



## 2021 AGM/GM MEETING THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE - MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE AT THE ALLORA SHOWGROUNDS



### Where is Allora Qld?

Sitting just off the highway between Toowoomba and Warwick, Allora is known as the 'best little town on the Downs'.

Take the time to visit Mary Poppins House (circa 1880) where author P.L. Travers lived as a child and Glengallan Homestead which embodies the history of the historic Allora region since the late 19th century.

Allora, a rural town on the Dalrymple Creek, is 20 km north of Warwick and 125 km south-west of Brisbane. The area was part of the Goomburra pastoral run (1841) occupied under licence by Ernest Dalrymple. A shepherds' crossing on Dalrymple Creek became a regular stopping place, and by the mid-1840s a blacksmith's shop was opened there, later carrying stores and expanding to become an inn.

A subsequent owner of Goomburra, Patrick Leslie, surrendered one square mile for a township at the crossing. Surveyed in 1859, it was named Allora, believed to be based on an Aboriginal word meaning swampy place. The roughly built Dalrymple Hotel had by then been in existence for two years. During the next decade several public institutions were opened in Allora: a court house and a National school (1867), the Wesley Chapel for Methodists and Presbyterians (1866), an Anglican church (1868) and a town hall for the Allora borough (1870). The rich black soil around Allora was ideal for agriculture, and wheat growing led to a steam flour mill opening in 1871. The court house was moved to other premises and the building was given to a school of arts in 1873. The Central Downs Agriculture and Horticulture Association had its first show in Allora in 1878.

Allora promised to be a leading township on the Downs, but was bypassed by the Toowoomba to Warwick railway line (1867). It was not until 1897 that a branch line connected the town to the regional rail network. Although not on a main railway, the *Australian handbook* nevertheless described a well-appointed township in 1903:

The town hosts annual garden and heritage weekends, the Allora Show and the Allora Country Music Festival.

Apart from the three pubs, Allora has Catholic (1916) and State P-10 schools, a local shopping centre, a recreation reserve, a showground, bowling and golf clubs, and a public hall. The railway line was closed in 1993 and the station building has been restored by a steam rail society. The Allora Regional Sports Museum contains a hall of fame, recognising, among others, the five local Gilmour brothers, all champion polo players.

Population 2016: 1,223

Allora Showground address: 1A Darling Street, ALLORA QLD. 4362

Details on the AGM/GM gathering at the Allora Showground will be sent out to members once all details have been finalised.