

LANDMARK POSTCODE

4420



Image courtesy of Caroline Herring, Taroom.

Story: Sheryl Allen

LOCATION: Taroom
5 hours northwest of Brisbane

POPULATION: 600

INDUSTRIES: Beef, rural services, tourism

CLIMATE: Temperate
Summer: 20.6°C – 33.7°C
Winter: 5.1°C – 21.0°C
Rainfall: 667mm

Taroom is a pretty country township nestled in the Dawson Valley, on the Dawson River, in Queensland's northern Darling Downs district.

This is the heart of some of the state's best grazing and farming land, where beef is king and country living is at its quintessential best.

Taroom is the service centre for a rural hinterland that, like much of Australia, is feeling the pinch of drought. Thanks to a long and strong community spirit and a steady stream of travellers through town, Taroom is ticking along nicely, just as it has for 165 years.

Settlers first took up land here in 1845, a year after European explorer Ludwig Leichhardt journeyed through and carved his initials on a coolibah tree. The tree, known as the Leichhardt Tree (even though the carvings are no longer visible), stands in the main street of town – a favourite "stop-spot" for journeyers of today.

After Leichhardt returned to Sydney, there was a grab for the magnificent fertile soils he reported. By 1856 there was a township, a post office and a thriving rural community.

The earliest settlers brought with them their flocks of sheep. These days the agriculture is mostly prime range cattle, still underpinned by the high-yield brigalow scrub countryside that attracted the pioneering graziers.

"It's almost all beef here now," says Landmark's David McPaul. "Much of the cropping activity is around cattle feed, with just a handful of grain growers targeting the wider market with wheat or sorghum."

"Like many rural areas, a string of poor rainfall seasons and a fall in commodity prices have challenged producers in this region. But being such good country, there's plenty of life in it. High-quality country will always sell at the right price so we're still seeing some energy in the property market."

As a service town, Taroom has much to offer – a range of well-stocked retail outlets, two schools, hotels, eateries, swimming pool, golf course and bowls club.

"The Taroom Showgrounds are famous," adds David. "They're a top-quality facility. Agricultural shows and the winter rodeos draw people from far and wide."

The region's many natural assets also capture plenty of attention. The Precipice, Expedition and Isla Gorge National Park are all within a short drive of Taroom. Striking sandstone cliffs and rock formations, panoramic vantage spots, rare palms and plants, soaring wedge-tailed eagles and remote Aboriginal cultural sites – there are many reasons to explore these special, protected parks.

Camping and fishing along the beautiful Dawson River is another peaceful pastime that's

hard to resist. Barramundi are the stuff of legends here, with anglers doing best hooking saratoga, golden perch, silver perch or catfish.

The Glebe Weir is a popular picnic spot where you can access the river from bank or boat ramp, and caravan and camping sites cater for overnight stays.

Or you might prefer to stay in town where you can choose from motel and cabin accommodation and be well-catered to by enthusiastic local hoteliers and restaurateurs.

One thing you can be sure of – beef will be on the menu!

CONTACT:

Landmark Taroom (07) 4627 3255

David McPaul 0428 721 914

PROPERTY GUIDE:

Residential: Three bedroom home \$180,000 – \$240,000

Rural: Quality brigalow and softwood grazing country \$800 – \$950 per acre