

Rosewood & District Then & Now



A View of Amberley RAAF Base: To the south-east of Carrabin is Amberley RAAF Base which first opened in 1939 and was an important wartime aerodrome. It is now the home of the F-111.

B Walloon Saloon: Pat Sharry became the first licensee of the Walloon Hotel in 1877. According to local stories, the building had previously been a boarding house, and before that, had been shifted from a flood-prone site at Carrabin.

C Walloon CWA: This building with its steeply-pitched roof now serves as a community hall for the district.

It was built in 1877 as the first Walloon State School; when a new school was built in 1935, the old building was used for fundraising activities.



D Walloon Bicentennial Park: The park contains a skateboard bowl as well as play equipment, BBQ and picnic tables; toilets are available at the CWA opposite.

E Bigges Camp Park: About 3km east of Grandchester on the main road. A good place to stop for a picnic - facilities include an electric barbecue, shelter sheds and toilets.

F Model Steam Railway, Grandchester (opposite the Park): Visitors can ride behind working scale models of steam and diesel locomotives. Open on the first Sunday each month, 10am to 3pm. A feature of the site is an original signal cabin which once stood at Yarongmalu, between Grandchester and Laidley.

G Grandchester Sawmill: Visitors are welcome to drive onto the premises for a closer look but for industrial safety and insurance reasons, they must remain in their vehicle. This steam-operated sawmill established in 1940 is one of the great attractions of the region.

It is owned by the Gillam family and is powered by an old C17 locomotive boiler and a steam engine which was manufactured in England in 1910 and originally used at the Nestles condensed milk factory at Toogoolawah. The mill is still productive and processes local hardwoods.



- H Grandchester Railway Station:** The station building is the oldest surviving in Queensland and its simple shape has great charm. Note the square water tank on a timber stand; once commonly used to provide water for steam engines, these are now rare.



The original settlement here was known as Bigge's Camp and this name is still shown on the entry to the station.

- I Railway Dam:** The dam can be reached by driving a short distance north up Long Gully Road, then turning left onto Clancy's Road. Steam locomotives were refilled with water at Grandchester for the haul across the Little Liverpool Range. To ensure a water supply, a railway dam was built in 1892.
- J Old Hidden Vale:** is now a resort, conference centre and restaurant. The property was once part of historic Franklin Vale and was taken up in 1871 by John Jost who bred cattle, sheep and race horses. In 1900, it was sold to Alfred Cotton. Many historic buildings remain on site.

Rosewood and District

The rural townships of Rosewood, Walloon and Grandchester are part of the City of Ipswich. This guide outlines a day trip from the Ipswich CBD through this attractive and interesting region.

Rosewood Scrub

The Rosewood Scrub was a huge tract of dense vine forest which stretched from Rosewood to Fernvale. It contained many species including hoop pine, rosewood, crows ash, blackbean and red cedar. Only a few patches of the original scrub survive.

Mining

This has been a mining area since the 1870s. As you drive from Ipswich to Grandchester, you will notice many signs of former activity such as heaps of overburden and the remains of timber loading platforms. Mining is still an important industry in the region but is now entirely open cut.

Babies of Walloon

In 1891, sisters Bridget and Mary Jane Broderick drowned at Walloon while trying to pick water lilies. It was thought that the older sister drowned trying to save the younger. Australian bush poet Henry Lawson was moved by the story and wrote "Babies of Walloon".