

# Discover Heyfield

The Heart of Gippsland

## Discover Heyfield

A township of Wellington Shire



Family Friendly



Explore our Wetlands



Great Facilities



WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL  
The Heart of Gippsland

a fascinating journey

Experience

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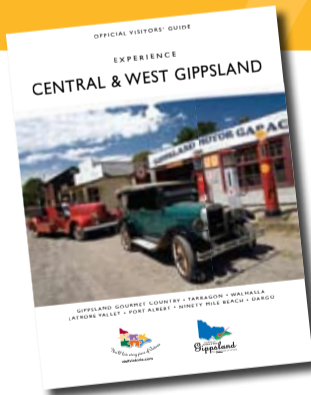
The Heart of Gippsland



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The Wellington Shire is full of things to see and do and great places to stay. From cosy seaside B&Bs, Motels and family accommodation through to Camping and Caravan parks.

Wellington is a great place to base your holiday in Gippsland.

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[www.tourismwellington.com.au](http://www.tourismwellington.com.au)

and discover Wellington

"The Heart of Gippsland"

Cover: Heyfield Wetlands



### ACTIVITIES

#### WETLANDS VISITOR CENTRE

Take a picturesque walk around the wetlands and discover more about Heyfield at the Wetlands Information Centre. Once the site of the Heyfield racecourse, the Wetlands are now home to a number of different species of bird and animal life. The Wetlands Information Centre is the home of the Neville-Smith Timber Industry display and has a wide range of souvenirs. Walking track distance: Approximately 800m Time: Approx 25 minutes. Description: Easy - the track is gravel. For more information contact the centre on Ph: 03 5148 3404, 10am - 3pm weekdays and 10am - 4pm weekends.

#### HEYFIELD GOLF CLUB

The Heyfield Golf Club is situated in a natural bush setting boasting 18 well manicured grass greens and is situated 2km from the Heyfield Township. The course is playable all year and is undulating, has no bunkers, all who play it - 18 Holes, 5924 metres, Par 72. Clubs, buggies are available. Golf Links Road, Clubhouse Ph: 03 5148 2517

#### GLENMAGGIE DAM

Lake Glenmaggie is located on the Macalister River and harvests water for the Macalister Irrigation District. Glenmaggie dam, which creates the lake, is a mass concrete overflow dam with irrigation outlets on both sides of the river serving irrigation channels. The central portion is an overflow spillway.

#### WEIR WALL RECREATION FACILITIES

Lake Glenmaggie is one of the most popular inland boating venues east of Melbourne, with power boats and yachts utilising the Lake. It is also a popular fishing spot for trout, redfin and bass. Caravan and camping facilities are available at the Lake Glenmaggie Caravan Park. For the casual visitor a pleasant picnic spot, recreation area and information facility is located near the dam wall, where the cascading overflow from the lake provides a spectacular sight, particularly between September and November.

#### ALPINE NATIONAL PARK

There are a variety of things to do such as camping, fishing, 4WD, horse riding and bush walking along the many designated walking tracks. Tall Kang is a hiking destination with a beautiful land locked lake. More information on [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

### WEIR WALL POWER GENERATION

Pacific Hydro operates a small generation station at Lake Glenmaggie with twin turbines giving a total capacity of 3.2 megawatts which supply power to the state network. These are driven by releases to the Macalister River and Southern Channel and provide an environmentally friendly source of power generation. The intake and off-take pipes into and out of the turbine house are clearly visible from the dam wall recreational area.

#### GLENMAGGIE YACHT CLUB

Operating from Coongulla on the eastern shore of Lake Glenmaggie, the Club has a small but enthusiastic membership involved in about sixty sailing and social activities each year. The sailing season extends from the end of October until Easter each year (water level permitting), with the busiest period between Christmas and mid-January.

#### COWWARR ART GALLERY

Cowwarr Art Space is an independent multi-arts venue. The large two story Federation Arts & Craft Pise constructed Butter Factory built in 1918 is listed with the National Trust and Heritage Victoria. It has been extensively renovated and converted to accommodate an exhibition space, visiting artists residential studios, a coffee bar and a family residence. The extensive parks like grounds contain the Can Inc. Pottery Studio and the Australian Marble Sculpture Studio.

#### ROBOTIC DAIRY AT WINNINDOO

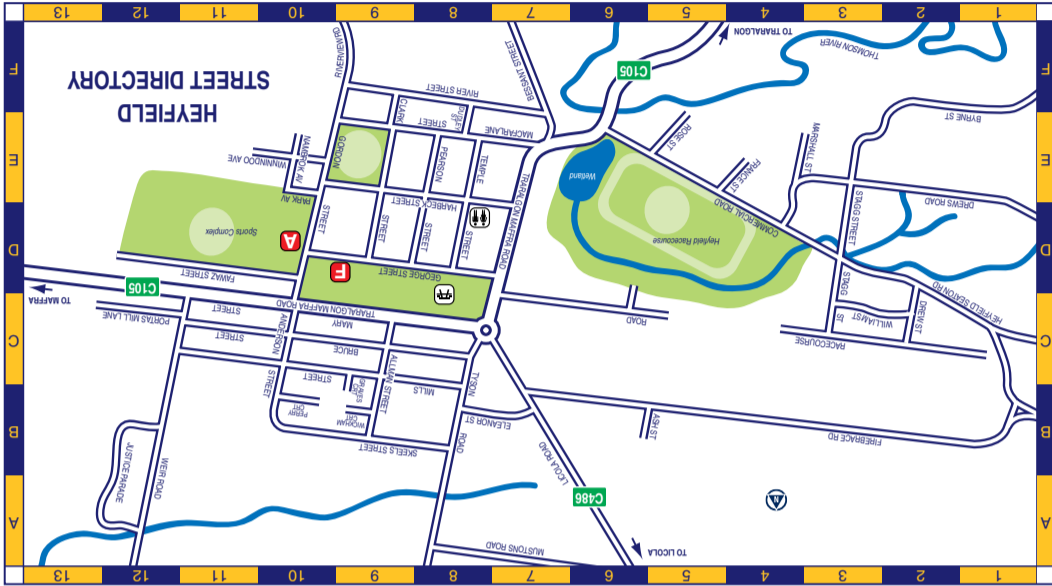
Situated in the Macalister Irrigation District, this is the first Australian dairy farm to install 4 'Astronaut Milking Robots'. The beauty of this system is that the cows decide for themselves when to be milked, rather than rounding them up twice a day. For more information and tour times contact Ph: 61 3 5199 2212

#### GIPPSLAND HISTORICAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB INC. NORTH GIPPSLAND BRANCH, (HEYFIELD)

G.H.A.C. was founded in 1968 to cater for a handful of enthusiasts of historic motor vehicles, tractors, motor cycles, and stationary engines. Nth Gippsland Branch was formed in 1982, to mainly cater for stationary engine enthusiasts, and has now progressed to a vintage machinery club which includes Stationary Engines, Vintage Vehicles, Tractors & Garden Tractors, etc.

#### LAKE SIDE ANTIQUE MACHINERY MUSEUM

Is the culmination of years of hard work and collection by Glenmaggie's Coleman family. The collection included steam engines, combustion engines, chainsaws, dragaws, tractors and other farm machinery engines, all in working condition. Other highlights among the collection include: a 1907 Ruston and Hornsby combustion motor used at a shearing plant near Longford; an 1880 Tangye steam engine used to drive a stamper in a New South Wales gold mine; a 1908 International Harvester engine which undertook farm chores in Lake Windere; and a circa 1800's Hindley steam engine used to drive machinery in the Pamblula Butter Factory.



### THINGS TO DO IN AND AROUND HEYFIELD

- Bird watching at the wetlands
- Visit the timber industry display at the Wetlands Information Centre
- Trout fishing
- Fly fishing
- Water skiing
- Heyfield Historical Museum
- Horse riding
- Trail bike riding
- 4Wheel driving
- Bush walking
- Cowwarr Art Space
- Lakeside Antique Machinery Museum
- Robotic Dairy – bookings necessary



### FOOD AND DRINK IN AND AROUND HEYFIELD

- Heyfield Bakery
- Railway Hotel, Heyfield
- Commercial Hotel, Heyfield
- Pizza Shop, Heyfield
- Busy B's, Heyfield
- Corner Store, Heyfield
- Wallaby Rise, Glenmaggie
- Yellow Tail Black Cockatoo Restaurant
- Tinamba Tavern Restaurant & Function Oasis
- Cowwarr Country Inn and B&B

### PLACES TO STAY IN AND AROUND HEYFIELD

- Broadbents Motel, Heyfield
- Commercial Hotel, Heyfield
- Tinamba Tavern B&B, Tinamba
- Cricket Club Hotel, Cowwarr
- Abington Farm, Heyfield
- Lake View B&B, Glenmaggie
- Macalister Lodge, Coongulla
- Karingal Holiday Cottage, Glenmaggie
- Wallaby Rise Camping park and bunkhouses, Glenmaggie
- Blores Hill Caravan park and bunkhouses, Glenmaggie
- Munjara Outdoor Centre, Glenmaggie
- Lake Glenmaggie Caravan Parks
- Paradise Valley Camping Park
- Montana Caravan Park
- Licola Wilderness Village
- Licola General Store and Caravan Park
- Parks Victoria – Tamboritha Rd – camping sites

Discover **Heyfield****ABOUT HEYFIELD**

In 1841 James McFarlane selected a pastoral run in the area. He named the district 'Hayfield' after recording that it looked "like a field of waving corn". A settlement was developed when prospectors, headed for the goldfields, began to stop there. The first town blocks were auctioned in 1860.

In 1866, McFarlane's property was taken over by wealthy pastoralist and one-time member of the Queensland Legislative Council, James Tyson. Tyson was dissatisfied when he was refused compensation for a bridge, built across the Thomson River in 1878, which encroached upon his land. As a result, he erected a barrier at one end of the structure. A group of infuriated locals, led by a burly African American named 'Freeman', fought 'Hungry' Tyson's men and destroyed the gate. The "Battle of Heyfield Bridge", as it became known, was followed by free beer at an old bark pub and became the source of the folk song "Hold the Bridge". Mary Grant Bruce started writing the "Billabong Books" series while staying at James Tysons house.

Today, Heyfield relies upon tourism, dairy and timber industries for its prosperity. It is the principal source of hardwood in Victoria and is home to Neville Smith Timber Industries, the largest timber mill in the Southern Hemisphere.

The district's farming irrigation water is taken from Lake Glenmaggie where you can boat, swim, sail, water-ski or fish for trout. It is only a few minutes drive to the north. Poet John Shaw Neilson helped to build the weir in the 1920's and composed several poems while in the area.



Heyfield's affiliation with water has led to the construction of The Heyfield Wetlands Project. In 1992 a development plan was produced with the concept of creating artificial lakes and ponds to treat stormwater runoff from the urban township and surrounding rural areas prior to it entering the Thomson River, as well as endeavoring to reinstate the natural floodplain, restore native flora and fauna, provide active and passive recreational facilities and to beautify and enhance the entrance to the town.

The wetlands take up an area of approximately 28 hectares of Crown land within the Heyfield Racecourse Reserve, just west of the township. The site of the wetlands, a naturally low lying area with seasonal wetting and drying cycles, forms part of the Thomson River floodplain. Over the years the floodplain area has been partially drained and used for a variety of different purposes including grazing, horse racing, cricket, football and as a rifle range.

The wetlands filter both agricultural and urban stormwater runoff from the township of Heyfield removing nutrients, sediments and toxins from the water before it enters the Thomson River.

In early 2002, the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club identified a number of native water plants that have re-established and 26 species of birds were observed and identified. Common species include Black Swans, Black Ducks, Grey Teals, Mountain Ducks, Wood Ducks, Water Coots, Reed Warblers, Ibis, Cormorants, Plovers, Swallows, Kited, White and Blue Herons, Spoonbills, Blue Cranes, Magpies and Parrots. Tortoises and fresh water crayfish have also been observed in the wetlands.

The Heyfield Wetlands Centre incorporates; a visitor information centre, wetlands interpretive centre and a timber industry interpretive centre is used to educate visitors about the functions of wetlands ecosystems and biodiversity.

## The Gippsland Plains Country Road - A Scenic Drive

**Traralgon**

With a population of about 70,000, the beautiful and highly productive Latrobe Valley is the Western gateway to the Gippsland Plains Country Road. Only 70 minutes from the outskirts of Melbourne, this area is surprising in its diversity and substance.

**Glengarry**

The village of Glengarry was an outlet for the timber industry and following the clearing of trees became pastoral district. Glengarry invites the visitor to share in their country hospitality with art & craft, wine & antiques, cosy B&B's, picnic tables, playground and BBQ's.

**Toongabbie**

A historic township in a classic rural landscape, Toongabbie has a strong association to the Walhalla Goldfields. Like many other Gippsland settlements, Toongabbie once supplied food, timber and explosives to the goldmining towns of Gippsland. Interpretive signs tell the story of days gone by. The township features some restored heritage buildings and a golf course.

**Cowwarr**

Cowwarr experienced its heyday during the Gold Rush days and was part of the "Heyfield" pastoral run. Several historic buildings remain including the 1880 Cricket Club Hotel and the 1918 Butter Factory, which is now a gallery for contemporary visual art. Cowwarr Weir was built on the Thomson River in 1958 to control the flow and as a means of minimising erosion. Today the water can be directed into the irrigation system as well as being used for recreation purposes.

**Heyfield**

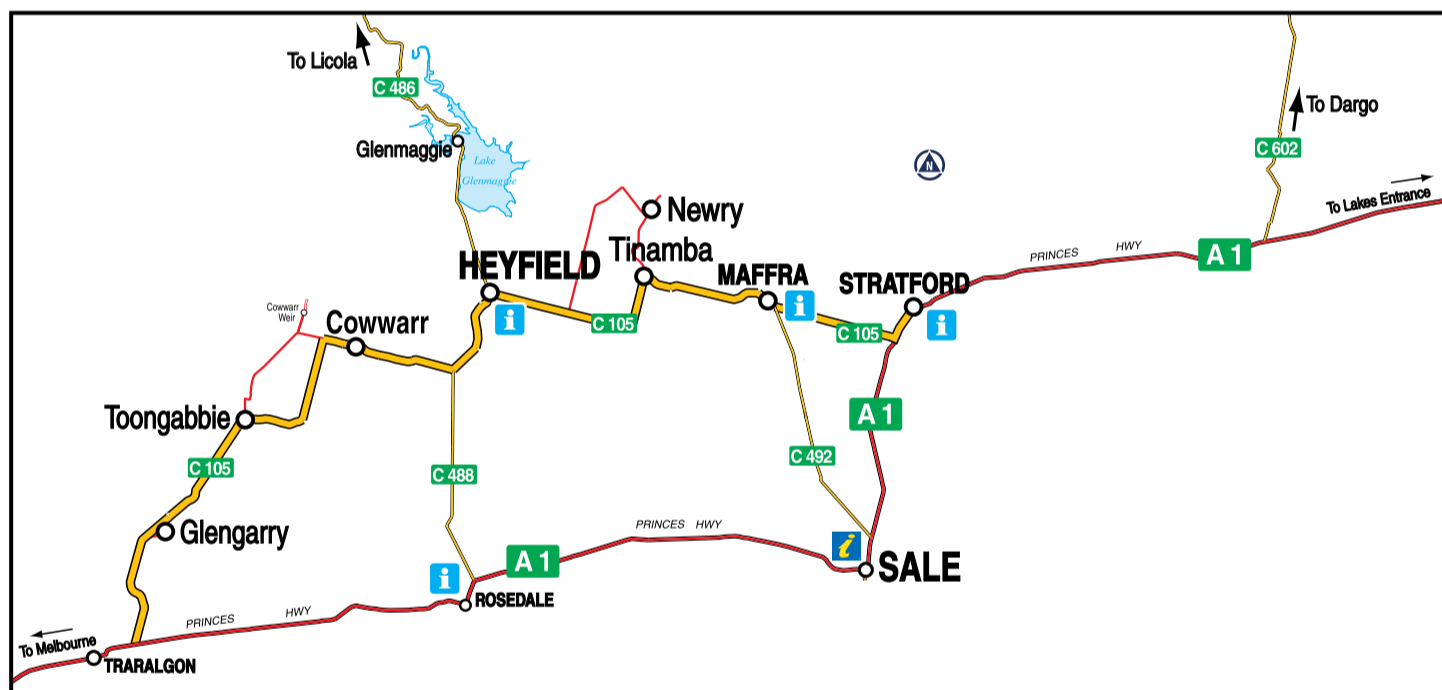
Heyfield is the gateway to the Alpine National Park and home to the largest hardwood sawmill in the Southern Hemisphere. The town is a base for those visitors enjoying the camping, boating, fishing and water sport activities at Lake Glenmaggie. Heyfield & Glenmaggie have many B&B's and camping parks, totalling 16 in all. Devonshire teas are available at various venues, with Heyfield providing all the major services to this area.

**Glenmaggie / Coongulla**

These small townships are adjacent to Lake Glenmaggie, a major water storage dam for the Macalister Irrigation District. Under the broad expanse of water lie the remains of the original township of Glenmaggie and the farms that occupied the shallow valley. Lake Glenmaggie today is an ideal location for anyone interested in water sports, including fishing, water skiing and power boating. Several caravan and camping parks offer a choice of settings on or near the lake's edge. The Weir Wall area provides a pleasant picnic area with information centre and gives the visitor an opportunity to view the spillway area.

**Rosedale**

The township of Rosedale, on the Princess Highway, acts as an alternate entry/exit to the Gippsland Plains Country Road. As a 'true' gateway to the mountains or coastal areas, Rosedale was once a staging post on the Port Albert to Sale coach run, and is home to 'Patrobas', Gippsland's only Melbourne Cup winner (1915). Rosedale was originally named Blind Joes Hut after what was thought to be the earliest European inhabitant in the district, a man named Blind Joe, who lived in a hut on the Latrobe River. The town is now a residential lifestyle alternative to Traralgon and Sale and services the busy Princess Highway motorist.

**Tinamba**

Tinamba is widely renowned for the Tinamba Tavern, past winner of the Australian Hotels State Award for Excellence and the Best Country Pub Award. The township was not a government-surveyed town, it became established because of need and it was in a good position for early settlers to form a market for all kinds of farm produce.

**Newry**

The township of Newry was first established in 1868 and grew to be the centre of one of the most fertile farming areas in the district. Dairy farms were established and a branch of the Melbourne Fresh Food and Storage Company in 1877. The town is served by churches, a well-known hotel, shop and post office. Today Newry serves as a dormitory village for district workers and retirees. The Newry Golf Club, established in 1948, and the Newry Motorcross Track are well known Gippsland features.

**Maffra**

The township of Maffra, with a population of about 4500, is the largest on the Gippsland Plains Country Road. The road complements the now abandoned Gippsland Plains Railway, which linked Traralgon with Stratford, and was the major route that transported farm produce throughout the region. Endeavours are being made to construct this disused Railway line into a major walking track linking the Latrobe Valley to East Gippsland called 'the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail'.

**Briagolong / Boisdale**

Briagolong provides easy access to the Gippsland High Country, the Freestone Creek Gorge, the Quarry Reserve and Blue Pool swimming spots. The town was established after the 1868 fires burnt out the gold mining settlements of Fellows and Gladstone. The town's historical walk is marked by signs indicating buildings of interest such as the 1874 Mechanics Institute, the 1880 Briagolong Hotel and 1873 Primary School. The neighbouring town of Boisdale, once home to Angus McMillan a pioneer of Gippsland, is now a small service town for local dairy farmers and the developing vegetable growing industry.

**Dargo**

Located in the foothills of the High Plains is one of Victoria's most remote communities. Known for its century old walnut groves. Dargo now supplies Victoria with about 10 per cent of its walnuts. A haven for four wheel driving, canoeing, fishing and gold panning, Dargo caters well for these popular activities with a general store, caravan parks, B&B's and the famous Dargo Pub.

**Stratford**

The village of Stratford has emerged as one of Gippsland's gems. Situated on the Eastern entry to the Gippsland Country Road, this vibrant trendy town has established a niche in Country Victoria for an excellent offering of specialty shops. The region was first settled by Gippsland's first great explorer, Angus McMillan, who named the Avon River after a body of water in his native Scotland. Stratford prospered in the 1860's as a supply centre for diggers at the Omeo and Dargo goldfields. Early buildings, which are still standing, include what is now the R.S.L. Hall (built 1866), the Church of Holy Trinity (1868), the Methodist Church, including its bell tower (1873), and the Post Office (1884).

**Licola**

Licola is a charming village beside the Macalister River. It is owned entirely by the Lions Club of Victoria, making it the only privately owned township in Victoria. The Lions Club have developed the Lions Wilderness Village, which provides accommodation and constructive activities for young people (especially school groups), special needs groups and disadvantaged children. Licola is commonly used as the starting point for exploration to some of Gippsland's most spectacular High Country. It has a general store, a camping ground and swimming hole.

