Situated in the heart of central western Queensland, our region offers visitors a warm outback welcome and experience. This friendly country hospitality comes naturally to us as our five towns – Alpha, Jericho, Barcaldine, Aramac and Muttaburra – all retain and share those good old fashioned, small town values and charm.

Since the late 1800s our main industries have been sheep and cattle production. While we continue to produce high quality wool and beef, we have developed a thriving tourism industry to showcase the beauty and diversity of our region.

Our rich heritage, indigenous culture, natural landscapes, variety of fauna and flora, lakes and rivers, arts attractions, events and festivals ensure there is something for everyone.

An early morning or late afternoon walk will showcase the beautiful sunrises and sunsets we experience in the outback. If you are a keen birdwatcher bring along your binoculars and camera as this is also the time of day to visit permanent watering holes where the birds will come to drink.

Bring along your fishing rod and enjoy a relaxing day under the sun. All our communities have a river or two to catch a famous Golden Perch or known locally as Yellowbelly.

If you are an avid geocacher, our region boasts over 200 geocaches and we challenge you to stay a while and find them all.

Our region has a full events calendar, from sporting events to festivals and touring shows, so why not plan your trip around one of our many events.

Spend as long as you need to explore all that our region has to offer...

**Alpha: Town of Murals**

Take a leisurely walk around the town of murals and view the 28 murals Alpha has to offer. The murals have been painted by local resident artists and beautifully pay tribute to the pioneers of the bush and the history of the district.

You can soak up Alpha’s history at the Jane Neville Rolfe Art Gallery, the Tivoli Theatre Museum, Beta Hut and the Fossilised Forest Sculpture or just relax at Settlers Park.

**Jericho: On the banks of the Jordan**

Take a stroll down the main street and stop by the Crystal Trumpeters. The structure was created by local historians to tell the story of how Joshua won the battle of Jericho.

Time your visit with the once a month double feature showing at the smallest operating drive-in theatre in the Southern Hemisphere then spend a night or two camping along the serene banks of the Jordan River at Redbank Park. Bring along your fishing rods and binoculars as it is a great place to cast a line and bird watch.

**Barcaldine: Garden City of the West**

Barcaldine is a great place to spend a few days experiencing, exploring and relaxing. Its rich history is on full display at the Barcaldine and District Historical Museum and the Australian Workers Heritage Centre. The main street reflects our love of arts and culture with murals, musical instruments, beautiful gardens and the windmill. Barcaldine is home to the Tree of Knowledge, the reputed birth place of the labour movement in Australia. The award winning structure gives the illusion of a canopy over the Tree. A night time visit will be a highlight of your trip, with the Tree beautifully lit.

Take a stroll along Lagoon Creek or the Botanical Walk and be mesmerised by the native fauna and flora.

**Aramac: Home of the White Bull**

A visit to the Harry Redford Interpretive Centre is a must when you arrive in Aramac. You can learn about the infamous Harry Redford (Captain Starlight) and how a distinctive white bull was his undoing. Keep an eye out for the Adorabulls that pop up throughout Aramac.

Explore the Tramway Museum, where you can see Aunt Emma RM28 rail motor and memorabilia from the early years of settlement.

Get off the beaten track and make your way to the historical sites of Lake Dunn, Gray Rock, Horsetailer’s Gorge and the Healing Circle. Along the way keep an eye out for the 35 metal sculptures that make up the Lake Dunn Sculpture Trail with more sculptures being added all the time.

**Muttaburra: Meeting of the waters**

Muttaburra is soaked in history and has beautifully preserved museums that reflect days gone by. The Dr Arratta Memorial Museum and A.A. Cassimatis General Store and Cottage make you feel like you have stepped back through time. After you marvel at the medical memorabilia in the Dr Arratta Memorial Museum, take the time to take a selfie at the new Centre of Queensland monument.

The town’s most famous moment was when local grazier Doug Langdon uncovered the fossilised skeleton of a dinosaur. The Muttaburrasaurus Langdoni was a land living, plant eating dinosaur that roamed the earth 100 million years ago. The discovery of the skeleton was the first of its kind in Australia and is celebrated with an impressive replica located in the new Muttaburrasaurus Interpretation Centre.

There is so much to do and see here and every one of us invites you to spend some time in the region we love and call home. Please feel free to stop and chat and most importantly – make yourself at home.
# Table of contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warm outback welcome</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map and distances</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events – a chance to meet the locals</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to get here – all roads lead to our region</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outback travel tips</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-drive 4 wheel drive itineraries – Go exploring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lake Dunn Sculpture Trail</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sculptures in our region</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take the trail – see all our region has to offer</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom of Choice Parks</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outback Mates</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geocaching</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird watching and wildflowers</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genealogy</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agate fossicking</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alpha</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jericho</strong></td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Barcaldine</strong></td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aramac</strong></td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Muttaburra</strong></td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Libraries Queensland</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Great Artesian Basin</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Centres</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Communities of the Barcaldine Regional Council*

**Alpha**    **Jericho**    **Barcaldine**    **Aramac**    **Muttaburra**
**ALPHA**
- From Rockhampton – 440km
- From Longreach – 247km
- From Townsville – 768km
- From Brisbane – 1063km

**JERICHO**
- From Rockhampton – 493km
- From Longreach – 194km
- From Townsville – 732km
- From Brisbane – 1116km

**BARCALDINE**
- From Rockhampton – 580km
- From Longreach – 107km
- From Townsville – 630km
- From Brisbane – 1050km
- From Mt Isa – 755km

**ARAMAC**
- From Rockhampton – 645km
- From Longreach – 171km
- From Townsville – 540km
- From Brisbane – 1130km

**MUTTABURRA**
- From Rockhampton – 730km
- From Longreach – 124km
- From Townsville – 544km
- From Brisbane – 1224 km

**Self Drive 4 Wheel Drive Tours**
1. Barcaldine to Jericho via Narbethong Road
2. Jericho to Aramac via Lake Dunn
3. Aramac to Gray Rock and Horsetailer’s Gorge
4. Lake Dunn to Muttaburra via Bowen Downs
5. Muttaburra to Longreach
6. Crossmore Road or Alternative Route Road
7. Cramsie Road
**Events** – a chance to meet the locals

**JANUARY**  
*All towns* – Australia Day  
*Alpha* – ICPA Cricket Match

**FEBRUARY**  
*Alpha* – 4B’s Rodeo

**MARCH**  
*Barcaldine* – Races  
*Barcaldine* – Clay Target Shoot  
*Barcaldine* – Golf Open  
*All towns* – Clean Up Australia Day

**APRIL**  
*All towns* – Anzac Day  
*Barcaldine* – Races

**MAY**  
*Aramac* – Races  
*Barcaldine* – Barcaldine Tree of Knowledge Festival  
*Barcaldine* – P. H. & A. Show  
*Alpha* – Show  
*Muttaburra* – Golf Open

**JUNE**  
*Muttaburra* – Landsborough Flock Ewe Show  
*Alpha* – Races  
*Barcaldine* – Races

Please check the event calendar on the Barcaldine Regional Council website, www.barcaldinerc.qld.gov.au, for event details and what’s on when you are visiting.
AUGUST
Muttaburra – Races
Barcaldine – Art Competition
Alpha – Golf Open

SEPTEMBER
Aramac – Ballyneety Rodeo and Campdraft
Barcaldine – Westech Field Days (every 3 years)

OCTOBER
Alpha – Campdraft

NOVEMBER
Barcaldine – Catholic Fair
Barcaldine – Races

DECEMBER
Aramac – Christmas Tree
Barcaldine – Barcy Bucks Shop Locally Campaign
Alpha – Christmas Tree
Jericho – Christmas Tree
Muttaburra – Christmas Tree

REGULAR ACTIVITIES
• Barcaldine Clay Target Club Shot held on the fourth Saturday of the month.
• Bingo is held fortnightly in Alpha and monthly in Barcaldine from March to November.
• Catholic Church Mass held twice a month in Alpha and Jericho.
• Markets are held monthly in Alpha, Jericho (second Saturday) and fortnightly in Barcaldine from March to October.
• Movies at the Jericho Drive-In on the third Saturday of the month except December and January.
• Alpha Men’s Shed meet once a month usually on a Saturday.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

ALPHA
• Golf – Sunday
• Touch Football – Tuesday at 6.00pm

BARCaldINE
• Barcaldine Cultural Association Craft Days – Wednesday at 9.30am
• Croquet – Friday at 8.00am
• Golf – Thursday at 3.00pm and Sunday at 12.00pm
• Lawn Bowls – Friday at 5.30pm and Sunday at 9.30am
• Men’s Shed – Monday and Wednesday at 9.00am to 12.00pm
• Movies – Friday and Sunday at 7.00pm
• QCWA Craft Day – Tuesday at 10.00am
• Tai Chi – Thursday at 9.00am
• Tennis – Tuesday at 6.00pm

MUTTABURRA
• Golf – Sunday at 8.30am
How to get here – all roads lead to our region

ROAD

You can reach the Barcaldine Region via the Capricorn, Matilda and Landsborough Highways and also from the north, via the Torrens Creek Road. The Torrens Creek Road has 30km of unsealed pavement at the Torrens Creek end.

RAIL

Queensland Rail operates trips twice weekly from Brisbane to Alpha, Jericho and Barcaldine aboard the Spirit of the Outback passenger train. Enjoy the relaxing and peaceful tranquillity of train travel. Provision can be made to transport your car onboard the train.

Queensland Rail Reservations: 13 22 32

COACH TRAVEL

The Greyhound coach service operates to and from Rockhampton and Barcaldine on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Travel in the air-conditioned coaches with on board movies and meal breaks along the way.

Greyhound reservations: 1300 473 946

Bus Queensland runs a daily service between Brisbane and Barcaldine.

Bus Queensland reservations: 1300 287 537

AIR TRAVEL

QantasLink flies directly into Barcaldine from Brisbane Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Travel time is approximately two hours.

On alternate days QantasLink has flights from Brisbane into Longreach or Blackall.

Longreach Car Hire: 07 4658 0300

BARCALDINE NEWS AND TRAVEL

Agents for QantasLink, Rex, Queensland Rail, Greyhound and Bus Queensland.

Telephone: 07 4651 1104

CAR HIRE

Car hire vehicles are available from Barcaldine Car Hire who service Barcaldine, Blackall and beyond.

Barcaldine Car Hire
M: 0497 172 755
E: info@barcaldinecarhire.com.au
W: barcaldinecarhire.com.au

If flying into Longreach car hire can be obtained from Budget or Avis car hire.

Longreach Car Hire: 07 4658 0300

8
Outback travel tips

One reason travellers choose to visit the Barcaldine Region is to enjoy the charm and friendliness of our small towns. While we have all the facilities and services you need, in some towns availability may be limited. We have put together these travel tips to help you enjoy your visit to our region.

PLAN AND CHECK: Forward planning is essential. Travel and road conditions can vary, depending on the weather. Never assume - always check before commencing your journey.

FOOD AND FUEL: Some of our service stations have restricted opening hours, so plan ahead and stock up on food and fuel. It's also important to note that LPG is not available in all regional areas. It is advisable to contact the Visitor Information Centres or Barcaldine Regional Council when planning your journey to ensure you know the location and availability of food and fuel supplies. We recommend that you fill up the tank at every opportunity.

BANKING: All our towns have bank facilities, but EFTPOS or credit facilities may not be available in all local businesses.

ANIMALS: Many of our roads have stock or wild animals near the road. Dawn and dusk are the times when animals are most prevalent, so try not to travel at these times. Please slow down - they have a habit of behaving unpredictably and crossing in front of you.

HEAVY VEHICLES: When meeting large vehicles on narrow roads, slow right down and move off to the left. In wet conditions the edges tend to be soft and/or slippery, so when pulling off to the left you should always keep your driver's side wheels on the bitumen and keep moving slowly to avoid getting bogged.

ROAD TRAINS: To overtake road trains you should be able to see at least one kilometre of clear road ahead. Be prepared for them to move a little from side to side as you overtake. If a road train is approaching to overtake you, move over as far as possible to the left and stop if necessary to allow it to overtake.

STATION PROPERTIES: Many roads cross station properties - please remember that this is someone’s home and should be treated as such. Leave gates in the same way that you find them - 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. As you travel through private properties, please respect the privacy of the property owners – don’t litter or leave the designated road area.

RUBBISH: Littering in the outback is strictly prohibited; please dispose of litter in the appropriate manner.

BE PREPARED: Always carry water and a first-aid kit and ensure that your spare tyre is at the correct pressure.

ROADS: Always check road and weather conditions before travelling into remote areas.

PHONE COVERAGE: Mobile coverage is available in all our towns. However, even a short distance outside the towns, there is limited or no mobile coverage. Do not rely on your mobile as a means of communication particularly in an emergency. A satellite phone or UHF radio might be something worth thinking about (they can be rented) if you are planning on being in remote areas for any length of time.

BREAKDOWNS: If you break down in the outback - stay with the vehicle until help arrives.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Outback summers are hot but much less humid than on the coast and more bearable. Most 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. The most temperate weather occurs between the beginning of April and the end of October. Wearing a broad brimmed hat and sunscreen is recommended for all seasons.

SAFETY: When travelling to remote areas always check the road conditions before travelling. Advise the police or some other responsible person of your intended itinerary and report back on your arrival. Ensure that your vehicle is mechanically sound and carry ample water and spare parts such as tyres, radiator hoses and fan belts along with a good tool kit.

MEDICAL: Make sure you have enough medical supplies for your trip. Our local pharmacies may not stock your special requirements.

BUSINESS HOURS: Due to circumstances outside their control, opening hours for local businesses may be subject to change at short notice.
Barcaldine to Jericho via Narbethong Road approx. 128km

This scenic drive begins in Barcaldine at the Landsborough Highway and includes many great photographic opportunities.

- Follow the Landsborough Highway, travelling towards Blackall for 26km.
- Turn left into Narbethong Road and travel 60km to the T-intersection of the Jericho and Blackall Roads.
- At the T-intersection turn left onto the Blackall-Jericho Road and travel 42km into Jericho on a combination of bitumen and dirt road.

**Highlights:** On the right, 9.2km out of Barcaldine is a botanical walk. You are likely to see kangaroos, emus and a variety of birdlife and wildflowers in August and September.

Jericho to Aramac via Lake Dunn approx. 146km

This is a scenic drive, mostly dirt road, travelling through local cattle properties.

- Begin in Jericho and travel 0.2km on the highway towards Barcaldine where you cross the railway and turn right into the Jericho-Aramac Road.
- Continue straight ahead on the Jericho-Aramac Road for approximately 53km.
- At the T-Intersection turn left and continue on the Jericho-Aramac Road for approximately 26km to the Ballyneety Road on the right.
- (If you would like to continue to Aramac instead of going to Lake Dunn, follow the Jericho-Aramac Road for approximately 66km and then turn left onto Eastmere Road, travel for 7km before arriving at Aramac).
- Travel along the Ballyneety Road for approximately 60km and then turn right onto Eastmere Road.
- Travel along Eastmere Road for 7km and you will arrive at Lake Dunn on your left.

**Highlights:** Lake Dunn, Lake Dunn Sculpture Trail and the Healing Circle and Jump Up. You are likely to see a variety of birdlife including emus, wedge-tail eagles, brolgas, plains turkeys, deer, kangaroos, camels and much more.

Aramac to Gray Rock and Horsetailer’s Gorge approx. 47.5km

- Travel 7km east out of Aramac along Eastmere Road (Lake Dunn Road).
- Turn right onto the Jericho-Aramac Road and travel approximately 40km to the Gray Rock turn off on your left.
- Gray Rock is located about 500 meters down this road.
- Horsetailer’s Gorge is on your right, a further 1.2km along the Jericho-Aramac Road from the Gray Rock turn off.

**NOTE:** There is a private property called Gray Rock, please refer to the historical signs for the turn off point for the historical site.

PLEASE NOTE: the road is sealed from Aramac to Lake Dunn via Eastmere Road. Ballyneety Road and Jericho-Aramac Road are unsealed. Check road conditions before setting off.
Lake Dunn to Muttaburra via Bowen Downs approx. 191km

Begin at Lake Dunn – 67km north-east of Aramac along the Lake Dunn Road.

- Travel south-west on Eastmere Road towards Aramac for 2.5km.
- Turn right onto Marshall Road (this has a Heritage Trail sign) and travel approximately 22km and turn left onto Reedy Creek Road.
- Continue on Reedy Creek Road for approximately 92km and then turn right onto the Torrens Creek Road.
- Continue for approximately 20km then turn left onto the Bowen Downs Road.
- Continue for approximately 47km then turn right onto the Aramac-Muttaburra Road.
- Turn right into the Aramac-Muttaburra Road and you will reach Muttaburra after 8km.

Highlights: This is a scenic drive where you will see the diverse landscapes of the region and the historic property Bowen Downs. You will travel through cattle and sheep country, as well as areas where there is an abundance of wildlife with many photographic opportunities.

Muttaburra to Longreach

There are two options to travel from Muttaburra to Longreach.

Crossmoor Road or Alternative Route Road approx. 124km

- Crossmoor Road begins 8km on the eastern side of Muttaburra on the Aramac-Muttaburra Road.
- There is a sign – Alternative Road to Longreach.
- Crossmoor Road is all dirt and due to the channels and flood plains may be closed in wet weather.

Cramsie Road approx. 124km

- Travel west through Muttaburra down Bruford Street (which is also the Muttaburra-Hughenden Road) for 2km.
- Just after the airport, turn left into Cramsie Road.
- The total distance from Muttaburra to Longreach is 124km, which includes 30km of intermittent dirt and 94km of bitumen.
The Lake Dunn Sculpture Trail features more than 35 sculptures along the way as well as the renowned Gray Rock historical site, the wonder of Horsetailer’s Gorge, the mystical Healing Circle and the glorious Lake Dunn. More sculptures are being added each year so keep your eyes out for new additions.

The Sculpture Trail is a circuit starting in Aramac but is also accessible from Jericho. You can travel the loop either way and it covers a distance of approximately 200km.

Before you leave Aramac, take the time to find the giant scrap metal Red Roo that is situated at the town’s roo works.

How did the sculptures get there? Ask a local and you may be told an interesting story about a sheila with a few roos loose in the top paddock. In reality, the sculptures are the works of a local sculptor, Milynda Rogers, who resides on a grazing property along the trail and decided she needed a platform to display her work. The result is one of the biggest, permanent, outdoor sculpture exhibitions in the world. She has combined her love of sculpture and incredible ability to turn junk into art to fulfil her wish to put a smile on the faces of the people who travel through one of the most beautiful and historical parts of Queensland.
Other sculptures in our region

The Barcaldine Region has a variety of sculptures throughout our region. We believe that public art brightens communities, creates talking points, displays a healthy township and complements the lifestyle of our region. While you visit, become a part of our community and linger longer to enjoy our public art trail.

JERICHO
- Trumpeter

BARCALDINE
- Striking shearer
- Variety of animals at the Barcaldine Hospital

MUTTABURRA
Milynda Rogers
- Brölgas
- School Children
- Bunch of Fruit
- Golf Ball (At Golf Club)
- Barb Dinosaur
- Goanna

Other Muttaburra artists
- Plane by Rupert Ballinger
- Shearer & Sheep by Andrew Whitehead
- Dinosaur Cutouts by Crinkle Creek
- After the Rain by Ian Batt
- Giants Chair by Hugh Button
- Emu & Chicks by John Robinson
- Yellowbelly Fish by Peter Turnbull
- Lady & Child by Women’s Welding Group
- Mudskipper by Andrew Whitehead
- Dinosaur Pipe Log by Muttaburra State School
- Flock of Birds by Winnie Batt
- Centre of Queensland
Take the trail – see all our region has to offer

Day 1 – Alpha

• 8.30am  Alpha Mural Trail 1-2 hours
• 10.00am  Morning tea
• 10.30am  Tivoli Theatre Museum 30 min (donation appreciated)
• 11.00am  Fossilised Forest 15 min
• 11.15pm  Alpha Dip Yards 15 min
• 12.00pm  Lunch
• 2.00pm  Walking tracks and new bridge 30 min – 1 hour
• 2.30pm  Alpha Cemetery 30 min – 1 hour
• 3.00pm  Settlers Park 30 min – 1 hour

Day 2 – Jericho

• 9.30am  Model Clay Village 15–30 min
• 10.00am  Crystal Trumpeters and Barbwire Trumpeter 15–30 min
• 10.30am  Morning tea
• 11.00am  Jericho Drive-In Theatre 15 min (movies shown once a month in the evenings, admission fee applies if movies are showing)
• 11.15am  Redbank Park 30 min – 1 hour (adventure playground, fishing, bird watching, bushwalking and camping)
• 12.15pm  Murals and Parks 15–30 min
• 12.45pm  Lunch

Jericho to Barcaldine – 89km

Day 3 – Barcaldine

• 8.30am  Barcaldine Visitors Information Centre 30 min
• 9.00am  Oak Street 40 min – musical instruments, sculpture, murals including the d'Arcy Doyle mural and 1918 Saltern Creek Bushfire Memorial
• 9.40am  “C” Pattern Windmill 10 min
• 9.50am  Tree of Knowledge 15 min
• 10.00am  Morning tea
• 10.30am  Australian Workers Heritage Centre 2–3 hours (admission fee applies)
• 12.30pm  Lunch
• 1.30pm  Comet Masonic Lodge 30 min (by appointment only)
• 2.00pm  Bird Watching 1–2 hours (Photography at Lagoon Creek and/or Botanical Park)
• 3.00pm  Barcaldine Cemetery 1 hour

Day 4 – Barcaldine

• 8.30am  Barcaldine and District Historical Museum 1–2 hours (admission cost applies)
• 9.30am  Guns & War Memorial Clock 15–30 min
• 10.00am  Morning tea
• 10.30am  St Peter’s Anglican Church 15–30 min (donations appreciated, by appointment only)
• 11.00am Red Shed Arts and Craft Centre
  30 min - 1 hour (by appointment only)
• 12.00pm Lunch
• 1.00pm Between the Bougainvillea’s Heritage Trail
  1 hour (booklet available $2)
• 2.00pm Lloyd-Jones Weir 1-2 hours
  (fishing, bird watching, bushwalking & camping)
  (donations appreciated) – 14km, 20 min
• 4.00pm Pub Crawl 1 hour or more (costs can apply)

OTHER:
Radio Picture Theatre – duration of movie showing (costs apply)
Bicycle Hire – 15 min to all day (costs apply)

OPTION 2 – Gray Rock and Horsetailer’s Gorge
Gray Rock – travel distance from Aramac 35km, 45 min
Horsetailer’s Gorge – travel distance from Gray Rock 5km, 10-15 min

OPTION 3 – Lake Dunn Sculpture Trail, travel distance approximately 200km, 5 hours to full day self-drive tour.

Barcaldine to Aramac – 68km
Day 5 – Aramac

• 8.30am White Bull 15-30 min
• 9.00am Harry Redford Interpretive Centre 15-30 min
• 9.30am Aramac Memorial Park
  (children’s play equipment and park lands) 15-30 min
• 10.00am Morning tea
• 10.30am Tramway Museum 1 hour
  (donation appreciated)
• 11.30am Adorabull trail 15-30 min

THINGS TO EXPLORE:

OPTION 1 – Lake Dunn and Healing Circle
Lake Dunn – travel distance from Aramac 68km, 45 min – fishing, bush walking, bird watching, camping
Healing Circle – 25 min from Aramac

Times are approximate and may vary depending on individual preferences.
FREEDOM OF CHOICE PARKS

The Freedom of Choice Parks create a trail for you to stay when visiting the outback towns of Jericho, Aramac and Muttaburra. Designed to be family friendly with communal facilities to encourage visitor interaction and group activities. Each location is strategically placed with trees to offer privacy and shade.

Each park has a capacity of around 200 and while you cannot book a specific spot, you can book online. The Freedom of Choice Parks offer wide open spaces, access to water, communal facilities, dump points and free Wi-Fi.

$8.00 per night

Booking fees apply.

In the unlikely event you do not have access to the internet, please pay at the local Council administration office.

Jericho: 8 Darwin Street
Aramac: 35 Gordon Street
Muttaburra: 20 Bruford Street

Our region boosts an extensive range of accommodation and we have an option to suit every traveller.

Experience staying in an outback Pub
B&B’s
Caravan Parks
Camping grounds
Motels
Cabins

Lay your swag out and enjoy the unobstructed view of the stars

PROUDLY FUNDED BY QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT’S OUTBACK TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE FUND.
Bird watching & wildflowers

The outback is noted for its unique flora and fauna and our region contains a diverse range of both. There are more than 200 different species of birds in our region and when conditions are right we have some spectacular displays of wildflowers. Brochures on both the birds and wildflowers in our region are available at all our Information Centres.

Outback mates

Visitors to our region are assured a warm welcome when they meet one of our Outback Mates. Each town has local identities who are ambassadors for our region. Our Mates enjoy a chat and are happy to provide visitors with general information on our region.

Also look out for the Outback Mates Akubra logo at all our Visitor Information Centres and pop in and ask about the program.

Geocaching

Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS–enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. There are millions of caches worldwide.

Geocaching is becoming an increasingly popular activity in our region. We have over 200 caches. They include traditional, letterbox, mystery, multi caches and earth caches. For more information on caches in our area consult www.geocaching.com
Genealogy

Discover your family’s story through historical records.

Our region has a rich history which can be explored through family and historical records. If you have an ancestor who lived or worked in our region we may be able to assist with your research.

The Barcaldine region has a number of resources to help you learn your family’s story. Take the time to visit our libraries, information centres and Council offices to help you gather information from family history sheets and cemetery records. Our Visitor Information Centres are a great place to start, they can direct you to the best sources of information in each community.

Agate fossicking

Agate fossicking is a growing hobby and Muttaburra is known for its agates. Bring along your picks and buckets to enjoy this pastime while visiting the community.

Follow the sign up on the ridge past the Golf Course on Cramsie Road and enjoy some fossicking.
Alpha, the Gateway to the West was named after an early property in the area, Alpha Station, which was established in 1863. The town adopted the name when the railway was constructed and the town became a service centre for railway construction workers.

Alpha is a natural stopping point on your journey and this vibrant community has several hidden treasures. Best known as the town of murals, our 28 murals beautifully illustrate the day to day life of people in the bush and the pioneering history of our district. The murals were painted by local and former resident artists and add a colourful ambiance to our town.

Our major industry is beef production. However, this may change in the future due to the discovery of large coal deposits. Although Alpha has a small population, we provide most of the facilities, shopping and services that our visitors need.

Alpha is located in the heart of the Galilee Basin mining precinct.
THINGS TO EXPLORE

WALKING TRACKS
If you enjoy walking there are a number of interesting walks in and around Alpha. These walks encompass a number of interesting aspects of the town's history and natural wonders including our 28 murals. Our Tourist Information Centre will be happy to provide you with a brochure containing a map of the walking trail and information on each mural.

BETA HUT AND RAILWAY MEMORABILIA
Opened on Monday 12 January 1885, Beta acted as a terminus for just five months. During Beta’s short life, Tom McLaughlin manned a boisterous pub and Cobb & Co received coach passengers from a tent. By June 1885 only the Railway Station and the navvies hut remained. Beta was unique for two reasons. Firstly, its experimental water tank and secondly, it was the first main line place in Queensland where trains could pass each other without any staff in attendance. Beta was situated in a small town and railway settlement about 30km west of Alpha, between Alpha and Jericho. Take the time to explore memorabilia and read about Anzac Day, the War and the Railway including the 1960 train crash at Medway Creek and the 1941 train crash that occurred at Alpha Creek.

THE FOSSILISED FOREST SCULPTURE
The Alpha region is famous for its petrified wood and its latest attraction the Fossilised Forest sculpture reflects this. The sculpture by Cedar Creek artist Antone Bruinsma is a representation of a boulder which has been opened to reveal its treasures and mysteries. The exterior of the sculpture has interesting forms, carvings and stone attachments that reflect the history of the prehistoric area in which petrified wood formed.

JANE NEVILLE ROLFE ART GALLERY
The Jane Neville Rolfe collection is named after the famous water colourist who visited Alpha Station in the 1800s. Whilst there she painted the famous Breakfast at Alpha which depicts a bush picnic breakfast scene complete with ladies in their long dresses. The gallery showcases the works of local artists as well as internationally renowned artists. The collection also includes the works of renowned wood worker Bruce Cook. The gallery offers a limited number of works for sale.

To visit the Gallery contact the Alpha Tourist Information Centre.

TIVOLI THEATRE MUSEUM
Behind the Alpha Tourist Information Centre in Shakespeare Street is our Tivoli Theatre Museum that houses a collection of memorabilia from the early settlement days of Alpha through to the modern era. The latest addition to the collection is a mural depicting a horseman at sunset.

NEW BRIDGE
An easy stroll down the lower end of Shakespeare Street is the New Bridge. It was built by the railway and in 1941 was the site of a tragic rail accident. Locomotive no. 147 crashed through the bridge killing the driver and fireman.

ALPHA CEMETERY
Like all Western Queensland cemeteries the Alpha Cemetery is filled with history. If you are looking for genealogical information or have an interest in the history of the area, the cemetery is a great place to start. The historical ‘Pine Hill’ cemetery is approximately 25km on the Capricorn Highway east of Alpha. Graves date back to 1883. Cemetery records are available from the Information Centre or the Barcaldine Regional Council Alpha Office.

ALPHA DIP YARDS
The Alpha Dip Yards are an easy walk from the town centre. These are used when cattle and other stock travel between non-tick and tick infested areas. The yards were purpose built in close proximity to the rail line, when rail was the main means of transport for cattle.

SETTLERS PARK
Situated in Shakespeare Street this park is a great place to picnic or have a relaxing break from your travels. The park contains children’s play equipment, a skate park, a BBQ and toilet facilities.

interesting FACT

Renowned artists Luke Roberts and Jane Neville Rolfe have spent time living in Alpha as did author Isobel Hoch who wrote a number of books on the area.
ALPHA STREETS are named after famous poets.
WHERE TO STAY
Alpha Hotel/Motel
33 Shakespeare Street
T: 07 4985 1311

Alpha Villa Caravan Park
1 Hooper Street
T: 07 4985 1337

WHERE TO EAT
Alpha Hotel/Motel
33 Shakespeare Street
T: 07 4985 1311

Alpha Golf Club
53 Dryden Street
T: 07 4985 1398

Snow’s Bakery
47 Shakespeare Street
T: 07 4985 1334

WHERE TO FILL UP
Alpha Elite
68 Milton Street
T: 07 4985 1233

Tilston’s Driveway
59 Shakespeare Street
T: 07 4985 1131

MECHANICAL
Topline Mechanical
95 Shakespeare Street
T: 07 4985 1615

Tilston’s Driveway
59 Shakespeare Street
T: 07 4985 1131

GROCERIES
Spar Groceries
37 Shakespeare Street
T: 07 4985 1302

Alpha Elite
68 Milton Street
T: 07 4985 1233

Alpha Quality Meats
2 Tennyson Street
T: 07 4985 1850

MEDICAL
Alpha Hospital
2 Burns Street
T: 07 4809 7000
Outpatients: 1pm-4pm
Monday to Friday
Provides emergency service
24hrs a day

Alpha Medical Centre
2 Burns Street
T: 07 4809 7002

Alpha Private Surgery
3 Gordon Street
T: 07 4809 7002

PHARMACY
Alpha & Jericho Pharmacy
Shop 2, 51 Shakespeare Street
07 4985 1943

CHURCHES
St John’s Catholic Church
21 Dryden Street
T: 07 4985 1332

St Mark’s Anglican Church
3 Scott Street
T: 07 4985 1138

UNITING CHURCH
25 Milton Street
T: 07 4985 1207

PARKS
Jaycee Park is located on
the corner of Moore and
Dryden Streets.

Lyons Park is located in
Dryden Street, next to
the Truck Park along the
Capricorn Highway.

Uniting Church
25 Milton Street
T: 07 4985 1207

Settlers Park is located in
Moore Street.

INTNET
Council Library
8 Tennyson Street
T: 07 4985 1330

Alpha Information Centre
43-45 Shakespeare Street
T: 07 4985 1050

Council Library
8 Tennyson Street
T: 07 4985 1330

Opening hours:
• Monday 2.00pm to 5.00pm
• Wednesday 9.30am to
  12.30pm and 2.00pm to
  5.00pm
• Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm

BANKING
Bank of Queensland
29 Shakespeare Street
T: 07 4985 1370

Commonwealth Bank
Agency
– Alpha Post Office
17 Milton Street Alpha
T: 07 4985 1147

ATM
Rowley Roberts
Information Centre
43-45 Shakespeare Street
The tranquil and charming township of Jericho is situated on the banks of the Jordan River, south of Lake Galilee. It was originally settled when the railway line reached the banks of the Jordan River in 1885. Named after a pioneer of the area Harry Jordan, Jericho - because of its biblical sounding name - became connected with the story of Joshua and the walls of Jericho.

A group of local artists and historians have created a structure that tells the story of how Joshua won the battle of Jericho. The structure, called the Crystal Trumpeters, is located in the main thoroughfare, Darwin Street and is an interesting stopping off point on your journey.

We are home to one of the smallest, still operating, drive-in theatres in Australia. Once a month the theatre hosts a movie-double featuring the latest movies.

Redbank Park on the banks of the Jordan River is a great place to camp, fish and bird watch. There is a walking track that follows the river and it’s a great place to exercise while experiencing the local flora and fauna.

Our town also has a number of interesting and colourful murals painted by local residents. One of the most popular is the two goannas having a beer in Darwin Street.
Jericho was once home to a thriving Ostrich Farm.
PLACES OF INTEREST

1. The Crystal Trumpeters
2. Murals
3. Redbank Park
4. Jericho Drive-in
5. Information Centre, Post Office and Library
6. School
7. Police Station
8. Jericho Nursing Service
9. Pool
10. Jericho Cemetery

JERICHO STREETS are named after famous scientists.
WHERE TO STAY

CAMPING AREA
Jericho Showground
Located on the town fringe. Powered sites and amenities block and plenty of hot water. Pets allowed but animals must be restrained. Camping fees: pay $30 for two nights and stay for five nights.

Freedom of Choice Park
Redbank Park
Redbank Road
$8.00 per night

HOTELS
Jordan Valley Hotel
43 Darwin Street
T: 07 4651 4148

WHERE TO EAT
Jordan Valley Hotel
43 Darwin Street
T: 07 4651 4148

WHERE TO FILL UP
Pearce’s Garage
3 Bessemer Street
T: 07 4651 4237

MECHANICAL
Pearce’s Garage
3 Bessemer Street
T: 07 4651 4237

MEDICAL
Jericho Community Clinic
19 Pasteur Street
T: 07 4651 4235

CHURCHES
Catholic Church
6 Edison Street
T: 07 4651 4157

Anglican Church
3 Darwin Street
T: 07 4651 1181

BANKING
Commonwealth Bank Agency
Jericho Information Centre and Library
Jericho Railway Station
8 Darwin Street
T: 07 4651 4129

ATM
Jericho Post Office, Information Centre and Library
Jericho Railway Station
8 Darwin Street
T: 07 4651 4129

PARKS
Langston Park is located on the corner of Pasteur and Faraday Streets.

Railway Park is located in Darwin Street.

Redbank Park is located on the east side of Jericho, off Lyon Street on the Jordan River.

SWIMMING POOL
Tyndall Street

COUNCIL LIBRARY
Jericho Post Office
Jericho Railway Station
8 Darwin Street
T: 07 4651 4129

INTERNET
Jericho Information Centre and Library
Jericho Railway Station
8 Darwin Street
T: 07 4651 4129

MECHANICAL
Pearce’s Garage
3 Bessemer Street
T: 07 4651 4237

MEDICAL
Jericho Community Clinic
19 Pasteur Street
T: 07 4651 4235

CHURCHES
Catholic Church
6 Edison Street
T: 07 4651 4157

Anglican Church
3 Darwin Street
T: 07 4651 1181

BANKING
Commonwealth Bank Agency
Jericho Information Centre and Library
Jericho Railway Station
8 Darwin Street
T: 07 4651 4129

ATM
Jericho Post Office, Information Centre and Library
Jericho Railway Station
8 Darwin Street
T: 07 4651 4129

PARKS
Langston Park is located on the corner of Pasteur and Faraday Streets.

Railway Park is located in Darwin Street.

Redbank Park is located on the east side of Jericho, off Lyon Street on the Jordan River.

SWIMMING POOL
Tyndall Street

COUNCIL LIBRARY
Jericho Post Office
Jericho Railway Station
8 Darwin Street
T: 07 4651 4129

INTERNET
Jericho Information Centre and Library
Jericho Railway Station
8 Darwin Street
T: 07 4651 4129
Barcaldine is situated on the junction of the Capricorn and Landsborough Highways and known as the Garden City of the West. We are the largest town in the Barcaldine region and proud of our interesting and famous history.

Barcaldine is home to the Tree of Knowledge, the reputed birth place of the labour movement in Australia. The tree, a ghost gum, grew outside the Railway Station for about 180 years until 2006 when sadly, it was poisoned by an unknown culprit. The famous tree has been preserved and placed under an award winning timber structure that was constructed to protect the preserved tree and celebrate its importance in Australia’s history. The structure is impressive during the day but when viewed at night is truly magnificent.

The name Barcaldine originates from the Oban region in Scotland. Donald Charles Cameron was one of the first settlers in our district and a direct descendant of the Campbells of Barcaldine Castle. He settled on a portion of land fronting the Alice River and immediately named his property Barcaldine Downs. The railway line came as far as Lagoon Creek in 1886 and the township of Barcaldine developed on land from the Barcaldine Downs run.

We are a friendly community and encourage our visitors to not just stop and have a holiday but to take the opportunity to become involved in our community. We encourage you to attend our variety of community events and numerous sporting clubs that welcome visitors.
THINGS TO EXPLORE

TREE OF KNOWLEDGE MEMORIAL
The Tree of Knowledge is Barcaldine’s most famous and much loved attraction located in Oak Street outside the Railway Station. The tree has had a long and fascinating history and is most famous for its connection to the 1891 Shearers' Strike. Legend has it that the striking shearers held their meetings, plays and assemblies under the shade of the eucalypt and that the formation of the labor movement and Australian Labor Party has its roots under the great tree.

The tree has seen many changes and undergone many changes itself. In 2006 the tree was fatally poisoned and after its death the tree’s remains were taken to Brisbane where it underwent a world’s first preservation process. It was then returned to Barcaldine and placed under the Award winning timber structure designed by Brian Hooper and Michael Lavery. The structure is comprised of 4,913 individual timbers, 3,449 of which are hung to give the illusion of a canopy over the tree. The tree now serves as an important place to meet and reflect, and remember those who fought for better working conditions. The best view of the tree and the Memorial is at night when it is beautifully lit by special lighting.

HOME OF THE YOUNG-UN, the only direct descendent of the Tree of Knowledge. The Centre’s exhibits inform and highlight the linkages and history behind the Tree of Knowledge story.

Discover at your own pace... The Workers Heritage Centre is set on over five acres of beautifully landscaped gardens surrounding a bore fed billabong. The surrounds have been designed to complement your visit. Picnic shelters, BBQ facilities and children’s playground all add to the family friendly experience of the Workers Heritage Centre. Wheel chair access and disabled facilities are available.

The Centre’s unique retail outlet features distinctly Australian gift lines and souvenirs, as well as innovative, eclectic home wares, jewellery and accessories.

This oasis in the outback offers a place for reflection and relaxation.

T: 07 4651 1579
E: awhc1991@bigpond.com
W: www.australianworkersheritagecentre.com.au

AUSTRALIAN WORKERS HERITAGE CENTRE – A CENTRE FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS
The Australian Workers Heritage Centre is a cultural and heritage styled interpretive centre celebrating working history.

Within this museum styled complex, featuring some 14 buildings housing 22 displays and exhibitions, visitors can journey through these unique spaces capturing the spirit of our nation’s workers and where the stories of Australia’s working history comes to life.

WANPA-RDA MATILDA OUTBACK EDUCATION CENTRE – ADVENTURE PACKAGES TO AUSTRALIA’S BIGGEST CLASSROOM!
The Australian Workers Heritage Centre in Barcaldine, operates its own Outback Education Centre - Wanpa-rda Matilda, idyllically located within the centre’s spacious grounds.

In 1996, working in partnership with Education Queensland, the Workers Heritage Centre initiated the development of this learning centre with attached residential facilities and an in-house catering service.

Since then, this first class excursion facility has given thousands of students the chance to explore this remarkable part of Australia’s outback and to discover first-hand their rich history and heritage.

Coming to Wanpa-rda is experiencing school camps the easy way. Wanpa-rda Matilda has a fully qualified teacher onsite, who will customise and develop a unique itinerary for each visiting school. Students are offered the highest quality
learning experience beyond the classroom, with camp programs and tours all aligned to Australian Curriculum, ensuring each experience is both educational and fun filled, from breakfast to supper.

But what’s most impressive about a school camp at ‘Wanpa-ra Matilda’ OEC is that it all comes with a guarantee.... the memories will last a lifetime!

For all enquiries please telephone 07 4651 2530, email the.principal@wanpardaeec.eq.edu.au or visit www.wanpardaeec.eq.edu.au

BETWEEN THE BOUGAINVILLESAS HERITAGE TRAIL
Between the Bougainvilleas Heritage Trail is an award winning heritage trail that showcases some of Barcaldine’s varied and colourful history. Maroon signs featuring a windmill logo have been placed at significant historical sites around Barcaldine.

Each sign provides a brief history of its site and a photograph of what was originally there. You can walk, drive or cycle along the Heritage Trail which is mapped out in a booklet available from the Visitor Information Centre.

MASONIC LODGE
NATIONAL HERITAGE LISTED BUILDING
The Comet Masonic Lodge was built in 1901 and is one of the most unusual buildings in Barcaldine. Built from iron and timber it has a painted façade front and back which has been designed to make the building look as if it is made from brick.

It is still used as a Masonic Temple and meetings are held once a month. Tours of the Lodge by a local mason can be arranged by contacting the Visitor Information Centre.

ST PETER’S ANGLICAN CHURCH
NATIONAL HERITAGE LISTED BUILDING
St Peter’s Anglican Church was consecrated in 1898 and contains some of the most beautiful stained glass windows in Western Queensland. The windows are predominantly memorials for family members of the founding congregation. Regular church services are still held at St Peters, times are displayed on the notice board outside the church.
Access to St Peter’s church is by appointment only. For appointments please contact the Visitor Information Centre.

RADIO PICTURE THEATRE
The Radio Picture Theatre was first opened on the Saturday 10 April 1926. It was a family owned and operated business until 1995 when the Barcaldine Branch of the Arts Council took it over.

The building still houses the original canvas seats and painted proscenium around the screen.

It is currently run by volunteers from the Arts Council and operates on most weekends, showing the latest movies.

THE WINDMILL
The large windmill in Oak Street is a symbol of the importance of artesian water in the daily life of the people of the outback. The Windmill was manufactured in Rockhampton in September 1917 by the Sidney Williams Company. The windmill was originally erected on the site of the “first flowing bore in Queensland” at Back Creek.

MEMORIAL CLOCK
Like many regional townships in Australia, Barcaldine commemorates and honours its fallen heroes with memorials. The beautiful marble clock located at the junction of Beech and Ash Streets honours the 292 local men who served during the first world war, including the 38 fallen. It is a memorial of particular significance as it is one of the few clock type war memorials in Australia and the only one of its style in Queensland.

It was erected in 1924 and unveiled by the then Governor of Queensland, Sir Matthew Nathan. The clock was designed and made by A.L. Petrie, monumental masons of Toowong – Brisbane, out of marble from Ulam near Gladstone and cost £524.

WAR MEMORIAL MONUMENT
The War Memorial monument is in honour of the men and women from the Central Western District of Queensland who served their country as members of the Australian defence forces. It recognises the wars, confrontations and the need for peace keeping forces since World War II. The monument was unveiled at the Anzac Day service on Tuesday 25 April 2017. The memorial is the result of funding obtained through the Queensland Government’s Community Benefit Fund and Capital Works supplied by Barcaldine Regional Council.

THE GUNS MEMORIAL
The Guns Memorial in Ash Street features a Turkish Gun, German Mortar and Japanese Gun. The Turkish Gun is a Krupp 75mm Model 1907, the German Mortar is a 1916 German 75mm Leichter Minenwerfer (Light Mine Thrower) and the Japanese Gun is a 75mm Mountain Gun Type 41. Each gun was presented to the Barcaldine Shire.

SALTERN CREEK BUSHFIRE MEMORIAL
A memorial is located in Bryan Park, Oak Street, to mark the 100 year anniversary of the devastating bushfires on Tuesday 29 October 1918 on Saltern Creek, Willoughby and Rodney Downs. The memorial is in memory of the seven men who perished as a result of the disastrous bushfires. This bushfire remains one of the worst fire disasters in Queensland’s history.
EXPLORE OUR NATURAL BEAUTY

BARCALDINE BOTANICAL WALK
The Barcaldine Botanical Walk, situated 9km south of Barcaldine on the Landsborough Highway, is a bushland experience not to be missed. The walk consists of land which has been set aside for the purpose of helping to educate the public about the local flora and fauna. There is a designated walking track which has a number of plants identified by special tags giving the botanical name, the common name and the way it may have been used by the local Aboriginal community. Camping is not allowed.

LAGOON CREEK / FRAZER WAY WALKING PATH
On the outskirts of Barcaldine, Lagoon Creek is a popular walking and bird watching spot. There are two kilometres of concrete walking tracks nestled in native vegetation. You are welcome to walk your dog along the paths. Wildlife such as kangaroos and emus use Lagoon Creek as a watering point so all dogs must be kept on a leash.

Early mornings and evenings are the best time to view wildlife at Lagoon Creek. Many beautiful native birds are seen here, including water birds, finches, brolgas and fairy wrens. A list of local birds can be obtained from the Visitor Information Centre.

There is a traffic course for kids and exercise equipment. A Disc Golf course has also been installed in the area. It is a great fun activity for family and friends so get a group together. Bring along your own Frisbee or purchase a Disc Golf Disc from the Barcaldine Visitors Information Centre or the Barcaldine Administration Office for $20.00.

LLOYD-JONES WEIR
The Lloyd-Jones Weir is situated 14kms from Barcaldine on the Barcaldine Downs Road. It is a popular fishing, recreation and camping site on the banks of the Alice River. The Weir is an ideal place to spend a couple of hours relaxing and picnicking.

WILDFLOWER SEASON
During the months of August and September, the countryside 40kms east of Barcaldine erupts into a blaze of colour with spectacular displays of native wildflowers that can be seen easily from the roadside. These very fragile and beautiful flowers never fail to amaze visitors with their ability to survive and grow in very harsh conditions.

Barcaldine was the first place that soldiers used emu feathers to decorate their hats.

Lloyd-Jones Weir

Communities of the Barcaldine Regional Council
HOW TO EXPLORE

BICYCLE HIRE
A great way to savour the delights of Barcaldine, catch up with the locals and get some exercise is to cycle around town on a hired bicycle from the Barcaldine Visitor Information Centre. Hire is available for a very reasonable price and conditions apply.

WATER – THE LIFE BLOOD OF THE OUTBACK

ARTESIAN WATER
Artesian water is the life blood of the Central Western Region of Queensland and is often referred to as liquid gold. The Barcaldine township’s water supply comes from the Great Artesian Basin. It has been pumped directly from the source to the households of Barcaldine since 1910. Our water is not treated before consumption.

Several sites in Barcaldine commemorate artesian water. These sites include the Baths Bore site, the pond and artwork near the windmill as well as an imitation flowing bore at the Australian Workers Heritage Centre.

Barcaldine is serviced by two artesian bores.

EXPERIENCE OUTBACK LIFE

BARCALDINE TAG ALONG TOURS
Visit a working sheep and cattle property, Dunraven and experience the life of an outback family. Enjoy meeting the family and learn what it is really like to live and work on a central western Queensland property for many generations. Tours are conducted on Tuesday and Friday at 9.00am during winter months or by appointment. Bookings are essential, telephone 0427 511 651.

LARA STATION
Lara Station is 28km South of Barcaldine and 78km north of Blackall on the Landsborough Highway, look for the yellow and black Lara sign. Follow the signs for 13km along a graded dirt road to the booking office. Spend some time at one of the tranquil, shady camping spots surrounded by wetlands abundant with birds and wildlife, a photographers joy. Enjoy a campfire and star gazing at night whilst enjoying the sounds of the wildlife. Telephone 07 4651 1619 or 0457 661 243 for bookings.

TRACKERS TOUR COMPANY
We invite you to come and join the Evolution and explore the transformation of the Queensland Outback with us from then to now.

From dinosaurs and Aboriginal Australia to the many achievements of the pioneering settlers. We present to you a blend of palaeontology and living cultures for you to experience both the past and present life of outback Australia.

Telephone Trackers Tours on 07 4651 1859 or visit www.trackerstours.com.au for bookings.
WHERE TO STAY

MOTELS
Barcaldine Country Motor Inn
1 Box Street
T: 07 4651 1488
E: countrymotorinn@bigpond.com

Barcaldine Motel & Villas
5 Box Street
T: 07 4651 1244
E: bookings@barcaldinemotel.com.au

Ironbark Inn Motel
72 Box Street
T: 07 4651 2311

Landsborough Lodge Motel
47 Box Street
T: 07 4651 1100
F: 07 4651 1744

Union Hotel/Motel
61 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 2269

HOTELS
Artesian Hotel
85 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1691
E: artesianhotel@bigpond.com

Commercial Hotel
119 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1242

Railway Hotel
77 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1188

Shakespeare Hotel
97 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1111

Union Hotel/Motel
61 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 2269

SELF CONTAINED
Kenilworth Cottage
Address provided upon booking
M: 0419 731 929
E: Kenilworth_cottage@bigpond.com
Bookings: Airbnb or by above mobile or email.

SEMI-SELF CONTAINED
Starlin Units
39 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1353

CARAVAN PARKS
Barcaldine Tourist Park
51–65 Box Street
T: 07 4651 6066

Homestead Caravan Park
24 Box Street
T: 07 4651 1308

Roses 'n' Things Caravan Park
44 Coolibah Street
T: 0427 223 930

CAMPING GROUNDS
Lara Wetlands
28 kms south of Barcaldine
T: 07 4651 1619
M: 0457 661 243
Pets allowed but animals must be restrained.

WHERE TO EAT
A.L. Davies Mobil Café
39 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1353

Barcaldine Bakery
33 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 2999

Barcaldine Country Motor Inn
1 Box Street
T: 07 4651 1488

Choice Roadhouse
2 Box Street
T: 07 4651 1333

Choice Roadhouse
119 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1242

Commercial Hotel
119 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1242

Homestead Caravan Park
24 Box Street
T: 07 4651 1308

Ironbark Inn Steakhouse
Iron Bark Inn Motel
72 Box Street
T: 07 4651 2311

Lounging Emu Pizza
115 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 2255

Ridgee Didge Café
151 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1931

Roses 'n' Things
44 Coolibah Street
T: 0427 223 930

Satisfaction Bakery and Café
169 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1086

Shakespeare Hotel
97 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1111

Turf and Surf Restaurant
Landsborough Lodge
47 Box Street
T: 07 4651 1100

Witches Kitchen
Union Hotel/Motel
61 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 2269

GROCERIES
IGA Supermarket
179 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 2207

O'Donnell’s Four Square Friendly Grocers
18 Maple Street
T: 07 4651 2233

WHERE TO FILL UP
A.L. Davies Mobil Café
39 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1353

Choice Roadhouse
2 Box Street
T: 07 4651 1333

Choice Roadhouse
119 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1242

Commercial Hotel
119 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1242

Homestead Caravan Park
Caltex
18 Box Street
T: 07 4651 1308

MECHANICAL
All Roads Automotive
64 Gidyea Street
T: 07 4651 2250

Barcaldine Mechanical
53 Oak Street
T: 0427 746 717

Barcaldine Tyre Centre
110 Acacia Street
T: 07 4651 2333

TOURS
Barcaldine Tag Along Tours
Dunraven
M: 0427 511 651
MEDICAL
Ash Street Medical Practice
26 Ash Street
T: 07 4651 1500

Barcaldine Hospital
25 Oak Street
T: 07 4650 4000

Barcaldine Dental Surgery
25 Oak Street
T: 07 4650 4079

Barcaldine Pharmacy
91 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1121

BANKING
Bank of Queensland
149 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 566

Barcaldine Post Office
77 Ash Street
Agency for Commonwealth Bank and NAB
T: 07 4651 1147

ATMS
Bank of Queensland
80 Oak Street
In the building next to the Windmill.

Choice Petroleum
2 Box Street

IGA Supermarket
179 Oak Street

Union Hotel
61 Oak Street

Westpac
103 Oak Street

PARKS
Apex Park and Bryan Park are located at the western end of Oak Street.

Rotary Park is located at the eastern end of Oak Street along the Capricorn Highway.

Barcaldine Town Hall Park and Skate Park is located in the central part of town on the corner of Elm and Beech Streets.

SWIMMING POOL
Corner of Pine and Wilga Streets

COUNCIL LIBRARY
9 Beech Street
T: 07 4651 1170

INTERNET
Barcaldine Library
9 Beech Street
T: 07 4651 1170

Barcaldine Visitor Information Centre
Wi-Fi only
149 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1724

CHURCHES
Assembly of God – Crossroads Christian Community
68 Ash Street
T: 07 4651 2133

Jehovah’s Witness
1 Plane Street
T: 07 4651 6069

St Peter’s Anglican Church
80 Elm Street
T: 07 4651 1181

Scared Heart Catholic Church
89 Elm Street
T: 07 4651 1893

Uniting Church
7 Maple Street
T: 07 4651 2662

APX PARK AND BRYAN PARK

Rotary Park

Barcaldine Town Hall Park and Skate Park

SWIMMING POOL

COUNCIL LIBRARY

INTERNET

Barcaldine Visitor Information Centre

Barcaldine Regional Council

Communities of the Barcaldine Regional Council

35
Aramac is one of the oldest towns in the central west and steeped in history. Originally known as Marathon, our town was later renamed after Robert Ramsay Mackenzie - the first explorer to the area who carved his name (R R Mac) on a tree. The tree was found by the explorer William Landsborough and the name Aramac was born.

Our district was one of the biggest wool producers in Australia but it’s the history of our local cattle industry that has made us famous. The infamous Harry Redford (Captain Starlight) was a drover and cattle duffer who stole cattle from the Aramac area and drove them to South Australia. Among the cattle he stole was a white bull from Bowen Downs which nearly proved to be his undoing.

Harry faced court in Roma Queensland on cattle stealing charges after the white bull was recognised by staff from Bowen Downs. The story of his daring escapades has been retold in many forms but in Aramac we have our own way of celebrating this historical event. We have a statue of the white bull in Gordon Street and when weather permits visitors can join us on our own droving trip to celebrate our connection to Harry.

The Aramac area is a great region to explore and get off the beaten track. We invite you to visit our unique and wonderful natural attractions such as Lake Dunn, Gray Rock and Horsetailer’s Gorge.
THINGS TO EXPLORE

TRAMWAY MUSEUM
An easy walk from the town centre is the Aramac Tramway Museum. The Museum contains memorabilia from the early years of settlement in our district. The most famous piece in the Museum is the restored Aunt Emma RM28 rail motor which travelled on the tramway linking Aramac to Barcaldine from 1913 to 1975.

THE WHITE BULL
The statue of the White Bull of Captain Starlight fame stands proudly in the centre of town. Harry Redford stole the original bull from Bowen Downs in 1870 and along with a mob of other cattle drove them to South Australia, where he sold the bull and two cows to a storekeeper for rations and later the rest of the mob to Blanchewater Station. Stockmen from Bowen Downs had tracked the herd and easily identified the distinctive white bull. Harry Redford was charged with stealing cattle and went to court, along with the white bull which was presented as evidence. The jury found Redford not guilty and the legend of Captain Starlight and the white bull was born.

ADORABULLS
A herd of little white bulls has joined Aramac’s famous White Bull to recognise the exploits of Harry Redford. There are eight little adorabulls and they can be found in front of eight prominent locations. Each one has a name that reflects their location. Take a tour around Aramac and see if you can find them all.

HARRY REDFORD INTERPRETIVE CENTRE
The Henry ‘Harry’ Redford Interpretive Gallery is part of the Rural Transaction Centre in Gordon Street, Aramac. The Gallery contains information on the fascinating story of Harry and his cattle duffing exploits, along with information, merchandise and photographs from the annual Harry Redford Cattle Drives.

ARAMAC MEMORIAL PARK
Aramac Memorial Park is a shady park, located in the centre of town, with play equipment suitable for children, tables, electric BBQs and a swimming pool.

Adjacent to the park is the Harry Redford Centre and sports complex, which has tennis courts, a bowling club, the Aquatic Centre and toilets.

LAKE DUNN SCULPTURE TRAIL
Local artist Milynda Rogers decided she needed a platform to display her work and has created one of the best drives in our area. Situated in the area north east of Aramac, the Lake Dunn Sculpture Trail has more than 35 different metal sculptures dotted along approximately 200kms of country roads. A brochure on the trail can be obtained from any of our Information Centres.
EXPLORE OUR NATURAL BEAUTY

HEALING CIRCLE
The stone Healing Circle is an interesting stopping point on your journey to Lake Dunn. It is an ancient sacred Healing Circle which is connected to six others in the world. The others are located in Japan, Tibet, Madagascar, Peru, Turkey and the United States of America. When you step into the centre – the eye of God – you are connected to the energies of all seven circles. The circle is used for prayer, meditation and healing of the mind, body and soul. It is located on private property so please be considerate when visiting. Camping is not allowed.

LAKE DUNN
Known locally as The Lake, this freshwater lake 68 kms north-east of Aramac is a popular camping, bird watching and water sports location. The drive to The Lake encompasses a single lane bitumen road through a variety of different types of terrain including part of the Aramac Range. Follow the signs to The Lake (not the property Lake Dunn) to the camping area. Camping facilities available at The Lake include toilets, power, hot and cold showers. Waterfront cabins can also be reserved for an overnight stay. Charges apply.

EXPERIENCE OUTBACK LIFE

SHANDONVALE STATION STAYZ
Shandonvale is a working station which offers guests the unique combination of luxury accommodation, regional cuisine and hands on insight into life on the land. Telephone 07 4651 1685 or call mobile 0488 429 119 for more information. Alternatively email shandonvale@outlook.com or visit their website www.shandonvale.com.au

LIVE LIKE A DROVER

HARRY REDFORD CATTLE DRIVE
An unforgettable and spectacular annual event run by volunteers of the Aramac community. Some of Australia’s most experience drovers drive 600 head of cattle by horseback through the twists of the ragged Redford travel – reliving one of the world’s greatest cattle duffing drives known to man. The event runs each May and bookings are required. Please note, subject to weather and sufficient feed being available. www.harryredford.com.au
ARAMAC STREETS are named after prominent town citizens.
WHERE TO STAY
Aramac Hotel
67 Gordon Street
T: 07 4651 3262

Aramac Camping Ground
Booker Street
Powered sites and ablution block and plenty of artesian hot water. Pets allowed but animals must be restrained. Camping fees: pay $30 for two nights and stay for five nights.
T: 07 4652 9999

Lake Dunn Cabins
270 Ballyneety Road
Margie Dickson
T: 07 4651 0565

Shandonvale Station Stayz
T: 07 4651 0685
M: 0488 429 119
E: shandonvale@outlook.com
W: www.shandonvale.com.au

Traveller's Rest Motel
58 Lodge Street
T: 0437 602 784

Freedom of Choice Park
Porter Street
$8.00 per night
Online bookings essential,
Booking fees apply.
Pets allowed but animals must be restrained.

WHERE TO EAT
Aramac Hotel
67 Gordon Street
T: 07 4651 3262

White Bull Roadhouse
59 Lodge Street
T: 07 4651 3256

The Snack Shack on the Lake
Lake Dunn, The Lake
T: 07 4651 0765

GROCERIES
Aramac Cut Price
66 Gordon Street
T: 07 4651 3252

WHERE TO FILL UP
White Bull Roadhouse
59 Lodge Street
T: 07 4651 3256

MEDICAL
Aramac Primary Health Care Centre
McAuliffe Street
T: 07 4652 9000
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 8.00am to 12.00pm & 2.00pm to 4.00pm

CHURCHES
St George’s Anglican Church
Corner of Kerr and Burt Streets
T: 07 4651 3277
Services 2nd Thursday of the Month at 10.00am

St John’s Catholic Church
38 Kerr Street
Services 2nd Sunday of each month at 11.30am

BANKING
Aramac Rural Transaction Centre
58 Gordon Street
Provides Bank services, Centrelink, Medicare, QGAP and QLD Govt services, Bank of Queensland.
T: 07 4651 3359
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday
9.00am to 4.30pm

ARAMAC AQUATIC CENTRE
Within the grounds of the Aramac Memorial Park in Gordon Street

COUNCIL LIBRARY
68 Gordon Street
T: 07 4651 3047

INTERNET
Aramac Library
68 Gordon Street
T: 07 4651 3047
Aramac Rural Transaction Centre
58 Gordon Street
T: 07 4651 3359

Aramac Post Office
22 Gordon Street
T: 07 4651 3147
Agents for Commonwealth and National Agent Giro Post and Credit Unions

PARKS
Aramac Memorial Park is located in Gordon Street.

interesting FACT
The Actor John Jarrett (Wolf Creek) grew up in Aramac (his father was a Church minister there)
Muttaburra derives its name from the local aboriginal tribe of Mootaburra which means the meeting of waters. This is most appropriate as Muttaburra is situated close to a number of water courses.

Muttaburra has the distinction of being the town closest to the geographic centre of Queensland. Although Muttaburra has a small population of around 100, it has a huge reputation for its hospitality and a strong community minded population.

Muttaburra’s most famous moment was when local grazier Doug Langdon uncovered the fossilised skeleton of a dinosaur. The Muttaburrasaurus Langdoni was a land living, plant eating dinosaur that roamed the earth 100 million years ago. The discovery of the skeleton was the first of its kind in Australia and Muttaburra celebrates this with a statue of the Muttaburrasaurus Langdoni at the Muttaburrasaurus Interpretation Centre in Bruford Street.

The Muttaburra area is renowned locally for being a great place to fish for the famous Yellowbelly, or Golden Perch. There are several spots along the Thomson and Landsborough Rivers where you can enjoy camping, fishing and water sports.
THINGS TO EXPLORE

DR ARRATTA MUSEUM
Dr Joseph Andrew Arratta was the resident doctor in Muttaburra from 1925 until he retired in 1960. He was not only a popular local figure, but a pioneer in techniques for performing operations in isolated areas under clinically demanding conditions. After the closure of the hospital in 1989 the building was converted into a historical medical display museum and named after its longest serving doctor - Dr Arratta.

Guided tours of the Museum can be arranged by calling into the Muttaburra Visitor Information Centre or contacting the phone numbers at the Museum.

A.A. CASSIMATIS GENERAL STORE AND COTTAGE
A.A. Cassimatis moved from Greece with his family in 1913 and established a business in Muttaburra. The Cassimatis family worked hard and from humble beginnings established a multi-purpose store. The store became an emporium which housed a bank, green grocery, haberdashery, café, white goods store, liquor dealership and motor spirits agency. In 1987 after 60 years of trading, Mrs Stravroola Cassimatis passed away and the decision was then made to close the store.

The store and cottage have been made into a Museum which showcases the living conditions of the early 1900s and the behind the scenes workings of a general store in a small rural community. Guided tours can be arranged by calling into the Muttaburra Visitor Information Centre.

CENTRE OF QUEENSLAND
Muttaburra has the distinction of being the town closest to the geographic Centre of Queensland. A new monument has been constructed to mark the location.

22° 29' 13" South
144° 25' 54" East

MUTTABURRASAURUS INTERPRETATION CENTRE
The replica of the Muttaburrasaurus Langdoni has a new home in the Muttaburrasaurus Interpretation Centre. In 1963 local grazier, the late Doug Langdon, discovered the fossilised skeleton of a dinosaur near the Thomson River at Muttaburra. This was the second most complete dinosaur skeleton found in Queensland and is the first of five Muttaburrasaurus skeletons found in Australia. The Muttaburrasaurus was a plant eating, land living dinosaur that roamed the Earth around 100 million years ago. The fossilised remains of the dinosaur are currently housed in the Queensland Museum in Brisbane.

That due to the Muttaburrasaurus bones being in such a tough marine sediment that required both mechanical and chemical preparation to extract the bones from the stone, it wasn’t until 1987 that the museum, in conjunction with American palaeontologist Ralf Molnar, named the dinosaur Muttaburrasaurus Langdoni.

did you KNOW?
Where every moment becomes a memory

MUTTABURRA CEMETERY
The Muttaburra Cemetery is located 1.4kms from the centre of town and is a great place to research the genealogical history of the area. There are graves dating from 1871. Pictures of the graves and the information on them can be obtained from the www.muttaburra.com website.

MUTTABURRA AQUATIC CENTRE
The Muttaburra Aquatic Centre is open all year round and contains a 25 metre swimming pool and heated spa. It is home to the Muttaburra Mudskippers Swimming Club and is open to the public.

TOWN DAM
The town dam was built in 1885 by Mr Hudson. For some years this dam was the source of water for the town and water was carted into town in casks. Residents paid 2/6 per cask although double this amount was not uncommon. Later on, the dam was also used as the town’s swimming pool. During the summer months many residents spend time at the dam enjoying the peaceful surrounds.

FOLLOW THE ART TRAIL
Muttaburra is the home to a significant collection of public art. The works are located across our community and many pieces play an important role in capturing the historical values of our past. Other works portray our lifestyle, environment and landscape. They add value to our community and allow visitors to enjoy our past and present history and take home memories of their visit.

EXPERIENCE OUTBACK LIFE
CENTRAL WEST MOTORBIKE TOURS
Come and experience a unique guided tour of the central west. Explore the channel country on a Royal Enfield Himalayan 400cc motorbike and visit places only accessible on this tour.

Enjoy the big open skies with stunning sunsets and the abundance of wildlife. Discover the local history and soak up the country hospitality. Come and have some much needed R&R: Riding and Recreation.

Telephone 0417 002 668 or email sam@centralwestmotorbiketours.com.au for bookings.
EXPLORE OUR NATURAL BEAUTY

BROADWATER
To reach Broadwater, travel 6 kms south on the Straight Road and turn left and travel 3.5 kms on the dirt road. This water hole is one of the best recreational fishing areas in the district. There is a 3.5km stretch of water on the Thomson River ideal for fishing, skiing, bird watching, bushwalking or relaxing in the shade.

PUMP HOLE
The Pump Hole is a short drive from Muttaburra. Drive 3.8 kms east on the Aramac Road and then turn left and travel 1.8 kms on a dirt road to the Pump Hole. Enjoy a family barbecue and swimming under the shade of gums that are estimated to be over 100 years old. This is an ideal fishing spot for the famous Yellowbelly, or Golden Perch, which is a native of the region.

UNION CAMP AND HOLE
The Union Camp was used as a base for 400 shearsers during the 1891 Shearsers’ Strike. Small signs of their occupation can still be seen. Follow the signs to Union Camp located 4.2 kms from Muttaburra. Union Hole is just 0.9 kms further on from Union Camp. Striking shearsers in 1891 drew water from this hole and carted it by dray back to their camp.

interesting FACT
In 1891 a punt service was started on the Thomson River where the traffic bridge now stands. Scale of charges for travellers to Aramac were 2/6 and footmen 1/-.

Where every moment becomes a memory

www.muttaburra.com
MUTTABURRA STREETS are named after prominent town citizens.

Communities of the Barcaldine Regional Council
WHERE TO STAY
Bach on Bruford
9 Bruford Street
M: 0457 302 126

Camping Ground with Facilities
17 Bridge Street
T: 07 4658 7191
Camping fees: pay $30 for two nights and stay for five nights. Pets allowed but animals must be restrained.

Muttaburra Motel
16 Bruford Street
T: 07 4658 7062
M: 0447 965 273

Exchange Hotel
12 Bruford Street
T: 07 4658 7125

Muttaburra QCWA
33 Edkins Street
M: 0437 695 598

Freedom of Choice Park
Cemetery Road
$8.00 per night

WHERE TO EAT
Exchange Hotel
12 Bruford Street
T: 07 4658 7125

Muttaburra Shop and Fuel
8 Bruford Street
T: 07 4658 7467
AH: 0428 587 125

WHERE TO FILL UP
Muttaburra Shop and Fuel
8 Bruford Street
T: 07 4658 7467
AH: 0428 587 125
Openings hours:
• Monday to Friday: 8.00am to 6.00pm
• Saturday and Sunday: 9.00am to 2.00pm

GROCERIES
Muttaburra Shop and Fuel
8 Bruford Street
T: 07 4658 7467
AH: 0428 587 125

GROCERIES
Muttaburra Shop and Fuel
8 Bruford Street
T: 07 4658 7467
AH: 0428 587 125
Openings hours:
• Monday to Friday: 8.00am to 6.00pm
• Saturday and Sunday: 9.00am to 2.00pm

WHERE TO FILL UP
Muttaburra Shop and Fuel
8 Bruford Street
T: 07 4658 7467
AH: 0428 587 125
Openings hours:
• Monday to Friday: 8.00am to 6.00pm
• Saturday and Sunday: 9.00am to 2.00pm

CHURCHES
Anglican Church
25 Sword Street

Catholic Church
26 Sword Street

BANKING POST OFFICE
Muttaburra Postal Agency
16 Sword Street
T: 07 4658 7147
Openings hours:
• Monday to Friday: 9.00am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 5.00pm
• Saturday: 9.00am to 11.00am
Provides Bank@Post, Visitor Information Centre, Gifts and stationery, fishing and bait.

LAUNDRY
Muttaburra Laundromat
16 Sword Street
T: 07 4658 7147
Washing machines, dryer, powder dispenser.

PARKS
Jubilee Park is located in Edkins Street.

AQUATIC CENTRE
Within the grounds of Jubilee Park in Edkins Street.

COUNCIL OFFICE AND LIBRARY
20 Bruford Street
T: 07 4658 7191
Openings hours:
• Monday to Friday: 9.00am to 12.00pm and 1.00pm to 4.00pm

INTERNET
Council Office and Library
20 Bruford Street
T: 07 4658 7191
RURAL LIBRARIES QUEENSLAND

Travellers within regional and outback Queensland can become a member of a public library in the Rural Libraries Queensland (RLQ) network, for free. All the libraries within the Barcaldine Region are part of the scheme, along with 68 other libraries in Queensland. You can get 24/7 access to more than 250,000 books, movies, music, ebooks, emagazines and more. You can join online via the RLQ website, www.slq.qld.gov.au or in person at any Rural Libraries Queensland library.

THE GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN

The Great Artesian Basin is one of the largest artesian groundwater basins in the world and underlies approximately one-fifth of Australia. It extends beneath regions of Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

The Basin covers a total area of over 1,711,000 square kilometres and has an estimated total water storage of 64,900 million mega-litres (a mega-litre is one million litres and equivalent to about half the water in an Olympic swimming pool).

The Great Artesian Basin was formed between 100 and 250 million years ago and consists of alternating layers of water-bearing (permeable) sandstone aquifers and non-water-bearing (impermeable) siltstones and mudstones.

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 two million years for the oldest waters, which occur in the south-western area of the Basin.

The inland of Australia is traversed by streams but these rarely flow and have few permanent waterholes. Unpredictable rainfall and high evaporation meant that early dams and earth tanks built to service the growing population and pastoral industry were unreliable.

Prior to European settlement, Aborigines used the mound springs of the Great Artesian Basin. Some of these feature in Aboriginal myths and are of significant spiritual and cultural value to indigenous communities. Mound springs were and still are a valuable resource for the support of wildlife.

Europeans first discovered the artesian groundwater in 1878 when a shallow bore sunk near Bourke in New South Wales produced flowing water. In 1885 the Queensland Government geologist decided to drill a deep bore at Blackall. However, before completion of this bore, the first artesian flow in Queensland was obtained near Cunnamulla in 1887. Later that year Barcaldine became the first town with artesian water.

The number of bores drilled in Queensland increased from 34 to 524 in the ten year period from 1889 to 1899. By 1915 over 1,500 flowing artesian bores had been drilled throughout the Basin. Thousands of kilometres of bore drains were excavated to distribute water around properties, thus allowing sheep and cattle to be raised on the vast Mitchell grass, Mulga and Spinifex plains. Bore drains are small, open channels that can extend 100 kilometres or more.

The water from the Great Artesian Basin continues to be of vital importance to outback regions of Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia. This water is often the only available supply for towns and properties for their domestic and stock-watering requirements. The Great Artesian Basin also supplies water for minor irrigation works, key mining and extractive industries, the petroleum industry, an emerging tourism industry and limited industrial purposes.

Interesting FACT

In 1887 Barcaldine became the first town to have artesian water.
INFORMATION CENTRES

ALPHA TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Rowley Roberts Information Centre
43-45 Shakespeare Street
T: 07 4985 1050
E: alpha007@bigpond.com.au
Open: Monday to Friday: 7.00am to 5.00pm
Weekends: 7.00am to 12.00pm
Driver Reviver operating 24/7

JERICHO TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Jericho Information Centre and Library
Jericho Post Office
8 Darwin Street
T: 07 4651 4129
Open: Monday to Friday: 7.00am to 5.00pm
Weekends: closed

BARCALDINE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Barcaldine Visitor Information Centre
149 Oak Street
T: 07 4651 1724
E: tourism@barc.qld.gov.au
Open: March to October: Monday to Sunday: 8.15am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm
November to February: Monday to Friday: 8.15am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm
Weekends: 9.00am to 2.00pm.

ARAMAC INFORMATION CENTRE

Aramac Information Centre
Barcaldine Regional Council
35 Gordon Street
T: 07 4652 9999
Open: Monday to Friday: 7.30am to 4.30pm
Weekends: closed

MUTTABURRA INFORMATION CENTRE

Muttaburra Postal Agency
16 Sword Street
T: 07 4658 7147
Open: Monday to Friday: 9.00am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Saturday: 9.00am to 11.00am
Sunday: closed

Photographs have kindly been supplied by the people of the Barcaldine Regional Council region.