The background is a solid teal color. It is decorated with stylized illustrations of pink and purple flowers with yellow stamens and green leaves. A central graphic consists of a horizontal line of colorful dots (blue, green, yellow, orange) arranged in a pattern that resembles a molecular structure or a network of connections.

# Connecting the Dots through Culture

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INFORMATION  
BOOKLET

On Country St George  
Experience

EMBEDDING  
FIRST NATION PERSPECTIVES

## OUR TEAM



Connecting the Dots Through Culture  
brings together three dynamic & well experienced  
Early Childhood Professionals with years of experience in ECEC.

Ranu James, Jackie Bennett & Cecelia See Kee draw on their extensive personal & professional cultural knowledge providing Educators with support & guidance to better understand how they can embed Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, & Culturally & Linguistically Diverse perspectives into their every day practice. Our team is able to skilfully & expertly guide clients on a journey of learning, exploration & reflection.

We provide programs & support that addresses inclusion, access, cultural awareness, sensitivity & security at a much deeper & practical level & we deliver this in a multimodal format that encompasses face to face sessions, online sessions & one to one or small group mentoring.

Through our programs Educators spend time critically reflecting on their understanding & ability to respectfully, meaningfully & authentically embed culturally inclusive practices & philosophies. We also provide sessions to educators that explore how they can create intentional learning opportunities for children which invite the safe, respectful & innovative exploration & learning about culturally diverse communities.

Please see our website for detailed information on our packages & programs:  
<https://connectingthedotsthroughculture.mykajabi.com/>

All information has been taken  
from the Explore the St George Region website:  
[www.stgeorgeregion.com.au](http://www.stgeorgeregion.com.au)

It is recommended that you book your accommodation early  
because St George is a busy town with tourists choosing it as a go to location.

## HOW TO GET TO ST GEORGE:

### By Road

The shire hub, St George, straddles the intersections of five highways including the Moonie, Carnarvon, Castlereagh, Barwon & Balonne Highways which provide perfect road access.

In addition to this, the Balonne Shire is also located on the **Adventure Way** (PDF) & **Great Inland Way** (PDF) highway tourist routes. For up to date road conditions, contact the Balonne Shire Visitor Information Centre on 07 4620 8877 or visit the Queensland Government Traffic & Travel Information website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or call 13 19 40.

### Car Hire & Coach

**Car hire is available through Hertz.** For bookings & more information call 07 4622 5120 or 0419 734 148. The St George Region is serviced regularly by **Bus Queensland**. For bookings & more information visit [www.busqld.com.au](http://www.busqld.com.au) or call 1300 287 537.

### By Air

**Regional Express (Rex) Airlines** provide a twice-weekly air service, which will get you to St George from Brisbane, Toowoomba, Cunnamulla & Thargomindah.

For bookings & more information visit [www.rex.com.au](http://www.rex.com.au) or call 13 17 13.

Alternatively a two hours' drive north to Roma, there are several daily **Qantas flights** into Brisbane with car hire facilities on offer.

### Where to Stay

There's a place to stay for everyone in the St George  
Choose from Hotels & Motels, Camping, Bed & Breakfast and Backpackers  
[www.stgeorgeregion.com.au/accommodation/where-to-stay-in-st-george/](http://www.stgeorgeregion.com.au/accommodation/where-to-stay-in-st-george/)



# PROGRAM

## St George



### DAY 1

#### FRIDAY CONFERENCE

- 12:30PM Registration
- 1:00PM Historical Footprints
- 4:30PM Finish DAY 1
- 6:30PM Group Dinner meet at Hotel TBA

### DAY 3

#### SUNDAY CONFERENCE

- 6:30AM Yoga by the River  
OPTIONAL - additional cost
- 8:00AM Meet at Walk On Country  
Experience for Sign In  
& to Set the scene for our  
Walk & Talk on Country  
with Uncle Sam
- 11:00AM Morning Tea
- 11:15AM Debrief on the Banks of the River
- 12:45PM FREE TIME
- 3:00PM Conference CLOSE at St George  
Riversands Winery for  
Wine & Music

### DAY 2

#### SATURDAY CONFERENCE

- 6:30AM Yoga on the River  
OPTIONAL - additional cost
- 8:00AM Sign In
- 8:30AM Welcome to Country
- 8:45AM Introduce Keynote Speaker  
- Sharron mirii Bell
- 10:30AM Morning Tea
- 11:15AM Riverside Weaving,  
Art & Talking Culture
- 1:15PM LUNCH
- 2:15PM Riverside Weaving,  
Art & Talking Culture continued
- 4:00PM FINISH

#### SATURDAY EVENING

#### CONFERENCE CAMP OVEN DINNER OPTIONAL - additional cost

- 5:30PM Arrive at venue to mix & mingle
- 6:00PM Pre-Dinner performance
- 6:30PM DINNER
- 9:30PM FINISH

# WELCOME to St George



St George Riverfront Tourist Park (Kapunda Fishing Park) - 9km  
**Beardmore Dam turnoff** (Thungabby Rd) - 14km  
 Surat - 17km  
 Roma - 194km  
 Dalby - 302km

ATTRACTIONS	ACCOMMODATION	FACILITIES AND SERVICES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riversands Vineyards</li> <li>Sandytown River Cruises</li> <li>The Unique Egg</li> <li>St George Bakery (897-7 Model Ford Bakery Trade)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jacaranda Country Motel</li> <li>Merino Motor Inn</li> <li>Riverland Motor Inn</li> <li>Balonne River Motor Inn</li> <li>St George Hotel Motel</li> <li>Cobb &amp; Co Motel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitor Information Centre</li> <li>Canoe Launch</li> <li>Shopping Centre</li> <li>Public Toilets</li> <li>Free Electric BBQ</li> <li>Playground</li> <li>Laundromat</li> <li>Cycling/Walking Track</li> <li>Memorial Monument</li> <li>Amphitheatre</li> <li>Boat Ramp</li> <li>Church</li> <li>Mitre 10 store</li> <li>Aged Care Facility</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Miniature Car Collection</li> <li>Cacti &amp; Succulent Garden</li> <li>Naval Tribes Art Gallery</li> <li>St George Heritage Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riverview Hotel</li> <li>Australian Hotel Motel</li> <li>St George Caravan Park</li> <li>Kamareuka Tourist Park</li> <li>Pelican Rest Tourist Park</li> <li>St George Riverfront Tourist Park</li> <li>Andari 1848</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tennis Court</li> <li>Lawn Bowls</li> <li>Health Services</li> <li>Fuel Station</li> <li>Police Station</li> <li>Ambulance</li> <li>Fire Brigade</li> <li>Post Office</li> <li>Library</li> <li>Creative Arts</li> <li>Education Centres</li> <li>Swimming Pool</li> <li>St George Men's Shed</li> <li>Dump Point</li> </ul>

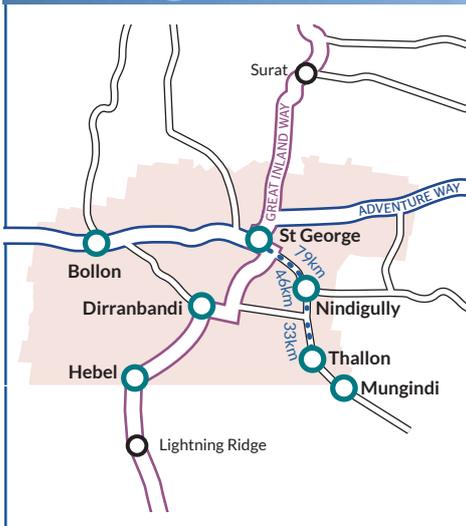


Bollon - 112km  
 Mitchell - 210km  
 Cunnamulla - 291km

Nindigully - 45km  
 Thallon - 75km  
 Dirranbandi - 97km  
 Mungindi - 118km  
 Hebel - 162km  
 Goondiwindi - 203km  
 Lightning Ridge - 238km

To Racecourse

3 DAY ITINERARY



# Outback Oasis Explored



*This 3-day journey across the St George Region will have you exploring this outback country oasis by experiencing historic pubs, inland fishing, local characters and spotting wildlife.*

LOCAL PRODUCE • FISHING • COUNTRY PUBS  
LOCAL HISTORY • SILO ART • ARTESIAN BATHS

Balonne Shire  
Visitor Information Centre

114 St George's Terrace  
St George QLD 4487

P 07 4620 8877

vic@balonne.qld.gov.au

balonne.qld.gov.au/visitors

SHARE YOUR SNAPS AND STORIES

#EXPLORESTGEORGE

**DAY 1:****46 kilometres****ST GEORGE TO NINDIGULLY**

Start your journey here in **St George**, where country meets the outback.

Begin your exploration of Queensland's Inland Fishing Capital on foot along the shady **Balonne Riverbank Walkway**. Grab a pair of binoculars and keep an eye out for the local birdlife as you make tracks along the two-kilometre stretch.

Make your way this morning to the **Unique Egg** where you'll find emu eggs transformed into hand-carved pieces of illuminated art by a local artisan. Continue your tour of town by taking the **St George Heritage Trail** to explore the town's historical sites and colourful history.

This afternoon get your coffee fix and buy some homemade treats from one of the town's quaint cafes to take with you on your journey 46 kilometres south to **Nindigully**.

Perched on the banks of the Moonie River, the **Nindigully Pub** is Queensland's longest continually licensed pub. Come hungry and tackle the pub's famous Road Train Burger, known to feed up to 10 people or sit back and enjoy the hum of chatter of travellers and locals alike on the veranda.

Set up camp in front of the pub and enjoy a shady spot on **Moonie River** or for a real outback pub experience, stay in one of the Nindigully Pub's historic rooms. **Overnight Nindigully.**

**DAY 2:****33 kilometres****NINDIGULLY TO THALLON**

Embrace the region's relaxed lifestyle and ease into your morning in **Nindigully** by the Moonie River. Make sure to have your fishing rod packed to throw in a line in the hopes of catching Yellowbelly or Murray Cod, or lace up and take a stroll along the historical **Gully Walk**.

Enjoy your journey 33 kilometres south through prime grain growing country to **Thallon** where you'll be greeted by the giant 30-metre-high grain silos as you roll into town. The breathtaking silos feature the spectacular '**Watering Hole**' mural.

Head to the **Francis Hotel** to grab your copy of the self-guided town history trails and fill your day diving into Thallon's early European history.

Don't leave town without getting a selfie with the giant '**William the Wombat**' sculpture. Here, learn about Thallon's connection to the Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat and the need to protect them as one of the most critically endangered mammals in the world.

Camp up at the **McGeever Recreational Grounds** with a view of the silos or head to the Francis Hotel for a home-style meal and historic pub stay.

Tonight, remember to look up and gaze at the endless stars above. **Overnight Thallon.**

**SIDE TRIP:**

*Want more of the St George Region?*

*Take the 40-kilometre journey south of Thallon to Mungindi and visit the heritage-listed One Ton Post which marks the first official survey of the border between the colonies of Queensland and New South Wales.*

**DAY 3:****79 kilometres****THALLON TO ST GEORGE**

Wind down the windows, take in the fresh country air and admire the vast landscapes as you make the 79-kilometre return to **St George**. Along the way, see if you can spot some of the region's wildlife including kangaroos, emus and echidnas.

Feeling thirsty? Make a visit to the **Riversands Vineyards** to experience Queensland's most western winery. Sip your way through a personalised tasting of their wine range on arrival at their cellar door and hear the stories about the characters whom their wines are named after. Otherwise, find a spot in their country garden to experience the best of their boutique wines and country hospitality.

Experience the history of St George on a four-hour guided tour of **Anchorage Homestead**. Built in 1903 and steeped in history, the homestead is surrounded by an acre of green lawn and cottage-style gardens, adding to the beauty of the residence.

Alternatively, take yourself for a dip at the **St George Baths**. The artesian spring heated water is the perfect way to revitalise yourself after a morning drive.

By late afternoon, cruise your way down the Balonne River on board the '**Balonne Baroo Andoo**' with **Sandytown River Cruises**. You'll learn about the river's cultural aspects and the local flora and fauna including over 240 species of birds which call the St George Region home.

There's plenty of accommodation choices here in St George; take your pick from their variety of caravan parks and motels.

**Overnight St George.**

*Travelling in November?  
Time your trip with the  
Nindigully Pig Races. The day  
consists of live music, raffles,  
auctions, fireworks, camping  
and of course pig races.*



5 DAY ITINERARY

EXPLORE  
*St George  
Region*

QUEENSLAND'S  
SOUTHERN OUTBACK



# Produce, Parks & Pubs Explored

*This 5-day journey across the St George Region will have you exploring this country oasis by experiencing historic pubs, national parks, and local history and culture. Spot wildlife, learn from local producers and unwind under shady trees on the banks of creeks and rivers.*

**Balonne Shire  
Visitor Information Centre**

114 St George's Terrace  
St George QLD 4487

P 07 4620 8877

vic@balonne.qld.gov.au

balonne.qld.gov.au/visitors

LOCAL PRODUCE • FISHING • COUNTRY PUBS • NATIONAL PARKS  
LOCAL HISTORY • LOCAL INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES • SILO ART

SHARE YOUR SNAPS AND STORIES

**#EXPLORESTGEORGE**

**DAY 1:****66 kilometres****HEBEL TO DIRRANBANDI**

Begin your exploration of the St George Region in **Hebel**, where today tales of the Ned Kelly Gang and Cobb & Co still linger.



Stop by the historic **Hebel Hotel** which features colourful artwork and an interior decked with recycled furniture, making for a road trip photo must-have.

For those looking for a four-wheel drive adventure, Hebel is a great base to visit **Culgoa Floodplain National Park**. Park up by the waterholes in the early morning to spot the abundant birdlife or imagine the stories behind the **Hillview Homestead** at this scenic outback national park.

Make the 66-kilometre trip to **Dirranbandi** by afternoon and enjoy the freedom of the wide-open roads. The town booms during the cotton harvesting season where if time permits in your schedule, a tour of **Cubbie Station**, the largest cotton producer in the Southern Hemisphere, is a must.

Come hungry to Dirranbandi, where the **Dirranbandi Bakery** will have your taste buds dancing. Russian-born baker Natalia runs the local gem that has cabinets stocked with homemade pies, bakery favourites and sweet Russian delights. Treat yourself to their traditional honey bread, Pryanick or Turkish delight to take for a picnic along the river at **Jack Dwyer Park**.

A visit to Dirranbandi's **Railway Precinct** will have you uncover the town's history. Call into **Railway Park** to find the old waiting room, the original parcels office and the 1913 Station Master's residence, now the **Dirranbandi Rural Transaction Centre**.

Dirranbandi offers a range of accommodation including a caravan park, two motels and a hotel. **Overnight Dirranbandi.**

**DAY 2:****65 kilometres****DIRRANBANDI TO THALLON**

Have an early start to enjoy a walk along town's river walk or throw in a line from the pontoon at **Jack Dwyer Park** this morning.

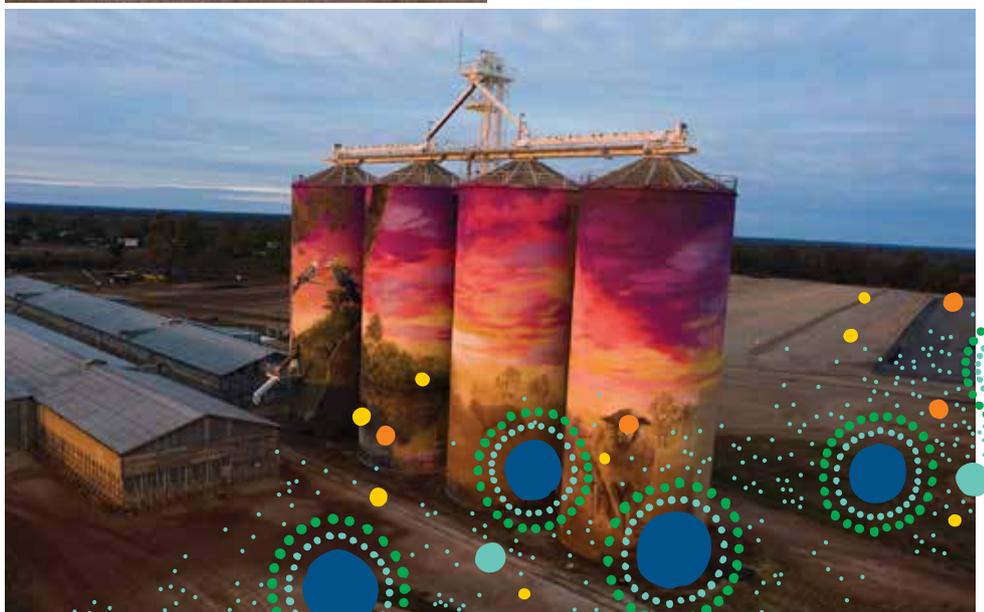
Continue your journey 65 kilometres to **Thallon** and be greeted by the giant 30-metre-high grain silos as you roll into town. The breathtaking silos feature the spectacular '**Watering Hole**' mural.

Head to the **Francis Hotel** to grab your copy of the self-guided town history trails and fill your day diving into Thallon's early European history.

Don't leave town without getting a selfie with the giant '**William the Wombat**' sculpture. Here, learn about Thallon's connection to the Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat and the need to protect them as one of the most critically endangered mammals in the world.

Camp up at the **McGeever Recreational Grounds** with a view of the silos or head to the Francis Hotel for a home-style meal and historic pub stay.

Tonight, remember to look up and the gaze at the endless stars above. **Overnight Thallon.**

**DAY 3:****79 kilometres****THALLON TO ST GEORGE**

Wind down the windows, breathe in the fresh country air and admire the vast landscapes as you make the 79-kilometre trip to **St George**. Along the way, see if you can spot some of the region's wildlife including kangaroos, emus and echidnas.

Pitstop for lunch in **Nindigully**, home to the **Nindigully Pub**; Queensland's longest continually licensed pub. Those with an appetite can tackle the pub's famous Road Train Burger, known to feed up to 10 people or sit back and enjoy the hum of chatter of travellers and locals alike on the veranda. Alternatively, park up under the shade along the **Moonie River** and try your luck at reeling in Yellowbelly or Murray Cod.

*Travelling in November? Time your trip with the Nindigully Pig Races. The day consists of live music, raffles, auctions, fireworks, camping and of course pig races.*

Continue to **St George**, arriving in time to hop on board the '**Balonne Baroo Andoo**' for a sunset cruise down the Balonne River with **Sandytown River Cruises**. You'll learn about the river's cultural aspects and the local flora and fauna including over 240 species of birds which call the St George Region home.

Stay in town to make sure you're ready to make the most of your day tomorrow. There's plenty of accommodation choices; take your pick from their variety of caravan parks and motels. **Overnight St George.**



#### DAY 4: ST GEORGE

This morning begin your day by exploring Queensland's Inland Fishing Capital on foot along the shady **Balonne Riverbank Walkway**. Grab a pair of binoculars and keep an eye out for the local birdlife as you make tracks along the two-kilometre stretch.

Stroll the town to find your coffee fix from one of the town's quaint cafes and buy some homemade treats before making your way to the **Unique Egg**. The Unique Egg is where you'll find emu eggs transformed into hand-carved pieces of illuminated art by a local artisan.

For those interested in the history and development of St George's cotton industry, pack some smoko and explore the **Cotton Self-Drive Trail**. The 94-kilometre self-drive takes you through the history and development of the area's irrigation and cotton industry. The main cotton season is between October to March each year.

Alternatively, visit the **Anchorage Homestead** on a four-hour guided tour with morning tea. Built in 1903 and steeped in history, the homestead is surrounded by an acre of green lawn and cottage-style gardens, adding to the beauty of the residence.

Spend your afternoon in the gardens of **Riversands Vineyards**, experiencing Queensland's most western winery. Sip your way through a personalised tasting of their wine range on arrival at their cellar door and hear the stories about the characters whom their wines are named after. Otherwise, find a spot in their country garden to experience the best of their boutique wines and country hospitality.

**Overnight St George** - caravan parks, motels and hotel accommodation available.

#### DAY 5: ST GEORGE TO BOLLON

115 kilometres

It's time to head west to **Bollon**. Journey 115 kilometres along the **Adventure Way** and watch how the soil begins to turn a deeper shade of red. Get your camera ready to spot emu who are often found strolling the streets of the town.

Visit the **Nullawokka First Nations Gallery** and admire the works of emerging artists from the local area and shop for authentic gifts. Join their two-hour **Bollon Cultural Walk** in the afternoon to discover traditional scar trees, find bush medicine and experience a gourmet bush tucker tasting with a descendant of the local Gwamu/Kooma people.

Serious bush campers and four-wheel drive enthusiasts can venture out to **Thrushton National Park**, found 37 kilometres north east of Bollon. Situated in the heart of the mulga lands, it conserves a remnant of original vegetation and features the **Thrushton Homestead** ruins.

For those hoping to spot the elusive koala while in Bollon, take an afternoon stroll along the shady creek-side walkway that features **Aboriginal dreamtime artwork**.

Take your pick from a shady spot down at the **Wallam Creek Caravan and Camping Area** or stay in the comfort of the **Bollon Hotel** and enjoy a classic pub meal for your night here in Bollon. **Overnight Bollon**.

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SHARE YOUR SNAPS AND STORIES

**#EXPLORESTGEORGE**

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# ST GEORGE

# Heritage Trail

*Our Visitor Information Centre was constructed in 1999 and currently sits on the old site of the Church of England (Anglican) Hostel (school billeting houses) that allowed children from properties and the other towns around the Balonne Shire to attend school.*

## 2 Rowden Park

Rowden Park was the location of the first wine Grapes grown in the St. George Area in 1862 by Dr Ernest Seidel who now has a wine named after him at Riversands Vineyard. The first year Dr Seidel attempted to grow grapes he planted 500 cuttings and only 3 struck, the following year he planted 1000 cuttings and 25 struck, nonetheless he continued trying until finally he had 2 acres of wine grapes. Rowden Park was later donated to the town and now hosts our Bowls Club, Cricket fields, tennis courts, Footy fields and Girl Guides Hut.

## 3 The Pilots Memorial

This memorial is in recognition of two pilots from St. George who flew in World War 2. Squadron Leader John Jackson flew at Port Moresby and was killed there in 1942. Jackson was the first Commanding Officer of the 75th squadron that had a squadron of Kitty Hawk fighter planes. He is also the only known Australian Pilot to have a foreign international airport named after him in recognition for this flying to save the Japanese advancement into Port Moresby. Warrant Officer Leonard Waters is also recognized as the only known Aboriginal Fighter pilot to serve in the second world war. Ironically Len's plane was named Black Magic by a previous pilot, and now has a port named after him at the Riversands Vineyard called Black Magic. Len grew up and raised his family in the St. George area and passed away in 1993. He was buried with full military honours in St George Cemetery.

## 4 Andrew Nixon Bridge/Jack Taylor Weir

Many different bridges have been constructed over the Balonne River through the years. The previous wooden bridge was completed in 1890 with the help of many shearers that were on strike during that period. It spans the river just to the left of the existing bridge and was washed away in the 1950 flood. Our new bridge is called the Andrew Nixon Bridge and construction was completed in 1953. Mr Nixon came to St George from Jerilderie in NSW, he was a blacksmith and it is said that he shod Ned Kelly's horse during Kelly's hold up of the town in 1879. The Nixon family was also one of the first to the area and at one time owned the largest property in the shire. He also constructed the now heritage listed 'Anchorage' Homestead which is the site where the timber for the bridge was cut. The Jack Taylor Weir was constructed soon after and it was at this time when approval for the St. George Irrigation Project was given.

## 5 Mitchell's Cairn

On the 12th of April, 1846, Sir Thomas Mitchell reached the Spot on the Balonne River which he called St George's Bridge. He wrote: "At an early hour we soon came upon the river where it formed a noble reach of water. The breadth was uniform, and a vast body of water was a most cheery sight. The banks were 120 yards apart; the course, in general, was very straight, contributing much to the perfection of the scenery upon it. At one turn, denuded rocks appeared in its bed, consisting of ironstone in a whitish cement of matrix, which might have been decomposed felspar. I at length arrived at a natural bridge of the same sort of rock, affording easy and permate access to the opposite bank, and at once selected the spot for a depot camp, which we established in a fine position, commanding long vistas up and down the river. It was, in fact, a tete-du-pont overlooking the rocky passage which connected with the grass on both sides." The cairn and its plaque, on the western side of the river, erected by the Balonne Shire Council commemorates this first sighting of the area by white men. The new cairn was constructed by the St George Apex club in the 1960's. In 1988 the cairn was moved to it's present site near the bridge and park on the eastern side of the Balonne River.



## 6 Old Gaol & Police Station

Both of these buildings were built in 1892, the building to the left was once our jail here in years gone by while the building to the right was the St George Police Station which is now being used as the Heritage Museum. These buildings were moved to this site in 1989 so the new police station could be constructed. The Heritage Museum also has a completed black-smithing shop, a printing press still in working condition and a Steam Engine also in working condition.



## 7 Faessler's Grapes

One of the many Vineyards you will see in and around St. George is St. George Vineyards owned by Faessler's. George and Jenny were the first to grow grapes here on a commercial basis in 1978, George is known as the father of the table grape industry in St George. George often tells an interesting story about before the days of GPS how he used to use his rifle site to line up the rows. George at one end with the rifle and his wife Jenny at the other placing pegs. Many worried locals rang Jenny to see if she was alright. This land was once an old dairy many years ago before being turned into a grape farm.

## 8 First Brick House

This house on the corner of Bowen and Victoria Street's was the first brick house with a tiled roof to be built in St George. Being built in 1960 by a local family, this house still belonging to this family today. When building this house the family had to cart all the materials themselves the bricks coming from Chinchilla, tiles for the roof coming from Brisbane and the timber coming from NSW.

## 9 High Top School

These houses that are situated at numbers 10 & 12 Hutt Street were moved to this site in 1959 from the state school. Both houses were part of the old Head Teacher house but were split to make 2 houses when they were moved into Hutt Street. In 1959 prior to being moved, students wishing to continue with their studies past primary used this building so they didn't have to leave the district. The students that were completing senior studied when the building was moved completed their studies at the old Masonic Lodge. Our current high School opened in 1978

## 10 The Old National Bank Alfred St

These houses sitting side by side at 167 and 169 Alfred Street were the original National Bank being moved to this position in the mid 1900's and at this time being altered to become 2 houses

## 11 First School House

The first school house still stands at 47 Roe Street, next to the water resources lane. This building was constructed in 1873. It stood in the school grounds until it was moved to its present site when the new school was built in 1933. Descendents of some of the original pupils still reside in St George. The current State Primary was constructed in 1933 with a State High School not being added until 1978. Prior to that school only went to year ten.

## 12 Shire Hall

The current Shire Hall was opened on 2 April 1925, by Sir Mathew Nathan, Governor of Queensland. The Hall had a capacity of 600 people with a stage and supper room included. The original building had several columns which were removed when major renovations were made in the 1980's. At this time the Balonne Shire Hall became the St George Cultural Centre. In late 2002 the Cultural Centre was repainted and in February 2003 the new Balonne Shire Council logo was painted on it. The original Balonne Shire Council Hall was situated in Henry Street beside the Tattersall's Hotel now the St George Hotel.

### 13 The Cobb & Co Hotel

The Cobb & Co. was formerly known as the Metropolitan. The Metropolitan was licensed by John Roberts in 1896, and was previously the booking office for the Mungindi Coach. The Metropolitan was renovated during 1914-1919 and at this time advertised electric light, aerated waters and cordial as well as select brands of wine and spirits.



### 14 Old Butchery / Cobb & Co Cellars

These two buildings were the original Cobb & Co change over station for St George. Balonne Shire had four major routes including the last Cobb & Co coach run to operate in Queensland the St. George to Yuleba line. This site was the place that the Cobb & Co last left St. George in 1924, on the way to Surat. The corner building has since been used as a Butchery and is currently vacant. A mural depicting the Cobb & Co is displayed at the Visitor Information Centre in St. George.

### 15 St George Bore

The town bore is situated in Henry St, next door to the Ergon Energy depot. It was completed in 1904 at its present site. Contractor was T.F Greelish and the driller was R.J Thornburn. The original depth was 2709 ft with the original flow being 570 130 gallons per day. There were public baths founded at the Bore as the water ran hot and for a small fee they could be used. Over the years the flow has decreased and a pump is now used to maintain the pressure to be able to supply the town with water.

### 16 Old House

This house is situated at 29 Scott Street, but use to sit on the land that the Merino Motor Inn now sits on. It was originally constructed by Walter Brown and Arthur Bennett in about 1902.

### 17 St George Memorial Hospital

This residence now standing at 69-71 Scott Street was once the St George Memorial Hospital and stood on the hospital grounds next to the War memorial. This building was moved in 1975 to this position after the new hospital was built. This was a private hospital with wards upstairs and administration downstairs.

### 18 73 Alfred Street

This house is over 100 years old being built in the late 1800's, possibly being one of the first houses still remaining in St George. When this house was built the timber that the builder used on the ceiling was built of round timber that had not been cut, but had been left round, this original timber still remains in the house today.

### 19 Catholic Church

The Original Catholic Church building was erected in 1874. The church has a shingle roof and seated approximately 30 people. Mass was celebrated once or twice a year by a priest from Roma who probably travelled by Cobb & Co coach. The first parish priest was Father McCarthy during the later part of last century. This Church is situated on the School Grounds and is now used for a variety of parish and school purposes. The current Catholic Church was built in 1959.

### 20 Catholic Boarding House

This house was built in 1933 to house the nuns. It has also been used during the school terms so all the children that lived out on properties around the shire could attend school. This building has been up to recent times, used as the schools boarding home.

### 21 World War I Memorial

This War Memorial currently sits on the Hospital grounds on the riverside of the current Hospital facilities. It was constructed in 1928 and was once the entrance to the St. George Memorial Hospital.

### 22 St George Hospital

The first hospital was built in 1872, it consisted of 4 rooms, 1 male, 1 female, a small dispensary and a matron's room. In 1885 and 1888 further improvements were carried out. The maternity ward of 6 rooms was built in 1922 (the first in Queensland). A new hospital was completed in 1928 and Mr W B Anderson was known as the 'Father of the Hospital'. Having lost 4 of his 12 children under 6 months of age, he fought hard for the establishment of the Hospital. The new hospital was constructed between 1972 and 1974 and was officially opened in 1974.



### 23 Post Masters House

This old house sits in Henry Street at number 10 and was the original post masters house. It is one of the only houses in St George to still have its original brass fittings on its windows and doors.

### 24 St George Hotel – Motel

In 1877 a liquor licence was granted to William Beaton Anderson for the Tattersall's Hotel. This Hotel was situated on the corner of St George's Terrace and Henry St – where the St George Hotel now stands. As well as being a hotel, it was also a coach stop for passengers who could have a bed and meal. This is the place where the Balonne Shire Council held their first meeting in 1903 after the Shire was gazetted from the Ula Ula division. In 1914 the hotel changed hands becoming Gredden's St George Hotel. Foot races were

being held behind the pub on Saturday afternoons. In 1930 the Hotel burnt down and was replaced by a new building that still stands there today, and was renamed the St George Hotel.

### 25 Post Office

A post Office was first established in 1864, with Mr Chase, the postmaster earning twelve pounds per annum. In 1864, horse mailman delivered mail on M/S 23 to Retreat (190 miles), M/S 24 Curriwilliingh (87 miles), and in 1866 to Surat (89 miles), Yarrowa (93 Miles), and Western Cerrk (241 miles). The packhorse mail to Cooroorah, connecting with the Dalby mail, involved a round trip of 163 miles which took from Friday morning till Wednesday night.



### 26 The Terrace

The area along St George's Terrace between the Post Office and the Australian Hotel was devastated by fire in 1905 destroying our then bakery, newspaper premises, butcher shop, saddle shop and Cobb and Co Booking office. After reconstruction, The Terrace was most unfortunate to suffer another fire in 1915 which destroyed most of the newly constructed buildings.



### 27 Commercial Hotel

The Commercial hotel now known as the Riverview hotel was built by Arthur McAllister who started the first formal education in St George. He employed a tutor to teach his five children, and other families sent their children along also for a small fee.

### 28 Australian Hotel

The first hotel on the corner of St George's Terrace and Grey St was named the St George Hotel and licensed to David Roberts on the 19 April 1864. David Roberts bought the first block of land in the first land sale and built the Hotel on it, incidentally was among the first licences granted for the district. Mr Roberts was the son of a convict shoemaker in Pitt Town, in the Hawksbury River District of NSW. David came to our area with his wife Elizabeth Horton and sons Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. David Roberts died of asthma in 1868 and was buried in the garden of his home, which was built to face The Terrace, with a garden of fruit trees behind it. The tombstone was later removed from its original position, but still survives as the town's first memorial and is now situated at The Heritage Centre. The Hotel was renamed The Australian during the 1880's at this time was an old building was built of mud and wattle walls, grass and mud. In 1890 the mud wall was built up 2ft thick and 3ft high around the hotel to stop flood water. The new hotel was then built in November 1939; the current hotel was opened and was described as a new era in building. The licensee, Miss D Tuite, entertained 180 guests at the opening party.

### 29 Vaughan's Electrical

This building was owned by Jones & Roberts Motor Engineers from the early 1900's to the mid 1950's, although the original petrol pumps have since been removed. The iron from this building's original roof was recycled after initially being used on the roof of the first Australian Hotel building. The use of the recycled materials during construction of the Motor Engineers saved costs with the total building costs being 860 pounds.

### 30 Anglican Church

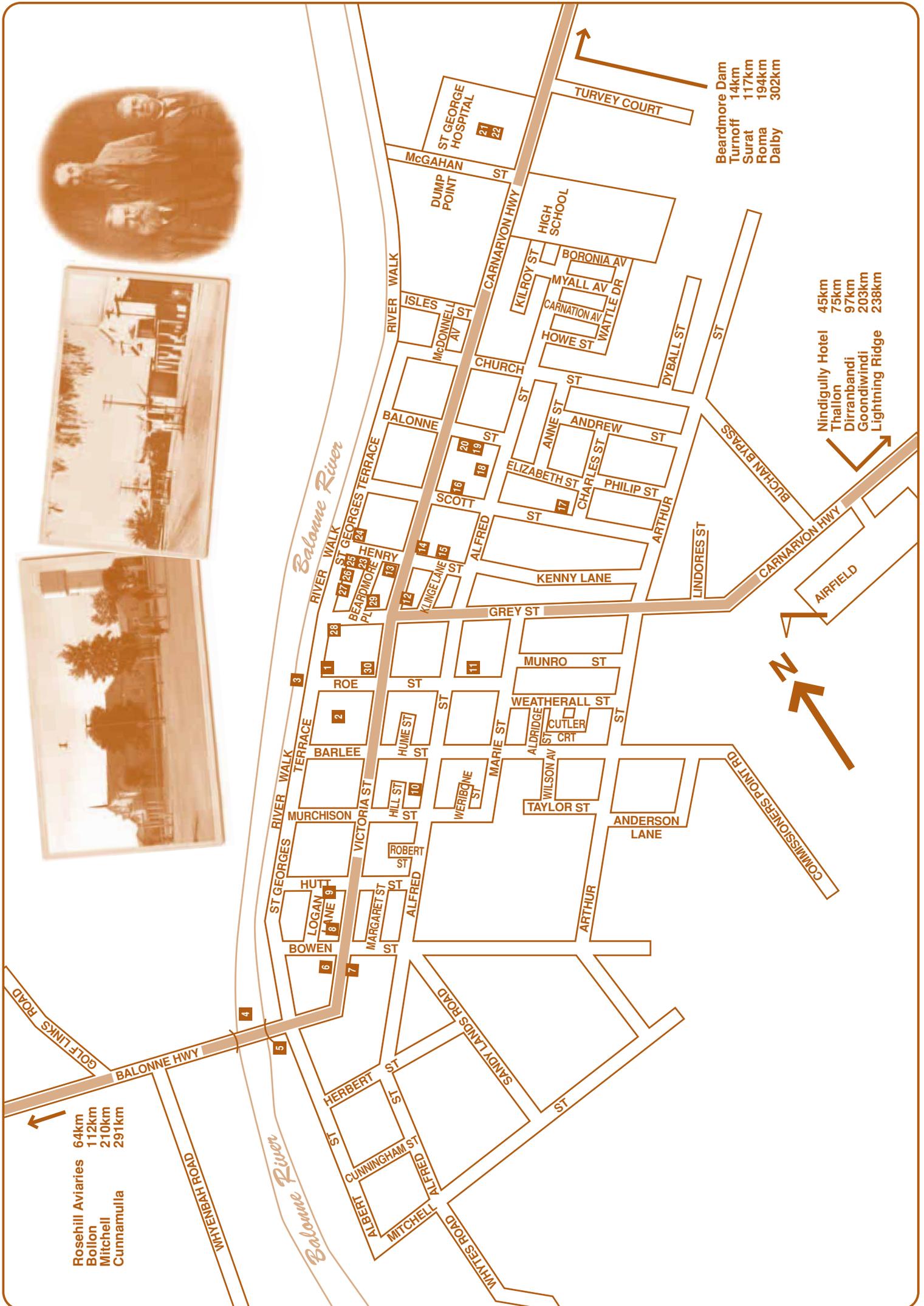
The original church was built about 1889 on the block where the town swimming pool is now situated. The first preacher's book is dated 1897-1917. The new church and manse donated by Mrs Willa Richardson was opened in 1959, when the old church was moved to its present site where it is now used as a church hall. The earliest organist on record was Mrs Mona Whyte, from 1917-1942, in the early years she rode in on horseback from 'Boweet' to play the organ.



Rosehill Aviaries 64km  
 Bollon 112km  
 Mitchell 210km  
 Cunnamulla 291km

Beardmore Dam 14km  
 Turnoff 117km  
 Surat 194km  
 Roma 302km  
 Dalby

Nindigully Hotel 45km  
 Thallon 75km  
 Dirranbandi 97km  
 Goondiwindi 203km  
 Lightning Ridge 238km





# Connecting the Dots through Culture

INFORMATION  
BOOKLET

On Country  
St George Experience

EMBEDDING FIRST NATION PERSPECTIVES