



facts

POPULATION	Town 1,800 Shire 3,100
STOCK	Cattle 75,000 Sheep 850,000
ELEVATION	Town 1067m (3051') Highest point 'The Flags' 1493m (4898')
AVERAGE RAINFALL	Town 660mm (26") Highest over 1270mm (50")
TEMPERATURE	Summer averages: maximum 25°C, minimum 12°C Winter averages: maximum 12°C, minimum -2°C

HISTORICAL FACTS

- Home to Dunghutti/Dunggadi Tribe for 6,000 years
- Oldest town and first settlement on the New England Tablelands
- European Discovery by explorer John Oxley 1818
- Walcha's Open Air Gallery has the most public art per head of population in Australia.
- In 1950 Walcha Road Train Station became the busiest non-metropolitan freight terminal in NSW. This was due to the aerial spreading of superphosphate, an Australian first, which saw stock carrying capacities treble.
- Oxley Wild Rivers National park has over 1,100 recorded plant species – more than any other National Park in NSW.
- In 2014, Walcha became home to the world's finest 'paddock grown' bale of wool, at 11.6 microns.

PROMINENT LOCAL IDENTITIES

John Oxley	Explorer
Nat Buchanan	Explorer and pioneering pastoralist
Esther Stace	World record 'Highest Sidesaddle Jump', clearing 6'6"
Casey Stoner	Moto GP World Champion



ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

BY AIR OR RAIL

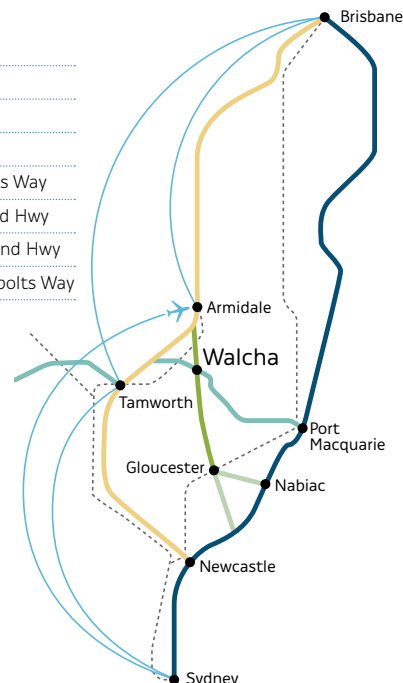
- Tamworth and Armidale are approximately a one hour flight to/from Sydney, there are several daily commercial flights. An airstrip is available for private use at the Walcha Aerodrome 5km west of Walcha.
- Daily train services to/from Armidale and Sydney are available via Walcha Road. A bus transfer is available to/from Walcha for the Sydney service.


DISTANCES

Armidale	65km
Tamworth	90km
Gloucester	146km
Port Macquarie	182km
Sydney	410km via Thunderbolts Way
Sydney	496km via New England Hwy
Brisbane	525km via New England Hwy
Newcastle	270km via Thunderbolts Way

KEY

- New England Highway
- Pacific Highway
- Oxley Highway
- Thunderbolts Way
- Bucketts Way
- - Rail Service
- Flights



 Walcha Visitor Information Centre
29w Fitzroy Street, Walcha NSW 2354
Phone 02 6774 2460

www.walchansw.com.au

Walcha

Where wild rivers run



new
england
high
country

#newenglandhighcountry

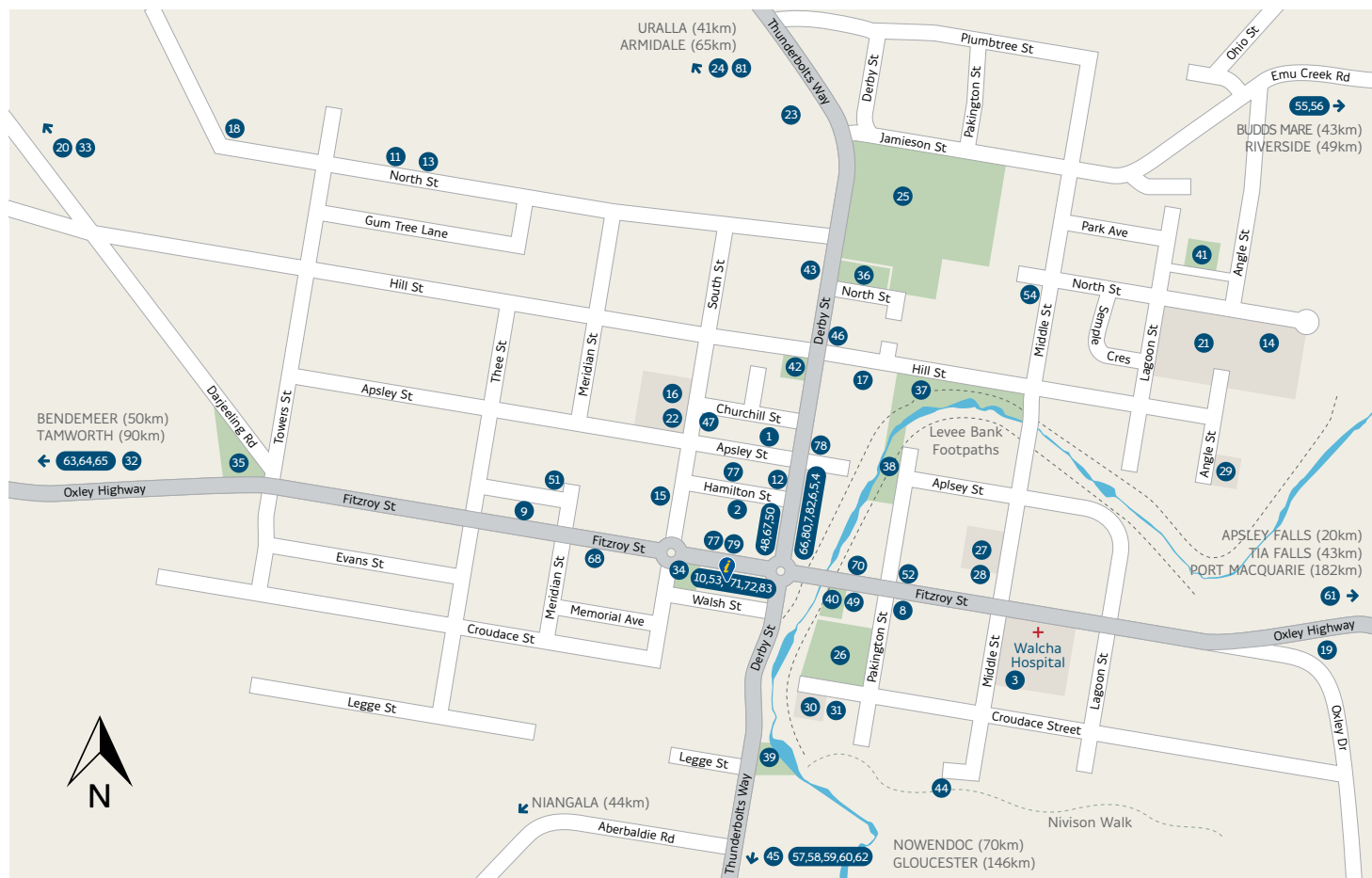
stay

IN TOWN

46. Anglea House – B&B self contained	02 6777 2187
47. Valley Views Cottage – B&B self contained	02 6777 2877
48. Walcha Guesthouse – B&B self contained	0488 775 891
49. Walcha Royal Café and Accommodation	02 6777 1117
50. Apsley Arms Hotel	02 6777 2502
51. Commercial Hotel	02 6777 2667
52. New England Hotel/Motel	02 6777 2532
53. Walcha Motel	02 6777 2599
54. Walcha Caravan Park	02 6777 2501

OUT OF TOWN

55. Cairnie Country Cottage	0429 771 335
56. Cheyenne Wilderness Retreat	02 6777 9172
57. Red Hill Cottage	0428 659 022
58. Lochlorian Trout Fishing and Getaway	02 6769 2335
59. Nowendoc Country Motel	02 6777 0952
60. Nowendoc Guesthouse	0437 732 252
61. Red Hill Farmstay, Yarowitch	0428 695 184
62. Old Greenwells B&B	0428 203 777
63. Venterfair Rural Retreat	02 6777 6558
64. Walcha Road Hotel	02 6777 5829



Emergency Services

1. Police Station
2. Fire Station
3. Ambulance Station

General Services

- Post Office
- Library
- Amaroo LALC
- NRMA Depot/Fuel/Mountain Motors
- Transwest Mobil Fuel/Cafe
- Walcha Tyre Service/Fuel
- Walcha Telecottage

Churches and Cemeteries

- National Parks Office
- Walcha Council
- Dump Point/Council Depot
- Multi-Purpose Centre
- Anglican Church/Old Stone Church
- Catholic Church
- Presbyterian Church
- Jehovah's Witness Church
- Catholic Cemetery
- General Cemetery

Education

- Walcha Central School K – 12
- St Patricks School K – 6
- Walcha Preschool

Sporting facilities

- John Oxley Playing Fields
- Showground
- Peter Fenwicke Oval
- Swimming Pool
- Squash Courts/Fitness Centre
- Tennis Courts
- Bowling Club

Parks and Lookouts

- McHattan Park (toilets)
- Lions Club Park (toilets and BBQ)
- Quota Park (toilets)
- Sempill Park
- Apsley River Park
- John Oxley Cairn and Park
- Captain Cook Park (toilets)
- Apex Park

Other

- ANZAC Park and Cenotaph
- Pioneer Cottage and Museum
- Nivison Lookout and Walk
- Langford Homestead
- Anglea House
- Mountain Bike Track, Ohio North Road TSR

eat

49. Walcha Royal Café and Accommodation	02 6777 1117
66. Café Amor	02 6777 2130
67. Café Graze	02 6777 2409
8. The North Store (Transwest Fuels)	02 6777 2740
50. Apsley Arms Hotel (off licence)	02 6777 2502
51. Commercial Hotel (off licence)	02 6777 2667
52. New England Hotel (Chinese/off licence)	02 6777 2026
64. Walcha Road Hotel	02 6777 5829
68. Ex-Services Club	02 6777 2231
30. Bowling Club	02 6777 2077
70. Thunderbolts Café Takeaway	02 6777 2295
71. Walcha Diner	02 6777 1338
72. Marta's Kitchen	02 6777 2857
75. Kentucky General Store	02 6778 7320
76. Restaurant Pinot, Kentucky	02 6778 7473
82. Nyinambambu Barri	0497 685 523
83. The Fruit Shop	02 6777 2977

see+do

TOWN

Walcha Sculpture Soundtrail
Open Air Gallery

Historic Building Walk

Pioneer Cottage Museum (43.)

Langford House (45.)

Nivison Lookout and Walk (44.)

Apsley River Walk

Walcha Farmers' Market

Quota Christmas Markets

Free Loan-a-Bikes

Walcha Memorial Baths (27.)

RETAIL

Walcha Gallery of Art (48.)

Antipodean Tynker (77.)

Antique Junque (78.)

The New Birds Boutique

Paperdolls House

Savvy on Derby

Café Graze (67.)

Walcha Creative Arts (79.)

Walcha Handmade (80.)

OUT AND ABOUT

Waterfalls

Bushwalking

Fishing – Trout

Fishing – Bass

Scenic Drives

4WD

On road Motorcycling

Cycling

Green Gully Track

Bicentennial National Trail

Full list of events at walchansw.com.au/whats-on

Download Soundtrails app

Self-guided tour, brochure available

Self-guided tour, brochure available

Weekends, public holidays, or by arrangement

Tours by prior arrangement 02 6778 0395

South eastern ridge of town

Levee bank footpath

Third Sat. of month, McHattan Park (exc. Winter)

Last Saturday in November, McHattan Park

Enquire at the Visitor Information Centre

Open mid November – March

Fine and contemporary art, 0488 775 891

Gallery of steampunk metalwork, 0413 016 806

Antiques and old wares, 02 6777 2864

Fashion, 02 6777 2002

Fashion, homeware and gifts, 02 6777 2233

Children's clothes, gifts, 02 6777 1044

Gifts and homewares, 02 6777 2409

Handmade gifts, craft, 02 6777 2802

Handmade gifts, children's craft corner, studio

Apsley Falls and Tia Falls, Oxley Wild Rivers NP

National Parks, see section overleaf

Season: October to June long weekends,

brochure/map available.

Lochlorian Fish'n Stay 02 6769 2335.

Season: 1 September to 31 May, permit required

Brochures available at Visitor Information Centre

4WD/off-road motorcycling, see section overleaf

Oxley Highway, (182km) Port Macquarie – Walcha

Thunderbolts Way, (146km) Gloucester – Walcha

Mountain Bike Track, Ohio North Road (TSR) (81)

Road Ride Cycling Challenge, October

www.walchamountainfestival.org

Award winning four day bush hike/trek, Oxley

Wild Rivers NP. Online bookings essential.

5,330km trail from North Qld to Victoria

national parks

THE NATIONAL PARKS SURROUNDING WALCHA ARE DRAMATIC, AWE INSPIRING AND SPECTACULAR ... THIS IS 'WHERE WILD RIVERS RUN'.

Budds Mare

THE MAGNIFICENT NATIONAL PARKS AND WORLD HERITAGE AREAS OFFER BREATHTAKING SCENERY AND BUSHWALKS.

THE AWE INSPIRING APSLEY AND TIA FALLS ARE ON WALCHA'S DOORSTEP, AND ONE OF THE GREATEST NATURAL ATTRACTIONS IN THE NEW ENGLAND.

Online bookings for Riverside, Youdales and Green Gully Track essential. Please visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au Website also includes information for all other visitor areas.

📍 **OXLEY WILD RIVERS NATIONAL PARK**
Directions and distances from Walcha

- **Apsley Falls** (20km) – camping (fees applicable pay on-site), day use area, walk tracks and lookouts (some wheelchair access), RV friendly on a sealed road.
- **Tia Falls** (43km) – camping (free), day use area, bushwalks and lookouts, RV friendly, 6km unsealed 2WD road from Oxley Highway
- **Budds Mare** (43km) – camping (free), day use area, spectacular lookout, 6km of unsealed road from Moona Plains, 2WD dry weather access only.
- **Riverside** (49km) – camping and day use area (online permit, fee and gate code required), low range 4WD access only, no trailers, bass fishing (licence required), swimming, bushwalks, unsealed road from Moona Plains.
- **Youdales Hut** (101km) – camping and day use area (online permit, fee and gate code required), low range 4WD access only, no trailers, access is via Kangaroo Flat Road, unsealed from the Oxley Highway
- **Green Gully Track** – award winning four day remote walk, with restored stockmans' huts as accommodation. Fee applicable, online bookings essential through NPWS website.

📍 **WERRIKIMBE NATIONAL PARK**

Outstanding diversity of rainforests, heaths, old-growth forests, and sub-alpine woodlands. Access from Walcha 55km along Oxley Highway, then 28km along Kangaroo Flat Road (unsealed).

- **Mooraback** (88km) – camping (free) and day use area. A good base to explore the area. Mooraback Walking Track 30 minutes and Platypus Pools Loop a two hour walk.
- **Cobcroft** (83km) – day use area. Carabeen Walk – one hour through rainforest. Located on Cobcroft Road, continue onto Fenwicks Road (4WD), driving through beautiful forests as an alternate way back to the Oxley Highway from Mooraback.

📍 **COTTAN-BIMBANG NATIONAL PARK**

- **Myrtle Scrub Road** – unsealed, 2WD dry weather access only. One hour loop (15km) tourist drive off the Oxley Highway through rainforest. Day use area on the Cells River.

📍 **MUMMEL GULF NATIONAL PARK**

- **New Country Swamp** (74km) – via Oxley Highway and Enfield Road – camping (free) and day use area. Mummel Gulf Viewing Area and two short walking tracks.
- **Mummel Forest Road** – tourist drive through a mix of mountain forests. Starts/finishes at New Country Swamp. Access via Oxley Highway and Enfield Road. Alternatively from Nowendoc via the Brackendale Road then east along Mummel Forest Road.

📍 **NOWENDOC NATIONAL PARK**

- **Jacky Barker Camping Area** – camping (free) and day use area, short walking tracks. Access is 6.5km south of Nowendoc on Thunderbolts Way turn onto Wrights Road. 5km along Wrights Road. 4WD only, 4WD trailers only.

DRIVES – OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

📍 **EASTERN ESCARPMENT FORESTS VIA OXLEY WILD RIVERS NP – WERRIKIMBE NP – WILLI WILLI NP – CARRAI NP**

Low range 4WD required. Recommended two day driving trip camping at Daisy Plains Huts. Carry plenty of supplies, avoid trip during wet weather periods. Walcha – Kangaroo Flat Road (55km east of Walcha on the Oxley Highway) – Mooraback Road – Racecourse Trail (4WD) – Coachwood Road (4WD) – Carrai Road to Daisy Plain Huts – Cochrane Road – Warrick Rd to Mary's View. Consider returning via Carrai Road to Willawarrin, take the old Kempsey Road to Armidale or head east to Kempsey.

Highlights along this route:

- **Hoppy's Lookout**, on Coachwood Road 4km north of junction of Racecourse Road
- **Kookaburra**, abandoned sawmill village, junction of Carrai Road and Coachwood Road.
- **McCoy's Lookout** 1km north-east of Kookaburra
- **Mary's View** amazing lookout with 270° views of the upper Macleay River and gorges. From Kookaburra head north-west on Carrai Road – Cochrane Road – Warrick Road.
- **Georges Junction** (junction of Georges Creek and Macleay River) on the Armidale-Kempsey Road (unsealed). Fishing, swimming, camping.

📍 **WAUCHOPE WANDERER**

Low range 4WD required. Expected time from Walcha to Wauchope, four hours. Walcha – Kangaroo Flat Road (55km east of Walcha on the Oxley Highway) – Mooraback Road – Racecourse Trail (4WD) – Brushy Mountain (three options). Creek crossings may be impassable after heavy rain.

- **Cockerawombeeba Road** – (diversion Plateau Beech) – Oxley Highway

- **Cameron's Bluff** – Forbes Forest Road – Mount Boss – Oxley Highway
- **Hastings Forest Way** – Wauchope

📍 **WINGHAM WANDERER**
MANNING VALLEY CARTOSCOPE MAP

2WD high clearance. Unsealed, NOT all weather, SUV/4WD recommended. Walcha – Knodingbul Road (5km past Gingers Creek) – Blue Knob Road – Glenwarrin Road – Ellenborough Falls – Elands – Ashlea Flat – Wingham. Alternatively – Mt George – Cooplacurripa/Nowendoc Road – Nowendoc – Walcha.

📍 **ENFIELD FOREST ROAD: MANNING VALLEY CARTOSCOPE MAP**

2WD high clearance. Unsealed, NOT all weather. SUV/4WD recommended. Four hour loop. Road conditions: poor in sections, possibility of fallen trees. Walcha – Enfield Forest Road (62km) east of Walcha on the Oxley Highway) – Enfield Range Road (60km at least 1.5 hours) – Cooplacurripa/Nowendoc Road (37km / 45 minutes) – Nowendoc – Walcha (via Thunderbolts Way or Brackendale Road).

📍 **MUMMEL GULF NATIONAL PARK EXPLORER**

2WD high clearance. Unsealed, NOT all weather SUV/4WD recommended. 2.5 hour loop. A beautiful scenic drive through a variety of high-altitude forests, including State Forests & National Parks. 52 km south on Thunderbolts Way – Hell Hole Road – Riamukka Pine Forest – Mummel Forest Road – Enfield Road – Oxley Highway – Walcha. Stop at New Country Swamp for a break.

history

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE: 6,000 YEARS

The Dunghutti (or Dunggadi) Tribe are believed to have lived in the region for around 6,000 years prior to European settlement. The tablelands served as a place for ceremonies – evident by traces of Bora grounds near Walcha – and a place to trade goods. In the cooler months the tribe retreated to the eastern gorge country where it was warmer and fish and animals were plentiful.

EUROPEAN DISCOVERY: 1818

Explorer, John Oxley was the first 'official' European to the district. In search of new farming lands beyond the Hunter Valley, he climbed the steep rugged ranges, traversed from west to east over the southern end of the tableland he had discovered, now known as the New England. On 8 September 1818, Oxley and his expedition camped by a good waterhole on the Apsley River (named after the Secretary of the State for the Colonies, Lord Apsley) approximately 1.2 km south of the current township of Walcha. Oxley wrote of this new found country in his journal as being *'the finest open country, or rather park, imaginable'*. A country of *'running waters; on every hill a spring and in every valley a rivulet'*. He reported this to his friend Hamilton Collins Sempill of 'Belltrees' in the Hunter Valley who was to become the first settler to the area.

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT 1832

Hamilton Collins Sempill, the first settler, based his headquarters near the campsite used by Oxley in 1818. He established a 25,000ha run which he named 'Walcha', building slab huts not far from where 'Langford Homestead' now stands.

THE TOWN AND OTHER SETTLERS

Within a few years other pastoral runs, Ohio, Bergen-op-Zoom, and Europambela, were established; taking up the valleys and creeks running into the Apsley River. During the 1840's the district was sparsely occupied by men with sheep, and names and localities heard today date from that time – Surveyors Creek, Aberbaldie, Ingleba, Glen Morrison, St Leonards, Branga Park, Branga Plains, Waterloo, Yarowitch, Tia, Emu Creek, Moona Plains, and Winterbourne. In the 1840's, Sempill returned to Scotland and his Walcha run was subdivided. Near the head station, occupied by Jamieson and Mackenzie in 1845, a small village developed with an inn, store and post office, blacksmith and butcher. This service centre – situated at the crossroads leading north-south and east-west and on a permanent waterhole – developed into the town of Walcha.

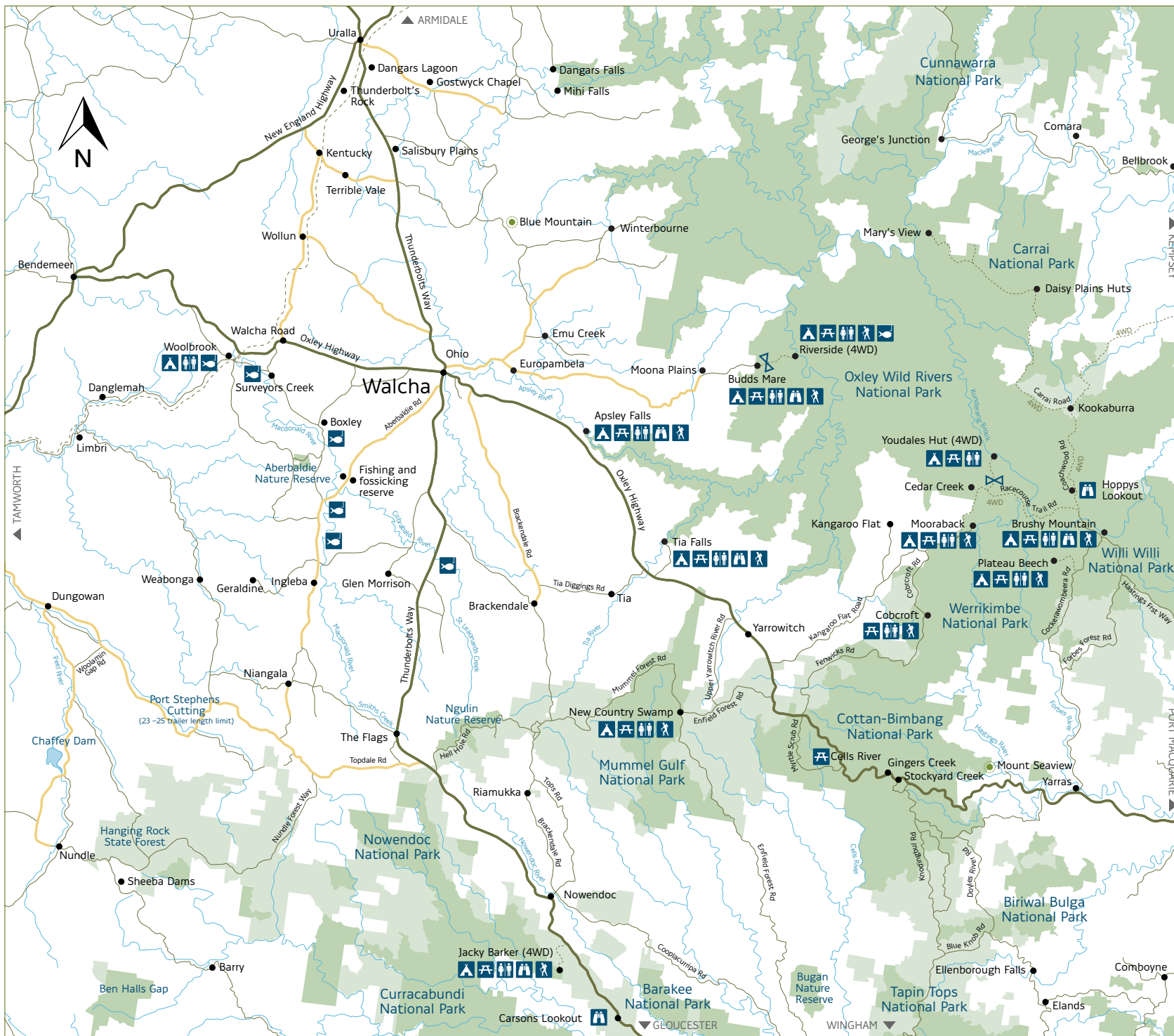
INDUSTRY

Wool has dominated the economy since early days with diversification into prime lambs, beef cattle, dairy and timber harvesting.

THE DERIVATION OF THE NAME WALCHA ... A MYSTERY

The name, Walcha (*Wol-ka*), could have been derived from Aboriginal origins, with three potential meanings *sun*, *deep waterhole* and *water*. However the spelling strongly suggests that the origins came from the association of two pastoral properties, Walcha Run and Bergen-op-Zoom Run, with places in the Netherlands. The town of 'Bergen-op-Zoom' stands on the Walcheren River, and these places were well known to the early settlers because of a major campaign in 1809 called the Walcheren Expedition, fought during the British wars with Napoleon.





NATIONAL PARKS MAP KEY

	Camping
	Day use area
	Toilets
	Lookout
	Bushwalking
	Fishing
	Locked gate, limited access
	Highway or main road
	Sealed road
	Unsealed road
	4WD access only

