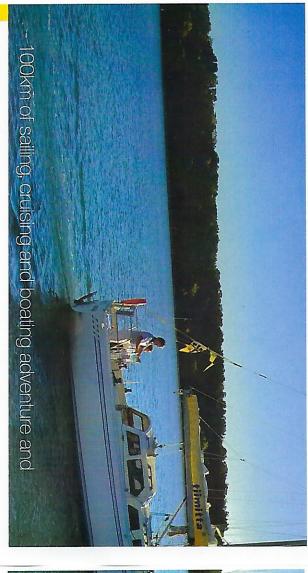


Australian Covernment Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism VAL



www.clarencetourism.com



100 islands to explore on the spectacular Clarence River.

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bridge
to Rogans



Welcome to the Clarence, an area of astonishing beauty with lush farmlands, rich rainforests and golden beaches.

One of the dominant features of the region is the mighty Clarence River, a river of adventure. With 100 chartered islands it is the second largest river in Australia with over 400km of pristine water from source to sea.

This guide will assist you to plan your adventure with suggested routes, points of interest and details of river infrastructure. It does not however, provide detailed navigation of the river and it is recommended that electronic C Maps or Chart No. 222 of the Clarence River and Approaches is obtained for accurate depths of the river system. Alternatively, the guide book Cruising the NSW Coast 6th edition by Alan Lucas contains some very useful information on depths and navigation of the Clarence.

Once used as a major trade route, the river is now used primarily for leisure. The

broad waters of the lower river are ideal for sailing, boating or fishing where the upper reaches and the many tributaries offer excellent canoeing, kayaking and fishing opportunities.

The river becomes a focal point for the many river based festivals that take place each year including, the Bridge to Bridge Ski Race, Head of the River Rowing Regatta, the Bridge to Breakers Sailing regatta, Dragon Boat races and Pro Wakeboard Championships to name a few. Please check NSW Maritime website www.maritime.nsw.gov.au or call 02 6646

The sailing guide details facilities such as marinas, jetties, pontoons, boat ramps, fuel and the identification of hazards such as bridges and overhead cables.

For further information on activities accommodation and events in the Clarence, call 02 6642 4677 or visit www.clarencetourism.com.

getting to the clarence

by road

Recent upgrades to the Pacific Highway have significantly shortened the drive from Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Yamba is only four hours drive south from Brisbane and a bit over three from the Gold Coast. From the south at Port Macquarie, it is only four and half hours drive.

by air

Rex Airlines has direct flights to the Grafton Airport. Airports are also located at Coffs Harbour (50 minutes drive to Grafton) or Ballina (1 hour drive to Yamba).

about the clarence

logistical information

River descriptions and maps of boating routes with GPS coordinates relating to latitude and longitude, points of interest and towns with amenities are to be found in this guide.

The Clarence Tourism website www. clarencetourism.com can provide further information on:

- Accommodation, hotels, restaurants and other amenities
- Regional suppliers who can provide full support and advice for your trip
- Boat and equipment hire

Yamba Marina has facilities for effluent disposal, fresh water and fuel. Details are available on the website www.yambamarina.com.au.

charts for the clarence

Corrected charts for the Clarence River and Approaches (222) can be purchased from Boat Books in either Brisbane (07 3229 6427 or freecall 1800 773 458) or Sydney (02 9439 1133). Non-corrected charts are available from Yamba Marina (02 6646 9898). C-Maps of the Clarence are also available from Jeppesen (02 9808 6200).

tides and adjustments

The tides for Yamba & Iluka are the same as for Sydney. Over-run continues for approximately 2 hours after high tide and 2½ after low tide.

High Tide

- Low Tide

Maclean: 2¼ hrs Brushgrove: 3¾ hrs

Ulmarra/Grafton: 4½ hrs Grafton: 5¼ hrs

Maclean: 2¼ hrs Ulmarra: 5 hrs

environment

are camping well clear of the river.

the Lower Clarence. Camp at one of the nominated caravan parks or seek permission to camp on private land.

Rivers can rise unexpectedly; ensure you

Sustainable environmental practices are strongly advocated by the Clarence community. Ensure you think carefully about your actions and minimise your footprint when visiting our Valley.

accommodation and food

There is quality accommodation to suit all styles and budgets, with luxury resorts, motels, caravan parks, B&B and self contained apartments, many with direct

water access and private jetties. Visit www.clarencetourism.com for a full list of accommodation options.

Public campsites are not available on

Public pontoons have been strategically installed to allow access to many waterfront villages and towns with cafes museums, galleries. Private pontoons allow access to riverside pubs and restaurants.

boat hire

Boats are available for hire at Yamba and Iluka Marina with cruises and fishing charters available from Yamba Marina. Houseboats are available for hire from Brushgrove.

maos

NSW Maritime Clarence River Waterways Map.



a cycle way and picnic/bbq facilities. available adjacent to Ford Park which has the ferry need to be observed. The jetty is and pick up passengers, but movements of tenders. The jetty is available to set down end of Yamba Channel (GPS 29deg,25 is suitable for shallow draft vessels and There is a small public wharf at the far 29deg,26.144min.S 153deg,20.888min.E) facilities on the river at the Marina (GPS town of Yamba, there are some excellent Take some time to explore the popular .994min.S 153deg,21.577min.E) which

of Yamba which is a popular destination lively cafe and restaurant scene. for tourists with some great beaches, is a short walk to the picturesque village tenders and vessels with shallow draft and picnic, bbq, toilet and boat wash down and boat ramp with a fish cleaning area, boutique shopping with galleries and a 153deg,20.617min.E) has a small jetty facilities which is suitable for tinnies and Yamba Bay Park (GPS 29deg,26.028min.S

marked channel around Dart Island to the town of Iluka following the Cruise out of Yamba Marina and across



is an alcohol free zone). A short walking a pontoon (GPS 29deg,24.777min.S track along the bay leads back to the and play equipment (please note that this Ryan Park has BBQ, picnic facilities, toilets and through the hole in Middle Wall, a bay where you can anchor-off. The Charlie Reef Hotel or at the northern end of the 153deg,21.229min.E) close to the Sedgers bottom hole (GPS 29deg,24.999min.S You can enter the bay at the Marina via deep but relatively narrow channel (GPS 153deg,21.093min.E) where there is 29deg,25.514min.S 153deg,21.071min.E).

berth alongside or anchor in its vicinity. as Brown's Rocks adjacent to Brown's commercial and private vessels should not Rocks Caravan Park. This wharf is strictly with Goodwood Island to your North. Leaving Iluka, cruise past Freeburn Island There is an excellent fishing area known

general store, Post Office & public phone. the Harwood Hotel, locally called the jetty where you can stop to explore near 153deg,14.358min.E). There is also a 'Harwood Hilton' (GPS 29deg,25.678min.S 29deg,25.814min.S 153deg,14.444min.E) bridge spanning the Pacific Highway (GPS listed below. After the bridge is a public height and opening information are Continue up to Harwood and under the

Maclean marina (GPS 29deg,27.277min.S cates, galleries, pubs and museums town of Maclean to explore the loca There is an overnight mooring available at Continue upriver to the Scottish heritage



that can be used to access the CBD. 153deg,11.745min.E) and a boat ramp wharf with a jetty (GPS 29deg,27.478min.S chandlery. In addition, there is a public Fishermen's Co–Op where there is a sma Fuel can be carted from the Clarence River power, drinking water and toilet facilities 153deg,11.792min.E) with picnic, bbq

2wd suitable. 29deg,26.144min.S 153deg,20.888min.E) Yamba Marina, Yamba Rd, Yamba. (GPS

153deg,11.745min.E). 2wd suitable. Maclean (GPS 29deg,27.478min.S Maclean Public Wharf, Wharf St,

river distance

27km.

recommended craft

Any.

- River bar at Yamba and Iluka navigate with care. Wearing life jackets is compulsory.
- 8.5m closed and 36.5m open. Bridge Harwood Bridge - clearance above book bridge opening. public holidays. Ph (02) 6682 8388 to be able to lift during peak times over will be days where the bridge will not with 24 hours notice. However there is available for opening 7 days a week MHWS (Mean High Water Springs) is
- above MHWS. McFarlane Bridge – Clearance 3.6m
- above MHWS. Brushgrove Bridge – Clearance 7.6m

pumps, portable containers are required provide the only direct access to fuel via Please note: Yamba and Iluka marinas for other locations.

There is excellent fishing available in the Clarence. Top spots include:

- Yamba Point
- Yamba Breakwall
- Middle Wall Moriarty's Wall
- Old ferry approach, Iluka
- **Browns Rocks**
- Gantry Wall Collis' Wall
- Freeburn Island

points of interes

Yamba

- Yamba Ford Park picnic and BBQ area, cycle way and Yamba Bay Park — Public Wharf
- Yamba Marina and Cafe
- Historical Flat and Hill walks
 around Yamba
- Pilot Hill and Lighthouse
- Yamba Storyhouse Museum
- Award winning cafes and restaurants

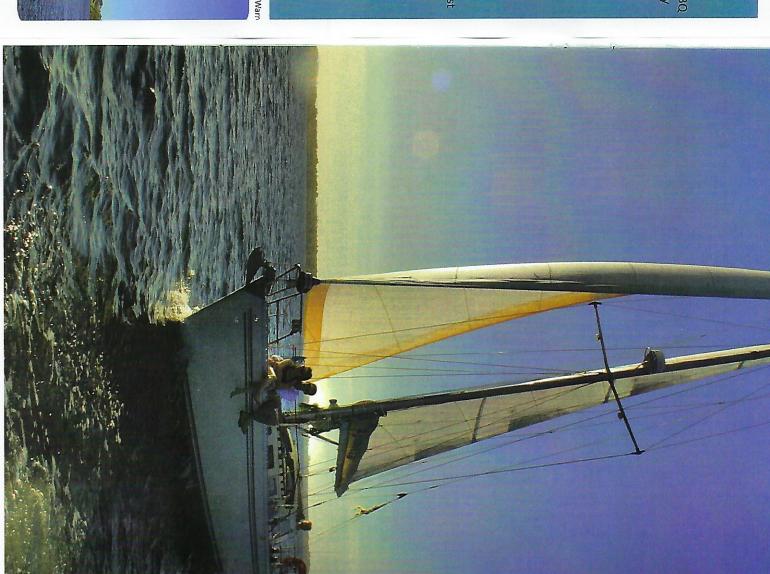
lluka

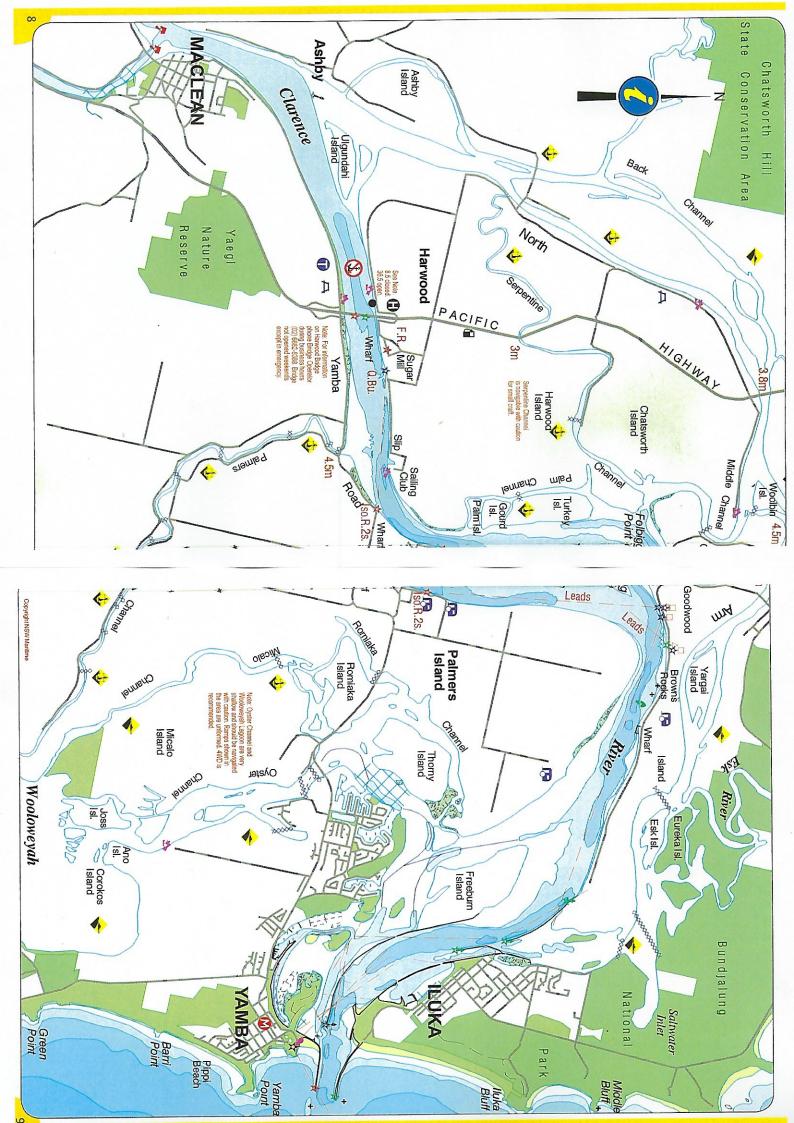
- Iluka Bay picnic & BBQ area
- World Heritage listed Rainforest Walking Track
- Iluka Bluff lookout

Maclean

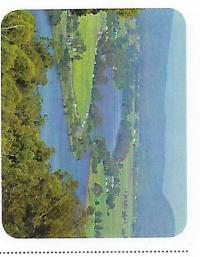
- Scottish town of Maclean
- Bicentennial Museum and Stone Cottage
- 200 tartan decorated power poles







maclean to ulmarra



Above: View down southern arm of the river at Woodford Is

southern hemisphere, Woodford Island forming the largest inland island in the Leaving Maclean, the Clarence divides

general store for supplies. The Memorial Broadwater and on to the village of arm heading south-westerly past The The main channel is the northern picnic, bbq and play equipment. Across with a public jetty, boat ramp, toilets, 153deg,06.084min.E) is well equipped Lawrence with a riverside pub and a bird watching spot in the wetland area. the road from Rutland Street is a popular Park at Lawrence (GPS 29deg,30.025min.S

suitable for low masted vessels and motor is narrow, but a generally deep channel a clearance of 7.6m, but there are also of 3.6m and the bridge at Brushgrove has end, the McFarlane Bridge has a clearance boats. There are fixed bridges at either The Southern arm of the river at Maclear is a short stay pontoon at the Ferry Park many low cables that span the river. There Complex which has picnic areas, tollets,

> craft gallery and cafe on the river bank. Visitor Information Centre, local arts and the bridge at Brushgrove The channel rejoins the main river after

Please note that there are no navigation leads in this channel.

to continue but you must return to the main channel that can clear the bridge at 4.4 metres, Creek, this water can be accessed by boats Upstream from Lawrence is Sportsman's

stays can be accommodated with own jetty for use by patrons (overnight another rustic hotel diversion with it's Further up the river, Brushgrove offers there are houseboats available for hire. 04deg,20.646min.E). At the southern permission) (GPS 29deg,34.074min.S end of Woodford Island, near Brushgrove,

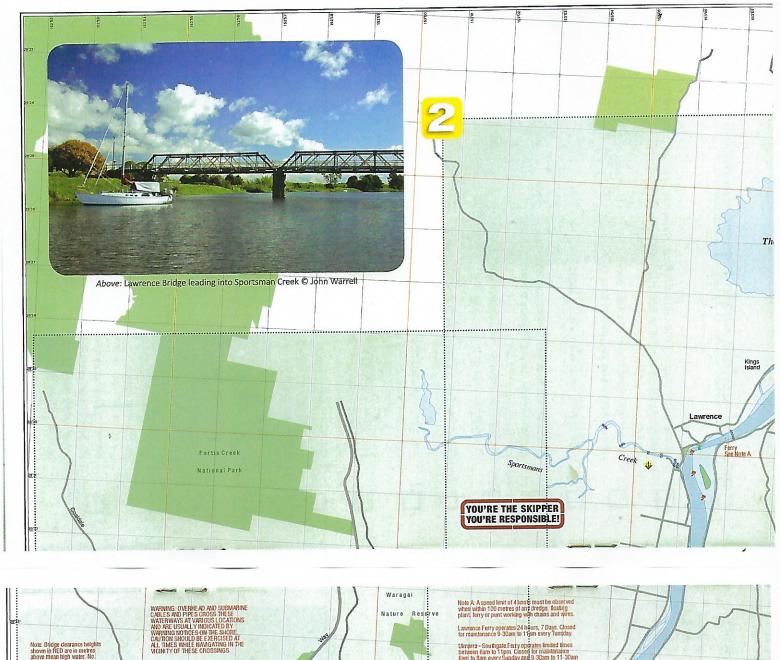
at Ulmarra (GPS 29deg,37.854min.S galleries, antique, brick-a-brack shops, a small inlet on the Southgate side and and toilet facilities. Please note that the which has a swimming pool, picnic/bbq river port town of Ulmarra with its Continue up river to explore the historic cannot be seen. ferry from Ulmarra to Southgate enters 153deg,01.608min.E) is equipped with a cafes and the local pub. Memorial Park etty, boat ramp and is close to Bailey Park

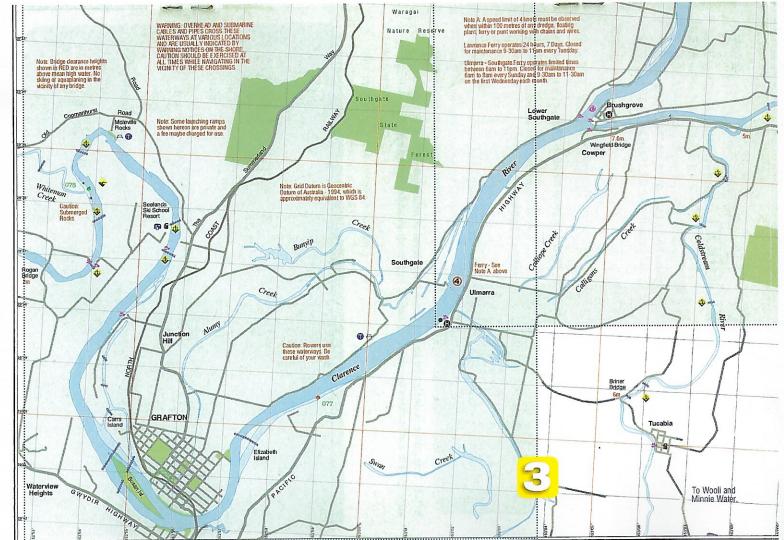
Start

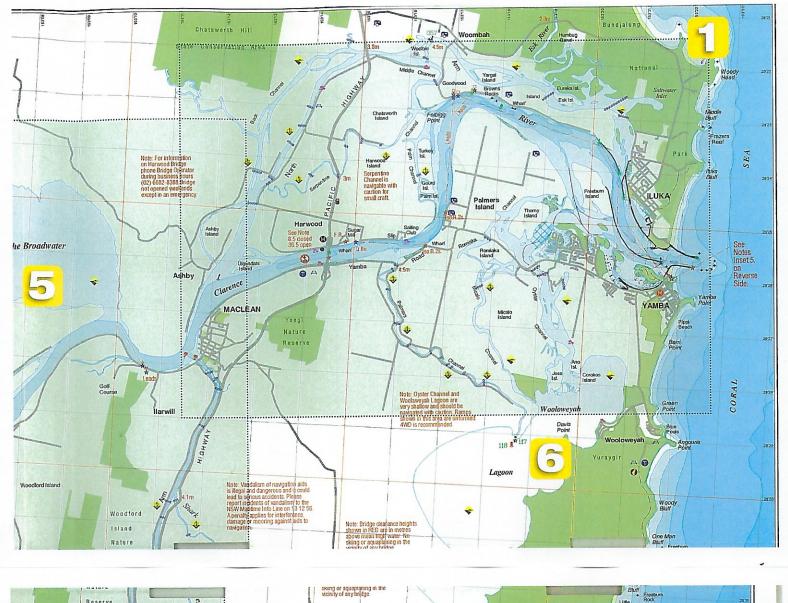
2wd suitable (GPS 29deg,27.466min.S 153deg,11.733min.E). Maclean Public Wharf, Wharf St, Maclean

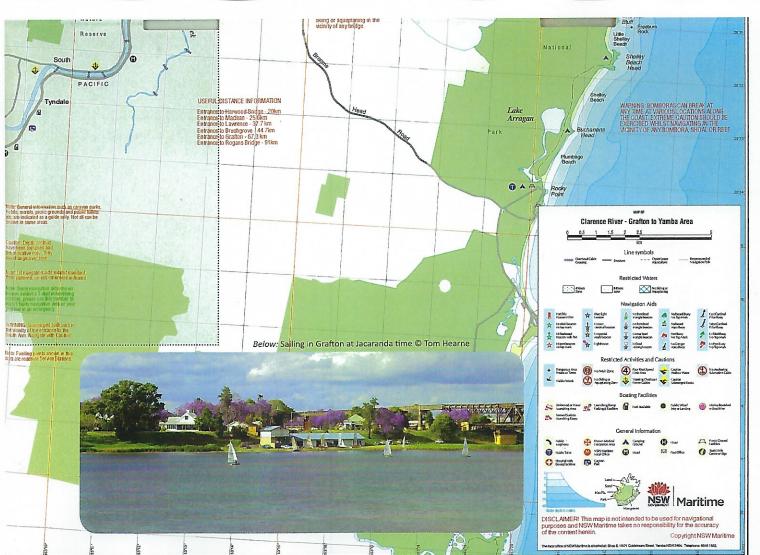
until it has reached the shore to avoid becoming entangled in the wires. crossing the wires or chains. Always pass astern of the ferry. Preferably wait

General safety intormation Waterproof maps of the Clarence River waterways of the Clarence Ri
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emergency information

L	L
on VHF Ch 16 or 27.880 MHZ with daily weather at 07.15am and 4.15pm.	Volunteer Marine Rescue Iluka/Yamba Ph U2 6646 6311. 24/ / listening watc
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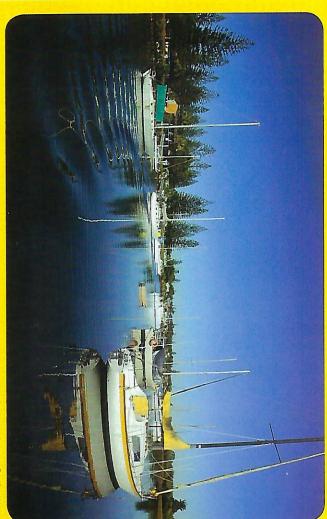
Emergency Services phone 000

Information on crossing Yamba Bar, NSW Maritime 02 6646 2002

Grafton Base Hospital, Arthur St, Grafton 02 6640 0222

Maclean District Hospital, Union St, Maclean 02 6640 0111

appropriate authorities for detailed safety information and maritime advice. NOTE: This guide is designed to provide a basic level of information please refer to



Above: Yamba Bay. © John Warrell

finish

29deg,37.854min.S 153deg,01.608min.E) Ulmarra Public Wharf, Coldstream Rd, Ulmarra 2wd suitable (GPS

river distance

29km.

recommended craft

Any on main channel

Low masted boats only on the Southern

hazards

- Bluff Point and Southgate ferries (speed limit of 4 knotts within 100m)
- Southern Arm fixed bridges: Brushgrove 7.6m. MacFarlane Bridge 3.6m and
- Nine pin Rocks at the entrance to the southern arm (exposed at low tide).

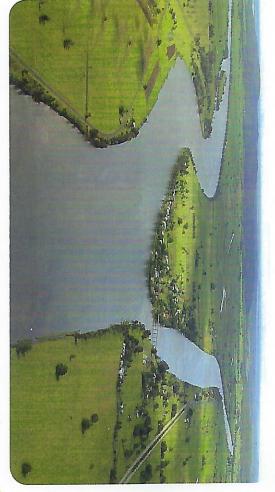
- Rock Reef, north of Brushgrove

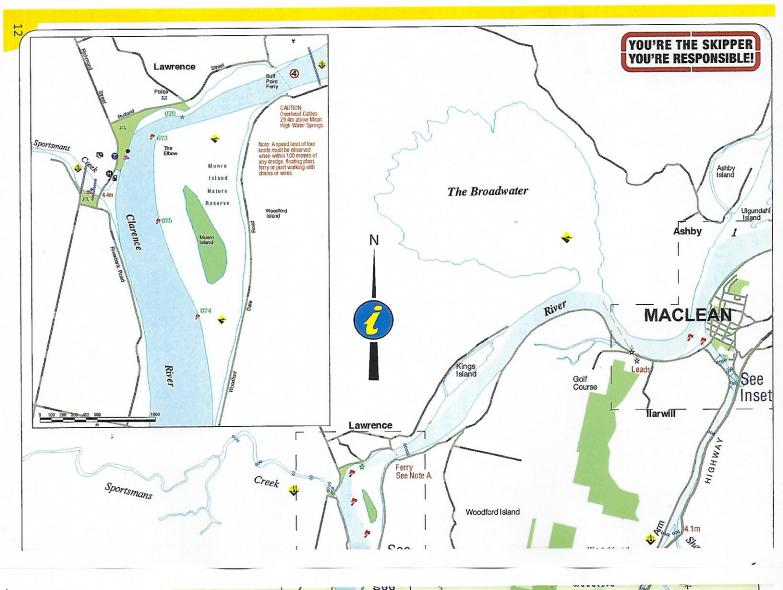
Wreck of the Moongi just downstream

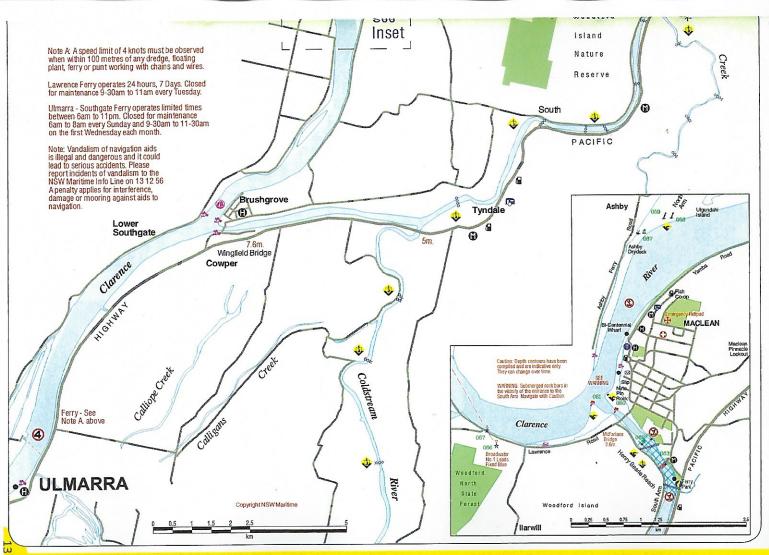
from Ashby dry dock.

- Maclean Ferry Park Complex
- Lawrence riverside pub Public
- Lawrence Historical Museum
- Birdwatching at Lawrence wetland and Woodford Island
- Fishing at Lawrence & Ilarwill
- Brushgrove riverside Hotel small jetty
- Ulmarra Public Wharf to explore galleries, cafes & pub

Below: The river villages of Brushgrove & Cowper at Woodford Island © The Daily Examiner









Above: River tranquiltiy near Ulmarra © Terry Dwyer

points of interest

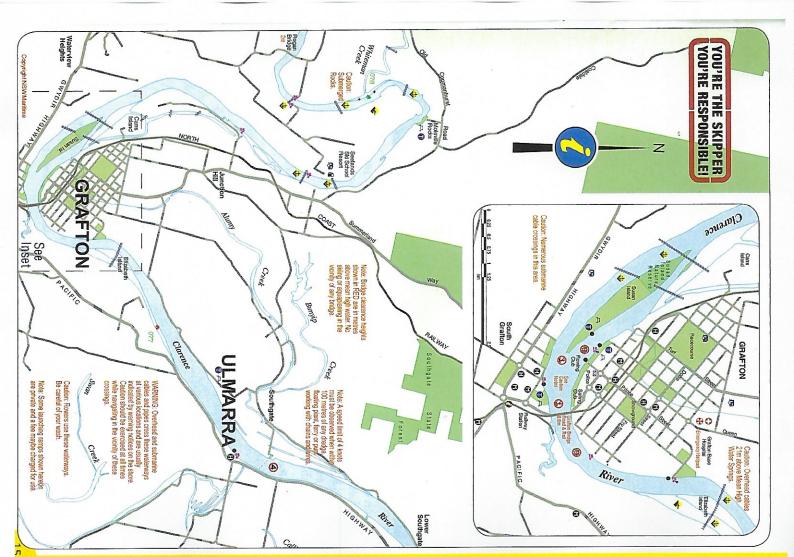
- Corcoran Park BBQs and park jetty after 9.3 km from Ulmarra
- Memorial Park
- Historic shopping precinct at South Grafton to explore shops, cafes, pubs - Public Wharf
- Stop at Grafton for shops and pubs - Prince St Wharf
- Susan Island bat colony and rainforest
- Wreck of the SS Induna, 200
 metres upstream from Grafton
 Bridge, visible from both the
 bridge and river
- Seelands
- After 29.6 km you can pull over at Moleville Rocks Public Reserve to see some Aboriginal Grinding Groves or use the park BBQs - anchor off.

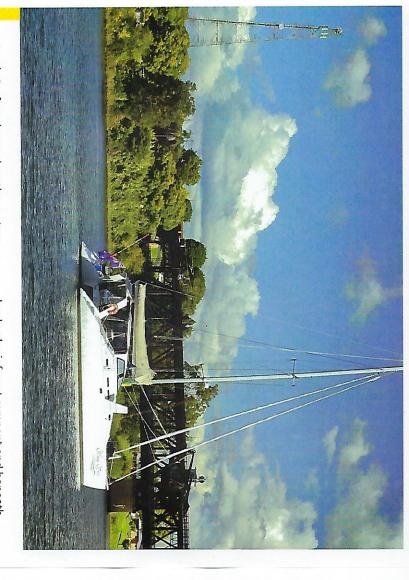
On approaching Elizabeth Island, the main channel heads south-westerly across a narrow, but deep channel. After rounding Elizabeth Island you will find Corcoran Park (GPS 29deg,40.552min.S 152deg,57.221min.E) which has a jetty and boat ramp, picnic/bbq facilities with power available (key required) and toilets. It is a very popular park and is an off-leash area for dogs.

The best place to anchor before the Grafton Bridge for tall masted vessels is at Girl Guide Place (GPS 29deg,41.757min.S 152deg,56.676min.E) where there is a jetty, boat ramp and a small park. From here you can easily explore the city of Grafton.

The river takes a broad bend around Grafton and passes under the historic Grafton Bridge (GPS 29deg,41.810min. S 152deg,56.526min.E) which now has a fixed span of 6.6 metres. Grafton, the first city on the north coast was established in 1837 and proclaimed a city in 1859. Its majestic streets, historic buildings, regional gallery and vibrant shopping precinct are worth exploring, especially during the annual Jacaranda festival when the city is carpeted in purple blooms.

When passing the bridge it is possible to see the wreck of the Induna, built in 1891 in Aberdeen (GPS 29deg,42.003min.S 152deg,56.416min.E). This vessel was used as a rail ferry before it sank at mooring in 1932. The Induna's prior claim to fame is that on one of it's voyages it carried Sir Winston Churchill from South Africa to England during the Boer War.





South Grafton, located on the eastern riverbank, has small marina (GPS 29deg,42 .031min.S 152deg,56.122min.E) and provides access to alfresco dining and a laid back shopping experience.

Memorial Park on the northern side of Grafton has a wharf/jetty suitable for large water vessels and is equipped with picnic facilities, toilets, power, drinking water and also has a cycle and walking track.

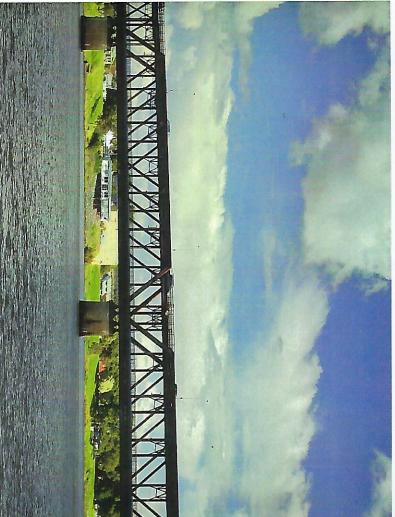
Susan Island Nature Reserve has a large bat colony and remnant of rainforest and is worth exploring. It is home to thousands of flying foxes that roost on the island to raise their young and feed in nearby forests during summer. The island has a small wharf and is accessible only by boat. There is a short walking track through the reserve on the western end of the island which takes you through the

lowland rainforest remnant and beneath the bat colony. Look out for the wreck on the northern side of the island where parts of the boiler are visible, it is thought that the wreck is of a cream boat the lbis (GPS 29deg,40.719min.S 152deg,54.770min.E).

The broad, open waters around Seelands are popular with water skiers. Rogan's Bridge (GPS 29deg,37.237min.S 152deg,53.091min.E) is a low-level bridge of approximately 2 metres depending on river heights that provides a barrier to further river exploration and can be anchored off.

2007

Ulmarra Public Wharf, Coldstream Rd, Ulmarra (GPS 29deg,37.854min.S 153deg,01.608.E) 2wd suitable.



Above: The Grafton Bridge spanning the Clarence © John Warrell

Rogans Bridge, Rogans Bridge Rd, Seelands. (GPS 29deg,37.237min.S, 152deg,53.091min.E) (anchor off) 2wd suitable.

river distance

37 km.

recommended craft

Any craft up to the Grafton Bridge (6.6 metres). Tall masted vessels should moor up prior to the bridge.

nazards

- Shoals around Swan Creek's flood gate.
- Grafton Bridge (6.6m).

maps

NSW Maritime Clarence River Waterways Map.

Below: Susan Island, Grafton © John Warrell



rogans bridge to yamba



Larger vessels and those with tall masts should return to Yamba via the main channel or use their tenders to explore the many channels in the area.

For small vessels with a draft of less than 1 metre, there is an opportunity to leave the main river to navigate the North Arm just past Ashby, although there are no navigation aids. The river divides again at Warregah Island, Back Channel to the west of the island is extremely shallow and should be avoided.

On the right, off North Arm, is the shallow but scenic Serpentine Channel. The North Arm continues around Goodwood Island and rejoins the main channel near Freeburn Island before returning to Yamba or Iluka.

Smaller tinnies could leave the main channel at Freeburn Island for the Romiaka Channel around Thorny Island and Romiaka Island into the Micalo Channel to the shallow Lake Wooloweyah. Or alternatively smaller motor boats can leave the main channel at Freeburn Island for Oyster Channel. The Oyster Channel Bridge clearing is 3.7 metres and the water is shallow and care should be taken.

Start

Rogans Bridge, Rogans Bridge Rd, Seelands. (GPS 29deg,37.237min.S, 152deg,53.091min.E) 2wd (anchor off)

finish

Yamba Marina, Yamba Rd, Yamba. (GPS 29deg, 26.144min.S, 153deg, 20.888min.E) 2wd suitable.

river distance

93 km plus (dependant on route chosen).

recommended craft

Main channel - Any.

Southern Arm detour, The Broadwater and Lake Wooloweyah - small motor boats, low masted vessels with shallow draft.

nazards

- Grafton Bridge (6.6 metres).
- Narrow and shallow Serpentine channel.
- Pacific Hwy Bridge over North Arm (3.6 metres).
- Wharf St Bridge over North Arm (4.5 metres).
- Yamba Road Bridge over Oyster Channel (3.7 metres).

points of interest

- Fishing in Oyster Channel
- The Broadwater
- Lake Wooloweyah
- Eagle nesting on power poles opposite llarwill

U

the broadwater

From the Clarence River a couple of kilometres upstream of Maclean, you can enter the large enclosed lagoon of The Broadwater which consists largely of shallow water with a deeper, unmarked channel towards the eastern bank that would be accessible to smaller yachts and tinnies or with local knowledge of the channel. Not far from the entrance is the hulk of an old sugar cane barge.

start and finish

Channel leading into Broadwater from Clarence or Maclean Public Wharf, Wharf St, Maclean. 2wd suitable.

river distance

As desired.

recommended craft

Smaller boats and Trailer Sailors with local knowledge.

hazards

- Shallow water.
- Unmarked channel.

Below: An old sugar cane barge hull in The Broadwater. © John Warrel



lake wooloweyah



For small motor boats and tinnies, picturesque Lake Wooloweyah can be accessed by Oyster Channel or via Palmers Channel, water depths are reasonable in this channel, but care should be taken as there are low power cables and Oyster Channel Bridge (3.7m). Bordered by Yuraygir National Park this tranquil lake is very shallow, but is a great spot for fishing. There are no navigation markings and care should be taken. There are also two boat ramps to launch craft from Carrs Drive, Yamba or Lakes Boulevard, Wooloweyah.

start and finish

Lake Wooloweyah Boatramp, Lake Wooloweyah Rd, Wooloweyah. 2wd suitable.

river distance

As desired.

recommended craft

Small motor boats and vessels with shallow draft.

nazards

- Shallow water, wind and waves.
- Unmarked channels.
- Oyster Channel Bridge (3.7m).

The Sailing and Cruising Guide is an initiative of the Clarence River Way Project, a partnership between Clarence Valley Council, NSW Dept of Lands and Clarence River Tourism with TQUAL funding support by the Australian government bringing together 3 levels of government, industry and the community in collaboration to foster growth of sustainable river based tourism and position the Clarence as one of the nation's great river experiences.

Project partners sincerely thank members of the working group, stakeholders and the broader community for their valuable assistance in the preparation of this guide

Project Coordination

Clarence Valley Council
Economic Development Team

Design and Production

Clarence River Tourism
John Warrell and Clare Wesener

Guide is an Photography River Way Clarence

The Daily Examiner

Clarence River Tourism

Terry Dwyer

Tom Hearne

John Warrel

David Young

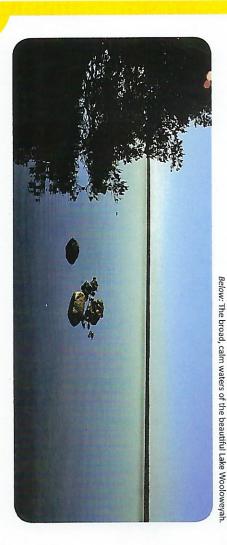
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Maps in this guide supplied courtesy of NSW Maritime from their **Boating Map** for Clarence, Wooli Wooli and Sandon Rivers, Map 2B.

www.maritime.nsw.gov.au

GPS Coordinates

Special thanks to Luke Tucker - NSW Maritime for his assistance with GPS mapping.





Australian Government
Department of Resources,
Energy and Tourism



NSW MARITIME



