



For more information visit
mareebaheritagecentre.com.au
 or call 07 4092 5674



The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Mareeba Shire Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

The producers of this brochure would like to acknowledge the Kuku Djungan people as the traditional owners of Ngarrabullgan (Mt Mulligan).

Accommodation Options in the area

Junction Hotel – Dimbulah

The Junction Hotel was first built in 1903. Due to the increase of the tobacco industry the pub was rebuilt into a two-storey building with accommodation upstairs, ladies lounge and bar. The building burnt down on August 3, 1953 along with six other buildings. It was then rebuilt and reopened in 1956. The current hotel has just undergone an extensive refurbishment to the public bar and beer garden to the rear.

For more information visit
www.junctionhoteldimbulah.com.au

Dimbulah Caravan Park

Located on the main road (Burke Development Road) on the southern end, the park features both powered and unpowered camp sites as well as cabins.

For more information call 07 4093 5242

Mt Mulligan Lodge

Approximately 2.5 to 3-hour 4WD drive from Cairns, Mt Mulligan Lodge is accessible exclusively for guests staying in-house on this adventure drive. Mt Mulligan Lodge is a member of the Luxury Lodges of Australia collection showcasing luxury outback accommodation for just 20 guests on a secluded 28,000-hectare working cattle station. Established at the base of a spectacular escarpment, Mt Mulligan Lodge is an all-inclusive lodge perched among eucalyptus woodlands with views of majestic Mount Mulligan (Ngarrabullgan) reflected across a sparkling weir.

The activities at Mt Mulligan Lodge include guided tours of Tyrconnell Gold Mine, exploration of the historic Mount Mulligan Coal Mine and abandoned township, ATV adventures along outback trails, hikes and stargazing.

For more information visit www.mountmulligan.com

For more information on accommodation including caravan and camping grounds in the area visit
www.mareebaheritagecentre.com.au/visitor-info/your-stay

For latest road condition please visit
www.emergency.msc.qld.gov.au

- Mt Mulligan Station is closed, and all camping, hunting, and fossicking is strictly prohibited.
- The Mt Mulligan Road is a winding dirt road with at times steep gradient inclines and river crossings.
- Total distance from the start of the Mt Mulligan Adventure Drive (turnoff to Wolfram and Mt Mulligan) is approximately 42km (approximately 50 minutes' drive time).
- It is recommended that the road is only suitable for 4-Wheel-Drives or large SUVs (i.e. high wheel base).
- It is strongly recommended that light vehicles (i.e. sedans, low wheel base vehicles) do not travel on this road.
- Stay alert for cattle and animals.
- There is no mobile phone reception along the Mt Mulligan Road or at Mt Mulligan.



Mt Mulligan

ADVENTURE DRIVE



DIMBULAH • WOLFRAM • MT MULLIGAN



Explore the unexpected!

Welcome to NGARRABULLGAN (Mt Mulligan)

Welcome to the lands of the Djungan people, the Traditional Owners of Ngarrabullgan (Mt Mulligan).

Since 2011 Ngarrabullgan has been a National Heritage listed site due to the extraordinary cultural values with archaeological surveys and radio-carbon dating techniques indicating that the site has been occupied by people for over 37,000 years.

At 18 kms in circumference and 400 metres high Mt Mulligan is larger than Uluru and as you drive closer this spectacular sandstone mountain range dominates the landscape.

The Mt Mulligan mine supplied coal for other mines and railways in the district such as the copper mine in Chillagoe. 100 years ago, at 9.25am on the 19th September 1921 a massive coal dust explosion killed all 75 miners who were working in the mine; one third of the community at the time. The event sparked a Royal Commission and relegated the name Mt Mulligan to history as the site of Queensland's worst mining disaster.



Mt Mulligan Historic Timeline

37,000BP

Radiocarbon dating of rock-art provides evidence of human occupation at Ngarraboolgan Cave for at least 37,000 years.

1848

Explorer Edmund Kennedy follows the Hodgkinson River downstream on what was ultimately his last and fateful journey.

1874

James Venture Mulligan led the first prospecting expedition to the south-east of the Palmer River. Originally known as "Mulligan's Mountain" it becomes Mount Mulligan after the famed explorer.

1876

Establishment of the Hodgkinson Gold Field and the township of Thorn borough.

1894

The rare-earth mineral Wolframite was discovered, and by 1900 over 100 miners working the field and living in the township of Wolfram. By 1909 wolfram was returning £41,820 compared to the value of gold production at £7,089.

19th September 1921

A massive coal-dust explosion occurs in the Mt Mulligan coal mine, killing all 75 miners who were underground at the time. It remains the worst mine disaster in Queensland's history today.

23rd Sept to 25 Nov 1921

A Royal Commission into the accident concludes that the explosion was "The cause of ignition was the firing of an explosive, either accidentally or otherwise, on the top of a large block of fallen machine-cut coal, such explosive not having been placed in a shot hole".

1957

The Mt Mulligan Mine closes. The mine plant was taken to Collinsville (273kms NW of Mackay) with many of the miners following.

Hodgkinson Gold Field

After the discovery of gold along the Hodgkinson River by James Venture Mulligan in 1876, miners from all over Queensland moved in, growing the local population from zero to thousands within a few years. There were approximately 300 mines which produced over 8,000kgs of gold, about a third of the gold yielded in the Palmer River.

At the height of the rush, over 20 townships were established prompting the development of the port of Cairns (closer to the action than Port Douglas). The completion of the railway from Cairns to Mareeba in 1893 further supported growth in the area.



Dimbulah

The Mt Mulligan Adventure Drive begins from Dimbulah. Located 100kms south-west of Cairns, Dimbulah was established near the Walsh River as a watering point for trains servicing the Hodgkinson Goldfields. Once the Tinaroo Dam and the Mareeba-Dimbulah irrigation projects were completed, the town became a thriving centre supporting large-scale agriculture and the expansion of the tobacco industry. Driving in this area you will pass farms growing a huge variety of crops including mangoes, avocados, citrus, and sugar cane.

Visitors can view the original railway station located in the park at the centre of the town or enjoy a picnic and a swim down on the famous Walsh River just out of town. The current Junction Hotel was built in 1956 at the height of the Tobacco industry. Enjoy a cold beer, country style accommodation and meet the locals. There is also a fantastic bakery or enjoy coffee at character filled Camp 64 Café also located on the main street.



Wolfram

The mine heritage site of Wolfram is 25kms west of Dimbulah. Travel west, crossing the Walsh River bridge and continuing on Wolfram Road for 18kms turning right onto the partly sealed Wolfram Camp Road for 7kms until you arrive at Main Street.

The mineral Wolfram (also known as Tungsten) was discovered in the area in 1891 attracting miners from neighbouring mine settlements such as Thornborough and the Palmer River gold fields.

Wolfram is the site of the Queensland heritage-listed Thermo-

Electric Ore Reduction Corporation Mill (1906 to 1918) a site that according to the heritage register, "demonstrates the evolution of rare mineral mining and processing practices in Queensland in the early 20th century".

Set in a beautiful mountain valley, visitors will find a memorial erected by the Mareeba Historical Society as well as a sign with images and the history of the old town. Walk along the road (which was the main street of Wolfram) and follow a trail of metal signs indicating where the hotels, church and general stores once stood.

Thornborough

Following the town's survey in 1878, Thornborough went on to become the region's administrative centre with a population of over 1,500 people by 1880 serviced by 22 hotels, 9 General Stores and even a newspaper, "The Hodgkinson Mining News". The Queenslander Newspaper, based in Brisbane reported on 26th May 1877 that "this is the most promising, rich and extensive goldfield ever opened in Queensland" and that total crushings to date were 500 tons of quartz which yielded 14,236 ounces of gold at an average value of 3 pounds, 6 shillings per ounce.

Thornborough Cemetery serviced the principal town on the Hodgkinson Goldfield. There is a historic sign marking the entrance to the township and cemetery. Take the time to walk through the heritage-listed cemetery which contains 23 standing and one fallen grave stone dating from 1879 to 1962. The monuments and general site are well preserved and are visited and maintained annually by volunteer members belonging to the Cairns 4WD Club since 1981.

These mine and township ruins are unmanaged and therefore people enter these sites at their own risk. Please stay on the public access road and do not cross over fences or pass through closed gates at any time. Closed in shoes must be worn at all times as there is old barbed wire, broken glass and metals on the ground. While you are welcome to get up close and take photos, please do not climb or walk onto any of the structures or these heritage-listed sites.