



Accommodation options for Tabulam and surrounding areas:

The following information has been compiled to help you source local accommodation whilst working for Mountain Blue Farms – at our Tabulam sites. Please note: all information is given as a guide only, we do not take responsibility for the actions of those accommodation providers however we offer our support to assist you if you are having any problems. Please do not hesitate to contact the Recruitment Team!

Andi, Sheree or Teal: recruitment@mountainblue.com.au or (02) 6666 1297

We have broken this list down into types of accommodation and given distances and times for travel to the River Run Farm and the Tabulam Packhouse; these times have been calculated by Google Navigator. **Please note that Hootons Road is an unsealed road, so if stated that the journey is on sealed roads, this will be with the exception of Hootons Road.**

PLEASE be careful driving as we are aware a lot of you are not used to driving on country roads. Undulating roads are common in this area; road conditions and quality vary greatly, with hazards like soft edges, potholes and road works. Surfaces can change quickly from bitumen to gravel, dirt, sand or mud. Road surfaces will affect how your vehicle handles the road.

Take heed of the following tips:

- Do not over steer or brake hard, especially on gravel or dirt roads.
- Roads can be narrow, always drive to the side if the vehicle coming is larger than you – you can move easier than they can. Pull over on the side of the road if necessary.
- Put head lights on in dusty conditions, fog or when there is little light.
- Ensure tyres are suitable for the terrain.
- Slow down for cattle grids as usually this is where you will find the potholes.

ALSO keep a watchful eye for wildlife and stock as they often graze near or on the edge of the roads. Avoid driving at dawn, dusk or night when they are more active. They are often not deterred by the noise of the car and will wander straight out in front of you. If you cannot avoid a collision, we suggest you aim to hit as square as possible in the middle-front of your vehicle, where it is designed to take impact. This may cause damage but swerving will increase your chance of a more serious crash.

When choosing accommodation, decide what features are important to you. We have given you a bit of a run down on Tabulam and the surrounding areas, to help you choose in regards to location.

Tabulam is a rural town with the population of about 650, the nearest substantial town for supplies is Casino, which is located 56kms (44mins) to the east, and is 2 hours from Byron Bay. Tabulam Township is 19kms (23 mins) to the River Run Farm and 6.7kms (10 mins) to the Tabulam Packhouse.

Tabulam has a Foodworks store for basic supplies, CK Café (which has free Wi-Fi), a Post Office (where you can withdraw money at no extra charge), a Rural Store supplying fuel and some camping gear, a Highway shop with fuel and fresh bread, a local Hotel and a Food Co-op store.

Tabulam holds a market on the 2nd Sunday of the month 9-2pm. If you are interested in holding your own stall please contact Ama on 049 032 9159 or tabulamcoop@gmail.com. It also has a sports ground, which is free for public use, if you are keen to get a team together for a regular or spontaneous game.

There is also a naturopath who visits every Wednesday and has free consults/advise between 12 – 2pm. She is located in the Food Co-op store.

Bonalbo is also a rural town with a population about 550. There are two ways to getting to the farm; one way is a shorter distance in kilometres but has an unsealed road and is very windy (Hootons Road).

The other is a sealed road, a bit easier to drive, further distance in kilometres but a little better for your vehicle. It is 69km (56 mins) to Casino, 29km (41 mins) on unsealed road 45km (46 mins) or sealed road to the River Run Farm and 20kms (18 mins) to the Tabulam Packhouse.

Bonalbo has the closest hospital, it is open 7am-11pm for emergencies or the GP clinic is open 9am-4.30pm Monday to Friday (occasional weekends). Ring 6665-1203 for an appointment, it has a chemist, a Foodworks Store, Post Office (where you can withdraw money at no extra charge) and also sells Telstra sims and phones, a Hardware store, a Newsagent store, a fuel station, a garage with mechanic and of course the local hotel The Dog 'n' Bull which holds a karaoke night on the last Saturday of the month.

As well as the stores you have the bowling club, which welcomes new visitors, go on in for a drink or meal or a friendly game of bowls. There is a golf course, and sports playing field that holds a touch game on Wednesdays 6pm to 9pm – all welcome, and for those hotter days you can go to the local swimming pool.

If you get rained off during the week you could also make use of the Internet Café at Bonalbo Community Hall, open Mondays, Wednesday & Thursdays 10am-2pm.

Casino is the closest major town to Tabulam, being 74kms (1hr 4mins) to River Run Farm and 62kms (49 mins) to Tabulam Packhouse, travel another 20 mins and you will be in Lismore. You will find everything you need there. Coles, Woolworths, McDonalds, KFC, many petrol stations, and a variety of shops and hotels.

Drake Village is again another rural town, population of 395, its closest town is Tenterfield (50 kms -43mins) which is much smaller than Casino with a population of 3,300. Drake is 33.9kms (31 mins) from River Run Farm and 28kms (22mins) from Tabulam Packhouse.

It has a local shop for limited groceries and fuel, a Service Centre, which has an Internet Café (\$5 /hour or \$2.50/½ hour) and a Post Office for mail only – no cash out and an Op Shop which is located at the back of the Service Centre. The local Hotel – The Lunatic Hotel has dart competitions on Friday night and pool competitions on a Wednesday night – all welcome. They also have a karaoke night on the second Saturday of the month and on the last Saturday of the month, a live band or singer. Also public washing machines and dryers are available at \$4.00 per load.

Drake also holds a weekend market on the last Saturday of the month, if interested in holding a stall you just need to turn up, find a spot and start selling. The charge only being \$10.00 everyone is welcome!

Mallanganee is by far the smallest of rural towns close by, with a population of 197, but it has the advantage of being only 40kms (31 mins) from Casino, 35.1kms (35 mins) from River Run Farm and 22.5kms (20mins) from the Tabulam Packhouse.

The town itself has a café (open Thurs – Sun), gift shop, garage with fuel and mechanic and a local hotel. It also has a large sports field if you wanted to organise a team or game.

Tunglebung is a location point only, centrally located between the Bruxner Highway and Bonalbo, it is 41kms (43 mins) to River Run Farm and 17kms (18 mins) to Tabulam Packhouse.

Urbenville is a small town of around 250 people, located 54kms (1 hr 3 mins) to River Run Farm and 60kms (56 mins) to Tabulam Packhouse, 26kms from the Queensland border; it is surrounded by many State Forests and National Parks, Tooloom Falls being one of them. Urbenville has a hospital for emergency care open 24 hours, if you come from a country which is not covered by the reciprocal agreement it will cost \$133.00 per service. There is a fuel station, a newsagent, general store who apparently do a great coffee and of course a local hotel.

