



St Lawrence Police Station



Macartney Street, St Lawrence 4707

Contact: PoliceLink 131444

www.police.qld.gov.au

Locality Profile

In the late 1860's John Macartney an Irish solicitor settled in the Rockhampton area after making his fortune in the gold fields of Victoria. He ventured north after turning down an offer of a law partnership with the Judge who sentenced Ned Kelly to hang.

During 1868 Macartney took up selected land almost mid-way between Rockhampton and Mackay. The property, "Waverley Plains " station exists today.

In 1869 Macartney offered part of his land for the establishment of a township and the Lands Department established a Post office and the town of St Lawrence began to grow. One of the first sea ports in Queensland was built and a meat works built. The meat works operated until 1903, it's boilers can be seen at the old site at "Newport".

The town grew and prospered as more land was taken up as the cattle industry flourished.

In 1872 Macartney caused the existing Courthouse to be built and due to his legal background Macartney became the first Magistrate at St Lawrence. The Courthouse was last used as a Magistrates Court in 1992. The building is now the property of the Queensland Police Service and has been listed as a building of "historical significance".

The town is situated on the southern bank of the St Lawrence creek, 6 kilometres east of the Bruce Hwy 183 kilometres north of Rockhampton and was named after St Lawrence in Canada. Like it's Canadian namesake St Lawrence has extremely high and fast flowing tides. At times tides can be as high as 7.3 metres. Silting and fast flowing, destructive tides caused the closure of the port which was costing a fortune to maintain.

Exports included meat, timber, copper, coal and animal skins. The animal skins were of local koala and possum, the last shipment of such skins leaving by rail in 1937. There are few if any koalas in the district.

The railway arrived at St Lawrence in 1923 and the population grew. In it's hey day the town's population exceeded 2000 people. Today the population is about 100 in town and about 560 for the division.

St Lawrence was the main office for Broadsound Shire Council, however, due to the council amalgamations the future of the office is unsure. There are few employment opportunities outside of the council with most residents either retired or on a pension.

The tropical climate provides an annual rainfall is 660mm and temperatures range from 7 degree winter cold to 44 degree summer extremes. The average summer temperature is 35 degrees.

Station

The station carries out general policing within the division and is also a Clerk of the Court. Motor registration, Suncorp Agency, Driver licensing and testing, weapons licensing and general front counter duties are conducted once a week. There are no courts held at St Lawrence with all courts held at either Sarina or Mackay.

St Lawrence township enjoys a relatively crime-free lifestyle with very few offences being committed. Although the Bruce Highway around St Lawrence had, in the past, gained a reputation as the "Killer" stretch, the number of traffic crashes has steadied at around 1 per month and only 2 fatals in the last 4 years.

The police and local community enjoy a good rapport together. Overall the St Lawrence Division is a pleasant place to live and be employed. It enjoys a good climate and the pace of life is easy going.

Medical Facilities

There is no hospital or a visiting doctor at St Lawrence, with the closest GP at Sarina. There are limited hospital facilities, particularly after hours at Sarina. There are public hospital facilities at Sarina, public and private in Mackay and at Rockhampton.

An honorary ambulance officer is situated in the town and most medical evacuations are by road. Full time QAS situated at Carmila 68 kilometres north. In extreme emergency air evacuation occur by either CQ Rescue helicopter or by the RFDS.

Education

The St Lawrence state school is directly across the road from the station and has 10 children enrolled from Prep to Grade 7. There is 1 full time teacher/principal and 2 teacher aides. Due to a recent fire the school building is brand new with excellent facilities and equipment.

Secondary school age children either attend boarding schools in Rockhampton or Mackay, or travel on the bus to Sarina State High School. Funding is available from both State and Federal governments for boarding costs as well as isolated children.

Child Care Facilities

No child minding facilities exist. "Joey's" occasional child care is held once weekly for the under pre-schoolers and conducted by the Isaac Regional Council.

Shops

There are two general stores at St Lawrence which cater for basic needs. Fuel is available at one and 1 also has bottled gas available as does the post office. Both shops have a takeaway facility. Prices are generally much higher than larger centres such as Mackay and Rockhampton. The post office also has a rural supplies store attached and most items can be bought from either Mackay or Rockhampton and shipped in. There is one Hotel and a Bowls Club.

Sporting/Leisure

There is a lawn bowls club in town, tennis courts and swimming pool. Social night tennis is played throughout the year but there are no structured sport teams or clubs other than bowls. Polo-cross and horse sports are catered for. A nine hole "golf course" is available but utilised by the extremely dedicated.

Mud crabbing and estuary fishing are the most popular recreational pursuits. Coastal and reef fishing are also available. Barramundi, mangrove jack, salmon, whiting and flathead are a few of the species caught. The Isaac Regional Council office is situated in the town and a library provides access to reading material, audio tapes, CD's and videos.

There are three television channels received being 7, 2 and Imparja. Pay TV is also available. Radio reception is generally poor and is limited. One store has a limited stock of video films. Video outlets in Rockhampton and Mackay provide weekly rentals. Funding has been received by the Regional Council to access "normal" TV from Mackay.

Banking

The post office has a Commonwealth Bank agency. EFTPOS is available locally. Full banking service situated at Sarina 120km north or Mackay.

Public Transport

Public transport is well catered for with two major coach companies providing daily service north and south. Coaches travel into town once a day but can also be boarded at the highway turn off.

The main rail line between Brisbane and Cairns runs through town and train travel is also available. Bookings are made at one of the general stores or by telephone.

Communications

Mail is delivered to town daily and freight services by Q Link or by local private contractor are also available.

Telephone communications are good with both Telstra and Optus being available. Broadband access to internet services is also available as is mobile telephone service.

In an emergency, dial Triple Zero (000).