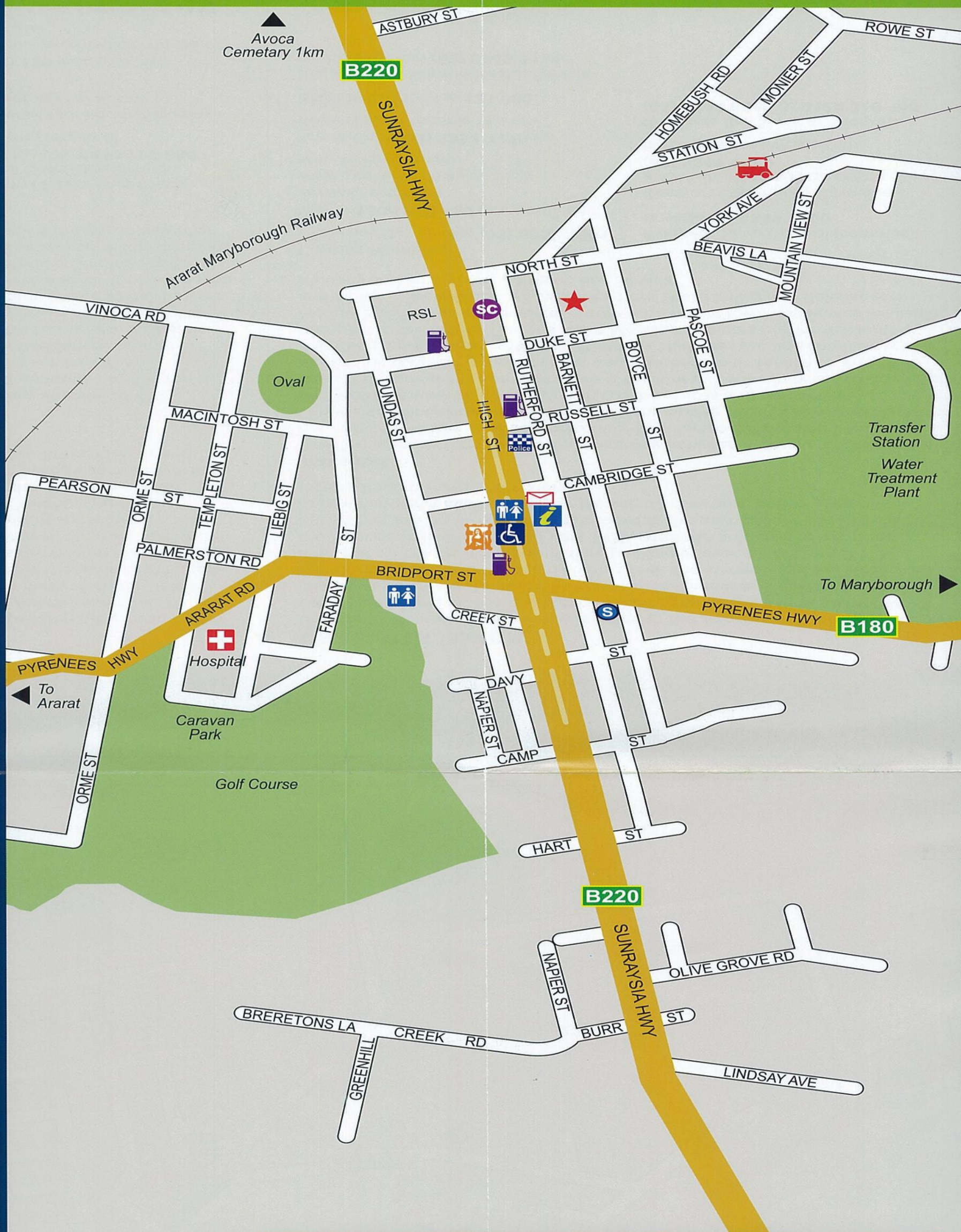


AVOCA



LEGEND

Accessible Car Park	Medical Centre	Senior Citizens
Information Centre	Police	Lookout
Rest Area	Fire Station	Art Gallery
Toilets	Public Schools	Train Station
Accessible Private Toilet	Service Station	Bus Stop
Accessible Public Toilet	Swimming Pool	Accessible Bus Stop
Accessible with Assistance	Post Office	Pedestrian Crossing
Accessible Swing	Telephone	Bus Routes
Library	ATM Machine	

BEAUFORT



Avoca's History

Avoca is located on land that was home to the Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal tribe in central west Victoria. The first recorded European to travel through the Avoca district was by Major Thomas Mitchell in 1836. He found and named the Avoca River, after the 'Vale of Avoca' in County Wicklow in Ireland. After his expedition, extensive sheep and cattle runs were soon established throughout the district. In 1853 gold was discovered at nearby Four Mile flat, 16 kms north east of the Avoca township and later that year, the main lead at Avoca was discovered. These discoveries led to a gold rush, causing an increase in the population from only 100 to almost 16,000 by 1854. A police station, courthouse, hotels, shops, schools and churches were soon constructed. By the end of the 1890s, mining activities had largely ceased and Avoca's focus shifted to being a centre servicing the surrounding agricultural region and consisted mainly of sheep, cattle, forestry and wine grape growing.

Beaufort's History

Beaufort is located on land that was home to the Jajowarrung Aboriginal tribe in central west Victoria. The first recorded European to travel through the Avoca district was by Major Thomas Mitchell in 1836. Gold was discovered near Beaufort in about 1854 at nearby Firey Creek and started a gold rush. This led to a dramatic increase in the population, peaking at over 40,000 by 1855. Mining of the main deep lead continued until 1930. After the gold rush many of the businesses serving the goldfield relocated to the town proper and Beaufort became an agricultural service centre with a brickworks, brewery, lemonade factory, flour mill and a racecourse.

Transport

Beaufort is situated on the Western Highway between Ballarat and Ararat. There is a daily V/1 line service which runs out of Beaufort to Ballarat and Melbourne.