







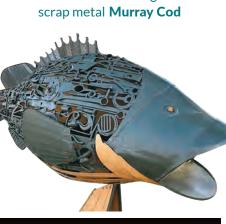




Bucket List

TICK THESE OFF YOUR **BUCKET LIST WHILE IN THE** ST GEORGE REGION

Marvel at St George's



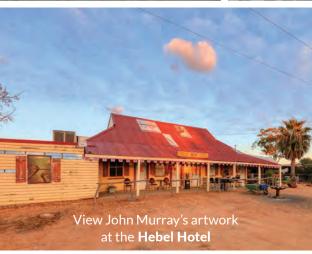




Uncover some history at the River & Rail Precinct





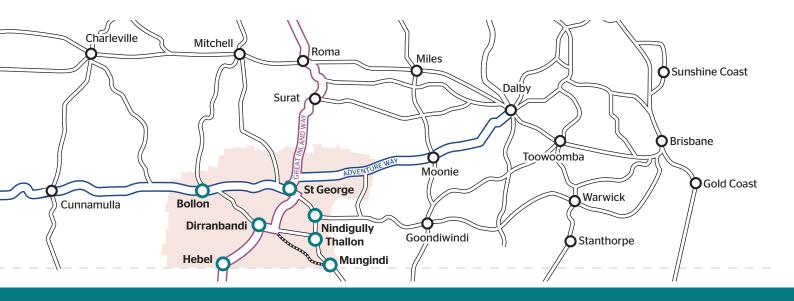




Touch a piece of history at Mungindi's One Ton **Post**

Admire the hand-carved emu eggs at The Unique Egg

Facilities & Services



WHERE ARE WE?

Be ready to explore far and wide and say "Ahhh the serenity".

From Brisbane, you'll find us 500 km inland over the Great Dividing Range or 120 km north of the Queensland border. It won't take you long either to reach our neighbours in Toowoomba or to venture to the red soils of the outback. No matter how long you stay with us, our nook of Queensland offers you the perfect chance to explore life beyond the city with our mix of small-town culture and excellent facilities.

AIR

Short on time? Take to the skies with Regional Express (Rex). Rex offers flights from St George to Toowoomba and Brisbane twice a week on Wednesday and Sunday (flight schedules subject to change).

For bookings and more information visit **rex.com.au** or call **13 17 13**.

BUS SERVICES

Call shot gun on a window seat and let someone else take the steering wheel for your road trip. The St George Region is serviced regularly by **Murray Coaches**. For bookings and more information visit **murrays.com.au** or call **13 22 51**.

ROAD

Welcome to road trip country! Wind down the windows and leave your worries in the rear view mirror as you travel along the sealed highways to and around the St George Region. Choose your own adventure or follow the scenic routes along the Adventure Way and Great Inland Way to reach "our place".

For up-to-date road conditions, contact the St George Region Visitor Information Centre or visit qldtraffic.qld.gov.au or call 13 19 40 or emergency.balonne.qld.gov.au

EV Charging Station can be found behind the St George Library.



MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE

Now is the time to unwind but if you need to dial up your friends or family, the Telstra and Optus networks are available in St George. In our surrounding towns, the Telstra Next G network is the only network available within a small radius of the towns.

ST GEORGE REGION VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Pull up at the St George Region Visitor Information Centre as your first pit stop to help you explore life beyond the city. The friendly staff have local hot tips from where the fish are biting to the best place to kick back around a campfire and toast a marshmallow. Book a local tour, get your social media fix with the centre's free wifi or browse the locally made gifts.

Got a caravan? There is plenty of caravan parking available at the rear of the building. Caravanners can top up their water supply here with the town's artesian water.



Centre Hours: M – F 8.30am – 4.30pm Weekends/Public Holidays: 9.00am – 1.00pm. Hours may vary out of season 114 St George's Terrace, St George – 07 4620 8877

EXPLORE THE

St George Region

FROM THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVE TO THE TIME YOU LEAVE, ST GEORGE RELAXES THE SENSES IN ALL THE RIGHT WAYS. PERCHED ON THE BANKS OF THE MIGHTY BALONNE RIVER, IT IS THE PERFECT BASE FROM WHICH TO EXPLORE THE BEAUTIFUL BALONNE SHIRE.



Camping Areas

oasting six free campsites and four RV Friendly towns (Bollon, Dirranbandi, Mungindi and Thallon), whether you want to pitch a tent, roll out your swag or stay in your home on wheels, the St George Region's got you covered.

WALLAM CREEK - BOLLON

Bollon's Wallam Creek ticks all the boxes if you're looking to rest up at a quiet, comfortable, outback camping spot with amenities. Located right in town, the abundance of wildlife here will flourish around you at these large sites on the banks of the creek. To find out more, refer to the Bollon section.

NINDIGULLY TOURIST & VISITOR AREA

Just 45 km south east of St George, 'The Gully' as it's locally known, has a picturesque camping area perched between the Moonie River and the iconic Nindigully Pub. Here it's only a short stroll to the pub's happy hour and you'll have access to toilets, showers, tables and the historical Gully Walk. You won't have to go far if "just one drink" turns into a few more. To find out more, refer to the Nindigully section.

McGEEVER RECREATIONAL GROUNDS THALLON

Looking for absolute camping goals? Admire Thallon's towering grain silos in all their colourful glory from dawn to dusk at the quiet McGeever Recreational Grounds. Toilets and showers are available at the grounds. Power is accessible for those who are looking for greater comforts by contacting the Town Officer on **0427 259 095** or from the Francis Hotel.

BARWON RIVER - MUNGINDI

Don't forget your fishing rod if you're parking up at the Barwon River Camp Area. This basic camping area is set on the north bank of the Barwon River in Mungindi, 118 km south east of St George. Toilets and showers available for campers and potable water. Stay for a day (or longer) to reel in Yellowbelly and Murray Cod. To find out more, refer to the Mungindi section.

BALONNE MINOR - DIRRANBANDI

Self-sufficient campers can stay at this site 3 km west of Dirranbandi on Dirranbandi–Bollon Road, around 94 km south of St George. You'll need to bring your own drinking water as there are no facilities at this area.

WARROO BRIDGE

Are you a fully self-contained traveller? Rest up after an adventure-filled day by uncovering this secluded spot at Warroo Bridge. Find it by travelling 52 km north of St George on the way to Surat, until you see the 'Wanganui/ Warroo Bridge' sign. Travel a further 9 km west along the sealed road until you reach Warroo Bridge. No amenities are available.

National Parks

ur region's two national parks are your antidote to the city life and will fill your appetite for adventure. Set up your own bush camp, lace up your boots for a bushwalk or listen out for the sounds of the local birdlife. To make the most of your national park experience, you must be fully self-sufficient and prepared with adequate equipment and supplies. No phone or wifi services are available. National park campsites must be prebooked online via **qpws.usedirect.com/QPWS** or phone **13 74 68 (13 QGOV)**.

THRUSHTON NATIONAL PARK

For an adventure and history lesson in one, make your way to Thrushton National Park, approximately 40 km north east of Bollon. Your phone notifications will be replaced by bird calls with over 100 different bird species having been identified at Thrushton. See the wildflowers bloom here in spring or spy a koala or echidna at Neabul Creek. There are no designated walking tracks but keen bushwalkers can lace up and pull out a compass for an adventure navigating through this seemingly untouched bushland. The ruins of Thrushton Homestead and surrounding station buildings are a reminder of the area's previous life as a sheep property. Camping at the Old Shearers Shed will give you a dose of nostalgia.

GETTING TO THRUSHTON NATIONAL PARK

Thrushton National Park is accessible in dry weather only via dirt roads. From St George, drive 51 km west along the Balonne Highway towards Bollon. When you reach the Boolba tennis courts, take the next right and follow the road for 36.3 km (eventually becomes Cypress Tank Road) until you reach the Rutherglen Road turnoff. Follow Rutherglen Road for 14.5 km until you reach the eastern corner of the park.

For those travelling from Bollon, drive 14 km east along the Balonne Highway towards St George, turn left at Mourilyan Road and travel 17 km north to reach the southern boundary of the park. Please leave any gates you pass through as you find them. Four-wheel drives are recommended.

CULGOA FLOODPLAIN NATIONAL PARK

Is a four-wheel-drive adventure calling? Then Culgoa Floodplain National Park is where you're setting your GPS. Tucked away 50 km south west of Hebel on the Queensland border, this national park offers a great side-trip for those wanting a serene camping experience. This 42,895 hectare national park will have your binoculars glued to your eyes with more than 150 bird species recorded here. Amongst the kaleidoscope of landscapes you'll find stone tool scatters and cooking sites, a reminder of the long association Aboriginal people have with this land, as well as relics of the former Byra Station.

GETTING TO CULGOA FLOODPLAIN

The park is accessible in dry weather only via dirt roads. From Hebel, travel 45 km south to Goodooga along a sealed road. From Goodooga, turn right into Brenda Road before taking the left fork after the cattle grid. Follow the 'Byra 7 km' sign until you have reached the park's eastern boundary. Please leave any gates you pass through as you find them. Four-wheel drives are essential.

Agriculture

griculture is the lifeblood of our region and has served as the original "farm to table" experience for over 40,000 years. Here we'll give you a taste of what it's like to live on the land and we'll reconnect you with where your produce comes from. Our waterways which traverse the region provide opportunity for irrigated crops from cotton to grapes (that means wine too) and onions, while our rural landscapes offer the perfect conditions for beef, sheep and wool production.

While the thermostat rarely drops below zero here, it's not uncommon to see our region's roadsides appear like a white wonderland. Cotton is St George Region's leading industry with Dirranbandi's Cubbie Station holding the title for the largest irrigated cotton farm in the Southern Hemisphere.

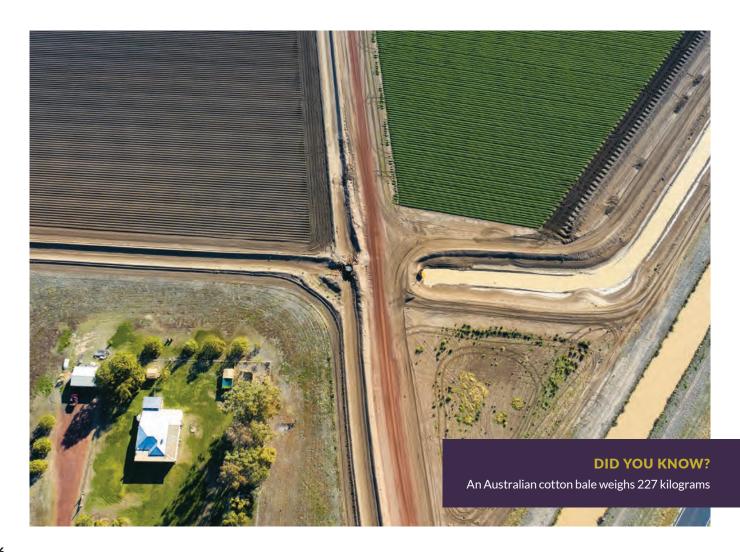
Cotton is planted in spring, grown during summer, and picked in autumn. The seeds grow into green, bushy shrubs about a metre in height and require irrigation every 2-3 weeks, dependent on the climate. When the calendar turns over to March/April each year, our region goes into harvest mode and you'll spot the cotton being picked by mechanical pickers and gathered into large, wrapped modules, ready for processing. Take the **Cotton Self-Drive Trail** to cotton on to what we're talking about. Turn to page 30 to embark on the Cotton Self-Drive Trail.

Thallon's fertile soils make it some of Queensland's best **wheat**-growing country. Between September and November, our grain depots are a bustling place with the harvest of the winter grain crops. Our grain is transported by either road or rail to the Port of Brisbane where it takes to the seas to help feed the world.

Turn back time before **cotton** became our region's powerhouse; **sheep and wool** were historically our predominant industry. The country surrounding Bollon and between the Moonie, Balonne and Narran Rivers were regarded as some of the best sheep country within the state. Be sure to add Bollon's **Heritage Centre** to your itinerary to see the shearing displays which are a tribute to this.

Here in the St George Region, we can fuel your soul as well as your taste buds. **Horticulture** is an important part of our agriculture industry and includes crops such as **blueberries**, **broccoli**, **grapes**, **onions**, **carrots** and **garlic**.

If wine is your port of call, we'll have you sorted from grape to glass at Queensland's most western winery. At **Riversands Wines** in St George, you can sip your way through our best local drops. Their vineyard's wine grapes are made into red and white table wines, ports and liqueurs while their table grapes are sold as fresh fruit to supermarkets or turned into grape jams and chutneys.





Sport

ith each of St George Region's seven towns located on a river, water sport activities are a favourite pastime for locals and visitors alike. The region is also fortunate to have a variety of sporting facilities with two local Golf Clubs - one in St George which boasts one of the best sand green golf courses in South West Queensland and the other in Dirranbandi, as well as impressive ball courts, skate parks and sporting fields where you can catch a local game of cricket or footy. Be sure to pack your swimmers along with your kayak, tennis racquet and golf clubs. Pick up a comprehensive list of all sporting groups from the St George Region Visitor Information Centre.

Birdwatching

f birdwatching is one of your loves, then here in the St George Region you'll find over 240 bird species recorded. Pack your binoculars or telephoto lens to ensure you're ready to make the most of our region's wildlife. Ask any local and they'll tell you that the best birdwatching spots are along our rivers throughout the region.

Cruise down the Balonne River in St George on a birdwatching cruise with **Sandytown River Cruises, 0400 219 379** or **sandytownrivercruises.com** with your local guide to help you spot them.

Spring marks wildflower season here where you'll be returning home with many snaps of the colourful blooms which contrast strikingly with our surrounding landscapes. To see the best of our blooms, sign yourself up for a four-wheel-drive **wildflower day tour** with Andarr on the Terrace Bed & Breakfast in St George. Running from August to October, tours are available on request. If you would like to request more information, contact Elizabeth on **0427 254 230**.

To help find our feathery friends, get your **free copy of the** *Birds of the Balonne* brochure from St George Region Visitor Information Centre.



OUR BIRDLIFE HOT SPOTS:

- Beardmore Dam
- Buckinbah Weir
- Moonie River
- Wallam Creek
- Thrushton National Park
- Culgoa National Park
- Bokhara River
- Warroo Bridge
- Barwon River
- Balonne River
- Old Bullamon Bridge
- Balonne Minor River

Key Events

MARCH/APRIL

- Grazing at the Watering Hole, Thallon (biennial)
- Battle on the Balonne, St George
- Easter in the Vines, St George
- St George Campdraft
- Dirranbandi Show & Campdraft
- Dirranbandi Fishing Competition

MAY

- St George Show
- Bollon Polocrosse

JUNE

 Dragon Country Sandgreen Cup, St George

JULY

- Mungindi Races
- St George Polocrosse
- St George Cup Races
- Dirranbandi Polocrosse

AUGUST

- Mungindi Show
- Dirranbandi Campdraft

SEPTEMBER

- River Dragon Festival (biennial)
- St George Campdraft
- Nindigully Campdraft
- Hebel Campdraft
- Balonne Cutting Horse Futurity, St George

OCTOBER

• St George Fishing Competition

NOVEMBER

• Nindigully Pig Races

* EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE









St George

hether you choose to wander your way and go play or join a guided tour of our best experiences, we'll help you connect with the simple things in life rather than your phone screen. As Queensland's Inland Fishing Capital, you won't be surprised to find St George perched on the banks of the Balonne River where the life of our region revolves around our waterways. We're the perfect place to set up base to help you explore the St George Region, where country meets the outback.

Explore our town on foot along the shady **Riverbank Walkway** which flanks the town. Beginning below the Jack Taylor Weir, this 2 km stretch will have you pulling out your binoculars to spot our thriving local birdlife. Along the way check off the **commemorative stone** which marks Sir Major Thomas Mitchell's crossing of the Balonne River on St George's Day back in 1846, and the **Fighter Pilot War Memorial** paying tribute to two brave men hailing from St George. The War Memorial Wall monument is located next to this, commemorating those who served in all conflicts.

There's no better way to experience St George than taking a cruise down the Balonne River. Pack a bottle of wine and nibbles and take in the serenity onboard the "Balonne Baroo Andoo" with **Sandytown River Cruises**. Through the eyes of local captain Brett, learn about the river's cultural aspects and its flora and fauna including over 240 bird species which call St George home. The sunset reflections on the tree-lined river make for postcard-perfect photos. Your pooches won't have to stay behind either with pets welcome onboard. Take your pick from a leisurely afternoon cruise, fishing tour or a full moon evening cruise. For more information or to book visit **Sandytown River Cruises sandytownrivercruises.com** or call Brett on **0400 219 379**.

DON'T MISS:

- Cotton Self-Drive Trail
- St George Riverbank Walkway
- Jack Taylor Weir / Andrew Nixon Bridge
- The Unique Egg
- Riversands Wines
- Sandytown River Cruises
- St George Pilots & War Memorial
- 1917 T-Model Ford Baker's Truck
- Beardmore Dam
- St George Heritage Trail
- Cacti & Succulent Garden
- Miniature Car Collection
- Flood Height Marker
- Handmade St George
- Murray Cod Fish Sculpture
- Cotton Farm & Vineyard Tour (May – October)
- St George Heritage Tour (May – October)
- Thermal Springs/Splash Park
- Buckinbar Weir





EASTER IN THE VINES

Join us for a fun weekend of live music, family entertainment and laughter at Riversands Easter in the Vines. It is our signature event held on Saturday & Sunday of the Easter weekend. Entry is free.

Set in the lush Riversands gardens it offers a chance to enjoy a glass of our Riversands best and socialise with friends. You can dance your afternoon away to our feature band, cook your own bbq lunch or join in the Easter egg hunt!

FIND DETAILS AT:

riversandswines.com/easter-vines

AUSTRALIA DAY LONG TABLE TASTE OF THE BALONNE

Riversands Long Table Taste of the Balonne is held on Australia Day down amongst the vines. It is a night to celebrate harvest and showcase our finest local foods paired with Riversands Wine. The event features grape stomping and live entertainment while you dine under the stars on a balmy evening. A five-course extravaganza is prepared by Mitchell chef Sue Alm & staff. You will also hear from guest speakers and local food suppliers about their journey.

FIND DETAILS AT:

riversandswines.com/long-table-balonne

OPERA IN THE VINEYARD

This annual event is presented by Opera Eagles Nest. Recent shows included "Broadway on the Balonne", "A Night in Tuscany" & "A Touch of Andrew Lloyd Webber".

Held in September under the stars in our garden precinct this event brings people together through wine, food and song.

FIND DETAILS AT:

riversandswines.com/broadway-balonne



tineraries

FOR MORE DETAILED ITINERARIES, VISIT: STGEORGEREGION.COM.AU

3 DAY ITINERARY:

Outback Oasis Explored

DAY 1:

46 kilometres

ST GEORGE TO NINDIGULLY

- Balonne Riverbank Walkway
- The Unique Egg
- St George Heritage Trail
- St George Bakery
- The Nindigully Pub

Overnight Nindigully.

DAY 2:

33 kilometres

NINDIGULLY TO THALLON

- Great fishing at Moonie River
- Stroll along the Gully Walk
- "Watering Hole" mural at the Thallon GrainCorp Silos
- Self-guided history tour starting at Francis Hotel
- "William the Wombat" sculpture Overnight Thallon.

DAY 3:

79 kilometres

THALLON TO ST GEORGE

- Riversands Vineyards
- Anchorage Homestead
- St George BATHS
- Sandytown River Cruises aboard "Balonne Baroo Andoo"

Overnight St George.

4 DAY ITINERARY: Adventure Way Loop

DAY 1:

46 kilometres

ST GEORGE TO NINDIGULLY

- Balonne Riverbank Walkway
- Riversands Vineyards
- St George Bakery
- The Nindigully Pub

Overnight Nindigully.

DAY 2:

33 kilometres

NINDIGULLY TO THALLON

- Great fishing at Moonie River
- · Stroll along the Gully Walk
- "Watering Hole" mural at the Thallon GrainCorp Silos
- Self-guided history tour starting at Francis Hotel
- "William the Wombat" sculpture Overnight Thallon.

DAY 3:

65 kilometres

THALLON TO DIRRANBANDI

- Cubbie Station
- Dirranbandi Bakery
- Jack Dwyer Park
- Dirranbandi Railway Precinct

Overnight Dirranbandi.

DAY 4:

106 kilometres

DIRRANBANDI TO BOLLON

- Nullawokka First Nations Gallery
- Bollon Cultural Walk
- Thrushton National Park
- Thrushton Homestead ruins Aboriginal dreamtime artwork

Overnight Bollon.

DAY 2:

• Jack Dwyer Park

Overnight Dirranbandi.

65 kilometres

DIRRANBANDI TO THALLON

• 'Watering Hole' mural at the Thallon GrainCorp Silos

• Dirranbandi Railway Precinct

- Self-guided history tour starting at Francis Hotel
- "William the Wombat" sculpture Overnight Thallon.

DAY 3:

79 kilometres

THALLON TO ST GEORGE

- The Nindigully Pub
- Throw in a fishing line at Moonie River
- Sandytown River Cruises aboard "Balonne Baroo Andoo"

Overnight St George.

DAY 4:

ST GEORGE

- Balonne Riverbank Walkway
- St George Bakery
- The Unique Egg
- Cotton Self-Drive Trail
- Anchorage Homestead
- Riversands Vineyards

Overnight St George.

DAY 5:

112 kilometres

ST GEORGE TO BOLLON

- Nullawokka First Nations Gallery
- Bollon Cultural Walk
- Thrushton National Park
- Thrushton Homestead ruins
- Aboriginal dreamtime artwork

Overnight Bollon.



THE AUSTRALIAN HOTEL MOTEL

Overlooking the Balonne River and close to the CBD

On the banks of the Balonne River, the Australian Hotel offers a variety of rooms, all with a wide range of facilities:

- 20 modern ensuite motel rooms with double/single beds + air-con
- 11 river view rooms overlooking the Balonne River
- Accommodation and catering packages provided
- WI-FI available
- Ample parking for larger vehicles and contractors/tradesmen
- ATM
- Breakfast served daily from 7am till 10am in the dining room

Our restaurant and beer garden are a great spot to have a meal, enjoy a drink and we also have an onsite Liquor Legends Bottle Shop with the best prices in St George.

96–98 St Georges Terrace, St George P 07 4625 5000 E info@aushotel.com.au









BLENHEIM BACKPACKER HOSTEL

Clean, quiet and friendly environment

- Two comfortable kitchens with utensils provided
- Clean and safe water
- Free WiFi
- Linen provided

145 Commissioners Point Road, St George P 07 4625 1538 or 0447 812 200 E nicolas.antoniou@bigpond.com

https://blenheim-backpackers-hostel.business.site





JACARANDA COUNTRY MOTEL

Set amidst beautiful landscaped gardens on the Carnarvon Highway

- 18 x Disabled, King, Queen & Family units
- Quality pillow top mattresses
- Ground floor units
- Undercover parking & off street parking
- Breakfast available daily
- Evening room service Monday Thursday
- Free Wifi
- Saltwater pool, gazebo & BBQ area
- Microwave
- RC air con
- Guest laundry

78–80 Grey Street, St George P 07 4625 1011 M 0474 251 012 E info@jacarandacountrymotel.com.au jacarandacountrymotel.com.au





KAMAROOKA TOURIST PARK

Clean • Quiet • Friendly

- 2 blocks to the town centre & 1 block to the riverside walk
- Barista coffee onsite (seasonal)
- Happy Hour (on season)
- Modern fully self-contained family cabins
- Fully self-contained rustic log studio cabins
- Large, clean, modern amenities
- Fully equipped camp kitchen and free electric barbecues
- Free Wifi
- Drive through powered sites
- Grassed shady sites some with annex slabs
- Heated therapeutic pool (seasonal)
- Gas refills and party/block ice onsite
- Convenience/take away shop across the road

56 Victoria Street, St George P 07 4625 3120 E info@kamarookatouristpark.com.au

kamarookatouristpark.com.au





MERINO MOTOR INN & RESTAURANT

Affordable & Comfortable Motel Accommodation

With more than six room categories, we have a range of accommodation to suit all needs. From the holidaying family, corporate traveller or those just passing through, we've got you covered. For a list of all amenities please visit the accommodation page on our website. All rooms include:

- Large screen televisions
- Air-conditioning
- Mini fridge, kettle and toaster
- Tea, coffee and milk are provided complimentary to all guests

The Merino Motor Inn Restaurant and Bar is the perfect destination to drink, dine and celebrate any occasion. We are proud to offer the ultimate dining experience to both our guests and the general public. Boasting a relaxed atmosphere in our air-conditioned restaurant, with our quality food at affordable prices.

78 Victoria Street, St George P 07 4625 3333 E bookings@merinomotorinn.com.au

merinomotorinn.com.au







RIVER GUM TOURIST PARK

Your hosts Ann & Ivan Bradley welcome you

- Situated 100m from the Balonne River
- Ensuite cabins
- Grass drive thru sites
- Grass tent/camp sites
- Powered and unpowered sites
- Gas barbeques
- Clean amenities
- Laundry facilities
- Camp kitchen
- Clean, quiet and friendly
- Pets under control welcomed
- Park pet friendly but no pets in cabins



221 Victoria Street, St George P 07 4625 5778



ST GEORGE RIVERFRONT TOURIST PARK

Absolute riverfront sites

Kapunda Fishing Park is set amongst 40 acres of natural bush and river, featuring original untouched Aboriginal memorabilia including bush tucker, scar trees and natural billabongs.

- Absolute riverfront powered & unpowered sites for all sizes
- Motor home/caravan & camping/tent sites
- All sites with individual fire places
- Go bird watching amongst the native fauna & flora
- Pets conditional
- Cafe & convenience store
- Firewood, ice, coffee | Bait & fishing accessories
- Clean amenities running treated river water, not town bore water
- Private customers-only boat ramp
- 24hr park security/boom gate
- All-weather access roads through the park

12747 Carnarvon Highway, St George **P** 0408 183 134

E kapundafishingpark@gmail.com

facebook.com/KapundaFishingPark





AMBER'S HAIR PARLOUR

'People will stare, make it worth their while' ... Harry Winston

Amber's Hair Parlour offers:

- Wedding services
- Ladies and men's cuts
- Colours
- Foils

- Belayage packages
- Ear piercing
- Special styles
- Sets and perms

Feel free to give us a call for quotes and enquiries regarding all your

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am to 5pm (closed Monday); Saturday 8am to 1pm.

62 St Georges Terrace, St George **P** 07 4625 1693 E amber.radford1985@gmail.com facebook.com/ambershairandbeauty





ST GEORGE

Cotton Vineyard Tour

Join us on this enthralling 5 hour tour where we showcase our irrigated agriculture and unique western Queensland award-winning wines.

- ◆ See where we grow your irrigated food and fibre
- Meet a local farmer to learn about growing, irrigating and picking cotton
- Tour Queensland's most western winery, Riversands Vineyards to learn about growing table and wine grapes
- Savour the flavours of our western whites, reds, sparkling and fortified wines, followed by a 3 course lunch in our garden cafe





T&Cs: Cotton Vineyard Tours are scheduled every Thursday from April to September or on demand outside these times. Join our early tours in April–May to see cotton picking. Min 12, max 24 persons/tour. Picking up 8.45 am onwards from van parks, motels & VIC. Returning by 2 pm. \$50/head cash only. This tour is for the whole family. Half price school aged kids. Free pre-school. Check details at *riversandswines.com/cotton-tour*

ALL TOUR BOOKINGS

contact Balonne Shire Visitor Information Centre
on 07 4620 8877 or vic@balonne.qld.gov.au or
Riversands Vineyards on 07 4625 3643
www.riversandswines.com/events

ST GEORGE

HeritageTour

Hear about our rich heritage on this illuminating 4 hour guided tour where we profile the town's history, flood stories, the Anchorage Homestead and the story of horticulture and grape growing in St George.

- ♦ Learn about the stories and legends of St George on a town tour
- ◆ Visit the magnificent Anchorage Homestead built in 1903 where the owners will share its history and restoration journey
- ◆ Delight in morning tea on the Anchorage's sweeping verandas
- ◆ Tour Queensland's most western winery, Riversands Vineyards to learn about the history of horticulture and grape production in the district
- Hear the stories behind the labels on our whites, reds, sparkling and fortified wines along with a full tasting and 3 course lunch



T&Cs: Heritage tours are scheduled every Tuesday from May to September or on demand outside these times. Min 12, max 24 persons/tour. Picking up 9.45 am onwards from van parks, motels & VIC. Returning by 2 pm. \$50/head cash only. Half price school aged kids. Free pre-school. Check details at *riversandswines.com/st-george-heritage-tour*





OPEN 7 DAYS FOR WINE TASTING & CAFÉ
Monday to Saturday 9am – 5pm, Sunday 9am – 4pm
66 Whytes Road, St George Q 4487 | P: 07 4625 3643

facebook.com/riversandswines

instagram.com/riversandswinery O

tripadvisor.com.au/riversandswinery @

sales@riversandswines.com

... (60

BOOK ONLINE AT RIVERSANDSWINES.COM



ST GEORGE FOODWORKS

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 8am - 6:30pm
Thu 8am - 7pm, Sat 8am - 5pm
Sun 9am - 1pm

Fresh Fruit & Vegetables, Full-Service Deli
Quality Meats, Magazines & Stationery

Shop online at www.stgeorgefoodworks.com.au

plden Casket Lotto & Scratch-Its

Home Delivery Available

Phone 0746 253 404 88 Victoria Street, St George

Locally Owned and Operated



THE FARMHOUSE

Where our biggest asset is you

We're proud to offer the highest quality, most unique products on the market today, with a strong focus on small batch Australian made brands.

Our range covers the perfect finishing touch for your home, gifts for that someone special or yourself, and gourmet goodies in our larder.

We also stock a comprehensive range of ladies accessories to suit any style.

From our family to yours, we put lots of love and careful attention into each item. We hope you enjoy our work as much as we enjoy bringing it to you.

Open Monday to Friday 6.30am - 2.30pm; Saturday 7am - 12noon.

103 Victoria Street, St George P 07 4506 1735 E farmhousestgeorge@outlook.com farmhousestgeorge.com





Visit Riversands Wines

Cellar Door & Café

Visit our cellar door and sample our award winning wines all grown at Queensland's most western winery at St George on the banks of the Balonne River. Enjoy our delicious food in our garden café where there is lots of space for kids to play and pets on a leash on our shady green lawns.

- ♦ Savour the flavours of our western whites, reds, sparkling and famous fortified wines with a free tasting
- Enjoy smoko or lunch in our garden café with your favourite glass of wine
- Check out our unique gifts including our grape preserves
- ◆ Book in a group function

FIND US: Only 5 minutes from the town centre. Travel west along Victoria Street towards the Jack Taylor Weir and turn left at our sign into Bowen Street, then right at the next sign into Whytes Road. Follow the signs for 2kms until you see our sign post. Access is all-weather with a U-shaped circuit and parking for large caravans and motorhomes. Visit riversandswines.com/visit-cellar-door





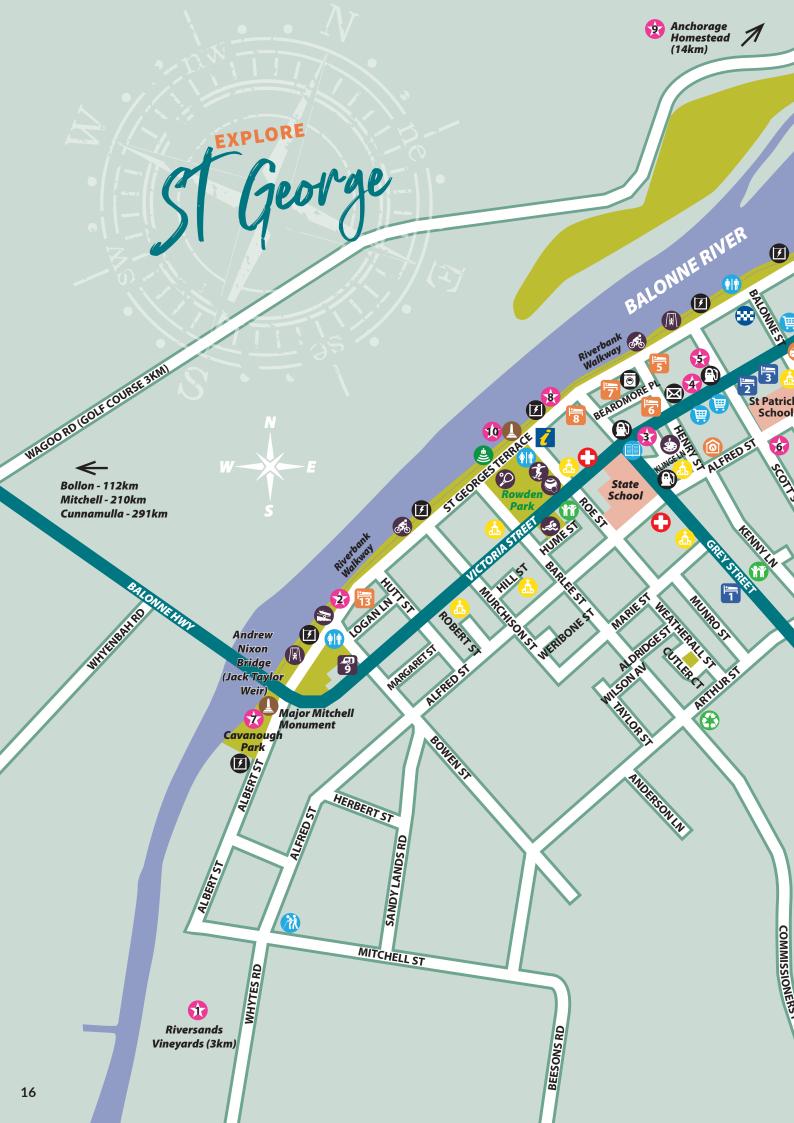
OPEN 7 DAYS FOR WINE TASTING & CAFÉ Monday to Saturday 9am – 5pm, Sunday 9am – 4pm 66 Whytes Road, St George Q 4487 | P: 07 4625 3643 facebook.com/riversandswines

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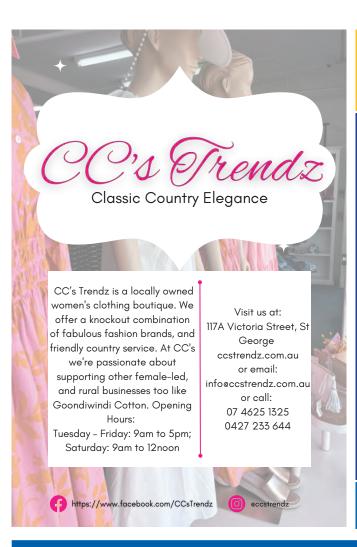
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 TUESDAY
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 WEDNESDAY
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 THURSDAY
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 FRIDAY
 8:00am - 5:00pm

 SATURDAY
 8:00am - 1:00pm

 SUNDAY
 CLOSED

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P: 4625 3399

147 GREY STREET | ST GEORGE

et to know more about the local cotton industry on the 94-kilometre **Cotton Self-Drive Trail**. Grab a barista-made coffee and pack some smoko and journey through the history of our region's irrigation and cotton industry. Between October and April each year is when you'll see the action unfolding. Turn to page 30 to embark on the Cotton Self-Drive Trail.

For the absolute best of St George, our **Cotton Farm** and **Vineyard Tours** are the cream of the crop. Held from April to October, our St George Region Visitor Information Centre can book you in for this four-hour guided experience to really give you a taste for life here in St George. Our passionate local farmers will take you from the front door of your accommodation to one of our cotton producers who will give you the 101 on how cotton is grown, irrigated and harvested. Thinking it's thirsty work? A tour of the **Riversands Vineyards** to follow will have you sipping and swirling their wines alongside a delicious lunch. To make a booking contact the **St George Region Visitor Information Centre** on **07 4620 8877**.

The **Unique Egg** is where you'll find emu eggs transformed into genuinely impressive hand-carved pieces of illuminated art. Created by the steady hands of local artisan Steve Margaritis for more than 40 years, the eggs are on display in store but have been displayed at World Expos and gifted as far as the White House.

Dine, drink and feast your way through St George. Our quaint cafés will fix your need for caffeine and have you licking your lips with their home-made treats. For a night off cooking take to our local dining scene or enjoy a hearty pub meal.

Clink glasses at **Riversands Wines** and sip your way through Queensland's most western winery. Nestled on the banks of the Balonne River, they'll give you the full vine to vino experience. Here you can tour the vineyard and taste their wine range including their delicious fortified muscats and famous port at their cellar door. Find a spot in their country garden to spend a morning or afternoon and experience their country hospitality – you won't be sorry. Their award-winning wines make the best souvenir to take home with you.

For a unique country bakery experience, make tracks to the **St George Bakery.** Fuel your pie hole with one of their flaky pastries which have been rumoured to be the best apple turnovers in the outback before jumping on a tour of town with the town's very own baker Trent on his **1917 Model-T Ford** delivery truck. For just \$5, Trent will show you St George through his own eyes onboard his historic vehicle, with all proceeds going to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Pack a picnic and your tacklebox for a trip to Beardmore Dam on the edge of town. See kangaroos lazing at the recreation area and spot pelicans gliding along the water. Stay for sunset and you'll be rewarded with an afternoon light show. Upstream, the Beardmore Dam is the point where the Maranoa and Condamine Rivers meet forming the northern catchment of the Murray Darling Basin.

tep back in time to the 1800s on the **St George**Heritage Trail. This drive trail will have you exploring St George's important historical sites and turning the history pages on what's shaped the town. To find the trail brochure and Heritage Centre hours, visit the St George Region Visitor Information Centre.

There's no need to hit the books for a history lesson on St George. The St George Heritage Tour will take you back in time starting with a town tour and then a visit to the heritage-listed Anchorage Homestead, one of the region's oldest homes built in 1903. Steeped in history, the homestead is surrounded by an acre of green lawn and cottage-style gardens, adding to the beauty of the residence where you'll enjoy morning tea. You'll then make your way to the St George Heritage Centre to continue your lesson of the town before topping your day off with a wine tasting at Riversands Vineyards, where grapes were first planted in 1986. To make a booking contact the St George Region Visitor Information Centre.

Make a splash when the day's exploring is done at the **Balonne Artesian Thermal Hot Springs (BATHS)** in St George. With the water a warm 34 degrees from the Great Artesian Basin, there's no better way to unwind in the afternoon, believe us. Looking for a more adrenaline way to cool down? Why not test out the **Splash Park.**

If there's time in your St George itinerary, make your way to the **Cacti Garden** which boasts cacti from across North, South and Central America. Entry is a gold coin donation with proceeds going towards the Hear and Say Centre. Call **07 4625 4190** to arrange a viewing.

Car enthusiasts can make their way to our local **Miniature Car Collection** specialising in diecast cars. Call **07 4625 3636** and arrange a viewing for a gold coin donation. Funds raised go towards Care Flight.

Awake to a new day beyond the city from a variety of our accommodation options – there's something for everyone: relaxing caravan parks, fully self-contained cabins, immaculate motels, B&Bs with true country hospitality flair and unpowered camping spots with million-star views.

HISTORY

What's in a name? St George gets its name from when explorer Major Sir Thomas Mitchell crossed the Balonne River on Saint George's Day. 23rd April 1846.

The Jack Taylor Weir – Andrew Nixon Bridge was constructed from 1948-52 and Beardmore Dam followed twenty years later from 1968-72.

WAR MEMORIAL

The St George **World War I Memorial** is located on the hospital grounds, along the riverside of the current hospital. It was constructed in 1928 and was once the entrance to the St George Memorial Hospital.

Dirranbandi

SOUTH WEST OF ST GEORGE, WE WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS TO DIRRANBANDI. OUR FIELDS OF WHITE COTTON-LIKE-SNOW HAVE THE TOWN BUSTLING THROUGHOUT THE COTTON HARVEST MONTHS. JUST A STONE'S THROW FROM OUR TOWN IS THE LARGEST IRRIGATED COTTON FARM IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE, CUBBIE STATION, SIZING UP BIGGER THAN SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

iscover the magnitude of Cubbie Station for yourself on tour with **Dirranbandi Outback Tours**. Touring the station will show the passion and work that has gone into developing Australia's largest cotton farm and largest irrigation property in the Southern Hemisphere – a highlight for many visitors to Dirranbandi who finish the tour with a greater understanding of how the property operates. Book your spot by calling the Dirranbandi Caravan Park on **0447 555 685**.

Uncover the town's history with a visit to **Dirranbandi's River & Rail Precinct**. Dirranbandi marks the end of the South West rail line and was the destination of the very last mail train to operate in Australia. Call into Railway Park to find the old waiting room, the original parcels office and the 1913 Station Master's residence, now the **Dirranbandi Rural Transaction Centre**. Here you will have the opportunity to chat with a local and find out more about the town's history.

While at the park you will find a stone cotton bale in memory of **Des Stevenson**, the pioneer of Dirranbandi's cotton industry and Cubbie Station. A neighbouring bronze statue celebrates the remarkable story of Aboriginal stockman **Tom Dancey** – the 1910 winner of Australia's most famous foot race, the Stawell Gift.

For a culinary and cultural experience in one, set your GPS to the **Dirranbandi Bakery**. This surprising cultural stop is like stepping inside your grandma's kitchen. Russian-born baker Natalia runs the local gem where you'll find the cabinets stocked with fresh pies, bakery favourites and sweet Russian delights including their traditional honey bread (Pryanick) – a Russian speciality dating back to the ninth century. Stay and admire the Russian teapots or stock up your basket for the perfect picnic.

If you're looking for a quiet spot to picnic, head to the **Jack Dwyer Memorial Park** on the Balonne Minor River at the edge of town. Throw in a line from the pontoon here to land a Murray Cod or Yellowbelly.

Planning to stay? We've got you covered with a caravan park, two motels and a hotel.

HISTORY

On the 4th August 1885 the town site was proclaimed with the name Dirranbandi being believed to come from an Aboriginal word meaning 'frogs croaking in a swamp at night'.

In May 1913 the South Western railway was officially opened in Dirranbandi. It serviced the 413 km mail run from Warwick and saw Australia's last mail train in 1993.

In 2011, Dirranbandi became its own inland island with the town becoming surrounded by flood waters during the Queensland Floods. The town was isolated for six weeks and supplies had to be airlifted into the town.





THE LINEN CUPBOARD

The unexpected bush department store

Established in 2011, with the aim of providing a shopping outlet to those in the bush, The Linen Cupboard comes as a nice surprise for many passing through Dirranbandi.

Call in, say hi and see for yourself, we would love to meet you! We're always ready for a chat and enjoy helping you find a memento of your trip, from cosy scarves to soft Australian made ugg boots, your purchase will bring a smile to our family-owned business.

A selection of brands in store include:

- Levis
- Canningvale
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- EMU Australia
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Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday • 10am to 5pm

34 Railway Street, Dirranbandi P 0438 402 478

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- Guest Laundry available
- Disabled unit.





CONNECT SOUTH WEST QLD

Supporting vibrant South West Queensland communities

We are an online information hub supporting vibrant South West Queensland communities. Helping you to find out Who, What, Where and When in South West QLD.

Our focus is on:

P 0428 259 299

- Connecting both Locals and Visitors with Events in the Region
- Informing through the Business Directory and Employment Listings
- Connecting the people with the community
- Connecting local businesses with their audiences online
- Promoting Business and Community across the region and further afield







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Come in and see our tell Meny including all the tavourites!!















THE SMALL TOWN OF BOLLON LIES ON THE BANKS OF THE PEACEFUL WALLAM CREEK ALONG THE ADVENTURE WAY. YOU WILL KNOW YOU ARE TRULY IN THE OUTBACK BY THE RED SOIL, THE ENDLESS BLUE SKIES AND THE FRIENDLY LOCALS.



POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Aboriginal Dreamtime Artwork Trail
- Bollon Heritage Centre
- Nullawokka First Nations Gallery & Cultural Walks
- Walter Austin Memorial Park
- Bollon Returned Servicemen Memorial Wall
- Bollon Post Office
- Bollon Hotel
- Thrushton National Park
- Art Mural by Simon White

o trip to Bollon is complete without visiting the Nullawokka First Nations Gallery. The gallery features works from First Nations artists and authentic Australian made gifts. Be sure to join the Bollon Cultural Walk to discover traditional scar trees, find bush medicine and experience a gourmet bush tucker tasting with a descendant of the local Kooma people. Emu-egg quiche anyone? Personalised 4WD tours visiting First Nations tours can be created for those wanting to explore further afield.

The **Bollon Heritage Centre** is nestled in the heart of the main street. Take an afternoon to turn the pages of the town's rural history with a shearing display and Aboriginal culture through its range of artefacts. Throughout the town, you'll find it's proud of its long association with sheep and shearing, with many of the locals still working in the industry. Deb's Café, found in the main street, will fix your hunger pains with a range of hearty and delicious foods.

Nearby at the **Walter Austin Memorial Park** lies the **Bollon Returned Servicemen Memorial Wall**. This monument features Flight Lieutenant George John Steele who served in the Royal Australian Air Force during World War II and was awarded the prestigious Distinguished Flying Cross medal.

Keep your camera charged and ready for a stroll along the 1.2 km creek-side walkway for some koala spotting. If your eyes aren't focused on the branches above, they'll appreciate

the **Aboriginal Dreamtime Artwork** along the path that will lead you from the picturesque Wallam Creek Caravan and Camping Area to our little town's main street.

There's no such thing as "roughing it" here in Bollon. Take your pick from our shady caravan and camping area along Wallam Creek with free toilets and showers in the main street or choose an outback pub experience, staying in the comfort of the Bollon Hotel after enjoying a classic pub meal and a yarn with your new travelling mates.

If your four-wheel drive is packed and ready for a bush adventure, **Thrushton National Park** is only 40 km north east of Bollon via dirt roads. For more information on our national parks, turn to page 5.

HISTORY

It is believed the town's name originated from the Indigenous word "Bolion" meaning "stone tomahawk or axe" and was adapted later to the word Bollon.

Bollon's seen its fair share of major flooding events. Ask a local about the time in 2010 when the entire town was inundated except for the pub which remained the driest point in the main street!

OPEN 7 DAYS!

WALLAM CREEK

GENERAL STORE
Bollon Queensland

- Groceries (SPAR affiliate)
 Gas
 Repco
- Fresh Bread & BakeryGiftware & Toys
 - Fresh Fruit & VegetablesCafe
 - Exide Batteries Gulf Western Oils
 - Rural & Produce Supplies



Hebel

PERCHED ON THE EDGE OF THE QUEENSLAND BORDER, OUR SMALL TOWN OF HEBEL IS HOME TO TALES OF THE NED KELLY GANG AND COBB & CO.

he heart of the town is the historic **Hebel Hotel**, and for good reason. Your eyes won't miss the ochre red roof and the artworks adorning the front of the pub by Australian realist painter, John Murray, which make for a road trip photo must-have. The pub's interior is decked with recycled bush furniture and if these pub walls could talk, they'd tell you the tales of the Ned Kelly Gang who frequented at this very establishment. You'll be guaranteed to meet a friendly local and be able to pull up a stool and knock back a frosty brew in a hotel that's stood here since the 1890s.

Hebel's art tour continues at the **Hebel Historical Circle**. Out of the red earth, tall timber posts hover over illustrated signs; each narrating their own story of Hebel's history. Complete with play equipment, there's something for everyone.

Built in 1897 as the local dancehall, the **Hebel General Store and Caravan Park** has kept much of its original rustic character. Serving classic country hospitality, it's more than just a general store with all the essentials. Step inside and you'll find the place decked with memorabilia and country style furnishings. Try one of their **ever-popular pies** or stay for dinner where by night you can take your pick from dining under a ceiling of stars on the veranda or dinner by candlelight in their quaint restaurant. Pull in for the night at their pet friendly caravan park at the rear.

Anglers can make an afternoon of fishing by making their way to the Bokhara River, a stone's throw from the main street. For serious bush campers and adventures, Hebel is the perfect jumping-off point for visiting **Culgoa Floodplain National Park**.

This is nature at its best, so be prepared to be totally self-sufficient. For more information on national parks, turn to page 5.

HISTORY

Before being known as Hebel, the town was first known as Kelly's Point. Local rumour has it that members of the infamous Ned Kelly Gang, Dan Kelly and Steve Hart, are said to have lived here in secret. The town's name was changed to Hebel in the 1880s, although its origins remain a mystery. Some suggest the town was named after a German settler, Weiner Von Hebel, while others suggest it comes from an Aboriginal word meaning "hot place".

The Hebel Hotel opened in 1894 as a Cobb & Co changing station before later operating as a hotel. The hotel's original name was the Commercial Hotel.





Nindigully

LOCATED WHERE THE CARNARVON HIGHWAY MEETS THE BARWON HIGHWAY, NINDIGULLY MAKES THE PERFECT PIT STOP FOR TRAVELLERS JUST 45 KM SOUTH FAST OF ST GEORGE.

nown as the "Gully" by locals, it's home to Queensland's oldest continually licensed pub – the **Nindigully Pub**.

Standing on the banks of the Moonie River since 1864, this treasured piece of Queensland history may not have a large local contingent to feed (population: 9), but the pub's sizeable meals and wealth of heritage have people flocking from all corners of the country. You'll want company too so you can tuck into their **5.5kg Road Train Burger**, featuring a 1.2 kg patty and a supersize serving of onion rings and chips.

The pub has made its own silver screen appearance having featured in Hugh Jackman's feature film "Paperback Hero". You'll find the **iconic Boomerangs** from the film's Boomerang Café still in town painted in strong vivid hues, making it hard to miss.

Embrace the tranquil surroundings and take a stroll along **The Gully Walk** and learn about the local history and wildlife through the interpretive signs. For those who've packed their fishing rods, throw in a line at the Moonie River and kick back while you wait for the fish to bite.

Throw down your swag on the pub's veranda, check into a historic pub room, or set up camp under the shade on the banks of the Moonie River – either way you won't have to stumble far to find a place to spend the night.

HISTORY

The name Nindigully is said to be a combination of an Indigenous word "nindi" meaning "small" and the English word "gully".

In the town's heyday, its main and adjoining streets boasted a hall, school, post office, telephone exchange, mechanics, store and the pub which served as a Cobb & Co changeover station between the late 19^{th} century and early 20^{th} century.

In the Nindigully Pub's 150+ year history, it has seen almost as many name changes as it has poured beers. Its first name was the Nindigually Hotel, now spelt Nindigully, but it's also been known as The Grand Hotel, Travellers Rest Hotel, Sportsmans Arms Hotel and Sternes Hotel.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Nindigully Pub
- The Gully Walk
- Paperback Hero Boomerangs
- Moonie River





NINDIGULLY PUB

Queensland's Oldest Hotel

Nindigully Pub 'The Gully' is located in its original condition and position on the banks of the Moonie River. A great place to escape and experience the true Outback Australia, while spending a night or two in a comfy bed in one of the rooms in Queensland's Oldest Pub. The Gully attracts thousands of locals and travellers every year for a cold beer and a fresh chef-prepared meal – the burgers are legendary!

- Boasting the best fresh cooked meals in the west including the famous 'Road Train' Burger (feeds minimum of four people – please book in advance)
- Accommodation available
- Free Beer Yesterday
- Annual Pig Races
- The perfect venue for your outback wedding or special event

Sternes Street, Nindigully
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SURROUNDED BY PRIME GRAIN-GROWING COUNTRY, YOU'LL FIND THALLON ON THE MOONIE RIVER, 33 KM SOUTH OF NINDIGULLY AND 40 KM NORTH OF MUNGINDI. AMONG THE WHEAT, OATS AND CHICKPEAS, YOU'LL COME TO SEE THAT THE AREA'S BEEF, SHEEP AND LAMB PRODUCTION ADDS TO THE TOWN'S CONTINUAL HIVE OF ACTIVITY.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- McGeever Recreational Grounds
- Thallon Town Park
- Francis Hotel
- Thallon GrainCorp Silos Watering Hole Mural
- Local Murals
- ANZAC Memorial
- Giant Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombat Statue
- Information Station
- History Trails
- Sculpture Trail
- Old Bullamon Homestead Tour



riving along the Carnarvon Highway, you'll spot Thallon from country miles away where the vibrant **Thallon GrainCorp Silo Murals** will signal your approach to town. The Watering Hole Mural covers four, 30-metre-high silos featuring icons of the district including the Moonie River, a beautiful sunset, a scarred tree recognising Thallon's Indigenous community, pale-faced rosellas and a mob of sheep which celebrates the area's agriculture.

The mural was painted by Brisbane artists Travis Vinson "Drapel" and Joel Fergie "The Zookeeper". It's hard to believe that this photo opportunity must-have was created from just one A4-sized drawing. The fully operational silos can be best enjoyed using the designated **viewing platform**.

If you think the silos are beautiful by day, be sure to see them at night under our blanket of stars when you set up camp at the **McGeever Recreational Grounds**. The relaxed camping area is located opposite the silos with toilets, showers and power available.

Get your best selfie angle ready to meet **William the Wombat** at **Thallon's town park** and see how you size up against the two-metre-tall sculpture of a Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat. Thallon has a special connection to the critically endangered species with some of the earliest specimens found in the area. The town park is a perfect place to stop and break up time on the road with shady trees and facilities including a playground, picnic tables, free electric BBQ and toilets.

Thallon's **Francis Hotel** is the hub of the community. Boasting plenty of outback charm and pouring beers since 1911, you'll satisfy your appetite and hunger for local history here. Knock back a coldie and tuck into local traditional pub grub or check out the pub's photographic exhibitions. If you thought you had seen all of Thallon's mural magic, think again, the pub's water tanks feature a tribute to the Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat by the same artists as the town silos. Send a postcard from the pub or stock up on groceries to refill your fridge here, ready for the next leg of your adventure.

Pick up one of the self-guided **history trail** brochures to delve into Thallon's early European history such as "The Roads of Yesterday", a short driving tour or visit Thallon in its heyday on the "Old Town" walking tour. Be sure to ask for directions to view the **murals** on the old Railway Bridge and sculptures by Dion Cross. From the Francis Hotel, be sure to pick up a history booklet that tells the stories of life on **"Old Bullamon"**, the once-vast pastoral station on which Thallon now stands.

HISTORY

The town's name comes from its railway station named after the Commissioner for Railways – JF Thallon, who developed most of Queensland's rail system when the railway line was extended west from Talwood to Thallon. Thallon was gazetted in 1911 as a town reserve and with the coming of the railway, shops and a hotel were soon established. Thallon's first permanent grain storage facility was built in 1969. In 1977 two giant concrete silos were constructed followed by another two in 1982.



WHERE YOU EAT, DRINK & TALK BULLSHIT WITH TH

BY THE WAY, WE STILL DO COFFEE & CAKE FOR \$6 - EVERY DAY!

FRANCIS HOTEL

We're not just a pub .. we're a pub with the lot! Open 7 days - 8am till Late

The Pub with the Lot:

- Friendly country atmosphere
- 5 cold beers on tap
- Great meals cooked fresh 7 days a week
- Air-conditioned accommodation
 'Local images' photo gallery on-site & off site
- Quirky tourist information
- General store & post office
- Local & unique souvenirs

Local Attractions:

- 'The Watering Hole Silos' mural
- Local identity murals & wine bottles
- William the Giant Wombat
- History trails
- Bird watching
- Drop bear and other mischief
- Must-see Cardi the pub dog

For upcoming events, follow the pub on Facebook or check out our website.

16 Pine Street, Thallon

P 07 4625 9188 | After Hours 0417 735 210

E thethallonpub@gmail.com

thallonpub.com.au









THALLON COFFEE SHOP

The best little coffee shop in the west

Perfect spot to stop at after you photograph the silos!

- Artisan coffee
- Cold drinks
- Frozen slushies
- Thick shakes
- Meals
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Open 7 days = 7am to 7pm

Owner operated

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E sales@thalloncoffeeshop.com.au

FB: Thallon Coffee Shop





LANARIUM RETREAT

Luxury Outback Accommodation

Your destination will be our 7200ac working farm 'Shirbar' where we grow cereal crops and raise beef cattle on her undulating ochre red soils.

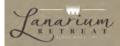
We are passionate about providing a memorable break for our guests, focusing on personal service, one-of-a-kind experiences and authentic paddock to plate cuisine. We only have one group on farm at any one time.

Your accommodation started out life as a working woolshed which has now been converted into a luxury fully self-contained house, with many features retained that tell of its past. The house is filled with handmade and recycled pieces and is nestled in a beautiful shady

If you are looking for a quiet farm destination that is just a little bit different, then a holiday at Lanarium may just be for you.

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Local information

Historical Shearing display

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Free Wi-Fi and Charging station

Bait

Main Street, Bollon

Mon—Fri 5:30am — 8pm Saturday 7am—8pm

Sundays 5:30pm—8pm for Pizza night

Mungindi

WE WELCOME YOU FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER. VERY FEW TOWNS ARE SPLIT IN HALF BY A STATE BORDER, BUT MUNGINDI IS ONE PLACE WHICH CAN CLAIM SUCH A TITLE. STRADDLING THE BARWON RIVER, THIS QUIRKY TOWN HAS A POLICE STATION ON EACH SIDE OF THE BORDER AND RUNS ON TWO TIME ZONES DURING DAYLIGHT SAVING.

or a tiny town, Mungindi packs a punch with a rich colonial history. Touch a piece of history at Mungindi's **One Ton Post**; it's one of the two original survey pegs dating back over 100 years. Found on the west bank of the Barwon River, the One Ton Post stands out as a remarkable monument erected by surveyor JB Cameron to mark the end of a three-year task surveying the straight section of the Queensland/New South Wales border, from Cameron Corner to the Barwon River.

Roll out a picnic rug and enjoy the parkland's shady trees or take the opportunity to cast a line into the river.

Fill the remainder of your time here with a stroll down the main street and say g'day to the friendly locals.

Looking to take a dip? Spend an afternoon in the tranquil waters of **Mungindi's Hot Artesian Pool** for some R&R in the mineral-rich water to make sure you're ready for the following day's adventure. Opening hours vary between summer and winter.

You can pub hop your way from one side of the border to the other here too; sinking a cold one from the **Two Mile Hotel's** original lacquered mahogany bar with charred shrapnel or the Jolly Swagman's beer garden. Take your pick from the pubs to stay the night, or park up at the local caravan park.

For those continuing their journey south, stop in at the **Mungindi Rural Transaction Centre** to get the local tips on the Moree Plains Shire and beyond.



POINTS OF INTEREST:

- One Ton Post
- Mungindi Hot Artesian Pool
- Two Mile Hotel
- Barwon River Parkland
- Mungindi Rural Transaction Centre
- Sculpture Trai
- Heritage Parl



Cotton Self-Drive Trail

Distance: 94 km Time: 1.5 - 2 hrs

Pack your thermos and some smoko on this 94 km journey that will have you become a cotton expert. Each stop features interpretive signage to help you delve into the local history and development of the cotton industry. There's no need to pack your skis for this journey through our fields of white; you'll see our cotton season in full swing between October and April each year.

Cotton is planted in spring with cotton seeds emerging from the ground five to 14 days after planting – depending on soil temperature and moisture. The seeds grow into green, bushy shrubs about a metre in height and require irrigation every 2-3 weeks, dependent on the climate. The plants briefly grow pink and cream coloured flowers that, once pollinated, drop off and are replaced with fruit, better known as cotton bolls. Inside each cotton boll is the fluffy white lint that we're all familiar with, as well as fuzzy cotton seeds.

Irrigation is vital for the production of cotton, as well as grapes and other small crops. The St George Irrigation Scheme was approved in 1953 for the purpose of irrigation and town water supply. The St George irrigation area consists of a channel system relaying water to a large farming area 8 km south east of St George. The vast 213 km open earth

channel system supplies water from Beardmore Dam located north of St George, via Thuraggi watercourse and the SunWater pump station facility. The water from the Thuraggi watercourse travels through Moolabah Weir and then Buckinbah Weir before being released into the irrigation farming area through manually operated gravity flow control structures.

The Balonne River forms part of the Murray Darling Basin system and is a short yet significant part of south west Queensland's inland river group. The river flows from St George in a south west direction towards Dirranbandi and breaks into two rivers – Culgoa and Balonne Minor River. The Balonne Minor River then separates into the Ballandool, Bokhara and Narran Rivers.

1. JACK TAYLOR WEIR -ANDREW NIXON BRIDGE

The Cotton Self-Drive Trail begins at St George Region Visitor Information Centre. From here, drive 1.3 km along St George's Terrace towards our first stop – the Jack Taylor Weir – Andrew Nixon Bridge. For the perfect photo opportunity with this local icon, constructed from 1948 – 1952, park at Cavanough Park. While there, find the commemorative stone to mark Major Sir Thomas Mitchell's crossing of the Balonne River on St George's Day in 1846.

2. BEARDMORE DAM (Lake Kajarabie)

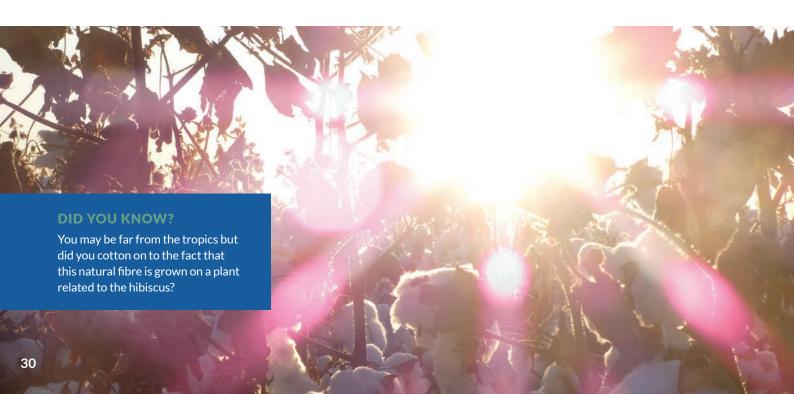
Our next stop is Beardmore Dam, located 22 km north of St George. Start this part of the trail by driving back along St George's Terrace, where you will notice a large pump station on the corner of Hutt Street. The SunWater pump station on the corner provides water to the St George irrigation channels at a maximum rate of 110 megalitres per day and was constructed at the same time as the Jack Taylor Weir.

As you continue driving along the river, you'll be able to appreciate the magnitude of the beautiful Balonne River. Across from the St George Region Visitor Information Centre, you can find a marker that showcases the flood heights of the swollen Balonne River from years gone by.

When you reach the end of St George's Terrace, follow the road before turning left onto Victoria Street which becomes the Carnarvon Highway.

From here, travel 12.8 km, until you reach Thungaby Road and turn left. As you travel north along the Carnarvon Highway, you will be driving parallel to the Balonne River towards Surat.

Turn onto Thungaby Road and follow the sealed road for a further 8 km to Beardmore Dam.



3. ST GEORGE IRRIGATION AREA

After exploring Beardmore Dam, set your GPS for the St George irrigation area. Follow your tracks back along the bitumen road and turn right onto Carnarvon Highway, towards St George and from here travel 6.7 km until you see the Salmon Road sign. Make a left and follow the road to meet the Carnarvon Highway. Turn left at the T- junction, and only 3 km down the road you will begin approaching the St George irrigation area and cotton farms. You will approach a turnoff on your left to Buckinbah Weir, which is also known as Buckinbah Road.

DID YOU KNOW?

Australia's cotton industry is one of the most water efficient cotton industries in the world, thanks to biotechnology and advances in precision irrigation and timing

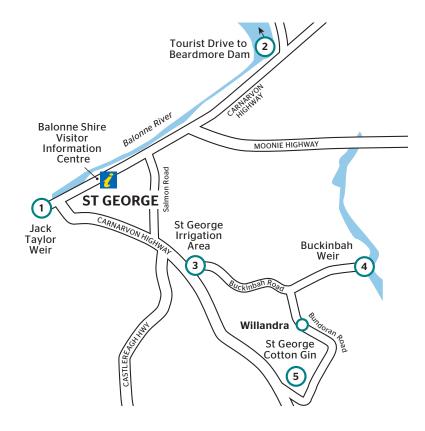
4. BUCKINBAH WEIR

The Buckinbah Weir is your next stop. To get there, turn left onto Buckinbah Road and follow the bitumen road straight ahead for 10.8 km until you come across a water reserve. Along the way, you'll spot several water storage dams on your right which farmers utilise to capture rainfall and hold their water allocation delivered via the St George Irrigation Scheme.

The St George irrigation area is part of the Murray Darling Basin and therefore is part of the broader Murray Darling Basin Plan. The plan provides a coordinated approach to water use across QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC and SA, and means a reduction in water allocation for agricultural purposes to ensure the environmental sustainability of the extensive river systems across the Murray Darling Basin.

The cotton farms are irrigated using siphons that flood the paddock and gravity feed down each row. Any excess water from the farm is recycled and pumped back into water storage facilities, to ensure limited water waste. After looking around, travel back along Buckinbah Road for 4.6 km until you reach Bundoran Road. Turn left onto Bundoran Road and check out the view of the cotton farms and paddocks.

During March/April each year our region goes into harvest-mode where the cotton is picked using large mechanical harvesters and compacted into cotton



modules. There are two types of cotton modules that are produced:

Rectangle cotton modules – Cotton harvesters pick the cotton which is then transported to the module builder machine via a boll buggy. The module builder compresses the cotton into large rectangular cotton modules which are then covered with a large tarp. The average rectangular cotton module weighs between 12 - 16 tonnes, producing 22 - 28 bales of ginned cotton.

Round cotton modules – 2010 saw a new cotton harvester introduced in which the cotton harvester picks the cotton and rolls it up at the rear of the machine and encases it in yellow plastic. This modern technology was developed to reduce the cost of labour and machinery by eliminating the boll buggy and module building process. The average round cotton module weighs approximately 2.5 tonnes, producing 4 bales of ginned cotton.

From here, the cotton modules are loaded onto trucks and sent off to the cotton gin, a factory that separates the cottonseed from the lint (raw cotton fibre) and is then pressed into rectangular bales.

5. ST GEORGE COTTON GIN

We're talking botanicals of a different kind here as you continue your journey to the cotton gin. Drive along Bundoran Road for 4 km until you approach an intersection with a sign indicating lan Paul Road. Turn right and continue along

Bundoran Road until you approach the St George Cotton Gin on your right. Before reaching the Carnarvon Highway intersection, there is an area to pull over on the left. The St George Cotton Gin was closed in 2014, however, St George's Beardmore Gin still operates today.

Take a right onto the Carnarvon Highway and travel back towards St George. Along the way, you'll spot more cotton farms and irrigation channels traversing the highway.

DID YOU KNOW?

90% of Australian cotton farms are run and operated by an Australian Family? And that it's likely to have come from one or more generations

After 17 km, the St George Airport will be on your left and John Deere on your opposite right. Here you have the option of parking by turning left into the airport at Cliff Parsons Drive, to take a stroll across the road to catch a better glimpse of the machinery used on the farms including cotton pickers, tractors, harvesters, spray rigs and more.

Got questions about cotton? The St George Region Visitor Information Centre staff and volunteers are happy to answer your questions or help you organise a visit to a local cotton farm on one of our local tours.

Fishing

or fishing of an outback kind, catch your dinner from where the Condamine and Maranoa Rivers meet the Balonne River. These rivers are renowned for Yellowbelly and Murray Cod; after all, this is Queensland's Inland Fishing Capital. Keen anglers will have plenty of freedom while in pursuit of 'the catch of the day' as you don't require a fishing licence here.



FISH GUIDE:

Yellowbelly (Golden Perch)

Bronze to slate green above, sides golden olive shading to yellow or white below. Best eating fish of the western streams. The flesh is firm, white with good flavour. Average Size: [can reach 23 kg in QLD]. Best Bait: Shrimp, worms & prawns. Bag Limit: 10. Minimum Size: 30 cm.

Murray Cod

Green above and pale cream below. The tail and dorsal fins are covered with many green spots. **Average Size:** 8 kg-35 kg. **Best Bait:** Small fish, do not use carp. **Bag Limit:** 2. **Minimum Size:** 60 cm.

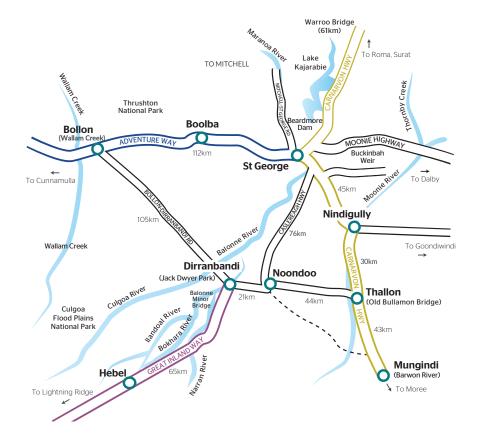
Yabbies

Blue Claw: Body is usually blue-brown, native to Queensland. Egg carrying females and young must be returned to the water. **Bag Limit:** 100. *Red Claw are not found in St George Region*.

Carp (Cyprinus Carpio) can be found in our waterways. Carp must not be returned to the water alive or dead. Using carp for any reason, such as for eating or use as fertiliser, is not permitted in Queensland.

Riverbanks can become inaccessible and very boggy during and after wet weather with access being restricted for up to two weeks.

Not all fishing hot spots are designated camping locations, so pull up for the day at these spots to unwind and wait for the fish to bite. There are limited or no facilities at these locations. Drought and below average rainfall can affect water levels and impact fishing at these locations.



NEED SOMETHING TO HELP YOU REEL IN YOUR CATCH?

Buy your bait:

- The 5 Star Handimarket
- JCM's Auto & Fuel
- BP Service Station

Closed Freshwater Cod season applies to the Balonne River Weir from August 1 – October 31. **Fishing supplies –** find fishing line and tackle at:

- Mitre 10
- Golders
- JCM's Auto & Fuel
- Balonne Sports Store
- 5 Star Handimarket
- Bargains 4 U

GET A HEAD START WITH THESE LOCAL FISHING HOT SPOTS TO CAST YOUR LINE:

- Warroo Bridge, St George (61 km north)
- Beardmore Dam, St George
- Balonne River, St George
- Buckinbah Weir, St George
- Jack Dwyer Park, Dirranbandi
- Balonne Minor Bridge, Dirranbandi
- Bokhara River, Hebel
- Wallam Creek, Bollon
- Moonie River, Nindigully
- Barwon River, Mungindi
- Old Bullamon Bridge, Thallon
- St George Riverfront Tourist Park

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Police, Fire, Ambulance

SES (State Emergency Services) 13 25 00

Queensland Road Conditions qldtraffic.qld.gov.au | 13 19 40

New South Wales Traffic Road Reports livetraffic.com | 13 17 00

RACQ Roadside Assistance 13 11 11

Dirranbandi Hospital 07 4625 8222

Mungindi Hospital 02 6705 6100

St George Hospital 07 4620 2222

St Georges Vets 07 4625 5929

Emergency Dashboard

Balonne Shire Council balonne.qld.gov.au | 07 4620 8888

VISITOR INFORMATION

St George Region Visitor Information Centre

vic@balonne.qld.gov.au 07 4620 8877

Dirranbandi Rural Transaction Centre 07 4625 8411

Mungindi Rural Transaction Centre 02 6753 2389

Thallon Information Station tourismthallon@gmail.com



ACCOMMODATION Bollon 07 4625 6188 Bollon Hotel Dirranbandi Dirranbandi Carayan Park 0447 555 685 Dirranbandi Hotel Motel 07 4625 8299 Dirranbandi Motor Inn 07 4620 7000 Dirran Pub 07 4625 8322 Hebel Hebel Hotel 07 4625 0923 Hebel General Store & Caravan Park 07 4625 0920 Thallon Francis Hotel 07 4625 9188 Lanarium Retreat 0429 207 020 Mungindi 2 Mile Hotel 02 6753 2051 0409 484 014 Mungindi Caravan Park Nindigully Nindigully Pub 07 4625 9637 nindigullypub.com.au

St George Andarr on the Terrace Bed & Breakfast 0427 254 230 Australian Hotel Motel 07 4625 5000 Balonne River Motor Inn 07 4625 5155 balonnerivermotorinn.com.au Blenheim Backpackers 0447 812 200 Cobb & Co Hotel 07 4625 5655 Jacaranda Country Motel 07 4625 1011 jacarandacountrymotel.com.au Kamarooka Tourist Park 07 4625 3120 kamarookatouristpark.com.au St George Riverfront Tourist Park 0408 183 134 Lady Ethels House ladyethelshouse.com Merino Motor Inn 07 4625 3333 merinmotorinn.com.au Pelican Rest Tourist Park 07 4625 3398 pelicanrest.com.au 07 4625 1229 Riverland Motor Inn riverlandmotorinn.com.au Riverview Hotel 0477 778 590 River Gum Tourist Park 07 4625 5778

St George Hotel Motel

07 4625 4444

The Pit Stop Café

FEELING HUNGRY?

FEELING HONGKI	
Bollon	
Wallam Creek	
General Store	07 4625 6450
Bollon Hotel	07 4625 6407
Deb's Café	07 4625 6118
Dirranbandi	
Dirran Pub	07 4625 8322
Dirranbandi Bakery	07 4620 7868
Dirranbandi Hotel Motel	
Dirranbandi Motor Inn	07 4620 7000
Dirranbandi Service Station	07 4620 7734
Cafe 22	07 4620 7476
Hebel	07 4020 7470
Hebel General Store	
& Caravan Park	07 4625 0920
Mungindi	
Flock Cafe	0458 109 120
Mungindi Servo	02 6753 2688
Shafay's Cafe	02 6753 2775
Nindigully	
Nindigully Pub	07 4625 9637
Thallon	
Francis Hotel	07 4625 9188
Thallon Coffee Shop	0407 104 918
St George	
5 Star Handimarket	07 4625 3031
Asian Pearl Chinese	
Restaurant	07 4625 3668
Australian Hotel Motel	07 4625 5000
BP St George	07 4625 3411
Cobb & Co Hotel	07 4625 5655
Delicate	07 4625 5666
The Farmhouse	07 4506 1735
JCM's Auto & Fuel	07 4625 3606
Merino Restaurant	07 4625 3333
Rivers Restaurant	07 4625 1229
Riversands Wines Café	07 4625 3643
Stevie-Jeans	07 4625 3223
St George Bakery	07 4625 3777
St George Hotel Motel	07 4625 4444

07 4625 4368

