



### 1 The Artesian Time Tunnel at the Cunnamulla Fella Centre

Step into the Artesian Time Tunnel and be transported back in time, 100 million years and hear the story of the The Great Artesian Basin (the life blood of the Outback). Learn how the underground river flows beneath 1/5 of inland Australia and helps to water this great country.

The water from the aquifer is almost 2 million years old by the time we use it – if only it could tell tales of time past. Our landscape has been transformed and moulded by water and is obvious in the Paroo Shire with the Warrego & Paroo Rivers and the natural wonders of the Mud Springs and Opals.



### 2 Cunnamulla Bushlands

The 6 hectare site is positioned on the eastern outskirts of Cunnamulla and the looped walking track meanders along a flowing waterway and terminates at the Wetlands. It takes you on a journey through six regional ecosystems within the Shire; Mulga Lands, Sandhills, Gidgee Stands, Mitchell Grass Plains, Wetlands, Brigalow Country.

Each zone features plants and soils typical to the region and you are able to sense the space and freedom as you explore the natural attraction of the Shires varied land types. Maps can be collected from the Cunnamulla Fella Information Centre.



### 3 Artesian Mud Baths at Eulo

Palm Grove Date Farm offers a relaxing Artesian Mud Bath experience.

Soak in warm Artesian water impregnated with Artesian Mud, then pat on a milky grey mud pack to let your skin soak in the goodness from this mineral-rich product that is used by beauticians all over the world.

Artesian Mud mixed with minerals from shales deep below the earth's surface, rises to the surface near Eulo. The natural phenomenon is known as Mud Springs and they are release valves for the Great Artesian Basin.

Don't be disappointed - ring ahead for an appointment.



### 4 The Living Opal Gallery of Yowah

Opal is the Australian National Gem and the township of Yowah is a "Living Gallery" with the story of Opal everywhere you turn and 90% of the population being small scale miners.

Opals of Yowah are world renowned for their beautiful colours and magnificent patterns all created by nature with water playing a large part in its formation. All forms of Opal can be found at Yowah but this little township's point of difference is the unique "Yowah Nut".

Look for the signs and drop into the numerous and unique style Opal Galleries to view a spectacular display of gems and to inspect opal being cut and polished.



### 5 Thargomindah Hydro Power Plant and Artesian Bore

Thargomindah was the first town in Australia, and the third in the world, after London and then Paris to produce hydro-electric power for street lighting, through the harnessing of bore water from the Great Artesian Basin. In 1891, drilling commenced on a bore to supply Thargomindah with water, and in 1893 a good water supply was struck. A permanent Hydro Power Plant display has been created as a testament to the early pioneers. A working Pelton Wheel, and a display of old equipment is housed in a replica of the original Hydro Shed. Hydro demonstrations are conducted daily from March to October.



### 6 The Burke and Wills 'Dig Tree' on Cooper Creek

In August 1860, the Victorian government sponsored an expedition to make the first south-north crossing of the continent to the Gulf of Carpentaria. Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills led the ill-fated trip from Melbourne, reaching Cooper Creek by December. Burke and Wills started north with Grey and King, while four men remained. Only hours before Burke and Wills' return, the Stockade Depot Camp party left, after carving instructions into the trunk of a tree to dig for buried provisions. In September, a search party found only King alive. The blazes on the 'Dig Tree' are a memorial to Burke and Wills' expedition.



### 7 Lake Bindegolly National Park

Lake Bindegolly National Park centres around one of the most important wetland systems in south-west Queensland. The lake system supports a diverse range of flora and fauna, and is home to more than 195 species of birds including parrots, galahs, cockatoos, honeyeaters, fairywrens, swans, wedge-tailed eagles and whistling kites; 80 other kinds of animals, and 300 species of plants. The Park features three lakes – the saline Lakes Bindegolly and Toomaroo, and the freshwater Lake Hutchinson. A 9.2km circuit walk skirts the edge of Lake Bindegolly. An observation point is located at the edge of the lake, and camping is permitted on the southern side of the Road reserve.



### 8 Pelican Point on the Bulloo River

Pelican Point is a focal point on Thargomindah's River Walk. In 1864-65, Vincent Dowling settled Thargomindah Station on the banks of the Bulloo River on the opposite side to where the town now stands. A river crossing was eventually established between the Station and the Town, and this created a Weir in the river. This section of the river, together with the surrounding river bank, is a favourite spot for locals and visitors to walk, visit, swim, canoe, picnic, and fish. It is also a popular location for viewing birds, animals and flora. In recent times, it has been named Pelican Point, because of the number of Pelicans that regularly visit the spot.



### 9 Living History Centre at Eromanga

At the Eromanga Living History Centre which incorporates a Museum and Object Theatre, browse through hundreds of historic photos and stories of the surrounding area, on computer. View a self operated film in the Theatre Room. Some of the many topics covered are Oil exploration, early pastoral pioneers, opal mining and information regarding the discovery of Dinosaur bones near Eromanga. The Centre also has a photo display that automatically shows pictures from the 1860's to present day. The Living History Centre/Museum is next to a public park, covered picnic tables and chairs, playground equipment and BBQ facilities. Gracing the entrance to the park is a stunning monument inlaid with opal in memory to the Opal Opolis days of Eromanga.



### 10 Baldy Top and Table Top Lookout

Located approximately 7.4 kilometres from Quilpie on the Toompine road are two lookout points which are part of the Grey Range. Exploring Baldy Top, formed naturally over millions of years, is to adventure into ancient caves and crevices, untouched by civilisation. Nearby Table Top, aptly named due to its flat summit, is an ideal spot to picnic whilst enjoying brilliant 360 degrees panoramic viewing. The outstanding rock faces of Table Top provide fantastic photo opportunities. A climb to the summit of Baldy Top or Table Top takes an easy ten minutes. Once atop, you will be amazed by breathtaking landscapes that stretch as far as your imagination.



### 11 Opal Fossicking Area near Quilpie

Strike it rich!!! Whilst in Quilpie spend some time looking for a beautiful boulder opal gem at the Free Opal Fossicking Area situated just two kilometres from town. This council provided attraction can best be described as "Opal Mining – The Easy Way!" Alternatively travel to the century old opal mines of Duck Creek and Sheep Station which are situated near the iconic Toompine Hotel. It was at Duck Creek where the first ever registered opal lease in Australia was granted in 1871! These mines are designated fossicking areas and a Fossicking Licence is required. The colours of the Quilpie Shire Logo were inspired by the Boulder Opal. *'Why chase rainbows when you can wear one.'*



### 12 Opal Altar at St Finbarr's Catholic Church

Home to one of Quilpie Shire's most iconic attractions, St Finbarr's Church rests on the foundations of an intriguing history. In 1976, Father John Ryan, decided to compliment the opal mining background of the area by commissioning local miner, Des Burton, to install a border of opal around the carving of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. Instead Des generously donated an entire wall of opal which was installed on the altar, baptismal font and lectern. The late Des Burton is remembered as the father of the boulder opal industry as he was largely responsible for putting Queensland boulder opals on the world stage.



### 13 Bilbies

Charleville is home to the captive breeding programme to ensure the survival of the species. Learn about the habits and habitat of the Bilby through a DVD and guide presentations, before visiting the outdoor enclosure where Bilbies can be observed.

Between April and October The Save The Bilby Fund run Bilby presentations where visitors learn the story behind saving and improving the national recognition of the Bilby. Learn of the amazing work done by many people who, in their own time, work tirelessly to ensure the survival of the species.

On your way out, stop by the little Bilby Shop. Purchase something to help save the Bilby.



### 14 Cosmos Centre & Observatory

All year round Cosmos guides share their knowledge and wonder of the night sky. With the use of powerful telescopes, you travel thousands of light years into space. Your guides build on your knowledge of the formation of the stars and galaxies, reveal the beauty and meaning of coloured stars and the fascination of the planets and our Moon. Real Stars, Real Telescopes.

During the day join the Cosmos guides to hold a shooting star in your hand and discover what happened to Pluto. Protected by an incredible filter, visitors can gaze at the surface of the Sun through a telescope with a Cosmos guide.



### 15 Charleville Mulgalands Botanical Reserve

This reserve has a unique collection of native species from the tussock grasses through to the riverside vegetation. Drive through the reserve where interpretation signs and wide tracks will take you on a journey of discovery of the arid plant species that thrive in our often harsh environment. Some of the common names of the mulgalands vegetation you will see are Mulga, Poplar Box, Bimble Box, Silver Leaf Ironbark, Wilga, Beefwood, Corkwood, Ironwood, Long Fruited Bloodwood, Cypress Pine, Spinifex and Gidyea.

Four wheel drive is essential.



### 16 Weather Station Tour

Ever wondered how meteorologists predict the weather? You can find the answers by visiting the Charleville Bureau of Meteorology. Choose to enjoy a guided tour of the facility with a Meteorologist (Mon to Thurs), or simply observe the automated process of the balloon release. Weather balloons carry equipment that collects readings of temperature, air pressure and humidity, which helps meteorologists work out what the weather will do. They can often be the explanation to UFO sightings, as they travel to all sorts of places and become strange shapes as winds blow them around.

Bring the family along for a great educational experience.