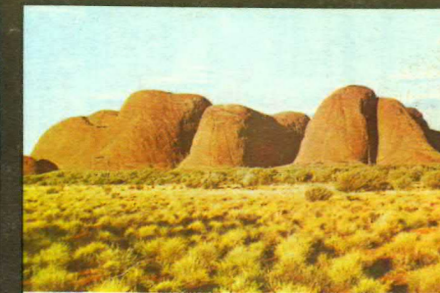




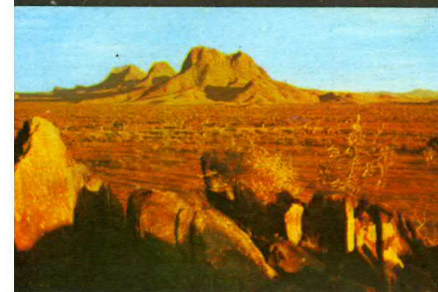
Katherine River



"Flynn of the Inland" Memorial



Towards Mt. Olga



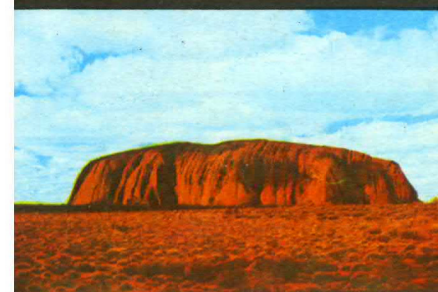
Haast Bluff



Arnhem Land Cliffs



Glen Helen



Ayers Rock

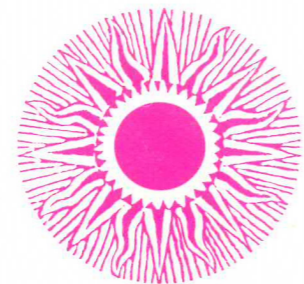


Macdonnell Ranges

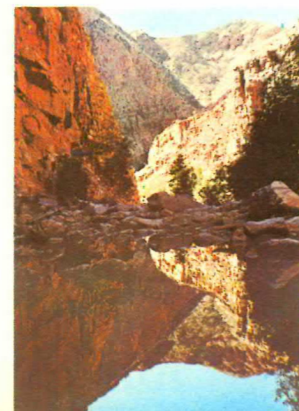


In the Flinders Range

ACROSS AUSTRALIA'S CENTRE



Alice Springs from Anzac Hill



Ormiston Gorge

### CENTRAL AUSTRALIA RAILWAY

The Central Australia Railway is part of the Commonwealth Railways system. It consists of 217 miles of standard gauge railway from Stirling North to Marree, 540 miles of narrow gauge (3' 6") railway from Marree to Alice Springs and 61 miles of narrow gauge railway from Stirling North to Hawker.

The State of South Australia built a 3' 6" gauge railway as far north as Oodnadatta. After control of the railway was transferred to the Commonwealth, the railway was extended to Alice Springs in 1929.

The development of the Leigh Creek Coalfield to provide fuel for the electric power station at Port Augusta was followed by the construction of a standard gauge railway to Leigh Creek and Marree. After this was opened to traffic in 1957, the section of 3' 6" gauge railway between Hawker and Marree was closed and dismantled.

At a later date train services between Port Augusta and Quorn were discontinued. Traffic between Quorn and Hawker is very limited.

### NORTH AUSTRALIA RAILWAY

The Darwin to Pine Creek Railway was constructed under contract for the South Australian Government. The contractors were permitted to employ Chinese coolie labour, and in all, some 3000 Chinese worked on the line, the greater number, seemingly, in 1887.

The contractors began active work in 1887 and the first section of the railway to Adelaide River was completed in June, 1888. The railway was extended to Pine Creek, and taken over by the South Australian Government on 1st October, 1889. Subsequently, an iron jetty, connected to the railway, was built at Darwin.

Extension of the railway from Pine Creek to Katherine River was authorised, and, in 1914 the then Engineer-in-Chief of Commonwealth Railways was directed to supervise the building of the line. The work was not let in one big contract but a system of combined day labour, piecemeal and small contract was adopted. Sleepers used were mainly of the steel girder type. This section of the railway was terminated on the north bank of the Katherine River, at Emungalan, as it was decided not to build a bridge over the River at that time. The railway was opened for public traffic as far as Emungalan on 13th May, 1917.

From 1st January, 1911, when the railway was transferred to the Commonwealth until 30th June, 1918, it was operated and maintained by the Department of External Affairs. It was placed under the control of the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner on 1st July, 1918, and has since that date been operated as a section of the Commonwealth Railways System.

Two further extensions of the railway have been made. The first from Emungalan to Mataranka, which involved construction of a high level bridge over the Katherine River, was completed in 1928, and the second from Mataranka to Birdum in 1929.

During the Second World War, when a sealed road was built between Alice Springs and Darwin, better road access led to the establishment of Larrimah as the effective railhead. Larrimah is 5 miles north of Birdum.

### CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

#### CENTRAL AUSTRALIA RAILWAY

- 15.12.1879 Section Port Augusta-Quorn opened for traffic
- 28.6.1880 Section Quorn-Hawker opened for traffic.
- 1.7.1881 Section Hawker-Beltana opened for traffic.
- 22.5.1882 Section Beltana-Farina opened for traffic.
- 7.2.1884 Section Farina-Marree opened for traffic.
- 1.2.1888 Section Marree-Coward Springs opened for traffic.
- 1.6.1889 Section Coward Springs-William Creek opened for traffic.
- 1.11.1889 Section William Creek-Warrina opened for traffic.
- 7.1.1891 Section Warrina-Oodnadatta opened for traffic.
- 1.1.1911 Port Augusta-Oodnadatta Railway became property of the Commonwealth Government under the Northern Territory Acceptance Act.
- 1.1.1926 Commonwealth Railways Commissioner assumed control and operation of the railway.
- 21.1.1927 Construction of section Oodnadatta to Wire Creek commenced by Commonwealth Railways.
- 11.8.1927 Contract let for construction Wire Creek to Alice Springs.
- 23.12.1928 Section Oodnadatta-Rumbalara opened for traffic.
- 2.8.1929 Section Rumbalara-Alice Springs opened for traffic.

#### NORTH AUSTRALIA RAILWAY

- 1887 First section of the Darwin-Pine Creek Railway was constructed under contract for the South Australian Government.
- 1.6.1888 Darwin-Adelaide River section opened for traffic.
- 1.10.1889 Railway extended to Pine Creek and taken over by the South Australian Government.
- 1.1.1911 Railway transferred to Commonwealth by the State of South Australia on 1st January, 1911, under the terms of the Northern Territory Acceptance Act, 1910. Railway operated by Department of External Affairs.

- 15.12.1949 Commonwealth Railways Commissioner recommended to the Government that, in view of the extent of the coal traffic to be handled, and the inadequacy of the existing narrow gauge railway to transport it, with other ordinary essential traffic, a standard gauge railway be constructed between Stirling North and the Leigh Creek Coalfields, and that standard gauge be later extended to Marree.
- 15.12.1950 Royal Assent given to "Brachina to Leigh Creek North Coalfields Railway Act 1950".
- 24.5.1951 Royal Commission appointed to enquire into relative merits of proposed routes between Stirling North and Brachina.
- 5.7.1951 Royal Commission commenced investigation.
- 27.8.1951 Work commenced on Brachina-Coalfields section.
- 4.7.1952 Royal Commission reported, recommending route proposed by Commonwealth for section Stirling North to Brachina.
- 1.11.1952 Royal Assent given "Stirling North to Brachina Railway Act 1952".
- 12.11.1954 Royal Assent given to "Leigh Creek Coalfield to Marree Railway Act 1954".
- 28.5.1955 Railhead reach Brachina.
- 17.5.1956 Railhead reached Telford (Leigh Creek Coalfields).
- 29.6.1957 Railhead reached Marree.

- 1913 Pine Creek-Katherine River Railway Act authorised a further extension of the line to Katherine River.
- 13.5.1917 Railway extended to Emungalan on the north bank of the Katherine River and opened to public traffic.
- 1.7.1918 Railway transferred to the control of the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner.
- 1.7.1928 Railway extended to Mataranka.
- 4.9.1929 Mataranka-Birdum section completed and opened for traffic.

ACROSS AUSTRALIA'S CENTRE

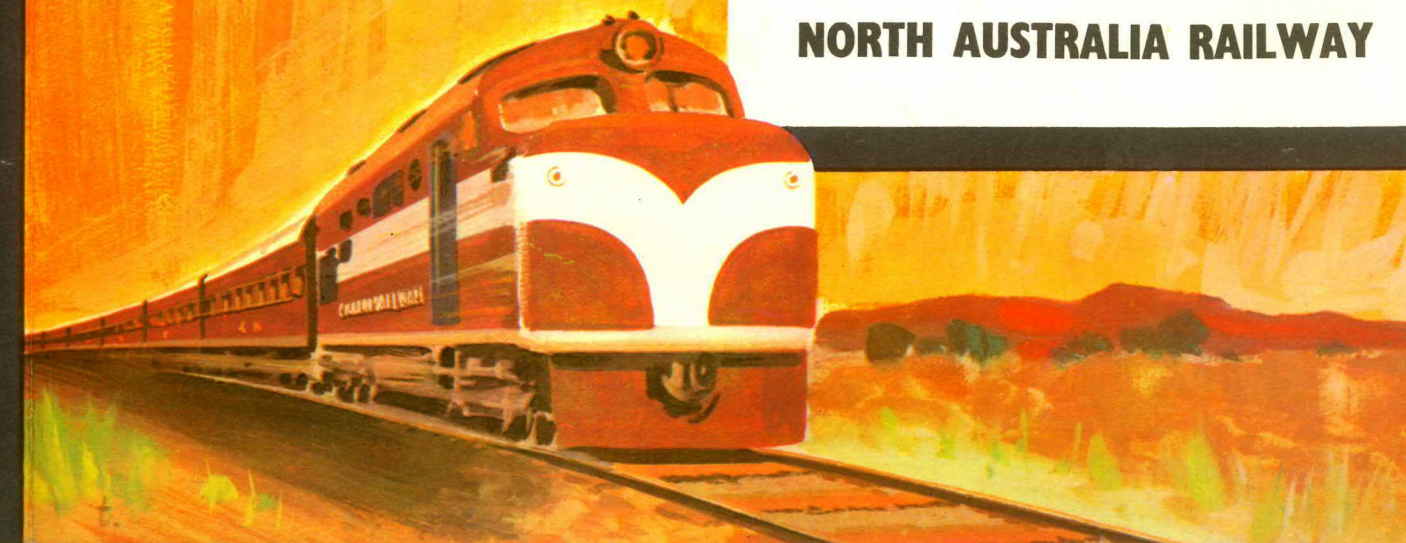


### CENTRAL AUSTRALIA RAILWAY

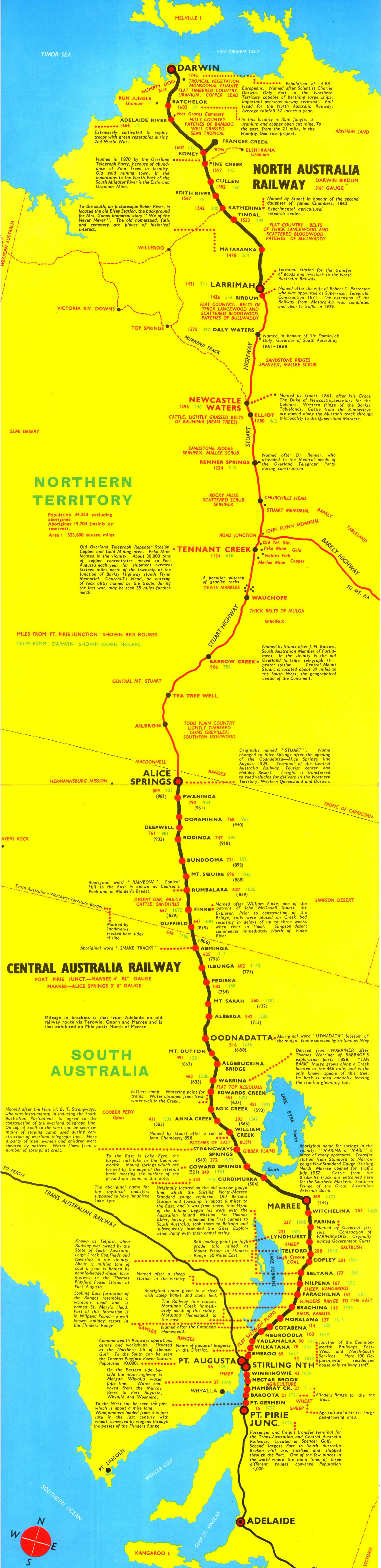


### COMMONWEALTH RAILWAYS

### NORTH AUSTRALIA RAILWAY







# NORTH AUSTRALIA RAILWAY

DARWIN-BIRDUM  
3'6" GAUGE

**DARWIN** 1742  
TROPICAL VEGETATION MONSOONAL CLIMATE FLAT TIMBERED COUNTRY. URANIUM, COPPER LEAD  
Population of 16,881 Europeans. Named after Scientist Charles Darwin. Only Port in the Northern Territory capable of berthing large ships. Important overseas airway terminal. Rail Head for the North Australia Railway. Average rainfall 57 inches a year.

**BATCHELOR** 1682 60  
War Graves Cemetery  
HILLY COUNTRY  
PATCHES OF BAMBOO  
WELL GRASSED  
SEMI TROPICAL

**ADELAIDE RIVER** 1666 76  
Extensively cultivated to supply troops with green vegetables during 2nd World War.

**FRANCES CREEK**  
Named in 1870 by the Overland Telegraph Party, because of abundance of Pine Trees in locality. Old gold mining town. In the mountains to the North-East of the South Alligator River is the Elshirana Uranium Mine.

**RONNEY** 1607 135  
**PINE CREEK** 1597 145  
**CULLEN** 1582 160  
**EDITH RIVER** 1567 175  
**KATHERINE** 1542 200  
**TINDAL** 1533 209  
Named by Stuart in honour of the second daughter of James Chambers, 1862.  
Experimental agricultural research center.

**MATARANKA** 1478 264  
Terminal station for the transfer of goods and livestock to the North Australia Railway.  
Named after the wife of Robert C. Patterson who was appointed as Supervisor, Telegraph Construction 1871. The extension of the Railway from Mataranka was completed and open to traffic in 1929.

**LARRIMAH** 1431 311  
FLAT COUNTRY. BELTS OF THICK LANCEWOOD AND SCATTERED BLOODWOOD. PATCHES OF BULLWADDY

**BIRDUM** 1426 316  
FLAT COUNTRY. BELTS OF THICK LANCEWOOD AND SCATTERED BLOODWOOD. PATCHES OF BULLWADDY

**DALY WATERS** 1375 367  
Named in honour of Sir Dominick Daly, Governor of South Australia, 1861-1868  
SANDSTONE RIDGES SPINIFEX, MALLEE SCRUB

**NEWCASTLE WATERS** 1296 446  
CATTLE, LIGHTLY GRASSED BELTS OF BAUHINIA (BEAN TREES)

**ELLIOT** 1280 462  
Named by Stuart, 1861, after His Grace The Duke of Newcastle, Secretary for the Colonies. Western fringe of the Barkly Tablelands. Cattle from the Murrumbidgee are moved along the Murrumbidgee through this locality to the Queensland Markets.

**RENNER SPRINGS** 1224 518  
Named after Dr. Renner, who attended to the Medical needs of the Overland Telegraph Party during construction.

**CHURCHILLS HEAD**  
STUART MEMORIAL  
BARKLY TABLELAND

**WAUCHOPE**  
THICK BELTS OF MULGA  
SPINIFEX

**TENNANT CREEK** 1124 618  
Old Tel. Stn.  
Peko Mine Gold  
Nobles Nob  
Merloo Mine Copper  
A peculiar outcrop of granite rocks  
DEVILS MARBLES

**BARROCK CREEK** 986 756  
CENTRAL MT. STUART

**TEA TREE WELL**  
TODD PLAIN COUNTRY LIGHTLY TIMBERED GUMS GREVILLEA, SOUTHERN IRONWOOD

**AILERON**  
MACDONNELL RANGES

**ALICE SPRINGS** 809 933  
HERMANSBURG MISSION

**EWANINGA** 790 943 (961)  
**OORAMINNA** 768 964 (940)  
**DEEPWELL** 761 981 (933)  
**RODINGA** 747 995 (918)  
**BUNDOOMA** 721 1021 (893)  
**MT. SQUIRE** 696 1046 (868)  
**RUMBALARA** 687 1055 (859)  
**FINKE** 647 1095 (819)  
Named after William Finke, one of the patrons of John McDouall Stuart, the Explorer. Prior to construction of the Bridge, rails were placed on Creek bed resulting in delays of up to three weeks when river in flood. Simpson desert commences immediately North of Finke River.

**DUFFIELD** 636 1106 (808)  
**ABMINGA** 625 1117 (796)  
**ILBUNGA** 602 1140 (774)  
**PEDIRKA** 582 1160 (754)  
**MT. SARAH** 560 1182 (732)  
**ALBERGA** 542 1200 (713)  
**ODNADATTA** 516 1226 (688)  
Aboriginal word "UTMADATTA" blossom of the mulga. Name selected by Sir Samuel Wain.

**MT. DUTTON** 491 1251 (663)  
**ALGEBUCKINA BRIDGE** 462 1280 (633)  
**WARRINA** 451 1291 (623)  
Fettlers camp. Watering point for trains. Water obtained from fresh water well in the Creek.  
**EDWARDS CREEK** 421 1321 (593)  
**BOX CREEK** 395 1347 (566)  
**WILLIAM CREEK** 372 1370 (543)  
**STRANGWAYS SPRINGS** 352 1393 (521)  
**COWARD SPRINGS** 332 1410 (504)  
Originally located on the old narrow gauge line, which the Stirling North-Marree Standard gauge replaced. Old Beltana Station and township is about 6 miles to the East, and it was from there, that Flynn of the Inland, began his work with the Australian Inland Mission. Sir Thomas Elder, having imported the first camels to South Australia, took them to Beltana and subsequently provided the Giles Exploration Party with their camel string.

**MARREE** 269 1473 (441)  
Aboriginal name for springs in the vicinity. "MARINA or MARI" a place of many opossums. Transfer station from Standard to Narrow gauge New Standard Gauge Stirling North Marree opened for traffic July, 1957. Cattle from the Birdsville track are entrained here for the Southern Markets. Southern Fringe of the Great Australian Artesian Basin.

**WITCHELINA** 253 1489  
Named by Governor Jervis. Contraction of FARINACEOUS. Originally named Government Gums.

**LYNDHURST** 221 1521  
**SHEEP** 208 1534  
Leigh Creek COAL  
**COPLEY** 201 1541  
**BELTANA** 177 1565  
**NILPENA** 167 1575  
**SHEEP, KANGAROOS** 157 1585  
**PARACHILNA** 143 1599  
**EMUS, RABBITS** 114 1628  
**MORALANA** 127 1615  
**COTABENA** 103 1639  
**NEUROODLA** 90 1652  
**YADLAMALKA** 78 1664  
**WILKATANA** 65 1677  
**EMEROO** 52 1690  
Junction of the Commonwealth Railways East-West and North-South Services. Here 100 Departmental residences house only railway staff.

**PT. AUGUSTA** 56 1694  
Name of pastoral property in the District.  
**STIRLING NTH** 37 1705  
**WINNINOWIE** 43 1699  
**NECTAR BROOK** 27 1715  
**MAMBRAY CK.** 21 1727  
**BAROOTA** 15 1737  
**PT. GERMEIN** 15 1737  
**WHEAT** 15 1737  
**PT. PIRIE JUNC.** 1742  
Passenger and freight transfer terminal for the Trans-Australian and Central Australia Railways. Located on Spencer Gulf. Second largest Port in South Australia Broken Hill ore, smelted and shipped through the Port. One of the few places in the world where the main lines of three different gauges converge. Population 14,000

# CENTRAL AUSTRALIA RAILWAY

PORT PIRIE JUNCT.—MARREE 4' 8 1/2" GAUGE  
MARREE—ALICE SPRINGS 3' 6" GAUGE

Mileage in brackets is that from Adelaide on old railway route via Terowie, Quorn and Marree and is that exhibited on Mile posts North of Marree.

**COOPER PEDY** 411 1331 (583)  
Opals  
Named by Stuart after a son of John Chambers, 1858.

**ANNA CREEK** 395 1347 (566)  
Patches of salt  
**WILLIAM CREEK** 372 1370 (543)  
**STRANGWAYS SPRINGS** 352 1393 (521)  
**COWARD SPRINGS** 332 1410 (504)  
Originally located on the old narrow gauge line, which the Stirling North-Marree Standard gauge replaced. Old Beltana Station and township is about 6 miles to the East, and it was from there, that Flynn of the Inland, began his work with the Australian Inland Mission. Sir Thomas Elder, having imported the first camels to South Australia, took them to Beltana and subsequently provided the Giles Exploration Party with their camel string.

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**EMEROO** 52 1690  
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Name of pastoral property in the District.  
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# SOUTH AUSTRALIA RAILWAY

PT. PIRIE JUNCT.—MARREE 4' 8 1/2" GAUGE  
MARREE—ALICE SPRINGS 3' 6" GAUGE

Named after the Hon. H. B. T. Strangways, who was instrumental in inducing the South Australian Parliament to agree to the construction of the overland telegraph line. On top of knoll to the west can be seen remains of staging camp used during construction of overland telegraph line. Here a party of men, women and children were speared by natives. Water flows from a number of springs at crest.

To the East is Lake Eyre, the largest salt lake in the Commonwealth. Mound springs which are formed by the edge of the artesian basin meeting the surface of the ground are found in this area.

The aboriginal name for the mythical monsters supposed to have inhabited Lake Eyre.

Known as Telford, when Railway was owned by the State of South Australia, Leigh Creek Coalfields and township in the vicinity. About 2 million tons of coal a year is hauled by double-headed diesel locomotives to the Thomas Playford Power Station at Port Augusta.

Looking East resembles a woman's head and is named St. Mary's Head. Part of this formation is in Wilpena Pound—a well known holiday resort in the Flinders Range.

Commonwealth Railways operations centre and workshops. Situated at the Northern tip of Spencer Gulf. To the South can be seen the Thomas Playford Power Station. Population 10,000.

On the Eastern side beside the main highway is Morgan Whyalla water pipe line. Water conveyed from the Murray River to Port Augusta, Whyalla and Woomera.

To the West can be seen the pier, which is about a mile long. Windjammers loaded from this pier late in the last century with wheat, conveyed by wagons through the passes of the Flinders Range.

**PT. LINCOLN**  
**SPENCKER GULF**  
**GAWLER**  
**PT. AUGUSTA** 56 1694  
Name of pastoral property in the District.  
**STIRLING NTH** 37 1705  
**WINNINOWIE** 43 1699  
**NECTAR BROOK** 27 1715  
**MAMBRAY CK.** 21 1727  
**BAROOTA** 15 1737  
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**WHEAT** 15 1737  
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**ADLAIDE**  
**GULF ST. VINCENT**  
**KANGAROO I.**  
**SOUTHERN OCEAN**  
**W** **N** **E** **S**

**MELVILLE I.**  
**VAN DIEMEN GULF**  
**TIMOR SEA**  
**ARNHEM LAND**  
**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**  
**SEMI DESERT**  
**SIMPSON DESERT**  
**TO PERTH**  
**TO MELBOURNE**  
**VICTORIA**