

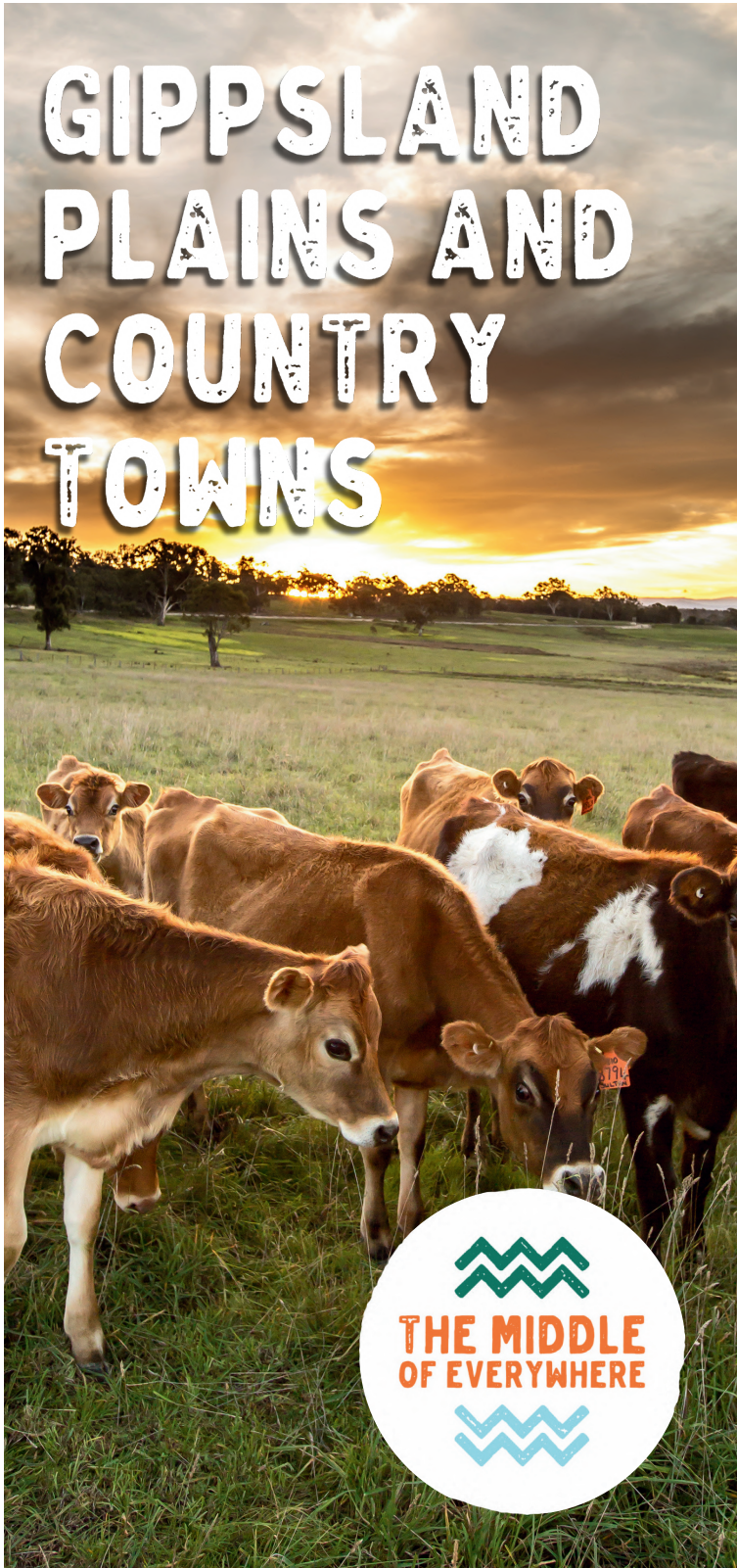
Cowarr is also a perfect stopping point for those riding or walking the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail. Nearby, the impressive Cowarr Weir is a tranquil location for swimming, fishing or enjoying a picnic.

The town is now famed for the series of metal cow sculptures around the town centre, a nod to Cowarr's rich dairying history. The town has many historic buildings including the Cricket Club Hotel and the Old Butter Factory.

Settled in the early 1840's, Cowarr was originally part of the "Hayfield" pastoral run. In its heyday, Cowarr boasted a general store, a postmaster, several banks, at least two churches, two schools, a community hall, shoemaker, bakery, butcher, coach proprietor and four hotels.



COMWARR



Just a few minutes out of Heyfield, you'll find the Blores Hill Mountain Bike Park, where riders of all ages can put their abilities to the test, or just enjoy the tracks through the bush. www.parks.vic.gov.au

Heyfield is a great entry point to the Alpine National Park with a variety of activities to enjoy, such as camping, fishing, 4wd tracks, horse riding and bush walks. Lake Tall Karnag is a must see hiking destination with a beautiful land locked lake to explore. More information on this walk can be found on

The nearby Lake Glenmaggie is one of the most popular inland boating venues east of Melbourne. Used for boating, skiing, fishing and swimming the lake is a popular spot all year round. There are many camping facilities around the lake to enjoy. You can find a pleasant picnic spot near the dam wall, where a cascading overflow provides a spectacular sight, particularly between September and November.

The Heyfield Wetlands is a twitcher's paradise with more than 4km of walking paths and boardwalks. And the Heyfield Visitor Information Centre has a great display of local information and information on the timber industry of the town.

The wetlands also get top billing if you're feeling stroll-ready or fancy a spot of fishing. Sitting on the banks of the spectacular Thomson River, Heyfield is a handsome country town, dotted with quality cafes and classic pubs.

HEYFIELD



VISITOR INFORMATION

Central Gippsland Visitor Centre
Port of Sale
70 Foster Street Sale VIC 3850
Phone: 1300 368 864

Yarram Visitor Information Centre
Yarram Courthouse
9 Rodgers Street Yarram VIC 3971
Phone: 03 5182 6553

Maffra Visitor Information Centre
Maffra Courthouse
96 Johnson Street Maffra VIC 3860
Phone: 03 5141 1811

Website: www.themiddleofeverywhere.com.au
Social Media: @themiddleofeverywhere



SCAN THE QR CODE AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF EVERYWHERE



Heyfield is an RV friendly town with an RV Park centrally located in the town. For those wishing to take a stroll the Rail Trail passes right by and continues on past the Skate Park, the Migrant walk and on to the Lions Club Rotunda and Memorial Rose Garden. Many picnic tables are scattered amongst the trees and gardens, a dry creek bed meanders through the centre of the park and undercover free electric BBQs and toilet facilities are all available.

If you and your family need a break, the Apex Park in Heyfield is definitely worth a visit. Heyfield Apex Park is a beautiful park for both kids and adults situated right in the centre of Heyfield. Recently redeveloped the park has a magnificent playground complete with wooden treehouse, giant swing, bouncy truck and Australian animal wood sculptures. In town, the Victorian Timberworkers Memorial is worth a stop, with a walk passing through a bush-inspired garden, a large picnic shelter and a memorial with the names of those who died on the job from across the state.

HEYFIELD

ROSEDALE

Rosedale is renowned for its famous bakeries, cafes, tea rooms and antique stores. Enjoy creative menus and a fine selection of locally grown produce. Premium quality coffee can be enjoyed with scrumptious cakes, biscuits and desserts in one of the many cafes.

Whilst in Rosedale, you can explore wood carving displays, a range of beautiful pots and plants at Del Jardin, shop everything patchwork at Lily Lane.

Experience history with an abundance of historic buildings and the life size statue of Patrobus, who won the Melbourne Cup, Victoria Derby and Caulfield Guineas all in the same year or of course just stroll around the town and read up on the history of the area. Why not also stop in and visit the Historical Society to really get your fill of history.

Rosedale is an RV friendly town, and offers a free RV site at Willow Park.

- THINGS TO DO:
- Take a stroll around the street and browse a great variety of antique and bric-a-brac stores and shop for something unusual.
 - Enjoy a bite to eat at one of the great eateries in town.
 - Take your photo with the life size statue of a legendary racehorse.
 - Take the Heritage Walk from Willow Park Reserve into town.
 - Take a walk through Holey Plains State Park - a 10,000ha state park with a wide variety of flora and fauna.
 - Fill up on local produce at Tarra Valley Foods or Kingfisher Citrus.



THINGS TO DO:

- Bird watching and walking tracks at the Heyfield Wetlands.
- Fishing and water sports at Lake Glenmaggie.
- Heyfield Historical Museum & Victorian Timberworkers Memorial.
- Mountain Bike at Blores Hill MTB.
- Enjoy local food and wine at one of the local eateries.
- Play a round of golf at the 18 hole Heyfield Golf Club.
- Ride or Walk the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail.

MAFFRA

Maffra is an attractive town lined with leafy trees and historic buildings. Named after Mafra in Portugal, early settlers in Gippsland came from the Monaro region in NSW, and had fought in the Peninsula War. The surrounding district was settled in the 1840's.

There is a great sense of history surrounding the town, highlighted by the original shop verandahs, and grand homesteads such as 'Duart', the residence of the Hon. Allan McLean, Premier of Victoria for a short time before Federation.

Maffra is widely heralded as a regional lifestyle alternative for many city folks looking to relocate to the country. Known for its hospitality, tranquility and social wellbeing.

From 1896 to 1948, Maffra was home to Australia's only viable sugar beet industry. After 1948, Maffra's farmland was gradually subdivided into cattle properties which have now become both dairy and vegetable farms. The old Beet processing plant houses the Sugar Beet Museum, which is open by appointment.

Maffra is also home to the Murray Goulburn Milk Factory, which during peak production period, millions of litres of milk are processed weekly for use within Australia and export markets.

One of the highlights in town is the Gippsland Vehicle Collection, which has an outstanding rotating display of interesting vehicles, cars, motorbikes, machinery, carriages, trucks and much more. The Vehicle Collection is open Friday to Monday and all School Holidays.



Nestled in the Maffra Courthouse, you'll find the Pino Deriu Gemstone Collection, a life long collection of gemstones and minerals donated to the Maffra community by local, Pino Deriu. The collection features gemstones and minerals from across Australia and the world. Pino's preference was to leave most of the specimens he collected in their natural state rather than have them cut, polished or mounted, which adds to the scientific value of this amazing collection.

The Maffra Wetlands and the Macalister River Regional Park are both fantastic places to stop and enjoy nature. Discover the wild and wonderful world of the wetlands along this boardwalk. Bird hides along the way as well as the saturated soil, provides a sanctuary for Victoria's threatened bird species including Australasian bittern, glossy ibis, little egret, great egret, nankeen night heron, royal spoonbill, white-bellied sea-eagle and the painted snipe.

Maffra and surrounds has some fantastic local wineries, such as Blue Gables, The Vines on Avon and Glenmaggie Wines, where you can sample wonderful local food and wine.

Maffra is an RV Friendly town, and offers a free RV site in Johnson Street.



TINAMBA



Situated along the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail, among some of the most richest dairy and vegetable farmlands, you'll find the small country town of Tinamba.

Tinamba is a tiny town brimming with country charm. The award winning Tinamba Hotel is a must stop experience for those into fine dining, with a menu created by their dedicated chefs using local Gippsland produce.

The town comes alive in April, as the Tinamba Food and Wine Festival takes over the Main Street, giving visitors a taste of all things Gippsland produce.

For those riding the Rail Trail, we suggest a stop in at the Tinamba General Store to stock up on supplies, and a cold drink to get you through.

THINGS TO DO:

- Ride or walk the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail
- Visit the Tinamba Food and Wine Festival
- Visit one of the local wineries, Blue Gables Vineyard, The Vines on Avon or Glenmaggie Wines
- Walk the Wetlands at either Maffra or Heyfield



STRATFORD

No matter how you get here, be assured that Stratford has everything you need in town. Stratford has a flair for creativity, with an interactive arts trail and sculpture walk - 'Shakespeare through the Ages' is a 3km walk and unites art forms through story, song, history and sculpture. The trail is all ability friendly, and links the all abilities heritage walk along the river, and rail trail tracks.

Stratford also hosts an annual Festival celebrating the life and times of William Shakespeare, coinciding with his birthday, the festival runs for a 2 week period towards the end of April. With over 20 performances, a village faire and much more to enjoy it is well worth a visit. More information on schedules can be found online at www.stratfordshakespeare.com.au.

3km south-east of Stratford is the 56ha Knob Recreation Reserve. one of the many sites of the Koori People of East Gippsland, who have been travelling these routes for over 18,000 years. On the bluff high above a bend the Dooyeedang (Avon River) signs of past inhabitants can be seen. Ideal for a picnic with a toilet and great picnic shelters with wood fired BBQ's.

The Avon River is thought to be the fastest rising and falling river in the southern hemisphere during floods, it's normally a tranquil and relaxing site. Visit the Stratford Historical Society to discover her full ferocity.

Apex Park in Stratford is a great spot for families, with a medieval playground, bike and pump track to enjoy.



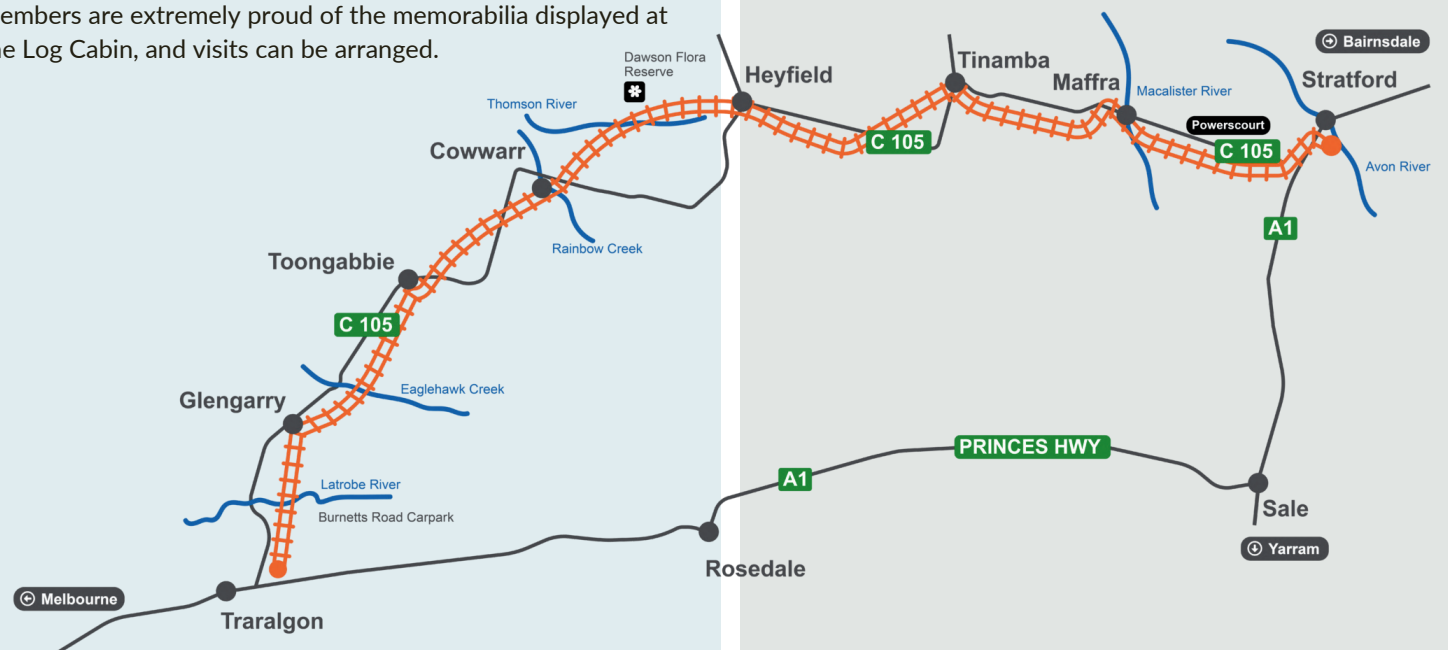
BRIAGOLONG

Deriving its name from the Briakalung clan of the Kurnai People, Briagolong is nestled in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, and is a perfect stop for a weekend leisurely drive, or for a longer visit. Briagolong is an easy town to find, and a hard one to leave and is an ideal stop on the road to Gippsland's High Country.

Briagolong has long established itself as a unique arts destination with the Briagolong Art Gallery incorporating the community run contemporary Gallery, artist workshop space and gift shop. Many artists reside in the surrounding areas and at times open their studios for visits from the public.

The Quarry Reserve and the Blue Pool are popular with campers and recreational vehicle travellers, there are also cabins and B&B's in the town and nearby areas. And the areas around Freestone Creek are great spots to fossick for gold and gemstones.

The town itself was established in 1871, initially to serve the goldfields boom. The historic RSL Log Cabin was built in 1949 in the style of the traditional mountain cattlemen huts, from logs cut from local trees has a vast resource of historic information about the many servicemen from families in the area. RSL members are extremely proud of the memorabilia displayed at the Log Cabin, and visits can be arranged.



GIPPSLAND PLAINS RAIL TRAIL

The Gippsland Plains Rail Trail extends 63km from Traralgon to Stratford passing through country towns including Maffra, Tinamba, Heyfield and Cowwarr.

The trail passes through high quality dairy country and offers panoramic views of the Great Dividing Range to the north and sweeping 360* views across the great Gippsland Plains.

The Gippsland Plains Rail Trail is unique, as visitors can easily connect via V-Line train from Melbourne or Bairnsdale to either end of the trail. The trail is perfect for weekend breaks with most townships along the route offering accommodation. There's history, vibrant wineries, contemporary restaurants and cafes, exciting specialty shops, art galleries and much more to discover along the trail.