



Brisbane to Darwin

via Bruce, Flinders, Barkly and Stuart Hwys

The RAA maintains some 300 strip maps covering all major routes of Australia. They are available from RAA Offices and are free to members.

Strip maps are designed to assist drivers by showing distances, roadside features and town facilities on a simple flip-over style map, which can also be used in reverse. These maps are not drawn to scale.

Strip Map Features:

Cumulative Distances

These are provided for both directions of travel and can be matched to the car's odometers for a ready reference.

Intermediate Distances

These distances provide for some localised perspective of scale.

Town Facilities

Hotels, motels, post offices, caravan parks, fuel (in remote areas).

Narrative

Caution notes, road surface, a description of the country traversed, town narratives and populations.

Legend

- Route Markers
- PO Post Office
- H Hotel
- M Motel
- CP Caravan Park
- P Parking Bay
- R Rest Area
- Gate
- Grid
- Windmill
- Bridge
- Overpass
- Railway Crossing
- Railway Station / Siding
- Airfield

Total Distance 3855 Kilometres

- 113 **DARWIN**
- Adelaide River
- 203 Katherine
- 273 Daly Waters
- 373 Threeways
- 636 Mt Isa
- 121 Cloncurry
- 400 Hughenden
- 249 Charters Towers
- 134 Townsville
- 200 Bowen
- 187 Mackay
- 333 Rockhampton
- 170 Miriam Vale
- 211 Maryborough
- 130 Cooroy
- 78 Caboolture
- 44 **BRISBANE**

via Bruce, Flinders, Barkly and Stuart Hwys 3855 Kilometres

Brisbane																	
44	Caboolture																
122	78	Cooroy															
252	208	130	Maryborough														
463	419	341	211	Miriam Vale													
633	589	511	381	170	Rockhampton												
966	922	844	714	503	333	Mackay											
1153	1109	1031	901	690	520	187	Bowen										
1353	1309	1231	1101	890	720	387	200	Townsville									
1487	1443	1365	1235	1024	854	521	334	134	Charters Towers								
1736	1692	1614	1484	1273	1103	770	583	383	249	Hughenden							
2136	2092	2014	1884	1673	1503	1170	983	783	649	400	Cloncurry						
2257	2213	2135	2005	1794	1624	1291	1104	904	770	521	121	Mt Isa					
2893	2849	2771	2641	2430	2260	1927	1740	1540	1406	1157	757	636	Threeways				
3266	3222	3144	3014	2803	2633	2300	2113	1913	1779	1530	1130	1009	373	Daly Waters			
3539	3495	3417	3287	3076	2906	2573	2386	2186	2052	1803	1403	1282	646	273	Katherine		
3742	3698	3620	3490	3279	3109	2776	2589	2389	2255	2006	1606	1485	849	476	203	Adelaide River	
3855	3811	3733	3603	3392	3222	2889	2702	2502	2368	2119	1719	1598	962	589	316	113	Darwin

INTRODUCTION

This itinerary has been prepared to assist you on your trip. Please check your speedometer against stated distances during the first few kilometres of the tour. Few speedometers register exactly the same over any appreciable distance, and any discrepancy should be allowed for.

The RAA trusts that your journey will be rewarding, safe and pleasant. Please drive carefully and ensure rest stops are frequently utilised.

EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE

If possible telephone for assistance however if no telephone is available, complete the slip below and ask a passing motorist to hand it in to the nearest Auto Club Service Depot.

Please note that replacement parts may not be easily obtained when they are needed. Avoid delays - always carry spare fan belts and spare radiator hoses.

N.B : Free Emergency Road Service is available to trailers and caravans up to 2 tonnes gross weight, towed by members, on production of your membership card, both in South Australia and interstate.

Your membership number should be quoted when calling for service and card presented upon arrival of the service person, otherwise a fee will be charged.

ALWAYS WAIT FOR THE PATROL OR MECHANIC, OR ADVISE THE DEPOT IF YOU ARE ABLE TO PROCEED.

TEAR ALONG DOTTED LINE

CALL FOR EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE

Date: _____ Time: _____

I am a member of the RAA. Please send me assistance.

My RAA membership number is _____

My car is a _____ (Make) _____ (Model)

_____ (Colour) Registration No. _____

My location is _____

(State clearly where you are and give details i.e., "Five kilometres from Jamestown on the Caltowie Road.)

Nature of trouble (if known) _____

Tow required _____

INTERSTATE TRAVEL

Driving licence and Certificate of Car Registration MUST be carried by South Australian motorists visiting other States.

NOTE: Full reciprocity exists regarding the use of driving licences between ALL States and Territories of the Commonwealth for driving cars registered in such States and Territories, but the current licence must be carried by the driver at all times. Travellers from South Australia visiting any other State or Territory may circulate freely as it is not necessary to observe any formalities in regard to registration, insurance etc., either at the border or elsewhere. (Note - Where commercial or other vehicles are used for carrying goods for hire or reward, enquiries should be made in advance as they may be subject to payment of fees and other conditions by the Transport Authorities in each State.)

AFFILIATED MOTORING ORGANISATIONS IN OTHER STATES

Membership of the RAA is particularly valuable in connection with interstate touring. The Association is affiliated with automobile organisations throughout Australia, and members are entitled to reciprocal service from these organisations*. (Such service does not extend to the sale of petrol, oil, spare parts, parking facilities, maintenance repairs or car washing, etc.) Members are advised to carry their membership card with them as proof of their membership status. Failure to do so may result in difficulty in securing service.

The contacts of kindred organisations are as follows:-

MELBOURNE: Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV)
General - 13 1955
Road Service - 13 1111

SYDNEY: National Roads and Motorists' Assoc. (NRMA)
General - 13 1122
Road Service - 13 1111

BRISBANE: Royal Automobile Club of Queensland (RACQ)
General - 13 1905
Road Service - 13 1111

PERTH: Royal Automobile Club of Western Australia (RACWA)
General - 13 1704
Road Service - 13 1111

HOBART: Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania (RACT)
General - (03) 6232 6300
Road Service - 13 1111

DARWIN: Automobile Association of Northern Territory (AANT)
General - (08) 8981 3837
Road Service - 13 1111

* Service is provided under the conditions applicable to the affiliated Motoring Organisation's equivalent class/benefit/level of membership.

BRISBANE - CABOOLTURE

44 kilometres
Route 1
Bruce Highway

BRISBANE

(approx. population 1,676,390)
The Capital of Queensland and Australia's third largest city, Brisbane was first settled by Europeans as a penal colony for the toughest convicts from NSW. Visit the historic coastal settlement of Sandgate, catch a ferry to North Stradbroke Island, one of the world's largest sand islands, or experience the energy of the lively inner suburb of Fortitude Valley.

CABOOLTURE

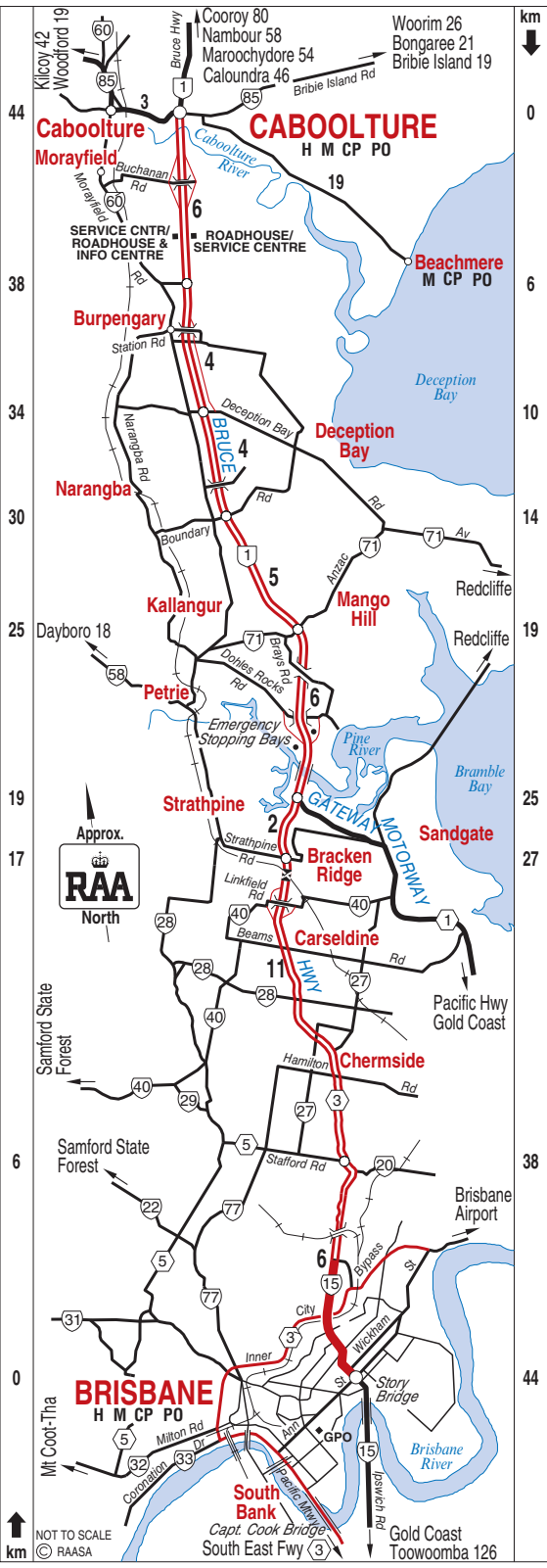
Meaning *place of the carpet snakes* in the local Aboriginal language, Caboolture was first settled by Europeans in 1941 when the area was still part of the colony of New South Wales. The discovery of gold at Gympie in the late 1860s saw the town develop as a stopover for travellers to and from the goldfields.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Mixture of farmland and residential development. Mainly undulating terrain.

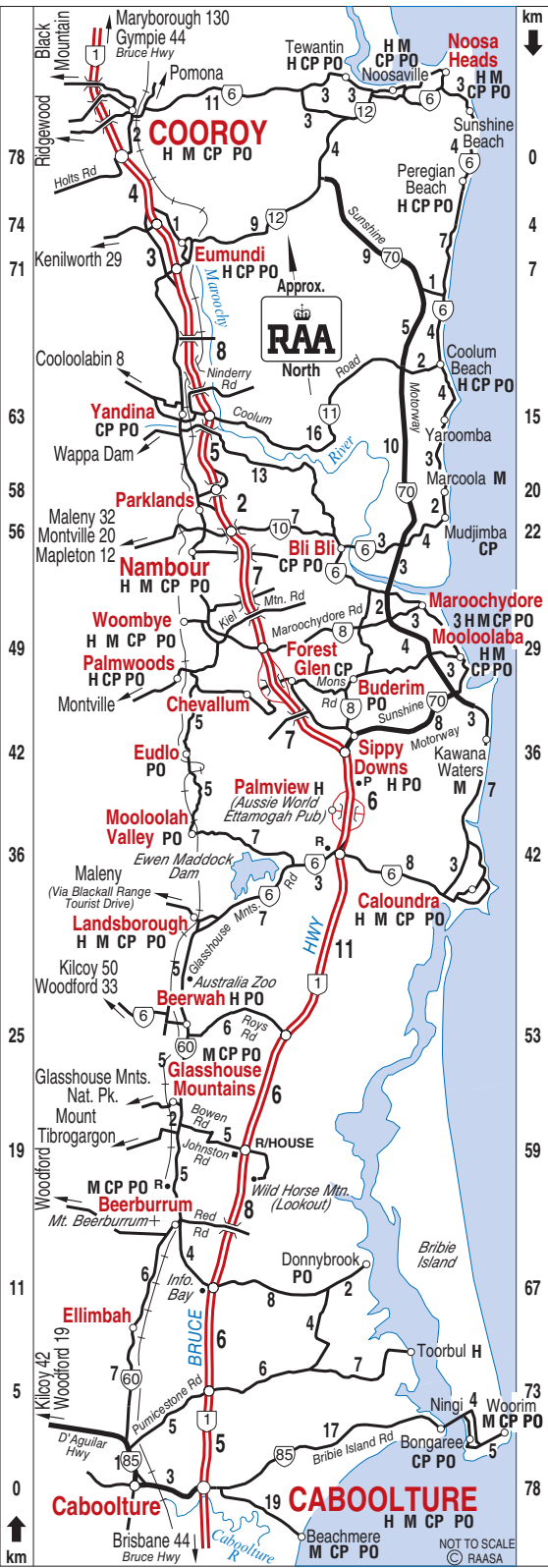
ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen



CABOOLTURE - COOROY

78 kilometres
Route 1
Bruce Hwy



CABOOLTURE

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SUNSHINE COAST

Lapped by the warm waters of the Pacific Ocean, the Sunshine Coast is blessed with long, sandy beaches, rocky headlands and a vibrant seaside culture. Running between Caloundra and Noosa Heads, it is one of Australia's premier coastal playgrounds.

GLASSHOUSE MOUNTAINS

The remnant cores of volcanic activity some 25 million years ago, these prominent landmarks reminded Captain Cook of glass making kilns back in England.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Traversing undulating to hilly terrain, the surrounding landscape is a mixture of canefields, pineapple plantations and forests.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen

COOROY - MARYBOROUGH

130 kilometres
Route 1
Bruce Highway

CAUTION

- Exercise caution at cane tram crossings in the region.

GYMPIE

(approx. population 10,930)

At the height of Queensland's first goldrush, which began in 1867, there were up to 25,000 prospectors working the Gympie goldfields. Gold mining ceased in 1925 and Gympie is now the centre of the productive Mary River Valley agricultural district.

MARYBOROUGH

(approx. population 21,500)

Although the city takes its name from the Mary River it is also the birthplace of PL Travers, the author of Mary Poppins. The third oldest city in Qld, Maryborough was once in the running to be State Capital. Dairying and sugar production are two of the region's major industries.

POINTS OF INTEREST

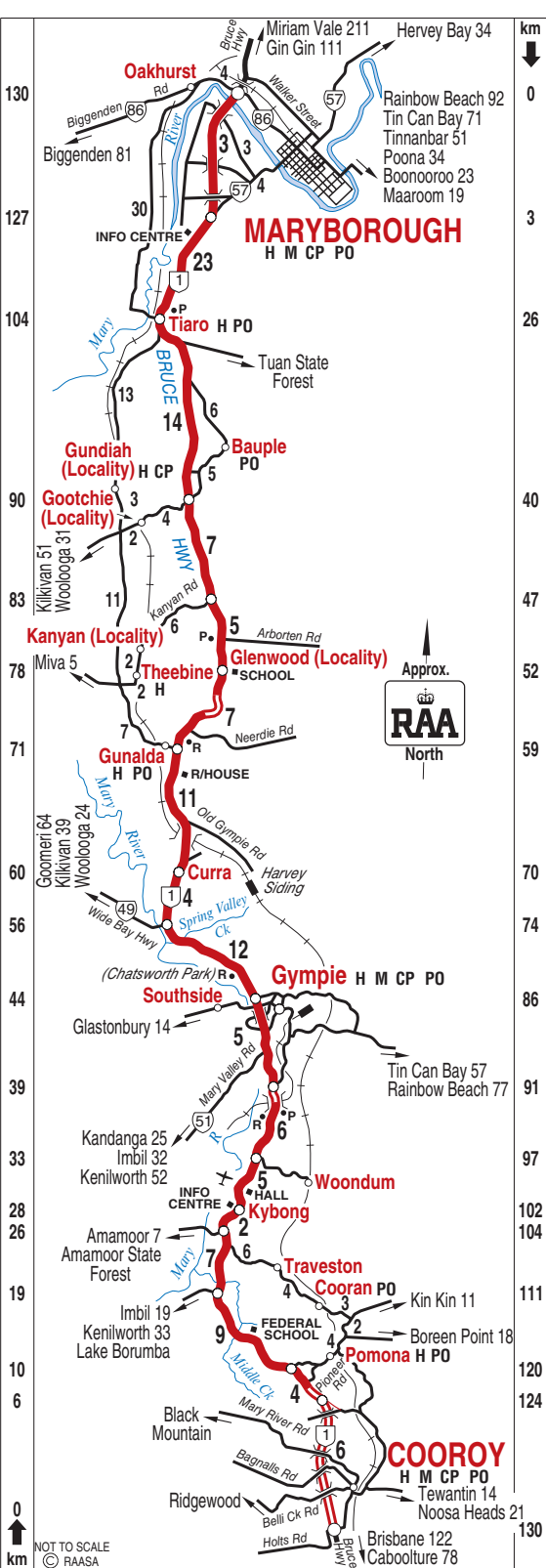
To the east of Maryborough is the World Heritage listed Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island, famous for its crystal clear lakes, long white beaches and lush rainforests.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Mainly undulating terrain. Predominantly sugar cane and horticultural activities mixed with pastoral country and native forest.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen



MARYBOROUGH - MIRIAM VALE

211 kilometres
Route 1
Bruce Hwy

CAUTION

1. Exercise caution at cane tram crossings in the region.

MARYBOROUGH

(approx. population 21,500)

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CHILDERS

(approx. population 1,350)

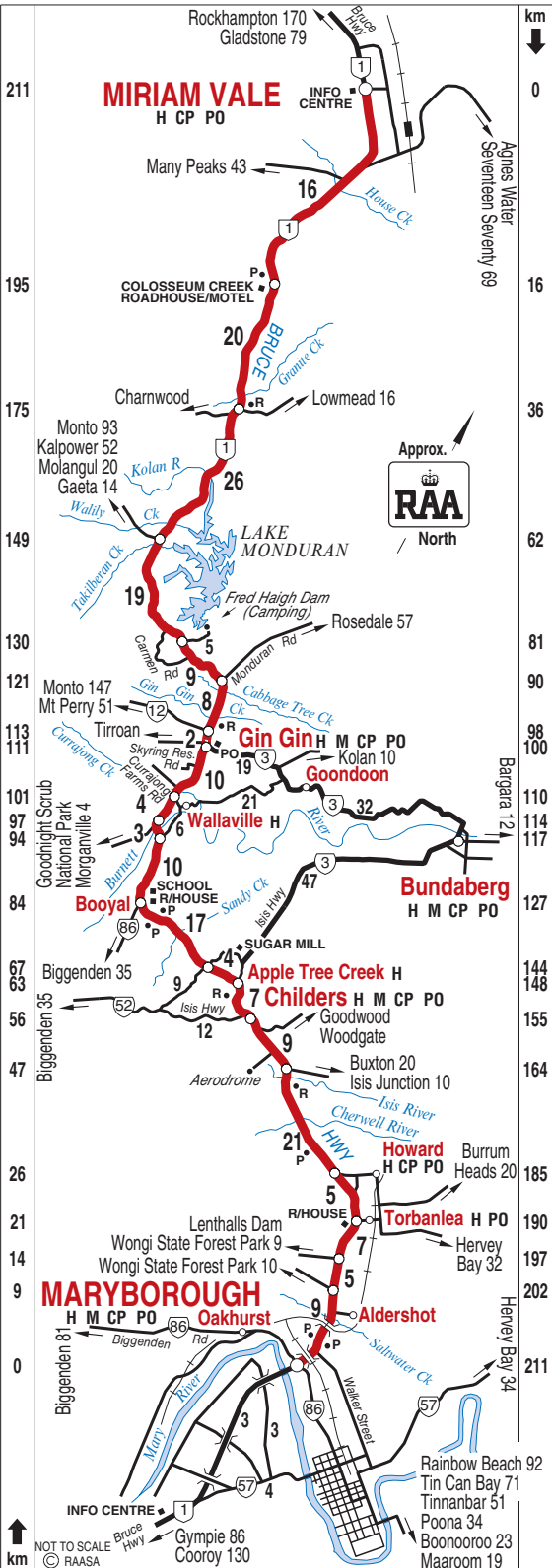
A picturesque town noted for its fine historic buildings and the leopard trees which line the main street. Although sugar production is the town's main industry, the region also produces other crops including tomatoes, avocados and macadamia nuts.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Mainly undulating terrain with hilly sections around Gin Gin and through the Dawes Range near Lake Monduran. A mixture of sugar cane, horticulture, pastoral country and native forest.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen



NOT TO SCALE
© RAASA

MIRIAM VALE - ROCKHAMPTON

170 kilometres
Route 1
Bruce Hwy

CAUTION

- Exercise caution at cane tram crossings in the region

GLADSTONE

(approx. population 28,800)

Its sheltered harbour and proximity to Queensland's mineral wealth have made Gladstone an industrial giant. Industries include the world's largest alumina refinery, Australia's largest cement kiln, Queensland's biggest power station and the State's busiest multi – commodity port. The town's marina is world class while the nearby towns of Tannum Sands and Boyne Island are popular coastal retreats.

ROCKHAMPTON

(approx. population 60,830)

Deriving its name from rocks in the Fitzroy River, Rockhampton is known as the "beef capital of Australia." In the mid to late 1800s the economy was fuelled by the discovery of gold at Canoona and later, more substantial finds at Bouldercombe and Mt Morgan. The city's many stately buildings reflect this mining heritage.

POINTS OF INTEREST

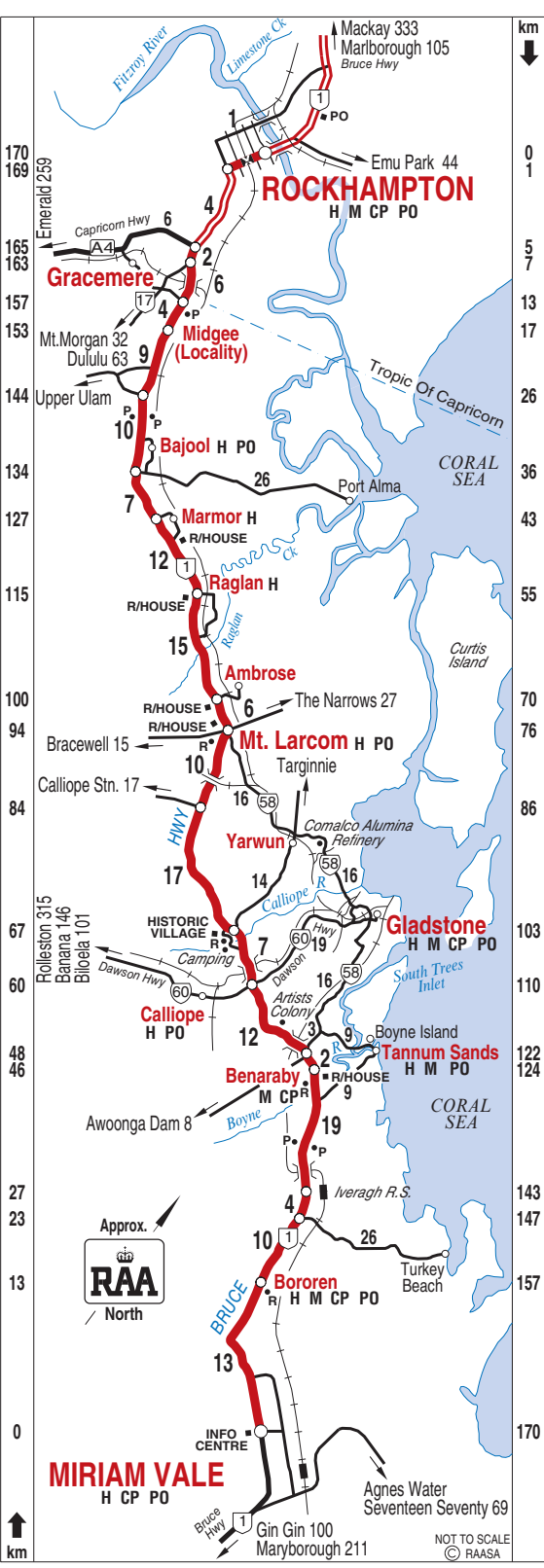
Tropic of Capricorn: At latitude 23 degrees 27 minutes south of the equator, this marks the farthestmost point south the sun can be seen directly overhead. This occurs around the 22nd December.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Mainly undulating pastoral country.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen



ROCKHAMPTON - MACKAY

333 kilometres
Route 1
Bruce Highway

CAUTION

1. Exercise caution at cane tram crossings in the region, particularly around Sarina.
2. Swimming in coastal waters in summer can be dangerous due to the deadly box jellyfish.

ROCKHAMPTON

(approx. population 60,830)

Deriving its name from rocks in the Fitzroy River, Rockhampton is known as the "beef capital of Australia." In the mid to late 1800s the economy was fuelled by the discovery of gold at Canoona and later, more substantial finds at Bouldercombe and Mt Morgan. The city's many stately buildings can be attributed to this mining heritage.

SARINA

(approx. population 3,290)

Built on the sugar industry the town's ethyl alcohol distillery is a major employer. There are several quiet coastal communities nearby.

MACKAY

(approx. population 66,880)

Devastated by a cyclone in 1918 Mackay is now a major regional centre, with sugar production being the region's main agricultural industry. Tours to the Barrier Reef and Brampton Island can be arranged from Mackay.

POINTS OF INTEREST

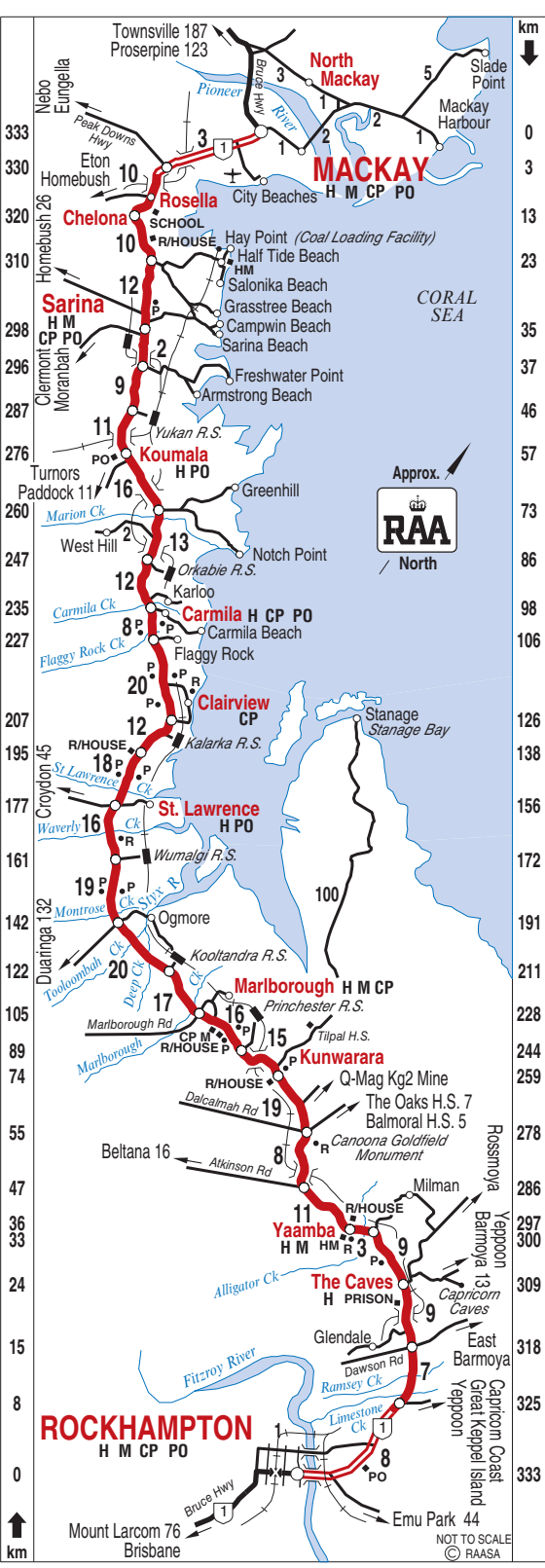
HAY POINT: A short drive north of Sarina a lookout provides a spectacular view of the giant Hay Point and Dalrymple coal handling facilities.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Level to undulating terrain, with hilly sections near Rockhampton. Predominantly cane fields to the north and pastoral country to the south.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen



MACKAY - BOWEN

187 kilometres
Route 1
Bruce highway

CAUTION

1. Exercise care at cane tram crossings in the region, particularly around Proserpine.
2. Swimming in coastal waters in summer can be dangerous due to the deadly box jellyfish.

MACKAY

(approx. population 66,880)

Devastated by a cyclone in 1918 Mackay is now a major regional centre, with sugar production being the region's main agricultural industry. Tours to the Barrier Reef and Brampton Island can be arranged from Mackay.

PROSERPINE

(approx. population 3,310)

Administrative centre of a major sugar producing region, Proserpine is at the turn off to the famous Whitsunday group of islands.

BOWEN

(approx. population 7,490)

Centre of a productive horticultural region and home to a large commercial fishing fleet, Bowen is also noted for its beautiful beaches and secluded coves. In World War 2 Bowen was used as a base for Catalina flying boats during the *Battle of the Coral Sea*.

POINTS OF INTEREST

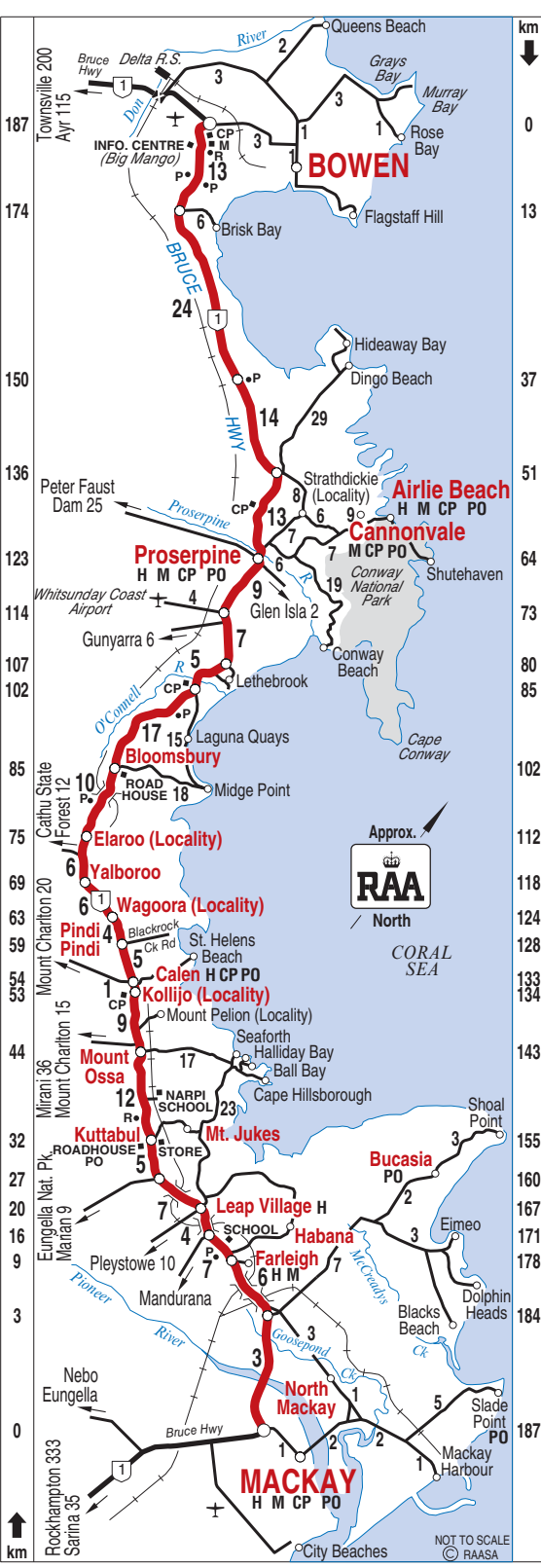
WHITSUNDAYS: A major tourism destination comprising many islands within easy access from the lively town of Airlie Beach and nearby Shute Harbour.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Level to undulating terrain. Predominantly sugar cane growing region mixed with other horticultural activities.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen



BOWEN - TOWNSVILLE

200 kilometres
Route 1
Bruce Highway

CAUTION

1. Exercise caution at cane tram crossings in the region, particularly around Ayr.
2. Swimming in coastal waters in summer can be dangerous due to the deadly box jellyfish.

BOWEN

(approx. population 7,490)

Centre of a productive horticultural region and home to a large commercial fishing fleet, Bowen is also noted for its beautiful beaches and secluded coves. In World War 2 Bowen was used as a base for Catalina flying boats during the *Battle of the Coral Sea*.

AYR

(approx. population 8,100)

Ayr, and the adjacent town of Home Hill, are service centres for the local sugar cane industry. Nearby Groper Creek is a renowned fishing and crabbing spot while Alva Beach is popular with wind surfers and anglers.

TOWNSVILLE

(approx. population 128,810)

Regarded as the capital of northern Queensland, Townsville's port services the surrounding horticultural, mining and pastoral industries. Castle Hill offers a commanding view of Townsville and Magnetic Island.

POINTS OF INTEREST

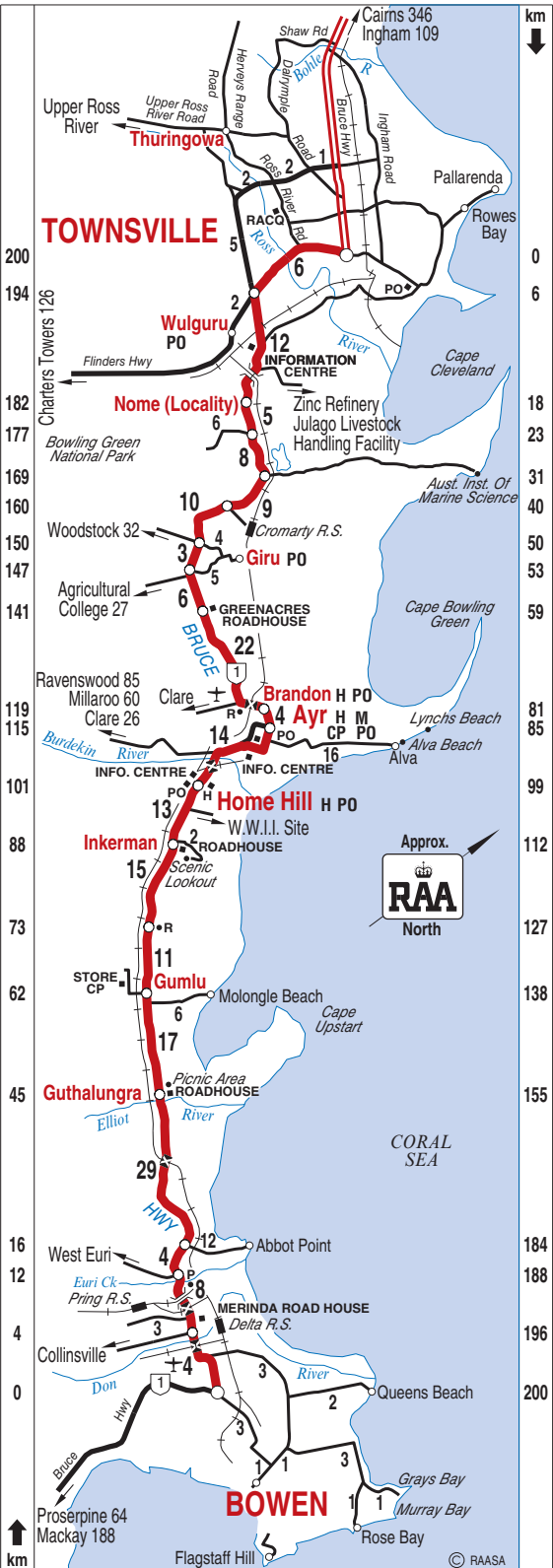
MAGNETIC ISLAND: Only 8kms from Townsville, regular passenger and car ferries transport visitors to the Island, over half of which is National Park.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Mostly level to gently undulating terrain. Mixture of pastoral and horticultural activities including sugar cane and mango production.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen



TOWNSVILLE - CHARTERS TOWERS

134 kilometres
Route A6
Flinders Highway

TOWNSVILLE

(approx. population 128,810)

Regarded as the capital of northern Queensland, Townsville's port services the surrounding horticultural, mining and pastoral industries. Castle Hill offers a commanding view of Townsville and Magnetic Island.

CHARTERS TOWERS

(approx. population 7,980)

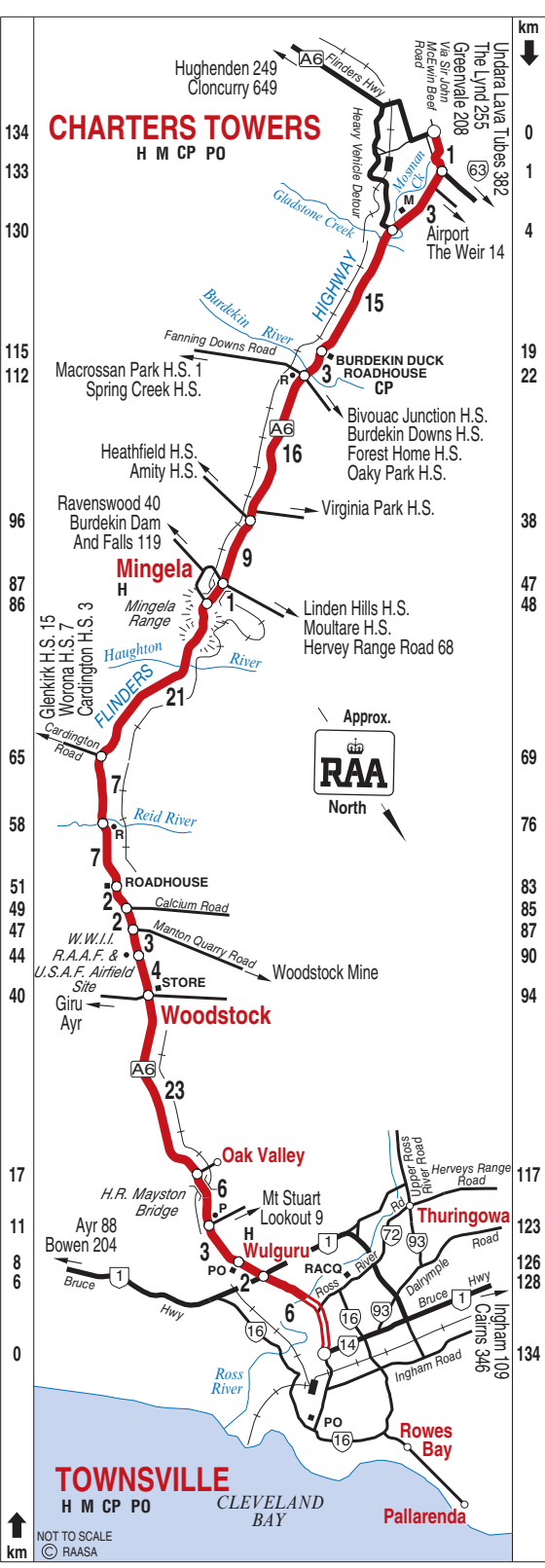
At one time Queensland's richest gold producer, the town has a glamorous history and many of the fine old buildings remain today. These include the Old Stock Exchange, which houses the Assay Room and Mining Museum, and Blackheath Thornburgh College. The Venus Gold Battery also provides an insight into the town's goldrush days.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Mainly level terrain to the east, the road then climbs towards Charters Towers. Open scrub, pastoral country.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen



CHARTERS TOWERS - HUGHENDEN

249 kilometres
Route A6
Flinders Highway

WARNING

Subject to closure after heavy rain.

CHARTERS TOWERS (approx. population 7,980)

At one time Queensland's richest gold producer, the town has a glamorous history and many of the fine old buildings remain today. These include the Old Stock Exchange, which houses the Assay Room and Mining Museum, and Blackheath Thornburgh College. The Venus Gold Battery also provides an insight into the town's goldrush days.

TORRENS CREEK

The site of an ammunition dump during World War 2, the town was nearly blown apart in 1942 when a firebreak burnoff ignited munitions.

PRAIRIE

Prairie was a major horse changing depot for Cobb and Co. coaches in the 1870s. The uniquely "Aussie" pub is popular with visitors.

HUGHENDEN (approx. pop. 1150)

Situated on the Flinders River, the town is a major centre for wool, cattle and grain produced in the Flinders Shire. Sixty-three kilometres north of Hughenden is the spectacular Porcupine Gorge National Park.

POINTS OF INTEREST

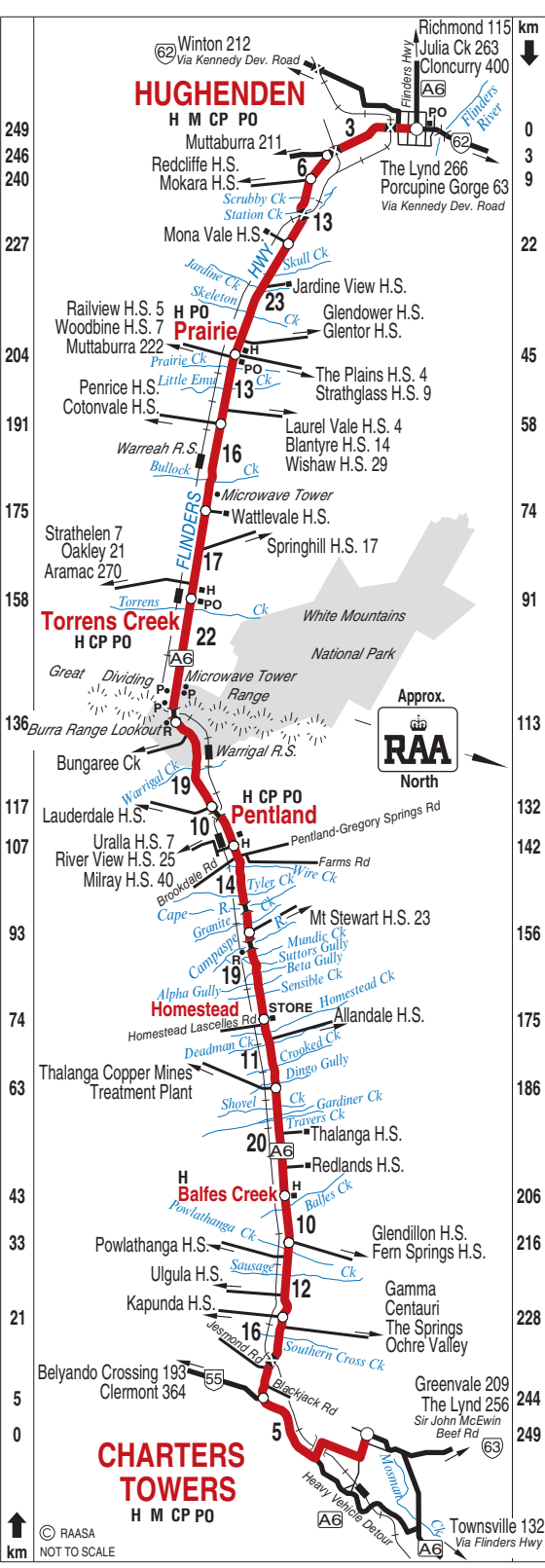
White Mountains National Park: A rugged park characterised by white sandstone formations and a complex system of steep gorges.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Pastoral country. Mainly undulating native forest in the east, levelling out and becoming more open towards Hughenden.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen



HUGHENDEN - CLONCURRY

400 kilometres
Route 78
Flinders Highway

CAUTION

1. Beware of wandering stock.
2. Subject to closure after heavy rain.

HUGHENDEN

(approx. pop. 1150)

Situated on the Flinders River, the town is a major centre for wool, cattle and grain produced in the Flinders Shire. Sixty-three kilometres north of Hughenden is the spectacular Porcupine Gorge National Park.

RICHMOND (approx. pop. 560)

Once submerged beneath an inland sea, Richmond is now home to Kronsaurus Korner, one of Australia's most remarkable fossil displays. Exhibits include a pliosaur skeleton and a fossilised kronosaur, the largest marine reptile that ever existed.

JULIA CREEK

(approx. pop. 370)

Important for cattle sales, the region is also home of the rare Julia Creek Dunnart.

CLONCURRY

(approx. pop. 2380)

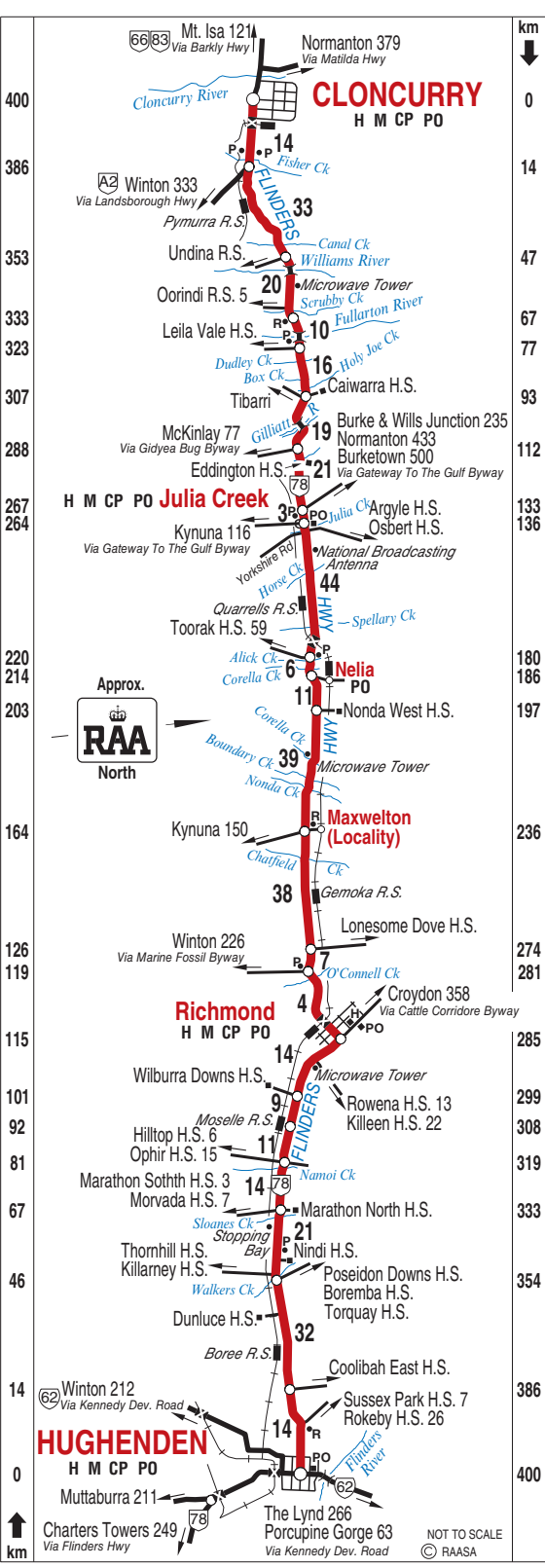
Situated on the Cloncurry River, the town was named by Burke and Wills in 1861. It's first settler, Ernest Henry, found copper in 1867 and Cloncurry became the largest copper mining area in the world, until exceeded by Mt. Isa. The Cloncurry Shire is mainly cattle country, while the town is a railhead for transporting stock.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Mainly open grazing country. More significant stands of vegetation around Cloncurry.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen



CLONCURRY - MOUNT ISA

121 kilometres
Routes A2 & 83
Barkly Highway

CLONCURRY

(approx. population 2,380)

Situated on the Cloncurry River, the town was named by Burke and Wills in 1861. Its first settler, Ernest Henry, found copper in 1867 and Cloncurry became the largest copper mining area in the world until exceeded by Mt. Isa. The Cloncurry Shire is mainly cattle country, while the town is a railhead for transporting stock.

MOUNT ISA

(approx. population 18,860)

The city of Mount Isa is the "capital" of Queensland's North-West and owes much of its prosperity to one of the world's largest mining operations, producing silver, lead, zinc and copper. The Riversleigh Fossils Centre, located in the Mount Isa Tourist Information Centre, interprets the world heritage listed fossil sites in Lawn Hill National Park.

POINTS OF INTEREST

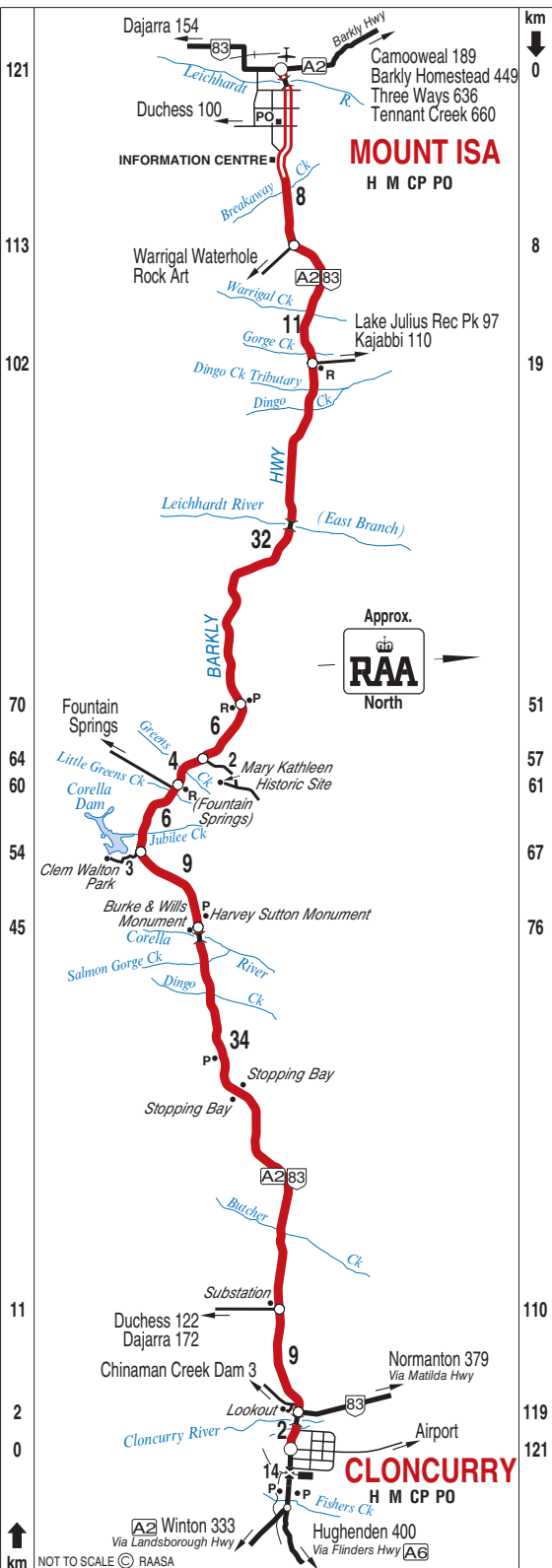
Mary Kathleen: The Mary Kathleen uranium mine operated from 1958 to 1963 and again from 1976 until its final closure in 1982. The overgrown streets are all that remain of the township.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Undulating to hilly pastoral country.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen



MOUNT ISA - THREEWAYS

636 kilometres
Route A2 & 66
Barkly Highway

Caution

Sections of narrow, uneven roadway east of Camooweal.

MOUNT ISA

(approx. population 18,860)

The city of Mount Isa is the "capital" of Queensland's North-West and owes much of its prosperity to one of the world's largest mining operations, producing silver, lead, zinc and copper. The Riversleigh Fossils Centre, located in the Mount Isa Tourist Information Centre, interprets the world heritage listed fossil sites in Lawn Hill National Park.

CAMOOWEAL

(approx. population 200)

Located near the NT/QLD border, Camooweal celebrated its 100th birthday in 1984. Confusion surrounds the town's name, however some believe it is an Aboriginal word meaning strong winds. Freckleton's Store has been maintained in its original form and is now classified by the National Trust.

TENNANT CREEK

(approx. population 2,920)

Established in conjunction with the Overland Telegraph, the town subsequently became an important mining settlement and was the site of Australia's last major gold rush, in 1933. While gold and copper mining activities continue, Tennant Creek is also considered to be the commercial hub of the Barkly region.

TIME ZONE

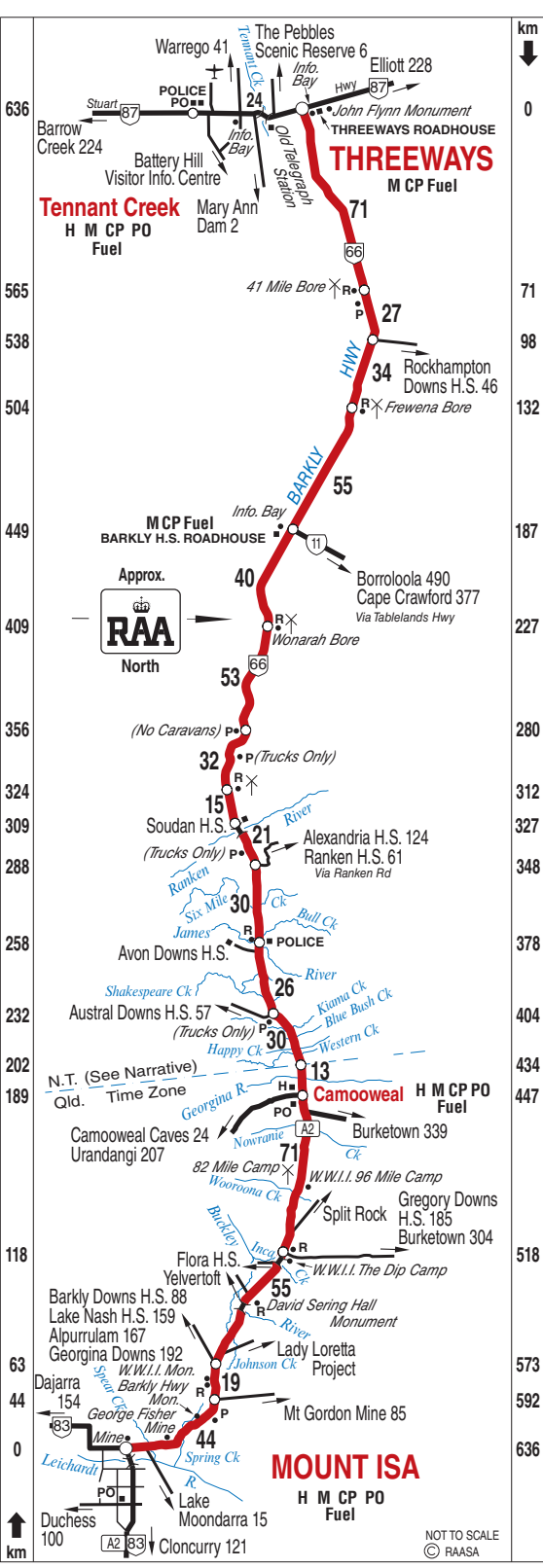
Advance Clocks 30 minutes upon entering QLD.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Mixture of scrub & grassy plains. Undulating terrain around Mt Isa becoming level further west.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen.



THREEWAYS - DALY WATERS

373 kilometres
Route 87
Stuart Highway

CAUTION

1. Beware of flying stones when vehicles, particularly road trains, are approaching.
2. Straying animals present a hazard, particularly when travelling at night. For maximum safety restrict driving to daylight hours.

THREEWAYS

At the junction of the Stuart and Barkly Highways (known as "Threeways") is a monument to the Rev. John Flynn, pioneer explorer and founder of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The surrounding countryside is semi-arid, lightly vegetated with stunted mulga and saltbush.

ELLIOTT

(approx. population 350)

Established during WW11, Elliott was a staging camp for troops heading north.

DALY WATERS

Situated approximately 4 kms west of the Stuart Highway, the historic Daly Waters Pub holds the longest continuous liquor license in the Northern Territory, dating back to 1893. The present building was constructed in the late 1920's

POINTS OF INTEREST

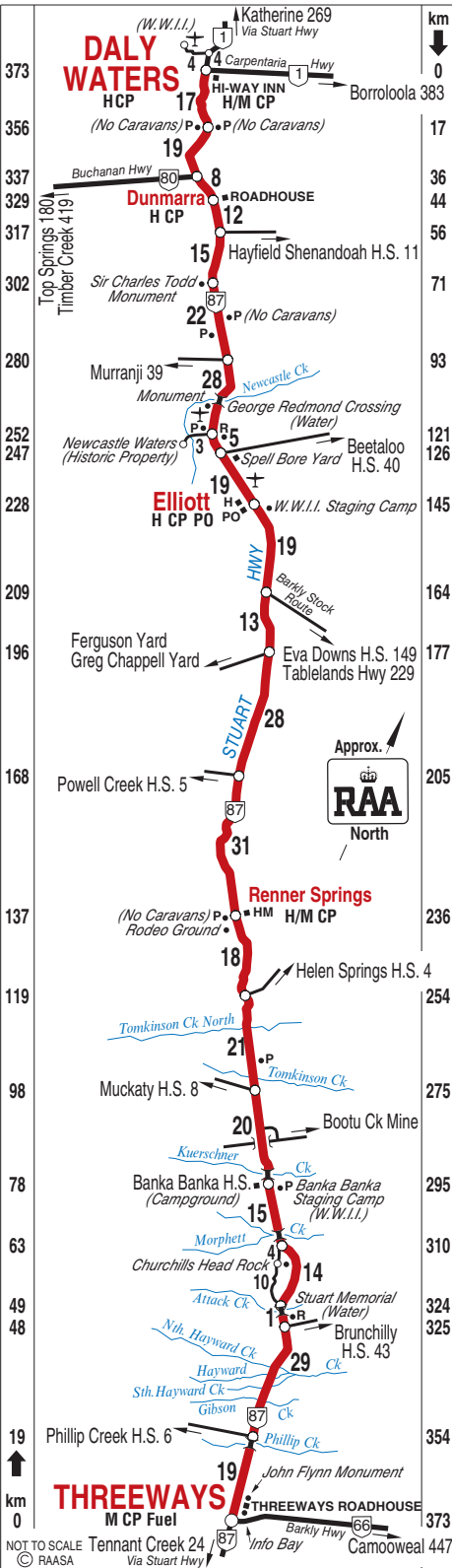
Close to Attack Creek is a monument to JOHN McDOWALL STUART. It was here that hostile Aborigines and illness forced Stuart to turn back on 25th June, 1860, from his attempt to traverse the continent.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Flat to undulating, moderately timbered with rocky outcrops.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen.



DALY WATERS - KATHERINE

273 kilometres
Route 1
Stuart Highway

CAUTION

Straying animals present a hazard, particularly if travelling at night. For maximum safety, restrict driving to daylight hours.

DALY WATERS

Situated approximately 4 kms west of the Stuart Highway, the historic Daly Waters Pub holds the longest continuous liquor license in the Northern Territory, dating back to 1893. The present building was constructed in the late 1920's

MATARANKA

(approx. population 250)

Located 8 kilometres to the east of the township and set in lush rainforest, is the famous Mataranka thermal pool. With a constant temperature of 34° C the crystal clear pool has delighted bathers for many years. About 21 kms south of Mataranka is the WE OF THE NEVER NEVER CEMETERY which is the burial place of several of the characters mentioned in Jeannie Gunn's popular book.

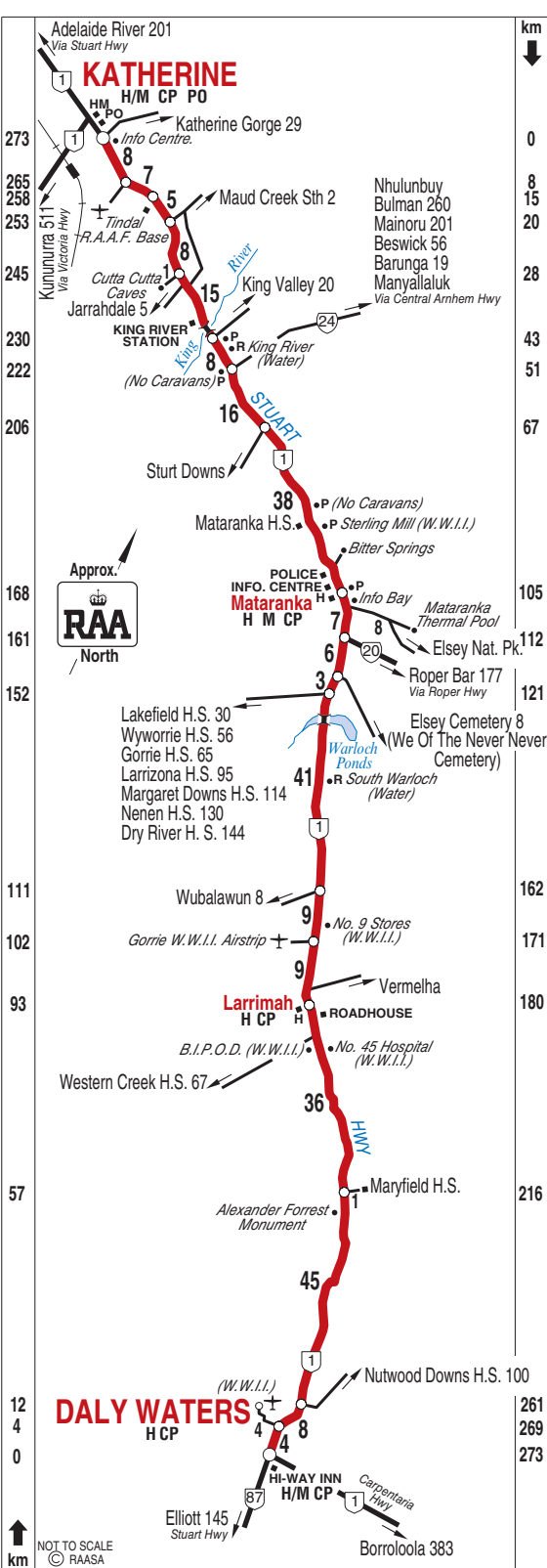
KATHERINE

(approx. population 5,850)

Noted for beef production, mining and horticulture, the town also supports the nearby Tindall RAAF Base. The picturesque Katherine River runs through the town and 29 km upstream passes through the noted tourist attraction, Katherine Gorge. Boat trips may be taken through the gorge with the near vertical cliffs towering above.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen.



KATHERINE - ADELAIDE RIVER

203 kilometres
Route 1
Stuart Highway

CAUTION

1. Beware of flying stones when vehicles, particularly road trains, are approaching.
2. Straying animals present a hazard, particularly if travelling at night. For maximum safety restrict driving to daylight hours.

KATHERINE

(approx. population 5,850)

The third largest town in the Northern Territory, Katherine is the administrative centre for the surrounding beef cattle, mining and horticultural industries. It also supports the nearby Tindall RAAF Base. The Katherine River passes through town and 30 kilometres upstream is the famous Katherine Gorge, the centrepiece of Nitmiluk National Park. Visitors can enjoy a boat tour or paddle a canoe along the river as it meanders its way among towering sandstone cliffs.

PINE CREEK

(approx. population 260)

The town was the centre of an important uranium mining district. At the El Sharana Mine was found what is believed to be the largest single piece of pitchblende in the world, weighing 976 kg. Gold also played an important role in the development of the township, and in recent times new mining projects have been initiated in the region.

ADELAIDE RIVER

(approx. population 190)

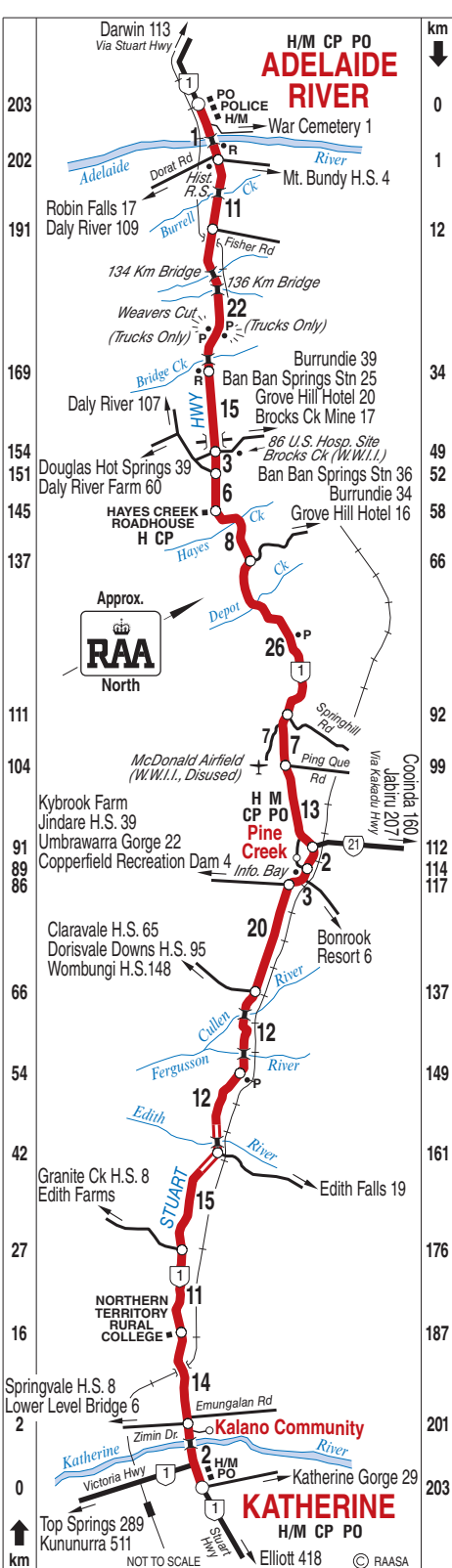
The river on which the settlement is located was discovered in 1839 by two crew members of the HMS Beagle, and named in honour of Queen Adelaide. The nearby Adelaide River War Cemetery contains the graves of those who lost their lives during the bombing raids on Darwin in World War II.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Undulating to hilly and for the most part timbered.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen.



ADELAIDE RIVER - DARWIN

113 kilometres
Route 1
Stuart Highway

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DARWIN (approx. population 66,290)

Discovered in 1839 by John Stokes, the captain of the HMS Beagle, and named Port Darwin after the scientist Charles Darwin. The South Australian Government sent Woodroffe Goyder to survey a town site and the name Palmerston was adopted for the proposed settlement. This new name however, was rarely used and Darwin eventually became the official name. Having survived the devastating bombing by the Japanese in World War II and the destruction caused by Cyclone Tracy in 1974, Darwin is now one of the best laid out and fastest growing cities in Australia.

POINTS OF INTEREST

BATCHELOR AND RUM JUNGLE. Situated 13 km west of the Stuart Highway, Batchelor became an important town in 1953, providing accommodation for miners at the nearby Rum Jungle uranium and copper mine. Mining and ore treatment continued until the operation was terminated in 1971, and most of the workers left Batchelor. The few remaining residents ensured the town's survival and in 1977, Batchelor was officially named.

LITCHFIELD PARK. Situated about 24 km west of Batchelor, Litchfield is one of the most popular parks in the Northern Territory. Many of the attractions, including Wangi Falls, Tolmer Falls and Florence Falls, are accessible by conventional vehicle all year round.

COUNTRY TRAVERSED

Undulating and timbered.

ROAD SURFACE

Bitumen.

