



## EVENTS

### Rushworth Easter Festival

**When:** Easter Saturday  
Held in Rushworth's heritage listed High Street, the festival incorporates music, market stalls, food and grand parade at 1pm. Activities for the kids include Snakebusters, scarecrow display, animal farm and Easter egg hunt. There is also an art & craft exhibition, steam engine display and the museum will be open as well.  
Ph: 03 5856 1454  
[www.rushwortheasterfestival.org.au](http://www.rushwortheasterfestival.org.au)

### Moora Working Draft Horses

**When:** Easter Sunday  
The Moora Recreation Reserve comes alive with working horse drawn displays and vehicles. Ploughing with associated crafts such as blacksmithing, music and food. There are also cottage crafts demonstrations and lacemaking.  
Ph: 03 5856 1405  
[www.mooradraughthorses.wix.com/mwdh](http://www.mooradraughthorses.wix.com/mwdh)

### Waranga Winter Film Festival

**When:** June  
Films featured at the festival will be shown through a vintage 35mm reel-to-reel projector and held in the historic Rushworth Shire Hall. Guests will be sure to hear the distant hum and flicker of the projector – a truly cinematic experience.  
[www.facebook.com/warangawinterfestival](http://www.facebook.com/warangawinterfestival)  
Ph: 0456 529 248

### Rushworth Wildflower Hunt

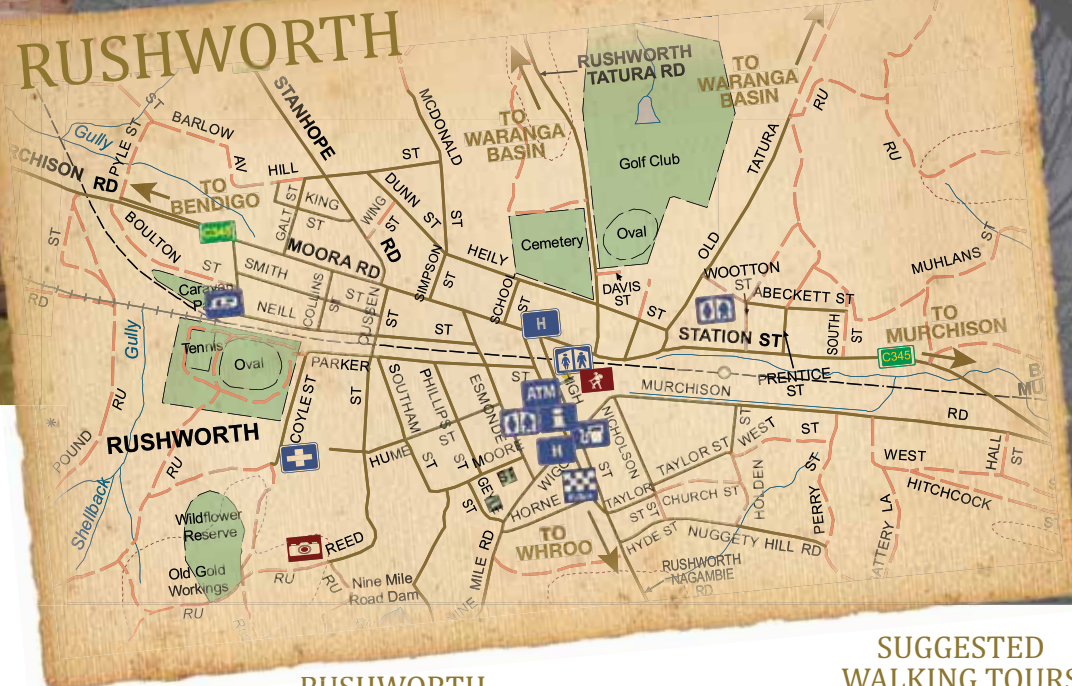
**When:** August  
Explore the Rushworth Ironbark Forest at a time of year when all the wildflowers are in bloom. Enjoy a 18km bike ride or 7km walk with friends and family.  
[www.rushworthit.com.au](http://www.rushworthit.com.au)  
Ph: 0423 658 245

### Rushworth Spring Garden Festival

**When:** October  
Celebrate the Spring season exploring inspiring open gardens in and around Rushworth. On the festival day, collect your open garden pass and map in town and discover the gardens at your own leisure. Light refreshments available at some gardens, or bring your own picnic lunch. While there also enjoy the Art & Textile Exhibition.  
Ph: 03 5856 1557

### Rushworth Kindergarten Community Market

**When:** 3rd Saturday of the Month  
Market features a variety of stalls including fruit & veg, craft, plants and second hand items. Held in Rushworth's historic High Street, from approx. 8am – 1pm. While there make sure you check out the Rushworth Machinery Preservation Club's display of vintage engines.  
0419 395 256.



## RUSHWORTH

Rushworth is a gold mining town of considerable historic character. There is a wealth of historic buildings and other structures which remain from its early development in the 1850s and the subsequent boom of the decades that followed.

The National Trust has taken great interest in the town, classifying:

- St Paul's Anglican Church (1869-70)
- The Band Rotunda (1888)
- The Imperial Hotel (1854) – now a private residence
- The Glasgow Buildings (1911)
- The Whistle Post (1906)
- Lambden's House (10 High Street)

Several other buildings, including the Rushworth College (1872), Waranga Shire Hall (1869), Rushworth Court House (1870) and the Criterion Hotel (est. 1856) have been recorded and an Urban Conservation Area of special significance has been designated where old and new buildings blend in streetscapes of particular charm.

For additional walking maps visit [www.rushworthit.com.au](http://www.rushworthit.com.au)



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Shire of Campaspe**  
(03) 5481 2200  
[shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au)

**Echuca Moama and District Tourism Association**  
Freecall 1800 804 446  
[info@echucamoama.com](mailto:info@echucamoama.com)  
[www.echucamoama.com](http://www.echucamoama.com)

## SUGGESTED WALKING TOURS

1. **High Street, Moora Rd and surrounds** – explore the historic buildings in the National Trust classified main streets of Rushworth, many of which feature interpretive plaques telling the story of their existence.
2. **The Lookout Tower** – The Country Fire Authority lookout tower is situated on Growler's Hill, the site of early gold mines, and offers expansive views of Waranga Basin, the township and forest.
3. **Dunlop Hill** – Past Rushworth's historic High School (est. 1872) the steep climb up Dunlop Hill brings you to the source of the town's water supply, drawn from Waranga Basin, and impressive displays of wildflowers during the spring.
4. **St Paul's Anglican Church** – The impressive church sits on the hill at the southern end of High Street near the site of the former Devon Mine and Rushworth's original cemetery.
5. **Whistle Stop** – (erected 1906 and classified by the National Trust) is situated directly behind St Paul's Anglican Church and is the site traction steam engines were required by law to sound their whistle to warn horse-drawn vehicles of their arrival.

## SUGGESTED DRIVING TRIPS

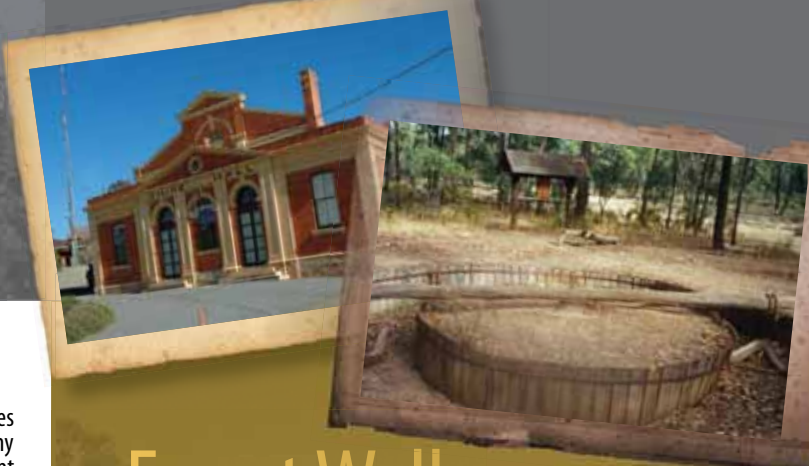
1. **Rushworth Forest** – 24,300 hectares of Ironbark forest that features many relics of gold mining and brilliant displays of wildflowers in spring.
2. **Historic Whroo Ghost Town** – Situated 7km south of Rushworth, see the former Balaclava Open Cut Mine, old Whroo cemetery, Aboriginal Waterhole, Puddling Machine. Picnic, toilet and car parking facilities available at Whroo.
3. **Waranga Basin** – this heart of the Goulburn irrigation system is today a haven for water sports; including boating, fishing, sailing, swimming and water skiing. The Basin area has many idyllic picnic locations.

## ACCOMMODATION

**King Billy Retreat Guesthouse** – 25 Perry Road Ph 0437 153 203  
**Lake Waranga Caravan Park and Holiday Camp** – Off Tatura-Rushworth Rd Ph 03 5856 1243 • [www.lakewaranga.com](http://www.lakewaranga.com)  
**Imperial Hotel Bed & Breakfast** – 38 High Street. Ph 0428 585 253 [www.imperialhotelrushworth.com.au](http://www.imperialhotelrushworth.com.au)  
**Miners Pick Caravan Park** – 50 Neill St. Ph 03 5856 1550  
**Rushworth Motel** – 4 School St. Ph 03 5856 1090 [www.arrahotels.com.au/rushworth-motel](http://www.arrahotels.com.au/rushworth-motel)  
**Yera Cottage** – 87 Murchison Road Ph 0408 359 378 • [www.yeracottage.net.au](http://www.yeracottage.net.au)

# RUSHWORTH

The town classified by the **National Trust**



## Forest Walks Wildflowers and Bird Life Water Sports

## Gold and Ironbark Country





## A BRIEF HISTORY OF RUSHWORTH

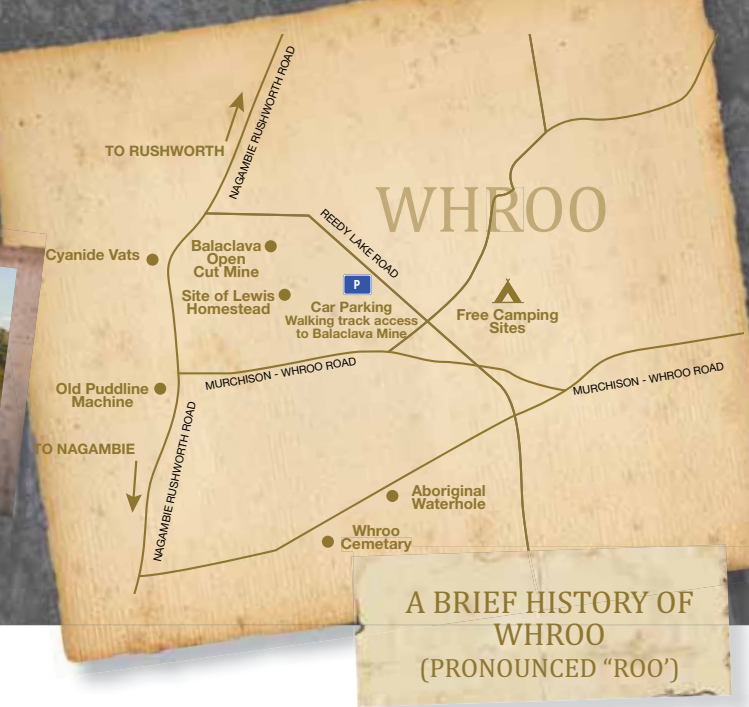
Gold was found in almost every gully and hill around Rushworth. Twenty six mines produced gold worth many thousands of pounds sterling, with every ounce won the hard way on this relentless, dry gold field. The deepest mine, the “Crown Cross”, north of Nuggetty, reached the depth of 896 ft. (270m). In places the gold reef was eight ft. (2.4m) thick.

The present site of High Street began soon after the 1853 gold rush – surveyed in 1854. By 1858, the south end of High Street comprised a large police camp and early wooden Court House, five hotels, two breweries, twenty tradesmen’s shops, seven large stores, gold brokers and two banks.

By the 1880s there were fourteen substantial Rushworth-made red brick buildings in the town, most of which were built at the south end, some were two story – all of them architectural gems of their day, showing great confidence in the future. The coming of the railway to Rushworth in 1890 brought the centre of business down to the northern end of High Street, where it still lies today.

Rushworth once boasted at least seven sawmills. The mills were powered by steam until electricity took over the last remaining mill in 1990. Originally run by traction engine, the mills would handle ironbark logs from the forest. Ironbark is particularly valuable for posts, railway sleepers and poles as it is termite proof and lasts forever.

In January 1983, High Street and adjacent streets were declared an Urban Conservation Area by the National Trust.



## THE FOREST

The Rushworth State Forest comprises 24,300 hectares of reserved forest in one area and provides pleasant surroundings for recreational activities such as driving, walks and nature study.

The forest contains many idyllic picnic spots beside tranquil water holes. Some of these were dug by the early miners and remain today for use in fighting forest fires.

The predominant forest trees are Red Ironbark, Grey Box and Yellow Gum. A prolific growth of wildflowers, follows autumn and spring rains, including terrestrial orchids, wattles, grevilleas, daisies, black boys, heath, rice flowers and bush peas.

Wildlife is abundant throughout the forest including echidna, ring-tail and brush-tail possums, yellow-footed phascogale, the brush-tail phascogale and tuan and the grey kangaroo, wallabies and wallaroos. Squirrel gliders occur in purer grey box stands. Over one hundred species of birds may be seen in the town, surrounding forest, swamps and plains including tiny blue wrens and majestic wedge tails.

## WHROO

Within the forest area lays the ghost town of Whroo (7km south of Rushworth), a former gold mining township that grew around the base of Balaclava Hill after the discovery of gold.

Whroo township (est. 1861) boasted hotels, stores, mechanics institute, library, school and churches. Whroo is now a deserted ghost town, all of the 139 buildings have been moved away or demolished, although the open cut shaft of Balaclava Mine, once Victoria’s largest open cut mine, remains and is accessible to visitors.

The cemetery and the Aboriginal waterhole, from which Whroo was named, are a short drive from the Balaclava Mine and well worth a visit. In the gullies and creek beds surrounding Whroo gold panning still brings the occasional lucky strike.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF WHROO (PRONOUNCED “ROO”)

The Whroo gold rush began simultaneously with that in Rushworth in 1853.

John T Lewis and James Nickinson, English naval seamen, first found gold on Balaclava Hill in 1854, on the same day as the fierce battle of Balaclava was fought during the Crimean War.

Balaclava Hill proved to be a true mountain of gold, with the six rich reefs that intercrossed through the quartz within the hill producing gold worth over a million pounds sterling. Gold-embedded quartz was carted by tramline through the tunnel built by Lewis away to stampers and crushers.

Four large pine trees planted in Lewis’ four acre garden beside his brick home can still be seen growing there. The brick church and the first school were nearby and six Sugar Gums planted in a row mark the site of the Whroo Mechanic Institute/Library. This was the site of many balls between 1859 and 1955, always held on moonlit nights as Whroo was never connected to electricity. Water was fed to homes in the area by wooden pipes.

Peppercorn trees, underground wells and grassy clearings mark the sites of hotels and homes.



## WARANGA BASIN

The original 7km retaining wall for this project was completed in 1908 by man and horsepower, making it one of the earliest irrigation projects in Victoria. Water from the Goulburn Weir is fed into the Basin and from there to the Goulburn Valley and across northern Victoria to the Mallee.

Today visitors can see the Inlet Channels (turn off the Bendigo-Murchison Rd and follow the shore of the lake). The Waranga-Mallee channel on the Tatura-Rushworth Rd starts the water on its 290km gravity fed journey to Birchip, Boort and towns further west. The “old” outlet channel is at the wall of the Basin on Rushworth-Tatura Rd. It follows the course of the original 1885 Old Trust Channel which realised the dreams of early settlers to connect the Goulburn River at Murchison with the Murray River at Echuca and resulted in the development of Australia’s most extensive dairy and orchard industries within the Goulburn Valley.

The Waranga Basin is a mecca for water sports. Boating, fishing, water skiing and sailing are all enjoyed in the huge 59 square km area of water. Numerous picnic spots, BBQ and toilet facilities and boats ramps are provided for all. A Caravan Park and camping areas are available on the water’s edge.



## RUSHWORTH SERVICES

### SPORTING, RECREATION FACILITIES

**Rushworth Recreation Reserve** – Tennis, Football, Cricket and Netball  
Coyle Street (end of Parker Street)

**Rushworth Golf Club**  
Tatura Rd

**Rushworth Speedway**  
Nine Mile Rd (5km south-west of town)

**Rushworth Swimming Pool**  
Geyle St

**Rushworth Bowling Club**  
Moore St

### Playgrounds

**Geyle Reserve** Esmonde St  
**Lions Park Station St**

**Boat Club**  
Tatura-Rushworth Rd (11km from town)

### USEFUL FACILITIES Electric barbecues High St

**Basin Wall Picnic Park**  
Tatura-Rushworth Rd

**Waranga Basin Caravan Park**  
Tatura-Rushworth Rd  
**Lions Park Station St**

**Picnic Areas**  
**Geyle Reserve**  
**Lions Park Station St**  
**Whroo**

**Public Toilets**  
**Beside the Rushworth Post Office**  
**High St**  
**Whroo**  
**Lions Park Station St**

**Churches**  
**Anglican Church** High St  
**Catholic Church** Phillips St  
**Presbyterian Church** Moora Rd  
**Uniting Church** Murchison Rd

**Health and Emergency Services**  
**Rushworth Medical Clinic** Moora Rd  
Ph 03 5856 1329  
**Waranga Medical Centre** High St  
Ph 03 5851 8400

**Waranga Memorial Hospital** (note there is no Emergency Department available at this hospital), Coyle St,  
Ph 03 5851 8000

**Waranga Aged Care Hostel** High St,  
Ph 03 5851 8050

**Chemist** High Street,  
Ph 03 5856 1402

**Police** High St, Ph 03 5856 1000  
or 000

**Fire** Ph 000 **Ambulance** Ph 000