

Kooroorinya Nature Reserve

Travelling 57km south of Prairie on the Muttaborra road the Reserve offers people the chance to just lay back and enjoy nature at its best. Sealed to the turnoff and accessible for all vehicles.

The falls run only during the rainy season, generally from November to March. However, a chain of permanent billabongs remain and provides excellent fishing and swimming. At the base of the falls a waterhole edged by a white sandbar is easily accessible and walks along the Tower Hill creek can be enjoyed.

Picnic Races at Kooroorinya have been an annual event for over 100 years. The races are held early in May each year and the races run over three days and are a great family weekend with good food, licensed bar, kid's activities, live bands and more.

The Reserve abound with wildlife, both bird and animal and those good with a camera can get some wonderful pictures.

Fish for yellow belly, black bream or red claw, go walking to see the rock formations carved out by the water or just relax.

Kooroorinya camping site offers modern toilet facilities, hot showers and wood fired barbeque sites. Drinking water is available, well behaved dogs are welcome and visitors can self register at the amenities block.

Camping fees apply per vehicle, and discounts for groups or extended stays can be negotiated.

Remember – check road conditions before travelling during wet weather & always carry plenty of water!

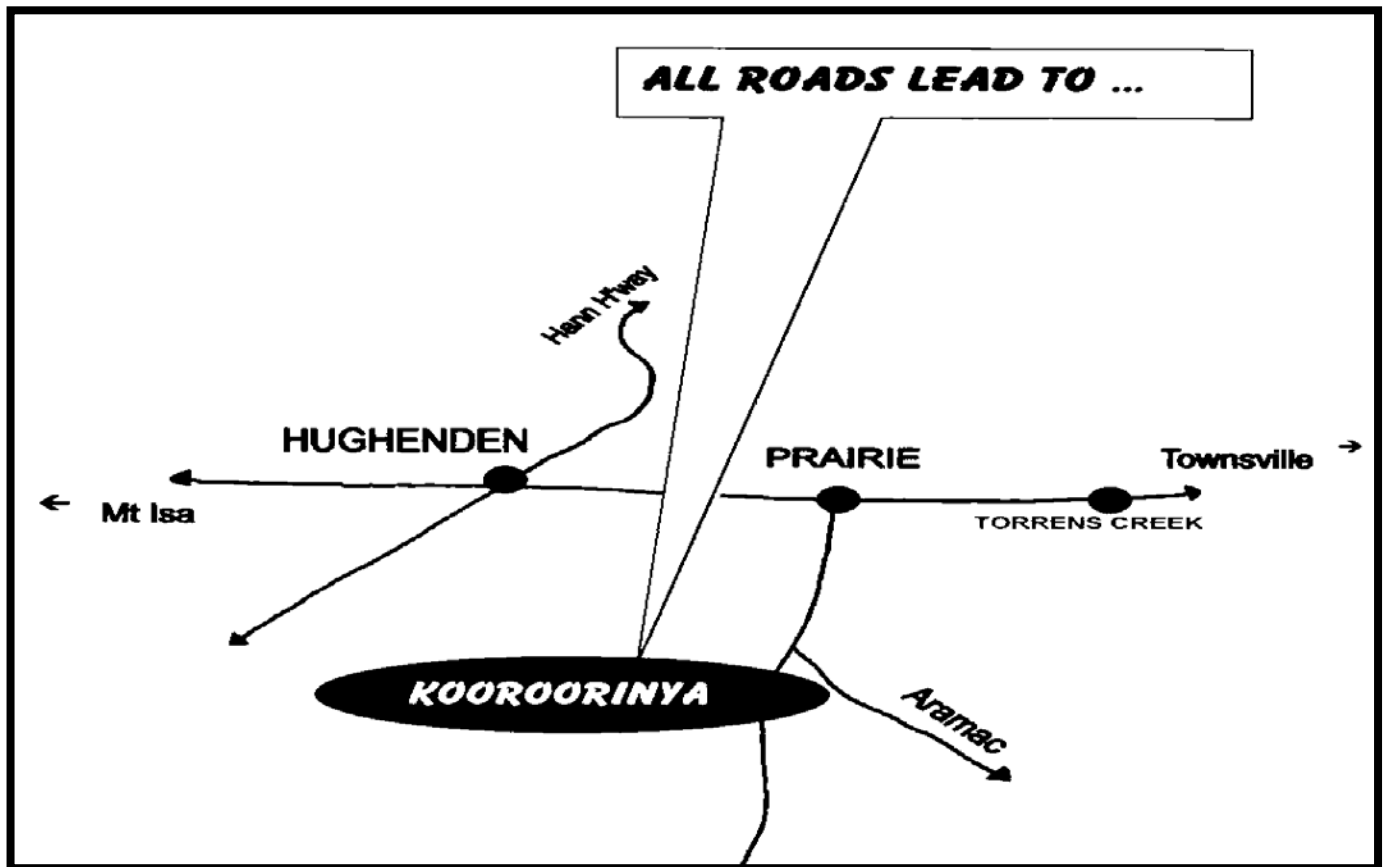
Caretakers Contact Number: (07) 4741 7460

Please note; from the turnoff to camp grounds approximately 1.5km of gravel!
www.facebook.com/oakleyamateurraceclub/



O.A.P.R.C INDEMINITY NOTICE

1. All visitors, members, friends and those holding under them enter and use these premises and facilities at their own risk.
2. No liability will attach to the Club, its members or employees as a consequence of any damages suffered to any person of his/her property or facilities and which may arise as a consequence of any act or omission of any nature whatsoever by the said Club or it employees.
3. Parents of children must assume control of them and over their movements and the club shall not be responsible for their care.



Racing for love - Stuart Walmsley

This story excerpt is from Issue #114, Outback Magazine: August/September 2017

A huge roll-up to the Kooroorinya Centenary Races showed the importance of keeping the event alive.

Some might question the logic of staging a grass race meeting in outback Queensland, but the Oakley Amateur Picnic Race Club has managed it for 100 years now. If the success of the centenary gathering at Kooroorinya is anything to go by, it might prevail for another century.

Up to 800 locals, tourists, former jockeys and committee members packed the Kooroorinya campground, 245 kilometres north of Longreach, from May 11 to celebrate the club's landmark with three days of racing and revelry.

It started in 1917 at Noorocoo waterhole on Shirley Station, then the event shifted to Ewan Plains for a decade or so, before Benn Sumner Brown donated the land at Kooroorinya (part of what was then Bogunda Station) in 1930 to give the club its permanent home.

The Brown family is still heavily involved; Benn Sumner's grandson Sam has the challenging task of controlling the standing starts, sometimes including horses owned and trained by his brother Benn, whose wife Robyn is the secretary of six years.

"It's always been the community spirit and hard work that has kept this club going," says Robyn, after a plaque commemorating the centenary was unveiled to open proceedings. "We race for love, to beat your mates; there's no money on offer out here – but you see people at Kooroorinya you only run into once a year."

The 2017 event was very much a reunion. A presentation was held for 13 jockeys from yesteryear, including Harry Shann, who won 'the whip' as the meeting's leading rider while on his honeymoon at Kooroorinya in 1970.

The John Delahunty runner Hoffenhorry blitzed the field in the Cup, with Brent McGregor on board, and two days of racing culminated in a huge centenary dinner on the Saturday night.

This was complemented by annual events such as fashions on the field, a poetry competition, a waltzing and jiving contest, a lolly drop (by mustering plane) and the hotly contested Ringers' Rally.

"It was an absolutely huge roll-up for us out here," Robyn says. "We're fighting hard to keep these meetings going despite the drought and everything, and this response just demonstrates why it's worthwhile."