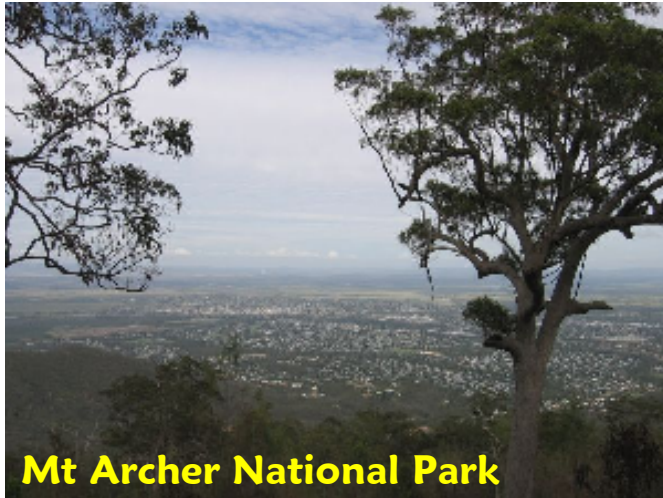


# Parish of North Rockhampton

The Parish of North Rockhampton begins on the North side of the Fitzroy River in Rockhampton and goes north-west for 186km to the church at St Lawrence. We have urban living, people living on small blocks, dairy and cattle farmers. Among many environmental treasures we have in our Parish the well landscaped Kershaw Gardens in the City (built on the old rubbish dump!), Mount Archer National Park, The Capricorn Caves, and Mt Etna National Park.



In many ways Mount Archer forms a comforting horizon for those who live in Rockhampton. There is a road to the 600m summit with good views over the city and towards the coast. For those with energy there are walking and mountain bike tracks and a rich diversity of flora and fauna to be seen in the National Park. For those with less energy there is now a coffee shop on the summit, and it is usually a few degrees cooler there than in the city!

## Bottom Breathing Turtle!

The Fitzroy River Turtle (*Rheodytes leukops*) is a fascinating species found in Central Queensland, Australia. The most interesting feature of this animal is the presence of cloacal bursae. These are large outgrowths of highly vascularised cloacal lining. These act like gills, extracting oxygen from the water in a manner similar to the gills of fish. After heavy rains there are many of these turtles evident in Moores Creek and other tributaries of the Fitzroy River.



The awesome **Capricorn Caves** - are the largest privately owned cave system in Australia and are well worth a visit. 80% of Australia's Little Bent Wing bats (*Miniopterus Australis*) come to have their young in the Mt. Etna Cave system approximately 25 minutes drive north of Rockhampton.