



## **RICHNESS OF THE CHARTERS TOWERS GOLDFIELDS**

Historically, the Charters Towers goldfield was renowned as Australia's richest major field, with an estimated production totalling in excess of 6.6 million ounces (over 200 tonnes). Throughout its lifespan between 1872 and 1917, the fields recovered 6.1 million tonnes of ore, at an average ore grade of 38 g/t (1.22 ozs). The grade represented the largest gold producing field in Queensland, comprising 36 percent of the state's total gold production. It has been estimated that the quality of the gold ore grade from the Charters Towers mines was almost double that of Victorian mines and almost 75 percent higher than grades of Western Australian (Kalgoorlie) goldfields of that time. A spectacular achievement.

At the time the town's mining wealth and resources attracted thousands of workers from diverse regions throughout the world including England, China, Germany, Ireland and Scotland among many others. They called the region their home, the greater Charters Towers area, and it became a self-sufficient cosmopolitan town with sports, arts and music facilities that was popularly dubbed 'The World'. They mined their own money, the gold, and had everything they wanted.

A multicultural melting pot, with a vast and unparalleled lifestyle, world-class facilities and a thriving social energy, was considered as the hub of society in the north back at the turn of the nineteenth century. Charters Towers has more heritage-listed establishments than any other town or city in the northern state and its grand buildings such as the Stock Exchange Arcade and the Bank of Commerce are currently listed by the National Trust of Queensland. The city's aesthetic streetscape is largely dominated by nineteenth century-old buildings that, to this day, both showcases the opulence of the golden settlement era and represents the influence and wealth of gold in the area.

At the same time, this enormous wealth generated from the Charters Towers mines helped build Queensland's then biggest city outside the state's capital city of Brisbane with a population exceeding 26,000 at the time. Charters Towers currently has a population of about 8,500.