

Welcome

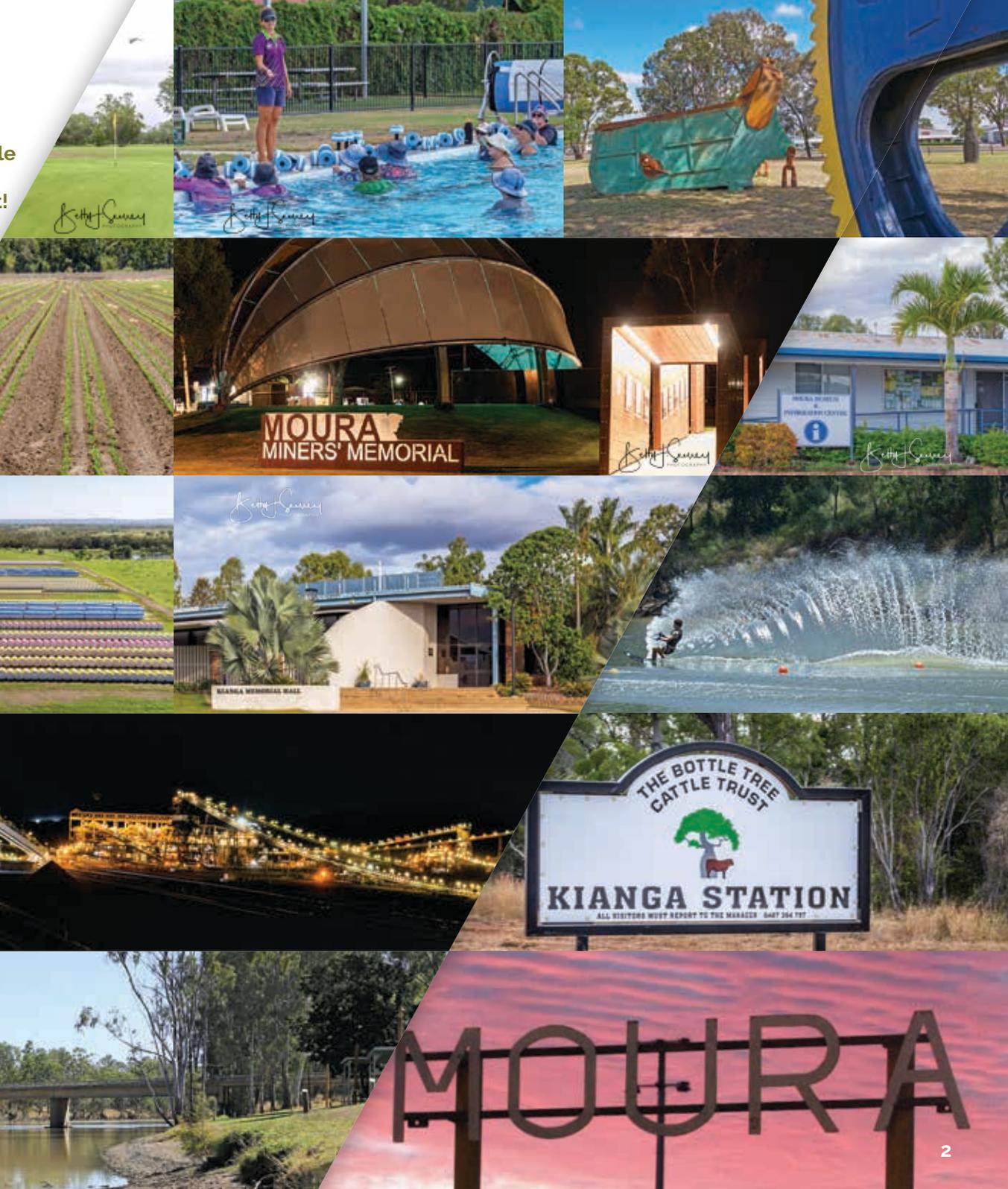
Moura is a central point and vibrant community for the people who serve its local industries - the farmers, growers and miners and their families who help to make Queensland great!

Early settlers began to move into the area now known as the Dawson Valley around 1844.

The original 'runs' or stations were much the same as the area parishes of today. Moura, Kianga, Banana and Roundstone were the original holdings of the area.

The Moura township took its name from the Pastoral Holding 'Moura'. This property was taken up in 1854 by Charles Marshall who had been a paymaster in Wellington's Army while engaged in battles in Portugal.

It is claimed that Charles Marshall named his property after the town in SE Portugal where many battles were waged.



Dawson River

The Dawson River runs from the upper parts of the Canarvon Ranges and can be found about 8km west of Moura.

The river is the life blood of our community. It supplies water to all industries including the coal mine, ammonium nitrate plant and sustains agricultural and farming activities in the region. It is also the source of raw water for the townships of Taroom, Theodore, Moura, Banana and Baralaba.

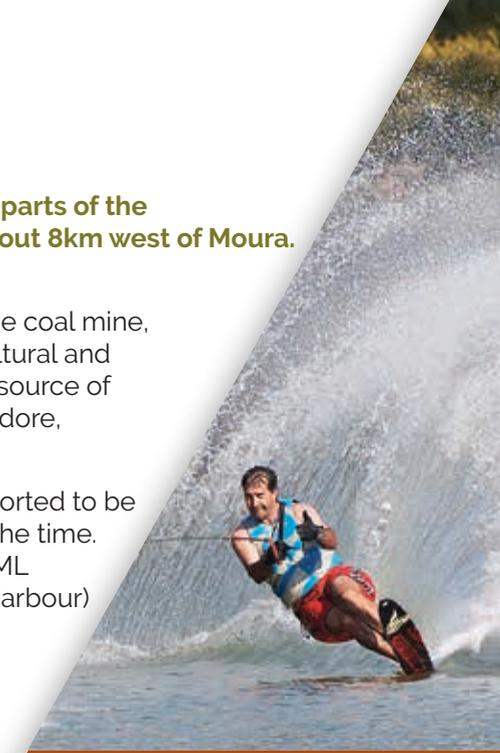
Constructed in 1946, the Moura weir was reported to be the largest wooden structure in Australia at the time. The mean flows at Moura are over 500,000 ML annually (roughly the same size as Sydney Harbour) with over 6,000,000 ML flowing past in the flood of 2010/11.

The current weirs on the Upper Dawson system have storage volumes of nearly 50,000 ML supplying water to medium and high security users with allocations of 53,250 ML.

The reliability of the Dawson is second to none, with very few years having no flow and the potential to have a flow event in any month of the year with the majority of flood events occurring between December and May.

The Moura Apex River Park was developed, as the name suggests by the Moura Apex Club some years ago. It continues to be a very popular spot for locals and visitors and boasts some really good fishing.

Moura Apex Park Camping Area, shelters along the banks of the Dawson River



The river is very popular throughout the whole year, whether you are enjoying an afternoon of water skiing with friends and family or setting up a slide down the bank to test your courage and fortitude. Beware gravelly landing!

Our community hosts a number of events at the park, one of the biggest being the annual Muddy Water Classic Fishing Competition.

Restocking the river is vital to the continued health and productivity of the entire river system. It's a very important part of ensuring our future, and for those who come after us.

The Moura Apex River Park has clean toilets and showers (don't let the water stains put you off, it's clean but raw water), free electric BBQ's, a boat ramp, shelters and a really large area to camp, relax and enjoy your stay. In the cooler months a campfire is a must and we encourage our visitors to get involved in our community events while they are here.

Please join in! You won't be a stranger for long.



Events

★ **EASTER** ★
Muddy Water Classic Fishing Competition

The Muddy Water Classic Fishing Competition is held every year around Easter.

It's a weekend long event and attracts a huge number of keen fisher-folk to our River Park.

The Moura Fish Stocking Group not only host this event but also do a significant amount of fundraising to restock the river system with fingerlings.

The Fish Stocking Group also holds a number of casual events such as Mother's and Father's Day breakfasts and camp oven cook-ups throughout the year. They also assist with maintaining the facilities at the River Park for us all to enjoy.

★ **AUGUST** ★ **Coal & Country Festival**
The Coal & Country Festival is held annually in August. The event was first held in November 1972.

It runs for several days and incorporates loads of activities and attractions. August brings beautiful weather and we highly recommend a visit to this exceptional Festival.



Betty Sumner



Activities

1. Meridian Marker

Beyond Kianga Creek on the Dawson Highway, 3.2km east of town, stand two large rocks with holes in them – the bi-product of drilling at the Dawson Mine.

By sighting through the holes you are aligned with the 150 degree Meridian of Longitude from which Eastern Standard Time was calculated. It is now done by satellite. Further information is available at the site.

On the days of the equinox (March 22 and September 22) the sun rises at 6am and sets at 6pm in Moura.

2. The Walking Trail

If you've got a couple of hours to spare and some comfy walking shoes, take a trip down memory lane. It's a story of the first business center in Moura from 1937 to current day.

There are plaques located around the first established block of shops with a booklet to read along with. It's an interesting journey and we highly recommend it. Booklets are available at the Museum and Culture Shack.

3. The Water Tower

Yes, it's just a water tower, but it's painted beautifully. Standing 18m tall it depicts all that is Moura (if that's possible). Look for the coal, the fish, the cotton and the wheat. You'd be a galah to miss it!



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Library

4. Got Little Ones?

Moura has heaps for little people. The Banana Shire Library, located on McArthur Street has great story time and craft activities.

Playgroup meets every week and if you need a break from the little ones, the Moura Child Care Centre offers long day care hours. You'll see lots of little people out and about in our town, we have great facilities and love to be outside.

5. The Lions Park

Take your furry pals for a walk! Our town boasts a very good network of walking paths, taking you in and around a huge part of the town. Pop down to the Lions Park at night to see our gum tree all lit up and throw a snag on the free BBQ's while you're there.

6. River Park

A beautiful drive, a wonderful free camping spot, abundance of wildlife and a great spot to cool off or throw a line in.



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7. Rotary Park

Check out the mining equipment on display!

The *continuous miner*, consisting of a large rotating drum comprising steel and tungsten carbide teeth, a material with enough strength to scrape coal from the seam. Continuously extracting as it is loading coal with a cutting steel drum and chain conveyor system.

Shuttle cars receive coal from the continuous miner and transport it to an underground loading point. The machines hold up to 18 tons when full and load and unload hundreds of tons of coal per shift.

The *dragline bucket* is from a Marion 7900 dragline used at Moura Mine in the early 1970s. At the time believed to be the largest in use in the southern hemisphere.



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8. Memorial Pool

The pool is open from September to April and offers a number of hydrotherapy, aqua aerobics classes and learn to swim programs.

You'll be amazed at the quality of our facility and the people are friendly and welcoming, so please do drop in!

9. The Skate Park

A little warm in the middle of summer but great during the cooler hours.

10. Like to keep moving?

We are an active community! The recreation fields will amaze you. Our ever-reliable Dawson River again ensures these are green and looking great all year round.

Join in or spectate golf, cricket, soccer, rugby league, rugby union, league tag, tennis, bowls, swimming, touch football, squash, karate, outdoor gym, pony club, darts, campdrafting and rodeo.



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Activities

11. RSL

Our community-owned family club is fully licensed. Each Thursday night, they offer a very affordable basic menu cooked by volunteer groups. This is a great way to connect with our community.

12. Golf Course

Located on the Dawson Highway before the Dawson River Park, is a fabulous 9 hole course. It's very picturesque with the Dawson River as its backdrop which is pretty spectacular early morning and late afternoon. Regular events are held and all ages are welcome.

13. APEX Club of Moura

Apex has a long and proud history in Moura and the men are responsible for a number of community facilities we boast.

Apex was responsible for starting our Coal & Country Festival.

14. Moura Men's Shed

The Men's Shed is located on Gillespie Street and is open to boys and men of all ages.

Get your hands dirty and learn some new skills (or show others some skills of your own), or just sit back for some time with other blokes and chew the fat. You're all welcome and we'd love to have you visit.

Check out Facebook or grab a local if you need more info.

15. Gas Well Display

Moura - The cradle of coal seam gas in Australia

Adjacent to the Miners' Memorial is a model gas well featuring a progressive gravity pump used to extract coal seam gas.

Production (or recovery) of the gas is by drilling into the coal seams and then the water is pumped out up through tubing to the surface where the gas separates from the water.

The coal seam gas is almost pure (99%) methane and no treatment (filtering etc) was necessary when it was supplied directly to local users Queensland Nitrate Plant, which was powered solely by local gas when commissioned in 2000, and the Moura Cotton Gin on Theodore Road.

16. Okano's Grave, Moura Lawn Cemetery

Row 2, second grave along is the resting place of Hiroshi 'Harry' Okano, a Japanese geologist who came to Moura in 1959 for the Mitsui Coal Company.

His recommendations about the coal deposits in the area lead to the establishment of the Moura Mine.

He was so taken with the area he wished to be buried here. Following his death on 21st August 1980, his ashes were interred in a moving Buddhist ceremony.



Tour Our Town

-  Shopping Precinct
-  Police
-  Hospital
-  Ambulance
-  Fire Station
-  Moura Miners Memorial, Gas Well, Information Centre & Museum
-  Council Office & 2nd Information Centre
-  Wheat Board
-  Library
-  Skate Park
-  Water Tower
-  Swimming Pool
-  Service Station
-  Dump Point

to • Dawson River 8km
 • Apex Park
 • Golf Club
 • Bauhinia
 • Rolleston

to • 150th Meridian Marker
 • Viewing Platform
 • Queensland Nitrates Plant
 • Dawson Mine
 • Banana
 • Biloela



-  Accommodation
-  Accountant
-  Bakery
-  Butcher
-  Bottleshop / Club / Tavern / RSL
-  Bowls Club
-  Cafe
-  Caravan Park
-  Cemetery (Okanos Grave)
-  Clothes Shop
-  Gym
-  Hairdresser / Beauty
-  Hardware
-  IGA Supermarket
-  Mechanic
-  Medical Centre
-  Men's Shed
-  Newsagent
-  Pharmacy
-  Post Office
-  Real Estate
-  Retirement Village
-  Secondhand Shop
-  Stock & Station Agents / Rural Supplies
-  Transport / Construction
-  Tyre Shop
-  Vet

to • Queensland Cotton Gin
 • Airport
 • Theodore



Primary Industries

Moura has a very strong, diverse rural background.

1. Queensland Cotton Gin & Wheat Board

Six tall silos and two large grain sheds provide storage for up to 192,000 tonne of grain (wheat and sorghum) in a good season. It is the second largest facility in the state (after Goondiwindi).

Local feedlots use a significant amount of grain with the balance going predominately to Gladstone for export.

Cotton has been grown in the Dawson Valley since the 1920's when it was sown and picked by hand and railed to a ginner in Rockhampton.

Moura Gin was commissioned in 1998 at a cost of \$120 million to serve Callide and Dawson Valleys and beyond the Expedition Range to the Comet and Rolleston areas.

After harvest begins in March, the gin continues until September working 24 hours a day.

Annual throughput is 45,000 to 50,000 bales which are transported by road to Brisbane.

2. Agriculture

Our climate is temperate with around 24" on average rainfall.

Summer crops are predominantly sorghum, cotton, mung beans and corn. Winter crops include wheat and chickpeas. These crops are grown both under irrigation and dry land.

3. Cattle

Our community is a strong area for cattle development. The majority are Bos Taurus and Bos Indicus cross, some Brangus Wagyu cross, Charolais and Droughtmaster.

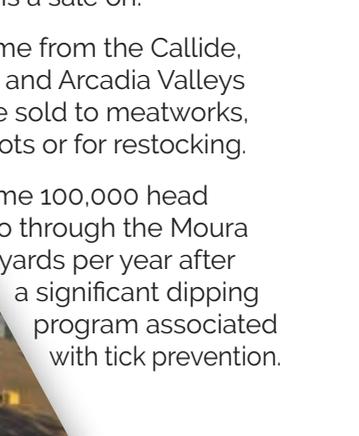
Leucaena crops are a common sight here in Moura. Leucaena is a forage tree legume that provides high quality feed for cattle that boosts liveweight gain both per animal and per hectare. Trees are grown in rows 6-10m apart with an adapted companion grass in-between.

These pastures are grazed directly by cattle.

4. Elders Saleyards

The Saleyards, located approx 4km west of Moura on the Dawson Highway were opened by Australian Estates in 1953.

They are currently operated by Elders and you are welcome to visit if there is a sale on.



Resources

Coal, Ammonium Nitrate and Coal Seam Gas are the main resource industries around Moura.

1. COAL

The Dawson open cut metallurgical coal mine is part of a joint venture between Anglo American (51%) and Mitsui Holdings (49%). The original mine commenced operations in 1961 and is one of the oldest coal mining operations in Central Queensland.

Not only is Dawson Mine the first mine in Australia to export coal to Japan, it's also the first Australian mine to use draglines.

Underground operations ceased following the three underground mining disasters in 1975, 1986 and 1994 which claimed 36 lives. Anglo American, with Mitsui, acquired an interest in the mine in 2002, and today, it exports millions of tonnes of the highest quality hard coking coal annually, which is used in steel production for critical building and infrastructure around the world.

Dawson Mine can be viewed from a new, dedicated viewing platform, which is being constructed as part of the new 12.5 kilometer road, connecting the Leichhardt Highway to the Dawson Highway. Three Chain Road is scheduled for completion by the end of 2019 and will cross the Dawson mining lease and replace the section of Gibihi Road that was closed in November 2017.

2. AMMONIUM NITRATE

Queensland Nitrate Pty Ltd (QNP) fully integrated ammonium nitrate facility near Moura in Central Queensland is designed to produce 210,000 tonnes per year of explosive grade ammonium nitrate, and provides a strategic resource to help sustain the competitiveness of Queensland's mining industry.

QNP is a standalone 50/50 joint venture by Dyno Nobel and CSBP (Wesfarmers). Dyno Nobel was acquired by Incitec Pivot Pty Ltd in 2008.

The plant comprises three core state of the art process units, with an additional emulsion plant run by Dyno Nobel:

Ammonia Plant 254 tonnes per day of Ammonia for the manufacture of ammonium nitrate.

All ammonia produced by QNP is used on site.
Nitric Acid Plant 525 tonnes per day of nitric acid is produced for the production of ammonium nitrate.

Ammonium Nitrate Plant Two ammonium nitrate products are produced on-site, prilled ammonium nitrate and ansol (liquid ammonium nitrate used for the production of emulsion). All of QNP's products are for the coal mining industry.

3. COAL SEAM GAS

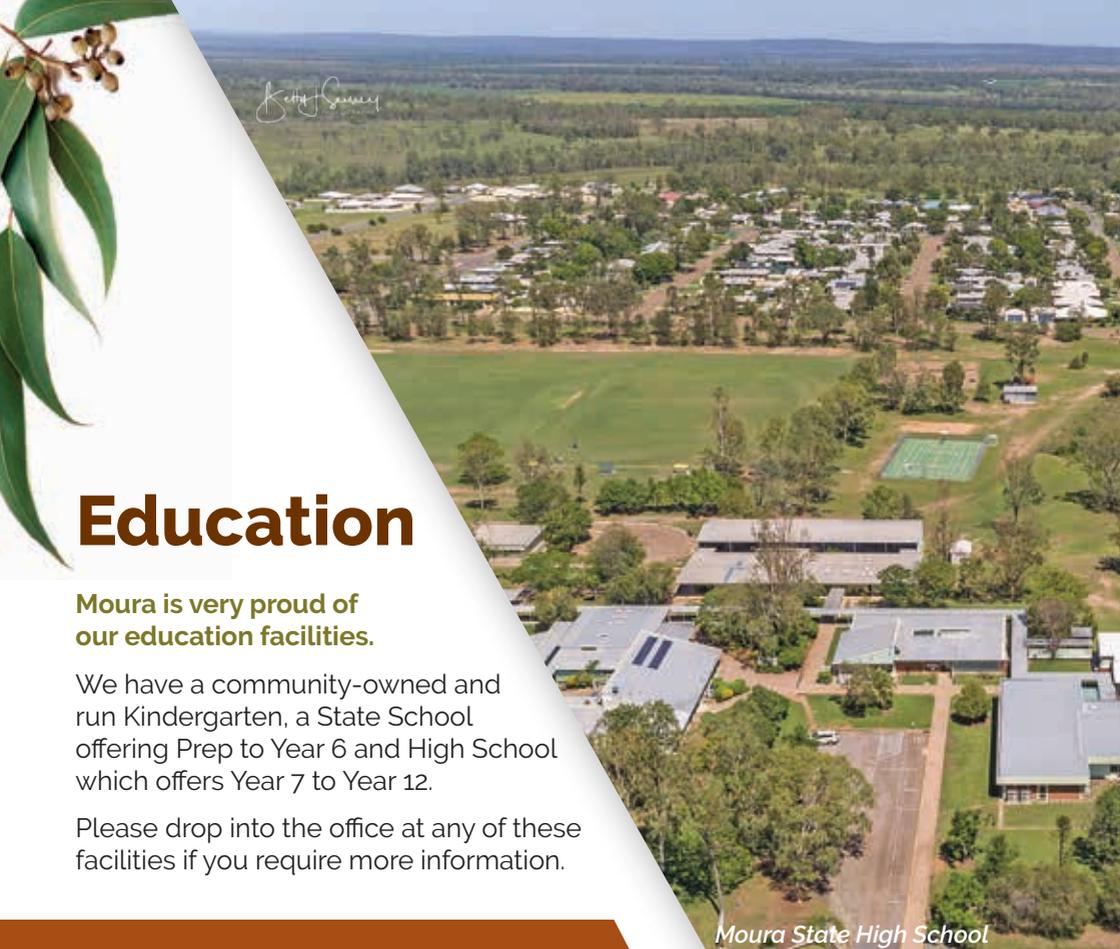
Moura has been described as the 'cradle of the Australian Coal Seam Gas industry' and has been developing steadily since the 1980's. Westside (in joint venture with Mitsui) currently operate the CSG fields.

Coal Seam Gas (CSG) is a type of unconventional gas. It is a natural gas, consisting primarily of methane, which is found in coal deposits.

Coal Seam Gas collects in the coal seams by bonding to the surface of coal particles.

The coal seams are generally filled with water, and it is the pressure of the water that keeps the gas as a thin film on the surface of the coal.

CSG is extracted through wells drilled into coal seams. The initial phase of CSG production usually involves the extraction of water from the coal seams in order to reduce the pressure and release gas from the coal.



Kathy Sweeney

Education

Moura is very proud of our education facilities.

We have a community-owned and run Kindergarten, a State School offering Prep to Year 6 and High School which offers Year 7 to Year 12.

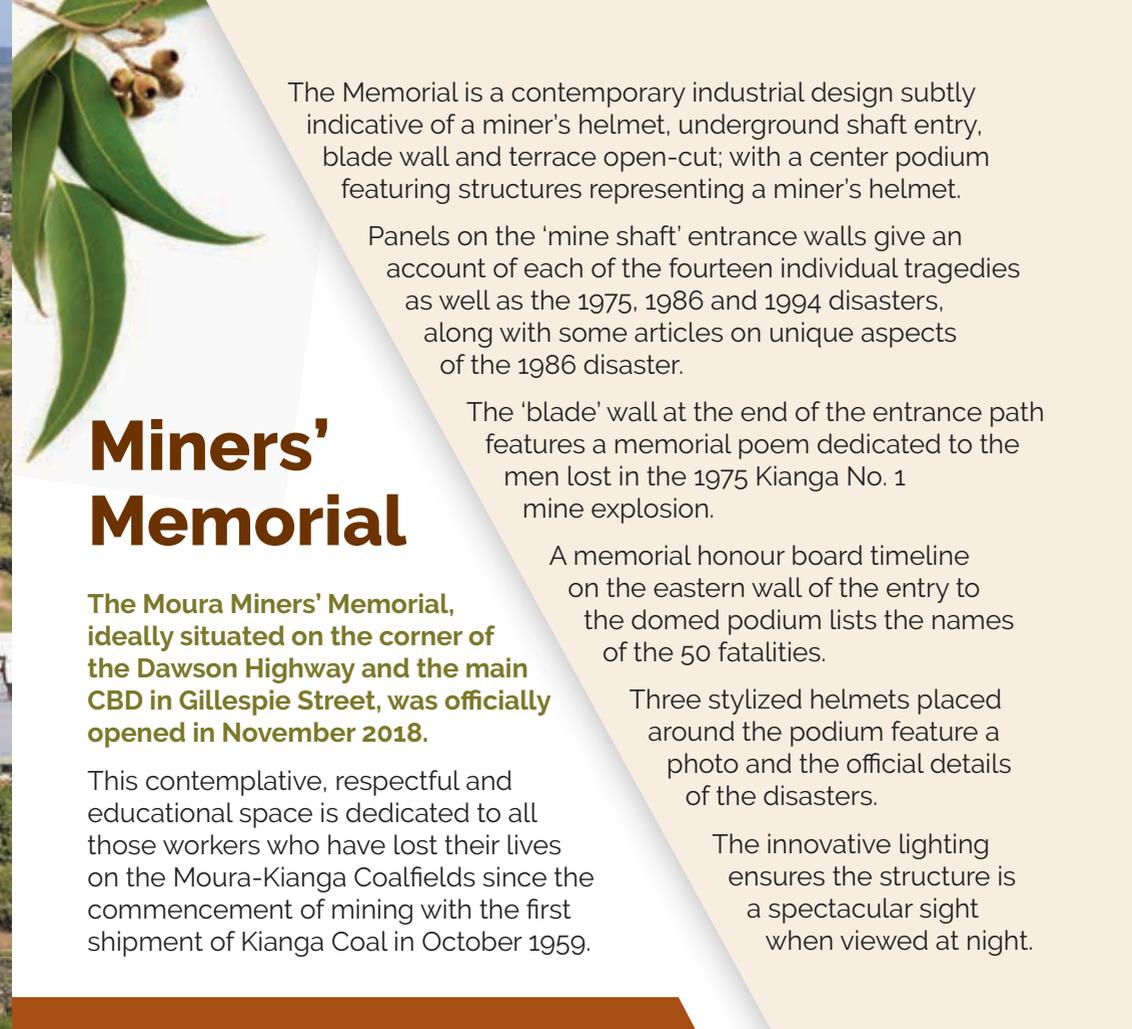
Please drop into the office at any of these facilities if you require more information.

Moura State High School



Moura State Primary School

Kathy Sweeney



The Memorial is a contemporary industrial design subtly indicative of a miner's helmet, underground shaft entry, blade wall and terrace open-cut; with a center podium featuring structures representing a miner's helmet.

Panels on the 'mine shaft' entrance walls give an account of each of the fourteen individual tragedies as well as the 1975, 1986 and 1994 disasters, along with some articles on unique aspects of the 1986 disaster.

Miners' Memorial

The Moura Miners' Memorial, ideally situated on the corner of the Dawson Highway and the main CBD in Gillespie Street, was officially opened in November 2018.

This contemplative, respectful and educational space is dedicated to all those workers who have lost their lives on the Moura-Kianga Coalfields since the commencement of mining with the first shipment of Kianga Coal in October 1959.

The 'blade' wall at the end of the entrance path features a memorial poem dedicated to the men lost in the 1975 Kianga No. 1 mine explosion.

A memorial honour board timeline on the eastern wall of the entry to the domed podium lists the names of the 50 fatalities.

Three stylized helmets placed around the podium feature a photo and the official details of the disasters.

The innovative lighting ensures the structure is a spectacular sight when viewed at night.

Kathy Sweeney

MOURA MINERS' MEMORIAL

Banana

Moura's closest neighbour, the town Banana, was surveyed in 1860. The name derives from a working bullock, called Banana, used by local stockmen to help them when herding some of the wilder cattle into the yards.

At the time of the Canoona rush, gold was found in Banana's Gully (as it was then called) and a small township sprang up there.

A Post Office at Banana was established on 1 September 1861.

In 1880, the local government Divisional Board (later the Shire of Banana) was established with its headquarters in Banana (taking its name from the town). It was later relocated to Rannes, then to Biloela in 1946.

Banana has a very interesting historical cemetery. There is work underway to identify unmarked graves and have the site declared as 'historical'.



Banana Cemetery



Services

Our businesses would love to have you visit.

Ask a local if there is something not listed here you need as we are a dynamic, changing community and who knows, maybe we missed something!

WE OFFER...

- Accommodation • Accountants • Bakery • Butcher
- Beauty Houses • Bottle Shops • Clothes Shop
- Cafes & Eateries • Clubs & Taverns • Fuel • Gym
- Hairdressers • Hardware • Mechanics
- Medical Centre • Newsagent • Post Office
- Pharmacy • Real Estate • Retirement Village
- Rural Supplies • Secondhand Store
- Supermarket • Stock & Station Agents
- Transport and Construction Companies
- Tyre Shop • Vet

Where to next?

We highly recommend grabbing a free copy of 'Sandstone Wonders'.

It is an all-encompassing tourism booklet of our Shire. It includes some great drives, things to see and do.

Theodore is a short drive south and Baralaba a short drive north.

Both areas are also located on the Dawson and have their own wonderful, unique stories to tell.

Camping is available on the river at both locations and we highly recommend them to you.



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**Moura Chamber of Commerce Inc.
Tourism Group**

 **Moura Heart of the Dawson Valley**

*Sincere thanks to Betty Seeney Photography
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for most of the photos in this booklet.*

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