

# WEST GIPPS

*all kinds of wonder*

# LAND

*Official Visitor Guide*

WEST GIPPSLAND - BAW BAW SHIRE

## **WELCOME**

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout the Baw Baw region and Victoria and recognise and respect the deep and continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and ask that during your travels you respect these cultures, people and land, and acknowledge their ongoing role in caring for Country.

## **THANK YOU**

In creating this guide, we tasked a local writer and designer to experience her own back yard with fresh eyes, interacting with our communities and townships, and writing all the wonderful stories she discovered along the way. We hope you enjoy her travels and interviews with some of our locals in what we hope presents as a celebration of our gorgeous region.

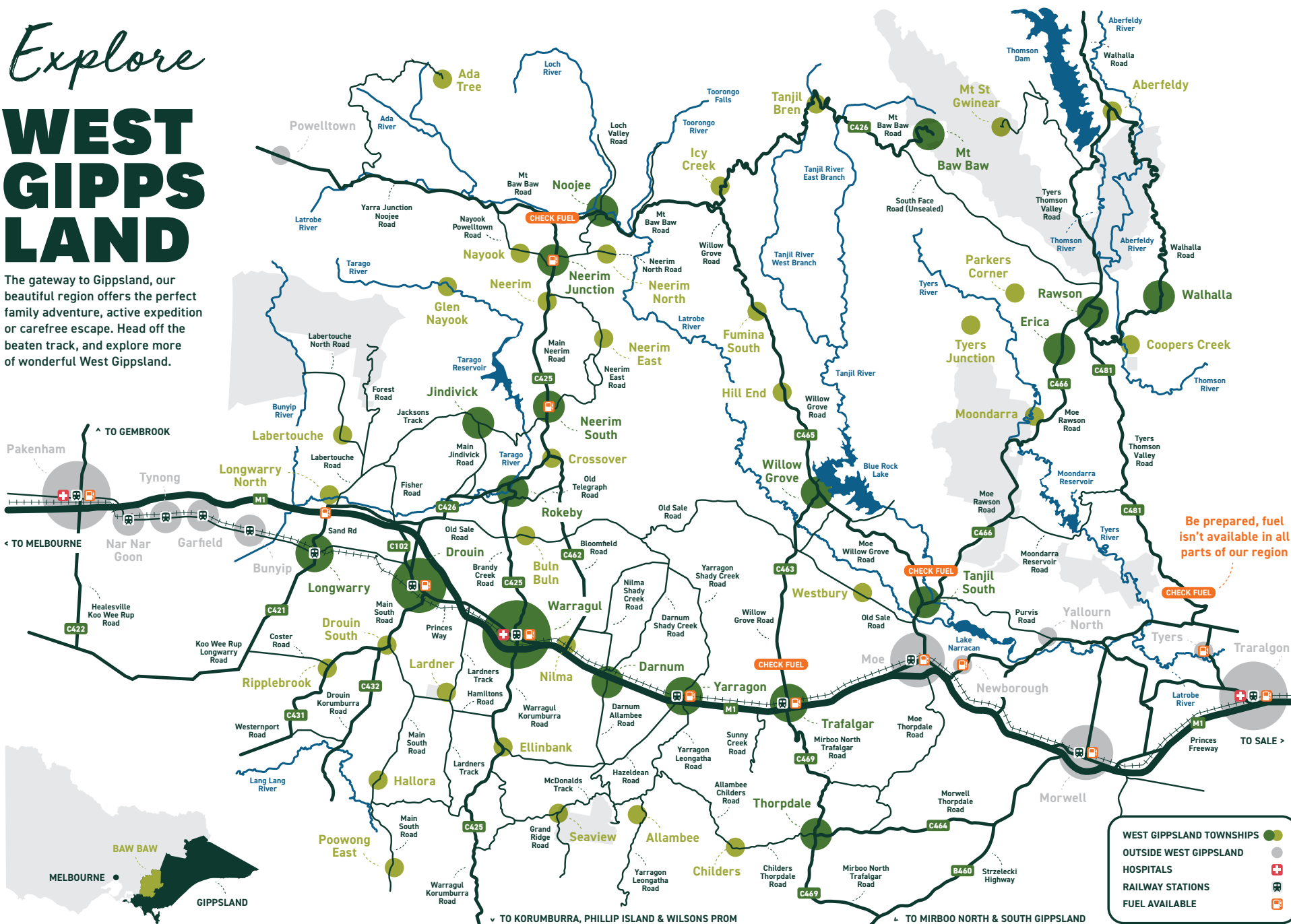
Thank you to all who have shared valuable contributions, stories and local tips to create this guide, and a special thank you to Sarah Duck, from Manta Creative™.

This Official Visitor Guide is proudly brought to you by Baw Baw Shire Council.



# Explore

The gateway to Gippsland, our beautiful region offers the perfect family adventure, active expedition or carefree escape. Head off the beaten track, and explore more of wonderful West Gippsland.



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# WELCOME TO WEST GIPPSLAND

Unique, diverse and unparalleled in beauty, West Gippsland is Victoria's best kept secret. At just over an hour's drive east of Melbourne, West Gippsland is the perfect place for a family day trip, a romantic weekend away, or the beginning of your next big adventure.

Explore a region with spectacular natural landscapes and wilderness attractions, historic townships, gourmet delights and world-class hospitality. From the alpine majesty of the Baw Baw Plateau to the lush valleys, flowing streams and rivers, epicurean food and wine and boutique shops, West Gippsland is a feast for the senses which will have you coming back again and again.

Soak up the country charm and experience a flourishing culinary culture, from popular favourites to truly ground-breaking and innovative fine foods. Enjoy farm fresh produce prepared by amazing chefs, or discover your own at our farmers' markets and farm gate sales located throughout the region.

A region renowned for its ability to leave you inspired, its vibrant arts community will delight and engage even the most passionate art and culture lovers. With a modern arts centre attracting acts from all over Australia, and an eclectic mix of studios and galleries, West Gippsland is an art lovers paradise.

Get back to nature exploring our many natural outdoor attractions. Host to Melbourne's closest alpine and ski resort, Mount Baw Baw, and surrounded by almost untouched forests, hinterlands, lakes and rivers, this area offers an enticing array of trails and activities for the adventurer at heart.

Whether it is a day trip or a long weekend away, West Gippsland is packed with wonderful ways to escape.

## ADVENTURE

### Tracks, trails, roads, mountains and rivers

West Gippsland is an adventurer's playground - home to a wonderland of temperate rainforests, gullies and streams, rolling hills and valleys, mountains and river crossings.

The raw beauty of the natural landscape will delight and surprise you with forests of towering Mountain Ash and lush ferns opening to sweeping vistas across the West Gippsland hinterlands.

Venture into the streams for alpine trout, listen out for the endangered Baw Baw Frog, or paddle out into the serene expanse of Blue Rock Lake. The environment here is beautiful, peaceful and quiet.

Although wild and gorgeously untouched in places, West Gippsland presents an impressive series of trails and walks, from the gentle historic walks along the various rail trails, to hiking tracks that are sure to challenge the most energetic thrill seeker.

Whether you experience West Gippsland on foot, on your bike, from the car or from the water, the opportunity for a wilderness experience is guaranteed.

So, if you have your sights set on bushwalking, single track running, mountain biking, fishing, kayaking, cruising or four-wheel driving - start here.

You wouldn't want to go anywhere else.

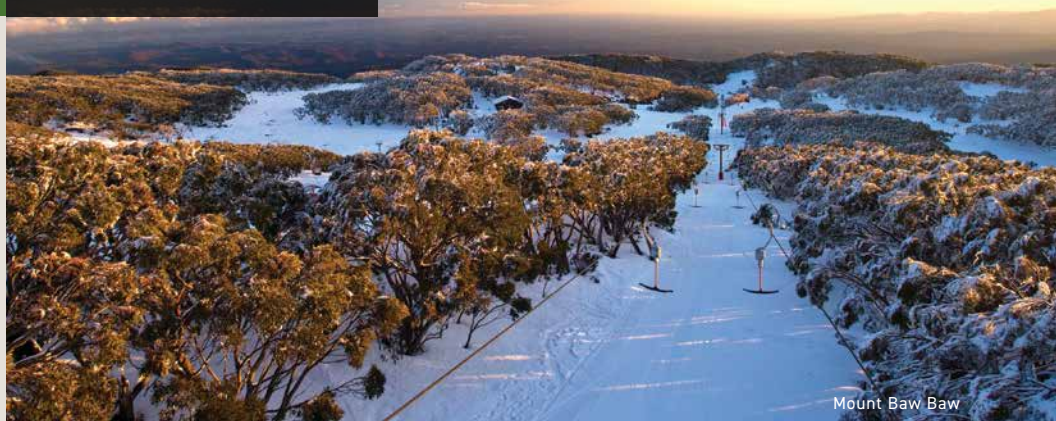






## MOUNT BAW BAW

A local experience



Mount Baw Baw

**Make tracks for the wild to none other than the mighty mountain itself, Mount Baw Baw.** It's hard to believe this beautiful, natural ecosystem is just a 2.5 hour drive from Melbourne.

With a summit of 1,564 metres, breathtaking views stretching as far out as Phillip Island, and a Village Resort that you can visit all year round, it is an explorer's paradise.

The winding, picturesque drive along the Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road takes you through forests of tall Mountain Ash trees, lush fern gullies and spectacular countryside vistas.

Discover the tiny hamlets of Icy Creek and Tanjil Bren where you can stop for a rest or hire snow chains. The drive requires some care, but with such beautiful scenery, you won't want to rush.

On the mountain there's a wide range of family-friendly activities to experience.

A must see is the Dingo Resource Centre featuring furry friends Warragul and Rowdy. The resident dingoes along with the Howling Huskies offer cuddle sessions and guided tours in the snow season.



Dingo Resource Centre  
Image courtesy of Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resort

If skiing and snow play are your thing, then Mount Baw Baw delivers with over 35 hectares of snow terrain. Featuring a Toboggan Park and Magic Carpet Lift, kids will love tobogganing down the gentle slopes. Take advantage of the on-site ski and snowboarding lessons, and no matter what level you're at, check out the boxes, pipes and rails on Tank Hill Terrain Park.

Ski equipment hire is available on the mountain, and snowshoes are popular due to the 10 kilometres of awesome cross country track, which takes you through forests of snow gums and alpine meadows, complete with amazing views, you'll feel like you're on top of the world!

For couples wanting to escape the everyday hustle, Mount Baw Baw provides a stunning backdrop for a romantic and relaxing retreat. The peacefulness of this mountain escape will both nourish and inspire.



Dingo Encounters, Mount Baw Baw



Toboggan Park, Mount Baw Baw

Pair your experience with a gentle bush walk along the Beech Trail, and end the night in a cosy little bed and breakfast for a perfect weekend away.

Take advantage of free entry over the spring and summer months to experience bushwalking, running and hiking among the wildflowers.

This place is a photographer's dream, with seasonal views, birds and wildlife, and many plant species on display in a mostly untouched landscape.

The mountain itself forms part of the 20 kilometre Baw Baw Plateau which extends from Mount Erica at the southern end to Mount Whitelaw, and you can continue your journey from the mountain to Baw Baw National Park or to the Australian Alps Walking Track.

Be on the lookout for mountain bike events, car rallies and seasonal programming held at Mount Baw Baw.

**Cont. p8>**

Accommodation on the mountain offers traditional ski lodges, self-contained apartments and cabins.

The Village Central Restaurant is not open in off-peak season, so make sure you bring enough supplies for your stay.

Mount Baw Baw's website is your best source of information for weather conditions and what's on. With live cameras, maps and trail reports, it is essential to visit **mountbawbaw.com.au** to learn more before you go.

**Find it:** 32 Currawong Road,  
Baw Baw Village

**More info:** (03) 5165 1136  
info.mtbawbaw@alpineresorts.vic.gov.au



## SNOW CHAIN HIRE

During the winter period snow chains are required on your vehicle. There are several local operators in West Gippsland who offer snow chain hire, plus ski equipment and clothing hire.

### Baw Baw Snow Chain Hire

Snow chains, toboggans, walking snow boots, pants, jackets, children's jump suits and accessories available for hire.

**Find it:** 2 Henty Street, Noojee

**More info:** 0459 582 692  
fun4life.cj@gmail.com

### Erica Ski Hire

Large selection of family-friendly snow gear available for hire including clothing, boots, snow chains, toboggans and helmets. Open 7 days a week.

**Find it:** 5 Main Road, Erica

**More info:** ericaskihire.com.au

### Icy Creek Snow Chains

Snow chains available for hire and purchase.

**Find it:** 1690 Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road,  
Icy Creek

**More info:** 0491 123 958  
moira@rubyandhope.com.au

### Noojee Bush Goods

Snow chains, ski equipment and clothing available for hire.

**Find it:** 11-13 Henty Street, Noojee

**More info:** noojeebushgoods.com.au

### Tanjil Bren Snow Chain Hire

Hire your snow chains on the way to Mount Baw Baw.

**Find it:** Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road, Tanjil Bren

**More info:** 0457 320 666  
@facebook Tanjil Bren Snow Chain Hire



## OTHER SNOW-CAPPED WONDERLANDS

### West Gippsland Snowfields

#### Mount St Gwinear



Ski, toboggan, snowshoe, cross country, snow play  
FREE entry | Check conditions

**Located on Baw Baw Plateau in  
Baw Baw National Park is  
Mount St Gwinear.**

You'll find 12 kilometres of cross country ski trails, toboggan runs and snowshoeing to explore, plus a family snow play area, a heated shelter, and for the very brave, some dispersed sites for snow camping.

The scenery is truly stunning, especially via the 1.2 kilometre return Winter Walking Track which opens up to a wonderful view over the park.

Enjoy a fun family day out with tracks and trails accessible from the car park,

as well as hot chocolate, coffee and donuts from the on-site food van which is available during peak seasons, some weekends and over the school holidays.

**Tip:** Make sure to come prepared to this location. Toboggan, ski gear and snow chains are available for hire at Erica.

**Tip:** Contact Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for opening hours and conditions.

**More Info:** 136 186

**Parks Victoria:** [parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/baw-baw-national-park](https://parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/baw-baw-national-park)



Mount St Gwinear  
Image by Shane Duck

## BEAU MILES

### A local experience

**Out-there adventurer, award-winning filmmaker, writer, and passionate West Gippy local, Beau Miles is not your average character.** In fact, he describes himself as a bit of an oddball, and modestly claims that he should shower more.

Beau's infectious get-up-and-go attitude and complete commitment to living and breathing curiosity and adventure in his own backyard runs right through to his core, and also, to his legs.

As we sit and chat over a packed lamb and salad sandwich in the small town of Jindivick, it becomes obvious that Beau carries a genuine love for where he lives and spends a great deal of time in his day immersing himself in the "temperate wonderland" that he calls home.

**"West Gippy is super diverse, it bloody is! When you can go from the snowfields right down to these temperate rainforests and super-lush farmlands, vibrant rivers... We're super lucky."**

Known for his adventure films including *Run The Line*, where he takes a 43 kilometre historic journey through the old hidden train line that once ran between Warragul and Noojee from the 1920s to the 1950s, Beau's knowledge



Beau Miles, Adventurer  
Taken from the film, *Big Gums*  
Image by Pat Cordon

of the area keeps growing with each step of the terrain he tackles.

Beau is a single track enthusiast, covering countless kilometres as he runs in and around various sections of single link tracks that exist in the Rokeby area and surrounds.

Although a perfect challenge for the solo runner, hiker, mountain biker or photographer, there is also an abundance of rail trails, rainforest walks and easy going tracks to enjoy with the family when visiting. "My daughter loves bush walking," Beau says. "We tend to go to the Rokeby Rail Trail, Nangara Reserve and Glen Nayook, anywhere there's forest."

When Beau has more time up his sleeve, he ventures up to higher terrain. "A big favourite of mine is Baw Baw, for its snow gums and running... that beautiful temperate life up there. I almost exclusively go up there in summer. It's hard to beat in terms of

its pathways into the Australian Alpine Walking Track, which is just excellent."

It's evident from Beau's enthusiasm that you don't need to go far to experience the huge diversity of West Gippsland. He offered some insight when asked about how visitors should approach a trip to the region:

**"A lot of people go to places on holiday and use recreation as a form of escape and they think about their broader world. When I'm doing something recreationally, I do it for its own sake. I am there."**

"Running from Baw Baw to Mushroom Rocks is probably the best bush track we've got in the area, I mean, it's beautiful," he continues. "The mountain bike trails around Erica make for excellent running as well as mountain biking, just fantastic, really, really awesome."

If you're looking to hike, bike or run away for a while, "Erica's a really good base to start. You can treat it as your adventure hub as it allows you to go high, go forested and dip your way down into the towns and villages. I've got a real soft spot for Erica," Beau confesses.

He also has a soft spot for Noojee, claiming the small town as, "The next best thing. I've done a lot of mountain bike riding and camping near Noojee... fishing and running there, it's great."

He's not shy of the water either, and

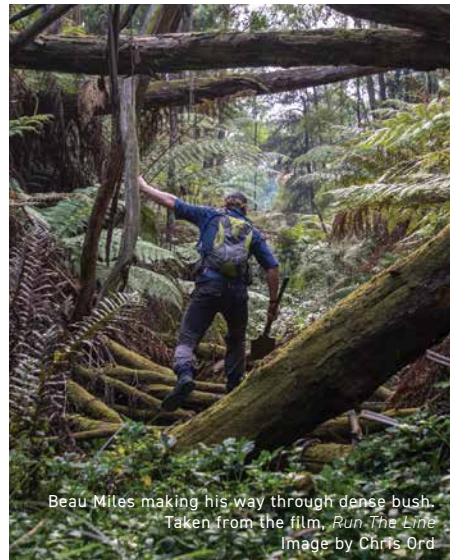
considers Blue Rock Lake, near Willow Grove, a must see. "Blue Rock's really fantastic, for a family to get out in a boat or a canoe and go fishing... and maybe see what's on the other side. The drive from Noojee to Willow Grove is also magnificent."

When deciding how best to spend your time in West Gippsland, Beau offered some wisdom, "My one good chunk of advice is to ask yourself, 'What do you really love doing?' Pick your form of recreation. What's your ideal day? What's it look like? Take no prisoners with how you spend your day."

And a final tip, "Get yourself a good map and you gotta follow your nose. I'm a local and I still get a map and just go out and have a look at places."

Beau screens his films seasonally at Jindivick Hall.

**More info:** [beaumiles.com](http://beaumiles.com)



Beau Miles making his way through dense bush.  
Taken from the film, *Run The Line*  
Image by Chris Ord



## TRACKS & TRAILS

For walk, bike or hike



WALK, HIKE, RUN



BIKE



PICNIC AREA



PUBLIC TOILETS



ACCESSIBLE



FAMILY FRIENDLY



DOG FRIENDLY



PARKING



SCENIC



Toorongo Falls and Amphitheatre Falls Walk

### Ada Tree Walk



3.2km return | 1.5hr | Easy (gentle hills, some steps) | Explore more trails from here

Witness one of the oldest and largest flowering Mountain Ash trees in Victoria - the grand Ada Tree. Estimated to be over 300 years old and 76 metres tall, this gigantic tree has enough timber to build 66 homes in its trunk alone. It's a marvel to look at, and even more spectacular to immerse yourself in the lush, temperate rainforest as you make your way in and around it over boardwalks, bridges and formed track. There's a spot at the beginning of the track to enjoy your own picnic lunch, and options to venture off and explore longer walks if you desire.

**Find it:** Via the Big Creek Road turn off from Yarra Junction - Noojee Road. Turn when you see the 'Ada Tree' sign and follow Big Creek Road for 24kms. The trail begins at the car park.

### Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT) to Walhalla Historic Township



650km of trails (40km from Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort) | Difficult (hiking experience recommended)

Did you know that Walhalla is the official end of the Australian Alps Walking Track? If you are adventurous and experienced enough to walk the 650km track between Canberra and Walhalla, you can get your official AAWT stamp at the Walhalla Corner Stores upon completion and celebrate your achievement with a hearty meal at the Wally Pub. You can also book a good night's sleep at one of the self-contained accommodation sites in Walhalla or at Walhalla's Star Hotel and take some time to explore the township.

**More info:** [theaustralionalpsnationalparks.org/experience/aawt](http://theaustralionalpsnationalparks.org/experience/aawt)



## Erica Mountain Bike Park



30km + of trails | Easy - Extremely Difficult (riding experience recommended)

Located between the Tyers Rail Trail and Walhalla Goldfields you'll find Erica Mountain Bike Park. The base of the park is made up of two sets of trails that are spread across either side of the highway at Erica, and cover some 30km of easy, to pretty full-on track, featuring all kinds of twists, turns, climbs and falls across moderate slopes.

On the western side of Moe-Rawson Road lies the more challenging tracks including the Axeman and the Scream (steep and slippery), whereas the other side of town at Mill Park features easier single track rides including Crazy Snake, Bones and SSS.

This place is truly one for adrenaline junkies of all ages - great for friends who want a thrilling few days camping

experience, families wanting to share a fun biking experience, or the hard core fans of competitive mountain biking, who want to escape and get lost in the maze of single tracks.

**Tip:** Check conditions before you head to this park. The site may be affected by weather events and changed conditions.

**Find it:** Off Moore Street, Erica

**More info:** facebook @EricaMTBPark or trailforks.com/region/erica

## ON YA BIKE - ITINERARY IDEAS FOR THE THRILL SEEKER WITHIN

### Biking, camping and pub grub

Head to Erica Mountain Bike Park for a thrilling day of adventurous biking across tracks and trails, before setting up camp at Erica Caravan Park and enjoying a hearty pub dinner at the Erica Hotel.





### Glen Nayook Rainforest Walk



1.5km return | 1hr | Easy - Moderate (downhill slopes)

If you have children who believe in fairies, this enchanting walk may be for you and the whole family! Glen Nayook Rainforest Walk is truly a delightful experience that starts from the end of Paynter Road and makes its way down into a gorgeous fern gully surrounded by moss-covered granite boulders, on the east branch of the Tarago River. Follow the river where it runs underground for about 100 metres, and sit and relax on one of the many park benches scattered throughout the walk to take in the scenery and hear bird life and trickling water.

**Find it:** At the end of Paynter Road travelling west from Neerim Junction.

### Loch Valley Tramway Walk



5km return | 2.5hr | Easy - Moderate

The Loch Valley Tramway Walk takes you on a journey along the historic timber tramway line that once lay passage through this rich timber area. See remnants of the old line and its equipment at the beginning of the walk and learn about its history, before discovering a forest of giant Mountain Ash trees and tall ferns. Be sure to take some time and soak up the soothing, tranquil surroundings. You can also enjoy a riverside picnic at the end of the walk, with picnic tables overlooking Loch River.

**Tip:** Take a stroll along the Latrobe River via Ralph Cornwell Picnic Area on the other side of the road. There's a cool suspension bridge there which overlooks the river too!

**Find it:** McCarthy Spur Road, Noojee

### Mount Erica



3km return | 2hr | Moderate | Walk, Run | No dogs  
Uneven track | Walk-in camping

Keep going past Mushroom Rocks to beautiful Mount Erica and watch the landscape change from Mountain Ash, Silver Wattle and granite, to enchanting Snow Gums. This sub-alpine woodland has an elevation of 1512 metres and on a wintry day, you may be lucky enough to see the snowflakes touch the treetops over this peaceful, quiet landscape.

**Find it:** Walk in from Mount Erica Car Park, Baw Baw National Park



## Mount Worth State Park



Variety of walks | Easy - Difficult | Bird watching

There's so much to explore at Mount Worth State Park - enjoy the views, scenery, and the natural, temperate environment as you journey through a variety of tracks and trails designed for walkers and hikers of all ages and abilities.

Mount Worth State Park forms part of the Aboriginal cultural landscape in West Gippsland. The most amazing panoramic views can be seen from the top of Mount Worth, looking over the Latrobe River Valley, The Great Dividing Range and Westernport Bay.

The Park is home to a variety of beautiful bird species including Lyrebirds, Tawny Frogmouths, and the rare Sooty Owl, as well as more than 40 species of fungi. You'll also find the endangered Narracan Burrowing Crayfish, indigenous to the area.



Mount Worth State Park

## Moonlight Creek Picnic Area

The Moonlight Creek Picnic Area is a great starting point for your walks at Mount Worth State Park, and a delightful picnic spot too. It's both wheelchair and pram accessible, and has toilet facilities.

### Giants Circuit - 1.8km return, 1hr

Continue your discovery of giant trees by visiting the impressive Standing Giant Tree - a Mountain Ash species that is estimated to be around 300 years old, with a girth of 14 metres!

### Gardeners Mill Track - 3km return, 1hr

This track extends from the Giants Circuit and takes you along Clark Creek where you can witness a regenerating Mountain Ash forest.

### Maslin's Mill - 1.5km return, 40 mins

A gentle walk for people of all ages and abilities, you'll journey through the forest to the Mill site itself.

### Moonlight Circuit - 8.5km return, 3hr

Suitable for experienced walkers and hikers, this walk climbs to the ridge of the Mountain Ash forest and follows the mountain stream and timber mills. Combines Moonlight Creek Track, Moonlight Link Track and Moonlight Divide Track.

### Waterfall-Bower Track - 7km return, 2.5hr

This track combines part of the Moonlight Divide Track and features two small waterfalls at the midway point. For more experienced walkers.

**Find it:** 301 Allambee Estate Road, Allambee

**More info:** [parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/mount-worth-state-park](https://parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/mount-worth-state-park)

## Mushroom Rocks



3km return | 2hr | Easy-moderate - Uneven track  
Walk-in camping

Mushroom Rocks is one of the first spots you can experience along the Australian Alps Walking Track, which at its full length runs for 650km and finishes in Canberra. The single track leading into this beautiful and sacred place can seem hidden at times beneath the dense ground cover and forest, and will lead you through a maze of giant granite tors that jut out from all angles and carve distinct pathways.

Experienced travellers can camp overnight here too - you'll need to walk in with your gear. Toilets can also be found at the base of the car park.

**Tip:** Rug up in winter and wear suitable footwear - snow can fall here.

**Find it:** Mount Erica Car Park, Baw Baw National Park.



Rokeby to Neerim Trail (Apex Lookout)



Nangara Duell, Nangara Reserve

## Nangara Reserve



Short tracks

Nangara means "meeting of the waters" and this 14 hectare reserve forms an important part of Indigenous culture in the region. The reserve adjoins Bunyip State Park, and there's plenty of space to enjoy a picnic, walk your dog, or ride your horse. There are lots of short tracks that are great for families to explore, and along them you'll find local artwork.

**Find it:** 95 Nangara Road, Jindivick

## ITINERARY IDEAS FOR A HALF-DAY FAMILY OUTING

### Walk, lunch and explore

Take a walk along the Noojee Trestle Bridge and Rail Trail, then stop for lunch at Little Red Duck Cafe, followed by a visit to the Noojee Heritage Centre.

## Noojee Trestle Bridge and Rail Trail



6km return | 2hr | Easy

One of the most iconic landmarks of West Gippsland is the historic Noojee Trestle Bridge, which stands at 21 metres tall, is 102 metres in length, and has been preserved as one of the oldest timber trestle bridges left standing in Victoria.

A legacy to the old railway line that ran between Noojee and Warragul from the 1920s to the 1950s during the region's timber days, you'll hardly believe a train once traveled across these tracks.

From the top, this mega structure feels grand, sheer and dramatic, and places you right up within the surrounding tree line. Use the carved out stairs on either side of the bridge to explore the huge struts underneath, and stay a little longer if you like - there's a picnic table at the foot of the bridge.

**Find it:** Walk, run or ride to the bridge from the Noojee Heritage Centre, or park directly at the Noojee Trestle Bridge, just off Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road.

## Rokeby to Neerim Rail Trail (Apex Lookout)



15km one way | Easy | Smooth track

Enjoy the fresh air and gorgeous greenery on this nature-loving, shady trail. The track is part of the original Warragul to Noojee rail line, and passes through lush native forest into Crossover Regional Park and onwards to Neerim South. Travel back in time with a glimpse of a historic trestle bridge at Crossover. A highlight is Apex Lookout (just out of Neerim South) with dreamy views over the Tarago Reservoir.

**Cont. p18>**



Noojee Trestle Bridge



Riders are welcome to bring their loyal steeds for an old-fashioned trail ride. There are lots of picnic areas along the way if you need to stop for a rest. Dogs are also welcome on lead.

**Start/Finish:** Rokeby Reserve, Rokeby. The trail head is located at the corner of Lavinia St and Ash Grove.

Apex Lookout, Neerim. Toilets are at either end (5 minute walk to the Public Hall at Rokeby).

**Find it:** Herman Street, Rokeby

### Toorongo Falls Reserve and Amphitheatre Falls



2.2km return | 1hr | Easy

Toorongo Falls Reserve is around a 10 minute drive from Noojee, past Toorongo Valley Estate. The drive out to the falls is amazing, providing stunning views of the valley and accompanying countryside.

Upon arrival, you'll weave your way through the rocks and streams, over the bridge and start to walk your way up the steady incline through dense bushland. See glimpses of the falls as you make your way up, and when you're there, feel encapsulated by the beauty of this breathtaking, tiered waterfall.

If you have time, continue your walk in a loop to Amphitheatre Falls where you'll step out onto a steel overhang to witness another cascading waterfall which pools into the stream below your feet.

Descend your way back down to the car park along the stream - the experience truly is exhilarating.

**Tip:** For lovers of the outdoors - camp at nearby Toorongo Falls Campground.

**Find it:** Toorongo Valley Road, Noojee



Toorongo Falls Reserve

## Two Towns Trail - Drouin to Warragul



8km one way | Easy

Connecting our region's largest towns - Drouin and Warragul, why not try walking, riding or running along the Two Towns Trail. A sealed trail offering scenic wetland views, boardwalks and an opportunity to take in the Baw Baw and Strzelecki Ranges.

**Tip:** Ride or walk the trail in either direction. Start with breakfast in one town and opt for lunch in the other. There's plenty of cafes to choose from in both Drouin and Warragul.

**Find it:** The trail starts at Civic Park in Drouin and finishes at the Rotary Park in Warragul.

## Tyers Junction Rail Trail



21km return | Uneven dirt track - Grade level 3

This mountain bike adventure trail runs through part of the old tramway lines that inhabited the area during the booming timber industry last century. Enjoy the occasional river crossing on this trail as you ride through the fern gullies and seasonal wildflowers.

**Find it:** Start in Erica and finish in Walhalla at Collins Siding.

## Walhalla Tramline Walk

1km - 5km | 30 mins - 90 mins | Moderate | Walk, Run | Family friendly

Absorb the picturesque views of Walhalla Township via this walk which you can either experience in a short time - from the Long Tunnel Extended



Two Towns Trail

Gold Mine car park - or from the North Gardens Camping Area car park. This track has a variety of options depending on how much time and energy you've got - you can see right up to parts of The Thomson River.

**Find it:** Walhalla central township.

## ITINERARY IDEAS FOR THE ADVENTURER WITHIN

### Great alpine adventure

Hike in with your overnight gear from the Mount Erica base car park and make your way through to Mushroom Rocks for an all-out camping experience. Then continue to Mount Erica Summit.

Come food prepared by visiting one of the many local fresh produce stores in either Warragul or Drouin before you arrive.

## ROADS & 4X4 ADVENTURES

Get off the beaten track



Experience 4WD adventures throughout Baw Baw

**West Gippsland lends itself to some of the most exciting, scenic roads that Victoria has to offer - and not all of them are on the bitumen!**

If you're up for an adventurous four-wheel driving experience, West Gippsland boasts great tracks from beginner to expert.

Motoring enthusiasts with classic cars and motorcycles can also enjoy scenic routes through winding, sealed roads around Noojee, Willow Grove, Mount Baw Baw and Walhalla, surrounded by lush rainforest - as can cyclists on a day trip, overnighter or multi-day ride.

For caravans and campers, the main sealed roads are good to travel on. Some roads are tight in parts, but the key is to take your time and check conditions before you venture out.

**Tip:** Rawson is a terrific base to discover the four-wheel-drive tracks in and around the area.

### Aberfeldy 4WD Track

4WD | 180km | 2-3 days | Unsealed

Fuel point: Rawson | Grade: Medium - Difficult

Follow the Miners' Trail from Walhalla to Jamieson along the Aberfeldy Track Historic Touring Route. Originally constructed in the early 1800s for use as a transportation route during the gold rush, this track is considered one of Victoria's best.

Explore rugged bushland and terrain, make stops in Matlock and Woods Point on your way through, and take in a multitude of breathtaking natural environments - from mountain top views, to scenic bushland and stony river crossings.

Camping is available along the route, and a popular spot is the Aberfeldy River Camping Area, situated right on the bank of the Aberfeldy Heritage River. You'll find car parking, fire pits, picnic tables and drop toilets here.



## Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road

4WD - Car - Classic Car - Motorcycle - Cycling  
53km | Day trip | Sealed | Winding climb | Snow  
chains required in Winter months

Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road stretches over 50 kilometres from the town of Noojee at its base, and climbs right up to Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resort. The drive is narrow in parts, but is completely scenic, lined with temperate rainforest, tiny towns with rich agricultural land, short bridges and river breaks. Take your time along this road as the twists and turns can get quite tight, and in the winter season, don't forget your snow chains.

**Tip:** Snow chain hire is available (see page 8 for local providers).

## Noojee to Willow Grove

4WD - Car - Classic Car - Motorcycle - Cycling -  
Caravan | 33km | Day trip | Sealed | Winding

Enjoy another winding road as you turn off from Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road onto Willow Grove Road. This beautiful, low-lying road is set right in the bush and if you're lucky, you might spot a lyrebird or two. Magnificent tall trees shape this road, and there are some tight corners to get around. As you move through the bush, you'll enter the towns of Fumina and Hill End, where the landscape changes to classic Australian bush - full of humongous Ghost Gums and farming countryside.

## Thomson Dam

4WD - Car | 36km | Day trip | Sealed

The Thomson Reservoir is home to Melbourne's largest water supply, and is just a 25 minute drive from Walhalla via a sealed road. You can drive right across the dam wall and take in the

views. It's also very quiet and makes for a good picnic spot.

**Tip:** Surrounding the Thomson Dam is a wide range of four-wheel drive tracks, for drivers of all levels. It's an amazing place to explore!

## Yarra Junction-Noojee Road

4WD - Car - Classic Car - Motorcycle - Cycling -  
Caravan | 46km | Day trip | Sealed | Winding and  
straight parts

Entering into Baw Baw Shire from the Yarra Valley, this scenic drive easily caters to all travellers with wide roads, plenty of turnouts, long stretches and juicy curves. You'll pass through the green country towns of Gladysdale, Three Bridges, Gilderoy and Powelltown, before making your way into Piedmont and Noojee.

Check out the delightful apple orchards and scenic Seven Acre Rock, and stop at the Ada Tree on your way through.



Willow Grove Road, Hill End

## RIVERS & LAKES

### Fishing and leisure



Local adventurer David, and 'Scratch' The Dog kayaking Blue Rock Lake

**The Baw Baw region offers some fantastic freshwater streams, rivers and lakes to fish, swim and play.**

Put your waders on and escape in the middle of nowhere as you cast your line and forget about life for a while.

**Tip:** If you plan on fishing and are over 18 years of age, purchase a Recreational Fishing License from Services Victoria to cover all forms of recreational fishing.

**More info:** [service.vic.gov.au](http://service.vic.gov.au)

### Blue Rock Lake

Blue Rock Lake is a gentle, calm body of water located at the foothills of the Baw Baw ranges. Here, you can jump in your kayak and paddle from one side of the lake to the other, or launch your boat off the ramp and go fishing for Trout, Redfin, Carp and Australian Bass.

There is an excellent children's sensory playground here, with picnic and

barbecue facilities, and lots of wide open space to kick a footy. Walk along the banks of the lake, or even take a swim.

**Find it:** Spillway Road and Blue Rock Dam Road, Tanjil South



Fly fishing adventures in West Gippsland

## Tanjil River

Crystal clear, shallow waters and calm pools form the majestic Tanjil River, in between Noojee and Mount Baw Baw.

Fly fishing is highly recommended here, and you can expect to catch exceptional Brown and Rainbow Trout in seclusion, peace and quiet.

**Find it:** Tanjil South

## Tarago Reservoir Park

The Tarago Reservoir supplies drinking water across Victoria and Melbourne with a 37,580 megalitre capacity. It gets its water from the Tarago River that flows into it.

The park features sloping lawns set amongst bushland with views of the reservoir and surrounding landscapes, plus a large, flat grassed area that's perfect for a picnic or barbecue with family and friends.

**Note:** To retain the high quality of water for our residents and the production of local produce, the reservoir is closed to boating, fishing and bush walking.

**Find it:** Tarago Reservoir Road, Neerim South

## Thomson River Canoe Trail

For those wanting white water, the Thomson River Canoe Trail winds through a deep river valley from the Thomson Dam to the Walhalla Road Bridge near Rawson.

The Grade 2 rapids are perfect for first time paddlers and rafters.

**Find it:** Thomson River Heritage River, Baw Baw National Park, Walhalla

## ITINERARY IDEAS FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE WATER

### A day at the lake

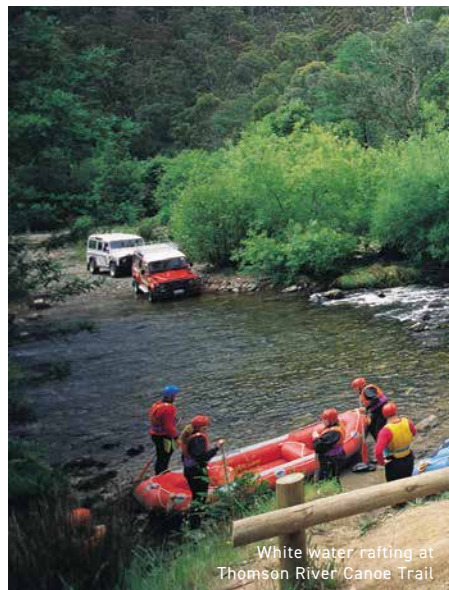
Gather your friends and family, pick up some fresh produce in Warragul, and enjoy a picnic at Blue Rock Lake, followed by dinner at The Tipsy Heifer at Willow Grove.

### Go fish

Spend the morning trying your luck at fly fishing in Tanjil River, before enjoying lunch at Noojee Hotel or The Toolshed.

### Weekend white water

Base yourself in Walhalla for the weekend, and tackle the rapids along the Thomson River Canoe Trail, before enjoying a hearty meal at the Wally Pub later on.



White water rafting at Thomson River Canoe Trail



## DAVID EDNEY

### A local experience

**The energy and grace of David Edney is something to admire and reflect upon whenever anything that seems remotely challenging comes to mind.**

Now in his senior years, the number of goals this English expat is kicking in retirement is remarkable.

Sailor of the seas, mountain biker, bush walker, hiker, kayaker, orchard cultivator, master home brewer, and the owner of a sustainable property... is there anything this man can't do?

David and his similarly adventurous wife Jean decided to call Noojee home after circumnavigating the oceans and islands of Asia and Australia in a yacht. Since then, the couple have spent time exploring Noojee, discovering many of the paths, tracks, trails, and old tramway routes known to the region, and one of the best ways to do this in David's opinion is to, "Get on ya bike!"

**"I've been riding mountain bikes for over 30 years, and there are a lot of single tracks to explore in Noojee."**

David talks about riding bikes around the region with keen enthusiasm and has exceptional knowledge of the area. One of his favourite tracks to explore is the McCarthy Spur Road and Monument Track, "It's not particularly steep, and takes you back onto Loch Valley Road in around an hour. It's an easy cycling distance from Noojee, but



David Edney, Noojee Resident  
& Cycling Enthusiast

if you want more of a challenge you can continue along McCarthy Spur Road to Warburton", he says.

David also talks about his enduring climbs throughout Noojee on the bike, "I've gone through the Poplars up towards Mt Horsfall which is constant climbing to over 1000 metres", he says. Although challenging, David's persistence pays off and as he sees it, "I think you've got to earn the right to come down!"

Over the years, David has been recording his tracks and trails adventures, and sharing them with the wider community via popular route planning and navigation app, Komoot.

Take some inspiration from this wise adventure seeker - grab your gear, get out and explore!

**David's local tip:** Buy the Rooftop Map of this area, The Yarra Valley West Gippsland Adventure Map, and check out David's Noojee Komoot via the app.

## ALPINE TROUT FARM

### A local experience

**The Alpine Trout Farm in Noojee makes for a great family day out.** Surrounded by forest and set at the foothills of Mount Baw Baw, this tranquil environment is perfect for casting your rod and taking a break.

The friendly staff here can sort you out with a rod and reel, bait, nets and a bucket - free of charge! All you pay for is your catch.

You'll fish for Golden and Rainbow Trout here, and if you're keen to try some fly-fishing, the farm also offers a catch and release section at the back of the property.

You can't get any fresher than the fish here, and the taste - just delicious, enhanced by the region's natural cool climate.

As a supplier to many eateries in West Gippsland, including award-winning restaurant Hogget Kitchen, and stretching out to Melbourne and beyond, the Alpine Trout Farm forms an integral part of the superb produce that comes out of this region.

You also have the option to cook your catch using the on-site barbecue facilities, or take your beauties home.

Check the website for opening times.

**Tip:** Pick up some smoked trout while you're there - it's heavenly mixed with cream cheese, chives and lemon juice - the ultimate smoked trout dip!

**Find it:** 115 Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road, Piedmont

**More info:** [alpinetroutfarm.com.au](http://alpinetroutfarm.com.au)



Alpine Trout Farm, Noojee

## ART & CULTURE

### Arts centre, gallery spaces and gardens

The romance of West Gippsland's wild and untamed landscape has captured more than one artist's imagination, and is now home to a thriving creative community.

West Gippsland is a dynamic and diverse hub for arts and cultural activities. Explore the many galleries, theatres, artist studios and workshops, decadent gardens, creative events and public art that this region has to offer.

Wander through the streets of our local townships, gardens and reserves to discover an abundance of creative street murals and public art installations.

Discover the West Gippsland Arts Centre, the region's leading hub for performing arts, culture and community.

Set within the beautifully landscaped Civic Park in Warragul, the venue is a regular stop on both national and state touring circuits, welcoming acclaimed companies such as Opera Australia, The Australian Ballet, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and more.

Whether you're enjoying a live performance or exploring the region, West Gippsland offers plenty to spark your creativity and we invite you to be part of it.





## WEST GIPPSLAND ARTS CENTRE

A local experience



West Gippsland Arts Centre (WGAC)

**Make art and culture part of your West Gippsland experience at the West Gippsland Arts Centre (WGAC), located in the heart of Warragul.**

Set among the leafy surrounds of Civic Park, the Centre's striking curved facade is a standout, flowing down into a tiered forecourt space that invites connection, conversation and, at times, live music on the steps.

Step inside and feel the buzz of a venue alive with creativity. From major touring productions to local performances, the program spans theatre, music, comedy, dance and family-friendly shows, offering something for every taste and age.

**"Amazing place. Friendly, helpful staff, and such a beautiful atmosphere."**

— Leah S.

The intimate 750-seat theatre ensures a great view from every seat, while behind the scenes, WGAC's rich history is proudly on display. Backstage walls are adorned with signatures and memorabilia from decades of visiting artists, creating a space that feels both



WGAC walls featuring performing artists



personal and deeply connected to the stories of those who have performed here.

Beyond the stage, explore the community exhibition spaces spread across three levels, showcasing a mix of local and regional artists alongside works from the Baw Baw Shire collection. It's the perfect place to discover something unique.

Take a moment to relax at the adjoining Coffee Vibes café, ideal for a catch-up over coffee, cake or a light meal. And if inspiration strikes, you might even find yourself at the keys of the Centre's grand piano.

**"Great venue. I've been many times. I will definitely be back!"**

**— Peter S.**

Vibrant, welcoming and full of creative energy, the West Gippsland Arts



Forecourt Friday at WGAC

Centre is more than a venue, it's an experience. Be sure to check what's on and make it part of your visit.

**Find it:** Corner of Smith and Albert Streets, Warragul

**More info:** [wgac.com.au](http://wgac.com.au)



Forecourt Friday at WGAC

## LAURIE COLLINS & RED TREE GALLERY

A local experience



Red Tree Gallery

**Exploring the world of Laurie Collins is an absolute delight - interesting, down-to-earth, friendly, organic, and above all, imaginative - and one that you must experience on your visit to Jindivick.**

His Red Tree Gallery and Sculpture Garden is part of Open Studios West Gippsland - a collection of local artists from around the region who open up their own galleries, art spaces and workshops to visitors over the course of several seasonal weekends to showcase their unique, weird and wonderful works.

Laurie spends his time pottering in his eclectic, 'tools, stuff and things-everywhere' workshop inventing all sorts of quirky, thought-provoking, metal-based sculptures, made from completely recyclable materials ranging from scrap, metal, old gates, nuts, bolts and yeah... golf clubs.

The grand 'junk pile' at the front of his workshop is where it all begins. Laurie carefully selects bits and pieces to craft, weld, bash out, and transform into complete works of art. There are very few people who can make a golf club and a cinder block look amazing, but Laurie achieves this with such modesty, labelling himself, "A ratty old guy who loves what he does."

When working on a piece, how Laurie starts is not necessarily how he finishes. There is a true honesty in his work that develops simultaneously with both the idea and the design.

**"There's nothing to stop the imagination."**

As you tour the Sculpture Garden, you really get a sense of just how challenging it is to present what was once junk, into a perfectly formed piece, which in its ironic constraint, contains so much organic creativity.



There is meaning behind all of Laurie's work - it's emotional, political, expressive, loving, humorous. His work is not linear, and carries all the wise-man charm of a person who shares stories, knowledge and skill, through his art and in person.

The Sculpture Garden has been growing for around 12 years, with an artwork-for-seedlings exchange being responsible for the acre of leafy, green gardens that houses it. The walking track takes you through a mix of beautiful, interesting and alluring sculptures that seem to either poke out of the ground, stop you in your tracks, or lead you off the path in circles.

The Mosaic Mercedes Benz is a must see - completely covered in mirrored mosaic tiles and just like a giant pot plant, you can see grass growing up through its old windows.

Powerful pieces including The Refugee and Tony's World speak to Australian

political and cultural discord, and the gorgeous Mother and Daughter sculpture makes you want to hug your kids. The quirkiness of Mr Junk Head and No Spring Chicken will make you laugh.

As you make your way through the Garden and into the adjoining Red Tree Gallery, the gigantic, steel-cut huntsman that welcomes you is thankfully, fixed to the wall, and not for the faint hearted!

The Gallery's best feature is its revolving program of local artists, who take up monthly residence here to showcase their amazing artworks, one of which is Pen On Parchment Calligraphy Artist, Anita George.

Laurie and his wife Marian spend time curating the Gallery's space, nurturing all artistic walks of life, celebrating diversity and giving locals a platform to launch their careers. "We provide an affordable space for local artists to make their mark," Marian says.

This is an inclusive space, perfect for anyone. It's family oriented so take the kids (or grandkids) down and let them wander through the garden and play on one of two playgrounds.

Laurie's place is open year round and you can drop in and watch him work away at his craft, which is very dear to his heart. You can also purchase his works directly from the Garden and the Gallery.

**Find it:** 420 Main Jindivick Road, Jindivick

**More info:** [lauriecollins.com.au](http://lauriecollins.com.au)



Laurie Collins, Sculpture Artist

## THE GARDEN AT BROUGHTON HALL & MUSKERS RARE PLANT NURSERY

A local experience



Broughton Hall  
Image courtesy of Broughton Hall

**Driving through the rolling hills of Jindivick feels like travelling through the English Countryside - it's so lush and green, with pretty-in-pink flowers, tall trees, and a gentle elevation exposing you to the scenic views of Tarago Reservoir and distant mountains.**

On the outskirts of this gorgeous little hamlet, you'll find The Garden at Broughton Hall - a truly amazing sight to see. This privately owned estate is impressively breathtaking, positioned high atop Palmer Road overlooking the stunning Tarago Reservoir, and features four acres of perfectly landscaped gardens, paths, lawns and hideaways. It's a beautiful place where you can truly escape, explore, relax and dream the day away, with undeniably exquisite views to match.

The Garden carries the formal feel of elegance, quality and intrigue, and as you make your way through the

grounds, you could easily find yourself floating off into romantic fantasy amongst the delight of lemon scented roses, splashes of colour and rare plant varieties.

Pass through the gates and observe the Peacock Aviary, then stroll through the grand, tree-lined entrance to the immaculate series of featured gardens which showcase a mix of classic topiary, colourful roses, sweet cherry blossoms, interesting sculptures, and of course, rare and unusual plant varieties that thrive in Jindivick's rich, earthy, volcanic soil.

On a clear, still day the waters of Tarago Reservoir look like glass, and are perfectly framed by a line of towering trees and heavenly green lawns.

The temperate climate of West Gippsland is literally a gardener's dream, and Broughton Hall is worth

a visit at most times of the year, but in particular - Springtime, through to the Autumn months where the colours change and the flowers bloom.

In its 30-year history, owners David Musker and Philip Hunter have welcomed all walks of life to this captivating landscape, and have created a space that truly resonates with the mind, body and soul. The combination of David's exceptional eye for detail and meticulous green thumb, together with Philip's career in physiotherapy and his innate knowledge of meditation and respite, has helped them to carve out something truly special from this once humble farmland.

**"We've thought about everything."**

Together, this hard-working couple have amalgamated their talent and style and brought their distinctive vision to life on this grand property,



Majestic pathways to wander through  
Image courtesy of Broughton Hall

captivating countless garden enthusiasts, photographers, couples, families and visitors alike.

The fresh air, open space and sheer quiet is to die for - you feel like you've completely escaped the *rat-race* and entered high-end heaven.

And if wondrous escape isn't enough, you can also discover the wild and wonderful at Musker's Rare and Unusual Plant Nursery located on-site at the front of the gardens, featuring a plethora of rare, distinctive trees, shrubs, bulbs and perennials available for purchase. David's knowledge of plant care and maintenance is superb, and he can help you choose that special living thing to make its way into your very own garden, serving as a constant reminder of your timely experience.

The nursery is teamed up with a garden retail store where you can splash out on luxurious gardening equipment, local preserves and even purchase a copy of David and Philip's book, *The Charmed Garden*, which celebrates all they have achieved at Broughton Hall.

Broughton Hall is opened seasonally and group bookings are essential.

Meditation sessions are also offered on occasion in the ground's Tea Room.

Visit the website for opening times, entry fees and further details.

**Find it:** 125 Palmer Road, Jindivick

**More info:** [muskersbroughtonhall.com.au](http://muskersbroughtonhall.com.au)



## OTHER CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Art hubs, gallery spaces and performing arts

### Baw Baw Arts Alliance, The Station Gallery Trafalgar and Yarragon

**Trafalgar:** Trafalgar Artspace

Open during art groups only.

**Yarragon:** The Station Gallery Yarragon,  
Exhibitions and Gift Shop

Open Wednesday - Sunday

The Station Gallery, located in Trafalgar and Yarragon is run by a team of volunteers who form the Baw Baw Arts Alliance. They provide studio, exhibition and performance space to local artists from around the Baw Baw region. You can find a collection of works by talented local artists at either of these galleries.

**Find it: (Trafalgar)** Trafalgar Station,  
Princes Highway, Trafalgar

**Find it: (Yarragon)** Yarragon Station,  
Princes Highway, Yarragon

**More info:** [bawbawartsalliance.org.au](http://bawbawartsalliance.org.au)

### The Serigraph Gallery & Public Artspace, Neerim South

Open most Sundays 10am - 3pm (contact to confirm)

The town of Neerim South lends itself to an open arts space. You are welcomed by a giant bower as you enter the town from the west side and you'll find a number of stunning public art pieces around the town.

The Serigraph Gallery opens by appointment and displays many artworks from local artists.

**Find it:** 157-161 Main Neerim Road

**More info:** [serigraphgallery.com](http://serigraphgallery.com)



### Town and Country Gallery, Yarragon

Open 7 days per week

Venture into the eclectic town of Yarragon, where arts and culture carry a very prominent vibe. For 30 years, Town and Country Gallery has been showcasing an ever-changing exhibition of the highest quality Australian contemporary art and hand-crafted works - from sculptures, pottery and paintings, to quality handmade leather goods, jewelry and clothing, plus an interesting collection of books.

This gallery is not just for show - you can take a piece of it home to enjoy.

**Find it:** 111 Princes Highway

**More info:** [townandcountrygallery.com.au](http://townandcountrygallery.com.au)

## WAS Gallery, Warragul

Open Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm

Free entry

WAS Gallery is part of Warragul Art Studios, an enterprise set up by the Lorraine family. The gallery is open to the public for free and holds numerous exhibitions each year by diverse artists.

**Find it:** 37 Latrobe Street

**More info:** [wasgallery.com.au](http://wasgallery.com.au)

## Wesley of Warragul, Warragul

Open for events/bookings by appointment

Considered one of the finest nineteenth century churches in Gippsland, The Wesley Church building was purchased and lovingly restored by the Warragul Heritage Preservation Association in 2002, and now serves as a performance venue, hosting regular concerts and events including fine music, cabaret, comedy and theatre productions. Wesley of Warragul boasts extraordinary acoustics and is also home to the West

Gippsland Chorale and the *Warragul* Theatre Organ Society.

**Find it:** 64 Victoria Street

**More info:** [wesleyofwarragul.org.au](http://wesleyofwarragul.org.au)

## WEEKEND ITINERARY IDEAS FOR THE CREATIVE HEART

**Sat:** Visit The Garden at Broughton Hall and Laurie Collins Sculpture Garden/Red Tree Gallery. Enjoy lunch at Five Aces Brewery, followed by a walk through Neerim South's Main Street sculpture collection. Book dinner at Neerim South Hotel.

**Sun:** Breakfast and Serigraph Gallery (by appointment) then enjoy a scenic drive through the countryside to spend an afternoon in Yarragon exploring The Station Gallery and Community Arts Hub, plus Town and Country Gallery, followed by some retail therapy.



Town and Country Gallery, Yarragon

## OPEN STUDIOS WEST GIPPSLAND

A local experience



Helen Timbury, Open Studios Artist

**Among the rolling hills of West Gippsland lies a trail of independent artist studios and boutique galleries just waiting to be explored.**

From painters to sculptors, and installation artists, Open Studios West Gippsland offers you a unique opportunity to meet with local artists and learn about their creative processes, as well as browse and purchase their artwork.

The Open Studios Trail is best discovered over a weekend, starting with a relaxing country drive exploring the spectacular scenery of West Gippsland, before making your way to visit and feel inspired by our collection of artists.

Team up your cultural experience with a visit to some of West Gippsland's indulgent cafes and wineries, before spending the night in a cosy bed and breakfast.

Open studios runs in April each year. Visit the website for more details and to download the Open Studios Map.

### More info:

[openstudioswestgippsland.com.au](http://openstudioswestgippsland.com.au)



Kerrie Warren, Open Studios Artist  
Image by Lauren Murphy



## OPEN STUDIO ARTISTS

### Local talent, local artwork

#### Helen Timbury

Helen Timbury has been involved with Open Studios for some time. After graduating from RMIT Graphic Design, Helen started her career making black and white illustrations for national park signage. She drew flora and fauna for years, and this still influences her artworks today. When graphic design moved to digital, Helen turned her hand to linocut printmaking, wanting to keep the connection and experience of working by hand with paper and ink.

Helen says the best thing about opening her studio is the special conversations and connections her linocuts create.

**"The studio is filled with a buzz of energy after the weekend."**

The rich and unique biodiversity is what Helen loves about her home in West Gippsland, often enjoying the birdsong from her studio.

**More info:** [helentimburydesign.com.au](http://helentimburydesign.com.au)

#### Janine Riches

Janine started painting at just 11 years of age, inspired by oil painting lessons with artist Muriel Balmain, and after much experimentation with various mediums, and a Bachelor of Fine Art, has established herself as a local artist of note with regular exhibitions around West Gippsland. Janine describes being part of Open Studios as a lot of fun.

**"It provides an opportunity for me to share my art practice and meet people who tell me about their creative ideas as well."**

Her practice is often inspired by the lush countryside and trees in the West Gippsland region, allowing her environment and childhood nostalgia to inform her work.

**More info:** Instagram @janine\_riches11

#### Kerrie Warren

Kerrie enjoys the life of a creative 'recluse' working from her studio in Crossover. She creates dynamic, large scale panoramic paintings on linen, stoneware ceramics and poetic installations, and has been an instrumental member of the Gippsland arts and cultural scene for many years. Kerrie's work is an ongoing exploration of a reality conceived in a place where nature's cycles and an ever-expanding consciousness can meet.

**"I often find myself literally walking through landscape – inside a painting."**

Kerrie has exhibited in China, New York, Singapore and Australia, while her works feature in public and private collections here and abroad.

**More info:** [kerriewarren.com.au](http://kerriewarren.com.au)

## EVENTS, ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES

Live music, expos, museums and fun for all ages

West Gippsland is home to some really niche events, entertainment and activities, with something fun and interesting for all ages.

There's plenty to do in between your adventures in nature, with some wonderful live music offerings and various events, festivals and expos that are attracted to the region's lush backdrop and close proximity to Melbourne.

The history buff will love experiencing the beautifully preserved heritage township of Walhalla, with its own restored railway and gold mine. Spend a day with the family exploring this living piece of history, or enjoy the serenity and grandeur of this location on a romantic weekend away.

Or for the car lover - a wander through Trafalgar Holden Museum is always worth including.





## EVENTS

Seasonal, featured, iconic.



Meatstoc Gippsland

**West Gippsland is host to a diverse and exciting series of regular and annual events, with unique experiences you won't want to miss.**

### FEATURED EVENTS

#### Noojee Truffle Festival

##### July - August

Follow your nose to Noojee in winter and explore the Noojee Truffle Trail. Truffle farms, warm kitchens and delicious discoveries await, with truffle hunts, forest walks and truffle-inspired seasonal food and dining events across the region.

The festival features a curated program of truffle experiences across Noojee and surrounding farms, including truffle hunts with expert growers and trained dogs, chef-led feasts, and pop-up winter events featuring local producers and live music in the heart of West Gippsland.

The festival invites you to relax, explore, and celebrate one of Victoria's most picturesque winter destinations, encapsulating the land that truffles call home.

**More info:** [noojeetrufflefestival.com.au](http://noojeetrufflefestival.com.au)



Noojee Truffle Festival

## Hallora Marathon Festival

### December

Bring the family and participate in this popular regional marathon event that has community at its heart.

Walk, run or ride your way through West Gippsland for a worthy cause - this not-for-profit event established in 2019 promotes engagement and physical activity, whilst raising funds for Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation.

**More info:** [halloramarathon.org.au](http://halloramarathon.org.au)



## ANNUAL EVENT LISTING

### January – February

Creative Harvest  
Neerim District Country Show & Rodeo  
Neerim Artsfest (biennial)  
Rokeby Twilight Trail Run

### March – April

Thorpdale Potato Festival (biennial)  
Warragul Show  
Farm World  
Open Studios West Gippsland  
Meatstock Gippsland

### May – June

Warragul Camera Club National  
Photographic Exhibition  
Tanjil Valley Art Show

### July – August

Noojee Truffle Festival  
Gippsland Snowfest  
Mt Baw Baw Bollywood Weekend

### September – October

West Gippsland Dance Festival  
Trafalgar Holden Museum Route 69  
Gardivalia

### November – December

Open Studios West Gippsland  
Hallora Marathon Festival  
Community Christmas Carols

Check out our online  
events calendar by  
scanning the QR Code.



## LARDNER PARK

A local experience



Farm World, Lardner Park  
Image courtesy of Lardner Park

**If special events and live entertainment are on your agenda when visiting West Gippsland, keeping an eye on what's happening at Lardner Park is a must..**

Recognised as one of regional Victoria's leading event venues, Lardner Park delivers a dynamic annual program that attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year. The calendar features major lifestyle expos, industry showcases and community celebrations, including the Caravan, Camping & Leisure Expo, the Wild Deer Hunting Expo, the Victorian 4WD Show, and other major events.

The venue also hosts major music festivals, live performances and family-friendly entertainment, complemented by markets, livestock sales, trade shows and local events. With flexible indoor facilities and expansive outdoor spaces, Lardner Park continues to

attract a growing and diverse mix of events throughout the year.

Lardner Park is proudly home to Farm World, Gippsland's largest and most iconic annual agricultural exhibition. Attracting more than 40,000 visitors annually, Farm World features everything agriculture-related – from tractors and cutting-edge machinery to agri-demonstrations, fresh local produce, livestock, animals and an equestrian expo. The event also includes the Farm World Rodeo, motocross entertainment and showcases of boats, caravans and vehicles, making it one of the biggest events on the regional calendar.

All of this takes place on Lardner Park's remarkably diverse 300-acre property, just 12 minutes from Warragul and Drouin. The venue features a 1,000-seat Event Centre,



multiple pavilions, heritage rotunda and stockyards, vast outdoor event spaces, lakeside and countryside settings, and even an in-built 4WD track.

A not-for-profit organisation, Lardner Park is driven by a strong commitment to supporting local jobs, the regional economy and community events. Governed by a voluntary board, all profits are reinvested back into the facility to support its continued growth and the many commercial and community events it hosts.

When you attend an event at Lardner Park, you're also supporting the wider West Gippsland region – from stopping for a coffee in Warragul or Drouin, to fuelling up locally or staying overnight nearby. Every visit makes a difference, and it's genuinely appreciated by Gippslanders.



To keep up to date with upcoming events, visit [lardnerpark.com.au](http://lardnerpark.com.au) and start planning your next experience.

**Find it:** 155 Burnt Store Road, Lardner

**More info:** [lardnerpark.com.au](http://lardnerpark.com.au)



## WALHALLA

### Historic Township



Walhalla Historic Township

#### **Walhalla - take a trip back in time.**

There is something truly magical about the unique Walhalla Historic Township, set in a little valley surrounded by the mountainous areas of West Gippsland which border Mount Baw Baw.

This lovingly restored and beautifully preserved village began its colonial life in 1862 as a gold mining community, then known as Stringers Creek, named after one of the very first prospectors to lay a claim.

As the community began to flourish, the town soon became known as Walhalla, after one of the larger mines. This reference is thought to have drawn upon Norse mythology, 'Valhalla' and 'The Valley of the Gods', and certainly captured the imagination and hopes of many a prospector, trader and publican during the time.

The township developed a population of over 4000 residents at the turn of the century with the discovery of Cohens Reef - the single largest quartz reef to

have ever been found in Victoria, which yielded over 55 tonnes of gold in its lifespan. When the gold dried up around the 1920s, Walhalla's main industry moved into timber and farming.

Today, Walhalla is a much-loved working tourist town, surrounded by breathtaking scenery, and a living piece of history that shouldn't be missed. Home to cafes and the cosy Wally Pub, Walhalla gives a warm welcome to visitors all year round.

### SELF-GUIDED TOURS

#### **Go at your own pace**

Take a self-guided town walk starting from the Town Centre, where you'll pass many historical landmarks accompanied by pictures and stories of the town's heritage. Stop for coffee or lunch along the way, or pack your own picnic and enjoy at any of the areas rich parklands.



## Walhalla Goldfields Railway, Walhalla

Ride one of Victoria's most iconic, scenic railways. Reconstructed in 1994, this 4km track takes you on an historic journey through the wondrous valley of Walhalla, where you can experience the stories of the gold rush era and take in the pristine sights along the train line.

The railway is run entirely by friendly volunteers and there are two stops - Walhalla and Thomson where you'll find gift shops and refreshments.

**Find it:** 2 Main Road

**More info:** [walhallarail.com.au](http://walhallarail.com.au)

## Goods Shed Cafe, Walhalla

If you are after a great cup of coffee, a hearty lunch or hot breakfast, you can't go past this wonderful little cafe that resides alongside the Goldfields Railway tracks overlooking Walhalla Station. Plan a train ride and a stop



Walhalla Goldfields Railway, Walhalla Station

here, take in the views and explore the quirky heritage items and photographs displayed throughout. In the cooler months, be greeted by a roaring fire.

Open anytime the train is running.

**Find it:** 2 Main Road



Walhalla Goldfields Railway



### The Corner Stores, Walhalla

This historic gold-era building is open every day and sells a range of products and gifts made in Gippsland, as well as local history books, maps, firewood and general supplies. It also serves as the contact point for the town's very popular Ghost Tours which occur every Saturday night and by appointment.

**Find it:** 42A/120 Main Road

### Ghost Tours, Walhalla

This heritage town is filled with a rich history, many gold mining stories and a few intriguing mysteries. What better way to experience it all than by taking a Ghost Tour, which begins from the Walhalla Post Office and takes you by torchlight through the town to explore its rich vein of otherworldly phantoms and poltergeists. Bookings are essential.

**Find it:** 122 Main Road

**More info:** [walhallaheritage.com](http://walhallaheritage.com)



### Long Tunnel Extended Mine Tours, Walhalla

The Long Tunnel Mining Company was the largest gold mining company in Walhalla, laying claim to almost half the gold extracted from the region. The remains of the Long Tunnel Extended Mine are still available to visit today. Explore deep underground to see how the miners worked and catch a glimpse of Cohens Reef on this informative tour.

**Find it:** 165 Main Road

**More info:** [walhallaheritage.com](http://walhallaheritage.com)

### Walhalla Alive – A Virtual Reality Experience

Walhalla Alive is an immersive virtual reality (VR) experience that transports visitors back to the height of Walhalla's gold rush era, transforming history into something you can see, hear, and truly feel. Rather than simply observing the past, you step inside it – walk the streets of a once-thriving mining town, surrounded by the energy, industry, and stories that shaped Victoria's early prosperity through cutting edge VR technology.

**Find it:** Walhalla Museum, Main Road

**More info:** [walhallaheritage.com](http://walhallaheritage.com)

### Walhalla Witchery, Walhalla

Grab a coffee, treat or lunch at this delightful cafe and gift shop situated in the middle of the township. There is a lovely courtyard and even an old fashioned red telephone box outside. Open every day 10am – 3pm.

**Find it:** 98 Main Road

**More info:** 0427 092 010

## EXPLORE WALHALLA

### Historic Township

#### Old Mountain Brass Band Rotunda

As a much loved and photographed focal point, the rotunda was built in 1896, designed by Frederick Meyer, to accommodate the many brass bands that were popular in the town at the time.

#### Walhalla Cemetery

Situated on a steep cliff face, this unusual cemetery hosts over 1000 graves, with many of the headstones describing the hardships and stories of the gold mining era. A wonderful afternoon of exploring for those who enjoy a bit of history.

#### Walhalla Cricket Ground

This lofty sporting ground was created by literally slicing the top of the hill off by hand, in a bid to create flat land for sporting enthusiasts. It is said that the 1km zig-zagging path to the top of the hill was often hiked by the home team the day before an important match to give them the advantage of rest and recovery over the visiting side.

#### Walhalla Post Office

This beautifully restored building is today, run as a museum by volunteers who will be sure to share their many secrets about the town's history with you.

Download the  
*Storytowns* app and  
start your journey!



Old Mountain Brass Rotunda, Walhalla

### STORYTOWNS DRIVING TOUR

#### Podcast tours on the go

Do you love travelling and discovering new places?

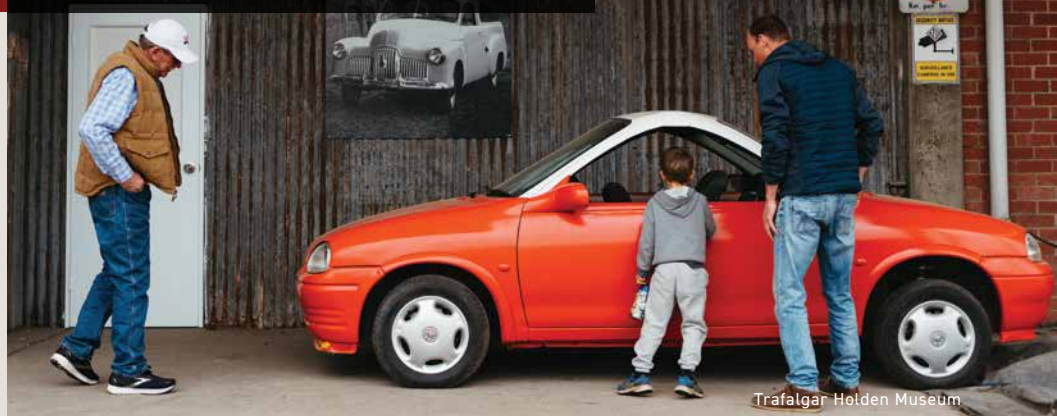
The team at Storytowns have created mini-podcasts that feature local folks who narrate the sights and towns around the West Gippsland area as you travel.

The podcasts play automatically via your phone or device as you near a site - it's just so easy!

The audio guides take you through the dense mountain forests of Noojee, Willow Grove and Walhalla and rolling green hills of Yarragon and Trafalgar, where you'll hear all about the beautiful historical towns featuring local characters, artists and even a bagpiper, too!

## TRAFALGAR HOLDEN MUSEUM

A local experience



Trafalgar Holden Museum

### For car lovers of all ages, a visit to the Trafalgar Holden Museum is a must.

This incredible museum celebrates the heritage of Australia's much loved Holden, long before this famous brand started rolling cars off the production line.

See original horse-drawn buggies, pedal cars, trams and aero engines alongside a rich collection of vintage cars, utes and motorsport vehicles.

This huge collection housed inside the old Trafalgar Butter Factory will take you through a detailed history of this iconic Australian brand, including some very rare and customised vehicles, a room full of immaculate Monaros, concept cars that never quite made it to production, all the way up to the very last modern Holden to roll off the line in Australia - all meticulously labelled with historic information.

The obsession continues beyond the

factory floor to the rest of the buildings and exhibitions out the back, extending your experience of the ultimate Holden discovery.

Even if you are not a car fanatic, you will be surprised at just how much you'll learn from the many exhibits, well beyond the impact this manufacturing giant had on the Australian car industry. The stories here go right back to the company's beginnings as a saddlery maker in 1859, and the museum is packed with all kinds of memorabilia, including fantastic examples of military items chronicling Holden's crucial role in manufacturing during war times.

It is obvious to anyone entering that there is passion and love behind this extensive collection.

Former late Owner and President, Neil Joiner, originally opened the museum in 2014 to house his own private collection of heritage Holdens after he





Outside the Trafalgar Holden Museum



Inside the Trafalgar Holden Museum

ran out of room in his shed, and with a lot of hard work restoring the building, and attracting over 60 passionate volunteers today, this not-for-profit organisation has quickly grown to become one of the largest car museums in Australia, leaving a long-standing

legacy in memory of Neil.

Admission fees apply and group bookings are welcome.

**Find it:** 74 Waterloo Road, Trafalgar

**More info:** [trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au](http://trafalgarholdenmuseum.com.au)



Discover the story of Holden at the Trafalgar Holden Museum

## OTHER THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Railway lines, thrill seeking and family fun

### CYC Forest Edge

If you're looking for adventure, connection, or a deeper bond, Edge Holiday and Family Camps provide a safe, supportive environment to grow, explore, and create lifelong memories. With a variety of outdoor activities that are designed to challenge, inspire, and build confidence, it's a fun way to build great teamwork skills.

**Find it:** 405 McKenzie Road, Neerim East

**More info:** [forestedge.cyc.org.au](http://forestedge.cyc.org.au)

### Noojee Heritage Centre

Discover the rich timber and railway history of Noojee, Loch Valley and surrounds by visiting the Noojee Heritage Centre, where you'll find a replica of Noojee's original



railway station, plus a 1950s J Class locomotive.

Grab a coffee at the onsite Noojee Heritage Gifts & Coffee cafe and have a chat to the friendly volunteers who run the centre, view historic photos and other memorabilia and learn more about timber life and culture in this part of West Gippsland.

Afterwards, take a stroll down to the Noojee Waterwheel Walk that overlooks the Latrobe River.

Check the website for Heritage Centre and Heritage Gifts & Coffee cafe opening times.

**Find it:** Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road

**More info:** [noojeerailwaystationprecinct.com](http://noojeerailwaystationprecinct.com)



### Phoenix Paintball, Rawson

For an adrenaline-filled experience book a session at Phoenix Paintball in the beautiful, nature-based township of Rawson.

Battle your opponents in fully-fitted paint ball gear while roaming through a variety of high quality fields set amongst natural forest and bushland, built structures and flat grassy terrain.

Group bookings are available all year round for corporate events, birthdays or just social events.

**Find it:** 11 Depot Road

**More info:** 1300 785 378 or [phoenixpaintball.com.au](http://phoenixpaintball.com.au)

### The Summit Adventure Camp, Trafalgar East

Challenge yourself and experience a fun-filled adventure at The Summit Adventure Park in Trafalgar East.

This award-winning camp and event space is set on 50 acres and is filled with a variety of activities, outdoor apparatuses and workshops designed to test your limits and help develop lifelong individual and team building skills.

Check the website for opening hours and events.

**Find it:** 21 Cemetery Road

**More info:** [thesummit.net.au](http://thesummit.net.au)

### LOLLY HUNTING

Take the kids on an old-fashioned lolly expedition to experience all of your childhood candy favourites and sweet treats! There are several stores to explore within the region:

#### Pennyworth O'Lollies

**Find it:** 101 Princes Hwy, Yarragon

#### The Chocolate Shop

**Find it:** 10 Palmerston St, Warragul



Pennyworth O'Lollies, Yarragon



## FOOD, WINE & BREW

Coffee, cafes, dining, pubs and wineries

West Gippsland is known for its lush dairy country - the home of Gippsland Jersey milk, Jindi cheese, and countless other micro-dairies, farm gates, makers and producers who live off the land and spend their time packaging up delicious products for us to enjoy.

These rolling hills have also attracted a new generation of award-winning winemakers, distilleries and breweries, hatted restaurants and exceptional dining experiences that will have you coming to the region time and time again.

Design your own food and wine trail, sample the brews, ales and gins local to the area, or simply grab brekky, lunch and a great coffee at one of our many cafes and coffee houses.

Included in this guide are some of the fabulous fooderies, wineries and pubs that celebrate Gippsland's local produce, all with a warm welcome and some great, old-fashioned customer service.

Enjoy all that Gippsland has to offer on your next weekend away.

Hogget Kitchen  
Image by Tim Grey



## COFFEE & CAFE LOVERS

On the go, brekky and lunch



The Shot House, Yarragon

**One of the most important things when travelling is knowing where to get excellent coffee.** Here are some of our favourite Coffee Houses and Cafes from around the region to get your bean fix.

### The Bean Scene & Bean Scene Around, Warragul

This coffee house is a well established institution in Warragul, and a favourite among locals. Trust The Bean Scene to serve you up freshly brewed coffee, and team it with one of their delicious cakes in the newly renovated cafe located in the Warragul Plaza Arcade.

If you prefer to make a cup yourself, pop around the corner to Smith Street where you'll find Bean Scene Around. Here you can pick up a variety of freshly roasted beans - the Honduras and El Salvador blends are terrific - full of flavour. You can also pick up an Aeropress or cold-brew kit while you're there and take it with you on your

camping trip or to your accommodation site. Staff are friendly and have expert tips and advice for a great coffee setup.

**Find it:** Warragul Plaza and Smith Street

**More info:** [beanscenearound.com.au](http://beanscenearound.com.au)



Frankies, Warragul



## The Shot House, Yarragon

You'll find this coffee gem in the Village Walk Arcade in Yarragon. Order your favourite cup of coffee and search the shelves for a brand new travel mug - the range here is excellent - full of styles, sizes and vibrant colours.

The Shot House also has their own Australian single origin blend, roasted in Gippsland, plus a range of interesting organic coffee and tea blends including the very delicious Prana Chai.

**Find it:** 2 Village Walk

**More info:** facebook @theshothouse

## Erica Cafe & Bar, Erica

Nestled in the beautiful township of Erica, Erica Cafe & Bar is more than just a place to grab a coffee - it's a welcoming hub where locals and visitors come together to enjoy hearty meals, friendly service, and a true country atmosphere. From barista-made coffee and fresh cabinet treats to satisfying meals made with care, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

**Find it:** 2 Henty Street

**More info:** facebook @erica-cafe-bar

## Provino, Drouin

In the heart of Drouin you'll find this lovely contemporary cafe and gift store serving good coffee, house-made treats, and fresh, wholesome breakfast and lunch dishes. Browse the cafe shelves for stylish selected homewares and gorgeous gifts that will beautify any space.

**Find it:** 117 Princes Way

**More info:** Instagram @provino\_drouin

## Frankies, Warragul

Frankies is a great family place to take the kids for a milkshake and a stack of pancakes. You can also indulge in a fried chicken burger or Mexican-style burrito, made in-house by Frankie's chefs who display their talents in the open kitchen. This cafe is spacious and carries a busy vibe, full of friendly hustle and bustle, adding to the experience. Sit inside or out on the street and take in the town's scene.

Frankies is also the home of Frankies Community Kitchen, where a team of dedicated volunteers prepare wholesome meals for people in need from food that would otherwise go to waste.

**Find it:** Cnr Palmerston & Victoria Streets

**More info:** frankies.com.au



Erica Cafe & Bar, Erica

## Fozigobble Cafe, Yarragon

Fozigobble Cafe is a community cafe that speaks diversity in all its forms.

With a laid-back, friendly vibe, take your kids (even the furry ones), and relax while tucking into a delicious organic breakfast or lunch, teamed with your favourite coffee, juice or smoothie.

Pick up some fresh produce on your way in or out including eggs, fruit and veg, garlic from Green Hills Farm and other items from Labertouche Organics.

**Find it:** 79 Princes Highway

**More info:** facebook @fozigobble

## Little Red Duck Cafe, Noojee

This little cafe adjoining Noojee's Post Office is full of modern country charm, friendly service and a warm atmosphere, especially when the central fireplace is lit. The food is delicious, with a selection of pies, sausage rolls and pastries, as well as a good breakfast menu and other seasonal lunch items. The kids will enjoy an ice cream here, and you'll also find general store items and a providore dedicated to local produce.

**Find it:** 1 Bennett Street

**More info:** facebook @littleredduckcafe

## Soul Sisters Cafe, Longwarry

Just up the road from Longwarry Station you'll find Soul Sisters Cafe, winner of the People's Choice Award in 2021 for Outstanding Business in West Gippsland. This is the go-to place for a delicious, hearty breakfast with all the extra yummy bits, and milkshakes that are a meal on their own. The outdoor

seating area carries a relaxing street vibe and staff are warm and friendly.

**Find it:** 9 Mackey Street

**More info:** facebook

@soulsisterscafealongwarry

## South Brew Cafe, Warragul

What was once an old bank building in Smith Street is now a gorgeous place to have breakfast or lunch. South Brew's decor is fresh and funky, featuring high ceilings, natural timber, modern tiles and brass cutlery, with a beautiful portrait of a black cockatoo hung proudly on the wall. If you're looking for vegan and vegetarian options, there is a great selection to choose from. This cafe is also licensed and offers a great selection of wines.

**Find it:** 3 Smith Street

**More info:** facebook @southbrewcafe



Little Red Duck Cafe, Noojee

## KNOXBROOKE COFFEE

### A local experience

**Adjoining the West Gippsland Arts Centre is a buzzing little cafe teeming with friendly staff and offering great food and coffee.**

Overlooking beautiful Civic Park and just walking distance from Warragul township, Knoxbrooke Coffee is a great place to visit for your favourite brew, sweet treat, or light cafe-style lunch - either solo, or with friends.

The cafe carries a relaxed, warm and inviting atmosphere, and is big on inclusion, diversity and community. As a social enterprise cafe, Knoxbrooke Coffee offers supported employment opportunities to adults living with disability and provides hands-on experience in hospitality and customer service, helping employees build valuable and meaningful workplace skills in a supportive and inclusive environment.

All abilities staff are supported by supervisors and support staff, with training also provided to help them reach their goals, and they are really enjoying their work!

Some of the experiences they share with staff and customers alike include making new friends, and enjoying greeting customers and making them great coffee and milkshakes.

Operations Manager, Kerryn Carpenter is extremely proud of the opportunities Knoxbrooke Coffee offer and the huge



social impact employment can provide to people living with disability.

**"It's a cafe with a huge heart and a point of difference."**

Once you have visited the cafe and witnessed the team working together you will feel the sense of community and value that social inclusion brings to this wonderful region.

**Find it:** 1 Civic Place, Warragul

**More info:** facebook/instagram - search 'knoxbrooke coffee'



## PUBS, BREWERIES & ALE HOUSES

Wet your whistle and indulge in traditional pub fare



**Breweries are popping up around West Gippsland alongside our traditional, friendly pubs, and here are some of our favourites to kick off your celebrations.**

Most venues feature a variety of brews, including their very own, as well as live music and entertainment with a guaranteed friendly atmosphere, teamed with charming hospitality that is sure to make your night out terrific.

### Bandolier Brewing, Warragul

Bandolier Brewing is an independent, family run microbrewery with an impressive range on tap.

Drop in for a cold brew, and team it with a pizza made by Pellegrino Pizza while listening to good live music.

**Find it:** 28 Mason Street

**More info:** [bandolierbrewing.com](http://bandolierbrewing.com)

### Criterion Hotel, Trafalgar

This busy pub located just off the Princes Highway is known for its quick, friendly service, huge selection of pizzas and all your classic pub favourites. It's a popular lunch and dinner stop with travelling families.

**Find it:** 85 Princes Highway

**More info:** [criterionhoteltrafalgar.com](http://criterionhoteltrafalgar.com)

### Drouin Family Hotel

This hotel offers everything you'd expect from a typical family pub. The food is great for everyone, the bar offers a selection of tap beers, pre-mixers and wines, and you can enjoy a game of pool in the Sports Bar. There is an indoor adventure playground for the kids, teamed with a camera-tv on the outside so that you can keep an eye on them!

**Find it:** 65 Princes Way

**More info:** [drouinfamilyhotel.com.au](http://drouinfamilyhotel.com.au)

## Erica Hotel, Erica

Erica Hotel is home to the 'Hot Rock' steak. Let it sizzle right before your eyes as you relax in the warm, cosy surrounds loaded with country charm. The burgers here are gigantic and topped with absolutely everything - egg, beetroot, pineapple, even a hash brown! This hotel makes for a great lunch or dinner stop when out and about camping, adventuring or touring around the mountain rivers region.

**Find it:** 8 School Road

**More info:** [ericahotel.com](http://ericahotel.com)

## Five Aces Brewing, Neerim South

This American-inspired microbrewery features live music and a funky outdoor seating area with cosy fire pits - the perfect environment for enjoying a local ale or two with friends.

See the original brew develop before



Five Aces Brewing, Neerim South



Erica Hotel, Erica

your eyes in the exposed vats upon entry, and have a chat with the great local staff.

**Find it:** 135/137 Main Neerim Road

**More info:** [fiveacesbrewing.com.au](http://fiveacesbrewing.com.au)

## Neerim South Hotel, Neerim South

For a meal with great countryside views, try Neerim South Hotel. The menu is packed with all your pub favourites, and burgers, steaks and parmas are the feature.

A popular spot with the locals, this hotel is also family friendly, and there's even a bottle shop for convenient take away.

**Find it:** 91-109 Main Neerim Road

**More info:** [neerimsouthhotel.com.au](http://neerimsouthhotel.com.au)

## NOOJEE HOTEL

A local experience



Noojee Hotel

**Nestled in the scenic township of Noojee, surrounded by towering forests and the tranquil Latrobe River, the Noojee Hotel is much more than a country pub.**

As it's lovingly known by locals and visitors alike, the Nooj Pub is a destination in its own right, offering visitors a warm welcome, rich local history, hearty meals, and the kind of genuine hospitality that keeps people coming back time and time again.

Stepping inside the Noojee Hotel is like taking a journey through the town's colourful past. The walls are adorned with fascinating memorabilia and historic photographs that tell the story of the region and its people. The cosy fireplace creates the perfect atmosphere during the cooler months, while the pool table provides entertainment for friends and families looking to unwind after a day of exploring.

The hotel has earned a reputation for live entertainment, with famous country music artists including Troy Cassar-Daley having performed over the years. This rich musical heritage adds to the character and charm that makes the venue a favourite amongst both locals and visitors.

When it comes to dining, Noojee Hotel delivers everything you'd hope for from a classic country pub. Traditional pub fare is on the menu, with generous portions and crowd-pleasing favourites suitable for all ages. For those seeking a challenge, the legendary Ring of Fire Parma is a must try.

Despite its popularity and bustling atmosphere, the hotel remains relaxed, with a family-friendly vibe. Friendly staff, welcoming service, and genuine country hospitality make guests feel right at home from the moment they arrive. It's an excellent choice for families, with plenty of space and a





Hearty pub fare at Noojee Hotel

comfortable environment for lunch or dinner with the kids.

No visit to the Noojee Hotel would be complete without picking up some official Nooj Pub merchandise. From flannel shirts and hoodies to famous

bumper stickers, there's a little something for everyone. The stickers have become particularly iconic among visitors, and can be spotted on vehicles across Australia, and with sightings reported as far as far north Queensland, it's a fun way to take a piece of Noojee home with you.

After your meal, take a leisurely stroll behind the hotel to discover Noojee's historic water wheel, and continue exploring the many scenic walking trails of the township.

Bookings are essential on weekends, public holidays, and during special events, as this much-loved country pub fills quickly. For great food, local history, live music, and unforgettable hospitality, the Noojee Hotel is an experience not to be missed.

**Find it:** 411 Mount Baw Baw Tourist Road, Noojee

**More info:** [noojeehotel.com.au](http://noojeehotel.com.au)



Dining on the deck at Noojee Hotel

## The Robin Hood Inn, Drouin West

The Robin Hood Inn is one of Victoria's most historic hotels, and was built in 1870 for use as a Cobb and Co stop for travellers. Enjoy live music with your favourite ale out in the beer garden, or indulge in one of the generous sized meals inside the restaurant/bistro. You can even stay in one of the 10 hotel rooms available, and there's also a bottleshop for takeaway convenience.

**Find it:** 655 Princes Way

**More info:** [therobinhoodinn.com.au](http://therobinhoodinn.com.au)

## The Tipsy Heifer, Willow Grove

This dining experience elevates traditional pub fare with a touch of class. Featuring mouthwatering appetisers that are perfect for sharing, premium steaks, and an impressive wine list, The Tipsy Heifer is one of the hidden gems of West Gippsland,



The Toolshed Bar, Bistro and Cabins

located right on the doorstep of Blue Rock Lake.

**Find it:** 14 Moe-Willow Grove Road

**More info:** [thetipsyheifer.com](http://thetipsyheifer.com)



Walhalla Lodge Hotel, Walhalla



Yarragon Hotel, Yarragon

## The Toolshed Bar, Bistro and Cabins

This classic country bar and bistro is full of rustic charm, made extra special by the surrounding bush scenery, its infamous blue stone fireplace, live music, and delicious woodfired pizzas, plus all your traditional pub fare.

There is accommodation available on site as well, set in quiet, natural surroundings.

**Find it:** 38 Loch Valley Road, Noojee

**More info:** facebook @ToolshedNoojee

## Walhalla Lodge Hotel “The Wally Pub”, Walhalla

The Wally Pub is another piece of iconic history in Victoria, located in the picturesque village of Walhalla and featuring everything Australian. You'll feel like you're stepping back in time as you approach the bar and marvel at the

relics, quirky signs and memorabilia. Friendly service and good country food live here - you'll have a great time!

**Find it:** Walhalla Road

**More info:** facebook @walhalla.lodge.hotel

## Yarragon Hotel, Yarragon

Yarragon Hotel has a great selection of beers on tap, as well as a pop-up beer garden with seasonal live music, making it exceptional for large groups and families. If you prefer something quiet, this Hotel also has you covered inside its relaxed, intimate dining area. The food here is delish and there are quite a few options to choose from. It's also a great mid-way stop for lunch on your travels through the region.

**Find it:** 105 Princes Highway

**More info:** yarragonhotel.com.au



## TRAVELLERS REST HOTEL

A local experience



Basement Bar at Travellers Rest Hotel

**Prepare to be spoiled with an indulgent pub lunch or dinner in the beautifully restored Travellers Rest Hotel, set amongst the rolling hills of Thorpdale.**

Established in 1908 and originally founded as a hotel and general store, The Travellers Rest provides patrons with a well stocked bar, a dining room serving delightful meals, a relaxing beer garden, and quality accommodation facilities.

The hotel itself carries a rather recent, sombre history, with former 4th generation owner, John Bantock perishing in the hotel's only fire back in 2017, rocking the local community.

The late Mr Bantock left the hotel to his two loyal bartenders, who later sold it to Jill Jepson and her husband in 2020. Jill, a passionate hobby farmer and emerging publican, recognises the significance of a hotel establishment in local communities, and is working

tirelessly to grow and maintain a lasting legacy for Thorpdale, and for the West Gippsland region.

**“Every township needs a pub, and every community needs a pub. It provides a social space.”**

Travellers Rest Hotel delivers the warm, welcoming experience that you'd expect from a classic, country pub. The service is great, the staff are local, and they can tell you all sorts of things about the area, including its famous potato and onion agricultural history.

The hotel itself is filled with country charm, and features everything that a heritage building should - a classic bar and traditional dining room, a cosy fire for the cooler months, artwork featuring the surrounding potato farms, and old timber windows leading out into the adjoining beer garden, set amongst rich countryside.





Hotel knits together the social fabric of Thorpdale and its neighbouring towns. As Jill describes.

**"This is not just a drinking hole. It's a place to connect with each other."**

Tucked away beneath the hotel is the Travellers Distillery that feels more like a discovery than a destination. The distillery captures the spirit of a modern-day speakeasy, centred around a stunning, handcrafted bar meticulously created by a local artisan, and featuring exceptional quality spirits produced onsite.

The Traveller's Rest Hotel is marked to be an iconic feature of the West Gippsland region, and well worth a visit.

**Find it:** 2 Station Street, Thorpdale

**More info:** [travellersresthotel.com](http://travellersresthotel.com)

Upstairs, you can choose to stay the night in one of five pleasantly accommodating rooms, or grab a spot on the balcony and take in the scenic views.

The bar doesn't discriminate either - all your favourites are here, as well as a selection of local wines, and ales flowing on tap.

The talented chefs at Travellers Rest have produced a tasty pub menu full of flavour, with sustainable produce and waste recycling practices in mind. The food menu is seasonal, and you can watch the chefs prepare your meal right from the pass - it's a real treat to hear the banter back and forth, listening to music and enjoying their service.

There is a huge connection to community at this pub, and making patrons feel welcome is at its core. Through its community programs, events and fundraising, Traveller's Rest



## OTHER DINING EXPERIENCES

Restaurants, bars and bistros



### An Vietnamese, Warragul

For an authentic Vietnamese dining experience, this restaurant in the heart of Warragul is vibrant, fresh, and the food is excellent. The menu also features various vegetarian options alongside traditional dishes including pho and banh mi. Dine in or takeaway.

**Find it:** 35/37 Victoria Street

**More info:** 03 5632 0032 or facebook @ANVietnamese

### Bank, Warragul

Located on the bottom floor of Bank is Portelli's Italian Restaurant featuring traditional woodfired pizza and tapas. Upstairs, discover Bank Rooftop which offers a casual dining menu and cocktail bar - great for couples or a night out with friends.

**Find it:** 5/7 Smith Street

**More info:** bankwarragul.com.au

### Middels, Drouin

Middels is known for its fusion tapas and cocktail menu, along with a great selection of Australian and New Zealand wines. Dine indoors or outside over lunch or dinner, or even stop in for a delicious breakfast and choose from an extensive list of gluten free, vegan and vegetarian options. Open 7 days a week.

**Find it:** 3/94 Princes Way

**More info:** middels.com.au

### Neeri Nuff Kitchen and Bar, Neerim South

This sophisticated, intimate fine dining restaurant is the hidden gem of Neerim South, featuring a seasonal menu that transforms local produce to new heights, plus an exceptional wine and cocktail list set to delight. Perfect for date night and special occasions, this



Neeri Nuff Kitchen and Bar, Neerim South

relaxed and rather cosy eatery is where you take someone special.

**Find it:** 115 Main Neerim Road

**More info:** [neerinuff.com.au](http://neerinuff.com.au)

### Newmason Eat Drink Relax, Warragul

If you're looking for a family dining experience, Newmason is the perfect place to relax and socialise. Featuring a modern Australian menu alongside woodfired pizza, a fully stocked bar, and a kids play area, there is something for everyone here.

**Find it:** 25 Mason Street

**More info:** [newmason.net](http://newmason.net)

### The Courthouse, Warragul

Put your gluttony on trial at The Courthouse Restaurant and Garden Bar, featuring delicious bistro classics

in this charming 1880s building. The atmosphere is stunning indoors and out, with the relaxed beer garden, and a fantastic live music program during the warmer months.

**Find it:** 72 Smith Street

**More info:** [courthousewarragul.com](http://courthousewarragul.com)

### Village Central Restaurant, Mount Baw Baw

This inviting restaurant at the Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resort has a relaxed atmosphere and arguably one of the best restaurant views in Victoria. With an open fireplace, good meals, coffee and a stocked bar, this is an experience you need to have when visiting the region. Open during Winter Season.

**Find it:** Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resort

**More info:** [mountbawbaw.com.au](http://mountbawbaw.com.au)



Village Central Restaurant, Mount Baw Baw



## HOGGET KITCHEN

### A local experience

If you want to experience the true taste of Gippsland, step into the wondrous Hogget Kitchen for an intriguing dining experience, and be surprised by more than just what's on the plate.

Head Chef, Trevor Perkins and partner, General Manager, Kylie Wilson, are warm, welcoming and passionate. For over five years they've been working tirelessly to build an experience for diners that resonates with their values and vision for eating great food in the West Gippsland region.

There is a strong emphasis on all things local in this restaurant - and wherever it is in Gippsland, Trevor will find it. The seasonality of fresh, local produce, combined with the ethos of a nose-to-



tail/paddock-to-plate approach, paves the way for endless opportunities to source and celebrate something new.

Trevor, who grew up and received early training as a chef in Gippsland, has since made it his mission to train local chefs and pass on his culinary knowledge and skills, helping to create local jobs and support a thriving local economy. Trevor and his team's efforts to continually redevelop and re-imagine how best to present Gippsland on a plate is also a testament to a dining experience that is, without a doubt, unlike anything else in the West Gippsland region.

**Hogget Kitchen has held an Australian Good Food Guide Chef's Hat since 2020.**

**Find it:** 6 Farrington Close, Warragul

**More info:** [hogget.com.au](http://hogget.com.au)



## MESSMATES DINING

### A local experience

**Tucked away down a descreet laneway in the heart of Warragul, Messmates Dining is one of West Gippsland's most exciting dining destinations.**

Awarded 2025 Regional Restaurant of the Year by The Age Good Food Guide, this award-winning restaurant offers an experience that feels like discovering a well-kept secret, combining exceptional food, warm hospitality, and an inviting atmosphere.

Step inside and you'll find a stylish interior inspired by the elegance of 1960s European dining. With intimate lighting, rich textures, and a carefully curated ambiance, Messmates creates the perfect setting for any occasion, from a romantic dinner to a relaxed evening with friends.



The menu draws inspiration from Italian and European cuisine while celebrating the incredible produce of Gippsland. Seasonal ingredients take centre stage, allowing the flavours of the region to shine through thoughtfully crafted dishes.

The wine list and signature cocktails here are exceptional, and both can be paired with a full dining experience, or made to sip alongside a delicious variety of appetisers and small plates designed to be shared.

Owners and siblings, Chris and Jodie Odrowaz, together with their respective partners Jess Odrowaz and Michael Clarke have taken Warragul to the next level with this terrific hidden gem that must be discovered.

**Find it:** 15 Palmerston Street, Warragul

**More info:** [messmatesdining.com](http://messmatesdining.com)



## WINERIES

Tastings, dining and relaxation



Gorgeous wineries to explore in West Gippsland

### Brandy Creek Estate, Drouin East

Award-winning Brandy Creek Estate encompasses a Spanish vibe with its cool climate wine varieties including Tempranillo, with scrumptious paella nights, a tapas-style dining menu and sultry decor adding to the atmosphere.

Take in the exquisite views of rolling vineyards and the Baw Baw ranges from the restaurant and bar lounge, or relax and admire your surroundings from the recently built outdoor deck.

Wine tasting is available at the Cellar Door by appointment, and you can even take the opportunity to get pampered all over in the highly sought after luxurious Day Spa.

**Find it:** 570 Buln Buln Road

**More info:** [brandycreekestate.com.au](http://brandycreekestate.com.au)

### Everything's Better With Wine, Warragul

This small, intimate wine bar in Warragul is dedicated to celebrating all things food and wine from around Gippsland.

Showcasing an impressive selection of local regional wines and gin, thoughtfully paired with seasonal local produce, including terrine, cheeses, pickles and preserves, it's a wonderful way to spend an afternoon or evening relaxing with good company and indulging in a glass or two with fine charcuterie.

Expect warm hospitality, local knowledge and good conversation.

Open 7 days a week.

**Find it:** 81 Queen Street

**More info:** facebook  
@everythingsbetterwithwine

## Ripplebrook Winery, Ripplebrook

Guests are warmly welcomed by Catena, whose genuine hospitality sets the tone for a relaxed and memorable cellar door experience. Set against a backdrop of undulating green hills and fertile pastureland, the property offers a picturesque setting that reflects the character of the region.

Sample a selection of cool-climate wines crafted from an organic, single-vineyard site at the cellar door, and indulge in woodfired pizzas and handmade pastas prepared by Laura Rae's Kitchen with fresh, locally sourced ingredients wherever possible.

Open Thursday and Sundays 11.30am – 6pm (kitchen closes at 4pm)

**Find it:** 681 Gardner and Holman Road

**More info:** [ripplebrookwinery.com](http://ripplebrookwinery.com)

## Wine Gippsland

Wine Gippsland is made up of a community of more than 50 wineries from around the Gippsland region, with each exhibiting passion, dedication and exquisite craft for producing unique wines with impeccable quality.

A.R.C Wines, Krooked Row, and Entropy are just a few of the local makers and producers who cultivate their vines in West Gippsland, including organic wine producer William Downie, famously known for producing award-winning Pinot Noir.

To discover cellar doors, wine tastings and dining experiences, wine shows and more, visit the website.

**More info:** [winegippsland.com](http://winegippsland.com)

## WEEKEND ITINERARY IDEAS FOR THE LUXE ROMANTIC

**Fri:** Take a long weekend away by heading out early on a Friday for lunch and a spa date at Brandy Creek Estate, followed by a cosy, romantic night in at The Ridge House in Yarragon.

**Sat:** Make your way to one of West Gippsland's gorgeous wineries for lunch or a wine tasting, before heading to Mount Worth State Park, followed by a romantic dinner at Hogget Kitchen.

**Sun:** Visit one of the seasonal markets or shop at Gippsland Food and Wine for local nibbles and fresh produce, and make for a romantic picnic at Narracan Falls – or skip the picnic for a cosy pub lunch at the Travellers Rest, Thorpdale.



Brandy Creek Estate



## FARM GATES & LOCAL PRODUCE

From paddock to plate



Ashridge Truffles

**The seasons shape more than just the landscape — they shape what's on the table.** From roadside honesty stalls and family-run farm gates, to growers opening their paddocks and orchards to visitors, this is a place where produce is deeply connected to the people and places that grow it.

For travellers seeking an authentic country experience, exploring the region's farm gates is one of the most rewarding ways to discover the local story. It might be a punnet of freshly picked berries eaten straight from the tray, a bag of just-dug potatoes still dusted with soil, locally raised trout prepared for dinner, or handcrafted preserves and small-batch produce shared by the people who made them.

Emerging truffle farms dotted around Noojee and Neerim District welcome visitors in winter to seasonal truffle hunts, tastings and paddock-to-plate experiences that showcase one of the

world's most prized delicacies.

Some of the region's most memorable discoveries are the informal farm gates found along country roads offering incredibly fresh produce like no other. These unassuming stops offer a genuine connection to the land and the people who work it.

### Alpine Trout Farm, Piedmont

A popular family-friendly trout farm near Noojee where visitors can catch their own fish, enjoy picnic and barbecue facilities, and purchase fresh or smoked trout products, caviar, and salmon (full feature on page 25).

**Find it:** 115 Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road

**More info:** [alpinetroutfarm.com.au](http://alpinetroutfarm.com.au)

### Ashridge Truffles, Neerim South

A boutique truffle farm in the rolling hills of West Gippsland offering farm-gate black truffles, seasonal truffle hunts, and immersive food experiences

centred around one of the world's most prized ingredients.

**Find it:** Main Neerim Road

**More info:** [ashridgetruffles.com.au](http://ashridgetruffles.com.au)

### Scotch Hill Farm, Neerim South

A working truffle farm offering truffle hunts, tastings, luxury farm stays, and seasonal agritourism experiences set amongst beautiful oak groves and scenic countryside.

**More info and for tour bookings:**  
[scotchhill.com.au](http://scotchhill.com.au)

### St. Fiacres Farm, Neerim South

A family-owned farm producing seasonal vegetables, handmade preserves, chutneys, sauces, and cool-climate wines under its Krooked Row label. The farm follows organic growing practices and regularly attends regional farmers' markets.

**Find it:** 260 McDougal Road

**More info:** [stfiacresfarm.com.au](http://stfiacresfarm.com.au)

### Sunny Creek Organic Berry Farm, Trafalgar South

Certified organic since 1988, Sunny Creek grows an impressive range of berries, heritage apples, chestnuts, and nuts using environmentally sustainable practices. Visitors can enjoy seasonal pick-your-own experiences and farm-gate sales.

**Find it:** 69 Tudor Road

**More info:** [sunnycreekorganic.com](http://sunnycreekorganic.com)

### The Spud Shed, Trafagar

A long-standing Gippsland fresh produce destination known for locally grown potatoes, seasonal fruit and vegetables, pantry staples, and regional food products. It is a popular stop for travellers exploring the Warragul-Korumburra region.

**Find it:** Princes Way



Sunny Creek Berry Farm, Trafalgar South



## ALBERTOS PIZZA

We are a small, family owned local pizza shop providing the community with delicious pizza, tasty sides and fast delivery.

**Find it:** 32A Queen Street, Warragul

**More info:** 03 5622 1922 | [albertospizzawarragul.com.au](http://albertospizzawarragul.com.au)



## ANATOLI

Modern Italian cuisine made with the finest local ingredients.

**Find it:** 71-73 Queen Street, Warragul

**More info:** 03 5622 3633 | [anatolipizzapasta.com](http://anatolipizzapasta.com)



## ASSAGGIO DEL FORNO

Fabulous Italian wood fired pizzas and fresh sourdough breads.  
Open Sunday 11am - 7pm.

**Find it:** 40 Coopers Creek Road, Coopers Creek

**More info:** 03 5165 3223



## CAFE 3831

Country cafe in the heart of Neerim South serving coffee, homemade treats, toasties and hearty breakfasts.

**Find it:** 119 Main Neerim Road, Neerim South

**More info:** 03 5628 1155



## COMMERCIAL HOTEL WARRAGUL

Warragul's local Pub since 1912, featuring cold beer, loud sport and good times!  
Serving up all your Pub Classics from Tuesday-Saturday, lunch and dinner.  
Also featuring a large Drive Thru Bottle Shop.

**Find it:** 115 Queen Street, Warragul

**More info:** 03 5627 0714 | facebook @commercialhotel.warragul



## DROUIN PIZZA BURGER LOUNGE

Everything under one roof - pizza, burgers, pasta, Indian curries, chips, shakes, alcohol.

**Find it:** 101 Princes Way, Drouin

**More info:** 0466 749 445 | [drouinpizzaburgerlounge.com.au](http://drouinpizzaburgerlounge.com.au)

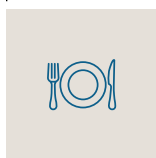


## EAT LIVE FRESH

This country cafe in Trafalgar serves all-day breakfast, coffee, cakes, and homemade meals. Outside catering also available.

**Find it:** 20 Contingent Street, Trafalgar

**More info:** 03 5604 3332



## LES MEILLEUR

Fully licenced restaurant offering authentic Vietnamese dishes. Dine in or takeaway.

**Find it:** 27 Princes Way, Drouin

**More info:** 03 5625 5590



## PELLEGRINO PIZZA

Authentic traditional woodfire pizza. Dine in, take-away or find them at events and functions.

**Find it:** 28 Mason Street, Warragul

**More info:** 0493 085 145 | pellegrinopizza.com



## SPUD & SQUEEZE

Tiny place offering fresh juices and hearty baked potatoes. Takeaway only.

**Find it:** 18 Palmerston Street, Warragul

**More info:** facebook @spud-squeeze



## SWEET TREATS BY JAMIE-LEE - THE STUDIO

We are a boutique cafe specialising in custom cakes, homemade patisseries, delicious savories and phenomenal coffee. With a warm and friendly vibe it is the perfect place to meet.

**Find it:** 14 Contingent Street, Trafalgar

**More info:** sweettreatsbyjamielee.com



## THE HILLTOP MILK BAR

Drouin take away and tradie stop offering quality coffee, sandwiches, rolls, toasties and much more.

**Find it:** 212 Princes Way, Drouin

**More info:** 03 5605 8045 | hilltopmilkbar@gmail.com



## WARRAGUL PLAZA CAFE

A favourite for home-made frittatas, sandwiches, salads, baked spuds and coffee for breakfast and lunch.

**Find it:** Shop 18, 6 Victoria Street, Warragul

**More info:** 03 5623 1262

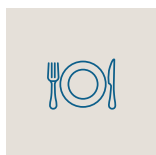


## WARRAGUL THAI

Authentic Thai cuisine, fully licensed bar and BYO wine only, dine in or takeaway.

**Find it:** 59 Queen Street, Warragul

**More info:** 03 5623 2222



## WHITEGRAIN WARRAGUL

Authentic Vietnamese cuisine, dine in or takeaway.

**Find it:** 59 Queen Street, Warragul

**More info:** 03 5622 1172 | whitegrainwarragul.com.au



## ZINGARELLI PIZZA AND PASTA

Take away pizza and pasta.

**Find it:** 79 Princes Highway, Trafalgar

**More info:** 03 5633 1730 | zingarellipizza.com.au



## MARKETS & SHOPPING

Markets, shopping strips, retailers and fresh produce

Whether you are grabbing some great fare for a picnic or road trip, or keen to spend some time truly indulging in serious retail therapy, you are sure to find something special in West Gippsland.

Immerse yourself in community by shopping, eating and celebrating all things local. Everything here is unique, and customer service is at the forefront of what we do.

With fabulous shopping strips boasting a mix of boutique, one-of-a-kind shops and retail outlets, our friendly, hardworking business owners are always happy to extend their local tips and knowledge to you.

Wander through our many villages and townships to find fantastic fashion and vintage offerings, take home a new artwork or redecorate your home with handmade furnishings.

Make a day of it, and find a bit of everything at one of the region's plentiful markets - with one on every weekend!

There is something for every taste and style in West Gippsland.



## MARKETS

Makers, producers, growers, foodies and artisans



**Our markets are famous.** With some of the oldest running markets in Victoria, our stallholders get up early every weekend to present their quality items in their own, authentic way.

Come and explore, meet the makers and enjoy yourself. The community vibe is infectious, the smell of hot food and fresh coffee enticing, and the choice of what to buy is literally endless.

### Drouin Craft & Produce Market

**When:** 3rd Saturday of every month

**Time:** 8.30am - 12.30pm

**Where:** Drouin Civic Park

This busy, vibrant lake-side market features everything from plants, crafts, tools and equipment, to local eggs, honey, cakes, nuts and fresh coffee. There's an abundance of stalls to choose from and the vibe is always friendly - definitely worth a trip!

**More info:** facebook  
@drouincraftmarket

### Ellinbank Farmers Market

**When:** 5th Saturday of the month where applicable

**Time:** 8.00am - 1.00pm

**Where:** 10 Community Place, Ellinbank

Foodies will love this community market rich in fresh, local produce with everything from pumpkin bread and home made jam to fresh veggies, wild mushrooms and of course, hot coffee. Located in and around Ellinbank Public Hall, just 10km south of Warragul.

**More info:** facebook

@Ellinbank-Farmers-Market

### Jindivick Country Market

**When:** 1st Saturday of Oct, Dec, Mar, Apr

**Time:** 9.00am - 1.00pm

**Where:** Jindivick Hall

From the grower to the maker, this market presents the very best local crafts and produce from Jindivick and surrounds, set against a stunning backdrop of rolling hills, beautiful flowers and green pastures.

**More info:** jindivick.org.au/jcm



## Longwarry Market

**When:** 1st Sunday of the month between Mar - Dec

**Time:** 8.30am - 12.30pm

**Where:** Bennett Street Park, Longwarry

Passionate volunteering and fundraising is at the heart of this monthly local market, run by the local Fire Brigade. You can grab a hot coffee and explore the many stalls featuring arts and crafts, quality plants and fresh organic produce.

## Rokeby Market

**When:** 2nd Saturday of the month between Sep - May

**Time:** 8.00am - 12.30pm

**Where:** Rokeby Reserve

*Make it, bake it, grow it!* This is the theme for the wonderful Rokeby Market, one of the oldest running markets in Victoria. Jam-packed with a wide range of makers and producers from all over the Gippsland region, there's everything from arts and crafts, to fresh produce and plants, whiskey and gin tasting, children's toys, fashion and beauty.

This market is held on the community reserve in Rokeby, 11 kilometres north of Warragul. There is also a children's playground and rail trail to explore once you've finished your wandering.

**Tip:** Parking can get very tight around here so drop in early.

**More info:** [rokebymarket.org.au](http://rokebymarket.org.au)

## Summer Nights Market

**When:** Monthly on a Saturday between Oct - Apr

**Time:** Check Facebook

**Where:** Burke Street, Warragul

Burke Street Park comes alive on selected Saturdays between October and April with this lively twilight market full of high quality artisan wares, foodie delights and funky workshops. Bring a picnic rug and enjoy a meal from selected food trucks while listening to live music.

**More info:** [@SummerNightsMarketWarragul](https://www.facebook.com/SummerNightsMarketWarragul)





## Thorpdale Market

**When:** 1st Saturday of every month

**Time:** 10.00am - 2.00pm

**Where:** Thorpdale Public Hall

Head up to the rolling Thorpdale hills to shop handmade goods, fresh produce, unique finds and more at this small community market.

**More info:** facebook @thorpdalemarket

## Trafalgar Farmers Market

**When:** 1st Saturday of every month

**Time:** 9.00am - 1.00pm

**Where:** Trafalgar Park Bowls Club

Stock up on your weekly essentials including fresh organic vegetables and meat, crusty sourdough breads and artisan cheeses, as well as hand-crafted gifts and treats, all made and grown locally.

**More info:** facebook  
@trafalgarfarmersmarket

## Warragul Arts Market

**When:** 3rd Saturday of the month between Oct - Apr

**Time:** 8.30am - 1.00pm

**Where:** TAFE Gippsland Car Park,  
Queen Street, Warragul

This eclectic market features all things art and craft - paintings, jewellery, fashion, ceramics, candles, bags and more. It's a real treat to explore the many talented artists here who make their mark with their unique works!

**More info:** facebook  
@artsmarketwarragul

## Warragul Farmers Market

**When:** 3rd Saturday of every month

**Time:** 8.30am - 1.00pm

**Where:** Logan Park, Warragul

Every month you'll discover live music, organic fruit and veggies, artisan bread,



hot coffee and delicious street eats at this delightful market. Dedicated to all things food, plus plants, seedlings and other natural products, this market showcases Gippsland's best producers of all things fresh, earthy and yum!

**More info:** facebook and Instagram  
@warragulfarmersmarket

## Yarragon Craft & Produce Market

**When:** 4th Saturday of every month, as well as a special December market

**Time:** 9.00am - 2.00pm

**Where:** Public Hall (winter months), Yarragon  
Waterloo Park (summer months), Yarragon

Expect to find treasures, jewellery, mosaics, designer cushions, bags and fashion, teamed up with carnivorous plants, hand-painted rocks and beeswax candles. This original and authentic market contains a mix of quirky stallholders to capture anyone's interest, along with quality, local fresh produce.

**More info:** facebook  
@YarragonCraftAndProduceMarket

## GREEN GROCERS, BUTCHERS & LOCAL PRODUCE

Fresh and fabulous

### Baw Baw Food Hub, Warragul

This organic grocery store combines a collection of local growers, makers and producers to present fresh, organic produce.

**Find it:** 156-158 Queen Street

**More info:** [bawbawfoodhub.org.au](http://bawbawfoodhub.org.au)

### Cheffields Providore, Warragul

Led by a love for the paddock-to-plate concept and the Gippsland region, Cheffields proudly curates the greatest selection of Gippsland's finest at the store in Warragul.

**Find it:** 24 Masterson Court, Warragul

**More info:** 1300 854 299 or [cheffields.com.au](http://cheffields.com.au)

### Gippsland Fresh Wholesale, Warragul

A fruit and veggie store with a continental twist. You'll also find a good range of Mediterranean cold meats, cheeses and groceries.

**Find it:** 9A Endeavour Street

**More info:** [gippslandfresh.com.au](http://gippslandfresh.com.au)

### Gippsland Food and Wine, Yarragon

Choose from a gourmet range of locally produced cheeses, chocolates, coffee, wine and more.

**Find it:** 123 Princes Highway

**More info:** [gippslandfoodandwine.com.au](http://gippslandfoodandwine.com.au)

### Jindi Pig Butchers, Neerim South

For a great local butcher, visit Jindi Pig in Neerim South. With a selection of quality pork, beef and lamb, as well as seasonal fish and smoked meats from The Garfield Smokehouse.

**Find it:** 141 Main Neerim Road

**More info:** facebook @jindipigbutchers

### Lean and Green, Warragul

You'll find all sorts of tasty things here at Lean and Green. From fresh, local fruit and vegetables, to gourmet frozen dinners, rich stocks, plus sauces, gypsy ham from The Garfield Smokehouse.

**Find it:** 3/43 Smith Street

**More info:** [abetterchoice.com.au](http://abetterchoice.com.au)



Jindi Pig Butchers, Neerim South

## SHOPPING

Threads, homewares, knic-knacks, food and beverage



Wardrobe in the Lane, Yarragon

### Itinerary ideas for a great shopping day out in Yarragon.

As you leave the city and head east along the Princes Highway past Warragul, the surrounding landscape begins to transform - Strzelecki Ranges to the right, Yarra Ranges and Mount Baw Baw to the left. Very seldom do you receive a breathtaking view from a freeway. Surprisingly, a bustling little township pops up alongside it, Yarragon.

**Funky vibes, bespoke shopping, sustainable cafes, local brew - Yarragon could very well be the Brunswick Street of Gippsland.**

For a great day of shopping and a central base to explore the region, visit the quaint town of Yarragon.

From quirky second-hand vintage shops, to unique fashion boutiques, bespoke home wares and children's games and books, Yarragon is a shopping destination that provides a unique experience for just about



The Shot House, Yarragon



Town and Country Gallery, Yarragon

anyone, and it's one that you'll remember, and want to make the trip back to!

Start your morning with a great takeaway coffee from The Shot House, before discovering the beautiful fashion store Wardrobe In The Lane. It's stocked with gorgeous linen clothing and home wares, locally made soaps and exquisite crockery to set any table.

Next, wander around the corner to Town and Country Gallery, which features locally made artwork, plus everything from leather bags to carved sculptures.

For those feeling spiritual, visit Crystal Ocean and discover handmade jewellery, crystal cleansing and healing books.

If Op-shopping and treasure hunting is what you love, then Yarragon has a

few in town for you to explore. Wander down the main street and laneways and you'll be sure to find what you're looking for.

Feeling hungry? Stop at Gippsland Food and Wine to stock up on all your foodie essentials, or grab a pie at the Yarragon Country Style Bakery next door.

Wander down the opposite end to explore a wonderful plant nursery where you'll find baby chickens wandering around the winding paths that lead in all directions. Discover native plants, ferns, vegetables and flowers, most of which are for sale.

If you're looking to extend your time, visit nearby Mount Worth State Park. With a variety of walks to choose from, great views and picnic spots, it's well worth it.

**Find it:** Princes Highway, Yarragon.





## STRING & SALT

A local experience



The wall of spices at String & Salt  
Image courtesy of String & Salt

**Warragul is fast becoming a hub for great shopping.** This friendly, bustling town is full of original stores that offer a unique, personalised shopping experience, great customer service and thoughtfully curated brands and products. If there's one store that ticks all of those boxes, it's kitchenware and spice emporium, String & Salt.

Located in the heart of Smith Street, String & Salt was founded by husband and wife team Dave and Michelle Cann in 2014, and over the years the business has grown into a brand that is highly regarded in West Gippsland.

**"We wanted to bring brands and products to Baw Baw that reflected our love of home, food, good design and sharing with friends and family."**

String & Salt offers tasteful, modern homewares, and a tantalising range of quality spices, herbs and original blends from their brand, Spice Oddity.

The evocative aroma of spices ignites your senses as you browse the store, with a rainbow of coloured powders in apothecary style jars lining the shelves from floor to ceiling. Friendly staff will greet you and carefully weigh and package whatever you need to complement your home-cooking.

Among the homewares range you'll find gorgeous mugs and teapots, pizza paddles, cheese boards, quality knives, stylish aprons, cast iron pots and more - everything you need for vibrant entertaining and beautifying your kitchen.

You'll also find locally manufactured products including coffee beans from Swig Coffee Roasters, artwork by Printmaker, Helen Timbury, and organic

soaps and bath products by Barany Naturals. There are so many things in store to make the perfect gift.

There's a lot going on this store beyond selling spices and cookware. Upstairs you'll find a dedicated kitchen and dining space which is home to String & Salt's very own cooking school, the CLEAVER Academy. Led by Dave, who knows a thing or two about the art of curing meat with salt, the academy has a clear focus on salting, curing, dry aging, butchery, wild caught game and fresh sausage making, and offers classes which are thoroughly hands-on, demonstrating traditional skills and quality produce and providing generous hospitality.

Some of the biggest culinary experiences on offer include The Big Pig Weekend - a two-day masterclass dedicated to all things nose-to-tail butchery.

**"Our classes are mostly focused on grass roots and traditional cooking skills. It's honest food using good produce in a fun, inviting atmosphere."**

Alongside the retail store and cooking school you'll also find String & Salt's premier kitchen showroom which is home to an array of quality kitchen and laundry appliances and fireplaces set to inspire and complement any home. Among the range is Dave and Michelle's own appliance brand, Cleaver Salumi Cabinets - a range of specialist devices for curing salami and charcuterie at home all year round.



In March each year, Dave and Michelle take the business on the road to Farm World at Lardner Park, hosting a home expo and cooking main stage. String & Salt were winners of the Best General Interest Exhibit Award at Farm World in 2022.

#### **Dave and Michelle on West Gippsland:**

"We love the Baw Baw region, you couldn't find a better community to live and do business in. There is so much going for West Gippsland - a solid economy and thriving small business community, fantastic schools and it's easy traveling distance to city, coast, and alpine regions."

**Find it:** 42 Smith Street, Warragul

**More info:** [stringandsalt.com.au](http://stringandsalt.com.au)

## THE PRESS CELLARS

### A local experience

**Experiencing The Press Cellars of Warragul is like the adult version of being a kid in a candy store.** This traditional, old-fashioned bottle shop is renowned for being one of the very best in Victoria - rich in its library of liquor, with an astonishing selection of wines, beer and spirits from near, far and around the globe.

Owners, Stu and Saffron have been operating this fine store since 2008, and together with their dedicated small team, pour into it their knowledge, hospitality and customer service that cannot be beaten.

**“We’re a local bottle shop that brings the world to Warragul, always with an element of craft.”**



The 'Wall of Wine' at The Press Cellars  
Image courtesy of The Press Cellars



Stu, Owner, The Press Cellars  
Image courtesy of The Press Cellars

Browsing the store's classic timber shelves in low light feels a bit like stepping back in time, and the store itself carries a bit of Old English period-charm. You'll definitely find something here to wet the whistle, wind down, socialise or celebrate with.

Their house-made Press Port and Press Muscat have been maturing for almost eight years in-store, presented in barrels, one of which is 43 years old and original to the region.

Stu leads his team the traditional way, offering great service, attention to detail and genuine advice to customers, which makes for a terrific shopping experience.

If you happen to be around on a Friday night, pop in for one of The Press Cellars regular weekly wine tastings where you can sample the wide range.

**Find it:** 2/80 Smith Street, Warragul

**More info:** [thepresscellars.com.au](http://thepresscellars.com.au)

## STELLA'S PANTRY

### A local experience

**You can't visit West Gippsland without picking up a wedge of our local cheese. After all, you are in dairy country!**

Stella's Pantry in Warragul is by far the go-to-place for cheese. In its decade long history, their stunning cabinet has grown to stock and celebrate an array of award-winning Gippsland artisan cheeses, including those from Prom Country, Berry's Creek and Maffra.

This Mediterranean-inspired larder is also packed full of quality imported and local provisions that inspire curiosity and delight the senses. The shelves are stocked from top to bottom with interesting, tasty delights including truffled risotto rice, duck fat, smoked salts, Mörk hot chocolate, peach and vanilla jam, organic dried fruits and gourmet snacks.

In the fridge, you'll find lovingly prepared take home meals, including house-made family-style pies, traditional lasagne and moussaka - perfect for a quiet night in at a local B&B or to take home with you for a delicious meal after a good weekend in West Gippsland.

Not sure what to choose? Let Stella's friendly, knowledgeable team sort you out with a bespoke bag. They have a passion for fine foods and will happily prepare something special for you.

While you're there, you should also indulge in one of the many house-made cakes and slices on offer, decadently



rich and paired with a delicious coffee or traditional Chai latte, this combo makes for the perfect morning tea.

From cured meats and marinated morsels, to fresh sourdough, gooey cheeses and tasty treats, a visit to this little treasure trove will start you on your foodie adventure - construct the perfect picnic hamper for your day out, or a charcuterie board for your night in, or even something to take home and cook up a delectable storm.

**Find it:** 5/12 Victoria Street, Warragul

**More info:** [stellaspantry.com.au](http://stellaspantry.com.au)



## VIOLET & IVVY

### A local experience

**Step into style and discover a fresh, exciting space to browse through and mingle with friends at Warragul's exclusive coffee and wine bar, Violet and Ivvy.**

Located in the bustling business district of Queen Street, this hidden gem carries all the vibes of modern regional Victoria, with its luxurious decor, striking gallery space and impressive central bar, beautifully lined with chartreuse tiles and surrounded by abundantly fresh flowers and plants.

By day, come in for a quiet coffee and sample sweets and cakes by Gippsland's Blue and Ruby, and take some time to browse the exquisite gifts and homewares range, or view stunning artwork by local and Melbourne-based artists including Janine Riches, and David Bromley.

By night, watch this alluring space transform into an intimate cocktail bar filled with soft lighting and cool music, with a delicious charcuterie menu to compliment your favourite drink.

Owner, April Pyle who has spent most of her life as a professional photographer, is responsible for Violet and Ivvy's flawless presentation, charming hospitality, and unique vision.

**"This is a progressive space. One where everyone is welcome."**

April's ability to bring together a range of business ideas into one perfectly curated model creates a space fit for any occasion - a girls night out, after work drinks, gorgeous gifting, or a pleasant cocktail before or after dinner.

**Find it:** 137 Queen Street, Warragul

**More info:** facebook @violetandivvy



Violet and Ivvy



### DEAR BLACKBIRD BOUTIQUE

Stylish Women's fashion and lifestyle boutique in the heart of Warragul, offering a carefully curated collection of contemporary clothing, footwear, accessories and gifts.

**Find it:** 14 Napier Street, Warragul

**More info:** [dearblackbirdboutique.com.au](http://dearblackbirdboutique.com.au)

HOMI

### HOMI CONCEPT STORE & COFFEE BAR

Giftware and homewares, coffee, sweet treats, all in one beautiful space.

**Find it:** 15 Smith Street, Warragul

**More info:** Instagram @homiconceptstore\_



### KEITH'S SISTER

A range of products and gifts for everyone. We offer eclectic and one of home decor and furniture, snuggle Hunny kids baby wear and accessories glasshouse candles and fragrances...Al.ive body range & more.

**Find it:** Shop 5/97 Princes Highway, Yarragon



### MOOKAH FASHON, HOME, LIFESTYLE

Curated shopping experience blending women's fashion, homewares, accessories, and gifts, all from independent Australian and New Zealand designers.

**Find it:** 15 Smith Street, Warragul

**More info:** [mookah.com.au](http://mookah.com.au)



### RENDEZVOUS OF YARRAGON

Beautiful range of womens clothing , shoes, jewelery & accessories.  
Open 7 days, 10-5pm

**Find it:** 103A Princes Highway, Yarragon

**More info:** 03 5634 2305 | [rendezvousyarragon@gmail.com](mailto:rendezvousyarragon@gmail.com)



### TWELVE SOUTH BRIDAL

TWELVE SOUTH is a modern and intimate bridal boutique, spilling with a thoughtfully curated edit of gowns from leading Australian and international designers.

**Find it:** 3 Village Walk, Yarragon

**More info:** (03) 5644 3254 | [twelvesouthbridal.com.au](http://twelvesouthbridal.com.au)



### YARRAGON RECLAMATION

New, old and middle aged goods.

**Find it:** 100-102 Waterloo Road, Yarragon

**More info:** 0419 397 482

## STAY A LITTLE LONGER

### Accommodation and camping

Wake up feeling refreshed in the magnificent landscape that is West Gippsland. A wildness and a serenity can be found in these hills, mountains and valleys that will recharge the most world-weary traveller.

For the self-sufficient adventurer, picturesque camping locations and hiking rest stops are in abundance, as well as a range of family friendly parks and reserves in beautiful locations.

Throughout West Gippsland you will find amazing boutique hideaways unique to the region, with hosts that go out of their way to offer a genuine local experience. With some gorgeously curated luxury and comfort options, a good night's sleep and a weekend of relaxation can certainly be found.

Whatever your travel style, West Gippsland is sending out a warm welcome. Come stay with us!





## THE RIDGE HOUSE & GREEN HILLS FARM

A local experience



The Ridge House

**As you enter the eclectic little town of Yarragon, take a short drive up the road from Yarragon Ale House to find the spectacular Ridge House.**

The short drive does not disappoint, in fact, it gets a little more exciting with each turn of the corner, as you only have to look out your car window to admire the breathtaking views.

The house itself - a long-homestead style, is draped in vine leaves and perched high, to give you an almost 360 degree view of the rolling hills below and the Baw Baw ranges beyond.

The vibe is quiet, relaxing and feels miles away from anything, perhaps because of its sheer elevation. It's almost hard to believe that there is such a place, just 30 minutes from Traralgon, and just under 90 minutes from Melbourne's CBD.

Inside, the superbly decorated house features a fully equipped kitchen for

the culinary connoisseur, complete with locally sourced ingredients for breakfast and a selection of cook books for inspiration.

If cooking is not your fancy, you can expect a home-cooked meal made



Locally sourced breakfast ingredients

with fresh produce sourced from the adjoining *Green Hills Farm*, ready to heat up and serve upon arrival, and thoughtfully prepared by Kristy, Owner of The Ridge House.

Kristy's warm personality and genuine, hospitable nature is at the forefront of The Ridge House, and she's dedicated to delivering an experience that she herself would expect to have. You can just tell from the property's quality finishings, fine furnishings and attention to detail that this space is presented to you with care, consideration and comfort as a priority.

**"I want guests to feel welcomed at home the minute they arrive. Just as if they were staying in my own home."**

Kristy proceeds to give a tour through the house and surrounding 50 acre property set in pristine, private bushland.

There is a cosy nook with WiFi, board games and Netflix that is perfect for kids at one end of the house, and to the other, a grand living room featuring timber accents, leather, natural fabrics and a wood fireplace. It's the perfect spot to share a drink with friends, read a book in silence, or just cuddle up with a woolen blanket and relax.

Small groups and families can be accommodated in the house's four bedrooms, but if you're a couple wanting a romantic escape or an ideal honeymoon spot, then this is the place for you.



Kristy Plumridge, Owner  
The Ridge House

The west-facing, black-framed windows capture the incredible scenes and frame the outside view like a picture.

Wander down past the deck and the outdoor fire pit to the 'Love Seat' at sundown with a bottle of local vino and watch the wallabies coast through the valley below, and let your eyes wander endlessly into the distance.

There are several walking trails on the property to help you properly escape, and as you disappear into nowhere, the tantalisingly fresh bush scents ignite the senses. Some of the tracks have even been formed on old timber rail links dating back to the 1880s, paying homage to the property's history as an original source of timber.

Over the fence, Green Hills Farm (which is also owned by Kristy and her husband, Neil), is home to an amazing kitchen garden of which they have spent nearly seven years in the making, transforming what was **Cont. p94>**

once a haven for capeweed into a thriving agri-business. Raspberries, zucchini, tomatoes, sunflowers and chamomile grow here among so many other things - and that's only the beginning. With a bee garden to complement their on-site hives, and a farm featuring chickens and a green house - even a pizza oven (the chimney of which is the remainder of the previous house that once stood), this place is clearly a labour of love, hard work and dedication.

What Green Hills Farm is famous for though is its garlic, and as a local producer, Kristy and Neil take the time to not only hand plant and harvest their perfect product, but to team up with other local businesses, including String & Salt, Hogget Kitchen, Fozigobble Cafe and Rokeby Market to develop a sense of community and promote local produce, and also showcase West Gippsland's finest to locals and visitors alike.

From nothing to something - it takes careful planning, vision and commitment, which has ultimately resulted in the perfect property that warrants peace, sustainability and promotes life's simple pleasures.

**Find it:** 442 Yarragon South Road, Yarragon South

**To book:** [theridgehouse.com.au](http://theridgehouse.com.au)



The 'Love Seat' at The Ridge House

## ROSEMONT HOUSE

### A local experience

**For a delightful, relaxing escape, there's no better place to stay in West Gippsland than luxury bed and breakfast Rosemont House, right in the heart of beautiful Noojee.**

Take advantage of this couples-only retreat - newly designed and appointed with grand fabrics, astonishing furniture and all the mod-con features to keep you warm and cosy. There's even an easy-light modern fireplace in each room!

Owner and luxury lover, Di Johnston, has been busy transforming this once traditional home into the ultimate private hideaway where you literally have the option to stay in bed for the weekend, and given the rooms' tranquil setting, inviting bed sheets, and splendid amenities, it's very tempting!



Di Johnston, Owner, Rosemont House  
Image courtesy of Rosemont House

Di's down-to-earth nature and practical sense, teamed with a keen eye for detail and the intuitive know-how of what every tired, stressed out individual needs, comes together in these two beautifully presented rooms, aptly named *Toorongo* and *Latrobe*.

**"I love to look after people."**

The rooms are decadent, curated with comfortable furnishings, warm cozy throws, high ceilings and superbly decorated with the sculptures and prints of local Gippsland artists - Laurie Collins and Dani Till.

The bathrooms are beautiful, fitted with monsoon shower heads and dressed in modern, ornate tiles.

There is also the offering of complimentary gourmet snacks and a selection of teas from a traditional chest that's sure to please. **Cont. p96>**



Beautifully appointed rooms  
Image courtesy of Rosemont House



It really doesn't matter what time of year you come to stay at Rosemont House, you'll fall in love with Noojee's relaxed, temperate surrounds and splendid community charm.

Whether you take up the stay-in-bed option, or are keen to explore Noojee's beautiful landscape via the Tramway walk in front, or the Trestle Bridge walk behind the property, time is on your side here, and you can feel at peace knowing that you have the freedom and privacy to go at your own pace.

There are also options to stroll across the road or up the street for a coffee, breakfast, or lunch at Little Red Duck Cafe, or a meal at The Toolshed Bar, Bistro and Cabins, or Noojee Hotel - it's all within walking distance from Rosemont House.

**Find it:** 68 Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road, Noojee

**To book:** [rosemonthouse.com.au](http://rosemonthouse.com.au)



Relax by the fire at Rosemont House  
Image courtesy of Rosemont House



Rosemont House  
Image courtesy of Rosemont House

## OTHER LUXURY PLACES TO STAY

### Experience local hospitality

#### Anderley, Yarragon South

This property features two separate, self-contained secluded cottages with stunning mountain and valley views. Set on a 35-acre property in the foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges and close to Yarragon Village.

**Find it:** 312 Old Yarragon-Leongatha Road, Yarragon South

**To book:** Phone 0419 263 262 or visit [anderley.com.au](http://anderley.com.au)

#### Mercure Hotel, Warragul

The Mercure Hotel offers quality accommodation right in the heart of Warragul. It's easy walking distance to shops, cafes, restaurants and entertainment, and not far from the Warragul train station. Choose from a range of hotel rooms, including the Premier King Room which comes complete with a king-size bed and spa bath. There is a lounge area at the front entrance to relax and free WiFi for each guest.

**Find it:** 23 Mason Street

**To book:** Google 'Mercure Hotel' for a range of booking agents, or phone 03 5618 3500

#### Mirador Springs Retreat, Trafalgar South

Mirador Springs is one of Gippsland's most beautiful accommodation venues, offering luxury glamping or a country cottage set high on the Strzelecki

Ranges overlooking 15 acres of botanical gardens.

**Find it:** 95 Haynes Track

**To book:** Phone 0407 053 265 or visit [miradorspringsretreat.com.au](http://miradorspringsretreat.com.au)

#### Mira Mira Fantasy Accommodation, Crossover

For the ultimate, immersive fantasy escape, stay at Mira Mira, where you'll discover truly unique accommodation, including an underground cave, Japanese zen retreat and magical tree house. Situated on a secluded 22-acre natural bush property with a fern gully and several dams, this is a stay to remember.

**Find it:** 1395 Bloomfield Road

**To book:** Phone (03) 5626 7200



Anderley, Yarragon South



Mira Mira Fantasy Accommodation, Crossover

### Toorong Valley Estate, Noojee

Located in the tranquil Toorong Valley, a 5-minute drive from Noojee, Toorong Valley Estate offers accommodation, wedding celebrations, wellness retreats, corporate events and nature-based experiences. Set amongst riverfront bushland and forest edges, the estate provides a unique destination for visitors seeking a peaceful stay, an immersive event or a regional Victoria wedding venue surrounded by nature.

**Find it:** 105 Toorong Valley Road

**To book:** [toorongvalleyestate.com.au](http://toorongvalleyestate.com.au)

### Vivere Retreat, Neerim South

Nestled in amongst 18 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, Vivere Retreat in Neerim South offers a luxurious retreat with spectacular views all year round. Perfectly positioned in the foothills of Mount Baw Baw, explore the local wineries,

restaurants and great outdoors without compromising on comfort. The retreat has two king rooms and accommodates up to four guests in self-contained, modern luxury. There is also cottage and studio accommodation on site.

**Find it:** 1719 Main Neerim Road

**To book:** [vivereretreat.com.au](http://vivereretreat.com.au)

### Winemakers Cottage, Warragul

Wild Dog Winery offers group accommodation in their Winemakers Cottage for up to 10 guests across four bedrooms - it's perfect for families, or a group of friends making tracks around West Gippsland for the weekend. While you're there, stroll through the wetlands and walking tracks on the property and visit the bush tucker garden and olive grove.

**Find it:** 6 Farrington Close

**To book:** Search 'Winemakers Cottage at vineyard' on AirBnB



Toorong Valley Estate, Noojee

## CAMPING EXPERIENCES

Tent, camper trailer, caravan and cabin

**For camping enthusiasts, there are many scenic areas to choose from in West Gippsland.**

### Chinese Gardens, Walhalla

Fees apply | Tent | Camper trailer | Small Caravan  
Toilets | Fire pit | Picnic & BBQ | Pets welcome

Set on the banks of Stringers Creek in what used to be a garden market area run by the Chinese community during Walhalla's gold rush era, these quiet, unpowered sites offer relaxing views and hot water for individuals, couples and small groups.

**Find it:** 288 Main Road

**To book:** [walhallaboard.org.au](http://walhallaboard.org.au)

### Erica Caravan Park, Erica

Fees apply | Tent | Camper trailer | Caravan  
Cabins | Picnic & BBQ

With friendly, accommodating staff, a great outdoor camp kitchen and excellent facilities, this cosy, family campground set in beautiful countryside is a terrific place to pitch a tent, park your van or rent a cabin.

**Find it:** 14 Station Street

**To book:** Phone 03 5165 3315

### Mountain Rivers Tourist Park, Rawson

Fees Apply | Tent | Camper Trailer | Caravan  
Cabins | Bunkhouse | Motel Rooms | Spa Chalet

Encompassing the Happy Jack Creek Valley in Rawson, where lush farmland meets forest, sits the spacious grounds of Mountain Rivers Tourist Park. With a wide range of accommodation options, there is something here to suit any holiday maker.

**Find it:** 11 Depot Road

**To book:** [mountainrivers.com.au](http://mountainrivers.com.au)

### Poplars Reserve, Loch Valley

Free | Tent | Camper trailer | Caravan | Toilets  
Fire pit | Picnic

Just a short drive from Noojee, you'll find this delightful camp spot, featuring spacious flat camping areas among the Poplar trees.

**Find it:** 670 Loch Valley Road

### Rawson Caravan Park and Holiday Units, Rawson

Fees apply | Tent | Camper trailer | Caravan | Cabins

A great family holiday park, you'll find the Rawson Stockyard is a part of the bar and bistro here. Great facilities and amenities for the ultimate family holiday.

**Find it:** Depot Road

**To book:** Phone 03 5165 3439

### Toorongo Falls Campground, Noojee

Free | Tent | Camper trailer | Small Caravan  
Drop toilets | Fire pit | Picnic

Experience camping among mountain forests and little rivers at the base of Toorongo Falls, with easy access to walking trails and essential amenities.

**Find it:** 640 Toorongo Valley Road

**Tip:** Download the 'More to Explore' App to learn more about camping restrictions, conditions and availability.



## DROUIN & SURROUNDS



### DROUIN MOTEL

Drouin Motel offers renovated accommodation and country hospitality in West Gippsland. It is located in the town center, 10 mins drive to Warragul. Free car park and Foxtel are available.

**Find it:** 275 Princes Way, Drouin

**More info:** 03 5625 3296 | [drouinmotel.com.au](http://drouinmotel.com.au)



### GLEN CROMIE RESERVE

Glen Cromie Caravan Park and Day Park. Powered or unpowered Caravan sites available. Tent sites available, On-site Vans and Cabins and 5 Large Shelters are also available for day hire.

**Find it:** 850 Main Neerim Road, Drouin West

**More info:** 03 5626 8508 | [glencromiereserve.net.au](http://glencromiereserve.net.au)



### RAVENSWOOD DROUIN

Ravenswood, a charming luxury period residence. Centrally located in Drouin with access to all that West Gippsland has to offer. Yarragon Village, Mt Baw Baw, Award winning restaurants and wineries.

**Find it:** 7 Main South Road, Drouin

**More info:** 0414 366 464 | [drouinaccommodation.com](http://drouinaccommodation.com)

## NEERIM SOUTH, JINDIVICK & ROKEBY



### NEERIM COUNTRY COTTAGES

Self-catering accommodation surrounded by 5-acres of peaceful garden. Guests can enjoy swimming in the seasonal solar-heated outdoor pool, free of charge.

**Find it:** 2470 Main Neerim Road, Neerim South

**More info:** 03 5628 4451 | [search.booking.com](http://search.booking.com)



### NEERIM SOUTH CARAVAN PARK

Quiet country caravan park.

**Find it:** 410 Neerim East Road, Neerim South

**More info:** 03 5628 1248 | [neerimsouthvanpark@bigpond.com](mailto:neerimsouthvanpark@bigpond.com)

## NOOJEE & SURROUNDS



### TWIN RIVER VIEWS

Two fully self-contained units side by side in a fully enclosed yard. Family and pet friendly.

**Find it:** 411 Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road, Noojee

**More info:** search Airbnb

## WALHALLA, ERICA & RAWSON



### ERICA COUNTRY RETREAT

Erica Country Retreat is the Gateway to Mountain Country. It is a beautifully appointed 4 bedroom home which can sleep up to 8 people, in a tranquil, country style setting.

**Find it:** 13 Beasleys Road, Erica

**More info:** 0407 812 215 | [ericacountryretreat@gmail.com](mailto:ericacountryretreat@gmail.com)



### ERICA HOTEL MOTOR INN

Great Australian pub menu with the must Hot Rock. The hotel has 7 recently renovated rooms, all with TV, tea/coffee making facilities and own bathroom.

**Find it:** 8-10 School Road, Erica

**More info:** 03 5165 3252 | [ericahotel.com](http://ericahotel.com)



### SANCREED COTTAGE

Sancreed Cottage is the perfect base for your stay in the historic Gippsland gold mining township of Walhalla. It is fully self contained and is located overlooking the iconic Walhalla Band Rotunda.

**Find it:** 4 Church Hill Road, Walhalla

**More info:** 03 8373 4049 | [sancreed.com.au](http://sancreed.com.au)



### SILVERTOP COTTAGES

Quality Self contained Accommodation, choose from 3 Unique "Storybook" cottages set in 12 acres of private forest. An ideal base for exploring Mt Baw Baw, Walhalla and the Mountain Rivers regions.

**Find it:** 9 McLelland Road, Erica

**More info:** 0414 537 267 | [silvertopcottages.com.au](http://silvertopcottages.com.au)



### THOMSON VALLEY TINY HOMES

Affordable, versatile and comfortable accommodation in Rawson.

**Find it:** 3 Stander Drive, Rawson

**More info:** 0416 381 343 | [search Airbnb](https://search.airbnb.com)



### WALHALLA GUESTHOUSES

Stringer's Cottage offers self-contained accommodation for couples or solo holiday makers, whilst The Coach House caters for families or large groups.

**Find it:** 20 Happy Go Lucky Road, Walhalla

**More info:** [staywalhalla.com.au](http://staywalhalla.com.au)



### WALHALLA STAR HOTEL

Stylish & welcoming boutique accommodation in the heart of beautiful Walhalla, providing an ideal base to explore the many activities this historic township has to offer. Great meals & country comfort.

**Find it:** 130 Main Road, Walhalla

**More info:** 0436 462 462 | [starhotel.com.au](http://starhotel.com.au)

## WARRAGUL & SURROUNDS



### COMFORT INN & SUITES WARRAGUL

This Warragul motel accommodation takes pride in offering guests friendly country hospitality and quality, relaxing rooms. Enjoy the boutique local wineries, discover antique shops, or attend an event at Lardner Park.

**Find it:** 1845 Princes Way, Warragul

**More info:** 03 5623 2189 | [warragulmotel.com.au](http://warragulmotel.com.au)



### EDINBURGH MOTOR INN

Edinburgh Motor Inn is a gorgeous property right in the heart of Warragul.

We cater to all sorts of visitors and events including weddings, conferences, staycations, tourists and loads more.

**Find it:** 61 Princes Way, Warragul

**More info:** 03 5622 3339 | [edinburghmotorinn.com.au](http://edinburghmotorinn.com.au)



### LANTILLY HOUSE

Lantilly is a unique clinker brick period house on the fringe of Warragul's CBD. It is fully self-contained with two queen ensuite bedrooms, and has everything you need for a memorable stay.

**Find it:** 3 Toorak Avenue, Warragul

**More info:** 0411 772 176



### SEAVIEW PARK FARM B&B

Our unique B&B/farm stay accommodation option is located on a 540 acre farm where we breed cattle, sheep and pigs as well as grow heritage cider apples. Only 18km from Warragul towards Korumburra.

**Find it:** 59 Seaview School Road, Seaview

**More info:** 0415 312 966 | [seaviewparkfarm.com.au](http://seaviewparkfarm.com.au)



### WARRAGUL GARDEN HOLIDAY PARK

Warragul Gardens Holiday Park offers accommodation in the form of 18 x two bedroom cabins with ensuite. Powered and unpowered camping sites. Beautiful gardens, set in acres of parkland close to town.

**Find it:** 44 Burke Street, Warragul

**More info:** 03 5623 2707 | [warragulcaravanpark.com.au](http://warragulcaravanpark.com.au)



### WARRAGUL LARDNER COTTAGE

Warragul Lardner Cottage is a recently renovated rustic farm cottage with all the modern amenities. The cottage offers 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms and can accommodate up to 8 people.

**Find it:** 331 Warragul Lardner Road, Warragul South

**More info:** 0417 932 552 | [warragullardnercottage@gmail.com](mailto:warragullardnercottage@gmail.com)



### WARRAGUL VIEWS MOTOR INN

Motel Close to Warragul township and an easy hour from Melbourne, you can relax and enjoy comfortable, spacious and modern accommodation, with dinner and drinks available in our brand new restaurant.

**Find it:** 50 Rulemount Road, Warragul

**More info:** 03 5623 5222 | [warragulviewsmotorinn.com.au](http://warragulviewsmotorinn.com.au)

## YARRAGON, TRAFALGAR & SURROUNDS



### ALLAMBEE CAMP - GROUP ACCOMMODATION

Allambee Camp is a group accommodation popular with family groups on weekends and over the school holidays. Families can relax, enjoy the outdoors and participate in fun outdoor adventure activities.

**Find it:** 390 Mirboo-Yarragon Road, Allambee

**More info:** 03 5634 4221 | [allambeecamp.com.au](http://allambeecamp.com.au)

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### THE SUMMIT ADVENTURE CAMP - GROUP ACCOMMODATION

The Summit Adventure Park is a multi-award-winning venue located on 50 acres, just 90 minutes from Melbourne.

**Find it:** 21 Cemetery Road, Trafalgar East

**More info:** 03 5633 3236 | [thesummit.net.au](http://thesummit.net.au)

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### YARRAGON MOTEL

Yarragon Motel is a family owned and run business, located in the heart of Yarragon. Nestled in among the local shops and eateries, it's a perfect and affordable place to stay while in town.

**Find it:** 119 Princes Highway, Yarragon

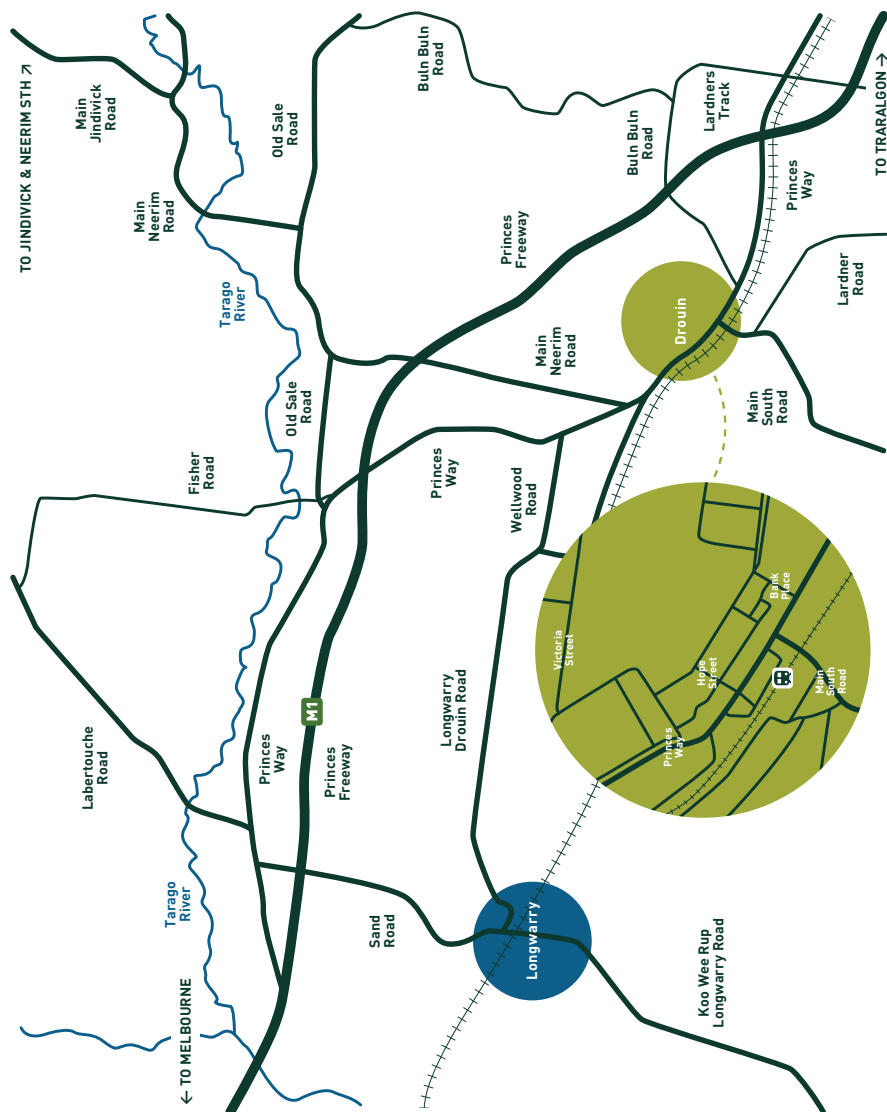
**More info:** 03 5634 2655 | [yarragonmotel.com](http://yarragonmotel.com)

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## DROUIN & SURROUNDS

Drouin, Labertouche, Longwarry



## DROUIN

Drouin's rolling green hills and significant trees, along with its beautiful public parks and artworks, set it apart from other towns in West Gippsland.

Stay in Drouin while you explore the rest of the region. Camp Hill on Lardner's Track has one of the best views to the north, and nearby Brandy Creek Estate winery and restaurant also features a day spa To the west, the Robin Hood Inn just off the Princes Highway, with the Tarago River flowing swiftly nearby, was once an historical staging point on the arduous horse and coach trip into Gippsland.

### History and facts

Drouin has strong connections with the Kurnai people who lived in a timber camp on Jackson's Track, Labertouche for decades before being relocated into the township. Early settlers arrived in 1871 to virgin forests - remnant trees survive to this day.

A display of splendid historic photos taken during the Second World War can be seen in the main street in an area near the post office.

### Highlights

Civic Park, Two Towns Trail, street artwork, sculptures and murals.

Artworks, Corymbia Dreaming and Three Kurnai Women will inspire the creative and history-minded.

### What to expect

**Shopping** - essentials, retail, op shops, hairdressers, petrol stations.

**Dining** - cafes, pubs and restaurants.

**Entertainment** - kids playground, gardens and walks.

**Accommodation** - motels, holiday park, bed and breakfasts.

### Distance from Melbourne

98 kms (1hr 8mins) by car.

## LABERTOUCHE

Labertouche is located on Jackson's Track and lies to the east of Bunyip River, along the edge of Bunyip State Forest. For the experienced explorer, there are some very interesting caves to be found in the bush around here.

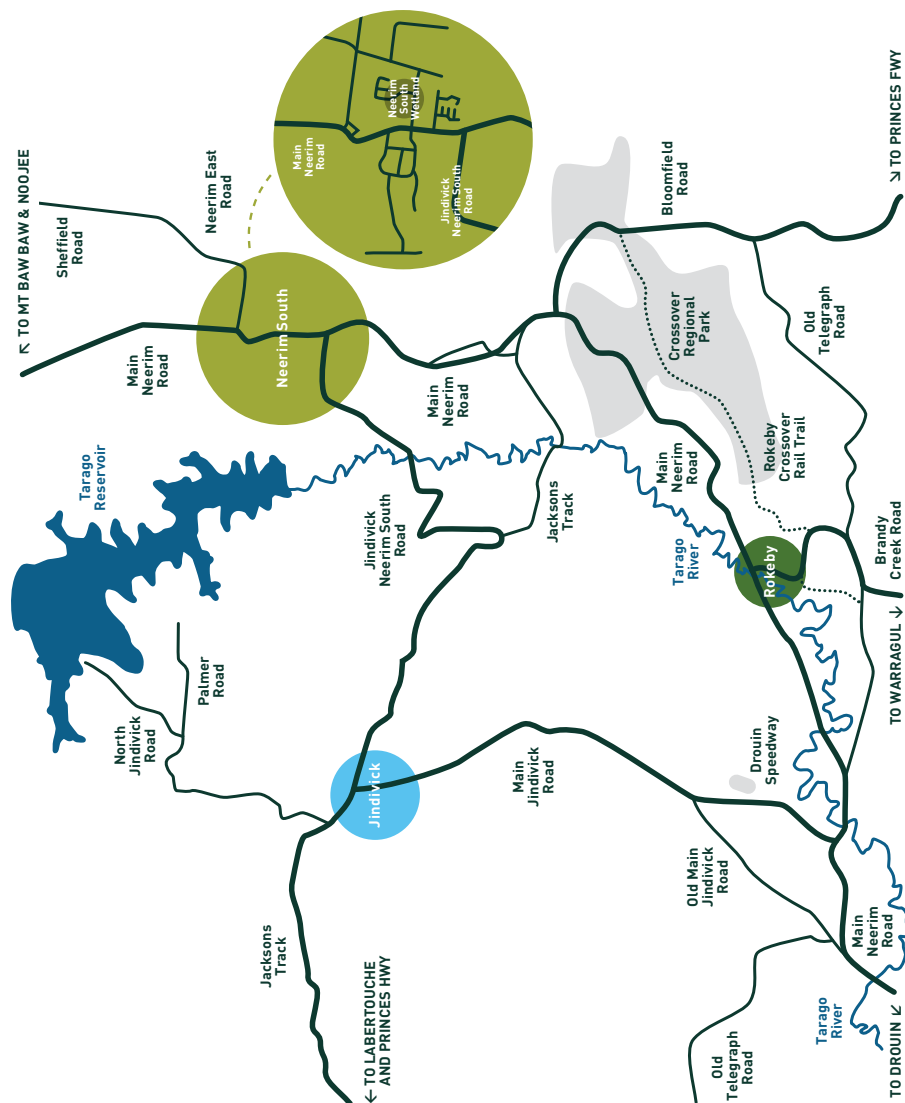
## LONGWARRY

Longwarry is a small township, home to some great cafes and Robin Hood Reserve. Not far from Gumbuya World, explore the informative Bandicoot Walking Track, local reserves and parks.



Three Kurnai Women sculpture, Drouin

## NEERIM SOUTH, JINDIVICK &amp; ROKEBY



## NEERIM SOUTH

Neerim South boasts a creative community and friendly local businesses, including supermarket, bakery, gallery, cafes, a brewery and the famous Jindi Pig butchers.

Neerim South Hotel is also a popular pub for locals and passing motorcyclists, classic car lovers and caravans tourers.

When you arrive in town, you'll be greeted by a huge sculpted blue bower that towers over Main Neerim Road representing the flourishing Bower Bird population in West Gippsland, alongside a fascinating collection of sculpted artworks throughout the town centre.

Neerim South is the central hub to branch out to the hamlets of Jindivick and Rokeby, where you'll find breathtaking countryside, rail trails and solo single tracks, art galleries, picnic reserves and community markets.

Head north-east from Neerim South towards Noojee and on the way, stop at Apex Lookout (on your left, about a 10 minute drive) for stunning views of Tarago Reservoir and West Gippsland's high country.

### History and facts

The densely forested area was initially developed during the gold rush in the 1870s, with lush green hills making this the centre of dairy and potato farming in the early 1900s.

Neerim South is 256 metres above sea level. The annual average rainfall is 1128mm.

## Highlights

Outdoor sculptures and public art trail, well loved brewery and local pub and Tarago Reservoir.

### What to expect

**Shopping** - essentials, groceries, petrol, butcher, opportunity shop.

**Dining** - bakery, cafe, pub, brewery.

**Views** - picturesque countryside.

### Distance from Melbourne

110 kms (1hr 36mins) south east by car.

## NEERIM JUNCTION/NAYOOK

Neerim Junction has a licensed General Store with essential items and a petrol station - good for a quick stop or supply top up. Discover the beautiful, captivating Glen Nayook Rainforest Walk at the end of Paynters Road.

## JINDIVICK

Jindivick is famous for its locals doing amazing things. It's the home of adventurer Beau Miles, sculpture artist Laurie Collins, and garden extraordinaire David Musker. The rolling hills resemble lush English countryside and the scenery is just delightful, especially the view from the Jindivick Cricket Ground.

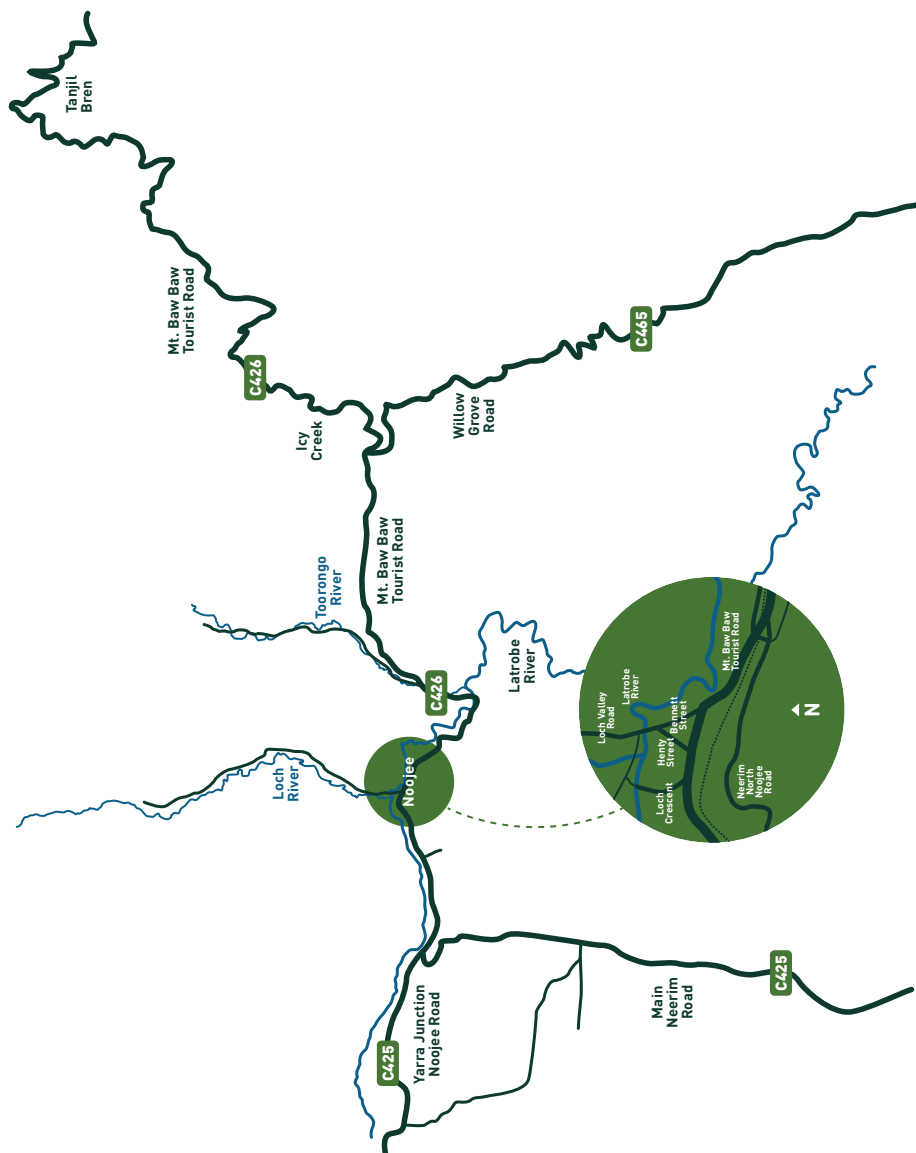
## ROKEBY

Rokeby boasts a fabulous market, featuring local makers and producers from right around Gippsland. You can also hop on the Rokeby - Neerim Rail Trail, and there's a great children's playground, too.



## NOOJEE AND SURROUNDS

Noojee, Tanjil Bren, Icy Creek



## NOOJEE

Noojee is a peaceful place to relax, unwind and become a part of the natural scenery of West Gippsland. Set in a valley of lush bushland and towering trees, with pleasant walks, trails and a quaint township, Noojee is also the gateway to Toorong Falls and Mount Baw Baw.

If you love fishing, the Latrobe, Toorong and Loch rivers that run alongside this tranquil town are stocked with rainbow and brown trout, or you can even try your luck at the Alpine Trout Farm. Visit the Noojee Heritage Centre which boasts one of the old steam trains that ran the line back in the 1920s (you'll even find smoke pluming out of it from time to time!). If you're after a hearty pub meal, then you have your choice of The Toolshed Bar, Bistro and Cabins, or the famous Noojee Hotel - locally known as 'Nooj Pub.'

## History and facts

Noojee means 'valley of, or a place of, rest' in Indigenous language.

Noojee was historically a timber town in the early 1920s, and the iconic Trestle Bridge - one of the last standing of its kind, is around 100 years old and once connected Noojee to Warragul during the booming timber industry.

The town was destroyed by fire in the Black Friday fires of 1939.

## Highlights

Noojee Trestle Bridge, Noojee Heritage Centre, bushwalking.

## What to expect

**Dining** - cafes, pubs.

**Recreation** - bushwalking, cycling, hiking and running, fishing, parks, playground, family day out.

**Accommodation** - camping, luxury accommodation, bed and breakfasts.

## Distance from Melbourne

130 kms (1hr 48mins) south east by car.

## TANJIL BREN

Tanjil Bren is a historic timber town and close to Mount Baw Baw. Offering excellent fishing in bush settings, some off grid accommodation options, and lovely picnic grounds and amenities. You may even be greeted by a local bagpipe player if you are lucky.



Alpine Trout Farm, Piedmont



## WALHALLA

This historic 19th century township still remains an active, working town, carefully preserved by the people who live, work and volunteer here. You'll feel like you're literally stepping back in time into the gold rush era upon arrival. This picturesque gold mining town is set in a steep mountain valley, with extraordinary scenic views, meandering rivers and the most glorious autumn colours.

In 1994, part of the Walhalla Goldfields Railway line was resurrected, giving way to tours through the old gold mining routes via the town's historic trains. You can also explore Walhalla on foot or via mountain bike through the Walhalla Goldfields Mountain Bike Rail Trail, and even camp overnight in one of the many scenic camping areas in and around the town.

### History and facts

At the peak of the gold rush, Walhalla was home to over 3500 residents, attracting prospectors and entrepreneurs hoping to find their fortune. The many stories of the trials and tribulations of this period in history, can be found on the tombstones of one of Victoria's most unusual cemeteries - set high on the side of a steep hill above town.

Home to less than 20 permanent residents today, this living heritage town and its historical attractions are maintained and preserved by passionate local volunteers.

## Highlights

Walhalla Goldfields Railway, Walhalla Long Tunnel Extended Gold Mine, Ghost Tours, Virtual Reality Museums, luscious autumn scenery.

### What to expect

**Dining** - cafes, pubs.

**Recreation** - bushwalking, cycling, hiking and running, historical sites.

**Views** - Stunning views, calm, tranquil surrounds.

**Accommodation** - camping, bed and breakfasts.

### Distance from Melbourne

185kms (around 2 hours and 25 minutes) by car.

## ERICA & RAWSON

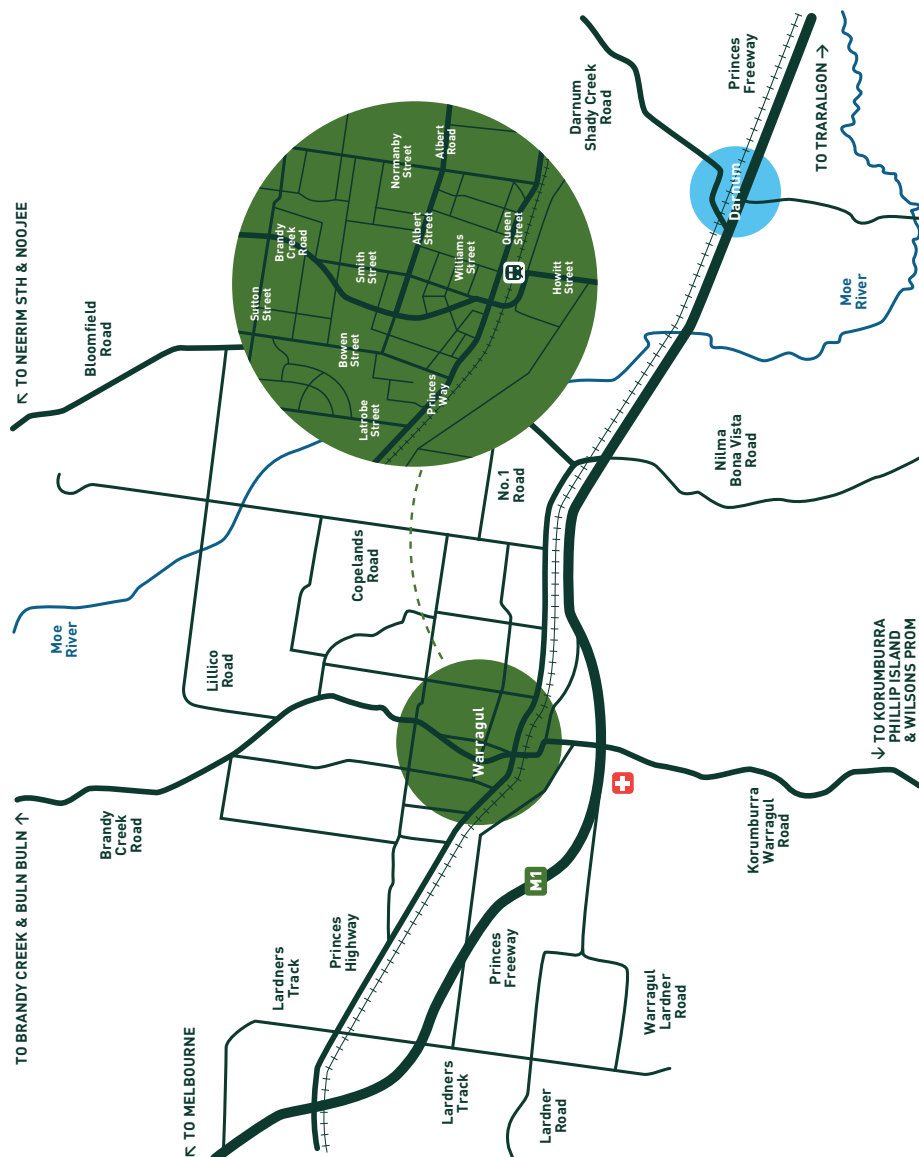
The small townships of Erica and Rawson offer country charm, friendly local service, excellent camping grounds, general stores, and of course, a good watering hole. Aside from that, these towns provide visitors with the perfect base to explore the great Australian Alpine Walking Track, the historic town of Walhalla, Mount Baw Baw and the Mountain Rivers region.

There are excellent picnic and barbecue facilities in both towns as well. The Erica Reserve Picnic Pavilion for one, provides great shelter from the elements, and also has a playground and huge oval to kick a footy around. The adjacent Erica Caravan Park also has excellent facilities and the friendliest, most accommodating local staff you'll meet.



# WARRAGUL & SURROUNDS

Warragul, Darnum & Lardner



## WARRAGUL

Warragul is fast becoming the destination town for Victorians and visitors alike. It's the largest town in West Gippsland, and boasts excellent outdoor strip shopping, arts and entertainment, plus a great choice of cafes and restaurants.

Quality butchers and farm fresh produce can be found in the niche greengrocers and farm gates, and at the Warragul Farmers Market.

This town is a perfect base to explore the West Gippsland region, with accommodation options, including the Mercure Hotel, Warragul Gardens Holiday Park and a string of bed and breakfasts.

### History and facts

Warragul Railway Station opened in 1878 and was used to transport timber from West Gippsland to Melbourne.

Warragul has rich soil and pristine grazing pastures, with dairy being one of Warragul's biggest exports.

### Highlights

Indigenous Art Garden.

A collaborative work by the Warragul Rotary Club and the local community and inspired by the artwork of local artist Dr. Eileen Harrison, the project celebrates 100 years of Rotary service in Australia and aims to provide insight into the culture of the Kurnai people and build stronger connections with the land we live on and with each other. Wander along six paths leading to a central meeting place for elders to pass on their knowledge to the young.

**Find it:** Rotary Park, 11 Latrobe Street

## What to expect

**Shopping** - essentials, retail, fresh local produce, petrol stations.

**Dining** - cafes, pubs and restaurants.

**Entertainment** - cinema, bowling alley, Arts Centre, live music venues.

**Accommodation** - hotels, holiday park, bed and breakfasts.

### Distance from Melbourne

100 kms (1hr 30mins) south east by car.

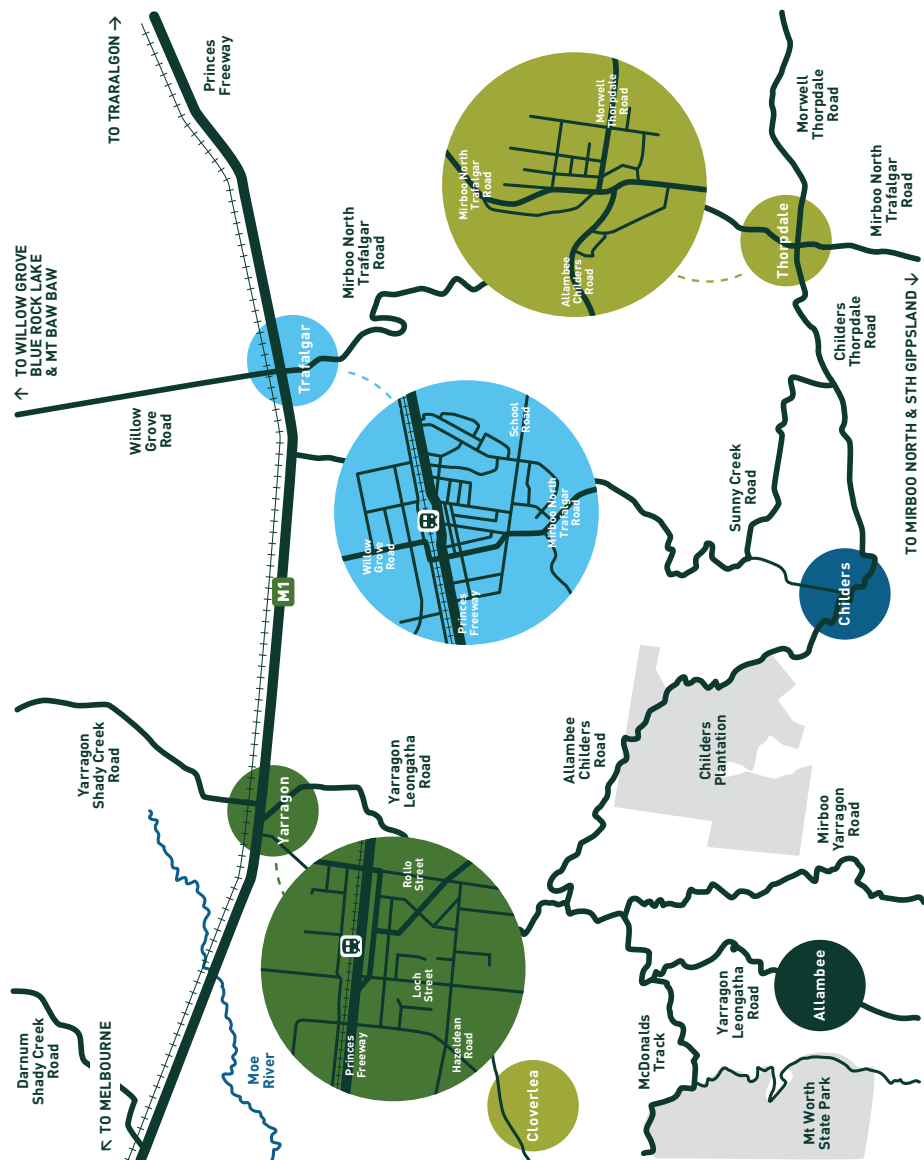
## DARNUM

Darnum is also not far from Mount Worth State Park, and only a short drive to Warragul. It's a lovely spot to pull off the freeway and visit the Darnum Stump Tea Rooms - you can't miss the giant stump from the Princes Highway.



## YARRAGON & SURROUNDS

Yarragon, Thorpdale, Trafalgar, Willow Grove



## YARRAGON

Yarragon is one of the most surprising little towns to pop up alongside the Princes Highway. Full of historic charm, quirky art, vintage markets and original fashion stores, it's a shoppers paradise no matter what your age or budget. Yarragon also has excellent coffee, its very own ale house, bakery and a providore dedicated to fresh, local produce, including wine and cheese.

### History and facts

Yarragon was originally named 'Little Moe' as it lies on the flat plain of the Moe River. The town's name was then changed to 'Waterloo' in 1878 after the railway station was opened, however, the name was changed again to 'Yarragon' in 1884 to stop confusion of the town's mail going to another Waterloo near the town of Beaufort.

### Highlights

Great shopping, scenic views, luxury accommodation, vintage market.

Friendly street vibe.

### What to expect

**Shopping** - essentials, retail, fresh local produce, vintage stores, gift shops.

**Dining** - bakery, cafes, pubs.

**Entertainment** - Yarragon Hotel and Yarragon Ale House

**Accommodation** - bed and breakfasts, motels, luxury stays.

### Distance from Melbourne

120 kms (1hr 24mins) south east by car.

## THORPDALE

Thorpdale is farming country and the place to enjoy a relaxing, scenic drive. Think fields of potatoes growing in red rich volcanic soil, teamed with views of the Strzelecki Ranges. This town is also famous for its bakery which sells award-winning pies.

## TRAFALGAR

Trafalgar is a great little hub for all of your essentials - you can fill up your car and pick up some groceries, including fresh, local produce from The Spud Shed or even pick your own at Sunny Creek Berry Farm. It makes for a good pit stop to break up your driving, especially if you're hanging out for a morning coffee, sweet treat or light lunch - Bella's Bakehouse has you covered.

The town is also home to the famous Trafalgar Holden Museum, which pays homage to the story of this great Australian vehicle.

Adventurers can take advantage of the 60 kilometres of on and off-road cycling tracks that take you from Trafalgar through to Darnum, Narracan, Willow Grove and Old Sale Road and back again.

## WILLOW GROVE

Willow Grove is a small country town that lies at the base of Mount Baw Baw, and is surrounded by Blue Rock Lake, offering boating, fishing, water sports, great picnic spots and scenic walks. This gentle town is the perfect place to spend lakeside, followed by a meal at The Topsy Heifer.



# SAFETY INFORMATION

## Things you need to know

### Explorer Essentials

If you're heading bush, bring a backpack containing the following essentials:

- Drinking water. Note - it is not recommended that you fill up your water bottles in rivers, lakes and streams unless otherwise advised.
- Snacks - once you start to get away from the major towns, food options can be limited.
- First aid kit
- Towel
- Wear appropriate footwear - closed shoes for hiking, or snow play
- Insect repellent
- Sun protection - hat, sunscreen, sunglasses and long sleeve tops
- Hand sanitizer
- Appropriate clothing for all weather conditions, as it can change quite quickly.

### Mobile Reception

If heading in the bush or mountain areas, on a hike or trail, please carry a fully charged mobile, and remember mobile reception can be patchy in some areas. Be sure to notify someone before you plan to head out on your next adventure.

### Petrol

There are limited petrol stations available in some townships. We recommend filling up in Warragul, Drouin or via the Princes Highway before heading to your destination. There are small petrol stations located in:

- Neerim Junction (General Store - open 7 days, closes at night)
- Neerim South (self-service open 24 hours)

Keep your emergency roadside assist number handy (if you have them).

### 4WD Routes

Pay attention to road closures and private land tracks. You will need to be well prepared and experienced to handle 4WD tracks in these areas.

### Taxis

There are limited taxi services in the more remote locations and smaller towns, so if you're planning to be dropped off somewhere, make sure you have the means to return safely. Courtesy buses may operate at some venues - make an enquiry with the venue for more information.

### Mount Baw Baw / Mount St Gwinear Snow Chains

Roads leading up to Mount Baw Baw and alike can be covered in snow during winter, and snow chains must be carried (at a minimum) during the snow season as a legal requirement (see page 8 for a list of local snow chain providers).

Check [ski.com.au](http://ski.com.au) for conditions before you leave, or the live cameras via [mountbawbaw.com.au](http://mountbawbaw.com.au)

### Dump Points

Free public dump points are located in:

- Rawson, 4 Pinnacle Drive
- Neerim South Recreational Reserve

### Emergency Alerts

Download the VicEmergency app on your phone and check conditions before you head out on your journey. You can also check for recent road closures via VicTraffic.

### Emergency Numbers and Broadcasters

#### CFA - District 9

For emergencies dial 000 or visit [cfa.org.au](http://cfa.org.au)

#### SES - Warragul Unit

Phone: 132 500 or visit [ses.vic.gov.au](http://ses.vic.gov.au)

#### West Gippsland Hospital

41 Landsborough St, Warragul VIC 3820

Phone: (03) 5623 0611

Website: [wghg.com.au](http://wghg.com.au)

Emergency department open 24 hours.

#### DEECA (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action) for tree hazards:

Phone: 136 186 or visit [exploretheoutdoors.vic.gov.au](http://exploretheoutdoors.vic.gov.au)

#### Parks Victoria

For information about camp grounds and national parks, visit [parks.vic.gov.au](http://parks.vic.gov.au)

#### Local Radio

- ABC Gippsland 100.7
- West Gippsland Community Radio (3BBR)

All information presented in this guide is correct at time of printing. For any queries please contact [tourism@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:tourism@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au)

