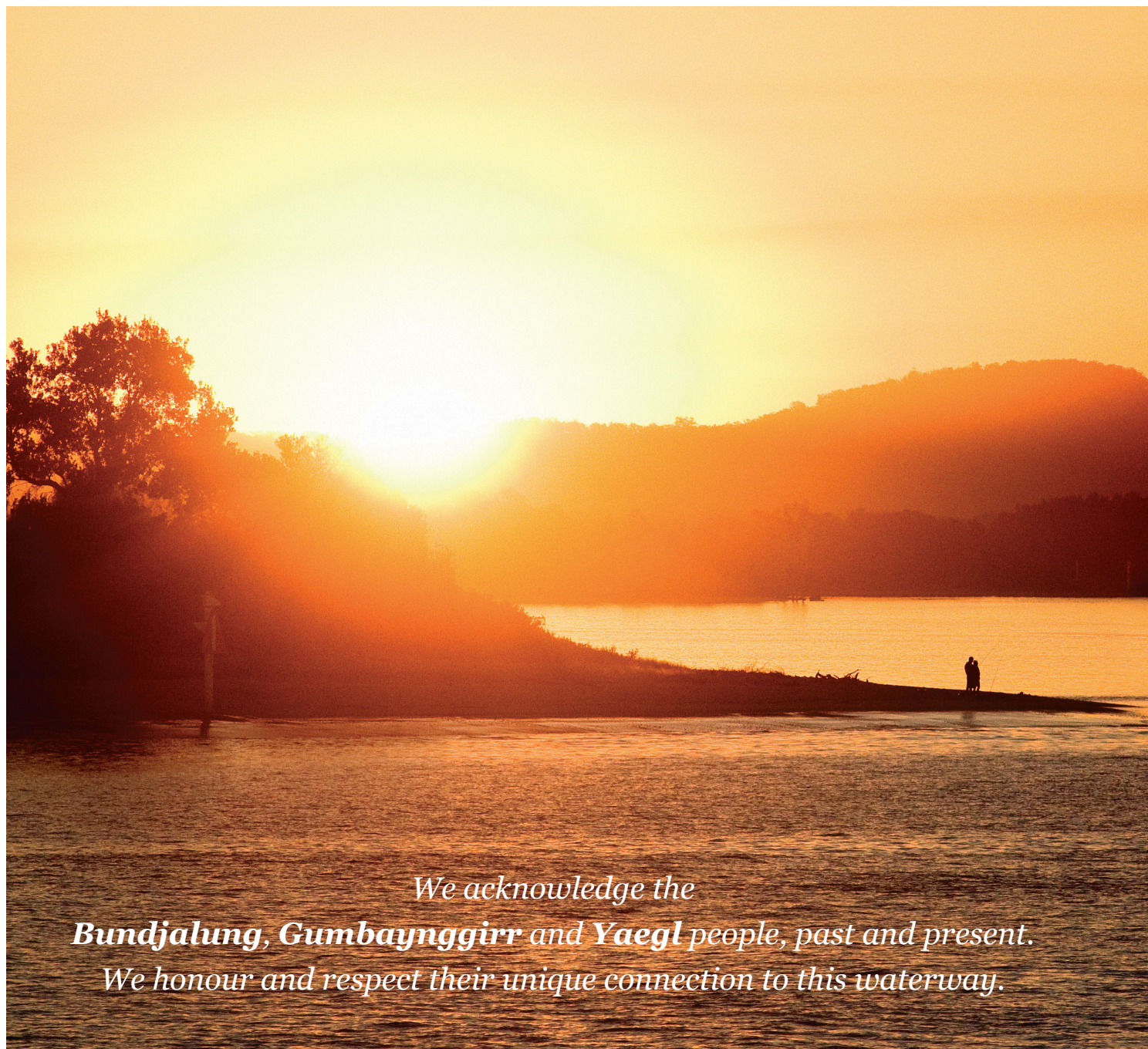


CLARENCE CRUISING

A MARINERS' GUIDE TO THE CLARENCE RIVER





*We acknowledge the
Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl people, past and present.
We honour and respect their unique connection to this waterway.*

CREATION

How this epic river came to be.

The Dreamtime creation story of the Clarence River has many nuances and variations, but here's a simple version of events.

Dirrangun lived at the foothills of the mountains. This old woman had great power, but wasn't exactly known for her generosity. Every day, she would go up the mountain to the special waterhole that only she knew of, to quench her thirst.

One day, while not feeling well, she asked a strapping young bloke – a bulagaan – to pop up the mountain and fetch her water for her, warning him, “don't drink my water, and don't tell a soul where it is.”

When the bulagaan reached the waterhole, he saw that Dirrangun had built a rock wall, stopping the water from flowing down the mountain as it should have, thus depriving everyone of the water they deserved.

Being a fair-minded bulagaan, he decided to clear the rocks away, and the water started rushing down the mountain.

Dirrangun heard the water flowing and sprung into action, desperately trying to stop the water's flow. She created mountains and landmarks and put them in the water's path, but the river had gained too much momentum and strength, so it simply went around, or over, whatever she placed in its way.

So, all the landmarks and features the mighty Clarence weaves around and through – The Gorge, Susan Island, Elizabeth Island, The Pinnacles at Maclean, and so on – they were all created by Dirrangun.

And even when the river reached the coast, Dirrangun was still fighting: she turned herself to stone, but the river just went over her and emptied out to the sea. The last thing she did was curse the river, turning it to salt water, so no one else could drink it.

Dirrangun certainly wasn't one for sharing!

*Sincere thanks to legendary Yaegl Elder, **Uncle Ron** Heron for giving this iteration of the story his tick of approval.

Since long before the Pyramids were built, people have been living in harmony with the Clarence River.

AHOY!

CASTING OFF

What you'll find inside this guide.

First things first! This guide does not provide visiting mariners with detailed navigation of the Clarence River, and we highly recommend you get your hands on the appropriate electronic charts, or Chart No. 222 of the Clarence River and Approaches, for accurate depths of the river system.

This guide is a more expansive affair – combining practical information on marinas, jetties, pontoons, provisioning, hazards, bridges and the like – with some general recommendations about places you may wish to step ashore and explore, as you make your way up this glorious river.

We'll resist the temptation to bang on about how epic the Clarence River is, and what it has to offer, because it's this guide's job to facilitate that discovery for yourself. Simply put, the broad waters of the lower river are ideal for sailing, boating or fishing, and the upper reaches and the many tributaries offer excellent canoeing, kayaking and fishing opportunities.

Unsurprisingly, the river is a focal point for a number of annual river-based festivals and events – so it's always a good idea to check in with NSW Maritime at maritime.nsw.gov.au, or call 02 66461852 to ascertain restrictions during these times.

And for further information on activities, accommodation and events in the Clarence, call 02 6643 0800 or visit myclarencevalley.com – the messaging / enquiry function on that wonderful site is manned by wonderful humans, not a scary pedantic robot, and so is a far more 'real' way of having your enquiries answered. So excellent is this website, in fact, that we'll run the address, again, but this time a bit bigger, and in bold, so you can't miss it.

myclarencevalley.com

We hope you find this guide helpful and enjoyable, and welcome to the Clarence River, we're thrilled you're here!



Special thanks to Luke Tucker, Boating Safety Officer, NSW Maritime, for his expert advice and information about the Clarence River.
Thanks also to the crew at NSW Maritime for creating the maps contained within.



**HANG ON
TO YOUR
HAT***

Note: this guide indicates vertical clearances – typically bridges and overhead cables – using the **HAT (Highest Astronomical Tide)** measurement protocol.

Hear the Serenity!

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WE'RE NOT WORTHY!

KAY'S G'DAY

Words of Welcome from a sailing icon

IN 1988, KAY COTTEE, AO, became the first woman in history to sail single-handed, non-stop and unassisted around the world. Kay and her family have lived on the Clarence River at Yamba for two decades, the better part of which has been spent operating the Yamba marina with ter Sutton. We're honoured to have her pen a ere.

Hi – and welcome to the Clarence!

Cruising up the NSW coast over 45 years ago I stopped at a little fishing town called Yamba. I instantly fell in love with the Clarence River, along with its surrounds of spectacular beaches and pristine national parks.

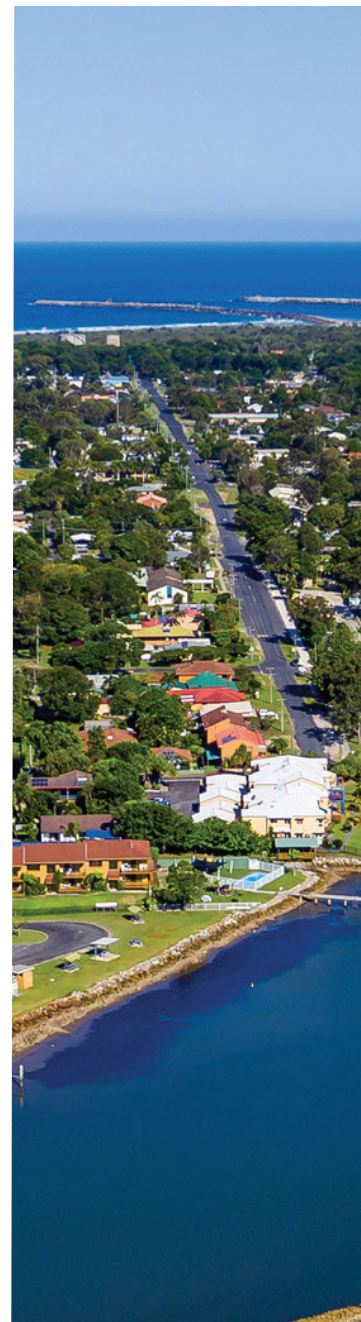
The Clarence is the hidden gem of the NSW north coast with hundreds of miles of cruising waterways. Eleven nautical miles from the Clarence river entrance at Yamba, large yachts and motorboats can go under the impressive new 29.4m high Harwood Bridge and

through the historic lifting bridge to leisurely cruise the next 25.5 nautical miles to Grafton. Smaller vessels can go much further than Grafton – as far upstream as Copmanhurst. It is a mecca for trailer sailers.

There are many little country townships dotted along the way, each with its own unique pub, shops and cafes. A small tender is a must for exploring hidden channels around the 100+ islands in the river delta, all with great fishing and crabbing holes.

This is a stunning unspoilt waterway that needs to be looked after and respected by all who use it. Remember – if you are planning to enjoy the river don't forget to also show respect for your fellow cruisers and the local families, some of whom have lived and worked for generations along the mighty Clarence River!

– Kay.



Iluka Overview. The half dozen craft in foreground are anchored off Iluka's Boat Shed pontoon, with the majority of craft tucked away in Iluka Bay. Yamba is seen across the river, with the surf town of Angourie off to the distance (far right). For reference, Yamba's lighthouse is right ... here!



OUR GLORIOUS GATEWAY

Iluka and Yamba: what a way to get started!

We hardly need to extol the benefits of the seafaring life to users of this guide, but here's a thought that's just occurred to us...

Though Yamba and Iluka are a mere kilometre apart as the crow flies, visitors arriving by car on the Pacific Motorway need to commit to either the Iluka or Yamba turn offs, separated by nine kilometres of bitumen. Indeed, the drive from Yamba to Iluka, scenic as it is, is over 41 kilometres, and takes about as many minutes.

For visitors like yourself, arriving via the 'other' Highway, (the majestic, ever-changing ocean), Yamba and Iluka are conjoined by the mighty Clarence River – thus the very thing that separates these two amazing beachside locales for most humans, is very much the boaties' special friend.

And so it's appropriate, as we embark on this journey up the Clarence River, that the first order of business is to introduce you to the two jewels at its mouth. Iluka to the north, Yamba to the south.

ILUKA - Yaegl Country

Iluka is the quieter, more tucked-away of these two seaside sentinels, with a population about a third of Yamba's. And it is this relative quietude that makes Iluka unique and special in many ways.

Much as its natural delights have been preserved in a mellow atmosphere over time, Iluka encourages the visitor to take time, unwind, and slip into cruise mode. The town's name is derived from an Aboriginal word meaning "near the sea. Learn more about Ilukas history at the **Iluka Museum** located on Charles Street, just a stone throw away from the water.

Nowhere will you feel this timeless calm more powerfully than the Iluka Nature Reserve. As you stroll through the World Heritage-listed littoral (coastal) rainforest – one of the last of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere – there's no shortage of wildlife to be seen, heard, and appreciated. **The Iluka Rainforest Walking Track** is a 2.6km, one-way hike that takes approximately 45mins to complete. The southern entrance to the rainforest walk lies at the end of Crown Street, perhaps 600 metres from the wharf out front of **Sedgers Reef Hotel**.

Sedgers has a great backstory: there's been a hotel at this site since 1874. A fella named Cecil Sedger took over the hotel in the 1950s. Around that time, the hotel gained a reputation with the local fishermen as a great place for a drink before embarking on a fishing expedition. The

hotel's reputation spread, with tourists asking where they could find the famous fishing spot known as Sedger's. The name stuck and it soon became affectionately known as Sedger's Reef.

Now, 'Sedgers' may long have been first port of call for many boaties, but don't overlook the **Iluka Emporium** for locally made art and gifts, **Iluka Sunset & Wine** for riverside cocktails, or the **Iluka Bowling and Golf Club**. If you're into your genteel sports, the bowling club has three greens and a Chinese restaurant. The golf club has a terrific nine-hole course and a small restaurant.

But as the 'near the sea' name suggests, Iluka is all about the big blue. The fishing, from beach, breakwall or boat is excellent and there's often powerful surf on offer for boardriders.

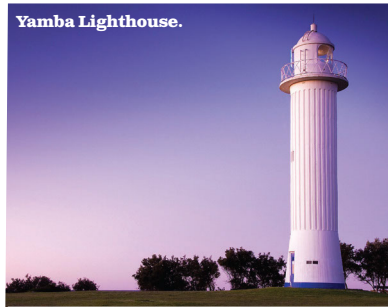
The platform at **Iluka Bluff** offers spectacular 360 degree views over the coast and inland rainforest. A great spot for a picnic. (Easily reached by pushbike if you've got a few two-wheeled freedom machines on board, otherwise a hefty hike or quick cab ride).



Special winter sunset over Yamba.



Iluka workhorses.



Yamba Lighthouse.



Iluka's glorious rainforest walking track.

YAMBA - Yaegl Country

This may sound odd, but Yamba is one of those weirdly magical places that fills you with a sense of nostalgia and homecoming – even if it's your first time here.

The arrangement of headlands and beaches, the nooks and crannies of the waterways, the trawlers and craft in the marina, the pelicans and ospreys, dolphins and whales, and the 65km Yuraygir Coastal Walk winding through nearby **Yuraygir National Park** – it feels like you're living a memory of holidays past.

All of which is to say that to experience all Yamba has to offer, you may need more than a day. Using the **marina** as a start point, it's a pleasant stroll east into town, where an array of restaurants, takeaway and various specialty shops are concentrated along Coldstream and Yamba Streets. And though it's a wee hike uphill, the **Pacific Hotel** up on Pilot Street has one of the best ocean outlooks you'll ever see, not to mention a great menu. **The Yamba Shores Tavern** is accessible from the river and has a pontoon for patrons, (which we like to call a patroon). And for serious beer fans, there's the **Wobbly Chook Micro Brewery** in Coldstream St.

Not far from the Pacific Hotel (and surrounding eateries) is the iconic **Yamba Lighthouse**, (you may have seen it from out on the horizon somewhere). From here you get a terrific view over the surrounding beaches, the mouth of the river and Yamba Bay. Sunrise is special up here!

Everything's pretty close-by in Yamba: **golf club, Yamba museum, bowls club**, the cutest (and cheapest) **movie theatre, library, post office**, etc.

The larger shopping centre, **Yamba Fair**, with a number of major chain stores, is about five clicks back up Yamba road, west of the marina.

There are bike tracks galore around Yamba, basically running from one end of town to the other. The ride along **Ford Park** and **Yamba Bay** is great, but also try the road down to **Angourie** (with bike path) and check out the iconic Angourie Point surf break.

Simply put, there's too much to cover in this limited space, so we recommend www.myclarevalley.com/yamba as a great resource.

YAMBA TO MACLEAN

START // **YAMBA MARINA** YAMBA RD, YAMBA

FINISH // **MACLEAN PUBLIC PONTOON** WHARF ST, MACLEAN

RIVER DISTANCE // **25.6KM** RECOMMENDED CRAFT // **ANY**



Yamba's Calypso Holiday Park pontoon at dusk.



The Charlie Ryan Park in sheltered Iluka Bay. (Workout optional)

The Port of Yamba has some excellent facilities on the river at the Yamba marina: yacht repairs, sailmaker, mechanic, diesel & premium fuels, pumpout, berths & moorings, café, etc.

There is a small public pontoon adjacent to River St, towards Yamba Bay, and another public pontoon adjacent to Hickey Island boat ramp, each suitable for medium draft vessels and tenders.

The River St pontoon is available to set down and pick up passengers only, (movements of the ferry need to be observed). It's adjacent to Ford Park, which has toilets, exercise equipment, walkway, cycle-way & BBQ facilities.

Hickey Island pontoon, with boat ramp, also has picnic & BBQ, toilet and boat wash-down facilities which is suitable for tinnies, tenders

and vessels with medium draft. Max. 24 hours berthing available.

Cruising out of the Yamba marina and across to Iluka, follow the marked channel around the northwestern end of Dart Island, and through the middle hole in the middle wall, a deep but relatively narrow channel.

You can enter Iluka Bay via the southern wall opening, (where there is a pontoon close to the Sedgers Reef Hotel), or via the northern wall opening at the end of the bay, where you can anchor off Charlie Ryan Park. The park has exercise equipment, BBQ, picnic facilities, toilets and play equipment. (Note, this is an alcohol-free zone). A short walking track & boardwalk along the bay leads back to the pontoon, fishing co-op and trawler harbour, where fuel is available.

Leaving Iluka, cruise past Freeburn Island with Goodwood Island to your north. There is an excellent fishing area known as Brown's Rocks between Goodwood Island wharf (not public) and Brown's Rocks Caravan Park. This wharf is strictly commercial and private vessels should not berth alongside or anchor in its vicinity.

Continue up to Harwood and under the two bridges spanning the Pacific Motorway. Height and opening info for these bridges is listed on the opposite page. After the bridge, on the north bank, is a public pontoon & wharf where you can berth overnight to explore near the Harwood Hotel. There is also a general store, post office & public phone.

Continuing upriver, you'll find overnight berthing at Maclean pontoon, with picnic tables, BBQ, power, drinking water, toilets, hot



A vivid illustration of how close Maclean's McLachlan Park pontoon is to the main street.

showers & pumpout.

Fuel can be carted from the BP petrol station in town on River Street.

There is a public wharf and a boat ramp that can be used to access the Maclean CBD.



FUEL
STOP

Yamba marina

Diesel & Premium available when open.

BP Maclean

Diesel & Premium available when open.

Yamba Bay Fishing Co-op wharf

Diesel available 24 hours.

Iluka Boat Shed

Diesel & Premium available when open.

Iluka Boat Harbour Co-op wharf

Diesel & Premium available 24 hours.

HAZARDS

~ RIVER BAR AT YAMBA AND ILUKA~

Navigate with care. Use marked channel leads. Life jackets compulsory for all persons onboard. Caution - Tidal overrun extends approx. two hours post-low tide.



~ HARWOOD BRIDGES ~

Clearance above HAT (highest astronomical tide) is 8.5M when closed and 36.5m open, new bridge 29.4m. Bridge can be booked to open with 24 hours notice on (02) 6682 8388. Occasionally unavailable on public holiday peak times. Caution - No anchoring areas in two locations upstream of the bridge (submarine cables).



~ MCFARLANE BRIDGE ~

Clearance above HAT 3.6m.



~ BRUSHGROVE BRIDGE ~

Clearance above HAT 7.6m.



SUGGESTED ANCHORAGES

YAMBA

Whiting Beach; Hickey Island.

ILUKA

Moriartys Beach; Iluka Bay.

HARWOOD

Harwood wharf;
North side of Ulgundahi Island.

ASHBY

Across the river from Maclean.



BERTHS + PONTOONS

YAMBA

Golding St pontoon

Setdown/pickup only, shallow, boat ramp also, café across road, fishing coop shop, BP service centre.

Yamba Marina visitors berth

Fee applicable.

Hickey Island pontoon

Setdown/pickup only, boat ramp also.

River Street pontoon

Setdown/pickup only (also ferry berth).

Calypso Caravan Park pontoon

Patrons only.

Yamba Shores Tavern pontoon

Patrons only.

Witonga Drive pontoon

Setdown/pickup only, boat ramp also.

ILUKA

Sedgers Reef pontoon

24 hour berth, shallow, boat ramp also.

Iluka Caravan Park pontoon

Patrons only, boat ramp also.

Iluka Boat Shed pontoon

Setdown/pickup only (also ferry berth).

Spencer Street pontoon

Setdown/pickup only (boat ramp also).

PALMERS ISLAND

Fishing Haven Caravan Park

Patrons only (Café).

HARWOOD

Harwood wharf

Setdown/pickup only, boat ramp also.

Harwood pontoon

24 hour berthing, boat ramp also.

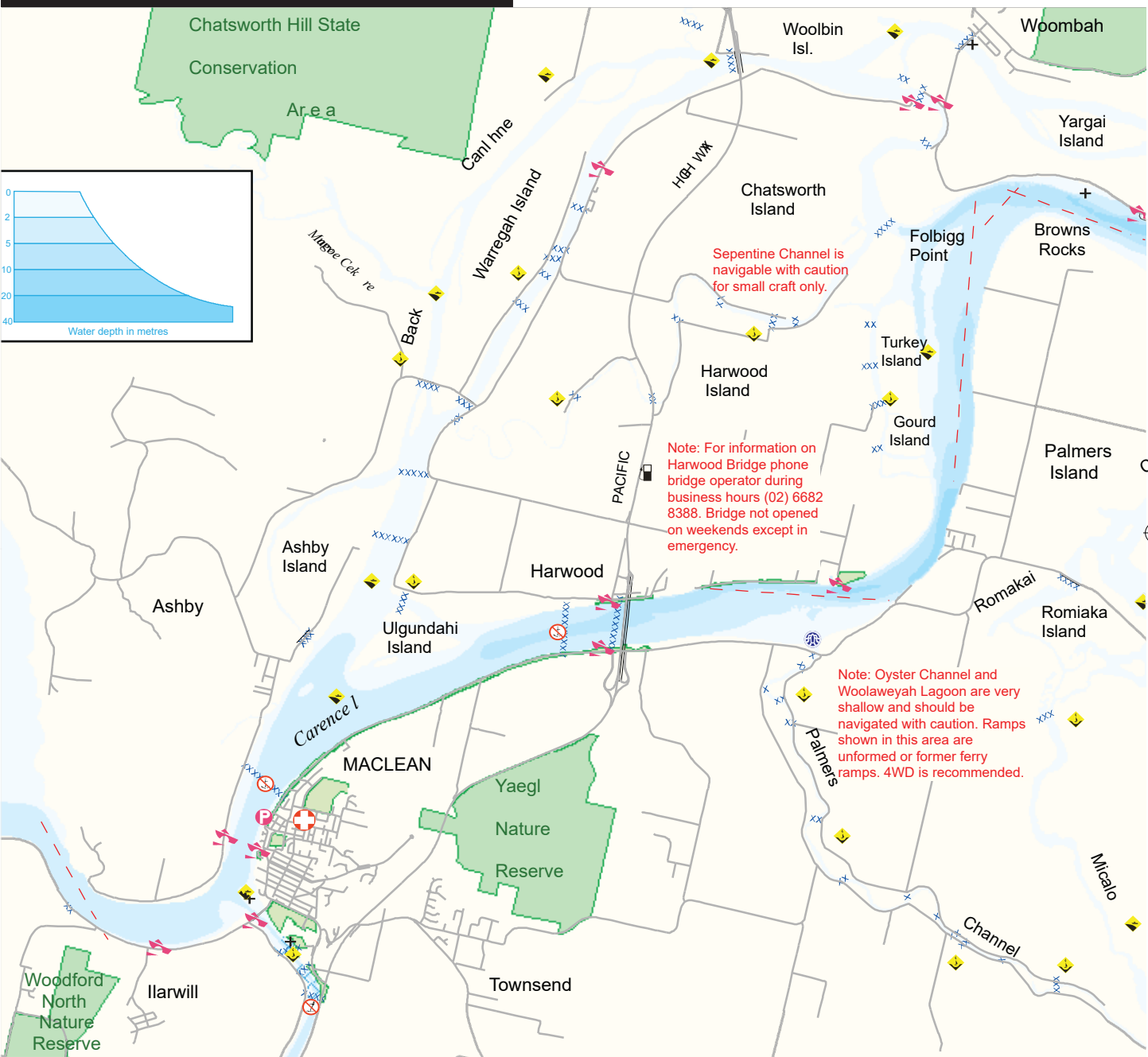
MACLEAN

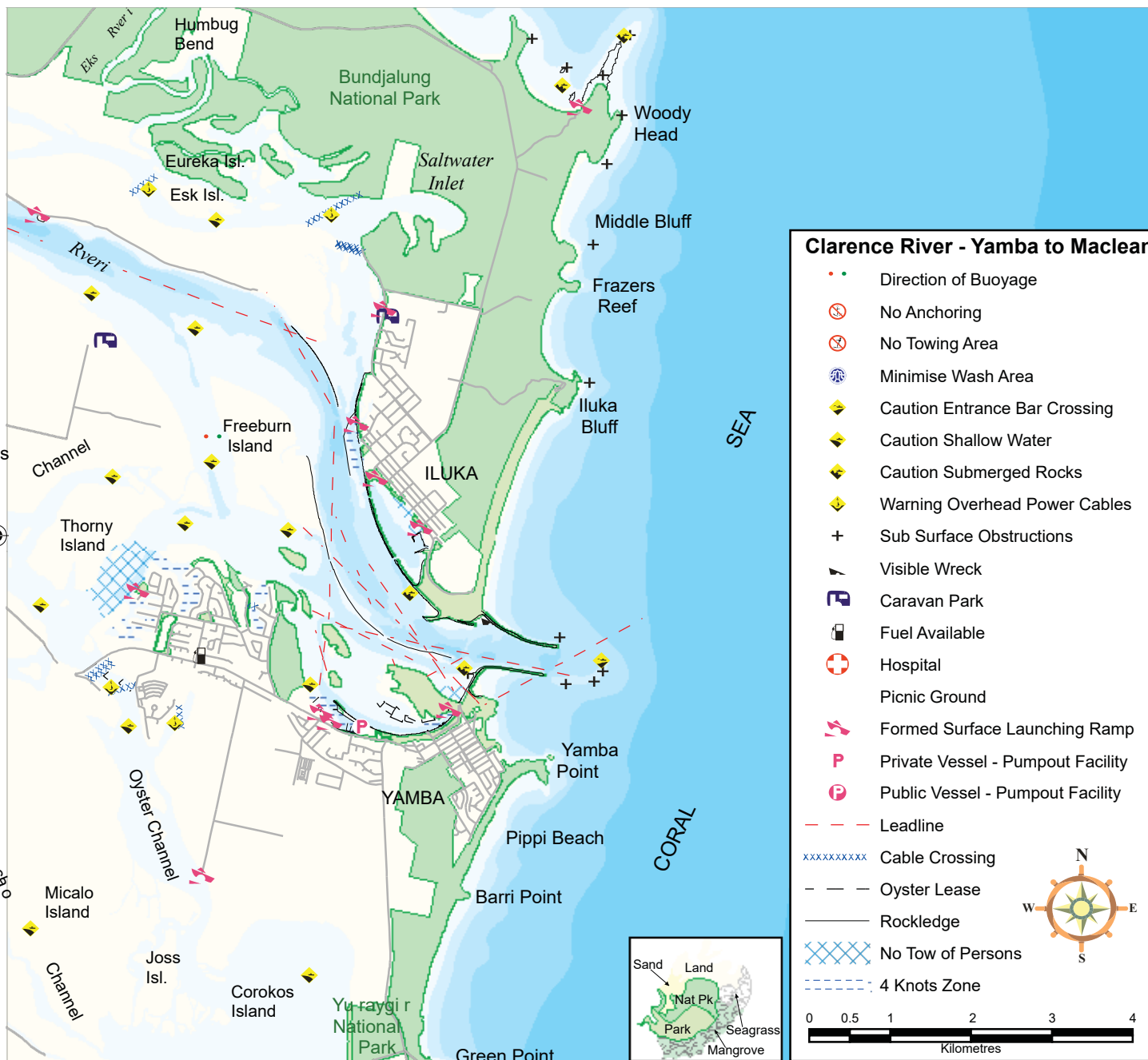
Maclean pontoons

24 hour berthing.

Maclean wharf

Setdown/Pickup only (boat ramp also).





MACLEAN - Yaegl Country

Och aye the noo... (which doesn't actually make sense, even in Scottish.)

Maclean, on Yaegl Country is defined by something unique and special.

Maclean is the Clarence Valley's great coastal connector. It's equal part river village and coastal town. Close enough in proximity to the Pacific to feel the salt on the sea breeze, and 'country' enough that your groceries will be carried out to your car (or boat) if you require.

It's a junction that connects people to beachside jewels such as Red Cliff, Brooms Head and Sandon River, and also to the quiet valley treasures of Ashby, Woodford Island and Lawrence. And not only is it a hub and connector, it's a lovely destination in itself.

As you step ashore, Maclean Scottish Shop your first stop for visitor information. You'll find there's something very Scottish about this place. We can't decide if it's the 210 tartan-painted power poles or the fact you're followed by a pipe band wherever you go. (Of course we're joking)

With the pontoon facilities practically on the main street, Maclean has all your provisioning needs sorted, and you'll find a genuine, hospitable friendliness among the shop owners, so be prepared to spend a little extra time in conversation – particularly once you disclose your maritime method of arrival.

And as well as the **Maclean Museum, shops, galleries, cafés and pubs,** there's some seriously good, locally roasted **coffee** you'll be tempted to haul back to your craft in great quantities.

For spectacular views and a good stretch of the legs, head out on Wharf Street to the **Maclean Lookout.** The viewing platform at **The Pinnacle** – a unique rock formation surrounded by sub-tropical rainforest, and an important Aboriginal cultural heritage site – offers a great overview.

Starting at the Lookout, the **Lower Clarence Aboriginal Tourist Drive** connects 13 significant Yaegl cultural sites, offering a deeper understanding of Yaegl Country.

Maclean caters to traditional tastes (**Maclean Bowling Club** and **The Argyle Hotel**) as well as the groovers (**Sanctus Brewery** out in Townsend).

As mentioned, you can't help but notice hundreds of tartan power poles. We encourage you to adopt a Scottish accent for extra cultural immersion. And if your visit coincides with Easter, the **Maclean Highland Gathering** provides a spectacle of Scottishness that's been clinically proven to make you a wee bit Scottish yourself.

And truth be told, on a clear, still winter's morning, when river mist cloaks the town in a soft shroud, the Loch Ness Monster could pop up next to the pelicans and upriver dolphins, and you wouldn't be too surprised.

HARWOOD - Yaegl Country

Who says the Clarence Valley doesn't have a Hilton?!

Harwood marks the Clarence River's first obstacle, in that the 'old' Harwood bridge requires opening for masts over 8.5 metres, but we suspect some return visitors deliberately don't call 24 hours ahead as required, as the "Harwood Hilton" is the kind of establishment many visitors find themselves getting more than comfortable in, and reluctant to leave. With a glorious mix of eclectic ambience, seriously good tucker and crisp beverages, incoming visitors will drop the pick, and take the dinghy under the bridge to the Hilton's 25m pontoon.

Harwood has a rich history as a thriving junction. Early settlers came to the Harwood area in the 1850-60's but it was not until CSR bought a local sugar mill in 1872 that Harwood really started to go ahead.

A century ago it had three pubs, (always a good indicator of the socioeconomic dynamic). Indeed, Harwood's making a return to glory with a new maritime precinct. The sugar mill's still going strong, as are the antique store, general store/post office, and produce store.



Maclean overview.

HARWOOD'S HISTORY OF HARMONY

Making your way up past Harwood, it's worth noting the Harwood Sugar Mill is the oldest continuously operating sugar mill in Australia, crushing cane since 1874.

It's also the epicentre of an equally enduring story of respect and the bonds forged between the local Aboriginal people and the early farmers and cane growers in the area – Ashby, Harwood, Chatsworth Island – a connection that still holds firm today.

As Yaegl Elder Aunty Lenore Parker shares, “We grew up on Ulgundahi Island, and our fathers and elders worked on the sugar

cane with the farmers. I remember going down to Harwood and Chatsworth as a girl, digging potatoes and picking peas and beans on the farms, and the men would do the cane farming.

“Going back to the early 1900s, there were no white men here to work, so they had to rely on the Aboriginal people so they could earn their living too. The farmers needed the men and the women, and our people needed the work for their families. Those bonds have survived for over a century now.



Harwood's 'old' and 'new' bridges, as seen from the southern bank.



Aunty Lenore.



Happy hour at the Harwood Hilton.

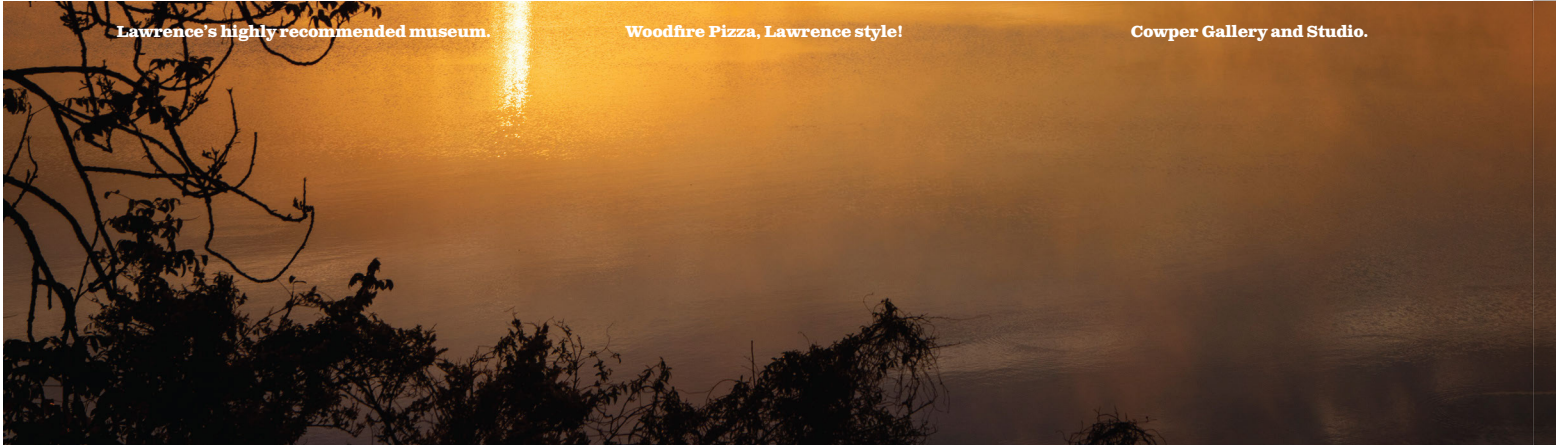
“There was a really strong connection between the Aboriginal and the non-Aboriginal entities. All were men and women of great integrity. There was a deep respect shown between the two groups, that still exists as the family generations continue and stay connected.”

Lenore has a final, beautiful, thought to share:

“What I would like, for people who come here, is for them to know the history. We don't want people to come here just because it's a beautiful place to live, we want people to get a sense of the gift they are walking into.

The men, the women, the families who have lived here – there was no racism – we all worked and played together, there was a strong respect for each other. We want people, when they come, to get the gist of that, of the beautiful people, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, the legacy of that.”

Amen to that. Thank you Aunty Lenore!



Lawrence's highly recommended museum.

Woodfire Pizza, Lawrence style!

Cowper Gallery and Studio.



STEP ASHORE & EXPLORE

LAWRENCE - Yaegl Country

The quiet spirit of the Clarence River...

Many of us choose the life aquatic as a way to escape the hustle and bustle, in which case, you will find the riverside village of Lawrence to be most agreeable, for here lies perhaps the first of the truly peaceful heritage communities along the Clarence River.

And with quietude comes genuine charm. Tie your tender up to the wharf, and the **Lawrence Tavern** will draw you in like gravity. (Legend has it that on a light breeze, the aroma from the Tavern's large woodfire pizza oven has caused more than one passing yacht to rethink their itinerary.) Nearby **Memorial Park** has barbecues, playgrounds, toilets and is a great spot for fishing and swimming. The local **general store** has **takeaway, groceries, liquor supplies, and petrol.**

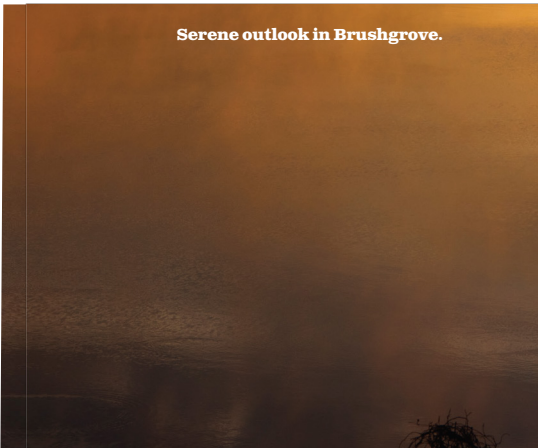
Nothing speaks of Lawrence's community spirit more succinctly than its extremely well-kept nine-hole **golf course** – run and maintained by local volunteers, with payment made into an honesty box. If you're into your golf, this is a unique course to tick off the list. Indeed, for its size, Lawrence is extremely well equipped with sporting clubs and facilities.

The Lawrence Museum and Historical Society is well worth a visit – it's situated in an old broadcasting station, so look out for the tall radio transmitting mast which has been a landmark here since 1936, and sits above the **Bluff Point Ferry**. Within the station and in the surrounding structures lies a brilliantly-curated collection of artefacts and tableaus from an earlier age – when Lawrence once rivalled Grafton as a major trade centre.



Image by Christine Sinfield @christin_on_clarence

Serene outlook in Brushgrove.



BRUSHGROVE - Yaegl Country

Even quieter!

And if you thought Lawrence was intimate and charming – may we introduce you to Brushgrove! With a population nudging the 200 mark, Brushgrove is as friendly and delightful as it gets.

The Brushgrove Hotel – lovingly called “The Brushy” – was built in 1868 and is one of the oldest public establishments in the Clarence Valley, and there's nothing like taking in the sunset over the river from the Brushy's verandah, as patrons have been doing for over a century and a half.

Across the south arm from Brushgrove lies the equally charming **Cowper**. Home to the **Cowper Art Gallery** (open on weekends), that punches above its weight in terms of the art it exhibits and the extensive series of workshops it runs for artists of all abilities.

Coming back to the Brushy... who knows, you might be fortunate enough to turn up on the day of a function put on by the wonderful **Brushy Social Club** – like their glorious Italian day – play a bit of bocce and be serenaded by the piano accordion! Bellissimo!



MACLEAN TO ULMARRA

RECOMMENDED CRAFT // **ANY ON MAIN CHANNEL** • KEEL LESS THAN 3M FOR THE LAWRENCE FERRY • MAST LESS THAN 22M FOR LAWRENCE POWERLINE CROSSING • LOW MASTED BOATS ONLY ON SOUTH ARM •
START // **MACLEAN PUBLIC PONTOON**, RIVER STREET, MACLEAN FINISH // **ULMARRA PUBLIC PONTOON**,
COLDSTREAM ST, ULMARRA RIVER DISTANCE // **29KM**



McLachlan Park pontoon at Maclean.



Lawrence anchorage.

Leaving Maclean, the Clarence divides, forming Woodford Island (the largest inland island in the Southern Hemisphere if you don't mind)... It's important to note that the main river is the northern passage heading west past the Broadwater and on to the village of Lawrence, with a riverside pub and a general store for supplies.

The Memorial Park at Lawrence is well equipped with a public wharf, boat ramp, toilets, picnic tables, BBQ and play equipment. Across the road from Rutland Street is a popular bird watching spot in the wetland area. There's a public pontoon and second boat ramp in the mouth of Sportsman's Creek. There's also an overhead cable to watch out for.

The South Arm of the river at Maclean is narrower than the main river, but a generally deep channel, suitable for low-masted vessels and motor boats. There are fixed bridges at either end of the South Arm – The McFarlane Bridge has a clearance of 3.6m and the bridge at Brushgrove has a clearance of 7.6m, but note there are numerous low cables that span the South Arm.

There is a short-stay pontoon at the Ferry Park complex which has picnic areas, toilets, local arts and craft gallery and café on the river bank.

The channel rejoins the main river after the bridge at Brushgrove.

Upstream from Lawrence is Sportsman's Creek. Sportsman's Creek can be accessed by small vessels only (given the bridge's modest clearance), and you must return to the main channel to continue.

Further upriver, Brushgrove offers another rustic hotel with its own (very small, tender only) pontoon & boat ramp for use by patrons (overnight stays can be accommodated with permission), and across the channel lies a public pontoon & ramp with power and water, (a short stroll across the bridge to the pub). Anchoring in the area is also suitable. Houseboat hire is also available through **Grafton 2 Yamba Houseboats**, with vessels based in both Maclean and Brushgrove.



Dawn glass at Ulmarra.

Continue upriver to the gorgeous, historic river port town of Ulmarra. Memorial Park at Ulmarra has wharf, public pontoon, boat ramp and is close to Bailey Park which has picnic/BBQ and toilet facilities.

When approaching Ulmarra, note the ferry from Ulmarra to Southgate enters a small inlet on the Southgate side, and can't be seen.



FUEL
STOP

Fuel is only available if carted from roadside stations in **Maclean, Lawrence & Ulmarra**.

Accessing fuel on the South Arm, (at **Tyndale**) involves much scrub bashing, and is best avoided.

HAZARDS

~ BLUFF POINT FERRY (Lawrence) ~

Speed limit of 4 knots within 100m when ferry crossing.

~ SOUTHERN ARM FIXED BRIDGES ~

MacFarlane Bridge, HAT clearance 3.6m.
Brushgrove Bridge, HAT clearance 7.6m.

~ NINE-PIN ROCKS ~

At entrance to the southern arm (exposed at low tide). It's marked by navigation aids, not really a hazard if you follow the aids.

~ WRECK OF THE MOONGI ~

Just downstream from Ashby dry dock.

~ ROCK REEF ~

North of Brushgrove.



SUGGESTED ANCHORAGES

ASHBY

Across the river from Maclean.

BROADWATER

Eastern shoreline.

LAWRENCE

Between Munro & Woodford Islands.

LAWRENCE

Northern tip of Munro Island.

BRUSHGROVE/COWPER

Entrance to South Arm.

ULMARRA

Across towards the Northern Shoreline.



OVERHEAD POWERLINES

LAWRENCE 22m.
SPORTSMANS CREEK & SOUTH ARM Numerous.



BERTHS + PONTOONS

MACLEAN

Maclean pontoons

24 hour berthing.

Maclean wharf

Vessels less than 5m.

Setdown/pickup only (boat ramp also).

LAWRENCE

Lawrence wharf

Lawrence pontoon

Setdown/pickup only.

COWPER

Cowper pontoon

24 hour berthing.

BRUSHGROVE

Pub pontoon (tender only).

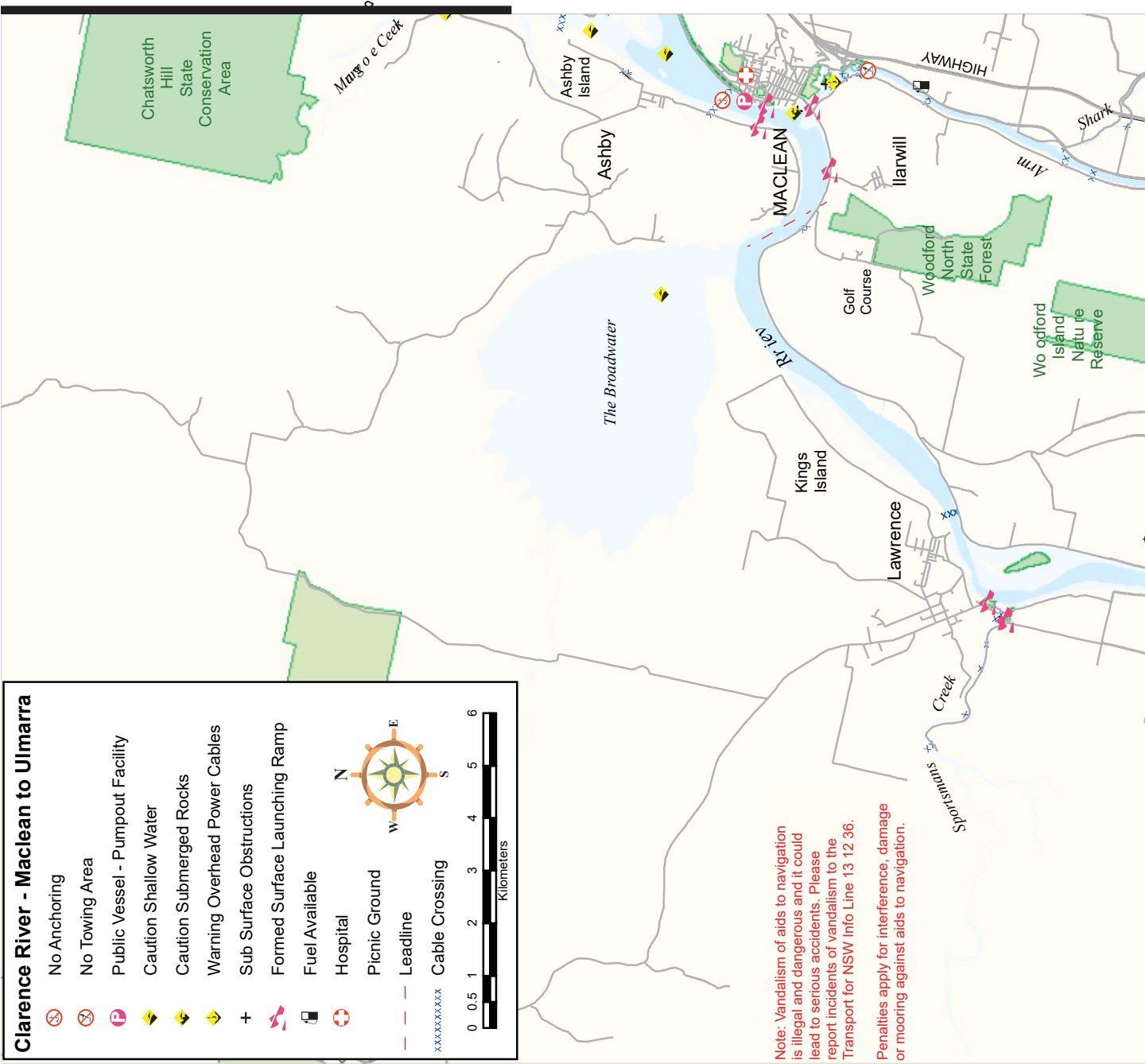
ULMARRA

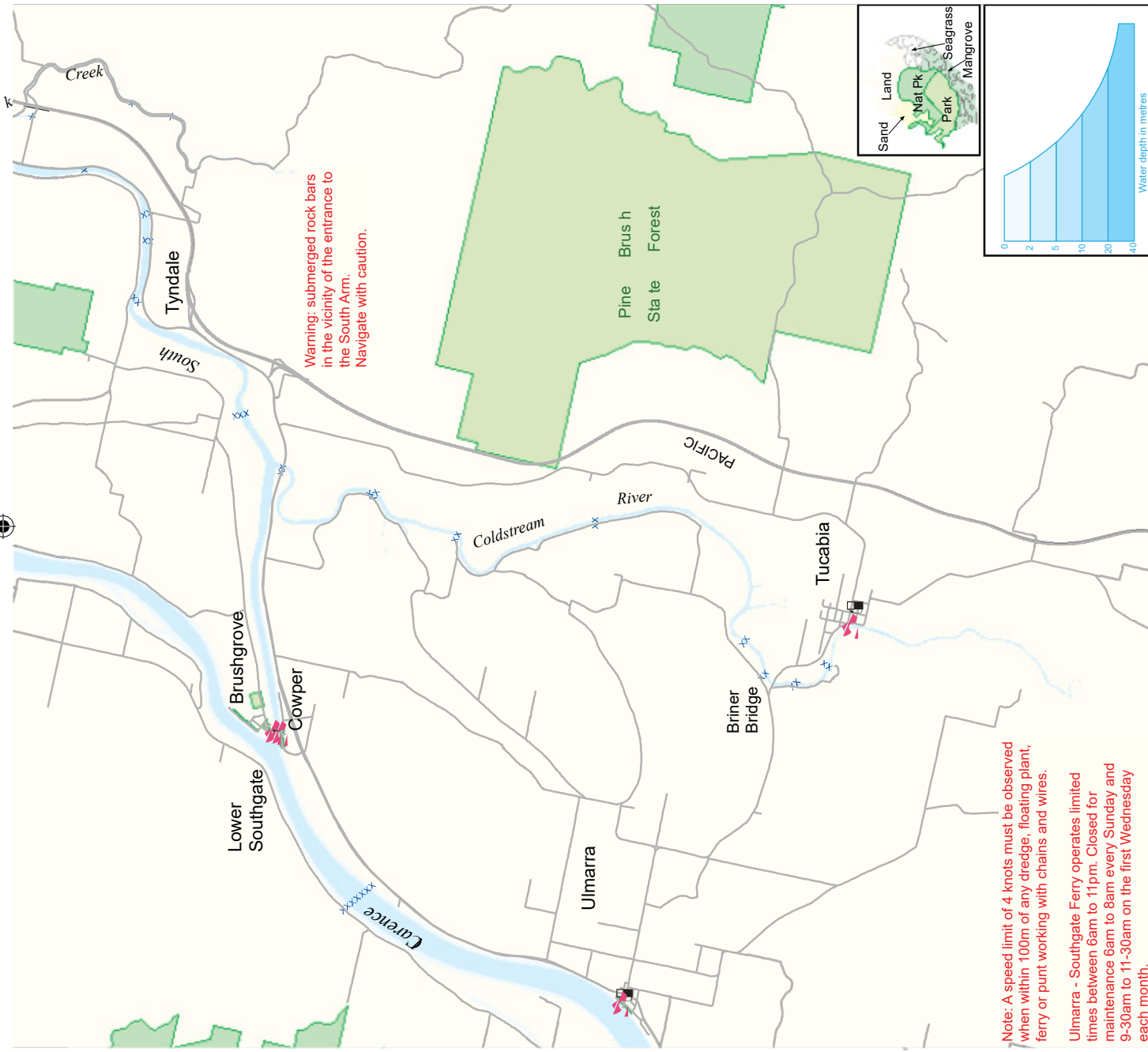
Ulmarra pontoon

24 hour berthing.

Ulmarra wharf

Setdown/pickup only.





Note: A speed limit of 4 knots must be observed when within 100m of any dredge, floating plant, ferry or punt working with chains and wires.

Ulmarra - Southgate Ferry operates limited times between 6am to 11pm. Closed for maintenance 6am to 8am every Sunday and 9-30am to 11-30am on the first Wednesday each month.

ULMARRA

- Yaegl and
Gumbaynggirr
Country

A relaxing retreat with rare retail!

It's only fair to kick this page off with a warning:

Geographically speaking, Ulmarra might be quite a compact river town, but it's not uncommon for visitors to lose their bearings and become untethered from life's usual concerns when immersed in Ulmarra's magnificent **second-hand bookshop** (wondering just how many books you can sensibly take aboard your vessel), or marvelling at the exceptional talent and flair on display in the various galleries and craft shops. Here are just a few:

Coldstream Gallery

displays, promotes and sells the work of local artists: from sculpture to land-and-seascape painting to jewellery, it is impeccably curated and has impressive pieces for sale.

Fibre Delights is a craft cooperative of 15 artisans, and, as the name suggests, the work is utterly delightful!

It's well worth poking your head into **At The Wood Shop**, where master craftsman Michael O'Dell's hand-crafted furniture – using salvaged and milled Australian native timber – is on display. This is the kind of gorgeous stuff you just want to run your hands over and make small 'ooooooooooh' noises of appreciation.

And there's the **Ulmarra Food Co.**, which ticks all the boxes – café, ice creamery, and stocks epic fresh local produce. Now, it wouldn't be a country town without antiques – **Contrary's on Clarence** are loaded with striking collectibles.

By now it may be time to adjourn to **The Ulmarra Hotel**. Built in 1906, this Hotel boasts a glorious riverfront beer-garden and delivers the goods, from coffee and cake to excellent meals.

And if you happen to be here through the last week of October, Ulmarra plays host to the **Clarence Valley Country Muster**, with fabulous entertainment, live country music, dancing, bush poets, balladeers, comedy, stalls, workshops and more! Check out www.cvcmuster.com.au



Picnicking on the banks of the Clarence.



Coldstream Gallery.



Getting lost in Ulmarra's bookshop.



The Ulmarra Hotel built in 1906 can be found on the Ulmarra Heritage Trail



Dining with a view at Ulmarra Hotel.



ULMARRA TO GRAFTON

START // **ULMARRA PUBLIC PONTOON**, COLDSTREAM ST, ULMARRA

FINISH // **ROGANS BRIDGE, ROGANS BRIDGE RD, SEELANDS.** (ANCHOR OFF) RIVER DISTANCE // **37KM**

RECOMMENDED CRAFT // **ANY CRAFT UP TO THE GRAFTON BRIDGE (6.1 METRES)** • TALL MASTED VESSELS SHOULD ANCHOR UP PRIOR TO THE BRIDGE.



Popular anchorage, with room for many more.



South Grafton pontoon.

On approaching Elizabeth Island, the channel is to starboard. Overhead power lines cross the downstream end of the island at 17m though higher if you keep starboard close to the shore.

Adjacent to Elizabeth Island lies Corcoran Park, which has two wharves, 24-hour berthing, three boat ramps, picnic/BBQ facilities (with power outlet) and toilets, plus a fenced dog park that's the bee's knees—your furry friend will love it!

The best place to anchor before the Grafton Bridge for tall masted vessels is at Girl Guide Park – adjacent to Pound Street wharf, a 1km stroll to the CBD. The wharf is shallow but suitable for tenders. From here you can easily explore the city of Grafton.

The river takes a broad bend around Grafton and passes first under the Balun Bindarray Bridge (9.6m), and then under the historic Grafton Bridge, which now has a fixed span of 6.1m.

Grafton's historic buildings, regional gallery and vibrant shopping precinct are worth exploring, especially from mid-October to early November ... Jacaranda Season!

When past the bridge, the wreck of the SS Induna, is visible to port. Built in 1891, this vessel was used as a rail ferry before it sank at its mooring in 1932. The Induna's claim to fame is that it carried a young Winston Churchill from East Africa (now Mozambique) to South Africa

after a dramatic escape from his Boer captors in 1899 during the Boer War. Churchill even left behind a polite note. "As I do not consider that your Government have any right to detain me as a military prisoner, I have decided to escape from your custody." Recite this to impress your shipmates.

The eastern riverbank has a boat ramp, pontoon and wharf, which provides access to South Grafton's legendary alfresco dining and boutique shopping.

On the northern riverbank, there are two pontoons and a boat ramp, providing access to Grafton's CBD. Nearby Memorial Park has picnic facilities, toilets, power, drinking water



Grafton's 'bendy' bridge (left), and the Balun Bindarray bridge (right).

and a cycle and walking track. Susan Island Nature Reserve has a large flying fox colony and remnant of rainforest. Accessible only by tender, there is a short walking track through the reserve on the western end of the island.

Look out for the wreck on the northern side of the island where parts of deck and the boilers are visible at low tide, it is thought that the wreck is of a cream boat, the Ibis, which collected dairy farmers' produce.

The broad, open waters around Seelands are popular with water skiers. Rogan's Bridge is a low-level bridge of approximately 2m – depending on river heights – that can be anchored off.

HAZARDS

~ SWAN CREEK'S FLOOD GATE ~
Shoals, (indicated by port mark).

~ GRAFTON BRIDGES ~
HAT 9.6 & 6.1m.

~ SEELANDS ~
Unmarked rocks centrestream, upstream of Bed & Breakfast.

~ DREDGING BARGE ~
Ulmarra to Rogans Bridge.



Fuel is only available if carted from petrol stations in **South Grafton**, (and they're a fair hike from the river.)



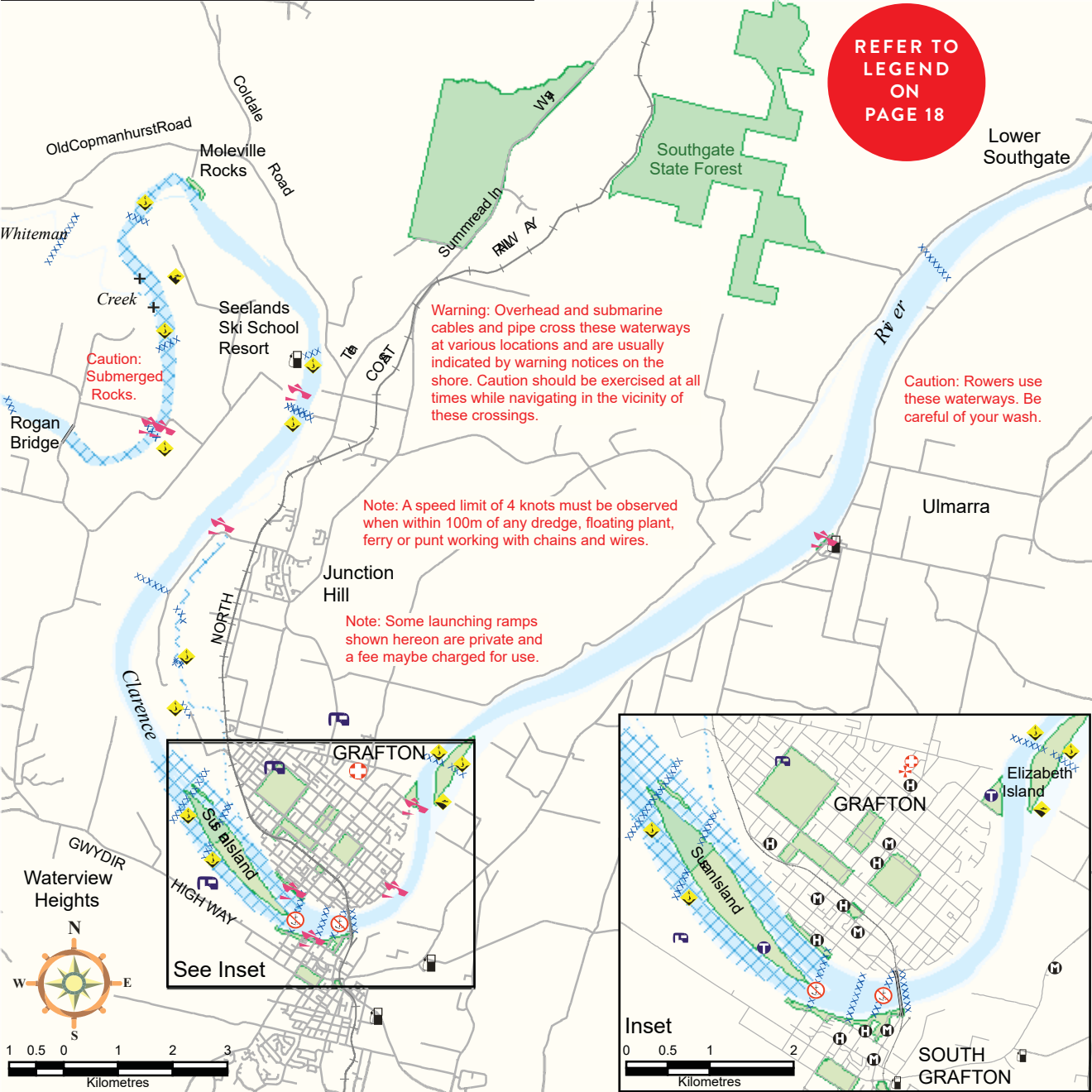
SUGGESTED ANCHORAGES

Corcoran Park,
Pound St wharf,
Susan & Elizabeth Islands,
Rogans Bridge.



BERTHS + PONTOONS

Corcoran Park
2x wharves (24 Hour).
Pound Street wharf
(shallow draught only) 24 Hour.
South Grafton pontoon 24 Hour.
Grafton pontoon 24 Hour.
Seelands
Big River Holiday Park pontoon,
(patrons only). Bed &
Breakfast wharf,
(patrons only).





GRAFTON - Bundjalung, and Gumbaynggirr Country

It's just... gorgeous!

Few regional cities are more elegant than Grafton. Its broad avenues are home to historic buildings, an abundance of trees, classic country pubs and a glorious floral festival.

Yep. Jacarandas! There are over 2,000 Jacaranda trees here, and when they blossom each spring the city turns purple. These trees date back to 1879 when seed merchant Henry Volkers introduced the species. Now folk come from around the world for the famous purple blooms.

They're not the only trees in town though, with Cape Chestnuts, Golden Trumpet Trees, Waratahs, Tibouchinas, Poincianas, Silky Oaks, Giant Figs and many more botanical highlights to marvel at.

Grafton's iconic **Jacaranda Festival** is held from the last weekend of October to the first weekend of November. It's the country's oldest floral festival, dating back to 1935.

And if you like your history, **The Grafton Heritage Trail** explores the town's rich Victorian and Edwardian architecture. Pop into **Schaeffer House Museum** where you can step back in time and discover more about this historic city.

The Grafton Regional Gallery is in Prentice House, built in 1880 and houses works from the likes of Ken Done and Doris O'Grady, as well as

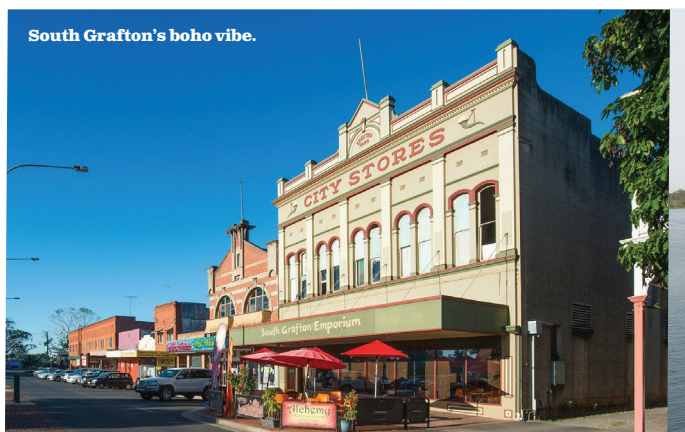
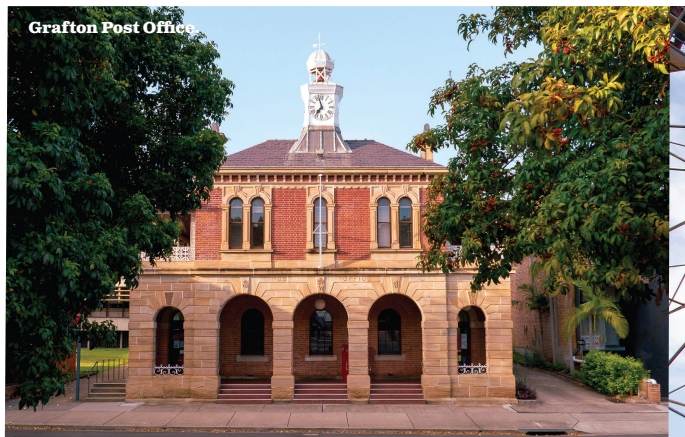
incredible contemporary Aboriginal artists.

Take in a movie or performance at the supremely stylish art-deco **Saratons Theatre** in Prince Street. Or Dinner at the beautifully restored historic **Grafton Brewhouse**, where old-world character meets a fresh new chapter of community spirit.

South Grafton deserves special mention here. The main street is home to several heritage buildings that showcase the unique design styles from the turn of the century.

There are several colourful murals throughout South Grafton's main street that we recommend keeping an eye out for – though the pop of colour makes them hard to miss! Combined with the heritage architecture, these murals give South Grafton a distinctly creative vibe.

All up, Grafton has a lot of appeal for the visiting mariner without a car – walking or cycling along the streets and pathways gives you the opportunity to absorb and feel Grafton's retro “country town” style in an appropriately quiet and reflective manner.





Jacaranda festivities.



The Clarence River.



Grafton Regional Gallery.

ON THE RIVER...

BEYOND...

Taking your tinnie further...

Although Rogans Bridge marks the end of the line for your vessel, your tender can access 17 more scenic kilometres of the Clarence River, as it begins to narrow and respond to the contours of Dirrangun's Dreamtime excavations (see page one).

Upstream of Rogans Bridge, there's no fuel, no boat ramps, wharfs, pontoons or the like.

It's just you, the river, and the surrounding countryside: clear water, white sandy beaches, fishing spots, jumping rocks, rope swings and seclusion.

Copmanhurst marks the point where boating further upstream is prevented by rapids. There is a boat ramp at Copmanhurst, with a 2km walk to the township. (Note this far upriver is still tidal.)

Interestingly, Copmanhurst also marks the conclusion of something special coming from the other direction! **The Clarence Canoe & Kayak Trail** is the longest mapped whitewater trail in Australia – covering more than 195km of river between Nymboi-Binderay National Park and Copmanhurst – and contains some of the most diverse paddling conditions found anywhere in the world.

When you think about it, Dirrangun certainly created something special!



This is the Mann River, one of the Clarence's typically gorgeous tributaries well upstream in the Clarence Valley. All of which is our way of saying there's so much more to explore!



Check out the longest mapped whitewater trail in Australia, the Clarence Canoe and Kayak Trail, by scanning this QR code.



Three Mobs, One River was designed by Frances Belle Parker, Uncle Joe Walker and Deborah Taylor. A collaborative project with Clarence Valley Council reflecting the rich Yaegl, Bundjalung, and Gumbaynggirr cultural heritage of the Clarence Valley.

FOR MORE...

ON THE RIVER MARITIME.NSW.GOV.AU
STEPPING ASHORE MYCLARENCEVALLEY.COM

