

# **Events** 191





- The town is located approximately 312 km northwest of Melbourne.
- Its population is 694.
- · Birchip is only 8 km from Tchum Lake.
- Big Red, the Mallee Bull sculpture, relates to wild cattle that used to roam the area from the mid 1800s.
- · The town was originally a pastoral run named Wirrimbirchip, derived from an overheard Aboriginal word meaning 'one-way'.
- It was surveyed as Birchip in 1887 and officially declared a town in 1896.
- The old courthouse, built in 1914, now houses the Birchip History Museum.
- The town is home to the Birchip Cropping Group a world leader in farmer-driven, agronomic research.
- Farms in the Birchip area typically grow cereals, oilseeds, legumes and pulses, mostly wheat, barley, vetch and lentils. Most livestock in the district are sheep.
- · The town's bakery is a six-time winner of Australia's Best Vanilla Slice.
- In 1948, 15-year-old Birchip teenager Ray Neville won the Melbourne Cup in a photo finish aboard the 80/1 chance Rimfire, on only his ninth ride in a race. He was, and is the second youngest jockey to ever win the Cup.

BIRCHIP HISTORY MUSEUM

## There's always something happening in Birchip

- Tchum Lake New Year's Eve Party and Fireworks
- Mallee Bull Pacing Cup
- Flatter than the Flatlands Hang Gliding Competition

Buloke.

visitbuloke.com.au

birchip.vic.au

visitwimmeramallee.com.au

#visitbirchip #visitbuloke #roomtogrow

- Birchip Cropping Group Field Days
- Buloke Collectable Vehicle Club Show and Shine
- Annual Hospital Flower Show
- Mallee Root Roundup B&S Ball
- Youth Group Rampage
- Library Art Show
- Mali Heart Festival

For all events in Birchip and the surrounding areas, check out visitbuloke.com.au.

# Birchip







# Welcome

### Stay and Play in Birchip

The thriving Mallee town of Birchip is a picturesque and welcoming farming community on the Sunraysia Highway, between Melbourne and Mildura.

It's the perfect spot to visit for a day and explore the area – especially Tchum Lake where aquatic activities abound, with swimming, boating, canoeing, water-skiing, windsurfing and fishing.

Created during the Mali Heart Street Art Festival, the wall murals can be found in several locations around Birchip. The stunning murals, are by renowned street artists who are passionate about making a meaningful and lasting contribution to the town. They include abeautiful wall which was a collaboration involving students from the Birchip Pl2 School.

The vibrant street art has brought life and colour to the town – and put Birchip on the map as a must-see destination along the Silo Art Trail. Checkout more details on the art work at www.birchip.vic.au/mali-art

Birchip is also famous for its bakery, which boasts Australia's Best Vanilla Slice – surely worth the trip to this fabulous town alone.

Travellers can start their visit at the Soldiers' Memorial Park in the centre of town, with clean public toilets, a playground and BBQ facilities, information shelter, V-Line bus stop, and access to the public swimming pool. Then wander the town and take in the historic buildings, museum, and a range of specialty shops.

For those wanting to extend their stay, Birchip offers two hotels, as well as a motel/caravan park and camping at nearby Tchum Lake. Meanwhile, those who love their food can choose from two cafés, an award-winning bakery, and the local hotels. Experiences

Australia's best vanilla slice 99

#### See, do and experience Birchip

If you're just passing through or planning on staying in Birchip for a few days, there is a range of things to add to your 'must-do' list.

In the heart of town there are several sculptural works, the most famous of which is Big Red, the huge legendary wild Mallee Bull. The large sculpture in the main street is dedicated to the herds of wild cattle that roamed the area in the 1800s, and is symbolic of the strong and resourceful people who pioneered the region.

Across the road, you'll find the Soldiers' Memorial Park, where the kids can play while you relax. Stay awhile and cook a barbecue, then head through to the public swimming pool to cool off afterwards.

If the kids still have energy to burn, there are other parks where they can let off steam, including J.E. Taylor Sunset Park with its collection of old machinery and public facilities.



Birchip loves its sport! The Birchip Community Leisure Centre has a tennis and netball courts, hockey field, football grounds, golf course, squash courts, and cricket pitch. In the summer months there is an outdoor swimming pool, and the kids can also go wild at the local skate park.

For those looking for more sedate offerings, the community library, museum in the historic court house, and a plethora of local specialty shops are waiting to be discovered. Don't forget to visit the famous bakery with its award-winning vanilla slice.

Just eight kilometres out of town is the extraordinary Tchum Lake and fabulous camping facilities. This manmade wonder is a drawcard for visitors all over Victoria who love swimming, boating, canoeing, water-skiing, windsurfing and fishing. There's also a playground, and walkers will love the trails and wetlands. Locals love the walking track from Birchip to Tchum Lake

