



# BRISBANE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL



## **THE BRISBANE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL**

The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (BVRT), or BVRT, is not just a trail; it's an off-road adventure trail that takes you on a journey through time and nature.

Following the disused Brisbane Valley railway line from Wulkuraka, west of Ipswich, to Yarraman, west of Kilcoy, the BVRT offers walkers, bike and horse riders a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the diverse rural landscapes of the Brisbane Valley. This landscape is not just a backdrop; it's a living canvas mixed with heritage-listed and historical sites while passing through some of Queensland's most unique country towns.

The BVRT, the longest rail trail in Australia at 161km, is designed with your safety and comfort as our top priority. Most of the trail has excellent compounded gravel grading, providing a relatively smooth run. While there might be the occasional rocky section, rest assured that the trail is well maintained and safe. The trail is most rewarding when travelling from Yarraman in the north towards Wulkuraka in the south, which gradually descends the Brisbane Valley. For those seeking a more challenging adventure, head north from Wulkuraka towards Yarraman.

The BVRT was originally the Brisbane Valley railway line, a branch line from the Brisbane – Toowoomba railway line designed to access timber resources from the Brisbane River Valley. The final section of the branch line ending at Yarraman was completed and opened in May 1913, running up until it was closed 76 years later in 1989. Removal of the rail line commenced in 1993, with the rail trail conversion starting with the opening of the Fernvale to Lowood section in 2003. The final section of the rail trail was opened in August 2018, officially opening the entire 161km rail trail.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is the state agency responsible for the day-to-day management and maintenance of the BVRT in conjunction with the Somerset, South Burnett, and Toowoomba Regional Councils, Ipswich City Council and the Ambassadors of the BVRT.

## **PLANNING YOUR ADVENTURE**

Visit the website [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/bvrt](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/bvrt) for more information on how to escape on a Queensland country adventure! Create a seamless adventure along the BVRT with businesses offering accommodation, food and drink, experiences, bike hire, shuttle services, events and tours.

There are several ways to get to the trail, including by car, train, bus, shuttle or tour provider. Once you have arrived at a destination along the trail, hikers

and bike riders can organise shuttle or tour services to pick you up and drop you off at various towns before, during or after your adventure. Utilising shuttle or tour services means you can travel one way rather than loop back to where you started.

## FREE CAR PARKING

All townships will have public parking spaces available, but please note the local government parking signs and regulations. Several parking locations have security cameras:

- Wulkuraka trailhead, 163 Grace Street Wulkuraka
- Borallon Station Road, 1.4km after turning off Brisbane Valley Highway
- Fernvale Visitor Centre, 1483 Brisbane Valley Highway, Fernvale.

## PAID CAR PARKING

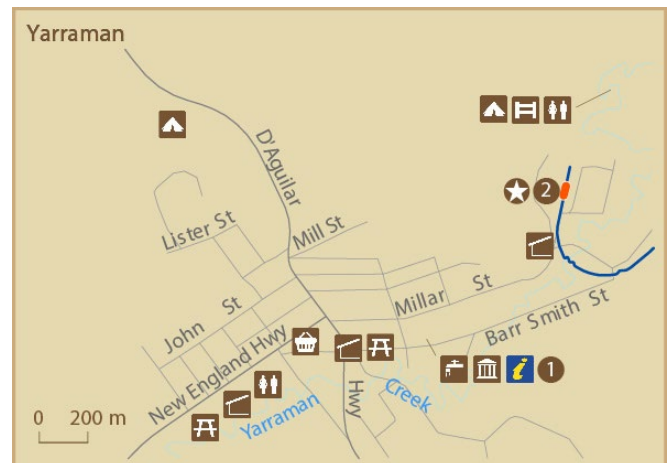
- Ipswich Railway Station.

## ARRIVE BY TRAIN

Queensland Rail currently permits bikes on trains. A train runs from Brisbane Central Station to Wulkuraka Station, near the trailhead at 163 Grace Street, Wulkuraka. Visit [www.translink.com.au](http://www.translink.com.au) to plan your journey.

## ARRIVE BY BUS

Shuttle services and tour operators are available if you need transportation for a bike. Otherwise, if you're hiking or hiring a bike along the trail, public bus services operate across South East Queensland and service the towns along the trail. Visit [www.translink.com.au](http://www.translink.com.au) to plan your journey.



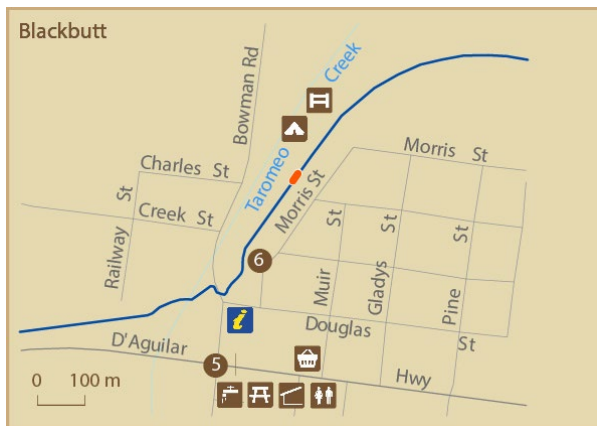
## Yarraman to Blackbutt (19KM)

For anyone looking for a more easy-going adventure on the BVRT, the best option is to begin in Yarraman and enjoy the downhill gradient down the Brisbane Valley, which gradually descends over 400m to Wulkuraka.

Yarraman boasts the picturesque Weir Park, where camping is available, and the old Yarraman Station Park, where you can park your vehicle, get a photo at the enormous trailhead arbour feature and admire the old fuel tanker and station master's house. Start your adventure with a visit to the Yarraman Heritage Museum, which houses the old railway station and many other

historical relics from the Brisbane Valley railway line.

The first leg of the BVRT is a relatively shaded section with a couple of fun, moderately difficult creek crossings along the way. You can find a shade shelter at the old Nukku station site, and a little over halfway, you will come across Harland Park, which conveniently provides camping, toilets, a shade shelter, and horse holding yards. There are no other amenities from here to Blackbutt.

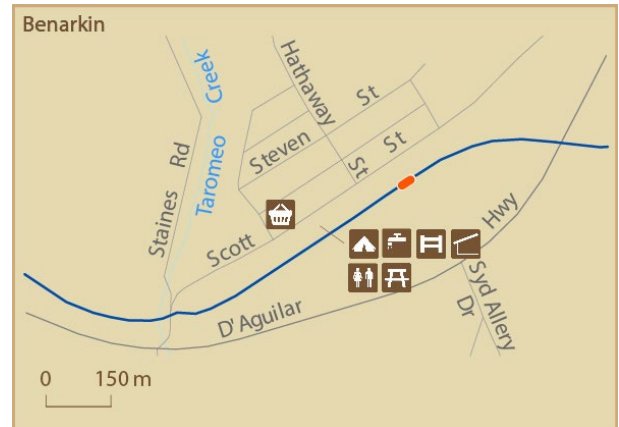


### Blackbutt to Benarkin (5km)

Blackbutt was the home of one of Australia's greatest tennis players, Roy Emerson, who was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1982. A museum at the station site has a fantastic bronze statue celebrating his accomplishments, along with a historic railway station and artefacts.

You will find amenities once you reach Benarkin, one of the more peaceful towns along the trail. First Settler's Park rest area provides a free overnight campsite with public toilets, barbecues, drinking water, horse

holding yards, picnic amenities, hot showers, and power facilities (for a small fee). The Benarkin area also boasts several other trails for those seeking additional adventures.

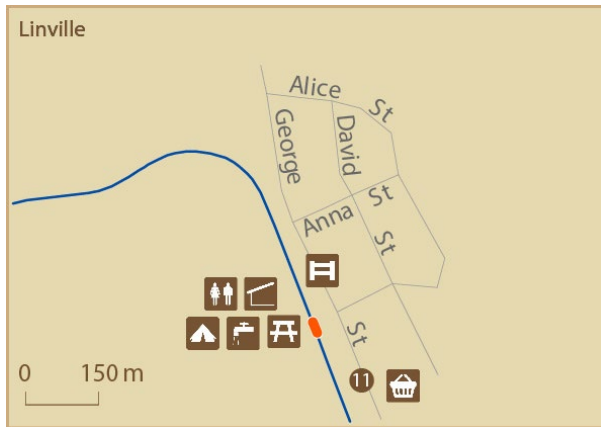


### Benarkin to Linville (17km)

This section is one of the most sensational on the trail. It has a gradual 300m descent from Benarkin to Linville, winding through the valley surrounded by the Bellbird-filled Benarkin State Forest. Along the way, you can find a shade shelter at the historic culvert and a rest stop at MacNamara's Camp, providing shade shelter and toilets for trail users. Please note that this section has multiple steep, concreted creek crossings that are challenging for some users and fun for others.

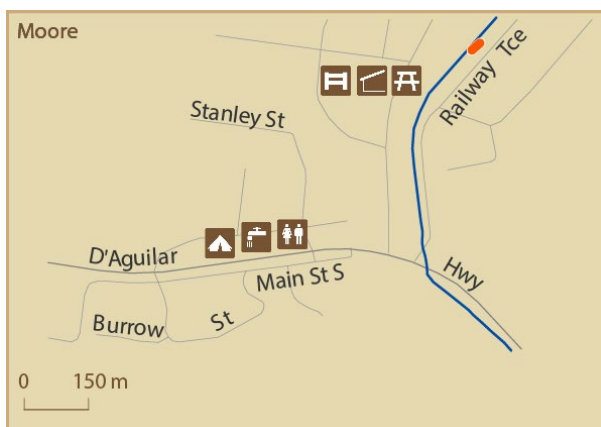
As you enter Linville, the Linville station precinct is one of the grand jewels of the trail experience. The precinct is home to the historic Linville Railway Station, which has artefacts inside, historic train carriages that once ran along the railway line, and a Memorial Park. You can't miss the

beautifully refurbished hotel in the town centre.



### Linville to Moore (7km)

After exploring the Linville station precinct, you set off towards Moore to experience breathtaking views over lush farming land and the scenic Brisbane River. You will find amenities once you reach the former Moore Railway Station site, which is available for overnight camping with facilities for horse riders, including horse holding yards. Stanley Gates Park in Moore is also an overnight rest area with toilet facilities and showers.



### Moore to Harlin (13km)

This section of the trail explodes with points of interest as you wind through creek crossings and pass through some higher scenic viewpoints. A unique old signal tower remains in its original position near Moore, where you'll find the heritage-listed Colinton War Memorial.

On your journey, you will see eleven historic bridges, some passing through farmland with farm animals hanging around, providing fantastic photo opportunities. Please note that this section has two challenging creek crossings with steep, concrete causeways and sharp turns. Halfway between Harlin and Moore in Nurinda, you will find a horse water trough and shade shelter, with no other amenities between towns.



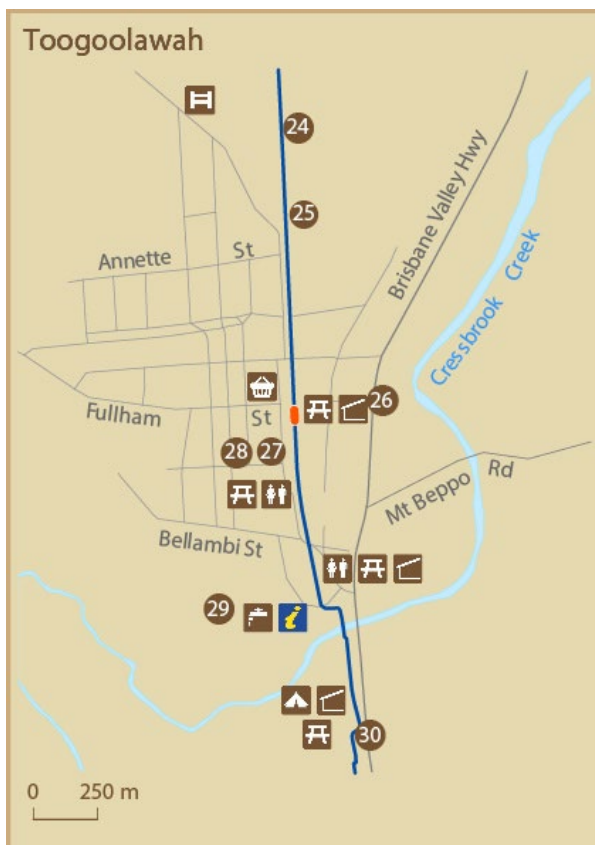
### Harlin to Toogoolawah (14km)

This section of the trail is home to the heritage-listed Yimbun Tunnel. It is the only railway tunnel along the BVRT and allows you to journey directly through the centre of a mountain.

If you have it to yourself, you can enjoy the dead silence from the middle of the dark tunnel.

Halfway between Toogoolawah and Harlin, the old Yimbun Station site has a horse water trough and shade shelter with no other amenities between towns.

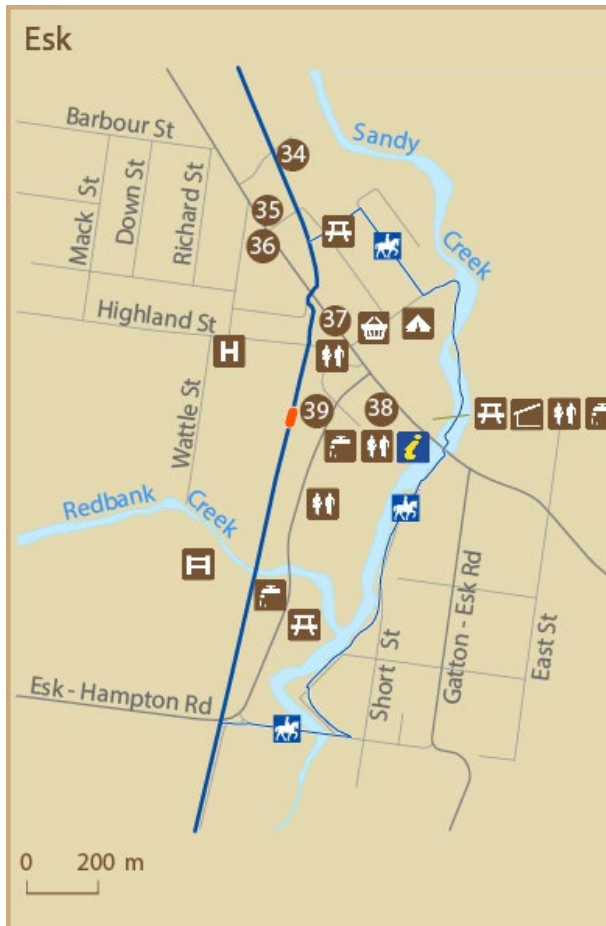
At the end of this section, Toogoolawah stands as the hidden gem along the BVRT with a quiet village that is rich in historic features. In Toogoolawah, you can't miss the station history museum, the unique St Andrews Anglican Church, the old Alexandra Hall building, which is an old-style picture theatre with a built-in glass ticket booth on the front, and The Condensery Art Gallery, formerly home to the Nestlé Condensed Milk Factory packing facility.



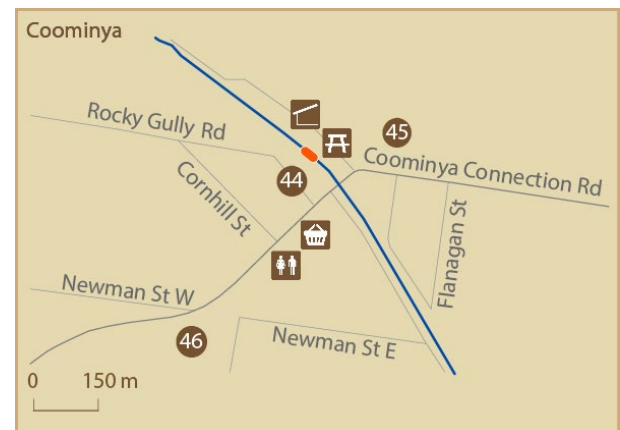
## Toogoolawah to Esk (19km)

Along this section of the trail, you will pass another five historic bridges. First, you will pass the beautifully restored Coal Creek Railway Bridge, which enables easy passing over the bridge or a more adventurous rough ride under and through the creek. Then, you will pass a historic bridge perfect for your Instagram with a backshot of farmland and a rolling hillside.

For most of the journey, you will enjoy fresh, open farmland air before entering Esk. Esk is the largest town you'll pass through on your trip, with many historical sites. Don't miss St Mel's Church, historic Lars Anderson's house, the old Trading Post and the stunning old brick Esk Dairy. You can find horse water troughs and shade shelters at Coal Creek Bridge and Morden Road (south of Toogoolawah), which are without other amenities between towns.



remains in superb condition and contains a ganger shed, two old signal towers, and a collection of murals. Coominya is home to the beautifully maintained train station, charming old St Francis Xavier Church, and the heritage-listed Bellevue Homestead. Horse water troughs and shade shelters are available along this journey at Cooragook and Sandy Creek Bridges, but no other amenities exist between towns.



### Esk to Coominya (24km)

This section provides various landscapes as you meander past farms that adjoin the trail's edges and areas that feel like a rainforest. In Esk, take in the beauty of Pipeliner Park with the towering Glen Rock in the background. The park is home to the historic railway station.

From Esk, the trail shows many more signs of the railway line of yesteryear. You will pass five historic bridges, all offering a different experience, with some to go under, around or some to stop for that perfect photo opportunity.

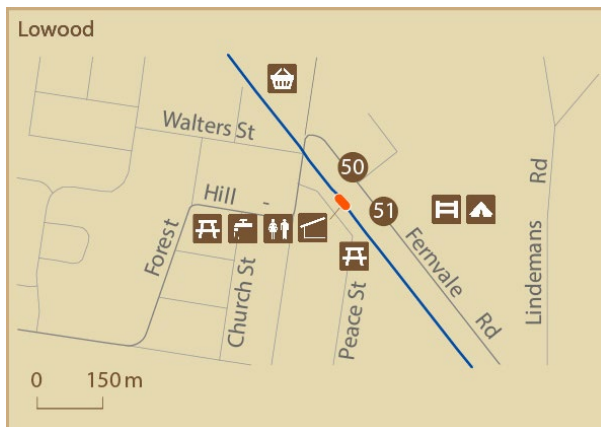
Once you reach Coominya, the Coominya Railway Station area

### Coominya to Lowood (12km)

Your journey along this section begins in beautiful open farming landscapes before you soon pass over the heritage-listed Lockyer Creek Railway Bridge. Make sure you stop to take in the sheer size of this wooden railway structure. You will pass through the beautiful native gardens that continue to be lovingly cultivated by the local community before reaching Lowood.

Lowood, known initially as The Scrub or Cairn Hill, is situated near the banks of the Brisbane River that flows down from Wivenhoe Dam. The railway station was named Lowood after the area's low woods of Brigalow scrub.

There are no amenities between towns.



### Lowwood to Fernvale (8km)

This section is a lovely, short, flat run that has the convenience of the main town of Fernvale. Along this journey, you can see amazing scenic views of the Brisbane River and take in the incredible mountainous backdrop where the historic Lowwood station train tracks still exist today.

In Fernvale, you can visit the Fernvale murals and the Fernvale Railway Station, the first attended station on the Brisbane Valley branch line. Fernvale was a business centre that included stores and cotton gins, a post office, a hotel and a school (established in 1874). The site is now the location of the Fernvale Futures Visitors Centre. There are no amenities between towns.



### Fernvale to Wulkuraka (23km)

Along this route, you will find remnants of the old Fairney View bridge, an outhouse and the historic station sites of Muirlea, Pine Mountain, Borallon, Wanora and Fairney View. Diamantina Boulevard provides the only opportunity for water between towns. Fairney View provides a shade shelter, and Borallon has a parking area with a security camera and shade shelter. Borallon is suitable for horse riders wishing to start their journey, as it has ample parking, a horse water trough, and horse hitching rails.

Trail users can start or finish the BVRT at the Wulkuraka trailhead, which has a perfect photo opportunity at the unique arbour structure and provides car parking with a security camera, water, toilets, picnic tables and information boards. You can park at Wulkuraka, take a shuttle service north to your desired starting point, and enjoy the downhill gradient south, finishing back where you started. If you prefer a challenge, head north from Wulkuraka.



Start or end your trip in Ipswich's beautiful historic town, experience its thriving culinary and coffee scene, and visit The Workshops Rail Museum for an award-winning experience. The Workshops Rail Museum carpark connects to the Brassall Bikeway network via a mostly cemented path that leads directly to the BVRT Wulkuraka Trailhead.



## FOR YOUR SAFETY AND COMFORT

- Cyclists and horse riders should dismount at major road and creek crossings
- Cyclists and horse riders must wear an approved helmet and ride in control
- Observe all signs and local regulations
- Be prepared for changes in weather and trail conditions
- Carry drinking water and light snacks. Water along the trail is limited
- Maintain your equipment and carry repair and first-aid kits in case of emergency

- Beware of swooping magpies in springtime. Where possible, don't travel by yourself and carry a mobile phone.

## EMERGENCY

Safety markers are located every kilometre along the BVRT. In the event of an emergency, call 000 or 112 (from mobile services) and quote the marker location ID found on the safety marker (for example, BVRT-023).

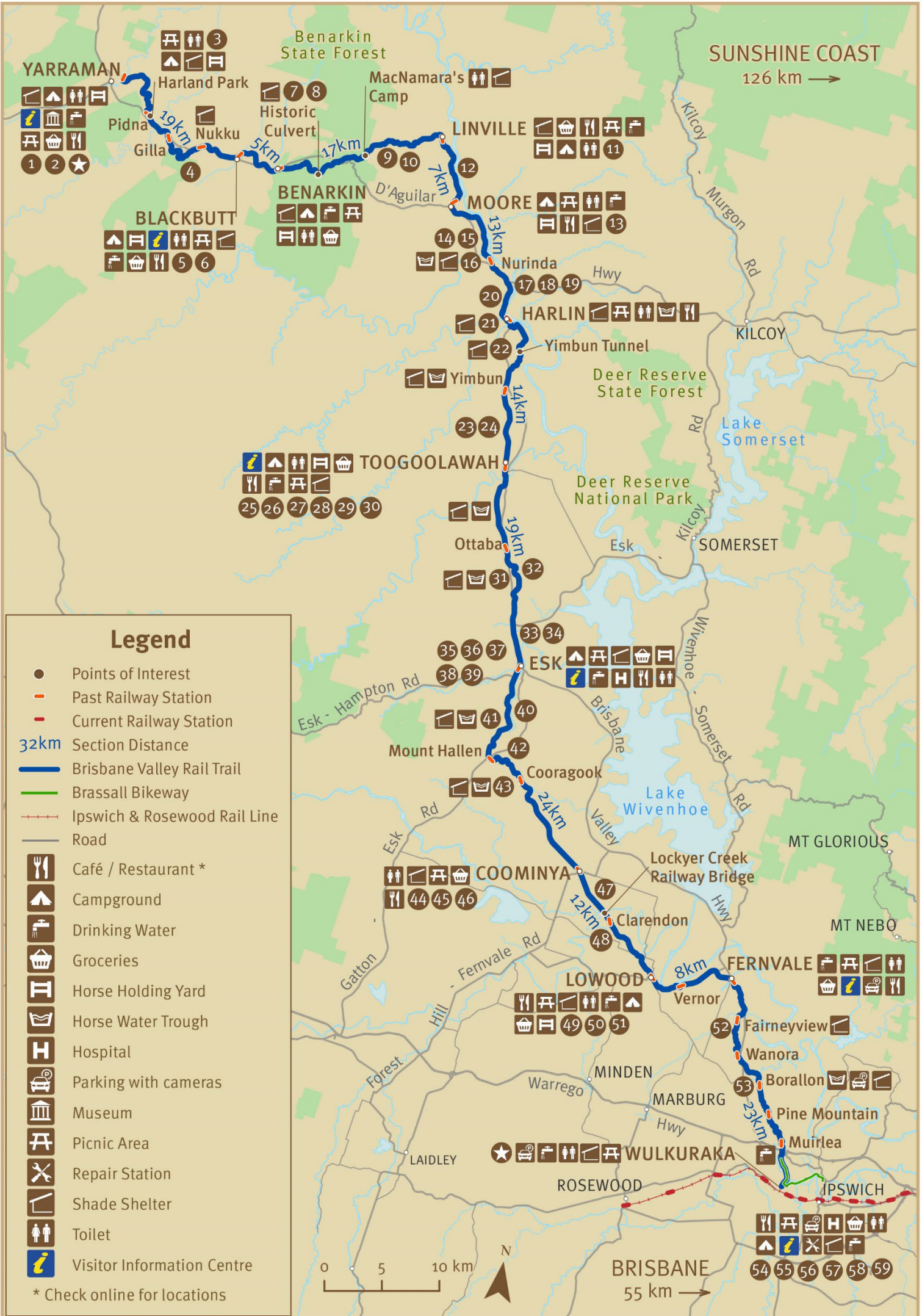
## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Yarraman Visitor Information Centre – (07) 4163 8111
- Blackbutt Visitor Information Centre – (07) 4163 0633
- Esk Visitor Information Centre – (07) 5424 2923
- Fernvale Futures Visitor Information Centre – (07) 5427 0200
- For advice on trail conditions, or to report any issues along the trail, please contact the BVRT ranger on 0467 729 409 or [bvrt@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:bvrt@tmr.qld.gov.au)
- Visit [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/bvrt](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/bvrt) for more information and interactive maps. Or scan our QR code:



## Points of Interest

- 1 Yarraman Heritage Museum
- 2 Historic Qld Railways Fuel Tank Wagon
- 3 Cooyar Creek Crossing
- 4 Watercourse Crossing
- 5 War Memorial Digger
- 6 Roy Emerson Museum
- 7 Fettlers Rest
- 8 Historic Culvert
- 9 Scenic Viewpoint Brisbane Valley
- 10 Magazine Hut
- 11 Linville Station Precinct
- 12 Scenic Viewpoint Brisbane River
- 13 Sandy Creek Crossing
- 14 Farmland Railway Bridge #1
- 15 Farmland Railway Bridge #2
- 16 Emu Creek Crossing
- 17 Nurinda Underpass Murals
- 18 Historic Railway Bridge
- 19 Historic Railway Bridge
- 20 Jimmy Gully Railway Bridge
- 21 Scenic Viewpoint Brisbane River
- 22 Heritage-listed Yimbun Tunnel
- 23 Historic Railway Bridge
- 24 Historic Signal Tower
- 25 Historic Railway Bridge
- 26 Toogoolawah Railway Station and Museum
- 27 Alexandra Hall Picture Theatre
- 28 Heritage-listed St Andrew's Anglican Church
- 29 The Condensery Art Gallery
- 30 Camp Creek Railway Bridge
- 31 Coal Creek Railway Bridge
- 32 Burnays Gully Railway Bridge
- 33 Scenic Viewpoint Mount Glen Rock
- 34 Historic Esk Dairy
- 35 Historic Hotel
- 36 Historic Lars Anderson House
- 37 Old Metropole Hotel
- 38 St Mel's Catholic Church
- 39 Esk Railway Station
- 40 Black Snake Gully Railway Bridge
- 41 Sandy Creek Railway Bridge
- 42 Scenic Viewpoint Farmland
- 43 Cooragook Railway Bridge
- 44 Coominya Railway Station
- 45 Heritage-listed Bellevue Homestead
- 46 St Francis Xavier Church
- 47 Scenic Viewpoint Open Farmland
- 48 Heritage-listed Lockyer Creek Railway Bridge
- 49 Lowood Beautification Project
- 50 Lowood Railway Station
- 51 Scenic Viewpoint Old Railway Tracks
- 52 Fairney View Creek Crossing
- 53 Old Outhouse
- 54 The Workshops Rail Museum
- 55 Heritage-listed St Mary's Church Precinct
- 56 Heritage-listed Old Flour Mill
- 57 Heritage-listed Soldiers' Memorial Hall
- 58 Bob Gamble Water Park
- 59 Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator
- ★ Unique Trailhead Arbour



### Legend

- Points of Interest
- Past Railway Station
- Current Railway Station
- 32km Section Distance
- Brisbane Valley Rail Trail
- Brassall Bikeway
- Ipswich & Rosewood Rail Line
- Road
- ☺ Café / Restaurant \*
- 🏠 Campground
- 🚰 Drinking Water
- 🛒 Groceries
- 🐎 Horse Holding Yard
- 🚰 Horse Water Trough
- H Hospital
- 📷 Parking with cameras
- 🏛️ Museum
- 🏠 Picnic Area
- 🔧 Repair Station
- ☑️ Shade Shelter
- 🚻 Toilet
- ℹ️ Visitor Information Centre

\* Check online for locations



SUNSHINE COAST  
126 km →

BRISBANE  
55 km →