival Aborigines lived in tribes and clans, their Country or territorial boundaries marked by geographical features of the area such as rivers and mountains. While sharing much in common, the land influenced each group's distinct culture and heritage and gave rise to an extraordinary diversity among groups across the continent. For example, there were between 200 and 250 spoken languages with more than 700 recorded dialects.

Aboriginal people attribute their survival to living 'as part of the land' rather than 'on the land'. This deep connection with the environment enabled them to observe and adapt to changing conditions. During the last 60,000 years Australian Aborigines survived a major ice age and several other periods of climate change.

All groups hunted and gathered their food, using tools fashioned from rocks, trees and plants. There was no written Aboriginal language. Traditions and histories were passed from one generation to the next through story telling, art and dance. Aborigines expressed art in many ways: through their dance and by painting their bodies to depict characters of The Dreaming, animals and events; through rock paintings, stencils and drawings; and as adornment to their instruments, tools and shields. They used ochre, a rock that is heavily enriched with iron oxide, to make paint. The ochre was ground into a powder and mixed with binding agents such as saliva, blood or animal fat. It was applied either by blowing it as a fine spray from the mouth, using a sharp or flattened end of a stick, or the fingers and hands. Another form of rock art involved engraving surfaces by pecking, grinding and abrading. Aboriginal art is often geometric. Circles, lines and dots were and still are commonly used along with figurative illustrations such as human and animal shapes, boomerangs and other tools, and animal tracks.



Bora-rings, Winton



Aboriginal Rock Art, Winton

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5/6	How did the original inhabitants influence their environment?
		How does this compare with the way other cultures connect with their places?
	7/8	What is the role of landscape in the culture of this region's original inhabitants?
		Which aspects of this landscape need to be protected and how can this be done?
History	5/6	How have the Aboriginal inhabitants of the Outback influenced society?
Science	5/6	What scientific understandings do Aboriginal peoples apply in traditional lifestyles (e.g materials, physics, chemistry, meterology, physics)?
	8	How do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples apply their knowledge of the properties of different rocks and minerals?

Points of Interest

- Visit **Baloon Cave Aboriginal Cultural Trail at Carnarvon Gorge**. This 1km return (45 minutes) is a short walk to a small sandstone overhang featuring stencilled Aboriginal rock art. Signs along the trail introduce aspects of traditional use of the area's resources. The Karingbal and Bidjara people welcome visitors to Carnarvon Gorge – 'Carnarvon Gorge is our country. The spirit of our people is at home here. We welcome you to this place'.
- **Artesian Country Tours** (departing from Barcaldine) offers guided tours to one of Australia's oldest Dreamtime carving sites, lava blowholes, gorges, caves and desert springs.

  PO Box 232, Barcaldine QLD 4725

  Cost: Fees apply
  Hours: By appointment
  Contact: Tom Lockie
  Phone: (07) 4651 2211
  Email: tom@artesiancountrytours.com.au
  Website: www.artesiancountrytours.com.au

Most historical Aboriginal sites are in protected areas with restricted access.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Studies
www.aiatsis.gov.au

Australian Archaeological Association
www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au

REFERENCES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Map of Queensland
Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs
www.nrw.qld.gov.au/cultural_heritage/

Australian Government
Australian indigenous cultural heritage
www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/austn-indigenous-cultural-heritage

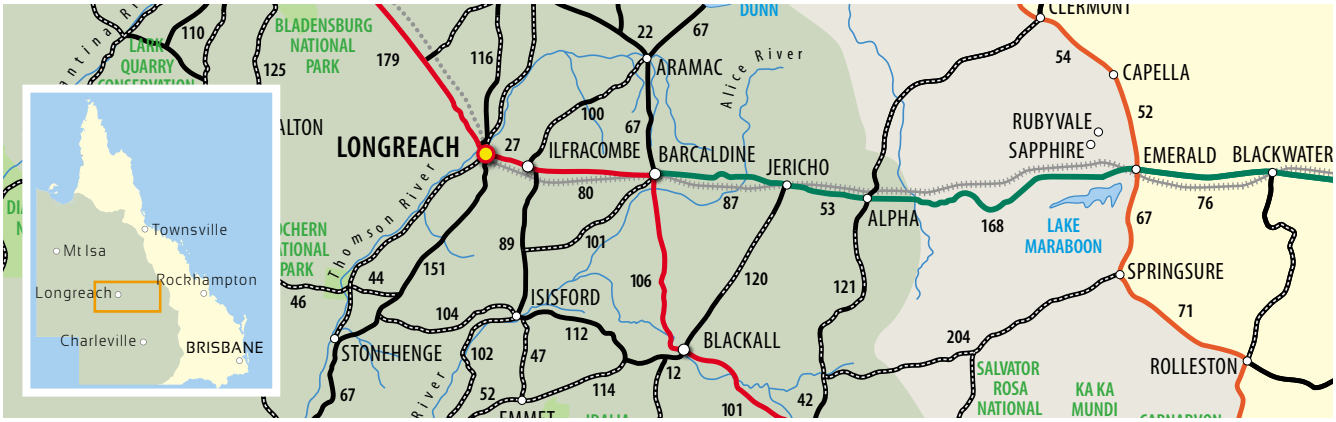
Aboriginal Art Online
www.aboriginalartonline.com/index.php

Queensland Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks_and_forests/popular_parks.html

FURTHER INFORMATION

Wanpa-rda Matilda
Outback Education Centre
PO Box 26, Barcaldine QLD 4725
Phone: (07) 4651 2530
Email: the.principal@wanpardaeec.eq.edu.au
www.wanpardaeec.eq.edu.au

Carnarvon Gorge National Park,
www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/carnarvon-gorge/



Factsheet 08 – Why is water from the Artesian Basin called 'liquid gold'?

Quirky fact :

The Great Artesian Basin covers over 1,711,000 square kms and it has an estimated total water storage of 64,900 million megalitres (a megalitre is one million litres – about half the water in an Olympic swimming pool).

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK028, ACHGK030
	Science	ACSSU077
7	Geography	ACHGK038, ACHGK039, ACHGK040, ACHGK041
	Science	ACSSU116, ACSSU222
8	Geography	ACHGK048, ACHGK050, ACHGK051
	Science	ACSSU153, ACSHE136

Background Information

The Great Artesian Basin is one of the largest artesian groundwater basins in the world. It underlies about one-fifth of Australia and extends beneath arid and semi-arid regions of Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory, stretching from the Great Dividing Range to the Lake Eyre depression.

The basin was formed between 100 and 250 million years ago and consists of alternating layers of water-bearing sandstone aquifers and non-waterbearing siltstones and mudstones. The thickness of this sequence varies from less than 100 metres on the basin extremities to over 3,000 metres in the deeper parts of the basin. Individual bore depths vary up to 2,000 metres with the average being 500 metres. Some of the sandstone sequences contain oil and gas.

Groundwater in the basin generally flows westward to the south-west but in the northern section they flow to the north-west and north. The rate at which water flows through the sandstones varies between one and five metres per year. Replenishment occurs through infiltration of rainfall into the sandstone aquifers mainly along the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range. Natural discharge occurs mainly from mound springs in the south-western area. Mound springs are natural outlets of the artesian aquifers from which groundwater flows to the surface. Dating of the artesian waters has given ages of almost 2 million years for the oldest waters, which occur in the south-western area of the basin.

Water quality in the main aquifers is generally good although the pH may be very high, and high sodium levels make it generally unsuitable for irrigation. Water temperatures vary from 30 degrees Celsius to over 100 degrees in its deepest parts. Total flows from the basin reached a peak around 1915. Since then, artesian pressure and water discharge rates have declined, while the number of bores has increased.



Charlotte Plains

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5	How has the availability of water, and the risk of fire and floods, influenced the way people live in this environment?
	7/8	What process formed the Great Artesian Basin?
		How do different nations and cultures value and manage water resources?
Science	5	What can we learn from artesian springs about the properties of materials?
	7/8	Can water be a mineral?
		How does science understanding help people use and manage artesian water resources?

Points of Interest

Thargomindah Hydro Power Plant

Thargomindah Visitor Information Centre
Echidna Place, 37 Dowling Street, Thargomindah QLD 4492
Phone: (07) 4621 8095
Email: tourism@bulloo.qld.gov.au
Website: www.thargotourism.com.au

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan
www.nrmonline.nrm.gov.au/catalog/mql:509

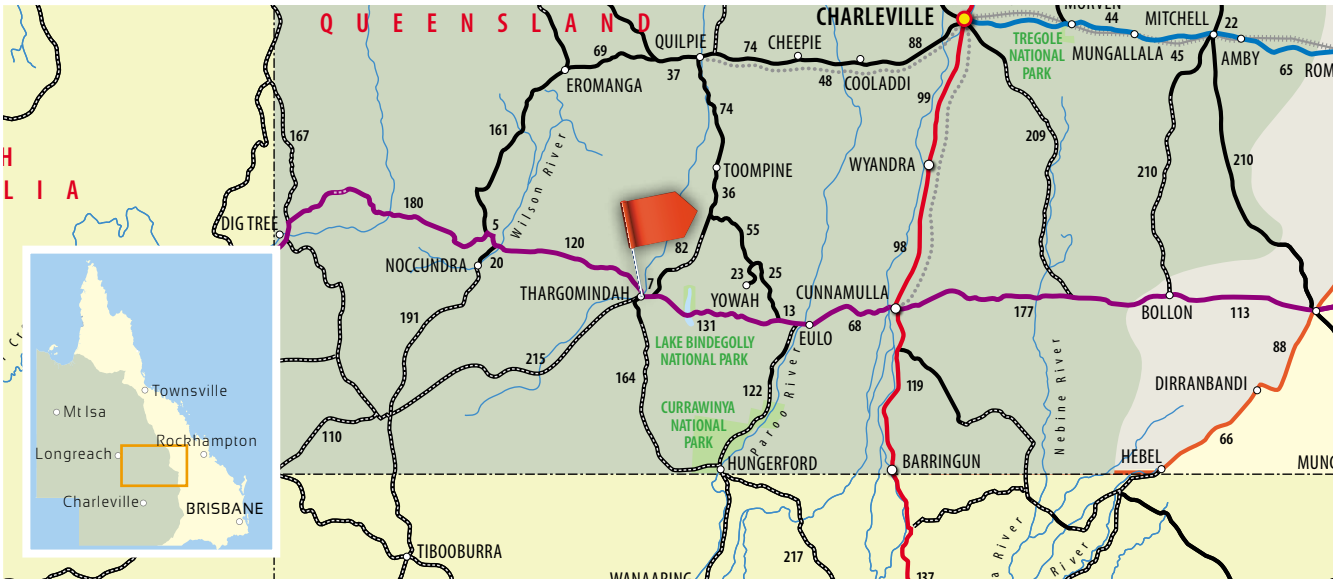
Department of Environment
www.environment.gov.au/resource/water-down-under-great-artesian-basin-story

REFERENCES

Bulloo Shire Council
www.thargotourism.com.au/hydro-power-plant

FURTHER INFORMATION

Department of Environment
www.environment.gov.au/topics/water/water-our-environment/great-artesian-basin



Factsheet 09 – How has mining changed the Outback?

Quirky fact :

Did you know Queensland leads the world in the production of metallic minerals such as copper, lead and zinc?

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK028
	History	ACHHK095, ACHHK096
6	Geography	ACHGK032
7	Geography	ACHGK043, ACHGK044
	Science	ACSSU116, ACSSU121
8	Geography	ACHGK051, ACHGK052, ACHGK056
	Science	ACSSU153, ACSHE136

Background Information

Queensland is rich in mineral and energy resources such as coal, gold, lead, copper, zinc, silver, nickel, tin, bauxite, uranium, industrial minerals, oil and gas. The Outback region contains some of the world's richest copper, lead, and zinc deposits and is home to one of the largest mineral producers Xstrata, Mount Isa Mines.

Queensland Copper Mines

Great Australia Mine – Cloncurry Copper

Ernest Henry discovered copper in 1867 while outcropping near Cloncurry. Full of optimism, he named his discovery 'Great Australia'. From 1906 copper prices boomed and Cloncurry flourished. The railway extended to the town to meet demand but in 1920 prices crashed and 'Great Australia' ceased operations. Ernest Henry is still considered the 'father' of Cloncurry and the old mine boasts remnants of its heyday including Queensland's oldest water-jacket smelter casing and Cornish boilers.

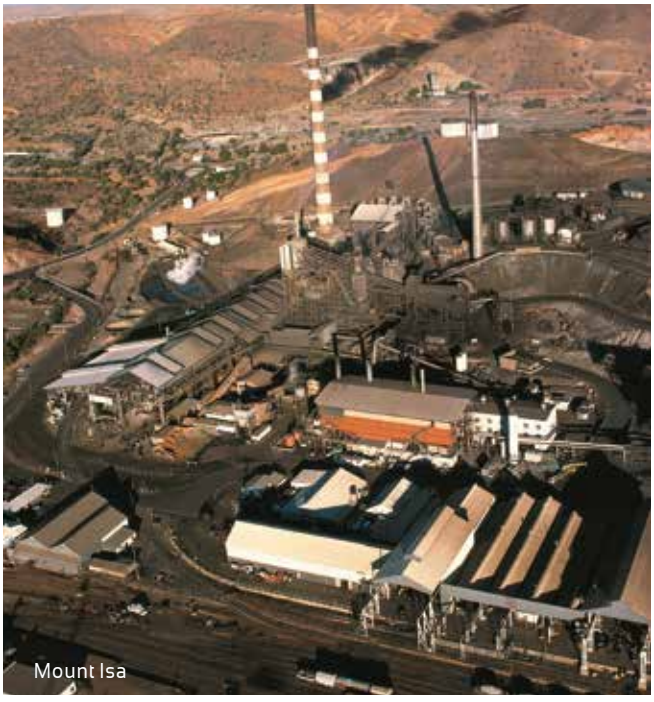
Ernest Henry Mine – Cloncurry Copper, Gold

The Ernest Henry copper-gold mine began commercial production in 1998. The plant provides for up to 10 million tonnes of ore to be extracted annually, to produce 100,000 tonnes of copper and 125,000 ounces of gold. Almost 3,500 people were involved in building the mine at a cost of $310 million and ensuing regional development has included a water pipeline, electricity transmission lines, conversion of Mica Creek Power Station to gas generation, a new airport terminal and improved air services.

Mount Isa Mine – Copper Lead Zinc Silver

Mount Isa Mines (MIM) began with the discovery of lead-zinc outcrops by John Campbell Miles in 1923. By 1941, large reserves of copper were found at Black Star mine and copper was smelted from 1943. Within two decades, new copper smelters saw the annual copper yield of Black Rock grow to twice the combined production of all other Australian mines. MIM developed the 'Isasmelt' process in the 1980s, increasing the annual lead output by over 200,000 tonnes.

MIM is Australia's largest underground mine and one of the world's largest mining operations. It ranks in the top three producers of lead, top five producers of silver, 10th largest source of zinc and 19th largest producer of copper. MIM includes Enterprise Mine, Australia's most recent and deepest underground copper mine and George Fisher Mine, one of the largest undeveloped lead-zinc deposits in the world.



Mount Isa

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5/6	How has the environment and migrants' cultural backgrounds influenced Outback communities?
	7/8	What geomorphic process caused minerals to be part of this landscape?
		Investigate the challenges for mining in this area (e.g sourcing workers).
History	5	What were the impacts of mineral discoveries in the Outback, especially migration?
Science	7/8	What geomorphic process caused minerals to be part of this landscape?
		How does scientific understanding help people to manage the region's environment and resources?

Points of Interest

Outback at Isa

The **Hard Times Mine Tour** provides a unique first hand experience into the daily life and workings of an underground mine.

19 Marian Street, Mount Isa QLD 4825

Cost: Entry fee applies
Contact: 1300 659 660 or (07) 4749 1555
Email: info@outbackatisa.com.au
Website: www.outbackatisa.com.au

*check on the day for wheelchair access to mine. 4WD occasionally available.

- The Ernest Henry Mine Pit Tour, Cloncurry
- Underground Hospital Museum, Mount Isa
- Royal Flying Doctor Service Visitor Centre, Mount Isa

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Language and Power in Nineteenth Century Mining: A View from North Queensland
Source: Journal article by Jan Wegner; Journal of Australian Studies,1999

Australian Mining History 1848 to 1999
Source: Chronology of Australian mining
www.readyed.com.au/Sites/minehist.htm

Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines
www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/

REFERENCES

Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines Factsheets
www.ehp.qld.gov.au/factsheets/mining-extractive-activities.html

Republic of Mining
www.republicofmining.com

Ernest Henry Mining
www.ernesthenrymining.com.au

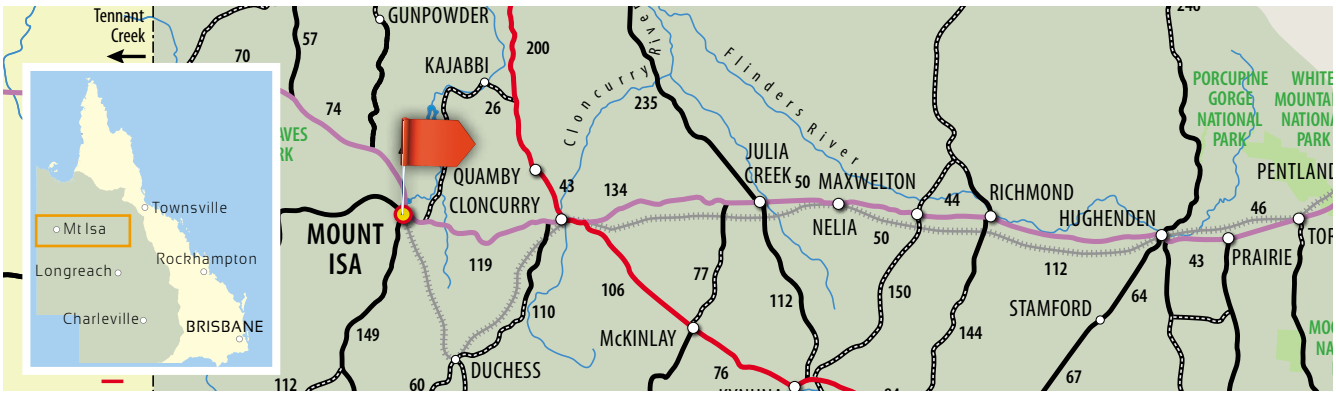
Mount Isa City Council
Phone: (07) 4747 3200
Email: city@mountisa.qld.gov.au.
www.mountisa.qld.gov.au

Queensland Resources Council
www.qrc.org.au/

FURTHER INFORMATION

Outback at Isa Riversleigh Fossils Interpretive Centre and Mount Isa Tourist Information Centre
19 Marian Street, Mount Isa QLD 4825
Phone: (07) 4749 1555 or 1300 659 660
Email: info@outbackatisa.com.au

Mount Isa Mines
Private Mail Bag 6, Mount Isa QLD 4825
Phone: (07) 4744 2011
www.mountisamines.com.au



Factsheet 10 – What are the challenges of opal mining?

Quirky fact :

When boulder opal is cut and polished some of the ironstone is always retained as a natural backing.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK028
7	Geography	ACHGK043, ACHGK044, ACHGK040
	Science	ACSSU116, ACSHE121
8	Geography	ACHGK050, ACHGK056
	Science	ACSSU153, ACSHE136

Background Information

Australia produces 96 per cent of the world's opals. Opal was first mined south of Quilpie in 1871, following its discovery at Listowel Downs near Blackall in 1869. Today, Quilpie remains the largest miner of opal and the only producer of the ironstone boulder opal.

The opal fields of Outback Queensland follow a 300 km-wide belt of deeply weathered Cretaceous sedimentary rocks known as the Winton Formation. This belt extends a distance of about 1,000 kilometres from Hungerford on the New South Wales border, west of the townships of Cunnamulla, Quilpie, Longreach and Winton, to Kynuna. Boulder opal is unique to Queensland and widely distributed in the weathered sandstone rocks common to these areas. In general, finds can range in size from a few centimetres to three metres across.

Opal acts as a lining between the concentric layers or cracks of ironstone. Sometimes it appears as a kernel in smaller concretions or nuts – hence the term 'Yowah-nuts'. While boulder opal is only found in Queensland, other more common opal types include:

- Matrix opal – where the opal occurs as a network of veins between grains of the host rock (ferruginous sandstone or ironstone);
- Seam or band opal – usually found encased in ironstone;
- Pipe opal – which may be up to several centimetres in diameter within the sandstone; and
- Wood opal – sometimes found replacing woody tissue material.

Large mines are mostly open-cut operations. Boulders are carefully removed from the ground for processing and heavy equipment is often used to open up old workings. Underground mining is also practised and shafts are sunk to detect any intersecting layers beneath the ground surface. Miners use light machinery to remove the boulders, at which point they are checked for opal content and sorted for sale or further processing.



Opal education, Winton



Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5/6	How has the environment influenced the characteristics of mining communities?
	7/8	How do opals form?
		How do remoteness and scarcity of water influence the characteristics of mining communities?
		Read a daily newspaper and write down everything you can find related to mining in Queensland/ Australia
Science	7/8	How do opals form?
		How does scientific understanding help people live, work and manage resources in the Outback?

Points of Interest

Gem Fossicking, Quilpie

Quilpie has fossicking at Duck Creek and Sheep Station Creek opal fields.

- **Quilpie Museum and Visitor Information Centre**
  Brolga Street, Quilpie QLD 4480

  For information contact the Quilpie Visitor Information Centre for maps and permits or contact the Department of Mines and Energy at www.dme.qld.gov.au

  Cost: Fees and licenses apply
  Hours: By appointment
  Phone: (07) 4656 1133
  Email: tourism@quilpie.qld.gov.au
  Website: www.quilpie.qld.gov.au

  Please note: All mining activity is covered under Acts administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. Permission is required before entering an area held under mining tenure and a Prospecting Permit is usually required.

- **Gem fossicking, Opalton**
- **Gem fossicking, Yowah**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Tourism Queensland
Source: General Outback information
www.adventureoutback.com.au

The Mineral and Gemstone Kingdom
www.minerals.net/mineral/opal.aspx

REFERENCES

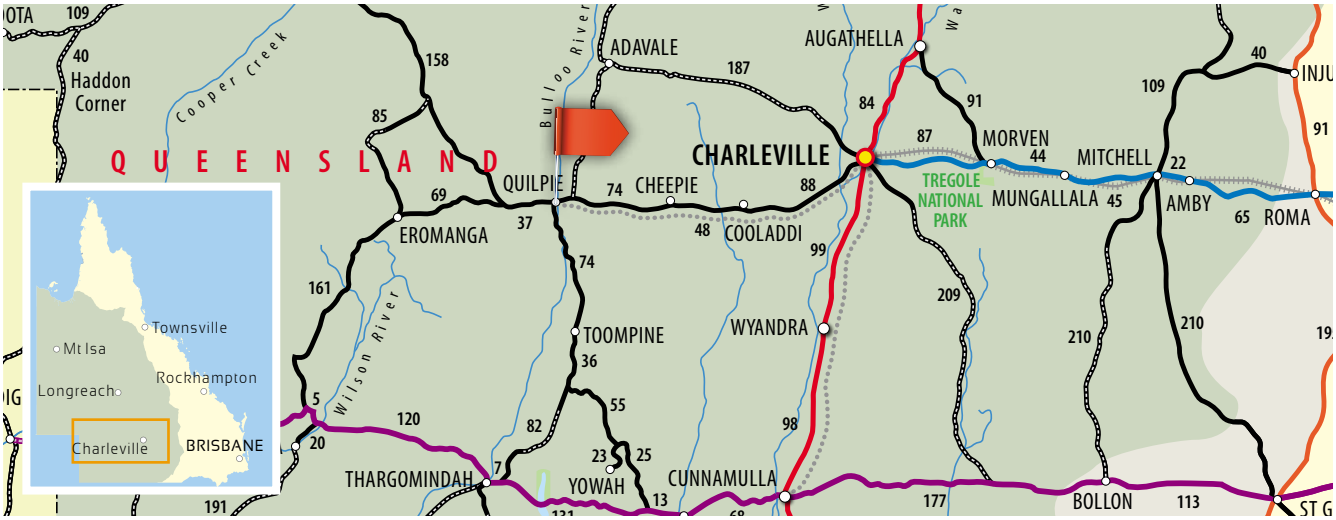
Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines
www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/

Opals Down Under
www.opalsdownunder.com.au/learn-about-opals

Opal Bar Map
www.opalbar.com.au/index.php?act=viewDoc&docId=5

FURTHER INFORMATION

Department of Mines and Energy Information Centre
Level 2, Mineral House
41 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4001
Phone: (07) 3237 1434



Factsheet 11 – What is so unique about Porcupine Gorge?

Quirky fact :

Sedimentary rocks are the second major rock group. They are cool rocks, meaning they form at the earth's surface, mostly under water. They usually consist of layers or strata.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK030
	Science	ACSSU043, ACSSU094
7	Geography	ACHGK038
	Science	ACSSU112
8	Geography	ACHGK048, ACHGK049, ACHGK050, ACHGK052
	Science	ACSSU153

Background Information

Often known as the 'Little Grand Canyon', Porcupine Gorge National Park lies within the Savannah plains and extends for more than 25 kms along Porcupine Creek surrounded by open woodland and grassland. The creek cuts a meandering path through a deep canyon that reveals sedimentary rock strata spanning hundreds of millions of years. A thin, hard, basalt cap, the product of geologically recent lava flows, has protected much of the older underlying rock, but where this capping has been worn away, the scouring action of waterborne particles has excavated a deep chasm into the softer sandstone. The culprit, Porcupine Creek, reduces to a string of clear pools in winter and becomes a torrential cascade during the wet season (summer).

In the wider section of the gorge, the eroding action of the creek has also created the Pyramid, a monolith of multicoloured sandstone rising from the floor of the gorge. Wind and water have coloured and sculpted the sandstone to form fluted channels, boulders, potholes and shallow caves. Permanent deep pools, each with its resident turtles, are lined with casuarinas (sheoaks) and melaleucas (paperbarks), while various eucalypts and acacias including the rare pink gidgee precariously root in the cliffs above.

The gorge and surrounding area is rich with cultural history. Three traditional Aboriginal groups, the Gutjal, Jirandali and Mitjumba continue their traditional connections to Country within the park. The Tattoos, just a few kilometres up the road, is the site of Aboriginal and European carvings as well as spectacular rock formations.

The gorge is home to currawongs, parrots and the occasional soaring bird of prey. Closer observation reveals a wide variety of birds including the black duck, red-winged parrot, black bittern and numerous honeyeaters. The gorge becomes a focal point for many animals in the dry season while others, such as the wallaroo, rock wallaby and rufus bettong, are permanent residents.



Porcupine Gorge National Park

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5	How do plants and animals that live at Porcupine Gorge cope with fire and floods?
	7/8	What process formed the gorge?
		What do different people groups value about these landscapes?
Science	5/6	What are the links between this environment and the feature of things that live here?
	7/8	How does scientific understanding help people to manage the Diamantina's environment and resources?

Points of Interest

Porcupine Gorge, via Hughenden

Towering cliffs of coloured sandstone, pockets of vine forest and deep permanent waterholes along Porcupine Creek contrast strikingly with the Savannah plains surrounding Porcupine Gorge.

Kennedy Developmental Road (73 kms north of Hughenden) via Hughenden QLD 4821

Cost: Entry to the park is free, however fees apply for camping
Hours: Open 24 hours per day
Contact: Information, access and maps available at www.epa.qld.gov.au/parks_and_forests/find_a_park_or_forest/

White Mountains National Park, via Hughenden

Moorrinya National Park, via Hughenden

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/porcupine-gorge/index.html

Tourism and Events Queensland
www.queenslandholidays.com.au/destinations/outback/things-to-see-and-do/porcupine-gorge-national-park/index.cfm

Flinders Shire Council
www.flinders.qld.gov.au

REFERENCES

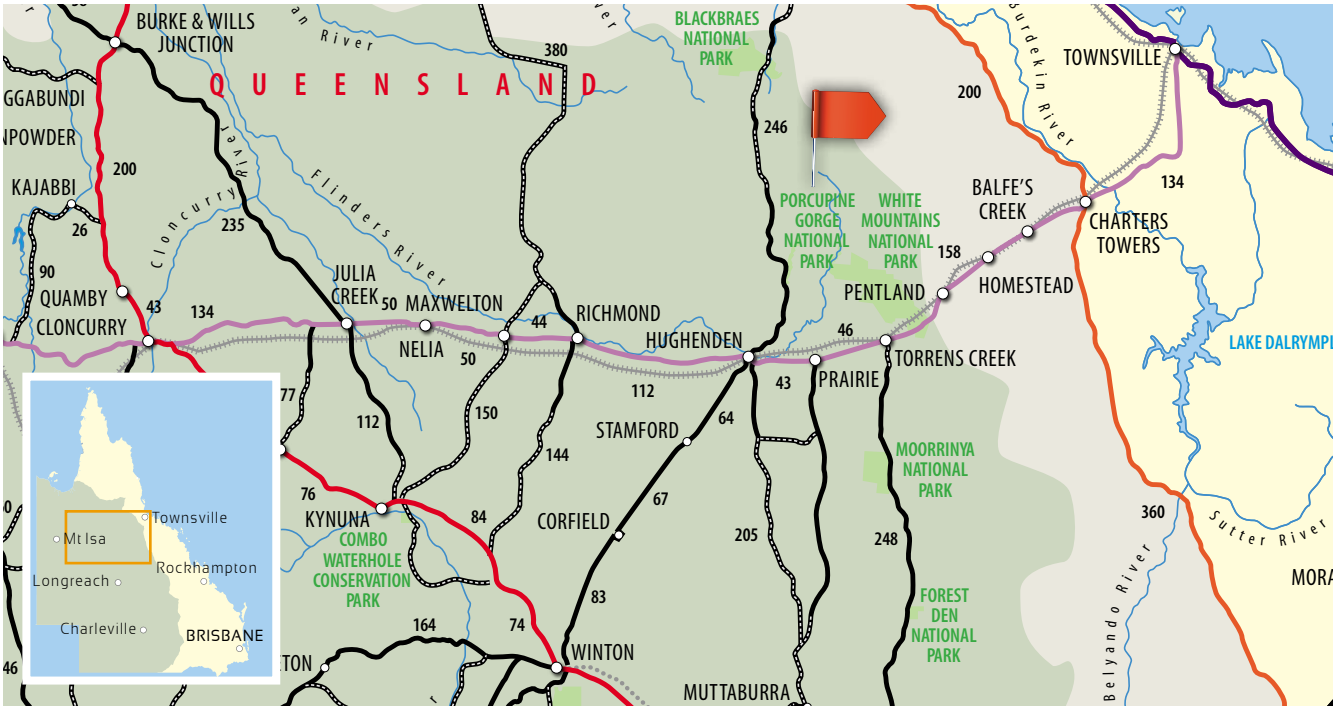
Flinders Discovery Centre – Porcupine Gorge National Park Information Brochure

About.com: geology
www.geology.about.com/cs/basics_roxmin/a/aa011804b.htm

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
wetlandinfo.ehp.qld.gov.au/wetlands/facts-maps/national-park-porcupine-gorge/

FURTHER INFORMATION

Flinders Discovery Centre
37 Gray Street, Hughenden QLD 4821
Phone: (07) 4741 2970
Email: info@flinders.qld.gov.au
www.flinders.qld.gov.au



Factsheet 12 – Why is a song about a sheep thief so popular?

Quirky fact :

'Waltzing Matilda' is widely considered the unofficial anthem of Australia, despite being overlooked by the public as its choice for a national anthem in the 1974 and 1977 Referenda.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	History	ACHHK097
6	History	ACHHK116
8	Geography	ACHGK049

Background Information

The song 'Waltzing Matilda' embodies the Australian spirit and has played a significant part in defining the Australian character. Written by A.B. 'Banjo' Paterson in January 1895, the words were inspired when he was staying with the Macpherson family on Dagworth Station, north-west of Winton. Christina Macpherson is thought to have written the tune, adapting the Scottish march, 'Thou Bonnie Wood of Craigielea', to accompany the words.

The phrase Waltzing Matilda is believed to have originated from German immigrants. Waltzing (auf der walz) meant 'to go on the tramp'. In those days, apprentices would travel throughout Germany and to other European countries to gain experience in their trade, finding work with master craftsman and sleeping wherever they could. The word Matilda is from Teutonic origin meaning Mighty Battle Maiden – the name given to the women that followed the soldiers in the thirty year European war. The Matildas were like de-facto wives that kept their soldiers warm at night. The soldiers soon came to nickname their grey army coats Matildas and then, much later in Australia, Matilda was adopted as the name for a swag or blanket that was usually carried over the shoulder. Hence, Waltzing Matilda means to go walkabout looking for a job with your tools of trade and the things that keep you warm at night.

Historians believe the song was first performed publicly at the North Gregory Hotel in Winton, on 6 April 1895, apparently at a banquet for the then Premier of Queensland.

There are various interpretations of the meaning behind the song, ranging from those that say it is based around the conflict of the Great Shearers' Strike (1891 – 1894), to those that believe it was a simple ditty written by Banjo Paterson to win the admiration and eye of a woman.



Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	8	What can we learn about the Outback landscape and landforms from Waltzing Matilda?
		What other evidence can you find (e.g. songs, stories, poems, artworks) of the way people value the Outback landscapes?
History	5/6	How did writers like Paterson shape our image of Australian society?

Points of Interest

The Waltzing Matilda Centre is the only museum in the world dedicated to a song. Self-guided tours allow you to experience this multi award-winning attraction at your own pace.

50 Elderslie Street, Winton QLD 4735

Cost: Entry fee applies
Hours: Open daily from 9.00am to 5.00pm
Phone: 1300 665 115
Email: waltzing@matildacentre.com.au
Website: www.matildacentre.com.au

- The Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, Winton
- Royal Open Air Theatre and Museum, Winton
- Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Waltzing Matilda
Music and words – various renditions
www.hamilton.net.au/matilda.html

REFERENCES

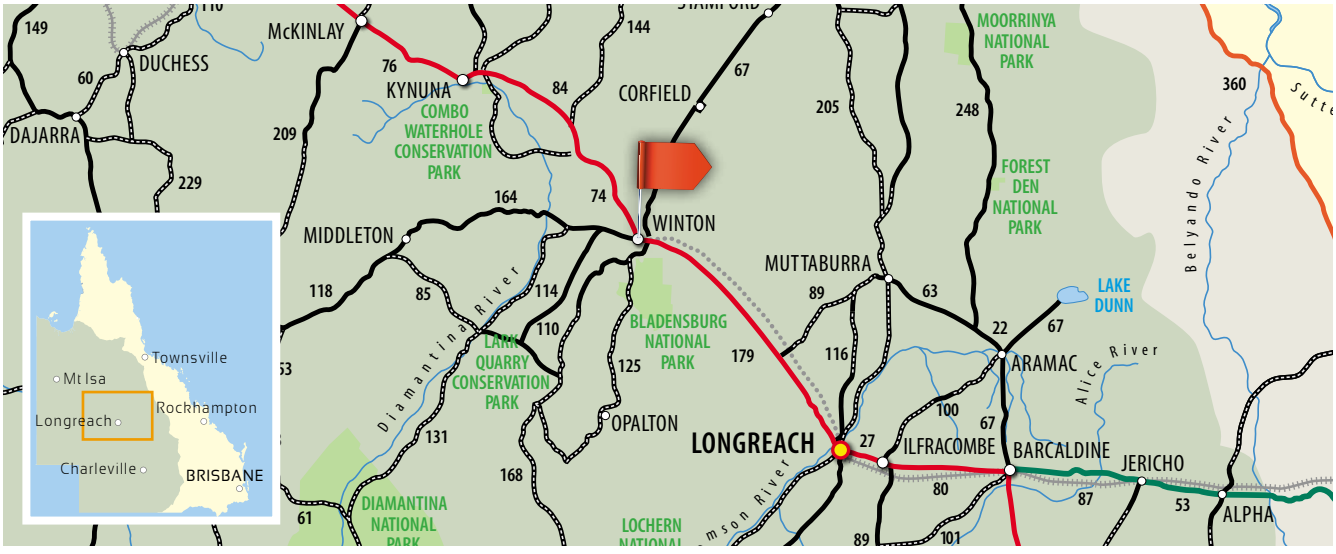
Forrest, P. & S., 2008, Banjo & Christina : the true story of Waltzing Matilda, Shady Tree: Darwin, N.T.

National Library of Australia
www.nla.gov.au/epubs/waltzingmatilda/index.php?p=c4-03

Roger Clarke's Waltzing Matilda Home Page
www.rogerclarke.com/WM/

FURTHER INFORMATION

Waltzing Matilda Centre
PO Box 286, Winton QLD 4735
Phone: 1300 665 115
www.experiencewinton.com.au



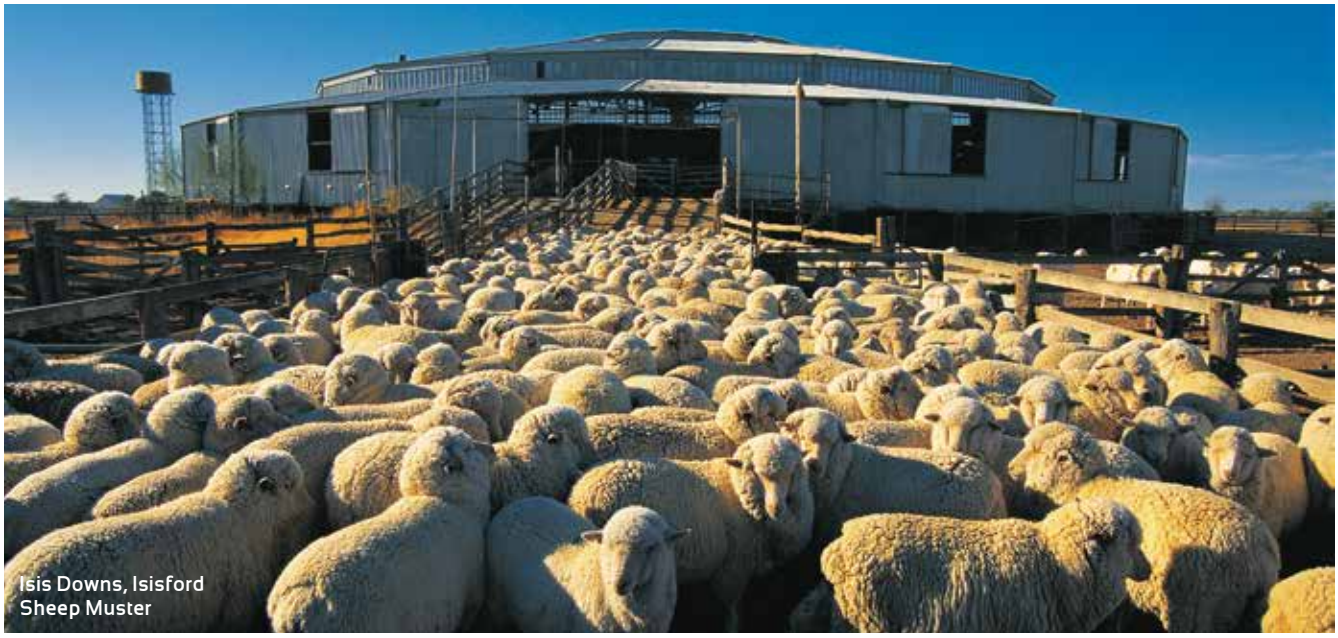
Factsheet 13 – Why do people say Queensland was 'built on a sheep's back'?

Quirky fact :

In the 1940s, Queensland's sheep population had reached 25.6 million – an all time high.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK030
	History	ACHHK095, ACHHK094
	Science	ACSHE083, ACSSU043
6	History	ACHHK116, ACHHK094
	Science	ACSHE083, ACSSU095, ACSSU094
7	Geography	ACHGK037, ACHGK038, ACHGK039
	Science	ACSSU116, ACSSU222, ACSSU112
8	Geography	ACHGK048
	Science	ACSHE136



Isis Downs, Isisford
Sheep Muster

Background Information

Sheep arrived in Australia with the First Fleet in 1788. Governor Phillip brought a small flock of Merinos from the Cape of Good Hope, having purchased them en route to Australia as food supplies. However, with the arrival of new settlers and the opening up of vast tracts of land, sheep quickly grew into a valuable commodity. In addition to the Merino, other stock breeds were introduced and crossbred to suit Australian conditions. Before too long wool had become a staple industry for the new nation and rich part of its cultural heritage.

Queensland's sheep industry began in 1840 when the pioneer and grazier Patrick Leslie, along with his brothers, drove a flock of 1,700 rams as well as 4,000 ewes and lambs to the Darling Downs. Sheep breeders in the southern colonies doubted Queensland's potential as a high grade wool producer because of the hot and often dry conditions. Some even thought the sheep might produce hair rather than wool. However, these ideas were dispelled as pastoralists prospered from the rich grazing land throughout the western regions and established one of the most successful industries for the state.

Queensland's sheep belt carves its way through the centre of the state, stretching from the northern border of New South Wales to the Gulf of Carpentaria – a distance roughly 1,200 km long and 800 km wide, it covers about 55 million hectares. The route is readily supplied with water from the Great Artesian Basin and not withstanding long periods of drought, this major resource has sustained the wool industry for almost 170 years. Unfortunately, as a result of low world demand and a flat market in the 1990s, and prolonged drought over recent years, sheep numbers have dwindled dramatically and the industry's economic value has slipped to its lowest in 50 years.

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5	Why is this region so vulnerable to fire and floods? What strategies do people from the Outback use in response?
	7/8	Why is the Great Artesian Basin so important to this region?
History	5/6	What were the impacts of the development of the sheep industry in this region?
		What influenced the patterns of development?
		How has the lifestyle of shearers changed over time?
		How did shearers influence Australian politics?
Science	5/6	What scientific knowledge about materials is important in processing wool, especially at the Blackall Woolscour?
		Compare sheep with native creatures regarding how their features help them survive in this environment and their impact on that environment.
	7/8	What scientific understandings are used to access and manage artesian water resources?
		What are the key food webs in this region, and how has the grazing industry affected them?
		Which aspects of science knowledge do people in the wool industry use?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
www.daff.gov.au/

Australian Wool Testing Authority
www.awta.com.au/index.php/en/

REFERENCES

Blackall Tambo Regional Council
www.btrc.qld.gov.au

Great Artesian Base Coordinating Committee
www.gabcc.org.au

ABC Western Queensland
www.abc.net.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

Australian Workers Heritage Centre
PO Box 10, Barcaldine QLD 4725
Phone: (07) 4651 2422
Email: barcy@australianworkersheritagecentre.com.au

Points of Interest

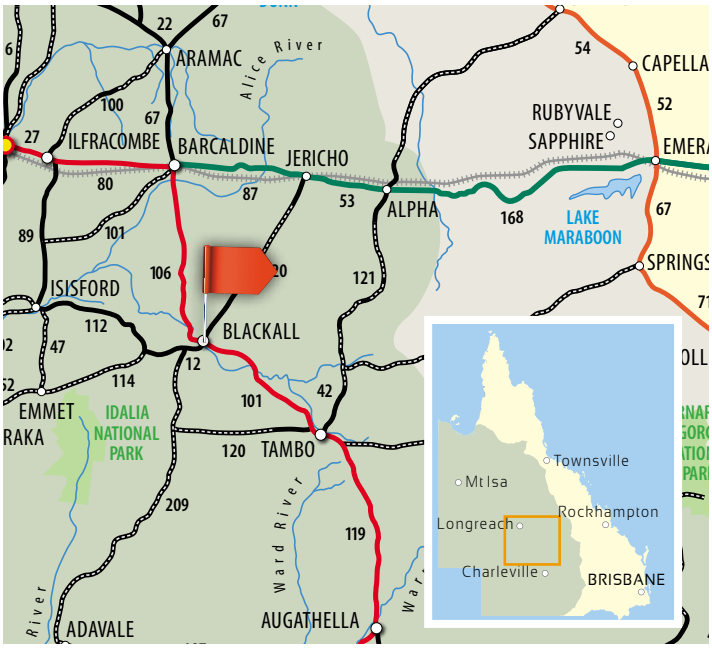
Blackall Woolscour

The Blackall Woolscour is the last remaining steam-operated wool washing plant in Australia. This living museum is a direct link to Australia's pioneering era.

Evora Road, Blackall QLD 4472

Cost: Entry fees apply, see website for further details
Hours: Guided tours operate hourly every day from 9.00am to 4.00pm
Phone: (07) 4657 6042
Email: blackallwoolscour1@bigpond.com
Website: www.blackallwoolscour.jimdo.com

- The Barcaldine and District Historical Museum
- Central West Aboriginal Co-op Red Shed, Barcaldine
- Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre, Barcaldine
- Black Stump, Blackall



Factsheet 14 – How did Cobb & Co. spin the wheels of opportunity?

Quirky fact :

In some very remote areas, change stations were known to serve passengers prickly pear jam and stewed galah!

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK028
	History	ACHHK095
	Science	ACSHE083
6	History	ACHHK116
	Science	ACSHE100
7	Geography	ACHGK043, ACHGK044
	Science	ACSSU117, ACSHE224
8	Geography	ACHGK056
	Science	ACSHE135, ACSHE227

Background Information

The gold rush of the 1850s sparked a mass migration of hopeful prospectors to the rich diggings of central Victoria. Overnight new settlements sprang up to support the population growth and fast and reliable transport and communications became imperatives. Americans Freeman Cobb, John Murray Peck, James Swanton and John Lamber seized the opportunity to establish a stagecoach service from Melbourne to Castlemaine and the first Cobb & Co. run was made on 30 January 1854. Initially, the company imported its coaches, along with experienced drivers, from the USA and Canada. This experience gave Cobb & Co. a competitive edge as its drivers were faster than others, averaging 10 to 12 kilometres per hour with a team of five or seven horses. Teams were replaced with fresh horses at changing stations, which were generally located 25 to 40 kilometres apart.

The roads were hard going. The coach body was suspended on thick strips of leather called thoroughbraces that would rock back and forth enabling the coach to negotiate the roughest conditions. However, motion sickness was common among the passengers. For this reason the changing stations, though often basic in their fare (meals of stew, salt beef or damper), were always a welcome break in the journey.

Cobb & Co. followed the gold rushes. Routes opened to Gympie in 1869, Clermont and Copperfield in the 1870s, and Palmer River, Charters Towers and Croydon in the 1880s. Within twenty years, Cobb & Co. covered Queensland. Barcaldine, Longreach, Winton and Charleville became major depots for the company and Charleville was the Queensland base for its coachworks from the 1880s. In 1900 the Queensland operations comprised 39 routes, averaging two services per week on each route covering 7,750 kms from railheads to distant communities in the Outback. A day's journey would be around 80 kms, using 40 horses and six staff. Altogether, Cobb & Co. would harness 9,000 horses and travel over 31,000 kms every week.



Museum Tour, Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5	What challenges did the environment of Outback Queensland give early settlers?
		How did the development of Cobb & Co. address those challenges?
	7/8	Why did people move to such remote places?
		What were the liveability challenges they had to address?
History	5/6	How did Cobb & Co. influence the development of the colony and society?
		Design an advertisement which would encourage early settlers to use the Cobb & Co. Coach Line.
Science	5/6	What scientific ideas, interventions and technologies were applied by Cobb & Co. and by settlers in this region?
	7/8	What scientific understandings were applied by coach builders and operators?

Points of Interest

Kinnon & Co. Royal Mail Gallop

Retrace the steps of Cobb & Co. by travelling on the original mail route between Longreach and Windorah enjoying the unique history of Cobb & Co. and Longreach.

Kinnon & Co. Booking Office
126 Eagle St, Longreach QLD 4730

Cost: Fees apply
Hours: 9.00am to 5.00pm daily, Coach rides 9.30am, 11.30am and 2.00pm weekdays (seasonal from March to October)
Phone: (07) 4658 1776
Email: info@kinnonandco.com.au

- The Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre, Longreach
- Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach
- Australian Workers Heritage Centre, Barcaldine



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Cobb & Co. Museum – a campus of Queensland Museum, Toowoomba
Phone: (07) 4659 4900
Hours: 9.00am–3.00pm weekdays
Email: inquiries@cobbandco.qm.qld.gov.au
Educational information and resources
www.cobbandco.qm.qld.gov.au

Queensland Museum
Phone: (07) 3840 7555
Email: inquirycentre@qm.qld.gov.au
www.qm.qld.gov.au

Cobb & Co. Heritage Trail
www.cobbandco.net.au/trails.html

REFERENCES

Cobb & Co. Heritage Trail
www.cobbandco.net.au/trails.html

Queensland Museum
www.qm.qld.gov.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

Cobb & Co. Museum – a campus of Queensland Museum, Toowoomba
Phone: (07) 4659 4900
Hours: 9.00am–3.00pm weekdays
Email: inquiries@cobbandco.qm.qld.gov.au
Educational information and resources
www.cobbandco.qm.qld.gov.au

Factsheet 15 – Why did a national airline start in Outback Queensland?

Quirky fact :

The entire Qantas A380 fleet is named after Australian aviation pioneers, including Nancy-Bird Walton, Charles Kingsford Smith, Reg Ansett, Hudson Fysh, Bert Hinkler, and the inventor of the black box flight recorder, David Warren.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK028
	History	ACHHK097
	Science	ACSHE083
6	History	ACHHK116
	Science	ACSHE100
7	Geography	ACHGK044, ACHGK046
	Science	ACSHE120, ACSHE224
8	Geography	ACHGK056
	Science	ACSHE136

Background Information

Qantas is the world's second oldest commercial airline. Its red kangaroo emblem is known throughout the world as Australia's flagship airline carrier. Deeply rooted in Outback Queensland, Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services Ltd (Qantas) was founded in Winton in 1921 by former Australian Flying Corps officers Wilmot Hudson Fysh and Paul McGinness. They got the idea in 1919, after making a punishing 2,179 km journey from Longreach to Katherine in the Northern Territory, travelling on unmade surfaces in a Model T Ford.

In 1920, backed by wealthy grazier Fergus McMaster, the pair purchased a war surplus Avro 504K biplane. Only one year later, the fledgling airline moved operations to Longreach to be more centrally located, and in 1922 the company began its first scheduled mail and passenger services between Charleville and Cloncurry. The company expanded rapidly. With its growing fleet of aircraft the company supported the newly established Flying Doctor Service, carried mail between Darwin and Brisbane, experimented with international flights to the United Kingdom and by the end of its first decade, had not only opened its first capital city route to Brisbane, but also moved its head offices there.

Throughout the 1940s, rapid technological advancement and improved ground facilities saw massive growth within the aviation industry. Taking full advantage of developments, Qantas continued its push into new domestic and international markets. In 1947, success brought changes in ownership with the Australian Government buying all Qantas shares. By the mid-1990s after 50 years in operation, the flying kangaroo had built an international reputation for safety and service and was one of the world's largest airlines. In 1992 Qantas bought Australian Airlines to service its Asian routes and in 2004 launched low cost domestic carrier Jetstar. The immediate success of Jetstar saw the company rethink its Asia strategy and in 2006 replace Australian Airlines with Jetstar services.

As an Australian-owned and operated company, Qantas has played an extraordinary part in Australian history. Through its services, the tyrannies of distance that face Australia, both domestically and internationally, have been largely overcome.



Wing Walk, Qantas Founders Museum

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5	What features of the Outback encouraged the use of aircraft?
	7/8	How has air travel influenced migration and liveability in the Outback?
History	5/6	How has Qantas been significant to our history?
Science	5/6	What were the key scientific discoveries and inventions that allowed air travel to develop?
	7/8	What were the key scientific discoveries and inventions that allowed air travel to develop?

Points of Interest

- **Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach**

Learn the story of Qantas through this modern museum – a place of excitement and learning. Your students will take tours through 707 and 747 jets and see a blend of historical artifacts where preservation is paramount and hands-on exhibits focus on understanding history.

Longreach Airport, Sir Hudson Fysh Drive, Longreach QLD 4730

Cost: Fees apply
Hours: 9.00am – 5.00pm daily
Phone: (07) 4658 3737
Email: info@qfom.com.au
Website: www.qfom.com.au

- Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, Longreach
- Powerhouse Museum, Longreach
- Australian Workers Heritage Centre, Barcaldine
- Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton
- Qantas Hangar, Cloncurry

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Department of Infrastructure and Transport
www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/

The Australian National Aviation Museum
www.aarg.com.au/history.html
Source: History of Aviation

REFERENCES

Qantas History
www.qantas.com.au/travel/airlines/history/global/en

Longreach Regional History
www.longreach.net.au/lre_history.html

FURTHER INFORMATION

Qantas Founders Museum
Longreach Airport
Sir Hudson Fysh Drive, Longreach QLD 4730
Phone: (07) 4658 3737
Email: info@qfom.com.au
www.qfom.com.au



Factsheet 16 – Why was Australia the first place to develop a flying doctor service?

Quirky fact :

Each year Royal Flying Doctor Service pilots fly the equivalent of 25 round trips to the moon!

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK028
	History	ACHHK097
	Science	ACSHE083
6	History	ACHHK116
	Science	ACSHE100
7	Geography	ACHGK044, ACHGK046
	Science	ACSHE120, ACSHE224
8	Science	ACSHE136

Background Information

Reverend John Flynn was committed to the wellbeing of those who lived in remote Australia. A minister with the Presbyterian Church, Flynn had lived in the Outback for most of his life and first-hand experience had taught him much about the harsh conditions and daily struggles endured by people who lived and worked in the remote reaches of Queensland. Known as 'Flynn of the Inland', he set up hostels and bush hospitals to care for the sick but was always looking for ways to get medical support to small and isolated communities.

In 1912, he established the Australian Inland Mission which cared for the spiritual, social and medical needs of people in the Outback. Then, in 1917, he received a letter from a young Army Lieutenant, Clifford Peel, a medical student with an interest in aviation. As a young airman and war hero, Peel suggested the use of aviation to bring medical help to the Outback. Sadly, Peel was shot down and killed but his idea, aided by Flynn's dedicated campaigning, became the blueprint for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). For the next ten years, Flynn worked tirelessly for the cause, raising funds to provide a 'mantle of safety' for the people of the bush. His vision finally became a reality when a large bequest for 'an aerial experiment' enabled Flynn to get the Flying Doctor Service airborne. At this time, Flynn also met Hudson Fysh, a founder of Qantas. In 1927, Qantas and the Aerial Medical Service signed an agreement to operate an aerial ambulance from Cloncurry in Queensland with just two doctors providing the only medical care for an area of almost two million square kilometres.

The RFDS's first pilot, Arthur Affleck, flew in an open cockpit without the aid of maps, navigational instruments or radio, navigating by river beds, fences, telegraph lines and other familiar landmarks. Airstrips were usually cleared paddocks, dried river beds or claypans. Flights were normally made during daylight hours, although night flights were attempted in cases of extreme urgency. Fuel supplies were also carried on flights until fuel dumps were established at certain strategic outstations. Today, the RFDS fleet of 48 fully instrumented aircraft is fitted with the latest in navigation technology and flown by 146 pilots. The service cares for almost 240,000 patients. As a mark of his enormous contribution to the people of the Outback, Reverend Flynn appears on the Australian $20 note.



RFDS Charleville Visitor Centre

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5	What features of the Outback encouraged the use of aircraft?
	7	Why is air travel so important to services and liveability in the Outback?
History	5/6	How has the flying doctor service been significant to our history? Who started it, and why?
Science	5/6	What were the key scientific discoveries and intentions that allowed air travel to develop?
	7/8	What were the key scientific discoveries and intentions that allowed air travel to develop?

Points of Interest

John Flynn Place Museum in Cloncurry

John Flynn Place Museum & Art Gallery in Cloncurry commemorates the work of John Flynn and the beginnings of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which was established in Cloncurry in 1928.

Cnr King and Daintree Streets, Cloncurry QLD 4824

Hours: 9.00am – 3.00pm weekends & public holidays
8.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday
Phone: (07) 4742 2778
Email: johnflynnplace@cloncurry.qld.gov.au
Website: www.johnflynnplace.com.au

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Department of Infrastructure and Transport
www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/

State Library of New South Wales
www.sl.nsw.gov.au/discover_collections/history_nation/aviation/index.html
Source: History of Aviation

REFERENCES

RFDS
www.flyingdoctor.net

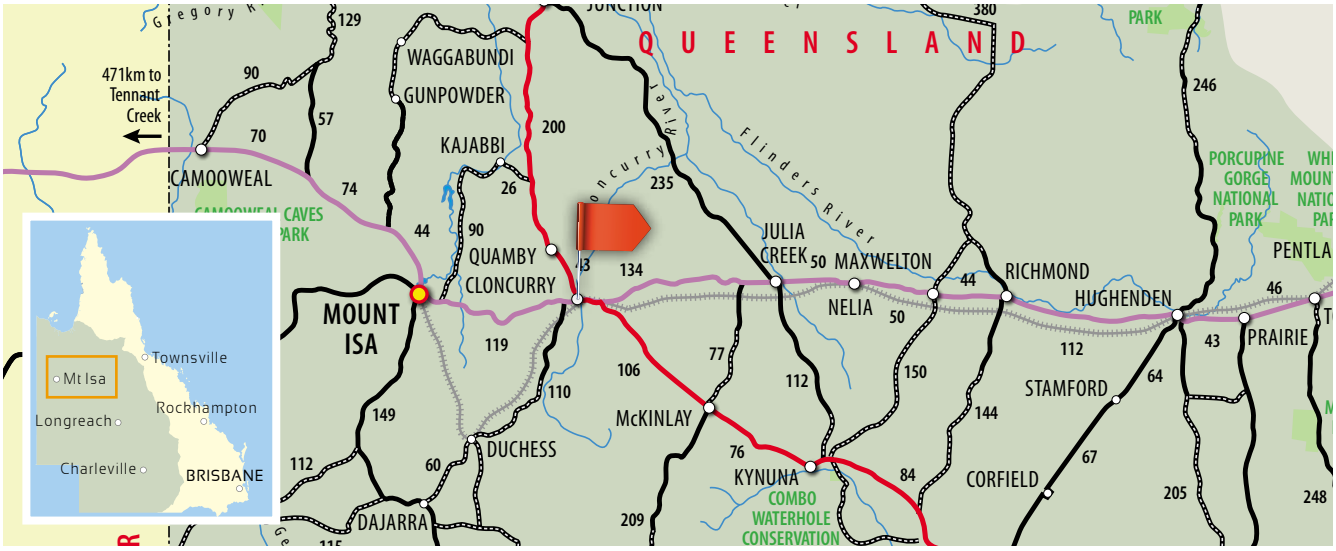
Longreach Regional History
www.longreach.net.au/lre_history.html

Cloncurry Shire Council
www.cloncurry.qld.gov.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

RFDS Visitor Centre at the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame
Landsborough Highway, Longreach QLD 4730
Phone: (07) 4658 2166

Qantas Founders Museum
Longreach Airport
Sir Hudson Fysh Drive, Longreach QLD 4730
Phone: (07) 4658 3737
Email: info@qfom.com.au
www.qfom.com.au



Factsheet 17 – Why was Australia the first place to develop a School of the Air?

Quirky fact :

In the 1920s, Distance Education enabled women to take up official teaching positions within Queensland.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Science	ACSHE083
6	History	ACHHK116
	Science	ACSHE100, ACSSU219
7	Geography	ACHGK046, ACHGK044
	Science	ACSHE120, ACSHE224
8	Science	ACSHE227, ACSHE136

Background Information

Covering 1,727,000 square kilometres, Queensland encompasses more than a quarter of the Australian continent. Overcoming vast distances, even today, presents challenges for the families and communities that live and work in Queensland's remote regions. One of the great challenges over the past century has been to provide education to the children of these areas – a task that has taken both determination and ingenuity.

Initially, teachers would ride on horseback to the sheep and cattle stations and mining settlements. The travel was onerous and took many weeks. Teachers might only see their students three times each year and then, only for few days at a time. However, by the 1920s progress had seen further extensions to the railway and air services were introduced. Once large mail runs became smaller and more reliable, educational materials were able to be regularly supplied to children via the postal services.

In 1922 the Primary Correspondence School (PCS) was established to deliver distance education. The school enabled women to take up official teaching duties for the first time and helped to address a teacher shortage due to the lack of available men after the First World War. The following year, the Domestic Science and Manual Arts service was launched using railway carriages as mobile classrooms. The scheme was so successful it operated until the late 1960s. Nevertheless, in 1960 outreach education was revolutionised when the first School of the Air opened at Cloncurry. For the first time, students could readily interact with their teachers and classmates via high frequency radio. Over the next 30 years, seven schools opened in major population centres throughout Queensland including Longreach, Mount Isa, Cairns, Charleville, Brisbane, Capricornia and Charters Towers.

Today, thanks to information and communication technology, distance learners of the 21st century enjoy high standards of education delivered through the Schools of Distance Education. Entire courses and a wide range of interactive resources are delivered online, backed up with teacher support via telephone and email.



Longreach School of Distance Education

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	7	Why was radio so important to services and liveability in the Outback?
History	6	How has education been provided to remote parts of Queensland at different times?
Science	5/6	What were the key scientific discoveries and inventions that allowed radio to develop?
	7/8	What were the key scientific discoveries and inventions that allowed radio to develop?

Points of Interest

Longreach School of Distance Education

The Longreach School of Distance Education is one of the largest classrooms in the world, providing education to the children of rural Australia. Tours of the centre include an on-air telephone lesson and viewing schoolwork prepared by the students.

Cost: Fees apply
Hours: Tours operate at 9.00am and 10.30am weekdays. Closed during Christmas school holiday periods.
Phone: (07) 4658 4222
Email: tours1@eq.edu.au
Website: www.longreacsde.eq.edu.au

- Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach
- Powerhouse Museum, Longreach
- Royal Flying Doctor Service Visitor Centres, Mount Isa and Charleville

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

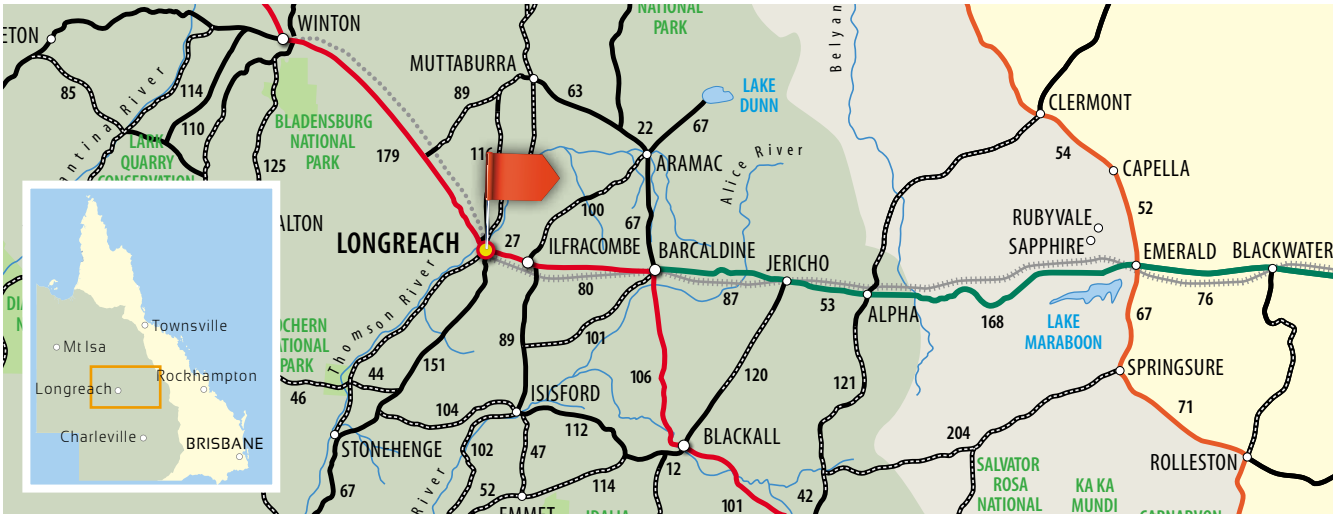
Education Queensland - Distance Education
www.education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/distance/

REFERENCES

Longreach Regional History
www.longreach.net.au/lre_history.html

FURTHER INFORMATION

Longreach School of Distance Education
Landsborough Highway, Longreach QLD 4730
Phone: (07) 4658 4222
Email: tours1@eq.edu.au
www.longreachsde.eq.edu.au



Factsheet 18 – Why is the Outback a good place for astronomy?

Quirky fact :

Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park is actually a meteorite crater!

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Science	ACSSU078, ACSHE081
6	Science	ACSHE098
7	Geography	ACHGK045
	Science	ACSSU115, ACSHE119
8	Science	ACSHE134

Background Information

Stars are burning balls of gas that convert hydrogen to helium through nuclear explosions. Our sun is a star. Stars form in nebulae – interstellar clouds of dust, hydrogen gas and plasma. Nebulae are star-forming regions where gas, dust and other materials 'clump' together to form larger masses, which eventually become big enough to form stars. Nebula is the first stage of a star's cycle.

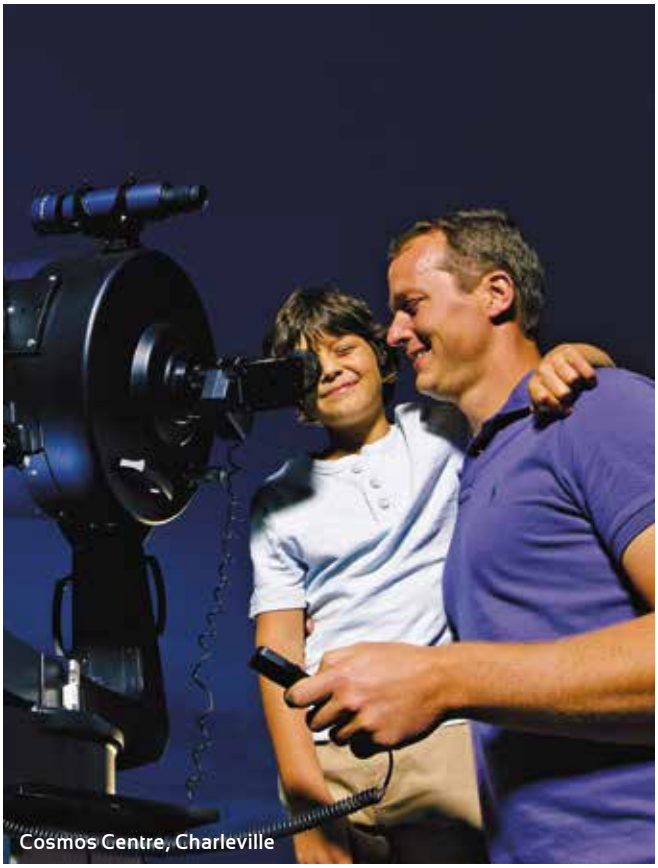
There are different types of nebulae, they include:

- Diffuse nebulae – are extended and contain no clear boundaries.
- Emission nebulae – contain ionised gas (mostly ionised hydrogen) that produces spectral line emission.
- Reflection nebulae – do not produce visible light but reflect light from nearby stars.
- Dark nebulae – seen as dark clouds in front of more distant stars or in front of emission nebulae.
- Planetary nebulae – form from the gaseous shells ejected from low-mass stars when they transform into white dwarfs.
- Supernova remnants – form from 'shells' of gas when a star collapses in on itself.

There are also different types of stars:

- Open or galactic star clusters – a group of a few to a few thousand stars formed from the same giant molecular cloud, and loosely gravitationally bound together.
- Globular star clusters – a spherical collection of tens of thousands of stars that orbits a galactic core as a satellite. These clusters are very tightly bound by gravity, giving them spherical shapes.
- Single stars – like our sun are in a minority. Most stars are doubles, triples or quadruples but to the human eye they appear as one star.
- Binary star systems – are two stars that have a relationship with one another, orbiting around a central point of gravity. About 70 per cent of stars have a companion star.
- Double stars – are two stars that appear together in the sky but it is a 'chance' alignment. The stars may be many billions of kilometres apart.

Stars are also different colours depending on their temperature. While all stars are extremely hot at the core, their surface temperatures vary. Blue stars are extremely hot (12,000° – 40,000° Celsius), yellow stars like our sun are in the mid range (6,000° – 12,000° Celsius) and red stars are the coolest (1,000° – 5,000° Celsius).



Cosmos Centre, Charleville

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	7	Why is the night sky so clear in the Outback? What are some other liveability features of this region?
Science	5/6	What can we learn about Earth by studying the night sky?
		How do scientists collect and use astronomical data?
		Create the solar system in your classroom.
		Find out quirky facts about planets in our solar system and how they got their names.
	7/8	What can we learn about Earth by studying the night sky?
		How do scientists collect and use astronomical data?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

South East Queensland Astronomical Society Inc
www.seqas.org/Documents/Begin.pdf

Queensland Museum
Inquiry Centre
Phone: (07) 3840 7555
Email: inquirycentre@qm.qld.gov.au
www.qm.qld.gov.au
Source: Earth and Space Program

Australian Astronomy
www.astronomy.org.au

NASA
www.nasa.gov

REFERENCES

Sci-Tech Encyclopedia
www.answers.com/topic/star-cluster

FURTHER INFORMATION

Cosmos Centre and Observatory
Qantas Drive, Charleville QLD 4470
Phone: (07) 4654 7771
Email: cosmos@murweh.qld.gov.au
www.cosmoscentre.com

Points of interest

Cosmos Centre and Observatory, Charleville

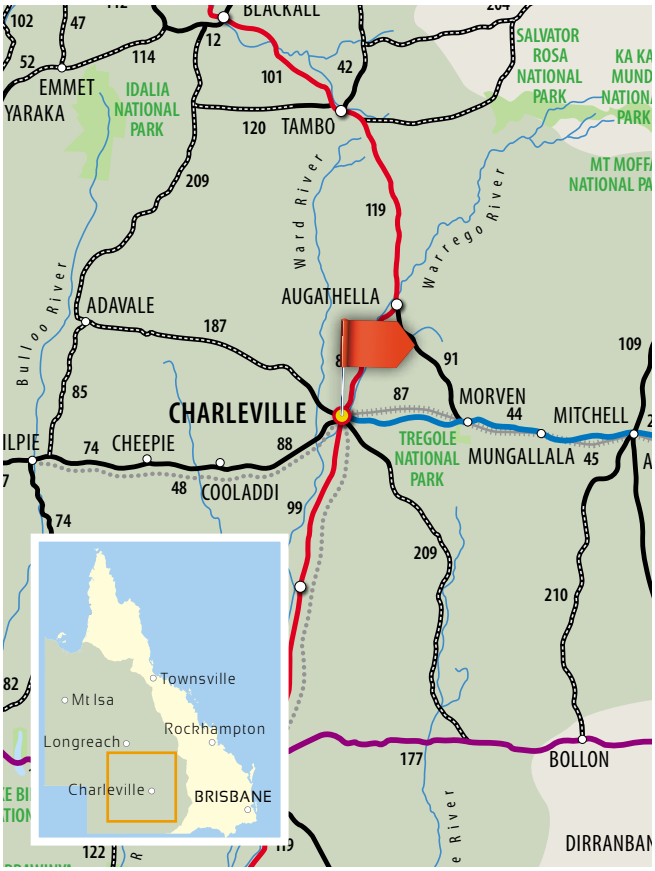
Charleville, in Outback Queensland, is the ideal place on the planet to observe the Sagittarius arm of the Milky Way. The Cosmos Centre and Observatory offers nightly guided tours of the night sky using powerful Meade telescopes. By day an interactive display area contains movie presentations and interactive displays, plus a sun filter to enable visitors to view the sun through the telescopes.

The unique Cosmos Centre and Observatory in Charleville rolls off its entire roof to reveal 3 powerful 12 inch Meade telescopes, where you and your students will see distant stars and planets with your own eyes through magnificent telescopes.

Qantas Drive (off the Matilda Highway),
Charleville, QLD 4470

Cost: Entry fee applies
Hours: High Season (April – October)
1.00pm to 10.00pm
Low Season (November – March)
1.00pm to 9.00pm
Phone: (07) 4654 7771
Email: cosmos@murweh.qld.gov.au
Website: www.cosmoscentre.com

- **Bilby Experience, Charleville**
- **Land Management and Mulga Forest tours – Thurlby Station, Charleville**
- **Myendetta Station, House of 100 Doors, Charleville**



Factsheet 19 – Why are dinosaur fossils being found in the Outback?

Quirky fact :

The Muttaburrasaurus was the first dinosaur in Australia to be cast and mounted on display.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Science	ACSHE081
6	Science	ACSSU094, ACSHE098
7	Science	ACSSU111, ACSHE119
8	Geography	ACHGK050
	Science	ACSSU153, ACSHE134

Background Information

The discovery of dinosaur remains dates back to 1865 when James Sutherland unearthed an ichthyosaurus on the Flinders River. The pieces of vertebrae were sent to the Museum of Victoria where their discovery was briefly noted in 1867. While waiting on the museum's findings, Sutherland continued to uncover a more complete specimen, including a skull and many more vertebrae. Again, these were sent to Melbourne for further study. Despite a second paper in 1869 describing the new material, it was not until 1984 that Dr Mary Wade of the Queensland Museum published the finding of two skulls present in the material. Other palaeontology discoveries in the area include:

- 1888 – other ichthyosaur material described as *Ichthyosaurus Marathonensis* was found at Marathon Station, east of Richmond.
- 1899 – a scrap of a large reptile jawbone was identified by the Queensland Museum as the giant plesiosaur Kronosaurus.
- Some 40 kms outside Hughenden a pterosaur skull and jaw fragment were found.
- 1962 – a Muttaburrasaurus was collected from many fragments in a cattle yard on the Thomson River near Muttaburra. Many pieces had been souvenired by locals, but a public appeal soon saw these handed in to the museum. Throughout the 80s there were several other Muttaburrasaurus finds around Hughenden, the most recent being in 1987 when Dr Mary Wade discovered a second Muttaburrasaurus skull.
- 1989 – One of the world's best examples of an ankylosaur was found by Ian and Rob Ievers on Marathon Station at *Minmi* Crossing East of Richmond. The Minmi find is more than 90 per cent complete.
- 1989 – The most complete skeleton of a Cretaceous pliosaur was also discovered on Marathon Station.

Sauropods

Sauropods are very large plant-eating dinosaurs with long necks and tails. Since 1932, the fossil bones of several individual sauropods have been found in the Flinders region of Queensland. They probably belonged to Austrosaurus. The remains of an *Austrosaurus Mckillopi* were discovered by the McKillop family on Clutha Station west of Richmond, in 1932, and were dated to be 100 million years old. Half of a cervical (neck) vertebra from another sauropod was found near Hughenden. It is similar to the vertebra of Brachiosaurus, a huge sauropod with long forelegs found in Africa and North America. The Queensland animal is known as the 'Hughenden sauropod'. The size of the bones found suggests an animal 20 – 22 metres long and perhaps weighing up to 50 tonnes. It used its long neck to reach the lower branches of the trees.

Muttaburrasaurus

Muttaburrasaurus Langdoni roamed the Australian landscape approximately 100 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. This dinosaur is thought to have been quite common and four specimens have been found in central and northern Queensland. *Muttaburrasaurus Langdoni* was first discovered in 1963 by grazier Doug Langdon, whose property was in the Channel Country of the Thomson River just outside the town of Muttaburra.

A museum team collected five tonnes of rock material from the site and transported it to Brisbane. It took many years of painstaking work to piece together the bones and the study of the animal is still not complete. The team has no real idea of the environment in which Muttaburrasaurus lived because all four specimens from Queensland have been found in an area that was once covered by a vast inland sea.

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Science	5/6	What evidence do fossils give of how the landscapes and enviornment have changed?
	7/8	How do scientists collect and analyse evidence, including fossils and minerals?
Geography	8	What can you find out about how a landform was produced?

Points of Interest

- Flinders Discovery Centre, Hughenden
  www.flinders.qld.gov.au
- Kronosaurus Korner, Richmond
  www.kronosauruskorner.com.au
- Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park
  www.dinosaurtrackways.com.au/home
- Riversleigh Fossil Fields, Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park
  www.outbackatisa.com.au/Attractions/Riversleigh-Fossil-Centre.aspx
- Australian Age of Dinosaurs, Winton
  www.australianageofdinosaurs.com
- Outback Gondwana Foundation, Eromanga
  www.ogf.org.au



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Queensland Museum
Phone: (07) 3840 7555
Email: inquirycentre@qm.qld.gov.au
www.qm.qld.gov.au/Find+out+about/Dinosaurs+and+Ancient+Life+of+Queensland

Australian Museum
Factsheet on Muttaburrasaurus
www.australianmuseum.net.au/Muttaburrasaurus-langdoni/

Australian Dinosaur Trail
www.australiasdinosaurtrail.com/

ABC
www.abc.net.au/dinosaurs/meet_the_dinos

ABC – The Age of Reptiles
www.abc.net.au/science/ozfossil/ageofreptiles/eromanga/kronosaurus.htm

Australian Museum
Research Library enquiries:
Phone: (02) 9320 6152
Scientific enquiries:
Phone: (02) 9320 6202

Australian Dinosaur Story
Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
Email: heritage@environment.gov.au
www.environment.gov.au/node/19647

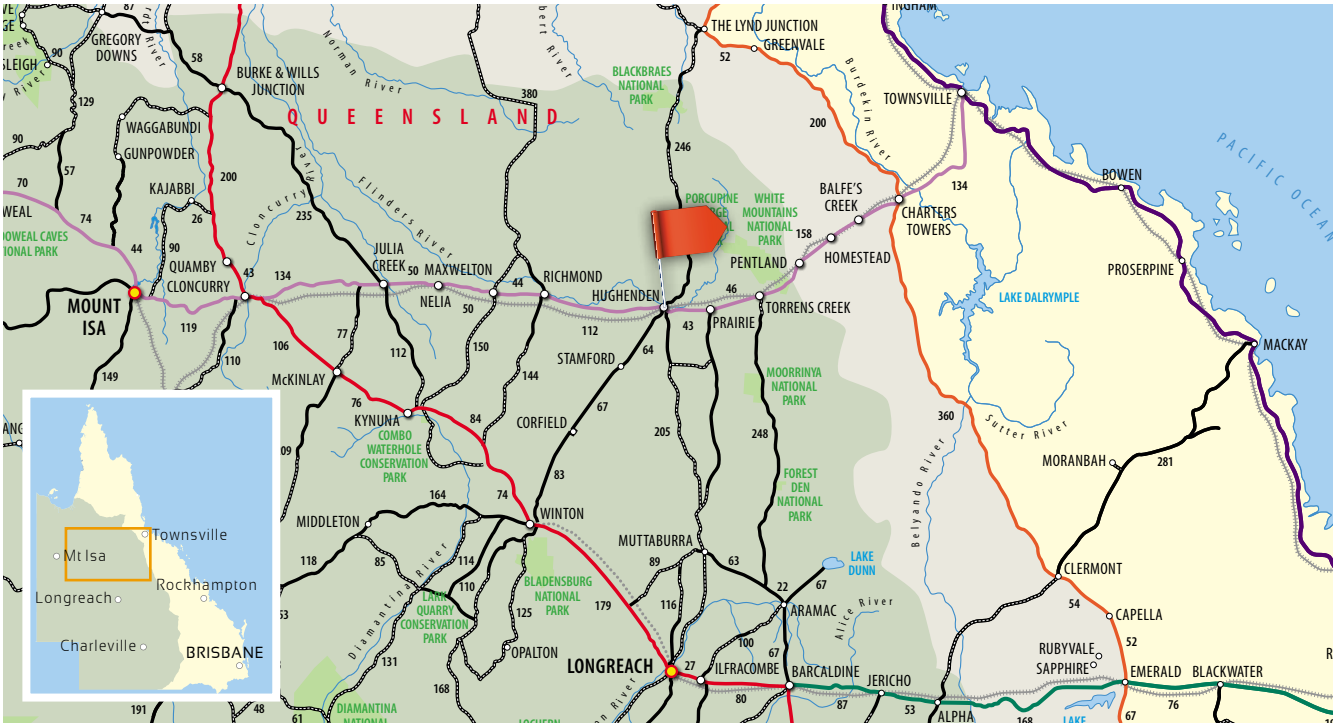
REFERENCES

Flinders Discovery Centre
www.flinders.qld.gov.au

Queensland Museum
www.qm.qld.gov.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

Flinders Discovery Centre
37 Gray Street, Hughenden QLD 4821
Phone: (07) 4741 2970
Email: info@flinders.qld.gov.au
www.flinders.qld.gov.au



Factsheet 20 – When did sea monsters live in the Outback?

Quirky fact :

The skull of a Kronosaurus can be up to 2.4 metres long!

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Science	ACSHE081
6	Science	ACSSU094, ACSHE098
7	Science	ACSSU111, ACSHE119
8	Geography	ACHGK050
	Science	ACSSU153, ACSHE134

Background Information

The *Kronosaurus Queenslandicus* was a giant pliosaur – one of the largest marine reptiles ever known that lived in the vast inland sea that covered western Queensland between 110 and 100 million years ago.

A ferocious hunter, the Kronosaurus is named after Kronos, the Greek god of time, who was so terrible that he ate his children. Kronosaurus is known from many specimens. It was between eight and 13 metres long, and had teeth were up to 25 centimetres long – the size of bananas. It roamed open oceans and the inland sea hunting ichthyosaurs, plesiosaurs, turtles and large fish, and was the most fierce and largest sea creature of its time. Kronosaurus has a skull up to 2.4 metres long. Kronosaurus swam through the water using its large flippers. It was not a particularly fast swimmer due to the size of its tail and body and it also had to surface regularly as it was an air-breathing marine reptile.

To date, research has been unable to identify how the Kronosaurus reproduced. Most likely, they would have borne live young at sea, because the incredible size of the animal would have made it difficult to lay eggs on the shore. The ichthyosaur, another type of marine reptile alive at the time, had live births instead of laying eggs, so it is possible that Kronosaurus also made this adaptation to life in the ocean. Pliosaurs have no close relatives alive today.

The first *Kronosaurus Queenslandicus* was discovered in 1889 by A. Crombie and was noted in 1924. However, the best specimen to date was discovered at Army Down Station, north of Richmond, in the 1930s and the area is also the location of the largest pliosaur fossil finds.

Richmond Pliosaur

In 1990, whilst mustering cattle on their property, Marathon Station, near Richmond in north-western Queensland, graziers Rob and Ian levers discovered a whole and intact skeleton. This find was identified by the Queensland Museum as being a 100 million year old marine reptile, and later named the Richmond Pliosaur.

The skeleton (not a dinosaur) is one of the best, most complete skeletons of its type in the world. The animal is as yet un-named, but scientists are currently working to fully understand and describe it. It belongs to the pliosauroid group, and was likely a member of the polycotylid family, a specialised pliosuaroid from the Early Cretaceous Period. At nearly 5m long, it had a relatively short neck, powerful set of flippers and a tail. It lived in the inland sea in Queensland 100 million years ago.



Kronosaurus Korner Fossil Centre

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Science	5/6	How do scientists learn about the way environments have changed?
	7/8	How do scientists collect and analyse evidence including fossils and minerals?
Geography	8	Why does this landscape contain fossils?

Points of Interest

Kronosaurus Korner

See displays of local fossils from the Cretaceous Inland Sea that covered a large section of Queensland 120 million years ago.

91–93 Goldring Street, Richmond QLD 4822

Cost: Entry fee applies. Self-paced and self-guided tours are available
Hours: Open daily from 8.30am to 4.45pm
Phone: (07) 4741 3429
Email: enquiries@kronosauruskorner.com.au
Website: www.kronosauruskorner.com.au

Flinders Discovery Centre, Hughenden
www.flinders.qld.gov.au

Riversleigh Fossil Fields, Boodjamullla (Lawn Hill) National Park
www.outbackatisa.com.au/Attractions/Riversleigh-Fossil-Centre.aspx

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Australian Museum
Research Library enquiries:
Phone: (02) 9320 6000
Scientific enquiries:
Phone: (02) 9320 6202
www.lostkingdoms.com/facts/index.cfm#cretaceous

Queensland Museum
Phone: (07) 3840 7555
Email: inquirycentre@qm.qld.gov.au
www.qm.qld.gov.au/Find+out+about/Dinosaurs+and+Ancient+Life+of+Queensland

Earth Science Australia
www.earthsci.org/index.html

ABC – The Age of Reptiles
www.abc.net.au/science/ozfossil/ageofreptiles/eromanga/kronosaurus.htm

REFERENCES

Queensland Museum
www.qm.qld.gov.au

Australian Museum
www.lostkingdoms.com/facts/index.cfm#cretaceous

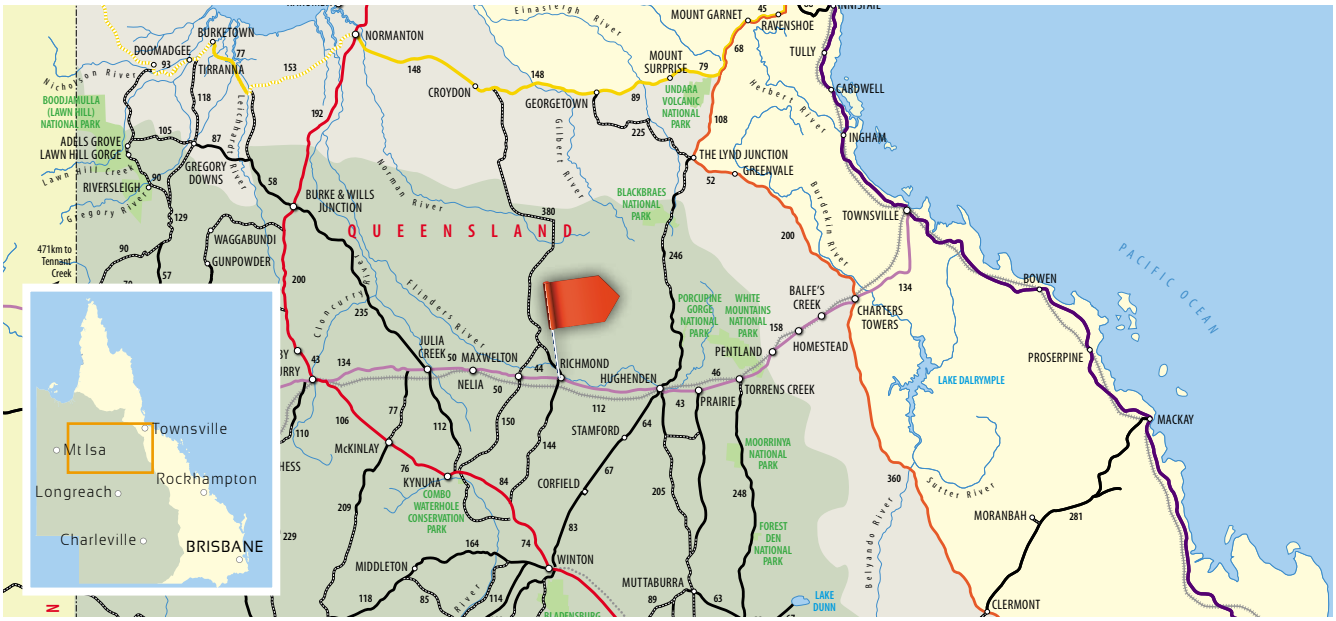
Richmond Shire Council
www.richmond.qld.gov.au

ABC – The Age of Reptiles
www.abc.net.au/science/ozfossil/ageofreptiles/eromanga/kronosaurus.htm

FURTHER INFORMATION

Kronosaurus Korner & Visitor Information Centre
91–93 Goldring Street, Richmond QLD 4822
Phone: (07) 4741 3429 or 1300 KRONOK (1300 576 665)
Email: enquiries@kronosauruskorner.com.au
www.kronosauruskorner.com.au

Richmond Shire Council
50 Goldring Street, Richmond QLD 4822
Phone: (07) 4741 3277
Email: enquiries@richmond.qld.gov.au
www.richmond.qld.gov.au



Factsheet 21 – How do we know about dinosaurs?

Quirky fact :

All up the tracks of 150 individual dinosaurs were mapped at Dinosaur Stampede National Monument.

Australian Curriculum Links

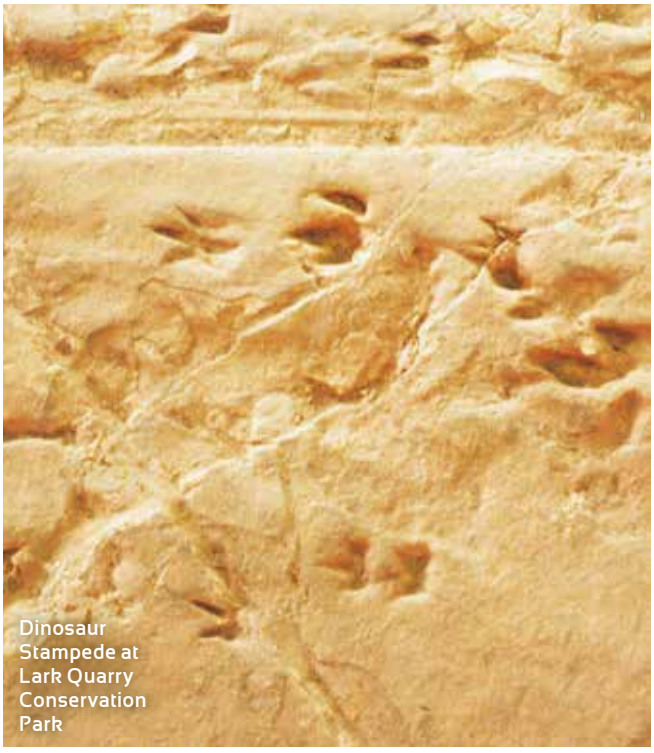
Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Science	ACSHE081
6	Science	ACSSU094, ACSHE098
7	Science	ACSSU11, ACSHE1119
8	Geography	ACHGK050
	Science	ACSSU153, ACSHE134

Background Information

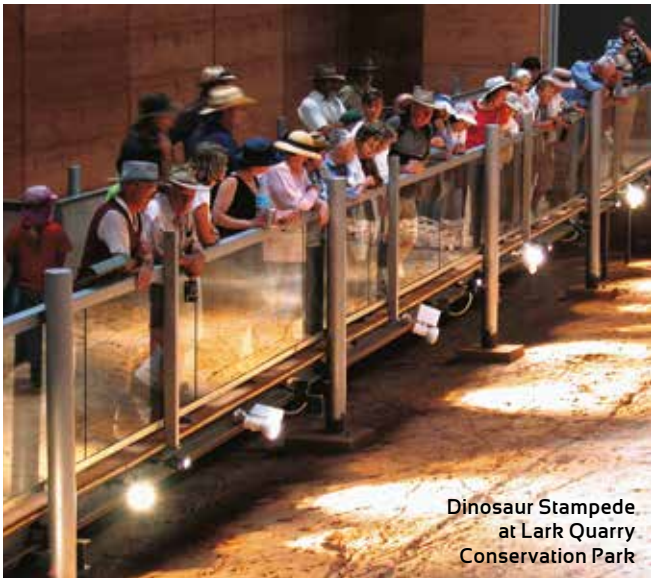
Visit the Dinosaur Stampede National Monument at Lark Quarry Conservation Park; over three thousand dinosaur tracks mark the site of the only known dinosaur stampede on the Planet. In a remarkable piece of scientific detective work, scientists from the Queensland Museum have pieced together a dramatic tale of hunter and hunted from the footprints left behind.

About 95 million years ago, Western Queensland looked quite different. Rainfall was more than a metre per year, and conifers and ferns were abundant in a flat landscape of creeks and rivers meandering to an inland sea. Back then, a group of perhaps several hundred dinosaurs, some as small as chickens (called Coelurosaurs) and some about the size of an emu (called Ornithopods) were grazing at the side of a creek. They suddenly panicked when a five metre-long meat-eating dinosaur appeared. Their footprints scramble away from the big predator in a mad dash to escape! The footprints of the predator have recently been shown to match Banjo, a megaraptor with huge clawed hands (don't miss the original bones of Banjo on display at Australian Age of Dinosaurs). The tracks documenting this dramatic scene lay undisturbed and pristine until the early 1960s when Glen Seymour, manager of a nearby grazing station, spotted something unusual. Queensland Museum officers and volunteers returned in 1976–1977 to excavate the site and named it Lark Quarry after Malcolm Lark, first of the volunteers, who apparently removed more rock than anyone else!

Now housed inside an expansive modern building 110km southwest of Winton, this amazing window into our dinosaur past is on display year round for everyone to see. The starkly beautiful red earth and spinifex-studded landscape is a dramatic contrast to the moist green world that existed at the time of the dinosaurs! Access to the Stampede is by guided tour and specially trained on-site guides start tours from 9.00am for group bookings daily except Christmas Day and Boxing Day.



Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park



Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Science	5/6	How do fossils tell us about what this environment was like in the past?
	7/8	What processes formed this landscape?
		How do scientists learn from the fossils they find here?
Geography	8	Why does this landscape contain fossils?

Points of Interest

Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park, via Winton

Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park, in Outback Queensland, is currently the only recorded dinosaur stampede on earth. In this place, around 95 million years ago, a large herd of small two-legged dinosaurs gathered on the banks of a forest lake to drink.

Lark Quarry Conservation Park, Jundah Road, via Winton QLD 4735

Cost: Entry fee applies
Hours: Fully guided tours are available and the Dinosaur Stampede is opened daily excluding Christmas and Boxing Day
Phone: 1300 665 115 or (07) 4657 1466
Email: vic@matildacentre.com.au
Website: www.dinosaurtrackways.com.au

Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, Winton

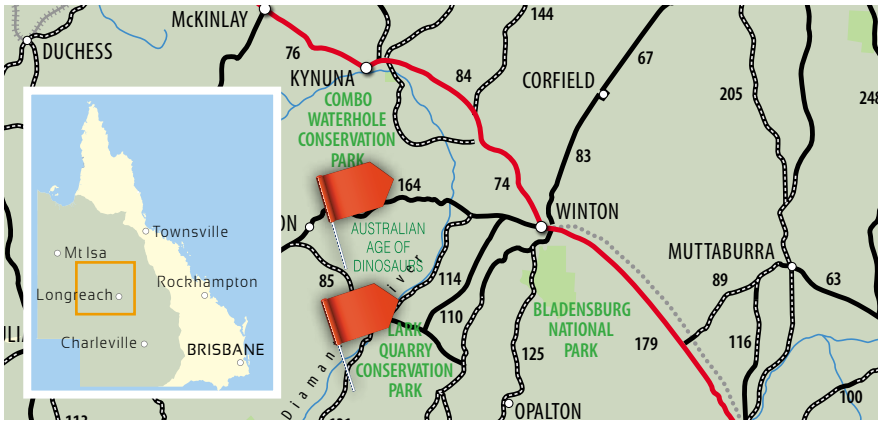
The Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum focuses on Australia's evolutionary history, in particular the discovery, conservation and research of Australia's dinosaurs. It's a working museum, education resource, research facility, and tourist attraction that is responsible for the world's largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils. It is also the most productive fossil preparation laboratory in the Southern Hemisphere where visitors can work on real 95 million year old dinosaur bone fossils found in the Winton area.

Flinders Discovery Centre, Hughenden
www.flinders.qld.gov.au

Kronosaurus Korner, Richmond
www.kronosauruskorner.com.au

Riversleigh Fossil Fields at Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park
www.outbackatisa.com.au/Attractions/Riversleigh-Fossil-Centre.aspx

Outback Gondwana Foundation, Eromanga
www.ogf.org.au/



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, Winton
PO Box 408, Winton QLD 4735
Phone: (07) 4657 0078
Email: info@aaod.com
www.australianageofdinosaurs.com

University of Queensland Palaeontology Department
Steve Salisbury's Vertebrate Palaeontology & Biomechanics Lab
www.uq.edu.au/dinosaurs

Queensland Museum
Phone: (07) 3840 7555
Email: inquirycentre@qm.qld.gov.au
www.qm.qld.gov.au

Australian Museum
www.australianmuseum.net.au/Australian-theropod-dinosaurs/

ABC
www.abc.net.au/dinosaurs/meet_the_dinos

Dinosaur encyclopedia
www.isgs.illinois.edu/education/earthsci/paleo.shtml
www.search4dinosaurs.com/

Australian Dinosaur Story
Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
Email: heritage@environment.gov.au
www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national/dinosaur-stampede/lark-quarry/lark-quarry.html

Australian Museum
Research Library enquiries:
Phone: (02) 9320 6000
Scientific enquiries:
Phone: (02) 9320 6202
www.lostkingdoms.com/facts/index.cfm#cretaceous

Earth Science Australia
www.earthsci.org/index.html

REFERENCES

Encyclopedia of dinosaurs San Diego: Academic Press,1997

Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park
www.dinosaurtrackways.com.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

Winton Shire Council
PO Box 286, Winton QLD 4735
Phone: 1300 665 115 or (07) 4657 1186
Email: vic@matildacentre.com.au
www.experiencewinton.com.au

Factsheet 22 – Why is life getting tough for bilbies?

Quirky fact :

The bilby eats seeds using its long, skinny tongue to lick them from the ground. This feeding style means the bilby eats a lot of sand. In fact, 20–90 per cent of its waste can be sand!

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK030
	Science	ACSSU043
6	Science	ACSSU094
7	Geography	ACHGK040
	Science	ACSSU112, ACSHE120
8	Geography	ACHGK051, ACHGK052
	Science	ACSHE135

Background Information

The endangered greater bilby, *Macrotis lagotis*, is Australia's 'Easter Bunny' and is the only surviving bandicoot in arid Queensland. As one of Queensland's 12 endangered mammals, the bilby is the subject of intense research and conservation efforts. Its closest relative, the lesser bilby, is extinct.

Rabbit-sized, the bilby has delicate features with a long-pointed nose, silky pale blue-grey fur with patches of tan, big ears and a crested black and white tail. It uses strong forelimbs and thick claws to dig for food and a sticky tongue to lick up seeds. The bilby carries its tail stiffly and its ears are almost transparent. Sharp hearing and a strong sense of smell are vital to their survival as they have poor vision. A nocturnal animal, the bilby feeds on seeds, insects such as grasshoppers, beetles, spiders and termites, fungi, and bulbs, while most of its water is extracted from its food rather than from drinking.

Bilbies inhabit dry, hot areas and burrow among hummock and tussock grasslands and acacia shrub lands. Powerful diggers, they make burrows up to three metres long and almost two metres deep where they spend their daylight hours. The burrow contains no nesting material and the entrance is often against a termite mound or small shrub. In the deserts, its home is usually temporary and can change quickly depending on where it can find food.

The bilby lives alone or in a pair and breeds throughout the year. Female bilbies have a backward-opening pouch with eight teats. One or two young are usually carried in the pouch at a time, although four have been recorded in the wild. Young stay in the pouch for 80 days. Bilbies put their young into burrows for about two weeks and return regularly to feed them.

Queensland's largest remaining wild group of bilbies lives in one area west of the Diamantina River. Charleville is home to the captive breeding program "Save the Bilby Fund". The program is operated by the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency and releases captive-bred bilbies into a fenced wild enclosure within the Currawinya National Park.



Bilby (supplied by EPA)



Charleville Bilby Experience

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5	How do fire and floods impact on creatures like bilbies?
	7/8	What are the consequences of human use and management of landscape for creatures like bilbies?
Science	5/6	How have bilbies adapted to live in this environment?
		How are environmental changes affecting them?
	7/8	How do bilbies fit into a food web?
		How are science understandings helping people protect bilbies?

Points of Interest

Charleville Bilby Experience

Meeting this delightful marsupial is a highlight for many visitors who come to Charleville. Captive bred in Charleville to ensure the survival of the species, this is a great opportunity to learn more about the survival, habits and habitat of the endangered Bilby.

Warrego Highway, Charleville QLD 4470

Cost: Fees apply and bookings are essential
Hours: Nightly tours April to October 7.00pm.
Phone: (07) 4654 4717 (ask for the Save the Bilby Fund)
For tour bookings contact Charleville Visitor Information Centre (07) 4654 7771

- Cosmos Centre and Observatory, Charleville
- Tregole National Park, west of Charleville
- Thurlby Station tours, Charleville

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities National Recovery Plan for the Greater Bilby
www.environment.gov.au/resource/national-recovery-plan-greater-bilby-macrotis-lagotis

Dreamworld Wild Life For Kids Education Program
Email: education@dreamworld.com.au
www.dreamworld.com.au/Schools/Teachers/Wildlife-for-Kids.aspx

Outback Now
www.outbacknow.com.au/index.php?module=pagesetter&func=viewpub&tid=37&pid=78

Save the Bilby Fund
www.savethebilbyfund.com

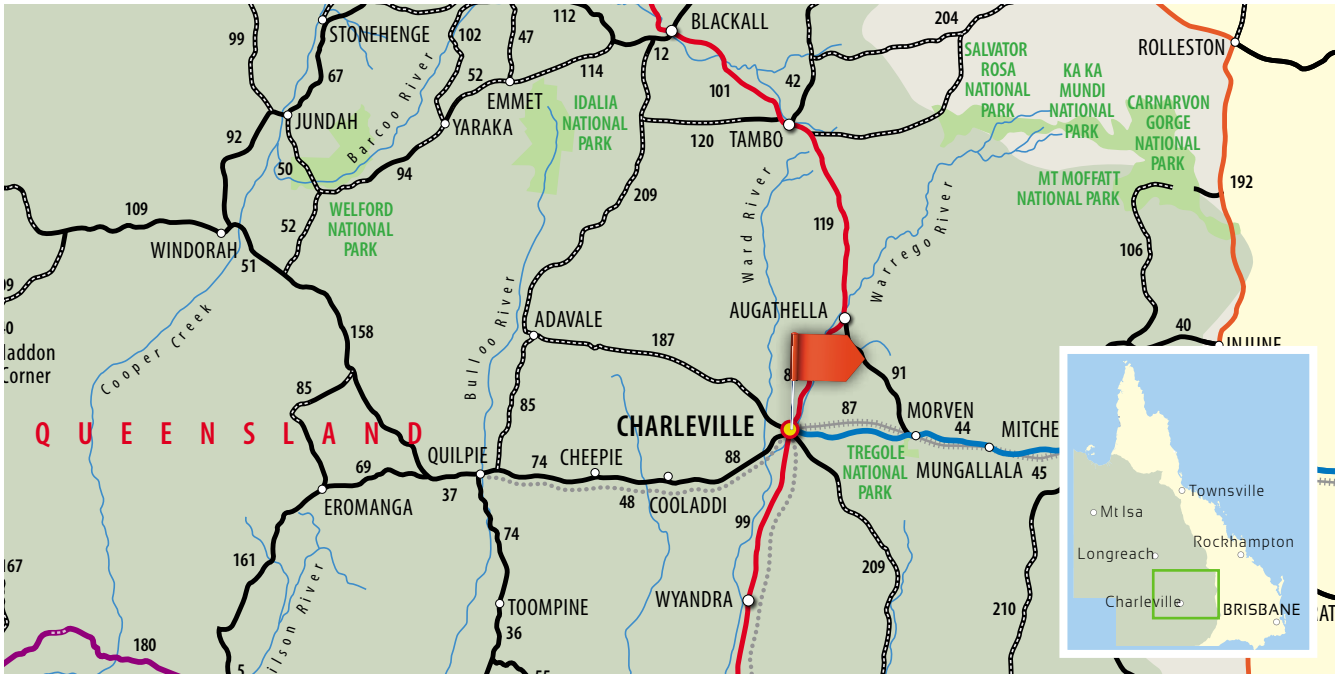
REFERENCES

Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/threatened-species/endangered/endangered-animals/bilby.html

FURTHER INFORMATION

Charleville Visitor Information Centre
Phone: (07) 4654 7771
www.murweh.qld.gov.au

Charleville Bilby Experience
PO Box 155, Charleville QLD 4470
Phone: (07) 4654 4717 (ask for the Save the Bilby Fund)
Email: sbf.charleville@gmail.com



Factsheet 23 – How can we protect the homes of rare species in the Outback?

Quirky fact :

Did you know the Flinders River is Queensland's longest river?

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK030
	Science	ACSSU043
6	Science	ACSSU094
7	Geography	ACHGK037, ACHGK040
	Science	ACSSU112, ACSHE120
8	Geography	ACHGK051, ACHGK052
	Science	ACSHE135

Background Information

Queensland has 13 bioregions and the mid-west comprises characteristic flora, fauna, and environmental conditions that create natural boundaries. Four bioregions lie within the mid-west: Einasleigh Uplands – Northeast; Gulf Plains – Northwest; Mitchell Grass Downs – South; and Desert Uplands – Southeast.

Einasleigh Uplands

The Einasleigh Uplands straddles the Great Dividing Range in inland Northeast Queensland. It covers 12,923,100 hectares (7.5 per cent) of Queensland. The area is known as basalt gorge country. Basalt is lava that has weathered to form rich red or black volcanic soils. The Einsleigh area is significant for macropods and has more species of rock wallaby than anywhere in Australia. Endangered animals include the red goshawk, gouldian and star finch and the golden-shouldered parrot. Rare species in the area are the black-necked stork, yellow-naped snake, ghost bat and the cotton pygmy-goose. This bioregion consists of a series of ranges and plateau surfaces, and contains eight protected national parks:

- Bulleringa National Park
- Chillagoe – Mungana Caves National Park
- Dalrymple National Park
- Great Basalt Wall National Park
- Hann Tableland National Park
- Porcupine Gorge National Park
- Undara Volcanic National Park
- Palmer River Goldfields

Gulf Plains

The Gulf Plains are characterised by gentle sloping sandstone tablelands along their eastern margin. The area covers 22,143,799 hectares (12 per cent) of Queensland. There is a small port at Kurumba where most of the regional fishing fleet is based and the Gulf and its estuarine wetlands support a strong fishing industry. The Gulf Plains are significant for the very large numbers of migratory waterbirds. The climate has a dry season during winter and a monsoonal wet season in summer. There are 36 rare and threatened fauna species of the Gulf Plains bioregion, including the radjah shelduck, masked owl, hawksbill turtle, and pygmy long-eared bat. The region contains four protected areas:

- The Mitchell – Alice Rivers National Park
- Staaten River National Park
- Lawn Hill Resources Reserve
- Bulleringa National Park

Mitchell Grass Downs

As the name suggests, this area is dominated by extensive grasslands of Mitchell grasses. The bioregion covers 23,788,550 hectares (13.8 per cent) of Queensland. Soils are deep, heavy grey or brown clays often with a self-mulching and sometimes stony surface. Soils of the grassland plains are brown, cracking, and sometimes stony clay. Limestone and deeply weathered Cretaceous sediments, sometimes covered by superficial Quaternary deposits, form low hills and ridges. The Mitchell Grass Downs spans the watershed separating many of Queensland's northern flowing rivers from southern flowing rivers. These rivers supply most of the surface water through the Channel Country bioregion into the Lake Eyre Basin. The Flinders, McKinlay and Gregory Rivers flow from the northern parts of the Mitchell Grass Downs into the Gulf of Carpentaria. Rivers that originate from the Mitchell Grass Downs are the:

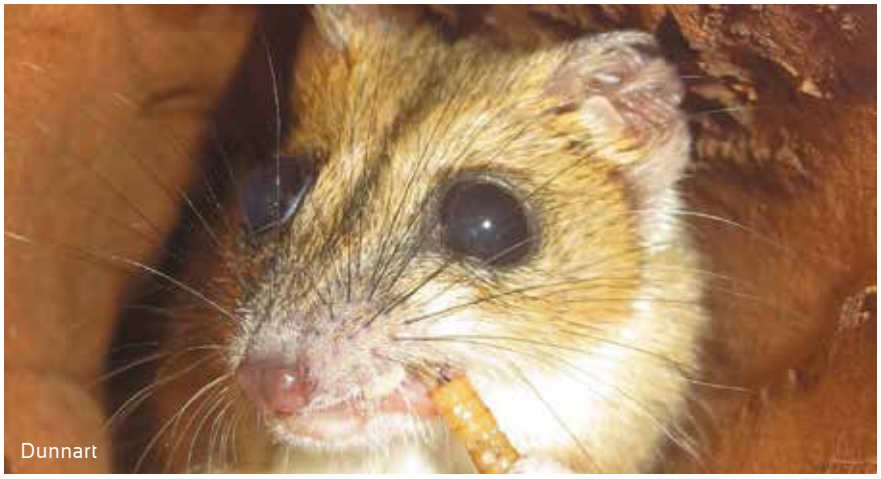
- Barcoo
- Thomson
- Diamantina
- Hamilton
- Burke
- Georgina

Species include at least 54 mammals, 225 birds, 21 amphibians and 110 reptiles. The native fauna has adapted to the open, seasonally arid grasslands. Birds are either seed or insect-eating ground dwellers such as the little button-quail, Australian bustard and singing bushlark, or migratory, visiting in the wet season to breed before the dry sets in again. Reptiles and small mammals live in the soil cracks and some mammals found only in this habitat include the Julia Creek Dunnart, narrow-nosed planigale, and Forrest's mouse. Rare reptiles such as the bearded dragon, Collett's snake or 'Downs Tiger' and the skink are also native to the region.

Desert Uplands

The Desert Uplands lie in central northern Queensland, straddling the Great Dividing Range between Blackall and Pentland. Sandstone ranges and sand plains dominate this bioregion and coal deposits can be found deep down. The Desert Uplands cover 7,032,297 hectares (4 per cent) of Queensland. Although not a true desert, the bioregion has desert-like characteristics. With a low rainfall the sandy soils are relatively infertile.

- White Mountain National Park
- White Mountain Resource Reserve
- Morrinya National Park
- Forest Den National Park



Dunnart

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Queensland Department of Science, Informatin Technology, Innovation and the Arts
www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/

National Parks Association of Queensland
Unit 9, 36 Finchley St, Milton QLD 4064
Phone: (07) 3367 0878
www.npaq.org.au

Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Source: Factsheets on all environmental management
www.ehp.qld.gov.au/

Australian Department of the Environment.
www.environment.gov.au/node/22811

Sustainable Schools Biodiversity Online Learning Resources
www.sustainableschools.qld.edu.au/Default.aspx?tabid=886

REFERENCES

Heritage Protection
www.ehp.qld.gov.au/

FURTHER INFORMATION

Flinders Discovery Centre
37 Gray Street, Hughenden QLD 4821
Phone: (07) 4741 2970
Email: info@flinders.qld.gov.au
www.flinders.qld.gov.au

At the Creek
34 Burke Street, Julia Creek Qld 4823
Australia
Phone: (07) 4746 7690
Email:touirsm@mckinlay.qld.gov.au
www.juliacreekdunnart.com.au or www.atthecreek.com.au

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5/6	How do fire and floods impact on creatures like bilbies?
	7/8	What are the consequences of human use and management of landscape for creatures like bilbies?
Science	5/6	How have bilbies adapted to live in this environment?
		How are environmental changes affecting them?
	7/8	How do bilbies fit into a food web?
		How are science understandings helping people protect bilbies?

Points of Interest

Porcupine Gorge, via Hughenden
Kennedy Developmental Road (73 kms north of Hughenden), via Hughenden QLD 4821

- At the Creek, Julia Creek Visitor Information Centre
  www.atthecreek.com.au
- White Mountains National Park, via Hughenden
- Moorrinya National Park, via Hughenden
- Diamantina National Park, via Bedourie
- Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park, via Gregory

Factsheet 24 – What is so special about the Diamantina?

Quirky fact :

Did you know fish mysteriously appear in the Channel Country without apparent explanation?

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK030
	Science	ACSSU043
6	Science	ACSSU094
7	Geography	ACHGK037, ACHGK038, ACHGK041
	Science	ACSSU222, ACSSU112
8	Geography	ACHGK051, ACHGK049, ACHGK052
	Science	ACSHE135

Background Information

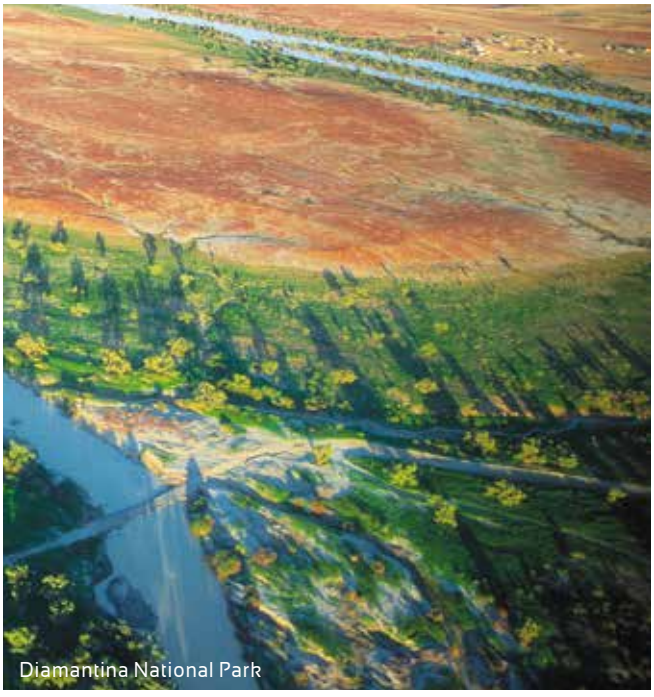
Diamantina National Park is considered to be amongst the top 20 most important national parks within Australia and lies in the heart of western Queensland's Channel Country. In the east, the terrain takes in long weather-beaten sandstone ridges that fall away to the flood plains and tributaries of the Diamantina River. Beyond the flood plains, Mitchell grass covers wide open gibber plains of cracked clay that stretch beyond the horizon to meet sand dunes in the west. Vast and abundant with rare flora and fauna, this diverse landscape was previously used as pastoral land, with its former European owners including the legendary Sir Sidney Kidman.

In 1992, the Queensland Government resumed Diamantina Lakes as a high priority acquisition for national park protection, based on:

- land and plant diversity;
- highly distinctive bioregions of the Channel Country and Mitchell Grass Downs;
- eight rare species – golden perch, a skink (*Ctenotus schevii*), freckled duck, peregrine falcon, plains wanderer, bilby, kowari and the shrub *eremophia tetraptera*;
- the gorge where the Diamantina River (Mundaweera) cuts through limestone hills was listed as a site of national significance by the Australian Geographical Society;
- several sites of cultural significance including Aboriginal rock paintings and the remnants of early European settlement including Mayne Hotel and 22 graves dated from 1884 to 1944; and
- the many waterholes that were scenically diverse and provided excellent camp sites.

The acquisition was merged with the Diamantina Gates National Park to create Diamantina National Park, a protected area of 500,000 hectares.

The Channel Country is also known for its 'rains of fishes' – the sudden and mysterious appearance of fish, including spangled perch, desert rainbowfish and gudgeons, without any apparent source. The phenomenon is thought to be caused by fish, otherwise confined to waterholes for long periods of time, being flushed out and swept in many different directions, often into small, temporary tributaries. Nevertheless, some groups of fish have been found on high open ground. These fish are thought to have been picked up and then dumped by strong summer willy willies (dust whirlwinds), or forced up through dry ground by rare water spouts.



Diamantina National Park

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5	How do plants, animals and people that live here cope with fire and floods?
	7/8	What do different groups value about these landscapes?
		How can they be protected and managed?
Science	5/6	What are the links between this environment and the features of things that live here?
	7/8	How does scientific understanding help people to manage the Diamantina's environment and resources?

Points of Interest

Diamantina National Park, via Bedourie or Boulia

From abundant waterholes, wetlands and river channels to sand dunes, grass plains, and weathered sandstone ranges, this impressive park is a haven for waterbirds in an arid region.

The park boundary is located 143 kms south-east of Boulia and 260 kms south-west of Winton.

Cost: Entry to the park is free, however fees apply for camping

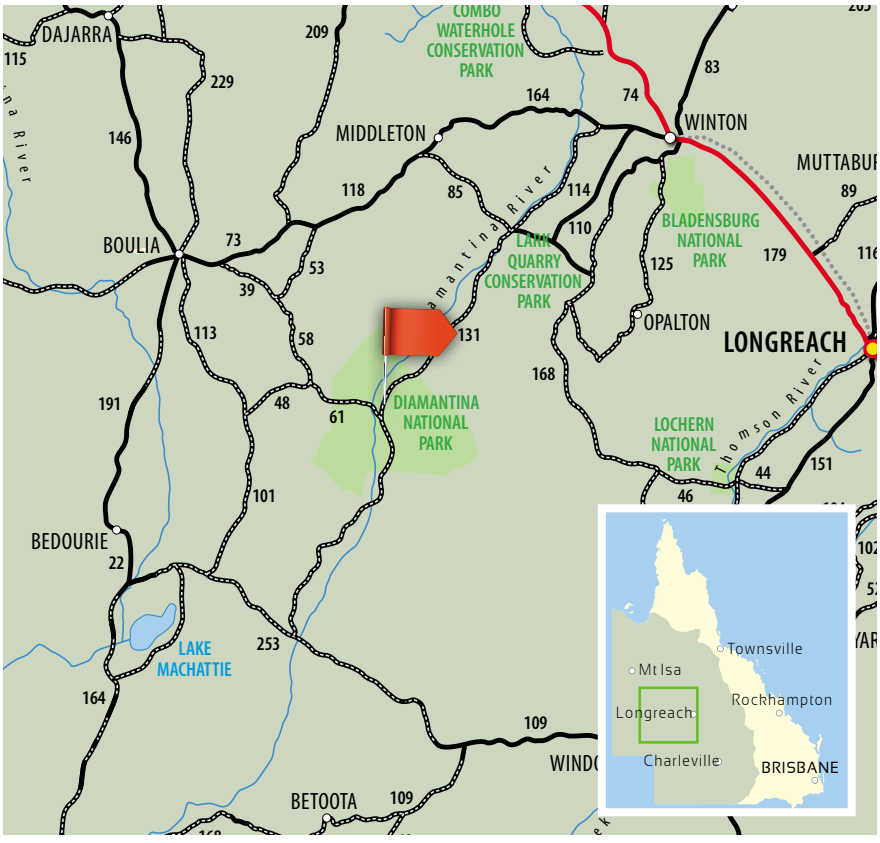
Hours: Open 24 hours per day

Contact: Information, access and maps available at www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks/diamantina

- **Big Red – Munga-Thirri (Simpson Desert) National Park, via Birdsville**
- **Burke and Wills Dig Tree, Cameron Corner, via Thargomindah**

Important Information

- Roads are impassable in wet weather
- Four wheel drive (4WD) only
- Best time to visit is between April and October
- Due to the remote location no facilities are available



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Queensland Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
Diamantina National Park
www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/diamantina/index.html

Tourism Queensland
Source: General Outback Information
www.adventureoutback.com.au

REFERENCES

Barry, J.I., calling 8XD Diamantina

Nolan, C., Sand Hills and Channel Country

Queensland Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
Diamantina National Park
www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/diamantina/index.html

Queensland Museum Publishing
Johnson QM, J., Rains of Fishes
Discovery Guide to Outback Queensland

FURTHER INFORMATION

Diamantina Shire Council
Herbert Street, Bedourie
Phone: 4746 1202
Email: tourism@diamantina.qld.gov.au
www.diamantina.qld.gov.au

Queensland Government, Longreach
Landsborough Highway
PO Box 202, Longreach QLD 4730
Phone: (07) 4652 7333

Factsheet 25 – How do people source energy and other resources in the Outback?

Quirky fact :

Energy sources used to generate electricity include water, wind, sun, gas diesel fuel, tidal energy, waves and geothermal energy.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK028
	Science	ACSHE083
6	Science	ACSSU219,ACSHE100
7	Geography	ACHGK039, ACHGK040
	Science	ACSHE121
8	Geography	ACHGK050
	Science	ACSSU155, ACSHE136

Background Information

In 1891, the Bulloo Shire Council embarked on a project of drilling an artesian bore to provide Thargomindah's town water supply. The water pressure was so strong that by 1893 it was decided to harness it as energy to drive a generating plant for the supply of electricity to the town. This formed the Thargomindah Hydro Electric Plant, a distinction that would mark it as the first town in Australia to have a hydro electricity plant and third in the world behind Paris and London to have street lighting generated by hydro power. The plant continued to supply electricity until 1951, when the Capricornia Electricity Board installed a diesel plant, which still operates today.

In the early 20th century, Queensland was characterised by isolated urban areas, separated by large distances, with the majority of townships on the coast and in the southeast. Rural properties tended to be large and pastoral service towns were small. At the turn of the century private companies supplied power to Brisbane, Charters Towers and Rockhampton.

During the following 20 years other major centres developed power stations, most of which were small thermal, diesel or gas engine driven plants. Up until the 1940s electricity generation remained largely in the hands of local government and private enterprise. However, during World War II all domestic resources were diverted into essential services and the war effort, and afterwards all of the generating authorities needed to replace and expand their generating equipment.

The provision of electricity to rural areas became a major focus of the Electricity Commission during the 1950s and increasingly thereafter, supplies were delivered by large power stations located close to their power sources, with huge transmission networks.

Indicative of its heritage, in 2002 as part of "Year of the Outback" celebrations, Thargomindah implemented two state-of-the-art renewable energy schemes that would place the town at the forefront of Australia's 21st century power generation.



Thargomindah Hydro Power Plant

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5	How did features of the environment, including bore water, influence places like Thargomindah?
	7/8	How was the Great Artesian Basin formed?
		Compare the Outback's water resources, and the way they are managed, to those of a different country.
Science	5/6	What scientific understandings were used to generate electricity?
	7/8	How do science understandings help people make effective use of available energy sources?

Points of Interest

Hydro Power Plant

The Hydro Power Plant Display Shed is a replica of the original shed, which was built on the site. It houses a working Pelton Wheel, and a display of old equipment, which was originally used by the early pioneers of the region to create energy.

Gilmour Street, Thargomindah QLD 4492

Cost: Free Entry
Hours: Daily from 8.30am to 5.00pm with a working display everyday
Phone: (07) 4655 3399
Email: thargo.info@bigpond.com.au
Website: www.thargotourism.com.au

Leahy House, Thargomindah

Burke and Wills Dig Tree, Cameron Corner, via Thargomindah

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

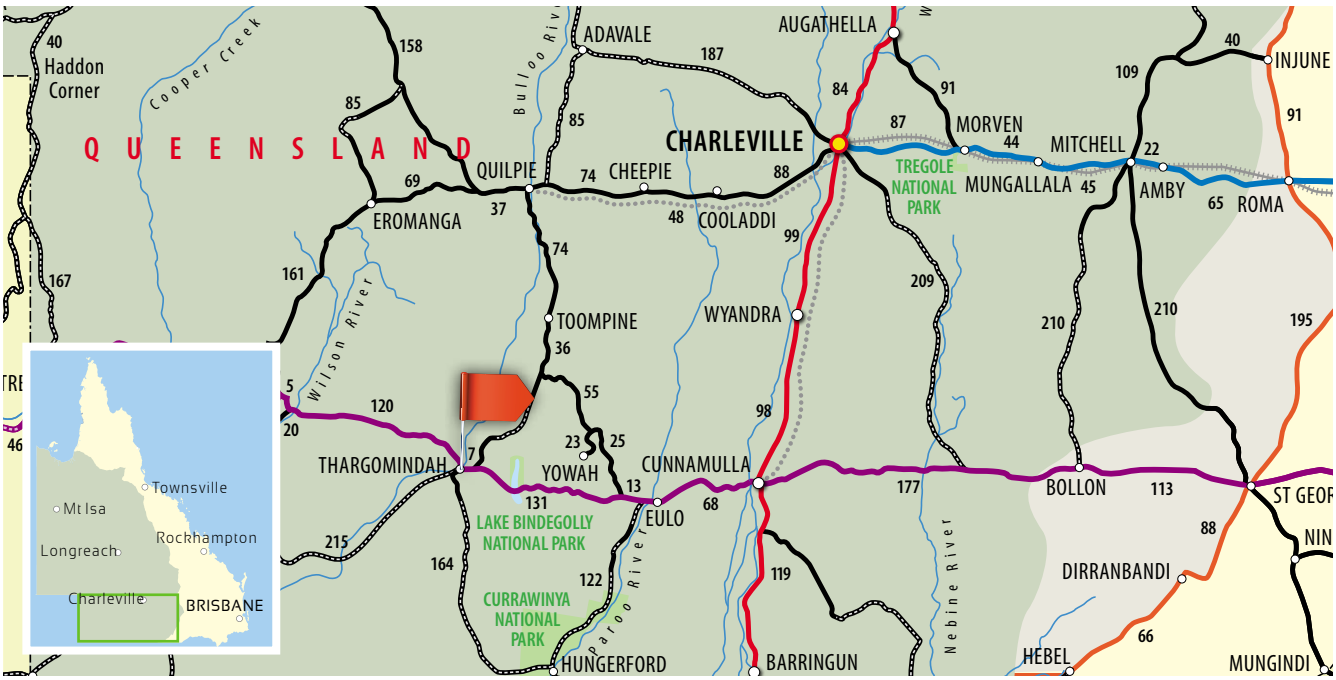
Queensland Energy Museum
Source: Factsheets,Teacher resources, Activities
Queensland Energy Museum Inc.
Phone: (07) 3854 1266
Email: info@energymuseum.com.au
www.energymuseum.com.au/

REFERENCES

Department of Environment
www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;place_id=100318

FURTHER INFORMATION

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
www.ehp.qld.gov.au/sustainability/index.html



Factsheet 26 – What are riparian habitats?

Quirky fact :

In 1997 there were 256 bird, 56 mammal, 94 reptile and 23 amphibian species recorded for the Mulga Land bioregion. The eucalypt woodlands showed the highest diversity of species.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK028, ACHGK030
	Science	ACSSU043
6	Science	ACSSU094
7	Geography	ACHGK037, ACHGK039, ACHGK041
	Science	ACSSU112
8	Geography	ACHGK048, ACHGK049, ACHGK050, ACHGK052
	Science	ACSHE136

Background Information

The native bush that skirts many inland billabongs or stretches along the banks of inland rivers conjures up images of peace and quiet. However, these 'riparian' areas are in fact teeming with wildlife. Riparian describes the land that lies between the bed of any natural watercourse, creek, river or wetland and the surrounding terrain. They are narrow corridors that vary in width from just a few metres to more than one kilometre.

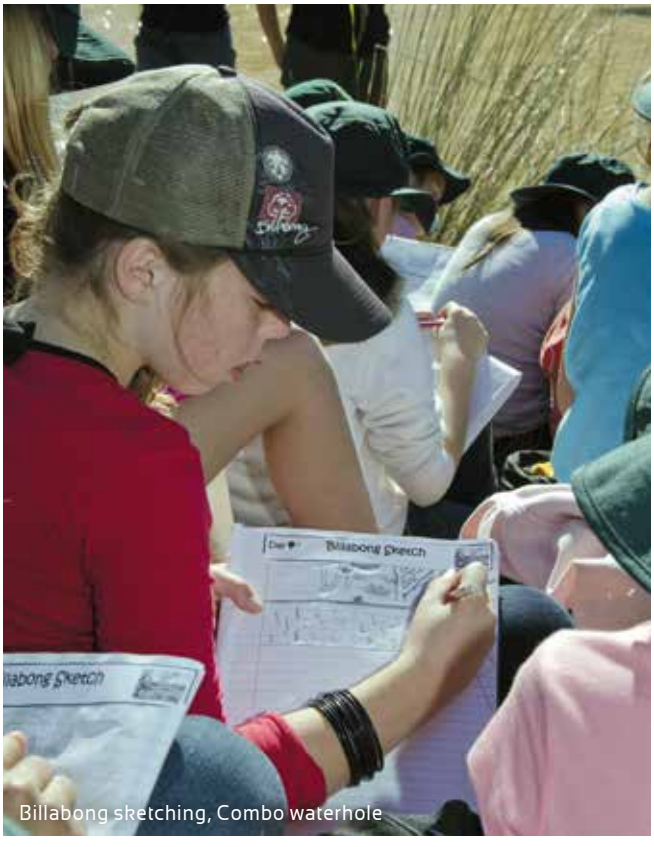
A constant water supply combined with fertile alluvial soil and sand deposits create riparian conditions. These areas sustain a vast array of unique habitats for native plants and animals, as well as being highly valued for their agricultural benefits. The availability of water, shade, shelter and food not only supports resident wildlife but also many nomadic and migratory species.

In Outback Queensland, open woodlands of large river red gum, coolibah and varieties of eucalypt commonly line the rivers and creeks. Shrubs provide a thick blanket of undergrowth and after periods of flooding, the ground becomes lush with grasses, sedges and forbs. Floods also bring hundreds of water birds including pelicans, herons, egrets, cormorants and spoonbills to roost in the trees or hunt for fish. Once the water subsides and waterholes become fished out, these birds move away.

Riparian zones are home to birds, mammals, frogs, reptiles and invertebrates. Koalas are common in riparian woodlands. The hollows of trees provide breeding sites for brushtail possums, gliders, owls and insectivorous bats. Water rats fish in waterholes at night and by day nest in burrows and hollow logs. Small birds feed on insects prevalent in the undergrowth while the kingfisher feeds on small fish, crustaceans and water insects. Fallen timber and leaf litter provide habitat for invertebrates, frogs and reptiles and migratory animals such as flying-foxes, honeyeaters and some parrots travel long distances each year to seek out blossom-laden eucalypts.

Riparian areas are fragile and can be easily damaged. Major threats include: over-grazing; clearing; feral animals and weeds; changes in water flow; pollution; and high recreational use.

Riparian habitat in Western Queensland BP1319 October00 Product of Habitat Case Studies



Billabong sketching, Combo waterhole

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5	How do these environments influence the way people live, including the way they manage fire and floods?
	7/8	What do different people groups value about these landscapes and waterways?
		How can they be protected and managed?
Science	5/6	What are the links between this environment and the features of things that live here?
	7/8	How can understanding the interactions between organisms help to manage natural resources?

Points of Interest

Parks and reserves within the region include Currawinya National Park, Hell Hole Gorge National Park, Lake Bindegolly National Park, Thruston National Park, Mariala National Park, parts of Welford National Park, Idalia National Park, Culgoa Floodplain National Park, part of Tregole National Park and Nocoleche and Peery Lake Nature Reserves.

The Mulga Lands bioregion includes 253,000 sq. kms of land within both Queensland and New South Wales. Seventy-four per cent of the bioregion lies within Queensland. Major towns include Charleville, Cunnamulla, Bollon, St George, Quilpie, Hungerford in Queensland and White Cliffs, Wanaaring and Enngonia in New South Wales.

All information courtesy of Australian Natural Resources Atlas

- Bilby Sanctuary, Charleville
- Tregole National Park, via Morven

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CSIRO
www.csiro.au/places/QBP.html

Greening Australia
www.greeningaustralia.org.au

The Encyclopedia of Earth
www.eoearth.org/article/Eastern_Australia_mulga_shrublands

South West NRM
www.southwestnrm.org.au

REFERENCES

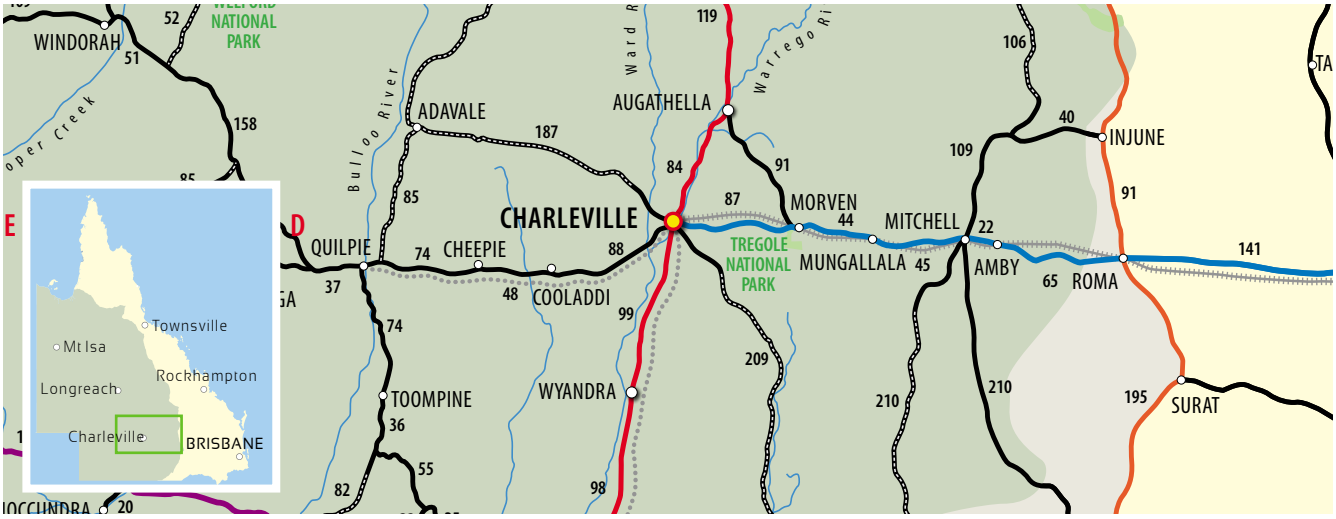
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Riparian Habitat in Western Queensland
BP1319 October00
Product of Habitat Case Studies

Australian Natural Resources Atlas
www.nratlas.nsw.gov.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

Roma District Office
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
36 Quintin Street, Roma QLD 4455
Phone: (07) 4622 4266

Charleville Visitor Information Centre
Phone: (07) 4654 7771
www.murweh.qld.gov.au



Factsheet 27 – Why is there a national park in a desert?

Quirky fact :
Canegrass thrives in arid environments because it is almost leafless, so water is not lost through evaporation. When it rains, the green stems direct moisture straight to the roots through photosynthesis.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Geography	ACHGK027, ACHGK028
	Science	ACSSU043
6	Science	ACSSU094
7	Geography	ACHGK037, ACHGK039, ACHGK041
	Science	ACSSU112
8	Geography	ACHGK048, ACHGK049, ACHGK050, ACHGK052
	Science	ACSHE136

Background Information

At one million hectares, Munga-Thirri (Simpson Desert) National Park is Queensland's largest protected area. At Poeppel Corner it meets South Australia's Simpson Desert Conservation Park and the Northern Territory's Simpson Desert Regional Reserve. The entire Simpson Desert covers more than 17 million hectares of Central Australia.

Across the Simpson, parallel dunes run south-east to north-west, the dominant wind direction when they formed during the Pleistocene epoch about 80,000 years ago. Spaced about 1 km apart, dunes can extend 200 kms.

The range in temperature can be extreme. In the summer months temperatures average at 39 degrees but can reach up to 50 degrees, while in the winter morning temperatures can drop to zero. There is no surface water in the Simpson Desert and dust storms are common. The average annual rainfall is less than 150 mm. While it usually rains in short bursts from December to March, heavy falls and overflows from the Channel Country occasionally sweep across the plains quenching the dry rivers and creek beds that feed Lake Eyre.

Bare, windswept crests stand atop slopes secured by spinifex and canegrass. Flat plains between dunes can be wind-polished gibber pebbles or mineral-encrusted claypans but many, surprisingly, support open shrublands of acacias, hakeas and grevilleas. Georgina gidgee, a rounded wattle tree, is found extensively in dune swales and is well known for its pungent odour after rain.

Far from deserted, Munga-Thirri (Simpson Desert) National Park is home to hardy mammals, many reptiles and over 180 bird species.

Sandhill canegrass shelters small birds. Lizards hide from predators in spiky, rounded clumps of lobed spinifex. Mulgaras, small and venerable carnivorous marsupials with a distinctive crest of short black hairs on their tails, burrow into dunes to escape the heat.



Munga-Thirri (Simpson Desert), Birdsville

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Geography	5	How do people and environment interact in the Simpson Desert?
	7/8	What are the key features of this landscape and what processes have shaped it?
		What strategies have Aboriginal peoples developed for survival in this region, especially in managing water resources?
Science	5/6	What are the significant features of the environment in the Simpson Desert, and how have plants and animals adapted to live there?
	7/8	How can understanding the interactions between organisms help to manage natural resources?

Points of Interest

- **Big Red, Munga-Thirri (Simpson Desert) National Park**
  The Munga-Thirri (Simpson Desert) National Park is Queensland's largest national park, and 80 kilometres west of Birdsville

  Cost: Entry to the park is free, however fees apply for camping
  Hours: Open 24 hours
  Contact: Information, access and maps available at www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks/simpson-desert/index.html

- **Diamantina National Park, via Bedourie**
- **Burke and Wills Dig Tree – Cameron Corner, via Thargomindah**

Important Information

- The Munga-Thirri (Simpson Desert) National Park is vast and remote and should be accessed by 4WD only
- All visitors must check their travel plans with local authorities i.e. EPA, Police and Wirrarri Information Centre
- From Birdsville take the Birdsville Track to Big Red (35 kms).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks/munga-thirri/index.html

The Encyclopedia of Earth
www.eoearth.org/article/Simpson_desert

World Wildlife Organisation
www.worldwildlife.org/science/wildfinder

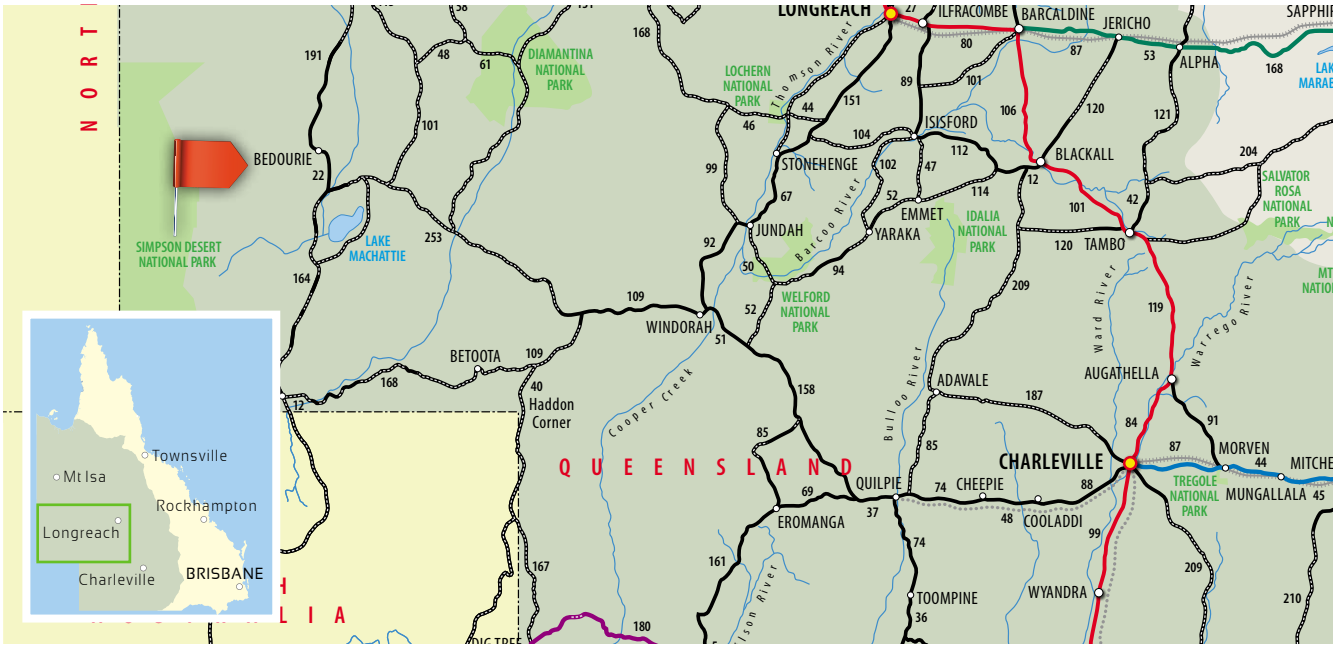
Diamantina Shire Council
www.diamantina.qld.gov.au/

REFERENCES

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
www.nprsr.qld.gov.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre
Burt St, Birdsville QLD 4482
Phone: (07) 4656 3300
Email: info@diamantina.qld.gov.au
www.diamantina.qld.gov.au



Factsheet 28 – What was life like during the 1800s for the pioneer settlers of the Outback?

Quirky fact :

At the end of shearing or 'Cut Out', a bush race meeting was held to celebrate.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	History	ACHHK097
6	History	ACHHK116

Background Information

The first known white man to pass through the area of Richmond was William Landsborough, an explorer and expert bushman in 1861 when he was placed in charge of an expedition to search for the lost explorers, Burke and Wills.

Following his expedition and glowing account of the rich grazing country, the rush of settlers began as part of the inexorable expansion of graziers across Queensland. That expansion took the form of herds of cattle or flocks of sheep being driven ever further inland in search of unclaimed pasture and water for stock.

Cambridge Downs was the second property north of the Flinders River and was taken up in 1864 by Kennedy and MacDonald.

The need to take precautions against native attack was fundamental when the Cambridge Downs homestead was built. The site of the homestead, well out on a clear flat 300 metres away from the wooded Cambridge Creek, is supporting evidence of the pioneer's defence strategy. The walls were of local flagstone rock mostly up to three centimetres thick laid horizontally and cemented one above the other in a wall 30 to 40 centimetres thick and about two metres high. Windows were square openings without glass but with vertical iron bars two and a half centimetres thick. Doors were solid timber swung on solid timber frames. The roof was initially thatch in a timber frame laid on top of the walls; later on when galvanised iron become available the roof was replaced.

The main building was linked by a passageway to a store room and office. The cookhouse with a big clay oven was out the back. Lawns, citrus trees and grape vines flourished. There were several other buildings; these included a jackaroo's quarters (with their own cook and housemaid), ringers quarters, a butcher shop with two full time butchers and a blacksmith shop. Water would have been carted from the nearby creek.

In 1864, Cambridge Downs marked the limit reached by herds and flocks; it was recognised as an outpost of settlement and the threat of attack by local Aboriginals was ever present as they recognised the disastrous impact the white man and his animals were having on their traditional way of life.

In later years, when the main house was built, the original building became a general store/post office servicing the surrounding properties. Supplies for the store were shipped in by the family and delivered by the Cobb & Co Coaches that ran through the station on their way to the northern goldfields.

The Cambridge Downs shearing shed was known as the biggest and best equipped shed in the district with 26 stands. A wood fired mobile steam engine powered the old Cambridge plant. Up to 80 men camped in a string of tents along the bore drain and shore up to 250, 000 sheep and many shearing records were set.

The property also bred fine thoroughbred horses.

Cambridge Downs was a focal point of social life in the area and has been the centre of many colourful and tragic events.

The remains of the original homestead are still visible from the Croydon Road approximately 40 kilometres north of the Richmond township.

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
History	5/6	What were interactions like between early settlers and local Indigenous Australians?

Points of Interest

- **Cambridge Downs Heritage Display Centre**
  97 Goldring Street, Richmond QLD 4822
  Phone: (07) 4741 3429 1300KRONOK
  Email: enquiries@kronosauruskorner.com.au
  Website: www.kronosauruskorner.com.au
- Kronosaurus Korner, Richmond
- Pioneer Cemetery, Richmond
- Lake Fred Tritton, Richmond
- Historical Walk, Richmond



Cambridge Downs Heritage Display

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

"Pioneering Days: Thrilling Incidents", Across the Wilds of Queensland with Sheep to the Northern Territory in the Early Sixties, by George Sutherland (1855-1905). Published by W. H. WENDT & Co. Ltd, Printers, Brisbane, 1913. A Project Gutenberg of Australia eBook at http://gutenberg.net.au ; eBook No. 0701081.txt

"Early Days in North Queensland", by The Late Edward Palmer. Published 1903. A Project Gutenberg of Australia eBook at http://gutenberg.net.au ; eBook No. 0901071.txt

Australian Dictionary of Biography - Durack, Patrick (1834-1989) at http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A040117b.htm

REFERENCES

Queensland Department of Education
www.deta.qld.gov.au

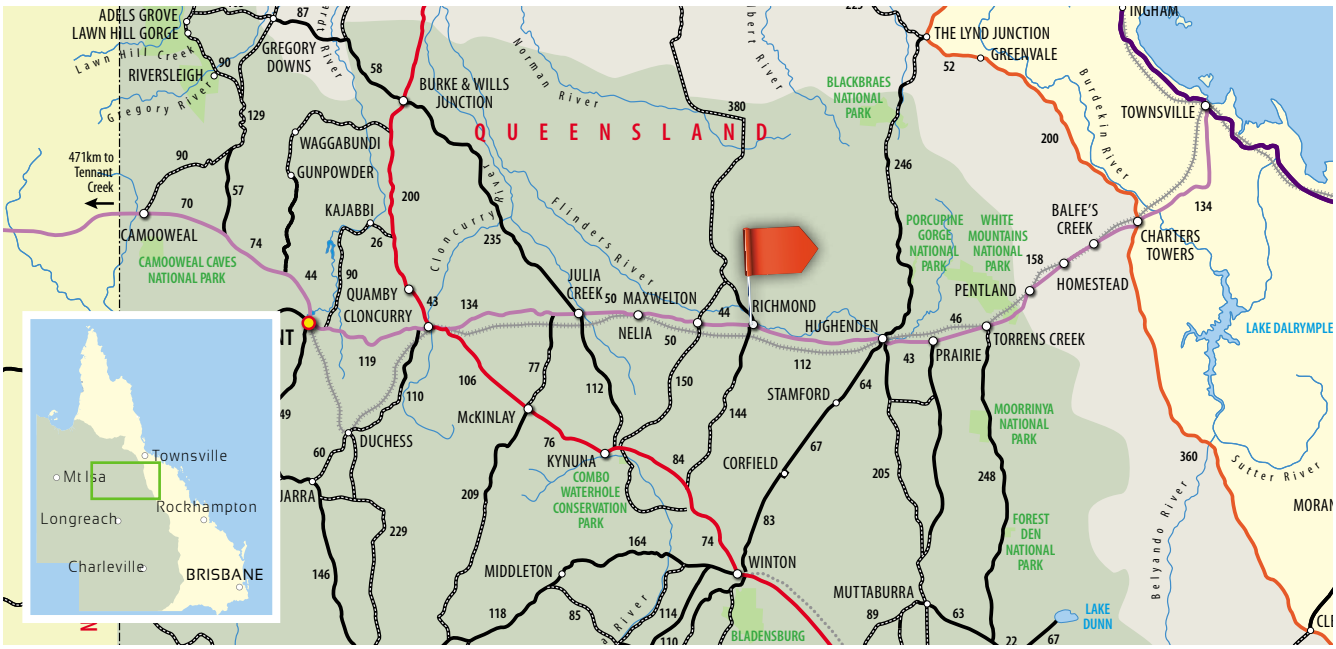
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
www.ehp.qld.gov.au

Richmond Shire Council Library
Phone: (07) 474130777

FURTHER INFORMATION

Richmond Shire Council
Phone: (07) 47413277

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
www.ehp.qld.gov.au



Factsheet 29 – How can native plants be used for food and medicine?

Quirky fact :

Almost every Australian knows that Burke and Wills "starved to death", however what they don't know is that their death was a result of rejecting the Aboriginal methods of preparing Nardoo (Marsilea drummondii).

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Science	ACSSU043, ACSHE082
6	Science	ACSSU094, ACSHE099
7	Science	ACSHE223

Background Information

Aboriginal people have occupied the Australian continent for at least 40 thousand years, and over this time they have found ways of surviving that reveal an extensive and detailed knowledge of the environment. Their understanding of native plants goes far beyond just knowing what is edible. They used plants for healing and medicine, and for weapons and tools. They understood the changes of the seasons and the life cycles of animals and plants, and how these processes affected their own survival. However, current knowledge of Aboriginal diet and herbal medicine is quite limited.

The Australian bush contains a bounty of wild edible plant species that runs into the thousands, ranging from starchy seeds and tangy fruits to mushrooms, tubers, leaves and seaweeds. However, knowing how to identify edible plants is not easy. The knowledge Aboriginal people have about which plants are edible, which plants are poisonous, and which plants are poisonous but can be prepared in certain ways that make them safe to eat would have been acquired over generations (6,000 years) of trial and error.

To the Aborigines, plant foods supplied up to 80 per cent of their diet in desert regions, and as little as 40 per cent in coastal areas, where shellfish, fish and game were abundant. Diets and food preparation techniques varied from one region to another and also from one tribe to another. Local custom and belief often affected what was hunted and gathered (i.e. would not eat totemic animals).

It has been suggested that Aborigines were originally a relatively healthy people before the arrival of Europeans (brought infectious diseases) and thus needed little medication. Occasional digestive upsets (causing diarrhoea), fevers, toothaches, and sores, colds, rheumatism and wounds were all adequately treated with a large variety of herbal remedies. Most bush medicines were applied, as rubs or poultices; or inhaled, for example by using crushed aromatic leaves.

Indigenous Australian foods have always been integrated to some extent in Australian food culture. It is certainly true that in colonial times, those settlers who learned about local foods from the Aborigines and used them or who experimented for themselves fared much better than those who did not. However, as time progressed and supplies of exotic foodstuffs became more accessible, this knowledge was ignored. As transport links developed, even country cooks abandoned the use of wild foods which could not compete with those of overseas origin in terms of harvestable quantities and culinary attention.

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Science	5/6	What adaptations do native plants have to living in Outback ecosystems?
	7	In what ways can native plants be helpful to different people?

Points of Interest

- **Bush Tucker Garden**
  Lake Fred Tritton
  Hillier St [southern end], Richmond Qld 4822
  Phone: (07) 4741 3429 1300KRONOK
  Email: enquiries@kronosauruskorner.com.au
  Website: www.kronosauruskorner.com.au
- Kronosaurus Korner, Richmond
- Pioneer Cemetery, Richmond
- Lake Fred Tritton, Richmond
- Historical Walk, Richmond



Bush Tucker Garden, Richmond

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife-ecosystems/index.html

Commonwealth Department of Environment
www.environment.gov.au

REFERENCES

Anderson, E. (1993). Plants of central Queensland. Brisbane; Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

Brand-Miller, J. C. & Holt, S. H. A. (1998) Australian Aboriginal plant foods: a consideration of their nutritional composition and health implications. Nutrition Research Reviews, 11: 5-23

Brand , J. C. Cherikoff, V. & Truswell, A. S. (1985).The Nutritional Composition of Australian Aboriginal bush foods. 3. Seeds and Nuts. Food Technology in Australia, 37 (6):275:279.

Cherikoff, V. and Isaacs, J. (1989). The bush food handbook. Sydney; Ti Tree Press.

Cribb, A.B. and Cribb, J.W. (1974). Wild food in Australia. Sydney; Collins.

Cribb A. B & Cribb J. W. (1981). Wild Medicine in Australia. William Collins Pty Ltd, Sydney Australia.

Earl, J. (1996). A fatal recipe for Burke and Wills. Australian Geographic; 43: 28-29.

Hiddins L. (2001). Bush Tucker field guide. Penguin Books Australia Ltd, Victoria.

Isaacs, J. (1987). Bushfood. Sydney; Landsdowne.

Lassak E.V & McCarthy T. (2001) Australian Medicinal plants. New Holland Publishers (Australia) Pty Ltd, Sydney

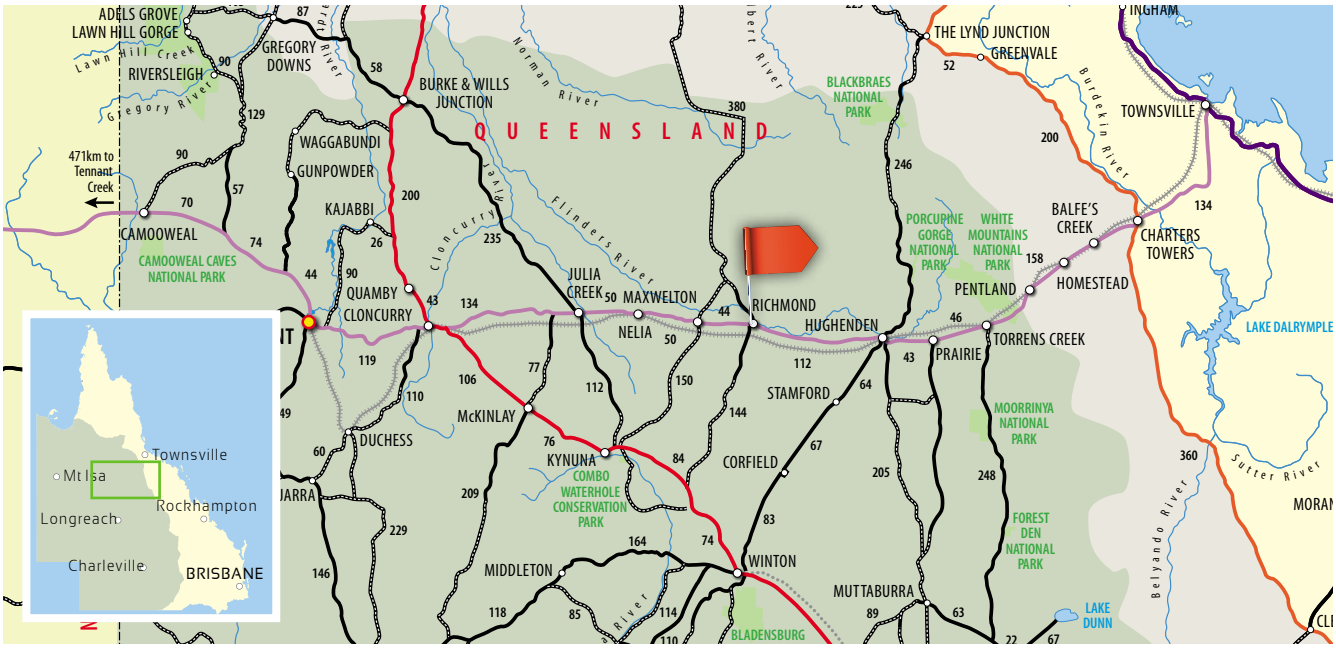
Low, T. (1991). Wildfood plants of Australia. Sydney; Collins Angus and Robertson.

Thozet, A. (1886). Notes on some of the roots, tubers, bulbs and fruits, used as vegetable food by the Aboriginals of Northern Queensland, Australia. Rockhampton; W.H. Buzacott.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Richmond Shire Council
www.richmond.qld.gov.au

Kronosaurus Korner
www.kronosauruskorner.com.au



Factsheet 30 – What was the Outback like millions of years ago?

Quirky fact :

Riversleigh once supported a greater diversity of mammals than the Amazon!

Australian Curriculum Links

Year	Subject	Curriculum Links
5	Science	ACSHE081
6	Science	ACSSU094, ACSHE098
7	Science	ACSHE119
8	Geography	ACHGK050
	Science	ACSSU153, ACSHE134

Background Information

Riversleigh is one of the world's richest mammal fossil sites. Riversleigh, along with Naracoorte, was inscribed as The Australian Fossil Mammal Site (Riversleigh/ Naracoorte) World Heritage Area in 1994.

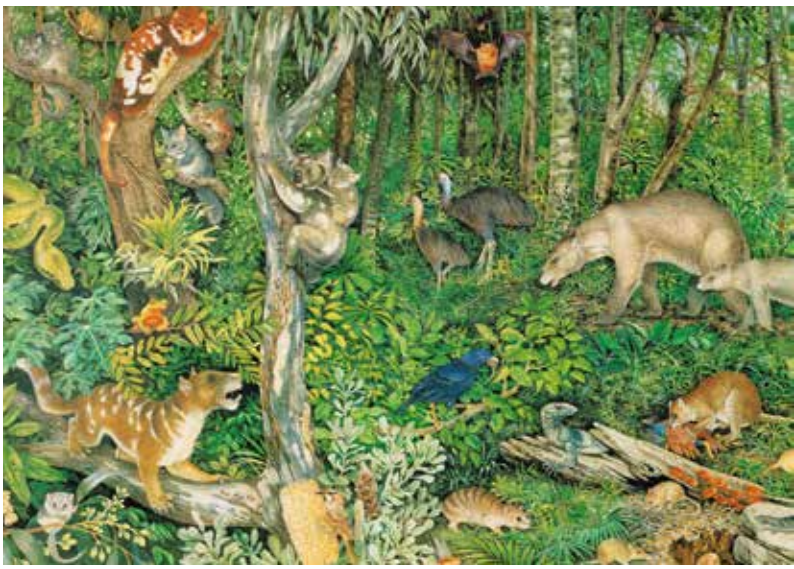
The extensive fossil deposits at Riversleigh are preserved in limestone, which was formed in lime-rich freshwater pools, and in caves. Riversleigh provides the first records for many distinctive groups of living mammals, such as marsupial moles, koala, platypus and feather-tailed possums. The area also has many other unique and now extinct Australian mammals such as the massive wombat-like marsupials (diprotodontids), marsupial lions thylacoleonids) and marsupial tapirs or tree-pushers (palorchestids).

The variety of deposits at Riversleigh has helped us understand how the environment has changed over time from a rich rainforest community to semi-arid grassland, and how the animals that lived in it have changed too. Many of the descendants of these animals now no longer live in rainforests but live in the habitats that dominate Australia today. Others have left no descendants at all!

The highest diversity of animals have been found in the Late Oligocene to Middle Miocene (25 million years ago – 10 million years ago) deposits. During this time Riversleigh was cooler and wetter and covered in rainforest. From the number and diversity of fossils found from this time a full food web can be shown. Specialised creatures such as the forest koala and possums lived in the trees, bandicoots and thingodonta (aka Yalkaparidon) probably searched for insects on the forest floor whereas the larger marsupials like the Nimbadon possibly ate plant shoots. These animals were hunted by the larger carnivores such as the cleaver-headed crocodile or the smaller tree climbing ridge-headed crocodile. The Riversleigh Thylacine would have chased down smaller animals on the forest floor.

By the Pliocene (5 million years ago) the climate had changed and so did the vegetation -from rainforest to a more arid environment with grasslands. With the changes in climate and vegetation came a decline in vertebrate diversity.

By the Pleistocene (1.9 million years ago) many animals of the region specialised into different niches and



this helped them cope with the less productive environment. Many of the animals were now suited to the open forest environment and grasslands. The Pleistocene was a time of giant marsupials such as the giant short-faced kangaroo and the Diprotodon which were up to three metres high and grazing the area at this time. These animals possibly made the ideal meal for a marsupial lion, the largest mammalian meat-eater on the continent.

Inquiry Questions

Subject	Years	Questions
Science	5/6	What evidence do fossils give of how the landscapes and environment have changed?
Science	7/8	How do scientists collect and analyse evidence, including fossils and minerals?
Geography	8	What can you find out about how a landform was produced?

Points of Interest

Riversleigh Fossil Centre; Outback at Isa

See dioramas and exhibitions at the Riversleigh Fossil Centre; Outback at Isa illustrating the unique discoveries of Riversleigh -one of the world's richest fossil fields. Displays provide a window to the development of early mammal fauna over the past 26 million years.

19 Marian Street, Mt Isa QLD 4825
Cost: Entry fee applies. Group Prices available.
Hours: 8.30am - 5.00pm daily
Phone: (07) 4749 1555
Website: www.outbackatisa.com.au/Attractions/Riversleigh-Fossil-Centre.aspx

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

http://australianmuseum.net.au/Riversleigh

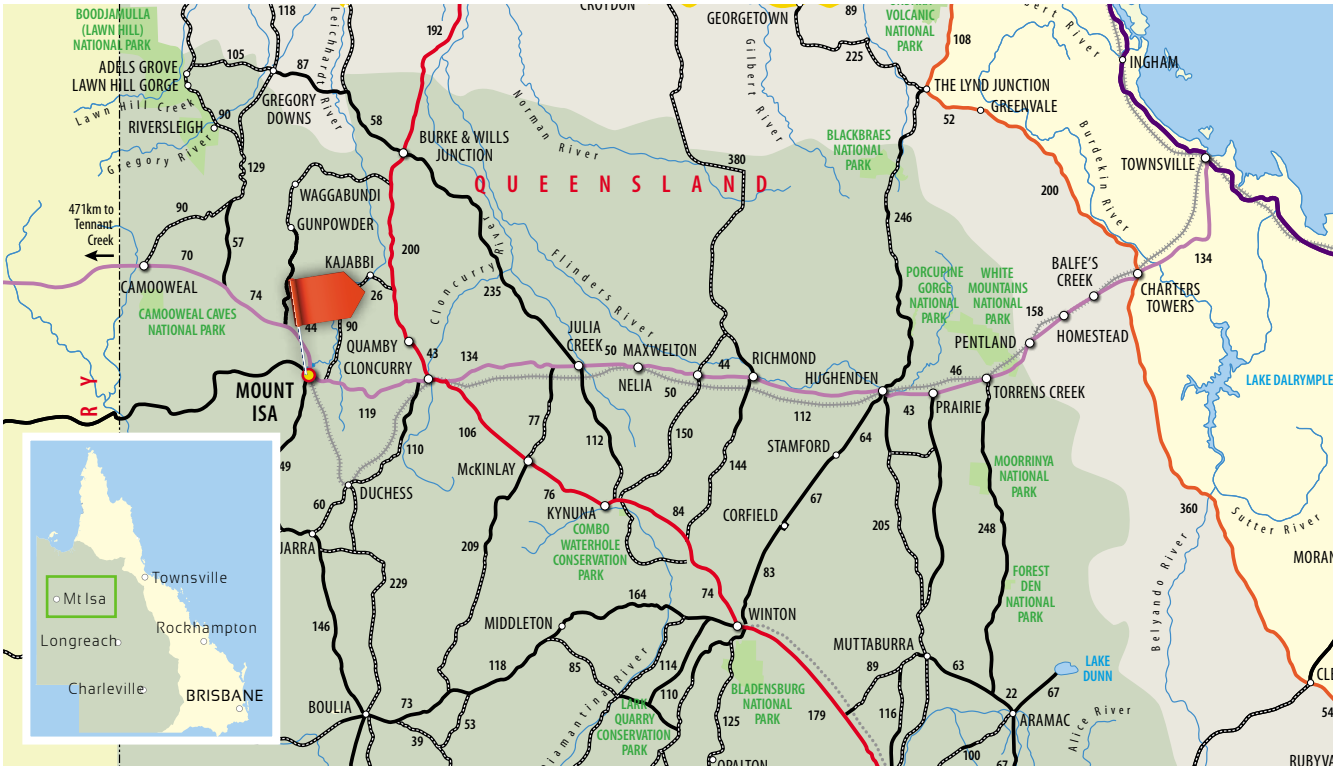
http://www.outbackatisa.com.au/Attractions/Riversleigh-Fossil-Centre.aspx

HYPERLINK "http://www.wakaleo.net" www.wakaleo.net

REFERENCES

http://www.create.unsw.edu.au/research/riversleigh.html

Riversleigh; Story of Animals in Ancient Rainforests of Inland Australia
Authors, Michael Archer, Suzanne Hand, Henk Godthelp
Published in 1994



Classroom Activity Suggestions

- Research and discuss the political environment at the time of significance of the Shearers' Strike.
- Turn the classroom into a mock parliament, creating your own parliamentary sittings. (http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/cce/default.asp?id=30184)
- Map Captain Starlight's journey with the cattle.
- Create a 'wanted' poster for Captain Starlight and display these around the school as a way of creating interest in this iconic Australian character.
- Research the cattle drive. Create a list of hardships they may have encountered on the drive.
- Write a diary for a week as if you were on a cattle drive.
- Research the impact that the Great Artesian Basin would have on Queensland and then the remainder of Australia.
- Read a daily newspaper and write down everything you can find related to mining in Queensland, Australia.
- What other evidence can you find (e.g songs, stories, poems, artworks) of the way people value the Outback landscapes?
- Research various Cobb & Co. routes and using mapping skills, develop a map which would clearly show all major routes that Cobb & Co. operated.
- Design an advertisment which would encourage early settlers to use the Cobb & Co. Coach line.
- Analyse the way forces are used to move and stop coaches.
- Create a solar system in your classroom.
- Research some quirky facts about planets in our solar system and how they got their names.

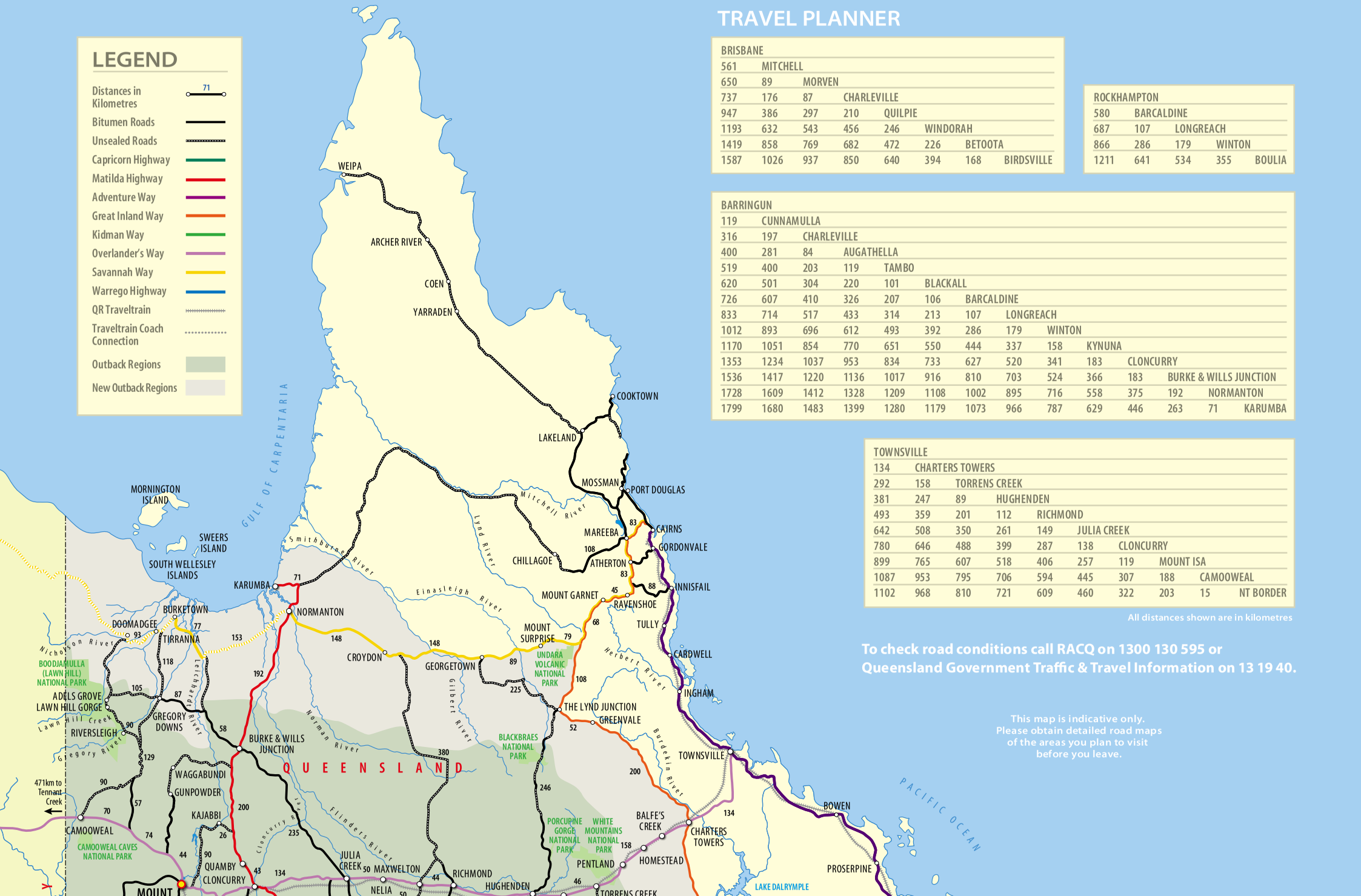


Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes



TRAVEL PLANNER

BRISBANE							
561	MITCHELL						
650	89	MORVEN					
737	176	87	CHARLEVILLE				
947	386	297	210	QUILPIE			
1193	632	543	456	246	WINDORAH		
1419	858	769	682	472	226	BETOOTA	
1587	1026	937	850	640	394	168	BIRDSVILLE

ROCKHAMPTON				
580	BARCALDINE			
687	107	LONGREACH		
866	286	179	WINTON	
1211	641	534	355	BOULIA

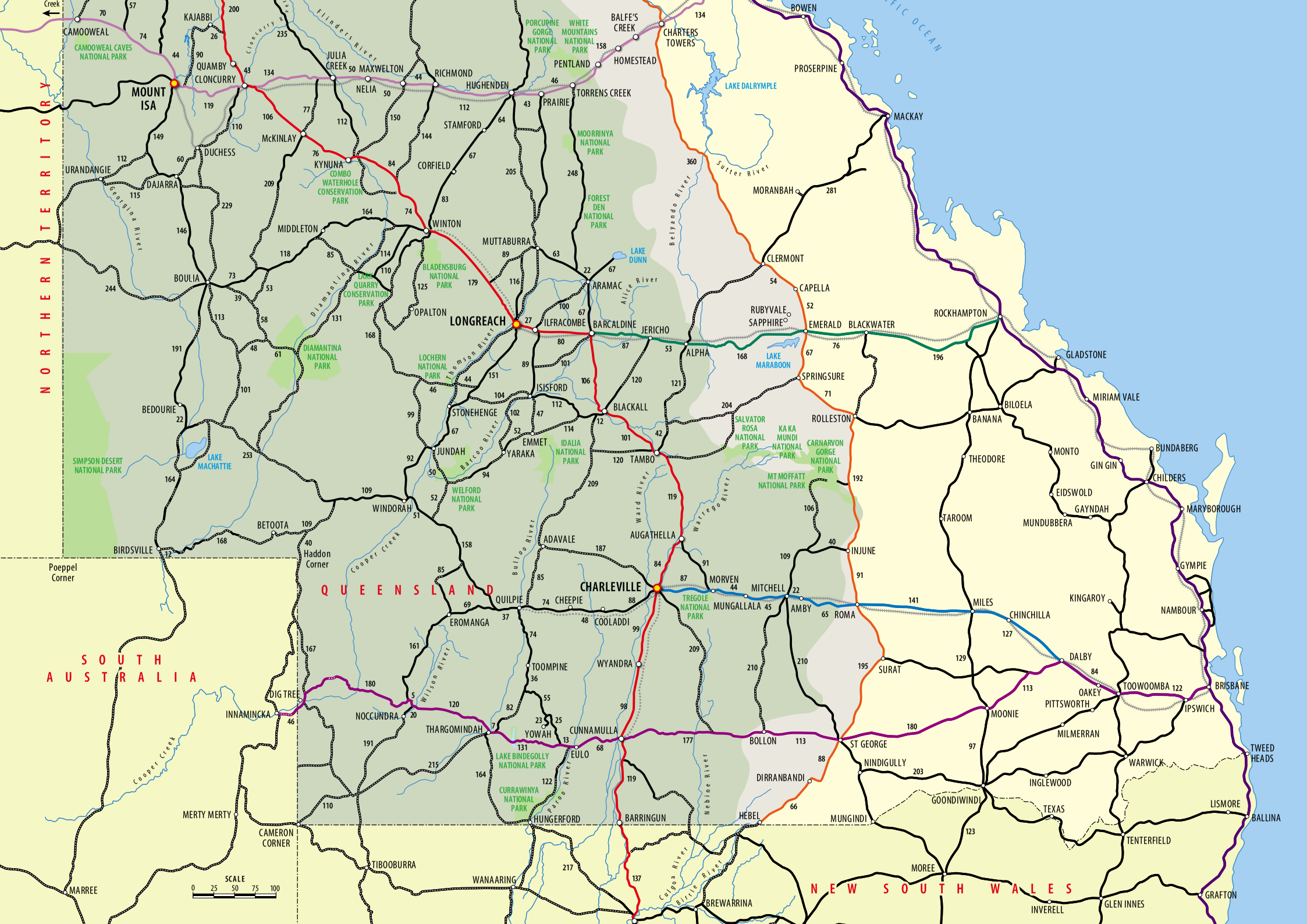
BARRINGUN												
119	CUNNAMULLA											
316	197	CHARLEVILLE										
400	281	84	AUGATHELLA									
519	400	203	119	TAMBO								
620	501	304	220	101	BLACKALL							
726	607	410	326	207	106	BARCALDINE						
833	714	517	433	314	213	107	LONGREACH					
1012	893	696	612	493	392	286	179	WINTON				
1170	1051	854	770	651	550	444	337	158	KYNUNA			
1353	1234	1037	953	834	733	627	520	341	183	CLONCURRY		
1536	1417	1220	1136	1017	916	810	703	524	366	183	BURKE & WILLS JUNCTION	
1728	1609	1412	1328	1209	1108	1002	895	716	558	375	192	NORMANTON
1799	1680	1483	1399	1280	1179	1073	966	787	629	446	263	71 KARUMBA

TOWNSVILLE									
134	CHARTERS TOWERS								
292	158	TORRENS CREEK							
381	247	89	HUGHENDEN						
493	359	201	112	RICHMOND					
642	508	350	261	149	JULIA CREEK				
780	646	488	399	287	138	CLONCURRY			
899	765	607	518	406	257	119	MOUNT ISA		
1087	953	795	706	594	445	307	188	CAMOOWEAL	
1102	968	810	721	609	460	322	203	15	NT BORDER

All distances shown are in kilometres

To check road conditions call RACQ on 1300 130 595 or Queensland Government Traffic & Travel Information on 13 19 40.

This map is indicative only. Please obtain detailed road maps of the areas you plan to visit before you leave.


NORTHERN TERRITORY
QUEENSLAND
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES
PACIFIC OCEAN
MOUNT ISA
CAMOOWEAL
CAMOOWEAL CAVES NATIONAL PARK
KAJABBI
QUAMBY
CLONCURRY
JULIA CREEK
MAXWELTON
NELIA
RICHMOND
HUGHENDEN
PENTLAND
HOMESTEAD
BALFE'S CREEK
CHARTERS TOWERS
PORCUPINE GORGE NATIONAL PARK
WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK
TORRENS CREEK
PRAIRIE
STAMFORD
McKINLAY
DUCHESS
URANDANGIE
DAJARRA
KYNUNA
COMBO WATERHOLE CONSERVATION PARK
CORFIELD
WINTON
MIDDLETON
MUTTABURRA
MOORRINYA NATIONAL PARK
FOREST DEN NATIONAL PARK
LAKE DUNN
BOULIA
OPALTON
LONGREACH
ILFRACOMBE
ARAMAC
BARCALDINE
JERICHO
ALPHA
CLERMONT
CAPELLA
RUBYVALE
SAPPHIRE
EMERALD
BLACKWATER
ROCKHAMPTON
LAKE MARABOON
SPRINGSURE
GLADSTONE
MORANBAH
PROSERPINE
MACKAY
BOWEN
LAKE DALRYMPLE
BLADENSBURG NATIONAL PARK
LAKE QUARRY CONSERVATION PARK
DIAMANTINA NATIONAL PARK
LOCHERN NATIONAL PARK
BEDOURIE
STONEHENGE
ISISFORD
BLACKALL
ROLLESTON
BANANA
BILOELA
MIRIAM VALE
SALVATOR ROSA NATIONAL PARK
KA KA MUNDI NATIONAL PARK
CARNARVON GORGE NATIONAL PARK
MT MOFFATT NATIONAL PARK
THEODORE
MONTO
GIN GIN
BUNDABERG
CHILDERS
EIDSWOLD
GAYNDAH
MARYBOROUGH
TAROOM
MUNDUBBERA
SIMPSON DESERT NATIONAL PARK
LAKE MACHATTIE
JUNDAH
YARAKA
EMMET
IDALIA NATIONAL PARK
TAMBO
WELFORD NATIONAL PARK
WINDORAH
BETOOTA
BIRDSVILLE
Haddon Corner
Poeppel Corner
AUGATHELLA
ADAVALE
INJUNE
GYMPIE
CHARLEVILLE
MORVEN
MITCHELL
TREGOLE NATIONAL PARK
MUNGALLALA
AMBY
ROMA
MILES
CHINCHILLA
KINGAROY
NAMBOUR
QUILPIE
CHEEPIE
COOLADDI
EROMANGA
TOOMPINE
WYANDRA
SURAT
DALBY
TOOWOOMBA
BRISBANE
OAKEY
PITTSWORTH
IPSWICH
MOONIE
MILMERRAN
DIG TREE
INNAMINCKA
NOCCUNDRA
THARGOMINDAH
YOWAH
CUNNAMULLA
EULO
BOLLON
ST GEORGE
NINDIGULLY
DIRRANBANDI
WARWICK
INGLEWOOD
GOONDIWINDI
TEXAS
TWEED HEADS
LISMORE
BALLINA
TENTERFIELD
LAKE BINDEGOLLY NATIONAL PARK
CURRAWINYA NATIONAL PARK
HUNGERFORD
BARRINGUN
HEBEL
MUNGINDI
MERTY MERTY
CAMERON CORNER
TIBOOBURRA
WANAARING
BREWARRINA
MOREE
INVERELL
GLEN INNES
GRAFTON
MARREE
Georgina River
Diamantina River
Thomson River
Barcoo River
Cooper Creek
Wilson River
Bulloo River
Ward River
Warrego River
Nebine River
Paroo River
Culgoa River
Birrie River
Belyando River
Sutter River
Alice River
Flinders River
Cloncurry River
SCALE
0 25 50 75 100

ACCREDITED VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

This sign denotes genuine, quality visitor information centres. These centres have achieved specified industry standards and are recognised within their region as genuine, quality information providers.

BARCALDINE
Barcaldine Tourist Information Centre
Oak Street, Barcaldine
P (07) 4651 1724 F (07) 4651 2243
infocentre@barcaldinerc.qld.gov.au
www.barcaldinerc.qld.gov.au

BEDOURIE
Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre
506 Herbert Street, Bedourie
P 1300 794 257 F (07) 4746 1272
visitors@diamantina.qld.gov.au
www.diamantina.qld.gov.au

BIRDSVILLE
Wirrarri Visitor information Centre
Billabong Boulevard, Birdsville
P (07) 4656 3300 F (07) 4656 3302
info@diamantina.qld.gov.au
www.diamantina.qld.gov.au

BLACKALL
Blackall Visitor Information Centre
108A Shamrock Street, Blackall
P (07) 4657 4637 F (07) 4657 4913
binfo@btrc.qld.gov.au
www.btrc.qld.gov.au

BOULIA
Min Min Encounter
25 Herbert Street, Boulia
P (07) 4746 3386 F (07) 4746 3387
tourism@boulia.qld.gov.au
www.boulia.qld.gov.au

CHARLEVILLE
Charleville Visitor Information Centre
Qantas Drive, Charleville
P (07) 4654 7771 F (07) 4654 7772
tourism@murweh.qld.gov.au
www.murweh.qld.gov.au

CHARTERS TOWERS
Charters Towers Visitor
Information Centre
74 Mosman Street, Charters Towers
P (07) 4761 5533 F (07) 4761 5536
tourinfo@charterstowers.qld.gov.au
www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au

CUNNAMULLA
Cunnamulla Fella Centre
2 Jane Street, Cunnamulla
P (07) 4655 8470 F (07) 4655 1120
cunnamullainfo@paroo.qld.gov.au
www.paroo.qld.gov.au

HUGHENDEN
Flinders Discovery Centre
37 Gray Street, Hughenden
P (07) 4741 2970 F (07) 4741 1029
info@flinders.qld.gov.au
www.flinders.qld.gov.au

JULIA CREEK
At the Creek
34 Burke Street, Julia Creek
P (07) 4746 7690 F (07) 4746 7005
tourism@mckinlay.qld.gov.au
www.atthecreek.com.au

LONGREACH
Longreach Visitor Information Centre
Qantas Park, 97 Eagle Street, Longreach
P (07) 4658 4150 F (07) 4658 4177
tourism@longreach.qld.gov.au
www.longreach.qld.gov.au

MOUNT ISA
Outback at Isa
19 Marian Street, Mount Isa
P (07) 4749 1555 F (07) 4743 6296
info@outbackatisa.com.au
www.outbackatisa.com.au

QUILPIE
Quilpie Visitor Information Centre
Museum & Gallery
51 Brolga Street, Quilpie
P (07) 4656 0540 F (07) 4656 1441
tourism@quilpie.qld.gov.au
www.quilpie.qld.gov.au

RICHMOND
Kronosaurus Korner
91-93 Goldring Street, Richmond
P (07) 4741 3429 F (07) 4741 3802
enquiries@kronosauruskorner.com.au
www.kronosauruskorner.com.au

WINDORAH
Windorah Visitor Information Centre
8 Maryborough Street, Windorah
P (07) 4656 3063 F (07) 4656 3137
windorah_library@bigpond.com
www.barcoo.qld.gov.au

WINTON
Winton Visitor Information Centre
50 Elderslie Street, Winton
P 1300 665 115 F (07) 4657 1886
vic@matildacentre.com.au
www.experiencewinton.com.au

For more information or for your FREE copy of Outback Queensland Travellers' Guide please contact: Outback Queensland Tourism Association Inc
P: **1800 247 966** F: **(07) 4658 2834** E: **info@outbackqld.com.au**
www.adventureoutback.com.au



Find us on Facebook:
facebook.com/OutbackQueensland

Follow us on Twitter:
twitter.com

Outback Queensland™
Where Australia Shines

Disclaimer *- Tourism and Events Queensland makes no warranty as to the correctness, completeness or suitability of purpose of the information. In no event will Tourism Queensland be liable to any person in contract, tort or otherwise if any information in the publication is incomplete, inaccurate or not suitable for the purpose you use the information for.*

The education fact sheets may only be reproduced for educational purposes. No changes may be made or copied from the itineraries.

© Copyright Tourism Queensland 2014