Welcome to

CHARLTON

The Friendly River Town

Things to see & do
The Rex Theatre

This beautifully renovated 1930’s art deco theatre has seating for nearly 400 people. It is still a working theatre which in addition to regular movie screenings also has plenty of live shows as well. For further details visit: www.rextheatre.org.au.

Charlton Golden Grains Museum

Housed in the 1882 Mechanics Institute, this award-winning museum has over 3000 local artefacts and photos on display. There is a vast collection of local family history resources as well and if you think you have a long lost relative who may have lived here once, just ask the volunteer on duty to have a look. Open 11-3 on Sundays or by appointment. Ph. 0418 361 971. Entry is $5.

Charlton Courthouse Gallery

Located in the historic Charlton Courthouse in Camp Street. View a wonderful photographic display in this lovely old building which still has the judge’s bench in situ. Open by appointment Ph: 0418 361 971. Entry is $3.
Charlton Parks

Charlton has many parks that will cater for all your playground and picnic needs.

Rotary Park is located by the Avoca River. It has public toilets, a free electric BBQ & a kids slide. Located in our heritage precinct, you will find it near the Fire Station.

Gordon Park is Charlton’s oldest park. Originally the location of early Chinese market gardens, it now hosts a terrific children’s playground & skate park.

Traveller’s Rest playground is located just over the swing bridge from Gordon Park or can be accessed from the main street. It is close to public toilets, BBQ’s with shade provided by gazebos and inciting vistas of the river.
Avoca River Walk

The newly created Avoca River Walk begins just near the swing bridge. The first 500 metres is sealed for easy access and takes you along the river’s edge to Lundy Street, which leads you to Charlton Park. The walk continues on an informal path for 2kms to the Charlton Weir. Along the path are several interpretive signs with images and information on the local birdlife.

Charlton Cemetery

You will see that the Charlton Cemetery has had a thriving trade over the years with burials dating back to the late 1870’s. There are over 3000 recorded burials. The population of Charlton at its peak was over 3000.

There is a wealth of information for anyone looking for long lost relatives. Charlton Rotary has established a board containing details of all recorded burials. The Charlton Cemetery Trust maintains and administers the site.

It is located a couple of kms along the Borung Hwy towards Donald on the right hand side.
Charlton Bowls & Croquet Clubs

Next to the Traveller’s Rest Nth Caravan Park is the combined complex of the Bowling and Croquet clubs.

Visitors are welcome, so if you’re staying at the park and would like a game just wander over to see if someone is about.

It’s usually offered at the exorbitant fee of...... nil.

In fact, there are spare bowls if you haven’t brought yours and the croquet club has lots of spare mallets.
Charlton Community Forest

The Charlton Community Forest plantation of 1500 trees, located 1 km west on the Donald Road (Borung Highway), was planted in 1947 by 700 local Charlton citizens on a cold, wet August day. In an amazing feat of organisation, a siren sounded in the town at 2pm and a procession of people including local and country school children and local business people who had closed for the afternoon, marched out to the plantation site. Each group had their own section to plant and on the sound of a whistle everyone planted a tree. Part of the Save our Forests campaign, the event was filmed in colour along with other images of Charlton at the time.

After 70 years, the plantation has never been harvested and is now the home to a variety of native flora & fauna. Currently undergoing some conservation work, with plans for interpretive signage, this community forest is close enough to town for a short walk.
**Yawong Weir**

This weir was built to allow local authorities to gauge river levels on the Avoca River.

Floods periodically occur in Charlton but not normally as devastating as the 2011 flood. This flood was 0.5 metres higher than previously ever recorded and caused significant damage to farms and the town. There are many flood photos around town including in the Golden Grains Museum.

The weir has many seating areas, along with two BBQs in a lovely treed area beside the Avoca River.

It is approximately 20km south on the Charlton/St Arnaud Road, through a gate on the right hand side, with the weir only a couple of hundred metres in.

No toilets...... but big trees....
Mount Dooboobetic

Also known as Klunders Hill, named after a local family who lived in the nearby homestead (Cobham Hall).

It’s a great spot to overlook Charlton, the grain silos and the local surrounds, and is situated in the same reserve as the golf course.

To get there simply turn left into the Back Teddywaddy road (opposite the entrance to the Charlton Park, 1km from the town centre on the Calder Hwy). Continue for 2.5km (it becomes gravel about half way) until you see the small sign on the left hand side through a gate, then travel 600m, taking the left hand track.
Mt Dooboobetic Bushland Reserve & Charlton Golf Club

The Mt Dooboobetic Bushland Reserve, which also encompasses the Charlton golf course, is home to loads of native flora and fauna. There are over 100 species of birds to be found including protected species such as the Hooded Robin, Brown Tree Creeper and Diamond Fire Tail. In spring, lovely native orchids plus other hidden treasures can be discovered.

The 18 hole sandscrape golf course is only open from mid-April to mid-September. There is a large club house with a wood fire and bar facilities but this is not always open. Green fees will apply.

The golf course and reserve is a five minute drive from town. Take the Borung Highway towards Donald and turn right up Golf Links Road. Although you are welcome to use the fairways to access the birdwatching woodland, it would be appreciated if you park in the golf club parking area and walk from there.
Glenloth

Approximately 6km from Charlton (at Fig Tree Corner) a road sign on the right hand side points to Glenloth, 10km away.

So, away we go, back in time when it was a busy grain silo railhead (which is still there, unused).

The photos show the old pub (no markings) and the old hall, still standing, but with no means of support.....

NOTE: PLEASE REFRAIN FROM ENTERING PRIVATE PROPERTY.
Wooroonook Lakes Charlton

A natural lake that used to dry up during poor rainfall years, it’s now linked to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline so it’s kept to a good level for boating and swimming all year round.

The main lake features a floating jetty, toilets, showers and electric BBQs.

Powered sites are available along with general camping. Payment is made on an honesty system with a donation box next to the amenity block at the entrance.

The lakes are located 14k from Charlton, on your left, along the Borung Hwy towards Donald.
Mt Jeffcott

Listed in most local tourist brochures as a must see location for local flora and fauna, the views are pretty special.

There is a lovely shed housing the BBQ, sink & tap, benches, seating and wall information situated at the base. But no toilets, just trees!

The drive up to the top of the mount is only about 1km but may require a 4WD depending on conditions.

It’s easy to get there, just take the Borung Hwy towards Donald for 19.5km (you will pass the Wycheproof turnoff on your right at 14km, where the Wooroonook Lakes are on your left) and take the left hand turn into Cameron’s Mail Road. Travel down this well maintained dirt road for 4.2km and you’ll see the shelter on your left.
Granite Rocks Reserve

Travel along the Borung Highway towards Donald and at approx. 21km turn right into the Banenyong/Jeoffcott Road, driving a further 3.9km, then turning right into Pinks Road (gravel). Continue for another 2.9km until you see the wooden sign post on your right. You’ll see some of the rock formations at the top of the hill. It’s approximately a 1km drive to the top but please note, the track is only a goat track and can contain long grass in summer – beware of creating a fire risk.

Alternatively instead of taking the Banenyong/Jeoffcott Road you can continue along the Borung Highway towards Donald until you get to the signposted Pinks Road, turn right and travel 6.7km to the Reserve. This route is slightly longer but more straightforward.

PS, no BBQ, benches or toilets, but plenty of trees....
Watchem

This small town of only 80 residents has lots of charm. Located about 60kms from Charlton, it’s a bit of a trip but well worth it with plenty to see. Local highlights include the impressive Catholic Church which is over 130 years old and the quaint town hall which has a charming 1920s stage curtain. There is the local pool and the beautiful Watchem Lake. With a hotel and small general store, there is also somewhere to whet your whistle. The newly opened aquarium may also be worth a visit.

Getting there will take you through some lovely farming country. Take the Borung Highway towards Donald for 21km and turn right into the Banyenong-Jeffcott Road. It will veer left. Follow this road for 10km to a t-intersection and turn right into the Donald-Swan Hill Road. After 10.5km take a slight left into the Birchip-Corack Road then after 6km another slight left onto the Watchem Corack Road. There will be signposts directing you to Watchem.
Coonooer Bridge Wind Farm

The Coonooer Bridge Windfarm has 6 turbines and was opened on the 15th April, 2016. It has the largest wind turbines in Australia and each turbine can power 2000 homes. The closest vantage point to the turbines is from Mt Gower but the track up the mount can be a challenge for anything other than a 4WD. To get to Mt Gower take the St. Arnaud Road just opposite the Bendigo Bank and travel approximately 27km to Westcott Road. Turn left and travel along this dirt road (dry weather only) for about 5km until you reach the entrance to the Mt Gower Reserve on your left. Follow this track to the top of the mount. This will bring you to within a couple of hundred meters of a turbine and also give you a spectacular view.

The alternative if you don’t have a 4WD is to travel to the entrance of the windfarm at Yeungroon. You will be about 1km from the nearest turbine but it does allow you to get a feeling for their huge dimensions. Travel towards Bendigo on the Calder Highway and approximately 1km from the Caltex Roadhouse, turn right onto the Yeungroon Road. Travel south along this road for a total of 17.5 kms. Along the way as you come over a rise you will notice the 20,000 head Charlton Feedlot and its large silos off in the distance. Follow all the twists and turns this road takes following the directions to Yeungroon and keep heading south. You will also pass the new Yeungroon Fire Station and the 1892 Yeungroon Hall (no longer in use but still standing defiant).
Spannerman

John Piccoli, located in Boort, is world renowned for his larger than life sized sculptures, constructed from spanners.

He and his wife Sonia have 2 acres of beautiful gardens including a wonderful array of birds such as the rare South American Macaw.

John’s sculptures need to be seen to be believed.

Ring John or Sonia on 03 54554257 to book a visit. There is a small entrance fee.

Travel approximately 42km along the Charlton-Boort Road, turning off to Quambatook. Travel for 14km, and it’s the gateway on your right. There’s no initial signage but it’s just past the Barraport sign also on your right.
Saluté Oliva

If visiting the Spannerman in Boort it is also worth visiting the two places below. Saluté Oliva is a family owned and operated business specialising in producing first class extra virgin olive oil (EVOO) and table olives for the connoisseur. Drop by for a visit and purchase some of their wonderful products. Best to call first so you won’t be disappointed. It’s just near the Boort Lake off the Boort-Pyramid Hill Road.

5 Templeton Drive, Boort, 3537
Ph: 5455 2652
Mob: 0418 552 651 (Marlie)
www.saluteoliva.com.au

Simply Tomatoes

“What do you get when you combine woolly sheep with green tomatoes?” No idea? Well jump in the car and go and visit Simply Tomatoes! Take a tour, meet the menagerie, enjoy lunch or morning tea in the gorgeous 1890’s homestead gardens and indulge in a little retail therapy!

If you’d like to visit with a group, check out their day tours. So whether you’ve got a car load or a coach load, give them a call and pop out to the farm. It’s about 13 kms past Boort on the Boort Kerang Road.

479 Parkers Road, Boort.
Ph: 5455 4237
www.simplytomatoes.com
House to Home
A treasure trove overflowing with an exciting range of homewares, giftware, Manchester, baby goods, shoes, scarves, bags, jewellery, cards, garden décor & bedding. Something for everyone. Enjoy exploring and discover what Greg and Marea have in store for you. 42 High Street. Ph: 5491 1691

Country Savers
Country Savers have a great range of products at fantastic prices including appliances, home and garden décor, workwear, fishing gear and general household goods. Pop in to say hello and see what Janine has to offer. 79 High Street. Ph: 5491 1131

Timeless Treasures & Tea Room
Situated near the James Paterson bridge, Timeless Treasures is a fantastic spot for a relaxing break. Fossick through their antiques and collectables then stay for a drink and a bite to eat. Bruce and Annette serve a fantastic selection of homemade cakes and light meals using fresh seasonal produce. 9A High St. Ph: 0411 203 255
Charlton Newsagency

Visit Cindy and Jason for a terrific range of newspapers, magazines, toys, cards, giftware and all your stationary requirements. You can also buy your lotto tickets as well – this might be your lucky day! 69 High Street. Ph: 5491 1680

Charlton Mensland

Visit Peter for men’s and women’s clothing, and your work wear requirements. 24 High Street. Ph: 5491 1680

Charlton Florist & Fashions

Drop in on Joan for a great range of women’s and children’s wear or to buy a bunch of flowers to freshen up your day. Shop 3, 9B High Street. Ph: 5491 2220.

One Passing Moment

At One Passing Moment you will find a wide selection of practical, everyday objects that will last a lifetime and are a joy to use. These timeless tools sit side by side with a beautiful range of homewares, jewellery, leather goods, nostalgic toys, gifts and accessories to adorn yourself, your home and your loved ones. 52 High Street. Ph: 5491 1883
Charlton Bakery Cafe
58-62 High Street, Charlton, 3525. Phone: 5491 2277

The Boyz Cafe
27-29 High St, Charlton, 3525. Phone: 5491 1414

Charlton Cafe
61 High Street, Charlton, 3525. Phone: 5491 1375

Lizard Roadhouse
39 Mildura Way, Charlton, 3525. Phone: 5491 1400

Charlton Truckstop
Calder Hwy, Charlton, 3525. Phone: 5491 1310

Charlton BP
91-93 High Street, Charlton, 3525. Phone: 5491 1772

East Charlton Hotel & Oogies Cafe
53 High Street, Charlton, 3525. Phone: 5491 1613

The Cricket Club Hotel
92 High Street, Charlton, 3525. Phone: 5491 1604

IGA Supermarket
28 High Street, Charlton, 3525. Phone: 5491 1909

Charlton Supermarket
55 High Street, Charlton, 3525. Phone: 5491 1080

Charlton Pharmacy
23 High Street, Charlton, 3525. Phone: 5491 1521

Charlton Timber & Hardware
8-14 Mildura Way, Charlton, 3525. Phone: 5491 1204