



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
Bob Beer	Kayaked solo across Australia and the first person to run across the Simpson Desert

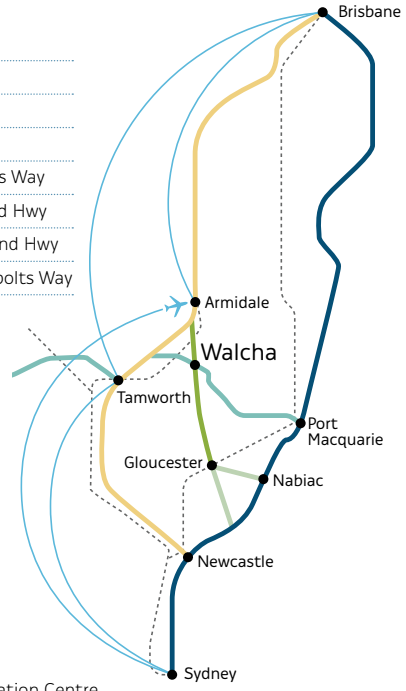
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

- 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



#walchansw

new
england
high
country

#newenglandhighcountry

Photographs supplied by Gerhard Koertner, Tasha Chawner and Walcha Tourism. V4: 04/25

Apsley Arms Hotel	0449 118 026
Commercial Hotel	02 6777 2667
New England Hotel/Motel	02 6777 2532
Plumtree Cottage	0427 366 939
Valley Views Cottage – B&B self contained	02 6777 2877
Walcha Caravan Park	02 6777 2501
Walcha Guesthouse – B&B self contained	0488 775 891
Walcha Motel	02 6777 2599
Walcha Royal Café and Accommodation	02 6777 1117

STAY OUT OF TOWN

Cairnie Country Cottage	0429 771 335
Honeysuckle & Lemon Grove Cottages	0431 817 075
Lochlorian Trout Fishing and Getaway	02 6769 2335
Nowendoc Country Motel	02 6777 0952
Nowendoc Guesthouse	0437 732 252
Old Grenwells	0428 203 777
Red Hill Cottage	0456 373 113
Red Hill Farmstay, Yarrowitch	0428 695 184
Walcha Road Hotel	02 6777 5829

eat

Apsley Arms Hotel (off licence)	0449 118 026
Café Graze	02 6777 2409
Commercial Hotel (off licence)	02 6777 2667
Dobson's Distillery, Kentucky	02 6778 7473
The North Store (Transwest Fuels)	02 6777 2740
New England Hotel (Chinese/off licence)	02 6777 2026
The Coffee Window	02 6777 2977
Thunderbolts Café Takeaway	02 6777 2295
Walcha Bar & Grill	0449 118 026
Walcha Bowling Club	02 6777 2077
Walcha Coffee	0488 990 777
Walcha Road Hotel	02 6777 5829
Walcha Royal Café and Accommodation	02 6777 1117

see+do

TOWN

- Walcha Sculpture Soundtrail**
- Open Air Gallery**
- Historic Building Walk**
- Pioneer Cottage Museum (43)**
- Langford House**
- Nivison Lookout and Walk (44)**
- Apsley River Walk**
- Walcha Farmers' Market**
- Free Loan-a-Bikes**
- Walcha Memorial Baths (27)**

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*)
Enquire at the Visitor Information Centre
Open mid November – March

RETAIL

- Walcha Gallery of Art (48)**
- Antique Junque (49)**
- The New Birds Boutique**
- Paperdolls House**
- Savvy on Derby**
- Café Graze**
- Walcha Creative Arts**
- bigblackbuilding**
- Wood We Create**

Fine and contemporary art, 0488 775 891
Antiques and old wares, 02 6777 2864
Fashion and gifts, 02 6777 2002
Fashion, homeware and gifts, 0427 709 872
Children's clothes, gifts, 02 6777 1044
Gifts and homewares, 02 6777 2409
Handmade gifts, craft, 02 6777 2802
Vintage and collectables, 0411 713 566
Gallery, 0412 085 634

OUT AND ABOUT

- Waterfalls**
- Bushwalking**
- Fishing – Trout**

Apsley Falls and Tia Falls, Oxley Wild Rivers NP
National Parks, see section overleaf
Season: October to June long weekend,
brochure/map available.
Lochlorian Fish'n Stay 02 6769 2335.

- Fishing – Bass**
- Scenic Drives / Rides**
- 4WD / Off-road Motorcycling**
- On road Motorcycling**

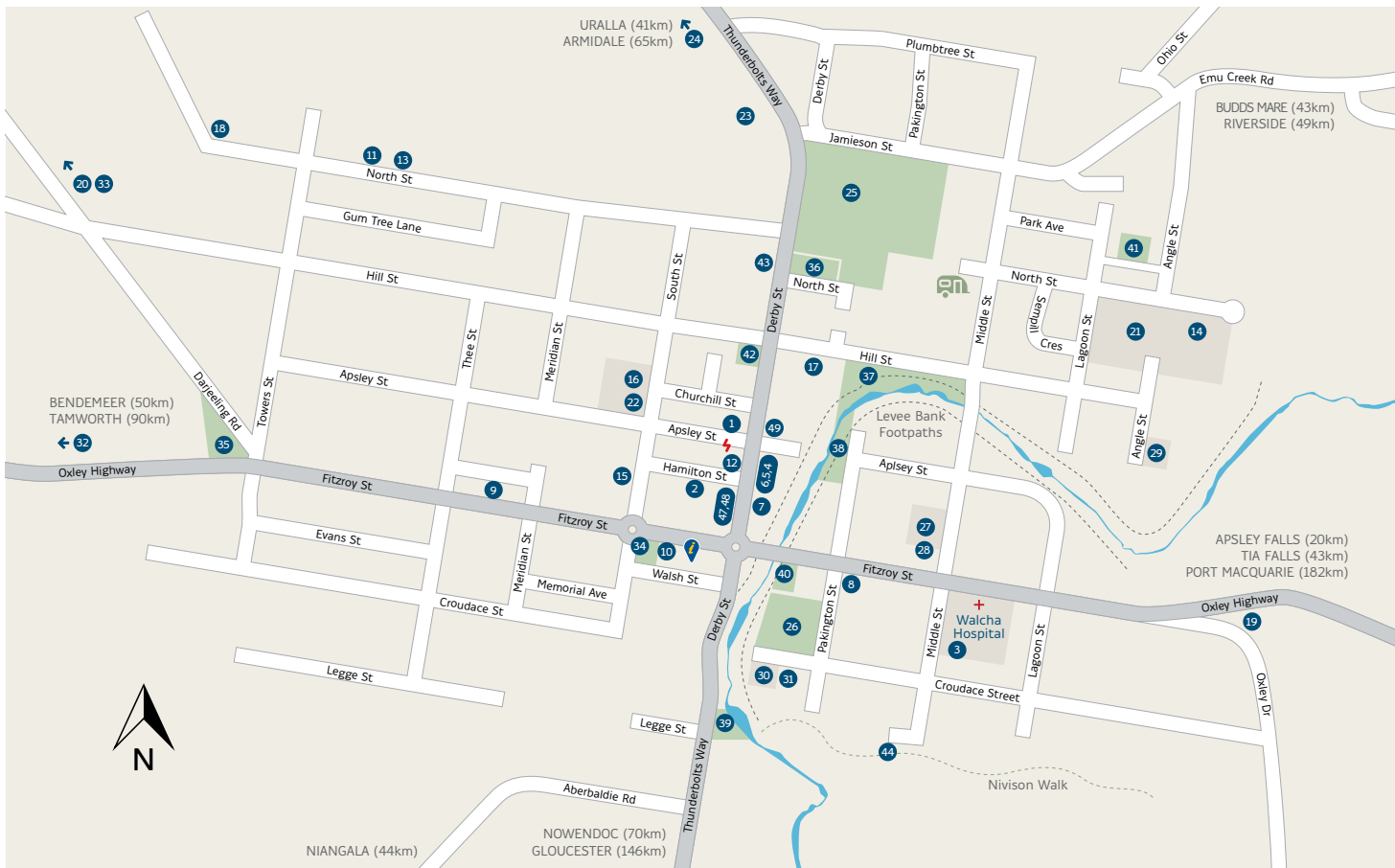
Season: 1 September to 31 May, permit required
Brochures available at Visitor Information Centre
See map overleaf
Oxley Highway, (182km) Port Macquarie – Walcha
Thunderbolts Way, (146km) Gloucester – Walcha
Day and multi-day routes

Cycling

Green Gully Track

National Trail

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



Emergency Services	11. National Parks Office	Education	32. Golf Club
1. Police Station	12. Walcha Council	21. Walcha Central School K – 12	33. Racecourse
2. Fire Station	13. Dump Point/Council Depot	22. St Patricks School K – 6	Parks, Lookouts and Toilets
3. Ambulance Station	14. Multi-Purpose Centre	23. Walcha Preschool	34. McHattan Park (toilets and BBQ)
General Services	Churches and Cemeteries	Sporting facilities	35. Lions Club Park (toilets and BBQ)
4. Post Office	15. Anglican Church/Old Stone Church	24. John Oxley Playing Fields	36. Quota Park (toilets)
5. Library	16. Catholic Church	25. Showground	37. Sempill Park
6. Amaroo LALC	17. Presbyterian Church	26. Peter Fenwicke Oval	38. Apsley River Park
7. NRMA Depot/Fuel/Mountain Motors	18. Jehovah's Witness Church	27. Swimming Pool	39. John Oxley Cairn and Park
8. Transwest Mobil Fuel/Cafe	19. Catholic Cemetery	28. Squash Courts/Community Gym	40. Captain Cook Park (toilets)
9. Walcha Tyre Service/Fuel	20. General Cemetery	29. Tennis Courts	41. Apex Park
10. Walcha Telecottage		30. Bowling Club	
		31. Rugby Club	

Other
42. ANZAC Park and Cenotaph
43. Pioneer Cottage and Museum
44. Nivison Lookout and Walk
..... Cycle and Walking pathways
⚡ Charging Station



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 or phone bookings required for all National Park campgrounds. Please visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au or phone 1300 072 757.

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

- **Apsley Falls** (20km) – camping, day use area, walk tracks and lookouts (some wheelchair access), RV friendly on a sealed road.
- **Tia Falls** (43km) – camping, day use area, bushwalks and lookouts, RV friendly, 6km unsealed 2WD road from Oxley Highway
- **Budds Mare** (43km) – camping, day use area, spectacular lookout, 6km of unsealed road from Moona Plains, 2WD dry weather access only.
- **Riverside** (49km) – camping and day use area, bookings essential, 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, bookings essential, 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 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 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
- **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.

📍 **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
- **Camerons 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 Dughutti (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, Aberaldie, 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.

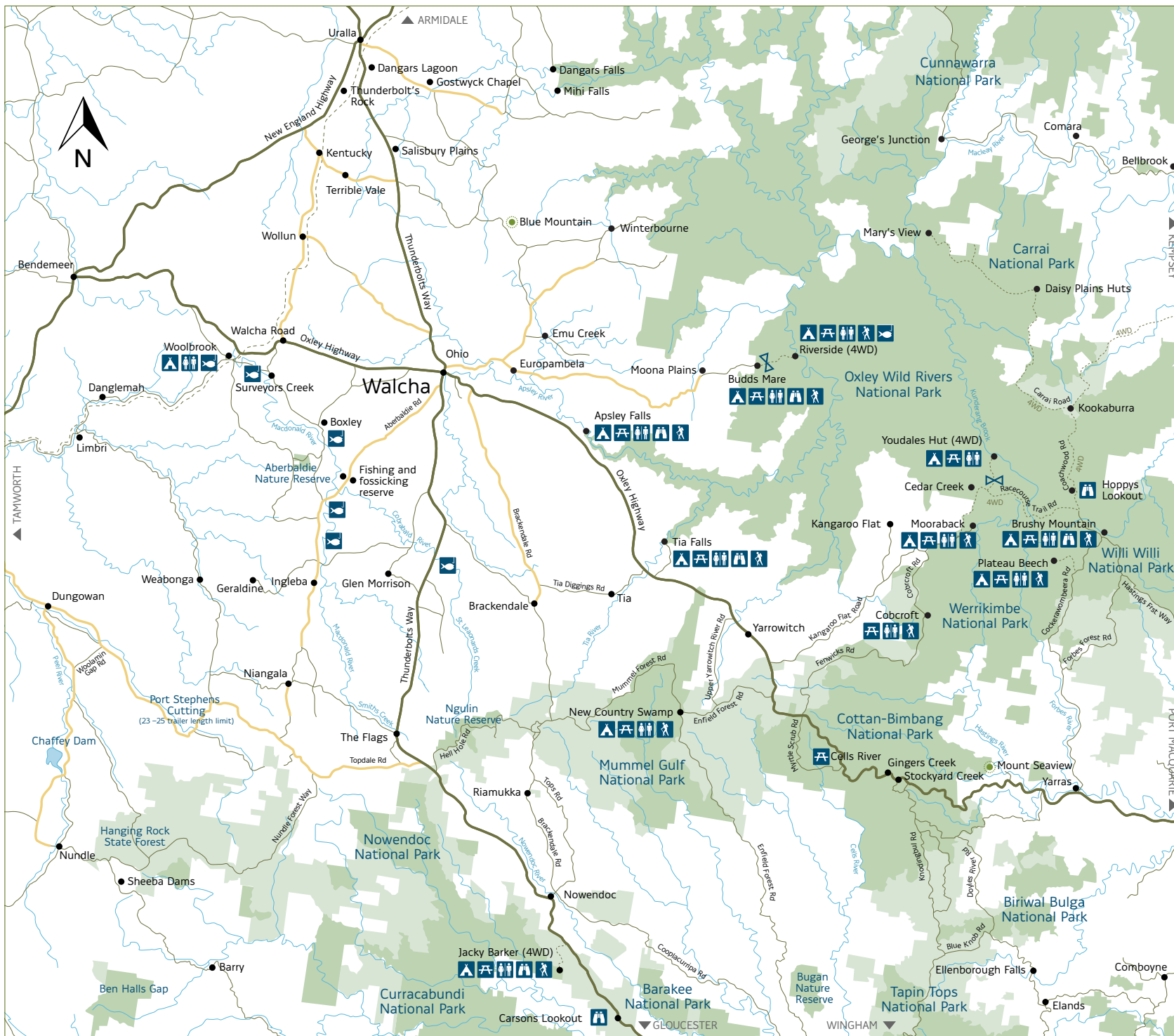
INDUSTRY

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 – access code required
- Highway or main road
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- 4WD access only
- National Trail
- National Park
- State Forest

