

## Thuringowa's Northern Beaches

Thuringowa's Northern Beaches precinct is located just north of Townsville adjacent to the Bruce Highway. Extending from Bushland Beach to Balgal Beach, encompassing Saunders, Toolakea and Toomulla along the way, a total of five seemingly endless beaches comprise this fantastic area. The unspoilt coastline, coupled with picturesque natural bushland, enables each beach to offer unique attractions, activities and experiences. The Northern Beaches are the perfect place to visit, explore and stay.

### Bushland Beach

Bushland Beach is a thriving residential community offering many attractions and facilities. Beachfront resort accommodation and a hotel provide stunning views out to the ocean. Parks with amenities, BBQs and playgrounds are available for use, and a convenience store is located in the area. Bushland Beach is a great spot for fishing and there is a boat ramp nearby.



### Saunders Beach

With 6km of golden, untouched beaches, this sparkling coastline provides a picturesque backdrop to Saunders Beach Park. A retreat house or ocean view units are available for rent. A café/takeaway store underneath an extraordinary fig tree is close by or you can try out the local bar and bistro. This is an ideal fishing location with a boat ramp just a stone's throw away. Designated free vehicle camping is available for a maximum of 24 hours.

## Toolakea and Bluewater

Toolakea, a beautiful but quieter beach, presents excellent opportunities for fishing and bird watching. Bluewater Park is home to the new Urban Forest and Fitness Trail. Located just off the Bruce Highway, it has a picturesque, shady recreational area with BBQs, toilets, showers and playgrounds. Bluewater Creek is a scenic freshwater creek found right next to the park. It is an ideal swimming and picnic location. The Bluewater Store provides all supplies needed, including a post office, fuel, cappuccinos and a selection of homemade food. Designated free vehicle and tent camping is available for a maximum of 48 hours.



### Toomulla Beach

This is a more secluded beach offering excellent bird watching and native wildlife viewing opportunities. A popular fishing location, it also has a boat ramp and allows limited free camping. Designated free vehicle and tent camping is available for a maximum of 48 hours.



## Balgal Beach and Rollingstone District

A beachside community with plenty to offer, Balgal is the ideal location for a day trip or overnight stay. The beach has many attractions and includes a patrolled swimming enclosure during marine stinger season from November to May, licensed café and store, picnic/BBQ areas and camping facilities. The Rollingstone General Store provides all supplies needed, including a post office and fuel. The BP Service Station, located on the Bruce Highway at Rollingstone, also provides fuel, tourist information, cappuccinos and a selection of homemade food. The beach and creek are great fishing spots and there are excellent boat ramp facilities available. The natural bush surrounds cater for the native wildlife or bird watching enthusiast. Other popular activities and attractions in the area include a nine-hole golf course, lawn bowls, war memorials, museum and network of interpretive historic signage that showcases the area's colourful history. Vincent "Bushy" Parker Park, a well shaded designated camping area located right next to a scenic freshwater creek, is ideal for swimming. A variety of accommodation is available, including holiday units, a bed and breakfast retreat, a caravan park and the Rollingstone Hotel which is located on the Bruce Highway. Designated free vehicle and tent camping is available for a maximum of 48 hours.



## History

Thuringowa's Northern Beaches have a rich and diverse history. The area was originally inhabited by Aborigines. These traditional owners have occupied the area for at least 40,000 years, possibly more. Early rural development was concentrated along the creeks of the Northern Beaches. Due to the transportation demands of sugar cane, timber and tin mining, a railway line was constructed from Townsville to Cairns. This railway line was also used in World War II to transport water from Rollingstone Creek to Townsville. Military troops were stationed at Rollingstone to survey the coastline as a Japanese invasion was feared. Today, the Northern Beaches have developed into thriving seaside communities.



Rollingstone Historical Museum

## Timeline

	Occupation by traditional owner groups.
1880s	Early Settlement concentrated along the creeks of the Northern Beaches.
1912	Railway development commences.
1915	Rollingstone Railway Station and refreshment rooms opened.
1916	The opening of Rollingstone School.
1924	Isabella Fitzpatrick becomes the first female Councillor in Queensland elected to the Thuringowa Shire Council.
1940	Military staging area, particularly at Rollingstone and Balgal Beach. This area was used as a base and the troops trained in the Paluma Ranges and Mount Halifax.
1992	Rollingstone Railway Station closed.

## Tour Operators in the Northern Beaches

### Where to Stay

**Balgal Beach:**  
Balgal Beach Holiday Units, 4770 7296  
Studio 26, 4770 7296  
Balgal Station Bed and Breakfast, 4770 7774  
Rollingstone Hotel, 4770 7344  
Rollingstone Beach Caravan Resort, 4770 7277

**Bluewater:**  
Bluewater Caravan Park, 4778 6118

**Saunders Beach:**  
Saunders Beach Ocean View Units, 4778 6486  
Jolly Mosh Retreat House, 4723 8824

**Bushland Beach:**  
Woodlands Caravan Park, 4751 6955  
Ocean Palms Hotel and Resort, 4757 6700

**Free Camping:**  
For more information on free camping, download the "Designated Camping Areas" flyer from: [www.thuringowa.qld.gov.au](http://www.thuringowa.qld.gov.au) or contact Thuringowa City Council on 4773 8411.

### Where to Eat

Fisherman's Landing Kiosk, Balgal Beach, 4770 7227  
Mystic Sands Golf and Country Club, Mystic Sands, 4770 7355  
Ocean Palms Hotel and Resort, Bushland Beach, 4757 6700  
Rollingstone Hotel, Rollingstone, 4770 7344  
Rusty Banana, Yabulu, 4778 7221  
Saunders Beach Bar and Bistro, Saunders Beach, 4778 7045  
Saunders Beach Take Away and Store, Saunders Beach, 4778 6877.

### Convenience Stores & Petrol Stations

Bluewater Café and Store, Bluewater, 4788 6267  
BP Rollingstone, Rollingstone, 4770 7343  
Bushland Beach Store, Bushland Beach, 4788 9311  
Yabulu 24 Hour Service Station, Yabulu, 4778 6195  
Rollingstone General Store, Rollingstone, 4770 7340

### Tour Operators in the Northern Beaches

Fairdinkum Fishing Tours, 4751 5324

### Community Organisations

Rollingstone Historical Society Inc, 4770 7466  
Saunders Beach Community Centre Association, 4778 7126  
Toomulla Beach Community Association, 4770 7518  
Bluewater Community Association, 4788 6333  
Rollingstone & District Community Centre, 4770 7153  
Rollingstone Community Association, 4770 7153

Produced by:



Thuringowa City Council

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# Discover Thuringowa's Northern Beaches

visit, explore, stay...



# CITY OF THURINGOWA

A more detailed map is available from [www.thuringowa.qld.gov.au](http://www.thuringowa.qld.gov.au)



## Be Careful

The season for marine stingers is November – May. During this time, you should only swim in stinger enclosures, or wear a full length stinger suit. Estuarine crocodiles can also be seen in tidal rivers and along the beach. Make sure you obey warning signs at all times, and remember to always wear 30+ sunscreen and protective clothing.

## Seasonal Activities

- The ANZAC Day Dawn Service is held at the Memorial on the Balgal Beach Esplanade, with the main ANZAC Day Service being held at the Cenotaph in Vincent "Bushy" Parker Park, Rollingstone.
- The Rollingstone Big Weekend (May) is a two-day event filled with fun and activities for the whole family.
- Community Markets are held at Rollingstone on the first Saturday of each month during April to September, from 8 am until 12 noon at Vincent "Bushy" Parker Park.
- Community Markets are held at Bluewater on the second Saturday of each month during April to September at the Bluewater Community Centre.
- The Northern Beaches Festival runs during May/June and includes concerts, sporting competitions, fishing competitions and trivia nights.
- Bluewater film nights are held on a monthly basis at the Bluewater Community Hall.
- The Black River Rodeo Grounds, located on Black River Road, provides an exhilarating environment to watch rodeos, motocross or other exciting events.

For more information please contact Thuringowa City Council's Customer Service Centre on 4773 8411 or logon to [www.thuringowa.qld.gov.au](http://www.thuringowa.qld.gov.au)



## 10 things to do at Thuringowa's Northern Beaches

- 1 Take a day trip to Paluma, Hidden Valley, Frosty Mango, Jourama or Wallaman Falls.
- 2 Enjoy fish and chips at Fisherman's Landing Kiosk, Balgal Beach, and listen to the waves lapping against the beach.
- 3 Follow the eight historical interpretive signs at Rollingstone/Balgal Beach. Take a tour through the Railway Museum located at Vincent "Bushy" Parker Park. For more information contact the Rollingstone Historical Society on 4770 7466.
- 4 Go fishing for a Barramundi in one of the creeks, or try your luck off the beach.
- 5 Have a race with your family and friends to see who can complete the Bluewater Urban Fitness Trail the quickest.
- 6 Swim in the various waterholes located in the area.
- 7 Take a peaceful stroll along one of the pristine beaches.
- 8 Enjoy the native wildlife. Bird watching is a popular activity, and you can refer to the Birds of Thuringowa brochure as a checklist for the types of birds you can spot.
- 9 Have a picnic on the beach and watch the sunset.
- 10 Enjoy the free camping facilities available at Balgal Beach, Toomulla Beach, Saunders Beach, Rollingstone or Bluewater Park.

## BUSHLAND BEACH



## SAUNDERS BEACH



## TOOLAKEA BEACH & BLUEWATER



## TOOMULLA BEACH



## BALGAL BEACH & ROLLINGSTONE



Accommodation	Caravaning	Fuel	Marine Stinger Resistant Swimming Enclosure	Public Toilets	Main Road
ATM	Convenience Store	Gas	Museum	Restaurant/Cafe	Unsealed Road
Bird Watching	Cultural & Historic	Golfing	Picnic Area	Swimming	City
Boat Ramp	Fishing	Lawn Bowls	Playground	Township	Distance Marker
Camping	Free Camping	Licensed Premises	Post Office		

These maps are indicative and not to scale, please check road conditions and plan your journey carefully. Information correct at time of printing.